
Amigos Newsletter

September-October 2023

Featured Sponsor

Casa Grande Trading Post
with Cerrillos Turquoise Mining Museum
& Petting Zoo



Thank you to Casa Grande Trading Post, Cerrillos Turquoise Mining Museum & Petting Zoo, for becoming our new sponsor! Your gold sponsorship will help fund the many Amigos activities and events that support the park.

The trading post, museum and petting zoo welcome thousands of visitors each year, helping to bring added interest to the park. Owners Todd and Patricia Brown are long-time supporters of the park, residing in Cerrillos since 1979. Todd worked 10 years as the park manager when it was a county park, helping to transition it to become a state park. Todd was once on the Amigos board of directors. Pat has been a long-time member and greatly appreciated Amigos volunteer who steps-up to help ensure every event is a success. She also maintains the Amigos website that is rich with information about the park - check it out!

We believe in making Cerrillos Hills State Park the best in the state. Stop by to see the trading post and mining museum.

Todd and Patricia Brown

Amigos Newsletter

November 2023

Featured Sponsor

Cerrillos Railhouse Guest Casitas



Thank you to [Cerrillos Railhouse Guest Casitas](#) for becoming a **GOLD SPONSOR**.

Stay a weekend, a week, or a month at this sublime Cerrillos getaway on the western edge of the Village along the original ATSF Santa Fe Railroad line. Watch the shifting colors of sunset cross the desert mesa then stargaze into the heart of the Milky Way from your private patio. Soaring trees and New Mexico's captivating natural beauty surround the Cerrillos Railhouse adobe compound with history going back to the 1880s. While you're there, take an easy walk to the state park for a hike on scenic trails.

Jesse and I invite you or your visiting friends to stay at one of our two casitas. You'll be serenaded by coyotes, crows, and birdsong in this tucked-away spot at the end of the village where natural surroundings begin.

We are pleased to sponsor Amigos and our wonderful state park.

Muchas gracias mis Amigos!
Cathy Weber

Cathy Weber is the current President of Amigos de Cerrillos Hills State Park. Now in her second year she is seeing our exciting vision for the organization become a reality with new programming such as *Hike with Amigos Social Hikes*, this amazing newsletter and park-related events on Visitor Center grounds. Watch the newsletter for what's planned next year. Join in the fun with fellow Amigos.

**Amigos Newsletter
August 2025**

**Blackbird Saloon
Our Gold Sponsor**

Thank You!



Just another day in Cerrillos - a donkey 'Pancho' pulling a buggy waits for its human, dining at the Black Bird Saloon.

Photo by Linda Smith, August 2023.

Thank you to Patrick and Kelly Torres of the Black Bird Saloon for sponsoring Amigos!

The [Black Bird Saloon](#) is a popular restaurant and bar at the main intersection in the Village of Cerrillos. It echoes its wild west past. Enter the 1880s saloon through crooked wood doors and onto the rickety wood floors. Dine inside or on the front porch off the dusty road. You might see the train passing through, feel its rumble, or hear its horn. Patrick and Kelly invite you to pull up a chair, settle in, and indulge in the wild west style grub off the grill and quench your thirst with a local brew.

Patrick and Kelly Torres settled in Cerillos eleven years ago, attracted by the building's character and the area's history, traditions, and charm. "Its proximity to the state park sealed the deal to live here and start a business," said Patrick. They hike the trails most every day, and Patrick especially enjoys Elkins Trail for its views, elevation changes, and technical challenge. Patrick's connection to ravens inspired the *Black Bird* name, and they carried forward the historic *Saloon* name.

We sponsored Amigos because it's a good cause, supporting improvements and events beyond what the state's budget supports, and to show appreciation to Amigos who volunteer their time.

Patrick and Kelly Torres

The Black Bird's reputation attracts new visitors to the area. Diners often cross the street to explore the State Park Visitor Center. Friendly volunteers and park staff hear them say, "I didn't know about this park—we'll come back again to hike the trails." Similarly, park visitors stop to dine after hiking or biking in the park. "We co-exist well together," said Patrick.

Diners learn a bit of history. "This is where the past, present, and future unite; where ancient Pueblo people discovered turquoise and Spanish explorers evolved into colonists; where mining camps flourished over the abundant earth. A land of secrets from ancient times, meets modern-day cowboys, artists, and lovers of this special place."

Black Bird Saloon