



ISSUE #183

MARCH 2015

LA SALA IS NOW ON STATE REGISTRY!

On Friday Feb. 20th, the Cultural Properties Review Committee of the Dept. of Cultural Affairs, Historic Preservation Division, approved the application of La Sala de San José de Galisteo to be listed on the State Register of Cultural Properties.

The State Register recognizes important prehistoric and historic places, preserving New Mexico's cultural heritage. As a result of this award, the building is now nominated at the Federal level for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. This will take several months, and we hope to report acceptance at the national level by early summer!

The meeting room was packed for the review of three nominated properties. Members of our Board and La Sociedad de San José attended. Anthony Burns, Commissioner Robert Anaya, and prior Commissioner Mike Anaya all spoke. Roger Taylor and Anna Cárdenas shared historical notes and anecdotes. The speakers received sustained applause and the nomination was swiftly confirmed. Congratulations to everyone who supported the restoration of this wonderful building. As a community we all share in this significant achievement!

La Sala Update: the Board has been busy writing grant applications for 2015, and a meeting is scheduled with Cornerstones Community Partnership to discuss Spring and Summer building projects (repairing the windows, fixing the parapet, etc.). A permit application will be filed with the County soon, and we intend to attach the permanent sign this Spring. A gallery committee is now working on a business plan for the building. Stay tuned.

ON THE HILL: BAD DEEDS AND GOOD

Two weekends ago, the posts John Young had installed to keep ATV's off the trail on his property next to the cemetery were broken and someone entered illegally. This trail, says Young, "is for the sole benefit of hikers, horse riders, mountain bikers and wildlife; ATV's, track bikes and any other form of mechanical transport are specifically excluded. Please keep an eye out."

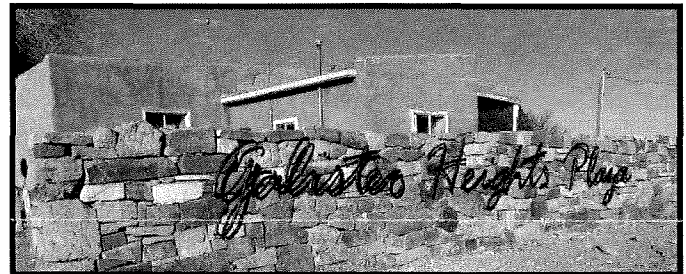
Young has also been creating a "Galisteo Heights Plaza" on his property on The Hill. An elegant sign, mounted on a new stone wall, reads "Galisteo Height Plaza" (though it also resembles "Galisteo Heights Playa" (beach) – not so far off as the Galisteo Basin is an ancient seabed. More stone walls are in progress.

SAT., MARCH 21st 10-11:30 at the Community Center: **The Galisteo Community Association Breakfast and Board Election.** Fruit, pastries, bagels, mimosas; election promptly at 11:00. **We need a quorum of 20 for the election. Please be there!**

A number of positions on the Board are opening up as members who have served two successive terms step down. If you are interested in being on the Board, please come and stand for election.

Anna Cárdenas (President) and **Roger Taylor** (VP) will both depart, although they will remain for several months as transition advisers to the new Board; **Corinne Anaya** will step down, and be replaced by **Wayne King** as Treasurer; Matthew McQueen (Board member) and Janice Felty Griscom (Secretary) have both resigned for professional and personal reasons. Remaining on the Board are **Eric Thomas, David Van Dyk, Judy Tuwaletstiwa, Woody Gwyn, Philip Pfeiffer, and Lorraine Weiss** (Alternate).

Join us in thanking those leaving for their work on behalf of the community. Welcome new members to the Board, and catch up with local issues, neighbors, and friends.



PAYOFF ON THE GAFFORD/CLAYTON LAND GRAB, AND A LITTLE HISTORY

Now that Galisteo has won the "Land Grab Lawsuit," we have to pay the final legal bill. This is the result of a very convoluted and ongoing story. The summary below was drawn from old issues of *El Puente*.

For years, Morgan Gafford (originally from Midland, Texas, and a longtime resident of Galisteo, owner of the "hogan" and tipi on Marcellina Lane), researched County records to identify unclaimed land in the village. He acquired quit claims to 4.5 acres of apparently unclaimed gaps between properties along the bosque, north of the old bridge. (One sliver cut off access to a home on La Otra Vanda.) The second claim was to a 4.1 acre plot bordered by La Otra Vanda, Avenida Vieja, San Cristobal Ranch, and Peña properties. This became known as "the OK Corral," (right) as Gafford had given the patch of pasture to a former resident who paid taxes on it, and a local resident with adjacent family land had grazing rights on it.

Gafford also explored other gaps south of the bridge. His quitclaims were signed by Buddy Branum, former owner of the San Cristobal Ranch. Part of the story involved the 250-acre "exception" of 1907 on the San Cristobal Grant which covered much of the Galisteo townsite east of NM 41, including the bosque. (This mess has never been satisfactorily cleared up.)

In Sept. 2004, then-County Assessor Benito Martinez, acknowledging that assessor's maps "cannot be deemed accurate," told a meeting in Galisteo that such attempted land grabs were happening everywhere in the County. There was consensus, with advice from attorneys, that the community had to step in, and possibly acquire the unclaimed land for the village. At a community meeting that October, 30 property owners were identified who might be affected by Gafford's claims, and a fundraising effort was initiated. \$28,000 was raised and the GCA hired an attorney, Thomas Patrick Whalan, assisted by our local legal advisor, Matthew McQueen.

The legal circus began. In 2005 Gafford served 35 village residents, plus the Galisteo Water Association, Santa Fe County, PNM, and Qwest (predecessor of Century Link) with two Quiet Title Complaints. (See *El Puente* #87 for details.)

In the interim, Gafford had been joined by an accomplice, Peirce Clayton, a realtor then living in Eldorado. In April, the two told their version of the story to *El Puente* (#94), claiming that the land was "abandoned," and that they wanted to donate the land to the village and "make the bosque healthy and public." They had no excuse for why they had chosen this path to "do good," and were costing the village thousands of dollars in the process. (It cost them nothing since they had not hired lawyers.) They apologized for not communicating well enough, and persisted with their claims. In a letter to *El Puente*, Charlie and Barb Holloway wrote: "We implore Morgan Gafford and Peirce Clayton to behave like good neighbors, rethink their positions, and withdraw their claims." They did not.

In May 2006, it looked as though the cases might be concluded. Defendants were the GCA, the Singleton family (owners of San Cristobal), Santa Fe County, and a long list of villagers. But it was not until Sept. 7 that Judge Daniel Sanchez approved a motion for summary judgment (dismissal). He

determined that the issue of who actually did own the land was irrelevant. Clayton's case was heard separately by Judge Jim Hall, who told him to get a lawyer because his claim was "out of whack" and he was costing everyone money. And it dragged on, and on, and on....

In 2014, Judge Sarah Singleton heard the case in District Court and finally dismissed it, finding that there was no basis for the claims. She also awarded us (the defendants) \$27,000 in legal costs – a hollow victory, as it turns out, since there is no chance of recouping those funds. Clayton has moved to California. Gafford does not have assets to pursue. An additional \$5,000 was spent after the hearing to close the case, file the judgment, etc.

The GCA Board wishes to thank everyone who donated money originally. We protected our village by winning the case. But now, much as we dislike it, we are forced to ask again for funding, *and we need it immediately*. The case was a village decision and we are all still in this together. To date only \$1200 has been received and without additional donations the GCA will have to use the balance of the maintenance/operational funds for the Community Center.

Please send your donation to: Galisteo Community Association, 35 Avenida Vieja, Galisteo NM 87540. Any monies received above the \$5000 debt will be put towards expenses to clear the disputed Titles and move them into protective ownership of the Galisteo Community Association. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Roger Taylor, 466-3469.



BULLETIN: By the time this comes out it will be news to no-one that our reactionary State Senator Phil Griego resigned on March 14th, under fire for ethics violations, sparking political chaos. Governor Martinez demanded that each of the six County Commissions he represented (in a classic example of gerrymandering) send her a nominee immediately, on Sunday, March 15, enabling her to appoint a successor while the Legislature was still in session. Some Republican counties complied, while those with Democratic constituencies (including Santa Fe County) balked, citing a state law requiring at least a 72-hour notice to allow for public input.

AGRICULTURAL PROPERTY VALUES

On Feb 16, 2015 the County Assessor's Office presented changes in appraisals of Agricultural Properties, which fall into 3 categories: *irrigated farming* (drip, pipeline, well water, etc.); *dry farming* (dependent on rainfall), and *grazing land*. Irrigated and dry farming must be a minimum of one acre in size and proof must be available that it is for the purpose of sustaining a family or for produce sales. A large garden could be considered in this category but has to meet those requirements.

Grazing is defined as land that supports the raising (for slaughter) and/or breeding of livestock. Grazing land requires 80 acres per animal in the south and less in the north. Many properties are classified as Agricultural and receive heavily discounted tax rates due to low appraisal value. However, many of those properties are dormant.

The Assessor's Office now has a contract with Google Earth which will provide photos of all Ag classified land during the year so that it can be determined if it is in proper use or not.

If you have received a challenge or "question" letter from the Assessor's Office about your Ag designation, you can apply for exemption or appeal by filing a petition of protest at the Assessor's Office at 102 Grant Ave in Santa Fe from April 1-May 1. New "notices of value" will be mailed out this coming April 1, and you have 30 days to appeal.

PEDACITOS/BITS AND PIECES

Another great way to **support the GVFR**: When you order anything from Amazon, go to Amazon Smile, enter your favorite charity (Friends of the Galisteo Volunteer Fire and Rescue, of course!) and .5 % of your purchases will be donated.

Crocuses were blooming in late February. Is that weird?

In an article on Jean Cocteau's "Beauty and the Beast," composer Philip Glass's opera was mentioned, along with the female lead, sung by our own **Janice Felty** (*Pasatiempo* 3/13).

Marty's Meals, the gourmet nutritional dogfood launched in 2010 by **Sandy Bosben** in honor of her pup, has been so successful that it now employs seven people and will soon establish its own market on Pen Road. It was honored at the Legislature during New Mexico Small Business Day.

A letter from former mayor David Coss to *The New Mexican* (3/1) thanked **Matthew McQueen**, among others, "for doing what is right and voting against the Republican Party's efforts to repeal driver's licenses for immigrants."

The movie *Ridiculous Six*, starring Adam Sandler, will be filming at the **Silverado Set** on Cerro Pelon Ranch (4/2,4, and 6).

One of **Nick Trofimuk's** photos was featured in the Feb./Mar. *Santa Fean*.

Alex de Vore in the *Santa Fe Reporter* implored off-and-on Galisteña **Nacha Mendez** to "get fed up" with playing in restaurants and "put your music on stage, please."

Those of us who remember **Carmen McGuinnis**, the last postmaster in 87540, who worked out of her home in Lamy, will be sorry to hear that she passed away on Feb. 27th. Carmen had connections to Galisteo and, I believe, once lived here.

THREE (4?) BIG, BAD BILLS GO DOWN

Threats to environment and sustainability have proliferated in this legislative session, thanks to the Republican majority in the House (often with the support of our *then-Democratic* Senator Phil Griego.) Three such bills were tabled in the Senate, still (barely) controlled by Democrats.

SB 184 would have punished local governments with *any* ordinance that "raises costs for extractive industry 25%." Determination of "increased costs" would be by the State Oil Conservation Division (OCD) -- political appointees whose sole mission is to maximize oil and gas production and protect owners of mineral rights.

SB 601 would have eliminated all existing site-specific protections, including those for Sierra and Otero Counties and the **Galisteo Basin**; plus several well-spacing definitions applicable only to Rio Arriba, San Juan, Sandoval, and McKinley Counties, added in response to local geological conditions. Those who fought for and won a solid, protective SF County ordinance in 2008 are wondering if we will have to start all over again.

SB 421 would have pre-empted any county or municipal health/safety powers with anything to say about **oil, gas, mining (including gravel), or coal; transportation of these materials; restoration of drilling or mining sites; and agricultural operations**. In effect, it would have removed local zoning powers from all big industries, leaving compliance applicable only to residential development.

And a fourth horror, HB366, passed the House after four hours of speakers lobbying on behalf of the gas/oil/mining industries and twice as many from the public, in opposition. The bill's sponsor completely misrepresented it, claiming that it would *not* pre-empt any existing law, when its language clearly says the opposite. With so little time left, the likelihood of it getting assigned to and passing through Senate committees, is small. It should meet the same fate as the other three bills. But the bad ideas on which they are all based are still out there festering. We haven't heard the last of them.

State OCD regulations are "technical" and have almost no "spatial" requirements; they do not deal adequately with impacts on surface property owners, which can be accomplished with existing technology. The oil and gas lobby misrepresents these requirements as "onerous additional costs," although many larger, more responsible drillers voluntarily use these methods and find they *save* money.

More than 25 local jurisdictions have passed ordinances addressing the concerns of ordinary citizens: **keeping wells at a reasonable distance** from homes, school, hospitals, and water supply; **minimizing clearance and soil destruction** for access roads, well pads, 'man-camps' and other facilities; **minimizing dust, mud, fragmentation of rangeland** by random access roads; **protection of existing infrastructure** (county roads, emergency response systems) and expansion of infrastructure when required because of industry presence, **billed to industry rather than to taxpayers**.

FIRE DANGER IS STILL MODERATE. TAKE CARE.

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

Neighbors Helping Neighbors (NHN) was delayed due to steering committee illnesses and travel. Now things are back in place and the committee has been working steadily to launch this program in Galisteo. A confidential survey is being finalized that will inform us on the temporary needs our neighbors may have now, and how they have dealt with health issues or injuries in the past. The survey will be mailed as an insert to *El Puente*, with a return envelope, most likely in the April issue. Responses will help link the capabilities of our volunteer group of residents to the needs of the community.

EL PUENTE SPONSOR: SANTA FE CONSERVATION TRUST

GALISTEO CLASSIFIED

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

FOR RENT

Charming vacation Casita in the heart of Galisteo, available for rent by the night, week or month. Steve or Jean, 466-1544.

FOR SALE

WINDMILL: Aermotor six foot fan plus extra section of blades, thirty foot steel tower. \$1950.00, SINA AT 577-4045.

Talus Wind Heritage Meats. Local New Mexico lamb, beef and turkey available. Please contact Ryan, 505-982-7782 or Ryan@taluswindranch.com., or <http://taluswindranch.com>.

SERVICES

Intern will travel: Need extra help during **parties, snow shoveling, yard cleaning, housekeeping or pet sitting?** Call John Garcia at 505-316-1837.

We build and repair coyote fences; haul trash; yard work & other odd jobs. Fair prices, local references, Michael J. Anaya, 660-2275.

Dave's Auto Repair: restoring, minor repairs, painting. Local refs. Free estimates: David Montoya, 505-501-1991.

Gentle, Relaxing Yoga: Public sessions: Sundays and Tuesdays 4 - 5:15 p.m.; Fridays, 7:30AM. 5614B, Hwy #41, Ruby, 466-1961.

Bookkeeping and QuickBooks Services. Contact Diane Dorsey, 505-466-1919 or diane@dorseybooks.com. Visit DORSEYBOOKS.COM.

Ron Helman Life/Business Coach 466-1919.

JVS will remove (live) rattlesnakes. Call 466-1064.

Maria's Personal Assistant Services: Elder help, errands, office support, housesitting, packing/shipping: 466-8930.

Common sense, gentle dog-training: house manners, management problem-solving at your home, and limited boarding. 20 yrs. experience. Call Evelyn, 466-1875.

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

Welding, flagstone, moss rock, fountains, plumbing, sprinkler, drip systems, plus Gopher Control. David Maestas, cell 670-8608 or 660-9715.

Pet and housesitting, watering plants, feeding animals, etc. Call Linda Jones, 310-2904.

The Orchard: Full service catering, personal chef, and Care Network. Corey McGillicuddy, 466-1831.

Firewood, Misc. Hauling, Odd Jobs, Humane Custom Butchery, CAD services. Phone 466-8967 or cell: 435-3067, Adan.cardenas1@gmail.com.

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

Dream Interpretation: Learn about the message from your Inner Self in your dreams. Veronique Cartier, 466-0803.

Meditation and Knowings class with Chris Griscom, Sundays at The Light Institute, 5-6:30 PM. Free to Galisteo residents. 466-1975.

Carpentry: Custom closets, hand-carved tables, benches, gates, doors; also electrical work. Ted Montoya, 231-3671.

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

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.

++ EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO ++

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Printer: Allegra. **Comments, suggestions, contributions to EL PUENTE,** 14 Avenida Vieja, 466-1276 or flip14@wildblue.net. **NEXT DEADLINE: April 10th.** TO SPONSOR: \$75 check to GCA, noting "for newsletter."

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