



UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER :: WINTER 2018

*** UHA ANNUAL MEETING ***

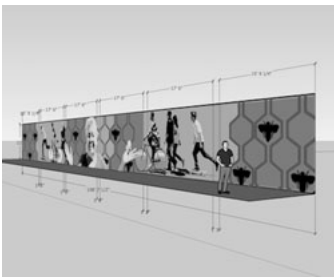
3-5 p.m. SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2018

at The Outpost Performance Space, 210 Yale Avenue, SE

Please join us for our annual meeting. Councilor Pat Davis, representatives from the Mayor's Office, members of APD, and members of the current board for the University Heights neighborhood association will be attending. This is great opportunity to meet your neighbors, and some of representatives, and get involved with issues affecting our neighborhood. We'll also elect our board for the upcoming year.

Silver Avenue Mural: It's Coming!

March installation is scheduled for the Silver Avenue mural on the south face of the PNM substation (NW corner at Cornell), a joint project of the City of Albuquerque Public Arts program, the PNM foundation, and UHA. Site preparation is already underway. Albuquerque muralist Mark Horst



(<http://www.markhorststudio.com>) was chosen for the project after a regional competition that received almost 100 submissions. See his website for the design for the Silver Avenue mural and for images of his other work. Many thanks to the **Bricklight District** and **The Frontier Restaurant** for their generous support of the stipends provided to the four artist finalists.

University Heights Community Garden Project

UHA has been exploring a community garden project for several years. After polling folks in the neighborhood, we found interest, but we lacked a location with water. We've been talking with representatives of the Bricklight District about using part of one of their properties for a community garden. If you want to grow a garden, have expertise in gardening you want to share with others or want to learn how to garden, you may want to join this project. Board members are talking with UNM's Lobo Gardens faculty, as potential project partners. This project will thrive if the neighborhood engages. Please contact Jennifer to let us you'd like to participate via email, Jennifer@TalkStoryPublishing.com or call 858-254-4669.

Envisioning the UHA Gateway to Central Avenue and UNM

UHA participated over the last year in the Greater Central Avenue project's (greatercentralave.org) examination of how to promote healthy neighborhoods along the corridor. That project culminated in draft reports and recommendations released this fall. <http://www.greatercentralave.org/diary-updates/university-area-draft-recommendations-ready-for-review/> Many of the recommendations for UHA, and other neighborhoods, are elements of urban streetscape that have always been important to us: adequate sidewalks, good lighting, and landscaping. UHA proposes as a 2018 project developing a plan for how to bring those improvements to our entire neighborhood, a plan which would include: 1) the creation of a visionary streetscape design; 2) working with elected officials to identify a funding plan; 3) investigating nongovernmental sources of funding and support. If you want to be involved, please attend the annual meeting. You could lead the initiative, or take on a part of it. The design piece would be a great, long-term project for School of Architecture and Planning students and faculty!

What About Lead & Coal?

The Lead/Coal corridor (specifically 2nd Street to San Mateo) has been noticeably affected by a high number of traffic collisions leading to property and landscaping damage, collisions with other vehicles and bicyclists, and sometimes with personal injury to pedestrians. The speed of drivers on Lead and Coal often exceeds safety limits and makes our neighborhood feel more like a drag strip than a place of residence. The noise and air pollution from vehicles using the streets as thoroughfares to get to the I-25 or Downtown has also increased dramatically.



Lead/Coal, continued from Page 1

Though this uptick in vehicular traffic-caused safety problems has been exacerbated by the A.R.T. project on Central, we believe the problem lies primarily in the design of Lead/Coal. Auto collisions and excess speeding have been witnessed and documented since the completion of the Lead/Coal lane reduction in June 2012.

In the interest of all residents and business owners, the UHA is pushing for changes to the corridor to increase safety from the traffic. First, in order to inform what the changes should be, we have requested from the City Council a comprehensive baseline safety and health study of the neighborhood impact from traffic on Lead/Coal. Secondly, using the findings (a data-driven approach), we will request that all sensible recommendations from this third-party study be implemented as quickly as possible, including the potential recommendation of reconfiguring Lead/Coal to be *two-way residential streets*. Evidence from other cities suggests that two-way residential streets would dramatically decrease speed, collisions, as well as make crossing the streets more acceptable for children, students, bicyclists and families.

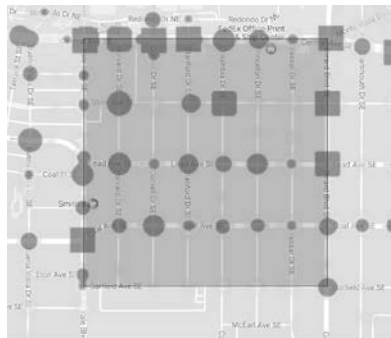
To help meet these goals we are asking for those who live in one of the neighborhoods impacted by Lead/Coal to join us in building a coalition of residents (renters and owners), business owners and Neighborhood Associations. We also welcome your unique photos to our shared Google Album documenting auto collisions on Lead/Coal since June 2012.

Please contact uhna@googlegroups.com if you have any questions, suggestions, photos, or want to join the conversation.

UHA Accident Analysis Project

by Brian J. Stinar Noventum Custom Software & UHA Board Member

As the owner of a software company and a University Heights Association board member, I don't like to make decisions without data. Unfortunately, that is where I find myself regarding actions to make Lead and Coal safer. While I believe these efforts are good, and should be encouraged, I find myself asking "safer than what?" We lack baseline data. We don't know how Lead and Coal have changed since being converted to two lane streets. To remedy the lack of data, my software company has worked with Code for Albuquerque (a local developer group that promotes software development for socially good purposes), and UHA. We received data from UNM's traffic analysis division, from the State Department of Transportation, and from online sources. We loaded this data into a relational database, and started analyzing it. We also drew some fancy pictures called "heatmaps" to understand what was going on. You can view our resulting work at <http://uha.noventum.us/>



We haven't come to any concrete conclusions partially due to inconsistent data. The initial dataset we analyzed had problems with 2010 data related to the latitude and longitude being switched. Variations within this database for one intersection we looked at by year seem way higher than I would expect - a difference I attribute to data collection problems (but then again, I'm not exactly sure what types of variations should be expected within an intersection.) Data problems, combined with the fact that this is a volunteer effort, make drawing any conclusions difficult. If you are interested in looking at our code, it's available in the

following GitHub repository: <https://github.com/codeforabq/traffic-analysis>

Send Completed Form and Dues to: Don Hancock, UHA Treasurer, 105 Stanford SE, Albuquerque NM 87106



Please retain for your records

UHA Dues
Amount Paid \$ _____

Date: _____

University Heights Association Membership:

Individual (\$5) Household (\$10) Business / Sponsor (\$25)

Pay more or less depending on your ability to pay. All meetings and events are open to everyone, regardless of membership status.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

You do not need to be a property owner to join UHA. Anyone who resides or has an interest in the neighborhood is welcome!