

EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO

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EDITORIAL: GALISTEO NEEDS A CENTER

Most small communities keep track of themselves through the school and post office. Often there is a community center, a couple of churches, perhaps a cafe and a general store. Galisteo has done a great job of staying in touch, given the fact that we have no central meeting place.

But we are always looking for new energy for the community association and the fire department and other activities, and it's hard to know who's here and what's going on without some social center. EL PUENTE was founded to keep the community informed and interacting. However, as we know all too well from life in general, all the techno-cyber gear in the world can't replace face-to-face communication and day-to-day interactions, with all their ups and downs.

The coffee house projected for Mike Anaya's Tanque Viejo development is on hold and the fiesta was at Vista Clara. The Studio Tour provides an annual visiting day, at least for those who are interested in the arts, but it's shared with a lot of visitors. The Galisteo Community Association holds one sole public meeting per year.

This seems like a good time to think about how the Community Center could become more of a social center for the whole community. The GCA has started work on the new patio, and ground is finally being broken for the long-awaited playground next to it. How can we create in the process a more open and more inviting place for people to get to know each other and to discuss, formally and informally, where we're heading as a community?

The history archive in the Community Center needs to be open on a regular schedule so that people can see what's being collected. Easier access and related programs with the children (maybe in conjunction with their teachers at Eldorado?) and oral histories with our elders would be longlasting contributions.

Several years ago, Mike Datoli drew up a list of suggestions exactly along these lines. He proposed children's and seniors' programs, arts classes, talks (Galisteo is full of people who could share their expertise, village history, travels, whatever). Maybe monthly or bimonthly potlucks, musical events or dances to bring all parts of the community together. How about it?

OCTOBER 16-17: 12TH ANNUAL GALISTEO STUDIO TOUR

This now-famous event will be the biggest ever, with over 40 participants, raffle, and mouthwatering food at the Community Center, the Fire Department and elsewhere. Tell your friends, bring your family. Get Culture! Buy Stuff! Support Our Artist's!



Flash flood overturns truck in Arroyo de los Angeles. Photo: Richard Shuff.

ROUGH ROADS AND HIGH WATERS

The paving of County Road 42 has become quite a saga. For two years now we have been told that paving from Route 41 by the church to the railroad tracks is about to begin, but first the water system had to be replaced, then there were easement problems and now there is the major question of drainage, highlighted by the heavy rains this summer.

On August 9, engineers Ted Barber and Robert Martinez from the County Highway Department came to the GCA Open Forum to talk about the paving project. The engineers said that

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due to lack of funds, the paving will only go from Rte. 41 at the church to the Pattons' corner — just where some of us had hoped it would *begin*, leaving base course in the village for esthetic and drainage reasons. They announced plans to begin grading the road in Galisteo on Monday, Wednesday and Friday of the 4th week of every month. So far work has not begun.

Barber and Martinez said that bar ditches one and a half feet deep would be constructed on each side of the road and new culverts will be built for affected driveways. However, as residents know, this would not necessarily solve the flooding in the Philip Watts III Playground, by the Sandovals, and by the church. The County does not yet appear to grasp the extent of our drainage problems, not having been present when a heavy rain rolls down the Hill.

Concern was also expressed about the preservation of the church and archaeological resources. Dorothy Victor from the State Historical Preservation Dept. and Glenna Dean, State Archaeologist, were also present at the meeting.

To further complicate matters, Richard Cook's monster gravel trucks, going to and from Cerrillos, are using County Road 42 as their detour. They were banned, because of their weight, from the San Marcos bridge on Route 14. One source believes that County Road 42 is designed only for 20 tons, not the 60 tons that these trucks weigh when full.

Particularly hard hit are Jean Alice and Chris Koch, new owners of the Donaciano Chavez/David Irving house behind Nick and Corinne Anaya's. Their very old house is developing cracks from the constant vibrations of huge trucks passing by. They also had three feet of water in their front yard during the big rains, coming over the wall like a waterfall.

County engineers seem to have little clue as to how much water runs down the Hill in a big rain, even in a normal summer, and where it goes. In the old days, this water was captured in the Tanque on the flood plain near the Electrical Concepts office and fed into an acequia system to irrigate the fields on the old Galisteo Grant. (We'll have more on this history in a future EL PUENTE.)

The Galisteo Watershed Restoration Project measured erosion this summer on the east side of the Galisteo Creek from the old bridge to the highway bridge on Route 41. At the highest point, 15" was lost in just in two months. The cliffs are being undercut by the river but the worst damage is being done from above, by water running downhill from the San Cristóbal and mesa uplands.

Two vehicles were lost in flash floods in the Arroyo de los Angeles this summer. Plans for a cement lining and (maybe someday) a bridge, would improve that situation, if people are more careful. When the San Cristóbal Arroyo flooded in late August, the highway bridge just north of the Rodeo Grounds was flooded. You can still see debris on its highest pillars. No news yet as to whether the County has come to check the damage, which includes erosion of the ground supporting the bridge. Jim Sloan says the water was over 20 feet high and the arroyo about 250 feet wide. Janey Katz, whose house further west overlooks Galisteo Creek from a considerable distance, heard the roaring waters and saw a sliver of silver on the high cliffs where she

usually sees red dirt. Rudy Sena lost a chunk of land and so did Saddleback Ranch, in another episode.

Those of us who border the Creek within the village have been lucky so far. But what about next time! We're overdue for a "hundred year flood," since the last huge one seems to have been in the 1870s. In the 1920s, however, an earlier Via La Puente bridge washed out, to be replaced by the current one in 1927.

GCA: THE BUZZ ON BUILDING, BUGS, ETC.

The Galisteo Community Association Board met July 19, August 9, and September 1. The agenda was topped by improvements to the Community Center. Bids are coming in for the "traditional New Mexican type" sign. The plain cement interior floor will be stained, after years of discussion, with the help of Alice Hoelthe and Peter Gillespie, who will be married there in October. Ted Montoya's bid was accepted for the patio and banco in front of the building, and work has begun. The plan is to have it completed in time for the Studio Tour.

Also planned are a new fence in front of the Center to be built by Richard Shuff with poles donated by Wendy Monroe. New doors with locks have been installed in the Archive Room. Brass plates announcing funding by the McKee Foundation and cabinetwork by Onesimo Montoya are still pending.

The GCA playground at the Community Center was the subject of a special Board meeting on September 1, at which it was decided to spend the \$6,133 playground fund first for fencing and sand. When that stage is complete, remaining funds will be spent on play equipment.

It was voted unanimously to pay Mela Montoya for cleaning the Community Center before and after each rental date.

Benches donated in memory of David Irving will be placed in the Church playground.

Thanks to the welcome if somewhat overdone rains this summer, mosquitoes were rampant. Kevan Saunders organized a general meeting about mosquito control, which was not very well attended. State environmental vector specialist Ted Brown was the speaker. Suggested tactics included introduction of Gambusia fish (which eat mosquito larvae) into local stock tanks, wetlands and river. There is also a non-toxic larvicide that changes the water surface and makes the eggs sink. A couple of households in Ranchitos have seen some success. It's too late this year to do anything, but a new mosquito control initiative will be begun early next spring. Those interested call Kevan at 466-6620.

Suzi Calhoun has researched insurance for community properties. The GCA Board voted on July 19 to upgrade our building insurance to \$500,000 coverage on the community center and its contents, and on the ten acres of vacant land owned by the village. Annual cost is \$924. It was decided not to purchase liability insurance for GCA Board members, as the price was prohibitive.

A preliminary hearing was held on June 30 on the lawsuit between the GCA and Richard Griscom about ownership of the strip of bosque along the Creek just south of the old bridge, where vehicles enter. His motion to dismiss was denied. The suit itself will not be heard until next year.

WHERE THERE'S SMOKE.... FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

The sirens and red lights flashing outside the Community Center/Fire House on the night of September 14 were alarming if you didn't know it was a **planned burn** for the usual Tuesday night Galisteo Volunteer Fire and Rescue training. There was a lot of smoke, and fire too, as our volunteer firefighters struck while it was hot and got much needed first-hand experience.

The **Galisteo Fiesta** was held this year on August 21st at the brand new Tewa Lodge at Vista Clara Ranch as part of its dedication ceremonies. Around \$2,000 was raised for the GVFDR. Thanks to **Vista Clara's Kaye Sandford** who donated food and place and **Samara Sinclair**, who produced the wonderful party; to the **Cuervo Wranglers**, who donated their ever-livelier dance music, and to **Mike Datoli** and other Fire Department members for organizing, bartending and raffle.

Linda Anaya and **Jean Moya** passed their state exam to become full-fledged Emergency Medical Technicians. This is a tremendous commitment in time and energy and we congratulate them and thank them wholeheartedly. We also welcome **Chris Fields** as a new member of the GVFDR.

The new **Rescue Unit #2**, donated by Eldorado and refitted for us, is ready to go.

GALISTEO VS. LAMY ANNUAL SHOOTOUT

will be Sunday Oct. 3 at 2 PM at Walt Pilnock's range, down the railroad tracks from the Post Office in Lamy. Competition is open to anyone living in the two towns and spectators are welcome.

COMMUNITY GARDEN NOTES AND NEEDS

by **Shaun Gilmore**

Yes, Virginia (et al.), there really is a harvest! The Community Garden that we planted at Diana and Woody Gwyn's in the late spring has been a qualified success. Qualified because though some of the seeds planted have done very well (chard, peas, certain lettuces), others never even bothered to check out the light of day. And it was a constant challenge to keep the grasshoppers out and the hose water in.

The other factor to consider is that Diana, with some help from Valentine and Shaun and a paid assistant, did the majority of the work. This is not our goal. So while plans are in the works to start a simple raised-bed garden behind the church in the playground area, we need to know that there are a few other committed souls (and bodies) who will help.

We could also use some donated materials for building the raised portion of the bed. The ideal would be 4 x 4" or 6 x 6" untreated lumber or money to purchase it. We would love to get this going before the cold sets in. And finally, we could use some ideas on how to distribute this bounty in the future. My personal dream would be to give out the produce at a Galisteo Farmers Market. Barter between private gardens at the market could mean very little money would need to be exchanged. Any other thoughts? PLEASE call either Valentine Riddell (466-0791) or Shaun Gilmore (466-9040) with your positive contributions.

PEDAZITOS/ BITS AND PIECES

Archaeology, the Archaeological Conservancy's national magazine, had a cover story on the **Galisteo Basin** in its last issue, regarding the federal legislation introduced by Senator Jeff Bingaman last May. Discussions on the bill began in Congress before the August recess, though currently they have been submerged by budget talks. Supporters are optimistic.

The **rope swing** in the bosque near the bridge was cut down by vandals toward the end of August. They also defaced the "Swing at Your Own Risk" Sign with mud and "Ian" signed his name in mud on the bridge. This was very upsetting for the kids under twelve in the village, who hang out there (so to speak). Why would someone risk that very high climb to do such a thing? And all for nothing. Because the swing will be replaced.

We hear that the Galisteo Rodeo was wild and woolly as planned. The Galisteo/Lamy Shootout is usually held at the Rodeo Grounds range but was moved to Lamy this year because **Rudy Sena**, just getting over a hip replacement, had a bad accident and suffered a severely broken leg. After hospitalization, an operation, and complications, he is recovering at home.

Residents were startled when a drunk driver ran through the fence and careened into **Priscilla Hoback's field** in September.

Jan Saunders and her daughter **Kevan**, **Wendy Monroe** and **Maria Padilla** will organize the Studio Tour raffle and **Richard Shuff** will help solicit donations.

Greg O'Byrne is director of the Santa Fe Wine and Chile Fiesta, taking place September 22-26, which the *New Mexican* calls "one of the biggest epicurean events in Santa Fe," paying "tribute to food and wine, a perfect pairing of life's simple pleasures." (Greg is considering an occasional food column for EL PUENTE! That too should be a treat.)

Henry Singleton, owner of the San Cristóbal Ranch on Galisteo village's eastern border, died recently in Los Angeles.

Harmony Hammond spent the summer curating, writing and editing the catalogue, then hanging the exhibition *Out West*, now at Plan B Evolving Arts in Santa Fe through Oct. 24. Hammond and Geoff Lawrence are the Galisteans represented.

Munson Hunt was selected for an exhibition at SoHo 20 Gallery in New York City, which is also visible on the WEB.

Lucy Lippard's 20th book was published in June. *On the Beaten Track: Tourism, Art and Place* includes Galisteo (nameless, and *not* as a tourist destination!) in a chapter called "The Tourist at Home," illustrated by a portrait of **Clara and Manuel Anaya** with the miniature church Manuel built next to their house.

EL PUENTE SPONSOR OF THE MONTH IS

**** (the ever generous) ANONYMOUS! ****

WE NEED DONATIONS FOR 1999-2000.

\$75 covers a whole issue. Make checks out to Galisteo

Community Association (HC 75 Box 708, 87540)

and specify that it's for the newsletter.

Contributing Galisteo businesses will have their business cards or small ads printed HERE.

Y2K UPDATE

The following is a summary of a letter from Nick Laird that came to us from the Internet via **Valentine Riddell**.

The writer begins by distinguishing between two extreme responses to the Y2K situation — the “Bump-in-the Road” view (“we’ll barely notice it”) and the “Doomsday” view (“the end of the world as we know it”). Coming as he does from the “Middle-of-the-Road gang,” Laird lists the common-sense precautions he and his wife have decided upon.

They have taken out **fire insurance**, bought a **wood stove** for their sunroom they have always wanted anyway, and **extra food**, that will be eaten whatever happens. They got a bucket and rope to allow them to draw **water from their well**, a **food dehydrator** so they can dry rather than waste excess garden produce, a **pressure cooker-canner**, extra **candles**, a **Coleman lantern and a hurricane lamp**, 2 **propane cylinders** for the barbecue, a **hand-cranked radio**, and a pair of full-body **long johns** for each of them. They are also stocking up on **toilet paper**, **dog and catfood**, **prescription medications**, and **cash** (though not advertising the latter). Also acquired: a **chain saw** to clean up dead trees and provide firewood if necessary, a moderate supply of gas for the saw, and a **cord of wood** stored “indoors out-of-sight.”

On a more rarified level, they have moved their “equity based **mutual funds** into Government Bond funds and then will move all of that into Guaranteed Investment Certificates sometime before January 1, because GICs are insured by the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation and mutual funds aren’t.”

Laird ends his letter: “When Ed Yourdon testified to the Special Senate Committee on Y2K recently, he wisely said that if you don’t know or can’t measure the risks, then you must consider the stakes. None of us really knows the risks of Y2K but the stakes are awfully high.”

GALISTEO CLASSIFIED

ADS ARE FREE AND FOR GALISTEO RESIDENTS ONLY. Put your ads in Box 77 (Rte 41 south) or call 466-1276 by Oct. 10 for next issue. Please call to have ads continue.

WANTED

Galisteo craftpersons and artists! Vista Clara Ranch is opening its retail store and since this is home to so many creative people, we would like to showcase your work. Christy Thiel, 466-4772. **Morning Schoolbus Alternative** in case of snow, etc., for 2 sons, one to Eldorado, one to Capshaw; will contribute for gas. Call Nilo or Sonia, 466-0966.

SERVICES

Electrical Concepts: Residential/Commercial/Industrial. Hansi Mohn and Michael Anaya. 988-8853.

Dave’s Auto Repair: tune-ups, oil change, minor repairs, auto restoring, painting. Local references. Free estimates. David Montoya, 466-2097.

Custom decorative paintings for your home: furniture with a new old look; murals on walls; accents on arches and doorways. Call Munson 466-4760.

Galisteo Caretaking Services for your property or animals. For the Chores You Ignore! Short notice, small jobs OK. Will housesit, have truck. Call Richard, 466-7723.

Native Bloom Landscaping, drip systems, call Linda, 466-4658.

Car and Truck detailing: Will clean and vacuum the inside of your vehicle and do windows. Call Miguel Padilla, 466-8930.

Carpentry: Closets, hand-carved dining tables, patio benches, custom gates, doors, etc. 35 years experience, local references. Onesimo Montoya, 466-1430.

Avon Representative in Galisteo, free brochure. Call Maria, 466-8930.

Passive solar builders: Quality home construction, renovations, and additions. Call Charlie, 466-2118.

One-of-a-kind sterling silver jewelry, decorative art, the Coopers, El Estudio, #18 the Hill. Call 466-3827 or 466-0133.

Barbara Holloway Fine Handweaving of luxurious chenille. Please call 466-2118 before visiting.

Nizhoni School for Global Consciousness on the new campus in Galisteo. Call 466-4336 or 466-1975.

Reiki Sessions and trainings by master V. Riddell, 466-0791.

+++ EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO+++

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FIESTA! Organizing trio (Mike Datoli, Samara Sinclair, Kaye Sandford), and the boys at the bar (Alan Langer, Nick Contreras, Lew Riddell).

Photo: Richard Shuff.