



### Foster Grandparent Program Newsletter



Fall is officially here, the temperatures are cooling down, the leaves are changing, and the skies are filled with colorful balloons once again. We have a full calendar of events this month and are looking forward to an engaging and active season.

We're beginning preparations for our Thankful Recognition Luncheon in November. Stay tuned for more details coming soon!

We're also inviting more members of our community to join the FGP/SCP Advisory Council. If you know someone who would be interested in giving just a few hours each quarter to support our programs and make a positive impact in the community, please share Joni's contact information with them. In addition, we are continuing our efforts to grow our team of FGP volunteers, so please spread the word.

We're excited to see you at our upcoming In-Service Training on Friday, October 17, at Barelas Senior Center. This month, we'll welcome a guest speaker from Explora, presenting on "Engineering with Recyclables."

We also have an optional in-service scheduled for October 1st & 3rd, from 9:00 am - 12:30 pm at Barelas Senior Center. We'll be participating in a Zoom presentation hosted by All Faiths Children's Advocacy Center, focused on the "Nurtured Heart Approach." If you're interested in attending this session, please contact Joni to get on the list.

As always, we wish you a wonderful October and look forward to seeing you soon!



Wishing you well,
Marie, Joni & Estelle



October 2025

**DSA** Administration



Anna Sanchez Director

Shay Armijo Deputy Director

Marina Salazar Deputy Director

Nikki Peone Associate Director

Cristina Romero-Baca
Community Volunteer
Engagement Manager

Foster Grandparent Staff

Marie Llamas FGP Supervisor

Joni VanMeir Volunteer Coordinator

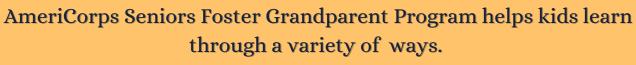
> Estelle Chavez Office Assistant

> > **FGP Office**

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# Spotlight



## Reginal Chavez Elementary School

We are Respectful, Responsible, and Safe / A Community School

Reginald F. Chavez Elementary, nestled in Albuquerque's Old Town neighborhood, is a school with deep roots in the community and a strong commitment to student growth, bilingual education, and cultural enrichment. Serving students from Pre-K through 5th grade, Chavez offers dual-language instruction in Spanish and English, giving children not just academic skills, but also fluency in two languages and a grounding in their cultural heritage. We are proud to share that Reginald Chavez Elementary is currently hosting two FGP volunteers who are contributing their time and talents to support the school, whether through tutoring, mentoring, or helping with enrichment and community events. Their presence helps further the school's mission to create a respectful, responsible, and safe environment where every child can thrive.



Martha Romero began serving in January, 2025



Shelagh Pike began serving in January, 2025





SAVE THE DATE ~ ADD TO YOUR CALENDAR
Oct 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> - In- Service optional call if you are interested in attending

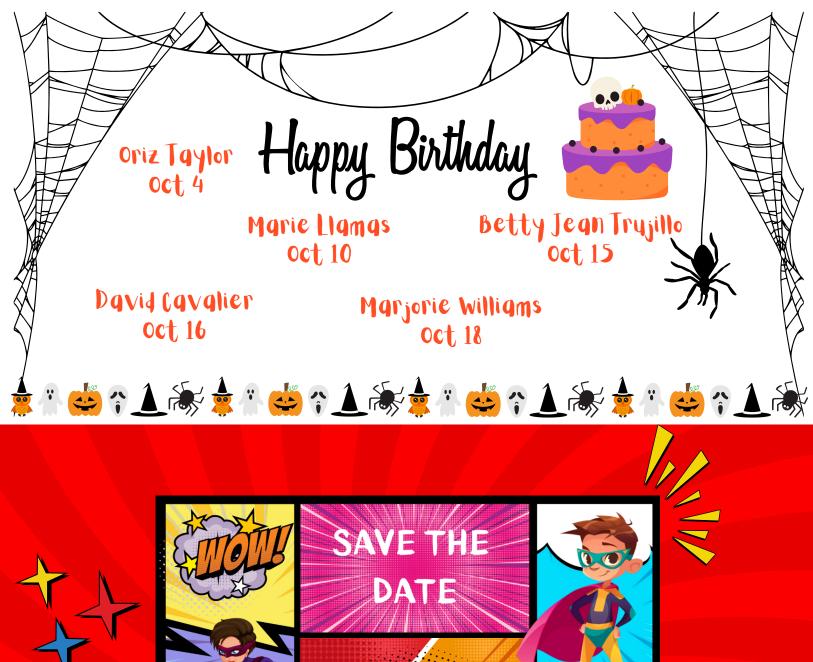
Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> - Timesheets Due

Oct 10<sup>th</sup> - Fall Break APS

Oct 13<sup>th</sup> - Indigenous Peoples' Day Schools/Office Closed
Oct 15<sup>th</sup> - FGP/SCP Advisory Council Meeting at Barelas Senior Center

Oct 17th - FGP In-Service at Barelas Senior Center







Don't miss...

#### The Largest Health Fair in New Mexico!

Wednesday, October 8th 2025! 8:30AM - 1PM At Embassy Suites (Lomas & I-25)

Free Event -











Free Health Information and Screenings • Free Flu Shots Live Entertainment • Giveaways and Much More!

This is a fun and informative event connecting mature adults with health and wellness providers, lifestyle option providers, free health information and free health screenings.

The Prime Time 50+ Expo is great for seniors and anyone caregiving for elderly family members and friends.

Call 505-242-2428 or Visit PrimeTimeNM.com

#### Ageless Artisan Craft Fair 2025

The Ageless Artisan Craft Fair 2025 will be held on November 15, 2025, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center. This free event is open to all and will feature over 50 senior artists showcasing their unique handcrafted items, including tin art, woodwork, ceramics, jewelry, photography, and more. Family-friendly activities on site for all guests to enjoy. For more information, guests can visit the Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center





Secure your spot today and join us for this invaluable session! Lunch will be provided

REGISTRATION

ajvallejos@cabq.gov (505) 768-3630

Friday, October 31, 2025 10:00 AM - 2:30 PM

DATE AND TIME

LOCATION CNM WORKFORCE CENTER 5600 Eagle Rock Road NE, ABQ NM

**ABOUT THE EVENT** 

Join us as we bring local experts, employers, hiring professionals, elected officials and older job seekers together for a deep dive into what makes age-inclusive hiring such smart business.



#### WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- - 50+ Job SeekersH.R. Professionals













Community-minded individuals are needed to serve as Council Members for two programs that have been assisting children in schools and senior-to-senior companions in the City of Albuquerque for over 40 years. The purpose of the Foster Grandparents/Senior Companion Program Advisory

Council is to serve in an advisory capacity to the Program staff in matters affecting planning and formulation of program policy. Council members assist in promoting community support for the

Program, evaluating the effectiveness of the program, and may serve as a grievance body. Council Members also help in developing local resources through fundraising. For more information, call 505-

764-6421 or email fgp@cabq.gov.















brought to you by NM-NEW CNM Ingenuity, AARP New Mexico and City of Albuquerque Senior Affairs Department

### Mac-O-Lantern and Cheese Bowls

Ingredients:

Kosher salt

6 medium orange bell peppers

8 ounces elbow macaroni

- 11/4 cups half and half
- 8 ounces cream cheese, at room temperature
- 4 ounces mild cheddar, shredded (about 1 1/2 cups)



- 1. Bring a large pot of generously salted water to a boil. Fill a large bowl with ice water.
- 2. Cut the tops off the peppers and reserve. Remove the seeds and membranes. Put the peppers and the tops in the boiling water and cook until just tender, 2 to 3 minutes. Plunge the peppers into the ice bath. Once cool, remove them and use a sharp knife to carve a jack-o-lantern face into one side of each pepper.
- 3. Return the water to a boil, add the macaroni and cook until al dente, about 6 minutes. Reserve 1 cup of the pasta water and drain (don't rinse the pasta).
- 4. Heat the half-and-half in a large saucepan over medium heat until it just comes to a simmer. Continue simmering until reduced to about 3/4 cup, about 10 minutes. Add the cream cheese and stir until melted. Whisk in the Cheddar until all the cheese is melted and the sauce is smooth.
- 5. Off the heat, add the macaroni to the saucepan and stir to combine. Stir in some of the reserved pasta water to thin the sauce if needed. Season with salt if needed. Let sit for 10 minutes, then divide the mac and cheese among the peppers and cap each with a pepper top.



Nutritional Analysis	Per Serving			
Serving Size	1 of 6 servings			
Calories	483			
Total Fat	29 g			
Saturated Fat	17 g			
Carbohydrates	41 g			
Dietary Fiber	4 g			
Sugar	10 g			
Protein	16 g			
Cholesterol	84 mg			
Sodium	635 mg			



# Month in Review







Thank you for all you do! From your Friends at ABQ Senior Affairs!















## OCTOBER



As part of the New Mexico Grown state initiative, every Thursday, the Department of Senior Affairs will feature a vegetarian meal that incorporates locally sourced fruits, vegetables, beans, or chile into the menu.

MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY	THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
¥	29	<b>~</b>	30	<b>**</b>	1	V	2	<b>**</b>	3	
Chicken Fajitas w/ Salsa Ranch Beans Flour Tortilla Hot Sliced Apples 1% Milk	4oz 2oz 4oz 2ea 4oz 8oz	Beef Stroganoff w/ Elbow Pasta Cauliflower w/ Red Peppers Dinner Roll Margarine Grapes 1% Milk	3oz 3oz 4oz 1ea 1pc 1ea 8oz	Tamales Red Chile Sauce Spinach Pinto Beans Yogurt 1% Milk	2ea 1oz 4oz 4oz 4oz 8oz	Green Chile Mac & Cheese Steamed Broccoli Diced Beets Brownie 1% Milk	40z 40z 40z 1ea 80z	BBQ Pulled Pork		
	6		7		8		9		10	
Cottage Pie Spinach w/ Onions Corn Bread Mandarin Oranges 1% Milk	50z 40z 1ea 40z 80z	Teriyaki Pork w/ Brown Rice Stir Fry Veggies Corn & Edamame Diced Pears 1% Milk	3oz 2oz 4oz 4oz 4oz 8oz	Frito Pie Normandy Blend Banana 1% Milk	5oz 4oz 1ea 8oz	Green Chile Cheese Veggie Burger Diced Potatoes Stewed Tomatoes Diced Peaches 1% Milk	50z 40z 40z 40z 80z	Green Chile Posole Green Beans Steamed Carrots Crackers Jell-O 1% Milk	40z 40z 40z 2ea 40z 80z	
CLOSED	13		14		15		16		17	
PEOPLES		Open Faced Turkey Sandwich Gravy Sweet Potato Mash Green Beans Yogurt 1% Milk	3oz 2oz 4oz 4oz 1ea 8oz	Sweet & Sour Pork Brown Rice Stir Fry Veggies Sliced Carrots Pudding 1% Milk	40z 40z 40z 40z 1ea 80z	Vegetable Lasagna Brussel Sprouts Garlic Breadstick Mixed Berries 1% Milk	40z 40z 1ea 40z 80z	Green Chile Stew Pinto Beans Flour Tortilla Applesauce 1% Milk	4oz 4oz 2ea 4oz 8oz	
	20		21		22		23		24	
Beef Tips w/ Pasta Gravy Green Beans w/ Mushrooms Sliced Carrots Pudding 1% Milk	40z 20z 40z 40z 40z 80z	Chicken Pot Pie Diced Beets Brussel Sprouts Yogurt 1% Milk	50z 40z 40z 40z 80z	Tilapia w/ Garlic Butter Brown Rice Cauliflower Apple Slices 1% Milk	3oz 1oz 4oz 4oz 4oz 8oz	Pasta Primavera Spinach w/ Onions Edamame Banana 1% Milk	40z 40z 40z 1ea 80z	Green Chile Ham Mac & Cheese Normandy Blend Cornbread Mixed Berries 1% Milk	4oz 4oz 1ea 4oz 8oz	
	77	-	1	•	-		V		ולול	
Carne Adovada Spanish Rice Corn Tortilla Pear 1% Milk	3oz 4oz 4oz 1ea 1ea 8oz	Breaded Chicken Pa w/ Green Chile Wh Gravy Sweet Potato Mash Green Beans Applesauce 1% Milk		Pot Roast Italian Blend Ancient Grain Yogurt 1% Milk	40z 40z 40z 40z 40z 80z	Cheese Omelet w/ Fajita Blend Stewed Tomato Diced Potatoes Mandarin Oranges 1% Milk	30z 20z 40z 40z 40z 80z	Swamp Water Mashed Potatoes	40z 40z 40z 40z 80z	





