



Your Homeowners News

The Meadows on Rio Grande

NEWS AND EVENTS



It's Almost Time for the Annual Neighborhood Meeting

We'll be holding the annual meeting of the Meadows on Rio Grande Homeowners Association on May 3. At this meeting we'll review the association's 2008 income and expenses as well as our major accomplishments for the year. We'll also ratify the 2009 budget and elect new board members to fill vacating positions.

The annual meeting is a great way to stay abreast of how your association fees are being used and to voice your views on priorities for the coming year. Probably the best part of the annual meeting is getting to meet your neighbors.

Remember when you were growing up and you knew all the neighbors? As a kid, you played with other kids in the neighborhood. Families got together for barbecues and picked up each others' mail during vacations. In these times we have lost much of that sense of community, but maybe it's time to get it back — so please mark your calendars for May 3. We're looking forward to seeing you.

HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS



Cindy Lewis, President
Gene Finch, Vice President
Jim Nelson, Treasurer
Marilyn Smith, Secretary
Jim (Pete) Jett
Gene Vance
Dick Ruddy
Susan Finch
Kent Morrison

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Architectural Review Committee

Are you planning to make renovations to the exterior of your home? Remember to submit a Request for Design Approval to the Board PRIOR to beginning your remodel. Forms can be obtained from our website—www.meadowsonriogrande.org

The role of the ARC is to preserve our neighborhood's beauty and character – and, in so doing, to protect our property values. We appreciate your cooperation with these efforts.

All Requests for Design Approval will be reviewed by the board to assure compliance with neighborhood covenants.

Annual Meeting
Sunday, May 3
2 pm
Dulcinea Park



SPRUCE UP YOUR GARDEN

Oasis in the Valley

By Peggy Tilghman

Albuquerque Water Gardens is a 14-year-old family business in Los Duranes that helps homeowners create their own private oases. Mary and John Niva specialize in water plants (which they grow themselves) and water gardens – ponds, waterfalls and the like. They also sell perennials, small trees, bushes and fish. It's worth the short trip just to see the koi, shubunkin and fantail goldfish gliding

around in their four large tanks.



The Meadows' Peggy Tilghman (left) chats with Albuquerque Water Gardens co-owner Mary Niva.

Nestled inside the Duranes neighborhood, Albuquerque Water Gardens is a peaceful place. With the soothing sound of water to relax you, it's fun to tour the large

ponds, beautiful water plants, sunken garden, arbors and more. Some of the Nivas' regular customers even come by with sack lunches just to enjoy the ambience.

Properly designed water gardens use a lot less water than a lawn, making them a green choice for homeowners. John and Mary have been designing water gardens for 14 years, and they also assist do-it-yourselfers. Sons William and Luis work with them during busy times.

Albuquerque Water Gardens is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm, from March through October. They're at 2704 Duranes Rd. NW, 246-8278. (From Rio Grande, turn right on Indian School and follow it around to Duranes Rd.)



OUR ENVIRONMENT

The Benefits of a Water Garden

The beauty and tranquility that a water garden adds to any outdoor area is more than enough incentive to create one of these stunning landscaping features in your backyard. However, there are benefits to a water garden that go beyond the obvious pleasure of its beauty.

The negative ions that moving water releases into the atmosphere help to purify the air. When you take a deep breath of the fresh, clear air that hovers around your water garden, you will find tangible proof of the fact that your garden is having a positive impact on the environment as a whole.

One of the reasons why eco-conscious gardeners are increasingly attracted to water gardens has to do with the idea of conservation. When you create a water garden, you create a self-sustaining cycle of hydration that will keep plants alive and well without you having to water them much at all.

A water garden is a complete eco-system of its own, where a delicate balance of fish, useful bacteria, plant life and insects coexist in harmony. A water garden is as great for the environment as it is pleasant for homeowners.



QUARTERLY QUOTE

Indoors or out, no one relaxes in March, that month of wind and taxes, the wind will presently disappear, the taxes last us all the year.

~ Ogden Nash

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

MEET THE NEIGHBORS

Marvin and Liz Gallegos: Faith and Family

By Dick Ruddy

On a beautiful Sunday morning in 1993, Marvin and Liz Gallegos took a Sunday drive along Rio Grande Blvd. when they came across a sign beckoning them to look at a new development just beyond some pastureland. They were impressed enough with what they discovered that they became the first buyers of property in the new Meadows on Rio Grande development.



Marvin and Liz met in 1957 while working at Charles Ifeld Company in Albuquerque. Marvin, a skilled printer, worked in the print shop. By 1965 Marvin saw the need for a print business

to service commercial artists, printers and ad agencies, and they opened Marvin's Offset Preparations, with Marvin handling the production side of the business and Liz taking care of the business end. The business provided all the prepress work that was necessary before offset printing companies could do their job of turning out brochures, posters and so on. Like so many other businesses, prepress work was gradually taken over by computers — but not before Marvin wrapped up a long career in 2001.

In 2008, Marvin and Liz celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary with a trip to Israel and the Holy Land. They renewed their vows at the church of Cana of Galilee. They also did some serious celebrating here in Albuquerque with their four children and spouses, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Big families come naturally to Marvin and Liz. Marvin comes from a family of 20 (he's the youngest) and Liz comes from a family of eight. Next to family, the most important part of life revolves around their church, San Felipe de Neri of Old

Town, where they participate in numerous committees. Marvin and Liz are particularly proud of their involvement in Cursillos in Christianity, a world movement affiliated with the Catholic Church whose purpose is to help its members fulfill a meaningful Christian life of understanding and acceptance of others. Liz was honored to represent the United States at the world Cursillo conference in 1988.

If you're lucky, from time to time you may have the special treat of seeing Marvin fire up his Model A Ford and take it around the neighborhood a few times. Ask him for a ride!

Oh, one more thing: Marvin and Liz think it would be a great idea to have a Meadows pot luck dinner in the park some summer evening.

FINANCIAL REPORT

On Solid Ground

By Jim Nelson, Treasurer

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

Financial Condition as of January 2009 (Operating Year 5/1/08 – 4/30/09)

Year-to-date assessment income: \$22,940 (105% of budget). As of February 28, 2009, 104 (96 percent) of property owners have paid their assessments for the current operating year. We have exceeded our income budget amount only because we have collected several past-due assessment amounts.

Year-to-date operating expenses: \$12,396 (57 percent of budget) at 10 months of operation. The next two months of our fiscal year should bring our expenses just below the budget amounts. Any funds not used for current expenses will be transferred to a contingency reserve that will be available for anticipated future maintenance, repairs and improvements for the common areas.

Your HOA also received a generous donation from the Thomas Village Neighborhood Association (TVNA) in the amount of \$1,170. Please note that the TVNA dues amount of \$35 is separate from our Homeowners Association assessment. TVNA includes Thomas Village, the Meadows and the Abbey Jean Town Homes.

AREA HISTORY

Los Griegos Plaza

By Dick Ruddy

The next time you head east along Griegos Rd., you'll pass through what used to be the little village of Los Griegos just east of Rio Grande Blvd. In fact, as you travel along Griegos, you pass right through the land that used to be the Los Griegos Plaza, as seen in this c. 1883 photo:



Los Griegos Plaza, c. 1883

It's easy to know where the plaza was located: Just look for the chapel on the south side of the street (on the 1800 block). Today it's a private residence but the steeple is still there, making it easy to spot. You'll note



The original Los Griegos chapel is now a private residence.

that the chapel was modified over the years and looks more substantial than it did in 1883. Look closely at the top photo and you'll see a stagecoach that once provided transportation for valley residents, sort of a precursor to our bus system. The village church was, and is, Our Lady of Guadalupe. Today's modern church is much bigger and located just south of the original chapel.

A land grant to Juan Griego, Los Griegos was founded just two years after the founding of Albuquerque in 1708. The 1978 Historic Landmarks Survey of Albuquerque indicates that there were 25 families listed for the village in a 1790 census, six of whom were named Griego. By 1860 there was only one Griego listed, a grocer named Jose Tomas Griego.

As you travel east on Candelaria from Rio Grande, note that there is another chapel on the south side of the street, and that this one, too, has been converted into a home. This is the chapel that once was at the center of what was known as Los Candelarias, a rival community to Los Griegos.



Main Harwood building (formerly Harwood Girls School)

CLOSE TO HOME

The Harwood Art Center

By Susan Finch

Have you been wanting to take a painting class or learn the Argentine Tango? Perhaps you would enjoy community poetry readings or open tours of working artists' studios? The Harwood, a creative center for community and the arts, may be the place for you. Programming at the Harwood encompasses four main areas: arts education, community development and the arts, the literary arts, and arts services (studio, gallery, and performance and classroom rentals).

Not only a place to take a painting or drawing class, the Harwood also offers classes in dance, theater, literature and music, plus several youth programs. If you are not an artist but enjoy the arts, they offer many performances and exhibitions. There's something for everyone at the Harwood — and it's a mere two-and-a-half miles from home.

The Harwood is housed in the old Harwood Girls School (1925-1976) at Mountain Road and Seventh Street. Events and classes take place in the main building, the art studio at Sixth and Mountain, and at many varied locations around the neighborhood, city and state.

Classes are scheduled quarterly to include eight-week offerings and weekend workshops taught by a variety of noted Albuquerque artists. The Harwood's four galleries exhibit new works every month by local and national artists. Gallery hours are Monday - Friday, 10 am to 4 pm. Gallery receptions occur on the first Friday of each month in coordination with Albuquerque's citywide Artscrawl.



For more info call 242-6367 or go to

www.harwoodartcenter.org