



BERNALILLO COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

www.bernalillocountysheriff.com

THE COMMUNICATOR

OCTOBER 2020 NEWSLETTER



Hello fellow residents of Bernalillo County. Autumn is in the air and the weather is finally starting to cool down.

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

NEW COMMAND

Changes are happening here in the Field Services Division. Effective Monday, September 28th Area Commanders will be moving to new assignments. Captain Chris Romero will be moving from the South Area Command to the North Area, and Captain Joshua Kingsbury will be moving from the East Area to the South.

The Sheriff is in the process of selecting a new captain from a highly qualified list of Lieutenants, and that selection will ultimately be assigned to the East Area. Rest assured, you will all be in good hands when this selection is made. There will be no interruption in the services provided by the department during this period.

The BCSO Traffic Unit and DWI Unit are also in the process of moving. With an expected date of October, those units will consolidate in the new Regional Traffic Management Center at the old National Guard Armory at Wyoming and Lomas. This accomplishes several objectives. First, it consolidates our units in one facility, making management over them easier for their chain of command. Second, the proximity to the interstate allows for

quick response to all areas of the county for which they are responsible for emergency calls for service. Lastly, it gives BCSO access to the most state of the art traffic monitoring facility in the state. In a partnership with the NM Department of Transportation, we will have access to 24/7 footage to area traffic cameras for not only keeping an eye on traffic problems, but to possibly assist in the investigation of serious traffic crashes. In addition, this facility will play a key role in the traffic management of large events, in particular, State Fair and the Balloon Fiesta. We are looking forward to the benefits this offers the community.

With APS having decided to keep school online through the end of the calendar year, our Student Support Deputies have been reassigned to supplement our Field Services Division. In addition, we are in the process of completing a Field Training program in which 20 new deputies will be released to solo performance. This is a welcome reinforcement, and will only increase our abilities to serve the public.

GUN SAFETY & RESPECT FOR PROPERTY URGED IN EAST MOUNTAINS

Illegal shooting reported near homes

Bernalillo County – Residents of the East Mountain area of Bernalillo County are reporting an increase in illegal shooting, according to Bernalillo County District 5 Commissioner Charlene Pyskoty.

In response, Commissioner Pyskoty is urging those who want to discharge firearms in the county to be careful and respectful around residents' property and livestock.

“Whether the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic public health order has you looking for something to do or you are hunting, I’m urging everyone to practice safety in the East Mountain community and throughout the county,” says Commissioner Charlene Pyskoty. “These are people’s homes, pets, livestock, and children that can be victims of a stray bullet. Please preserve the peace and quiet that we enjoy in our rural areas by discharging your firearms only at approved shooting ranges.”



KNOW THE RULES - KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Bernalillo County has a specific ordinance that deals with the discharge of firearms:

Sec. 54-31. - Discharge of firearms prohibited; exceptions; penalty for violation of section.

(a) It is unlawful for any person to discharge any firearm in the county. This section does not prohibit discharge of a firearm by:

- (1) Peace officers engaged in the performance of their official duties.
- (2) Members of the armed forces of the United States or the National Guard when such members are engaged in the performance of their official duties.
- (3) Persons exercising their rights of defense of self, property or others.
- (4) A person in attendance at an authorized hunter's safety course or an authorized handgun safety course.
- (5) A person engaging in the use of a firearm for target shooting at an established range authorized by the governing body.
- (6) A person engaging in an organized competition authorized by the local governing body.
- (7) A person pursuing legal hunting or trapping activities.
- (8) A person engaged in the humane euthanasia of his/her livestock.

(b) Upon conviction of a violation of this section, the weapon or firearm shall be forfeited to the Sheriff's Department by order of the court.

In the past 30-days, 35 reports of illegal firearm discharge have been reported to the Sheriff's Office east area command. Any illegal firearms discharge or questions regarding firearms laws should be directed to the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office at 505-798-7000.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact the East Area Command Center at 468-7420. Our non-emergency number is 798-7000 and as always, in an emergency call 911.

NEWS FROM THE **SOUTH AREA COMMAND**

During the month of September, Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office South Area Command Deputies responded to reports of a citizen who was unconscious and not breathing due to a suspected overdose. Deputies arrived on scene and noticed that the patient was lying down and unresponsive to family members. Two deputies began life saving measure via CPR and an additional deputy arrived shortly after to administer a dose of naloxone nasal spray to the patient.

Naloxone is a nasal spray medicine that is used for the treatment of known or suspected opioid overdose emergencies when signs of breathing problems or responsiveness are present. BCSO has been issuing naloxone to our deputies for the past several years and have numerous instances where a life was saved by having the necessary tools at their disposal. We encourage all of our community members to call 911 immediately if they suspect someone in their home or office is suffering from a possible opioid overdose.

In addition, we would like the public to know that there are several resources throughout Bernalillo County to seek help if you or a loved one is suffering from opioid or any other addiction.

BCSO has been participating in the LEADS Program, which can be found along with other services on the Bernalillo County Behavioral Health Services website listed below:

<https://www.bermco.gov/Department-Behavioral-Health-Services/>

https://www.bermco.gov/uploads/PressRelease/74e7e6e5732849bd86db1e4183c68a63/3_1_20_LEAD.pdf

NEWS FROM THE **NORTH AREA COMMAND**

PET SAFETY

Please remember that your pets get cold too. Outdoor dogs can easily freeze to death during a cold night. Please bring your pets inside on cold nights or provide them with an adequate doghouse with straw bedding, which helps maintain warmth from their body heat. As an added reminder, **IT IS ILLEGAL** to chain any dog, cat, goat, etc. in Bernalillo County. They must be free roaming on the property or inside a large kennel run.

DON'T BE A TARGET!

As the weather gets colder and you are tempted to warm up your vehicles prior to driving please remember that car thieves may be watching and by doing so, you are making yourself an easy target. If you need to warm up your vehicle prior to driving away, please stay with your car. Do not make yourself an easy victim for would be car thieves.

NEWS FROM THE **CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT**

Violent Crimes/Homicide Unit

The violent crimes/Homicide Unit has been very busy over the last several months. Detectives have worked tirelessly to solve crimes. Their personal sacrifices often go un-noticed while they work to make our community a safer place. They often have to spend time away from family and friends. No weekend BBQ's, no camping trips, no sleeping in on the weekends. They do this gladly knowing that they are making a difference. The homicide unit is currently working 3 unsolved homicides, two of which happened just a few days before this article. While these may be unsolved at this moment, we are hopeful they will not remain that way for long.

We will work tirelessly to seek the closure and justice for the families of these victims.

A case in point was the recent investigation into the death of Zinnia Sillivent. A family member of Zinnia wrote a heartfelt letter to Sheriff Gonzales after Detectives worked for months to solve her homicide. These messages are more than enough to make the sleepless nights and missed social events worth it.



EXECUTIVE ORDER

FROM THE OFFICE OF MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

District Court
400 Lomas Boulevard NE
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Juvenile Justice Center
5200 2nd Street NW

NEWS FROM THE **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION**

The Courts and COVID-19

The Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office provides safety and security to the 2nd Judicial District Court and the Juvenile Justice Center.

District Court is home to 24 Judges that hear matters on Felony criminal cases, Tort Claims, Contract, Real Property Rights and Estates, and Civil matters.

The District Court also provides help with family matters such as divorce, child custody and restraining orders. Paperwork and instructions on how to file may be found online at

[www.https://seconddistrictcourt.nmcourts.gov/specialty-court-self-help-dispute-resolution.aspx](https://seconddistrictcourt.nmcourts.gov/specialty-court-self-help-dispute-resolution.aspx) or by calling the center for self-help at 505-841-6702. You can also email the self-help center at albdselfhelp@nmcourts.gov or visit in person.

The Juvenile Justice Center is home to 3 Judges that hear matters pertaining to youth under the age of 18 in the following areas:

- Adoption***
- Child abuse and neglect***
- Delinquency***
- Emancipation***
- Marriage Authorization***
- Mental health commitments***
- Sealing of juvenile records***
- Youthful offender cases***

The Courts are among the essential services that are exempt from shutting down under Michelle Lujan Grisham's shelter-in-place order.

New Mexico Supreme Court Chief Justice Judith K. Nakamura issued an order on March 23, 2020 directing all New Mexico Courts to:

Conduct all civil and criminal proceedings by video and audio teleconferencing, unless an emergency requires in-person appearances.

Limit the number of people in any hearing or meeting inside a courthouse to no more than 15 people and adhere to the six-foot social distancing protocol during such hearings or meetings.

If you have to visit the courthouse, you will notice some changes. Several handwashing stations are positioned near the entrance to the courthouse. Visitors are encouraged to wash their hands prior to entering the building. In addition, hand sanitizing stations have been added throughout the facility. Masks are REQUIRED at all time while in the courthouse. The following face coverings are not approved for use in the courthouse: neck gaiters, bandanas, clear shields, and masks with vents. If you do not have an approved mask the court has disposable masks available for your visit. Generally, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) prohibits places of public accommodation having restrictions that would limit access to an individual with a disability. However, the ADA does allow restrictions when an individual would pose a direct threat to the health or safety of others. COVID-19 is currently considered a direct threat. If you are unable to wear a face mask due to a medical condition, please contact the SJDC's Title II ADA Coordinator, Lisa Y. Schatz-Vance, at 505-841-7615.

HAVE A FEVER?

Temperatures will be taken using a touch free system that is monitored by court staff. If you have a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher you will not be allowed into the courthouse. In addition, you will be required to read and answer the following questions:

Within the past 14 days, have you travelled outside of the United States?

Within the past 14 days, have you travelled to any state not on the State Health Directive approved list?

Have you been asked by the NM DOH to self-quarantine because of COVID 19 and are you still within the quarantine period?

Within the past 14 days have you been diagnosed by a doctor with COVID 19?

Within the past 14 days have you had a positive test result for COVID 19 from a testing facility or DOH?

In the past 14 days have you been in contact with anyone who you know has COVID 19 or with someone who is required to self-quarantine by the NMDOH?

Within the past 14 days, have you had a fever of 100.4 degrees, chills, sore throat, body aches, or headaches?

Within the past 14 days have you developed new shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, or dry cough?

Have you recently developed a loss of taste or smell?

It is important if you are sick, stay home. The Sheriff's Office and the Courts are working hard to ensure your safety during this difficult time. If you have any questions, please call 505-841-6702.

BernCo Ballfields and Community Centers Open for Limited Use

Grab-n-go lunches available

Bernalillo County – Recent changes in the state public health order have allowed Bernalillo County to open some recreation facilities on a limited basis.

Bernalillo County emphasizes that any teams or individuals, with an approved use agreement for use of county facilities, must follow health safety guidelines that are still in place, such as social distancing (six feet), mandatory use of masks (even at outdoor facilities), and no more than 10 people, to include coaches or instructors, allowed to gather for practice or training. There is still no competition allowed at any facilities, per the state mandate.

Four community centers are open and offering grab-n-go lunches Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Lunches are available for anyone under the age of 18. Each of the community centers is also offering all-day care for school-aged children. Each center can accommodate 25 kids and spaces are still available for all-day care as follows: Program cost: \$60.00 per week

Westside Community Center - 505-314-0176
1250 Isleta Blvd. SW 87105
9 registered – 14 slots available

Paradise Hills Community Center - 505-314-0245
5901 Paradise Hills Blvd. NW 87114
18 registered – 6 slots available*

The health order changes have allowed the county to open ball fields and teams interested in using county facilities must call and register with the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department. The number is 505-314-0400.

All county outdoor pools and splash pads will remain closed for the season. Rio Grande indoor pool is open as follows:

Rio Grande Pool - By reservation only, reservations must be made 24 hours in advance: 505-314-0169
Limited swimmers in facilities
No spectators
Social distancing will be observed
M – F: 6 – 9 a.m., 12 – 3 p.m.
Saturday: 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

County information is available on the BernCo website at www.bernco.gov.
Up-to-date information about state coronavirus mandates and information is at www.newmexico.gov.
Information regarding coronavirus (COVID-19) can be found at www.cdc.gov.
The New Mexico Health Department COVID-19 information line is: 855-600-3453.

Raymond G. Sanchez Community Center-
505-468-7800
9800 4th St. NW 87114
8 registered – 19 slots available

Los Vecinos Community Center - 505-314-0240
478 ½ Old Hwy. 66, Tijeras NM, 87059
21 registered – 4 slots available*

*Maximum is expected week of 9-28

CRIME REDUCTION SAFETY TIPS

GENERAL SAFETY

Halloween is quickly approaching and we would like to share some safety tips if you and your children are out and about trick or treating, in compliance with any Covid public health order restrictions. The below safety tips are authored by "Safe Kids Worldwide" and can also be found at the following website.
<http://www.safekids.org/tip/halloween-safety-tips>

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY

Cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks.

Look left, right and left again when crossing and keep looking as you cross.

Put electronic devices down and keep heads up and walk, don't run, across the street.

Teach children to make eye contact with drivers before crossing in front of them.

Always walk on sidewalks or paths. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible. Children should walk on direct routes with the fewest street crossings.

Watch for cars that are turning or backing up. Teach children to never dart out into the street or cross between parked cars.

TRICK OR TREAT WITH AN ADULT

Children under the age of 12 should not be alone at night without adult supervision. If kids are mature enough to be out without supervision, they should stick to familiar areas that are well lit and trick-or-treat in groups.

KEEP COSTUMES BOTH CREATIVE AND SAFE

Decorate costumes and bags with reflective tape or stickers and, if possible, choose light colors.

Choose face paint and makeup whenever possible instead of masks, which can obstruct a child's vision.

Have kids carry glow sticks or flashlights to help them see and be seen by drivers.

When selecting a costume, make sure it is the right size to prevent trips and falls

DRIVE EXTRA SAFELY ON HALLOWEEN

Slow down and be especially alert in residential neighborhoods. Children are excited on Halloween and may move in unpredictable ways.

Take extra time to look for kids at intersections, on medians and on curbs.

Enter and exit driveways and alleys slowly and carefully.

Eliminate any distractions inside your car so you can concentrate on the road and your surroundings.

Drive slowly, anticipate heavy pedestrian traffic and turn your headlights on earlier in the day to spot children from greater distances.

Popular trick-or-treating hours are 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. so be especially alert for kids during those hours



stop the VIOLENCE



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION MONTH

The Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office is committed to the awareness, prevention, and investigation of domestic violence incidents. Many times domestic violence incidents are reported and responded to by our uniformed Field Services Division. The response does not end there, the additional response is then picked up by one or a combination of members of our Criminal Investigative Division often our Violent Crimes Unit, Special Victims Unit and our Victim Liaison will play an important role in bringing the incident to adjudication and providing services to the victims.

WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

Domestic violence is the willful intimidation, physical assault, battery, sexual assault, and/or other abusive behavior as part of a systematic pattern of power and control perpetrated by one intimate partner against another. It includes physical violence, sexual violence, psychological violence, and emotional abuse. The frequency and severity of domestic violence can vary dramatically; however, the one constant component of domestic violence is one partner's consistent efforts to maintain power and control over the other.

Domestic violence affects individuals in every community regardless of age, economic status, sexual orientation, gender, race, religion, or nationality. It is often accompanied by emotionally abusive and controlling behavior that is only a fraction of a systematic pattern of dominance and control. Domestic violence can result in physical injury, psychological trauma, and in severe cases, even death. The devastating physical, emotional, and psychological consequences of domestic violence can cross generations and last a lifetime.

Sadly, children are often the direct or indirect victims. Just witnessing violence impacts children's lives, especially as it usually takes place at home, a place where children should feel safe. If children have been exposed to domestic violence, it increases the chances that they will take on the role of either a "batterer" or a "victim" in their adult relationships. Abuse can seem "normal" to youth who witness it in their own homes.

It is not always easy to determine in the early stages of a relationship if one person will become abusive. Domestic violence intensifies over time. Abusers may often seem wonderful and perfect initially, but gradually become more aggressive and controlling as the relationship continues.

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Potential Indicators of Abuse Include?

Abuse may begin with behaviors that may easily be dismissed or downplayed such as name-calling, threats, possessiveness, or distrust. Abusers may apologize profusely for their actions or try to convince the person they are abusing that they do these things out of love or care. However, violence and control always intensifies over time with an abuser, despite the apologies. What may start out as something that was first believed to be harmless (e.g., wanting the victim to spend all their time only with them because they love them so much) escalates into extreme control and abuse (e.g., threatening to kill or hurt the victim or others if they speak to family, friends, etc.). Some examples of abusive tendencies include but are not limited to:



Telling the victim that they can never do anything right

Showing jealousy of the victim's family and friends and time spent away

Accusing the victim of cheating

Keeping or discouraging the victim from seeing friends or family members

Embarrassing or shaming the victim with put-downs

Controlling every penny spent in the household

Taking the victim's money or refusing to give them money for expenses

Looking at or acting in ways that scare the person they are abusing

Controlling who the victim sees, where they go, or what they do

Dictating how the victim dresses, wears their hair, etc.

Stalking the victim or monitoring their victim's every move (in person or also via the internet and/or other devices such as GPS tracking or the victim's phone)

Preventing the victim from making their own decisions

Telling the victim that they are a bad parent or threatening to hurt, kill, or take away their children

Threatening to hurt or kill the victim's friends, loved ones, or pets

Destroying the victim's property

Intimidating the victim with guns, knives, or other weapons

Pressuring the victim to have sex when they don't want to or to do things sexually they are not comfortable with

Forcing sex with others

Refusing to use protection when having sex or sabotaging birth control

Pressuring or forcing the victim to use drugs or alcohol

Preventing the victim from working or attending school, harassing the victim at either, keeping their victim up all night so they perform badly at their job or in school

Domestic VIOLENCE Is Not Always Physical ABUSE?

It is important to note that domestic violence does not always manifest as physical abuse. Emotional and psychological abuse can often be just as extreme as physical violence. Lack of physical violence does not mean the abuser is any less dangerous to the victim, nor does it mean the victim is any less trapped by the abuse.

What Happens When the Abusive Relationship Ends?

Domestic violence does not always end when the victim escapes the abuser, tries to terminate the relationship, and/or seeks help. Often, it intensifies because the abuser feels a loss of control over the victim. Abusers frequently continue to stalk, harass, threaten, and try to control the victim after the victim escapes. In fact, the victim is often in the most danger directly following the escape of the relationship or when they seek help.

Unfair blame is frequently put upon the victim of abuse because of assumptions that victims choose to stay in abusive relationships. The truth is, bringing an end to abuse is not a matter of the victim choosing to leave; it is a matter of the victim being able to safely escape their abuser, the abuser choosing to stop the abuse, or others in the criminal justice system holding the abuser accountable for the abuse they inflict.

I NEED HELP,
BUT I DON'T
KNOW WHERE
TO START

WE BELIEVE
YOU



National Hotlines

National Domestic Violence Hotline (live chat available via website)

1-800-799-7233

National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline (live chat available via website)

1-866-331-9474

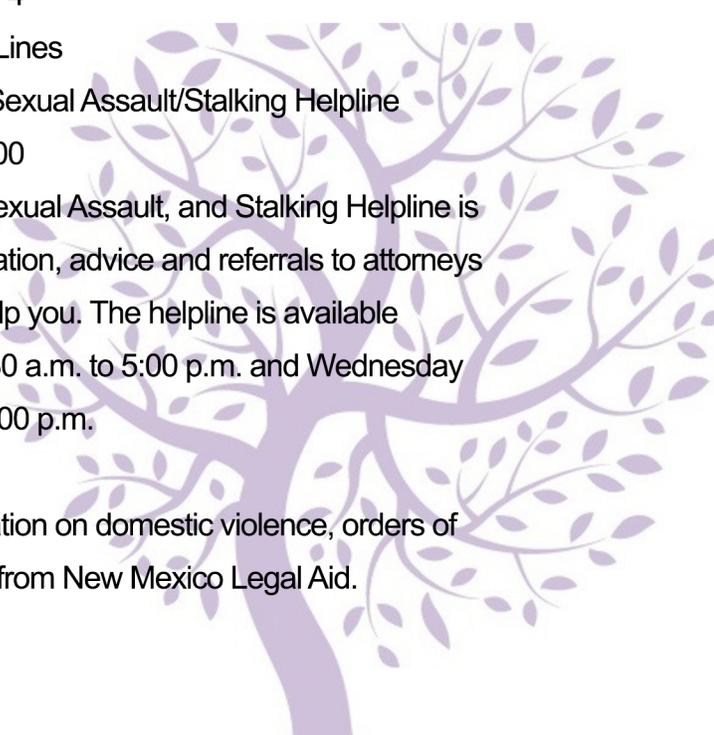
Statewide Crisis Lines

New Mexico Legal Aid Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault/Stalking Helpline

1-877-974-3400

The New Mexico Legal Aid Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Helpline is a free statewide service that provides legal information, advice and referrals to attorneys and other community agencies who can help you. The helpline is available Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

www.lawhelpnewmexico.org – Provides information on domestic violence, orders of protections and resources for legal help from New Mexico Legal Aid.



GENERAL DEPARTMENT NEWS

Field Services Division uniformed deputies will be conducting off site briefings at least 4 times per week. This in an effort to deter crime, practice community based policing and get to know our citizens better. If you have an area or business that you would like us to hold a briefing, please contact your respective Area Commander at the following numbers:

<i>South Area Commander</i>	<i>Captain Joshua Kingsbury</i>	<i>505-314-0010</i>
<i>North Area Commander</i>	<i>Captain Chris Romero</i>	<i>505-314-0030</i>
<i>East Area Commander</i>		<i>505-468-7420</i>

HAPPY RETIREMENT

We would like to wish a happy retirement to the following members of BCSO:

Captain Broderick Sharp

Captain Sharp most recently was assigned as the North valley Area Commander. He held previous assignments in Criminal Investigations, Internal Affairs, Administrative Support, and Special Operations.

Deputy Kenneth Scott Whitezell

Deputy Whitezell is retiring from BCSO after serving over 20 years. During his tenure he served in numerous capacities, most recently as a patrol Deputy Assigned to the North Area Command

Deputy Charles Tuberville

Deputy Tuberville is retiring from BCSO after serving 19 years. He held numerous positions with BCSO, including Gang Detective, SWAT operator, and most recently as pilot in our Metro Air Support Unit.

