

# Sierra Vista Visions May 2026

<b>May Birthdays</b>	
Carol Goldsmith	5/6
Joseph Barnett	5/7
Adam Luechel	5/14
Brian Gallegos	5/15
Rick Berg	5/16
Yunaleska Kaminski	5/17
Ruben Montana	5/17
Charlotte Kaminski	5/21
Brian Hobbs	5/25
<b>June Birthdays</b>	
Elliot Stuhr	6/1
Brantley Stuhr	6/7
Hickory Adams	6/9
<b>June Anniversaries</b>	
Sharon & Andrea Westerhold	6/4
Rick & Phyllis Berg	6//12
Joe & Kelly Aldrich	6/13
Zach & Sarah Taylor	6/17

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

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## Know anyone who isn't getting the newsletter?

Sometimes the newsletter is missing from someone's email inbox. It might have gone into a special category like Spam, Promotions, etc. Try searching the "All Mail" category for "SVENA".

Adding [svena.nm@gmail.com](mailto:svena.nm@gmail.com) to your contact list should help prevent email from going to spam. Keeping Google, Outlook, Comcast, Proton, or other email contact lists synched to your phone's contacts also helps by letting you add our address in only one place and have it propagate to all your devices' contact lists.

### Keep SVENA notified if your email address changes

If there has been any change in your mailing address, phone number, or email address, please email us at [svena.nm@gmail.com](mailto:svena.nm@gmail.com) to let us know.

### PS: Also keep SVMDA notified if your email address changes

Please notify the water board of your current email address at [svmda.water@gmail.com](mailto:svmda.water@gmail.com).

People were not getting emails from SVMDA. Please put Rhonda's new non-Microsoft email [svmdaadmin@svmda.com](mailto:svmdaadmin@svmda.com) in your cell phone's address book and sync your contact lists to be sure their emails don't go to spam. This will be important as work progresses on the new water lines.

## Update on Water Infrastructure Project

As you may know from the last SVMDA meeting minutes emailed to you and posted in Milly's Meadow and outside the SVMDA office, we have a funding shortfall.

### Water System Improvements Project Update

Bids were received by our engineer, SMA, on April 7, 2026. Upon review, the bids exceeded the available funding. Additional funding is being investigated. In the meantime, the engineer has agreed to restructure the bidding documents to reduce the scope of work and rebid the project at their expense and at no additional cost to SVMDA. This process will delay start of construction until approximately end of July.

**2026 Scheduled Events**

<b>June</b>	
27, Saturday	<b>Great American Campout at Milly’s Meadow, 6pm - overnight</b> We will have a Solo firepit, a grill, hamburgers, hotdogs, smores and a movie. Bring a tent.
<b>July</b>	
1, Monday	<b>SVENA Annual Meeting at the SVMDA board room at 7pm</b> The SVENA calendar year runs from July to July. At Annual meetings we vote on SVENA board members. Each family gets one private vote which goes into a ballot box. Since not everyone can come to the meeting, we also send out ballots by email. No other decisions are made at the annual meeting. We recap what we have done in the past year, what we plan to do next year, and take suggestions.
<b>August</b>	
1, Thursday	<b>National Night Out at Milly’s Meadow at 5pm</b> Please bring deserts if you can. We will meet local first responders (who love our desserts) and usually bring fire trucks for the kids to see up close. We also have local law enforcement, who often bring specialty vehicles and even a police dog. It’s a good chance to meet and chat personally with our local first responders.
<b>September</b>	
13, Sunday	<b>Neighborhood Picnic at Milly’s Meadow at 1pm</b> Main and side dishes will be catered again.by Olla. We will have more side dishes this time. Bring deserts if you can. We set up some games for children.
20, Sunday	<b>Arts and Crafts Fair at Milly’s Meadow from 10am – 5pm</b> This year we are coordinating our Arts and Crafts Fair with the first day of the Turquoise Trail Arts Crawl, which takes place 9/20-21 and 9/27-28. We will have a sign down on N 14. If it rains on the 20 <sup>th</sup> we will do the next Sunday instead.
<b>October</b>	
17/18 Saturday, Sunday	<b>Neighborhood Yard Sale 8am -2pm</b> We will have signs on N14 and signs or balloons for each home that wants them.
<b>November</b>	We rest.
<b>December</b>	
19, Saturday	<b>Festival of Trees at Milly’s Meadow 5-7pm</b> Hot chocolate and hot cider will be provided for the gathering. This year we will have a neighborhood tree that everyone can hang ornaments and lights on if they don’t want to decorate an entire tree. Anyone can still do a family tree if they want. Decorating can start the day after Thanksgiving. Lights must be solar and can include solar spotlights on the tree. We don’t have electricity in Milly’s Meadow because of the high cost.
Date TBD	<b>Christmas Caroling</b> 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.

### Find Out If Your Contractor Is Licensed – Article by Kay Peterson

I recently hired a contractor for a small home project, who was referred to me by a friend. I asked my friend if this contractor was licensed and insured. I was told that he was. The project moved quickly for about 3 weeks. Then he disappeared.

I didn't know what to do about my problem until I remembered an article about the City of Albuquerque - Department of Senior Affairs who provide assistance with elder fraud and contractor concerns. Contact Information: **(505) 764-6400** or email **[seniorinformation@cabq.gov](mailto:seniorinformation@cabq.gov)**

The Senior Affairs Ombudsman\* said there is a New Mexico government web site (**[www.rld.nm.gov/licensing](http://www.rld.nm.gov/licensing)**) that provides license information for several types of workers needing a license to work in NM.

The site is easy to use. Just enter the business name or license number or contractor's name into the program. It provides information about the contractor. It tells you if the license is active, the license number, the owner's full name, etc. However, if none of the searches show up in their system, it will say your person isn't licensed to work as a contractor.

The Ombudsman also gave me the names and phone numbers of two attorneys who handle senior issues.

I got lucky -- my project is done. In the future, I plan to ensure that I do a better job of vetting contractors!

\*An **ombudsman** is an independent, neutral official who investigates and resolves complaints, typically regarding government agencies, corporations, or organizations. Originating from a Swedish term meaning "representative of the people".

## Neighborhood Projects you can volunteer for

Sierra Vista Estates is so fortunate to have had so many volunteers to help on our Water Board (SVMDA) and our Neighborhood Association (SVENA) down through the years. We appreciate them all so much! We also have had many volunteers who have helped on just one special project or event when time allows. Thanks so much to them, too!

Please email SVENA at [svena.nm@gmail.com](mailto:svena.nm@gmail.com) if you would like to help with any or all :):) of these ideas listed below. If more than one person volunteers for the same one, we'll put you in touch so that you can get together and collaborate.

Any expenses incurred (paint, nails, etc.) will be reimbursed by SVMDA or SVENA. Large project expenses, like the rain gutters, might need approval before purchasing.

### Here are some specific ways for you to volunteer in the coming months:

1. Help with prep work for one or more of our Social Events
2. Attend a SVENA meeting and/or an SVMDA meeting and see what we do, meet neighbors
3. Weed Whack the grass around our Fire Sign at the entrance to our neighborhood, as needed
4. Paint the School Bus Stop Shelter at the corner of Sangre de Cristo Circle and Sierra Blanca Road
5. Add rain gutters to the Gazebo in Milly's Meadow
6. Clean the SVMDA Meeting Room and bathroom quarterly
7. Anything else you feel needs help In the neighborhood

Also, if you have any other suggestions for upkeep or improving our beautiful neighborhood, let us know.

Sincerely,  
Priscilla Matlack, SVENA President

## Safety Concerns

### Speeding

We get more complaints from residents about speeding than anything else. It's a perennial problem. Please slow down to avoid accidents. Our speed limit everywhere in the neighborhood is 15 mph.

Beware of traffic from roofers and other contractors who are not familiar with our line-of-sight conditions and how many people here walk for exercise. Let your children know to walk facing traffic and how to watch out for vehicle danger. The deer are on their own unless we have a deer whisperer we don't know about.

We may need to remind construction employees to follow the 15-mph speed limit. Please slow them down in a friendly way. Use the neighborhood email chat (Sierra Vista Chat - see the last page of this newsletter for instructions on how to join) to warn people of problems. Or you may choose to notify anyone on the SVENA or SVMDA board if necessary.

### Wildlife

We do see predator wildlife during the day occasionally, but they tend to stay away during daylight hours. Be alert. Keep an eye on your pets. We have coyotes, bear, bobcat, and mountain lion. Owls may attempt to prey on smaller pets.

If you see something you can send that information out on our neighborhood chat by emailing an alert to [Sierra-Vista-Chat@groups.io](mailto:Sierra-Vista-Chat@groups.io) if you are signed up for that service. (See last page of newsletter for instructions.)

### Wildfire

We only have one way in and out of the neighborhood. Traffic on it will be heavy if a fire approaches. As a last resort it may be possible to shelter on foot in Milly's Meadow, although there would be embers and smoke, and pets may be frightened and hard to control.

Check the Wildfire Preparedness page in previous newsletters for links to information about preparing your home to withstand a wildfire and information about packing a "go bag" and having it ready to grab at a moment's notice.

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Milly's Meadow is private property owned by the Sierra Vista Estates neighborhood for the use of our homeowners and renters. It's a great place to walk, to sit and read or to talk with family and friends, to bring the kids and dogs, or just enjoy yourself any time. It is open sunrise to sundown. We have two covered tables with benches, and several other benches are scattered around the meadow. In the summer there is water for our dogs. We have a bulletin board in the meadow that has upcoming events and flyers, notices, meeting minutes, and a little library for finding and sharing books.

**Scheduled SVENA Events:** Most SVENA social events are held at Milly's Meadow. In case of bad weather we move events to the SVMDA office or reschedule them. Scheduled 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. All residents, both homeowners and renters, are welcome at all events and are encouraged to meet neighbors in casual conversation and enjoy our community.

**Didn't know an event was happening?** If you are walking by Milly's Meadow and see an 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. You will be welcomed into the event.

If you didn't get the newsletter with notice of the event, please email [svena.nm@gmail.com](mailto:svena.nm@gmail.com) and put "Newsletter" in the subject line. Give us your name and email address and we will make sure you get the current and subsequent newsletters. If you are sure we have your correct email but you don't find the newsletter in your inbox, see the troubleshooting steps on page two of this issue.

**Reserve Milly's Meadow for private events:** Neighbors can reserve Milly's Meadow for events such as weddings, birthday parties, or certain types of community events. There is no charge. Whoever is holding the event becomes the responsible person and must be there for the duration of the event and cleanup.

To reserve an event please email [svena.nm@gmail.com](mailto: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. Priscilla will get back to you to confirm. For more details see the SVENA Welcome Packet you received when you moved in.

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.

## New SVMDA Website

Dale Hall has made us a beautiful website for SVMDA, which is our water system, the Sierra Vista Mutual Domestic Association. As you know, our neighborhood provides its own water. The reason for the strange sounding name is that New Mexico state government calls this type of community owned water system “Mutual Domestic Associations”

.Dale says “The water board has a new website at <https://svmda.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.”

### **More detailed information about the two links that go outside our own web site.**

These links go to software vendors we have contracted to provide administrative services.

#### **Link to EyeOnWater**

This links to EyeOnWater, 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 central distribution lines to a certain section of line. In the meantime homeowners can install their free EyeOnWater software app to keep track of the amount of water their property is using. You can see historical data on your water usage by the hour, day, week, month, etc.

EyeOnWater also alerts any homeowner who downloads the app if their 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. It does that by an algorithm that alerts when unusual amounts of water is used. .

#### **Link to your water bill**

Note: this may look like it is part of SVMDA’s web site, but it is not. This links online to SOFTWater, which is utility billing software that allows you to pay your bill online for a fee (currently \$5.00 each time you pay online). You don’t need to use this software; 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.

# April 2026 Weather

Compiled by Martin Matlack

DATE	HIGH TEMP	LOW TEMP	RAIN	RAIN RATE	HIGH WIND
4/1/2026	51.7	40.8	0.01		45
4/2/2026	62.8	39.1	0		40
4/3/2026	55	37	0		48
4/4/2026	56	31	0		29
4/5/2026	57.7	30.8	0		27
4/6/2026	60.6	34.4	0		21
4/7/2026	59.5	38.5	0		36
4/8/2026	67.6	38.9	0		29
4/9/2026	70.2	49	0		28
4/10/2026	70.4	46.3	0		35
4/11/2026	61.8	39.9	0.2		32
4/12/2026	62.2	38.4	0.05	1.13	33
4/13/2026	58.4	42.4	0.02		34
4/14/2026	58.1	40.4	0		35
4/15/2026	57.3	33.5	0		30
4/16/2026	62.9	34.5	0		35
4/17/2026	60.4	36.9	0		46
4/18/2026	56.4	24.5	0		18
4/19/2026	64.7	28.3	0		21
4/20/2026	65.5	42.7	0		23
4/21/2026	70.9	43	0		25
4/22/2026	70	48.2	0		42
4/23/2026	62.8	41.9	0		48
4/24/2026	64.2	33.8	0		38
4/25/2026	64.7	44.8	0		34
4/26/2026	65.2	39.9	0		49
4/27/2026	60.8	36.9	0		38
4/28/2026	65.4	40.2	0		34
4/29/2026	67.1	35.3	0		37
4/30/2026	64.4	40.1	0		28
	<b>HIGH 70.9</b>	<b>LOW 24.5</b>	<b>TOTAL 0.28</b>		<b>HIGH 49</b>
	<b>RAIN RATE IS INCHES/HR</b>				
	<b>TOTAL PRECIPITATION YTD 2.27"</b>				
	<b>***RAINFALL DATA FROM 4/1 THRU 4/12 IS NOT ACCURATE DUE TO</b>				
	<b>MALFUNCTIONING COLLECTOR ***</b>				

### 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.\*\*



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## Neighborhood Contacts – Water Related

### SVMMDA, Sierra Vista Mutual Domestic Association

<p>SVMMDA Administrative Assistant Rhonda Loewenstein 505-573-1797 or email her at svmdaadmin@svmna.com</p> <p>(This is her new email address. Please update it in your phones and email contact list to be sure you get urgent updates)</p> <p>Contact Rhonda for administrative matters such as billing issues.</p>	<p>If you pay for water by check, send it to Rhonda at</p> <p>Sierra Vista Mutual Domestic Association PO Box 111 Cedar Crest, NM 87008</p> <p>If you would like to sign up for an e-bill at no charge, the sign-up information is on your paper bill. You still have the option to pay (for a fee) online or with a phone payment via Softpay.</p> <p>No matter how you choose to pay your bill you can <u>now</u> 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></p>
<p>Operator Mike Butler 505-228-6233</p>	<p>Contact Mike for leaks, water line breaks, and other emergencies.</p>
<p>SVMMDA President, Hickory Adams Hickory@waneidesigns.com</p>	<p>Contact Hickory for other questions about SVMMDA</p>

## Neighborhood Contacts – Non-Water Related

### SVENA, Sierra Vista Estates Neighborhood Association

<p><b>Email SVENA</b> at <a href="mailto:svena.nm@gmail.com">svena.nm@gmail.com</a>, The President, Priscilla Matlack, handles most neighborhood community business at this address. Some specific committee contacts are listed below.</p>
<p><b>Wildfire Preparedness Committee</b> call Ruben Montana at 714-402-5952.</p>
<p><b>Milly’s Meadow message board.</b> 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</p>
<p><b>Newsletter</b> email <a href="mailto:svena.nm@gmail.com">svena.nm@gmail.com</a> with subject line “Newsletter”</p>
<p><b>Get quick help or help others by using the Sierra Vista Estates Email Chat List</b> Join the neighborhood chat for quick, informal help—report lost pets, ask for recommendations, 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 <a href="mailto:Sierra-Vista-Chat+subscribe@groups.io">Sierra-Vista-Chat+subscribe@groups.io</a> and follow the instructions To unsubscribe, email <a href="mailto:Sierra-Vista-Chat+unsubscribe@groups.io">Sierra-Vista-Chat+unsubscribe@groups.io</a> For questions or support, contact <a href="mailto:marcus.albonico@gmail.com">marcus.albonico@gmail.com</a></p>