City of Alamogordo

February 2012

The Friendliest Place on Earth

City Profile

WHO ARE THE CANDIDATES?

ELECTIONS



DISTRICT 1

- ♦ Richard B Decker, Sr.
- ♦ Jason R. Baldwin
- ♦ William D Pollard

DISTRICT 3

- ♦ Robert G. Rentschler (Incumbent)
- ♦ Maria Alicia Rios
- ♦ Andrew L. Baker

DISTRICT 5

- ♦ Alfonso "AL" C. Hernandez
- ♦ Jesse F. Carr
- ♦ Roberto Luis Valdez
- ♦ Joe C. Ferguson (Incumbent)
- ♦ Chris Lujan
- ♦ Miguel P Rosales

DISTRICT 7

- ♦ Susie A Galea
- ♦ Thomas M. Olive
- ♦ Richard Lerry Chapel

WHAT'S ON THE BALLOT?

On Tuesday, March 6, 2012, Alamogordo will hold its Regular Municipal Election. In addition to electing four City Commissioners, voters will be asked to consider a proposed City Charter Amendment as well as a question regarding to the General Obligation Bond. The following are the questions as they will appear on the ballot.

Charter Amendment

AMENDMENT NO. 1 SUMMARY FOR BALLOT

Proposal to amend the City Charter to provide that governing body of the city shall be comprised of six (6) members to be known as commissioners and one (1) member to be known as mayor. The six (6) commissioners shall be elected by the qualified voters of each of the six (6) single-member districts. The mayor shall be elected at large.

FOR the amendment AGAINST the amendment

General Obligation Bond

Shall the City of Alamogordo issue up to \$6,000,000 of general obligation bonds, to be repaid from property taxes, for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, equipping, furnishing and otherwise improving land and a building for a family entertainment center?

FOR Family Entertainment Center General Obligation Bonds AGAINST Family Entertainment Center General Obligation Bonds

WHERE DO I VOTE?

New Voting Convenience Centers will be used for the March 2012 Election. Voters can choose from any one of three convenient locations: the Willie Estrada

Memorial Civic Center, the Tays Special Events Center, and the Otero County Fairgrounds. By allowing voters to choose their polling location, we have provided for an ease in access and are confident this will increase voter turnout. Citizens will questions or concerns are encouraged to contact either the City Clerk's Office or the County Clerk's Office.

Absentee Voting

Absentee voting on paper ballots through the mail will be available and can be obtained by contacting the office of the City Clerk. Early Voting in person on electronic voting machines begins at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 15, 2012. Absentee voting on

paper ballots and Early Voting by machines ends at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 2, 2012.

Absentee voting will be conducted in the Office of the

City Clerk at City Hall, 1376 E. Ninth Street, during regular business hours, which are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. THERE WILL BE VOTING DURING THE NOON HOUR.

Non Resident Voting for G.O. Bond Question

A registered, nonresident municipal elector means any person who on the date of election, is a qualified, registered elector of Otero County but who is a resident of that portion of Otero County which is outside of the Alamogordo city limits, who has paid a property tax on property located within the City of Alamogordo during the year preceding the election and who has timely registered with the City Clerk of Alamogordo his or her intention to vote at the general obligation bond election by filing with the office of the City Clerk of Alamogordo a certificate of eligibility announcing his or her intention to vote at such election on the question of creating municipal debt. A nonresident municipal elector must file a certificate of eligibility with the City Clerk no later than Friday, February 17, 2012 to be eligible to vote.







ELECTION RESULTS

You can join us on the evening of March 6th to learn the results of the Election. Beginning at 7:00 p.m. when the polls close the Clerk's office staff along with the Media, Candidates, Commission members, Staff, and Citizens gather at City Hall (1376 E. Ninth St.) in the Commission Chambers to learn what the results are. We will be live on the 91.7 KUPR FM Radio with Ronny Diaz; 1230 KRSY AM Radio; and Country 105.3 KZZX; and we will have live video coverage through www.alamogordolive.net. We also publish the unofficial Election Results on the City Website at http://ci.alamogordo.nm.us. Questions/Comments should be directed to Reneé L. Cantin, City Clerk at 439-4205 or by email to: rcantin@ci.alamogordo.nm.us

It's that time of year - TAX Time! AARP Volunteers will be preparing your Income Taxes FOR FREE! Yes...FREE! From now until April 18 at the Sgt. Willie Estrada Civic Center located at 800 East First Street from 9 am to 4 pm on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Please bring the following information: For more information:

- ●Photo Id
- Social Security Cards
- •W-2 year end wage forms
- Pensions
- •Interest, dividends, stock or CD
- Unemployment forms
- Gambling reports

- Self employed income and expenses
- Social Security statement
- •Child Care Expenses, College Expenses or Vocation Training
- Medical Expenses
- Property Taxes & Mortgage Interest
- •Charitable Donations

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide 575-921-3955, RVSP 575-439-4154 or alamotaxaide@yahoo.com

Waste Disposal Survey

The Mayor's Committee on Aging is seeking public opinion on the waste disposal units in the alleys around town. Please help by completing the short survey found on the City's Website at

http://ci.alamogordo.nm.us/ filling out a survey at the Alamo Senior Center front desk or completing the survey to the right and turning it in with your water payment.

Do you have City garbage pick-up service in the alley?

YES

Do you need assistance to empty your garbage in the alley dumpster?

> YES NO

Do you have any safety concerns or fears emptying garbage into the alley waste disposal units?

YES NO

SOUTHWEST DISPOSAL

month, while those residents with in-ground collection will

Your collection schedule will remain the same. For curbside as well as other obstacles with the opening facing the street

ardous waste or dead animals - to receive a free quote and

The City Profile is a publication of the City of including reports by community groups and We reserve the right to edit all submitted entries Alamogordo and is provided as a community service to City residents. The City Profile does not accept commercial, classified, or political advertisements. Comments, suggestions and unsolicited materials by Alamogordo residents,

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.

for length, clarity, style, spelling, and grammar, Published material containing opinions does not necessarily reflect the views of the City of Alamogordo.



GETTING TO KNOW...

ALAMOGORDO'S PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY MANAGER

Maggie Paluch says Alamogordo's Public Housing Authority is all about providing safe, decent and affordable housing to low-income families, the elderly and individuals with disabilities.

What Services does your department provide?

Currently, the Housing Authority provides several services for low-income families. The first program we provide is What is new with affordable housing in Alamogordo? a subsidized rental program. There are 220 units ranging in size from efficiencies to four bedrooms, located at two sites, Plaza Hacienda and Alta Vista. At this time we are 95% occupied thus resulting in a waiting list of approximately 12-18 months.

Secondly, we provide a rent-to-own Homeownership Program for lowincome residents. Individuals lease a Housing Authority owned home in the community for a period of three years. During the lease period 30% of their rent is deposited into an escrow account and 20% is deposited into a maintenance reserve escrow account both of which can be used for a down payment and closing costs once the house is purchased. The tenant must maintain good credit throughout the lease period to have the ability to obtain a mortgage at the end of the third year.

Finally, the Housing Authority works in conjunction with the New Mexico Mortgage and Finance Authority to rehabilitate low-income residents homes throughout the community. The funds are used to rehab homes that are in extremely poor condition for example installing heating systems, replacing roofs and bring homes up to code. Currently the Housing Authority received funding for one home this year and we will reapply for additional funding in September 2012.

What changes have you initiated?

One of the biggest changes since I arrived happened internally. I reorganized the office which allowed for a more streamline working environment. Additionally, for several years the Housing Authority had financial audit findings. With streamlining the staff I was able to reduce the audit findings from 6 last year to zero this year. The whole staff worked extremely hard for an entire year to ensure there were no audit findings. Another major change has been the increase in the occupancy rate. For several years we were unable to break the 80% occupancy rate. However, I am glad to report with the diligent work of our maintenance staff and an increase in tenant retention the Housing Authority is the most occupied in its history. There is also more community interaction within the Housing



Authority. Some examples include: the annual community yard sale, annual Christmas cookie delivery, which we provide for tenants without family during the holidays, and the monthly newsletter to inform tenants of community events and changing polices at the Housing Authority.

The Housing Board/City Commission recently approved the Alamogordo Affordable Housing Plan which provides priorities and goals to help the City plan for future affordable housing needs and how to best utilize various private and non-profit entities to increase affordable housing options in Alamogordo. The current trend in Alamogordo is to build larger single family homes thus reducing the rental options for the low-income population. In addition to new construction of single-family homes, the average rental cost of units in Alamogordo has also increased due to military housing stipends. With economic growth and the age of the current lowincome rental developments in the City, there needs new wider range of rental housing options for low-income families. The Affordable Housing Plan will help facilitate this goal.

What aspects of your job do you most enjoy?

The most enjoyable aspect of the job is when applicants who are in emergency situations receive a rental unit. There are so many individuals in Alamogordo that need housing and so few affordable rental units. I will never get tired of seeing tears in someone's eyes and a smile on their face when you offer them a decent and safe place to live. Additionally, I enjoy planning capital projects for the complexes. The more we can improve the area for our tenants the longer they will stay. Some of our current projects include porch replacement, and landscaping at Alta Vista and installing laundry facilities at both complexes.

What are your biggest challenges?

The most challenging aspect of the job is having to inform a current tenant that they no longer are qualified to live in housing. This situation could be for various reasons such as non-payment of rent or inability to follow HUD federal guidelines. The entire staff tries to work with every individual and create plans for improvement or enter into repayment agreements however sometimes these plans do not succeed. It is never fun to tell someone they no longer have a place to live.

PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Alamogordo Public Library Youth Services Department is starting a new group for grades 4-7. This group, which will be choosing its own name soon, will be similar to the current Teen Cafe for older teens. They will meet once a month during the school year, and weekly in June and July, to enjoy a wide variety of activities chosen by the members. For more information, call 439-4157. Library Hours: Mon-Thurs 10am-8pm Fridays 10am-5pm

APOLLO 16 40TH ANNIVERSARY

Saturdays 11am-5pm



The Apollo 16 40th Anniversary Commemoration will be held March 8-10, 2012, in Las Cruces and Alamogordo. Guest speakers include Gene Kranz, White Flight Director (Apollo 13 Tiger Team Flight Director) and Charlie Duke, the 10th human to walk on the Moon. A special Ceremony & luncheon will be held Saturday, March 10 at the Tays Special Events Center to induct Mr. Kranz into the International Space Hall of Fame. For ticket information, call 575-437-2840 ext. 41153 or email cathy.harper@state.nm.us.

CALENDAR

Friday, February 10th -

Public Hearing to Discuss Senior Issues & Concerns 1:30 pm Tularosa Senior Center

Tuesday, February 14th -

Regular Commission Meeting, 7:30 pm Commission Chambers

Tuesday, February 28th -

Regular Commission Meeting, 7:30 pm Commission Chambers

Monday, February 20th -**City Offices Closed**

AIR FORCE RELEASES DRAFT EIS FOR PROPOSED F-35A TRAINING SITE

Public comments sought by Air Force

HOLLOMAN AIR FORCE BASE, N.M. - In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the U.S. Air Force has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed establishment of a Pilot Training Center and associated basing of F-35A training aircraft at one or more existing Air Force or Air National Guard installations within the continental United States. Potential locations include the Boise Air Terminal Airport Air Guard Station, also known as Gowen Field, Idaho; Holloman Air Force Base, N.M.; Luke Air Force Base, Ariz.; and Tucson International Airport Air Guard Station, Ariz.

The Air Force's Preferred Alternative is to base the Pilot Training Center with 72 F-35A training aircraft at Luke Air Force Base. However, no decisions regarding the proposal will be made until after the environmental impact analysis process is complete.

To download a copy of the Draft EIS, please visit Dining Room, 2201 Puerto Rico Ave., Alamogordo, www.F-35ATrainingEIS.com. A paper copy of the document is also available at the Alamogordo Public Library, 920 Oregon Ave. Alamogordo, NM 88310. All comments on the Draft EIS must be postmarked or received by March 14, 2012, for consideration in the Final EIS. Written comments on the Draft EIS may be submitted to: David Martin, Air Force Contractor, and Kim Fornof, HQ AETC/A7CPP, 266 F Street West, Bldg. 901, Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4319, Fax: 2 1 0 - 6 5 2 - 5 6 4 9 ,

aetc.a7cp.inbox@us.af.mil.

Written and oral comments may also be submitted in person at the public hearings. A stenographer will be available for those wanting to submit an oral com-

Three public hearings near Holloman Air Force Base will be held to inform the public and receive public comments on the Draft EIS. All hearings include an open house information session from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., followed by a presentation and formal public comment session from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Representatives from the Air Force will be available during the open house session to provide information and to answer questions related to the Draft EIS.

Public hearings will be held:

Date: Feb. 7, 2012, Location: Weed Community Center, 16 Weed Road, Weed, NM 88354;

Date: Feb. 8, 2012, Location: Fraternal Order of Eagles #3187, Bingo Hall, 3201 S. Sunset Ave., Roswell, NM 88203

Date: Feb. 9, 2012, Location: Alamo Senior Center NM 88310

For More Information: Information related to the Draft EIS is available on the project website at www.F-35ATrainingEIS.com. For more information about the project, please contact David Martin, Air Force contractor, or Kim Fornof at 210-652-1961 or email aetc.a7cp.inbox@us.af.mil.

For media inquiries, please contact 2Lt Logan Clark, 49th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Officer, E m a i l: Holloman Air Force Base at 575-572-5406.

VALENTINE **BAKE SALE**



By Lois Powell

The Senior Companion and Foster Grandparent Programs are having their annual Valentine's Day Bake Sale on February 14, 2012 from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. at the Alamo Senior Center located at 2201 Puerto Rico Avenue.

All proceeds will go to help the Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion volunteers with their activity expenses. Baked goods are provided by the Retired and Senior Volunteer Programs (RSVP) bakers.

SPRING 2012 PEE-WEE SOCCER AGES 3-8

Fee: \$36.00 (includes T-shirt). Registration begins February 1, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. Practice will begin March 5 and the first game is on March 17



Mail to: Resident or Current Occupant

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ECR

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