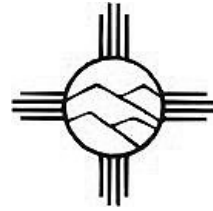


Tierra Grande Tales 'n' Trails

March 2008



**Tierra
Grande
Improvement
Association**

P.O. Box 1388 • Belen New Mexico 87002 • 505 864-2345

Development Planned for Belen Rail Runner Station Area

The City of Belen has approved a resolution which will result in the city participating with the Mid Region Council of Governments (MRCOG) in planning, designing and implementing a development near the New Mexico Rail Runner Express station in Belen.

Tony Sylvester, special projects planner with MRCOG, pointed out to the Belen City Council that the study which will be conducted to help with such a development will be a way of looking at land use as well as increasing ridership on the Rail Runner.

The State of New Mexico appropriated funds for transit planning to the Department of Finance and Administration. The funding will be managed by MRCOG specifically for planning, designing and improving of facilities within a quarter to a half mile from the rail stations.

Lawrence Rael, MRCOG executive director, said the market study will be conducted on the area surrounding each rail station from Bernalillo

Wilderness Development Survey Needs Your Input

If you have not already responded to the Wilderness Development Survey contained in the September 2007 Newsletter, there is still time.

You can find a copy of the September Newsletter on our web site at www.tierragrande.org.

Response to the survey will be discussed at the July 2008 Tierra Grande Meeting.



The Rail Cafe is located at the Belen New Mexico Rail Runner Express Depot. Restaurants and other development are being planned for the area.

to Belen, addressing items which include housing, retail and amenities people look for when commuting.

Rael said the study will look at land use planning and opportunities to generate activity around the stations to create a living and working type of environment.

Have You Checked The TGIA Website Lately?

The following updates have been made to the Tierra Grande website:

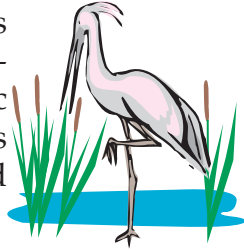
- December 2007 Newsletter
- Links to Night Sky Protection Act
- Building in Tierra Grande
- Socorro Electric Cooperative
- Contractors

Please take a few moments to visit us at www.tierragrande.org

Bosque del Apache Events are Varied

If you're looking for somewhere to relax and enjoy nature that's less than an hour and a half from Tierra Grande, then consider Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge.

Located south of Socorro off Interstate 25, Bosque del Apache features tens of thousands of birds including sandhill cranes, Arctic geese and many kinds of ducks who gather each autumn and stay through the winter.



Two years ago this newsletter featured an extensive article about Bosque del Apache. We decided this was a good time to remind you of it and include some of the events for 2008.

For additional information about the programs check out www.friendsofthebosque.org.

All special events and workshops are free and open to the public except for a few during the 21st Annual Festival of the Cranes November 13-18, 2008.

Events scheduled in 2008 as listed by the Friends of the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge on the website include:

Ducks of the Bosque — Identification and Behavior, March 29.

Star Stories from Around the World with Amy Estelle, April 26, highlights the diverse histories of stars and constellations.

Flowers That Bloom in the Spring, April 26, features a walk near the Canyon Trail.

International Migratory Bird Day Celebration includes bird walk around the grounds, an arboretum visit, and refuge tour on May 10.

Hummingbird banding with Bill Talbot, June 7. Talbot will work on noting the measurements, conditions, sex and age of hummingbirds and give a slide presentation.



Damsels and dragons at Bosque del Apache, July 26, features the damselflies and dragonflies of the bosque.

Invertebrate Atlantis: The Amazing World of Aquatic Insects, August, 23, reveals the insects and other invertebrates living under water and provid-

ing a vital link in the aquatic food chain.

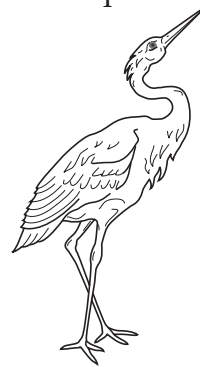
Windows on the Universe with Amy Estelle, September 20, looks at obvious and obscure objects in the night sky.

Arts Reception, October 13, allows those attending to meet artists who have recorded the bosque's beauty.

The 21st Annual Festival of the Cranes is a six day celebration of the arrival of the cranes, geese and other birds who winter at the Bosque del Apache.



Last year's celebration featured more than 150 events, exhibits and displays. The festival started as Bosque Fest and has grown into one of the premiere birding festivals in the United States. It has expanded from a day and a half to the six day festival in 2008.



Some people begin making their plans in January to attend the November event. Information about the events, exhibits and displays is available on the website www.friendsofthebosque.org.

A detailed brochure is also printed about what will be going on during Festival week.

Editor's Note: The cranes are one of the favorite birds which populate Bosque del Apache so we thought we'd feature them in our accompanying illustrations for this article.

How to Reach Bosque del Apache from Tierra Grande

To reach Bosque del Apache from Tierra Grande head south on NM Highway 47 for 5 miles.

Turn right on U.S. Highway 60 and proceed 17.7 miles to Interstate 25.

Head south on Interstate 25 for 35 miles to Exit 139 for U.S.-380 east toward San Antonio and Carrizozo.

Take U.S. 380 about one mile to NM Highway 1 where you will turn right.

In seven miles you will be at the Bosque del Apache Wildlife Refuge.

Poison Hemlock Alert: Abo Canyon

Poison hemlock has been found in the Abo Arroyo.

As the name implies, poison hemlock is highly poisonous to both humans and animals. It is a large and impressive plant which has been planted as an ornamental in some areas. It grows quickly in fertile soils.

All parts of the plant are toxic.

Below is an illustration of what poison hemlock looks like. The stems are typically covered with purplish blotches and are hollow between



Poison Hemlock

Planning a Visit to the Area? Want to Know More?

Spring and summer usually bring plans for trips. If you want information about the local area plus other places in New Mexico contact the Belen and/or the Valencia County Chambers of Commerce.

The Belen Chamber phone number is 505 864-8091, address 712 Dalies Avenue, Belen 87002, www.belennm.com.

To reach the Valencia County Chamber, call 505 352-3596, P.O. Box 13, Los Lunas, 87031. Visit the Los Lunas' website at www.loslunasnm.gov.

The TGIA office also has information about New Mexico, www.tierragrande.org.

the nodes.

The biennial plant generally grows in wet sites, gardens, roadsides and wastelands.

During the first year of growth it produces a basal rosette of finely divided leaves with a pungent odor. Also during the first year, it resembles wild carrot, but has that strong odor.

In the second year it grows to two to seven feet and the branches produce flowers. In the second year, from June to August, the plant has white flowers with five petals borne in large terminal compound umbels two to eight inches across.

The poison hemlock root is fleshy.

If you find the plant, contact the Claunch-Pinto Soil Water Conservation District at 505 847-2243 or 505 847-2941.

You can learn more about the Claunch-Pinto SWCD on the website — claunchpinto.org.

New Officers Elected

The TGIA Board has elected new board officers.

Michael Sumner is the new president of the board. He was reelected to the board in 2007. Mike is the senior vice president of the New Mexico Bank and Trust, where he is in charge of the Los Lunas branch of that financial institution.

Carol Gasperetti, a Tierra Grande resident, was elected executive vice president and treasurer.

Rio Communities resident Tim Lardner is now secretary.

Also on the board is Valencia County Realtor and Appraiser George Koch and Tierra Grande resident Judi Magnussen.

2008 TGIA Office Holidays

The TGIA office in Rio Communities will be closed the following days in 2008:

Memorial Day — Monday, May 26

Independence Day — Friday, July 4

Labor Day — Monday, Sept. 1

Columbus Day — Monday, October 13

Veterans Day — Tuesday, November 11

Thanksgiving

Thursday & Friday, November 27 & 28

Christmas

Wednesday & Thursday, December 24 & 25

Area Newspaper, Postal Boxes, Qwest, Socorro Electric, Easements and More

The following is information gathered by TGIA Administrator Sue Moran for residents of Tierra Grande.

Getting the Albuquerque Journal in Tierra Grande

If enough residents of Tierra Grande order the Albuquerque Journal at the rate of \$12.75 per month for a minimum of three (3) months, then the Journal can be delivered in Tierra Grande. Contact Darla at 980-2538 for more information.

Update on the Postal Cluster Mail Boxes

Sue Moran followed up with the Belen Postmaster regarding the possibility of installing a set of postal cluster mail boxes at the southeastern area of Tierra Grande.

This time she was told that the locks necessary for the boxes were delivered to the wrong post office. Regardless, the Belen postmaster has assured Sue Moran that he has re-ordered the locks. She will follow up with the postmaster.

As for the repair of the melted boxes at the end of Tara Court the same issue applies. When the locks are received, the damaged boxes will be replaced.

Miscellaneous Socorro Electric Cooperative Information

Just a reminder that Socorro Electric Cooperative does not allow any material attached to the cooperative's poles.

Nails and screws are dangerous to the cooperative's workers.

If anything is attached to a pole, including a fence, it will be removed by Socorro Electric Coop employees and tossed out.

If it can be proved that a lot owner posted something to a pole, the owner can be fined up to \$50 per week until it is removed.

Please report power outages directly to So-

corro Electric at 575 835-0560 or 1-800-351-7575. Reports are documented to expedite repair and to track recurring problem areas.

No Buildings Allowed Within 15 Feet of Utility Easement

Just a reminder that if your property abuts a utility easement no building may be placed within fifteen (15) feet of the easement.

Contact the Socorro Electric Cooperative at 575 835-0560 or 1-800-351-7575. if you would like to fence in an area of your property where a utility easement exists.

Access to Tierra Grande property must be available to Socorro Electric Cooperative repairmen when necessary..

The Socorro Electric Cooperative will provide a lock, free of charge, for which only the landowner and Socorro Electric will have a key.

If you have questions about the placement of trees/plants along easement lines, contact the Socorro Electric Cooperative before you plant.

Contact TGIA Office About Qwest Telephone Denials

In the December, 2007, Tales and Trails Newsletter there was an article asking residents of Tierra Grande who do not currently have telephone service to contact the Tierra Grande office.

To date only two residents have called.

After speaking with a number of Qwest representatives it seems extending phone service will not be an easy task.

One representative informed the TGIA office that, in order for an engineer to look into the matter, an order number is required.

If you have placed an order for telephone service and have been denied, please contact the Tierra Grande office at 505 864-2345 if you have your order number.

Together we will keep trying.

See more info on page 6

Unusual Gravesites Are Topic for TGIA Speaker's New Book

Richard Melzer, speaker at a TGIA annual meeting, has a new book out — *Buried Treasures: Famous and Unusual Gravesites in New Mexico History*.

The book includes text and pictures of many gravesites throughout New Mexico and gravesites of New Mexicans who are buried outside of New Mexico.

Some interesting tidbits are:

- Billy the Kid's gravesite is the most visited gravesite in New Mexico. His mother, Mrs. Katherine Antrim, died of tuberculosis in Silver City and is buried in that southwestern New Mexico municipality.

- Elizabeth Garrett, Pat Garrett's daughter, wrote the state song, *O Fair New Mexico* and is buried in New Mexico.

- One of the most unusual gravesites is in the Santa Fe National Cemetery and is the grave for Dennis O'Leary. It is different because the marker for this gravesite looks nothing like the rest of the markers in this cemetery.

- Unusual objects used for grave stones include bath tubs, motorcycles, bed springs, and even a door.

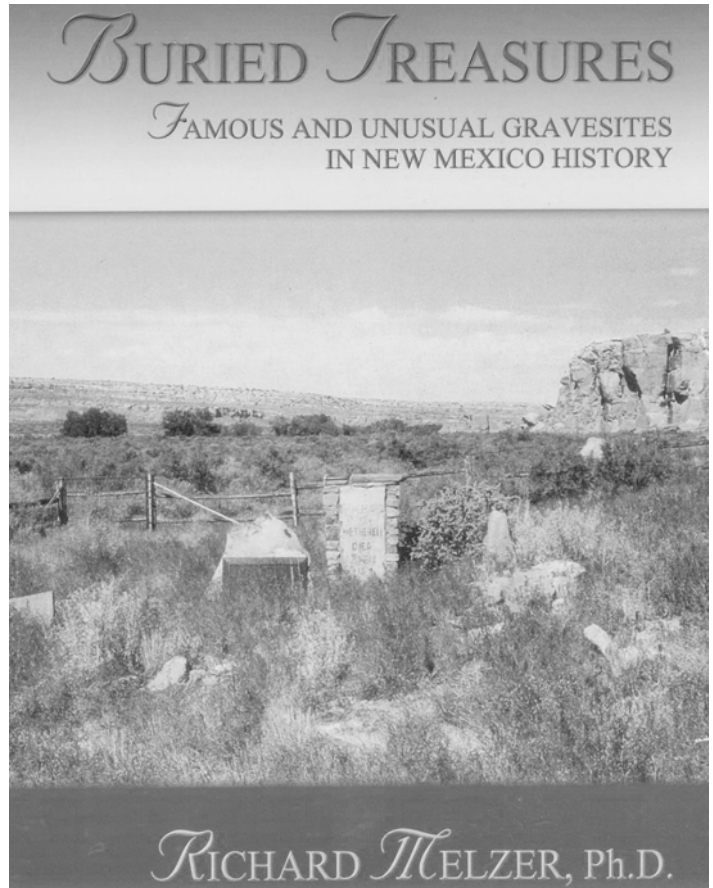
- Ranchers often put their brands on head stones.

- The Rainbow Bridge Pet Cemetery is in Williamsburg, New Mexico, on Nine Lives Lane.

Melzer is editor, with Dr. Maggie Espinosa McDonald, of *Valencia County: History Through the Photographer's Lens*, a compilation of dozens of vivid photographs depicting Valencia County.

The book includes few portraits or other arranged settings and has many candid views of the past which few historical sources can equal for detail or accuracy. Many of the photographs have never been published or placed on public display before.

Dr. McDonald and Dr. Melzer collected the photos from private and public collections so that



The cover of Richard Melzer's latest book.

the images provide a rare opportunity to see Valencia County's past on film.

Melzer has authored several books including ones about World War II correspondent Ernie Pyle and the town of Madrid, New Mexico.

Change of Address, Name, Phone?

Inform the TGIA Office

Remember if you have changed your name, address, telephone number, let the Tierra Grande office know at 505-864-2345 or via e-mail at info@tierragrande.org.

Don't forget to let the County Treasurer's office know as well:

Valencia County Treasurer – 505 866-2090.

Socorro County Treasurer – 575 835-1701.

Neighborhood Watch Meeting Set April 12

The next meeting of the Tierra Grande Neighborhood Watch will be April 12 at 11 a.m. at the Tierra Grande Fire Station on Highway 47.

It will be a potluck so bring something you want to share with your neighbors and friends.

Unpaid Assessments Accrue Interest

Just a reminder to those who have not paid their 2007 Assessments, late payment interest will begin to accrue at a rate of 8% per month on unpaid assessments.

Also, accounts that are delinquent after the third year of non-payment are being forwarded to legal counsel to pursue foreclosure proceedings.

An additional fee of \$60 per delinquent lot will be charged to those owners.

Contact the Tierra Grande office at 505 864-2345 or via e-mail at info@tierragrande.org if you have a question regarding the status of your account.

Subdividing Needs Okay; Changes Assessment

If you are thinking about subdividing your lot, keep in mind that you need to submit a request and obtain approval from the Architectural Control Committee before submitting those plans to the County. Lots may be no less than five (5) acres.

Once lots are subdivided, each lot stands on its own with regard to assessments and taxes

For example, currently you have a 15 acre lot for which you pay a \$45 annual assessment. When the lot is split into three five acres lots then the assessment rate changes to \$30 per lot per year which equals \$90.

Area Newspaper, Postal Boxes, Qwest, *Continued from page 4*

Qwest DSL Service

The petition signed by many Tierra Grande residents, requesting DSL service to Tierra Grande, was submitted to Qwest several months ago. No response has been received to date.

Aircraft FAA

Height Requirements

The Public Affairs Office of Kirtland Air Force Base (505 846-5991) provided the following information regarding requirements for flying over residential areas:

- Planes: 500 feet over residential areas
- Helicopters: Designated drop zones – for training purposes helicopters can hover at 150 feet above the ground

New Tierra Grande Residents

Welcome Amos and Carrie Strait and family to Unit 13.

Property Title Changes Should Be Reported

If events in your life have changed (such as marriage, divorce, adding/removing dependents, death) and you want to make a change to the title of your Tierra Grande property, you first need to make the change with the County Clerk in which your property is located.

Once that has been done please contact Tierra Grande and your records will be changed accordingly.

Valencia County Clerk – 505 866-2073.

Socorro County Clerk – 575 835-0423.

TG Building Permits

In Last Quarter 2007

Two building permits were issued by the Valencia County Building Inspector's office in the last quarter of 2007.

The permits were for a shop building on Encanto Loop and a new 1700 square foot residence on Recato Loop.

County Mobility Plan Being Updated

The Valencia County Mobility Plan is undergoing an updating process which began in mid-2007 and should end in mid-2008.

Valencia County's mobility plan is a long range transportation plan that looks at all the various transportation issues in Valencia County. The plan addresses pedestrians, equestrians, bicycle travel and facilities, roadway construction and maintenance, and commuter rail and public transportation such as bus service.

The intent of the plan is to help determine what the county's current transportation needs are, and by examining the county's growth patterns, to try to determine what the county's future transportation needs will be.

Included in the final version is a list of current and future needs as well as a discussion of the county's financial resources.

Events in Valencia County

The updating process became necessary when events happened in the county which could impact the Valencia County forecasts for population and employment.

Rancho Cielo, a subdivision which could add thousands of people, to the City of Belen, has been approved by the Belen City Council. The Town of Peralta has incorporated which means another municipality must be involved in planning for the future. In addition to these events, community discussions revealed there might be further refinements to the plan.

From November, 2007, to January, 2008, Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments (MRCOG) staff developed a summary of workshops with a set of recommendations to be presented to the Valencia County Transportation Steering committee.

MRCOG is the lead governmental agency working with the Mobility Plan.

MRCOG Prepares Plan for Review

The Steering Committee provides direction to the staff regarding modifications in the plan. MRCOG staff develops a draft Updated Plan for public review.

From February through April, 2008, the Steering Committee reviews the draft Updated Plan and releases it for public review. Public



The New Mexico Rail Runner Express has been operating from north of Bernalillo through Albuquerque to Belen for over a year. Its use and expansion to Santa Fe are part of the Valencia County Mobility Plan.

meetings are held to receive comments on the plan. Presentations will be provided to neighborhood associations and other groups when requested.

After the comment period ends in May, MRCOG will develop a set of recommendations which respond to the input. The Transportation Steering Committee will be requested to make a final decision regarding the contents of the plan and to take formal action approving the plan.

During June and July 2008, each incorporated municipality in the county as well as the Valencia County Commission will be requested to take formal action approving the plan.

Board Member To Be Elected

If you would like to serve on the TGIA Board, please send your resume, with a cover letter, to TGIA Board, P.O. Box 1388 Belen NM 87002, so it is received no later than May 1, 2008.

If you want to nominate someone else, please be sure they are willing to serve and then send a cover letter and resume for that person.

The election of a board member is held at the annual meeting in July.

The board currently consists of one realtor, one banker, one area business person, and two Tierra Grande residents.

Board meetings are held the fourth Wednesday of every month from four to six p.m. at the Tierra Grande Administrative Office in Rio Communities.

The Revised TGIA Website Has What You Need!

WWW.TIERRAGRANDE.ORG

GREAT NEW DESIGN!

EASY TO USE!

LOTS OF INFO

INCLUDING

COVENANTS AND

INDENTURES

TGIA Board

President — Michael Sumner

Valencia County banker

Term expires 2012

Executive V.P. & Treasurer

Carol Gasperetti

Tierra Grande resident

Term expires 2011

Secretary — Tim Lardner

Rio Communities Resident/Business Owner

Term expires 2010

Judi Magnussen

Tierra Grande resident

Term expires 2009

George Koch

Valencia County Realtor™/Appraiser

Term Expires 2008

TGIA Staff

Administrator — Sue Moran

Assistant Administrator — Janie Earthman

Newsletter Editor — Sandy Schauer

**POISON HEMLOCK IN
ARBO ARROYO
UNUSUAL GRAVESTONES
NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH
SET FOR APRIL 12**

Belén, New Mexico 87002

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Improvement Association

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