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**President's Message** by Andrew Lipman

We welcome our new 2023 board members! In February this year, four FHVA members stepped up to fill the otherwise vacant board positions. We are very pleased to announce that we have a full board.

On January 14, after a two-year hiatus, we were able to hold our Annual General Meeting and member breakfast at the Canyon Club. State Representative Meredith Dixon, County Commissioner Eric Olivas, and City Councilor Renee Grout spoke and answered questions during the meeting. We hope that you were able to attend.

These are some of the matters, the FHVA Board will be focusing on this year:

- Public safety and following up on the Four Hills Neighborhood Traffic Speeding study recommendations addressing speeding and safety issues.
- Street repairs. With the assistance and extensive work of FHVA Board member Rusty Goetz, we are working with City Councilor Grout, State Representative Dixon, and Jennifer Morrow, Deputy Director of Municipal Development in anticipation of infrastructure funding becoming available this year.
- Kirtland Air Force Base Controlled Burn Program. Rusty Goetz and I met with Kirtland AFB officials and a variety of state, county and city officials on Tuesday, February 7th regarding the burn plans and visited the site on the base. In addition, Kirtland has supplied a sign which will be displayed at the entrance to Four Hills Village before and during the burn days. See additional details in Rusty's report later in this issue of the Chronicle.
- Supporting of the new Singing Arrow Community Center by encouraging its usage by FHVA members. The FHVA Board has been holding our monthly meetings at the center.
- Taking part in the "Colors of the World Multicultural Arts Festival" at the Singing Arrow Community Center and Singing Arrow Park. This event is scheduled for Saturday May 6, 2023, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. We thank Councilor Grout for arranging the \$20,000 allocation from the city budget to fund this project. We also want to thank the community center directors for their assistance in serving on the planning committee. The event will have a wide range of activities including food trucks, a variety of ethnic performing groups, art and history displays, children's activities, a bouncy house, and more.

Continued on page 2

## President's Message *by Andrew Lipman*

- Ensuring that we will comply with the city's new Neighborhood Association Recognition Ordinance (NARO). Please refer to FHVA Vice President Herb Wright's report for more information.
- Continuing to sponsor the FHVA Yard Sale, participate in National Night Out in cooperation with the Four Hills Neighbors women's group, hold our annual shredding event, organize clean-up days, publish the quarterly Chronicle and the FHVA Directory. In addition, we intend to host the Annual General Meeting and member breakfast at the Canyon Club in January 2024.
- Seeking volunteers to join one (or more) of our committees which meet on an as-needed basis.
  - Bylaws & Standing Rules Committee;
  - Membership/Recruitment Committee;
  - Records/Archives Committee;
  - Education & Youth Affairs Committee; and
  - Resident Recognition Committee.

If you are interested in serving on a committee, please contact me directly at [FHVApres@gmail.com](mailto:FHVApres@gmail.com) Also please use this email to contact me regarding any issues or suggestions you have for the FHVA Board.

## Vice President's Report *by Herb Wright*

As some of you may be aware, this is not my first time serving on the FHVA Board! This year I will be working to draft new by-laws to conform to the Neighborhood Association Recognition Ordinance. The updated NARO enables all households within our boundaries to have voting rights without the payment of dues—though dues may still be paid voluntarily. While we welcome the increase in our membership, we want to ensure that we are able to continue to provide the current level of services and benefits to our paid members and to FHV residents as a whole. I expect to have the bylaws drafted and adopted by FHVA membership by early summer. All neighborhood associations have until November 27, 2023 to have their updated bylaws approved by the city and on file with the Office of Neighborhood Coordination.

**Advertise  
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*The Chronicle* is the newsletter publication of the Four Hills Village Association. It is published quarterly (March, June, September, and December) and mailed to members. A link to the PDF document is distributed by email to members who have opted to go paperless. The public may view earlier editions of *The Chronicle* online at [FHVA.org](http://FHVA.org).

### Advertising in *The Chronicle*:

- ◆ Full page ad: \$200 per issue
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## Secretary's Report by Jennifer Lopez

### Recognizing Good Neighbors of Four Hills Village

Four Hills Village is truly one of the best neighborhoods in Albuquerque! And we know it is the good people who live here that make it so! Most folks who do good things don't care to be recognized for their good works, but the FHVA Board would love to highlight the good things happening in our neighborhood. If you know of someone who goes above and beyond in caring for their community and the people around them, please share their names with us. We would love to get to know them and to share their goodness with the entire community. Contact Jennifer Lopez at 505-269-7753 or at [leftylopez05@gmail.com](mailto:leftylopez05@gmail.com).

#### Gerri Boden

#### A Good Neighbor of Four Hills Village

Gerri Boden, originally from Maine, settled in the Ohio snowbelt with her husband and kids. Fortunately for us, they took a vacation to the southwest and fell in love with the desert. We are so happy that they returned home and put a "For Sale" sign in the snowbank in front of their house!



Gerri Boden is the epitome of a Four Hills resident. She shows gratitude towards others, while at the same time, not acknowledging her own worth. She has lived here since 1994, and being a humble generous friend to all whom she passes, she is the embodiment of what a Four Hills Village resident is. And in being that type of person, she did not want to be recognized. Rather she says, "One person should not be singled out because so many do so much!"

Our daily experiences and how we react to them make us who we are, mentally and physically. Gerri has been an educator, a state-level manager for an insurance agency, a field investigator for the Department of Health and Human Services, and a mother and a wife. She said, "All these positions working with people gave me the confidence to do what I do with Four Hills Neighbors—helping people, doing for people." And she does a lot!! From working at the polls during elections, to helping organize the Four Hills Neighbors quarterly luncheons, to leading ladies on adventures, to allowing her porch to be the collection point for Silver Horizons, Gerri never stops giving or sharing the joy of living in Four Hills Village with all whom she meets. In fact, in her normal fashion of being an inspiration of giving, she points out that the Silver Horizons organization is in dire need of non-perishable food items. She urges all of us to please come fill up the box on her porch at 1538 Catron Ave so that those less fortunate will not be without nourishment.

But again, she does not want this article to be about her. She states that many people bring the neighborhood together. While visiting with her, she continuously gave me names of other FHV residents who, according to her, do so much more than she. As I wrote down their names, I assured her that we will honor them as well! Since Gerri was hesitant to be recognized, I advised her that sharing her passion for our neighborhood may inspire others to step up and to give their time and energy to our community. She believes that people will see a need and that they will step up.


According to the "Wisdom of Gerri", the ladies who have not joined the Four Hills Neighbors group are missing out on 90% of the benefits of living in this neighborhood. Friends are reciprocal. We need each other. You need them. They need you. Check on your friends! Follow the good words of Gerri. Be a nosy neighbor. Check on each other. Offer rides. Provide a meal to a neighbor who is ill. Join neighborhood groups to foster friendships and relationships. Life is not always easy, and friends need friends.





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## Treasurer's Report *by Linda Martinez*

### Statement of Income and Expenses January 1, 2023 – February 28, 2023

#### 01/01/2023 Beginning Bank Balance

Checking	\$ 10,649.64
Savings	<u>23,327.18</u>
<b>Total</b>	

**\$ 33,976.82**

#### Year to Date Income

Membership Dues	\$ 997.19
Advertising Income	1,500.00
Interest Earned MM	<u>.40</u>

#### Total

**\$ 2,497.59**

#### Year to Date Expenses

Annual MEeting	\$ 2,245.88
Prizes for Contest	167.85
Supplies	16.47

#### Total

**\$ 2,430.20**



#### January 1, 2023 – thru February 28, 2023

#### Net Income (Loss)

**\$ 67.39**

#### 2/28/2023 Balance

Checking	\$ 10,716.63
Savings	<u>23,327.56</u>

#### Ending Bank Balance

**\$ 34,044.19**

## Monthly Board of Directors Meetings

The FHVA Board meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

at the Singing Arrow Community Center

These meetings are open to all members.

We are currently holding hybrid meetings.

You may either attend in person or online via Zoom.

Please contact Andrew Lipman at [FHVApres@gmail.com](mailto:FHVApres@gmail.com) if you wish attend.

## Education & Youth Affairs Report *by Jerry Gallegos*

I recently had an opportunity to meet with our representative APS board member to review various education topics such as legislative goals, as well as the upcoming strategic planning that APS will be embarking on in the future. Included in this report are contacts for area schools, charter schools and other educational programs. I will follow up in the future with more information on these schools as needed or requested.

Ms. Josephine Dominguez ([josefina.dominguez@aps.edu](mailto:josefina.dominguez@aps.edu)) is our elected school board member and represents District 6. Ms. Domínguez is a retired teacher who has spent 28 years in high school and middle school classrooms. During those years, she taught in seven different districts in Colorado, Texas, and New Mexico.

As an ex-educational administrator in APS, I find that half the battle that school board members have is understanding the complexity of the public school setting and more importantly the complexity of a large school setting such as APS. I had a pleasant sit down with Ms Dominguez and I found her not only knowledgeable about education issues in general, but she is acutely aware of our local school district strengths and challenges. As a former schoolteacher, she clearly demonstrated an in-depth knowledge of our school/student issues.

She represents all public elementary, middle, and high schools in District 6. The elementary schools are A. Montoya, Apache, Bellhaven, Chelwood, Colette Park, Inez, Janet Kahn School of Integrated Arts, John Baker, Matheson Park, McCollum, Oñate San Antonito, Sombre del Monte, and Tomasita. The middle schools are Grant, Hoover, Jackson, Kennedy, Madison, and Roosevelt. The high schools are Eldorado, Manzano, and Sandia.

Four Hills Village students feed to Manzano High School. The feeder middle schools to Manzano are Jackson, Kennedy, and Roosevelt. The feeder elementary schools are A. Montoya, Apache, Chelwood, Colette Park, McCollum, San Antonito, and Tomasita.

Charter schools in district 6 include: Albuquerque School of Excellence (elementary through high school), East Mountain High, Gilbert L. Sena High, Public Academy for Performing Arts, Southwest Preparatory Learning Center, and Southwest Secondary Learning Center.

The APS district representative for District 6 is Gene Savedra ([saavedra\\_ge@aps.edu](mailto:saavedra_ge@aps.edu)) Interim Associate Superintendent, Leadership and Learning Zone 1.

More info will follow as I get to know our charter and public schools.

## Government Affairs Report *by William Jones*

I recently joined the FHVA board and would like to introduce myself. I graduated from the University of New Mexico with a major in biology and a minor in chemistry. Next, I attended The University of Houston College of Optometry where I graduated magna cum laude. After completing my residency training at the Veterans Administration (VA) Hospital in Kansas City, MO, I returned to Albuquerque and became the Chief of Optometry at the Raymond G. Murphy VA Medical Center. Later, I went into private practice, co-founding the New Mexico Eye Care in Albuquerque.

Throughout my career I have been active practitioner in optometry. Besides the VA, my governmental work includes being a commander in the Indian Health Service, lieutenant colonel in the US Army Reserves, and a consultant to the surgeon general of the Air Force. In the past, I have also been involved in helping candidates run for office in the state of New Mexico.



## Membership Report *by Julia Vertrees*

# YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Thanks for all of you who renewed this year! But if you have not yet renewed or are new to the Village, you can join any time. Information for joining is here: <https://www.fhva.org/membership.html>.

As an introduction, I am Julia Vertrees, the new Membership Director. I have lived in Four Hills since November of 2001 but have lived in Albuquerque since I was three years old, except for time away for graduate training. I retired about two years ago from a 20-year career with the Department of Veterans Affairs conducting clinical research with the VA Cooperative Studies Program. For fun, I enjoy snuggling with my 13-year old kitty, puttering in my yard, feeding the birds in my yard, riding my bike, doing hot yoga, crocheting, reading, and a lot more!

We at, FHVA, are using email blasts to notify the membership of upcoming events and critical information. It has come to our attention that these emails sometimes get caught in spam filters. To help address this issue please add the following email addresses to your contacts in your email program:

Andrew Lipman, FHVA President: [fhvapres@gmail.com](mailto:fhvapres@gmail.com)  
Julia Vertrees, FHVA Membership Director: [membership.4hva@gmail.com](mailto:membership.4hva@gmail.com)

If you have any membership questions, reach out to me at any time at [membership.4hva@gmail.com](mailto:membership.4hva@gmail.com).

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## Parks & Open Space Report *by Paul Yarrington*

My wife and I were raised in small towns north of Peoria in the farm lands of Illinois. I attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and finished graduate work there in engineering in 1974. After graduation, I joined Sandia Laboratories as a member of the technical staff. We lived several years in the UNM area and moved to Four Hills Village in 1984. We are still residing at the same address on Toro St. It has definitely become the family home. We have three children and three grandchildren, all of whom live in Albuquerque. Two of our children graduated from UNM and one graduated from NMSU. I retired from Sandia in December 2011 and joined Applied Research Associates, which has its home office in Albuquerque. I still work full time and split my work schedule between New Mexico and Virginia. My oldest daughter and I frequently hike on the weekends, often in the Open Space adjoining Four Hills Village. So, we know and value that area. She and her husband have a home on Wagon Train. I look forward to serving the Four Hills Village community as Parks and Open Space Director. Please let me know if there are related issues or concerns that need to be addressed. I will get as much help learning the duties of the position as I can from outgoing director, Lisa "Rusty" Goetz. So far, that has been a lot!

### SPRING WATERING RECOMMENDATIONS (MARCH - MAY) FOR GREATER ALBUQUERQUE AREA

Plant Type	How Often?	How Deep?
 TREES	 1-2 TIMES PER MONTH	24" INCHES
 SHRUBS	 1-2 TIMES PER WEEK	18" INCHES
 FLOWERING PLANTS	 1-3 TIMES PER WEEK	12" INCHES
 DESERT ACCENTS	 1 TIME PER MONTH	12" INCHES
 GROUNDCOVER	 1-2 TIMES PER MONTH	8" INCHES
 GRASS: TURF	 1-2 TIMES PER WEEK	6" INCHES
 GRASS: ORNAMENTAL	 1 TIME PER WEEK	12" INCHES
 VINES	 1-2 TIMES PER MONTH	18" INCHES

=MONTHLY    =WEEKLY

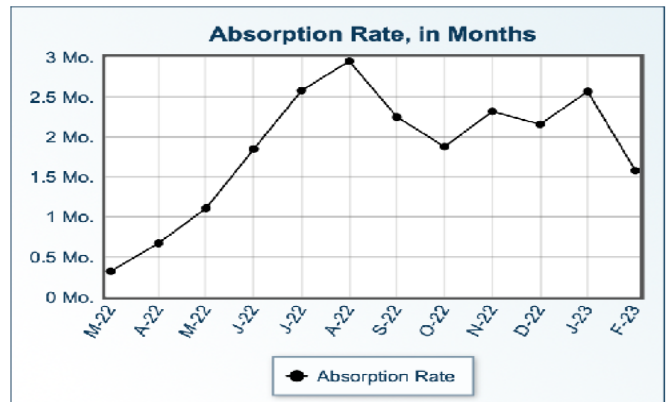
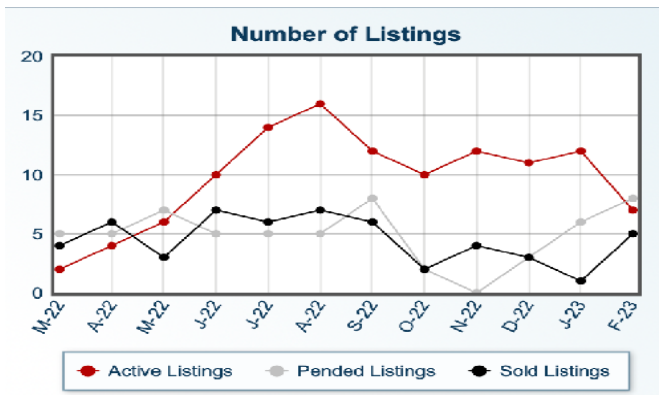
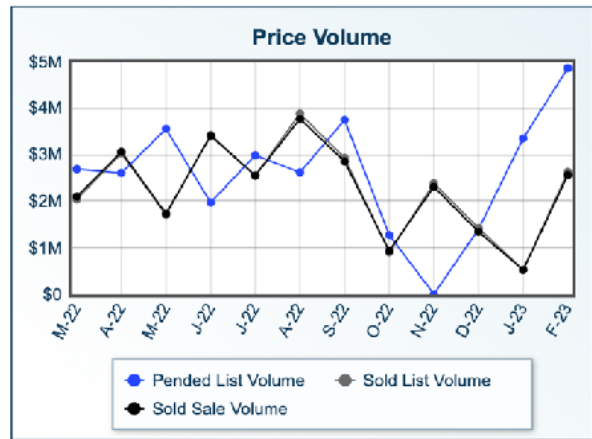
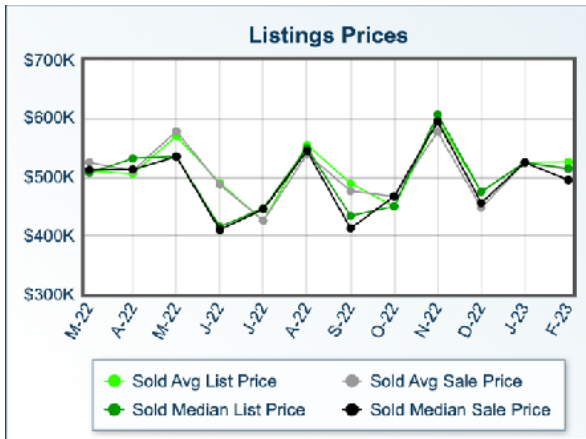
# Real Estate Update *by James DeMay*



Here comes spring! As the weather warms up and everything starts to bloom again, we hope to see more “For Sale” signs up as well! Our inventory is still extremely low. As of this writing, we have only four homes on the market in Four Hills Village and ten homes that are under contract. We are still seeing growth in our neighborhood as the average sales price, average list price, and median sales price have all increased. We have an all-time high average price per square foot at \$198.55 for the seven homes sold in the past month!

Homes are staying on the market a little longer. While our average days on the market is 48 days, the median is only 4 days. With that being said, we still have a 7.32% rise in the average sales price in Four Hills and an 11.86% increase in the median sales price! With fluctuating interest rates, there is no way to accurately predict what our market will do, but all signs still point in the right direction for our little hidden gem we call Four Hills Village!

Summary Statistics	Feb-23	Feb-22	% Chg	2023 YTD	2022 YTD	% Chg
Absorption Rate	1.58	0.3	426.67	2.08	0.3	593.33
Average List Price	\$591,606	\$589,500	0.36	\$587,279	\$487,444	20.48
Median List Price	\$579,000	\$589,500	-1.78	\$604,500	\$489,000	23.62
Average Sale Price	\$512,980	\$478,000	7.32	\$514,983	\$523,000	-1.53
Median Sale Price	\$495,000	\$442,500	11.86	\$500,000	\$504,000	-0.79
Average CDOM	48	11	336.36	46	16	187.50
Median CDOM	4	5	-20.00	20	11	81.82



::All stats are as of 2/28/2023::



## Security Update *by Troy Hill*

### Albuquerque Police Department Volunteer Program

The Albuquerque Police Department (APD) offers many volunteer opportunities for someone looking to give back to the community and is currently recruiting. Citizen volunteers help the department with the crucial work they are doing to improve community policing. The department needs volunteers who can help provide a civilian point of contact for members of the community who visit police substations and other APD facilities, as well as department events.

Even though volunteers are not commissioned with sworn officer status, the duties they perform as part of the department's support staff are crucial to the day-to-day operation of the department. Sworn officers and civilian employees handle some of the administrative tasks volunteers can perform. By assisting with these tasks, volunteers are releasing officers and civilian staff to handle higher priority calls for service.

APD is attempting to forge a city where citizens and the police department work together through mutual trust to build a thriving community. Volunteers play an integral part in building this trust, which in turn will lead to reduced crime and increased safety. Ultimately the mission of the volunteer program is to utilize community volunteers to assist the Albuquerque Police Department in improving the quality of life in our community.

If you are interested in volunteering with the Albuquerque Police Department, please visit the volunteer program webpage at [https://www.oneabqvolunteers.com/agency/detail/?agency\\_id=107089](https://www.oneabqvolunteers.com/agency/detail/?agency_id=107089)

### APD RESPONSES IN FOUR HILLS VILLAGE

From December 1 to February 28, 2023



Incident Type	# of Incidences
Assault	2
Burglary from Vehicle	0
Burglary from Residence	3
Disturbing the Peace	14
Family Dispute	3
Motor Vehicle Theft	1
Motor Vehicle Theft, Recovery	1
Shots Fired	0
Suspicious Person or Vehicle	7





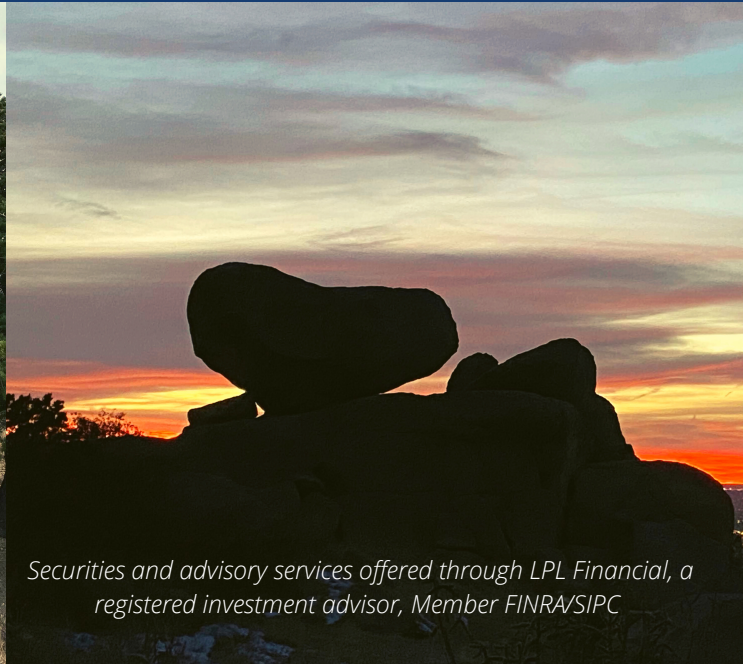
Manzano Open Space in Four Hills is so beautiful.

We love these hills. Every morning and evening when we walk, we are in awe at how the hills change as the sun and weather change. So much change and new beauty.

When you need financial advice, know we are in the neighborhood. We are your trusted neighbors and are honored to be of service. Especially in times of transition, it is nice to have compassionate and knowledgeable advice from people you can trust.



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## Controlled Burns on Kirtland Air Force Base by Lisa (Rusty) Goetz

If you were around FHV on March 9, 2023, you no doubt witnessed the controlled burn on Kirtland Air Force Base and you may have also noticed the yellow sign at the FHV entrance announcing that the burn was taking place. We hope you received the FHVA email blast about the scheduled burn. This burn was originally scheduled to occur in February but, as I discuss below, it was delayed because of concerns FHVA president, Andrew Lipman, and I raised. This article discusses our involvement with the parties involved in the prescribed burn, why such burns are necessary, and the steps FHVA is taking to ensure that our residents are safe and informed.

### Background and Meetings:

On January 26, Andrew Lipman, received an email from Jimmy Melek, Deputy Chief of Operations Albuquerque Fire Rescue (AFR) about a request AFR received from Clyde Burris, Assistant Lead - Kirtland Wildland Support Module, for a prescribed burn along the Kirtland Air Force Base fence line. This burn was scheduled for the weekend of February 11-12. On behalf of the FHVA Board, I wrote a letter to both Mr. Melek and Mr. Burris raising questions about the process and requesting more information.

As a result of our inquiries, Mr. Burris invited Andrew Lipman and me to a technical briefing on the base on February 7, 2023, which we both attended. This meeting was held especially for Four Hills Village as none of the other neighboring associations submitted comments or questions. The Kirtland Wildland Support Module and Civil Engineering teams did a good job getting the key players face to face with us so we could all discuss our issues in the two-hour meeting. During this meeting, we were taken out to the FHV/Kirtland fence line where the first burns were to take place and where they had already bladed a 25-30-foot-wide firebreak and removed all the scrub juniper trees along the fence. In a nutshell, we were pleased with the steps the base has taken. We came away understanding that they had covered virtually all our questions with state-of-the-art mapping and techniques. We were assured that all conditions and restrictions would be met before a burn would take place. These are discussed later in this article.



In addition, representatives from the Kirtland Wildland Fire Management, the Air Force Civil Engineer Wildlife Branch, Kirtland Fire Department Battalions, NM Game and Fish, AFR, along with representatives from the city of Albuquerque attended our February 21 FHVA board meeting, where they further updated us on procedures, lined up contacts to work with us on the emergency exit gate choice, and presented the board with a large reflective bright yellow metal sandwich board sign to be placed in front of the entrance of FHV sign when a burn is to take place.

### Why Controlled Burns Are Necessary

During the past several summers, many grassfires have started up on the base. The dominant southwesterly winds have pushed the brush fires towards the northeastern borders of the base and FHV. Although the base fire crews were able to contain them and put them out before they reached the adjacent neighborhoods or Open Spaces, the Kirtland Wildfire Module Team believes the situation will continue to worsen unless mitigation steps are taken. The goal of the Air Force Wildland Fire Management Team Module and Kirtland Air Force Base is to build a wide fire break and create a "fire catchment area" to protect the neighborhoods and Open Spaces.

In the last 80 years, the national prohibition against wildfires on grasslands has locally led to increased growth of scrub juniper trees, cholla, tumbleweeds and other noxious weeds. In many areas, years of unburned grassland growth has increased the available "fuel load" (dry dead vegetation buildup) and has slowed the nutrient turnover, exhausting the soils, and thus, reducing the diversity and health of native plants. This has also led to a pattern of hotter and more damaging fires when they do get out of hand.



## KAB Burns cont'd by Lisa (Rusty) Goetz

### Evacuation Procedures and Status of FHV Western Emergency Exit Gates

Fortunately, the March 9 burn went as planned and did not require use of the emergency exits. For all prescribed fires we are requesting that the emergency exit gates be open during the burns. AFR suggested that we work together to select one western emergency gate to Juan Tabo Blvd and have it cleaned up and ready for use. That would make traffic control and firefighting logistics easier. At our urging, AFR recently replaced the locks on the Rio Arriba and Raton emergency gates with ones that allow AFR and APD to open the gates.

In the event of evacuation, the city and county fire and emergency departments will use "reverse 911" systems to alert residents. The city of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County use IPAWS. Anyone with a mobile phone is automatically signed up to receive emergency texts through this system. If you want to receive messages through a landline, you can sign up for Everbridge by going to the emergency management page at [bernco.gov](http://bernco.gov).

AFR recommended that we work with them to select one western emergency gate and work with the city to put proper signage on the gate and within the FHV. On February 9, I checked the condition of three western FHV emergency exits to Juan Tabo Blvd and the routes through the Juan Tabo Hills and Volterra Village neighborhoods to a major traffic outlet. I measured each gate's distance to the Juan Tabo Blvd/Southern Ave intersection. From this intersection you can either continue to the east on Juan Tabo Blvd to the Central Ave or turn west to join Eubank Blvd and continue to Central Ave.

- The Via Posada exit is along one of the widest and best maintained roads in FHV and is the most easily accessed western emergency exit route for the entire FHV neighborhood. On the FHV side, the entrance to Via Posada is a three way stop on Wagon Train Rd. It is the shortest link to Juan Tabo Blvd, and is also the shortest route to the Juan Tabo/Southern Ave intersection at 1.2 miles with no stop signs. However, it has a second steel pipe gate on the Volterra Village side and the gravel road between the two neighborhood gates needs to be cleaned up and the deep, uncompacted gravel needs to be tamped down or paved, so vehicles do not sink in, stall, and block the exit route.
- The Rio Arriba Ave exit is in the next best shape and is currently the only exit that can be used easily, but it is at the end of one of the roads in the worst condition in FHV and has no stop signs on Wagon Train Dr. In addition, you must drive through the Juan Tabo Hills neighborhood to get to Juan Tabo Blvd and then another 2.1 miles to the Juan Tabo/Southern Ave intersection. There are two exit roads from the gate (Pocono Rd SE and Pompano Rd SE) which are located on the south side of Juan Tabo Hills, right along, or close to the Kirtland AFB fence. This could be a problem if there is a serious disaster on the base and emergency vehicles are trying to access the area.
- The Raton Ave exit has no stop signs on Wagon Train Rd and has a large asphalt covered berm across the road on the Juan Tabo Hills side of the gate. The one exit road (Gallant Fox Rd) runs through the middle of Juan Tabo Hills, has multiple side street entrances. The exit route to the Juan Tabo/Southern Ave intersection, is 1.8 miles with 1 stop sign. This gate is not in the running to be the best emergency exit for FHV for multiple reasons.

### Conditions and Limits for Scheduling a Prescribed Burn on Kirkland Air Force Base

The Air Force Wildland Fire Branch has extensive experience working controlled burns and accidental forest fires around the US. One of the primary goals of their work is for controlled burns to have the least

## KAB Burns cont'd by Lisa (Rusty) Goetz

impact on the residents of the adjacent communities. Among the restrictions and conditions they observe are the following:

- No prescribed burns will be initiated unless there is sufficient manpower and equipment available to deal both with the local burn itself and with any possible emergency contingencies. Trained personnel from the base, support from Albuquerque and Bernalillo County fire and rescue departments will be available. The NM Game and Fish will be available with dirt moving equipment. Additional personnel and equipment from the BLM, US Forest Service, and other Air Force burn units will be ready if needed.
- All burn and smoke permits must be in place. The city of Albuquerque must issue a burn permit to Kirtland Base and burn bans in the county or in adjacent counties must be observed. Smoke dispersion parameters set by the city will be adhered to.
- No large special events are or soon will be occurring in the area (i.e., the Balloon Fiesta).
- Special weather conditions must be met:
  - No winds with a southerly component exist in the burn area, especially in the first burns. These will only take place if the winds are out the north or northwest to keep smoke and possible blowing embers away from the adjacent neighborhoods and Open Space.
  - Wind speed limits must be met and maintained over the expected duration of the burn.
  - Maximum local air temperature of 90 and minimum of 40 degrees Fahrenheit.
  - Maximum relative humidity is between a maximum of 70% and a minimum of 40%.
- Ground cover must be dry enough to allow the prescribed burn to fully consume the targeted vegetation and built-up duff debris.

### **Process of Executing a Prescribed Burn**

The initiation and management of an operational prescribed burn may occur only if all the safety conditions are met, and all supporting agencies are notified and are ready to assist during the impending burn. The first step is to again verify weather conditions from three different sources, including measurements made on site immediately prior to starting the pre-operational test fire. If these conditions are all positive, then a pre-operational test fire will be made on site. If the test burn confirms that it is safe to run the operational prescribed burn and that the goals of mitigating future potential wildfires can be met, then the operational prescribed burn is initiated.

#### Pre-operational Test Fire

A minimum of seven total trained personnel is required as well as two off-road fire trucks, each with two personnel minimum crews. A small control fire is started within the proposed prescribed burn site to measure flame height, intensity, and behavior. The prescribed burn will proceed only if the test fire confirms that the larger fire can be controlled safely and will burn off the targeted vegetation and duff satisfactorily.

#### Operational Prescribed Burn

A minimum of twelve total trained personnel is required. The pre-operational test burn crew is augmented with additional ground personnel and an additional two off-road fire engines with two personnel crews. The burn areas on Kirtland are all ringed by dirt roads where the Wildfire Unit engines will be stationed. Albuquerque and Bernalillo County Fire and Rescue will have engines stationed in FHV and Juan Tabo Hills, along the base fence as an additional ring of defense.

The burn process starts downwind along a firebreak (a bladed dirt road). A low intensity fire is started into the wind (and preferably downhill) to create a "blackline" which is a wide burned-out zone that will both

## KAB Burns cont'd *by Lisa (Rusty) Goetz*

arrest the forward progress the main operational fire and then starve it of fuel. Once the blackline is established and the fire front is moving upwind into the designated operational burn area, secondary low intensity fires are then started along the sides or flanks of the operational burn site to create additional boundary control. Crews will patrol the margins of the fire, making sure the fire stays within the designated bounds. Finally, the main, upwind, "head fire" is started. This is a more intense fire front used to consume the targeted fuel load within the burn area. Wind and the flank fires will steer the main "head fire" back into the blackline zone where it will quickly starve and go out. Fire crews will move in to extinguish any remaining hotspots and the site will be actively monitored until the burn area is completely cold, usually within a few hours.

### Conclusion

While the March 9 burn is likely to be the only controlled burn this spring, additional controlled burns may be scheduled in the fall of this year. Planned controlled or prescription burns will now be held yearly on the base. The FHVA board has met with the government agencies involved in executing these burns and is satisfied with their plans and agrees this is a necessary safety measure.

Kirkland Air Force Base is doing their part to mitigate the fire danger posed by dry and dead vegetation. We ask FHV residents to do the same by removing dead vegetation from around their homes and to trim up living trees and remove dead ones.

A more detailed report on the prescribed burns is posted on the FHVA.org website. If you wish additional information, please contact the Kirtland AFB Public Information Office at (505) 846-5991.

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*Here are some photos from the March 9 prescribed burn.*



## Neighborhood News

### Report from Four Hills Neighbors- A Women's Organization

Four Hills Neighbors is a social group for the women of Four Hills Village. We are a great way to meet neighbors and make new friends. We have a variety of activities to participate in and are always looking to make new friends. Check out our website [www.fourhillsneighbors.com](http://www.fourhillsneighbors.com) to see all the things we do and we are now able to do online membership registration and renewal.

Julie Dodd  
FHN President





## **...And Now a Few Words from our Elected Officials...**

### **A Report from Eric Olivas, Bernalillo County Commissioner District 5**

Hello Four Hills Neighbors,

While I was only sworn in on January 1<sup>st</sup> I have hit the ground running! I started getting briefings and drafting legislation shortly after the November election and I'm optimistic about the direction that things are moving.

In my first few months I have prioritized public safety, behavioral health, and environmental protection. In my first commission meeting I sponsored and passed a resolution to revamp our behavioral health system. For too long we have lacked a comprehensive plan, coordination between the city and county, and clear goals and metrics to measure achievement. We all see the problems on our streets every day, but our efforts lack the necessary coordination and accountability to make a dent in the problem. I'm working to change that. The Behavioral Health Working Group we have setup is bringing together experts in the field to look at our system and to offer a concrete plan for improvement.

On public safety, I have led the charge in setting comprehensive public safety priorities for Bernalillo County. Too often we pursue programs and initiatives and then try to link those to the problem we are trying solve or the goal we want to achieve. This is backwards! First, we need to set forth our goals and priorities, based on input from the public and then implement programs to achieve those goals. I have called for the commission to hold a public listening session in the near future to get your input on what you see as the biggest public safety needs. For example, one of the proposals is to bring back the Open Space unit at the county under the Sheriff's Department, another proposal is to coordinate with the city on a Central Avenue cleanup team to focus resources along the Central corridor with a focus on basic cleanliness and quality of life.

I sponsored and passed legislation updating the County Climate Plan and bringing our efforts at the county in line with efforts at the city. Coordination is key! I also supported resolutions in support of conservation efforts, opposing nuclear waste disposal in our community, and supporting affordable local energy.

I'm proud to be working closely with Councilor Grout and all our legislative delegation to coordinate our efforts and support projects that benefit our whole community. Councilor Grout and I are working together on Tramway landscaping, the Tijeras Arroyo BioZone, and East Central Improvements just to name a few joint efforts.

I also want to highlight that the sheriff will soon be moving into a mini-substation in the Four Hills Village Shopping Center. This law enforcement presence should help prevent crime along the East Central Corridor and specifically in Four Hills. We are also exploring some pilot projects along East Central to use more technology to improve response times and better target enforcement actions. I successfully pushed to expand county efforts to improve pedestrian safety along Central Avenue from Juan Tabo to Tramway. We are hopeful to receive legislative funding to jumpstart this effort!

Lastly, I want to introduce my Executive Assistant, Augustine Montoya. Augustine is a New Mexico native and an East Mountains resident. He brings extensive experience as a legislative staffer and committee secretary to my office. We are all lucky to have him helping our district!

As you can see, I'm working hard at the county to try and impact some of the most serious problems facing our community. My office is your office, please don't hesitate to contact me with your questions, ideas, or concerns. I'm always willing to setup a meeting or arrange a call!

Email: [district5@bernco.gov](mailto:district5@bernco.gov) or Phone: 505-468-7212

Thank you,

Eric Olivas  
Bernalillo County Commissioner, District 5

## ...And Now a Few Words from our Elected Officials...

### **A Report from Meredith Dixon, Representative for New Mexico House District 20**

*Note from the Publications Director:* The legislature was in session while this newsletter was going to press, so we did not request a report from Representative Dixon. We look forward hearing from her this summer!

You may contact her via text or call at (505) 401-8339 or email at [meredith.dixon@nmlegis.gov](mailto:meredith.dixon@nmlegis.gov) or [meredith@meredithfornewmexico.com](mailto:meredith@meredithfornewmexico.com).

### **A Report from Renee Grout, Albuquerque City Councilor District 9**

Here are just a few things we've been working on:

#### **Gibson Health Hub Audit**

For some time, I have been asking just how much taxpayer money is being spent on the Gibson Health Hub, a centralized location for homeless services in the old Lovelace Medical Center. I was surprised that no one person seemed to have this figure, so I requested an audit. Albuquerque has a serious problem with homelessness, especially in District 9. I support the Gibson Health Hub because I think it's important to try to help unhoused people. But it is also important for taxpayers to know how their money is being spent. I'm not accusing anyone, just asking for transparency. I look forward to the city auditor's report.

#### **Save the Date**

We have a couple of big events coming up in the spring:

- **The Singing Arrow Multicultural Arts Festival** – Saturday, May 6, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Singing Arrow Park and Community Center. There will be performances from community groups representing the diverse cultures in our city, an art fair inside the Singing Arrow Community Center, food trucks, and a kids' corner with games and a bounce house.
- **Touch A Truck** – Saturday, June 10, 10 a.m. to noon at the northeast corner of Juan Tabo and Central (Franklin Plaza). This will be a chance for kids of all ages to get close to fire trucks, rescue vehicles, police cars, the Mobile Crime Lab, and heavy construction equipment.

#### **Crime**

Like all of you, I have been concerned about crime in our area, especially on Central Avenue. The sergeant in charge of our APD Foothills Area Proactive Response Team shared with me early last fall that his three officers were amazing at making arrests and clearing outstanding warrants, he only wished he had twice as many of them. I met with Chief Harold Medina and Foothills Commander Shawn Garrett a few days later asked if we could add three more officers to the team without taking officers away from the other shifts. Chief Medina agreed that we could "borrow" officers from other area commands on a temporary, rotating basis as a trial. We saw quick results! In November the PRT made 70 felony arrests, cleared 101 outstanding felony warrants, made 14 misdemeanor arrests, and cleared 32 outstanding misdemeanor warrants. I am so proud of these fine young men and women! And I'm very pleased to say that the PRT staffing will remain at six officers in the next bid. If you see any of these officers on the street or at a community meeting, please thank them for their service!

#### **Legislature**

I have really enjoyed getting to know our area representatives in the state House and Senate. We are working together on several projects for the area, including parks, roadway improvements, and other community facilities. It was my honor to testify to two Senate committees on SB 133, a state law sponsored by Senator Mimi Stewart that will make it more difficult for thieves to sell stolen catalytic converters at scrap yards in our state. We successfully lobbied the Senate to amend the state statute that prevents the city of Albuquerque from requiring secondhand metal dealers to upload their transactions into APD's Leads Online

## ...And Now a Few Words from our Elected Officials...

database. My office will be following this bill as it makes its way through the Senate to the state House of Representatives. If it passes both chambers, it will work hand-in-hand with O-22-61, the Secondhand Catalytic Converter Purchase Ordinance that I am sponsoring. This new City ordinance will require secondhand metal dealers to collect a photo ID and proof of ownership from anyone who is trying to sell a catalytic converter that is disconnected from a car. I hope that by reducing the market for these stolen parts, we can reduce this form of property crime.

### District 9 Newsletter

My office has started a quarterly email newsletter to share information about projects and upcoming events. To sign up, please visit my City Council web page at <https://www.cabq.gov/council/find-your-councilor/district-9>. As always, please contact my office at (505) 768-3123 if you have questions about any of these projects or if we may help you in any way.

Kindly,



Renée Grout

Albuquerque City Councilor, District 9

## Coming Soon!

Singing Arrow Community Center presents:

### ARTIST CALL

#### Multicultural Arts Festival

THEME:

#### "Colors of the World"

Looking for artists to sell and/or display their art to showcase the various cultures represented in our community in a way culture is defined by you.

EXHIBIT DATE:

May 6th 2023  
10am-2pm



Application **Extended**

Deadline:

**April 28th 2023 @ 11:59 PM**

Scan to register:

or link below



[www.cabq.gov/family/crei/2023-multicultural-arts-festival](http://www.cabq.gov/family/crei/2023-multicultural-arts-festival)



**Saturday, April 22**

**Spring Cleanup!** Join your FHV neighbors and the city's Solid Waste Management Department and Keep Albuquerque Beautiful for *One Albuquerque Cleanup Day* on Saturday, April 22 from 8 AM. to 12 PM. Check our website [FHVA.org](http://FHVA.org) for details.

**Saturday, May 6**

**"Colors of the World" Multicultural Arts Festival.** 10 AM to 2 PM at the Singing Arrow Community Center and Singing Arrow Park

**Saturday, May 20**

**Annual FHVA Yard Sale.** Check our website [FHVA.org](http://FHVA.org) for details.

**Tuesday, August 1**

**National Night Out**

## Mark Your Calendar

Four Hills Village Association  
P.O. Box 50505  
Albuquerque, NM 87181-0505

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Happy Spring!

With over 350 sales in Four Hills alone, there's a reason we are your #1 Real Estate team in Four Hills! We look forward to what the spring & summer months have in store for our neighborhood!



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The Four Hills Specialists

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