



Town of Bernalillo

"The City of Coronado"

PATRICIA A. CHÁVEZ

Mayor

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MAJOR'S UPDATE

Best Wishes: For A Safe and Happy Holiday Season

If you were driving through Bernalillo this past Halloween day, you would have seen excited Bernalillo elementary school children trick-or-treating on Camino Del Pueblo. Halloween is an exciting celebration for all children but this event is another example of distinctly Bernalillo traditions.

That day you would have also seen Bernalillo police officers controlling traffic so that scary pirates, teachers and parents could cross the streets safely. Later, on Halloween Eve, police officers were on their bicycles, patrolling and in some cases, escorting groups of children and parents in the most active areas of town.

Bernalillo is not without its social problems but its investment in public safety has allowed us to maintain and even nurture the quality of life and the family focused traditions that go back to its roots.

The town's investment in public safety has grown dramatically in the last few years. From 2006, the Fire Department budget grew by over 600%. That investment allowed for the transition from its all volunteer fire department, to its present, permanently staffed department of 6 firefighters and medical rescue personnel plus 21 volunteers.

Likewise the Bernalillo police force budget has grown by almost 180%, supporting the current force of 22 well trained and equipped officers. Although traffic has grown, this investment has delivered good statistical results; especially on the U.S. Highway 550 corridor. Increased police presence has consistently kept traffic accidents low over all these years.

Beside staff and operational investment, the Town of Bernalillo continues to invest in the latest emergency response computer systems. The new Bernalillo GIS System is now feeding data to the New Mexico E911 system. This is an important step because E911 dispatch systems across the U.S. are migrating to the new NG911 (Next Generation) which will greatly improve the delivery of timely location-specific data and route/map information to emergency responders. The NG911 migration is part of the U.S. Homeland Security Network strategy. A recent FEMA/Homeland Security awarded to the Bernalillo Fire Department will be used to buy new firefighter equipment plus a new mobile GIS-based information system that links its vehicles to these other data systems.

On the west side of the Rio Grande, Bernalillo has received funding and broken ground for the new Westside DPS building that will house Bernalillo Fire Department personnel and equipment as well as police services.

Traffic on U.S. Highway 550 has actually leveled off the last two years after exponential growth in prior years; according to the Mid Region Council of Governments (MRCOG). The MRCOG officially tracks traffic statistics and oversees transportation planning. In 2008 the traffic on U.S. Highway 550, in the corridor between the 528/550 intersection and the Camino Del Pueblo/550 intersection, peaked at 42,200 vehicles per day.

The recent flattening of Highway 550 traffic volume may be explained in part by the two Rail Runner Stations in Bernalillo, the Park & Ride lots off State Highway 528 and U.S. Highway 550, (continued next column)

MAJOR'S UPDATE (CONT.)

the Rio Metro Transit and the Santa Ana Pueblo Transit services. The growth in commercial businesses on north State Highway 528 and on U.S. Highway 550 could have an influence on shopper traffic. Commercial development in those areas continues to grow rapidly in spite of the poor economy.

Bernalillo works with the MRCOG and its neighbors on traffic planning. Understandably, we have taken an official position against a second road and bridge that would cut through our 2 ½ mile by 2 ½ mile community.

Public safety is an important factor that will help the Town of Bernalillo preserve its small town family oriented traditions like the annual Halloween main street event, the Fiestas De San Lorenzo and in fact Bernalillo's overall quality of life.

The Town of Bernalillo continues to focus on public safety and other quality of life improvements on behalf of all our citizens. May you and your families, and businesses be blessed with health, security and well-being throughout the holidays. Happy Thanksgiving!

Mayor Patricia A. Chávez

NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS:

- Calendar of Events
- Contribute To The Children's Fund
- Employment Opportunities
- Fireplace/Wood Stove Safety Tips
- Free CPR Training
- Mayor's Update
- Rec. Center Holiday Schedule
- RFP—Engineering Services
- Santa Claus Is On Tour!!
- Tree Lighting Launches Holidays
- MVD
- UNM Registration for Spring 2010

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.

HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES IN BERNALILLO

Well it's that time of year again and the Town of Bernalillo is ready with another great program. Mayor Patricia A. Chávez, the Town Council and all of Town Hall invites Bernalillo residents and our neighbors to join us and help us launch the holidays. The schedule is as follows:

Friday, December 4, 2009, 5:30 p.m. *The Annual Christmas Tree Lighting* at Town Hall Come help us launch the holiday season in a traditional candlelight ceremony. Join the children from our local school choirs as they sing for peace and good will. Biscochitos and hot cider will be served.

Saturday, December 5, 2009, 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. *Bernalillo Arts & Crafts Holiday Stroll/NM Wine Museum Open House* at Loretto Park A diverse group of local artisans will have their artwork available for sale. Get all your special holiday gifts in Bernalillo! Plan to visit the NM Wine Museum housed in the 1920's terrone barn building recently restored by Bernalillo's Youth Conservation Corp. Contact Felicia Rodriguez at 771.7121 for vendor information.

Saturday, December 5, 2009, 6:00 p.m. *The 25th Annual Bernalillo Nighttime Christmas Parade* starts at Carroll Elementary on Escuela, west to Camino Del Pueblo and moves south to Avenida Bernalillo and right to Rotary Park. The parade theme is "Christmas Night of Lights."

We encourage parents, children, businesses and individuals to enter a float in the parade. The registration fee is \$25.00 with the exception of marching bands who can enter at no charge. The deadline for parade registration is Monday, November 30, 2009. First, Second and Third Place ribbons will be awarded for the best float using the parade theme. The award categories will be: Youth, Commercial, Non-Commercial and Vehicle. The parade line-up begins on Calle Escuela at 5:00 p.m. and judging will begin at 5:30 p.m. All winners will be announced following the parade at the Bonfire at Rotary Park.

Indeed there are other ways for folks to participate and support Bernalillo during the Holidays. Volunteers are needed as parade organizers, toy wrappers, or to serve refreshments after the parade. Additional information and applications are available on the town web site at www.townofbernalillo.org. Please contact Carla Salazar @ 505.771.7114 if you have any questions.





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CONTRIBUTE TO THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS FUND



Another great way to support Bernalillo is by making a contribution to the Children's Christmas Fund. Your contribution of \$25.00 \$50.00 \$100.00 or MORE will go toward toys/clothes for Bernalillo children. If you wish to contribute, make check or money order payable to: Town of Bernalillo—Children's Christmas Fund. Mail to: The Town of Bernalillo, Office of Community Development, PO Box 638, Bernalillo, NM 87004.

Additional information, applications and gift forms are available on the town web site at www.townofbernalillo.org. Please contact Carla Salazar @ 505.771.7114 if you have any questions.

Santa Claus On Tour!!!

Santa Claus will tour through town on Christmas Day from 9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon. He will be riding on a Bernalillo Fire Engine; (his reindeer will be resting after pulling the sleigh all night!!) Santa will land at 12 Noon at Town Hall where he will give out goody bags to all good little (and big) boys and girls.



UNM Los ALAMOS/BERNALILLO

Registration for Spring 2010 begins Nov 30th! Are you interested in taking college courses locally? UNM-LA/Bernalillo offers core curriculum classes, as well as dual credit and various Associate degrees including Early Childhood Multicultural Education, Pre-Professional Elementary Education, Pre-Business Administration, Liberal Arts, and much, much more! In addition, FREE ABE classes (GED and ESL) are offered.

The majority of classes are taught locally (at Bernalillo High School) and during the evening. **Financial aid is available.** Contact staff/advisors today at 505.771.4071; stop by 237 S. Camino del Pueblo; or go to <http://www.la.unm.edu/SSC/scholarships.html>.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

- Librarian
- Public Works Director
- Utility Worker—Parks Maintenance
- Utility Worker – Waste Water
- Lab Technician - Waste Water

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

Fire Inspection Training

Chief John Estrada and Fire Marshall/Paramedic Brannon Porch recently completed the two week of fire inspection training at the National Fire Academy in Maryland. The training was paid by FEMA and represents another step forward in efforts to improve the safety rating for Bernalillo, which in turn will cut insurance costs for all residents and businesses.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

ENGINEERING RETAINER SERVICES

The Town of Bernalillo is inviting qualifications-based competitive sealed proposals for professional design services for indefinite scope projects on a time and materials, and on-call basis. This is a multi-term contract with one (1) base year and up to three (3) extensions for a maximum term of four (4) years. Contract extensions will be at the discretion of the Town.

The requested proposals are for professional architectural, engineering, landscape architectural and planning services.

Proposals will be taken at the Office of Planning and Capital Programs until 5:00pm Monday, December 7, 2009.

Copies of the RFP can be obtained in person from Ms. Paula Pierce, Town Hall Receptionist, from 8:00am to 12:00pm and 1:00pm to 5:00pm Monday through Friday. Town Hall is located at 829 Camino del Pueblo, Bernalillo, New Mexico.

The RFP can also be mailed out upon written or telephone request to Ms. Pierce at 505.867.3311.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Nov 23 Council Meeting, Town Hall; 6:30 p.m.
- Nov 26-27 Town Hall Closed—Thanksgiving Holiday
- Dec 1 P & Z Meeting, Town Hall; 6:30 p.m.
- Dec 4 Official Tree Lighting—Town Hall; 5:30 p.m.
- Dec 5 Arts & Craft Holiday Stroll & Wine Museum Open House, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Dec 5 Nighttime Christmas Parade/Bonfire, Main Street & Rotary Park; 5:00 p.m.
- Dec 8 ESCAFCA Meeting, Town Hall; 3:00 p.m.
- Dec 14 Council Meeting, Town Hall; 6:30 p.m.
- Dec 24-25 Christmas Holidays (Town Hall Closed)
- Dec 28 Council Meeting, Town Hall; 6:30 p.m.
- Dec 31- Jan 1 New Years (Town Hall Closed)

Rec. Center Holiday Schedule

The Rec Center schedule remains 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Monday—Friday. But, hours of operation will change from December 21, 2009 to January 1, 2010, to 8:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m. The center will be closed for the Holidays as per the town schedule above.

Youth Basketball Games will start on Saturday, December 12, 2009. The program will take a break from December 21, 2009 – January 3, 2010 (no practices or games.)

Free CPR Training

The Bernalillo Fire Department is offering free CPR training every 3rd Friday of the month at Town Hall for people 16 and older. At completion, participants receive CPR certification cards. Only 12 slots are allotted for each session on first call first serve basis. Call Chief John Estrada at 505.771.7135.

Wood Stove and Fireplace Safety Tips

Times are tough and more people are turning to fireplaces and wood stoves for winter heat. Unfortunately, the last five (5) structure fires in the Town of Bernalillo were due to wood burning fires. Here are some fire safety tips to consider.

- Ensure the stove/fireplace is installed properly. Wood stoves should be 36" from combustible surfaces with proper floor support and protection.
- Wood stoves should be of solid construction and good design with UL certification.
- Inspect the chimney annually and clean as necessary.
- **DO NOT** use flammable liquids to start any fire.
- Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace opening, to prevent embers or other material from popping out (or in).
- Burn the fire hotter twice a day for 15-30 minutes to reduce the amount of creosote buildup in the chimney.
- Don't use excessive amounts of paper to build fires. It can ignite creosote in the chimney.
- **NEVER** burn charcoal or rail road ties or woods containing any oil base treatment. These materials can give off lethal amounts of carbon monoxide and other contaminants.
- Keep flammable materials such as rugs and curtains, away from your fireplace or stove.
- Before going to bed, be sure your fire is out.
- **NEVER close your damper with hot ashes in the fireplace.** A closed damper will heat up the fire and force carbon monoxide into the house.
- Follow the directions on synthetic logs and **NEVER** break a synthetic log apart or use more than one log at a time. They will burn unevenly, releasing higher levels of carbon monoxide.

