

## Bernalillo County



### Board of Commission

Art De La Cruz, Chair  
Maggie Hart Stebbins, Vice Chair  
Michelle Lujan Grisham, Member  
Michael C. Wiener, Member  
Wayne A. Johnson, Member  
Tom Zdunek, County Manager

468-7000

[www.bernco.gov](http://www.bernco.gov)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**INDEPENDENCE DAY**  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 4TH  
COUNTY OFFICES CLOSED



**NATIONAL NEIGHBORHOOD NIGHT OUT**  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 7

**NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH**  
SEPTEMBER 2012

**2ND ANNUAL TASTE OF NEW MEXICO**  
October 13 & 14  
Harry E. Kinney Civic Plaza

**MRCOG FOOD FESTIVAL**  
Sunday, October 14th  
Hubble House

### COMMISSION MEETINGS

**NO MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR JULY**

**County Planning Commission**  
1st Wednesday of each month 9 am

Meetings are held in the Vincent E. Griego Chambers in the basement of the City/County Government Building



### Bernalillo County Probate Court Changes Name

Bernalillo County - The Bernalillo County Probate Court will now be called the Court of Wills, Estates & Probate. The County Commission voted for the name change. "Changing the name will help clarify what we do," says Judge Willow Misty Parks. "We get a lot of phone calls from folks looking for the probate offices."

The Court of Wills, Estates & Probate helps the public with a wide range of legal matters associated with settling the affairs of a loved one or friend who passed away. "A lot of people are accustomed to automatically going to district court to resolve estate-related matters; we offer many of the same services and our fee is a lot less," says Parks.

The Court of Wills, Estates & Probate charges a \$30 fee to conduct court proceedings that determine outcomes such as who will serve as executor or personal representative over an individual's estate. District court charges a \$132 fee.

Parks says her office has been actively educating the public about probate matters and how to take advantage of the court's services. The court has seen an increase in probate cases in recent years.

In 2010 the court had 570 cases, breaking all prior records. In 2011 the court had 612 new cases. More than 60 percent of those using the court represent themselves, "pro se," without an attorney.

Probate and wills cases are only a portion of what the court does. On a yearly basis, the court makes over 8,000 contacts with the public through phone calls, emails and in-person meetings. The court staff looks up research requests, sells probate forms packets, makes certified copies, and offers information on the probate process. Many school students take tours of the court. In an effort to make the court files even more accessible to the public and to preserve the historic nature of the court's records, the court is scanning past cases dating back to the 1880s.

Parks also performs wedding ceremonies and participates in free legal fairs for low-income families.

**The Court of Wills, Estates & Probate is located on the 6th floor of the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Government Center at One Civic Plaza, NW. For more information about the court, go to [www.bernco.gov/probate-judges-office](http://www.bernco.gov/probate-judges-office) or call the Court of Wills, Estates & Probate at 505-468-1232.**



Probate Judge: Willow Misty Parks

### Celebrate New Mexico's Centennial



In an effort to participate and recognize the State of New Mexico's 100 years of statehood, Bernalillo County will launch two initiatives. A historical exhibit highlighting Bernalillo County's development will open with a reception on **Friday, August 3, from 4:00pm – 6:00pm at the Bernalillo County Commission Office, 10th floor of One Civic Plaza N.W. and at the County Clerk's office on the sixth floor. Enjoy music and refreshments.**

The exhibit will contain fascinating original maps, plats, other historical documents and photographs. The exhibition will run through October 31, 2012.

The county is also coordinating an on-line family history project. Bernalillo County residents can visit [www.bernco.gov/historyproject](http://www.bernco.gov/historyproject) from July 1 through October 31, 2012, to provide a one page family history along with photographs to tell the story of their family. Neighborhood histories are also welcome. The compilation of histories can be viewed on-line as it progresses. At the end of the project, a book will be created and given to the state archives as the county's contribution to recognize New Mexico's centennial year. **For more information contact Cultural Services at 468-1279.**

**Need Assistance or Resources?**

**Call Neighborhood Coordinators Bernadette Miera 468-1279 or 974-5578 (cell); Sherry Gutierrez 468-7247**

## National Night Out Tuesday, August 7th



The "29th Annual National Night Out" (NNO), a unique crime/drug prevention event sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW), is scheduled for Tuesday, August 7. Check with your neighborhood association or Neighborhood Watch leader for scheduled events.

The National Night Out campaign involves citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, businesses, neighborhood organizations and local officials from over 15,000 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canada and military bases worldwide. In all, over 37 million people participated in National Night Out 2011.

### **National Night Out is designed to:**

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness
- Promote support and participation in crime prevention programs
- Strengthen neighborhoods and police/community partnerships

**Along with the traditional display of outdoor lights and front porch vigils, cities, towns and neighborhoods celebrate NNO with a variety of events and activities such as:**

- block parties
- cookouts
- visits from elected officials, local police, sheriff and fire department representatives
- parades and exhibits
- flashlight walks
- contests
- youth activities

NNO has proven to be an effective, inexpensive and enjoyable program to promote neighborhood spirit and police/community partnerships for safer communities.

### **Here are some ideas that your neighborhood association may think about adopting:**

- **Serve food, but keep it simple:** Watermelon, drinks, ice cream cones, fruit, snacks or pizza. Have a potluck.
- **Build Relationships:** Record neighborhood history or National Night Out stories, share photos from past block parties and NNO events or recognize your neighbors with an oldest or newest participating resident award. Invite your local officials and government public safety departments to develop communication between the neighborhoods and those agencies that provide emergency services.
- **Do something for the community:** Collect for a food bank, beautify a common area or plan a fall clean-up. Recruit additional Neighborhood Watch leaders and block captains, discuss neighborhood problems and opportunities, distribute neighborhood block lists.
- **Have fun:** Plan activities for young and old such as a parade, Frisbee competition, chalk art, face painting, K-9 demonstration, bike safety presentation, a disposable camera distribution/photo contest or invite local government and non-profit agencies to provide information to residents.

**If you are interested in hosting a National Night Out event and would like county public safety staff to attend, call Neighborhood Coordination at 468-1279.**

## After the Storm



Storm water runoff occurs when precipitation from rain or snowmelt flows over the ground. Impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks, and streets prevent storm water from naturally soaking into the ground. Storm water picks up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants and flows into the storm sewer system and/or directly into the Rio Grande. Polluted runoff is the county's greatest threat to clean water.

Here are some storm water pollution solutions:

- "Scoop the Poop" – Pet waste is a major source of bacteria in local waters
- Recycle used oil and other automotive fluids
- Sweep up yard debris rather than hosing down areas
- Clean paint brushes in a sink, not outdoors
- Have your septic system inspected every 3 years

## Fire and Fireworks Restrictions in the Unincorporated Areas of Bernalillo County

The Board of County Commissioners passed resolutions imposing fire restrictions on open burning and fireworks outside the city limits of Albuquerque in the unincorporated areas of Bernalillo County.

"As we are witnessing around the state, this is a very dangerous fire season," said Bernalillo County Fire Chief John Garcia. "High temperatures, low precipitation and high winds can be a deadly combination, so Bernalillo County takes these restrictions very seriously."

Since the fire season began this year, the Bernalillo County Fire Department has been sending crews to assist with fires in Arizona and here in New Mexico. Three firefighters are currently assisting at the Little Bear Fire in Lincoln County.

"Public safety is our number one focus and we want to be sure that we do everything we can to protect lives and properties in our community," said County Manager Tom Zdunek.

The following are not allowed due to the fire restrictions:

Agricultural burning, bonfires, burning of explosives, campfires, ceremonial fires, cooking fires, hot torch burning, ignition of rocket motors, open burning, open flames, slash piles and burning weeds. Charcoal broilers, barbecue grills, wood and coal burning stoves used outside of private dwellings are classified as campfires and are prohibited.

The fireworks restrictions apply to the sale and use of any fireworks that shoot sparks and pieces outside a six foot circle and/or higher than 10 feet in the air or are louder than a cap gun. Fireworks that may pose a hazard by falling or tipping over during operation are also restricted. Cooking or heating devices that use kerosene, white gas, or propane as fuel may be used with adequate fire protection and defensible space. Smoking is restricted to designated areas and structures or vehicles with ashtrays.

Violators who are cited for open burning restrictions could face fines up to \$300 and/or 90 days in jail and for fireworks violators, fines are up to \$1,000 and/or up to one year in jail.

**The 2012 Bernalillo County 4-H Fair** will be held at EXPO New Mexico Fairgrounds August 9-11, 2012. 4-H Members will display about 634 educational youth hall exhibits from many project areas.

There are also 4-H animal shows, judging and livestock sales. The livestock typically shown at the Bernalillo County 4-H Fair are beef, sheep, swine, dairy cattle, goats, horses, poultry, dogs and rabbits.

Admission to the 4-H Fair is free, but there are nominal parking fees. For additional information regarding Bernalillo County 4-H Programs go to [www.bernalilloextension.nmsu.edu](http://www.bernalilloextension.nmsu.edu) or call 505-243-1386

## County Senior Citizens To Get New Buses



Bernalillo County's senior citizens will soon have access to seven new passenger buses when travelling to senior meal sites. The new buses will replace the 10-year-old buses that currently transport the senior citizens.

"We are pleased to be purchasing these new buses," says County Commission Chair Art De La Cruz. "The accessibility for disabled persons along with the 17-seat passenger capacity will enable us to better serve our senior citizen community."

The county commission last month authorized the county manager to move forward with the purchase of the vehicles using existing price agreements. The county will purchase seven buses, six of which are wheelchair accessible, and a Chevrolet Tahoe 4x4 truck for \$451,000. The Tahoe truck will be used in the East Mountain community to deliver hot meals directly to senior citizens who are homebound.

The old buses that are still in good working condition will be reassigned within Bernalillo County and the remaining buses will be sold via an online auction at [www.publicsurplus.com](http://www.publicsurplus.com).

A full listing of the Bernalillo County senior meal sites can be viewed at [www.bernco.gov/SeniorMealSites](http://www.bernco.gov/SeniorMealSites).

## PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION Project Updates

### **Bridge/Isleta Intersection Improvements and Gateway Park**

The Bridge/Isleta Intersection and South Valley Gateway Park, Phase 2 Project is 90 percent complete through the allotted four month construction period. The intersection portion of the project is approximately 95 percent complete at this time; and the park is approximately 85 percent complete.

All the intersection work is complete except for some miscellaneous traffic signalization and sidewalk work. All traffic signalization hardware has been installed. There will be intermittent single lane closures on both Bridge and Isleta to complete the remaining work.

The park construction continues on schedule. All the concrete work within the plaza is complete; most of the trees have been planted; and the crusher fines are currently being placed. Construction of a small new "play area" has not yet begun. The intersection and park construction projects are both expected to be completed soon. Miscellaneous work may follow for "punch list" repair items. If you have any questions or concerns about this project, please contact **Joe Luehring, project engineer, at (505) 848-1526.**

### **Alameda Trail**

Construction of the trail project along the south side of Alameda Boulevard between Fourth Street and Edith Boulevard is expected to be completed this month. Three weeks were added to the construction period to resolve an unexpected utility conflict at the pedestrian bridge. A full closure of Edith Boulevard at Alameda Boulevard will be in affect during parts of July. This closure is necessary for construction of the pedestrian bridge deck over Edith Boulevard. Edith Boulevard traffic will be detoured to Alameda Road and Ortega Road during the closure. Local traffic has access to Edith Boulevard.

If you have any questions or concerns about this project, please contact **Frank Williams, project engineer, at (505) 848-1572.**

### **Bridge Corridor Redevelopment Study**

The corridor team conducted a design plan back in early May. The purpose of the plan was to generate multiple concepts for the Bridge Boulevard Corridor through discussions and collaborations with the South Valley community. Key insights are to respect the character of the South Valley, celebrate its agricultural traditions and open spaces, maintain its authenticity, concentrate commercial development in existing commercial nodes and to make the Gateway area attractive and inviting. A report has been prepared that shares the details, the design concepts and the outcomes of the design plan. It is available online at <http://www.bernco.gov/Bridge-Boulevard-Corridor-Redevelopment-Plan/> for your review and download. If you would like a presentation on the report to your group, please contact **Tim Karpoff at (505) 877-6041** or email at [TimKarpoff@msn.com](mailto:TimKarpoff@msn.com).

### **South Valley Drinking Water Project, Phase 6B**

Construction of the South Valley Drinking Water Project (SVDWP), Phase 6B is COMPLETE. The final construction plans and drawings are currently being reviewed by the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (ABCWUA). As soon as they are accepted and approved, the county will send notices to the affected residents informing them that they can connect to the water system. Information about the connection process as well as the county's Partners in Improving and Protecting the Environment (PIPE) assistance program will be included in the notices. We anticipate that notices will be mailed out soon. If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact the project engineer, **Amor Solano at (505) 848-1527.**

### **Domestic Well Water Level Monitoring Project**

In February 2010, the Bernalillo County Public Works Water Resources program implemented a project to determine water levels in private wells throughout the county. The purpose of the project is to determine the long-term impacts of groundwater source use and to advise residents on the longevity of their wells.

We are looking for new participants, particularly in the East Mountains, North Albuquerque Acres and Far North East Heights areas. For those installing new wells, the county will pay well permit fees (a \$75 value) for owners agreeing to grant access to their wells. For new well owners who are also willing to install at their cost either a measuring tube or airline with gauge, the county will also provide any required sampling and testing for initial required water quality analysis (a combined \$400 value). Water level measurements are taken at least twice a year with a sonic device or a steel surveyor's tape.

If you are interested in participating in this project or have questions, please contact **Sara Chudnoff at 224-1614** or [schudnoff@bernco.gov](mailto:schudnoff@bernco.gov).

### **Report Graffiti...Call 24-ERASE (243-7273) or email [24ERASE@bernco.gov](mailto:24ERASE@bernco.gov)**

Summertime is here and unfortunately, that usually means that graffiti activity increases. Please report graffiti as soon as you see it and help keep Bernalillo County beautiful. When reporting graffiti on the **graffiti hotline (243-7273)** please make sure you have the following information available: street address and the nearest cross street, the type of structure, its color and your name and daytime phone number. Your name and number are requested in the event that we cannot find the location. You can also report graffiti via email at [24ERASE@bernco.gov](mailto:24ERASE@bernco.gov).

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## 3rd Annual Food Garden Tour-Healthy Food From Your Yard

Join the Bernalillo County Extension office at the 3rd Annual Gaia Guild Food Garden Tour. See incredible food gardens at homes and small farms. Learn what YOU can do! [www.gaiaguild.webs.com](http://www.gaiaguild.webs.com)  
July 14 and 15, 2012 from 9 am - 2 pm



Learn more about:

- Composting and Soil Building
- Growing Plants from Seed
- Mulching and Permaculture Tips
- Harvesting and Seed Saving
- Food Preservation / Nutrition
- Integrated Pest Control / Management

Enroll for their Contest: Contest among the Tour home gardens to honor those voted best in five categories:

- Most Food Productive
- Best Habitat for Birds, Butterflies and Bees
- Most Water-wise Garden
- Best Use of Recycled Materials
- Best Gardening in Containers

How does YOUR garden grow? Share your techniques for fabulous green abundance! To enter your own garden or small farm to be in the 2012 Food Garden Tour please contact Gretchen Beaubier at 505-323-1034 or e-mail at [gaiaguildinfo@gmail.com](mailto:gaiaguildinfo@gmail.com).

## 2012 Summer Food Preservation Classes



**Making Jams & Jellies**

July 24 from 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon

**Homemade Pickles**

July 17 & August 2 from 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon

**Water Bath Canning Tomatoes and Fruit**

August 8 & 28 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**Pressure Canning Vegetables**

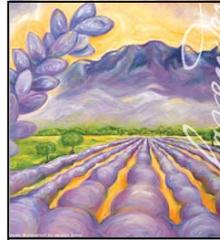
August 9 and August 29 from 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.



All classes will be held at the 4-H Center; 1500 Menaul NW (just west of 12th St. on Menaul). Registration is required, and the fee for each class is \$10. Additional classes will be added if these classes fill up.

Call Cindy Davies at Bernalillo County Cooperative Extension Service for reservations and information at (505) 243-1386. <http://bernalilloextension.nmsu.edu/>

If you are an individual with a disability who needs an auxiliary aid or service to participate in this event, please let us know at the time you register. NMSU and the U.S. Department of Agriculture



**The 8th Annual Lavender in the Village Festival**  
July 14-15  
Los Ranchos de Albuquerque  
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Admission:  
Adults \$3, Kids \$2, Under 10 Free  
For a schedule of activities and times, please visit

<http://www.lavenderinthevillage.com/events-schedule-2012.php>

## 2nd Annual Bernalillo County Job Fair

With the recent loss of 200 jobs at Schott Solar and many still unemployed, Bernalillo County is doing its part to help get our residents back to work. On July 12th and 13th Bernalillo County in partnership with the Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce will host a resume writing class. There will be 100 seats available, please register to ensure your enrollment in the class using the following link: [http://www.bernco.gov/survey/?p\\_survey=139095](http://www.bernco.gov/survey/?p_survey=139095)



On July 17th, the 2nd Annual Bernalillo County Job fair will be held at Mesa Del Sol, 5700 W University Blvd SE #310, Albuquerque, NM from 11:00am - 4:00pm. Bring resumes, dress professional, and be ready to meet with HR representatives from a variety of companies. For more information please contact Jesse Lopez at (505) 468-7818 or Amanda Colburn at (505) 934-7375.

## East Mountain FREE Summer Concert Series

The 2012 East Mountain Summer Concert Series has arrived! We invite everybody to come and support Bernalillo County's local talents on Friday nights.

**Los Vecinos Community Center**  
478 1/2 Old Hwy 66 Tijeras, NM 87059  
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. (Rain or shine)

<b>Mike Romero &amp; La Raza (NM Music)</b>	<b>July 6</b>
<b>SWAG (Blues/Jazz)</b>	<b>July 13</b>
<b>The Dregz (Rock)</b>	<b>July 20</b>
<b>Chuck Hawley (Folk/Rock)</b>	<b>July 27</b>

**Parking:** A. Montoya Elementary School. No parking on Hwy 66  
**Items NOT allowed:** Alcoholic beverages, pets, large umbrellas and glass containers.  
**Items allowed:** Blankets, lawn chairs, personal umbrellas, picnic baskets, food and non-alcoholic beverages.

A bag inspection will be conducted at gate entrance.

## 2012 FREE Movies in the Park

DATE	MOVIE	LOCATION	ADDRESS
July 27	Transformers: Dark of the Moon	Los Vecinos Community Center	478 1/2 Old Hwy. 66 Tijeras, NM 87059
July 28	Grease	South Valley Gateway Park	100 Isleta Blvd SW Albuq, NM 87105
August 4	Dolphin Tale	Paradise Hills Community Center	5901 Paradise Blvd NW Albuq, NM 87114
August 10	Green Lantern	Los Vecinos Community Center	478 1/2 Old Hwy. 66 Tijeras, NM 87059
August 11	Toy Story 3	McKinley Middle School	4500 Comanche Rd NE Albuq, NM 87110

All shows are FREE and begin at dusk, subject to cancellation due to weather.

You are welcome to bring the following items: Coolers with food or drinks, drinks must be in a factory sealed container, blankets and lawn chairs. NOT allowed: alcohol, glass containers, sharp or dangerous items, video or audio recording devices.