



BERNCO at a Glance

November 2017
Volume 8, Issue 11

BERNALILLO COUNTY COMMISSION MEETINGS

Zoning Meeting
Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2017
3 p.m.

Board of Finance Meeting
Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2017
4:30 p.m.

Administrative Meeting
Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2017
5 p.m.

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

**BERNALILLO COUNTY
OFFICES WILL BE
CLOSED ON
FRIDAY, NOV. 10
IN OBSERVANCE OF
VETERANS DAY
AND
THURSDAY, NOV. 23 AND
FRIDAY, NOV. 24
IN OBSERVANCE OF THE
THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY**

Property Taxes Due Friday, Nov. 10, 2017

The first half of this year's property tax bill for Bernalillo County property owners is due Friday, Nov. 10. Taxpayers have several options when making payments.



Property owners can pay their taxes by mail, online or by simply coming into the Treasurer's Office in person in the basement of One Civic Plaza NW. Additionally, 12 banks and credit unions will accept property tax payments from Nov. 1 through Dec. 10, 2017, including: Bank of New Mexico, Rio Grande Credit Union, First Financial Credit Union, State Employees Credit Union, First National Rio Grande, MyBank, US Eagle Federal Credit Union

New Mexico Bank & Trust, and Wells Fargo. Payments can also be dropped off at the following drop boxes: Westside, Paradise Hills and

Raymond G. Sanchez community centers; the Motor Vehicle Division office in Tijeras; and at the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Government Center at Fifth Street and Marquette Avenue NW.

Bernalillo County 2017 tax bills were mailed out on Nov. 1, 2017. If property owners don't receive a tax bill or are unsure of the amount owed, they should call customer service at (505) 468-7031. For information on tax savings programs, including exemptions, please visit www.bemco.gov/assessor/tax-savings-programs.aspx.

BernCo Fire Cadet Graduation

The Bernalillo County Fire Department invites the public to be a part of the latest fire cadet graduation. The ceremony will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 6, at 4 p.m., at the African American Performing Arts Center, 310 San Pedro Road NE, on the EXPO NM Fairgrounds.

There will be nine firefighter graduates for Class 2017-1. They will begin work at various fire stations around the county in mid-December.



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

BERNALILLO COUNTY



WE'RE MORE THAN YOU THINK



Bernalillo County Treasurer Nancy Bearce says “Your Money Matters”

Outreach Meetings to be Held at County and City Senior Centers in November and December

- ◆ Do you have questions about how your taxes are collected?
- ◆ Do you know where your money goes to?
- ◆ Do you need help reading your tax bill?
- ◆ What options are there for paying your taxes?

Learn about how your tax dollars are collected and distributed to the City of Albuquerque, UNMH, APS, CNM and others as well as Bernalillo County. Treasurer Bearce will explain how county tax dollars pay for roads, senior and community centers, fire and public safety services. Learn about your options to help pay your taxes in full yearly, bi-annually or monthly, online, through the mail, drop-off boxes, area banks or in person.

County Assessor’s Office staff will also be on hand to answer questions.

Nov. 14, 11 a.m.—12:30 p.m., Palo Duro Senior Center, 5221 Palo Duro NE

Nov. 15, 11 a.m.—12:30 p.m., North Valley Senior Center, 3825 4th St. NW

Nov. 16, 11:30 a.m.—1 p.m., Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center, 501 Elizabeth St. SE

Nov. 28, 11 a.m.—12:30 p.m., Barelvas Senior Center, 714 7th St. SW

Nov. 29, 10—11:15 a.m., South Valley Multipurpose Senior Center, 2008 Larrazolo Road SW

Nov. 30, 11 a.m.—1 p.m., North Domingo Baca Multigenerational Center, 7521 Carmel Ave. NE.

For additional opportunities to visit with the BernCo Treasurer Nancy Bearce at other city and county senior centers, visit www.bernco.gov/treasurer.

AMERICA RECYCLES DAY WEDNESDAY, NOV. 15

The national recycling rate has increased every year for the past 30 years. The current recycling rate is 34 percent. JOIN the movement to RECYCLE MORE. For **America Recycles Day 2017**, take a pledge to:

Learn. *I will find out what materials are collected for recycling in my community.*

Act. *Reduce my personal waste by recycling. Within the next month, I will recycle more.*

Share. *In the next month, I will encourage one family member or one friend to take the pledge.*

More info about America Recycles Day at www.AmericaRecyclesDay.org.



BernCo Holiday Mercado

Friday, Dec. 1 from 11a.m.- 4 p.m.

in the BernCo Annex, 415 Tijeras Ave. NW.

There will be craft vendors, music, food and a raffle*! A canned food drive to benefit The Storehouse will also be happening. For every non-perishable food item donated, you will receive a ticket for the raffle drawing. The public is invited to this special event.

Interested vendors, please contact Sherry Gutierrez at (505) 468-7247.

**All proceeds to benefit the United Way.*



BernCo Open Space Fall Events

All events are free. More info at www.bernco.gov/openspace.

Family Fun Days at Bachechi Open Space:

November's Theme is Birding at Bachechi

Every Sunday* from noon – 5 p.m. Count the cranes passing overhead as their migration is mapped and learn about what adaptations allow birds to fly. Learn how feathers work and how hollow bird bones are, then make a bird feeder to take home.

*No Sunday Family Fun Day on Thanksgiving weekend.



Adventures at Bachechi Open Space:

Nature Crafts: Holiday Gift Ideas | Nov. 4, 9–10:30 a.m.

Presenter: Nan Masland, BernCo Public Art Coordinator. Get the creative juices flowing and make some heartfelt presents for loved ones while saving money and reducing waste. Natural materials will be used to make holiday ornaments, pine cone creatures and other gifts with creature character.

Backyard Farming Series at the Gutierrez-Hubbell House:

Accessible and Innovative Gardens | Nov. 11, 9 a.m. - noon. Using space wisely can help those who are gardening, in both small and large spaces, get the most abundance out of their area. This workshop will focus on using permaculture techniques for gardening as well as nontraditional designs such as trellising and container gardens.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Bernalillo County Greenprint

The Bernalillo County Greenprint is a community-driven conservation plan. Its purpose is to guide where public funds should be spent to protect open space and farmland, and expand access to local parks and trails throughout Bernalillo County. The Trust for Public Land worked with the BernCo Parks and Recreation Department and a local steering committee to develop the greenprint based on community input. The Board of County Commissioners passed an administrative resolution to adopt the greenprint report on Oct. 24. To learn more and view the greenprint story map in both English and Spanish, visit <http://web.tplgis.org/bernco/>.

Carlito Springs and Ojito de San Antonio Open Space – NOW OPEN

Ojito de San Antonio and Carlito Springs Open Space properties are reopened after closures due to increased bear activity. The public is invited to enjoy the fall colors at these majestic properties in the East Mountains. Take advantage of the current opening at Carlito Springs because the property will be closed again in the near future for a forest health initiative. The county will be working with a certified arborist and the NM State Forestry Division to remove hazardous, dead and diseased trees followed by reducing fuel loads for fire prevention.

Valle de Oro

National Wildlife Refuge

Join the annual **Music and Migration Event** on the refuge, Saturday, Nov. 11.

The event is **FREE** and family friendly.

The refuge is located at 7851 2nd St. SW, just three miles south of Rio Bravo Boulevard. This event is held outside, so please plan and dress accordingly.



Prepare Now for Winter Weather

At home...As the weather gets colder, fires increase due to people trying to keep warm. Here are some cold weather reminders for the home:

- Make sure there is no carbon monoxide leakage.
- Inspect heater cords for frays and/or damage. Do not use it if it is damaged.
- Plug the heater directly into the outlet and never use extension cords.
- Keep space heaters at least three feet away from anything that can catch fire or is damp or wet, and be sure to use only a flat, level floor surface.
- Keep space heaters away from high-traffic areas, and never leave them unattended or in rooms with unsupervised children or pets.
- Make sure the circuit where the heater is plugged in can handle the added demand.
- Do not use charcoal or propane indoors.

For your pets...It's a common misconception that dogs and cats won't get cold because of their fur. If your pets have to be outside, here are some outside housing tips for your pets:

- Do not use fabric blankets or bedding. Once wet, they ice over when temperatures drop, and become wet again with your animal's body heat.
- Place the shelter's entrance facing south to southeast to maximize exposure to the sun.
- If the opening is uncovered, consider attaching a thick piece of rubber, doormat or carpet scrap cut to size to block the wind, rain and snow.
- Make sure the shelter is as airtight as possible.
- Check the water bowl frequently for freezing.

On the road...Prepare yourself and your vehicle; pack an emergency winter car kit:

- Wool blanket, extra hat and gloves.
- Jumper cables.
- Water in small bottles (easier to thaw if frozen).
- Food – such as protein/candy/granola bars; high in calories and ready-to-eat.
- Extra cell phone batteries or charger.

Be prepared for winter traveling:

- Winterize your car and keep it well maintained.
- Always travel with at least half of a tank of gas.
- Never leave your home without a charged cell phone.
- Tell someone your route and when you are expected to arrive.
- Know where you are going and avoid unfamiliar routes during inclement weather.
- Check the weather before you travel.

Check the road conditions!

When bad weather hits our area, visit the www.bemco.gov home page for notifications on conditions directly from our crews who are actually on the roads, as well as www.bernco.gov/WinterRoads, a web page dedicated to providing residents with real time info about road closures, winter weather safety; and links to city, county and state road condition websites. A downloadable and printable version of our *Winter Emergency Road and Winter Operation Procedures* is also available on the Winter Roads webpage. This brochure includes the county's priorities for winter snow removal, information on diversion of traffic during inclement weather, and preparation tips for both being on the road and at home.



NEED Neighborhood Association Resources?

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