

# San Marcos Association Newsletter

February

2000

## Camino Los Abuelos

is the new name of County Road 42. As of January 27, the E911 office of the Santa Fe County government made the choice. The point of the E911 program is to allow any emergency or delivery vehicles to reach you quickly knowing only your address. Your street number tells how far from the end of the road you are, and which side of the road you are on.

In February of 1998, all residents of CR42 were notified that the road had to receive a name to comply with the federal E911 regulations. The notice stated that the residents had ten days to confer and submit names and that the county would name the road after ten days, if there was no agreed name picked by the residents. Not wishing to alienate anyone, the county took some time to follow through. After a year and a half, there were various offers to poll the residents and create a name. There was a "catch 22": the County could not give out the names of the residents who would have had to agree on a name.

At this point (November '99) the task was transferred to the E911 office from the County Roads office. Once the task got to the top of their list, that office took only a week to act.

Federal regulations do not allow numbers in road names. They require roads to have the same name from one end to the other. They strongly suggest that any similarity/confusion between the names of different roads be minimized, and that none be misleading.

Because of these rules, neither of the usually used names (Galisteo Road or Madrid Road) could be allowed — each name is misleading from the wrong end of the road. The name Mad-Gal Road was thought to be controversial. Madrigal Road was considered and rejected.

Abuelos means grandparents or ancestors or forbears. Because this road had been heavily used in past times by past generations, this name was selected. Those grandparents living on the road might be particularly pleased.

The County will report the name change to the Post Office, which will communicate with residents about the address changes. The CR42 designation will remain for map/route numbering purposes.

## New Fire Station

The County Commissioners have approved the exchange of one acre of donated property near the Turquoise Trail Elementary School for a 2.2 acre piece at the intersection of Turquoise Trail Court and SR 14 for a new fire station.

The donated single acre was too far from the existing fire station to adequately serve the developing residences and would have impacted insurance fees to the residents. Federal and state regulations suggest fire stations approximately five miles apart for most effective service.

Construction, expected this Spring, will begin after deed exchange and presentation to the County Development Review Committee and the County Commission. Building plans will have to go through all authorities for review.

H.B.

## NOTICE!

### San Marcos Association annual general meeting.

Thursday, February 17<sup>th</sup> 2000, 7:30 PM, at the Turquoise Trail Elementary School. Come and elect new officers. Meet our state representative: Rhonda S. King. Discuss concerns with board members.

## Cerrillos Hills Historic Park: An Update

As many of you know, the opportunity for Santa Fe County to create a new park in the Cerrillos Hills arose through the successful 1998 Santa Fe County Wildlife, Mountains, Trails and Historic Places Open Space Bond that directed the County Commissioners to spend \$12 million over four years on the acquisition of open space and trails within the county. The commissioners appointed the County Open Land and Trails Planning and Advisory Committee [COLTPAC], thirty citizens of varying professions and interests from all parts of the county, to accept proposals from the public, evaluate them and make recommendations for purchase to the County Commissioners.

Nearly 1200 acres of land in the Cerrillos Hills having come on the market, the all-volunteer Cerrillos Hills Park Coalition [CHPC] was formed by a group of concerned area citizens who wanted to protect this important tract of open space in the Hills from sub-division and development. Much of the effort of the CHPC's first year, 1999, focused on creating a viable organization, formulating a plan for the proposed park and educating the public and the County Commissioners about the historic significance of the Cerrillos Hills and the need to preserve them for public use. The CHPC is now incorporated in New Mexico and its application for non-profit status is pending with the IRS.

The Cerrillos Hills, with their distinctive profile southwest of Santa Fe, form a visual landmark for most residents of northern New Mexico as well as visitors to the area. The creation of the new park in these hills offers a unique opportunity to preserve one of the Southwest's important archaeological, historic, cultural, and scenic places, while making it available to people – for recreation and outdoor activities of many kinds.

In September 1999, the land for the Cerrillos Hills Historic Park was one of only three projects given advance recommendation for purchase by members of COLTPAC, scoring second among 28 submitted projects in meeting COLTPAC criteria, which were designed to meet long-range open space planning needs of the county. On September 28, the Santa Fe County Commissioners then approved the recommendation of COLTPAC to purchase 1100 acres in the center of the Cerrillos Hills in order to create the new park.

By the end of January 2000, appropriate survey, negotiations and purchase of two of the three core properties comprising this acreage were completed and clos-

ing on the third is anticipated shortly. As many of you know, significant BLM and State lands are adjacent to the park land. A countywide hiking, biking and equestrian trail system, soon to be under study by a consultant also funded by the Open Space Bond money, will ultimately link to the trails in the Cerrillos Hills Historic Park. This all represents an important part of the broader effort to preserve open space, traditional landscapes, and recreational trails in the rapidly developing, greater Santa Fe area.

Working together, the Santa Fe County Land Use Department and Coalition members, with the generous assistance of the National Park Service Rivers and Trails people and with the cooperation of a number of state and local specialists, are developing a management plan for the new park and its trail system. Its focus is to successfully take this open space and create a working park with modest infrastructure and expanded recreational and educational possibilities. The mining history alone presents a unique learning opportunity. The general consensus is that as a County park, it should be accessible to the public, but that recreation should be low-impact and traditional, and that great care should be taken to secure sensitive cultural, archaeological and historic sites.

The Cerrillos Hills Park Coalition welcomes the ideas and suggestions of all the residents and landowners of this neighborhood. It also welcomes – and will need – the help of more interested volunteers to participate both in program and the responsible stewardship of the park. Please get in touch with the Coalition at P.O. Box 191, Cerrillos, NM 87010 or visit its website at <http://www.CerrillosHills.org>. There are, by the way, on the website, some fine photographs of sites in the Hills taken during the Anglo-era mining boom of the 1880's and provided to the Coalition by Homer Milford, of the NM Abandoned Mines Land Bureau.

L.M.

## Highway litter!

Unfortunately, we still have no snow to hide the litter in front of most properties! Please go out and pick up the trash on the right-of-way. SMA again will be out in late Spring to have our comprehensive clean-up. Come and help! A big “thank you” to the Board Members and residents who frequently come out every year to keep the Turquoise Trail clean and scenic.

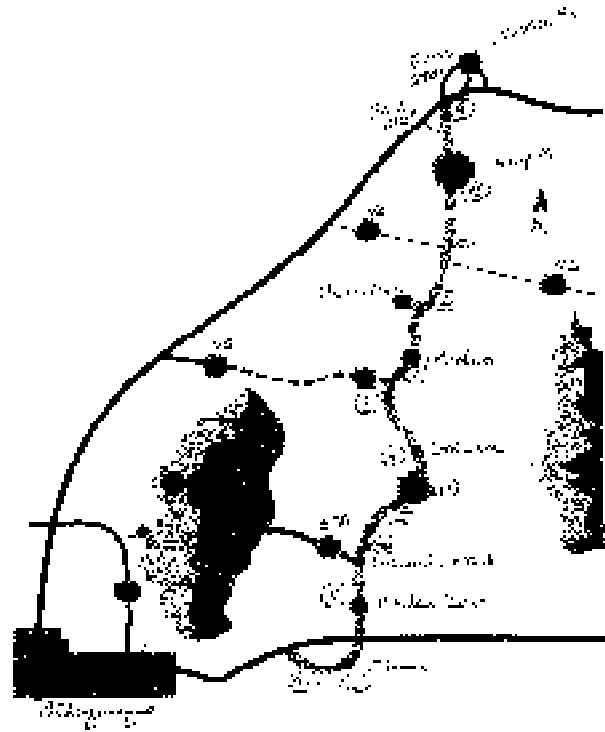
H.B.

## For Your Information:

### Possible Locations for State, State-Byway Logo Signs on the Turquoise Trail

Driving south from Santa Fe on NM 14, the following locations are suggested, though not in order of priority. Refer to the enclosed map.

- A. NM 14 south bound just past I-25 exit ramp to Las Vegas, west side of road, there is a brown and white Turquoise Trail sign. 5 miles north of mile marker 40. Set odometer to 0.0. Recommend one sign on post already installed.
- B. Junction 599 – traffic signal, East Side of road. There is a Turquoise Trail with a double arrow sign there. Recommend one sign on post already installed.
- C. Odometer 8.8 – Intersection with Santa Fe County road 45 east and 44 (Shenandoah Trail) west, just north of Lone Butte gas station and Whiskey and Dove Café. Recommend 2 more signs on both side of road.
- D. Odometer 11.8 – west side of I-4, top of Hill, "wide open" curve 40 mph sign. Just north of mile marker 35. Recommend one double sided sign.
- F. Odometer 18.6 – Turquoise Trail sign, west side of road, southern border of Madrid. Recommend one sign on post already installed.
- H. Odometer 24.3 – Road to I-25, north of mile marker 23. Recommend metal one sign by green and white Madrid/Golden sign.
- G. Odometer 30.5 – South of Golden, east side of road, 2 miles north of mile marker 10. Recommend a double-sided sign.
- H. Odometer 31.0 – Junction 544, on Albuquerque/Santa Fe sign. Recommend one sign on post already installed.
- I. Odometer 40.0 – Pecos, west side of road, double-sided.
- J. Intersection of NM 14 and NM 586 (need recommendation from NMS&TD on best location).
- K. Mile Marker 4, West Side of road, recommend a double-sided sign.
- L. I-40 west bound, Tijera Exit.
- M. I-40 east bound, Tijera Exit.



## Ortiz Mining Talk

The Santa Fe Botanical Garden is presenting a talk by geologist Dr. Art Montana. He will give an overview of the mining history of the Ortiz Mountains and related environmental issues. He will also talk about the soon-to-be released donation of 1300 acres to SFBG. The talk is Sunday, February 20, 2-4pm, SFCC Room 318. It is free to SFBG members and \$5.00 for non-members. Call 428-1684 to sign up.

## Old Prison News!!

Just in case you have not read it in the newspaper, let us bring you up to date on the proposed development for the old place.

Cornell Corrections is proposing to spend \$25 million to rehabilitate the main facility – closed for some years – to house up to 1900 non-citizen inmates waiting to be deported to their respective home countries. The inmates will be fellows with minor convictions, most of them drug offenders, however “...low risk prisoners could be dangerous causing problems during escapes...”, admitted the Vice President of Cornell Corrections. They will add an alarm system around the double fence promising better security.

The company hopes to contract with the Federal Bureau of Prisons and is promising Santa Fe County, a partner in the deal, possible revenues of \$2 million, 260 jobs with a payroll of \$7.5 million per year. The deal is not sealed. We will report on it as things develop.

H.B.

## SMA Welcomes New Store Owners

Our Loan Butte General Store is getting a major facelift, inside and out. Judging by the number of customers going in and out, it has become a much used store for our residents.

The store’s inventory is more complete than I have seen in years. Imported and domestic beers and full wine racks complement the deli purchase you might make to save cooking at home. The lowering of the gasoline prices is also appreciated.

Naresh Gupta informed me that the restaurant will open in about three weeks and will serve India food buffet-style all day long, seven days a week.

Welcome to Nitin Bhukta–, the new owner, and all the staff working hard to make it a true neighborhood experience.

H.B.

## SR 14, All American Road

The Turquoise Trail Association, made up of businesses along the Turquoise Trail from I 25 in the north to I 40 in the south, applied for federal grants to protect and appropriately develop trade, tourism information and recreational possibilities for the highway.

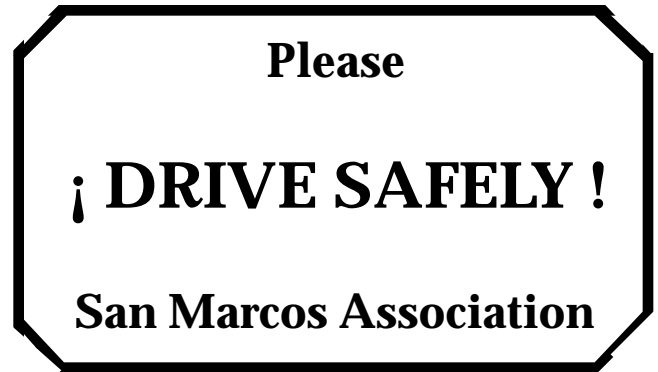
The federal government received 24 applications for funding from New Mexico, and granted only 9. Of these, 3 were awarded to the Turquoise Trail Association totaling \$240,000. It is quite an accomplishment for the group. If you would like to know more, a copy of the plans is available at the Santa Fe Library.

H.B.

## County Detention Lighting

Have you noticed, as you drive home from Santa Fe, that the offensive lighting at the county detention center is noticeably dimmer? Much better than the state facilities which still are glaring their lights upward and outward without regard to the light pollution they cause! Do we need to petition to have the lighting changed? Bring your ideas to the general meeting on February 17<sup>th</sup>.

H.B.



The San Marcos Association is considering placing a sign in the area of the Loan Butte store for south bound traffic, and one below the Galisteo turn-off (Camino Los Abuelos) for north bound viewing. We wish to inform everyone that we are concerned and trying to protect our area.

We invite anyone who is able to create such a sign to put in a bid at the SMA general meeting. We would prefer to to keep the work for someone in the San Marcos area.

H.B.

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The SMA is seeking to expand representation on its Board of Directors. All members are eligible. If you have the interest and the time to help work for and guide this organization, please call Fritz Ireland at 438-0108

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## 2000 Membership Form

Your membership in the San Marcos Association is needed to lend "clout" to our representation of the common interests of all of us who own property or reside in the area. You may be active or passive according to your interest. Please join us.

Yes, I want to become a member of SMA  or renew my membership  (please check one).

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose \$10.00 in check or money order and send to:

**San Marcos Association**  
**263 CR 42**  
**Santa Fe, NM 87505**