



Town of
BERNALILLO
MAY 2020
"The City of Coronado"

MAYOR
JACK TORRES

COUNCILMEMBERS
TINA DOMINGUEZ
DALE PRAIRIE
SHARON TORRES-QUINTANA
PHILLIP VALVERDE

MESSAGE FROM MAYOR JACK TORRES

Dear friends and neighbors:

Faith, family, friends and community. In these extraordinary days I urge each of us to keep these four pillars uppermost in our minds and actions. As I write this message (April 10th) the entire state is awaiting the surge in COVID-19 cases and remain in stay-at-home order from Governor Lujan Grisham. Although it is harder with each passing week to follow this directive, we know that the best chance of remaining safe is to stay home as much as possible. I sincerely thank everyone who is taking this seriously. We also understand that this has placed economic hardships on many, and especially appreciate the sacrifices being made for the health and well being of our community.

Although Town Hall remains closed to the public, the majority of our staff continues to work to provide services to our community. My heartfelt thanks to our staff who show up for work each and every day to ensure services to our residents and businesses. Most of us don't think twice about the clean, safe water that appears at our fingertips, or the ease that our sewer lines flow. We forget that the parks must still be maintained and roads repaired. Many of us forget that our police officers and firefighters have families that they leave every day as they report for work. Our Planning and Zoning staff are working both remotely and here in town to assist residents. Our Municipal Court has made adjustments to continue operations. And our IT, Human Resources, Maintenance, Finance, and Administration staff are in the building every day ensuring that everyone's needs continue to be met. In addition, Community and Economic Development staff regularly post updates to our social media of resources for businesses and residents. Please remember all the Town Staff who through these challenging times, continue to serve all of us. And best of all, they do it with a positive attitude.

None of us knows how long the stay-at-home order will remain in place. No one knows when we will return to "normal" or what that new normal might look like. We can assure you that the town staff will continue to do our best to serve our community. Remember that we are just a phone call or email away. The one normal that will continue is our commitment to public service. All we ask is for patience and for each of us to be kind to one another.

Sincerely, Mayor Jack Torres

MAY CALENDAR

- 7th - Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting - Cancelled
- 11th - Town Council Meeting - Remote Meeting - 6:30pm - www.townofbernalillo.org
- 25th - Town Council Meeting - Remote Meeting - 6:30pm - www.townofbernalillo.org
- 26th - ESCAFCA Meeting - Town Hall - 6:00pm

JUST SOME MORE INFORMATION

CLOSING OF FACILITIES TO THE PUBLIC - We've temporarily closed Town Hall, the Recreation Center, and Martha Liebert Public Library to the public. Town owned playground equipment and basketball courts, as well as the public restrooms at Rotary Park, have also been closed temporarily to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

EVENTS IN THE TOWN - Until it is deemed safe, the Town of Bernalillo has cancelled all events. This included third-party events as well as Town hosted events, such as: Arbor Day, Memorial Day, National Drug Take Back, and Keep Bernalillo Beautiful. For more info, contact the Economic & Community Development Director, Michael Kloeppel at 771-7133 or mkloeppel@townofbernalillo.org

MVD - BERNALILLO OFFICE - The Town of Bernalillo MVD Office (located within Town Hall) has CLOSED until further notice. For services offered by the State, visit mvd.newmexico.gov or call 888-683-4636.

BURN PERMITS - For the duration of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, the Town will issue burn permits to residents via phone, email, or fax. The fee for burn permits will be waived during this time. Residents are still required to follow all regulations regarding the burning of weeds.

To obtain a burn permit, you may call 771-7105 or 771-7135. by email: tchavez@townofbernalillo.org or mcarroll@townofbernalillo.org. To fax in a request: 771-7102

FREE 1/2 DAY TO BERNALILLO RESIDENTS AT SANDOVAL COUNTY LANDFILL - Get rid of your rubbish at Sandoval County Landfill on May 16th from 8am-Noon at no charge with proof of Bernalillo residency.

DON'T LET COVID-19 KEEP YOU FROM VOTING! - You can submit your request to vote by mail (absentee) to the Sandoval County Bureau of Elections by calling 505-867-7577. Your ballot must be returned to the BOE before May 29th. Do not let social distancing keep you from voting in the primary! Your vote matters!

www.sandovalcountynm.gov/elected-officials/county-clerk

UTILITY/WATER BILLING

As the COVID-19 public health emergency evolves, the Town wishes to assure customers that it has contingency staffing plans in place to ensure continuity of water and sewer service.

The Town is currently encouraging residents to contact the Utility Billing Department regarding any accounts that are past-due or in jeopardy of being disconnected. The Town will continue to support its citizens in working with them to provide water and sewer services.

PAY BY MAIL TOB Billing Dept. PO Box 638, Bernalillo, NM 87004

PAY BY PHONE at 771-7120 or 771-7122 - due to high call volume, leave a message with your name, address, and current phone number. Utility Billing Clerks will return all messages by end of business day.

PAY ONLINE at www.townofbernalillo.org. Customers will need their account number and last payment amount.

PAY BY DROP BOX OUTSIDE OF TOWN HALL - can be check, money order, or cash. - Must be in an envelope - Must have physical address of the property or account number - telephone number in case there is an issue with payment. **NO CHANGE WILL BE PROVIDED.** Any change will be credited to customers utility billing account. Receipts will only be mailed when requested on envelope with payment included.

If you have a water or sewer emergency:
Monday-Friday: 8am-5pm, call Town Hall at 505-867-3311
Non-Business Hours: non-emergency dispatch at 505-891-7226

MARTHA LIEBERT PUBLIC LIBRARY

WiFi. The Library WiFi is available from 5:00am to 10:00pm outside the building. It is FREE and there is NO password. Enjoy!

Kids' & Teens' Resources. Many book vendors and publishers have opened their databases for FREE use; many will stay open throughout the summer. These e-books, and e-audio-books can be found under the Kid's Resources tab / E-Resources.

El Portal is a database full of resources provided by the New Mexico State Library. Besides newspapers, magazines, and articles for research, there is Tutoring available. Check it out. Find it on the library website!

BERNALILLO MUSEUM

The museum world has gone online! There are tons of activities, videos, free magazines, virtual tours, and online exhibits. You can look at beautiful objects: www.museumcrush.org; visit battlefields: www.battlefields.org/visit/virtual-tours, and play games www.icivics.org/games!

To find out more, follow these steps:

- To receive regular emails about opportunities for online museum activities: Submit your email to the eblast list on our webpage www.townofbernalillo.org/departments/bernalillo_community_museum/index.php or send an email to museum@townofbernalillo.org and ask to be put on the eblast list.
- To receive regular texts about opportunities for online museum activities, text "sign me up to museotexts" to 505.220.3693.

CORONADO CAMPGROUND

Due to the high-risk nature of the business conducted with travelers from across the US and other countries, the following strategies will be implemented for the safety of guests and employees of Coronado Campground:

- Coronado Campground will be operating at 25% capacity until further notice.
- Coronado Campground will no longer accept new reservations or allow drive-ins until further notice. We will honor reservations made previously for those dates unless otherwise canceled by the guest.
- Any reservations made before March 23rd will be placed in every other side to help with social distancing as stated by our Governor.
- As per stated by our Governor, no gatherings of five (5) or more people will be permitted at Coronado Campground.
- We will continue to practice health safety and sanitize offices and bathrooms accordingly.

DON'T FORGET YOUR 2020 CENSUS

Bernalillo has grown so much over the last ten years and information that the residents provide to the census bureau aids in the data for future funding of our public schools, infrastructure, health care and other support programs. You are the voice of Bernalillo, make it heard by filling out your census at www.2020census.gov

This edition of the Town newsletter was made and printed in the second week of April 2020. For the most up-to-date information regarding the Town of Bernalillo, its facilities, events and more, visit www.TOWNOFBERNALILLO.org or call Town Hall Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm at 867-3311.

BERNALILLO POLICE DEPARTMENT

The police department has closed its lobby window to the public. **Anyone needing reports or information must call either 771-5872 or 771-5873.** Reports will only be sent electronically by email and there is no charge if the report is ten pages or less. If the report is larger or the request includes audio or video footage, then there will be a charge and the report and discs will be sent via mail upon receiving payment.

As of this date, the police department is operating normally and continues to provide services to our community. When the public is requesting an officer, if it is possible, officers are calling the reporting party to discuss their issue. Otherwise, officers are still responding to calls for service and taking the appropriate action. Officers will continue to warn, cite, or arrest violators as may be appropriate.

If you call for an officer, the emergency dispatchers will ask specific questions to determine if the caller may be exhibiting symptoms for COVID-19. If the caller is symptomatic for COVID-19, police and emergency personnel will take additional safety precautions.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The Public Works Department will continue to serve our residents through this crisis. Our department provides essential services to our community such as ensuring that the water you drink is safe, and that our sanitary sewer services are working properly and being treated at our wastewater treatment plant.

We're making sure our parks are being maintained, weeds are being addressed, and our miles and miles of roads are being maintained as best we can. Our staff is disinfecting all Town owned buildings multiple times a day, as well as dealing with building repairs as they come up. We also continue to work closely with the NM Department of Transportation as they continue with the work on U.S. 550, which includes relocating Town of Bernalillo water and sewer lines in that area.

With all of the work that our Public Works staff is doing each day during this difficult time, we are making sure that we are abiding by the guidelines of social distancing and not gathering in groups. Our goal, just like yours, is to stay healthy and safe so that the Town's essential services continue to be addressed while you are doing your part to social distance and stay at home.

PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT

Until further notice, the Planning and Zoning Department is not open to the public but is processing applications electronically. Applications are available on our Forms and Applications web page.

- Please email all construction plans/applications to the Building Official, Joseph Benney.
- Please email all other applications to the Planning & Zoning Director, Stephanie Shumsky

Once the application is reviewed, we will email you with the fee amount. Once the fee is received (via phone/credit card OR mail/check), we will email you the permit and a copy of your receipt.

- To pay by credit/debit card, contact Venessa at (505) 771-7120 or Jeanette at (505) 771-7122.
- To pay by check, mail to: Town of Bernalillo, attn: P&Z Department, P.O. Box 638 Bernalillo, NM 87004

For all other inquiries, call or email the appropriate staff person.

Stephanie Shumsky – Director – 771-5896 – sshumsky@townofbernalillo.org

LeeAnn Romero – Clerk – 771-7118 – lromero@townofbernalillo.org

Joseph Benney – Building Official – 771-5882 – jbenney@townofbernalillo.org

Suzanne Hathon – Code Enforcement Officer – 771-3626 – shathon@townofbernalillo.org