



Your

Homeowners News

The Meadows on Rio Grande

FINANCIAL REPORT

Batting 95 Percent

By Jim Nelson, Treasurer

As of October 31, 2008, 104 homeowners (95 percent of us) have paid their assessments for the current operating year. We're optimistic that the five households now in arrears will respond soon. If you are unsure of your payment status, please give me a call at 246-8515.

With financial support from residents, the Meadows on Rio Grande Homeowners Association continues to maintain and enhance our community's shared spaces. We recently renegotiated our contract with HeadsUp Landscaping for common-area maintenance; the cost will increase by approximately five percent for Operating Year 2009/10. Here is a snapshot of where we stand:

Financial Condition as of October 2008

(Operating Year 5/1/08 – 4/30/09)

Year-to-date income: \$23,040 (105 percent of budget – includes past-due assessments)

Year-to-date operating expenses: \$7,818.83 (36 percent of budget, at six months of operation).

The next six months of our fiscal year should bring our expenses close to the budgeted amounts.

AMONG NEIGHBORS



Stash the Trash

Want to improve the look of your property without spending a cent? Keep that unattractive trash can out of sight. Cans should be visible only on the day we roll them to the curb for weekly trash collection. Thanks!

CLOSE TO HOME

Join a Local Book Club and Get More Out of Your Reading

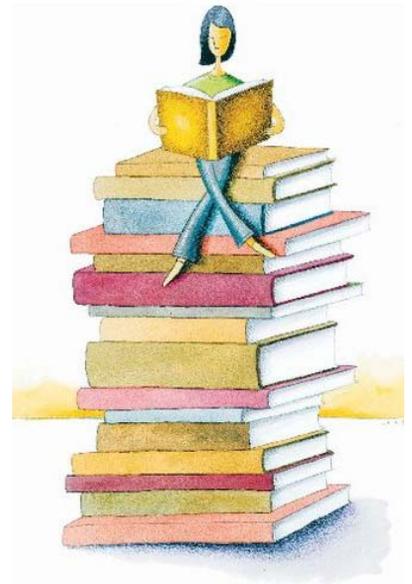
Once a month, friends and neighbors in nearby Thomas Village gather to discuss a fascinating book they've read the month before. Beyond that, they come together for friendship, relaxation and fun.

"Book clubs are a great way to meet wonderful neighbors, all of whom have insights and perspectives to share in the coziness of members' homes," says TVNA President Debbie Ridley, who organized the clubs.

Two of the clubs are currently accepting new members, and Meadows residents are welcome to join. These particular groups meet on Tuesday and Thursday evenings – and while membership is currently 100 percent female, men are just as welcome.

Most book selections fall into the fiction category, though non-fiction fare gets chosen from time to time. Recent selections include *Loving Frank* by Nancy Horan, *The Commoner* by John Burnham Schwartz, *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace ... One School at a Time* by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin, *Water for Elephants* by Sarah Gruen, and more.

Sound interesting? For more info, contact Debbie Ridley at Dlrhealing@aol.com or 243-5554.





Homeowners Association Board Members

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| Cindy Lewis, President | 243-9150 |
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| Susan Finch | 764-8262 |
| Jim (Pete) Jett | 243-9757 |
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The Meadows on Rio Grande

ENERGY BYTES

Going Green Can Be Easy — Really

By Kent Morrison



With everybody jumping on the “green” bandwagon these days, do you find yourself changing channels whenever somebody starts talking about saving the planet? If so, you’re not alone – but that doesn’t make today’s environmental issues any less serious.

While saving the planet is a very big goal, small changes can make a large difference. Consider:

- A laptop computer uses up to 90 percent less energy than bigger desktop models.
- Microwaves use one-third the energy of conventional ovens.
- Washing clothes in cold water saves 90 percent of the energy your washing machine uses.
- Some 75 percent of the electricity used by home electronics is consumed while products are turned *off*. Unplugging appliances or using a power strip with an on-off switch solves this problem.
- Wearing a sweater lets you lower your home’s thermostat.
- Running your washing machine and dishwasher only when full could save you 1,000 gallons of water a month.
- A refrigerator made in 1990 uses twice the electricity needed to operate an Energy Star model built today.
- Keeping your shower to five minutes or less saves up to 1,000 gallons of water per month.

Want more information? Check out the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association’s “Eleven Easy Things You Can Do to Save Energy and Money at Home” at <http://www.nesea.org/buildings/info/eleventhings.html>. And for an intelligent perspective on our globe in crisis, rent the film “The Eleventh Hour,” a documentary narrated by Leonardo DiCaprio.

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW

News From Your Committee

By Susan Finch, Chair



Are you thinking about making changes to your home’s exterior? Please contact your Architectural Review Committee first before proceeding with any architectural changes you may be planning.

The new homeowner at 2309 Via Granada has had a front wall and courtyard constructed, and the residence has new stucco. The

homeowner submitted a site plan, elevation and stucco sample for approval, and the committee agreed that the plans met the guidelines of the Meadows covenants.

As many homeowners know, the Architectural Review Committee (ARC) was formed to assure that the homes in our community remain compliant with Meadows covenants designed to maintain the beauty and integrity of our neighborhood. We greatly appreciate homeowners who provide prior notification to the ARC of plans to make design changes to their home’s exterior.

Problems arise when homeowners make changes without consulting the covenants or seeking design approval ahead of construction. Typical types of covenant violations include unapproved trim colors, air conditioners installed on roofs, and unattached accessory structures, such as sheds, erected in backyards.

Are you familiar with our covenants? You’ll find them at our web site, www.meadowsonriogrande.org, which also includes a downloadable copy of the Request for Design Approval form. Please take the time to review these documents and make sure that your home is in compliance.



QUARTERLY QUOTE

"Every leaf speaks bliss to me, fluttering from the autumn tree."

— Emily Bronte

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

Gayle Vance, Editor

The Meadows on Rio Grande

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

How Denise Davis Designed Her Future

By Dick Ruddy

Most successful people will tell you there was a decisive moment in their life when a major change took them in an entirely different direction. That moment came for Denise Davis when she was 28 years old.

Back then, Denise was a single mom who worked in a medical lab while raising her eight-year-old son, Bryan. Wanting more for them both, she made the ambitious decision to become an architect. Her journey took her first through four years at UNM for a bachelor of arts in architecture, which she earned while continuing to work 30 to 40 hours per week. As a devoted parent, she did all this while participating fully in her son's activities – and topped it off by completing a master's program.

Denise's first job in her new field was with Architectural Research Consultants (ARC), a firm specializing in long-range planning for school districts and federal, state and local clients. She took a leave from that job to complete an architectural internship with FBT Architects and BPLW Architects & Engineers, which allowed her to earn her licensure as a full-fledged architect. Then she went back to ARC for another five years before striking out on her own in 2004, establishing Facility Planning Associates, which she still owns.

Denise's current big project has her assessing the condition of Santa Fe Public Schools' 34 facilities and working out a five-year plan for upgrades and expansions. Other projects she has worked on include the Mesa Project, a \$380 million construction effort by Sandia National Laboratories; the Albuquerque Aquarium; four ports of entry from Mexico for U.S. Customs and Border Protection; and a massive, underground records center for the Department of Immigration and Naturalization.



Denise's work takes her out of state as well. She is extremely proud to have handled preliminary space planning for the Tribute Visitors Center at New York's World Trade Center site and for the Flight 93 Memorial, projects she undertook for the National Park Service. The program she developed for the Park Service has since become the standard for determining space needs for all of the agency's projects nationwide.

Remember Denise's eight-year-old son, Bryan? He graduated college six years ago and now works as a regional manager for an oil and gas company in Dallas. And, Denise isn't single anymore. She's been married to architect Tom Wilber, whom she met in architecture school, for 16 years. Tom is with NCA Architects.

BIBLIOPHILE

Not Your Father's Library

By Mary Ruddy

The richest person in the world — in fact all the riches in the world — couldn't provide you with anything like the endless, incredible loot available at your local library.

— Malcolm Forbes

For many of us, getting that first library card was a milestone: It proved we were grown-up enough to borrow books. The card was our ticket to a world of lifelong learning and adventure – and it still is.



Haven't been to the library lately? A lot has changed since the days of the stately card catalog and its yellowing index-card entries. Today's libraries are modern information systems offering even more opportunities than before for exploration and discovery.

To see what's available without leaving your chair, go to www.cabq.gov/library, the web site of the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County library system. Every one of the system's countless books, CDs and DVDs may be ordered online and sent to the library closest to you.

For Meadows residents, that would be the **Los Griegos Library**, a bright, airy and friendly facility at the southwest corner of 10th Street and Griegos Road NW (761-4020). Open from 10 am to 6 pm on Tuesday, Friday and Saturday, and from 11 am to 7 pm on Wednesday and Thursday, Los Griegos offers:

- books for all ages
- story time for ages 0-3 (Wednesdays at 11:15 am) and ages 3-5 (Thursdays at 11:15)
- literature booklists for children
- computers with internet access, plus wi-fi access throughout the building
- art wall and display case where local artists can show their work

Through its web site, your library system also offers:

- Free 24/7 access to more than 40 amazing online subscription databases
- Live homework help by expert tutors in math, science, social studies, and English for grades four through 12 (available in English and Spanish)
- Free downloads of digital books for playback on your PC or copying to CDs or DVDs (not available for MAC users).

For all this and more, visit www.cabq.gov/library — or better yet, amble on over to the Los Griegos Library, and lose yourself among the shelves.



VALLEY LIVING

Our Wonderful Ditch Trails

A walk on the ditch can set you straight.

Had a hard day? Life's petty problems clogging your brain? Lace up your walking shoes, hit the trail, and watch those silly cares melt away.

As Meadows residents, we're just steps away from one of Albuquerque's greatest natural resources. The city's irrigation ditches, a remnant of our community's agricultural heritage, still support a thriving and dynamic eco-system we all can enjoy.



Hit the trail in spring to experience the thrill of new life, from the budding out of stately cottonwoods to the swimming adventures of baby ducks. In Autumn, watch as the cottonwoods turn a glowing yellow; and in winter, glimpse the bareness that is a study in solitude.

Of course, remember to use common sense when visiting the ditches: Walk with a partner, and bring your cell phone along. Bring your sense of wonder, too – it will serve you well out on the ditches.