

# Los Alamos Cooperative Market News

**June 2009**

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## Moving Forward!

On May 19, the Los Alamos County Council unanimously approved an amendment to the development agreement between Main Gate, LLC and the County, which clears the way for the Los Alamos Co-operative Market to find a home in the new Entrada development. Many thanks to all the members who attended the council meeting!

## Curious About the Site?

We hope so! And to satisfy that curiosity, the Board is organizing a Walk the Site event on July 25, from 11 AM - 3 PM. We'll have site tours and membership leaflets on hand, so plan to drag along a friend or two who haven't yet joined the Co-op. Mark you calendar, and stay tuned for more details in the July newsletter.

## Introducing... Main Gate, LLC

What the heck is Main Gate, LLC? The friendliest community-oriented developers a co-op could hope for! Rick Reiss and Sam Gardner are the principal players behind the plan.

Rick was raised in New Mexico and has lived in Los Alamos for fifteen years. He's a mortgage broker and real estate developer who also happens to be a charter member of the Co-op. Rick says he signed up early on and "never imagined I'd have the opportunity to actually build the facility."

Sam was born and raised in Los Alamos. His degree is in agriculture business and he has lots of experience in a wide variety of development projects. He's been living off the grid for the last fourteen years and recently built a geodesic dome greenhouse to grow his own food. "The Co-op has been a long time coming," he says, "but it's just what this town needs."

Sam and Rick have already started talking to architects and builders about the Co-op's building, and they're as excited about the project as we are. Their vision is that the Co-op won't be just a grocery store, but a destination, possibly with such amenities as a deli counter cafe, covered spaces outdoors to relax, and of course connections to hiking trails. They also plan to hold meetings with present and prospective Co-op members in order to get community input on the design.

Most importantly, Rick and Sam are relying on the Co-op now—all of us. "We're in a difficult financial market," Rick says, "so let's make this a team effort. Participate in the member loan program, get your friends to sign up as members, support the board, and support the location. We're going to have to prove to the lenders that the store will have the shoppers to support it."

Hear, hear. Welcome to the team, Rick and Sam!



*Rick Reiss (left) and Sam Gardner (right), aka Main Gate, LLC, on the site of the Co-op*