

Since 1994 - Our 21st Year Serving Bel-Air July 2015

There is Safety in Neighbors!



**Won't you join us?
You can now pay on-line at
bananm.org!**

BANA receives no outside funding and is totally supported through your membership donation. Memberships pay for the publication of this newsletter and all BANA sponsored events.

In addition to regular communication with City and government officials and general help with problem solving, here's what BANA does:

- 1. BEL-AIR NEWS** - our neighborhood newsletter, published by volunteers 3 times a year, hand-delivered by volunteers to the 1124 households in Bel-Air.
- 2. WEBSITE** at www.bananm.org and **EMAIL UPDATES** to members in between newsletters.
- 3. 5 NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN-UP DAYS** – May through September from 8 – 10 am at our park
- 4. MEMBER HOSPITALITY TABLE @ CLEAN-UP DAYS** – Stop by for a good cup of coffee, a treat and meet your neighbors.
- 5. PLANT AND GARDEN EXCHANGE** to coincide with each NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN UP DAY. Share plants or seedlings you don't need or just want to pass on. Houseplants and garden vegetables, too!
- 6. BANA PLANT WORLD MEMBERSHIP** available to all members. PLANT WORLD is the wholesale nursery that used to supply Rowland's. Just tell them you are a member of the Bel-Air Neighborhood Association. Have fun!
- 7. ANNUAL BEL-AIR NEIGHBORHOOD PARK PARTY** in July.

Please support the BANA Business Members who support our neighborhood. Thank you!

Albuquerque Tire, Inc	4215	Menaul NE
APT Camera Repair	4503	Menaul NE
Steve's Garage Doors	2838	Montclair Drive NE
The Print Stop	2641	San Mateo NE
Vortex Theater	2900	Carlisle NE

This is Your Copy of the

Bel-Air News

Published by the Bel-Air Neighborhood Assn
www.banaNM.org

**Mark your calendars!
2015 Neighborhood Events**

**3 MORE LEFT!
Saturday Bel-Air Clean-Up Days**

8 to 10 am Bel-Air Miramontes Park
July 18, August 15, Sept 19
FREE to members!

**Annual BANA Park Party
and Barbeque**
Saturday, July 25 6 to 8 pm

We will start setting up about 5 pm. Sometime between 5 pm and 6 pm, the ABQ Fire Department hopes to have an engine for the kids to discover and firemen to talk to.

Please bring a dish to share and come meet your neighbors!

BANA will provide:
hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers

community salad with fresh produce from neighborhood gardens

condiments, chips and drinks

and for dessert—
make your own strawberry shortcake!

**BANA Volunteer
Appreciation Coffee**
Saturday, October 10 8-9:30 am
Bel-Air Miramontes Park

Let's Talk Chicken!

Here's a quirky, fun thing you might not know about Albuquerque: Zoning laws allow you to have livestock in your backyard. Now, it may be wiser to skip the cows and pigs and consider chickens, which can be less work and less smell intensive.

Yes, chickens are relatively easy to keep, entertaining to watch, and help you make the best Huevos Rancheros ever. If your neighbors are skeptical, you could win them over with a gift of fresh delicious eggs. Chances are they will enjoy having chickens as neighbors.

So, how can you actually turn your backyard into a chicken habitat? Luckily, there are lots of chicken lovers around that will happily talk chicken with you and answer your questions. There are many great websites offering loads of information.

You can find a local chicken blog at dukecityfix.com/group/abqurbanchickens. A top favorite website is backyardchickens.com. They offer a wealth of information on how to set up and maintain your flock, and give tons of ideas on how to build a coop or upcycle one. Best part is they post lots of pictures!

In spring local feed stores sell locally raised chicks along with all the supplies you need. There are local poultry swaps all spring and summer, and chances are someone knows chickens at every grower's market in town. Also check out Wilber's Farm in Belen for chicks, info and supplies. Many urban chicken keepers are willing to give tours if you just ask nicely.

Here's some chicken facts to help you get crackin':

- Fifteen hens is the maximum number of chickens allowed in Albuquerque. You can have one rooster, if you dare.
- No special permit is required.
- You do not need a rooster to get great eggs and have happy girls.
- A hen lays an egg every 1-3 days. She will lay less in winter, or when it is extremely hot.

- Most hens begin laying at 5 to 6 months of age.
- Hens lay best between 1-3 years of age, but will usually continue to lay, just less regularly, all their lives.
- Each chicken needs about 10 square feet of space to remain happy.
- Most breeds of chickens do fine in Albuquerque winters as long as they protected from wind where they sleep.
- In hot weather, chickens must have shade. Always be kind to your girls.
- Chickens usually live 6-8 years if kept healthy, but can live much longer.
- Chickens are great composters. They will eat all kinds of fruit and vegetables, they love kitchen scraps except for citrus and onions.

One thing to keep in mind is chickens poop a lot! They require a good poop management plan. Aged chicken poop is great fertilizer, but you'll need a place to keep it for several months while it is aging. If you're a gardener, chicken poop can be your buddy.

Written by Gayle Wise. Gayle, and her husband Mark have raised chickens in Bel-Air for four years. If you're interested in having your own chickens and would like to see their coop, email Gayle at gaylemwise@gmail.com. Title your message, Bel-Air Chickens.

Backpack & school supply giveaway August 1 @ CFC

Christian Fellowship Church (CFC)
3901 Claremont Ave NE / Bel-Air
CFCAlbuquerque.com

Backpack/school supply giveaway August 1 -food and fellowship. Please call the church office@296-1040 for more information.

- Weekly Life groups, children's church, prayer service Wednesday at 6pm.
- School of the Holy Spirit 9:30am every Sunday .Sunday service 10:30am.

NOTE CFC has provided meeting space in their fellowship hall for the BANA Board and General Meetings since 1996.

Theatre Camp for Kids Starts July 20 @ the Vortex!

A 2 week Theatre Camp for children ages 8 - 14 beginning July 20. Classes are 9 - 4 M-F. The two-week class will culminate in a showcase on Saturday afternoon August 1.

Students will learn improvisation, mime, speech, make-up, costumes, mask making, character development, self-esteem, team work and other skills for the stage.

Taught by Arlette Morgan, formerly of Actor's Conservatory of the Southwest in Dallas TX, Ms Morgan studied Performance at North Carolina School of the Arts.

Cost is \$125 for the two-week program and **scholarships are available**. Children should bring a lunch. Snacks and beverages will be provided. For more information, please contact info@vortexabq.org. **Class is limited to 15 students, so call today!**

Super Apricots!

Back in season and bright as can be, these sweet fruits are plentiful and so delicious! Not just yummy and easy to prepare, apricots are so good for you.

Apricots have some unlikely cousins in their botanical family of drupes, including almonds, raspberries, olives, coffee and mangoes. Apricots' closer relatives are cherries and plums, all known for their single, hard pits.

Royal Blenheims are the apricot of choice around these parts--fragrant, juicy, or downright beautiful. Apricots growing in the sun's direct gaze are marked with freckles and a rosy blush, but even pale, somewhat firm fruit can be perfectly ripe since these are the only stone fruit to ripen from the inside out.

In the center of the pit of each apricot is a kernel. It's these kernels, rather than almonds, from which almond extract is made. Throughout apricot

season, save the pits in the freezer. Later, crack the shells with a hammer, remove the kernels, and roast them in the oven. Steep the kernels in vodka to make an almond flavored extract.

Apricots are delicious fresh, but there are many ways to prepare and preserve them. You can use them in pies, tarts, crisps, or to create sauces especially wonderful with fish. You can roast apricots sprinkled with brown sugar and drizzled in sweet wine, or put apricots on skewers with other fruit such as pineapple, brush with honey and grill them. Put apricots in the blender to make yummy juice or smoothies. Even try adding apricots to homemade salsa.

Here's an easy recipe for Apricot Crumble:

For the crumble topping:

- **3/4 cup all-purpose flour**
- **3/4 cup firmly packed brown sugar**
- **1/2 tsp. salt**
- **1/4 tsp. ground cinnamon**
- **8 Tbs. (1 stick) butter, room temperature, cut into chunks**

For the bottom layer:

- **5 cups pitted apricots, cut into chunks**
- **2 tsp. fresh lemon juice**
- **1/2 tsp. vanilla extract**
- **2 Tbs. flour**
- **1/3 cup sugar**

Directions:

Preheat oven to 400°F.

Butter a 9" pie dish, or 9" x 7" baking dish.

Topping: Stir together flour, brown sugar, salt and cinnamon. Cut in butter and mix until butter is evenly distributed and it clumps.

Fruit layer: In another bowl, stir together apricots, lemon juice and vanilla. Add flour and sugar. Stir to coat fruit evenly. Transfer to prepared baking dish and sprinkle topping evenly over the surface. Bake until fruit is bubbling and topping is golden, about 40 minutes. Serve warm. Great with ice cream. Serves 6-8 to 8.

One last note: An easy way to harvest apricots is to secure bird netting underneath the bottom branches, then just give the branches a little shake. Voila! The apricots fall off and collect in the netting.

Can you help out with newsletter delivery?

Your help is needed delivering to the following blocks. If you live on one of these blocks, please consider volunteering 20 minutes about 3 times a year to deliver this newsletter to your neighbors. Much appreciated.

2700, 2800 and 2900 blocks of Solano
2800 block of Aliso
Los Arboles
2900 block of Washington
2600, 2700, 2800 and 2900 blocks of Jefferson
2900 block of Madison
2900 block of Quincy
2800 and 2900 Sierra

Weed Season Is Here!

Warmer temperatures result in the growth of all sorts of vegetation, both wanted and unwanted.. Please remember it is your responsibility to maintain your property. *Weeds with a height or spread of more than four (4) inches are to be removed from these areas:*

- Within the front, rear and/or side yards of your property;
- Between your property line(s) and the middle of the alley adjacent to your property;



2015-2016 BANA Board Members :

Amy Henne	Barb Johnson	Jeanene Witt
Dana Berry	Hart Lewis	Tom Perez
1 vacancy		

Please contact your Board with concerns and ideas for a better neighborhood:

bana_nm@yahoo.com or www.banaNM.org

Bel-Air Neighborhood Association - 2015-2016 Annual Residential Membership

BANA receives no outside funding and is totally supported through membership donations. Your membership pays for the publication of the BEL-AIR NEWS and all BANA sponsored events.

**\$10 Annual Membership Donation per household
May 1, 2015 to April 30, 2016**



Please check here if you are renewing your membership.

Pay online at www.bananm.org or send a check payable to Bel-Air Neighborhood Association. Your cancelled check or money order duplicate is your receipt.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone# _____ E-Mail _____

Members receive neighborhood email updates between newsletters and your address will never be shared.

Please mail your completed form to:
Bel-Air Neighborhood Assn (BANA) P.O. Box 36568, Albuquerque, NM 87176