



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)
- Anderson Kressy (52)
- Kathleen McCaughey (5)
- Claudia Mitchell (5)
- Arthur Romero (7)
- Terry Walker (11)
- Cathy Yandell (3)

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) – Stan Davis
- Environment & Safety Committee (E&S) – Kathleen McCaughey
- Finance Committee (FC) – Charles Ewing
- IT Committee (ITC) – Heidi Komkov
- Nominating Committee (NC) – Eric Faulring

Office Staff

- Lead Administrator – Trish Lovato
- Administrator – Anna Levchuk

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
Email: shha@sandiahomeowners.org

Message from the President, January 2025

Jim Stewart

Howdy Neighbors,

I wrote the following to you in May 2024: *“The board continues to discuss universal membership, I am personally taking the lead on this, and we will be incorporating to the extent possible the issues broached by our neighbors. I believe it is the right thing to do. I will continue to keep you updated.”* Since then, although I still have hope that all residents will become members of the SHHA, we have discovered it is not in the power of the board to mandate such membership. As a result, the resolution to require universal membership was rescinded at the board meeting in December.

And...at the beginning of 2024, there was a motion put forward to initiate a program of charging for violations of our covenants, in an effort to prompt compliance with your covenants. Honestly, I have had no intention of moving forward with this proposal, but I have been encouraged by my betters to officially remove it from consideration by the current (or future) board. As of the December board meeting, the dormant motion has been officially voted down.

Many of you know that I have spent my entire adult life in service to our country, the State of Texas, Brazos County, and now to the Sandia Heights Homeowners Association. Getting on my “soapbox...” If you have something “stuck in your craw” regarding the SHHA, please send me an email and let’s meet up for a cup of joe and discuss it. Festering over it is not good for either of us.

Update on the front office...Hope has decided to return to college!! It would be a challenge for anyone to fill her shoes, but the board has settled upon her backfill...please welcome Anna Levchuk to the team.

Remember our office staff (Trish and Anna) 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. I promise you will receive a response.

Kerstin Winters —2024 Photo Contest Winner

Jim Sorenson, Member,
Communications and Publications Committee

Every year the Association publishes a directory of the neighborhood, with a cover drawn from some of the talented local photographers. This year, a gorgeous mountainscape by Kerstin Winters was selected. We sat down and had a brief chat with her about her experiences with the neighborhood and with photography.



Kerstin's winning mountainscape photo, which will serve as the cover for the 2025 SHHA Directory.

J: So, when did you move to the neighborhood?

K: It was 7 years in September I believe, or October.

J: And what brought you here?

K: We have family living up the road. My husband's daughter and our two grandchildren. They live also in the Sandia Heights but further down.

J: Do you like it? Do you like the neighborhood, the city?

K: Oh yes. We've lived here previously. Twenty-some years ago we lived in Albuquerque. We moved and then once my husband retired, we moved back here from Colorado. The first time, we didn't live in this neighborhood; we lived a little further up the road off Tramway. And then when we moved back here, we thought that Sandia Heights would be a nice place to have a permanent home, no more moving.

J: What's your favorite part of living here?

K: I love the mountain view. I love the mountains and I

love the foothills. Also, the neighborhood is an older neighborhood, where we live. The houses are smaller. It's just my husband and I, so we were looking for a smaller home, and the neighborhood we moved to was just perfect for that.

J: How long have you been interested in photography?

K: Many, many years ago when we still were using film, I actually started doing black & white photography, even developed my own photos. That was probably 30 years ago. I kind of got away from it. A little bit before we moved here, I started getting a new interest in photography. About 8 years ago I started with digital photography. Usually my favorites are animals and birds and a little bit of landscapes. Every now and then I do family photography, like portraits, but not very often. It's not my favorite thing to do.

J: Have you been published anywhere?

K: No. I post my photos on Flickr.

J: Do you do any other visual arts? Painting, drawing?

K: I just started drawing a little bit last year, but nothing spectacular. I try, but it's...it's much harder than photography. I thought it would be cool to do some pencil drawings, and looked up some stuff on YouTube. I copied; I followed step by step along, and it looked pretty ok. But without guidance I can't do it. Not yet, at least.

I concluded the interview by asking what brought her inspiration and joy. She answered "Photography and nature, animals and birds. I read a lot, and that's about it." She then paused and thought for a second before adding, "Oh, and my husband of course," which made us both chuckle.

You can see more of Kerstin's photography at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/kerstinsworldofimages/> We've also used her photo of a bobcat as the final image of this publication.

Attn: *The GRIT* needs more volunteer writers and editors! If interested, contact Claudia Mitchell, Chair of the Communications and Publications committee, via shha@sandiahomeowners.org.

Name That Hewn Sculpture

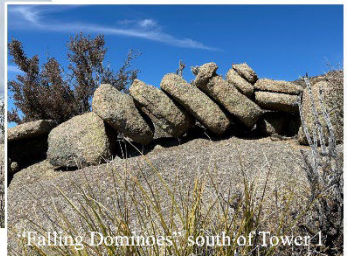
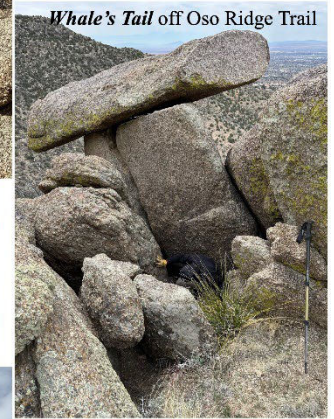
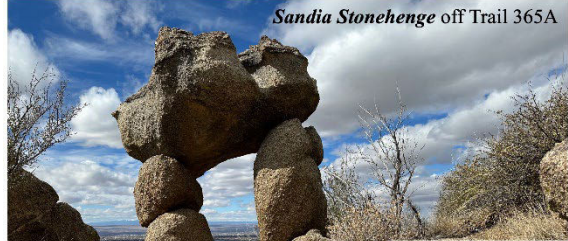
Stan Davis



The Sandias are known for great granite sculptures—all hewn by Mother Nature. Many of the gigantic ones are famous among climbers and have names such as *The Shield*, *The Needle*, *The Thumb*, and *the Jawbone*.

Have you ever ridden the tram? If so, the tram attendant may have pointed out some smaller—though still massive by human scale—sculptures, such as the colloquially named *Cannon* and *Golf Ball*. Higher up, you may have also seen the infamous and appropriately named *Dragon’s Tooth* from the tram vantage (see H. Prather, *The GRIT*, Nov. 2020).

If you’ve hiked around the foothills and Open Spaces, you may have seen granite shapes that evoke a familiar object of some sort to you. The attached figure shows some of my favorites, some of which have been unofficially nicknamed by hikers and geocachers, who love to dub such things. What are some of your favorite hewn granite sculptures from around the Sandias that you’ve named? Send a picture into the GRIT for publication!



*Fun granite sculptures. Names in "quotes" were dubbed by author; names in **bold italics** were dubbed by others. All pictures by author.*

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 dcbcbbridge@gmail.com, or visit

<https://dukecitybridge.com/>

Sandia Heights "Cork & Fork" Dining Activity: Cork & Fork is having 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 or join any time of year, call Rene Kessel at (505) 504-3886 or email at rene.kessel@cblegacy.com.

NOVEMBER CALLS TO SANDIA HEIGHTS SECURITY PATROL

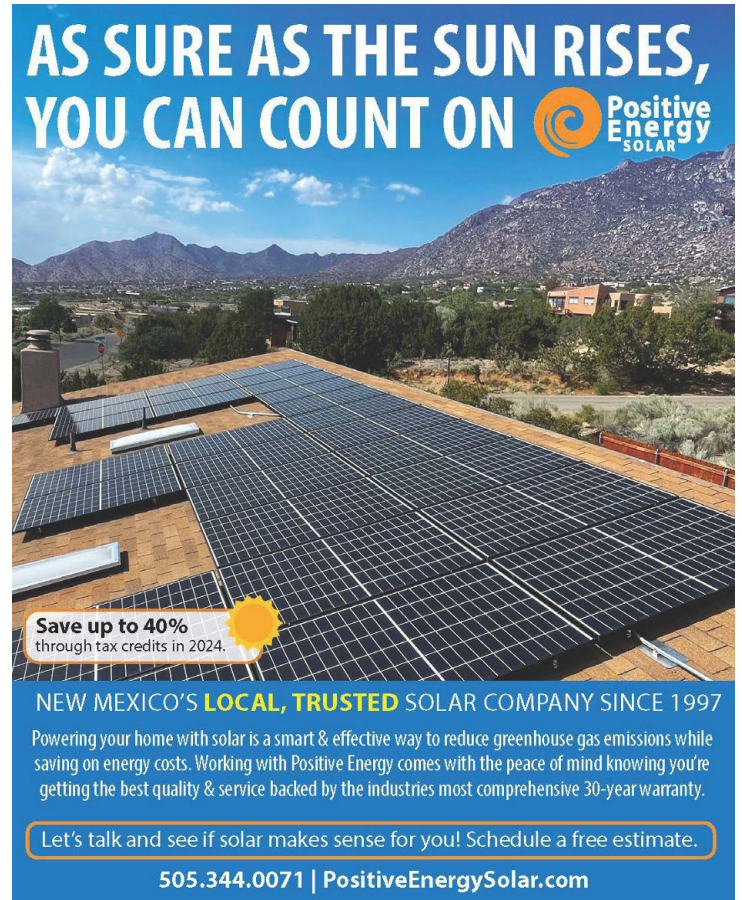
The following statistics are the latest provided by Sandia Heights Security since the last GRIT. **Please be reminded that Sandia Heights Services (they provide water, sewer, trash and recycle collection, and security services) is a subscription service separate from Sandia Heights Homeowners Association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


November 2024	# of calls		# of calls
Alarms	4	Parking Problem	1
Attempted Breaking & Entering	1	Salesman Complaint	1
Car Accident	1	Special Extra Patrol	5
Customer Assistance	5	Suspicious person/activity	3
Customer Inquiry	2	Special Request/Vacation	93
Fire/Smoke	1	Suspicious Activity	1
Lost/Found Pet	2	Suspicious Person	5
Newspaper/Package pick-up	7	Suspicious Vehicle	3
Open Door/Window/Garage	1	Theft	2
Wildlife Report	2	Total:	137

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 January 8, 2025 6:30pm.
- **Office Closures for Holiday(s):** January 1st, 2025 for New Years day, January 20, 2025 for Martin Luther King Jr. 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
- **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.



**AS SURE AS THE SUN RISES,
YOU CAN COUNT ON** 

Save up to 40%
through tax credits in 2024.

NEW MEXICO'S LOCAL, TRUSTED SOLAR COMPANY SINCE 1997
Powering your home with solar is a smart & effective way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while saving on energy costs. Working with Positive Energy comes with the peace of mind knowing you're getting the best quality & service backed by the industries most comprehensive 30-year warranty.

Let's talk and see if solar makes sense for you! Schedule a free estimate.

505.344.0071 | PositiveEnergySolar.com

SANDIA HEIGHTS HOMES ARE SELLING !



Sharon McCollum Sells Sandia Heights Homes

Executive Real Estate Broker 25 Million Dollar Producers In Association with Remax Select

(505) 822-0080 DIRECT | (505) 269-6217 CELL

FREE MARKET ANALYSIS CALL OR TEXT 269-6217 TODAY!

www.albuquerquehomes.net | www.sharonandjudson.com | www.SandiaHeights.com
 smminabq@aol.com | (505) 822-0080

Sharon's Sandia Heights Market Update Past Year 1/2024 to 1/2025

3 Larger homes For Sale on Larger Lots | Avg Asking price \$1,824,967 Avg Asking price/sf \$302.87

8 Homes Pending | Avg Asking Price \$907,737 Avg Asking price/sf \$277.44

46 Homes Closed past year to date | Avg Sold Price \$904,099 Avg Sold price/sf. \$253.72

7 Smaller homes on smaller lots | Avg Asking price \$468,714 Avg Asking price/sf \$264.56

1 home pending | Avg Asking Price \$395,000 Avg Asking price/sf \$285.82

39 Homes Closed past year to date | Avg Sold Price \$458,445 Avg Sold price/sf \$266.19

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!

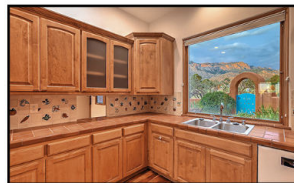
908 TRAMWAY LANE NE | ASKING PRICE \$732,000 | 2517 SF | 3BR | 2 BATHS 2+ CAR GARAGE



Custom Home!



Understated Elegance!



Quality Features!



Views!

HAPPY NEW YEAR! BUYERS ARE STILL BUYING ! READY TO SELL YOUR HOME ?

SHARON BELIEVES IN DOING WHAT IS RIGHT FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

WHEN IT COMES TO SELLING AND BUYING REAL ESTATE.

Sharon McCollum is ready to sell your Sandia Heights Home using her local expertise and worldwide reach in prospecting and marketing. She has a long list of satisfied Sandia Heights families: this is because Sharon promotes top values in Sandia Heights. She offers you a full service, comprehensive and aggressive "Marketing Plan to get your home SOLD fast"! Sharon's marketing plan includes intense investing in internet marketing and up to date prospecting and marketing technology systems promoting your home to all buyers for Sandia Heights Homes.

Check out home sales near you by contacting Sharon today CALL OR TEXT 505 269 6217.

Remax Select • 8300 Carmel Avenue NE, Ste 203 Albuquerque, NM 87122 • (505) 822-0080 (505) 798-1000 x 422 BEST NUMBER (505) 269-6217

25 Years of Superior Service in Albuquerque Real Estate

DEC 2024

Associated with REMAX • The World's Largest Real Estate Company Estate Properties • Worldwide Reach



GREG LOBBEREGET

Your Trusted Source for Real Estate Information

Sandia Heights Resident Since 2006
Proudly Serving Sandia Heights Since 1983

CELL: 505.269.GREG (4734) | EMAIL: GREG@GREGLOBB.COM
WWW.ABQFORSALE.COM | WWW.GREGLOBB.COM

ASSOCIATE BROKER, CRS | OFFICE: 505-292-8900



2024 WAS A GREAT YEAR & 2025 WILL BE EVEN BETTER!

COMING SOON



\$1,250,000

67 Pinon Hill Pl NE
3,896 SQ FT 4BR 4BA 2.44 Acres

ACTIVE



\$995,000

338 White Oaks Drive NE
4,598 SQ FT 4BR 4BA 1.09 Acres

SOLD



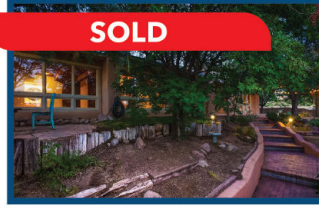
2434 Tramway Terrace Court NE
1,405 SQ FT 2BR 2BA .12 Acres

SOLD



2326 Calle De Gabriel NE
1,807 SQ FT 3BR 2BA .17 Acres

SOLD



656 Roadrunner Lane NE
2,151 SQ FT 3BR 2BA .74 Acres

SOLD



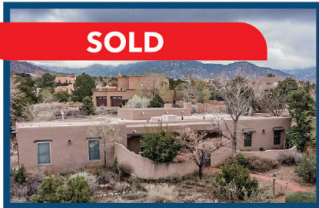
1104 San Rafael Avenue NE
2,758 SQ FT 3BR 2BA .62 Acres

SOLD



152 Juniper Hill Road NE
2,294 SQ FT 3BR 3BA .56 Acres

SOLD



997 Lynx Loop NE
3,050 SQ FT 4BR 3BA .62 Acres

SOLD



1 Sandia Heights Drive NE
3,106 SQ FT 3BR 3BA .6 Acres

SOLD



347 Paintbrush Drive NE
2,504 SQ FT 2BR 2BA .82 Acres

SOLD



963 Antelope Avenue NE
3,841 SQ FT 4BR 3BA .65 Acres

SOLD



330 Paintbrush Drive NE
3,505 SQ FT 4BR 4BA .69 Acres

FREE TRAM PASSES

are available from me every day.
Email or call today!

Greg@greglobb.com or 505.269.GREG



**FOR A FREE REAL ESTATE REVIEW,
CALL OR EMAIL GREG@GREGLOBB.COM**

Sandia Heights Homeowners Association (SHHA) Annual Meeting

Church of the Good Shepherd
7834 Tennyson Street NE
Saturday, February 22, 2025
9:00 AM–11:30 AM

*This is an open meeting.
All Sandia Heights homeowners are welcome.*

Agenda

Business Meeting

- I. Call to order and establishment of a quorum
- II. Approval of the Agenda
- III. Approval of the Minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting
- IV. Introduction of the 2024 Board of Directors and SHHA Standing Committee Chairs
- V. Reports for 2024 to the membership by the Officers and Standing Committee Chairpersons—written reports are in the packets distributed at the meeting.
- VI. Election by membership of the 2025 Board of Directors
- VII. Announcement of 2025 Officers and Board of Directors.
- VIII. Business meeting adjourns

Break

Enjoy Refreshments provided by SHHA Neighbor O’Bean’s

Question and Answer Session for Questions Submitted in Advance

The Board will respond to questions received by the SHHA Office one week in advance (*February 15, 2025*). The author of the question may request clarification as time permits.

Adjournment

Covenant Support Violations

as of November 30, 2024

Received: 4 Open: 11

Closed: 2

(RV, landscape)

Discounted Tram Passes — An SHHA Member Perk!

Elizabeth Edgren, Chair
Community Service and Membership Committee

The SHHA purchases Tram passes in a corporate package once a year from the Sandia Peak Tram company, which sets the prices for these discounted passes. Our package includes eight passes per open day for each month of the coming year. SHHA pays for the year’s passes up front. Any passes the office does not sell to us members for a particular month cannot be used in a later month, so *the SHHA loses money for any passes we members don’t buy.*

You may buy up to eight passes for any one date, depending on availability. Plan ahead! The office can process credit or debit card payments as well as personal checks. NO cash. Passes are currently \$10 but will increase sometime in 2025; details are as yet unknown.

How to enjoy a great discounted pass experience:

(1) Plan ahead! Check our SHHA website to see how many passes are available for the day you want at [Tram Pass Availability | Sandia Heights Homeowners Association \(sandiahomeowners.org\)](https://sandiahomeowners.org).

(2) Go to the SHHA office and purchase—with debit or credit card or personal check, but NO cash—up to eight passes for any **one** date in the month, depending on availability.

(3) The office staff will verify that you are dues-paying members of the SHHA, then print out “authorization letters” for your group.

(4) On your chosen day, give the authorization letter(s) to the cashier at the Tram station, and they will give you your actual tickets.

NOTES:

- You cannot reserve or pay for passes over the phone or by email.
- If the Tram is closed on your chosen day, the Tram cashier will stamp your authorization letter, giving you 30 days in which you can use the passes.
- Remember, children under two ride FREE and don’t need a pass!

The Artist Next Door Claudia Mitchell

I thought the start of the new year would be a good time to introduce myself, **Claudia Mitchell**, the author of “The Artist Next Door” series and Sandia Heights Artists member. I may as well confess right away: I am a perpetual student of oil painting—and I love what I do!

I have always been interested in artsy things. My mother was a self-taught artist with a good eye and innate talent for sketching and painting. I loved to see the brushes and paints on the corner table where she made a place to work. When I started grade school—waa-ay back when—art was a part of the curriculum in my public school. We joyously and unselfconsciously painted with tempera using big brushes on BIG sheets of paper clipped to an easel. In first grade, I was awarded a first-place blue ribbon for a painting of birds in a city-wide school exhibit. I often wish I still had that painting to feel a bit better—or worse—about some of my work today!

However, visual art took a backseat as I studied hard in school, and pursued my other artsy interest, vocal music. Earning gold medals for solos at state competitions in high school and singing the lead roles in “HMS Pinafore” and “Amahl and the Night Visitors” in college led to a USO tour performing solo and with a group. This musical jaunt in 1969 at the height of the Vietnam war included military hospitals and bases in Korea, Japan, the Philippines, Okinawa and Guam. It was a heady experience for a twenty-year-old!

I finished college with a bachelor’s degree in biology from the University of California, Riverside graduating cum laude and earning entry into Phi Beta Kappa. Art of any kind got kicked to the side and stayed there as I pursued my profession as a registered medical technologist running a hospital lab followed by a career in medical diagnostics sales.

Retirement in 2015 to Whidbey Island, Washington found me back into vocal music performance. But, at the urging of a friend, I began a course of atelier-style study of classic representational oil painting at Whidbey Island Fine Art Studio. I worked diligently for three years. In 2020 I began showing my work at a local studio on the island in Langley.

Looking for a complete change of scene and sunshine, my partner and I made a scouting trip to Albuquerque in December 2021. We were thrilled to find our current home here in Sandia Heights and moved in January 2022. We saw signs about the artists 2022 tour and visited every stop. We joined the group and have been a host stop for the past two years.



Claudia Mitchell, thrilled to receive an award of Excellence at Rio Grande Art Association's 2024 "Encantada" show and sale with her painting, "Ojito Afternoon."

In writing this series, I have asked many artists what inspired them to work in their medium or media. They all stop and ponder. Inevitably, it boils down to an inexplicable love of a particular form of artistic expression, perhaps influenced by life experience. I am no exception. I love the smell and feel of the paints and brushes, remembering my mother’s paintings. I love how the paint changes as it dries and cures. Every painting is a challenge and experiment. Edgar Degas is credited with saying, “Painting is easy when you don’t know how, but very difficult when you do.” So true. The more I learn as I study painting, the more I realize how much more I need to learn. A sign on my easel encourages me: “Embrace the Struggle.” I can never learn it all. I can only hope that the viewer can look at my interpretation of reality and enjoy it. What better occupation could there be?

... continued on page 11

2024 MARKET TRENDS

Year to date through December 16, 2024 *detached homes*

Closed Sales	Average Sale Price	Current Inventory	Avg Price per sq.ft.	Avg Days on Market
94	\$704,567	9	\$265.36	29

In 2024 Sandia Heights experienced an exceptional market performance, with numerous homes sold that showcase the area's desirable lifestyle and breathtaking views. As we look ahead to 2025, we anticipate even more opportunities for growth and investment.

Here's a look at our Sandia Heights market activity for 2024

<p>SOLD 636 Cougal Lp.</p> 	<p>SOLD 1517 Eagle Ridge Ter.</p> 	<p>SOLD 46 Circle Dr.</p> 	<p>SOLD 559 Black Bear Ln.</p> 
<p>SOLD 689 Black Hawk Dr.</p>  <p>Brought the Buyer</p>	<p>SOLD 347 Paintbrush Dr.</p>  <p>Brought the Buyer</p>	<p>SOLD 7708 Cedar Canyon Pl.</p>  <p>Brought the Buyer</p>	<p>FOR SALE 9 La Luz Trl.</p> 

Sandia Heights Resident



**Free Tram passes available
call to reserve**



KELLERWILLIAMS
Luxury
INTERNATIONAL

6703 Academy Rd. NE · Albuquerque, NM 87109 · 505.271.8200

Veronica Gonzales
Associate Broker, CRS

Veronica@ABQDreamHomes.com
www.ABQDreamHomes.com

505-440-8956

*Are you considering selling your home?
Call today for your free consultation and market
evaluation!*



*Sherry Fowler has been selling Sandia Heights for
35 years. Put her experience to work for you.*

- *Significant discount for Sandia Heights residents*
 - *Free staging for vacant homes*

505.301.4425

SherrySellsSandiaHeights.com



For a Free Market Valuation contact Pete



Pete Veres

CRS, ABR, CLHMS SRES -
Senior Real Estate
Specialist
*Integrity & Professionalism...
Period*

*Top RE/MAX Agent
Sandia Heights Resident*

**Call Pete For Your Free Sales
and Marketing Consultation**

505-362-2005

www.TopAbqAgentReviews.com

See What Homes Are Selling For In Sandia Heights

www.SandiaHomeValues.com

Follow Sandi a Hei ghts on facebook at:

Facebook.com/SandiaHeights

HAPPY
New Year

2025



RE/MAX SELECT • 798-1000 • 8300 Carmel Ave NE, Ste 203, Albuquerque, NM 87122

... continued from page 8

You can view and purchase my work at www.claudia-mitchellfineartstudioonline.com, and I exhibit with the annual Sandia Heights Artists Tour.

Most folks think that to be creative you must think outside the box, but that is not the artist's way for **Gerard Del Monte**, fine wood worker. His most recent inspiration is the space *inside* the box. In the past few years, he has been focusing on sculptural art boxes where "I seek to simply surround space as creatively as I can with wood." Those "surrounded spaces" can be elegant, or whimsical, but it is always about the wood and its relationship to space.



Gerard in his workshop.

Gerard's dad was an avid amateur woodworker, so Gerard grew up surrounded by the enticing smell and feel of wood and the tools to work it. One of his father's friends was a successful industrial designer and Gerard was intrigued by the concepts. This led to Gerard earning a BFA from Rhode Island School of Design, majoring in Industrial Design. Part of the curriculum was furniture design, where Gerard had the good fortune to study under Tage Frid, who later founded *Fine Woodworking* magazine. This deeply influenced Gerard's drive toward excellence in his creative efforts throughout his life. In 2010 his father passed away and passed on his well-used and well-loved woodworking tools. This coincided with Gerard's enrollment in boat building school in Seattle. When he completed his Associate of Arts degree in Marine Carpentry, he built his own Lincolnville Salmon Wherry sail-and-oar boat using those

familiar tools. He began getting into wood craft more intently and with purpose and started his studio, Aura Atelier.

Gerard's artistic direction is toward the restraint of Zen, and classical mathematical and architectural proportions. He realized that he could best express these with wood. It was the muse for his innate unique creativity. He loved its nearly inexhaustible versatility and its organic variability expressed in different species with their unique grains and workability.



Gerard's exquisite boxes, all hand-crafted.

Because of his Industrial Design and architecture background, his work tends to be structured. His influences are the Japanese aesthetic and exquisite craftsmanship, Frank Lloyd Wright, and the classical Greek and Renaissance architects. "A beautiful piece of woodwork—whatever it is—is warm, inviting, and says something not only about me as the designer/maker, but also about the person who appreciates my work."

Although art boxes are his current focus, he also designs elegant lighting, housewares and some ephemera. "Right now, I have designed and am making a chess set."

Gerard and his partner, Claudia Mitchell, moved to Sandia Heights in January 2022. They had come in December 2021 to check out the area. They were moving from Langley on Whidbey Island just north of Seattle, and after decades of Pacific Northwest coastal weather were

... continued on page 12

... continued from page 11

looking, in the Monty Python term, “and now for something completely different.” “Sandia Heights ticked off the right boxes for us: close to services, but in the foothills of the Sandia Crest with amazing views all around. We really like the whole concept of living with nature—no fences, no street lights, no intrusive powerlines, generous properties with the natural flora left intact.”

“We saw signs for the Sandia Heights Artists shortly after we moved here and checked out the studio tour that September and were impressed. We joined right away.”

It has worked out well for Gerard and Claudia. He designed a new workshop off the back of the garage, had it built, and is in it every day. Gerard sums it up: “Charles Lloyd, the jazz musician, once put it very simply, ‘It’s about creating, I have to create.’ I subscribe to that.”

Gerard’s work can be viewed and purchased through his website www.auratelierdesign.com. He will be exhibiting and selling his work at the annual Sandia Heights Artists Tour, and he is one of the artists at the Taos Blue Gallery in Taos, New Mexico.

Old News—A Review of January GRIT Articles Over the Decades

Ann List, Resident since 1972

Out of curiosity, I reviewed several January GRIT articles beginning in the 80’s. Many addressed the issue of snowy streets in our neighborhood.

1985

For example, this is from January 1985: “The weather has been great for skiers, but not so much for drivers in Sandia Heights. The SHHA pays the Sandia Peak Tram Co. when snow plowing and salting is necessary. They have four plows and one salter. Even when salted, some intersections still become icy and unsafe. The intersections at Live Oak/Tramway Blvd and Tramway Lane/Tramway Blvd are especially dangerous at these times. We suggest the use of alternate routes when icing is a distinct possibility.”

I know this from personal experience of returning home from work in the city and watching cars slip-slide all over Live Oak Road heading east toward the mountains. Sometimes we’d simply park our cars on the side of the road and walk the rest of the way home (as finding “alternate routes” was totally impossible, unless we followed a snowplow).

1990

The January 1990 GRIT included an article requesting signatures on a petition directed toward City and County officials asking for “the addition, as soon as possible, of a street light, traffic light, and left-turn lanes at the nine main intersections along Tramway Blvd, north of Montgomery.”

1995

An item in the January 1995 GRIT began with this: “1994 will be a sad reminder that our remoteness from the City of Albuquerque does not make us immune from crime. We remember the senseless death of Russell Nelson, the Circle K employee brutally murdered on 29 February, and express our thanks to the Circle K Management for limiting hours of operation and through their lighting and surveillance program” (written by Richard Krumbein, SHHA President at the time).

2000

This appeared in the January 2000 GRIT: “The Board was informed that the City and County have plans for Tramway to be an expressway. A motion made and passed unanimously to write a letter to oppose the development of Tramway as an expressway.”

2005

The January 2005 edition of the GRIT included this: “In order to correct many of the communication problems we have had for years and to better serve our residents, SHHA has established an office in Sandia Heights.”

2010

Then, in January, 2010, with the County having taken over road plowing, weather conditions articles reflected this change. One written by Larry and Frances Desonier (a gal I once knew working in the Special Education Department of Albuquerque Public Schools) stated: “For those new to the neighborhood, this is a

... continued on page 14

Enjoy the sun
get your windows done



New Horizon
windowcleaning co.

- Offers reliable, friendly and professional service.
- Free estimates.
- Owner operated, 25+ years experience.
- Satisfaction guaranteed.

20 panes inside and out for \$99.00!
Each additional pane at \$4.00

Call Henrik Wils today
505-366-8935

Fully licensed and insured
see more at newhorizonwindowcleaning.com

Jade Enterprises, INC

Kitchens Baths Remodels Additions



Communications and Publications Committee Needs Help!

Claudia Mitchell, Chair

Communications and Publications Committee

Want to help keep your Sandia Heights community in the know with interesting and pertinent information? Love words? Like to write? Do you have computer editing experience? Website experience? If so, we want YOU! Join the wordsmiths on the Communication and Publications Committee. The C&P committee meets monthly. We publish the *GRIT* and the annual *Resident Guide and Directory*. We work with the Information Technology Committee to keep the website up-to-date and facilitate other communications with SHHA members. Contact the SHHA office 505-797-7793 or email shha@sandiahomeowners.org if you would like to attend one of our meetings to check it out.

**TRUSTED IN SANDIA HEIGHTS
FOR OVER 25 YEARS.**

- › REMODELS INCLUDING KITCHEN AND BATH
- › ROOM ADDITIONS
- › WINDOW REPLACEMENTS
- › ALL YOUR HOME IMPROVEMENT NEEDS

CALL LENNARD GEORGE FOR A FREE ESTIMATE. (505) 220-2838



CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION
PROFESSIONAL CONTRACTORS



... continued from page 12

reminder that our roads are OWNED and MAINTAINED by Bernalillo County. Your home-owners association has absolutely NO authority to do anything about the roads when they are totally iced over.” After talking with county officials and learning clearing Sandia Heights roads is at the bottom of their priority list, Larry and Francis suggested, “This being their policy, the best advice is to stay at home the morning after a storm, if at all possible, safe and warm, until ice on the streets begins to melt and it is safe to travel.”

2015

Once again, the January 2015 issue of the GRIT reminded us the County is responsible for “removing snow from the public roads.” But the article also stated, “There are a few private roads...and if you need help, call the County at 848-1543.” (What? Private roads in Sandia Heights? I didn’t know they exist, but if anyone knows about them, please inform us all.) There was also an article in the 2015 issue outlining the County’s Ordinance regarding animals. But I’ll save that for a future issue.

2020

And the January 2020 issue of the GRIT attempted to trace the origin of “The True Grit” back to a Pennsylvania publication in 1882. Wowzo—who knew?!

(Note: For the sake of brevity, I’ve made a few small edits to some of the articles posted in earlier GRITs.)

Expect Changes on San Rafael to Help Slow Down Drivers

**Kathleen McCaughey, Chair
Environment & Safety Committee**

The Environment and Safety Committee has been working with BernCO/Public Works to make our streets safer for walking. Resident calls to the SHHA office have been mostly about speeding, with San Rafael receiving the most complaints. Two projects are planned. The first will be a Radar Feedback Trailer, which will be parked along the upper portion of San Rafael. Second, the speed humps on San Rafael will be reconstructed. They are too low, and don’t slow down the vehicles as intended. The construction is costly, but BernCo has found the funds for us. This will happen a little slower, I

am not sure when this will start, but I will keep you up-to-date in the GRIT. Drive Safe! And Slower!

Trash Pickup on Tramway— A BIG THANK YOU to all who helped.

**Kathleen McCaughey, Chair
Environment & Safety Committee**

Thanks to all that helped with the recent trash pickup on Tramway. We lucked out, and the weather on December 7 was great. We had 15 people, which I believe to be a record! Most of us stopped by O’Bean’s afterwards for a coffee sponsored by the Environment and Safety Committee, and hung out chatting almost longer than it took to clean up Tramway.



ACC Activity Log

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

431 Live Oak Lp	Add attached garage
12629 Caramel Ct	Install photovoltaic panels
1843 Tramway Terrace Lp	Update backyard landscape
927 Tramway Ln	Window replacement
1822 Tramway Terrace Lp	Roof repairs
1534 Eagle Ridge Dr	Install solar panels
760-5 Tramway Ln	Build a fence
2503 Tramway Terrace Ct	Replace windows
7717 Cedar Canyon Ct	Replace windows

Pick your Picnic Site – Creativity in Juan Tabo and La Cueva Stan Davis

Picnic with a Panorama



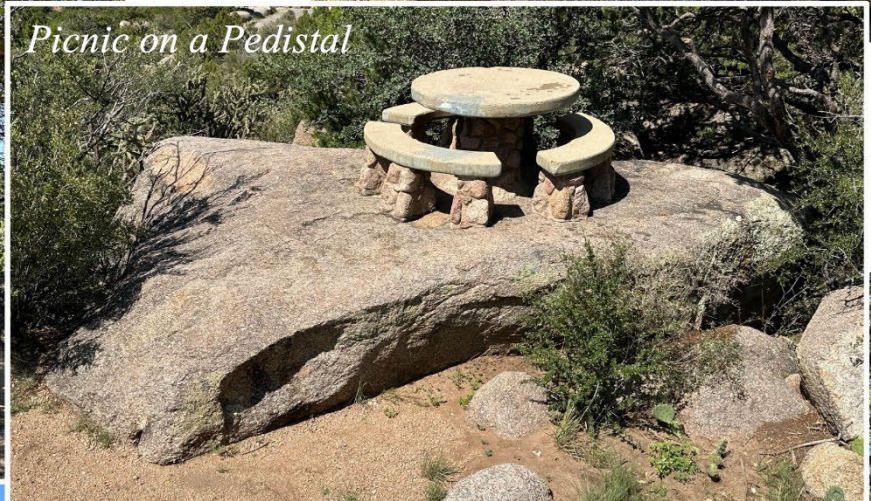
Tight Squeeze



A Tree Runs Through It



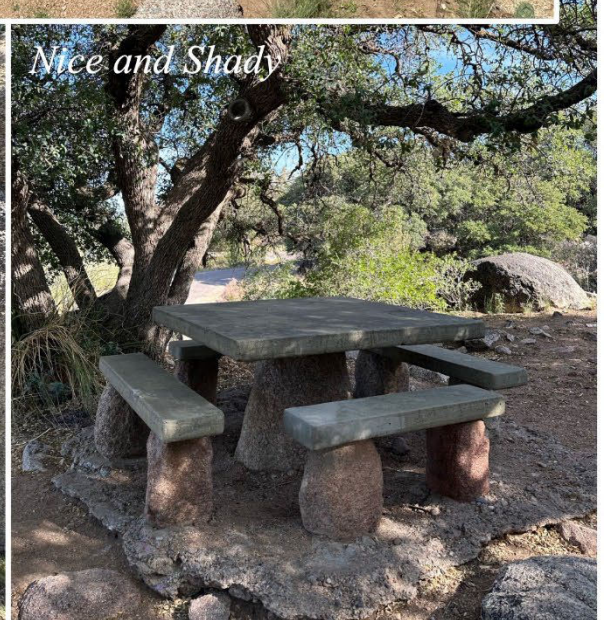
Picnic on a Pedestal



Suspenseful



Nice and Shady





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



Bobcat—Kerstin Winters