



BERNALILLO COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

www.bernalillocountysheriff.com

THE COMMUNICATOR

JANUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER



Hello residents and visitors to Bernalillo County. The Sheriff's Office would like to wish each and every one of you a happy and prosperous New Year. May your hopes, wishes, dreams and resolutions come to fruition during the New Year.

We have undergone numerous administrative and procedural changes within the Sheriff's Department this past year and 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@berncov.gov

NEWS FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD

NEWS FROM THE SOUTH AREA COMMAND



With the New Year beginning, many of you all are opting to take on a new healthy lifestyle and join the gym! Kudos to you. Please remember that thieves target cars where they are aware people will be inside a facility for a while. Remember to always lock your doors and keep valuables with you while at the local gyms.

During the cold months, please be sure to keep an eye on your fires in the fireplace and space heaters. If they are left unattended, it is very common for a household fire to start, which can be devastating.

NEWS FROM THE EAST AREA COMMAND

A few residents have called the Sheriff's Office inquiring about the difference between a winter storm warning, winter storm advisory, or winter storm watch. It is important to know the difference between these alerts so you may better plan and prepare for future changes in the weather.

The below information is courtesy of the National Weather Service and the American Red Cross:

WINTER STORMS

Winter storms can range from a moderate snow over a few hours to a blizzard with blinding, wind-driven snow that lasts for several days. Some winter storms are large enough to affect several states, while others affect only a single community. Many winter storms are accompanied by dangerously low temperatures and sometimes by strong winds, icing, sleet and freezing rain.

Regardless of the severity of a winter storm, you should be prepared in order to remain safe during these events

Winter driving conditions can be dangerous especially on roads that are not salted or plowed. Please remember to drive cautiously and courteously when the roads are bad. Give yourself ample time to arrive safely and plenty of room between yourself and other vehicles to brake.

If you are in need of assistance that is non-life threatening and your property is not at risk please call our non-emergency number at (505) 798-7000. Many citizens think that they are "bothering" BCSO by calling for minor issues, however, this is our job and we are happy to serve you the citizen no matter what the situation may be.

As always, if you need assistance in your neighborhood please email Captain Christopher Romero at csromero@bemco.gov.

KNOW THE DIFFERENCE

Winter Storm Outlook - Winter storm conditions are possible in the next 2 to 5 days.

Winter Weather Advisory - Winter weather conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences and may be hazardous. When caution is used, these situations should not be life threatening.

Winter Storm Watch - Winter storm conditions are possible within the next 36 to 48 hours. People in a watch area should review their winter storm plans and stay informed about weather conditions.

Winter Storm Warning - Life-threatening, severe winter conditions have begun or will begin within 24 hours. People in a warning area should take precautions immediately.

NEWS FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD

NEWS FROM THE NORTH AREA COMMAND

Captain Broderick Sharp offers the following advice:

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR PORCH PIRATES/ THIEVES

If a suspicious vehicle is observed following delivery trucks in your neighborhood, please contact the Sheriff's Department immediately with a description of the vehicle, license plate, and occupants.

Try to get physical descriptions such as gender, approximate height, weight, and what they are wearing so you can tell a deputy.

Check with your delivery company to make sure your package was actually delivered.

Know exactly what is in the missing box.

If you have a security camera on your home, get a copy of the video to the Sheriff's Department.

Ask your neighbors if their cameras captured the incident.

Many business offer deliver to a "safe location" such as CVS or Walgreens. Your package would be delivered there and you can pick it up. This is one option to ensure the security of your packages if you will not be home and present to receive them.

NEWS FROM THE STUDENT SUPPORT DEPUTY UNIT

Raising Highly Capable Kids, also known as Resilient Kidz was created to champion the needs of children and to equip parents to build thriving, healthy families through research, community initiatives and reliable content. The 13 week program was created to champion family success, and is based upon 40 developmental assets such as family support, parent involvement in schooling, service to others, adult role models, homework, integrity, honesty, peaceful conflict resolution and self-esteem to name just a few. Based upon studies the more of the 40 developmental assets a parent instills in a child the more "Resilient" and successful they will be in life.

Resilient Kidz focuses on deepening local community efforts. Families and communities thrive best when marriages are healthy and parents are fully engaged with their children.

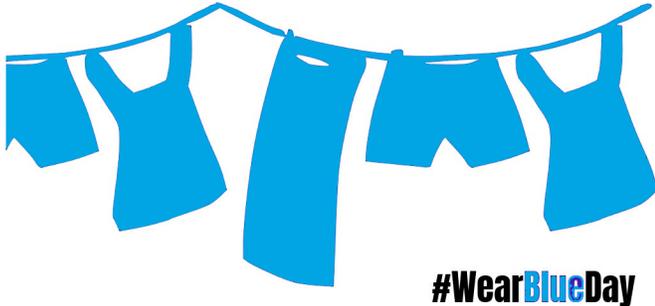


Equip Parents: Families and communities thrive best when parents are fully engaged with their children. Resilient Kidz is dedicated to bringing exceptional resources to communities for the purpose of equipping parents and families to support children through programs based on relevant research and sound practices.

Our third classes was just completed in the East and South Area Commands. We graduated 38 parents with 51 graduates since the inception of this program in the fall of 2018 and taught by BCSO Deputies.

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

NEWS FROM THE
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT



#WearBlueDay

January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month

JANUARY 15, 2020

Wear blue clothing, snap a photo, and post it to social media using #WearBlueDay to raise awareness of human trafficking.

NEWS FROM THE **WHITE COLLAR CRIMES UNIT**

The White Collar Crime Unit is a specialized unit within the Criminal Investigations Division at the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department. The unit is comprised of two full time detectives who specialize in investigations involving financial crime to include the following:

**CHECK FRAUD
CREDIT CARD FRAUD
FORGERY
IDENTITY THEFT**

In addition to investigating the above listed crimes, the White Collar Crime Unit has also received several inquiries of financial swindles that have been affecting the Bernalillo County Community.

There are many different scams that criminals are using against victims but recently we have seen a few types of scams that are reoccurring more frequently than others; these types of scams are primarily done over the telephone.

For example, the offender will call an unsuspecting victim claiming to be an employee of a financial institution, a law enforcement officer, or an agent of the IRS. During the telephone conversation, the offender will ask the victim for their personal identifying information and/or for some type of payment to be mailed. The suspect will often ask for credit card information or they will request the victim to make payment using the purchase of a gift card (commonly a Green Dot Card).

Here are some tips to help protect yourself and to avoid being victimized:

DO:

Register your phone number with the National Do Not Call Registry. You may register online or by calling 1-888-382-1222. If you still receive telemarketing calls after registering, there is a good chance that the calls are scams.

Be wary of callers claiming that you've won a prize or vacation package. If it is too good to be true, it probably is.

HANG UP ON SUSPICIOUS PHONE CALLS.

Be cautious of caller ID. Scammers can change the phone number that shows up on your caller ID screen. This is called "spoofing".

DON'T:

Don't give in to pressure to take immediate action. The scammers can be very persuasive and sometimes threatening.

Don't say anything if a caller starts the call asking, "Can you hear me?" This is a common tactic for scammers to record you saying "yes." Scammers record your "yes" response and use it as proof that you agreed to a purchase or credit card charge.

Don't provide your credit card number, bank account information, or other personal information to a caller.

Don't send money if a caller tells you to wire money or pay with a prepaid debit card or gift card.

Please be on the alert for any suspicious telephone calls that you receive that may be part of a scam and take the appropriate steps to protect yourself.

KEEPING YOU INFORMED



NEWS FROM
HEADQUARTERS

"I am very pleased to announce Sid Covington as our new Undersheriff, Car #3. Undersheriff Covington will join BCSO on January 1, 2020."



Undersheriff Sid Covington has 20 years of law enforcement experience his most recent, serving as the Chief Deputy for the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department (Retired 2017). Sid has 15 years of experience in many different aspects of training law enforcement officers and 2 years of teaching at the collegiate level. His specialized skills include police ethics, community policing, undercover investigations, criminal investigations, personnel development, stress inoculation and police training and education.

Recently as the lead instructor for the criminal justice program at Pensacola Christian College, he was tasked with curriculum development and course accreditation. He is Certified Law Enforcement Instructor Trainer for Interview and Interrogation, Defensive Tactics, Use of Force, Search and Seizure and more. Sid Covington is married to Flax, his wife of 23 years. They have three children, Erinn (21), Evan (18) and Ethan (16).

Congratulations Undersheriff Covington and welcome back!

Happy Holidays! Be safe!
Sheriff Manuel Gonzales III

Welcome
back!



NEWS FROM THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE



On behalf of the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to those of you who donated food, clothes, toys, and other items to our Annual Holiday food/toy box drive. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to deliver over 50 boxes of food and toys to 50 families in need during the Holiday Season. This small gesture had an overwhelming positive impact on the families we were able to help out. With your support this endeavor would not have been possible. Deputies and department personnel through their daily interactions with the community nominated all the families that were sponsored. We would like to thank all department personnel for their time and dedication to this cause, along with our community partners.

The Sheriff's Office holds a shift bid every January where our uniformed patrol deputies select area commands and shifts to work for the next 6 months. This shift bid is based on department seniority and our manpower is divided amongst the three area commands (North, South, East) based on crime analysis, population, calls for service, and safety concerns.

Please feel free to introduce yourself to these fine men and women when you see them out and about patrolling your community and neighborhoods.

The Sheriff's Office would like to recognize and congratulate the following Sheriff's Office employees who entered retirement in 2019.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication and service the citizens and visitors of Bernalillo County. You will be missed.

Goodbye, Friends!

Undersheriff Rudy Mora
Chief Deputy Ray D. Chavez
Captain Andrea Taylor
Captain Craig Sevier
Lieutenant Vance Lunsford
Lieutenant Van Eldredge
Sergeant Lawrence Tonna

Sergeant John Allen
Sergeant Harry Landis
Deputy Nathan Lucero
Deputy Melissa Metzger
Deputy Jason "Axl" Plum
Deputy Levi Swint

