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Bob Thomas – Covenant Support Committee (CSC)
Susan McCasland – Communications & Publications (C&P)
Elizabeth Edgren – Community Service & Membership (CS&M)
Kathleen McCaughey – Environment & Safety Committee (E&S)
Randy Tripp – Finance Committee (FC)
Hugh Prather – Nominating Committee (NC)

Office Staff

Patricia “Trish” Lovato – Lead Administrator
Angela Moreno – Administrator

SHHA Office

12700 San Rafael Avenue NE, Ste. 3
Albuquerque, NM 87122

Office Hours: Mon–Thurs, 9 AM – 4 PM
Fri, 9 AM – noon

Closed on federal holidays

Phone: 505-797-7793

Fax: 505-856-8544

Website: www.sandiahomeowners.org

Emails: sandiaheights@comcast.net
shha@sandiahomeowners.org

Another Welcome

Patricia “Trish” Lovato is the new Lead Administrator in the SHHA office. She was born and raised in Albuquerque, and attended Sandia High School. She is a proud mother of two sons and two grandchildren with a third arriving in May. Family is the most important aspect of her life; she loves to spend quality time playing with her grandchildren and cooking, eating, visiting with family and friends. Trish looks forward to being a permanent part of the SHHA team. If you have a chance, stop by the office and say “Hello and welcome” to Trish.

Pay It Forward

Hugh Prather, Nominating Committee Chair

In the coming months, several Board of Director terms will expire. Those positions need to be filled by new members who share the same dedication and commitment to the Sandia Heights community as those completing their service.

The perspectives new Board members bring to Board service is an energizing and vital component of helping to keep the SHHA focused on serving its members and its mission of maintaining the quality of life for all residents in our community. Service as a member of the Board of Directors “pays it forward” and helps assure that Sandia Heights ten years from now will still retain the luster it holds today.

Board members must be property owners in Sandia Heights and belong to the SHHA. The shifting demographics of our community with more younger families with children becoming residents suggests the need for more representation on the Board from that segment of our community. However, anyone interested in “paying it forward” is welcome to apply.

Board service involves attending the monthly Board of Directors meeting—sometimes in person and sometimes virtually via Zoom—and service on at least one committee. In aggregate, serving on the Board of Directors typically requires a commitment of 3–5 hours a month. To apply for a term on the Board simply contact Hugh Prather hugh.h.prather@gmail.com or call (505) 321-1467 and a Statement of Interest will be sent and any questions you have about aspects of Board service will be answered. We will be holding a Question & Answer session via Zoom on May 18 to let interested people know what’s involved with Board and committee service. See page 12 for more details.

Wildfire Workshop— Some of My Take Aways

Cheryl Wieker, Environment & Safety Committee

Two kinds of bushes regularly volunteer in my yard—both surviving without irrigation and with impressive growth each year. After the SHHA’s Wildfire Workshop at the end of March, I got serious about “ladder fuels”—those plants that can take a wildfire from grasses to bushes to the pinons and juniper trees. One especially brittle bush that grows along the drip line of the larger trees seems designed by nature to act as a “fire improver.” Those had to go, so on the first day of “Fire Weather,” I found myself fighting the wind to get the weedy bushes out of the ground and onto the refuse pile. Luckily, they come out of the ground easily with a few stomps and hits with a shovel, and it only took an hour to rid those nasty fire-promoters from under my trees. I love my pinons and don’t want to lose them...or my house!

Five other things I learned at the workshop:

- Preparing your home to survive a fast-moving wildfire is not hard to do once you learn the risks. To “harden” your home, clear a five-foot minimum perimeter around the entire house. Don’t miss tree limbs that are stretching toward the house. If you have cleaned off your roof and there is nothing to burn immediately next to your house, we learned that there is a much better chance of saving your home. Fifteen feet is better than five feet, but do what you can. (See the “defensible space” distances in the right column.)
- Embers can be blown onto your roof from miles away. If the embers find fuel such as dead pine needles or dry leaves, they can burn long enough to go through your roofing and into the rafters. So, clean off your roof each year before and during fire season.
- In the event of a wildfire, Bernalillo County has an emergency alert system to notify residents. Sad statistics reinforced the advice from the Chief of Emergency Management: “Don’t wait to evacuate.” Just grab the kids, pets, your pre-prepared “go-bags” and **GO**. Need a “go-bag” list? Check out the SHHA website (<https://www.sandiahomeowners.org>) under the drop-down for *Wildfire Preparedness*, then *Wildfire Anticipation*.
- For people using a landline phone, Bernalillo County’s emergency dispatch system can notify Fire & Rescue of special circumstances at your house (like oxygen in use or residents with limited mobility). Register in

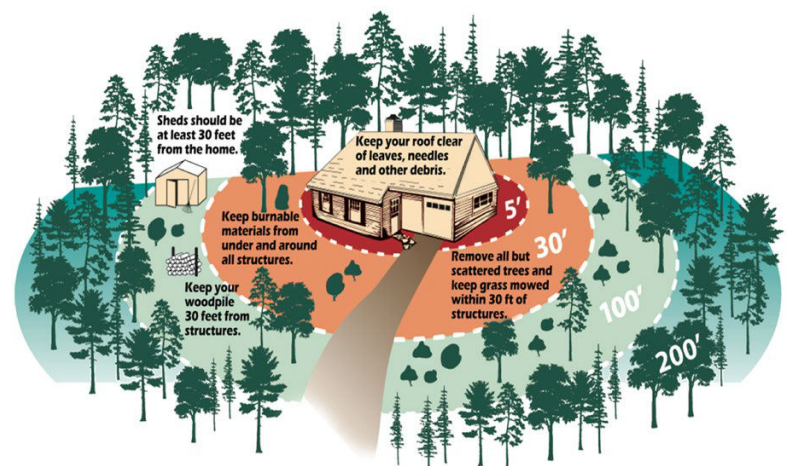
advance for the “CARE Program” by clicking on this link to pre-register: <https://www.bernco.gov/emergency-communications/special-response-instructions-care/care-sign-up-english/> or call (505) 798-7000.

- In case of a wildfire, firefighters need plentiful water to stop the fire, so please do not run your hoses. Also, lock your doors when you evacuate, and leave the shades down and drapes closed. If you have time, tape a note to the front door saying that you have evacuated and can be reached at (your cell phone number). If you have pets, mention that they have evacuated with you.

Thanks to the speakers from the Bernalillo County Emergency Services, Fire & Rescue, and Sandia Heights’ own Julie Rochman, former CEO of the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety, and to the SHHA Safety and Environment Committee for sponsoring the workshop!



Example of “Ladder Fuels.” Grass to chamisa to juniper. And in this case, the juniper is perfectly positioned for a fire to jump to the wooden eaves!



Welcome to Each New Neighbor... Every Month

Richard Brackett, Architectural Control Committee

When you purchase a home in Sandia Heights, you agree to abide by the standards that are established for your new community. Thirty-eight distinct sets of Covenants govern the various Units in Sandia Heights. The covenants were created as environmental and visual standards for the man-made structures and alterations and significantly contribute to the unique beauty of Sandia Heights. To preserve these standards, all of us must know our own Unit's Covenants, also called Declarations of Restrictions.

I joined the Architectural Control Committee (ACC) this year because the ACC was short-handed. I was quickly assigned the responsibility of reviewing construction at three new neighbors' homes. *None of these three owners were aware of the ACC, nor were they aware of the Covenants in their Units!* Construction was underway on all three properties, *without any approval from the ACC to go forward with their construction.*

Your Covenant guidelines—legal documents you agreed to when you bought property in Sandia Heights—describe the architectural limitations for your Unit. These documents are part of the closing papers you signed at the purchase of your property or house. You must abide by them when you make any exterior changes to your home or property.

The members of the Architectural Control Committee are here to help and advise you with new construction of any kind on your property. If you are planning construction, call or come to the SHHA office (location and hours on page 1) and ask for assistance. The office staff will arrange for you to meet with an ACC member either at your home or at the SHHA office. Our ACC volunteers will help you through the process of getting your construction plans approved.

Keep in mind that the Architectural Control Committee is here to help you. We will help you meet your construction goals, while complying with the requirements of your Covenants. We are all volunteers! We are your neighbors! Come and see us. We look forward to working with you.



Woof! Woof! Is That YOUR Dog Barking?

Do you leave your dog outside alone? There are many dogs in Sandia Heights who bark for hours when their owners are away. Noise can echo off the foothills, especially the noise of dogs with loud barks. Consider your neighbors when you leave your dog out alone for hours at a time. Their barking can be disturbing to those who work at home, work night shifts and are trying to sleep, may be ill, or don't wish to listen to barking dogs while they are relaxing at home. Most importantly...it is against the law to allow your dogs to constantly bark! According to the Bernalillo County ordinance, "It is unlawful for a person to allow an animal to persistently or continuously bark, howl or make noise common to their species or otherwise disturb the peace and quiet of inhabitants of the county." [Ord. §6.47(a)]

If you are bothered by a barking dog, please first let its owners know that the dog is barking. They may not be aware, especially if the barking happens only when they are away. If that doesn't work, lodge a complaint with Bernalillo County Animal Care at 468-PETS.



Another Smart Way to Avoid a Wildfire



MARCH 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 (505) 856-6347, **mobile** (505) 263-4654.

March 2023	# of calls		# of calls
Alarms	16	Special Extra Patrol	6
Attempted Breaking & Entering	1	Special Request/Vacation	93
Corporate Office Assist	1	Suspicious Activity	3
Customer Assist	5	Suspicious Person	4
Customer Inquiry	1	Suspicious Activity	2
Fire/Smoke	1	Suspicious Vehicle	7
Home Burglary	2	Theft	3
Lost/Found Pet	4	Utility Co. Assist	1
Loud Music/Party	1	Vandalism	1
Mailbox Vandalism	1	Attempted Vehicle Burglary/Break In	1
Newspaper/Package Pickup	13	Wildlife Report	1
Noise Complaint/Suspicious Noise	1	Total Calls	120

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: (505) 798-7000** **Bernalillo County Fire Department Non-Emergency: (505) 468-1310** **SHS Water/Sewer Emergencies (M-F 7AM – 4PM): (505) 856-6345** **SHS Water/Sewer Emergencies After Hours: (505) 888-5336** **NM Gas Co. Emergencies: (505) 697-3335** **PNM Outage & Emergencies: 1-888-342-5766**

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

Announcements & Notices:

- **Office hours:** Monday – Thursday 9 AM – 4 PM. Fridays 9 AM – NOON.
- **Board Meeting:** scheduled May 10, 2023, at 6:30 pm in person.
- **Office Closures for Holiday(s)** May 29, 2023, in observance of Memorial Day
- **Notary services (Tues–Thurs, by appointment), copies (20 per month) and faxes, e-mail alerts, and contractor evaluation binder** are free to members.
- **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. \$2.50 per vest for members, cash or check only.
- **Tram passes for sale** in the SHHA Office. \$10.00 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

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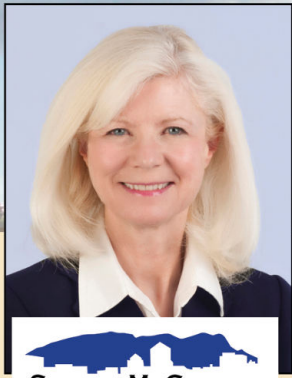
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Sharon's Sandia Heights Market Update Past Year 5/2022 to 5/2023

6 Larger homes For Sale on Larger Lots | Avg Asking price \$1,031,483 | Avg Asking price/sf \$268.64
 8 Pending | Avg Asking Price \$861,000 | Avg Asking price/sf \$227.94
 44 Homes Closed past year to date | Avg Sold Price \$888,977 Avg Sold price/sf. \$259.97

2 Smaller homes on smaller lots | Avg Asking price \$598,500 | Avg Asking price/sf \$258.27
 5 home pending | Avg Asking Price \$505,980 Avg Asking price/sf 250.10

36 Homes Closed past year to date | Avg Sold Price \$456,038 Avg Sold price/sf \$240.90

Note Every Home Is Unique . Price is always based on condition, updates, market appeal, location and views.
 Current Interest rates hovering around 6.15% for 30 year conventional & 5.625% 30 year VA!



SOLD!

1405 San Rafael PINE



SOLD!

1195 Bobcat Blvd NE



SOLD!

730 Tramway Lane NE



SOLD!

54 Rock Ridge Court NE

ANOTHER GREAT SANDIA HEIGHTS HOME SOLD!

1723 QUAIL RUN COURT NE | ASKING PRICE \$679,000 | 2855 SF | 4 BR | 3 BATHS



SOLD!



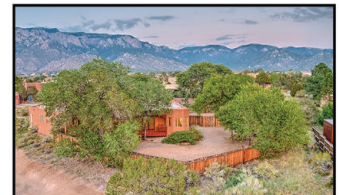
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ABQ MARKET IS DOING BETTER THAN OUR NEIGHBORS

There's a lot of misinformation out there, these days. Our market is terrible, our neighboring cities are doing well, etc. The fact is that good ole ABQ is still moving in a positive direction. The inventory of homes for sale here (especially in Sandia Heights) is still low (down about 76%), as are other cities, so we're still seeing multiple offers and some homes still selling for more than list price (again, especially in Sandia Heights). Here's a breakdown of us vs our neighboring markets:

YEAR OVER YEAR

	Median Price	Appreciation	Sales
ABQ -	\$317,000	↑ 3%	↓ 16%
PHX -	\$425,000	↓ 9.6%	↓ 45%
DENVER -	\$560,000	↓ 7%	↓ 41%
COLO SPGS -	\$465,000	↑ 4%	↓ 23%
TUCSON -	\$339,000	↓ 1%	↓ 43%
DALLAS -	\$405,000	↓ 3.6%	↓ 31%



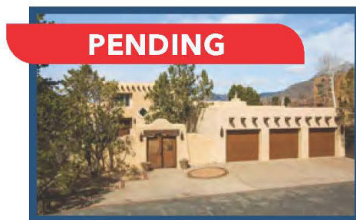
156 Juniper Hill Road NE
2924 SQ FT 4BR 3BA .88 Acres



55 Rock Point Place NE
4765 SQ FT 4BR 4BA 1.01 Acres



1020 Tramway Lane NE
2722 SQ FT 3BR 2BA 1.48 Acres



1509 Eagle Ridge Road NE
4551 SQ FT 6BR 3BA 1.43 Acres



152 Juniper Hill Road NE
2294 SQ FT 3BR 3BA .56 Acres

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Please Do Not Feed Wildlife

The SHHA office has learned that some residents are putting out table scraps, apples, carrots and other food for our wildlife neighbors. Please don't. They are not pets. They are wild animals and should forage like wild animals. Feeding them makes them look for more food in our yards and trashcans. Feeding wild animals creates a nuisance

and a very real danger. We have deer, bobcats, coyotes, bears, and even mountain lions. We are all safer and have an easier time keeping our landscaping if these animals are not counting on us for their next meal. Deer may only eat your garden. But bobcats and coyotes have been known to eat pets. And if you inadvertently get between a mama bear and her cub, you'll quickly

learn why we don't want bears cruising the roads during the day looking for garbage cans to plunder.

Also, you may think you are just feeding quail or rabbits, but the larger animals and rodents are happy eating the corn and seeds as well.

And if you need one more reason to refrain from feeding the wildlife, it is against New Mexico State law. For a first offense, a game warden issues a warning; if you continue to feed, you will get a citation. The result is a court hearing, with consequences of a \$500 fine and/or jail time.

SH Tips & Hacks

Vacations, golf outings or lounging by the pool may be on your schedule this summer, but save a little time for your home. Now is a great time to check your house before it gets too hot. Relax with the knowledge that you're ready for summer by taking care of these chores first:

- **Trim around outdoor HVAC units.** Grass and weeds around the units can affect their efficiency and could even cause expensive damage.
- **Inspect wood decks.** If the wood is showing its age, summer can be a good time to apply a coat of stain or sealant. Tap down any protruding nails and sand rough areas to ensure safety through the seasons.
- **Check stucco.** Warm weather is ideal for cleaning and inspecting stucco. Pay close attention to each area of your walls as you clean them, looking for cracks, peeling and any other signs of trouble.
- **Inspect foundation and crawlspace.** Look for cracks that may need repair. If you have a crawlspace, check

it right after a heavy rain to make sure there's no water getting in there.

- **Test drip/irrigation system.** If you have an underground drip or irrigation system, leaks in the tubing, pipes or connections can cause your water bills to skyrocket. Be sure irrigation occurs in the cooler hours—too much is lost to evaporation if you water during the heat of the day. The [Environmental Protection Agency](#) offers excellent tips for maintaining your irrigation system.

Do YOU Love Sandia Heights?

Claudia Mitchell

Back in Dec 2021 after a week of looking at houses all over the Albuquerque area, a place came up for sale in Sandia Heights. We turned off Tramway onto Live Oak and entered a new world. There were no overhead utilities to impede the views across the Rio Grande Valley and up to the dramatic escarpment of the Sandias. The areas surrounding the houses had been left natural—dotted with juniper, pinon, native shrubs, grasses, and granite boulders. The homes were all unique but consistent with a Southwest vibe. They looked well-kept and loved. They blended into the natural colors of the land. We learned that deer, coyote, and bobcats roamed the arroyos freely without the impediment of wire fences and that the night skies were unmarred by streetlights and porchlights. We had not seen an area like this! We were thrilled that our bid for the house was accepted and in Jan 2022 we moved here from Whidbey Island, WA. After getting settled in, we volunteered for the Board and committees to help maintain this environment that we love.

There just is not another place like this! The developers of Sandia Heights had a vision in 1965. In 1972 the Sandia Heights Homeowners Association was created with the sole goal of preserving the unique character and quality of life of this beautiful foothill community. Over fifty years later, we still enjoy this beauty only because a group of people have cared enough to protect it with carefully thought-out covenants that protect the welfare and common interests of homeowners, including their property values. Without this group of volunteers, you would not be able to enjoy what you see around you today.

Do you love Sandia Heights? If you do, please consider joining the Board to keep this vision alive. The Board is in desperate need of members to keep it as a viable legal entity recognized by Bernalillo County and the State of New Mexico. Only a few hours a month of your time will keep this place beautiful for the next fifty years and beyond. Show your love!

ACC Activity Log

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

8 Juniper Hill Rd – Replace TPO
32 Juniper Hill Rd – Replace Garage Door
42 Cedar Hill Pl - Landscaping
122 Juniper Hill Rd – Extend Fence
328 Paintbrush Drive – PV Panel Installation
438 Live Oak Loop – Replace Doors/Install Door
449 Live Oak Loop – Repair/Re-stucco Courtyard Wall, Replace Driveway, Replace Windows, Doors
449 Live Oak Loop – Re-Stucco
532 Roadrunner Lane – Repaint Stucco
536 Black Bear Rd – Gazebo Installation
575 Black Bear Rd – Re-roof
631 Cougar Loop – Stucco Refinishing
643 Cougar Loop – Re-roof
869 E Tramway Lane Ct – PV Panel Installation
901 Tramway Lane – Minor Roof Repairs
1002 Tramway Lane – Shade Structure Installation
1025 Tramway Lane – PV Panel Installation
1027 Tramway Lane – Workshop/Studio Addition
1144 Marigold Drive – Re-stucco
1563 Eagle Ridge Court – Replace Canales
1724 Quail Run Court – Retaining walls/Landscape
1801 Tramway Terrace Loop – Re-roof Patio
1812 Tramway Terrace Loop - Landscaping
1922 Quail Run Dr – PV Panel Installation
2158 Black Willow Dr – Garage Door Replacement
2158 Black Willow Dr – Re-roof
2158 Black Willow Dr – Repaint Door & Trim
2158 Black Willow Dr – Replace Windows
2813 Tramway Circle – Roof Repair
2813 Tramway Circle – Stucco Repair
2833 Tramway Circle – Replace Wood Gates
2878 Brushwood St – Repaint Trim, Garage, Canales

8231 Raintree Drive – PV Panel Installation

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

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:

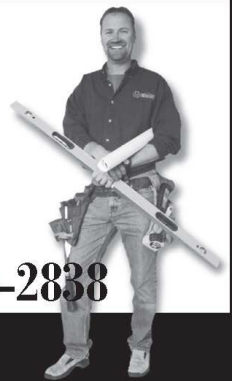
Check out the entire SHHA Member Benefits Program and the discounts offered to SHHA members at www.sandiahomeowners.org, under the **Notices and Information** tab. Each participating merchant offers a discount to SHHA members. The following is a list of currently participating merchants:

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Jade Enterprises Inc.
O'Briens Realty LLC
Safe at Home Environmental Services
Bank of Albuquerque Mortgage

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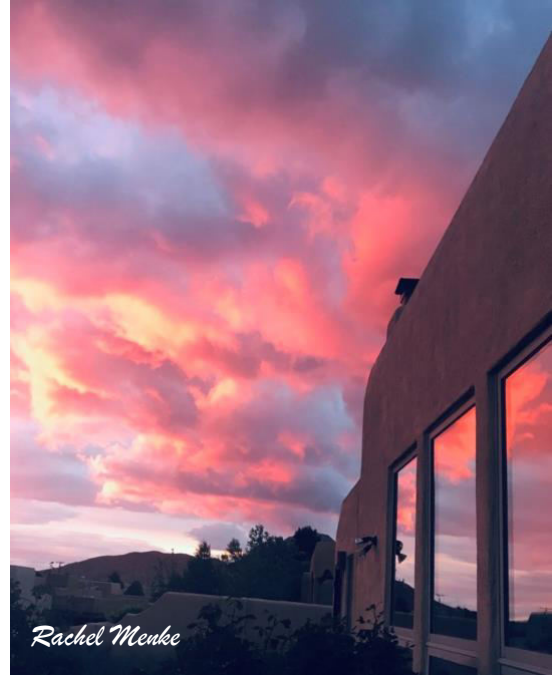
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Sunsets

Each year Sandia Heights' amateur photographers submit many amazing photographs to the competition for the cover of the *Resident Guide and Directory*. The *GRIT* is showing some of the best during the year, grouping them by subject matter. This third installment shows some of our magnificent sunsets. If you're reading the paper *GRIT*, we suggest you check these out in color on the SHHA website. They're fantastic. Stay tuned for more of your neighbors' excellent photos in future issues.



Don't Take It for Granite!

Stan Davis

The Sandia Granite is not Granite! That heretical statement is a bit of tongue-in-cheek, so rest assured that it's perfectly fine to call the Sandia Granite a *granite*, after all, "Granite" is in its name. The term *granite* is used to classify a broad range of igneous rocks. In the world of petrology, igneous rocks are generally classified by their physical appearance and mineral makeup: granites are coarse grained *in that you can see individual crystals* and they contain predominantly light-colored *felsic* minerals such as quartz and certain feldspars, but can also be "peppered" with dark minerals. The Sandia Granite tends to contain predominantly quartz, a pink feldspar and a white feldspar. The relatively low amount of quartz compared to feldspars has led academics to classify the Sandia Granite as a *Monzogranite*, *Monzonite*, and/or *Granodiorite*, all of which could be considered to fall under the *granite* umbrella. Generally, a "true" Granite, which is rare, contains a larger amount of quartz in proportion to feldspars than the Sandia Granite tends to exhibit.

One of the feldspars abundant in the Sandia Granite is pink, potassium-rich microcline (KAlSi_3O_8). Some of these crystals have grown quite large relative to the other minerals in the rock, resulting in what is called a *porphyritic* texture. In some places the microcline is so abundant relative to other minerals that it would be tempting to call that rock a *Quartz Syenite* (although I've not seen that term applied to the Sandia Granite). Seen from a distance, the high cliffs facing our neighborhood exhibit gigantic pink-to-red "splotches", thanks to the microcline. So, variations in the mineral content and crystal size in the Sandia Granite naturally lead to variations in the color of the rock. It has been reported that in some places the Sandia Granite contains large proportions of dark brown biotite mica—up to 50 percent(!)—hence darkening the overall appearance. Weathering can alter minerals, especially feldspars and micas, leading to still more color variations. In some places the granite is devoid of the pink feldspars altogether, resulting in a white or "salt-and-pepper" granite, such as can be seen in the stunning Rozamiento Canyon, whose entrance lies at the eastern edge of North Sandia Heights.

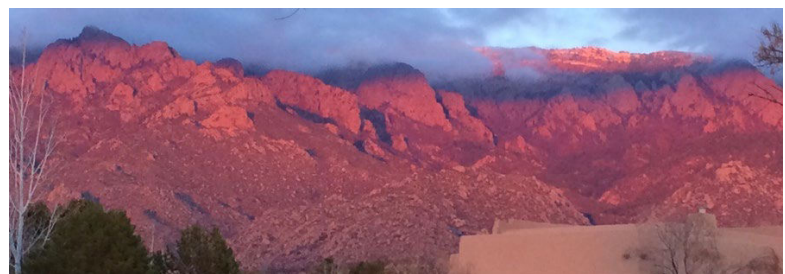
At any rate, no matter what you call the Sandia Granite, you can't deny the fine canvas in our own backyard that these Sandia Mountain cliffs provide for colorful Albuquerque sunsets.



View looking through the surprising Sandia Arch, made of beautiful red Sandia Granite, over to limestone cliffs high up on the North Crest. Inset shows a close-up of coarse red microcline feldspar crystals from Pinnacle Valley, which is also near the North Crest. (S. Davis)



Enjoying a hike through the dazzling Rozamiento Canyon white Sandia Granite, just uphill from North Sandia Heights. Inset shows a close-up of the salt-and-pepper appearance. (S. Davis)



Sandias being painted red by the setting sun, as viewed from Sandia Heights. (S. McCasland)

SHHA Board & Committee Service Q&A

Thursday, May 18, 6:30–7:30 PM via Zoom

We will have short panel discussion followed by a Q&A session where SHHA members may ask about Board and Committee service. The purpose is to help interested residents find ways to volunteer some of their time to strengthen our Sandia Heights community. Contact the Office to receive a Zoom link.

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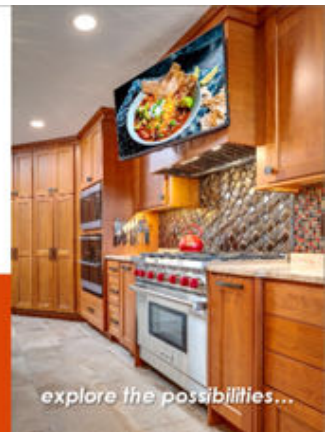


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One Man's Weed

Historical article from May 1991 GRIT

Jean Heflin

Human nature being what it is, we want what we don't have. That seems to be especially true when it comes to gardens. The patient householder will struggle and struggle with elaborate irrigation systems, fertilizers, greenhouses, special soils,



just to prove he can outdo his environment and expand its horizons by growing plants that don't naturally live in his area, an activity which is especially challenging here with Southwest climate and soils.

I carefully tend a couple of pots of gorgeous pink *impatiens* on my shady terrace each summer thinking how splendid they are, but near Rio de Janeiro where they grow everywhere in the country, the locals are not so enthusiastic. *Impatiens* are so invasive that they have made it impossible for some coffee plantations to produce.

Another plant I'm fond of (which so far the rabbits have ignored!) is butterfly bush (*buddleia*) which has now been hybridized to a rather well behaved shrub and comes in lovely shades of purple, blue, white and sometimes pink. It seems happy here with a small amount of water. It surprised me in southern England to see it growing out of abandoned walls and sidewalk cracks—clearly a weed, maybe a pest.

There's a long list of plants like this—fine in one situation, a nuisance in another. Red valerian seems to be a rather restrained and acceptable plant under our dry conditions; in California, it seems the plant that may take over the world, appearing everywhere it's not wanted. In California, too, the pretty pink Mexican evening primrose is an obstreperous plant growing completely out of bounds but here is more constrained by moisture limitations. Almost a weed there, an okay plant in most gardens here.

The reverse is true; some of New Mexico's common plants, to which we pay little attention, are treasured elsewhere. Sometimes, if conditions are right, the lovely Santa Fe phlox will appear in the grass around my house. It's a little shy at this elevation but in the spring can produce a brilliant pink many places in the

state. Imagine my surprise when browsing through an English horticulture report about culture of alpine plants with elaborate instructions on making gravel troughs for them to live, to find that "the most difficult of all Alpine plants to grow" had won a special garden show prize—it was a *phlox nana*, our Santa Fe phlox. Thousand of miles [sic] away someone treasured this lovely plant, and I feel guilty for not really giving it its due when it volunteered to grow in my own yard!

New Mexico's beautiful evergreen pineleaf penstemon from our mountains, easy to grow and a delight year round, was not very well known in our nurseries until just recently. In England, it has been grown for a long time and hybridized for color, resulting in yellow and pink strains of the plant. But, of course, the English take horticulture very seriously, and we're just beginning to think about planting in the Southwest.

Meanwhile, our wild plants are our New Mexico treasures and hard to grow elsewhere. Let's treasure our WEEDS and not just let them be treasures somewhere else!

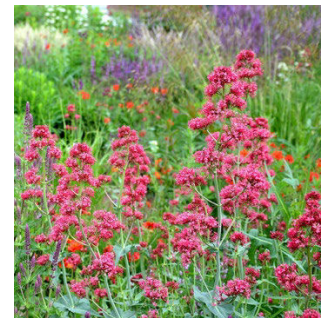
Plants Mentioned in the Historical Article



Impatiens



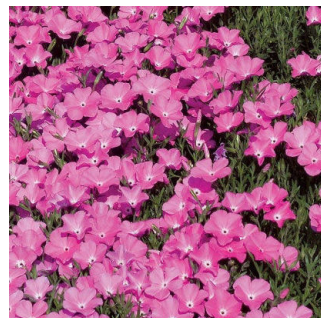
Butterfly bush



Red valerian



Mexican evening primrose



Santa Fe phlox



Pineleaf penstemon

Community Events Bulletin Board

These groups are not sponsored by SHHA. Information is provided to keep residents informed.

Sandia Heights “Cork & Fork” Dining Activity: We are happy to announce that Cork & Fork has resumed our bimonthly dinners. We gather in the homes of our members. Each small dinner group is typically 6–8 people, including the hosts. 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. All adult Sandia Heights residents are welcome. To inquire or join any time of year, call Rene Kessel at (505) 504-3886 or email at rene.kessel@cblegacy.com.

Sandia Heights Artists. Jewelry, weaving, mini-monsters, photography, stained glass, wearable creations, paintings, pottery, woodwork, and many other artistic creations will be on display during the Sandia Heights Air Tour. Keep September 9 and 10 on your list of special events as you help us celebrate 20 years of art tours. Fifteen houses will be open from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM both Saturday and Sunday. Flyers and maps will be available at a later date. Do plan to join us in September and celebrate 20 years.

Notice: Any corrections to the printed version of the GRIT can be found on the website: www.sandiahomeowners.org. We always welcome Letters to the Editor and your response to articles in *The GRIT*. Email us at thegritshha@gmail.com.



Susan Clifford took this photo March 23 from her driveway.



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



The SHHA Office will be closed Monday, May 29 to honor our veterans who have given the ultimate sacrifice