



ISSUE #102

FEBRUARY 2007

THURSDAY MARCH 15th, 7PM
Community Center: ANNUAL
GCA ELECTIONS MEETING.
COME, VOLUNTEER TO SERVE, VOTE!

MONDAY FEBRUARY 26th,
6:30PM, Community Center: MEET
COMMISSIONER MIKE ANAYA on paving
of County Road 42 (Los Abuelos).

URGENT MESSAGE TO GALISTEO AND NEIGHBORS
Amy Tremper

On January 30th NMDOT held a public meeting at the Community Center to outline their plans for the two new bridges at San Cristobal Arroyo and Galisteo Creek (State Transportation Project CN D5016). A huge crowd attended.

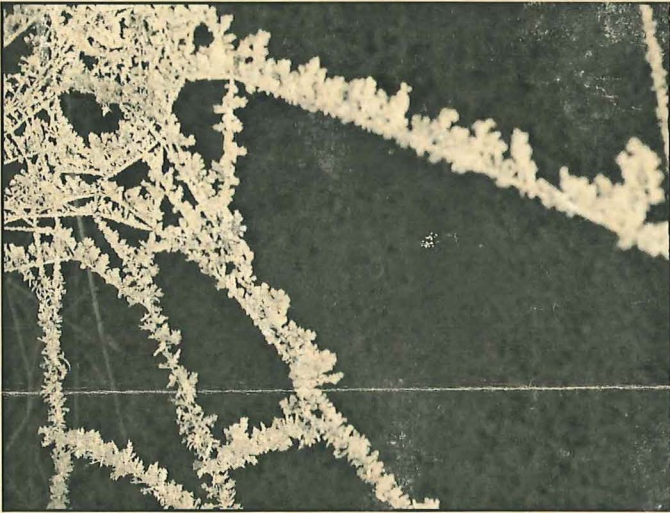
The language used by NMDOT did not make it clear that the federal funds will be used exclusively for new bridges. NMDOT said that the meeting's purpose was "to solicit input from the public on the *safety improvements* needed" for the bridges. NMDOT did not request federal funding to repair or rehabilitate the bridges, but received allocation to build a new bridge alongside each historical bridge *or* to tear down the existing bridge and build a new one in the same place.

According to Ryan Beach, the New Mexico representative of the Federal Highway Administration for our project, NMDOT could have asked for money to repair the bridges. This would require an additional STIP (Statewide Transportation Improvement Program) and could possibly take six more years. The January survey, answered by some 200 people in Galisteo, unanimously agreed that NMDOT should "post" our two historic bridges to restrict the weight of the trucks crossing them. However, NMDOT could not clearly tell us what the ramifications of posting are. They indicated that it might stop emergency vehicles. (Assistant County Fire Chief Steve Moya tells us that the average emergency vehicle is c. 35,000 pounds and the largest that would have to pass is 52,000 lbs.) There may be variances and exceptions they did not tell us. Barbara Pfeiffer of the Roads Committee is researching this critical part of the puzzle.

NMDOT gave us only two weeks – until Feb. 16th --to respond in writing to their plans. They will only use *written* responses to prepare for future dialogue with us. We urge you to use the insert in this EL PUENTE to respond to the NMDOT by fax or mail, and to make the following points:

1. We want the state to repair the bridges and make them safe.

We only found out (first hand) after the January issue that among the snow heroes who should have been thanked profusely were Jim Sloan and Bill Sherman. Those of us whose driveways drift with every wind are still dependent on them. **MANY THANKS** from us all.



Icy Spider Web (photo: Tom Morin)

2. We do not want fuel tankers and tractor trailers coming through the center of our village.
 3. We want the state to help stop the speeding traffic through our village.
 4. We want to know what the regulations are regarding the posting of our bridges for restricted weight limit.
- The Galisteo Roads Committee is asking for volunteers to help with the footwork, telephone calling and research. We have some exciting plans we would like to share with the community. **Please call us: Denice Pruett: 466-3601; Wendy Chase: 466-1004, Amy Tremper: 466-9866.**

Editorial Addenda: The Feb. 5th Planning Committee meeting was devoted to the roads issue. The expanding Roads Committee was vigorously applauded for all its work. Past experience was provided by Ross Lockridge and Anne Murray from Cerrillos, who are veterans of the long and successful battle to keep NM 14 (the Turquoise Trail “scenic byway”) from becoming a full-scale highway.

They helped the committee devise future strategies, the necessity for which was highlighted by one member’s suggestion that all these meetings and lip service to context-sensitive design are “a smoke screen”; NMDOT has to listen to us, but then they can do what they want. We have to be ready and well-armed (with information and perhaps legal advice) when they have their design done.

We seem to have a strong and logical case: the bridges cannot support the heavy traffic crossing them now (the weight limit is 15 tons and the tankers weigh 40 tons). Traffic over the weight limit should be diverted. The original bridges should be repaired and kept at the present scale, which provides a slowing-down point at the gateway to the village, the perfect approach to traffic-calming in the village itself.

A BIRD STORY

Kristen Siemon

I always feel sad around the holidays, and sad it was when on the eve of Christmas, a Mountain Chickadee flew into our window and broke its wing. Unable to fly, it fluttered about in the bramble of a bare and bony lilac bush. Red, our Jack Russell Terrier, saw the bird too, and she caught it in her mouth but brought it to me like a retrieved ball.

The bird, no bigger than a Grade-A egg, fit perfectly into my cupped hand. Once inside the house, it lay motionless and remained so, in a basket I equipped with a tea towel and a few branches from the lilac. Move, I said out loud. Please don’t die on Christmas.

Sam was in California and the house was as quiet as a tomb. I looked at the bird. It leaned to one side, its little black eyes shining like precious gemstones. I touched its small breast, warm and soft, I thought, like a feather. I melted some honey in warm water and offered the nectar from my fingertip. At first, nothing. Red sat still at my feet. And then the tiny black beak opened and the Chickadee drank from the droplets in quick, sudden sips. My heart raced and I whistled. Our little bird was alive and well. Now what?

A puddle of sunshine falls from a window in our guestroom onto the floor every afternoon. That’s where I put Mr. Merry Christmas, our newly named visitor. Red stood guard at the closed door. I made some calls, all leading to the Wildlife Center in Espanola, where we would eventually take our foundling after Christmas. From the guestroom I hear a song—bright, lively and loud. Mr. Merry Christmas was out of his basket and bounding around the room I sat on the floor and he bounced right to me and let me take him in my hand, but I let him go and left him to his song and dance.

In a sunny window, in a cage strewn with a tangle of Bittersweet, Mr. Merry Christmas stayed, dining on suet and sunflower seeds and drinking water from my fingertips. He let

me stroke his proud chest and fluttered about in the sunshine and, at night, slept soundly under the orange and yellow cover of the Bittersweet.

I am not a birder. I have learned the names of the birds that feed in our yard and I admire their beauty. But it is more the wonder of their existence that moves me. How can these frail, small-boned creatures survive with just feathers to warm them? I worry about birds.

That first night, with Mr. Merry Christmas nesting in our guestroom, and Red in a deep slumber at my feet, I couldn’t sleep. I dreamed and thought about my father. We lived in Panama when I was a child and on weekends we left the Canal Zone to visit villages in the jungles where people sold snakes and Iguanas, monkeys and golden bullfrogs. And birds. We bought a pair of love birds in a bamboo cage. My father paid for them with cigarettes. They lived in our kitchen in a sunny window. One day one of the birds got out an open window but he didn’t fly away. He stayed in our yard and waited for his beloved. So we let her go and they flew away together.

We didn’t stay long in Canada, our home, after all those warm years in Panama. We moved to California where we lived in a house with big windows. Birds often flew into those windows but most were unharmed. One hit the window hard and was knocked out. My father and I fed the bird warm sugar water from an eyedropper and he came around and flew away. So on a sleepless night I remember these moments with my father who died before I could know him or gather more memories of him. He was generous and let me have whatever pet I wanted – a lizard, a rabbit, dogs and cats, and the occasional bird. Birds fly into and out of our lives like memories.

Thanks to Phillip, Jan, and the Wildlife Center. Mr. Merry Christmas had surgery and is almost ready to be released in Galisteo. Stay tuned for an invitation to his release ceremony where donations to the Wildlife Center will be greatly appreciated.

GALISTEO WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP MEETS

On Feb. 2nd, about 30 of the usual suspects (representatives of Federal, State, County agencies and community groups as well as private citizens) gathered at the Santa Fe Community College to strategize about how the big ranches and communities could help each other and coordinate watershed planning.

It was a very fruitful and informative meeting and this brief account does not do it justice. Representatives of Cerro Pelon and San Cristobal Ranch attended, as well as Commonweal Conservancy (which presumably controls the future of the Thornton Ranch), Warren Thompson, developer of Rancho Viejo, and Steve Warshawer of Beneficial Farms to the east of us. Strategic planner Beth Mills spoke for the County, Jan-Willem Jansens for Earth Works Institute (the organizing force behind the Partnership), and Matthew McQueen of Santa Fe Conservation Trust spoke on the fickle tax benefits (Federal estate and income, State income, and local property taxes) of conservation easements. The only missing pieces were the Quivira Coalition and the State Land Office, who were unable to send spokespeople to the panel. (Cont. p.3)

Bill Baxter announced that Chalchihuitl, the central turquoise mine in the Cerrillos Hills, had been acquired by the County for the Cerrillos Hills Park and that the State would build a visitors/heritage center in Cerrillos village for the County Park that may eventually become a State Park.

Mills emphasized two points: local food production -- a key element in the discussion on land use in the Galisteo Basin, and rethinking the County’s rural land use development review process, especially the hydrological requirements. Thompson noted that while zoning, easements and development review were all part of the process, no single one is the solution. We should begin with “What is valuable to us as a community?”

Warshawer explained his own land use strategy of supporting his central farm (with a conservation easement and state leased land) by acquisition of surrounding commercial lots as a future endowment for the next farmers. His prime concern is to keep land in agriculture, to ensure succession to future generations, and to address issues of access to capital and markets. He spoke favorably of the Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) to protect potential agricultural land from ranchette development.

The 45-year-old Open Space program in Boulder County, Colorado, which has lottery money for open space and spends \$40 million a year on it, was often cited as a model (as it was for our COLTPAC), but our situation is very different. McQueen noted that the market here for sale and transfer of development rights is poor – partly because it is so easy to obtain a permit for increased density, and partly because the rights have to be sold to communities wanting more density, and most don’t. Ted Harrison (a conservationist interested in development) remarked that “postage stamp” acquisitions are not the way to protect ecosystems.

Thompson (a developer interested in conservation) remarked that he was “more hopeful last year than this year,” because of the County’s constantly increasing rules and restrictions on development. Warshawer also felt that private lobbying action could be powerful but that it got immediately “ensnared in public policy.” Mills asked for suggestions. “Give us an urban growth boundary and tell us what activities are ok outside it,” he said. It was agreed that a regional plan for the Galisteo Basin was preferable to “community planning” on such a large scale. The BLM representative said a clear, long-term vision would help them link up to the Partnership. A map and inventory of possible agricultural properties and open spaces are forthcoming.

On March 19th, 1-4PM, at the Eldorado Elementary School, a workshop will be held on water harvesting and gray water use; contractors will be present.

FAT LADY STILL NOT SINGING

On February 2nd, *The New Mexican* ran a brief notice that Peirce Clayton had filed a notice of appeal on Jan. 31st against Judge James Hall’s ruling against him concerning the bosque land-grab. The GCA’s attorney, Patrick Whelan, says that it ordinarily takes the court three to nine months to render a decision in a case of this type.

GCA BOARD MEETING, JANUARY 18th

Linda Braun, Secretary

At the Board’s request, the County spread some gravel in front of the mailboxes. Thanks to Mike Anaya.

With great appreciation on behalf of the community, the Board wrote a round of thank-you notes to all those who, with their plows, backhoes and Bobcats, helped us out after the big snow.

We also began noting some new and different ideas for community fundraisers, including a tour of the movie set and a karaoke night.

The Board is still in favor of starting some Saturday morning coffees, but agreed it would be best to wait until the winter weather clears.

Elections for **three open positions on the GCA Board** will be held on Thursday, March 15th at 7PM at the Community Center. The positions are: alternate member (one year), Board member (two years), and Secretary (two years). Anyone who has lived in Galisteo for at least 6 months is eligible.

The next Board meeting will be held Thursday, Feb. 15th, 7PM.



PEDACITOS/BITS AND PIECES

Congratulations to **Lisa Griego**, who was Employee of the Quarter for the NM Department of Children, Youth and Families. An article and her picture appeared in *Round the Roundhouse*, (Dec. 18, 2006), citing her work as “outstanding.” “It’s that caring, can-do spirit that put Lisa head and shoulders above her co-workers and reminds everyone around her what an outstanding employee embodies....Her diligence averted potential errors that could have become major issues had they not been discovered.... Through all this Lisa always remained friendly and helpful and maintained a very positive attitude...For her efforts she will receive a full day of administrative leave.”

Chef **Enrique Guerrero** has left the Galisteo Inn after three years to work at the renovated Ó Restaurant at Pojoaque Pueblo.

Sina Brush wrote a commentary in *The New Mexican* (Jan. 14) about being snowed in three miles from the highway (on Frank Anaya Ranch Road) and enjoying “the simple beauty of being home, cooking a pot of beans, and watching the snow fall.” In a disapproving commentary on those who complained about the inconveniences brought by the snowfall, she wrote: “I am grateful for New Mexico and the great people who represent simple down-to-earth ways of living. After all, that is why people come here, isn’t it?”

Philip Tuwaletstiwa will speak at the Southwest Seminars on Feb. 26th (6PM at the Hotel Santa Fe).

Phillip Chavez of Santa Fe passed away January 16th. He was born in Galisteo in 1935, son of Felipe and Demecia Chavez and brother of Luis Chavez and Joe Anaya (husband of Mela Montoya’s sister Rosina).

The Ranchitos house of part-time Galisteo **Ivy Ross**, a designer for Old Navy, and her partner **Brian Gill**, co-owner of Studio Steel, was recently written up in *Elle*. The former owner, celebrity photography Firooz Zahedi had a favorite backpack that Ross had designed, so “the sale had good vibes from the get-go.” **Ken Kuhne** helped build the environmentally (Cont.p. 4)

sensitive expansion, described as "a minimal aesthetic warmed up with artist-craftsman touches."

Denise Lynch informs us that Lynn Pilgrim-Little, an owner of Las Chivas Coffee Roaster at the Agora, will continue to organize "featured artists of the month" events, to make the coffeehouse a "Place of Words" for the community.

An ambiguous aphorism from **Beth Foote**, after the roads meeting: "If a seeing eye dog weighs less than an oil tanker, shouldn't it be allowed in the Post Office?"

VALENTINE'S NIGHT DINNER AT GALISTEO INN
Guest chef, Michael Gintert.
Call 466-8200 for reservations.

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

Barbara Pfeiffer

Many thanks to those of you who participated in the *farolito* lighting and caroling on Christmas Eve. We had about 25 participants, who boned up on the Spanish carols at the Community Center first, and tried to alternate English and Spanish as we sang. Our path was enhanced by the lovely *farolitos* along Avenida Vieja and elsewhere. We were welcomed by neighbors, by the Galisteo Inn, and pleasantly surprised when Wendy Bowman invited us to her car to partake of hot wassail. We set up a table at the church with hot chocolate and biscochitos (donated by the Cárdenas family) and warmed up by the luminarias in front.

We hope to make this an annual event so I would love feedback from those who participated. Call me at 466-4088, or e-mail: phpfeiffer@yahoo.com.

EL PUENTE SPONSOR: MARIE FERNEAU

GALISTEO CLASSIFIED

ADS ARE FREE, AND FOR GALISTEO RESIDENTS ONLY. Contact: 14 Avenida Vieja or call 466-1276 by March 5th for next issue. PLEASE CALL TO CONTINUE ADS.

FREE

Horse manure from Linda Vista Stables. Call Maria, 466-8930.

FOR RENT

650sq ft. unfurnished studio on The Hill. \$550 per mo. + PNM, Call John Young, 466-7224.

House on bosque (1000 sq.ft) and casita (300') 2BR, 1B, heat by wood-burning stove, unfurnished, \$1,250 per mo. Call 466-8985.

SERVICES

Saturday Art Classes for children and adults, Retablos and watercolors. 10-12AM or 2-4PM, weekdays or weekends, \$150 for 6 weeks. Catherine Ferguson. 466-2765.

Native Bloom, Landscape design/maintenance. Linda, 466-4658.

Common sense, gentle dog-training: house manners, management problem-solving at your home; also limited boarding. Twenty years experience. Call Evelyn, 466-1875.

Acupuncture, herbal medicine, feng shui, nutritional counseling, massage. Dr. Connie Fisher, 470-9314.

Linda Vista Stables: Beginner western riding for children and adults; 1-2 hr. trail rides; short-term boarding. 466-8930.

Passive Solar Builders: Locally owned general contractor since 1980. Quality home construction, renovations: 466-2118.

Ron Helman, Life Coach: see www.ronhelman.com; 466-1919.

Like things done right? Welding, flagstone, moss rock, fountains, plumbing, sprinkler, and drip systems plus Gopher Control. David Maestas, cell 670-8608 or 660-9715.

Baby-sitting, petsitting and animal care, Mercedes, 466-7285.

Need a permit? Computer Aided Drafting Support: for architects, engineers, contractors and homeowners. 4 yrs. experience/local references. Call Adan Cárdenas, 466-8967.

Galisteo Woodworks: for your custom woodworking needs. Furniture and furniture repair. Antonio Chavez, 466-3601.

SB Lejo/Sina Brush is taking special orders for antique Mexican furniture. Call 577-4045.

Carpentry: Custom closets, hand-carved tables, benches, gates, doors, 35 yrs. experience, local refs. Onesimo, 466-1430.

Call Beth for **housesitting/petcare/vet runs/odd jobs/studio assistance/party help/you name it...** in Galisteo, 470-7606.

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

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

One Room at a Time, Organize, Clear Clutter. Redecorate, Archive Memorabilia. Call Pamela Markoya, 466-9191.

Barbara Holloway Fine Handweaving scarves, shawls, vests, jackets, handwoven of luxurious chenille. 466-2118.

Nick's Landscaping, Brush Removal, and Garbage Collection. Call 466-0530 or 470-5973.

+++ EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO+++

Editor: Lucy R. Lippard. **Contributing Editors:** Linda Braun, Isabella Gonzales, Richard Griscom, Jan Saunders. **EL PUENTE** logo by Cara Lee. **Printer:** Allegra. **Send letters, comments, suggestions, contributions to EL PUENTE, 14 Avenida Vieja, 466-1276. NEXT DEADLINE: MARCH 5. TO BE A SPONSOR: make out check to GCA for \$75, note "for newsletter;" and send to address above.**

El Puente de Galisteo
14 Avenida Vieja
Galisteo NM 87540