



Home Mesa News Fiesta District micro parks lighting ceremony held in Mesa

# Fiesta District micro parks lighting ceremony held in Mesa

Oct 17th, 2015 · by Richard H. Dyer · 0 Comments



(Screenshot from video from Richard H. Dyer, Independent Newspapers)

Five micro parks – also known as paseo nodes – have been constructed by the city of Mesa on Southern Avenue near Mesa Community College and Fiesta Mall. There are tent-like shade structures, a fountain and colorful lights emitting from poles. The parks are part of a \$2 million streetscape project.

(See an exclusive video of the project at <http://mesaindependent.com/galleries/video-shows-fiesta-district-micro-parks-lighting-ceremony/>)

Mesa Mayor John Giles, Vice Mayor and District 3 Councilman Dennis Kavanaugh, Deputy City Manager Kari Kent and Mesa Community College President Dr. Shouan Pan spoke and participated in a 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 13, lighting ceremony at one of the Fiesta District micro parks.

The four and Mesa City Manager Chris Brady pushed a button that turned on a fountain and color-changing poles at the micro park just west of the northwest corner of Southern and Longmore.

"This is another great day for the city of Mesa and this evening, in just a few minutes, we will light the five micro parks that are a key component to the Fiesta District improvements all along Southern Avenue from Alma School to Sycamore. The improvements will benefit residents, our businesses and all of our partners in the district," Deputy City Manager Kent said during the ceremony.

The event celebrated completion of the parks that are part of a streetscape improvement project in the Fiesta District designed to create a uniquely identifiable area that is economically vibrant, pedestrian friendly and an active urban destination. The parks include new sidewalks, landscaping, shade structures, lights and a water feature, city officials said. The other parks are at the southwest and southeast corners of Longmore and Southern near MCC and at Stewart and Southern near Fiesta Mall, according to a Fiesta District document at <http://mesaaz.gov/home/showdocument?id=11968>.

Vice Mayor Kavanaugh said after the ceremony that he served on the design committee for the Fiesta District. The district is generally from the Superstition Freeway to north of Southern Avenue, west to Loop 101 and east to Alma School Road.

"In working on these particular parcels I did have a chance to work with our architects and the design consultants

Subscribe to RSS Follow on Twitter Join us on Facebook Sign-up for Newsletter

advertisement

## This Week's Newspaper

**Ladies' 'Stocking Project' prevails**  
 Judge finds Welda Rose Estates HOA decision to ban group 'discriminatory'

By Richard H. Dyer  
 The Mesa Ladies' Stocking Project has prevailed in court after a judge ruled that the Welda Rose Estates Homeowners Association's decision to ban the group was discriminatory. The judge found that the HOA's decision to ban the group was based on gender and violated the Fair Housing Act. The judge ordered the HOA to allow the group to participate in the project.

See Project — Page 4

**Fiesta District micro parks lighting ceremony held in Mesa**

By Richard H. Dyer  
 The city of Mesa celebrated the completion of five micro parks along Southern Avenue. The parks feature shade structures, fountains, and colorful lighting. A lighting ceremony was held on Tuesday, October 13, at one of the parks. City officials and community members participated in the ceremony.

See Parks — Page 4

**Mesa nonprofit helps developmentally delayed clients with social and life skills**

By Melissa Conner  
 The Mesa-based nonprofit, The Center for the Gifted and Talented, is helping developmentally delayed clients learn social and life skills. The center provides a safe and supportive environment where clients can learn and grow. The center's programs are designed to help clients develop the skills they need to succeed in life.

See Gifted — Page 2

Hi! I'm Conrad, Mesa's Only Locally Owned Funeral Home and Cemetery. Call 480.832.2850 Today!  
**MOUNTAIN VIEW FUNERAL HOME & CEMETERY**

advertisement

who had the whole concept for the boulevard that we have here," he said. "We had a fair bit of input, went through a number of iterations in terms of what will the micro parks look like, how can we shade them, what can we do with light, how can we do water features that are efficient and people don't want to bathe in but be a nice feature, and I think they really came up with these light towers with a way that is very durable but very creative. There are multiple different settings the lights can be programmed to run on. Right now I think we're seeing what they call the Fiesta Setting, which is running through the color palette of the Fiesta Design Guidelines. Holiday time, I'll bet you'll see a lot of red and green in the lights."

The work on the micro parks has taken about 2.5 years, he said.

"They started construction in January, but we went through a lot of design engineering in terms of where they would be, what parcels would be most appropriate, how big they could be. So it took a lot of time, but the design work was pretty much done about a year ago," Vice Mayor Kavanaugh said.

The micro parks are in the city rights-of-way, he said, adding that the city purchased some property where the fountain was installed.

"We purchased some real small portions like this area here, the largest one. We acquired some of the property here from the property owner because this expands on this city's rights-of-way but the other corners are pretty much, probably, 80 percent within city right-of-way, but I think we acquired a bit of property at each one just to make it fit the site," he said.

He envisions that micro parks and streetscape improvements along Southern Avenue will be used by students at Mesa Community College, which is on the south side of Southern Avenue.

"We know there are a lot of students who live in the apartment complexes around here and we wanted to create a nice safe walkable environment for people who are having classes during the day or at night, create places where they can stop and get some shade or take a drink of water or eat their lunch going back and forth between classes. But we really wanted to create this concept where it is safe to be here, really, day and night, and that it's inviting," Vice Mayor Kavanaugh said.

He also envisions the micro parks as being places for performers.

"It is a great opportunity to showcase performers, for example from Mesa Community College," he said. "You've got a space here where you could showcase dancers or singers, preview their upcoming shows, and it's a way to build audiences. We might see some performers from the Mesa Arts Center come here and do the same thing. So, I'm keeping my fingers crossed."

Dr. Pan said students heading to Mesa Community College, 1833 W. Southern Ave., often use bikes, the bus or walk to classes.

"It is important because we are part of the community. We want our students to be able to bike or walk to campus. Many of our students don't have a car. They feel safe and they also enjoy the scenery so it's truly a wonderful thing," Dr. Pan said after the ceremony. "You see the '50 years' banners we put on the streets and this partnership really benefited all of us. The community vibrates when we work together to form partnerships. It's really wonderful to do this."

Along with the recent completion of the Fiesta District improvements along Southern Avenue from Alma School Road to Sycamore, the paseo nodes are to create a relaxing refuge for pedestrians and bicyclists, while also providing non-vehicular connectivity in the Fiesta District. These nodes will tie-in with the recent Fiesta District improvements along Southern Avenue, according to a press release.

The total cost of the project is \$2,190,156.10. A Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality grant provided \$1,809,018.00 to fund the project. The remaining amount of \$381,138.10 was funded by city of Mesa local street sales tax, according to a release.

"The streetscape project along Southern Avenue ... kind of helps transition the area from what was once a big-box retail neighborhood to more of an employment-oriented neighborhood," Mesa Mayor Giles said after the ceremony. "It makes it more attractive and inviting for employers; a lot of the improvements are aesthetic: this water feature for example and some of the signage and the trees, the wide sidewalks are meant to make it more attractive, more inviting for people, a better place to work than perhaps just a place to come and shop," he said.

*Managing Editor Richard Dyer can be contacted at 480-982-7799, via e-mail at [rdyer@newszap.com](mailto:rdyer@newszap.com) or on Twitter at [RHDyer](https://twitter.com/RHDyer).*

**Tags:** Featured

## Related Posts



**I-10 West closed this weekend near downtown Phoenix, ADOT says**

10/22/2015 · 0 Comments