

Bernalillo County



Board of Commissioners

Art De La Cruz, Chair, Dist. 2
Maggie Hart Stebbins, Vice Chair, Dist. 3
Debbie O'Malley, Member, Dist. 1
Michael C. Wiener, Member, Dist. 4
Wayne A. Johnson, Member, Dist. 5
Tom Zdunek, County Manager
468-7000

www.bernco.gov

UPCOMING EVENTS

1st Annual United Way
Bernco Holiday Mercado
Friday, December 7 @ 11 - 7
415 Tijeras NW, 1st Floor

Bernalillo County Holiday
Schedule-County Closed

Christmas
Monday, December 24 &
Tuesday, December 25

New Years
Tuesday, January 1

Bernalillo County Extension
Office Classes
December 5, 6 and 11
Tamale Making

Class sizes are limited, please regis-
ter by calling 243-1386. All classes
are held at the BC Cooperative
Extension Services 4H building at
1500 Menaul NW and the cost is
\$10 per class.

COMMISSION MEETINGS

ADMINISTRATIVE

Tuesday, December 11 @ 5:00 pm

COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

1st Wednesday of each month 9am
Meetings are held in the Vincent E.
Griego Chambers in the basement of
the City/County Government Building



BernCo at a glance

Neighborhood Newsletter
Volume III, Issue 12, December 2012

BernCo Commission Approves New Open Government Measure

More Information About Staff Salaries To Go Online.

The Bernalillo County Commission approved a new ordinance that makes more information easily ac-
cessible to the public.

The commission voted 3-2 on an openness and transparency measure that formally establishes several
kinds of documents that are to be placed on the county's sunshine portal, BernCo View.

The public documents to be placed on the county's web site include the salaries and names of all county
employees. Previously, salaries were available online without staff names, except for directors and
other managers.

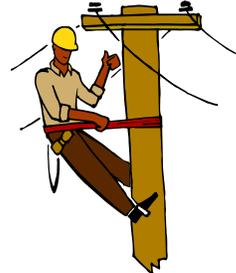
The salary information will join detailed information about department budgets, union contracts and
other items.

Over the past two years, Bernalillo County has made great progress in terms of making more infor-
mation than ever before accessible to the public via the county's web site. Earlier this year, the coun-
ty's sunshine portal received an A grade from the national transparency nonprofit Sunshine Review for
making public information readily available to taxpayers.

Bernalillo County Commission Honors PNM Crews for Hurricane Sandy Assistance

The Bernalillo County Board of Commissioners issued a proclamation at the County Commission meeting
on Tuesday, Nov. 27, commending the PNM employees who responded to the call of duty to help citi-
zens affected by Hurricane Sandy.

Commissioners recognized and congratulated the employees who braved dangerous conditions to help
restore power to areas of Maryland and New Jersey. The 40-member team trav-
eled in 26 PNM vehicles to storm-affected areas in late October, responding to
one of the costliest natural disasters on record in the United States.



The team traveled approximately 5,000 miles and successfully restored power to
about 50,000 homes. The storm left dozens dead, thousands homeless and ap-
proximately 8.5 million people in 15 states and the District of Columbia without
power.

"We are proud of the way these individuals represented our state and our com-
pany; flying the New Mexico flag while completing their work safely and with
great skill," says Tom Ruth, PNM director of system reliability.

MDC Art Show To Be Displayed at Mountain View Community Center

The Bernalillo County Board of Commissioners, Metropolitan Detention Center Chief Ramon Rustin, and the MDC
staff invite county residents to "The Pano Connection" art show, showcasing visual, dramatic creations from the MDC
Art Collection. Artists include Eric "Christo" Martinez and his "Conviction Series", Marco Ramirez and many more.

The art show reception will be held Friday, December 7 from 4-8 p.m. at the Mountain View Community Center, 201
Prosperity SE.

For more information, call 505-314-0297.

Cibola National Forest and Grasslands Selling Christmas Tree Cutting Permits



The Cibola National Forest and Grasslands started selling Christmas Tree cutting permits on November 14, 2012 for the Mt. Taylor and the Magdalena Ranger Districts. Trees may be cut till December 24, 2012. Cost is \$10 per tree (up to 10 feet). For trees taller than 10 feet, the cost is \$1.00 per foot. The tags are also good for digging up a living tree.

Christmas Tree tags may be purchased at the following locations:

For the Magdalena Ranger District

- Magdalena Ranger District Office, 203 1st Street, Magdalena, NM 87825. Phone: 575.854.2281.
- Cibola National Forest and Grasslands Supervisor's Office. 2113 Osuna Rd. NE; Albuquerque, NM 87113. Phone: 505.346.3900.

For the Mt. Taylor Ranger District

- Mt. Taylor Ranger District Office; 1800 Lobo Canyon Rd.; Grants, NM 87020. Phone: 505.287.8833.
- Cibola National Forest and Grasslands Supervisor's Office; 2113 Osuna Rd. NE; Albuquerque, NM 87113. Phone: 505.346.3900.
- Northwest New Mexico Visitors Center, located just south of I-40 at exit 85 near Grants, NM. **Weekends only** from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Phone: 505.876.2783.
- Wingate Workcenter, located on Painted Horse Trail in Fort Wingate, NM. Fort Wingate is off NM 400 at Exit 33 on I-40. In the town of Fort Wingate, follow the signs to the Wingate Workcenter/Administrative site. **Saturdays only** from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Additional information about the Christmas Tree Cutting Program can be found on the Cibola National Forest and Grasslands Internet site: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/cibola>

On November 26, 2012, the State Board of Canvass certified election results and issued an order for an automatic recount pursuant to NMSA 1-14-24, in the race for NM House District 23, located within Bernalillo and Sandoval counties.

The recount for Bernalillo County's precincts within HD 23 will take place beginning at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, December 4 at the Bernalillo County Voting Machine Warehouse located at 2400 Broadway SE, Building H. The process will continue until such time as it has been completed.



Supplemental Security Income (SSI): Forty Years Of Helping People In Need

The Social Security Amendments of 1972 created a new federal benefit program. This month, that program — the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program — celebrates its 40th anniversary.

Administered by Social Security, SSI is a needs-based program for people 65 or older, blind, or disabled who have limited income and resources.

For income, we count things such as wages, Social Security benefits, and pensions. However, Social Security does not count all of your income when it decides whether you qualify for SSI. For example, we don't count food stamps or most home energy assistance.

For resources, we count the things you own, such as real estate (other than the home you live in), bank accounts, cash, stocks, and bonds. A person with resources worth no more than \$2,000 may be able to get SSI. The resource limit is \$3,000 for couples.

To qualify for SSI, you also must live in the United States or the Northern Mariana Islands and be a U.S. citizen or national. In rare cases, noncitizen residents can qualify for SSI. If you live in certain types of institutions or live in a shelter for the homeless, you may qualify for SSI.

People with blindness or a disability who apply for SSI may be able to get free special services to help them work. These services may include counseling and job training.

The monthly maximum federal SSI payment is the same nationwide and amounts to \$698 for an individual and \$1,048 for a couple. However, the amount you receive depends on factors such as where you live, your living arrangements, and your income. Some states add money to the federal payment.

Funding for the SSI program comes from the general revenues of the U.S. Treasury, not from Social Security payroll taxes.

To learn more about SSI, read the online publication, You May Be Able To Get Supplemental Security Income (SSI) at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/11069.html or visit the SSI page at www.socialsecurity.gov/ssi.



Bernalillo County Public Works Call Center

The Bernalillo County Call Center was created in November of 2010 to provide Bernalillo County citizens with top quality service 24 hours-a-day. It provides all residents the greatest opportunity of directly communicating with Bernalillo County staff about specific issues regarding county roads, facilities or traffic. A dedicated and well trained staff of customer support specialists is able to provide assistance and excellent service.



The call center fields both inbound and outbound calls and strives to deliver service in a timely manner. All requests are logged and can be tracked. The status of a request can be identified at any time. Notification can be made to residents about the progress of their request or information provided about ongoing Public Works' activities in their neighborhood.

Currently, only requests specific to Public Works are handled through the call center. It will be expanding in the future to include more county departments. It is important to note that the call center is not set up to respond to 911 emergency calls.

Residents can contact the Bernalillo County Call Center in writing, via e-mail or by phone. Office hours are Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. After hours, all calls are answered but will only be immediately responded to if it's an urgent road, traffic, or facilities issue.

Mailing address:

Public Works Division Call Center
2400 Broadway Blvd SW
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Email:

PWCallCenter@bernco.gov

Phone Numbers:

For issues regarding roads, call 848-1503
Traffic concerns, call 848-1504
County facilities, call 224-1608

Metropolitan Detention Center Receives Accreditation

The Metropolitan Detention Center (MDC) earned a certificate of accreditation from the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCCHC) for its compliance with the organization's standards for health service in jail. The accreditation process required the facility to pass 67 different standards. Of those, 35 standards require 100 percent compliance and 32 important standards require 85 percent.

Correctional Healthcare Company (CHC), which has provided and coordinated health care services for the jail since July 2010, is responsible for maintaining accreditation of the facility.

The inspections were conducted on March 16, 2012, and the jail was 100 percent compliant with the standards, which are intended to help correctional facilities improve the health of their inmates, increase the efficiency of their health services delivery, strengthen their organizational effectiveness and reduce their risk of adverse patient outcomes and legal judgments.

This certificate earned by the MDC is considered a great achievement because it provides benefits such as improved staff training and development, assessment of program strengths and weaknesses, establishment of criteria to upgrade operations, and provides a safer environment for staff and offenders," says Chief of Corrections, Ramon Rustin. "I am proud of both the MDC staff and all employees within the NCCCHC organization for making this happen."

Bernalillo County Begins Search for New Assessor

The Board of County Commissioners is now accepting resumes from Bernalillo County residents interested in serving as county assessor, beginning Jan. 1, 2013.

"The board is moving expeditiously to fill this important position," says Commission Chair Art De La Cruz. "We are looking for quality candidates who can hit the ground running when the current assessor leaves office on Dec. 31."

State law requires county commissioners to appoint an individual to serve the remaining two years of current Bernalillo County Assessor Karen Montoya's four-year term. Montoya was elected to the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission on Nov. 6.

Individuals interested in being considered for county assessor should send a letter of interest and a resume to: the Bernalillo County Board of Commissioners at One Civic Plaza NW - 10th Floor, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102.

"My colleagues and I are looking forward to reviewing the resumes and conducting individual interviews with the candidates," De La Cruz says.

Potential candidates must reside in Bernalillo County and be at least 18 years of age.

The county assessor's job responsibilities include determining the property value of homes, businesses, and other taxable property in Bernalillo County; informing property owners of taxable value; preparing and submitting tax rolls to the county treasurer, and supervising 89 employees in the County Assessor's Office.

December 4 is the deadline to submit resumes to the Board of County Commissioners. A new assessor could be appointed as early as during the board's December 11 meeting.

Seventh Annual South Valley
acequia of lights



refreshments
music

5:30-7:30 pm
Saturday, Dec. 15, 2012

Atrisco Acequia between Holy Family Church
and Valle Vista Elementary

no admission fee — bring a toy or canned goods

The acequias hold historic significance to our area. Let's show our pride for their existence and spend an evening together:

- ❖ walking
- ❖ meeting neighbors
- ❖ enjoying nature
- ❖ getting in the holiday spirit

Parking Locations:

- Valle Vista Elementary South Parking lot on Sunset Gardens
- Holy Family Church, South Parking lot (Atrisco & Five Points)

Sponsored by:

- Valle Vista Elementary Neighborhood Association
- Partnership for Community Action
- Holy Family Church
- Valle Vista Elementary

For more information, contact Rod or Jane Mahoney at 842-5140 or George Montoya at 550-5604



COME JOIN US IN A HOLIDAY CELEBRATION OF LOCAL FOOD AT THE MIXING BOWL & DELICIOUS NM OPEN HOUSE

4PM-7PM AT THE SYEDE

GRAND OPENING OF DELICIOUS NEW MEXICO TIENDIATA

EDIBLE SANTA FE'S LOCAL HEROES AWARDS



LIVE MUSIC, FOOD TRUCKS, CAROLERS & MORE



JOIN US ON
12.05.2012

5:15 pm to 7:30 pm

Westside Community Center
1250 Isleta Blvd SW



Westside Community Center
1250 Isleta Blvd SW

For more information, visit us online at:
www.bridgeboulevard.com

or email us at:
info@bridgeboulevard.com

BRIDGE BLVD
CORRIDOR REDEVELOPMENT PLAN

The project team has developed recommendations intended to increase safety, reduce traffic congestion, revitalize local businesses, and improve housing availability and affordability along Bridge Boulevard from Coors Boulevard to the Barelas Bridge.

Commissioner De La Cruz and Bernalillo County invite you to join us on **December 5** to see the recommendations, offer your comments, and talk with staff.

Open House at 5:15 pm
Presentation at 5:45 pm

Persons with a disability may request accommodations by calling 505.830.8845. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodations.



Season's greetings! Neighborhood Coordination wishes each of you a great start to the Holiday Season! In that regard, Bernalillo County will once again host a holiday food drive for the Roadrunner Food Bank, the "12 Days of Giving" which will run December 3rd - December 18th.

Roadrunner Food Bank provides food assistance to over 40,000 individuals in need each week. They distribute 22 million pounds of food state-wide each year and over 90,000 children receive food assistance each year.

The need for food items is critical, especially this time of year -- hungry holidays are not happy holidays. Please consider making a donation of non-perishable canned items (no glass jar items) such as peanut butter and jelly, boxes of baby food, cereal or macaroni and cheese.

The red barrels are available at all county facilities and on each floor near the elevators at One Civic Plaza. Another option for giving is available as well; you may give a monetary donation by going to www.rffb.org/online. For every dollar received, Roadrunner Food Bank is able to purchase \$9.00 worth of food.

Roadrunner Food Bank relies on the generous donations from giving individuals like you to feed the hungry within our community.

Together, we can give the gift of hope!



Commissioner De La Cruz and Public Works invite you to a public meeting about the Vista del Rio Drainage Improvements, Phase 3 Project

The Vista del Rio Project consists of drainage improvements intended to improve storm water drainage for the Vista del Rio Neighborhood. Vista del Rio, Phase 3 includes Bonito Road, Bonito Place, and Bonito Circle. Construction will begin in early 2013. The construction schedule will be discussed at this meeting.

***** Public Meeting *****

Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2012
Westside Community Center
Open House at 6:00 pm
Presentation at 6:15 pm