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**Office Staff**

Betsy Rodriguez – Lead Administrator  
Teresa Gonzales – Administrator

**SHHA Office**

12700 San Rafael Avenue NE, Ste. 3  
Albuquerque, NM 87122

**Office Hours:** M-F, 9 AM – 4 PM

**Closed on federal holidays**

**Phone:** 505-797-7793

**Fax:** 505-856-8544

**Website:** [www.sandiahomeowners.org](http://www.sandiahomeowners.org)

**Emails:** [sandiaheights@comcast.net](mailto:sandiaheights@comcast.net)

[shha@sandiahomeowners.org](mailto:shha@sandiahomeowners.org)

## So, You Have a New Neighbor...

By Joe Boyce, CS&M Committee member

A handful of new households move into Sandia Heights in a typical week, so it's only a matter of time before each of us has new neighbors. The SHHA Board's Community Service & Membership (CS&M) Committee is working on ways to welcome our new residents now that things are beginning to get back to normal.

More important, though, are any efforts nearby neighbors make to welcome new homeowners and tenants to the neighborhood and to establish positive relationships with them. There is no better time to meet someone than during the first weeks after they move in, but it's never too late to strike up a conversation and get to know them. Many of us find we have much in common with our new neighbors, and find good friendships begin in these first conversations.

Welcoming your neighbors benefits both of you:

- 1) *Crime prevention* – The best crime prevention is a good, aware neighbor.
- 2) *Social connections* – Who knows who might become your new close friends?
- 3) *Positive resolution of issues and problems* – It's a lot easier to talk about barking dogs or bothersome lights if you've met previously in a friendly setting.
- 4) *Mutual support and cooperation* – You may not want to lend them your tools, but maybe that neighbor has expertise in an area you don't, or could benefit from your expertise. Maybe you can check on each other's homes while the other is away.

If conversation with strangers is way outside your comfort zone, here's a good opener: "Did you hear about \_\_\_\_?" Being helpful fosters a culture of helpfulness. Just remember the old advice: politics, religion, and money are off limits—at least at first. For the curmudgeons: If nothing else, you may find out they're as cranky as you are!

The point is, be the neighbor you wish you had, and Sandia Heights will be a better place for us all to live.



## Welcome, Teresa!

Let's give a warm welcome to Teresa Gonzales, the new office administrator at SHHA. Teresa knows Sandia Heights well as she is a resident here! Stop in sometime to say "hi" to Betsy and "welcome" to Teresa.

## One Unit at a Time

By Hugh Prather, CS&M Committee member

Be honest! Don't you have at least a smidgen of pride when you respond to the question, "Where's your home?" and you answer, "Oh I live up by the tram," or "I've been living in Sandia Heights almost 15 years." Beautiful vistas, wildlife that is a never-ending source of interest, and attractive and well maintained homes all add to the appeal of Sandia Heights. And, at the same time, we are a community made up of people and, hence, neighbors.

An interesting observation holds very true about a community like Sandia Heights that was master-planned with a long-range vision: our community is either improving—that is becoming more attractive, a more pleasant place to live—or declining—becoming less attractive and a less pleasant community in which to live. There is no such thing as a "steady-state community."

The heart of any community isn't the physical, or natural environment, it's the human environment. With over 2,200 residences in Sandia Heights, that's a lot of human environment to get our heads around. Bet there isn't one of us residing here who could name all 2,200 "neighbors." On the other hand, the developers of Sandia Heights built the entire, larger community around the concept of discrete "units" as new subdivisions were planned and came online. Your unit is fundamentally the first two digits of your house address number—though not true for the earlier units; the first units have a single digit representing their unit designation.

These really do represent "neighborhoods." Most units are small enough that you can know most of your neighbors and recognize them as being a part of your community. Your Community Services and Membership (CS&M) Committee of the SHHA is focusing this year on strengthening the sense of community in individual units.

Individual units have done an amazing number of great things over the years that have enhanced their sense of community, brought people together, and

made their neighborhood a more pleasant place to live. The CS&M Committee will be exploring creative ways to share these "great things" over the year ahead and would invite you to become part of the process of that sharing and community building.

CS&M meets once a month at the SHHA office from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM. Please call the SHHA Office or email [thegritshha@gmail.com](mailto:thegritshha@gmail.com) to find out more or to visit a committee meeting and possibly join us in building a stronger community one unit at a time.

## Respect Our Wildlife

One of the wonderful things about living in Sandia Heights is our immersion in the native wildlife. But that also comes with a need for caution. By definition, these animals are wild and act wild. Please be aware of and respect that wildness. In particular,

- Coyotes may look like dogs, but don't be fooled. They can and will attack and eat pets. We had an incident recently where a resident was out walking a leashed dog when a coyote bit the dog.
- And it's not just coyotes. Bobcats, mountain lions, and great horned owls look at pets, small pets in particular, as a nice meal. If you love your cat, make it an indoor-only cat.
- Let's not train bears to find food in our trash cans. Unless it's midwinter when the bears are asleep, don't roll your trash bins out until the morning of collection. During the week, keep them shut away from bears.

Enjoy our wildlife, and let's respect the "wild" in wildlife. We and they will get along better that way.





## A Conversation with Sandia Heights Security

By Elizabeth Edgren, Chair, CS&M Committee

Who are those Security patrol folks driving around the neighborhood, and what do they do? Sandia Heights Security is a division of Sandia Heights Services, which also provides our water and wastewater services, and our refuse and recycling collection. They also provide security services to subscribers. *(This is a subscription service, that is separate from membership in the SHHA, and must be initiated and paid for by each household that wants to receive their services. In certain units' covenants, security subscription is mandatory, so be sure to read yours!)*

I sent several questions to the Security folks which John Shorey, Security Supervisor, very kindly answered. Here are the highlights, edited for space.

### **How do you know who's a subscriber and who's not?**

We use a program that keeps accurate records of members and tracks the number and types of calls received.

**What difference would it make if every household in Sandia Heights were a subscriber?** Having 100% participation would be great! Whenever an entire community supports security efforts, it is a deterrent. It also alleviates our guards needing to check membership when responding to calls and/or scheduling Special Watches.

### **What's the most challenging thing about the job?**

One of the more challenging aspects is dealing with individuals who do not live in our area (mostly homeless individuals), who we've received calls on. Unfortunately, the most we can do if we're able to locate the person is ask them to leave the area, but we cannot do anything to ensure they comply other than follow/check up on the person to encourage their progress out of the area. Of course, depending on the situation, we offer to contact a ride or family member for them and/or alert medical personnel if the situation calls for that.

**What's the most frustrating thing about the job?** Not being notified by residents until hours or days after a situation, such as a vehicle break-in or suspicious person. If we're notified quickly, we can see if our patrol can make contact, pass information along to Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) if appropriate, and alert our fellow guards to keep an eye out on their shifts.

**What do you wish SH residents knew about your job?** That they are an integral part of our job; they are our eyes and ears. For us to perform our jobs fully, we need folks to speak up if they see something suspicious. We encourage everyone not to hesitate to reach out and let us know if they have concerns.

**What would you like to see SH residents do to improve their own security?** Getting and using alarms is a

great crime deterrent. We would also love to see residents not leave valuables in their vehicles, and to lock their vehicles. When leaving town, communicating with security and trusted neighbors is a valuable tool! The more eyes and ears we have looking out, the better!

**Any particular story you'd like to share?** One story that stands out was when one of our residents who suffers from dementia wandered away from home. The family called us, very concerned, and asked for our assistance searching for the person. After looking for several hours, we were able to locate the person and could inform the family they were safe and in good health. Being able to help a family in a situation like that, to provide relief in such a stressful time, is very fulfilling and one of the many things that make this such a great job!

**What's the most satisfying thing about your job?** Being able to provide services to help protect and assist our residents. We look at Sandia Heights as our own little city and take pride in being able to help provide a feeling of safety and comfort for our members knowing there's someone looking out for them.

**What do you do with an alarm call?** For members, our guards respond and check the perimeter of the home for signs of forced entry or suspicious activity. If there are signs that someone may have gained access into the home, our guards immediately call BCSO, and make contact with the homeowner and/or alarm company.

**What is a "customer assist"?** This can be a variety of calls such as helping a member who needs a vehicle jumpstarted, to helping members move pet carriers, etc. to/from their vehicles after they've had surgery.

**What do you do with a snake call?** We do not mandate our guards respond to snake calls; we leave that to their discretion. However, if a guard is comfortable responding, they capture the snake and relocate it away from homes. Otherwise, members should contact animal control.

**What do you do with a "threat/personal" call?** The caller is advised to contact BCSO to file a report, but we also take down the information for our records and to ensure all guards are aware of the situation and know to keep an eye out.

**What is a "utility assist"?** Utility assists are associated with after-hour calls our utility personnel receive, such as a report of a leak in the road, or the need to have water turned off in case of an emergency leak. Our guards will try to verify the report of a leak before the on-call utility personnel arrive. These calls are rare and come secondary to member calls.

To learn more or to subscribe, go to [Security \(sandiaheightsservices.com\)](http://Security(sandiaheightsservices.com)).

## JUNE CALLS TO SANDIA HEIGHTS SECURITY PATROL

The following statistics are the latest provided by Sandia Heights Security since the last GRIT. **Please be reminded that Sandia Heights Services (they provide water, sewer, trash and recycle collection, and security services) is a subscription service separate from Sandia Heights Homeowners Association membership.** Also, Membership in SHHA does not include Sandia Heights Security membership. You can call Security to confirm your membership with them. If you have questions, please call **Sandia Heights Security** at 856-6347, **mobile** 263-4654.

June 2021	# of calls		# of calls
Alarms	27	Snake Call	0
Attempted Breaking & Entering	0	Special Extra Patrol	3
Customer Assist	1	Special Request/Vacation	75
Fireworks Complaint	0	Suspicious Activity	1
Home Burglary	1	Suspicious Person	5
Lost/Found Person	1	Suspicious Vehicle	7
Lost/Found Pet	1	Theft	1
Motorist Assist	2	Utility Assist	0
Newspaper/Package Pickup	3	Vandalism	1
Noise Complaint/Suspicious Noise	1	Welfare Check	0
Salesman Complaint	1	<b>Total Calls</b>	<b>131</b>

**Useful Numbers: Emergency Police/Fire/Rescue:** 9-1-1 (Be sure to let the operator know you are in Sandia Heights – an unincorporated area of Bernalillo County) **Bernalillo County Sheriff Non-Emergency:** 798-7000 **Bernalillo County Fire Department Non-Emergency:** 468-1310 **SHS Water/Sewer Emergencies (M-F 7AM – 4PM):** 856-6345 **SHS Water/Sewer Emergencies After Hours:** 888-5336 **NM Gas Co. Emergencies:** 697-3335 **PNM Outage & Emergencies:** 1-888-342-5766

### Announcements & Notices:

- **Office hours:** Monday – Friday 9 AM – 4 PM.
- **Board Meeting:** scheduled for Wednesday, August 11, 2021, at 6:30 PM via Zoom Meeting.
- **Office Closures for Holiday(s):** None
- **Notary services (except on Fridays), copies (20 per month) and faxes, e-mail alerts, and contractor evaluation binder** are free to members. **Also, voter registration in office.**
- **Committee meeting dates** are posted on our website calendar: [www.sandiahomeowners.org](http://www.sandiahomeowners.org).
- **Classified ads** can be found on the website on the top bar menu under Notices and Information/Classifieds.
- **Safety vests for sale** in the SHHA Office. \$2.50 per vest for members, cash or check only.
- **Tram passes for sale** in the SHHA Office. \$7 per ticket for members on a **first-come first-served basis**. Cash or check only. Tickets purchased must be for one date at a time per residence. To view the Tram Pass Procedures for SHHA Members go to <http://sandiahomeowners.org/notices-and-information/notices-and-information/96-tram-passes>.

- **ACC Color Reference Guide** is available to borrow in the SHHA Office for up to 30 days. \$20 refundable deposit is required. Cash or check only.

### SHHA Member Benefits:

Check out the entire SHHA Member Benefits Program and the discounts offered to SHHA members at [www.sandiahomeowners.org](http://www.sandiahomeowners.org), under the **Notices and Information** tab. Each participating merchant offers a discount to SHHA members. The following is a list of participating merchants:

Barnett Alden Ironworks
Chiropractor, Mark L. Schwartz DC PC
Critter Control
Finishing Touch Home Improvements, LLC.
Lifescapes Nails and Spa
Jade Enterprises Inc.
Remax Select – Pete Veres
State Farm – Cynthia Bahling
Tutor Doctor





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**ACTIVE**

**418 Live Oak Court NE**  
**3380 SQ FT 3BR 2.75BA 1.07 Acres**  
**List Price \$725,000**



**SOLD**

**349 Paintbrush Drive NE**  
**4143 SQ FT 4BR 4BA 0.81 Acres**



**SOLD**

**1038 Tramway Lane NE**  
**4000 SQ FT 3BR 4BA 1.01 Acres**

## BUYER WANT

I have a couple who are looking for a one story, 2 or 3 bedroom smaller lot home, in Sandia Heights, with great views of the Sandias. It must be East of Tramway. They will pay up to \$400,000.00, and are looking for 1,200-1,800 square feet.



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# Stormwater Pollutants

By Bernalillo County Natural Resources

With the monsoons here, let's focus on ways we can eliminate stormwater pollution. Stormwater comes from rain and snowmelt, and stormwater runoff is the water we see in our streets and arroyos when it rains. Pollutants, like oil and gas, trash, animal waste, fertilizers, pesticides, and other chemicals, get picked up by stormwater runoff and enter our storm drains, channels, and arroyos, quickly making it into our waterways. There are some easy ways you can help reduce pollution in stormwater. These tips are especially relevant when there is more stormwater runoff now during our monsoon season, but applicable throughout the year.

## Don't Toss Out Household Hazardous Waste (HHW).



Automobile fluids, paints, old batteries, pesticides, and other household chemicals should not be thrown away with the rest of

your garbage. If taken to the landfill, these substances can leach into our groundwater. And if left out or dumped into streets, storm drains or arroyos, they can make their way to the Rio Grande. This is both harmful to people and the environment. Only stormwater should go into storm drains!

If you have any HHW that you need to dispose of, residents of Bernalillo County can drop off HHW at the Hazardous Waste Collection Center four days a week at no charge. The collection center is located at 6137 Edith Blvd NE. For more [information and details](#) you can call Advanced Chemical Transport (ACT) at 505-349-5220 or visit their website, <https://www.actenviro.com/>. Additionally, most automobile parts stores will accept up to 5 gallons a day of oil and automotive fluids. Proper disposal of HHW protects the health of our watershed.

**The Right Way to Wash Your Car.** Washing your car improperly can harm our natural waterways. Dirt, heavy

metals, gasoline, and cleaners are rinsed off your car and travel from your driveway to the storm drains or arroyos, and finally to our streams and rivers. In order to help prevent this pollution, take your car(s) to a



local car washing business or **follow these easy car washing tips:**

- Look for biodegradable soaps
- Wash your car over your yard or lawn to prevent runoff
- Don't let rinse water run into the streets—only rain in the drains!
- Use a bucket and rag, then dispose dirty water into a sink or toilet

## Time to Fertilize Your Yard, But Can It Be Harmful?

Using fertilizer is a great way to give nutrients to grasses, plants, and trees. However, excessive fertilizer doesn't benefit plant growth. If plants are over fertilized, they won't grow more, and instead stormwater runoff from rain picks up excess fertilizers and pesticides and takes them to our streams and rivers. High amounts of fertilizers in our river causes nutrient loading, leading to harmful algae blooms that remove oxygen from the water. This is harmful to native fish and other aquatic animals. The best way to apply fertilizer is to use only as recommended on the packaging. Keep your plants healthy, while keeping the Rio Grande!

If you would like more detailed information, please send an email to Natural Resource Stormwater Manager, Kali Bronson: [KBronson@bernc.gov](mailto:KBronson@bernc.gov).

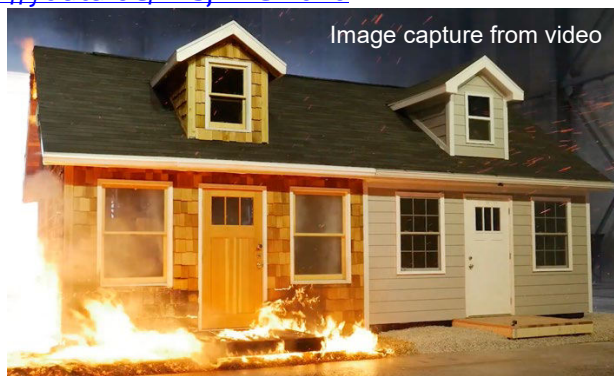


## Wildfire Prevention Tip:

**The materials around your house make a big difference!**

Watch this short 2-minute video to see for yourself:

<https://youtu.be/DvsjNBGwoFo>





## ACC Activity Log

Summary of **Approved Projects** activity since the last GRIT:

152 Juniper Hill Road – Replace Asphalt Driveway and Concrete Walkway
177 Big Horn Ridge Drive – Removal of Existing Broken Concrete Slab in Walled Back Yard.
230 Spring Creek Lane – Roof Mounted Photovoltaic Panels Installation
230 Spring Creek Lane – Replace Mailbox
511 Roadrunner Lane – Mini Split HVAC Unit Installation
535 Black Bear Road – Re-stucco
645 Cougar Loop – Replace Windows
655 Roadrunner Lane – Reroof
741 Tramway Lane – Construction of a New Stuccoed Wall
937 Bobcat Blvd. – Construction of a Stuccoed Block Wall
9800 Antelope Avenue – Reroof
1131 Marigold Drive – Replace Concrete Driveway and Walkway
1702 Quail Run Court – Re-stucco
1854 Tramway Terrace Loop – Reroof Pitched Roof and Parapet Repair
2014 Quail Run Drive – Entryway Enclosure
2017 Quail Run Drive – Storage Unit Installation
2031 Quail Run Drive – Reroof
2516 Tramway Terrace Court – Roof Mounted Photovoltaic Panels Installation
2734 Tramway Circle – Reroof
2878 Brushwood Street – Re-stucco House and Front Wall
2879 Brushwood Street – Reset Flagstones
2879 Brushwood Street – Construction of a Shade Structure Over Back Porch
2882 Tramway Place – Pergola Installation and Landscaping

Visit the website: [www.sandiahomeowners.org](http://www.sandiahomeowners.org) to read about all projects currently under ACC management.

## SH Tips & Hacks

This is the first of an occasional short piece on tips or “life hacks” that may be useful for Sandia Heights residents. This first one is on evaporative (“swamp”) coolers, so those of you with refrigerated air can skip on.

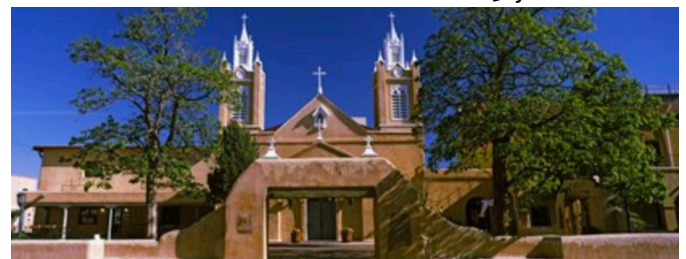
Here’s a way to get a bit more out of your swamper, both in the turning-on and turning-off stage.

When you turn your swamp cooler on, the pads are dry. So that initial bit of air you’re blowing in your house is as hot as outside. Instead, first turn on only the water pump for a few minutes to moisten the pads. Then turn on the blower. Voilà! Cooler air right off the bat.

Now when you’re ready to turn off your swamper for the night, don’t just switch it off. You’ve already soaked the pads, and if you go directly to “off” that water is only going to evaporate into the outside air. Instead, turn your unit to fan/blower only (no water pump) for a few minutes. You’ll get a bit more cool air as you dry out the pads and use that water for its intended purpose.

## Monthly Fun Fact

The San Felipe de Neri Church in Albuquerque’s Old Town was built in 1793, with modifications in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. It replaced a 1706 church that collapsed during the winter of 1792-93. The current church is one of the oldest surviving buildings in the city and the only building in Old Town proven to date to the Spanish colonial period. It features seven-foot-thick walls. It has remained in continuous use for over 225 years.



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## Sharon continues to Promote and Support Top Values in Sandia Heights

Sandia Heights Home Sales Continue with good values for sellers. Interest rates are very affordable. Buyers are looking for great Sandia Heights homes with views Homes in all sizes are selling in Sandia Heights If you would like an update on Sandia Heights home sales give Sharon a call/text 269 6217 or email Sharon at [Sharon@sharonandjudson.com](mailto:Sharon@sharonandjudson.com) or [smminabq@aol.com](mailto:smminabq@aol.com).

She will be happy to give you and update.

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**SOLD!**

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Sharon informs you of her progress and outlines the next steps she will take towards meeting your goals. It is comforting to know exactly where you stand at all times. To learn more about Sharon's real estate service call today for a free consultation on how to sell your home or buy a home.

**You will find it is a pleasure to talk with a real estate agent who sees things from your point of view.**

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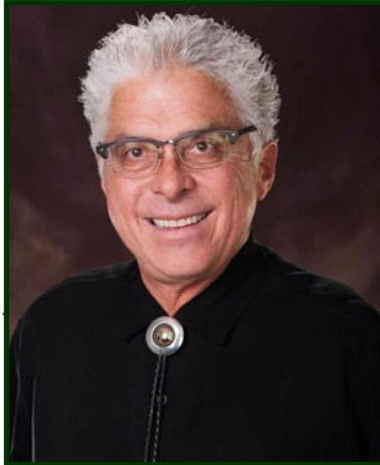
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## Community Events Bulletin Board

Neither of these groups is sponsored by SHHA. Information is provided to keep residents informed.

**Sandia Heights Artists: Sandia Heights Artists Studio Tour.** SAVE THE DATES!! September 25th and 26th, the artists are planning an in-person tour again this year. Many of the 33 artists will be displaying their work outdoors at various homes around Sandia Heights. A variety of media will be on display, from paintings to ceramics, to jewelry, etc. Keep watching this space and <https://www.sandiaheightsartists.com>.

**Sandia Heights “Cork & Fork” Dining Activity:** We are happy to announce that Cork & Fork is resuming our bimonthly dinners. The first one will be an outdoor potluck this month. We gather in the homes of our members. Each small dinner group is typically 6–8 people, including the hosts. The host decides the menu theme and prepares a main dish, with attendees contributing to some part of the meal—along with a wine to go with their dish. The emphasis is on food and fun rather than formal elegance. Though most of the dinners are smaller, there are 2 whole-group dinners during the year, as is the one this month. All adult Sandia Heights residents are welcome. To inquire or join any time of year, call Rene Kessel at (505) 504-3886 or email at [rene.kessel@cblegacy.com](mailto:rene.kessel@cblegacy.com).

**Notice:** Any corrections to the printed version of the GRIT can be found on the website: [www.sandiahomeowners.org](http://www.sandiahomeowners.org)

### Send in Your Photos Now!



We are accepting your entries for our annual photo contest for the Sandia Heights 2022 *Resident Guide & Directory*. Submissions are due to the SHHA office by Friday, November 5, 2021. If you are the lucky winner, your photo will be featured on the cover of the 2022 *Resident Guide and Directory*, and you will be acknowledged as the photographer.

Submission criteria are as follows:

- You must be a member of the Sandia Heights Homeowners Association and you must be an amateur photographer.
- Photos must be related to the Sandia Heights area (see the 2021 and earlier *Directories*).
- Photos must fit reasonably on the cover without loss of the composition.
- Photos must be in color and may be submitted digitally to [shha@sandiahomeowners.org](mailto:shha@sandiahomeowners.org) or as a hardcopy print to the office. All hardcopy entries may be picked up at the office once the *Directory* is published.
- The resident must submit a statement that the photograph is an original taken by the homeowner, that they are not a professional photographer (in business as a photographer), and that they grant permission to SHHA to use their photo(s) in the *Directory* or on the SHHA website.

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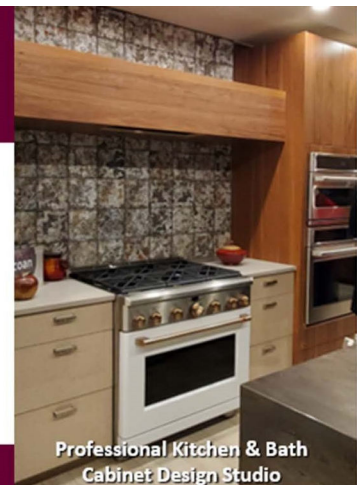
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