



NEWSLETTER

of the
EAST MOUNTAIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 106, Tijeras, NM 87059

First Quarter/ February 2008

Open Space Efforts a Success

GUTIERREZ CANYON PUBLIC OPEN SPACE TO EXPAND THANKS TO EFFORTS OF GOVERNOR, STATE, CITY, COMMUNITY and EMHS

Over the past year, the East Mountain Historical Society has been part of a coordinated effort to acquire 420 acres of open space in the East Mountains. As this newsletter was being prepared, the City of Albuquerque was scheduled to close on the purchase of the land, with a formal announcement from the mayor on Jan. 29.

The effort was led by the Turquoise Trail/Gutierrez Canyon Preservation Coalition, along with the Trust for Public Land, and eventually gained the support of Gov. Bill Richardson, Lt. Gov. Diane Denish, and state legislators. City Councilors Isaac Benton and Martin Heinrich sponsored legislation to appropriate a portion of the total land acquisition cost, which was supported by Mayor Martin Chavez and the entire City Council

“The city’s acquisition of these 420 acres, which will more than double the area of the Gutierrez Canyon Open Space, is a great accomplishment,” Heinrich said in a release. “We are fortunate to have had the opportunity to participate in the preservation of this open space, and the citizens of the Albuquerque metropolitan area will be the beneficiaries of our expanded open space network,” added Benton.

EMHS board member Andre Larroque, along with President Anabel Sanchez, Vice President Denise Tessier, and member John Peterson were EMHS representatives active within the Turquoise Trail/Gutierrez Canyon Preservation Coalition. Board member Chuck Van Gelder was also instrumental in helping to initiate interest in preserving this valuable open space within the East Mountain community.

EMHS honored the public figures who helped by presenting them with individual certificates of appreciation. (See related story on Page 2.)

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EMHS Public Events -- Mark Your Calendars

February 23 – *Caring for Family Treasures*, Tijeras Library (*See story on Page 4.*)

April 20 – Booth at the *East Mountain Celebration*, Recreational Fields at Los Vecinos Community Center, Tijeras

EMHS Honors Gutierrez Canyon Open Space Supporters

The East Mountain Historical Society, through Preservation Chairman **Andre Larroque**, honored a dozen public officials with certificates as a way of thanking them for their efforts toward acquisition of land east of Cedar Crest that would expand the Gutierrez Canyon Open Space. Three attended our annual meeting Nov. 11 to be so honored: **Rep. Kathy McCoy**, **Albuquerque City Councilor Isaac Benton**, and **Greg Hiner** of the Trust for Public Land.

Keeping with our

stated mission of preserving buildings and landscapes of local and regional interest, EMHS was part of the coalition that worked to acquire funding for the expansion.

Others who received EMHS certificates for their help were Sen. Sue Wilson-Beffort, Sen. Kent Cravens, Rep. Mimi Stewart, Gov. Bill Richardson, Lt. Gov. Diane Denish, Sarah Cottrell (the governor's Energy and Environmental Policy Adviser), Deputy Secretary Reese Fullerton (Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department), Albuquerque Mayor Martin Chavez, Albuquerque City Councilor Martin Heinrich, and Albuquerque Parks and Recreation Director Jay Hart.

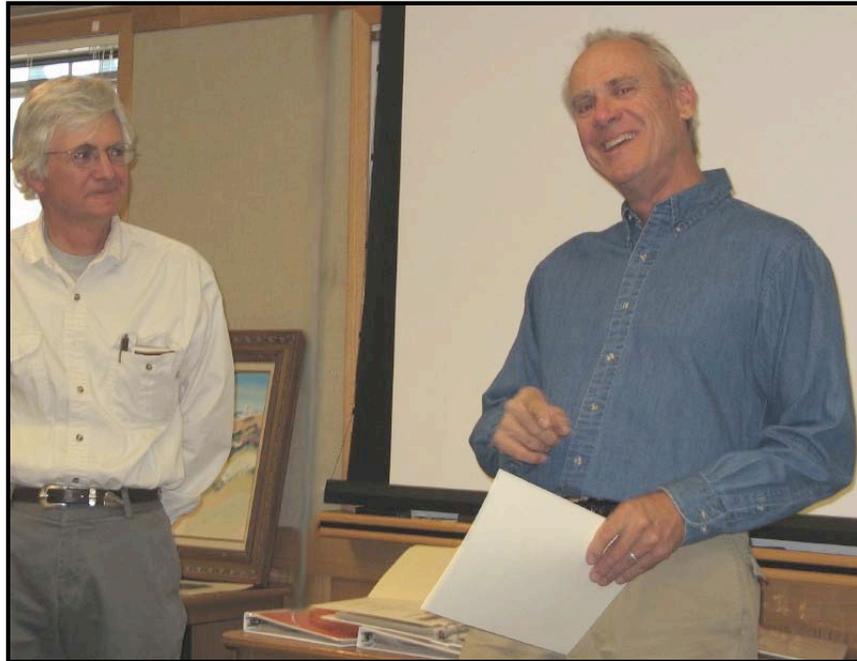


Photo by Becky Schnelker

Albuquerque City Councilor **Isaac Benton**, right, receives a certificate of appreciation from EMHS Preservation Chairman **Andre Larroque**, left. Benton helped secure critical funding to ensure the land acquisition could take place.

Open Space Efforts a Success

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This acquisition means that people will be able to access the Gutierrez Open Space more easily, and we will now have an opportunity to create a new trailhead, parking areas, and facilities that will educate visitors about the history and ecology of the area. EMHS expects to continue to play an important part in future trailhead development plans.

The State provided a total of \$1.7 million (\$1.25 million from legislators and the governor, and \$450,000 from the State Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department), and in September 2007, the City Council unanimously approved the use of up to \$500,000 in Open Space Acquisition funds to acquire the 420 acres.

Accomplishments, Future Highlighted **EMHS ANNUAL MEETING**

EMHS President Anabel Sanchez described 2007 as a “successful year” for the East Mountain Historical Society during the annual meeting in November. Among its accomplishments:

- The group’s non-profit status has been recognized
- Space has been acquired for its archival materials. An agreement with the Southwest Hispanic Research Institute at the University of New Mexico – through its director, new EMHS board member **Dr. L.M. “Manuel” García y Griego** – allows EMHS use of a locked, project work room.
- EMHS soon will have its own website.
- The group hosted public meetings, including a presentation on land grants in general and another on local land grants, and involved the public with its booth at the East Mountain Celebration.
- Archaeological events included a trip to the Salt Lakes near Willard and one to Campbell Ranch to explore prehistoric and historic findings.

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Photo by Becky Schnelker

Members of the 2008 EMHS Board of Directors elected at the annual meeting Nov. 11 (from right): President Anabel Sanchez, Vice President Denise Tessier, Treasurer Pat Rich, Secretary Anne Dacey-Lucas, and board members Margaret Garcia, Andre Larroque, Dot Rich, Bay Stevens, Lowell Wagner, Louise Waldron, and Gus Winter. (Not pictured: Marie Herrera Dresser, Manuel Garcia y Griego, and Chuck Van Gelder)

Free Public Talk
“Caring for Family Treasures”
10 a.m. to Noon, Saturday, Feb. 23
Tijeras Library Public Room

Although we handle items made of paper every day, most of us do not appreciate paper’s complex nature and ultimate fragility in terms of being archived and passed down for the enjoyment of future generations. **Becky Schnelker** will discuss the characteristics of paper, its care, and its storage as it pertains to important family documents, photographs, and artwork and other memorabilia. She will also suggest storage supplies that help ensure document preservation.

The newest member of EMHS’ board of directors, Becky is curator of the world-renowned Tamarind Institute, a workshop, training center, and gallery of fine art lithography at the University of New Mexico. This EMHS-sponsored talk is free and open to the public.



Accomplishments, Future Highlighted

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Other accomplishments cited by the president were that:

- We established a partnership with the University of New Mexico.
- We were involved in the acquisition of the Milne property to be added to Albuquerque Open Space (Gutierrez Canyon Open Space Expansion).
- We opened a dialogue with the Hispanic Cultural Center concerning an exhibit.
- Members will be involved in a committee to plan the grand opening of the old Santo Niño Church in Tijeras.
- We are in the process of working with Mayor Gloria Chavez on the history of Tijeras.

Also at the annual meeting, EMHS Treasurer **Pat Rich** reported that the organization had \$1,291.32 in income for the year, which was derived from membership dues, donations, and corporate matching gifts. Expenses were \$500.30, which included the cost of newsletter copies, stamps, website host and domain name, historical photos, copies for flyers and the East Mountain Celebration, post office box rent and camcorder tapes.

The meeting closed with former president and co-founder **Louise Waldron** reminding those in attendance of another EMHS goal: preserving the *Selva ruin* in Tijeras, a 63-acre developer-owned site that contains the original Spanish settlement of Carnuel and the ancestral village of Isleta Pueblo.

Cabinets, Computer Needed at New Work Room

We now have a temporary place for our archives! EMHS members **Anabel Sanchez, Margaret Garcia, Bay Stevens, Manuel Garcia y Griego, Denise Tessier, and David Goldfarb** helped move the several boxes of materials, along with our one filing cabinet, to our new work room, located in one of the Southwest Hispanic Research Institute buildings at the University of New Mexico. Anabel and Denise have started inventorying what we have and properly filing items, with input from **Becky Schnelker**. It's a great relief to Anabel and **Louise Waldron**, who have had boxes of EMHS materials stored in their homes. The room is an interim measure until we are able to get a permanent facility up in the mountains.

We are looking for donations of more filing cabinets, preferably the horizontal kind that slide out with an overlapping cover. Please contact a board member if you have or know of a cabinet or two. We are also seeking the donation of a laptop computer.

News and Notes ... of the East Mountain Historical Society

Becky Schnelker was nominated and unanimously approved to join the EMHS board at the board's January meeting. She replaces **Yolanda Stripling**, who, reelected at the annual meeting in November, has resigned the board position but continues as a supportive member. Thanks, Yolanda, and welcome, Becky!



Welcome to our newest members: **Eric Hazlewood** of Cedar Crest, and **Susan Clair** and **Kathy McCoy**, both of Sandia Park. Thank you for supporting the preservation of East Mountain history.



A hearty thanks to **Carol and Andre Larroque** for hosting the holiday potluck party Dec. 9 at their Piñon Ridge home. We had a good turnout, and the food, company, and views of the Sandia Mountains were spectacular.



Does your employer match charitable donations? Please remember EMHS in your giving.

Don't Forget To Pay Your Dues

Please see the membership form in this issue for levels of membership, and print and mail the form to EMHS Treasurer Pat Rich.

Recommended Reading ... from your editor

One of the highlights of my winter holiday was time spent reading a great history, *Blood and Thunder*, the expansive biography of Kit Carson by Santa Fe author Hampton Sides. It's an epic in the truest sense, bringing together information gleaned from more than 500 documents, and it reads like a novel. In tracing Carson's life, Hampton brings a great portion of New Mexico's history to life. You may have read this material before, piecemeal, in Susan Shelby McGoffin's Santa Fe Trail diary, in *Bent's Fort* by David Lavender or in countless other books and articles, but Sides puts it in context, and with a feel for relationships among the myriad people who lived in New Mexico at the time – the Spanish, the Mexicans, the traders, the various tribes. The descriptions and insight into the Diné people are among the book's many strengths. I can no longer look at Mt. Taylor without thinking of it as Blue Mountain, the southeast corner of the Navajo world, which was stripped of its Diné name to honor Zachary Taylor, the architect of the Manifest Destiny in which Carson's life became enmeshed.

The newsletter of the East Mountain Historical Society, published quarterly, aims to inform members and prospective members of EMHS events and endeavors, including committee work, and to serve as a record of society activities. It is also a forum for stories about the area. Please send your ideas for future newsletter items to Denise Tessier at P.O. Box 379, Cedar Crest, NM 87008, or contact her by email at newsletter@eastmountainhistory.org .

Deadlines for future issues of the newsletter are April 30, July 31, Oct. 31, and Jan. 31.



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