



# Your Homeowners News

## The Meadows on Rio Grande

### NEWS AND EVENTS

#### Murl Moore Joins Meadows Board

By Dick Ruddy

Meadows Board Member **Alan Chaulk** relocated to the Aztec, N.M., area recently, leaving a vacancy on the board. Lucky for us, Meadows homeowner **Murl Moore** has stepped in mid-term to fill Alan's position.



Photo by Dick Ruddy

**Murl Moore**

Murl and his wife, Sara, have lived in the Meadows for more than 16 years, which makes them some of our first residents. A native of Los Angeles, Calif., Murl attended the University of New Mexico on a Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) scholarship. He spent three years in the Marine Corps and went on to earn a graduate degree in civil engineering. Murl

worked at Sandia Labs for 34 years, first as an engineer and later in computer systems.

Sara is Murl's best friend. They have three children and seven grandchildren. Shortly after they moved to the North Valley from the Heights, the couple won a horse in a raffle, and it radically changed their lives. The Moores got involved with the Arabian Horse Association, which led to a move from their first Valley home in Dietz Farms to a three-acre place at the end of Griegos Road. They had a fairly large barn so they boarded horses. Murl served as president of the horse association's state chapter, alternating terms as president with periods spent managing the group's Class A show.

Since moving to the Meadows, Murl and Sara have traveled extensively, covering almost all of Europe by Eurail and also seeing New Zealand and Australia on independent, B&B trips. They traveled with Elderhostel to Turkey, China, Thailand, and up the west coast of South America (and through the Panama Canal) on "The Pathways of the Conquistadores," visiting many archeological sites.

### FINANCIAL UPDATE

#### Majority of Assessments Paid

By Jim Nelson, Treasurer

As of December 31, 2009, 103 homeowners (94 percent) have paid their assessments for the current operating year. We will mail one more reminder in early January to the six households in arrears.



The Meadows on Rio Grande Homeowners Association continues to maintain and enhance our common spaces. We are making improvements to our irrigation system in preparation for spring. Some maintenance on common-area walls is also anticipated in the coming months.

Your homeowners association recently received a generous donation of \$1,310.00 from the Thomas Village Neighborhood Association (TVNA) in recognition of the work we do to enhance our shared community. Please note that the TVNA dues amount of \$35 is separate from our homeowners assessment and that we encourage Meadows homeowners to join TVNA. TVNA gives \$10 of every \$35 dues payment to the Meadows to support maintenance of the common areas — so when you join TVNA, you are helping the Meadows as well. TVNA includes Thomas Village, the Meadows and the Abbey Jean Town Homes communities.

#### Financial Condition as of December 31, 2009

**Operating Year:** 4/30/09 – 5/1/10

**Year-to-date income:** \$20,665 (95 percent of budget)

**Year-to-date operating expenses:** \$11,877 (55 percent of budget, at eight months of operation). The next four months of our operating year should bring our expenses close to the budgeted amounts, as we will incur the expense of the improvements noted above.

#### Please mail outstanding assessments to:

Meadows on Rio Grande HOA  
PO Box 7185  
Albuquerque, NM 87194-7185

**Thank you!**

# The Meadows on Rio Grande



Photos by Dick Ruddy

## LIFE IN THE MEADOWS

### Our Dedicated Neighbors

By Marilyn Smith, President, Board of Directors  
Meadows on Rio Grande Homeowners Association



Most people know very little about what it takes to keep a community like ours running successfully. I knew little about it myself before joining our homeowners association's board of directors — probably because the folks who keep things

running on our behalf do so with little fanfare. Yet their efforts have a profound impact on everyone's enjoyment of our community.

Nine homeowners serve on our board. As you'd expect, there's a president, a vice-president, a secretary and a treasurer — but also three standing committees, two advisors, and other homeowners who give of their time on one or more of our committees.

Our largest committee is the Architectural Review Committee, or ARC. This committee exists because architectural review of exterior modifications is mandated by the Protective Covenants. Three board members, **Kent Morrison**, **Stann Sandoval**, and **Alvan Romero**, serve on this committee. This is fully a third of our board, and that may seem a bit heavy — but architectural review and covenant enforcement are difficult tasks for any homeowners association. Most of the work of the ARC is done in committee, but in some instances ARC recommendations and actions must be brought before the entire Board.

The Landscape Committee is one man, **Gene Finch**. Due to his efforts, Don Fernando looks like more like a fairway than a highly traveled road. Gene interfaces with Heads Up, our landscape contractor, fights the good fight with the Conservancy District about their ditches, complains to the City when maintenance lapses in Dulcinea Park, and knows more about what has happened (or *not* happened) to the vegetation surrounding the Meadows than any living mortal.

## QUARTERLY QUOTE

"One kind word can warm three winter months."  
— Japanese Proverb

*Special thanks to Denise Davis  
for printing this newsletter.*

We also call Gene when the irrigation system springs a leak or when one of the trees falls onto the street. The rest of us "help" him now and again.

Some individuals, such as **Jim Nelson**, our treasurer, and attorney **Gene Vance**, who provides legal counsel, are not on committees. But they contribute so greatly that they are essentially committees unto themselves.

The Newsletter Committee is ably anchored by two people, **Susan Finch** and **Dick Ruddy**. They publish the *Homeowners News* each quarter, allowing us to keep in touch with you, the homeowners. Susan, as editor, beats the bushes for topics we hope you will find useful and



want to read and, like all editors, she tears her hair out trying to get us to write our columns on time. Susan and her diligent proofreader, **Gayle Vance**, probably have noticed that none of us majored in English. Dick, a professional photographer in a former life, contributes his photos to the newsletter, and each is a gem.

It's my pleasure to serve with this enthusiastic group of volunteers, all of whom are committed to doing what needs to be done to keep the Meadows on Rio Grande a superb community. We look forward to serving you in the year ahead.

### Please Send Story Ideas, Photos

The staff of *Your Homeowners News* could use your ideas and photos. Do you know of a neighbor who has had an accomplishment? Have you photographed something out of the ordinary recently? Please share your ideas by contacting Susan Finch, [sfinch64@comcast.net](mailto:sfinch64@comcast.net), or Dick Ruddy, [rduddy@comcast.net](mailto:rduddy@comcast.net). Thanks!

## NEIGHBORS IN THE NEWS

### Meadows Homeowner Honored by New Mexico U.S. Attorney's Office

Meadows homeowner and Board Member **Alvan Romero**, who directs the Fraud Investigations Division of the State Taxation and Revenue Department, was recognized recently by the U.S. Attorney for the District of New Mexico for his "outstanding performance and invaluable assistance in support of law enforcement efforts in the community." Please join us in congratulating our neighbor on this noteworthy achievement.

Alvan was recognized by U.S. Attorney Greg Fouratt during the Seventh Annual United States Attorney's Office for the District of New Mexico Law Enforcement Recognition Awards Ceremony, held in Albuquerque on December 10.



Photo courtesy of Alvan Romero

**Alvan Romero (right) receives his award from U.S. Attorney Greg Fouratt.**

The certified public accountant and certified fraud examiner was honored for his role in investigations involving the New Mexico State Treasurer's Office, the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Courthouse, and an offshore tax return preparer/income tax evasion scam that took him to Costa Rica.

"This award is not only a testament to Alvan and his professionalism; it's also a strong statement about how the Taxation and Revenue Department is committed to working with federal, state and local agencies to root out tax fraud and evasion," said State Taxation and Revenue Secretary Rick Homans.

Alvan, who is also certified in Financial Forensics by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, became the founding director of the Tax Fraud Investigations Division after a career with the Internal Revenue Service.

"I am honored and humbled by this award, which I also accept on behalf of my staff and all their hard work," he said. "You are only as strong as your staff. We have accomplished much together and I am appreciative of the great opportunity that Governor Bill Richardson has given me."

An Española Valley native, Alvan graduated from St. Anthony's Catholic School in Dixon, N.M.; Española High School; New Mexico State University; and the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) in Glynco, Ga. He lives on Rozinante Drive in the Meadows.

## LANDSCAPING

### Time for the Leaves to Adios

By Gene Finch

With spring approaching, please do your part to pick up, bag and dispose of last fall's leaves. It would also help greatly for everyone who has trees or shrubs blocking the sidewalks to trim them, for the safety of all those who walk our neighborhood. Heads Up is doing its part to keep our common grounds neatly manicured; we need to do our part as well.



And, speaking of neatly manicured places ... have you strolled down to Dulcinea Park lately? The City is doing a fine job of trimming bushes, cleaning out dead branches, and bagging up leaves. It looks a lot better!

## ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

### It's a New Year

By Kent Morrison, Committee Chair

For the New Year, the Architectural Review Committee resolves to keep our community looking fantastic, by enforcing the covenants we all agreed to when we bought our homes in the Meadows on Rio Grande. Of course, we can only do this with your cooperation and support.

Are you planning to make renovations to the exterior of your home? All new construction or modification to your home's exterior (including a color change) is governed by a set of Protective Covenants. Before you start those changes, you will need to submit a Request for Design Approval to the Board of Directors and get ARC approval to begin your remodel. Forms can be found on our website: [www.meadowsonriogrande.org](http://www.meadowsonriogrande.org).

Thanks to those who have already submitted plans to the ARC for approval. We're all in this together, with the same goal: the preservation of our beautiful neighborhood.

## BACK IN TIME

### Future Moviegoers' Mecca, circa 1880



Photo courtesy of The Albuquerque Museum

Regulars at Century 14 Downtown Albuquerque will enjoy this early 1880s image of First Street and Central Avenue, where their favorite movie theatre and Tucanos Brazilian Grill now stand. Back in those days, Duke City was a town filled with bars and wild people. Some would say Downtown hasn't changed much since then.

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

### Tips for Being a Good Neighbor

Perhaps one of the most important things we can do as Meadows neighbors is to keep our property neat, clean, and in good repair. By maintaining the exterior of our homes, we enhance the look and feel of the whole area — and neighbors appreciate it.

Good neighbors take the overall appearance of the neighborhood seriously. Going for a walk? Take a small garbage sack along in case you come across candy wrappers or other debris. Taking Fido with you? Bring a scooper. Good neighbors don't let their pets leave calling cards on other people's lawns.

If the family next door is going out of town, offer to collect the mail and newspapers, and keep an eye out while they're away. Volunteer to run errands for your neighbor if she gets the flu. Find ways to be there for each other while respecting the right to privacy. These small steps will win you new friends and popularity — while making the Meadows an even better place to live.



Image courtesy of public-domain.zorger.com

## HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS



Marilyn Smith, President	244-8346
Stann Sandoval, Vice President	228-3611
Jim Nelson, Treasurer	246-8515
Alvan Romero, Secretary	242-6663
Gene Finch, Landscaping	765-5944
Susan Finch, Newsletter	764-8262
Murl Moore	764-8489
Kent Morrison, ARC chairman	242-6541

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