

Bel-Air News

The Voice of the Bel-Air Neighborhood Association (BANA)

Fall 2017

Serving the Bel-Air Neighborhood Since 1994

board@banaNM.org - banaNM.org - PO Box 36568 Albuquerque, NM 87176

UPDATE: Our Bel-Air Park

As this is being written, the park is looking beautiful and calm! We have received a lot of attention from the Albuquerque Police Department, including an undercover operation on August 23 where at least two people were escorted from the Park in handcuffs and one charged with drug trafficking. Because of this the park has been pretty sparsely populated with non-residents and those who have been there are not staying all day. There have actually been children playing and more neighbors out walking! What a joyous sight.

With that said we have to continue to remain vigilant and call in any suspicious or clearly illegal activity in and around the park (and the entire neighborhood). APD is data driven in their staffing, so more calls means more attention. Whether or not you live near the park or frequent it, we all must look out for ourselves and the welfare of our neighbors and neighborhood.

Thanks to APD for their decisive action to help us battle the problems at our lovely park.

Barb Johnson, BANA Board Member

Annual Bel-Air Park Party is here! Saturday, Sept 23

Door Prizes for Members !!



Due to the increasing heat of summer, our Annual Bel Air Park Party has been moved to Saturday, September 23rd.

Set-up begins at 4 pm and hot dogs and hamburgers will be served at 5 pm.

Bring a side dish or dessert to share and come meet your neighbors!

This year, 2 of our new Board members have been working hard with local businesses for door prize donations.

With your paid membership, you will receive your own special ticket for the drawings that will take place during the party. You must be present to win.

As always, we hope to have a CABQ fire engine and firefighters on hand for the big and little kids to enjoy. APD officers will be on hand to meet the neighbors, if they haven't been called out to respond.

Come and enjoy a (hopefully) cool Fall evening with friends and family.

Bel-Air Neighborhood 2017 Fall Calendar

S E P T E M B E R

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7
Volunteer Appreciation
Pizza and Salad 5 - 6 PM
Christian Fellowship Church
Newsletter Assembly to follow.

Week of SEPTEMBER 10
FALL newsletter delivered by neighborhood volunteers

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16
Bel-Air Clean-Up Day #5
CABQ garbage truck will be available at Bel-Air Park for FREE disposal.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23
ANNUAL Bel-Air PARK PARTY
4 -7 PM Bel-Air Park
Food will be served beginning at 5 pm
Free to All Bel-Air Neighbors
Come and meet your neighbors!

O C T O B E R

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18
Year-End BANA General Meeting
6 to 8 pm - please join us!
Vortex Theater - 2900 Carlisle NE
PARK UPDATE from APD
PARK Tree Planting UPDATE from City Forester, Joran Viers
Questions and Hopefully Answers

Thank you to these neighbors who volunteer their time and talents to serve on the BANA Board -

Amy Henne (2011) -President / Editor, Newsletter
Hart Lewis (2015) - Vice President / Hospitality
Barb Johnson (1994) - Treasurer / Park Safety
Jeanene Witt (2013) - Secretary / Newsletter Assembly
Kelly Price (2017) - Social Media / Safety
Rose Nava (2017) - Family Resources
1 Open Board Seat - what are you interested in ?

The Bel-Air Neighborhood Association (BANA) is supported entirely through membership donations.

Your \$10 membership helps pay for:

- **1200 copies of the Bel-Air News**, hand-delivered 3x a year by neighborhood volunteers;
- **Annual web-hosting fees for banaNM.org** and all other administrative costs
- **5 Bel-Air Saturday Clean-up Days** on the 3rd Saturday of May, June, July, August and September;
- **Food and supplies for the Annual Park Party, Sept 23**

Please join us for a year-end BANA General Meeting on Wednesday, September 23 at the VORTEX THEATER - 2900 Carlisle NE from 6 to 8 pm.

There will be presentations from APD and the City Forester regarding our Park. Following these presentations we will be discussing your concerns going forward.

**Bel Air Neighborhood Association
Annual General Meeting Minutes, Vortex Theater
April 24. 2017 7:00 PM**

Board members present- Amy Henne, Barb Johnson, Jeanene Witt, Hart Lewis, Kelly Price, Rose Nava
Board members absent-Chris Trujillo

Prior to the meeting, a question and answer session was held. Topics included: neighborhood watch, increasing vandalism of homes and vehicles, the importance of knowing our neighbors, cleaning up the neighborhood, and business sponsorships.

Meeting called to order at 7:03

Secretary's Report- it was moved and seconded that the minutes of the last general meeting held 4/18/16 be accepted. All agreed.

Treasurer/Budget Report – Amy passed out copies of the budget for this year. Projected expenses are \$1450 so need 150 members to cover this. We have already received 41 memberships and 14 of these are new members. We have a contingency fund of about \$1200 and it is planned that we will keep that balance and fund expenses year to year. A member suggested that we include a list of what could be done by BANA if we had more dues-paying members.

President's Report- The calendar of BANA events is similar to last year's calendar. Clean-up days continue to be the third Saturday of the month from May- Sept. The date for newsletter publishing, assembling and delivering have been set. The major change is the neighborhood picnic has been moved to September 23 due to the heat at last July's event. Board meetings are now held at Erna Fergusson library and the newsletter assembly is at Christian Fellowship Church.

All of the board members present introduced themselves and gave their reasons for their participation.

Diane Gibson, our city councilor, spoke about issues we have been addressing:

The 311 signs for the medians at San Mateo and Menaul and at Carlisle and Menaul are in place. It is hoped that these will discourage panhandling by limiting the number of drivers handing out cash. We will not be installing a sharps container at the park. If there are a number of used syringes, it is better to call 311 as it is dangerous to handle these. These issues are tied to Opioid addiction and the city has established a HOPE team to try to limit the numbers.

Members were invited to ask questions of Councilor Gibson. A neighbor asked about the halfway house that has opened on Montclair. Barb is working with the city to make sure they are in compliance. Another neighbor asked about the tent city at park near San Mateo and I-40. Diane said the city is aware of it and several agencies as well as APD have been working on it.

**Committee reports -
Park watch and Richmond Business Organization**

Barb reports that the issues from last year's park problems have not carried into this year so far. The numbers of homeless and use of drugs/alcohol have been less. She reminded us that we all need to monitor the park activity and call 311 or 911 as appropriate. It is hoped that the 311 median signs will discourage the gathering in the park.

Amy mentioned that she has been working with Walgreens corporate office to clean up the Walgreens on Menaul. There is trash and graffiti in front of the store and more security has been suggested.

Blakes has organized a Richmond business watch to try to reduce the vandalism in that area. They are posting signs and trying to make some areas parking by permit only to reduce the number of campers and vagrants. A representative from McKinley neighborhood association informed us that Walmart is changing their camping policy for their parking lot by limiting the number of days a vehicle can stay and recording the license plates. It was also mentioned that Walmart now has carts that lock up when they are taken beyond the store's parking lot. This should reduce the number of carts found in the neighborhood.

Old Business-none

New Business – Elections

The one-year terms of Amy Henne, Barb Johnson, Hart Lewis, and Jeanene Witt are up. All four are willing to serve another term. It was moved, seconded and approved that these board member continue to serve another term from 2017 to 2019. Rose Nava and Kelly Price will serve as interim board members and their terms as well as Chris Trujillo's will be up in 2018.

**Motion to adjourn at 8:00 - seconded, and approved.
Respectfully submitted - Jeanene Witt, BANA secretary**

WaterSmart Workshops

The Albuquerque water authority offers free workshops led by Xeriscape Landscape Specialist and experts from Albuquerque Desert Oasis Teaching Garden (www.dotgarden.org). Learn how to xeriscape, use organic practices, and use water wisely in your yard and garden while saving money.

Upcoming schedule:

Urban Gardening “Planting Garlic & Benefits” other than to spook Count Dracula

Saturday October 7

Winterizing your garden and irrigations system

Saturday, October 14

Workshops are held from 9-11 a.m. at Desert Oasis Teaching Gardens:

Albuquerque Academy
6400 Wyoming Blvd NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109

The workshops are FREE but you must register to attend. Please register at; <http://www.abcwua.org/watersmart.aspx> or call 505-842-9287 (option #4)

Did you know? You may receive a \$20 credit on your water bill for every different WaterSmart workshop topic you attend, covered by the Water Authority, within a five-year period!

Tree-bates!

Trees, while they do require water to survive, save water by providing shade and reducing water loss to evaporation, not to mention the many other environmental benefits they bring to our community. To promote proper care in our dry climate, the Water Authority offers “Tree-Bates” to help cover the costs of tree maintenance -- and even the purchase of new trees!

Visit: www.abcwua.org/Outdoor_Rebates.aspx for more information

Please Note: "Tree-Bates" are not available for the removal of trees. Customers are required to submit proof of purchase or service with rebate forms. If the rebate form is incomplete or missing proof of purchase or service, it delays processing and all documentation is returned to the customer.

To avoid unnecessary conflicts, with other plants or buildings, it is important to select “the right tree for the right place”. Viewing what the mature tree looks like in the landscape can be very helpful for this decision.

Visit http://www.abcwua.org/Outdoor_Rebates.aspx to download maps of the UNM main campus and the Rio Grande Botanic Garden for self-guided tree tours.

Neighborhood News



Here are some important phone numbers to help keep our park and neighborhood safe -

311 - call this number (or use the quick and easy 311 app on your smartphone) if you need large item pickup, wish to report graffiti, abandoned vehicles, excessive trash and overflowing trash cans at the park.

242-COPS (2677) - This is the APD non-emergency number if you witness suspicious persons or activity or to report a crime already committed.

911 - This is APD's emergency response number if there is a medical emergency or a crime in progress.

Be prepared to provide as much information as possible, such as physical and clothing descriptions, license plate numbers, vehicle make and model and exact location. The more detailed the information the better but NEVER put yourself in a dangerous position.

Working together we can make Bel-Air Park and our neighborhood safer for all!



VORTEX THEATER

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

Looking for an interesting volunteer opportunity right here in Bel-Air? Consider lending a hand at our very own Vortex Theater. Information available on their website, along with the times and dates of their performances.

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

CFC-Christian Fellowship Church

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



Sundays:

School of the Holy Spirit 9:30am-10:15am
Celebration Service 10:30am-12pm
Children's Church every Sunday 11am
Youth Group every Sun 11am, every other Fri

7pm

NOTE: CFC extends space to BANA for assembling this neighborhood newsletter.

BANA Membership - U P D A T E

If you have not had a chance to submit your annual membership form, please:

- **mail** it to: BANA, PO Box 36568, ABQ., NM 87176-6568 with your \$10 check.
- OR **pay on-line** at **bananm.org** with your debit or credit card.
- OR sign-up or renew your membership at the Annual Park Party

If you would like to contact the board for any reason, our address is board@bananm.org. We would love your help. Thanks.



**Mark your
calendar! ONE
more F R E E
"clean-up" day!**

Scheduled for Saturday,
September 16,
between 8 am and 10 am

at Bel-Air/Miramontes Park (located on Phoenix, just east of Carlisle)

Disposable items such as: Mattresses, yard waste, TV's, wood; shopping carts, ½ of a hot tub, etc... will be accepted.

Items that CANNOT be disposed of at Saturday "Clean-Ups" are: any construction materials such as: drywall, brick, concrete, rebar, etc. In addition, they will not take refrigerators.

However, if you contact "311" they can schedule a "large pick-up" for you on Wednesdays, our regular trash day.

In reference to electronics aka E-Waste, the informal name for electronic products nearing the end of their "useful life", you may place them in the blue recycle bins. Accepted items can be found, via the internet at:

<http://www.cabq.gov/solidwaste/recycling/electronic-waste-e-waste>

Thanks to BANA Board member, Kelly Price for contributing this article.