

To: City Council

From: Nathan Cherpeski,
City Manager

Subject: Friday Update

Date: January 20, 2012



Calendar

CITY HALL IS LOCATED AT 300 HUNT				
Date	Time	Event	Location	Additional Information
January 20, 2012	5:30 p.m.	Social event with Monte Vista City Council	Monte Vista Information Center	This is a social event and is not open to the public. No City business will be discussed
January 25, 2012	5:00 P.M.	Walk with the Mayor and Council	Alamosa Family Recreation Center	***
January 27, 2012	6:00 p.m.	Annual Chamber of Commerce Meeting	6:00 p.m at Bistro Rialto; 7:00 p.m. Dinner Train	*** call 587-0520 for tickets
February 1, 2012	5:00 P.M.	Walk with the Mayor and Council	Alamosa Family Recreation Center	***
February 1, 2012	6:00 p.m.	Work Session with Golf Board	Council Chambers	*
February 4, 2012	8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	Winter Retreat	Large Conference Room, City Hall	*
February 8, 2012	5:00 P.M.	Walk with the Mayor and Council	Alamosa Family Recreation Center	***
February 15, 2012	5:00 P.M.	Walk with the Mayor and Council	Alamosa Family Recreation Center	***
February 22, 2012	5:00 P.M.	Walk with the Mayor and Council	Alamosa Family Recreation Center	***
February 22, 2012	8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	CML Legislative Workshop	CML Offices, Denver	**

February 23, 2012	TBD	CML Policy Committee Meeting	CML Offices, Denver	**
February 29, 2012	5:00 P.M.	Walk with the Mayor and Council	Alamosa Family Recreation Center	***
February 29, 2012	5:30 P.M.	Work Session with Sam Mamet, CML	Council Chambers	*
March 7, 2012	5:00 P.M.	Walk with the Mayor and Council	Alamosa Family Recreation Center	***
March 14, 2012	5:00 P.M.	Walk with the Mayor and Council	Alamosa Family Recreation Center	***
March 21, 2012	5:00 P.M.	Walk with the Mayor and Council	Alamosa Family Recreation Center	***
March 28, 2012	5:00 P.M.	Walk with the Mayor and Council	Alamosa Family Recreation Center	***
May 18/19, 2012	Fri. 10 a.m. to Sat. 11:30 a.m.	Summer Retreat	Windsor Hotel, Del Norte	*
June 19-22, 2012	Various	CML Annual Conference	Breckenridge	**
* Work sessions are informal Council meetings for the purpose of discussion among Council members. No action is taken. The public is invited to attend, but public comment is generally not received unless otherwise noted.				
**Sponsored by outside entity. Council members have been invited to attend. Please check with originating entity for registration information				
*** Citizens are encouraged to attend this community event				

City Manager

Construction continues on a good pace. As with all remodels we have uncovered unknowns during the project. Because walls and structural members are covered it is impossible to account for all contingencies hence owners tend to carry larger contingency funds for remodels. On our project, several of the joists had been badly cut up in the original construction. When the original building was constructed, the electrical conduits and plumbing were extensively notched into the floor joists weakening the supports. With electrical and data cabling needs now notching the joist any more was deemed unacceptable structurally. The solution is to “fur” down the ceiling (add 1 ½ inches of material) to create sufficient room for the additional conduits and conduits were added to allow the two sides of the building to be connected for network purposes. There will be a change order to accomplish this change. Some of this work will be on a time materials basis with a not to exceed amount and part of that cost should be borne by the design team. I will have an updated spread sheet for you at the mini-retreat. We are tracking on time (as revised by Council) and within the funds set-aside by Council for the project

Police Department

1. The Alamosa Police Department Command Staff has been spending a great deal of time customizing our new policy/procedure manual (system). Since City Council approval on

January 4th, the product has been purchased, command staff has attended online training, and an initial draft will be sent to all employees in the next 1-2 weeks for a 4 week review/feedback period. APD has established a target implementation date of Mid-March. So far, the product is everything (and more) we had hoped for and will provide greater efficiencies in terms of personnel resource time and increased alliance with established industry best practices in law enforcement.

2. The Alamosa Police Department held testing for the position of police officer with the intent of filling 2 current vacancies and to establish an eligibility list. A total of 17 applicants completed the initial testing process and we have since moved into the background investigation phase. As an example of how comprehensive testing for a police officer position can be our testing currently includes: written examination, oral interview, background investigation, command staff interview, psychological, drug screening, and medical testing. Once testing is completed and an applicant must successfully complete approximately 14-16 weeks of training/evaluation. From the date of application to working in solo Patrol as a Police Officer in most professional law enforcement organizations is about a 6-9 month process.
3. With the new year, and the 2012 budget in place, APD is keeping to its commitment of employee development. Specifically, employees have either attended or will be attending the following: Basic Crime Scene Investigation, Homicide Investigation, Leadership Strategies, Managing Police Discipline, Field Training Officer, Hiring/Background Investigations, New Police Chief's Orientation, and we will be certifying a Command Staff member to become a resident Ethics Instructor. In addition to the law enforcement specialty training, Command Staff recently received training on City of Alamosa Budget Process, City Charter and Council Process.

February's "Ask the Chief" Article

Dear Chief: Is there a prescription drug abuse problem in Alamosa?

Dear Concerned Citizen: Recent data indicates that nearly 40 Americans die every day from prescription drug abuse and the number has tripled in the last 10 years. Although these numbers are national figures, it is common for APD officers and investigators to encounter large amounts of prescription drugs (pills) when conducting accidental (overdose) or intentional (suicide) non-criminal (suicide) death investigations. Prescription drug abuse is of nationwide concern and oftentimes isn't detected nor come to light until after someone has died, ended up in the hospital, or is arrested.

APD has seen a significant increase in people who are driving under the influence of prescription drugs which comes at a great cost to the taxpayer. While Alcohol analysis is relatively inexpensive (about \$25 per sample), prescription drug screening can cost 5 to 10 times this amount. Of our 175+ DUI arrests in 2012, the majority of testing costs derive from prescription drug analysis. In addition to DUI investigations we have experienced more prescription drug abusers involved in local property and street crime (burglaries/thefts/identity theft/prescription fraud/robbery/assaults). As an example, last fall we had a rash of residential burglaries committed by juveniles and young adults who were exchanging stolen property for prescription drugs (pills such as Oxycodone, Oxycontin, and Percoset).

Prescription drug abuse comes at a high cost to our community. Beyond drug testing, citizens rarely recuperate the entire loss of items stolen as a result of theft/id theft/burglary and never restore the personal violation of having someone in pilfering through their homes, belongings, and personal information. Other costs incurred include rising insurance rates as a result of increases in claims and personnel resource costs to staff our courts and judicial processes. I could go on and on, but won't.

I wish there were a simple solution, but unfortunately we (law enforcement) are only one small piece of a very large puzzle. What we are doing is providing community education through communications like this one, we participate with projects and programs (DEA Prescription Drug Take-Back and San Luis Valley Prevention Coalition), we make referrals to our partners at Mental Health and Detox, and we investigate and bring offenders into the criminal justice system as a result of crimes they commit. But, this is not enough. Prescription drug abuse is a local and national issue that needs serious attention and the mutual cooperation of us all.

As citizens, you can contribute by ridding your home of excess and un-needed medications, by securing drugs (pills and medications) in locations not accessible to children or drug abusers, by reporting suspected drug abuse to police, by accessing available services if you, a family member, or a friend, need help. There are also plenty of good websites and articles concerning prescription drug abuse, so go online and learn more.

Craig Dodd, Chief of Police

Parks/Recreation/Library

Upcoming Special Events

- 10th Annual Summerfest on the Rio (June 1-3)

Tri-Star Basketball Competition:

The Alamosa Optimist Club will hold their annual Tri-Star Basketball Competition for area youth on Saturday, January 28 at the Alamosa Family Recreation Center located at 2222 Old Sanford Road in Alamosa. Registration will begin at 10:00 a.m. with the competition to follow at 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. The competition is open to all boys and girls ages 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13 based on age as of March 15th. All area youth are invited and encouraged to participate. The contest will demonstrate passing, shooting, and dribbling skills. Local winners will be eligible to participate in the regional competition held in Pueblo on Saturday, March 17. Regional winners advance to the final competition held at the Pepsi Center during a Denver Nuggets home game on Sunday, April 15. Participants are responsible for their own transportation. For more information contact Rachel Willis at 587-9807 or James Trujillo at 589-2808.

Free E-Books @ Alamosa Public Library:

If you like to read, the odds are good that you have or will get an eBook reader. And once you do, where will you find quality content? Look no further than your public library - it's what's next in reading.

Most e-readers offer their own online stores. But that can get expensive. You can spend more in an afternoon than you pay for the public library in a year. Alamosa Public Library is pleased to announce a state wide public library special—*e-Discover the Classics*.

Thanks to the Colorado Library Consortium, your local library now offers nearly 500 classic titles (450 ebooks, and 50 audiobooks), all downloadable for free. Harvested from Project Gutenberg, which features public domain and other freely accessible works, the e-Discover the Classics Collection is available right from your library's online catalog. Once you find a classic, just a couple of clicks will put the title on your new device. More information is available at www.AlamosaLibrary.org.

Youth Sports Registration Deadlines:

Wrestling – January 30 - February 17, For Kids ages 4-12 (born 1999-2007).

Participants must be in the 5th grade or younger! Please provide birth certificate or proof of age at registration or first night of practice.

Practice is Tuesday or Thursday evenings depending on age division, 7:00pm @ Alamosa High School.

Cost: \$40 Per Wrestler (includes tournament entry fees). A Club Singlet will be checked out at time of registration. Online registrants must come to AFRC to pick-up singlet.

Cost after 5pm on Friday, February 17th is \$45. You may register the first night of practice on February 21 or 23 at the Alamosa High School wrestling room.

Adult Sports Registration Deadlines

Volleyball - Co-ed & Women's Divisions with Captain's Meeting on January 25th

Registration: January 25 – February 17

Rec Center/Library Closure Dates

- February 20 - Presidents Day
- May 28 – Memorial Day

WE'RE LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS!

Lend your expertise by volunteering to serve on the Recreation Advisory Board. The board meets monthly on the second Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m. This board is charged with providing advice on administrative functions relating to the operation of city parks, recreational facilities, and programs. Applicants must be City residents, verified through voter registration. For more information and application form, go to www.cityofalamosa.org or call the City Clerk's office at 589-2593 ext. 8.