Imagine this: A convenient place to get a latte and scone or burrito en route to work via Highway 14 as early as 6:30 a.m. A local specialty store where you can find everything for the charcuterie board that you’ve decided is a must for that night’s happy hour. A nursery offering trees and plants that will flourish in your East Mountains’ yard, and where you can also get food to go because you’re determined to finish your landscaping project by nightfall and have no time to make a meal.

Is it possible to have all of these things available in the same spot in the East Mountains? Of course, because now there’s the Lantern Ridge Farm Market + Nursery (LRFMN).

Located in what you may remember as the Old Pete’s Restaurant at 12540 Highway 14 North, Sandia Park, LRFMN is a market, a nursery, and an eatery, where repasts by Executive Chef Ryan are prepared to-go or enjoyed on the patio. The market boasts locally sourced produce and meats, and foods and spices of cuisines and cultures from around the United States and the world, such as Tennessee Hot Crackers, New Orleans Beignet Mix, and Polish sausage. Hundreds of items fill the shelves to brighten your pantry and your dinner party with epicurean treats. Step outside and walk across the dining patio to the nursery and discover trees, shrubs, flowering plants and vegetables selected specifically for the East Mountains. It’s a dream come true.

Time to dream, time to build

While the pandemic locked down the world, it didn’t stop dreams. Lantern Ridge Farm Market + Nursery is the dream of Seth Stockton, DMD conceived during 2020 and realized in 2021 when he partnered with his brother, Ethan Stockton, a physical therapist, to implement that vision. Taking a dream from concept to paper to construction is never an easy feat and doing so during a pandemic did not lessen the work or the risk.

When asked if it was a challenging endeavor, Ethan shared that he and his brother were “raised to finish things,” and that their upbringing and community support from individuals, businesses, and local government leaders such as Bernalillo County Commissioner Charlene E. Pyskoty, District 5, reinforced their dedication to the project. As Ethan will tell you, to sculpt 10,000 square feet into a vibrant market/eatery/nursery had its obstacles, and those obstacles do not necessarily reveal themselves immediately—often they pop up unannounced and uninvited. Understand though, that the presence of impediments did not deter Seth and Ethan, nor did it diminish their determination to bring this project to fruition. “Seth’s the dreamer and I’m the builder,” Ethan explains, “and together with our family, we made it happen.”
Greetings!

Fall is the best time of the year, when temperatures cool, the aroma of roasting chile fills the air, and the community gathers for fun and entertainment at the East Mountain Celebration. This year’s theme, “County Fair,” will feature local produce, agricultural products, and arts and crafts, in addition to live music, kids’ activities, a car show, and more.

Our East Mountain businesses offer the best in local flavor that comes from a deep appreciation of the land. We understand that things work best when we work together. For example, our small farms rely on local beekeepers to keep crops healthy, so farmers can deliver the best fruits, vegetables, eggs, milk, and meat to markets and restaurants. Our artists and crafters create beautiful, functional works of art from materials grown or found right here in the East Mountains.

Our businesses attract consumers from near and far. There is nothing like a day spent on the green side of the Sandias, followed by a delicious meal, a cold beverage, or maybe a stroll through an art studio, antique shop, or listening to some live music to round out the day.

On Sunday, September 25, from 12 noon to 5 pm, you can enjoy a sampling of the many delights that the East Mountains has to offer. The East Mountain Celebration is held at Los Vecinos Community Center, just off the I-40 exit at Cedar Crest. We attract more than 2,000 visitors throughout the day from Bernalillo County and beyond. Entrance is always free!

If you would like to secure a vendor space, please contact my office at District5@bernco.gov. Everyone is welcome to attend and enjoy an afternoon of family fun!

Sincerely,

Charlene Pyskoty
Bernalillo County Commissioner, District 5

Public Works Update for District 5

The Bernalillo County Public Works Department is hard at work improving roadways and increasing public safety in District 5. Currently, these efforts include:

- The design of the realignment of Tablazon Road and the intersection with NM-333;
- Construction of the second and final phase of Mountain Valley Road project for both surfacing and widening improvements on Mountain Valley Road between Berta Drive to Frost Road;
- Continued collaboration between the county and NMDOT for the design of their NM-14 Frost Road Roundabout to ensure all challenges are addressed in the design; and
- Design for Phase 2 of the Frost Trail is complete (from Candy Court to Vallecitos along Frost Road) with construction anticipated to start next summer.
MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

We move from the third quarter of 2022 with modest, steady signs of progress and growth. There is economic activity within the county and the state, and more on the horizon. Looking ahead, there is increased optimism for a stronger fourth quarter for tourism and hospitality along with retail sales. What is also true is that the work of this department—to fortify the local economy and bring job opportunities to our residents while offering prudent financial programs to businesses—continues without interruption.

Business, like any organism, strives to survive. It adapts to a changing environment and pushes forward to keep living, and in the case of business, also to succeed. In celebration of this thrive mindset, our Biz Moments video series returns. In its new format, the program will feature discussions with area business owners who share how they have adapted, adjusted, and in some cases even redefined, their presence in their marketplace. These are inspiring conversations about discovering opportunity and engaging ingenuity for the better in a changed world. The program will begin in the Fall—look for it on the county website and gov.tv.

Also underway in the unincorporated areas of the county are plans to repurpose developed land that may have become contaminated or is contaminated by its prior use. These sites, called brownfields, can be remediated and then approved for new development or expansion. Restoring brownfields revitalizes property and enables businesses to construct or retrofit buildings in existing industrial and agricultural hubs that more than likely already have the necessary infrastructure on site for their operations. This effort is funded by a $600,000 grant awarded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The work will be performed by various specialized contractors under government agency supervision. For more information or to complete a brownfield site assessment nomination form, please visit: https://www.bernco.gov/economic-development/brownfields-program/.

This department endeavors to generate and foster economic development to mutually benefit everyone—residents, businesses, and local government. We invite you to help us create such a collaborative as together we can build a stronger, broader foundation for the local economy. Please reach out to us—we are here to help.

Marcos A. Gonzales
Director of Economic Development

Thank You to Commissioner Charlene Pyskoty

Commissioner Charlene Pyskoty,

While December marks the end of your term as Commissioner, what continues is your positive mark on Bernalillo County. During these four years, you have collaborated with fellow Commissioners and this department to bring important projects forward; projects that enhance the quality of life for our residents now and into the future. Also, your proactive efforts for small business owners during the pandemic including small business relief programs helped many. We are most appreciative.

Your endeavors have addressed the big issues facing our community, such as affordable housing, broadband challenges in the East Mountains, rent relief programming to assist both tenant and property owner, and job opportunities and accessibility to those jobs. Some of your efforts are highlighted here. What this partial listing demonstrates in full is your understanding of the needs of our community, and your caring, unwavering commitment to bring positive change to the people of your district, Bernalillo County, and the state of New Mexico.

Thank you for your dedication.

We wish you continued success going forward.

Legislative Items (Sponsored or co-sponsored)

- Emergency Rental Assistance Program 2: In the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), under the Housing and Utility Assistance section, Bernalillo County was allocated $10,797,747 for the Emergency Rental Assistance 2 (ERA2) program comprised of $3,869,074.30 as the base allocation and $6,428,672.70 as the high need allocation.
- Sandia Vista & Plaza David Chavez PRB Ordinance: Sandia Vista Apartments, located at 901 Tramway Blvd NE, has 138 units comprised of 148 workforce-housing units. Plaza David Chavez Apartments, located at 2821 Mountain Rd NW, has 75 workforce-housing units. The bond approval will make up to $25.5 million available for construction of both projects.
- Supporting a Safe Opening of the Economy: This action memo was submitted so that the Board of County Commissioners, the governing body of the County of Bernalillo, may adopt an Administrative Resolution
- Supporting a Safe Opening of the Economy for the County of Bernalillo, thereby fostering a sustainable and economically resilient community during this period of Intermediate Recovery.
- Other projects and community events or initiatives:
  - Workforce Connections of Central New Mexico (WCCNM)
  - EXPO On-Site RENT Applications Event
  - Broadband Feasibility Study for the East Mountains
  - CONNECT NEW MEXICO
LRFMN: Organic in Theory and Practice

Lantern Ridge Farm Market + Nursery is designed to bring the best to a select destination. It is organic, ever growing and adapting to its customers’ needs, and reflecting the values and environment of the area. The name itself is part of the dream: to be the light that shines on the ridge. The owner’s goals are to provide healthy, high quality, locally sourced foods, implement sustainable practices (such as the rainwater tank near the nursery), discover and share unusual foods and spices from near and far, and always to have something for anyone who walks through the door.

Entering the market, the ambiance suggests a European village grocery or a Vermont country store with the influence of the East Mountains proud and present. According to the Stockton brothers, they want their community, their customers, and their guests to have an amazing experience every time they visit. Customer service is a priority. The goal is to share with their patrons the best of the area accented by national and international favorites in a warm, concise footprint in the East Mountains.

While featuring many flavors of multiple cultures, LRFMN is very much a hometown business. The Stocktons live in the East Mountains and they are active in the local community. Products are fairly priced, and no dinner entree exceeds $16.00. You can find trees from Corrales, pork from an East Mountain ranch, and produce from all around New Mexico along with items crafted by local artisans.

Right now, there’s a staff of 15 full and part-time employees at the complex, and it includes Ethan, general manager, and his mother, Lisa Stockton, who are there daily. Seth is active in the business too and his family farm provides some of the produce used in the eatery and sold in the market’s produce section.

Nothing is stagnant at LRFMN. Though the Grand Opening was just this May, plans for enhancement and expansion are in the design phases. Going forward, cultural events, an event space, a beer and wine license, and Christmas trees are just some of ideas now taking shape with a fun-filled fourth quarter in mind. LRFMN welcomes the opportunity to work with area artists, farmers, and ranchers to stock its shelves with quality products of New Mexico. So, if you have something to bring to market, do reach out to Ethan to explore what’s possible at LRMN. Come visit—there’s something for everyone.

The Lantern Ridge Market + Nursery: locally owned, locally sourced, locally supported.

https://www.lanternridgemarket.com/