

I am honored be the first of the members of City Council to be able to talk about things happening in my Ward or around the City in this column. Each week you will see one of us from the City sharing information about something that the City is doing.

Sometimes it seems that improvements to our community happen at a snail's pace, but they are happening. Thanks to the diligence and hard work from Xenia Gonzalez, Housing Manager, and Jennifer Smith, Leisure Services Manager, and their staff members, we are finally able to upgrade our Veteran's Park playground which you will see installation begin very soon!

The City applied for funding for this equipment through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), one of the longest running programs from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Beginning in 1974, this program provides annual grants to local jurisdictions by using a formula comprised of several measures of community need, including the extent of population, average income, and housing, intended primarily to benefit low and moderate income individuals. The use of these funds must be earmarked to address community needs having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community.

As with any Federal program, a myriad of rules, regulations and reporting mandates accompany the grant acceptance. I understand that this playground will be all-inclusive, providing entertainment to children of all abilities, a much needed addition to our 8<sup>th</sup> street park. I anticipate that this will be but one step in the long road of improvements we all hope to see.

Watch for an announcement for a time we can come together and celebrate the installation of this long-awaited amenity in our home town.

As I close, please know I am always available to meet or talk. Mitch Lindemann, Councilmember, Ward 2, [Mitch.Lindemann@douglasaz.gov](mailto:Mitch.Lindemann@douglasaz.gov); 520-417-7302.