

To: City Council

From: Heather Brooks,
City Manager

Subject: Friday Update

Date: October 25, 2013



Calendar

CITY HALL IS LOCATED AT 300 HUNT				
Date	Time	Event	Location	Additional Information
October 30, 2013	6:00 p.m.	Work Session - Receive information from staff regarding RV land swap proposal	Council Chambers	*
November 6, 2013	6:30 p.m.	Council photo	Council Chambers	*
* Work sessions are informal Council meetings for the purpose of discussion among Council members. No action is taken. The public is invited to attend, but public comment is generally not received unless otherwise noted.				
**Sponsored by outside entity. Council members have been invited to attend. Please check with originating entity for registration information				
*** Citizens are encouraged to attend this community event				
**** This is a purely social event and not open to the public				

City Manager

- Discussions on animal services contract.
- Discussions on CIP process improvements.
- Meet & Greet with TSJC President, Carmen Simone
- Golf Partnership Committee
- Discussions on next steps for IRS opinions
- Evaluation of the Buxton economic development software
- Discussion on the creation of a special improvement district
- Webinar on Managing Human Capital – Best Practices in Hiring, Developing, and Leading Talent
- Meeting with Jean Maddox regarding water supply
- Meeting with Upper Rio Grande Animal Society
- Webinar on Workers’ Compensation: How Wellness Programs Can Help You Reduce Your Risks and Manage Costs
- Attended Alamosa County Groundbreaking Ceremony for new Annex Building
- Discussion on community corrections

- Attended monthly ACEDC Board Meeting
- Meeting with Valley Humane
- Buxton Economic Development Webinar

PD

1. Colorado has recently experienced an increase in the number people being admitted to hospitals who are under the influence of what is commonly referred to as “Spice”. Citizens and users need to understand Spice can be DEADLY and is ILLEGAL in the State of Colorado. Alamosa and the San Luis Valley are not immune; we know for a fact it is here and is being used in our community.

While SPICE has been known to be manufactured in Colorado, much of it is shipped from overseas and marketed as herbal incense or herbal blends that have been known to be sold in convenience stores and what some may refer to as “head shops”. Our state passed a law in 2011 making SPICE illegal, but in many recent cases we have learned the ingredients have been changed and may not be covered sufficiently by our State law as it is currently written.

Spice can be packaged in pouches similar to how coffee is packaged, in cellophane bags or in small plastic containers and in many cases the packaging is professionally labeled. SPICE has many names such as: Black Mamba, Lights Out, Twilight, Crazy Monkey, Funk Monkey, Crazy Clown, Yummy, Sexy Monkey, 10X, Yummy Gummies, Scooby Snax and the list goes on. Depending on its type, Spice may have the appearance of a plant-like material similar to Marijuana with varying colors, but it’s NOT the Marijuana most of us are familiar with. The common form of ingestion is smoking, but as we have learned with every drug, ingestion may be different depending on the user’s preference.

Possible signs and symptoms recognized in recent cases:

- Agitation/Delirium
- Hallucinogenic
- Paranoia
- Psychosis
- Confusion
- Out of control
- Anxiety
- Nausea
- Abdominal Pain

As community members, we need your help:

- Be aware of the signs and symptoms of those who may be under the influence or overdosing on SPICE and seek medical treatment when you observe signs and symptoms of use/abuse.

- Report any information concerning SPICE to local law enforcement and help us identify and hold accountable those who are selling and distributing Spice locally.
- Talk to your kids and family members about the risks associated with using Spice.

2. Dear Chief:

Are there any tips or reminders you can provide that will help keep us safe as we enter the holiday season?

Dear Citizen:

Absolutely, I have listed several tips below:

Alcohol, Parties, and Driving:

- As a party host or attendee, please remember to designate drivers who have not been drinking.
- Be considerate, by keeping noise and activities inside your home as much as possible so as to not disturb your neighbors.
- Give yourself extra time when planning shopping outings so you don't have to hurry and endanger yourself and others with poor driving.
- With the holiday season comes colder weather, precipitation, and diminished road conditions. Make sure you have extra clothing, food, water and other survival items should you become stranded.

Trees and Decorations:

- If you have a natural tree, keep it watered to reduce the fire danger.
- If you have an artificial or metallic tree, make sure it is flame retardant.
- When disposing of your tree, haul it away and don't burn it in a fireplace or wood burning stove.
- Inspect your holiday lights before using them. Bare spots, frayed wires, cracked sockets and excessive kinking can be dangerous.
- Don't overload electrical outlets; connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into an outlet.
- Don't leave holiday lights on Candles lit while unattended.
- Don't discard wrapping paper in a fireplace or wood burning stove.
- Keep candles at least 12" from anything that can burn.

- Keep a fire extinguisher on hand and make sure your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are working.

Security and Shopping:

- Keep trees and gifts away from windows and out of the direct view of those who pass by your home.
- Keep your home's exterior well-lit and outside shrubs and bushes trimmed.
- Have someone collect your mail, newspapers and other items if you go on vacation.
- Consider having a neighbor or family member park a car in your driveway occasionally to give the appearance someone is home.
- Tell only those you trust that you will be away from your home.
- Contact the Alamosa Police Department and request a "special watch" when you will be away from your home.
- When shopping, be sure to keep things you purchase out of sight in your vehicle; placing items in the trunk is a good option.
- When shopping, don't carry large amounts of cash, wear expensive jewelry and be cognizant of your surroundings at all times.
- If you don't have to, don't shop alone.

From all of us at the Alamosa Police Department we wish you a happy and safe holiday season.

Craig Dodd, Chief of Police

Public Works

Due to holidays in the upcoming months, the November 27, 2013 Zoning Board of Adjustments and Planning Commission meeting will be moved to December 11, 2013 and the December 25, 2013 meeting is canceled. Application deadline for the December 11 meeting is November 19, 2013 at 3:00 pm.

The street department is finishing up the last of the known street cuts this week and the asphalt plants will be closing shortly. This means no new sewer or water taps will be installed after October 31, 2013. We will still accept applications for taps but will not be able to install them until March of 2014. Our last yard waste pickup will take place on Tuesday October 29 though the recycling yard on 12th Street will continue to accept dropped off materials. The recycling yard itself will be going to winter hours on November 5 which are Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Saturday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm and closed on Sundays.

Parks/Recreation/Library

Upcoming Community Events

- **Pumpkin Patch Train presented by the Rio Grande Scenic Railroad** (October 26) 10:00am. Take the family on a short trip just outside Alamosa to a specially designed Autumn setting. Hay-bale mazes and fun fall activities await the kids during the layover, with plenty of photo opportunities as they search for the perfect pumpkin to take home. Kids are encouraged to wear their Halloween costumes to Trick-Or-Treat on the train. Tickets are \$30 per person. (<http://www.coloradotrain.com>)
- **Friends of the Library Holiday Book Sale** (November 2) 9am – 2pm @ St Thomas Episcopal Church, 607 Fourth Street in Alamosa.

Library assisting Connect for Health Colorado

Confused about the new health care reform? You are welcome to attend sessions at the Alamosa Public Library to find out how Health Care Reform affects you. Join Certified Assistance Site Health Coverage Guides at any of the following sessions in the Alamosa Public Library:

- Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:00am – 4:00pm
- November 1, 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, and 22

At the top of the hour there will be a brief 15 minute presentation followed by Q&A or one-on-one assistance in the Local History room. Contact Donna Wehe at 587-1330 if you have any questions.

Carroll Park Basketball Court

- Public Works crews have removed the existing court and are prepping the site for the contractor to pour the new court.

Zamboni Hut at Carroll Park

- The Zamboni hut has been moved back on its new foundation, bolted down, flashing/siding replaced, and power reconnected.
- Public Works and Park staffs will be installing a 1,000 gallon holding tank next week to collect water discharged from the Zamboni during the hockey season.

Hockey Scoreboard at Carroll Park

- Local service clubs have generously donated funding to replace the current scoreboard.
 - Rotary - \$3,000
 - Kiwanis - \$3,000
 - Optimist - \$1,000
- The scoreboard will be ordered next week for use this hockey season. The scoreboard will include space for all three service club logos, in addition to the City's, in recognition for their contributions.

Rec Center/Library Closure Dates

- November 11 – Veterans Day
- November 28 & 29 - Thanksgiving

Got Drugs?



NATIONAL TAKE-BACK INITIATIVE

Drop off your unused, unneeded and expired over-the-counter and prescription medications.

This service is free and anonymous.

Saturday, Oct. 26th
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
City Market
Pharmacy
131 Market St.
Alamosa, CO 81101

Items not accepted:

- Needles and Sharps
- Mercury (thermometers)
- Oxygen containers
- Chemotherapy/Radioactive substances
- Pressurized canisters
- Illicit Drugs

