

COMMUNITY

Public Works Department crew cleans up the Billy Smith Memorial Walking Trail

BY DON DECKER,
YAN News (Updated news 04/30/19)

The CHR Program initiated a clean-up of the Billy Smith Walking Trail next to the administration building in Middle Verde. Billy Smith leaves a legacy of family members who still carry on his last name to this day.

About 8 crew members from the

Public Works Department showed up on the scene around 6:30 that morning and started trimming the overhanging bushes, trees and picking up litter.

The upgrade is part of the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) "Good Health & Wellness in Indian Country" 5-year grant that is ending this year according to CHR of the Nation coor-

dinator, Linda Rocha.

The Nation's Public Works Department crew trimmed up the bushes along the trail's edge and picked up the litter.

Daniel "Spoonie" Lewis, supervisor of the Roads Crew under the Public Works Department, consulted with Mrs. Rocha that morning on patching up the edge of the spillways where

there was soil erosion next to the paved walk way.

The Billy Smith Walking Trail was constructed with a grant from the Robert Woods-Johnson Foundation in 2002.

The trail is a popular place for some of the Nation's employees who walk the trail during their breaks and lunch hour.



Nathaniel Russell prepares to attack the weeds on the walking trail.



Linda Rocha consults with maintenance supervisor about erosion along the path.A

Apache culture office of YAN meets with the Town of Camp Verde

BY DON DECKER,
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Vincent Randall, Apache culture director for the Nation visited Sebra Choe, Project Manager Economic Development Project Manager from the Town of Camp Verde. Also present for the meeting was Chris Coder, archeologist for the Yavapai-Apache Nation.

Ms. Choe shared information about an upcoming community art mural project that is being planned for a wall on the town square of Camp Verde. This mural will be rendered by the art direction of Rebecca Murray of Camp Verde whose specialty is mosaics. Artists Gaylene Allen and Lynette Kovacovich are co-leading the artwork process. Mosaic art uses small pieces of colored glass or glazed tile pieces which are cemented together on any surface including walls and tables. The mosaic pieces are cemented together based on the color schemes of the initial drawing that may have



Vincent Randall, Apache culture director of Yavapai-Apache Nation meets with Sebra Choe of Town of Camp Verde to discuss upcoming mozaic art mural with YAN community artists.

been rendered with either tempera paint or watercolor. Usually comprising hundreds and even thousands of mosaic pieces, the final rendering of a completed scene can take extensive amount of time. "Rebecca Murray's mosaic artwork (was) the inspiration for our mural (project)," said Ms. Choe.

Ms. Choe believes in inclusion and is reaching out to encourage Yavapai-Apache Nation artists and cultural specialists to share their ideas about the kinds of cultural symbols that identifies Yavapai

and Apache that could be included in the proposed mural. The completion goal for the mural will be in October of this year.

Ms. Choe was formerly with the Camp Verde library. Her supervisor, Steve Ayers, is Town of Camp Verde Economic Development Director and most people on the Yavapai-Apache Nation may remember Ayers as former journalist of the Camp Verde Bugle for many years.

"My goal is always thinking—'What unifies us?' I think about our land—that we have the same agricultural his-

tory of farming. Land is one of the elements that binds our town and tribal communities," she said. "Agricultural history was the theme of the mural completed at Thanks-a-Latte in January 2019. Our land's history and the responsibility to protect our natural resources, is something we have in common," said Choe.

Ms. Choe is concerned about the night skies that are now being polluted by night glare from distant cities such as Phoenix.

"Our skies unify us. We live under the same night sky. I would love

for the Town and the tribe (YAN) to work together to keep our stars bright, because only 20% of North Americans can see the Milky Way due to all the light pollution. One of my goals is to help the Yavapai-Apache Nation become an International Dark Sky Community".

Ms. Choe says that Yavapai-Apache Nation would be the second sovereign Indian nation in the world to become an International Dark Sky Community. The Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians whose lands borders the Arizona-Utah border, are first Indian tribe designated as an International Dark Sky Community according to Ms. Choe.

"We don't want to be in the position where one day we say, 'We use to be able to see the Milky Way. Now, everyone has their lights turned on,'" she said referring to light pollution at night.

The Cities of Flagstaff, Sedona and the Village of Oak Creek are already International Dark



Stained glass rendered by Rebecca Murray of Camp Verde.

Sky Communities. "We're trying to get Cottonwood onboard, then Clarkdale and Jerome," said Ms. Choe.

The third element of Ms. Choe's target is unifying the artists of Camp Verde and YAN. She says that the celebration of Fort Verde Days by the Town versus the commemoration of Exodus Day by the Nation highlights how our history may divide us. But if our artists can work along side by side with each other, expressing who we are together—this unifies our community," says Ms. Choe. "These are the 3 ways that I am trying to bond the communities. These are within my realm"

Nation upgrading sewage lagoons



Underlayment of liner for main lagoon

Robert Mills, YAN grand coordinator visits with workcrew at the lagoons who are laying the piping to the holding lagoons.

BY DON DECKER,
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The Nation was awarded \$700,000 from I.H.S. to upgrade the wastewater treatment lagoons that are located about half a mile south of the Middle Verde community.

EW Parker Construction Company of Payson was awarded the contract to expand 2 lagoons and adding another large lagoon according to Robert Mills, grants coordinator for the Nation.

The largest lagoon is larger than a football field.

Originally, the project was to have been completed in May 2019 but due to inclement weather this past winter the project has been extended into August 2019.

Several years ago an underground pipeline was inserted underneath I-17 on Middle Verde Road which now allows waste discharge from the casi-

no, the hotel, culture center and the Chevron business complex (and the RV park) to be carried to the lagoons in Middle Verde.

The lagoons allow the wastewater to be broken down by the algae in the lagoon. The sun and wind play a role in the operations of the lagoon. The light provides light, warmth and oxygen to the water for the break down to occur. All of the lagoons are designed so that disposal occurs by evaporation.

The largest lagoon will have a fabric liner to assure containment of the waste water.

Mr. Mills said that an I.H.S. inspector is available on the construction site to assure compliance and to observe construction specifications.

The lagoons are fenced in and secured to prevent children from entering.