Cholla District Network News

Vice Mayor Manny Martinez, City of Glendale **December 5, 2008**

Gingerbread Nights. The holiday magic continues in Glendale December 5-6 from 6-10 p.m. each night, with 1.5 million dazzling lights, entertainment, and a special dedication to that iconic holiday treat – gingerbread!

Gingerbread Nights will feature activities for all ages, including inflatable amusements, train rides, horse-drawn carriage rides, holiday arts and craft merchandise and more. The downtown area will be adorned with Gingerbread House decorations – transporting you back to the fairy tales you remember from childhood!

Kids will also enjoy free make-and-take gingerbread crafts, and of course, visits with Santa Claus. Bring your camera, or have Santa's helper snap one for a small fee. If you'd like to sit and watch a flick, bring blankets to sprawl out on the grass to catch the holiday classic "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," showing at 6:30 p.m. both evenings.

In addition to gingerbread treats, all kinds of delicious food and beverages will be available, from kettle corn to funnel cakes to candy apples! Although you can't eat them, visitors will enjoy a display of unique, handmade gingerbread houses created by local chefs.

Glendale Glitters offers free admission and free parking in the downtown area. Click here for more information.

Promoting Inclusiveness Award. In 1963, during his Strength to Love speech, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. stated, "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

Dr. King's message still rings true today and the Glendale Diversity Committee is currently seeking nominations for someone who embraces these ideals with its annual "Promoting Inclusiveness Award" at the Glendale Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Day Luncheon. Nominations are now being accepted for this award based on questions nominees answer and character references.

Nominations should include the following information:

- What has the nominee(s) accomplished that helped to promote inclusiveness?
- What personal beliefs or qualities of the nominee are consistent with those Dr. King lived by and advocated?

The recipient of the award will be honored at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. 2009 Unity Day Luncheon on Friday, Jan. 16, 2009, which begins at 11:30 a.m. at the Glendale Civic Center, 5750 West Glenn Drive, Glendale, Arizona.

Applications for this award may be submitted online or by mail to City of Glendale, HR Dept, Attn: Janice Pitts, MLK Chair, 5850 W. Glendale Ave, Glendale, AZ 85301. Click here to submit an application online and for more information about the Unity Day Luncheon.

GFD 7th Annual Holiday Toy & Clothing Drive. Glendale Firefighters will be putting on their Santa hats as they host their 7th annual toy and clothing drive for children and families in need this Holiday Season.

Glendale Firefighters will be at K-Mart, located at 67th Avenue and Bell Road, on each of the next three Saturdays; Dec. 6th, 13th, and 20th, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for this year's Glendale Firefighter's Holiday Toy & Clothing Drive.

The items in need include: socks, underwear and jackets (for all ages), plus blankets, pillows and toys. Most needed are items for those between the ages of six and 14. The request is that toys and clothing be new.

Last year, Glendale Firefighters assisted more than 500 families and collected more than $38,000 worth of new toys and clothing for children and families in need.

For those who cannot make it out to K-Mart, drop off sites have been set-up at all nine Glendale fire stations and the Glendale Fire Marshal's Office. Click here for more information and a list of fire station locations.

'Tis the season to stay safe!

'Tis the season to be busy, rushed and in some cases, let your guard down, so the Glendale Police Department's Community Action Team wants to remind residents of a few safety tips to keep you and your family safer this holiday season.

• Shoppers are among the biggest targets for criminals. Don't become overburdened with too many bags, which could make you an easy target. Make several trips to your car to drop off packages. The best place to store them is the trunk of your car so they are out of sight. Keep your car locked at all times.

• When walking through parking lots, be aware of your surroundings. Try to go shopping with a partner. Walk with confidence! Do not look like a victim!

• After the holidays, do not discard empty boxes that announce your new gifts (i.e. DVD players, TVs, cameras, video games, etc.). Some burglars will drive through the neighborhood to spot what has been thrown away so they can determine which house to target. Break the boxes down and throw them in your trash or recycle can so that they are not visible.

• If you are going out of town, make sure your home appears as if someone is there. Install dusk to dawn sensors or timers on your inside lights and porch lights. Have a neighbor pick up your mail, newspaper or door hangers or you can have the delivery service hold them while you are away.

For more information call the Glendale Police Community Services Department at (623) 930-3380.

Around Town

Jingle Bell Hike to Santa. Visit with Jolly Ol' St. Nick at the midpoint in this moderate two-third-mile, round-trip hike on Saturday, Dec. 6 from 9-11 a.m. at Thunderbird Conservation Park, 67th Ave., north of Deer Valley Rd. Wear hiking or tennis shoes and be sure to bring water and your camera, but please leave pets at home. This event is free. For more information, call (623) 930-2038.

Free Holiday Concert at Midwestern University. Enjoy the "Sounds of the Season" at this free holiday concert featuring the Arizona Winds and the Arizona Arts Chorale. The concert begins at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 7 at Midwestern University, 19555 N. 59th Ave. This annual program will include a variety of band and vocal holiday favorites, plus a holiday sing-along. For more information, call (623) 572-3353 or visit azwinds.com or arizonaartschorale.org.

Flutasia: A Musical Quartet. Join us for Flutasia, featuring flutists Karen Thomasson, Nora Welsh, Criscell Roberts and Rebekah Lowe on Thursday, December 11 at 7 p.m. The concert will be held at Foothills Branch Library, 19055 N. 57th Ave. in the Roadrunner Room. Enjoy the traditional holiday favorites, as well as classical selections. For more information, call (623) 930-3846.

Campanillas del Sol Bell Choir. This holiday favorite returns on Thursday, December 11 at 7 p.m. at Glendale Main Library, 5959 W. Brown St. in the Auditorium. This 14-member handbell choir was founded in 2000 by Roy and Jennie Blomquist. Come early for a seat! For more information, call (623) 930-3573.

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.

Fiesta Bowl Youth Football Clinic. The Fiesta Bowl Youth Football Clinic will be held from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., December 27 at the Glendale Youth Sports Complex (adjacent to University of Phoenix Stadium). For information, call (480) 350-0911.

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 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., 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 Vice Mayor Martinez
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