

Follow the farolitos!

CELEBRATE WITH KIT CARSON ROAD MUSEUMS, GALLERIES AND BUSINESSES

BY VIRGINIA L. CLARK

Holiday joy bursts pandemic bounds Saturday (Dec. 18) from 3 to 6:30 p.m., all along Kit Carson Road. Merchants offer safe shopping hand-in-hand with holiday celebrations along this Historic District block of galleries, museums and businesses. Expect little bags of farolito fires, maybe a couple luminarias (what Taoseños call bonfires), and treats of sweets and music here and there, all free and open to everyone.

"We (the merchants of Kit Carson Road) have been having this event for many years now," said Rob Nightingale of Wilder Nightingale Fine Art. "Allways the Saturday before Christmas, the street offers such a diversity of museums, art galleries, artist studios, gift shops and more. We welcome the locals to reacquaint themselves and open the eyes of new visitors here in Taos for the holidays. The farolitos and luminarias lining the street add a special warmth and nostalgia of years past."

Typically, folks park in the free Town Municipal Parking lot at Quesnel and Kit Carson Road and walk up to the shops and businesses, and then stroll along the street lit by traditional bags of candlelight. Enjoy this great annual celebration with family and friends and participating merchants, galleries and lodgers.

The Couse Foundation/Couse-Sharp Historic Site – 138 Kit Carson Road. With its exhibition gallery open this fall, the site's new Lunder Research Center encompasses the early 20th century home of painter J. H. Sharp. Sharp and his neighbor, E. I. Couse, were founding members of the Taos Society of Artists in 1915, expanding Taos' reputation as an influential art and culture center. At press time, Couse-Sharp Historic Site was finalizing its holiday plans. For more information, visit couse-sharp.org, email admin@couse-sharp.org, or call (575) 751-0369.

Casa Benavides B&B – 137 Kit Carson Road. Cake and refreshments are just across the street from the Lunder

Research Center, at this classic Taos bed and breakfast. Established in 1989, owners Tom and Barbara McCarthy are also promoting TAOS ROOTS – Taos Tree Project and t-shirt sales – and 100 percent of proceeds go those in need in the Taos community. casabenavidez.com; info@casabenavidez.com; (575) 758-1772.

Untitled Fine Art – 133 Kit Carson Road. Refreshments and music amid the light-responsive paintings, fused glass and black walnut sculptures. untitledfineart.com; bast@laplaza.org; (575) 758-3969.

Dafa – David Anthony Fine Art – 132 Kit Carson Road. "Holiday howdy!" from Dafa, celebrating with new whim-



sical paintings by Ray-Mel Cornelius and vibrant landscapes by Stephen Spellman. davidanthonyfineart.com; dmapes@davidmapes.com; (575) 758-7113.

Bryans Gallery – 121 Kit Carson. Check out the old pawn and contemporary Indian jewelry and have some hot cider, treats and discounts; plus celebrating new oil-painting artists – Leah Lucas; Lyn Orona; Barbara Coffee-Jones; and Sandy Wohlfrom. bryansgallery.com; bryan@bryansgallery.com; (575) 758-9407.

Parsons Gallery of the West – 122 Kit Carson Road. Holiday fun planned with new miniatures and more. parsonsart.com/home/parsonswest; parsons@parsonsart.com; (575) 737-9200.

Heritage Fine Art – 122 Kit Carson Road. Refreshment and music! Come visit the artists at this all-gallery annual holiday Christmas party. heritagefinearttaos.com; treemenanebtm@icloud.com; (575) 751-7348.

Wilder Nightingale Fine Art – 119 Kit Carson Road. Featuring watercolors by Pat Wolf (1936-2020) benefiting the Taos Coalition to End Homelessness and The DreamTree Project. wnightingale.com/artists/203; info@wnightingale.com; (575) 758-3255

Angie Coleman Studio – 117-A Kit Carson Road. Visit with Angie in her studio – she's always at work and loves to share. angiecolemanfinearts.com; acoleman@taosnet.net; (575) 779-4658.

The Ranch at Taos – 117-B Kit Carson Road. New location, just two doors down! At press time holiday happenings are go. theranchattaos.com; theranchattaos@hotmail.com; (325) 647-5736.

Karen Douglas – 117-C Kit Carson Road. Newly installed antiques and children's books shop off the KC Home & Museum courtyard. At press time, Douglas is just finalizing plans, so call to see what's going on, (917) 536-6173.

Kit Carson Home & Museum – 113 Kit Carson Road. Still finalizing plans, but possibly a luminaria/bonfire and maybe more in the courtyard! The gift shop will be open. kitcarsonmuseum.org; info@kitcarsonmuseum.org; (575) 758-4945.

Fine Art Atelier & Gallery – 108 Kit Carson. Light refreshments and cookies! Celebrate the season with gallerist Patience Heyl who will be working on a painting in progress. fineartworkshopstaos.com; patiencefineart@gmail.com (719) 338-0081.

Dragonfly Blue Gallery – 109 Kit Carson Road. Drop on by for holiday happenings, featuring Rafael Vega, Victoria Mauldin and gallerist/artist Lysa Montwill. dragonflyblue.com; dragonflyblue@gmail.com; (575) 779-9884.

Greg Moon Fine Art – 109 Kit Carson Road. Hot cider and cookies! "We'll be here bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, concentrating on minis and such," Greg promises. "Fun, goofy and affordable. Definitely not your typical fare!" gregmoonart.com; info@gregmoonart.com; (575) 770-4463.

Two Graces Plaza Gallery – 105 Barela Lane/Kit Carson Road. Two Graces has been concentrating on bringing Southwestern collectibles back to Taos, pre-1960s Kachina Dolls and Spanish Colonial handmade furniture or Santos. Holiday gift shopping made easy. twograces.com; theplazagallery@gmail.com; (575) 758-4101.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Visitors check out a holiday wreath at the Couse-Sharp Historic site at 138 Kit Carson Road.