

Special Events

Valentine's Dance and Chocolate Buffet
Join the Flickenger Center as they take over the Civic Center for a night of fun...

Big Band on the Rio Grande

Hot D'oeuvres
Chocolate Buffet
Cash Bar



Friday, February 10, 2014 at 7pm
Tickets \$60 per Couple, \$35 Individuals

FIRESIDE CHATS



With the City Manager are held on the second Monday of each month. The next one will be **January 13, 2014 at 5:30 PM** in the Southwest Room of the Alamogordo Public Library. See you there!



The City Profile is a publication of the City of Alamogordo and is provided as a service to City residents. Comments, suggestions and unsolicited materials by Alamogordo residents, including reports by community groups and articles that may contain opinion will be considered if sent to: mwade@ci.alamogordo.nm.us or **Megan Wade**, Senior Executive Assistant, City Manager's Office, 1376 E. 9th St. Alamogordo, NM 88310. We reserve the right to edit all submitted entries for length, clarity, style, spelling, and grammar. Published material containing opinions does not necessarily reflect the views of the City of Alamogordo.



Vol. 7, No 12

This publication also available on the web.



December 2013

City of Alamogordo

CITY PROFILE

The Friendliest Place on Earth

Message from the Mayor

I want to wish everyone in the City "Merry Christmas" with peace and goodwill.

Alamogordo got an early Christmas present from the Governor, Susanna Martinez, and the State. City Staff and I attended a meeting that included the Secretary of the Environment, the State Engineer and their staff. The gist of the meeting going in was to defend the desalination project (known as Snake Tanks Project) the City has been working on for the better part of twenty years. We went through the history of how Alamogordo arrived at this point. Dr. Marquardt introduced this project to the NM legislature in 1995. We worked through a twelve year battle with the BLM to secure their blessing in the form of an Environmental Impact Statement. A ten year court battle, that went all the way to the NM Supreme Court. We have spent several million dollars in the form of grant money and loans to put pipe in the ground, drill and test wells, and build a large above-ground storage tank near the Highway 82 overpass.

The Secretary and the State engineer informed us that our project had come up to the top of state water projects and they would like to see us complete this project. Our Public Works Director had projected costs and timelines that were in agreement with what the State had estimated. The State committed to helping us bring this long time project to fruition. Alamogordo will have water supply that will help supply the needs of all of us for many years to come.

-Robert Rentschler

"A PRESENCE OF A PEOPLE" A Brief Photographic History of Africa America in New Mexico

Dr. Shiame Okunor of The Charlie Morrissey Education Center

The presence of people of African descent in the Southwest in general but New Mexico in particular can be traced definitively to a multi verified presence of an iconic African variedly named Estavan, Esteban, Estavanico and by many other names. Similarly, it has not been settled between historians whether Esteban was a slave, or a servant, a scout, or a mercenary. What is indisputable was his presence in these parts of America in the 1530s. Esteban was followed by another African in the 1540s, an interpreter for the Coronado expedition to New Mexico who lived with missionaries in Quivira and became a Franciscan Friar later. In 1598 six Africans; two soldiers, three women and one mulattoe slave accompanied Juan de Onate when he established the first Spanish capital at San Juan de los Caballeros at the Tewa Village north of present-day Espanola. The Juan Guerra de Resa's Relief expedition to New Mexico to bolster Onate's colony in 1600, brought mulattoe women with children including the iconic Isabela de Olvera the free daughter of Hernando, a free Black man and Magdalena, a Native American woman. Isabela

demanded a signed affidavit confirming her status as a free person before she made the trip to New Mexico. In 1692, the Don Diego expedition which retook New Mexico after the Pueblo Revolt included two Africans, Sebastian Rodriguez Brito from Angola and Francisco Rico from the Congo.

After these early appearances of Africans as members of expeditions, African Americans migrated to New Mexico influenced by other factors such as work in the mines and with the railroads, military service, fur trading, escape from slavery, search for new beginnings after the Civil War, healthy issues and many more. This exhibition is a brief photographic history of the African American presence in New Mexico.

This exhibit opens at the Alamogordo Public Library December 14 and will continue through February.

Photographs and copy courtesy of Dr. Barbara Richardson's "Black Pioneers of New Mexico" (1983) and the Charlie Morrissey Collections.



Biddy and Youth Basketball

Ages 3-12

Registration: November 27, 2013

Practice Begins: January 6, 2014

First Game: January 18, 2014

Swimming Lessons Session 7

January 6- January 29

Registration Begins January 2, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.



Pee Wee Soccer Registration

Wednesday, January 29th - 3 & 4 year olds

Thursday, January 30th - 5 & 6 year olds

Friday, January 31st - 7 & 8 year olds

Then beginning Monday, February 1, registration will open to every age group until we fill up.

For more info contact the Alamogordo Family Recreation Center (575) 439-4142

Heating your Home

Heating Equipment is a leading cause of home fire deaths. Almost half of home heating equipment fires are reported during the months of December, January, and February. In 2011, heating equipment was involved in an estimated 53,600 reported home structure fires, with associated losses of 400 civilian deaths, 1,520 civilian injuries, and \$893 million in direct property damage. Based on 2007-2011 annual averages, space heaters whether portable or stationary accounted for 1/3 of home heating fires and four out of five home heating deaths. (National Fire Prevention Association, April 2013)

The leading factor contributing to home heating fires was primarily failure to clean, principally creosote from solid-fueled heating equipment primarily chimneys. Placing things too close to heating equipment or placing heating equipment too close to things that can burn, such as upholstered furniture, clothing, mattress, or bedding, was the leading factor contributing to ignition in fatal home heating fires and accounted for more than half of home heating fire deaths.

Portable generators are useful during a power outage. However, many homeowners are unaware that the improper use of portable generators can be risky. The most common dangers associated with portable generators are carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning, electrical shock or electrocution, and fire hazards.

Please be sure to use caution and always have a plan in case an emergency should occur.



**From our Family to yours,
may you have a Healthy and
Happy Holiday Season and
Best Wishes in the
New Year!**

REGULAR MUNICIPAL ELECTION

An Election will be held in the City of Alamogordo on **Tuesday, March 4, 2014** for the purpose of:

- electing a Mayor At-Large;
- one (1) District 2 City Commissioner;
- one (1) District 4 City Commissioner and
- a Municipal Judge.

The Ballot will also have three questions:

- 1) To consider amending the sunset of the Municipal Gross Receipts Tax for Economic Development to December 31, 2020;
- 2) A bond up to the amount of \$6,000,000 for a Family Entertainment Center; and
- 3) A bond up to \$4,000,000 for the First St. and Florida Realignment.

Only in Districts 2 and 4 will the ballot contain a position for City Commissioner. The election will be Citywide (Districts 1 through 6) and all ballots will contain the question(s) that might be placed on the ballot at the time the election resolution is adopted.

City Commissioner Positions

Any registered elector of the City of Alamogordo may be a candidate for the office of City Commissioner. **There is only one day to file for office and that is on TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2014, BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 8:00 A.M. AND 5:00 P.M., AT THE OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK.** All prospective candidates are encouraged to contact the City Clerk, Renee Cantin at 575-439-4205 to receive a candidate packet.



Redistricting & New Voter Registration Cards

As a result of the March 2012 Election, the voters will be electing a Mayor At-Large and the City has redistricted from Seven (7) Districts to Six (6) Districts for the upcoming election. The County Clerk's Office has revised and mailed new Voter Registration Cards for those who are in a different District for this election. You are welcome to contact our office to make sure which district you are located in.

Voting Convenience Centers

Voting Convenience Centers will be used for the March 2014 Election. The polling places for all elections in 2014 to be held at:

- Willie Estrada Memorial Civic Center,
- Tays Special Events Center, and
- Otero County Fairgrounds.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact City Clerk, Renee Cantin, CMC at 575-439-4205 or rcantin@ci.alamogordo.nm.us



November Garden Center Tip

Written By: Becky at Lowe's Grocery Store

Winter is fast approaching and it is nice seeing snow on top of Sierra Blanca and in the mountains. Hopefully, we will get more of a snowfall this year—a heavier snow pack means a better watershed for both the mountain and basin areas.

Live Christmas trees are now available; either cut or containerized ones to be planted. If you choose a cut tree, cut about 1/2 inch off the bottom of the tree and immediately place it in a tree stand that holds a gallon of water. Keep it in a cool place away from direct light and heat, and check the water level daily.

If you decide on a living tree to be planted, select a type that will grow in this area. It is best to only keep it inside for a week to ten days, in a cool place, away from heat sources and direct light. Keep it watered, and periodically place some crushed ice on the top of its roots to help keep it cool. Plant it outside as soon as possible.

Do not be in a hurry to prune trees in December; in the basin, January is the better time. When the leaves have fallen off of trees, dormant oil can be sprayed. This helps to smother pests that harbor in the bark of the trunks and branches during the winter. A good spraying in December and one prior to bud break in January will help keep the pest population under control and limit the use of noxious pesticides.

Once again, I want to remind all gardeners to give their established plants, shrubs, trees, and dormant grasses a deep watering every three weeks during December and January. Have a Happy Holiday!