



BERNALILLO COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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THE COMMUNICATOR

DECEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER



The year 2019 is quickly ending and the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) is eager to begin a new year. While we have undergone numerous administrative and procedural changes within the Sheriff's Department, we look forward to working with you, our community and visitors of our county to continue to provide you with the superior service you have come to expect.

This newsletter is intended for residents and visitors of the County of Bernalillo, the Sheriff's East Area Command, North Valley Area Command, and South Valley Area Command. The purpose of our newsletter is to keep an open line of communications between you, the citizens, and us, the deputies, who are sworn to protect you and your property.

Please feel free to forward this newsletter to any and all your neighbors who are interested news, crime fighting tips, and communication from the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office. If any person wishes to be placed on the internet e-mail distribution list please forward that request via e-mail to tgartenmayer@bernco.gov

NEWS FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD

NEWS FROM THE SOUTH AREA COMMAND

As the Holidays are upon us, thieves are out in full force looking to deprive you of your possessions and holiday gifts. Here are a few tips to make you less of a target and keep safe during the holiday season:

PICK POCKETS & IDENTITY THEFTS

- Bring only the cash and credit cards you need.
- Do not carry your social security card or passport
- Don't let others distract you in crowded areas when your personal belongings are at risk.
- Limit the use of your cell phone in public.

HOME BURGLARY PREVENTION

- If you are traveling ask a neighbor to watch your house.
- Put timers on different lights throughout the interior and exterior of your house.
- Have newspapers, mail, and deliveries picked up by someone you trust.

AUTO BREAK-INS

- Leave nothing visible in your car.
- Keep doors and trunks locked.
- Keep packages out of sight while shopping.
- Never leave electronics visible.

NEWS FROM THE EAST AREA COMMAND

We are happy to report that crime is down in the east area of Bernalillo County. Both property and violent crimes are trending downward. This is a good sign. In addition, staffing levels here at the East Area Command are up, and we are working hard to increase our visibility in our large patrol area.

You may have noticed an increased police presence on Interstate 40 and area highways over the past few weeks. In conjunction with our partners at the New Mexico State Police, we are in the midst of an aggressive/distracted driving enforcement plan, which will continue throughout the New Year. Driving a car is enough to do for

CREDIT CARDS

- Shop only at secure websites.
- Do not respond to emails asking for your personal or credit card information.
- Check your credit card bank statements regularly for fraudulent use.

PERSONAL SAFETY

- Park in well-lit and traveled areas.
- Avoid overloading yourself with packages.
- Always be aware of your surroundings.

one person, and no one can multitask safe enough to text and drive at the same time. Please put the phones away while you are driving, and make sure that you get to where you are going safely. We are on the lookout for those who choose to ignore this advice, and put everyone on the highway at risk.

If you have any questions or concerns about issues in the East Area Command, please feel free to contact Captain Joshua Kingsbury at 468-7420.

As always, if you need immediate response from patrol deputies, please call 798-7000 for non-emergencies, and 911 for emergencies.

WINTER IS COMING

Captain Joshua Kingsbury, East Area Commander, want to remind you that **Winter is coming...**

This is not just a tagline from Game of Thrones. It is a reality for those of us that live and work in the East Mountains. For those that have spent a good amount of time up here, you probably already have plans in place to deal with the coming snows, but for those that may be new, or are looking for some pointers on just how to deal with the possibility of inclement weather, here are some things to consider:

- The Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department works closely with other county departments, as well as the State of New Mexico's Department of Transportation to ensure that timely salting and cinderling of the major highways in the East Mountain Area is occurring. Our deputies are tasked with consistent assessments of the Interstates, highways and major thoroughfares of our area, to provide guidance as to which roadways are in need of attention.
- While the DOT constantly works on keeping the roadways clear of snow, we all know that it is not possible for them to be everywhere at once, and the weather can often overwhelm their capability to keep up with the sheer amount of snow that we can experience. Rest assured that we are all working to get the roads cleared, and will see to problem areas as soon as possible. If you identify a particularly dangerous section of the highway, please contact us at 798-7000 and let us know.
- Drivers should allow themselves extra time to get from place to place during periods of inclement weather. Please remember, 4-wheel drive vehicles provide great traction when driving through snow, but do very little on wet or icy roads. Please do not drive in excess of your vehicle's capabilities. It is far better to arrive at your destination a bit late, as opposed to being involved in a crash. And as always, wear your seat belt.
- Consider preparing an emergency bag for your vehicle in the case you get stuck for an extended period of time. Blankets, high carb snacks, water, flashlights and portable radios are some of the things you can put in there.
- Please understand that during times of inclement weather, our response times may increase. We too must account for driving on dangerous roads, and as such, our speed going from call to call will decrease. In addition, during times of snow, we are constantly responding to calls for service involving vehicle crashes of all sorts. The department prioritizes calls for service based on severity, so please understand that if you are involved in a minor crash, you may be waiting for an extended period of time for a response. If no injuries have occurred, and the damage is minimal as a result of the crash, it may be prudent to exchange information with the other driver and call for a police report at a later time. If you choose to do this, the information you should obtain would include the other driver's name, date of birth and driver license number, as well as the license plate information from the car, and the insurance carrier information and policy number from the other driver. This information would allow a deputy to complete a crash report later with little difficulty.

I hope that these tips will help you all effectively deal with the winter weather we all know is coming.



KEEPING YOU INFORMED

NEWS FROM THE **CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT**

HIGHLIGHT: BCSO's Ghost Unit & High Risk Victims Unit

The Ghost Unit is a highly specialized unit within the Criminal Investigations Division (CID) at the Sheriff's Department. The Ghost Unit specializes in investigations of child exploitation, Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC), Human Trafficking (HT), missing persons and abductions, and high-end technical investigations supporting the division. The Ghost Unit is comprised of three full time detectives and one full time administrative support staff. This unit responds to missing/endangered persons including Amber Alerts, Silver Alerts, Brittney Alerts and other active abduction calls. Additionally, the unit actively investigates child exploitation and human trafficking.

The "bread and butter" of the unit derives from missing persons investigations, as these are the highest reported incidents within the department. Upon investigating missing and exploited juveniles, the Ghost Unit created the High Risk Victim's Unit (HRV) in an effort to address this population of "at risk" juveniles. The primary mission of the HRV unit is outreach and the integration of a law enforcement approach to community social work to reduce victimization of this demographic.

The High Risk Victim's Unit seeks to identify high-risk victims and employ effective strategies in dealing with this population. The advancement of this unit has been to offer training in patrol response identifying HRV's and getting the Ghost unit integrated as quickly as possible in an effort to minimize instability within the youth's life and to offer available outside resources and outreach. Further, the mission of the unit has been the integration of streetwise social work with these youth by building and maintaining relationships with detectives as well as integrating the department's social workers for the youth and their support systems.

New Mexico ranks last in the nation for child welfare as reported in the Kids Count data sheet, as well as numerous other publications. The HRV Unit seeks to make contact with juveniles identified as at risk for further victimization and to stop the cycle of victimization within this person's life by employing community strategies for support. This effort to prevent further victimization supports the community as a whole by making the community safer and supportive of its members. The Ghost Unit is continually striving to be an effective law enforcement agency within the community.



KEEPING YOU INFORMED

NEWS FROM THE
**ADMINISTRATIVE
SUPPORT BUREAU**



The Administrative Support Bureau is please to share with you our Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office Mission Statement along with a little history on its function as a Constitutionally Elected Office.

BERNALILLO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT

The Primary Mission of the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department (BCSD) includes the protection of life and property; resolution of conflict; creating and maintaining a feeling of security in the community; pro-actively reducing the opportunities for the commission of crime; identification, apprehension and prosecution of offenders of the laws; and the preservation of peace. We accept as part of our mission the responsibility to provide for a quality of life in our community. Our Collective mission is to serve the public and our members with fairness, dignity, and respect.

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT BUREAU

- Judicial Operations
- Juvenile Court Security
- District Court Security
- Warrants Section
- Records Management
- Payroll
- Fleet
- Regional Training Academy
- Advanced Training Section
- Civil Process
- Metro Air Support

OPERATIONS BUREAU

- Field Service Division
- North Area Command
- South Area Command
- East Area Command
- SWAT
- K9
- ERT
- Crisis Intervention
- G.R.E.A.T.
- School Resource Officer
- Crossing Guards
- Traffic Unit
- DWI Unit

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

- Homicide
- Violent Crimes
- Special Victims Units
- GHOST
- CSI
- White Collar
- Auto Theft
- Narcotics
- SORT
- Task Force Officers

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY OF THE OFFICE OF SHERIFF

The Sheriff's Office has been established by the State Constitution. According to New Mexico State Statutes; the sheriff shall be conservator of the peace within his county; shall suppress assaults and batteries, and apprehend and commit to jail, all felons and traitors, and cause all offenders to keep the peace and to appear at the next term of the court and answer such charges as may be preferred against them.

The office of Bernalillo County was established in 1879 and led by Sheriff Perfecto Armijo. Today, Sheriff Manuel Gonzales III currently holds this important position to protect and serve the community of Bernalillo County.

The Constitution of the State of New Mexico Article XX Section 1.(Oath of Officer.), reads, "Every person elected or appointed to any office shall, before entering upon his duties take and subscribe to an oath or affirmation that he will support the constitution of the United States and the constitution and laws of this state, and that he will faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of his office to the best of his ability."

CRIME REDUCTION & SAFETY

HOLIDAY EDITION



During the Holiday season calls for service involving reports of theft, burglaries, domestic violence, and DWI usually increase. We would like to remind each of you to celebrate this season safely. If you are going to attend holiday parties, please designate a sober driver prior to drinking and or utilize the “safe ride” program to avoid the embarrassment of arrest and MOST importantly save a life.

TIPS TO AVOID BEING A VICTIM OF BURGLARIES

The best way to protect yourself, your family, your home and your valuables against a burglary is to take preventative measures. Here are a few tips that may help keep your property safe and secure.

Make sure you have deadbolt locks on all external doors. Sliding doors can be secured with a dowel in the inside track to jam the door.

Make sure all windows are secured with locks or pins.

DO NOT hide keys around the outside of your home. Keep an extra key with a trusted neighbor or friend in case you are ever locked out.

Outside lights make excellent deterrents for burglars.

Make sure shrubs and trees do not block windows or doors. These can be excellent hiding places for burglars.

Clean the cartilage of your home. Evidence such as foot-print can more easily be found if you are a victim of a burglary

Make sure valuables, such as TVs, stereos, computers, jewelry, etc., are not visible from the street. Do not entice the crooks.

Teach your children to refrain from speaking of the contents of your home with strangers.

Change your routine. Leave for work earlier, or come home for a lunch break if possible.

Get to know your neighbors. They can keep a vigilant eye for any suspicious activity in the neighborhood.

Make sure that packages being delivered arrive while you are home and can receive them or are delivered to a secure area on your property. You can also request that the Post Office hold packages so you can pick them up at the nearest station.

Be aware of scams during the holiday season. Many criminals will try to defraud you out of money with fake campaigns for help and donations.

IF TRAVELING:

Do not post your travel plans on social networks. Criminals use these sites to look for potential victims.

Leave shade, blinds, and curtains in normal positions to maintain the appearance that someone is home.

Invest in light timers, especially for outdoor lights.

Have someone pick up your mail

Notify the Sheriff's Department at 505-798-7000 to request your residence be placed on a welfare check. This is a list dispersed to all deputies each morning listing the houses that need extra patrols.

Remember to stop your mail, newspaper delivery and let your neighbors you trust know that you will be gone and exactly what cars should be at your house.

AFTER YOU OPEN YOUR GIFTS:

DO NOT place empty boxes, which contained high priced and easily “fenced” gifts in plain sight outside your home.

Remember to write down the serial numbers of any new electronics, computers, TV's, etc. that you receive. In the case that these items are stolen, deputies and detectives have a better chance of getting your items back to you if we have the serial number.

If possible take these boxes to the nearest recycling facility or the city refuse department yourself

Break down boxes to make it more difficult for potential thieves to know what new items are in your home. The boxes are like free window-shopping for thieves.

Wait until “trash day” prior to placing trash from received gifts at the curb.



WINTER PET SAFETY

As the temperatures drop, please bring all pets inside or provide them a warm place to get out of the elements. Doghouses should be heated and have straw in them. Blankets are not enough to keep a dog or cat warm outside when the temperature drops.



SUICIDE PREVENTION

The holidays can bring upon severe depression or anxiety for many people. If anyone you know states that they are planning on hurting themselves, talk of suicide or make a statement that worries you please do not hesitate to call 911. All deputies are trained in Crisis Intervention techniques and can quickly get people the help they desperately need.

WE NEED YOUR HELP FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The BCSO is currently involved with several non-profit organizations to provide food baskets and gifts to families and children in need during this upcoming holiday season. If you would like to donate money, clothes, children's gifts, or non-perishable food please contact Captain Chris Romero at 505-314-0010.

Any donation can be made at any of our three (3) sub-station. If you choose to make a monetary donation, checks can be made out to the Bernalillo County Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association, which is a 501 (3c) non-profit and donations are tax deductible. All donations are welcome and appreciated.



WE'D LOVE TO MEET YOU!

Want to show a deputy how much you care during the holidays? Simply walk up to them and shake their hand or tell them you appreciate them. This means more to us than we can ever fully express. Knowing the citizens we serve appreciate us brings joy to our days.

