

# The Rio Rancho Tea Party

Volume 3



July 2014

## The Land of Unobstructed Views

### TURN LEFT AT OZ

We Rio Ranchoans fiercely guard our views of the Sandia Mountains. It has almost defined Rio Rancho, and is the basis for many neighbor disputes and development angst. But do we have a right to a view, just because we were there first? It is easy to say that we are generally for personal property rights, until we are personally put to the test.

Many residents moved to Rio Rancho when it was a quiet, semi-rural setting where you could buy a cheap half acre and build your dream home. Times have changed; progress and development are happening. It is completely normal to be upset when others encroach on our space. However, we all have the responsibility to check city ordinances and look at current zoning as part of our due diligence before buying or building a home. We cannot assume everything will stay the way it is. Those who enjoy the unobstructed views, freedom and space that come with not being governed by a homeowners association, also assume the risk that a neighbor could build their house,

garage or a HAM radio antenna, ruining the view of the mountains. FCC regulations require that cities allow amateur radio operators up to 65 feet on their antennas. And, honestly, why should we feel entitled to freedom that we don't want our neighbor to have?

Similarly, we want the convenience of more shopping, restaurants and amenities in our city – just not too close to our home. Most of us aren't aware that originally Rio Rancho was predominantly zoned as residential, which is why we see so many rezoning requests by land owners whose land is close to main arteries. This causes tension between landowners and homeowners.

This is why the Governing Body is now considering rezoning ahead of development, to correct this imbalance in the areas of a city that should normally expect commercial growth. Main roads logically should be commercial. There are buffer requirements in place that would zone down from C-1 to office and multi-family to protect homeowners, but nothing

will guarantee our views will remain unobstructed. Getting the commercial and multi-family zoning there ahead of the homes will help give some predictability for everyone.

There will still be some areas of town where existing homeowners will circle the wagons in preparation for a battle with landowners who want to improve to commercial. But we all have to take a serious look at our city from a financial aspect. We can no longer afford to be a bedroom community that sends all of its tax dollars to Albuquerque. Does anyone really believe that the hundreds of millions currently estimated in road repairs and reconstruction (not considering dirt roads) can be attained in \$12-16 Million road bond increments every 2-4 years? In fairness, there are other issues not discussed here, and it's depressing to lose a beautiful view, but we need to respect our neighbors' rights (within the law) to use and develop their land.

**SPECIAL  
EVENT!**

**RED LIGHT CAMERA  
DEBATE!**

**Tuesday, August 5th**

Former police officer and City Councilor, **Shelby Smith**, will be arguing "against".

Local insurance agent and City Councilor, **Chuck Wilkins**, will be arguing "for".

**Don't Miss It!**

## shackling our kids to RRPS?

If there's one lesson to be learned over the past few months, it's that you don't mess with RRPS. They are

using everything within their arsenal, and our tax dollars, to send this message loud and



clear. The RRPS School Board has now filed in court against

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# CORE VALUES



We are dedicated to constitutional freedoms, free markets, limited government and fiscal responsibility.

Our commitment to seeking truth and accountability is the hallmark of the Rio Rancho Tea Party.

## RRTP Executive Board

*The RRTP is non-partisan & takes no official stand on social issues. We unite on our core values.*

## Shackling Our Kids to RRPS? (continued)

the Public Education Commission, Public Education Department and Secretary of Education Skandera for issuing the waiver that would finalize AIMS Charter School's move into Rio Rancho. Their mission: to get the waiver repealed, and dissuade other would-be charter schools from entering their territory.

The water is so muddy at this point, it's hard to get a clear picture of what exactly happened, or didn't happen, to cause all the ruckus. AIMS thought they had crossed all their t's and dotted all their i's. In February 2013, AIMS's expansion was approved by the Public Education Commission (PEC). Now the PEC has apparently buckled with the weight of RRPS pressure, and changed its tune. There should be no doubt in anyone's mind that if RRPS had given its "blessing", AIMS

would have sailed into Rio Rancho. The crying over unfair funding per student is not accurate, as AIMS's funding drops significantly below RRPS once they exceed 400 students, and AIMS does not receive bonds or mill levies.

The AIMS situation is unique because they are not chartered under any one school district. They are chartered directly under the State. Therein lies the problem. RRPS argues that Secretary Skandera abused her discretion in granting a waiver to AIMS, because AIMS did not have the "support" of the Albuquerque Public School District in expanding outside of its boundaries. Interesting. Charter schools not chartered under the authority of a school district are then supposed to be subjects of whatever school district they enter? Doesn't this seem like a conflict of interest on the part of the school districts, considering that AIMS is their competition?

It is understandable that RRPS feels threatened by AIMS. AIMS does much more with much less, and has been nationally awarded. While RRPS may not be the frumpy frau-lein with the hairy mole on her lip, she certainly doesn't want the supermodel of schools standing so close. It reminds me of the old commercial, "Don't hate me because I'm beautiful." AIMS is a beautiful example of success in education, and an opportunity for our kids that could steal the lime-light from RRPS.

Our school board has lost its ability to do what is right, for the right reason. Their actions reflect a desire to shackle our kids to RRPS and snuff out exciting possibilities that many kids would not have in Rio Rancho Public Schools. Perhaps they have lost their perspective. The parents of Rio Rancho need to be looking toward the two school board positions that come up in 2015. We can do better than this.

# Code Enforcement BLITZ!



Yes, Code Enforcement is now enforcing codes. Some will be happy, and others...not so much. Those who have garage conversions be aware - They are patrolling neighborhoods and checking to see if (1.) permits were pulled for the garage conversion and (2.) if the homeowner built a new garage in its place. City code requires that homes have a garage. If the homeowner is issued a citation, they could be required to pull the missing permit, build a garage, or put the garage back in. They will be monitoring many other violations as well. If you have questions about this, contact your city councilor.

# Calling All Bikers!

We want YOU  
to join us in the  
4th of July Parade!



The Parade kicks off at 10:00 am on Friday, July 4th

It will head east from Country Club Drive down Southern Blvd and end at the Veterans Monument Park by the Post Office. We'll send more information on meeting place and time.

For more information, call Renee at 414-5707