



HIGHLAND BUSINESS AND NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Summer/Fall 2026 Newsletter

WELCOME TO HIGHLAND NEIGHBORHOOD

Nestled between Nob Hill and the International District, Highland's boundaries are Lomas Boulevard south to Zuni, Washington Street east to San Mateo Boulevard. This is a welcoming neighborhood with a strong sense of community. Its quiet residential streets are lined with trees, a mix of classic mid-century and traditional homes, and a locally loved Zia Park that gives the area a relaxed and established feel. Highland boasts such historic landmarks as the Hiland Theater; the Solar Building; and homes designed by famed architects, Flatow and Moore. It houses many popular businesses (some featured in films and critically acclaimed TV series) in addition to beloved schools, learning centers, and places of worship and spirituality.



MESSAGE FROM HBANA PRESIDENT, DON MANNING

HBANA (Highland Business And Neighborhood Association) is a *neighborhood* association that welcomes the businesses in our area to be a part of our association. Working with the entire neighborhood—homeowners, renters, businesses, and local schools—HBANA strives to create an atmosphere of cooperative opportunities that will enhance pride in living and working in this safe, attractive, and vibrant community. Many of the homes in our area were built in the late 1940s, which at that time was considered the eastern outskirts of Albuquerque. Highland High School, built in the early 1950's, was only the second public high school to be built in Albuquerque. Zia Elementary School came later and shares in the use of the Zia Park. Our neighborhood's claim to a portion of Historic Route 66 (Central NE from Washington Street to San Mateo Boulevard) recently became more significant with the Route 66 Centennial. For more information, visit our website www.hbana.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **August 4th, 5:00-7:00 PM — National Night Out (NNO)** — Every first Tuesday in August, there is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhood safer, more caring place to live. Join us for NNO in cooperation with NDI New Mexico for food, music, fun for the kids, and to meet your neighbors. For more information, check out www.cabq.gov/national-night-out.
- **August 6th, 5:00-7:00 PM — Councilor Rogers Monthly Community Conversations** at Route 66 Diner (1405 Central Ave. SE)
- **September 21st, 2:30-4:30 PM — HBANA Annual Meeting** at St. Tim's Lutheran Church (211 Jefferson St. NE)
- **October 24th, Time TBA — Fall Festival** at Zia Park (444 Jefferson St. NE). There will be music, food, and fun for everyone! If you're interested in helping plan, staff, or otherwise support this effort, please contact us at info@hbana.org.



CLASSES AT NATIONAL DANCE INSTITUTE (NDI) NEW MEXICO

This fall, find your rhythm at NDI New Mexico! From first steps to advanced training, our dance and performing arts classes help students of all ages build confidence, creativity, and community. Register today at ndi-nm.org/hiland-theater/the-hiland-theater-registration/.

SCHOOL STARTS ON AUGUST 7TH

Highland High School welcomes new principal, **Rae Lynn Dooley**, who was previously the principal of Barcelona Elementary School.

Upcoming School Supplies Drive:

The City of Albuquerque is hosting two free supply drives at two locations on August 1st from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM at

- West Mesa Community Center, 5500 Glenrio Rd NW, Albuquerque, NM 87105
- Cesar Chavez Community Center, 7505 Kathryn Ave SE 87108

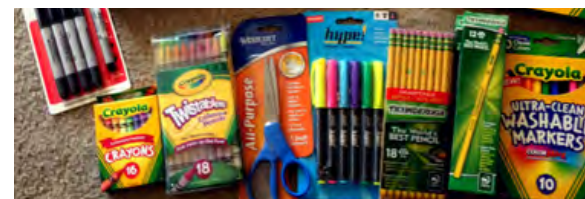
Registration required, visit

www.cabq.gov/family/events/cruzin-into-the-school-year-2026.

Year-Round School Supply/Clothing Support

- APS Community Clothing Bank and School Supply Bar www.aps.edu/mckinney-vento-program-foster-care/clothing-bank.

- Locker #505 locker505.org/trk=public_post_share-update_update-text.
- Salvation Army www.salvationarmyalbuquerque.org/family-services



NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECTS UPDATES

- San Mateo Towers work has begun, but since efforts are focused from the inside out, visible progress may not be apparent for a while.
- The vacant Walmart and Walgreens are both held in trusts, and because they are requesting amounts for which the city lacks funding, the city cannot purchase at this time. However, security coverage is supposed to stay on-site. Councilor Rogers has asked Code Enforcement to monitor these properties to ensure they remain up to code until the city can acquire them.
- The State Fair is now in the RFP process to select a master designer, and they are also working to acquire the San Pedro and Central areas that do not belong to the fair. They are conducting appraisals and coordinating with business owners. For now, the fair will continue to operate on the grounds, with a plan in place for its future appearance. Visit this website for more info: www.fairgroundsdistrict.nm.gov/.

ROUTE 66 CELEBRATES ITS CENTENNIAL

Route 66 runs right through the middle of the Highland District, so it is with pleasure that we note some sprucing up for the 100th anniversary of The Mother Road.

The gateway arch over Central at Washington has been fully restored to its neon-lit glory! Constructed in 1993, the gateway is one of two (the second arch is at Girard) designed by Terry Conrad and Joan Weissman to celebrate Route 66. The neon elements in the public art piece harken back to the iconic signage along mid-century Central Avenue.

Earlier this year, the City of Albuquerque installed Route 66 centennial street light banners along Central Avenue, and our neighborhood was no exception. After an initial hiccup—the original signs read “Hiland”, not “Highland”—our district banners invite folks to “Stop on by!”

District 6 Councilor Nichole Rogers pitched in recently to dress up the area by funding festoon lights along Central. In addition to lending a festive atmosphere to Highland, these solar-powered lights provide some welcome security.

Not new but worth noting is the Reels & Hot Wheels bus stop in front of the iconic Hiland Theater at Central and Monroe. The Route 66 bus shelter was designed to look like an old movie reel. Next to the bus shelter is a stand-alone sculpture of two Red Hot Wheels in the shape of 66, with illuminated flames shooting out the ends. Both works were designed by Howard Meehan and installed in 2017.



Hiland Theater on Route 66 over the years



ZIA PARK SPOTLIGHT

This little gem is our only green space in Highland. It is loved by many in this neighborhood and beyond. (Former residents will return to Zia because they love it so much.) There is already an informal group of volunteers that refill mutt mitt stations, clean the park, replace basketball netting, and more. If you love our only green space and would like to volunteer, please consider being part of the park committee. Send an email to info@hbana.org. Include “Zia Park” in the subject line.

JANE'S WALK

Did you know the world's first solar-heated commercial building is located on Truman Street here in the Highland neighborhood? Or that the same architect, W.C. Kruger, designed the Roundhouse in Santa Fe and the round Bank of Albuquerque building at 4901 Central? Or that there was once a restaurant shaped like a giant sombrero at the corner of Central and Adams?

This was just some of what was learned by participants of the Highland neighborhood Jane's Walk that took place earlier this year on the first weekend of May. Jane's Walk is a volunteer-led walking conversation that takes place in cities around the world every year. This year in Albuquerque, nine neighborhoods held walks, offering a variety of opportunities to explore our city's diverse and unique sights and history.



On a cool Saturday morning, a group of about twenty gathered outside of Weck's and followed hosts (and Highland residents) Chris Frazier and Anna Scarborough as they ventured into the neighborhood and along Central Ave. Stops

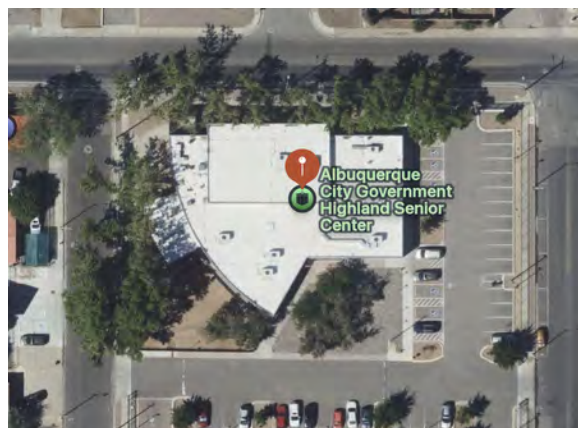
were made at interesting sites, with running commentary covering architecture, murals, history, and fun facts. The highlight of the walk was when longtime resident Olivia Jaramillo met everyone outside of the iconic Hiland Theater and gave a fantastic history lesson about the evolution of the neighborhood, from post-WWII boom riots to established residential and shopping district to the effects of changing economic and transportation landscapes in the city.

This was Highland's second year hosting a Jane's Walk, and we are looking forward to continuing the tradition in 2027. The current plan is to hold two walks, covering the Central and Lomas corridors of the neighborhood. Everyone had a great time on this one, and we hope to see you next year. Mark your calendars! And check out this link for more information: janeswalk.org/albuquerque-nm/.



PET CORNER

One of the great things about Highland Neighborhood is that it is dog-friendly. We are lucky to have an off-leash dog park located in the northwest corner of the Highland Senior Center at 131 Monroe St. NE (Open from Monday through Friday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM). In addition, Zia Park is a great gathering spot for humans and their dogs, and Clark's Pet Store is a great resource for all your pet needs.



With that said, did you know we have a new self-service pet wash in our neighborhood? The Soapy Coyote at 532 Washington St. NE is open for business from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM. It is a convenient way to keep your furry friend looking and smelling fresh!



SPECIAL THANKS

- Thanks to **Julian Gardea** from The 8th House Antiques (5100 Grand Ave. NE) for spreading the word across the socials for National Night Out, neighborhood cleanups, and Jane's Walk.
- Thanks to **NDI New Mexico** for leading out on National Night Out this year and co-sponsoring the event last year.

CONTACT INFO & RESOURCES

- If you are a business in Highland and would like to join HBANA, advertise in the newsletter, donate for an event, or participate in any way please contact us at info@hbana.org.
- Our website is hbana.org.
- Looking for a local news source? Check out the Nob Hill newsletter: www.nobhill-nm.com.
- City Councilor — **Nicole Rogers** (District 6)
- County Commissioner — **Adriann Barboa** (District 3)
- State Representative — **Janelle Anyanonu** (District 19)
- State Senator — **Antoinette Sedillo Lopez** (District 16)

Visit this website to learn more about these individuals and other community happenings. www.cabq.gov/council/find-your-councilor.