

To: City Council

From: Nathan Cherpeski,  
City Manager

Subject: Wednesday Update

Date: December 21, 2011



## Calendar

CITY HALL IS LOCATED AT 300 HUNT				
Date	Time	Event	Location	Additional Information
December 28, 2011	6:30 p.m.	Social event hosted by Josef Lucero	Home of Josef Lucero	This is a social event and is not open to the public. No City business will be discussed
January 4, 2012	5:00 P.M.	Walk with the Mayor and Council	Alamosa Family Recreation Center	***
January 11, 2012	5:00 P.M.	Walk with the Mayor and Council	Alamosa Family Recreation Center	***
January 14, 2012	TBD	Alamosa Ice Fest	Downtown Alamosa	***
January 18, 2012	5:00 P.M.	Walk with the Mayor and Council	Alamosa Family Recreation Center	***
January 20, 2012	TBD	Social event with Monte Vista City Council	Monte Vista location TBD	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	***
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 22, 2012	5:00 P.M.	Walk with the Mayor and Council	Alamosa Family Recreation Center	***
February 29, 2012	5:00 P.M.	Walk with the Mayor and Council	Alamosa Family Recreation Center	***
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	***
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				
*** Citizens are encouraged to attend this community event				

## **City Manager**

Construction continues and progress seems to be good. They will likely have to tent the building to do the stucco given our cold temperatures. We have come across several hidden conditions that have caused us to make some changes in the building, but those issues seem to have been addressed. We are still waiting on the gutters for this building.

I provided a tour to a 5<sup>th</sup> grade class today. They held a mock city council meeting and discussed if they should buy a new ladder truck. With a price close to \$1,000,000, they were hesitant. Although they all said they would love to spend that much money, when it came down to their mock discussion the fire department would have been disappointed.

## **Police Department**

Local business owners may have noticed recently a business card in their doors; this is simply a courtesy notice that we are doing more foot patrols in and around businesses during non-business hours. If we encounter an unsecure business owners will be notified. Burglaries to businesses and residences are ongoing and we are being proactive in hopes of preventing them before they occur as well as capturing and prosecuting those responsible.

## **Holiday Season Safety Tips**

Unfortunately the holiday season can oftentimes spur an increase in criminal activity in communities and since there are only 11 shopping days until Christmas, the Alamosa Police Department wishes to provide our community with a list of safety reminders as we are out driving, shopping, and leaving the on holiday. While these safety reminders are good any time of the year, they are especially important now.

### **Driving:**

1. Don't DRINK and drive, designate a sober driver if you plan to attend events/functions/parties and consume alcohol or drugs.
2. With winter road conditions setting in, BE SMART, keep your windows clear of snow/ice at all times and avoid driving when roads are especially unsafe.
3. Keep your car windows rolled up and doors locked while traveling and avoid driving into dark, unlit, and less-populated areas.

### **Shopping:**

1. When possible, shop with another person and avoid shopping alone.
2. If you are shopping alone and are concerned about walking to your car, ask a store employee if he/she can escort you.
3. Avoid carrying large amounts of cash and/or credit cards.
4. Avoid parking in areas next to large vehicles or vehicles with dark tinted windows; shoppers should try to stay in well-lit and high visibility areas.
5. Keep your car doors locked and windows rolled up while in the store.
6. Keep presents and purchases stored in your vehicle out of view; preferably in the trunk.
7. Avoid leaving your vehicle unattended with children inside or while it is running.
8. Carry your wallet in your front pants pocket, or your purse securely around your shoulder.
9. Avoid setting personal belongings down while in stores shopping.
10. Avoid wearing expensive jewelry while shopping.
11. If you must use an ATM; use those in well-lit and well-populated areas.
12. Secure your credit/debit card PIN numbers.
13. BE AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS!

### **Home Safety:**

1. Lock your windows and doors, even if out of the home for a short period of time.

2. If you leave town for the holiday, have a trusted neighbor, family member, or friend watch your home while you are away. Have your newspapers picked up, mail collected, and maintain the appearance that you are at home.
3. Utilize timers on lights, tv's, radios so that your home appears occupied.
4. Avoid placing large displays of gifts in front of windows and areas visible to pedestrians and cars.
5. REPORT suspicious persons and vehicles that are in your neighborhood.

#### **Snow removal:**

1. Remove snow from your sidewalks and public access areas around your house, not only can you be ticketed, injuries coming as a result from falls on snow and ice are quite common.

**From everyone at the Alamosa Police Department we wish you a Safe and Happy Holiday Season!**

### **Parks/Recreation/Library**

#### **Upcoming Special Events**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Alamosa Ice Fest (January 13-14, 2012)

#### **2012 Alamosa Ice Fest "Back to the Stone Age"**

It will be "Back to the Stone Age" as the 2012 Alamosa Ice Fest returns to Downtown Alamosa for a third engagement Friday, January 13th and Saturday, January 14th. This year's theme is centered on the iconic "Flintstones" cartoon. Parents and children alike can enjoy the fascinating ice sculptures, the ice sculpture carving process and even check out a special interactive piece available hands-on fun.

Those with an artistic vein are welcome to participate in the first annual Ice Fest Faux Snowman Building and Decorating contest to be held in conjunction with the ice carving on Saturday morning. Basically contestants will bring their snowman (made of anything but snow and ice) and decorate it on the North side of Main Street. Winners will have their creations stay on display complimenting the ice sculptures.

In addition the first annual "Rio Rendezvous" Snowshoe Sprint Races and 5k Fun Run will take place Saturday afternoon in Cole Park so plan on a busy day of family fun.

Entries and more information for the 2012 Ice Fest events may be obtained from the Alamosa Family Recreation Center (589-2105). Entries for the snowman decorating contest are also available at the Alamosa Convention and Visitor Bureau (589-4840).

#### **Ice Rink Status Update**

Good news for you hockey and skating enthusiasts. The Carroll Park Ice Rink is available for open skating. Please use caution and be courteous to fellow users.

Two special events have been scheduled to facilitate skate rentals and get the public skating:

This Thursday, December 22nd the warming hut at the rink will be open from 11am – 1pm offering a special week-long “early bird” skate rental to catch the kids on their first day off from school. The cost is only \$5.00 for the week and skates will need to be returned Friday, December 30th between 5 and 9pm at the warming hut. A photo ID will be required to rent skates.

We will also be hosting a special Christmas Eve public skate from 6 – 9pm. Skate rentals will be available and hot chocolate and cookies will be provide to the first 50 skaters!

Regularly scheduled skate rentals and other rink services will begin on New Year’s weekend starting Friday, December 30th. A special thanks to Rob Pickett and our Alamosa Parks’ staff for all their hard working in prepping the rink. The 2012 public skating, warming house and skate shop hours are as follows:

Friday            \*Mixed Use    5:00 PM - 7:00 PM  
                     Public Skate   7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Saturday        Public Skate   1:00 PM - 5:00 PM  
\*Mixed Use    7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Sunday            \*Mixed Use    9:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
Public Skate   12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Pleasure Rink - Open Daily            Skating Only

Wednesday    Adult Drop-in Hockey            8:30 PM - 10:00 PM  
(Helmet Required)

\*Mixed Use: Open Hockey South/Skating North of Center Line

NOTE: During the skating season, we anticipate setting aside practice times for our youth hockey program. Those times will be published as they become available.

### **Equipment and Snack Price List**

Skate Rentals \$3	Skate Sharpening \$3
Stick Tape \$3	Hockey Pucks \$3
Candy \$1	Drinks \$2

### **Youth Sports Registration Deadlines**

Youth Volleyball – January 16, 2012

### **Challenger Sports 2012 Summer Soccer Camp Dates Set**

June 4 – 8, 2012: We are pleased to announce Challenger sports will again be providing a variety of options for kids looking to improve their soccer skills. The following link provides

detailed information and registration for the 2012 camp. Makes a great Christmas present.....

<https://registration.challengersports.com/FindACamp/FindACamp.asp?IdS=0000A1-885C1A0&Method=CampSession&Key=0|1|18833&~=>

### **Rec Center/Library Closure Dates**

- December 23 – Close @ NOON
- December 24 - 26 (Christmas Break)
- January 1 – 2 (New Year's Break)

### **Fitness/Cultural Classes Update**

If you are already thinking about coming in and working off some of those holiday meals; the AFRC is just the place to take advantage of some group motivation. Drop in and catch one of our free member fitness classes. Tuesday evening cycling; currently scheduled from 6-7pm will be moving to 5:30-6:30pm and Tuesday evening Adult Painting, currently scheduled from 6-9pm will change to 6:30-9:30pm. Both changes will go in effect starting January 1st, 2012.

A Monday evening “stretch and wind down” class is currently being formulated for 6:30-7:15pm; look for details after the 1st of the year. The AFRC welcomes your feedback at any time so please let us know your thoughts on programs, classes or any issues you might have questions about (589-2105.)

### **Membership Promotion**

Do you need a last minute Christmas gift with a lasting affect? The AFRC has a special promotion to positively impact that special someone more than any material item. Right now purchase a one month membership in any category and receive a second month free. That means an adult can join for 2 months at the bargain rate of only \$10.00/month for the first two months. Remember a membership to the Alamosa Family Recreation Center includes 8 different classes at no extra charge. The last day to purchase is January 15th, 2012.

### **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](http://www.cityofalamosa.org) or call the City Clerk's office at 589-2593 ext. 8.

### **City Clerk**

#### **Redistricting**

#### **Overview**

Wards, also referred to as districts, serve to ensure that citizens have representation that preserve communities of interest. This means that the structure of a district should be such that it does not divide citizens that share commonalities of neighborhood, geography, social interest, economics, culture, or profession.

The City's wards are defined in the Charter Article III Section 24:

- There are four wards in the City
- These wards are adopted by ordinance
- Wards must be contiguous and compact
- Wards must have approximately the same number of registered voters
- No changes may be made within four years of the preceding redistricting.
- Redistricting must be completed at least six months prior to a Regular Election at which it is to become effective.

Federal law and case law also applies. In order of priority, districts should:

- Be substantially equal in population so that each elector's vote carries equal weight.
- A deviation of less than 10 percentage points is considered adequate for this purpose.
- Not be drawn in a way that results in the dilution of a protected minority's voting strength.
- Respect neighborhoods, communities of interest, compactness, and natural boundaries.

While redistricting should be approached in a non-political manner, it's important to give consideration to the following:

- Preservation of the core of existing Wards should be made a priority.
- While there is no legal requirement to protect incumbent Councilors, it makes sense to do so if it can be done while meeting the legally required criteria.
- Process

Following every Census, it is appropriate that the City look at the data to see if redistricting is needed. Staff will bring this data to Council in January. In just looking at the number of registered voters, it does appear that redistricting will be necessary.

If Council determines that redistricting is needed, I recommend that a Redistricting Task Force be appointed. Although Council will take final action by adopting ward lines by ordinance, it is imperative that elected officials should be removed from the redistricting process. Doing so eliminates the appearance or existence of politically motivated decisions.

Council may choose a Task Force in any manner it wishes. One way would be for each Councilor to recommend one person from their respective wards. During the 2002 process, the group consisted of five persons, one from each ward and one at large. Five to seven members is an appropriate sized group.

### **Next Actions:**

#### January/February 2012

- Voter registration data will be obtained from the County Clerk's office and overlaid with Census data and current Ward lines. The City's Engineering staff will provide technical support to the City Clerk for initial analysis.
- At the same time, Council will be forming the Task Force. At your January 4 meeting, you will be asked to determine the structure and appointment process, with appointments made either January 18 or February 1.

#### February/March

- The Task Force will meet with City staff to review data and create "what if" scenarios and make a recommendation to Council
- Public input may be solicited during this process.

#### April

- Council will consider the recommendation of the Task Force, and consider an ordinance based on this recommendation.