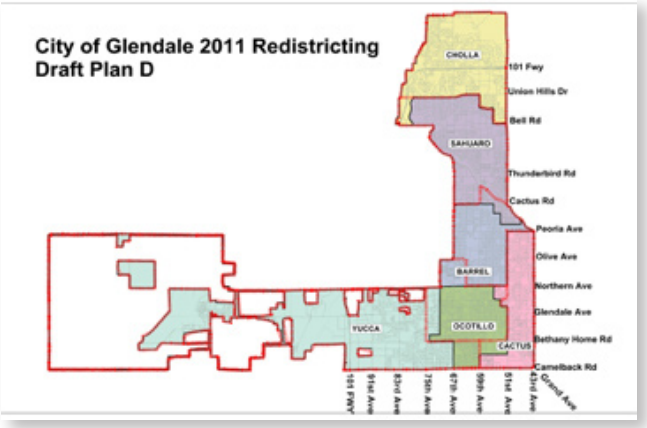
Ocotillo Weekly Update

A newsletter for the residents of Glendale's Ocotillo District

Councilmember Norma Alvarez **September 16, 2011**



City Council Approves Map for New Voting Districts: Department of Justice to Review Next. The Glendale City Council at its Sept. 13 meeting approved a final map for the city's new voting boundaries that will be forwarded to the Department of Justice (DOJ) for final approval and adoption.

The map approved by the council is the one dubbed "Plan D." It will be submitted to the DOJ, along with demographic data, documentation on the process used to develop the map, and the public's role in the process.

The city anticipates hearing back from the DOJ in time to implement the new map for the next city election which will be held in August 2012.

Details on the map such as demographics and population per district can be viewed on the city's website, www.glendaleaz.com.

El Concejo de la Ciudad Aprueba Plano con los Nuevos Districtos Electorales. El Departmento de Justicia está por Revisarlo. En su reunión del 13 de septiembre, el Concejo de la Ciudad de Glendale aprobó el plano definitivo con los nuevos límites electorales de la Ciudad que se le enviará al Departamento de Justicia (DOJ, por sus siglas en inglés) para que lo apruebe y pueda adoptarse.

El plano que aprobó el Concejo es el que se conoce como "Plano D" y se presentará ante el DOJ junto con datos demográficos, documentación sobre el proceso que se siguió para elaborar el plano y la participación de la comunidad en el proceso.

La Ciudad espera obtener una respuesta del DOJ a tiempo para poder emplear el nuevo plano en las próximas elecciones de la Ciudad que se llevaran a cabo en agosto de 2012.

Los detalles del plano, tales como datos demográficos y población por distrito, se pueden revisar en la página web de la Ciudad, www.glendaleaz.com.

Glendale Receives Parks and Recreation Awards. Two innovative programs – one for after school children and one focused on folk heritage – earned top honors for the city of Glendale at a recent parks and recreation conference held in Tucson.

The Arizona Parks and Recreation Association presented Glendale Parks, Recreation and Library Services staff with its Outstanding Educational Program Award and its Outstanding Community/Neighborhood Special Event Award at its 2011 conference. The winning programs are:

Green Crusaders. This youth environmental education program focuses on ways to reduce, reuse and recycle. Glendale's after-school program participants learn the importance of recycling and take part in arts and crafts that utilize recycled goods such as plastic bottles, old phone books, paper towel rolls and egg cartons. The city partnered with Terracycle, a non-profit recycling business, to make the program a success. The program has also become a fundraiser for the after-school programs by gathering recyclable items and turning them in for recycling.

Glendale Folk and Heritage Festival. This event, held in the midst of the buildings of the Sahuaro Ranch Park Historic Area, has grown into a nationally-recognized, two-day celebration of folk music and related history and culture. With over 150 individual performances and 52 workshops throughout the weekend, residents and visitors can choose from a variety of entertainment styles ranging from folk and bluegrass music to cowboy poetry and storytelling.

For more information about Glendale's parks and recreation programs, visit www.glendaleaz.com/parksandrecreation.

First Saturdays are Back

With the change of the season, First Saturdays are back. This monthly event gets underway Saturday, Oct. 1, turning Historic Downtown Glendale into an artists' studio as fine artists in a variety of media create new works of art along the renovated walkways of the city's center.

Held 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., First Saturdays are free monthly events for artists and art lovers sponsored by the city of Glendale's Artwerks project in support of the Centerline District.

First Saturdays are centered in an outdoor walkway off of 58th Avenue just north of Glendale Avenue and include live music performances along with the creative works of painters, sculptors, photographers and other artists. Artists who are interested in participating in First Saturdays are encouraged to submit an entry form for consideration. Click here for more information or to participate as an artist.

AARP Names Glendale One of Top Employers for Workers Over 50. The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) has named the city of Glendale to its 2011 list of "Best Employers for Workers Over 50." The city of Glendale is the only municipality and the only employer in Arizona listed.

Glendale, for the second time, joins a diverse group of corporations, health systems, universities, non-profits and government agencies on the list as the AARP Best Employers program completed its 10th awards designation since the 2001 launch. Glendale was number 13 out of 50 Best Employers.

For more information on Glendale's workforce, visit www.glendaleaz.com/humanresources. For a full list and more information on the 2011 Best Employers, log on to www.aarp.org/bestemployers.

Around Town

Child Care & Babysitting Workshop. Get training on safe and fun ways to babysit and care for children. The class covers CPR, first aid, techniques for active children and how to have a successful babysitting adventure. Build the confidence, self-esteem and skills necessary to care for infants and children on a daily basis and in emergency situations. The workshop will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, September 17, at the Foothills Recreation & Aquatics Center, 5600 W. Union Hills Dr. The cost is $63 for residents and $76 for non-Glendale residents. Please bring a sack lunch. Click here to register or call 623-930-4613 for more information.

Live at the Library. Live at the Library welcomes Wayward Maggie with Jess Hawk Oakenstar and Kate DeLaPointe. Their musical presentation rests somewhere between mournfully dark and rockingly/rollickingly comedic, but it's hard to pin them down. Join us at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 22 at the Glendale Main Library's Auditorium, 5959 W. Brown Street.

29th Annual Fire Prevention Day & Parade. Join us for this exciting Glendale tradition on Saturday, Oct. 8. The parade starts at 9 a.m., at 52nd and Glendale avenues and ends at Murphy Park. Parade goers will enjoy fire vehicles, marching bands, clowns, scouts and much more! Food vendors, hands-only CPR demonstrations, safety information booths and activities for the entire family will be located in Murphy Park until 1 p.m. Join in on the fun! Click here for more information.

An Alternative to Traditional Trick or Treating. Join us for the 2nd Annual Neighborhood Trick or Treat from 6 to 8 p.m., Friday, October 28 at Foothills Recreation and Aquatics Center, 5600 W. Union Hills Dr. The fun will include carnival games, face painting, costume parade, and arts and crafts. The Lil' Drama Dance Troupe also be there to perform their "Thriller" dance performance. The Trick or Treat passport is $4 for residents and $5 for non-residents. Parents are free and are required to stay. For more information, call 623-930-4610.

Dine & Glitter is Back! Friday, Dec. 9. Dine & Glitter is a co-op type event for small and mid-size companies to celebrate with employees at a cost-effective shared holiday party. Companies can reduce costs by sharing the main ballroom of the Civic Center, yet each business also has a designated dining area of their own. Last year 150 guests from several Valley companies attended Dine & Glitter!

Then step outside the Civic Center to enjoy Glendale's Winter Wonderland Weekend, part of Glendale Glitters' outdoor holiday festival with 1.5 million twinkling lights! Click here for more information or to RSVP online. For information, call the Glendale Civic Center at 623-930-4300.

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