



# BERNCO at a Glance

MARCH 2015

Volume 6 • Issue 3



South Valley Bridge Boulevard, vintage photo

## COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

First Wednesday of month  
Wednesday, March 4,  
9 a.m.

## ZONING ADMINISTRATOR HEARING

Second Tuesday of month  
Tuesday, March 10,  
9 a.m.

## BERNALILLO COUNTY COMMISSION MEETINGS

Zoning Meeting  
Tuesday, March 3,  
4 p.m.

Administrative Meeting  
Tuesday, March 10, 5 p.m.

Administrative Meeting  
Tuesday, March 24,  
5 p.m.

Special Zoning Hearing for Santolina Master Plan (1 of 2)  
Wednesday, March 25,  
1:30 p.m.

Special Zoning Hearing for Santolina Master Plan (2 of 2)  
Thursday, March 26,  
9 a.m.

County offices will be closed on Friday, April 3 in observance of Spring Break

Meeting agendas and more info at [www.bernco.gov](http://www.bernco.gov)

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## South Valley MainStreet Listening Sessions

*Come explore new ideas for your community*

Bernalillo County Cultural Services and South Valley MainStreet - along with Creative Albuquerque and Working Classroom - are holding listening sessions with the community. Public comment from the listening sessions will determine how Bridge Boulevard - a key South Valley entrance corridor - will look, including public art, building facades and landscape design. The listening sessions are being held at the National Hispanic Cultural Center, 1701 Fourth Street SW, Albuquerque, NM 87102, on the following dates:

Tuesday, March 10, 6 - 8 p.m. / Cultural Landscape - Examining the Historic Bridge Corridor  
Saturday, April 11, 10 a.m. - noon / Creating a Sense of Place through Art  
Tuesday, May 12, 6 - 8 p.m. / Interactive Review of Public Art Concepts  
Saturday, June 6, 10 a.m. - noon / Final input on Public Art Concepts

To share your South Valley stories, personal histories, and ideas about how you want the "entrada" to look, please send via email to [svstories@bernco.gov](mailto:svstories@bernco.gov). For more information, contact Bernadette Miera at [bmiera@bernco.gov](mailto:bmiera@bernco.gov).

## Are you ready to chase down leaks?

**Household leaks can waste thousands of gallons of water every year.** The Bernalillo County Water Conservation Program encourages all residents to hunt down the drips in their households. Common leaks found in homes are worn toilet flappers, dripping faucets and outdoor irrigation systems.

Leaks can run, but they can't hide! As part of this "Fix a Leak" campaign, all **Bernalillo County community centers will have FREE toilet leak dye tablets available for the public to take home and use.**

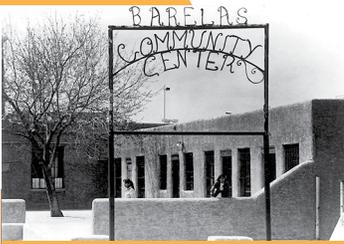
Please visit our website, [www.bernco.gov](http://www.bernco.gov) or [www.epa.gov/watersense/](http://www.epa.gov/watersense/), for more information and tips on how to identify and fix leaks. Save valuable water and money all year long!

*Bernalillo County would also like to remind all residents that the Water Conservation Ordinance will take effect April 1. Water restrictions include no outside sprinkler watering between the hours of 11 a.m. - 7 p.m., the hottest part of the day.*



BERNALILLO COUNTY

WE'RE MORE THAN YOU THINK



South Valley

## 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

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## Metropolitan Detention Center Welcomes New Chief

Bernalillo County has named Phillip Greer as its new head of the Metropolitan Detention Center. Greer was previously the Executive Director of Corrections for Tri-County Corrections in northwest Minnesota, where he managed the regional jail, juvenile detention and residential center, and probation and parole services for the northwest sector of the state.



Greer has been in the corrections field for 24 years and has worked in Missouri, Kansas and South Dakota prior to working in Minnesota.

## Parks and Recreation Department Gets New Director

Debbie Jo Almager is the new Parks and Recreation Department Director. The county conducted a nationwide search and Almager was unanimously selected as the top candidate by the search committee.



Almager has previously served the Santa Fe, Los Alamos and Ruidoso communities as a top parks and recreation manager. She's a proven leader who understands the importance of health, recreation, cultural services, parks and open space to our community's quality of life and economic well-being.

Almager has earned bachelor's and master's degrees from New Mexico Highlands University and is currently enrolled in the Physical Education, Sports and Exercise Science doctoral program at the University of New Mexico.

## Bernalillo County Receives AAA Bond Ratings

Bernalillo County has again retained its AAA bond ratings, which are the highest ratings possible. Moody's, Fitch and Standard and Poor's have all given the county AAA ratings. Bond ratings are critical to government agencies because the higher the bond rating the lower the interest rates that the county will receive when selling bonds to finance voter-approved bond projects.

Commission Chair Hart Stebbins, County Manager Zdunek and Deputy Manager Ragin recently presented information to bond agency representatives on the county's financial management policies and practices. The county is planning to sell a \$17.2 million general obligation bond package to finance library, road, public safety, river otter exhibit and other projects.

Over time, the county will incur less debt because of lower interest rates directly related to the AAA rating.

## Bernalillo County Youth Sports Commission Up and Running

The Bernalillo County Youth Sports Commission, created last August to support and promote athletic opportunities for children, has hit the ground running. The 19-member Youth Sports Commission, formed in response to a County Commission resolution, will encourage collaboration among area youth sports organizations to improve safety, provide greater access for local children, and enhance the county's economy.



The Youth Sports Commission consists of 19 members who will each serve staggered three year terms, with the exception of the three local governmental entities' members who have no term limits.

The commission's first order of business is to establish an accurate inventory and assessment of the local area sports facilities and the true number of athletes that they serve. The commission is also looking at health and safety concerns that impact the athletes and coaching issues such as training, standardized background checks, and grievance processes. More information at [www.bernco.gov/Youth\\_Sports\\_Commission](http://www.bernco.gov/Youth_Sports_Commission).



Bridge Boulevard, South Valley  
vintage photo

## Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan 2015 – 2030 Draft Review Public Meetings Rescheduled

Bernalillo County Parks and Recreation will be rescheduling the "Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan 2015-2030 Draft Review" public meetings originally scheduled for late February and early March. The public will be notified of the new meeting schedule and invited to visit the county website to view the draft plan documents as soon as they become available. The "Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan 2015 – 2030" will provide a 15-year roadmap for the development of future parks, recreation and open space facilities.



Community members are invited to attend the public meetings which will showcase the public's input on the development of future parks, recreation and open space facilities captured in the "Draft Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan 2015-2030." At these meetings and through an online webpage, the public will be able to give more feedback and also participate in an online survey.

The initial Parks, Recreation Open Space and Trails Master Plan was developed in 2003. Since that time, Bernalillo County has completed 80 percent of the projects identified. These projects include the Rio Grande Pool renovation; Bachechi, Pajarito; Durand, and Ojito Open Space; Hubbell House renovations and Open Space development; Vista Grande and Paradise Hills Community Center improvements; and playground upgrades throughout the county.

For more information, contact John C. Barney at (505) 314-0404 or [jcbarney@bernco.gov](mailto:jcbarney@bernco.gov).

### 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)

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## Upcoming BernCo Community Events

### Building the Bridge to Your Future Job Expo

#### FREE Two Day Event

#### Prep Workshops

Thursday, March 5  
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Albuquerque  
Hispano Chamber  
of Commerce  
1309 Fourth Street SW

#### Job Expo

Monday, March 9  
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Five Points  
Events Center  
933 Sunset Boulevard SW

#### Day in Paradise

Sunday, April 26  
1 – 5 p.m.  
Paradise Hills  
Community Center  
5901 Paradise Boulevard  
NW

#### South Valley Celebration

Sunday, May 3  
Noon – 5 p.m.  
Westside  
Community Center  
1250 Isleta Boulevard SW

#### More info at

[www.bernco.gov](http://www.bernco.gov)



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## Unconfined: Empowering Women Through Art, March 7 – 28

Bernalillo County Cultural Services and Southwest Women's Law Center present, "Unconfined: Empowering Women Through Art," an exhibit of artwork featuring New Mexico women who are emerging and practicing artists. Some of the artists are women in confinement at the Metropolitan Detention Center and girls in confinement at the Youth Services Center (detention facility). Each artist's work tells her own individual story; their experiences are diverse yet the visual stories and expressions of creativity connect these women of differing situations and circumstances.



The exhibit can be viewed at the African American Performing Arts Center located on the Expo New Mexico grounds, 310 San Pedro Drive NE, Albuquerque, NM 87108. The exhibit will be open Tuesdays – Fridays 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Admission is free.

For more information, contact Nan Masland at (505) 314-0467 or visit [www.bernco.gov](http://www.bernco.gov).

## Talk to Us!

### Share Your Comments About an Ordinance Amendment Requiring Certain Businesses to Purchase Tire-Cutting Machines

The Bernalillo County Board of Commissioners will consider adopting an amendment to the Bernalillo County ordinance: Business Registration Fee, Article II, Section 14. The proposed amendment is designed to decrease the illegal dumping of tires on public and private property by requiring businesses that generate tire scraps to purchase a tire-cutting machine. This ordinance is consistent with the intent and purpose of business license registration, which is to aid and assist in the appropriate application of health and safety regulations for county residents. This amendment is intended to reduce the frequency of illegal tire dumping throughout Bernalillo County by requiring tires that are no longer suitable for the original use to be cut into aggregate pieces with a tire cutting machine. This provides improved storage, recycling and disposal options by eliminating unnecessary space taken up in landfills.

To share your comments regarding this amendment, please visit [http://www.bernco.gov/survey/?p\\_survey=242329](http://www.bernco.gov/survey/?p_survey=242329).

The Board of County Commissioners will consider this amendment on March 24, 2015 at 5 p.m., at the Vincent E. Griego Chambers, One Civic Plaza, NW, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87102.

## NEED Assistance or Resources?

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