

Mayor's Progress Report

6-22-17

The Carlsbad Water Park is approaching its one year anniversary, and everything has been going extremely well.

Over our last few weekends, we're averaging between 700 and 800 total paying customers each day. That number goes down to around 400 per day during the weekday. On Saturday, around 60 percent of our guests are visitors from out of town – Artesia, Roswell and Hobbs, but also West Texas, Albuquerque, Oklahoma and Arkansas.

This is perfectly in line with our goals for the water park. Our primary interest in building the park was to provide a quality of life improvement for our own residents. We want a safe, fun place for children and their families to cool off over the summer. The water park was universally the top vote recipient during community surveys, and it was so thrilling to see the park open last July 1.

We also love having so many out-of-town guests paying the Carlsbad Water Park a visit. Between the Carlsbad Water Park, the Bob Forrest Youth Sports Complex, the Pecos River Beach area, two nearby state parks and two nearby national parks (just to name a few) we really believe we have something to offer tourists to get them to visit us for several days. That's great for our motel industry, for our restaurants and for our other local businesses.

As the park continues to be a success, we will continue to develop big plans. That includes enhancements such as more shade and lockers, but also adding additional slides and water play areas.

How can you help?

Keep visiting Carlsbad and keep telling your friends and family members about us. We'd especially love to see more visitors during the weekdays. Visitors over 61 and under 4 are free, so there's no better deal in town. The park is open Tuesday through Sunday, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

We also appreciate any assistance you can provide with making sure our park is safe and friendly for families while you are visiting. We allow ice chests, but we can't allow glass containers or alcohol to be taken into the park. Please encourage your children to listen to our lifeguards and attendants. Our lifeguards do an excellent job, but the park can get crowded on weekends, and we appreciate your assistance with keeping an eye on the kids, especially young children. Visitors are welcome to bring their own lounge chairs and portable shade structures.

We hope the water park is helping you and your family have a safe, cool summer, and we look forward to seeing you there!

Carlsbad has some of the best neighbors around. This past week, the Mosaic Company made a generous \$50,000 donation to the Desert Willow Rehabilitation Center. Mosaic also recently made a major contribution to the Early College High School that will help the program develop a facility. Mosaic is one of the backbones of the community that has always been a good neighbor and an outstanding employer.

Donations also continue to come in for the Friendship Park effort – a specially-designed playground that is accessible to children with disabilities. Chevron USA, who previously agreed to contribute \$50,000 to the Friendship Park effort, has now very generously agreed to another \$20,000. We're so fortunate to have so many amazing community partners such as Chevron and Mosaic.

The first phase of the Callaway Drive project is complete, and thank you to Constructors Inc. and everyone involved for doing such an excellent job. While the construction was certainly an inconvenience, the improvement will make getting in and out of the fastest growing part of Carlsbad much easier. The next part of the project, which runs from Johnson to Cherry Lane, will begin soon.

There are some new works of art on display in our beautiful Halagueno Arts Park. "Moon Over the Pecos," a beautiful sculpture designed by Carlsbad's own Wren Stroud, has been set up near the entrance to the Carlsbad Museum & Arts Center. We are so fortunate to have such a talented artist living and working right here in Carlsbad. Additionally, "Recovered," a 2003 project by artist Ryan Henel, was recently moved from the civic center to the Halagueno Arts Park. Please come check it out!

We had a very productive trip to Washington D.C. last week. Special thanks to Jeff Murray with FTI Consulting for helping us plan a very useful trip. We also appreciate the Energy Communities Alliance for its assistance. We talked about the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant to everyone we met, and everyone we spoke with was excited about WIPP being back open and wants to see it grow even more.

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