

LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF LOS ALAMOS UPDATE

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Los Alamos
P.O. Box 158, Los Alamos, NM 87544
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Calendar

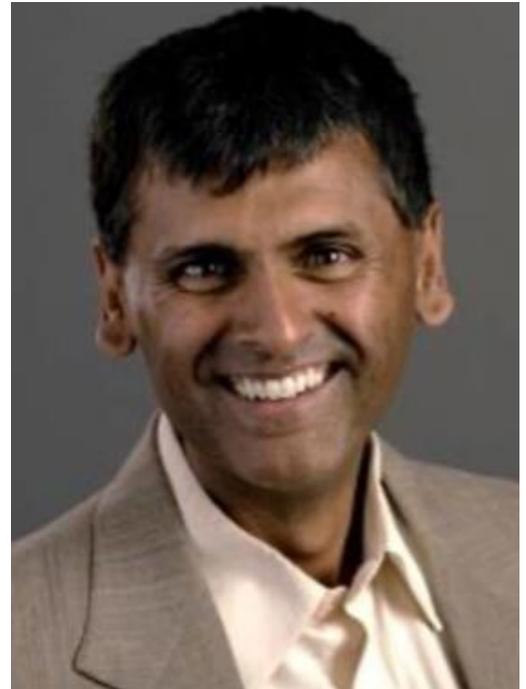
February 5 LWVNM Legislative Reception, La Fonda, Santa Fe, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
February 6 League Day at the Legislature, State Land Office, 10 a.m.-noon
February 20 Lunch with a Leader, Unitarian Church, Hari Viswanathan, noon
February 27 Board Meeting, Unitarian Church, noon
March 3 Consensus Meeting for Judiciary Study, Unitarian Church, 6-9 p.m.

February Lunch with a Leader: Hari Viswanathan¹

Lunch with a Leader will be on February 20 this month at the Unitarian Fellowship Hall from noon to 1 p.m. Our speaker will be Dr. Hari Viswanathan, who will present a non-technical Introduction to Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Viswanathan was born in Suffern, New York and moved to Los Alamos in 1977 with his parents, VK and Selvi Viswanathan, who still live in Los Alamos. He graduated from LAHS in 1989. In 2001 he returned to work at LANL. He holds advanced degrees in chemical and environmental engineering and is a Laboratory Fellow in the Earth and Environmental Sciences Division. His expertise is in subsurface energy systems and artificial intelligence. He has led large multi-disciplinary, multi-institutional projects in areas such as carbon sequestration and locating undocumented orphan wells. He enjoys travel, tennis and wildlife photography with his wife Gowri and son Aditya.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming nearly every aspect of our daily lives, from how we interact with technology to how decisions are made in critical sectors. In the talk, Viswanathan will explore the profound ways AI is shaping our world, both positively and negatively—enhancing efficiency and creativity while raising important ethical and social challenges. He will also share insights into the practical applications of AI in scientific research, highlighting how it helps analyze complex data, accelerate discoveries, and solve problems previously thought impossible. At the same time, he will reflect on the responsibility that comes with the power of AI, addressing issues like bias, transparency, and the need for human oversight. This talk aims to demystify AI and spark a conversation about how we can harness it responsibly for the greater good.



Hari S. Viswanathan, Senior Scientist, Los Alamos National Laboratory

Karyl Ann Armbruster

President's Message: LWVUS Federal Judiciary Study

The League of Women Voters — on the local, state, and national level — speak out on an issue only when a position has been adopted. Positions are adopted following thorough study, discussion and discernment, and substantial consensus* of League members.

At the 2024 LWVUS Convention, the delegates voted overwhelmingly to proceed with a one-year study of the federal judiciary as an essential component of U.S. democracy. As approved, the study "includes but is not limited to addressing concerns and clarifying judicial accountability, transparency, independence, and ethics." The scope of the study addresses the Article III federal courts, which

¹ The original February newsletter had an incorrect picture of Hari Viswanathan. This is a revised newsletter with the correct image. It is otherwise identical to the original.

includes 94 federal district courts, including bankruptcy courts; 13 circuit courts of appeals; and the U.S. Supreme Court.

What will this look like in Los Alamos? Study guide and consensus questions will be sent to our League around February 7. The LWVLA Board voted to hold its consensus meeting for this study in person from 6-9 p.m. on Monday, March 3. This will give us time to prepare the report due to LWVUS in mid-April. Only League members may participate.

Topics for discussion will include some or all of the following: judicial ethics and enforcement, judicial representation, judge or venue shopping, the shadow docket, financial disclosures, recusal, binding precedent, and structural reform. An agenda for the meeting will be shared beforehand. We will discuss the issues identified and the relevant principles, then move to the consensus questions in the hope of reaching broad agreement on what would best serve the public interest.

Logistics: I will facilitate the discussion. We will also have a Board member serving as a recorder to capture the discussion and agreements reached, including any dissent. We may also appoint a timekeeper. The best way to prepare for this meeting is to review the study resources and policy papers available to members on the LWVUS website.

Please put this important meeting on your calendar and join us. Snacks will be served to keep up our energy as we ponder our fascinating federal judiciary.

Felicia Orth

* **Consensus** is an agreement among a substantial number of members, reached after study and group discussion at face-to-face meetings. No voting takes place to reach member agreement. Consensus is not a simple majority, nor is it unanimity; rather it is the overall sense of the group as expressed through the exchange of ideas and opinions. In the consensus process, the Study Committee does not produce a statement with which members agree or disagree. Rather, the Study Committee uses questions to guide discussion, after providing background materials prior to a consensus meeting.

Welcome, New Members!

Marianne Wilkerson writes: I grew up in Raleigh, North Carolina, and moved to Los Alamos, New Mexico in 1990. Following undergraduate and graduate studies in music at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and Indiana University-Bloomington, I completed a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of New Mexico-Albuquerque. I recently retired from Los Alamos National Laboratory where I began my career in science in 1991, and I now am engaging in a broad range of interests. I love travelling to birding festivals and visiting wildlife refuges, hiking our local trails and those at State and National Parks, gardening (I currently am participating in the NMSU Extension Master Gardeners training program), and road biking, and I have joined many Pilates classes over the years. I also enjoy researching new topics.

Warren Rockwell writes: Like most folks - I try and stay in the know as far as politics. I'm not left. Nor right.

I've spent the last 3 years writing a python program based on cognitive AI related to human acts. Particularly pertaining to actions based on visual actionable behaviors. Intriguing really; as I am the only person who seems to be doing this kind of work on a private level.

Disclosure- I am sponsored by Nvidia, OPEN AI and ARCGIS. Issues I follow vary from climate change to contractual law.

League Days at the Legislature: February 5 and 6

Legislative Reception – La Fonda Hotel, Santa Fe, Wednesday, February 5, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The speaker will be Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver.

League Day at the Legislature: Thursday, February 6

8 a.m. to 2 p.m. – **in the State Capitol West Hall of History**

Three informational tables

10 a.m. to noon – **in the State Land Office, Morgan Hall, 310 Old Santa Fe Trail**

10:00 to 10:30 – Orientation to League Day

10:30 to 11:15 – Molly Swank, Executive Director, Common Cause, New Mexico –
Modernization of the Legislature and Legislative Salaries

11:15 to noon – New Mexico State Land Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richard –
Increasing Gas & Oil Royalty Rates and Diversification of Revenue from
State Lands

Legislative Preview Features Chandler, Gonzalez, Jaramillo, and Think New Mexico

The annual Legislative Preview sponsored by the League and AAUW included all three of our legislators as well as Think New Mexico's Kristina Fisher. Margo Batha from AAUW moderated the forum.



*Christine Chandler, NM-43
Representative. Photo by
Maire O'Neill.*

First to speak was Christine Chandler, representing NM 43 (Los Alamos County plus parts of Sandoval and Santa Fe Counties). She is now chair of the House Judiciary Committee and of the Interim Courts, Corrections, and Justice Committee. She plans to focus on:

- paid family medical leave: Because medical issues can severely impact families in a state where the median income is \$55,000, this bill would create a trust fund to help employees with family medical emergencies . There has been worry that the program could be abused, but 13 states already do this and abuse is rare.
- emergency repossession of firearms, which would mandate taking guns from persons deemed likely to commit crimes
- a housing bill protecting tenants' rights
- increase in oversight of the troubled Children, Youth, and Families Department (CYFD)
- AI (artificial intelligence) bill requiring developers and deployers to screen people in consequential decisions, including using algorithms to screen for discrimination.



*Margo Batha, AAUW. Photo by
Maire O'Neill.*

Senator Bobby Gonzales, District 6 (White Rock, Rio Arriba, Santa Fe, Taos) is in his 30th year as a legislator and is a retired educator, including as a high school principal. He sits on the Senate Finance Committee and the interim Legislative Finance Committee and spoke of several of his activities:

- chair of the NM State Investment Council: it has \$58 billion in assets, and makes us one of the wealthiest states for investments, with strong safeguards to keep us that way
- NM Trust Fund: \$8.3 billion program for children and \$4 billion for education
- sponsoring a Constitutional Amendment for retired state employees' health care
- sponsoring a memorial to develop a curriculum for grades kindergarten through 12 and up to understand the water of NM and tied into outdoor education.



Senators Bobby Gonzales, District 6 (left), and Leo Jaramillo, District 5 (right). Photo by Maire O'Neill.

Senator Leo Jaramillo represents District 5 (parts of Los Alamos, Rio Arriba, Sandoval, Santa Fe). He was an educator; has worked at LANL for 27 years. He chairs the Land Grant Committee and is vice-chair of the Rules Committee. He spoke of several upcoming programs and needs:

- the NM Aging and Long-term Services Department funding bill supports seniors and disabled adults
- extreme need for early child care providers
- a fentanyl education bill
- a prison inmate trade program.

Our final speaker was Kristina Fisher, from the respected organization Think New Mexico, which studies one topic each year and then produces a summary of results for their lobbying . She welcomes visitors to their website: www.thinknewmexico.org

Their topic in 2024 was health care. Why this study? Because we are experiencing a serious shortage of health care workers, with people struggling to get appointments when needed. A national study showed that from 2019 to 2024 we are the **only state in the nation that has lost doctors.**

Ten proposals were identified to deal with this issue, but Think New Mexico then chose 4 reforms for 2025 lobbying. These are:

- **Join the 9 interstate compacts for health care workers.** These are agreements among states to recognize each others' licenses, allowing them to help patients in person or via telehealth. We have this agreement for nurses, but not for doctors--it's badly needed.
- **Create a permanent fund for health care.** If we used \$2 billion of our current surplus, we'd have \$100 million per year to use for alleviating our health care shortage.
- **Help health care workers via tax policy.** Permanently repeal the GRT on medical services imposed on these workers (it expires in 2028). Second, expand the tax credit for rural health care practitioners--we need EMTs, audiologists, licensed practical nurses.
- **Reform NM's Medical Malpractice Law.** Medical malpractice rates are the highest in the US. We should cap the attorneys' fees and create better ways to reimburse patients who are injured.

The League was happy to have Fuller Lodge almost completely full for this evening of helpful information. We'll be following the progress of the Legislative session till its conclusion on March 22.

Becky Shankland

Observer Corps Report – County Council – January 7

State of the County; Election of Leadership; Public Notice of Meetings

The regular session was attended by Theresa Cull, Melanee Hand, Suzie Havemann, Ryn Herrmann, Beverly Neal-Clinton, David Reagor, Randall Ryti.

State of the County Presentation

Soon-to-be Chair Cull read highlights from the 16-page report prepared by former Chair Derkacs. The full version was published by the County and press.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Chair Cull was elected unanimously in the first round of voting. Nominations for Vice Chair included Havemann by Herrmann, Hand by Cull, and Reagor by Ryti. No one was able to get the required minimum of four votes in the first round, with Havemann receiving 3 votes, nor were any of the three candidates eliminated since the second and third highest tied at two each. Havemann was elected with 4 votes in the second round of voting.

Introduction of Ordinances

An ordinance to make a tax rebate available to low-income residents was introduced.

Public Hearings

Council voted unanimously to approve a resolution maintaining 72 hours as the minimum requirement for public notice of County public meetings and publishing of the agenda. Typically, there is about a 96-hour notice for Council meetings, as it usually comes out around at the end of business on the Friday prior to the meeting. The opportunity to discuss publishing the agenda prior to Friday is an option that may be considered at a future meeting.

Council voted unanimously to approve the transfer of a liquor license to the new owner of Origami.

Council Business

Intergovernmental Affairs Manager Danielle Duran presented an update that included progress on the study for a regional landfill, regional workforce housing, as well as relationships with tribal entities. All are moving forward.

County legislative priorities were discussed, including Interstate Medical Compacts. Council added Malpractice Insurance as a separate issue. The motion to approve the amended Los Alamos County State legislative priorities was approved unanimously.

Appointments

Council approved the appointments of one returning (George Marsden) and two new (Paula Knepper and Jacob Aldersebaes) members to the Parks and Recreation Board.

David Hampton

Observer Corps Report – Planning & Zoning Commission – January 8

Commissioners present: Rachel Adler (Chair), Stephanie Nakhleh (Vice Chair), Marlon Brown, Katherine Bruell, Karen Easton, David Hampton, Benjamin Hill, Ronald Nelson, Rebecca White.

Request for Site Plan Approval

Presentation

Will Gleason of Dekker Designs, agent on behalf of Ocean Rock Capital Partners and Grand Mesa Partners, LLC., property owner, requested approval of the site plan for a 40,786 sq.ft., three-story hotel to be built on the site of the former Hilltop House. The Hilltop House ceased operations in 2013 and was demolished by the County in 2022. Gleason noted that the current owner had cleared County liens in excess of \$1million incurred by the previous owner, Los Alamos Innovation Village, and resolved that owner's defaulted loan of approximately \$1million.



The new hotel, to be called The Guest House, will provide 60 units for both short and extended stays. It will include common kitchens and two 966 square foot conference rooms. The owner is ready to build and “going for LEED Gold certification.” The building will be 40’ high with drought-tolerant landscaping and there will be 69 parking spaces, including five EV slots with charging stations, another four EV capable, and ten bicycle spaces.

Commissioner Nakhleh questioned the size of the project; Hilltop House had 92 units. Gleason responded that it is appropriate for the 1.8 acre site, and that the cost of construction in Los Alamos was a factor. Staff agreed that the plan meets County goals for the downtown.

Approval of Site Plan

Commissioner Brown moved to approve the site plan with conditions, including coordination with NMDOT, dedication of the eight-foot sidewalk, and development agreements for two

water quality ponds to be built on County land between the hotel and the roundabout.

Other Business

The P&Z Commission's work plan was approved with a roll call vote, and new leadership was elected with Karen Easton as Chair and David Hampton as Vice Chair. The Planning Manager position remains vacant, and other open roles in the Community Development Department include permit techs and an Economic Development Program Manager.

Barbara Calef

Observer Corps Report – County Council – January 14

2026 Budget Guidance; Wildlife Feeding Ordinance; Potential Ordinances to Consider in 2025

The work session was attended by Theresa Cull (Chair), Melanee Hand (Vice-Chair), Suzie Havemann, Ryn Herrmann, Beverly Neal-Clinton, David Reagor, Randall Ryti.

The Council voted to Suspend Council Rules for Work Session.

FY2026 Budget Guidance

The Budget was presented by County Manager Anne Laurent, Administrative Services Director Helen Perraglio, and Budget and Performance Manager Erika Thomas. The primary focus for this budget is preparing for the probable decline in revenue beginning in FY2026, when LANL is scheduled to begin pit manufacturing and will thus be exempt from GRT, the major source of revenue for Los Alamos.

The following guidelines were suggested to meet projected expenses:

1. Keep requests to what is absolutely necessary (considering status of unspent funds, carryovers and encumbrances).
2. FTE requests will be more limited than in the recent past.
3. Tie requests to Council goals and strategic priorities.

Two recommendations included a quarter-percent GRT increase by July 2026, and a 6% increase in non-union employee salaries.

The Council voted 6 to 1, with Councilor Reagor voting no, to approve the Budget Guidelines.

Draft Wildlife Feeding Ordinance

The proposed title of the ordinance was amended to include prohibiting feeding waterfowl. However, the text now says: *“Purposely and knowingly feeding songbirds or other common birds by any means, including the use of birdfeeders shall not constitute a violation of this ordinance.”*

Another amendment specified that, for violators, *“Each ongoing day of the violation(s) shall constitute a separate offense . In addition to the financial penalties so provided.”*

Council reiterated that the purpose of the Wildlife Ordinance is to protect citizens, pets, and wildlife. The discussion emphasized that a major issue is the high number of vehicle-deer collisions due to the explosion of the deer population. Councilor Ryti requested a database of the collisions, which might indicate ways to mitigate the accidents, including fencing and reduced speed limits. Another issue is the feeding of waterfowl at the pond. There was a suggestion to post signage explaining that bread is unhealthy for the birds and, possibly, providing dispensers with bird food.

A motion was made by Councilor Ryti that Council consider additional input and analysis, including traffic accident data and experience from the town of Ruidoso and other information as appropriate before returning to Council with a revised ordinance prohibiting the feeding of

wildlife in the County. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on Potential Ordinances to Consider in 2025

Councilor Ryti requested “giving a fresh look” to old issues from previous Councils in which Council took no action, including:

1. an ordinance to charge a fee for vacant and dilapidated buildings;
2. have more engagement with County boards and town halls;
3. the issue of a fee on single-use, plastic shopping bag;
4. minimum wage; and
5. cellphone use while driving unless it is a hands-free phone.

Vacant Property: There was public comment in support of a vacant property tax or fine such as the ordinance Albuquerque City Council just passed to require owners of vacant buildings to register their properties and pay fees. Chair Cull postponed this topic for further discussion at a later date.

Bag Fee: Council once again addressed imposing a fee on single-use plastic bags, noting that in 2015 Council sent the issue to the Environmental Sustainability Board (ESB), which ultimately voted not to recommend. Councilors Neal-Clinton and Reagor stated that Smith’s in White Rock already charges 10-cents for bags and has experienced no resistance. Councilor Ryti would like the ESB to once again evaluate the bag fee, including discussing the issue with local businesses. Councilor Reagor disagreed even though he always brings his own bags. He believes people should be allowed to do as they please. To that, Havemann responded, “When people choose to consume plastic bags that go out in our environment, that infringes on *my* rights to have clean surroundings and clean water systems, and infringes on my enjoyment of the environment and wildlife.”

Councilor Ryti moved to ask the ESB to include in their work plan an evaluation of

single-use plastic bags, to include factors such as their ability to recycle them, and other alternatives that are being considered, and if there is a particular cost to the County associated with having single-use plastic bags in our waste stream, and also requested that engagement include the local business community, as well as interested citizens. The motion passed 6-1 with Councilor Reagor voting no.

Minimum Wage: Councilor Ryti introduced a potential ordinance on raising the minimum wage. No action was taken.

Cellphone Use While Driving: Councilor Ryti introduced a potential ordinance on public safety. No action was taken, but they will bring back the idea of traffic cams and cellphone use after public engagement.

Jody Benson

Observer Corps Report – County Council – January 28:

Personal Income Tax Rebate, Grant Application for Local DWI Program; Revisions to Library Policies

The regular session was attended by Theresa Cull (Chair), Melanee Hand (Vice-Chair), Ryn Herrmann, Beverly Neal-Clinton, David Reagor, Randall Ryti. Suzie Havemann participated virtually.

Personal Income Tax Rebate for Eligible Low-Income Los Alamos County Property Taxpayers

Since 2001 Los Alamos has offered a rebate of up to \$350 a year on their personal income tax to low-income residents for a portion of their property tax payment. The

County must repay the rebate to the state. In 2024 the County paid \$12,573. The ordinance to make the rebate available for 2025-2028 passed unanimously.

Grant Application for Local DWI Program

Sarah Martinez, the County DWI Coordinator, presented the yearly resolution to the Council. After a brief discussion, the Council voted unanimously to pass a resolution authorizing the County to submit an application to the Department of Finance and Administration, Local Government Division, to participate in the Local DWI Grant and Distribution Program.

Discussion and Possible Adoption of Revisions to the Library Policies

Gwen Kalavaza, the Library Manager, presented the revisions to library policies recommended by the Library Board and staff. These include changes to update the language, combine similar sections, and align with County administrative procedure and policies. However, she focused on significant changes and new additions.

Diversity and inclusivity has been added as an organizational principle. There is also a process by which members of the public can ask the library to reconsider the addition of materials to the collection, services offered, or planned events. The policy also outlines the criteria the library uses to select materials for the collection; describes how the display, exhibit, and gallery spaces are used; and outlines the process staff uses to develop library events.

The Council unanimously voted to adopt the revised library policies.

Barbara Calef

January Lunch with a Leader: Taraka Dale Discusses Plastics Research at LANL

Dr. Taraka Dale is the Microbial and Biome Sciences Group Leader in the Biosciences Division. She began her talk with a few family photos, pointing out that she loves nature and wants to have a positive impact on our world.

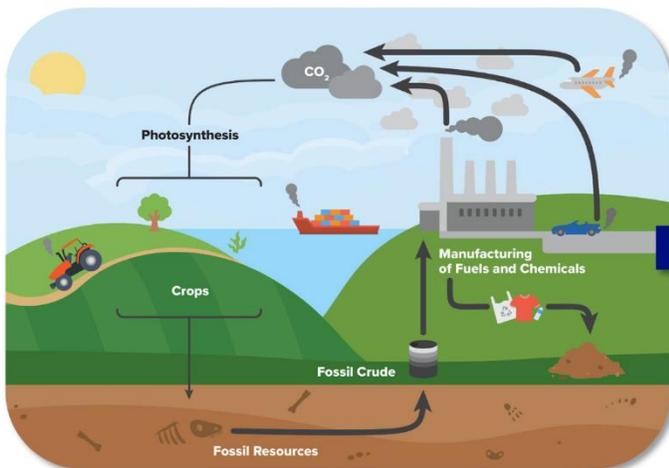
To do that, she and her team are studying microbes, from bacteria to single-celled algae, and learning how to manipulate them. For her talk, Dale focused on the group's work on plastics, which are polymers formed from a long chain of atoms or small molecules called monomers. As we know, plastics are everywhere, in the oceans and in the air. They are part of our way of life, here to stay. So, how can we address this problem?

Currently, in our linear economy, which Dale referred to as an imbalanced carbon cycle, most plastics are derived from fossil fuels and end up in landfills, where they are slow to degrade. Only 6% of recyclable plastics are actually recycled. The method in use, mechanical recycling - grinding up and turning the plastics into something else - is not applicable to all polymers. Dale explained that the minimal amount of recycling done today is actually "downcycling," meaning the new products tend to be of lower quality and value than the original ones.

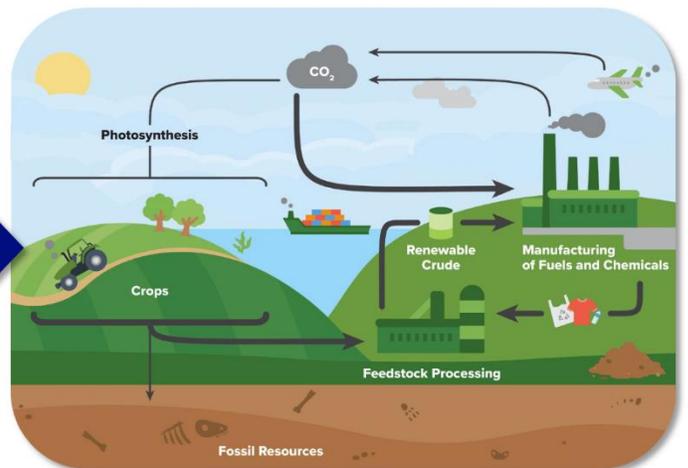
For the future, scientists envision a circular "bioeconomy" with a rebalanced carbon cycle. Plastics would be produced using renewable sources: photosynthetic algae or bacteria that produce chemicals to be used in plastics manufacture. The new plastics would more easily degrade if discarded, or could be "upcycled" through industrial degradation and nutrient extraction. This process is shown in the figure below, where we see "fossil crude" replaced by "renewable crude."

Plastics are an opportunity as well as a challenge

Imbalanced carbon cycle (including plastics)



Rebalanced carbon cycle (including plastics)



- Carbon forms the backbone of our food, fuels, & everyday products
- Carbon as a resource is tied to global events
- Even with electrification, some fuels and chemicals that will remain carbon-based
 - especially plastics-based products



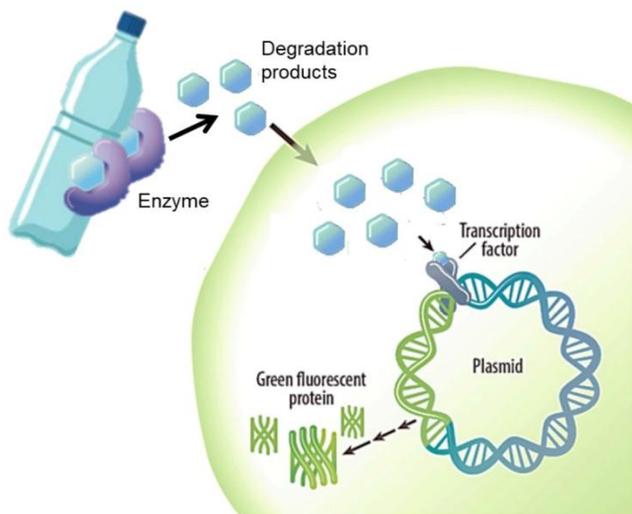
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One program Dale's group has been working with is BOTTLE (Bio-Optimized Technologies for keeping Thermoplastics out of Landfills and the Environment), a multi-institutional consortium, funded by DOE and led by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Applewood, CO.

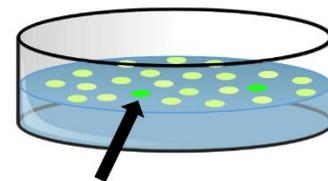
The collaborators are seeking to break down different materials using various biological and chemical processes: thermal catalysis, electro-catalysis, bio-catalysis, and photo-catalysis.

LANL is working on bio-catalysis. Dale's group has discovered that some bacteria have recently evolved the capability to break down plastics by secreting enzymes that attach themselves to plastics, break off microscopic chunks, and use them as a food source. Ideally the degraded material could be used as building blocks to make the next set of products. However, the natural process is very slow. Envisioning that microorganisms could be harnessed to degrade plastic waste on a large scale, Dale's group is seeking to improve enzymatic activity.

Applying Smart Microbial Cell Technology to plastics



- Secrete degrading enzymes out of cell
- Enzymes degrade plastic
- Degradation products are imported into cell and detected
- Cells with the best degrading enzymes glow the brightest



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To succeed, they needed sensitive and accurate ways to determine which enzymes are working properly. So, the group developed Smart Microbial Cell Technology, which is a biosensor that allows the scientists to screen bacteria and select the varieties that perform best by looking at a visual readout. This biosensor will be used to develop microbes that deconstruct traditional plastic into its building blocks, which can then be upcycled into higher-value products.

Dale finished her talk with a reference to some of the current efforts of her group and by acknowledging her colleagues. In response to a question, she said that she thought one of the approaches to recycling plastic currently being explored might be implemented on an industrial scale in 10 to 15 years, but added that it would not be bio-catalysis.

Barbara Calef

Tickler Reports – Council Agenda Items and BCC Vacancies

Tickler Report

Tentative Council Agenda Items as of January 24, 2025

A partial list of tentative Council agenda items from the County tickler distributed on the above date. All items are subject to change.

- East Park Basketball & N Mesa Tennis Court Demo & Renovation Project
 - 2/4/25 meeting. Action requested.
- Board and Commission Vacancy Report
 - 2/4/25 meeting. No action requested.
- Briefing by Parks & Recreation Board Chair
 - 2/11/25 meeting. No action requested.
- Revenue Transfer from Electric & Gas Funds
 - 2/25/25 meeting.
- Bid for the Los Alamos Canyon Fiber Optic Extension for Water Production SCADA
 - 2/25/25 meeting.
- Installation and removal of indoor plaster, decking, and tile at the Aquatic Center
 - 2/25/25 meeting.
- County Manager's Report for January 2025
 - 2/25/25 meeting.
- Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy [C-PACE] Program – Designating a manager to administer the program and enable financing, approving the program guidebook, and other matters
 - 2/25/25 meeting.
- Certifying the 2025 annual road mileage for the NM Department of Transportation
 - 2/25/25 meeting.

eComment Tool for Council meetings:

You can use the County's eComment tool to submit comments. Submit them at:

<https://losalamos.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>.

Use the search filters to find the meeting and select "eComment" in the far-right column. Agenda items open for public comment will be marked with a "Comment" tag.

Los Alamos County public release: *Los Alamos Daily Post*, August 24, 2024. "County Launches eComment Tool for Council Meetings", <https://ladailypost.com/county-launches-ecomment-tool-for-council-meetings/>

County BCC Vacancies as of January 31, 2025

Los Alamos County has 11 standing Boards and Commissions (BCCs). Generally, the purpose of a board is to serve in an advisory capacity to the County Council, but some have statutory responsibilities as well.

All BCCs and current vacancies are listed below as of the above date.

Upcoming vacancies are in yellow text. Changes from last report have a magenta highlight.

- Art in Public Places Board 0
 - 2 terms ending March 24, 2025
- Board of Public Utilities 0
 - 1 term ending June 30, 2025
- County Health Council 9
 - No terms ending soon
- Environmental Sustainability Board 0
 - No terms ending soon
- Historic Preservation Advisory Board 0
 - No terms ending soon
- Library Board 0
 - No terms ending soon
- Lodgers' Tax Advisory Board 1
 - No terms ending soon
- Parks and Recreation Board 0
 - No terms ending soon
- Personnel Board 0
 - 1 term ending March 31, 2025
- Planning and Zoning Commission 0
 - 3 terms ending March 31, 2025
- Transportation Board 0
 - 3 terms ending Feb 28, 2025

Totals: 10 vacancies, 10 terms ending soon

Interested Los Alamos County residents may submit an online application by visiting the County's Boards and Commissions webpage and selecting "apply" at:

<https://www.losalamosnm.us/Government/Leadership/Boards-Commissions> .

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

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