

Compadres News

February, 2025

"February: The month of love, chocolates, and extremely overpriced roses."

— *Unknown*

We survived a long January and now it's time to look ahead to the shortest month of the year.

The name comes to us from the Roman "Februarius" after the Latin word "februum," which means purification. The month was named after the Roman festival of purification, "Februa," which was a time for ritual washing.

In modern times we have a different take on it, thanks to another product of the Romans: a saint named Valentine.

Last call for renewals

This is your last newsletter if you don't renew your membership. You'll find the annual renewal form for 2025 attached to this newsletter. Please complete the form and send it – with your check – to our Treasurer Pam Young. You know darn, well it's worth it.

February update

Book group: This month's book will be "The Chancellor, The remarkable odyssey of Angela Merkel" by Kati Marton at the Corrales Library at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 28. Linda Wolcot will lead the discussion. Kay will be out of town, but Jude Rudder will coordinate. Refer questions to Kay Yoest (kayoest@centurylink.net)

Southwest Book group: Meets Wednesday, Feb. 19 at 1:30 p.m. February's book is "Red Sky at Morning" by Robert Bradford. Contact Bill Smith for full details. (Golfer965.bs@gmail.com)

Happy Hour: We'll be returning to Whiptail in Rio Rancho from 4-6 p.m. on Thursday, February 27. We tried it for the first time a year ago and were favorably impressed. It was a convivial affair. The address is 355 Pat D'Arco Hwy. Questions to Eric Neuwirth at (neuwy55@gmail.com)

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If you didn't come to our January happy hour, you missed a warm-spirited gathering. Over 30 of us were on hand at Casa Vieja, including new members Mike and Pat Valore. We were also blessed with the presence of three guests, Melinda and David Davenport and Maury Hatting. A good start to the year.

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Wine lovers, rejoice! Instead of our standard happy hour we're holding a wine tasting in March. It's scheduled for Thursday, March 20, from 4-6 p.m. at Total Wine, 10420 Coors Bypass. Attendance will be limited to 20 and there is a \$20 charge for each attendee. Notwithstanding its proximity to St. Patrick's Day, we'll be touring Italy "from tip to toe." We tried this last year, when we learned about California wines, and the response was quite favorable. You can reserve a slot starting March 1 with Eric Neuwirth, neuwy55@gmail.com

Cooking Class: No class this month. Watch this space for future developments.

Your 2025 staff

Leader –Jeff Yingling, jsyingling2@verizon.net

Newsletter – Eric Neuwirth, neuwy55@gmail.com

Treasurer-- Pam Young, dl.pjyoung@gmail.com

At Large-- Larry Bernstein, larry.bernstein@comcast.net, Pat DeVivi, patricia.devivi@gmail.com, Bob & Sue Scott, sue@sundancebear.com or bob@sundancebear.com.

Happy Hours -- Eric Neuwirth will welcome suggestions for places to visit and more volunteers exploring venues. neuwy55@gmail.com

Book Group – Kay Yoest, kayoest@centurylink.net

SW book group – Bill Smith, Golfer965.bs@gmail.com

Website: CorralesCompadres.org **Email:** info@CorralesCompadres.org

Mayor's Comments

We are happy to announce that our **new fitness gym** opened on January 21st **in the old gym!** Our new fitness gym offers a variety of workout machines and will start offering group classes soon. Additional small group class times and classes will be added in the near future.

Memberships are also coming soon, but until they are available we are operating on a free trial basis for the fitness gym alone. Come check out our workout facility and get your free trial while it lasts. On the Village web site, go to Parks and Rec, go to Fitness Gym information. Under "Supporting Documents" you can view the memberships that are to come as well as availability times. We also are partnered with **Silver Sneakers** for those who are looking to use that avenue. Silver Sneakers can be used for either the fitness gym or the recreation gym and are being accepted at this time. There may be some registration required.

The **Friends of Corrales Library** (FOCL) will be holding a **jewelry sale** on Saturday, February 8 from 10 AM to 3 PM. The sale will be in Hendren Hall behind San Ysidro Church on Corrales Road. Donated items will be available for a wide range of prices and tastes, with many items under \$10. Find a gift for your Valentine - or for yourself! All proceeds go to support our wonderful **Corrales Community Library!**

If you'd like to know more about **FOCL** and how to **join** as an ongoing supporter of the Corrales Community Library, go to <https://friendsofthecorraleslibrary.wildapricot.org>.

In **1978** the **Corrales Bosque Preserve** was declared a **protected area**. The village of Corrales oversees the Preserve to maintain it as a **Natural Area and Wildlife Preserve**. See Corrales Code of Ordinances, Chapter 11 at https://library.municode.com/nm/corrales/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=CH11COBOPR. The boundary of the Preserve begins inside the green gates at roadway entrances. Please familiarize yourself with the terms of use and especially the prohibited activities. Bosque opens **between 5 AM and 7 PM** November through March, and between 5 AM and 9 PM April to October.

Riparian habitats are particularly important for **avian communities** in the arid Southwest. As such, the Preserve was designated as an **Important Bird Area (IBA)** in 2013. Many bird species nest in this area, and the endangered **Southwestern Willow Flycatcher** and the **Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo**, a species of conservation concern, have been observed there. The Preserve is also an important stopover habitat for many migrants that pass through on their ways south and north.

There are numerous trails in the Preserve. These trails are not maintained, and you can encounter natural obstacles or impediments. Please do not make new trails for your convenience as this negatively impacts the habitat. Trails can be used by **walkers, hikers, horseback riders, and bicyclists**. Unauthorized motorized vehicles, including **e-bikes and e-boards, are not allowed** within the borders of the Bosque Preserve, on the Sandoval Lateral ditch road, levee, or dirt paths. Signs are posted throughout the Preserve that indicate who has the right of way on trails. The rule is that bikers yield to equestrians and walkers/hikers; and walkers/ hikers yield to equestrians. Equestrians have the primary right of way on all Bosque trails. Caution must be taken to avoid frightening a horse as this could cause injury to horse and/or human. When encountering a horse and rider while walking or on a bike, for everyone's safety, you must announce that you are passing, and you should ask the equestrian whether you can proceed – for the safety of you, the horse, and its rider.

Dogs must be on leash and you must pick up your dog's waste and dispose of it properly. The safety of our waterways counts on this! There are doggie waste bag stations at several entrances to the preserve.

Learn everything you ever wanted to know about water rights at the **Water Rights 101** Meeting Sponsored by the Corrales Farmers Co-Op, **February 5th from 5:30 to 7:30 PM** in the Council Chambers and on Zoom. The meeting will be recorded and posted to the Village's YouTube Channel. The **Conservation Easements presentation** by the New Mexico Land Conservancy, will take place **February 13th** from 3:30 to 5 PM, also in the Council Chambers and on Zoom.

"Blind Date with a Book" is still going on at the library until February 14th. Pick up your date, fill out the "rate your date" card and return it with the book to

be entered into a drawing for some great Corrales swag. Drawing will be held February 17th.

SouthWest Writers, in collaboration with **New Mexico Arts**, is seeking **submissions** by active-duty military, veterans, family members and caregivers for a new anthology of **reflections on military life**. The anthology will feature both prose and poetry up to 2,000 words. Submissions may be uploaded now through March 31st. For more information visit <https://www.southwestwriters.com/military-anthology/>. You can view a previous anthology, "*Holes in Our Hearts*," at the Corrales Library, which features eight Corraleños.

HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATE

Rules on **weed burning** can be found on the **Village website** at <https://www.corrales-nm.org/fire>.

On Sunday, **February 23 at 2:00 PM** the fire department will be hosting an interactive **Community Emergency Preparedness meeting** on being prepared for All Hazards with an emphasis on wildfire. This will be held at the council chambers and via zoom. You can find the Zoom link on the Village website calendar [HERE](#).

They will also host a public meeting on **Wednesday, February 12th from 6:00 pm to 8:00 PM** in the council chambers and on zoom, to get public input on the updated **Community Wildfire Protection Plan**. This is a county wide plan and Corrales will have a part specific to the unique characteristics of Corrales. You can find the Zoom link on the Village website calendar [HERE](#).

WHAT DOES A COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN DO?

- Identify areas at risk for wildland fire
- Make recommendations for hazardous fuels treatments (vegetation thinning)
- Prioritize areas for wildfire mitigation funding
- Make recommendations to homeowners to reduce fire risk
- Ask the public to share ideas about wildfire prevention and identify community values at risk

UPCOMING EVENTS

TUESDAY – Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting **5:30 PM** on Zoom only. Check the Village website calendar for login information

TUESDAY – Chess Club at the library **6 PM**

WEDNESDAY – Story time at the library **10 AM**

WEDNESDAY – Water Rights 101 Meeting, **5:30 – 7:30 PM** Village Council Chambers 4324 Corrales Road and by Zoom. Check the Village website for login information.

THURSDAY Conversational Spanish at the library, **6 PM**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Saturday, 2/8: FOCL Jewelry Sale 10 AM – 3 PM Hendren Hall at San Ysidro Church
- Saturday, 2/8: Saturday Stitch club at the library 10:30 AM
- Saturday, 2/15 Friendship bracelet craft for kids at the Corrales Library 10 AM