



Los Ranchos Village Vision

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Happy
New Year!

MEET YOUR NEW MAYOR AND TRUSTEES
WINTER IN NEW MEXICO: CRANES, MATANZAS AND WINTER MARKETS
MANY GOINGS-ON AT THE AGRI-NATURE CENTER



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Meet New Mayor Joe Craig!

Happy New Year to all of our Village residents. Thank you for your support. I am humbled and honored that you elected me Mayor of our great Village of Los Ranchos for the next four years.

I grew up in Los Ranchos and as a boy rode my horse through the vast open fields lined with cottonwood trees. Like other Village residents I grew up with, I learned to ride a horse before I learned to ride a bicycle.

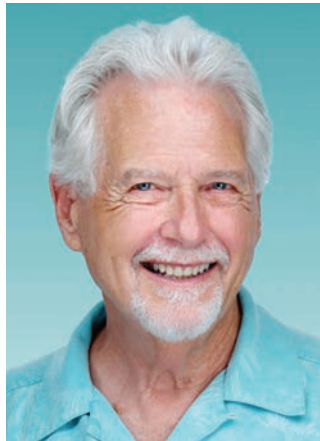
I've been involved in Village politics for over 20 years. During that time, I served on the Planning and Zoning Commission for 5 years. As the founder and former president of The Friends of Los Ranchos I worked to preserve our heritage and cherish our land. Toward that goal I collaborated with the Village, leading fund-raising campaigns to buy the Del Norte Open Space and the Agri-Nature Center. I helped author the 2020 Master Plan and served on the Agri-Nature Committee and on numerous other Village Committees.

As a community we've been working together over the last two years to preserve our semi-rural environment and probably will be busy on this for the next few years, as well. As mayor I will listen to all of our Village residents. Your voices are important. This is our Village

As mayor I will focus on Village Center issues, conservation and sustainability, the importance of open spaces and the positive impact they have on our community. I will also address traffic, noise and light pollution which are huge issues for our community as we find ourselves sandwiched between Northeast Albuquerque and Northwest Albuquerque.

Water will continue to be a big issue for us. The protection of our urban forest, our Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD) ditches and the great walkability that they provide for our community are important now and into the future. As a founding member of the Los Ranchos Historical Society, we are leading by preserving the agricultural, archeological, and historical heritage of Los Ranchos. A recent article we published in the Los Ranchos Village Vision Magazine on the history of Chavez Road is an example of preserving our culture for our residents and local businesses.

I have also lobbied and will continue to recommend that we undertake a noise pollution study by the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) on Paseo and hopefully other Village roadways. The NMDOT is currently working on a yearlong study.



I have long been an advocate for migratory bird and wildlife habitat in our open spaces. I will continue to work with you for the preservation of the 9 acres at Chavez and Guadalupe Trail and/or other sites for a community center and nature preserve similar to the Randall Davey Audubon Center and Sanctuary in Santa Fe. I continue to advocate for our Urban Forest preservation and Acequias throughout Los Ranchos. I worked with "Ditches with Trails," and have worked with a conservation easement attorney to explore how to help our Village residents preserve their property without subdividing or selling their pre-1907 water rights.

Keeping our area schools healthy is important. I will meet with our local schools and the APS board to see how we can help support our children's education.

A further note on traffic. We will be looking at the Traffic Studies, on Osuna Road, Chavez Road and all the rest of the village to determine where speed bumps are needed. We are looking at high-tech solutions like Flock Safety Cameras and other systems to better protect our community.

Most importantly we are going to be listening to you and the community in Village meetings, community meetings and face to face conversations. We want to restore trust, integrity, and transparency in Village Government. I will hold office hours and schedule monthly meetings with the public. Additionally, the trustees and I will rotate to visit different neighborhoods in the Village to learn residents' concerns. I will ensure there is open communication between the mayor and the trustees (who will have a larger voice in my administration) and the Planning and Zoning Commissioners.

Thank you for putting your trust in me.



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: "CRANES TAKING OFF FROM LOS POBLANOS OPEN SPACE" BY PATRICK STRIKER, LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHER AND BIRDER.

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NEW YEAR'S ISSUE CONTENTS



Cranes are back!
Read about migratory birds' importance to the local ecosystem on page 14.



Matanza season is here! Read all about the historical roots of this event on page 24, and see pictures of the 2023 Los Ranchos Matanza on page 38.

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I am especially grateful for years of repeat clients and their referrals to family and friends.

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Meet the New Village Trustees

In November 2023, voters not only elected a new Village Mayor, but also two new Trustees: Jennifer Kueffer and Frank Reinow. They will serve with continuing Trustees Gilbert Benavidez and George Radnovich on the Board of Trustees. The Board meets every 2nd Wednesday at 7PM at Village Hall. Residents are welcome to attend the meetings.



JENNIFER KUEFFER

Thank you for the trust you've placed in me as your newly elected Village Trustee. I will work hard to enforce our ordinances and codes, to represent your interests, and to listen to your visions for our community. I will be guided by my experience and knowledge in open government and procurement, as well as by my firm belief in government transparency.

The North Valley I grew up in is fast changing, losing its rural beauty and being infilled at an alarming rate. I'll work to protect our piece of paradise from exploitative development, and to preserve our urban forest, its wildlife, the acequias and their trails.

It's critical for me to hear from you as we move forward. Your input will help us succeed in making decisions that impact our Village.

One of my first initiatives will be facilitating the best way to elicit and obtain public input on projects/changes in the village and its laws. We need to do a better job of communicating and getting information out to our Village residents. Also, we need to better utilize the Los Ranchos Village Vision magazine to inform our citizens about Village projects before decisions are made rather than after.

I also plan to work on developing ways to attract and retain small business, while preserving our character and village aesthetics.

I look forward to working with you to protect and preserve our village open spaces, wildlife, and maintain a less-dense semi-rural character that we all know and love.



FRANK REINOW

Thank you for the encouragement and support I received during my campaign. I appreciate the kind notes of congratulations and will follow through on my promise to represent all of your voices on the Board of Trustees. Whether or not you voted for me, I will fairly represent your views.

I never envisioned running for elective office, but saw the need to work with you, trustees, and Village administration to maintain our semi-rural environment, and protect our open space, agriculture, culture, and tradition.

As your representative, I will work to restore trust and confidence in Village leadership, starting with reviewing Village ordinances and approval processes. This is important because Village administration has several projects in planning and execution stages that need to be reviewed by the Board of Trustees with input from community residents and businesses. We need to do it right and not rush to make decisions that will not maintain our Village character.

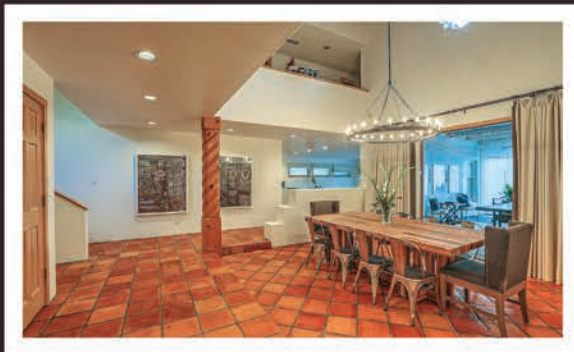
On a personal note, our family called the Village home for 34 years. Like many of you, we appreciate our trees, trails, and wildlife. Our sons attended Taft Middle School and Valley High School and graduated from NMSU.

As a manager, educator, and management consultant for over forty years, I've focused on working with public, nonprofit, and business organizations to improve operations and long-term planning. I've experienced what works and what doesn't work in local government and will bring this perspective to the Board of Trustees.

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Agri-Nature Center, Chavez Road, Edgewood Park, 4th Street, and More

LARRY P. ABRAHAM AGRI-NATURE CENTER With the outdoor classroom complete, we continue with the design phase of the edible trail and additional landscaping and signage. The Village has also submitted requests for additional funding to complete the outdoor classroom area with additional shades structures and seating areas. The Village has been awarded an additional \$500,000.00 to complete the recently aligned access roadway to the Agri-Nature Center and the ADA accessible parking area. It is our intent to secure a contractor and complete the project by early spring.

4TH STREET PHASE 2 The Village is in the final design and engineering of Phase 2A, from Pueblo Solano to just north, including the intersection of Ranchitos Road. A public information meeting will be held early in 2024 for continued public input. The utility phase continues with all providers in the project area. All utility impacts are to be removed by August 2024. Bernalillo County and Wilson Engineering continue design of the 4th St. road diet project (reduction to two travel lanes and a bike lane) from Alameda Blvd. to Ortega. We continue to coordinate on the best way to tie in with existing bike lanes in Los Ranchos, including a possible lane over the Paseo Bridge.

ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FY23-24 The Village has been awarded NMDOT COOP funding of \$603,690.00. The environmental review phase has begun on the project and is anticipated to be complete in February 2024. The project includes the following roads for repaving (pulverize, subgrade prep., asphalt): 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. The project also includes crack seal 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. We anticipate construction to begin in early spring.

CHAVEZ ROAD MULTI-USE TRAIL The Village is in contract with Parametrix in the amount of \$347,349.54 for preliminary engineering and design services with an anticipated completion date of July 31, 2025. The Village is reviewing the

recently completed reports of existing conditions and will be announcing the first public information meeting early in the new year to determine preliminary scope alternatives. The goal of the project is 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. Public input will be invaluable in ensuring that the goal of the project is met.

PEDESTRIAN CROSSWALKS ON CHAVEZ ROAD The raised crosswalks/speed tables are under construction by the contractor CGI. The crosswalks are being constructed west of the intersections of the two Caballero subdivisions and west of Neighbor Road. No road closures are expected to occur during construction, except under unanticipated emergency situations. Construction is expected to be complete by the end of the year.

DEL NORTE OPEN SPACE Now that we are in the winter months, the fields are dormant and put to rest for the season. Jacobo Sanchez has mowed the fields to create forage for migratory birds and to prevent any fire hazard on the open space. Additionally, trenching has begun on the East fields to facilitate water movement and irrigation on this space for the coming growing season.

EDGEWOOD PARK: The Village has advertised for construction and installation of park improvements to include fencing, play structures and equipment, shade structures, benches and picnic tables, landscaping, and irrigation. A pre-bid meeting was held in Edgewood Park for potential bidders on November 14, 2023, and bids were received on November 30th. We hope to award the project early in the new year.

PICKLEBALL The new pickleball courts on Green Valley Road are open and are a hit among Villagers!

.....
Construction is in progress on Chavez Road.



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Winter Growers' Markets
Every Second Saturday from 10AM to Noon
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 Feb. 10, 2024, March 9, 2024
 April 13, 2024

Markets Despite the Cold

By Sue Brawley



FIND US ON FACEBOOK AT LOS RANCHOS GROWERS' MARKET

JANUARY/FEBRUARY | Several of the growers (we average 20 to 25 vendors at the market during the winter months) will have greens such as arugula, chard, spinach, bok choy, and lettuce that they are growing in cold frames or green houses for the winter. At the January 13th and February 10th markets one may find onions, various types of greens, leeks, root vegetables (including carrots, and turnips), local beef, dried fruit, honey, jams/jellies, pies, pasta, pizza/breakfast burritos, indoor plants, and herbs. Music will be provided by guitarist Rob Roman and friends.

Want to be a Vendor?

If you are interested in selling at the market on a regular or occasional basis, contact Colene Montoya, volunteer manager, at (505) 610-9591 or email her at montoya4664@hotmail.com.

Vendor Profile: Zia Bros Pizza

Zia Bros Pizza, owned by Dylan and Hunter Strait, is a mobile pizza pop-up that does catering, pop-up events and pre-orders. Zia Bros provides fresh Napoli-style pizza around the Albuquerque metro area from the local bar scene to the Los Ranchos Growers' Market. They have been a fixture at the Growers' Market for over three years, not only during the regular season but also during the winter markets. In addition to their delicious pizzas made on site, they offer fantastic breakfast burritos. Both meat and vegetarian options are available for their pizzas and burritos. To contact them: 505-903-2824; to order on-line: ziabrospizza.com.



Growers' Market Factoids

The Los Ranchos Growers' Market supports small-scale local growers, farmers, and ranchers, as well as local food producers, and community groups. As such, it is in perfect alignment with the agriculture strategic direction of the Village of Los Ranchos. Here are some interesting factoids on the impact of our market:



In the 2023 regular season (May through mid-November) there were 114 different vendors including 20 community groups for an average of 40 vendors per market.



The number of vendors ranges per market from a high of 53 in the peak of the season to a low of 23 when the weather turns cold.



During the three-hour market, there were a total of 35,300 customers or an average of 1319 per market.



During the peak of the season, there are about 2000 customers per market.



Based on our surveys, the average customer spends about \$31.69 per market. Over the regular season that results in about \$1,119,000 sales for our local vendors.

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Migratory Birds

THE IMPORTANT ROLE THEY PLAY IN THE STATE

*By Dominic Tomba, Animal Control Officer/
Animal Husbandry Program Manager*

Migratory birds play a crucial role in New Mexico's diverse ecosystem, contributing to its balance and vitality. For many species of birds, the state is a critical stop on their yearly migration. One prominent example is the sandhill crane, whose arrival is a spectacle that draws birdwatchers and nature enthusiasts alike.

These migratory birds influence the ecosystem in several ways. They contribute to seed dispersal as they feed, aiding in the natural regeneration of plant life. In addition, their feeding habits can contribute to controlling the insect population and act as an effective way of limiting pests. The diverse diets of these birds also support plant pollination, fostering the health of local flora.

In addition, the seasonal influx of birds creates opportunities for ecotourism, benefiting local economies. Birdwatchers and wildlife photographers flock to New Mexico to witness the avian spectacle, bringing economic advantages to communities near key migration sites.

However, challenges arise as well. Birds' migratory routes and resting sites are threatened by the loss of habitat due to urbanization and climate change. Conservation efforts have become crucial to maintain these areas and ensure the well-being of both the migratory birds and the local ecosystem.

In conclusion, these avian visitors also highlight the importance of conservation to sustain their habitats and protect the delicate balance of the local environment.



At top: Cranes Landing at Anderson Fields. Above: Cranes in Field off Guadalupe Drive. Below: A Siege of Cranes in the fields at the Agri-Nature Center.

For all things animal-related in the Village, contact Dominic at dtomba@losranchosnm.gov or (505) 977-4830 or pay him a visit in his office at the Agri-Nature Center, Monday through Friday from 8AM to 5PM.





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Sawmill Market



Level 5



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QBar Lounge, Garduños, and Tablao Flamenco Albuquerque
inside Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town

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Tablao Flamenco Albuquerque



Garduños

GETTING FIT



WITH LISA KNIGHTON

What's Your Life Worth?

Recently, I had a discussion with a contact I have on LinkedIn, a colleague from Ohio who specializes in retirement planning. She shared with me that the average unhealthy adult retiree can expect to spend at least \$300,000 dollars to assist with illnesses resulting from poor health choices.

“This sum is used for medication purchases,” she added. “Things like physician invoices, hospital charges, and other fees associated with what are commonly called lifestyle diseases.” Hearing this caused me to pause, and say, “There must be a better way.”

Lifestyle diseases, according to the National Institutes of Health, are diseases whose occurrence is primarily based on daily habits. They include high blood pressure, heart disease, diabetes, stroke, obesity, even cancer and asthma.

Certainly, there must be a better way to spend the days of our lives, and more interesting ways to spend that sum of money. Here are some ideas for better ways to create a healthier environment and harness greater health within.

- Enlist a partner or join a group for support. Find someone who has similar goals. Talk about how you will encourage each other, even create a script. Set firm weekly dates and start as soon as possible. Seek out those you trust, and in turn be a trusted partner—this helps with accountability and fosters community and friendship.
- Keep a journal. Write down your

exercise schedule and keep track of your progress.

- Make weekly menus, shop for fresh food, and cook at home. Creating healthy, nutritious food in your own kitchen gives a great sense of accomplishment. Preparing meals using the Mediterranean diet, or DASH diet, ensures greater awareness of micro and macro nutrients, and sodium intake.
- Enlist the help of a professional. If you aren't sure what to do or how to begin, look for a personal trainer, health coach, nutritionist, or another trusted professional. Read online reviews to find a good helper.
- Find your baselines. Take your blood pressure. Measure your resting heart rate. Perform a one mile fitness test. Do a sit-to-stand test. Write down all the foods you eat for one week. Knowing where you are, initially, helps with goal setting.
- Use the SMART goal method to set

one or two goals. Make these goals: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound.

- Try one new thing. Everyone has a list of things they've heard will improve their health outcomes. Pull out the list, select one thing to try. Try it for a week, then try it for one month. Pretty soon it'll be a habit.
- Do one thing you love to do already but do it more often. I often tell my clients that exercising is exactly like brushing your teeth. Do it daily!

If you seem to be faltering on getting started with ways to improve your health in this new year, maybe start with asking yourself: What could I do with those \$300,000 dollars instead?

.....
Lisa, CEO of AtHomeBeFIT, is an ACE Personal Trainer and Structural Integration Therapist in-training. She seeks to improve how the world ages through movement programs, Structural Integration, weight training, and corrective exercise. Find her at (706) 340-7989, or visiting her website athomebefit.com

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FROM THE SAFETY OFFICER



Safety Officer Fred Radosevich

THE KEY IS PREVENTION

Whether you're working out, shopping, or running errands, there are safety tips you can follow to help lower your chances of becoming a crime victim.

The key is prevention

1. Pay attention to your surroundings no matter where you are or what time of day it is.
2. Don't be distracted by your phone. Do not walk and text.
3. Always have your keys ready.
4. If you carry a personal defense device, like mace or a stun gun, have it ready. It won't do you any good otherwise.
5. Look around and make eye contact with people you encounter.
6. Walk with an attitude: "I'm tough and you don't want to mess with me."
7. If you feel like something isn't right, trust your instincts and go back inside.
8. If security is available, ask for an escort to your vehicle—especially at night.
9. Don't wear expensive jewelry or carry pricey handbags when you're shopping, running errands or anytime you're alone.
10. If you must take a purse, consider a small purse, crossbody bag.
11. Hide your cash, credit cards and cell phone in your front pockets.
12. Keep an eye out for vehicles following you. If there are still behind you when your close to home, drive to the nearest police station, Sheriff's office or fire station or call 911.

If someone tries to assault you or force you into a vehicle, scream and fight. Do whatever you can to get away.

If you would like to take a self-defense class or learn more about how not to become a crime victim, please contact me at publicsafety@losranchosnm.gov.

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Los Ranchos THE ART MARKET

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(January-April)

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A Rare New Mexico Silversmith: JR Barela

By Gordene MacKenzie

Ring in the New Year with unique art! At the Los Ranchos Art Market you can find JR Barela's enchanting free form, one of a kind, southwestern jewelry. JR traces his heritage back to four generations of Los Ranchos farmers. His grandmother Piedad Sena Barela inspired him to work hard. She and other members of JR's Los Ranchos relatives' stories and photos are included in a book on the history of Los Ranchos (*Shining River Precious Land*). JR remembers as a child polishing green apples at his grandparents' Fruit Stand on North 4th Street in the Village.

"I was always doing some kind of art. I played drums as a kid. We were a garage band without a garage. We played at weddings and fiestas. I loved putting different sized tires on my bicycle," which modified the way it looked and rode on the ditches. In school his unique drawing style captured his teacher's attention.

enjoys working in rustic wood. "I like to see things reused. When I enter my shop in the morning in quiet inspiration I don't know where I'll go or what I will make. I believe if you don't use your gift it shrinks your life. Doing art expands it."



The road to making jewelry started with grinding heishi and buffing. Through trial-and-error JR perfected his designs that include cultural symbols like skulls, crosses, and hearts. Hearts are particularly significant for JR because eleven years ago he had open heart surgery. Today he is grateful for his health and his New Mexico heritage. "Sometimes I surprise myself when my hands make an unusual and unexpected piece. I am happy when people buy it." As he looked at his hands he remembered his father's arthritic hands and feels lucky "that I have these two things at the end of my arms I can use."

JR finds painting relaxing while he listens to music like John Coltrane. Many of his paintings depict NM churches. He also



To the left: Silver Heart Pendant and two Turquoise Pendants. Top left: JR Barela. Top right: Turquoise Ring, Skull Pendant, Zia Pendant. Bottom: a Turquoise Ring and Coral Cross Pendant.

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Say Yes to Yourself!

Happy New Year! I know that this is the time of year when some people are feeling really positive because this is the year they're going to achieve their goals. This is the year they are going to finally stick to their New Year's resolutions. Well I'm sorry to rain on your parade but making resolutions once a year doesn't get you the life you want!

I believe in creating a vision of the best life possible for yourself and taking small actionable steps to make it happen. Take the time to think about everything that you want and everything that you don't want. What are things that you can add to your life that would bring you more joy? What are things that you can start to slowly shed from your life like the leaves from a tree in autumn so that you can have more peace and joy in your life?

There's such a frenetic culture around New Year's Resolutions but there is no accountability. Resolutions are destined to fail because we're really saying only at the beginning of the year "I'm worth it". And then, when you do fall off the wagon, nobody cares because you're back to putting everybody else first. Think about how wonderful you are now and how much more you could give to the people in your life if you were happier, well-rested, and living your life with purpose.

After you have this great vision of your life, start to take action. No matter how small, just keep taking the smallest

action every single day. Again and again. The benefit of these small actions is you don't feel overwhelmed or overcommitted, They feel doable. The perfect example of what not to do is join a gym at the beginning of the year and hit it as hard as you can, work extra hard for a few weeks which is completely unsustainable and then quit because you are burned out, frustrated, and disappointed in yourself. If you want lasting change and growth it has to be sustainable which is why little changes daily have the biggest impact.

We all have different goals, so I would like to list a few small ways you can implement daily change. I hope that one or more of these apply to you:

Health: Walk a little bit farther than you usually do, have one less drink a night or a day of the week you don't drink, swap cookies for fruit, choose a salad over french fries, stretch before bed, say something nice to yourself every morning when you wake up.

Relationships: Try listening to what your partner is saying and repeat back what you heard, buy a gift for them for no reason, text a heart or kiss emoji randomly during the day.

Money: If you shop online, leave items in your cart for two days before purchasing to separate what you really need versus an impulse buy, make two more meals at home during the week, go through your subscriptions and see what you can cut out.

There are so many small daily changes you can make to achieve your goals and the best part is you can start anytime!

.....

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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A History of Matanzas in New Mexico

By Joshua O'Halloran, Agriculture Program Manager



Matanza in Corrales, 1965. From left to right: Serefino Perea, Martha Farfan, Viola Farfan, Norman Lucero, Phil Lucero, Gilbert Montano
Photo Courtesy: Corrales Historical Society

Ever since early Spanish and Portuguese explorers arrived in New Mexico over 400 years ago, la Matanzas or “the killing” has been a popular event in the state. Historically, the event has served the vital function of harvesting meat, traditionally hogs, for the winter and of bringing people together to strengthen the social bonds of a community.

The original purpose of a Matanza was to put up meat for the winter once the animals were large enough to slaughter and there was no forage available for them to feed on. Because this was such a large undertaking, Matanzas required people to come together to get the job done. Over time, they have become an integral part of Hispanic culture. In addition to feeding people, Matanzas have become a social ritual serving to bring people together, strengthening the familial and social bonds of the community.



The history of Matanzas can be traced back to the Iberian Peninsula in Spain around 30,000 years ago. Archeologists have found artifacts and rock art that point to this tradition in that area that far back. The Iberian tribes who moved to this area around 6000-4000 B.C. were the first to use a version of a halter on domesticated horses. They were some of the first equestrian people who first developed the “vaquero” and ranching culture that we now attribute to the “West” in the United States. These Iberians were called “Hispanics” by the Romans and were the original cowboys!

With the coming of the Spanish and Portuguese to New Mexico, this ranching culture as well as the tradition of Matanzas have come to New Mexico and become a part of the local identity. Like many cultural traditions, it is good to know the roots of these traditions to see where we fit into the chronology of history.

Historically, a Matanza would be held every one to two years. Family members had responsibilities assigned based on their age and station in the family unit, beginning with daily feeding all the way up to the expert bleeding and butchering skills needed the day of the killing. Generally, the older men would take care of the killing and butchering. The women would prepare the many other food items, like they did on any other day—carnitas, chicharrones, potatoes, beans, chile, Posole, tortillas, and more.

On the day of the Matanza, water is hauled in buckets (traditionally from an acequia) to be heated over a fire to be used for scraping off the hair of the pig. Older children and teens are taught to haul water and tend to the fire as the older

Iberian Horseman shown on ceramics from the La Serreta site in Alcoy, Alicante.

men do the shaving and butchering. As kids get older, they are gradually given more responsibilities. Hauling water and tending the fire eventually leads to cutting the strips of lonja and eventually to bleeding and butchering, which is traditionally reserved for the elders. In earlier days, the patriarch of the community would be the one to strike the hog with a hammer or blunt object between the eyes to render the animal unconscious. Then the patriarch would bleed the hog into a bowl, preserving the blood for blood pudding.

The animal is often cooked overnight in a pit. A fire is made in the pit until 20 inches of coals are built up. Then the animal is wrapped in wet burlap or aluminum foil and lowered into the pit. The pit is closed, and the animal cooks slowly the heat is monitored overnight. In the morning, family and community members arrive to enjoy the meat right out of the pit.

An important part of the killing of the hog is taking a moment to pay homage to the sacrifice of the animal who will give its life in order to give life to the community. In modern days, people have become uncomfortable with the idea of death and the killing of an animal, but this is part of the cycle of life and part of knowing and appreciating where our food comes from.

Today, Matanzas are still held privately by families in New Mexico as well as during public events, such as at the world's largest Matanza held in Belen each year. People come from all over the world to experience a taste of this New Mexican



"Women, child and men during pig slaughter"
 Otero, Eduardo, 1880-1932; Ranching; Bosque Farms, (N.M.). Eduardo Otero's ranch, referred to as a hacienda, in "El Bosque," current Bosque Farms. Eduardo Otero was a landowner and sheep rancher from Valencia County.
 Photo Courtesy: Los Lunas Museum of Heritage and Arts

tradition. This year, the Village of Los Ranchos is getting ready to celebrate its third annual Matanza at the Agri-Nature Center (see announcement on page 27). I hope that this Matanza will be an opportunity for all of us to connect with our food, to appreciate the farmers who bring food to our table, and to bring us closer together as a community.

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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.



CJ's Upholstery and Refinishing

In a world where furniture is discarded once it's old and worn out, it's refreshing to know that a business like CJ's Upholstery is still around. Owners Joe and Debbie Chavez are dedicated to bringing furniture back to life.

In business since 1984, and a fixture in Los Ranchos for almost thirty years, Joe Chavez continues the trade of his father, who began a backyard upholstery shop and was in the business for more than four decades. Being a true family business, wife Debbie specializes in helping customers choose the right color, texture and fabric for your project. And, in 2019, Joe and Debbie's son Noah also joined the family business by bringing his skills and fresh ideas into the refinishing world.

In addition to Joe, Debbie and Noah, the CJ's Team is comprised of their two nephews, Tim Lopez and Marcos Lopez, who have been with the business over eight years; Javier Lopez, who has been with CJ's for over fifteen years, Elias Sanchez who has been with CJ's for four years, and Carlos Rios who has been with CJ's for two years.

CJ's can not only help customers with all of their upholstery and refinishing needs, whether it's a family heirloom, a steal at a yard sale or refinishing of their kitchen cabinets, but they also create custom furnishings and booths for local

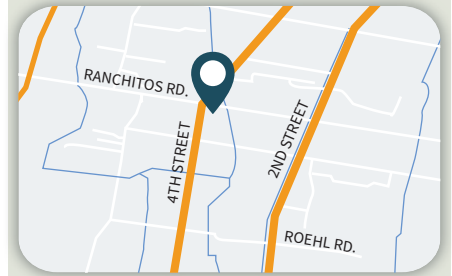


hotels, restaurants, hospitals, and casinos. In fact, Heritage Hotels (including the Chaco Hotel, Hotel Albuquerque, Inn at Loretto, Eldorado Hotel, The Clyde Hotel, El Monte Sagrado, Hotel Chimayo, and Hotel St. Francis) is one of CJ's biggest customers. CJ's also does work for customers throughout the state. The team is currently working on a project for the Ruidoso Downs Jockey Club, which includes the reupholstery and refinishing of all chairs and booths.

CJ's Upholstery and Refinishing takes pride in its workmanship. They only use high-quality materials, guarantee satisfaction, and extend excellent customer service. Generations of knowledge and experience makes them experts in their field. In Joe's words, "CJ's Upholstery is a family tradition of quality craftsmanship, a tradition proudly passed down from one generation to the next."

In 2024, CJ's Upholstery will be celebrating its 40th anniversary!

Find CJ's Upholstery



- ▶ 7822 4th Street NW
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- ▶ cjs.upholstery@yahoo.com
- ▶ cjsupholstery.com/
- ▶ cjsrefinishing.com/



Photo to left: Debbie Chavez. At top: Joe Chavez with son Noah. At right, from top to bottom: Hotel Chaco, Inn at Loretto, upholstered chair, nephews Tim and Marcos Lopez at work.

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Game Plan for a Greener Superbowl

By Anne Spitz, Media & Communications at WM

To help blitz waste, tackle recycling and revel in reuse during Super Bowl festivities, WM of New Mexico has lined up 10 green gameday practices you can put into play.

When hosting the festivities, having a game plan goes a long way towards tackling wasteful party practices and ensuring only accepted materials get punted into recycling bins. To get into the zone, focus on a strategy of avoiding food waste, reducing the volume of garbage generated and making recycling simple.

As a party guest, be a good sport and do your part to reduce the waste you contribute. Remember, it's a football party, so you won't get flagged for drinking straight out of the can or for encouraging fellow fans to reuse and recycle. That paper plate is plenty good for second and third helpings, or at least until it can no longer keep a mound of nachos from landing in your lap.

SUPER BOWL PARTY GREEN GAME PLAN

1) Choose your equipment wisely: If you can't face doing post-party dishes, try to purchase tableware and napkins made from sustainable or recycled materials. There are plates, bowls and eating utensils made from bamboo and sugar cane on the market. Search for terms like bio-degradable, compostable and plant-based plastic. These items can't go in your recycling bin, but are more earth-friendly.

2) Don't fumble the ball: If you opt for disposable plastic spoons and forks, encourage guests to use one set for the whole party. Have a tub of soapy water set aside and drop used plastic utensils into it. After a good soak-and-scrub, they can be reused for second half second-helpings. (Note: plastic utensils are NOT recyclable so throw them in the bin.)

3) Call in special teams: Have separate bins for trash and recycling so recyclables don't end up in the opposing team's end zone or vice versa. Clearly label the receptacles RECYCLE vs TRASH and position them somewhere convenient. Make it fun -- erect goalposts in the bins.

4) Bet the spread: Super Bowl Sunday is reportedly America's second-largest food consumption day, edged out only by Thanksgiving Day. Making as many of your own dishes as feasible will reduce the need for single-use takeout containers and prepared food packaging.

5) Don't chicken out: Serve lots of finger-foods to further reduce waste. This can include everything from celery stalks and chunks of cheese to chicken wings and cupcakes. Upwards of 1.45 billion chicken wings are estimated to be



consumed during the big game according to the National Chicken Council. (Reminder: Make no bones about it, chicken bones are trash. Never dispose of food in a recycle bin.)

6) Think outside the box: Americans are also expected to order upwards of 12.5 million pizzas on Super Bowl Sunday. Remember, a cardboard pizza box with a little grease is still recyclable but cardboard crusted with cheese or toppings should not be put into the recycling bin

7) Give a pep talk: "Yes we CAN!" Pump up your guests with a challenge to recycle every aluminum beverage can they empty. An empty soda or beer can you place in a recycle bin will be back on the shelf as a shiny new can within 60 days.

8) Drink in the experience: If offering disposable drink cups, encourage guests to write their name on their cup with a permanent marker. (Reminder: Neither clear nor colored plastic drink cups are recyclable.)

9) Stay hydrated: Use a tabletop drink dispenser to provide water for your guests. Label it "Water Break". This eliminates the need for bottled water and adds to gameday decor.

10) Tackle decorations: When ramping up party decorations, use your imagination and DIY it.

- Make team flag pendants out recycled cardboard.
- Roll out a table runner using the flip side of excess holiday wrapping paper and sketch out football plays with a magic marker.
- Apply football-seams on mason jar drinking glasses using white tape.
- Place recycled paper napkins in a container labeled "Penalty Flags".
- Conceive a pin-the-football-on-the-goalpost halftime game by creatively reusing paper.

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



Schulte House Restoration Fundraiser



Please join us in raising funds to restore this 100-year old historic home! The Schulte house was built in the late 1920s. Originally located at 6697 4th St. and Schulte Road, it now lives at the Larry P. Abraham Agri-Nature Center on Rio Grande Blvd.

Event Dates: January 20 and 21, 2024
Location: Larry P. Abraham Agri-Nature Center
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Art Show, Vendors, Tractor Parade, Bernalillo County Fire Department Demonstration, Vintage and Mustang Car Show (on Sunday), Silent Auction

Interested in participating?
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WANTED:

- Artists, crafters, and other vendors
- Tractor Owners to participate in parade
- Silent Auction donations

EVENT PARTICIPATION FORM

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 Name on Card: _____
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 (your information is secure and will not be shared)

Tractor Parade Participant
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 Item/service you wish to donate: _____

*includes 8x10 indoor booth space and two chairs

Please send your filled-out participation form by January 15th to Jennie Schulte, 4540 17th Ave. NE, Rio Rancho, NM 87144

For more information, contact Jennie Schulte: (505) 814-3043 or jennie3151@gmail.com

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GRANT FUNDING AWARDED

The Village received a 1.25 million Quality of Life grant from the State of New Mexico, which will be used to renovate the Old Village Hall. More details in the next Village Vision!

And here we are: 2024. Happy New Year!

By Marcelle Cady

THE MOUNTAINTOP | The Adobe Theater has an exciting line-up for the year. The first of eight shows opens January 19 and runs until February 11. As mentioned in the last issue, the first production is *The Mountaintop* by Katori Hall—a fictional, edgy, controversial, thought-provoking play which takes place in the motel room of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on the night before his assassination.

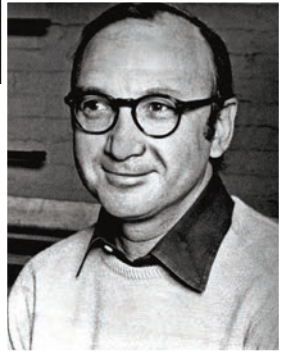
Katori Hall is an award-winning playwright and television creator/producer hailing from Memphis, Tennessee. She won the prestigious Olivier Award in London, England, for *The Mountaintop* in 2010. Not only is she a two-time Tony Award nominee, she won the 2021 Pulitzer Prize for Drama for her play, *The Hot Wing King*.

Dr. King is played by Marcus Ivey (you may have seen his sterling performance in *Blood Knot*) and the maid is played by Nicee Wagner (recently seen in *The Hollow*) discuss the issues facing Dr. King and the conversation reveals a surprising twist. Jenelle Baptiste, who was recently on stage at The Vortex Theatre, takes up the directorial reins.

THE ODD COUPLE (FEMALE VERSION) | Opening March 1 is Neil Simon's *The Odd Couple (Female Version)*, directed by Georgia Athearn. 'Unger and Madison are at it again! 'Florence Unger' (played by Gloria Goodman) and 'Olive Madison' (played by



Above: Nicee Wagner and Marcus Ivey in "The Mountaintop." To right: Playwright Neil Simon

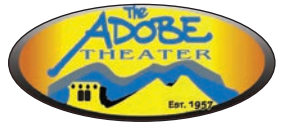


Stephanie Jones), that is, in Neil Simon's hilarious contemporary comic classic. Instead of the poker party that begins the original version, Ms. Madison has invited the girls over for an evening of Trivial Pursuit. The Pidgeon sisters have been replaced by the two Constanzuela brothers. But the hilarity remains the same.

The remaining productions are *Vanya & Sonia & Masha & Spike*, *The Outsider*, *The Bridges of Madison County* musical, *Death By Design*, *Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde*, and closing up the year will be *The Red Velvet Cake War*, another of those popular zany Southern comedies by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope & Jamie Wooten.

Much to enjoy in 2024!

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▶ info@adobetheater.org



Seasonal Recipe: Honey Ginger Carrots

Easy recipe that uses ingredients available at the Los Ranchos Growers' Market.

- Ingredients**
- 1 pound Carrots
 - ¼ C Butter
 - 2 ½ Tbsp Honey
 - Ground Ginger
 - 1 Tbsp Lemon Juice
 - 2 Tbsp Chopped Pecans or Parsley

Clean, slice, and cook carrots until tender but still firm. In a large skillet over low heat, melt ¼ cup of butter with 2 ½ tablespoons of honey, pinch of ground ginger and 1 tablespoon of lemon juice. Stir in carrots and simmer until heated through. Sprinkle with 2 tablespoons of chopped pecans or chopped parsley.

Recipe by Sue Brawley of the Los Ranchos Growers' Market



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A Fond Farewell

A GOODBYE FROM MAYOR DONALD T. LOPEZ
MAY 6, 2018 TO DECEMBER 31, 2023

After nearly 32 years as an elected official in our Village, serving as a Trustee for 26 years, Mayor Pro Tem for 18 years, and Mayor from 2018 thru 2023, I am saying goodbye to the residents of this Village. At the dawn of 2024, I would like to extend my heartfelt best wishes to each and every one of you. This is a time for fresh beginnings, reflection, and unity within our community.

The year ahead holds the promise of renewed hope and opportunities for us to strengthen our bonds with one another. Let's take a moment to cherish the importance of family, friends, and the connections that bind us as neighbors.

As we express gratitude for the blessings we've encountered, let's also appreciate the charm of our Village, the safety of our streets, and the sense of community. We are truly fortunate to call Los Ranchos our haven, and it is the people who make it such a wonderfully unique place to call home.

Let's express our appreciation by supporting our local businesses. Los Ranchos is home to a variety of distinctive and diverse small businesses, run by our friends and neighbors. When we choose to shop locally, we invest in the essence and vitality of our Village. And let's not forget those in our community who may be in need. Extending a helping hand to those less fortunate and sharing our blessings with all can make a significant difference in the lives of our neighbors as well as own.

Looking ahead to the opportunities and challenges that 2024 brings, the legislative session in Santa Fe is set to commence on January 16th. This session holds the potential for vital funding for crucial projects in the Village of Los Ranchos over the next 3-5 years. It is crucial to stay informed, voice our concerns, or show support for legislation that positively impacts our community. Our active participation in the legislative process is integral to our community's well-being.

In conclusion, I wish each of you a delightful start to the new year. It has been a pleasure to serve the Village of Los Ranchos over the last three decades in a variety of roles. I will always support and advocate for the best interests of our Village, now as a resident of the Village. Together, let's continue making Los Ranchos an even more vibrant place to live and thrive.

Warm regards,

Mayor Donald T. Lopez, PE, CMO

Photos from top to bottom: Mayor Lopez during the 2020 Holiday Season; Mayor Lopez with Mike Anderson during the closing on the Anderson Property; Mayor Lopez with late Judge Diane Albert; Mayor Lopez at the Agri-Nature Center; Mayor Lopez with Father Hallada on San Ysidro's Feast Day during the Blessing of the Waters Ceremony.



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January/February

► **Scatter some wildflower seeds** for blooms later this summer.

► **Start hardy seeds** like bleeding heart, butterfly weed, columbine, delphinium, liatris, and penstemon. Place these outdoors, out of direct sun for six weeks of chilling before bringing them in to sprout.

► **Start seeds for tomatoes** and other frost sensitive plants at the end of February.

► On nice days, **remove the frost protective cover** on your cool season vegetables that you planted last fall. Raise the lid slightly on your cold frame.

► Mid to late February is the time to **Start planting sweet peas and garden peas**, and roots of asparagus and rhubarb in the warmer areas in mid-to late February. Also plant lettuce, radishes, carrots, beets, turnips, and cabbage, if you did not do so already last fall.

► **Set out bare root trees, shrubs, and vines** while they are dormant.

► **Dig up and divide summer and fall-blooming perennials:** daylilies, asters, chrysanthemums, etc. now through March. (If it blooms in the fall, divide in the spring. If it blooms in the spring, divide in the fall!)

► **Increase watering to 2 or 3 times** a month as temperatures go above 50 degrees.

► **Begin fertilizing vegetables, irises, bulbs and tubers** with super-phosphate or a slow-release fertilizer. (Only add superphosphate once or twice a year.) More organic choices



include bone meal, manure compost, and liquid organic fertilizers like fish emulsion and seaweed extract.

► **Feed fruit and nut trees** with a granular fertilizer or organic fertilizers like manure, bone meal, blood meal or fish meal, work into the soil and water thoroughly.

► **Remove any weeds** in the mustard family as they appear. Mustards harbor unwanted viruses, e.g. curly top, and insects, e.g. leafhoppers.

► **Prune branches** damaged by winter storms may need to be pruned.

► **Some shrubs will need to be pruned hard:** Butterfly bush, Russian sage, and ornamental grasses (except blue fescue). Many other shrubs should not be pruned at this time.

► **Cut a few branches of Forsythia** and other early-flowering shrubs to bring indoors. Crush the end of the branch and place them in a vase of water and they will soon flower for you.

► **Clean out any perennial beds** that are showing signs of life once the ground is softening. You may want to leave a little mulch in place for frost protection.

► **Add organic matter** to soil where you want to transplant later in the spring or early summer.

► Your evergreens would appreciate a **strong spray from the hose** to clean off soot and insects.

► **If you have shrubs or small trees that you want removed** from your yard, tell a friend who needs plants that now is the time to come and dig.

► **Early treatment of pests and problems** keeps them from becoming big problems. Treat scale with a horticultural oil spray and aphids with a strong blast of water.

► **Observe what is happening in your garden on warm days.** Pay attention to protected areas of the yard. Is there an enclosed patio or south-facing area of your yard that enjoys milder temperatures? Could you grow more tender, Zone 8 or 9 plants here, or get earlier blooms from spring bulbs?

► **Plant Identification.** Are you not sure what plants you have in your yard? Take the time now to begin identifying them with the help of plant books, the internet and information from other gardeners. If there are plants you can't identify, take a sample and/or a photo to the Garden Center or the County Extension Office.

► **Purchase any seeds you will want later on in the season** as they are often hard to find later in the summer. Lettuces and other greens, sweet peas and edible peas, annual poppies, larkspur and many wildflowers are some to remember for fall planting.



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.



photo courtesy: Sergio Salvador

JOIN US AT THE TABLE.

We are eagerly anticipating this spring's exciting long table dining events at La Quinta.

SAVOR DE LEGUMBRES DINNER *Thursday, February 1*

Our annual vegetarian dinner celebrates a fresh start to the year, favoring cool-season root vegetables and hearty greens. Our culinary team draws inspiration from these seasonal vegetables, heritage grains, and the preservation techniques that keep fresh flavor on the table all year long. The multi-course menu will be thoughtfully paired with beverages to reflect the alchemy of preservation and fermentation.

MARTIN WOODS WINE DINNER *Saturday, April 6*

Join us for an unmatched culinary experience showcasing one of our favorite winemakers from the Willamette Valley, Martin Woods Winery. Guided by sustainable, holistic principles, Martin Woods' wines express the voice of the vineyard and an authentic sense of place. This dinner will feature a beautifully crafted menu designed by the Los Poblanos culinary team that will specifically showcase the remarkable selection of fine wines.

*Visit lospoblanos.com/events-calendar
for more information and tickets.*



LOS POBLANOS
HISTORIC INN & ORGANIC FARM

Village of Los Ranchos AgriFutures - Year 5

By Dan Gerry, Strategic Doing Community Builder AgriFutures Project

In early October, the Village's noteworthy AgriFutures Project began its fifth season of operation at the Agri-Nature Center. Twenty-eight talented volunteers from around the area gathered to help Agri-Nature Center staff continue its efforts to create a Center of Excellence for urban regenerative agriculture in Los Ranchos.

A "Center of Excellence" is the USDA designation for locations carrying out research into soil and food health. "Regenerative agriculture" refers to various natural and sustainable ways of growing highly nutritious foods in healthy soils.

The ongoing development of the Agri-Nature Center is guided by the Village's 2035 Master Plan, which recognizes the importance of honoring and preserving the Village's agricultural heritage and pastoral beauty. The Agri-Nature Center's mission is to provide educational programs and events that demonstrate how to grow healthy crops and livestock while preserving the area's natural beauty.

It has been very challenging to meet these many goals with a small staff. With the advent of the AgriFutures Project, scores of people who love the Los Ranchos area have stepped up to lend a hand.

The AgriFutures Project initially got underway in 2019 through the generous support of the NMSU and Thornburg Foundations, and each year since, dozens of volunteers have collaborated each Fall and Winter with Nature Center and Village staff to envision and accomplish new regenerative agriculture projects related to promoting education, research, and agri-tourism.

NOTEWORTHY ACHIEVEMENTS

Partnering with the Explora Museum to develop online ag-education resources

Hosting onsite events to promote the importance of composting and soil health

Creation of a community garden to demonstrate low water-use cultivation and provide fresh produce for area food banks

Gathering data on how rotational grazing of sheep and chickens restores organic matter to depleted soils

Promoting local regenerative growers via organized bike tours

Partnering with Los Poblanos and Rio Grande Community Farms to raise awareness of healthy and sustainable farming methods



Using a process called Strategic Doing, AgriFutures participants volunteer their time and talents to brainstorm, define, and complete short-term projects that align with the Agri-Nature Center's future vision. This facilitated process enables people, who often start out as total strangers, to quickly get to know one another and focus their efforts on working toward common goals. They first identify the various assets and resources that each team member brings. Next, they brainstorm strategic opportunities for using the assets and resources they have on hand to develop projects that will achieve measurable results while being relatively easy to accomplish. Participants then meet either in person or over Zoom for 90 minutes each month to complete their work by March. The following April, in-person celebration events are held to recognize each team's accomplishments.

Thanks to the efforts of our Village Administration, local legislators, and the kind wishes of the Anderson family to preserve the pristine nature of their property, their 25 acre fields and home adjacent to the Agri-Nature Center was purchased by the Village. Also, a special grant was won to fund the design and construction of a new nature trail to wind its way throughout the combined properties. This year's teams are excited to help develop a plan for optimizing the use of this additional land and assist with the creation of signage and background information for points of interest along the trail.

To ensure that citizens of the Village also have opportunities to offer their input and suggestions, the teams are planning to host meetings at the Agri-Nature Center once initial design options for the combined properties have been identified. All area residents will be invited to contribute their ideas.

If you would like to participate in this year's AgriFutures Project, it's not too late to join in the action!

For more information about AgriFutures, please contact:

Joshua O'Halloran, Agriculture Program Manager
johalloran@losranchosnm.gov

Sabrina Apodaca, Administrative Assistant
sapodaca@losranchosnm.gov

Tellabration!™

A WORLDWIDE CELEBRATION OF STORYTELLING

By Joshua O'Halloran, Agriculture Program Manager

Every year, on or around the third Saturday in November, storytelling guilds and story enthusiasts all around the globe share their talents in concerts held in cities and towns to celebrate the art of storytelling. Locally, TELLABRATION!™ brings together each area's celebrated storytellers, to delight, captivate, and mesmerize audiences with their tales. It creates a network of storytelling enthusiasts young and older, bonded together in spirit.

This year, Storytellers of New Mexico partnered with the Larry P. Abraham Agri-Nature Center to bring listeners of all ages to this event on the evening of November 18th. This was a family friendly program that featured stories with themes of nature, farm and food.

The event featured storytellers Joe Hayes, Dianne Rossbach, Elaine Muray, Michelle Adam, and Bob Kanegis. With music by Armando Ortega. It was a wonderful event with over 130 attendees who enjoyed storytelling, food from a local food truck, and s'mores from an open campfire!

It's been said that "The shortest distance between people is a story." This engaging evening was a rare opportunity to enjoy the ancient art of storytelling in the company of family, friends and neighbors. Keep your eyes peeled for next year's TELLEBRATION event!



A Day in the Life...

HIGHLIGHTING THE BEAUTIFUL, THE UNIQUE, THE QUIRKY VILLAGE OF LOS RANCHOS

LOS RANCHOS MATANZA 2023



The Second Annual Village of Los Ranchos Matanza, held on February 25, 2023 was a big, fun festival despite the cloudy weather, with more than 400 people attending! Get ready for the Third Annual Matanza on February 24th. Details on page 27.

Keep Los Ranchos Rural

The background of the entire image is a sunset sky with warm orange and yellow tones. Two birds are captured in flight, one on the left and one on the right, their wings spread. The foreground is filled with the dark silhouettes of bare trees and branches, creating a layered effect against the bright sky.

Protect our
trees, water,
animals, crops,
& neighborhoods

Preserve our Village for wildlife,
agriculture, farm animals, and residents

WomenOfLosRanchos.org

KeepLosRanchosRural@gmail.com

THE REAL ESTATE MARKET



WITH TIM TOURVILLE

Retired and Thinking About Selling Your Home?

Selling your home upon retirement is a question millions of people grapple with. While it might seem logical to scale down when you retire, is it really the best option? Most Villagers I talk to don't want to move out of the Village but can't find something smaller with less maintenance here in Los Ranchos.

There's no "one size fits all" solution for selling your home. Most people will find there are pros and cons to the choice they have to weigh before making a decision.

Pro: Selling Can Give You Retirement Income

If you've worked hard to build equity in your house, selling it could be exactly the step you need to take to ensure a comfortable retirement. Plus, if you've been living in the home consistently in recent years, you may be eligible to shield much of the sale's proceeds from taxation. Check with your tax consultant as you may qualify to sell your primary residence and be exempt from capital gains taxes on the first \$250,000 if you are single and \$500,000 if married filing jointly.

Pro: Selling Means Fewer Recurring Costs

No matter how well-maintained your home is, there will always be costs involved in keeping it running. Your HVAC system, plumbing, electrical wiring, well, and much more can all fail without much warning. By selling, you

avoid all these inevitable challenges of home ownership. Plus, you may find that you can reduce the overall costs of your utilities.

Pro: Selling May Mean More Accessible Accommodations

With age, many people face security and safety concerns they did not have in their youth. One of the most common is the risk of a serious slip and fall, particularly when your home has many stairs or levels. The cost of remodeling a home to make it more comfortable in retirement may be greater than what you are willing to invest from your retirement income.

Pro: Selling May Mean More Flexibility in Retirement

Your desires in retirement might be very different from what you wanted from your home years or decades ago. You might want to move closer to relatives, for example, get into a community more in keeping with your needs, or even move to another country. In all these situations and more, maintaining your home can make it harder for you to focus on and enjoy the present.

Pro: It May Be the Right Time for Selling Your Home

As you probably know, property values in the Village have been appreciating at a significant rate over the last several years. This Seller's Market will not last forever and based on the increase in supply of homes for sale at this time, we may be cycling into a Buyer's Market. We'll see how the supply of Village homes for sale increase as we head into the busy spring and summer seasons. Now is a good time to get your head around selling before we head into the bottom of the next cycle.

Con: Renting May Not Be Worth It

One of the biggest questions about selling is whether it makes financial sense. While your home is appreciating in value, the cost of rent in our Village is rising as well. If you know where you want to live after selling, take a close look at the nearby housing and the financial resources it will take for you to live comfortably there.

Con: Sentimental Value Matters

By the time they reach retirement, many Villagers have spent decades in one home. There's simply no way to put a price on the sentimental value such a property can offer. It may make more sense to keep your home in the family if you consider it an important part of your legacy. This may be a matter to bring up with adult children or others with a close connection to the property.

Ultimately, selling your home is a deeply personal decision. It's best made with input from a real estate professional you can rely on.



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Se habla español



Andrea Maloney

MSN, FNP-BC

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
1026922	7012	Rio Grande	\$3,700,000	7,839	5	5	8	8.06	Ida Kelly Realtors	(505) 888-1000	Channing L Kelly
1024201	7028	Rio Grande	\$2,698,800	LAND				6.8	Berkshire Hathaway NM Prop	(505) 798-6300	Juan F Duran
1039404	5111	Rio Grande	\$2,500,000	7,388	5	6	4	2.65	Keller Williams Realty	(505) 271-8200	Susan C Feil
1040628	7622	Rio Grande	\$2,500,000	2,748	3	2	2	4.24	Sotheby's International Realty	(505) 982-6207	Marsha A Adams
1032914	4900	Rio Grande	\$2,400,000	3,600	3	5	2	6.92	Hanna Commercial, LLC	(505) 332-0522	Richard Hanna
1043317	1600	Padre Roberto	\$1,695,000	6,559	6	5	3	1	Coldwell Banker Legacy	(505) 293-3700	Patricia A Culp
1029433	520	Sandia View	\$1,399,990	LAND				2.72	The M Real Estate Group	(505) 247-1002	Thomas J Mestas
1044468	8421	Guadalupe	\$1,380,000	4,352	4	3	3	1	Keller Williams Realty	(505) 271-8200	Alicia Feil
1039106	8209 A	Guadalupe	\$1,100,000	3,181	3	3	2	2.08	Kate Southard Real Estate	(505) 264-9586	Kate M Southard
1043157	8617	Rio Grande	\$1,100,000	3,118	4	4	2	1.42	Maestas Real Estate Services	(505) 463-3565	Anita Maestas
1042295	1118	El Pueblo	\$899,900	2,282	3	3	0	1.03	The Maez Group	(505) 718-4980	Joseph E Maez
1044308	1122	Ortega Rd NW	\$995,000	3,900	4	5	2	0.7	Keller Williams Realty	(505) 271-8200	Dana Slade
1044277	604	Ortega	\$899,000	3,970	3	5	3	1	Keller Williams Realty	(505) 271-8200	Virginia DiRaddo
1043002	1119	Roadrunner	\$890,000	2,874	4	2	2	1	Simply Real Estate	(505) 308-3800	Christianna Martinez
1043875	825	San Juan	\$659,000	LAND				1	Coldwell Banker Legacy	(505) 293-3700	Suzanne Kinney
1044170	344	La Chamisal	\$499,900	1,819	3	2	2	0.18	Keller Williams Realty	(505) 271-8200	The Baca Group
1027262	1001	Cottonwood	\$495,000	LAND				1.52	The Maez Group	(505) 718-4980	Joseph E Maez
1027246	7220	Zia View	\$299,000	LAND				0.56	Absolute Real Estate	(505) 681-8578	Leola V Robledo
1027247	7201	Zia View	\$299,000	LAND				0.55	Absolute Real Estate	(505) 681-8578	Leola V Robledo
1027248	7200	Zia View	\$299,000	LAND				0.56	Absolute Real Estate	(505) 681-8578	Leola V Robledo
1027249	7221	Zia View	\$299,000	LAND				0.55	Absolute Real Estate	(505) 681-8578	Leola V Robledo

The information herein is deemed reliable, but not guaranteed from SWMLS compiled on or before December 1, 2023 by Tim Tourville, Coldwell Banker Legacy.

CITIZENS'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

By Robert Chavez, Chair 12/04/23

For over a year, the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) has been working to propose edits to Village Ordinance 284: Conservation Development Pilot Projects. Mayor Lopez formed the Committee following a public meeting at the Agri-Nature Center on September 8, 2022 where participants called for more citizen participation and a reexamination of housing density in the C-1 Commercial and VC Village Center Zones, as well as a review of the Pilot Conservation Ordinance.

The CAC's first task was to review the C-1 Commercial Zone and propose changes to the allowed residential density. The Committee presented its recommendations to the Planning and Zoning Commission on February 14, 2023. The proposed text amendments were advertised at the March 8, 2023, Board of Trustees meeting, and adopted at the April 12, 2023 meeting via Ordinance No. 294.

The Committee then turned its focus to the Conservation Development Ordinance, which is currently under a moratorium.

WHAT IS A CONSERVATION SUBDIVISION?

Typical features of conservation subdivisions are houses clustered closer together than they otherwise would have been, leaving large open space areas. This can result in reduced infrastructure costs and impervious surfaces. It also allows for flexibility to tailor development to the land and preserve natural and cultural features.

ORDINANCE 284

Ordinance 284 was adopted on March 9, 2022 following the adoption of the 2035 Master Plan. Residential Development Goal 8.1 of the Master Plan states, "The goal is to sustain the Village as a semi-rural multigenerational community through residential development in keeping with Village scale and character, in particular the agricultural, historic, and open expanses characteristics of the Village." The Ordinance was aimed at allowing for a different type of housing development that could better cater to aging seniors and younger residents, while preserving open space and preventing over-development.

While the main impetus for editing the ordinance centers on reducing the potential dwelling units allowed in a conservation subdivision based on residents' input, three major aspects of the ordinance the Committee has been focusing on include:

- Eligibility to develop under the Ordinance: Where is it appropriate in the Village to allow conservation subdivisions and should there be a minimum lot size threshold to be eligible
- Conservation area uses: What uses are appropriate within the conserved area of the subdivision
- Density: How much density is appropriate within conservation subdivisions

PUBLIC INPUT ON PROPOSED CHANGES

The CAC held a public meeting on May 4, 2023 to solicit public input. In the months following the meeting, the Committee worked to develop proposed changes to the ordinance based on the public input received at the public meeting and on the input of various stakeholders including residents and developers. The Committee subsequently presented revised proposed edits to the public on November 15, 2023.

The Committee is currently working to respond to the feedback received at the November public meeting, and plans to present their revisions to the public once again on Thursday, February 1, 2024. There will be two meeting times to encourage participation, one at 2 pm and one at 5:30 pm., both at Village Hall. Details on back cover.

If you have any questions or would like to provide input on Ordinance 284, please reach out to Planning and Zoning Director Maida Rubin at mrubin@losranchosnm.gov. For more information about the Citizens Advisory Committee, including meeting agendas and notes, please visit <https://www.losranchosnm.gov/citizens-advisory-committee>.



Welcome to the Village!

The Village of Los Ranchos is proud to welcome and support new businesses that have chosen to make Los Ranchos their base of operation. Some of these are new starts and some have relocated from elsewhere. We urge you to stop by, say hello and make an appointment or a purchase.

Business Name	Address	Type of Business
Acupuncture Care ABQ, LLC	1776 Montano Rd. NW, Suite 6	Acupuncture
Saint Esthetics	6601 4th Street Suite D	Esthetics
Depo Enterprises, LLC	6344 4th Street NW, Suite B	Wholesale Trade
Lavender Lounge, NM	6601 4th Street NW, Suite D	Body Sculpting
Sharp Barbershop, LLC	404 Osuna Rd NW Suite C	Barbershop
Face It-Aesthetics, LLC	6729 4th Street, Suite 5	Med Spa
Pretty Please Esthetics	6729 4th Street NW	Esthetics

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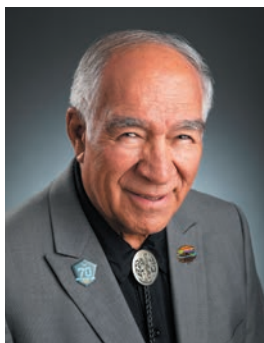


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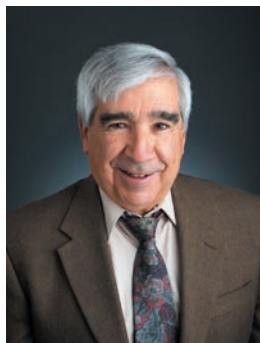
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING SUMMARIES



Donald T. Lopez
Mayor



Sandra Pacheco
Mayor Pro Tem



Gilbert Benavides
Trustee



George Radnovich
Trustee

OCTOBER 11, 2023 7:00PM/Regular Meeting (Draft minutes)*

Location: Warren J. Gray Chambers and streamed on the Village Website and via Zoom
Present: Mayor Donald T. Lopez, Trustee Benavides, Trustee Radnovich, Trustee Pacheco

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments by Loretta Chavez Smith, 536 Chavez Road NW

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

A. Discussion and Approval of the September 2023 Cash Report.

Unusual or Significant Items:

1. The Village paid Bernalillo County \$83,566.00 for FY24 1st half fire protection fund pass-through from the State of New Mexico, check #3000.
2. The Village paid Fidelity National Title \$1,933,263.58 for the purchase of the Anderson Property (5100 Rio Grande Blvd NW), this was paid via two wires to the title company.
3. The Village paid Franken Construction \$34,558.92 for pay app 2 for Agri-Nature center work on outdoor classroom, check #3052.
4. The Village paid JR & Sons Fence Company \$10,880.15 for 50% completion of the pickleball and fencing project at Old Village Hall, check #3059.
5. The Village paid myIT a total of \$25,442.50 for multiple IT services and equipment including: update of our security policy that hadn't been updated since COVID, the purchase of monitors and HDMI extender for Village Chambers, the purchase of a VIBE board for EOC operations, facilitation of &Z and BOT meetings and monthly IT hosting charges, all items are paid via ACH after invoice approval.
6. The Village paid Parametrix \$26,333.76 for 3 projects: Chavez Rd Multi-Use Trail, Chavez Road speed cushion work and VLR Transportation study work, check #3010.
7. The Village paid Stelzner, Winter, Warburton \$57,087.76 for 2 months of general counsel services (August & September), check # 3015 & 3066.

Motion to Approve Cash Report Passed 3-0

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Discussion and Approval to Adopt Ordinance No. 297; An Ordinance Revising Chapter 2 of the Codified Ordinances, Amending Sections 5 & 6, pertaining to Compensation of the Mayor and Trustees.

Attorney Nan clarified that if an appointee is filling the remaining term of a sitting Trustee, the compensation applicable to that term and position would apply.

Motion to Adopt with Added Language Provided by Attorney Nan Passed 3-0

continued on page 46...

* These minutes have not yet been approved as no Board of Trustees meeting was held in November.

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



The sexy way to treat **sleep apnea & snoring**

While it can be scary to receive a **sleep apnea** diagnosis, the good news is that it's treatable. And for most, treatment makes an enormous difference in the way they feel, both mentally and physically.

22 million Americans suffer from **sleep apnea**, a sleep disorder in which your **breathing pauses** for 10 to 20 seconds anywhere from 5 to 100 times per night. Other symptoms: **snoring, morning headaches, daytime drowsiness and headaches.**

OPTISLEEP is a custom-designed oral appliance prescribed by your dentist to treat snoring or mild moderate obstructive **sleep apnea**. It is also recommended for patients with more severe **OSA** who are unable or unwilling to tolerate **CPAP** therapy and/or surgery. The two-piece appliance is designed to prevent apneas by keeping the upper airway open. The lower jaw is moved forward comfortably to relax the tissue at the back of the throat and prevent the base of the tongue from collapsing and blocking the airway.

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Digital design ensures high level of accuracy, no impressions needed.

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90% of patients reported improvements regarding a reduction of snoring and apneas.

Durable

Lightweight and extremely durable material.

Comfortable

Extremely slim design is especially comfortable to wear.

Free Movement

Allows mouth to open and close naturally.

Compact

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING SUMMARIES,* *continued*

B. Discussion and Public Input; Village of Los Ranchos Transportation System Analysis Update. Presented by David Pennington, Parametrix.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion and Approval of Resolution No. 2023-10-01; A Resolution Allowing the Mayor to enter into a Right of Way Use Agreement between the Village of Los Ranchos de Albuquerque with the New Mexico Department of Transportation.

Motion to Approve Passed 3-0

B. Discussion and Approval of Resolution No. 2023-10-02; A Resolution Approving a Third Amendment to the Residential and Commercial Solid Waste and Recycling Collection Services License between the Village of Los Ranchos de Albuquerque, New Mexico and Waste Management of New Mexico, Inc. to address a Recycling Processing Fee.

Motion Passed 2-1 by Roll-Call Vote: Trustee Pacheco-Yes, Trustee Benavides-No, Trustee Radnovich-Yes

C. Discussion and Approval of Amendment No.1 to 4th Street Improvements; Requiring the Village to report to the State of New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration on a quarterly basis regarding project progress.

Motion Passed 3-0

D. Pursuant to § 3-11-6 A. (1) NMSA 1978; Subject to the Approval of a Majority of all members of the Governing Body; The Mayor shall submit the names of employees to the Board of Trustees for confirmation.

a.) Eric McClune; Maintenance Worker I Facilities Maintenance Department

Motion to Confirm Passed 3-0



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



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BUSINESS LICENSE RENEWALS DUE

It is time to renew your business licenses for the 2024 calendar year! You may pay online (recommended) or by mail with a check. In-person payments will not be available.

ONLINE RENEWALS (recommended) at losranchosnm.gov. On the website’s menu bar, hover over “I want to...,” click “Renew My Business License”. From there, you will click the yellow button that reflects your business type and year (e.g. “Commercial Renewal 2023”). Complete the form and go through checkout.

MAIL-IN RENEWALS: Complete the renewal form you will receive in the mail and send filled-out form and check to: Village of Los Ranchos, Attn. Planning & Zoning, 6718 Rio Grande Blvd. NW Los Ranchos, NM 87107 (make checks out to “Village of Los Ranchos,” include your business name and registration number in the memo line. DO NOT SEND CASH).

CLOSED BUSINESSES: Report business closures online, using the mail-in option, or by calling the office.

DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 31, 2023: RENEWALS RECEIVED AFTER 12/31/2023 WILL BE CHARGED A LATE FEE OF \$10.00

Renewals will be processed within 2-3 weeks. Licenses will be sent by email. If you do not receive your business license within 2-3 weeks of payment, please notify our office.

For more information or assistance, please contact Michelle S. Austin, P&Z Administrative Assistant at maustin@losranchosnm.gov or (505) 344-6582.



LandLink New Mexico

connecting farmers and land owners, preserving our agricultural heritage

New Mexico LandLink is a program of the New Mexico State University’s Cooperative Extension Service, is dedicated to bridging the gap between farmers, ranchers, and landowners. Their goal is to connect individuals looking to lease or sell land with those seeking agricultural opportunities. NM LandLink also offers professional support to both producers and landowners.

Check it out at landlinknm.org!

- **Agri-Nature Center Workshops SPRING 2024**
- **Thursday, January 18th 5:30PM**
- *Finding Farmland with LandLink* with Wes Medlock
- **Thursday, January 25th 5:30PM**
- *Homemade Pasta and Sauce* with Dominic Tomba
- **Thursday February 8th 5:30PM**
- *Home Composting Basics* with John Zarola
- **Saturday February 3rd**
- *Butchering Demo, Livestock Mgmt., Rotational Grazing*
- with Joshua O'Halloran and Dominic Tomba
- **Saturday February 24th**
- *Los Ranchos Matanza* – See website for pricing
- **Thursday March 14th 5:30PM**
- *Dahlia Workshop* with Bill Shen
- **Saturday March 9th 9:30AM**
- *Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop* with Dr. Marisa Thompson
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- *All workshops are \$5 unless otherwise stated.*
- *More information and registration at*
- *losranchosnm.gov/agri-workshops/.*

PUBLIC MEETING

Presentation of Proposed Changes to Ordinance 284: Conservation Development Pilot Projects

Thursday, February 1, 2024
Warren J. Gray Chambers@ Village Hall
(6718 Rio Grande Blvd NW, Los Ranchos)

**Two meeting opportunities:
2PM and 5:30PM**

