Cholla District Network News

Vice Mayor Manny Martinez, City of Glendale **December 11, 2009**

Glendale's Spirit of Giving Weekend – December 11-12. Glendale Glitters will be a place where generosity and compassion are celebrated for the holidays with the Spirit of Giving weekend starting tonight, Friday, December 11 and Saturday, December 12, from 6-10 p.m. each night, with 1.5 million dazzling lights and all kinds of entertainment for the entire family.

The city of Glendale is honoring and celebrating many non-profit organizations and companies that give back to the Glendale community and valley-wide, including the West Valley Child Crisis Center, Donor Network of Arizona, the Swift Branch of the Boys and Girls Club and St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance.

The Spirit of Giving weekend in downtown Glendale offers free admission, and will also feature delicious food and beverages, horse-drawn carriage rides with special mini-pony rides, inflatable rides and visits with Santa Claus. Bring your camera, or have Santa's helper snap one for a small fee.

Many of the downtown merchants will offer extended hours. In addition, "Madagascar" will be shown for free and musical and dance troupe performances will get everyone in the festive holiday spirit.

Glendale's Spirit of Giving weekend is sponsored by The Arizona Republic, Glendale Community College, KTVK 3-TV, KMLE, KOOL, JAMZ, 7-UP and Sedona Pines. For more information on Glendale Glitters' Spirit of Giving weekend, call the Special Events Hotline at (623) 930-2299 or click here!

Parking Lot Closures at Thunderbird Conservation Park. Two parking lots at Glendale's Thunderbird Conservation Park will be closed for maintenance. The parking lot on the west side of the park at 67th Avenue and Patrick Lane will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 14 and 15. The parking lot on the north side of the park at 55th Avenue and Pinnacle Peak Road will be closed on Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 16 and 17. Park guests are asked to use the park's main entrance lots at 59th Avenue between Deer Valley Road and Pinnacle Peak Road during the closures.

Aa2 Bond Rating. In a challenging economic climate, the city of Glendale received a ray of sunshine, recently earning an Aa2 rating from Moody's Investors Service and an AA rating from Standard and Poor's, the industry leaders in credit ratings and financial reporting.

These ratings are reflective of the city's general obligation bond sale conducted earlier this week. The higher rating allows the city to borrow at lower costs, which in turn, frees up money for other needs.

Aa2 and AA ratings are the second-highest rank issued, for obligations that rate as high quality, with "very low credit risk." At a time when other municipalities are experiencing a rating downgrade, Glendale is an anomaly in that it is being recognized for its stable and prudent financial policy.

City staff used an innovative approach designed to lower borrowing costs for our city projects. This marks the first time a deal like this has been structured in the state of Arizona, and only the second time in the nation. Part of this deal included taking advantage of federal economic stimulus funds, which resulted in a $2.6 million savings for Glendale residents.

The city's Aa2 and AA general obligation bond rating reflects the city's local economy, which benefits from its position as a sports and entertainment destination. The stable outlook reflects the expectation that the city will continue to maintain solid reserves and a manageable debt profile.

The holiday season is in full swing, and the Glendale Police Department would like to offer the following reminders to everyone doing last-minute holiday shopping:

Shopping Safety

- Stay alert at all times, and be aware of your surroundings, especially in crowded areas.
- Whenever possible, shop with a friend.
- Be careful carrying bags and packages; use carry-out service when available.
- Always take your receipt after purchases, especially when using cash.
- After paying for items, always put your wallet back in your pocket or purse.

Automated Teller Machine (ATM) Safety

- Choose an ATM that is located inside a mall, grocery store or other lighted location.
- Shield the ATM keypad from anyone who may be standing near.
- Withdraw only the necessary amount.

Vehicle Safety

- Remember to lock vehicle doors and to set alarms if equipped.
- If shopping at night, park in well-lighted areas.
- Put packages in the trunk or rear of your vehicle so they are not easily seen.
- Have your vehicle keys ready before getting to the vehicle.
- Request an escort from security personnel if needed.

The Glendale Police Department wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday season. And always remember, in case of an emergency call 911. To contact the Glendale Police Department for all non-emergencies, please call (623) 930-3000.

Around Town

Click here for the City Council meeting schedule.

Santa's Workshop. Join us from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, December 12 at Foothills Recreation and Aquatics Center, 5600 W. Union Hills Drive, for the 3rd Annual Santa's Workshop. Kids of all ages are invited to this event where they can purchase holiday gifts (everything for $1) for their friends, family, and even pets. A special store will be set up with a variety of items sure to make everyone happy. Santa's elves will be on site to wrap the purchases. Call (623) 930-4610 for more information.

Holiday Food Drive. The merchants of Catlin Court and Historic Downtown Glendale invite the community to participate in the annual Holiday Food Drive to benefit St. Mary's Food Bank. Participating merchants and the Glendale Visitor Center will have collection boxes available for donations of non-perishable food items. The food drive will conclude on Saturday, December 12 with Glendale's Spirit of Giving event in Murphy Park. For more information, call the Glendale Visitor Center at (623) 930-4500. Click here for a list of collection box locations.

Holiday at the Ranch. The Sahuaro Ranch Park Historic Area will be the scenic backdrop for the Glendale Parks and Recreation Department's hometown holiday event.

Holiday at the Ranch will be held from 5 to 8 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 12 at Sahuaro Ranch Park, 9802 N. 59th Ave. The event will feature a gingerbread house exhibit presented by the Arizona Culinary Institute, tours of the ranch's historic houses, holiday light displays, entertainment provided by area school children and opportunities to shop for holiday gifts.

Admission is free and refreshments will be available for purchase. Attendees may give to the community toy drive by bringing an unwrapped toy to donate. For more information, call (623) 930-4200.

Are You Ready to Be a Business Owner? David Moss, facilitator with the Maricopa Community Colleges Small Business Development Center (SBDC), presents "Should I Start My Own Business?" at 6 p.m. on Monday, December 14 in the auditorium of Glendale Main Library, 5959 W. Brown St.

This seminar is perfect for people who are in the early stages of starting a business. Find out the answers to the most basic questions prospective business owners have about developing a business plan, how to obtain financing, and types of business ownership.

The workshop is free but registration is required. Sign up by calling the SBDC at (480) 784-0590 or go to www.maricopasbdc.com.

The Best of the Jam. Amateurs with special talents play together once a month at the Acoustic Jam Session. Now "the best of the Jam" are ready to take center stage. Get ready for some serious fun at 7 p.m., on Thursday, December 17 at the Glendale Main Library, 5959 W. Brown St. For more information, call (623) 930-3573.

Live at the Library. Internationally-renowned classical guitarist Gabriel Ayala and pan-global percussionist Will Clipman will play a repertoire of original compositions mixed with standards from the classical and world music genres at 7 p.m. on Thursday, January 7 in the Main Library auditorium, 5959 W. Brown St. For more information about Live at the Library, call (623) 930-3573.

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