



**BERNALILLO COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

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THE COMMUNICATOR

JULY 2019 NEWSLETTER



Manuel Gonzalez III

Hello residents and visitors to Bernalillo County. Please enjoy our July 2019 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 have come to expect.

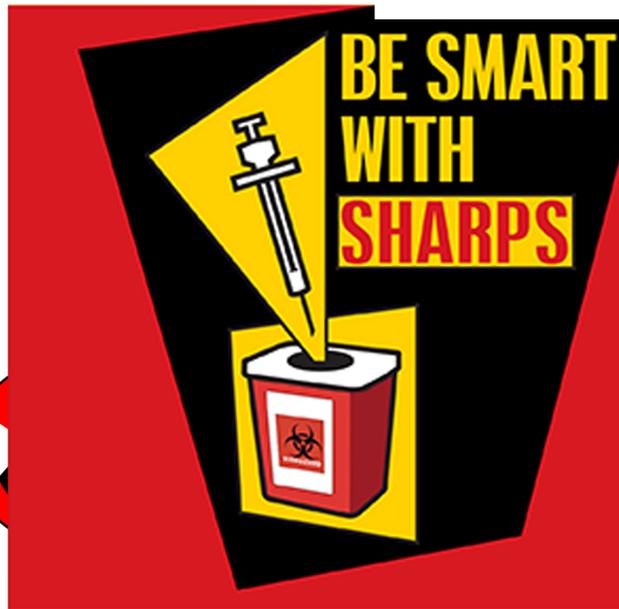
This newsletter is intended for residents and visitors of the County of Bernalillo, the Sheriff's East Area Command, North Valley Area Command, and South Valley Area Command. The purpose of our newsletter is to keep an open line of communications between you, the citizens, and us, the deputies, who are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

On June 27, 2019 the South Dayshift squad, in conjunction with BCFD conducted a needle pick up at the Atrisco Little League baseball park. School Support Deputy Sanchez received information about this ongoing issue and took the initiative to plan this event. The South Area Command is committed to being proactive about the safety of our community members and by partnering with both BCFD and the Bernalillo County Behavioral Health Services, we intend to continue identifying ways in which we can go beyond our normal duty to help the citizens of the South Valley.

The South Area Command would like to remind the community that there are needle dispensers installed at the Atrisco Little League fields to assist in the safety of our parks. If needles are encountered in any public place, please notify the Sheriff's or Fire Department so they can respond and properly dispose of the needles.



NEWS FROM THE NORTH AREA COMMAND

DITCHES AND ARROYOS

While on patrol throughout the North Valley Area Command our deputies have contacted a few children playing dangerously close to or actually in arroyos and ditches. We want to remind all our citizens that ditches can prove deadly and all persons should swim and play in safe areas.

Although arroyos and ditches can appear harmless, it's important to remember that a flash flood, New Mexico's number one natural disaster, can occur at any moment. Here's what you need to know about ditches and arroyos.

DITCHES

Are mud lined waterways that run north to south, parallel to the Rio Grande River.

Their purpose is to move irrigation water.

They are usually filled with water from March 1st to October 31st of every year.

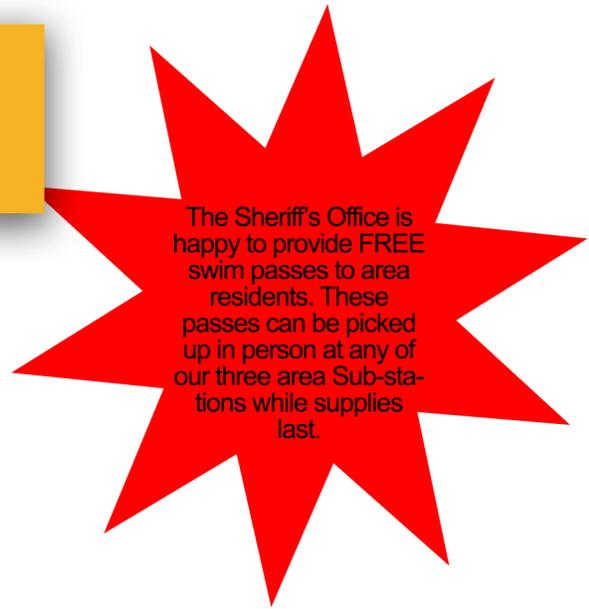
The water in ditches can move up to 20 miles an hour! Some ditches have undertows. If you're caught in one of these your chances of getting out of is very slim.

Many ditches contain debris such as glass and barbed wire. There are often dead animals in the ditches.

Bridges over the ditch can be slippery or possibly rusted.

The banks of ditches are very slippery—if someone falls in, they can't easily get out!

The age range of drowning victims is 2 years to 87 years old



ARROYOS

Arroyos are cement or dirt-lined waterways that run east to west or west to east.

Their purpose is to move flood water from the mountains or mesas to the Rio Grande River as quickly as possible 99% of the time they are dry, so it is tempting to walk, jog, skateboard, or rollerblade in them.

They fill with water when it rains. It may be sunny in Albuquerque, but raining in the mountains. Water comes down so fast that it's called "flash flooding." Within 10 seconds you could get caught in water going up to 40 miles per hour. It is nearly impossible to get out!



NEWS FROM THE EAST AREA COMMAND

The Sheriff's department is gearing up for its bi-annual shift bid to go into effect. Twice a year, in July and January, our deputies are allowed to bid for patrol assignments on the basis of seniority. Deputies choose which area command they wish to work in, and what days off they wish to have for the next 6 month period. While this means that there may be some new faces up here in the East Area Command, rest assured that the same high level of service will be provided with the continued emphasis on Community Policing that Sheriff Gonzales has committed to.

Public safety is everyone's business. We strive to be as proactive as possible to deter crime, but the East Area Command is a large area, and we cannot be everywhere all the time, so we at BCSO rely on you, the public, to let us know when you see something that just doesn't look right. You are our "field force multiplier" and together we can make a big difference in the fight against crime and improving our quality of life. If you currently have a neighborhood watch program, keep it up! We appreciate the help.

If you don't, give serious consideration to starting one up. We can help. If you would like information on setting up a neighborhood watch, please contact Captain Joshua Kingsbury at 468-7420, and he can help with the details on getting a program up and running. For those neighborhoods that currently have a program in place, and would like a deputy to attend one of your meetings, again, contact Captain Kingsbury and he can help to arrange it for you.

Neighborhood associations are also a good way for residents to band together to address quality of life issues, and we are here to help. If you would like Captain Kingsbury to attend your association meetings, please let him know. Also, our conference room at the East Area Command Center is available for use for your association meetings. We have audio/visual capabilities available for residents to use for their meetings. We can seat approximately 30-40 people, and are available on weekends as well. Please contact Teri Gartenmeyer at 468-7420 to request this room for use.

NEWS FROM THE **ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT BUREAU**

BERNALILLO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REGIONAL TRAINING ACADEMY GRADUATION

On June 28, 2019, the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office welcomed twenty-nine newly sworn deputies to our ranks. The fortieth cadet class included four Rio Rancho Police Department and two District Attorney's Office graduates. Family members and friends joined us in celebration, as these dedicated men and women took their Oath of Office to serve and protect our community. Due to the support of our community and the dedication of these deputies, our agency is one of the few agencies nationwide that is fully staffed.



“Our new generation of deputies reflect the diversity of our great county, as well as our commitment and values in making Bernalillo County safer for all residents.”

Manuel Gonzales III

- Sheriff Manuel Gonzales III

WE WILL BE FOREVER ON DUTY TO ENSURE YOU ARE SAFE AND CARED FOR.

NEWS FROM THE **CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION**

In June of 2019, the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department launched the new SAFE Child Unit in an effort to proactively address child welfare issues in Bernalillo County. The unit consists of a sergeant and four detectives. The unit is available seven days a week within the Field Service Division, during the hours of 12:00pm till 8:00pm.

WHAT DOES SAFE STAND FOR?

SAFE is an acronym for: S – Sexual Assault A – Abuse and Neglect F – Field E - Evaluator.

HOW DID THE CONCEPT START?

In Albuquerque in 2012, a nine (9) year old boy by the name of Omaree Varela, was killed by his mother in a case of chronic, on-going abuse. The mother, Cynthia Casaus, would later tell Detectives, "... (she) had just kicked him (Omaree) wrong," and this is what led to his death. The case received a great deal of media attention sparking action from the state's Children Youth and Families Department (CYFD) to immediately begin sending ALL CYFD referrals to local law enforcement agencies. This led to an influx of approximately 2000 CYFD referrals annually for the Sheriff's Department. What was previously an occasional tac-plan coined, "Operation Safe Child," quickly became a much larger event within the Criminal Investigation Division (CID). Operation Safe Child has now been replaced with the SAFE child unit.

WHAT CAN THE SAFE CHILD UNIT DO FOR US?

The SAFE Child Unit Detectives have received some training from inside the department; in May, 2019, Sergeants Amy Dudewicz and Theresa Sabaugh, along with members from CYFD, instructed a 32 hour advanced training block in crimes against children and persons to include: abuse and neglect, sexual assault, felony crime scene preservation and other basic investigative principles. All participants in this class are now available to answer calls involving children/families, sexual assaults and other felony level crimes.

The SAFE Child Unit Detectives are answering calls for service where they can add to the investigative process immediately by triaging any felony level crimes. They assist in communications with CYFD and investigating further into a family's history while on-scene to develop investigative sources of information. The SAFE Child Unit also assists with bringing our BCSO departmental Social Workers, Jaki West and Samantha Montoya, to the table in an effort to help families and increase child welfare within the County.



WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER...

Ultimately, the SAFE Child Unit belongs to us, Bernalillo County. The Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department has been dedicated to increasing safety and welfare for the residents of Bernalillo County. This unit is dedicated to increasing the safety and welfare of children in the state in hopes of ultimately eliminating child abuse and neglect. Child abuse is PREVENTABLE and, with your help, we will make our community safe for the children of New Mexico.

If you have questions about what the SAFE Child Unit can do, please do not hesitate to contact Captain Craig Sevier at 505-468-7100.



CRIME REDUCTION SAFETY TIPS



HOW TO PREVENT ROAD RAGE:

Be well rested when you drive. The more tired you are the more easily you will become irritated. Also the more exhausted you are the more likely you are to be distracted and less observant which will tend to cause driving errors that appear aggressive and possibly provoking road rage.

Listen to traffic reports on the radio to avoid congested areas. You can do this on side streets before you reach the highway where congestion is more likely.

Know alternative routes to your destination. This would include back roads that have less traffic. Even if they are a few miles longer it is usually worth it to avoid long delays in traffic.

Avoid a lot of noise and loud music. It is well know that lots of noise puts more stress on a person. Preferably listen to soft music or talk radio. And remind passengers to keep the noise down.

Try driving at cooler times of day. Heat, especially when it cannot be controlled makes people more irritable. It will also be easier on your engine to drive when it's cooler.

You can help in preventing road rage by giving yourself plenty of time to get to your destination. Knowing you may be running late automatically puts you into "speed mode" where you are more tempted to get around other drivers to get where you are going.

If you are running late call the person and tell them you will be late even if you must pull over to do so. Knowing that the person/s you are going to, expect you will be late takes a load of stress off you and you don't have to rush to meet their expectations.

Avoid driving if you are already emotionally upset or excited. Exercise patience while driving. Patience prevents a multitude of problems including car collisions. Mentally relax when unexpected delays happen. Just be glad you aren't alone. Everyone around you is delayed too. You will be preventing road rage in yourself by practicing patience. Signal early before braking.

Give plenty of room for the driver behind when changing lanes.

Keep at least 2 car lengths of space ahead and behind your vehicle.

Always signal when changing lanes.

Count two seconds before proceeding at a stop sign.

Don't step on your gas pedal to get through a yellow light.

