

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

For More Information Contact:
Patricia A. Chávez, 505.771.7129
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, May 18, 2007

PROMOTE BERNALILLO – A NEW MEXICO RAIL RUNNER CELEBRATION

Bernalillo, NM – May 18, 2007 - Mayor Patricia A. Chávez is pleased to announce the official opening of the Downtown Rail Runner Station located on 820 Rail Road Track Rd. between Calle Don Francisco and Calle Duranes in Bernalillo. A dedication ceremony of the station will take place on Thursday, May 24, 2007 from 1:30-4:00 p.m. Mayor Chávez invites residents, businesses, neighboring pueblos and communities to the celebration.

One of two stations in Bernalillo, the Downtown Rail Runner station is located in the heart of historic Bernalillo. The space parking lot, which offers free parking, is located just south of Calle Duranes, is the smallest lot among all Rail Runner stations - providing much opportunity for pedestrian-friendly exploring. Bernalillo has the historical distinction of being part of the old “El Camino Real and “Route 66” and the Rail Runner station is central to many shops, restaurants, and other business venues. Bernalillo residents and visitors, alike, can easily walk to and from the station to experience the warm hospitality over breakfast, lunch, or dinner; or simply enjoy the ease of taking care of business within the community.

The festivities planned for the dedication include light refreshments, music, and dance. Bernalillo’s best - student performances of “Coro Infanté de Roosevelt Elementary”, Carroll Elementary Ballet Folklórico, and the Bernalillo High School “Marachi Ensemble” will be featured in the community celebration. Additionally, a special promotion to encourage residents and visitors to explore Bernalillo businesses will enjoy a special kickoff. Bernalillo businesses have been asked to participate in offering a limited number of free Rail Runner passes to customers to stimulate additional business and to encourage local use of the train service. The tickets are provided free of charge by the Town of Bernalillo.

The Town of Bernalillo station dedication ceremony is planned in conjunction with the Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments and the New Mexico Department of Transportation. “We want to ensure that business and train service events become a mainstay in our community. Combined, they contribute to a powerful, vibrant economy in our community”, says Mayor Patricia A. Chávez. “Train service also provides alternative transportation to and from Bernalillo, literally providing our residents access to diverse employment, medical, educational and cultural pursuits while placing economic relief on their pocketbooks.” The Rail Runner Express, in a ceremonial ride, will bring visitors to the event from the Alvarado Center Station (downtown Albuquerque) at 1:00 p.m., returning from Bernalillo at 3:00 p.m.

For more information regarding the Bernalillo Downtown Station Rail Runner dedication event at 820 Rail Road Track Rd. on Thursday, May 24, 2007, 1:30 – 4:00 p.m., call the Town of Bernalillo Community Development office at 771-1733. “Be sure to join Bernalillo in celebration and see the beautiful addition to our downtown area”, invites Mayor Patricia A. Chávez. ---END