



Castner Heights Neighborhood Association Newsletter

March 2016

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 1

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President's Corner

On behalf of President Joe Molinar, we'd like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to our out-going Board of Directors; Treasurer Pamela Perez and Member at Large Regina Meigel. Your dedication to making our neighborhood a clean, safe, friendly and secure environment is unparalleled. Thank you for your dedicated efforts in making our neighborhood a place we are proud to call home.



New 2016 CHNA Board of Directors



In accordance with CHNA By-laws, elections for officers comprising the Board of Directors were held at our most recent General Membership Meeting on January 15, 2016. Here are the bios for your 2016 CHNA Officers:

President Joe Molinar

I was born and raised in El Paso, Texas. After graduation from a local high school, I served four years in the U.S. Marine Corps and my last duty assignment was with HMX-1 at Quantico, Virginia. I retired from the City of El Paso with over 22 years of service and a total of 28 years of service as a Texas peace officer. My daughter is presently working and attending UTEP seeking her Master's degree. I continue working and serving the Castner Heights Neighborhood Association because together many good things can be accomplished for our community. I was the first and past president of the General Maloney Neighborhood Association.

Vice-President Mark-Thomas Bray

While I was a "military brat" as a child, moving every few years based on my father's assignments, I basically grew up in Northeast El Paso. After graduating from a local high school and UTEP, I was commissioned and served 11 years in the Army. My ultimate assignment brought me to Fort Bliss as an Operations Research/Systems Analyst in the Air Defense School's Directorate of Combat Developments. When deciding where to purchase our home, I was naturally drawn to Northeast El Paso. Checking with Region XIX, we determined the fantastic programs at Whitaker Elementary were right for our children. Thus, we moved to Castner Heights and quickly discovered the "jewel of the

CHNA Mission Statement

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

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.

northeast". Both our children graduated from Whitaker, Canyon Hills, and then Irvin High School. Both my wife and I appreciate the friendly, safe and secure environment of Castner Heights, and feel it is therefore important to give a little back to our community through service. This has led us to volunteer with the El Paso Humane Society Telethon and the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure. Additionally, this begins my fifth consecutive year as Vice President of your Board of Directors, where I believe we've made significant strides to improve our area. I look forward to working with the other enthusiastic, competent Board members and volunteers on your behalf.

Secretary Brandon Guzman

I am a native El Pasoan who grew up in Northeast El Paso and am a product of El Paso public schools, a proud graduate of Irvin High, and from the University of Texas at El Paso. I am a Field Representative for State Representative César Blanco who serves in the Texas House of Representatives. I have followed a family tradition of serving our country in uniform. I serve as a U.S. Marine Corps Reservist with Delta Battery 2/14. Dedicating myself to public service, I previously worked for Congressman Reyes in the U.S. House of Representatives providing constituent services for El Paso. My parents have always taught me the importance of hard work, education, and dedicating myself to others. I have lived in Castner Heights since 2002 and joined the Neighborhood Association in 2015.

Treasurer Christina Fenstermacher

I am proud to be a 5th generation El Pasoan. My grandparents moved to northeast more than 50 years ago and our family has lived out here ever since. I attended Crosby Elementary, Canyon Hills Middle, and am a graduate of Irvin High. I completed my first two years of college at UTEP and then transferred to UT Austin where I earned a degree in Government/Political Science. I went on to earn a Masters in Public Administration from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University, where I met my husband, a Pennsylvania native, who currently serves the City of El Paso as the Interim Director of Animal Services. After we married, we spent 10 years in Allentown, PA where I worked as the Executive Director of the Allentown Downtown Improvement District. Shortly after the birth of our first child, we moved back to El Paso because we knew it was the best place to raise our family. We chose Castner Heights because it was always the neighborhood of my envy growing up! We have two children enrolled at Whitaker although our oldest will be moving up to Canyon Hills next year. I have been blessed to be a stay-at-home mom for the past 10 years and have been a very active volunteer and parent advocate with the schools and EPISD. I have recently been appointed to the EPISD Facilities Advisory Committee which is the group of people who will be working on the construction of a bond election slated for November of 2016. I served as CHNA Treasurer back in 2011 and am happy to return to the Board. It is my hope CHNA can find a way to strengthen its bond with Whitaker Elementary, which has been struggling over the past several years. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Membership Kendra Bray

I grew up in Bellevue, Washington then served in the military for three years. 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 and daughter 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 fifteen 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 four years while our daughter was a member of the band. Most recently, I was the Castner Heights Neighborhood Association Treasurer. I believe the Castner Heights neighborhood is the best in El Paso.

**Next Scheduled
CHNA General
Membership
Meeting**

Thursday

April 21, 2016

6:30 PM

**Northeast
Regional
Command Center**

Member at Large <Vacant>

It is unfortunate that no one volunteered to run for position of Member-at-Large. This leaves a gap in the Board's ability to adequately serve you, the membership and disseminate information and fulfill the recruitment goals of the CHNA.

In Case You Missed It – Notes from January 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, January 21, 2016 at the Northeast Regional Command Center's Community Room, part of the Jethro Hills Municipal Annex located on 9600 Dyer Street. We began by conducting our normal business meeting with a review of the minutes from the previous General Membership meeting and our quarterly reports. Following the Treasurer's Report, a suggestion was made for the association to maintain a minimum balance of \$1,000 as that is the amount of the deductible for the CHNA liability insurance.

President Molinar then provided an update on the Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP), discussed opportunities to volunteer for CHNA activities and committees, our responsibilities now that we've renewed our Park Partnership with Todd Ware Park, and discussed UTEP's Project MOVE assistance in cleaning up our community. He then provided a brief status update on the abandoned property at 4849 Maureen Circle. Vice-President Bray then described a project to install six flag pole sleeves along Stahala Drive in Todd Ware Park to permit flying American Flags during the annual Veteran's Day Parade which goes through our neighborhood. While the City's Parks Department installed the sleeves at no cost to the association, we will have to purchase the flags and poles. The members present that night voted to remake our General Membership Meeting Notification Signs so long as we did not exceed \$200. President Molinar then presented the Annual Report as required by our bylaws. Treasurer Pam Perez gave a great explanation of the 2016 CHNA Budget approved by the Board of Directors.

We did not have a guest speaker due to time constraints in conducting our annual elections for the Board of Directors. Only three incumbents were running for reelection and we had a candidate for Treasurer. Initially, President Molinar was not going to run again, but following discussion and a nomination from the floor, he agreed to continue serving and was reelected along with Vice-President Bray, Secretary Guzman and Membership Officer Bray. Our newly elected Treasurer is Christina Fenstermacher. There were no candidates and no nominations for Member-at-Large, so that position is not filled.

The next scheduled General Membership Meeting is planned for 6:30 PM on Thursday, April 21, 2016 at the Northeast Regional Command Center.

POPPIES FEST 2016

SAVE the DATE

Saturday, April 2nd

10am- 4pm • Free Event

El Paso Museum of Archeology

Support Castner Range Becoming a National Monument!

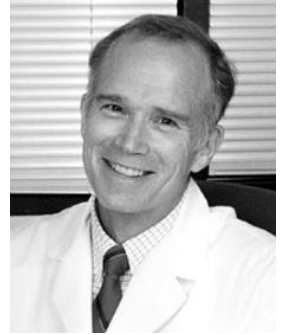
*Demand on
Doctors today
leave less time to
spend with
individual
patients.

Here are some
tips to maximize
your experience
and improve your
potential health
care.*

How to Interact With Your Doctor

By Dr. William F. Davitt III, Board Certified Eye MD & CHNA Business Member

Change seems to be part of life, and timely adjustments on our part can make life more enjoyable. That change includes our relationship with our care team, especially our doctors. It's no surprise that doctors accepting conventional health insurance have to see more patients to keep the lights on. That means less time with you. To get the same level of care, you must make the best use of that limited time. And you still might leave with less than satisfying answers to your questions. Some doctors hope that handouts and the Internet will fill the gap. But you can take steps to minimize your information void. Here's how.



- Have a friend or family member attend the discussion part of your visit. If each of you captures a different 50% of what your doctor says, you've got everything when you compare notes at home.
- If you have questions, write them on a 3X5 card in YES or NO answer format. Leave room for your doctor or nurse to write the answers. Present this card early in your visit.
- Be ready for your examination! DON'T wear restricting clothes with lots of buttons.
- If you're in for a new problem, have your answers ready. If you're concerned about pain for example, be ready with what the pain feels like [pressure, burning, stabbing, dull ache] and what makes it better or worse. Try to localize the pain with one finger.
- If you're seeing a new doctor, hand carry any referrals and special test results [MRI, CT, lab]. Also supply your medical history on hopefully one page to include past surgeries, tests, allergies, as well as current medications.
- Despite your best efforts, you may still have some questions. Solid Internet sites may help like WebMD.com and DiscoveryHealth.com. It's best to ignore sites trying to sell you something. If you still come up short, let your doctor's staff help.
- Always log your calls: when, what and who. If you don't get a return phone call in a couple of days, try once more, and maybe involve the office manager or head nurse. If you still don't get a response, you might look for another doctor.

In summary, you'll have less time with your care team, but with planning and proper execution, you can still manage your healthcare well. Now the who is this guy and why should I listen to him? The Cliff Notes version is I'm a board certified Eye MD and surgeon with 35 years of military and civilian experience. And I'm still learning!

Welcome To Our New Members This Quarter

During the months of November 2015, December 2015 and January 2016 there were no new memberships (individuals or businesses). In the month of February 2016 we welcomed the following:

(Individuals) Martha Amador, Angelica Diaz

(Businesses) Friends of the Northeast Library

Welcome!

We're here for you.



Full range of financial products and services, right here in your neighborhood.

Mortgage loans
Vehicle loans
Personal loans
Credit cards
Checking accounts
Savings accounts
Online and mobile banking

4545 Hondo Pass ♦ 751-9933 ♦ wsfcu.org

Equal Housing Lender
Federally Insured by National
Credit Union Administration



Your CHNA Membership makes you eligible to join White Sands Federal Credit Union

Great Truths That Little Children Have Learned

Source Unknown

- 1) No matter how hard you try, you can't baptize cats.
- 2) When you Mom is mad at your Dad, don't let her brush your hair.
- 3) If your sister hits you, don't hit her back. They always catch the second person.
- 4) Never ask your 3-year old brother to hold a tomato.
- 5) You can't trust dogs to watch your food.
- 6) Don't sneeze when someone is cutting your hair.
- 7) Never hold a Dust-Buster and a cat at the same time.
- 8) You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.
- 9) Don't wear polka-dot underwear under your white shorts.
- 10) The best place to be when you're sad is on Grandma's lap.



Nancy Reagan

Born:
July 6, 1921,
Flushing, New
York, NY

Died:
March 6, 2016,
Bel-Air, Los
Angeles, CA



First Lady Nancy Reagan – Thank You

By Joe Molinar, CHNA President

(If you would allow me to send a personal heartfelt message to former First Lady Nancy Reagan who passed away on Sunday, March 6, 2016).

I was serving in the United States Marine Corps and assigned to HMX-1 in Quantico, Virginia as a crew chief aboard Marine One, the presidential helicopter. On a Sunday afternoon and on a return trip from Camp David to the White House, I had the extreme privilege of crewing Marine One for the return trip.

Upon arrival to the south lawn of the White House, President Ronald Reagan, Mrs. Nancy Reagan, the White House physician, U.S. Secret Service Agents and others exited the helicopter. The presidential pilots and I waited for their safe clearance from the helicopter rotors and their return to their awaiting guests at the executive mansion.

Upon becoming airborne, I checked the back of the aircraft and discovered a small box on First Lady Nancy Reagan's assigned seat. I immediately became concerned and alerted the pilot. Both the pilot and the co-pilot chuckled and told me to open it. In my heart of hearts, I couldn't open it knowing Nancy Reagan had left a personal item behind. The small box belonged to Nancy Reagan and it needed to be returned to her. The pilot then ordered me to open the small box and being a good Marine, I opened it.

To my surprise, the small box contained a few cookies and a hand-written note from Nancy Reagan. I cannot remember the exact wording but it stated the helicopter appeared in immaculate condition and said "thank you Marine". I showed the pilots the box, the cookies and the note. We shared a hearty laugh and I felt such a relief. Yes, I ate a cookie or two while flying back to Quantico, Virginia.

I wish I would have saved the hand-written note from First Lady Nancy Reagan, it would have been a treasure for posterity.

Mrs. Nancy Reagan – You have joined your beloved Ronnie and may you rest in Peace.

Thank you for the cookies!

[In the photograph above, that's me, Mrs. Nancy Reagan and President Ronald Reagan.]

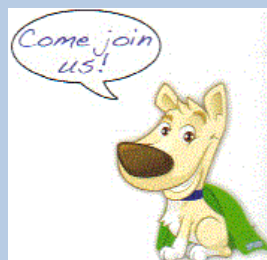


Great Truths That Adults Have Learned

Source Unknown

- 1) Raising teenagers is like nailing jelly to a tree.
- 2) Wrinkles don't hurt.
- 3) Families are like fudge ... mostly sweet, with a few nuts.
- 4) Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground.
- 5) Laughing is good exercise – it's like jogging on the inside.
- 6) Middle age is when you choose your cereal for the fiber, not the toy.





Poppies Fest 2016

By Deborah Culty, Event Coordinator

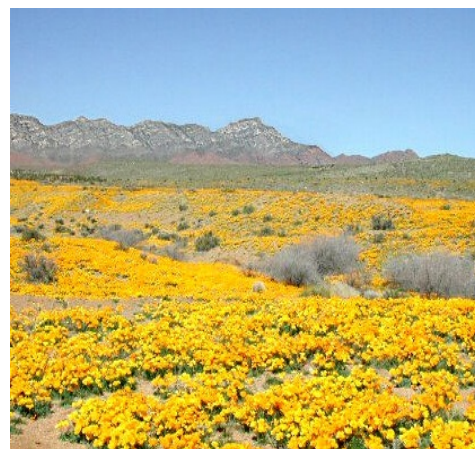
Please plan to attend and spread the word!

Poppies Fest 2016, Saturday, April 2nd, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM at the El Paso Museum of Archeology. FREE parking at EPCC Transmountain Campus (Diana Exit & US 54), FREE shuttle to and from event. Support Castner Range becoming a National Monument.

Guest Speaker; Congressman O'Rourke @ 11:30 AM

FREE EVENT Includes:

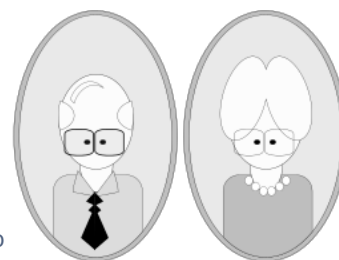
- ❖ Art Vendors
- ❖ Educational Exhibits
- ❖ Live Music
- ❖ Children's Activities
- ❖ Real-Live Wolf
- ❖ Hawk – El Paso Zoo
- ❖ Nature Tours
- ❖ Educational Demonstrations
- ❖ Food Vendors
- ❖ Wildlife Displays
- ❖ Archery



Great Truths about Growing Old

Source Unknown

- 1) Growing old is mandatory; growing up is optional.
- 2) Forget the health food – I need all the preservatives I can get.
- 3) When you fall down, you wonder what else you can do while you're down there.
- 4) You're getting old when you get the same sensation from a rocking chair you once got from a roller coaster.
- 5) It's frustrating when you know all the answers but nobody bothers to ask you the questions.
- 6) Time may be a great healer, but it's a lousy beautician.
- 7) Wisdom comes with age, but sometimes age comes alone.



El Paso's Earth Day 2016

By Romie Ruiz, Partnerships & Public Programs Coordinator, El Paso ESD

The City of El Paso's Environmental Services Department (ESD) is hosting the 6th Annual ESD's Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 23, 2016 at the City's Municipal Service Center, 7969 San Paulo. ESD's Earth Day Celebration is a free, outdoor event.

Captain Green, ESD's superhero mascot, and his trusty sidekick, Super Spud, invite the community to join us for a fun-filled day that celebrates our local community and environmentalism, featuring "green" educational booths, entertainment, food, vendors and much more. For more information, please contact Romie Ruiz at (915) 212-6057 or at esdearthday@elpasotexas.gov.



*Please
consider
patronizing
our
Business
Members*

CHNA Business and Selected Honorary Members



Bowling Family YMCA

5509 Will Ruth Ave
El Paso, TX 79924
915-755-9622
Theresa Hendrix – Branch Executive



Club 54

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

WM. DAVITT, EYE M.D.



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 – President
jkmelter@yahoo.com
www.ElPasoFlag.org



Friends of the NE Library

9600 Dyer, Suite 130
El Paso, TX 79924
915-212-0317



The King of Ice Cream

10049 Kenworthy St
El Paso, Tx 79924
915-449-9274
Francis Parrett



Legacy Construction

9865 Taj Mahal St
El Paso, TX 79924
915-860-2700
legacyconstruction@live.com



Northeast Dental Center

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



The Postal Solution

4717 Hondo Pass Dr, Suite 1-D
El Paso, TX 79904
915-755-5522
Rose Ortega, Owner

** new location **
** effective April 11, 2016 **



Sam's Club

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

*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!
www.castnerheights.org

Like us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/CHNAelpaso

Editor:
Mark-Thomas
Bray



Vineyard Crossroads Church

9109 Dyer St, Suite Z
El Paso, TX 79924
915-751-3034
David Riefenberg – Pastor



Western Tech

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



White Sands FCU

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



Myrna J. Deckert YWCA

9135 Stahala Dr
El Paso, TX 79924
915-519-0004

Show Your Pride – Wear CHNA!!

Keep up with the coolest fashion – AND support your association. Contact Kendra Bray (CHNA Membership Officer) at chna.elp.tx@gmail.com to order your CHNA branded polo shirt for \$20, t-shirt for \$15, hat for \$15 or visor for \$12. Various colors are available.

CHNA Logo goes here



CHNA Men's Polo Shirt



CHNA Unisex T-Shirt



CHNA Women's Polo



CHNA Baseball Style Hat



CHNA Visor



Castner Heights Neighborhood Association Membership Application

Date: _____

☐ New ☐ Individual - \$6 per year # of memberships @ \$6 each: _____
or ☐ Business - \$24 per year # of memberships @ \$24 each: _____
☐ Renewal ☐ Business - \$24 per year Total Amount Payable: _____

Name(s) of each individual/business: _____

Mailing Address: _____

El Paso, TX 799____ - _____

Phone: _____ Alternate Phone: _____

Email*: _____

(*Note that an email address is most important to receive all CHNA communications and news in a timely fashion.)

Your personal information will be used for CHNA business only and will not be shared with anyone.

Dues cover membership for one year from date of joining/renewal. Individual (any resident/land owner) = \$6 per calendar year per individual. Business = \$24 per calendar year.

Are you willing to volunteer or help out? ☐ Yes (We will contact you later.) ☐ No

Signature _____

If you are mailing this form, please make your check out to CHNA in the amount payable above and mail payment and this form to: CHNA Treasurer/Membership P.O. Box 24072 El Paso, TX 79914-0072

Your receipt will be mailed to you. If you have any questions email us: chna.elp.tx@gmail.com

Thank you for your commitment and active support!

CHNA Board Use Only

Treasurer: Receipt #: _____ Amount \$: _____ Check #: _____

Actions:

____ Recording of funds _____ Banking
____ Date application provided to Membership Officer

Membership Officer: Receipt #: _____ Amount \$: _____ Check #: _____

Actions:

____ Update Membership Roster _____ Add to Email Distribution _____ File
____ Prepare Welcome Letter _____ Prepare Membership Card _____ Mail Packet

Membership(s) valid from _____ to _____
____ Date dues and copy of application provided to Treasurer

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.