



Photos by Dick Ruddy

Your

Homeowners News

The Meadows on Rio Grande

NEWS AND EVENTS

Important News from Your Architectural Review Committee

By Susan Finch, Committee Chair

The Architectural Review Committee (ARC) is a group of your neighbors who have agreed to serve our homeowners association by reviewing and approving plans for construction and external modifications of homes in the Meadows subdivision. As provided in the protective covenants we received when we purchased our lots or homes, homeowners wishing to make alterations to the exterior of their homes must obtain approval from this committee. The ARC's role is to maintain our neighborhood's beauty and character – and, in so doing, to protect the value of our properties. We appreciate your cooperation in following these covenants.

The role of the Architectural Review Committee is to preserve our neighborhood's beauty and character – and, in so doing, to protect our property values.

While most Meadows homeowners support the goals of architectural review, it may, at times, become necessary to take further steps to ensure compliance with the process. **In such cases, beginning May 1, 2008, the Meadows Homeowners Association will impose a fine of \$200.00 upon a homeowner who makes alterations to the exterior of his or her home or lot without first submitting a Request for Design Approval form to the Architectural Review Committee.** The homeowner will have a 10-day "grace period" in which to resolve the situation by getting a completed form to the ARC and obtaining required City permits, if necessary. If the changes that have begun without the approval of the ARC are a violation of the covenants, **an additional \$50 fine** will be assessed each month until the violation has been resolved.

Your Board of Directors hopes never to have to impose this fine on any Meadows homeowner. Please help us by contacting the ARC *before* you begin any exterior changes to your property. To obtain a copy of the Request for Design Approval form, please contact me at 764-8262 or sfinch64@comcast.net – or you can download the form at www.meadowsonriogrande.org.

SPRING FEVER

Time for a Landscaping Facelift?

You needn't check with the Architectural Review Committee before proceeding. Best of luck with your changes!



SAVE THE DATE

See You at the Annual Meeting



Please join us at the annual meeting of your Meadows on Rio Grande Homeowners Association:

Sunday, May 4 • 2 pm • Dulcinea Park

We'll be electing new directors to the board, updating homeowners on the activities of the association and answering your questions. Hope to see you there!



The Meadows on Rio Grande

Homeowners Association Board Members

Cindy Lewis, President	243-9150	riocl@msn.com
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Mary Lou Dobbs	343-0617	mldobbs@comcast.net
Susan Finch	764-8262	sfinch64@comcast.net
Jim (Pete) Jett	243-9757	jjett22@comcast.net
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Dick Ruddy	242-3093	rruddy@comcast.net
Peggy Tilghman, Vice President	243-8667	peggyt@lobo.net
Gene Vance, Secretary	244-9046	gene@vancefirm.com

THE LARGER PICTURE

Recycling: We Can Do Better

By Mary Lou Dobbs

Let's face it: We live in a culture of over-consumption and waste. In the world we have made, the recycling of our resources is a responsibility, not an option.



If you're like me, you put your recyclables at the curb on Thursdays, then turn your attention elsewhere. I was basically ignorant about recycling until I did the research for this article. Here's what I learned:

- In 1960, just 6.4 percent of U.S. waste made it to the recycling stream. By 2006, nearly a third of the nation's waste was being reclaimed.
- Locally, well, not so much. Bernalillo County's recycling rate is just 15.6 percent.
- Recycling "stars" include Maine (49 percent), Massachusetts (48 percent), Oregon (47.5 percent) and Minnesota (43 percent). But with no national standards in place, every state measures recycling its own way. It's the old apples-to-oranges dilemma.

Why Recycle?

Quoting from the City of Albuquerque's web site: "The manufacturing of new products requires considerable energy. If these materials are reused or recycled instead of being disposed of at landfills, less energy will be used, saving on scarce resources. For example, the production of an aluminum can from recycled metal uses 95 percent less energy than a can produced from raw aluminum."

Carts are Coming

To get more of us to recycle, the City of Albuquerque is engaged in a six-month cart pilot program in which some Westsiders place their recyclables at the curb in City-issued roll-out carts. Nationally, the carts have

boosted recycling rates – and if all goes well with the pilot, we'll get a chance to try it next year.

Recycling Basics

Here's what can be recycled at curbside:

- newspapers, magazines and shopping catalogues
- junk mail and home office paper
- tin/steel, aluminum cans
- all plastic bottles and jugs, any number, with a neck or screw top, plus other plastics #1 and #2
- corrugated cardboard (flattened)

Be sure to place your recyclables at the curb by 7 am on your trash pick-up day, five feet away from your trash cart.

No Glass at Curbside

Because of the potential for worker injury at curbside, glass is collected only at 12 city-wide drop-off sites listed at www.cabq.gov/solidwaste.

REQUESTS FOR DESIGN APPROVAL

We'll Soon Have a New Neighbor

The Architectural Review Committee (ARC) received one

Request for Design

Approval in the last quarter for new construction on one of the last two undeveloped

Meadows lots, at 2205 Via Cadiz Ct. The home will be a two-story, stucco structure. Elevations and a site plan were sent for the committee to review. Our new neighbors were diligent about following the Meadows' protective covenants in their choice of style, color, and materials. They also were careful to ensure that cooling units will be located on the ground, and that setbacks from property lines will fall within guidelines. Construction of the home has begun.





The Meadows on Rio Grande

QUARTERLY QUOTE

True happiness is an acceptance of life as it is given to us, with its diminishment, mystery, uncontrollability, and all."

— Michael Gellert

Special thanks to Dick Ruddy for the beautiful photos and to Denise Davis for printing this newsletter.

MEET THE NEIGHBORS

Our Favorite 'Squeaky Wheel' is also a Skilled Woodworker

By Dick Ruddy

You wouldn't know it by his gentle, friendly demeanor, but **Gene Finch** is a "squeaky wheel" who advocates relentlessly on behalf of The Meadows. When Dulcinea Park



wasn't getting the care he thought it should, Gene called the City's Parks and Recreation Department. When a sidewalk was lifting because of a cottonwood on our common-area property, Gene got that cleared up in short order. And when the City said it wasn't responsible for maintaining the recreational trail next to Don Fernando, Gene refused to take "no" for an answer, eventually finding an official who would listen.

We offer Gene a special thanks for all this and more, and we encourage him to keep on squeaking.

Before arriving in Albuquerque 11 years ago, Gene and his wife, Norma, ran their own company specializing in the sale and leasing of medical and hospital equipment. Working closely together might not be what some couples would call a great idea – but it worked out fine for the Finches, who will celebrate their 60th anniversary this spring.

Now retired, Gene's current passion is woodcarving. Gene has carved close to a hundred pieces. That's no small number given that it takes about 40 hours to create a piece of average complexity.

Far and away Gene's favorite subject is birds – a no-brainer for a guy named Finch – but he's also done a wide variety of wildlife subjects and a few novelty items, including countless Santa Clauses.

Though he has sold a number of works and completed a few commissions, Gene carves chiefly to relax – and because he's been able to create an abundance of art for the home he shares with Norma. An active retiree herself, Norma spends the lion's share of her time with the highly regarded Assistance League, which serves the community in numerous ways.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Where We Stand

By Jim Nelson, Treasurer

With your financial support, the Meadows on Rio Grande Homeowners Association continues to maintain and enhance our community's shared spaces.

Financial Condition as of January 2008 (Operating Year 5/1/07 – 4/30/08)

Year-to-date income: \$22,022 (101 percent of budget)

As of January 31, 104 homeowners (95 percent) have paid their assessments for the year. We have also received past-due payments from several homeowners.

The Association received a donation of \$700 from our good neighbors at **Thomas Village Neighborhood Association**. We greatly appreciate this contribution, which has been designated for landscaping upkeep.

Year-to-date operating expenses: \$13,060 (64 percent of budget). The next three months of our fiscal year will bring our expenses close to the budgeted amounts.

Homeowner assessments for the 2008-09 operating year will be due on May 1, with invoices to arrive in early April. The assessment will be \$200 again this year.

Landscaping and wall maintenance: HeadsUp Landscape Contractors will be trimming and pruning our cottonwood trees and removing the parasitic mistletoe growth that is attacking several trees. They'll also spray for disease and pests and verify operation of the irrigation systems. In addition, we recently began work to repair many of the cracks, breaks and chipped-stucco areas of our common wall.

ALBUQUERQUE INDIAN SCHOOL

Shameful Legacy or First-Rate School?

By Dick Ruddy

Having explored The Meadows' agricultural roots in our last issue, Meadows Board Member and de facto historian Dick Ruddy turns next to the defunct Albuquerque Indian School, a North Valley institution for more than 100 years.

Those who moved to Albuquerque after 1982 may not know about the Albuquerque Indian School, which once occupied the large tract of land north of I-40 and east of 12th Street. The school was founded in 1881, just one year after the railroad reached Albuquerque. It was one of a number of boarding schools established across the country by the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs to provide industrial education for Native Americans. The reputation of these schools is largely negative, but not completely so. In truth, the educational experience probably varied from school to school and also changed over the years.

As a rule, students were treated like military recruits and made to march, wear uniforms and speak only English. By 1912, the school had 300 students and eight primary grades. By 1925, there were 800 students and 12



grades. In addition to academics, students received vocational training in such subjects as agriculture, automotive mechanics and home economics. There were also extracurricular activities. The Albuquerque Indian School had a first-rate football team that regularly, and soundly, beat the University of New Mexico as well as other high school teams. By the late '20s there was an excellent music program, including a string orchestra and a marching band. There was also an onsite hospital.

A few years ago, the Albuquerque Museum launched an exhibition about the school, inviting elderly graduates to share their experiences before a packed audience. The memories were mixed but largely positive. These grads, who probably attended the school during the 1930s, attributed their success in life to the sound education they had received. They even came to believe that the discipline that was part of their daily student life had helped them become successful adults. Had the students attended the school in its earliest years, before widespread acculturation of Native Americans into the mainstream had begun, the



Photos courtesy of The Albuquerque Museum

memories likely would have been less positive.

The Albuquerque Indian School closed its doors in 1982, 101 years after its founding, and the campus was leveled. Today, as you fill up at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center gas station, take a few minutes to look east and remember an important school that once was part of our neighborhood. You can also Google "Albuquerque Indian School" to learn more about Indian schools and see some fascinating photos.

CLOSE TO HOME

Historic Market Becomes a Café

Old Town's Mountain Road was a bustling place in 1925, when Albuquerque's Puccetti family opened the Sunshine Food Market. Today, the well-traveled road is enjoying a hip renaissance – and the new Sunshine Cafe, at Mountain and 12th Street, is at the heart of it.

The historic market was converted last year to a cheerful café serving three meals a day to a loyal, growing group of customers. As in 1925, you can still buy your grocery essentials (and smoked deli meats) at today's Sunshine – but mainly, the new incarnation is a place for casual, gourmet dining.

Executive Chef Scott Downs, formerly of The Artichoke Café and other fine places, emphasizes fresh ingredients, bought locally when possible. For more info, go to www.sunshinecafeabq.com. Better yet, head to 12th and Mountain and check it out the old-fashioned way.



Sunshine Cafe, 1134 Mountain Rd NW, 242-1499