

# Out & About with Lori Sunflower



What's the #1 issue that needs to be addressed in Crestone?



### Melinda "Sista Love" Davis

I feel that the number one issue that needs to be addressed in Crestone, and in most places, is public schools being able to actually offer safe spaces for our children to be able to learn and *really* learn to have critical thinking skills, learn to be independent and how to live in our society today, because it's changed so much and they deserve a place where they can be seen.

### Roman Pena

I genuinely believe that if a gym were to be implemented into Crestone somehow or some sort of a rec center for youth and adults, whether it be like incorporating the skate park with the gym and the building with the warehouse and the weights and the one shower so travelers could shower or pay a little bit of money to shower. It would bring income. It would bring revenue. It would bring a place for kids to go chill. Because I know most of these kids in this town, and between the ages of 14 and 20, everybody's bored. And once you turn 21, everybody just goes to get drunk. And if you're younger than 20, you're just looking and waiting and wanting something to happen, and it doesn't happen. So, you're just kind of wandering around the park and wandering around town, and that's just not positive for the most part.



### Scott Carlson

Well, for me, as a Crestonian for 30 years, it's definitely AirB&B. I came here in 1994 for a conference on sacred geometry and sacred art with Keith Critchlow, who designed the Lindisfarne Chapel, which is now the Zen Center dome in the sacred divine proportions. I've seen a lot of changes in the housing situation over the last 3 decades.

As a professional residential real estate broker for 40 years, we are zoned residential, and the AirB&B's are commercial. You're turning your residential neighborhood into commercial, which is hotel. And so, we have all the people coming in who aren't community based. They're coming in with their light pollution, their designer dogs and their trash. The littering in Crestone is crazy right now. And the visitors are driving way over the speed limit. So, it's illegal because you're changing the zoning.

Saguache county and the POA have to get on this. They say they want to limit it, but it's not about limiting it - it's about staying legal and true to the zoning. We're zoned residential, not commercial. It's one thing if you had a room or a casita, but now people are buying houses and using AirB&B money to make their mortgage payment. It's not cohesive or neighborly or community based.

The other challenge with AirB&B is it's not respecting community housing for local residents. Everyone's gotten into this greed and money and me-me-me thing instead of housing and supporting a community-based neighborhood. Who wants to live next to a hotel? It used to be so quiet here you could actually hear the stars!!!

And let's remember... love thy neighbor as thy self!!!

### Kary Kilmer

I think the number one issue is for the restaurants to recover after COVID. I left Crestone and then returned, and I've just noticed after the pandemic that it seems a little bleak, and I would like to see some more things generated in that area.



### Brooke Nero

I think that having access to mental health professionals or even volunteers to lend an ear in our community would make a huge difference. Helping our homeless community instead of forcing them to leave to a large city where they are further exposed to more danger. I think this town does a wonderful job of this but there is always room for growth. Our neighbors make this town what it is and we will change lives by coming together to better each other's lives.

