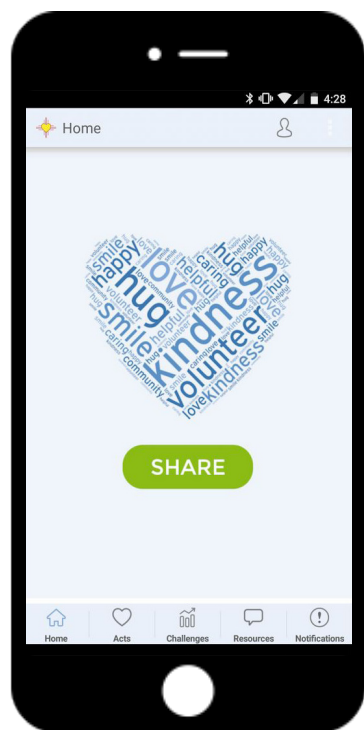




Transform Our Community with ABQ Kindness



The month of April is the perfect opportunity to consider taking an active role in transforming our community through kindness. Albuquerque has been ranked at the bottom of some critical lists, but it doesn't take money or miracles to improve our condition. Loving where we live can be transformative. Look at situations you are in, people you meet, places you go each day until you find what you love about our amazing city and the place we all call home.

A good starting point is to download the [ABQKindness](#) app. This City of Albuquerque initiative was created to make kindness a habit in our community by challenging residents to track one million acts of kindness. The app encourages people to do simple things for others – opening a door, buying their coffee, letting them go first in line – for no reason except that we exist together. When more of us put energy into taking care of others, we all benefit.

So download the app today and start uploading your acts of kindness and the acts of others. By sharing all that is good about our City, we'll be well on our way to top of those "lists" for the nation and well on our way to transforming our community through kindness. Download and learn more about the [ABQKindness](#) App at: cabq.gov/abq-apps/city-apps-listing/abq-kindness-app

Register for the Great American Cleanup

This year, Albuquerque's Great American Cleanup will take place on April 29, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Events taking place will engage community volunteers to take action in their communities to create positive change and lasting impact. The theme — "Clean Your Block Party" — encourages participants to clean up an area on their block. Projects ideas include: A litter cleanup of your street or community park, painting the fences on your block so they all match, pulling weeds in everyone's yard on your block or the planting of trees, shrubs or gardens for the homes on your street. Any event aimed at bringing neighbors closer together and cleaning the block will work!

**KEEP AMERICA
BEAUTIFUL**
**GREAT AMERICAN
CLEANUP**

To register your event with the City in order to have Solid Waste Management trucks pick up filled garbage bags, visit: keepalbuquerquebeautiful.com/Great_American_Clean-up.php

Free bags and gloves are available to registered events but must be picked up by April 20 between the hours of 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Solid Waste Management Department at 4600 Edith NE.



Defending Against Credit Card Fraud

According to a study by Javelin Strategy & Research and LifeLock, Inc., 15.4 million U.S. consumers were victims of credit card fraud in 2016, reflecting an 18% increase compared to 2015. With new security measures being implemented, why aren't credit card fraud rates plummeting?

Here are a few theories according to the study: Fraudulent online purchases have increased. Online shoppers don't have the added security of the embedded chips, but just need to enter the credit card number, expiration date and security code. Also, in some cases, fraudulent accounts are being opened using stolen personal information that can go undetected for long periods of time. Another reason could be that 64% of storefront merchants are still only accepting magnetic strip credit card purchases (not using chip readers).

APD recommends the following to protect yourself from credit card fraud:

- If you opt to make an online credit card purchase, go to the website yourself instead of clicking on links sent to you
- If making a purchase at a brick and mortar location and the merchant isn't using the chip readers, ask when they will be using it for added security. If enough customers ask, they may make the switch

For more crime prevention tips, visit: cabq.gov/police

APD Body Cameras: Heartwarming Interaction

As the first department of its size in the nation to implement on-body cameras for every officer, the Albuquerque Police Department utilizes this tool every day to ensure constitutional policing in the city of Albuquerque. Cameras capture everything from simple arrests, to drunk drivers, to uses of force, but something unexpected was also captured on video during 2016 ... Simple acts of kindness, providing an up-close look at the Department's continued efforts toward community policing.

APD Officers constantly make a difference in the community they serve, but those actions often go unnoticed or are overshadowed by negative news media coverage. To bring awareness to the type of officers who make up the Albuquerque Police Department, a compilation of last year's on-body camera videos was created to show a perspective of policing that the community doesn't often see. The montage is also an up-close look at the unique aspects of police work in our city.



Some events highlighted in the video include:

- ♦ Lieutenant Ferris Simmons delivers a healthy baby boy on I-25 close to the Big-I
- ♦ Officer Timothy Wolffbrandt buys a new bike for 12-year-old Brian Diaz-Alvarez after his was stolen earlier that day on the boy's birthday
- ♦ Officer Harold Sennett buys coffee and a meal for a man in need
- ♦ Officer Lance Cerros dances alongside students during a New Mexico Dance Institute performance (*You see the camera shaking as he also starts dancing with the children*)

To view the video compilation called, *Caught on Camera: Community Policing*, visit: <https://youtu.be/4JigFUo2fKQ>

To learn more about APD services, visit: cabq.gov/police

City Opens Skyline Competition for Downtown



The City of Albuquerque Metropolitan Redevelopment Agency (MRA) is hosting a competition to change Albuquerque's skyline with the tallest building in New Mexico. The MRA is requesting redevelopment proposals to partner with one or more private developers to construct iconic buildings in the heart of Downtown Albuquerque.

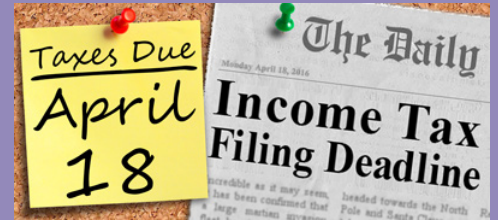
In order to achieve the desired objectives of this project, the City will offer two pieces of property through sale or long-term ground lease to the selected private developers. Developers will be able to submit proposals for one or both properties, or they can submit a proposal to redevelop a piece of property they already own in the downtown area. The properties offered include the surface-level parking lot on Third Street and Marquette Avenue and the vacant lot on the northeast corner of Second Street and Silver Avenue. In addition, developers may request funding assistance from the City of Albuquerque in order to successfully execute the project. Both the property offering and funding assistance must comply with the State's Metropolitan Redevelopment Code.

There are many project goals for this redevelopment initiative; however, the winning proposal must include a skyline defining building which will become the centerpiece for the project. The City is encouraging proposals that include at least one building at a minimum of 360 feet in height.

"It has been 27 years since Albuquerque has seen an iconic high rise building," said Mayor Richard J. Berry. "I believe it's about time to add to our skyline another building that will further spur economic opportunity in the heart of our city."

The MRA is currently accepting proposals and will do so through June 30. To read the full Request for Proposals (RFP) and find details for submitting a proposal, visit: cabq.gov/planning/metropolitan-redevelopment-agency/request-for-proposals

This competition is just the latest in a series of projects initiated by the MRA that are intended to remove blight, stimulate economic development, create job opportunities and enhance the overall appeal of Albuquerque's Downtown area. Some of these redevelopment projects include the Imperial Building, One Central, the El Vado Motel and Old Albuquerque High.



Tax Prep for Seniors

Are you a senior age 65 or older who needs help filing taxes before the April 18 deadline? The Department of Senior Affairs can help with free Income Tax Assistance. Appointments offered through April 14. To make an appointment and or learn more, call (505) 764-6400 or visit cabq.gov/seniors



Open Space Yoga Classes

Enjoy the beautiful ambiance at the Open Space Visitor Center and maintain your Zhen with yoga classes. The classes are hosted by Grateful Life Yoga and take place each Sunday in at 9 a.m. The first 90-minute class is \$5 with subsequent classes costing \$15 each. However, there is a bulk discount so be sure to ask the instructor or call (505) 897-8831 for details. All classes take place at the Open Space Visitor Center located at 6500 Coors Blvd NW.

ABC - Z Comprehensive Plan Approved

On Monday, March 20, the City Council voted 6-2 to adopt the ABC-Z Comprehensive Plan. The updated plan goes next to Mayor Berry for his signature and will go into effect five days after the City Clerk receives it. The Comprehensive Plan will also be reviewed and adopted by Bernalillo County. The project team thanks everyone who has been involved - from those who came to public meetings to those who posted comments on Facebook and the project webpage. This updated plan will help Albuquerque further expand and guide development, as well as protect our neighborhoods and special places.

Integrated Development Ordinance Hearings Coming Up

The Environmental Planning Commission will hold the first two hearings on the IDO on Thursday, April 6 and Monday, April 10, 2017 from 1:00 to 8:00 pm in the Vincent E. Griego Chambers, City Hall. These two hearings will primarily focus on taking public comment. There will be a rolling sign-up for speaking so that public input can be taken throughout the afternoon and evening. Parking in the garage under Civic Plaza will be validated for those attending the hearing.

A third hearing is tentatively scheduled for April 24, with times to be confirmed by the EPC. This hearing will be focused on responding to public comment and reviewing proposed Conditions of Approval before a recommendation is made to the City Council's Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee for further consideration. The IDO EPC Draft is available for review at: abc-zone.com. Hard copies are available and will be available soon for review at ABC Libraries and City Community, Multigenerational, and Senior Centers. Hard copies can be checked out from the Planning Department by calling (505) 924-3345.

Renovation Work Starts at the ABQ Sunport



The Albuquerque International Sunport is undergoing a major renovation project that will refurbish and upgrade the ticketing, baggage claim and exterior areas of the terminal. The Terminal Improvement Project (TIP) will take approximately 15 months to complete and will greatly enhance the pre-security areas of the terminal.

"The Sunport is the front porch for the entire State of New Mexico," said Mayor Richard Berry. "It has been nearly 30 years since any major upgrades have been done, which is why this project is so vitally important as we continue to see more residents and visitors pass through the terminal as they visit our great state."



The \$30 million project will be paid for through the airport capital program, which does not use general fund money. The architect for the project is SMPC and the general contractor is Flintco. Passengers should not experience any disruption to their travel as the project will be completed in phases with most of the work completed at night.

The Albuquerque International Sunport is owned by the City of Albuquerque and operated by the Aviation Department. For Sunport information, please visit our website at abqsunport.com.

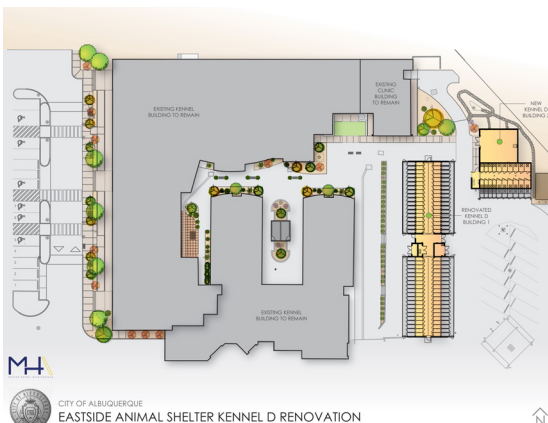
Eastside Shelter Renovation

The Eastside Animal Shelter has begun work to spruce up Kennel D. The project consists of the renovation of the 4,879 existing square foot kennel building with 74 kennels and construction of a new 1,875 square foot kennel building with 20 kennels to the east of the existing building.

The renovation of the kennel will include new radiant heating, and new cooling and ventilation systems to comply with the City's HEART Ordinance. The HEART Ordinance was adopted by City Council in 2006 and endeavors to protect animals throughout the City through humane treatment and appropriate boarding facilities. Notably, to further comply with the HEART Ordinance, a fully automatic sprinkler system will be installed in both kennels buildings for the protection of the animals.

"The Animal Welfare Department has seen great success over the past seven years," said Mayor Berry. "The amazing staff have worked hard to drop our euthanasia rate, increase spay and neuters, and adopt a record number of pets. This project will further our efforts in being a model department for our community as we reaffirm our commitment to the wellbeing of our furry friends in Albuquerque."

The \$1.8 million project is estimated to take approximately 10 months to complete and is being paid for with GO Bonds and State Grant Funding. To learn more visit: cabq.gov/pets



Bunny's Sweets Aren't Good Treats for Fido



The Easter season is here, meaning that the big ear'd bunny is about to deliver a plethora of chocolate treats and marshmallow sweets. While enjoying them in moderation might not be the worst thing for your health, a leftover chocolate Easter bunny can cause deadly effects for your dog. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) reminds you about chocolate toxicity in dogs. Chocolate contains a caffeine compound called theobromine, which is toxic to dogs in certain quantities, according to the FDA. Signs

of theobromine in pets include mild to severe vomiting, diarrhea, rapid heart rate, restlessness, hyperactivity, increased urination, muscle spasms and seizures. Just how much is too much for your pooch? Minimum toxic theobromine doses range from 46 to 68 milligrams per pound for canines. About 50 percent of the dogs who consume 114 to 228 milligrams per pound or greater die.

The amount of theobromine in chocolate depends on the kind you buy. Milk chocolate contains 44 mg of theobromine per ounce, while semi-sweet chocolate chips contain 150 milligrams per ounce. Baking chocolate has the most at a whopping 390 milligrams per ounce.

This means if your dog gets his paws on a chocolate bunny, he would only have to eat 1 ounce per 1 pound of his or her body weight of a milk chocolate treat to feel negative health effects. If the bunny was made out of semi-sweet chocolate, the dog would only have to consume 1 ounce for every 3 pounds of body weight to experience toxic effects. If your pet got a hold of baking chocolate, which has the most concentrated amount of theobromine, a dog would be severely sickened after only 1 ounce of chocolate per 9 pounds of weight.

To avoid any illness, trips to the vet or worse, it's best to keep your dog away from all chocolate treats. If your dog has eaten a chocolate treat, call a veterinarian immediately so they can recommend the correct course of treatment.

**Article and information provided courtesy of CBS News and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration*



City Hearings & Meetings

- ◆ City Council
 - Meets first and third Monday each month, 5 p.m.
 - Agendas at cabq.gov/council
- ◆ Community Policing Councils
 - Meeting days and times vary
 - Agendas at cabq.gov/police/community-policing-council
- ◆ Development Review Board
 - Meets weekly on Wednesdays, 9 a.m.
 - Agendas at cabq.gov/planning
- ◆ Environmental Planning Commission
 - Meets second Thursday of each month, 8:30 a.m.
 - Agendas/staff reports at cabq.gov/planning
- ◆ Landmarks and Urban Conservation Commission
 - Meets second Wednesday of each month, 3 p.m.
 - Agendas/staff reports at cabq.gov/planning
- ◆ Zoning Board of Appeals
 - Meets fourth Tuesday of each month, 9 a.m.
 - Agendas/staff reports at cabq.gov/planning
- ◆ Zoning Hearing Examiner
 - Meets third Tuesday of each month, 9 a.m.
 - Agendas/notices of decisions at cabq.gov/planning

Equal Pay for Women Initiative Press Conference

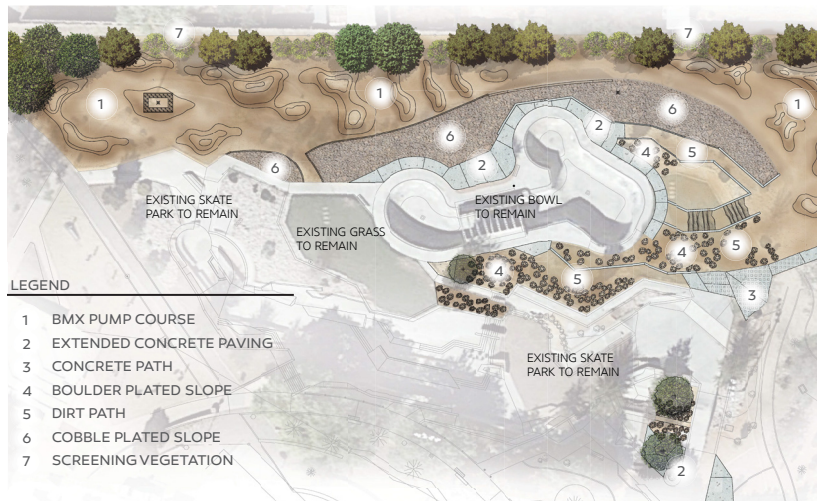


From left: Martha Burk, PhD, Chair, Women's Pay Equality Task Force; Mayor Richard J. Berry; City Councilor Diane Gibson (District 7); Pamela Herndon, Southwest Women's Law Center; and Clara Apodaca, former First Lady of New Mexico, held a joint press conference on the City's Pay Equity Ordinance, on Monday, March 6. Councilor Gibson sponsored legislation to improve the City's pay equity for women.

Coalition Meetings

- ◆ District 4 Coalition
 - Meets third Wednesday each month, 7 p.m.
 - ◆ District 6 Coalition
 - Meets quarterly, days vary, 7 p.m.
 - ◆ District 7 Coalition
 - Meets first Wednesday each month, 6:30 p.m.
 - ◆ District 8 Coalition
 - Meets bimonthly, days vary, 7 p.m.
 - ◆ East Gateway Coalition
 - Meets quarterly, days vary, 6:30 p.m.
 - ◆ North Valley Coalition
 - Meets quarterly, days vary, 6:30 p.m.
 - ◆ Southwest Alliance of Neighborhoods
 - Meets first Tuesday of each month, 6 p.m.
 - ◆ South Valley Coalition of Neighborhood Associations
 - Meets second Thursday of each month, 6:30 p.m.
 - ◆ Westside Coalition
 - Meets first Wednesday each month, 7 p.m.
- *Additional information available at cabq.gov/council

Alamosa Skate Park Renovation Underway



The Alamosa Skate Park, located in the Alamosa neighborhood in southwest Albuquerque, is being renovated with construction scheduled to be completed by the end of Spring 2017. Commissioned in 2004, the popular skate park's grass and landscaping have deteriorated due to extensive bike use, leading to the idea to convert this area for BMX bike activity. Landscaping will be placed on the north property line for buffering and additional aesthetics. New features along the entrance into the existing skate bowl include extended concrete paths and slopes with a cobbled plated slope between the bowl and the BMX course.

"I'm excited to see the renovation of the Alamosa Skate Park moving forward. Back in the early 90s, neighborhood youth successfully advocated for the building of the Skate Park. Youth from the Southwest Mesa and the entire city come to ride on its unique design. I am eager to offer them a new way to enjoy one of the city's treasured parks," said City Councilor Klarissa Peña.

The design consultant for this project is Morrow, Reardon, Wilkinson, & Miller and the contractor is Franklins Earthmoving with City's Park and Recreation Department Construction Division. The total project cost is \$375,000 with funding coming from the 2015 GO Bond and a 2016 State Grant.

"The Parks Department is pleased to have the opportunity to enhance and expand this skate park. This renovation is the product of solution-based thinking; rather than exclude BMX riders, our staff looked for a way to incorporate them into this space, giving a new group of people the chance to enjoy our park. Both skaters and BMX riders are talented athletes who greatly deserve these new facilities to sharpen their skills," said Barbara Taylor, Director of Parks and Recreation.

The Alamosa Skate Park is the City of Albuquerque's second in-ground large scale skate park. It has been a unique skate park from its inception as it not only has a sky lit bowl, but also a "street plaza" with a mix of banks, ledges, walls, stairs, gaps, and rails in various combinations that had never been built in a local skate park at the time. It has been featured in several magazines and videos and has also been the site of a national contest and numerous smaller events.



A photo taken at the press conference announcing the skate park renovations. From left to right: George Pacheco, Isai Mejia, Coach Curry, John Pacheco, City Councilor Klarissa Peña (District 3) and Sean Wright.

To learn more about other community projects supported by members of the City Council, visit cabq.gov/council

Laurelwood NA Celebrating 30 Years in April

The Laurelwood Neighborhood Association will celebrate its 30th birthday on Saturday, April 29, with a commemorative event at the Ladera Restaurant, 3401 Ladera NW (Ladera Golf Course). For more information or to RSVP, contact Candy Patterson, Laurelwood NA President, at 505/321-1761 or: laurelwoodna@gmail.com

Libraries Now Provide Sensory Friendly Hour

Oftentimes getting out the door is a challenge for parents with a child with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), much less actually getting to and successfully enjoying an event. In a continued effort to make the Public Library, Albuquerque and Bernalillo County accessible to all, a number of branches are now offering *Sensory Friendly Hour* for families with special needs.

Sensory Friendly Hour is a special browsing time for individuals on the autism spectrum and for those who generally prefer a lower sensory environment. What does that mean? The hour begins one hour before the regular public hours resulting in much less noise and fewer visitors. The lights are also dimmed to further reduce incidents of sensory overload. Special coloring sheets and other activities are also available.



"Providing a safe and accommodating space for everyone to enjoy our library is very important to us," said Mayor Richard Berry. "My hope with these new sensory friendly hours is that more people can visit their local public libraries to learn, grow and connect with the community around them."

Sensory Friendly Hour is currently offered at five library branches:

- 1st Saturday of the month - 9 a.m. | Tony Hillerman Library | 8205 Apache NE | (505) 291-6264
- 2nd Saturday of the month - 9 a.m. | San Pedro Library | 5600 Trumbull SE | (505) 256-2067
- 3rd Saturday of the month - 9 a.m. | North Valley Library | 7704-B 2nd St. NW | (505) 897-8823
- 4th Saturday of the month - 9 a.m. | Juan Tabo Library | 3407 Juan Tabo NE | (505) 291-6260
- 4th Wednesday of the month (bimonthly) - 9 a.m. | Alamosa Library | 6900 Gonzales SW | (505) 836-0684

For a complete list of all library events, please visit abqlibrary.org.

City Leadership

Mayor

Richard J. Berry

City Council

Ken Sanchez, District 1
Isaac Benton, District 2
Klarissa Peña, District 3
Brad Winter, District 4
Dan Lewis, District 5
Pat Davis, District 6
Diane Gibson, District 7
Trudy Jones, District 8
Don Harris, District 9

Chief Administrative Officer

Robert J. Perry

Chief Operations Officer

Michael Riordan

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an article, email the editor. We reserve the right to edit
and/or reject any article submission.

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Find Us Online:

www.cabq.gov/neighborhoods