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IN THIS ISSUE:

- **Equine Therapy**
- **Ditch Irrigation**
- **Walking with Alpacas**
- **New Village Businesses**

PLUS: A Book Review, Agri-Nature Center Workshops, Real Estate Market Year in Review & More!

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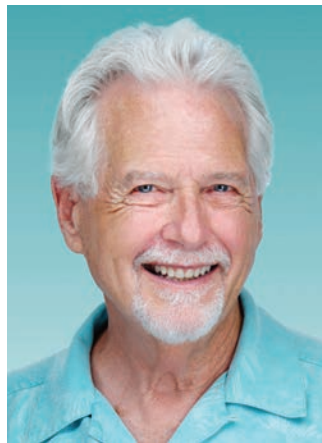
Mayor's Update

Welcome to Spring in Los Ranchos de Albuquerque! My early garlic, shallots, chives, and rhubarb are all up and doing well. Of course, you can tell it is spring with the tumbleweeds blowing by and the Waste Management containers blowing over and the wind out of the east. I don't remember that intensity, but spring has sprung.

The Del Norte Open Space will be in full production this year with both the West and East fields planted and irrigated from the ditches. That should help the dust levels in North Los Ranchos with irrigated fields. There is an irrigation concern from the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD) and our possible lack of irrigation waters again this year. Hopefully we will keep getting snow and rainstorms for our northern watershed. Mid-summer might be ok, and our ditches will keep flowing. The drip irrigation will be a big help for the 50-acre open space water conservation.

The MRGCD is still working with their engineers and construction on the El Vado Dam and Reservoir just south of Chama, NM, which is the source of our irrigation water. The El Vado Dam is a New Mexico Historic Civil Engineering Landmark awarded by the American Society of Civil Engineers. It was constructed from 1933 to 1935 and is an earthen dam with steel cover plates. I think this is the first rebuild of the dam and it's a serious reconstruction of an incredible structure. My father, Boyd Craig, got a job during the construction driving a Caterpillar Tractor. He learned how to drive the tractor overnight with help from one of the workers. I thought it was a "dad" story until we were working on a site just north of Candelaria on I-25 and he got the Cat driver to let him take over for a while. I was a kid flying a kite in the spring winds, and my dad was driving a huge tractor. Interesting memory.

Josh O'Halloran, Acting Village Administrator and Agricultural Program Manager and I are working on the Del Norte Open Space east side facility. That adobe facility and the former Unser barn currently houses Miller Feed & Supply, which is closing. The owner has leased the office and barn from Los Ranchos for over 20 years and is retiring and moving to South Dakota. The Village will be working on improving the entrance to the facility and the adjunct Del Norte Open Space parking area. We will also be making ADA improvements to the entrance and bathrooms. FYI, according to David



Montoya, our North Los Ranchos Historian and Farmer, the building that houses Miller Feed & Supply years ago, was the La Conga Bar.

Village resident David Montoya did a video interview for "How Did They Build That - National Geographic and Paramount." He was interviewed about the work he did at Spaceport America in southern New Mexico. David was a heavy highway concrete contractor and constructed the huge runways and building foundations for the Spaceport. Rocket Man...

Village Public Safety Officer, Fred Radosevich, Project Manager Maria Rinaldi, and I are concentrating on Public Safety for all of Los Ranchos roads. From Ortega south to Chavez on our east west roads to our north south arterials we are focusing on traffic, pedestrian safety, and bike safety.

We are meeting with Albuquerque Public Schools Superintendent, Gabriella Blakey, APS' Danielle Gonzales District 3 Board Member, Kizito Wijenje Capital Plan Executive Director and Karen Alarid, Executive Director of Facilities Design and Construction to talk about Los Ranchos area schools. In particular, we are talking about Taft Mid School and the plans to expand it to a bilingual charter school to continue the education the kids are getting at Coronado Elementary. Taft will be a grade 4 to 8 grade school.

Josh and I are working to try to acquire 520 Sandia View Rd as an open space for the south Los Ranchos area community. Slightly less than 3 acres, it can be a great walking area that will help moderate some of the high-density construction that is currently going on in the 4th street and Chavez/Osuna area.

Finally, happy Cinco de Mayo, happy Mother's Day, and thank you for being a part of our great Village!

Mayor Joe Craig



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Village Vision General Information

The Los Ranchos Village Vision is an official publication of the Village of Los Ranchos de Albuquerque. Its primary mission is to promote the "Spirit of Los Ranchos," while informing Village residents of events and activities taking place in and around the Village. The Village Vision is published seven times per year, and distributed free of charge to Village residents and businesses. Non-residents and other interested parties may subscribe to the magazine by visiting the Village Vision web page, or by contacting the Village Vision. Price, including S/H, is \$20.00 per annum.

ADVERTISING

The Village Vision Media Kit contains all the information you need to place an ad in the Village Vision: dimensions, rates, deadlines, and more. It also includes the "advertising purchase request form," which needs to be submitted in order to purchase advertising space. You can find it online at www.losranchosnm.gov/village-vision-magazine.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Articles of general interest about the Village of Los Ranchos de Albuquerque are always welcome. Please contact the Village Vision with your ideas or to submit your article for consideration.

VILLAGE VISION ONLINE

More information, the Village Vision Media Kit, and back issues, can be found at www.losranchosnm.gov/village-vision-magazine.

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COVER PHOTO: "AGRABILITY COORDINATOR AT MANDY'S FARM: PAUL" PHOTO COURTESY OF MANDY'S FARM

PHOTO CREDITS

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MAY/JUNE ISSUE CONTENTS

The Healing Power of Horses. How equines can inspire art and heal our souls, with Lynda Miller on page 18.



Lots of animal content in this issue! From healing horses and trekking alpacas to animal art, and, of course, a collage of the cutest animals we could find.

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- 8. Capital Projects Update • Agri-Nature Center, 4th Street, Chavez Rd., and More
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- 45. Board of Trustees Meeting Summary 02/20/2023



Rosie, the Resident Dog at the Agri-Nature Center, is one of the extremely cute animals featured in our *A Day in the Life* Photo Spread. Check it out on page 33.

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- 24+25. Walking with Alpacas at the Ranchito de Cummins Red Barn Family Farm by *Gordene MacKenzie*
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Agri-Nature Center, 4th Street, Chavez Rd., and More

4TH STREET PHASE 2 | A public information meeting was well attended on February 21, 2024 to consider the final design and engineering of Phase 2. Public comment was accepted on the project website through March 11, 2024. Comments are being compiled into a report for the Board of Trustees for consideration of adoption of the final project design in May 2024.

The immediate project phase for construction will be from Pueblo Solano to just north, and including, the intersection of Ranchitos Road. The latest project information and project history can be found at www.losranchosnm.gov/fourth-street-project. The Village has also opened a 4th Street Project Office on the SW corner of 4th and Ranchitos.

CHAVEZ ROAD MULTI-USE TRAIL | The Village has reviewed the reports of existing conditions and has authorized Parametrix engineering to proceed with preliminary scope alternatives to present to the public. Currently, the right-of-way/ownership maps of the potential alignment of a trail are on the project website at <https://www.losranchosnm.gov/chavez-road-multiuse-trail-project>.

The Village is asking adjacent property owners to review and submit any documents that are not in agreement with our survey maps. Once the ownership maps are finalized, the Village will proceed with a public meeting to discuss potential design alternatives. Please check the Village website for the upcoming date of the meeting. Public input will be invaluable in ensuring that the goal is met to provide a trail that improves the safety of all users in a manner that respects the culture, environment, and quality of life of the Village.

ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FY23-24 | The Village has been awarded NMDOT COOP funding of \$603,690.00 and has issued a Notice to Proceed to Dismuke Construction and Albuquerque Asphalt. At this time, Dismuke Construction will begin crack seal in early April on the following roads: Los Poblanos Place, Los Poblanos Court, Chavez Road-west of Rio Grande Blvd., Los Ranchos Road, Vineyard Road, Rio Grande Lane, Place, and Court.

It is anticipated that Albuquerque Asphalt will shortly thereafter begin repaving (pulverize, subgrade prep., asphalt) on the following roads: El Paraiso Road, Guadalupe Trail-



Chavez to Tyler, Charles Place, Ortega Road east of 4th Street. Particular attention will be paid to maintain the current road grade to prevent issues on the roadway shoulder and adjacent properties.

AGRI-NATURE CENTER ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 2 | A Notice of Award/Notice to Proceed was issued to Franken Construction under a State Price Agreement for completion of the roadway and handicapped parking space improvements to begin May 1, 2024. The Village was awarded \$500,000.00 of State of New Mexico Capital Outlay Overruns funding and has contributed \$65,000.00 of Rescue Act funds to complete the project.

EDGEWOOD PARK | Edgewood Park is almost finished with construction and will be ready for use shortly. We will have a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the completed project.

DEL NORTE OPEN SPACE | A new trail has been installed at the Del Norte Open Space using Rescue Act funds. The new trail goes around the East field and is equipped with benches and mile markers. New fencing has been installed around the West field to accommodate the return of cattle to the field in this coming year. A new ditch with turn outs has been installed on the East field to irrigate the field in a more efficient manner.

AGRI-NATURE CENTER | The Trails+ grant has funded new irrigation to be installed for a pollinator garden and habitat area along the trail. The Specialty Crop Block Grant has funded the purchase of new kitchen equipment and food processing equipment for the indoor kitchen at the ag center.



.....
 Photos show the new trail and fencing installed around the East Field at the Del Norte Open Space property.

ACADEMY IN MOTION

Question Assumptions



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32nd Regular Growers' Market Season

By Sue Brawley



32nd Growers' Market Season Begins Saturday, May 4!

Join us Every Saturday from 8AM to 11AM

FIND US ON FACEBOOK AT LOS RANCHOS GROWERS' MARKET 



MAY/JUNE | On the opening day of our regular Market on May 4th, National Herb Day will be featured. On May 11, Mothers' and Special Friends Day folks will be able to plant a sunflower seed for that special person. Market tables for the May markets will have an assortment of lettuces, greens, micro greens, green onions, spring green garlic, garlic scapes, herbs, eggs, honey, salmon, beef, various local food products and breads/pastries. This is a great time to select locally grown bedding plants. Toward the end of May, fresh peas (snow peas as well as shelling peas) start to show up at the market tables.

In June, the market tables will have a greater variety of locally grown produce, and we'll celebrate the start of fruit season. Different types of basil will be available. Beets, carrots, cucumbers, broccoli, salad turnips will join the first of the beans, and perhaps early summer squash. There is music at every market. In May and June Harmon & Forte, Rob Roman and the Mummy Sticks, Jug of Punch, Dave Palsce and friends, Los Radiators, and ABQ Skeleton Crew will be performing.

Vendor Profile: Chile del Sol

Elisa Noordam of Chile del Sol, is starting her 4th year with the growers' market. She attends the regular season markets as well as the winter markets, and sells at various holiday pop-up market throughout the region. Elisa's specialty salts are Rim Kicking Salt (made with Red and Green Chile and Pink Himalayan Salt) and Smoked Garlic Salt (Made with Pink Himalayan Salt and Black Lava Salt). She has two lines of spices and salts. One line is called Chile del Sol, the other is Black Sand. Chile del Sol spices are Herb de Provence, NM Herb de Provence, Cafe BBQ Rub, Cocoa BBQ Rub, Smoked Garlic Salt, and Rim Kicking Salt. The Black Sand spices are BBQ Rub, NM Red, NM Green, NM Blended, and Smoked Garlic Salt. Elisa also sells New Mexico Dried Roasted Green Chiles, Jujube Granola, Sun Dried Tomatoes, and other seasonal fruits and gourmet snacks.



SNOW PEAS

Snow peas are delicious fresh as a snack, cut up in a salad, or as a base for a delicious seasonal stir-fry side dish. To make the latter, heat olive oil in a frying pan, add chopped/sliced spring onions, spring green garlic, and sliced snow peas. Cook until peas are tender crisp. Add chicken, shrimp, and/or other veggies to make a main dish.

Recipe by Sue Brawley of the Los Ranchos Growers' Market

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for the Mayor, Trustees, the Ag-Center, Animal Control, the Village Administrator, or someone else?

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A selection of questions (and answers) will be published in the next issue of the Village Vision.



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Los Ranchos ^{THE} ART MARKET

Regular Markets
Every Saturday 8AM - NOON
6718 Rio Grande Blvd. NW

Animal Art: To Wear or Display

By Gordene MacKenzie

Starting May 4th, the Los Ranchos Art Market will be open every Saturday from 8:00AM to noon. Stop by 6718 Rio Grande Boulevard NW and meet the new artists who were recently juried in and visit with your favorite long-time artists.

Animals have always served as an inspiration for artists from ancient animal carvings found on rocks and in caves and on animal amulets, to contemporary public art. Representations of animals in art help connect us to our natural world. Such representations can be both real and imagined by the artist.

Those who view or consume that art bring their own meanings to certain animals depicted in the art. Some of my customers who have purchased hand-carved red coral cardinals that I use in my jewelry designs have told me that, for them, cardinals represent the spirit of a beloved person that has transitioned.

Leslie Kranz's intricate hand-dyed silk scarves depict magical images of cats, roadrunners, butterflies, and other animals whose eyes connect with the viewer in hand-painted brilliant colors that are hard to resist. Holly Kuehn creates a realistic and wonderfully imaginative pantheon of animals from a giant mosaicked lizard to detailed clay carved and tiled turtles that exude personalities that make you want to take them home.

Karen Mogen's animal paintings on antique metal are so realistic that you feel the presence of the animals she captures, from cranes to donkeys. Fiber arts artist Barbara



Dragonfly by Christine Romero, and Two Cranes Facing Each Other on Antique Metal by Karen Mogan

Gorham creates wild soft cat sculptures and other animals in voluptuous colors, some with wings, others wearing llama shirts. Christine Romero's quilts and fiber art wall hangings range from a wide palette from desert colors to brilliant rainbow designs that reveal the magic of dragonflies.

One of my own best-selling jewelry designs is the hand-carved stone bird or animal 'on top of the world' pendant. The idea behind this design is that when you wear it, you too should feel like a bird or an animal on top of the world!



From left to right: Two Cats by Barbara Gorham, Bird on Top of the World by Gordene MacKenzie, Roadrunner silk scarf by Leslie Kranz, Mosaic Lizard by Holly Kuehn



Ditch Irrigation Etiquette: What You Should Know*

By by Jim Roberts, Bernalillo County

The Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District's irrigation season has begun, and our 1,200 miles of ditches on either side of the Rio Grande are running with water throughout Sandoval, Bernalillo, Valencia, and Socorro counties. The irrigation season lasts from March 1st through October 30th. We irrigate about 70,000 acres of farmland and pasture in this 150-mile long strip of open space, and because of the water we convey and constantly reuse, the valley turns green in the spring and summer, and explodes with wildlife and recreational opportunities.

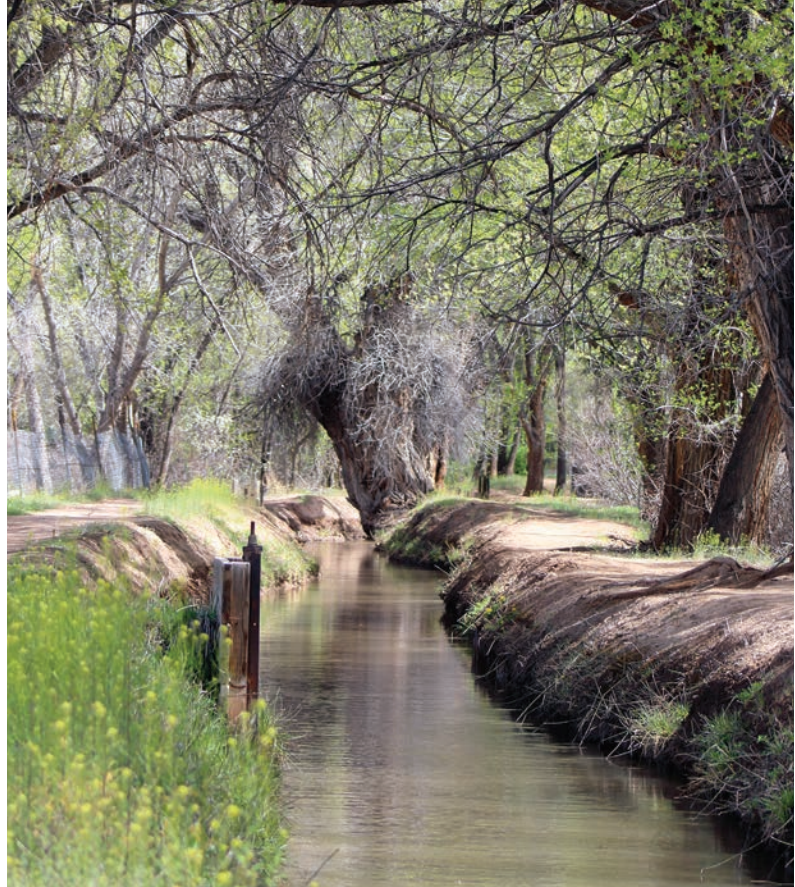
Cooperation between irrigators and the District and between irrigators with each other is essential to having a full, successful irrigation season. As MRGCD Hydrologist David Gensler says, "Everybody needs to understand what everybody else is doing!"

So here are some ditch and water-use rules, ditch etiquette, if you will, that can help us all have a great season:

Every irrigator in the district is entitled to 36 inches, or three acre-feet of water per year per acre. No one should be using more. If you do use more, you wind up shorting your neighbor. Our ditch riders are able to accurately measure water flow. Ask them if you're unsure about how much water you're using.



* Please note: this is a re-print of an article that was first published in the Los Ranchos Village Vision over 15 years ago.



Irrigation is done on a scheduling and rotation basis. It means that you will have a scheduled time when you can take water out of the ditches. That means you must stay in contact with your ditch riders, who are available on their cell phones from 7 AM to 8 PM throughout the irrigation season. If you can't get hold of your ditch rider, call the Albuquerque Division office. The ditch rider will set up the schedules. The scheduling system is necessary to conserve water. Not all ditches will be full of water at all times. There is a finite value to the water. You will not be able to get as much as you want, whenever you want. You must adhere to your watering schedule.

Remember that water is delivered when it is available and that Indian lands under cultivation at the present time are considered to have the first right to water.

There shall be no partiality shown in distribution of water regardless of personal feeling, race, creed, relationship, political, or social standing or previous grievances.

Pay your water service fees and your MRGCD taxes. No water will be delivered to water users who are delinquent in the payment of Conservancy District assessments.

Make sure that your ditches are clear and weed free. This is because ditch riders are not required to deliver water to silt-laden and weed-clogged community ditches, field ditches, or laterals.

Understand how our system works. It was built in the 1930s to drain marshland, irrigate reclaimed farmland, and prevent flooding. It is a gravity fed system that does not require the use of pumps.

There are four divisions in the District: Cochiti, Albuquerque, Belen, and Socorro. You are in the Albuquerque Division. Water is delivered to ditches at the upper end of each division and will be supplied progressively toward the lower end of the division.

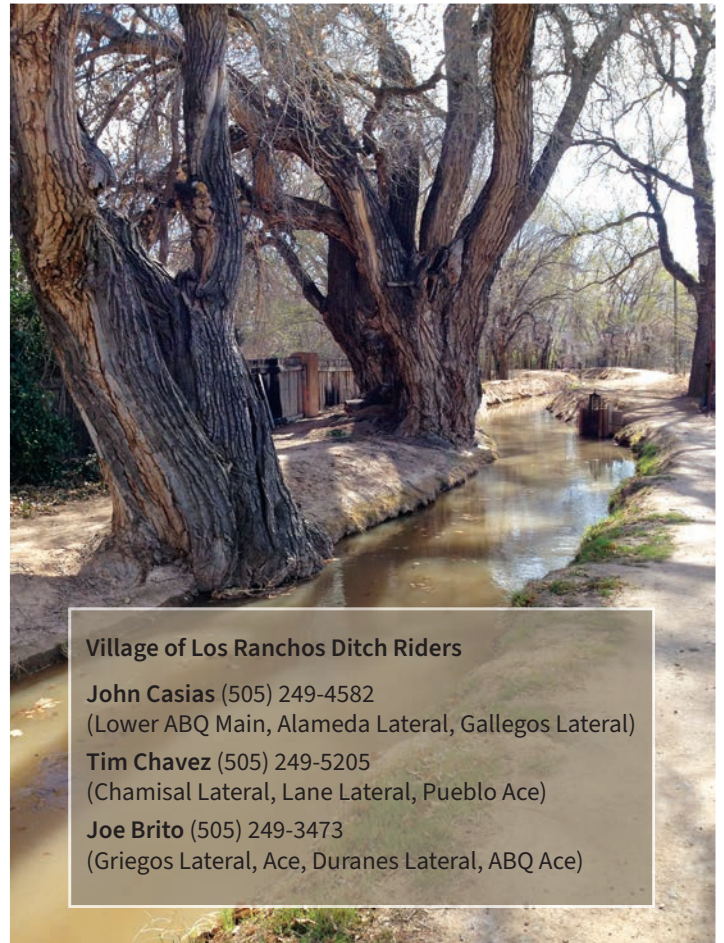
Irrigation will be completed in each area before transferring the water to another area.

Irrigation deliveries will be started at the upper end of each ditch, and each tract served by that ditch will be irrigated progressively downstream upon request from the water users. No deliveries will be made without the express permission of the ditch rider.

Don't build fences across MRGCD rights of way. Generally, the land on either side of our ditches is used for maintenance roads. That means you can't build fences across them. Fences, of course, would restrict our access to the ditches.

If you see anybody dumping trash near the ditches, try to get a license plate number. Dumping trash is illegal. If we can find out who the dumpers are, we can report them to the proper authorities and they can be ticketed and made to clean up their mess.

Remember, cooperate with each other, use only the amount of water to which you are entitled, and respect your neighbors and fellow irrigators.



Village of Los Ranchos Ditch Riders

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(Lower ABQ Main, Alameda Lateral, Gallegos Lateral)

Tim Chavez (505) 249-5205

(Chamisal Lateral, Lane Lateral, Pueblo Ace)

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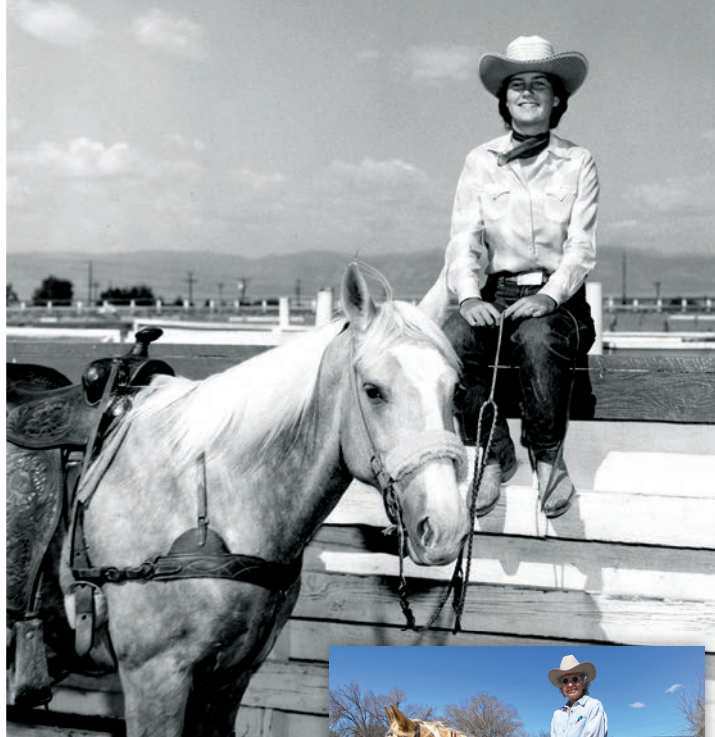
HORSES HEALING HUMANS

By Lynda Miller

Growing up on a ranch, horses were my best friends. Photos of me at age two show me sitting dad's horse as he held the lead rope. Pictures at age three show me riding solo. Dad taught me that I needed to learn how any horse I interacted with thought so that we could have fun together as a team. He also taught me that thinking like a horse meant paying attention to what each horse enjoys, what frightens them, how to tell their mood, their level of relaxation, and more. I have spent a lifetime paying close attention, not only to horses, but to all manner of critters, including humans.

My professional career began with teaching 7th and 8th graders, who were some of the most delightful critters I've encountered and who propelled me into what became a lifelong career of working with people with physical, social, emotional, and/or mental challenges. Learning how each critter thinks allows me into their world, which is the starting point for assisting them in their own learning and growth.

Today I am on the Board of Directors with Cloud Dancers Therapeutic Horsemanship, which focuses on horses healing humans. Cloud Dancers, founded in 1982, spent many years in Los Ranchos at the Pennybacker place on Bledsoe. Now located just outside the Village, our organization provides equine-assisted activities to individuals with a variety of challenges (physical, cognitive, emotional, social, neurodivergent) through innovative riding and ground programs, equine-assisted learning for individuals and teams,



Lynda Miller then and now.

.....

and equine-assisted psychotherapy for individuals with mental health concerns.

I started working with Cloud Dancers almost twenty years ago because it was one of the few therapeutic horsemanship programs that valued the importance of learning how each of our human participants thinks. Our mission is to design safe and fun activities that help them flourish. Our team is equally focused on making sure our horses enjoy their interactions with the individuals we serve and take pleasure in hanging out with their herd buddies when they're not working. This allows them to participate at their maximum potential in furthering the human-horse bond within our various programs.

Watching an autistic boy move from fear and anxiety at his first lesson to obviously listening to what his horse is "telling" him, I see how his responses gradually change. First he tries to get his horse to do what he wants without much success. As he pays closer attention to his horse's movements and behaviors and listens to the instructor, he begins to act in concert with his horse to successfully accomplish a particular task, such as walking over poles on the ground.

These changes show the boy's unfolding understanding of the importance of thinking like the critter in order to successfully communicate and interact with another sentient being. Meanwhile, the teachers and staff at his school report significant changes in how he is increasingly communicating verbally and initiating interactions with his teachers and peers. For me, one of the rewards is knowing that the horse-boy relationship

.....

To the far left: Tres Amigos by Lynda Miller. To the left: Neomimbres Frolic by Lynda Miller



continued from page 16

he's experiencing at Cloud Dancers is extending into his life at home, in school, and in his community.

On a more personal level, I get to hang out with our horses and communicate with them using the equine language I learned as a young child. I count myself very lucky to be able to have fun and play with these remarkable creatures and trust that they're having as much fun as I am.

Lynda Miller

Long-time Los Ranchos resident Lynda Miller is a lifelong horsewoman whose professional career focused on how kids develop language and how to help people with various types of challenges become active participants in their families and their communities. She is also an artist, writer, and co-publisher of Bosque Press.

Contact: lynda@bosquepress.com

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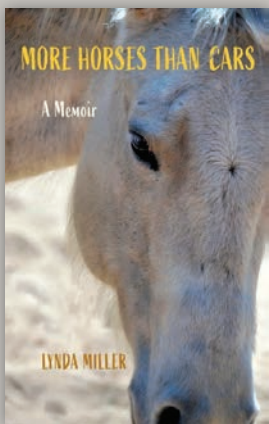
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BOOK REVIEW

By Lynn Miller with Gordene MacKenzie



More Horses Than Cars

by Lynda Miller

Bosque Press, October 15, 2021

Lynda Miller's memoir *More Horses Than Cars* opens with a little boy looking at a saddle in the Littleton Historical Museum in Colorado. He assumes it is a cowboy saddle, but his mother points out that above the stirrup it reads "Champion Senior Cowgirl 1957." The saddle belonged to Lynda Miller.

Against a backdrop of majestic cottonwoods and ranchland as far as the eye can see, a special bond exists between Lynda and her father as together they ride and train horses and attend horse shows and rodeos. Illuminated by a sky lit by sunsets and lightning, Lynda becomes a superb horsewoman under her father's tutelage as he teaches her "to think like a critter." The horses portrayed in the book are magnificent critters who romp and play and also compete and triumph in cutting, barrel racing, and jumping.

We get to know the ups and downs in Lynda's family and become friends with the opinionated mare Gay and Jato, a

remarkable quarter horse descended from Man of War.

Miller's childhood reveals a magical world of freedom—a world where children roamed with their horses safely across the boundaries of individual ranches. Truly, there were more horses than cars.

Miller is a brilliant storyteller as sure-footed as Jato. This is a book you can't put down. *More Horses Than Cars* provides us with a rare glimpse into the past and empowers and refreshes us in the present. Come along for the ride! Lynda's storytelling allows readers to feel like we too, can be cowgirls/ cowboys.

More Horses Than Cars is available from Bosque Press online at www.bosquepress.com/books.

MINDFUL LIVING



WITH LARK ERICSON
LIFE COACH, RN, LF

Planting the Seeds of Your Dream Life

I like to think that you can shape your life, like tending a garden in the springtime.

To start, it's essential to define your goals and aspirations clearly. Take some time to reflect on what you want for yourself. Just as a gardener selects specific seeds for planting, you need to identify the actions and choices that will contribute to the life you desire. Do you want a crop of happiness, success, or maybe a little bit of both? Do you want to bring in more relaxation or have happier relationships?

Once you've got your desires in mind, it's time to prepare the ground. For planting, you need good, healthy soil, and in life, the soil is preparation. Are you set up for success? Do you have a supportive community that will help you achieve your goals?

Next, you might have to pull some weeds. Clear away any obstacles in your life that may manifest as doubts and fears. Make room for positive influences and foster a mindset that promotes growth and development.

Maintaining a positive mindset is the number-one way to ensure a successful outcome. Think of a positive mindset, like the sun shining on your garden. Your outlook on life serves as a powerful force that can influence the trajectory of your journey. Banish

negativity, and let the warmth of optimism illuminate your path.

However, the process doesn't end with planting and hoping for the best. Effort is paramount. In life, as in gardening, you must consistently water your goals with hard work, dedication, and perseverance. Success rarely materializes without a sustained commitment to nurturing your aspirations.

Patience is a virtue, both in the garden and in life. Just as plants take time to grow, so do your dreams. Allow the necessary time for your efforts to bear fruit, resisting the urge to uproot your progress prematurely. Trust in the process and remain patient.

This seems to be the trickiest part for most of us. We plant our seeds but don't see immediate results, so we just give up. You wouldn't plant an apple seed and expect to eat an apple from that tree the next day.

It's also important to acknowledge that challenges may arise—storms that threaten the stability of your endeavors.

Much like a sudden rainstorm can impact a garden, life may throw unexpected obstacles your way. Approach these challenges as opportunities for growth, fortifying your resilience and adapting to the changing circumstances.

The process of planting the seeds of your dream life can be just as rewarding as planting a garden.

Define your goals clearly, prepare the ground by removing obstacles, infuse positivity into your mindset, consistently invest effort, be patient, and navigate challenges with resilience. As you navigate this process, you'll find yourself reaping the rewards of a life carefully and intentionally cultivated.

.....
Lark Ericson works with adults and teens to develop confidence, self-esteem, and resilience. She is a hypnotherapist who focuses on building confidence and joy by releasing unwanted behaviors and emotions.
Reach her at larkericsoncoaching.com or larkericsoncoaching@gmail.com.

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Wise Waste Tips for Warm Weather Months

By Anne Spitz, Media & Communications at WM

Springtime in New Mexico is traditionally marked by warmer days, cool nights and often gusty spring winds. Many people spend more time outdoors. Grills are lit more regularly, and dinners are served alfresco. Once school lets out for the summer, more kids are out riding bikes and splashing around in pools. When the sun goes down, chimineas and backyard fire pits will be lit for family and friends to gather around.

With a focus on safety first, WM of New Mexico offers several waste disposal reminders that are particularly apropos for the spring and summer months.

Play Safe Around Trucks - It's important to teach children how to play safe around waste collection trucks working on the streets near your home. WM drivers enjoy waving to the young fans who eagerly wait for the truck to arrive and excitedly watch the carts being lifted and dumped into the back. Remind kids to watch and wave from the safety of the yard, sidewalk or driveway. Should a pet run or a ball roll towards a working truck, teach kids that it's extremely unsafe to chase after them. Instead, remind them to keep their distance until they can get the attention of the driver, or the truck moves on down the road. And for the kids having fun tooling around on bikes and skateboards, remind them to never follow close behind the truck, never try to touch a truck, and never cut in front of a truck.

Drive Slow Around Trucks - When there is a waste collection truck working in the neighborhood or out on the highway, always maintain a safety buffer of at least 15 feet between you and the truck. Remember, it takes large, heavy trucks about twice as long to stop as a passenger car, so never cut in front or stop suddenly in front of a trash or recycling truck. Also, give the trucks extra room when streets are wet or conditions are windy, as this can impact stopping distance.

Help Prevent Trash Fires - A dangerous fire can be ignited in a cart or inside a garbage truck in any number of ways, but there is typically one common factor: something was likely improperly tossed into a cart or a dumpster. WM offers two important waste fire safety rules to follow that will help keep the community and WM drivers safe.

Firstly, coals from a BBQ grill, embers from a firepit or spent fireworks should be left to cool for at least 48 hours, then doused with water before the ashes can be bagged up and put



into the trash. If put them into the trash before they are cold to their core, these materials can ignite paper or other flammable items in a cart or when compacted inside a collection truck.

Secondly, never put items considered household hazardous waste into trash or recycling carts. Items such as propane tanks, lighter fluid, pool chemicals, and lithium batteries should never be put into curbside carts. These items are highly combustible and can cause fires inside of trucks or further on down the road at a transfer station or recycling facility.

If you have paint, motor oil, pool chemicals, batteries, propane tanks and other household hazardous waste, you can drop them off for free at Advanced Chemical Transport located at 6137 Edith Boulevard NE, in Albuquerque.

Use Carts Properly For Community Safety - Given how windy it gets in Los Ranchos in the spring, it's doubly important to be sure all trash and recycling fit inside curbside carts with the lid fully closed. When carts are overfilled, it's more likely that items will fall out while the cart is being serviced. WM's collection trucks have a hydraulic arm that the driver operates from the cab to lift, dump and return carts to the curb. Items that fall out cannot be retrieved by the driver who may service more than 1,000 curbside carts during a single work shift. This type of litter is unsightly in the neighborhood, can become roadway safety hazards and the wind can carry them into washes.

It can sometimes be a challenge to fit all your recycling inside the cart. But, to help keep the community clean, it's important to take the time to break down cardboard boxes to best utilize the space inside your cart so the lid fully closes.

For more info about recycling and sustainability, please visit wm.com/RecycleRight.



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Walking with Alpacas

AT THE RANCHITO DE CUMMINS RED BARN
FAMILY FARM

By Gordene MacKenzie



One day, while trekking the ditches, we came across a group of variously colored alpacas trekking with their humans toward the river. The high tuft of hair atop their heads like a crowning pompadour framed their large eyes that ranged in color from brown to blue. Their rounded faces and gorgeous soft fleece made them hard to resist. We had to learn more, so we arranged a visit to their farm.

When we pulled in next to the big red barn at *Ranchito de Cummings Alpaca Farm* off of Rio Grande, we were greeted by nine alert and curious alpacas, along with Lesley Cummings, whose T-shirt featured an alpaca. Lesley, a retired teacher, generously shared her vast knowledge and love of alpacas with us.

The Cummings moved to Los Ranchos with an interest in agriculture and animals and wanted to do something sustainable with their land. First they got dogs, then chickens. Lesley's older daughter suggested cows. But when she worked a senior project for school creating an online crochet store, she learned that alpaca yarn is 89 percent hypo-allergenic. So, they started an alpaca farm with two pregnant females, Bella and Princess, and the father of their *crias* (babies), Beethoven. Before long, Mozart and Amadeus were born.

Alpacas are herd animals that bond deeply with one another. They communicate through hums, ear movements and body language. As members of the *camelid* family that includes camels and llamas, they require less water than other farm animals. They have a split bottom lip and bottom teeth only, so, when eating grass, they don't pull out the roots. "Alpacas are calm and gentle animals that are easy on the environment" says Lesley. Their manure, 'alpaca beans,' are good for your garden; the Cummings give it away free.

Like many animals, each alpaca has a distinct personality. "Phoenix thinks he is the best-looking Alpaca in town. He's a bit of a showoff, straightening up around the girls." says Lesley. "Mozart is the friendliest and most adventurous. He tries to crawl under the fence and then can't get back in." Amadeus is shy. "Caramella is sort of godmother. She takes care of babies more than the moms do." When Lesley calls them to dinner by ringing a bell, Caramella stays with the baby. A 5th grader who fell in love with Caramella volunteers once a week to help clean and water the alpacas.

If threatened by a predator, alpacas form a protective group around the babies. They yoddle, spit, and kick to drive the predator away. One time Brownie, a sweet 11-year-old male, was attacked and badly injured. It took six months to nurse him back to health. Now, each week a woman has an appointment to trek with Brownie.

Cummings Alpaca Farm offers farm tours where you can meet all nine alpacas and get to feed them treats as well as

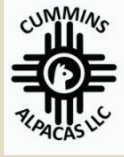


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Photo at Top: James Brown, aka Brownie, chewing on some yummy hay. To the left: Mozart, Princess, Amadeus and Caramella.
Opposite page: Caramella and Princess; Close-up of Caramella.

trekking (walking) with alpacas. “If you want to go trekking you’ll get a little bit of education and learn how to safely walk with them on a lead on the ditches. It’s relaxing because they don’t go very fast. They’re curious animals and enjoy the walk. We can take out five or six at a time.”

Lesley has taken the alpacas to schools and farmers markets. The farm has also hosted girl scout troops and school groups. Last year, during National Alpaca weekend in September, they held an open house, hosting over 200 people.

Because alpacas come from a colder climate, they are sheared every April. Their fleece is warmer and lighter than wool and can be worn by those who have wool allergies. White alpacas produce the best fleece, which is often used in fiber arts like crocheting and spinning. Brown alpaca fleece is coarser and used in rugs and other products. Lesley cleans and sells the fleece, picking out the vegetable matter and then takes it to



Tour the Cummins Alpaca Farm!
Schedule a trek with an alpaca or a one-hour tour of the farm and learn about alpacas and chicken, pet and feed alpacas, and take great pictures. Schedule your tour by calling or texting (505) 991-2284. The Farm is open Monday thru Thursday from 10AM to 1PM, and Sundays from 2PM to 6PM. They are closed during inclement weather.
More information at www.cumminsalpacafarm.com



Enchanted Mills to be made into yarns. She often devises creative projects for some of her young visitors. A girl scout troop loved making their own alpacas from pipe cleaners and fleece. Fleece and fleece products are also sold at the farm.



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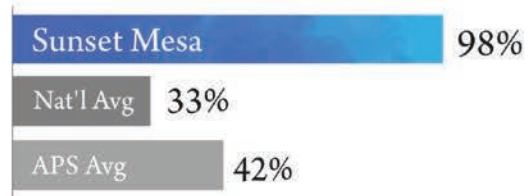
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Back Row L-R Nicholas Johnson, Eric Werner, Lianne Walk. Front Row L-R Jason Godin, Clair Gardner, Kristine Padilla, Tim Reardon

Spring has Sprung!

By Marcelle Cady

VANYA & SONIA & MASHA & SPIKE | Continuing at The Adobe until May 12th is *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* by Christopher Durang. If you missed reading about it in our previous issue, this is a modern comedy influenced by the works of Anton Chekhov. It is a play that harps on the themes of old vs. new generations, missed opportunities and the hope and carelessness of youth. Christopher Durang is a playwright that has a style that curves towards absurdity and outrageousness, which makes for a fun play to direct and watch. The play garnered multiple awards - 2013 Tony Award® for Best Play, 2013 New York Drama Critics' Circle Award for Best Play, the Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Play, Drama League Award for Outstanding Production of a Play.

THE OUTSIDER | Who doesn't love a farce? Opening May 31st for 4 weekends until June 23 is *The Outsider* by Paul Slade Smith - a

hilarious political farce which makes fun of practically everyone and is sure to keep you wildly entertained! Nancy Sellin (The Adobe's Board President) has cast Clair Gardner, Jason Godin, Nicholas Johnson, Kristine Padilla, Tim Reardon, Lianne Walk and Eric Werner—who have all performed many times on The Adobe stage. 'Ned Newley' doesn't even want to be Governor. He's terrified of public speaking; his poll numbers are impressively bad. To his ever-supportive Chief of Staff, Ned seems destined to fail. But political consultant 'Arthur Vance' sees things differently: Ned might be the worst candidate to ever run for office. Unless the public is looking for... the worst candidate to ever run for office! Mr. Smith is a master of screwball comedy and farce. Go and enjoy a couple of hours of laughter.

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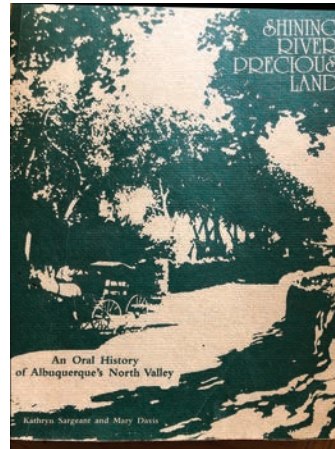
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Los Ranchos Historical Society News & Book Suggestions

Los Ranchos Historical Society

Attendance at our Los Ranchos Historical Society (LRHS) more than doubled in February when we visited the historic, now Village-owned, Maxie Anderson house. Then, in March, we toured architectural sites at Los Poblanos. After the tour, we visited the Agri-Nature Center and viewed the historic Schulte house. In April, we hosted speakers Teri Reynoso and her co-author, who shared their research for a book they are writing about Tom and Janet Kromer. We're looking forward to Village resident Marsha Adams' talk in May on "Fred Harvey in New Mexico." Some members are interested in organizing a train trip to Belen to visit the historic Harvey House Museum. Meanwhile, Mayor Joe Craig has found several boxes of historic photos and documents stored at the Village. LRHS members plan to document and digitize some of them and make them publicly available.

If you want to learn more about the history of Los Ranchos, there are several books and a monograph that we highly recommend. *The first book is Shining River Precious Land: An Oral History of Albuquerque's North Valley* by Kathryn Sargeant and Mary Davis. Funded by the Village of Los Ranchos and the Albuquerque Museum, the book preserves oral histories and photographs for future generations. Reading it you will learn about the personal, archeological, and geographic history of Los Ranchos which includes floods, agriculture, archeological finds, and the day-to-day life of residents.



Los Ranchos Plaza (LA 46638) Test Excavations at a Spanish Colonial Settlement in Bernalillo County, New Mexico, 1996-1997, edited by Carol J. Condie, is a monograph you can download for free from Maxwell Museum at UNM. It contains a portion of the report that Kathryn Sargeant, a Los Ranchos archeologist, would have written if she was not fatally hit by a car on Christmas Eve of 2001. The report taken from her notes was compiled by friends who were involved in the 1982-1983 Los Ranchos Plaza project. Funded by Los Ranchos and the NM Historic Preservation Division, the project was a prehistoric and historic site survey done in the Village of Los Ranchos de Albuquerque. The survey area located 30 sites and 73 isolated occurrences, eleven of which contained evidence from prehistoric Pueblo periods and 17th-20th century historic occupation. The site covered 51.9 acres of public and private land. All artifacts found were deposited for curation with Maxwell Museum.

Finally, we recommend a beautifully illustrated children's book, that adults also love, *Vignettes from the Lovely House* written by Eugenia Eberle, a Los Ranchos public historian and former Village historian, and illustrated by her life-long friend Nina Collins. The book tells the story of a three-acre broken down ranch in the Village that Eberle and her family lived in. The story unfolds through the lens of the profound relationships they had with the wonderful animals that lived on the ranch. From a pet pig to a clever ram who opened the latch and ran down the road with the sheep, to a mother cat that fed a fox who had just had five kits. In the pages you will meet rabbits, turtles, colts, ants and more and learn about their lives and habitats and how we can all co-exist together.



.....
Some of the attendees at the February LRHS meeting.

More Information
About the Los Ranchos Historical Society at
www.LosRanchosHistoricalSociety.org

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Agri-Nature Center May/June 2024 Workshop Schedule

Thursday May 23rd
Farm to Table Cooking Demo
with The Sprouting Kitchen
Pricing to be announced.

Thursday May 30th
Pressure Canning 101
with Amber from NMSU Extension

Thursday June 6th 5:30 pm
Pollinators with Xerces Society

Thursday June 13th 5:30 pm
Cooking Demonstration
with The Sprouting Kitchen
Pricing to be announced.

Check the next issue of the Village Vision
for workshops and events happening after
June.

*To register and find more information, visit
the Village website. All workshops are \$5
unless otherwise stated.*

.....
Questions?
sapodaca@losranchosnm.gov

A young girl with dark hair is smiling. The background is orange with a sun graphic. Text includes 'SANDIA PREP'S Summer PREP', 'PreK - 10th grade', 'June 3 - July 12', and icons for Arts, Sports, Tech, Academics, and Skills. A website URL is provided at the bottom.

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THE BUSINESS HIGHLIGHT PAGE GIVES LOCALLY-OWNED BUSINESSES IN THE VILLAGE OF LOS RANCHOS DE ALBUQUERQUE A PLACE TO TELL THE WORLD WHO THEY ARE AND WHAT THEY OFFER.



Mandy's Farm

Mandy's Farm is a nonprofit organization that assists individuals with developmental disabilities in achieving their goals for living, learning, and working in the community.

The Farm was established by David and Ruthie Robbins in 2000. Motivated by the desire to create a secure and joyful haven for their daughter, Amanda (Mandy), who has autism and was nearing adulthood. The Robbins' wanted to provide Mandy with a safe and happy environment with other young women who also had autism.

With the financial support of family and friends, they purchased a five-acre lot in the South Valley on which they built a residential home, an indoor aquatic building, a barn, and an outdoor riding arena. The focus was a home that prioritized therapeutic activities such as swimming, horticulture, horsemanship, and caring for farm animals.

When most people hear the word autism, they think of young children with social and behavioral challenges. These young children grow up, and as adults, share the same aspirations that



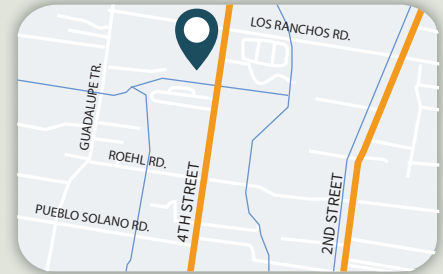
we all do – to lead independent lives and pursue fulfilling employment, community activities, and relationships.

In response to the needs of the community, Mandy's Farm quickly expanded. The 300-plus adults that Mandy's Farm now serves have intellectual and developmental disabilities, like autism, Down syndrome, or cerebral palsy. They operate three co-ed residential homes, and provide employment training and placement, customized community support activities, and a life and employment skills program for young adults.



Mandy's Farm is proud of its newest program, AgrAbility. This is a two-year apprenticeship program that provides agriculture education and hands-on field work for adults with disabilities to fulfill their

Find Mandy's Farm



- ▶ 7511 4TH ST NW
- ▶ (505) 503-1141
- ▶ info@mandysfarm.org
- ▶ www.mandysfarm.org/



dreams of working in agriculture. The apprentices sell their produce in the fall and M'tucci's Italian restaurants have purchased many of the vegetables for their entrees. This includes a special type of corn M'tucci's brought from Italy and asked Mandy's Farm apprentices to grow!

Photo at top: Young Mandy on horseback. To the left, from left to right: Bethany, Bernadette (above), Angelina, Lorenza (above), and Gia eat pizza after the Disability Rights Awareness Day celebration. Above right: AgrAbility participant with a young tree. Opposite page: AgrAbility participants selling their produce at Mandy's Farm's Harvest Festival in October 2023. | Re-skinning the large hoop house at Mandy's Farm. This was made possible by a \$5,000 grant by the Lavender in The Village Foundation.

Mandy's Farm currently employs 100 individuals to support its program and services. They also have 50 adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities that they support and are employed at various businesses in the community.

Their administrative offices are located in the Village of Los Ranchos. According to Melissa McCue, Executive Director of

Mandy's Farm, "We wanted a central location to serve the needs of the greater Albuquerque community. For that reason, we selected 4th Street in Los Ranchos for our administrative staff building. Mandy's Farm mirrors The Village of Los Ranchos commitment to the preservation of agriculture, open space, nature, and environment."



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A Day in the Life...

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ANIMALS IN THE VILLAGE



Clockwise from upper left: A Swallowtail Butterfly enjoying some Echinacea; A smirking Rosie, resident dog at the Agri-Nature Center with "her" chickens; A friendly neighborhood crow, A curious kitty, A Crawdad taking his tennisball out for a swim, A snoozing Hummingbird, A Southwestern Fence Lizard; A smiling Village pup; A Raccoon family; a baby Roadrunner; A velvet calf charming the camera.

Spring on the farm

There's nothing quite like spring in our little corner of the North Valley. As the days lengthen and vegetables, herbs and flowers move from the greenhouse to the fields, there are countless ways to enjoy the season at Los Poblanos.

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Field-to-fork dining at Campo

Elegant Afternoon Tea

Inspired shopping at the Farm Shop

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May/June

► **May is sunny and delightful.** With the exception of an occasional windy day, the weather could not be better. **June is when the hot weather begins** and it takes its toll on the garden.

► **Irrigation systems** should receive preventive maintenance. Replace what is not working properly. Adjust emitters for plant growth.

► **Change your irrigation** to the summer schedule when the daytime temperatures stay above 85.

► **Water established trees and shrubs** every 10 to 14 days deeply. Water established beds weekly.

► **Spot-water** small, new plants daily or as needed.

► **The intensity of sun rays** in Albuquerque is greater than most plants like. Give them some protection from full sun all day which results in less stress and you will have fewer pests and problems.

► **Place 2 – 4 inches of mulch** around trees (not touching the trunk), shrubs, and perennial beds and mulch annuals as they grow.

► **Consider rain barrels** for the coming monsoon season. They can be used to collect and/or re-direct water to where it's most needed.



► **Plant summer-flowering bulbs and corms:** gladioli, cannas, dahlias, lilies, ornamental onions (*Allium*).

► **Start fertilizing roses and flowers.**

► **Give warm season grasses** like Bermuda, buffalo, and blue grama a nitrogen fertilizer like seed meal, fish emulsion, composted manure, or topdress with compost.

► **Buy six-packs of annuals** and fill bare spaces and planters with them.

► **Seed warm season lawns** such as buffalo grass anytime from late May through July.

► **Plant a few melon seeds.** Besides providing you with fruit, they make a wonderful living mulch in the late summer and fall.



► **(Trans)plant beans, corn, cucumber, eggplant, melons, pumpkins, peppers, squash, and tomatoes.** **In June: seed/plant heat-loving plants** like basil, corn, and beans.

► **Melons, tomatoes, eggplant and peppers** should go in by mid-June so there is enough time to make a crop.

► **Plant cauliflower and broccoli** seeds for a fall crop after June 20th.

► **Dig up unwanted plants** and share them with friends.

► **Continue to prune** spring flowering shrubs as they finish blooming.

► **Prune dwarf Butterfly Bush and Rosemary** back by 1/3 or thin every few years by removing the oldest, largest stems.

► **DO NOT cut back bulb foliage** after they finish blooming. Bloom stalks and leaves are needed to make food for the bulbs, ensuring next spring's blooms. Remove them when both stalk and leaves are brown.

► **If you have Chrysanthemums growing,** now is the time to pinch them back, and continue to do so through mid-July to make them bushier and to keep them from flowering before fall.

► **Insects are becoming active** in May. Aphids are everywhere! Usually a forceful water blast will dislodge many of them. Also try insecticidal soaps, horticultural oils, earwigs, syrphid fly

larvae, parasitic wasps, and ladybird beetles (ladybugs) to control them.

► **Box elder bugs** will start to appear. They feed on Golden Rain tree seeds and on maple seeds. They do no damage, but can be plentiful.

► **Miller Moths** are not just annoying; they lay eggs which hatch into cutworms. If you have a lot of them, be sure to check in the fall and spring for grubs. If necessary, treat the soil.

► **Slime Flux** is the stinky ooze coming from cottonwoods, mulberry, and other trees. It is caused by a bacterial infection of the tree's sap. There is no cure, but trees live decades with the problem. To reduce the stinky mess, wash the tree with water or a weak bleach solution. Avoid splashing other parts of the tree or surrounding plants to prevent spread of the disease.

► **Bagworms** are solitary insects in small "sleeping bag" cocoons constructed of leaf or needle bits. They are found on a number of different trees. Treatment is easy: cut them off. Insecticides are ineffective once the bag is formed.



► **The heat in June brings spider mites.** Look for what appears to be fine webbing covering the plants. Daily water blasts with a powerful water wand dislodges the mites, and they are not able to crawl back up. Most insecticides do not harm mites.

This information is brought to you by the Albuquerque Master Gardeners. For more information visit abqmastergardeners.org. Have questions? Call the Master Gardeners Hotline at (505) 243-1386 or the Bernalillo County Extension Service at (505) 243-1386.

THE REAL ESTATE MARKET



WITH TIM TOURVILLE

Village Million Dollar Market is Up!

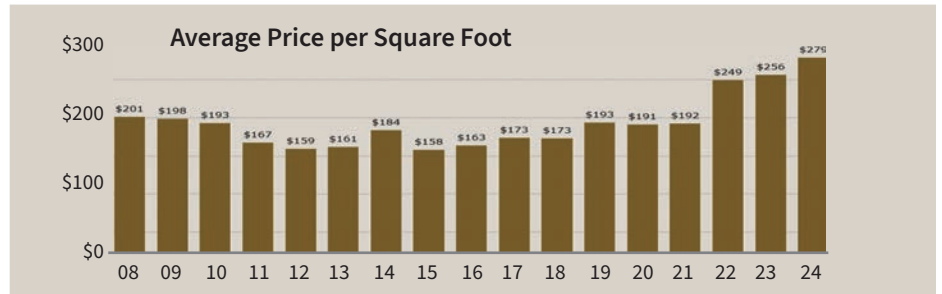
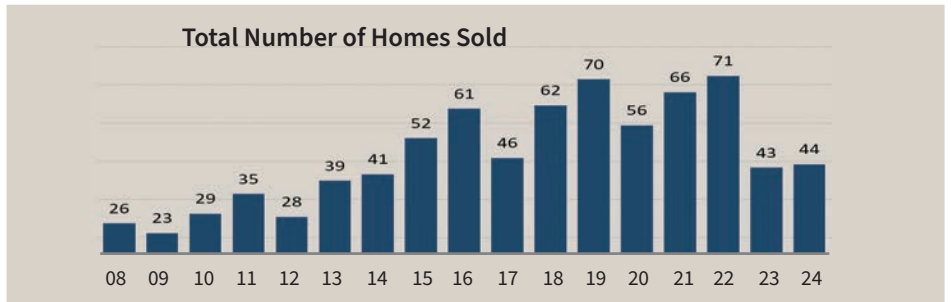
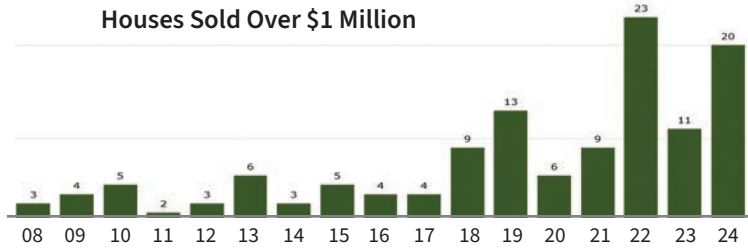
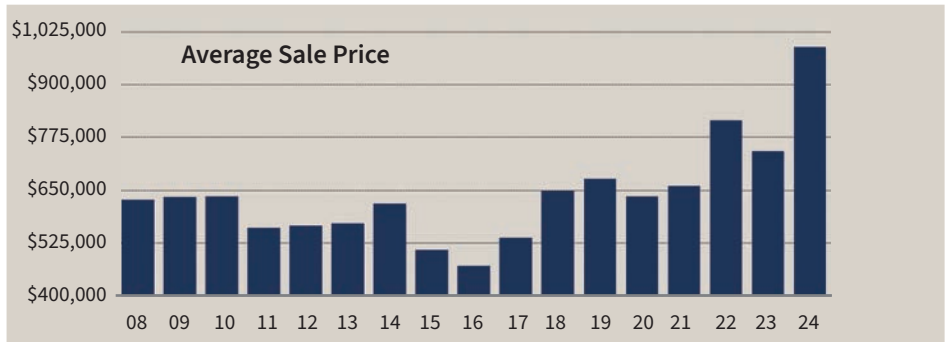
It's that time of year again when I share the state of the residential real estate market for the Village of Los Ranchos. In summary, the data for the last 12 months (March 2023 - February 2024) show the number of houses "Sold Over \$1 Million" was up by 82%; the "Total Houses Sold" was just one more than last year; a 31% increase in the "Median Sale Price"; 33% increase in the "Average Sale Price"; and an increase in the "Average Price Per Square Foot" of 9%.

In looking at the graphs, we can postulate the post-recession demand has evened off as, the "Total Houses Sold" has stabilized. We can attribute the increase of the "Sold over \$1 Million," the "Median Sale Price," and the "Average Sale Price" to the rise in the "Average Price Per Square Foot." Yes, the rise in price per square foot has been affected by the increased demand, but the real culprit is inflation. Lingering Covid-induced supply chain disruptions, as well as other epidemic-related factors have rapidly increased the cost of goods and services for new home construction, thereby inflating resale market prices.



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Numbers in these graphs were taken directly from SWMLS using a fiscal year of March 1 to February 28/29, and, as they say: "All information herein has not been verified and is not guaranteed."

The Village of Los Ranchos and SWMLS

It was 18 years ago when the late Mayor Abraham and I approached the Greater Albuquerque Association of Realtors and the collaboration resulted in Los Ranchos de Albuquerque's designation as a city in the SWMLS. It is exciting to have an on-going database for homes sales specific to the Village. I hope you find this information useful, and as a Village resident and Realtor, I am proud to be able to provide it to you.



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Summary of Residential Property For Sale in the Village of Los Ranchos

Listing#	Street#	Street Name	Listing Price	ApxSqFt	BR	BA	G	Lot Acr.	Listing Office	Office Phone	Listing Member
1055616	5100	Los Poblanos	\$3,900,000	6120	4	6	4	3.53	Realty One of New Mexico	(505) 883-9400	Dee Raspberry
1058498	7012	Rio Grande	\$2,900,000	7839	4	5	8	8.06	Ida Kelly Realtors	(505) 888-1000	Channing Kelly
1040628	7622	Rio Grande	\$2,500,000	2748	3	2	2	4.24	Sotheby's International Realty	(505) 982-6207	Marsha Adams
1032914	4900	Rio Grande	\$2,400,000	3600	3	5	2	6.92	Hanna Commercial, LLC	(505) 332-0522	Richard Hanna
1058119	520	Sandia View	\$1,499,900	LAND				2.72	The M Real Estate Group	(505) 247-1002	Thomas Mestas
1058214	7028	Rio Grande	\$1,475,000	LAND				2.67	Berkshire Hathaway NM Prop	(505) 798-6300	Juan Duran
1043157	8617	Rio Grande	\$1,100,000	3118	4	4	2	1.42	Maestas Real Estate Services	(505) 463-3565	Anita Maestas
1054406	8523	Rio Grande	\$1,050,000	3786	3	4	3	1.84	Keller Williams Realty	(505) 897-1100	Team Blunier
1058663	6769	Guadalupe	\$1,050,000	3663	5	4	3	1.6	Lisa Hebenstreit Realty, LLC	(505) 242-2272	Lisa Hebenstreit
1044308	1122	Ortega	\$995,000	3900	4	4	2	0.7	Keller Williams Realty	(505) 271-8200	Dana Slade
1042295	1118	El Pueblo	\$899,900	2282	3	3	0	1.03	The Maez Group	(505) 718-4980	Joseph Maez
1027246	7220	Zia View	\$299,000	LAND				0.56	Absolute Real Estate	(505) 681-8578	Leola Robledo
1027247	7201	Zia View	\$299,000	LAND				0.55	Absolute Real Estate	(505) 681-8578	Leola Robledo
1027248	7200	Zia View	\$299,000	LAND				0.56	Absolute Real Estate	(505) 681-8578	Leola Robledo
1027249	7221	Zia View	\$299,000	LAND				0.55	Absolute Real Estate	(505) 681-8578	Leola Robledo

The information herein is deemed reliable, but not guaranteed from SWMLS compiled on or before March 20, 2024 by Tim Tourville, Coldwell Banker Legacy.



LEFT
More than
28 concepts
featuring an
array of local
cuisine and
international
trends inside
Sawmill Market.

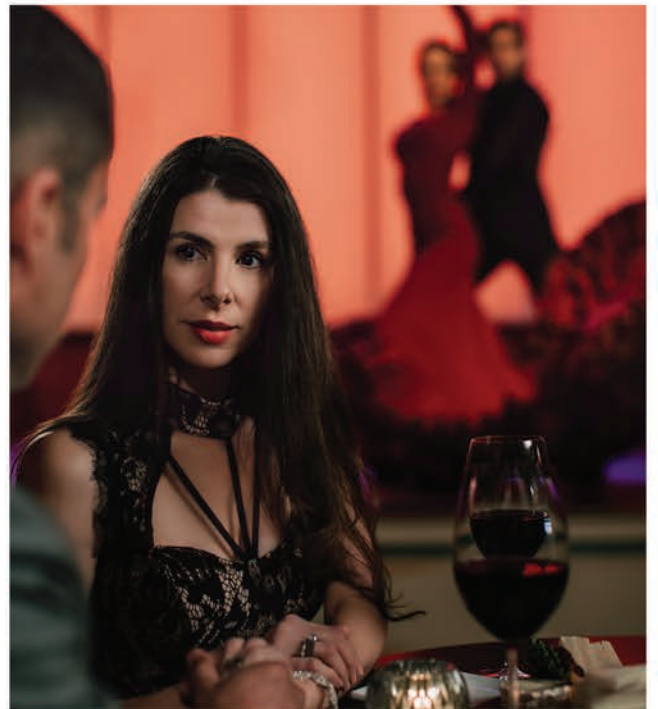
RIGHT
Hotel Chaco
featuring the
Spa at Chaco,
Level 5 Rooftop
Restaurant,
Crafted Tasting
Room, Gallery
Hózhó, Rubber
Rabbit Specialty
Boutique,
Dakya Boutique,
and Country Club
Men's Salon.

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Business Name	Address	Type of Business
The Beauty Studio, LLC	7520 4th Street NW	Beauty Salon
Icare Enterprises LLC dba Always Best Care of Albuquerque-Rio Ranchos	8333 2nd Street, Suite B	Home Health Care Agency
Beauty by Irene & Co.	6611 4th Street NW	Beauty Salon
Blended Hair Co.	7520 4th Street	Beauty Salon
Rio Chama Assurance Group, LLC	6611 4th Street NW, Suite B	Insurance Agency
Lavender Cocinita	6847 4th Street	Espresso, Breakfast & Lunch

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for the Mayor, Trustees, the Ag-Center, Animal Control, the Village Administrator, or someone else?

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A selection of questions (and answers) will be published in the next issue of the Village Vision.

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PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION MEETING SUMMARY*

March 12, 2024 7PM/Regular Meeting (DRAFT MINUTES)*

Location: Warren J. Gray Chambers

Commissioners Present: Mary Homan, Vice-Chair; Connie Barrow; Robert Martinez, John Edward, Gwenn Baldwin, Dru Tagliapietra, Claire Haywood

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of January 9, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes. *The motion carried 7-0.*

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND APPLICATIONS

A. V 24-01; Deferred to the April 9, 2024 P& Z Meeting.

▶ Director Rubin gave the planning report with recommendation of approval with conditions.

B. V 24-02; A request Caroline Orcutt for a Variance from § 9.2.11(E)(2)(a) 22 requiring a 10-foot side yard setback distance. The property is zoned R-3 and is located within the 4th Street Character Area. The property is located at 363 Tyler Rd. NW and is legally known as Lot 7, Kingsbury Addition. The property contains 0.32 acres, more or less.

▶ Director Rubin gave the planning report with recommendation of denial.

▶ Speakers: Carolyn Orcutt and Bud Latven, 363 Tyler Rd NW (Applicant s)

▶ Motion: Commissioner Barrow moved to deny with staff findings. Second: Commissioner Martinez

The motion failed (4-3) by roll call vote: Commissioner Barrow – yea, Commissioner Martinez – yea, Commissioner Edward – yea, Commissioner Baldwin – nay, Commissioner Tagliapietra – nay, Commissioner Heywood – nay, Commissioner Homan – nay

New Motion: Commissioner Baldwin moved to approve V 24-02 6. Second: Commissioner Tagliapietra

The motion carried (5 - 2) by roll call vote: Commissioner Barrow – nay, Commissioner Martinez – nay, Commissioner Edward – yea, Commissioner Baldwin – yea, Commissioner Tagliapietra – yea, Commissioner Heywood – yea, Commissioner Homan – yea

NEW BUSINESS

A. Adoption of Resolutions for 2024

1. Adoption of Resolution 2024-2 Planning & Zoning – Open Meetings Act.

The motion carried (7 - 0)

6. Election of Officers for 2024

A. Nomination for Chair (Mary Homan), Vice Chair (Connie Barrow), and Secretary (Gwenn Baldwin).

a. Chair

Motion: Commissioner Barrow moved to elect Mary Homan for Chair.

Second: Commissioner Tagliapietra seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously (7-0) by roll call vote.

b. Vice Chair

Motion: Commissioner Baldwin moved to elect Connie Barrow for Vice Chair.

Second: Commissioner Martinez seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 6-0 by roll call vote; Commissioner Barrow abstained.

c. Secretary

Motion: Commissioner Barrow moved to elect Gwenn Baldwin for Secretary.

Second: Commissioner Heywood seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried 6-0 by roll call vote; Commissioner Baldwin abstained

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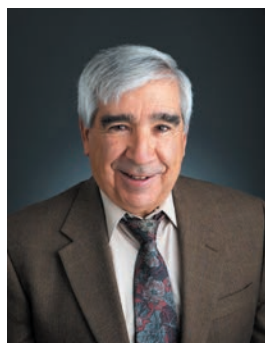
Each Office Independently Owned and Operated. If your property is listed with another Broker, this is not a solicitation. Agent does not guarantee the accuracy of square footage, lot size, or other information concerning the condition or features of the property provided by the seller or obtained from public records or other sources and the buyer is advised to independently verify the accuracy of that information through personal inspection with appropriate licensed professionals.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING SUMMARIES



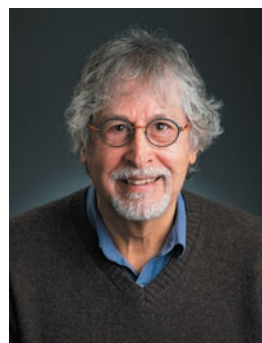
Joe Craig
Mayor



Gilbert Benavides
Trustee



Jennifer Kueffer
Trustee



George Radnovich
Trustee



Frank Reinow
Trustee

FEBRUARY 20, 2023 6:00PM/Regular Meeting (Draft minutes)*

Location: Warren J. Gray Chambers and streamed on the Village Website and via Zoom
Present: Mayor Joe Craig, Trustee/Mayor Pro Tem Reinow, Trustee Benavides, Trustee Kueffer
Excused Absent: Trustee Radnovich (late), Treasurer Fisher (absent)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gordene MacKenzie, 7315 Guadalupe Trail NW, Nancy Nangeroni, 7315 Guadalupe Trail NW, Theresa Rael, 1005 El Alhambra Circle NW, Christian Reedy, 8642 Rio Grande NW, David Montoya, 8831 4th Street NW

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

A. Discussion and Approval of the January 2024 Cash Report.

CFO Tammy Silva presented the Cash Report for the month ending January 31, 2024.

Unusual or Significant Items:

- ▶ The Village paid Bohannon Huston \$160,004.81, check #3549 & 3480 for 4th Street Phase 2 professional services through 12/31/23.
- ▶ The Village paid Custom Grading Inc. \$32,322.39, check #3527 for the Chavez Road speed tables.
- ▶ The Village paid Jaramillo Accounting Group progress billing of \$15,508.76, check #3533 for FY23 audit services.
- ▶ The Village paid myIT \$4050.00 through ACH Payment ASELA2V9 for two new laptops that needed to be replaced due to age and performance.
- ▶ The Village paid Parametrix \$97,960.59, check #3496 for Chavez multi-use trail professional services through 12/2/23.
- ▶ The Village paid Stelzner, Winter, Warburton; \$24,389.98, check # 3542, for general counsel services for December 2023.

Motion to approve January 2024 Cash Report carried 3-0

B. Discussion and Approval of Resolution No. 2024-02-01; A Resolution Approving a Budget Adjustment Request (Bar); Recommending budget revisions related to the General Fund (101) for the Village of Los Ranchos de Albuquerque.

Motion to approve carried 3-0

C. Discussion and Approval of Resolution No. 2024-02-02; A Resolution Approving a Budget Adjustment Request (Bar); Recommending budget revisions related to the Capital Improvements Fund (312) for the Village of Los Ranchos de Albuquerque.

Motion to approve carried 3-0

D. Discussion and Approval of Resolution No. 2024-02-03; A Resolution Approving a Budget Adjustment Request (Bar); Recommending budget revisions related to the Capital Improvements Fund (312) for the Village of Los Ranchos de Albuquerque.

Motion to approve carried 3-0

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. SDP 23-05; A request by Chavez Guadalupe, LLC for discussion and approval of a Final Site Development Plan as allowed in §9.2.27.

The request is for a residential development in the A-1 Zone in the Guadalupe Trail Character Area. The property is located at 6535 Guadalupe Trail NW and is legally described as a tract of land situated within the Elena Gallegos Grant, projected Section 29, Township 11 North, Range 3 East, New Mexico Principal Meridian, within M.R.G.C.D. Map No. 29, being all of Tracts 36-A-1-E-2, 36-A-2-E-2, 36-A-3-E-2, 36-A-1-F, 36-A-2-F, 36-A-3-F, 35-A-2-A and 62-B-2-B, M.R.G.C.D. Map No. 29. The property contains 9.2682 acres more or less.

Deferred to the March 19, 2024, meeting.

continued on next page...

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING SUMMARIES,* *continued*

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Discussion and Approval of Resolution No. 2024-02-04; A Resolution approving a Celebration Permit for the 2024 Los Ranchos Matanza to be held on Saturday, February 24, 2024. **Motion to approve carried 3-0**
- B. Discussion and Approval of the 2024 Farm Plan for the Paseo Del Norte Open Space; Jacobo Sanchez, SW Soil.
Public Comments: David Montoya, 8831 4th Street NW, Nancy Nangeroni, 7315 Guadalupe Trail NW, Christian Reedy, 8642 Rio Grande NW
Motion to adopt carried 3-0
- C. Discussion and Approval of the State of New Mexico Department of Transportation Fund 93100 Capital Appropriation Project in the amount of \$500,000.00 to acquire rights of way and to plan, design, construct and improve 4th Street in Los Ranchos de Albuquerque.
Trustee Radnovich arrived at 7:36 p.m.
Public Comment: Nancy Nangeroni, 7315 Guadalupe Trail NW. **Motion to adopt carried 4-0**
- D. Discussion and Approval of RFP No. 2024-01-P &E; Planning and Engineering Services for Middle Rio Grande Levee Improvements. Authorizing the Mayor to execute and enter into contract with Wilson & Company. **Motion to adopt carried 4-0**
- E. Discussion and Approval: In accordance with the Village of Los Ranchos 2013 Codified Ordinances Chapter 9; §9.2.2 Planning and Zoning Commission. (A) MEMBERSHIP: The Commission shall consist of seven (7) members who shall be appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the members of the Governing Body. Planning & Zoning Commissioners for calendar year 2024, (January-December): a.) Claire Heywood; b.) Robert Martinez (Current Commissioner). **Motion to adopt carried 4-0**

The Governing Body entered into Closed Session at 8:15 p.m.

Trustee George Radnovich left the closed meeting at 8:20 p.m. at the direction of village attorney Bill Chappell due to his past business relationship with the Palindrome project. Subsequently, leaving the remainder of the meeting.

The Governing Body returned from closed session at 9:45 p.m

* COMPLETE, APPROVED MINUTES AT [LOS RANCHOS NM.GOV/BOARDOFTRUSTEESMEETINGS](https://losranchosnm.gov/boardoftrusteesmeetings)

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Congratulations to **The St. Cyr Group** for being named to the *Forbes* “Best-in-State Wealth Management Teams” 2024 list, published on January 9, 2024. Rankings based on data as of March 31, 2023.



The St. Cyr Group

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EASTER EGG HUNT

The Village of Los Ranchos held its annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 30th in collaboration with Bernalillo County Fire Department. It was a well attended event with hundreds of children hunting for eggs and taking pictures with the Easter Bunny! The Easter Bunny was played by Chief Greg Perez's daughter this year and she did a masterful job. We want to thank our facilities crew who set everything up, Amelia who stuffed 4000 (!) eggs, and the Bernalillo County Fire Department for making this event special.



MEMORIAL TREE PLANTING

The Village of Los Ranchos held a memorial tree planting in honor of Municipal Judge Diane Albert on March 27th. The Village staff, trustees, and community members gathered at noon at Village Hall to plant a cherry tree in front of Village Hall in memory of our beloved judge who tragically passed away on November 25th, 2022.

Diane was elected Municipal Judge of Los Ranchos in 2021 and was actively taking classes at UNM in French and Accounting Statistics at UNM. She was a life-long learner who always said that you are never too old to continue your education.

She received many awards in her career, some of which include the Women in STEM Pioneer Award for Engineering from The Ohio State University in May 2007, Distinguished Alumnus Award from The Ohio State University Department of Materials Science and Engineering in 2002, and New Mexico Governor's Award for NM Outstanding Women 1996, 2000, and 2003.

Diane was an avid bicyclist, National Park visitor, and lover of her pugs, chickens, ducks, and rabbits. She was an Ohio farm girl and proud of her family and her rural upbringing. She is greatly missed by so many who knew and loved her.

