



ISSUE #130

DECEMBER 2009

HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND FELIZ AÑO NUEVO

Galisteo's Christmas Eve Farolitos are getting better every year. Much of the east side of the creek and around the church were lined with light last year. It would be nice to see them creep up the Hill and onto Camino de los Abuelos. Get some bags and sand and candles and come on out the afternoon of Christmas Eve and we can all help to light up the town.

El Puente's postage problems are now solved for the coming year due to the generosity of **Susan Rothenberg** and **Bruce Nauman**. A number of other community members also offered help, and we'll take them up on it in the coming year. Issue sponsors remain welcome (and necessary) for each issue.

MIL GRACIAS TO ALL



Christmas at the Moya home (Photo: Tom Martinelli)

Apologies to newlyweds Maisie Crawford and Angelo Chavez. The November proofs were fine, but a faulty printer showered them with a cloud of blossoms or confetti.



Before Politics: Mike Anaya rockin' and rollin' at La Sala, 1998 (photo: Richard Shuff).

COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S RACE

Mike Anaya's term limit as County Commissioner is up next year and he has announced that he is running for State Land Commissioner. The most prominent candidate for Mike's County seat is his younger brother **Robert Anaya**, husband of **Linda Anaya**, and brother of **Jean Moya**. We claim Robert as a Galisteo (though the newspapers are saying he was raised in Stanley, where he now lives on the family ranch...). Another possible contender is Angelica Ruiz, president of the board of Santa Fe Public Schools. David Bacon, former Green Party candidate for governor, and Linda Grill of La Cienega may also be contemplating runs.

FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Very few County residents turned out for the single-issue election on Nov. 17th that would have supported the County Fire Departments. As a result, the tiny but very important tax (one cent on \$100) was lost. The departments will be unable to replace old vehicles and will have to tighten their belts on other activities they perform for our safety.

GVFR elections were held on Dec. 1st. Jean Moya and Linda Anaya were unanimously re-elected as Chief and Assistant Chief, with Linda doubling as Medical Officer. Wayne King is Captain, Christian Mee Lieutenant, Frank Croft Fire Prevention, Nick Contreras Safety Officer, Frank Lux Treasurer, and Barbara King and Janice Wall co-secretaries. Our heartfelt thanks to all of them for the tremendous amount of time they give on our behalf.

ELDORADO TRIES TO PULL A FAST ONE

When the Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District (EAWSD) applied to the Office of State Engineer (OSE) in 2007 to raise their water consumption from around 585 acre feet per year (afy) to 820 afy, the Santa Fe Basin Water Association (SFBWA) protested. Representatives from Galisteo and other local communities joined them because the impact on and impairment of the Galisteo Basin's water could be severe. Eldorado is claiming that on the basis of "Mendenhall rights," applying to wells dug before 1972, they are actually entitled to 3000 afy, though only 1000 are in the application.

Now SFBWA's attorneys have discovered that Eldorado has been negotiating with the OSE without including or even notifying the protestants as promised. A motion for a Status Hearing was filed, resulting in a mediation order to include all parties. So we are back at the table.

In the meantime, Santa Fe County has acquired permission from the OSE to drill 17 county wells with transferred water rights. Although improvements have been made in that complex process, SFBWA considers the analysis of the location of these wells and their impact on communities to be inadequate. It also disagrees with the definition of "impact" on the water column as anything over 70%. The new County "Sustainable Land Development Plan" is no improvement on past policies; the SFBWA is asking for a re-evaluation.

All this legal representation of our rights costs \$\$\$. If you care about the future of water in the Galisteo Basin, please mail checks payable to SFBWA, PO Box 6132, Santa Fe NM 87502 or donate through PayPal at www.sfbwa.org.

GCA UPDATE

from Rob Civitello, Secretary

During the last public forum, Jonathan Slater, representing the movie-making presence in town, visited to notify the community of filming to take place from mid-March to mid-April, 2010. The Silverado set on Cerro Pelon Ranch is being altered for the production. Slater presented the GCA with a check for \$2,500.

Matthew McQueen very ably re-tooled the agreement for Community Center rentals – more concise and utilizing less paper. The Board adopted the new agreement.

Anna Cárdenas voiced the need to improve the ground area under the Community Center play equipment. About 10CY of sand will be placed there when winter ends. The County is beginning to install the pavers at the Phillip Watts III playground behind the mailboxes.

A fundraiser related to the Eldorado water issues (see above) will be held in March. The Board approved establishment of a source to receive funds for this purpose.

Rob Civitello will review interior lighting at the Community Center and provide feedback on potential costs for improvement.

Matthew McQueen attended a meeting of the United Communities of Santa Fe on the new County Plan and expressed the need to preserve the work and intentions of the individual community plans, particularly Galisteo's. Matthew also notified the Board of undesirable ATV activity on his property and in the Bosque.

PEDACITOS/BITS AND PIECES

Johnny Micou of Drilling Santa Fe, who led the battle against Tecton's oil and gas development in the Galisteo Basin, was one of the "10 Who Made a Difference" cited in *The New Mexican* (11/26). Galisteo residents **Richard Griscom**, **Muriel Fariello**, **Cynthia and Frank Lux** and **Marilyn Forbes** nominated Micou. "In my experience," said Griscom (who's no slouch at community involvement himself) "there are very few people who have made as much of a difference as Johnny Micou." After a negative comment in *The New Mexican's* Letters to the Editor, Fariello restated Micou's contributions and let the gas and oil industry have it in no uncertain terms: "Greed is the only motivation for these guys."

Mela Montoya and **Maria Ortiz y Pino** were pictured in "Galisteo Day Trip" in *New Mexico Journey*, Sept/Oct.

Shaun Gilmore is showing in "Wonder Salon" at Linda Durham Contemporary Art.

Crazy Heart, "a tiny made-in-New Mexico film" (according to *The New Mexican*, 11/22) which was shown at the Santa Fe Film Festival, is generating "Oscar buzz." The scenes shot in Galisteo last fall didn't make the final cut (except for a hot air balloon rising from the invisible Rodeo Grounds), but the money spent here was welcome and the film company donated \$1000 to the GCA for the oil and gas battle.

John Masee's sculpture *Giant Dance* was installed in mid November at Richards Avenue near the entrance to Oshara Village. It was shown before installation in the December *Real Estate Guide* (attributed to one Robert Masee).

The **Thornton family** has donated 600 acres of open space in the center of the Galisteo Basin Preserve to the **Commonweal Conservancy**. The Santa Fe Conservation Trust will hold conservation easements over the larger open spaces to ensure their permanent protection.

Nacha Mendez was pictured and written up in *The New Mexican* (11/27) for her "own soulful style of Latin music ... Her early work included stints with garage-rock bands, creating mixes for dance clubs, and contributing to Robert Ashley's avant-garde operas.... Catch Mendez's infectious combinations of regionally kissed romance and melancholy at her two regular gigs": 7PM every Sunday at *El Farol* and 7PM every Wednesday at *La Boca*.

Deborah Madison was the "featured author" in the October *New Mexico Magazine*. She has published nine cookbooks, and here's what she eats when she eats alone: "I love sautéed vegetables on toast. I'm especially fond of greens... From what's in the garden, I'll make a sauté or a braise that's really flavorful. I'll toast good whole wheat bread, rub it with garlic, and put on the greens and juices... a nice shaving of aged Gouda or Parmesan on top. A glass of red wine.... I'd love it if there were pie left over to dip into."

A Single Man, **Tom Ford's** directorial debut, is getting very good reviews.

January 12th, afternoon: BCC hearing on Commonwealth's Galisteo Basin Preserve.

HIGHWAY 41 CORRIDOR MEETING

Representatives from the NMDOT and their consultants on Highway 41 from Clark Hill to US 285 met with the community Nov. 17th. Consultant Dave Pennington led the discussion, insisting that they had no plans yet but just wanted input.

GCA President Freddie Cárdenas, speaking for the community on the basis of a previous meeting, recommended the following: **Make NM 41 a Scenic Byway** like NM 14, rather than a "major rural connector"; create a **well-marked crossing area** at the church/tienda/CR 42 intersection; change **speed limit to 25 mph**; place a **bus stop** right at the church and **rumble strips** at each end of the village: Do not widen roadway. A newly paved CR 42 is resulting in more speed and more traffic.

(Editor's note: As someone who lives and works at the southern end, I have to say that rumble strips would ruin my life! And apparently nothing was said about widening the bridges.)

The heated discussion was dominated by community concerns. Members of the Road Committee questioned why 41 had been changed from a minor to a major rural collector and cited statistics from their past research and past meetings with the DOT and State Rep Rhonda King. Theresa Seamster spoke on the significance of the area for wildlife corridors. Bicyclists spoke for better and safer shoulders. Visibility around turns and on hills was a DOT concern (raising the unspoken issue of straightening the road?).

Funding for the bridges is part of a four-year contract; apparently work would not be done until 2013 and it would be a 20-month process; HPD will be consulted "soon." "The do-nothing option is always on the table but may not be viable given the life span of bridges," said Pennington. "Bridges don't have short life spans if they are well enough maintained," retorted Denise Pruitt.

Truck traffic was raised over and over again. Pennington stated that there was nothing he could do about that, but encouraged us to keep on trying through other avenues. DOT is, at least, looking at where the trucks come from and why they are using 41. Grant Mitchell of San Cristobal Ranch firmly rejected the possibility for a bypass around Galisteo through the ranch.

The "primary stakeholders" are those of us who live on 41 itself, as well as commuters, bikers, ranchers, etc. We will have to continue to make ourselves heard. E-mail your comments to Dave@dpenningtonassociates.com.

ANOTHER DRILLING BATTLE ON HORIZON?

A new rush for natural gas, being touted as the miraculous solution for the US energy crisis, sounds like it might be more bad news for the Galisteo Basin (and the Mora Valley).

"It's huge," said someone I heard on the radio. It's cleaner than coal and offers a significant decrease of greenhouse gases. But it's hard for small companies to transition to alternate energy sources and compete with big oil and coal.

Natural gas often lies a mile underground, in shale (which we have plenty of). It can be drilled horizontally, and like oil, is fracked with water and chemicals. The process used to be considered too expensive but now it shows new technological possibilities. (Cont.p.4)

An article in the September *La Jicarita News* warns of the great damage chemicals used by the industry can do to our fragile water supplies. The Endocrine Disruption Exchange (TEDX) of Paonia, Colorado has focused on the health problems of this stuff. The federal EPA is finally confronting them.

Here we go again? Let's hope not, but we need to keep our eyes and ears open. On a County map, there are licensed drilling sites marked all over Galisteo village.

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GALISTEO CLASSIFIED

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FOR FREE

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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.

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+++ EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO+++

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