

BERNALILLO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

"COMMUNICATOR"

FEBRUARY 2016 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Hello residents and visitors to Bernalillo County. Please enjoy our February 2016 issue of the "communicator."

We continue our effort to work with you, our community and visitors of our county to continue to provide you with the superior service you have come to expect.

This newsletter is intended for residents and visitors of the County of Bernalillo, the Sheriff's East Area Command, North Valley Area Command, and South Valley Area Command. The purpose of our newsletter is to keep an open line of communications between you, the citizens, and us, the deputies, who are sworn to protect you and your property.

Please feel free to forward this newsletter to any and all your neighbors who are interested news, crime fighting tips, and communication from the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office. If any person wishes to be placed on the internet e-mail distribution list please forward that request via e-mail to tgartenmayer@berncoco.gov

NEWS FROM THE EAST AREA COMMAND

Several members of the Sheriff's Office have agreed to participate in the annual "St. Baldrick's" charity fundraiser. This fundraiser seeks to raise funds to research a cure for childhood cancer. These participants will solicit donations and shave their heads to raise awareness of this devastating disease. We at the Sheriff's Office are proud to have some of our members giving up their personal time for this worthy cause.

Our most recent graduates of the Bernalillo County Regional Training Academy have continued to progress in their Field Training Officer program. The purpose of the Field Training and Evaluation Program (FTO) is to train new deputies so that each is prepared to function as a solo patrol deputy at the conclusion of their training cycle.

The training cycle consists of over 12 weeks of intensive on-the-job training and daily performance evaluations. Training is conducted and staffed by specially trained field training officers and patrol sergeants. Field training officers have the dual responsibility of providing police service in their assigned area commands, as well as conducting training and evaluation of the new deputy. These daily observation reports (DORs), completed by the Field Training Officer, are scored and reviewed by both the trainer and trainee. Field training sergeants are responsible for the supervision of all personnel assigned to their teams and for coordinating and supervising the on-the-job training of recruit deputies.

Deputies are required to meet specific performance standards in 30+ performance categories before being certified for solo patrol duty. As the deputies near the completion of their probationary period, the FTO program administers a formal review of all DOR's and deputies who have performed at an acceptable level are recommended for retention as permanent employees.

Program Objectives

To train and evaluate all recruit deputies in preparation for solo patrol duty.

To achieve a +90% success rate for all recruit officers trained.

To train newly appointed field training officers and sergeants in preparation for their new duties.

To provide information and training to outside agencies in the development and implementation of the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office Model of the Field Training and Evaluation Program.

NEWS FROM THE SOUTH AREA COMMAND

On January 28, 2016, the PNM South Valley Solar Energy Center had a ribbon cutting ceremony.

- This 10-megawatt solar energy center came online last month.
- The solar center is located on an 85-acre site between Coors SW and Douglas Rd, south of Pajarito SW in Albuquerque.
- PNM invested \$20 Million to build the center.
- The center has 40,250 panels that generate the equivalent of the energy used by 4,025 average residential customers.
- Construction created 260 local temporary jobs.
- The new solar energy center will provide an estimated \$158,000 annually in new tax revenue for Bernalillo County.

Pictured, top right: Captain Ray Chavez, Sheriff Manuel Gonzales III, and Lieutenant Sam White. Pictured bottom: Senior VP PNM Resources, Ron Darnell, Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce COO, Synthia Jaramillo, Commissioner Art De La Cruz, Sheriff Manuel Gonzales II and Unknown.



NEWS FROM THE NORTH AREA COMMAND

Using Social Media Increase Communication

As Captains within the field Services Division of the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department we frequently attend neighborhood association meetings in the North Valley, South Valley and the East Mountains. By attending these meetings the Sheriff's Department gains valuable knowledge from the citizens who live in our neighborhoods. The information gathered is a key component to keeping our community safe. The Sheriff's Department is continuously looking for ways to increase our level of communication between our department and the people we serve. A key component to a successful neighborhood association or neighborhood watch group is communication between you and your neighbors.

Many of you may already be familiar with a web site called Nextdoor.com. However many may not be familiar with the site. This site is free, easy to use, safe, and extremely effective. These days we all have busy schedules that may sometimes prohibit us from having a great deal of personal contact with our neighbors. Technology has changed all of our lives in some fashion. This site is a great way to take advantage of technology in order to better communicate with our neighbors.

As neighbors we should all do our part to look out for each other. This site allows the user to post comments in a short amount of time that will reach everyone in your neighborhood. It's a great way for neighbors to share information about suspicious activity, break ins and recent thefts that may have occurred in the area. We often talk with the person who lives right next door about what is happening in the area but often we don't talk with people who live a block away. Nextdoor gives us the ability to do just that.

The Sheriff's Department encourages you to try this free site. Talk with your neighbors and you will find that many of them are currently using it. Below is a brief description of what the site was developed for and its capabilities. It only takes about five minutes to subscribe.

Please remember that increased communication between Law Enforcement and our community is vital to keeping our community safe.

About Nextdoor:

Nextdoor is the private social network for you, your neighbors and your community. It's the easiest way for you and your neighbors to talk online and make all of your lives better in the real world. And it's free.

Thousands of neighborhoods are already using Nextdoor to build happier, safer places to call home.

People are using Nextdoor to:

- Quickly get the word out about a break-in
- Organize a Neighborhood Watch Group
- Track down a trustworthy babysitter
- Find out who does the best paint job in town
- Ask for help keeping an eye out for a lost dog
- Find a new home for an outgrown bike
- Finally call that nice man down the street by his first name

Nextdoor's mission is to use the power of technology to build stronger and safer neighborhoods.

CRIME REDUCTION AND SAFETY TIPS

While the occurrences of “Meth Labs” within the county have diminished greatly we would like to educate you on some ways to identify them and the reporting procedures to effect a successful prosecution of those involved. Many people may be unaware that they're living near a meth lab. Meth labs turn up in houses, barns, apartments, trailers, campers, cabins and motel rooms – even the backs of pickup trucks. The equipment for a meth lab can be as small as to fit in a duffel bag, a cardboard box or the trunk of a car.

Here are some things to look for in identifying a meth lab:

- Unusual, strong odors (like cat urine, ether, ammonia, acetone or other chemicals).
- Renters who pay their landlords in cash. (Most drug dealer's trade exclusively in cash.)
- Lots of traffic - people coming and going at unusual times. There may be little traffic during the day, but at night the activity increases dramatically; including different vehicles arriving and staying for short periods of time.
- Excessive trash including large amounts of items such as: antifreeze containers, lantern fuel cans, red chemically stained coffee filters, drain cleaner and duct tape.
- Unusual amounts of clear glass containers being brought into the home.
- Windows blacked out or covered by aluminum foil, plywood, sheets, blankets, etc.
- Secretive / protective area surrounding the residence (like video cameras, alarm systems, guard dogs, reinforced doors, electrified fencing).
- Persons exiting the structure to smoke
- Little or no mail, furniture, visible trash and no newspaper delivery.

Presence of the following items MAY also indicate the existence of a meth lab:

Alcohol, Ethel, Benzene, Toluene/Paint Thinner, Freon, Acetone, Chloroform, Camp Stove Fuel/Coleman Fuel, Starting Fluid, Anhydrous Ammonia, "Heet", White Gasoline, Phenyl-2-Propane, Phenylacetone, Phenylpropanolamine, Iodine Crystals, Red Phosphorous, Black Iodine, Lye (Red Devil Lye), Drano, Muriatic/Hydrochloric Acid, Battery Acid/Sulfuric Acid, Epsom Salts, Batteries/Lithium, Sodium, Metal, Wooden Matches, Propane Cylinders, Hot Plates, Ephedrine (over-the-counter), Cold Tablets, Bronchodilators, Energy Boosters, Rock Salt, Diet Aid

PERSONAL SAFETY TIPS

GENERAL SAFETY TIPS

- Pay close attention to your surroundings, avoid "automatic pilot"
- Walk with a purpose; project an assertive, business-like image.
- Use common sense; plan your route to avoid uninhabited parks, parking lots, garages and alleyways.

- Stick to well-lit areas.
- Develop a plan before you see trouble. Crossing a street or entering a store may get you out of a potentially bad situation.
- If a car follows you or beckons you while you are walking, do not approach it. Instead, turn and quickly walk the opposite direction.
- Consider wearing clothing and shoes that you can move freely and quickly in, especially when walking or waiting for the bus.
- Carry minimal items; overloading yourself can make you appear vulnerable.

SAFETY ON THE STREET

- Before you leave home decide what you actually need to take with you rather than automatically taking your entire handbag or wallet out of habit. For example, if you are going to the grocery store for a few items, you can carry cash, a single check, or credit/debit card, I.D. and keys in a pocket.
- Wear clothing and shoes that are comfortable, low profile and appropriate for the weather. This may not be the most fashionable choice but it is the safest.
- Always plan your route and stay alert to your surroundings. Avoid shortcuts. Walk confidently. Scan your surroundings and make eye contact with people.
- If you must carry valuables like important papers, jewelry, cash etc., chose to wear clothes with inside pockets or use a small bag with a long thin strap to be worn under your coat or clothes.
- Never carry a wallet in back pocket of pants or jacket or sweater pocket. All cash should be carried in front pockets of pants.
- Carry your keys and ID separately. If someone gets your keys and ID, they may go to your home or business and access that location with the keys.
- If you must make a large, cash purchase, plan ahead and take a companion along. There really is safety in numbers. If you do not drive or cannot get a ride use a taxi rather than a bus to minimize waiting time.
- If you use bank machines (ATM's) choose one located in a well-lit, busy spot like inside a grocery store. Put your card and cash away before leaving the machine.
- Don't display large sums of cash and don't carry any more cash than is necessary. Use checks where possible. Most stores accept checks, check cards and debit cards as well
- Never leave your purse unattended, even if it is in a shopping cart.
- Carry your purse very close to you preferable with the strap over your shoulder and the purse to the front of your body. Don't dangle it from your arm.
- Avoid walking alone at night. As much as possible, walk or travel with a friend, even during the daytime.

SPOT AND AVOID POTENTIAL TROUBLE

- Be aware of your surroundings and know who is nearby.
- Pay attention to the uncomfortable feelings that often warn us of potential danger.
- Don't be afraid to cross the street, return to a business, or ask for help based on a "funny feeling". You may be right!

RESPONDING TO A CONFRONTATION

- If a robber grabs your bag, resist the impulse to play tug of war. If you hang on, chances are you will be knocked down, hit, or kicked and the robber will get your bag anyway.
- Victims sometimes tell a robber they have no money. This technique may backfire. It is safer to give up a few dollars. Carry a little money in an accessible place for just this purpose. Keep it separate from other funds.
- If someone demands your property and displays or implies in anyway that they have a weapon, hand the bag or wallet to them.

NEWS FROM BERNALILLO COUNTY

As the primary Law Enforcement Agency in Bernalillo County we are required and take great pride in dedicating full-time sworn detectives to investigate Sex Crimes, Crimes against Children, Crimes against Special Victims, and tracking of Sex Offenders. The Sheriff's Department currently monitors all registered sex offenders who reside in Bernalillo County.

What many citizens may not realize is that the Sheriff's Department consists of several divisions tasked with conducting specific duties. The following is a brief breakdown of each specialized unit and the Division they fall under:

FIELD SERVICES DIVISION

- NORTH VALLEY PATROL
- SOUTH VALLEY PATROL
- EAST MOUNTAINS PATROL
- VILLAGE OF LOS RANCHOS PATROL
- SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS
- DARE/ GREAT
- AIR UNIT
- TRAFFIC INVESTIGATIONS
- DWI
- K-9 UNIT
- S.W.A.T.
- CRISIS NEGOTIATIONS
- BIKE PATROL

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

- HOMICIDE
- VIOLENT CRIMES
- SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT
- SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION AND TRACKING
- CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATIONS

- GANG UNIT
- WHITE COLLAR CRIMES
- NARCOTICS
- PROPERTY CRIMES
- GHOST/ MISSING PERSONS UNIT
- REGIONAL COMPUTER FORENSICS LAB RCFL)
- INTERSTATE CRIMINAL ENFORCEMENT TEAM (ICET)

JUDICIAL OPERATIONS DIVISION

- CIVIL PROCESS SERVERS
- DISTRICT COURT SECURITY
- JUVINILE JUSTICE SECURITY
- EXTRADITIONS

SUPPORT SERVICES

- ACADEMY TRAINING
- RECRUITING
- IN-SERVICE TRAINING
- FIREARMS RANGE
- FLEET MANAGEMENT

WE WILL BE FOREVER ON DUTY TO ENSURE YOU ARE SAFE AND CARED FOR.

If you would like the “Communicator” to highlight a particular area or division of our Department please forward those requests to Administrative Assistant Terri Gartenmayer at tgartenmayer@bernco.gov

WE ARE PROUD OF OUR DEPUTIES AND ONCE YOU KNOW MORE ABOUT THEM WE ARE SURE YOU WILL BE PROUD OF THEM TOO!