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# Town of San Luis

## NEWSLETTER

August 2019 — FREE

### Fiesta Fun!

The Town of San Luis would like to thank everyone who made this year's Fiesta de Santiago y Santa Ana a great sucess. This hundreds of years old tradition of celebrating the feast days of San Luis' patron saints, Santiago and Santa Ana, welcomed hundreds of visitors and locals to enjoy church events, authentic food, a classic car show, traditional music, parades, a 10K run, fireworks and great fun and fellowship to help celebrate the cultural uniqueness of San Luis and its surrounding villages.

Many thanks go to: Adelante San Luis for sponsoring the Friday Night kick-off BBQ and crowning of the Queen; Tommy Vigil for organizing the Classic Car Show; the 35 vendors who set up booths for attendees to partake; the Town Board of Trustees for sponsoring the free Gonzalo concert and the Stations of the Cross 10K run; Michael Hampton, Barry Witherby and Carolyn Williams for providing the lights for the concert in the park; the Costilla County Fire Department for overseeing the fireworks display; all the participants who took part in the annual parade; and especially to the volunteers who helped with all the events from set-up to clean-up; the Sheriff's Office for patrolling and keeping everyone safe and most importantly all the vistors and local citizens who attended this year's celebration.

Join us July 25 and 26, 2020 for another fabulous Fiesta!



Miss Alexis Lobato was crowned Reina de Santiago y Santa Ana 2019 on Friday, July 26, 2019. She was crowned by Reina de Santiago y Santa Ana 1984, Nancy Sanchez Escalante.

As the 2019 Reina, Miss Lobato presided over this year's Fiesta and will continue to do so for other community events throughout the year. She will also be the ambassador of Goodwill for San Luis.

Miss Lobato is the daughter of Alonzo and Bernadette Lobato from Chama, Colorado. She is a 6th generation descendant of Chama settlers, Cristóbal Lobato and Maria del Rosario Alijabú, a 2019 graduate of Centennial High School and is currently enrolled at Adams State University. Alexis loves her community and culture and wants to be a good influence on her peers and be a component of positive change for the community.

Congratulations, Alexis!

## What's going on at the CCEDC

As many of you know, the Costilla County Economic Development Council (CCEDC) has been in existence since 1987. The goal of the CCEDC has been "Preserving the past - developing the future". In the last 10+ years the CCEDC has worked on numerous programs and preservation/restoration projects including the interior and exterior restoration of the Sangre de Cristo Heritage Center, the San Francisco Morada, historic structure assessments for the mission churches, restoration of the Nasario Gallegos House, preserving Hispano Farm curriculum, Youth Archiving Program and others.

Like everyone we would like to see these projects move forward faster, but these projects are extremely time consuming. Securing the funding for these projects is a long drawn out process. Many of these preservation projects are funded by the State Historic Fund - History Colorado (funded by state gambling money) and includes a stringent application. The process to secure the grant funding is very time consuming. Many of these grants also require a "local/cash match". This means that you need to raise money to match a percentage of the grant. In order to achieve these cash matches, you have to write another grant from a foundation and/or receive private funding. Some of the money that is used for these grants come from the federal government and there are times when our funders have to wait on the money to be distributed. Many times the grant award is less than the entire project, so we have



to phase out the projects. While we would like to do everything at once, funding does not allow for it. The phasing of these projects does make it easier to meet the cash matches. A \$200,000 grant has an easier cash match compared to a \$1,500,000 grant.

So that is the financial side of these projects. Now there is the construction side. Like with any project unforeseen problems arise and create delays. Our projects are no different, we have experienced several issues with the community kitchen project that has delayed the project. We were hoping to have this phase of the kitchen project done by the end of July, but it is now looking like it will be complete in September. The current phase of the community theater is on schedule to be finished by the end of July.

As was said before the projects at the Sangre de Cristo Heritage Center are phased projects. We still have several more phases to be completed depending on future funding. These phases include "Life, Safety and Handicap Accessibility Rehabilitation/Interior Re-

habilitation" (includes elevator, fire alarm panel, bathroom rehabilitation in 3 locations, rehabilitation of exhibit space, interior electrical and mechanical system upgrades, and electrical upgrade from Xcel). We are already in the process of working on the funding for this next phase. There is also a future phase that includes the landscaping of the courtyard.

Trust us, we are aware of how painstakingly slow this process has been. We are striving towards completing these projects as soon as we can. We do all this work on a very narrow budget and extremely small but dedicated staff. If you have any questions or would like to talk about our projects and vision, please stop by the EDC office (next to the Guadalupe Parish Credit Union). We are here Monday-Thursday 10 am to 4 pm. You can also email us at CostillaCountyEDC@gmail.com.

*Jeremy Elliott*  
Interim Executive Director  
Costilla County Economic  
Development Council

## And the winner is...



Sebastian Campos - 1st Place

If you were up early on Sunday morning July 28th, you would have witnessed 28 runners making their way down Main Street, out on County Road P.6, through the Vega Road, across to Highway 142 and up the Shrine Mesa to end at the Shrine Church. The Town of San Luis hosted their second annual Stations of the Cross 10K Run on Sunday during the Fiesta de Santiago y Santa Ana. This year's winner was Sebastian Campos of Denver who finished the 6.1-mile course in 44.42 minutes. Sebastian was also the winner of the under-21 category. This is the second year Sebastian won First Place overall.

The Second-Place winner was Gilbert Martinez of Monte Vista

with a time of 45.08 minutes. Gilbert placed first in the over-21 category. Catherine Rodrigues was first in the Women's over-21 category with a time of 1:01 (one hour and one minute). And lastly, the Youth First Place winner was 11-year-old Emilio Martinez who finished with the time of 1:25 (one hour, twenty-five minutes). We also want to congratulate Miranda Esquibel, who was the only citizen from San Luis who ran and finished 17th with a time of 1:19 (one hour and 19 minutes). We appreciate Miranda's hometown pride by joining the run for two years in a row. We congratulate all of this year's runners for finishing the annual 10K Run.

We would also like to thank the volunteers who got up at the crack of dawn to make sure all was ready to welcome the runners to San Luis. Many hours went into preparation for this year's run. Randi Espinoza spent many hours making posters and directional signs for the event. Marcello Martinez volunteered to ride his all-terrain vehicle behind the runners to ensure their safety while Mayor Gallegos led the pack on the Town 4-Wheeler. And, Victor Ramirez timed the runners.

The Sheriff's Deputies were up early after a long night at the Gonzalo concert to make sure the runners were safe in traffic on Highway 159 and 142. Thank you also goes to the Costilla County Commissioners, the Vega Board, Gerald Trujillo and the Sangre de Cristo Parish for allowing the runners to traverse the roads along the course. If you want to join the run in 2020 mark your calendars for Sunday, July 26th. Race time starts at 7:30 am. Start training now!



Gilbert Martinez - 2nd Place Mens



Catherine Rodrigues - 1st Place Womens



Emilio Martinez - 1st Place Youth

## 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 Rabbis 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.

### 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.

## Welcome to Our New Town Staff



The Town of San Luis is delighted to welcome Rebecca Romero to the Town Hall Staff. Rebecca brings 12 years experience working with the Costilla County Treasurer's Office and just completed her certificate of accounting with Trinidad Junior College. She has already been a great asset as our new Town Clerk and Municipal Court Clerk. Rebecca was born and raised in San Luis and graduated from Centennial High School in 2001. Rebecca is eager to be part of the Town Hall team and to work with the best of her ability to see San Luis grow and prosper.

### Local Newspapers

*Want more local town and county news? Subscribe to the following newspapers!*

#### Costilla County Free Press

P.O. Box 306  
San Luis, CO 81152

#### La Sierra

P.O. Box 591  
San Luis, CO 81152