

### **BERNALILLO COUNTY** SHERIFF'S OFFICE

# "COMMUNICATOR"

## MAY 2016 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Sheriff Manuel Gonzales III

Hello residents and visitors to Bernalillo County. Please enjoy our May 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@bernco.gov

#### NEWS FROM THE EAST AREA COMMAND

Graduation season is upon us and the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office would like to send out our congratulations to all students who have earned their High School Diploma or Degree of higher learning. We look forward to you joining the workforce and/ or continuing your educational endeavors.

With graduations come graduation parties. While BCSO wants you all to share your achievements with others in the form of barbecues, parties and family gatherings we feel obligated to encourage you all to celebrate safely and legally. Please monitor alcohol

consumption of attendees who are over 21 years old and restrict all access of alcohol to persons under 21 years old. Designating a sober driver prior to drinking can save you all the shame of arrest and most importantly SAVE A LIFE. Remember the life you save could be your own or that of a loved one. Keep in mind that serving alcohol to a minor is a 4<sup>th</sup> degree felony punishable by over a year in jail and a hefty fine.

If you or people you know will be hosting a graduation party ensure you secure the proper permits, notify the Sheriff's Department, restrict alcohol and illegal drug consumption, and be courteous to your neighbors. For further information please feel free to contact your respective Area Commanders.

Sheriff Deputies will be conducting saturation patrols, DWI checkpoints, and Party Patrols. Uniformed Deputies will respond to all loud music and loud party calls and will issue citations and effect arrests when warranted. If you require a police response to loud music or parties in your neighborhood please call our county dispatch at 505-798-7000.

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 residing in Bernalillo County.

Monitoring of these individuals includes conducting address and employment verifications and imputing information required by Law into the New Mexico Sex Offender Registry. We encourage you all to explore the Sex Offender registry on the internet at <u>http://www.nmsexoffender.dps.state.nm.us/</u>

During the summer months calls to 911 always increase. Rest assured that we will continue to respond to calls for service in a timely manner with the same professionalism you have come to expect and deserve.

With the warm weather, children began to spend more time enjoying the outdoors. Please rehearse with your children the need to know their personal information if they come into contact with law enforcement. For example, if a child is found hurt at a neighborhood park, deputies will need this information to locate a parent or guardian and ensure the child is reunited.

Numerous studies have proven that when residents take pride in their neighborhood criminal acts diminish exponentially. With that said, take some steps to beautify your neighborhoods. Cleaning of front yards is the best place to start. Introduce yourselves to neighbors and turn the porch light on. Spend more time outdoors. These steps can be accomplished cost free and contribute to the overall health of a neighborhood.

### **CRIME REDUCTION AND SAFETY TIPS**

With the warming weather many resident will began to frequent the various mountain trails within the Sandia Ranger District. It is important to note that a large amount of wildlife live within the area, including Bear and Cougar. All wild animals can be dangerous. Always maintain a safe and respectful distance from wildlife and look for signs of wildlife in your immediate area.

Reduce the risk of close encounters:

- Let someone know where you are going and when you plan to return.
- Keep children close to you and within your immediate sight at all times.
- Make noise, talk, sing or clap your hands to let a bear/ cougar know of your presence. Don't rely on bells, usually they are too quiet. Shout often, especially when traveling upwind, near streams, or when you cannot see the path ahead and avoid thick brush.
- Be alert and watch for bear/ cougar sign such as tracks, droppings, diggings, rocks rolled over, scratch marks on trees and logs torn apart. Carry binoculars and scan ahead periodically.
- Don't hike alone or at night. Bears and cougars are most active at dawn, dusk and night, but can be encountered any time. Groups of three or more people tend to make more noise and appear more formidable. This makes groups safer than solo hikers.
- Stay on trails for your safety and to protect the habitat.
- Avoid carcasses and report dead animals to the nearest ranger station. It is very risky to approach a carcass; a bear/ cougar may be just out of sight, guarding its food.
- Avoid odorous items and leave foods and beverages with strong odors, scented deodorants and lotions and other odorous items at home. Bear and Cougar have an acute sense of smell that can detect odors from great distances. Dry foods are both lighter and less smelly.
- Stay with your gear. Don't leave your packs, food or beverages unattended.
- Pets may attract bears and cougars and keep them on a short leash to avoid conflicts with wildlife.
- View and photograph from a safe distance. If an animal approaches, back away to maintain a safe distance.
- Use binoculars, spotting scopes or a telephoto lens when viewing and photographing an animal to avoid stressing the animal.
- Bicyclists and Runners should carefully select the areas they are recreating in and be extra alert in cougar, bear and rattlesnake country. Speed and quietness increases risks of a sudden encounter.
- Hike at a pace everyone can maintain and stay together. Cougars and some bears behave in a predatory manner and will seek the easiest target. Don't hike ahead or allow someone to fall behind, especially children and pets.

- Running may provoke a bear or cougar to chase you. You cannot outrun them. Bears can run up to 30 mph, up and downhill, while cougars are known for their powerful sprints and jumps.
- Rattlesnakes are very seldom seen. They can sense our vibrations from our walking and look for a place to hide, which is often behind rocks, logs or in thick brush. They are usually not aggressive unless they are directly threatened, either deliberately or by accident. To prevent being bitten avoid stepping directly in front of or behind logs and rocks. Before sitting down or picking up supplies from the ground, look around the area carefully. Watch where you put your hands and feet. Most importantly, enjoy snakes at a distance without disturbing them

#### **NEWS FROM THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

The "Communicator" recently sat down and interviewed Captain Joshua S. Campos who oversees the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department Crisis Negotiations Team (CNT).

Communicator: What does the Crisis Negotiations Team do?

Captain: CNT is tasked with various types of negotiations with persons in crisis who initiate a police response. The CNT consists of six (6) negotiators who respond in conjunction with the SWAT team to aid in the peaceful resolution of barricaded subjects, hostage takers, and suicidal individuals. It is our priority to gather intelligence and use what is learned to convince a subject to surrender peacefully.

Communicator: What type of training do the CNT and CIT deputies receive?

Captain: All CNT members attend a minimum of 120 hours of advanced training in Crisis Negotiations. The first being "basic crisis negotiations (40 hours), Advanced crisis negotiations (40 hours) and FBI crisis negotiations (40 hours) prior to being put into service as a negotiator. Furthermore CNT members attend four (4) hours of training weekly consisting of "live scenarios" and classroom lectures. All CNT members also receive (40 hours) of advanced training of dealing with people in crisis. Furthermore, these deputies attend bi-annual refresher training.

Communicator: Do the CNT deputies work with Mental Health Service providers?

Captain: Yes, we work closely with the Bernalillo County District Attorney's office and the Metropolitan Mental Health Court. By doing so we are able to "get to the root" of problems which cause persons to fall into a crisis. We also share tips and best practices with surrounding agencies to aid in the successful resolution of crisis situations. Most importantly we are an advocate for victims of mental health disorders. We work tirelessly to ensure our "consumers" are cared for and get them help they need, deserve and are entitled to. Communicator: Have you seen calls for service involving mental health patient's decrease?

Captain: Yes, we conduct random follow-up visits in "consumer" homes to aid in the transition to stable living in conjunction with our two, full-time, Crisis Intervention Detectives (CIT). During these visits we talk about healthy coping mechanisms, services available, and referrals to agencies to aid with their care. By doing CIT deputies are able to build a strong rapport with these "consumers." Often when one of our "consumers" is facing a crisis they will call and ask specifically for a CIT/ CNT trained deputy. They have learned that we are able, willing and eager to help.



#### 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!