

CANYON NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, INC.

November 2002

CITY COUNCIL SUCCESS

The council joined the Planning Commission in ruling that Fred Kline does not have an easement over City property to create a new road crossing the Dale Ball trails. Our attorney, Daniel Yohalem, did an excellent job of explaining the facts. We showed up in force during the many times the hearing was rescheduled, with over 100 members present for the final decision.

Kline has requested that the state court review the decision. The City Attorney's office will defend the Council decision, and the Association will participate courtesy of Daniel, who is proceeding with this stage pro bono. We are raising money to pay past expenses.

For information contact Richard Ellenberg 992-1386.

VOTES TO REMEMBER

Three of the four council members who represent portions of the Canyon supported us. **Patti Bushee, David Pfeffer, and Karen Heldmeyer.** The one disappointment voting against us was **Rebecca Wurzbarger.**

TRAFFIC: TOO MUCH TOO FAST

We all know of close calls as some vehicles speed up our narrow roads. The City, after much pressure, agreed to do traffic counts to see if we qualified for traffic calming. Unfortunately, they did one count during a snowstorm, and one at an intersection where no one speeds unless they are running the stop sign.

Even these counts demonstrated that our streets are overused and driven too fast to be safe. While this qualifies us for traffic calming, our priority for funding is low. So we have secured a third count, which should increase our prospects.

The traffic calming measures proposed would be gentle speed humps, not bumps. These are designed to allow vehicles to pass smoothly at the speed limit, but to disrupt speeders. If the City does not allocate us funds, the speed humps will cost \$3,000.00 each. The Nature Conservancy and Foothills Trails Trust, Inc. (Dale Ball trails) have each offered to pay for one.

For information/ to Help contact Barbara Cleaver 989-8955.

SANTA FE RIVER

The Santa Fe River has had a terrible year with almost no water. The trees and animals that are important to this Canyon are in trouble. The Association participates in efforts to assist the River. We are represented on CRCC, which is an umbrella organization of all the groups interested in the River. CNA is also working on some specific projects. One is the restoration of about 1/4 of a mile of the River between Upper Canyon and Cerro Gordo Roads in conjunction with Audubon, the Santa Fe Conservation Trust, and The Watershed Association. Albert Durand will donate conservation easements for this project.

The River has been straightened over the years. This causes water to rush down it, eroding banks and habitat. The River should meander, slowing the water and avoiding the erosion.

The arroyos feeding the river suffer a similar problem. Before logging, they were full of downed trees and other debris. This would slow and contain rainwater. The retained water would foster riparian habitats, and prevent erosion by fast-moving torrents. Today our arroyos are water speedways with no chance for vegetation to take hold. We plan to create a demonstration project in Arroyo Polay, building catch dams to slow the water, retain topsoil, and permit plants to take hold. This will be

of immense benefit to the River because it will moderate the inflow of water, lessening erosion and moderating the impact of storms.

For information/ to help contact Albert Durand 982-3211.

THREATS TO OPEN SPACE

A lot of building is still possible in the Canyon under current zoning without special exceptions or zoning variances. Vigilance is required whenever a developer seeks to increase density. With that in mind, we have worked with the conditions for the proposed Martinez subdivision off Cerro Gordo, and informed those thinking of rezoning property at 1596 Canyon Road of our strong opposition.

Three major parcels owned by PNM and private parties above the Santa Fe Canyon Preserve and up Aztec Springs could be developed or placed under conservation easements. The outcome will make a huge difference to the Canyon.

For information/ to help contact Karen Bailey 983-9714.

Directors: Peter Wolf, President 920-5731; Karen Bailey, Vice-President 983-9714; Sandor Brent, Secretary 982-8643; Richard Ellenberg, Treasurer 992-1396; Albert Durand 982-3211; David Milliken 982-9424; Robert Findling 988-1542 x220; Joan Candler 992-0815; Barbara Cleaver 989-8955; Bill Murphy 989-1003; George Johnson 989-4490; Mike Cruz 982-5385

