

Senior Center

The Alamo Senior Center will host the following upcoming events:

Trick-or-treaters welcome to the Senior Center on Thursday, October 31st from 10:30 - 11:15 in the ASC dining room.

Annual Thanksgiving dinner on Friday, November 15th from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m



FIRESIDE CHATS

With the City Manager are held on the second Monday of each month. The next one will be **November 11, 2013 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.

This publication also available on the web.



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City of Alamogordo

CITY PROFILE

The Friendliest Place on Earth

Message from the Mayor

These are challenging financial times for Alamogordo families as the lack of instability at the federal government level trickles down to us locally. Whether you are a federal employee, contractor, or you are simply struggling to keep up with consumer inflation, I have a word of caution regarding the use of payday loans and title loans in desperation. The "holiday season" is upon us, and there's a socially acceptable norm to go out of our financial way to celebrate. As your Mayor, I urge all citizens to take pause before borrowing an interest only loan. Have you ever noticed the many quick cash, payday loan, and title loan businesses throughout our city?

There happens to be over 760 cash advance lenders in the state, allowing New Mexico to rank 10th in the nation for the number of payday lenders. New Mexico is one of seventeen states that permit car-title loans at triple digit APRs. The state doesn't over regulate the industry, and allows the New Mexico cash advance companies to provide many services to their customers. There are no laws regulating the amount of the loans, nor is there a law that states the length of the loan term.

Trying to pay these types of loans back has been strenuous for many Alamogordo citizens. Interest rates are lower for title loans. Rates for title loans in New Mexico range from 213-300%. This is roughly half the annual percentage rate of a payday loans (or their new replacement, the installment loan), which in our market runs from 417-560%, but none of these rates are what can be called competitive. Please read the fine print before borrowing. As your Mayor, the heart of my message to all is to "take care".

—Susie Galea

ONLINE BILL PAY!

Dear Utility Billing Customers,

The City of Alamogordo is excited to introduce Online Bill Pay Service. After an overwhelming demand the City will be implementing the Online Bill Pay option on November 1, 2013. The City has chosen Billing Document Specialist to process and to host the Online Bill Pay service.

The service will allow our Utility Customers to pay their Utility Bill online by either Credit Card or directly from their bank account. The service will also allow the customer to view their statements online.



Customers will still be able to pay their Utility payment at City Hall. Unfortunately the City will no longer accept credit cards over the tele-

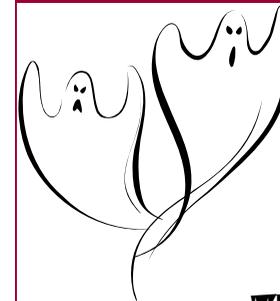
phone. Customers may still call City Hall (575-439-4260) and select the pay by telephone option; however, calls will be forwarded to BDS (Billing Document Specialists) to process a telephone payment.

Please note: Due to the increase of credit card merchant fees, the City will charge a 2.95% fee of the total Utility Bill to all customers using a credit card starting November 1, 2013.

Instructions on how to setup a customer profile will be included with the October 2013 Utility Bills. If you have any further questions please contact the City of Alamogordo Utility Billing staff at 575-439-4260.

Thank you,
City of Alamogordo
Customer Service Department

Trick Or Treat at City Hall!



We invite you to join us for a
"SPOOK"tacular Good Time
Trick or Treat at City Hall



Thursday, October 31st from 9am - 4pm.

If you have any questions, please contact Megan at 439.4203.



Coming Up

Zoo Boo

October 26, 2013

9:00am- 12:00 p.m.

Alameda Park Zoo 10th and White Sands Blvd.

Local businesses will hand out free snacks and drinks. If you would like a booth call 439-4142.

Turkey Shoot

November 2, 2013

1:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.

1100 Oregon Ave.

Shoot basketball free throws for a chance to win a FREE Thanksgiving turkey!

Christmas Craft Show

November 9, 2013

9:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m.

November 10, 2013

12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.



For more information please contact Raul Ruiz at 439-4159



Veteran's Day Parade

Saturday November 9, 2013 at 10:00 am

Christmas Parade

Saturday December 14, 2013 at 5:00pm



Alamogordo Fire Department

With the onset of the holiday season, the Alamogordo Fire Department would like to remind everyone that it's important to focus on fire safety and prevention. The celebration of the season brings with it increased usage of kitchen appliances, electric lights, candles, space heaters, fireplaces and deep fryers for those that like to deep fry their turkeys during this Holiday. Listed below are some important points to remember and follow to have a fire-safe holiday season:

IMPORTANT SAFETY TIPS TO REMEMBER

Turkey Fryers

- Completely thaw and dry turkey before cooking. Partially frozen and/or wet turkeys can produce excessive hot oil splatter when added to oil.
- Place fryer in open area away from walls, fences, or other structures, and keep fryer in full view when burner is on.
- Never operate fryer in, on, or under breezeways, garages, carports, porches, or any structure that can catch fire.
- Always raise and lower food slowly.

Follow the manufactures instructions to determine the proper amount of oil to add. If instructions are not available:

- Place turkey in empty pot.
- Fill pot with water until the turkey is covered by about 1/2 inch of water.
- Remove and completely dry turkey.
- Mark existing water level. Dump water, completely dry pot, and fill with oil to the marked level.

Candles

- Keep candles at least 12 inches away from walls, curtains, decorations or other materials that may

burn.

- Extinguish all candles when you leave the room or go to sleep.
- Never leave a child or a pet alone with a burning candle in the room.
- Burn candles in a stable, noncombustible holder.

Fireplaces

- Have your chimney inspected at least once a year and cleaned and repaired as often as necessary.
- Always use a fireplace screen to prevent sparks from flying into the room.
- Allow ashes to cool completely before disposing of them.
- Store removed ashes in tightly covered metal containers, never in boxes or bags.

Portable Space Heaters

- Improperly used space heaters are one of the leading causes of home fire deaths.
- Keep portable space heaters at least three feet away from walls, curtains, bedding or other materials that may burn.
- Turn off portable space heaters when you leave the room. Never leave them on when you go to bed.
- Plug cords only into outlets with sufficient capacity and never into an extension cord.

The Alamogordo Fire Departments main goal is to eliminate all deaths due to holiday fires. Remember we can all do our part this Holiday Season by eliminating fires. The Alamogordo Fire Department wishes you and your family a wonderful Holiday Season.

REMEMBER OUR MAIN GOAL IS TO STAY SAFE AND ALWAYS STAY FIRE SMART

Code Enforcement

Halloween is just around the corner and Trick-or-Treaters will be everywhere. Code Enforcement would like to remind everyone that during this time of fun and surprise let's watch out for the ghosts and goblins by keeping them safe.

The Alamogordo Code of Ordinances addresses the abandonment of dangerous containers, such as refrigerators, freezers or cabinets that have doors, latches and/or locks on them. Containers such as these which are 1 ½ cubic feet or bigger shall not be left outdoors accessible to children who can be trapped inside. This could appear as some scary fun for little ones, but we all know what kind of scary situation this is for the moms and dads of those little ghosts and goblins.

If you have these types of appliances or containers in your yard, here are some tips to making them safer:

- Turn the container so the door is up against the wall of the structure making it inaccessible.
- Remove the latch or lock from the door. Remove the seal around the door.
- Remove the door from the container at the hinges.

If you see any dangerous containers in your neighborhood this Halloween season, please let us know so we can assist the owner in making it safe. Code Enforcement can be reached by calling 43WEEDS or drop us an email at codeenforcement@ci.alamogordo.nm.us.

Lets all have a spooky but SAFE Halloween