Message from the Mayor
Ken Ladner

The Big Ditch Park - Mother Nature’s Gift to Silver City

If you’ve ever been in the Big Ditch Park, especially in the spring, you know what a lush, green, beautiful place it is. A live gurgling stream makes its way through an impressive sculpted rock stream bed, surrounded by hundreds of green trees, populated by birds and wildlife. The Big Ditch is the single most unique feature of Silver City’s downtown, and an asset that sets it apart from most Southwestern cities of any size.

So which came first? The Big Ditch, or the town of Silver City?

Originally known as Cienega de San Vicente, or the marshlands of Saint Vincent, Silver City’s location in a bowl surrounded by wooded foothills is a natural collecting place for water running downhill. Water and trees made it an obvious choice for Indian settlements, and later Spanish explorers, western settlers and gold-miners.

When Cienega de San Vicente started to grow and become a ‘real town’, the first commercial buildings were situated on either side of the main intermittent stream running through town. Store keepers knew they could send the debris from their shops into “Main Street” and the next rain would carry it away to the south.

As the settlement grew, and mining mills sprung up, the surrounding hills yielded loads of wood to power the steam engines and heat homes and businesses. Grazing took away the grass, and adobe-brick making left the soil loose and disturbed. The town grew prosperous, as the steep hills grew bare. The water run-off of those hills became swifter with each passing storm.

With each rain storm, Main Street wore deeper. It became an arroyo, a gully, and eventually a gorge. Residents expended huge effort and vast sums to construct and repair breakwaters and other flood control structures in an ongoing attempt to keep Main Street alive. These inevitably fell when the floods stormed down the street.

(continued on page 3)

MainStreet Receives Funding from Freeport McMoRan

Silver City MainStreet Project received a $63,500 grant from the Freeport McMoRan Foundation for the Main Street Plaza. The funding will be used towards Phase II, installing lights, landscaping and a retaining wall in the Main Street Plaza located in the lot between 7th and 8th Streets.

“We are grateful for this funding, states Patrick Hoskins, Silver City MainStreet Board President. Working with the Town of Silver City to get this project off the ground has been rewarding and we appreciate the Town’s support and the funding from the Freeport McMoRan Foundation.”

A ribbon cutting for the Phase I restroom will be held May 16th, at 3pm in the Main Street Plaza.

MainStreet Receives State Capital Outlay Funding

Silver City MainStreet Project received $200,000 in state capital outlay funding to be used for the Main Street Plaza. The funding will also be used towards Phase II. This project will benefit residents and tourists alike, increasing the economic vitality of downtown by providing an event venue.

“We are especially grateful to Representatives Rudy Martinez and Rebecca Dow, Senator Gabe Ramos, Assistant Town Manager James Marshall and the Grant County Prospectors, states Patrick Hoskins, Board President of Silver City Main-Street. We know there are many worthy requests each year. We are also grateful to the Town of Silver City for supporting this project and moving it forward.”
Our Mission:
To encourage a vibrant, historic downtown Silver City which is recognized as the heart of our diverse community.

Where to find us:
Murray Ryan Visitor Center
201 N. Hudson St.
Silver City, NM 88061

How to reach us:
Charmeine
@SilverCityMainStreet.com
575-534-1700

Who is MainStreet?
Board of Directors
President
Patrick Hoskins
Vice President
Evangeline Zamora
Secretary
Marcia Stout
Treasurer
Carmon Steven
Board Members
Georgia Bearup
Nancy Johnson
Susan Allen
Staff
Executive Director
Charmeine Wait
Visitor Center
Rebecca Martin
Admin. Assist.
Mary Lucero

Our Vision:
Silver City MainStreet will be a highly visible, respected, credible community economic development program that is recognized for its ability to bring economic vitality and growth to Silver City's downtown while preserving and enhancing local culture and historic resources.

The Future Forge - a Maker Space in Downtown

Another new addition to downtown is Future Forge a cooperative modular workspace focusing on real world production, arts, maintenance and skill building. Future Forge is headed by Nick Prince, Gabe Farley and Stephen Lindsey, and came about as the three saw a need for a space for the community’s different interests. Their idea became a reality when in July, they got a call to move into the old Custom Steelwork’s Warehouse, and they have been going non-stop ever since. Future Forge is open to the community for $60.00 a month per person, and has around 32 members currently. There are sponsored slots available from community members who wish to invest in others. Future Forge will also be offering an upcoming public workshop series. “We are extremely appreciative of the community, and have been making real impacts with people,” said Nick Prince co-founder. Future Forge is located at 212 S. Bullard, open Mon-Sat from 9am-6pm. For more information, you can go the Future Forge’s website thefutureforge.org.

Thank you Town and Country Garden Club & Community Youth Building Project

Many thanks to Town and Country Garden Club for funding the downtown Planter Project and to Gary Stailey and the Community Youth Building Project for planting and building the planters.

The planters are back out and looking pretty throughout downtown.

What is Silver City MainStreet?
Silver City MainStreet is a non-profit organization that is a part of a state and national organization committed to working with our community to revitalize our downtown. We promote a community driven program combining historic preservation with economic development. We do this through collaboration and promotion of downtown events, improvements to and preservation of our historic district, and the development of new and creative uses for downtown buildings. New Mexico MainStreet and participating local affiliates use The Main Street Four-Point Approach® as the basis for developing transformative economic development. The Four-Points are: Organization, Promotion, Design, and Economic Vitality. The ACD is now our fifth standing committee.

Current Projects
Currently we are working on Phase II of the Main Street Plaza, and seeking funding to finish the project. We continue to engage business owners through merchant meetings, Love Local program and promotion.

By working together, we can make downtown Silver City vibrant!
Save the Dates!

Give Grandly is Saturday May 11, 2019
Please stop by the Silver City MainStreet booth to donate and support the many projects we work on.

Downtown Spring Walk-a-Bout
May 11, 2019
10 am to 5 pm. Organized by Silver City Art Association, this is a fun sidewalk sale.

FREE Drawing for weekend get-a-way!
May 11 only
Must complete scavenger hunt.
Pick up the scavenger hunt at the Visitor Center.

Ribbon Cutting for MainStreet Restroom
May 16, 3 pm

Social Media Classes coming soon!

Look for this sticker on downtown businesses that offer discounts to WNMU students!
Sign up with Silver City MainStreet and get your window sticker!

Volunteer and Go to the Movies!

Silver City MainStreet has a fun volunteer program. For every three hours of volunteer service, you will receive a Silco Theater Gift Card good for one movie. It’s a win-win-win! We need volunteers to help us with events and special projects.
Become a Silver City MainStreet volunteer and help make downtown Silver City vibrant!

Questions? Call 575-534-1700 or email Charmeine@silvercitymainstreet.com

Many thanks to these
March - April Volunteers!

Community Youth Building Program
& Gary Stailey Elliot Price
Cissy McAndrew
Charles Hubbard Steve Townley
Lynda Aiman-Smith
Susan Allen
Nancy Johnson
Tasha Cooper
Ward Rudick

VisitSilverCity.org - Offers Free Event Calendar!
Did you know that you can post your event for free on the visitsilvercity.org calendar? This is the go to calendar for residents, tourists and out-of-town marketing firms. If you want to make sure people know about your event, please go to visitsilvercity.org, click on calendar, click on submit event, and fill out the form. It is that easy!

(Message from the Mayor continued from page 1)

After a major flood swept down Main Street in 1895 and turned it into a gorge, the town had to give up on Main Street and built a pedestrian footbridge over San Vincente Creek. By 1902, another devastating flood carved the gulch even deeper. Given that the construction of the Panama Canal, called “The Big Ditch” was in the news, Silver City locals now referred to the waterway gulch in the middle of town as their own “Big Ditch.”

The Big Ditch was a long way from being the desirable location it is today. Major efforts ensued over the next 60 years to stabilize the banks and allow the water to flow where it would cause the least damage. More on that next time, as our retrospective look at the history and formation of the Big Ditch Park continues.
Thank you!
Silver City MainStreet Partners

Silver City Mainstreet is very grateful for the annual financial support provided by the following community members, businesses and organizations. Financial support from the community helps to sustain the MainStreet Program and provides a portion of the funding needed to continue the work of MainStreet.

Rose Shoemaker
Morning Star
Snedeker Enterprises
James Edd Hughes, Edward Jones
First American Bank
Lopez, Dietzel, Perkins and Wallace
Silver Cafe
Single Socks
Guadalupes
Mountain Ridge Ace Hardware
Morones & Knuttinen, LLC
The Palace Hotel/Nancy Johnson
College St. Plaza
The Hub/Suzi Calhoun
Humphrey’s Enterprises
Silver Linings/Bruce McKinney
Re/Max Silver Advantage/Patricia Fell
United Country Mimbres Realty/
Georgia Bearup
David Rose/Ceil Murray
Sudie Kennedy
Smith Real Estate/Becky Smith Ladner
1st New Mexico Bank
Belitha B. McKinney
Revel Restaurant
Honeebee Goods
Silver City Museum Society
J & S Plumbing and Heating
Diane’s Restaurant
Steve Townley
Linda Gray
John McEachran
Carolyn Smith
Silver City Jewelers
The Rock Center/Gaye Rock
Lois Duffy Art
Holly Sytch - Encore
Lynda Aiman-Smith
Home Furniture
Tapas Tree Grill
Silver City Food Co-op
La Cocina Restaurant
Tommy Ryan

Funders
Freeport McMoRan
NM Resiliency Alliance
Town and Country Garden Club
Lineberry Foundation
Town of Silver City
You can help make downtown vibrant!
Please go to
www.silvercitymainstreet.com
to donate online

New Business Spotlight
by Mary Lucero

New business’ that have been opened downtown in these last few months include Animalia Studio. Animalia is owned and operated by Todd Shelby and Karen Pritchett. Todd and Karen found Silver City through friends of theirs that they would frequently come to visit. Having spent thirty years traveling to do art shows they were ready to get off the road and Silver City fulfilled all of their wishes for a place to settle down and sell their work. Animalia offers a myriad of unique pieces from Pottery to handmade upcycled pieces of clothing each hand-crafted by Todd and Karen. What makes Animalia so unique is that either both or one of the owners have made everything being sold, and as you peruse the store you can see them hard at work. Animalia is located at 214 N. Bullard, open Mon from 10am – 5pm , Tues closed and Wed by chance or appointment, Thurs-Sat from 10am-5pm, and Sunday from 10am-2pm. For more information, you can go to Animalia’s social media pages Facebook- animaliastudio and Instagram-animalia.studio.

Animalia Studio

You have questions... We have answers!
Cash Flow • Marketing • Financing Options
Product pricing • Internet selling
NM Gross Receipts Tax
Preparing to sell your business and/or building
Buying a downtown business and/or building
And much much more
FREE Assistance

Small Business Development Center at WNMU
575-538-6320 • sbdc@wnmu.edu

(Another new business is featured on page 2)
There are more than 140 businesses downtown. Great retail, food and coffee shops, bike shops, an ice cream shop and more!

Have you been to Encore lately? It’s a retail and gift shop. Or how about Kris’s Unique Boutique. Check them out!