

President's Message



It was great to see so many of you at National Night Out this year. There are visions of normalcy all around us. The kids are back in school, the Isotopes and New Mexico United are out on the field, and we can look forward to the State Fair and Balloon Fiesta

this Fall. We have all missed getting together, traveling, and dining out without masks getting the way. If we can remain safe through the Fall and Winter, 2022 might be even closer to “normal”. Seems like we have been waiting a long time for this, and I think I can speak for everyone...we can't wait for this to be over.

COVID has not halted activities within Heritage East. The entrance to the Georgetown neighborhood has been spruced up with wall repairs, new paint and landscape trimming. The Ventura medians have been beautified by a handful of volunteers. A new flag has been raised in Rotary Park. A number of walls, fences and sidewalks have been repaired by neighbors and we have seen many homes with new windows and stucco this year. I will admit Heritage East as a whole is looking very nice, and everyone who has maintained beautiful properties should be commended. This is obvious by the increased property values noted within the past year (see HEAR Real Estate Update). Through July of this year, 29 new neighbors have moved into Heritage East, many with young families. Each neighbor received a Welcome Basket and we look forward to the vibrancy our new neighbors will contribute to our community.

As my term as President comes to a close this October, I want to thank everyone who has contributed to the ongoing success of HEAR. We have hopefully improved the property values of all of our homes, helped to beautify the surrounding landscape and made the neighborhood safer and more welcoming. That has always been my goal. I feel confident the next board will be able to carry on the successful legacy of HEAR. There are many volunteers who make HEAR operate smoothly and they all play an important role; I am grateful to each of them. The board can always be reached by email and remember we are here for *you*. Be Safe.

Jeff Figiel, HEAR President

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October General Membership Meeting

All Heritage East residents are invited to attend the General Membership Meeting on October 21, 2021. Since many of the community centers have stopped holding in-person meetings, the meeting will again be virtual. Our last meeting was hosted on Zoom and went well. We are very grateful for the assistance of Karl Benedict, who manages the technical aspects of the meeting to enable a successful digital experience. Information on October's meeting is below.

Time: October 21, 2021 07:00 PM MT

Meeting Link: <https://nmepscor.zoom.us/join>

Meeting ID: 848 2322 3824

Passcode: 798010

Agenda:

- » City Council Update
- » Bernalillo County Sheriff Manuel Gonzales III
- » HEAR Board Member Introductions
- » Treasury and Membership Report
- » Board Member Elections
- » Freedom Way Traffic Calming Measures
- » Welcome Baskets
- » Ventura Median Beautification

National Night Out Success

National Night Out was a tremendous success this year. It was held at Quintessence Park on August 3rd from 6-8 PM. We estimate 150-200 neighbors came out to share some laughs with old friends, meet some new friends, and enjoy ice cream on a balmy summer's eve. We had a beautiful New Mexico evening after a short bout of monsoon rain.

Joining in the fun again this year was the APD Horse Mounted Unit, whose officers were spotted racing children down the length of the park and shooting hoops on the basketball courts. We were also visited by our APD Commander Greg Weber, Councilor Brook Bassan, her Analyst Dawn Marie Emillio, a representative for Mayor Keller's office (who handed out a few tickets to the Bio Park), State Senator Marian Matthews, and a whole team of firefighters.

As in previous years, this event was a collaboration between the Neighborhood Associations of Heritage East and Quintessence. We combine the neighborhoods because so many people we meet on a daily basis live just a few blocks away, and getting to know all of our neighbors brings us closer together.

I think this was the most attended National Night Out event ever by the two neighborhoods. We look forward to holding it again next year (always on the first Tuesday in August) and hope to have an even bigger turnout next year. Nice job everyone.



Little Free Library

A Little Free Library is planned at the entrance of the Jay Yogeshwar walking/riding path underneath the power lines at the south end of Heritage East. It is expected to be installed by the beginning of October. This book-sharing box will expand the network of over 100,000 Little Free Libraries worldwide, supporting the mission of free book access for all. We hope you and your families take advantage of this resource, sharing some of your favorite stories and being introduced to new ones.

APD Crime Statistics for Heritage East

Crime statistics for the period of June 1 - August 2 are provided by Ms. Franchesca Purdue, Crime Prevention Specialist for NE Area Command:

# of Incidents	Crime
1	Burglary – Residential
1	Burglary – Vehicle
3	Family Offense
8	Fraud
3	Larceny
1	Motor Vehicle Theft
4	Other
2	Simple Assault

It looks like fraud has been an issue. As a reminder, do not share any personal information on the Internet unless it's through a secure website. Also, never give money (in any form) over the phone to prevent any kind of legal action. If you receive any suspicious calls, contact Franchesca Purdue, Crime Prevention Specialist, at 505-768-2169.



Prescription Drug Disposal

Are you looking for a safe way to dispose of expired or unused prescription drugs? The NE Area APD substation at Wyoming and Osuna has a drug disposal station just for this purpose. Proper disposal protects children and pets from accidental poisonings as well as teenagers and adults from misusing or abusing medication. Proper disposal also ensures that medications are not flushed into the wastewater. Wastewater treatment plants are not designed to remove pharmaceuticals and these chemicals can contaminate our lakes and streams.

To use the drug disposal station, remove all medications from their original containers and place them in an unmarked ziplock bag. If you do not have a sealable baggie, ask the individual behind the counter for assistance. Only pills are accepted (including prescriptions, over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, herbal supplements, and pet medications). Liquids, injectables and syringes are not accepted. For more information on safe drug disposal, visit: <https://www.cabq.gov/police/programs/pharmaceuticals>.

Median Adoption

The medians along Ventura Ave are being adopted by Heritage East community members for beautification. There currently are three medians left for adoption. If you are looking for a volunteer opportunity that includes working outside in the beautiful New Mexico sun, improving a highly visible area of

the neighborhood, and getting a little dirty on occasion - this is for you.

Since last Spring, three more medians were adopted and they are being continually improved by their caretakers. HEAR has been involved in purchasing some flowers, along with getting many planted by the city. We work closely with the city Master Gardener and the Clean Cities Program irrigation staff to ensure we have sufficient water to our plants.

Adopting a median involves a loose 2-year contract with the City of Albuquerque, with quick checklists that are submitted back to the city each month. The amount of work invested in your median is at your discretion, and can be as little as one hour per month or as much as you want. I know the current volunteers enjoy taking ownership of a small piece of land as they make it their own. Come give your green thumb a challenge and join us in improving the neighborhood.

Neighborhood Association vs HOA

Have you ever wondered what distinguishes a Neighborhood Association from a Homeowners Association?

A Neighborhood Association is a voluntary organization of residents who work together to improve and maintain the quality of life in its neighborhood. Neighborhood Associations can form out of concern over a particular issue or as a means of enhancing a sense of community.

- » Membership is open to all property owners, residents, and businesses in the neighborhood, but participation is voluntary; boundaries are established by the association.
- » There is no legal authority to enact or enforce maintenance or design requirements beyond those established by City and/or County Ordinances.

Homeowners Associations are formal legal entities created to maintain common areas and enforce private deed restrictions. Most condominium and townhouse developments and some newer single-family subdivisions have homeowners associations which are usually created when the development is built.

- » Membership is mandatory for all property owners within the boundaries of the development.
- » Members are usually charged mandatory dues.
- » Homeowners associations have the legal authority to enact and enforce maintenance and design standards in addition to those established by City or County ordinance.

Taken from <https://www.cabq.gov/office-of-neighborhood-coordination/news/the-difference-between-neighborhood-associations-homeowners-associations>



for the HEAR P.O. Box (\$148.00), HEAR website (\$201.84), HEAR flag in Rotary Park (\$144.60), and some bank and miscellaneous charges (\$129.98).

Membership numbers are pretty good compared to last year, which was 310 at this time, but still quite low relative to previous years. This makes right now the perfect time to renew or sign up for a membership for the first time. See the membership form enclosed in this newsletter, or visit <http://hear-online.org/online-membership-form> to sign up. Even better, if you're the type of person that has ideas on how to most efficiently spend our funds to improve our neighborhood, please join the HEAR board and make your voice heard. It's easy to join and not a large time commitment.

Bill Spahn, HEAR Treasurer

Freedom Way Traffic Calming Study

On August 19th, a second online meeting was held to address traffic calming on Freedom Way. Meeting participants included the City of Albuquerque Traffic Engineering Department, Wilson and Company (the engineering firm that performed the traffic calming study), a representative for Councilor Bassan's office, and affected neighbors.

Four options were presented to the group: (1) new striping from Ventura to De Vargas Loop/Bolack Dr, (2) a traffic circle at Freedom Way and De Vargas Loop, (3) bulb-outs at various locations on Freedom Way, and (4) speed cushions at various locations on Freedom Way.

As of this writing, recommendations are being submitted by the neighbors of Heritage East for consideration. The City will report back to HEAR as to what they have decided. The installation of any traffic management improvements could take up to a year depending on the improvement and funding by our City Councilor Brook Bassan.

Treasurer's Report

We started this year with \$13,324.14 in our accounts and we are currently at \$14,354.65. Paid memberships for 2021 stands at 290 (thank you). So far this year we have received \$7,689.83 from memberships, and \$3.89 from bank interest.

Our total expenses this year stand at \$6,663.21, down from last year's total at this time of \$10,203.57. Like last year, our largest expense is wall painting in HEAR, which this year was for the Georgetown Entrance and totals \$2,800. New this year were the HEAR welcome bags given out to new residents in our neighborhood which have totaled \$918.88. We also had charges for National Night Out (\$249.61), Ventura Street median improvement (\$470.00) and the flyer and Spring newsletter (\$1,600.30). Additional expenses were

HEAR Board Needs You!

HEAR has been lucky to have added three new board members in 2021. New board members bring in fresh ideas and reinvigorate the team, steering the board in different directions. Allowing long-serving members to move on from their positions reinforces the temporary nature of board membership, and invites currently serving members to re-up for an additional two year term if they so choose. Many volunteers have moved on after their two year term, while others have stayed on for decades.

If you feel enticed to become part of a dynamic group

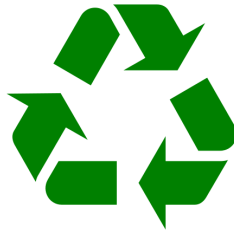


for a two-year term to steer the HEAR board, this volunteer opportunity is for you. The HEAR board funds many projects such as beautification, neighborhood maintenance and group gatherings. The board's direction is formulated by the board itself. Our mission statement been the focus of the HEAR since inception: *Heritage East Association of Residents (HEAR) is committed to preserving and enhancing the beauty, safety, and enjoyment of our neighborhood.* Come on and give it a try, stay for 2 years or 20, it's up to you. Contact hear.president@gmail.com.

Jeff Figiel, HEAR President

HEAR Recycling Update

HEAR Aluminum Recycling takes place on the first Saturday every month from 8:30 am until 11:00 am in the parking lot of Rotary Park in Heritage East. Look for the pick-up truck with a magnetic sign advertising HEAR Recycling.



All aluminum is eligible for recycling, but aluminum cans should be bagged separately from any other aluminum (e.g. foil, roasting pans and pie plates). Pet food cans that do not have white lining are generally not aluminum. As a rule of thumb, if a magnet sticks to a can, it is *not* aluminum.

Below are the latest totals for HEAR's recycling:

Month	lbs, Material	Price/lb	Total
May	103, aluminum 9, steel	\$0.41 \$0.05	\$42.68
June	141, aluminum	\$0.46	\$64.86
July	73, aluminum	\$0.45	\$32.85
August	114, aluminum	\$0.45	\$52.44

Thanks to everyone who brings cans to our monthly collections; it all adds up to a lot of aluminum. A special thanks to Dave Allen for taking care of the June and August collections. For any questions regarding HEAR's recycling, call Susan Tackman at 505-822-8761 or text 505-681-8197. Thanks again and see you at the Park!

Susan Tackman, Recycling Coordinator

Calling All Business Owners

HEAR has revived the tradition of providing Welcome Baskets to new neighbors in Heritage East. This practice encourages new residents to do business with owners who live in and around the neighborhood. HEAR has a running list of these businesses and their contact information. In addition, HEAR invites business owners to contribute promotional items such

as magnets, pens, notepads, etc. that are disseminated in the Welcome Baskets. The HEAR board personally delivers these to new neighbors throughout Heritage East every month. Deb Redford, the HEAR Vice President, has graciously volunteered to be the coordinator for Welcome Baskets. To provide your contact information and any items for the Welcome Baskets, please email Deb at deb@debredfordhomes.com.

Motor Vehicles in Arroyos & Open Spaces

Many have noticed motor vehicles driving in the Domingo Baca Arroyo, just east of Heritage East. This is illegal, as noted by the signs posted at the intersection of Holbrook and the arroyo. The neighbors that live nearby are working from home, putting young children down for a nap, or maybe even attending online school. The noise created by these motor vehicles is loud and disrupting. APD has been notified and the area is being monitored more closely. Albuquerque has a few locations where dirt bikes, go-karts, and 4 wheelers can be used safely, such as Montessa Park (located South of the Sunport).

Looking for Your Suggestions



The HEAR board is always looking for suggestions from the neighborhood. After all, this is *your* Neighborhood Association. There are over 1100 households in Heritage East, each with their own perspective and vision for our community. We welcome

every suggestion and nothing is ever "off the table."

Because group gatherings have been on hold during COVID, I believe that planning such gatherings and events may become a focus of the next board (assuming they can be done safely soon). This would seem a natural way to proceed since many of us have missed getting together and there are so many new families to meet in Heritage East. But this is just one idea and I am sure many of you have more. Please take the time to email me at hear.president@gmail.com with your suggestions.

Heritage Hills Park Gatekeepers Needed

Since April 2018, a group of neighbors have been closing and opening the gate at Heritage Hills park. These neighbors stood up after it became apparent that the park was being used for illegal activities at all hours during the day and night. Activities include littering, drinking, fighting, injuries, drugs, shootings, and multiple calls to 911 with emergency vehicles responding

to the various situations.

Our efforts have been successful in making the park safer and cleaner but we need to increase our volunteer base. If you are interested in helping your neighborhood by assisting, when possible, with opening and securing the gate located on the Ventura side of Heritage Hills Park please call Paul Jessen at (505) 313-3684, Ken Ferguson at (505) 822-0513, or John Woods at (505) 550-0899.

HEAR Real Estate Update

The forecast for the coming months is lower temperatures and a cooler real estate market. The housing market is expected to shift, with more homes going up for sale, which should slow down skyrocketing home prices and the bidding wars of the past year.

Right now in our neighborhood we have 4 homes currently for sale with a median price of \$549,500. There are 7 homes pending with a median price of \$379,900 and 17 homes that have closed in the last six months with a median price of \$455,000.

The homes that are active in the HEAR subdivision are priced at \$186.94 per square foot, while the homes that have closed were sold at \$195.67 per square foot. Although this is a small decline, when you consider the average size home in our neighborhood of 2,371 square feet, the difference amounts to \$20,698.83.

George Ratiu, senior economist for Realtor.com, stated that the national median home price for the week ending on August 14 was \$385,000. Ratiu went on to say that home prices have increased 8.6% from August 2020 to August 2021. Mortgage rates are still very attractive, as Freddie Mac data suggests that Buyers can secure thirty year fixed-rate mortgages at 2.87%.

The shift in the housing market should make shopping for



a home a little more enjoyable for Buyers. In June there were 2.6 months of inventory for sale according to the National Association of Realtors. This is an improvement from 1.9 months in January 2021, but still a ways from a balanced real estate market, which has between 5.5 months and six months of inventory.

Heritage East remains a wonderful place to live, raise a family, or retire, with easy access to the greater Albuquerque area.

*Deb Redford, MBA, BSN, RN
Coldwell Banker Legacy
(505) 293-3700*

APD Notice on Door-to-Door Solicitation

The APD Crime Prevention Unit has distributed an article on Door-to-Door Solicitation. The article is reproduced below to promote safety in Heritage East.



Illegal or unauthorized door-to-door solicitation presents a possible unsafe situation in the residential setting. Individuals who represent themselves as a legitimate business are often times conducting fraudulent or potentially criminal activity. Individual citizens should consider any unexpected knock at the door to be potentially suspicious. The following are suggestions about how to create and maintain a safe and secure residential environment and how to handle the unwanted or unauthorized solicitor.

- » The average citizen can define and describe normal behavior and activity in their immediate area or block. Citizens should apply this knowledge to persons walking the neighborhood. Strangers or those people that do not belong should be noticed and observed for suspicious activity. If a person's behavior is deemed to be abnormal or suspicious, the citizen should call the non-emergency number 242-COPS. If someone witnesses a crime in progress, dial 911.
- » If the resident receives any knock at the door, they should ALWAYS observe the area through a window, eye-viewer or camera system prior to opening the door - even if they are expecting a visitor. If an unfamiliar person is observed outside the residence, the occupant should be very cautious

about opening the door. If there is a security screen door with a deadbolt lock in place and the citizen feels comfortable with opening the door, they should not engage the individual; rather politely ask them to leave. In the absence of a security screen door, they should notify the visitor they are unwelcome and ask them to leave the premises via the locked door and should never allow entry for any reason. Once the person is asked to leave, the resident should observe them leaving and be prepared to report suspicious activity to the police.

- » It is important to note that a knock at the door should not go unanswered in some manner - whether through the security screen door, main door, or camera system. Criminals posing as a legitimate solicitor are looking for an empty house to eventually commit residential burglary. If the criminal breaks into an expected empty residence and finds an occupant, the probability of a violent encounter is high.
- » Home Invasions can be the result of a door-to-door solicitor. The criminal knocks on the door and through a variety of techniques, persuades the resident to open the door. Once the door is open other individuals appear from obscured locations and force their way into the residence. If someone is at the door claiming to require assistance or some type of help, especially late at night, NEVER OPEN THE DOOR - call 911.
- » Citizens who have experienced an illegal solicitor or suspicious person should alert other neighbors in the immediate area. It is recommended that no one engage or enter into a discussion about the purchase of items or services from anyone who initiates contact with them. If items or services are needed, citizens should pursue the purchase through established businesses. Frauds and scams often originate from contact initiated by someone else.
- » How to verify a solicitor's legitimacy: all legitimate businesses in the City of Albuquerque must have a permit to operate, this includes the door-to-door solicitor per City Ordinance 13-3-1-1. The Ordinance requires the individual to have on their person a permit that can be produced on request, which includes photo identification. Any solicitor that claims not to have one or has left it in another location should be considered illegitimate. If you desire the right of privacy, posting a No Trespassing or No Soliciting sign on your premises must be observed by the solicitor. Solicitation is permitted only between the hours of 9:00 AM and sunset.

Keeping Up With HEAR Happenings

To receive updates between HEAR newsletters via email please include your email address when you fill out the form to join or renew your membership. If your email address changes or you would like to be added to our email list, please contact our newsletter coordinator at hear.newsletter@gmail.com and provide a current email address.

HEAR has additional channels to communicate information about our neighborhood activities and resources. Please check them out:

- » HEAR Website - hear-online.org
- » Twitter - twitter.com/hear_online
- » Facebook - facebook.com/HearOnline
- » Next Door - nextdoor.com

HEAR Officers and Volunteers

Office	Name	Contact
President	Jeff Figiel	hear.president@gmail.com
Vice President	Deb Redford	
Secretary	Paul Jessen	
Treasurer	Bill Spahn	hear.treasurer@gmail.com
Board Member	David Allan	
Board Member	Joe Jenkins	
Board Member	Phyllis Martinez	
Board Member	Craig Simons	
Board Member	Jon Figueroa	
Recycling	Susan Tackman	(505) 822-8761
Newsletter	Elena Allen	hear.newsletter@gmail.com

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- » Traffic Calmed - Richard Drdul by CC BY-SA 2.0
- » Sold House - www.americanadvisorsgroup.com

**“There is no power for change
greater than a community
discovering what it cares about.”**

- Margaret J. Wheatley -

Heritage East Association of Residents
PO Box 92465
Albuquerque, NM 87199-2465

PRST STD
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit 1893
Albuq. NM

Time-Sensitive Material. Deliver Promptly
Postmaster: Please Deliver by Monday October 4, 2021

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Heritage East Association of Residents (HEAR) Membership Form

If you have already sent in your dues for 2021, **Thank You!**

You may use this form to renew your membership or join us for the first time.

You can also sign-up and pay online at <http://hear-online.org/online-membership-form>



Last Name(s) _____

First Name(s) _____

HEAR Street Address _____

Physical address in the neighborhood

Email Address _____

For delivery of email updates. Please differentiate between similar letters/numbers - e.g. between 1/l and 0/0

Phone Number: Home _____ **Other** _____

Notes or Comments _____

Membership dues are \$25 /calendar year per household. Please make your check or money order out to HEAR and mail it, along with this form to: **HEAR, PO Box 92465, Albuquerque, NM 87199-2465**