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Vice President- Mark-Thomas Bray
Secretary- Roger Heidt



Treasurer- Kendra Bray
Membership Officer- Margitta Vanwijk
Member at Large- Maureen Simmons

Castner Heights Neighborhood Association Newsletter, June 2014

President's Corner:

Summer is at our door step and 2014 year is going quickly into the history books. I would like to address a few items in this section.

First, I am calling on you to become volunteers for the Castner Heights Neighborhood Association. Presently, we are a small group of volunteers who do a lot of work for the betterment of the Castner Heights community. We will be needing help with National Night Out passing out flyers, clean-ups in the area, etc. With that, please send an email message to the CHNA email address (chna.elp.tx@gmail.com) and ask how you can help.

Secondly, CHNA requested a large picnic table with a canopy and a fitness station with a canopy for Todd Ware Park as part of the 2012 Quality of Life bond. But CHNA did not score high enough to fund the picnic table and fitness station in this first Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP) round. However, CHNA will proceed with another NIP application for a large picnic table with a canopy at Todd Ware Park in the second NIP round.



Thirdly, CHNA will sponsor the 31st Annual National Night Out (NNO) on Tuesday, August 5, 2014, from 5 to 8 PM at Todd Ware Park. NNO is a crime prevention initiative and it also honors law enforcement. We will serve paletas (frozen fruit bars) and water. Come out and meet some friends and or introduce yourself to meet some of your neighbors. We look forward to seeing you at NNO.



In closing, some of you will be going on vacation which means your property becomes more susceptible to burglary and theft. Remember, to have a plan in place to prevent becoming a victim and to lock everything up.

Citizen Collection Station:

Environmental Services has a northeast Citizen Collection Station with entry right on Stahala near the YWCA. Note the hours of operation in the photo and visit this web site for other details, to include what are their acceptable items for recycling:

<http://home.elpasotexas.gov/environmental-services/citizen-collection-sites.php>



Points of Interest:

Weldon Yerby Senior Citizens' Garden

On March 15, 2014 I met with Joyce Ealey who is the Coordinator of Weldon Yerby Senior Citizens' Garden located on Stahala, also near the YWCA. Requirements in order to obtain a garden plot: you must live in El Paso County, be 55 years old or older, and cannot live in New Mexico to qualify. Joyce will have you register and explain the procedures. Most of the garden plots are already taken and, by the time this newsletter goes out, I am sure they will all be taken. One time initial membership fee is \$47.50 and \$20.00 fee per year after that.

Gardeners are asked to bring their own hoses, tools and nozzles with them when they work/plant in the garden. Their names are located at their assigned plots. Water and manure are supplied for each garden plot. Individuals are given a key to enter the area and are asked to leave before dark due to lack of tall outside lights in the area. There are two buildings for storage for your tools, one with bathroom, but it is preferred that you take your tools home with you when you leave for the day. Outside one building has a porch with picnic tables for the gardeners' use. Also at the end of the area is a portable potty so you do not have to walk to the front to use the bathroom in the main building. I am putting a few pictures below to show how nice it looks and already plants are growing well considering these pictures were taken in March. The garden area looks so much nicer than the way it looked before with just dirt when it belonged to the Department of Transportation.



White Sands Federal Credit Union

How long has WSFCU has been in NE El Paso: We opened our branch office on Hondo Pass in the fall of 1987.

Who is eligible to join: Persons associated with hundreds of organizations can join White Sands Federal Credit Union. Because there are so many ways to join the credit union, we generally tell people that we can find a way for almost anyone to become a member. And of course, anyone living in the Castner Heights neighborhood certainly can join.

What services you offer: We offer a wide array of financial services for individuals: checking accounts, savings accounts, certificates of deposit and money market accounts, investment services, all kinds of personal loans from vehicle to mortgage to vacation; credit cards, gift cards, free ATMs all over the country, online banking and bill payment. You can get a better idea of all the services we offer from our website: <http://www.wsfcu.org>. Please let me know if you have any other questions. Sharon Sumner, WSFCU, VP Marketing, 575-647-4676

Sam's Club Construction Update:

As you may have noticed, the construction of the Northeast El Paso Sam's Club (Store # 6246) has started at the corner of Diana Drive and Gateway North. Dunaway Associates, L.P. of Fort Worth are the lead project engineers and responsible for the overall design. The actual construction contract was awarded to El Paso based Banes General Contractors, Incorporated. Current plans are for the construction to be completed and the store open by January 2015. Banes' Project Manager tells us they are in the grading phase for the entire site which they hope to finish during the first week of June. Then they can start the next phase of installing utilities. Concurrently, the building site has been graded and the structure started. Plans call for the foundation to be completed in about three weeks; it'll take about a month or so to complete the walls; another month to complete the structure; and about 25 days to complete the roof. Banes' contract runs through November when they expect to be primarily finished with the construction, but they plan to stay through December to wrap-up any small details after the site is reviewed by Sam's Club personnel.



The main entrance to the Sam's Club will be off of Diana Drive at the intersection with Kenworthy Street. There will be another entrance along Diana Drive directly across from the Old Glory Memorial Flag Site, but will only be accessible for people driving east on Diana Drive. (There are no plans to cut the existing median on Diana Drive.) A third entrance will be off of Gateway North, but this will be primarily for delivery trucks rather than customers. The store entrance will face the Kenworthy-Diana Drive intersection on the north side of the building and the loading docks will be on

the south side of the building. The gas pumps will be situated in the northwest corner of the lot near the Diana Drive-Gateway North intersection.

Remember that this past January City Council approved Sam's Club's request for permission to sell alcoholic beverages at this location even though it is across the street (95 feet away) from the Transmountain Early College High School. City Council granted Sam's Club an exception from the ordinance which prohibits sale of alcohol within 300 feet of a church, school, commercial day care, or public hospital. You can keep up with the status of this construction effort by joining the discussions section of our website, www.castnerheights.org.

Right in our backyard, this project will be the biggest recent development in Northeast El Paso until work starts on the planned North Hills Crossing shopping center at U.S. 54 Patriot Freeway and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. No timeline has been announced for that project as of yet. Nor have detailed plans been announced for Northpark Transit Project proposing a mixed-use development at the Northpark Mall location, which would include apartments, condos, and row houses; a community center; parks; retail sites including parking structures lined with storefronts; and two transit stops, one for regular Sun Metro service and one for the Rapid Transit System. Things are starting to happen in our part of town, and we have a front row seat as the action begins. (Story by Vice President- Mark-Thomas Bray)



Summary of 3-1-1:

The City of El Paso has activated the 3-1-1 phone number that connects citizens with the City's Customer Service Call Center to answer phone calls relating to city services and programs. The purpose of the Customer Service Center is to centralize all incoming calls into one agency location rather than the current process of various numbers and locations. The centralized Customer Service Center allows for improved service to citizens and reduces the number of 911 and non-emergency calls. Call Center hours of operation are Monday-Sunday 7:00 am to 11:00 PM including holidays. 3-1-1 is a toll-free, non-emergency number. Dial 3-1-1 from anywhere within the city of El Paso for information or requests for City services. 3-1-1 is your direct line to City Hall. No more trying to remember different phone numbers for different departments.

Media: Please visit us on the Web and *Like Us* on Facebook.



<http://www.castnerheights.org/>



<https://www.facebook.com/CHNAelpaso>

Business and Selected Honorary Members:



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915-755-9977 or (C) 915-920-9242
Petra Luoma, Owner



We're Your Neighbors!



From left to right, Mary Gongora, Alma Santana, Alyssa Flores, Vanessa Lopez, Trudy Marshall and Debbie Mendoza.

4545 Hondo Pass ♦ El Paso
751-9933 ♦ wsfcu.org ♦ wsfcu.mobi

 Equal Housing Lender
 Member National Credit Union Administration

CHNA Mission. *To preserve and improve the quality of life within the Castner Heights Neighborhood by fostering strong relationships, respect for cultural diversity, and pride among the residents. The Castner Heights Neighborhood Association (CHNA) shall provide an organized and unified voice to outside entities and empower the residents of Castner Heights to identify community needs and initiate positive change through community-based problem solving.*

CHNA Vision Statement. *We see CHNA as 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 Neighbors: We have some new businesses/restaurants in the area and some coming in the new future we would like to let you know about: IHOP at 4500 Hondo Pass Ave., Discount Tires is being built next to Taco Cabana on Hondo Pass Ave., Krispy Krème is now open at 9040 Dyer Street and Brake Masters shop is being built next to Pep Boys at 9303 Dyer Street. Hopefully, in the very near future we will be able to have them as new business members of CHNA.

Since this newsletter is going out in June, we hope you all had a wonderful Mother's, Veteran's and Memorial Day weekend and our appreciation goes out to all our members who are Veterans for their military services.

Regina R. (Gina) Meigel, Editor

