



# San Marcos Association Newsletter

July

2001

## The Last WAP Hearing - we hope!

The place is the Commission Chambers in the County building. The date is **August 14**. The old July 10 date was tabled at the 11th hour. Please be there and be there early. The meeting starts at 4:00 and the WAP should be taken up not too long after that. The problem is: J. R. Hale is expected to, again, transport employees from outside the county to pack the hearing chamber. This happened at the C.D.R.C. meeting, and is rumored to be in the works to happen again.

If there are any out there who do not yet know, J.R.Hale has proposed the spot re-zoning of land into a mining district (the Waldo Aggregate Project: WAP). This land is right next to the Traditional Village of Cerrillos and the new Cerrillos Hills Historic Park. It is in a Resource Protection Zone - as defined by the Open Spaces and Trails Plan of the County. The problem is that the County did not enact an ordinance putting intent and "teeth" into the creation of these Resource Protection Zones. It is up to the individual Community or District Plans to bring ordinance protection to such areas by defining what each area thinks the appropriate uses of such areas are.

The "Catch 22" here is that the Planning Department is staffed so thinly that it could now be years before a planner might be assigned to the San Marcos District (or Contemporary Community) Planning effort. It is not that a planner is requested or required by the enabling ordinance; it is that there seems to be resistance to allowing the planning effort to go forward without the assistance and oversight of a Department Planner.

In short, had we been on the ball and begun this planning two years ago, before there was a line eight items long waiting for a planner, we would probably not be having the WAP problem now. One would expect that there would be uses defined for Resource Protection Zones immediately next to a County Park and a Traditional Village which would preclude the possibility of placing a dirt, dust and noise belching operation from doing considerable harm to the area.

The health and welfare of the people in the rapidly expanding surrounding residential area are at risk. It is unthinkable that after being properly denied by the C.D.R.C. the Commission might go against all staff recommendations and vote to allow this project to go forward. But anything can happen, and your physical presence is important!

The proposal by J. R. Hale is full of such disingenuous and reality-skirting content, it is a wonder they received any positive attention from any County official.

One problem is that the area including the County's new Cerrillos Hills Historic Park is known as an Historic Mining District. Whether some people just do not understand that word: "historic", or just do not want to understand is uncertain. J. R. Hale, in their proposal, sites this as a reason that a new mining operation would be appropriate in this area.

Maybe they just don't get it. Being an Historic Mining District does not mean that this is an area (now residential and developing open spaces) in which there should now be mining. It means that this is an area in which mining is history!

**Do not forget -- AUGUST 14th.**

## Our Scenic Byway -again

The Turquoise Trail rebuild from Lone Butte to Madrid is still crazy after all these years. There has been much effort and some good agreement from both sides. The Citizen's Advisory Committee has learned what the official thinking is on what makes roads safe. Highway professionals have learned what people want by way of visual effect in their scenic byways.

While some citizens started out wanting a wider, faster road, those who have educated themselves with this process have mostly changed their minds. Not only do such roads increase speed and reduce commercial activity of the type our community favors, they also greatly increase utilization - traffic. We have yet to meet anyone who wants to see the number of cars using the Trail double within the next few years. Such a response is a common result of constant road development.

It has been agreed that the kind of leveling and straightening which typifies the section of the Trail north of Lone Butte will generally not happen to the south. There has been agreement on speeds and on the width of a shoulder - only 4 feet paved. These are each a balance between the desires of bicyclists, motorists and those who have driveways which open directly onto the Trail.

There has been agreement to have the width of most of the road kept to 11 feet of marked driving lane and to have the shoulder paved in a lighter color in order to give the visual impression of a more natural way and to minimize the feel of a wider road which would encourage greater speeds.

The State Highway web page on scenic byways says: "Various roads throughout New Mexico are nominated for designation as Scenic Byways by communities interested in maintaining a balance between preservation

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and development of their roadways.” Of course the Turquoise Trail is listed. It is that balance between preservation and development which is so hard to achieve.

It is harder these days because details of road design are decided by a highway department’s consultant’s computer rules which reflect only the latest “development” thinking and know nothing of preservation.

It is still a fight to keep the section being rebuilt from being designed with too much “development” and becoming the most overbuilt section of the Trail in the County.

## The Community Plan

We would like to report on the progress of the planning effort, but as you may have noticed on the front page, there is not much.

We do have general agreement as to the need for this particular planning effort. The San Marcos area is mentioned in the General Plan. It is a Contemporary Community which has long been recognized as needing some structure and planning. Unfortunately, there seems to be no priority (other than the date one gets on the list) set for the relative importance of planning activity.

Our County Commissioner, Javier Gonzales, has met with us and committed to various other steps to help move the process along. Unfortunately, Javier is extremely busy, and has many demands on his time. He was unable to attend the meeting we had with the head of planning, Jack Kolkmeier, and has been in D.C. much of the last month. Those of you who receive his weekly email newsletter will have read of his activities there. If you do not receive his newsletter, and would like to: contact Terry Brunner at [tbrunner@co.santa-fe.nm.us](mailto:tbrunner@co.santa-fe.nm.us) or call him at 995-2760.

In any case, we have been in close touch with Javier and with his assistant (the above Terry Brunner) and have hopes that things will progress over the Summer so that official recognition of the San Marcos District area and the Planning Committee may take place quickly in early September.

We have been in touch with various people who have expressed interest and willingness to work on the Planning Committee. If you have a like interest, please contact us by regular mail or email. We anticipate a meeting in early September with Javier and the interested parties from the various smaller communities which make up the San Marcos District. While we already have people from most areas, it would be good to have as much representation and back up as there is interest.

In case you have missed earlier articles, the idea of the plan is to shape the critical elements of our area to assure the ability to meet future needs and to protect the quality of life which attracted us to be here. In our case, the critical elements include: our roads (most centrally, the Turquoise Trail); water availability and use; growth rate and density; planning for commercial growth the community will need as it grows; various noise, light and sight considerations; and any ordinances needed to give meaning to Resource Protection areas and Open Spaces which are either already defined or may come into being. There are certainly other things to consider, but these are the ones which seem to get the most attention.

## San Marcos Association Auction

The First Annual San Marcos Association Auction will take place on Saturday, September 29. Bidder registration and viewing of the items to be auctioned will begin at 9:00 A.M. The Auction will start at 10:00 A.M.

The place is outside at the Trail Grill. Buzz has very kindly allowed us to use his space. There should be ample area to park cars and to hold the people and items for Auction. For the three of you who have not yet been to the Trail Grill: it is across from the Lone Butte store, just south of the County Road 44 and 45 intersection with the Turquoise Trail.

This is to be a general Auction of all types of items. We are looking to you to donate the items to be auctioned. We anticipate there will be furniture, appliances, household items, works of art, gift certificates, meals at restaurants, surplus cars and boats, etc. We have set up a special charity fund to benefit from the sale of items donated by those of you who itemize your tax deductions and would wish a receipt for the auctioned value of the donated item.

We will start picking up items on September 10. We will be glad to receive your calls or emails from today on. Contact us to get on the list for pick up. Let us know what you have to donate, so we will know how large a moving van to send. If you call, please be ready to leave a message on an answering machine. The most important information to leave is your name, telephone number and the time you may be reached at that number.

If you email, please tell us: name; address; items; if two people will be needed to move things; when things may be picked up; and your telephone number to call before arriving for the pick up.

The email address is:

**[auction@sanmarcosassociation.org](mailto:auction@sanmarcosassociation.org)**

Telephone numbers are: (from now through Sept.) 471-7557; 471-0645; 473-1572; and (only after September 10) 438-7784.

We must, of course, reserve the right not to take items which we think will not sell. This is a call from us to you to help your organization and to create a fun time for the community. It is not a way to avoid a trip to the dump.

If any of you own or work at a place which might be willing to donate an item to the Auction, please let us know. Gift certificates, two for one meals, cut rate well drilling or other services, along with any like ideas are all very welcome.

If your San Marcos area organization would like to have a presence at this event, please contact us. We would anticipate that the San Marcos Studio Tour Artists might be there with maps and information (see top of next page). There might even be an item or two in the Auction to give you an idea of what they will have available the next weekend. Come and have fun - and even make a bid.

## San Marcos Studio Tour

Twelve San Marcos Studio Tour Artists will be among the 150 Northern New Mexico Artists' Studio Tour Association members being shown at the Capital July 20 - September 14. Works are to be in the Governor's Gallery on the fourth floor and the east wing of the Rotunda on the second floor. The public reception will be July 20 from 4 - 6 p.m.

The **Fifth Annual San Marcos Studio Tour** will be 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. on October 6-7 (Sat. & Sun.) Mark your calendars; invite friends. The San Marcos Cafe and the Loan Butte store are sponsors, and will have information and maps available for the event.

## The Web Site & email addresses

Your San Marcos Association has a web site:  
[www.sanmarcosassociation.org](http://www.sanmarcosassociation.org)

We post various items of interest there, as well as back issues of the newsletter and various links that might be of interest to people in the area.

We hope that local artists and businesses will take advantage of free space available on our pages. We will create a page for any interested San Marcos area activity. You can have an address on the web! And, yes - it's free! Another service of your organization.

We also keep a mailing list to keep members' (and others who send in their email addresses - even with no dues - bad form 'though that may be) email addresses to which we send information up-dates about what is happening.

Email addresses are much harder to get right than phone numbers or even physical addresses. Even though all of you have wonderful hand writing, and most do print when filling out our membership form, we cannot get all of the email addresses to work. Following is a short list of email addresses which have "bounced" as bad. If you recognize what should be your address, please send a message to: [add@sanmarcosassociation.org](mailto:add@sanmarcosassociation.org). We will correct your address, and you will start receiving the few general mailings we send.

[cave1@worldnet.att.net](mailto:cave1@worldnet.att.net)  
[becta16650@aol.com](mailto:becta16650@aol.com)  
[hzcapp@earthlink.net](mailto:hzcapp@earthlink.net)  
[pwllassak@netscape.net](mailto:pwllassak@netscape.net)  
[wek@cybermesa.com](mailto:wek@cybermesa.com)

## Ortiz Mountain Health Center

This facility, next to the Post Office in Cerrillos, provides truly excellent medical coverage. They are reliable and prompt. They are affordable for all! Those who have insurance (or a LOT of money) pay full price. Others are seen on a sliding scale. If we do not use this facility we may lose it. For more information, please call: 471-6266 and ask for Jane or you can email at: [LuAnn.Wosick@pmsnet.org](mailto:LuAnn.Wosick@pmsnet.org).

**The San Marcos Newsletter** is published by The San Marcos Association, P. O. Box 722, Cerrillos NM 87010. Contributor articles are signed; those by the editor are not. Meetings of the Association are announced on the web site. The next Board meeting is July 19 at The Trail Grill. The public is welcome.

Directors, Officers and editors are listed below:

Donna Herring - President	Alexis Higginbotham
Walter Wait - Vice President	Bill Good
Virginia Eldridge- Secretary	Reneé Ingold
Hugh Nazor - Treasurer - Editor	Bill Rodriguez
Linda Murnik - Copy Editor	Archie Tew

## PLEASE!

We hate to beg - but we have to. Many of you have filled out the membership form (on the back of the newsletter). Even more of you have not. We are a little like public television. We want to do what we are doing whether you join or not. It just gets hard to do at times.

As you can see from this issue, there are many things going on which will effect your quality of life and that of your neighbors. Your Association is working on your behalf in all of these issues. We listen to you; we try to inform you. We represent your interests to government, to public utilities and to business. To date, all of our funding has come from the very small membership dues we receive.

As has been said in past newsletters, things are changing. We no longer stuff 750 newsletters into mail boxes (it was never legal). We now mail 1,700 newsletters to people from I-25 down to CR55 and 55A. This is expensive, but there is no alternative. We must reach those who do not have email addresses or do not give us the address even if they have one. We are here to serve the entire population of the area, not just those who become members.

Whether you choose to become a member or not, please come to the Auction and please do consider contributing some items to be sold there.

## Local Growth

There are now some 100 dwellings on Gold Mine Road. Within the next five years we may expect that to be about 250. The platted subdivision of the Montoya's is on 40+ acre lots, but it is very large, and there are a lot of lots. The land is good, water seems to be available, and they will sell. This is not the only land for sale in that area, it is just the largest piece.

When and how the unsubdivided land along Waldo Road and in other spots in the area will be developed is less certain. What does seem certain is that it will happen and with increased speed.

The County has done a great job of providing open spaces within the area. It must start to do what is necessary to get under way the local planning which we will need to manage this growth before it overtakes us.

**The San Marcos Association**  
**P.O. Box 722**  
**Cerrillos, NM 87010-0722**

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(please cut at dotted line and mail with payment)  
**Membership** is open to any resident/property owner

in the San Marcos area.

Please know that all the funds of The San Marcos Association come from your annual dues. 2001 dues are \$15 per person or \$25 for a household membership. The mailing of the newsletter is a considerable expense, and the Association does need your dues as well as your involvement.

If your year 2001 dues are owing, please send a check to **The San Marcos Association, P. O. Box 722, Cerrillos, NM 87010-0722**. Please fill in and include this form.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_  
please print

Particular concerns: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you**, your support adds to the "clout" of the organization as well as to its ability to fund its activities.

## Area Growth

The San Marcos Area is slated for considerable growth in the decades ahead. There are several studies which show the expected growth of planned communities and of sprawl. One of the more graphic was a study by a Colorado university which showed the expected growth from Albuquerque to Santa Fe. It continued through 2050.

The surprising thing is that the growth is not along I-25. It cannot be, because that is Pueblo land. The two cities grow together along the Turquoise Trail - State Highway 14. One can already see the start of communities north of Cedar Crest. There is a limit to the mindless use of water resources on such developments as golf courses, but planning to date would not reflect that fact.

The ultimate need for a road or roads connecting the Trail to I-25 is clear. Recent studies about a road well south of Madrid have concluded the need is too far in the future to act now. It is never too early to start planning to take such roads into account when planning the other developments in the area.

If this planning is not done, the Turquoise Trail will have to take the resultant traffic, and we will lose our scenic byway. It is uncertain whether the federal and state designations would be removed, but the multi-laned highway needed to carry all the traffic would be no kind of byway at all.