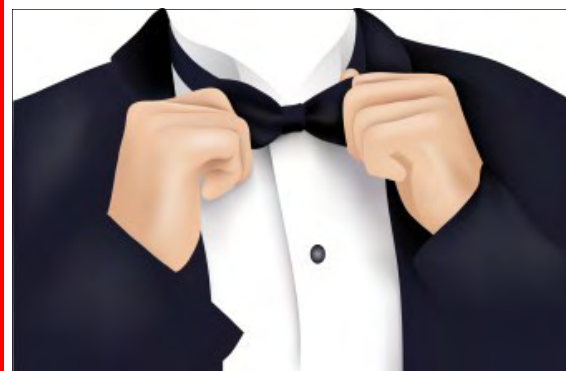




Enjoy a “Black Tie Affair” in Socorro on February 18th



If you have ever wanted to stroll down the red carpet like a Hollywood celebrity, complete with fancy duds and paparazzi, please reserve your tickets now for the Socorro County Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Banquet. This event will be all about pampering YOU, our valued members. Enjoy delicious prime rib, great company, and a very special program. The Banquet will be on Saturday, February 18 at Bodega Burger Co. & Lounge, located at 606 N. California Street. Attire can be formal or casual and there will be a contest with prizes awarded to the “best dressed”.

This annual Socorro tradition is a fun way to honor those in our community who deserve extra recognition for the ways they contribute to making Socorro County a great place to live. Banquet tickets can be reserved through the Socorro County Chamber of Commerce office at 101 Plaza. If you have any questions or would like to purchase tickets, please call the Chamber office at 575-835-0424.

Job opening at Chamber of Commerce

Socorro County Chamber of Commerce seeks an energetic and friendly resident to serve as Assistant Director. Ideal applicant will be self-motivated and organized, with excellent verbal and written communication skills. He or she will have the ability to multi-task, prioritize, and interact in a professional way with visitors and tourists. Proficiency in Microsoft Office programs such as Word, Excel, and Publisher, as well as experience in customer service or office management is a plus. Email a cover letter and resume with past job duties, skills, and work references to coc@socorro-nm.com by February 15, 2012.

Fat Friday festivities at Socorro’s historic watering hole

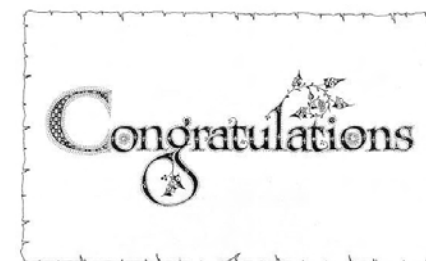
Don’t miss The Capitol Bar’s 9th Annual Mardi Gras Party on Friday, February 17th. A reasonable \$5.00 cover includes New Orleans inspired treats, including fresh oysters, crawfish, gumbo, and jambalaya. Their featured musical act is Dr. Rock and his Dixieland Jazz Band, from 9:00 pm to 1:00 am. Bring your dancing shoes!

Keep Socorro Beautiful—Watch for those winter weeds!

We’d like to extend a big thank you to all of you who keep your yards looking tidy by getting out there and pulling weeds or getting rid of them in some other way. Just a reminder that it’s the season for winter weeds to start cropping up. Please keep an eye out for them and pull them before they spread too much. Thanks for all you do to Keep Socorro Beautiful!



Our 2011 Community Awards Winners



Man of the Year: **Dennis Walsh**

Woman of the Year: **Theresa Rosales**

Organization of the Year: **Save Our Bosque Task Force**

Small Business of the Year: **RAKS Building Supply**

Large Business of the Year: **Alamo Navajo School Board, Inc.**

Eaton Award: **Gambles Hardware**

Director’s Award: **NMT Research & Economic Development**

Ann Hale Award: **NMT Performing Arts Series**

Lifetime Achievement Awards:

Canda and Pablo Aguilar

Jeanette Salome Atencio

Charlotte and Chuck Monette



Officers

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Sue Meza

President-Elect

Kathy Spring

Past President

Barbara Romero

Treasurer

Randy Torres

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Victoria Torres

Dan Walsh

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Edie Steinhoff

Staff

Director

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Ast. Director

Brad Winton

Communications

Director

Jennifer Polle

Webmaster

Susan Wisdom

**February's
CHAMBER
ARTIST OF THE
MONTH**

**Rick Carver &
Kathy Johnson**

Long time Socorro resident Jennie Lucero on shopping locally

I was born in Socorro in 1940 and have lived here almost all my life. I've always loved it. I have lived in Albuquerque and California, but I always wanted to come back to Socorro. In California, you didn't even know your neighbor, but here you do. Socorro is a friendly town with friendly people. When I go shopping in the different stores, everyone is helpful and smiles at me. When I'm having a bad day, it sure helps. When I go get my prescriptions at Smith's, they even know my name before I give them my prescription -- that makes me feel good. When I go buy groceries, the clerks are so nice and always say hello and tell me to have a good day (even if they've said it a LOT of times that day).

There are always sales in one store or another, so I can go to different stores depending on what I need that day and what their sales are. With the price of gas these days, you really have to spend a lot of money to go shopping outside of Socorro. We also like to help the economy here by supporting businesses and jobs for people who need them. It's peaceful and quiet here in Socorro, but one of the things we love most about this town is the people who serve us. Socorro means "help" - for us.

Note from Chamber staff: Jennie Lucero is our third Shop Socorro Story Contest winner. She's won a \$40 gift certificate to El Camino Restaurant.

“Down to Earth Marketing” workshop on February 23, 1-4 pm

Join us at 101 Plaza St. in Socorro for this interesting workshop, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and the New Mexico Small Business Development Center (SBDC). You will learn how to analyze and create an effective and powerful marketing plan, which is a very important component of any business.

The presenter, Toby Montoya, is an ex-banker with 15 years of experience and has a Business Degree in Industrial Administration. He was a Business Analyst with the New Mexico SBDC for over 12 years. Mr. Montoya excels at helping the small business person be confident in completing a useful and effective marketing plan. Call the Chamber of Commerce at 575-835-0424 to sign up for this important workshop today!

**What's in Our Backyard?
Customer Service and Hospitality Training**

The Socorro County Extension Office and the Chamber of Commerce will host “What's in Our Backyard,” a FREE customer service and hospitality training program for businesses and organizations on **Wednesday, February 8**. Extension Agent Tom Dean will present the program, which has two main goals. The first goal is to inform and remind employees, volunteers, and other people serving the visiting and general public with knowledge of local attractions and events. The secondary goal is to train our community representatives with current customer service and hospitality techniques. The program offers valuable techniques for any business or organization that deals with tourists, visitors, or the public at large. The training will be conducted at the Socorro County Annex Building, 198 Neel Ave., from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Please contact the Chamber office at 575-835-0424 to reserve a place for yourself and/or your employees.

CITY OF SOCORRO

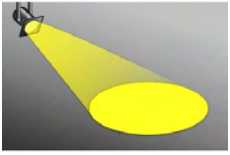


*Socorro
Community
Calendar*

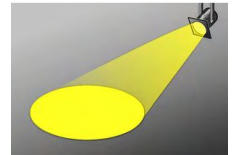
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- All February **Socorro Farmer's Market, Saturdays, 9am**
At the Socorro Community Kitchen, 575-835-4018
- February 4 **Hammel Museum Open, 9am-12pm**
Neal Avenue & 6th St., 575-835-3183
- February 4 **1st Sat. Very Large Array Guided Tour**
50 miles west on Hwy. 60, 575-835-7243
- February 4 **Guided Night Sky Stargazing, 1 hour after dusk**
Etscorn Observatory on NMT Campus, Judy Stanley, 575-835-7423
- February 7 **Socorro Diabetes Workgroup, 5:30-7:00pm**
308 California St., Richard Chavez, 575-835-8780
- February 11 **Friends of the Library Book Sale, 11am-1pm**
Book room across from the Library, 575-835-1114
- February 11 **16th Annual Community Arts Party, 10am-3pm**
Finley Gym, 575-835-5688
- February 11 **NM Rodeo Association Convention**
Laura Haynes, 575-418-7968
- February 11 **Historic Fort's Day**
El Camino Real Heritage Center, 575-854-3600
- February 11 **Socorro County Fair & Rodeo Association Annual Dance/Fundraiser**
Socorro County Fairgrounds, Tickets can be purchased at Brownbilts or contact Chad Jones at 575-418-7509
- February 12 **Friends of the Library Annual Meeting, 2pm**
Library Meeting Room, 575-835-1114
Speaker will be New Mexico Author, Steven F. Havill
- February 14 **Glenn Miller Orchestra: Valentine Dinner & Dance**
New Mexico Tech Performing Arts Series, 575-835-5688
- February 23 **Hunter Education Class Registration Deadline for March Class**
Magdalena School, Contact Larry at 505-239-5181
- February 23-26 **Battles for Socorro: Civil War Reenactment**
Socorro Visitors Center, 575-835-8927
- February 24 **McPeake & Cathie Ryan, 7:30pm**
New Mexico Tech Performing Arts Series, 575-835-5688
- February 25 **Science Olympiad**
NM Tech Campus, 575-835-5678
- February 25 & 26 **Hunter Education Classes, 8am-5pm**
Register by February 9, Contact Andrew at 575-835-8911
- February 27 **Community Based Programs Educational Session, 6:00-8:00pm**
308 California St., 575-835-8780

Distributed by the City of Socorro Tourism Department 835-8927



Member Spotlight



Action Gas provides service on all types of propane appliances, delivers propane throughout the county, and also fills propane bottles at their Socorro office. Visit them at 615 Spring Street and contact them with questions or to place an order at 575-835-0007.

Aerojet is headquartered in Sacramento, California, with an operating location here in Socorro at 604 Spring Street. A GenCorp Inc. company, Aerojet is a major space and defense contractor specializing in missile and space propulsion, defense, and armaments. Since the company was founded in 1942, it has led the way in the development of crucial technology and products that have kept America strong and furthered human's exploration of space. Contact Aerojet in Socorro at 575-835-2070.

All About Trophies & More has been in business for 23 years and has been owned by Akasa Berzins for one year, coming to the awards and recognitions business with 25 years of experience. Specializing in plaques, trophies, and statues, her team works with various types of wood, resins, glass, and marble. They have trophies of all sizes, up to 8 feet tall! They provide custom engraving on jewelry and just about anything else you might want engraved. Located at 3701 Montgomery NE in Albuquerque, you can reach All about Trophies & More at 505-881-2504 or allabouttrophies@qwestoffice.net.

AMEC Earth and Environmental Inc. is one of the world's leading engineering, project management and consultancy companies. Their goal is to deliver profitable, safe and sustainable projects and services for their customers in the oil and gas, minerals and metals, clean energy, environment and infrastructure markets. Located at 115 W. Abeyta Street, Ste. A, Socorro's Branch Manager is Jim McCord. Contact AMEC's Socorro location at 575-835-2569.

American Cancer Society is dedicated to helping persons who face cancer by supporting research, providing patient services, early detection, treatment and education. **Relay for Life** is a fun-filled overnight event designed to celebrate survivorship and raise money for research and programs of American Cancer Society. Their Albuquerque location is at 10501 Montgomery Blvd., Suite 300, NE. Contact Brian Anderson for more information at 505-238-3219 or visit American Cancer Society's website at www.cancer.org/InYourArea.

Socorro Freecycle helps locals give and get items for free

Do you have left over building supplies, old furniture, or appliances cluttering up your garage or yard? Do you have items that you can't use anymore that may be of use to someone else?

Socorro Freecycle has over 400 registered members and is part of the worldwide Freecycle Network™, with 5,015 groups around the world. It's a grassroots and entirely nonprofit movement of people who are giving (and getting) things for free in their own towns. It's all about reuse and keeping good stuff out of landfills. Each local group is moderated by local volunteers and membership is free. To sign up, go online to www.freecycle.org and search for Socorro, NM by entering it into the search box.

How does it work? Getting rid of unwanted items is as simple as sending an email to the group. For example, you might say "OFFER: used bricks, removed from walkway". Interested parties can respond to your email and you can set up a time to have them pick them up. Freecycle members are also able to ask for things that they want. For example, you might send an email to the group saying "WANTED: kitchen cabinets, decent condition". Anyone who has cabinets lying around can contact you with information.

If you want to tidy up your property and de-clutter your home or simply work with other locals to keep usable items out of the landfill, please consider Socorro Freecycle.

Reduce your bills and your carbon footprint

Want to help your wallet and the environment in these colder temperatures? Local stores like RAKS Building Supply, Gambles True Value, Randy's Ace Hardware, and Wal-Mart have the products available to help you weatherize. Not only will your home feel more comfortable, but you'll save energy and money, as well.

There are a lot of ways to do this - many of them are simple and low-cost.

Apply film to windows: Window installation kits cost less than \$10. Apply the film to your windows with the help of a hair dryer.

Eliminate cracks: If you can see light coming through the seal of your doors, then you need to add weather stripping to close the cracks. Walk by windows and doors with a lit stick of incense or a blown out candle. Drafts will pull the smoke in that direction, showing you the drafts.

Programmable thermostat: Setting a programmable thermostat at 65 degrees or lower for eight hours a day can save 10 percent or more on your energy bills, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. In your place of business, set the thermostat to go down after you close and in your home, set it to go down when you're not at home.

Check your air filters on your heating unit each month: A clogged filter restricts airflow, forcing the unit to work harder.

Insulate your pipes: Insulate vulnerable water pipes to avoid damage from freezing temperatures. Insulate pipes located outside and on areas where you have plumbing on the exterior walls.

More insulation: Generally, if you can see 2 x 4s in your attic, you need more insulation. Contact RAKS Building Supply at 575-835-1270 to learn about various types of available insulation. In addition to your attic, check your exterior walls, floors, and crawl spaces to see if you could insulate more.

Consider replacing your HVAC unit: Contact Eapco, Inc. at 575-835-4723 or Jaramillo's Plumbing, Heating, and Air Conditioning at 575-835-1679 to get information on investing in a new and more efficient heating system. In the long run, high efficiency models will reduce bills and pay for the initial costs of a new system.

Flip the switch: While this won't help with your heating bill, turning off all lights, computers, and other electronics while you're away will help to reduce both your electric bill and your carbon footprint.

New Registered Businesses in City of Socorro (January)



SL Start and Associate, LLC
Palomino Roofing and Concrete Service
Life-Fit
Done Right Construction, LLC
RJR Enterprises
Grant H Gourley, Sole Proprietorship
Longhorn Investment Group, LLC

