

Town of Bernalillo
Office of the Mayor
P r e s s R e l e a s e

Contact: Mayor Patricia A. Chávez, 505-991-0408

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SANTA CLAUS SPOTTED MAKING SPECIAL DELIVERIES IN BERNALILLO AND A
RETURN VISIT PLANNED ON CHRISTMAS DAY**

Bernalillo, NM – December 20, 2006 Mayor Patricia A. Chávez reports sightings of “Old Saint Nick” in Bernalillo. It appears that Santa has been hanging out in Bernalillo throughout the week to make certain that Town staff deliver presents to 152 children on his “nice list.” Generous donations from area businesses and individuals to the town’s Children’s Christmas Fund, and proceeds from the Christmas Nighttime parade entries make Santa’s toy delivery and Christmas Day visit to the children in the community possible.

Total donations to the “Children’s Christmas Fund” are expected to exceed \$2,100.00. “The community has expressed a level of generosity that is truly heartwarming,” says Mayor Chávez, “I am pleased that so many families can experience a brighter Christmas because the community cares.” The Town works with local service agencies, churches and schools to help identify Santa’s “nice list” of children living in Bernalillo.

The Bernalillo Volunteer Fire Department will again host Santa’s visit to the community on Christmas Day as part of a thirty-eight year tradition. Deputy Chief Michael Carroll looks forward to the tradition each year. “The best part of Christmas for me is to see the children smiling from ear to ear when they see Santa,” he said as he packed candy canes and oranges into stockings spread throughout the fire department.

While Santa returns to the North Pole to prepare for his Christmas Eve deliveries around the world, he returns to Town Hall in Bernalillo on Christmas Day to greet children of all ages -- even those young at heart. Mayor Patricia A. Chávez encourages all to stop by for some Christmas cheer. Santa and his Town of Bernalillo Volunteer Fire Department elves will be giving out stockings filled with goodies to all children that visit him on Christmas Day, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m., 829 Camino del Pueblo, Bernalillo, NM. ----**END**