

Holiday Safety Tips via SafeHome.org Rob Gabriele

"Safety first" goes the old adage, but how many of us have accidentally left the stove on, or left a window open, or forgotten to lock the door on the way out?

Let's face it: We humans are distracted a lot. This is no more evident than around the holidays and it's easy to forget one very important step: Keeping your home safe.

- 1. If you're traveling, be careful who and what you tell, including on social media.
- 2. Entrust a friend or neighbor to look after your place while you're gone.
- 3. If you don't have a security system, consider getting one. Modern systems have cameras, sensors, remote monitoring, and two-way audio.
- 4. Don't get too ambitious in the kitchen: Cooking is one of the leading causes of reported home fires and home fire deaths. This risk is heightened around Thanksgiving and Christmas.



Pro Tip: If you're planning a turkey dinner, keep in mind that deep-frying turkey is riskier than roasting. So if you've never gone the deep-fry route before, you might want to check out FEMA's safety guidelines on turkey

Going further, here are some quick tips to make sure all your merrymaking isn't thwarted by potential thieves:

Other Holiday Safety Tips:

- ✓ Automate your smart lighting and set timers
- Keep a car parked in the driveway so it looks like someone's home
- Bring potted plants inside
- ✓ Pick up any mail or newspapers around your mailbox
- Make sure all decorations you're planning to hang outside are approved for outdoor use (extension cords, too!)

BRIEFS

Be Prepared for the Winter Freeze

It's not too early to begin preparing for the Winter season. Check these tips off your list and get ahead of the winter freeze:

- Your furnace has been inspected and serviced by a qualified professional during the last 12 months.
- Your chimneys and vents have been cleaned and inspected by a qualified professional and has been checked for creosote build-up.
- Portable space heaters have an automatic shut-off, plugged directly into an outlet (not an extension cord), and placed at least three feet from anything that can burn.
- Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms have been tested making sure they are working properly. Contact Alamo Heights Fire Department for smoke alarm testing.

CITY CALENDAR

November

Wednesday, November 2
Board of Adjustment Meeting
Canceled

Monday, November 7 Planning and Zoning Meeting 5:30 p.m.

Friday, November 11

Holiday—Veterans Day
Offices Closed*
*REGULAR SOLID WASTE
PICKUP



Monday, November 14 City Council Meeting 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 15 Architectural Review Board 5:30 p.m.

Thursday and Friday
November 24 & 25
Holiday—Thanksgiving Day
Offices Closed*
*NO SOLID WASTE PICKUP

Monday, November 28 City Council Meeting Canceled

Voter Centers in Bexar County

During the November election, voters can vote at any Bexar County designated polling site.

Voter Center Model—with the Voter Center Model, the voter can vote at any Bexar County Election Day designated polling sites just as similar to Early Voting. Early Voting allows a voter to vote anywhere Bexar County has designated as their polling sites during Early Voting period. On Election Day, voters can vote at **any** polling site (voter center) within Bexar County. The Voter Center Model has been adopted to decrease the number of provisional ballots and provide additional convenience.

The City of Alamo Heights does not have any city-related items on the November 8th Joint General, Special, Charter and Bond Election ballot; however, City Hall will be a Voter Center (polling site) on Tuesday, November 8th, Election Day from 7 a.m.—7 p.m.

For more information, please visit https://www.bexar.org for more information and to view polling sites.

New License & Permit System

Effective immediately, the City will be accepting and processing building permits, licenses, certificates of occupancy, and other building related applications and inspections through My Government Online. To submit a new application and/or to create your account, please visit www.mygovernmentonline.org. Should you need additional assistance in creating your account, please call the My Government Online Help Desk at 1-866-957-3764.

For questions regarding existing projects, please contact staff at 210-826-0516. We apologize for any inconvenience and look forward to assisting you.

Winter Averaging for Sewer Fees



Reminder: your water consumption during the winter months affects your residential sewer service fee for the next year. Residential sewer service fees are calculated based on the average water usage during three consecutive billing periods. This year your November, December, and January consumption will be used for your winter averaging.

For more information or questions, please call Utility Billing staff at 882-1507.

ALAMO HEIGHTS

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

911 for EMERGENCY Fire/EMS (Non-Emergency): 210-824-1281 Police (Non-Emergency): 210-822-3321 Administration and Finance: 210-822-3331

Public Works: 210-882-1518 Water: 210-882-1507

Community Development: 210-826-0516

Court Clerk: 210-882-1501