

community. Even in this, we did the heavy carrying.

3. San Pedro Creek Estates maintains our own roads at our expense, not Sandoval County. Roads that need patching, replacing, shoulders mowed, snow removed, ditches and irrigation problems remedied, or anything else - are paid for by our community, with no assistance from our County.

4. Residents of SPCE pay for their own garbage pickup. We had two small New Mexico businesses, Mora Trash and East Mountain Trash, that had served us well for decades and provided excellent personal service, and their revenue stayed here in New Mexico. Sandoval County decided to have an open bid process for garbage pickup for the County, yet excluded these two small businesses and they have now been forced out of business. The County awarded their contract to a California-based company, thereby sending the revenue out of state. I was angry then and remain so to this very day. Your respect for small NM business is truly abysmal.

5. Because Sandoval has no schools in the East Mountain, children in our community go to Bernalillo County or private schools. Thank you Bernalillo County.

6. We provide our own fire protection through the LMVFD, and have even raised money annually for the volunteers' equipment. We have purchased (Moll- not sure about this, Marilyn Mallinson would know) large water storage tanks to meet the needs of fire fighters. The volunteers on call are our own residents, and they work hard to get outstanding levels of certification and training. Therefore, WE provide first response for 44sq. miles (28,160 acres) of the East Mountain area which includes Puertocito Road, The Overlook, SPCE, and La Madera. It is also covered by an agreement with Albuquerque, the Golden Open Space that spans 1,180 acres, BLM land and Forest service properties. Our volunteers also responded to fire and other emergencies in Edgewood and Santa Fe Counties. Thus, even though the LMVFD is operated under the auspices of Sandoval County, we actually provide our own first level of fire protection.

7. When the County wanted a new hospital (located so far away that none of us could ever practically make use of it), our taxes still went up. No thought went into providing even minimal health care to those pesky ugly step children in the East Mountains. So, we are providing our own health care and travel to Albuquerque for this.

8. When it was time to put in natural gas to displace the more expensive propane tanks that were at every residence, SPCE arranged for this utility installation and we paid for it. No County funds were provided.

9. In the 10 years I have been in my home on Via Entrada, I have seen Sandoval County Sheriff vehicles about 5 times. I am not exaggerating. While I see LMVFD vehicles all the time, police protection from Sandoval is nonexistent. Thus, SPCE pays a local resident to be a first responder and to check out security concerns. Essentially, we are providing our own police protection.

10. Now, the County is proposing to reduce our fire protection, and disbanding our LMVFD. We have had an MOU for mutual aid in place with Bernalillo since 2003. Last year in October, Chief Masterson told our community, at an SPCE barbecue (130 residents attended) to which he was specifically invited to share with us his plans for LMVFD that he would never remove the LMVFD from our community. Now, he seeks to close it immediately. County employees have a responsibility to share their plans with the communities they serve openly and honestly. Dishonesty in the public sector should never be tolerated. This will undoubtedly elevate our risk, increase response time for emergencies, and our fire insurance rating will be concomitantly reduced - leading to higher cost to every home in our community for less fire protection. Boy, Sandoval County is really taking care of those ugly step children.

11. The proposed contract available to be viewed by the public, says NOTHING about the AMOUNT of money (real \$\$\$\$) that Sandoval County is sending to Bernalillo County to provide the services, NOR does it say what it is actually costing BernCo to provide the services. Prudent business decisions are made with the understanding of the real costs involved, not just (whatever exists today." Who knows how valid and auditable those costs really are? And why shouldn't the taxpaying public know the numbers?

12. This project is all being done in an incredible hurry which is not called for, when it has a substantial affect on our community's health and welfare. I would urge the County Commissioners of BOTH Sandoval and Bernalillo Counties to slow this down, give the taxpaying public an ample amount of time (certainly more than two weeks) to understand, look at the real revenue and cost transfers and make a wise governmental and community decision.

I should mention that around Christmas, I had a dangerous chimney fire. With one short phone call, we had 10-15 firemen crawling all through our attic space with an infrared thermal heat sensor to assure that there were no hot spots. There must have been ten vehicles in my driveway within ten minutes, including personal vehicles of the volunteers to get them to my home quickly! Interestingly, I found that most of these were not only volunteers, I recognized them as - my neighbors! I was impressed with the professionalism and the dedication of the entire crew to make certain my home was safe. They made the extra effort and spent the extra time to make certain all was okay. The LMVFD is a wonderful asset to our community, and their loss would be an enormous one for me and my neighbors.

So, one might ask exactly what Sandoval County does for our community to deserve our tax revenue. It feels like they do nothing except get in our way, cost us time and money and