

Alameda News

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 4

NOVEMBER 2013

Community Calendar

Los Ranchos Growers' and Arts/Crafts Markets

The next market will be held on Saturday, December 14, 2013, from 8:00 A.M. - Noon 6718 Rio Grande Boulevard NW, Los Ranchos, NM 87107 in the tennis court parking lot.



North Fourth Holiday Stop & Shop: Saturday, Dec. 7 & Sunday, Dec 8.

Don't miss the 9th Annual Fourth Street Holiday Stop & Shop! This year's event will take place on December 7 and December 8. Filled with a lot of locally-run businesses, Fourth Street is a great destination for shoppers who know that buying local helps our local businesses thrive. It's your chance to get your holiday shopping started in the festive holiday atmosphere of the Village! Many of the businesses participating will offer holiday specials and treats. So, come out and support our local businesses and get into the holiday spirit. Explore the shopping and dining experiences that are distinctly Los Ranchos! **Support our local business community.**

ALAMEDA NORTH VALLEY ASSOCIATION NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, November 21, 2013 - 7 - 9 PM

- Paseo / I-25 update - Michael Smelker, NMDOT Project Design Manager
- New Mexico 2014 Legislature Session information – invited guests are:
Senator John Ryan
Senator John Sapien
Senator Bill O'Neill
Representative Ed Sandoval
Representative Emily Kane

Updates on Bernalillo County and community issues will be provided.
Please share this information with your neighbor.

Dangerous Roy Road bridges will be replaced in 2015

There was a public meeting held on October 29 at Alameda Elementary School hosted by the NM Dept. of Transportation (NMDOT). NMDOT unveiled plans about the two bridges on Roy Road (NM 556) over the railroad tracks and Edith Boulevard which will be replaced during a \$5 million project starting in December 2014. The public meeting was well attended - approximately 30 - 40 community members listened and asked questions of NMDOT officials. The primary reason for the project is to improve safety for bicyclists and pedestrians on the scenic NM556 route. There has been a big increase in car and bike traffic in recent years.

At the meeting, NMDOT officials briefly announced the preliminary plans and then answered numerous questions from the audience. The construction project timeline involves acquiring additional right-of-way in order to build new bridge supports and wider roadbed followed by an environmental assessment. Actual construction is slated to begin December 2014. Roy Road will remain open as the two new bridges are built parallel to the existing road. However, Edith Blvd. closures were mentioned and residents along Edith north of Roy Road expressed high concern that emergency responders must have 24 hour access available during key periods of bridge construction.

The bridges will continue to be two car traffic lanes wide, but the new supports will be built to eventually handle a four lane wide road - if needed in the future - according to NMDOT officials. The bridges will have five foot-wide paved shoulders to match the existing shoulders along NM556 that bicyclists utilize - much better than the dangerous two foot-wide shoulder on existing bridges.

Written comments may be mailed or faxed to Eric Johnson at Marron and Associates, 7511 Fourth Street NW, Albuquerque, NM 87107, phone (505) 898-8848, e-mail eric@marroninc.com, or fax (505) 897-7847.

Should Alameda Go to the Birds? Or should we invite the Birds to Alameda? *By Karen Wentworth*

Mayor Richard Berry's plan for the Rio Grande is beginning at Central Ave with a fairly intense plan for trails and recreation areas near the river. The first phase of the plan involves the area between Central and I-40. There are no specific plans for Alameda yet, but it's time for the community to begin thinking seriously about what changes might be acceptable here.

When the ANVA board began talking about this, we were intrigued by the idea of making this part of the valley a more attractive place for migrating birds – and the tourists who follow them. Would it be a reasonable idea to create a resting area for birds in the vicinity of Alameda Blvd and the Rio Grande? Perhaps something similar to the Rio Grande Nature Center?

Anyone who uses the Bachechi Open Space or rides the Bosque Trail or goes into their back yard to watch geese flying over every fall knows we have the birds. And if we focus on providing a resting area for the birds along this stretch of the river, we may be able to forestall a much more intense use.

You can't bring back the past and we know we can't go back to the quiet rural valley we once were. Alameda is now a pass-through community between the east and the west sides of the river. But we might be able to work with the city and county and Sandia Pueblo to preserve a little of the beauty and quiet for both the birds and the community.

State Tourism research show that the Rio Grande Nature Center attracted 187,265 unique visitors in 2011, and the Albuquerque Bio Park attracted more than 1.2 million. The Southwestern New Mexico Audubon Society says birdwatchers bring more than \$500 million into the state economy. We can make an economic development argument that Alameda might be a great place for birds and bird watchers, but that depends on the vision the community has of our future. It's time to start thinking about what that future should be.

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.

2013 Officers: Steve Wentworth, President; David Lindner, Vice President; Debi Hale, Treasurer; Debby Potter, Secretary; Jeff Potter, Newsletter Editor and Webmaster; other members: Mary Arrowsmith, Mark Rupert.

The Alameda News is published 4 - 6 times per year in months when ANVA holds a general meeting. ANVA Board meetings are held on alternate months. The ANVA website is <http://anvanews.com>

North Valley Library Fire Update *By Mary Arrowsmith*

In July of this year, a fire was set in the North Valley library, located at 7704 Second St. NW. Arson investigators think someone intentionally set the fire but as yet no culprit has been identified. Dozens of children's books and computers were destroyed and the remainder of the contents suffered from soot, smoke and water damage. Usually this library hosts 500 visitors a day. Now library patrons are forced to go to other libraries to check out books, do research, read newspapers and magazines, read to the dogs, and use the computers. The nearest libraries are Los Griegos, 1000 Griegos, NW., Taylor Ranch Library, 5700 Bogart, NW and Erna Fergusson Library, 3700 San Mateo, NE.

Since July, little progress has been made in the restoration of the library. This lack of progress is due to the city and county having different insurers. Bernalillo County insures the property and the city of Albuquerque insures the contents.

The North Valley Library is a jewel for the citizens of Alameda with very helpful staff, exhibits of local citizens' arts and crafts collections and private study rooms. Various programs for children and adults have been held through the year. This library is sorely missed.

3rd Annual Alameda Studio Tour participants and visitors enjoy nice weather despite Balloon Fiesta traffic jams *By Jeff Potter*

The 3rd Annual Alameda Studio Tour help during October 11 - 13 featured 33 artists at 17 locations throughout the far north valley from Rio Grande and Chavez Road all the way north to the end of 2nd Street. A Preview Event was held at the R.G. Sanchez Community Center on Oct. 11. There was a nice crowd in attendance and everyone enjoyed the artist raffle which raised nearly \$500 for next year's tour. However, heavy traffic from a balloon glow event hampered many people from getting to the community center. - perhaps having the tour during the Fiesta may not be a good thing?

Artisans reported mostly improved visitors and sales compared to the 2012 event. A follow up meeting of artisans focused on discussion of ways to improve the tour in 2014, including a possible date change, better advertising and other ideas.

A nice video from the event was recently posted on the Facebook page for the Alameda Studio Tour - check it out - [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com) search Alameda Studio Tour.

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.

The past few months have had great weather and the changing colors with the cottonwoods have been beautiful. Balloon Fiesta had the best attendance it has had for many years. A thank you should be given to Rod Crawley for volunteering to make sure the landing zone at Vista del Norte & Osuna was opened and safe for balloons landing.

At the next ANVA general meeting Bernalillo County will provide updates on County issues. We have invited our State Legislators to let us know about items they are working on and what they think will be the pressing topics at the 2014 Legislative Session. We know that some of the major topics will include: educational funding, a request for \$40 million to fix the railroad bed, roadway funding, health care and the same items that must be dealt with year after year. We hope funds will be available to address some of the local needs that have been passed over. We also hope this session goes smoother than the previous session. We know it just takes a step or two to cross the aisle to work together.

I found the following quote on the Legislature website that was written a hundred years ago about the Legislature – very effusive and almost humorous: *"Our State Legislature, in view of new conditions and multiplicity of problems, has discharged its Duty measurably well. In the warmth of discussion and diversity of view, some have charged it with sins, principally those of omission; but the discriminated and candid mind approves its work as a whole, and confidence is strengthened in its fidelity to the duty of legislating wisely and well for the promotion of the general welfare of the new State."* - 1913 New Mexico Blue Book Introduction - Times sure have changed – but our State Legislature is working great when compared to Congress.

ANVA will have an update on the Paseo del Norte / I-25 project. The NMDOT Project Design Manager, Michael Smelker will provide a quick update on the project. I tried the <http://www.paseoi25.com/> website to get current information about the project and I also signed up for updates to be sent to me resulting in a waste of time. I hope others are able to better use the notification services. The chaos will continue for two years with our community negativity impacted more than any other area.

The Greater Albuquerque Bicycling Advisory Committee (GABAC) have stated they are very disappointed in the Paseo /I-25 plans to provide bike, pedestrian and mass transit improvements in the project. The plans shown at the last public NMDOT / CABQ meeting illustrated the improvements as a poor after thought in my opinion – the GABAC is right.

We understand the City wants to widen Alameda Blvd. to a six lane from I-25 to Second. Bernalillo County doesn't have plans to do the same; but we understand that NMDOT controls Alameda west of Second. I don't believe there has been any communication by the City Department of Municipal Development or MRCOG to the community nor has

there been any consideration shown to the community. The arrogance of the City Department of Municipal Development and MRCOG is amazing. What happens when you take a 4 inch water pipe and couple it to a 2 inch pipe with the same amount of water volume and pressure? That is what will happen to car and all truck traffic crossing the river between I-40 and the town of Bernalillo – not a very bright thing to do.

North Valley Library – there is a nice article on page by Mary Arrowsmith. The article points out the delays in repairing the Library are due to two different insurance policies – one with the City and one with the County. The Library system is operated primarily by the City with an agreement with Bernco. Why don't these folks put their heads together and get one insurance policy for the works so the repair process would not take so long – is this too simple of a solution? Are other City/County joint agreements like this one? The fire was in July 2013 – they still don't know when it will be reopened.

ANVA hopes the new year is good and productive for all. A lot of challenges are confronting the area and everyone needs to work together on the serious issues that are impacting the greater community.

Each year there are children in the Alameda / North Valley community that will miss school because of a lack of clothing and basic necessities. There are seniors on fixed incomes struggling to pay their utility bills and medical bills.

If you or your neighbors have outgrown clothing, can goods or like items, please drop them off at: The Raymond G. Sanchez Community Center, 9800 Fourth NW – 468-7800.

Due to tight budgets seniors often forgo items like soap, shampoo, hair conditioner, lotions, socks, gloves and so forth. Space heaters and blankets are needed now.

Next time you are shopping pick up an extra box or package of items and drop them off at the Center. You can be assured that the items will be going directly to help another person or family in need.

If you don't live in the far north valley check with the community center, senior center, church or other community organization near you. The Roadrunner Food Bank and Red Cross needs donations now!

Don't forget to visit the neighbor you haven't seen for a while. The holidays are stressful for folks of any age – take a few minutes to check on the older couple you know, the nice quiet lady down the street or the family whose loved one is overseas serving our country.

ANVA will not meet in December.

The Alameda North Valley Association Board of Directors wishes everyone a good and safe holiday season!

Alameda News

ALAMEDA NORTH VALLEY ASSOCIATION
9359 Guadalupe Trail NW
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87114

In this issue: – Roy Road Bridges will be replaced – Bird watching in Alameda – President's Column – North Valley Library post-fire update – General Meeting agenda
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 anvanews@aol.com.

THE ALAMEDA NEWS, A BENEFIT FOR BELONGING TO ANVA. REMEMBER TO PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP EVERY MARCH.

NAME _____ DATE _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP CODE _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____
_____ NEW \$15 _____ RENEWAL \$15

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

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

