

Red Rock Review

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## BARBARA'S PARK ENTERS PHASE TWO

Never doubt that small group of thoughtful, committed citizens  
can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has.

-----Margaret Meade

Lovely words and true but as far as prospects for the Barbara's Park project up on Sedona's Posse Grounds are concerned, it also helps to have volunteers, the City, generous donors and Yavapai County to launch a community park for people of all ages, skills and interests. In that regard, mark down the name of Yavapai County Supervisor Chip Davis, a sixth generation Arizonan. Here we have a man who spends much of his time worrying about crime, water, roads and illegal dumping, but he truly loves to work on what he calls the good things.

To him one of the good things is the forthcoming Barbara's Park. Spurred on by Davis on April 16th, Yavapai County will approve a \$35,804 donation to the City of Sedona under an intergovernmental agreement and that amount will be then transferred to the Friends of the Posse Grounds account to be used to grade and create infrastructure. This gives us a tremendous boost, exults Madeleine OCallaghan, President of Friends of the Posse Grounds. Barbara called this acreage the heart of Sedona parkland, the jewel in the crown. This donation brings the community park named for her that much closer. We want to complete the project in the next two years or sooner. All that is holding it up is ALL the money.

Thanks to Yavapai Countys generous funding, project leaders and volunteers are drawing up new fundraising plans and they are also engaged in a major review of the existing design to determine whether a different, and less costly approach than the current design is attainable.

To be sure, the late, great Joe Beeler had it right when he told a visiting writer one day after hours of talk in his studio, well, I think I'll get back to play. Indeed, the task of raising money requires work, but it can actually be interesting and fun, too.

Mark calendars for a special benefit on Sunday May 6, at Canyon Moon Theatre in the Village of Oak Creek. It will be the scene of a Storytellers Rendezvous, designed to be a night of story telling delight. Such local luminaries as Steve Benny Benedict, Sally Stryker, Dee Popit, Marge Fallon and others – maybe Mike Peach and James Bishop, Jr. – will fill the hall from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM with tales, some tall, most close to the truth. Entrance fee will be \$15 and will be split evenly between Canyon Moon's coffers and Friends of the Posse Grounds.

Later in the year, on Saturday July 28, a major benefit for the park, dubbed the Page Springs Cellars Blue Heron Festival, will unfold at Page Springs Vineyards and Cellars. From 4 PM to 9 PM, friends, families, artists, cowboys, tourists and all will be able to relish a Tuscan picnic supper in the vineyard, enjoy wine tasting, strolling poets, and cuisine by Troia's Pizza Pasta Amore. Rumor has it that an opera singer will be there accompanied by a strolling accordion whiz.

These days, when the world is too full to talk about, such celebrations will be food for the soul.

Friends of the Posse Grounds remain committed to raising all the funds needed before beginning the work of rebuilding. Also they want Barbara's Park to be useful to the public on an ongoing basis. "We'll accomplish two things with this strategy" says Madeleine O'Callaghan; One is a speedy construction phase second, also having the park available to the public with just a small interruption for the construction. Now is the time for park--lovers to make their investment in the community's future. Join in, donate as generously as you can and come to our events and join in the fun of building the funds."

Meantime, Friends of the Posse Grounds grant-writers are busy filling the in-boxes of foundations and corporations with grant requests. Sums up board member Justine Kusner, "If we have no hope for a park, then there is no hope. I have hope but we need money, too."