



<http://www.mountainparkelpaso.org/>

Mark your calendar!

Mountain Park Community Association Annual Meeting

6:30 p.m. on March 9, 2009

Trinity Presbyterian Church social hall (corner of Magnetic and Titanic)

Please attend the MPCA annual meeting. It will be your opportunity to hear and be heard. Meeting topics will include:

- Discussion from city officials and police department
- Welcoming of new members
- What your dues provide, what they are intended for, and should they be made mandatory?
- Protecting your views
- Pending legal activities
- Voting for Board Members (ballot included in this newsletter)
- Financial report
- Installation of the gazebo for Roadrunner Park
- Covenant violations
- Update on Titanic Avenue traffic-calming devices
- Web site
- Telephone directory
- Upcoming events
- Programs for elderly residents

Please attend the meeting. If you need more information, or if you need transportation for the meeting, please contact President Larry Kimmich at 240-1744.

The President's Corner

Year 2008 was great for Mountain Park. Our membership in the Mountain Park Community Association grew two-fold; Roadrunner Park has many new plants; and our commitment to maintain our covenants continues to thrive.

We had a successful White Elephant sale in October; thanks to all who donated items. Proceeds went to preserve and maintain our public areas and to support to the Child Crisis Center located on Hondo Pass. Our holiday lighting ceremony in December was well attended and enjoyed by many.

Let me remind you that our annual neighborhood is scheduled for March 9, 2009, 6:30 p.m. at the Trinity Presbyterian Church, 8001 Magnetic. Please plan on attending. Our guest speakers are Mountain Park resident Mayor John Cook, City Council Representative Melina Castro, and Senior Planner for Traffic-Engineering Kimberly L. Forsyth. An officer from the El Paso Police Department's Northeast Command Center is also scheduled to be with us. We will discuss many important matters and elect board members to fill vacant positions. So please come and please bring a neighbor!

Larry Kimmich

Roadrunner Park Update

Most of the little plants and trees are still dormant, but I see signs of life returning. We have the sprinkler system, installed by Gilbert Diola, up and running, and although we don't water as much in the winter, all bushes need some water all year. If you notice any sprinkler maintenance issues, please contact Gilbert at 346.3127.

We were hoping to have the gazebo installed by now, but hopefully that will be accomplished within the next couple of months.

I would like more gravel added to the south side of the park. This also helps control the weeds.

We are hoping to have more activities in the park this summer. Weddings and parties are wonderful in this setting and with the new gazebo, it would be beautiful for any special party.

How do you feel about adding outdoor lighting? Low-voltage lights are beautiful, but the problem is vandalism. Let me know your thoughts on that. We could use any donations you care to make!

Barbara Hyland
"Park Ranger"

COVENANTS, CONSTRUCTION, DESIGN COMMITTEE, LEGAL ACTION

MPCA Design Committee

The purpose of this message is to alert Mountain Park property owners of their responsibilities under the Protective Covenants that were approved in 2000.

Everyone who owns property in Mountain Park is automatically a member of the Mountain Park Community Association (MPCA). The Amended Covenants of 2000 are the guidelines which assist the MPCA in retaining property values, maintaining property, and controlling runaway construction.

Every owner needs to read the Protective Covenants and understand the meaning behind each portion. At the moment, the Covenants are relatively clear-cut; however, some portions are open to interpretation. Those are ultimately resolved through skillful negotiation or through the judicial system. An example of interpretation is Part D-7 which describes Protection of View. The wording is that “each owner shall protect the views of all adjoining owners.” The paragraph goes on to talk about shrubs, bushes, and trees. However, all structures, walls, and temporary buildings are included in this.

Further in the Covenants are provisions for construction and the need for the Design Committee to become involved with your plans. Please read Part F Design Committee, which provides that prior to any construction, a home owner must provide plans, specifications, drawings, and other information, etc., which the owner contemplates is the need for improvement of his/her property. These instruments must be reviewed and discussed with the owner and surrounding neighbors before any permits are requested from the City of El Paso. The committee must render a decision within 30 days and construction can go forth or some other action taken before construction can begin. **The Design Committee must approve plans before any construction can begin.**

If construction begins without approval from the Design Committee, the following would take place:

- If the owner has been advised to stop construction to allow the Design Committee to perform its duty and agrees, construction can begin after the 30-day period ends as provided in Part F-4.
- If the owner ignores the instructions of the Design Committee and continues construction without approval, the Design Committee can request the MPCA to take legal action which could result in a Court Injunction against the owner, with costs paid by the owner and in extreme circumstances, the owner may be instructed to remove the structure.
- If a structure defined in Part D-7 interferes with a neighbor or neighbors' view(s), the offending structure, bush, or tree must be moved, trimmed, or placed elsewhere; negotiation is the key to resolution in this respect.

Close observance of the MPCA Protective Covenants can only result in each property owner living in harmony with neighbors.

Dan Schulte
MPCA Design Committee

Roadrunner Park Christmas Decoration

On Saturday, December 13th, several dedicated volunteers assembled at Roadrunner Park to decorate the park with Christmas lights for the annual lighting ceremony and Santa's arrival a week later. Those who decorated the park included

- Ann James
- Willie Mae Falcon
- Joe Kasper
- Spencer Kasper
- Van English
- David McGurk
- Handymen extraordinaire Gilbert Diola and Natalio "Nat" Hernandez, who also tend the park and many residential lawns in the neighborhood

Ann James oversaw the park's transformation, and she and her husband Forrest put in extra hours after much-needed additional lights were donated. The ever-ready Gilbert was the "go-to guy," fixing some of the light problems that day and later that week. Van and David brought Starbucks coffee and bakery-fresh cookies to refresh the hard-working volunteers.

Holiday in the Park

On December 21st, "Holiday in the Park" was held. When illuminated at 6:00 p.m., the park was a wondrous sight to see. When the multitude of lights caused the breakers to flip, the problem was solved by unplugging some lights. Delicious refreshments, including cookies, chips and salsa, doughnuts, cakes, hot cider, hot chocolate, and coffee, were provided by residents. Marion Treat's selection of holiday CDs provided festive background music.

Santa Claus arrived early to be welcomed by a crowd of excited children of all ages, and he provided a gift for each delighted one.

All in all, it was a fun evening with wonderful weather and neighbors meeting each other. And that's what it's all about: being a community, looking out for each other, celebrating joyous times together in our beautiful neighborhood.

Christmas Decorating Contest

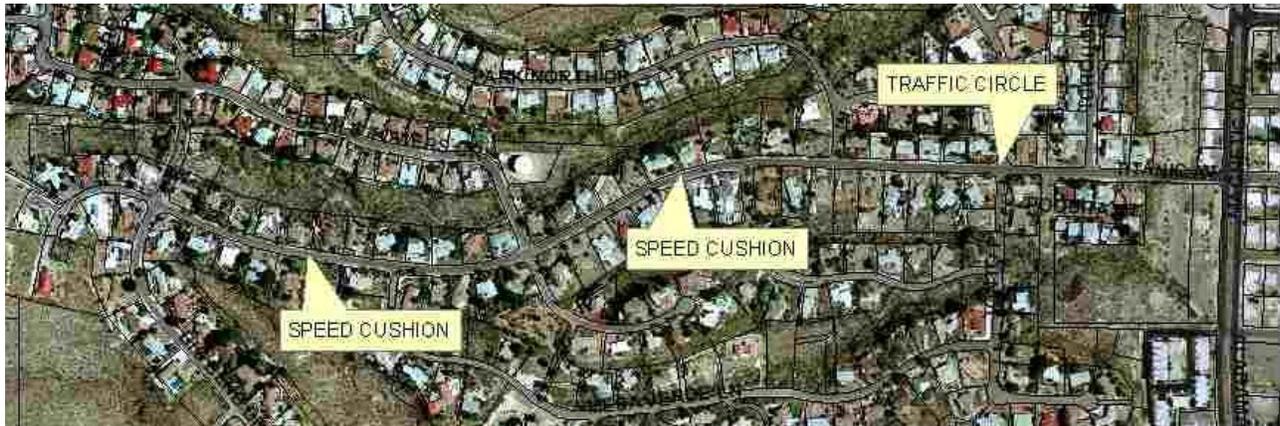
Winners of the Christmas decorating contest were announced at the Holiday in the Park party, and they were:

- The Martinez Family of 3128 Titanic: first place, a large holiday gift basket
- The Orona Family of 3232 Titanic: second place, a medium holiday gift tower
- The Rhey Family of 7825 Cedar Breaks: third place, dinner for two at Kiki's
- The Cabral Family of 8000 Big Bend: honorable mention, dinner for one at Kiki's

Traffic Calming Solutions for Titanic

On December 9th, interested neighbors met with city officials and police officers to discuss traffic solutions for Titanic Avenue. Previously, the city conducted a study and determined that Titanic needed some sort of speed control device. Drivers, including some residents, were found to speed up and down Titanic. Since children, pedestrians, pets, and wildlife have a presence on the street, it is imperative to slow the drivers down.

The city proposed installing on Titanic one traffic circle at Tonto and two speed cushions further up the street.



The logistics of both traffic-controlling devices were discussed, and the majority of the residents present voted *against* the traffic circle. The city will instead install another speed cushion between Tonto and Magnetic and/or install a sign to warn of the upcoming stop sign at the bottom of the hill.

It is expected that the traffic calming devices will make for a safer Titanic Avenue.

Service Recommendations

The following individuals and businesses are being recommended by MPCA members. If you have a contractor, business, or individual who has provided you excellent service, please contact Newsletter Editor David McGurk at 214.636.2326.

Gilbert Diola, telephone 346.3127; email gdiola@hotmail.com. Landscaping, gardening, lawncare, and maintenance. Gilbert is also the landscaper for Roadrunner Park.

J&J Home Maintenance, Joe Johnson, telephone 494.2779. Home-repair, maintenance, and remodeling services.

El Paso Window and Doors: See business card on last page

Kane Kerby of Swanson Builders: Excellent cabinetry, renovation and all around construction-and he is one of our neighbors. Recommended by Dan Schulte

Board of Directors

President	Larry Kimmich
Vice-President	Vacant
Secretary	Judy Gahan
Treasurer	Robert Hyland
Welcome Committee	Melody Dunn
Arrangements & Calendar of Events	Beverly Clevenger
Membership Promotion	Casey Rowntree
Roadrunner Park Committee	Barbara Hyland
Crime Watch, Beautification, & Covenant Enforcement	Van English
Senior Citizen Program	Willie Mae Falcon
Design Committee	Kane Kerby, Leon Ruddock, Dan Schulte, Bryan McCaghren

Miscellaneous

Newsletter: If you have articles of interest that you would like considered for the newsletter, please contact David McGurk at 214.636.2326 (sorry, haven't gotten a local number yet).

MPCA Dues of \$50 per household are due April 1, 2009. Although they are voluntary, please know that your dues pay for any necessary legal actions to protect Mountain Park, the upkeep and utilities of Roadrunner Park, neighborhood gatherings, covenant enforcement, legal fees, postage, printing, and many other incidentals. Please donate to your community!

Web site: Check out the Mountain Park Community Association Web site, thanks to Brian Wancho! <http://www.mountainparkelpaso.org/>

Pick It Up! With the weather warming up, soon there will be more people walking their four-legged friends. Remember: It is both a city ordinance and an MPCA Covenant to curb your dog. That means "pick up the poo." Be kind to those who walk behind you – literally!

Daylight Savings Time starts on March 8, 2009, the day before our annual meeting. Please take that into consideration when making plans to attend.

BALLOT

ELECTION OF MOUNTAIN PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS

(Please circle up to three names. One ballot per household.)

Please seal your ballot and bring it to the Annual Meeting or mail it to President Larry Kimmich at 3106 Mesa Verde. So that households are ensured of their vote, please also complete the address information:

Ann James

Van English

Brian Wancho

Write-in Candidate: _____

Your Address: _____

Board Candidate Biographies

Van English founded and served as first president of the Northwest Place Neighborhood Association in Dallas before moving to El Paso in the summer of 2008. Van has volunteered with the MPCA Welcome Committee and several other MPCA projects. A freelance writer-editor and interior-design consultant, Van works from his home on Titanic Avenue. His flexible schedule, daily presence in the neighborhood, and keen interest in the sustainable preservation of our community make him an ideal candidate for the MPCA Board of Directors.

Ann James has served previously on the MPCA board as Secretary. She has been on the board for a total of three years. She has been a tireless volunteer with Roadrunner Park and many other neighborhood projects, and she would like to contribute even more to the MPCA with your vote. Ann lives on Titanic Avenue.

Brian Wancho has lived in Mountain Park with his wife Barbara and their four children for the past five years. He designed, created, and published the MPCA Web site and has agreed to serve on the Board if elected. He lives on Cedar Breaks.

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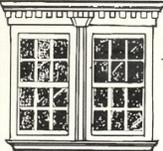


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From the Treasurer

“We’re looking out for you.” So goes the slogan of a cable news personality. Your board of directors has been involved with, among other things, opposition to covenant violations and the successful outcome in maintaining the open space on Mesa Verde, which was threatened with construction of homes below the standards of Mountain Park. As you can see from the financial statement, these efforts have caused a severe drain on our reserves. We urge you to make your annual contribution this year to aid us in our efforts. Thanks to all of those who have supported the Association this past year.

Robert Hyland

MOUNTAIN PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

3/1/2008 through 2/7/2009

Income Statement		Balance Sheet as of 2/27/09	
Category	Total		Account Total
INCREASE IN EQUITY		Assets	
book sale	276		
contributions	5,715	Bank and Cash Accounts	
Investment Income	515		
newsletter ad	350	Bank of the West Banking	39,297
park sale	398		
Total increase in equity	7,254	Total Bank and Cash Accounts	39,297
DECREASE IN EQUITY		Other Assets	
attorney's fee	19,671	Court Bond	500
book sale expense	54	MP Pool note	4,000
liability insurance	1,873	Roadrunner Park	3,088
Park Expenses	4,170		
PO Box	42	Total Other Assets	7,588
postage and printing	1,100		
safe deposit box	15	Total Assets	46,885
Real estate taxes	275		
Total decrease in equity	27,199		
Total	-19,945		