



UPDATE

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Los Alamos
Volume 75, Number 7, November, 2022

League of Women Voters of Los Alamos

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Calendar

November 8	Election Day
November 17	Dinner with a Leader, LANL Director Thom Mason, Zoom, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
December 8	Board Meeting, Zoom, noon

DINNER with a Leader: **LANL Director Thom Mason**

This month, instead of Lunch with a Leader, we will have DINNER with a Leader on Thursday, November 17 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. via Zoom. Our leader will be Thom Mason, Director of Los Alamos National Laboratory. We have asked him to speak about LANL's contributions to basic research and about the nuclear weapons trigger mission. We are also interested in hearing about the current plans for Lab expansion and what LANL/TRIAD will do to mitigate the impact on our County. LANL has an annual operating budget of \$4 billion, 15,000 workers, and a 40-square-mile site featuring some of the most specialized scientific equipment and supporting infrastructure in the world.

Dr. Thom Mason became the 12th Director of Los Alamos National Laboratory and President of Triad National Security, LLC in November 2018. He holds a PhD in

Experimental Condensed Matter Physics from McMaster University and a BSc in Physics from Dalhousie University. For the past 30 years, Mason has been involved in the design and construction of scientific instrumentation and facilities as well as the application of nuclear, computing, and materials sciences to solve important challenges in energy and national security.

Most recently he was the Senior Vice President for Global Laboratory Operations at Battelle, where he had responsibility for governance and strategy across the six National Laboratories that Battelle manages or co-manages. Prior to joining Battelle, he worked at Oak Ridge National Laboratory for 19 years, including 10 years as the Laboratory Director.

Karyl Ann Armbruster

Co-President's Message: The "Women's Wave" March You Never Heard About

Because I've gone on so many marches in Washington DC (Vietnam War, Iraq War, Women's March of 2016...), I was pleased when the "Women's Wave" march was scheduled for this October, when I was already planning to travel east to attend my New York cousin's wedding. Sadly, I was deprived of my best all-time buddy marcher Tom, but my daughter Susanna happily took his place.



Fig. 1 -- Susanna Marshland and Becky Shankland ended the march at the United States Capitol. Photo by Susanna Marshland

Women's Wave? If you didn't hear about it, neither did most people. It began with the Supreme Court's overturning of women's constitutional right to an abortion and the outcry against that decision. After the first plans were announced, it seemed to vanish from the media. But I had signed up at the outset and gradually learned that a place and time had been established.

We arrived at the starting point (Folger Park) to join those gathered for pre-march speeches. Watching the parade begin, it seemed like thousands (it was, even though the newspapers never specified how many thousands—and the helicopters flying overhead could surely have counted). But we quickly settled into a comfortable pace

with much camaraderie and chanting led by random marchers and official march organizers with bullhorns. After one mile and two hours we reached the Capitol, where all the marchers just melted away after sitting by the reflecting pool to rest and take photos.

Of course, much of the pleasure at such marches is the creativity exhibited by the signs. And that's my message for this month's newsletter. Enjoy them all, and hope that the sentiments will lead to the restoration of women's right to be full-fledged citizens. Here are some examples:



Fig. 2 -- One of the hundreds of signs carried by the marchers. Photo by Susanna Marshland

- Fight Ruthlessly
- Regulate Dick, not Jane!
- We need to talk about the elephant in the womb.
- Get them by the ballots
- You can't have my rights, I'm still using them.
- Think outside my box.
- A woman brought you into this world, and women will vote you out.
- If only my uterus could shoot bullets then you wouldn't try to regulate it!
- Keep your theology off my biology.
- Apparently when he said, "Lock her up!" he meant all of us?!?
- Pro-life is a lie! They don't care if women die!
- Girls just wanna have FUN(damental) rights
- Get your rosaries off my ovaries
- I'll bet you one unplanned pregnancy that you're actually pro-choice
- If the fetus is gay, will you still fight for its rights?
- My body is a temple (ancient and crumbling, probably cursed or haunted...)
- No Congress for Old Men

Becky Shankland

Welcome, New Member!

Sarah Morgan

Sarah Morgan writes: I was raised in Florida, graduating from the University of Central Florida. After graduating, I worked on a meteorological system for the Harris Corporation. I developed software to unpack and display raster scan satellite data. Later I developed a disk encryption system for L3 Communications. At the lab I developed software for mission essential and support systems.

I also ran workshops for Expand Your Horizons and Careers and Curiosity. I retired from the lab in 2020.

Politically, my ambition is to see the end of the patriarchy. So, I donate to Emily's List and am a member of NOW.

ESSENTIAL DATES

November 8th, Tuesday, Election Day – 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Eligible voters may vote at any Vote Center: Los Alamos County Municipal Building, Los Alamos County Golf Course, UNM-LA Building 6, Rm. 631, Betty Ehart Senior Center, or White Rock Town Hall.

The sample ballot is available at the following complex URL:

https://cdn5-hosted.civiclive.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_6435726/File/Government/Elected%20Officials/Clerks/2022%20General%20Election%20Sample%20Ballot.pdf

For additional information on anything related to the 2022 General Election in Los Alamos County, call the Clerk's Office at (505) 662-8010. For candidate information, go to **Vote411.org**. Check for voting updates at

<http://www.losalamosnm.us/clerk>.

Can't find your Voter Guide? Visit Vote411 or see the LWVLA Voter Guide at <https://my.lwv.org/new-mexico/los-alamos/article/los-alamos-2022-voter-guide>.

Accolades for Our Voter Guide

The LWVLA Voter Guide derives from a large collaborative effort in the state, headed by Judy Williams of the LWV of Santa Fe and involving local participants Lynn Jones, Akkana Peck, Rosmarie Frederickson, and Elizabeth Auden. LWVUS has initiated a national voter guide called Vote411 that enables all local voter guides to be accessed online by everyone, even if they live in an area where there is no local League.

Lynn Jones, our tireless and superb compiler of our own Voter Guide, received the following comment from Judy Prono (who has also helped with our past voter guides):

Thanks for the [Vote411.org](https://www.vote411.org) website. It was great. We were gone when the Voter Guide came out in the *Daily Post*, and we had no *Daily Post* issues saved for us along with our mail. So we checked out the voter website and found it both user-friendly and a great way to compile our voting preferences. Please pass along our appreciation to all those who create/support the website. Kudos to them!

LWV member Esta Lee Albright willingly shared her thank-you note: I want to thank the LWV for the Voter Guide. I would be lost without it when it comes to the Amendments and Bonds. I read the people information, too.

Skylar Callis wrote to us (and gave us permission to share):

I just wanted to say thank you for developing, assembling, and distributing the 2022 Los Alamos Voter Guide. I moved to Los Alamos from Northern Michigan in May of 2022, am fresh out of college at age 22, and the idea of voting in a new state was very overwhelming to me. The guide was very comprehensive and easy to understand, and I really appreciated that it included descriptions of duties for each position. Distributing it through the mail was really helpful, as I don't know if I would have found it otherwise! I saved it until I was able to sit down and complete my absentee ballot. Thank you again for all your

work! You made a difference for at least one voter :)

Compiled by Becky Shankland

Observer Corps Report – County Council – Joint Sessions with Planning & Zoning Commission – October 12-14

The joint special sessions were attended by Council Chair Ryti and Councilors Derkacs, Hand, Izraelevitz, Lepsch, Reagor, and Scott, and by Planning & Zoning (P&Z) Commission Chair Adler and Commissioners Hill, Nakhleh, and Roberson. Our observer report is based upon discussion during the meetings and documentation provided in the full agenda packet.

Council directed the Community Development Department (CDD) to make several modifications to draft Modules 1, 2, & 3 of the Chapter 16 Development Code Update as presented by Jessica Lawlis and Will Gleason of County consultants Dekker Perich Sabatini (DPS). Some of Council's notable requested modifications to the draft code are summarized below.

Background

Chapter 16 of the County's Municipal Code is the County's zoning and development code, defining how properties in specific geographic zones can be used and developed. Module 1 of the code update contains revisions to use regulations; Module 2 contains revisions to development standards, including district-specific standards, off-street parking, landscaping, outdoor lighting, walls and fences, and signage; and Module 3 contains revisions to administrative and enforcement provisions.

The presentation was intended to inform the Council of the current status of the code update, to provide discussion on recommendations obtained through steering committee review, public input, and the P&Z Commission, and for Council to provide

feedback with possible action on recommendations on specific draft Module 1, 2, and 3 subjects.

Module 3: Administration and Enforcement

Administrative approval of small development projects in the downtown.

Council unanimously agreed to delete the provision in the draft code that allowed the CDD director to make administrative decisions for multi-family, mixed use, and non-residential development projects in the Downtown Los Alamos zone district, if the project were under 50,000 sq. ft. or contained 50 or fewer dwelling units. This provision would have allowed such development proposals to bypass the requirement for a public hearing before the P&Z Commission.

In support of the proposed provision, Paul Andrus, CDD director, explained that the intent of this provision was to expedite the review and approval process for small infill projects in the downtown area, emphasizing that it would only be applicable if the project met all development standards and if no variances were needed.

The proposal met with stiff opposition from the P&Z commissioners in attendance who felt that the process of going through the P&Z Commission did not impose an undue burden for the developer, nor for the Commission itself. Councilor Derkacs agreed, adding that P&Z represents the public input for a development project. "This is how we protect our community," said local resident George Chandler. Chandler noted that past problems in development review and approval proceedings before the Commission have largely been the consequence of inadequate training regarding procedural aspects.

Permits for Wireless Telecommunications Facilities (WTFs).

The draft code allows the CDD director to make administrative decisions on permits for small WTFs; this provision is based on a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) model code.

Cross-examination of witnesses.

The draft code presented to Council required that, during quasi-judicial hearings

before the Council or P&Z Commission, persons with standing desiring to cross-examine someone who has testified must submit their questions in writing, to be read by the presiding officer. Council unanimously voted to remove the requirement that questions be submitted in writing because they agreed with public comments that such a requirement would constitute an infringement of the due process standards mandated by the state and federal judiciary.

Non-conformance with outdoor lighting regulations.

The draft code presented to Council stated that “existing outdoor lighting that does not meet the provisions of this section shall be considered legal nonconforming until natural maintenance, modifications, change of use, or complaint enforcement obligate meeting the requirements of this ordinance.” At the behest of several members of the public who objected to enforcing the regulation through a complaint approach, Council unanimously voted to reinstate the original draft requirement for all non-conforming outdoor lighting fixtures in non-residential zone districts to be brought into compliance within 10 years, either by replacement or retrofitting. The proposed amortization requirement would not apply to residential zone districts.

Outdoor lighting for County facilities.

Before the Council voted on how best to address outdoor lighting nonconformances, Councilor Scott asked County staff to comment on the feasibility of bringing County outdoor lighting fixtures into compliance with the proposed requirements, taking into consideration product availability and cost.

Aaron Park, Roads and Streets Division, said that, “Over the past few years, we have been upgrading neighborhoods, one neighborhood at a time. We’re trying to do about 100 fixtures a year. Currently what we’re doing meets all of the regulations we’re discussing here today.” County Engineer Eric Martinez estimated that the County would be able to get all of its streetlights fully compliant with the proposed standard within 10 years.

Martinez said coming into compliance with proposed requirements for dimmable lighting at County facilities would have a budgetary impact on County facilities and buildings because it would require more than just replacement of lighting fixtures, and the County doesn’t have a program for light replacement at its facilities or buildings beyond its current normal facility maintenance funds.

Module 1: Zone District and Use Regulations

Allowable uses within downtown districts based on currently existing uses.

Although both White Rock and Los Alamos currently have gas stations and carwashes in their downtown districts, such uses were not allowed under the provisions of the draft code as presented to Council. The Council unanimously agreed to add these uses to the list of allowable conditional uses in downtown zone districts. However, in agreement with the perspective of Los Alamos resident Phil Gursky, Council declined to add self-storage storage to this list for downtown Los Alamos because it would create the potential for the already-approved Mari-Mac self-storage project to become a permanent fixture there.

Accessory dwelling units (ADUs). The draft code allows ADUs as a permitted use in Residential Mixed and Low-density Multi-family Residential zoning districts. Council unanimously passed a motion to make the following modifications to the ADU standards:

- also make ADUs permissible in Residential Agricultural, Residential Estate, and Single Family Residential (SFR-1, SFR-2, and SFR-3) zone districts,
- drop the draft requirement to provide separation of 300 ft or more or to require a conditional use permit if within 300 ft of another ADU, and
- allow tandem parking to count toward the required minimum of 1 off-street parking space per ADU.

Module 2: Development Standards

Densities and building heights.

The draft code presented to Council set the maximum building height at 86 ft (equivalent to 7 stories) in the Downtown Los Alamos Zone District and at 54 ft (equivalent to 4 stories) in the White Rock Town Center, Mixed Use, and High-Density Multi-Family Residential Zone Districts. These heights represent increases to the current maximum building heights allowed in these areas. The purpose of the increased height limits is to allow more opportunity for mixed use developments that encourage business growth and higher residential density in and near the downtown areas. The proposed text amendment also mandates significant buffering and step-downs between zoning districts to protect existing neighborhoods.

Council approved the proposed maximum building thresholds but requested that a 60-ft maximum building height be specified south of Trinity Drive if the property line is within 150 ft of the edge of Los Alamos Canyon. Council also requested that the Historic District Overlay zone district be covered by the Neighborhood Protection Standards, which require step-downs in building heights and buffering between the two land uses.

Parking Requirements

Throughout the three days of discussion, multi-faceted parking requirements were probably the most contentious issues for the Council and P&Z to address. Because parking requirements appear in both Modules 1 and 2 of the draft code, they are treated here as a separate section. The draft code revises the number of parking spaces required for uses based on national best practices and adds parking reductions for specific factors.

Minimum off-street parking requirement for multi-family dwellings.

The draft code required 1 space per unit up to 1-bedroom unit, and 1.5 spaces per unit for units with 2 or more bedrooms (Module 2). Council unanimously voted to increase the number of required parking spaces by adding 1 guest parking space per 10 dwelling units.

Reductions in the number of required parking spaces.

The draft code adds parking reductions for specific conditions (Module 2).

- 1 on-street parking space on adjacent public streets may be counted for 1 required off-street parking space. Council voted to disallow this equivalency in the downtown zoning district.
- 1 electrical vehicle charging station may be counted toward 2 required parking spaces.
- The total number of required parking spaces may be reduced by 20% for developments within 1320 ft of a public transit stop.
- The total number of required parking spaces may be reduced by 10% for developments that provide robust bicycle amenities (lockers, repair facilities) and additional designated bicycle parking areas in excess of what is required.
- The total number of required parking spaces may be reduced by 10% for developments that utilize solar parking canopies.

Caps on reduction for minimum off-street parking requirements for downtown and mixed-use development (Module 1).

The existing Development Code does not specify limits on the extent to which off-street parking requirements can be reduced. The draft code sets caps on the cumulative total by which parking requirements can be reduced in downtown, mixed-use, and non-residential zoning districts.

- The draft code allows a maximum parking reduction of 20% in mixed-use and non-residential districts. Council added the stipulation that residential use in a mixed-use development has to be less than 80% to be eligible for this reduced parking requirement.
- The draft code allows a maximum parking reduction of 50% in downtown districts. The rationale for allowing up to 50% reduction in required off-street parking was to create a more walkable downtown, acknowledge the greater access to other modes of transportation (buses, bikes, including electric bike rentals), and

encourage shared parking. Council voted 6–1, Councilor Reagor in opposition, to cap the allowable reduction at 25%, leaving open the possibility of increasing this threshold if a municipal parking structure became a reality or if a downtown bus transit center were built.

- Reagor explained his opposition, stating that “parking requirements are a dead-end for many proposed development projects in the downtown area.” Will Gleason supported Councilor Reagor’s position.

What Happens Next?

The P&Z Commission will hold a public hearing on the Development Code update on October 26, after which it will forward its recommendation to Council whether to approve, reject, or approve the draft code with modifications. Council is scheduled to hold a Public Hearing on November 30.

After code updates have been adopted, the Official Zoning Map of Los Alamos County will be updated accordingly. The County has been maintaining a list of existing problems with zoning in which the current land use does not match the permitted uses of the existing zoning district. These problems will need to be fixed as separate actions to ensure that due process is followed for zoning changes. As one example, Councilor Ryti noted that the Canyon Rim Trail south of the airport is still zoned for Light Industrial use.

June Fabryka-Martin and Craig Martin

Observer Corps Report – County Council October 18th

The session was attended in person by Council Chair Ryti and Councilors Derkacs, Lepsch, and Reagor. Councilors Hand and Scott attended via Zoom. Councilor Izraelevitz was absent. Our observer report is based on discussion during the meeting and documentation provided in the full agenda packet. Note that the audio quality of the meeting recording was poor, and our report

contains only an abbreviated summary of the presentations and discussions.

Golf Course Design

In response to a petition and public input from Los Alamos Golf Association (LAGA) members and other local residents, County Council unanimously agreed to add a fifth option, Option E, to the list of possible design concepts for Phase II of the Golf Course Improvements Project. Council will select and approve the final design concept at its November 15 meeting.

Council had previously directed County staff and the County’s golf consultant to present design options for addressing maintenance, safety issues at the driving range, and course improvements. The resulting proposal included four options, each differing with respect to how safety issues at the driving range would be resolved and the extent to which rerouting holes would encroach into the existing course and adjacent open space, including how many trees would have to be removed. After studying the four proposals, LAGA proposed a fifth option that achieves their desired outcomes while addressing community concerns.

Representing LAGA, Los Alamos resident Kurt Anast offered up Option E. He pointed out that Option E is the least expensive of the five options, costing about \$2.4 million. He stated the consensus among many LAGA members and other local golfers was a preference to complete all deferred maintenance throughout the golf course first. If the driving range is extended Anast, asked Council to reject options that would impact holes 4-9 or shorten the course. (The petition was a follow-up to discussion during the May 3 Council meeting, reported in the June *Update*.)

Water Rate Increase

Council approved by a vote of 5-1, with Councilor Reagor in opposition, a resolution to make changes to the Department of Public Utilities’ water rate schedule. Spreading out rate increases over several years, the new rate schedule adopts a tiered system that charges a higher rate for the use of more than 9,000 gallons per month and an additional rate

increase for even higher use levels. Councilor Derkacs supported the increases because they are necessary to balance cost and expenses for water production and because they encourage conservation, which is needed to secure state and federal grants for water production projects. Councilor Reagor asked for clarification on the rate to be paid by the County versus the upper-tier single family rate. When he learned that the County rate would be \$6.50 versus a top-tier rate of \$7.87 per 1000 gallons for residential use, he said that he thought it was unfair to people who need more water for landscaping and people with large families.

White Rock Metropolitan Redevelopment Area (MRA)

The Council unanimously approved adoption of the MRA Plan for the White Rock Town Center. County Economic Development Administrator Dan Ungerleider explained that an MRA is a designated area that has been targeted for rehabilitation, redevelopment, and private investment to stimulate economic development and community building. He said that such a designation allows the County to contribute public resources to private redevelopment projects in order to correct conditions in areas that need improvement, thereby incentivizing private investment to redevelop vacant and underutilized properties within the MRA.

Additional details on this meeting are provided in the article by Carol Clark in the *Los Alamos Daily Post* on October 20, 2022:

<https://ladailypost.com/council-action-taken-tuesday-oct-18-2022/>

June Fabryka-Martin and Craig Martin

Observer Corps Report – County Council Work Session October 25th

The work session was attended by Council Chair Ryti and Councilors Derkacs, Hand, Izraelevitz, Lepsch, Reagor, and Scott. Our report is based upon discussion during the

meeting and documentation provided in the full agenda packet.

Fire restrictions and trail access

Council received a presentation from Troy Hughes, Fire Chief, about approaches to fire restrictions in the County, particularly with respect to County trails. The councilors agreed with his recommendation that fire-related restrictions on trail use in the future be limited to advisory notices. (This presentation was requested by Councilor Hand as a follow-up to the June 14 Council discussion reported in the *July Update*.)

In the past, Hughes said, the County, Santa Fe National Forest, and LANL all took different approaches to fire restrictions on trail use. Then, during the Cerro Pelado fire in May 2022, the three jurisdictions worked collectively to mirror fire restrictions so as to provide clear and consistent messaging on fire-restricted activities. However, although enforcement on SFNF land was clear and supported by established law, Hughes said that enforcement of trail closures by LAC and LANL was uncertain in part because neither had the capability nor experience to do so. Hughes also noted that the potential for fire-related injuries on County trails differs from that on Forest Service trails insofar as hikers on County trails are often close to safe zones, if not in direct line of sight.

“My personal opinion on this,” said Hughes, “is we’re probably better creating some education and advisory on our trails. One of the things I think we could do is a green-yellow-red marking of our trails for a mapping system. Say, you kind of stay close to an area to get back to safety; that’s a green trail. Yellow is a bit further out. Red is the furthest out into our forest and maybe in an area that’s tough to traverse, rocky areas where, if you got caught in a fire, you’d have a tough time getting out. In my mind, a better approach to the trails would be to just advise, and our good citizens are going to follow it.”

Councilor Lepsch said, “I do really like the idea of putting personal responsibility on people to make good decisions to the best

ability that they can and just providing them with solid reliable information.”

County Manager Lynne said that, based on this discussion, County staff will move ahead and bring a code ordinance forward for consideration by Council that falls in line with the feedback it provided. Aside from issuance of trail closure advisories, the draft ordinance will include language that clarifies the authority of the Fire Marshall to enforce other Stage 1 and Stage 2 restrictions such as potential spark-initiating activities.

County activities in support of local businesses

Council heard a presentation by Dan Ungerleider, Economic Development Administrator, that highlighted some of the many County programs and actions taken recently or currently underway to support local businesses in the County.

Removing barriers and clearly setting expectations

Ungerleider noted that the updated County Development Code constitutes a significant improvement in clarifying and streamlining the processes for opening, maintaining, and growing a business in the County. Council's approval of the Los Alamos Downtown and White Rock Town Center master plans last October, he said, “sets expectations, alleviates the fiscal risk of not knowing what the community is looking for, and hopefully entices and attracts investments in our community.” Council's recent approval of the White Rock Metropolitan Area Plan supports a slew of new financial tools that will allow the County to assist investment in the White Rock downtown area.

Retail development.

The EDD provides development assistance to small businesses directly and in collaboration with LA Community Development Corporation (LACDC) and the Small Business Development Center (SBDC).

Workforce development

The EDD supports the LACDC Business Accelerator Program. They had four new businesses that were formulated through the

program. EDD also supports Chamber Job Fair and business networking events. Currently, EDD is working with LANL and other partners to figure out ways to increase capacity for childcare in the County.

Tourism industry development

Ungerleider noted that the tourism industry is “very important because it's attracting folks here to get to know our community and potentially stay and invest.” To develop this sector of the County's economy, the Lodgers Tax Advisory Board (LTAB) works on joint marketing campaigns and conducts visitor analyses. The County is also looking to expand and enhance ScienceFest, with preparation underway for the projected increase in interest following the 2023 release of the movie about Oppenheimer.

Other activities

Activities supporting the local small business environment include pursuing potential land uses on DP Road parcels (such as for housing, R&D, and warehousing) and participating in discussions on regional transit and economic development priorities with public and private partners.

Small Business Recovery Assistance Program

To date, 51 local small business owners have submitted applications for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds through the County's online Small Business Recovery Assistance Program. The goal of this program is to provide financial assistance to those local small businesses that have struggled due to the negative economic impacts caused by COVID-19 restrictions.

Boards and Commissions

Council appointed three new members to the Planning & Zoning Commission: Karen Easton, David Hampton, and Charlene Hutchison.

June Fabryka-Martin and Craig Martin

Observer Corps Report – P & Z Commission Public Hearing – October 26th

The Public Hearing was attended by Planning & Zoning (P&Z) Commission Chair Adler and Commissioners Easton, Hampton, Hutchinson, Martin, Nakhleh, and Roberson. Commissioner Hill was absent. Our observer report is based upon discussion during the meeting and documentation provided in the full agenda packet.

Public Hearing on Draft Chapter 16 Development Code Update

The draft Development Code update was presented by Jessica Lawlis of Dekker Perich Sabatini, the consultant hired by the County. The text of the code presented at this public hearing reflected the changes requested by Council during the workshop sessions on October 12-14 held jointly with the P&Z Commission [see previous observer report]. It also included some changes in response to public comments.

The P&Z Commission unanimously agreed to recommend that Council approve an amendment to Chapter 16, the County of Los Alamos Development Code, as presented in the CDD's application, subject to the following proposed modifications:

- Introduce allowances for developments in mixed-use districts to be able to reduce the minimum off-street parking requirements per the applicable parking reductions by a maximum of 50%;
- Allow the Community Development Director to waive buffering requirements in the Neighborhood Protection Standards, provided the uses triggering the buffering requirements are of similar nature and scale;
- Add "Riding academies, arenas, and/or stables," as an approved accessory use in the Residential Agricultural district and as a conditional accessory use in General Commercial and Active Open Space districts; and

- Change the dimensional standards for manufactured home communities to increase the minimum lot width to 20 ft, lower the minimum lot area to 1600 sq. ft./space, and raise the maximum lot coverage to 60%.

June Fabryka-Martin and Craig Martin

October Lunch with a Leader: LAC Emergency Manager Beverley Simpson



*Fig. 3 – LAC Emergency
Manager Beverley Simpson*

Pandemic, wildfire, what more can go wrong? Beverley Simpson has to plan for every imaginable emergency, and that's what she does. Assisted by Cody Ulrich, Simpson coordinates with LANL, the National Park Service, the

Forest Service, neighboring counties, and pueblos to create procedures and mutual agreements for responding to disasters. She creates emergency operation plans, which must be updated every five years and reviewed annually in order to receive federal funding. She maintains emergency contact lists of essential services. She said that preparedness helps the agencies to respond when an emergency occurs.

The County's Hazard Mitigation Plan is currently being updated. Some mitigation measures include stabilizing falling rock hazards on steep hillsides, assisting homeowners to make their property defensible, enforcing building codes, and installing construction barriers. In addition to creating policy, Simpson provides many types of

training: active shooter training, fire extinguisher training, training for school personnel, and more. She coordinates with the schools to stagger bus schedules for school closures and snow days.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, Simpson has conducted 37 vaccine clinics, assisted by 50 volunteers. In the first months of the pandemic, over 100 volunteers were sewing masks. "This community is amazing," she said. She called Julie Williams-Hill, a former member of the LWV Board and now the County's Public Information Officer, "a godsend" for helping to organize the Covid clinics and the fire response. She urged the audience to volunteer whenever there is an opportunity.

Simpson said that the state has stopped reporting positive Covid tests. However, the Covid newsletter includes information as it is available. Readers may sign up for the Covid newsletter as well as the County Line here: https://www.losalamosnm.us/newsletter_sign_up. She reported that the pandemic is over; the virus is now considered to be endemic.

In response to a question about potential radiological incidents, Simpson said that she is working with LANL on an evacuation plan. "They practice, we don't," she added.

The Code Red System is used for different events involving public safety, but it is not without flaws. The County is researching other providers. In the meantime, IPAWS, the national public warning system run by FEMA, overrides Code Red.

Speaking about the Cerro Pelado Fire, Simpson said that the Fire Chief is the subject matter expert, providing information regarding the danger, mitigation efforts, and trail closures. Currently emergency operations are conducted from the Fire Department. Simpson designates different roads for evacuation if necessary and has talked to San Ildefonso about making Rendija Canyon available. She noted that New Mexico does not have mandatory evacuation, but said "Please leave if we ask you to."

Barbara Calef

LWVLA Board of Directors 2022-2023

Officers:

- Co-president: Barbara Calef
- Co-president: Rebecca Shankland
- 1st Vice-President: Felicia Orth
- 2nd Vice-President: Ellen Mills
- Secretary: Rebecca Chaiken
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- Newsletter Editor: Robert Williams

- Director at Large: Addie Jacobson
- Director at Large: Akkana Peck

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- County Council and P&Z Observers: June Fabryka-Martin and Craig Martin
- Membership: Jean Dewart
- Nominations: Ellen Mills & Leslie Wallstrom
- Website and Facebook: Madhavi Garimella and Helena Whyte
- Video Editor: Eduardo Santiago

Recycling Guide

Your Guide to Recycling in Los Alamos County

PLEASE RECYCLE

Place these items in your blue roll cart.
No need to separate your recyclables.



#1-7 PLASTIC BOTTLES,
CUPS, JUGS



NEWSPAPERS,
MAGAZINES, BOOKS



ENVELOPES,
JUNK MAIL



JUICE, MILK,
CARDBOARD EGG
CARTONS



FOIL, ALUMINUM
AND STEEL CANS



OFFICE PAPER,
PHONE BOOKS



FLATTENED
CORRUGATED CARDBOARD



CEREAL, CRACKER
BOXES

DO NOT RECYCLE

These items do not go in your blue roll cart.



STYROFOAM CUPS,
PACKAGING



LIGHT BULBS,
ELECTRONICS, BATTERIES
(Recycle at Eco Station)



GLASS OF
ANY KIND



PAPER TOWELS &
NAPKINS



PLASTIC BAGS
(Recycle at Smith's)



CHIP BAGS



GREASY PIZZA BOXES

PLEASE RECYCLE



Recycle glass bottles and jars only.
Glass may be dropped off at the Eco Station,
Overlook, Co-op, and Sullivan Field.

**DO NOT PLACE GLASS IN
YOUR BLUE ROLL CART.**

Please no light bulbs, window glass,
ceramics, drinking glass, etc.

LOS ALAMOS
Environmental Services

Questions about recycling?
Call the Eco Station, 662.8163

Fig. 4 -- Confused about recycling? This excellent illustration is posted on the web page of the County's Environmental Services website. Did you know that you can put plastics # 1-7 in the blue roll cart? They should be clean and dry. Deposit plastic bags in the bin at Smith's.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LOS ALAMOS

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Mail to: LWV Los Alamos / P.O. Box 158 / Los Alamos, NM 87544

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone(s): _____ E-mail: _____

_____ Check here to receive our Newsletter Update as an electronic file, saving postage and paper.

_____ **OR** Check here if you prefer to have a hard copy of the newsletter mailed to you.

_____ Check here to receive occasional friendly reminders of upcoming events by e-mail.

Membership Categories: all checks for memberships and contributions should be payable to LWV-Los Alamos and all are now tax-deductible. Let us know if you'd like a tax-deduction statement.

_____ Single membership: \$45.

_____ Household membership (two or more people at the same address): \$70.

_____ Single Sustaining membership: \$75.

_____ Household Sustaining membership (two or more people at the same address): \$95.

_____ Student membership: \$0 (must be 16 or over).

_____ Contribution to support League work: \$ _____.

Interests and Ways to Help the League (check as many as apply)

Topics of Interest

- ___ Affordable Housing
- ___ Local Government
- ___ Education
- ___ Elections, Voting Rights
- ___ Water Issues
- ___ Land Use
- ___ Health Care
- ___ Money in Politics
- ___ Sustainability
- ___ Living Wage
- ___ Public Transportation
- ___ Environment
- ___ Other area of interest: _____

Ways to Help with League Activities

- ___ Voter Registration
- ___ Organize/provide refreshments at forums
- ___ Observer Corps: Council, DPU, P&Z, etc.
- ___ Write newsletter articles
- ___ Assist in developing the Voter Guide (editing, developing questions, data entry, etc.)
- ___ Assist with Lunch with a Leader
- ___ Website/Social Media – Technical assistance and content development
- ___ Advocate for League positions – Communicate with local, state, and federal leaders
- ___ Serve on LWV-Los Alamos Board (we need a Treasurer and a Lead for the Voter Guide)
- ___ Other ideas? (See the *March, 2022 Update* for details.)

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