



# BERNCO at a Glance

APRIL 2015

Volume 6 • Issue 4

Paradise Hills Trail construction is currently under way

## COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

First Wednesday of month  
Wednesday, April 1, 9 a.m.

## ZONING ADMINISTRATOR HEARING

Second Tuesday of month  
Tuesday, April 14, 9 a.m.

## BERNALILLO COUNTY COMMISSION MEETINGS

**Zoning Meeting**  
Tuesday, April 7, 4 p.m.

**Administrative Meeting**  
Tuesday, April 14, 5 p.m.

**Special Administrative Meeting**  
to conduct the public hearings  
for the 2016 budget  
Tuesday, April 21, 1:30 p.m.

**Administrative Meeting**  
Tuesday, April 28, 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  
Friday, April 3  
in observance of spring break

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## Counties Move America Forward

National County Government Month, held each April, is an annual celebration of county government. This year's theme is "Counties Moving America Forward: The Keys are Transportation and Infrastructure." We will post a new "Did You Know?" fact of the day throughout the month via the county website, Facebook and Twitter. You will learn about the ways that Bernalillo County has focused on improving its communities through road projects, building new facilities, water and sewer improvements, flood control projects and other public works activities. As the county grows, infrastructure will need to be expanded and maintained. Those challenges will be met with the hard work of all Bernalillo County employees and our partners. Find more information on Bernalillo County's efforts to "Move America Forward" at [www.bernco.gov](http://www.bernco.gov).

Tom Zdunek, Bernalillo County Manager



## Notice of Property Assessments

On April 1, the Bernalillo County Assessor's Office will be mailing out notices to all property owners in the county informing of them of the current assessed value of their property. Residents are encouraged to promptly open their Notice of Value, review it, and contact the Assessor's Office with any questions. The Notice of Value is important because it states what assessment the County Treasurer's Office will use when sending out property tax bills later in the year. State law gives property owners until May 1 to protest their assessments. Property owners who may qualify, but have not applied for property tax exemptions are encouraged to do so. Applications for these exemptions along with more information are available at [www.bernco.gov/assessor-office](http://www.bernco.gov/assessor-office). The Assessor's Office will be hosting special workshops for property owners who have questions, in the Vincent E. Griego Chambers, in the basement of the City/County Government Bldg., One Civic Plaza on Saturday, April 18 at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., and Saturday, April 25 at 10 a.m.

*The April 10 deadline for paying 2014 property taxes is coming up. Bernalillo County property owners have several options to pay their taxes. Call the Treasurer's Office at (505) 468-7031 for more information, or visit [www.bernco.gov/treasurer](http://www.bernco.gov/treasurer).*



Not following us yet? Find us on Facebook (Bernalillo County NM) and Twitter (@BernCounty) to receive the "Did You Know?" BernCo fact of the day.

BERNALILLO COUNTY



WE'RE MORE THAN YOU THINK

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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## Good Things are Happening at BernCo Parks and Recreation

### Open Space Springs Into Action

Experience **Sunday Family Fun at Bachechi Open Space**, 9521 Rio Grande Blvd. NW, from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. every Sunday. Check out Nature Packs, get hands-on learning opportunities, bring a picnic or enjoy the trails. There will also be activities led by Cottonwood Gulch.

### Naturalist Series, Bachechi Open Space, 9521 Rio Grande Blvd. NW

April 18, 6 - 7:30 p.m. – **“Amphibians and Reptiles of the Middle Rio Grande Bosque”**  
 Presented by Dr. Tom Giermakowski, Collections Manager, Division of Amphibians and Reptiles. Find out about salamanders, frogs, toads, spadefoots and turtles, lizards, and snakes. There are many species of both amphibians and reptiles living in the Rio Grande Valley - and the focus will be on where and when to find, record and photograph these unique animals. Bring a flashlight!

### Stories of the Middle Rio Grande, Bachechi Open Space, 9521 Rio Grande Blvd. NW

April 23, 7 – 8:30 p.m. – **“Los Griegos”** presented by JoAnn Ulibarri. This series brings to life the rich history and cultural traditions of the Albuquerque area along the Rio Grande focusing on the origin of the original Spanish neighborhoods, starting with historic Downtown Albuquerque and moving north to Alameda, concluding with a thought-provoking presentation on Genizaros settlement.

### Backyard Farming Series, Hubbell-Gutierrez House, 6059 Isleta Blvd. SW

Covering the basics needed to plan, design or modify your home garden landscape; this national certificate program focuses on sustainability, permaculture and the wise use of our limited natural resources.

April 11, 9 a.m. – Noon – **“Successful Water Practices & Role of Plants”**

April 25, 9 a.m. – Noon – **“Successful Plant Practices & Selecting Materials”**

To register or for more information, visit [www.bernco.gov/openspace](http://www.bernco.gov/openspace) or call (505) 314-0398.

### Valle de Oro Open House Events

Saturday, April 25, 1 – 4 p.m., **Conservation Careers**

Saturday, May 16, 9 a.m. - Noon, **Citizen Science & the Art of Observation**

More info at [http://www.fws.gov/refuge/valle\\_de\\_oro/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/valle_de_oro/).

### Sports Programs for Summer Fun

**Adult softball** registration is April 1 - 24 and costs \$750 for the 16-game season that begins May 7. Men, women and coed divisions are available. Contact Ruben Trujillo at (505) 314-0397 or via e-mail at [rutrujillo@bernco.gov](mailto:rutrujillo@bernco.gov).

**12th Annual Jimmy Nieto Summer Softball Blowout** registration will be May 1 - June 1, first 70 teams only. Cost is \$225 per team. Tournament dates are June 12-14. Contact Ruben Trujillo at (505) 314-0397 or via e-mail at [rutrujillo@bernco.gov](mailto:rutrujillo@bernco.gov).

### Lifeguards Needed

Bernalillo County is now hiring lifeguards for the Summer 2015 season. Lifeguards will be hired for the Alameda Spray Park, Los Padillas Pool, Paradise Hills Pool, and the newly renovated Rio Grande Indoor Pool. All applicants must be at least 15 years of age (with a worker's permit) and have obtained first aid, CPR, and lifeguard certifications. If interested, please apply online at [www.bernco.gov](http://www.bernco.gov), no later than April 20. For information regarding lifeguard recertification, please contact Michael Fahey at (505) 314-0409 or via e-mail at [mlfaheyrosas@bernco.gov](mailto:mlfaheyrosas@bernco.gov). For other questions, please call (505) 314-0418.

## Earth Day is April 22

Just like a birthday is a special day to celebrate a person, Earth Day is a special day that celebrates the Earth. Every year on April 22, The United States and more than 100 different countries join together in the celebration of Earth Day. Earth Day is a day to remember and appreciate nature; it's also a day to do something that helps to protect the environment like plant a tree, recycle, walk or ride a bike. Bernalillo County believes that every day is Earth Day.

For more things you can do to celebrate Earth Day, visit [www.rustletheleaf.com/10things.html](http://www.rustletheleaf.com/10things.html).



Goff Blvd road construction

## Recycling 101 The Meaning of Chasing Arrows



When it comes to recycling, the classic chasing arrows is probably the most recognizable symbol. When you see it, you know that the material has the potential to be recycled. Although this seems simple, there is a downside to this universal symbol: there are no universal guidelines to what can and cannot be recycled. In other words,

just because you see this symbol doesn't necessarily mean that the item is accepted in your curbside program. One way to be safe is to focus on recycling all plastic bottles, aluminum cans and paper (including junk mail, magazines and newspaper). Keep all the material dry and do not put plastic bags in your recycling container. For a complete list about what is or is not accepted in Bernalillo County's recycling program, check out the county's website at [www.bernco.gov/recycle](http://www.bernco.gov/recycle).

## Poop Fairy Returns

"There is no Poop Fairy...grab it, bag it, toss it" is a campaign that educates and informs residents about the importance of picking up after their pets. Each year, 450 tons of dog poop has the potential to end up in the Rio Grande - washed into the river by heavy rains during the monsoon season.



FREE poop fairy yard signs are available at all county community centers for the public to take and display on their properties. Drop by the community center nearest you and get yours today. For a listing of community center addresses, go to [www.bernco.gov/fun](http://www.bernco.gov/fun) and click on 'Community Centers.'

## Kids Night at Los Padillas Community Center...for a Parents' Night Out



Parents can enjoy a night out while their kids enjoy a night of fun and safe recreational activities. "Kids Nights" are scheduled for April 24 and May 15 from 6 - 10 p.m. Open for ages 5 - 12 years, cost is \$10 per child, per night; a kid's dinner is included in the price. The center is located at 2117 Los Padillas SW. For more information, call (505) 468-7600.

### 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)

## UPCOMING BERNCO COMMUNITY EVENTS AND MEETINGS

### South Valley MainStreet Listening Session

Saturday, April 11  
10 a.m. – Noon  
National Hispanic Cultural  
Center  
1701 Fourth St. SW  
Topic: *Creating a Sense of  
Place through Art*

### Day in Paradise

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

### South Valley Celebration

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

### Rio Grande Pool Re-Opening

Coming in early June

More info at  
[www.bernco.gov](http://www.bernco.gov)

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## Bernalillo County Water Conservation Ordinance Goes Into Effect April 1

The Bernalillo County Water Conservation Ordinance takes effect on April 1. This ordinance applies to residents, who live in the unincorporated areas of Bernalillo County, outside of the city limits. Water restrictions include no outside sprinkler watering between the hours of 11 a.m. – 7 p.m., the hottest part of the day. If you have a timer, make sure to set it to water before 11 a.m. or after 7 p.m., during the coolest parts of the day. Now is also the time to tune-up sprinkler systems, check for leaks and check sprinkler heads for overspray onto sidewalks or into the road and make adjustments accordingly.

For more information and water conservation tips, visit [www.bernco.gov/water](http://www.bernco.gov/water).



## Changes to the Homeowners Flood Insurance Affordability Act (HFIAA)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Program is in the process of implementing congressionally mandated reforms. The new law slows down some flood insurance rate increases and offers relief to some policyholders who experienced steep flood insurance premium increases in 2013 and early 2014.



**FEMA**

Flood insurance rates and other charges will be revised for new or existing policies beginning April 1.

For more information, please visit [www.bernco.gov/floodplain](http://www.bernco.gov/floodplain).

## Service Upgrades on the Way from Waste Management, Inc.



Waste Management, Inc. customers who are residents in the unincorporated areas of Bernalillo County may soon have changes to their trash and recycle collection days.

Waste Management, Inc. is adjusting their truck routes to address the growth that the Bernalillo County area has experienced over the last few years. These route changes will reduce the overlap of trucks driving through the community, reduce the carbon footprint, as well as the wear and tear on Bernalillo County roads.

All current customers that have a service change will receive a card with a calendar outlining their new service days. Recyclables will continue to be collected every other week based on a “green week” or “gold week” schedule. The map and schedule are also available online at [www.bernco.gov](http://www.bernco.gov).

To ensure that a pickup is not missed, residents are reminded to place the trash and recycle bins out by the curb by 7 a.m. on their designated collection day. For service questions, please call Waste Management, Inc. at (505) 892-1200. Also, please visit <http://RecycleOftenRecycleRight.com> for educational videos and resources.

## NEED Assistance or Resources?

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