



Valley Improvement Association Summer 2015

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Valley Improvement
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We're on the Web!
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Now Accepting:



Valencia County Economy

The Economy in Valencia County has mixed reviews depending on what part of the County you live, work or play. Northern Valencia County and Los Lunas proper are experiencing some economic growth while Belen and Southern Valencia County continue to struggle. Some of the challenges facing Southern Valencia County are a less than favorable job market. Though Belen is a major point on the rail line for the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway, it continues to lack services and amenities that many residents desire. Belen has struggled and continues to struggle with an image problem which hurts future business growth. The City of Belen continues to fight to construct a Hospital but faces one battle after another along with legal battles from other municipalities.

Southern Rio Communities is also a bit slow but could see resurgence with the newly incorporated City and a Government that is quite interested in pushing the community forward.

The unincorporated portions of Valencia County struggle with the lack of services and with VIA's lack of revenue, our ability to cover gaps left by the County has made an impact. Because VIA can no longer offer the services that it once did, thus leaving a gap. The newly incorporated City Government has voted to utilize the tax that was being collected for the Hospital project which sunsets in 2016, for the operation of the City.

Sweep your street

Residents are encouraged to sweep the street areas in the front and sides of their homes, pull weeds and pickup trash in their yards and perimeter along their property lines in an effort to beautify the community. VIA will do what it can with the limited resources that it has available in order to maintain areas, but needs the help of the community.

PNM Plans Second Solar Site in Rio Del Oro

Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM) is planning construction of its second solar site in Northern Rio Del Oro. The site will sit along the North Rio Del Oro Loop and Bonita Vista Blvd on a 100 acre site that PNM plans on purchasing from VIA. Once completed the solar site will be able to produce enough electricity to 2,800 homes. The site will also provide an estimated \$200,000 in property tax revenue to Valencia County. Valencia County is soon becoming the "Solar Capital" of NM.

PNM is currently constructing a solar site in Southern Rio Communities on a 66 acre site within the City limits.

City of Rio Communities moves into new City Hall

The City of Rio Communities has moved into its new offices located in the Valley Community Plaza. Under a lease purchase agreement with Valley Improvement Association, the City of Rio Communities is occupying their new location. The building will be transferred upon a projected closing date in September 2015. Until then, the City is leasing the facility with the option to purchase in September. The 20,000 square foot

Facility will be home to not only City Administrative offices but also to the City Municipal

Judges Court and the City of Rio Communities Fire Department will occupy office space within the facility. The City will be able to expand the facilities uses such as a recreation program, community event center, a community library and other needs as they present themselves. The City obtained a State Legislative appropriation from the State of New Mexico to purchase the building. Although the City is waiting to receive the actual funding from the State it anticipates doing so no later than September 2015. The City elected officials and staff are excited with their new facility and the many possibilities that the new facility has to offer the community.

Tierra Del Sol Golf and Country Club

Much time, effort and money have been invested in the renovation of the Tierra Del Sol Golf Club. The new owners have spent a lot of time, money and effort to bring the course back to very nice conditions. The investment in the facility will help to enhance the quality of life in Southern Valencia County. The Golf Course offers some very nice options at very reasonable prices. For more information check them out on the web at:

www.golftierradelsol.com

Visit the past at the Historic Harvey House Museum

When visiting the area be sure to visit the Historic Harvey House Museum located on First Street in Belen. The Historic property now owned by the City of Belen has undergone major renovations and will take you back in time. With its eclectic collection from local businesses that once were a mainstay in Belen to rooms filled with collectable from years past, the Belen Harvey House is always a treat.

While at the Harvey House you can view the workings of the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway operations directly adjacent to the Historic Museum. After visiting the Harvey House be sure to stop for lunch at one of Belen's favorite restaurants, Pete's Café. Located directly across the street from the Harvey House, Pete's offers some of New Mexico's best local fare.

For information about Belen and the area please visit:

www.belenchamber.org

*We wish you a wonderful summer and hope to visit
with you soon!*