

## **BOSQUE FARMS HISTORICAL EXCHANGE FORUM**

The following is a brief overview of the Bosque Farms Historical Exchange Forum (also known as the Forum), which is a new initiative sponsored by the Bosque Park Neighborhood Association. It is part of an overarching program aimed at promoting social welfare to benefit the community of Bosque Farms. The Forum Director is Bob Courtney.

The intent of the fiscally self-sustaining Forum is to help energize the residents by enhancing their knowledge and mutual celebration and appreciation of the historical events and contributions by the Village of Bosque Farms. A local setting, or venue, for the presentations will help personalize the events and educate future generations about the roles played by Bosque Farms in the development of Valencia County and the State of New Mexico. The home of the Forum is the Bosque Farms Community Center. Presentations are expected to commence after the Center renovations are completed, which should be around the middle of June, 2012. The presentations are intended to educate, inform and entertain residents in a relaxed environment, and not to sway anyone toward a particular religious or political persuasion. Also, consultation with the curriculum coordinator of the Los Lunas school system will help maximize Forum interactions with the Bosque Farms Elementary School.

Historical preservation will be accomplished by recording guest speaker presentations and demonstrations, and personal interviews of Bosque Farms residents. The personal interviews have already commenced.

The Forum agendas will reflect a blending of guest speakers emphasizing local historical events, folk lore, and other topics of interest relating to the rest of Valencia County and the State. Consequently, every reasonable effort will be made to notify the public of upcoming events at the Harvey House (Belen), the Heritage and Arts Cultural Center (Los Lunas), and the Valencia County Historical Society. In turn, the Forum's coming events will also be posted in appropriate locations in Belen, Los Lunas, and the County. The effectiveness and longevity of the Forum will be greatly enhanced by working closely with the Valencia County Historical Society.

Each Guest Speaker will provide a brief biography to the Program Director, to be used by the Master of Ceremonies during the introduction of the speaker. Each guest speaker's presentation, along with any exhibits, demonstrations, etc., will be recorded and stored for historical preservation. A guest speaker(s) may also be defined as recorded interviewees, or a compilation of recorded interviews, of local residents. For many reasons, some interviewees may be incapable of public participation. In some instances, participants may have a fear of public speaking, but would still like to have their stories told and be present at the social event. In all cases, it will be required to get formal permission to publicly display recorded interviews. Anyone interviewed will always have the option of not having their interview publicly displayed or distributed on the web or some other media. The accumulated interviews will also serve as a resource for a future publication (a book). Another guest speaker venue may be an outdoor demonstration, which would also be recorded.

The obvious benefit is the education of the greatest number of residents about the history of our local communities, the County and the State. The Forum will broaden the scope of the program by enlisting presentations covering the rest of Valencia County, the State, and special occasions. An example of the latter would be presentations supporting the New Mexico State Centennial celebrations in 2012. It is hoped that side benefits of the guest speaker program will be enhanced citizenship, resulting in more involvement in community activities and more active participation in the support of local government by Village residents.

Since the Forum will be self-sustaining, the program will not be a financial drain on the Village of Bosque Farms. The guest speaker program will be funded by monetary donations from the residents of Bosque Farms and the surrounding area and the local businesses. Personal checks can be made out to the "Bosque Park Neighborhood Association" and identified for the "Forum". All financial donations will be handled by the Secretary-Treasurer of the Bosque Park Neighborhood Association.

The level of participation and the success of the program will be significantly influenced by the appropriate selection of topics and guest speakers, smartly verbalizing and publicizing the events, and the support from the Mayor and Council of Bosque Farms. Mayor Ake has already embraced and publicly supported the Forum, as have all the members of the Council.

The professionalism and sustainability of the Forum will be greatly enhanced by having good working and personal relationships with the Valencia County Historical Society. In fact, we have worked closely with the Valencia County Historical Society and the Museum of Heritage and Arts in organizing the Forum.

The Forum will expand the knowledge and celebration of historical events and contributions by Bosque Farms, Valencia County, and the State of New Mexico. Education should never stop at any age, and every effort needs to be made to archive our history for future generations. Belen has the Harvey House and Los Lunas has the Los Lunas Museum of Heritage and Arts, and now the community of Bosque Farms will have the Bosque Farms Historical Exchange Forum.

More detailed information about the Forum can be obtained by contacting Bob Courtney at 869.4664 or at [rlcbosque1@msn.com](mailto:rlcbosque1@msn.com).