



North Albuquerque Acres Community Association

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President's Message

NAACA Neighbors,
Spring has arrived here in beautiful North Albuquerque Acres and I have some quick updates to share.

The Alameda Wash Project to block off the Alameda Wash area to traffic has been delayed but the contractor should start marking, then installing posts, cables and gates within the next couple of weeks.

NAACA Board Members have driven the roads in NAA and identified areas in need of repair. A complete list of road separation cracks, pot holes and locations with erosion, have been submitted to County Commissioner Benson and the County Public Works Department. We are requesting the County to come up with a Road Repair and Maintenance Plan for our NAA roads.

The \$1.73M Browning Roadway and Storm Drainage Capital Improvement plan submitted for approval by the State Legislation was vetoed by the Governor. The \$50M Spending Bill veto will possibly be discussed at an April 5th "Special Session". We will post on our website when more information is available.

NAACA is joining with Bernalillo County Waste Management, to have their Annual Spring Clean on Saturday, May 14, 2022, 8am-12 noon, at the Northeast corner of Paseo Del Norte and Eubank. ALL Bernalillo County neighbors are invited to participate!



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with
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ANNUAL
SPRING CLEAN

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PARTICIPATE

SATURDAY
MAY 14TH
8AM - NOON

NE corner of
Paseo Del Norte
&
Eubank

One Stop Disposal
Household, Yard, &
Hazardous Waste

(Cont. from page 1)

Dispose of Household, Yard, and Hazardous Waste at no charge. Please check our Website at [NAACA.info](http://www.NAACA.info) closer to the actual date for a more complete list of items that you can drop off.

PNM Update - We are happy to report that on March 14, 2022, the Honorable Denise Barela-Shepherd from the 2nd Judicial District Court, sent out her order and opinion and has denied PNM's Appeal. We will continue to keep you updated.

Best Regards,

David Neale
President, NAACA
Email: President@NAACA.info



Spring snow dusts the Sandias



**NAA
NEIGHBOR
SPOTLIGHT**

“BOB”

This is Bob from a nearby neighborhood. He is a lone volunteer who keeps PDN from Tramway to Browning free from trash! He says he spends 4 hours, 2 times a week, picking up trash, including garbage left from vehicle accidents! Thank you Bob!



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BOSQUE WILD: GUIDED NATURE WALK and THE RIO GRANDE

By Richard Shackley and Steve Shackley

The Middle Rio Grande Valley is a natural wonder that has something different to offer any time of day, and every season of the year. Along the banks of the Rio Grande lives one of the largest riparian cottonwood forests in the world. More commonly known as “The Bosque”, this extraordinary gem offers a quiet refuge away from the fast-paced world of Albuquerque city life.



The Rio Grande, in Spanish originally Río Bravo del Norte, along with the Colorado River is one of the two principal rivers in the North American Southwest. The Rio Grande begins in south-central Colorado and flows over 3,150 km (1,950 miles) to the Gulf of Mexico, passing through the length of New Mexico forming part of the U.S./Mexico border. The fourth longest river in the United States, coursing through the U.S. and Mexican states of Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, Chihuahua, Coahuila, Nuevo León, and Tamaulipas, covers over 472,000 km² (182,240 sq. miles). The current Middle Rio Grande reach is only about 4 million years old, and has cut into the Rio Grande rift (Shackley 2021).

Gazing Into the Bosque

Photo by Liam DeBonis at the Daily Lobo

The current Middle Rio Grande reach is The river above Española (Río Abajo) may be slightly older based on the dating of the volcanic sediments in the Rio Grande Gorge. The course of the river was wildly variable and flooded frequently until Cochiti dam, one of the largest earthen dams in the world, was constructed in the 1970s, in part to prevent flooding downstream in Albuquerque. From Paleoindian times (ca. 14,000 years ago) through the Pueblo period, the obsidian eroding into the river from obsidian sources in the Jemez Mountains was used to produce stone tools including projectile points, and cutting and scraping tools. Obsidian nodules can still be found in Quaternary sediments along the river.

The Rio Grande, mets'ichi chena, Keresan "Big River"; posoge , Tewa, "Big River"; paslápaane, Tiwa, "Big River"; hañapakwa, Towa, "Great Waters", has literally been the lifeblood for pueblo people along the river for more than a thousand years, and an important water and food resource since Paleoindian times, not to mention a stone raw material source.

Plant life abounds along the Rio Grande. The river is the foundation but the Rio Grande Cottonwood is the anchor of the Bosque, and other trees and shrubs live scattered throughout the landscape. Immigrant species like Russian Olive, Saltcedar (Tamarix), Siberian Elm, and Russian Thistle (Tumbleweed); and native Goodding and Peachleaf willows, New Mexico olive, Coyote Willow, False Indigo, Seepwillow and various grasses and aquatic plants provide a seasonally ever-changing habitat and hideaway for the many critters found throughout the Bosque ecosystem.

Albuquerque's Bosque is a home for up to 250 species of birds from the majestic Sandhill Crane (pictured), to the mini powerhouse Black-Chinned Hummingbird. The Bosque harbors a wide variety of mammals: the reclusive Porcupine (pictured), often observed slumbering in the Cottonwood canopy; the skittish Coyote; and even an occasional Beaver leaving trailing wakes on the River's surface. The list of critters that make the Bosque their home is much too long to be included in this short article. You'll just have to explore this riverine forest yourself to see the wide variety of flora and fauna...so mark your calendars and join your fellow explorers on the Bosque Wild: Guided Nature Walk.

The Bosque Wild: Guided Nature Walk leaves the Open Space Visitor Center at 8am on the first Sunday of every month. For those of you who have yet to visit the Visitor Center, it is located at 6500 Coors NW, Albuquerque, NM 87120, just south of Paseo Del Norte. Be prepared to explore the Bosque for 2 to 3 hours over moderately strenuous trails but with frequent stops along the way to observe the sights and sounds. Please leave your pets at home. They can often be a distraction and can scare the forest critters away.

To make reservations for the walk, call 505-768-4950



Contributed by Bill Rowland

Spring is here and if you're a beekeeper and own beehives you are about to get very busy. The hives will need to be attended to weekly to make sure each bee group of the hive is doing their jobs. Each colony of bees include a queen bee, drone bees and the female worker bees. The honey bees are a distinct animal in terms of looks. Their colors are red and brown with bands of black and orange around their abdomen. The two female groups are composed of the queen bee and the female worker bees. There is only one queen per hive. The queen is the only female that can produce a chemical scent that helps regulate the unity of the colony. She is also the only productive female in the hive. Her job is to reproduce. She lays her eggs on a continual base throughout the year, sometime up to 1,000 per day. The female worker bees, which are sterile, perform the work which includes protecting the colony. The male bees are called drones. The drones and the queen bee put all their energies into reproduction.

As fall approaches the drones are no longer needed so most of them will die off. Each group of the bees has their own job to do which allows the hive to stay healthy and flourish. If one of the three groups I have talked about does not do their job, the hive will no longer thrive.

(If you're having trouble with a swarm of honey bees, Bill can help ! He is on the NAACA Board of Directors and can be reached directly at (505) 228-5541)



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Geology of the Rio Grande

Contributed by Steve Shackley - Director, Geoarchaeological XRF Laboratory

All of us in the Middle Rio Grande valley are intimately tied to the river in a variety of ways. The river has been the lifeblood for humans for 14,000 years, and particularly after corn (maize), beans, squash, and cotton became staples beginning about 2000 years ago.

The Rio Grande is a relatively recent development, mainly created during the Pliocene probably originating in its current form about 4-5 Ma (million years ago) based on the timing of the development of the drainage that exited the Albuquerque basin around this time. It is evidently less clear when the Rio Grande was established upstream above what is now Española, but based on the dating of the volcanic sediments in the Rio Grande gorge north of Taos, probably not much earlier.

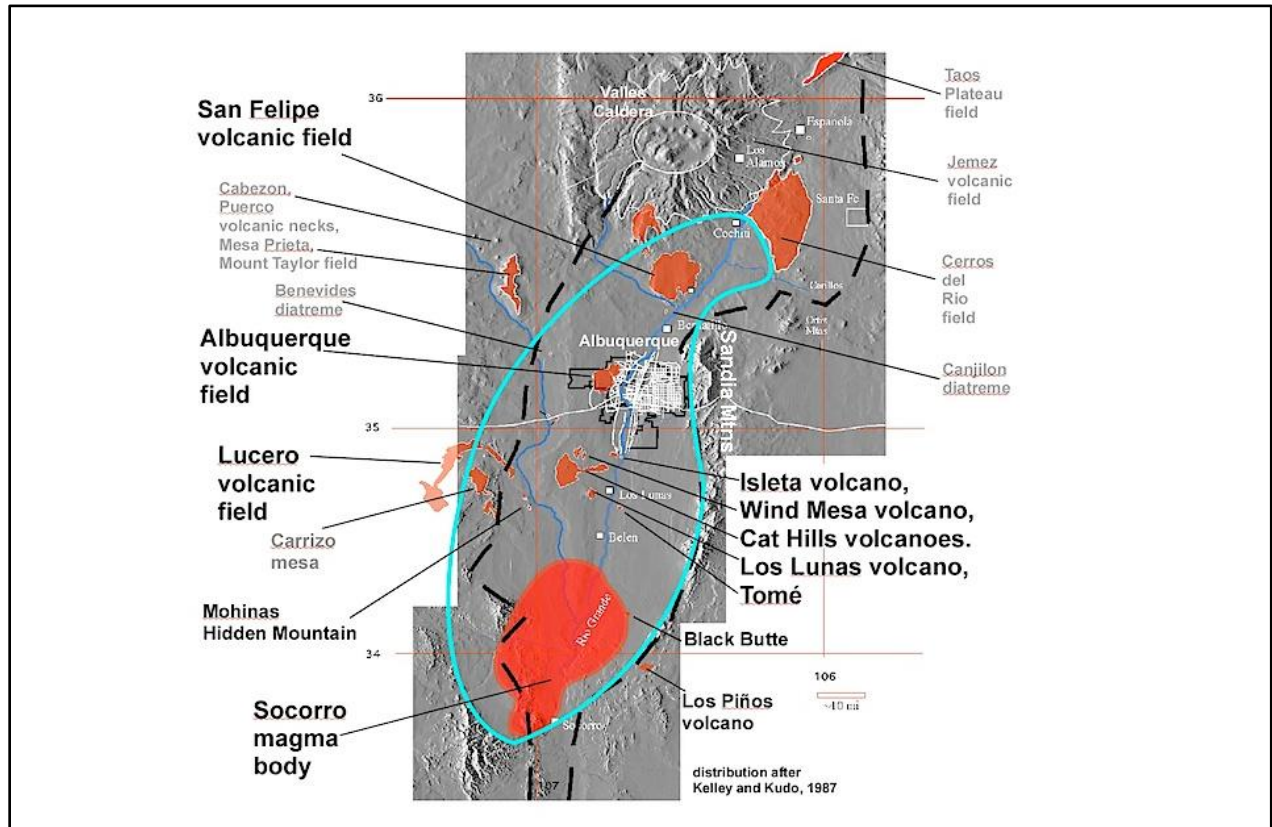
The Rio Grande, in Spanish originally *Río Bravo del Norte*, along with the Colorado River is one of the two principal rivers in the North American Southwest. The Rio Grande begins in south-central Colorado and flows over 3,150 km (1,950 miles) to the Gulf of Mexico, passing through the length of New Mexico forming part of the U.S./Mexico border. The fourth largest river in the United States, coursing through the U.S. and Mexican states of Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, Chihuahua, Coahuila, Nuevo León, and Tamaulipas, covers over 472,000 km² (182,240 sq. miles). The course of the river was wildly variable and flooded frequently until Cochiti dam, one of the largest earthen dams in the world, was constructed in the 1970s, in part to prevent flooding downstream in Albuquerque. Near Albuquerque, the river flows along a 2.5-4 mile wide floodplain sloping gently southward at about four feet per mile. The elevation of the river bed west of downtown is at 4,950 feet above sea level.

West of the river, the land rises in gradual slopes to a high mesa between 5,600 and 6000 feet in elevation, and known geologically as the Llano de Albuquerque, narrowing southward (see image). Between 190,000 and 220,000 years ago a fissure was produced above a magma chamber creating the basalt lava escarpment that we can see from North Albuquerque Acres, known as the Albuquerque Volcanoes or Albuquerque Volcanic Field, part of Petroglyph National Monument (<https://nmsnaturalhistory.org/volcanoes/albuquerque-basin-volcanic-field>)

East of the floodplain, where we live in North Albuquerque Acres, the land rises through a grassland piedmont for about eight miles to an elevation of slightly over 6000 feet in elevation at the base of the Sandia Mountains. The Albuquerque basin proper began forming through rifting about 30 Ma when the earth's crust began stretching east to west - the Rio Grande Rift. Crustal blocks in the center began to drop as the surrounding area east began to uplift sediments 1453±12 Ma (Sandia granite/granodiorite) and 300 million year old limestone, the Madera limestone, that is the remnant of corals from the large North American inland sea of the Pennsylvanian. These are major rock types that you can find in your yard and in the arroyos eroding out of the Sandias. So, the Rio Grande rather than cutting through the Albuquerque basin, has been slowly re-filling it, although with Cochiti Dam the sediment fill is now severely curtailed.

From Paleoindian times (ca. 14,000 years ago) through the Pueblo period, the obsidian eroding into the river from obsidian sources in the Jemez Mountains was used to produce stone tools including projectile points, and cutting and scraping tools. Obsidian nodules can still be found in Quaternary sediments along the river. The Quaternary Sunport surface that the airport was built upon and to the south are a combination of river sediments and those eroding off the Sandias. Within these sediments, particularly around Tijeras Arroyo, the major drainage off the Sandias, obsidian nodules can be found as large as your fist. The obsidian nodules and the tools produced from them have been found in archaeological sites throughout the basin, such as Tijeras Pueblo in Tijeras, Kuaua (Coronado Historic Site) in Bernalillo, Piedras Marcadas near the Open Space Visitor Center off Coors, under siege by Coronado during the winter of 1540-41, and Pottery Mound south of Albuquerque.

The Rio Grande and the Albuquerque Basin has been continually evolving, and with climate change will continue to evolve in ever dynamic ways. It certainly defines our great city and county.



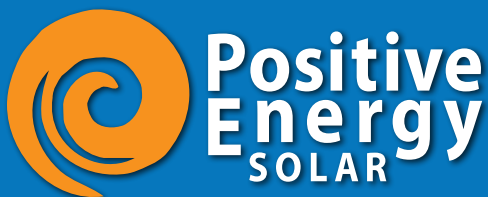
The Albuquerque Basin and surrounding volcanic and topographic features.

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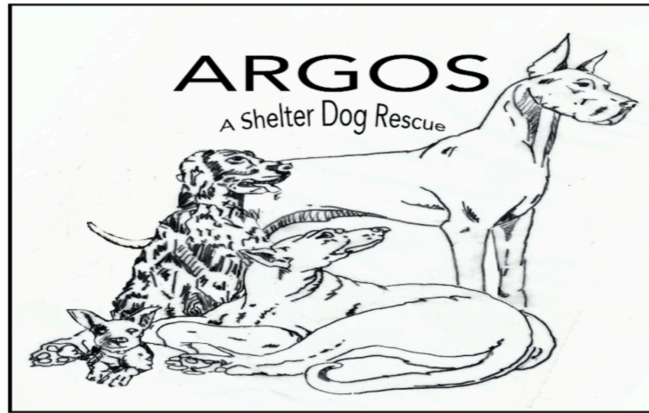
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ArgosDogRescue.org

ARGOS is a Shelter Dog Rescue whose mission is to rescue, provide medical care, and successfully re-home dogs at risk of being euthanized in New Mexico shelters. They even have a hospice program. They work closely with other rescue organizations, shelters, vet clinics and related professionals, also helping to provide much needed education to the public.

Argos, an all-volunteer organization with no physical facility, is a non-profit charitable 501(c)3 foster-based rescue, managed by a Board of Directors, several who are our very own North Albuquerque Acres residents, including Founder and Director Kim Domina. 100% of all funds received go directly to the care of their rescue dogs and have been funded completely by private donations, fundraisers and adoptions. Vet bills alone were close to \$90,000. last year. The work of the rescue from intake, foster, transportation, adoption, fundraising, and social media, is done by a group of volunteers dedicated to finding loving forever homes for the rescue dogs.

The name Argos comes from the faithful dog of Odysseus in Homer's Odyssey, a symbol of unconditional loyalty.

Giving Saves Lives! Support is vital to make a lasting difference to animals' lives. Tax deductible gifts, with all funds received going directly to the care of rescue dogs, help to save animals from shelters and give them the chance at a loving home that they deserve. Help be their voice and please consider making a donation of any amount today!



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Breezy
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Donations can be mailed to: Argos Dog Rescue
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Contact Argos at: ArgosRescueDogs@gmail.com

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Greg & Dana Fotio

NAA neighbors & recent Argos adopters ❤️❤️

Planter Boxes

Contributed by Dick Rifkind

Indoor planters or pots have similar requirements, so I'll talk about both pretty much in the same breath.

The most important goal of any planter is perfect drainage. If you live in an area where soil is sandy or loamy and drains quickly, there really isn't any need for a raised bed other than that you don't have to bend over to tend it. If you do want or need raised beds or planters, the soil you use must be coarse and very well drained. Never use garden soil in a planter of any type! The reason is that garden soil can dry out and become hydrophobic and everything in it will die. A great example of this is a potted plant that, when you water it the water immediately runs out the bottom of the pot. What is going on here is that the root ball has dried out and won't absorb water readily--it becomes hydrophobic. If you have a plant that does this the best remedy is to soak the plant, pot and all, in a bucket or tub to where the water comes at least two thirds of the way up the sides of the pot. You'll see that the pot floats so you'll need to put a rock on it to hold it down and leave it in the water until it no longer floats. While it's in the water take a skewer or similar and make several holes in the root ball to help get the water well into the whole thing. When you remove the pot, work some coarse orchid mix or perlite into the holes and start watering regularly. A good test is to put your finger into the soil. If, after pushing your finger in to the first knuckle, there is no damp soil in your fingertip, it's time to water. You can fertilize with whatever you like, but don't go overboard on high nitrogen fertilizers like regular Miracle grow. Miracle Grow for tomatoes works well for most plants as it has extra phosphorous (the middle number) that will encourage fruiting and flowering. I like Osmocote 14-14-14. It releases slowly over a period of three to six months and won't burn the plants. What's even worse than letting plants dry out is overwatering.

Keeping a plant too wet results in rot and once this sets in there's no saving it. This is why drainage is so important. You want a medium that stays damp but never soggy. Pots should always have a hole in the bottom and always remove the foil sleeve that some florist items come in. In the case of a planter box, be sure there are plenty of holes along the bottom. So what should you use? A student of mine once asked what the three most important things are for a garden. She answered her own question saying, "1. compost, 2. compost, 3. more compost". Truer words were never spoken! You just can't have too much compost! It drains well, holds moisture and is full of nutrients. Unless you live in an apartment you should surely be able to find a ten square foot piece of ground on which to start a compost pile. It doesn't have to be a fancy thing. Just pile up coffee grounds tea bags, clippings, almost anything organic! If you use old fruit or peelings it's a good idea to give them a light spray of insecticide for flying insects so you don't start your own fruit fly breeding program. On the other hand, you do want bugs in the compost as they help the process and help aerate it. Caution!!! if you use weed and feed on your lawn never put the clippings in your compost pile! Be sure to keep the pile damp and put some high nitrogen fertilizer like for lawns on it to help speed decomposition. Commercial bagged compost is okay but not as good as the real thing. You can buy potting soil and that will work okay, but I advise supplementing it with plenty of compost. Also, perlite is the white little rocks you see in most potting mixes. This helps keep oxygen in the soil which is very important, and also helps drainage. Always keep a bag of this on hand and add it to your planting mix. You really can't have too much of this so long as it's not over about 5% of the total mix.

So if you have a big raised planter you're obviously not going to soak it in a bucket! But everything I've said goes for a big planter as well except for the bucket part. Once the soil has thawed, take a shovel or a fork and mix it up and break it up until you can easily put your hand into it. If it's full to the top discard about a third of the soil and replace it with compost or planting mix and extra perlite and mix it up about

(Cont. from page 9)

a third of the soil and replace it with compost or planting mix and extra perlite and mix it up very thoroughly. If you feel the mix is still a little too dense get a bag or two of orchid mix which is basically fine bark and mix it in. The test of any planting medium including your garden soil is something called friability. Soil is "fry" if, when you dampen it and squeeze it into a ball, a light touch makes it fall apart. Loamy soil is always very fry.

Once you start planting resist the urge to pack the soil around the plant real tight. Firm the soil enough to where the plant will stand upright and put a little depression around it to hold water. Select a fertilizer based on what you want from the plant. If you are planting leafy veggies, stay away from very much phosphorous as this will make the plants "bolt into bloom" so the numbers should be around 10-3-10 or so. on the other hand for fruits like tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, squash, etc. you'll want to keep the phosphorous higher like 10-10-10 or even a middle number of 15. Root plants like carrots, radishes, beets etc. do best with the same mix as leafy plants though, if you can find it, something with a slightly higher third number (potassium) is best. So there you have it! just don't rush and make sure things have thawed out before digging in!



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What's Cooking in Your Neighbor's Kitchen?

Contributed by Peg Valencia

Calabacitas

- 1 small onion, chopped
 - 2 cloves garlic, minced
 - 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
 - 1 medium zucchini, 1/4" cubed
 - 1 medium yellow summer squash, 1/4" cubed
 - 1 C corn kernels (frozen-defrosted or fresh-roasted)
 - 1 C roasted green chile, chopped
 - 2 teaspoons salt
 - 1 tablespoon ground green Chile
 - 5 oz. evaporated milk
 - 3/4 C cheese, shredded Cheddar or Monterey Jack
- **Medium heat, in large skillet sauté onion, garlic in oil until transparent.**
- **Add squash, salt, pepper, ground green chile and continue to cook for 5 minutes with lid on.**
- **Add chopped green chile and corn - mix well.**
- **Pour milk over and sprinkle cheese on top, cover with lid and cook on low for 5 minutes.**
- **Open lid and stir to fully incorporate, taste for salt.**



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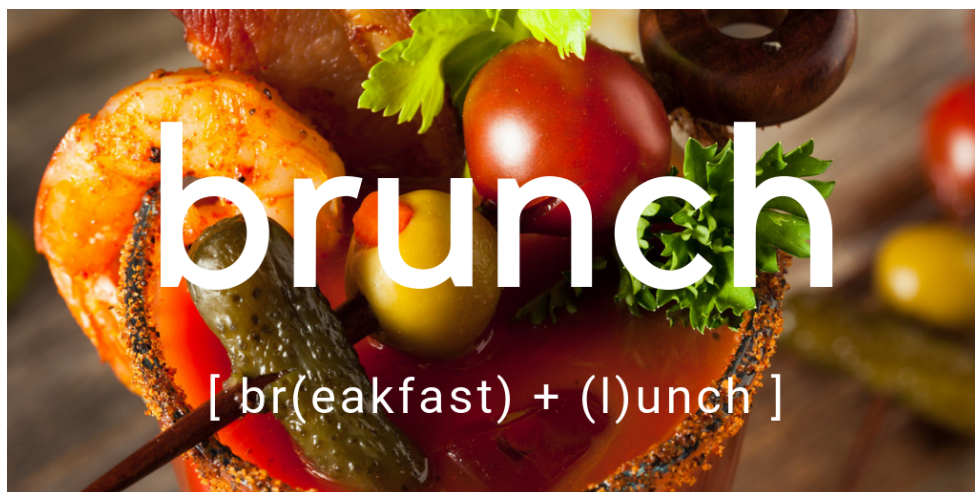
Egg and Spinach Brunch Casserole

Serves 8-12

Ingredients:

2 packs (16oz) frozen chopped spinach--thawed and well drained (squeezed)
1 chopped onion
Garlic minced (4-6 cloves)
1 stick butter
6 eggs
20 oz. ricotta or cottage cheese (whole milk makes it more creamy)
2 Tablespoons flour
1 pound shredded cheese (your choice)
1/2 cup milk
1/4 cup minced Italian parsley
Salt, Pepper, Oregano, Paprika to taste
Nutmeg, Red Pepper Flakes (-pinch)

Preheat oven to 350, Lightly grease a 13x9 baking dish. Saute onion and garlic in a few Tbls of butter. When transparent, add rest of butter and top with flour making a roux (to thicken)...make sure to take off heat when color is golden.(no scorching)
Mix: whipped eggs, milk with ricotta and other cheese (save a handful for top). Next, add all seasonings. Then, add spinach. Lastly, add onion/garlic roux and mix well...
Pour into casserole dish and sprinkle last handful of cheese. Cover with foil and bake for 1 hour removing foil last 20 minutes. Cool 30-60 minutes prior to cutting.





NAACA President David Neale with Det. Nicholas Aragón, BCSO Action Team, and Dep. Sergio Cordova and Sgt. Chris Starr, BCSO MCAT unit



A special thank you to Laura Kuehn from APD Crime Prevention for a very informative & helpful presentation for NAA neighbors.

Thank you to Angie Casias, APD Crime Prevention Specialist, and the officers from the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office who were there to contribute their expertise and answer many of our questions. We sincerely appreciate all they do and their support for our community!

To everyone who attended, there is much to be done proactively to come together to make NAA a safer community. We had a great turnout and hope to arrange for more crime prevention events in the near future.

For those who weren't able to join us, the handout given from the crime prevention specialist is on our website at:

NAACA.info

(Go to the menu and click on "resources" tab. It's added at the bottom of the page.)

Everyone is encouraged to look it over. Even basic common sense precautions are important to practice. **STAY SAFE!!**

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Your NAACA Board of Directors

What we do:

- Along with individual duties for each volunteer director, we attend monthly board meetings where we discuss and address items affecting our neighborhood
- Organize special events for our neighborhood including an Annual Spring Clean
- Respond to questions and concerns by our neighbors
- Host annual meetings with updates and guest speakers for general membership to attend
- Communicate with NAACA members with updates and announcements
- Serve as personal liaisons between neighbors and elected officials
- Manage our website at NAACA.info with information that is accurate, vetted, and focused on our mission of serving residents “by working to preserve and enhance the semi-rural character and lifestyle of the NAA community.”

How can you support your neighborhood?

- Check out our website at NAACA.info
- Contact us if you have a question or are requesting help for a neighborhood-related issue
- Stay current with your NAACA Membership dues
- Encourage your neighbors to join

Why is membership so important?

- A large and active community association gives our neighborhood a stronger voice to influence change and protections for our neighborhood and our sector plan
- Current members receive all updates and newsletters

About us:

Your NAACA Board is a made up of volunteer neighbors with diverse backgrounds, who love our community and understand that we are all connected as NAA neighbors. When there is a park in the neighborhood that receives upgrades, that benefits all of us. When we have roads with poor drainage and potholes, it affects more than just the neighbors living on that street. When illegal dumping is overlooked in one arroyo or empty lot, it invites other illegal dumping to occur.

Please consider getting involved by serving on the NAACA Board.

Serving our community and neighborhood is especially rewarding while learning about issues that can greatly impact this amazing place we call home.

We are currently looking for a new Treasurer. 🙄🙄

Our current Treasurer, Len Bugge, has served on the board for many many years and is ready to retire.

Treasurer’s duties include the following:

- Maintain accounting records and reconcile bank account each month
- Prepare a Treasurer’s Report and present at NAACA Board Meetings
- Prepare and file IRS Form 990N, annual informational return
- Deposit checks for membership dues and advertiser payments
- Pay bills as needed
- Attend monthly NAACA Board Meetings

PLEASE CONTINUE TO WATCH FOR AND REPORT ILLEGAL DUMPING IN NAA
(See Resource Link at NAACA.info)

Bernalillo County Planning & Development Services Department
505-314-0310

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311

State of New Mexico
866-428-6535

<https://www.bernco.gov/planning/lets-talk-trash/>



We are your neighbors, volunteering on your behalf,
for our beautiful North Albuquerque Acres neighborhood.

We welcome community
suggestions and encourage your participation.

Please feel free to email any of the NAACA board members
with your interests or concerns.

NAACA is communicating via electronic mail. Please send any
updated email address information to: membership@naaca.info



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- Business card (3.5"x2") – \$55
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- Half page (7.5"x4.75") – \$170
- Full page (7.5"x10.5") – \$300

Sizes are approximate.

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*

V.P.
Steve Shackley
510-393-3931
shackley@berkeley.edu

*

Treasurer
Len Buggé
505-463-1998
lbugge40@gmail.com

*

Director at Large (North)
Bill Rowland
shystreaker4@yahoo.com

*

Director at Large (South)
Amber Logan
alogan7778@gmail.com

*

Recording/Membership Secretary
Peg Valencia
Membership@NAACA.info

*

Communications/Newsletter Secretary
Bernadette Torres-Olivares
Communications@NAACA.info

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www.NAACA.info

North Albuquerque Acres Community Association

NAACA

11003 Anaheim Avenue NE

Albuquerque, NM 87122

NAACA.info



Join us: Membership@NAACA.info