

The Chronicle

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Four Hills Village Association

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President's Message *by Brook Jilek*

Hello, neighbors. I'd like to introduce myself as the new president of the Four Hills Village Association (FHVA). I grew up on a farm in Portales, went to college in Socorro, and have been working in science and engineering in Albuquerque since 2005. I'm a proud New Mexican through and through. My wife, Evie, is an attorney and also hails from Portales. Our family of seven includes three teenagers and Evie's parents, Tom and Cathy Sullivan. It's always lively around our house. We've been living in Four Hills Village since 2018 and think this is one of the best communities in all of Albuquerque.

The primary purpose of a neighborhood association is to represent the interests of the neighborhood to the city council and other governmental entities and to keep members apprised of legislative actions that will affect their community. Parks, streets, outdoor open areas, traffic controls, and zoning ordinances affect you right where you live and we're here to advocate on your behalf to the city. Do you have concerns that you'd like the FHVA's help in addressing with local government? Drop me a line at presidentFHVA@gmail.com.

A neighborhood association is only as effective as those who participate with it. We currently have about 300 registered members in FHVA. My goal for the first year of my presidency is to increase that number to 600. There are 1450 houses included in the boundaries of FHVA, which include Warm Sands as the northern boundary and almost everything south of that. Membership in FHVA is free and open to any adult 18 or over who lives in the designated geographic region. Increasing the membership will grow the influence of our neighborhood on the decisions of local government. Becoming a "contributing member" has additional perks, including receiving a copy of The Chronicle, a directory of members, and breakfast at the annual meeting in January. I have some ideas on expanding those benefits, but much of it is predicated upon expanding membership in general. If you value FHVA, would you please tell your neighbor about it? Show them your copy of The Chronicle. Our new Publications Director, Jimmie Wolf, is on the lookout for vendors with services we think Four Hills Village residents will want. If you know a company that you'd recommend doing quality work (e.g. plumbing, heating, cooling, pool maintenance, tree trimming, yard work, landscaping, etc.) and would like to advertise to people in Four Hills Village, let Jimmie know. You can contact her at pubsfhva@gmail.com.

Our neighborhood association is comprised solely of volunteers. We need your time and talent. Currently, our treasurer and webmaster positions are being filled on a temporary basis until replacement volunteers are identified. If you have the aptitude for either of these roles, please also let me know. Let's work together to make Four Hills Village the best place to live in Albuquerque!



Vice President's Message – by *Tim Gallegos*

Thank you all for being part of the Four Hills Village community. Since you received this Chronicle, you value your membership in our great community. It seems that many of our neighbors have forgotten what it is like to live in a nice neighborhood, one where neighbors help one another instead of trying to cut someone off in their car in an attempt to get somewhere one minute earlier. We are all busy. Everyone who is part of the FHVA should be an ambassador of good neighborly behavior. It is contagious. So is a grumpy neighbor; that is very contagious. For as long as I have lived here, there have been two kinds of people. I choose to be someone who has a smile of good hope, as opposed to a virus of bad feelings. Just Smile and Wave. It is contagious.



While we are spreading good vibes, ask your neighbors why they have not signed up for the FHVA. A Contributing Membership (which provides many benefits, including a copy of this newsletter) is only \$25 a year and has not changed for years. You can't feed your family one decent meal for \$25. People are out there spending this much on one beer at a concert. We are currently working on more benefits of becoming part of the FHVA. Let's all be good neighbors!

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Four Hills Village Association Monthly Board Meetings

Board meetings are held the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. All FHV residents are welcome to join us virtually. Please feel free to email Brook Jilek (presidentFHVA@gmail.com), if there are issues you would like brought to our attention or if you would like the Zoom link to join the meeting virtually.



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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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 and their words of wisdom with the entire community. Contact Jennifer Lopez at 505-269-7753 or at leftylopez05@gmail.com.

Lisa "Rusty" Goetz

Four Hills Village Association Good Neighbor Recognition



GOOD NEIGHBOR OF FOUR HILLS VILLAGE

"One grows when they help."

These are the words of wisdom shared by Lisa "Rusty" Goetz. Help. Just help.

"Start small", she says. "Take one step with one neighbor. "

We can all learn from Rusty's wisdom. Wherever there is a need, Rusty appears and works her magic with her artistry of organization and devotion to task. Rusty's dedication to her community is evident everywhere you look in Four Hills Village. The list of projects that she has been involved with is nearly endless: the rewriting of the FHVA Bylaws (twice!); analyzing and documenting the state of the FHV roads and presenting her findings and work to city and state officials; organizing and participating in neighborhood clean-up days; hosting the shred event in her driveway; co-hosting a National Night Out event with Steve Brugge; collaborating with county and KAFB officials to communicate details of the KAFB Controlled Burn to FHV residents; securing access to the locks of the security gates that regulate the egress from FHV in case of emergencies; and organizing and participating in the clean-up of the Open Space adjacent to FHV..... And these are just the official tasks Rusty involves herself in, not the everyday acts of simply being a kind human. She says she doesn't do much.


Yes, Rusty is officially retired, but she still works to inspire us to be helpful in our neighborhood. However, she has always been a mover and shaker. Rusty enjoyed an illustrious and very successful career, as she was one of the few women to advance in the early days of the oil industry. Her career began with Conoco Oil in 1977 in uranium exploration in Albuquerque and Crownpoint, NM. She was on the original team that developed coal bed methane in NM. She and a team of archeologists mapped some of the outliers of Chaco Canyon before it was even a national park. Rusty was part of the original group who discovered shale oil and gas. She ended her career as the Chief Onshore Geologist for North America for Marathon Oil. Talk about humility! Rusty went from mapping oil beds to mapping the roads of Four Hills Village and explaining to Albuquerque city officials how the geology of Four Hills Village is affecting our roads! And in watching her work, it is very apparent that the task of mapping Four Hills Village was just as important to her as mapping oil fields! Rusty is extremely approachable and more than willing to share her wealth of knowledge, endless energy, and sense of ambition. She shares that much of her job as chief geologist was mentoring and teaching. She is obviously a natural teacher as she actively looks for young people to join her on her treks through the Open Space. It would please her to no end if young families and their children would join her on her walks.

Among her many other contributions to the neighborhood, Rusty served on the FHVA Board in a number of capacities. She is now taking a well-deserved break from these responsibilities, but it certainly does not mean that she is resting on her laurels. Rusty is truly multi-faceted. In addition to being a scientist, she also has a minor in art history. If you have been lucky enough to visit her home, you know that Rusty appreciates design. She has studied and practiced her craft for decades and creates intricate pen and ink drawings worthy of placement in any high-end gallery. But yet she states that she is "just a dilettante." Her drawings are extremely intricate and exquisitely beautiful! Rusty says she "needs to take



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Secretary's Report – Cont'd

some classes” to learn more about her art. She has accomplished so much and is extremely talented, but is willing to listen to and learn from others. In addition to continuing to pursue her artistic endeavors that she began in the 1970s, Rusty has been active in a Fantasy Football League since 1977! Geology, oil, art, and football! Rusty interests are all encompassing! Rusty’s sense of adventure was fostered by her late husband of 25 years, Lew Markley. He was a fellow geologist and taught her how to snow ski, drive a Model T, and pilot a plane. They were independent souls who came together through adventure!

Albuquerque was the starting point for Rusty’s career in oil in 1977. She became enamored with the multicultural aspect of The Land of Enchantment and was drawn back here for retirement. She believes that Albuquerque has very strong roots in history but that the people are also very forward thinking. Rusty appreciates that the people of New Mexico, and specifically of Four Hills Village, may not always agree with each other, but understands that our differences often spark new ideas. But ideas are of no use if they are not paired with action. Remember Rusty’s rule of “Help, just help.” She believes that in order to maintain the integrity of Four Hills Village each one of us needs to get involved with and meet our neighbors. You don’t have to befriend every soul on the street, but just start with the person next door. Share a meal. Give a wave. Help shovel the snow off the driveway. Let’s get our heads out of our devices, look up, and begin a conversation with a new friend. According to Rusty, rather than interacting with digital distractions, we must learn how to entertain ourselves again and to share meaningful interactions with the people of our world. Kindness can mirror nature. Begin with one action. One movement begets the next movement. Be the pebble that is dropped in the pond. Take the advice of Rusty. Take the first step to help a neighbor and sit back and experience growth like you have never imagined.

Security Update – by Steve McCampbell

APD RESPONSES IN FOUR HILLS VILLAGE From January 1 to February 28, 2024

Incident Type	YTD	Latest
Suspicious Person/Vehicle	12	6
Assault	3	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	3	0
Family Dispute	4	2
Neighbor Complaint	4	2
Kid/Abduction/Hostage	1	0
Shots Fired	1	0
Traffic Accident	3	2
Vandalism	2	1
Burglary from residence	0	0
Disturbing the Peace	0	0
Theft/Fraud/Embezzlement	0	0
Traffic Stop	0	0
Total	33	13



Membership Report *by Julia Vertrees*



YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

... and it is NOT TOO LATE to join!

The 2024 Four Hills Village Association (FHVA) membership drive started in November 2023. Memberships are renewed annually. As you have hopefully heard, our Association by-laws have been revised and there are now two categories of membership:

- ⇒ Members of Record (Free) and
- ⇒ Contributing Members (voluntary monetary donation)

Why should you join or renew your membership?

The FHVA organizes many annual activities including participation in the city-wide “Company’s Coming” fall cleanup campaign, National Night Out, and document shredding event. We also provide other important information that affects our local neighborhood including crime reports, updates from our local government representatives, news about our surrounding parks and open spaces, and notifications about area-specific activities such as brush-burning on Kirtland Airforce Base to name a few.

A quarterly newsletter called The Chronicle is provided to members within the community to keep everyone up to date with current events. A membership directory is also published once a year so members can keep in touch with their neighbors.

To get insight into some of the diverse activities of the FHVA over the years, feel free to browse through previous editions of The Chronicle that are located at www.fhva.org (click on The Chronicle link on the left side of the homepage). Interesting reference articles include:

- ⇒ Fall 2022—Differences between FHVA and NextDoor on page 6
- ⇒ Fall 2022—Association Accomplishments starting on page 11
- ⇒ Winter 2022—Four Hills Village Roads Assessment by Rusty Goetz

How do you join or renew?

All the information needed to join FHVA or renew your existing membership can be found at www.fhva.org

- ⇒ Membership sign-up: <https://www.fhva.org/2024-membership.html>
 - You can renew entirely online, or by mail by simply printing the correct form and mailing it to (with a check for Contributing Memberships) to FHVA, PO Box 50505, Albuquerque, NM 87181-0505.
- ⇒ If you have any questions or difficulty with the website, please reach out to the FHVA Membership Director at membership.4hva@gmail.com
- ⇒ FHVA Reference Documents and Bylaws: <https://www.fhva.org/fhva-documents.html>

Memberships are vital to the continued success and growth of our Neighborhood Association.

Call to Action

Current members, take this opportunity to invite your friends and neighbors to collaborate and celebrate with us. Ask them to join FHVA.

Together, we can make a difference in our community.

Government Affairs Update - by Carmil Surrutt

East Gateway Coalition

The East Gate Coalition meeting was held on February 1. Mayor Tim Keller was in attendance and reported the following:

- There has been a decrease in criminal activity in 7 of 9 crime areas for the first time since he has been in office.
- The city’s capacity to handle the homeless has tripled.
- APD Community Safety handled 40,000 calls in 2023 resulting in 1-hour faster APD response times.
 - The goal for the Gateway Center is to handle 1,000 people per day.
- A film Academy is being built at the Railyards.
- The Rail Trail will be the pedestrian walkway from Downtown to Old Town.
- The No Camping ordinance includes a clause that campers are allowed to return to the same stay and stay for an additional 3-hours if they gather and remove their belongings from a site for 15 minutes.
 - Employees of the Planning Commission will now police neighborhoods for code enforcement instead of having neighbors report each other.
- Over 80% of violent crimes are drug related and the rest is due to mental illness and domestic violence.

Meeting with Renee Grout

- Renee participated in the Point and Count Census for the Homeless.
 - The data collected will help to generate funding from HUD.
- A recent court injunction disallows the homeless camping in one spot for an unlimited amount of time. The state has 960 beds and the city has 1,400. If the homeless refuses a bed, they are required to move to a new location. They may not camp near schools, parks, community centers, on streets, alleys, sidewalks or private property.

February 5, 2024 City Council Meeting

- Kirtland Air Force Base and Sandia Labs were given awards for their financial and community support within Albuquerque.
- The City Council chastised and questioned the APD Police Chief, IT personnel, and the Department Supervisor for officers missing court dates that caused cases to be dismissed. They blamed the complexity of their system for their inability to track cancellations and rescheduling of court dates. Councilman Garcia made a motion to remove the Chief for lack of leadership and failure to execute the duties of his office. No one seconded the motion and they agreed to wait until the FBI investigations were complete.
- \$5.9 million dollars was requested for the homeless center outside of city limits that was previously an old jail near the shooting range. Jan DeMay was invited to sit on the committee that is studying impact fees.

Future City Council Meetings

- The first 2 hours of this City Council meeting was spent in Executive Session and no attendees were able to listen or contribute. In the future, Carmil plans to join the City Council meetings via Zoom calls.

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

A Report from Bernalillo County Commissioner for District 5



Friends and Neighbors,

With spring approaching, that means it is the county budget season. Bernalillo County continues to see stable revenue growth allowing us to reinvest in our community without increasing taxes. With the litany of needs in our community, there is never enough funding to meet every need, but I am optimistic that this year the county commission will again be able to invest heavily in public safety and quality of life to ensure that the basic services of government meet the needs of our population.

My budget priorities this year include additional funding for staffing at the Youth Detention Center, competitive pay for Bernalillo County Firefighters, Animal Care Prevention and Education programs, and funding for the basic maintenance and upkeep of roads and public infrastructure. If you have other ideas or needs that you would like to see the county invest in, please reach out directly with your ideas or concerns.

The legislative session has concluded, but I am continuing to watch for final action on the budget and other bills from the Governor. I was proud to join with City Councilor Renee Grout to support several of her legislative priorities and we jointly lobby legislators on our shared constituents behalf. A special thanks to Representative Meredith Dixon for her support for our shared priorities. For example the Councilor and I supported:

- East Central Pedestrian Safety Improvements
- Tijeras Biozone Open Space Improvements and Education Center
- Trail Connections to Kirtland Air Force Base
- Storm Drainage Infrastructure along Lomas Blvd.
- Mile High Little League Improvements

I'm looking forward to working with the Councilor and the Mayor as we prepare our Mother Road, Route 66 for its centennial celebration in 2026. We have a lot of work to do to improve and revitalize Central Avenue. We must ensure that crime is punished swiftly and with certainty and that substance abuse and mental health services are available to those in need. To do my part I have asked County Economic Development staff to make East Central a high priority to steer new projects and developments to this area. The County has many economic development tools to incentivize new businesses or expansions such as LEDA (Local Economic Development Act) Funds and IRB (Industrial Revenue Bonds) that can help bring down the cost of development.

Lastly on the subject of Route 66, Councilor Grout, The Village of Tijeras, The Carnuel Land Grant, and Bernalillo County will be teaming up to sponsor an East Route 66 Earth Day Cleanup on Saturday 4/20 from 9-2. There will be roll off containers, free bags, free gloves, and trash pickers at locations strategically placed from Tramway and Central to Tijeras. One location will be in the Tramway and Central Area. Exact locations TBD. We hope you can join us on this day of service to clean up our home. Whether you want to clean your street or you want to tackle a hotspot for trash, your help will be greatly appreciated!

Please reach out any time, and thank you for the chance to serve you,

Eric Olivas



Government Affairs Update - Cont'd

A Report from Renee Grout, Albuquerque City Councilor District 9



Councilor Renee Grout

Email: rgrou@cabq.gov

Contact Policy Analyst Rachel Miller

Email: rrmiller@cabq.gov

(505) 768-3123

Save the Date

Singing Arrow Multicultural Arts Festival May 11, 2024, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Singing Arrow Community Center

Once again, Councilor Grout is working with the Singing Arrow Community Center to put on the Second Annual Singing Arrow Multicultural Arts Festival on May 11 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. This event will be a celebration of the diverse cultures represented in the East Gateway. The festival will feature music and dance performances in Singing Arrow Park, an Art Fair inside the Community Center, food trucks, and more.

Touch a Truck, June 15, 2024, 10 a.m. to noon, Franklin Plaza

The third annual Touch a Truck will be an opportunity for kids of all ages to get up close to fire trucks, police vehicles and robots, road repair machinery, trash trucks, and more. City community centers, libraries, and the public art program will be on hand with activities and information about their summer programs. There will be food trucks, music, the City's climbing wall, pet adoptions, and more.

Tramway Medians

Councilor Grout has directed the City's Municipal Development Department to design median landscaping for the medians on Tramway south of Central. The design will feature native, drought-tolerant vegetation. It will also be mindful of the upcoming extension of the left-turn lane from Tramway into the Smith's parking lot, which is required by the site plan for the new Starbucks being built there. The site plan for the Starbucks is still under review; once approved, construction may begin.

New Playground for Singing Arrow Park

With the help of state Capital Outlay funding from Representative Dixon and Senator Stewart, Councilor Grout has authorized funding for a new playground at the west end of Singing Arrow Park, at the Piru Boulevard cul-de-sac. The playground is being designed by the landscape architects at Pland Collaborative. Once the final design is complete, equipment can be ordered, and construction will begin six to eight months after that.

Motel Ordinance

Councilor Grout is working to revamp the City's Overnight Lodging Ordinance to make the motels along Central cleaner, safer, and more welcoming. In the course of researching this issue over the last year, she has heard many suggestions and even more challenges from stakeholders. R-24-5, co-sponsored with Councilor Nichole Rogers, will bring together AFR, APD, ACS, Code Enforcement, motel owners, and social services providers to meet bi-weekly for the next six months to address the layers of problems and recommend solutions. The recommendations will lead to changes in the Overnight Lodging Ordinance that will include better inspections and improvements to the City's motel voucher system.

Franklin Plaza

When Councilor Grout took office two years ago, her first priority was to remake the Franklin Plaza property at the northeast corner of Central and Juan Tabo and build a new home for Fire Station 12 there.

Through the City's long due diligence process, evidence of chemical contamination was discovered at the north end of the property. As important as it is to improve the site, the City can't expose taxpayers to the cost and potential liability of remediating the contamination. All documentation about the spill has been turned over to the New Mexico Environment Department, which will investigate and direct remediation efforts, including notifying neighbors when appropriate.

Albuquerque Fire & Rescue is looking for another property in the area, and hopes to have a purchase agreement this spring.



Education and Youth Affairs Report *by Jerry Gallegos*

This is the second installment of an ongoing series regarding educational topics that are of interest to our Four Hills Village neighbors and families.



How do Children Learn to Read?

What are the fundamentals of reading? The fundamentals of reading skills include a range of abilities that include a student's ability to decode, comprehend, and engage with written text. Reading skills are developed sequentially and built upon one another. Reading skills include:



- **Phonemic Awareness:** This is the ability to identify and manipulate individual sounds (phonemes) in spoken words. Phonemic awareness includes skills such as rhyming, blending sounds together to form words, segmenting words into individual sounds, and manipulating sounds to create new words.
- **Phonics:** Phonics involves understanding the relationship between letters (graphemes) and the sound (phonemes) they represent. It includes knowledge of letter-sound correspondences, decoding unfamiliar words by applying phonetic rules, and recognizing common spelling patterns.
- **Vocabulary:** Vocabulary knowledge refers to understanding the meanings of words. It includes both oral vocabulary (words a person understands when listening or speaking) and reading vocabulary (words a person understands when reading). Building vocabulary involves exposure to a wide range of words, learning new words in context, and developing strategies for figuring out the meanings of unfamiliar words.
- **Fluency:** Fluency is the ability to read text accurately, quickly, and with expression. Fluent readers recognize words automatically, without having to sound them out, which allows them to focus on comprehension. Fluency is developed through repeated practice, reading aloud, and exposure to a variety of text at an appropriate level of difficulty.
- **Comprehension:** Comprehension is the ultimate goal of reading. It involves understanding and obtaining meaning from written text. Comprehension skills include understanding the main idea, making inferences, drawing conclusions, summarizing information, and monitoring understanding while reading. Comprehension is supported by vocabulary knowledge, fluency, and background knowledge. A student progresses from learning to read to reading to learn usually around 3rd grade.
- **Decoding:** Decoding is the process of translating written words into spoken language. It involves applying phonics knowledge to sound out words, recognizing sight words (words that are recognized instantly without decoding), and using contextual clues to figure out the meaning of unfamiliar words.
- **Reading Engagement and Motivation:** Reading engagement refers to a reader's interest, enjoyment, and involvement in reading. Motivated readers are more likely to read regularly, persist through challenging texts, and actively seek out reading opportunities. Building reading engagement involves providing access to high-interest reading materials, allowing choice in reading selections, and fostering a positive reading environment.

Fundamental reading skills provide the foundation for proficient reading and are essential for academic success across all subject areas. Effective reading instruction involves systematically teaching and reinforcing these skills while providing opportunities for students to practice and apply them in meaningful ways. Reading skills are not innate, they are a process of co-opting and coordinating several parts of our brain to become reading experts. Teachers are metaphorical brain surgeons in that the reading process requires reconfiguring many parts of our brains to smoothly read to learn.

Reading at Home: Supporting a new reader at home is crucial for their development and can have a significant impact on their literacy skills. Here are some ways parents can support their new reader:

- **Create a Literacy-Rich Environment:** Surround your child with books, magazines, and other reading materials. Set up a cozy reading corner or space where they can enjoy books comfortably.
- **Read Aloud Together:** Reading aloud to your child is one of the most effective ways to promote literacy. Choose a variety of books; make it a special time to bond and explore new worlds through stories.

Education and Youth Affairs Report – *Cont'd*

- **Encourage Phonemic Awareness:** Help your child develop phonemic awareness by playing games that focus on rhyming, segmenting, blending, and manipulating sounds in words.
- **Practice Phonics:** Support your child's understanding of letter-sound correspondence by practicing phonics activities. Use magnetic letters, letter cards, or alphabet puzzles to help them recognize and sound out letters and words.
- **Build Vocabulary:** Introduce new words to your child through conversation, reading, and everyday experiences. Encourage them to ask questions about unfamiliar words and help them understand their meanings in context. Building vocabulary starts at birth!
- **Model Reading Behavior:** Let your child see you reading for pleasure and purpose. Whether it's a book, newspaper, or magazine, modeling reading behavior shows them the value and importance of literacy in daily life.
- **Provide Opportunities for Writing:** Encourage your child to practice writing by providing materials such as crayons, markers, paper, and notebooks. Let them scribble, draw, and write letters, words, or stories at their own pace.
- **Celebrate Progress:** Acknowledge and celebrate your child's efforts and achievements in reading.
- **Visit the Library:** Take regular trips to the library to explore new books and participate in story time sessions or other literacy-related activities offered for young readers.
- **Be Patient and Supportive:** Learning to read takes time and patience. Be supportive of your child's progress, and offer assistance and guidance when needed.

Incorporating these strategies into your daily routine; you can help support your new reader's development and foster a lifelong love of reading.

What are the signs of reading difficulty in a student? There are several signs that may indicate that a child is struggling to learn to read. It's important to remember that every child learns at their own pace, and some variation in reading development is normal. However, if you notice persistent difficulties or multiple signs of struggle, it may be worth seeking further assessment or support. Here are some common indicators that a child may be struggling to learn to read:

- **Difficulty with Phonemic Awareness:** Difficulty identifying and manipulating individual sounds in words, such as rhyming, blending sounds together, segmenting words into individual sounds, or manipulating sounds to create new words.
- **Poor Phonics Skills:** Difficulty decoding words by applying letter-sound correspondences or recognizing common spelling patterns. Struggling readers may rely heavily on guessing or memorization rather than sound-symbol relationships.
- **Limited Vocabulary:** Limited understanding of word meanings or difficulty understanding and using new vocabulary encountered in reading.
- **Slow or Inaccurate Reading:** Reading text slowly, laboriously, or with frequent errors. Struggling readers may struggle to recognize familiar words quickly or may have difficulty applying decoding skills to unfamiliar words.
- **Lack of Fluency:** Reading text with choppy, disjointed phrasing, or lacking expression. Struggling readers may read word by word rather than in phrases, which can hinder comprehension.
- **Poor Comprehension:** Difficulty understanding and making meaning from text. Struggling readers may have trouble identifying the main idea, making inferences, summarizing information, or answering questions about what they've read.
- **Avoidance of Reading:** Reluctance or avoidance of reading activities, including reading aloud, independent reading, or engaging with text in various formats (e.g., books, magazines, online articles).
- **Frustration or Negative Attitudes:** A student may express frustration, anxiety, or negative attitudes toward reading. Struggling readers may become discouraged, lose confidence, or exhibit low self-esteem related to their reading difficulties.
- **Difficulty Remembering Sight Words:** Difficulty recognizing and remembering common sight words or high-frequency words that are expected at their grade level.

Education and Youth Affairs Report – Cont'd

If you observe signs persistently over time or if your child's reading difficulties are significantly impacting their academic progress or self-esteem, it may be beneficial to consult with their teacher, school, or a literacy specialist to discuss potential interventions or assessments to support their reading development. Early identification and intervention are key to addressing reading difficulties and promoting literacy success.

What are Schools' Responsibilities in helping your child to be a reader? All schools bear the responsibility to provide support through the grade level curriculum, which includes reading instruction. Schools/Districts typically adapt a common reading program as a framework for teaching reading. State/District/School wide reading assessments provide a basis for sorting and sifting those children who may need further attention. If a student is falling significantly outside the progress expected, parents and teachers will discuss this as part of the typical progress updates. If a concern persists with reading skills there are programs in place in a district to address these issues. In class support, reading specialist consultation and specific remediation programs are available. As a parent you will look for support from the school by using a research-based, data driven reading program to support your child. A few examples of such programs include: the Wilson Reading System; the Orton-Gillingham Approach; McGraw-Hill's SRA Reading Mastery; Systematic Instruction in Phonological Awareness, Phonics, and Sight Words (SIPPS); and Renaissance's Accelerated Reader (AR). You should be aware that a student's areas of need may inform the type of instruction or specific reading program.

Next article: **The effects of the Internet on learning and your student.**

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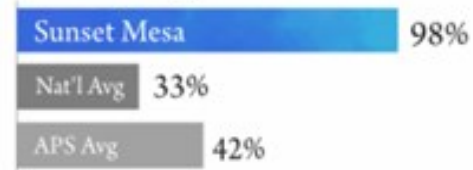
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Parks and Open Spaces *by Paul Yarrington*



Hello FHV neighbors — I have a few items to bring to your attention regarding the Parks & Open Spaces for our neighborhood.

Cleanup Day is Coming

We plan to participate again this year in the city (CABQ) sponsored “One Albuquerque Cleanup Day” to pick up trash and debris in our neighborhood park at Running Water and Stagecoach, and along the roadway shoulders from the “Y” to the bridge on Four Hills Road. The CABQ Solid Waste Department provides bags and gloves for those helping with the cleanup, and schedules pickup of the trash bags with our FHVA coordinator. Dates have not yet been set, but we expect the Cleanup Day

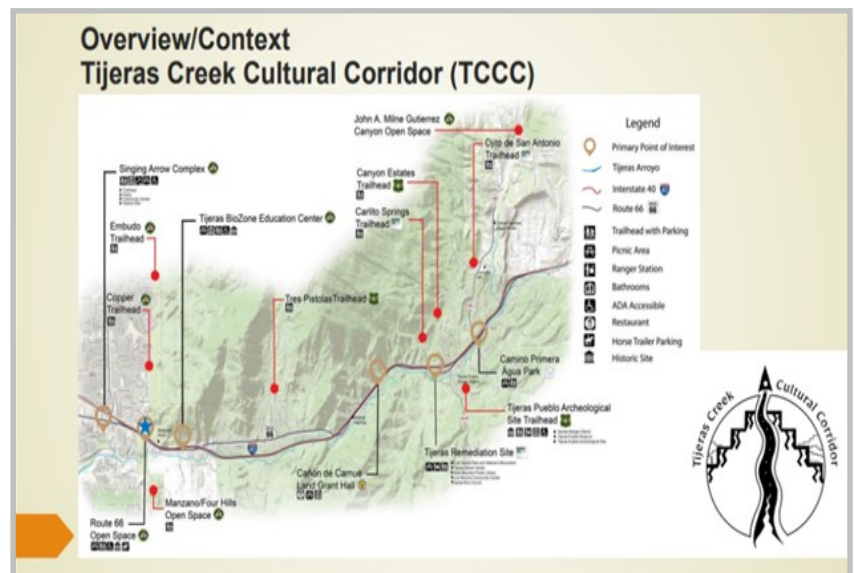
will be in the mid-late April timeframe for our area of the city. Cleanup of our spaces only takes about an hour or two, at most, when we get a good turnout of helpers. Please plan to join us in this effort to keep our public places looking nice. The date of the event will be provided on the FHV website and NextDoor, as that information becomes available from CABQ offices. Also watch for signage on the event at the entrance to the neighborhood as the date approaches.

Route 66 Open Space

We wanted to make you aware of the new Route 66 Open Space (OS) area adjacent to FHV that is being planned by the city as part of the Tijeras Creek Cultural Corridor development project. The attached map shows where the new Route 66 Open Space (see blue star in lower left of map) is located. Details of the site development are not yet finalized, but the city has held meetings to collect input on the proposal from residents and landowners in the area.

Park Parking

Former FHVA board member, Lisa “Rusty” Goetz, has been exploring options with the city for more parking space at the FHV Barsis Park on Running Water for some time. She recently got the following reply from CABQ about the parking situation there:



RE: No public parking available at Four Hills Park

Dear Ms. Goetz:

The Parks & Recreation Dept. (PRD) and the Dept. of Municipal Development (DMD), which manages streets and street parking, did assess that situation last summer. Street parking along the curb on Running Water actually is allowed and,

as you pointed out, there is room for several vehicles. It was never the objective to prohibit all parking in that dead-end street. DMD plans to replace one of the signs in the cul-de-sac to better clarify the parking availability.

Thank you again for your interest and concern for parks.

David J. Simon

*Director, Parks & Recreation Department
City of Albuquerque*

So, it looks like limited parking space will be a “feature” of the park indefinitely. However, we can expect new signage indicating that parking along the Running Water entrance road (“dead-end street”) is approved.

Parks and Open Spaces – Cont'd

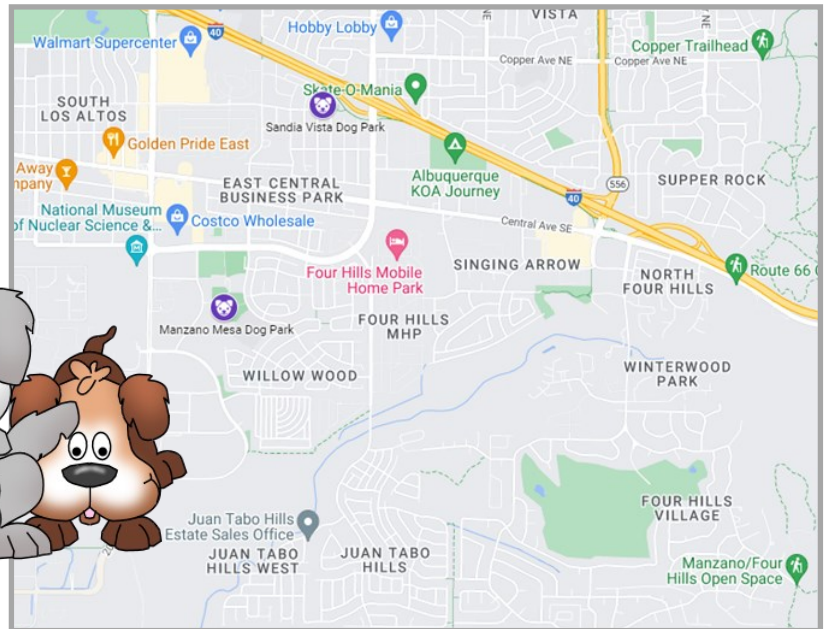
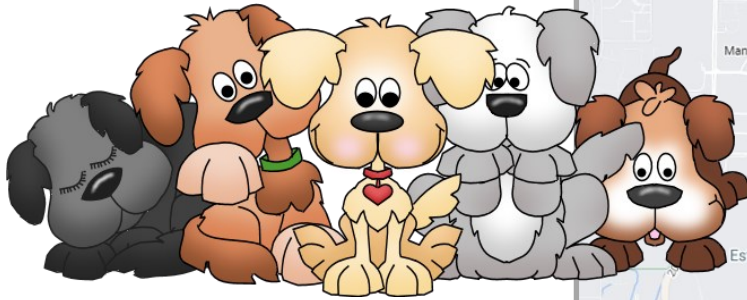


OS Signage Repair

The information sign in the FHV Open Spaces, at the top of Stagecoach Road, had gotten badly weathered and the information was unreadable in some areas. We brought this to the attention of CABQ OS offices and were informed that action would be taken to repair or replace the sign. The old sign has now been removed, and we are hopeful that we will have a new one in its place soon.

New Dog Parks

CABQ has announced the opening of new dog parks in the city, and a couple of those are in the vicinity of our neighborhood. A section of the map that indicates those dog parks that are closest to FHV is shown below (see purple icons for Manzano Mesa and Sandia Vista parks).



Public Relations / Neighborhood News

Four Hills Neighbors - A Women's Organization

Four Hills Neighbors (FHN) is a women's social group open to any woman who is a resident of Four Hills Village. Our mission is to help new neighbors orient themselves to the neighborhood and to help establish social relationships amongst the neighbors. We meet as a large group once a quarter but smaller activity groups meet more frequently. There are currently 15 different activity groups covering everything from Books Clubs to Bowling and Crafts to Gardening Club. Most groups meet monthly and some twice a month. We have recently added a wine tasting group which is proving to be very popular. We try to have something that everyone can participate in so they can meet other women in the neighborhood. We are always welcoming new members and the first year is free to join. After the first year, the annual membership fee is just \$30. Come give us a try! Visit our website www.fourhillsneighbors.com and join in the fun.

Julie Dodd
FHN President





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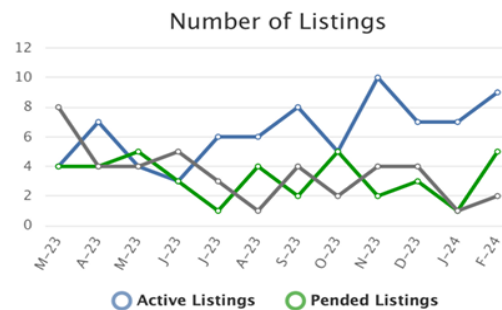


Four Hills Village Real Estate Market Update - by James DeMay



Hello Spring! With the weather starting to warm up, we are hoping for more inventory in our Four Hills Village (FHV) housing market, because the number of homes currently on the market here remains very low, while many people are looking for homes in FHV. Though the number of for-sale listings has risen a little since 2023, we are still averaging fewer than 10 homes available in FHV, which is very low when compared to recent years. Happily, and possibly due to the low inventory, prices are holding well in FHV. The average list price has dropped 10.54% when compared to February 2023, but our average sale price has risen 15.5% to \$592,500, as compared to \$495,000 in February 2023. While interest rates are

slightly higher than they were at this time last year, we still have many buyers needing homes and they appear to be willing to do whatever it takes to get them. The Sold to List Ratio for January and February 2024 is over 100%. This means that buyers are willing to pay the listing price -- and even more in some cases! Though our homes in FHV are sitting on the market for a little longer than they did last year, demand remains high, which is a positive sign for our little hidden gem of Albuquerque, Four Hills Village!



Summary Statistics

	Feb-24	Feb-23	% Chg	2024 YTD	2023 YTD	% Chg
Absorption Rate	2.4	1.58	51.90	2.13	2.08	2.40
Average List Price	\$525,072	\$586,949	-10.54	\$551,360	\$585,797	-5.88
Median List Price	\$450,000	\$579,000	-22.28	\$527,450	\$604,500	-12.75
Average Sale Price	\$592,500	\$512,980	15.50	\$570,000	\$514,983	10.68
Median Sale Price	\$592,500	\$495,000	19.70	\$585,000	\$500,000	17.00
Average CDOM	37	48	-22.92	25	46	-45.65
Median CDOM	37	4	825.00	2	20	-90.00

All stats are as of 3/5/2024

Four Hills Village Association
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Happy Spring!

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