

City Leadership

City Commission / City Manager

Susie Galea, Mayor at Large (575-518-9308)

Al Hernandez, District 5 (575-921-3632)

Jason Baldwin, District 1 (575-921-1093)

Nadia Sikes, District 2 (575-491-7910)

Robert Rentschler, Mayor Pro-Tem

District 3 (575-446-9140)

Jenny Turnbull, District 4 (575-434-5544)

Dr. George Straface, District 6 (303-356-1825)

James Stahle, City Manager (575-439-4203)

Commission Meetings

Commission Meetings are generally held the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month (except in November and December). For full meeting schedule visit ci.alamogordo.nm.us

FIRESIDE CHATS with the City Manager are held on the second Monday of each month. The next one will be **March 8, 2015** at 5:30 PM in the Southwest Room of the Alamogordo Public Library. Stop by and hear Jim chat about ongoing projects and answer your burning questions!



Vol. 9, No 2

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.



February 2015

City of Alamogordo

CITY PROFILE

Message from the Mayor

I've received several questions about the Gross Receipts Investment Program (GRIP). Some citizens are concerned with whether the City only creates incentive for promoting retail competition, when actually it is intended to also create incentive for local business retention and expansion. It applies in a variety of ways toward expansion or new construction that exceeds \$50,000. Here's how it works:

To apply for GRIP, an entity must be a business owner, developer, land owner, or tenant. The business type can be a corporation, partnership, proprietorship, limited liability company, or other legal entity. The project can be for a new business or expanding business, of either a commercial or retail activity, and for either new construction or rehabilitation of an existing structure. During the construction phase, the GRIP applicant must give a local preference and priority to local contractors, labor, manufacturers, suppliers, and vendors so long as it doesn't add expenses or sacrifice operating efficiency for the GRIP applicant. The GRIP applicant must document the cost of expansion or new construction which exceeds \$50,000. The benefit to you, the local tax payer: the surrounding property values increase with land and building improvements, and the gross receipts taxes generated by the business during construction and after completion will be used to provide essential local services for everyone's benefit. Of the 7.875% gross receipts tax that everyone pays within the city of Alamogordo, only 2.06% is locally collected within the City limits.

~Mayor Susie Galea

New Businesses

Increased Economic Development is a goal we all share and the City would like to recognize New Business in Alamogordo. The following businesses were issued a license in January:

- Albertson's
806-791-0220
- Carolyn's Creations from the Wearhouse
575-442-5215
- DJ Scotty Scott
575-551-4999
- Eagle Eye Window Detailing
575-551-2482
- Hot Spot Shades (Retail)
575-415-0576
- Magic Moments Photography by Sandra Seibel
575-551-0429
- Mom with a Mission (Janitorial)
575-446-8798
- Morin Manufacturing Corp (General Service)
575-921-4719
- Pretty Paws Pet Salon
575-921-7486
- Sleek so Chic
575-434-6263
- Third Alliance Tattoo Studio
575-446-4689
- Tyree's Classic Recycling (Furniture)
575-921-3605

Want daily updates on happenings around town? Scan the code and "Like" us on Facebook!



AARP FOUNDATION TAX-AIDE

Tax-Aide Alamogordo for the Tax Year 2014. We will prepare your income taxes FOR FREE!

February 2nd - April 15th
Sgt. Willie Estrada Civic Center
800 East First Street
Monday—Wednesday—Friday
9 am to 4 pm

Please bring the following information:

PHOTO ID for all taxpayers
SOCIAL SECURITY CARDS for all taxpayers and dependents

W-2 year end wage forms from each job for each person

If you work for yourself, all the income and expenses (not exceed \$10K) from your work.

Interest, dividend, stock or CD sales. You should bring the 1099 forms from the bank.

Social Security. You must bring the year-end statement from Social Security.

Unemployment. You must bring the W2-G form from the Labor Department.

Gambling: Bring the 1099 tickers and Win/Loss report from the casinos.

Pensions: Bring the 1099-R form you received from the pension payer.

ACA Medical Documents: Statement of Health Insurance coverage

Bring the list of expenses you paid for Child Care, College or Vocational Training, Medical Expenses and Charity Donations: Bring a list of everything and keep the receipts for 3 years.

Mortgage, Interest and Property Taxes: Statements

Direct Deposit: Bring a blank check to get direct deposit of your refund in 8-10 days with no fees

AARP Foundation Tax Aide—Alamogordo
575-439-4154 or alamotaxaide@yahoo.com

Senior Center Events

We're trying to schedule our Special Events well in advance to give you plenty of opportunity to mark your calendar. This list will be updated as needed, so please watch our newsletter, *The Sentinel*, for updates and, of course, you're always welcome to give us a call at 439-4150.

- **March 17, 2015** St. Patrick's Day Cake & Punch, 12:00 Noon
 - **April 2, 2015** Color Easter Eggs and Easter Bonnet Contest, 10:30 am
 - **April 3, 2015** Easter Egg Hunt, 10:30 am
- [May is Older American's Month. Join us for celebrations throughout the month.](#)
- **May 5, 2015** Cinco de Mayo (by Meals on Wheels), 11:30 am
 - **May 8, 2015** Carnations presented to Mothers for Mother's Day
 - **May 13, 2015** Tea Party (by RSVP), 9:00 am – 11:00 am
 - **May 19, 2015** Cookie Decorating, 10:00 am
 - **June 19, 2015** Pins presented for Father's Day
 - **July 31, 2015** Western BBQ Dinner, 5:00 – 6:00 pm Transportation provided
- (Dance on your own after dinner @ \$4/person; 6:00 – 9:00 pm)

Alamogordo Family Recreation Center

The Alamogordo Family Recreation Center Pool is once again open!
Session 9 Swim lessons begin March 2 - March 25, 2015 - Registration begins February 25, 2015



SPRING FLING (March 30- April 3)
Ages 5 - 12 Fee: \$77.50 per child
Registration: February 25, 2015

A day camp program set up to give your kids something to do during Spring Break! Children will participate in swimming, arts and crafts, gym games and outside activities. A snack is included, but kids must bring their own lunch!

Did you know...

Did you know that Southwest Disposal offers Bulk Pickup? Well with Spring right around the corner, you may be thinking of doing some heavy duty cleaning and we can help with that. A Bulky Waste route is run every other week. It is basically for items that cannot or should not go into the refuse containers, such as tree branches, furniture, mattresses, appliances etc. Material must be placed in plastic bags and must not be more than 35 pounds. Bulky waste not placed in a container or bag must be securely tied in bundles not to exceed 4 (four) feet in length and 35 pounds in weight. Residents must call in to schedule a pick up 434-1109.

Farewell to Amos, a Monkey and a Friend!

The Zoo staff is saddened to announce the passing of one of the best known animals at the Zoo. Amos the Capuchin died of complications of old age on January 30th. He was the oldest animal at the zoo living to the venerable age of 42. I brought Amos and his mate Coco to the Zoo in 1976, he and his mate were family pets of a couple in El Paso that could no longer care for them. Coco passed away a number of years ago after giving birth to several offspring. Amos has sired many more babies and has been the patriarch of the troop since he arrived. Capuchin life span in the wild is 15 to 25 years, and in captivity they usually live between 35 to 45 years. Our City carpenter made a casket for Amos and he will be buried at the new Primate Complex currently under construction. This new primate complex will feature 3 species of primates when it is completed. We are still actively fundraising for this project. If you would like to make a donation in memory of Amos you can mail a check to Alamogordo Friends of The Zoo at PO Box 596 Alamogordo NM 88311 or make your contribution at our new Gift Shop.

-Bud Wiser, Zoo Director

Gardening Tip

from Becky at Lowe's Grocery Store:

One snow, a couple of days of rain, and now I have a nice crop of wild mustard to battle. It's best to get rid of the mustard before its seeds mature—each plant can produce two or three thousand seeds which can remain viable in the soil for sixty years. Also, it is a host plant for the Bad Bug whitefly, which can transmit viruses to tomatoes and other vegetables.

Dormant tree and shrub pruning should be finished this month, before they break dormancy. Shrub and bush roses should be trimmed by Valentine's Day; climbing roses after bloom. The last dormant oil spray should also be applied before the buds swell. Start working compost, peat moss, or other organic materials into your garden beds at least a month before planting.

Broccoli, cabbages, chard, lettuces, spinach, and strawberry plants will soon be arriving. Asparagus crowns, seed potatoes, and onion and garlic sets will also be coming. These are cool season vegetables and need to be planted before our short spring season turns to summer. Cool season seeds should be sowed four to six weeks before the average last frost. Tomatoes and pepper seeds can be started inside now, under lights or by a sunny window. Keep them warm!

By the middle of February, start watering trees, shrubs, and other perennial plants more often. The winter watering was about every three weeks for established plants—up the watering to every ten days or two weeks. Water deeply (two to three feet), out to and beyond the drip line. Fertilizer should be applied in early spring, especially to fruit and nut trees. Pecans should have half the recommended amount of fertilizer applied before bud break, and the other half applied about mid-June.

So much to do, and so little time to do it, the story of my life. One step at a time. The first step is to fire up the weed-eater and go to war with the mustard weeds. The second step is to wash all the juicy green mustard sap off before it dries and cakes on my goggles. The third step is to decide where to plant the gladiolus bulbs I ordered.