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

Office Hours: Mon–Thurs, 9 AM – 4 PM
 Fri, 9 AM – noon
Closed on federal holidays.

Phone: 505-797-7793
Fax: 505-856-8544

Website: www.sandiahomeowners.org
Emails: shha@sandiahomeowners.org,
sandiaheights@comcast.net

Message from the President, April 2024 Jim Stewart

Howdy Neighbors,

Depending upon with whom I was speaking... I've either lost my mind or they were happy that I acceded to the position of president for our homeowners' association. I must admit I am pretty excited to have been given this opportunity.

I come to Sandia Heights from Texas where I grew up, and where I landed after serving in the Army for over thirty years. Post Army, I was involved with public safety — training jurisdictions how to prepare for emergencies — and in law enforcement, where I served as the Chief Deputy Sheriff for Brazos County. Now I reside amongst you because of the love of a woman who wanted to retire in Albuquerque, in particular, Sandia Heights. In contrast to most of you, I am a veritable newbie having resided here full time for a little over two years. But in that short time, I have been very involved in our association, serving on the Architectural Control, Covenant Support and Finance committees. This has provided me with the opportunity to see the association from the bottom up.

I tried to introduce myself to everyone who attended the annual meeting in February, and I listened to our neighbors speak about issues that are important to them. Listening is one of the key skills for any leader, and I have worked diligently on perfecting that skill. I learned that there are some things that we (the board...) could have done, including a better job of listening and communicating with all of you. I can assure you that effective communications with you is one of my priorities. One vehicle will be this message to you, which I intend to include in every issue of *The Grit*.

Our vice president, Eric Faulring, leads the nominating committee and is always looking for residents who want to serve on the board and our committees. Please reach out to him with your interest... I promise you that your efforts will be rewarded, and you will have a great time with the folks serving with you.

Our office staff is available five days a week; please reach out to them via email or a phone call with your issues or concerns. Of course, you can also reach out to me at wstewcol@msn.com. I promise you will receive a response.

Household Radon Mitigation

Stan Davis, Covenant Support Committee Member

Radon household awareness was previously discussed in *The GRIT* (August 2022). That article discussed the origin of household radon, how household radon can be measured, and what the controlling factors are on fluctuations and magnitudes of household radon. This article discusses household radon mitigation. Much can be learned about radon mitigation online, so this article mainly serves to illustrate what common mitigation systems look like, using what was done by a local contractor for my house as an example. Note that very-short-term mitigation can be achieved simply by opening windows and doors, after which radon levels can plummet quickly inside the house. However, radon levels will rise just as quickly once windows and doors are closed. This approach is not always convenient or practical. There are two main types of radon mitigation systems — active and passive.

Active radon mitigation systems employ an electric exhaust fan to draw soil gases from below the foundation out to the open air above the roof. The main components are shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1: A trench for a “dual” approach (1A), the entire visible stack (1B) and close-up of exhaust vent muffler (1C).

Initially a hole is excavated in the dirt next to the foundation outside the house. Then a horizontal conduit is bored through the foundation stem wall, behind which (and under the slab) a cavity is hollowed out in the dirt. PVC pipe is laid horizontally through this conduit and connected to “elbows” or “T’s” routing to a vertical riser pipe outside the house. Figure 1A shows a “dual” approach, where a trench was dug to accommodate two horizontal conduits leading to a single riser. The riser feeds into the electric fan component. This fan is enclosed within a housing that is not designed to be accessed by the homeowner, and the fan must run continuously 24/7 for radon mitigation to be effective. The hum from the fan can be an issue, but recently some manufacturers have been designing new fans that are significantly quieter than older brands or models, so it is worthwhile ensuring you are installing the quietest residential fans available. The gases are then pushed up through a tall riser that leads above the roof (and above the parapet, if one) to be exhausted. The entire stack that is visible above ground is shown in Figure 1B. Figure 1C zooms in on the top of the exhaust stack, showing an exhaust muffler to quiet the rush of air. This attachment significantly reduces the sound coming from the stack, and should always be installed. Note that a non-insulated PVC “elbow” on top of the stack will not reduce the noise, but rather will focus it in the direction the elbow points. This should go without saying, but if you are ever up on your roof, don’t put your mouth and nose over the exhaust and inhale! The amount of radon coming out of the exhaust stack is orders of magnitude larger than what is seeping through the foundation into your home. A good approach to installing active mitigation systems is to do one at a time, to see if a single system is sufficient at reducing radon to acceptable levels throughout the entire house; if not, additional systems can be installed in strategic locations, one at a time, until radon levels are acceptable. A reputable contractor will probably advise this approach. Another approach to active-type radon mitigation might be to integrate an Energy Recovery Ventilator (ERV) into your HVAC system (if you have one), perhaps the next time your HVAC is replaced. Because an ERV brings fresh air in from the outside, this approach should further assist in reducing household radon.

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Passive radon mitigation systems do not employ a radon exhaust fan, but can usually be retrofitted to be an active system if the passive approach does not appear to be effective. Many counties and municipalities across the country appear to be requiring passive systems, at least, to be installed in new residential construction. This approach draws sub-slab soil gases to a collection point and then up an exhaust pipe to be vented above the house, relying on a pressure differential to do so. If you are building an addition onto your house, you may want to consider installing a passive system, as illustrated in *Figure 2* for the case of a new addition with a concrete foundation. Soil gas collector mats are laid out in a grid fashion directly onto the prepared soil (*Fig. 2A*). When the foundation is complete, soil gases will move through the mats to a single collection point, where they pass through a “T” riser (*Fig. 2B*). The concrete foundation is poured on top (after all the other sub-slab plumbing has also been installed, of course) (*Fig. 2C*). A riser will then be installed to go up between the walls and through the roof, where the gases will escape. An electrical supply should be installed nearby on the roof as well, in case, at a later time, it is decided to install an exhaust fan there. In summary, household radon, which can pose a health risk, is an issue that can be addressed for new and existing homes.

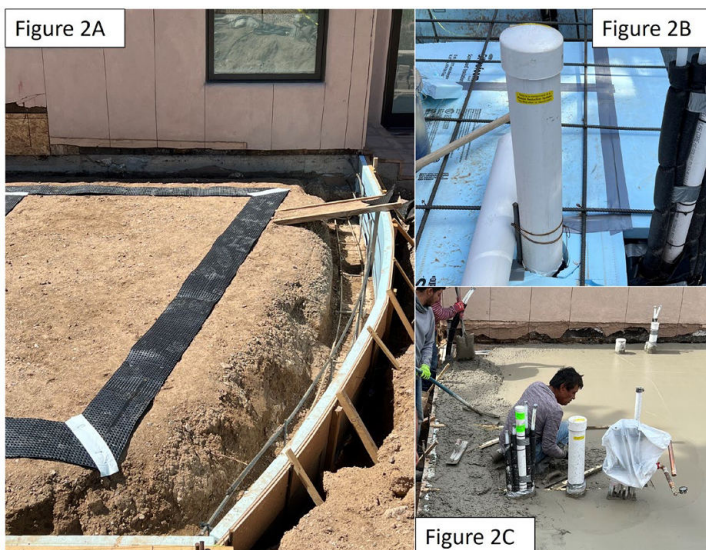


Figure 2: Black soil gas collector mats (2A, only part of the grid is shown here), T riser sticking up through blue rigid foam insulation mats (2B), and T riser sticking up through the poured concrete foundation (2C).

The Artist Next Door

By Claudia Mitchell

Wax, textured paper, and an iron are just three of the items that **Barb Boedeker** uses to make her original art pieces. But I am getting ahead of our story.

Barb grew up in Wisconsin. She did not know exactly what she wanted to be, but she knew that she loved art and after high school graduation she attended the respected Layton School of Art in Milwaukee. Barb met a recent graduate from the Air Force Academy who was home on leave, and he became her husband. Soon after they were married, they journeyed to his first assignment at Eielson Air Force Base near Fairbanks by driving up the then unpaved Alcan Highway in their Austin Healey with wire wheels. “It was quite an adventure,” Barb told me with a wry smile and a chuckle. “It was not the right car for Alaska but later we sold it to an Alaskan.”



Eventually, Barb had three children occupying her life. Her art took a back seat though she still attended various art classes exploring different media including pastels and batik. “I was never sure what would inspire me.” So, she kept exploring. Barb’s husband’s final assignment at the end of twenty years was Kirtland AFB. They found that they really loved Albuquerque and would have stayed on, but her husband got a good job offer back in Wisconsin. They decided it was best to return to their home state. Back in Wisconsin, Barb learned a remarkable fact. Her sister, while researching their family history, discovered that their great-great-grandmother was a Potawatomi named Wishtayouka. This new knowledge about her family ignited a feeling of connection and interest in American Indian culture

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FEBRUARY 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.

| February 2024 | # of calls | | # of calls |
|--------------------------|------------|--------------------------|------------|
| Alarms | 5 | Salesman Complaint | 1 |
| Customer Assist | 1 | Special Extra Patrol | 2 |
| Mailbox Vandalism | 1 | Special Request/Vacation | 70 |
| Motorcycle Nuisance | 1 | Suspicious Activity | 2 |
| Neighbor Dispute | 1 | Suspicious Person | 3 |
| Newspaper/Package Pickup | 4 | Suspicious Vehicle | 10 |
| Noise Complaint | 1 | Utility Co. Assist | 3 |
| Open Door/Window/Garage | 11 | Vehicle Burglary | 1 |
| Pet Nuisance | 1 | Welfare Check | 1 |
| | | Total | 119 |

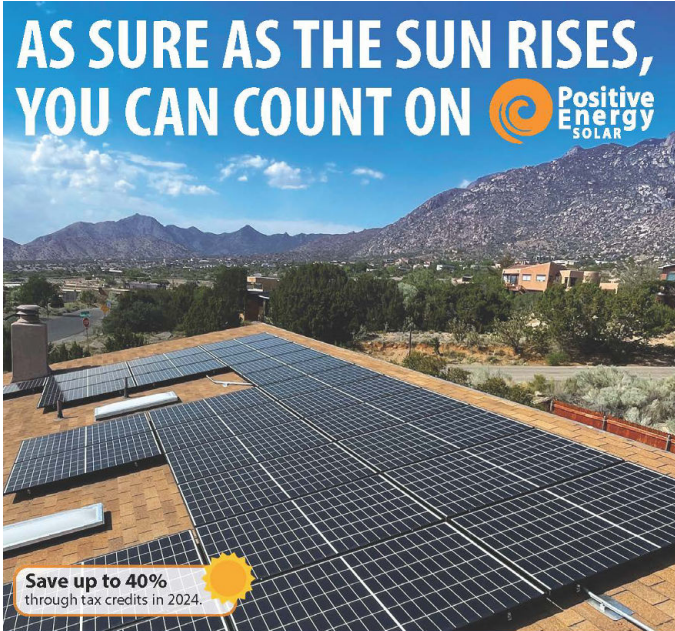
Useful Numbers: Emergency Police/Fire/Rescue: 9-1-1 (Be sure to let the operator know you are in Sandia Heights – an unincorporated area of Bernalillo County) **Bernalillo County Sheriff Non-Emergency:** (505) 798-7000 **Bernalillo County Fire Department Non-Emergency:** (505) 468-1310 **SHS Water/Sewer 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 to 4 PM and Fridays 9 AM to Noon.
- **Board Meeting:** scheduled April 10, 2024, at 6:30 pm in person.
- **Office Closures for Holiday(s):** None
- **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 the SHHA website.



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and art. Over the years living in Wisconsin, they found they missed Albuquerque. After ten years, her husband convinced his firm to open an office here and they happily returned. After looking at many houses, they found their current residence in Sandia Heights. “We loved the views and still do,” Barb told me as we looked at the mountain. “We have made a lot of changes to it in thirty years.”

Upon returning to Albuquerque, Barb’s children were pretty much grown. Barb began spending more time with her art. She had a reawakening of her deep personal connection to and interest in American Indian culture and art. That interest broadened to encompass many ancient art forms. She had always been drawn to texture and she was particularly intrigued by primitive art on stone and pottery—petroglyphs, Mimbres pottery motifs, European paleolithic cave pictographs. “Being in the Southwest again made me want to learn more about the art and history of this region. I was amazed by all primitive artists—especially that they could be so expressive with so little. It was interesting to me that primitive peoples all over the world are interested in creating beauty.” She began painting images inspired by these sources. She experimented with wax resist techniques to create backgrounds complementing the images. Her approach was unique. She brought some of her work to the original Weem’s Gallery in Albuquerque and, to her surprise and delight, they accepted her work. She is still showing there.

Barb began to participate in the extensive annual Weem’s Artfest at the Expo. She enjoyed having contact with her buyers—an experience that is missing when selling through a gallery. She had an amazing example of that experience when someone bought one of her works at the Artfest depicting spotted horses. The buyer put Barb in contact with a professor in France who specialized in paleolithic cave art. Barb and her husband arranged a trip to France, met the professor, and, with a select group, toured seven cave art sites. At the famed Pech Merle cave site in southern France, Barb was able to see the actual 25,000-year-old cave painting of the spotted horses that had inspired her. It was cosmic synchronicity. Remembering the experience, Barb said quietly, “The horses were larger than I imagined. It was a magic moment. It was a highlight of my life. After

seeing the painting, I could not speak. I still get emotional talking about it.”

After a few years, the Sandia Heights Artists Tour began. Barb was part of the early founders but became too busy to continue. She began exhibiting again at the Tour this year. “It has come a long way and become much more professional.”



Barb’s art continues to evolve. Her passion for texture has led her to explore handmade papers of all kinds and she now builds and wraps her frames in imaginative ways that enhance her work. For the one-of-a-kind backgrounds in her paintings, she works with wax melted in the kitchen and uses an iron in ways that go far beyond her early batik class. She has developed a multi-step process through “trial, error, and experimentation. I am never sure exactly how it will come out.”

Making art is only one of Barb’s many interests. She plays bridge, plays golf, gardens, and explores estate sales, repurposing and refurbishing her finds. “Am I really an artist?” she mused. “In some ways, I do my art for myself rather than for others. When you put your art out there you are sort of baring your soul. I am very grateful when someone buys it.”

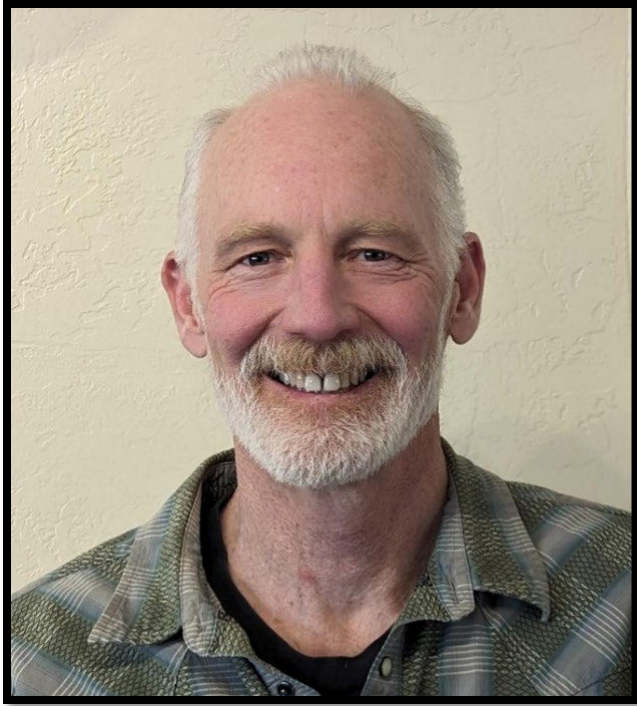
Barb’s art can be viewed and purchased at Weem’s Gallery in Albuquerque, and she will be exhibiting in the 2024 Sandia Heights Artists Tour.

Mark your calendars! The 21st Annual Sandia Heights Artists Studio Tour will be September 7-8, 2024.

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A gnarled, half-buried root, a rotten fence post, thawed and refrozen snow caught in a canvas depression—these are things few would recognize as the material or subject for an *objet d'art*. **Lars Strong** has created works of real beauty from these humble items.



Lars is a third-generation New Mexican who grew up in Tesuque. His mother, an accomplished artist, worked at the venerable Shidoni bronze foundry in Tesuque, which existed solely to cast artistic works. It later expanded into an art gallery and sculpture garden until its closure earlier this year. His mother sculpted on a large scale. Her work can be seen in Santa Fe and New York. He remembers her working on her sculptures. He was so familiar with the processes involved that he led foundry tours for visitors when he was 10 years old. His mother married Charlie Miner, the highly accomplished glass artist, and Lars learned about the world of glass. Steeped in this world of sculpture, Lars developed a strong ability in 3-D visualization and had a natural ability with tools. He told me that he was “always making things.” He was an avid whittler. “I put some stitches in my knee whittling,” he told me wryly. Growing up among artists in the beauty of the Tesuque countryside, he discovered a love of natural elements and a creative drive.

Lars earned a degree in civil engineering at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces. He went to work for a civil engineering firm in Santa Fe. Eventually he changed his focus to data center cooling optimization engineering, the specialty he currently works in. That job brought him to Albuquerque about seven years ago. He was “looking for a house as close to the Sandia Mountain as I could get.” He found his current home in Sandia Heights and revels in his mountain and valley views every day. A year after he saw signs for the Sandia Heights Artists Tour he began participating in the tour and has continued ever since.

Lars’ creative drive and passion has always been close at hand. “I am always playing and creating things.” His natural ability with tools led him to take a course in wood turning at Santa Fe Community College about 15 years ago. He began working with wood and stone. His art is not easy to categorize. Using natural materials, he enhances the characteristics of the object with precise, detailed tooling and other alterations. “I am often collaborating with and accentuating the natural form that is already there. Other times, I have a vision for a particular form and think ‘how can I do that?’ I figure out a process that is sometimes simple and sometimes complex. Sometimes I have no idea where I am going. I work, I set it down, and I may not pick it up for years. Other times, I know exactly where I am going.”

Recently, he has renewed a love of photography which he learned in high school. Being an avid skier, hiker, and outdoor explorer, he is often immersed in the natural world, and there is not much that does not catch his eye. “I am always looking for creative moments.” He showed me some well-crafted photographs utilizing time lapse, light painting, and unusual lighting; and it was clear that he sees those “creative moments” nearly everywhere. “Some of my best shots have been in my front yard.”

I told him that he is an eclectic artist and he replied, “Apparently!” We laughed. He explained that he creates art for two reasons: to create a vision that he has, and to spend time in the process of exploring the form. “I am striving to get to Beauty. I am looking for that potential. When a shape reveals itself just right, it becomes obvious that it is beautiful.”

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Special Report - Keep as a reference
Sandia Heights YTD MARKET TRENDS

2023 MARKET STATS

| | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|---------------------------------|
| Closed Sales 93 <i>+9% from 2022</i> | Average Sale Price \$713,864 <i>+1% from 2022</i> | Total New Listings 119 <i>+8% from 2022</i> | Avg Price per sq.ft. \$257.55 | Avg Days on Market 23 |
|---|--|--|---|---------------------------------|

2022 MARKET STATS

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---------------------------------|
| Closed Sales 85 <i>-36% from 2021</i> | Average Sale Price \$701,602 <i>+14% from 2021</i> | Total New Listings 110 <i>-17% from 2021</i> | Avg Price per sq.ft. \$259.13 | Avg Days on Market 16 |
|--|---|---|---|---------------------------------|

2021 MARKET STATS

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---------------------------------|
| Closed Sales 133 <i>+17% from 2020</i> | Average Sale Price \$612,403 <i>+17% from 2020</i> | Total New Listings 134 <i>+4% from 2020</i> | Avg Price per sq.ft. \$223.58 | Avg Days on Market 24 |
|---|---|--|---|---------------------------------|

2020 MARKET STATS

| | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|---------------------------------|
| Closed Sales 113 <i>-3% from 2019</i> | Average Sale Price \$522,423 <i>-2% from 2019</i> | Total New Listings 128 <i>-22% from 2019</i> | Avg Price per sq.ft. \$189.86 | Avg Days on Market 39 |
|--|--|---|---|---------------------------------|

Selling your home in 2024

2024 is expected to be a busy year in the real estate market, with indicators pointing towards a modest increase in home appreciation, an influx of inventory, and reduced mortgage rates; we anticipate a surge in activity. If you plan to sell your home in 2024, prepare your property well in advance and enter the market at the right time to maximize your equity. If you'd like to discuss your strategy for 2024, feel free to give me a call.

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... continued from page 8

“I have no message, no agenda. I resist giving my pieces names because I do not want to lead people in any direction. They can just go wherever they are going to go. My art gives people an opportunity to have an experience they would not have otherwise. One of my favorite moments was when someone picked up one of my pieces and said, ‘This makes me unreasonably happy.’”

Lars’ work can be viewed and purchased soon on his website www.Larsstrong.com and he can be contacted at lars.strong@gmail.com. Like Barb, he will also be showing his work at the Sandia Heights Artists Tour in Fall 2024.



ACC Activity Log

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

| |
|---|
| 3 Juniper Hill Lp -- Repair Roof with Tan TPO |
| 9 Juniper Hill Rd -- Replace Tar & Gravel Roof |
| 117 White Oaks Dr -- Re-stucco House |
| 186 Big Horn Ridge Cir --Stucco Repair & New Cooler |
| 359 Big Horn Ridge Dr -- Construct 6' Stucco Wall/Gate |
| 429 Live Oak Ln -- Re-roof with Tan TPO |
| 720-9 Tramway Ln -- Replace & Repair Roof & Soffits |
| 726-16 Tramway Vista Dr -- Re-stucco House & Wall |
| 808 Tramway Ln -- Re-roof with Tan TPO/New Cooler |
| 921 Tramway Ln -- Install Rooftop Solar PV System |
| 955 Antelope Ave -- Re-roof Tan TPO |
| 989 Lynx Lp -- New HVAC System |
| 1006 Tramway Ln -- Replace Tar & Gravel Garage Roof |
| 1046 Red Oaks Lp -- Re-roof Tan TPO & New Coolers |
| 1054 Red Oaks Lp -- Replace Windows & Doors |
| 1157 Laurel Lp -- Add Shade Pergola |
| 1159 Laurel Lp -- New Garage Door |
| 1213 Marigold Dr -- Refinish Decking & Pool/Hot Tub |
| 12617 Colony Pl -- Re-roof with Tan TPO |
| 1453 Honeysuckle Dr -- Finish Driveway + Pool Pergola |
| 1552 Eagle Ridge Ln -- Re-roof with Tan TPO |
| 1555 Eagle Ridge Rd -- Re-roof with Tan Membrane |
| 1819 Tramway Terrace Lp -- Install Storm Door |
| 1834 Tramway Terrace Lp --Re-roof w/Tan TPO + HVAC |
| 1905 Quail Run Rd -- Re-roof with Tan TPO + Skylights |
| 1923 Quail Run Dr --Replace Trim & Repaint Trim & Doors |
| 2037 Quail Run Dr -- Re-stucco House |



Notice: Any corrections to the printed version of The GRIT can be found on the website: www.sandiahomeowners.org.

Hidden Birds

By Bird-Ignorant Resident Elizabeth Edgren



Ears perk up: delightful unfamiliar birdsong.
Where are you, little bird with cheerful early-morning voice?
I scan the trees out my windows.
Binoculars at my eyes, bird book at hand, I search.
Where is flutter or quivering throat?
Uphill or down? On the ground?
Perched on tree tip, or hiding within?
Do you sing on the wing?



Ah! Hello, Mama Quail. I know your voice.
Hush, pause; let the little ones speak.
The birds are there, varieties unmet.
I want to see; I want to know.
Patience. Be still. Listen. Watch. Wait, quiet and ready.
In time they'll appear all unexpected and lovely,
All surprising, still or swift,
Certain of fresh today, no burden of yesterday's toil or grief.

Solar Electric System Do's and Don'ts

Bob Bower, ACC Member

I want to share with you an article published by PNM in their “energyworks” flyer that was included with their monthly billing statement for February. The ACC, over the past decade or so, has approved the installation of many rooftop photovoltaic (PV) solar systems throughout our community. This particular PNM article has some useful tips to consider before you make a decision to install a PV system on your residence. If you have any additional concerns beyond what is included in the article, PNM can be contacted at their website, <https://www.pnm.com/Solar>.

The “Do” List:

- Watch for credentials of anyone selling you solar. PNM does not sell rooftop solar systems and will never send someone to your door trying to sell you solar.
- Be cautious with anyone knocking on your door—ask for identification and who they work for.
- Get quotes from at least three vendors and read the terms of the contracts.
- Learn about federal and state tax rebates and how to qualify.

- Check your address to verify your feeder has capacity for solar at <https://www.pnm.com/Solar>.
- Ensure your contractor includes you on the solar application so you receive important communications and notifications from PNM.
- Right-size your system based on your average annual usage.

The “Don’t” List:

- Don’t sign a Power of Attorney allowing your contractor to sign contracts or agreements on your behalf without first consulting an attorney.
- Don’t oversize your system—you’re paying for something you aren’t benefitting from.
- Don’t let your contractor install the system prior to PNM approval. PNM is required to issue a valid permit for the installation of a PV system, and you can ask your contractor for a copy of this permit. (Editor’s note: Contractors should also have a copy of the Bernalillo County permit. This covers aspects of the solar installation described in [Bernco Solar-Install-Reqs.pdf](#)).

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Sharon's Sandia Heights Market Update Past Year 4/2023 to 4/2024

6 Larger homes For Sale on Larger Lots | Avg Asking price \$859,000 Avg Asking price/sf \$281.96
 2 Homes Pending | Avg Asking Price \$725,000 Avg Asking price/sf \$254.91
 35 Homes Closed past year to date | Avg Sold Price \$900,102 Avg Sold price/sf. \$247.71

1 Smaller home on smaller lots | Avg Asking price \$525,000 Avg Asking price/sf \$285.33
 4 homes pending | Avg Asking Price \$456,250 Avg Asking price/sf \$262.04
 40 Homes Closed past year to date | Avg Sold Price \$480,888 Avg Sold price/sf \$261.54

Note Every Home Is Unique . Price is always based on condition, updates, market appeal, location and views.



1114 San Rafael Ave NE



1726 Quail Run Ct NE



730 Tramway Lane NE



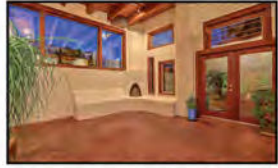
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Based on our experience here in Sandia Heights regarding PV systems, the ACC has heard some “horror stories” regarding unscrupulous contractors who sell poorly engineered and poorly performing PV systems. Choose your contractor carefully. The SHHA office maintains a list of residents’ feedback and comments regarding their experiences with a variety of contractors including those who install PV systems. Take advantage of that data to help you with your decisions.

Spring Winds Bring Heightened Wildfire Danger Cheryl Wieker, E&S Committee

Many people have a mental picture of what a wildfire looks like. A dense forest of tall swaying pines burning in a solid line comes to mind for a lot of us. In March, we watched with horror as the largest wildfire in Texas history consumed over 500 homes and a million acres in the Texas panhandle. Not forests; plains. Not tall trees; prairie and brush. The Texas panhandle fire showed us once again that the combination of high winds and low humidity can bring devastating wildfires – regardless of the topography. Those same weather elements swept right through Albuquerque on their way to Amarillo.

Sandia Heights can have similar “fire weather” and this month is the time to get your home and family ready to prevent losses. Take the following steps this month to stay safe:

- Remove dead brush from around your home. Even if you love the look and smell of Chamisa, it dies back in the winter and is a powerful fuel. Remove any Chamisa that is growing near or under your pinyons and juniper trees. Cut back Chamisa growing 30 feet away from the house and reduce clumps.
- Clean up sticks, twigs, pine needles and other debris that blow onto your roof, canals, gutters and patios. These little piles of debris become “tinder” for the sparks, embers, and firebrands that spread the fire from yards to your houses. Move firewood piles at least fifteen feet away from your house.
- Remove dead trees. Embers from burning trees can fly over a mile and can lead to a very fast spread of a wildfire that will make evacuation and firefighting even more difficult.

- Cut branches of trees that are close to the house. This is a continuing process, actually best done in the winter but don’t wait! Fire can easily leap fifteen feet from a burning pine tree to your home.
- Re-check your “GO” bag to be sure it has what you will need to evacuate the house. Review your plan with your family. Update your list of what to grab if you are notified by emergency officials of “Get Ready to Evacuate” status. For more information on the “Ready, Set, Go: Your Personal New Mexico Wildfire Action Plan,” click here (<https://www.sandiahomeowners.org/information/default/wildfire-anticipation>).

Let’s work together as a community to reduce the risks to each other, our homes, and the vistas we treasure.

Trash Pickup in May Kathleen McCaughey, E&S Committee Chair

We will be doing a community trash pickup along Tramway in May. All volunteers are welcome. Exact time and date will be announced in the May issue of *The GRIT*.



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

