

April is National Safe Digging Month



Dating back over a decade, April has been recognized across the United States as National Safe Digging Month. Each April utility companies join together with the Common Ground Alliance (CGA) with the goal of raising awareness to safely excavate around buried utilities. Perhaps you have seen an area where colored marks have been spray painted on the ground or colored flags placed and wondered of the significance of the markings and colors. Well, wonder no more! Each color is specific to a particular utility service (See color chart below).

Whether you own a professional excavating company or you are a home owner getting ready to undertake a home project that requires digging, you must mark the ground where you plan to dig with white spray paint and then call 811 two business days before you plan to dig and advise them of your digging plans (known as a Locate Request).

Red	Electric
Yellow	Gas, Oil, Steam
Orange	Communications
Blue	Potable Water
Purple	Reclaimed Water
Green	Sewer/Drainage
Pink	Survey Marks
White	Proposed Excavation

Once you have contacted 811, they will notify all of the utility companies and advise them of your plans to dig. Upon receiving the Locate Request, utility companies are given two business days to respond and mark buried utilities. After completing the Locate Request, utility companies are required to advise 811 that they have completed the Locate Request and identified any buried

service line they have near your dig site. Once you have entered a Locate Request you may check the status by visiting the website www.nm811.org.

Once your Locate Request has been completed, you have 15 business days to complete the work. Once you begin the project, if you realize you won't be able to complete the digging in the allotted 15 days, that's no problem! Simply call

811 again two business days before the end of the 15 days and request a locate update. Calling 811 before you dig is free. It's easy and it's the law!

You're almost ready to begin digging...

Now that all of your utility lines have been marked, it is important to understand that any digging that is done within 18 inches of either side of any of the marks must be done by hand (shovel) and still must be done with extreme care. In some instances, certain utilities may be buried only a few inches beneath the surface.

You may not use any mechanical device (backhoe, trencher, auger machines, rototillers, etc.) to dig within 18 inches of either side of the marks left by the utility companies.

This diagram illustrates the paths underground utilities might take to service your home. Imagine if you were going to install a picket fence around this home next weekend. Where would you place your white spray paint marks? If you planned on starting on Saturday, what day of the week should you contact 811 for the Locate Request? Exactly !! You should call on Wednesday.



Zia Natural Gas Company
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RECIPE

Grandma's Lemon Meringue Pie

INGREDIENTS

Filling:

- 1 cup white sugar
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 3 tablespoons cornstarch
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 1 ½ cups water
- 2 lemons, juiced and zested
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 4 egg yolks, beaten
- 1 (9 inch) pie crust, baked

Meringue:

- 4 egg whites
- 1/2 cup white sugar



DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat the oven to 325 degrees F.
2. To make the filling: Whisk 1 cup sugar, flour, cornstarch, and salt together in a medium saucepan; stir in water, lemon juice, and lemon zest. Cook over medium-high heat, stirring frequently, until mixture comes to a boil. Stir in butter.
3. Place egg yolks in a small bowl and gradually whisk in 1/2 cup of hot sugar mixture. Whisk egg yolk mixture back into remaining sugar mixture. Bring to a boil and continue to cook while stirring constantly until thick. Remove from heat; pour filling into baked pie crust.
4. To make the meringue: Beat egg whites in a glass, metal, or ceramic bowl with an electric mixer until foamy. Gradually add sugar, continuing to beat until stiff peaks form. Spread meringue over pie filling, sealing the edges at the crust.
5. Bake in preheated oven until meringue is golden brown, about 20 to 25 minutes.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Ruidoso

April - Veterans Coffee and Company. Please come join fellow Veterans for complimentary coffee and pastries and good fellowship with other Veterans. All levels of discharges and branches of the military are honored! Every Thursday from 1 - 3 pm, 615 Sudderth Dr. Ste 1, Ruidoso, NM. For more information call Lynn Zimmer at 575-527-9178.

April - Contemporary Perspectives on Classic Cinema, the 1920s through the 1960s. Hosted by Eastern New Mexico University's Ruidoso campus, this film series offers screenings of classic feature films with audience members invited to participate in conversation following the film. Come for the entertainment; stay for the enlightenment. Screenings are free and open to the public, every other Thursday at 6:00 pm beginning March 7. Rm 201. Location: 709 Mechem Drive, Ruidoso NM

April 13 - Ruidoso Rotary Duck Race 11:00 am - 1:00 pm Please come join the Ruidoso Rotary Club for this family-fun event! Ducks go in the water at 10:30 am. Grand Prize is \$500. You need not be present to win!

Las Cruces

April 23 - Moonlight Hike at White Sands National Park, 7:30 - 9:30 pm Embark on an enchanting journey into the heart of White Sands National Park with ranger-guided Moonlight Hike, a captivating experience that unveils the park's mesmerizing beauty after dark. This re-named Moonlight Hikes offers a unique opportunity to bask in the tranquility of this elusive environment as the moonlight illuminates the dazzling white gypsum sand!

April 6-7 - Home & Garden Show. We thrive to inspire our community to start thinking about ambitious exterior landscape and other home improvement projects. This event is a 2 day show at the Las Cruces Convention Center: Saturday, April 6th, 9 am - 5 pm & Sunday, April 7th, 10 am - 4 pm.

Hobbs

April - Women's Real Talk Support Group presented by Helen Houston's Justice House, Every Thursday at noon, lunch provided, all are welcome, 1515 W Calle Sur (Entrance on the side of building) Hobbs, NM.

April - "Deceiving Granny" by Michael Taylor, Directed by Liz Arreola Newlyweds, Sam and Margaret, are in line to inherit when they "kill" great-grandmother with peanuts. Friends, Bob and Kelsy, go to extremes to help cover up their misdoings. Community Playhouse 1700 N. Grimes, Hobbs, NM 88240. For more information visit: communityplayersofhobbs.org

Reminder: We use this section for our local communities. The messages must be non-partisan and non religious. Non profit organizations messages will be given preference. Please send the information to osaucedo@zngc.com before the 10th of the month to make the following month edition. Thank you.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

End of Winter Moratorium Protection

Protection from winter shut-off ends March 15, 2024. If you have participated in the LIHEAP program throughout the winter months, to avoid a potential service disconnection, please contact Zia Natural Gas Company to make arrangements for payment.

Members of the New Mexico tribes or pueblos who need help with translation or with other matters may contact the Commission's Consumer Relations Division at (888) 427-5772, who will then contact the appropriate tribal or pueblo official for assistance.



New Mexico's Natural Choice ... Zia Natural Gas Company
proudly celebrating over 30 years of service and looking forward to many more!

Zia Natural Gas Company Area Offices:

Lincoln County

100 Short Dr
Ruidoso Downs, NM 88346
575-378-4277
1-800-520-4277
Fax: 575-378-4138

Mailing Address

PO Box 888
Ruidoso Downs, NM 88346

Hobbs /Jal

510 E. Bender Blvd
Hobbs, NM 88240
575-392-4277
1-800-470-9900
Fax: 575-392-8504

Mailing Address

PO Box 2220
Hobbs, NM 88241

Dona Ana County

3700 W. Picacho Ave
Las Cruces, NM 88007
575-526-4427
1-800-453-5546
Fax: 575-523-4945

Mailing Address

3700 W. Picacho Ave
Las Cruces, NM 88007

Colfax County

316 Maxwell Ave
Maxwell, NM 87728
1-800-520-4277
575-375-2277
Fax: 575-375-2753

Mailing Address

PO Box 357
Maxwell NM, 87728



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Oscar Saucedo, Business
Development Manager

osaucedo@zngc.com