



12/10/18

### *Mayor's Progress Report- Community Update*

Merry Christmas to you and your family. It has been a tremendous year for this community. While we face many challenges in 2019, we aim to continue forward with the momentum we have built up throughout the year. We're certainly going to remain very busy throughout December preparing for Carlsbad's future.

Our road committee, under Roxanne Lara and Steven McCutcheon, has held its first two meetings. Key items that immediately came up included completing the East Loop Road and speeding up the plans to repair the New Mexico side of 285. We've also developed a list of other necessary projects such as Mesa Street and Pecan Street, and we discussed some alternatives for the loop road. Everyone agrees that pulling truck traffic away from the middle of town is extremely important.

Presently, we have five subcommittees working on different facets of the road committee, and we will be meeting again as a full group next week. Special thanks goes to Ray Peters for his enthusiasm and many ideas. Our goal is to have a good plan when we visit during the state legislative session early in 2019.

There's also work going on in the area near the South Y Brine Well. The Wood Group, the contractor hired by the State of New Mexico to design and implement the project, has recently updated monitoring equipment in the area. Additionally, the trench that you can see going in is going to replace the merge lane on the south side of the junction connecting National

Parks Highway with 285. This will free up space for the actual remediation process, which should begin in January. Wood's plan is to stabilize the land by injecting grout.

Our Blue Ribbon Commission on Housing Issues will also meet again this week to examine data prepared for us by NMSU's Arrowhead Institute and make recommendations on applying that information to policy. Our Comprehensive Plan Update Steering Committee is working with Consensus Planning to help the City grow in an organized manner.

In fact, the City of Carlsbad has started the planning process for our Comprehensive Plan, and we can use your assistance.

As part of the planning process, Consensus Planning has created a community survey that asks a wide range of questions regarding the future of Carlsbad and community aspirations. The results of the community survey will be analyzed and provide direction in preparing the City of Carlsbad Comprehensive Plan. Hard copies of the community survey are available at City Hall, Carlsbad Public Library, and Carlsbad Senior Center. The survey is also available on Survey Monkey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/carlsbad-compplan>

This survey will be available through Jan. 21, and we appreciate your participation.

We are also updating our 40 year water plan and will be breaking ground on Phase 3 of our Double Eagle project very soon.

Businesses around the area are also doing what they can in support of Carlsbad's expansion. Albertson's has submitted its formal plan for expansion to us, and we are working to quickly review the submission so the store can begin with construction.

Last week, there was an article in the newspaper about the Permian Strategic Partnership in which 17 major oil companies pledged to invest in roads, education, healthcare, childcare services, and this area's infrastructure. This is a very welcome development.

We were saddened by the news this week that Sen. Carroll Leavell has resigned from the New Mexico Senate. Sen. Leavell has been a great friend to this community for decades, and we appreciate his hard work on behalf of our citizens. I don't think there is anyone out there who doesn't like and respect Sen. Leavell. We hope Governor Martinez will carefully appoint a replacement who will continue with Leavell's excellent work.

Finally, congratulations to every single one of you for being part of a community that was selected by Expedia as the most scenic city in the American Southwest. We can get so caught up in the hustle and bustle of everyday activities that we sometimes forget to stop and smell the cactus. No matter what else is going on, we're all extremely blessed to live in such an amazing community.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please call (575)-887-3798.  
"TAKE PRIDE IN CARLSBAD"

Thank you to Jessica Onsurez and the Current Argus for allowing us the extra space for these updates!