

Our 22nd Year Serving Bel-Air - July 2016

We need your eyes on the Park!

Your neighborhood association was formed in 1994 to promote a safe and healthy community by empowering neighbors and engaging with the public and private sectors. We, as your Board, remain committed to this today.

Bel-Air has many positives including great people and a convenient location. Our central location has also proven to be a detriment in some areas. Property crimes have increased in ABQ as whole and an influx of transients in Bel-Air park in recent months has posed some challenges.

It is essential that each of us be vigilant about activity in our area and take individual responsibility to help keep us all safe and healthy. **This won't happen without your involvement and that means calling 311 or 242-COPS (for non-emergencies) or 911 in an emergency when you see something happening.**

Those who closely observed the recent Bel-Air Park activity can attest to the amount of drug activity, panhandling and trash increased in the area. Neighbors have found drug paraphernalia - syringes and tourniquets - in and around the children's play areas.

City crews who had the daunting task of trying to clean up some major trash piles report finding human waste, soiled and discarded clothing as well as other evidence of drug use. Personal observation revealed lots of drug dealing activity in the park itself.

Because a few nearby neighbors were willing to make calls, we received a great response from Parks and Recreation Department and from APD, which we are grateful for. City Councilor Diane Gibson and her office have been very helpful as well.

The bottom line is this: whether the problem is on your block or in public areas such as our lovely park, we must each take responsibility to try to do something to solve the problem.

There is safety in neighbors so keep an eye out and do something to help us all. Thanks!

This is Your Copy of the

Bel-Air News

Published by the Bel-Air Neighborhood Assn
www.banaNM.org

Mark your calendars!
Important 2016 Neighborhood Dates

Saturday Bel-Air Clean-Up Days

8 to 10 am Bel-Air Miramontes Park

July 16, August 20, September 17

Annual BANA Park Party

Saturday, July 23 6 to 8 pm

Lee Julian Memorial Pavilion

Bel-Air Miramontes Park

Please bring a side dish, dessert or burger accompaniments such as lettuce, tomato, or green chile ready to serve.

BANA will provide drinks, burgers, hot dogs and buns, along with cookies for dessert.

Come meet your neighbors!

ALWAYS CALL 911 in a true emergency. Otherwise, here are the phone numbers that can make it easy for you to report problems.

311 - call 311 to report such things as overflowing or excessive trash, graffiti, zoning violations (abandoned and inoperable vehicles, excessive trash and weeds in yard) and for need for large item pickup. **311 can also be accessed online and with a very convenient app that pretty much allows you to snap a photo and report a problem.**

242-COPS (242-2677) - Suspicious persons/vehicles, evidence of criminal activity (i.e. people in park after hours, drinking in park, drugs and drug dealing)

Shopping carts – The most frequently found carts in the neighborhood belong to the following businesses.

Call them directly and ask them to retrieve their carts.

Wal-Mart--884-6650;

Savers--888-0116;

Smith's 265-9423

Please join us!
BANA MEMBER BENEFITS



1. BEL AIR NEWS - our neighborhood newsletter, published by volunteers 3 times a year, hand-delivered by volunteers to 1124 households in the Bel Air Neighborhood (San Mateo to Carlisle and Candelaria to Menaul). Each newsletter costs us \$300.

2. WEBSITE at www.bananm.org and EMAIL UPDATES to members in between newsletters.

3. MEMBER HOSPITALITY TABLE on Saturday morning CLEAN-UP DAYS –

Stop by for a good cup of coffee, a homemade cookie and pay your membership donation by debit or credit card. BANA is now able to just swipe your card using the SQUARE. Very secure and very easy for you.

4. The PLANT AND GARDEN EXCHANGE is hosted by expert neighborhood gardeners on neighborhood clean-up days. Come ask questions or advice. We love to talk plants.

5. BANA PLANT WORLD MEMBERSHIP

A BANA Membership list is on file at PLANT WORLD; just tell them you are with the Bel-Air Neighborhood Association. Easy peasy. Send in your membership now or come to the General Meeting and pay with debit or credit card. Spring is here!

Plant World is located at EDITH and EL PUEBLO, it's where you find things you won't see anywhere else and their native plant selection is great. Very helpful and knowledgeable people. Plant a good shade tree this year, watch it grow and lower your cooling bills.

6. ANNUAL BEL AIR NEIGHBORHOOD PARK PARTY in July.

Yes, we hope to have the Albuquerque Fire Department back with a fire engine for the kids to see.

Bel-Air Crime Prevention—APD wants YOU to organize your block for a NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

APD has over 2000 neighborhoods in Albuquerque participating in the Neighborhood Watch program, and they would like to organize (or "reorganize") our neighborhood on a block-by-block basis.

Initially, APD looks for someone who would be willing to host in their home an organizing meeting for their block. **If you would like to be a host, follow this procedure below:**

Talk with some of your neighbors on your block to see if there is general interest in participating in a Neighborhood Watch.

If so, and if you are willing to host the initial organizing meeting, call APD to schedule at: 244-6644.

APD will then work with you to set up the meeting. Toward the end of the organizing meeting with APD, the neighborhood will officially select someone to be the **Block Captain**, who is their contact person with the group from that point forward. **For more information, please contact APD Crime Prevention at 244-6644** *Information from the APD web site*

**Summer Food Service Program
For Children in Bel-Air Park**

The following information comes from the City of Albuquerque website.

Lunch will be served at Bel-Air park at noon Monday through Friday through July 29. The Food Service Program for Children provides meals in city community centers, parks, schools, apartment complexes, public housing, churches and at non-profit organizations.

You do not have to be registered at any site listed to participate in the breakfast or lunch program.

Participants must be 1-18 years of age to participate in program. They must receive entire meal as a unit and eat on site. They must not abuse any food items. (throw or play with food) and clean up own lunch area after finishing meal. **All meals will be served on first-come first-served basis.**

Back Yard Sinkhole Appears!

One of our neighbors has lived in her home on Morningside since 1992 and has never had sewer line problems, tree roots or water leakage problems.

Recently, a 6-foot sinkhole appeared in her backyard and a friend's dog fell through. The dog is fine. 311 forwarded her call to the water department that then referred to her to the environmental department.

The sinkhole was determined to be a collapsed 1940s septic system. Insurance didn't cover the cost of remediating the situation. She wanted Bel-Air neighbors to know about this.

Bel Air Neighborhood Association (BANA) General Meeting MINUTES April 18, 2016

Board members present:

Amy Henne, Barb Johnson, Hart Lewis, Jeanene Witt

Guest Speakers (prior to start of meeting) Sharanne Press, APD Crime Prevention, and Lt. Weber from Northeast Command – Preventing Home and Car Theft in Bel-Air

Meeting called to order at 7:05

Secretary's report- Minutes of 4/20/15 were accepted.

Treasurer report – Amy shared that we need about 140 members to bring in \$1400 in dues. BANA spends approx. \$1400 which includes \$500 for newsletter, \$400 for hospitality for clean-up days, \$200 administrative expenses such as web hosting, PO Box, corporation dues, with the remaining for annual park party. A member suggested that we have an email option to save on printing costs but this is not feasible at this time. The budget is almost identical to last year's.

President's report- Amy welcomed the new faces and asked that we encourage our neighbors to join BANA.

Committee reports

Membership – Lou volunteered to deliver business newsletters.

Zoning and Beautification – Barb stated that the neighborhood yard sale is May 7. She will do signs and ads. First clean-up day is Saturday, May 21 from 8-10 or whenever truck is full. *We need volunteers to help with alley cleanup.*

Old Business – The neighborhood sign provided by the city was brought up by a member. It was discussed that the city requires the neighborhood to be responsible for the sign maintenance and insurance. This will not be pursued at this time.

New Business-Elections of Board Members

Current Board members still have another year in their term. There are 3 vacant positions. Barb asked for volunteers or nominations. Chris Trujillo volunteered and was elected by acclamation. His term will run from today until the elections in 2018. The Board members listed above have one year left on their term and will serve until the elections in 2017.

A member mentioned the website NextDoor as a useful forum. Another member expressed concern about speeding on his street. Barb stated that it is a long process but agreed to look into it if specific intersections are forthcoming from neighbors.

*Motion to adjourn, seconded and all agreed at 7:38
Respectfully submitted
Jeanene Witt, BANA Secretary*

The Public Library is MORE Than Just Books!

All branches of the ABC Library have public computers with Windows 7 operating system, Microsoft Office 2013 and access to the Internet, electronic databases, and library catalogs. **Every location offers free WI-FI access during regular library hours.**

Our neighborhood library is Erna Fergusson Library at 505-888-8100. One-on-One COMPUTER HELP is available Tuesdays from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Kindle Fire Tablets

Want to try out a tablet? Check one out from the library. They have Kindle Fire tablets available. Try out new technology and ABC Library's downloadable collections. Library cardholders can check out one tablet at a time for 3 weeks.

Cake Pans

Need a special occasion cake? Check out more than 30 different specialty shaped cake pans. They have a wide variety of licensed character pans and other special shapes like hearts and giant cupcakes. Pans check out for 3 weeks, and are limited to one per card.

Seed Library

The ABC Seed Library was established in 2014 and has as its mission to encourage a community of water-wise gardeners and seed savers. In line with the ABC Library mission, the aim is to provide the access, tools, and skills to enable all Albuquerque citizens to participate in this community. The library provides free seed to ABC Library cardholders and offer free programs to foster all levels of gardeners through growing, harvesting, and seed saving—all within our unique high desert environment.

Kill-a-Watt Energy Detectors

The U.S Department of Energy reports that 20% of our electric bills come from items that are left plugged in when they are not in use, or items that are in standby mode. Monitor your electricity usage to see which items are contributing to your electricity bill. Kill-a-Watt Energy Detectors can be checked out for 3 weeks at a time, and are limited to one per library card.

Christian Fellowship Church

NOTE: CFC has provided meeting space for BANA Board meetings and General Meetings in our neighborhood for nearly 20 years.

School of the Holy Spirit 9:30am-10:15am Sunday
Celebration Service 10:30am-12:00pm Sunday
Vertical Impact Youth Service 7:00pm-8:30pm Friday
11:00am-12:00pm Sunday

Children's services and nursery is also available. Men's Mentoring Breakfast is every 1st Saturday of every month at 9am. Beauty for Ashes women's group also meets very 1st Saturday of the very month.

UPCOMING EVENT

Backpack BBQ July 30 6:00pm-8:00pm
Email Tawnia godswarriorsefcabq@gmail.com

*Christian Fellowship Church
3901 Claremont Ave. NE Albuquerque, NM 87110
(505) 296-1040 church office*

The Bel-Air News is a publication by and for the residents of the Bel-Air Neighborhood Association. 2015-2016 BANA Board Members:

Amy Henne	Barb Johnson	Jeanene Witt
Hart Lewis	Chris Trujillo	
2 vacant seats		

Please contact your Board with your concerns and ideas for a better neighborhood:
bana_nm@yahoo.com or www.banaNM.org or
Bel-Air Neighborhood Association (BANA)
P.O. Box 36568, ABQ, NM 87176

Bel Air Neighborhood Association (BANA) 2016-2017 Annual Residential Membership
*BANA receives no outside funding and is totally supported through membership donations.
All membership fees go to pay for the publication of the BEL AIR NEWS for the entire neighborhood
and all BANA sponsored events. **Your membership matters.***

Please send in your membership today! \$10 Annual Membership Donation per household
Membership year runs from May 1, 2016 to April 30, 2017

Please make your check or money order payable to: **Bel Air Neighborhood Association.** Your cancelled check or money order duplicate is your receipt. **Mail To: BANA PO Box 36568, ABQ NM 87176**

Name _____ E-Mail _____
Address _____ Phone# _____

Members will receive neighborhood email updates between newsletters. Your email address will never be shared.
Thank you for your continued support!