

BernCo at a Glance

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Hello Neighbors –

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Top News to Know...

Board of County Commissioners Jan. 23 Meeting Agenda



- On the Consent Agenda for approval:
 - Motion to authorize Bernalillo County to support the Cities Thrive Coalition Federal Funding Priorities and funding levels for the fiscal year 2018 appropriations package
 - Motion to authorize Bernalillo County Department of Behavioral Health Services to apply for the US Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Offender Re-entry Program Grant
 - Parks & Recreation Facility Use & Fee Policy
- Discussion Item: Update on the Urban County Charter

[See Full Agenda of Jan. 23 Meeting](#)

Board of County Commissioners Jan. 9 Meeting Highlights

- Commissioner Steven Michael Quezada of District 2 was elected chair of the Bernalillo County Commission and Commissioner Lonnie Talbert of District 4 was elected vice chair.
- Bernalillo County Management and representatives from the union representing MDC correctional officers, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Council 18, Local 2499, have agreed to new contract terms, which were approved by the Bernalillo County Commission. With this approval, the new contract agreement goes into effect immediately.

[See Action Report of Jan. 9 Meeting](#)

Beware of Phone Scams

A phone scam is ongoing around Bernalillo County. Citizens are reporting calls from individuals claiming to



be with the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office and requesting payment for a warrant or missed jury duty. The Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office will NEVER contact you by phone or email requesting any form of payment or personal information. If you receive a call from someone claiming to be from any government entity requesting payment or personal information **DO NOT provide your information and hang up!**

Asian American Monument Public Art Sculpture Finalists

The Asian American Monument Committee announces a second round of finalists for the Asian American Monument Sculpture Competition that will be located on the west side of the Second Judicial District Courthouse at 400 Lomas Blvd., NW.

Those final presentations are on **Friday, Jan. 26 from 9 a.m. to noon.**

The four finalists' teams and their presentation times are:

9 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. – Cheryl Leo Gwin and Stuart Wong

9:45 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. – Linda Dabeau

10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. – Ken Bernstein

11:15 a.m. to noon. – Shan Shan Sheng

The public is invited to view the presentations at the Second Judicial District Courthouse, third floor conference center. All who attend are advised that cameras, laptops and cell phones are not allowed inside the courthouse. The Asian American Monument is being commissioned in honor of the landmark ruling in the civil rights case, Territory vs. Yee Shun (1882). Artists were asked to design a monument that reflects the tenacity of the human spirit and speaks to all people.

Behavioral Health Initiative Announces the Country's First Community Engagement Teams

The Behavioral Health Initiative announced an additional program that will play a major role in forming a continuum of behavioral health services in the Central New Mexico region. Community Engagement Teams will provide assessment and referrals to willing participants who have a behavioral health condition. The teams will aid these individuals and their families pre-crisis, post-crisis, or at-risk of experiencing a crisis to cope with the effects of mental illness. They will not respond to actively-violent or in-crisis calls. Beginning in early March, the Community Engagement Teams will be available to meet people and their families in the comfort of their own home or community. The teams will be comprised of a combination of clinicians, peers with lived experience, and case management professionals.

Behavioral Health Services Director Receives Star Award

Bernalillo County's Behavioral Health Services Director Katrina Lopez-Hotrum has been honored with the Behavioral Health Star award from the State of New Mexico. Katrina has worked hard to remedy decades of neglect and a lack of supportive services for people living with a behavioral health diagnosis. This award is a reflection of her unshakeable pursuit of behavioral health solutions as well as those of everyone whose finger prints are on the BHI

BernCo Open Space January Events Gutierrez-Hubbell House (6029 Isleta Blvd. SW)

Backyard Farming Series:

Plant Propagation

Saturday, Jan. 27, 9 a.m. – noon

Presenter: Amanda Bramble, Ampersand Sustainable Learning Center

Plant seeds early indoors! You can use a greenhouse, cold frame, or South-facing window to get your garden sprouting in the end of winter. Learn how to stage indoor plantings so that your colder season veggies like spinach and lettuce and warm season ones like squash and tomatoes are ready for the garden when the climate is right. Learn transplanting techniques as well as how to choose seeds and soil ingredients. Other propagation methods such as layering, grafting, and cuttings will be introduced.

History and Culture of New Mexico Series:

Seeds that Connect and Feed Us

Sunday, Jan. 28, 1–2:30 p.m.

Presenter: Brett Baker

Discover what makes a crop "native" as well as their culinary and cultural significance and fascinates with stories of how seeds do indeed connect us. Brett Baker will present his exhibit on Seeds at the Gutiérrez-Hubbell House and provide a slideshow featuring collections and observations of traditional native crop seeds in New Mexico over the past three decades.

Take the 40 Gallon Water Conservation Challenge

Throughout 2018, Bernalillo County Natural Resources Services will be providing information on how county residents can help to protect our natural resources. In January, let's focus on simple changes you can make to your daily routine to save water. The **40 Gallon Challenge** is a multi-state campaign that challenges residents to conserve at least 40 gallons of water per day.



You can accomplish this daily challenge by:

- **Shortening** showers by 2 minutes – *saves 5 gallons*
- **Installing** low-flow faucet aerators on 3 kitchen or bathroom faucets – *saves 14 gallons*
- **Adding** mulch around 1000 square feet of trees and plants – *saves 25 gallons*
- **Fixing** a leaky toilet – *saves 30 gallons*
- Many more examples [here!](#)

Take the pledge to adopt changes to the way you use water in 2018!

Behavioral Health Initiative Community Engagement Teams



“While some features of the Community Engagement Teams are incorporated into currently existing programs, to our knowledge this is the first community engagement team in the country,” said Commissioner Debbie O’Malley. *“We attribute this first-of-its kind program to the tireless efforts of community advocates, BHI staff and my fellow elected leaders.”*