



BERNALILLO COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

www.bernalilocountysheriff.com

THE COMMUNICATOR

MAY 2020 NEWSLETTER



Hello residents and visitors to Bernalillo County. Please enjoy our May 2020 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 NEIGHBORHOOD

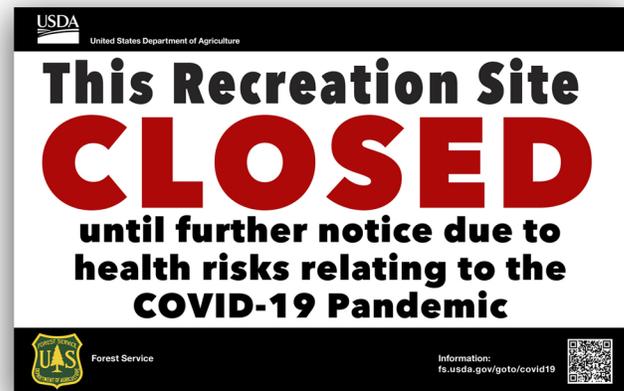
NEWS FROM THE EAST AREA COMMAND

We hope that all is well with your families and this finds you in good health. We understand that dealing with this COVID pandemic is difficult for all, and that there are not many ways in which to blow off steam. One of the ways people are trying to decompress is getting out of their homes and going for a drive. With the recent improvement in weather we have seen our annual increase in traffic up here in the East Mountains, particularly on Hwy 536. While this is nothing new to us, with Forest Service restrictions in place on some of the grounds on the Crest Road, it is beginning to cause some concern for all of us.

The USFS has closed several of their picnic grounds on Hwy 536 including Sulphur, Cienega and Capulin. These areas have been gated and are not accessible to the public. Anyone found on these properties will be instructed to leave and can be cited for trespassing.

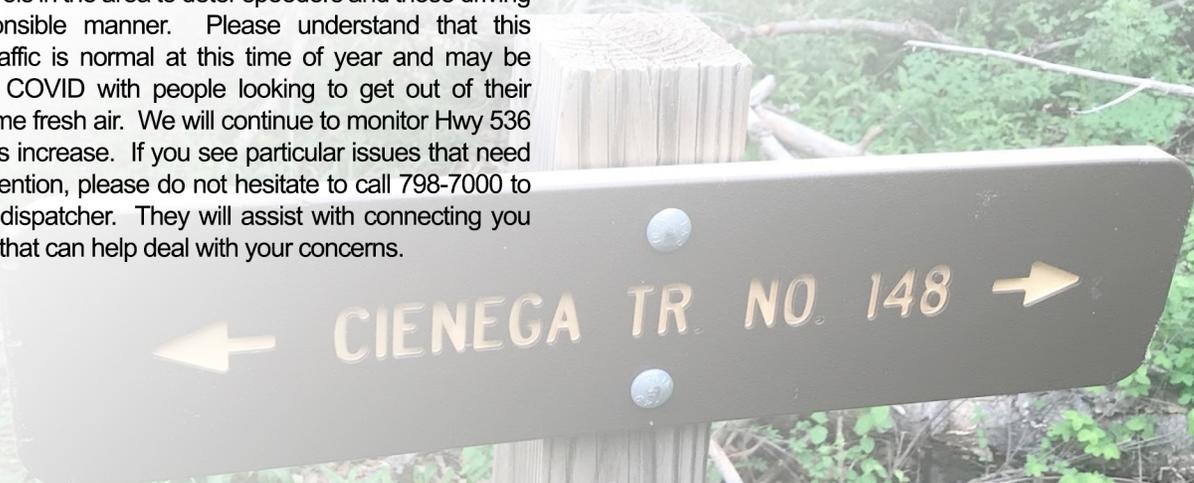
BCSO is keeping an eye out on these areas to assist USFS with making sure the public heeds their restrictions. All other areas remain open to the public and are available to use. Please keep in mind that restrooms are locked however, and trash service is extremely limited so plan on packing out what you bring in. No charcoal is allowed due to fire restrictions, but gas grills are currently authorized.

This time of year brings increased vehicular traffic to Hwy 536 as well. BCSO is aware of this as it happens every year, and has increased patrols in the area to deter speeders and those driving in an irresponsible manner. Please understand that this increase in traffic is normal at this time of year and may be increased by COVID with people looking to get out of their homes for some fresh air. We will continue to monitor Hwy 536 to address this increase. If you see particular issues that need immediate attention, please do not hesitate to call 798-7000 to speak with a dispatcher. They will assist with connecting you with a deputy that can help deal with your concerns.



BCSO is committed to maintaining professional law enforcement services throughout the COVID pandemic. We continue to be fully staffed here in the East Area Command. Deputies are outfitted with PPE and are required to wear masks when dealing with the public. Please do not be alarmed if you come into contact with our deputies in PPE, it is for the benefit of everyone's safety. Proactive patrol and area checks on residential neighborhoods and businesses continue to be a top priority for us. Reports that can be taken over the phone are done so to minimize the face to face contact between deputies and the public to slow the spread of COVID.

If you have any questions or concerns and would like to speak to us about them, you can contact Captain Joshua Kingsbury at the East Area Command Center at 468-7220 or via email me at jkingsbury@bermco.gov.



NEWS FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD

NEWS FROM THE SOUTH AREA COMMAND

The Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department has committed itself to adapting operations as we face the growing crisis caused by the global Covid-19 pandemic.

The governor's stay-at-home order has forced the closure of several businesses, schools, community centers, youth programs, and recreational activities in Bernalillo County. As a result, we have witnessed and have been made aware of a significant increase in citizens attending various open area spaces within our jurisdiction. Biking trails and walking paths along the Rio Grande River, in the Bosque, Mesa areas, and the East Mountains have become a frequent spot for people seeking to get outdoors, exercise, and find relief from self-quarantine.



Deputy Vigil & Sergeant Starr of the BCSO Bike Unit



BCSO Criminal Investigations Unit utilizing the latest technology to solve crimes in Bernalillo County.

The South Area Command has also experienced a homeless population that is frequenting these wooded areas in our jurisdiction, due to an influx of community shelters throughout the metro area. As we approach fire season, it is imperative that BCSO take a proactive approach in conjunction with BCFD to not only provide a law enforcement presence, but also ensure we take part in mitigating and/or preventing fire dangers caused by the increased population. The South Area Command and Community Enforcement Section will be increasing daily patrols over next several weeks to provide a law enforcement presence in these recreational and open space areas, as well as provide resources and education to the public.

NEWS FROM THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

Criminalistics Unit

The Crime Scene Investigations Unit continues to support criminal investigations from units within the Criminal Investigations Division and Field Services Division. Throughout the first quarter of 2020 and during the COVID-19 pandemic detectives have supported 76 callouts. Numerous evidentiary items have been sent for forensic processing to the State Crime Lab. Thoroughly processing crime scenes and preserving evidence for use in successful prosecutions is paramount in the modern era.

CSI detectives remain committed to mastering their chosen craft within the department by scheduling and attending advanced forensic courses. Some of these have been postponed due to current events.

In the future all detectives will be certified in shooting incident reconstruction and newer technology will be employed. The department is in the process of purchasing a FARO forensic laser scan station to document and reconstruct crime scenes.

Criminalistics remains dedicated to producing high quality investigations to meet the demands of the department as well as the expectations of the community members we serve.

UNIT SPOTLIGHT



TRAFFIC INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

Sheriff Manuel Gonzales III released more information about how BCSO's Traffic Investigations Unit solved the fatal hit and run that killed a bicyclist, Troy Nichols, and apprehended the suspect, Heather Woods.

"This was a unique crime scene and the work done by the traffic investigators was creative and outstanding," Sheriff Manuel Gonzales III. "Our thoughts and prayers remain with the family and friends of Mr. Nichols, we hope the apprehension of the suspect helps to begin the process of healing and closure."

04/10/20

On **04/10/20** at approximately 0400 hours, Traffic Investigation Units responded to a fatal hit and run crash involving a pedal cyclist near the address of 3716 Broadway Blvd. SE. Upon arrival, a blue pedal bicycle was observed on the west side of Broadway Blvd. SE facing southbound and a male subject lying south of the bicycle. The male cyclist, later identified as Troy Nichols, was pronounced dead. From roadway evidence and damage to the bicycle, it appeared the cyclist was traveling south on Broadway Blvd. SE and was struck by a vehicle from behind. Multiple plastic pieces belonging to the offending vehicle to include parts of a headlight were located in the debris field.

04/13/20

On **04/13/20** the plastic pieces were picked up and meticulously reconstructed in an attempt to locate a possible part number. A part #SAE HR AIPP 2 95 Vision DG10081A-L DOT was discovered on one of the plastic fragments of the headlight cover. A thorough internet search showed the part number matched that headlight of a Dodge Caravan or Chrysler Town and Country between the years of 1996-1999. A flyer, displaying information and images resembling the vehicle in question showing probable damage to the passenger side of the vehicle including damage to the windshield, was distributed through media sources.

04/15/20

On **04/15/20** a search warrant for the vehicle was served and the plastic pieces initially found at the crash scene were matched up to the vehicle. During a subsequent interview, Woods admitted to being the driver at the time of the crash but denied knowing that she had struck someone. Woods was charged with leaving the scene of a crash resulting in death and careless driving.

KEEPING YOU INFORMED



BCSO RECRUITERS

Deputy Anton Maltby
amaltby@bernco.gov
Phone: (505) 804-0004

Deputy Jennifer Garcia
jegarcia@bernco.gov
Phone: (505) 804-0000

NEWS FROM THE REGIONAL TRAINING ACADEMY

Our 41st Academy Cadet Class was sent home for three weeks during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic to help reduce the spread of the virus. During that time our Academy Staff wanted to ensure the cadets remained in excellent physical condition. Below is an example of the workouts they were expected to do while at home. If you're at home and struggling to find a good workout routine, give this one a try. If you want an additional challenge and are interested in a rewarding career in law enforcement, contact one of our recruiters today.

MONDAY: RUN

WARM UP

10-15 minutes of easy jog
Workout- 3x [1/2 mile prescribed pace with ¼ mile recovery then ¼ mile at pace, 1/8 mile recovery]

COOL DOWN

10-15 minutes of easy jog

MOBILITY CALISTHENICS (less than 30 minutes)

TUESDAY: STRENGTH TRAINING

WARMUP

4x25 Body Weight Squats
4x25 Body Weight Glute Bridges
4x30 Second Planks

KB Swings or Weighted Goblet Squat
100 reps as few sets as possible

CIRCUIT

Single Leg RDL's 3x10 each side
Lunges 3x10 each side
Reverse Planks 3x30 seconds

WEDNESDAY: RUN

WARM UP MINUTES

0 minutes of easy jog
2 miles at individual tempo pace; ¼ recovery jog,
1 mile tempo pace

COOL DOWN- 10 minutes of easy jog

CALISTHENICS (less than 30 minutes)

THURSDAY: STRENGTH TRAINING

WARMUP

4x25 Pushups
4x25 Bent over rows (use something weighted, i.e. fill a bag with some weight and then pull the bag, by the handles, to your chest)
4x25 Overhead Triceps extensions. (Use something semi weighted)

Pushups 100 reps as few sets as possible

CIRCUIT

3 Rounds
Plank Shoulder Taps 3x15 each side
Pull ups: As many reps as possible (use a tree branch, swing set, lie under a table, facing up, and pull and pull your chest to the table)
Lateral Raises 3x10 (find something with weight: a brick, gallon containers, anything)

FRIDAY: RUN

60 minute run. Don't worry about pace. If you have a HR monitor, keep the run in "zone 2" (70-75% max HR)

MOBILITY CALISTHENICS (less than 30 minutes)



**DON'T
QUARANTINE
YOUR CAREER!**

**START YOUR
JOURNEY
TODAY!**



CRIME REDUCTION SAFETY TIPS

With the warming weather many residents will begin to frequent the various mountain trails and open space areas within Bernalillo County. It is important to note that a large amount of wildlife live within the area, including Bear, Cougar, deer, snakes, insects, and skunks. All wild animals can be dangerous. Always maintain a safe and respectful distance from wildlife and look for signs of wildlife in your immediate area.

REDUCE THE RISK OF CLOSE ENCOUNTERS:

Let someone know where you are going and when you plan to return.

Keep children close to you and within your immediate sight at all times.

Make noise, talk, sing or clap your hands to let a bear/ cougar know of your presence. Don't rely on bells, usually they are too quiet. Shout often, especially when traveling upwind, near streams, or when you cannot see the path ahead and avoid thick brush.

Be alert and watch for animal sign such as tracks, droppings, diggings, rocks rolled over, scratch marks on trees and logs torn apart. Carry binoculars and scan ahead periodically. Don't hike alone or at night. Many animals are most active at dawn, dusk and night, but may be encountered any time. Groups of three or more people tend to make more noise and appear more formidable. This makes groups safer than solo hikers.

Stay on trails for your safety and to protect the habitat. Avoid carcasses and report dead animals to the nearest ranger station. It is very risky to approach a carcass; a bear/ cougar may be just out of sight, guarding its food.

Avoid odorous items and leave foods and beverages with strong odors, scented deodorants and lotions and other odorous items at home. Animals have an acute sense of smell that can detect odors from great distances. Dry foods are both lighter and less smelly.

Stay with your gear. Don't leave your packs, food or beverages unattended.



Pets may attract other animals; keep them on a short leash to avoid conflicts with wildlife.

View and photograph from a safe distance. If an animal approaches, back away to maintain a safe distance.

Use binoculars, spotting scopes or a telephoto lens when viewing and photographing an animal to avoid stressing the animal.

Bicyclists and Runners should carefully select the areas they are recreating in and be extra alert in cougar, bear and rattlesnake country. Speed and quietness increases risks of a sudden encounter.

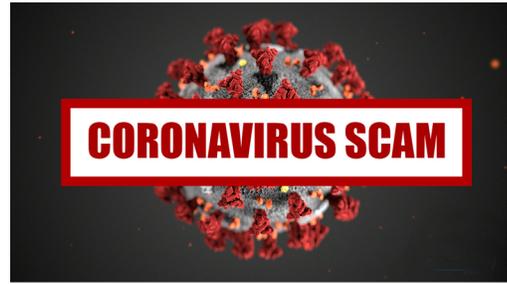
Hike at a pace everyone can maintain and stay together. Cougars and some bears behave in a predatory manner and will seek the easiest target. Don't hike ahead or allow someone to fall behind, especially children and pets.

Running may provoke a bear or cougar to chase you. You cannot outrun them. Bears can run up to 30 mph, up and downhill, while cougars are known for their powerful sprints and jumps.

Rattlesnakes are very seldom seen. They can sense our vibrations from our walking and look for a place to hide, which is often behind rocks, logs or in thick brush. They are usually not aggressive unless they are directly threatened, either deliberately or by accident. To prevent being bitten avoid stepping directly in front of or behind logs and rocks. Before sitting down or picking up supplies from the ground, look around the area carefully. Watch where you put your hands and feet. Most importantly, enjoy snakes at a distance without disturbing them.



CRIME REDUCTION SAFETY TIPS



COVID 19 CONSUMER SAFETY TIPS

The below safety information was provided by the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) and can be found in its entirety at <https://www.fcc.gov/covid-scams>

As the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic continues to impact the United States, phone scammers have seized the opportunity to prey on consumers. The FCC has received reports of scam and hoax text message campaigns and scam robocalls offering free home testing kits, promoting bogus cures, selling health insurance, and preying on virus-related fears.

A text message scam may falsely advertise a cure or an offer to be tested for coronavirus. Do not click on links in texts related to the virus, and check [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus) for the most current information.

Some text scams are impersonating government agencies. The FCC recently learned of a text scam claiming to be from the "FCC Financial Care Center" and offering \$30,000 in COVID-19 relief. There is no FCC program to provide relief funds to consumers. The text is likely a phishing attempt to get banking or other personal information from victims. The BBB is also warning of a text message scam impersonating the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services informs recipients that they must take a "mandatory online COVID-19 test" using the included link.

Text message hoaxes may claim that the government will order a mandatory national two-week quarantine, or instruct you to go out and stock up on supplies. The messages can appear to be from a "next door neighbor." The National Security Council tweeted that these are fake. FEMA is tracking rumors and reminds consumers to always check a trusted source.

Scammers are also using robocalls to target consumers during this national emergency. For example, the World Health Organization recently issued a warning about criminals seeking to take advantage of the pandemic to steal money or sensitive personal information from consumers. It urges people to be wary of phone calls and text messages that purport to be from the WHO, or charity organizations, asking for account information or for money.

The FCC has received reports of robocalls purporting to offer free virus test kits, in an effort to collect consumers' personal and health insurance information. One pernicious version of this scam is targeting higher risk individuals with diabetes, offering a free COVID-19 testing kit along with a free diabetic monitor. Other robocalls are marketing fake cures and asking for payment over the phone.

The Federal Trade Commission and the U.S. Food & Drug Administration have posted consumer warnings about fake websites and phishing emails used to promote bogus products.

Opportunists are also making robocalls to offer HVAC duct cleaning as a way to "protect" your home and family from the virus.

Fraudsters are also preying on financial fears tied to the pandemic. The FCC is aware of robocall scams with COVID-19 themed work-from-home opportunities, student loan repayment plans, and debt consolidation offers. Consumers aren't the only target. Small businesses are also getting scam calls about virus-related funding or loans and online listing verification.

Many consumers will receive checks as part of the federal government response to the coronavirus. No one will call or text you to verify your personal information or bank account details in order to "release" the funds. The Treasury Department expects most people to receive their payments via direct-deposit information that the department has on file from prior tax filings.

If you think you've been a victim of a coronavirus scam, contact law enforcement immediately.

The FCC offers the following tips to help you protect yourself from scams, including coronavirus scams:

DO NOT respond to calls or texts from unknown numbers, or any others that appear suspicious.

NEVER share your personal or financial information via email, text messages, or over the phone.

BE CAUTIOUS if you're being pressured to share any information or make a payment immediately.

SCAMMERS often spoof phone numbers to trick you into answering or responding. Remember that government agencies will never call you to ask for personal information or money.

DO NOT click any links in a text message. If a friend sends you a text with a suspicious link that seems out of character, call them to make sure they weren't hacked.

ALWAYS check on a charity (for example, by calling or looking at its actual website) before donating. (Learn more about charity scams.)

For more information about scam calls and texts, visit the FCC Consumer Help Center and the FCC Scam Glossary. You can also file a complaint about such scams at [fcc.gov/complaints](https://www.fcc.gov/complaints).

NEWS FROM THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE

BCSO Secures Over \$200K in COVID-19 Community Outreach Grant for BCSO

The Sheriff's Office announced we secured \$208,000 in COVID-19 Community Outreach Grant funds from the federal government for BCSO. These funds are critical to BCSO's law enforcement operations given the record number of unemployment claims filed, tens of thousands of New Mexicans out of work, children out of school, the Governor's directive to close all non-essential businesses and for citizens to stay at home, the sharp decline in economic activity, and corresponding decline in Bernalillo County's revenue.

In addition, per the Agreement for Incident Command and Coordinated Response to COVID-19, Bernalillo County is incurring significant up-front costs for emergency response to meet the health and safety needs of our community during this crisis. These costs were not previously budgeted, and resources must be made immediately available from the current Fiscal Year 2020 Budget. The long-term economic and financial impacts to the Fiscal Year 2021 budget must also be considered.

"As the chief law enforcement agency for New Mexico's largest county, it's critical that BCSO has the funds to continue to protect our children, families, and businesses during this pandemic," said Sheriff Manuel Gonzales III. "BCSO continues to be prepared to address the needs of our community during this ever-changing pandemic, and we are also prepared for the long-term budget impacts of COVID-19."

Several weeks ago, at the direction of Sheriff Manuel Gonzales III, the department applied for grants related to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Sheriff's Department was awarded \$208,000 to alleviate some of costs associated with the community outreach program. This grant was made available to those departments who deployed an active community assistance program to mitigate the impact on the families of our community.

"As the chief law enforcement agency for New Mexico's largest county, it's critical that BCSO has the funds to continue to protect our children, families, and businesses during this pandemic," - Sheriff Manuel Gonzales III

Winter has gone and the weather is warming up. During the summer months, calls to 911 usually increase. Rest assured that we will continue to respond to calls for service in a timely manner with the same professionalism you have come to expect and deserve.

With the warm weather, children began to spend more time enjoying the outdoors. Please rehearse with your children the need to know their personal information if they come into contact with law enforcement. For example, if a child is found hurt at a neighborhood park, deputies will need this information to locate a parent or guardian and ensure the child is reunited



Numerous studies have proven that when residents take pride in their neighborhood criminal acts diminish exponentially. With that said, take some steps to beautify your neighborhoods. Cleaning of front yards is the best place to start. Introduce yourselves to neighbors and turn the porch light on. Spend more time outdoors. These steps can be accomplished cost free and contribute to the overall health of a neighborhood.

NEWS FROM THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office is a full-service law enforcement agency, responsible for the policing of unincorporated Bernalillo County. We are currently staffed with just over 300 sworn law enforcement professionals, dedicated to improving the quality of life for all citizens of the county. The Sheriff's Department is comprised of four divisions, each offering a different service component of law enforcement.

FIELD SERVICES DIVISION

The Field Services Division (FSD) is the largest of the three divisions within BCSO. The FSD provides the type of service most typically associated with uniformed service. Deputies assigned to FSD work in various assignments including patrol, DWI Unit, Traffic Investigations Unit (Motorcycles), K-9 and School Resource Officers.

BCSO is comprised of three area commands: North Valley (NACC), South Valley (SVCC) and the East Mountains (EACC). A Captain oversees each of these areas. All three area commands provide 24-hour service to the community with squads of deputies, reporting to a Sergeant and Lieutenant on each shift.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

Criminal Investigations (CID) is responsible for the follow up in investigations to a wide variety of crimes. It is in this division where detectives work to provide dedicated focus to solving crimes that have already occurred. Some of the different units within CID include Homicide, Violent Crimes, Special Victims Unit, White Collar, Auto Theft and Property Crimes. Detectives working in CID report to their chain of command on the progress they make on their cases.

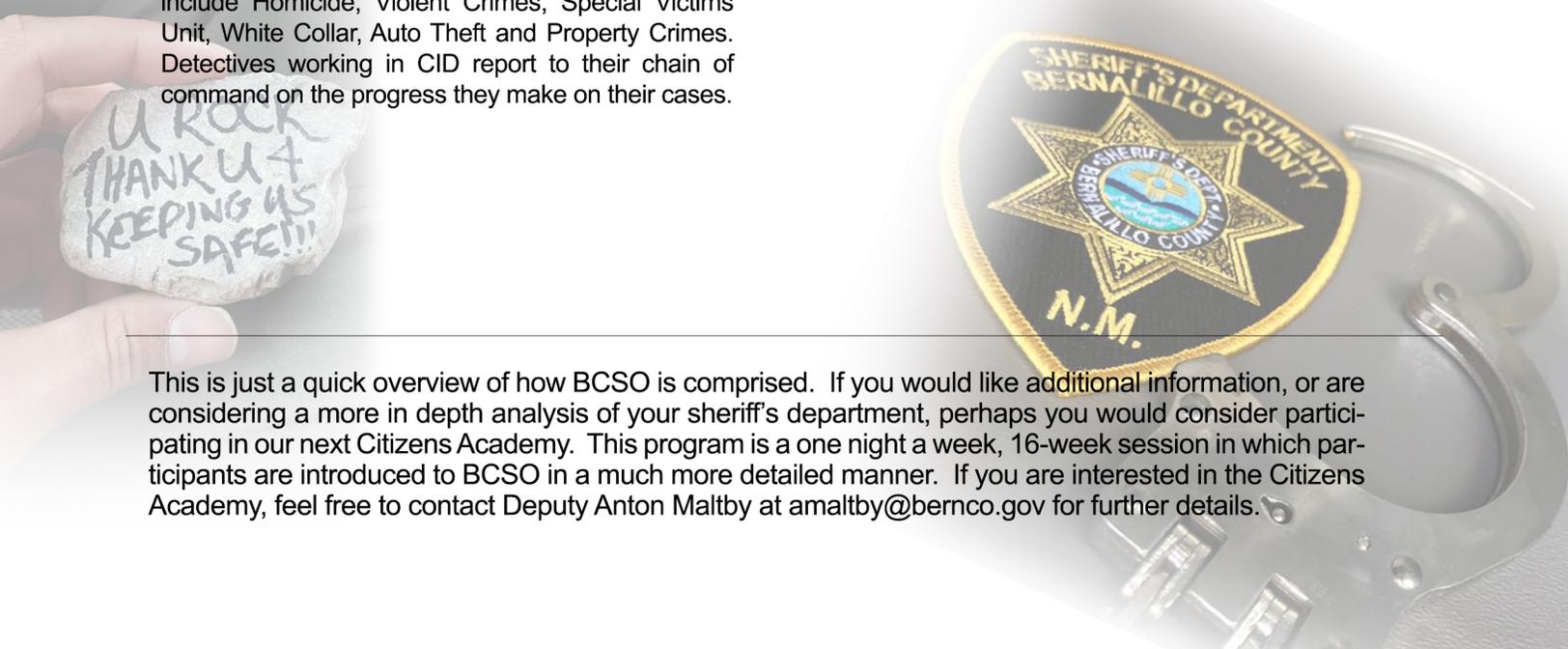
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

While being the smallest division by sworn workers, it is comprised of the majority of our civilian staff. The responsibility of the Administrative Services Division is quite widespread.

Judicial Operations falls under the ASD, and they are responsible for the security of the District and Juvenile courthouses, and are responsible for the service of legal paperwork in regards to civil actions, subpoenas, writs of replevin, execution of evictions, and extradition of prisoners from other jurisdictions.

In addition, the ASD operates and manages the BCSO Basic Police academy, advanced in-service training, Citizen Police academy, and firearms training divisions.

ASD is responsible for our new record management system and Warrants section, allowing BCSO to provide police report services to the public, confirmation of felony and misdemeanor warrants, verification of Orders of Protection, and entering/ clearing of stolen property from the police crime database.



This is just a quick overview of how BCSO is comprised. If you would like additional information, or are considering a more in depth analysis of your sheriff's department, perhaps you would consider participating in our next Citizens Academy. This program is a one night a week, 16-week session in which participants are introduced to BCSO in a much more detailed manner. If you are interested in the Citizens Academy, feel free to contact Deputy Anton Maltby at amaltby@bernco.gov for further details.

WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

BERNCO COMMISSION APPROVES CARES GRANT County Distribution is \$31.8 Million

Bernalillo County – Bernalillo County commissioners approved and accepted the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) grant from the federal government.

CARES payments to states, local, and tribal governments are designed to offset the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Government entities that accept the CARES grant agree that the money will be used for directly related coronavirus expenses as follows:

1. Necessary expenses due to a public health emergency
2. Expenses that were not allocated for in the most recently approved budget – fiscal year 2021 budget approved by the County Commission on March 27
3. Expenses that are incurred during the period from March 1 – Dec. 30, 2020

As required to receive reimbursement from the federal government, the Bernalillo County Finance Division has been tracking all expenses including equipment and supplies, employee work hours dedicated to COVID 19, and all other expenses related to the coronavirus.

“This is the opportunity for the county to recoup monies that have been spent managing the coronavirus outbreak in the county and keeping our residents safe,” says County Manager Julie Morgas Baca. “We have been working very closely with the City of Albuquerque and the State of New Mexico and this money will go a long way in offsetting the high cost of fighting this pandemic. I am very grateful to the New Mexico federal delegation for their guidance in this process.”

States, counties and cities with a population above 500,000 qualify for the grant. The amount distributed is based on the population within the jurisdiction of the government. Bernalillo County has more than 500,000 residents, but a majority fall within the city limits. Of the almost \$200 million allocated in Bernalillo County, roughly \$32 million went to the county with the rest going to the City of Albuquerque.

The item was approved on a 5 to 0 vote

