

To: City Council

From: Nathan Cherpeski,  
City Manager

Subject: Friday Update

Date: October 21, 2011



## Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Location	Additional Information
<b>CITY HALL IS LOCATED AT 300 HUNT FOR ALL THE FOLLOWING:</b>				
November 2, 2011	4:00 - 7:00 p.m.	City Hall/Library Open House	300 Hunt	Citizens are encouraged to attend this community event
November 16, 2011	6:00 p.m.	Training on Council Chambers Voting System	Council Chambers	*
November 18, 2011	5:30 start of procession 6:15 concert	Celebration of Lights and Firehouse Concert	Starts at County Courthouse, concert in Fire Station	Citizens are encouraged to attend this community event
December 14, 2011	6:00 p.m.	Employee Holiday Party	Recreation Center	This is a social event and is not open to the public. No City business will be discussed
January 14, 2012	TBD	Alamosa Ice Fest	Downtown Alamosa	Citizens are encouraged to attend this community event
February 4, 2012	8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	Winter Retreat	Large Conference Room, City Hall	*
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.

\*\*Training Opportunity, sponsored by outside entity. Council members have been invited to attend. Please check with originating entity for registration information

## City Manager

We are busy packing today and the move will begin for the offices on Monday. The library is moving right along with the help of numerous volunteers. Preparations will begin soon for the asbestos abatement of this building followed shortly thereafter by construction. Some work may begin immediately in an effort to make use of our nice fall weather.

## Police Department

1. Burglary Investigations/Arrests. As will be reported in the Valley Courier in the coming days, The Alamosa County Sheriff's Office and Alamosa PD recently made arrests of individuals involved in a large number of burglaries occurring throughout the City; but mostly on our South Side and in the County. These arrests (and associates yet to be arrested) have been targeting homes seeking electronics and jewelry and our investigations are continuing in an effort to make more arrests and recover additional stolen property.

2. Business Burglary arrests. Earlier this week Gemfire Diamonds was burglarized in the early morning hours. Follow-up investigation has led to three arrests and recovery of some of the stolen property estimated in value at \$5,500. At least two of the arrestees were current or recent parolee's residing in our community. The assigned investigator (Gonzales) did an excellent job developing and following leads that led to these arrests.

3. In all burglary cases, citizens are reminded to lock their homes, report suspicious activity in neighborhoods to police, document serial numbers on all high-value items in the home, and to report those attempting to sell electronics at unreasonably low prices. **Note:** Citizens are also encouraged to report to XCEL energy all street lights that are not working as; this can be a deterrent to nighttime criminal activity.

4. APD participated this week in National School Bus week; by riding buses with area children.

5. APD held promotional examinations this week for the position of Corporal and Sergeant; two candidates will be selected next month to assume their new positions in January.

6. APD received approval this week on a grant applied for through Homeland Security providing for \$42,500 for the purchase of equipment for our tactical team. Specifically, Tactical Entry Body Armor, Helmets, Gas Masks, Ballistic Shields, and many other small item accessories. All of these items were much-needed; all of our tactical entry body armor was reaching operational expiration, while other items will allow us to become updated and uniform; rather than utilizing hand-me-downs of aging hand-me-down equipment. Along with recent

training received, this will allow us to better prepared and respond to tactical emergencies.

7. APD received approval last week of a grant in the amount of \$7,500 from EUDL that provides for the purchase of four portable breath testing instruments to be used on patrol for underage drinking enforcement activities and on party patrols. In addition, these funds will allow us to conduct three rounds of liquor compliance checks during 2012.

## **8. Children's Advocacy Center model discussed for Valley**

ALAMOSA — Tu Casa, Inc. lead counselor and Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) therapist, Jamie Bogner, MS, recently completed the Trauma Informed Mental Health Training, presented by Dr. Jerry Yager, PsyD. through the Denver Children's Advocacy Center, October 6 and 7, in Grand Junction. Participants learned the theory behind three major models of mental health treatment, including: neuro-developmentally informed approach; high-risk cycle; and cognitive behavioral therapy for childhood sexual abuse.

Bogner was able to participate in the training thanks to the generosity of the Colorado Children's Alliance, who waived the training fee. The opportunity arose out of the recent meeting regarding the implementation of the Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) model in the San Luis Valley. The meeting, held September 17th, was attended by representatives of the Alamosa Police Department, Alamosa County Sheriff's Office, Tu Casa, the SLV Comprehensive Community Mental Health Center, the SLV Immigrant Resource Center, Alamosa County Department of Human Services, and by District Attorney David Mahonee, and was organized by Alamosa Chief of Police Craig Dodd. Presenters at the meeting included Andi Leopoldus of the Colorado Children's Alliance and Laura Hunt, Executive Director of the Larimer County Child Advocacy Center, who shared their experience and insight on the CAC Model and then lead the discussion of its implementation in the San Luis Valley.

"Almost immediately upon my arrival in the SLV, I noted a willingness of community members and professionals to come together to problem solve and improve our communities," asserted Dodd. "I also noted that although SLV stakeholders currently provide excellent services to the families and children who have suffered abuse, there was a piece (Child Advocacy Center) missing that could further our ability to increase reporting, investigation, prosecution of offenders, and aftercare of victims and families. We began reaching out to key stakeholders who might see mutual benefit to the Child Advocacy Center model in the SLV; a model that is highly successful throughout the state and region. The response from local stakeholders has been nothing short of incredible and we are continuing exploratory discussions to determine whether or not this model (or a hybrid) might be of added value to the San Luis Valley."

The CAC model is a child-focused, facility-based program in which representatives from many disciplines - law enforcement, child protection, prosecution, mental health, medical, and victim advocacy - work together, conducting joint forensic interviews and making team decisions about the investigation, treatment, management and prosecution of child abuse cases. Although no two CAC programs look exactly alike, they share a core philosophy that child abuse is a multifaceted community problem and no single agency, individual or discipline has the necessary knowledge, skills or resources to serve the needs of all children and their families. They also share a belief that the combined knowledge of professionals of different disciplines will result in a more complete understanding of case issues and the most effective, child and family-focused system response. The primary goal of all CACs is to ensure that children are not further victimized by the intervention systems designed to protect them.

“Tu Casa is very interested in ensuring child victims of crime, especially sexual abuse or assault, are interviewed in the most appropriate way, not only to avoid further victimization of the child, but to help other involved agencies get the evidence they need to prosecute those responsible,” Tu Casa Executive Director, Ashley Riley Lopes, said. “We were very honored to be a part of this discussion and to send our therapist to such a wonderful training.”

Bogner currently provides individual and group counseling for adult and child victims, in addition to Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) therapy, a specialized form of therapy aimed at helping trauma sufferers. “Almost all of the clients we see have suffered some form of trauma,” Bogner says. “EMDR and other informed techniques can really facilitate the healing process.” Valley agencies are scheduled to meet again to further discuss the CAC model on October 27th.

Tu Casa, Inc. is a 501(c)3 charity whose mission is to empower children and adults to live healthy, violence-free lives. Their free, confidential services are available in the 6 counties of the SLV, and include 24-hr crisis intervention, victim advocacy and counseling for victims of domestic violence/sexual assault and their families.

If you or someone you know is or has been a victim of domestic violence and/or sexual assault, please contact Tu Casa’s 24-hr Hotline at 719-589-2465, visit their website [www.slv Tucasa.net](http://www.slv Tucasa.net) or e-mail [admin@tucasa.net](mailto:admin@tucasa.net).

## **Public Works**

We are finishing up the last of our projects at the intersection of Bell Court and Murphy Avenue. Bell Court will become a true court in that it will no longer access Murphy. This was a problem both because of the angle at which Bell Court met Murphy and the proximity to the intersection of Clark and Murphy. This will also allow us to move the stop sign on Clark farther east so that east bound traffic can better see approaching traffic from the north on Murphy. We should finish up the curb and gutter today (Friday) and the sidewalk early next

week. Later in the week we will patch the asphalt back in and complete the landscaping. This week the new sidewalk on 6<sup>th</sup> from Ross to State was completed and the trees are scheduled to be planted next spring. This should be a major improvement on this major thoroughfare.

For the year we have completed mill and overlays on three blocks of 4<sup>th</sup> from State to Ross and on State from 1<sup>st</sup> to the State Avenue Bridge, reconstructed one block of Ross from Main to 6<sup>th</sup>, and placed plant mix seal coat on Market from Main to Thomas. We have moved our re-cycling center to the new location at Old Airport road and will move the green waste collection there next year. On the utility side we have replaced cast iron water lines on 4<sup>th</sup> from Denver to Edison on State from 1<sup>st</sup> to Cascade, and on all of Cascade. The sewer line on State from 1<sup>st</sup> to the bridge was also replaced. Next year we will be doing reconstruction on 3<sup>rd</sup> from Hunt to State and on Hunt from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>. We will also re-construct Cascade for its full length, do a mill and overlay on 4<sup>th</sup> from Denver to State and do a plant mix seal coat on portions of State south of 14<sup>th</sup> Street. We will be replacing the sewer and water lines on South State before we do the street construction there – the lines on Cascade, Hunt, and 3<sup>rd</sup> scheduled for reconstruction have already been replaced. We also plan to replace cast iron water lines on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> from State to Ross.

It has been a busy and productive construction season and next year should bring more of the same.

## **Parks/Recreation/Library**

### **Upcoming Special Events:**

- 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration of Lights and Firehouse Concert (November 18)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Alamosa Ice Fest (January 14, 2012)

### **Tree Trimming:**

Parks staff spent some time last week trimming the younger trees along the north side of Main Street and Carroll Park. Additional attention to the older Main Street trees (dead limbs) will occur next May/June when they have leafed out.

### **Disc Golf:**

The “1st Annual Grizzly Parks and Rec Shootout” tournament was a success with 35 participants even after having to delay it by one day due to poor weather (snow).

### **Adult Team Sports & Programs:**

- Men’s Basketball – registration opened October 19
- Volleyball coming in 2012!

### **Youth Team Sports & Programs:**

- Basketball – play begins November 5
- Ice Hockey – open

- Volleyball – open

### **Library Move**

The library move has been nothing less than fantastic. Many volunteers (25+) in addition to city staff offered their time for this effort including: Friends of the Library, Rotary, PALS, and many other individuals. The first day saw removal of audio books, videos, Reference, Spanish, newspapers, Large Print, Adult fiction, Adult nonfiction (001-400), Young Adult, and biography. The remaining adult nonfiction and all juvenile materials will be out of the old library by today (October 21).

The library has been transforming itself the last few months. Many upgrades that have/will occur in 2011 include: name change to “Alamosa Public Library”, ILS replacement with AspenCat, re-barcoding all materials, new library cards with key fob for the grand opening, new interior book return cart, and replacing the top of the outside book drop with a patron-friendly chute return.

During the time up to the grand opening, staff will be re-barcoding materials and finalizing the book stacks.



The new Friends of the Library book sale shelves are looking great!



**Rec Center/Library Closure Dates**

- Library Moving (October 20 – November 2)
- November 11 (Veterans Day)
- November 24-25 (Thanksgiving)