Ocotillo Weekly Update

A newsletter for the residents of Glendale's Ocotillo District

Councilmember Norma Alvarez **January 14, 2011**

Welcome to the Ocotillo Weekly Update. In my electronic weekly update, you will find information about events, activities and neighborhood meetings taking place in the Ocotillo District and around Glendale.

I take this opportunity to introduce myself as your newly elected official representing the Ocotillo District. I look forward to working with every one of you and our local businesses, establishing and maintaining strong relationships.

In this newsletter, you will find my contact information and while I have the pleasure of knowing many of you, I look forward to getting to know all of you.

In the meantime, I encourage you to contact my office to introduce yourself and share your thoughts and ideas as we move forward.

- Councilmember Norma Alvarez

Holiday Notice. City of Glendale offices will be closed on Monday, January 17 in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

All households' scheduled garbage and recycling will be shifted one day due to the holiday. The Glendale Municipal Landfill will be closed. For more information about the city's sanitation services, please call 623-930-2660.

Only Gus Bus One will run, operating on a Sunday schedule from 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. For Dial-a-Ride service that day; reservations must be made by noon on Friday, January 14 by calling 623-930-3500. No same-day service on Monday will be available. Valley Metro buses will operate on a holiday schedule.

While the Glendale Municipal Airport will remain open during the holiday, the airport's administrative offices will be closed.

In addition, Glendale's three public libraries will be closed, as well as the Glendale Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Glendale's Foothills Recreation and Aquatics Center will remain open on the MLK holiday, however, with hours from 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. For more information on other Parks and Recreation facilities, call 623-930-2820.

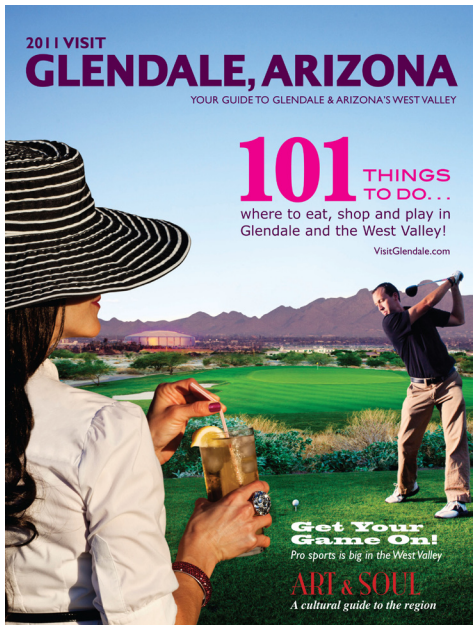
2011 Edition of *Visit Glendale* Magazine Now Available. Along Loop 101 in Glendale and the West Valley, there are at least 101 things to do. That's according to the cover story in the hot-off-the-press issue of *Visit Glendale*, the official tourism magazine of the Glendale Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB).

The magazine is the bureau's latest outreach effort to build tourism in the West Valley with feature stories such as "Art & Soul: A Cultural Guide to the Region," and "Get Your Game On!" about pro sports in the West Valley.

By picking up the 2011 edition of *Visit Glendale*, locals can learn about the amenities and attractions that bring people from across the country to our hometown. The *Visit Glendale* magazine is the first published by the CVB since the bureau was launched in July.

Over the next 12 months, the bureau and its members anticipate distributing 60,000 copies of the magazine, which was printed on recycled paper. However, the bulk of the bureau's resources are online as part of its commitment to sustainability and to give the bureau instant global reach.

Outreach includes Twitter, Facebook and YouTube, but the bureau's online travel tools are popular resources, too. These include an online travel planner, e-newsletters, maps, video and photo galleries, and a virtual brochure rack. The *Visit Glendale* magazine is also available online. To view it, go to www.visitglendale.com. To get your own copy, stop by the Glendale Visitor Center, 5800 W. Glenn Drive, Suite 140, or to have a copy mailed call 623-930-4500.



Free Community Citrus Picking Day, January 22. Come celebrate citrus at Sahuaro Ranch Park on Saturday, January 22 from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Bring the whole family to pick your own citrus to take home. Learn about growing and caring for your own citrus from organizations such as the University of Arizona's Master Gardeners and the city of Glendale Water Conservation Department. Kids will enjoy special citrus-themed crafts, games and activities just for them!

Sahuaro Ranch Park is located at 9802 N. 59th Avenue. For more information about the Community Citrus Picking Day call 623-930-4200.

Free HOA Training Series. Serving on a homeowners association board can be intimidating, yet to function well, boards need to have residents who are knowledgeable and willing to serve. Helping build that knowledge base and the pool of willing residents is the motivation behind the HOA training series offered by the city of Glendale starting in January.

In an effort to assist, the city began offering HOA training nine years ago. To date, 500 people have taken the training to gain the tools needed to more effectively manage and lead their HOA. The training is taught by HOA attorneys, property management professionals, city staff and other industry professionals. The classes are free to Glendale residents. The series of eight classes is $20 for non-residents.

Each class in the series focuses on a different topic. Some of the topics that will be covered include: the fundamentals of an HOA Board, an overview of Arizona's new HOA law, HOA management, and HOA budgeting. The series runs from January 25 to February 19 and includes four Tuesday evening classes from 6 – 8 p.m. and four Saturday morning classes from 9 – 11:30 a.m. All classes are held at the Glendale Adult Center, 5970 W. Brown Street. Registrations for the HOA training series are due by January 21. Early registration is encouraged as only a limited number of seats are available. To view the complete class schedule and to register for the HOA Training Academy, visit www.glendaleaz.com/education and click on "HOA Training" or call (623) 930-2868 to receive an application by mail or fax.

Around Town

Click here for the City Council meeting schedule. Click here for past Council meeting agendas and minutes. Click here to watch a City Council meeting online.

Coffeehouse, January 20. Acoustic music lovers are encouraged to come to the Main Library Coffeehouse in the Auditorium at 6:30 p.m., on the third Thursday of the month. On January 20, Forrest Smith, blues, rock and bluegrass guitarist and Mike Krzyston, finger style guitarist will be performing. For more information, call 623-930-3573.

Authors @ the Teague. Arizona author Susan Pohlman will discuss and sign her new book, "Halfway to Each Other: How a Year in Italy Brought Our Family Home," during the upcoming Authors @ the Teague event at 2 p.m. on Saturday, January 22, at Velma Teague Branch Library, 7010 N. 58th Ave. The program is free. Books will be available for purchase and signing. For more information, please call 623-930-3439.

Annual Arizona Songwriters Gathering. The 15th Annual Arizona Songwriters Gathering will be held at the Glendale Main Library, 5959 W. Brown St., on Saturday, January 22. The free event runs from 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and includes live music performances throughout the day. Workshops on crafting songs, getting songs into film and TV, using social media to further a career in music, and song critique sessions will also be offered. For more information, call 623-930-3573.

Glendale Chocolate Affaire, February 4 – 6. Chocoholics unite the weekend before Valentine's Day, February 4 – 6, as the Glendale Chocolate Affaire takes over downtown Glendale to create a chocolate-lover's dream!

Chocolate purveyors from Arizona and around the nation gather in Glendale for this award-winning festival, which celebrates not only chocolate, but romance and the arts as well. Chocolate confections will include everything from chocolate mole barbecue and deep-fried chocolate ice cream to chocolate bacon candy bars and chocolate cheesecake cones.

Families with children will enjoy myriad activities, including hands-on arts and crafts, face-painting and a rock-climbing wall. Horse-drawn carriage rides will be available throughout the weekend to take couples or families on a scenic, charming ride through the historic Catlin Court district.

For more information on the Glendale Chocolate Affaire, including the entertainment line up and a list of authors making appearances, call our special events hotline at 623-930-2299.

Contact Councilmember Alvarez

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