

Mayor's May Progress Report, 5-22-17

Friendship Park will soon be taking shape, thanks to the incredible show of support we have received from some extremely generous businesses and individuals.

Friendship Park is going to be a specially-designed playground accessible for all children, including youth who have disabilities. That means special swings for kids in wheelchairs, slides that go all the way to the ground and a unique kind of turf allowing easy access for everyone. The design was put together with the help of local special education teachers, parents of children with disabilities and children themselves. Wanda Welch and Deanna Taylor, with valuable assistance provided by Oran Means and others, have spearheaded this dream. Most importantly, this playground will be built adjacent to an existing playground facility along the river and be inclusive to everyone.

The City of Carlsbad supports the Friendship Park effort and will maintain the property, but construction of the park is being financed through private donors. Everybody agrees that Friendship Park is a great idea, but what has been truly inspirational is just how quickly fundraising efforts have come together. We have already raised more than 80% of what is needed to make this park a reality, thanks to an incredibly generous community.

We have four amazing cornerstone donors right now: Concho Resources Inc., Chevron USA, XTO Energy Inc. and the Forrest Family Foundation. We have also received incredible financial support from Matador Resources Inc., Devon Energy Corporation, Xcel Energy, In Memory of Eddy County Sheriff's Deputy James T. Moore – Mark Cage, Western Commerce Bank, Leroy and Robin Bostick, Betty Egbom, Red Chimney Bar-B-Que, Means Real Estate, Century 21- Bob and Caroline Yeager, First American Bank, Valerie Jo Murrill, Jill and Edgar Torres, the Red Chimney, Carlsbad Downtown Lion's Club, Nuclear Waste Partnership, the Carlsbad Board of Realtors, Triple C, Inc. and Westall Ranches LLC.

A fund has been established for Friendship Park with the Carlsbad Foundation. With just a little more help from you, we can make this dream come to life!

Sheriff Mark Cage and Police Chief Kent Waller did an excellent job hosting the Eddy County Law Enforcement Memorial Service this year. We were also honored to have Ruidoso Police Chief Darren Hooker serve as keynote speaker. Congratulations to former Sheriff Jack Childress for being the recipient of a very special honor at the ceremony. In addition to his many remarkable accomplishments, Sheriff Childress worked with the Army Corps of Engineers to help utilize their services to convert the Riverwalk Recreation Center from an Electrical Power Generating Plant into the great facility it is today. A major renovation! Former Sheriff John Lewis, who passed away last year, was also memorialized for his dedicated service to Eddy County.

We also appreciated the message about how important it is that all of our law enforcement officers work together. We want every one of our law enforcement officers to know how much we appreciate what they do to protect our community, and we will do everything we can to support these honorable citizens and make sure they come home safely every night.

The Carlsbad Water Park is back open for business! Hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday, and the first official day was May 27. We were also honored to host numerous end-of-year school parties at the park. Congratulations to park manager Brad Alpers and the staff for doing such an

excellent job. Just a reminder that the park will be open on Memorial Day, but is normally closed on Mondays.

Congratulations again to Carlsbad High School's Class of 2017, and to every one of our local graduates. This year's graduating class has so much potential that I think we will soon have to open up a new wing in our hall of fame just to accommodate these students and their upcoming accomplishments.

A very special congratulation to the graduating members of the Mayor's Student Youth Advisory Board – Ethan Klein-Johnson, Genarro Flores, Victoria Peña-Parr and Yoni Xiong. These are outstanding young individuals with a great future ahead of them. We appreciate the many excellent suggestions they provided to us over the years.

Please join us tomorrow (May 29) to honor our veterans who have paid the ultimate sacrifice. This year's Memorial Day Parade will begin at 10 a.m. at the school administration building on Canyon Street and conclude at the Carlsbad Veteran's Memorial Park. We will have a short ceremony at 11 a.m. at the park. We hope to see you there!

Finally, congratulations to an outstanding individual, Wanda Durham, who has been appointed to Carlsbad City Council's Ward 4 to fill the remainder of Janell Whitlock's term, until the next election. Wanda has proven herself through her dedication on the Planning and Zoning Committee, Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors and through numerous other volunteer efforts. We very much look forward to working with her.

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