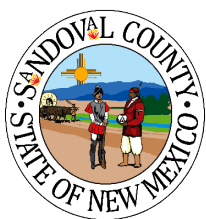




Sandoval County Now E-newsletter

August 2021



Sandoval County sets aside \$1 Million to extend business continuity program

Sandoval County, NM – The Sandoval County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved \$1 million of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding at the June 17th Commission meeting to extend the county's business continuity grant program.

These ARPA funds will be used to address the negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency, which includes harm to small businesses and non-profits. This will be a continuation of what the CARES Act funding did for qualifying county-wide businesses last year.

Grants will first be prioritized to those businesses that did not receive County CARES Act Funds due to unavailability of funds or for businesses with costs that exceeded the \$20,000 limit set during the county's last round of CARES Act Continuity Grants. The County will also work with its partner municipalities to fund those qualified applications they were not able to fully fund last year. The Sandoval County municipalities that participated in the last CARES Act Continuity Act program included: City of Rio Rancho, Town of Bernalillo, Village of Corrales and the Town of Cuba.

ARPA funds can only be used to reimburse the costs of business interruption caused by required closures or reduced size of operations provided those costs were not paid by insurance or by another federal, state, or local program.

Once open for new applications, the program will be able to qualify applications with requests that exceed the established \$20,000 limit. These applications will be considered "Extraordinary Requests" and will require approval by the Board of County Commissioners.

To date, Sandoval County has received \$14.3 million from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), which allocated \$2.456 billion to state and local governments in New Mexico. The first priority identified was small business recovery and relief. Allocation of the remaining ARPA funds remains under review and pending final Commission approval.

"Many of our small businesses are still feeling the sting of COVID-19 financially even though many residents have been vaccinated and things look like they are heading back to normal," said Chairman Dave Heil. "Small business is the lifeblood of Sandoval County, it only makes sense that we would support them with funds we received to aid with the fallout of a global pandemic."

Vice-Chairman, Michael Meek, said helping out small businesses and nonprofits is within itself the same as stabilizing the foundation of any structure.

"Anything done that helps ease the burden of our local businesses after the pandemic is the right thing to do," he said. "These grants in turn will help give us the stability we need to succeed as a county."

For more information on ARPA funding please contact Sandoval County Economic Director Dora Dominguez at ddominguez@sandovalcountynm.gov or call her at 505-867-8687

A walk through a vineyard

(Corrales Winery owners talk about their business model)

PLACITAS – A new winery with a tie to the ancient Anasazi is keeping up with several traditions all at once.

The Placitas Winery, located just north of NM 165 on 26 Camino De Los Pueblitos, hosts an 11,000 square foot adobe structure that doubles as an event space and wine manufacturing center depending on what level you are on.

This unique event space rests on a four acre property, which is full of vibrant fruit trees, three separate grape growing areas and a section of land where ancient Anasazi artifacts were located by an archeological team several years ago.



“It will take about three years for any wine to be ready from our vineyard as it ages in the cast,” said Placitas Winery Co-Owner Barb Belknap. “We are trying a few things right now that will make it better, but we are still in the beginning stages of that process.”

Barb is not alone in this endeavor either. She is joined by her husband Ty and son, Evan, who is also a brewer at the Bow and Arrow Brewery in Albuquerque.

Barb and her husband Ty said it took them several years for them to get the winery to this point.

“It was three years ago last April that we first moved into this property,” Ty Belknap said. “When the place went on the market we looked at the property and thought it would be a good idea to maintain it.”

Part the Belknap’s decision to purchase the winery had to do with their fond memories of their friend, the late Jim Fish, who used to own it.

“When he died it was a real shock to the community,” Barb Belknap said. “The community used to have a lot of arts and crafts festivals here and music and poetry readings and after (Fish’s) death that all went away.”

Barb Belknap said she had been a part of those events herself and took that into consideration when considering buying the property.

“I always loved coming here to the events and we didn’t want to see it die,” she said.

The fear in the community, she said, was that an out of townner would come in and buy the property and turn the structure into a house.

“At the time we moved here, our current home, Jim Fish’s old house, was not for sale,” Barb Belknap said.

“So we lived in the event space for two winters without a heat or any common household amenities.”

Barb and her husband Ty said they bought a propane heater and cooked on a hot plate to make things a go until the house on their property went up for sale.

“We would kind of flip a coin to see who was going to come out and do the dishes during the winter because it was so cold,” she said.

After acquiring the house when it went up for sale, Barb said she and her family began focusing on building the vineyard back up and reopening the event space.

“We’ve already had a few events here that were successful,” Barb Belknap said. “Most of the all of the events



we've had here were fundraisers.”

All of the events that have been and will be booked at the Placitas Winery have been private events, she said.

“I particularly like that, because it means we are kind of following in Jim Fish’s footsteps,” she said.

As for the availability of the event space, it is only open for private events, Barb Belknap said.

“We would like to revitalize this space for the community,” she said. “We would like to see some bands here and other events that help strengthen what this space was built for.”

Barb Belknap said the Placitas Winery has beer and wine available for any and all events.

“We have established relationships with many of the breweries in town and we have wine,” she said.

Although, the Placitas Winery is still working on the process of its grape wines, it already has five fruit wines that are available by the half bottle.

Currently, the Placitas Winery has a Crabapple Wine, a Pear Wine, a Wild Cherry Wine, a Pie Cherry Wine and an Apricot Wine all available for \$12 a half bottle.

Barb Belknap said, the business is already prepared to do wine tastings for small gatherings.

“We are not ready to be a bar,” she said. “We just want to have an atmosphere where small groups of people can come in and enjoy our product or host a local event.”

For more information about the Placitas Winery call 505-363-5606



Sandoval County Office and Department Availability



- Assessor's Office

Open Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Appointments recommended.

- Bureau of Elections

Open with limited staff.

- County Clerk's Office

Open Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Appointments are recommended due to limited staff.

Wedding licenses will be available by appointment only from 9 a.m to 4 p.m. Monday - Friday.

Call 867-7572 for an appointment.

- Human Resources

Open Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Due to limited staff, please call or email with inquiries.

- Planning and Zoning

Open Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Closed between 12-1pm. Submittals can be processed electronically or dropped off at window. Individual meetings must be approved by Director.

- Probate Court

The Sandoval County Probate court will be operating at a reduced level starting July 16, 2020.

Read Notice

Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday from 12:30 - 4:30 p.m.

- Treasurer's Office

Is open for normal business hours from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Monday - Friday. The Treasurer's Office will be closed for lunch from 1 p.m.- 2 p.m. during non-tax season. The Treasurer's Office will return to an 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. with no lunch closure during the first half of tax season (November 10 - December 10) and the second half of tax season (April 10 - May 10).

2021



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County Holiday / Observances:

- January 1 - New Year's Day
- January 18 - Martin Luther King Day
- May 31 - Memorial Day
- July 5 - Independence Day
- September 6 - Labor Day
- November 11 - Veterans Day
- November 25-26 - Thanksgiving Day
- December 24 & 27 - Christmas

To be taken within the Calendar year.

- (2) 8 hour Administrative Leave Days

Board of Finance

Start time of 5:00 p.m.

Sandoval County Commission

Meetings

Start time of 6:00 p.m.

Planning & Zoning Commission

Start time of 4:30 p.m.

County Pay Days

All meetings held in the County Commission Chambers located at:
1500 Idalia Road, Building D - 3rd Floor
Bernalillo, NM 87004