

Alameda News

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 5

NOVEMBER 2012

Community Calendar
**Read to the Dogs at
 Los Griegos Library
 Thursday, November
 15, 3:00 - 4:30 pm.**



Los Griegos Library is located at 1000 Griegos Road NW, Albuquerque, NM 87107-3749. (505) 761-4020

Los Ranchos Growers' and Arts/Crafts Markets
Fall Hours - Every Saturday—Hours 8 am - 12 noon. Located at 6718 Rio Grande Boulevard, N.W.

A book selling reception at the North Valley Library on 2nd Street for the book: **"Don Jose – An American Soldier's Courage and Faith in Japanese Captivity."** Saturday, December 1, 2012, from 2 to 4 PM.

The Alameda North Valley Association's next general meeting will be in January, 2013.

Our next meeting will focus on Bernalillo County issues. We will be inviting our new Bernalillo County Commissioners to attend. This will be a great chance for the community to meet them and hear what their agenda is for our area. We will also be asking Bernalillo County for an update on projects and issues that concern the Alameda / North Valley area.

Lonnie Talbert is the new Bernalillo County Commissioner for District Four. Mr. Talbert won the Republican Primary race and ran unopposed in the General Election. Mr. Talbert will be replacing Commissioner Michael Wiener.

City Councilor Debbie O'Malley is the new Bernalillo County Commissioner for District One. Councilor Debbie O'Malley beat Commissioner Simon Kubiak in the General Election who was appointed to finish the Bernco Commission term of Michele Lujan Grisham. Ms. Lujan Grisham had resigned her position to run for the U.S. District One House of Representative seat – she won the seat.



Photos of Bachechi Open Space

2012 in review - Alameda & north valley see several major improvements but have to work hard to get them

As 2012 edges closer to its end, it has been a challenging year for the county, state and country as the ongoing recession has driven unemployment up and tax revenues down. There was reduced spending for Capital Improvements from the legislature. Luckily, funding from prior years was in the pipeline that has allowed completion of several projects in our area that have improved quality of life and citizen safety. The Alameda North Valley Association has worked hard to keep our elected representatives aware of our input on these issues and we appreciate when they listened, but there is room for better communication as well.

The Bachechi Open Space was dedicated in the spring of 2012, and on each passing day more citizens are discovering the opportunities for hiking, wildlife viewing and learning historical facts about the north valley. The planning process for this 27 acre open space spanned multiple years, and citizen involvement was key to keep the expenditures from being excessive and the design working well. We as north valley citizens can all be proud to have such a beautiful place to visit, and *(continued next page)*

(continued from P. 1) also feel proud that the County listened to our input. ANVA members were able to convince planners to scale back some design projects like the boardwalk and wildlife blinds, and save the County nearly a half million dollars in the process.

The BMX Bike Park at the Raymond G. Sanchez Alameda Community Center was also opened for adventurous cyclists to use. The project was a wise use of land on the eastern side of the community center. The planning process was a collaboration between BMX cyclists and Bernalillo County planning officials, and included public meetings to improve citizen input. The project costs were excessive, but the park is more importantly a safe place for kids and adolescents to ride that is dedicated to their interests.



Photo looking west showing BMX park tracks and obstacles

The Alameda Trail from 4th Street and Alameda Blvd. to the AMAFCA Channel was completed this fall which completed the missing link in a public walking and bicycling network that now allows pedestrians and bicyclists to safely traverse the valley from the west side of the Rio Grande all the way to Balloon Fiesta Park. The trail system provides a quieter and safer route to travel away from ever busy Alameda Boulevard / NM 528 traffic corridor. This project was very expensive, but many safety issues were involved, including a railroad crossing and an ADA-compliant bridge over Edith Boulevard. This project was immediately a benefit for our community as evidenced by pedestrians and bicyclists utilizing the new trail. The dedication ceremony in late September was well attended and the highlight was memorable - schoolchildren from Alameda Elementary released balloons as an alternative ceremony to ribbon-cutting by elected officials.



Photo looking west along south side of Alameda Blvd. / NM 528 showing new pedestrian / bike path overpass over Edith Blvd.

We are hopeful for 2013 with our newly- and re-elected legislators that the ongoing issue of the **semi-truck traffic burden on Alameda Blvd / NM528** will not go away. Just last week, the voters in Bernalillo County overwhelmingly approved a \$50 million bond issue to begin redesign of the Paseo del Norte / I-25 interchange. ANVA will continue to ask that a portion of funds be used to improve the capacity of this major east-west corridor to allow semi-truck traffic. In addition, ANVA will continue to explore restrictions to trucks on NM528 during hours when schoolchildren are potentially vulnerable to accidents and pollution.

Congratulations to Bernalillo County Clerk

County Clerk, Maggie Toulouse Oliver and her staff are to be commended in handling both the primary and general elections of 2012. ANVA initially had some reservations and voiced them to the Clerk's office. Traditional polling places in the North Valley were restored for the general election. The multiple voting centers were well run and worked efficiently. One only has to look to our neighbors in Rio Rancho, to understand how easily the process could have been botched. This year, results were posted in a timely manner and there seemed to be far fewer problems than during past general elections. **Our thanks and appreciation to the Clerk and her staff for doing a great job.**

2012 Alameda Artist Studio Tour a success

The Alameda Studio Tour dodged a weather bullet and held a Preview Night at the Bachechi Open Space Environmental Education Building on Friday October 12th. The following two days 33 artists at 16 locations were fortunate the weather was perfect autumn-like and many studios reported steady visitor traffic and sales. Interested artisans for 2013 should check the tour web site for announcements. www.alamedastudiotour.com

CONNECT Pilot Loan Program for Water Services Connection Begins Nov.1

--- Countywide Assistance Available ---

Bernalillo County – Bernalillo County is offering a new service to assist residents on well water systems who have poor quality drinking water. The CONNECT pilot loan program helps residents with financing the cost of connecting their homes to municipal water lines.

Starting Nov. 1, the CONNECT water loan program will be available to homeowners throughout the unincorporated area of Bernalillo County whose properties are on well water systems where the ground water quality does not meet federally-mandated primary drinking water standards. In order to connect, residents must have Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (ABCWUA) service lines available at the street in front of their house. There are no other eligibility criteria.

"I asked Bernalillo County staff to create this new program because I want to ensure that as many county residents as possible have access to clean, safe drinking water," says Commissioner Wayne Johnson. **"I sincerely hope that all eligible residents consider participating in this program."**

CONNECT loans are made from the county to the resident in the form of direct payment to contractors and direct payment of various connection fees. Through CONNECT, homeowners will be able to apply for a 10-year, seven percent interest rate loan that is repaid to the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority. The repayment will be billed directly through the ABCWUA water bill. To begin the loan application process, residents can call the Bernalillo County Water Resources Program office at 848-1524 to set up an appointment. Residents will need to provide proof of property ownership or a copy of their property tax assessment. Staff will assist them with the application process and answer any questions that they may have.

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.

At the next ANVA meeting we hope to have Lonnie Talbert, the new Bernco Commissioner for District 4 and City Councilor Debbie O'Malley, the new Bernco Commissioner for District 1. Councilor O'Malley has worked with ANVA on many items and I know she will continue to do a great job for the area. Talbert doesn't have a known track record as a public official - we hope he will learn about issues do the needed good work for the area. (Remember the County Comm. districts were changed this year and your Commissioner may have changed. Go to www.bernco.gov for info.)

On the State Legislature side, ANVA is now represented by two representatives and by three senators. The changes are due to the recent re-districting processes that altered the districts for the Legislative area - enlarging some, making some smaller and moving other districts.

Emily Kane will be the new representative for District 15 replacing Bill O'Neill who ran for the Senate District 13 seat unopposed (formerly held by Dede Feldman.) Representative Ed Sandoval was retained for his seat in District 17. Senator John Ryan retained his seat in District 10 and Senator John Sapien will represent District 9, which includes Precinct 6 in the ANVA area.

I am confident they will do a good job for our community. I will be sending out contact information for the Legislators via ANVANEWS email several times before the 2013 Legislative 60 day session which convenes on January 15, 2013. Contact them if you have issues they need to know about. These folks can't do good work unless they know the issues and they won't know about items unless you tell them.

Jeff Potter (Alameda News Editor) wrote about several Bernalillo County projects that were finally completed after decades of community work in some cases. I think all the projects will serve the community well and it is great they are finally completed. It has to be noted that the Bernalillo County projects - Alameda Trail, Bachechi Open Space and BMX track were completed at very extreme costs. We believe the County could have saved a minimum of 2.5 million dollars if they had listened to the community and had made more prudent uses of our tax dollars on the projects. We hope future projects will be better managed and planned.

Recently I was contacted by members of the Nativity of Our Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Alameda. They would like to mark and honor the original location of the Church. The Church and it's cemetery were part of the old Alameda plaza that existed from about 1710 to 1904, located off Alameda Blvd - closer to the Rio Grande. The village and its church were destroyed by the floods of 1903 and 1904. Both were relocated to higher ground to east, near the current day Fourth Street. Some of the beams from the original church and plaza have been incorporated into the present day Nativity of Our Blessed Virgin Mary Church.

Some of the history and location of the church and cemetery came to light during work in 2003 when parts of the cemetery were uncovered during excavation for utility systems. Remains (78 bodies) and artifacts were found and the UNM Office of Contract Archaeology was called in to oversee the work per State law.

The remains were carefully preserved by UNM and will be returned to the Church for burial at a future date. The Bernalillo County Commission approved additional funding to ensure the project was done in a correct manner and worked with Church representatives. A copy of an article published in 2005 about this part of the Community history will be sent out via ANVANEWS email.

I urged the Church to stay very informed about the properties adjacent to the Cemetery off Alameda and Edith. A senior City Parks and Recreation

employee recently said the property just west of the Cemetery should be considered ripe for commercial development. This would be very wrong for too many reasons.

Another related project was the bronze sculpture "The Bell Keepers" by Bruce Papiitto, located at the SW corner of Rio Grande and Alameda on the Bachechi Open Space property. The sculpture depicts an imaginative reenactment of two people carrying the church bell from the church when it was destroyed in the flood of 1903. ANVA worked with artist and Bernalillo County on the display area and helped provide information about the history of the area recounted on display plaques at the sculpture base.

Alameda has a very rich history with some of the oldest archaeological sites date back 2,500 years. In 1790, an official Spanish census listed Alameda as a settlement linked to other villages by the "Camino Real". A wonderful history of the area is "Shining River Precious Land" a book by Kathryn "Kit" Sargeant and Mary Davis available thru the Albuquerque Museum gift shop

A book selling reception at the North Valley Library for the book: "Don Jose - An American Soldier's Courage and Faith in Japanese Captivity. Saturday, December 1, 2012, from 2 to 4 PM. The book, by Ezequiel L. Ortiz and James A. McClure, relates Joseph Quintero's wartime experiences in the battle for Corregidor and his subsequent years in Japanese prisoner of war camps. After the war, Joseph Quintero moved to Albuquerque where he pursued a long career as a research technician at the Veterans Administration hospital and raised his family in the North Valley. He passed away in 2000, and the performance stage at the Raymond G. Sanchez Community Center was dedicated in his honor in 2004. Joseph's family continues to live in the Alameda area and are wonderful neighbors.

Bernco Open Space Events November & December Master Naturalist Poster Presentation and End of Year Celebration

- November 16 from 5 -7:30 p.m. at Bachechi Open Space. From 5 - 6 p.m., there will be a celebration for the end of the Naturalist Series and other activities at Bachechi Open Space, which has been open for just one year. Including presenting the past year's activities and opportunities at the property, as well as solicit ideas from participants for 2013 workshops and events. Also hear from the featured photographer at the Environmental Education Building, Ariel Ives. Refreshment and light fare will be provided.

The second part of the evening will include the Master Naturalist Poster Presentation from 6 -7:30 p.m. The Master Naturalist Program aims to instill the pursuit of life-long learning and promote environmental stewardship.

Families Exploring the Wonders of Nature

December 1 from 9 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at Bachechi Open Space. Bernalillo County Open Space and The New Mexico Wonder of Learning Collaborative will be presenting this two-part workshop geared for families. The workshop will provide parents and guardians of young children with tools for deepening experiences in nature and fostering the desire to explore. This workshop is free; however, space is limited to 25 adults. The first workshop is for adults only and the second day (March 2, 2013) is for the whole family.

To register for the following events, please reply to this email or call 505-314-0398. Colleen Langan-McRoberts, Open Space Coordinator, 505-314-0398, 505-681-2605 (cell) www.bernco.gov/openspace

Alameda News

ALAMEDA NORTH VALLEY ASSOCIATION
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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.

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INTERESTS: EDUCATION ____ SOCIAL ACTIVITIES ____ ZONING ____ NEWSLETTER ____
COMMUNITY PROJECTS ____

MAKE CHECKS TO: ANVA, MAIL TO: 9359 GUADALUPE TR., NW, 87114



Have a safe and family-filled Happy Thanksgiving, and, please try to Buy Local on Black Friday!