



BERNCO at a Glance

NOVEMBER 2015

Volume 6 • Issue 10

Thanksgiving greetings from Bernalillo County!

COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

First Wednesday of month
Wednesday, Nov. 4, 9 a.m.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR HEARING

Second Tuesday of month
Tuesday, Nov. 10, 9 a.m.

BERNALILLO COUNTY COMMISSION MEETINGS

Zoning Meeting
Tuesday, Nov. 3, 4 p.m.

Board of Finance Meeting
Tuesday, Nov. 10, 4:30 p.m.

Administrative Meeting
Tuesday, Nov. 10, 5 p.m.

Special
Administrative Meeting
Tuesday, Nov. 17, 9 a.m.
10th Floor, Conf. Room B

Meetings 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

County offices will be closed on
Wednesday, Nov. 11
in observance of
Veterans Day and
Thursday, Nov. 26 and
Friday, Nov. 27 for the
Thanksgiving holiday.

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Food! It's Happening! Right Here!

¡Comida! ¡Está sucediendo! ¡Aquí mismo!

If food is your passion or your profession, then you'll want to attend the Cultivating Bernalillo County Food Summit sponsored by Commissioner Debbie O'Malley on Monday, Nov. 16, at Hotel Albuquerque, 800 Rio Grande Blvd. NW. It is a day of business education and networking for all connected to food: farmers, foodies, chefs, local food entrepreneurs, and those who serve this industry. The event features workshops on operations, logistics and marketing; a panel that will share tips and strategies for how to take your food to market — locally and beyond; and a vendor fair. Keynote speaker is Matt Rembe of Los Poblanos and luncheon speaker is Celina Aldaz-Grife of Celina's Biscochitos. Tickets are \$10 each (breakfast and lunch included) and must be purchased in advance.

For more details and to register, visit www.bernco.gov/foodsummit.



New County Manager Julie Morgas Baca is Now on the Job

Learn a little more about her and the vision she has for Bernalillo County and the community by reading her bio on the county's manager's page at www.BernCo.gov.

So, What's Happening with the Bernalillo County Behavioral Health Initiative?

Bernalillo County and its consultant, Community Partners, Inc., are moving ahead with this important work by reaching out to surrounding communities to collaborate on the best way to meet critical behavioral health needs of residents in the greater Albuquerque/Bernalillo County metropolitan area. For specifics about what's happening right now with the behavioral health initiative, visit the county's website.



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

BERNALILLO COUNTY



WE'RE MORE THAN YOU THINK

thank
you!

BernCo thanks you

BERNALILLO COUNTY OFFICIALS

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Maggie Hart Stebbins, Chair, Dist. 3
Art De La Cruz, Vice Chair, Dist. 2
Debbie O'Malley, Member, Dist. 1
Lonnie C. Talbert, Member, Dist. 4
Wayne A. Johnson, Member, Dist. 5
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

Manny Gonzales III
Main office (non-emergency):
(505) 468-7100

Visit www.bernco.gov
for more information

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Public Meeting Scheduled for the Woodward Road Improvements Project

Bernalillo County, in cooperation with the New Mexico Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration, announces a PUBLIC MEETING regarding the Woodward Road Improvements Project:

Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2015 • 5 p.m.

Presentation begins at 5:30 p.m.

**Herman Sanchez Community Center
1830 William St. SE**



The public meeting will discuss the proposed improvements to Woodward Road between Second Street and Broadway Boulevard. These improvements are related to the interdependent Sunport Boulevard Extension project. County representatives and project team members will be sharing information including project background, project development process, roadway widening and improvement alternatives, and results of coordination with the BNSF Railway regarding railroad crossing and transfer operations.

Residents, landowners, business owners, community members and all interested parties are encouraged to attend and comment on this project on any aspect, including bicycle and pedestrian issues, as well as natural and cultural resources. For questions or more information, please contact Rodrigo Eichwald, the BernCo project engineer, at (505) 848-1574. For project updates, visit www.bernco.gov/projects.

BernCo Buys 17 Acres of Property in the North Valley

In September 2015, Bernalillo County finalized the purchase of the 17 acres of property in the North Valley that was once the home to the Sandia Ranch Hospital, 6903 Edith Blvd. NE. The purchase price was just over \$1.9 million. In October 2015, Bernalillo County knocked down the largest structure, the old hospital, to address immediate safety concerns. The county will hire an outside contractor for demolition of the remaining three structures, overall site cleanup and removal of all debris. That process is expected to take at least six to nine months. Once the property is cleared and secured, there will be no further activity at the site until master planning and redevelopment plans are undertaken and completed.

In early December, the Board of County Commissioners will vote on the exact dollar amount in capital outlay funding that will be requested from the 2016 legislature for this property. Funding for this property is one of Commissioner O'Malley's top capital priorities for her district as reflected in the 2017-2021 Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan. The community and surrounding neighborhoods will be involved via public meetings to discuss what should be developed on the property.

For updates about this property, visit www.bernco.gov/projects.

BernCo Open Space Events that Educate and Enchant

BACKYARD FARMING SERIES:

The Holistic Garden and Gardener | Nov. 7

9 – 11 a.m. at Gutiérrez-Hubbell House, 6029 Isleta Blvd. SW

A panel of speakers will present how to consider your farm or garden in light of the larger landscape. This is a forum and discussion for thinking about our connections to nature and how our gardens play a role in wildlife habitat and the local environment, from appropriate plant selection to water harvesting.



NATURALIST SERIES:

Revealing the lives of the parasites among us in the Rio Grande Bosque | Nov. 21

5 – 6:30 p.m. at Bachechi Open Space, 9521 Rio Grande Blvd. NW

Presented by Mariel Campbell and Dr. Sara Brant, Division of Parasitology

Hidden in the beautiful bosque ecosystem is a world of unseen diversity of animals: parasites. Parasites most often elicit a response of opposition, fear, or disgust. Learn about the complementary and connectedness of parasites within our bosque resulting in a diverse and dynamic ecosystem.



America Recycles Day:

Nov. 15

The national recycling rate has increased every year for the past 30 years. The current recycling rate is 34.5 percent. JOIN the movement to RECYCLE MORE.

For **America Recycles Day 2015**, 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.*

For more information about America Recycles Day, please visit <http://americarecyclesday.org>.

Talk to Us!

The county is seeking public input on two pending ordinances that the Board of County Commissioners will consider at its Dec. 8, 2015 administrative meeting at 5 p.m. at the Vincent E. Griego Chambers of the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Government Center:

- A proposed amendment to an existing ordinance that seeks to seize the vehicle of an individual who participates in drag racing or reckless driving activities, in the unincorporated area of the county, outside the city limits.
- The county's Housing Department is seeking the commission's approval of an ordinance to establish an affordable housing program.

Read the entire ordinances and proposed changes at <http://www.bernco.gov/Government/ordinances.aspx>.

Thank You.

BernCo thanks you

**BernCo
Hotline
Numbers**

**TO REPORT A ROAD
MAINTENANCE**

ISSUE:

(505) 848-1503

(505) 848-1504

**TO REPORT
GRAFFITI:**

(505) 24-ERASE
or (505) 243-7273

**PARK WATCH
PROGRAM:**
(505) 468-7777

Or send an email to:
ContactCenter@bernco.gov

**BERNCO WEBSITE
AND SOCIAL MEDIA
HANDLES**

Bernalillo County online
www.BernCo.gov

Bernalillo County on Facebook
Bernalillo County NM

Bernalillo County on Twitter
[@BernCounty](https://twitter.com/BernCounty)

Bernalillo County on YouTube
[Bernalillo County](https://www.youtube.com/BernalilloCounty)

Bernalillo County on Flickr
[bernco](https://www.flickr.com/photos/bernco/)

BernCo Bernie online
www.BernCoBernie.com

BernCo Bernie on Twitter
[@BernCoBernie](https://twitter.com/BernCoBernie)



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UPCOMING BERNCO EVENTS AND PUBLIC MEETINGS

2nd Annual Sugar Skull Fun Run

Sunday, Nov. 1

Begins 9 a.m.

Bosque Trail

2.5k, 5k and 10k runs

Register at

www.bernco.gov/RunBernCo

Benefits The Storehouse,
NM's largest food pantry

Day of the Dog

Dia de los Perros

Saturday, Nov. 7

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Rio Bravo

Dog Park

3910 Isleta Blvd. SW

FREE event

Cultivating Bernalillo County Food Summit

Monday, Nov. 16

7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Hotel Albuquerque

800 Rio Grande Blvd. NW

Registration is required.

Tickets are \$10 per person,

includes breakfast

and lunch.

Woodward Road Improvements Project Public Meeting

Wednesday, Nov. 18

5:30 p.m.

Herman Sanchez

Community Center

1830 William St. SE

Preparing for Winter Weather Conditions

When bad weather hits our area this winter, visit the www.bernco.gov home page for notifications on conditions direct 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.

To access city road status reports, or to submit a city road request within the Albuquerque city limits, dial 311.

For information on state roads across New Mexico, including interstates and major roads, the State of New Mexico's Department of Transportation has several ways to access information. **The Road Advisory Hotline is available 24/7 by calling 511.** You can also visit <http://nmroads.com> for an interactive map of road conditions, to sign up for email/text alerts, or to download their mobile app.



Property Taxes Are Due Nov. 10

BernCo property owners have many options to pay their property taxes as the first half of this year's tax bill is due Nov. 10. Property tax bills for 2015 were sent Nov. 2, 2015. The first half is due Nov. 10, 2015.

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.

Payments can also be dropped off at the following drop boxes, including 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.

Additionally, 12 banks and credit unions will accept property tax payments, including: Bank of Albuquerque, Bank of New Mexico, First Financial Credit Union, First National Rio Grande, MyBank, New Mexico Bank and Trust, Peoples Bank, Rio Grande Credit Union, State Employees Credit Union, US Bank, US Eagle Federal Credit Union, and Wells Fargo.

This year's tax bill includes a survey to gather input from people who might be interested in receiving their tax bills electronically in the future. If you are interested in receiving future tax bills electronically, please follow the instructions in the survey or visit <http://www.bernco.gov/treasurer/electronic-tax-bills.aspx> to learn more.

Residents should call the Treasurer's Office at (505) 468-7031 for more information, or visit online at www.bernco.gov.

It's important to note that Bernalillo County collects property taxes not just for Bernalillo County but for several other local governments as well, including the City of Albuquerque, Albuquerque Public Schools and the state of New Mexico.