

# The San Marcos Association High Desert News

FALL 2006



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## COMMUNITY PLAN APPROVED BY SANTA FE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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On September 12, 2006, the Santa Fe Board of County Commissioners held their second public hearing on the proposed San Marcos District Community Plan.

After hearing from a number of individuals, the Board of County Commissioners approved the Plan with the following amendments:

1.) Any residence with a guesthouse must limit the combined water consumption to .25 acre foot per year unless that amount is limited to less water use by other conditions.

2.) Three individual properties, one located on SR45 and the other two on SR14, were granted Mixed Use Zoning. The San Marcos District Planning Committee was not provided an opportunity to comment on these changes that were contrary to the intent of the Plan with respect to limiting commercial development on SR14, the Turquoise Trail.

The next step for the Santa Fe Board of County

Commissioners is to pass an Ordinance based on the Resolution passed on September 12th. In the next few months, the community will be given the chance to review the proposed Ordinance and will be permitted to make comments and suggestions before it goes to the Board of County Commissioners for a vote. It is likely that the Commissioners will consider this Ordinance sometime around January 2007.

If we want to see a more positive and constructive ordinance writing process, then we – as a community – must be more involved and make a stronger showing than was the case with the two public hearings. The Board of County Commissioners was not sure the submitted plan fully reflected the consensus of the community, particularly with respect to the location and size of the mixed-use zone.

Therefore it is extremely important to have as much input and involvement by the community as possible.



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## QUARTERLY WATER REPORT

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Interest in regional water solutions is increasing. A consulting report suggests that today the Rio Grande Reach, from Otowi Gage to Elephant Butte, is deficient with respect to Rio Grande Compact obligations to the tune of 40,000-acre feet in an average year, based on the past fifty years of climate. We all know that our future climate might be less favorable and that the communities along the Rio Grande are rapidly growing. Not only is there a current deficit, we are mining our aquifers to 71,000-acre feet of water. If you add 71,000 feet to 40,000 feet, it appears that we are currently using 111,000-acre feet of water in excess of the sustainable supply. To put that in perspective, the entire water usage in the Galisteo Watershed is less than 1,500-acre feet of water.

The Domestic Well Statute NMSA 1978' 72-12-1.1 (2003), which provides for the granting of domestic well permits, is being attacked from two sides. In the Silver City area, individuals and the San Lorenzo Community Ditch Association are seeking to overturn the law. The plaintiffs

argue that domestic wells impair what they consider to be more legitimate water rights.

Conversely, a large group of governmental and quasi-governmental entities north of Santa Fe County are taking the opposite position. They argue that recent changes made by the State Engineer are not valid because they were made administratively, rather than by the NM Legislature. These changes had limited new domestic wells to one-acre foot per year, (approximately 900 gallons per day), with lower limits for declared domestic well management areas.

Who knows where this fight is going, but it is likely there will be increasing pressure on the use of domestic well permits in order to facilitate growth in a major part of the San Marcos Area.

If you have any questions, please email [ssilber1@juno.com](mailto:ssilber1@juno.com).

by *SIGMUND SILBER*

# SAN MARCOS DISTRICT HISTORY: Chapter 2

## From 1890 to the early 1930's

After the mining boom in Cerrillos Hills collapsed in the late 1890's, most people who lived in the area between Santa Fe and Cerrillos reverted to a centuries old pattern of ranching and farming. By 1900 only a few of the more than 2000 mining claims were still actively being pursued. Cerrillos had shrunk from its boomtown high of about 2500 people to less than 500 souls.

In 1872, Government surveyors opened up much of the lands within the San Marcos District to homesteaders. The surveyors' hand written notes indicate that no one was living in the area east of the mining district. Until about 1932 State Road 10 ran north from Golden up the Tuerto arroyo between Lone Mountain and Captain Davis Mountain and on the Ortiz Mountains to Dolores. From Dolores the route went down what we now call Gold Mine Road to Cerrillos. It continued north from Cerrillos up the Arroyo de las Minas to Carbonateville, continued north (this stretch duplicating a small part of modern CR 45) to Bonanza City, north from Bonanza City between Cerro de la Cruz on the west and Los Cerrillos (the original little hills) on the right, in a long run (now partly under I-25) to the Plaza. The route close to downtown Santa Fe followed what is now Cerrillos Road.

From the late 1890's through the early years of the twentieth century, at least 20 to 30 homestead claims of 160 acres or more were proven in the San Marcos District. For example, John Dody moved west by covered wagon around 1900 and settled on a section of land just northwest of the current site of the Turquoise Trail Elementary School. Just south of there, Dody's niece and her husband Mr. Morrow, built a similar homestead. For a short period of time the Morrrows raised foxes on this property. The Morrow homestead windmill can still be seen west of the school.

Probably one of the earliest homesteaders to the San Marcos District was Thomas Whalan. Born in Ireland in 1842, he immigrated to the US in 1866 and spent the rest of his life pretty much digging holes in the Cerrillos Hills. He named one of his claims the "Maid of Erin" and worked for McNulty at Turquoise Hill as late as 1907. In 1892 he patented 160 acres along the Gallina Creek, just south of the current Bonanza Creek Road, and extending west to "Picture Rock". He built a two-room rock house and dug two wells on the property.

According to Leo Dillenschneider, who owned the homestead fifty years later, Whalan transported water from these wells to Carbonateville and other mining claims in the Cerrillos Hills. One hundred and twelve years later,

Whalan's house still stands. Much enlarged over the years, it is the current residence of Curt and Polly Schaafsma. It is arguably the oldest continually occupied house in the District.

Otto Zeigler patented 160 acres in 1891 adjacent to Whalan and may have bought Whalan's property in the mid 1890's. Charley Keesoff owned the now 320 acre property in the 1930's and probably operated it as a farm. Frank Calvin, a Bishop's Lodge wrangler in the late 1920s and 1930's, homesteaded lands within the vicinity of the Turquoise Trail Fire Department buildings. And in 1926 Joseph Byrne procured the 640 acre homestead that would become the Synergia Ranch.

Between 1920 And 1930, many of these holdings were cobbled together to form larger ranches. The Mocho brothers, native Basques, created what would one day be called the Jarrett Ranch. The Dody, Morrow, and Calvin holdings eventually were absorbed by the Jarrett ranch. The Great Depression probably encouraged this consolidation.

*compiled by WALTER WAIT*

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# INTRODUCING:

## San Marcos Resident JAMES HOLMES

Master Carpenter,  
Ambidextrous Sculptor,  
Horseman, and Musician



James lives in a house on CR 45 that he and his wife Susan recently built. They met playing a benefit concert in Kansas where Susan played bass with “The Stringers” and James played rhythm guitar with “Billy Joe Hunsinger and the Lonesome Hobos”.

Susan still plays bass and now James sculpts.

His sculptures are “Art in Life” as he puts it. Each piece tells a story or an event in his life. Some represent political viewpoints, an idea, or a personal commentary. He works in mixed media: wood, metals, and linoleum. His work is meticulous and powerful and reflects his life’s journey within each of them. It has been quite a colorful life.

He got his BFA and Masters in Chicago and Wichita. John Fincher introduced him to 3-D art and became his mentor. A sculptor was born.

He has worked as Construction Manager for Cristo, the famous installation artist, dangling out of helicopters while installing 1700 miles of umbrellas in California. He has made cowboy boots, played in bands, been a teacher, is still a cabinet maker, and has sold his sculptures in Chicago, Wichita, Nashville, and places beyond.

New Mexico, and the San Marcos area in particular, inspire his work and his life. “I feel like a tourist when I go in to Santa Fe,” he says. He likes the way people are real out here and don’t put on “airs”.

Although James has sold his work elsewhere, he says Santa Fe is a tough market. But, he adds, “I’ve been sculpting for 35 years and I ain’t quitting now”.

James looked at me as I left him standing on his porch with his two dogs by his feet and his two horses in the corral behind him. “I’m not rich,” he said, “but I’m rich in here,” and he tapped his heart with his hand.

Darn right, James.

by ARCHIE TEW

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Guided tours will be available to behold it’s natural beauty. We’ll get your feet wet when it comes to discovering and demystifying the life cycle of some of our precious wetlands. Those who dare to trek into the future will explore the proposed path of the new Rail Runner Train system planned for New Mexico. There will be opportunities to seek and conquer the formidable task of serious retail and gallery shopping while savoring the flavors and smells along the Turquoise Trail. These experiences and so much more await you. Please join us!

For further details, email [ssilber1@juno.com](mailto:ssilber1@juno.com), log on to [www.sanmarcosassociation.org](http://www.sanmarcosassociation.org), or call 473.7006.

by RAQUEL CASILLAS-HUGHES

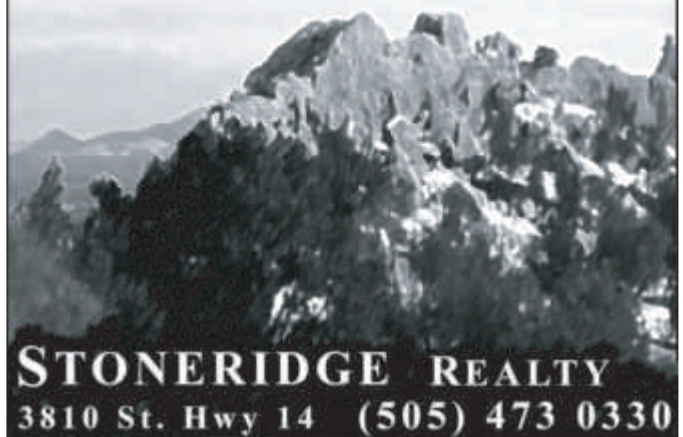
*The San Marcos Association High Desert News*  
is published by

The San Marcos Association  
PO Box 722, Cerrillos, NM 87010-0722

Meetings of the Association are announced on the website:  
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