

**LCVA**  
PO Box 31058 Santa  
Fe, New Mexico 87594

**La Cienega  
Community Library  
Opening Event and  
Book Sale Saturday  
September 27th  
1-5 PM, 136 Camino  
San Jose.**

**LCVA Halloween  
Carnival Saturday  
October 25th at El  
Rancho de Las  
Golondrinas 1-4 PM.**

**LCVA Community  
Breakfast Saturday  
November 15th from  
9-11 AM 136 Camino  
San Jose.**

**LCVA Holiday Party  
December 13th from  
4-7 PM 136 Camino  
San Jose.**



## **Ojo Santa Fe Spa Resort - A Sanctuary for Wellness in the Heart of La Cienega**

**S**ister to the iconic Ojo Caliente Mineral Springs, Ojo Santa Fe is a treasured haven of rest and rejuvenation with roots that reach back centuries. Nestled in the serene landscapes of La Cienega, Ojo Santa Fe honors its Southwest heritage while offering travelers a range of healing and recreational experiences.

Whether you're soaking in our legendary spring-fed thermal pools, indulging in a signature spa treatment, savoring farm-to-table cuisine at the Blue Heron Restaurant, or simply unwinding — every moment is designed to nourish your body and spirit.

As a proud member of the La Cienega community, we're excited to offer this exclusive local deal:

- 15% OFF dining at the Blue Heron Restaurant — valid for any meal period. Simply show this newsletter to redeem.
- Plus, all New Mexico residents receive 20% OFF lodging at Ojo Santa Fe. Just present a valid NM ID at check-in.

Ojo Santa Fe, a well-deserved escape—just minutes from home.

Visit us online at [ojosparesorts.com](http://ojosparesorts.com) or call 877-977-8212 for reservations



**La Cienega Valley Association Newsletter • September 2025 • Volume 1 Issue 1**

## **Las Noticias, the La Cienega Valley Association's (LCVA) community newsletter is back.**

**T**he LCVA intends to make Las Noticias a quarterly publication with news and updates of what is happening in La Cieneguilla and La Cienega especially for residents with limited Internet access. A Spanish version of the newsletter will be posted on the LCVA Website.

For current updates and ways to be involved and contribute to your community please check out the informative LCVA web site [lacienegavalley.org](http://lacienegavalley.org). Please consider getting involved. For volunteer opportunities please contact Pamela Romero-Ticho, Vice-President, La Cienega Valley Association - email [pamela.ticho@gmail.com](mailto:pamela.ticho@gmail.com) or text 505-501-8814.

Another way to keep informed is to attend a community breakfast. Good food, good conversations, updates from our elected official, the latest community news and special guests. The special guest for the November 10 breakfast will be Mori Hensley, Executive Director of the Santa Fe Watershed Association. Mori will discuss the grant the SFWA has received for watershed management planning and what it means for future water and river projects in our communities.

## **City of Santa Fe Paseo Real Treatment Plant**

**O**ur LCVA is happy to report that the City's Paseo Real Treatment Plant has been meeting EPA and New Mexico Environment

Department E. coli permit standards for release into the Santa Fe River. The plant has exceeded standards only once since November 11 of last year.

In addition the City is in the process of selecting a progressive design-build construction firm to build a new treatment facility. The progressive design-build concept allows the City to deal directly with a nationally recognized wastewater construction firm minimizing engineering demands. The City is expected to secure a long-term loan to cover the \$350-500 million cost of the project. Eleven national wastewater firms have expressed an interest in the project. LCVA will be requesting that any PER include a line item for a community liaison to be hired to work with residents in La Cieneguilla and La Cienega throughout the planning process.

## **Las Noticias**

The newsletter is distributed to over 1300 homes in our two communities. The cost for printing and mailing the newsletter is approximately \$700 per edition. We want to thank our friends at Ojo Santa Fe for funding this edition of Las Noticias. Please consider contributing to the cost of the newsletter. Ten residents donating \$25 a month will allow the LCVA to publish Las Noticias on a quarterly basis.

## La Cienega Integrated Water Plan and Preliminary Engineering Report

Monthly project community meetings are being held on the 4th Thursday of the month, from 6-7:30pm at the La Cienega Community Center.

This project began in early April and will include development of a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) related to the protection of traditional water resources in LCLC communities. The project is being led by consultants Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc. Monthly project community meetings are being held on the 4th Thursday of the month, from 6-7:30pm at the La Cienega Community Center. Site visits with community representatives and to properties with water features have also been conducted. At the September 25 meeting, residents and the project team will discuss which projects should be included in the PER.

## 2025 La Cienega/La Cieneguilla Communities Plan:

Initiated by the LCVA, community members and County Planning staff have been meeting monthly since spring 2024. The draft 2025 La Cienega/La Cieneguilla Communities Plan is the result of this effort. The formal adoption process will begin in the coming months, but please submit any final questions, comments, or pictures to Nate Crail, Senior Community Planner, 505-986-2452 or [ncrail@santafecountynm.gov](mailto:ncrail@santafecountynm.gov) as soon as possible. View the draft plan at the following link: [bit.ly/lclc2025](https://bit.ly/lclc2025)

## PFAs Notice and Update

PFAS chemicals don't break down easily over time and dissolve in water. Because of that, some scientists are concerned that these chemicals build to levels that could harm the environment and your body.

If you aren't aware of the PFAs contamination in La Cieneguilla or want to catch up on the news, Kathleen McCloud, Chair of the LCVA PFAs Subcommittee suggests residents review the information on the County website - <https://www.santafecountynm.gov/public-works/pfas> - to watch the YouTube video recordings of the PFAs meetings held since April 2024. If you missed the August 18th presentation when Intera, the engineering company hired to characterize the PFAS contamination presented its finding, the video recording will be posted in October. PFAS stands for perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances, a group of chemicals that have properties that allow them to repel water, dirt, and oil. Manufacturers use PFAS to make everyday household products, as well as things in industries. Dubbed "forever chemicals," PFAS chemicals don't break down easily over time and dissolve in water. Because of that, some scientists are concerned that these chemicals build to levels that could harm the environment and your body.

Several wells in La Cieneguilla tested positive for PFAs contamination. Please access the County website to find out about the PFAs contamination and what residents can do to minimize their health risks.

## Tres Rios Ranch

The sister communities of La Cienega and La Cieneguilla share a great history and are filled with historic sites. One of those sites is the 298-acre Tres Rios Ranch located at the southern end of the La Cienega Valley where Alamo Creek, that comes across I-25, meets with the Arroyo Hondo-La Cienega Creek and the Santa Fe River.

There is a small group of residents and friends of the community who are working to preserve the property and establish it as a community resource with an agricultural focus. Plans also include creating opportunities for visitors to experience the archaeological sites, both Pueblo and Spanish, and the unique environmental features of the property.

Members of the County's Open Land, Trails, and Parks Advisory Committee (COLTPAC) have toured Tres Rios, and among other ideas, are interested in the possibility of a trail system that would allow access to federal lands on the west side of the Santa Fe River. The group working to preserve and protect Tres Rios Ranch wants to ensure that the adjoining County owned 400-acre La Bajada Ranch is included in the planning process for the ranch.

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## La Cienega Valley Association

The LCVA was established in 1995, thirty years and 360 Board meetings ago. For those of us who were involved in the process of creating the community association it was not an easy time. There were difficult meetings and angry exchanges and passionate voices filled the community center.

Through all the challenges we were able to create a solid organization responsive to resident needs and demands. Major LCVA successes include the prevention of the proposed 625-home Santa Fe Canyon Ranch Development, the LCVA supported the County's open space acquisition of a proposed 250-home Alley Development between HIPICO and the La Cieneguilla petroglyphs, LCVA initiated an update to the La Cienega and La Cieneguilla Community Plan with the County, acquired funding from Santa Fe County for a springs restoration and wastewater study, acquired funding to rehabilitate the La

Cienega Community Library and obtained partnership with Santa Fe County to help begin the process of addressing PFAs contamination of local wells.

Those examples are big picture community issues, but it is the little things that make the LCVA what it is today. It is our community breakfasts, the outstanding LCVA website, our Halloween and Christmas celebrations. It is the monthly Board meetings, the LCVA participation in community and water planning and the LCVA invites you to be involved.

Attend a Board meeting, come to breakfast, volunteer to help with an event, join a committee – do something good for your community. In the next few months residents will learn about rain gardens, Zuni bowls, rock walls in arroyos and other conservation measures residents can take to restore the springs in our spring fed communities.

## LCVA to Reopen Community Library

The LCVA acquired \$20,000 in funds from Santa Fe County to rehab the Library located in the back of the La Cienega Community Center.

They have had the collection weeded by a professional librarian and purchased new furniture and equipment for the library, including a

projector screen for movie nights. LCVA needs funding to continue in their efforts at reopening the library and invites you to join them at the Soft Opening event and Book Sale on September 27th from 1-5 pm