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Town of San Luis

NEWSLETTER

March 2020 — FREE

Founder's Day to be Celebrated April 4th

by Richard de Olivas y Cordova

April 5, 2020 will be 169 years since Colorado began with the formal establishment of San Luis as the first town. It is a known fact that by the time San Luis was founded, the villages of Manzaneras (Garcia), San Acacio, Colonias, San Francisco, Vallejos, and San Pedro had already been around for a few years—probably beginning since about 1847. Therefore, when we celebrate Founders' Day in the Culebra villages we use the San Luis date but honor many people as founders because there were no fewer than 15 couples who were instrumental in creating the first seven villages. Those villages being in order: Garcia, San Acacio, Colonias, Vallejos, San Francisco, San Pedro, and finally San Luis. San Pablo, Corriera, Chama, Canon de Chama, Los Fuertes, and even Cuba as a San Luis neighborhood came later.

When you think of the founding, or of your ancestors as founders, you think of whole communities, houses, and churches being planned and how those were designed around rivers, acequias, and roads. And it meant that people from various communities in New Mexico were coming together to design a whole new future for themselves and their descendants. They must have talked, fought, laughed, disagreed and eventually came together to create what we now know as San Luis and the Culebra villages.



Did those founders dream that 170 years later their descendants would be watering the lands that they settled with water from the acequias that they designed and built? Did they know that we would still be here these many years later? Did they envision the struggles and the accomplishments of the last almost two centuries? Did they know that we would be here today seemingly fighting for the survival of our town? Did they ever feel like giving up? Is it their spirit of survival and example of faith and conviction that instills in us the will to succeed?

On April 4th, come to the Parish Hall to celebrate our founders. There will be a pancake breakfast from 8 am to noon, a 5K Run/Walk at 10 am beginning in south San Luis at the Vega Road. Enjoy vendors and games from noon to five and tours of Historic Main Street throughout the day. There will be music by DJ, G-Styles and lots of fellowship, dancing, celebrating the founding of our communities, and the honoring of our ancestors. Please come, join us, enjoy the day.

This event is sponsored by Adelante San Luis, the Town of San Luis, and many other partners.

Creating a San Luis Town Plaza

The San Luis Board of Trustees is happy to announce the purchase of 100 North Church Place, just north of the Town Hall, through a grant received from the Department of Local Affairs, REDI grant with the goal of using this property and the Town Hall parking area to create a San Luis Town Plaza.

Town plazas are an extension of the community where they can be the settings where celebrations are held, where social and economic exchanges take place, where friends run into each other, and where visitors can engage with our unique culture. The intention behind the San Luis Town Plaza is to act as the town's "front porch" where everyone can interact with each other as a community. When towns and neighborhoods have thriving public space, residents can strengthen a strong sense of community.

The Board's goal with the Town Plaza project is to help stimulate much needed economic development and growth. The goal of the Town Board is to turn the 100 North Church Place home into a business incubator by creating a coffee shop and bakery that opens to the town plaza with open air seating.

There will also be spaces built for a small gift shop, a walk up café and possibly more. The Town will open these small business spaces to local entrepreneurs who would like to create and have a business of their own that caters to locals and visitors as well. Business training will be provided by the Small Business Association in Alamosa.

This town plaza will be a place with its own special flavor that re-

flects and nurtures the culture and history of our community. It will enrich the lives of its users and enhances our downtown Main Street.



Great public places contribute to community health—whether socially, economically, culturally or environmentally. They add enhancement, not only visually, but also in providing a sense of character and a quaint venue for public activities. A town plaza can become an anchor for downtowns and communities, acting as focal points for definition and foundations for healthy economic growth. All of these assets as well as the opportunity these places offer for people to relax and enjoy themselves, add up to greater community livability for all of us.

Community spaces are important to the identity of towns because they are where the people who live and work in a community experience their town and each other. These special places instill a mutual sense of pride and ownership. This can lead to a shared dedication and stewardship for the town, continued well-being and foster the teamwork to carry it on.

Public spaces that are great places have many real and measurable economic benefits. Not only does it bring beauty to Main Street, it

strengthens economic development as well. Revitalizing streets for walking, gathering, and shopping is perhaps the most direct example of how placemaking can benefit a town economically. Too many towns suffer from streets dedicated to moving high volumes of traffic quickly – a goal that effectively eliminates foot traffic, parking and other features necessary for healthy street life and economic activity.

This town plaza will offer free, open venues for people to encounter art, to enjoy performances, and to participate in other cultural activities and possibly a local farmer's market giving more opportunities for our local entrepreneurs to thrive and flourish financially. San Luis' town plaza will foster and enhance cultural life by creating events that bring a great variety of people together and set the stage for positive social interaction.

The Town would like to invite the public to share their helpful ideas for this town plaza project. Jeffery Woods and the Colorado Center for Community Development, University of Colorado Denver, College of Architecture and Planning students will help design the Town Plaza project. There will be several open public meetings to share the students' design concepts so the public can give input as to their ideas for the fun project.

Stay tuned to this newsletter for meeting dates and times. In the mean time feel free to visit town hall and let us know if you are budding entrepreneur and would be interested in creating a San Luis Town Plaza business.

From the Mayor



It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as the Mayor of San Luis for the past two years. The Board of Trustees, town staff and I have made great progress in moving several projects forward that will soon come to fruition. A great deal of work continues to be accomplished by the Board of Trustees and town staff toward positive town growth.

San Luis has been fortunate. The town maintains a stronger financial position due to increased city and county sales tax revenues. The staff at town hall is professional, skillful, and committed to delivering quality work.

Strong positive future steps must be taken in order to reach our goals and shape our own destiny as the oldest town in Colorado. We are eager to embrace new initiatives and identify new opportunities to revitalize economic growth while preserving the quality of life and culture valued by our residents. With your help, we will continue work to become a "Vibrant Community" with a bright future. As always, my door remains open and I welcome you to share your ideas and concerns with me.

San Luis Board of Trustees Vacancies

The Town of San Luis has two open positions on the Board of Trustees. The Board meets the 1st and 2nd Tuesdays of every month. There will be special meetings as well. You must be a San Luis resident for no less than 12 consecutive months, live within the town limits, be a registered voter, and be a minimum of 18 years of age.

The Board is looking for energetic folks who are ready to roll up their sleeves and desire to make a positive difference in our community. If selected as a Trustee, the position serves a two-year term until April 2022. If interested please send a letter of intent listing your qualifications; vision for the Town of San Luis; and why you would like to become a Town Trustee to Town of San Luis, P.O. Box 200, San Luis, CO 81423. You can also deliver it to the town hall located at 408 Main Street; or email your letter of intent to townclerk@townofsanluisco.org. Letters of Intent must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on April 3rd, 2020.

Vendor Opportunities

Are you a vendor and want to make a bit of extra income? The Town will welcome vending opportunities for the annual Fiesta de Santiago y Santa Ana, July 24 through 26, 2020. Come in early to get your Special Event License (\$30) to reserve your prime spot. Your involvement will help make our 170 year-old annual event a lot of fun for attendees! Have questions? Call Town Hall at 672-3321.

Home Ownership?



Are you tired of renting? Have you thought about homeownership? Community Resources and Housing Development Corporation (CRHDC) can help! We help you with your path to home ownership!

CRHDC is currently accepting applications for Luz del Cielo subdivision located on Pedro and Salazar Street in San Luis. Construction is being planned for the next grant cycle which begins September 2020. The San Luis project plan is to build three bedroom homes with a garage. Homes range in size from 1,100 to 1,086 square feet.

CRHDC encourages first time homebuyers and other eligible individuals who want to live in San Luis to apply now.

Self-help eligibility income, from all sources is: 1-4 persons very low income, \$34,050; low income for 1-4 persons not to exceed \$54,500; 5-8 person very low income; \$44,950 and low income 5-8 person not to exceed \$71,950.00.

Our staff will assist you every step of the way, from the application process through the construction phase, to move in. Use your own hands to help build your own home. Become part of a neighborhood that thrives in our community of San Luis. Please call (719) 589-1680 for more information.

Main Street Strategic Plan

The Main Street Steering Committee met for their second planning workshop on Friday, February 21st to create a strategic plan to implement in 2020. The committee chose three areas in which to focus: street-view beautification; supporting and promoting downtown business; and promoting San Luis as a visitors' destination.

Included in the above focus areas are projects to help make San Luis' downtown Main Street more attractive. Possible projects to be undertaken are planters and benches; painting of curbs and crosswalks; more flowers, flower boxes, hanging basket and banners; and clean-up of sidewalks and streets.

The Main Street committee will also be working on a current business, potential business and a building assessment database to help drive the possibilities of new business and promotion of existing local business. A focus on economic development will be the driving

factor in the committee's future planning beyond 2020.

Lastly, there will be a concerted effort to promote San Luis to tourists and visitors through brochures placed at San Luis Valley Welcome Centers, plus, promoting San Luis on online formats such as Trip Advisor, Facebook and Google Travel Guide. Also, the creation merchandise such as T-Shirts and magnets to advertise our historic Town of San Luis will be offered.

The vision statement was also finalized for the Main Street program which is: *To create a vibrant Main Street that expresses San Luis' historic authenticity.*

The group agreed upon the following mission statement: *To revitalize downtown San Luis through economic development and community collaboration while nurturing our culture.*

Thank you to the citizens who have stepped up to join the Main Street effort to revitalize San Luis.

Support San Luis Businesses

ASC Electronics	672-0262
BeLeaf Wellness	206-3361
Family Dollar	672-0377
Carson Construction	298-0727
Central Oil	672-3840
Ernie's Barbershop	588-9942
GT's Trash Service	672-3601
Gus's Liquor Store	672-3331
Jacales Art Gallery	588- 6831
J&J Self Storage	672-3660
La Casa Canna Bis	672-4220
Mondragon's Tire	672-3325
Mrs. Rio's Restaurant Thai Kitchen	672-0211
Painted Sage	(303) 919-9937
Piccadilly Pizza	672-0340
R&R Market	672-3346
Romero Funeral	589- 9200
San Luis Inn	673-3399
San Luis Music	680-3933
San Luis Propane	672-4204
Sonia's Convenience	672-4461
Speedway Garage	672-9903

Town Hall Meeting Dates

All Town Hall meetings are open to the public.
Please join us!

Town Hall Meeting

The 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm.

Work Sessions

The 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm.

408 Main Street
San Luis, Colorado

Visitors Welcome

Weekly Lenten Observances at the **Morado de San Francisco** by the Hermanos Penitentes

Traditional Spanish Stations of the Cross

Fridays at 2:00 pm
March 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th and April 3rd, 2020

County Rd. J.2
Just beyond San Francisco

The Color Blaze 5k Vega Fun Run/Walk

Celebrating San Luis' Founder's Day • April 5, 1851



Saturday, April 4, 2020

Beginning at the VEGA entrance on Hwy. 159 at the south end of San Luis
at **10 a.m. for Runners, Walkers, Strollers and Paws**

**This event will be full of color and fun,
so be prepared to get messy and have the time of your life!**

Everyone is welcome to attend this event. There are no age restrictions. Each runner/walker who signs up before the deadline (March 22th, 2020) will be given a t-shirt, color packet, and all kinds of fun stuff!

After the deadline each person will receive a race bib and individual color packet. There will be a limited number of shirts available after the deadline. This is an untimed event because we hope people will enjoy the moment more without the pressure of finishing the race quickly.

Entry Fees: Kids: **\$12** (Ages 11 and under) Youth: **\$15** (Ages 12 to 18)
\$20 Adults (Ages 18 and over) **Groups/Families: \$15 per person** (3 entrants or more)

One dollar (\$1.00) of every entry will go to help preserve the Vega for future generations!

Sign up at raceentry.com or fill out application below.

Full Name (Please Print Clearly): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Race Day Age: _____ Male Female I am part of a group: Yes No

Number in Group _____ Name of Group: _____

T-Shirt Size: Adult Size Small Medium Large X-Large XX-Large

Youth Size Small Medium Large

Mail Application Payable to: "Town of San Luis" P.O. Box 200, San Luis, CO 81152

or bring to San Luis Town Hall, 408 Main Street • Open Monday-Friday. from 8 am to 4 pm

The Color Blaze 5k Vega Fun Run/Walk

Registration: Race Start begins at 10:00 am at Vega Entrance off Hwy. 159, south San Luis

Distance: 3.107 miles / 5 km

Location/Start: Westside Vega Road

Race Start Time: 10 am for Runners/Walkers/Strollers/Paws

Attributes: Flat dirt road through the Vega field.

Description: San Luis, Colorado is the oldest town Colorado with a deep cultural heritage. The route goes through the historic Vega commons grazing land. 1.55 miles in and back.

Awards: 1st, 2nd & 3rd Runners - 1st, 2nd and 3rd Walkers (no running)

Entry Fee: **\$12** Children (11 and under), **\$15** Youth (12 to 18) **\$20** Adults (18 and over)
\$15 Group/Family Rate per person (3 or more)
\$25 for all after March 22th, 2020 and on Run/Walk Day.

Amenities: T-Shirt and free stuff • Race will be run rain or shine.
Breakfast Burritos and Coffee for purchase before or after the Run/Walk.

Mail Application Payable to:

"The Town of San Luis" P.O Box 200, San Luis, CO 81152
For questions call: (719) 672-3321

WAIVER: I know that running a road race is a potentially hazardous activity. I should not enter and run unless I am medically able and properly trained. I also know that there will be traffic on the course and assume the risk for running on dirt roads. I also assume any or all other risks associated with running or attending the race, including but not limited to falls, contact with other participants, the affects of the weather and the conditions of the roads, all such risks being known and appreciated by me. Knowing these facts, and in consideration of your accepting my entry fee, I hearby for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators or anyone else who might claim on my behalf, covenant not to sue, and waive, release and discharge the Town of San Luis and any subcontractors it utilizes, all municipalities or counties in which the race is held, the race committee, volunteers, any and all sponsors including their agents, employees, assigns or anyone acting for on their behalf, or anyone else associated in any way with the race, from any or all claims or liability for death, personal injury or property damage of any kind or nature whatsoever arising out of, or in the course of, my participation in this event. This waiver extends to all claims of every kind or nature, foreseen or unforeseen, known or unknown. I HAVE FULLY READ AND UNDERSTAND THIS WAIVER.

Applicant's Signature: _____

Parent's required to sign for children under 18: _____

Date: _____