



Bel-Air News

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

Spring 2024

Upcoming Events

Annual General Meeting

Saturday, April 27th at 10:30 am at the *Erna Fergusson Library meeting room.*

We plan to livestream the meeting on our Facebook page at:
<https://www.facebook.com/belairneighbors>

We will be electing your Board of Directors and want to hear neighbors' concerns and ideas. Invited guests will be Parks and Recreation, ABQ Community Safety, and APD.

Let your voice be heard!

Saturday Clean-Up Days

8:00am - 10:00am at *Bel-Air Miramontes Park*

May 18, 2024
July 20, 2024
September 21, 2024

A City compactor garbage truck will be present from 8 to 10 am for you to dispose of garbage and yard waste. They cannot take construction material or hazardous waste.

VOLUNTEERS are needed and always welcome. Bring your gloves and your truck (if you have one) to help us clean alleys and other common spaces.

Let's work together to keep our neighborhood clean and safe.

Greetings from the BANA President

We will be holding our Annual BANA meeting on April 27, at 10:30 am at the Erna Fergusson Library meeting room. We will be having elections and have invited representatives from City Parks and Recreation, ACS, and APD. We welcome and encourage all neighbors to attend and become active in the neighborhood association.

There have been several changes in our Bel-Air Neighborhood this year. We have the new dog park at the Bel-Air Miramontes Park, new ownership and development at the American Square property as well as at the Gateway center, located on the northwest and northeast corners of Menaul and Carlisle, respectively. (More details at the annual meeting).

The Bel-Air Neighborhood Association is the largest NHA in the state of New Mexico with approximately 1200 homes. It saddens me to report that we have less than 50 members and the majority chose not to donate \$10 in dues. Consequently, our funds for our annual park party, publications, and clean-up days are dwindling. When I first joined the Board and began in this position, I had great ambitions for conducting an all-out membership drive going to each house in our neighborhood to obtain more members and make BANA a stronger voice in our City. I must say that my vision and ambitions were much bigger than what I,

together with the BANA Board, were able to accomplish and for that I am very sorry.

I am proud to say that the instances of unauthorized use of the Bel-Air Miramontes Park has dwindled substantially. In the late summer of 2023, the BANA Board made the decision, in concert with relevant city departments, to have a dog park constructed. Construction of the dog park, coupled with a fellow resident calling a local TV station which aired the concerns of Bel-Air neighbors, was a turning point in instigating these changes. This TV segment showed video of what our neighborhood was dealing with regarding campers, illicit drug use, and human waste in our park. Today when I go to the park I once again see parties under the pavilion, kids playing in the playground, people picnicking, and of course people walking and playing with their dogs.

I will be leaving the BANA Board at the end of April of this year as my husband and I will be moving to the Westside to live closer to our grandchildren that we care for daily. It is with mixed emotions we leave the neighborhood that we have called home for over 40 years. I appreciate my time on the Board, having the opportunity to work with bright and caring folks and to make a small difference in our Bel-Air neighborhood.

-Elizabeth Alarid

Upcoming Events (continued)

We will plan to have our annual Park Party again this fall. In the past, we have had a cookout with neighbors bringing side dishes. Last year, we had a pizza party and had AFR, APD and APD's horse unit in attendance (photos below), We welcome your input on how you would like to celebrate our neighborhood. Please join us at the meeting with your ideas.



Bel-Air Miramontes Park

As many of you already know, the west end of the park has been designated a dog park. The small playground was removed and fencing is in place. While it may be officially open, the grassy section of the dog park may be closed periodically to allow time for the grass to recover. We request your patience with and respect for this. It is our understanding that there will be increased lighting installed at the park and that the City will be upgrading the east playground and installing

fencing that will deter shopping carts from being brought into the park.

It is difficult to tell at this point whether the dog park or weather can account for the diminished number of people hanging out and camping in the park. Time will tell...but we do thank the City for its efforts in trying to make our park inviting again. City representatives will be invited to speak at our annual meeting, so please come and get more information.

311 SURVEY

The City's 311 Community Contact Center is launching an effort to get feedback on the services it provides to residents and visitors with its annual Customer Satisfaction Survey. The survey was created to gather information about user's experiences with contacting 311 and the service they received from call agents. The contact center provides information and takes requests for all City of Albuquerque non-emergency services by phone, the ABQ311 app, social media and the cabq.gov website. This free service ensures the City of Albuquerque remains more open, accessible and available to help everyone that lives and passes through our city. To take the survey on line visit:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2024311>

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

Current BANA Board Members:

- *Elizabeth Alarid – (2023) President*
- *Seth Arseneau – (2019) Vice President*
- *Barb Johnson – (1994) Treasurer*
- *Mary Rieb – (2023) Secretary*
- *Ursula Wilkinson – (2024) Member*

REPORTING STREETLIGHT OUTAGES

Did you know that the City has a map of streetlights throughout Albuquerque that you can use to report outages? Some streetlights are owned by PNM, so this can be helpful in identifying which to report to the City. You can also report streetlight outages by calling 311 or reporting on the 311 smartphone app. Visit the online map at: <https://www.cabq.gov/abq-streetlights/report-a-streetlight-outage>

Membership

Joining the Bel-Air Neighborhood Association does not obligate you to anything, although we would invite and strongly encourage you to participate in our activities and get to know your neighbors.

Any household can join the association whether or not you pay the \$10 annual dues. The dues pay for neighborhood needs such as our PO Box and our annual park party. Without your support, both financial and physical, we cannot accomplish our goals. Consider that we need 25 paid memberships per year just to pay for the post office box rental. This is the beginning of our annual membership drive. While your dues are vitally important, it is at least equally important that you try to join us for activities such as our cleanups and park party.

The most expedient way to get information out to neighbors is probably email but we can't contact you if we don't have that information. You can become a member or renew your membership at www.bananm.org, or you can access the newsletter to print and mail in your membership form. When you provide your contact information, we can keep you informed of neighborhood events and issues. Thank you in advance for supporting the Bel-Air neighborhood Association.

A special thank you to our business members: The Alarm Store, NM Vape Shop, and KC the Welder

**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 US Senator

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

NM US Senator

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

NM Senate District: 15

Senator Daniel A. Ivey-Soto
Office Phone: (505) 881-4475
Email: daniel.ivey-soto@nmlegis.gov

NM House District: 25

Cristina Parajon
PO Box 36746
Albuquerque, NM 87176
Cristina.parajon@nmlegis.gov

Albuquerque City District 7

Councilor Tammy Fiebelkorn
tfiebelkorn@cabq.gov
Contact Policy Analyst Amanda Aragon
amanda@cabq.gov
(505) 768-3189

Minutes of April 23, 2024 General Meeting

Bel Air Neighborhood Association
General meeting, Bel Air Park
Board members present- Seth Arseneau Barb Johnson,
Jeanene Witt
Board members absent-None
April 29, 2023 2:00PM

Meeting called to order at 2:07 pm

Secretary's report- minutes from the 04/30/22 meeting need to be approved. It was moved seconded and all agreed that the minutes be accepted.

Treasurer's report- The balance of the account is approx. \$2200. Main expenses are PO Box and printing. It was moved and seconded that the treasurer's report be accepted and all agreed.

President's report- Seth expressed that it is time to move BANA forward and see what it can become.

Committee reports – There are no longer standing committees so current board members reported.

Nextdoor.com – About ½ of the neighbors in Bel Air are signed up. Barb asked for a volunteer to handle announcements of meetings and events. Gayle Wise volunteered.

Bel-Air park watch- Barb reported that there are fewer needles but still many transients passing through. We would like to restore the park as the heart of the neighborhood. There is less garbage due to modifications at Savers. In order to increase use of the park, we discussed various ways to increase participation and communication. The Board met with a city official about a dog park and the board decided it was not a good fit as it would be along the south wall which is narrow and uneven. There was also a concern that it would prevent other upgrades in coming years. A neighbor reminded us that dogs are required to be on a leash and pointed out a PVC pipe sticking up by the swing set in the east playground.

Newsletter- As the board member who was doing the newsletter has moved, a volunteer was requested. Elizabeth Alarid volunteered to help and suggested we do quarterly newsletters. Gayle Wise may be willing to assist as well.

Membership- We anticipate growth in membership as BANA bounces back. Elizabeth Alarid stated that we

could get emails through voter registration and also suggested a survey to get input on issues to incorporate into a mission statement.

Old Business- Clean up days will be the third Saturday of May, July and September. The city will provide a garbage truck and we will need neighbors to help with cleaning up the park and alleys. We will need to put out another newsletter to correct the September date to the 16th.

Annual park party- a barbeque is too labor intensive with possible liability. In 2022, we tried an ice cream social which was not well attended. We need to figure out a fall function. Ideas include and arts and crafts show, food trucks, and/or live music. Publicity would be through NextDoor, BANA website, and neighborhood signs. Ursula Wilkerson volunteered to do a Facebook page also.

Neighborhood yard sale – Several members have expressed that it would be a good idea to start this up again. The Board will discuss whether this could be in the fall or next spring at a later meeting.

New Business-New Bylaws There are only two changes suggested. First, membership cannot require dues which is mandated by NARO (Neighborhood Association Regulation Organization). Second, the current board feels that it would be more appropriate to have five board members rather than seven. It was moved and seconded that these changes be incorporated and was approved by acclamation.

Elections – There are 3 two years positions available. Three members expressed interest – Elizabeth Alarid, Mary Reib, and Cheryle Bruce. Barb moved that the slate be accepted. It was seconded and all agreed. A board meeting will follow immediately after to choose officers.

Meeting adjourned at 3:04 pm
Respectfully submitted
Jeanene Witt, BANA secretary



Spring Membership Drive

Your voluntary dues and donations 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 (Circle all that apply)

Register your membership only \$0	Business Voluntary Membership Suggested Annual Fee: \$25	Residential Voluntary Membership Suggested 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, pay voluntary dues and/or make a donation by debit / credit card.
2. Mail in your membership and/or voluntary dues or 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).