



Valley Improvement Association

Fall 2015

September 2015

Volume 2, Number 3

Valley Improvement
Association
P.O. Box 8
Belen, NM 87002

Phone:
(505)864-6654

Fax:
(505)864-2826

E-mail:
paul@v-i-a.org

We're on the Web!
www.v-i-a.org

Now Accepting:



Visiting Valencia County

Any time is the right time to visit Valencia County but Fall holds a certain feel, it could be because of the aroma of Fresh Green Chile being roasted and readied for winter or the sound in the air of Hot Air Balloons taking off and lofting over head. If you haven't had the opportunity to visit with us we encourage you to come into our office and take some time to chat about what is going on in Valencia County. We also welcome your calls and want you to know that we are here to answer your questions and hopefully provide some meaningful information about the area, your property or perhaps just to recommend a great place for some local fare. So whatever the request, give us a call or drop by our office.

Fall Clean Up

After summer winds down, the tendency is to put lawn care on the back burner until spring blooms anew. But by taking time to put your yard and landscape "to bed" in fall, your lawn will reap the rewards. Give your lawn a [healthy start](#) next spring by managing these 10 fall tasks.

1. Feed your lawn. Think of fall [fertilization](#) as refueling and replenishing your lawn after a long, hot summer. Fall fertilization will help maintain your lawn's root health and replenish nutrients that were expended in summer months. Fall feedings should be timed when plants are still absorbing nutrients, so don't wait too long. Depending on your region, fall feeding can take place beginning on Labor Day or into early October.

2. Remember to [water](#). Before you put away that watering can and retire your sprinklers for the season, remember that thriving plants are still thirsty. Water early in the day to avoid evaporation and disease development. And water

deep: When you see moisture soak into the soil of container plants and beds, apply another dose.

3. Air out the soil. Thatch build-up and foot traffic can compact soil, which cuts off oxygen and nutrient supply to the roots. [Aeration](#) loosens soil and literally airs out the earth. Soil plugs that are removed can be left on the lawn

- they will eventually break down, providing nutrients to your lawn. Balding turf, matted-down grass, sparse new growth, pools of water and tough ground are signs you need to aerate.

4. Level and reseed. Start spring on level ground by filling ruts and low spots where water collects now. Early fall is the best time to [reseed](#) a lawn so turf roots establish before winter. Loosen soil with a dethatching rake, add a soil amendment and evenly apply seed.

5. Divide plants. If your perennials are overcrowded, fall is an ideal time to divide the root ball and replant. Cutting back the plants prior to transplanting can help reduce shock.

6. Plant fall bulbs. Plant in fall to enjoy spring's first blooms - crocus, daffodil, tulip. The best time to plant is after the first frost so the bulbs will stay cool all winter. Dig holes for bulbs and fertilize before replacing soil.

7. Pick up leaves. Fall cleanup will save time for gardening come spring, and clearing your lawn of leaves and sticks will prevent the heavy, wet foliage from suffocating the turf. Dark, moist environments are breeding grounds for disease.

8. [Mow low](#). Make the last mowing of the season a short cut since you'll retire lawn equipment until spring comes around again.

9. Decorate for the holidays. Fall is the time to think festive! Draw attention to your landscape with lighting, and find ways to incorporate a pop of color by filling containers with seasonal selections - mums for fall.

10. Clean up. Wash down the patio furniture and store it for the season. Make sure to pick up toys so they don't get buried or lost.

[Developer proposes Health Care Facilities in 2 Valencia County Locations](#)

Lovelace Health System is partnering with a Houston-based developer, Avalon Development Holding Inc., to bring two health care facilities to the residents of Valencia County. Valencia County Residents have paid approximately \$22 million in mill levy taxes from 2006 through December 2014 to be used for a new hospital. But that money has been tied up in a lawsuit for two years. While it is being resolved, Lovelace and Avalon came up with plans to build an emergency room in Los Lunas and a wellness center in Belen. The emergency room would provide X-rays, lab services and specialty care. The wellness center would be more like a clinic that would focus on preventive care. “(Lovelace is) committed to providing 24-hour, seven-day-a-week care to the citizens of Valencia County,” said Avalon CEO John Gilbert.

[VIA repairs and replaces stolen fence](#)

Hundreds of yards of “downed” fence adjoining the eastern and a portion of the southern boundary of the Rio Del Oro Subdivision have been taken down by vandals, fence posts stolen and fencing material destroyed. VIA has completed the repair of the fence which will keep trespass cattle from entering onto the Rio Del Oro Subdivision properties. By keeping trespass cattle out of the subdivision the risk of overgrazing and liabilities issues are reduced. VIA will continue to monitor the fence and repair and replace downed areas as needed.

[City of RIO Communities completes it comprehensive plan](#)

The city of Rio Communities now has a planning document how guide its future.

Earlier this month, city councilor's unanimously approved the Rio Communities comprehensive master plan.

After holding 27 open meetings for public input, five public forum discussions and more than 100 completed surveys from community members. It took a year and a half to complete.

Top on the list are public safety, roads, clean-up and health projects such as health fairs, constructing walking trails and bicycle paths to get a more active community.

The most immediate project need is the 20,000 square foot Municipal City Hall Complex, which will house a library equipped with computers, WiFi and tutoring lab, a Rio Metro park and ride location, administrative offices for the Rio Grande Estates Fire Department as well as a full recreation center, eventually.

The Rio Grande Estates Fire Department has transferred from Valencia County to Rio Communities July 1 and the city will act as fiscal agent for RGEFD.

The city is working on purchasing the building, which is dependent on the success of a bond sale,

but has \$200,000 in capital outlay funding for the purchase.

Within a couple of months, the city will host a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Municipal City Hall Complex and a ground-breaking ceremony for the 10 megawatt PNM Solar Generation Facility, located at the southern boundary of the city along Navajo Loop.

The city projects its general fund will increase to about \$500,000 annually with the addition of property taxes from the 102-acre PNM solar farm.

Having higher access peak-load power available makes future commercial and industrial business growth possible.

We wish you a wonderful Fall come see us soon!