



**SAN  
LUIS**

*Oldest Town in Colorado*

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# Town of San Luis

N E W S L E T T E R

September 2019 — FREE

## Fiesta de Otoño

The locals in Spanish always say, “Se acabó el Santa Ana; se acabó el verano.” Or “Once Santa Ana is over, so is the summer.” It is time to start getting ready for the harvest. It’s almost time for chicos, the smell of roasting chile, gathering wood, hunting, and family matanzas. From the earliest days of San Luis, local people have been drying and then canning and freezing garden delicacies for use throughout the winter. We celebrate this busy, bountiful time of year and this important aspect of our history with a community feast and festival.

It is time for the Fiesta de Otoño – the Harvest Festival of San Luis and the Culebra villages. It is planned for Saturday, October 5 from 2 pm to 6 pm at the Parish Hall Parking Lot with musical entertainment and games for kids of all ages. Like last year, it will be topped off with a free meal of local, organic pork and lamb, fried local potatoes, beans, roasted green chile and tortillas that will be served to attendees.

There will be a limited number of vendors permitted at the event and if you would like to sell items, please contact the Adelante San Luis office at 719-214-2548 as soon as possible. Musical entertainment will be provided by Encanto of Espanola. This band plays a variety of music: ranchera, cumbia, oldies, funk, country, and classic rock.

There will be drawings all day for various prizes. The final grand



## Have a Heart

The Town of San Luis has created a campaign to encourage citizens of all ages to recycle their aluminum cans to help keep our town trash-free. To kick off the project, a grant was written to build two heart-shaped can recycling receptacles. One was placed on Main Street and the other at the park. Thank you to John Apodaca who created these artful containers for aluminum cans.

prize is a Guided Cow Elk Hunt on the Cielo Vista Ranch. This will require that the person whose ticket is drawn be able to purchase a hunting license. One must be present to win, no exceptions.

Adelante San Luis will be joined by local partners in this endeavor: Costilla County, Costilla County Prevention Partners, Colorado Division of Wildlife, Sangre de Cristo Catholic Church, Cielo Vista Ranch and local farmers.

## Do You Want to Own Your Home in San Luis?

Please Join us for a community meeting to learn about the opportunities of the Self-Help Program

Wednesday September 18, 2019  
at San Luis City Hall/408 Main Street at 6:00 pm.

Use your own hands and time to build your own home! Our staff will assist you every step of the way, from the application process through the construction phase, to move in. The benefits of a Self-Help Home are: No down payment; affordable monthly payments; flexible qualifying guidelines; fixed

low interest rate loans; learn home maintenance skills and become part of neighborhood that thrives in our community of San Luis.

Community Resources and Housing Development (CRHDC) has been providing pathways to housing resources and asset building opportunities in Colorado for 47 years. CRHDC uses innovative approaches in providing sustainable and affordable housing, life skills, and economic development opportunities to benefit low to moderate income households throughout



Colorado. CRHDC services include property development, financing, education, partnership and technical assistance. See us at [www.crhdc.org](http://www.crhdc.org) or call 719 589-1680 and ask for Ramona.

## Costilla County Economic Development Council Enterprise Zone



This year the Costilla County Economic Development Council was designated as an “Enterprise Zone Project” through the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade.

What does that mean for business owners? If you pay Colorado state taxes, then can you get a 25% tax credit. Unlike a tax deduction, which reduces your taxable income determined by your tax rate, a tax credit reduces your tax liability. In

this way, a tax credit directly reduces the taxes due and functions like a check, payable to the Colorado Department of Revenue. The larger your tax credit, the more you subtract from the amount of tax you owe the government. This way rather than giving money to the government, you can keep your money in the community.

If you are a business owner and want the tax credit for your business then your business can make a donation and get the credit.

Donations to the CCEDC go towards our operational expenses (utilities, staff, and other general office expenses). These are things that grants usually will not cover.

The minimum donation to receive a tax credit is \$100. If you have any questions feel free to contact Jeremy Elliott at [CostillaCountyEDC@gmail.com](mailto:CostillaCountyEDC@gmail.com) or contact your Certified Public Accountant.

### How to claim your tax credit:

1. You must pay Colorado state taxes.
2. Donate \$100 or more to the Costilla County Economic Council.
3. Make your check payable to “Costilla County Economic Development Council” or “CCEDC”. In the memo write: “Enterprise Zone”.
4. Mail your donation to:  
(or you drop it off at our office)  
  
CCEDC  
PO Box 9  
San Luis, CO 81152
5. Please include your contact info with the donation check.
6. We will send you a certificate of tax credit that you can use for your Colorado Income Tax Return.

## Rio Costilla Studio Tour 2019

Get a behind the scene peek and experience the 21st Annual Rio Costilla Studio Tour, September 7th and 8th, 2019, where Northern New Mexico and Southern Colorado artists open their studio doors to visitors to view the process of their art and crafts.

You will stand in the artists' studios and soak up their scenic views and what fuels their creativity—the Sangre de Cristo mountains to the east, the Rio Grande gorge to the west and the majestic Mount Blanca on the edge of the beautiful San Luis Valley.

Tour artist Karen Ahlgren has been painting her jewel toned watercolors of local wildlife for over 30 years. As she states, “My goal has always been to connect the viewer with the majesty and sentient soulfulness of these wild beings.”

Watercolorist, Karen McCurtain-Blair was featured in the 2019 annual Taos News Magazine “Taos Woman”. She was quoted, “I make such a heart connection to what I paint.” People see and appreciate this connection to place in her paintings, “I think that is the joy I get from painting.”

The Kirchers open their studios in downtown Jaroso, CO where you can experience Jane's original fused and slumped glass sculptures, as well as Lynn's bronze sculptures. Lynn's sculptures are found throughout the US and in collections internationally.

The Kirchers are the driving force behind the Rio Costilla Studio Tour's 11th Annual Emerging Artist Program. School children are encouraged to create art and submit

it to the Show section set up just for them. Prizes are awarded and art supplies are given out. The RCST supports art in the schools.

Kathryn V. Tatum is one of the contemporary modern painters on the Tour. She loves to paint Northern New Mexico's as well as the world's highest mountain peaks incorporating layers of hand made paint, mica and wax.

The Historic Costilla Plaza as well as the Costilla Community Center will feature a host of other artists and artisans.

The RCST receives assistance from both the Taos County Lodger's Tax as well as the Costilla County Lodger's Tax. Come experience the uniqueness of what they are supporting. These tiny mountain villages are home to so many creative and talented artists! For two days the old historic streets and plazas come to life though friendship, art and food. September 7th and 8th plan for full days of discovery from 10AM to 5PM. Maps will be given out at the Information Booth on the Historic Costilla Plaza. See [riocostillaart.com](http://riocostillaart.com) for a list of artists studios and more information on local lodging.

### Park Safety

A local citizen recently reported finding drug needles in the park. We are asking citizens to report any suspicious drug use activity at the park. It is important to keep our children safe. If you find any drug paraphernalia at the park please report it immediately to the Town Hall so it can be safely removed.

## Get Ready for Trunk or Treat!



The Town of San Luis will be hosting its second annual Trunk or Treat Halloween Event on Thursday, October 31st, 2019. Bring the kids for treats and halloween fun!

There will be a vehicle trunk decorating contest for businesses, organizations and citizens. The top three best Halloween decorated trunks will be chosen to win a cash prize! Start planning your designs now and come into the Town Hall to enter. For more information call Town Hall at 672-3321.

### Citizen of the Month

Congratulations to **Ben Duran** for being nominated Citizen of the Month in August. Thank you Ben for donating your aluminum cans for the Town's recycling project. The money made from the cans we collect will go to support the San Luis Community Park. We appreciate your support Ben!

Visit Town Hall to nominate your favorite helpful citizen who deserves nomination!

## Become a Main Street Volunteer

The Town of San Luis is gearing up to enter the candidate phase of becoming a Colorado Main Street. The next step is to organize a Main Street Steering Committee to help the Town create a vision, mission and strategic plan to move the Town forward economically, historically and culturally.

Do you have creative ideas and want to see our Town grow and prosper? Then consider volunteering to serve on the Main Street Steering Committee. This is a roll-up-your sleeve position and get involved with the future planning of San Luis. We need your ideas from big to small on what you think can help San Luis becoming a thriving, fun community in which to live.

Revitalization of Main Street is critical to the future economic development of our hometown. If you have an interest in helping make a difference in your community, whether a business owner or a citizen, then send us a letter of intent, by mail or email, letting us know you are ready to help save and grow Main Street. Our first meeting will be in September. Send your letter of intent today to P.O. Box 200, San Luis, CO 81141 or email us at townclerk@townofsanluisco.org.

## Cat's Alive Voucher Program

Cat's Alive and the Town of San Luis have partnered to help residents have a low-cost way of spaying or neutering their cat. The Town has 10 vouchers for the cost of \$20 to take your cat to Dr. Deal in Monte Vista for spaying or neutering. These vouchers can save you over \$100 depending on whether you have a male or female cat. Just come in to Town Hall to pick up a Cat's Alive Voucher.

If you want to know when and where the next Free Spay/Neuter Clinic will be set up, join the Facebook group called SLV FREE OR LOW COST SPAY NEUTER CLINICS. Once there read the posts and click the link that allows you to sign up for the next clinic—there may be a series of questions you will need to answer. These clinics require same day drop off and pick up, usually after 5:00 pm. Your pet must be 4-months-old or older to be eligible to receive a Rabies shot.

If you cannot make any of the free clinics, designate a friend or family member to bring in your pet(s) for you. They can sign the consent form as your agent.

Also, you can visit: <https://slv-petresources.com> to register for upcoming SLV clinics.

## 2019 Youth Entrepreneurship Camp

Attention Parents, Grandparents, Educators, Community Leaders, Business Leaders, Government Officials, and Media: *Enterprising youth can change the future of your community*

Adelante San Luis is working with Youth Engagement Facilitator, Craig Schroeder to conduct a three-day Youth Entrepreneurship Camp on Tuesday, September 17th, Wednesday, September 18th and Thursday, September 19th, 2019 for the 8th grade students at Centennial School in San Luis, CO.

During the Camp, 8th graders will learn business concepts from adult entrepreneurs and business leaders, explore their own entrepreneurial talents and create businesses with their own products.

On Thursday, September 19th from 2:00-3:00 pm., the students will present their business projects at the Young Entrepreneurs Business Showcase and Award Ceremony at Centennial School in the Commons. Everyone is invited to attend the ESI Showcase. We hope to see you there to support young Entrepreneurs!

ADELANTE SAN LUIS, a Project of the Colorado Trust and the Colorado Non-Profit Development Center, is an organization whose work is to provide health equity through economic development, social connection and cultural revitalization.

Please contact the Adelante San Luis office at 719-214-2548 for more information or questions about the youth camp program.

### Town Meeting Dates

*All Town Hall meetings are open to the public. Please join us!*

#### Town Hall Meeting

The 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm.

#### Work Sessions

The 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm.