

Bernalillo County Commission  
Vice Chair, Charlene Pyskoty



## All About District 5:

After working with people one-on-one for 15 years as a therapist, Charlene Pyskoty decided to serve her community in a bigger way, and ran for Bernalillo County Commissioner in 2018. She was sworn in as District 5 County Commissioner on Jan. 1, 2019 and on Jan. 14, 2020, Commissioner Pyskoty was elected Bernalillo County Board Vice Chair. She is a licensed mental health therapist in private practice. Her office is in Albuquerque, and her home is in Tijeras, where she lives with her husband, three horses, two dogs, a cat, and four goldfish.

Bernalillo County's District 5 covers the majority of the East Mountain area east to the Santa Fe county line, and the Isleta Pueblo/Sandia Laboratory boundaries to the south, including the NM 14 South neighborhoods.

## IN THE COMMUNITY



Trail Rider Pizza Owners Elton and Ashlea Allen

## Trail Rider Pizza: Serving the Community Slices of Positivity and Kindness

Just outside of Albuquerque in the East Mountains' area lies Cedar Crest, a small and diverse community that is full of character. If you're driving through it, it's likely that you'll pass by **Trail Rider Pizza**.

But you shouldn't. Because not only is their pizza deemed the "Best Pizza" by 94Rock radio station, this small business is much more than that... way more.

Meet Elton and Ashlea Allen. Both Elton and Ashlea (who is an Albuquerque native) came upon the opportunity to manage the business in 2006 and purchased the pizza company less than a year later - on January 1, 2007, to be exact.

At the time of purchase, Trail Rider Pizza was housed in a small, single

**"We're really putting as much love into it as we can. You can taste the love in the food and you can taste it when it's not in there. The love goes in the food, the love goes out to the community."**

**- Ashlea Allen**

wide trailer right next to the iconic Molly's Bar in Tijeras. From it, they started to turn things around by serving up tastier pizza and dishing out some kindness.

"We support organizations,

schools, benefits, races, runs, and basically anything and everything we can participate in or become a part of. We just really want to be involved in our community," exclaims Ashlea.

Before they knew it, the community started to return the favor. Word spread as more and more people learned of this special, local pizza spot.

"We really grew in the community; we grew a big foundation of community support behind us."

The Allen's continued to operate in that trailer for twelve and a half years.

However, in October of 2018 all of that changed. The community's need for the Allen's and their delicious pizza outgrew the little trailer, and

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### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

415 Tijeras NW  
Albuquerque, NM 87102  
505-468-7185

### 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](#).

### TRAIL RIDER PIZZA

12165 NM-14 Suite B2  
Cedar Crest, NM 87008  
505-281-6068

## SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE EFFORTS DURING COVID-19

The year 2020 has proven to be challenging, especially for those within our local business community. Bernalillo County is working diligently on ways we can continue to support our community's small businesses during this stressful and unprecedented time. We at Bernalillo County Economic Development (ED) understand the devastating financial impacts the virus has had on our local businesses, and know that we are working hard every single day to find ways to help these businesses not only stay open, but thrive.

As economic development professionals, we're extremely passionate about ensuring that people here can pursue their passions, provide for their families, and obtain the best quality of life possible. So that is our job and our goal: continually research so that we stay-up-date and ensure that all of the information we provide is the most recent and therefore - accurate. So please contact us if you have questions or need assistance.

The Bernalillo County Economic Development Department has played a key role in reviving our local economy from the financial impact of COVID-19. Since March, the ED team has been involved with a multitude of county initiatives, starting with local business outreach and the "Pitch In" competition which launched in March. Since then, the Economic Development Department has released and completely managed two County grant programs:

### 1. "PITCH IN" NEW MEXICO SOCIAL ENTERPRISE CHALLENGE - APRIL 2020

- Funding for ideas to help address the immediate and long-term economic impacts of COVID-19 in our community.
- 66 New Mexicans submitted their innovative ideas to help the local economy recover.
- Provided a chance to win cash prizes from a prize pool of \$15,000 and receive follow-on support from economic development professionals.

### 2. CARES SMALL BUSINESS GRANT PROGRAM - JUNE & AUGUST 2020

- \$5,000,000
- Emergency financial support to assist local small business owners with costs associated with business interruption caused by required closures.

### 3. OUTDOOR DINING GRANT PROGRAM - JULY 2020

- \$200,000
- Financial support for food establishments to expand outdoor dining options for their customers
- Funds to assist food establishments with patio equipment, staffing needs, planning costs, signage, insurance, and more

## IN THE COMMUNITY (CONTINUED)

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Trail Rider graduated to a full blown, dine-in restaurant in Cedar Crest.

In fact, when the Allen's moved into their new space, members of the community volunteered to build the new restaurant. Volunteers showed up ready to work and helped with tasks such as painting, installing the new floor, and setting up the kitchen.

This new space allowed for the Allen's to become even more community-focused and provide the ability to bring patrons inside their space, host events, serve beer and wine, and feature live music.



The 2020 COVID-19 pandemic has given the Allen's a slight challenge, yet their twelve years of managing a solely takeout-based business has provided them with valuable experience. And... even

during a pandemic, people still need pizza.

"Our music nights [pre-COVID] started with 'More Love Monday' and 'Let Love Grow Tuesday.' The more love you give, the more you put it out there in the world. You can make somebody's day."

And that's what Trail Rider Pizza is all about: spreading positivity while providing great food and good vibes. If an employee is having a bad day, Ashlea is the type of manager to pull you aside and tell you enough jokes until your day is turned around.

Once you stop by, be sure to pick up a business card, as it'll put a smile on your face.

"Be kind to one another. We really are just one big earth family."

## MORE COVID-19 FINANCIAL RESOURCES

The ED team has created a comprehensive resource guide with available Federal and State programs to assist businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. To view this document, please [click here](#).