

Alameda News

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 2

APRIL 2013

Community Calendar

Los Ranchos Growers' and Arts/Crafts Markets

10:00 A.M. - Noon

6718 Rio Grande Boulevard
NW, Los Ranchos, NM
87107 in the tennis court
parking lot

Raymond G Sanchez Community Center Events

April 22 Monday - Summer Recreation Registration begins 8 am - 5:30 pm. Program fills up quickly register early. Regular Program \$100: 9am - 3 pm, Extended Program \$212: 7 am - 6 pm.

May 17 - Friday - End of the year Middle school Dance 7 pm

May 21 & 22 - Tuesday & Wednesday - Baby Beats Dance Workshop 9 am - 12 pm \$20 Ages 3-5

May 29 - 31 - Wednesday, Thursday & Friday - Dance it Up Camp 8:30 am - 12:30 pm Middle & High School aged

June 1 Friday - 1st Movie in the Park The Amazing Spider-man PG-13 begins at dusk.

June 8 Saturday - Mandatory Summer Program Parent Meeting 9:30 am

June 10 - Summer Program Begins - 6/10-7/26

June 17, 18 & 19 - Caving, Climbing & Rappelling Workshop Space is limited to 10 participants.

Info: 468-7800 or Anabel Cadena at 720-8440

ALAMEDA NORTH VALLEY ASSOCIATION

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, April 18, 7 - 9 PM

This meeting will primarily be a Legislative Review. This meeting should be interesting and will provide a chance for our community to meet our Legislators. The Governor has signed or vetoed the Bills passed by the Legislature and this meeting will help make sense of the past 60 day session. The meeting will be informal and questions from the audience will be encouraged. Bring your questions and comments about issues you think are important.

Senator John Ryan

Senator John Sapien

Senator Bill O'Neill

Representative Ed Sandoval

Representative Emily Kane

Our thanks to our Legislators for their hard work for us all.

Note: The North Valley Association Board of Directors elections will be held at the end of the meeting.

There are a lot of community events coming up via private groups, the City and Bernalillo County. anvanews@aol.com sends out information about items frequently and there are always listings about important items and events on the County and City websites: www.bernco.gov and www.cabq.gov

If you would like to receive emails from ANVA, send us your email address at: anvanews@aol.com - please note the address are not shared and are kept as private as we can. ANVA's web site is: www.anvanews.com

Alameda Open Space Restrooms

The City of Albuquerque plans to build permanent restrooms in the parking lot at the west end of the Alameda Open Space. Bernalillo County has contributed funding to this project.

Currently, the materials have been purchased and are awaiting assembly at the site.

Alameda Blvd. median re-design coming

Bernalillo County is going to re-work the landscaping in the medians on Alameda Blvd. from Fourth Street to the river. Every year, the plants in the medians grow out of control, even in our dry weather, creating safety issues and visibility issues.

The Alameda Alliance and ANVA worked on the widening project for Alameda Blvd. and we had a vision of beautiful landscaping along the south side of the *street* and nice plantings in the medians. The Department of Transportation planted the medians with plants that were hard to maintain. The plants became problematic and caused safety problems after a few years. Maintenance of the medians eventually shifted and became the responsibility of Bernalillo County. Every year crews are put in danger when they try to maintain the areas.

The community supported the idea of reworking the medians and lobbied our Legislators for funding to fix the median problems years ago. Work will start from Fourth Street moving west.

The proposed work includes irrigation, new plantings, gravel and the necessary items to enhance the area, make it safer and more cost effective to maintain.

Requirements by the New Mexico Department of Transportation for safety issues and the work involved will mean that most of the existing vegetation will be removed so new irrigation, weed barriers and plants can be installed.

Bernalillo County has said they will try to maintain some of the mature trees, if NMDOT approves, and may attempt to transplant if possible. We think it is a shame that these trees are going to be removed but we are confident that the medians will look better in a few years and will certainly be safer for all.

We applaud Bernalillo County for the methods they are using for this project. The design and work will be done by staff working for the county. This will result in a project that is much more economical than what was previously proposed.

We can say with confidence based on experience - that if the City of Albuquerque or the State wanted to do the same type of project, the costs would have been hundreds of thousands more expensive - after they paid their consultants to plan a simple project.

Bernco Community Cultural Assets Survey

Bernalillo County is partnering with Creative Albuquerque to obtain information for its future countywide cultural planning efforts. The project consists of a cultural assets inventory and mapping work that can serve as a model for other communities. This can be used as a planning tool and inspiration for further community planning and economic development. County residents are asked to participate - via a 20 minute survey. This survey is available to all residents and business owners in Bernalillo County. To participate go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ningincorpBernCoCulturalAssetsSurvey>.

River Flows Less than Expected

From the Middle Rio Grande Website- www.mrgcd.com.

The Rio Grande is running considerably lower than normal for this time of the year. Temperatures in the northern mountains of the state remain cool which is equating to a low runoff, though snow melt and rising water levels are expected to increase in the coming days.

The Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District is diverting water at all four of its diversion dams on the Rio Grande, but there is barely enough, and much less runoff to meet the current irrigation demands of farmers.

“Many of our canals are still dry.” says District Hydrologist David Gensler. “We are operating on a strict schedule for all irrigators. If you don’t schedule the water, you won’t get it.” adds Gensler

With the higher runoff comes higher demand, not only from the farmers but nature as well.

Currently the Federal Government is also releasing 200 cubic feet per second of water per day into the river to meet ESA requirements of the Rio Grande Silvery Minnow

“At the height of summer, the bosque can account for more than 600 cubic feet per second of water consumption per day. If it weren’t for the water released by the District or other agencies, much of the riverbed would be bone dry, potentially as far north as Bernalillo.” notes Gensler.

Farmers can now check the diversion flow at each diversion on the MRGCD website. These numbers will be updated daily so farmers will have an idea where and how much water is being channeled.

Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office Update

Recently, BCSO participated in a county gun buy-back program. Nearly \$80,000 was spent to successfully remove more than 600 unwanted and unused guns from the streets. The program was sponsored by District 1 County Commissioner Debbie O'Malley.

- BCSO has also invested in a five-person mountain bike unit
- A new Cold Case Unit targets criminal investigations that have not been solved within their first year
- The county also encourages residents to do what *they can* to fight crime by participating in the growing **Neighborhood Watch Program**

BernCo Unveils New “Tax Dollars at Work” Website Application

Bernalillo County will unveil a new interactive, user-friendly website feature that brings even more transparency to county finances.

The “Tax Dollars at Work” application includes:

- An interactive component that allows residents to plug in their property’s estimated value to see how the dollars are divided up among the local entities that receive property tax allotments
- Detailed information about how the county spends its allocation of property taxes with a summary table that shows spending by department
- Detailed information about the county’s 2013 and 2014 general fund budgets. www.bernco.gov/mytaxdollars.

The county’s general fund budget for the 2013 fiscal year is \$229.5 million. The largest source for that budget is property taxes, at roughly 50 percent.

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS Always dial 911 for Emergencies. **Bernalillo County Sheriff North Valley Area Command** -- 341-9024 or 341-9035 **Bernalillo Sheriff's Administration** -- 768-4100 **Non-Emergency Calls** -- 798-7000

President's Column - Steve Wentworth

Note: The following views are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Alameda North Valley Association.

I hope you can attend the next general meeting of the Alameda North Valley Association on April 18, 2013, 7 PM, at the Raymond G. Sanchez Community Center. This meeting will be a Legislative Review. Our legislators are: Senator John Ryan, Senator John Sapien, Senator Bill O'Neill, Representative Ed Sandoval, and Representative Emily Kane, who is the newest member of the legislature from our community.

Bills have been signed or vetoed and accurate information should be provided. The meeting will be informal and questions from the audience will be encouraged. We will try to move the different topics along and not get bogged down. Bring your questions and comments about issues you think are important.

Gov. Susana Martinez signed into law a \$5.6 billion budget for the upcoming year that will increase state spending for the first time in four years. The budget, which takes effect July 1, will increase state spending by about \$219 million or 4 percent from this year's levels.

Issues of interest include

- ◆ A decision not to use the State Land Grant Permanent Fund for early childhood education.
- ◆ Raised qualification standards for the Public Regulation Commission.
- ◆ Increased the required notice for public meetings to 72 hours.
- ◆ School elections now allowed to be held in conjunction with other nonpartisan elections. Added large school districts to campaign reporting requirements.
- ◆ Included child abductions by relatives in Amber Alerts as well as required background checks when the state places children with relatives. Added Silver Alerts for endangered missing people older than age 50.
- ◆ The driver's license conflict continues. Will there be problems or a violation of the federal Real ID Act?
- ◆ Some educational issues were ignored and the Governor vetoed 7 educational measures.
- ◆ Governor vetoed the minimum wage increase.
- ◆ Failed to require background checks for private sales at gun shows and reporting of mental health information to bring uniformity and safety to the system.
- ◆ Made a short term fix for the lottery scholarship program.
- ◆ "tax lighting" issues not fixed.
- ◆ Failed again to give local governments the authority to ban all fireworks.

Your tax dollars at work. The City has started planning for the Vista del Norte property on Osuna & Vista del Norte that was saved from a Super Wal-Mart. The original neighborhood vision for the property were playing fields for youth and safe balloon landing zones. The planning is going well but the planning contracts are at a outrageous cost of almost \$200,000.00. This amount is being spent for planning what is primarily a 22 acre irrigated field of grass and a park-

ing lot. I suppose the City Parks and Recreation Department does not have competent staff to do the planning for such a simple project.

Concerned neighbors have spoken with contractors who say the planning and actual work for the playing fields could be done at significantly lower dollar amount than what is estimated by the City for the project.

Raymond G. Sanchez Community Center News

By Anabel Cadena

I am happy to announce that the new administrative team has completely moved to RGSCC and are hitting the ground running! Assistant Manager Jason Martinez shifted on over to RGSCC at the end of February and Recreation Coordinator Angelia Jaramillo a short time later coming in mid-March. Very soon the three of us alongside RGSCC's current amazing staff had the opportunity to tackle our first community event- The Egg Hunt! With over 2000 eggs and 20+ prize baskets, a kite flying contest and BBQ the Community Egg Hunt (on Saturday March 23) was lots of fun. I would like to thank Charlie & Jerry Lee from the NV Optimist Club for the support and sponsorship of filled eggs, baskets and Community BBQ.

I am also excited about The Clean and Beautiful anti-graffiti project. Recently RGSCC held a community input meeting (on March 7) for a Mural Project in the back of the facility in efforts to deter unsightly graffiti. Ideas and suggestions poured in with those community residents in attendance and a preliminary sketch was drawn. Changes and additions are still underway and a final sketch will be posted in the lobby of the center late April. RGSCC is reaching out to young artists who would be interested in working alongside the muralists. One middle student from neighboring middle schools and one high school student from Valley will be selected to be a part of the mural. Students interested can call the center for details.

Last month RGSCC hosted a Mind in the Making training which focused on the social, emotional and intellectual learning in child development. This training targeted Bernalillo County community center staff working directly with the pre-school aged recreation Program - Parky's Pals.

Coming soon to the center is the Summer recreation program. RGSCC interviewed and selected 26 from 60+ applicants as recreation leaders and aides for the program. The summer program lasts 7 weeks and is filled with inter-site competitions, fieldtrips, special events, arts & crafts and more.

In addition to the summer program this summer RGSCC will be introducing the Movies in the Park series later this summer.

As always if there is any information needed about programming, space needed for rentals and meeting or suggestions please contact the center at 468-7800 or Anabel Cadena. at 720-8440.

Alameda News

ALAMEDA NORTH VALLEY ASSOCIATION
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In this issue: – Alameda Open Space Bathrooms – Community Center News – President's Column – General Meeting agenda – local updates

The Alameda News is published bi-monthly and is also available at our web site anvanews.com. The newsletter editor is Jeff Potter— contact Jeff with concerns, story ideas, etc. jpotter@unm.edu or 505-897-8621
You can also email Steve Wentworth - anvanews@aol.com with local issues.

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