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We Need Your Voice

The GRIT stands as one of the few survivors of a vanishing tradition: hyper local, nonprofit, media written, edited and published by the community of Sandia Heights, your neighbors. In the increasingly crowded and loud mess that is our news cycle, The GRIT is the most pertinent, relevant to your life, source of information that you will read today.

We invite you, as a valued member of our community, to share your stories, express your passions, your opinions, all in the spirit of enhancing and enriching our community. Whether you write to us about your expertise in the area of geology, introduce us to the artists who inspire you, or “just” offer up a restaurant recommendation, let The GRIT serve as the bridge that connects you to Sandia Heights.

Please submit your article for a future issue of The Grit to the SHHA office, address at the bottom column on the left.



Great Scott!

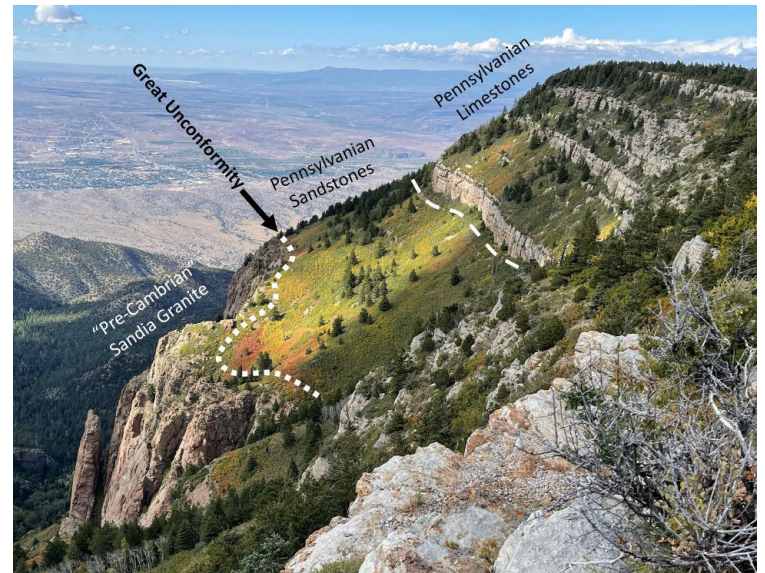
Stan Davis

The Sandia Mountains are notable for something that is completely absent: ~1.1 billion years of “missing” rocks. This “gap” in the rock record is called the Great Unconformity (“GU”). The Utah Geological Society (J. Davis, 2018) defines an unconformity nicely as “a break in time in an otherwise continuous rock record. Unconformities are a type of geologic contact, a boundary between rocks caused by a period of erosion or a pause in sediment accumulation, followed by the deposition of sediments anew.” John Wesley Powell observed the GU in the depths of the Grand Canyon in 1869. What makes this particular unconformity “Great,” is the extremely large time gap of “missing” rocks and its large geographic extent. New Mexico’s “most iconic” unconformity (in the words of J. M. Timmons, NM Bur. of Geol. and Min. Res., 2017) is the Great one at the top of the Sandia Mountains.

The GU has different characteristics between the Grand Canyon and Sandia Mountains. In the Grand Canyon, the GU is underlain by Paleoproterozoic metamorphic and igneous rocks of the Yavapai tectonic province that formed ~1.75 to 1.80 billion years ago (Ga) as well as ancient “pre-Cambrian” sedimentary rocks. In the Sandias, the Unconformity is underlain entirely by the Sandia Granite that about ~1.45 Ga intruded older Mesoproterozoic metamorphic rocks of the Mazatzal tectonic province (~1.65 Ga, see The GRIT, August 2023). Interestingly, there is an outcrop, not far away, on the western flank of Cedro Peak (just south of Tijeras) where the GU is underlain not by Sandia Granite, but by these very Mazatzal metamorphic rocks (schists).

In the Grand Canyon, the GU is overlain immediately by a thick succession of Paleozoic rocks starting with Cambrian-age sedimentary rocks. In the Sandias, the GU is overlain immediately by younger Pennsylvanian-age sedimentary rocks, starting with the relatively thin Sandia Formation sandstones (The GRIT, April 2023) followed by the thicker Madera Group limestones (The GRIT, September 2023). The thick sequence of early Paleozoic Cambrian through Mississippian sedimentary rocks resting on the GU in the Grand Canyon is absent in the Sandias, because New Mexico during the early Paleozoic was mostly dry land where thick accumulations of marine sediments were not even deposited, until the Pennsylvanian shallow seas started inundating the region. By that time the land surface had been eroded down to essentially an undulating plain; the surface is known to be not completely flat because the thickness of the overlying sandstones varies considerably as these sediments first filled valleys and depressions before more-or-less blanketing the entire region.

Much more recent geologic events, such as the uplift of the Rocky Mountains and Colorado Plateau, and subsequent basin-and-range style rifting that formed the Albuquerque Basin, induced widespread erosion of overlying rocks so that the GU is now exposed at the surface in the Sandias. The GU is encountered at road level on the eastern side of the lowest Crest Highway: as you are driving uphill you will see tilting layers of sandstones and shales on your right as you pass the Cienega/Sulphur turnoff, but by the time you reach the Doc Long turnoff you will see granite – the GU is located about halfway between the turnoffs. The GU is encountered along all hiking trails that start down in the foothills on the western side of the Sandias and climb up to the Crest, such as along the uppermost stretches of the La Luz and Embudito trails. But often the exact location can be hard to find, owing to vegetation, forest debris and soils, and limestone boulders that have tumbled down from above, as well as weathering that can alter the appearance of both the Sandia granite and overlying sandstones. When viewed from below, the perspective makes it appear that the layered limestones rest directly on the Sandia Granite. Imagine this most “iconic” view of the Great Unconformity in New Mexico is the view we have from our own Neighborhood. Great Scott!



This picture shows a view from the North Crest Trail looking north to a prominent butte along the North Crest. “Pre-Cambrian” Sandia Granite is capped by the major erosion surface of the Great Unconformity, which is overlain by Pennsylvanian-age sandstones and, in turn, Pennsylvanian limestones.

The Artist Next Door

Claudia Mitchell

This is the continuation of a series of articles highlighting the members of the Sandia Heights Artist, a group of resident artists who support each other throughout the year. They organize and participate in the annual Sandia Heights Artists Studio Tour held each September. For more information. Please visit their website at www.SandiaHeightsArtists.com

Charlotte Driver

What do copper wire, sugar, salt, banana peel, horsehair, Miracle Grow, and yeast bread slurry have in common? Incredibly, they are all used by Charlotte Driver to create color in some of the various types of pottery she makes in her home studio.



Charlotte's parents moved to Sandia Heights in 1976 from Texas. Charlotte and her husband followed 43 years later in 2019 after Charlotte had completed 26 years of active duty in the Army, and ten years in the Department of Defense. But that is getting ahead of our story because Charlotte has always had the soul of an artist. As a child, she loved to draw and paint, and at 16 she chose to attend the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts (HSPVA) in Houston. "I had always been an artistic and visual person and I LOVED it!" she exclaimed. After graduation, she made a momentous life

choice to join the Army where she specialized in communications, and "did any artistic pursuit at work that I could get my hands on plus painting in my free time." She did not have a lot of free time, raising five children, earning a B.S in physics, two master's degrees, and attaining the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. She went on to have a second career in the Department of Defense based at White Sands Missile Range. Her art had had to take a back seat, but it was "re-energized when I retired from the DOD."

Charlotte's retirement in 2019 expanded her free time. She began watching the British TV series "The Great Pottery Throw Down." Her artistic spirit was rekindled and as soon as possible she took a pottery class at New Mexico Clay in Albuquerque. She bought a pottery wheel. She started to take more local pottery classes before the Covid pandemic closed classes in early 2020. But that did not stop Charlotte's study and active practice of her newly found passion. She found that she loved Neolithic pottery, and her work is greatly influenced by the textures, colors, and marks of this technique. These ancient methods are not refined. They are spontaneous and full of unpredictability. "The Neolithic approach is earthy. I don't mind getting dirty."

Charlotte told me that she "likes to experiment." She creates several different types of pottery in her two kilns: a large, electric kiln for traditional firing of functional stoneware; and her home-made, gas-fired, smaller kiln for non-functional raku, obvara, and sagggar techniques. The firing times and temperatures used in the gas-fired kiln vary and are critical to the success of the pieces. The process is managed by her husband and "kiln master," Paul.

For example, the raku pieces are quickly fired, removed red-hot from the gas kiln, and then plunged into "reducing containers"—large metal buckets—containing woodchips and newspaper. The resultant smoke and fumes create unpredictable and beautiful finishes. "Obvara" is a raku process developed in Eastern Europe and uses a thin slurry of the same ingredients as sourdough bread which gives it its distinctive appearance. "Sagggar" refers to pottery enclosed in a protective encasement while being fired. Charlotte uses aluminum foil for her sagggar and places the aforementioned banana peels, and other materials inside to impart unexpected colors and textures.

Continued on Page 7...

SEPTEMBER 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 (505) 856-6347, **mobile** (505) 263-4654.

September 2023	# of calls		# of calls
Alarms	24	Special Request/Vacation	115
Customer Assist	3	Speeding Vehicle	1
Customer Inquiry	1	Suspicious Activity	2
Lost/Found Pet	1	Suspicious Person	2
Newspaper/Package Pickup	16	Suspicious Vehicle	6
Noise Complaint/Suspicious Noise	2	Theft	1
Open Door/Window/Garage	3	Threat/Personal	1
Parking Problem	1	Vandalism	1
Salesman Complaint	1	Welfare Check	2
Special Extra Control	2	Wildlife Report	1
		Total	186

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:** (505) 798-7000 **Bernalillo County Fire Department Non-Emergency:** (505) 468-1310 **SHS Water/Sewer Emergencies (M-F 7AM – 4PM):** (505) 856-6345 **SHS Water/Sewer Emergencies After Hours:** (505) 888-5336 **NM Gas Co. Emergencies:** (505) 697-3335 **PNM Outage & Emergencies:** 1-888-342-5766

Announcements & Notices:

- **Office hours:** Monday – Thursday 9 AM – 4 PM. Fridays 9 AM – NOON.
- **Board Meeting:** scheduled November 8, 2023, at 6:30 pm in person.
- **Office Closures for Holiday(s):** Friday Nov 10 for Veteran's Day and Thursday Nov 23 for Thanksgiving
- **Notary services (Tues–Thurs, by appointment), copies (20 per month) and faxes, e-mail alerts, and searching contractor evaluation binder** are free to members.
- **Committee meeting dates** are posted on our web-site calendar: 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. \$3.00 per vest for members, cash or check only.
- **Tram passes** for sale in the SHHA Office. \$10.00 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: www.sandiahomeowners.org/tram-pass-availability





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Sharon's Sandia Heights Market Update Past Year 11/2022 to 11/2023

9 Larger homes For Sale on Larger Lots | Avg Asking price \$974,661 Avg Asking price/sf \$246.12
 6 Homes Pending | Avg Asking Price \$740,833 Avg Asking price/sf \$225.16
 42 Homes Closed past year to date | Avg Sold Price \$903,395 Avg Sold price/sf. \$257.42

5 Smaller homes on smaller lots | Avg Asking price \$452,600 Avg Asking price/sf \$242.05
 3 homes pending | Avg Asking Price \$446,333 Avg Asking price/sf \$275.58
 29 Homes Closed past year to date | Avg Sold Price \$467,380 Avg Sold price/sf \$257.97

Note Every Home Is Unique . Price is always based on condition, updates, market appeal, location and views.
 Current Interest rates hovering around 7.375% for 30 year conventional & 7.0% 30 year VA!



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... continued from page 3



But Charlotte is an art explorer and is branching out to whimsical pen and ink drawings which depict a fantastical world populated by real and imagined animals on this and other possible planets.

Charlotte found out about the Sandia Heights Artists soon after she moved here from seeing a postcard in the mail. In 2020, she participated in her first tour that was held on a limited basis following the pandemic protocols. She has participated in the tours the past three years and has enjoyed limited basis following the pandemic protocols. She has participated in the tours the past three years and has enjoyed working with the artists and their various activities including the support of La Mesa Arts Academy in the International District of Albuquerque. “I am inspired. It is like I make something from nothing. The pieces are beautiful in their rawness. I like that the energy that I put into each piece evokes good feelings and people enjoy looking at it.” Charlotte’s work can be viewed and purchased at the Lapis Room gallery in Old Town Albuquerque or at www.lapisroom.com

Marianne Bettinger

Glass is a hard, brittle solid made from melting natural materials such as silica sand, soda ash and limestone, at very high temperatures. The word “glass” comes from the Old English word “glaes” which is derived from a Proto-Indo-European root that means “to shine.”

Marianne Bettinger is a glass artist, and her work definitely shines. Marianne was born and grew up in The Netherlands. In 1982 she moved with her American husband to

Albuquerque as he began his internship at UNM. Eventually, as the family got larger, they outgrew their small house. They knew about Sandia Heights and had thought of living here. They loved the meandering lanes, views, and wildlife. When a real estate friend took them to look at houses in 1992, she showed them the Sandia Heights house where Marianne lives today. It was the first house they looked at and the one they immediately wanted. When they bought it and went to look at it again, the meandering lanes became a maze: they could not find it! Eventually, Marianne was able to find her house without a map and she kept very busy raising her three children.

But this dedicated mom was also an artist at heart. “I’ve been doing artsy things since I was tiny.” Her Dutch grammar school allowed 1 ½ hours for lunch. Marianne took that opportunity every weekday to go visit her grandmother. “My grandmother did anything and everything related to clothing and fabric, and she showed me how to do them. She knitted, crocheted, did needlepoint and embroidery. She quilted and sewed and made her own patterns. I tried to learn everything I could.” Marianne’s aunt had a wholesale fabric business and Marianne gleaned swatches and remnants-- “I loved it!” This early interest in fabric and art continued through high school leading to a degree from the University of Utrecht in art and art history. During her university studies she became intrigued by glass art.

Her children grew up and Marianne had time to nurture her artistic side. In 2012, while visiting her son, then a student at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington, he took her to the Dale Chihuly “hot shop.” She was completely entranced. In 2013, her son-in-law invited her to come to Corpus Christi, Texas to visit his mother, a glass artist, and “play with glass.” She was hooked. She flew home, turned around and went to the Glass Expo in Las Vegas. She came home with a kiln. Next stop, Bullseye Glass Resource Center in Santa Fe for materials, supplies, and instruction. Marianne’s career was launched.

In 2017, Marianne discovered that her long-time neighbor, Ron Lohrding, had been a glass artist for years, specializing in dichroic glass. He suggested that she join him as a member of Sandia Heights Artists. There she found camaraderie and an outlet for selling her accumulating work at their annual studio tour. After a year with the group, she became their secretary and still is.

Marianne’s medium is technically classified as “warm glass” since the glass is heated in a kiln at 1275–1500°F for 15 to 36 hours as opposed to “hot glass” worked in a direct flame furnace between 1100–2000F.

Continued on Page 11...

ACC Activity Log

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

7718 Cedar Canyon Ct. -- Silicone coating roof
2898 Tramway Pl. -- Move shed
530 Roadrunner Ln. -- New addition construction
9105 Lynx Lp. -- Single story RV garage
2805 Tramway Cir. -- Fence replacement
2304 Calle De Rafael -- Re-roof with TPO
2512 Tramway Terrace Ct. NE -- Ext fence/ pergola
1455 Bluebell Dr. -- Increase height of coyote wall
8229 Raintree Dr. -- Replace irrigation systems
2412 Tramway Terrace Ct. -- Re-roof with TPO
531 Roadrunner Ln. -- Replace windows & door
1904 Red Rada Ln. -- Install drainpipe
1923 Quail Run Dr. -- Remove fence, cover & tree
1051 Red Oaks Lp. -- Stucco touch-up patio & wall
1923 Quail Run Dr. -- Replace windows & doors
726-12 Tramway Vista Dr. -- Shed and extend fence
1862 Tramway Terrace Lp. -- Re-stucco
1023 Tramway Ln. -- Solar PV system
155 Juniper Hill Rd. -- Plant 2 trees
109 Whitetail Dr. -- Landscaping
1511 Eagle Ridge Rd. -- Solar PV System
793/795 Tramway Ln. -- Habitat 6K common LS
899 Tramway Pl. -- LS, path, & repair irrigation
1563 Eagle Ridge Ct. -- Window replacement
2326 Calle de Gabriel -- New garage door
1551 Eagle Ridge Ln. -- Partial re-roof with TPO
1726 Quail Run Ct. -- Re-roof with TPO
975 Antelope Ave -- Remove block stucco wall
1855 Tramway Terrace Lp. -- Replace skylight
733 Tramway Ln. -- Solar PV system
409 Live Oak Lp. -- Replace deck/railings
506 Black Bear Lp. -- Re-roof with tan PTO
7715 Cedar Canyon Ct. -- Solar PV system
1117 Rockrose Rd. -- Install round-about drive

2758 Cliffrose Dr. -- Re-stucco wall
1900 Red Rada Ln. -- New house build
152 Juniper Hill Rd. -- Re-stucco/new window
1166 Laurel Lp. -- Repair stucco
176 Big Horn Ridge Dr. -- Paint TPO roof tan
152 Juniper Hill Rd. -- Build wall
6 Eagle Nest Ct. -- New windows & re-stucco

SHHA Member Benefits:

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

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**1213 Marigold Drive NE
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**573 Black Bear Road NE
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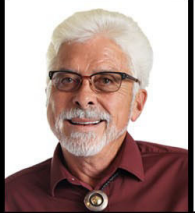


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... continued from Page 7

Marianne's three kilns are in her garage shop along with a sandblaster and other equipment which are powered by electricity from her 29 roof-mounted solar panels. The process is complex and technical based on the physical properties of glass when heated and cooled. She noted that "Ignorance is not bliss when working with glass. You have to know the rules and follow them."



But even following the rules can result in surprises. Marianne explained that you don't 100% know what will come out of the kiln, that every piece is different. That element of surprise is one of the many aspects of the work that has kept Marianne engaged in working with glass for the past ten years. "I am still considered a newbie. It takes decades to master glass work. I will never learn it all. Fiber is forgiving, but glass is the opposite and I love that challenge. You must keep focused, but it is not stressful. Handling the glass, creating the designs from the endless combinations of color, transparency, opacity, and textures, I find myself in a Zen-like state. But sometimes complete accidents can become the most beautiful pieces."

When asked what she is expressing with her glass pieces she immediately responded, "Joy! I do this because I truly enjoy it. If it makes other people happy... that's great!" You can see and purchase smaller pieces of Marianne's work at various holiday shows in the area. Her largest display is during the annual Sandia Heights Artists Tour. If you have an interest in her work, you can contact her at marianne@shapbett.com



Help Our Neighborhood Stay Beautiful

Kathleen McCaughey, E&S Committee chair

We are doing a trash pickup along Tramway on **November 18**. Bring your gloves and some bags and meet us at the SHHA parking lot on San Rafael at **8 am**. As a thank you, afterwards, I will buy you a coffee at O'Bean's.



Neighborhood Afternoon Out Ice Cream Social a Great Success!

SHHA's Neighborhood Afternoon Out and Ice Cream Social was a big hit Sunday, September 24th. Over 150 residents of all ages – as well as several dogs - enjoyed ice cream sundaes, games, and a beautiful afternoon in the park. The purpose was to build a stronger sense of community, educate on home safety and wildfire preparedness, and encourage participation in Neighborhood Watch.

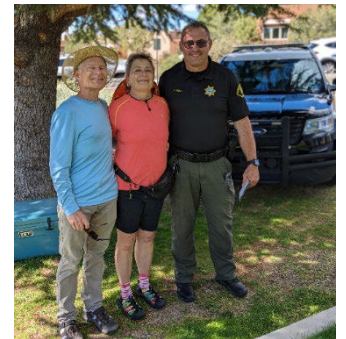
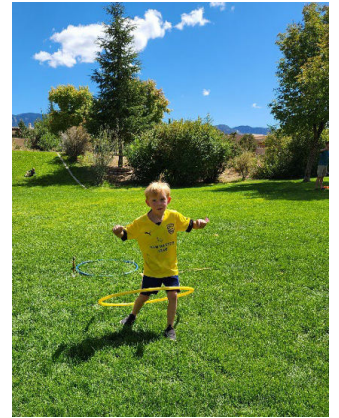
Firefighters from our nearby Bernalillo County Station 35, Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department Deputy Boyce Berry, and a crew from Sandia Heights Services Security, all responded to our invitation from the SHHA Environment & Safety (E&S) Committee, and came with equipment, vehicles, and lots of information. E&S member Cheryl Wieker manned the Wildfire Table.



The Community Service & Membership Committee (CS&M) worked alongside E&S to provide a few games as well as ice cream with all the fixings. SHHA Board members Eric Faulring, Arthur Romero, Claudia Mitchell, and (retired) Bob Thomas, as well as E&S volunteer Julie Rochman, scooped ice cream, cheerily welcoming all who came through the line.



Some of our younger residents learned how to hula-hoop, a few families played corn hole and croquet, and Kathleen McCaughey emceed sack races, rewarding the winners with small prizes.



Sandia Heights YTD MARKET TRENDS

Year to date 1/1/23 to 10/10/23

Closed Sales

70

+2% 2022

Average Sale Price

\$723,084

+3% from 2022

Total New Listings

93

Same as in 2022

Avg Price per sq.ft.

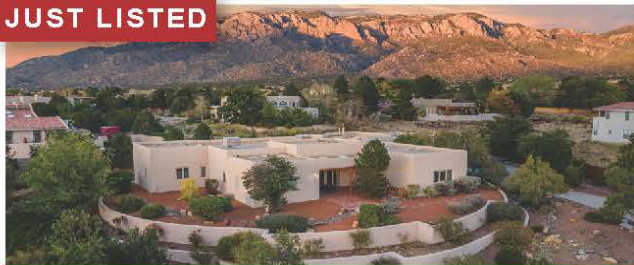
\$260.24

Avg Days on Market

23

11 Avg DOM in 2022

JUST LISTED



Sandia Heights

1548 Eagle Ridge Ln. Call for current pricing



JUST LISTED \$600,000

Mountain Cabin in Evergreen on 10 Acres



Off Grid

1.21 Acres LAND

9 La Luz Trl. \$395,000



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If you're interested in learning more about the market and our track record, feel free to contact me, Veronica Gonzales, at 505-440-8956.

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SANDIA PEAK UTILITY TO BEGIN WATER METER REPLACEMENT PROJECT

As Sandia Peak Utility Company previously announced it has received an award of American Rescue Plan Act funding from Bernalillo County with the help of Bernalillo County Commissioner Walt Benson. The Company will be using the total award of \$3,335,325 to replace aged water meters and service lines in the Sandia Heights and Primrose Pointe service areas. The meter replacement portion of the project is scheduled to begin mid-September 2023. The work is anticipated to continue through the fall and early winter.

The company will be replacing its entire 2,500 water meters with new AMI water meters that come equipped with advanced technology, including leak detection capabilities. This system will enable meter readings, usage, and leak data to be sent to an AMI cellular network. This data can be accessed from your home or office through a user portal called “EyeOnWater”. The company will also be able to view meter reading data without the need to manually read a meter. The AMI system will provide the company with near real-time meter data reporting, including current volume and alerts such as leaks, bursts, reverse flows, and high/low ambient temperatures in the meter can.

Replacing aged meters is only the first step in this project. Following the replacing of the aged meters, the company will also replace the oldest and most troublesome service lines in the area. The Company has been working closely with a County Project Team set up to ensure that the project remains on track and is successful. The Company also has a professional team and contractor in place to shepherd the installation of the meters through to completion.

This project will have a significant impact on the effort to reduce unidentifiable water loss and thus conserve water. Without American Rescue Plan Act funding, these projects would take several decades to complete.

The company appreciates the support provided by the County towards our effort to provide a long-term sustainable water system to the residents of Sandia Heights and Primrose Pointe and encourages you to take advantage of the new AMI water meters portal that will be made available to you. The Company's website www.sandiaheightsservices.com will offer the ability to sign up for this option which is called “Eye on Water”.



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Community Events Bulletin Board

These groups are not sponsored by SHHA. Information is provided to keep residents informed.

Sandia Heights “Cork & Fork” Dining Activity: Cork & Fork has resumed having bimonthly dinners. 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 two whole-group dinners during the year. 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.

Sandia Heights Studio Art Tour. Our thanks to all the people who attended the Studio Art Tour on September 9th and 10th. The weather was lovely even with a little rain on Sunday afternoon. A huge number of people attended both days. We'll update you with the final attendance total and the donations to the La Mesa Art Project next month.

Notice: Any corrections to the printed version of the GRIT can be found on the website: www.sandiahomeowners.org. We always welcome Letters to the Editor and your response to articles in *The GRIT*. Email us at thegritshha@gmail.com.

Photo Contest

Photo contest. Time is about to run out to submit your photos for the annual photo contest. The winning photo will be on the cover of the 2024 *Sandia Heights Resident Guide and Directory* and the photographer will be acknowledged. Subject matter should reflect something about living in Sandia Heights. To see some past submissions, please see page 12, early 2023 issues of the *GRIT* or check out the SHHA website. Submission deadline is November 4. 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 2023 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 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 and *GRIT* newsletter.





Sandia Heights Homeowners Association
12700 San Rafael Ave. NE Ste. 3
Albuquerque, NM 87122

