

## Meeting on El Valle’s Future to be Held

A community meeting will take place on May 3, 2007 to provide residents of the District much needed information regarding El Valle’s current operations that will be taking place in the upcoming months.

Information will be provided for all residents within in the District on future plans of the District; upcoming construction projects; water rights issues and much more. This will give an opportunity to those who have questions and/or ideas to present those ideas or suggestions to the District’s Board Members and staff.

This meeting will be on Thursday, May 3, 2007 at 6:30 P.M. The meeting will take place at the Juan I. Gonzales Agricultural Center in the Exhibit Hall. The Agricultural Center is located at 200 Chamisa Road.

El Valle de Los Ranchos Water & Sanitation District Board of Directors and staff encourage residents to attend. Refreshments will also be served.

## Expansion Construction Taking Place

The Districts latest expansion project known as Phases 1C & 1D of the master plan began in October of 2006. The project was shut down during the winter, but has resumed now at the beginning of April. The project has been on schedule and we do not foresee any delays in the completion of this phase.

The Location of the construction of these two phases are south of Este Es Road and north of Espinoza Road in the Ranchos de Taos area. In this latest phase of construction, the District will be building close to 2 miles of additional sewer line that will have the ability of providing service to an additional 30 to 40 more residences located in this area of El Valle’s District.

The District is aware that there will be some inconvenience during construction and is committed to giving residents in the area adequate notification of road closures.

If you live in this area and have any questions or concerns please contact the District office at (505) 751-1700 and staff will be happy to assist you.



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## 2007 Board Elections

Two new Board members were elected to El Valle's five-person Board of Directors in the January meeting. The newly elected Board members are Andrew Chavez and Meliton Struck who were elected from a field of six candidates.

The election was canvassed and approved by the Board of Directors at the January Board meeting. The Board also elected its officers for the upcoming year.

Gabriel Romero was elected Chairman of the Board. Mario Barela was elected Vice-Chairman. Andrew Chavez was elected Treasurer and F.R. Bob Romero was elected Secretary. Member Meliton Struck will serve

as the Member at Large.

Members of the Board of Directors serve staggered terms of four years each. The next elections will be in January 2009 when there will be two positions up for election.

Former Board member Wilbert Archuleta, who served for 25 years, was honored at the January meeting with a plaque presented to him.

Mr. Hannigan chose not to run for reelection, but to pursue other professional interests. His service on the Board and to the community is greatly appreciated.

## Reception Recognizing Wilbert Archuleta

On March 23, 2007 a group of friends, family and co-workers gathered at the Taos Convention Center to honor Mr. Wilbert Archuleta for his many years of service to El Valle de Los Ranchos Water & Sanitation District.

Mr. Archuleta worked tirelessly for the District for 25 years and served as its Board Chairman for 13 years.

He was instrumental in the creation of the District and in the earliest successes in providing

sewer service to the District.

State Representative Roberto Gonzales presented him with a certificate of service from the New Mexico House of Representatives and the Board of the District

gave him and engraved plaque.

The District thanks Mr. Archuleta and his family for all that he has done or El Valle.



Back Row: Meliton Struck, Member; F. R. Bob Romero, Secretary. Left to Right: Board Treasurer, Andrew Chavez; Vice Chairman, Mario Barela; Former members Wilbert Archuleta and Tyler Hannigan. Not shown, Board Chairman Gabriel Romero.

## El Valle Needs Water Rights

Although El Valle has focused the majority of its attention on construction of sewer lines during the past several years, its organization documents also call for the District to provide a water distribution system. The long-range plan adopted by the Board of Directors envisions the District acquiring water rights and drilling at least one community well. In order to accomplish this

long-range goal, the District will need to acquire water rights. Water rights may be transferred to the District by individuals who have water rights but may no longer be using them for irrigation. If these rights are not being used, the District is interested in acquiring them by purchase at fair market value. Please call the District office if you are the District.

The District reserves the right to review the water rights to determine their existence and validity.



## El Valle Director Selected

The Board of Directors has chosen Sarah Backus, Attorney at Law, as the Interim Director for the District.

Sarah Backus was selected as the Director due to her knowledge and experience of the Districts day to day operations. Ms. Backus has also served the District as the Districts' Attorney.

We would like to welcome Sarah to the El Valle team!!!

## Monthly Meeting Schedule

El Valle De Los Ranchos Water and Sanitation District holds their regular board meetings every 2nd Wednesday of every month.

The Board of Directors would like to have the community participate in these meetings to obtain your comments, ideas and support.

Our meetings will take place on the following dates:

- May 9, 2007
- June 13 2007
- July 11, 2007
- August 8, 2007
- September 12, 2007
- October 10, 2007
- November 14, 2007
- December 12, 2007

Our meetings are held at 6:00 PM at the El Valle offices located at 209-E Camino de La Merced, Taos, New Mexico.

## Backflow Prevention

Many property owners are not aware that the maintenance of the sewer line connection between a home and the main sewer line in the street is their responsibility. When poorly maintained, these connections can cause raw sewage to back up into homes, and basements or infiltrate into the ground.

The primary purpose of a sanitary sewer system is to protect the public's health and the environment. A sanitary sewer system carries raw sewage away from homes to a treatment plant where sewage can be treated and harmful organisms destroyed. Raw sewage contains disease causing pathogens like hepatitis and E. coli. These organisms can make people really sick if they are directly exposed.

When poorly maintained, these connections frequently cause raw sewage to back up into homes, and basements. Sewage overflow impacts the environment, causing poor water quality in lakes, rivers, streams and pollutes our groundwater.

Here are some suggestions on maintaining your sewage service line.

1. Look for and check your sewer cleanout. The clean out is usually is a small pipe outside your house that is used to access the service lateral for cleaning the sewer line. It is usually located where the service lateral connects to the main sewer line. Make sure caps for the clean out pipe is on and is not damaged.
2. Clean backflow prevention device regularly. Backflow preventor is usually placed inside a meter can or is enclosed in a box type item. Unscrew the bolts to the top cover. With a wire brush or wire hanger; warm water with soap; gently clean the seat of the device and flange. Remove any blockage that may cause a backup.
3. Avoid planting trees and shrubs that clog sewers.
4. Support local programs that aim to improve the sanitary sewer system in your area. Proper operation and maintenance is the key to preventing damage.



