



MARCH 14th and APRIL 4th 10-12 AM: Saturday Coffees and Book/CD Swaps.

SUNDAY, APRIL 19th 3PM: Open meeting of La Sala group at the Community Center to discuss upcoming projects. Any ideas? Come and share them.

APRIL 20TH, 7PM: Annual GCA Community Elections at the Community Center. IF YOU CARE, COME VOTE!

PUBLIC PLANNING MEETINGS FOR COUNTY GROWTH MANAGEMENT PLAN

A number of Galisteo residents and Planning Committee members (along with those from other area villages and subdivisions from Madrid and Golden to the west and south to Eldorado and Cañoncito to the north and east) attended the three days of public meetings on the new Growth Management Plan, February 23-25 at our Community Center. Led by Jack Kolkmeier, Director of the Planning and Development Division, and Planning Works Consultant Bruce Peshoff, the events were lively, critical, well informed and well attended. Your editor could only attend five of the sometimes overlapping sessions, so if anyone wants to add something I didn't cover, please send it in for the next issue.

We were assured that our community plans would not just be "integrated" (i.e. assimilated) by the new plan, which will cover the whole Galisteo region. "The spirit and intent of each community will be honored." The new plan includes "growth tiers" (a new term for zoning described as "dynamic and interactive") which were changing even as we spoke, with input from these public meetings. The intentions of the individual community plans will go into the code rewrite, which will build on the previous general plans' successes, such as the Open Space program and the Transfer of Development Rights, and acknowledge its failures, such as Geo-hydro zoning. Communities will have options to add new ideas to their plans, but there will be only one ordinance instead of one for each community. The plan will become an ordinance and then a code. The CDRC will become the Planning Commission.

The subject of who enforces the rules was often raised. As of now there are only three code enforcement officers for the whole County, and enforcement is crucial or nobody will pay attention. Then we need a functional government to make it all work. (It was pointed out that property taxes would have to be *(Cont.p.2)*)



Taking pots to market. (Photo: Barbara King)

POTTERY BRIGADE IN NICARAGUA

Barbara King

This winter I decided to visit and work with Nicaraguan potters by joining a brigade with Potters for Peace. Since the mid 1980s, PFP has been offering solidarity and assistance to groups of potters in areas where there are few economic opportunities, and where government services are sporadic, short-lived, and unpredictable. Helping people learn to work together and produce a marketable product empowers them, motivates them, and makes them proud. When potters are inspired to be more creative and innovative, they start to think differently about their future, breaking down the belief that nothing has changed for centuries and nothing will change in the future. In fact, several of the potters we visited had participated in at least one of the International Folk Art Markets in Santa Fe, and now they were able to make significant contributions to their cooperatives and villages.

For two weeks seven of us traveled with three PFP staff into the remote countryside and worked alongside potters on a variety of projects. I taught one of my clay hand building techniques to a women's cooperative that wanted to develop new products for market. As it turned out, the focus of our work in all the villages was on design and skill development. There is always much to do and other brigades have helped build studios and kilns, *(Cont.p.2)*

COUNTY CONT: raised to provide the level of service we were demanding.) An Ombudsman was one suggested solution, or small groups on various issues built into the ongoing process.

The County came in for a lot of flack for lack of communication with its constituents. Since we are all unincorporated communities, all we can do is elect our commissioner and hope for the best. Each community wants to know what is happening outside its own boundaries, on the ranches etc. The need for a liaison between the communities and County and State agencies (or a newsletter that lets us know what's coming down the pike in the way of development; or readable notices in the paper about all BCC decisions) was stressed several times, as was the interactive website as a democratizing tool. (Kolkmeier wondered if he should go on Facebook.)

It was recommended that we have Community Action Committees to keep on top of land use issues and other problems as well. The need for consistency, how to reconcile different regulations in State and County, was noted as a stumbling block for effective community involvement. Constant reorganization in the County was another, as was the separation of the department of Public Works which often poses a threat to progressive land use.

"Sustainability" was much touted, defined as incorporating affordable housing, agricultural planning, and economic development. We need a contingency plan for big extended droughts, alternative energy, and a Green building program. The tools to achieve this? Transfer of Development Rights for conservation, Public Improvement Districts, and a Capital Improvements Plan. A County Green Building Code is being researched and developed and will be part of the land development code. (But "you can't tell people how to build.") The County does not yet have any real policy on wind turbines, for instance. They must be 100-120' tall to be efficient (there's more wind up there).

County staffer Beth Mills pointed out that we need to see the entire Galisteo Basin as an intact cultural landscape, permitting only growth that respects that wholeness. A State Department of Eco-Tourism was mentioned (Galisteans were sceptical about this unless it was controlled at the community level); also bike tours, horseback riding, and historical tourism that is "real" and involves older residents.

Trails and open space were a priority. Although there are limited resources for management at the moment, and public access to County open spaces is disappointing, it was suggested that COLTPAC (County Open Lands and Trails) begin to establish a land bank anyway. Wetland and wildlife corridor protection was another priority, as well as how to get more young people involved; the County has already had workshops at local middle and high schools and community colleges.

It was noted that the edges between urban, suburban, and rural are fraying, which raises issues of transitions between these areas, and public transportation. Among the workshops were: economic development, ranching, water, open space and cultural/historical resources. Those I attended were fascinating combinations of old complaints and new ideas. Among them, and especially applicable to traditional villages like Galisteo: Don't build, renovate, and do-it yourself solar projects.

A Cañoncito man warned that the County shouldn't just listen to "the loud mouths who come to these meetings," but find a way to seek out and take into account the general Hispanic population – "the silent majority." It was remarked that the large ranchers don't often participate either (except for the exemplary Tremper of Cerro Pelon).

The next step will be a report on the four district meetings in El Norte, El Centro, Galisteo, and the South --"No Dos and Don'ts, just laying it all out" -- and a countywide meeting at the end of March to present the report for public review. Two weeks later meetings will be held in each district and discussions will continue for perhaps two or three months if necessary.

Kolkmeier (who has been a planner here for over thirty five years) said he wasn't "a fan of 'encouraging' this and that; just DO IT!" He also asked a key question Galisteans need to consider: "What role do you as communities want to play?" As he was making closing statements a local black cat, who regularly attends meetings, wandered across his path. It's up to us to make this a sign of *good* luck.

NICARAGUA CONT: or install signs on the highway directing buyers to the village.

In 1998, Hurricane Mitch was the catalyst for one of the most important PFP projects – training potters to make low-tech, low-cost, colloidal silver-enhanced water filters. Diseases related to inadequate water and sanitation cause an estimated 80% of all sickness in the developing world. Since that time, Potters for Peace has provided consultation and training in setting up production facilities all around the world, with local clays and local potters. We spent a day working at one of the facilities near Managua and learned that they are also stockpiling filters for use when the next natural disaster occurs somewhere in the world.

Sometimes a vacation can be more than a self-indulgent escape from our daily routines. This one provided the rewards of helping someone else while connecting with a distant culture. We saw that culture and life from the inside out. The people were dignified, quiet, friendly, and resilient. The food was delicious and the scenery glorious. It was rugged and exhausting, and if I were twenty years younger, I'd do it over and over again.

For more information on Potters for Peace and how you can help, visit their website at www.pottersforpeace.org.

NOTICES

From the GVFR: If you need more beautiful PINK Galisteo phone directories, courtesy of the GVFR, they are available Tuesday nights at the Fire Station on Avenida Vieja.

From Isabella Gonzales: I've been lending a hand with *El Puente* since Richard left and need a break. My duties include scanning one or two pictures monthly. If you're interested in helping your community with a quick and easy little chore, give Lucy a call at 466-1276.



PEDACITOS/BITS AND PIECES

Liz Rose has won an honorable mention in fiction in the Southwest Writers Group December Contest.

In his first novel, *The Galisteo Escarpment* (Sunstone Press), Douglas Atwill's artist protagonist struggles "to pursue landscape painting against the art world's preference for abstraction, and his ever-growing love for **the multicolored mesas of Galisteo,**" according to *New Mexico Magazine* (3/09).

Cornerstones is beginning to work on La Sala. Many thanks from the artists' group for all those whose donations helped.

Since the County has shifted the burden of environmental impacts to the oil companies, **Tecton** has dropped plans to drill in the Galisteo Basin; their leases are up for sale, although they would still like to continue if drilling rules are "loosened up." Governor Richardson has in fact already modified the tough and hard-won pit rules, citing the economy.

And something new to ponder: *The New Mexican* (3/5/09) reports that unowned subsurface "**pore spaces**" between underground minerals and water sources could be used for carbon sequestration. The question is, are these spaces the property of surface or subsurface owners?

The latest newsletter from the **Santa Fe Conservation Trust** announced that three more properties in the Galisteo Basin are on their way to being protected by conservation easements. Totalling more than 600 acres, they include year-round water sources along the creek and grassland habitat for native pronghorn and burrowing owl. They are the second in a series of collaborations with Commonweal Conservancy to permanently protect open space at the Galisteo Basin Preserve. More are in the pipeline.

Late February was bad karma for **Galisteo vehicles:** Sam Medford and his dog Red ran over a tire on the highway and totaled their car, while Lucy Lippard's car was totaled when she was run down taking a left off Sandoval. The recorded worst time for accidents in Santa Fe is Friday afternoons from 4-6; this happened exactly at 5PM.

GCA REPORT

Linda Braun, Secretary

Elections for the Community Board are coming up on April 20th. If you're interested in helping to guide and support our village please consider running for the Board. There are three general Board Member seats open, in addition to Secretary. Meetings are held once a month. The only requirement is that you have lived in Galisteo for six months and you've got someone to nominate you at the meeting. Please mark this date on your calendar and come to this engaging, important community gathering.

By now you've probably received the GCA's fundraising letter. If you haven't already sent a donation, please take a moment to do so. Any amount will be useful and much appreciated in helping us cover the Community Center's insurance costs, necessary repairs, and much needed upgrades to the adjacent playground, etc.

Thanks to all those who have sent in contributions for the Community Center landscaping project. As of March 6th, we've raised enough money to purchase three trees: two Frontier Elms

and one Golden Rain! Thank you, Linda Rice. And thanks to everyone who's donated topsoil, compost, and soil amendments. Thanks to Steve and Amy Tremper who will begin work at the site on Monday, March 23rd.

The Board decided to donate the \$1,100 in the Community Gas and Oil Fund to the New Mexico Environmental Law Center, an organization working to keep oil and gas exploration out of the Galisteo Basin.

The Board is still revising its guideline policies for all film production companies working in Galisteo. Among other things it will cover night shooting, road closures and delays, noise, etc., whether it's happening on the Cerro Pelon Ranch or in your neighbor's house or yard.

The Board is working to get everyone who is interested onto our community e-mail list. This will be used only for non-commercial community announcements, meetings, and special events. If you'd like to sign up, call Linda at 466-8488.

The Saturday Coffee on March 14th, from 10-12, will be hosted by Shaun Gilmore and Nick Merrick. In addition to the Book Swap, bring along some music CDs to share, swap, or give away. On Saturday, April 4th, Julia Moore will host the Coffee. **The next Board meeting will be Monday, March 16th, at 7:15PM.**

WHEN HAIRY MET DOWNY

Jan Saunders

It was love at first sight. Unfortunately, like Romeo and Juliet – one Capulet, the other Montague – Downy and Hairy – one *Picoides pubescens*, the other *Picoides villosus*, were flirting with more than each other when they began their starry-eyed, star-crossed love affair.

What I am about to tell you, I learned from one of the most respected birders around these parts who even has video footage to support his unprecedented findings. For the first time anywhere, right here in the Galisteo Bosque, the cross-species mating and nesting of two obviously progressive Woodpeckers – a Hairy male and a Downy female – has been documented and confirmed. Early in the spring of 2008, both partners of this mismatched pair were observed mating and hammering out a nest hole in anticipation of cute little Hairy-Downy progeny. Apparently things were going along nicely until, foretelling a tragic ending, Big Momma and Little Papa Cooper's Hawks moved into the abandoned nest just fifteen feet away – and that was the last we saw of Hairy. Downy seems to be carrying on bravely, drumming and calling from other trees not so close to the raptors.

Some have suggested that the Downy could be a hybrid herself. While hybridization in song bird species is not rare, it is always noteworthy, problematic, and can be indicative of ecological changes such as global warming, altered migration routes and habitat changes. Often the offspring are unsuccessful breeders. You never know what might put Galisteo on the map. Stay tuned and keep your eyes open.

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For bird lovers ready to get serious and learn to ID "that little gray bird," opportunity awaits at the (*Cont. p.4*)

Randall Davey Audubon Center at the summit of Canyon Road. "The Beautiful Birds of Santa Fe" --a series of monthly classes (Thursday evenings and Saturday binoculars-on field sessions) --begins March 19 and 21 until December, at \$15 per month. All proceeds go to the Audubon Center's programs. I'm helping to teach and I promise classes will be entertaining and instructional. For more information and to register: Linda Newberry, 505-983-4609, ex 29. You and I will both be disappointed if you don't show up.

EL PUENTE SPONSOR: JOHN WILLETT

GALISTEO CLASSIFIED

ADS ARE FREE, AND FOR GALISTEO RESIDENTS ONLY. Call 466-1276 by April 5th for next issue.

FOR RENT

500 sq. ft. art studio, \$325 mo., call Stuart, 466-4153.
Small casita: washer drier, no smoking, great views, \$650 mo., call Liz, 466-6003.

WANTED

Your leftover stones or dirt to help build landscaping berms in front of the Community Center, Call Barb, 466-3219.

SERVICES

Get a jump on your spring growing season with a "**Grow Y'own**" **hooped, raised bed**. Call Ken at 466-0393 or 490-1849 for details.

Barbara King Pottery: functional and decorative, handcrafted with a variety of glazes on white stoneware. 466-3219.

Overnight reliable house sitting. Will care for pets and plants. Harmony, 466-3932.

Photshop tutoring for artists, 3 sessions at introductory price. Isabella, 466-2218.

Yoga: relax the mind, enliven the body, release tension, build strength and flexibility. Individual sessions and small group lasses. Linda Braun, 466-8488.

Manual Therapy incorporating modalities such as Rolwing, Thai massage, Shiatsu, Trigger Point therapy, and more. \$50 per hour for a limited time. Cloud Hall, 670-7771, or 466-3375.

Rocky Mountain Handyman. Can do anything! Call Mark Lyons, 629-9323.

Home Care: when you're away: security checks, mail collection/forwarding, plant care, etc. Linda Braun, 466-8488.

Remodelling, additions in adobe and frame, mud plaster, stonework, metal lathe plaster, flagstone and building maintenance, Sina Brush, 577-4045.

Computer tutor/personal assistant. Contact Paige, 466-1002.

MacTech Support and Tutoring, photo digitizing and organizing, and Photoshop lessons: Tom Martinelli, 466-1020. Beth is available for **petsitting in Galisteo**, 470-7606.

Need a pet sitter or house sitter? I will do short or long-term care, occasional overnights, reasonable rates, refs. available. For info, call Maria, 466-8930.

Dog-Walking. Will check on your pets during the day: Marghreta, 466-4457.

White Dog Cyclery: Certified bicycle maintenance/repair. Your family bicycle service. All bikes, repairs. Call Frank, 466-2121.
Saturday Art Classes for children and adults, Retablos and watercolors. 10-12AM or 2-4PM, weekdays or weekends. 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.

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

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.

Need a permit? Computer Aided Drafting Support for architects, engineers, contractors etc. 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.

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

Nick's Landscaping, Brush Removal, and Garbage Collection. Call 231-6352.

+++ EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO+++

Editor: Lucy R. Lippard. **Contributors**: 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: April 5th. TO BE A SPONSOR: make out check to GCA for \$75, note "for newsletter," send to address above.**

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