



BERNCO at a Glance

MARCH 2014

Volume 5 • Issue 3



COUNTY COMMISSION

ADMINISTRATIVE MEETING

Tuesday, March 11, 2014
5 p.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE MEETING

Tuesday, March 25, 2014
5 p.m.

COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

First Wednesday of month
March 5, 2014, 9 a.m.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR MEETING

Tuesday, March 11, 2014
9 a.m.

Meetings are held in the Vincent E. Griego Chambers in the basement of the City/County Government Bldg. 1 Civic Plaza 5th and Marquette NW

County Contracts with New Investment Advisor

Bernalillo County has a new investment advisor on board. On February 11, 2014, the county signed an agreement with the firm Public Trust Advisors to provide consultation services to the Board of Finance, the county manager and the county treasurer.

The county's contract with Public Trust Advisors is up for review and possible renewal on an annual basis for the next four years. The contractor will be paid \$75,000 a year for the first two years, and \$71,250 a year the last two years of the contract.

The five-member evaluation team, including County Treasurer Manny Ortiz, reviewed seven proposals and unanimously selected Public Trust Advisors for the job.

Public Trust Advisors will provide services that include: analyzing county cash flow needs, assessing risk tolerance; formulating investment strategy, developing portfolio benchmarks, and creating a web-based reporting process that gives the county online access to accounting and performance analytics. The firm will be available to provide investing advice to the county on an as-needed basis.

"We are proud to be working with Bernalillo County," says Sheila Duffy, director at Public Trust Advisors. **"Developing a forward-looking investment plan with the county that places the citizen's interests first is the essence of true partnership – the very definition of public trust. We are thankful for this opportunity to partner with the county."**

The county's investment portfolio is about \$250 million.

NEED Assistance or Resources?

Contact Neighborhood Coordination Specialist Darrell Dady at (505) 468-7364, or at ddady@bernco.gov.



BERNALILLO COUNTY



WE'RE MORE THAN YOU THINK



Gutierrez - Hubbell House

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Debbie O'Malley, Chair, Dist. 1

Art De La Cruz, Vice Chair, Dist. 2

Maggie Hart Stebbins, Member, Dist. 3

Lonnie C. Talbert, Member, Dist. 4

Wayne A. Johnson, Member, Dist. 5

Tom Zdunek, County Manager

(505) 468-7000

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BERNCO
at a Glance

Bernalillo County Assessor Kicks Off Countywide Residential Canvass

Office will review all properties to ensure they are accurately valued

Bernalillo County Assessor Tanya Giddings on Feb. 7, 2014 announced her office has kicked off the countywide canvass of all residential properties in the county. The canvass will be a valuable tool in the Assessor Office's commitment to ensure that all property values are current and accurate.

While the Bernalillo County Assessor's Office performs thousands of field checks every year on properties with new building permits and on those properties whose owners appeal valuation, state statute and best practices call for all properties to be reviewed on a consistent cycle. In Bernalillo County that comes to more than 250,000 properties that should be reviewed on a regular basis. However, when Assessor Giddings took office last year she discovered a countywide canvass had not been done in more than a decade. She then began working on a comprehensive canvass plan in an effort to ensure that property data is accurate and current.

Last year, the Assessor's Office began a canvass of all business properties in Bernalillo County, which is now 25 percent complete. It also completed a successful pilot residential canvass that began in December and just wrapped up. The complete canvass is expected to take four years to complete.

During that time, the Assessor's Office will review its files with the use of the most up-to-date technology, reviewing aerial photographs, and accessing building permits and certificates of occupancy on each and every property in the county. They will also have specially trained canvass crews visiting each property to conduct exterior checks verifying any updates. The Assessor's Office will also be making sure home owners are aware of various exemptions available to them, including head of household, senior citizens and veterans. All of these exemptions can help lower a property owner's tax bill.

Homeowners will be mailed notifications alerting them when field canvass crews will be in their neighborhoods. Field canvass crews will be easily identifiable. They will be wearing green vests, carrying official county identification, and leaving yellow door hangers on properties that have been reviewed.

More information and updates on the canvass can be found on the canvass page of the assessor's newly redesigned website www.bernco.gov/assessor-office. Also coming soon to the assessor's website is a new cost saving feature that will allow property owners to conveniently log in to update their property information on-line.

Anyone who has questions or would like to speak directly to the canvass crew can call (505) 222-3731.

Cultural Asset Mapping & Survey Results

During 2013, Bernalillo County Cultural Services and Creative Albuquerque conducted a Cultural Asset Mapping and Survey of the unincorporated areas of the county. The study was based on public opinion and input as well as the multitude of resources and amenities located within the county. The final report is now available on-line at <http://www.bernco.gov/Cultural-Services/>.

If you have questions or comments, please contact Cultural Services Manager Bernadette Miera at (505) 468-1279.

North Valley Library Restoration UPDATE

Here is an update on the restoration of the North Valley Public Library Branch at 7704-B Second Street NW from Dean Smith, director of library services for the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Library System. The library was severely damaged in a fire in early July, 2013.

Smith says that although the fire that damaged the library was in a relatively small area, the smoke from the fire got everywhere and that soot, in fact, is a greater enemy to a library than water.

The restoration of the damaged library is very much like a full renovation of a building. But this restoration is like a renovation project done backwards, Smith says. Usually permits are obtained and studies are done in advance, HVAC equipment and lights are ordered in advance, availability with a security system company for their work to be done is checked and scheduled in advance. Then, the building is closed for the renovations.

Despite the hurdles of getting the permits and approval for the upgrades and engineering plans while work was already underway, this restoration is on track and proceeding at a good pace, Smith says.

The city insurance covers the contents of the building and the county insurance

covers the building itself. The insurance companies have quickly resolved any questions about which company is responsible, always in less than 24 hours. The building work is more complicated than the contents and the county insurer has acted very responsibly in requesting that the work go out to bid and that major work — lights, HVAC, security system, etc. — should all be approved before payment is made. This is a reasonable approach to protect the insurer, and in the end all of us, from fraud, Smith says.

The library is now in the final phases of construction. After that, the actual library still needs to be put back into the building—shelves, books, computers and all.

If all goes well with the inspections and if the process of placing back the library contents can begin in early March, the library should be reopen “by mid-April”, Smith says.

Mark Your Calendars!

THE 2014 DAY IN PARADISE IS COMING

SUNDAY, APRIL 27
PARADISE HILLS PARK
5901 PARADISE BOULEVARD NW

Nominations are now open for the 2014 “Day in Paradise” Outstanding Citizen Award.

Go to www.bernco.gov/dayinparadise for a nomination form.

Deadline for nominations is Friday, March 21 at 5 p.m.

Answers To Your Zoning, Building & Planning Questions from Bernalillo County Planning & Development Services

Q Does Zoning require a permit to erect a fence or wall?

A No. However, fences or walls over eight feet in height may require a building permit. A zoning permit is not required for the following: fences (chain link, wooden wrought iron, block, etc.) not over six feet above grade. Also, open-style fences (i.e. chain link), any height as determined by the building official. Remember, every case is different and it is still the property owner’s responsibility, prior to erecting a fence or wall, to contact the BernCo Public Works Development Review Section at (505) 848-1520 to make certain as to what is acceptable.

BernCo
Public Works
Hotline #'s
AVAILABLE
24 HOURS A DAY
7 DAYS A WEEK

CALL 848-1503
OR 848-1504
or send an e-mail to
contactcenter@bernco.gov



Bachechi Open Space

Coming Events

PARKS & RECREATION PUBLIC MEETINGS:

Monday, March 10
5 - 8 p.m.

Second Street Sector Master
Plan, Mountain View
Community Center
201 Prosperity Avenue SE

Wednesday, March 12
6 p.m.

Fallen Officer Memorial
McGrane East Area
Command Center
48 Public School Road
Tijeras 87059

Thursday, March 20
6:30 - 8 p.m.

Aquatics Master Plan,
Hiland Theater
4800 Central Avenue SE

Registration for Vendor Opportunities Workshop Now Open

BernCo purchasing boosts local economy

Registration is now open for Bernalillo County's Vendor Opportunities Workshop, a special event aimed at connecting businesses with the county's purchasing, invoicing, and payment processes.

Bernalillo County spent roughly \$144 million last year on goods and services, including new park designs, library books, office supplies and construction materials, among other needs.

The Vendor Opportunities Workshop is scheduled for Friday, March 7 from 9 – 11 a.m. at the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Government Center. Registration is free.

Vendors will have an opportunity to learn how to register their business with the county, how the purchasing, invoicing, and payment processes work, and about the benefits of being a registered vendor.

To sign up for this event, please register at www.bernco.gov/purchasing.

Call (505) 468-7013 for more information.

Nominations for Outstanding Citizens Now Open for South Valley Pride Day!

The South Pride Day celebration is set for May 3 and 4, 2014 and will honor community members for their work to improve the South Valley community. Winners will be honored at a parade and formal ceremony May 4.

The deadline for nominations is Monday, March 17 at 5 p.m.

To qualify, nominees must:

- Live, work or attend school in the South Valley
- Demonstrate dedication to volunteerism and community service
- Serve as a role model and good example to the community

Nominations can be filed by filling out a simple form available at www.bernco.gov/southvalleyprideday, or by visiting any community center.

Coming Next Month

APRIL IS

County Government Month in Bernalillo County

BERNCO AT A GLANCE

will devote the April issue to covering public safety here in Bernalillo County as part of the nationwide observance.