

# City Profile

City of Alamogordo

September 2007 Newsletter

 **Next Town Hall meeting: BETTER ROADS FOR ALAMOGORDO**  
**Wednesday September 19<sup>th</sup>, 7pm at the Sgt. Willie Estrada Memorial Civic Center**

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## **The Library's Story Book Wall and the Eugene Manlove Rhodes Room**

By Adrian McCulloch, Library Manager, 439-4140

When I began my tenure at the Alamogordo Public Library in December 2005, it was with a great deal of pride that the staff showed me the Story Book Wall, the Rhodes Room and the Teller's Bank Wall and explained the history of each. The Rhodes Room and the two walls are a large part of the important history of the Alamogordo Public Library. Many patrons have told me how proud they are to have the Story Book Wall there and will tell me what family member contributed a story book drawing to the wall.

The Rhodes Room is another part of the important history of the Alamogordo Public Library. The Rhodes Room houses the valuable collection of Eugene Rhodes; it also contains a browsing collection of Rhodes' documents from meetings, other papers and short stories, as well as our extensive collection of Southwestern Fiction, Southwestern Non-Fiction and a collection of irreplaceable pamphlets and other materials.

When the City began the interview process to select an architectural firm to design and build a new library, the staff and I were looking forward to meeting with the architects. In their first meeting in Alamogordo, the architects specifically wanted to hear from the staff just what attributes, equipment, furniture and other items the staff needed in the new building to make it run well. During this dialogue the staff and I discussed the Story Book Wall, the Rhodes Room and the Teller's Wall and explained the historical importance of these three parts of the Alamogordo Public Library.

The architects informed us that the Rhodes Room will have a special room designed to protect and display the valuable history that the room contains. The New Rhodes Room will be climate controlled, natural lighting will be used as much as possible and direct sunlight will not damage the materials in the Rhodes Room. The new Rhodes Room will occupy a place of honor in the new library.

While we discussed the importance of the Story Book Wall; the architects examined the Story Book Wall and informed us that the wall **CAN** be safely moved and remain intact, and be incorporated into the new library. They explained how this could be done and did not seem to think that the wall would be damaged by moving it.

The staff at the Alamogordo Public Library respects, admires, reveres, and protects the Story Book Wall that is proudly displayed in the Alamogordo Public Library. With the information given above it is clear that the Story Book Wall and the Rhodes Room collections will be safely moved and will become a treasured part of our new library.

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Recycling centers are currently located at:

- the south end of the parking lot behind the Sgt. Willie Estrada Memorial Civic Center, at 800 1st St.
  - next to J & J on Florida Ave., just north of Indian Wells Blvd
  - on the east end of the old IGA next to the public library, on Oregon between 9th and 10th Streets
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### **From the City Clerk's office:**

The City of Alamogordo currently has ten active Boards and Committees comprised of volunteer members from our community. Each Board and Committee acts in an advisory capacity to the City Commission. The input received from them can be very essential to decisions made by the City Commission. Applications are always accepted for each of the following: Airport Advisory Board, Airport Zoning Board, Alamogordo Disability Council, Alamogordo Promotion Board, Community Development Advisory Committee, Mayor's Committee on Aging, Parks and Recreation Board, Planning and Zoning Commission, Public Library Board, Senior Volunteer Programs Advisory Council. If you think you might be interested in voluntary service to any of these Boards or Committees, please call the City Clerk's office at 439-4205 for further information.

## Water Projects for Alamogordo

The City continually works to maintain, replace, or update our water infrastructure as needed. As customers' water rates rise, the revenue generated goes directly to the Water and Sewer fund to replace aging infrastructure. City Public Works crews and the Community Development Department do much of the work in-house when possible, which saves expenses over having to contract out every job. I know that the future of the desalination plant is a topic of much interest. It is covered frequently in the City Profile, in the newspaper, and in other formats. And we will continue to give you updates on that topic as progress occurs. Today I would also like to share information on a few of the many other water projects that keep our water flowing and improve our community's infrastructure.

When the Public Works and Community Development Departments conduct street projects, they also make sure that the water and sewer lines below the street are in working order. When line replacements are needed, it becomes an integral part of the project and budget. A recent example of this was on Ocotillo Road, where 12-inch water line was replaced before repaving. Waterline below 1<sup>st</sup> Street from Dale Scott Ave. to Scenic was replaced in 2006. Also in 2006, 640 feet of 6-inch pipe was installed on each of the following streets from Florida to Alaska: 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Miami. With these projects, backflow prevention devices often have to be installed to protect the water system from possible contamination; 109 were installed in the first quarter of 2006. During the first two quarters of calendar year 2007, 200 feet of pipe was replaced on 8<sup>th</sup> Street between Alaska and Hawaii, 240 feet of 12-inch pipe was replaced across White Sands blvd, and 1,180 feet of new pipe was installed along 15<sup>th</sup> Street. The total spent in Fiscal Year 2007(July 1, 2006-June 30, 2007) for pipeline replacement projects overseen by the Public Works Department was \$80,639. The total spent in Fiscal Year 2007 for pipeline replacement projects overseen by the Community Development (previously Engineering) Department was \$1,356,542.49.

\$250,000 has been spent to date on the Firefly radio-read meter reader replacement program through the Utility Billing Department; the City now has 1,250 Fireflies in-ground. The City purchased the radios and readers, the software, the setup, and the maintenance for the program. The City's continuing meter replacement program has also been incorporated into the Firefly program. Approximately 875 out-dated or faulty meters have been replaced in conjunction with the new radio-reads. This project reduces the gap between water produced and water sold, thus conserving water and assisting the City with its meter audits. The meter software will automatically alert Utility Billing staff if a meter isn't registering or even if one slows down. It also leaves staff more time available for customer service calls, because less time is spent on reading the meters.

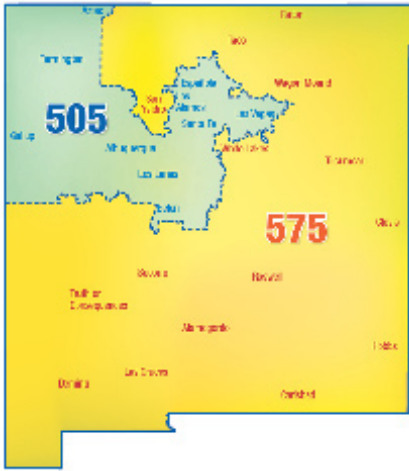
The Westside Infrastructure Improvements Project is a large-scale, phased project to extend our water delivery system. It will provide better water service to residents and businesses on the west side of Alamogordo. There are four major components to the water project: a booster station, a one-million gallon storage tank, a ½ million gallon elevated storage tank, and several miles of water transmission lines. The larger storage tank is now complete and ready to be connected, pending testing once the other three related portions are in place. Total contracted construction costs for the tank were \$695,270. The booster station, which will push the water through the delivery system, is also as complete as possible until water is supplied to the site through the transmission lines. The total contract cost was \$802,051.97. The transmission line project is underway. The contractor has started laying pipe at N. Florida/ US Hwy 82 and is headed west. That project is estimated at a total of \$1,805,584. The elevated storage tank contract has been awarded, with a notice to proceed issued, and that contract cost is \$1,125,267. Funding for this project is from a low interest loan received from the New Mexico Finance Authority, and it will be repaid by local funds.

As most of you know, the City has adopted a very extensive reclaimed water program to reuse available water and maintain a quality of life in the community beyond bare subsistence. Our system utilizes reclaimed, treated wastewater for irrigation at all City green spaces: parks, ballfields, the golf course, zoo, cemeteries, and public buildings, as well as the Public Works Yard. Treated water is also sold to contractors for construction purposes and is utilized by our Fire Services Department for equipment testing. Reclaimed water use is metered. During peak-use summer months, we are able to use up to three million gallons of reclaimed water per day. The City has spent over \$4.3 million in local funds to construct over 16 miles of pipeline and two booster stations. Construction was completed in 2006 on a 1-million gallon storage tank. This extensive irrigation system and water conservation program has allowed us to drop city water account use of potable water from approximately 92,604,530 gallons in 1999 to 9,220,332 gallons in 2005.

While work is still continuing on the desalination plant, known as the Alamogordo Regional Water Supply Project, it is behind the scenes work such as environmental studies, monitoring wells, and the water allocation process. The other above-mentioned projects are serving you right now and will continue in conjunction with other projects hand in hand. The next Town Hall meeting will discuss our Street Improvements Program and thus will involve water infrastructure improvements information. Thank you as always for your continued conservation efforts.

Maureen K. Schmittle, Public Communications Manager/ Grant Coordinator

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION:



Excerpt reprinted from Qwest announcement:

On October 7, 2007, the state of New Mexico will be split into two area codes. The northwest region of the state will retain its current area code (505), and the rest of the state will get a new area code (575). This change will apply to wireline and wireless service as well as other communications services. Local calls within your area code will continue to be dialed with 7-digit dialing; local calls from one area code to another area code will require 10-digit dialing. All long-distance calls will require 1+10-digit dialing.



Visit the City's new website at

<http://ci.alamogordo.nm.us/>

Do not use the "www" to search for this page.

On our new page you can check our calendar, report problems, send feedback, check meeting minutes, see current job listings, take surveys, and much more!

## ~ VOLUNTEER ~

**Helping Your Community:** Would you like to volunteer your time, talents, wisdom, and experience to your community and neighbors who need you

**Getting Things Done and Giving Back:** Become part of a national movement to transform America through the involvement of it's citizens of all ages

**Helping Yourself:** Research indicates that volunteering adds quality to life; better health, new friendships, ways to stay active and involved, and to learn new skills.

Volunteers are needed for the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and Senior Companion Program (SCP). Are you 55 years old, or older? Our RSVP has over 100 worksites requesting volunteers. SCP is for seniors 60 years or older, and if you are low income you may qualify to receive a stipend. For more information please come by our office at 2201 Puerto Rico Ave. (Senior Center building) or call us at 439-4154.



**Big Joe**  
Photo  
provided by  
Javier Cruz,  
Community  
Services Dept

## We would like to congratulate and thank:

**Jose Olivarez**, who just celebrated his  
39th anniversary with the City!

Jose is known by many, affectionately,  
as "**Big Joe**"

and is often out riding the big tractor-  
lawnmower, Toro 425, in one of our  
community's many parks.

Big Joe has served Alamogordo by  
working in both the Streets and the  
Parks Departments.

## Alamo Senior Center – Big News!

The Alamo Ageless Health Program is planning for the grand opening of the long awaited fitness center, which will be held Wednesday, September, 19th from 6 - 8:00 PM. The public is invited. The evening begins with a soup & salad supper, plus demonstrations of our current fitness classes. The supper will be held in the Alamo Senior Center dining room; and seniors 60+ may enjoy a meal for a suggested donation of \$2.50. If you are not 60, you may still enjoy the meal with us for \$8.00 per person.

In the fitness center classrooms attendees are invited to take a series of fitness tests. On display will also be the equipment which is available for seniors to use to improve or maintain their fitness level. Equipment includes two treadmills, two elliptical machines, two recumbent bicycles and a 4-person weight machine. All persons 60 and over are encouraged to sign up with the Alamo Ageless Health program to begin your fitness regimen.

The fitness classes currently held at the Senior Center are:

Two strength classes using therabands	Callisthenic/Aerobics class
Weight lifting class	Balance and Fall Prevention
Chair Exercise class	(2) Line Dancing classes
Walk Aerobics	Pilates

Fitness classes which are **not** held at the Alamo Senior Center will continue to meet at their regularly scheduled locations:

White Sands Mall: Total Body workout and a Callisthenic/Aerobic class

Amber Skies: Line Dancing class

NM School for the Visually Blind and Impaired: Water Exercise class

For more information on our fitness programs or to attend the grand opening of our new facility, please call the Alamo Senior Center at 439-4150.



Photos of the  
Fitness Center  
provided by  
Javier Cruz,  
Community  
Services  
Department



## Alamogordo's Outdoor Watering Schedule:

### ODD numbered addresses

(street number ends in 1,3,5,7,9)

may only water on: **SUNDAYS,  
WEDNESDAYS, & FRIDAYS**

### EVEN numbered addresses

(street number ends in 0,2,4,6,8)

may only water on: **TUESDAYS,  
THURSDAYS. & SATURDAYS**

**All outdoor watering must take place BEFORE 9 am and AFTER 6pm**

**NO watering on MONDAYS at all.**

Check out the water conservation tips found at: <http://www.wateruseitwisely.com/index.shtml>

September's Profile was edited by Maureen K. Schmittle

This newsletter is a publication of the City of Alamogordo and is provided as a community service to City residents. Comments or suggestions may be sent to: 1376 E. 9th St., Alamogordo, NM 88310, Attention: "City Profile." **Please see the City's Website at <http://ci.alamogordo.nm.us>**

**ECR WSS**

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