

Mayor's April Progress Report

We're very pleased to announce the first 15 selections for the upcoming Carlsbad Hall of Fame.

The Hall of Fame is a project/exhibition that we initiated in 2016 after consultation with members of Carlsbad's Cultural Development Council and others. Our first step was to appoint a selection committee representing a diverse and knowledgeable cross-section of current and former members of the community. The members of the committee met in March and later decided to vote on the first 15 Hall of Fame inductees. The Hall of Fame display will be in the annex between the Carlsbad Library and the Carlsbad Museum & Art Center. The displays are being set up around the perimeter of the room, so the annex space is still available for our summer library programs and other community use.

For the first 15 names, our committee members were asked to vote from a large list of potential candidates. We had an extremely diverse list of selections, including some more excellent candidates who will very likely be selected during the next phase of the process, but there were also some very clear "slam dunk" selections.

I know that a few people are noticing some names that are not on that list that they believe should be. Carlsbad has such an amazing legacy of men and women that no list will ever be complete, but I do believe this is a very good start that reflects a wide variety of interests and professions.

Additionally, this is only the first half of our debut. The goal is to open the Hall of Fame when we have 30 men and women who represent this community and then add additional names each year.

Pioneer Charles Eddy was the only candidate to be picked by every single member of our selection committee. Our next two top vote recipients were racing legend Dick Harrell and astronaut Drew Gaffney. The remainder of our amazing first 15 selections, in alphabetical order, are:

- Community advocate and volunteer Ray Anaya
- Coach and artist Ralph Bowyer
- Famous actor Bruce Cabot
- Historian and teacher Jed Howard
- Promotor and pilot Frank Kindel
- Internationally known artist Roderick Mead
- Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Alejandro Ruiz
- Civil rights leader and educator Dr. Emmitt Smith
- Basketball superstar Becky Thompson
- NPR journalist Linda Wertheimer
- Caverns explorer Jim White
- NFL great John Wooten

What a great list! And that's only the beginning. We are in contact with family members of the excellent Carlsbad legends above and will begin preparing the first phase of the exhibit. We will also be getting back soon with our selection committee to begin with the next phase.

Another former Carlsbad resident was recently awarded a top military honor. Retired Master Sgt. Kristopher Parker, born and raised here, was awarded a Silver Star in March by the U.S. Air Force. It's the third-highest military combat decoration, and the Air Force has only given out 79 Silver Stars since 2001.

Parker, who joined the Air Force in 2003, was credited with saving the lives of fellow soldiers and airmen during a nine-hour gunfight in 2014. He put himself at additional risk to aid a wounded lieutenant and keep insurgents at bay. Congratulations to Parker and his family, which includes our very talented Carlsbad MainStreet director, Karla Hamel.

As promised, we wanted to talk a little bit about the pirate ship coming to town. Tonk and Julie Chester will soon be introducing Fiddler's Fleet, LLC, doing business as the Pirates of the Pecos. The pirate ship is on the water and bookings will begin quickly.

Of course, we also have another great business set up along the Pecos River, Carlsbad Cruise Lines, who provides guided boat cruises, pedal boats, kayaks and stand up paddle boards, as well as an excellent concession stand. Carlsbad Cruise Lines does a wonderful job serving guests to our community. With the Carlsbad Water Park just around the corner, the Carlsbad Beach area is the perfect destination for all ages.

It's the busiest time of the year. There isn't a day coming up over the next few weeks in which there isn't a major event going on in Carlsbad. Here are a couple very special events:

On April 29, the City of Carlsbad's Relay For Life team held a special Survivor's Parade. There was a special float for Survivors and a meal for all cancer Survivors and their guests. Carlsbad's Relay For Life celebration will be May 5 and 6 at the Beach Bandshell. Thank you all for making our annual Relay For Life celebration so great every year.

At 10 a.m. on May 6, at the McKittrick Canyon trail, there will be a ribbon cutting for the Guadalupe Ridge Trail Dedication. This multi-access trail will wind through two national parks, as well as the Lincoln National Forest, Sitting Bull Falls and BLM Land. We understand this trail will draw some of the nation's most hardcore hikers, and we look forward to meeting them. Special thanks to Carlsbad Chamber Executive Director Robert Defer for spearheading this effort.

Most of you have probably seen by now, but the construction of a new Carl's Jr. is going on in central Carlsbad. A new business, Harbor Freight Tools, is moving into the old Hastings building. Last week, we had a groundbreaking for the beautiful Pecos Vista Luxury Apartment Homes and a ribbon cutting for TFE/Iron Mountain's new WIPP Records Archive Building, which is right across the street from Carlsbad Medical Center's new Urgent Care facility. This building is state

of the art and TFE will be bringing in new business from all over the region. It's hard to keep up! And that's a very good problem to have.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please call (575)-887-3798.

"TAKE PRIDE IN CARLSBAD"