



# Castner Heights Neighborhood Association Newsletter

JUNE 2015

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 2

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## **President's Corner**

***By Joe Molinar – CHNA President***

CHNA will sponsor the 32nd Annual National Night Out (NNO) on Tuesday, August 4, 2015, 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 greet your neighbors, meet some new friends and or introduce yourself to some law enforcement officers. We look forward to seeing you at NNO.

On Tuesday, June 23, 2015, City Council approved funding for our proposal of a large picnic table with a metal canopy to be installed at Todd Ware Park as part of the 2014 Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP - 2<sup>nd</sup> Round) and the 2012 Quality of Life Bond.

With the Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP) in place for the next eight years, I cordially invite each CHNA member to attend the Neighborhood Summit scheduled for Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at the Ysleta Independent School District administrative offices at 9500 Sims. You will learn about the NIP process, how to apply for a project, common mistakes, etc. In addition, the other sessions will be training on other hot topics for neighborhood improvement, a guest speaker and a delicious free lunch. I hope to see many of you at this year's summit.

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## **CHNA Board of Directors Welcomes New Treasurer**

Pamela M. Perez is a native El Pasoan and proud graduate of Austin High School (1977) and The University of Texas at El Paso (1985, '86). She is a licensed speech-language pathologist and director of the Elinor Zind Early Childhood Intervention program with Emergence Health Network. The program provides comprehensive services to infants and toddlers (birth through 2) who have developmental delays. Pam was appointed in 2006 by Texas Gov. Rick Perry to serve on the State of Texas Early Childhood Intervention Advisory Committee and will finish her second term in 2017. She is the recipient of UTEP's College of Health Science 2007 Gold Nugget award, the highest honor the college may bestow on its alumni. She also served on the college's advisory board. She is an active member of the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church serving on its finance committee. She is a long-time soccer mom who serves as treasurer of the American Youth Soccer Organization Region 368 based at nearby Sue Young Park. The all-volunteer league offers players ages 5 to 18 a positive and nurturing environment to learn to play the world's most popular sport. She is married and has two children ages 20 and 12 and has lived in Castner Heights since 1992. She joined the Castner Heights Neighborhood Association in 2010.



**Next Scheduled  
CHNA General  
Membership  
Meeting**  
*Thursday  
July 16, 2015  
6:30 PM  
Northeast  
Regional  
Command Center*

## **In Case You Missed It – Notes from April CHNA Membership Meeting**

*By Mark-Thomas Bray, CHNA Vice-President*



The most recent General Membership Meeting of the Castner Heights Neighborhood Association was held on the evening of Thursday, April 16, 2015 at the Northeast Regional Command Center's Community Room, located on 9600 Dyer Street. The Guest Speaker that evening was Mr. Gary Sapp, the Executive Vice-President of Hunt Companies, Inc. and President of the Southwest Division of the Hunt Development Group, LP. Accompanying Mr. Sapp was Ms. Tina Wolfe, Director of Commercial Sales/Tenant Recruitment for the Hunt Development Group, LP.

Mr. Sapp provided a brief biography and a quick overview of the Hunt Companies. He then focused his presentation on the Metro 31 development planned for the site of the former Northgate (Northpark) Mall. As outlined in last month's CHNA newsletter, current plans for Metro 31 call for employment of SmartCode development; consisting of 325 units of Class A apartments, 80 units of affordable senior housing and 48 Live/Work units featuring contemporary open floor plans and upscale finishes with resort-style amenities. Mr. Sapp discussed the city's Request for Qualification process, the status of planning, and current design layout. He then led an energetic question and answer period, where among other questions he estimated ground breaking to take place sometime in the first part of next year followed by a 36 month timeline for the buildout. At this point, it is far too premature to announce any proposed tenants. As far as expectations for this type of development, Mr. Sapp noted the success of Montecillo on the Westside; the city's first SmartCode development; can be measured by the fact they are building more units and at a faster pace than they had planned.

The CHNA normal business meeting followed Mr. Sapp's presentation with a review of our quarterly reports, updates on the city's Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP), UTEP Project MOVE coordination, and opportunities to volunteer for CHNA activities and committees. CHNA President Joe Molinar led discussion of our association's support for the preservation of Castner Range, neighborhood concerns about street resurfacing and a request for increased police patrols, the Great American Clean-up (see article on page 6) and our annual National Night Out celebration (more information on NNO to follow).

The next scheduled General Membership Meeting is planned for 6:30 PM on Thursday, July 16, 2015 at our normal location – the Northeast Region Command Center's Community Room. Lt. Eddie Valencia, Evenings Shift Supervisor of the El Paso Police Department's Northeast Regional Command, has been invited to talk to us about the results of the department's April performance plan in Castner Heights. Our standard business meeting will immediately follow Lt. Valencia's presentation. Hope to see you there.

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## **Welcome To Our New Members This Quarter**

*Guillermo Silva*

*Jerome Tilghman*

*Henry Top Kim*

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## Why Do I Have to Wait?

*By Dr. Bill Davitt, Board Certified Eye MD & CHNA Business Member*

- Dr. Davitt strives to stay on time; however, he is the only emergency eye doctor in the area
- Sometimes new problems are discovered during follow-up
- Sometimes patients are not prepared

We all hate to wait. And it seems like doctor's offices are the worst offenders.

Revealing some secrets along the way, let's first tell you why my patients sometimes have to wait. First, it's my basic drive to stay on time. Getting behind leads to getting *behinder*. When a given patient's exam is delayed, I feel I owe them more time.

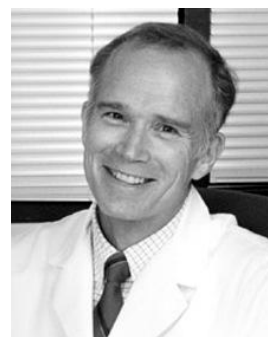
Why the delay? First I don't overbook, but I have to respond to emergencies. I'm the only eye 'emergency room' in the area, so I can't turn anyone away. And some urgent eye situations need urgent attention so those folks go to the front of the line.

Next is discovery of a new problem in a returning patient. Visit time on follow-up visits is carefully programmed to match the patient's condition. A full third of the follow-up patients either notice or I notice something new, and often this new problem demands a comprehensive workup and treatment plan. All this is unexpected.

And last, the "I left my glasses or my medicines at home" or "I left the paper from my family doctor in the car" or "my glasses are in my purse, somewhere....." or any number of "oh, by the ways," or "this will just take a minute." *Kinda* like the grocery store customer who waits until every last item is scanned before getting the checkbook out and writing a check.

I bet your doctor might say something similar. But we really do try to stay on time and to alert folks when we're not. Sorry about the wait.

Dr. William F Davitt, NE Ophthalmologist



## Sun Safety

The sun can be one of the biggest threats to outdoor recreation enjoyment. Too much sun can give you painful sunburn, cause heat exhaustion, or lead to heat stroke. Sunburn may also cause long-term skin damage – even skin cancer. You can reduce the risks of too much sun by following these simple guidelines:

- Build up your exposure gradually
- Use a sunscreen product
  - o Higher Skin Protection Factor (SPF) ratings provide better protection
  - o Reapply sunscreen after swimming
- Plan activities to avoid the sun when it's the strongest – from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Wear a hat and clothing that cover as much of your body as possible



### Remember

**Sun intensifies when it reflects off sand, water, and concrete.**

**You can get burned even when it's overcast or foggy.** If you do get sunburned, rinse or soak in cool water or use cold compress. If you have a mild sunburn with no blisters, use a gentle, non-medicated cream. See a doctor for severe, painful sunburn.





# Full range of financial products and services

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- ❖ checking accounts
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751-9933 ♦ [wsfcu.org](http://wsfcu.org) ♦ [wsfcu.mobi](http://wsfcu.mobi)



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Membership  
makes you eligible  
to joint White  
Sands Federal  
Credit Union*

## Invictus

*By William Ernest Henley, 1875*

Out of the night that covers me,  
Black as the Pit from pole to pole,  
I thank whatever gods may be  
For my unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstance  
I have not winced nor cried aloud.  
Under the bludgeonings of chance  
My head is bloody, but unbowed.

Beyond this place of wrath and tears  
Looms but the Horror of the shade,  
And yet the menace of the years  
Finds and shall find me unafraid.

It matters not how strait the gate,  
How charged with punishments the scroll  
I am the master of my fate:  
I am the captain of my soul.



## Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Slated for Castner Area

*By Mark-Thomas Bray, CHNA Vice-President*

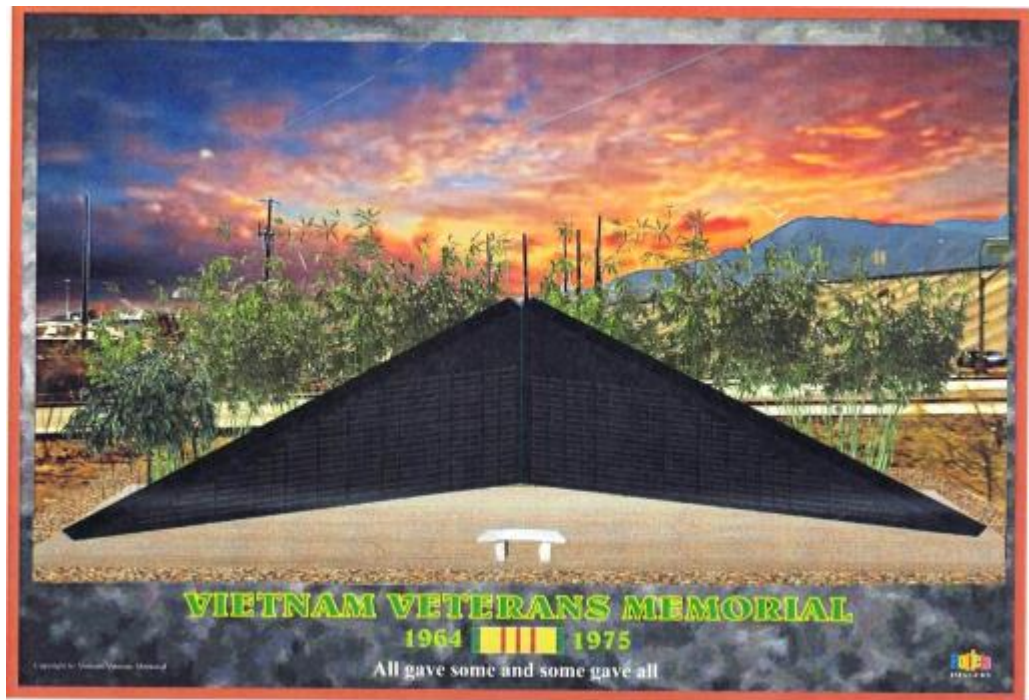
Flags Across America, an honorary Castner Heights Neighborhood Association Member, plans to host a Vietnam Veterans Memorial at the Old Glory Flag Site, 9550 Gateway North at Diana Drive. The memorial was designed by retired Sergeant Major Joe "Chinaboy" Lopez, who along with several of his friends formed a tax-deductible 501 C (3) nonprofit organization, called the Vietnam Veterans Memorial organization, to raise \$50,000 for creation and installation.



**OLD GLORY MEMORIAL**  
9550 GATEWAY NORTH  
EXIT 28 GATEWAY NORTH & DIANA DR.

The design calls for wing-like wall, 8 feet high and 48 feet long that will include the names of Vietnam Veterans killed in action or missing in action who are from El Paso County. Local sculptor Julio Sanchez has been selected to create the memorial.

Jesus Vera, another Vietnam veteran from El Paso and president of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial organization, said people who donate \$250 or more will receive a plaque that commemorates Vietnam veterans. To donate, you can send a check payable to V.V.M. to Vietnam Veterans Memorial; P.O. Box 269004; El Paso, Texas 79926-6903. For further information, call Jesus Vera, 867-3872; Connie Peña, 433-9914; Harry Nelson, 272-3446; Joe "Chinaboy" Lopez, 566-1484; or Fernie Bermudez, 491-7726.





## **2015 Great American Cleanup**

*CHNA partners with other District #4 neighborhood associations*

*"Cohen Stadium is an integral part of northeast El Paso"*

***Please consider patronizing our Business Members***

## **CHNA and GACU at Cohen Stadium**

*By Joe Molinar, CHNA President*



The Castner Heights Neighborhood Association asked other District #4 neighborhood associations for their assistance in cleaning up Cohen Stadium as part of the Great American Cleanup on Saturday, May 16, 2015. It was originally scheduled for Saturday, May 2nd; however, due to scheduling conflicts, it was changed to two weeks forward. With several neighborhood associations working together, we could make a minor difference. Many people asked why clean up Cohen Stadium if it belongs to the City of El Paso. My response was that Cohen Stadium is an integral part of northeast El Paso and the landscaping along Gateway North was looking terrible.

Besides the wind blowing over the Franklin Mountains, it was a perfect day for a cleanup at Cohen Stadium.

Approximately 35 volunteers gave up their Saturday morning for this initiative and cleaned up the western edge of Cohen Stadium. Five truckloads of trash and debris were collected and properly disposed of at the site. After working during the morning hours, the volunteers were treated to a catered lunch provided by El Paso Live and Candlewood Suites.

The Castner Heights Neighborhood Association would like to thank City Representative Carl Robinson, Mr. Mauro Monsivais, Mrs. Sonia Morales, Lt. J. Velasquez, the many soldiers of F Company of the 2nd Battalion, 501st Aviation Regiment (F/2-501 Avn) – part of 1st Armored Division's Combat Aviation Brigade (1 AD CAB), Romie Ruiz and all of our dedicated volunteers. The cleanup was a huge success.

## **CHNA Business and Selected Honorary Members**



**Club 54,**  
4875 Rutherford Drive  
El Paso, TX 79924  
915-755-9977  
Petra Luoma – Owner



**WM. Davitt, Eye M.D.**  
8815 Dyer, Suite 130  
El Paso, TX 79904  
915-757-3937  
wfdavitt@juno.com



**Flags Across America**  
P.O. Box 640112  
El Paso, TX 79904  
915-751-8718  
Jimmy K. Melver  
jkmelter@yahoo.com  
www.EIPasoFlag.org

*Please  
consider  
patronizing  
our Business  
Members*

**Castner Heights  
Neighborhood  
Association**

P.O. Box 24072  
El Paso, TX  
79914-0072

CHNA.elp.tx@gmail.com

**We're on the Web!**

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**Editor:**

*Mark-Thomas Bray*



**Legacy Construction**

9865 Taj Mahal St  
El Paso, TX 79924  
915-860-2700  
[legacyconstruction@live.com](mailto:legacyconstruction@live.com)



**Northeast Dental Center**

9201 Dyer St, Suite B  
El Paso, TX 79924  
915-751-7070  
Dr. Dwight L. Bailey, DDS



**Princess House**

8832 Ankerson Street  
Apt #5  
El Paso, TX 79904  
915-242-5058  
Alicia Hernandez



**Sam's Club**

9498 Gateway Blvd North.  
El Paso, TX 79924  
915-730-6085  
Rachelle Maynes – Manager



**State Farm**

10318 McCombs Avenue  
El Paso, TX 79924  
915-881-4956  
James Culty – Agent



**Sun City Security Services, Inc.**

9155 Dyer Street  
Suite B-90  
El Paso, TX 79924  
915-751-6811



**Walgreens**

9428 Dyer Street  
El Paso, TX 79924  
915-751-2494  
[malaproductions@icloud.com](mailto:malaproductions@icloud.com)  
Mark Lopez – Manager



**Western Tech**

9451 Diana Drive  
El Paso, TX 79924  
915-566-9621  
Mary Cano – Exec-VP/Campus Director



**White Sands FCU**

4545 Hondo Pass  
El Paso, TX 79904  
915-834-2200  
Andrea DesAmier – Branch Manager

**CHNA 2015 Board:**

- President  
Joe Molinar
- Vice-President  
Mark-Thomas Bray
- Secretary  
Deborah Jaimes
- Treasurer  
Pamela Perez
- Membership Officer  
Kendra Bray
- Member at Large  
Carl Smith



Castner Heights Neighborhood Association Presents

# 2015 National Night Out

**Tuesday, August 4, 2015**

**5:00 PM—8:00 PM**

**Todd Ware Park**

**(Stahala & Rutherford)**



CHNA cordially invites you to our annual Social celebrating National Night Out and featuring free Fruitiki frozen fruit bars (paletas).

\*\*\*\*\*

Please bring some brownies or cookies to share with your neighbor, and don't forget your lawn chairs!

## Kids Activities



NO Glass  
Bottles,  
Alcoholic  
Beverages,  
or Political  
Literature!

## Music



National Night Out is celebrated all over the USA to promote Crime Prevention and to honor our Law Enforcement Officers. Join us at the park to meet and greet local Law Enforcement, Firefighters, Business Owners our City Representatives and your

Visit our website:  
[www.castnerheights.org](http://www.castnerheights.org)

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