



**Community Calendar  
Los Ranchos Growers'  
Markets**

Winter Markets: 2nd Saturday of the month, Dec - April, 10 am - noon  
Operating every season since 1992

6718 Rio Grande Blvd NW  
Market will be held outdoors in the regular location, tennis court parking lot, except in the case of inclement weather when the market will be held in the adjacent community barn.

**PLEASE RENEW YOUR ANVA DUES see page 4**



Alameda North Valley Association (ANVA) is a non-profit, non-

partisan, and non-sectarian Association. ANVA is a group of citizens concerned about the north valley area.

2015 Officers: Steve Wentworth, President; Vice President, Mark Rupert; Debi Hale, Treasurer; Mary Arrowsmith, Secretary; Jeff Potter, Newsletter Editor and Webmaster, Debby Potter. member.

The Alameda News is published in months when ANVA holds a general meeting. ANVA Board meetings are held on alternate months. The ANVA website is <http://anvanews.com>

**ALAMEDA NORTH VALLEY ASSOCIATION**

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING Thursday, January 15, 2015, at 7 - 9 PM  
Raymond G. Sanchez Community Center**

- **Our next meeting will be a New Mexico Legislative Preview. Invited guests will include:  
Senator John Sapien  
Senator Bill O'Neill  
Representative Sarah Maestas Barnes**

**We want the Legislators to hear about community concerns and we need to hear about their agendas.**

- **Bernalillo County Representatives will provide a brief update. Items will include Legislative priorities, budget issues and County projects.**
- **The proposed Alameda Blvd. widening issue is a big concern for our area. Transportation representatives from the City and County will be invited to discuss the issues. Invited guests include:  
David Mitchell – Operations and Maintenance Dir. for Bernco Public Works  
Melissa Lozoya – Alb. Dept. of Municipal Development - Deputy Dir.**
- **Former Representative Emily Kane, Dist 15 will be recognized for her dedication to our community.**

**Please share this information with your neighbor. You are welcome to attend, our meetings are always open to community members.**

*If you would like to receive emails from ANVA, send us your email address at: [anvanews@aol.com](mailto:anvanews@aol.com) - please note the address are not shared and are kept as private as we can. ANVA's web site has a new look: [www.anvanews.com](http://www.anvanews.com)*

**County has big plans, little money, confused vision for community centers**

The Bernalillo County Parks and Recreation Dept. is attempting another round of planning for facilities. The Raymond G. Sanchez center is the only county facility that serves the north valley area of Albuquerque and the county hasn't been able to clearly articulate what population the Community Center is intended to serve. Parks and Recreation planners held a session before the holidays in which they said they wanted to draw a roadmap for going forward and to identify gaps in the level of service. In the county maps, the North Valley Alameda service area runs from I-40 north to the county line. Bernco has neglected and overlooked the center for too many years. When you compare City facilities to County facilities the difference is astounding.

At the meeting they heard from the center's staff members and the dozen and half residents who attended, that the needs are wide ranging. Among the identified needs are

1. The center has only one water line, and if activities are expanded, an additional water line from 4th street may be needed.
2. A better area is needed for senior citizens. Senior services at the Center are minimal and the facilities need to be expanded and improved.
3. Multi generational programs are needed including a place to for seniors and young people activities.
4. An outdoor shade structure to allow more outdoor activities during the summer months.
5. Better recreation facilities including a pool designed to fit the community needs. It was pointed out that if seniors, adults and youth need to swim for health or recreational purposes they should be able to do so at the Community Center - they shouldn't have to drive to other locations.
6. More indoor meeting space for small or medium size groups.
7. Additional health and fitness facilities
8. Better programming for the center including educational, literacy programs for adults and youth, pre-natal care programs and other items.
9. Acquiring additional adjacent property for future center expansion.
10. The county's website identifies the Raymond G. Sanchez community center as also being a fitness center; the center does have a small room with fitness machines but the facilities are lacking. None of the planners actually spoke about the fitness center aspect of the facility or whether it will become a major thrust for the center.
11. Walking paths, fitness trails, health activities and other health related items were discussed.

The planners did promise to return in February with an initial plan and possible priorities for the center. Try to attend these important meetings.

**City drives to expand Alameda Blvd. to six lanes How will health of residents be impacted?**

By Karen Wentworth

The city of Albuquerque has commissioned design plans to expand Alameda Blvd. from four lanes to six lanes. The expansion would be from I-25 westward to 2nd street. It appears that Alameda will then revert back to four lanes, but no one has yet seen the plans for how that might occur.

The Alameda Community and the Wildflower Community that is located east of Jefferson & Alameda have not been provided information and have shared concerns about possible negative impacts.

In the rush to constantly expand the main east-west streets across the river, there is very little public discussion of the big picture, but the impact on Alameda and the health of local residents may be major.

Alameda Blvd., because of poor public planning, is currently the default truck route across the Rio Grande; the only area between the town of Bernalillo and Interstate 40 where trucks are allowed. Alameda was never designed for truck traffic. It has entrances from driveways directly onto the roadway. It passes within 100 feet of Alameda Elementary School and a preschool run by the Nativity Catholic Church. It has a number of stoplights to control local traffic, forcing trucks to stop and start, belching hundreds of pounds of particulates from imperfectly combusted diesel fuel into the air to settle in the surrounding community over the course of a day.

Meanwhile, Paseo del Norte, specifically designed for fast transit across the river, with no stoplights is limited to passenger and small truck traffic. Paseo was designed to carry traffic at some distance from local residents making it a much better and healthier choice for heavy truck traffic.

There are a number of scientific studies that show truck traffic is extremely damaging to the public health, particularly in young children and older women when it passes in close proximity to homes and schools. Alameda is not a rich community, and studies show heavy truck traffic is frequently forced through small, poorer communities because they do not have the political power to push politicians to seek a healthier route for the traffic.

Anyone who is interested in discussing the City of Albuquerque's plans for the expansion of Alameda Blvd. is encouraged to come to the Jan. 15th meeting of the Alameda North Valley Association.

David Mitchell of Bernco Public Works and Melissa Lozoya, Deputy Director of Alb. DMD will be attending to answer questions.

**EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS - Always dial 911 for Emergencies.**

**Bernalillo County Sheriff North Valley Area Command -- 341-0030**

**Bernalillo Sheriff's Administration -- 468-7100 Non-Emergency Calls -- 798-7000 Criminal Investigations -- 468-7111 Court Services -- 468-7140 Public Information -- 468-4098**

**President's Column - Steve Wentworth**

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

**We look forward to a cordial and forthright conversation about issues impacting the Alameda North Valley area. This will be a great chance for the community to meet some of our Legislators who will be heading to Santa Fe to do the State's business. We have invited: Senator John Sapien, Senator Bill O'Neill and newly elected Representative Sarah Maestas Barnes. Bernalillo County representatives will provide updates on Bernco finances, legislative priorities, General Obligation Bonds and information about County projects.**

**We have invited David Mitchell – Operations and Maintenance Dir. for Bernco Public Works to provide an update on County Road projects that are in the works or that have recently been completed. Melissa Lozoya – Alb. Dept. of Municipal Development - Deputy Dir. has been invited to discuss some of the City projects that will have major impacts on our communities.**

Apparently the City wants to expand Alameda Blvd. into a 6 lane roadway from I-25 to Edith – what do our State and County officials think about this terrible plan and potential disaster? Our elected officials should be taking steps to stop this proposed project now before it is too late.

A government engineer with decades of experience with transportation issues stated: *"The latest road agreement between the City and NMDOT gave the City jurisdiction to 2<sup>nd</sup> Street"*

The engineer further states: *"To the west, the road is owned and operated by the NMDOT. Bernalillo County has no jurisdiction over that segment and it would be up to the NMDOT to widen the road. Additionally, it makes no sense to widen the NMDOT's section west of Edith unless there is a plan to widen the bridge to six lanes as well. Based on the Montano Bridge experience, which ended up taking 20 years of bitter litigation and having to perform an Environmental Impact Statement that will need to address the Rio Grande State Park and be permitted by the Corps of Engineers I do not see the NMDOT taking on a project to widen the Alameda Bridge. The 2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan identifies no additional lanes on the Alameda Bridge. Without the bridge being widened the bottleneck would happen at Rio Grande Boulevard which would then need to be widened to accommodate the additional traffic which will generate quite a bit of controversy. I don't recommend the County support a project to widen from Edith to Rio Grande as it will just move the problem caused by the City's widening project into the unincorporated*

*area..... This will absolutely result in a bottleneck at that point and Edith is ill equipped to handle the traffic. This concern has been voiced more than once at various MRCOG meetings but City DMD has not changed their plans."*

The Albuquerque Journal recently reported (12-31-2014): **"If Bernalillo County continues to spend at the same rate and its incoming revenue sources remain static, the county could see a budget shortfall of \$53 million by fiscal year 2016, rising to nearly \$60 million by FY 2020.**

That's according to an "Overview of Financial Performance," a five-year financial forecast compiled under the supervision of Shirley Ragin, the deputy county manager for finance, released earlier this month. The county's current annual budget is \$248 million. Its major revenue comes from property taxes, miscellaneous fees and gross receipts taxes.

Ragin said the scenario of a \$60 million budget shortfall is not likely to happen because the county "cannot submit an out-of-balance budget to the state Department of Finance and Administration, which has to approve all county budgets." Instead, she said, "we're either going to have an increase in income or a decrease in expenditures."

Commission Chairwoman Debbie O'Malley, a Democrat, said Tuesday that she didn't take issue with the financial projections forecast in the report, but she stressed that "they are still getting information and the report is not in its final form."

It will be an interesting year for the County, the State and all of us taxpayers.

**Big Changes at the Round House for 2015**

It appears there will not be much money for individual legislators to direct to their districts this year. State revenues are suffering because tumbling oil prices have also sent tax revenues from oil extraction down. Former state representative Rick Miera speaking to the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico said it now appears the state will have as little as 60 million dollars in new money to try to cover a multitude of demands.

It also appears there may be some big changes in the way business is conducted in committees. Miera says the new Republican majority members in the New Mexico House of Representatives may remove Democrats who once chaired or served as vice chairs of committees from the committees where they have traditionally been assigned so the new Republican chairs will have less resistance to their handling of those committees.

*Alameda News*

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*The Alameda News* is published bi-monthly and is also available at our web site [anvanews.com](http://anvanews.com). The newsletter editor is Jeff Potter— contact Jeff with concerns, story ideas, etc. [jpotter@unm.edu](mailto:jpotter@unm.edu) or 505-897-8621. You can also email [anvanews@aol.com](mailto:anvanews@aol.com).

**the alameda news, a benefit for belonging to ANVA. remember to please renew your membership every march.**

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**Make checks to: ANVA, mail to: 9135 Guadalupe Tr., NW, 87114**

**THANKS FOR BEING AN INVOLVED MEMBER!**

