

Sierra Vista Visions

June 16, 2026

June Birthdays

Elliot Stuhr	6/1
Brantley Stuhr	6/7
Hickory Adams	6/9

June Anniversaries

Sharon & Andrea Westerhold	6/4
Rick & Phyllis Berg	6//12
Joe & Kelly Aldrich	6/13
Zach & Sarah Taylor	6/17

July Birthdays

Kay Peterson	7/1
Ethan Chesebrough	7/1
Lily Adams	7/3
Sarah Taylor	7/3
Kai Sanford	7/4
Emily DeArmon	7/8
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

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

Index of Pages

Birthdays & Anniversaries	1
Good news, lost dog found	2
Get email alerts if your property has a water leak	3
Two neighborhood homes inspected for wildfire risks and possible insurance certifications	4
How to turn off the water at your house	5
Gardening Corner: 1.Potting Soil. 2.Plum Trees	6
2026 Scheduled Events at Milly's Meadow	7
Ongoing Neighborhood projects and New Water Line Project	8
Safety Concerns	9
Milly's Meadow – How to reserve an event	10
New SVMMDA web site	11
May 2026 Weather History	12
SVENA Member Business Cards	13
Neighborhood Contacts	14

Sierra Vista Visions is a publication of Sierra Vista Estates Neighborhood Association. The newsletter is published monthly. All material is the property of Sierra Vista Estates Neighborhood Association and may not be copied, printed or distributed without the written permission of the association board of directors.

Good news, lost dog found

Our former neighbors who moved recently, Carol and Phil Upham, called Kay Peterson and asked for neighbors to be on the lookout for their dog Puck, who slipped the leash while they were camping nearby. They thought he might head for "home" here at Sierra Vista Estates since it is so close to where they were camping. We sent an email to you the same day. Our neighbors try to help neighbors when we can. Thank you to all of you who kept an eye out for their Doberman. Good news, he is now back with them because good folks checked his microchip, which was up to date with their current phone number. You can imagine how relieved they were to get him back.

Photo taken by former SVE neighbors, Carol and Phil Upham on May26, 2026. They were camping at the Turquoise Trail Campgrounds on North 14. You can see the SVE water towers on top of the hill.



I got this response from Kay about a week later when I asked if he had been found.

"Puck was found. Carol thought it was the posters that I made. I think it was because of their efforts ---contacted vets, animal rescues, police, talked to anyone that they found walking in the area that Puck escaped, etc. He was out for about 2 ½ days w/o food/water. A family in the campground area called Saturday to say he came to their house because of their dogs.

A vet told them that when a dog escapes home, the animal will generally stay in an area close to where his home is. "

Puck is headed to his vet today to see if he needs any special care. He was in poor shape -- needed lots and lots of water, had diarrhea, his hind legs couldn't hold him up, bites/scratches, etc. They were lucky getting him back."

Get email alerts if your property has a water leak

You can get email alerts of leaks on your property and check your water usage anytime in real time from your phone. Just download the free EyeOnWater app and set up an account with them. Request Leak Alerts. The app also lets you see how much water you are using that day, week, or month and lets you track the trend of your water use over time.

Typically, our system has 10 houses with leaks that homeowners are unaware of. The total unchecked water leakage is 37,432 gallons a year. This is not good for your budget or for those of us concerned with the water table that seems to be declining every year.

In the app sign up for the Leak Alert. It will send you an email to let you know when your property has a leak. It's all done with the EyeOnWater app that monitors house-by-house usage of our water distribution system.

Here are two alerts I received as examples of the value of downloading the EyeOnWater app and signing up for an account and Leak Alerts..

The first alert said my property was leaking 12 gallons an hour. I investigated and found out that the leak was caused by a pipe in the backyard, under my flagstone patio, that had frozen and broken last winter. It didn't leak until I started irrigating in April this year. The value of that email alert was that I found out the next day that there was a large hidden leak somewhere, found it, and got it fixed. And when my next water bill arrived, I didn't call Rhonda and say "I didn't use that much water last month!".

The second email alert informed me I had a raised base flow (continuous flow) of 3.6 gallons instead of the usual 2 gallons. The cause was that I had left a drip hose on my most vulnerable pinon pine from about 5 pm one day until 9 am the following day. (Too long). The value of that email alert was that it reminded me to turn off the water to the drip hose. I was about to do that anyway, but it was reassuring that the system was noticing an unusual usage of water.

How to get the EyeOnWater app.

1. Go to <https://eyeonwater.com/login>
2. Use the links there to download the free app from the Apple App Store or the Google Play store
3. Also use the link there to "Create Account" and follow the instructions on that page. (See illustration)

Steps to Create an EyeOnWater Account

1. Enter your account number as it appears on your water bill. Don't have a copy of your water bill? Contact your utility.

SAMPLE WATER BILL

CUSTOMER NAME	SERVICE LOCATION	ACCOUNT NUMBER
JOHN SMITH	123 MAIN STREET	88888888

DUE DATE	CURRENT CHARGES
01/15/2017	\$45.50

2. Enter your service or billing address ZIP/Postal Code.
3. Enter and confirm your email address.
4. Create and confirm your password.
5. Read and accept the [Terms of Use](#).
6. Verify your email address in the confirmation email.
7. Enjoy using EyeOnWater!




Account Number:

Some utilities want you to use your account number or customer number as it appears on your water bill. Others want you to leave off leading zeros and non-numeric characters. Other utilities may still be rolling out EyeOnWater®. Please contact your water company directly for assistance.

Service or Billing ZIP/Postal Code:

[Next](#)

Already have an account? [Sign in here.](#)

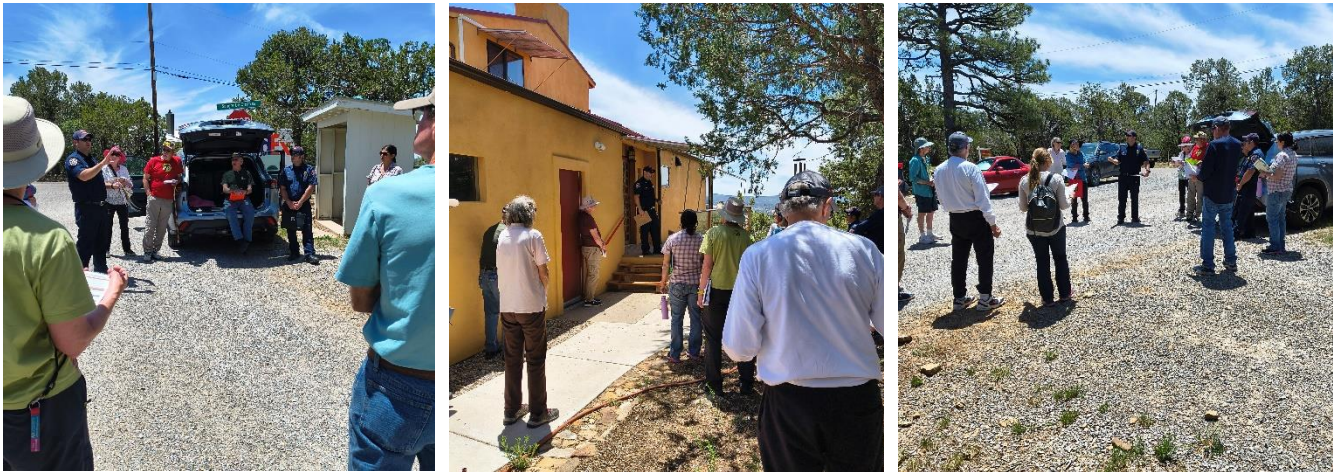
Two neighborhood properties inspected for wildfire risks

Ruben Montana coordinated a local inspection on June 4, 2026, with two volunteer Sierra Vista Estates homeowners and the East Mountain Interagency Fire Protection Association (EMWPA) and Bernalillo County Fire and Rescue. This was to demonstrate the inspection and certification process for all of us. The process allows homeowners to find problems and prepare their home to withstand wildfires, and possibly get their property certified for insurance purposes. Of course, you can just get the inspection and fix the problems without applying for certification.

Here are some pictures from the walk-through at two homes in our neighborhood. Special thanks to the two homeowners who gave permission to EMWPA and Bernalillo County fire and rescue officials.

This outdoor-only inspection demonstrated to EM residents how these two groups can evaluate home readiness for the upcoming wildfire season and possibly get certified for insurance purposes.

Sierra Vista Estate residents, please attend the next SVENA Annual Meeting on July 13th at 7pm in the SVMMA meeting room. Jan and Ruben will present more details about walk-throughs.



How to Turn off the Water at Your House

Every house has a water meter with a blue lid

Find it now so that you know where to turn off your water when necessary. (Some of you may be lucky enough to have a whole house shut off valve inside the home, garage, or in the crawl space under the home, so opening the lid to the water meter would not be necessary.)

The meter lid is difficult to remove unless you get the special key.

Mike Butler, our operator, has a key that makes it easier. He is usually close by and able to bring a key and help you remove the lid and turn off the water to your house. Please call Rhonda at (505) 573-1797 or Mike Butler (505) 228-6233 to ask someone to bring you the key. Rhonda works elsewhere on Mondays and Tuesdays and cannot always answer the phone immediately.

The SVMDA board made plans at the meeting last week to get additional keys for board members who are willing to keep one to bring to neighbors in case Mike is working at a distant location and cannot quickly get to you with a key.

Be careful not to break the wires when removing the lid to your water meter

Dale Hall advises "If you need to remove the lid to your water meter, be advised that there is an antenna with connecting wires attached, so be careful not to damage them because the replacement meter is expensive. Please call Rhonda (505) 573-1797 or Mike Butler (505) 228-6233 for help."

How to remove the lid to your water meter

1. Insert the key in the slot that's the same shape as the key. It's about a half turn clockwise to undo the locking mechanism.
2. Lift the meter lid and set it aside, being mindful of the wire that's attached so that you don't break the wire.
3. There is a valve in front of the meter. Turn it until the two "ears" on the valve meet, or until the arrow is facing away from the meter.

Gardening Corner

Please contribute anything that may be fun or useful to folks by emailing an article like this to svena.nm@gmail.com and we will run it in next month's newsletter. Or ask us to write it with you. Ditto for our monthly recipe. We don't have a recipe for this month.

Save Money by Reusing Old Potting Soil - by Kay Peterson

Each year I buy new large bags of potting soil for my raised garden beds and newly purchased plants that I grow in pots. This year with prices on the rise, I did some research about reusing old potting soil. The good news is you can save money by reusing old potting soil if you follow a few guidelines.

1. Reuse only old potting soil that had healthy plants in it. If the plants died in this soil because of root rot, pests, diseases, infestations, etc. do not use it again.
2. Remove old roots and other debris from the soil.
3. If the soil is compacted, add some perlite or vermiculite to restore the air space.
4. Several gardening articles suggest using 1/2 old potting soil and mix with 1/2 new soil. This year I cut my use of new potting soil even more by using 1/2 old potting soil, 1/4 of topsoil from my yard that includes some pine needles and 1/4 new potting soil.

All of my plants and seeds are doing well. But don't forget that once the plants are established, they will continue to do well with a monthly feeding of plant food!

What's Going On with the Water Tower Plum Trees – by Kay Peterson

Neighbors are mourning the death of our lovely pink flowering plum trees by the water tanks. These trees were planted in the 1980 or '90s by the owner of the barn property.

Plum trees have a normal life span of 10 to 25 years. Our trees are older than 30 years. The only reason they may have survived so long is because they were watered regularly. Several of the dead trees were recently cut down. The few remaining trees will be cut in the fall.

A representative from the New Mexico Forestry Division was contacted last week about doing a walk around of the water tank area. The Sierra Vista Estates water tanks and offices are located here and must be protected from fires. We need advice as to how to best protect our building/tanks and still have some trees. Planting a couple of new plum trees will be a question we discuss.

Watch the next newsletter for more information on any future plans for planting new plum trees.

2026 Scheduled Events in Milly's Meadow

June	
Saturday the 27th	Great American Campout at Milly's Meadow, 6 pm through overnight We will have a Solo firepit, a grill, smores and a movie at Milly's Meadow. Bring your own hamburgers and hotdogs and folding chairs. Bring a tent if your family is camping out.
July	
Monday the 13th	SVENA Annual Meeting at the SVMDA board room at 7 pm The SVENA calendar runs from July 1st to June 30 th . At Annual meetings we vote on SVENA board members. Each family gets one private vote. 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. This year Ruben and Jan will give a presentation on inspections for wildfire home hardening.
August	
Tuesday the 4th	National Night Out at Milly's Meadow at 5 pm Please bring desserts to share 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 sometimes a police dog. It's a good chance to meet and chat personally with our local first responders.
September	
Sunday the 13th th	Neighborhood Picnic at Milly's Meadow at 1 pm Main and side dishes will be catered again by Ola's Route 66 Lunchbox. She will provide more side dishes this time. Bring desserts to share if you can. We will set up some games for children.
Sunday the 20th	Arts and Crafts Fair at Milly's Meadow from noon – 5 pm This year we are coordinating our Arts and Crafts Fair with the first Sunday of the Turquoise Trail Arts Crawl. The crawl 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	We rest.
December	
Saturday the 19th	Festival of Trees at Milly's Meadow 5 pm - 7 pm Hot chocolate and hot cider will be provided. 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.

Ongoing Neighborhood projects and New Water Line Project

Ways to volunteer in the coming months:

1. Help with prep work for one or more of our Social Events (See list of upcoming events on page 7)
2. Attend a SVENA meeting and/or an SVMMDA 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. A painting party would get the job done quickly without one person trying to do it all alone. Let us know if you would help.
5. Add rain gutters to the Gazebo in Milly's Meadow

Please email SVENA at 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 collaborate. Any expenses incurred (paint, nails, etc.) will be reimbursed by SVMMDA or SVENA. Large project expenses, like the rain gutters, might need approval before purchasing. If you have any other suggestions for upkeep or improving our beautiful neighborhood, let us know by emailing your ideas to svena.nm@gmail.com.

Water Line Project Status

We had to re-bid for distribution line replacement because the previous bid cycle was short on funds after state funding process complications and rising costs. A pre-bid meeting was held June 4th at Sauder Miller Associates. Four companies attended: three previous bidders plus one new company. The bid opening will be June 24. The Bid acceptance period is 60-100 days after bids are opened. SVMMDA's responsibility is a 2 million loan at 0.25% interest over 20 years. Our timeline until new distribution lines are completed by the contractor is approximately 2.5 years, depending on the amount of rock that needs to be excavated and on the weather.

Safety Concerns

Speeding

Our speed limit everywhere in the neighborhood is 15 mph. We get more complaints from residents about speeding than anything else. Please slow down to avoid accidents on blind curves and so you don't raise your neighbor's blood pressure unnecessarily.

Let your children know how to walk facing traffic and how to watch out for vehicle danger.

Beware of speeding roofers and other contractors who don't think about blind curves and that we have high foot traffic on the streets. Many of us are out walking dogs or biking, jogging and walking for exercise.

Wildlife

We do see predator wildlife during the day occasionally, but they tend to stay away during daylight hours and avoid humans both day and night. Be alert. Notify neighbors of sightings by using the neighborhood chat or emailing svena.nm@gmail.com. Keep an eye on your pets. We have coyotes, bears, bobcats, and mountain lions. Owls may prey on smaller pets.

The fastest way to let people know immediately is to use our neighborhood chat. Just email an alert to Sierra-Vista-Chat@groups.io. Not everybody has signed up for the chat, however. 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 or to get help. It has a feature that allows you to look at previous recommendations by category.

To subscribe, email Sierra-Vista-Chat+subscribe@groups.io and follow the instructions that will be mailed to you. To unsubscribe, email Sierra-Vista-Chat+unsubscribe@groups.io. For questions or support, contact marcus.albonico@gmail.com

Wildfire

We only have one way in and out of the neighborhood. Traffic on it will be bumper to bumper. If a fire approaches please evacuate early, before any official notice to evacuate is given. 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. Getting out will take longer than you think. Having everything ready to go will help you be among the first out, before traffic makes it slow.



Milly's Meadow is private property

It is owned by Sierra Vista Mutual Domestic Association (SVMDA) 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.

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.

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.

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.

Regularly Scheduled SVENA Events at Milly's Meadow

We hold most SVENA social events at Milly's Meadow. In case of severe weather, we move events to the SVMDA office or reschedule them. All residents, both homeowners and renters, are welcome at regularly scheduled events. We encourage everybody to attend, meet neighbors in casual conversation, and enjoy our community.

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 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. 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 and put "Newsletter" in the subject line so that you will get notified in the future. 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, check to see that you have put SVENA in your phone's contacts with an email address of svena.nm@gmail and keep your phone's contacts synched to your computers' email contacts.

New SVMDA Website

Dale Hall has made us a beautiful website for SVMDA, which is our water system.



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, sets up an account, and clicks the Leak Alert link to sign up for alerts.. They will get an email alert anytime 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 are 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.

Compiled by Martin Matlack

RAIN RATE IS INCHES/HR	
TOTLA PRECIPITATION YTD	3.63"

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>

(505) 286-0692



Angelic Healing

Healing begins with an Angel's Touch

Aroma Therapy Educator
Reflexology
Master Channel
Reiki Master

Annette Grace

(505) 321-6635

GraceAngelicHealing@gmail.com
graceangelichealin.wixsite.com/undermomswings



Kelly Aldrich Photography

Products: Greeting cards, matted/framed prints, calendars, magnets, bookmarks, and more!

Services: Senior photos, family portraits, horses, dogs, real estate, and more!

www.KellyAldrichPhotography.com

(505) 286-0692



Natalie Frost

Health Insurance and Medicare Broker

(505) 808-7377

natalie@waypatheb.com

TEL 505 267-5946
rberg@unm.edu
www.datawizards.org

free consultation for
Excel spreadsheets
Access databases

Rick Berg, Senior Partner COMPUTER CONSULTING, LLC



Holistic Therapy

Healing and thriving of the body, mind, and spirit.

Dr. Kelly Albonico
Psychologist, Yoga Therapist

www.desertthriving.com
kelly@desertthriving.com
505-633-5992



The Perfect Gift

Nick Matlack

Division Manager
Vector Marketing



Cell: 505.507.4700

cutcorockz@msn.com

GUARANTEED FOREVER

Since 1949



Fire Goat Ranch Grazing Service

505-281-5069

<https://www.firegoatranch.com/>

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 update it in your phones 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 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. No matter how you choose to pay your bill you can now 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 Contacts — Non-Water Related

SVENA, Sierra Vista Estates Neighborhood Association

Email SVENA at svena.nm@gmail.com , The President, Priscilla Matlack, handles most neighborhood community business at this 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, 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