

The Chronicle

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Four Hills Village Association

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2018-2019 President

President's Message

During the many years I taught 8th-grade science, I would end the year with a little chat with my students about going to high school. I always told them to be passionate. That usually got their attention, and then I explained what I meant. Everyone should have passions about life and use those passions to better our world. I would tell my students to be the kid who knows everything about helicopters, or Harry Potter, or the Beatles. I know I never mentioned getting involved in a neighborhood association, but that, too, requires passion. I am grateful to have a passionate group of your neighbors who will serve with me this year to look out for the interests of Four Hills Village on this association board. I have an initial list of ten things that I want to see this dedicated board accomplish this year. In no particular order:

1. It's clear that we need to review and update the Bylaws and Standing Rules. While they were recently revised, it's a bit like cleaning a house and the cleanup never seems to end. All changes will be made public before they are finalized.
2. As we have done in the past, we will participate in the Great American Cleanup this spring and fall. It's a great opportunity to involve membership and give back to this wonderful neighborhood.
3. I have proposed that we celebrate the Village's "birthday." An exact date is a bit hard to nail down, but there's no question that Four Hills Village began in 1958. I think a party to mark 62 fabulous years is in order. Details to follow.
4. We will again offer a shred event so neighbors have a handy way to dispose of documents that need to be shredded.
5. Our website has been long in need of a complete makeover. I'm delighted that Mike Blackledge has stepped up to serve as our webmaster. His initial wash, cut, and blow-dry have done wonders already. Please expect to find current information when you visit www.fhva.org.
6. A membership directory will be sent to current members this year.
7. The work to regain our lapsed 501(c)(3) status will continue. Working with the IRS is never an easy process but Linda Martinez in her new position as treasurer is particularly suited for this task because she had a long career with the IRS. I hope that this will be resolved by the next Annual Meeting.



President's Message, Cont'd

8. The Chronicle will be published four times this year. There is the quandary of electronic versus printed. Printing is our very largest expense every year. Please consider requesting an electronic PDF and saving us the expense of printing and mailing. A hard copy will, of course, be mailed if that better serves your needs.

9. The groundwork has been laid for installing a number of dog poop stations. The issue we need to address is the servicing of waste. I hope we can resolve this and move forward.

10. This year will mark the third annual holiday light contest. For the last two years we have awarded three homes in the Village with a \$50 dining certificate to the Canyon Club, and the Club has generously matched that gift. Start planning your light display and you could have a really nice dinner as a reward.

This board and I are passionate about serving Four Hills Village. I look forward to a year filled with goodwill and good works.

Steve Brügge, FHVA President

spbrugge@gmail.com

Vice President's Report

While I am new to the FHVA Board, I am not new to New Mexico and Albuquerque and Four Hills. I lived in Las Cruces from 1945 to 1948 where my pilot father, Lt. Col. David W. Wallace, started the Air Force ROTC at New Mexico A&M. After earning math and physics degrees from the University of Texas, I became responsible for building equipment to protect U.S. and Allied aircraft from radar and infrared guided missiles and guns. From 1965 until 1980 I conducted tests of this equipment using NM Air National Guard aircraft flying out of Kirtland AFB. When in Albuquerque for these tests, I stayed at the Western Skies Motel about where Smith's and the Bee Hives are today. When Colleen Aycock & I married, we traveled frequently to Albuquerque to visit her relatives in Four Hills. And now that I am retired, instead of reading engineering details and military contracts, I find myself reading and rewriting neighborhood bylaws! Times have really changed.

To review and rewrite the FHVA Bylaws, Pres. Brugge created a committee consisting of Ann Harris Davidson, Jim Church, and myself (Chairman). Because both Ann and Jim have worked on these bylaws in the past, I think we have a great team. We have the goal of presenting the final version to the Board by June, 2020. After Board approval, they will be published in the August Chronicle. It will be fascinating reading.

Dave W. Wallace, Jr., Vice President

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Government Affairs

Plans continue to progress for a Multicultural Arts Festival at Singing Arrow Park now being planned for summer/fall 2022. This project is an effort to improve the usage of the park by highlighting the Spanish and Native American Archaeological site; along with the North African immigrant community living in the area. It will also serve to highlight the new Community Center.

On Sunday March 1st as FHVA Board representative, I met again with the SANE Coalition (Southeast Area Neighborhood Enrichment Coalition), a group broadly representing Council District 9 and the Singing Arrow neighborhood. They are enthusiastic about and want to help with the Multicultural Arts Festival.

The Singing Arrow Community Center project is working its way through the government process. Bidding has now been completed and construction is expected to be completed in summer/fall 2021.

The new FHVA sign is in the process of the City obtaining a third bid for construction of the design approved by the FHVA Board. The chosen design was displayed at the Annual Meeting breakfast in January and published in the Chronicle. Additionally, it is planned that the new sign will have lighting and a message board. As a separate project we are working with the Albuquerque Police Department on the potential installation of a security camera which will feed into their system.

The \$260,000 State Capital Outlay for landscaping improvements along the east side of Four Hills Road has passed the legislature and is awaiting signature from the Governor. The funding however won't be available for a number of months until it goes through the process and is actually received by the City. Therefore, as FHVA Board representative, on Saturday February 29th 2020, I met with City Counselor Don Harris and he agreed to provide the money for a Landscape Design Plan, which is the next step.

As a final note, I have been elected to the East Gateway Coalition Board; and I continue to serve on the Urban Enhancement Trust Fund Board.

Andrew Lipman
Government Affairs Director



PIANO LESSONS for KIDS in Four Hills

Hi neighbors...My wife and I just moved into Four Hills. I have room in my schedule for a few more private piano students. I would teach at my home where we have a 7 ft. Yamaha grand piano. I have taught Music at the elementary level for 20 years in the public schools of NM. My lessons are fun and exciting. I started piano lessons myself at age 5 at my request. Please call 332 - 3506 and leave a message with your name and phone #.

John Goldrick (332 - 3506)



Treasurer's Report

No Report

Membership Report

Happy Springtime in Four Hills!

The 2020 membership form has been updated and includes a second page with a 'Welcome' paragraph and information that outlines the rights and privileges that membership confers. The form is available as a download from the FHVA's website (www.fhva.org/membership.html).

Our membership tally for March 2020 is 340 households, up from 303 in 2019. Thank you for your participation! As stated in our membership form welcome paragraph, we continue to build this community through maintaining the quality of life for residents, caring for the upkeep of the local environment, and supporting the interests of neighbors. We are so happy you're here!

While entering your membership data into a spreadsheet (that becomes the Chronicle mailing list) I have noticed many forms without email addresses. As Steve Brugge wrote in his opening welcome page, we do intend to send out electronic versions of the Chronicle by PDF to your email address this year and to print a 2020 Membership Directory. On your membership form you could check 'No' if you preferred your email and/or phone number not be published in the Directory, or check a box if you did not want to be listed in the directory at all. Most neighbors want to use the Directory 'phone book' so they can call on a neighbor if needed. I intend to call each member and ask you to reiterate your preferences so we have it correct for the Directory. Or, you can email your preferences to me at lyndahartman@me.com.

FHVA by the numbers... A few years ago I was on the board of the Four Hills Neighbors (FHN) Women's group (more about that organization below) and was working with the 'Welcome Committee' who voluntarily organize neighborhood gatherings and provides our FHVA membership form to new homeowners in their 'Welcome Packets' along with other information about our Four Hills Community (Canyon Club, Nextdoor, FHN, etc.). During that effort I counted all the homes in Four Hills that the Hostesses volunteer to serve. For trivia fans, here are the numbers! There are approximately 1227 detached homes, 53 Condos, and 30 townhouses for a grand total of 1310*(+/-) households (*includes 3 newly constructed homes). Therefore, our membership is comprised of approximately 26% of our community. Please do encourage your neighbors to join and become involved in this Four Hills Village neighborhood association. Let's get our participating household memberships to 50% or higher! I love a goal!

Lynda Hartman, Membership Director



Membership Report, Cont'd

Four Hills Neighbors - A Women's Organization

Four Hills Neighbors is a women's organization open to any woman who is a resident of Four Hills Village. This organization began in 1976 and has been operating continuously ever since. Currently we have 206 members. We meet quarterly for a luncheon held at The Canyon Club. This Luncheon includes a short business meeting and some type of program. We also have 19 different activity groups covering everything from Books to Bridge to Walking. Most groups meet monthly, some twice monthly. We love welcoming new members, so if you are living in our wonderful neighborhood, you can find out more about us and register to be a part of this great group a couple of different ways. Our Membership Chairwoman is Mary Roehrig (332-9329 or FHNmembers@gmail.com). She will gladly send you a membership form. New members are free for the first year; after that the annual membership fee is just \$20. Our next luncheon will be on Thursday, June 4. This will also be the beginning of our new membership year and will include installation of new officers for the coming 2020-2021 year. I look forward to seeing many of our members there and hopefully welcoming many new members!

Pat Zmuda, FHN President

Open Space Report

As a geologist I was drawn to New Mexico because of its beauty, diversity, and complexity of its landforms, its wildlife, and the cultures of its people. I love Four Hills Village and its adopted Manzano Open Space because it includes all these features.

When you travel across FHV you can see and traverse rocks that represent a vast spectrum of time and dynamic history. If you go up to the Manzano-Four Hills Open Space you can walk or sit on the pink and gray "Sandia granites" that were created deep in the earth more than a billion years ago. Today these rocks form the cores of the Four Hills, Sandia, and Manzano Mountains. These ancient granites were uplifted and broken by huge N-S and NW trending faults when Rio Grande Rift began to form 35-29 million years ago. This rifting of the Earth's crust created N-S basins that are tens of thousands of feet deep and extend in a chain from Mexico to central Colorado. Albuquerque Basin is one of these.

About 15 million years ago a great mountain forming event called the "Basin and Range Orogeny" stretched and uplifted the entire SW portion of the US. Albuquerque and the western half of the state were pushed upward over a mile. More great faults were formed and many volcanoes erupted along these faults across the central and western portions of the state. This rifting of the earth is continuing today but more slowly.



Open Space Cont'd

You can look west from FHV and see evidence of all this drama. Rather than cutting out a valley for itself, the Rio Grande has been trying to fill in the basins of Rio Grande Rift. These deposits of sand and shale are now aquifers and the reason why we have so much good water. 70 miles away on the horizon you can see cone-shaped Mt Taylor which is a large “stratovolcano”. It erupted violently 3-2 million years ago much like Mt St Helen. Lower your vision a little and you will see the “fissure volcanoes” of the West Mesa which poured out flat flows of basalt, like those in Hawaii, from 200,000 to 70,000 years ago. These now form the cliffs decorated by thousand-year old pictographs.

Walk along the east and north sides of FHV and you will see evidence of even younger geologic activity. Here the ancient and active fault system of Tijeras Canyon has moved the Four Hills and Manzano Mountains sideways as well as both up and down past the Sandia Mountains (is it chance that English translation of “Tijeras” is “Scissors”?). Erosion along the weakened rock within this fault zone has created a long, deep and narrow canyon that focuses storm runoff capable of moving large boulders as well as huge amounts of sand and gravel. These deposits form the large “alluvial fans” and the channeled arroyos that both feed and cut into them. Today the City is actively seeking to control these sometimes catastrophic floods by deepening the downstream catchment basins and by building long high bridges over the arroyos (like the Four Hills Rd bridge) that look too large until you measure the actual scale of these flooding events.

Do you want to get up close and personal with all this dynamic beauty, walk over fault zones and a billion years of history, meet your neighbors and then astound them with your knowledge of geology? If so, come join us as we participate in “The Great American Cleanup” on Saturday morning April 25 from 9 AM to 12 PM. We will be again working on Four Hills Rd where it is the entrance to FHV. We will start at Winterwood Way and work our way north along both sides of the road to the arroyo bridge. Once again, the City of Albuquerque Solid Waste Department will support us by providing gloves, bags, and trucks to haul away our collection. More details and information on how to signup (we need a head count for bags and gloves) will be posted on the new FHVA web site.

On a final note for this quarterly article, we should also give recognition and a big “thank you!” to the many FHV residents who pick up trash while they take their daily walks through the neighborhood and the Open Spaces. These quiet and unsupported efforts make a big difference in maintaining and improving the beauty of the Four Hills area.

Lisa (Rusty) Goetz – Open Space Director

#

Four Hills Village Association

Monthly Meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of the month at

6:30 p.m. in the

Canyon Club Boardroom

All FHV residents are welcome to join us!



Real Estate Historian Report

Four Hills Real Estate Newsflash: SALES ARE UP!

Here are the January statistics for 2020: We have 24 Active home listings, 9 Under Contract, and 16 Sold. This means that Four Hills is Still Selling!

Even better News: Sales *and* prices are UP! The differences in Price-per-Square-Foot and “Selling” and “Not Selling” are due mainly to the condition of the property:

- what repairs needs to be made,
- if the property has been updated or remodeled with regard to kitchens, baths, appliances, mechanical systems such as heating and cooling, flooring, roof,
- location,
- age,
- floor plan and views

All are factors in the correct pricing and successful selling. An additional note: there are more buyers in the lower price range than the higher ranges, so pricing is very important.

The GREAT News is that mortgage interest rates remain at a 20-year low.

Save the Date: May 16, is the day that I will be sponsoring the 4-Hills Garage Sale. My office has already been working on the event. For more information, we always post a sign at the “Y” which will go up in late April. Please know that we have had many calls as to the date, but unfortunately, we cannot take reservations before the sign is posted. Happy hunting and happy selling.

Jan DeMay
Real Estate & Historian Director
Jan@AskJanRealEstate.com

“The Four Hills Village Association is a perfect place to discuss issues and concerns for our neighborhood so the more members we have the stronger our community is.”



Publications Report

What encourages members to volunteer to become Directors in the Four Hills Village Association?

BOREDOM? A need to spend time away from the clubs or the golf course? Surely not, we're all busy people FHVA gives us the opportunity to be engaged with all our neighbors for the good of the community. So as part of that, I want to listen to your concerns so that we can make a difference. My goal for the year is to make some changes and additions to the Chronicle. We have on my Committee, Steve Brugge, a well-known photographer and Colleen Aycock, a well-known author of many books. They will be my helpers with the editing duties. This is a new year, with new officers, and we look forward to getting to know you. I would like to say "the store is open for anyone with ideas and talents".

Sharon H. Alexander
Publications Director

Security/Overflights Report

Hello All,

As we move along in this year, your Four Hills Village Board of Directors remains fully dedicated to the safety and security of our neighborhood.

In years past we have made sure our community has maintained our unique land development posture of one-way-in and one-way-out, even though, at one time, we were faced with an effort from a nearby developer who tried very hard to force an extension of Stagecoach Road through the open space and over to his property.

The proof of this added level of security is apparent to me when I do my monthly check of police responses in Four Hills and compare those with responses in other nearby areas. The lack of APD calls for our community is impressively significant.

At this time, we are moving in the direction of even increasing the security of our one-way-in/one-way-out by positioning a security camera at the entrance to Four Hills Village.

Another concern we have is the amount of speeding that occurs on some of our main roads in Four Hills. Last year we began working with Commander James Collins, head of the Foothills Area Command, which controls the Albuquerque Police Department's coverage here in Four Hills Village.

Commander Collins offered to provide more police presence for us if we would let him know when we thought most of the speeding occurred. The Board has discussed this and will be presenting our conclusions to Commander Collins.

George Gibbs , Security/Overflights Director



Webmaster Report

Meet Your Webmaster

When the Four Hills Village Association ballot was distributed, you may have noticed that no one was running for Webmaster. As nature abhors a vacuum, I dislike voids on the Board. I had been operating and maintaining the Supper Rock Neighborhood Association website for years ([SRNA.website](#)). It's not that much work, most of which I accomplish in the middle of the night (don't tell my wife). I could certainly do something for **FHVA.org**. When I talked to Steve Brügge about the job, he told me the pay wasn't anything, but the benefits were less. I jumped at the opportunity. Perhaps it's a passion.

This may be the only time you hear from me so let me dip into the weeds just a bit: FHVA.org currently runs under Weebly.org, a website builder and host – like Wix.com and Network Solutions and others – that caters to small business websites over non-profits. Your previous webmasters (Frank Lujan and Linda Martinez) told me (and I have confirmed) that Weebly has its challenges. If you search for: **CABQ neighborhood websites**, the top hit will bring you to an alphabetical listing of links to some 90 (ninety!) Albuquerque neighborhoods. Stroll through some of these and see what you like. Most are traditional websites (professional, Weebly, Wix), some are blogs (WordPress, Blogger), a few use social media, and one even says: “We no longer maintain this website; use NextDoor.com or Facebook.” I hope FHVA never takes that path for several reasons we can discuss at another time. One for now: **FHVA.org** has a tab for **Upcoming Events** that is static, always available, yet easily updated; this should be your go-to page for what the near future holds.

I work for the Board, specifically at the pleasure of the FHVA President. If you have something you'd like to see on **FHVA.org**, talk to your Board and they will tell me what to do. Just like my wife.

Mike Blackledge Webmaster

by mike@blackledge.com



A Message From Your Past President

As the past president, I believe Four Hills Village Association has a board of directors which can move Four Hills Village forward. President Brugge has outlined his agenda for the next year which I heartily agree. He focused on ten items, one of which is the history of our great neighborhood which I do not believe anyone ever brought this up in the twenty-six years that my family has lived here.

There are a few items that have been in progress for the past year or so. These are:

- The State of New Mexico has provided funding in the 2019 budget to the City of Albuquerque for security cameras for Four Hills Village. The cameras will be integrated into the Albuquerque Police Department's real time surveillance system. The reason for the security cameras is since 2016, our neighborhood has had two instances where people were physically harmed by individuals who were not residents of FHV. Even though FHV is one of the safest neighborhoods in Albuquerque, the previous board believe having security cameras would deter the criminal elements. This should be finalized late this year or early 2021.
- The new sign Four Hills Village In the past, if we advertised any events within the Village, someone would have to place a sign at the 'Y' (Four Hills Road & Stagecoach). The sign weighed over fifty pounds and you would need to redo the lettering to meet the date, time, and event. Each sign cost about \$95.00 per event which the funds could be put to better use if we could have letters and change one sign periodically at the true entrance of the Village at Winterwood. This project should be completed sometime in 2020 since the design of the sign was approved with changes in November 2019.
- Landscaping East Side of Four Hills Road from the bridge up into Four Hills Village. When we asked the City of Albuquerque about beautification of Four Hills Road, there was not any money in the City's budget for this project, however, we worked with our Councilor and his staff on a request to the State of New Mexico for a capital outlay to improve the appearance of east side of Four Hills. During this past legislative session, January 2020, the City of Albuquerque requested \$260,000 in funding for four Hills Road Beautification project. I believe this passed and the city will receive the funding in July 2020.

One project I will be working on is to get the City of Albuquerque to designate the area where Wagon Train and Kirtland Air Force Base run parallel to be considered some type of Open Space. Since many residents of the Village walk their pets along this area it would make a good spot to have two dog refuse stations to be maintained by the City. There have been at least five suggested places for dog refuse stations within the Four Hills Village.

In closing, I believe, we as a community need to keep our focus on Four Hills Village so as to make it the premier place where everyone in Albuquerque wants to live, work, and play.

Jim Cochran

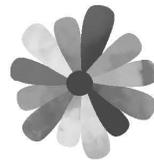
FHVA President, 2018-2019



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