Sahuaro Weekly Update

"Where neighbors help neighbors build community."

Vice Mayor Steve Frate, Glendale Arizona **October 7, 2011**

On Tuesday, Councilmember Frate had the honor of welcoming attendees and partners from across the country to the "Project Safe Neighborhoods" anti-gang training conference. The goal of this training is to improve the level of knowledge, communication and collaboration involved in addressing the criminal gang issue affecting communities throughout the nation. The conference was held at the Renaissance Glendale Hotel's Conference Center.

Generosity Abounds In Glendale With Community Support For Charity Drives. Despite economically challenging times, Glendale residents and visitors have given back to the community in record numbers through the city's recent downtown promotions, Christmas in July and Teddy Bear Day.

That generous holiday spirit truly began during Christmas In July when the Glendale Convention & Visitors Bureau partnered with the Police Community Action Team to collect more than 18,000 school supplies to benefit local students, an increase of 1,000 items over last year's collection.

In addition, the teddy bear drive for Teddy Bear Day was a huge success! A record 1,600 stuffed animals were donated on the September 11 event, which will go to the Glendale Fire Trauma Teddy program, as well as other entities such as United Way. This amount tripled last year's donations.

The next charity event for the city of Glendale is the cell phone recycling campaign, which takes place during the month of November in honor of America Recycles Day.

Old mobile phones, including smart phones, will be collected at the Glendale Visitor Center, 5800 W. Glenn Dr. Suite 140, and all three Glendale libraries. The phones will be refurbished and donated to the Glendale Advocacy Center to help victims of domestic violence.

The giving opportunities don't stop there because Downtown Glendale merchants will be teaming up with the city's Office of Special Events for a month-long food drive for St. Mary's Food Bank. The collection will kick off Nov. 1 during the Open Air Market, and culminate at Glendale's Spirit of Giving Weekend Dec. 2-3. The weekend will celebrate giving back to the community, and will feature the food drive as well as numerous charitable organizations participating to raise awareness for their programs and services.

For more information, visit www.glendaleaz.com or call 623-930-4500.

The Glendale Police Department Participates in National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, which provides the Glendale Police Department with an opportunity to educate the community, emphasize that domestic violence is a crime, warn abusers that they will be prosecuted and offer victims aid and support.

The crimes related to domestic violence are serious, repetitive and have the tendency to escalate in brutality. Domestic violence includes the use of physical, emotional and psychological abuse and control, which affects people from all walks of life and of every age from children to the elderly. Consequences of the crime of domestic violence have far reaching effects and almost always extend outside the home. It affects productivity, increased absenteeism and raises the risk of violence in the workplace.

The Glendale Police Department in partnership with the Glendale City Court, Glendale City Prosecutor's Office, Adult Probation, Maricopa County Attorney's Office, and Victim Advocates participate in the Glendale Domestic Violence Task Force to identify and initiate strategies to educate community stakeholders and reduce domestic violence in our city. The task force effort is an innovative response created to provide victims with a multi-agency approach to identify solutions for reducing domestic violence and improving access to victim resources. The Glendale Police Department also participates in the Maricopa Associated Government's Regional Domestic Violence Council, which has helped develop a county-wide best practices protocol for dealing with domestic violence cases.

Glendale Police Officers and Adult Probation Officers prioritize warrant arrests to identify and target repeat offenders for their high risk behavior. The Glendale City Court has a full-time Victim Advocate to guide victims through the court process. The Court has also created a model Domestic Violence Treatment Court to initiate strategic measures to insure all domestic violence offenders are closely supervised and monitored. The City Prosecutors Office also has a Victim Advocate to assist victims of domestic violence all the way through the adjudication of their case.

One of the most recent grant funded strategies in stopping domestic violence is the addition of a Protective Order Coordinator in the Glendale Police Department. Protective orders are not in effect until served. This position was created to maximize law enforcement resources to better serve victims in the timely service of those protective orders.

Finally, the Glendale Family Advocacy Center offers numerous resources for victims of family crimes. It's very important that victims of domestic violence realize they have choices. If you or someone you know is in a violent relationship and would like more information, please contact the Glendale Family Advocacy Center at (623) 930-3720. If you are a victim of a domestic violence crime currently being handled by the prosecutor's office you can call (623) 930-3323 and a Victim Advocate can provide you assistance with your case-related needs.

New, Safer Design for Marked Police Vehicles. The Glendale Police Department has created a new design, with an emphasis on safety, for their marked police vehicles. This design features an updated look that incorporates the department's mission to "protect and serve" as well as the department's values: Integrity, Courage, Excellence, Dedication, Respect and Compassion. The words "Glendale Police" are prominently displayed on each side of the vehicle. The new markings are unique to Glendale, but are consistent in safety and design with vehicle markings used by many other law enforcement agencies around the country.

The design incorporates retro-reflective features that, according to a number of national studies, will enhance officer safety by making the vehicle more visible in low light conditions. The new markings will have at least four times more reflective material than the current markings.

The department does not plan to put the new markings on the entire fleet at once. As new cars are purchased to replace older cars that are being removed from service, the new markings will be applied to these replacement vehicles. Using this approach, it will take approximately three-to-four years to complete the marking change, but will save the department the expense of the labor required to strip the old markings off the entire fleet.

Around Town

City Offices to Close Oct. 10 - Columbus Day. City of Glendale offices will close Monday, October 10 for the Columbus Day holiday. For a list of closures and service schedule changes, click here.

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.

Health and Safety Event. Arrowhead Towne Center will be holding a health and safety event from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 8. The event will be held at the lower level Sears parking lot (north side) and will include child finger printing, the Glendale Police Department SWAT vehicle, the Halo 151 medical helicopter, police K-9s, Southwest Ambulance and displays from safety & health organizations. Come enjoy a free sample of Cold Stone Creamery ice cream!

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