Neighborhood Tackles Crime Through Community Policing

A spate of car thefts, mailbox thefts, and car break-ins in June 2017 was a major impetus for Jim Souter and Karen Williams, (pictured at right with APD Sgt. Nicholas Sanders) to step up efforts to create neighborhood watches in the Vista del Norte community.

Souter and Williams, both Neighborhood Watch Block Captains, had previously recruited block captains and coordinated neighborhood watch programs within the 14 neighborhoods in Vista del Norte, and with the disturbing increase in crime in their area, they were even more inspired to address the problem.

In less than two weeks, Souter and Williams coordinated three separate crime prevention meetings at the Vista del Norte Park that garnered over 200 residents, Area Command officers and Crime Prevention Specialists. Nextdoor.com was utilized to get the word out to a large audience.

The meetings combined interactive maps where residents could find their homes and indicate starting a neighborhood watch program; coordination of new neighborhood watches with interested residents; and Q&A with police, U.S. Postal Inspectors and Department of Justice staff.

"We were able to give guidance on how to get contact information for neighbors to start a basic neighborhood watch," said Williams. "Our approach was two-pronged: we coordinated the big event with APD and the City; and smaller to recruit residents into becoming block captains close to home."

"It's my hope that our event creates a template that other neighborhoods can use," said Souter. "The importance of neighborhood watches and community policing are key for any safe neighborhood, and combined with having good neighbor connections ,nearly guarantees crime can be deterred in any neighborhood."

Neighborhood Association of the Month

The Classic Uptown Neighborhood Association (CUNA) was founded in 1998 and its name honors the neighborhood's proximity to the thriving Uptown area, and honors the landmark former Classic Hotel (now the Sheraton Uptown.)

Working frequently with the Sheraton to collect school supply donations, these donations are then given to children of the hotel employees, benefitting these families and allowing the students to get the supplies they need. "We are happy to help these kids get what they need to succeed in school," said CUNA President David Haughawout. "The hotel helps with our neighborhood initiatives, so it's an honor to give back to their employees."

In August 2017, CUNA collaborated with the Inez Neighborhood Association for National Night Out, drawing over 100 residents to Cutler Park for an evening of fun and safety discussion with APD and city officials.

CUNA was proud to receive the Bernalillo County Neighborhood Grant in 2016, allowing them to fund their CUNA Watch Program.

To learn more, visit: www.cuna-abq.org

Participate In Your Community Policing Council!

Want to help make a difference in your community? Interested in contributing to policy and improvement within Albuquerque Police Department (APD)? Why not join your local Community Policing Council (CPC) and share your ideas every month?

The six CPCs: Foothills, Northeast, Northwest, Southeast, Southwest, and Valley - are actively seeking participation and input from the public about how APD can make improvements and bring about positive community interaction.

"Everyone in this city has something they can bring to the table," said a Southwest Area resident and CPC board member. "This is an opportunity not just to contribute to APD policy and suggest improvements, but to also create a personal connection with the officers and a chance to really make positive changes."

An example of how CPCs work is the suggestion made at a recent meeting, when the CPC board discussed giving officers additional resources for fueling their vehicles, which would allow officers to remain within their patrol areas without having to drive to the city pumps for refueling.

To learn how to become a board member or to see upcoming meeting information, visit: www.cabq.gov/police/community-policing-council

Question of the Month

Q: HOW CAN I PROTECT AGAINST MAIL THEFT?

A: ACCORDING TO THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE, THERE ARE SEVERAL THINGS YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY AGAINST THIS ONGOING CRIME:

- Report mail theft immediately to the U.S. Postal Inspector at 877-876-2455 or online at: postalinspectors.uspis.gov
- Don't leave mail in your mailbox. Check your mail every day
- If possible, immediately remove mail after delivery, or ask a trusted neighbor if you won't be home.
- If you'll be away from home for a few days, have a trusted neighbor pick up mail for you, or have the Post Office hold your mail while you're gone.
- Never send cash through the U.S. Mail. Send a check or money order instead. If you don't receive a check or other valuable mail you're expecting, contact the person or company who issued the check.
- Hand outgoing mail to your letter carrier, or mail it at the Post Office, or a secure receptacle at your place of business.
- Consider getting a lockable mail box for your home or residence, or a post office box
- Sign up for Informed Delivery at: www.myusps.com. This new service allows you to receive an e-mail image of the mail you can expect to to be delivered that day. You can also track packages through this service
- Get to know your neighbors and keep an eye out for each other's mail.

Source:
U.S. Postal Inspector's Office

Free Pit Bull Training in October

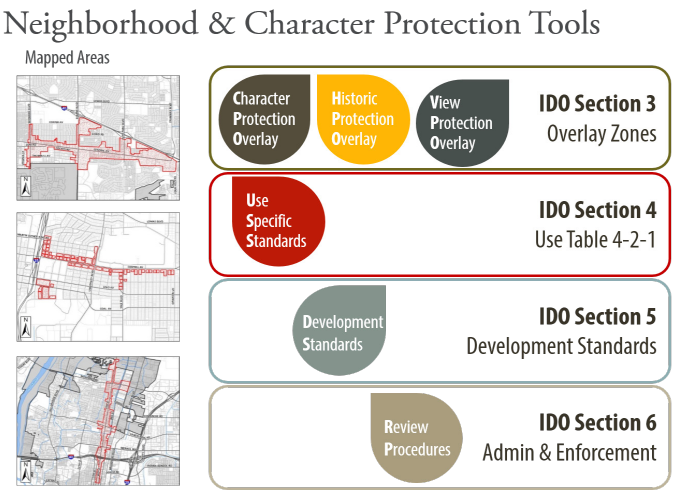
Animal Welfare Department is hosting two free Pit Bull and Pit Mix trainings every Saturday at Los Altos Park in October. Free public microchipping for Pit Bulls and Pit Mixes only is also being offered during this month. Visit: www.cabq.gov/pets to sign up online.

ABC-Z Update

IMPROVING PLACE FROM PLANNING TO ZONING

The Integrated Development Ordinance (IDO) is under review by the City Council. The IDO is intended to replace the City's 1970s zoning code and the City's 60+ Sector Development Plans. This effort includes a citywide rezoning of 1200+ unique zones to one of 20 zones in the IDO.

Councilors on the Land Use, Planning & Zoning (LUPZ) committee have heard public comments, considered staff responses, and recommended amendments to the IDO draft. The Committee is responsible for voting on a recommendation to the full Council about whether to adopt the IDO, or sending it to the full Council with no recommendation.



Hearing dates, times, details, and the following materials are posted at: abc-zone.com

- The LUPZ Draft of the IDO
- Committee Amendments that recommend changes to the LUPZ Draft of the IDO
- A Zoning Conversion Map comparing existing zoning to proposed IDO zones
- An Interactive Map showing the special protections for small areas carried over from adopted Sector Development Plans as well as new protections, such as for Major Public Open Space citywide
- Frequently Asked Questions that respond to questions from many stakeholders

Council will take and consider your written comments at any time. Send comments to Crystal Ortega, Clerk of the Council

- By email: cortega@cabq.gov
- By mail: P.O. Box 1293, Albuquerque NM 87103
- By map: https://abc-zone.com/ido-zoning-conversion-map

Hard copies of the LUPZ Draft are available for checkout from the Planning Department by contacting Carol Toffaleti at 505-924-3345 or: ctoffaleti@cabq.gov.

You can review the LUPZ Draft in person at all ABC libraries, community centers, multigenerational centers, and senior centers.

Neighborhood Leaders Value Communication

The Office of Neighborhood Coordination (ONC) held its first Meet and Greet on Saturday, Sept. 16, hosting coalition, neighborhood, and homeowner association board members from across Albuquerque. The event garnered over 200 attendees, offered surveys for feedback, featured open discussions with APD on crime, envisioned what makes neighborhoods great and how neighborhoods can improve, and shared the ONC vision for the future.

WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST CHALLENGE AS A BOARD MEMBER?

"Getting cooperation with the entities in our borders"

"Getting the City to listen to our concerns and actually fulfill their promises"

Just like the priorities of the ONC, our association board members recognize the benefit of good communication in order to foster community. We heard from event attendees that they value improved communication from the City and improved communication to their neighborhood residents.

HOW CAN THE ONC HELP YOU BE SUCCESSFUL?

"Ensuring I have all the proper information to relay to residents"

"Being more language accessible to include everyone in all neighborhoods"

"Inform NA's of important city projects and the importance of their involvement such as ART and ABC-Z"

HOW CAN AN ASSOCIATION CONTRIBUTE TO PUBLIC SAFETY?

"Keep residents informed and what they can do to prevent residential burglary and auto-theft"
"Share successes and failures"
"Communication between neighbors and local APD Command."

Check out some input we received from you and your neighbors related to communication.

WHAT CAN AN ASSOCIATION DO TO CREATE COMMUNITY?

"Distribute welcome packages to new residents"

"Help neighbors in need – find solutions to neighbor's issues"

"Lots of positive activities – residents give a 2 hr workshop on their skill"

What Makes Albuquerque Great?

Albuquerque is a city of many hidden treasures. Besides balloons, burritos and baseball, we have lots of jewels in our community crown.

Weatherwise, Albuquerque has roughly 350 days of sunshine year-round. We can hike, bicycle, walk our dogs, ski, and enjoy the outdoors without carrying that bulky umbrella all the time. Isn't that cool? (Pardon the pun.)

The food is the best. Where else can you get Hatch green chile on a burger or pizza, besides here?

Lots of innovation happens here. App start-up companies, terrific local breweries and wineries, and many other locally owned businesses contribute greatly to our job growth and economy.

What is your favorite thing about Albuquerque? What makes it great?

Send us your feedback at: onc@cabq.gov., and we'll share what makes our city great in a future newsletter.

City Leadership

Mayor
Richard J. Berry

City Council
Ken Sanchez, District 1
Isaac Benton, District 2
Klarissa J. Peña, District 3
Brad Winter, District 4
Dan Lewis, District 5
Pat Davis, District 6
Diane G. Gibson, District 7
Trudy E. Jones, District 8
Don Harris, District 9

Chief Administrative Officer
Robert J. Perry

Director of Council Services
Jon K. Zaman

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Office of Neighborhood Coordination
Creating Community Together