

# County Manager's Monthly Update

LOS ALAMOS COUNTY

OCTOBER - 2016

This update contains information about Los Alamos County, and is intended to keep you informed regarding key issues, the status of various capital projects, employee recognitions and significant events that have occurred during the past several weeks. This update is distributed on a monthly basis; however the County maintains a website at [www.losalamosnm.us](http://www.losalamosnm.us) where you can also check for periodic updates on the issues outlined below as well as other current topics. In the event that you have questions concerning the information in this update, or any other questions about Los Alamos County activities, please feel free to contact the County Manager at (505) 663-1750, or via [lacmanager@lacnm.us](mailto:lacmanager@lacnm.us).

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

### Building Safety Division



McDonald's restaurant continues with site work and interior and exterior construction. The Restaurant is located at the intersection of Trinity and Knecht Street.

CDD's Monthly Contractor's Meeting was held on September 20<sup>th</sup> at Fuller Lodge. A "House Wrap and Flashing" demonstration was conducted by Jose Gastelum, Dupont/Tyvek Specialist. Approximately 24 individuals attended the meeting.

The total number of commercial permits issued in September was six, with a total valuation of \$93,156.00.

The total number of residential permits issued in September was 57, with a total valuation of \$1,019,606.00.

### **Code Enforcement:**

For the month of September, Code Enforcement was assigned 48 new cases. These represented a mix of nuisance and signage violations, including one which was referred to Municipal Court.

## **Housing and Special Projects Division**

### **Housing Rehabilitation Program (Home Renewal Program):**

Several bid packages have been received for the first six homes. We expect to begin rehabilitation work on six homes by mid-October. In addition, we expect to receive bids on the next five homes.

### **Homebuyer Assistance Program:**

An ordinance for this proposed new program is expected to be brought to Council for consideration by December 2016.

### **Vacant Homes Project:**

The vacant homes project will focus on a 'clean & lien' strategy. It is anticipated that an ordinance outlining such a program will be brought to Council for consideration by the first quarter of 2017. CDD has hired a student intern from Los Alamos High School, to assist with data collection and analysis.

### **Housing Market Analysis:**

Staff is preparing a profile report to provide a general estimate of housing demand and potential price points and rent levels for new housing stock, to be completed in October for distribution to County Council for their information. Staff has been collecting data on salary ranges for common occupations, and are now adding population and market data to the analysis.

#### **A-19 Development:**

Staff continued to coordinate with the Site A-19-A-1 Acquisition Group, LLC as they continue with their due diligence.

## **Planning Division**

### **Comprehensive Plan:**

Planning Division staff and Architectural Research Consultants (ARC) met with the Planning and Zoning Commission on September 14 and September 28 to discuss the draft Comprehensive Plan, the Draft Future Land Use Maps, and the results of the second Statistically Valid Survey that was mailed on August 24<sup>th</sup> to 3,000 Los Alamos businesses and households. Staff was given feedback and direction on the next draft to be presented to Council at their study session on October 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **Planning & Zoning Commission Activities:**

P&Z heard 3 applications on September 28<sup>th</sup>. A Site Plan for eight units in Quemazon was denied. The applicant will reapply with additional information requested by the Commission. A Preliminary Subdivision Plat creating fee simple lots on existing construction in Quemazon, and a Special Use Permit for an overnight dog kennel on East Gate were both unanimously approved.

Three (3) applications for Waivers were received by the Planning Division for public hearing in October.

### **Business License and Building Permit Review:**

Planning Division staff reviewed and approved 8 Business License applications and 19 Building Permits.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

### Library Division

- The Library made its annual appearance at the Los Alamos Heart Council's Health Fair on September 24. We featured the assistive services that are available in the Library through the handouts and giveaways we brought to the Fair. The Heart Council counted more than 2,500 visitors to the Fair.



- Conversation Circles are back. The Conversation Circles are held weekly during the school year on the ground floor of Mesa Public Library. They are designed to support people who are looking to improve their English-speaking skills. Our specific target audience for this program is people who are caregivers and work at home, so they may not have many connections in the community and may have few opportunities to attend classes in a more formal setting. This is also a casual, drop-in environment, so the participants don't need to register. To date, we have had participants from Chile, China, Japan, Honduras, Mexico, Vietnam, and Bulgaria.





## **Parks, Recreation and Open Space Division**

### **Golf Course:**

Once again, monthly tournaments were a focus at the Los Alamos Golf Course:

- The Labor Day “Slug Fest”, (a successful three-day event with several ideas for next year)
- Young Life, a Charity event
- The Class of 1976 reunion
- The LAWGA, Los Alamos Women’s Golf Association, had their end of the year “Last Blast”

The “BIG” activity of September was the fall aerification of the greens on the Golf Course.

This is a bi-annual activity, each spring and fall, and once we get a dependable irrigation system, we will be able to do aerification on the tees, fairways and greens. This is important for healthy turf conditions.

“Aerification is a mechanical process that creates more air space in the soil and promotes deeper rooting, thus [helping the grass](#) plants stay healthy. In most cases, it's done by removing half-inch cores (those plugs you sometimes see near a green or in [fairways](#)) from the compacted soil, allowing for an infusion of air and water that brings a resurgence of growth. The spaces are then filled with sand "topdressing" that helps the soil retain air space and makes it easier for roots to grow downward.” Therefore the first picture is during the aerification, those are the plugs of soil over all the green, and the second photo is two weeks after aerification as the grass is healing.



During



Afterwards

The “Nexus” sculpture reinstallation is getting closer to 100% complete. Natural and native areas surround the sculpture and the plaque dedicating the statue will be installed next month. The LAWGA donated the flowers surrounding the sculpture.



The LAWGA also donated the flowers behind the Tee Box of Hole #10.



## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

### Administration Division

#### **Transportation Board:**

On Thursday, September 15th, Jon Bulthuis provided attendees at the Boards & Commissions Luncheon with a status update on the 2017 Bond Project initiative by sharing the project schedule and providing an overview of the 11 proposed Capital Improvement Projects presently being considered for inclusion in the upcoming bond issue. A handout detailed each project and included key questions specific to site alternatives, as well co-location possibilities, for the facilities currently being discussed and further refined. County Councilors present at the meeting expressed strong interest in the initiative, asked for continued community participation in the scoping and decision making effort, and communicated that they

looked forward to the September 20th County Council Study Session at which staff, and representatives of the consulting firm Dekker/Perich/Sabatini, would be present to further describe the projects and take direction from the County Council regarding next steps in moving the project forward.

## **Airport Division**

### **Runway Maintenance Project:**



The Federal Aviation Administration has issued a grant to the County to fund 90% of the cost to crack fill, seal coat and remark the runway and two aircraft parking areas at the airport. Another 5% of the funding is being provided through a grant from the NMDOT – Aviation Division and the final 5% will be the responsibility of the County. The total cost of the project should be \$593,684 of which only \$29,684 will be funded by the County. Maxwell Asphalt has been awarded the contract. The schedule for the project will be established after the contractor executes the contract.

### **United Way Dinner**



The Los Alamos High School held their Taste the Sky dinner at the airport again this year to raise funds for the United Way Campaign. The dinner was held on September 24<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Several local pilots had their aircraft on display during the dinner and there appeared to be a good turnout of patrons.

### **Young Eagles Flights**



Also on September 24<sup>th</sup> the Experimental Aircraft Association held a Young Eagles event to offer free flights to youth from 8 to 17 years old. The event was held from 8:00 am to 11:00 am and approximately 25 youth and several adults were given introductory flights in aircraft owned by a number of local pilots.

### **Secretary of Defense Visit:**



On the morning of September 28<sup>th</sup> the Secretary of Defense, Ashton Carter, along with approximately 30 other VIPs, flew in to the Los Alamos Airport in an Air Force C-130 aircraft for a visit to LANL. The C-130 is the largest aircraft to ever land at the airport and this is the second time this type of aircraft has used the airport. The first time was when President Bill Clinton visited LANL during his presidency.



### **Hazmat Exercise:**



At the same time that Secretary Carter was visiting LANL the lab was conducting a hazmat exercise that involved a Cessna Citation X aircraft flying from Tampa, Florida to Los Alamos to deliver simulated hazardous material for disposal by the lab. Both events were well coordinated with the airport and were successfully completed.

### **Custodial Division**

The Custodial Division supported 148 events during the month of September which included 3 United Way events and a Bandelier event.

The Cottonwood on the Greens restaurant at the Golf Course received a new projector for use during events.

### **Engineering & Project Management Division**

#### **Fire Station 3:**

Architectural design work is nearing completion and includes a more substantial reroofing, as well as a new wall system, window replacement and HVAC system modifications to better insulate and control the temperature in the bunkrooms. Construction is contemplated for late 2016 through early 2017.

#### **Fuller Lodge Phases 2-4 and Historical Museum:**

R&M Construction continues to make steady progress on both facilities.



#### **Fuller Lodge:**

- The elevator equipment has been installed.
- Work to replace the steps and retaining wall to the basement near the kitchen continues.

- The contractor has completed the painting of the North and South Wing exteriors on the east side of the building and is progressing to the West Wing. The new storm/screen windows are in production.
- The contractor is looking into alternative doors for the Reservation Office.
- Work is underway on the west side entry to replace the stairs, ramp and flagstone area and install a snow melt system. Signs have been placed to route Fuller Lodge patrons to the east side.



#### **Museum:**

- The final lighting package will begin to be installed the week of September 26<sup>th</sup>.
- New flagstone has been placed in the front area. New Railings are in production.
- Painting of the interior walls is in process.
- The new restroom is about 90% complete.
- Interior display wall construction is ongoing which allow placement of artifacts such as the '109 Palace Gate', the initial reporting location for Manhattan era lab workers.





### **LAPD Dispatch Lighting Improvements:**

Design is complete and a Purchase Order to the contractor is in progress. Work should begin in late September or early October once the equipment arrives and will take about a month to complete. Changes to the system will include removing the existing fluorescent lighting system and installing dimmable LED fixtures to customize lighting levels.

### **Mesa Library HVAC Improvements:**

The current system is an evaporative cool system, while a less expensive system to install and operate however, it does not provide adequate cooling during times of high (30% plus) humidity. The system itself is limited in its cooling capacity due to its initial design. The design consultant evaluated several system options which included an initial and life-cycle cost analysis. This evaluation resulted in a system selection to proceed to the design phase.

The work is scheduled to occur in August 2017. Staff is evaluating options to reduce impacts and disruption of services.

### **White Rock Complex & Senior Center Renovations:**



Senior Center - Meal Center/Kitchen

The walk-in freezer unit has been installed. Wall panels are being installed, and exterior stucco is complete.



Site concrete with snow melt system work is underway. Drywall, tape and texture is nearly complete, crews have started painting in different areas. Ceiling grid is being installed.

## **Town Hall**



Ceiling grid, drywall and painting has been completed. Placement of floor tile has begun. Roof top units have been delivered.

## **Site**



The contractor has begun installing sidewalk with snow melt system, curb and gutter, storm drain system and site lighting. The site utilities have been completed.

## **Youth Activity Center Remodel:**

Design of interior improvements is underway for the Youth Activity Center, located in the basement of the Community Building. Work includes improvements to interior flooring, entry ways and cabinetry. Design is scheduled for completion early October with construction beginning in January 2017.



#### Western Area Improvements Phase 4

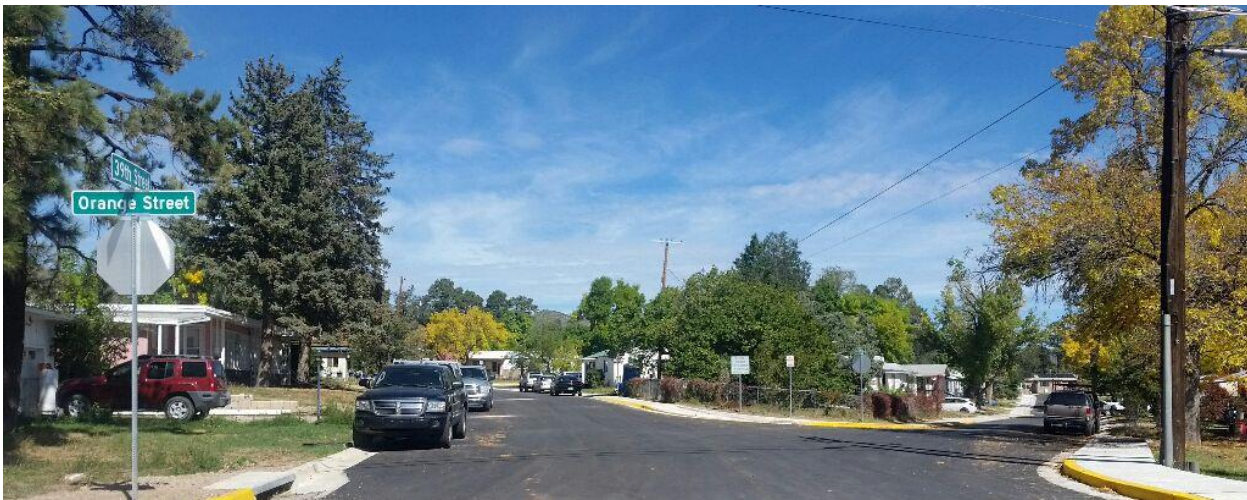
Crews with TLC Plumbing & Utility are making steady progress on improvements.

All work on 40<sup>th</sup> Street south of Sandia Drive and in the Denver Steel Area (37<sup>th</sup> Street, 38<sup>th</sup> Street, 39<sup>th</sup> Street and Ridgeway) is complete with minor punch list items remaining. Currently TLC crews are installing new 36" meter cans and connecting services to residents on the 40<sup>th</sup>/41<sup>st</sup> Street Loop. Curb and gutter, sidewalk to the parks, drive pads and fillets at the intersections are currently being installed on the 40<sup>th</sup>/41<sup>st</sup> Street Loop. Installation of a new 8" water line on 45<sup>th</sup> Street has been completed with installation of the new 36" meter cans to follow.

Construction is scheduled to be completed October 31st, weather permitting.







### Central Avenue Improvements – Phase 2:



Crews with Century Club Construction began groundbreaking work on July 20<sup>th</sup> with the installation of an 8" sewer line and manholes on the south side of Central at 15<sup>th</sup> Street. Sewer line installation from 15<sup>th</sup> Street to behind the Shannon Corp. building has been completed. Crews re-opened the Central/15<sup>th</sup> Street intersection to traffic, completed sidewalk installation on the north side of Central Avenue from 15<sup>th</sup> to Knecht Street and completed installation of pedestrian and street light conduit and bases to Knecht Street. Asphalt paving for the westbound lane from 15<sup>th</sup> to Knecht is scheduled for the first week of October and will be followed by completing the remaining south side portion from the midblock crossing to Knecht. To stay on track with project completion, work on the final project



segment from Knecht St. to 9<sup>th</sup> Street has begun with sewer line placement and concrete work. This work will progress towards 9<sup>th</sup> Street and includes sewer manholes and storm drain system installation.



### **Canyon Rim Trail Project:**



On September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016, crews with Star Paving and Mountain States Crane completed a huge milestone with the installation of a 180 ft. long bridge across DP Canyon. The bridge was brought in three 60 foot sections and assembled on site. Three cranes were utilized to assemble and hoist the bridge into place. Crews are progressing with subgrade prep and base course placement in preparation of paving the trail scheduled to begin the first week of October.

The trail will consist of a 10 foot wide paved multiuse trail from Fire Station #6 to the Smith's Marketplace. The project is scheduled for completion by late December 2016/early 2017, weather permitting.





## Environmental Services Division

### Employee Service Anniversary – Big 30!



Leonard Martinez celebrated 30 years working with Los Alamos County. Leonard has climbed the ranks and is now a Lead Equipment Operator. Leonard always has a fantastic attitude and is a valuable asset to Los Alamos County.

*Harry Burgess, Philo Shelton, Leonard Martinez, and Angelica Gurule*

### Feeding Dr. Ramsay's Bears:



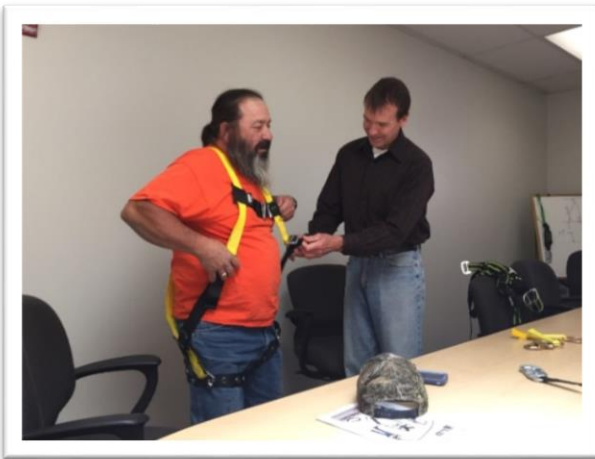
The Eco Station is collecting fruit for Dr. Ramsay's bear cubs. ESB member, James Robinson and community members have worked cooperatively to make the collection a success. The Eco Station collected hundreds of pounds of fruit that would have otherwise gone to waste and helped feed the bear cubs.



### **Environmental Sustainability Board:**

The Environmental Sustainability Board would like to welcome two new members, Erik Loechell and Sue Barnes. All ESB positions are filled at this time.

### **Fall Protection Equipment Installed in Transfer Station:**



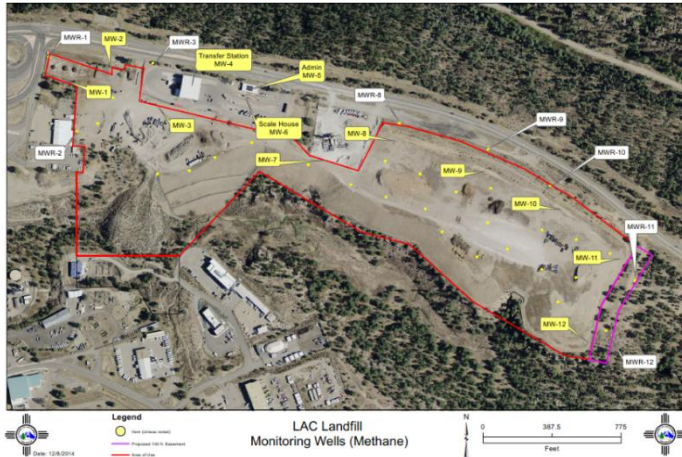
Fall protection equipment was installed inside the transfer station in effort to enrich the safety of the transfer station operators while they tarp the transfer trailers. Operators received fall protection training to accompany the new equipment. Below you will see a photograph of Eric Edmonds (right) and Joe Casias (left), Senior Equipment Operator, demonstrating how to properly wear the new harness.

### **Home Efficiency Expo:**



Los Alamos Department of Public Utilities' James Alarid and Environmental Services Manager Angelica Gurule show off energy saving goodies at their booth at the Home Efficiency Expo Saturday, September 24 at UNM-Los Alamos. DPU sponsored the event, which showcased ways to be more energy efficient at home.

## Landfill Gas Update



In general, the majority of the Landfill Gas (LFG) vents and interior methane gas probes are decreasing in concentration. The gas probes along the landfill boundary or perimeter probes are all below the Lower Explosive Limit, with the exception of MP-11R. However, MP-11R continues to decline in LFG concentration.

## Fall 2016 Brush and Bulk Item Collection Schedule:

The curbside collection occurs four times a year (spring, summer, fall and winter) in effort to assist residents with the disposal of bulk items and yard waste. The next brush and bulk item collection will begin on October 3.

Area	Set out no sooner than	Collection starts
Barranca Mesa, Ponderosa Estates, Loma Linda & Hawks Landing	Sept. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Oct. 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Quemazon, Sandia, Trinity, Orange & Nickel	Sept. 30 <sup>th</sup>	Oct. 11 <sup>th</sup>
North Mesa	Oct. 7 <sup>th</sup>	Oct. 17 <sup>th</sup>
Walnut, Yucca, Urban, Arizona, Town Site	Oct. 14 <sup>th</sup>	Oct. 24 <sup>th</sup>
Rover, Old Town, Meadow Lane, Aragon, Bryce Avenue	Oct. 21 <sup>st</sup>	Oct. 31 <sup>st</sup>
La Vista, Canada Way, Canada Circle, Barcelona, Canyon Vista, Sierra Vista, Monte Vista, La Paloma	Oct. 28 <sup>th</sup>	Nov. 7 <sup>th</sup>
La Senda & Piedra Loop	Nov. 4 <sup>th</sup>	Nov. 14 <sup>th</sup>
Pajarito Acres, Monte Rey, Rio Bravo, Potrillo, Estante Way	Nov. 11 <sup>th</sup>	Nov. 21 <sup>st</sup>

## REMINDER:

- Do not set out materials sooner than ten days before the first day of your scheduled collection date.
- Do not set out materials that are not accepted.
- One pickup per household, piles can be no larger than 8 cubic yards
- Set items close to the curb - avoid placing items under power lines or near cars or utility boxes

- All leaves and pine needles should be placed in paper yard waste bags
- Items that will be picked up: brush, Christmas trees, mattresses, and large appliances (excluding refrigerators), and large furniture
- Place trash in your trash roll cart

**Items that WILL NOT be collected: Refrigerators, freezers, televisions, glass, construction material, lumber, tires, concrete, railroad ties, fencing materials, or paints/chemicals.**

#### **Per Code Enforcement:**

Residents will be in violation of Los Alamos County Code Chapter 18 if any of the conditions below are demonstrated:

- Pile is set out when your area is not scheduled to perform collection.
- Pile contains non-accepted material.
- Pile is obstructed by obstacles.
- Pile is set out after designated pickup date

Residents may receive a citation into Municipal Court where they can face fines and charges up to \$ 500.00 or 90 days in Jail. For each day there is a violation a new citation may be issued.

#### **Facilities Division**

- Fire and security systems have been moved to a new monitoring company.
- New access controls have been installed at the restrooms at Ashley Pond, Animal Shelter, and LAPD.
- Electrical at Fire Station 3 is 95% complete.
- Procurement and Facilities are working on an RFP for a new fire inspection and maintenance contract.

#### **Fleet Division**

A new ACT-Assist van was received for the Transit Division.



#### **Traffic and Streets Division**

##### **Traffic Division:**

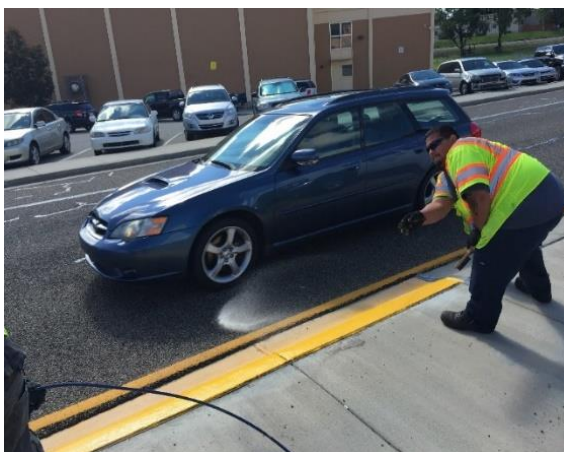
Traffic Manager, Alipio Mondragon and Signs and Markings Crew Lead Anthony Lucero attended the IMSA Convention in Atlanta Georgia the week of August 25<sup>th</sup>. There they learned about the new products available for signs, traffic equipment, lighting products and they learned about new techniques being used



around the country. Alipio serves as the Vice President of the New Mexico IMSA section and received an award on behalf of the New Mexico section for the most improved chapter.



Signs and markings crew have been painting island tips around Los Alamos for better visibility of the islands in the center of the roadway.





Crews install the new service club sign on NM 502 road.



Traffic electricians picked up 28 light poles and associated hardware from a powder coating vendor in Albuquerque for the Central Avenue Phase 2 Project. Crews will reinstall the poles upon contractor completion of conduit installation and wiring.



Traffic electric crews installed new lighting for the Nexus at the golf course. This art piece was recently moved from the intersection of Trinity and Central to its new location at the golf course. Take some time in the evening to see the new lighted piece.



On September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 traffic electric crews responded to Trinity Drive to an early morning traffic signal that was knocked down. The pole was rebuilt and the signal fully operational by 11:00 AM.



Contractor and Traffic and Streets work in coordination putting the “finishing touches” on the pedestal that supports the San Ildefonso plate replica at the White Rock Visitor Center.

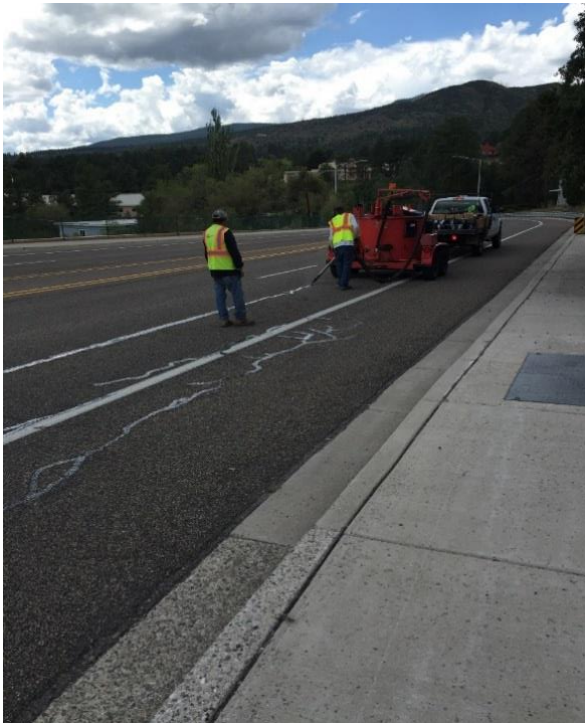


Crews removed a large pine tree on Maple Drive near the County Extension office that was determined to be a hazard. The tree was leaning more than 12% and it was only a matter of time before it fell and damaged buildings, vehicles, infrastructure or a member of the public. See the Kudos section to read the email from the owner, Mr. Trottier, thanking the crews for their hard work.

The crack sealing project on Diamond Drive has been completed by GM Emulsions

### **Streets Division**

Streets crews have been working on street and sidewalk maintenance county wide. See the Kudos section to read the thank you that was posted on Facebook.



The crack sealing project on Diamon Drive has been completed by GM Emulsions



Crews have started work on the new bus turn-around on Range Road to better serve transit customers in the Ponderosa Estates subdivision.



Street crews removed and replaced a drive pad at a 25% slope to a 7% slope.



Crews repaved the eastern segmented circle at the Airport.





Crews work on manhole repairs for the Department of Public Utilities.



## Transit Division



The Transit Division hosted the New Mexico Department of Transportation's Biennial Site Visit of Atomic City Transit (ATC) on Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup>. Although the final report has yet to be received, by all preliminary accounts the review of the transit system was positive as the review team examined and discussed all aspects of the operation including management structures, administrative functions, system policies and protocols, training plans and practices, vehicle maintenance procedures, and several other aspects related to the delivery of transit service in Los Alamos. The final report, from the NMDOT, is expected next month and will be shared with the Transportation Board at the November 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.



Annette Granillo has been hired as the new Transit Division Manager. Ms. Granillo has decades of public transit experience beginning as an administrative manager at Santa Fe Trails, and concluding her career there as Operation Manager for both the Fixed-Route and Paratransit systems that serve the City of Santa Fe. Most recently, she served the North Central Regional Transit District as the Operations and Maintenance Director, responsible for all system operation and maintenance functions. We welcome Ms. Granillo to the ACT team and look

forward to working with her to guide and support our transit system in delivering a high level of transit service throughout the community.





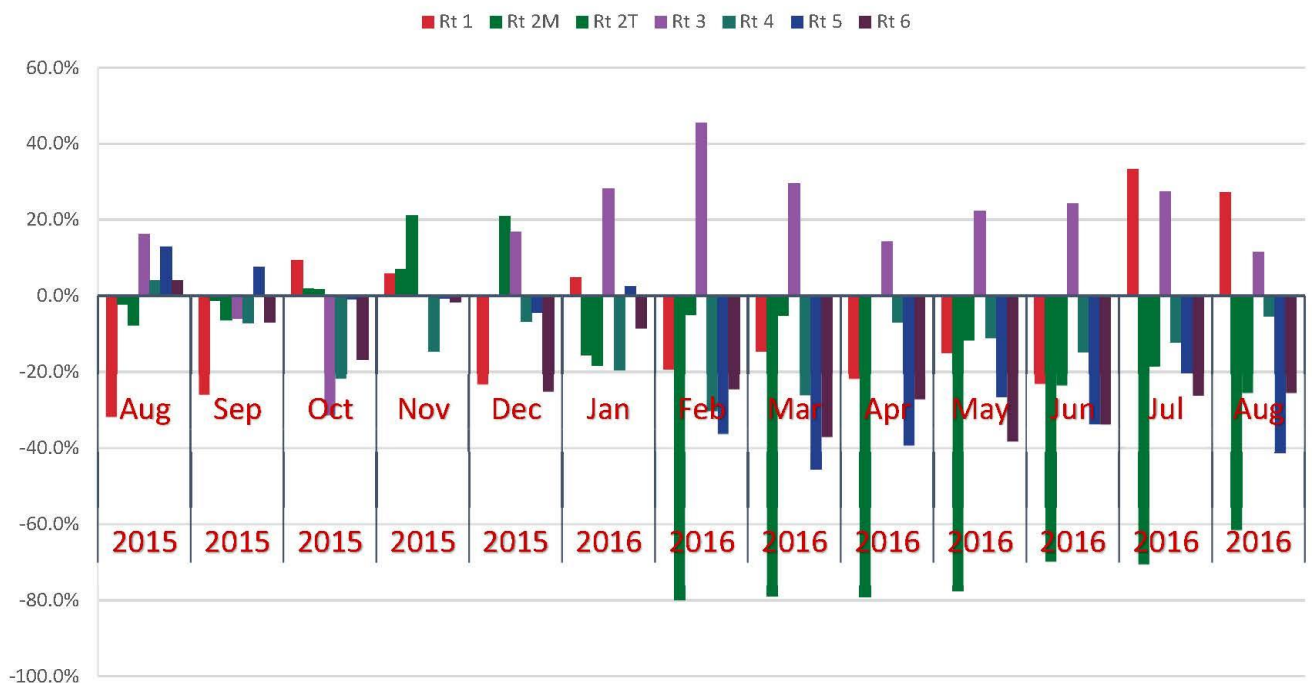
In terms of ongoing operations, on September 24<sup>th</sup>, ACT provided special service to Bandelier in support of Opera on the Rocks, and was a key player in making it a successful community event again this year. Ridership numbers on regularly scheduled routes are seeing some growth, following recent service changes, and have been accompanied by positive comments from riders. A final set of minor service changes are planned to go into effect in early November.

## August 2016 Ridership Report



Route	Current Month Trips			Year-to-date Trips			Average Daily Trips		
	Last Yr	Curr Yr	% Chg	Last Yr	Curr Yr	% Chg	Last Yr	Curr Yr	% Chg
1 Downtown	6745	<b>9394</b>	39.3%	70619	<b>67123</b>	-5.0%	321.2	<b>408.4</b>	27.2%
2M White Rock - Main Hill	5650	<b>2377</b>	-57.9%	46187	<b>15058</b>	-67.4%	269.0	<b>103.3</b>	-61.6%
2T White Rock - Truck Route	3055	<b>2490</b>	-18.5%	24105	<b>20836</b>	-13.6%	145.5	<b>108.3</b>	-25.6%
2 White Rock Total (2M & 2T)	8705	<b>4867</b>	-44.1%	70292	<b>35894</b>	-48.9%	414.52	<b>211.6</b>	-49.0%
3 Central / Canyon	1804	<b>2201</b>	22.0%	12740	<b>15975</b>	25.4%	85.9	<b>95.7</b>	11.4%
4 North Community	3230	<b>3348</b>	3.7%	25173	<b>21434</b>	-14.9%	153.8	<b>145.6</b>	-5.4%
5 Barranca Mesa	3213	<b>2066</b>	-35.7%	23798	<b>16575</b>	-30.4%	153.0	<b>89.8</b>	-41.3%
6 North Mesa	8845	<b>7207</b>	-18.5%	63036	<b>46077</b>	-26.9%	421.2	<b>313.3</b>	-25.6%
<i>Fixed-route total</i>	32542	<b>29083</b>	-10.6%	265658	<b>203078</b>	-23.6%	1549.6	<b>1264.5</b>	-18.4%
7 North Mesa Expr	806	<b>651</b>	-19.2%	7074	<b>6474</b>	-8.5%	38.4	<b>28.3</b>	-26.3%
8 North Community Expr	455	<b>412</b>	-9.5%	4076	<b>3359</b>	-17.6%	21.7	<b>17.9</b>	-17.3%
9 Aspen Expr	409	<b>389</b>	-4.9%	3584	<b>3084</b>	-14.0%	19.5	<b>16.9</b>	-13.2%
10 Barranca Expr	489	<b>471</b>	-3.7%	3890	<b>4223</b>	8.6%	23.3	<b>20.5</b>	-12.1%
11 White Rock Expr	488	<b>384</b>	-21.3%	3543	<b>3979</b>	12.3%	23.2	<b>16.7</b>	-28.2%
<i>Express route total</i>	2647	<b>2307</b>	-12.8%	22167	<b>21119</b>	-4.7%	126.0	<b>100.3</b>	-20.4%
12 Bandelier	18986	<b>18538</b>	-2.4%	73238	<b>79413</b>	8.4%	612.5	<b>598.0</b>	-2.4%
Dial-a-Ride (Evening Service)		<b>126</b>			<b>682</b>			<b>5.5</b>	
ACT Assist (Previously DAR)	823	<b>545</b>	-33.8%	5833	<b>4094</b>	-29.8%	39.2	<b>23.7</b>	-39.5%
Special Services	134	<b>105</b>	-21.6%	3705	<b>3543</b>	-4.4%	134.0	<b>105.0</b>	-21.6%
<i>System total</i>	55132	<b>50704</b>	-8.0%	370601	<b>311929</b>	-15.8%	2461.3	<b>2097.0</b>	-14.8%

% Growth Over Previous Year: Fixed-route Trips per Service Day



## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

### **New hires and promotions:**

The Department of Public utilities is pleased to welcome Joshua Silva and Terry Martinez to our team. Joshua will join the staff at the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). Certified as a wastewater level two operator, the staff looks forward to working with Joshua and helping him advance to a level three operator then ultimately to a level four senior operator over the next few years. Terry will join the Gas, Water, Sewer (GWS) division. He will play a large part in the DPU push to change out all older water meters with newer more accurate water meters in order to facilitate the transition to advanced automatic metering.

Congratulations to WWTP employee Jeremy Martinez. He recently passed his wastewater level three certification and has been promoted to the position of WWTP operator. We look forward to helping Jeremy advance into the level four senior operator position also. Additionally, congratulations to GWS division's Andres Manzanares who was recently promoted to apprentice one, and Stephen Abeyta who was promoted to GWS service worker.

### **Electric Outages Greatly Reduced:**

DPU is pleased to report that it has achieved a System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI) of 19 minutes, well below the Department's goal to reduce outages to below 60 minutes. The SAIDI is commonly used as a reliability indicator by electric utilities. It measures the average outage duration a customer can expect to be without electricity over a 12 month period. While no utility provider can ever guarantee that all customers will have power 100% of the time (lightning, third-party damages, etc., are beyond the control of a utility provider), DPU set out to improve electric reliability service to its customers. In 2011, DPU's SAIDI was at 3.5 hours. The Department developed an Electric Reliability Plan, implemented various measures, and continually updated the reliability Plan. Currently, DPU's SAIDI is at 19 minutes. This is the lowest it has been since the Department began measuring the SAIDI in 2001. As a point of reference, the American Public Power Association's July 2015 edition of the "Public Power" magazine stated that the average SAIDI for municipal utilities was 83 minutes. DPU continues to update the Electric Reliability Plan and implement the identified measures while keeping electric rates competitive with its neighbors.

### **Strategic Planning Sessions:**

On August 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, the DPU senior staff met in a work session to assess its priorities, goals, and strategies to ensure that the Department is meeting its mission, looking toward its vision while remaining true to its values.

### **DPU's All-Hands Meeting:**

DPU employees convened at Pajarito Cliffs, the conference room in Building 1 for an all-hands meeting on September 28<sup>th</sup>. Utilities Manager Tim Glasco updated staff on the recently held strategic planning meeting, reviewed DPU's mission, vision, values and strategic goals. Additionally, he discussed upcoming changes in the electric and natural gas industries and the direction for the Department. New employees, as well as safety employees for the quarter were also recognized. Each Deputy Utility Manager discussed



upcoming projects for each division and the Public Relations Manager shared the results of an employee engagement survey, recently conducted.

### Home Efficiency Expo:

Approximately 200 home owners and renters attended the second annual **Home Efficiency Expo** on Saturday, September 24. The event was hosted by the Los Alamos Department of Public Utilities, and organized by the Pajarito Environmental Education Center. The free event brought several local exhibitors together to highlight water- and energy-efficient tips, retrofits, and upgrades to improve the efficiency of one's home and landscaping. DPU extends its thanks to Pajarito Environmental Education Center, UNM-Los Alamos, Los Alamos Environmental Services, Finishing Touch, Los Alamos Cooperative Extension Service, Energy Concepts, Sun Power by Positive Energy, Renewal by Anderson, and SolarLogic.

### Customer Service Week:

DPU's Management Analyst Lisa Romero accepted on October 4<sup>th</sup> a Proclamation from the Los Alamos County Council declaring October 3 – 7 as Customer Service Week. The Customer Care Center organized a special event at the Municipal building on October 5<sup>th</sup> in recognition of the County's hard working customer service professionals. The community was invited to join a variety of county departments in the Municipal lobby to enjoy cake and learn about the numerous services provided by Los Alamos County.



Sept. 24, 2016 Home Energy Expo - Citizens at the Department of Public Utilities and Environmental Services table



October 5, 2016 Customer Service Week Citizens and County employees mingle in the Municipal Building lobby.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### Developer Interest Continues:

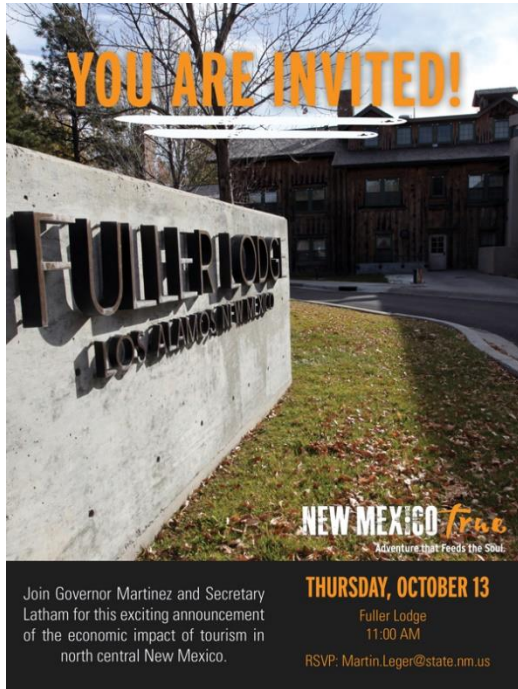
Economic Development, Community Development and Public Works staff have been working with the Los Alamos Commerce and Development Corporation to respond to requests from commercial, retail and housing developers.

### Tourism Secretary Names Los Alamos As One of Tourism Growth Leaders in the State!

Secretary Rebecca Latham announced that Los Alamos visitor spending grew 10.6 % or \$34.2 million in 2015! The news was announced at a press conference at Fuller Lodge Lawn on Thursday, October 13. This data is included in The Economic Impact of Tourism in New Mexico 2015 Analysis conducted by Tourism Economics. Secretary Latham stepped in for Governor Susana Martinez who was delayed in the capital to complete budget bill negotiations. One of just four press conferences held throughout the state, Los Alamos was selected for its "Cinderella story" double digit growth, and the Fuller Lodge venue was selected to promote the County's commitment to preserving and improving public access to one of



the most prominent tourism and community assets in the County. Council Chair Rick Reiss provided welcoming remarks and provided a branding “swag bag” to deliver to the governor.



**Los Alamos County at the State Fair on “Gathering of Counties”/“New Mexico True Day**  
The Economic Development Marketing Specialist and the County’s tourism marketing contractor promoted Los Alamos County to fair goers on September 15.



**#LOSALAMOS IS**  
**#NEWMEXICOTRUE**

Tourism partners from across the state gathered in Albuquerque last week for **New Mexico True Day** at the state fair. Secretary Latham and Kelly Stewart, Tourism & Marketing Specialist for Los Alamos County, took a few moments to catch up and talk about tourism in the Atomic City and happenings in the north central region. #NewMexicoTRUE

### **Contests Generate Increase in Visit Los Alamos Facebook Page Followers?**

The County’s tourism marketing services contractor, Griffin and Associates, conducted a contest via the Visit Los Alamos Facebook page, reposting the extended version of the Los Alamos *tourism video*

**“What Can You Say,”** that debuted in August, along with an “unscrubbed” version of the same spot, challenging followers to find the difference between the two videos (a tattoo “No Half Measures” on the actor’s forearm at the end of the spot) and the New Mexico association of the tattoo (a phrase used in “Breaking Bad” by the main character Walter White played by Bryan Cranston for whom the actor was a stand-in). Two Visit Los Alamos Facebook page followers provided the information within a minute of each other and were awarded a Starbucks gift card and promotional items (t-shirt, lip balm, knapsack) from “Breaking Bad” provided by New Mexico’s film union, IATSE Local 480).

In July, Los Alamos launched a **Los Alamos Gateway to 3 National Parks Facebook contest**, pointing all Visit Los Alamos Facebook followers to submit their photos of Bandelier National Historical Park, Valles Caldera National Preserve and the Manhattan Project National Historical Park as part of the New Mexico Tourism Department’s “Find Your New Mexico True Park” Facebook contest. After the contest closed on Labor Day, the Los Alamos Economic Development Marketing Specialist worked with the New Mexico Tourism Department to collect all Los Alamos gateway park photo entries and coordinated with Griffin and Associates to select and award a winner, Bettina France. Her photo (below) is titled “Fields of Gold” and showcases the lovely Valles Caldera.



### Los Alamos Film Office Update:

Los Alamos County is getting a reputation...for delivering exceptional customer service to the film.

**“Godless”** filmed at Camp May during the week of October 3-8. This six-episode period drama is set in the expansive landscape of the great western frontier and stars Emmy Award Winner® Jeff Daniels, Emmy® and Golden Globe® nominated Michelle Dockery (“Downton Abbey”) and Jack O’Connell (“Unbroken”). This large scale production will employ approximately 280 New Mexico crew members, 30 New Mexico principal actors and 2,350 New Mexico background talent. “Godless” is set to premiere worldwide on Netflix in 2017.

**“Untitled Prison Break,”** a Sony feature film is scheduled to film at various locations throughout Los Alamos during the week of October 24-28, 2016.

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

**Oct 20 – Manhattan Project National Historical Park – Committee Meeting, 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m., Room 330 Municipal Bldg.**

**Oct 25 – Council Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Council Chamber, Fire Station No. 3 – White Rock**

**Oct 28 – Annual Employee Fall Luncheon & Food Drive, Three Shifts – 11:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m, & 1:00 p.m., Fuller Lodge**

**KUDOS & FYI**

On Sep 25, 2016 7:45 PM, Andre Trottier <[trottier@newmexico.com](mailto:trottier@newmexico.com)> wrote:

Dear Mr. Erickson,

Over the past 2 weeks we have discussed the removal of a tree in a county easement by our house with members of your staff.

The tree was recommended for removal by County Extension Agent Carlos Valdez, because it was leaning north and could fall across Maple St.

I contacted Darby Martinez who was very helpful and she quickly dispatched Scott Halder to inspect the tree. Scott identified that the tree was on county property and that it had a high probability of falling across Maple St. by our house.

Scott advised he was going to have the tree removed.

About 2 weeks passed but on Tuesday, September 20 work crews supervised by Daniel Blea and I believe Elipio Mondragon arrived with equipment consisting of a bucket truck, backhoe, bobcat loader and two large flatbed trucks and about a dozen workers and rer one hour. The cooperation between the different departments represented was very organized.

My wife Cherie and I enjoyed watching the workers quickly go about their task of cutting the tree and removing the debris. The workers were well supervised and professional in their work. We spoke with Daniel and Elipio and complemented them on how efficient

We would like to thank you and members of your department for the excellent service in the removal of the tree. Please extend to the men involved our appreciation of a job well done.

Andy & Cherie Trottier





**Mary Langworthy** ▶ **KEEP IT LOCAL-  
Los Alamos**

29 mins • 🌐

Huge shout out to Richard Marquez and his L.A. County Street Maintenance crew. They ripped out our steep and awkward driveway cut-out that scraped the bottom of our cars coming and going, and replaced it with a beautiful cut-out that has a lyrically gentle slope. The crew was hard working and thoughtful, and their work product, a thing of beauty. In fact, if you look up "A thing of beauty is a joy forever" (John Keats), there's probably a picture of our new driveway cut-out next to it. Thank you LA County Street Maintenance crew!

