

Bernalillo County Commission Chair,  
Charlene Pyskoty



## A Note From the Commissioner:

Small businesses are the backbone of the economy in New Mexico, and nowhere is this more evident than in the East Mountains. Over the past year, businesses have had to deal with the effects of Covid-19 by adhering to public health orders of closures, reduced capacity, and increased sanitation procedures.

Bernalillo County's Economic Development Department has been there every step of the way, distributing funding for small businesses, outdoor patio expansions for businesses, and most recently - rental and utility assistance for county residents.

As more people are vaccinated, our businesses will continue opening to full capacity. I look forward to working with our Economic Development Department to help our businesses not only bounce back, but to thrive in our new environment. Please feel free to reach out to me with your ideas on how Bernalillo County can help your business be even more successful.

## IN THE COMMUNITY - DISTRICT 5



Ale Republic Owner, Patrick Johnson

## 'Rumor Has It' Ale Republic's Brewing Something New... and it's More Than Beer:

Hey, Burqueños! Are you craving a short getaway?

How about a short road trip to Cedar Crest?

That's exactly what we have in mind - and for your first pit stop, we recommend [Ale Republic](#).

Ale Republic is a local brewery nestled within the heart of the East Mountains. Offering Belgian styles ales and other specialty brews, this place also serves up delicious homemade pizza (try their BBQ chicken!) and tasty salads. And if beer isn't your thing, then be sure to sit on their patio with some local wine or an Italian soda and take in the view. This spot is exactly what's

**"I wanted to build a place where people from Albuquerque can come up, go for a hike, then come in and have a beer."**

**- Patrick Johnson**

needed to unwind and escape Albuquerque's hustle and bustle.

The driving force behind all of this is Ale Republic's owner and founder, Patrick Johnson, who is one to be reckoned with. His strong background in microbiology and nanoscience (he possesses PhD's in both!),

combined with his travel experience, and ultimately - his love for beer has enabled him to create a brewery that produces some of the best beer in the state.

Now that's *really* saying something! New Mexico has undoubtedly risen within the brewing industry in recent years, as new ones keep popping up on a regular basis. With so many choices... what truly sets Ale Republic apart?

Well for starters, you won't find a beer that's even remotely similar to theirs anywhere else, as Patrick grows his own yeast. Most breweries depend on commercial yeasts, but Patrick believes the wild mountain yeasts he grows adds unique flavor profiles to the brews produced. As

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### CONTACT US

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### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Click [here](#) to learn more about Bernalillo County Economic Development.

### WANT MORE DISTRICT 5?

To learn more about what's happening in District 5, [click here](#).

### ALE REPUBLIC

28 Arroyo Seco Rd  
Cedar Crest, NM  
505-281-2828

**BERNCO RELIEF OF EMERGENCY NEEDS FOR TENANTS (RENT) ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Bernalillo County Economic Development has recently launched the BernCo Relief of Emergency Needs for Tenants (RENT) assistance program! This program is designated for qualifying renters outside of both Tribal Lands and the city limits of Albuquerque, but within the county. This program covers rent and renters' utility payments, which will be applied towards past rent and utilities due starting April 2020 through December 2021, for up to six months of rental and utility assistance payments, but no more than \$10,000 for rent and/or utilities.

Please e-mail questions to [BerncoRent@bernco.gov](mailto:BerncoRent@bernco.gov) or call (505) 468-1279.

Bernalillo County residents that live within the City of Albuquerque, please click the following link for Rental, Utility, and Ejection Protection assistance programs from the City of Albuquerque: [www.renthelpnm.org](http://www.renthelpnm.org) or call 311.

Bernalillo County residents that are in need of mortgage payment assistance, please refer to the [New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority's COVID-19 Housing Cost Assistance Program](#).

**IN THE COMMUNITY (CONTINUED)**

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...aforementioned, his scientific background gives him a significant advantage over his counterparts, and the proof is definitely in the brew!

Secondly, he (with help from his friends) built the brewery himself. At the time he decided to create this business, all that was standing were four walls. He built the tables and counters by hand, as well as the light fixtures, the patio, the outdoor bandstand, and the list goes on. It could continue to go on as well, as there's plenty of room for expansion! That could be a possibility in the future. Patrick displayed his passion for business early on in life. Born and raised on the hill literally straight across the road from the brewery, his first entrepreneurial endeavor was selling lemonade from a lemonade stand when he was just seven years old. Needless to say, his interest in business pursuits grew from that point.

"Brewing beer became a passion/hobby of mine, and I'm motivated by having and accomplishing goals. So with brewing beer I figured, 'Well, I should do something with this,'" he exclaimed.

After he completed graduate school at UNM, he started a monthly beer club in a small



basement in Albuquerque called Beer Underground. It quickly grew and attracted over 100 other home brewers, who shared tips, tricks, and ideas amongst each other. Every meeting featured several New Mexico beers, as well as some of Patrick's specialty brews. The idea of creating a brew club originated from Patrick's travels and he became interested in brewing his own beer after tasting quality brews and experiencing beer clubs in France, where he was studying physics.

"It wasn't just a bar, but a place to form friendships and community," he said.

And that's exactly what this business emanates.

It was this brew club that sparked the creation of Ale Republic. After years of experience homebrewing, working Beer Underground, planning, and then putting in a lot of elbow grease, Patrick was finally able to open his brewery's doors in 2016.

Being located in Cedar Crest has

presented its challenges, however. In the beginning, the brewery missed some business from highly populated Albuquerque, and the area presents water challenges from a lack of wells. There are also soil challenges as well. Fortunately, though, the East Mountain community is strong, and word has spread since. Patrick has also learned how to work around the environmental challenges (honestly, he loved experimenting to figure it out).

Last year also presented other challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As state regulations forced businesses to close, Patrick (along with several other business owners) had to improvise. When asked how he positioned his business to adjust to new climate, he noted that curbside takeout helped keep them afloat. We can see why... their pizza is really, really good!

Once patio dining was allowed, that helped business as well. He recently expanded the patio to accommodate more people outside and as noted earlier, Cedar Crest is a beautiful area, so most patrons prefer to sit outdoors

anyway.

And did you know? Bernalillo County played a significant role in helping them progress during the pandemic. Ale Republic is a recipient of Bernalillo County's Small Business Grant and Outdoor Dining Grant programs, each of which were worth \$10,000.

So what did Patrick do with his awarded funds?

"See these heaters along here?" he said, pointing to the multiple units along the roof of the outside patio. "The county paid for every single one of those. This was important in making our outdoor space warm and comfortable for our guests."

Additionally, the funds helped with staffing and other equipment needs to brew more beer and cook more tasty eats.

Interested in seeing it all for yourself? You should be! Ale Republic has some exciting things "brewing" very, very soon, so stay tuned! You absolutely must give this place a try.

We know you won't regret it.