

Carson O Piñon!

Carson Community Association

Annual Newsletter

Editor: Elizabeth Brownrigg, PO Box 40, Carson, NM 87517

Winter 2021



-photo by Elizabeth Brownrigg

Ever Helpful in Carson

-Michelle Chavez

In late June of 2019 I arranged for movers to bring a small load of my household goods back to Carson after having taken care of my husband and grandchildren in Virginia for several years. I was elated to be moving back to the home place.

I was thankful for owning a pick-up with 4WD because it had rained and you know our roads! I had also been very clear with the movers that they would need a 4WD as well in order to shuttle my things from the tractor-trailer to my house. That didn't quite go as planned. The movers had never before delivered to a remote area and were much more accustomed to paved roads and convenient driveways. I was able to warn them the day before their delivery, and they did transfer my stuff onto a U-Haul panel van, but they insisted on bringing their semi-tractor along. After getting stuck twice, once at Caveman's Way and once at Raven's Dance, they spent the night in the tractor, had to have a tow truck come and "unstick" them, and decided to go back to the Post Office parking lot.

That's when my three Carson knights in shiny white pick-up trucks came to my rescue. We loaded my belongings into our four vehicles and ran a convoy back to my house where all my treasures were safely back home. That's just how it is in Carson.

Treasurer's Report

We currently have \$3868 in our bank account.

If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to the CCA or pay your annual \$10/household (optional) dues:

Carson Community Association
PO Box 101 Carson NM 87517

These funds will be used to do CCA property improvements and CCA events. We plan to do \$3000 of road work on South Carson Way, the road to the Quonset, as soon as weather permits and Matt Drake is available.

Food Bank & Clothing Boutique

Please donate, monthly if you can, to the CCA Food bank by sending a check payable to

The Food Depot, (in memo be sure to write: for Santo Niño, Carson)

1222 Siler Road

Santa Fe, NM 87507

The Clothing Boutique is located in the shed next to the CCA Building. People are always in need of clothing. Men's, women's and children's clothing are needed. Call Elisabeth Maier for pick up at 751-7480. Anything helps. Thank you!

Your Neighbors and Your Dogs

Carson residents with dogs are reminded that we are responsible for not allowing our dogs to persistently or continuously bark so as to annoy our neighbors. We are also responsible for preventing them, and cats, too, from trespassing onto the property of our neighbors. Our dogs should be restrained on our property either by a fence or by using a leash.

If you fail to control or silence your dogs following requests from neighbors, your neighbors can call the sheriff to enforce elements of the Animal Control Ordinance. If we don't want law enforcement officers mooching around our property it would be wise to know more about the Animal Control Ordinance. You can read it online at taoscounty.org.

If your neighbors' dogs are causing nuisance to you with their barking or by trespassing, it is best to try first to resolve this with your neighbor. If you are unable to resolve animal problems you can, as a last resort, contact the Taos County Sheriff's Department anonymously at (575) 737-6480. They are empowered to impound any animal that is in violation of the requirements of the Ordinance or of State Law. Each infringement of the Taos County Animal Control ordinance carries a \$300 fine.

Trees for Sale

Many of these are shade trees, providing shade for us while maintaining moisture in the soil and controlling erosion.

Burr Oak, *Quercus macrocarpa*, native to New Mexico and a hybrid of another native,

Burgamble, *Quercus gambelii*, producing acorns early in life providing wildlife forage.

Big Tooth Maple, *Acer grandidentatum* another native of New Mexico, beautiful fall foliage.

Little Leaf Linden, *Tilia cordata* a favorite of the honeybee.

American White Ash, *Fraxinus americana* moderately fast growth rate, turns a beautiful purple in fall.

Service Berries, *Amelanchier alnifolia* native of North America, often seen along the hiking trails of Northern New Mexico. Another flashy fall fashion show! Native Americans made a pemmican, the fruit of the service berry, like a blueberry, mixed with fat to provide sustenance when traveling.

Pricing is wholesale for Carson residents, and I like to assist you in planting for there are dos and don'ts. Come see and select your own.

Contact Peter Allen 505 795 3298, or petermarcusallen@gmail.com

Landscaping and Construction Support

Peter Allen has a very versatile piece of equipment. It is a "Dingo" manufactured by Toro. It is specifically used as a landscape tool and is able to get around tight spaces being only 34 inches wide. It has 3 sizes of augers, a trencher, bucket, forklift and ground leveler. I and my Dingo can be hired for \$75 an hour to provide services including trenching, ditching, post setting, hole digging, earth-moving and grading and much more. No charge for mobilization.

NEW: Peter has a tractor with a 3 point hitch to which can be attached his commercial wood chipper. Bring a pickup load of FireWise branches and limbs and return with a pickup of wood chips. \$25 for full pickup, prorated for less. Contact Peter Allen 505 795 3298, or petermarcusallen@gmail.com



Nice to see Harry Vedoe is out and about!

Thanks, Harry, for another great one:



**If you are not on the EMERGENCY PHONE TREE
and want to be, contact Elizabeth: 575-758-2758 or
egb@elizabethbrownrigg.com.**

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**For LOOSE COWS call
Jake Vigil: 505/927-3333**

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Tomorrow

-Lilah Hughes

**Tomorrow was the day Mom and Dad went on a date.
Tomorrow was the day my little sister rode the dog.
Tomorrow was the time when I decided to sleep in.
Tomorrow my stuffed cat could talk.
Tomorrow the chores came ten times more.
Tomorrow the table was able to walk.
Tomorrow I got a delicious rainbow sucker.
Tomorrow the ornaments came off the tree and went out.
Tomorrow I got a haircut sitting on a horse.
Tomorrow I turned eleven for the very first time.
Tomorrow I saw the first emerging sprouts.
Tomorrow was upside down.
Tomorrow school started at last.
Tomorrow summer came once again.
Tomorrow the mosquitos and killer bugs arrived.
Tomorrow my family and I went swimming.
Tomorrow was the day the UPS came seven times.
Tomorrow was when we harvested our pumpkins.
Tomorrow my big brother made a Lego ship.
Tomorrow my mom went nuts.
Tomorrow Dad was making eight bread bowls.
Tomorrow was the most distracting day for math.
Tomorrow was the day I didn't do anything at all.**



-photo by Elizabeth Brownrigg

The Winter Day

-Gabrielle Hughes

**There once was a snow day,
All the kids went out to play.
They went to the Park Center,
It was the middle of winter.
Some kids were making Snow Angels,
While others were making Snow Tangles.
They were having a snowball fight,
When the sun came out with light.
They also were building snow men,
All together they made ten!
The kids were having so much fun,
But it was time to be done.
They all had to say good bye,
And return home with a sigh,
Even though they wanted to stay
On this cold winter day.**



-photo by Elizabeth Brownrigg

The Carson FireWise Project

-the Carson FireWise Committee

Every year, devastating wildfires burn across the United States as a growing number of people are living where wildfires are a real risk. This is particularly so in a time of extreme drought such as the one we are experiencing in northern New Mexico. We can each do things to protect our home and neighborhood as well as our families' safety, and the Firewise USA program aims to get us started.

The Carson FireWise Project seeks to reduce the threat from wildfire to life and property in Carson, and promote a range of activities toward this end. That includes showing residents and landowners landscape changes they can make themselves to their properties. FireWise also alerts residents to programs run by third parties that can do the work for you at a subsidized rate, including hybrid programs in which professionals can advise what needs to be done on your property so that you can make those changes yourself.

Typical changes include creating a burn-free zone around your house by removing flammable vegetation, thinning trees, removing the lower limbs from trees, and planting less flammable plant species around your house and outbuildings. FireWise also advises on building materials and construction design that reduce the risk of losing structures to fire.

FireWise Carson maintains an Action Plan, a Community Risk Assessment, and reports each year on our activities to the FireWise USA organization. Other activities FireWise Carson would normally carry out include organizing public presentations and meetings with fire control professionals for community education; holding public meetings with landowners to give specific recommendations on a specific property from which we all can learn; and distributing printed materials on reducing fire risk.

Given the hazards posed by the Covid-19 outbreak, we are limited in what we can do through social gatherings during 2020 and 2021. We hope to hold at least one outdoor event in 2021 whilst observing federal and state laws related to minimizing risk of spreading Covid-19. However, the focus in 2021 will need to be on distributing educational materials, and monitoring those actions done by community members.

The FireWise Carson Project is part of the national FireWise program run by the National Fire Protection Program. Carson is a fully accredited member of FireWise following from the work done by community members in 2020 in removing vegetation and implementing other recommendations. It is important for Carsonites to report all FireWise activities to the Carson FireWise Committee to keep our community in good standing in future years.

A good way to start if you are new to FireWise is to download the brochure here <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Firewise/Factsheets/FirewiseHowToPrepareYourHomeForWildfires.pdf>

Access more FireWise materials through their website <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/Firewise-USA>

To stay in the loop, contact the Carson FireWise Committee at carson87517@icloud.com, or by phone at (505) 795-3298

Tips for Preventing/Defending Against Fire

In the event of any emergency ALWAYS CALL 911 FIRST.

Clear trees, dead branches, weeds, tall grasses, (anything flammable) from around your buildings. The recommended clearance is a 50' minimum.

Keep all flammables, such as gasoline, paint thinners, etc., at least 50' away from buildings.

Store fireplace ashes in a tightly lidded metal container. This suffocates hot embers and keeps them from blowing out. Be sure embers are completely cool, (24 hour minimum suffocation), before dumping.

When constructing or renovating, use non-flammable materials such as metal for roofs and stucco for exterior finishes wherever possible. Avoid using flammable construction materials.

Ensure that your property is easily accessible in the event of an emergency. Keep a clear pathway for emergency vehicles. For example, if you go to help someone who is in urgent need, be sure not to block access with your own vehicle.



VETERANS
OFF \pm GRID

PO BOX 133, CARSON, NM VETERANSOFFGRID.ORG 919 673 0398



2020 was a year that we all will never forget. The fear, the uncertainty, and the social isolation certainly took its toll. However, that is only part of the story.

2020 also saw our neighbors in Carson coming together in a big way to help those in need. At Veterans Off-Grid (VOG), we celebrated our 3rd year in operation by joining with Carson based initiatives such as the Green Mesa Project, Dreamweavers, #Voluntuesday, The Carson Foodbank, The house that love built, and the Spiral Canyon Eco Sanctuary to have a positive impact in the midst of trying times.

Despite the pandemic, we completed the 1800 sq ft hoop house, built an 118 sq foot Hyper Adobe round cabin for visiting volunteers, upgraded the solar system, planted over 200 trees and shrubs, recycled over 20,000 glass bottles, made improvements on two forest roads, insulated and added rock siding to the yurt, housed 12 people who were in need of shelter, co-created a sustainable building course with UNM Taos, and helped many other Carson based organizations through the #voluntuesday movement.

VOG would like to send out a special thank you to those in Carson who have generously donated their time, food, expertise and funds to make all of that happen despite a challenging year. We couldn't have done it without you!

Terry Wolff
Art Wilbur
Frank Bottema
Patricia Keeler
Tovia Safford
Elizabeth Brownrigg
Craig Osen
Carson Café & Grocery crew
Steve Hill
Jenn Sawyer
Sam Drake

John Paul Garland
Stanley Yuen
The Green Mesa Project crew
Richard Hawley
Rob Hughes
Audrey and Brock Besser
Jim Anderson
Debbie White Raven Feather
Kimberly Howell and family
Angie Fernandez

Thanks to all who have supported us in any way!
Ryan Timmermans
Founder, Executive Director of Veterans Off Grid