Barrel District Network News

Councilmember Yvonne Knaack - City of Glendale, Barrel District

December 12, 2008

WeeVOS Playground Equipment. Councilmember Yvonne Knaack recently attended the dedication of a new playground designed to keep kids fit while having fun.

The new playground, located in Sahuaro Ranch Park, is called WeeVOS. It is designed for toddlers aged 2-5, and complements the adjacent EVOS play structure for older children. The unique playground concept is a suspended structure that encourages physical exertion, as well as thought on the part of the kids as they maneuver over, under and around all of the play features.

This play equipment was donated by Landscape Structures, and is the first of its kind internationally in a public setting. Sahuaro Ranch Park is located at 59th Avenue and Mountain View Road. For more information on parks and recreation amenities, click here or call (623) 930-2820.

Jingle Bell Rockin' Nights. Join us for Jingle Bell Rockin' Nights from 6-10 p.m., December 12 & 13. Bring your dancing shoes for a rockin' good time in Murphy Park, which will be packed with music, lights and excitement. Entertainment will include performances of both holiday music and oldies you can dance to, as well as dance troupe performances. For more information, click here or call (623) 930-2299.

Neighborhood Grants. The city of Glendale approved eight grants for the Fall 2008 cycle, totaling $350,000 that will assist residents with improvements to their neighborhoods.

As part of its commitment to revitalizing and preserving older neighborhoods, the City Council established the Citizens' Advisory Commission on Neighborhoods to make funding recommendations on neighborhood improvement grant requests. This cycle, the Commission on Neighborhoods reviewed eight neighborhood grant requests, which were approved by the Mayor and City Council on December 9.

For more information on the Neighborhood Grants Program, click here or call the Neighborhood Partnership Office at (623) 930-2868.

Free GED Classes. Velma Teague Branch Library, 7010 N. 58th Ave., is offering a series of free basic skills/GED prep classes, three hours a session for 12 weeks, beginning Monday, Feb. 23. The classes run from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Participants must commit to attend all 12 classes.

Registration is required and starts Monday, Jan. 5. Registrants must fill out a form available at the youth reference desk. Participant's registration will be confirmed after the completed form has been reviewed by the program coordinator.

An instructor from the Rio Salado Adult Learning Center will teach the classes. All class materials will be provided. Free on-site child care will be available for children, ages 2-9, of parents enrolled in the classes. Space is limited in the class and childcare. Participants must be at least 16 years of age and not currently attending high school. Preference will be given to Glendale residents. For more information, call (623) 930-3537.

Two New Shows on Glendale 11.

"The Best Glendale Glitters Spectacular Show Ever!" Enjoy the holiday spirit and splendor of the 2008 Glendale Glitters Spectacular from the comfort of your own home. The show airs Sundays at 8 p.m.

"Home Green Home" As the holidays grow near, TV viewers in Glendale can watch a true "miracle on 54th Avenue" as the Acosta family receives a newly constructed, healthy, green home from Habitat for Humanity Central Arizona. Glendale 11, the city of Glendale's TV station, documents the Acosta's transformation from living in public housing to helping build their own Habitat home. "Home Green Home" premiers tonight (Dec. 12) at 7:30 p.m.

Click here for more information or to download the Glendale 11 TV Guide.

Holiday Decorating Safety Tips.

For those who plan to decorate in the next couple of weeks, Glendale Fire wants to remind you of the importance of SAFETY.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), Christmas trees are the ignition source of approximately 300 U.S. home fires each year. In addition, 44 percent of Christmas tree fires are caused by an electrical problem or malfunction.

Here are some tips from the Glendale Fire Department and the NFPA:

- Make sure that electrical cords are in good working order.
- Regularly check your real tree for fresh, green needles. Remember to keep your tree watered at all times and make sure your tree is at least 3 feet from fireplaces, radiators, space heaters, heating vents and other sources of heat. Don't place the tree where it blocks an exit.
- Ensure outside lights, decorations and extension cords are rated for outside use.
- Carefully inspect each electrical decoration – new or old – before plugging it in.
- Do not use staples or nails to string lights.
- Create and practice your home escape plans.

More safety information can be found at www.nfpa.org.

Around Town

Holiday at the Ranch. Experience a hometown holiday and a seasonal atmosphere in the historic setting of this 17-acre ranch! The event takes place from 5:30-8:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec 13 at Sahuaro Ranch Park's Historic Area, 59th Ave. & Mountain View Rd. Enjoy family activities, entertainment, special tours, exhibits, as well as tours of two historic houses decorated for the holidays, a gingerbread house exhibit presented by the Arizona Culinary Institute, a gingerbread craft-making activity, roving entertainers, and a "Let it Snow" play area. Bring an unwrapped toy for a community toy drive. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. Dress warm for winter fun! For more information, call (623) 930-4200.

Holiday Best of Jam. The Acoustic Jam's fine amateur musicians will join favorite Glendale Coffeehouse performers on the Live at the Library stage. Guaranteed to be an evening of merriment with guitars that will banish any seasonal blues. Join us at 7 p.m., on Thursday, December 18 at the Glendale Main Library, 5959 W. Brown St. For more information, call (623) 930-3573.

The Spirit of Giving: Join us for the Spirit of Giving Holiday Lighting Weekend from 6-10 p.m., December 19 & 20 at Murphy Park in Downtown Glendale. The holidays are a time of generosity, so what could be better than a whole weekend recognizing those who give back to our community? It'll do your heart good to get into the spirit of giving by paying tribute to those selfless organizations who make our community a better place to live. For more information, click here or call (623) 930-2299.

B.A.G. I.T. (Bus and Gus Individual Training). A class is being offered to Glendale residents who are interested in learning about how to travel on the bus. No need to register, just show up and learn how to ride Valley Metro Public Transportation or Gus the Bus. Some of the lessons include how to read a bus book, plan a trip, find the closest bus stop, signal your stop and more. The final classes will be held on Dec. 18 at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., at the Glendale Adult Center, 5970 W. Brown St., in room 102. For more information, click here or call (623) 930-2035.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Day Luncheon. As one of the state's premier celebrations of Dr. King's life and the ideals his name so symbolically represents, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Day Luncheon demonstrates Glendale's commitment to create a society that is more just, peaceful and understanding.

The public is invited to attend the event from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm, Friday, Jan. 16, 2009 at the Glendale Civic Center, located at 5750 W. Glenn. Drive.

Tickets can be purchased in person at the Glendale Visitor Center, located at 5800 W. Glenn Drive, suite 140. The Visitor Center is open Monday through Saturday, exclusive of city holidays. Tickets are $40 per person. For more information, click here or call the Visitor Center at (623) 930-4500.

Contact Councilmember Knaack

Council Office: (623) 930-2249
Office: (623) 937-9689
E-mail: yknaack@glendaleaz.com