

Manager's View

**A monthly e-mail message from
County Manager Tom Zdunek**

“Thank You to County Employees”

September 2012

On the 26th of this month we will do something we haven't done for the past several years. We will show our appreciation to our many hard-working, dedicated county employees with lunch and a ceremony on Civic Plaza. Frankly, it's been too long since we've publicly thanked our employees and it's a tradition I am happy to revive.

For the first time in a few years we also are able to reward our employees monetarily, and I am pleased to announce that a two percent (2%) pay increase for rules and regulation employees will go into effect and you will see it in your paycheck of September 28. Other represented groups are also seeing negotiated pay adjustments go into effect this year as spelled out in their contract language. I am personally pleased that after several years of lean times, we are able to provide these pay adjustments for our employees.

These pay adjustments would not be possible, however, without your help. Over the past few years, departments have been asked to cut spending and generally tighten their budgetary belts. These actions were necessary as we faced dramatic declines in gross receipt tax revenue and uncertainty in property valuations due to the recession that, while technically over, is still being felt. We believe that the worst is over and that the county will be on sound financial ground as we look to the future. Our cost of borrowing money for capital projects remains low due to a practical approach to managing debt and our recent AAA bond ratings validate that approach. In short, we wouldn't be granting pay adjustments if we weren't confident we could afford them over the long term.

While I may not have had the opportunity to visit your worksite and observe the work you perform, I hope to see you on Civic Plaza on the 26th so that I can personally thank you for the work that you do to serve the residents of Bernalillo County.