

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

Good Morning NM Art Exhibit
Wednesday, February 13
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
City/County Government Building
10th Floor

**Spring Softball 2013 League
Registration Deadline**
Friday, February 15
For more information please call
Vicente at 314-0422

**Youth Summer Basketball
Registration Deadline**
Friday, March 22
For more information please call Kenneth
at 314-0417 or kiortiz@bernco.gov

**Hand in Hand-District 2
Coming Soon!**

PUBLIC MEETINGS

ADMINISTRATIVE

Tuesday, February 12 @ 5:00 pm
Tuesday, February 26 @ 5:00 pm

ZONING

Tuesday, February 26 @ 3:00 pm

BOARD OF FINANCE

Tuesday, February 12 @ 4:30 pm

COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

1st Wednesday of each month 9am

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



Neighborhood Newsletter
Volume IV, Issue 2, February 2013

Commissioners Appoint New County Assessor

County commissioners unanimously appointed Tanya R. Giddings as the new Bernalillo County assessor. Since 2008, Giddings has been employed at the University of New Mexico as a government relations officer in the Office of Government and Community Relations.



Giddings will serve as county assessor for the next two years.

Karen Montoya resigned from the position as Bernalillo County assessor last month, after serving two years of a four-year term. Montoya was elected to the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission last November.

State law requires county commissioners to appoint an individual to serve the remaining two years of Montoya's term.

The county assessor's job responsibilities include determining the property value of homes, businesses, and other taxable property in Bernalillo County; informing property owners of taxable value; preparing and submitting tax rolls to the county treasurer, and supervising 89 employees in the County Assessor's Office.

**Bernalillo County Commissioners
Select New Chair and Vice Chair**



Bernalillo County – District 3 Commissioner Maggie Hart Stebbins is the new chair of the Bernalillo County Commission. The County Commission voted 5-0 to select Hart Stebbins.

The commission also unanimously elected District 1 Commissioner Debbie O'Malley to the vice chair position.

Hart Stebbins and O'Malley will serve in their respective leadership capacities for the 2013 calendar year.

County Rules of Procedures say that the County Commission must vote to select a chair and vice chair during its first meeting in January.

During 2012, District 2 Commissioner Art De La Cruz served as chair and Hart Stebbins served as vice chair.

Commissioner Debbie O'Malley the Board of County Commissioners, and the Alvarado Gardens Neighborhood Association, cordially invite you to the Opening Reception for the Joining Hands Art Exhibit

Wednesday, February 20, 2012

4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

415 Tijeras NW (BC Annex Building)

Albuquerque, NM

For more information contact Cultural Services at 468-7279

New Mexico Black History Month

The New Mexico Black History Month Festival runs February 5 - 24 in 2013. There will be three weekends of events with activities for the whole family. Arts and Culture weekend runs February 7 - 9; Rhythms & Cuisine weekend runs February 15 - 16; and Body & Soul weekend runs February 23 - 24.

A.L.O.T. Words

Join the Africana Leadership Opportunity Team in front of UNM's Mesa Vista Hall every Tuesday and Thursday during Black History Month, where speeches, poetry, and words by significant blacks can be heard. The style is Harlem Renaissance. Come and speak.

When: Noon to 2 p.m. February 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26, 28

Where: UNM, Mesa Vista Hall

Cost: Free

Roots Revival

This cabaret chronicles the journey of African Americans from West Africa to today, with music, song, dance and spoken word. Local and Broadway talent will take the stage to perform.

When: February 8, 8 p.m.; doors open 7 p.m.

Where: UNM's Popejoy Hall

Cost: \$22.50

The Black Hole Art Exhibit

The UNM Africana Leadership Opportunity Tea and Third World Outliers will host an art show on a variety of themes.

When: March 5, 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Where: UNM SUB Atrium

<http://www.nmblackhistorymonth.com/>

Join Commissioner Art De La Cruz and neighborhood leaders to celebrate the groundbreaking for Las Estancias, a major retail and commercial development in the South Valley that will bring new jobs to the region. Enjoy refreshments, music and learn more on Saturday, Feb. 16 at 11 a.m.

The 79-acre site is located on Coors Boulevard, south of Rio Bravo Boulevard. The Las Estancias development will be a regional, mixed-use center with a large variety of retail, entertainment, restaurants and community businesses that will serve the residents of southwest Bernalillo County.

The total approved build out is 520,000 square feet. The project will be completed in multiple phases providing many jobs to the community. The center will primarily serve residents within a 10-mile radius.

The ground breaking ceremony will be held Saturday, Feb. 16 at 11 a.m. at the intersection of Coors and Rio Bravo SW.

Los Ranchos Winter Markets

Saturday, February 9, March 9 & April 13 @ 10 am - noon

6718 Rio Grande Blvd NW

www.losranchosgrowersmarket.com

Markets will be held outdoors at the regular location, tennis court parking lot, except in the case of inclement weather when the market will be held in the adjacent community barn.

Need Assistance or Resources?

Call Neighborhood Coordination Specialist, Darrell Dady at 468-7364 or e-mail: ddady@bernco.gov

Local Economic Development



Bernalillo County Commission Approves Local Economic Development Act Grant for Keshet Dance Company

200 Direct and Indirect Jobs Will Be Created

The County Board of Commissioners voted 5-0 to approve an ordinance authorizing a \$150,000 LEDA grant for Keshet Dance Company and the new Keshet Center for the Arts which will house the Keshet Ideas and Innovation Center.

"Bernalillo County is pleased to approve this grant for renovations at the Keshet Center for the Arts," says Commission Chair Maggie Hart Stebbins who sponsored the measure. "The Center will house not only the Keshet Dance Company, but also serve as a resource for other non-profit and for-profit businesses that specialize in the areas of performance art and health."

Keshet Dance Company recently purchased an existing facility, located at 4121 Cutler Ave. NE, which will be the home of the Keshet Center for the Arts. The center will include five large rehearsal/class studios, a black-box theatre, box office, green room, costume shop, arts education and business resource library, multi-purpose meeting room, special event spaces and ample parking.

"We are incredibly thrilled to have the county's support for the creation of the Keshet Ideas and Innovation Center at the Keshet Center for the Arts," says the center's artistic director Shira Greenberg.

"This project incorporates so many positive aspects for the community ranging from economic development and job creation to arts education and community collaboration."

The Keshet Ideas and Innovation Center is a business incubator program that will support start-up or struggling, arts-related businesses with a variety of resources like development services and access to lending providers. Keshet Ideas and Innovation Center KIIC will work with local partners to stimulate economic growth through job creation, tourism and community revitalization.

"We anticipate that the Keshet Center for the Arts will help create 200 permanent jobs - 100 direct and 100 indirect, in the first ten years of operation," says Commissioner Hart Stebbins. "We are excited to partner with Keshet in supporting growth in our 'cultural economy' here in Bernalillo County."

The \$150,000 grant is contingent on Keshet meeting certain employment goals and other conditions outlined in a specific agreement that includes protections for the county's investment in the project.

Commissioner Wayne Johnson and the Bernalillo County Cultural Services Office invite the public to the opening reception for the Good Morning New Mexico Art Exhibit featuring the paintings of Artist Georgie Sichler Bemis.

Wednesday, February 13

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Government Center

One Civic Plaza, NW

10th Floor / Conference Room B

Bernalillo County and the Albuquerque Historical Society have joined to bring this exhibition to our downtown offices.

Capital Improvement Program Gets National Attention

The Transportation Research Board, which is part of the National Academy of Sciences, has invited Bernalillo County's Capital Improvement Program's technical evaluation team to exhibit its work at its annual meeting in Washington, D.C.

For the 2012 bond cycle, the county's Public Works team evaluated over 170 public project requests.

Initially, Public Works developed the technical evaluation system for proposed road construction projects only. Now, the technical evaluation system has been expanded to all proposed projects.

The latest development in improving the evaluation process has been to bring the results directly to residents. The evaluations sheets of capital improvement proposed projects in the unincorporated areas of Bernalillo County are available online for the public's review.

Over 170 project requests that were submitted by county residents last summer have been reviewed, evaluated and ranked. The resulting score sheets and project rankings can be accessed online at the county's website at www.bernco.gov/CIP.

"For the 2012 bond cycle, it was the county's objective to not only effectively evaluate all project requests but to also make the project evaluation process as transparent as possible," says County Manager Tom Zdunek. "Residents simply have to go online and search the project database for the evaluation score sheet of a particular project or they can view all of the proposed projects score sheets."

The project evaluation process helps the county prioritize projects.

The 2012 bond cycle wrapped up with the general election last November. The bond questions asked voters to authorize the issuance of bonds for projects in the areas of transportation, wastewater systems, a new animal shelter and library materials. All of the bond questions passed.

The 2014 bond cycle has started and the county is now accepting project requests at www.bernco.gov/Request.

Commissioner Maggie Hart Stebbins Presents: "Female Entrepreneurship: The good, the bad & the beautiful"

District 3 Small Business Summit and Information Session

Wednesday, March 20th | 9:30 am - 11:30 am

McKinley Community Center-3401 Monroe St. NE

For more information contact

Marcos Gonzales at 468-1383 or maagonzales@bernco.gov

Bernalillo County Animal Care Partners with "New Mexico Dogs Deserve Better" in Winter Outreach Program

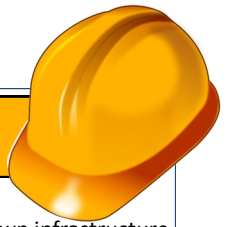
Bernalillo County Animal Care is now accepting donations in support of New Mexico Dogs Deserve Better's winter outreach program. Outreach to dogs in need occurs on a year-round basis but winter outreach is particularly crucial to dogs living in precarious circumstances.



"Bernalillo County Animal Care and New Mexico Dogs Deserve Better are proud to work together to create safe, loving environments for the animals of Bernalillo County," says Animal Care Director Matt Pepper. "During winter months, pet owners need to be especially aware of the need to protect their pets from the elements. Animals should have plenty of food and unfrozen water available. Please be a responsible pet owner."

The following donations are needed: dog houses, dog food, blankets, bowls, leashes & harnesses. The items will be used for animals and their guardians who may need a little help creating a safe and healthy environment for their dogs throughout the winter. Donations may be dropped off at the Bernalillo County Animal Care Services offices at 1136 Gatewood SW. **For more information, call Bernalillo County Animal Care at 468-PETS (468-7387).**

Public Works Updates



Alameda Adaptive Signal System

Now that Bernalillo County has completed the installation of thousands of feet of fiber-optic cable that helped to establish its own infrastructure for voice and data communications, the work can begin on the installation of the county's only adaptive signal control system.

The project includes the installation of an adaptive signal control system along Alameda Boulevard between Loretta Drive and on 2nd Street at the seven major intersections: 2nd Street, 4th Street, Guadalupe Trail northbound, Guadalupe Trail southbound, Thomas, Rio Grande South and Loretta. Video detection cameras will be installed to collect information for the adaptive system at the seven intersections. With the cameras, the system will collect real time traffic flow information and use it to optimize the signal timing on an as needed basis throughout the day. Peak hour traffic flow will be improved by adjusting the green times along Alameda Boulevard to improve overall traffic flow while not significantly increasing the wait times on the side streets. The recently installed fiber-optic communication system will provide high bandwidth data flow between the signals to the county's Traffic Operations Office.

The fiber-optic cable was needed to provide a greater bandwidth to carry the digital information from each of the intersection signals. The digital data transfer will happen in real time, allowing the entire signal system to more efficiently communicate.

Installation and minor construction will begin on Feb. 11 at each of the designated seven intersections along Alameda Boulevard. There will mostly likely be a single lane blocked or in some cases, just the bike lane blocked while the installation work is happening. The blocked lanes will not occur during rush hour traffic.

Crews will be installing cameras and conduit at the intersections to operate the cameras. The conduit will be installed via a bore under the road, which means the road will not need to be cut open. That means overall less construction time and less inconvenience to residents. Because the county will be boring into the roadway, most of the work will take place on the shoulders of the road.

The rest of the installation schedule is as follows:

Feb. 22 – Pre-install completed (i.e., cable pulled and camera mounting hardware up). Remote communications tested and VPN connection verified.

Mar. 12 – On-site training of InSync equipment and installation.

Mar. 25 – All intersections operating in interim adaptive detector mode.

Apr. 9 – Activate full adaptive capability of InSync system; the Project Engineer will be on-site for the week to monitor system operation.

Please note that these dates are subject to change.

The construction cost of the project is \$343,534.32. This system is the first of its kind in Bernalillo County and is 100 percent funded by Bernalillo County. For more information or questions about this project, please contact Rodrigo Eichwald, Project Engineer, at 848-1574.

Paradise Hills Trail Improvement Project

The scope of the Paradise Hills Trail Improvement Project is along Paradise Boulevard, NW, from Golf Course Road, NW to La Paz Drive, NW and includes improvement to existing sections of trail and construction of new sections of trail. The improved and extended trail will interconnect existing trails and sidewalks along both Golf Course Road, NW and Paradise Boulevard, NW.

Funds will be used to plan, design and construct multi-use trail improvements along Paradise Boulevard. The improvements include the rehabilitation/replacement of existing sections of trail and the construction of new sections of trail from Golf Course Road, NW to La Paz Drive, NW along Paradise Boulevard.

A meeting has been scheduled to ask for public comment to identify issues of concern and to enlist community participation in the design and functionality of the trail. A review of the project's background and purpose, along with the environmental and cultural resource documentation that will be required, will be shared as well.

The public meeting will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 27 from 5:45 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Paradise Hills Community Center.

Contact: For more information or questions please contact, Sara Chudnoff, Water Resources Specialist at (505) 224-1614 or Kris Johnson, Project Engineer at (505) 224-2124. To read regular updates about the progress of this project, please visit www.BernCo.gov/PH_Trail.

Road Fund Cooperative Agreement Program

The New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) annually invites the county to participate in the Local Government Road Fund Cooperative Agreement Program. The program is comprised of the County Arterial Program (CAP), Cooperative Program (COOP) and the School Bus Route Program (SB). With the funds received from this agreement, the county repaves roads that serve residents and their school-aged children. Any drainage issues that the roads may have are also resolved at that time.

This cost-sharing agreement involves a 75/25 split with the NMDOT providing 75 percent of the total project cost matched with 25 percent from county funds. The county typically receives about \$550,000 each year to cover the road project costs.

The breakdown for the current fiscal year of July 2012 – June 2013 is as follows: CAP for \$177,393; COOP for \$151,556; and School Bus for \$222,333. With the available funding, the following roads will be constructed:

- Fordham Drive (Unser Blvd. to Jarmal Drive)
- Lewis Ct. (from Fordham Dr. to End of road)
- Douglas Ave. (from Chaparral Circle to Cul-de-sac)
- Palmer Ct (from Chaparral Circle to Cul-de-sac)
- Blanda Ct (from Chaparral Circle to Cul-de-sac)
- Cove Ct (from Elmhurst Rd to Cul-de-sac)
- Grape Avenue (west of Prince Street)
- Williams Street (from Grape Avenue to Prosperity Road)
- Grape Circle (from Grape Ave. to end of road)
- Shady Lane (from Valley Road to Patton Road)
- Snipes Road (from Barcelona Road to end of road)

Construction for the roads began in early Jan. 2013 and is anticipated to be complete by mid-March. The county plans to submit its annual application for school routes/roads funding again soon for next the fiscal year.

BernCo Implements New Technology for Job Seekers

NEOGOV™
Expect more.™

Online System Provides Easier Access to County Employment Opportunities

Bernalillo County has launched a new online software system to enhance the hiring process for job seekers and personnel managers.

The county has partnered with NEOGOV, the nation's largest cloud software company for human resources in government and education.

"The county is pleased to launch this new user-friendly, web-based system," says Commission Chair Maggie Hart Stebbins. "NEOGOV gives job-seekers easy access to information about county openings and offers a vastly improved application process that will benefit both applicants and hiring managers."

Earlier this month, Bernalillo County joined over 1,000 organizations across the nation now using NEOGOV's cutting-edge technology for personnel management.

Here are some of the features that NEOGOV offers:

- ◆ Applicants can apply for current vacancies or sign up to receive alerts when a job opens in a specific area of interest
- ◆ Applicants can electronically submit one application and apply for multiple openings at once
- ◆ Applicants can track the application process and submit job-related questions
- ◆ Applicants can establish online profiles with NEOGOV and apply for jobs with other employers that also use NEOGOV
- ◆ NEOGOV streamlines the job posting process for HR and department managers, and expedites the overall hiring process, providing greater accountability when selecting new employees

"Since launching NEOGOV, 2,200 people have applied for jobs at Bernalillo County," says County Manager Tom Zdunek. "It is our goal to provide our customers with excellent service, and to that end, we believe this application will help us attain that goal."

Bernalillo County currently has 70 job openings and processes about 29,000 job applications each year for jobs from lifeguards to snow truck drivers to corrections officers.

To apply for open positions, applicants can visit the county's website at www.bernco.gov.

Commissioner O'Malley Unveils Bernalillo County's First-of-its-Kind Safe Surrender and Gun Buy-Back Program

District One County Commissioner Debbie O'Malley, joined by Commission Chair Maggie Hart Stebbins, Commissioner Art De La Cruz, Sheriff Dan Houston, Pat Davis from Albuquerque Metro Crime Stoppers and Tijeras Mayor Gloria Chavez, introduced the county's Safe Surrender and Gun Buy-Back program which will allow people to turn in firearms to authorities, no questions asked and receive compensation in return.



"In the wake of the Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre, and more recently and closer to home, the tragic killing of an Albuquerque family just weeks ago, we must continue the conversations about what we can do to reduce gun violence in our community," says Commissioner Debbie O'Malley. "My hope is that through our Safe Surrender program families consider the risks guns in home may pose—especially if they are unsafely stored and accessible to children. Our program is an opportunity for individuals to receive compensation while getting rid of unwanted or unneeded guns or assault rifles."

Individuals may bring any unloaded and operational firearms to the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department North Area Command Center, 6900 4th Street NW, on Saturday, Feb. 9 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and again on Saturday, Feb. 23, at the South Area Command Center, 2039 Isleta Blvd. SW, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"Given the unspeakable pain caused by accidental shootings and senseless gun violence, we must do everything possible to raise awareness about the threat of unsecured or unneeded weapons. In combination with firearm safety education, this buyback program gives people a reason to think about the guns they have in their homes and decide whether they present a risk to their families or the public," says Commission Chair Maggie Hart Stebbins.

The Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department will be on-hand to make sure the guns are in working condition and are not loaded before being surrendered. All weapons will be checked for lost or stolen status, and if applicable will be returned to their rightful owners. All other firearms will be prepared for destruction by the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department. Crime Stoppers will be on hand to ensure complete anonymity.

The following requirements will apply for acceptance to the firearms buy-back plan:

- Working firearms that are no longer wanted by the owner
- Working firearms that have been inherited from a family member which are no longer wanted
- Working firearms that have been altered or modified

Participants will be paid with VISA gift cards if the firearm meets those requirements.

The payment for each type of weapons will be:

- \$150 for any working handgun
- \$100 for any working long gun (rifle or shotgun)
- \$200 for any working high capacity or assault weapon system. An "assault weapon" shall be any semi-automatic, magazine fed, military style rifle or carbine

Any non-working weapons, ammunition, or any imitation and/or low-powered air weapons which are difficult to distinguish from real weapons and therefore pose a danger, may be surrendered for destruction, however, no payment will be made.

Further information including Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the Bernalillo County Safe Surrender and Buy Back Program can be found at www.bernco.gov.