

Vineyard Estates Newsletter



Neighborhood News for September 2009

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About this newsletter

The newsletter of the Vineyard Estates and Surrounding Subdivisions Neighborhood Association is published four times per year. Past newsletters may be found at <http://www.venaabq.org>. A plain text copy is mailed out to our E-mail list and a graphical version with photos is posted on the website. We do not sell advertising, but we welcome informational articles from local businesses and organizations. Contact Lee Ann Riesen (lafisk@swcp.com, 280-5792) for any newsletter related business.

Report from August annual meeting

The annual meeting of the Vineyard Estates Neighborhood Association occurred on Thursday, August 27 at 7 PM.

A slate of directors for 2009 - 2010 was elected. They were Lee Ann Riesen from Ventura Village, Tony Huffman, Pat Verrelle, Mike Gibson and

Regina Barela from Vineyard III, Aaron Brundage from La Cueva Tierra, and Elizabeth Meek from Desert Vista. Returning for the second year of a two year term are Donna Daniello from Carrington, Dick Bothwell from Vineyard I, and Michelle Garza from Vineyard Court Estates. Ideally we would like to have one board member from each subdivision, so if you do not see your subdivision's name on this list, please consider joining the VENA board of directors. We can make interim appointments before next August's annual meeting.

Dr. Suga, MD, introduced himself. Dr. Suga and his partner Dorsey Beggs, MD, have just established their pediatric practice and taken up residence in the new Alameda Business Park (Alameda just east of Barstow). Dr. Suga also contributed an article for this newsletter.

There was an update from the traffic committee about meetings regarding the possible closing of Signal, and traffic concerns along Greenarbor in Vineyard I/III and Hampton in Desert Vista/Carrington. This is discussed in a separate article in this newsletter.

Larry Velasquez, the NMDOT District 3 Engineer attended the meeting to address concerns about the work that has been done at Paseo del Norte and Ventura. Larry explained that the additional turn lane from north-bound Ventura to west-bound Paseo Del Norte had been added in anticipation of the increased traffic flow into and out of the new Walgreens. The double left turn lane allows twice the amount of traffic to pass in a given amount of time. Larry said that he would have the NMDOT staff evaluate the timing of the signal for the south-bound Ventura to east-bound Paseo Del Norte and take action as necessary.

Concern was also brought up on the through traffic lane alignment for north-bound Ventura through Paseo Del Norte. Larry said he would have his staff take a look at the lane delineation and striping and configuration. There was also a question about getting a crosswalk across Paseo Del Norte for pedestrian traffic. Larry said he

would have this looked into also, but crosswalks across a state highway is generally discouraged unless there is real need.

Progress of Greenarbor/Hampton traffic committee

The traffic committee has met with City staff to discuss cut-through traffic on Hampton (in Desert Vista and Carrington) and the fate of Greenarbor if the Greenarbor barricade is removed. Originally the committee wanted to find out if residents would be interested in getting permanent barricades in place at the location of the Greenarbor barricade and on Hampton just west of Mendocino. But the city does not use barricades for traffic control and said that this would not be possible.

We will discuss other alternatives for slowing and reducing traffic along Greenarbor and Hampton at a special general meeting in October. Stay tuned for the date and time of this meeting. This is a very important meeting, and we need a good turnout. We need to make a decision that the majority of our neighbors will be happy with.

Status of Signal Road between Barstow and Ventura

The City Engineer, Richard Dourte, has confirmed rumors that there is a likelihood of Signal being closed between Carrington and Ventura. This will not happen without neighborhood input. And it will not happen without putting a plan in place to prevent Hampton (one of our residential streets just south of Signal) from becoming the next Signal.

This segment of Signal was not built according to the City's standards for roads. It is a dirt road that was paved over by AMAFCA (Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroya Flood Control Authority) several years ago at the request of residents. It does not have curbs, drainage or sidewalks, and there is no plan for these improvements to be made.

The land north of this part of Signal is intended to be a residential subdivision. The Desert Vista homes which back into Signal now, would someday have this subdivision behind their back walls instead if Signal is closed.

Mr. Dourte said that if Signal remains, it will be right-in and right-out only. Ventura will have a median so turning left onto Signal when driving northbound would be impossible. The plan is for Alameda between Barstow and Ventura is to be a four lane road with a median, straight and flat, and with traffic signals at Ventura and Barstow.

From past experience, he believes that drivers will eventually want to use Alameda to pass between Barstow and Ventura, and that Signal will not be missed.

VENA will be having a special general membership meeting, most likely in early October, to discuss traffic flow in Vineyards I, II and III and Desert Vista and Carrington. We also want to hear your thoughts on the possible closure of this section of Signal. These two issues need to be considered as a whole.

Welcome High Desert Pediatrics

A new pediatric clinic has joined the neighborhood. Dr Beggs and Dr Suga are excited to announce the opening of High Desert Pediatrics. Located at 8650 Alameda Blvd between Barstow and Ventura, High Desert Pediatrics specializes in the care of newborns, infants, children, and adolescents. As the winter cold season approaches, High Desert Pediatrics offers a convenient alternative to the emergency departments and urgent cares with same day appointments for ill visits. Dr Beggs and Dr Suga are board-certified in Pediatrics and have over 18 years of combined experience in the care of acutely ill children as well as general pediatric care. Office hours are 8 AM to 5 PM Monday thru Friday and Noon to 5 PM Saturday. High Desert Pediatrics accepts all major insurances and medicaid. For more information, call (505) 255-1866 or visit the website at



<http://www.highdesertpediatrics.com>



Recycle your aluminum for VENA

VENA only has two sources of income. The most important is the \$20 per year that each VENA member pays. The other source is our income from recycling aluminum cans. There are two places where you can drop off aluminum for recycling, 8415 Vintage in Vineyard III, and 9036 Village in Ventura Village.

If you can serve as a drop-off site for aluminum donations, please let us know. We would especially like to find a drop-off site in Carrington.

Please save your aluminum to support the neighborhood association. We use these funds to pay for postage and printing, and for beautification projects.

Update on new Walgreens

The Walgreens in Ventura Plaza (southwest of Paseo del Norte and Ventura) is moving along.

Landscaping is going in and interior work is being done. We have not heard of an opening date, but look for it to open sometime in October.

The rest of the shopping center is on hold pending a pick-up in the economy.

Update on 9100 Holly

The small L-shaped shopping center that was to be built just north of Albertson's is not going to happen. The owner was not able to make a go of it, and the bank repossessed the property.

At VENA's request the City removed the fence and cleaned up the trash and weeds on the lot.

Progress on cleaning up of problem properties

We reported on two problem properties in the last newsletter.

The triangular lot north of Albertson's was

cleaned up by the City recently. Thanks are due to board member Michelle Garza who kept in contact with the City zoning enforcement officer until this was accomplished. This land was to be home to a small shopping center, but it has been repossessed by the bank, and the City's expense in cleaning it up will appear as a lien on the property.

The Vineyard I home and lot just east of Desert Ridge Middle School that was covered in weeds has been cleaned up and is now on the market.

Tierra Morena administrative ruling

Paul Newman, the owner of Tierra Morena has agreed to plant the trees along the Signal frontage that were specified in the original site plan. A dispute occurred when he received an administrative amendment last December to omit the trees, without neighborhood input. It is resolved now.

Join VENA today

It is time to download the membership form at <http://www.venaabq.org/2009Membership.pdf> and join VENA, if you have not already.

VENA is a voluntary neighborhood association. We receive no funds other than membership fees and some money from recycling aluminum.

We need you to join this year, for only \$20. These funds will be used to attack the weeds in our area. Our priority will be to spray sidewalks around subdivisions, subdivision entrances, and medians. The City does not treat these areas for weeds. So if we don't, we must pull them out by hand, or just put up with them.

Any remaining funds will be used for mailings, and then for other beautification projects.

Please join today. The membership year runs from August 1 2009 through July 31, 2010.



Announcement from Hope Episcopal Church

HOPE+IN+THE+DESERT EPISCOPAL CHURCH (<http://www.hopeepiscopal.org>), 8700 Alameda N.E., is offering two book studies for adults:

Following Jesus is an 8-week study on Sunday mornings from 9:00 to 9:45 a.m. This study is particularly helpful to the new Christian or anyone who wants to know what Jesus meant when He said, *Follow Me!*.

Experiencing God is an 8-week study on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. This course helps deepen one's relationship with God and discover the special place for each person in His kingdom.

Other activities include:

- + Monthly Taize healing service on the third Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.
- + Women's Bible Study Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m.
- + Men's Monthly Fellowship
- + Youth programs (biking, hiking, etc.)
- + Intercessory Prayer Group
- + Sunday child care
- + Garage Sale planned for Oct. 24

+ *High Tea* planned for Dec. 5 or 12. Women can sponsor a table or attend with friends or neighbors. Call the church for specifics, or Carol Smith 298-4898.

+ PLUS a Thanksgiving dinner and house party. Check the website for details: www.hopeepiscopal.org, or call (505) 830-0572. Email the church at hopeepiscopal@yahoo.com.
+ The church will have a full schedule of Christmas and Holiday events. Watch this newsletter and The Albuquerque Journal for information.

How to deal with problem properties

If you have a property near your home which is covered with weeds, or has a dog barking at night, or is storing toxic chemicals outside, you have a problem property. If you have spoken to the neighbor without success, or if you are not comfortable speaking to the neighbor, please call *311* to report the problem.

They will give you a tracking number for your issue. Save this number, and call back four weeks later if the issue has not been resolved. By this point the neighbor has probably received a citation, but not complied with the citation. Tell the *311* operator that a final notice is needed.

If you still see no progress four weeks after your second call, then call *311* again. Tell them the neighbor has ignored the final notice.

If you find that nothing has improved within four weeks of your third call, please contact the neighborhood association. We will contact the zoning compliance office for our area and stay in touch with her until the problem is resolved.

Vineyard Estates Neighborhood Association
2009-2010 VENA Membership
A Community Volunteer Association
Annual Membership Dues \$20.00 per Home
<http://www.venaabq.org>

Name (s) _____

Address _____

Phone (Home) _____

Phone (Work) _____

Email _____

Neighborhood (Select One)

- Carrington
- Desert Ridge Place (HOA)
- Desert Vista (HOA)
- La Cueva Tierra
- Los Vigils (HOA)
- Ocotillo (HOA)
- Tierra Morena
- Ventura Village
- Villa Firenze
- Vineyard I
- Vineyard II
- Vineyard III
- Vineyard III - A
- Vineyard IV
- Vineyard IV - A
- Vineyard IV - B
- Vineyard V
- Vintner Court Estates
- Vineyard Court Estates
- Wilshire Estates

Please join our e-mail list by signing up at <http://www.venaabq.org>. Quarterly newsletters are sent out on the e-mail list and are available at our website. We will deliver a paper copy of the newsletter to residents who are not computer users.

Please send me a paper copy of the quarterly newsletter

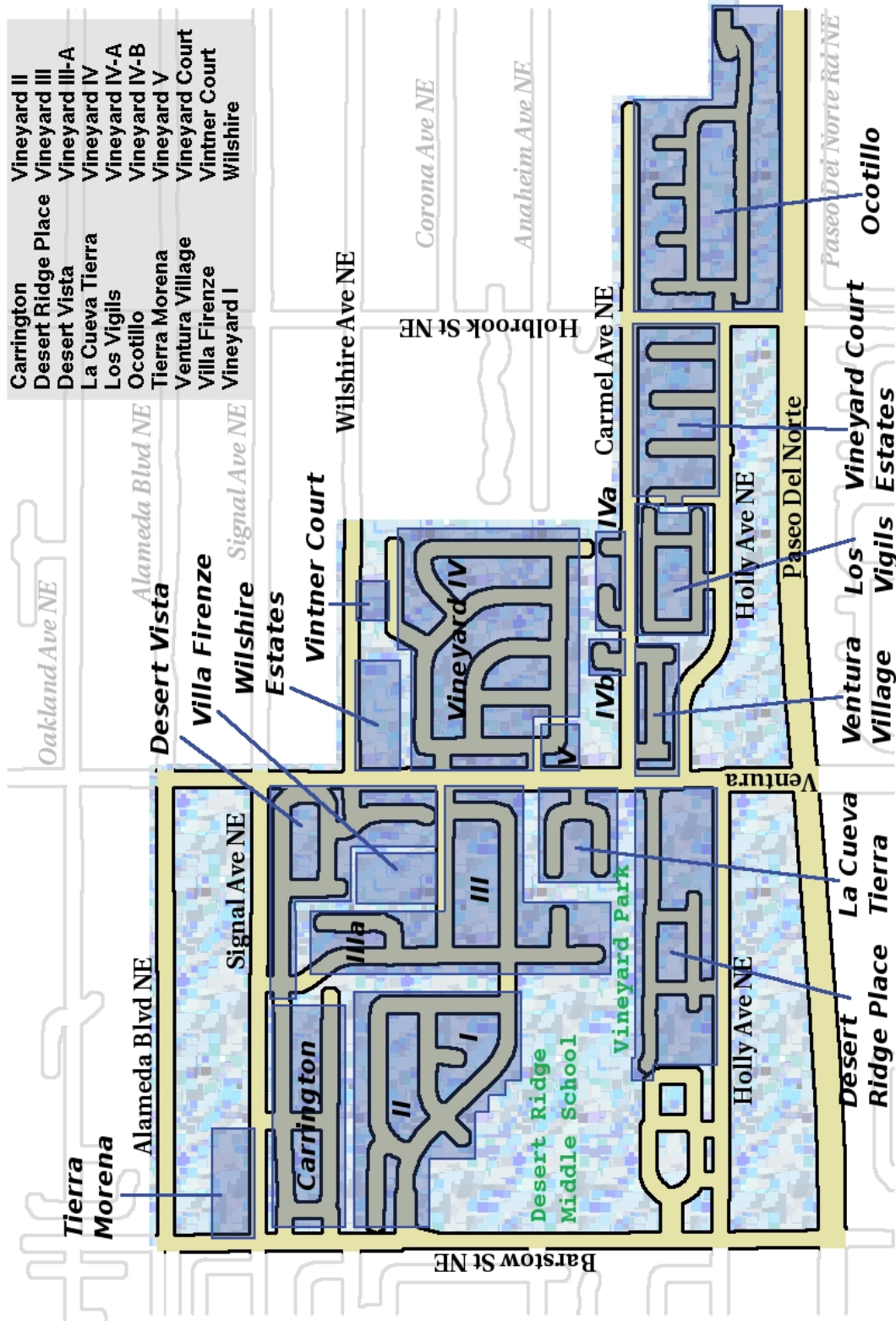
Membership is renewable annually.

Membership is valid from 08/01/2009 through 08/01/2010

Please make checks payable to VENA in the amount of \$20.00

Remit to: Tony Huffman, VENA Treasurer
8912 Corona Ave NE
Albuquerque, NM 87122-2666
505-823-2456

Vineyard Estates Neighborhood Association Communities



VENA

Vineyard Estates
Neighborhood Association
8912 Corona Ave., NE
Albuquerque, NM 87122

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Vineyard Estates Neighborhood Newsletter
Vineyard Estates Neighborhood Association
Special General Membership Meeting
Invitation

- Date:** October 2009, date to be determined
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: Covenant United Methodist Church 8510 Wyoming Blvd. NE (Southeast Corner of Wilshire & Wyoming)
Residents: VENA boundaries include homes within the City of Albuquerque that are north of Paseo del Norte, east of Barstow, and west of Eubank
Speakers: Topic: Signal, Hampton and Greenarbor