

Los Alamos On-Line

July 9, 1997

Ms Barbara Yeamans
Computer Services Department
Los Alamos County
2300 Trinity Drive
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

Dear Ms Yeamans,

If economic development is to be a viable part of the Los Alamos' self-sufficiency efforts, there are some important issues that will have to deal with: "what are our strengths? How can we use them to determine the kinds and amounts of economic activity we should stimulate or recruit?", and "having done that, how do we keep it here?"

A particularly relevant example is the R&D Park being developed near the Laboratory Administration building. It builds on the community's strengths in science and technology. R&D companies will be attracted to it because of the proximity to the Laboratory and its talented staff. Yet, what will it take to keep R&D Park businesses here despite federal policy or budget changes? What might induce them to extend their involvement to activities beyond their work with the Laboratory?

The same questions will apply to other economic activity. Often, the answers lie in the kind of infrastructure and support a community can offer and share with the business activity it desires.

In considering what it takes to maintain a suitable and healthy economic climate in Los Alamos, we concluded that a vital component of infrastructure is a modern telecommunications system. Others have drawn the same conclusion: the "High Performance Community" concept developed by the Center for the New West and many economic development studies argue that community networks and high speed communications interfaces to the outside world are very important for economic development in isolated areas. Additionally, the importance of telemedicine and distance learning in northern New Mexico makes an inter-connected set of community networks particularly valuable.

We are interested in implementing such a network in Los Alamos. We would like to acquaint you with the advantages and benefits of a community network, and to hear your thoughts about and reaction to it. **Accordingly, you are invited to a meeting at 10 A. M. on July 22, 1997, in the second-floor conference room at the Los Alamos National Bank. We expect that the meeting will last about two hours.**

The meeting will be conducted by Frank Smith and colleagues from the Integrated Community Network Department of Northern Telecom (Nortel). They will elaborate on the importance of Community networks, the benefits that they offer, what is required in the way of a "Community Alliance" to implement a network, what it might cost, and - hopefully - an assessment of emerging (and even "emerged") technologies that may permit affordable wide-band access to every user. They will also explain how Nortel can assist in the process. Nortel has provided a set of "Frequently - Asked - Questions" (and answers) about community networks that you may find informative; it is attached to this letter.

Your reaction to this presentation is earnestly solicited. We look forward to your participation in the meeting on July 22.

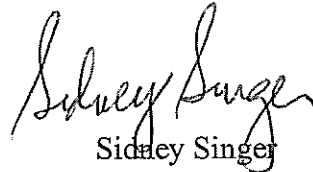
Sincerely yours,



Barbara Yeaman
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RSVP to Danette Clark, 662-1036