

BERNALILLO COUNTY



Board of Commissioners

Maggie Hart Stebbins, Chair, Dist. 3
Debbie O'Malley, Vice Chair, Dist. 1
Art De La Cruz, Member, Dist. 2
Lonnie C. Talbert, Member, Dist. 4
Wayne A. Johnson, Member Dist. 5
Tom Zdunek, County Manager
468-7000 / www.bernco.gov

UPCOMING EVENTS

Independence Day Holiday
Thursday, July 4
County offices will be closed

Lavender Festival
Village of Los Ranchos
Saturday and Sunday, July 13 & 14

National Night Out
Tuesday, August 6

International Community Day
Hyder Park, September 14

Taste of New Mexico
National Hispanic Cultural Center
October 12 & 13

Public Meetings

County Commission - Administrative
Tuesday, June 11 @ 5 p.m.
Tuesday, June 25 @ 5 p.m.

County Commission—Zoning
Tuesday, June 25 @ 3 p.m.

County Planning Commission
1st Wednesday of month @ 9 a.m.

The above meetings are held
in the Vincent E. Griego Chambers
in the basement of the
City/County Government Building
1 Civic Plaza / 5th and Marquette NW



BernCo at a Glance

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 6

JUNE 2013

Fire Restrictions Now in Place for Unincorporated BernCo

On Tuesday, May 14, 2013, the Bernalillo County Board of Commissioners voted to approve a resolution banning and restricting smoking, campfires and open burning in the unincorporated areas of the county, outside the Albuquerque city limits. These bans and restrictions will be in place for 90 days unless there is a need to extend them beyond the 90-day period.

As the potential for large wildland fires grows across Bernalillo County, the county is imposing restrictions to reduce the likelihood of a human-caused wildland fire. The county takes preventing wildland fires seriously and will have a zero tolerance for anyone who violates the burning restrictions.

The burning restrictions prohibit open burning of any kind. Outdoor smoking, controlled burning and the launching of projectiles is also prohibited. Charcoal broilers, barbecue grills, wood and coal burning stoves used outside of private dwellings are classified as campfires and are prohibited; however, **propane and white gas grills are allowed** as they are equipped with emergency shut-off valves.

Penalties can include fines up to \$300 and/or up to 90 days in jail.

In mid-June, the County Fire Marshal will come before the Board of County Commissioners to ask for a 30-day restriction on fireworks.

Residents should prepare their properties for a wildland fire by creating defensible space around their homes and making sure that their roof gutters are cleaned of any dried leaves, pine needles, twigs, and other debris. Firewood should be stored at least 20 feet away from your home.

For more tips on preparing your home for wildland fires, please visit <http://wildlandfirersg.org/> or <http://www.firewise.org/>.

Need Assistance or Resources?

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



Neighborhood Association Workshop

Bernalillo County Cultural Services and Neighborhood Coordination hosted its inaugural annual association workshop on May 15 at the National Hispanic Cultural Center. In all, it was a great success — 26 associations were represented from both the City of Albuquerque and the unincorporated area of Bernalillo County.

Valuable information, such as Roberts Rules of Order, boards and commissions presentation skills, and suggestions for engaging association members and residents were provided. Both city and county departments provided information and resources that help educate citizens on the services that government provides to the public.

If you have any recommendations for our next workshop, please call Neighborhood Coordination Specialist Darrell Dady at 468-7364 or e-mail him at ddady@bernco.gov.

Bernalillo County Ups Minimum Wage

Starting July 1, employees earning minimum wage who work for businesses in the unincorporated areas of Bernalillo County will get a 50-cent per hour raise. They will also get another 50-cent raise on Jan. 1, 2014, boosting the minimum wage to \$8.50 per hour.

The Board of County Commissioners passed the new minimum wage ordinance by a 3-2 vote on April 23. The measure, sponsored by District 2 Commissioner Art De La Cruz, applies to employers who are required to register with the county. Bernalillo County government employees and workers who are employed by staffing agencies or similar entities are also covered by the new ordinance. By definition of the ordinance, an employee is any person who performs work for an employer for monetary compensation for at least two hours in a given week within the unincorporated area of the county, which is outside the city limits.

The new ordinance will apply to about 1,400 businesses in the unincorporated areas of Bernalillo County, and makes the wages consistent with what voters in the City of Albuquerque approved last year. The new wage ordinance also applies to tipped employees. For example, if a tipped employee's hourly rate plus tips does not meet the minimum hourly wage of \$8.50 an hour, the employer will make up the difference. Tipped employees will also be allowed to continue to pool tips under the new ordinance.

Employers are required to post a notice from the county in a highly visible place informing employees of the current minimum wage rates and their rights under this ordinance.

BernCo Commission Adopts New Sexually-Oriented Business Ordinance

Bernalillo County's new ordinance regulating the operation of sexually-oriented businesses took effect on April 26. It's a four page document similar to the one recently passed by the City of Albuquerque and was approved by Bernalillo County Commission on March 26.

The Sexually-Oriented Business Ordinance (SOBO) is a business registration ordinance which is designed to lessen the adverse, secondary effects of sexually-oriented businesses that are legally located in the county under the zoning code. It regulates the operation of sexually-oriented businesses that provide live or recorded entertainment or might allow specified sexual activities on their premises.

The provisions of this ordinance, however, have neither the purpose, nor effect, of imposing a limitation or restriction on the content of any communicative performances, including sexually-oriented performances. Similarly, it is neither the intent, nor effect, of this ordinance to restrict or deny adults access to sexually-oriented performances that are protected by the First Amendment or to deny exhibitors the right to provide sexually-oriented entertainment to their intended market.

The county believes it is crucial to adopt a law that is as stringent as the city's regulations so that poorly run businesses are not likely to open establishments in the county as an alternative to the city. SOBO also creates a process where business owners are given due process in cases where their businesses are found to violate the ordinance and ordered to cease operating.

Bernalillo County's Free Summer Meals Program Runs June 4 to August 9

Bernalillo County's free summer meals program will provide healthy food for children at 56 locations throughout the county this year. No registration is required for the program, which runs from June 4 to August 9. The 2013 program includes three new locations where summer lunches will be distributed: Clinton P. Anderson Park, Victory Christian School and Helen Cordero Elementary School. The successful program also expanded last year, when two new meal distribution locations were added.

Most of the 56 county-run locations are located outside Albuquerque city limits in unincorporated parts of Bernalillo County, including the South Valley, the North Valley and the East Mountains. The locations were chosen based on the percentage of children receiving free and reduced lunch in that area. County officials expect to distribute about 150,000 meals.

The county's Summer Lunch Program is funded by a federal grant administered by the state Children, Youth and Families Department, and also includes free breakfasts. The meals are prepared at the Albuquerque Public Schools central kitchen and delivered to sites countywide.

For more information, visit www.bernco.gov/yss/summerlunch/, or call 505.314.0427 or 505.314.0430.

PLAY BALL at the Jimmy Nieto Memorial Summer Softball Blowout June 28-30

June is a great time to get out the cleats or just get outside and have some fun at Bernalillo County's summer softball tournament. The Jimmy Nieto Memorial Summer Softball Blowout is scheduled for June 28-30 at the Tom Tenorio Softball Complex, 2900 Arenal Road S.W. Entry fees apply for teams in the tournament. To sign up for this 72-hour, around-the-clock tournament, call 505.314.0422.

Visit www.bernco.gov/sports for more information.

FUSION Theatre Performances Set For Saturday, June 15

The second of two Bernalillo County-sponsored *Pay What You Wish* performances of FUSION Theatre Company's short works festival presents "*The Seven*" on Saturday, June 15 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. at the Cell Theatre, 700 1st Street NW (just south of Lomas). Doors will open at 1:30 p.m. and at 7:30 p.m.

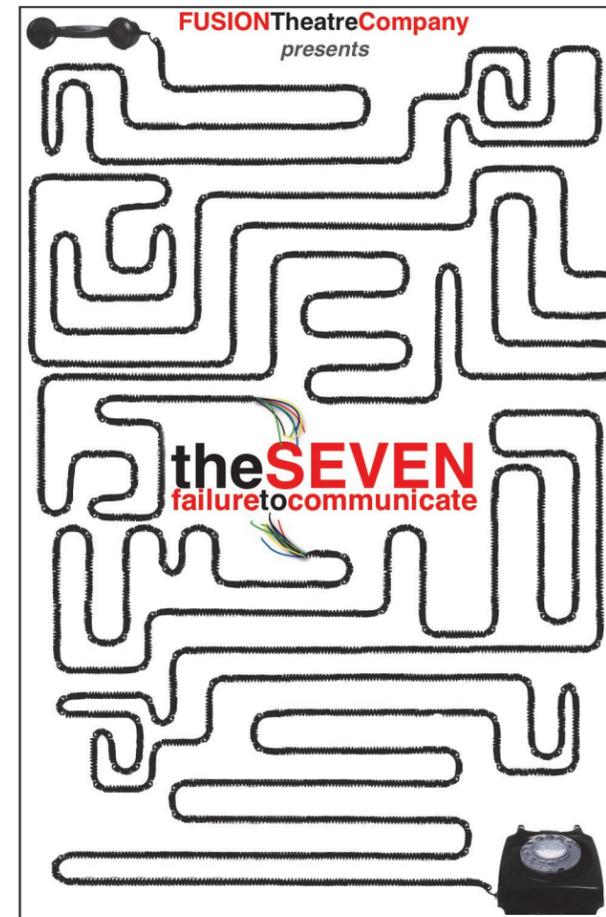
This annual festival, now in its eighth year, features seven world-premiere, award-winning global short plays written specifically for this event. This year, 774 submissions were received from 43 states and seven countries. All plays are based on the theme: "Failure to Communicate". The performances are recommended for audiences ages 13 and older.

For additional information go to: www.fusionabq.org.

Price: "Pay What You Wish" (any amount)

Tickets can be purchased in person at The Cell Theatre box office from noon—5 p.m., Monday—Friday, 30 minutes prior to performance times, or by phone at 505.766.9412.

Additionally, if someone does not have the ability to pay for a ticket, arrangements for free tickets can be made by contacting Dennis Gromelski at 505.766.9412 weekdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Animal Care Services Pet Tip

Bernalillo County Animal Care Services reminds pet owners to make sure their pet's vaccinations are current and that each pet receives an annual exam.

As the temperature increases, so does the number of interactions pets have with people and other animals, including fleas and ticks.

This increase potentially exposes your pet any number of preventable diseases and conditions. Contact your veterinarian for more information on recommended vaccinations for your pet to insure that they live a long, happy and healthy life.

For more information, call Bernalillo County Animal Care Services at 505.468.PETS (7387).

First Nations Community Healthsource presents



- FREE event
- FREE T-shirt with bib number
- Non-competitive walk or run
- 3 miles – mile and half course
- Start/finish at the FNCH parking lot, 5608 Zuni Rd. SE
- Registration at 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
- Walk/run begins at 6:30 p.m.
- Open to the public
- All ages welcome
- Promoting healthier lifestyles
- For more info contact: Kerry Harrison, 505.262.6573