



BERNCO at a Glance

DECEMBER 2015

Volume 6 • Issue 11

Season's greetings from Bernalillo County to you and yours!

COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

First Wednesday of month
Wednesday, Dec. 2, 9 a.m.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR HEARING

Second Tuesday of month
Tuesday, Dec. 8, 9 a.m.

BERNALILLO COUNTY COMMISSION MEETINGS

Administrative Meeting
Tuesday, Dec. 8, 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
Christmas Eve Day,
Thursday, Dec. 24;
Christmas Day,
Friday, Dec. 25; and
New Year's Day,
Friday, Jan. 1, 2016

Bernalillo County Online Services are Expanded and Improved

The Bernalillo County Assessor's Office is making it easier than ever to search public property assessment records online. A new public access portal has been launched and the new system includes much more information about properties including square footage, lot size, year built, and whether the property is in a Public Improvement or Tax Improvement District. It also includes enhanced mapping features.

Bernalillo County's Planning and Development Services Department has significantly expanded the amount of information available to the public online and created new options for customer feedback. The county's Accela Citizen Access Portal now allows people to submit a complaint to the code enforcement team online, such as weeds, trash and debris in their neighborhood. New features also include the ability to search records by date range and a new mapping function. For example, the public can now download all residential building permits for a specific time frame and use the map function to see where new construction is occurring.

The community can also view property information, permits, inspections and check on the status of a pending permit via the Accela Citizen Access Portal. Please note this information covers the unincorporated areas of Bernalillo County, outside the city limits.



Get the BernCo Neighborhood Newsletter Delivered Directly to You

In January 2016, Bernalillo County will begin directly emailing to subscribers the monthly neighborhood newsletter.

It's easy...visit <http://notifications.bernco.gov/> to sign-up and e-subscribe.

No waiting, just the latest county news at your fingertips!

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

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

Visit www.bernco.gov
 for more information

Cold Weather Reminders for a Safe & Warm Winter

At home...As the weather gets colder, fires increase due to people trying to keep warm. Here are some cold weather reminders for the home:

- Check that heating appliances are in proper working order.
- Make sure there is no carbon monoxide leakage.
- Inspect heater cords for frays and/or damage. Do not use it if it is damaged.
- Plug the heater directly into the outlet and never use extension cords.
- Keep space heaters at least three feet away from anything that can catch fire or is damp or wet, and be sure to use only a flat, level floor surface.
- Keep space heaters away from high-traffic areas, and never leave them unattended or in rooms with unsupervised children or pets.
- Make sure the circuit where the heater is plugged in can handle the added demand.
- Do not use charcoal or propane indoors.

On the road...Prepare yourself and your vehicle, pack an emergency winter car kit:

- Wool blanket, extra hat and gloves.
- Jumper cables.
- Water in small bottles (easier to thaw if frozen).
- Food – such as protein/candy/granola bars; high in calories and ready-to-eat.
- Extra cell phone batteries or charger.

Be prepared for winter traveling:

- Winterize your car and keep it well maintained.
- Always travel with at least half of a tank of gas.
- Never leave your home without a charged cell phone.
- Tell someone your route and when you are expected to arrive.
- Know where you are going and avoid unfamiliar routes during inclement weather.
- Check the weather before you travel.
- Check the road conditions.
 - STATE ROADS | New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT)
 - Road Advisory Hotline, call 511
 - <http://nmroads.com/> to see the most updated road conditions
 - Also, sign-up for email/text alerts by downloading their mobile app
 - For information about NMDOT snow removal schedules, call (505) 222-6590
 - COUNTY ROADS | Bernalillo County, unincorporated areas, outside of the city
 - Call (505) 848-1503 for status reports about county roads or to submit a county road work order request
 - CITY ROADS | City of Albuquerque, within the city limits
 - Call 311



For your pets...It's a common misconception that dogs and cats won't get cold because of their fur. If your pets have to be outside, here are some outside housing tips for your pets:

- Do not use fabric blankets or bedding. Once wet, they ice over when temperatures drop, and become wet again with your animal's body heat.
- Place the shelter's entrance facing south to southeast to help protect the interior from wind, rain and snow and to maximize exposure to the sun.
- If the opening is uncovered, consider attaching a thick piece of rubber, doormat or carpet scrap cut to size to block the wind, rain and snow.
- Make sure the shelter is as airtight as possible.
- Check the water bowl frequently for freezing.

Remember - if it is cold for you, it is cold for your pet!

Cold-Weather Family Fun with BernCo Open Space

The weather's turning colder, but that doesn't mean that things are slowing down at BernCo Open Space! There is a great lineup of educational, family-friendly events to get everyone through the holiday breaks and into the New Year.

Sunday Family Fun Day: every Sunday from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Bachechi Open Space, 9521 Rio Grande Blvd. NW.

Nov. 28 – Come stretch your holiday legs with Thanksgiving-themed family fun. Participate in a special Bachechi-wide relay with your family, make some autumn decorations to take home, and add to our Walkway of Thanks.

December's theme is **Patterns**.

Each week, we will offer an indoor craft that participants can take home, an outdoor activity that encourages exploration around the park, and either a hands-on experiment or group game that families can participate in during their visit. As always, the Nature Packs can be checked out to enhance outdoor adventures, puppets, and a table of resources within the theme to encourage a deeper knowledge of what you have discovered.

Dec. 6 – Explore the patterns around us through the Fibonacci sequence. Dissect a pine cone, and create your own patterns with a Spirograph that you can make yourself and take home.

Dec. 13 – Take a walk around the park with your mind focused on patterns. Compare man-made to natural patterns. Make a mixed-media mandala, or color one here to take home.

Dec. 20 – Celebrate the start of winter and the winter solstice with an exploration of the seasons. Learn how to make a harmonograph and explore the millions of ways to create patterns.

And, if there's snow on any of the Sundays, then snow is the theme. Come experiment with snow by making snow slushies, examining snow under microscopes, and making snowflakes.



“ABC to Z” is an ambitious project to update the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Comprehensive Plan (ABC Comp Plan) and overhaul the city's zoning and

development framework. The updated vision for the comprehensive plan is available online. The vision is a summary – a preview of the plan with a map describing the pattern for future growth in our region and key issues and strategies for each comprehensive plan topic. Based on the existing comprehensive plan and the new vision, and input obtained thus far, staff and the consultant are now hard at work drafting the new chapters of the updated plan, which includes policies and strategic actions to move us toward the vision over the next 20 years.

Learn more and sign up to receive updates by visiting www.abc-zone.com or go to Facebook at facebook.com/abctozoning.

Public meeting dates and times are listed on page 4 of this newsletter, in the left-hand column.



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

BERNCO WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA HANDLES

Bernalillo County online
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

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



**UPCOMING BERNCO
PUBLIC HEARING
AND MEETINGS**

**Bridge Boulevard
Public Hearing
Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2016**
5:30 p.m.
South Valley Multi-Purpose
Senior Center
2008 Larrazolo Road SW

**BernCo
Comprehensive Plan
Update Meetings
Wednesday, Dec. 9**
6 – 7:30 p.m.
Raymond G. Sanchez
Community Center
9800 Fourth St. NW

Thursday, Dec. 10
6:30 – 8 p.m.
Westside Community Center
1250 Isleta Blvd. SW

**City/BernCo
Comprehensive Plan
Draft
Open Houses
Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2016**
2 – 3:30 p.m.
North Domingo Baca
Multigenerational Center
7521 Carmel Ave. NE

5:30 – 7 p.m.
Los Duranes Community Center
2920 Leopoldo NW

Thursday, Jan. 28, 2016
1 – 2:30 p.m.
Don Newton/Taylor Ranch
Community Center
4900 Kachina St. NW

6 – 7:30 p.m.
South Valley Multi-Purpose
Senior Center
2008 Larrazolo Road SW

For more information,
visit www.abc-zone.com

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Tax Exemptions for Veterans

BernCo Assessor Tanya R. Giddings reminds all veterans living in the county of the veteran tax exemptions that may help reduce their property taxes.

Any Bernalillo County veteran who served a minimum of 90 days consecutive active duty days (other than for training), was honorably discharged, and is a legal resident of New Mexico qualifies for a \$4,000 reduction in the taxable value of their real property for Bernalillo County taxation purposes. This benefit is also available to non-remarried surviving spouses of a veteran who would have otherwise qualified for this benefit.

There is also a 100 percent disabled veteran property tax exemption available to any veteran who has been rated at 100 percent service-connected disabled by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and is a legal resident of New Mexico. This exemption qualifies for a complete, 100-percent property tax waiver on their primary residence.

State law requires that veterans apply for these exemptions within 30 days of the mailing of the Notice of Value, which is typically mailed out April 1 in order to receive the exemption for the current tax year; otherwise, the exemption will be applied for the following tax year. Veterans can apply now for the exemption and see it reflected in next year's tax bill.

Please visit the assessor's website for additional information and to find the applications at <https://www.bernco.gov/assessor-office>.



Ken Martinez Selected as Bernalillo County Attorney

Ken Martinez has been appointed the Bernalillo County attorney by a unanimous vote by the BernCo commission.

Martinez's appointment is subject to final contract negotiations and a background check. As part of the negotiations, the county will ask that Martinez not seek re-election to state House District 69. Martinez, a former state House Speaker, has represented District 69 in western New Mexico since 1999. A Notre Dame graduate, he's also worked in private practice at his law firm in Grants since 1984.

Idalia Lechuga-Tena to Fill House District 21 Vacancy

The Bernalillo County Commission appointed Idalia Lechuga-Tena to fill a vacancy in state House District 21, located in Albuquerque's Southeast Heights. The vacancy was created when former State Rep. Stephanie Maez resigned.

The New Mexico State Legislature will convene on Jan. 18, 2016 for a regular 30-day session. For information about what will be happening in the upcoming legislative session, please visit <http://www.nmlegis.gov/>.

NEED Assistance or Resources?

Contact Neighborhood Coordinator Darrell Dady at (505) 468-7364 or ddady@bernco.gov.