



BERNCO at a Glance

DECEMBER 2016

Volume 7 • Issue 12

Season's Greetings to you and yours from Bernalillo County

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR HEARING

Second Wednesday of month
Wednesday, Dec. 14, 9 a.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2017
9 a.m.

BERNALILLO COUNTY COMMISSION MEETINGS

SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE MEETING

Friday, Dec. 9, 4 p.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE MEETING

Tuesday, Dec. 13, 5 p.m.

All meetings listed above
are held in the
Vincent E. Griego Chambers
in the basement of the
city/county government bldg.
One Civic Plaza
Fifth Street and Marquette NW,
unless indicated otherwise

County offices will
be closed on
Friday, Dec. 23
and Monday, Dec. 26
for the Christmas
holiday; and
Monday, Jan. 2, 2017
for the New Year's Day
holiday.

BERNCO
at a Glance

BernCo Bids Farewell to Three Outgoing Elected Officials

Bernalillo County will say farewell to three of its elected officials at the end of 2016.



District 2 Commissioner Art De La Cruz was first elected in 2008 and served the maximum two terms for the South Valley residents. With the support of his fellow commissioners, and in his first three years in office, De La Cruz brought an unprecedented \$113 million-plus to District 2. He proposed a number of initiatives that included economic development projects, an intensive systematic graffiti and community clean-up; sewer, water and road projects, and \$5 million toward acquisition of the former Price's Dairy, in the South Valley, to create the county's first national urban wildlife refuge.

Maggie Toulouse Oliver has served as Bernalillo County clerk since January 2007. Toulouse Oliver prioritized integrity and transparency, public education and modernization of both office functions and the election process. In 2008, she and her staff, along with academic partners, conducted the first-ever post-election audit in New Mexico history. She played a key role in the passage of "vote centers" legislation and implemented the largest and most successful version of the process to date. In November, Toulouse Oliver was elected New Mexico's next secretary of state.



Manny Ortiz was elected Bernalillo County treasurer in 2012, after serving eight years as investment officer in the Treasurer's Office. As treasurer, Ortiz's priority was to provide taxpayers a quality customer service experience whenever they interacted with the Treasurer's Office. By listening to the taxpayers, he continued to expand the accessibility of the online programs and to create new avenues for the community to communicate with his office.

 Not following us yet? Find us
on Facebook (Bernalillo County
NM) and Twitter (@BernCounty)

BERNALILLO COUNTY



WE'RE MORE THAN YOU THINK

BERNALILLO COUNTY OFFICIALS

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Art De La Cruz, Chair, Dist. 2
Wayne A. Johnson, Vice Chair, Dist. 5
Debbie O'Malley, Member, Dist. 1
Maggie Hart Stebbins, Member, Dist. 3
Lonnie C. Talbert, Member, Dist. 4
Main office: (505) 468-7000

COUNTY ASSESSOR

Tanya R. Giddings
Main office: (505) 222-3700

COUNTY CLERK

Maggie Toulouse Oliver
Voting
(505) 243-VOTE (8683)
Recording & Filing
(505) 468-1290
Marriage Licenses
(505) 468-1243

COUNTY TREASURER

Manny Ortiz
Main office: (505) 468-7031

COURT OF WILLS, ESTATES & PROBATE

Probate Judge Willow Misty Parks
Main office: (505) 468-1232

SHERIFF

Manuel Gonzales III
Main office (non-emergency):
(505) 798-7000

Visit www.bernco.gov
for more information



Public Meeting Scheduled for the Blake Road and Coors Boulevard Construction Project

The Bernalillo County Public Works Division invites the community to participate in a public meeting about the Blake Road and Coors Boulevard Construction Project.

Thursday, Dec. 8 • 6 - 7 p.m.
South Valley Academy,
3426 Blake Road SW

The project will consist of roadway improvements at the Blake Road and Coors Boulevard intersection and storm drain improvements that will capture water runoff at the intersection. Roadway improvements will consist of the widening of Blake Road to include dedicated bicycle lanes, curb and gutter, and sidewalk that will improve safety and vehicle capacity of the roadway corridor. At the intersection of Blake Road and Coors Boulevard, dedicated turn lanes will be added to improve traffic flow through the intersection. The new storm drainage system will connect to the existing storm drain pipes along Blake Road just west of Coors Boulevard. The storm drain pipes will extend to and discharge into the Isleta Drain to improve drainage through the area and reduce flooding.

Please attend the public meeting to learn more about the project and to share your comments. For questions or more information, contact Howard Cake, P.E., BernCo project engineer, at (505) 848-1567 or via email at hcake@bernco.gov.



New Prescription Drug Drop Box for the South Valley

Sheriff Manuel Gonzales, III, the Partnership for Community Action, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, and Commissioner Maggie Hart Stebbins announced the installation of a new prescription drug drop box in the South

Valley, a tool that allows the community to safely dispose of unused and outdated medications. The prescription drug drop box will be available to the public at the **Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department South Area Command Center** at 2039 Isleta Blvd. SW, **Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

In New Mexico, where opioid overdose deaths are the second highest in the nation, prescription drop boxes, such as this, have been successful in reducing the theft and illegal resale and use of prescription medications. Safe disposal of prescription medications is also a key component of the Bernalillo County Opioid Accountability Initiative.

Unwanted prescriptions can also be dropped off at other locations throughout the City of Albuquerque year-round. Please visit cabq.gov/police/programs/pharmaceuticals or call 311 to learn more.



South Valley's Gateway Park Renamed

Gateway Park located at the intersection of Bridge and Isleta Boulevards will be renamed to honor and celebrate native New Mexican, Dolores Huerta Gateway Park.

Dolores was born on April 10, 1930 in Dawson, a small mining town in the mountains of northern New Mexico. She is an activist and labor leader who co-founded the national farm workers' association with César Chávez. Through the organization, she helped champion for the rights of workers in agricultural fields to ensure they were well compensated

and worked in better conditions. Chávez and Huerta made a great team -- Chávez was the dynamic leader and speaker and Huerta was the skilled organizer and tough negotiator. She was a perennial non-violent and strong spiritual force in their efforts.

The Dolores Huerta Gateway Park is along the same boulevard named for César Chávez, Avenida César Chávez. Details coming soon for the park renaming ceremony happening in 2017.

Grow the Growers Program

'Grow the Growers' is a farm training program created to attract new and emerging farmers into professional food production. The program is a new initiative that will integrate the existing land and water resources of Bernalillo County's open space properties with the education and research expertise of the NMSU Cooperative Extension Service.

The Extension Service will educate, train, incubate and accelerate the success of next-generation farmers in Bernalillo County. The county will provide financial and logistical support through the program's 2016-2017 pilot year. The program begins with a set of eight in-classroom courses on a broad spectrum of business development and production techniques. During this first year (the pilot year), the classes will be followed by field demonstrations and apprenticeships at the Gutierrez-Hubbell House History and Cultural Center, 6029 Isleta Blvd., SW. The program is open to the public. For more information, please visit <http://aces.nmsu.edu/county/bernalillo/farmranch/farm-business-training.html>.



Veteran Tax Exemptions

Any Bernalillo County veteran who served a minimum of 90 consecutive active duty days (other than for training), and who was honorably discharged, and is a legal resident of New Mexico qualifies for a \$4,000 reduction in the taxable value

of their real property for Bernalillo County taxation purposes. This benefit is also available to non-remarried surviving spouses of a veteran who would have otherwise qualified for this benefit. There is also a 100 percent disabled veteran property tax exemption available to any veteran who has been rated at 100 percent service-connected disabled by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and is a legal resident of New Mexico. This exemption qualifies for a complete 100 percent property tax waiver on their primary residence.

Veterans are encouraged to apply before April 30, 2017 in order to receive the exemption for tax year 2017. Please visit the assessor's website for additional information and to find the applications at www.bernco.gov/assessor-office.



BernCo
Hotline
Numbers

TO REPORT A ROAD
MAINTENANCE
ISSUE:
(505) 848-1503
(505) 848-1504

TO REPORT
GRAFFITI:
(505) 243-7273

PARK WATCH
PROGRAM:
(505) 468-7777

Or send an email to:
ContactCenter@bernco.gov

BERNCO WEBSITE
AND SOCIAL MEDIA
HANDLES

www.BernCo.gov
www.BernCoBernie.com



BERNCO
at a Glance

UPCOMING BERNCO EVENTS AND PUBLIC MEETINGS

NORTH GOLF COURSE COMMUNITY MEETING

Wednesday, Dec. 7

4 – 7 p.m.

Old Stanford Health Clinic,
1111 Stanford NE

*Hosted by the North Campus
Neighborhood Association,
University of New Mexico and
Bernalillo County. Learn more
about plans for additional
improvements to the North Golf
Course Urban Open Space*

BLAKE ROAD AND COORS BOULEVARD CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

PUBLIC MEETING

Thursday, Dec. 8

6 – 7 p.m.

South Valley Academy
3426 Blake Road SW

*Learn about the project
and share your comments.*

BernCo Bernie's Second Book Arrives in Early Spring 2017!

Calling all young readers to join BernCo Bernie's reading challenge!

All elementary school-aged children, kindergarten to fifth grade, who read 10 age-appropriate books between Jan. 4 – Feb. 1, 2017 are eligible to participate. More details coming soon.

Bernalillo County Open Space Program Receives National Award

The BernCo Open Space Master Naturalist Advisory Committee was recently honored by the Alliance of Natural Resource Outreach and Service Programs as its 2016 Outstanding Team Award winner. The committee, formed in 2009, is credited with starting up the first Master Naturalist program in New Mexico, with Open Space coordinator Colleen McRoberts. Funded and organized by Bernalillo County Open Space, the Master Naturalist Program provides an excellent opportunity to participate in conserving, preserving and restoring the local environment. Through this program, applicants experience a wide-range of free classes and hands-on experiences, including 55 hours of in-class training and field studies over a two-month period (June and July). Bernalillo County congratulates the members of the Bernalillo County Open Space Master Naturalist Advisory Committee for the amazing team work that led to receiving this award: *Dan Conklin, Master Naturalist Representative, Kathy Ferris, Master Naturalist Representative, Steve Glass, Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District Karen Herzenberg, Ranger Karen, Laurel Ladwig, Friends of the Rio Grande Nature Center Tish Morris, New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science, Jennifer Owen-White, Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge, Colleen Langan-McRoberts, Bernalillo County Open Space Coordinator.* To learn more about the Bernalillo County Open Space Master Naturalist Program and how you can get involved, go to:

<http://www.bernco.gov/community-services/master-naturalist-program.aspx>.



BernCo Housing Department Receives High Marks

The BernCo Housing Department received an overall performance rating of “high” after scoring a perfect 135 out of 135 points during a recent Section 8 Management Assessment Program certification process. This is the third year in a row that BernCo has received a perfect assessment score from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The BernCo Housing Department manages 75 public housing units at two locations in the South Valley, including 54 units for the elderly, 21 for the disabled and numerous Section 8 housing properties around the county. The HUD assessment included over 3,000 individual renters who get help with rent and utilities, numerous landlords and property managers, all who are managed within the scope of the county housing department programs. The majority of the Bernalillo County Housing Department’s budget comes from federal HUD grants.

NEED Assistance or Resources?

Contact neighborhood coordinator Darrell Dady at (505) 468-7364 or ddady@bernco.gov.