

Upcoming Events

Annual General Meeting

Saturday, April 30th at 11am
Miramontes/Bel-Air Park

BANA, like the world, has been in hiatus for the last several years. In that time, we have had many new people move into the neighborhood and have many established neighbors we haven't seen for a while. There is safety in neighbors; bring your lawn chair and join us!

Invited guests include City Councilor Tammy Fiebelkorn, State Representative Christine Trujillo and APD.

Saturday Clean-Up Days

8:00 am - 10:00 am
Miramontes/Bel-Air Park

- May 21st
- July 16th
- September 17th

City will have a garbage truck available to dispose of excess trash you may have around the house. We also need neighbor volunteers to help clean up the park and the alleys. Bring your gloves and truck, if you have one, and let's work together to keep our neighborhood clean and safe.

Neighborhood Meet and Greet-TBA

We are hopeful that the park party will return this year, although the board is trying to figure out what it will look like. Please stay tuned!

Greetings from the BANA president

If you are anything like me, you love our neighborhood and likely chose to live here for similar reasons – affordability, central location, and wonderful neighbors. I have lived here for over 8 years now and I am not planning on going anywhere else.

I got involved with the Bel Air Neighborhood Association (BANA) seven years ago because I want to see our neighborhood maintain what makes it so special, whether through enhancing the things we love or minimizing the things we don't. The BANA Board members are volunteers who work to represent our neighborhood to the city in matters including zoning, transit, safety, education and our park.

Although we lack authority like most homeowners' associations, we certainly have influence as residents who care about their neighborhood community. This year will be focused on increasing our membership, ensuring our park is available and safe for the enjoyment of all residents, and facilitating cleanup days throughout the summer.



This influence is as strong as our membership base. By our best estimates, only 10% of neighborhood homes are members of BANA – imagine how much more we could do with full participation.

Sincerely,
Hart Lewis

Park Update

Due to our rather mild winter, we have seen an uptick of transient folks using the park and several mini encampments. We continue to encourage folks to report any illegal activity – camping, drug use, etc. to APD. Using the APD app is convenient and saves waiting on hold, often for 30 to 45 minutes. Graffiti, trash etc. can be reported to 311. The more calls they receive the more attention we get.

The city of Albuquerque has initiated community response teams to make contact with the homeless population and offer services. A supervisor with the program explained that if a person accepts services, they hook them up immediately. If services are declined, a referral is then made to the Family and Community Services Department and a "72-hour Notice to Vacate" is issued to the offending party(ies). After the 72 hours, teams will be brought in to clean up any mess.

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Park Update (continued)

While they assured that this same procedure applies to parks it is believed by this writer that the Parks Department oversees issuing notices and cleaning up on park property. These teams have no enforcement ability so repeated and multiple reports to APD may be necessary to get the situation resolved.

In general, the park has been cleaner and there have been fewer needles found.

Many folks continue to walk the park, children have returned to playing in the playgrounds and there have been several large parties. The more people who use the park the more likely the transient population will not set up housekeeping or engage in dangerous behaviors in the park.

This is one of the reasons we have scheduled our annual meeting on April 30 at 11 am at the park pavilion. See you there!

Attention All Gardeners!

The ABQ-BERNCO Seed Library is now housed at the South Broadway branch.

The ABQ-BERNCO Seed Library was established in 2014 and has a mission of encouraging a community of water-wise home gardeners. The Seed Library aims to provide the access, helpful hints, and skills to enable everyone to participate in this gardening community by offering free vegetable, herb and flower seeds to card holders and by offering free monthly garden-related programs to foster all levels of gardeners through growing, harvesting, seed saving and more—all within our unique high desert environment.

Visit the Seed Library collection of vegetable, herb and flower seeds at 1025 Broadway SE. The library is located inside the South Broadway Cultural Center.

Each patron with a library card in good standing can check-out 30 packets of seeds each year to grow in a home garden!

For more information on the seed library please visit: <https://abqlibrary.org/seeds> or contact the library directly at: southbroadway@cabq.gov or 505-764-1742

Master Gardeners Hotline – Questions Answered!

Have questions about gardening, trees, or plants? There is a free source for answers—the Master Gardeners Hotline. Master Gardeners are volunteers who have received extensive education and use their experience and the resources of New Mexico State University (NMSU) to answer YOUR questions.

From March 1 through the end of October you can call the Master Gardener Hotline at (505) 292-7144 (from 11AM - 2PM), or (505) 243-1386 (from 9AM-12PM and 12:30-3:30PM) on weekdays (except holidays), to speak to a Master Gardener.

You can also meet in person with Master Gardeners on weekdays (except holidays) from 9AM-12PM and 12:30-3:30PM at the NMSU-Bernalillo County Cooperative Extension Service office at 1510 Menaul Blvd Ext NW Albuquerque, NM 87107.

They can help you understand the science of the various soils in our area and tell you what grows best here. They can help with those pesky entomology, or bug, problems. They have up-to-date information about plant botany, plant diseases, growing fruits and vegetables, caring for your lawn, and growing roses.

Are you interested in xeriscaping? They have information about that as well. They are here to help you develop gardens that will thrive and be beautiful in our arid landscape.

And their advice is FREE!! Call them today!

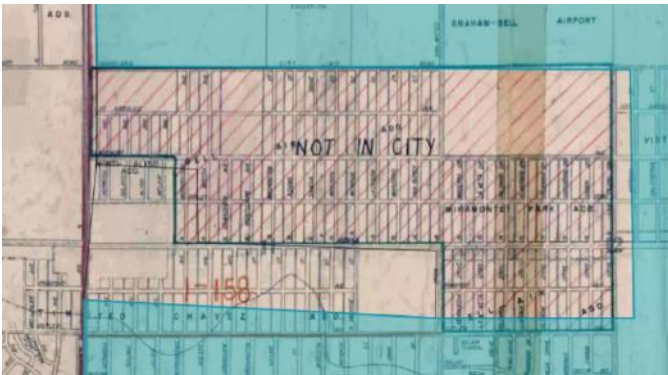




Bel-Airtifacts

Calling all history buffs! The 1950 census has been released. This is a treasure trove for those of you interested in learning more about what life was like a mere 72 years ago.

(Above picture credit Jerry J. Source: Pinterest, date unknown)



(Map of Bel-Air neighborhood in 1950, Source: [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com))

How can you tap into these resources, you may ask? Well, go to <https://1950census.archives.gov/> these records are **FREE** to search!

Current BANA Board Members:

- *Hart Lewis (2015) Acting President*
- *Barb Johnson (1994) Treasurer*
- *Jeanene Witt (2013) Secretary*
- *Rosalie Nava (2017) Director*
- *Seth Arseneau (2019) Director*
- *Add Your Name (2022)*

If you or someone you know prefer a paper newsletter, contact us at board@bananm.org to get one delivered.

Bel-Air Neighborhood Legislatures and City Council Contact info

If you have a policy issue that you care about, especially one that affects our neighborhood, our elected officials are here to help.

NM House District: 25

Representative Christine Trujillo

Office Phone: (505) 235-8783

Email: christine.trujillo@nmlegis.gov

NM Senate District: 15

Senator Daniel A. Ivey-Soto

Office Phone: (505) 881-4475

Email: daniel.ivey-soto@nmlegis.gov

Albuquerque City District 7

Councilor Tammy Fiebelkorn

tfiebelkorn@cabq.gov

Contact Policy Analyst Laura Rummmler:

lrummmler@cabq.gov

(505) 768-3189

Congressional District 1

Senator Martin Heinrich

400 Gold Avenue SW, Ste. 1080

Albuquerque, N.M. 87102

Phone: (505) 346-6601

Congressional District 1

Senator Ben Ray Lujan

498 Russell Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

Phone: 202-224-6621

Congressional District 1

Representative Melanie Stansbury

Albuquerque District Office

300 Central Ave SW

Suite 1300 East

Albuquerque, NM 87102

Phone: (505) 346-6781

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 \$ _____
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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

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).