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 Elizabeth Edgren  
 Tracey Goodrich  
 Robert Hare  
 Fenton McCarthy  
 Susan McCasland  
 Kathleen McCaughey  
 Hugh Prather  
 Bob Thomas

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 David Crossley – Architectural Control Committee (ACC)  
 Bob Thomas – Covenant Support Committee (CSC)  
 Susan McCasland – Communications & Publications (C&P) & GRIT editor  
 Elizabeth Edgren – Community Service & Membership (CS&M)  
 Randy Tripp – Finance Committee (FC)  
 Hugh Prather – Nominating Committee (NC)  
 Kathleen McCaughey – Environment & Safety Committee (E&S)

**Office Staff**  
 Betsy Rodriguez – Lead 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)

### Don't Forget: 2023 SHHA Annual Meeting Is Soon

The Annual Meeting of the Sandia Heights Homeowners Association membership will be on **Saturday, February 25, 9:00–10:30 AM**. It will be held in person at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 7834 Tennyson St NE.

#### Business Meeting

- I. Call to order and establishment of a quorum
- II. Approval of the Agenda
- III. Approval of the Minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting
- IV. Introduction of invited guests
- V. Introduction of the 2022 Board of Directors and SHHA Standing Committee Chairs
- VI. Election by membership of two new Directors to the Board (their biographies were in the December 2022 GRIT)
- VII. Announcement of 2023 Officers and Board of Directors
- VIII. Reports for 2022 to the membership by the Officers and Standing Committee Chairpersons' written reports (Questions from the members must be submitted in written form and will be answered, when possible, in the Question and Answer Session. Otherwise, they will be answered to the questioner and members after appropriate research.)
- IX. Sandia Heights Services explains upcoming water utility upgrades
- X. Business meeting adjourned

Break

#### Question and Answer Session

- I. Answers to written questions by appropriate Officer/Committee Chair
- II. Wrap-up
- III. Question and Answer Session ends

Door prizes! Coffee & pastries provided by O'Bean's Coffee Roasters! Hope to see you there!



## SHHA Wildfire Risk Reduction Workshop

Cathleen McCaughey, Environment & Safety chair

On March 25, 10:00–11:30 AM, at the Church of the Good Shepherd (7834 Tennyson St NE), SHHA is holding a workshop to provide critical information about specific steps you can take to greatly reduce the likelihood that **your** home will be damaged by wildfire. Because Sandia Heights is in the “wildland-urban interface” (WUI), our homes and community are at risk from fires started by lightning, as well as by careless cigarette tossing and other human hazards. The good news is that we can “harden” our homes, creating effective self-defense systems against fast-moving wildfire. At the workshop, experts will discuss the elements of the home and surrounding environment that should be addressed to protect both against wildfire. Invited agencies include the Bernalillo County Fire Department, the Bernalillo County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, and the Ciudad Soil & Water Conservation District. More details in the next GRIT.



### You, the SHHA, and Covenant Enforcement

Bob Thomas, CSC Chair

The Covenant Support Committee (CSC) is charged with ensuring that all property owners in Sandia Heights adhere to covenant provisions of the Unit where their property is located. There are 38 Units within Sandia Heights, and no two sets of covenants are exactly the same. This diversity makes community-wide enforcement difficult at best. The CSC does not patrol Sandia Heights looking for covenant violations. Consequently, the CSC has developed procedures that depend on members of the SHHA to report covenant violations.

**Who can report a violation?** You must be a property owner in Sandia Heights and be a member of SHHA to

submit a covenant violation form. The form, Report of Suspected Covenant Violation, is available at the SHHA office and from the SHHA website. Any SHHA member may submit a covenant violation form, however, the CSC normally acts on submissions from residents in the same Unit as the violation, in an adjacent Unit, or in direct line of sight of the violation regardless of the Unit you reside in. The CSC will exercise its discretion as to whether or not to act on violations outside of the normal guidelines. The CSC considers the identities of the complainant and alleged violator, addresses, and the nature of the complaint to be strictly confidential and does not divulge such information beyond the CSC.

#### **What information is needed on the violation form?**

Your name as the complainant; CSC may want to contact you for additional details related to your complaint. The specific violation and its location, along with the rationale supporting your belief that a violation has occurred. It helps to identify the paragraph in the applicable covenants that you think is being violated. All the Unit covenants are on the website; also, the office can help you identify applicable covenants. The form asks if you have contacted the violator—contact is not required to submit the form. The CSC is sensitive about not creating an adversarial relationship between the complainant and the alleged violator. You may choose to talk to your neighbor first but the CSC does not require this. Last is your signature. The SHHA staff recognizes electronic signatures that include the member’s e-mail address. The CSC does not respond to complaints submitted by phone, notes, or anonymously.

**How does the CSC handle the complaint?** A CSC member is assigned to investigate the complaint and try to resolve it. The member first verifies the information submitted. If the complaint is deemed invalid, the complainant is notified by mail and the file closed. If a valid violation exists, the committee member completes an investigative report. The violator receives written notification from the CSC regarding the specific violation and is given a reasonable deadline by which to remedy it. The CSC member follows up with the violator to ensure that the violation is corrected by the stated time. If the violation is resolved at this point, both parties are notified by mail and the file is closed. If, however, the violation is not resolved as a result of the first letter, a second letter is sent to the violator with a new timeline for resolution and a warning that failure to comply may result in legal action. If the second letter is unsuccessful in solving the violation, the file is turned over to the SHHA attorney for further action.

*Continued on page 7...*

# Orange Crush

Stan Davis, CSC member and SH resident

Something geologically interesting has happened to some fossils in the Pennsylvanian-age Madera Limestone of the Sandia Mountains, particularly in the northern part of the range. Judging by the abundance of crinoid fossils, as can be observed along many of the trails that travel across the limestone, the Pennsylvanian in this area must have been an “Age of Crinoids.” Indeed, there was a huge proliferation of crinoid species throughout New Mexico during the Pennsylvanian (Webster and Kues, 2006, *Pennsylvanian Crinoids of New Mexico*, *New Mexico Geology*, 28, 1). Usually calcareous fossils are as gray (or nearly so) as the background limestone in which they are embedded, and indeed most of the crinoid fossils I’ve seen while hiking in the Sandias tend to be shades of gray. However, there are some places where the crinoids are orange!

Crinoids were animals that lived in marine continental shelf environments. Crinoids tended to resemble plants, and consisted of a “holdfast” to anchor themselves to a substrate, a long columnal stalk, and a crown of radiating feathery arms that performed planktonic filter feeding. When they died and fell to the sea floor, they became easily disarticulated and crushed up with current reworking and scavenging by other animals. Generally, the most abundant crinoid fossilized remains are fragments of the columnal stalk, and this appears true in the Sandias, too.

According to Dr. Virgil Lueth, professor emeritus with the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources (2022, *personal communication*), large replacements of limestone by chalcedony/jasper (types of silica, or micro-crystalline quartz) are not uncommon along the Rio Grande Rift near areas of significant barite-fluorite mineralization. Indeed, at the abandoned Lands End barite mine in the northern Sandias along the Osha Springs Trail, one can find abundant barite (barium sulphate) crystals scattered all around on the ground. The source of these minerals was likely caused by circulating hydrothermal fluids introduced during the rifting activity that raised the Sandia Mountains, the Manzanos and others, above the Rio Grande Rift. Dr. Lueth further states that colored fossils, where the original gray calcareous material was replaced by chalcedony colored by hematite (red iron oxide,  $Fe_2O_3$ ), have been reported in the Madera Limestone.

The phenomenon by which originally calcareous (or calcite/magnesium-rich) fossils become replaced by silica (micro-crystalline quartz) while the surrounding

matrix, or background, limestone does not become replaced, is a well-observed phenomenon (Malva and Siever, 1988, *Mechanism and Controls of Silicification of Fossils in Limestones*, *The Journal of Geology*, 96, 4, 387-398). The process is complicated, having to do with geochemical and physical processes. What is necessary is that the composition of the original calcite of the fossils must be sufficiently different from that of the surrounding limestone matrix so as to allow circulating silica-rich fluids to replace the calcite in the fossils and not the surrounding limestone matrix itself. The silicified crinoids also appear to be harder and more resistant to erosion than the limestone in which they are embedded, so they tend to stick out of the limestone. Pretty cool!



Orange crinoid stalk fossil fragments, taken from a location along the North Crest Trail not far above the junction with the Ojo Del Orno trail, Sandia Mountains.



Typical gray crinoid stalk fossil fragments found in the Madera Limestone, from north to south in the Sandia Mountains.

# DECEMBER 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.

| December 2022                    | # of calls |                          | # of calls |
|----------------------------------|------------|--------------------------|------------|
| Alarms                           | 5          | Special Request/Vacation | 100        |
| Customer Assist                  | 3          | Suspicious Activity      | 1          |
| Customer Inquiry                 | 1          | Suspicious Person        | 4          |
| Dump/Spilled Material            | 1          | Suspicious Vehicle       | 8          |
| Fireworks Complaint              | 1          | Theft                    | 2          |
| Miscellaneous Call               | 1          | Utility co. Assist       | 1          |
| Newspaper/Package Pickup         | 11         | Welfare Check            | 1          |
| Noise Complaint/Suspicious Noise | 2          |                          |            |
| Special Extra Patrol             | 1          | <b>Total Calls</b>       | <b>143</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:** (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 – Friday 9 AM – 4 PM.
- **Board Meeting:** In lieu of a Board Meeting, the 2023 Annual Meeting is scheduled for February 25th, 9:00 – 10:30 AM. at the Church of the Good Shepherd.
- **Office Closures for Holiday(s):** Monday, February 20, 2023, in observance of Presidents’ Day.
- **Notary services (Tues–Thurs, by appointment), 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. \$10 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>.



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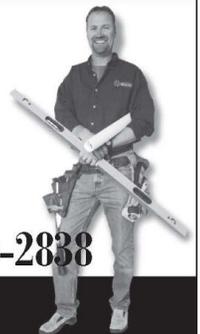


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## Sandia Heights Home Values

Sandia Heights Home values were up 14% in 2022 as compared to 2021 primarily due to persistent low inventory. Spring is just around the corner. We expect activity to pick up despite fluctuating interest rates. If you plan to sell in 2023, we recommend preparing your home now in anticipation for what is historically considered our peak season in Real Estate. The best homes always sell for more money and in less time. With strategic preparation and effective market presentation you can expect to maximize your equity.

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**SOLD**

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**SOLD**

Eagle Ridge CT \$795,000

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### Free Tram Passes Available

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**Sandia Heights Resident**



...continued from page 2

### Why should you care about covenant enforcement?

Resident surveys over the years consistently indicate that the primary goal of SHHA should be enforcement of our covenants. The covenants were designed to benefit all property owners in order to preserve and maintain the beauty, quality of life, and property values in this unique community. The SHHA and the CSC actively seek your support in enforcing our covenants. This is your community and your covenants—everyone appreciates your compliance and your help.

## List of CSC Articles Published in the GRIT 2022 Covenant Support Committee

January

- Update on Invasive Siberian Elms

February

- Summary of CSC Articles Published in 2021

March

- 2022 Annual Meeting Reports of Standing Committees—Covenant Support Committee

April

- Sandia Heights Lighting
- File a Bernalillo County Complaint Online, by Phone, or In-person

May

- Advanced Treatment Septic Systems & Other Issues Related to Replacing a Septic System in Sandia Heights
- Summer is Coming—and So Are RVs

June

- CSC is Working to Prevent Long-Term RV Parking

July

- Dogs, Dogs, Dogs ...
- Snakes and You (Reprint of article by Kate Fry, Sandia Heights Resident)

August

- Fire Hydrant Blue Marker Stakes (Stan Davis, SH resident and CSC member)

September

- Trouble with Tumbleweeds (Stan Davis, SH resident and CSC member)

October

- Short-Term Rentals, e.g., Airbnb (Kathleen McCaughey, Covenant Support Committee)
- Household Radon Awareness (Stan Davis, Covenant Support Committee)

November

- Covenant Support Committee (CSC) Needs Volunteers

December (none)

## SH Tips & Hacks

Last month we looked at things you should be checking monthly during the winter and spring months. This month, let's see what you might want to check on every month of the year.

**Check HVAC system filters.** Some air filters are reusable, while others are disposable and must be replaced. Clean or replace filters when they get dirty, which might be anywhere from 30 days to a few months.

**Look for leaks around toilets and sinks.** Any sign of water where it shouldn't be is reason to investigate further. Even a tiny leak could cost hundreds of dollars each year in addition to wasting a precious resource all too rare in our high-desert environment.

**Inspect grout and caulking.** Touch up any voids or cracks in tubs and showers. This keeps them looking nice while helping to avoid seeping water damage.

**Check kitchen vent/range hood filter.** Clean or replace if needed. Consider looking at the filter more often if you have an avid chef in the household.

**Test smoke and carbon-monoxide detectors.** In addition to a monthly test, *Consumer Reports* explains why you should change batteries every six months. Make a habit of changing the batteries when you change your clocks to go on or off Daylight Savings Time.

**Trip your GFCI outlets.** These can be located anywhere in your home, but are most commonly found close to water sources (bathroom, kitchen, laundry room). Plug a light into the outlet, then click the "test" button to see if the light goes out, then click "reset" and see if the light goes back on. If so, you're good; if not, it's time to replace the outlet.

**Stroll around outside.** You're probably outside your home on a regular basis, but how often do you really look it over? Walk around the house, looking for problems with the foundation, vents, gutters, downspouts and drainpipes.



**ACC Activity Log**

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

|  |
|--|
| 98 Juniper Hill Road – Garage Addition                                   |
| 358 Big Horn Ridge Drive – Patio Installation                            |
| 573 Black Bear Road – Replace Outdoor Light Fixtures                     |
| 573 Black Bear Road – Replace Garage Doors                               |
| 720-13 Tramway Lane – Build Enclosed Platform Over Front Door Passageway |
| 989 Lynx Loop – Backyard Landscaping Within Existing Fencing             |
| 1180 Laurel Place – Landscaping  |
| 1538 Eagle Ridge Place – Replace Windows, Repair Walls, and Stucco       |
| 1843 Tramway Terrace Loop – Landscaping                                  |
| 1850 Tramway Terrace Loop – Reroof                                       |
| 1850 Tramway Terrace Loop – Repaint Trim, Garage Door, Vigas, Canales,   |
| 1945 Quail Run Loop – Reroof   |
| 2529 Tramway Terrace Court – Replace Existing Fence with a Block Wall    |
| 2745 Tramway Circle – TV Satellite Dish Installation                     |

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

**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 currently participating merchants:

|  |
|--|
| <b>Criel and Associates, LLC</b>           |
| <b>Jade Enterprises Inc.</b>               |
| <b>O’Briens Realty LLC</b>                 |
| <b>Safe at Home Environmental Services</b> |
| <b>Waterstone Mortgage</b>                 |



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# SANDIA HEIGHTS 2022 MARKET SUMMARY



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Homes SOLD: 85  
Average Size: 2717 Sq. Ft.  
Average Price: \$259 (per Sq. Ft.)  
Average Sold Price: \$701,602  
Average Days on Market: 16

Our Sandia market continues to do very well. Prices are at all time highs. Interest rates have increased which resulted in 85 sales vs 133 sales in 2021. This may be the BEST TIME to sell as inventory is still low. If you are thinking of selling please give me a call so we can discuss your real estate goals and objectives. I am here to help and serve our Sandia Heights residents!



Data for all homes. Information is deemed reliable but not guaranteed from MLS.

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### Sharon's Sandia Heights Market Update Past Year 1/2022 to 1/2023

**2 Larger homes For Sale on Larger Lots | Avg Asking price \$750,000 | Avg Asking price/sf \$241.99**  
**6 Pending | Avg Asking Price \$923,917 | Avg Asking price/sf \$224.89**  
**46 Homes Closed past year to date | Avg Sold Price \$878,895 | Avg Sold price/sf. \$258.46**

**1 Smaller homes on smaller lots | Avg Asking price \$350,000 | Avg Asking price/sf \$232.56**  
**2 home pending | Avg Asking Price \$ 398,000 | Avg Asking price/sf \$241.06**  
**36 Homes Closed past year to date | Avg Sold Price \$439,316 | Avg Sold price/sf \$249.15**

Note Every Home Is Unique . Price is always based on condition, updates, market appeal, location and views.  
**Current Interest rates hovering around 6.0% for 30 year conventional & 5.625% 30 year VA!**

**SOLD!**



1405 San Rafael Pl NE

**SOLD!**



1195 Bobcat Blvd NE

**SOLD!**



730 Tramway Lane NE

**SOLD!**



54 Rock Ridge Court NE

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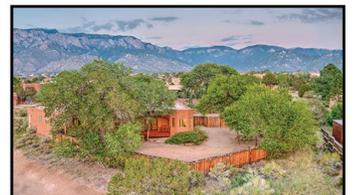
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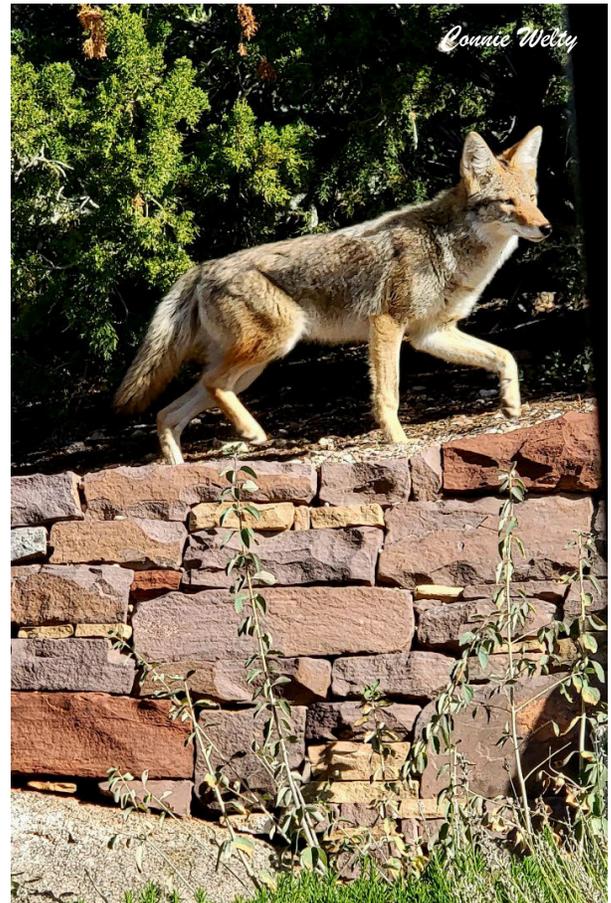
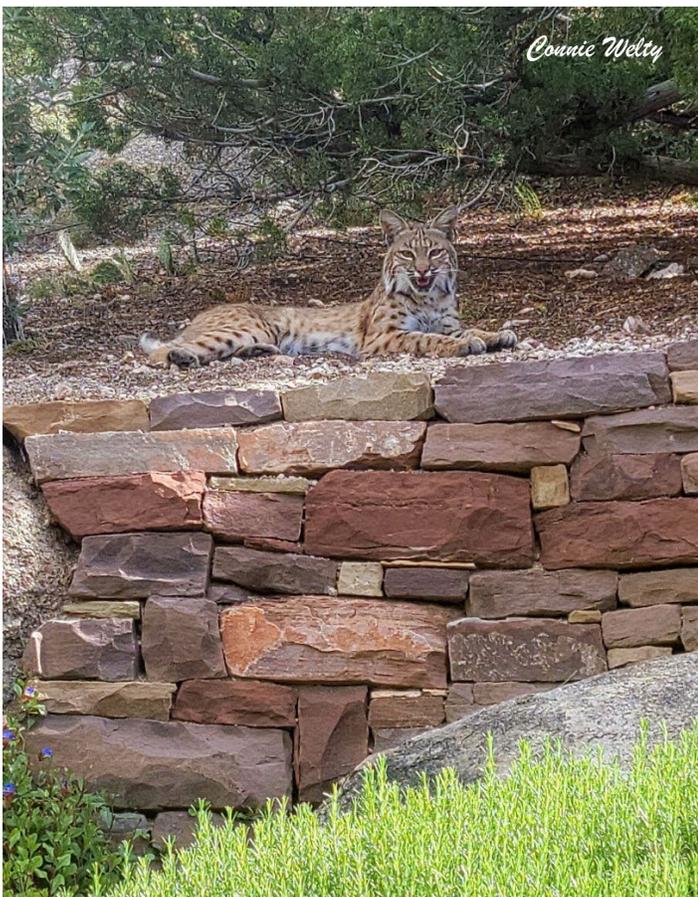
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## Predators

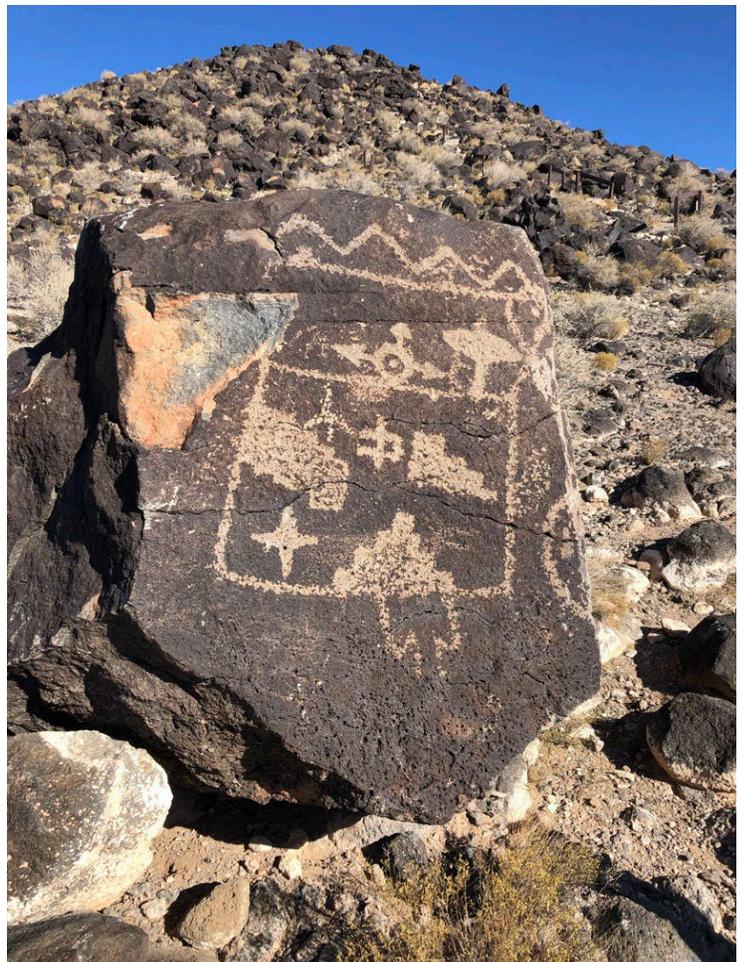
Each year Sandia Heights' amateur photographers submit many amazing photographs to the competition for the cover of the *Resident Guide and Directory*. The *GRIT* will be showing some of the best during the coming year, grouping them by subject matter. This first installment shows some of our local predators: two coyotes and a bobcat. If you're reading the paper *GRIT*, we suggest you check these out in color on the website. They're fantastic. Stay tuned for more of your neighbors' excellent photos in future issues.



## Monthly Fun Fact

Petroglyph National Monument on Albuquerque's West Mesa has around 24,000 Native American petroglyphs chipped into volcanic rocks. The 7,236-acre monument contains one of the largest petroglyph sites in North America. Most of the glyphs were carved between 400 to 700 years ago, though some are much older, perhaps as much as 3,000 years old.

The volcanic basalt escarpment where the glyphs are located results from lava flows associated with the Albuquerque Volcanoes, a classic and rare example of a fissure eruption. The fissure is over 5 miles long and the volcanic cones are aligned along it. The volcanic escarpment and cones formed about 150,000 years ago in six lava flows. The volcanoes are now dormant, but not extinct!



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## CURRENT INVENTORY

| New Listings            |     | Pending Sales           |     | Closed Sales            |       |
|-------------------------|-----|-------------------------|-----|-------------------------|-------|
| Detached                | 701 | Detached                | 637 | Detached                | 663   |
| Attached                | 82  | Attached                | 93  | Attached                | 85    |
| One Year Ago            |     | One Year Ago            |     | One Year Ago            |       |
| Detached                | 851 | Detached                | 906 | Detached                | 1,064 |
| Attached                | 88  | Attached                | 92  | Attached                | 133   |
| % Change (Detached)     |     | % Change (Detached)     |     | % Change (Detached)     |       |
| -17.6%                  |     | -29.7%                  |     | -37.7%                  |       |
| YTD % Change (Detached) |     | YTD % Change (Detached) |     | YTD % Change (Detached) |       |
| -14.4%                  |     | -22.1%                  |     | -19.7%                  |       |

| Median Sales Price      |           | Average Sales Price     |           | % of List Price Received |        |
|-------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|--------|
| Detached                | \$328,000 | Detached                | \$379,212 | Detached                 | 98.9%  |
| Attached                | \$245,000 | Attached                | \$236,289 | Attached                 | 98.7%  |
| One Year Ago            |           | One Year Ago            |           | One Year Ago             |        |
| Detached                | \$310,000 | Detached                | \$362,617 | Detached                 | 100.3% |
| Attached                | \$225,000 | Attached                | \$230,257 | Attached                 | 100.9% |
| % Change (Detached)     |           | % Change (Detached)     |           | % Change (Detached)      |        |
| 5.8%                    |           | 4.6%                    |           | -1.4%                    |        |
| YTD % Change (Detached) |           | YTD % Change (Detached) |           | YTD % Change (Detached)  |        |
| 13.8%                   |           | 13.5%                   |           | 0.2%                     |        |

| Inventory of Homes for Sale |       | Avg. Days on Market Until Sale |    | Absorption Rates (months)* |     |
|-----------------------------|-------|--------------------------------|----|----------------------------|-----|
| Detached                    | 1,355 | Detached                       | 28 | Detached                   | 1.5 |
| Attached                    | 79    | Attached                       | 14 | Attached                   | 0.8 |
| One Year Ago                |       | One Year Ago                   |    | One Year Ago               |     |
| Detached                    | 886   | Detached                       | 16 | Detached                   | 0.8 |
| Attached                    | 73    | Attached                       | 13 | Attached                   | 0.6 |
| % Change (Detached)         |       | % Change (Detached)            |    | % Change (Detached)        |     |
| 52.9%                       |       | 75.0%                          |    | 87.5%                      |     |
| YTD % Change (Detached)     |       | YTD % Change (Detached)        |    | YTD % Change (Detached)    |     |
| -                           |       | 0.0%                           |    | -                          |     |

\*Absorption Rate is a measure of how many months of inventory exist on the market based on dividing the end of month inventory by the average pending sales from the last 12 months.  
SOURCE: Greater Albuquerque Association of REALTORS® - based on data from the Southwest Multiple Listing Service. Data is deemed reliable not guaranteed.



**FOR SALE**  
156 Juniper Hill Rd. NE  
2924 SQ FT 4BR 3BA .88 Acres



**SOLD**  
573 Black Bear Road NE  
3151 SQ FT 4BR 4BA 1.23 Acres



**SOLD**  
302 Spring Creek Place NE  
3500 SQ FT 3BR 3BA 1 Acre



**SOLD**  
2 Juniper Hill Loop NE  
4507 SQ FT 4BR 4BA .60 Acres



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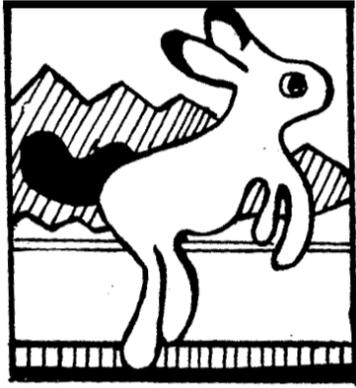
**FOR A FREE REAL ESTATE REVIEW, CALL OR EMAIL GREG@GREGLOBB.COM**

# The View from Jack Rabbit Hill

## Historical article from January 1988 GRIT

Jean Heflin

From my window, I can see the double black dots of the ears of a mammoth jack rabbit bouncing up and down above the grasses and I wonder whether he or I will be first to enjoy the plants I set out last fall in the front of the house. Very early in the morning



the coyotes went by outside the fence discussing the hunt in their high pitched barks. The scaled quail don't seem to mind that only the bare bones of the winter garden are left and cross inside the fence to our feeder. What a fascinating place we live in.

In some other part [sic] of the country, winter is a time to pour [sic] over seed catalogues and plan spring annuals. In Sandia Heights, we do this only on a small scale. Most of us here don't want to spend the amount of time and water necessary to grow many of the standard annuals. We came here because it was "natural," but, greedy humans that we are, many of [us] want our flowers too. Winter here is a good time to think about what we mean by a "native" or natural garden and how that will affect what to do in the spring.

We can start by looking more carefully at all those little grey plants around us that know so well how to live in our extreme climate. Sandia Heights has an abundance of beautiful flowering plants that come in succession with the seasons that we can encourage around our homes. The high desert ecology is one of the most active and diverse anywhere. Each of those little grey plants fills a niche: spring plants come up, then die quickly and disappear in the summer heat. Summer rains bring on the grasses and a different group of wildflowers. The cooler days of fall bring the flowering of rabbit brush [aka chamisa] and aster, and new bloom of some of the established plants. In cold winters, parts of the garden can look like a moonscape and yet with the first warm days, it is full of seedlings coming up.

Plants here are canny; the change of temperature and moisture levels each year influence which flowers you will see in profusion. One year a patch of ground will be covered with gumweed, another year mostly

sweet clover, another year chocolate flower. Wildflower seeds are very particular about the conditions under which they will sprout and with each year's different condition you will find a different mix of flowers.

To get to know which plant is which in your area include Flowering Plants of New Mexico by Robert DeWitt Ivey and Spring Wildflowers of New Mexico by William C. Martin and Charles R. Hutchins in your winter reading. Then in the spring as all those little grey plants start to come up, you can choose your friends. After all, they know an awful lot about living in Sandia Heights.

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### Plants Mentioned in the Historical Article



Rabbit brush (chamisa) in bloom



Aster



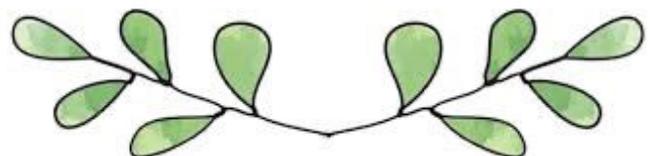
Gumweed



Chocolate flower



Sweet clover



## Community Events Bulletin Board

*This group is not sponsored by SHHA. Information is provided to keep residents informed.*

**Sandia Heights “Cork & Fork” Dining Activity:** We are happy to announce that Cork & Fork has resumed our 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 2 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](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). We always welcome Letters to the Editor and your response to articles in *The GRIT*. Email us at [thegritshha@gmail.com](mailto:thegritshha@gmail.com).

Do you have a community group that would like to widen its membership? Or one that is having an upcoming event to which the community is invited? Maybe a book club, garden club, political discussion group, volunteer tutoring group, etc? Why not place an announcement in the Community Events Bulletin Board (above). Simply send the information to be published to [thegritshha@gmail.com](mailto:thegritshha@gmail.com) by the 10th of the month preceding publication. (No for-profit recruitment, please)



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



***The SHHA Office will be closed on Monday, February 20, 2023, in observance of Presidents' Day.***