

Upcoming Events

Annual General Meeting

TBA

Due to the pandemic, our annual meeting is on hold for now, but stay tuned- we hope to schedule a time and date soon.

Saturday Clean-Up Days

8:00 am - 10:00 am

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

- May 22nd
- July 17th
- September 18th

City will have a garbage truck available to dispose of excess trash you may have around the house. Neighbors will also pick up trash around the park. Please wear masks and practice social distancing.

Neighborhood Meet and Greet

10 am

Saturday May 22nd

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

Come join us for a social distance gathering. We will have free donuts and bottled water!

We are BACK!!!

Hi neighbors. We have missed you! It has been a tough year. This global pandemic has wreaked havoc on our lives in so many ways. Many of us, whether we care to admit it or not, are struggling. Struggling with loss, social isolation, and for some of us, financial hardships and food insecurity. In the inside of this newsletter, you will find a list of resources we have gathered that may be useful to you, your neighbors, or friends, please check it out and share widely!



Meet and Greet

The pandemic restrictions are slowly easing up and we hope you will join us after the first cleanup day (May 22nd) at 10 am for an outside meet and greet at our neighborhood park. We will adhere to safety protocols and ask that you arrive in a mask and practice social distancing from all those outside your personal pod.

We know there are many new neighbors who moved in, in the last year and we hope to welcome you in person. Come meet your neighbors, including the BANA board volunteers, and learn how to get involved!



Park Update

In the last year, our neighborhood park, Miramontes/Bel-Air, has seen several improvements thanks to the city's, Parks and Recreation department. The community shelter received a fresh coat of blue paint. And our recently repaired brick wall, that divides the park from the commercial strip mall, received two new murals. Both created with spray paint! If you have not been to the park in a while, it is time to pay the park a visit and check them out!

Volunteers Needed

Many of you know our neighborhood association is run entirely by volunteers. Volunteers that are YOUR neighbors. We do our best to take your concerns to local leaders, arrange for neighborhood cleanup days and schedule annual social events. Our primary focus is to ensure our neighborhood is a safe place to live. We need more neighbors to step up and volunteer their talents to keep our association going. We need YOU. The registration form has a place for you to sign up today!

Cheatgrass Control

(Excerpts from David Salman, horticulturist and owner of Waterwise Gardening in Santa Fe, article published in New Mexican, March 2020)

Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), also known locally as foxtail grass, is an invasive annual that's widespread much of New Mexico.

Pet owners, beware. The ripe seed heads are extremely dangerous to our dogs and cats as well as to wildlife. The finely barbed seeds ripen by mid-June and the sharp tips easily pierce skin, clothing and non-leather shoes and boots. As any Northern New Mexico veterinarian will attest, they readily get into pet's ears as well as puncture their skin, where the barbed seed can move deeply into paws, flesh and even organs. Once dead and dried by mid- to late June (it's an annual grass that completes its lifecycle in one growing season), this plant becomes highly flammable and burns quickly with intense heat. Hence, it presents an extreme fire hazard when growing around homes and outbuildings as well as under dry brush and junipers.

We can make a big impact on weed populations if we prevent cheatgrass from forming ripe seeds. When we do the following simple tasks we can have a huge impact on controlling the spread of this invasive weed.

Mid- to late May: Mowing with a lawn mower or weed wacker to prevent the grass from allowing the seeds to ripen. Lastly and least desirably, cut or pull the plants with ripe seeds in summer to diminish fire danger. You must thoroughly rake the stems and seeds and throw the litter into the trash.

Make your own Homebrew herbicide recipe: 1 gallon cooking/cleaning vinegar + 2 cups Epsom salts + 4 cup liquid dish soap (Dawn, Ivory or Dr. Bronner's). Apply with a spray bottle directly to the green grass.

Rake up and throw the litter into the trash. Otherwise, the seeds will fall off and remain to germinate later.

Once you identify this weed, you'll see it your own yards, neighbors' yards and the arroyos. Share this information and encourage your neighbors to join in the effort to control cheatgrass. Each and every homeowner who makes the effort will have a positive impact. Together we can make a difference.

To access full unedited article please visit:

https://www.santafenewmexican.com/a-serious-weed-is-loose-in-santa-fe/image_1faf79a6-5d95-11ea-bc4b-ef966831bdd3.html)

Feral Cats and Bird Decals

By Susan Sophia

Our neighborhood still has several feral cats, those with notches in ears are neutered by different agencies. Many still not. All outdoor cats are predators to our native birds.

Cornell Lab of Ornithology reports that 3 billion birds are lost in the US to pesticides like Roundup, most to free roaming outdoor cats, some to striking windows.



All bird shops carry decals which are not visible to you but keeps birds from hitting your windows.

If you have concerns about feral cats, the following agencies can help:

- People's Anti Cruelty Association / Albuquerque Animal Rescue 505-255-0544
- Street Cat Hub (505) 247-9357
- Animal Humane, 255-5523, extension 105.

Help is Available

The City of Albuquerque has partnered with the national nonprofit, the Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund, and the local nonprofits, the NM Dream Team and the NM Coalition to End Homelessness, to help Burquenos deal with the financial impact of COVID-19 by remotely triaging critical financial priorities with clients and connecting them to social services and other resources by referral.

Get connected to:

- Rent & mortgage payment assistance
- Eviction prevention
- Utility payment assistance
- Food & food stamps (SNAP)
- Unemployment insurance payments
- Medicaid or ACA health insurance (beWellNM)
- Childcare & childcare assistance payments
- Organizations that can help you with the applications

*Please note that Financial Navigators are not long-term financial counselors, and the program does not directly provide money payments to clients.

Sign up for a session at:

<https://www.cabq.gov/legal/financial-navigators>

New Mexico, Do You Need Rental Assistance?

The state of New Mexico will grant \$170M of federal aid to New Mexicans for rental and utility assistance to households experiencing financial hardship due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

What Does it Cover?

- Rent
- Utility bills, this includes electric and gas
- Water and sewer
- Trash removal, fuel oil, wood and pellets
- Other expenses related to housing costs such as hotel/motel costs

Please visit: <https://www.renthelpnm.org/> for eligibility and requirements, or call 1-833-485-1334

Spring & Summer Program Registration

Registrations for spring and summer programming are underway! Bookmark and check yc.cabq.gov regularly.

Also, at yc.cabq.gov you will find links to fun virtual programs and activities such as:

FAMILY ART FROM HOME

Albuquerque Museum

Get those crafting supplies ready! Download a different art project each week from Albuquerque Museum.

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Albuquerque Public Library

Learn to play the ukulele, make yarn dolls, enjoy a story time, and so much more on this YouTube channel!

BIOPARK VIRTUAL FIELD TRIPS

ABQ BioPark

Bring the ABQ BioPark directly to your classroom or home with the "virtual field trip" option from Discover the BioPark.

Current BANA Board Members:

- *Hart Lewis (2015) Acting President*
- *Barb Johnson (1994) Treasurer*
- *Jeanene Witt (2013) Secretary*
- *Rosalie Nava (2017) Director*
- *Liz Shiels, (2019) Director*
- *Seth Arseneau (2019) Director*



Spring Membership Drive

Your dues help pay for expenses that include signs, postage, post office box fees, website maintenance, supplies, and refreshments for social gatherings. **100%** of proceeds are invested back into our neighborhood.

Annual Memberships		
Business Membership Annual Fee: \$25	Residential Membership Annual Fee: \$10	Donation to BANA \$ _____

Ways to Support BANA:

1. Visit banaNM.org and renew your annual membership, become a first-time member, and/or make a donation by debit / credit card.
2. Mail in your membership donation:
Please make your check or money order payable to: BANA
Mail payment and completed form to: BANA
PO Box 36568
Albuquerque, NM 87176
3. Bring your check, money order, debit/credit card and completed form to one of the neighborhood events.

Membership Form

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Sign-up to volunteer

____ I would like to volunteer on the BANA Board.

____ I would like to volunteer for neighborhood events

____ Please contact me, I would like to learn more about BANA volunteer opportunities

The best way to reach me is by: (Please check all that apply)

Text _____ Email _____ Phone _____

If you prefer to reach out to us about volunteer opportunities, please email us at board@bananm.org

Your personal information, including email address, will never be shared.

Thank you for supporting your Bel-Air Neighborhood Association (BANA).