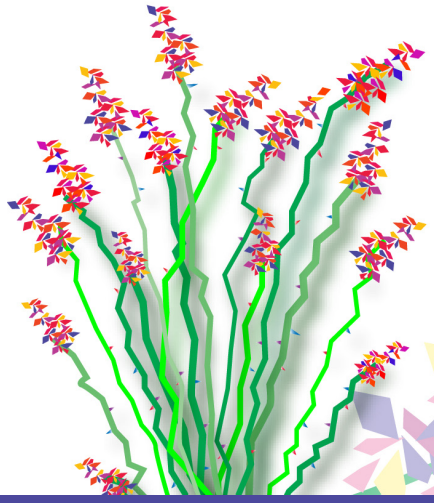

Ocotillo Weekly Update

A newsletter for the residents of Glendale's Ocotillo District

Councilmember Norma Alvarez **April 22, 2011**

Arbor Day 2011.
Councilmember Alvarez spoke at the city of Glendale's Arbor Day event held on Thursday, April 21 at Desert Garden Park - 71st Avenue and Ocotillo Rd.

Students from the nearby Desert Garden Elementary School participated by reading essays they had prepared about trees. The theme of the event was "Trees are Terrific – and Grow a Strong Community".

Special thanks to the Glendale Woman's Club and Glendale Garden Club, who provided refreshments and trees for the event. Two trees were planted at the park.

I would like to thank those of you who attended the follow-up neighborhood leaders' meeting on Wednesday. It was another successful meeting and I greatly appreciate your continued commitment to our community. As I mentioned at Wednesday's meeting, please let me know when your neighborhood has a meeting planned, I will be more than happy to attend.

I look forward to a continued partnership with all of the Ocotillo residents by bringing the neighborhood leaders together on a quarterly basis.

— Norma

Volunteers Make Glendale a Better Community. You'll feel better. Just ask the more than 3,500 people who volunteer their time and talents to make Glendale a better community.

While they donate their time for free, they also get something in return – the satisfaction of knowing they make a difference. It's that difference that gets celebrated each April during National Volunteer Month. And in Glendale, there's a lot to celebrate!

Last year, volunteers provided 120,744 hours of service, which, if paid, would be valued at $2.5 million. That tradition continues in more than 20 departments throughout the city this year.

Volunteers with the city fall into one of two categories: the Glendale STAR Program for ongoing volunteer assignments, and the Glendale Community Volunteer Program that's geared toward groups doing specific short-term projects.

The second category was created as a one-year pilot in 1998. It became a Best of the West award winner and continues today.

Across the city, there are volunteer opportunities that tap into a variety of skills such as tutoring, causes such as feeding the hungry, and interest areas such as gardening.

Click here to learn more about Glendale's volunteer programs.

Some of our 3,500 Volunteers at work!

Utility Deposits. For the first time in 19 years, the city of Glendale has made an adjustment to its deposit for water, sewer and sanitation accounts. The deposit increase only applies to new utility accounts.

For residential property owners and renters, the deposit amount is now $200. For commercial customers, the deposit ranges from $250 to $300, depending on the meter size. This amount is approximately two months of water, sewer and sanitation bills paid by the average customer.

May Job Searching Labs at All Three Glendale Libraries. Are you finding that job searching online can be overwhelming? Need help creating a resume, or applying online? Glendale Public Library offers job coaching and assistance at all three locations on the following dates in May:

Glendale Main Library, 5959 W. Brown St., 10 a.m.-1 p.m. on the following days:

- Tuesday, May 3
- Tuesday, May 10
- Thursday, May 12
- Thursday, May 19
- Tuesday, May 24
- Thursday, May 26

Job Searching Labs at the Main Library are facilitated by Steve Schrade, an Estrella Mountain Community College instructor, and former director of human resources for Bashas'.

Foothills Branch, 19055 N. 57th Ave., 10 a.m.-noon on the following Tuesdays:

- May 3
- May 10
- May 17

Job Searching Labs at Foothills are facilitated by job coach Phyllis Gendreau, who brings over 30 years of classroom teaching experience at both the high school and college levels.

Velma Teague Branch, 7010 N. 58th Ave., 2-4 p.m. on the following Wednesdays:

- May 4
- May 11
- May 18
- May 25

Job Searching Labs at Velma Teague are facilitated by Michael Burton, Information Technology Specialist at Glendale Public Library.

The free walk-in computer labs are made possible in part by a grant from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 along with the Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records. No registration is necessary.

Accounts that become delinquent and require shut-off typically have about two months of unpaid utility charges; therefore, this deposit would assist in recovering a portion, if not all, of any unpaid charges as well as the staff costs associated with turning off delinquent accounts.

Along with the adjustment to the deposit, Glendale has changed the administrative procedure pertaining to deposits. Utility services can now be contracted with renters. Renters must supply the city with a lease agreement and deposit before an account will be opened. Contracting services with the renter ensures that all charges remain the responsibility of the renter, not the property owner.

Furthermore, residential property owners who have six consecutive months of good account history may request a refund of their deposit beginning in the seventh month of service. Tenant and commercial accounts will have the deposit remain on the account until the account is closed and all outstanding charges are paid; then any remaining funds will be returned.

For more information, call Glendale's Customer Service Office at 623-930-3190.

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.

Live at the Library. Join us for one of the West Valley's most popular monthly musical series – Live at the Library. The series is held on the fourth Thursday of the month and begins at 6:30 p.m., at the Glendale Main Library, 5959 W. Brown St. On April 28, Young Sounds of Arizona, composed entirely of middle school and high school age students, presents "The Magic of Jazz, the Freshness of Youth" for an unforgettable evening of jazz music. For more information, call 623-930-3573.

Mastering the Purchasing Maze Purchasing Fair. Small, minority and women-owned businesses – this is your opportunity to visit with 50 governmental agencies and 50 businesses all ready to talk! Join us from 8-11:30 a.m., Tuesday, April 26 at the Glendale Civic Center, 5750 W. Glenn Drive. Click here for more information.

Sahuaro Ranch Family Campout - April 29 through April 30. Experience an evening sleeping under the stars at the Ranch. Activities include star gazing, a "Promoting Environmental Awareness in Kids" program, interpretive talks with real wildlife, kids camp crafts and games, campfires and more! A catered gourmet dinner and breakfast will be served. Reserve your SPACE today! $29 (Non-resident $34). Ages 3 and under, free. To sign up, click here.

Shred It & Forget It. Glendale's Community Action Teams are proud to partner with the Target Corporation and Cintas Document Management Company to offer free document shredding to the community to help combat identity theft. Credit card offers, tax returns, medical bills and old bank statements should be shredded rather than simply thrown in the trash. The "Shred It & Forget It" events scheduled throughout the year offer a fast, convenient, drive-thru service where residents can bring up to three standard-size file boxes of documents for secure shredding. The next event is Saturday, April 30th at the Target located at 10404 North 43rd Avenue from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. or until the shred trucks are full. For more information on "Shred It & Forget It," click here or call (623) 930-2571.

Contact Councilmember Alvarez

Council Office: (623) 930-2244 • Home: (623) 937-0734

E-mail: NAlvarez@glendaleaz.com