

High Desert News

WELCOME!

The San Marcos Association Board of Directors would like to thank you for adding your name to our membership list. Having a current membership list allows the board to better serve the San Marcos Area in its dealings with Santa Fe County Leadership.

It also allows the board to communicate directly with you.

As you may already know, the SMA has strived to preserve our “rural lifestyle” for over thirty years. During that period we have provided newsletters and information to our neighborhoods, assisted in the development of County plans and ordinances, and provided a voice for the community.

Unfortunately, we discontinued the newsletter this past year due to budgetary constraints. We replaced it with our website (www.sanmarcosassociation.org) and a Facebook page (www.facebook.com/sanmarcosassn).

In the future, however, we expect to mail newsletters to our members (membership is free, by the way), trusting that you’ll share them with neighbors and friends. This News Sheet is our first such mailing.

Once again, the Board would like to welcome you to the San Marcos Association.

Changes in the SMA Board

At the Feb. 2014 annual meeting, the membership elected Walter Wait to serve another term as President, Les Hancock as Vice President, Isolde Wait as Secretary and Gail Buono as Treasurer. Outgoing VP Alexis Higginbotham and Treasurer Archie Tew, who spent many years at their respective posts, felt that the positions should be taken up by other board members. They remain as board members after jobs well done.

Strip Mining on La Bajada Mesa

The SMA board has been actively involved in fighting a proposed strip mine on La Bajada Mesa. We have provided both written comments to the County and financial support to the primary anti-mining organization that is driving the community response. Our letters to the County can be viewed on our website.

Have You Received Your “Zoning” letter yet?

The County has begun to send out notifications to all property owners in Santa Fe County assigning base zoning to every land parcel. If you are a property owner, you should have one by now. If not, we advise you to contact the County Planning Division at 995-2717. The San Marcos Association was asked to review the Proposed Base Zoning Map for the San Marcos District. We were happy to find that the proposed zoning conformed to the 2007 San Marcos District Plan. All properties within the District were placed either within a ten acre zone or a forty acre zone. Proposed zoning for the Silverado area was either five or 2.5 acre.

How The Desert News Works

The High Desert News “News Sheet” summarizes news that San Marcos Area residents can find on the San Marcos Association Web site or Facebook page (www.facebook.com/sanmarcosassoc).

You will find current and archived News Sheets at www.sanmarcosassociation.org. The digital version links each headline to additional information and/or web sites that give the full story, complete text, or additional information

We urge you to check out our site, participate on our Facebook page and get involved in protecting our rural environment.

Contributions of money, time, or garage sale items are always appreciated. Membership is free. You can sign up on the website.

The Board of County Commissioners will hold public hearings on the final adoption of the Zoning Map at the County Commission Chambers, 102 Grant Avenue, Santa Fe, commencing at 5 P.M. on both May 28, 2014 and June 25, 2014.

While a proposed zoning map was included with the mailing it did not show individual plats. If you have concerns, you will find such a map at www.santafecountynm.gov/sldc. You can also find one on the San Marcos Web site.

Property Taxes

If you are a property owner in the San Marcos Area you will have recently received a letter from the Santa Fe County Assessor's Office informing you that they have entered into a contract with Tyler Technologies to reassess County property values. The letter included a rather cryptic map that presented the company's best guess as to the dimensions and number of buildings currently existing on your property. It is SMA's belief that many of these maps are inaccurate, especially in terms of estimated size, year of construction, number of bathrooms, and physical character. Since many of these factors will be used to update the County property tax base, it is important for you to check this letter for inaccuracies and correct any obvious mistakes. You can contact the Santa Fe County Assessor's Office at (505)986-6300 or at assessor@co.santa-fe.nm.us. I paid a visit to the Assessor's Office and the staff treated me in a cordial and professional manner.

Regulation of Commercial Uses of the County Water System

At the March 20th CDRC meeting it became very clear that the County has no ordinance that restricts or manages the wholesale exploitation of the County Water system for industrial or commercial uses. At that meeting it was stated by Adam Leigland of the the County Public Works Department that an industrial user could draw a million gallons at the Highway 14 pump if they cared to, as long as they paid the two cent per gallon "commercial" charge. This statement drew a collective gasp from the almost 300 residents who had gathered for the meeting. It is clear that the County's drinking water supply is not suited to very large industrial uses — especially in times of drought and ever increasing demand for clean water.

The San Marcos Association believes that commercial and industrial use of water drawn from the Santa fe County Water System should be limited to 1/4 acre foot per annum unless the business or industrial applicant submits a water plan to the Board of County Commissioners that is consistent with the County Land Use Code and can be shown to be in the best interests of the County's domestic water users. To that end, SMA has developed and submitted a suggested list of commercial use requirements that your Board feels will protect our drinking water supply from high volume commercial exploitation. You can find the full text of our letter to the County Commission on our web site.

Calendar

May 15, 2014

SMA Board Meeting

May 28, 2014

BCC public hearing; Zoning Map

June 19, 2014

SMA Board Meeting

June 25, 2014

BCC public hearing; Zoning Map

July 17, 2014

SMA Board Meeting

Watch for BCC Public hearing on Mining at La Bajada. It will be posted on our website.

SMA BOARD

President: Walter Wait

Vice: Les Hancock

Treasurer: Gail Buono

Secretary: Isolde Wait

Board Members:

Archie Tew

Alexis Higginbotham

Nancy Seewald

Christiane Hancock

Nai Smith

Helen Boyce

Van Bulf

Donna Herring

SMA meetings are held on the third thursday of each month, excluding August and December.

You are invited.

Email for location and info:

SanMarcosAssn@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/sanmarcosassn

www.sanmarcosassociation.org

SMA. P.O. Box 722, Cerrillos,