

Sierra Vista Visions

July 16, 2026

July Birthdays still left	
Caleb Taylor	7/19
James Kaminski	7/20
Alexandria Martin	7/25
Evelyn Torres	7/28
Virginia Barnett	7/28
July Anniversaries	
Tucker Janes & Hannah Flake	7/15
Jared & Fae Torres	7/31
August Birthdays	
Mila Aristimuno	8/8
Nathan Stuhrr	8/9
Evie Hansen	8/20
Joe Aldrich	8-23
Samuel Rodman	8/26
Karen Larison	8/27
Stuart Albonico	8/30

If you have birthdays or anniversaries you would like to have listed text Jan Montana at 714-724-6991.

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Great American Campout & Movie In the Meadow

We had about 30 people attend. Kids played before the movie while adults talked casually with neighbors. We had toss the beanbag games for the kiddos before dark arrived and the movie began. Thank you, Jim Kiminski, for volunteering every year to present the “Movie in the Meadow.” Jim brings and sets up the projection equipment. His kids picked the movie, “Without a Paddle.” Dale Hall ran electricity from his house to the movie equipment. The SVENA board paid for the porta-potty, bought the supplies for smores. Brian Gallegos brought his Solo stove and wood for roasting marshmallows and making smores. A few neighbors helped with the cleanup. All in all a great evening!

No families camped this year, probably because of the unusual amount of bear activity.



SVENA Board Member Changes

"Hi, Wonderful Neighbors!

I, Priscilla Matlack, will be retiring from the SVENA Board on September 13, 2026. I have had the honor and pleasure to have served on the board for 12 years, 9 of them as President. During that time, I've learned so much, made new friends, had many wonderful times, and the Board has added several more social events for all of us to enjoy. I'll still be around to help in any way I can.

Thank you to all of our neighbors who have been on the SVENA Board, the SVMMDA Board, and helped with our Social Events committees. You have made a huge positive difference in helping to make this a really wonderful place to live! Thanks to all of you!

Now, we need more involvement from more of our residents, please. Most of those who have been involved have been the same individuals or couples down through the years, with two joining in recently. These are all volunteer positions.

SVENA meetings are held once every other month on a Monday evening and last about an hour and 15 minutes. That Board has 5-7 elected people, but everyone is welcome to attend. Each Social Event needs a chairperson and volunteers to help. They do not need to be the same people each time, so the work can be spread out among several people.

Please participate! SVENA needs new people to become involved to keep all of our activities going! If we have no volunteers there will be no event(s). If you have any questions or would like to get involved, please contact SVENA at svena.nm@gmail.com. Thanks!

Sincerely,
Priscilla Matlack, SVENA President "

Stacy Adams and Kay Peterson also retired from the board's Welcoming Committee. The SVENA board desperately needs new board members to do the planning for neighborhood social activities. If you are not into enforcing anything that's fine. We have no enforcement authority or duties because SVENA is not a homeowner's association, it is a social neighborhood association. We don't even do anything about barking dogs. We just build community by planning social activities and keeping neighbors informed via emails when anything comes up that people need to know about.

We need a new generation of volunteers to make SVENA neighborhood activities what YOU want them to be. You don't even have to be a board member to keep up to date with what's happening or volunteer to help with activities. Even working on one social activity a year will help. For example, Kay Peterson is not a board member but attends most of the board meetings and volunteers to do things that need to be done.

Our neighborhood is unusual because we have neighborhood activities and traditions that help make us a community instead of just isolated homes. This is worth saving.

Please plan to attend the SVENA annual meeting and volunteer to be on the SVENA board to keep neighborhood social activities going for the kids and adults. We vote on SVENA board members at the annual SVENA meeting. To put your name on the ballot, send an email to svena.nm@gmail.com. You can also write in names when you vote. Each family gets one vote. An adult family member must be present at the annual meeting to vote. We vote for board members without specifying who will be president, vice president, treasurer, etc. People voted onto the board will volunteer for and be accepted by board vote for those positions at the next meeting after the annual meeting. No other decisions are made at the annual meeting. We just recap what we have done in the past year, what we plan to do next year, take suggestions, and hold the vote for board members.

The 2026 Annual SVENA Board Meeting will be held on Sunday, September 13th at 12:30 pm in Milly's Meadow. The Annual Neighborhood Picnic follows at 1pm.

Not Getting Neighborhood Communications?

Many neighbors have been complaining that they are not getting the email communications sent out by either SVMDA the water board, or SVENA the social activities board. Both boards have been investigating. We believe this is an email problem that only the individual people in the neighborhood can solve, although occasionally the boards may have your email address missing from their mailing lists.

There are two main causes. The easiest one is to be sure to let both boards know your correct email address, especially when your email address changes. Send your email address to svena.nm@gmail.com and to svmdaadmin@svmda.com.

The more serious problem that causes more people to miss out on communications from the neighborhood is how you configure your email program to kick out spam mail. This differs by which email program you use. Gmail will accept incoming mail from anybody unless you put them on a reject list. Many of the other email programs reject mail from everybody unless you put them on an approved list. The terminology of what these lists are called varies by email program.

Some of the missing communications happen because you used to get water related email from Rhonda's personal email account at gr8mtngirl, but she is now using the official svmdaadmin@svmda.com account after briefly testing out a Microsoft address. You used to get the newsletter from Karen Larison's personal email address, but now it comes from the official svena.nm@gmail.com. **You will not get water related emails unless you accept mail from svmdaadmin@svmda.com. You will not get SVENA emails, including the newsletter, unless you accept mail from svena.nm@gmail.com.**

For more complex email problems please also put SVENA at svena.nm@gmail.com and SVMDA at svmdaadmin@svmda.com in your cell phone's address book and keep that address list synched with your laptop or desktop computer's email program.

Your neighbors may not be getting our newsletter or emails. Please ask when you encounter them if they are having problems getting neighborhood communications. If they are, let them know the fixes in spam processing, or forward this newsletter to them so they can read it for themselves.

Neighborhood Chat

We have a neighborhood chat that everyone can use. This is how neighbors have been asking questions and making comments about the unusual bear activity. We encourage you to please sign up for the chat if you haven't yet. It's the fastest way to warn people of any danger, to get help, or to give and get recommendations about local businesses. You can look at previous recommendations by category. You can send and receive neighborhood chats via Sierra-Vista-Chat@groups.io by using email.

To subscribe, email Sierra-Vista-Chat+subscribe@groups.io and follow the instructions that will be mailed to you. Once you are signed up you will automatically get chats from only our neighborhood in your email inbox.

To unsubscribe, email Sierra-Vista-Chat+unsubscribe@groups.io

For support, send email to our neighbor who set up the chat, marcus.albonico@gmail.com

Get Some Communications in the new Neighborhood Web Site (See page 9)

2026 Scheduled Events in Milly's Meadow

August	
Cancelled	National Night Out on August 4 th .
	Bernalillo County is not sponsoring National Night Out this year although it is still happening other places around the nation. Therefore National Night out for our neighborhood is cancelled. In the past the neighborhood has had a great time meeting our local first responders, who often brought fire trucks and a police dog for our kids. They loved our desserts and many said we were their favorite neighborhood to visit on National Night Out. We hope to participate next year.
September	
Sunday the 13 th	Annual Neighborhood Picnic and SVENA Annual Meeting & Election of Board
	12:30 SVENA Annual Meeting with election of new Board Members in Milly's Meadow. 1pm Annual Picnic. The SVENA board will provide hot dogs and hamburgers. Joseph Barnett, SVENA Treasurer, will bring his grill. Please bring side dishes and desserts to share. We will set up some games for children.
Sunday the 20 th	Arts and Crafts Fair at Milly's Meadow from noon – 5 pm
	This year the SVENA board is holding our neighborhood Arts and Crafts Fair to coincide with the first Sunday of the Turquoise Trail Studio Tour. The tour takes place Saturday 9/19 and Sunday 9/20, and also the following weekend on 9/26-27. We will have a sign down on N 14. If it rains on Sunday the 20 th we will do Sunday the 27 th instead.
October	
Saturday/Sunday the 17 th & 18 th	Neighborhood Yard Sale 8am -2 pm We will have signs on N14 and signs or balloons for each home that wants them.
November	No neighborhood social events.
December	
Saturday the 19 th	Festival of Trees at Milly's Meadow 5 pm - 7 pm
	The SVENA board will provide hot chocolate and hot cider, and probably a Solo stove with firewood for warmth. This year we will have a neighborhood tree that everyone can hang ornaments and solar lights on if they don't want to decorate an entire tree. Anyone can still do a family tree if they want. Decorating starts the day after Thanksgiving.
Date TBD	Christmas Caroling
	Julie Hall leads a group of volunteer singers who stop and sing outside the homes of people who have their porch or outside light on.

New Water Line Project Status

We are hoping construction can begin in late August. We opened bids and we are still in the process of evaluating them.

Our timeline until new distribution lines are completed is approximately 2.5 years, depending on the amount of rock that needs to be excavated and on the weather.

Note: See the last page of this newsletter to find out how to get your water bill free by email while still paying it free by check or from your bank's bill pay function.

Safety Concerns – Bears and Wildfire

Bears

We have been having unusual amounts of bear activity because of a lack of berries and other natural food caused by the drought, and because of construction higher on the Sandias where bears usually hang out. We need to take extra measures not to leave unnatural food sources out where the bears can get to them.

Bears will continue to be attracted to our neighborhood and get into garbage unless we keep our garbage cans locked up inside our garage except for on garbage pickup day. **Only put garbage cans curbside for pickup on Tuesday morning, never on Monday night.** I know for some people it means getting up early Tuesday, but we invite trouble with bears if we leave garbage out where they can get to it. Also please, please **put your birdfeeders inside before sunset every day** We are effectively creating an attractive nuisance with our garbage cans and birdfeeders at a time when bear's normal food sources are running unusually low.

Here is an official brochure put out by NM Fish and Wildlife about [Living With Bears](https://read.dgf.nm.gov/hubfs/Keeping-Bears-Alive-and-You-Safe%.pdf) <https://read.dgf.nm.gov/hubfs/Keeping-Bears-Alive-and-You-Safe%.pdf>. Another good source is Bearwise (Information You Can Trust. Solutions That Work. Helping People, Businesses and Communities Coexist with Bears) t <https://bearwise.org/>.

Wildfire

From Ruben Montana, SVENA board member and head of the Wildfire Committee, and SVMDA Vice President.

"Hello SVENA residents. Summer is upon us and so is the heat. At this time of the season, Jan and I felt it would be wise for us to brush up on wildfire preparedness in the event of a close proximity wildfire. One helpful publication is the "Ready Set Go" guide, which can be reviewed at [Ready, Set, Go!](#) Another helpful resource is the Evacuation Workbook, "**Are You Ready?**" We have several of these guides available and would be happy to drop by and give you one. Also, "**Watch Duty**" is an excellent free app for the location, acreage, and containment of fires in our state.

The upcoming Monsoon Season is here and we're hoping for better-than-average rainfall. However, with this comes lightning. If you hear thunder, remain inside your home or other shelter. At this altitude, it can be frightening. Let's enjoy this New Mexico summer and always be wildfire vigilant. As always, feel free to give us a call (Ruben: 714-402-5952 or Jan: 714 724-6991) your neighbors, for any concerns, comments or questions.

**How to Reserve Milly's Meadow for Family or Group Events**

Neighbors can reserve Milly's Meadow for events such as weddings, birthday parties, graduation parties, reunions, etc. There is no charge. Whoever is holding the event becomes the responsible person and must put a sign on the gates and be there for the duration of the event and cleanup. To reserve an event please email svena.nm@gmail.com and put "Milly's Meadow Event" in the subject line. Give the date and time of your event, the type of event it is, which part of Milly's Meadow you would like to reserve, your name, address, and phone number. For more details see your SVENA Welcome Packet.

The other parts of Milly's Meadow remain open for the routine use of our residents during reserved events. Please be considerate and respect the reserved activity going on in one part of Milly's Meadow.

Scheduled SVENA events are advertised in advance in the neighborhood newsletter Sierra Vista Visions, which is emailed to all residents. Upcoming events are also posted on the bulletin board in the meadow and notifications are sent to your email. See page 4 if you are not getting neighborhood emails.

See a scheduled SVENA event happening you didn't know about?

If you are walking by Milly's Meadow and see a scheduled SVENA event that you didn't know about, feel welcome to walk in on the spur of the moment and find out what is going on.

New Neighborhood Website

Dale Hall has created a website for SVMDA, which is our water system. This web site also has courtesy links to SVENA newsletters and other neighborhood communications and information.



Dale says “The water board has a new website at <https://svmدا.com> that has useful links to things such as how to keep track of your water usage and be alerted if there are leaks past your water meter. Scroll down the page and take a look at the frequently asked questions to see additional information about billing, available documents, and construction details.”

Track your water usage and get leak alerts via the free EyeOnWater App

Homeowners can install the free EyeOnWater app on their cell phone to keep track of the amount of water their property is using. You can see current and historical data on your water usage by the hour, day, week, month, etc and get alerts about leaks on your property. EyeOnWater is a software app owned by Badger Meter Inc, who we have contracted to provide us with technical information about our system’s water usage. It will allow us to locate potential leaks in our future new distribution lines down to a certain section of line. EyeOnWater also alerts any homeowner who downloads the app, sets up an account, and clicks the Leak Alert link to sign up for alerts. You will get an email alert anytime your home has a water leak anywhere past the meter – that is, somewhere in their house/yard or in the line between the house and the water meter.

Get our water bill via email for free instead of getting a post card

You can sign up to get your bill by email free from SOFTWater without also having to use that software to pay your bill, which would cost you \$5.00.

Pay your water bill online for a \$5.00 fee

You can use the SOFTWater website to pay your bill online for a fee (currently \$5.00 each time you pay online). You don’t need to use this software to pay your bill, but some people prefer it. You can still pay your bill by sending a check to SVMDA or by setting up payments within your bank’s online bill paying system.

June 2026 Weather

Compiled by Martin Matlack

DATE	HIGH TEMP	LOW TEMP	RAIN	RAIN RATE	HIGH WIND			
6/1/2026	ND	ND	0		ND			
6/2/2026	ND	ND	0		ND			
6/3/2026	ND	ND	0		ND			
6/4/2026	ND	ND	0		ND			
6/5/2026	ND	ND	0		ND			
6/6/2026	ND	ND	0		ND			
6/7/2026	ND	ND	0		ND			
6/8/2026	ND	ND	0		ND			
6/9/2026	ND	ND	0		ND			
6/10/2026	ND	ND	0		ND			
6/11/2026	86.9	61.8	0		ND			
6/12/2026	86.7	53.5	0		ND			
6/13/2026	87.1	59.7	0.06		ND			
6/14/2026	68.1	50.8	0		ND			
6/15/2026	81.3	47.8	0		ND			
6/16/2026	85	53.6	0		ND			
6/17/2026	89.1	67.6	0		ND			
6/18/2026	89	59.9	0.09		ND			
6/19/2026	87.9	53.3	0		ND			
6/20/2026	86.4	54.2	0		ND			
6/21/2026	86.2	58	0		ND			
6/22/2026	85	54.2	0		ND			
6/23/2026	88.9	60.8	0		ND			
6/24/2026	89.4	61.9	0		ND			
6/25/2026	81.1	53.3	0.26	0.5	ND			
6/26/2026	79	50.3	0.14	0.26	ND			
6/27/2026	83.5	51.9	0		ND			
6/28/2026	84.9	59.9	0		ND			
6/29/2026	82.8	60.3	0		ND			
6/30/2026	82.8	57.5	0		ND			
	HIGH 89.4	LOW 47.8	TOTAL 0.55					
	RAIN RATE IS INCHES/HR							
	TOTAL PRECIPITATION YTD 4.18"							

Weather Links

Main web page: <https://www.weather.gov/abq/>

Fire weather page: <https://www.weather.gov/abq/forecasts-fireweather>

Red Flag Data page: <https://www.weather.gov/abq/forecasts-fireweather-dss>

Weather Planner page: <https://forecast.weather.gov/wxplanner.php?site=abq>



SVENA Member Business Cards

Please remember to keep your business card updated. Please email new or updated business cards to karenlarison@yahoo.com.



Kelly Aldrich can do machine embroidery from simple to elaborate, including digitizing. Consider embroidery for a company logo or personalized gift (baby blankets, shirts, and much more).

<http://kellyaldrichembroidery.shutterfly.com>

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Business card of Jessica White
Email: goatlady@firegoatranch.com

Neighborhood Contacts – Water Related

SVMDA, Sierra Vista Mutual Domestic Association

SVMDA Administrative Assistant Rhonda Loewenstein 505-573-1797 or email her at svmdaadmin@svmna.com (This is her new email address. Please add it to your email's spam filter so allow it into your inbox. Also update it in your phone and email contact list to be sure you get urgent updates) Contact Rhonda for administrative matters such as billing issues.	If you pay for water by check, send it to Rhonda at Sierra Vista Mutual Domestic Association PO Box 111 Cedar Crest, NM 87008 If you would like to sign up to get your bill via email at no charge, the sign-up information is on your post card bill. You can get your bill by email free from SOFTWater and still pay your bill <u>free</u> by check or your bank. Signing up to get the bill by email does not sign you up to pay by that software, which would cost you a fee. You can choose each month whether to pay <u>your water bill via Softpay</u> (online or with a phone call with via Softpay for a fee, currently \$5.00) or pay the old way for free by check or through your bank.. No matter how you choose to get or pay your bill you can download the free Eye on Water app to detect leaks and track water usage by the day/week/month. <u>It works with the new water meters that were installed last year (blue covers).</u>
Operator Mike Butler 505-228-6233	Contact Mike for distribution line leaks, water line breaks, and other emergencies, or need a key to get into your water meter and shut off water to your property.
SVMDA President, Hickory Adams Hickory@waneidesigns.com	Contact Hickory for other questions about SVMDA

Neighborhood Social Contacts

SVENA, Sierra Vista Estates Neighborhood Association

Email SVENA at svena.nm@gmail.com, The SVENA President handles neighborhood communication, including reserving Milly's Meadow, from this email address. Some specific committee contacts are listed below.
Wildfire Preparedness Committee call Ruben Montana at 714-402-5952.
Milly's Meadow message board. If you want to post flyers/notices on the message board in Milly's Meadow contact Jan Montana at 714-724-6991 or Ruben Montana at 714-402-5952
Newsletter email svena.nm@gmail.com with subject line "Newsletter"
Get quick help or help others by using the Sierra Vista Estates Email Chat List Join the neighborhood chat for quick, informal help—report lost pets, ask for recommendations for local businesses, or discuss shared concerns like pine bark beetles or whether the hairpin curve on Sangre de Cristo is passable with ice and snow. To subscribe, email Sierra-Vista-Chat+subscribe@groups.io and follow the instructions To unsubscribe, email Sierra-Vista-Chat+unsubscribe@groups.io For questions or support, contact marcus.albonico@gmail.com