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EL VALLE NEWS

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CONSTRUCTION COMPLETED ON PHASE 1F

Construction of Phase 1F of El Valle's multi-year construction plan has been completed by Advantage Asphalt with seeding, fencing and road reconstruction ongoing. The contractor began the construction project on April 6th and completed it, on schedule, on August 10th. This Phase includes reaches of sewer line on the west side of State Road 68 at Cisneros Road. It also includes lines in the Talpa area. This project brings sewer to an additional 80 residences. Twenty-four of these residences have already connected to the sewer. New Mexico Law requires owners of occupied properties within 400 feet of an active sewer line to connect to the sewer within sixty (60) days of notification of their requirement to do so.

"Sin agua no hay vida."

*"Without water, there is no life."**



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Gabriel Romero, Chairman
- F.R. Bob Romero, Vice-Chairman
- Meliton Struck, Secretary
- Mario Barela, Treasurer
- Andrew Chavez, Member at Large
- Alipio Mondragon – Non-voting Member

EL VALLE SEEKS STIMULUS FUNDING

Late in July, Governor Richardson's Office announced the availability of \$22 million in federal stimulus money for projects that are shovel-ready. A project may receive up to \$400,000 in grant funding, if the project meets the strict criteria outlined in the grant application package. The requirements for selection include the criteria that the project be able to be put out to bid within 30 days of award and that it be completed within one year of award. El Valle has a project that is completely shovel-ready. Staff completed the applications for two grants of \$400,000 each to help complete Phase 2B, which would bring sewer service from Tom Holder Road to the Ranchos Plaza area. According to the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration, Local Government Division, the announcement as to which projects are selected for funding will be made early in September 2009.

El Valle's Website:
www.elvalledelosranchos.org

ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULED IN SEPTEMBER

The Board of Directors cordially invites all residents, customers and interested persons to its annual meeting which is scheduled for September 16, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. at the Llano Quemado Community Center. Refreshments will be provided. Please join your neighbors and the staff and board of El Valle to hear about El Valle's plans and accomplishments.

JOINT MEETING WITH LLANO QUEMADO MUTUAL DOMESTIC WATER CONSUMERS'

As earlier reported, El Valle de los Ranchos has been working with Llano Quemado Mutual Domestic Water Consumers' Association to develop a joint water system for parts of Llano Quemado that do not have community water. The proposal calls for development of water service on the west side of State Road 68 in Llano Quemado.

The Boards of Directors of both organizations will meet jointly at 4:00 p.m. on September 9, 2009 at El Valle's office at 209 E. Camino de la Merced to discuss efforts to implement this plan.

**EL VALLE DE LOS RANCHOS
WATER & SANITATION
DISTRICT**

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STAFF

- Sarah C. Backus, Director
- Melene Montano, Business Manager
- Ted Martinez, Project Manager
- Ivan Valerio, Assistant Project Manager

UP-COMING BOARD MEETINGS

September 9, 2009
October 14, 2009
November 18, 2009

All meetings are held at the District Office located at 209E Camino de la Merced, Taos at 4:00 p.m. Meetings may be rescheduled by the Board. Call 751-1700 for up-to-date information.

Interested individuals are encouraged to attend.

The office will be closed on:

September 7, 2009: Labor Day
November 11, 2009: Veteran's Day
November 26 and 27, 2009: Thanksgiving
December 25, 2009: Christmas Day

ROUTINE MAINTENANCE OF SERVICE LINES PREVENTS BLOCKAGES AND OTHER PROBLEMS

By Ted Martinez, Project Manager

Since 2004, El Valle de Los Ranchos Water and Sanitation District has constructed almost 18 miles of sewer line within its District. The District currently provides sewer service to more than 400 residential and commercial connections. The system contains 12 inch, 10 inch and 8 inch sewer lines. The connection to El Valle's system is the responsibility of the property owner and such connections must be constructed in compliance with El Valle's regulations. All licensed plumbers in the area should be familiar with the requirements. One of the requirements is that the connection include a back flow prevention device, known as a check valve. This valve prevents sewage contained in the collection lines from backing up into residences. However, this valve must be maintained to prevent blockages from occurring. Since the sewer was completed, the District has responded to nine instances of possible blockages.

All of these instances involved a blockage at the backflow prevention device and were the responsibility of the property owner. With proper maintenance, these blockages can be prevented. *

In order to perform routine maintenance of the backflow prevention device on your property follow these simple instructions:

1. Remove the four bolts on the cover of the unit.
2. Using rubber gloves, a brush, hot water and soap, pick up the flapper unit seat, and clean the valve and the seat of the valve.
3. After the valve is fully cleaned, spray WD-40 on the swing of the valve.
4. Place the cover back on and install the four bolts.

This simple maintenance should be performed twice per year.

TAOS COUNTY GIVES APPROVAL FOR EL VALLE OFFICE PLANS

The Taos County Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners have given approval for the Special Use Permit application submitted by El Valle de los Ranchos for construction of its office building on Miranda Canyon Road in Llano Quemado. The building will be constructed next to the Llano Quemado Community Center. Its style and color will be compatible with the Community Center. The District hopes to begin the site preparation and utility installation within the next six months. Depending upon funding availability, the office itself will be constructed within the next year to 18 months. Questions or concerns about the office construction can be answered by the staff.

***In case of a backup or blockage of sewer service, contact the office at 751-1700. If the blockage or backup occurs after hours, call Ted Martinez at 758-2302.**

El Valle is seeking an administrative assistant to work part time in its office. If interested, please send your resume to Sarah Backus, District Director, at P.O. Box 2797, Ranchos de Taos, NM 87557.