



# SEHNA News

Southeast Heights Neighborhood Association

Winter 2025

## Welcome!

We are bringing back SEHNA News, a seasonal newsletter brought to you by the SEHNA board containing upcoming events, a message from the president, resources, and articles written by neighbors.

This newsletter can be found in Little Libraries throughout the neighborhood, in your email inbox, and on our website. You can sign up for our email listserv by emailing **Board@SEHNA.org**.

In other news, we have our new website up and updated! On it, you'll find a list of helpful resources, board members, contact information, upcoming events, newsletters, and much much more. Be sure to check our website frequently for recent meeting minutes, news, events, and more. **www.SEHNA.org**

And last but not least — we have emails for board members! If you want to reach out to us, you can email: **Board@SEHNA.org**.

## 2026 Board Members

President — Dr. Peter Belletto

Vice President — Mr. John Pate

Treasurer — Ms. Phyllis Taylor

Website/Newsletters — Mr. Taihg McCabe

Dr. Linda Tigges

Ms. Elizabeth Vencill

Mr. Greg Miller

Ms. Heidi Olson

Mr. Joe Turk



## Quality Neighborhood News

in your inbox Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays

[www.ABQNobHillNews.com](http://www.ABQNobHillNews.com)

## Save Our Trees

Many of the dead or dying trees in the neighborhood are doing so due to natural attrition as our neighborhood was originally platted in the 1920's and many trees have perished simply due to their age. However, I am sure many of you have noticed a greater number of dying or dead trees in the neighborhood. Many in our beautiful neighborhood are modifying their landscapes to consume less water and it is an admirable endeavor. We certainly don't want to discourage anyone in the neighborhood from conserving water but please do so without killing your trees: Trees and shade are major contributors to an improved quality of life, lower heating and cooling costs, and make the outdoors much more desirable. There are however effective, practical ways homeowners in in our arid climate to significantly reduce landscape water use **while keeping trees healthy**. These approaches are commonly recommended by desert horticulture experts and water agencies. When considering modifications to your landscapes consider these things:

### 1. Prioritize the Trees First

Trees take years to replace, so they should receive water before lawns or small plants.

- Keep trees on **separate hydrozones** (separate valves or watering schedules) so they get deep, infrequent irrigation rather than frequent lawn-style watering.
- Let turf or non-essential plants go dormant or replace them—**not the trees**.

### 2. Switch to Deep, Infrequent Watering

Desert-adapted plants—including many tree species—prefer long, slow irrigation.

- Apply water **under the tree canopy** or just outside the dripline.
- Water to a depth of **18–24 inches** for trees.
- Use **drip emitters or bubblers** rather than sprinklers.
- Frequency guide (adjust for weather/soil):
  - o **Summer:** every 2–4 weeks
  - o **Spring/Fall:** every 4–6 weeks
  - o **Winter:** every 6–8 weeks

### 3. Replace Thirsty Plants with Desert-Adapted Species

Choose native or low-water species:

- Trees: mesquite, palo verde, desert willow, acacia, ironwood
- Shrubs/perennials: sage species, brittlebush, chuparosa, desert milkweed
- Groundcover: decomposed granite, cactus gardens, or low-water succulents

These species need periodic deep irrigation, **but not daily or weekly watering** once established.

### 4. Improve Soil Moisture Retention

Even in sandy desert soils, water retention can be increased:

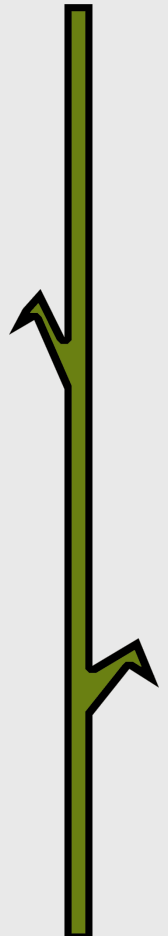
- Apply **2–4 inches of mulch** (wood chips or composted mulch) under trees—but **keep mulch several inches away from the trunk**.
- Mulch slows evaporation, reduces soil temperature, and decreases irrigation needs by 25–50%.
- Where desired, convert turf grass to **gravel + mulch islands** around trees.

[Continue next page](#)

*John Pate*

### Lead & Coal Safety Update

The city is seeking residents feedback on ways to improve the safety of Lead and Coal. To complete the survey, visit [SEHNA.org/lead-coal](http://SEHNA.org/lead-coal)



## Save Our Trees

(continued)

*John Pate*

### 5. Audit and Optimize the Irrigation System

A surprising amount of water is lost to waste.

- Check for leaks, overspray onto hardscapes, clogged emitters, or broken valves.
- Convert spray heads to **pressure-regulated drip systems**.
- Adjust emitters as trees grow: increase number of emitters rather than increasing flow rate.
- Use **smart controllers** that adjust for temperature and rainfall.

### 6. Take Advantage of Passive Water Harvesting

These methods guide rainwater or graywater toward trees:

- Shape soil into **basins or swales** to catch runoff from roofs or walkways.
- Use permeable hardscapes to let water soak in rather than run off.
- Divert **laundry-to-landscape graywater** to trees if practical.

### 7. Reduce Tree Stress With Good Maintenance

Healthy trees need less water.

- Avoid heavy pruning that stresses trees.
- Don't plant turf directly against the trunk.
- Prevent compaction around the root zone.

### 8. Remove or Reduce High-Water-Use Features

To save the most water without harming trees, phase out the thirstiest elements:

- Cool-season lawns
- Annual flower beds
- Water-hungry shrubs
- Large turf strips along driveways/streets

### 9. Replace dead or dying trees with water wise tree selections

There are many varieties of trees suitable to our climate that require less water.

Scan to  
view online



[www.SEHNA.org/  
save-our-trees](http://www.SEHNA.org/save-our-trees)

# Check out our new website!

*[www.SEHNA.org](http://www.SEHNA.org)*

*Events, notices, resources, and more.*

## Wine Tasting Update

*Taihg McCabe*

Our treasurer, Phyllis, graciously allowed neighbors into her home this past November for our annual wine tasting fundraiser. The fundraiser ultimately covered over half of the costs associated with the luminarias and brought almost fifty neighbors together.

Thank you to everyone who attended and donated to it!

## Luminarias

If you're new to the neighborhood and have moved in after last December, you will be in for a treat this Christmas Eve. Each year, neighbors put out luminarias, many of which are put together with help from local organizations, including the New Mexico Women's Chorus, making a wonderful sight throughout the neighborhood. Families and friends, people from all over the city, walk through Ridgecrest specifically for the scene every year.

## Upcoming Events

### State of the District 2026

Councilwoman Nichole Rogers  
International District Library (7601 Central Ave)  
Jan 10, 3:00–5:00 PM

### Integrated Development Ordinance, Biennial Updates

Albuquerque's zoning code, the Integrated Development Ordinance (IDO) is updated every other year. City Council's Land Use Planning and Zoning (LUPZ) Committee will consider updates in January 2026 and send them to full council. LUPZ will be looking at about 150 proposals. Neighbors who are interested are encouraged to visit [www.SEHNA.org/IDO](http://www.SEHNA.org/IDO) to learn more.

### SEHNA Membership Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

- New Membership
- Renew Membership

- Household (\$10)
- Apartment Complex/Business (\$25)

#### CHECKS:

Clip and mail this form along with your check to:  
SEHNA Membership, P.O. Box 8711, Alb., NM 87198

#### PAY ONLINE:

[www.SEHNA.org/membership](http://www.SEHNA.org/membership)

*Thank you for reading! This is our first newsletter in over ten years, we hope to bring more neighborhood news to you in the Spring.*