

### **March update on Parkland Hills Village**

Since our last update in early December, we have had two steering committee meetings (Feb. 2 and Feb. 28) and several subcommittee meetings. One subcommittee is making considerable progress on incorporation (the bylaws). Another subcommittee is working on member and volunteer handbooks and vetting procedures for volunteers. We have begun looking into what insurance we will need as a village. We have also met with City of Albuquerque personnel in both the Office of Neighborhood Coordination (including a training they gave for interested neighborhood people) and the Department of Senior Affairs.

We are learning a lot about the services that are already out there and are making distinctions between those services and the services we intend to provide. We want to avoid duplication of services and coordinate through making and receiving referrals. One example is the long-time existence of the Senior Companion Program, which, with federal funds, provides services to seniors in need of 4 hours of services per week. The volunteers in that program work at least 16 hours per week in that program and receive a small, non-taxable stipend if they are low-income. Parkland Hills Village (PHV) will be able to refer people to that program if their needs are great enough and their income low enough. We hope to establish a protocol whereby the City refers to us people whose needs are sporadic and/or not as great. Also we hope to be able to provide services to those who are on the waiting list for Senior Companion Program. (Of course, PHV's volunteers will be able to choose to volunteer as much or as little as they wish.)

We had a fun potluck at the end of January. You will be receiving an invitation to an outdoor event for the Village to be held some time during the summer. Our steering committee members intend to introduce ourselves and give a brief presentation about the Village at the April 24 semi-annual meeting of the Parkland Hills Neighborhood Association at the Whittier School community center. We would love to meet those of you who are interested in the Village concept and the PHV efforts.

We have a lot of work to do before we begin providing services in Parkland Hills. We can use help on our steering committee and subcommittees from those of you who may have the time and interest. (If you know about insurance options, we especially would like to hear from you.) If you are able to help in any way, please contact me by responding to this e-mail, or call Mara Hoffman at [phone number deleted].

-- Rich Weiner.