



Picacho Hills
Property Owners Association
PO Box 51
Fairacres, NM 88033

NEWSLETTER

Volume 21 No. 2

October, 2005



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

2005 has been a year of many changes to our community. Growth has been a constant and major factor in these changes. With growth there are many challenges.

The PHPOA Board of Directors is in the process of reaching out to all other associations in Picacho Hills. Some areas have no associations and we are trying to work with those individuals to form a strong coalition to unite for effective action. This is not an easy task. Because of the hard rain on September 6 we are once again faced with major erosion in most areas of Picacho Hills. We must have a united front with this issue and others that we confront on a daily basis. It has been suggested that we as a community need clout with Dona Ana County government. The best way to do that is to field a candidate from our area for the Commission. I know there are some of you that have the experience and desire to serve. The reason I know this is because if you are retired you served in positions of management, finance, law, etc. that make you a perfect candidate. For those who are still working the same applies. This is a plea from your fellow residents to step forward and run. We will pledge our support of your candidacy.

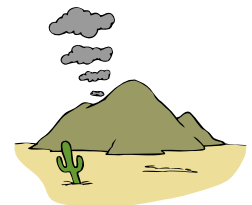
As a Board we have made some little steps with the County for beautification of common areas and erosion control. It is tough to work on the more private areas of the subdivision when the damage is from the negligence of a developer or lack of infrastructure on the part of the home owner. We will address these concerns on an individual basis. But keep in mind, the County approves the plans for development of a subdivision or development. As they say, "All politics is local" and political action is based on "whose ox is being gored".

Let's all hope for a cool Autumn and some good times on the patio.

Franklin McKay

A Picacho Hills Vignette

In the late 1980s, a church negotiated with the Burkes to mount an antenna on Picacho Peak in order to broadcast a radio program. It raised a red alarm with PHPOA members. We could simply not imagine a very tall antenna spoiling our virgin peak.



We were very few in those days and decided to fight to keep the antenna off the peak. Stan Hanssen, who was president of PHPOA, teamed up with George Newman and a local attorney, who donated his services, to fight the battle. In order to have funds enough to do battle, all members were assessed an extra \$50.00 each and the fight began!

It was discovered that the gentleman who applied for FCC permission had lied on his application, saying he had never been convicted of a felony. This won the battle for us hands down.

This is but one more instance where PHPOA fought our battles and came through like a champ! All residents of this beautiful community should ask themselves, "Can I afford NOT to join PHPOA?"

Rosemary Chaffee

Picacho Hills Drive/Barcelona Ridge Road Traffic Study

After hearing many complaints of speeding on Picacho Hills Drive and Barcelona Ridge Road, I contacted the County Traffic Engineering Department and asked what could be done to slow down the traffic.

From 10am Wednesday July 6th until 7am Friday July 8th traffic was monitored at two locations. Speed detectors were placed at two sites:

- Between Fairway Village Drive & Mira Montes - the total number of crossings were 7,203. Of those, 34% crossed the measuring device at 35mph (posted limit) or less. There were 99 crossings over 70 mph.
- West of Mira Montes (traffic proceeding up the hill on Barcelona Ridge Road) - the total number of crossings were 3,255. Of those, 33% crossed the measuring device at 35 mph (posted limit) or less. There were 12 crossings over 70 mph – but half of those were 108 mph and ABOVE!!

To obtain the details of this survey, please email Ken at keneastlack@msn.com.



The sad news is that these numbers will not bring any traffic control measures to Picacho Hills Drive. This is because of how the road is classified, and here I quote the County's Director of Public Works, Jorge Granados, who regretfully informed me that:

“The classification of PHD and Barcelona drive [sic] is a collector road or minor arterial [sic]. The road serves as a collector for several roads and has been designed to serve as a collector or arterial road and not a residential road.”

This prevents the county from placing any speed or traffic control measures (i.e. traffic lights, speed bumps, etc.) on Picacho Hills Drive and Barcelona Ridge Road. The County Traffic Engineers offered to share the results and coordinate enforcement of existing speed limits with the Sheriff. Sheriff Todd Garrison and Mr. Granados attended our September board meeting.

The only thing that County Traffic Engineers could do on our behalf was to share the results and coordinate enforcement of existing speed limits with the Sheriff. I agreed to let them take the lead on this, but added that if nothing evident happened within the next month, we would be contacting the sheriff ourselves.



In answer to our concerns about vehicles traveling at excessive speeds, and the apparent decrease in traffic enforcement on the Hill over the past year, Sheriff Garrison agreed to improve enforcement efforts in the future. He was asked to not just “blitz” the area one or two weekends a year but instead use the report to patrol during high speeding incident times pin pointed in the report and to be much more unpredictable when monitoring traffic. The Sheriff agreed to the request even though there is a shortage of personnel.

It should be noted that the speeding traffic is not just contractors and construction workers as many residents believe. Many of our neighbors have regularly witnessed Picacho Hills residents in Hummers, SUV's, sports cars and family sedans speeding up the hill and even crossing over the double yellow line in order to maintain their excessive speeds. If we, as residents, do not set the example of good and safe driving in our own neighborhood, we have little to complain of visitors to the Hill following our poor example.

We are seeking much more stringent surveillance and ticketing. How about making sure that the citations go to non-residents, and setting a good example so that perhaps no one gets ticketed. Please respect the safety and well being of your neighbors.

Ken Eastlack, Chair
Community Improvements and Roads

Utility News



PHUC Seeks Permission to Expand Service Area

The Picacho Hills Utility Company (PHUC) has made application to the New Mexico Public Regulatory Commission (PRC) for permission to expand its service area to include an area south of Highway 70. This move, along with the anticipated development expansion in Picacho Hills, caused some to question the adequacy of supply. According to Mr. Steven Blanco, President of PHUC, the utility has more than adequate water to meet all of these projected needs without measurably effecting the water supply in the aquifer. However, the related issue of the capacity of the current waste water treatment plant to deal with the proposed expansion has not been resolved. Further engineering studies are underway on proposed upgrades to the treatment plant to deal with the increased wastewater caused by the service area expansion and further development.



A Single Water Sample Tests Positive for Contamination

Residents received a jolt when they opened their last month's utility bills when they were notified that bacterial contamination was found in the water system. In reviewing the issue the PHUC confirmed that the contamination was found in a single sample, on a single street. The system on that street was flushed, retested and no contamination was detected. Routine testing, as proscribed by New Mexico law, will continue. When asked the possible source of the contamination the PHUC representatives could only speculate as to possible causes, from testing error to something entering on that street due to local construction.

'Picacho Mountain' Update

Finally, some residents have heard that the proposed sub division development 'Picacho Mountain' is planning on using private wells and septic systems in lieu of contracting with the PHUC. In reviewing this issue with knowledgeable sources in the community this fear appears to be unfounded. County development policy, New Mexico law on health and safety, and contemporary standards for sub division development all seem to dictate that the PHUC is the proper source for drinking water, fire protection and sewage treatment for the proposed development.

E-Mail Hotline

Any Picacho Hills Utility customer who would like to be kept informed of the activities of the Utility, the accounting firm, the State of New Mexico proceedings, and related matters by e-mail can do so by sending an e-mail to PHPOA@msn.com. Please include 'Utility E-mail hotline' in the subject line of your message.



Michael Allen, Chair
Utilities Committee

Don't Forget to Register

A reminder to all Picacho Hills residents – don't forget to register to vote. Each vote is important.

You may register at:

Dona Ana's County Clerk's office, 251 W. Amador, 647-7421
New Mexico Motor Vehicle Department
Brannigan Library



Attention Walkers

The days are getting shorter. And not all residents leave a front light on from dusk to dawn (as required by covenants). So please dress in light-colored, reflective clothing so that you can be seen in those early morning or early evening hours

Sheriff's Department Incident Reports



Here is the second annual synopsis of the Dona Ana County Sheriff's Department incident reports for Picacho Hill properties. This data comes directly from the Sheriff's Department dispatchers' records.

There were a total of 220 reports September 1, 2004 to August 28, 2005. The previous report just covered 10½ months and included 218 responses. Unfortunately a new category that lists reports not yet classified included 39 incidents. Thus 18%, almost a fifth, of the sheriff's responses to the Hill are to date unidentified.

All the figures are listed below showing the actual numbers of related incidents, their percentage of the whole, and how they compare (increased, the same, or decreased) by percentage to the previous year's report. The parenthesized notes indicate no change (nc), and not previously reported (nr).

The traffic figures are referenced in the Traffic Study article elsewhere in this newsletter.

57 Residential & Commercial Alarms	26%	- 4%	5 Domestic Issues	2%	- 2%
39 Non-specified Response	18%	(nr)	4 Civil Disturbance	2%	(nc)
32 Informational/Assistance	15%	- 9%	3 Criminal Damage to Property	1%	(nc)
29 Animal Complaints	13%	(nc)	2 Fraud	1%	(nr)
14 Suspicious Activities	6%	+ 1%	2 Traffic Accidents	1%	- 1%
13 Traffic Violations	6%	- 8%	1 Larceny Felony/Firearm	-	(nr)
13 False, Canceled & Duplicated Rprts.	6%	(nr)	1 Ordinance Violation	-	(nr)
5 Residential/Auto Burglary	2%	(nc)			

A special note of thanks goes out to Deborah Hughes of the Sheriff's Department who provided the statistics.

Ken Eastlack, Chair
Community Improvements and Roads

About your Newsletter . . . and its distribution:

- There are 3 newsletters annually – Spring (after the PHPOA annual meeting - and delivered simultaneously with the updates to the Property Owners Directory), Fall and Winter (before the annual meeting)
- Each member of the Board of Directors submits articles to update Picacho Hills Property Owners about the activities being done on their behalf
- Any property owner/resident of Picacho Hills may submit articles or information that is of interest or importance to the entire community
- Information and articles are delivered or e-mailed to the Board member serving as Newsletter Editor (that is currently Nancy Fuller)
- Distribution is done by the Hospitality Committee. The current chairman is Becky McNair. It is delivered to individual homes by your Street/Area Representative (see the listing in the April newsletter and the updates in this issue)



Nancy Fuller 647-0505
Newsletter Committee Chair
thefullers2@comcast.net



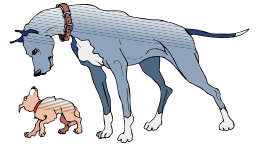
Covenant Reminders

The heavy rainfall in September has given a welcome boost to our landscape plantings, but the weeds seem to like it as well. While the area homeowners generally do a good job in controlling weeds, owners of vacant lots are obligated to maintain them as well.

In addition to the acceleration of weed growth, the September rains have created erosion problems, some rather serious. Subdivision covenants generally state that soil or debris from an owner's lot that runs onto a public right-of-way or neighboring property shall be promptly cleaned up by the owner of the lot from which the soil or debris originated. This is also supported by the County Erosion Control Regulations, Ordinance No. 194-200. Certain neighborhood councils and the PHPOA are working with developers and the County to address the serious erosion problems which are beyond the responsibility of individual homeowners.



Complaints continue regarding violations of the County Animal Control Ordinance. This was discussed in the last Newsletter, and relates to the following:



- Animals disturbing the peace, such as prolonged or continuous barking of dogs.
- Animals running at large – this is a violation of the County ordinance as well as subdivision covenants.
- Animal waste – please show consideration to your neighbors by immediately removing and properly disposing of any animal waste on private property. This is a requirement specified in the county ordinance.

Continued problems in this area may be reported to County Animal Control at 647-7715.

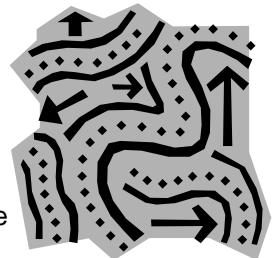


Last year, an article titled "Covenant Awareness" was published in the PHPOA Newsletter (October, 2004). This article addressed a survey of homeowners which indicated that many were unaware of their subdivision's covenants, had questions relating to them, or simply had not read them. Due to the growth of the area, with many new residents, all homeowners are encouraged to review their covenants. There are about 20 subdivisions within Picacho Hills, and each has its own set of covenants. If you do not have yours, a copy may be obtained from the County Clerk's office. If you are unsure which subdivision's covenants apply to you, contact the PHPOA and we will try to help. As stated in the referenced article, an awareness of your covenants can eliminate mistakes which could cost you a lot of time and money.

Bob Oheim, Chair
Covenants/ETZ/Security/Safety Committee

West Picacho Construction

The following email reply was received from the project manager of the construction of W. Picacho Ave.:



"We have completed the eastbound lanes and traffic is now traveling on this side of Picacho. We have installed lighting the full length of the project and it is working at night. Currently we are working on installing a high pressure gas line. We are also in the process of placing concrete on the northeast quadrant of the Motel Blvd./Picacho Ave. intersection. We will be installing new signal hardware with pedestrian access on all four corners of the intersection. We will also be working on the mainline as soon as the HP gas line is completed. The project should be completed by this winter (2005)."

Aaron Chavarria
Project Manager - Crew 5115
New Mexico Department of Transportation

Aaron.Chavarria@nmshtd.state.nm.us
Las Cruces Project Office

(505)526-2512
(505)640-6804

Hospitality Committee Facts

Do you know that:

- * we now have 44 Hospitality Hostesses that visit newcomers, hand out phone directories and newsletters?
- * we need Hostesses for Spanish Point, Calle Vista Bella and the 9 homes on the lower section of Barcelona Ridge, and Vista del Cerro addresses 1305-1412?
- * 730 (or more) newsletters will be handed out by Oct. 6?
- * we will have an evening Newcomers Reception in February 2006?
- * you can call Becky McNair, 526-9369, if you need a directory or newsletter?
- * we are growing so fast that we sometimes miss greeting you as you first move into Picacho Hills?
- * we hope you will be happy and enjoy living here? There is so much to do in Picacho Hills and Las Cruces!

Becky McNair, Chair

Hospitality Representative Changes

<u>Street or Area</u>	<u>Representative(s)</u>	<u>Street or Area</u>	<u>Representative(s)</u>
Alhambra Court	Ellen Martin	Coronado Ridge	Pat Jonker
Bright View Road	Lisa Wigkamp		Kathy Choice
Camino Blanco 6704 - 6736	Jan Hall	Desert Blossom &	Carol Coryell
6740 - 6842	Doris Walker	Deer Ridge Court	
	Donna Wood	Fairway Village 1400 - 1499	Janet McIntyre
6894 - 7146	Diane Nelson	1500 - end	Robin Cohen
		Pueblo Vista	Marlys Kleppe

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To: **All Women of Picacho Hills**  
 From: "Huggers" Luncheon Committee

Re: Next 3 Luncheons  
 Date: Monthly (mostly)



Come and join our (almost) monthly luncheon where you can meet and get to know the women of our community. Luncheons are *usually* held the 3rd Thursday of the month. Social time is from 11:30am to noon with lunch served at noon. Check future newsletters for dates.

The next 3 luncheons will be:

- October 27 \$15.00 Reservations to Becky McNair 526-9369 by Monday, October 24  
 Menu choices: Apricot Chicken or Grilled Vegetable Strudel
- December 1 \$15.00 Reservations to Nancy Fuller 647-0505 by Monday, November 28  
 Menu choices: Holiday menu will be available when you make your reservation  
 Our adopted Holiday Charity is Jardin de los Ninos.  
 If you wish to participate please bring a large package of diapers (size 2-5).
- January 19 \$15.00 Reservations to Elizabeth Weiss 541-6535 by Monday, January 16  
 Menu choices: Pesto Salmon or Grilled Colorado Broil

Menus include starter; rolls & butter; coffee, tea and water; dessert; tax & tip.

Exact change is always appreciated. If you wish to charge your luncheon to your Club account please give your member number to the hostess when you call in your reservation. **CANCELLATIONS:** Must be received 48 hours prior to luncheon to avoid incurring a luncheon charge. (NO SHOWS WILL BE CHARGED)



# Community Improvement & Roads Committee



Spring and summer have been busy for the committee. Besides the Annual Spring Cleanup, I have been involved in setting up three community improvement projects, taking on the excessive speeding issue here on the Hill, looking into other safety concerns, and now preparing for the Annual Fall Cleanup.

The Spring clean-up was very successful with 75 residents turning out to collect 207 bags of trash plus many larger items. As always my partner, Elaine Childs, was a great assist in helping set up the staging area and preparing the coffee etc. And many thanks to all those participating:

Jerry Stepro  
Sheri & Michael Wood  
Ellen Martin  
Rex Buchanan  
Sylvia Izon  
Linda & Charles White  
Teresa & Roger Duffy  
Ane Kuehn  
Ann & Dale Fair  
Phyllis & Sam Palmer  
Carrie & Brendon Caddy  
Michael & Elijah Stout

Pat Mueller  
Jan & Dave Newman  
Jeanne & Stan Hanssen  
Mary Hoffman  
Mary Ellen & Franklin McKay  
Mo & Mike Quigley  
Pat & Cliff Rettig  
Janey & Andy Walch  
Mark Hammer  
Rosa Pinera  
Len & Jesse Brooks  
Betty Cillo

Kathy & David Rodger  
Laurie Beougher  
Ruth Ormick  
Jim Sorenson  
Carmen & Rich Hoekstra  
Cindy & Bob Oheim  
Cathy & Pat Cestaro  
Becky McNair  
Barbara & Bob Hollman  
R. Barragan  
Michelle Gordon  
Daryl Hall

Dee & Jerry Knudson  
Maryann Bergdorf  
Jodie & Ned Bixby  
Lois & Elliot Byrum  
Irene Wharton  
Barbara & John Bush  
Wanda Schultz  
Ann & Tom Clark  
Glenn & Monte Long  
Kris & John Witte  
Pat Mitchell

After months of fruitless contacts with the county about roads, erosion, and needed improvement issues, I was successful in getting County Manager Brian Haines, Commissioner Oscar Butler, and County Legal Council John Caldwell to meet with the PHPOA Board of Directors to discuss communication and action issues. Mr. Haines expressed his goal of improving such relations with county residents and indicated that we could expect considerably better service from county staff in the future. This has proven to be quite true, and a lot of progress has been made in regard to needed improvements.

Three combination erosion and weed control projects were designed for Picacho Hills Drive. Area 1 runs basically from the Via Norte intersection southeast to Las Casitas; the work will be done on the northeast side of this stretch of road. Area 2 starts at the Y of Picacho Hills Drive and Barcelona Ridge Road and runs east on the north side of the road to the storm culvert at Calle Vista Bella. Area 3 continues on the other side of the Calle Vista Bella culvert to somewhere near the intersection at Fairway Village Drive. The county will basically do the installation and PHPOA will cover the cost of materials.



The Fall Clean-up is scheduled for Saturday October 15<sup>th</sup>. Please refer to the Flyer included in the delivery of this newsletter for details, and be sure to join your neighbors in this important effort.

As a final note I will again state my need for people to join this committee. The responsibilities are getting far too large for one person, and we need more community input in order to continue improvements. Please contact me at 523-0245 or by email at [keneastlack@msn.com](mailto:keneastlack@msn.com) to volunteer to help.

Ken Eastlack, Chair

Wisdom?

Once over the hill, you pick up speed  
Dogs have owners. Cats have staff  
Everyone has a photographic memory. Some just don't have film  
I love cooking with wine. Sometimes I even put it in the food  
Age is a very high price to pay for maturity  
If you look like your passport picture, you probably need the trip  
Don't drive faster than your Guardian Angel can fly...



## Directory Updates


### Welcome to new residents:

|             |                       |              |                           |                                                                  |
|-------------|-----------------------|--------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Armstrong   | Scott & Sandra        | 524-1122     | 6520 Vista de Oro         |                                                                  |
| Baumgartner | Phil & Cathy          | 525-9421     | 6700 Via Emma             | <a href="mailto:pabaumgart@aol.com">pabaumgart@aol.com</a>       |
| Bigard      | Bill & Pat            | 525-3916     | 10260 Tuscany Drive       |                                                                  |
| Boa         | Ernie & Judi          | 647-2559     | 1612 Via Turquesa         | from Washington (state)                                          |
| Burge       | Jim                   | 541-0642     | 1405 Vista del Cerro      |                                                                  |
| & Bergquist | Ede                   |              |                           |                                                                  |
| Caldwell    | John & Janet          | 523-5858     | 1216 Academy Court        |                                                                  |
| Dawsey      | Charles               | 541-6668     | 6668 Vista Hermosa        |                                                                  |
| Donnelly    | Brended & Annelee     |              | 10170 Tuscany Drive       |                                                                  |
| Doss        | Gary & Peggy          |              | 6814 Alhambra Court       | from El Paso, TX                                                 |
| Galvan      | Carlos                |              | 1505 Vista del Cerro      |                                                                  |
| Goldston    | Chesley & Deborah     | 524-1833     | 1580 Vista del Cerro      | from Richmond, VA                                                |
| Graor       | Bob & Leslie          | 527-9977     | 8184 Constitution Rd.     | from Ohio                                                        |
| Hoffman     | Woody & Peggy         | 523-7895     | 8064 Constitution Rd.     | from Colorado                                                    |
| Jordan      | Michael               | 639-2052     | 1397 Via Norte            |                                                                  |
| Jurrema     | Jane                  | 526-9618     | 1430 Fairway Village Dr.. |                                                                  |
| Kimball     | Jim                   | 527-0803     | 8156 Constitution Rd.     | from Silver City, NM                                             |
| & Beserra   | Wendy                 |              |                           |                                                                  |
| Kirkman     | Kent & Margaret       | 541-9372     | 6760 Via Emma             | <a href="mailto:kirkmankp@netzero.net">kirkmankp@netzero.net</a> |
| Kominski    | Mike & Joyce          | 525-9165     | 8010 Constitution Rd.     | from Santa Fe, NM                                                |
| Lee         | Allan & Hilde         | 525-4082     | 8176 Constitution Rd.     | from Virginia                                                    |
| Lederman    | Paul & Pat            |              | 1495 Vista del Cerro      | <a href="mailto:plederman@gmail.com">plederman@gmail.com</a>     |
| Leuenberger | Ray & Anna            | 417-1213     | 8128 Constitution Rd.     | from Albuquerque, NM                                             |
| Lopez       | Fernando & Katy       | 635-6700     | 8175 Constitution Rd.     |                                                                  |
| Mayer       | Foster(Sonny) & Kathy | 647-1939     | 8069 Constitution Rd.     |                                                                  |
| McClure     | Barry & Gwenda        | 544-3230     | 8121 Constitution Rd.     | from Deming, NM                                                  |
| Purcella    | Richard & Gena        | 523-1512     | 8016 Constitution Rd.     | from Tucson, AZ                                                  |
| Reed        | Kevin & Roxann        | 330/544-8102 | 8009 Constitution Rd.     | from Ohio                                                        |
| Ripley      | Jim & Marion          | 522-5879     | 8132 Constitution Rd.     | from Naples, FL                                                  |
| Severson    | Larry & Jan           | 640-3268     | 8181 Constitution Rd.     | from Florida                                                     |
| Trout       | Ron & Nancy           | 521-0056     | 8076 Constitution Rd.     |                                                                  |
| Webber      | William & Maxine      | 522-1340     | 8152 Constitution Rd.     |                                                                  |
| Wegkamp     | Dale & Lisa           | 525-1815     | 6830 Bright View Rd.      | from Budapest, Hungary                                           |

### Changes:

|        |                  |                                                                                                                                |
|--------|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Cule   | Paul & Shirley   | change phone: 541-6788                                                                                                         |
| Hayhoe | Jim & Mary       | email: <a href="mailto:jimhayhoe3@msn.com">jimhayhoe3@msn.com</a> , <a href="mailto:maryhayhoe@msn.com">maryhayhoe@msn.com</a> |
| Lucero | Vickie           | address: 1151 Castile Ct. (mailing address to previously listed PO Box)                                                        |
| Smith  | Les & Judy       | address: 8055 Constitution Road                                                                                                |
| Stein  | Bill & Christine | address: 10250 Tuscany Drive                                                                                                   |

### Remove:

|                           |                                                                                     |                               |                               |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Boldt, Jonathan & Sita    |  | Garrison, William & Elizabeth | Giese, Regan & Karen          |
| Hash, Frank & Fair        |                                                                                     | Hollingshead-Lopez, Donna     | Lopez, David/Hollingshead . . |
| Milchak, Gene & Christine |                                                                                     | Van Dyke, Case & Margo        |                               |

