



# Bel-Air News

The Voice of the Bel-Air Neighborhood  
Association, (BANA)  
Serving the Bel-Air Neighborhood Since 1994  
Spring 2025

## **FROM BANA PRESIDENT, Barb Johnson**

After 30 years of service, this will be my last year on the Bel-Air Neighborhood Association (BANA) Board. It is time for me to turn over the reins, so I encourage you all to step up and support your neighborhood with new energy and ideas. I will continue to be involved in activities and be an active member of the association.

At the Annual Bel-Air Neighborhood Park Party last September, I met a Field Rep from the Mayor's Office who has been instrumental connecting us with the APD to resolve problems at the park. The NE Area Commander has committed to seeing our park return to being a safe and happy place in the neighborhood. A considerable number of narcotics and warrant arrests have been made in, and around, the park.

In addition, the city has boarded up a nearby residence where activities were troubling. It is our hope that steps taken will help squelch illicit activities in the area. **This progress is a result of neighbors getting involved and joining together to make calls and express their concerns, and meeting with APD.** Everyone can help be part of the solution by calling the police or 311 and make requests for service. APD admits that response times to non-emergency calls is not ideal. Nevertheless, resident calls increase awareness of troubling areas and situations. It continues to be my hope that each and every person in the Bel-Air community will join together to help make our neighborhood a

safer and a more joyful place to live. THERE TRULY IS SAFETY IN NEIGHBORS! One easy way to show your civic pride is to register as a member of the Bel-Air Neighborhood Association (BANA). To do so, go to our website at [banam.org](http://banam.org) or fill out the membership form included in this issue and mail it to the address provided. I encourage you to pay the \$10 voluntary annual dues. Without your contributions we will not be able to sustain a viable organization.

While at our website, you can check out the BANA calendar of events. Plan to attend, and volunteer to help whenever you can. We are striving to offer more activities at the park throughout the year. We want our park to be a place where neighbors enjoy coming together, and see it as the lovely asset it is to our community.

**Please join me at the Bel-Air Neighborhood Association Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 19, 2025 at 11:00 AM. It will be at the shelter in Bel-Air's Miramontes Park on Phoenix.** We will hold an election to fill vacant board seats. This is a chance to have your voice heard and be part of the board. Invited speakers are from the APD, to offer neighborhood updates, and from the County Extension Service, to discuss local gardening ideas. Also, we are hoping for an update on plans to revitalize the Menaul corridor.

*If everyone kept a watchful and caring eye on their neighbors, think of what a better world this could be, especially in these often uncertain times.*

----Barb Johnson

Bel-Air Neighborhood Association

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 2025

Saturday, April 19th

**Annual Meeting:** Bel-Air Miramontes Park at 11:00am.

Saturday, May 17th

**Neighborhood Clean Up:** Bel-Air Miramontes Park from 8:00–10:00am.

Saturday, July 19th

**Neighborhood Clean Up:** Bel-Air Miramontes Park from 8:00–10:00am.

Saturday, September 13th

**Annual Park Party:** Bel-Air Miramontes Park from 3:00–5:00pm.

Saturday, September 20th

**Neighborhood Clean Up:** Bel-Air Miramontes Park from 8:00–10:00am.

### ***NEIGHBORHOOD contacts:***

#### **BANA's Social Media**

We invite everyone to visit our website at BANANM.org. There you will find BANA events, past and present newsletters, neighborhood resources, volunteer opportunities, and a link to become a supporting BANA member. Or see us on NextDoor and Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/belairneighbors>

#### **Streetlight Outages**

To report streetlight outages call 311.

#### **Household Hazardous Waste Disposal**

Residents of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County may bring residential hazardous wastes to the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center (HHWCC) at no charge: 2720 Girard NE, 87107

Hours: Mon, We Fri, 8 AM - 2 PM,

Sat 8 AM to 3 PM

Phone: 505-884-2277

#### **Crime Tip Line Resources**

There are several public safety resources available to our community. If you have concerns about drug-related issues in your neighborhood, submit an online tip through the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) website:

<https://www.dea.gov/tips-online.html>. You may connect your

surveillance cameras to the Community Connect Camera Registry

at: <https://www.cabq.gov/police/albuquerque-community-connect-camera-registry-and-integration>. You may also

request information from Crime Prevention Specialist staff at each Area Command by

visiting: <https://www.cabq.gov/police/crime-prevention-safety/crime-prevention-personnel>

## Just for Laughs

If 10 kids try to squeeze under one umbrella,  
how do none of them get wet?

*Because it wasn't raining.*

What can run fast, but cannot walk?

*Water.*

How can you tell spring flowers are friendly?

*Because they always making new buds.*

Why was the strawberry so sad?

*Because his friends were in a jam.*

Where do sheep go for a spring haircut?

*A baa-baa shop.*

Why did the farmer bury his money?

*To make his soil rich.*

What can you find in the middle of April and  
March, but never at the beginning or end?

*The letter R!*

What is a flower's favorite kind of pickle?

*A daffo-dill.*

Did you hear about the gardener whose carrots  
were sprouting?

*He got so excited, he wet his plants!*

What did the tree say during springtime?

*"Well, this is a re-leaf!"*

Did you hear about the flowers that died and  
then came back to life?

*It was a reincarnation*

## Thinking About Getting Chickens?

*By Gayle Wise, Bel-Air Resident Chicken Keeper*

With the rising prices and scarcity of eggs, I've heard a lot of folks talking about getting their own backyard chickens. If you are considering this, please take time to carefully **research what keeping chickens entails**. Chickens are a real investment, moneywise and timewise.

Do your homework, and have a safe and healthy space for your birds before they arrive. Chickens are work--cleaning poop from the coop, providing shelter from weather plus a whole host of predators, giving them fresh water and good food and care **every single day**.

The average lifespan of chickens is 6-8 years, but their prime egg production is limited to just a few years. Chickens poop a lot and they poop everywhere they go. They need space to be happy. They are flock animals, so at the very least you need 3. Fifteen is the limit you can have in Albuquerque. Sometimes you must trim their nails, or care for them when they are hurt, or sick, or old. Sometimes there are social problems to be dealt with. Chickens are "song birds," so can be pretty noisy. They love to dig holes to lay in. They can eat/destroy plants quickly. They scratch and kick things around constantly. Roosters can be very aggressive and can seriously hurt you, especially little kids.

Be sure you are ready, able, and willing to care for them before you go shopping for your own adorable, fluffy little chicks. Remember they grow up fast! It's a challenge to integrate new birds into an established flock, so please don't think it'll be easy to give them away if it doesn't work out.

All that said, chickens can be a real joy. They are beautiful, funny, curious, friendly, and each one has her own personality. Chicken poo is great garden fertilizer. Home grown eggs from happy, healthy birds are the best! **You don't need a rooster** to get eggs.

There's lots of information on the web about chickens, but one of the best I have found is <https://www.backyardchickens.com/>

-----Best wishes!

## Looking Back September, 2024 NeighborWoods Tree Planting and Give-Away

Here are some photos of the NeighborWoods Tree Planting and Give-Away, sponsored by Tree New Mexico. 100 trees were planted by volunteers and staff in the Bel-Air Neighborhood, and 100 more trees were given away to Bel-Air residents for planting in our neighborhood.



**Fruitless Crabapple Tree**

## **Breakfast Smoothie** a portable, healthy breakfast or snack

### *Ingredients:*

- 1 medium banana (fresh or frozen)
- ½ cup sliced strawberries, blueberries or other fruit (fresh or frozen)
- ½ cup plain 2% Greek yogurt
- 1-2 tablespoons almond butter (or substitute ground flaxseed, sunflower seeds or pumpkin seeds for the almond butter)
- ½ cup baby spinach or kale
- ½ cup unsweetened almond milk (or use whatever kind of milk you prefer)
- 1-2 basil leaves (optional)
- 2-3 mint leaves (optional)
- ½ teaspoon ginger (optional)

### Tips

- Whenever you have bananas that are ripening before you can use them up, remember to freeze them. Wrap in wax paper, place in a ziplock bag, and keep them in your freezer. Eat them frozen for a yummy snack or add them to a smoothie, or thaw to make banana bread or banana pancakes.
- If you prefer a sweeter smoothie or one with more zing, you can add ½-1 serving package of sugar-free drink mix, such as Crystal Light without adding sugar.
- To make blending easier, add the milk and yogurt first, then all of the other ingredients. The liquid at the bottom helps pull the ingredients toward the blade.
- Add ice to make it thicker

## ***Bel-Air Legislatures and City Council Contact Information:***

### NM US Senator

Senator Martin Heinrich  
400 Gold Avenue SW, Ste. 1080  
Albuquerque, N.M. 87102  
Phone: (505) 346-6601

NM US House Representative  
Representative Melanie Stansbury  
6301 Indian School Rd, Suite 420  
Albuquerque, NM 87110  
Phone: (505) 346-6781

NM Senate District: 15  
Senator Heather Berghmans  
PO Box 35267, Albuquerque NM 87176  
Email: [heatherberghmans@nmlegis.gov](mailto:heatherberghmans@nmlegis.gov)

NM House District: 25  
Cristina Parajon  
PO Box 36746 Albuquerque, NM 87176  
Email: [Cristina.parajon@nmlegis.gov](mailto:Cristina.parajon@nmlegis.gov)  
District Legislative Aide: Jesse Rivera  
Email: [jesse.rivera@nmlegis.gov](mailto:jesse.rivera@nmlegis.gov) District  
Legislative Aide Phone: 505-946-5625

Albuquerque City District 7  
Councilor Tammy Fiebelkorn  
[tfiebelkorn@cabq.gov](mailto:tfiebelkorn@cabq.gov)  
Contact: Tanya Jackson  
Desk: 505-768-3189 | Cell: 505-318-8958  
Email: [tanyaj@cabq.gov](mailto:tanyaj@cabq.gov)

## Please join us in becoming an active BANA Member!

Everyone who lives or works in Bel-Air is automatically a member of BANA (Bel-Air Neighborhood Association). BANA has a board of five dedicated volunteers who work with other volunteers to keep our neighborhood clean, safe, and connected. We need your support in recruiting new volunteers, and covering costs. Donations are our only means of paying for expenses which include: informational signs, postage, post office box fees, website maintenance, supplies, food and drinks for neighborhood events, including the Park Party.

### Here are ways to be an active member and support BANA:

1. -Visit **bananm.org** to register as a member and/or to make a donation by debit / credit card. Any amount is welcome, \$10, \$15, \$25, whatever feels right, although a \$10 donation is recommended.  
Or, mail your donation to: BANA, PO Box 36568, Albuquerque, NM 87176
2. -Volunteer at one or all of our events. (\*fill out the Volunteer section below.)
3. -Attend BANA meetings. Look for signs in the neighborhood announcing date, time & place.  
-Share some basic information with us so we can get to know you

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### *\*I'm interested in being an Active Bel-Air Neighborhood Association (BANA) Volunteer:*

I'm interested in serving on BANA's Board.

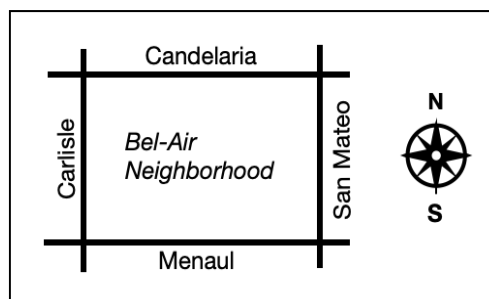
I'm interested in volunteering at:  Neighborhood Clean-Ups  Park Party  Other

Best way(s) to contact me:  Email  Phone (given above)

I would like to discuss additional volunteer opportunities, or learn more about BANA.  
(Or, if you prefer to reach out to us, email: [board@bananm.org](mailto:board@bananm.org))

--- Thank you, from the BANA Board!

Your personal information, including email address will be kept solely for BANA's records, and never shared with anyone. PROMISE!



## Flowering Plants Word Search *(Forward, backward, up, or down.)*

*A flower is the part of a plant that blossoms. It is involved in the plant's reproductive process, often featuring colorful petals that attract pollinators, and produce seeds.*

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CAMELLIA  
HYDRANGEA  
FORGETMENOT  
SAGUARO  
APPLE  
POPPY  
COLUMBINE  
LAUREL  
PEACH  
ROSE  
HIBISCUS  
ORANGE

VIOLET  
PEONY  
SUNFLOWER  
GOLDENROD  
MAGNOLIA  
IRIS  
MAYFLOWER  
HAWTHORN  
BITTERROOT  
SAGE  
LILAC  
YUCCA

DOGWOOD  
CARNATION  
MISTLETOE  
GRAPE  
PASQUE  
CONEFLOWER  
BLUEBONNET  
LILY  
CLOVER