



PUBLISHED BY THE CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD COORDINATION

# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

DECEMBER  
2018



“

I hope your holiday season is fun, festive, and full of sparkles!”

UNKNOWN

”

**JOYFUL  
IN DECEMBER!**





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a River of Lights

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# What is a neighborhood association?

And why they matter.

A neighborhood association is a group of residents, property owners, businesses, and non-profits who come together to form a community, and to advocate for and organize activities within a specific geographical area that shares a common identity.

## What Does a Neighborhood Association Do?

A neighborhood association comes together to build relationships, exchange information, discuss concerns, prioritize needs in the area, identify solutions, and work toward a common goal for the good of their community. Each association can positively impact the life of each person within the boundaries of the neighborhood for the better.

## Why Should I Join?

Joining a neighborhood association not only amplifies your voice, but helps create a community with a shared vision and goal. When neighbors come together, it shows that the neighborhood is united and ready to make an impact on their community.

## Neighborhood Associations & Community Policing

Some services that APD provides to neighborhoods interested in community policing include:

- Block Captain Training
- Crime Prevention Specialists
- Neighborhood Patrols
- Neighborhood Watch Programs

## What Is The Office of Neighborhood Coordination?

The Office of Neighborhood Coordination (ONC) helps create and promote healthy and vibrant neighborhoods, and supports residents as they more actively and constructively engage with their community. We assist neighborhoods in utilizing existing resources and maintaining meaningful involvement with local communities and government.





Image courtesy of the NM BioPark Society

# A HOLIDAY FANTASY OF RIVER LIGHTS!

## 2018 River of Lights is open!

The River of Lights at the ABQ BioPark Botanic Garden shines nightly from 6-9:30 p.m., through December 30. It is the largest special event fundraiser for the New Mexico BioPark Society (NMBPS), the non-profit support organization for the ABQ BioPark. The event accomplished a big milestone last year with a record-setting attendance of more than 128,000 guests.

"Over the past 22 years, River of Lights has become part of New Mexico's holiday fabric," said Taylor Pellegrini, NMBPS events director. "We are so honored when our guests tell us they attended as a child and now return with their children. New Mexicans take pride in our traditions and love to support all things local, and you can't get much more local than River of Lights!"

Single tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 for children (3-12 years). Children two and under are free.

Tickets are on sale through [www.holdmyticket.com](http://www.holdmyticket.com). Group ticket discounts are also available through NMBPS and are offered for groups of 50 guests and over.

Free Park and Ride service will be available on select nights from the Zoo starting at 6 p.m., and the final buses will depart the Botanic Garden at 9:45 p.m.

Information on parking and much more can be found at: [www.riveroflights.org](http://www.riveroflights.org) •

# ALAMOSA NEIGHBORHOOD HONORS COMMUNITY “ANGELS”

The Alamosa Neighborhood Association, one of our key neighborhood partners in the Southwest Mesa area of Albuquerque, honored several city and community “Angels” at their annual holiday event, held Tuesday, Nov. 27.

Jeanette Baca, President of the Alamosa NA, explained the significance of the awards - a framed image of an angel that she herself painted.

“The angels we honor tonight are those people who do so much for our neighborhood, our community, our families and for the city itself,” she said. “They are the protectors of the people of Albuquerque and it’s appropriate that they are called angels.”

The “angels” honored by the association included Mayor Tim Keller, District 3 City Councilor Klarissa Peña, Albuquerque Police Department (APD) Deputy Chiefs Roger Bañez and Harold Medina - both of whom started their law enforcement careers

at the Southwest Area Command in the neighborhood - APD Area Commander Tim Espinoza, Bernalillo County Commissioner Steven Michael Quezada, Bernalillo County Sheriff Manuel Gonzales and County Undersheriff Rudy Mora, State Senators Michael Padilla, Linda Lopez, and Jacob Candelaria, and State Representative Miguel Garcia. ●





## NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION OF THE MONTH

# LADERA WEST - RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT

The Ladera West Neighborhood, in the northwest area of Albuquerque, is no stranger to development. Established over 27 years ago, the association is proud of its many accomplishments and features of the neighborhood.

"In addition to lobbying for Rinconada Park, landscaping medians on Unser and Bob McCannon, I think we're most proud of the fact that we've been able to direct how and what type of development comes into our neighborhood," said board member Shariesse Taylor McCannon, whose late husband Bob was a founding member of the association. "We wanted to keep our neighborhood resident-friendly and limit the large commercial businesses and buildings that were popping up. I call it responsible development."

Karen Buccola, President of the association, also shared some of her thoughts about the association.

"I've found that my involvement in the association has created a true investment not just in the area and neighborhood, but

in our involvement in city government itself," she said. "Having been part of so many of our neighborhood projects and with the Westside Coalition of Neighborhoods has really helped me understand the important role that neighborhood associations play in citywide development."



From left: Shariesse Taylor McCannon, Steve Collins, Elmer Jackson, Karen Buccola, and Rose Marie Keating Seay. Not pictured are Lorraine Conway and Isabel Solano

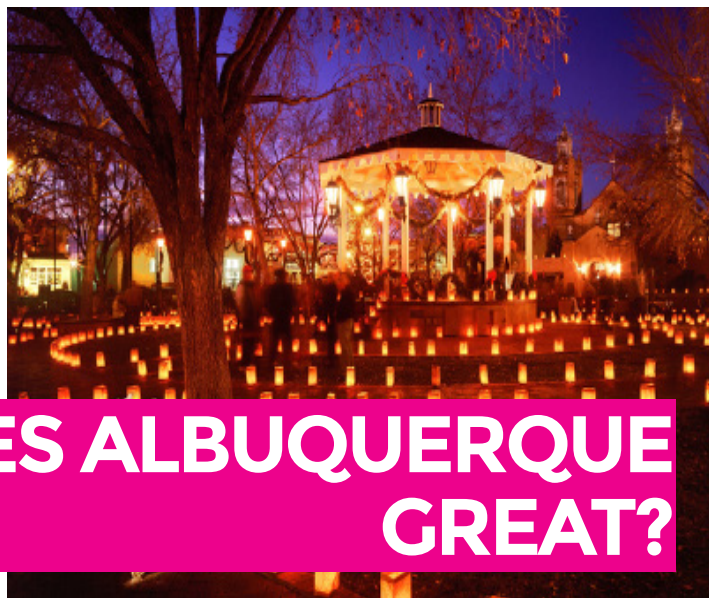
A more recent neighborhood development has come in the form of a Little Free Library. Association member Elmer Jackson started riding his bicycle throughout the neighborhood, collecting book donations and sharing them with others at no charge. He was recently able

to expand the Library with a handmade library in front of his residence, which he regularly stocks with books that are given by fellow residents and neighbors.



"Literacy is such an important thing to have," he said. "I can't tell you how wonderful it's been to share books with my neighbors. It's also a great way to recruit new members, which we are always trying to do." ●

People say that the summer, spring and autumn weather and seasons are one of their favorite things about living in Albuquerque. But the wintertime brings the holiday season, and our city is so full of unique and beautiful holiday traditions, such as the River of Lights and many others, that Dave Martinez loves. It's these holiday celebrations that make Albuquerque such a great place to live.



## WHAT MAKES ALBUQUERQUE GREAT?



Martinez, originally from Santa Fe, fell in love with the annual Twinklelight Parade that happens each December. Cars, trucks, bicycles, fire trucks and city buses are all decked out in thousands of sparkling Christmas lights as they parade down Central Avenue from Nob Hill to the university area.

"It's a very unique parade and I just love watching it every year. For me, that's when Christmas truly starts."

## CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS


## AND HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

"Being a New Mexico native, I also love the farolitos, or luminarias, as some people call them. It is not truly the holidays unless I see a candle lit up inside a paper bag."

Farolitos and luminarias are often seen as interchangeable, depending on who you ask. Luminarias can be a small bonfire lit Christmas Eve, or it can be a lit candle in a paper bag, usually lining sidewalks. ●







Each month, the ONC answers a question asked by one of our residents or neighborhood associations.

# QUESTION OF THE MONTH

## Question:

What does the city do to address traffic congestion throughout Albuquerque? What can I do if there is too much traffic coming through my neighborhood?

## Answer:

The City has a great initiative called the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP), within the Department of Municipal Development (DMD), which was designed specifically to address traffic congestion issues throughout Albuquerque. The program aims to decrease speeding and cut-through traffic on residential streets, and also offers resources for neighborhoods to request traffic calming measures.

To start the process, you can apply online at the NMTP website at:

[www.cabq.gov/neighborhood-traffic-management-program/submit-a-traffic-calming-request](http://www.cabq.gov/neighborhood-traffic-management-program/submit-a-traffic-calming-request)

From there, you'll be directed to a map and asked to give your contact information and that of two neighbors. DMD staff will review your application and define a study area, which will in turn be sent back to you and your neighbors. At that point, you'll need to gather signatures from 2/3 of the residents within the study area, submit back to DMD, and the area will be scheduled for a study.



Tim Brown, who oversees the NTMP, says the City is able to complete about five studies per month, after they have gotten a crash history of the study area. "Typically, if an area has more crash incidents than others, we'll move it up in the study queue, since we don't want any further crashes and safety issues in the area."

Once the study is complete, DMD then compares the data gathered with traffic-calming thresholds laid out in the NTMP manual. The criteria they are looking for includes:

- Crashes that might be corrected if traffic calming is built
- An 85th percentile speed (in either direction) of at least 30 miles per hour. 85th percentile is the speed that 15% of traffic exceeds. For example if a street has 1000 vehicles traveling on it per day and an 85th percentile of 30 miles per hour, it means that 150 of those vehicles are traveling faster than 30 mph.
- Peak hour directional volume of 400 vehicles. This means that during the busiest traffic hour of the day, one direction of movement has at least 400 vehicles, which would be unusual for a typical residential road.
- Cut-through traffic of 25% or more during peak traffic hour. If at least 25% of the traffic passes from one end of the study area to the other without stopping, then the road meets this criteria.

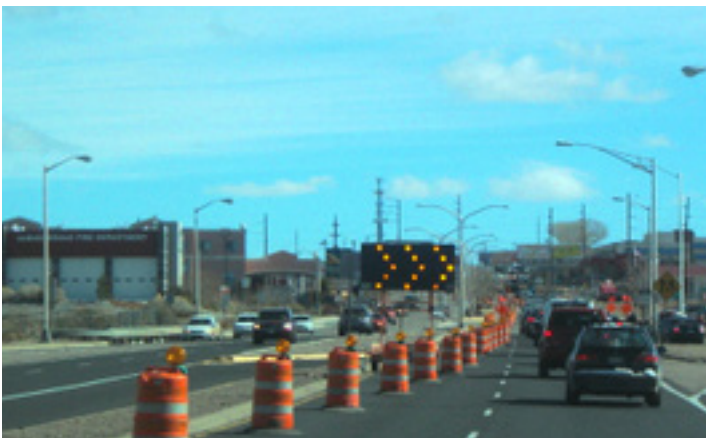
A road or street must meet two of the above criteria to qualify for traffic calming. If fewer than two are met, you'll get a letter from DMD stating your road doesn't qualify for traffic calming.

If the two criteria are met, however, DMD schedules a meeting with you and your neighborhood to find out what specific traffic issues you're experiencing, and how you might want them addressed. DMD will present options for addressing the issues, and will present a final plan of action that incorporates neighborhood suggestions, and construction starts, funded by council set-aside funds.

"It can take about a year from start to finish for a traffic calming study and implementation, because it's a detailed process and because we want to ensure neighborhoods get the traffic calming and safety they need," said Brown. "We really try not to do studies when school is out, between May and August, as that can dramatically affect traffic volumes and skew study results. Our goal is to be efficient and get your study done as quickly as possible."

To learn more about the City's Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan, visit:

[www.cabq.gov/neighborhood-traffic-management-plan](http://www.cabq.gov/neighborhood-traffic-management-plan)





## What Makes Albuquerque GREAT?

Let us know what makes Albuquerque great by e-mailing: [onc@cabq.gov](mailto:onc@cabq.gov) and we'll feature your answer in an upcoming newsletter!



## CITY LEADERSHIP

### Mayor

Timothy M. Keller

### City Council

Ken Sanchez, District 1

Isaac Benton, District 2

Klarissa J. Peña, District 3

Brad Winter, District 4

Cynthia D. Borrego, District 5

Pat Davis, District 6

Diane G. Gibson, District 7

Trudy E. Jones, District 8

Don Harris, District 9

### Chief Administrative Officer

Sarita Nair

### Director of Council Services

Stephanie Yara

# HOWDY NEIGHBOR!

## Want to get involved?

If you want to learn more about neighborhood associations, or find out what resources we can bring to your neighborhood, contact us! Our vision is to have an engaged, connected city based on trust with safe, diverse communities that have a voice and feel empowered to address their concerns in a meaningful way.

**Neighborhood News** is published monthly by the Office of Neighborhood Coordination (ONC).

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