

SEPTEMBER 2023

# TOWN OF LA JARA NEWSLETTER



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## Water Shut-Off Enforcement

From this point on the Town of La Jara will be enforcing the shut-off notice. If you receive a shut off notice you will have 10 days from the day it was issued to make a payment or arrangements. If you happen to lose your shut off notice please reach out to us so we can verify your balance with you. To avoid a shut off notice we advise you to pay your bill monthly and by the due date. If you have any concerns please respectfully reach out to us and we will be more than willing to answer any questions of concerns that you may have.

### NEWS, UPDATES, ETC

-  **No Court for the month of September**
-  **Council September 14 @6pm**
-  **Care and Share September 21st @11am**
-  **Office will be closed September 4th for Labor Day**
-  **Trunk or Treat Oct. 31 more info to be posted on our Facebook.**
-  **Fun with 911 has been moved to Oct. 14 from 10am to 2pm at 312 S Main Street.**

## Town of La Jara Filming

The Town of La Jara would like to thank all businesses, citizens, and North Conejos Schools for being so patient and understanding with the road closer during the time of filming. It is pretty amazing to have our town be part of something so big.

## Old Maintenance Building Demo

The La Jara maintenance crew started the demo of the old maintenance building early August. Without the help of local citizens assisting in taking materials that they could use we would still have a lot to clean up. We would like to give a big thank you to those who have assisted with the clean up and we are greatly appreciative of the help.

## TOWN OF LA JARA 4-DAY WORK WEEK PROPOSAL

- The proposal was to operate on a 4-day schedule with hours of Monday thru Thursday from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm. A 30-minute lunch period from 12:00 to 12:30 and no closure of Town Hall. Clerks would rotate their individual lunch time.
- Employees would continue to work a 40-hour work week, working 10 hours per day; overtime will be given for any hours worked over 40 hours per week.
- The new schedule would allow continual access to town for a total of 10 hours. Town Hall would be open during the lunch hour. This would provide more hours of service from Monday thru Thursday.
- Investing in online billing options to allow citizens to pay bills without having to call in or visit Town Hall.
- During the 2023-2024 calendar year the majority of the Federal Holidays fall on days other than Friday. Employees will be given a paid holiday or compensation if required to work on the holiday. If the holiday occurs Monday through Thursday, the missed day of work will not be made up. There are only two Friday Holidays.
- Several weeks during a calendar year the Town Clerk, Maintenance workers, and Town Manager are working beyond a 40-hour week.
- A 4-day work week is becoming a typical practice for many municipalities and school districts. Valley municipalities that have made the transition include Del Norte, Monte Vista, Rio Grande County, Center (4 ½ day), San Luis, and Alamosa. Every school in the San Luis Valley is now on a 4-day week.
- This being an increasing practice supports the need for “work/life” balance.
- Some general benefits for a 4-day work week:
  - Provide more hours of service for the public.
  - Increased productivity by employees
  - Possibility of lowering utility costs
- Educating the public will be needed if the 4-day work week is employed. It will require the support of all employees and Board Trustees to assist with the educating of the public. Once the public is advised they “will learn and adjust” to the Friday closures.
- Keep in mind that Friday’s are typically slow in the office, most often 1-2 walk-ins and very few calls to pay bills.
- Maintenance staff will be on call Friday through Sunday for water/sewer emergencies.
- The 4-day work schedule excludes the police department as they set their own schedule.