

Aquatics

Bill Hudson Memorial Swim Meet – December 4th, 465 attendees

The annual Bill Hudson Memorial Swim Meet was hosted by the Los Alamos High School Hilltoppers. The Hilltoppers swept the visiting teams, taking home 1st place for both boys and girls teams. A staff of four full time and one casual employees, opened the pool doors from 7:30am to 6pm to host the event.



Best of luck in your next adventure, Kathy Tafoya.

Long time Senior Lifeguard, Kathy Tafoya was honored at her retirement party for her 26 years of service to Los Alamos County. Through the years she has taught hundreds of people how to swim including the majority of our current lifeguard staff. CSD Director Cory Styron presented Kathy with a plaque acknowledging her hard work and commitment. Her passion and dedication to aquatic recreation will forever be apart of the Walkup Aquatic Center's culture.



Lifeguard Review Class – December 19th, 5 participants

One of the two remaining American Red Cross Lifeguard Instructors for Los Alamos County, recertified five lifeguards on Dec. 19th.

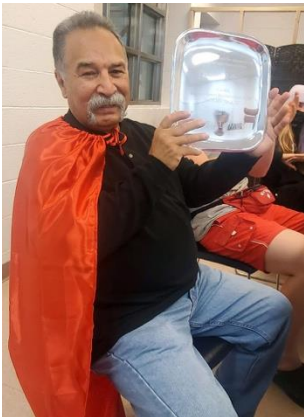
Lifeguard Blended Learning Training – December 27th – December 31st, 7 participants

Instructor Dacotah Hofer certified seven new lifeguards, during the class that takes place annually over Winter Break. Within this class two individuals were interested in becoming lifeguards for Los Alamos County.



Enjoy Retirement, Cippie - we will miss you!

Cippie (Cipriano) Bustos, who has been the custodian at the Walkup Aquatic Center for 18 years, retired at the end of December. Throughout the years he has dedicated his life to making this facility the cleanest facility in New Mexico. There is no one in the history of the aquatic facility who knows more about the pool, the staff, and the culture. Cippie has always been a friendly face and mentor - Cippie truly is our super hero.



Golf Course

Holiday Sale – December 11th

The Golf Shop held a holiday balloon sale on December 11 from 10:00am to 3:00p. Customers got to pop a balloon to reveal a discount for their holiday shopping purchases. Light hors d'oeuvres along with eggnog, hot cider, and iced tea were available for shoppers to enjoy, while Christmas music played in the background.



Wind Damage on Golf Course – December 14th & 15th

The golf course held up well during the storm and wind event as a few branches came down on the front nine and back nine, but only one tree toppled. A triple trunked cottonwood, that has been on the right-hand side of #18 fairway since LAGC's beginning, came down this year due to the windstorm. The tree was about 70 feet tall. We were saddened by the loss of this long-time golf course resident.



Central bore-through repairs at Los Alamos County Golf Course

The central bore-through line, that was most recently repaired and was not included in the new irrigation system install, is being replaced with a HDPE line. Approximately nine months after the new system was completed, the central bore-through line experienced several issues that warranted a new line. The old line is an 8" PVC and the new line will be a 6" HDPE that will be placed within the existing 8" PVC. The line runs under Diamond Drive between holes #18 and #10. A couple of snags have slowed the process, but Parker Construction is redirecting their approach and moving forward to complete the install of the new line.



Ice Rink

Opening Day - December 3rd, 422 attendees

After a week of Recreation Staff and LAHA volunteers rushing to make ice after repairs, staff was able to open the ice rink to a crowd of happy skaters on December 3rd.



Ice Wolves Inter-Squad Game - December 5th, 78 attendees

Opening weekend at the ice rink included hosting a North American Hockey League (NAHL) New Mexico Ice Wolves Inter-Squad game. After the game concluded with a shoot out, participants were able to skate (skate rentals were included in the purchase of tickets) with the team, pass the puck and get to know the team personally. All participants, Ice Wolves players, and Coaches stated that this was a great experience. Community Services and PROS hopes that this event will lead to a regular season game hosted at the Ice Rink as part of the New Mexico Ice Wolves 2022-2023 hockey season.

**LAHS PE Classes – December 7th – 10th, 120 participants**

High School PE classes had several sessions for three days in a row at the ice with their teachers.

LAMS Skating – December 17th, 87 participants

The Ice Rink hosted youth from the Los Alamos Middle School and teachers before school was released for holiday break.

Piñon Skating – December 17th, 96 participants

The Ice Rink hosted elementary students, teachers and parents for skating, cocoa and snacks.

Skate with Santa - December 18th, 257 attendees

Recreation staff held this annual event with Santa where participants were able to skate with Santa and his Elf, take pictures, and enjoy candy canes from Santa.



Ribbon Cutting for Ice Rink Improvements - December 22nd, 52 attendees

The improvement project at the Ice Rink was celebrated with a ceremonial ribbon cutting with County Council, Community Services Department, Project Manager, and community members. After a few speeches were given by Council Chair Ryti, Community Services Director Cory Styron, and Project Manager Wayne Kohlrust, Council Chair Ryti and community members cut the ribbon and then ice skated with attendees of the event around the ice rink. Participants of the ribbon cutting event were able to skate for free and have a complimentary hot chocolate.



Annual Holiday Hockey Festival - December 27th - 30th, 492 attendees

The Los Alamos County Ice Rink partnered with Los Alamos Hockey Association (LAHA) in hosting hockey teams from New Mexico, Texas, Colorado, and other surrounding states in three days of back-to-back hockey games. Teams range in ages from about 6-year-olds to 18-year-olds.



Parks

Ashley Pond Upgrades

Park staff replaced the air pump on the pond aerators. Aerating the pond improves water quality, reduces algae growth and odors, improve the environment for the fish, and helps with mosquito control.



In Spring 2021 it was noticed that the poles in the shelter at Ashely Pond were cracked and were a safety hazard. Being only seven years old and under warranty, the manufacturer shipped new poles for the parks staff to replace the old poles. Staff drilled holes at the bottom of the poles, with written confirmation from the company that the warranty would not be voided, to provide drainage to avoid cracking issues in the future.



Windstorm Clean Up

Multiple trees did fell during the windstorm around Los Alamos County in mid-December which Parks staff immediately began clean-up efforts. Clean-up included cutting trees into chunks, shredding pieces that were small enough to shred, and sweeping debris, and trimming broken limbs.



Let There be New Lighting & a Sound System at the North Stable Rodeo Arena

MUSCO Lighting Company installed new lights at the Brewer area by removing all the hanging exposed wires and placed them underground wiring. They removed the old lights poles and replaced them with brighter lights and fewer light poles. This upgrade will help the area look less dated, cluttered, and give it a more open feel.



Open Space

Tree Removal on the Trails

Open Space spent the remaining week of December removing over two dozen trees that fell across the trails during the high wind event. Many of these trees were healthy mature ponderosa pines.



Feral Cattle Round Up

During the month of December, Busted Spur Cattle Company and Open Space were able to remove five more unbranded feral cattle from Los Alamos County. They were transferred over to the the New Mexico Livestock Association. This brings the total number of cattle removed to 38. We would like to thank the community for all their support.

