Sierra Vista Cemetery NEWSLETTER

Taos, New Mexico — Spring 2026

Preserving History, Honoring Community



About Us

The Sierra Vista Cemetery Association is a nonprofit organization dedicated to maintaining and preserving our historic cemetery.

Our Mission

We are committed to being good stewards, ensuring the cemetery remains a sanctuary for reflection, meditation, and a celebration of past and future generations.

Our Strategy

This work is supported through lot sales, interments, special donations, and planned giving arrangements.

A Message From The Board

Spring brings renewed energy to Sierra Vista Cemetery. We are pleased to share updates on preservation, mapping, and volunteer efforts that help keep our historic cemetery a place of honor and remembrance. The Sierra Vista Cemetery Association is dedicated to maintaining and enhancing these hallowed grounds and preserving them for the benefit of present and future generations.

If you know someone who would like to receive these updates, please share this newsletter with them.

Cemetery Mapping Project

- After a winter break, mapping work has resumed.
- Volunteers and board members have taken the new map into the field to physically verify names and spaces.
- Mapping records are now being compared against deeds.
- Next steps include reviewing plot location numbering.
- Accurate mapping ensures proper documentation for historical research and future generations.

Thank You to the Wheelers

The Sierra Vista Cemetery Board extends its heartfelt gratitude to Thom "Tex" and Lavinia Wheeler for their vision, leadership, and steadfast commitment to the revitalization and preservation of Sierra Vista Cemetery.

Through their dedication, they helped guide the cemetery into a well-cared-for, flourishing resting place that honors Taos history and serves families with dignity. Their efforts supported the reorganization of the association from a fragile beginning—when only $0.83 remained in the account—as well as the restoration of the grounds and the ongoing work to preserve this historic site for future generations.

Their belief in Sierra Vista as both a place of memory and community heritage has been central to its renewal. We are deeply grateful for their years of service and lasting contribution to this important work.



Mailing Address
PO Box 2103 • Taos, NM 87571

Cemetery Hours
Daily, 8:00 a.m. – Sunset

Contact
Tommy Mascareñas • (575) 613-2546

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Preservation & Maintenance

- Ongoing maintenance of historic grave sites continues.
- Additional help with trimming, raking, and cleanup.
- Repairs to fencing, paths, and signage are ongoing.
- Donations support these improvements and overall care of the cemetery.
- Owners of burial plots are responsible for cleanup and maintenance of their individual sites.

Fee Schedule and Changes

- Full burial plots are $2,000; cremation plots are $1,250. Both include perpetual care. Payment plans available.
- A fee schedule for existing family plots is being developed. Communication will be shared as the year progresses.
- Pet cremains may now be included in cremation plots. Containers must be biodegradable.
- Coming soon: a cremation garden — a designated area for the permanent placement of cremated remains in a natural setting with flexible layout options.
- We are updating our contact list. Please send your current mailing address, phone number, and email so we can stay in touch.
- Many new spaces are available, including cremation spaces. Contact Cemetery Liaison Tommy Mascareñas at (575) 613-2546 or visit sierravistacemetery.com for

Support the Cemetery

Partner With Us in Preservation

Originating in the early 1900s, Sierra Vista Cemetery has been supported through space sales, donations, and special gifts. Operating costs include tree trimming, mowing and cleanup, utilities, irrigation and system upkeep, insurance, and infrastructure impovements.

As a nonprofit organization, the cemetery relies on the continued generosity of friends like you. Please consider making a donation to support ongoing service and upkeep.

Through tax and estate planning, many individuals have found advantages in donating a portion of their estate to charitable organizations such as the Sierra Vista Cemetery Association, Inc., a 501(c)(13) nonprofit organization. These gifts can help minimize estate taxes while supporting long-term sustainability of the cemetery.

Your support ensures the continued care and preservation of Sierra Vista Cemetery.

Send contributions to:

Sierra Vista Cemetery Association
PO Box 2103 • Taos, NM 87571



Sierra Vista Cemetery Board of Trustees

Elizabeth Crittenden Palacios	President	Nic Knight	Vice President
Anne Brenner	Treasurer	Cathy Aragon	Secretary
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Tommy Mascareñas, Site Manager and Cemetery Liaison