



Town of
BERNALILLO
OCTOBER 2020
"The City of Coronado"

MAYOR
JACK TORRES
COUNCILMEMBERS
TINA DOMINGUEZ
DALE PRAIRIE
SHARON TORRES-QUINTANA
PHILLIP VALVERDE

Dear Bernalillo,

2020 has been a year unlike any other with challenges before us that no one has ever seen. Our call is to answer these challenges as best we can, while continuing to meet the "normal" needs that continue day after day. I am proud to thank the vast majority of residents and businesses who have answered the call by adhering to safe practices throughout the pandemic. I also sincerely appreciate all the sacrifices made by front-line workers and essential staff who continue to keep our community safe and operating as usual. Please take any opportunity you get to thank these folks, who are often taken for granted.

Our Town has so far weathered this storm quite well, and in many ways we have excelled. Our operational (General Fund) budget is heavily dependent on Gross Receipts Tax (GRT). Our 2020 fiscal year ended June 30, 2020. Our GRT for the final quarter was equal to GRT for the prior year. Our annual GRT was 7% higher than the prior year. As of the submission of this report (September 10), GRT is holding steady in comparison to last year. The healthy revenue came as a pleasant surprise as we planned for significant decrease in revenue and budgeted lower expenditures.

Our administration has been diligently watching spending and aggressively pursuing opportunities for our community. On September 1st, we were awarded \$2.2 million in federal CARES Act funds. We appreciate that significant support which will go towards additional costs we have incurred keeping staff and our community safe. I am also indebted to staff who worked tirelessly, on a short timeline to submit the successful application. As noted by the Albuquerque Journal (September 3, 2020), Bernalillo received the 10th largest award in the state. In addition, we applied for and were awarded \$1.1 million to provide Small Business Grants to assist our local businesses.

Our Town Fire Department is now the proud owner of a 76-foot ladder apparatus. Most of us would call this \$900,000 vehicle a ladder truck or fire engine with a ladder. The cost of this apparatus was paid for with appropriations via NM Capital Outlay. Our thanks to our local legislators and Governor Lujan-Grisham for this support. With this appropriation, we were able to retire an antiquated engine which was fully utilized by the Town through its useful years. Also, we will utilize our General Fund savings to purchase an additional \$400,000 fire engine. These improvements will place the Fire Department in a very strong position for years to come.

The Town is investing \$1.66 million on water system improvements project in the Mountain View Estates neighborhood. \$750,000 came from a Community Development Block Grant, supplemented with \$914,422.88 from NM Capital Outlay. As this project nears completion, construction includes adding new service lines and additional fire hydrants. The completion of this project will contribute to fewer leaks, saving labor and wasted water, as well as improved hydrant accessibility and water flow.

We recently completed Phase 3 of our Streetscape project which included ADA compliance and decorative lighting on Camino del Pueblo between Calle Presidente and Calle Del Norte. We are in line for funding for Phase 4 which will run from Avenida Bernalillo to Lucero Avenue on Camino del Pueblo.

We are awaiting final documentation for the following 2021 funded projects:



New Ladder Truck for the Bernalillo Fire/Rescue Department

- \$2.9 million for our Pedestrian Rail Safety Project – this includes a lighted pedestrian trail and safe rail crossings that will complete the project from Lucero Avenue to Calle Escuela, along the railroad tracks
- \$1.07 million for Old Highway 44 – Design and Construction for Pavement Rehabilitation & Bridge Replacement
- \$400,000 for the Bernalillo Community Museum – NM Capital Outlay
- \$180,000 for Bernalillo Recreation Center Gym Floor Replacement – NM Capital Outlay
- \$100,000 for Wastewater Treatment Plant for Electronic Upgrades – NM Capital Outlay
- \$400,000 for Skate Park – Proceeds from Land Sale

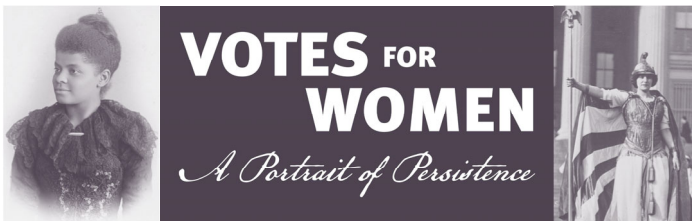
In addition, we continue to update policies in many departments including Planning and Zoning, Police Department and others. We have made significant improvements in our physical infrastructure including IT, Town Hall, Recreation Center, the Martha Liebert Public Library, and other sites. This work has been accomplished using General Fund dollars and without incurring any additional debt. We also added Bosque Pond and Park through a joint venture with ESCAFCA. This is a multi-use facility which doubles as a flood control pond and neighborhood park.

As a community we are fortunate to work with such dedicated, committed, loyal public servants. Throughout this pandemic I have been repeatedly amazed by staff not only doing their regular job, but stepping up to meet the many new challenges that we have had to face. Most of our staff are essential and have been to work throughout this ordeal. They deserve our gratitude and appreciation. Join me to thank the residents, businesses, first-responders, and other public servants as they have kept Bernalillo safe during these unprecedented times. All of us are truly blessed and fortunate to live and work in Bernalillo.

-Mayor Jack Torres

VOTING IN 1920 TO 2020: A HISTORICAL CHANGE THROUGH TIME

In 1920 women fought, stood, and defended their right to cast a vote. Fast forward to 2020, where we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment and Americans face another historic chance to enable their right, and privilege, to cast their vote for the future leader of our country.



VOTES FOR WOMEN EXHIBIT

The Town of Bernalillo along with the Bernalillo Community Museum is proud to present its first exhibit: *Votes for Women: A Portrait of Persistence*. The Town has partnered with Bernalillo County, UNM Museum Studies Program, and the Gutierrez-Hubbell House and Cultural Center to bring this outdoor exhibit to Bernalillo! There will be 3 large-scale posters and 10 small-scale posters located at various locations in Bernalillo. This exhibit will be available for viewing from September 8 - November 14, 2020.

The exhibit draws from the National Portrait Gallery's celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment and is provided through the Smithsonian Institution's Traveling Exhibit Services.

Plan your trip to each of the posters by visiting www.TOWNOFBERNALILLO.org for a map of poster locations. You can also participate in a scavenger hunt to be entered into a drawing to win prizes!

2020 voter information will also be featured with the exhibit pieces. This information was validated by the Sandoval County Clerk's Office, who have been key in this exhibit and is thanked for their support.

Contact the Bernalillo Community Museum via **505.771.5885** or museum@townofbernalillo.org with any questions.

VOTING IN THE 2020 ELECTION

The 2020 General Election is Tuesday, November 3rd. Voters can vote by mail, early in-person, or on election day.

Early In-Person Voting takes place from October 6th - 30th, 2020. Did you know that as a Sandoval County Resident you can vote in the 2020 Election at any of the Voting Convenience Center Locations in Sandoval County?

Early Voting Locations in Bernalillo include Sandoval County Administration Building (1500 Idalia Road) and Voting Machine Warehouse (800 S. Hill Road). On Election Day, you can also vote at Bernalillo High School (148 Spartan Alley) and Bernalillo Middle School (485 Camino Don Tomas).

You can contact the Sandoval County Bureau of Elections for all the most up-to-date information regarding voting in the November Election, including:

- Voter Registration
- Details of Early Voting
- Absentee Voting
- Candidate Information

**Sandoval County
Bureau of Elections**
505-867-7577
SandovalCountyNM.gov

Martha Liebert Library

124 Calle Malinche ~ 867-1440

The Town of Bernalillo has a new Library Director. Joseph McKenzie has stepped up to lead the historic Martha Liebert Public Library into the future. A native Nuevomexicano with deep ties to the region and roots going back to the Conquista on his mother's side, McKenzie is a professional librarian with international experience and a profound love of our history.

Housed in the historic Roosevelt Building, a two-story, 1930's school house constructed by the WPA in the classic adobe style, Bernalillo's Martha Liebert Library is an architectural treasure. McKenzie sees in the building "the potential to be one of the state's premier historical attractions drawing traffic to our collections from areas beyond the township." When asked, "Why Bernalillo?" McKenzie's answer seems to be, quite simply, Bernalillo itself. "Bernalillo is not a city in search of a vision," McKenzie says. "It already has a vision, one that has guided our community for over 327 years. The social stability and economic development we enjoy here makes Bernalillo the 'happening' place to be in New Mexico."

The library's famous Southwest Collection will be celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2023 and is one of the many unique features of the Martha Liebert Library. McKenzie hopes to develop it further as he refines the rest of the library's collections. "My predecessor Kathy Banks gave us a solid foundation to build upon," McKenzie says, "and I already have a good sense of where we can take this formidable collection going forward."

McKenzie arrives at what is undoubtedly the most difficult conceivable time, but has taken solace in the fact that Bernalillo's governing body and town administration truly believe in all the many ways the library and its staff serve the Bernalillo community.

Bernalillo Museum Community Voices Project

This fall, the Bernalillo Community Museum will be hosting a series of online videos that show local stories, traditions, and food. This Community Voices Project also includes passing out family activity packs to follow along with our videos. **We invite families to submit artwork, videos of interviews with your family members, and stories to win prizes.** This work is funded through generous grants from the New Mexico Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities and is being carried out by a team of museum educators, a video animator and editor, and local scholars. We can't wait to hear your input! Follow our Facebook page for news by searching **Bernalillo Community Museum!**



KIDS COAT DRIVE

We are collecting new coats for the youth of Bernalillo.

Please drop off donations at Town Hall now thru November 16!

All child sizes are needed!

SHARE THE WARMTH!

FARMERS MARKET PAVILION at ROTARY PARK FRIDAYS 4-7pm

Fresh fruits, vegetables, herbs, and more!



Every FRIDAY through OCTOBER!

More info contact Bonnie Hill @ 228-5801

OCTOBER CALENDAR

- 6th - Planning & Zoning Meeting - Remote Meeting - 6:30 pm
- 12th - Town Council Meeting - Remote Meeting - 6:30pm
- 26th - Town Council Meeting - Remote Meeting - 6:30pm
- 27th - ESCAFCA Meeting - Town Hall - 6:00pm

Meeting Information can be found on Town Website