



UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER  
OF EL PASO

December 19, 2014

**New Neighbor:** I was invited to welcome a new neighbor to our budding campus this week when El Paso Fire Department's Fire Chief Samuel Peña cut the ribbon and officially opened the new state-of-the-art Fire Station No. 5. And, believe me, the fire station is first class. This new facility is a key component to the Medical Center of the Americas campus' development. The fire station replaces two smaller stations that were near the campus and adds HAZMAT capabilities and team headquarters. A feature that complements the disaster preparedness drills that UMC conducts regularly. Not only does the station offer new capabilities, but it also adds more EMS personnel and emergency vehicles to the area. This is sure to drop emergency response times which in turn mean better outcomes for patients needing fast and ready access to life-saving care.



Altogether, the location, capabilities and staffing of Fire Station No. 5 is a well-thought-out plan and one that helps UMC, the MCA and the City of El Paso to improve our community. Welcome to our campus.

**New Nurses:** This past Saturday, a group of new Nurses graduated from our city's different colleges and universities. These new medical professionals are a much needed shot in the arm to address the shortage of Nurses in our community and statewide. Texas Tech University's Gayle Greve Hunt School of Nursing alone, graduated 48 new Nurses from their Bachelor of Nursing program. Since 2011, to address this shortage, the Gayle Greve Hunt School of Nursing has been preparing nurses to meet today's healthcare challenges with a unique approach to interdisciplinary teamwork. At the School of Nursing, students learn the complexities of the healthcare setting alongside medical students from the Paul L. Foster School of Medicine. This learning approach provides insight into the environment both disciplines will work in as a team. In February of 2015, the School of Nursing will move into their new building on campus and make this learning collaboration between future Nurses and Doctors much easier. Congratulations to all the graduates, I wish you the best in your new careers.



**Meeting Update:** This week, UMC's Chief Financial Officer Michael Nuñez, members of our Fiscal team and I met with Commissioners Court and County auditors to report on UMC's 2014 year-end audit results. It was a productive meeting where we updated the Court on our 2014 Audit, the status of the 2015 Tax Anticipation Note and cost saving initiatives. We also used this opportunity to discuss with the Commissioners plans for upcoming work sessions. We discussed our timeframes for our standing quarterly meetings, our budget calendar and budget process plus logistics on how we could meet more often to provide updates between quarterly meetings. Stay tuned, for updates on upcoming meetings.

**Holiday Spirit:** This holiday season, patients at our Infusion Center are treated to a beautiful display of holiday spirit thanks to a Christmas tree donation from Dr. Harry V. Whitehill and his wife Deborah Whitehill. The donation was made through a local organization, called Christmas Street, which raises funds for the Paso Del Norte Children's Development Center. The seven foot tall tree was delivered to our Infusion Center and meticulously decorated with flowers, bows and angel ornaments by volunteers from Christmas Street. My heartfelt thanks to the Whitehills and volunteers who gave their time to set-up the Christmas tree for our patients to enjoy – you all truly embody the holiday spirit.



**Weekend:** This is a big Miner sports weekend! Tonight the Don Haskins Center lights up as the UTEP men's basketball team (6-3) takes on the No. 3 ranked Arizona Wildcats (11-0) at 9 pm. The game is sold out, but you can still cheer for the boys by watching on Fox Sports 1 or by tuning your radio to KFOX 92.3 FM. UTEP football is also back in full swing tomorrow in Albuquerque. The Miners (7-5) look to cap off their "bowl bound" season under Coach Kugler with a win against the Utah State Aggies (9-4) in the Gildan New Mexico Bowl. Kick-off is at 12:20 pm and if you didn't get your tickets you can tune your television to ESPN or your radio to KFOX 92.3 FM to catch all the action. Go Miners (hand pick waving in the air)!

Is all your holiday shopping done? If you don't want to fight the crowds and are looking for a unique gift, get to the Downtown Artist Market in the Union Plaza District tomorrow from 9am to 1pm. With over 50 artists on-hand you're bound to find one-of-a-kind gifts for everybody on your list.

Also, this Saturday, beginning at dusk, there are two opportunities to experience the warm glow of Luminarias. The Luminarias Festival along the Mission Trail in El Paso's Mission Valley will feature over 5,000 luminarias along an 8-mile stretch of Socorro Road beginning at the Ysleta Mission past the Socorro Mission and on to the San Elizario Plaza. Or, if your closer to the city's Central part, Centro de Salud Familiar La Fe will light up Scenic Drive with Luminarias from 6pm to 10pm. Admission is free for both, but sightseers at Scenic Drive are encouraged to donate canned or dry goods to benefit families served by La Fe. Have a great weekend. – Jim



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