Eagle Nest is a place of incomparable beauty, self-reliant souls and genuine characters. May it ever be so. Here is where Cindy and I have chosen to live our lives. Going door-to-door as a candidate, many of you shared your thoughts with me. It was apparent that there is a deep and abiding love for our little village. Many of us share a similar vision for its future - to make Eagle Nest a better place, to improve the quality of life for our residents, our businesses, our visitors. To make that vision a reality will take working hard and working in concert.

All of us are together in the same metaphorical boat – Eagle Nest. If you believe as I do that a rising tide lifts all boats; that a benefit to one is to benefit all – then residents, businesses and visitors alike will be better served.

Village government must (1) inform citizens and (2) provide forums for citizens to express opinion. This exchange of information is critical.

Informed citizens will have the opportunity to make clear to government the will of the majority. As mayor, I will strive to keep you informed on topics that affect our lives here in our little corner of paradise.

INFORMING CITIZENS & FORUMS TO EXPRESS OPINION.

The Village Voice: The Village Voice will inform you of issues that affect village life. Also, whenever possible based on deadlines, it will include upcoming meeting notices.

- **Hard Copy:** At no additional postage costs, The Village Voice will accompany all monthly utility bills.
- **Opt-In Email:** In addition, you may elect to receive The Village Voice via email as well as additional informative emails from the village when time sensitive issues arise.
  - To Opt-In send an email to clerk@eaglenest.org with “Opt-In Email” in the Subject Line.

Robo Call: Automated Phone Messaging will be employed for notices and reminders for upcoming events, meetings and when other issues of community interest arise.


Meetings: All meetings are public and are announced with proper notice as required by NM State Law. As you see above, there will be broader announcements of meetings and other items of public interest.

All are encouraged to participate in village government - to attend council meetings, to express your opinions and give life to Lincoln’s “by the people”!
Remember that village elected officials and village staff serve you, thus the title “PUBLIC SERVANT”. As public servants we have both a fiduciary and moral responsibility to the village...a responsibility to you. We owe you the biggest bang for the buck for your tax dollars. We must provide services and enforce regulations equally, ensure that all pay their fair share, that all live by the rules. All of us in public service must put the interests of our constituents above personal or business interests. Simply, we are expected to, and must do the right thing for you...you are our employer.

So, with that, the contact information for your elected representatives and relevant village staff is listed at the end of The Village Voice. Whether you agree, disagree or have no strong opinion, express your thoughts. It strengthens us all.

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NEWS ITEMS

1. AMBULANCE SERVICE – EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
2. BEAUTIFICATION & SPRING CLEAN-UP PROGRAM
3. OUT OF THE MUD! – STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
4. BUSINESS LICENSES – GROSS RECEIPTS & LODGERS TAXES
5. LODGING FAIRNESS – NM STATE LAW REGULATES ALL SHORT-TERM RENTALS
6. UNLAWFUL CAMPING
7. NUISANCE ANIMALS – LEASH LAW & LICENSING
8. OFF-ROAD VEHICLE ORDINANCE – THE VOTERS “WILL” BE DONE
9. MORE CROSSWALKS – PUBLIC SAFETY
10. REPORT UPDATE FROM SANTA FE & STATE LEGISLATURE
11. FIRE DEPARTMENT
12. MUNICIPAL SERVICES
13. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM - MARKETING EAGLE NEST – GROWING OUR ECONOMY
14. VISITOR CENTER - WEBSITE
15. VILLAGE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES & STAFF

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AMBULANCE SERVICE – EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
Great News to start off the New Year! The village has finally secured emergency 3-year funding for our Village of Eagle Nest Emergency Medical Services (EMS). Next, we will be working to recruit an EMT manager and EMT. Once we do, our ambulance service will be up and running in our community thanks to the collaborative efforts of Senator Pete Campos, Representative Roger Montoya, Mayor Richard Cordova, Mary Berglund. We must formulate a strategy and build a plan to advocate for permanent EMS funding through the legislature.
SPRING CLEAN-UP!

Yes...it will soon be that time of year. This is an early notice because we want to give folks plenty of time (months!) to learn about a new program being instituted this year and how to ensure compliance with village ordinances by the deadline of May 31, 2022.

In anticipation of our upcoming tourist season and out of respect for our neighbors, the Village is instituting a Beautification & Spring Clean-Up Program. Designed to do exactly that. To beautify the village...to enhance “curb appeal”...to help our businesses...to protect property values...and to ensure compliance by communicating what is required by village ordinances. All property owners are being notified and ordinances will be enforced uniformly.

GET ONBOARD

The full scope of the program will be announced in future editions of the *The Village* Voice, but it will likely include:

- Lowering or waiving disposal fees for some items from village properties being disposed of by village property owners at the village transfer station on specific date or dates (to be determined).
- Health, disability, or physical limitation non-financial assistance may be available. Assistance will be determined on a case-by-case basis for specific conditions yet to be determined. If, for the above circumstances, a property owner feels they cannot comply with the ordinance, please contact the village at 575-377-2486 ASAP.
- Copies of relevant ordinances are available at village hall.

OUT OF THE MUD! VILLAGE STREET IMPROVEMENT PLAN

As you drive south down the valley you may have noticed the two piles of asphalt millings from recent road work. A better place for those millings would be on the village streets of Eagle Nest! An affordable plan to do just that is being investigated, hopefully there will be a successful conclusion. Will keep you updated. Hope to have good news for all who travel our streets very soon!

2022 VILLAGE BUSINESS LICENSES REQUIRED!

A VILLAGE BUSINESS LICENSE COSTS $35/YEAR. THE FINE? UP TO $300/DAY + JAIL+ COURT COSTS.

To legally operate, all village businesses are required to have a village business license. To obtain a village business license you must also have:

- A NEW MEXICO STATE CRS #
  - [https://www.tax.newmexico.gov/businesses/register-your-business/](https://www.tax.newmexico.gov/businesses/register-your-business/)

- A FEDERAL EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (FEIN)
  - [https://irs-gov-ein-number.com/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMI1eqKvJmq9A1VZQh9Ch0sAQnSEAAYASAAEgJTlvD_BwE](https://irs-gov-ein-number.com/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMI1eqKvJmq9A1VZQh9Ch0sAQnSEAAYASAAEgJTlvD_BwE)
State & local business taxes you must collect, report and pay:

- GROSS RECEIPTS TAX (on all sales)
  - **BY LAW**, businesses are required to collect, report and pay a 7.875% Gross Receipts Taxes to NM State. [https://codes.findlaw.com/nm/chapter-7-taxation/nm-st-sect-7-9-3-5.html](https://codes.findlaw.com/nm/chapter-7-taxation/nm-st-sect-7-9-3-5.html)

- LODGERS TAX (tax on all lodging sales in addition to gross receipts tax)
  - **BY LAW**, in addition to Gross Receipts Tax each LODGING PROVIDER including private rentals, property management companies, Airbnb - VRBO, etc. as well as traditional lodging must collect, report and pay village 5.0% Lodgers Tax directly to the Village of Eagle Nest on a monthly basis.

**TAXES THAT ARE NOT COLLECTED AND/OR ARE COLLECTED AND NOT REPORTED OR PAID ARE SUBJECT TO BOTH CIVIL AND CRIMINAL PENALTIES UP TO AND INCLUDING A FELONY AND/OR INCARCERATION.**

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**FAIRNESS - ALL LODGING REQUIRED TO BE LICENSED & PAY TAXES.**

Traditional lodging has always been required to be licensed and pay gross receipts and lodgers’ taxes. In recent changes to the law, the State of New Mexico now explicitly requires all private rentals, property management companies, online rentals (Airbnb, VRBO and others) to do so as well. Until the change in law, our traditional lodging was at a competitive disadvantage to these types of lodging to the tune of 13% of gross receipts.

If you are in the “lodging for rent business” in the village, you are required to get a village business license and must collect, report and pay both gross receipts tax and lodgers tax effective immediately. This applies to realtors and property management companies who are contracted by clients to rent/manage rental properties. Regardless, it is the responsibility of the lodging owner to comply with the law’s licensing, collection, reporting and payment requirements. See the article above for more information or contact the village clerk at clerk@eaglenest.org or by calling 575-377-2486.

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**UNLAWFUL CAMPING**

Within the village and at nearby parks there are ample campsites for everything from tents to RV’s. Recently the village has had issues with the proliferation of unlawful camping on both PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL and PUBLIC PROPERTY within village limits. Given that, I will have village council review ordinances regulating camping within village limits to ensure law enforcement has the authorization needed to enforce illegal camping. Public hearings to follow if changes are warranted.
The Village Voice
An informed citizenry is the only true repository of the public will...Thomas Jefferson

VILLAGE VOTERS HAVE CLEARLY SPOKEN – NO ATV/UTV’s

2021 Village of Eagle Nest Election Ballot Referendum read:

**ATV/UTV ROUTES: SHOULD THE VILLAGE OF EAGLE NEST PASS AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING ALL VILLAGE ROAD IN THE VILLAGE OF EAGLE NEST AS ATV/UTV ROUTES?**

Village voters overwhelmingly defeated the referendum by a vote of 95 NO votes to 54 YES votes. The Village of Eagle Nest must enact an Ordinance expressing the will of the voters by banning the operation in the village of ATV/UTV’s otherwise categorized as “off-road vehicles” under the Federal Code of Federal Regulations (CFR’s).

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NUISANCE ANIMALS

A reminder to all pet owners, that dogs and cats are required to be licensed and that the village has a leash law and dogs are not permitted to run free. Recently, there have been encounters with free roaming dogs with both residents and visitors alike. Several dogs have recently been observed chasing deer and elk and this is a violation of state game laws. Be mindful of your neighbors and our visitors. Keep your pets under control. Violations will result in citations being issued.

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CROSS WALKS & SIGNAGE – FOR PEDESTRIAN SAFETY, DECREASED SPEEDS

**OVER 1.5 MILLION PEOPLE TRAVEL THROUGH OUR VILLAGE EACH YEAR** per New Mexico Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT) and the US Department of Transportation. Visitation concentrates in a 120-day summer period when there are events and significant pedestrian traffic on our main street. Until recently, there had been only one crosswalk in our one-mile pedestrian corridor.

A heartfelt “thank you” to NM DOT for their recent installation of the long-requested additional crosswalks on our main street. Though more would have better, three additional crosswalks have been installed to compliment the sole crosswalk that existed. These additions are a good “first step” and will go a long way to improve pedestrian safety and control speed in the village. There as one additional low-cost step that DOT can take to improve pedestrian safety even more.

To that end, am writing to Mr. James Gallegos, NM DOT, requesting that DOT install inexpensive center line signage. There are numerous traffic studies which clearly conclude that motorists drive UNDER THE POSTED SPEED LIMIT where “painted and signed” crosswalks exist AND where cost-effective and compliance-effective crosswalk signs like the ones shown here exist:
These signs are portable and would provide a documented and significant increase in pedestrian safety and reduction in speed on main street. I will keep you posted on DOT’s response to my request.

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FIRE DEPARTMENT
Emergency Medical Services have consolidated with the Eagle Nest Volunteer Fire Department. Thanks to all who serve our community – all

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MUNICIPAL SERVICES
As the opportunity presents, take a minute to thank Kyle Dehler & Jon Sultemeier for their work maintaining village infrastructure...thanks guys. Thanks also to village office staff – Mary Berglund, Village Administrator; Cathy; Emily West, Village Clerk and our newest employee. Thanks as well to village council members Dave Bolsinger, Michelle Tousley, Julie Kulhan, Jamie McCaslin and welcome to incoming council member Fox Guinn.

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PARKS & BEAUTIFICATION
The improvements to the park are monumental! New bathrooms, playground, splash pad, electric and water have been installed. There is a bit more work to do like lighting the pavilion and we are working on getting the funding. It is ready for use now. Enjoy.

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

Economic Development:
I have been in discussions with experienced marketing people who have suggested an expanded approach to how the village should market itself. The Economic Development Committee will soon be reconstituted and charged with developing and implementing this more aggressive marketing plan. Will keep you posted over the next few months on the progress. More to come!
Tourism – Eagle Nest’s Tourism Dilemma

1. How do we get folks to come here?
   - Over 1.5 MILLION people travel Main Street every year - *through* Eagle Nest. We can all agree that is a lot of people. Some stop, sadly, most do not...

2. How do we get folks to stop and spend dollars in our businesses?
   - **Tourism needs:**
     - **Greet them – We have a visitor center**
       - It operates peak days & hours during peak seasons. It is staffed solely with volunteers who with a smile and a friendly face warmly greet folks. The Visitor Center has restrooms, internet, displays, literature. It conducts lectures & field trips as well. Staff recommends & supports all Eagle Nest-licensed businesses.
     - **Curb Appeal – We have that.**
       - We have sidewalks, four pedestrian crossings, a municipal park with a playground, picnic tables, benches, a pavilion and a beautiful eagle sculpture...and events!
       - We have an attractive Main Street streetscape - classic vintage lighting, well maintained businesses & properties, an historic walking tour that encourages folks to walk and shop Main Street.
       - We have friendly residents!
     - **Give them a place to gas up - 24/7 at the corner store.**
     - **Give them something to do – Plenty to do outdoors**
       - The outdoors accounts much of our visitation, so that’s not a problem, `...
       - **A few more retail shops would help.**
     - **Provide lodging – Plenty of places to stay –**
       - RV parks, motel/hotel rooms, Airbnb, cabins & park campgrounds, so that’s generally not a problem.
     - **Give them a wide choice of places to eat three meals – That is a problem.**
       - During the height of our tourist season many of our food service providers are not reliably open. *That is a painful truth.*
     - **What is a tourist to do** about finding a place to eat?
       - They can gas up here, find lodging here, they can recreate here but there are not multiple options for a dependable place to eat *in Eagle Nest.*
     - **Regrettably for all too many their options are:**
       - Drive from Eagle Nest to Angel Fire 24 miles round trip. Drive to Red River 36 miles round trip. That is not viable nor sustainable option for most staying in Eagle Nest. That is the crux of the problem that I will charge the village Economic Development & Tourism Committee to solve. It is solvable by working with our existing food service businesses and actively recruiting new food service businesses to maintain reliable hours and operations *during our periods of peak visitation* for breakfasts, lunches & dinners.
EAGLE NEST VISITOR CENTER & GATEWAY MUSEUM
Check out the Visit Eagle Nest website www.visiteaglenest.org for the latest videos and updates on events here in Eagle Nest. Eagle Nest-licensed businesses are listed. There are links to area activities, events and other tourist-related services as well.

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VILLAGE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES
Mayor, Jeff Carr, mayor@eaglenest.org, (575) 377-2486
Councilor, Jamie McCaslin, jmccaslin@eaglenest.org
Councilor Julie Kulhan, jkulhan@eaglenest.org
Councilor Michelle Tousley, mtousley@eaglenest.org
Councilor Fox Guinn, TBA

Staff
Administrator, Mary Berglund, administrator1@eaglenest.org, (575) 377-2486
Finance Officer, Cathy Coppy, village@eaglenest.org
Clerk, Emily West, clerk@eaglenest.org
Water and Solid Waste, Jon Sultemier, jons@eaglenest.org
Streets, Kyle Dehler, streets@eaglenest.org
Assistant Finance Officer, Ernie LaDoux, TBA

Julie Kulhan being sworn in by Rayetta LeDoux, County Clerk, Jeff Carr being sworn in by Rayetta LeDoux, County Clerk, Cindy Carr is holding the bible, December 28, 2021

Fox Guinn will be sworn-in this month.

Will update you next month...The Village Voice...