

Leadership

Link:

Mayor David Miller on Lubbock and the Seniors of the South Plains



Request from the mayor:

I have a request for your readers. I would like for them to lend their experience, wisdom and talents to the community as volunteers. There are boards and commissions that we appoint people to almost every meeting at City Hall. To have a wide variety of people on these boards as to age, gender and ethnicity is important to us. We'd love to have more participation from our seniors. To me this is one venue they could use their experience to serve our community.

I think seniors should think about the legacy that they leave behind in our community. We have terrible rates of teen pregnancies and STD's. I think seniors could really be meaningful mentors and make a difference to our youth.

If interested in serving, please go to www.mylubbock.us and click on city government and then on boards and commissions. The website lists all the current boards and commissions and provides an online application for joining one of the boards.

Leadership Link is our way of helping our readers get to know our local leaders. If there is someone you would like for us to interview or a question you would like answered, please email us at info@seniorlinkmagazine.com or write us at:
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What are some of things that you're excited about in Lubbock?

I would come at that in 3 different ways. First of all when you look at the core services the government should be providing, we're doing very well. At the same time Lubbock has the 4th lowest tax rate for cities that are 100,000 and above. Our crime rate is on the decrease, in spite of some horrible, tragic murders this year. But, the overall crime rate in Lubbock is down for the 2nd consecutive year.

The second area is quality of life issues. We have as many acres of parks in Lubbock as anywhere else you're going to find. We have all kinds of entertainment venues and we have the 3rd best Little League team in the world. Lubbock was also just named to the top ten best commute cities in the United States. You can get across town in 15 minutes.

The third thing I find excited about Lubbock is this growth phenomenon we're experiencing. The pace of the growth of the city is encouraging. We'll have a thousand new jobs by the end of next year. In addition, there is 2.1 billion dollars of new property value being built right now.

What does Lubbock have to offer seniors?

There is not a better set of healthcare facilities between here and Los Angeles. When you look at what is important as we age— from acute care to long term care, to communities that are now springing up for senior citizens, Lubbock has a lot to offer. When I think about transportation, we can get anywhere from LIA (Lubbock International Airport). And, if you retire from California, or Arizona, or New York you could sell your house and buy about three times as much house in Lubbock. The economy is strong.

If I were a senior, I'd be worried about health, mobility, and my pocket book and living on a set retirement income. I'm not sure all those are not already being met here in Lubbock. I don't mean to paint a perfect picture, because I know people have problems and concerns, but I think we address the main areas pretty well. This is where I will retire and live the rest of my life.

