

# SEHNA

**Summer 2005**

**“Serving the Ridgecrest and Hyder Park areas of the Old Southeast Heights”**

## **About Southeast Heights Neighborhood Association**

SEHNA is dedicated to preserving and enhancing the quality and character of our neighborhoods. The most visible work of SEHNA is on Christmas Eve when we work with SEHNA residents to light the neighborhood with Luminarias. Our area is one of the most popular in the City as visitors come from all over the area to enjoy the traditional Christmas Eve display.

Much of SEHNA’s work is behind the scenes. In recent years SEHNA Board members have worked to keep a troublesome bar from opening on nearby Central, persuaded the City Council to undo the recommendations of a redistricting commission which would have split SEHNA between two City Council Districts, and worked with the City and the FAA to help moderate airport noise. SEHNA continues to work with the City on crime issues, zoning issues, strategic planning, parks upkeep and renovation, and abandoned or run down buildings in ours and surrounding neighborhoods.

## **Off-Leash Dog Parks**

At the SEHNA Board meeting on April 23, 2005, City of Albuquerque (COA) representatives presented an option for converting a north section of Burton Park to an off-leash dog park. This was in response to the public’s request for more such facilities. Residents in close proximity to Burton Park were sent letters of the meeting and several attended.

As background the city stated that it is considering the public’s request for more parks to minimize overuse of the 6+ current dog parks. Several have already been approved. They are looking for a committee of citizens to direct what the park would look like if Burton Park is selected. The discussion of Burton Park’s “fitness” for an off-leash dog park brought many comments from the people in attendance: The strip in question is too small and narrow, lack of parking, will ruin the turf, Chain link fence is unattractive/spoil look of park, and do not want to displace current usage (walking, running).

The general consensus from the public in attendance was that Burton Park is not well-suited for an off-leash dog park. Alternative proposals included:

Hyder Park – request for off-leash hours similar to Roosevelt Park

Using Open Space areas (COA response was that effect on wildlife in Open Space is #1 issue)

Using rough areas of golf courses

Consideration of open hours in all city parks – this would minimize traffic, parking, and overuse of a few dog parks

A permanent crew for maintenance of dog parks has been proposed in next year’s budget. “Mutt mitts” will be provided. COA is looking for citizen volunteers to be “eyes and ears” for maintenance and safety issues. Few problems have been reported in the existing dog parks. Colleen Franz (COA) said she would take this input for further discussion.

# Other SEHNA Issues

**Zoning & Conditional Use:** The Board voted to continue opposing *most* requests for zone changes for high walls in front setbacks as these change the essential character of the neighborhood. Each request is evaluated and extenuating circumstances are considered.

**Traffic Problems:** COA evaluated several of the streets in SEHNA for amount of traffic and speeding problems. A few streets were identified as being eligible for speed humps. The results of this evaluation can be found on the SEHNA website.

**Litter, weeds, abandoned vehicles and other zoning enforcement complaints:** Complaints forms are available on the COA and SEHNA websites for citizens to file complaints on these issues.

**Membership and finances:** SEHNA has approximately 200 members with 86 on the SEHNA Members email list. To get on the email list, please email [mjwillis@comcast.net](mailto:mjwillis@comcast.net). SEHNA has a balance of \$1268 which is used to pay for luminarias, newsletters, flyers, and distribution of flyers.

## Memorial Tree Donations

If you would like to remember a pet, a friend or a family member with a new tree in your favorite park, contact Michelle Herrera at City P&R. For \$200, the city will help you pick out a tree, decide where you want to plant it, and create a plaque. The city will plant the tree, place the plaque, and maintain the tree with watering and trimming for years to come. If you are interested in donating a tree to your favorite park or participating in the city's Park Volunteer Program, please contact Michelle Herrera at 857-8657.

## Learn more about SEHNA

Visit the SEHNA website

[www.sehna.org](http://www.sehna.org)

Website

Enter your comments  
And questions

## SEHNA BOARD 2004

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### COMMITTEES:

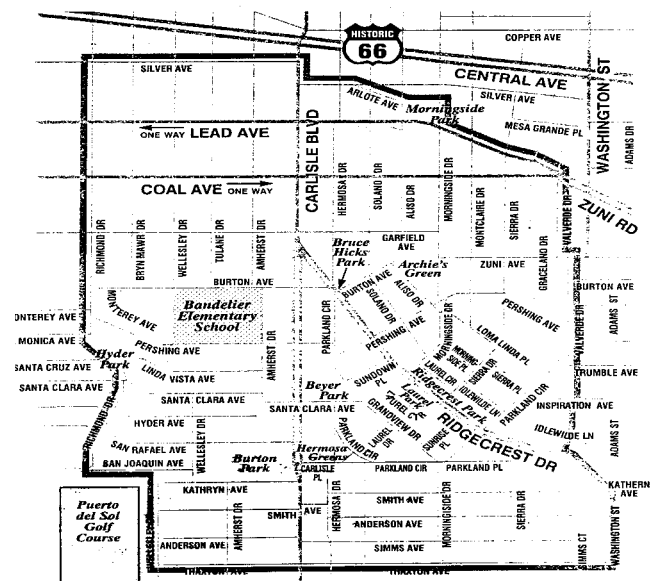
Mike Klinkmann, Coalition of University Neighborhoods representative  
 Debi Dodge, Luminarias  
 Kim Armano, Planned Growth Strategy  
 Mary Carter, Website  
 Mary Jane Willis, Memberships

## SEHNA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

New Membership  
 Renewed Membership  
 Learn more about SEHNA  
[www.sehna.org](http://www.sehna.org)



Household (\$10.00)  
 Apartment Complex Owner or Business (\$25.00)  
 For more information contact  
 Mary Jane Willis, 266-2374

Make checks payable to SEHNA.  
 Clip and mail this form along with your check to:  
 SEHNA Membership, P.O. Box 8711, Alb. NM 87198