

Town of Bernalillo

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OPENING HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES

The Town of Bernalillo, one of the oldest communities in the United States, launches the Holiday Season on December 4th and 5th with its traditional Holiday festivities. Bernalillo proudly maintains a rich culture that blends the religions and traditions originally from Spain with Native American and more recent Anglo-Saxon customs and ceremonies.

The festivities begin on **Friday, December 4, 2009, 5:30 p.m.** with the annual *Christmas Tree Lighting* in front of Town Hall. Come for a candlelight ceremony and enjoy the voices of our local children's school choirs and help formally launch the holiday season in historic Bernalillo. Traditional biscochitos and hot cider will be served.

On **Saturday, December 5, 2009, 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.** join us for the *Bernalillo Arts & Crafts Holiday Stroll and the New Mexico Wine Museum Open House* at Loretto Park; also on Bernalillo's main street. Talented local artisans will have their artwork available for sale. You can get all your special holiday gifts in Bernalillo! Then stroll over to the New Mexico Wine Museum and marvel at the 1920's terrone barn building recently restored and readapted by Bernalillo's Youth Conservation Corp. Contact Felicia Rodriguez @ 771.7121 for vendor information

Since you're in Bernalillo on Saturday then stay for the *25th Annual Bernalillo Nighttime Christmas Parade* starting 5:00p.m. The parade starts at Carroll Elementary on Calle Escuelita and turns southbound on main street to Avenida Bernalillo. The parade turns west and ends at Rotary Park.

The parade theme for 2009 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 2009 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's Holiday Season. Volunteers are needed as parade organizers, toy wrappers, or to serve refreshments after the parade.

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 be used to buy toys/clothes for Bernalillo's children. If you wish to contribute, make a 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 regarding the volunteer program or contributions fund.