



Castner Heights Neighborhood Association Newsletter May 2012

President-Joe Molinar
Vice President-Mark-Thomas Bray
Secretary-Mike Bearce

Treasurer-Kendra Bray
Membership Officer-Sandra Vandeven
Member at Large-Mike Wesoloski

CHNA Roots for Diablos Castner Heights Neighborhood Association is going to the ball game on June 8th. We are getting box seats for the discount rate of \$5. Contact Mike Bearce, 757-9395, for tickets.

Elections Exercise your right as a citizen and vote in the primaries on May 29th.

Next General Membership Meeting Our next general membership meeting will be Tuesday, July 17th at 6:30 PM at the Police Northeast Regional Command Center.

Free (and almost free) Summer Fun-

State Line Music, Wednesdays, 8 PM, outdoor concerts

Cool Canyon Nights, Thursdays, McKelligon Canyon, program to be published

Alfresco Fridays, Fridays, 6 PM, concerts and dancing, Arts Festival Plaza

Dancing in the City, Saturdays, 6 PM, dance concerts, Arts Festival Plaza (OK this one is \$6 per person, \$10 per couple)

Music Under the Stars, Sundays, 7:30 PM, outdoor concerts

Webmaster or Facebook Master Needed If you would be interested in developing and

maintaining a website or Facebook page for CHNA, please contact any of the officers.

National Night Out-We are planning for National Night Out on Tuesday evening, August 7th at Todd Ware Park. We plan on providing a cool snack, music, entertainment, and we will invite city, county, state, and US VIPs for our area. Mark this great event on your calendars now.

New Association E-mail Address-We are converting to a new e-mail address for the association so that you can use one address to contact all the Board members, even when we elect new members. We are doing this for the convenience of our members. That new e-mail address is chna.elp.tx@gmail.com. Please be prepared to accept the new address on your computers.

New Treasurer-Kendra Bray- I grew up in Bellevue, Washington. Joined the Army in 1975 as a cook and was stationed at Fort Bliss. Met my future husband at church and we married a year after I got out of the military. I started my civil service career in 1979 at the Fort Bliss commissary. I have worked for a short time at the Fort Bliss Federal Credit Union (now called First Light Federal Credit Union) while waiting to get back into federal service when we returned from a tour in Germany. Our son (30) and daughter (27) graduated from Whitaker

Elementary, Canyon Hills Middle and Irvin High schools. I believe in working to strengthen my community and have volunteered over the past thirteen years with the El Paso Humane Society Telethon and the past eleven years with the Susan G Komen Race for the Cure. Additionally I served as Financial Officer for the Irvin High School Band Boosters for 4 years while our daughter was a member of the band. I believe the Castner Heights neighborhood is the best in El Paso.

CHNA Recognized as Association of the Month

The El Paso Neighborhood Coalition (EPNC) has recognized CHNA as the Neighborhood Association of the Month for the month of May 2012. The EPNC is a union of citywide neighborhood associations with a mission to unify all the diverse El Paso neighborhood associations in matters of common interest and to actively encourage, endorse and promote issues of livability and the quality of life in our neighborhoods and community. EPNC meets the third Monday of the month at 6 PM in the Community Development Conference Room on the 8th floor of City Hall.



During their most recent meeting on May 21st, the EPNC invited CHNA President Joe Molinar to accept this recognition on behalf of the CHNA membership and to provide a brief overview of our activities and accomplishments. Also attending were CHNA Vice-President Mark-Thomas Bray and CHNA Treasurer Kendra Bray.

Joe presented a quick summary of Castner Heights demographics and the CHNA boundaries before discussing our evolution from the General Maloney Neighborhood Watch program. He further discussed some of the issues challenging CHNA and how your association is working to resolve them. EPNC members were impressed with the attendance figures from our general membership meetings and asked about our efforts to encourage open communication between the CHNA Board and Castner Heights residents.

Likewise, the CHNA Board members attending the EPNC meeting were able to hear discussions on neighborhood issues from a city-wide perspective. Topics presented included the upcoming Eighth Annual Neighborhood Summit, the 2012 Quality of Life Bond, El Paso's Leadership Academy, and the importance of civic engagement. Board members also heard a presentation by Dr. Michiel Noe, District 5 Representative to City Council, who addressed the geographical shift in his district's boundaries and issues confronting his constituency. Dr. Noe also discussed his support of strong, active neighborhood associations despite some City Representatives questioning the need for them due to a perceived lack of transparency in association efforts.

All in all, the EPNC meeting was informative and a nice recognition of the Castner Heights Neighborhood Association's efforts to become a community-based, resident driven forum resolved to respect ourselves and our neighborhood in order to sustain a clean, safe, friendly, and secure environment for all our residents.

New Association Snail Mail Address-Our new address to mail all your correspondence, such as dues payments, is-

CHNA
PO Box 24072
El Paso, TX 79914 (Yes, 14 is correct)

Last General Membership Meeting Summary-

Rep Carl Robinson discussed the proposed Sam's Club and took questions.

Proposed site is Diana + Gateway North, 17 acre lot, 13 acres for store + parking, zoned C-4 since 1976. No plan submitted yet and no timeline. Land has not been purchased yet. Easement for covering drainage ditch has not been approved by PSB yet. Once they submit their plan, we will be notified, and 2 week notice will be given for a public hearing. Both city and state traffic analysis must be performed. We can request to impose conditions. Economists tell the City that property values for the nearby neighborhood may increase or stay the same. Several members expressed safety concerns about traffic. Some expressed concerns about noise and trash. Others were in support. Since the land is zoned C-4 there are other less desirable types of businesses that could move in.

A member brought up concerns about lack of turnaround lanes at Gateway South and Hondo Pass, and Diana and US 54. A member brought up a complaint of Time Warner not quickly fixing their boxes at Stahala + Maureen and Rutherford + Stonewall. A member inquired how the Quality of Life Bond would be listed on the ballot-whole or individual items. Initial response was all or nothing, but that consideration is a work in progress. Next meeting is 24 May. Rep Robinson stressed participation at the Call to Public every Tuesday

at 0830 and participation in boards and committees. He will provide a list of boards and committees, functions, and vacancies.

Lieutenant Velasquez presented crime statistics for the neighborhood since the start of the year.

No reports of gas siphoning, 4 auto burglaries (all cars were unlocked), 1 auto theft, and no household burglaries. These statistics indicate Castner Heights is a safe neighborhood. Drive by shooting on RT Cassidy has not been solved. Likely related to shooting on Moonlight. Both used 9mm ammo. Lieutenant Velasquez encouraged the audience to sign up for the Neighborhood Watch program.

Members reported speeding on Stahala, Rutherford, and Robert Holt. Residents can apply for installation of speed humps to help calm traffic on these streets. A member reported vodka bottles being thrown at the park and cases of pooping without scooping. A member reported lewd conduct at Sue Young Park. Police have issued some citations based on past reports. Environmental Services can now issue parking citations. A member complimented police for rescuing her from a deep sleep when neighbors reported her garage door left open.

Business and Selected Honorary Members



4545 Hondo Pass, 915-834-2203, Fax: 915-834-2222, Debbie Mendoza, Branch Manager,
dmendoza@wsfcu.org, wsfcu.org

Victory Chapel Ministries, Women with Purpose, 4601 Hondo Pass, 915-751-6399,
carolyneredic@att.net,
www.victorychapelwomen.com

Victory Warriors Drill Dance and After-School Academy, 4601 Hondo Pass, 915-751-6399,
victorywarriors@att.net,
www.warriorsafterschoolacademy.com

Club 54, 4875 Rutherford, 915-755-9972, M-F
11 AM-2 AM, Sat-Sun 1 PM-2 AM

Avon, to buy or sell, Toni Lunsford,
Independent Sales Agent, 9540 Robert Holt,
915-759-6408 / 915-226-6960,
toni1618@aol.com



Village Inn Pancake House, (under reconstruction) 4757 Hondo Pass, 751-3455,
hondopass@yourvillageinn.com




LPL Financial, Freedom Financial Services, 4717
Hondo Pass, Suite D, 915-755-4180, Robert H
Sweet, robert.sweet@lpl.com



Flags Across America, PO Box 640112, 79904,
915-751-8718, Jimmy K Melver,
JKMelder@yahoo.com, www.ElPasoFlag.org

Tony Lewis Collision & Paint



Phone (915) 755-4321
Fax # (915) 755-8549

9400 McCombs St.
El Paso, TX 79924

Mike Bearce, Secretary, Editor