



Bel-Air News

The Voice of the Bel-Air Neighborhood Association, (BANA)
Serving the Bel-Air Neighborhood Since 1994

25th ANNIVERSARY EDITION, Spring 2019

Upcoming Events

Annual General Meeting

April 23rd 6:30 - 8:00 pm

*Christian Fellowship Church,
3901 Claremont Ave NE*

Come meet your neighbors and celebrate BANA's 25th year anniversary!

We have invited the Albuquerque Police Department (APD) and a Bernalillo County Extension Service Horticulturist to be our guest speakers.

Saturday Clean-Up Days

8:00 am- 10:00 am

*Miramontes/Bel-Air Park,
Phoenix Ave NE*

- May 18th
- June 15th
- July 20th
- August 17th
- September 21st

Free to Bel-Air Neighbors.

Park Party

Saturday September 28th

5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

*Miramontes/Bel-Air Park,
Phoenix Ave NE*

Bring a side dish to share!

Park Update

By Barb Johnson

Many in the neighborhood probably have felt the effects of folks traversing the neighborhood to congregate at the park. Certainly, the health of Bel-Air Miramontes Park reflects on the health of our neighborhood community. We are heading into year four of an invasion of transient and wide-spread drug activity.

Your neighborhood association has been proactive in trying to minimize negative impact in our area. About a year ago Councilor Gibson's office was instrumental in getting 3 solar lights installed along the south end of the park to increase visibility at night. These have been very beneficial, and we are appreciative of those efforts.

The problem of hypodermic needles around the community is citywide, but we have had more than our share of this activity in our park, and most sadly, around our playgrounds. After much discussion with the city and the neighborhood association, Bel-Air Park now has a needle disposal container where needles can be disposed of safely. Many residents may disagree with this move thinking that it will encourage more of this activity and noting that they regularly leave all their garbage strewn about, so why would they make any effort to dispose of the needles.

Since this was installed in the fall, as the population in the park declined for the winter, we do not have a feel for how this will work out. The board feels that we cannot ignore the problem and will wait and see if this is a positive factor in keeping our park safer. The city has agreed to remove it or move it if we feel it is not beneficial.

The city is also working on repairing the south wall, including using rebar and concrete as reinforcement and raising the wall slightly as per code. We feel that this will slow the tide of both people and assorted things coming into the park from the shopping center. Perhaps most important is enforcement efforts at our park. Understandably, issues here are low priority, but it is frustrating nonetheless to contact police about drug use, drug dealing, camping etc. and have them respond 4 hours later. As of this writing we are working to come up with a better plan.

Please continue to use the park. The more legitimate people are there the less likely these folks will want to hang around. Call the police with any illegal activity. Even if they don't respond right away the more calls they get the more attention we get. Please also be considerate of your neighbors. Leash your dogs and clean up after them. The amount of dog poop right now rivals the number of needles...



Advertisement for Bel-Air Community, 1952

Bel-Airtifacts

Memories from Bel-Air Residents

The following is an excerpt from the “Bel Air Neighborhood-Preliminary Plan”, prepared by the Neighborhood Planning & Development Class, UNM, Fall 1994. It has been edited for brevity.

This interview was conducted at the Morris’ place of business, Sundance Automotive, with Rossie and Peggy Morris and Ms. Juanita Morris (Rossie’s mother) three of the first residents of Bel Air Neighborhood.

Q: When did you move to Bel Air?

Ms. Juanita- December 24, 1948. It was a brand-new house...we were the first ones to move in. Developers were from Wichita, TX. The first house built was for Mr. Goldson’s mother and sister but in the meantime, the mother had died, and the sister didn’t want to live there by herself so that is why we go the first house.

Rossie- there were 12 other houses but not from this development.

Q. How long did it take for others to move in?

Rossie- It was immediate; it was rapid.

Ms. Juanita-There were so many contractors, one had built one block, and another was building another block somewhere else. We had our own

water system and had cesspool, the rest Goldson and Byers go through, the electricity and the wires.

We had no sidewalks, no pavement whatsoever...it was 1952 before they really started working.

Q. Did you know anyone else moving in?

Ms. Juanita- No, we did not know anyone, but it didn’t take us long to get acquainted. We were glad to meet somebody else.

Q. Were the front and back yards very big?

Ms. Juanita- Well, actually we didn’t have any yards back then. We didn’t get us up a back wall until several years later.

Q. What was the landscaping like?

Ms. Juanita- Well, there was a lot of gravel. Our first lawn we put in, we didn’t have no fences or anything. We got up one morning and some horses were chomping around my new lawn. (laughter). We didn’t get a new lawn for a long time.

The Morris’ also discussed how the roads used to wash away because they weren’t paved and how there was a big water tower in the neighborhood. Rossie mentioned that when he was young, a boy scout friend and he could stand on each of their roof tops and give each other flag signals. There was little landscaping and lots of open space.



Photo by Bob Ezell, San Mateo & Menaul, 1954
Bel-Air is on the upper right-hand side

BANA Celebrates 25 Years

In 1994, a small group of Bel-Air neighbors banded together to create the Bel-Air Neighborhood Association (BANA). Their mission? To ensure the Bel-Air neighborhood is a safe, clean, healthy place to live, work, and play.

A special shout out to the neighbors who have volunteered at past events, served on the board, and/or attended the annual meetings. BANA has achieved many things that past, current, and future neighbors can truly be proud of!

Here are some photos from the BANA archives:



These undated photos were taken on the park property prior to 2002.



Park construction, 2002

Photos on right and below from 1995



Mid-Block Street-light install, 1995 (left)

Clean-Up Day 1998 (right)



Safe Sharp Cleanup UPDATE

BANA teamed up with the city's Environmental Health Department and surrounding neighborhood associations to bring a FREE training on safe sharps clean-up. Special thanks to Francelli Lugo and Kaitlin Greenberg from the City of Albuquerque and Jo Martin for making this training a great success.

What should you do if you find a needle? We learned to follow these steps for safe and proper disposal:

- ✓ Put gloves on and place sharps container on a stable surface near the needle.
- ✓ Pick up the needle with grabbers, tongs, pliers, or tweezers, keeping the needle pointed away from you.
- ✓ Put the needle into a sharps container, bleach or laundry detergent container or empty plastic peanut butter jar.
- ✓ Tightly seal the container using tape to secure the top. Do not fill the container more than 2/3 full.
- ✓ Label container "Sharps-Do Not Recycle" with a water proof marker
- ✓ Keep container away from children and place in regular household trash cart.
- ✓ Wash hands with soap and water.

Picture to right- Neighbors searching picking up trash and sharps



Using a pair of tongs to safely pick up a needle.



CFC-Christian Fellowship Church

3901 Claremont Ave NE, (505) 296-1040
www.cfc Albuquerque.com

- School of the Holy Spirit, Sunday 9:30am
- Celebration Service, Sunday 10:30am
- Youth Group, Friday 7:00pm
- Women's and Men's group meet 1st Saturday of every month 9am-11am, (breakfast provided)

NOTE: CFC extends space to BANA for assembling this neighborhood newsletter and for neighborhood meetings. Thank you!



VORTEX THEATER

2900 Carlisle NE, (505) 247-8600,
www.vortexabq.com

Support your local community theater. Information available on their website, along with the times and dates of their performances.

NOTE: The Vortex Theater has provided meeting space for BANA General Meetings. Thank you!

Thank you, BANA Business Members!

We appreciate your support. Thank you for being a part of our community.

- The Alarm Store, 2712 Carlisle NE
- Archery Shoppe and Gallery, 2910 Carlisle NE
- Zia Graphics, 2730 Carlisle NE
- McKeever Legal Advisor, 3636-B Menaul NE
- Good Shepherd Animal Clinic, 4601 Menaul NE
- Knights of Columbus Insurance, 2800 San Mateo, Ste 111
- Silver Owl, 2720 Carlisle NE

Thank you to the following neighbors who volunteer their time and share their talents to serve on the BANA Board:

- Jay Edwards (2017) President
- Hart Lewis (2015) Vice President
- Barb Johnson (1994) Treasurer
- Jeanene Witt (2013) Secretary
- Rosalie Nava (2017) Member