



News From

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Monroe County Executive

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BROOKS, ZOO OFFICIALS ANNOUNCE NAMES FOR TRIO OF MEXICAN WOLVES

Chico, Diego and Durango were chosen out of nearly 1,000 entries

Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks today was joined by officials from the Seneca Park Zoo, the County Parks Department, the Seneca Park Zoo Society and Salena's Mexican Restaurant to announce the names of the Zoo's three Mexican wolves.

Chico, Diego and Durango were the names chosen for the brothers who were born in April 2007 and made their debut at the Zoo in May. They came to the Zoo from the California Wolf Center in Julian, California.

Nearly 1,000 entries were submitted by the community during a naming contest, which was held from May 24, 2011, through June 24, 2011.

"The success of this contest serves as a testament to the strong community support for the Seneca Park Zoo and the fascinating animals in its care," said **Brooks**. *"The names given to the three brothers truly reflect their personalities and we can't thank the community enough for their support."*

Fifteen people submitted the name Diego. Many suggested it for the cartoon character found in the kids' TV show, *Dora the Explorer*. Others picked it because it highlights the animals' geographic identity. Six people submitted the name Chico for its Mexican theme along with its Spanish meaning "little" or "young" boy. One person selected the name Durango for the Mexican town of Durango, which is close in proximity to where the wolves were born.

"With every opportunity, our community members demonstrate that they are eager to take an active role in the Zoo," said Rachel Baker August, Executive Director of the Seneca Park Zoo Society. *"Support from businesses large and small is crucial to the Zoo's economic health, so I'm pleased to announce Salena's Mexican Restaurant has joined the herd of corporate supporters of the Zoo."*

After 33 years of protection under the Endangered Species Act, less than 50 Mexican gray wolves remain in the wild today. The wolves at Seneca Park Zoo are part of a program to reintroduce wolves into the wild. The Zoo partners with the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and the US Fish and Wildlife Service to support this program.

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“Prior to arriving at the Zoo, these wolves hadn’t spent a lot of time in the public,” said Larry Sorel, County Zoo Director. “Though they have only been here since May, they have adjusted very well and are interacting with the Zoo’s visitors.”

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