



OPEN SPACE *newsletter*



Mayor Martin J. Chávez

A Quarterly Newsletter of the Open Space Division and the Open Space Alliance

Volume 6, Issue 4, October - December 2005

OPEN SPACE POLICE Still Dedicated to Open Space

At the end of last year the Open Space Police (OSP) were absorbed into the Albuquerque Police Department (APD). As a special unit in APD administered by Captain Mike Castro and Lieutenant Ruben Griego, the Open Space Police continue patrolling and responding to calls affecting Open Space properties and facilities.

Of course, there have been some changes. The OSP vehicles are now striped and marked in the APD tradition. You may see officers dressed in APD blue or bicycle black while others still sport the familiar tan and green. You may also encounter Open Space officers patrolling city parks, too.

But does this affect you as a citizen or volunteer and the protocol for contacting the Open Space Division to report problems in Open Space?

No. Except who you call to report problems.

Although Open Space Administrative Offices continue to maintain a dispatch unit for operations and maintenance, Open Space Police are now directly dispatched through APD. Therefore, when reporting problems that require law enforcement attention volunteers and citizens should now call

242-COPS instead of Open Space dispatch. You will need to clearly state that the area is an Open Space property.

With that change, please continue your vigilance on the trails and report any and all incidences that violate Open Space rules and regulations.

Please note that safety issues that require immediate attention will continue to be reported to Open Space Administrative Offices at 452-5206.

Thank you for your continued dedication to Open Space and happy trails!



Familiar faces: APD Open Space officers Luis Zamarron (L) and George Gabaldon (R)

MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Martin J. Chavez, Mayor

The end of summer falls upon us with exciting events and changes in Open Space that I am proud to highlight.

On October 1st, the new Unser realignment from Montano to Universe officially opened. This new section of road is not only safer than the former route, but has the bonus benefit of removing commuter traffic from Open Space's Boca Negra Canyon in the Petroglyph National Monument. Once again the canyon offers tranquility reminiscent of the days when people were hiking up and pecking sacred images on basalt rock. I look forward to the return of coyote, owls – maybe even bobcat - and other wildlife to the canyon. I'm enthusiastic about other planned improvements to the Boca Negra park that this re-route will allow.

It is always delightful to report the priceless accomplishments that have been made 'in the field' by Open Space supporters and volunteers. Two recent annual events - 'Dia del Rio' on October 15 and 'Make a Difference Day' on October 22 - are shining examples of this great community spirit. This year's Dia del Rio took place at the Hispanic Cultural Center. For the twelfth consecutive year, volunteers cleared cut wood, painted out graffiti, removed hundreds of pounds of trash, and constructed and cleaned the trails that wind through the cottonwood forest along the river. It was truly a day of citizen's united to pay tribute and to celebrate the River that binds us all together.

'Make a Difference Day' on the following weekend, was a City-wide day of community-volunteerism. In the foothills, an exceptional local non-profit agency – the Nicodemus Wilderness Project – has partnered with the City for six years on this annual service-project that spruces-up the Piedra Lisa Open Space in the foothills (We called it 'the Whitewash' when I was a kid). Lots of fine people did lots of hard work, and this year was another great success. Check it out!

We have volunteer projects almost every week. Talk to the folks at Open Space or visit the City MOVE (Mayor's Office of Volunteerism and Engagement) website at www.cabq.gov/move for other opportunities.

Looking back, I am quite proud of the advances we made in our Open Space network during the last four years. Working together, we acquired the last 250 acres of remaining private *bosque*; bought specialized equipment and funded Open Space crews to remove dangerous fuel-loads and so reduced fire-risk significantly; and we planted and restored and re-vegetated the *bosque* in a thoughtful, scientific manner. We are re-creating the historic mosaic of open grassy areas and moist-soils and wetlands and cottonwood canopy and native under-story that is home to so many critters and provides so much pleasure to visitors and locals. *And*, we established the first 'Water Bank' in the nation to ensure that the River has adequate flows to provide for habitat and *bosque*-health.

Looking forward, I'm terrifically excited about the opportunity to help protect and enhance Albuquerque's sublime public properties, our magnificent natural resource-lands, our Major Public Open Space.

A stylized, handwritten signature of Martin Chavez in black ink. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large 'M' and 'C' that are interconnected.

Martin Chavez, Mayor

Hunting Season Around the Corner

The Sandia Ranger District falls within the New Mexico Game and Fish Unit 8 and 14 district for hunting deer, bear and cougar. These districts are restricted to bow hunting only -- firearms are illegal. Cross bows are also illegal except for certified mobility impaired hunters. Hunting is forbidden on Open Space property and may only take place on Forest Service (USFS) lands. However, hunters may access USFS land through Open Space while following these restrictions:

- * Arrow can NOT be notched on the bow while in Open Space.
- * Hunters must use established trails.
- * Hunting dogs must be on leash.
- * Animals wounded on approved lands must be tracked, killed and cleaned even if the wounded animal wanders onto Open Space land.

If you witness a violation, DO NOT approach the hunter. Establish an accurate location of the activity and contact 242-COPS. First, clarify to the dispatcher that the complaint is taking place on Open Space property and then proceed with the necessary information. An Open Space Police officer will be dispatched to the scene.

The 2005-2006 hunting seasons in Sandia Ranger District are as follows:

October 1 - March 31

Cougar

November 19 - 27

Youth Deer Hunt

January 1 - 15

Deer

October 15 - November 15

Bear

Please visit the New Mexico Game and Fish website for more information at <http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/recreation/hunting/>

New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors

The Open Space Division would like to recognize the New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors (NMVFO) for their continued support of Open Space trails. This year the NMVFO has taken on five different trail projects, one of which was National Trails Day. The NMVFO has been a partner with the OSD since 1984 and has been organizing National Trails Day events since 1992. This year's projects have included: two Gutierrez Canyon trail building projects in the east mountains; National Trails Day, which drew over 160 volunteers who worked on 9 different projects throughout the Sandias; a Foothills Trail maintenance project; and an Elena Gallegos trail maintenance project.

The NMVFO is a non-profit, all volunteer organization that assists land management agencies across New Mexico. The NMVFO works on over 30 projects each year from March to November, including one-day projects, overnight camping projects and weeklong backpacking projects. Each year over 7000 hours of volunteer work are contributed to Federal, State and local agencies.

If you'd like to learn more about the NMVFO please contact them at 1 (888) 836-5553 or take a look at their web site at <http://nmvfo.org>. Come on out and join them on their next Open Space project!



Alameda / Rio Grande Trail Now Ready!

Open Space is very excited about the new crusher-fine trail that makes this beautiful area so much more friendly and enjoyable for mobility impaired individuals. There are four picnic tables shaded by cottonwoods within the new Alameda trail area. Keeping equestrians and bicyclists in mind, there are also designated trails for them. Thank you for your patience during the renovation of this area as we know many of you have been awaiting its completion.

Open Space would like to thank Bernalillo County Parks and Recreation for securing state funds and partnering with us on this project.

To visit the trail, take the paved bike trail north from the parking area at Alameda under the bridge then west into the bosque.

OCTOBER

Saturdays & Sundays

BIRD WALKS

Rio Grande Nature Center 8:30 am

Free walk led by a volunteer naturalist. Please call 344-7240 to register.

Sundays

NATURE WALKS

Rio Grande Nature Center 1:00 pm

Free walk led by a volunteer naturalist. Please call 344-7240 to register.

NOVEMBER

Saturdays & Sundays

BIRD WALKS

Rio Grande Nature Center 8:30 am

Free walk led by a volunteer naturalist. Please call 344-7240 to register.

Sundays

NATURE WALKS

Rio Grande Nature Center 1:00 pm

Free walk led by a volunteer naturalist. Please call 344-7240 to register.

10 **GEOLOGY OF THE MIDDLE RIO GRANDE VALLEY**

Rio Grande Nature Center 7:00 pm

Free talk by the director of education for the New Mexico Museum and Natural History and Science, Jayne Aubele.

12 **TRES PISTOLAS CLEAN UP PROJECT**

Help us spruce up this Open Space property located in Carnuel. Trash clean up, sign installation and boundary protection will be the tasks at hand. Please call 452-5210 for time and location.

15 - 20 **FESTIVAL OF THE CRANES**

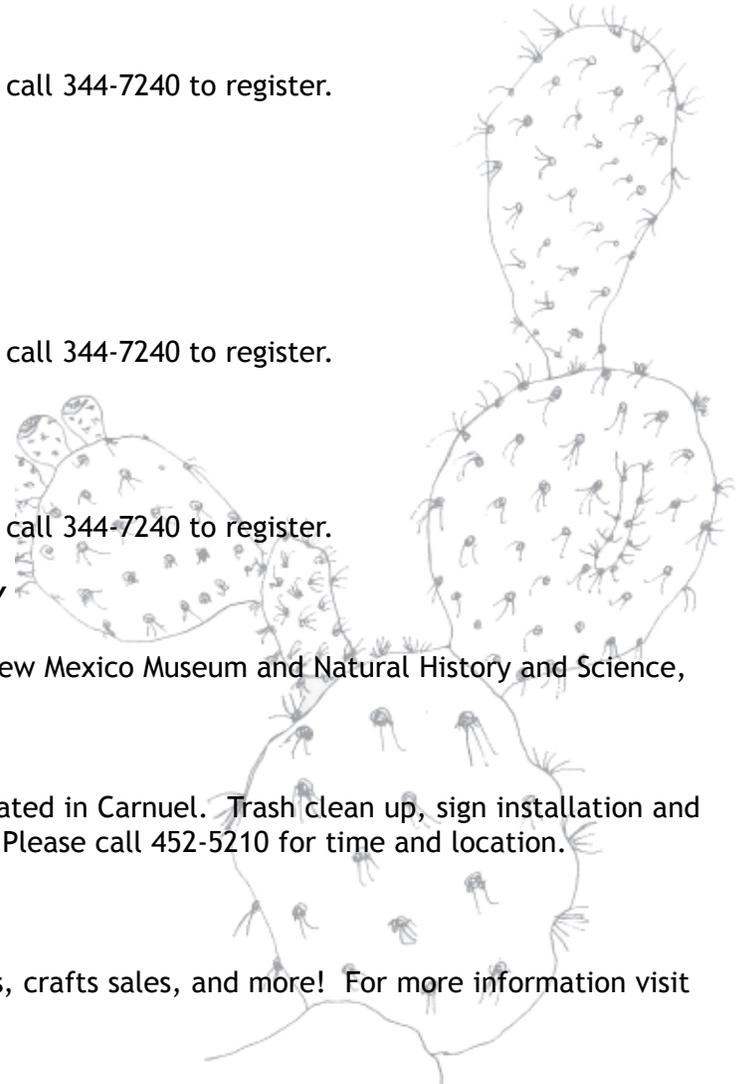
Bosque del Apache Wildlife Refuge

Tours, talks, workshops, exhibits, booths, crafts sales, and more! For more information visit www.friendsofthebosque.org/crane/

17 **NEW OPEN SPACE VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION**

Taylor Ranch Community Center 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Training covers Open Space history, geography, purpose, and volunteer responsibilities. Please call 452-5210 to register.



17 OPEN SPACE ALLIANCE MEETING
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Call 452-5200 for details.

DECEMBER

Saturdays & Sundays

BIRD WALKS

Rio Grande Nature Center 9:00 am

Free walk led by a volunteer naturalist. Please call 344-7240 to register.

Sundays

NATURE WALKS

Rio Grande Nature Center 1:00 pm

Free walk led by a volunteer naturalist. Please call 344-7240 to register.



Los Poblanos Fields
Open Space
Maize Maze
Rock 'n Roadrunner

September 3 - October 31
Saturdays & Sundays
11:00 am - 5:00 pm

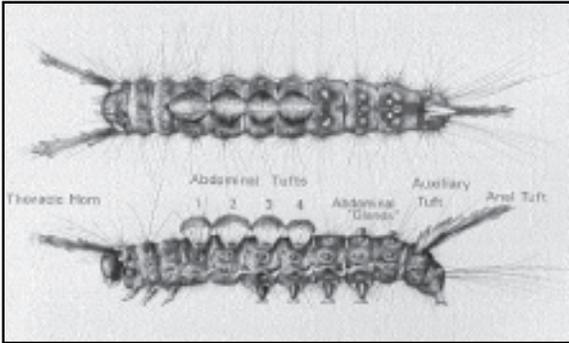
HALLOWEEN JAM
October 30
11:00 am - 5:00 pm

This year's roadrunner-theme maze covers several acres. Miles of paths are cut through rows of corn and millet that will serve as wildlife feed after the maze has ended. The journey through the maze can take between 45 minutes to one hour.

Admission to the Maze is \$6.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children 5-12 years old. Proceeds benefit Rio Grande Community Farms, the non-profit organization jointly managing the farm with the Open Space Division.

If you would like to volunteer for the Maze or would like more information, contact **Jenny Gamble** at jennygamble@hotmail.com or call 345-4580.

Tussock Moth Outbreak in Pino Canyon



If you have recently visited Pino Canyon in the Sandia mountains (Cibola National Forest), you may have noticed caterpillars hanging from silk

threads on the Douglas-fir stands as well as trees stripped of their foliage. This is an outbreak of the Douglas-fir tussock moth, a native insect of the conifer forests of western North America. The last outbreak was in the 1970's in the Bear and Domingo Baca Canyons, when there was substantial mortality of the Douglas-fir and white fir. Outbreaks occur during favorable weather conditions and when abundant food is readily available. The tree's ability to survive the outbreak depends on how much foliage the caterpillars. The caterpillars feed on the needles of the true fir trees, growing to full maturity at more than an inch in length. The caterpillars develop tussocks of hairs as they mature, which cause rashes on some people. After pupating in a hairy cocoon, the caterpillars emerge as gray-brown moths. The female moths lay their eggs on top of the cocoon from which they emerged, leaving hairy egg masses that are a common sight on branches in an outbreak area.

The outbreaks will last about three years, however, some outbreaks have been reported in New Mexico to last seven years. This outbreak in Pino Canyon was first apparent in 2004 and it is possible that it will subside in 2006. Insecticides can be applied to control populations, but they are not completely effective, whereas natural enemies often stop outbreaks without human intervention. Given that this outbreak is within Wilderness boundaries and is expected to subside within a year, no control measures will be taken.

For more information about the tussock moth contact:
 NM Forest Health Staff
 SW Regional Office, USDA Forest Service
 (505) 842-3286

Information for this article gathered from the US Forest Service.

Pueblo Montano UPDATE

A new trail loop has been completed at the Pueblo Montano Open Space with the assistance of the Youth Conservation Corp (YCC) crews from Life Work Learning, a charter school on the west side of Albuquerque, and two Albuquerque Eagle Scout projects. The two Eagle Scout leaders, Jeff Lamkin and Eric Holman, led two separate work projects in trail construction and exotic plant removal to provide access to the bosque and the river. These projects were part of their leadership, service, and outdoor skills requirements to fulfill their Eagle Scout rank. This loop trail can be accessed from the northeast corner of the picnic area by following the dirt levy road to the east side of the canal into the bosque.

Mark Chavez, one of the firefighters who helped put out the 2003 fire in the bosque, has finished carving the eagle, sandhill crane and the La Llorona sculpture as part of the Pueblo Montano sculpture garden. The legend of La Llorona, or the weeping woman, also



La Llorona looks out toward the river for her children.

known locally as the ditch witch, warns children not to play by the river after dark to avoid being thrown in by the grieving ghost.

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Open Space Alliance.
*Read your newsletter on-line!***

Consider cancelling your subscription to the Open Space News and view each issue at www.cabq.gov/openspace/news

Cancelling your subscription saves the Open Space Alliance printing and mailing costs -- that much more change to put toward education and conservation projects in Open Space!

To cancel your subscription, send Jodi Hedderig an email at jhedderig@cabq.gov and tell her to cancel your subscription to the Open Space newsletter because you want to help support the Open Space Alliance.

Open Space Visitor Center UPDATE!

The construction and remodeling of the Visitor Center is one of the most exciting things going on in Open Space. Completion of the Visitor Center is still scheduled for the end of January of 2006. Please visit the Open Space home page at www.cabq.gov/openspace for up-to-date photos of the construction phase.



New structure facing west where the old entrance used to be.

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Get involved in the Open Space Alliance *today* and contribute to the future of YOUR Open Space!

Your generous contribution to the Open Space Alliance supports OSA's mission of enhancing our quality of life through: heightening public awareness of Open Space lands; building and strengthening partnerships with groups who share Open Space values; promoting conservation, acquisition, and stewardship of Open Space lands; strengthening volunteerism and community outreach programs; providing financial support.

For information about our current activities, contact Steve Hamp, OSA Board President, at shamp7@comcast.net, or 247-2523.

To join, please fill out the information and return the form with your check or money order.

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

- NEW MEMBER
- RENEWAL
- \$10 STUDENT (18 & UNDER) / SENIOR
- \$20 INDIVIDUAL
- \$30 FAMILY
- \$250 SUSTAINING
- \$500 CORPORATE
- \$1000 LIFE MEMBER

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Open Space Alliance, P.O. Box 91265, Albuquerque, NM 87199

OPEN SPACE news

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 7:00 am to 5:00 pm
 Monday through Friday
 873-6620

ELENA GALLEGOS PICNIC AREA
 Winter: 7:00 am to 7:00 pm
 Summer: 7:00 am to 9:00 pm
 all week
 \$1.00 weekdays / \$2.00 weekends
 857-8334

PETROGLYPH NATIONAL MONUMENT
Boca Negra Canyon
Las Imagenes Visitor Center
 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, all week
 \$1.00 weekdays / \$2.00 weekends

RIO GRANDE VALLEY STATE PARK
Rio Grande Nature Center
 2901 Candelaria NW
 (505) 344-7240
 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, all week
 \$1 Adults / \$.50 Children

TO REPORT VIOLATIONS
 7:00 am to 11:00 pm, all week
 (505) 873-6632 (voice/relay)

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