



City of Cortez
123 Roger Smith Ave.
Cortez, Co. 81321

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

May 24, 2022

The following are the current events and topics for the City:

1. The Playground Days program starts up again on June 6th. There is a lot of interest in the program this year, so get your application turned in soon if your child plans to participate. Applications may be found on the website, or you may pick one up at the Recreation Center. Also, we are still short on councilors. This is a fun summer position that is very rewarding. Please turn in your application ASAP if you interested in applying for this position.
2. The HR department is working to find more and easier ways for applicants to apply for jobs at the City of Cortez. Although we will accept hand-written applications for some positions, most positions require application through Workforce Services. HR is currently working on other avenues wherein applications may be submitted that is more streamlined and suitable to the needs of potential applicants.
3. The Parks Department has had difficulty recruiting seasonal parks workers to help keep the parks maintained as we transition over to the summer season. It appears, based upon the trajectory of hiring seasonal workers this year that it will be closer to July before they are more fully staffed. We ask for patience from the community while our parks team does all they can with the help they have to keep our parks clean and maintained.

EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHT

Nominated by Brian Peckins, Director of Public Works

Dona Thompson

Dona is the glue that holds the Public Works Department together. She is the Public Works Admin Assistant and has been working for the City since 1979. She has a wealth of institutional knowledge, and she is the one that can find information on old contracts, handshake agreements, and notes from long ago meetings. Her primary goal is to keep Public Works running like a well-oiled machine, and she is usually two steps ahead of anyone else in the Department. She has great organizational skills, and maintains great relationships with all the staff. Her social style is amiable, with just a touch of driver in her.

Dona was born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri, until she was 11 (yes, she's a "Show-Me" girl), and then moved to Colorado. She started sixth grade at Mesa Elementary School, and graduated from the high school on 7th Street which is now a vacant lot.

Dona typed the 1980 Construction Design Standards and Zoning Ordinance (without a computer) and worked on contracts for water main transmission lines and street extensions. She helped initiate the

Recycling program in 1993, and incorporated Planning and Zoning, GIS, Cross-Connection, and Engineering into Public Works.

Her entire City career has been in the Public Works Department, first as Secretary, and then as Administrative Assistant to six different Directors. She's worked with eight City Managers, and over a hundred other immediate co-workers during the last 43 years: engineers, planners, building inspectors, water crews, street crews, refuse and recycling collectors. Over the years, she has developed deep and lasting friendships with other employees, and thinks of the City as her second home.

She has seen it all and done it all, but she's not done yet! Lately it has occurred to her that "what a long, strange trip it's been".