



**GCA ANNUAL ELECTIONS
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24
7PM: COMMUNITY CENTER**

THE BEST LAID PLANS?

COMMONWEAL AND SADDLEBACK

On Feb. 9th, Commonweal Conservancy received a conditional approval from the County Commissioners for the variances requested on the first phase of the cluster development at the Galisteo Basin Preserve. The community there will no longer be called the Village at the Galisteo Basin Preserve (which rankled Galisteans). It has been renamed Trenz, which means braid, a metaphor for community and the relationship with history and nature. A large number of people from the environmental and conservation community spoke in favor of the project, citing it as a model for regional planning, and a few Galisteans spoke against it, citing water issues. It was unanimously approved with a few conditions, including a requirement for well monitoring.

*

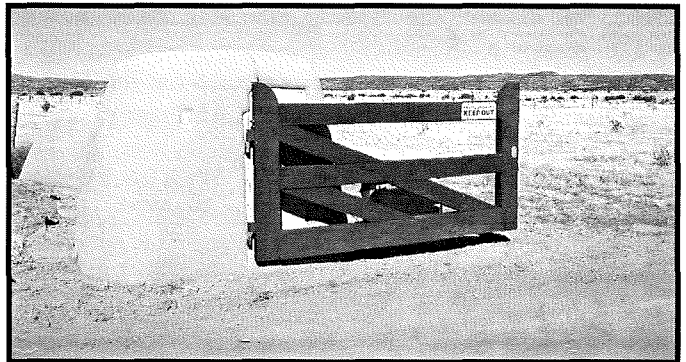
Galisteo did itself proud at the Saddleback public hearing on March 9th, with over twenty people rising to the occasion in mostly well-informed and articulate presentations and many more in the audience cheering them on. There were very few supporting voices, although two men working construction said they needed the jobs. The outcome was a mixed bag. Residents were chided for not understanding that change happens, but we apparently inspired enough doubts so that the application was tabled until more thorough research could be provided.

After Gabriel Bethel of Saddleback Ranch Estates had presented his case along with his archaeologist and hydrologist, attorney Matthew McQueen, a Galisteño who has led our effort to get the developers to do their project right, began with a hardhitting overview of our dealings with them (among other errors, they claimed more community meetings than had actually taken place), calling Bethel “a moving target,” since the plan kept changing. Matthew demanded a Master Plan process, making clear that this was actually the first phase of a “serial subdivision,” misrepresented as only 24 lots when up to 60 or even 78 had been suggested in previous documents. He noted that this was not

Answer to last month’s “what nobody knows about us”: JEAN MOYA was mistaken at the Agora for Sarah Palin, former governor of Alaska (among other things)!

Next: Who mistakenly announced on television that the barometric pressure was 99.9 (instead of 29.9) and rising, leading listeners to call in, fearing that the world was coming to an end?

March 19th is the Dia de San José, honoring the foster father of Jesus. Mass in Galisteo will take place at 9AM on Sunday March 21st.



Saddleback sign says “Keep Out.” So does the Village.

the application heard earlier by the CDRC, but a very different one, so why was this one now headed so rapidly for final approval by the BCC? This is putting the cart before the horse, because we are being asked to trust the developer to fulfill any number of conditions after approval.

Detailed presentations were made on water, archaeology, viewsheds, pricing and markets, the size of the development and its huge homes compared to the village of Galisteo, history and landscape, legalities, design and planning, the ranch perspective, SLDP requirements, and wildlife.

Commissioner Harry Montoya chaired the session, and would not allow people to speak on subjects that had previously been discussed. Rod Hall, president of the Galisteo Water Association and a member of a County working group on water for the SLDP, was told they’d heard enough on water. (Cont. p.2)

(Richard Griscom had addressed the falling water levels, only one aspect of the multifaceted problem). Similarly archaeologist Bob Powers, who has been coordinating his colleagues and attending all our meetings since the beginning, and Wolky Toll, Deputy Director of the State Office for Archaeological Studies, were not allowed to speak. (The developer's archaeologist was clearly not of this caliber but he was given the time he needed.) All of them had prepared and researched presentations. Isn't a public hearing where the public is allowed to speak?

Around 10PM, Santa Fe architect Suby Bowden, who had planned the original ranch with the Fishers and has worked as hard on this case as any community member, ended with a clarion call to do the right thing, refuting many details of the developer's presentation and pointing out that Galisteo was not a community that was against development (witness the strong if not unanimous support for Commonweal), but a community that was against *bad* development.

The developer then had a chance to answer some of the accusations. Jim Walker of the Archaeological Conservancy, which has endorsed the development, promised to eventually execute a full survey on 960 acres (not the whole 3,129). Bethel claimed that the reason the river was not reaching its previous flow was because of salt cedars and he was going to eradicate them. Hydrologist Jim Corbin insisted that he would prefer not to use the alluvial water that is the village's source because it is so undependable, but the County had asked him to screen his deep wells in order to access the alluvium. (Earlier Amy Lewis, our hydrologist, had accused him of using only the best wells to suggest the supply and said the water quality was not well defined.)

The evening ended with a long nostalgia trip from Mike Anaya, who said he had lost his hunting grounds (on Tom Ford's ranch), his childhood baseball field (under M. McQueen's house), and was saddened when he drove through Galisteo every day, but change was inevitable. He took a couple of digs at the residents who had spoken (most of us, he said, live in Ranchitos and are probably the same people who complained about the movie set and roosters crowing in the village). But at least he tabled the case until more conditions were met. The other commissioners more or less seconded him, though Kathy Holian seemed more concerned about the archaeology, and urged everyone to make a difference by participating in the discussions of the SLDP.

*

Last month, Professor David Henkel, a longtime supporter of Galisteo's Planning Committee, member of the Board of Earth Works Institute, and professor in UNM's School of Architecture and Planning, also urged residents to be involved in the planning process of the new County Sustainable Land Development Plan (SLDP). He told *The New Mexican* (2/20) that this plan is an improvement on those from previous decades, especially because it takes into consideration that Santa Fe County is different. "There are things that we value higher, sense of identity and place and culture that don't figure in as much" in other parts of the country.

He warned, however, that there were still loopholes that could limit the time the public had to review proposed amendments. Now is the time, says Henkel, for "residents to exercise their right

to provide input on county policies, and preserve that right for the future." The plan (now only 300 pages, down from 1000!) is available at www.santafecounty.org (along with a schedule of workshops and the chapters they will cover), at the Courthouse, and in public libraries.

LA SALA DE LA MANGA

As told by Dorothy Ortiz Long*

On any given Friday afternoon grandpa would tell Tio Ricardo to take me with him to the *sala*, a big long building situated on our rancho and owned by my grandfather, Rudolfo Ortega, to sweep the dance floor and fill the lamps along the wall with kerosene in preparation for the weekend dance. My job was to wipe down the benches along both sides of the room. Tio Ricardo would sprinkle water on the wooden floors that would help keep down the dust. When he was done, he would let me stand on his feet and he would sing a song as we danced around the floor, then we would go back to the house. Later on in the evening, sitting at a table that could only be described as looking like the Last Supper table, all the women of our house would get ready for the dance. There would be *tias* and *primas* heating butter knives on the stove so they could curl one another's hair. On the wall in the kitchen was a small hole from which they chipped the *calcame* and used it as powder on their faces and on the kitchen table was a red brick from which they scraped red powder for rouge on their cheeks. Some would light a wooden match until it would almost burn their fingers, using the black ash tipped match stick and mixing it with spit on their hands for their brows and eye liner.

All dressed up, their long black hair all curly, off we'd go walking in the dark, the *tias y primas* telling each other to be careful not to run into the *perchas*. As we approached the *sala*, you could hear people arriving on horseback or on their horse-pulled wagons. When a dance was planned, word was passed on at the park in old town Las Vegas "*hay un baile en la Manga*." Inside, the old dance hall would be filled with women sitting on benches, holding their babies. The young ladies sat together and the men stood by the door. I would run around observing the men smoking, talking, and passing bottles of liquor and jars of moonshine. The band was a six-piece orchestra, three men on guitars, one accordion, one violin player, and one played the spoons. The first dance always belonged to my grandparents, Rudolfo and Manuelita, who were regarded as the best dancers around. They would polka alone on the dance floor. The crowd would whoop and holler, as grandpa and grandma stomped their feet dancing faster and faster until the entire floor was vibrating!

When they were done, everyone else got on the dance floor. As the evening went on, some of the small children would fall asleep and their mothers would lay them under the benches and bundle them up in blankets. Fights would break out near the entrance where the men were gathered and the bigger men of the familia would toss the troublemakers out the door. I would run outside to watch.

After it was all over, the fighters were told to leave La Manga and everyone else would go back into the hall and the dancing

would continue. I think a hat was passed around and grandpa paid the band from the collection. The rest was used for the upkeep of the *sala*.

* *Dorothy Ortiz Long was raised near Las Vegas, New Mexico and now lives in Colorado. La Sala de la Manga no longer exists but the land is still owned by her mother's uncle, Davie Ortega's, children's children. Her story is printed with her permission and came to El Puente from poet and UNM professor Levi Romero, who is researching a project called "No RSVP Required: Hispano Sacred Community Gathering Places." He welcomes more stories on New Mexico salas at lowcura@comcast.net.*

LA SALA DE GALISTEO

Barbara King

The Board of La Sala is excited as another summer approaches, here in our artsy village. Once again, the oh-so-generous portal doors of Dianna and Woody Gwyn's "Historic Museum and Visitor Center" will be open. The incredible world of "Galisteo Gone By" that Dianna has so lovingly put together for us to wonder over is really worth a visit on one of your strolls through the village. Her knowledge, effort and extensive gathering of memorabilia is not to be missed. We plan to open Memorial Day weekend, so if you would like to be a part of it, send an email to Cindy Lux at forbeslux@aol.com or call 466-2121 for more details.

Also, we are currently applying for an NEA/National Park Service "Save America's Treasures" grant. Our hopes are high and the chances look good to get funding for the renovation of the old dancehall across from the Gwyns, so the arts in Galisteo will have a permanent home. This is a big deal – to be finally on the edge of restoring this piece of village history to its former glory. It is a matching grant, and some Fun fundraising ideas are afloat.

So get in your studio! Let's see what you've been up to this winter. We had such fun last year with so many visitors from all over the country stopping in our village, awestruck by its serenity and beauty – not to mention the talent of its residents. Be a part of the energy. Be a part of La Sala de Galisteo in 2010!

PEDACITOS/BITS AND PIECES

Alfonso Sena (Rudy's brother) passed away on March 5th at the age of 72. Born in Galisteo to Natividad Sena and Sarah Peña, he is survived by four children, five siblings, and numerous grandchildren. He was buried on March 10th in the Galisteo cemetery after a service at Santa Maria de la Paz.

Frank and Cindy Lux (Sculabasta FUN-ctional Pottery) are among the editors' picks for the Northern New Mexico Pottery Trail in the March issue of *Sunset Magazine*.

One of Robert Anaya's competitors for Mike Anaya's County Commissioner seat filed a Hatch Act violation complaint against him. The federal law limits the political activities of some public employees, but Anaya had been assured by his employer, the DOT, that he was in compliance, and the issue appears to be laid to rest.

A couple of the For Sale signs in Galisteo have come down. Good tidings?

GUNNISON'S PRAIRIE DOGS IN DECLINE

Jan Saunders

If you're one to ask, "Why protect a flea-bitten rodent that digs holes in the grasslands and carries plague?" you might find the following facts interesting.

*Prairie dogs are a keystone species directly responsible for the survival of many valuable plants and animals.

*Abandoned prairie dog burrows provide homes for coyotes, snakes, badgers, weasels, bobcats and ferrets.

*Prairie dogs are an important food source for hawks, golden eagles, foxes, weasels, bobcats and ferrets.

*Burrowing activity helps to aerate the soil, add organic matter and increase precipitation penetration that reduces erosion from runoff.

*Constant mixing of the soil results in better grazing for domestic livestock as well as bison and pronghorn.

Gunnison's Prairie Dogs, one of five species native to North America, are found only within the Four Corners region of Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado and Utah. Known as "keepers of the prairie ecosystem," they are candidates for protection under the Endangered Species Act. Despite their contribution to the health of our grasslands, these beleaguered little rodents are threatened with extinction. They are being shot, poisoned, and evicted from their habitats by human development. Recently, some fifty to one hundred healthy Gunnison's Prairie Dogs were reintroduced to the Galisteo Basin. They are high on Santa Fe County's focal species list. Many local volunteers assisted in this project, and were monitoring throughout the winter. (Contact Teresa Seamster at wildlifehabitat@qwest.net for more information.)

These highly social creatures dig their own burrows and live in colonies of several hundred. They possess extremely sophisticated and complex communicative skills described by one researcher as "...one of the most advanced forms of natural language known to science." Warning barks, consisting of twenty different predator sounds, can be heard from almost a mile away. They come complete with modifiers indicating the size, color, and speed of approach of the intruder. Their calls differentiate between coyotes and domestic dogs, as well as researchers wearing differently colored coats. They coin new barks for objects they have never seen before.

Yes, they harbor fleas infected with the plague and often succumb to the disease themselves, but their existence is considered critical to the sagebrush ecosystem by scientists studying their activities and the damage that would be done by their demise.

"To keep every cog and wheel is the first precaution of intelligent tinkering" --Aldo Leopold.



GCA UPDATE

from Rob Civitello

Muriel Fariello has generously funded the replenishing of sand and placement of railroad ties to define the playground area behind the Community Center, and oversaw the work.

Ted Montoya will be contacting the GCA to review concepts for Community Center lighting upgrades.

A fundraiser may be held in early April for the Eldorado Water Rights Protest Fund. The parties have agreed to mediation.

NEXT MEETING, March 24th ELECTIONS.

EL PUENTE SPONSOR: JANICE & RICHARD GRISCOM

GALISTEO CLASSIFIED

ADS ARE FREE, AND FOR GALISTEO RESIDENTS ONLY. PLEASE CALL 466-1276 TO UPDATE, CHANGE, OR DELETE YOUR ADS. Next deadline: April 10th.

FOR RENT

Small Casita, \$650 per, mo., incl. utilities. Call Liz, 466-6003.

SERVICES

Dragon Lady: Full Service Catering, Corey McGillicuddy, 660-1236.

Part-time personal secretary, references and resume available. Also **archival matting, reframing**, thirty years experience. Sina Brush, 577-4045.

Massage in the comfort of your own home. Cathy Crelling, 490-2285.

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

Yoga: Enliven your body, refresh your mind! Small group classes and private sessions. Linda Braun, 466-8488.

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

Reliable home and yard care when you're away: mail collection, watering, security, etc. References available. 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 **petsittings 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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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

+++ EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO +++

Editor: Lucy R. Lippard. **Contributors:** Richard Griscom, Jan Saunders, Tom Martinelli. **EL PUENTE logo** by Cara Lee. **Printer:** Allegra. **Send letters, comments, suggestions, contributions to EL PUENTE, 14 Avenida Vieja, 466-1276. NEXT DEADLINE: APRIL 10. TO BE A SPONSOR: make out check to GCA for \$75, note "for newsletter," send to address above.**

El Puente de Galisteo
14 Avenida Vieja
Galisteo NM 87540