



Mark Twain Neighborhood Association

July 2021

A blend of commercial and residential living

President's Message

Barbara Lohbeck

Dear Mark Twain Neighbors:
Here's looking forward to 2022!

Your Mark Twain Neighborhood Association (MTNA) Board wants you to know that we will return to our regular schedule for meetings beginning in January 2022. At that time, we will vote on all business items, including any amendments to our By-Laws and to membership renewals. We welcome new members, as well! Anyone is welcome to attend our meetings, regardless of membership status, though members do have the privilege of voting.

You may update your membership via the form in this newsletter, as well. MTNA Membership dues are \$10 per household, \$15 per business, and are important. This is how we are able to print our newsletters, help the Farmers Market, and maintain membership in the District 7 Coalition and more.

We are resuming our distribution of newsletters, this edition serving as a summary of current activities and issues, and January's edition reminding everyone about the meeting. Our July 2022 neighborhood meeting will mark our Election of Officers for the following two years. We welcome any nominations now, so that we can have the slate ready in good time.

We also encourage everyone to sign on to our neighborhood email network for up-to-date information from our Board; any city, county, and state information pertinent to our area; minutes from any meetings in which we are involved; and timely alerts specific to our Mark Twain neighbors. Many of you are signed onto Nextdoor, as well, which is a little broader in scope and a bit different from our own network. Of course, your email addresses remain private. To receive MTNA emails, contact our network administrator, Dottie, at dottie.w.hatchell@gmail.com.

Despite the challenges of this past year's COVID pandemic, your MTNA Board has been busy!

District 7 Coalition of Neighborhood Associations: MTNA maintains membership and attends meetings of the Coalition, as in past years and recently via Zoom. We will send along the minutes from these meetings to our email network signees.

San Pedro Initiative: There are exciting things happening in the endeavor to make San Pedro a neighbor friendly corridor. We are working with nearby neighbor associations and local businesses to boost our local economy, increase property values, and provide a safe and happy place to walk, ride bikes, frequent restaurants, and more.

Tom Bolack Dog Park: This is one of many city initiatives to provide a better place to play. There are plans to extend the walkway toward San Pedro and generally improve the landscaping. Diane Gibson recently held a "walk-through" for local residents.

Alvarado Park Farmers Market: We contribute a stipend to help make this a successful event in Alvarado Park, happening every Sunday, 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. They invite all to enjoy the garden produce, arts and crafts, music, and more. The Market will run through August.

Mark Twain Elementary School: Our schools have reopened, resuming classes in August. We will try to report back about how Mark Twain is doing.

Crime Issues: We hear updates from area APD Commands that we send along to you. Lock your cars and empty them of anything visible or valuable. Report any issues to police. It's been a busy time for APD, but they do try to attend to all concerns.

City Council: We want to thank Diane Gibson for her excellent job as our District 7 City Councilor. She has done so much for our area! She was elected to the City Council in October 2013 and is not seeking re-election.

As many of you know, there will be an election for a new Councilor in November, with at least six candidates. We hope you follow along with their campaigns and vote on Election Day. Hopefully, we will meet our new Councilor at our January Mark Twain Neighborhood Association meeting.

We hope you will join us at any of the MTNA Board meetings and certainly at our January meeting in 2022. Let us know if you would like to serve on the Board and consider a membership in our Neighborhood Association.

Again, let's look to a brighter new year! Be safe, stay healthy, and have a good remainder of 2021!

Barbara Lohbeck, MTNA President

Near Heights Community Planning Area Assessment Process

Joel C. Wooldridge

The Mark Twain neighborhood is part of the Community Planning Area designated by the City of Albuquerque as the Near Heights, bounded roughly by I-25 on the west, I-40 on the north, Wyoming Blvd. on the east, and the Sunport and Kirtland Air Force Base on the south. Of the 12 Community Planning Areas (CPAs) covering metropolitan Albuquerque, the Near Heights is the first to begin the assessment process, identifying assets and opportunities in discussion with community groups during February and March 2021. This was followed in the spring by analysis of that inventory and identifying actions and timelines for response to community needs, and on into summer by preparing a draft report. (Reference cabq.gov)

Led and coordinated by the City Planning Department, the assessment report for the Near Heights will describe findings across broad categories of community identity: land use, transportation, design, economic development, housing, conservation, and infrastructure including community facilities and services. It will also outline needs identified and recommended actions, priorities and initiatives by governmental entities, and public-private partnerships and community organizations including neighborhood associations. In this way, the report will supply community-based direction to future regulatory and funding decisions affecting the Near Heights.

Our neighborhood is fairly typical of many developed across the Near Heights in the 1940s to 1960s, comprised mainly of single family housing areas bordered by arterial streets lined with businesses and occasional multi-family housing projects and public schools, parks and such. Given

the age of this urban fabric and the changing nature of demand for land uses that drive economic vitality (e.g. retail, office and institutional uses), the Near Heights Assessment will become a very important instrument in documenting community needs and scheduling responses designed to stabilize and revitalize its neighborhoods. The MTNA will continue to monitor the assessment process and report and keep our members informed when available.

Joel C. Wooldridge, MTNA Vice-President

New Mexico Main Street Application Submitted!
Michele Benton

Mark Twain Neighborhood Association is one of four neighborhood associations who joined together and applied for the New Mexico Main Street Community Economic Development Project. MTNA is one of seven stakeholders along with Mile Hi NA, Alvarado Park NA , Fair West NA, Christy Mae’s Restaurant, Rio Grande Credit Union, and Mile Hi Farmers Market. New Mexico MainStreet (NMMS) is a community economic development program of the New Mexico Economic Development Department that has been in existence for the past 36 years.

The purpose of the project is to identify affordable improvements in our San Pedro corridor to attract

pedestrian activity and increase patronage of local businesses. Our corridor is defined as the area between Haines Blvd on the north and Central Ave on the south. The corridor also includes four blocks to both the east and west of San Pedro.

The program’s core objectives are revitalization and redevelopment. The mission is to develop local capacity to engage people, rebuild places, and grow the entrepreneurial, creative, and business environment resulting in economically thriving areas, greater business and employment opportunities, and a higher quality of life. Visit www.nmmainstreet.org to learn more about the New Mexico MainStreet Program.

We have received funding commitments from city councilors, Diane Gibson and Pat Davis.

We are excited about this opportunity to revitalize our community! We submitted our application in June and hope to hear back in July when announcements of selected projects are announced. We will let you all know as soon as we find out the results!

Michele Benton, MTNA Secretary

We live in a mixed residential/commercial area and have chosen to do so for the convenience, robustness, diversity, and verve it offers. We wish to welcome and support our business neighbors by patronizing them and recognizing their contribution. To do so, we have created a business membership that includes a mention in our newsletter.

Let’s Support These Neighborhood Businesses - They Support Us

Buffett’s Candies 7001 Lomas Blvd. NE 505-265-7731	Christy Mae’s Restaurant 1400 San Pedro 505-255-4740	EASI Therapy & Diagnostic Services 6020 Constitution NE Suite 4 505-255-5099
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Board Members	Street Reps
President: Barbara Lohbeck: (H) 505-254-0285, (Cell) 259-1932, bardean12@comcast.net Vice President: Joel C. Wooldridge: 505-266-6258 Joel.c.wooldridge@gmail.com Secretary: Michele Benton: 505-239-5237 mkbenton@swcp.com Treasurer: Clancey Tarbox: 262-0169. clanceyann50@yahoo.com Member-at-Large & Email network: Dottie Hatchell: (H) 265-4857 (Cell) 934-1750 Dottie.W.Hatchell@gmail.com Member-at-Large: Noreen Bladergroen: Nkb.bos@comcast.net	Arizona: Heidi Snow: 270-0804 eidimsnow@gmail.com California: Debbie Wesbrook 505-255-5429 dwesbrook@gmail.com Dakota: Betty Dinelli: (H) 265-3043 bdinelli@aol.com Florida: Laurie Monfiletto: 232-2789 monfo@aol.com Georgia: Royal Prentice: 259-0253 bqroyal@gmail.com Indiana: Joel Wooldridge: 266-6258 Joel.c.wooldridge@gmail.com Kentucky: Phyllis Pryor

Staying Connected

Find out what is going on in our neck of the woods, share information and alerts, meet friends, and welcome new comers. Check it out at <https://nextdoor.com/city/albuquerque--nm/>

AND

Ask Dottie Hatchell to be on her email list for updates on issues affecting our neighborhood. dottie.w.hatchell@gmail.com

2021 Membership Form

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Address: _____

Put me on the email news mailing list. Email: _____

Suggestions: _____

Payment Attached (Circle) **\$10 Resident** **\$15 Business** ***Treasurer’s use* Cash Check #** _____

Business members, if you would like to have a small ad in our newsletter, please send your business card or information that you would like to represent your business along with your check for \$15. Your ad will appear in each of the bi-annual newsletters.

Make check payable to Mark Twain Neighborhood Association (MTNA)
Mail to: Clancey Tarbox, 1405 Georgia St NE. 87110