



Unit numbers shown in parentheses

**Officers**

- President - Jim Stewart (7)
- Vice President - Eric Faulring (10)
- Secretary - Martin Kirk (23)
- Treasurer – Charles Ewing (14)

**Board Members**

- Stan Davis (10)
- Larry Dragan (16)
- Elizabeth Edgren (South 1)
- Charles Ewing (14)
- Joel Jordan (10)
- Heidi Komkov (8)
- Phil Krehbiel (14)
- Kathleen McCaughey (5)
- Claudia Mitchell (5)
- Arthur Romero (7)
- Terry Walker (11)

**Committee Chairs**

- Architectural Control Committee (ACC) – Phil Krehbiel
- Communications & Publications Committee (C&P) – Claudia Mitchell
- Community Service & Membership Committee (CS&M) – Elizabeth Edgren
- Covenant Support Committee (CSC) – Arthur Romero
- Environment & Safety Committee (E&S) – Kathleen McCaughey
- Finance Committee (FC) – Randy Tripp
- Information Technology Committee (ITC) – Heidi Komkov
- Nominating Committee (NC) – Eric Faulring

**Office Staff**

- Lead Administrator – Trish Lovato
- Administrator – Hope Fryer

**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](http://www.sandiahomeowners.org)  
**Email:** [shha@sandiahomeowners.org](mailto:shha@sandiahomeowners.org)

**Message from the President, December 2024**

**Jim Stewart**

Howdy Neighbors,

Several of you have come forth to volunteer to serve on the board and the supporting committees for your association. We are (I am!!) very appreciative of your willingness to serve Sandia Heights.

On a more subdued note, a long-term member of the board, Hugh Prather, passed away in October. Hugh was a veteran, a retired school superintendent, and one fine man. Hugh recruited me to the board last year and was always a willing mentor as I attempted to wrap my brain around the duties of your Board President. We will miss him.

Traffic concerns continue to be an issue for our residents. Please keep sending me your emails about the locations of most concern to you. I am in continual contact with the Sheriff’s Office, and they are working closely with both myself and the Chair of the Environment and Safety Committee. Full disclosure...I am a retired Chief Deputy Sheriff from Texas and am intimately familiar with the challenges inherent to enforcing traffic laws. It requires a steady and ongoing focus on problem areas...as your HOA we are committed to that effort.

The monthly ‘rant’...I am likely readily identifiable as a ‘senior citizen,’ much like many of you, but there is a very clear movement of younger families into our neighborhood. That is good...we want the things we all appreciate that are inherent to Sandia Heights to be available to, and appreciated by, the future generations. That is why the Board and Committees work so hard to preserve the qualities of our homes and neighborhoods.

Remember our office staff (Trish and Hope) are available five days a week; please reach out to them via email or a phone call with your issues or concerns. Of course, you can also reach out to me at [president@sandiahomeowners.org](mailto:president@sandiahomeowners.org). I promise you will receive a response.

**\*\*Save the Date: SHHA 2025 Annual Meeting, Saturday, February 22, 2025 \*\***

## An Old-timer's Memories of December Holiday Traditions in Sandia Heights

Ann B. List

When we were a very small neighborhood of about 40 families in the early 70's, there were a few traditions we enjoyed every holiday season. These included luminarias and caroling on Christmas Eve, Santa Claus waving from the back of a fire truck on Christmas morning, and "progressive dinners" on New Year's Eve.

In the early years, we purchased paper bags and candles from our neighborhood Boy Scout troop to help support their activities. Then the task on Christmas Eve was to fill each bag with a layer of sand to weight it down, insert the votive candles, and place each bag along our driveways or front steps. As soon as it became dark, we would light each candle in the bags with what were called "long reach matches," or sometimes cigarette lighters (common in those days). Luminarias were always favored in those days, due both to their low impact on light pollution, and to the fact that they attracted fewer vehicles to our little outpost of civilization.

After lighting the luminarias, we would then wait for the carolers to arrive, and sometimes even join them with our own children to trek around the neighborhood.



*Christmas Eve Carolers, 1981*

There was one year on a really cold Christmas Evening where one house we serenaded was having their own little party. They heard our voices and invited us inside

to warm up with a beverage (hot chocolate for the kids and something a bit stronger for the adults). The best part of the evening was everyone singing a few Christmas carols together before we left.

Then there was the year we hired a wagon loaded with hay to cart us around the neighborhood singing our carols. I'm fairly certain the wagon was hauled by two horses wearing bells with their driver from our local stable. But if anyone has a better memory than mine, please correct me.

Come Christmas morning, we'd hear the siren of a fire-truck blasting throughout the neighborhood. The first time, I worried someone's house had caught fire from either the luminarias or a wood fireplace. But in following years, there was always Santa Claus perched on top of the truck tossing candies to any one in sight. (I never knew who was inside the Santa costume, but I'm betting it was our fire chief Willie Jackson or one of his volunteer elves.)

Another holiday tradition celebrated by a small group of original residents was the "mother-daughter brunch," usually a day or two after Christmas, and often at The Range in Bernalillo. In more recent years, daughters-in-law and granddaughters sometimes joined us.

As for New Year's Eve, someone always stepped up to organize our neighborhood 'progressive party' celebrations that involved various hosts and potluck offerings:



*Mother-Daughter Christmas Brunch, 1990s*

... continued on page 3



... continued from page 2

appetizers at the first house, main course at second house, and dessert at third house.

The rationale behind traveling from house to house in the neighborhood on New Year's Eve, as opposed to driving into the city to celebrate, was uncertainty about weather conditions and the possibility of accidents involving impaired drivers on the long stretch of Tramway Boulevard between Sandia Heights and Montgomery Boulevard.

Sadly, our New Year's Eve tradition ended in 1985 following the fatal small airplane crash on the I-25 median just north of Albuquerque involving Ben Abruzzo, his wife Pat, and four other neighbors. As most folks know, Ben and his partner Robert Nordhaus, along with Bob Murphy at Alvarado Realty, were instrumental in developing Sandia Heights as we know it today.

Nevertheless, my wish for the New Year is that each of us makes an effort to connect in some way with neighbors. Perhaps just a wave at walkers and runners on our streets or to the driver of a familiar car passing by? That way, we might be able to continue the camaraderie Ben Abruzzo, Bob Nordhaus, and Bob Murphy fostered among us beginning 50 years ago.

Meanwhile, HAPPY HOLIDAYS everyone!

### ACC Activity Log

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

|                           |                                 |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1022 Tramway Ln NE        | Add 1 BR, office, extend garage |
| 7724 Cedar Canyon Ct      | Re-roof                         |
| 2420 Tramway Terrace Ct   | Replace windows & Door          |
| 1939 Quail Run Loop       | Replace garage door             |
| 1459 Bluebell Dr          | Install fencing                 |
| 1843 Tramway Terrace Loop | Replace gates                   |
| 301 Juniper Hill Rd       | Landscape                       |
| 156 Juniper Hill Rd       | Re-roof                         |
| 981 Antelope Ave          | Paint exterior fence            |
| 16 Juniper Hill Loop      | Replace front door              |
| 39 Rock Ridge Dr          | Replace deck with Trex boards   |

## And That's the Way It Was Historical Article, Sandia GRIT, Dec 1976

Thanks to our Communications and Publications archivist, **Ann List**, we found some fun old copies of the GRIT which were mimeographed. All you who remember mimeographs, raise your hand.

**FIRE !!!!!!!**

Sandia Heights recently experienced its first major structure fire in the form of a faulty fireplace. The estimated loss was set at \$3,600. First I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude for the quick response and alertness of our homeowners and volunteer fire persons who were involved in suppressing the fire. Second, had it not been for their concern and the time of day the alarm was reported, I feel certain the loss would have been disastrous. Such as:: The entire structure being fully involved and perhaps the victims succumbing from smoke inhalation had the fire waited until 4:00 a.m. rather than 8:00 p.m.


My thinking on the second point is that if all Sandia Heights homeowners utilized smoke detectors in their dwellings this possibility would be reduced by as much as 95%. There are several good models on the market ranging from \$45 to \$65. If a fire did break out in your home in the wee hours of the morning, your detector would alert you and provide more time for help response. I strongly urge each and every one of our homeowners to have at least one installed.

Willie Jackson - Chief.

P.S. The Chief was downtown partying and Sparky Speakman was minding the store.

P.P.S. Give a fire detector for Christmas

### Covenant Support Violations as of October 30, 2024



**Received: 1**

**Open: 9**

**Closed: 0**

# OCTOBER CALLS TO SANDIA HEIGHTS SECURITY PATROL

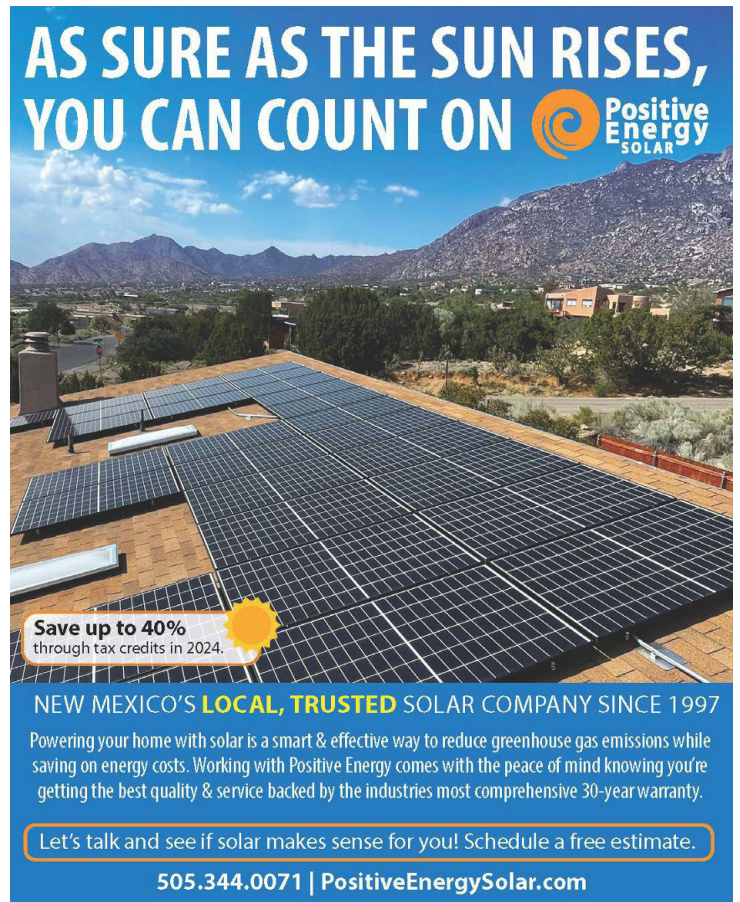
The following statistics are the latest provided by Sandia Heights Security since the last GRIT. **Please be reminded that Sandia Heights Services (they provide water, sewer, trash and recycle collection, and security services) is a subscription service separate from Sandia Heights Homeowners Association 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.


| July 2024                        | # of calls |                            | # of calls |
|----------------------------------|------------|----------------------------|------------|
| Alarms                           | 8          | Special Extra Patrol       | 1          |
| Customer Assistance              | 4          | Special Request/Vacation   | 91         |
| Lost/found Item                  | 1          | Speeding Vehicle           | 1          |
| Lost/Found Pet                   | 3          | Suspicious person/activity | 3          |
| Mailbox Vandalism                | 2          | Suspicious vehicle         | 3          |
| Newspaper/Package Pickup         | 15         | Theft                      | 3          |
| Noise Complaint/Suspicious Noise | 2          | Utility Co. Assist         | 2          |
| Parking Problem                  | 1          | Welfare Check              | 1          |
| Pet Nuisance                     | 1          | Salesman Complaint         | 3          |
|                                  |            | <b>Total:</b>              | <b>145</b> |

**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

## Announcements & Notices:

- **Office hours:** Mon – Thur 9 AM - 4 PM. Fri 9 AM - Noon.
- **Board Meeting:** the next board meeting will be held at the SHHA office on December 11, 2024 6:30pm.
- **Office Closures for Holiday(s): December 23-27, 2024** the office will be closed for Christmas, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 for New Years day.
- **Notary services (Tues–Thurs, by appointment),** copies (20 per month) and **faxes, e-mail alerts,** and **contractor evaluation binder,** free to members.
- **Committee meeting dates** are posted on our website calendar: [www.sandiahomeowners.org](http://www.sandiahomeowners.org)
- **Classified ads** can be found on the website on the top bar menu under Notices and Information/Classifieds.
- **Tram passes** for sale in the SHHA Office. \$10.00 per ticket for members on a first-come first-served basis. Checks and Credit Cards are accepted. To view the Tram Pass Procedures for SHHA Members go to the SHHA website.



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[smminabq@aol.com](mailto:smminabq@aol.com) | (505) 822-0080

### Sharon's Sandia Heights Market Update Past Year 12/2023 to 12/2024

4 Larger homes For Sale on Larger Lots | Avg Asking price \$1,717,475 Avg Asking price/sf \$309.98  
 8 Homes Pending | Avg Asking Price \$892,738 Avg Asking price/sf \$295.33  
 48 Homes Closed past year to date | Avg Sold Price \$899,326 Avg Sold price/sf. \$254.30

5 Smaller homes on smaller lots | Avg Asking price \$424,700 Avg Asking price/sf \$255.22  
 3 homes pending | Avg Asking Price \$541,333 Avg Asking price/sf \$279.86

39 Homes Closed past year to date | Avg Sold Price \$461,309 Avg Sold price/sf \$263.13

Note Every Home Is Unique . Price is always based on condition, updates, market appeal, location and views.  
 Current Interest rates hovering around 6.725% for 30 year conventional & 6.125% 30 year VA!



1114 San Rafael Ave NE



2027 Quail Run Dr NE



730 Tramway Lane NE



1723 Quail Run Ct. NE

## ANOTHER GREAT SANDIA HEIGHTS HOME!

908 TRAMWAY LANE NE | ASKING PRICE \$732,000 | 2517 SF | 3BR | 2 BATHS 2+ CAR GARAGE



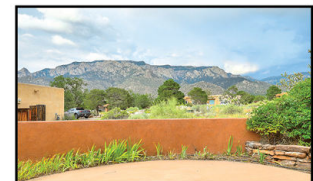
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## The Lone Ranger (Station)

Stan Davis

Just east of northern North Sandia Heights (NSH), inside the Cibola National Forest boundary, lie the ruins of the Jaral Canyon ranger station cabin. If you have ever hiked the nearby Tramway trail, you have probably seen them. This site is located just east of the Cosme Garcia Homestead ruins that lie within NSH (see *The GRIT*, Jun 2024), and south of the Jaral Canyon pueblo ruins that

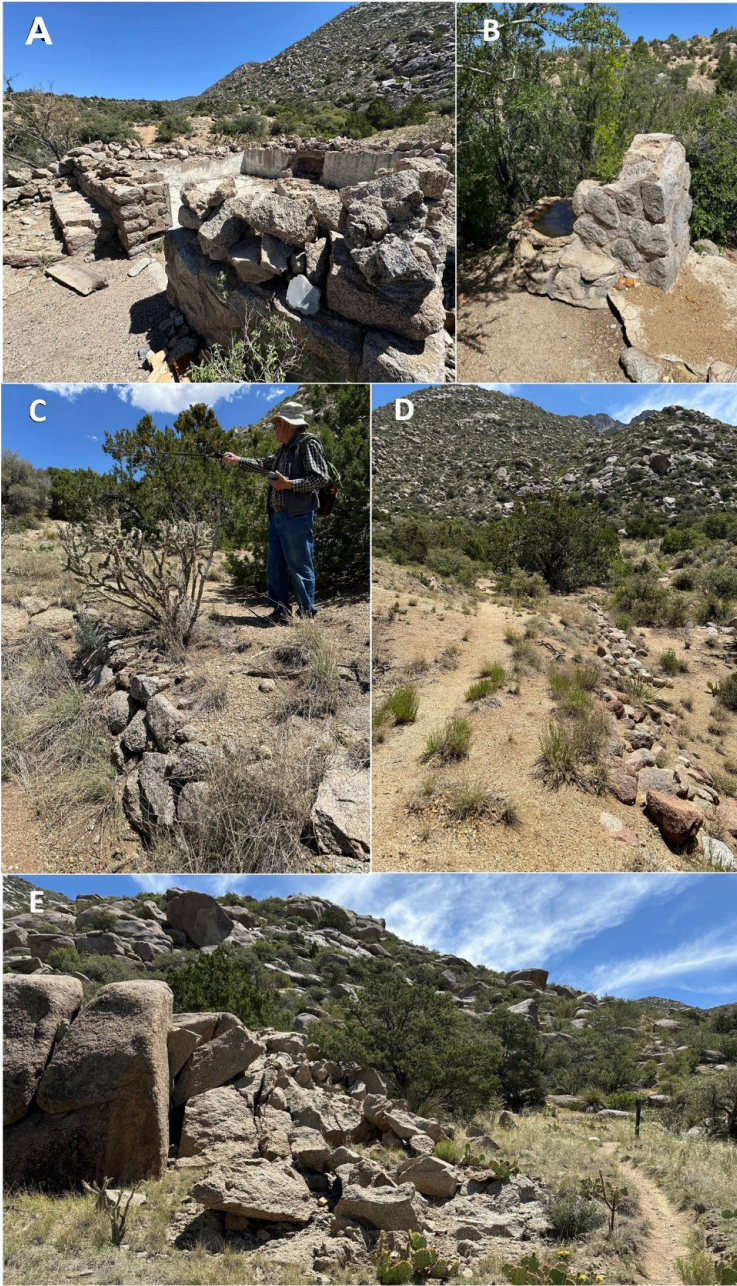


Figure 1: (A) Main ranger station cabin ruins. (B) Water fountain. (C) Boulder embankment shoring up buried pipe leading to cabin, with Hayward Franklin pointing uphill to the spring. (D) Boulder embankment shoring up old road that led to the cabin, now a trail. (E) Huge boulder that was blown up to test the dynamite.

lie within the Forest (*The GRIT*, Jul & Aug 2024). The cabin was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the mid-1930's, but is believed to have replaced a pre-existing ranger station built between 1907-1917 for what was then called the Manzano National Forest. The main structure was built of granite boulders and concrete, and consisted of a single room with a porch (portico), a window, fireplace and chimney, and a metal roof. Unfortunately, due to ongoing vandalism, the cabin was intentionally destroyed by the National Forest by blowing it up with dynamite in the 1980's – otherwise it could probably have ended up being listed in the National Register of Historic Places (Hayward Franklin, pers. comm., 2024). The dynamite was tested by blowing up a huge granite boulder near the Tramway trail. What remains of the main structure are the lower portions of the walls and the fireplace. The stone fountain just outside the cabin still has running water! The water is piped in from a spring that lies to the north, close to a major bend in the Tramway trail. Although the pipe leading from the spring to the cabin is buried, an embankment that shores up the ground on one side of a stretch of the pipe can still be found. The remains of a concrete latrine still exist, as do old fence posts that were part of a corral. Also of interest is the old road used to access the cabin – it is essentially an eastward linear extension of the particular branch of Spring Creek Place that goes past the old homestead. Boulder embankments still exist that helped prevent the road from eroding into the Jaral canyon drainage that flows westward into NSH. Looking at these not-so-old ruins, it is easy to imagine a ranger or two sitting on the front porch of the cabin, relaxing after a long day in the foothills, tending to the needs of the National Forest.

### References

Davis, Phyllis S, 1984, *The Cosme Garcia Homestead and Six Other Selected Sites in Jaral Canyon, NM*, Albuquerque Archaeological Society, Albuquerque, NM, unpublished.  
Franklin, Hayward, H., 2023, personal communication.

### Paper AND Plastic Please!!!

The next time you want to buy Tram Tickets, pay an Architectural Control Committee fee, or purchase one of our remaining safety vests, you can pay with a check, a credit card, or a debit card. In fact, the Sandia Heights Homeowners Association office located at 12700 San Rafael, NE #3 is now **cashless**.

## **The More Things Change, the More They Stay the Same – Except for AI, That’s New** Information Technology Committee

As the old saying goes, “The more things change, the more they stay the same.” In Sandia Heights, the seasons follow familiar rhythms. As fall’s vibrant colors give way to the quiet stillness of winter, we stack firewood and disconnect our swamp coolers, preparing for the colder months. Just as these seasonal tasks are woven into our routine, our desire for neighborly connection, undisturbed nature, and sense of belonging remains constant, even as the world around us continues to evolve.

But some things really are new. One of the most transformative developments in recent history is the rise of Artificial Intelligence (AI). This year, the newly-formed SHHA Information Technology (IT) committee embraced modern technology to enhance our organization. We used AI to organize and summarize over 350 past *GRIT* newsletters since the 1970s, making our community’s history accessible and searchable on our website. Recent *GRIT* issues also feature AI-generated cartoons, adding a unique, whimsical touch to illustrate articles and announcements.

Yet, as we embrace cutting-edge technology, we can’t help but notice what hasn’t changed. Since the founding of the SHHA, the same core issues have resurfaced time and again. How do we preserve the character of the neighborhood while addressing practical concerns like keeping yards tidy and fire-safe? How can we ensure the safety of pedestrians on our winding streets? And what’s the right balance between maintaining a cohesive community appearance and honoring each homeowner’s individuality?

As much as things evolve, our dedication to making Sandia Heights a better place remains timeless.

### ***The GRIT: Guiding Residents, Inspiring Togetherness*** The Editor

Each month a handful of volunteer Sandia Heights residents meet as the Communications and Publications (C&P) Committee to discuss and plan how information should best be made available to our homeowners via

publications and the website. Each member brings to the table unique skills, and all have a keen common interest in improving the way that information is distributed to our foothill community. They continually come up with imaginative and original ideas to meet their charter. The committee is responsible for several tasks, but the one that is ongoing is the monthly creation, compilation, and publication of *The GRIT*. At the first of each month, thanks to this little committee, residents have come to expect an email announcing the availability of the online color version or a black and white hard-copy in their mailbox of *The GRIT*—full of helpful information and entertaining articles and photographs common to our beautiful and singular Sandia Heights.

Behind this publication are hours spent researching pertinent timely ideas and information providing accurate articles full of facts and human interest about the environment and goings-on of our neighborhood. Although AI is occasionally utilized to generate a cartoon illustration to make a specific point, rest assured that the articles themselves are the product of many hours put in by humans thinking and writing with the residents in mind.

Committee members recently have been discussing how our newsletter, which started out as a couple of mimeographed sheets in the 70’s, got its unusual name. Our long-time resident member thought it came from the idea of providing the “nitty-gritty” of what was going on and was a pun on the sandy decomposed granite soil. The true origin of the name appears to have been lost in the decades which have passed since the first issue of *The GRIT*, hand-typed as a stencil and run through a copying machine. Today, more and more, the C&P committee interfaces with the expertise of the newly formed Information Technology committee which is ably comprised of a few highly skilled volunteers who are IT professionals. Heidi Komkov, the chair of the IT committee, has been working tirelessly to assist in upgrades of the SHHA system. Heidi shared in our discussion of the name of *The GRIT* and came up with an apt backronym for *The GRIT*: “*Guiding Residents, Inspiring Togetherness.*”

I think this is an accurate phrase for what the Communications and Publications committee aspires to accomplish every month for all residents. Thank you, C&P committee; thank you, Heidi and the other IT committee members, Eric Faulring and Joel Jordan; and thank you, dear reader.



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## Wishing you Happy Holidays and a Wonderful New Year, Sandia Heights!

As the year comes to a close, we reflect on the beauty of our unique community nestled at the base of the Sandias and the special moments we've shared. May your holiday season be filled with joy, peace, and time with loved ones, and may the New Year bring new opportunities and continued connections with our neighborhood.

Thank you for being part of what makes Sandia Heights such a special place.

Here's to a bright 2025.

Warm Wishes,  
Greg

**PENDING**



**656 ROADRUNNER Lane NE**  
2151 SQ FT 3-4BR 2BA .74Acres

**SOLD**



**152 JUNIPER HILL Road NE**  
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**PENDING**



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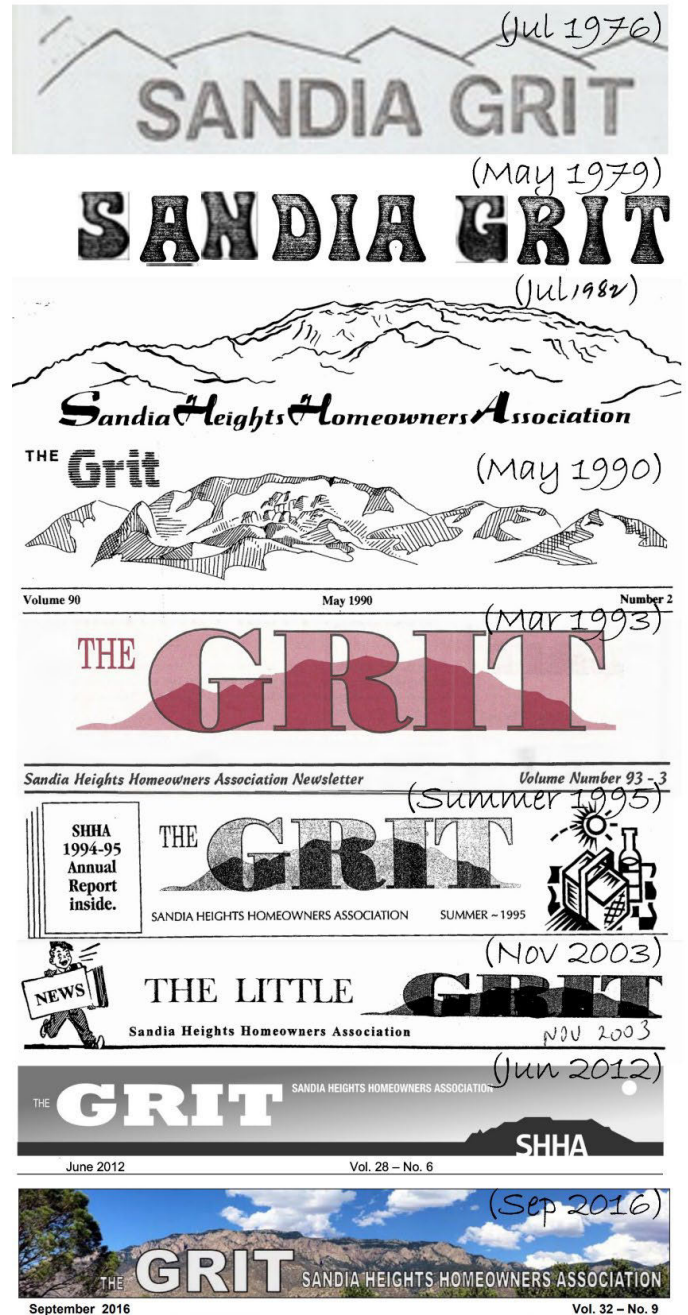
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## Evolution of a Mountain (Logo) Communications & Publications Committee

Using our new archived listing of The GRIT newsletters going back nearly fifty years, the evolution of the SHHA logo can be chronicled, since it has been used in the banner at the top of the first page. The first logo consisted of a crude drawing of a mountain range, as can be seen on the July 1976 edition (thanks to Ann List, C&P member for squirreling away a paper copy!). The mountains were apparently eroded away by May 1979, but they rose again as a more realistic line drawing by July 1982. The mountains were drawn in an artistic shaded-relief type of style starting by May 1990. March 1993 showed the advent of major change in the logo to an idealized silhouette of the high, northern part of the Sandias that form the backdrop for our neighborhood. In summer 1995 The GRIT started featuring some neighborhood advertisements and graphics as part of the banner, but the logo itself remained the same. Starting in November 2003 occasional shorter versions of the newsletter were called “The Little GRIT”, but again, the logo was unchanged. The final major change to the logo came in June 2012, where additional fine-scale modifications were made to better represent the profile of the Sandias, including for example, by placing the highest elevation toward the north (left), with a slight drop in elevation going to the south (right). Even a little sharp peak was added to represent the tip of *The Needle* (can you see it?!). While this logo remains the official logo to this day, as can be seen on SHHA business cards for example, it was removed from The GRIT banner in September 2016 and replaced with the beautiful full-color panoramic photograph of the Sandias taken by Burt O’Neill (C&P member).



### Community Events Bulletin Board

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

**Come play with us at the Duke City Bridge Club!** Bridge uses playing cards to solve puzzles while providing a lively social community. Hundreds of thousands of people the world over have found a lifelong passion playing bridge. For lessons and games for players of all levels, call 505-271-2877, email [dcbcbridge@gmail.com](mailto:dcbcbridge@gmail.com), or visit <https://dukecitybridge.com/>

**Sandia Heights “Cork & Fork” Dining Activity:** Cork & Fork has resumed 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 two whole-group dinners during the year. All adult Sandia Heights residents are welcome. To inquire, call Rene Kessel at (505) 504-3886 or email at [rene.kessel@cblegacy.com](mailto:rene.kessel@cblegacy.com).

## Surviving the Zombie Apocalypse in Sandia Heights

Merrilea Mayo

Being an avid science fiction fan, I have spent more than a few lazy mental seconds wondering what I would do in the case of a zombie apocalypse. I have never owned a gun and would likely be a terrible shot, given my legally-blind eyes. So, gunning down my neighbors and stealing their cabinets full of tinned food is not a terribly likely survival route for yours truly. OK, next option: maybe I could forage my way to survival. Hmm... I could get pretty close to a plant, and it likely wouldn't kill me before I killed it. But exactly what would there be to eat in the desert? HOW WOULD I ACTUALLY SURVIVE A ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE IN SANDIA HEIGHTS?

Turns out, there are plenty of free desert food options that do not involve cans or cannibalism! The desert around us is full of things to eat. It's a bountiful buffet on an arid plate, just waiting to be eaten. Here are three of the many options:

**Prickly Pear**—Late summer/early fall. The fruit is purplish and tastes like passion fruit, an amazing, sweet flavor. The pads are more vegetable-like; think green beans or bell peppers. Both are best picked in the morning, when their citrus flavor is strongest.



Figure 1. This prolific prickly pear cactus will keep a whole family well fed for weeks.

For the fruit, use leather gloves and tongs to twist individual “tunas” (the fruit) off the cacti. You can also cut tunas off the cacti with a knife. Rub each tuna vigorously with a scrubby or gloves under running water to get the invisible, hair-thin long thready spines off. Alternatively, you can burn off the spines by slowly turning the fruit over a flame until all the glochids (tiny

protrusions bearing the spines) on the tunas are blackened. Cut longitudinally and scoop out the pulp, or make skin-deep cuts into the fruit and peel the skin away from the pulp. Either method works. Mash the pulp you've liberated through a strainer to get out the seeds (the seeds are technically edible, but not terribly enjoyable). Use the resulting juice in a Prickly Pear Zombie-rita, or make a syrup or jam from the juice. Takes 6-12 fruits to make a cup of juice.

The nopales, or pads, of the prickly pear cactus are also edible, though far less exotic-tasting. The younger, thinner ones are preferred, as they are more tender. Here, the spines mostly have to be scraped off, using an angled kitchen knife along the flat sides and a potato peeler around the edges of the cactus pad. From there, the pads can be sliced and sauteed until the pieces turn from bright green to olive green. The pads can also be baked or roasted whole. Scraping out the meat inside the skin gives one an artichoke-like meat that can be used to supplement tacos, quiches, etc.

**Yucca**—Spring through winter. Nearly all parts of the plant are edible except the leaves.



Figure 2. Fruit of a neighbor's red yucca plant. The branch on the left was originally a spine of flowers that then fruited. Inside the dried fruits, one can find edible black seeds.

There are many varieties of yucca. Identify the specific variety of yucca you have in your yard using one of those plant identifier photo apps, and google whether



**Sandia Heights YTD MARKET TRENDS**  
Year to date through NOVEMBER 9, 2024 \*detached homes\*

| Closed Sales | Average Sale Price | Current Inventory | Avg Price per sq.ft. | Avg Days on Market |
|--------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 82           | \$698,652          | 9                 | \$261.49             | 30                 |

**PENDING**  
in 10 Days



**559 Black Bear PL NE**  
\$735,000

**PENDING**  
in 0 Days



**636 Cougar LP NE**  
\$825,000

**FOR SALE**



**LOT - 9 La Luz TR NE**  
\$365,000

**FOR SALE**



**LOT - 6105 Cholla CT NE**  
\$380,000

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it is edible, just to make sure. Store this information in your head for future use in darker times. For yucca roots, you will need to take the skin off before eating, as it is tough, but otherwise these tubers can be cooked and eaten like potatoes. The flowers are supposedly yummy, but I have always gotten to mine too late to taste them. The fruit that the flowers turn into, can be baked or roasted. If it's too late in the season, and the fruit is too dry to be appetizing, then crack open the fruit to find seeds inside. These can be eaten directly and are a source of calories and nutrition that can be stored for a long time.

**Cholla**—Unopened flower buds in spring, yellow or red fruit in summer.



*Figure 3. A flowering cholla cactus in my backyard. Before the flowers emerge is when you want to pick the buds. There should be a hint of pink at the tip. After the flowers turn to fruit, they will be yellow and look a bit like a cluster of artichokes at the end of a cactus arm.*

Most cactus fruit is edible, and the cholla cactus is no exception. Harvesting this plant is similar to harvesting the prickly pear, in that the buds and fruit have spines that need to be burned off, rubbed off, or picked off.

For the buds, which are small and look rather like tiny purple-tipped cacti growing off of a main branch, one de-thorning technique is to place a bunch on top of a box that has a chicken wire screen bottom and stir them around vigorously with a stick to get most of the spines off. The rest of the spines will need to be tweezed or torched off before you use or store the buds. The buds can be simmered or roasted if you want to eat them right away, or dried and rehydrated for later use. To dry them, first blanch in boiling water for 2 minutes, then dehydrate them in an oven at 105 degrees.

If you don't catch the buds when they come out, you can also eat the yellow cholla fruit that comes out later. The fruit can be eaten raw or cooked. It has a vegetable flavor, similar to artichoke (for some reason, many desert plants taste kind of like artichoke).

Remember, even as the zombies are climbing over your stucco walls, there's no reason for you to die hungry!

## **Time Again for Tramway Trash Pickup Saturday December 7<sup>th</sup> Environment & Safety Committee**

Help make our community beautiful. There will be a community trash pickup along Tramway on Saturday, December 7th. (If it rains or snows, backup day will be December 14th.) All volunteers are welcome. Meet at the SHHA office parking lot (SE corner of Tramway and San Rafael) at 9:00 AM. Many hands make light work! Free coffee or hot chocolate afterwards at O'Bean's.



*Our community maintains this stretch of Tramway.*



*Trick or treaters are out for TREATS at the annual neighborhood Halloween get-together on Red Oaks Loop, Oct 25. Our kids enjoy clean roads too! Feel free to get your exercise by picking up trash in the neighborhood. You will get many smiles of appreciation from passing drivers and pedestrians.*





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



*Winter at home in Sandia Heights — Claudia Mitchell*