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SHHA Office

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Closed on federal holidays

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Voting Information

Register to vote

The last day to register online is October 6. If registering by mail, your registration must be postmarked by October 6. If you miss this date, you can register just before voting at some of the early-voting locations between October 17 and 31. You cannot register on election day, November 3.

Request absentee/mail-in ballot

All registered voters who haven't already requested an absentee ballot will receive an application from the County Clerk. Requests must be received by the Clerk by 5:00 PM on October 20. Absentee ballots may be mailed in or returned to any early-voting or election-day poll location. Absentee ballots must be received by 7:00 PM on November 3. If it's after October 27, rather than mailing in and risking your ballot being late, simply drop it by a voting location. If you request an absentee ballot then change your mind and want to vote in person, you may still vote in person either early or on election day. But don't try voting twice—the Clerk checks; it won't work.

Early voting

There are 18 early-voting locations in Bernalillo County. You may vote at any of them. The closest to Sandia Heights is in Caracol Plaza (SW corner of Tramway and Montgomery), 12500 Montgomery NE, Suite 101. Early voting is October 17 through October 31, Monday – Saturday, 10 AM – 7:00 PM. At 7 of these locations, you may register just before voting; Caracol Plaza is not one of these 7 locations.

See <https://www.bernco.gov/clerk/early-voting-locations.aspx>

Election-day voting

Polls will be open November 3, 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM. There are 70 locations in BernCo; you may vote at any of them. Caracol Plaza is also the closest election-day poll location to Sandia Heights.

See <https://www.bernco.gov/clerk/election-day-voting-locations.aspx>

Due to Covid-19, Voting Sites are subject to change

Thank you to Emily Rudin from the SHHA Board

2020 events have led to us being remiss in thanking Emily Rudin for her years of service on SHHA's Board. Emily continues to be on Architectural Control and Parks & Safety Committees, and chairs Strategic Planning for SHHA. She has served on numerous committees over her many years of service and was our Vice President in 2019. Without people like Emily, SHHA would not function. When you see Emily, please take a moment to thank her for her many years of service to the residents of Sandia Heights.

An Update on Septic Systems

Bob Bower, ACC Chair

Beginning in January 2020, Natural Resource Services of Bernalillo County sent letters to County residents regarding inspection and permitting of all septic systems older than 35 years. Referring to Wastewater Ordinance 2014-17, the letters state that if your system was installed before 1/1/1985 and has not had an inspection by a qualified septic contractor within the last five years, you are required to have the system inspected by 12/31/2020. A list of eleven wastewater system evaluators is attached to these letters. Here in Sandia Heights, we have over 2200 properties and my best guess is that about half of these properties have septic systems.

Let's look at some scenarios. If you have your system inspected and all parts are functioning properly, the evaluator will submit the paperwork to the County. The County will review the evaluation and will issue a Wastewater Evaluation Permit if they agree with the evaluator's findings. The County will send you the original copy of this permit which will have an expiration date of five years from the date the permit was issued.

The next scenario is more complicated. If part or all of your system fails, the evaluation paperwork will describe the nature of the failure and no permit will be issued. The County will send you a letter describing the next steps. Typically, the County will impose a 30-day deadline to get the system repaired or replaced, but is willing to negotiate with you if that deadline will not work. Once fully repaired, the system must again be evaluated and the paperwork sent to the County. If the evaluation is acceptable, a permit will be issued to you.

Some additional thoughts:

1. Don't ignore these letters if you get one. The County has some not-too-pleasant ways to deal with residents who ignore their letter. Since septic systems, particularly older ones, have been identified as a main source of groundwater contamination, the County's objective with these inspections is to ensure the protection of public health and the environment.
2. Due to the potential for conflict of interest, the Ordinance allows residents to contract directly with a qualified provider of their choosing—there is no requirement to select from the County's list. There is also no requirement to use a provider from the County's list to perform any repairs.
3. I wrote a GRIT article in August 2019 on basic tips to help keep your septic system functioning efficiently. This GRIT edition is available on the SHHA website.

4. The permit for your septic system is not transferable. The permit will expire when the owner sells the property or when the tenant or occupancy classification changes. A new permit must be obtained within 30 days of the property being transferred/sold or a change in the tenancy or occupancy classification.

5. My advice is to have your system inspected at the same time that you have it pumped. The cost for both of these actions when done in tandem is around \$400–\$500. If you have had your system evaluated in the past five years, the County will accept the evaluation.

6. Beginning in January 2021, these letters will require systems installed before 1/1/1986 to be inspected prior to 12/31/2021.

Update on Cottonwood Trees in Little Cloud Park

Bernalillo County Parks & Recreation suggested removing 2 of the 4 cottonwood trees in Little Cloud Park due to a tripping hazard. Numerous residents and SHHA Parks & Recreation Committee objected. We have received confirmation from Tom Thorpe, Communication Service Administrator, that the trees will be removed only if necessary after exhausting other options, such as back filling the exposed roots with soil or tree bark.

Into the Clouds, Part 1

The Short, Tragic Flight of TWA 260

By Hugh Prather, SHHA Member

Less than 2 miles due east of the Sandia Heights boundary with the Sandia Wilderness, but 4 steep, uphill miles by trail from the tram terminal, a hiker encounters the debris field of the tragic TWA accident that took the lives of 16 people and spawned a series of myths and legends. Here's the first part of the real story.

Saturday morning, February 19, 1955, dawned crisp, cold, and cloudy in the Albuquerque foothills. Had Sandia Heights existed at the time, we who lived here would have seen heavy cloud cover down to about the 7,000-foot level—slightly below the first tram tower (had the tram been built at the time). The bulk of the Sandias would have been totally obscured. If, on the other hand, you happened to be a TWA passenger or crew member waiting at the Albuquerque Municipal Airport on that brisk morning, you would have seen clear skies to the south, west, and directly north, but you would not have seen the Sandias—they were completely shrouded in clouds.

Continued on page 3...

... continued from page 2

There were 13 ticketed passengers ready to board the TWA Skyliner “Binghamton,” a Martin 404 40-passenger aircraft decked out in bright white and red TWA livery. TWA had a long, tightly connected history with the city of Albuquerque. After the Albuquerque Municipal Airport opened in 1939 (in the older, pueblo-style building immediately west of the current Sunport that currently houses TSA), TWA had scheduled flights to and from this airport as part of its transcontinental routes. This particular aircraft had been delivered to TWA from the factory in Baltimore, Maryland, in mid-1951 and was one of 41 which had been purchased in an attempt by TWA to provide improved, profitable short-haul capacity.

Unlike its predecessor the Martin 202, the 404 was pressurized and, therefore, could fly higher and in much smoother air. One of the advantages for smaller airports that the Martin had been designed to access was the fold-down rear stairs that allowed passengers to board at ground level from the



rear of the aircraft. The aircraft on the flight line that morning had tail number N-40416. It was powered by two Pratt & Whitney R-2800 CB16 18-cylinder radial engines each generating 2,400 horsepower. Normal cruising elevation was around 18,000 feet. Skyliner Binghamton had arrived in Albuquerque the night before after a flight originating in Fresno, California.

The three-person flight crew that morning—Captain Ivan Spong, First Officer J.J. Creason, and Stewardess Sharon Schoening—was preparing for departure and had a busy day ahead of them. Flight 260 was scheduled to leave at 7 AM and make a short 26-minute hop to Santa Fe. From there, the next stop would be Amarillo, then on to Wichita, Topeka, and Kansas City, where the crew would be replaced with a fresh crew. Flight 260 would continue east, ultimately ending its run at 11 PM in Baltimore. The plane would never reach Santa Fe.

The passengers ready to board Flight 260 represented a wide range of professions and backgrounds. One family group of three from New Jersey were taking a short business flight from Albuquerque to Santa Fe and being picked up there for a drive up to Los Alamos, where some further business would be negotiated. An elementary school teacher from Albuquerque was en route to Oklahoma City where she was planning to



interview for an overseas teaching position. Two nuclear scientists from Kansas City were returning there from Las Vegas, Nevada, after having participated in an underground nuclear test. A Ph.D. geologist from New Mexico Tech was en route to a conference. An oil executive from Oklahoma was returning after exploring some possible petroleum leases in the northwest corner of the state. The CEO of a shoe store chain was returning to home base in Cincinnati after visiting a recently opened branch in Albuquerque. There were a minister and an insurance salesman—a cross-section of middle-class America.

Flight 260 opened for boarding at 6:35, and while Stewardess Schoening greeted the passengers who had walked from the airport portal and climbed the wheeled stair ramp to the front entrance door on the left side of the fuselage, Captain Spong and First Officer Creason were busy with a preflight check. By 6:50 passengers were settled with seatbelts in place and the cockpit door was closed. The 404 preflight checklist contained 45 items before the engines were started and five more after they were running. In addition, before they were to taxi, 17 more items were checked and then they were ready to move to the flight line.

Spong and Creason reviewed the flight plan with engines idling. They were to taxi to runway 11, (now called runway 12 which heads south east from the main terminal) and after a successful takeoff make a right turn to bring them around to almost a true north heading where they would follow the back course of the instrument landing system to an intersection point in the air north of Algodones. From that instrument-derived intersection, they would then make a northeast turn and clear for landing in Santa Fe. The flight plan had them climbing to 9000 feet and maintaining that elevation for the duration of the short flight.

At 7 AM and right on schedule, Spong released the brakes and advanced throttles as he steered the Skyliner toward the beginning of runway 11. The pilots requested takeoff clearance. The tower responded, “TWA 260, wind south 10 cleared for takeoff runway one one.” With a light passenger load and throttles fully advanced the Martin 404 picked up speed rapidly down the runway and lifted off gracefully at 7:05 AM. The 16 souls on board had less than 10 minutes to live.

[Part 2 next month, “The Crash and the Aftermath”]

AUGUST CALLS TO SANDIA HEIGHTS SECURITY PATROL

The following statistics are the latest provided by Sandia Heights Security since the last GRIT. **Please be reminded that Sandia Heights Services (they provide water, sewer, trash and recycle collection, and security services) is a subscription service separate from Sandia Heights Homeowners Association membership.** Also, Membership in SHHA does not include Sandia Heights Security membership. You can call Security to confirm your membership with them. If you have questions, please call **Sandia Heights Security** at 856-6347, **mobile** 263-4654.

August 2020	# of calls		# of calls
Alarms	18	Salesman Complaint	3
Attempted Breaking & Entering	1	Snake Call	1
Customer Assist	1	Special Extra Patrol	4
Fireworks Complaint	3	Special Request/Vacation	56
Lost/Found Item	0	Suspicious Activity	2
Lost/Found Pet	2	Suspicious Person	4
Motorist Assist	1	Suspicious Vehicle	5
Newspaper/Package Pickup	7	Vandalism	1
Noise Complaint/Suspicious Noise	3	Vehicle Burglary/Break In	2
Open Door/Window/Garage	1	Welfare Check	1
Parking Problem	3	Wildlife Report	1
Rescue Assist	1	Total Calls	121

Useful Numbers: Emergency Police/Fire/Rescue: 9-1-1 (Be sure to let the operator know you are in Sandia Heights – an unincorporated area of Bernalillo County) **Bernalillo County Sheriff Non-Emergency:** 798-7000 **Bernalillo County Fire Department Non-Emergency:** 468-1310 **SHS Water/Sewer Emergencies (M-F 7AM – 4PM):** 856-6345 **SHS Water/Sewer Emergencies After Hours:** 888-5336 **NM Gas Co. Emergencies:** 697-3335 **PNM Outage & Emergencies:** 1-888-342-5766

Announcements & Notices:

- **Office hours:** Monday – Friday 9 AM – 4 PM.
- **Board Meeting:** scheduled for Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 7 PM via Zoom Meeting.
- **Office Closures for Holiday(s):** Monday, October 12, 2020 in observance of Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day.
- **Notary services, copies (20 per month) and faxes, e-mail alerts, and contractor evaluation binder** are free to members. **Also, voter registration in office.**
- **Committee meeting dates** are posted on our website calendar: www.sandiahomeowners.org.
- **Classified ads** can be found on the website on the top bar menu under Notices and Information/Classifieds.
- **Safety vests for sale** in the SHHA Office. \$2 per vest for members. Cash or check only.
- **Tram passes for sale** in the SHHA Office. \$7 per ticket for members on a **first-come first-served basis**. Cash or check only. Tickets purchased must be for one date at a time per residence. To view the Tram Pass Procedures for SHHA Members go to

<http://sandiahomeowners.org/notices-and-information/notices-and-information/96-tram-passes>.

- **ACC Color Reference Guide** is available to borrow in the SHHA Office for up to 30 days. \$20 refundable deposit is required. Cash or check only.

SHHA Member Benefits:

Check out the entire SHHA Member Benefits Program and the discounts offered to SHHA members at www.sandiahomeowners.org, under the **Notices and Information** tab. Each participating merchant offers a discount to SHHA members. The following is a list of participating merchants:

Abel Plumbing & Heating
Barnett Aldon Iron Works
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Remax Select – Pete Veres
Sandia Realty Inc.

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Sandia Heights MARKET UPDATE PAST YEAR 9/2019 to 9/2020

11 Larger homes For Sale Over 2400 sf on Larger Lots Avg price/sf \$195.78
7 Pending Avg Asking Price/sf. \$187.21 | 50 Homes Closed past year to date Avg Sold Price/sf \$195.72

Smaller homes on smaller lots: 4 for sale Avg asking Price/sf \$173.60
3 pending Avg Asking Price \$208.81p/sf | 42 closed past year to date Avg Sold Price /sf \$184.58

Note Price is always based on condition, updates, location and views

Current Interest rates hovering around 3% for 30 year conventional & 3% 30-year VA!

PENDING!



8210 Indigo Court NE
\$589,900 | MLS # 971743

SOLD!



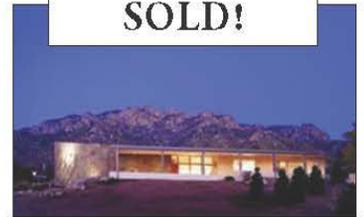
54 Rock Ridge Court NE
\$956,000 | MLS # 964161

SOLD!



617 Cedar Hill Road NE

SOLD!



79 Juniper Hill Place NE

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We received two articles from members this month on vinegaroons! Here are the two takes on everyone's favorite ugly critter.

A Freaky Friendly

By Elizabeth Edgren, SHHA Member

Last year, as my husband was setting up his workshop in the garage of our new home in Sandia Heights, he encountered an alien creature that looked like it came straight out of a nightmare. He whipped out his phone to take a picture before he crushed the monster. Later though, we learned from a local workman that this creature was a “friendly” and we ought never kill one.

The vinegaroon, or whip scorpion, or *Mastigoproctus giganteus giganteus*, looks threatening indeed, due to its size of 2"–3" not counting its whip tail, which can be longer than its body.



Photos and information from the University of Florida, http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/misc/misc/giant_whip_scorpion.htm

This not-so-little fella catches and crushes its prey in its pedipalps, or front pincers. They can give us a “noticeable pinch,” says the U of FL article, although they don't bite or sting. What is its prey? Not us, but other arthropods—critters like crickets, roaches, or termites. Although it resembles a scorpion, the vinegaroon isn't venomous. Its nickname of vinegaroon comes from the fact that when it's threatened, it can spread its pedipalps, rear up its back end, and spray an 85% concentration of acetic acid from the base of its “tail,” possibly up to a foot away. The spray isn't dangerous, but can really sting if gotten in the eyes or nostrils.

Although they have eight eyes, six of which are on their sides near the base of the front feeler-legs, their vision is poor, so those long, thin, front legs act as feelers, and the “whip” is also sensory, a big help to the weak-eyed arachnid.

Vinegaroons are nocturnal, often hiding during the day in burrows or under rocks or dead wood or in other dark places. They mate in the fall, and when the mama's eggs hatch, they climb onto her back for about a month. Whip scorpions grow slowly, molting about once a year

for three years, but they can then live up to another four years! (*Long enough to adopt as a pet?*) But once a mother vinegaroon has sent her babies out into the world, her life cycle is finished, and she soon dies.

They can become more active during rainy periods, which may explain why I encountered *three* of these beauties in our bedroom last month, separately, within a single week. Good thing it was daylight, and good thing we knew they were our friends! We captured each one gently and restored it with our blessing to the great outdoors. If you meet one unawares, now you'll know to try to live as good neighbors with these fearsome looking characters.

Don't Squash This Bug!

By Kate Fry, SHHA Member



Photo: University of Texas at El Paso

This creepy-looking critter is not a scorpion, even though it tries to look like one. This masquerade is what gets them squashed by people who don't know what they are. This is a **vinegaroon** (*Mastigoproctus giganteus*), sometimes called a whipscorpion or grampus. It can grow to 3" long or more, not including the tail.

Wait, didn't I just say it wasn't a scorpion? Why is it called a whipscorpion? The answer is obvious if you look at the long, thin tail. Vinegaroons are related to spiders and have eight legs, although the first pair of legs is used like antennae and not for walking. They are completely harmless to humans—the tail does not have a stinger, although the curved mouthparts can deliver a pinch. The name “vinegaroon” comes from the creature's habit, when threatened, of spraying a mist from the base of its tail that is primarily acetic acid, or vinegar. Legend has it that if a vinegaroon bites you, everything will taste like vinegar for weeks. Of course, this is not true, but if you get a spray of vinegar in your face you probably won't like it! Vinegaroons are nocturnal, and they prey on insects and other arthropods.

So, if you happen to see a vinegaroon, be happy that it's keeping the cricket and other insect populations in balance. It's another of our wild neighbors that we can't do without—even though it isn't exactly cute!

ACC Activity Log

Summary of **Approved Projects** activity since the last GRIT:

3 Sandia Heights Dr – Replace Existing Carport and Slab
10 Juniper Hill Rd – Roof Mounted Photovoltaic Panel Installation
42 Cedar Hill Pl – Replace Windows
367 Big Horn Ridge Dr – Replace Windows
407 Live Oak Loop – Extension of Existing Garage, Addition of a Two-Car Garage, and Craft Studio
425 Live Oak Loop – Reroof and Pave Driveway with Asphalt
551 Black Bear Rd – Re-roof with TPO
554 Black Bear Pl – Construct Patio Cover
659 Roadrunner Lane – Replace Garage Door
726-8 Tramway Vista P – Roof Mounted Photovoltaic Panel Installation
727-1 Cedar Hill Lane – Shade Sails Installation
793 Tramway Lane Units D, E, O, P and 795 Tramway Lane Units D, E, K, N, O, P Replace Garage Doors
867-F Tramway Lane Ct – Replace Windows and Patio Doors
905 Tramway Ln – Replace Swamp Cooler w/ HVAC Unit
917 Tramway Lane – Landscaping
951 Deer Dr – Upgrade Deck
1043 Red Oaks Loop – Re-stucco and Replace Windows
1104 San Rafael Ave – Resurface Asphalt Driveway
1145 Marigold Dr – Re-stucco Mailbox and Landscape
1452 Honeysuckle Dr – Replace Garage Doors
1536 Eagle Ridge Dr – Replace Windows, Evaporative Cooler, and Mechanical Screen Installation
1560 Eagle Ridge Rd – Replace Garage Doors
1911 Quail Run Rd – Fence Installation and Landscaping
1942 Quail Run Loop – Replace Concrete Slab in Backyard
2308 Calle de Rafael – Replace Awnings
2324 Calle de Gabriel – Sealcoat Asphalt Driveway
2414 Tramway Terrace Ct – Roof/Skylight Repair, Re-Stucco, Replace Windows and Sliding Glass Door, and Reinsulate Refrigerant Lines
2414 Tramway Terrace Ct – Repaint Garage Door
2807 Tramway Circle – Shade Structure Installation, Hot Tub Slab and Pavers, Replace Wood Fence, and New Block Wall Section
7729 Cedar Canyon Ct – Re-roof with TPO
7733 Cedar Canyon Rd – Flagpole with Light Installation
7741 Cedar Canyon Rd – Replace Sliding Glass Doors
12621 Colony Pl – Re-roof
12622 Colony Pl – Roof Mounted PV Panel Installation

Visit the website: www.sandiahomeowners.org to read about all projects currently under ACC management.

Plant of the Season

Historical article from Summer 1997 GRIT

Russian Sage (*Perovskia atriplicifolia*) is a multi-stemmed deciduous shrub or perennial that grows 4 ft. tall with an equal spread. The foliage has a lacy appearance, is light gray-green in color and has an aromatic sagelike fragrance. Lavender-blue flowers occur in long 18 in. spikes in summer and may last till the first frost.

Russian Sage is native to Western Asia and is cold hardy to at least -200°F [sic, no doubt meant -20°F]. Plant in full sun to semi-shade in any well drained soil. Mix 1 part planting mix to 3 parts native soil for best results. Growth rate may be slow the first year but is much faster the following year.



Planting: Build a berm with soil 2 feet around the base of the plant. Fill the basin twice with water to insure a deep soaking. For the first 2 weeks keep the plants moist! As time passes, decrease the frequency but increase the amount of water given. How often to water depends upon many factors such as the time of year and plant maturity. Once established, Russian Sage can survive on deep soakings every 2–3 weeks during the growing season.

Recommended Use: Russian Sage is a durable, drought tolerant plant that does not grow too tall. Use in the landscape as an accent plant or to contrast against green shrubs. Fragrant foliage is an additional asset for this plant. Because the flowers attract bees, avoid planting too close to walkways, swimming pools or anywhere people may congregate.

In Winter cut back the old flower stalks and in the colder East Mountain and Santa Fe areas, cut back 6–12 inches from the ground Related species include: *Perovskia* “Blue Spire” and *Perovskia* “Blue Haze” (lighter blue) which are both hybrid crosses between *P. atriplicifolia* and *P. abrotanoides*.

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IT IS NOT JUST ABOUT THE PRICE OF THE HOME

When most of us begin searching for a home, we naturally start by looking at the price. It's important, however, to closely consider what else impacts the purchase. It's not just the price of the house that matters, but the overall cost in the long run. Today, that's largely impacted by low mortgage rates. Low rates are actually making homes more affordable now than at any time since 2016, and here's why.

Today's low rates are off-setting rising home prices because it's less expensive to borrow money. In essence, purchasing a home while mortgage rates are this low may save you significantly over the life of your home loan.

Lawrence Yun, Chief Economist, NAR:

"Although housing prices have consistently moved higher, when the favorable mortgage rates are factored in, an overall home purchase was more affordable in 2020's second quarter compared to one year ago."

Bill Banfield, EVP of Capital Markets, Quicken Loans:

"No matter what you're looking for, this is a great time to buy since the current low interest rates can stretch your spending power."

Mortgage News Daily:

"Those shopping for a home can afford 10 percent more home than they could have one year ago while keeping their monthly payment unchanged. This translates into nearly \$32,000 more buying power."

Forbes:

"Homeowners are the clear winners. Low mortgage rates mean the cost of owning is at historically low levels and who gains all the benefits of strong house price appreciation? Homeowners."

Bottom Line

When purchasing a home, it's important to think about the overall cost, not just the price of the house. Homes on your wish list may be more affordable today than you think. Please contact me if you have any questions.



301 Spring Creek Place NE
4 Bedrooms • 2.75 Bathrooms • 3,882 SF • List Price \$1,000,000 • MLS# 965314



71 Pinon Hill Pl. NE
4 Bedrooms • 5 Bathrooms • 6,070 SF • MLS# 975249



2436 Tramway Terrace Ct. NE
3 Bedrooms • 2 Bathrooms • 1,699 SF • MLS# 971804



1173 Laurel Lp. NE
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UP TO FOUR FREE TRAM PASSES are available from me every day. Call early to reserve your passes, they are available on a first come, first served basis. Email or Call Greg Today! Greg@GregLobb.com or 505.269.GREG

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MAX SANCHEZ & TERESA CORDOVA

NEIGHBORHOOD EXPERTISE

INTEGRITY

DEDICATION

SUPPORT:

Community Involvement as Hosts of the Annual Food Drive, Shredding Event, Easter Egg Hunt and Yearly Sponsor of the Artist Studio Tour

EXPERIENCE:

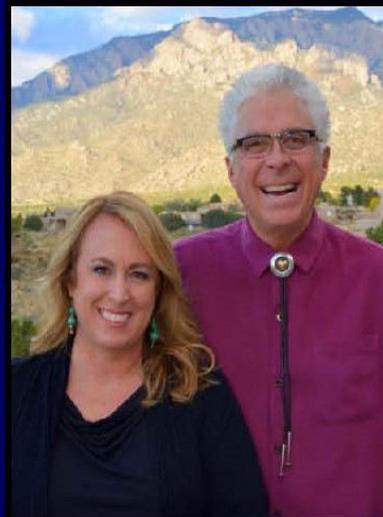
Over 69 Years of Combined Service Successfully Selling Sandia Heights Properties

DEPENDABILITY:

Full Time, Full Service Brokers Available to Meet the Needs of our Clients and Neighbors in the Community

SERVICE:

Providing Market Leading Strategies Backed by the Longest Standing Real Estate Company in the Country



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Teresa 720-7210
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SandiaHts.com



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Community Event Bulletin Board

This group is not sponsored by SHHA. Information is provided to keep residents informed.

Sandia Heights “Cork & Fork” Dining Activity: Due to the pandemic, dining activities are cancelled per directions of the Governor’s Office. When the situation resolves, we will again meet on the second Saturday of every other month, gathering in the homes of our members. Each small dinner group is typically 6–8 people, including the hosts. We try to switch up the groups, with everyone rotating (host/attendee) as the year progresses. The host decides the menu theme and prepares a main dish, with attendees contributing to some part of the meal—along with a wine to go with their dish. The emphasis is on food and fun rather than formal elegance. Though most of the dinners are smaller, there are 2 whole-group dinners during the year, one a September kick-off, and an end-of-season gathering in July. The dinner group was started in September 2005, with 15 interested couples from Sandia Heights. Adult Sandia Heights residents are welcome. To inquire or join any time of year, call Paula Baxter at (505) 330-1518.

Notice: Any corrections to the printed version of the GRIT can be found on the website: www.sandiahomeowners.org

Time is Running Out, Send in Your Photos Now!



We are accepting your entries for our annual photo contest for the Sandia Heights 2021 *Resident Guide & Directory*. Submissions are due to the SHHA office by Friday, November 6, 2020. If you are the lucky winner, your photo will be featured on the cover of the 2021 *Resident Guide and Directory*, and you will be acknowledged as the photographer.

Submission criteria are as follows:

- You must be a member of the Sandia Heights Homeowners Association and you must be an amateur photographer.
- Photos must be related to the Sandia Heights area (see the 2020 and previous *Directories*).
- Photos must fit reasonably on the cover without loss of the composition.
- Photos must be in color and may be submitted as a hardcopy print to the office or digitally to shha@sandiahomeowners.org
- The resident must submit a statement that the photograph is an original taken by the homeowner, that they are not a professional photographer (in business as a photographer), and that they grant permission to SHHA to use their photo(s) in the *Directory* or on the SHHA website.

All hardcopy entries may be picked up at the office once the *Directory* is published.

Monthly Fun Fact

By Matt Pedigo, SHHA Member

Albuquerque is the most populous city in New Mexico and the 32nd most populous city in the U.S. The city’s 2019 population is estimated at 560,513, with 915, 927 in the metro area—and the metro area is huge, consisting of the four counties of Bernalillo, Sandoval, Tarrant and Valencia. The 2019 state population for New Mexico is 2.097 million.



Sandia Heights Homeowners Association
12700 San Rafael Ave. NE Ste. 3
Albuquerque, NM 87122

The SHHA Office will be closed on Monday, October 12, 2020, in observance of Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day.



**Please, always pick up after your dog.
And take the poop bag with you.**