



VISTAS OF CARMONA HILLS

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The Vistas of Carmona Hills
Carmona Pass/SW Loop 410
San Antonio, TX 78252
Spectrum Assoc. Management
17319 San Pedro Ave
San Antonio, TX 78232
210-494-0659
contact@spectrumAM.com
www.spectrumAM.com
Community Manager
Vanessa Squires



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Neighborhood News, Inc.

3740 Colony Drive Suite LL100

San Antonio, TX 78230

(210) 558-3160 * (210) 558-3163 fax

Info@NeighborhoodNews.com

www.NeighborhoodNews.com

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Happy Easter!



Events & Holidays 2024 Calendar



March 31	Easter
April 1	SWISD No School
April 15	Tax Day
April 18-28	Fiesta San Antonio!
April 22	Earth Day
April 26	Arbor Day, SWISD No School
May 4	Municipal Election
May 7	Cinco de Mayo
May 12	Mother's Day
May 27	Memorial Day
May 28	Runoff Election
June 14	Flag Day
June 16	Father's Day
June 19	Juneteenth
June 21	First Day of Summer

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Safely Viewing a Total Solar Eclipse

On April 8, the Texas Hill Country and the northwest half of San Antonio will experience a total solar eclipse. This is a breathtaking celestial event where the moon passes between the Earth and the sun, blocking out its light for a brief period.

While witnessing this phenomenon can be an awe-inspiring experience, it's crucial to prioritize safety when viewing a solar eclipse to prevent any damage to your eyes. Here's a guide on how to safely view a total solar eclipse:

■ Use solar viewing glasses:

Invest in a pair of solar viewing glasses that meet the ISO 12312-2 international

safety standards. These glasses are specially designed to filter out harmful ultraviolet, visible, and infrared radiation while allowing you to observe the eclipse safely. Ensure that your glasses are not scratched or damaged, as this can compromise their effectiveness. They can be purchased at H-E-B, Wal-Mart, Target and similar stores; or online. However, don't wait too long; they will sell out fast as the date approaches.

■ DIY pinhole projector:

If you don't have access to solar viewing glasses, you can create a simple pinhole projector using cardboard, aluminum foil, and a piece of white paper. Poke a small hole in the center of the cardboard, cover it with aluminum foil, and then make a pinhole in the foil. Position the projector so that the sunlight passes through the pinhole and projects an image of the eclipse onto the white paper.

■ Telescopes and binoculars:

If you plan to use telescopes or binoculars to view the eclipse, ensure that they are equipped with solar filters specifically designed for safe solar viewing. Never look directly at the sun through these optical devices without proper filtration, as doing so can cause permanent eye damage.

■ Avoid unfiltered cameras and smartphones:

Never point an unfiltered camera or smartphone directly at the sun, as the intense light can damage the camera sensor or the eyes of anyone looking through the viewfinder. If you want to photograph the eclipse, use a solar filter specifically designed for cameras.

Supervise children closely during the eclipse and make sure they understand the importance of not looking directly at the sun without protection. Encourage them to wear solar viewing glasses or use pinhole projectors to observe the eclipse safely.

By following these safety precautions, you can enjoy the awe-inspiring beauty of a total solar eclipse without putting your eyes at risk. Remember that protecting your vision is paramount when witnessing this rare celestial event.



Total Solar Eclipse

When: April 8, 2024

Time: around 1:34 p.m. in Northwest San Antonio.

Will we see it in our neighborhood?

Yes, but only partially. To see the full eclipse, head northwest towards the Hill Country.



Keep Your Cool: Trustworthy AC Repair Tips

By Jason Meza

Regional Director - San Antonio

Slowly but surely, that famous Texas heat is returning and will be back in triple digits. It's important to be prepared in case you begin experiencing problems with your air conditioning unit or just need a preventative maintenance check.

According to energy.gov, furnaces and air conditioners need their filters cleaned and changed every couple of months. A dirty filter can also increase energy costs and damage equipment. Maintaining your home's heating and cooling systems can improve the overall air quality of your home, cut energy costs and help alleviate allergies.

If your AC needs a bit of work or isn't cooling properly, annual spring maintenance can help improve efficiency and prolong the life of your unit. In 2019, Better Business Bureau (BBB) received 2,800+ complaints regarding HVAC contractors nationwide. These complaints can range up to \$1,500 in financial loss and common issues deal with billing, the quality of workmanship or lack of proper permits.

As a homeowner, you should also always be on the lookout for red flags of unreliable businesses. BBB warns against these signs for untrustworthy AC Contractors or any other home improvement services:

- **Start with research.** Visit bbb.org to see a business's profile and check their complaint history and customer reviews. BBB Request-A-Quote is a tool allowing you to get fast quotes from accredited businesses. Ask for referrals from trusted people.
- **Verify licenses.** Often, low rated businesses in this industry don't have the proper licenses to do repair or installation work. Verify with Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR.texas.gov/LicenseSearch) that they have updated licenses matching the business name.
- **Avoid high pressure tactics.** Typically, they might try this by offering you a great deal and saying its only good right then. In most cases, if a deal is good one day, it will be good the next. Be especially careful with door-to-door solicitors who might not be working with legitimate businesses.
- **Get everything in writing.** Another common complaint is warranty issues. Getting everything in writing can help your case if you find yourself in this situation. Get up to 3 estimates and make payment using reliable methods such as check or credit card.
- **Asks for a large upfront payment.** A typical payment schedule should follow the "Rule of Thirds." The first payment is given when signing the contract and helps pay for materials, the second payment when work begins, and the final payment when the job is finished, and you are satisfied with the quality of work.
- To find a trustworthy AC Repair company, file a complaint or leave a positive review, visit bbb.org.

Mold management

Last summer's drought and the recent rains are good for this year's bluebonnet and wildflowers, but it can also lead to an unwelcome biological growth at home: mold.

It lurks in the corners and can cause major damage and nasty health issues.

As long as moisture and oxygen are present, mold can grow indoors or out on virtually any organic substance, including wood, paper, carpet, insulation and food. When excessive moisture accumulates in buildings or on building materials, mold growth will often occur, especially if the moisture problem remains undiscovered or unaddressed.

It is impossible to eliminate all mold and mold spores in the indoor environment. However, mold growth can be controlled by keeping moisture in check. Moisture control is key – mold cannot grow without it.

Left untreated, mold gradually destroys the material on which it is growing. Because molds produce allergens, irritants and toxins, they have the potential to cause a variety of health problems and can exacerbate existing conditions, such as asthma.

If mold is a problem in your home, clean up the mold and get rid of the excess water or moisture. If an area becomes water damaged, it is important to dry that space and any damaged items within 24-48 hours to prevent mold growth. Fix leaky plumbing or other sources of water to prevent recurrence. Wash mold off hard surfaces with detergent and water and dry completely. Absorbent materials (such as ceiling tiles and carpet) that become moldy may have to be replaced.

For more information on how to clean up residential mold problems and how to prevent mold growth, download the Environmental Protection Agency's free publication, A Brief Guide to Mold, Moisture, and Your Home at www.epa.gov/mold/pdfs/moldguide.pdf.

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Vistas of Carmona HOA Website

Please take time to visit our website at spectrumam.com. You can make ACC requests, pay bills, and manage other aspects of your account through a useful community website.

The Vistas of Carmona Hills Community Facebook Page



This page has been set up by a fellow homeowner for neighbors to share information as a community. Check out the following link for more info: facebook.com/CarmonaHills

However, please remember as with Next Door and other social media sites, this is not an official or acceptable source for conducting HOA and homeowner account-related business. You will need to contact Spectrum Association Management directly for action to be taken on all HOA-related business.



How to make Cascarones

Cascarones, those vibrant, confetti-filled eggshells, are a delightful tradition at Fiesta time in San Antonio. Originating from Mexico, these colorful creations bring an extra dose of joy to any celebration. Making cascarones is not only a fun activity but also a creative way to add flair to your festivities. Here's a simple guide to crafting your own:



Ingredients

- **Eggs:** Start by gathering empty eggshells. You can either crack the eggs carefully to preserve the shells or use a small tool to create a small hole at the top of each egg and drain the contents.
- **Confetti or colored paper:** Choose brightly colored tissue paper or cut up scraps of colored paper to fill your cascarones.
- **Glue:** You'll need a non-toxic glue to seal the holes after filling the eggs.
- **Paints or food coloring:** If you want to decorate your cascarones, gather some paints or food coloring for a splash of color.
- **Brushes:** Small paintbrushes will help you apply the glue and paint.
- **Optional Decorations:** Ribbons, glitter, or stickers can add extra pizzazz to your cascarones.

Instructions

- **Prepare the eggs:** After draining the eggs, rinse the shells thoroughly and let them dry completely.
- **Fill with confetti:** Once dry, carefully fill each eggshell with confetti or colored paper through the small hole at the top.
- **Seal the eggs:** Apply a small amount of glue around the edges of the hole and press a small piece of tissue paper over it to seal the opening. Let the glue dry completely.
- **Decorate (optional):** If you want to add decorative touches, paint the outside of the eggshells with vibrant colors or add stickers and glitter for extra sparkle.
- **Let them dry:** Allow your cascarones to dry completely before handling them to avoid smudging the decorations.
- **Celebrate:** Once dry, your cascarones are ready to add a burst of color and fun to your Fiesta celebrations. Crack them (gently, please) over friends and family's heads to spread joy and laughter.

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