

February 2010 Town of Taos Calendar

Contained here is information about meetings, activities and events sponsored by the Town of Taos, scheduled at Town venues by nonprofits, or sponsored by Taos tourism marketing partners. To receive regular e-news briefs and updates each week via email, opt in with cconnelly@taosgov.com.

Message from Mayor Darren Cordova

Dear Constituents:

As we enter a new year, we continue to work on many initiatives to improve the quality of life for our citizens. As my State of The Town address message conveyed, 2009 was a very challenging year due to current economic conditions. The Town of Taos has fared much better than most municipalities in our region - even in the nation. While comparable mountain resort communities and tourist destinations are down as much as -20% in revenues, the Town of Taos GRT (gross receipts tax) is approximately -4% under the previous year, and lodgers tax revenues are down just over -3%.



Although these numbers are significantly better than other resort communities, it is my priority to improve the economic health of our community. We will continue to work together to make sure that Taos is a desired destination for visitors and our local economy is vibrant and stable for our local citizens. We have also made sure that our own Town of Taos budgets are balanced and solid in the black. During this economic downturn, I continue to work closely with the Town Manager and Finance Director, to monitor our annual budgets and ensure that the Town of Taos continues to improve and offer superior customer/constituent services within our budget. These challenging times demand careful, critical thought, timely action and the best efforts of an honest and dedicated team.

The Town of Taos continues to improve our infrastructure, and this fiscal year alone, I am happy to report that the Town of Taos has received approximately \$7 million dollars in stimulus/grant funding. A good portion of this funding is for improvements to our waste water treatment facility. With these improvements, our waste water treatment facility will be a state-of-the-art facility and constructed with the latest in technology to fulfill the needs of our community well into the future.

Public works projects, in collaboration with the New Mexico Department of Transportation, have totaled approximately \$14 million dollars. These projects include Kit Carson Road improvements, the Taos Plaza intersection, Paseo del Pueblo Norte to the El Prado corridor, Cañon By-Pass renovations, and the first phase of Reed and Alexander improvements. The long awaited new Pediatric Clinic is approximately 70% complete and expected to be completed this summer.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to personally invite you to come and visit our newly completed Town Hall expansion. Come and visit the new home for various departments and enjoy the fine art displayed by local artists. The newly renovated Town Hall was formally dedicated by the Mayor and Council on January 19th to the fine Mayors who have served this community. This is your Town Hall and you can expect superior friendly customer service, professionalism, integrity and accountability in everything we do.

The Council and I are committed to an open and transparent government and are also committed to providing superior service to our constituents through our fine and dedicated employees. Please do not hesitate to bring any issues and/or concerns to our attention. I could go on and fill pages about all your Town of Taos is accomplishing on your behalf – using your tax dollars to your benefit. Please call if you questions – I have an open door policy for all.

Wishing you peace, good health, and a very prosperous year.

Respectfully,
Mayor Darren Cordova
751-2003

Town of Taos Highlights and Calendar:

The new **Art in Town Hall** exhibit has rotated for its second quarter installation. Come and see the new works by Taos artists on weekdays between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Selection/installation of the works is completed by a committee including representatives from Taos Artists Org. (TAO), Taos Center for the Arts (TCA), Taos Gallery Assoc. (TGA), and the Taos Institute for Glass Arts (TIGA). Email Assist. Town Manager Abigail Adame if you're interested in more information, or submitting for committee consideration, aadame@taosgov.com.

Town of Taos Council Meetings

2/4 Special Town of Taos Council Meeting, 1:30 p.m., Town Council Chambers, 120 Civic Plaza Dr.

2/9 Regular Town of Taos Council Meeting, 1:30 p.m., Town Council Chambers

2/23 Regular Town of Taos Council Meeting, 1:30 p.m., Town Council Chambers

Reminder: You can now listen in on Council meetings via the internet. Just go to www.TaosGov.com and click on the 'listen now' button in the lower right hand section of the homepage. Town Council agendas and information about each item are also available online.

Town of Taos Planning & Zoning Meetings

2/3 Town Planning & Zoning Comm. Mtg., 5:30-8:30 p.m., Council Chambers, 120 Civic Plaza Dr.

3/3 Planning & Zoning Commission meeting 5:30 - 8:30 p.m., Council Chambers.

For more info call Town of Taos Planning & Zoning Div. Supervisor Allen Vigil 737-2646.

Town of Taos Municipal Election Dates:

2/10 First Day of early voting, Town of Taos Clerk's Office, 400 Camino de la Placita

2/26 Last Day absentee/early voting, 5 p.m. deadline, Town Clerk's Office

3/2 Taos Municipal Election, 7 a.m. – 7 p.m., Rio Grande Hall, 121 Civic Plaza Dr.

Contact Taos Town Clerk Rene Lucero for further information, 751-2005 rlucero@taosgov.com

Other Calendar Items as of 2/1/10 for February, 2010:

- 2/6 The top High School Hockey talent in the State of NM - selected by the HS coaches Skills Competition – will play in the NM Star Game, 5-9 p.m., Taos Youth & Family Center, 407 Paseo del Canon, East, For info. 758-4160.
2/11 Valentine Craft Making – Town of Taos Youth & Family Center, 3-5:30 p.m., Free for children ages 6 to 12 (6 & 7 year olds need to *bring their adult with them*) – just bring your creativity and dress to “get messy”, 407 Paseo del Canon, East , For info. call Judy 758-4160.
2/13 *Adventures in Film Making* 10 a.m. to 12 noon, Free, Taos Public Library/Community Rm. Rick Aragón, producer and director for the film *Mystery's Night* will present a talk about animation film making. This *New Visions* award winner will show his film and discuss producing, script development, storyboarding, finding an editor, recommended software programs, and marketing. For info. 758-3063
- **2/15 Tourism deadline for first wave of content submissions for 2010 Taos traveler education effort. Fill out the form and get it in. Hard copies at Town Hall/Executive Desk, or download the form off the front page of the Town's web site, www.TaosGov.com. For info., Joan Griffin 505/764-4444, ext. 222.**
- 2/20 Town of Taos Public Library sponsors the 2nd annual Teen Poetry Slam, 1-4:30 p.m., Free, Library Community Rm.. Funded by “Friends of Taos Public Library”, the slam is open to poet-participants in grades 9-12. Audience members can be any age. Prizes include: 1st \$100, 2nd \$75, 3rd \$50, 4th \$25 and 5th \$25. Registration is on a first come basis; first 20 students with 5 alternate slots. Registration applications must be submitted to the Taos Public Library, www.taoslibrary.org. To register, and for more info. - Jeanelle Romo-Lucero, 737-2596, jromo@taosgov.com
- 2/23 Stray Hearts Animal Shelter honors Spay Day USA 2010 - the first and only international day of increasing awareness that spay/neuter is a humane and effective means of reducing pet overpopulation. To pick up a Spay/Neuter low cost application, call or drop by Stray Hearts Animal Shelter, 758.2981, www.strayhearts.org.