

BERNALILLO COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
**NEWSLETTER**

**Vol. 5 Issue 2**  
February 2021



**THE  
COMMUNICATOR**

*Hello residents and visitors to Bernalillo County. Please enjoy our February 2021 issue of the "communicator."*

*We continue our effort to work with you, our community and visitors of our county to continue to provide you with the superior service you*

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 our web portal at <https://www.bernco.gov/bernalillo-county-sheriff/contact-us.aspx>



**Sheriff Manuel Gonzales III**

**NEWS FROM THE  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
SUPPORT  
DIVISION**

The in unit camera portion of the Body Worn camera project is nearing completion. Nearly all marked units from the Field Services Division had the equipment installed beginning in late December, with few exceptions, the installation on most vehicles designated to have the equipment is complete. The deputy training portion of the Body Worn camera system is also complete, again with few exceptions. Those deputies who still need the in car equipment, as well as the on body camera training, are scheduled to do so in the coming weeks.

# NEWS FROM THE EAST AREA COMMAND

The Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office is committed to establishing partnerships between citizens and the members of the Office in order to resolve issues throughout Bernalillo County. This partnership is the cornerstone of Community Policing. Without assistance from you, the job of the police becomes highly reactive with deputies going from call to call dealing only with the symptoms of problems and not with perhaps the root causes of the problems themselves. While this provides a short term resolution to incidents, it does little to provide long term solutions and puts our community on the paths to repetitive responses to all too familiar problems.

## **How does the Sheriff's Office get to these underlying causes of the issues affecting your neighborhoods?**

While area checks are a large part of what patrol deputies do over the course of their workday, we unfortunately do not have the resources available to assign deputies to neighborhood full time. Emergency calls for service prevent that. So we rely on information from residents to provide us with real time intelligence as to the goings on within individual areas. Citizens are our "force multiplier". When you get involved in the order maintenance of your neighborhood, it drastically increases the overall safety of your area.

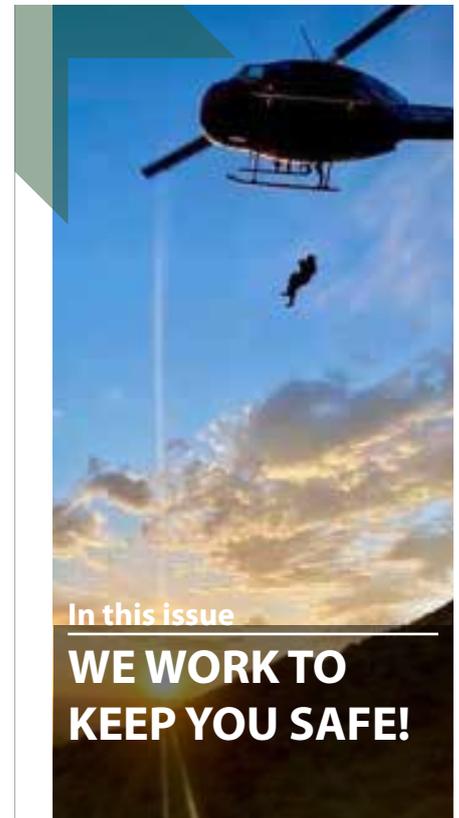
**There are several ways to get involved.** First, and perhaps easiest is to just be aware of what goes on around your neighborhood. This is not being nosy. This is being informed. Getting to know your neighbors, what cars they drive, who their kids are, when they usually work and are away from the house, perhaps when they plan on vacationing allows you to identify suspicious vehicles or persons when they come around. If you see something suspicious, make notes: vehicle descriptions, license plates, descriptions of persons and what they are wearing is all good information. Most importantly, call the Sheriff's Office to respond to the area. Give the call taker all the pertinent information so they can pass it on to the dispatched deputies. Do not approach these suspicious persons, but document from a distance, everything that you can. This is a big help to us in successfully resolving these calls.

Consider establishing a neighborhood watch program in your neighborhood. The County has resources that can assist you with the necessary startup procedure. Neighborhood watches are an excellent way to increase awareness in your area, and a great way to get to know your neighbors. Neighborhood watch signage in the area can also be a deterrent to criminals looking for an easy target. A benefit of watch programs is usually the establishment of a neighborhood emailing list in which information is shared among the residents of the area. This sharing is a powerful tool in increasing awareness of situations that just don't feel right.

Lastly, **the County has a Code Enforcement Team** made up of members of Zoning, Public Health, County Fire and the Sheriff's Office. The team is responsible for dealing with properties throughout the county that are causing concerns to residents for being substandard. If you have a property in your area you are concerned about, let us know. We can begin the process of investigating the issues on problem properties, and ensure that they are brought up to code.

For those of you that have questions about home security, deputies can assist with this as well. When available, you can have a deputy respond to your home and do a quick walk around, looking to see if basic home security needs are being met. Please call Captain Brandon Blackmon at 468-7420 to schedule this.

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## CONTACT INFO

BERNALILLO COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE HEADQUARTERS

400 Roma Ave NW  
Albuquerque, NM 87102  
(505) 468-7100

## COMMAND STAFF

**SHERIFF**  
Manuel Gonzales III

**UNDERSHERIFF** - Larry Koren  
**UNDERSHERIFF** - Sid Covington  
**CHIEF DEPUTY** - Brian Lindley  
**CHIEF DEPUTY** - Joshua Campos  
**CHIEF DEPUTY** - Justin Dunlap



# LIFESAVING 2020 AWARD



THIS CERTIFICATE IS PROUDLY PRESENTED TO

## **WORKING TO KEEP YOU SAFE**

Two (2) East Area Command patrol deputies and a K-9 Unit deputy are being awarded the Lifesaving Award, for an incident that occurred on Thanksgiving in the East Area Command. A male subject had injured himself and wandered off into the cold mountains area.

**Deputies Martin Lozano and Andrew Sadler, along with K9 Deputy Isaiah Bryce** and his Patrol Service dog "Chack" responded to this call for service and quickly went to work actively tracking the man's whereabouts. The male subject was located about a one-half mile away from his residence, in a wooded area, suffering from extreme cold weather exposure and self-inflicted injuries. Deputies were able to assist him out of the wooded area to his home where medical assistance was provided. BCSO is very proud of these deputies, their hard work, and dedication to keeping our residents safe!

## **EAST MOUNTAIN TAC-PLANS**

**East patrol deputies** have been conducting "Tac-plans" to deter mailbox/package theft. They have been consistently checking various mailbox clusters, and doing welfare checks on the residential roads that are less traveled and have less visibility, thus sometimes making them attractive to thieves. Deputies have done a great job making their presence known over the large East Mountain areas and neighborhoods. If you see any suspicious vehicles or persons in your neighborhood, or witness a theft, please get a description and call **505-798-7000**.

# **JOB WELL DONE!**



***“Your safety and that of your loved ones is the most important thing to us at the Bernalillo County Sheriff’s Office.”***



## **NEWS FROM THE SOUTH AREA COMMAND**

*The South Valley area has received valuable citizen and neighborhood tips about suspicious activity in the past few weeks. Most of these tips have proven to be factual and detectives have been able to secure search warrants for stolen cars, drug houses and other law violations. While tips are always appreciated, please make sure to keep your personal safety in mind when obtaining descriptions or license plates of would be criminals. Your safety and that of your loved ones is the most important thing to us at the Bernalillo County Sheriff’s Office.*

Deputies with our **Gang Recognition Intelligence Patrol (GRIP)** and Open Space Unit have been conducting high visibility patrols of the Pajarito Mesa area to curtail the illegal dumping and criminal activity that occurs in the vast mesa area. These proactive patrol operations in the South Valley Command area are focused on repeat offenders and Gang affiliated crime.

Deputies will be conducting highly concentrated traffic enforcement in numerous areas of the South Valley due to numerous citizen complaints on particular streets. These patrols will be at all hours of the day and night. Please remember to drive carefully, at the posted speed limit and with courtesy towards others.

## **NEWS FROM THE NORTH AREA COMMAND**



*During the month of January, deputies with in the North Area Command conducted several area specific directed patrols in attempt to curb criminal activity and show an increased presence of proactive law enforcement operations in the north valley. During the month, each patrol squad created a plan to carry out the directed patrols and were successful at completing operations in the following areas:*

- Tinnin Farms Neighborhood
- Dietz Farm Neighborhood
- Los Poblanos Estates Neighborhoo
- Rio Grande Blvd. corridor
- Paradise Hills Neighborhood
- North Albuquerque Acres Neighborhood
- Tramway Estates Neighborhood
- Tramway Estates Neighborhood
- Vineyard Estates Neighborhood
- Vista Del Norte Neighborhood
- Tierra Monte Neighborhood
- 2nd and 4th St. corridors between Paseo Del Norte and Montano Rd. NW.

*During the directed patrols, nearly 200 welfare checks were completed that included numerous arrests and several instances of suspicious activity.*

*The North Area Command is committed to proactively addressing criminal activity and encourages any tips and suggestions be emailed to the North Area Commander, Captain Chris Romero at [csromero@bernco.gov](mailto:csromero@bernco.gov).*



## NEWS FROM THE REGIONAL TRAINING ACADEMY

### **Unit Highlight: Advanced Training Unit**

The Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office Advanced Training Unit consists of 1 Sergeant and 5 Deputies. The Unit falls under the Regional Training Academy Section of the Administrative Services Division. The Deputies are assigned to two different areas which include 3 Deputies as our Advanced Training Instructors and 2 Deputies as our Range Masters.

The primary duty and function of this unit is to keep our entire Office certified as New Mexico Peace Officers and provide constant training to our Deputies; so they may provide the best service possible to the citizens of Bernalillo County. The standards to keep our Deputies certified as Peace Officers are outlined by the New Mexico Department of Public Safety through two sources which include New Mexico State Statute and New Mexico Administrative Code. Training cycles are broken into two year intervals known as

"biennium training" and include topics such as: crisis intervention/de-escalation, missing persons, Naloxone rescue, legal/law update, domestic violence, child safety, weapons efficiency/safety, and much more.

The Advanced Training Unit, not only organize and teach these courses, but they provide Office personnel with continuous training to better improve our Deputies' capabilities. There is refresher training conducted on use of force, emergency vehicle operations, defensive tactics, report writing, physical fitness/health, and many additional law enforcement topics. Members of this unit also author new course curriculum and provide training on career development as well.

Our newly promoted Sergeants are put through a two week course on leadership and supervision that prepares them as they take on the responsibility of supervising their units and squads.

Additionally, our new Detectives and Field Training Officers attend a week long course regarding their new assignment and give them every chance to succeed in their new position and new level of responsibility.

Lastly, the Advanced Training Unit works hand in hand with the Cadet Academy staff to teach and instruct our cadets over their 6-month journey of being transformed into a sworn and certified Deputy Sheriff. The advanced instructors play an integral role in the Cadet Academy as they not only teach course curriculum, but mentor our Cadets and help prepare them for their new career of service. Although we train our Cadets over a 6-month period before they hit the streets, a Deputy Sheriff's training never ends and will be provided and required of them over their entire 20-25-year career in public service. The Advanced Training Unit will be there every step of the way.





## NEWS FROM THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

### **UNIT HIGHLIGHT: SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION AND TRACKING UNIT(SORT)**

The purpose of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA) is to assist law enforcement agencies' efforts to protect their communities by: requiring sex offenders who are residents of New Mexico to register with the county sheriff of the county in which the sex offender resides; requiring sex offenders who are residents in other states, but who are employed in New Mexico or who attend school in New Mexico, to register with the county sheriff of the county in which the sex offender works or attends school; requiring the establishment of a central registry for sex offenders; and

providing public access to information regarding certain registered sex offenders.

The SORT unit consists of six detectives and one Sergeant who currently maintain SORNA compliance on 1301 registered sex offenders.

<b>Current case load:</b>	
<b>Detective KIRK BROWN:</b>	<b>137</b>
<b>Detective FELIPE HAYNES:</b>	<b>228</b>
<b>Detective GLEN METZGER:</b>	<b>233</b>
<b>Detective DANIEL ALTHERR:</b>	<b>238</b>
<b>Detective ANGELA SERAFIN:</b>	<b>278</b>
<b>Detective MIKE BYRD:</b>	<b>248</b>

### **Calendar year 2020 statistics**

<b>ADDRESS VERIFICATIONS:</b>	<b>2090</b>
<b>ANNUAL REGISTRATIONS:</b>	<b>1101</b>
<b>QUARTERLY REGISTRATIONS:</b>	<b>3235</b>
<b>SEMI-ANNUAL REGISTRATIONS:</b>	<b>105</b>



## NEWS FROM THE JUDICIAL OPERATIONS DIVISION

Albuquerque Police Department and Bernalillo County Sheriffs police/ accident reports may be picked up at our main law enforcement facility located at 400 Roma NW in downtown Albuquerque. Reports are available 10 business days after the incident. There is a small fee charged per page. Records division is open Monday- Friday from 8:30am-4:30pm (excluding County Holiday's and weather closures.) Please call 505-468-7140 to ensure a time slot is available due to current COVID protocols.

Police reports can be picked up in person. If you have questions in regards to this process please call our Records Division at 505-468-7140

# NEWS FROM THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Let us be honest. We are all guilty of this. We see it every day in the cars around us during our commutes. Changing music while driving, dealing with an unruly child in the back seat or far more commonly, sneaking a peak at our phone to catch the latest text or email, even just talking on the phone causes serious distraction issues. Distracted driving is not becoming a problem, it IS

a problem and we all contribute to it. Distracted driving is outpacing DWI as the most dangerous violation on the road today, and if we do not do something to slow this, it will only get worse.



## Distracted Driving

Let me try to communicate to you just why distracted driving is so dangerous. Driving is a multitasking activity. There are many small, individual tasks that we do while we drive; steering, accelerating, braking, signaling, watching same direction traffic, watching opposite direction traffic, watching cross traffic. There is a lot involved in driving. And if there is one thing that humans are not good at, it's multitasking. We are really good at focusing on one thing, not so much with many things. And what exactly is going on while we are driving? Let's pick a common speed limit here in town, say, 35 miles per hour and look at some numbers.

For each mile per hour you go, you are traveling about a foot and a half in distance. That doesn't sound too bad, but let's look at a vehicle going down 4th Street at 35 miles per hour. That is about 50 feet per SECOND. A quick two second glance at the phone has you traveling 100 feet, about 7 car lengths. Face it, that is a pretty short time period, and most looks at our phones are longer than that. A

lot can happen in 100 feet. Cars pulling out in front of us. Cars stopping in front of us. Pedestrians crossing streets. Kids riding bikes. And this distance does not account for you seeing and reacting to changing circumstances in front of you. Add in another second or two for that, and we are now talking about a 200-foot lane of potential disaster in front of us, all because we thought that whatever message coming through our phone was important enough for us to endanger not only ourselves, but EVERYONE else on the road. It is not worth it.

We have to learn not to use our mobile devices while driving. We have to teach our children not to use their phones while driving. The cost in damage and more importantly, injury and death is becoming greater with each passing year. It is not worth it.



## NEWS FROM THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE

*If you would like the "Communicator" to highlight a particular area or division of our Department please forward those requests to Administrative Assistant Terri Gartenmayer at [tgartenmayer@bernco.gov](mailto:tgartenmayer@bernco.gov)*

**WE ARE PROUD OF OUR DEPUTIES AND ONCE YOU KNOW MORE ABOUT THEM WE ARE SURE YOU WILL BE PROUD OF THEM TOO!**

We here at BCSO are committed to combatting distracted driving in Bernalillo County. We are participants of the Department of Transportation's DNTXT Campaign, and we actively look for drivers using their phones while driving. Using a phone without a hands free device is illegal, and offenders will be cited. Many drivers who are stopped for using their phones while driving often think that we should be out stopping "real crime". Our reply to that is Public Safety is our business, and helping to maintain safety on our streets and highways is a large part of this. Distracted driving causes more damage and injury than you can possibly imagine.

BCSO has a dedicated traffic enforcement unit. BCSO Motors/Traffic Investigations is committed to the enforcement of all traffic laws throughout the County of Bernalillo. If you see any traffic violation related issues, please feel free to contact the Sheriff's Office at 505-798-7000, and we can work together to put a plan in place to deal with it. As always, stay safe.

# CRIME REDUCTION & SAFETY TIPS

*As the youth of our community grow and develop February has been designated as a time to begin the conversation about healthy interpersonal relationships. Healthy relationships share certain characteristics that our youth should be taught to expect:*

**Mutual respect.** Respect means that each person values who the other is and understands the other person's boundaries.

**Trust.** Partners should place trust in each other and give each other the benefit of the doubt.

**Honesty.** Honesty builds trust and strengthens the relationship.

**Compromise.** In a dating relationship, each partner does not always get his or her way. Each should acknowledge different points of view and be willing to give and take.

**Individuality.** Neither partner should have to compromise who he/she is, and his/her identity should not be based on a partner's. Each should continue seeing his or her friends and doing the things, he/she loves. Each should be supportive of his/her partner wanting to pursue new hobbies or make new friends.

**Good communication.** Each partner should speak honestly and openly to avoid miscommunication. If one person needs to sort out his or her feelings first, the other partner should respect those wishes and wait until he or she is ready to talk.

**Anger control.** We all get angry, but how we express it can affect our relationships with others. Anger can be handled in healthy ways such as taking a deep breath, counting to ten, or talking it out.

**Fighting fair.** Everyone argues at some point, but those who are fair, stick to the subject, and avoid insults are more likely to come up with a possible solution. Partners should take a short break away from each other if the discussion gets too heated.

**Problem solving.** Dating partners can learn to solve problems and identify new solutions by breaking a problem into small parts or by talking through the situation.

**Understanding.** Each partner should take time to understand what the other might be feeling.

**Self-confidence.** When dating partners have confidence in themselves, it can help their relationships with others. It shows that they are calm and comfortable enough to allow others to express their opinions without forcing their own opinions on them.

**Being a role model.** By embodying what respect means, partners can inspire each other, friends, and family to also behave in a respectful way.

**Healthy sexual relationship.** Dating partners engage in a sexual relationship that both are comfortable with, and neither partner feels pressured or forced to engage in sexual activity that is outside his or her comfort zone or without consent.

**Unhealthy relationships are marked by certain characteristics our youth should be aware of in order to be able to identify them if they occur:**

**Control.** One dating partner makes all the decisions and tells the other what to do, what to wear, or who to spend time with. He or she is unreasonably jealous, and/or tries to isolate the other partner from his or her friends and family.

**Hostility.** One dating partner picks a fight with or antagonizes the other dating partner. This may lead to one dating partner changing his or her behavior in order to avoid upsetting the other.

**Dishonesty.** One dating partner lies to or keeps information from the other. One dating partner steals from the other.

**Disrespect.** One dating partner makes fun of the opinions and interests of the other partner or destroys something that belongs to the partner.

**Dependence.** One dating partner feels that he or she "cannot live without" the other. He or she may threaten to do something drastic if the relationship ends.

**Intimidation.** One dating partner tries to control aspects of the other's life by making the other partner fearful or timid. One dating partner may attempt to keep his or her partner from friends and family or threaten violence or a break-up.

**Physical violence.** One partner uses force to get his or her way (such as hitting, slapping, grabbing, or shoving).  
**Sexual violence.** One dating partner pressures or forces the other into sexual activity against his or her will or without consent

**Digital Abuse.** Using technology to bully, stalk, threaten or intimidate a partner using texting, social media, apps, tracking etc...

Teen dating violence is defined as the physical, sexual, psychological, or emotional aggression within a dating relationship, including stalking. It can occur in person or electronically and might occur between a current or former dating partner. Several different words are used to describe teen dating violence. Below are just a few:

- Relationship abuse
- Intimate partner violence
- Relationship violence
- Dating abuse
- Domestic abuse
- Domestic violence

Teen dating violence is widespread with serious long-term and short-term effects. Many teens do not report it because they are afraid to tell friends and family. Being able to tell the difference between healthy, unhealthy and abusive relationships can be more difficult than you would think. No two relationships are the same, so what's unhealthy in one relationship may be abusive in another. Although there are many signs to pay attention to in a relationship, look for these common warning signs of dating abuse:



TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

# LOVE SHOULDN'T HURT.

BREAK THE SILENCE. STOP THE VIOLENCE.

- Checking cell phones, emails or social networks without permission
- Extreme jealousy or insecurity
- Constant belittling or put-downs
- Explosive temper
- Isolation from family and friends
- Making false accusations
- Constant mood swings towards you
- Physically inflicting pain or hurt in any way
- Possessiveness
- Telling someone what they can and cannot do
- Repeatedly pressuring someone to have sex

As teens develop emotionally, they are heavily influenced by experiences in their relationships. Healthy relationship behaviors can have a positive effect on a teen's emotional development. Unhealthy, abusive, or violent relationships can have short- and long-term negative effects on a developing teen. Youth who experience dating violence are more likely to:

- Experience symptoms of depression and anxiety
- Engage in unhealthy behaviors, such as using tobacco, drugs, and alcohol
- Exhibit antisocial behaviors
- Think about suicide

Additionally, youth who are victims of dating violence in high school are at higher risk for victimization during college. Teens receive messages about how to behave in relationships from peers, adults, and the media. All too often these examples suggest that violence in a relationship is normal, but violence is never acceptable. Violence is related to certain risk factors. The risk of having unhealthy relationships increases for teens who:

- Believe that dating violence is acceptable
- Are depressed, anxious, or have other symptoms of trauma
- Display aggression towards peers or display other aggressive behaviors
- Use drugs or illegal substances
- Engage in early sexual activity and have multiple sexual partners
- Have a friend involved in teen dating violence
- Have conflicts with a partner
- Witness or experience violence in the home

Communicating with your partner, managing uncomfortable emotions like anger and jealousy, and treating others with respect are a few ways to keep relationships healthy and nonviolent. Dating violence can be prevented when teens, families, organizations, and communities work together to implement effective prevention strategies.

## ***Additional Resources***

Teen Dating Abuse Helpline: 1-866-331-9474  
National Sexual Assault Hotline: 1-800-656-4673  
Trevor Lifeline (for LGBTQ\* youth): 1-866-488-7386  
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255  
National Runaway Safeline: 1-800-786-2929  
National Domestic Violence Hotline - 1-800-799-7233  
National Hotline for Crime Victims: 1-855-484-2846  
National Street Harassment Hotline: 1-855-897-5910

<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/tdv-factsheet.pdf>  
<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/ipv-technicalpackages.pdf>  
<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/yv-technicalpackage.pdf>  
<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/sv-prevention-technical-package.pdf>  
<https://vetoviolence.cdc.gov/dating-matters>  
<https://www.breakthecycle.org/>

# NEWS FROM BERNALILLO COUNTY

## *BernCo @ Alvarado Square Expected Completion in April Building Open to Public in June*



### NEWS FROM BernCo

*"The pandemic has affected so many projects worldwide including Bernalillo County @ Alvarado Square," says County Commission Chair Charlene Pyskoty. "The new completion date gives the county additional time to make the building COVID-safe for constituents and visitors."*

*"From the beginning, the intention of Bernalillo County @ Alvarado Square was to create a customer-centered, one-stop-shop where constituents and visitors could meet with multiple county departments, all in one place," says Bernalillo County Manager Julie Morgas Baca. "Though the pandemic has caused some delays, the end product for our constituents and employees will be well worth the wait."*



Bernalillo County – The Bernalillo County @ Alvarado Square renovation project and the new commission chambers are expected to be completed this Spring, no later than April 9.

The main 8-story building was originally scheduled to be completed by the end of February 2021 and the new County Commission chambers by April 2021. The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic impacted manufacturing, labor and material, causing unavoidable delays in finishing the project.

- The county's new headquarters is expected to open in June and will offer an improved customer service experience for the members of the public doing business with Bernalillo County.
- The Bernalillo County Treasurer's Office will be located on the first floor.
- A customer service desk will be located near the entry and will provide services including live person

check-in, directions, and general information services.

- Computerized kiosk check-in.
- Arranged item pick-up services (forms, documents, etc.) to ease traffic within the building and provide customers a quick 'in & out' experience.
- A secondary customer service desk on the second floor to handle specialized needs.

Just over 800 employees are expected to move to Bernalillo County @ Alvarado Square, which will be just shy of 300,000 square feet with the new 12,000 - square foot commission chambers addition.

The total cost of the project is \$67.3 million, which includes \$55.5 million for HB Construction to renovate the main building and build new County Commission chambers – a meeting space that will also be accessible for general public use.