



Valley Improvement Association

Mid-Year Newsletter

Mid Year 2014

Volume 1, Number 2

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:



VIA TRANSFERS TOME HILL TO HISTORIC TOME LAND GRANT

One of Valencia County's most notable landmarks has been transferred to the Town of Tome Land Grant. Valley Improvement Association transferred ownership of Tomé Hill and the Puerto del Sol park at its base to the town of Tomé Land Grant.

VIA had been considering what to do with the Hill for the last few years. The transfer of the Hill to the Land Grant will not change access to the Hill; people can still do their pilgrimages and take their walks.

The VIA board considered several options as to who would be the best guardian of the Hill. One option was the University of New Mexico, because it had done extensive research on the petroglyph's on the hill. But there were concerns that the property would be "lost" in such a large organization. The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Tomé was considered as well as the people of the parish itself. But funding to maintain the Hill was a concern. A lot of tradition and heritage of the Hill is tied to the church.

But, ultimately, the board felt the Land Grant was best able to take care of the Hill. As a political subdivision of the state, they could access funding to sustain the Hill. The hope is that through the transfer of the Hill, VIA and the people of Tome can work together for the preservation and good of the community.

VALENCIA COUNTY "WRANGLES" WITH ILLEGAL DUMPING

Noted as a lack of funding and adequate facilities, Valencia County continues to wrestle with illegal dumping on the West and East Mesas of Valencia County as well as the irrigation ditches and other vacant properties throughout the County. Valencia County has a big challenge on its hands as the availability of adequate facilities with user friendly hours for residents to dump their trash becomes harder to come by. As a result of this, many residents dump illegally.

Until a realistic plan is adopted and user-friendly facilities are created, the County will continue the battle. In an effort to stamp out illegal dumping, VIA has taken steps to identify those who are dumping illegally and with the assistance of Valencia County, notify these violators and demand that they clean up the areas that they dumped on. A proactive approach needs to be taken in order to adequately address this plaguing problem.

VIA has been very successful in its attempts to curb illegal dumping. 2014 has seen 3 illegal dump sites cleaned up as a result of information obtained from the sites and demand made on the violators. VIA will continue to assist in these cleanup efforts.

Please Contact our office or Valencia County at (505)866-2003 about concerns with illegal dumping.

Important Numbers:

**Valencia County
Treasurer:
(505) 866-2090**

**Assessor:
(505)866-2065**

**Clerk:
(505)866-2073**

**City of Rio
Communities:
(505)861-6803**

CITY OF RIO COMMUNITIES UPDATE

The City of Rio Communities has adopted many new ordinances and continues to move forward with their efforts to operate as the governing body for southern Rio Communities. The Incorporation of the City of Rio Communities has come with many challenges but in the end the community should reap much reward from a self-governed community.

The City has been busy creating a new city government and gathering information to devise a comprehensive plan while continuing to involve the residents in the new City.

VIA continues to offer support to the City of Rio Communities as needed.

NOTICE OF LIEN

Attached to each property owner's lot is an indenture which allows for the imposition of a mandatory annual assessment. The imposition of this assessment creates a lien on the property and this lien remains on the property until the assessment is paid. Many resident and non-resident property owners have failed to pay. VIA now carries over \$12 million dollars in uncollected assessments. This unpaid assessment has hurt those who do pay and has hurt VIA's ability to deliver the level of service that it once did.

In 2013 the NM Legislature adopted Senate Bill 496 which called for the availability of information and public notice of the lien that is attached to the property. As a result of this, VIA has begun filing a NOTICE of LIEN with the Valencia County Clerk on delinquent property owners. This lien will remain with the property until the assessments have been paid in full.

COVENANT ENFORCEMENT

Valley Improvement Association is working diligently on covenant enforcement. A clean community is a good community. The covenants and restrictions are in place to ensure that properties remain in good condition, which adds value to our community. If you are in need of a copy of the Covenants and Restrictions for your area, please contact our office.

It is recommended that you make yourself familiar with this document and adhere to the covenants and restrictions for your area. An enforcement officer is driving around your area and will notify you of any violations that they see.

VALENCIA COUNTY ECONOMY

The Economy in Southern Valencia County continues to suffer the effects of "The Great Recession". Though many parts of the country are feeling a bounce back, southern Valencia County continues to suffer in terms of lack of job growth. As a result of this, home sales continue to lag behind current trends seen in other parts of the country. Until real estate sales rebound and the sale of existing inventory moves, properties within southern Valencia County will continue to remain depressed. The association continues to push economic development efforts in southern Valencia County.

HOSPITAL UPDATE

The City of Belen and the Village of Los Lunas continue to battle over the location and bid to collect and utilize the tax money for the upkeep and maintenance of a hospital. Belen has contracted with a third party provider but is taking the lead on the development of a hospital in Belen. Los Lunas is relying on an outside investor to make the investment in a facility in Los Lunas. Both continue legal battles; VIA supports a medical facility with 24-hour access in Valencia County.