



# BERNCO at a Glance

JULY/AUGUST 2015

Volume 6 • Issue 7

Book cover from the recently released *The Adventures of BernCo Bernie*

## COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

First Wednesday of month  
Wednesday, July 1, 9 a.m.  
Wednesday, Aug. 5, 9 a.m.

## ZONING ADMINISTRATOR HEARING

Second Tuesday of month  
Tuesday, July 14, 9 a.m.  
Tuesday, Aug. 11, 9 a.m.

## BERNALILLO COUNTY COMMISSION MEETINGS

No commission meetings  
during the month of July.

### Zoning Meeting

Tuesday, Aug. 11, 2 p.m.

Board of Finance Meeting  
Tuesday, Aug. 11, 4:30 p.m.

Administrative Meeting  
Tuesday, Aug. 11, 5 p.m.

Administrative Meeting  
Tuesday, Aug. 25, 5 p.m.

Meetings are held in the  
Vincent E. Griego Chambers  
in the basement of the  
City/County Government Bldg.  
One Civic Plaza  
Fifth Street and Marquette NW

County offices will be closed on  
Monday, Sept. 7 in observance  
of the Labor Day holiday.

BERNCO  
at a Glance

## The Adventures of BernCo Bernie Book Available to the Public

BernCo Bernie, the spokesheep of Bernalillo County and the Bernalillo County Open Spaces, is featured in a new book called *The Adventures of BernCo Bernie*. This children's book is geared toward educating young people about the importance and preservation of Bernalillo County's 13 Open Space properties.



The bilingual book was written by award-winning author Jill Lane of Bernalillo County, illustrated by Marisol Baird of Santa Fe, and translated into Spanish by award-winning author Nasario Garcia of Santa Fe.

The book highlights South Valley Open Space properties and explains geocaching, a modern day version of the traditional scavenger hunt that uses current technology. *The Adventures of BernCo Bernie* is the first book in a planned series.

The book is available for check out from all of the city/county public libraries. There are five different Bernie bookmarks that are free to the public and will be available in the libraries as well. The county recently received the funding to begin work for the second book in the series.

## District 3 Art Exhibit Happening July 7 – Aug. 31

Commissioner Maggie Hart Stebbins presents selected works from the Bernalillo County Public Art Youth Collection with a special showing of illustrations by Marisol Baird from the book, *The Adventures of BernCo Bernie*.

The youth collection selected works feature young artists from several area high schools including Manzano, Sandia, Cibola, West Mesa and Volcano Vista.

The art exhibition is displayed on the tenth floor of the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Government Center, One Civic Plaza and will go through the end of August.

The public is invited to an artists' reception that will take place on Friday, July 24 from 5 – 6:30 p.m. at the same location as the art exhibit. Come and meet the artists, and enjoy refreshments and live music.



Not following us yet? Find us  
on Facebook (Bernalillo County  
NM) and Twitter (@BernCounty)

BERNALILLO COUNTY



WE'RE MORE THAN YOU THINK



Children at BernCo Bernie's Sheep Day

## BERNALILLO COUNTY OFFICIALS

### BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Maggie Hart Stebbins, Chair, Dist. 3  
 Art De La Cruz, Vice Chair, Dist. 2  
 Debbie O'Malley, Member, Dist. 1  
 Lonnie C. Talbert, Member, Dist. 4  
 Wayne A. Johnson, Member, Dist. 5  
 Main office: (505) 468-7000

### COUNTY ASSESSOR

Tanya R. Giddings  
 Main office: (505) 222-3700

### COUNTY CLERK

Maggie Toulouse Oliver  
 Voting  
 (505) 243-VOTE (8683)  
 Recording & Filing  
 (505) 468-1290  
 Marriage Licenses  
 (505) 468-1243

### COUNTY TREASURER

Manny Ortiz  
 Main office: (505) 468-7031

### COURT OF WILLS, ESTATES & PROBATE

Probate Judge Willow Misty Parks  
 Main office: (505) 468-1232

### SHERIFF

Manny Gonzales III  
 Main office (non-emergency):  
 (505) 468-7100

Visit [www.bernco.gov](http://www.bernco.gov)  
 for more information

**BERNCO**  
 at a Glance

## BernCo Bernie's Sheep Day and Rodeo Rides Again!

Hey cowboys and cowgirls, it's time to strap your boots on and get ready for the Second Annual BernCo Bernie's Sheep Day and Rodeo, Saturday, Aug. 1 at Bernalillo County's Dennison Park and Rodeo Grounds in the South Valley, 7001 Coors Boulevard SW.



The event will run from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Bernalillo County and BernCo Bernie are proud to participate in the annual Rodeo Youth Day sponsored by the First Impression Rodeo Club.

Enjoy food, contests and great rodeo action with youth from all over New Mexico. Come out and meet the real BernCo Bernie sheep.

This is a free event for the community. Visit [www.bernco.gov](http://www.bernco.gov) for more details.

## National Night Out is set for Tuesday, Aug. 4

The 32nd Annual National Night Out (NNO), a crime/drug prevention event sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch, is scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 4. Check with your area's neighborhood association or neighborhood watch leader for scheduled events.

The National Night Out campaign involves citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, businesses, neighborhood organizations and local officials from more than 15,000 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canada, and military bases worldwide. In all, more than 40 million people participate in the annual event.

This event has proven to be an effective, inexpensive and enjoyable program that promotes neighborhood spirit and police/community partnerships for safer communities and neighborhoods across the country.

Neighborhoods can celebrate NNO with a variety of events and activities such as:

- block parties,
- cookouts,
- visits from local police and fire departments,
- parades or exhibits,
- flashlight walks, and
- contests and youth programs

If you would like officers/staff from the BernCo Sheriff's Office, Fire Department, Animal Care Services, or Park Watch to attend your National Night Out event, please contact BernCo Neighborhood Coordinator Darrell Dady at (505) 468-7364 or [ddady@bernco.gov](mailto:ddady@bernco.gov).



POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

# Simple Precautions Can Prevent West Nile Virus

Spring rains and rising temperatures have hastened the arrival of mosquito season for the middle Rio Grande valley. Citizens should take precautions now to protect themselves from mosquitoes and West Nile virus. The peak mosquito season in this region will run now through September.



West Nile virus, carried by infected mosquitoes, can cause disease in people, birds, horses and other animals. Citizens are urged to vaccinate their horses immediately.

Bernalillo County residents can report standing or stagnant water or request mosquito spraying for their neighborhood by calling 311 for response from the City of Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Vector Control Program. Here are additional tips to protect against West Nile:

- **Use insect repellent on exposed skin and clothing when outdoors.** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends using insect repellents containing DEET, Picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus or IR3535 for use on skin, and permethrin for use on clothing. Always follow label directions when using insect repellents.
- When weather permits, **wear protective clothing** such as loose-fitting, long-sleeved shirts, long pants and socks.
- The hours from **dusk to dawn are peak biting times for mosquitoes.** Take extra care to use repellent and protective clothing or avoid outdoor activities during these times.
- **Eliminate water-holding containers** where mosquitoes lay their eggs, such as empty buckets, flower pots and old tires. Regularly change the water in birdbaths, wading pools and pet water bowls. Make sure rain barrels are tightly screened.
- **Keep windows and doors closed if not screened.** When leaving your home's doors or windows open, make sure they have screens that fit tightly and have no holes.

## South Valley Chile Fiesta Set for Saturday, Aug. 29

The Second Annual South Valley Chile Fiesta will be held Saturday, Aug. 29 from noon – 8 p.m. at Gateway Park, 100 Isleta Blvd. SW. The year's event will feature more salsa and chile competitors, entertainment, kids' activities, onsite chile roasting, arts and crafts vendors, a beer garden, and much more!



Local individuals and restaurants will compete in a chile and salsa taste-off. Attendees can help pick the winner by purchasing a "sampler wrist band" for only \$5. All proceeds will benefit the South Valley MainStreet initiative, South Valley Economic Development Center, and the Mixing Bowl. Admission is free and attendees will have free park and ride service.

For more information, contact Carrie Moritomo at (505) 468-1418.



BernCo Bernie at the Sheep Day Rodeo

### BernCo Hotline Numbers

**TO REPORT A ROAD  
MAINTENANCE  
ISSUE:**  
(505) 848-1503  
(505) 848-1504

**TO REPORT  
GRAFFITI:**  
(505) 24-ERASE  
or (505) 243-7273

**PARK WATCH  
PROGRAM:**  
(505) 468-7777

Or send an email to:  
[ContactCenter@bernco.gov](mailto:ContactCenter@bernco.gov)

### BERNCO WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA HANDLES

Bernalillo County online  
[www.BernCo.gov](http://www.BernCo.gov)

Bernalillo County on Facebook  
Bernalillo County NM

Bernalillo County on Twitter  
[@BernCounty](https://twitter.com/BernCounty)

Bernalillo County on YouTube  
[Bernalillo County](https://www.youtube.com/BernalilloCounty)

Bernalillo County on Flickr  
[bernalillo.county](https://www.flickr.com/photos/bernalillocounty/)

BernCo Bernie online  
[www.BernCoBernie.com](http://www.BernCoBernie.com)

BernCo Bernie on Twitter  
[@BernCoBernie](https://twitter.com/BernCoBernie)





## UPCOMING BERNCO COMMUNITY EVENTS AND MEETINGS

### District 3 Selected Works Art Exhibition

July 7 – Aug. 31

#### Artists' Reception

Friday, July 24  
5 – 6:30 p.m.

*BernCo County Manager's Office,  
Tenth Floor  
City/County Government Bldg.  
One Civic Plaza*

### Sunport Blvd Extension Public Hearing

Wednesday, Aug. 5  
6 – 8:30 p.m.

*Mountain View  
Community Center  
201 Prosperity Ave. SE*

### BernCo Bernie Sheep Day and Rodeo

Saturday, Aug. 1  
9 a.m. – 9 p.m.

*Dennison Park and  
Rodeo Grounds  
7001 Coors Boulevard SW*

#### Chile Fiesta

Saturday, Aug. 29  
Noon – 8 p.m.

*Gateway Park  
100 Isleta Blvd SW*

## Time to Reboot

Americans dispose of 2.4 million tons of e-waste each year and that number continues to grow each year. With the average household owning 24 devices, it shouldn't come as too much of a surprise that each time we upgrade a specific gadget the old one gets disposed of.

Most people might not realize that those old pieces of technology still have value, and that they definitely don't belong in a landfill. Finding better disposal options for e-waste can actually make a difference here in our community.

To learn more about why and how to repurpose old technology, head over to [Recyclebank.com/e-waste](http://Recyclebank.com/e-waste) and pick up some great tips and ideas.



## BernCo.gov has a New Look!

The redesigned website took more than eight months to develop and is a joint venture between Bernalillo County's Information Technology Department, the county's Communication Services Department and the local website design contractor Real Time Solutions.

Many new features, including a Google-based search engine, Google Translate, easy-to-navigate pages and tightened and improved organization, have been added to the site.

As the days go on, BernCo will continue to work on polishing the look and feel of the website, while resolving typical issues associated with a redesign. BernCo appreciates your patience as we continue to refine and improve the new site.

## Talk to Us!

**Bernalillo County wants to hear from you!** Your views are important to us - and there are a number of ways for you to communicate with us on the issues you care about most! Sign up to speak at a commission meeting, email a commissioner or follow us on social media. To reach us by phone, please call (505) 468-7000.

The proposed ordinance, **Code of Conduct Ordinance Amendment**, has been brought before the Bernalillo County Board of Commissioners and is currently in the public comment period. To view the proposed ordinance and/or to make a comment, please visit online at <http://www.bernco.gov/Government/ordinances.aspx>.

BernCo is seeking community input on proposals to rename the following two facilities: Bernalillo County Fire Station 35 in honor of the late Clark "Sparkie" Speakman and changing the name of the South Valley Senior Multi-Purpose Center to the Larrazolo Multi-Purpose Center. To comment, visit the "County Spotlight" section at <http://www.bernco.gov>.

Visit us online at [www.BernCo.gov](http://www.BernCo.gov) or reach us by phone at (505) 468-7000. Follow us on Twitter @BernCounty and Facebook at **Bernalillo County NM**. Thank you!