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The City Voice

Year-End Newsletter - Special Edition



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BLESSINGS AND REFLECTION by J.J. Murphy, City Manager

As I reflect on this past year, I cannot describe how blessed I feel. This past year has brought so many amazing experiences into my life, and at this time of the year, I enjoy looking back at all that was accomplished.

After over 4 years of planning, construction of The CORE has begun; design for City Park is gaining more and more momentum and becoming a better project all the same; going into the new year, we will continue tackling challenges

throughout all city departments; and design for the new City jail. My family and I have been blessed to grow closer to many of you.

To say the least, the community of Hobbs and Lea County have been good to me. I really cannot thank you all enough. I cherish every memory and look forward to what lies ahead in the new year.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy, safe, and prosperous New Year!



Upcoming Events

December 23 - All City of Hobbs offices close at noon.

December 26 - All City of Hobbs offices are closed in observance of Christmas

January 2 - All City of Hobbs offices are closed in observance of the New Year

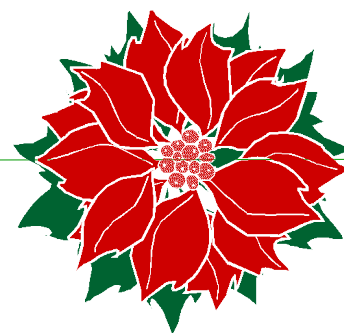
January 3 - City Commission Meeting at 6 p.m.

January 16 - All City of

Hobbs offices are closed in

observance of MLK Day.

January 17 - City Commission Meeting at 6 p.m.



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Hobbs Fire Department Toy Drive

This December, Hobbs Fire Department personnel began collecting donated toys and stuffed animals for those less fortunate. Michael Nelson lead the initiative and proved itself to be quite successful through the help of the community. At the end of the campaign, 350 toys were donated to those children who contacted the fire department. Hobbs Fire Department was also able to donate 200 toys and stuffed animals to Isaiah's Kitchen.



HFD Personal Recognitions for 2016



Firefighter of the Year	Mark Doporto
EMT of the Year	Lee Haines
Supervisor of the Year	Michael Prudencio

HPD Personal Recognitions for 2016



Officer of the Year	Detective John Benavides
Civilian of the Year	Jennifer Scheller
Detention Officer of the Year	Amanda Gonzales
Supervisor of the Year	Sergeant Ricky Guerro

Commissioner Jonathan Sena's Farewell

After eight years of dedicated service to the City of Hobbs as Commissioner of District 2, Jonathan Sena will move on to be a County Commissioner. Jonathan will now sit on the Lea County Board of Commissioners starting January 3, 2017.

Thank you for your time and dedication to the City of Hobbs and all of its citizens.

Your service is greatly appreciated!



City of Hobbs website improving its transparency

The City of Hobbs is getting props from the New Mexico Foundation for Open Government for their increased level of transparency on the city's website.

City Manager J.J. Murphy announced the preliminary results of a review of the city's website by FOG last week. Murphy said the review of the city's website and its level of transparency came at his request and it is the first time in several years the city's website has been reviewed. The score rose by over 25 points!

"The feedback we have received thus far is extremely positive," Murphy said. "They were not aware of some of the transparency items we've added to our website." Mayor Same Cobb replicated Murphy's statement concerning FOG's findings: "I think it is good news. They were impressed with the terms of trying to make available contracts and things like that." Susan Boe, FOG Executive Director, also stated that "the City of Hobbs has progressed in increased transparency on their website."

Congratulations to the City of Hobbs on the much improved score! Further improvements and transparency are to come, so continue visiting our webpage!

2016

Light up the Night Contest Winners!

Clark Griswold Award

1700 N. Vega Dr.

White Light Splendor

1628 W. Chico

Holiday Spirit Award

2200 E. Alameda

Reason for the Season had a tie!

2214 Cielo

& 426 Baja

LED Display Award

No Nominations (thus the tie)

**Merry Christmas and a big
"THANK YOU" to our sponsors!**



Topping Out Ceremony at The CORE Construction Site

On Wednesday, December 21st, 2016, Haydon Building Corp, the general construction contractor for The Center of Recreational Excellence (The CORE), held a traditional Topping Out Ceremony at the construction site.



As is the tradition of this ceremony, the highest beam of the facility was put into place after being signed and dated by all of those in attendance. This is a major milestone at which a moment was taken to admire how far the project has come.

Due to the time of year, a lighted Christmas tree was affixed to the beam and sits there now. So until Christmas, when you drive by the construction site at night, be sure to look up to the top and see the glowing Christmas tree atop the structure of The Center of Recreational Excellence!

Also, be sure to keep up with weekly and even daily updates of construction of the facility by following us on Facebook at “The CORE—Center of Recreational Excellence.”



The Hobbs Public Library (HPL) has a new downloadable music streaming device called Freegal. It is available to every HPL cardholder. To access streaming of over 11 million songs, an HPL cardholder enters their library card number and a PIN number. Freegal features the entire Sony Music Catalog, with artists such as Michael Jackson, Alicia Keys, and Beyoncé to name a few. If you are not a cardholder of the HPL, come by to sign up between the hours of 10 a.m.-8 p.m. on Monday-Wednesday and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday-Saturday. The Hobbs Public Library, 509 North Shipp Street, is closed on Sundays. For more information, call 575-397-9328.

Hobbs Fire Department Gives Back

On December 20th, Hobbs Fire Department firefighters and paramedics were on hand to deliver toys and books to a two-year-old battling cancer. Both her and her big sister were overwhelmed with joy over their new gifts. Hobbs Fire Department truly showed the meaning of Christmas to this family and our community.



Wanting to keep up with the construction updates for the Center of Recreational Excellence?

Check out the minute-to-minute updates on our OxBlue construction camera feed at <https://app.oxblue.com/open/HBC/HHWLC>



Hobbs Jaycees Annual Christmas Parade

City of Hobbs employees and their families participated in the Hobbs Jaycees Annual Christmas Parade, December 3rd.

Hobbs Police Department also handed out hot chocolate and cookies on this cold morning.



Citizen Self Service—A true citizen's convenience and another new feature on hobbsnm.org



A great new feature available on the City's website is the Citizen Self Service! It is conveniently located near the top of the homepage.

Citizen Self Service currently allows our citizens to:

- pay for their business registrations online,
- pay their general billing invoices online,
- make non-emergency requests and,
- subscribe to email announcements from the City of Hobbs
- upcoming in the next few months - ability to apply and pay for building permits online.

Meet the Communications Department

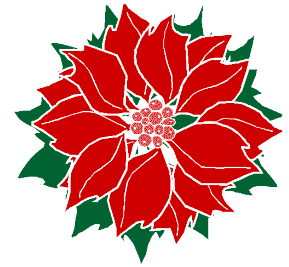
The City of Hobbs Communications Department is comprised of two members: Meghan Mooney, Director of Communications, and AnnaMarie Peña, Communications Intern. Meghan has been with the City for one year, and AnnaMarie joined the team in August.

A native of Phoenix, Arizona, Meghan considers herself to have just relocated from one desert to another in concern to Hobbs, New Mexico as her new found home. Having previously visited the area in 2007 and having returned in 2012 to attend the University of the Southwest on soccer scholarship, she was attracted to the innovation, growth, and change in Hobbs. Meghan chose to finish her higher education with the University of the Southwest and received a Bachelor Degree in Business Administration in Marketing in 2014.

AnnaMarie is a native to Hobbs, being born and raised in this small, but flourishing community. Graduating from Hobbs High School in 2015, she chose to stay in her hometown and become a University of the Southwest Mustang. AnnaMarie is currently majoring in History with a minor in Social Sciences and will complete her degree in May of 2017. After graduation she will pursue a Masters Degree in Business Administration in Marketing.

The City of Hobbs Communications Department works with each and every department in the City and its elected officials on multiple projects such as drafting press releases, helping plan City events, taking pictures and videos at events, maintaining the City's Facebook and Twitter pages, and communicating what every department provides to both the press and each other. Every day brings unique and interesting situations, especially given the significant growth we have seen in Hobbs within the past few years. Whether it be covering a groundbreaking or informing the public on the new and exciting projects happening in the City.

There is no shortage of work in the Communications Department, but Meghan and AnnaMarie look forward to what the new work day holds every single time.



Fine Forgiveness at Hobbs Public Library

Starting Tuesday, January 3rd until Saturday, January 14th, the Hobbs Public Library (HPL) will be accepting canned goods from library patrons in exchange for fine forgiveness. At the end of the program, all of the canned goods will be donated to Manna Outreach. This is a program similar to other public libraries' fines forgiveness programs, each with their own rules. HPL is offering this fine forgiveness program as an opportunity for patrons to clear their record as well as an opportunity to provide to others.



Any donated canned good must not be dented, swollen, rusty, or be expired. Canned dog food will not be accepted for this program. One can will waive \$10 of a patron's fines. No damaged or lost materials may be paid with donated food cans. This "fines forgiveness" program will apply to Hobbs Public Library fines only.

HPL Director Sandy Farrell stated, "This is a program that is not only beneficial to the Hobbs Public Library but will also make a positive impact on the less fortunate in our community. We

HPD Participates in Santa Patrol

The City of Hobbs Police Department is proud to announce its participation in this year's annual Santa Patrol toy drive. This is the 3rd annual Santa Patrol, which is a partnership between the Albuquerque Police Officers Association (APOA) and Planet Fitness. This year, the Santa Patrol is expanding to add several law enforcement agencies across the state of New Mexico who have Planet Fitness locations. By expanding, Santa Patrol expects to reach more children in need.

HPD Deputy Chief Brian Dunlap was contacted by the president of the APOA to participate in Santa Patrol this year. D.C. Dunlap accepted the request, and explains that the officers will have the donated toys available in their squad units to distribute to children in need whom they come in contact with.

HPD D.C. Dunlap stated, "We are excited to participate in this event this year. An officer giving a child in need a Christmas present and telling them merry Christmas is great idea. It will be rewarding both to the child and officer. This occasion will provide us with an additional opportunity for a positive interaction with the children of our community."

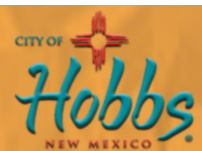
HPD Chief McCall stated, "We appreciate partnering with Planet Fitness in an effort to distribute toys to children in need."

"As officers we often deal with families and children suffering through very low points. They are in distress and getting by on very little. We started Santa Patrol as a way to bring a little cheer to the kids in these situations," APOA President Shaun Willoughby said. "Thanks to the generosity of the Albuquerque community, we've been able to help hundreds of kids over the last couple of years. We are thrilled that this year other law enforcement agencies will be taking part to help kids in their communities."

"We respect the hard work our law enforcement officers do to make our communities better and help those in need, and that's why Planet Fitness is honored to team up with them on Santa Patrol," Mike Shapiro, Planet Fitness President of Operations said.

Hobbs City Manager, J.J. Murphy, stated, "This is a very special time of year, and we are happy to help expand this project. On a regular basis, our public safety members commit meaningful acts of kindness that go unnoticed, so I know they will do well with this chance to help those in need."

The Center Of Recreational Excellence Opening Spring 2018



IT ALL HAPPENS HERE.

Amenities within
158,000 sq. ft.
facility include:

Indoor water park
Indoor soccer field
Indoor sports court
Indoor playground
Indoor track
Competition pool
Warm therapy pool
Exercise rooms
Fitness equipment

City of Hobbs • J.F Maddox Foundation • New Mexico Junior College • Hobbs Municipal Schools • University of the Southwest • Lea County

J.J. Murphy Gives Back



Three days before Christmas, City Manager J.J. Murphy felt compelled to do something with all he has been blessed with. So, he invited Barbara Dunford into his office for a surprise. Ms. Dunford has been with the City for a combined number of 35 years, 10 of them being full-time, and currently as the Art Instructor at the Hobbs Senior Center.

As recognition of her lengthy service and commitment, Mr. Murphy chose her out of about 500 City of Hobbs employees that he would give a very special present to. Ms. Dunford had no idea, neither did her supervisor, Parks and Rec Director Doug McDaniel that this was about to happen. As Mr. Murphy explained his gratitude for his blessings and Ms.

Dunford's servitude, she patiently and curiously listened. Then, as she was handed her present, Ms. Dunford was surprised and grateful.

Moments like this illustrate appreciation, paying it forward, and above all the Christmas spirit.

Photographed above are Art Instructor Barbara Dunford, City Manager J.J. Murphy, and P&R Director Doug McDaniel.

J.J.'s Last Message for the Year:



Be ready to tackle the challenges ahead of us in 2017. I wish each of you and your families a happy and healthy 2017!

Merry Christmas!

J.J.'s Final Thought:

Let the burdens of the past stay in 2017; tomorrow holds many more possibilities!