



June 2023

Vol. 39 – No. 6

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SHHA Office

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Office Hours: Mon–Thurs, 9 AM – 4 PM
Fri, 9 AM – noon

Closed on federal holidays

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shha@sandiahomeowners.org

A CRISIS: Not yet—but getting too close!

Roger Hagengruber, SHHA President

The Sandia Heights Homeowners Association needs your help.

Across the country, non-profit community organizations face the same problem: the emerging “death of volunteerism.” As interest and willingness to serve without compensation on the behalf of others dwindles, boards, steering committees, and councils struggle to continue as going concerns. The diminishing number of volunteers jeopardizes organizations created to protect community values, ambience, and well-being.

SHHA has enough Board members to meet the required minimum of 11 (per the bylaws) to have SHHA continue as a viable entity. However, we will have to amend the bylaws to reduce that required minimum from eleven to a smaller number if the membership of the Board drops. We are grateful to the new members who have stepped up to help us maintain an adequate Board.

As noted in my two earlier messages in *GRIT*, we need Board and committee members and also this year need a few chairpersons or officers. The need for people to step forward is very high. Joining the Board and a committee generally involves a commitment of less than 5 hours a month. Meetings are in-person or via Zoom. Members serve three-year terms that may be renewed once. (See Hugh Prather’s article in the May *GRIT*.)

SHHA has about 1850 members, of which around a hundred have served on committees or the Board. Recognizing that some members are not able to serve, there are still well over a thousand Sandia Heights residents as a pool of volunteers. We need some of you to step up and spend a few years helping SHHA maintain and preserve our wonderful neighborhood. Our high-desert environment needs our effort to protect it.

What’s involved? The Board meets once per month for about 2 hours. Board members are required to serve on one of 7 committees, which meet monthly. Currently, several committees need members. These committees are central to protecting the covenants in Sandia Heights. The covenants assure our natural environment, ambience, and property values are protected and maintained for all of us.

When Sandia Heights was created the founders created the covenant approach for all units and established an Architectural Control Committee (ACC) to make sure that colors, structures, uses, new construction, and building modifications would be made in conformance with the covenants for each unit. Each property owner agreed to respect the covenant

Continued on page 2...

... continued from page 1

provisions and to get ACC approval before proceeding with changes to existing property or new construction. (Please see the May GRIT article by Richard Brackett).

The ACC and the Covenant Support Committee (CSC) are keys to assuring that our unique environment and property values are maintained for all of us that reside in Sandia Heights. By the end of this year, we will lose the chairs of these two critical committees. SHHA is calling upon all members for volunteers not only for the Board but to chair and serve on these committees.

I cannot emphasize enough how important it is for all of you who read the GRIT to consider joining the Board and especially stepping up to chair a committee.

PLEASE, consider it.

Latest on Elena Gallegos Development

Cathleen McCaughey, Environment & Safety Chair

“Save the Elena Gallegos” (STEG) continues in their lawsuit against the City of Albuquerque.

On April 26, the City of Albuquerque issued a press release, announcing they will no longer pursue an Education Center in the Elena Gallegos. However, as explained by STEG attorney Wade Jackson, “This announcement, while welcome, is legally meaningless and in no way binding. STEG will continue to seek a permanent injunction in order to preserve the Elena Gallegos as open space for generations to come.”

On May 4, 2023, STEG had its first hearing in the 2nd Judicial District Court of Bernalillo County. Judge Joshua Allison evaluated the City’s motion for summary judgment that STEG’s eighteen citizen plaintiffs do not have “standing” to enforce the deed to the Elena Gallegos. During the hearing, CABQ attorney Laura Callanan made repeated reference to the recent press release as “proof” that there is no longer an actual controversy to be decided. However, at one point, Judge Allison bluntly asked Ms. Callanan if the City is entitled to change its mind, to which she responded “yes.”

Judge Allison denied the City’s motion and found that the Plaintiffs have alleged sufficient injuries to create an issue of fact for trial as to whether they have standing. He also found that there were questions of fact as to whether the City’s activities have already violated the deed restriction.

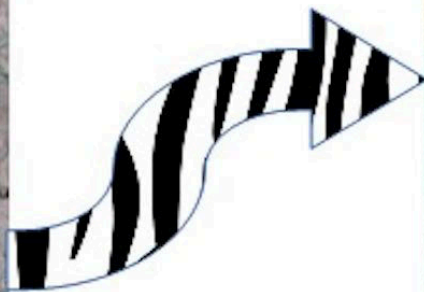
On May 16, Judge Allison granted a summary judgment in favor of all eighteen citizen plaintiffs, i.e., that they have standing to enforce the deed to the Elena Gallegos Open Space. Next step for the plaintiffs is to seek a permanent injunction against the proposed development.

STEG began a second round of fundraising on the GoFundMe platform on May 15. Please consider a donation that will support them in taking the case all the way to trial. STEG is a 501(c)(3)—donations are tax-deductible.

From this...



Pretty little soft-edged weed...



to this

in 12 weeks!



40” spiny, thorny, MONSTER weed!

**ALERT! Pull Russian Thistle (tumbleweed) NOW
.....before it consumes Sandia Heights!**

Weed and Fire Season is Here Covenant Support Committee

Our nighttime temperatures have warmed, and with the warm soils comes—weeds. And more weeds. And the spring winds have spread seeds that create... yes, you guessed it: even more and more weeds!

The Covenant Support Committee (CSC) receives scores of complaints about landscaping and yard maintenance, particularly in units comprised of patio homes. If you own a property with zero lot lines, think about the obvious importance of curb appeal and the need for attractive frontage so close to the street and so visible among clustered homes.

CSC members invest time and effort to investigate every complaint about landscaping. But the very broad language of the SHHA covenants—covering 38 units—in actuality means that the CSC cannot selectively interpret and impose landscape maintenance restrictions. In other words, the general nature of the stipulations in all of the units' covenants does not empower the CSC

to impose higher standards than what was written. The CSC, however, strongly encourages residents in the zero-lot-line units to be mindful that the appearance of their yards has a greater impact on the surrounding neighbors than is the case with larger lots.

Please help your neighborhood, yourselves, and the CSC by controlling your landscape and weeds throughout the growing season. Don't wait until plants are unwieldy, become woody, or constitute fire and/or safety hazards. Just as we schedule haircuts every so often, let's keep our properties looking cared for and attractive. In fact, while we're at it, let's remove our dead vegetation too: this is one covenant that applies to all property-owners. Good landscape maintenance will help keep our home values strong, our streets safer due to fire prevention and clear sightlines for vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians, and Sandia Heights as beautiful as it can be.

As a helpful guide for property owners, these photos provide examples of dos and don'ts.

DO



Keep soil and gravel raked and inhospitable to weeds.



Prune trees, pull weeds, and trim hedges adjoining other lots.



Keep curbs tidy and corners cleared and visible.

DON'T



Don't let weeds go to seed & dead plants convey neglect.



Don't allow weeds to encroach on your neighbor's property.



Don't let weeds occupy driveway cracks, giving your home an abandoned appearance and perhaps inviting suspicious activity.

APRIL 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.

APRIL 2023	# of calls		# of calls
Alarms	16	Suspicious Vehicle	9
Customer Assist	1	Theft	1
Customer Inquiry	3	Utility Co. Assist	1
Mailbox Vandalism	1	Welfare Check	1
Motorist Assist	2	Wildlife Report	1
Newspaper/Package Pickup	4		
Noise Complaint/Suspicious Noise	1	Total Calls	141
Open Door/Window/Garage	5		
Special Extra Patrol	4		
Special Request/Vacation	84		
Suspicious Activity	2		
Suspicious Person	5		

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

<http://sandiahomeowners.org/notices-and-information/notices-and-information/96-tram-passes>.

Announcements & Notices:

- **Office hours:** Monday – Thursday 9 AM – 4 PM. Fridays 9 AM – NOON.
- **Board Meeting:** scheduled June 14, 2023, at 6:30 pm in person.
- **Office Closures for Holiday(s)** Monday, June 19, 2023, in observance of Juneteenth.
- **Notary services (Tues–Thurs, by appointment), copies (20 per month) and faxes, e-mail alerts, and contractor evaluation binder** are free to members.
- **Committee meeting dates** are posted on our website 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. \$2.50 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



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143 Big Horn Ridge Ct. \$1,490,000



1.21 Acres LAND
9 La Luz Trl. \$395,000



Tierra Monte
10 La Luz Trl. \$1,195,000



PENDING SALE in 1-DAY

.55 Acres LAND
41 Cedar Hill Pl. \$360,000



JUST LISTED
1511 Eagle Ridge Rd. \$1,350,000



PENDING SALE in 3-DAYS

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ARTISTS

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Sandia Heights YTD MARKET TRENDS Year to date 1/1/23 to 5/13/23

Free Tram Passes Available
Call to reserve

Closed Sales	Average Sale Price	Total New Listings	Avg Price per sq.ft.
33	\$696,693	40	\$256.91
+6% from 2022 **	-2% from 2022	-16% from 2022	

Sandia Heights has seen higher than average appreciation over that last few years and we expect to see a strong sellers market through 2023. The low inventory and high demand for the area are still leading contributors that favor sellers.

If you would like to learn more about the market please feel free to contact me.

Veronica Gonzales 505-440-8956



Memories of an Old-Timer

First installment in a possible series

Ann B. List

“Where are we going?” I asked our realtor after she picked us up at Winrock Mall to show us a house she thought we might like.

This was 1972, after my husband had completed three years of military service at Tripler Army Hospital in Honolulu, Hawaii. We had our two young boys in tow: Dawson (age four) and David (age two). I was three months pregnant with our third child, later named Malia.

Our realtor Barbara responded, “It’s a new community at the base of the Sandia Tram in Bernalillo County, just outside the city limits of Albuquerque. I think you’ll like it.”

I wasn’t so sure, as Barbara’s van bumped along over the Tramway Blvd dirt road from Montgomery Blvd NE headed north. After all, I had just finished the first three months of a pregnancy, and my stomach was still a bit queasy.

But my husband and I were anxious to see a new home that had just been framed. Barbara had told us the architect who designed the house was Hildreth Barker, generally known as ‘H’.

I was not one bit disappointed, as I loved the angles of H’s design, quite different from the ordinary shapes of most city houses and the lovely rounded parapets of adobe homes all over New Mexico.

But what I especially liked was the fact that there were no homes south nor west of the site. It felt like a house with a **huge** wild grassy yard all around.

Since the front steps hadn’t yet been constructed, Barbara led us around to the back door entering the kitchen. She introduced us to the men laying flooring. One stood up and nodded with a slight wink saying, “Welcome, I’m sure you’ll like it here, but be careful. We just killed a rattlesnake on the kitchen floor this morning.”

“Argh,” I thought. Not my favorite reptile, having become cozy with very large geckos in our Kailua home in Hawaii. Later, I tucked my boys in at the motel near Winrock Mall thinking, “Yet another adventure ahead—bring it on!”

The Artist Next Door

Claudia Mitchell

In 2004, Sandia Heights residents, Lynda Burch and a ceramics artist named Ralph Rudolph, found themselves

in the same artists’ cooperative gallery. Ralph had an idea: what if we did an artists’ tour in Sandia Heights? Ralph was on the SHHA board and got his idea approved. They talked to five other artist friends, met at their homes, and produced and distributed black-and-white, one-page fliers. They called the tour “Arts View @ Sandia Heights”. On October 24, 2004, the first Sandia Heights artists’ tour was held with 7 members opening their studios to the public. The tour generated interest and recognition. It was decided to make it an annual event. Over the years more artists joined and participated. In 2010, the participating artists grew to 21 in 12 locations. In 2015, member Eric Guenette created the distinctive watermelon pink logo for the Sandia Heights Artists which is now an integral part of the Sandia Heights Artists’ publications. Even the pandemic did not extinguish the enthusiasm with many artists showing virtually on the website and at three outdoor venues hosted within health guidelines. This year, the Sandia Heights Artists will hold their 20th tour with a multi-page color guide, lots of publicity and signs, 15 stops and **fifty** artists!

The Sandia Heights Artists Tour is a rich artistic tradition that has grown in depth and quality. This article is number one in a series spotlighting a few of the early members of the Sandia Heights Artists who helped lay the foundation for what the group has become. They will all be participating in this year’s tour. I hope you enjoy learning about the artist that may live right next door and mark your calendars for September 9–10.

Marta Burckley

What to do with gourds besides piling them in a bowl for Thanksgiving table décor? Just ask Marta Burckley, who turns them into one-of-a-kind pieces of art.

Originally from Buffalo, New York, Marta and her husband, Ron, drove their new 1966 Volkswagen bus to Albuquerque. They settled near the UNM Medical Center.

Although she has no formal art training, Marta comes from a creative family. As a 3rd-grade teacher for 25 years, she used her love of art in the classroom at every opportunity. Marta found her personal artistic outlet after taking a ceramics class. She even had a big kiln put in her backyard. In 1999, they wanted to get out of the city and found their current home here in Sandia Heights. She could not duplicate her big kiln in their new home, but Marta’s creative urge could not be contained. She discovered the New Mexico Gourd Society in Albuquerque, was intrigued, and fell in love. Marta explained that making artistic pieces from gourds uses many of the same properties she enjoyed working with

ACC Activity Log

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

10 Juniper Hill Rd – Relocate Mailbox
24 Sandia Heights Drive – PV Panel Installation
50 Rock Ridge Drive – Paint Trim
97 Juniper Hill Rd – Re-roof w/TPO
401 Live Oak Loop – Repair Stucco, Paint Garage
538 Black Bear Road – Replace Windows
602 Cedar Hill Rd – Replace Windows
623 Cedar Hill Rd – Re-roof w/TPO
760-3 Tramway Lane – Re-stucco/Re-finish
793-C Tramway Lane – Plexiglass Install on Patio
795-K Tramway Lane – Stucco Repairs
801 Tramway Lane – Mailbox Installation
810 Live Oak – Re-roof w/TPO
919 Tramway Lane – Re-roof w/TPO
919 Tramway Lane – Repair/Re-roof Patio
1015 Tramway Lane – Repair/Replace Roof Shingles
1060 Red Oaks Loop – Replace/Paint Front Door
1433 Honeysuckle Dr – Reroof w/silicone
1553 Eagle Ridge Lane – Re-roof w/TPO
1701 Quail Run Ct - Landscaping
1723 Quail Run Ct – Install Solar Array
1858 Tramway Terrace Loop – Minor Roof Repair
1903 Quail Run Rd. – Replace Swamp Cooler
1933 Quail Run Loop – Repaint Roof TPO
2034 Quail Run Drive – Re-Stucco/Paint Front Wall
2703 Tramway Circle – PV Panel Installation
2724 Tramway Circle –Fence Installation
2751 Cliffrose Dr. – Paint Trim
2758 Cliffrose Dr. – Replace Windows
2898 Tramway Pl – Mailbox Installation
7715 Cedar Canyon Ct – Safety Railing Installation
9502 Sandia Vista Dr. – Accessory Structure/Gate

Visit the website: 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, 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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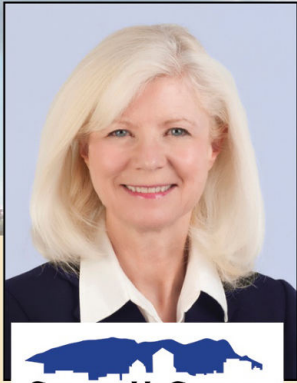


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Sharon's Sandia Heights Market Update Past Year 6/2022 to 6/2023

5 Larger homes For Sale on Larger Lots | Avg Asking price \$997,800 | Avg Asking price/sf \$241.04
 6 Pending | Avg Asking Price \$1,063,833 | Avg Asking price/sf \$249.31
 43 Homes Closed past year to date | Avg Sold Price \$877,814 Avg Sold price/sf. \$254.77

4 Smaller homes on smaller lots | Avg Asking price \$545,500 | Avg Asking price/sf \$264.46
 1 home pending | Avg Asking Price \$415,000 Avg Asking price/sf 262.66
 31 Homes Closed past year to date | Avg Sold Price \$418,606 Avg Sold price/sf \$237.92

Note Every Home Is Unique . Price is always based on condition, updates, market appeal, location and views.
 Current Interest rates hovering around 6.25% 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

ANOTHER GREAT SANDIA HEIGHTS HOME SOLD!

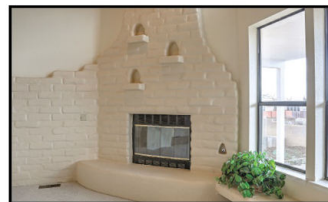
2758 CLIFFROSE NE | ASKING PRICE \$454,900 | 2281 SF | 3 BR | 2 BATHS



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... continued from page 7

clay: it is tactile, 3-D, and lends itself to embellishment. “They are so versatile. They speak to me. There is so much I can do with them!” Marta has been turning gourds into art for 15 years and is inspired by their organic qualities and innate beauty. “I look at each individual gourd and I think about how I can work with its unique properties.” Even though she transforms them into *objets d’art*, she explains that she “always wants the viewer to recognize it as a gourd.”

Marta saw an article in the GRIT 15 years ago inviting interested artists to come to a meeting of the Sandia Heights Artists. So, she did! “My thought was that it would be a lot of fun!” And it has been.

You can view and purchase Marta’s work at the Yucca Art Gallery in Old Town Albuquerque and at the Sandia Heights Artists’ Tour September 9–10.



Lynda Burch

Most people use stamps on envelopes. Some collect them. But Lynda Burch upcycles old stamps—cancelled and uncanceled—into unique works of art.

In the 70s and 80s, Lynda was a representative for a home furnishings company. She specialized in interior design pieces including art. “Working around all that art, I decided I really wanted to paint!” Moving to Albuquerque in 1981, she finally found time to start classes in watercolor. But that medium could not contain her innovative creativity and she soon began working with collage and then acrylic paints. Her work was abstract, textural, and colorful. Being in Sandia Heights, she became a founding member of the budding artists’ group and participated in the first tour.

The use of stamps all started when her husband gave her his childhood stamp collection and she took it to a philatelist to see if it was worth anything. It wasn’t, but she became intrigued with stamps. She started buying old uncanceled stamps and friends started giving her stamps. Very quickly she had **lots** of stamps and she experimented with incorporating them into her art. Soon old maps joined the collages in her work,

adding an intriguing dimension to her artistic expression. Around 2007 Lynda showed a prototype of her stamp and map collage work to the buyer for the Palace of the Governors Museum Gift Shop in Santa Fe. He said he would purchase prints of her work if she could do a series. She did and he handled her work for a couple of years. Since then, she has done over 100 original works.

Her pieces range from abstract to whimsical. She finds inspiration from many sources, but she is especially inspired by the pictures on the stamps. “I like to send a message to the viewer. I want to tell a story with my art. I pay attention to the images and colors on the stamps and utilize ones that support the theme of my painting as much as possible.” Surrounded by boxes of thousands of stamps in her studio, Lynda’s eyes sparkle as she shows me the small details in the stamps incorporated into the paintings. It is painstaking and tedious work. Her largest work, which recently found a buyer, included over 700 stamps!

Lynda’s imagination has expanded beyond stamps and maps. She had an extensive collection of wine labels from her travels with her husband and she began incorporating the labels into her collages. What will be next?

Lynda’s work can be viewed and purchased at Amapola Gallery in Old Town Albuquerque and at the Sandia Heights Artists Tour September 9-10.



Whiteout!

Stan Davis

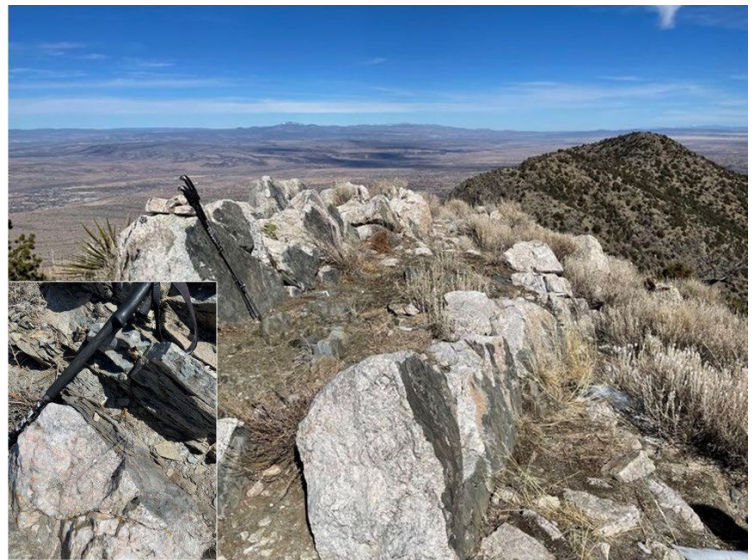
If you've walked on any trails in the Sandias, even within the Open Spaces, you have probably noticed the ubiquitous "white," or light-colored, geologic dikes cutting through the Sandia Granite. These types of dikes are magmatic—having formed when liquid magmas flowed into preexisting vertical (or somewhat vertical) cracks in the granite and then cooled and crystallized into slab-shaped intrusions of solid rock. There are thousands of these dikes in the Sandia Granite, and also in the metamorphic rocks of the Rincon Hills and Rincon Ridge just north of Sandia Heights. You could call these dikes "white" dikes for simplicity, because they tend to be white, or off-white, or at least colors that are somewhat lighter than the host rocks. Mineralogically speaking, these dikes are felsic—relatively rich in quartz and light-colored feldspars—much like the Sandia Granite itself.

There are three main types of "white" dikes recognized here:

- (1) pegmatite dikes, which contain relatively large crystals;
- (2) aplite dikes, which contain uniformly small-to-medium-sized crystals and appear "sugary" in texture; and
- (3) less-common, predominantly quartz dikes.

The "white" dikes have been reported to be up to about 30-feet wide and can be thousands of feet long. They are only slightly younger than the Sandia Granite (Meso-Proterozoic, or "PreCambrian" in age)—hence very old, and represent the latest stages of magma injection at the time. The cracks into which the dikes intruded had to have formed in solid, brittle rock, whether Sandia Granite or Rincon metamorphic rocks.

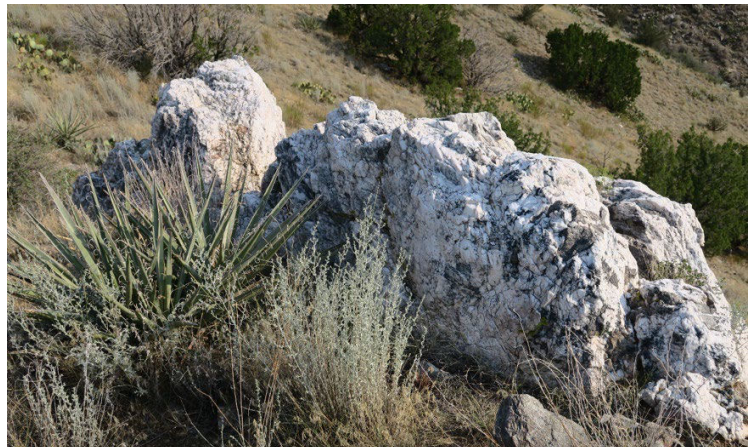
The dikes have a wide range of orientations, and sometimes occur in swarms. Usually the "white" dikes are more resistive to erosion than the surrounding rocks, so that they often stick up above the ground around them or out of cliff faces, forming walls, ledges and protrusions.



The metamorphic rocks at the top of Juan Tabo Peak are intruded by a "swarm" of stunning pegmatite dikes (The Jemez is in the background). Some of these "white" dikes can be seen from Sandia Heights. The inset shows a close-up of the coarse-grained fabric of these types of dikes, as well as a contact between the "white" dike and darker metamorphic rocks.



Here a trail in the Sandias goes up and over a large (and long) aplite dike "wall." The inset shows a close-up of the characteristic uniformly fine-grained "sugary" texture of these types of dikes.



This picture shows an impressive chunk of a quartz dike sticking up out of the ground in the Rincon Hills, north of Sandia Heights, west of Forest Road 333.

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THE MARKET IS STILL HOT!

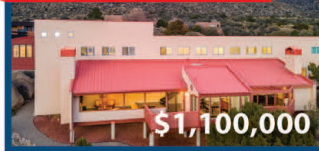
FOR SALE



\$700,000

156 Juniper Hill Road NE
2924 SQ FT 4BR 3BA .88 Acres

FOR SALE



\$1,100,000

55 Rock Point Place NE
4765 SQ FT 4BR 4BA 1.01 Acres

FOR SALE



\$300,000

720 Tramway Lane NE #15
1383 SQ FT 2BR 3BA .04 Acres

PENDING



1509 Eagle Ridge Road NE
4551 SQ FT 6BR 3BA 1.43 Acres

SOLD



1020 Tramway Lane NE
2722 SQ FT 3BR 2BA 1.48 Acres

SOLD



152 Juniper Hill Road NE
2294 SQ FT 3BR 3BA .56 Acres

SOLD



2011 Quail Run Drive NE
2083 SQ FT 3BR 2BA .24 Acres

SOLD



1036 Red Oaks Loop NE
2867 SQ FT 4BR 2.75BA .71 Acres

SOLD



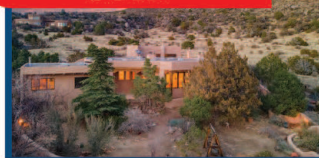
939 Bobcat Blvd. NE
3106 SQ FT 3BR 1.75BA .53 Acres

SOLD



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

SOLD



302 Spring Creek Place NE
3500 SQ FT 4BR 2.5BA 1.23 Acres

SOLD



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

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Wildflowers

Photos by Claudia Mitchel

With the late-winter snow and rains, this has been a particularly good spring for wildflowers. Claudia has captured a number of photos of these beautiful neighborhood volunteers. Enjoy!



Community Events Bulletin Board

These groups are 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.

Sandia Heights Artists has really grown since its inception twenty years ago. It began with six artists and now has a membership of almost fifty resident artists. As you go on the tour this year, you may meet some of the following new resident artists displaying their artistic efforts:

Patricia Apt—wood
Katie Thomas—mosaic, mixed media
Christine Swayden—watercolor
Michelle Williams—quilts
Shawn Turing—pottery
Claudia Mitchell—oil painting
Gerard DelMonte—wood

We do enjoy talking about our work, so do come on the tour September 9 and 10, 10:00–5:00.

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. It’s time to start thinking about submitting 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 previous 2023 editions of the *GRIT*. 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

Summer Solstice, June 21, 2023 8:57 AM MDT

