

#### December 2021

#### Vol. 37 - No. 12

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#### **Office Staff**

Betsy Rodriguez – Lead Administrator Teresa Gonzales – Administrator

#### SHHA Office

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

#### Office Hours: M–F, 9 AM – 4 PM Closed on federal holidays Phone: 505-797-7793 Fax: 505-856-8544 Website: www.sandiahomeowners.org Emails: sandiaheights@comcast.net shha@sandiahomeowners.org

## Notices from the Treasurer Randy Tripp, SHHA Treasurer

**SHHA Dues.** SHHA dues are substantially less than other HOA neighborhoods in Albuquerque. We enjoy a variety of benefits for a minimal sum. However, operating expenses—such as rent, utilities, labor, printing, postage, insurance and legal costs—have risen significantly.

Due to these increased costs, we find it necessary to raise monthly dues. Effective April 1, 2022, SHHA membership dues will increase from \$8.50 to \$9.00 per month.

**Tram Pass Availability & Pricing.** During the pandemic the number of Tram passes available was 4 per day, and they consistently sold out with lead times running as much as 3 weeks. Effective January 1, 2022, the number of passes available will be raised to the pre-pandemic level of 8 per day, and the rate will increase from \$7.00 to \$7.50 per pass—still a bargain over the \$29 non-SHHA member rate. With 8 tickets per day, lead times should be minimal for all but the highest-traffic dates. You can see if tickets are still available for your date on the SHHA website. Then, come and get em!

## 2022 Annual Meeting

The 2022 Sandia Heights Homeowners Association annual meeting will be held on Saturday, February 19. Attendance will be virtual via Zoom. Stay

tuned for a detailed agenda in next month's GRIT. One of the agenda items will be election by the membership of a new Board member (see below), per Bylaws section 6.5, which requires a short biography of the candidate to be published 2 months prior to the meeting.

## Board Member Candidate Susan McCasland, Nominating Committee Chair

Kathleen McCaughey is a candidate for the SHHA Board of Directors. Ms. McCaughey has chaired the Sandia Heights Artists for the past three years. She was a mechanical engineer and manager at Sandia National Laboratories for over 30 years. Prior to moving to Sandia Heights about 7 years ago, she was a resident in North Albuquerque Acres for 18 years and, therefore, understands very well the worth of a strong homeowners' association. She will bring her leadership, strategic planning, financial planning, and process skills to the SHHA Board if elected by you, our members.

### Trash Bins Are an Eyesore! Covenant Support Committee

It seems that many residents are leaving their bins either on the roadside or next to their homes where they are visible to neighbors and passersby. We would like to remind everyone that improper storage of trash bins is a violation of all our Sandia Heights Covenants which state, in general, "Garbage shall be placed in covered containers, said containers to be concealed from public view...." Please, when your trash and recyclables have been collected, return your bins to storage out of public view. Simply parking trash bins beside the garage is not acceptable. They must be hidden from street view.

We would like to remind all residents that trash (including recycling) must be out no later than 7AM on the scheduled pickup day, and no earlier than 5PM on the evening prior to collection. In addition, if you have edible garbage in the bin, please don't put the bin out overnight. We don't want our bear friends to find it. First thing in the morning is better when bears are not hibernating. Thanks for helping keep Sandia Heights a beautiful place for all of us to live.



Does your house look like this? If so, you are in violation of Sandia Heights covenants. Please store your garbage cans in your garage or behind an attractive enclosure. Together, let's keep Sandia Heights beautiful !



## Non-members Are Bound by Covenants Architectural Control Committee

It seems that many residents are leaving their bins either on the roadside or next to their homes where they are visible to neighbors and passersby. We would like to remind everyone that improper storage of trash bins is a violation of all our Sandia Heights Covenants which

#### SHHA Key Tags, Anyone? Elizabeth Edgren, Chair, Community Service & Membership Committee

Do you have a SHHA Member key tag? Do you know what it's for? If you don't have one, do you know how to get one?

When we move in to Sandia Heights, our Office staff mails us a big, white envelope containing several important documents. One of them is a multi-purpose form on which we (1) ensure our info is correct for the SHHA Directory, (2) learn how to receive a member benefits key tag, and (3) sign up to receive email alerts, including notice of the monthly *GRIT* community newsletter. If we never return this form in item (2), we don't receive key tags.

What's the key tag for? In each month's GRIT, usually on p. 4, as well as on the SHHA website, we see a listing of "Participating Merchants." These are not just advertisers, but are businesses that offer specific discounts for SHHA Members. To receive these deals, we show our key tag to the Merchant. No key tag. No discount.

If you can't find your key tag, or don't think you ever got one, call or go by the Office. Betsy and Teresa can verify your membership and your contact info—and your communication preference for *The GRIT* and other alerts—and give you a fresh, new key tag. Then you can enjoy the special offers from our Participating Merchants!



## Procedures for Attendance of Guests at SHHA Board and Committee Meetings Roger Hagengruber, President

- 1. Any member of SHHA is entitled to attend committee or board meetings.
- However, if planning to attend, the SHHA member must let the SHHA Office or host (e.g., committee chair) know of their desire to attend at least one day ahead of the meeting.
- 3. If the member plans to make a statement, they must notify the host when asking to attend. The procedure for statements is that the member has 5 minutes at the beginning of the meeting to make their statement and the Board or committee members are allowed up to 5 minutes to seek clarification, if needed, of the guest's statement. Discussion of the statement is done in executive session where only Board or committee members are allowed.
- 4. Committee Chairs and the Board chairperson can place the meeting in executive session as appropriate and guests must leave the meeting for such executive sessions. Please note that much of the committee work of the Architectural Control Committee and Covenant Support Committee are conducted in executive session.
- 5. The process for SHHA members attending meetings as guests is to place the guests in a "Waiting Room" either a physical one (when we are having an in-person meeting at the SHHA office) or a virtual one during a Zoom online meeting. Once their status as an SHHA member is confirmed, the guests are allowed to enter the meeting with the permission of the Host.

## Please Don't Feed Our Deer

There are a number of reasons why we should not feed the deer in our neighborhood. Many of us love seeing them near our homes, but it is not good for the deer, or for us, to feed them.

New Mexico Fish and Game's website mentions that our mule deer have difficulty digesting non-natural foods such as grain, hay, vegetables, fruits, or pet food and can die with full stomachs. It is also unlawful in New Mexico for anyone to cause a nuisance game-animal problem by baiting, feeding, or otherwise enticing game animals to an area.

As if that weren't enough, a recent article in the New York Times (https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/02/science/deer-covid-infection.html) points out that up to 80% of the white-tailed deer sampled in Iowa from April 2020 through January 2021 were infected with coronavirus. Though it appears that the deer were infected with the SARS-CoV-2 by humans, there is no evidence that deer have passed the virus back to humans... yet.

"If deer can transmit the virus to humans, it's a game changer," said Tony Goldberg, a veterinarian at the University of Wisconsin-Madison who studies the evolution of infectious diseases as they jump between animals and people. "To have a wildlife species become a reservoir after transmission from humans is very rare and unlucky, as if we needed more bad luck."

Later in the article, Rachel Ruden, Iowa's state wildlife veterinarian, cautions that *the virus can spread when people feed deer in their backyard*, [emphasis added] through sewage discharges or maybe when an animal licks a splotch of chewing tobacco left behind by an infected hunter. Several states are advising deer hunters to take precautions. Eating cooked venison carries little risk, though, as long as the meat reaches an internal temperature of 165°F.



Two of Sandia Heights' neighborhood mule deer. (Photo by Susan McCasland)

## **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 856-6347, **mobile** 263-4654.

October 2021	# of calls		# of calls
Alarms	20	Pet Nuisance	2
Customer Assist	3	Special Extra Patrol	4
Fire/Smoke	1	Special Request/Vacation	79
Lost/Found Pet	1	Suspicious Activity	5
Loud Music/Party	0	Suspicious Person	1
Neighbor Dispute	0	Suspicious Vehicle	9
Newspaper/Package Pickup	2	Theft	1
Noise Complaint/Suspicious Noise	1	Threat/Personal	1
Open Door/Window/Garage	1	Total Calls	131

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

## Announcements & Notices:

- Office hours: Monday Friday 9 AM 4 рм.
- Board Meeting: scheduled for Wednesday, December 8, 2021, at 6:30 PM via Zoom Meeting.
- Office Closures for Holidays: December 24–January 2 for the holidays
- Notary services (except on Fridays), copies (20 per month) and faxes, e-mail alerts, and contractor evaluation binder are *free* to members. Also, voter registration in office.
- **Committee meeting dates** are posted on our website calendar: <u>www.sandiahomeowners.org</u>.
- **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. \$7 per ticket in 2021, \$7.50 in 2022 for members on a *firstcome 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 <u>http://sandiahomeowners.org/notices-and-information/notices-and-information/96tram-passes</u>.

**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:

Barnett Alden Ironworks		
Burrow Cafe		
Chiropractor, Mark L. Schwartz DC PC		
Critter Control		
Finishing Touch Home Improvements, LLC.		
HelpTek LLC		
Jade Enterprises Inc.		
Paleta Bar		
Remax Select – Pete Veres		
State Farm – Cynthia Bahling		
Tutor Doctor		
Paleta Bar Remax Select – Pete Veres State Farm – Cynthia Bahling		



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## **December Holidays**

We normally think of the holidays in December as being Christmas and Hanukkah. But there are many more. Here's a short description of several. Do you know of others?

Hanukkah (Jewish). This year Hanukkah, or Chanukah, starts at nightfall on November 28 and ends with nightfall on December 6. It is an 8-day Jewish festival marking the miraculous victory of the Maccabees, Jewish freedom fighters, over the Seleucid Greek occupiers in the year 139 BCE. After recapturing Jerusalem's Holy Temple, which had been converted into a place of idol worship, they searched for pure oil with which to light the Temple menorah. They found just enough to burn for one day, but miraculously it burned for eight days until more oil could be brought.

**Saint Nicholas Day** (Christian) December 6. This holiday honors the birth of Saint Nicholas, the saint who serves as a role model for gift-giving and is commonly known as Santa Claus.

**Rohatsu** or **Bodhi Day** (Buddhist) December 8. Rohatsu celebrates the historical Buddha's decision and vow to sit under the Bodhi tree until he reached spiritual enlightenment. It is celebrated through meditation.

**Immaculate Conception** (Catholic) December 8. Leading-up to Jesus' birthday celebration on Christmas, Catholics celebrate the day of Immaculate Conception to honor his mother Mary, who they say was preserved from original sin for her entire life.

**Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe** (Catholic) December 12. A holiday celebrated by Mexicans and Americans of Mexican descent that honors the appearance of the Virgin Mary in Mexico City.

**Posadas Navideñas** (Christian) December 16–24. Primarily a Hispanic Christian holiday that commemorates Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem to give birth to Jesus.



**Winter Solstice** (Wicca/Pagan) December 21 (8:59 AM Mountain Time in 2021). Winter solstice is when the northern hemisphere is most inclined away from the sun. Pagans and Wicca believers will celebrate that event through Yule, in which believers also honor the winter-born king, symbolized by the rebirth of the sun.

**Christmas** (Christian) December 25. Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ. Many Christians will attend church, have family parties, decorate a tree, and exchange gifts.

**Zarathosht-no-Diso** (Death of the Prophet Zarathustra) (Zoroastrianism) December 26. Unlike many of the other holidays in the month, Zoroastrians honor the death of their prophet, Zarathustra, who founded Zoroastrianism, one of the world's oldest monotheistic religions.

**Boxing Day** (British Commonwealth countries) December 26. Boxing Day has nothing to do with prize fighting, getting rid of empty Christmas boxes, or returning unwanted presents to stores. The holiday originated in the United Kingdom during the Middle Ages. It was the day when the alms boxes, a collection box for the poor often kept in churches, were opened and their contents distributed. It was also the day servants were traditionally given off to celebrate Christmas with their families.

**Feast of the Holy Family** (Catholic) December 27. Catholics use this day to honor Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. **Holy Innocents Day** (Christian) December 28. This day solemnly honors the deaths of children killed by King Herod, who was attempting to kill Jesus.



**Kwanzaa** (principally African American) December 26 through January 1. Kwanzaa was created by Dr. Maulana Karenga in 1966 after the Watts riots in Los Angeles. The name Kwanzaa comes from the phrase "matunda ya kwanza" which means "first fruits" in Swahili. Each family celebrates Kwanzaa in its own way, but celebrations often include songs and dances, African drums, storytelling, poetry reading, and a large traditional meal. On each of the seven nights, families gather and a child lights one of the candles on the Kinara, then one of the seven principles, values of African culture, is discussed.

Watch Night (Christian) December 31. For Watch Night, Christians thank God for the safety they received during the year. New Year's Eve (widely celebrated) December 31. Civilizations around the world have been celebrating the start of each new year for at least four millennia. Today, most New Year's festivities begin on December 31 (New Year's Eve), the last day of the Gregorian calendar, and continue into the early hours of January 1 (New Year's Day). Common traditions include attending parties, eating special New Year's foods, making resolutions for the new year, and watching fireworks displays.

**Ōmisoka** (Japan) December 31. Families gather on Ōmisoka for one last time in the old year to have a bowl of toshikoshi-soba or toshikoshi-udon, a tradition based on eating the long noodles to cross over from one year to the next. At midnight, many visit shrines or temples. Shinto shrines prepare amazake (fermented rice drink) to pass out to crowds and most Buddhist temples have large cast bells that are struck once for each of the 108 earthly desires believed to cause human suffering.







## ACC Activity Log

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

80 Juniper Hill Place – Remove/Replace Front Entry Door

347 Paintbrush Drive – Roof Mounted Photovoltaic Panels Installation

358 Big Horn Ridge Drive – Replace Windows & Doors

429 Live Oak Lane – Paint Gate/Garage Door/Vigas

528 Live Oak Place – Roof Mounted Photovoltaic Panels Installation

651 Cougar Loop – Garage Addition

793-C Tramway Lane Court - Reroof

933 Bobcat Blvd. – Roof and Color Coat Repair

1111 San Rafael Avenue – Fence Installation

1221 Rockrose Road – Repair Stucco, Paint Trim and Miscellaneous

1456 Bluebell Drive – Landscaping

1517 Eagle Ridge Terrace – Roof Mounted Photovoltaic Panels Installation

1539 Eagle Ridge Place – Landscaping

1564 Eagle Ridge Court – Replace Windows and Re-Stucco

1565 Eagle Ridge Court – Addition of Parking Pad

1709 Quail Run Court – Replace Latilla Fence

1849 Tramway Terrace Loop – Addition of Two Windows

1856 Tramway Terrace Loop – Replace Gates

1872 San Bernardino – Replace Windows and Reroof

2025 Quail Run Drive – Roof Mounted Photovoltaic Panels Installation

2301 Calle de Rafael – Replace Railroad Tie Edging of Driveway with Brick

2434 Tramway Terrace Court – Fence Replacement

2768 Wolfberry Place – Replace Exterior Doors

2815 Tramway Circle – Replace Kitchen Window

2833 Tramway Circle – Repair Roof, Replace Swamp Cooler, and Replace & Repaint Garage Header

2893 Tramway Place - Hardscape

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

## **Monthly Fun Fact**

Albuquerque is famous for its unique Christmas lights. Although electric versions are sometimes used, traditional decorations consist of small brown paper sacks with a layer of sand for ballast and a candle for lighting. Dozens placed along a path are quite striking. There is an ongoing dispute about what these decorations are called. In this author's observation, south of roughly La Bajada (the escarpment northeast of Cochiti) and in Arizona the term is luminaria. North of La Bajada, it is farolito. Though this is sometimes passionately debated, it really does seem to be just a difference in regional dialect. Think chick peas (New York) vs. garbanzo beans (New Mexico).





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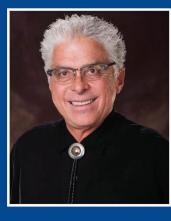
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## **Community Events Bulletin Board**

This group is 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.

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







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



The Sandia Heights Homeowners Association Office will be **closed** for the Holidays starting on **December 24, 2021, through January 2, 2022**. The office will reopen on Monday, January 3, 2022.

# SHHA WISHES YOU A HAPPY & SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON!