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EL VALLE NEWS

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“Sin agua no hay vida.”

*“Without water, there is no life.”**



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

If you have comments about this newsletter, please call the office at 575-751-1700.

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PHASE 2 UNDER CONSTRUCTION/ OFFICE BUILDING TO GO OUT FOR PROPOSALS

Construction of Phase 2B-1 of the District’s Wastewater Improvement plan will re-commence this spring after the ground thaws. This sub-phase will bring sewer service from Tom Holder Road, east through the Rio Grande del Rancho greenbelt to Abeyta Lane. The remainder of Phase 2B will provide sewer service from the terminus of Phase 2B-1 to the Ranchos Plaza. The project is shovel ready and will be constructed as soon as funding becomes available.

Meanwhile, El Valle is going ahead with its plans to construct an office building in Llano Quemado adjacent to the Llano Quemado Community Center. The construction will be put out for proposals from interested contractors during March and a contractor selected by April 15th. The Board of Directors hopes that the selected contractor will be able to incorporate as many green features into the building as possible. This project is being funded by a loan from the United States Department of Agriculture, Community Facilities program.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS SELECTS NEW OFFICERS.

The Water and Sanitation Act requires the Board to select officers of the Board of Directors for the upcoming year. At the Board’s meeting on January 13, 2010, the Board selected the following officers: F.R. Bob Romero, Chairman
Andrew Chavez, Vice-Chairman
Meliton Struck, Secretary
Mario Barela, Treasurer
Member Gabriel Romero will serve as a Member- at- Large.
Alipio Mondragon serves as a non-voting member of the Board.

District to Seek Bids to Construct Gates

El Valle will be seeking bids this spring for the construction and installation of “lay-down” gates in the area of construction of Phase 2B-1. These gates will be installed on fences crossing the sewer line easements so that the sewer can be easily accessed for needed future maintenance and repair. If interested in bidding upon the project, please check the [Taos News](#), Classified Ad section or contact the office in mid-March.

CONNECTIONS TO SEWER REQUIRED

Property owners with occupied buildings within 400 feet of an active El Valle sewer line are required by state law to connect to the sewer. The staff of El Valle has sent reminder letters to property owners in the Talpa area, within the required distance from the Phase 1F sewer line that was constructed in 2009. The deadline to connect is April 15, 2010. Owners are also required to pay a connection fee of \$630 including tax for each residential connection. A commercial connection is \$1,260. Twelve monthly payments are acceptable in lieu of paying the entire fee at once.

EL VALLE DE LOS RANCHOS WATER & SANITATION DISTRICT

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STAFF

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

UP-COMING BOARD MEETINGS

March 10, 2010
April 14, 2010
May 12, 2010

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:
May 31, 2010 – Memorial Day

El Valle's Website:
www.elvalledelosranchos.org

EL VALLE ADOPTS RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PURCHASE OF MIRANDA CANYON

On February 10, 2010 at its regular meeting, the Board of Directors of El Valle de los Ranchos adopted a Resolution supporting the proposed acquisition of approximately 5,000 acres of land, known as Miranda Canyon, by the United States government to be included in the Carson National Forest. This property is located south of Llano Quemado. The Congressional delegation has proposed federal legislation that would purchase the land from the current owners. The District's resolution stated that the "District believes that it would be in the best interest of the public at large and the communities that comprise El Valle de los Ranchos Water and Sanitation District that the land be purchased by the United States government for addition to the Carson National Forest and for preservation in perpetuity."

COOPERATION WITH U.S. CENSUS IS A BENEFIT TO THE COMMUNITY.

This year, the United States Government will be conducting the 2010 census. The Constitution of the United States requires that a census be conducted every ten years. The results of the census determine boundaries for state and local legislative and congressional districts. It also determines what communities will receive funding from the federal government for various projects. The goal is to count every person residing in the country, whether citizens or not. In the last census, taken in 2000, the population of Taos County was reportedly severely under-counted. Many residents do not want to be counted or simply fail to return the simple census questionnaire. Most residents will receive a package requesting data from the household. This data is used only for the census and is not shared with other agencies or law enforcement agencies. Completing and returning the questionnaire will help our community.

CHECK YOUR BACKFLOW CHECK VALVE!

Since 2004, El Valle de los Ranchos Water and Sanitation District has installed close to 20 miles of sewer line and currently serves over 450 residences and businesses. Since 2004, El Valle has received 14 reports of blocked sewer lines and the District's project manager has responded to each of them. In each instance, the cause of the blockage was lack of maintenance to the back flow prevention device. This device is installed to prevent sewage from backing up into the residence and it requires periodic maintenance.

To maintain the device, follow these simple steps:

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.

The maintenance should be performed about twice per year.

***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 or Ivan Valerio at 770-6367.**