



Town of Bernalillo

"The City of Coronado"

PATRICIA A. CHÁVEZ

Mayor

Volume 5, Issue 1

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MAYOR'S UPDATE

Good News On Our New Financial Controls And Audit Results

I am pleased to inform citizens of the recent letter (12/21/2009) from the NM state Auditor's office. The correspondence accepts the corrective action plan the Town put in place to address the 2007/2008 Audit findings. The letter also recognizes the Town's investment in a robust financial management system and its implementation as an improvement in accounting controls. The system and related process improvements provide Bernalillo citizens with unprecedented financial transparency and accountability and improves deficit spending controls.

The 2006/2007 Audit showed a vast improvement from the Independent Auditor's disclaimer of opinion in the 2005/2006 Audit, but it did point out weaknesses including an aging financial operating system that did not provide acceptable accounting systematic controls. With a focus on addressing the Audit's findings and attaining Town Council support, we immediately budgeted for a new accounting system in the 2008 budget cycle and issued a Request For Proposal (RFP). We selected, purchased, and installed an all inclusive financial management system. Migration of all financial controls and conversion of the Town's accounting data began immediately.

The Town was on track to complete its 2008-09 Audit when allegations of credit card mis-use were raised last year. I acted immediately and asked the State Auditor's office, the Town's Independent Auditor and a taskforce of citizens to investigate the allegations. As agreed with the State Auditor's Office, we incorporated findings on credit card usage which pushed the audit beyond our original timeline and due date. While the Audit and citizen's task force reviews uncovered possible credit card abuse, the findings were limited to the actions of the former Town Administrator and the Town's lack of procedures regarding credit card use.

Today, our new accounting system is in full operation and controls are in place. We have a working draft of policies and procedures with an associated training program. The training is for all employees and includes the use of the State Auditor's Fraud Hotline. The entire system will be completed in the first quarter of 2010.

We are moving forward with the 2009/2010 Audit and anticipate it will be filed with the State Auditor on time. I remain committed to systematic, deliberate improvements that address any deficiencies to better serve all citizens with integrity and fiscal responsibility.

MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL ELECTIONS

ELECCIONES PARA ALCALDE Y CONSEJO MUNICIPAL

The formal municipal election season is here and offers races for the Mayor and two (2) town council seats—all four year terms.

ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY MARCH 2ND (MARTES, 2 DE MARZO.)

Voter precinct boundary information is available at Town Hall from the Town Clerk, **505.771.7128**. General walk-in voting location information is as follows:

- Voters in (consolidated) Precincts 1 and 3; and, portions of Precincts 2, and 4 shall vote at Town Hall, 829 Camino del Pueblo, Bernalillo (Council Chambers)
- Voters in Precinct(s) 50 and 74 shall vote at the Alegria Community Center at 901 Cottonwood Circle on the west side of Bernalillo in the Santiago subdivision off Highway 528

Información acerca el distrito electoral al cual pertenece se encuentra disponible en el Town Hall. Los dos lugares de votar serán:

- *Los votantes en Distritos 1 y 3 y porciones de los distritos 2 y 4 votarán en el Town Hall, 829 Camino del Pueblo, Bernalillo*
- *Los votantes en Distritos 50 y 74 votarán en el Centro Comunitario Alegria por la calle 901 Cottonwood Circle en el oeste de Bernalillo; en la subdivisión Santiago junto a la autopista 528*

VOTER REGISTRATION - ABSENTEE VOTING - EARLY VOTING

January 26, 2010—First day ABSENTEE BALLOTS may be mailed to voters. Only qualified voters may request absentee or Federal qualified ballot applications.

January 26 through February 26, 2010—ABSENTEE BALLOTS may be marked in person in the office of the Municipal Clerk during the regular hours and days of business. (**VOTO EN AUSENCIA**)

February 2, 2010m— **DEADLINE FOR VOTER REGISTRATION (ÚLTIMO DÍA PARA REGISTRAR)** The County Clerk closes the voter registration books at 5:00 p.m.

February 10, 2010—First day for EARLY VOTING at the Municipal Clerk's office (may be cast in person). (**Votación Temprana**)

CANDIDATES (AS DRAWN FOR BALLOT) - CANDIDATOS

Mayor (Alcalde)

Marian A. Jaramillo
Eddie W. Torres III
Patricia A. Chávez
Jack S. Torres
Brian M. Muniz

Town Council (Consejo Municipal)

Santiago P. Montoya
Steven James Baca
Mark Lopez
Dale R. Prairie

Good luck (Suerte) to all the candidates!

NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS:

- Calendar of Events
- Employment Opportunities
- Free CPR Training
- Librarian's Corner Returns
- Mayor/Council Elections
- Mayor's Update
- MVD Office Hours
- Rotary Park Restrooms
- Santiago Chavez—Housing Appt
- Street Construction Begins
- Sat. w/Mayor Patricia A. Chávez

STREET CONSTRUCTION

BEGINS



Construction work on *Camino Don Tomas* began on January 18, 2010. The work on *Camino Del Pueblo*

begins on January 25, 2010.

In addition to the critical upgrades, both roads will get important safety features such as medians and ADA compliant access features for the increasing student and pedestrian traffic on both streets.

Contact Maria Rinaldi, Director of P & Z is the project representative for additional information. 505.771.7133.

SATURDAY WITH THE

MAYOR

The next Saturday morning with Mayor Patricia A. Chávez is scheduled for Saturday, February 6, 2010 from 10:00 a.m.—noon in the Council Chambers. To sign up for a 10 minute session with Mayor Chávez or for further information, call Ida Fierro at 771-7128.

While this forum provides residents who work, Monday—Friday, with an opportunity to meet on issues or concerns, other times and other venues are also available. You can also present questions or concerns at 505.771.7129, by fax at 867-0481; or mail to:

Patricia A. Chávez, Mayor
P.O. Box 638
Bernalillo, NM 87004
<http://www.townofbernalillo.org>



PATRICIA A. CHÁVEZ

Mayor

Town of Bernalillo

NEW EMPLOYEES JOIN BERNALILLO MUNICIPAL TEAM

Mayor Patricia A. Chávez asked you to help in welcoming the newest members of the Town's workforce. These individuals join our present employees and are here to serve the community:

Marcos Terrazas joins the Parks department as a Parks/Utility aide. In the past, Mr. Terrazas worked with the Town's YCC Program.

Anna Miller is an experienced and certified technician who joins us as a Lab Technician in Water/Waste Water Department. She was formerly with the Bernalillo County Water Authority.

Wilma Lamone will serve as a Municipal Court Clerk. She worked as a temp in the same position prior to joining the team permanently.

Elizabeth Aguilar is our new Librarian. Ms. Aguilar retired from the Bernalillo Public School District where she began as a teacher and moved up to become Librarian at Carroll Elementary. She also serves as adjunct professor for New Mexico Highlands University, Rio Rancho Campus.

CONGRATULATIONS INTERIM TOWN ADMINISTRATOR/TREASURER—SANTIAGO CHAVEZ

On December 30, 2009, Governor Bill Richardson and Secretary of State Mary Herrera appointed Santiago Chavez to the Northern Regional Housing Authority. The NRHA exists to assist low-income families with safe, decent, and affordable housing opportunities as they work toward self sufficiency and improve the quality of their lives.



Congratulations, Santiago! This appointment speaks well for your professionalism and what you have already done to assist in making Bernalillo's own Housing Authority financially solvent and moving it out of troubled status.

Free Tax Preparation Help for Low-Income Bernalillo Residents

"Tax Help New Mexico" a free tax preparation service to low-income Bernalillo residents has asked the Town of Bernalillo Housing Authority to participate with them and continue this much-needed service. The service is vitally helpful to working individuals who are eligible for IRS refunds under the "earned income tax credit" program. However, in order to receive this benefit, the individual must file an IRS tax return.

Mayor Patricia A. Chávez has approved the service and commented, "This service is of great help to our tenants and town residents, and fits well within our HUD self-sufficiency assistance goals. We are especially pleased to know that our participation will help continue a much needed program for Bernalillo citizens." The Bernalillo Housing Authority has run similar programs in the past. Participation will require that they provide an office and a part-time person for a three month period. "Tax Help NM" will provide the initial training.

Individuals must call for appointments; no walk-ins. Appointments will begin the first week in February. Call Debbie Chavez at 505.261.2247 for appointments, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

Librarian's Corner Returns

Elizabeth Aguilar is very excited to be the new librarian at *Town of Bernalillo Martha Liebert Public Library*. Ms. Aguilar will initially focus on new programs and an expansion of the weaker sections to continue the ongoing expansion and improvement of the library's collection to help draw a broader patronage.

She is considering two programs that will avail the use of new Southwest Reading Room — 1. An adult literacy reading group that would meet twice a month to discuss reading experiences; and, 2. Introducing read books of interest as a group.

For children, she plans a reading hour and is looking for volunteers to read to the children, in both, English and Spanish. Additionally, she will improve the children and young adults Spanish literature sections to include popular titles by children's authors such as books by Megan McDonald, Judy Blume, Rhoald Dahl, and Francisco Jimenez.

Ms. Aguilar commented, "If anyone has recommendations for the library of any nature, please do not hesitate to call or drop by the library." The library is opened from 10:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday; and, 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. on Saturday. You can also reach the librarian by email at eaquilar@townofbernalillo.org or by phone at 505.867.1440.



ROTARY PARK HAS PERMANENT



RESTROOMS

The installation of new public restroom facility was completed in December 2009 and funded through state appropriations and the Town general funds. It features one-female and one-male unit, both handicapped accessible. The winter hours of operation are 7:00 a.m.—7:00 p.m. otherwise they remain locked for security.

The facilities are now in place for your convenience whether you use Rotary Park as part of the Coronado Little League or a soccer team, play middle or high school ball, partake in energy infused walks, simply enjoy the park facilities at other family events or during one of the various official town events and festivals.

The Town of Bernalillo Parks personnel are responsible for operations and maintenance. Contact Randy Maestas, Parks Supervisor for more information—505.379.1458.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb 1	Special Council Meeting, Town Hall—5:30 p.m.
Feb 2	P & Z Meeting Town Hall 6:30 p.m.
Feb 6	Sat. w/Mayor, Town Hall —10:00 a.m.—noon
Feb 8	Council Meeting, Town Hall—6:30 p.m.
Feb 9	ESCAFCA Meeting, Town Hall—3:00 p.m.
Feb 22	Council Meeting, Town Hall—6:30 p.m.
Mar 2	ELECTION DAY, 7 a.m.—7 p.m.
Mar 2	P & Z Meeting, Town Hall—6:30 p.m.
Mar 8	Council Meeting, Town Hall—6:30 p.m.
Mar 22	Council Meeting, Town Hall—6:30 p.m.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Town of Bernalillo is accepting resumes and applications for the following positions:

- Police Officer
- Public Works Director

Certain positions will remain open until filled. To apply or obtain more information, contact Yolanda Mora, HR Director at 505.771.7112.

FREE CPR TRAINING CONTINUES

Bernalillo Fire Department, Chief John Estrada reminds town residents of the free CPR training classes scheduled for every 3rd Friday of the month. This is part of the department's cardiac awareness campaign. Participants must be 16 years or older. Interested parties

MVD Office Hours

Tired of waiting in line to renew your drivers license or registration? Office hours are: **Monday through Friday; 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.** For more information call 505.867.4131.