Yucca Weekly Update

Councilmember Joyce Clark - City of Glendale, Arizona

Yucca District - where Glendale's past, present and future meet. **July 10, 2009**

Tyson Crosbie Photography. Enjoy the exhibit, which shows now through July 20 at the Glendale Adult Center, 5970 W Brown Street. The exhibit is free.

2009 Spark Awards Winners. Glendale recognized neighborhood leaders, community volunteers and businesses that have contributed to their community and improved the quality of the city's neighborhoods with the Spark Awards.

The awards are given annually to those individuals who 'spark' their communities into action. The Citizens' Advisory Commission on Neighborhoods presented Spark Awards in the following six categories:

- Young Leaders on the Move: Jacob Janson earned his Eagle Scout badge at the young age of 14. Jacob recruited 50 volunteers to help paint house numbers on the curbs in several neighborhoods in the Sahuaro District.
- Business Support & Involvement: Stan Grossman is the owner of the Glendale Pawn & Jewelry in Glendale and has been a long-time supporter of the youth, teen and community programs at the Glendale Community Center in the Ocotillo District.
- Community Partner: Both Allison Martin and Gwen Marshall help Glendale residents with the basic needs that many of us take for granted. These two women work with The Salvation Army of Glendale to provide food boxes, utilities assistance, clothing and many other services to city residents.
- Neighborhood Revitalization: Christine O'Hara is a resident of the Floralcroft Neighborhood in the Ocotillo District, where she has lived since 1987. She has been the driving force behind establishing the Floralcroft Historical Society to revitalize this unique neighborhood. She applied for two different improvement grants for her neighborhood and spends hours making her neighborhood a safer place to live.
- Traditional Neighborhood Leadership: Danielle Martinez is the neighborhood leader for the Thunderbird Palms/Hickory Shadows neighborhood in the Sahuaro District. She hosts meetings at her home and has been active in obtaining a neighborhood grant for park improvements.
- HOA Leadership: Bob Richards is the vice president of the Arrowhead Ranch Phase II HOA in the Cholla District and he has actively supported neighborhood events and other city programs. He has attended many of the city's civic education classes.

For more information, click here or call the Community Partnerships Department at (623) 930-2868.

New Utility Billing System. In the coming weeks, the City of Glendale will be implementing a new utility billing system. City staff has nearly completed installation of the new billing system that will feature upgraded enhancements to customers. Customers will also have the ability to do more on-line.

While on-line, utility customers will be able to view their utility usage history graphically or in text form. Citizens will still have the ability to make payments on-line, through the automated voice payment system or by contacting a representative directly. City of Glendale customers can also expect to see the option of paper-saving, convenient ways to pay their water bills. Those looking to reduce waste may choose a paperless billing option.

Customers can expect a change in their July and August billing statements. Although the bills will look similar, customers will be issued a new account number. There will now be a two digit occupant code that will identify the property address and occupant related to that account. It will be important to use the new account number when making payments through any type of automated or electronic means, including payments made using on-line banking. For questions about city utility bills, click here or call (623) 930-2700.

Downtown Events Next Weekend.

Friday Nite Lights, Friday July 17. Enjoy late night shopping and dining, and a real hometown atmosphere at Friday Nite Lights. Stroll along brick-lined sidewalks and enjoy charming bungalows-turned shops. Friday Nite Lights will be held from 5-9 p.m. on the 3rd Friday of each month in Historic Downtown Glendale and Catlin Court. Start at the Glendale Visitor Center to pick up a downtown map and information.

Christmas in July, Saturday July 18. Downtown Glendale will celebrate a fun-filled day of early holiday shopping and dining on Saturday, July 18 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Shoppers will start at the Glendale Visitor Center to pick up a map, discount coupons and a holiday gift bag. Holiday music, entertainment and treats will surely put you in the holiday spirit!

The Visitor Center will be accepting food donations for the St. Mary's Food Bank to help during the summer months, when the food bank needs the most assistance.

The Glendale Visitor Center is located at 5800 W. Glenn Drive, Suite 140. Click here or call (623) 930-4500 for more information.

Around Town

Reel Talk Film/Discussion Series. "Tootsie" (1982) starring Dustin Hoffman, Jessica Lange, Teri Garr, Dabney Coleman and Bill Murray will be shown at 1 p.m., on Saturday, July 11 at the Foothills Branch Library, 19055 N. 57th Ave. Film scholar Jeannie Berg will lead a discussion following the film. This series is free. Call (623) 930-3844 for more information.

Tips for Job Hunters. "Getting That Job: Tips for Job Hunters" will be held at 6 p.m. on Monday, July 13 at Velma Teague Branch Library, 7010 N. 58th Ave. The two-hour program will repeat on August 10. Get suggestions on preparing a resume and interviewing techniques. This free workshop will provide resume formatting assistance, plus interview practice, complete with useful critiques. Bring a floppy or a pin drive to save your resume.

Space is limited in this free class, so reservations are required. Please call (623) 930-3431 to sign up.

Couples and Money. Whether you are planning to get married or have been married for a long time, some couples never get around to having "The Talk." Learn how to communicate with your partner about money. This class covers communication, assessing your combined finances, setting priorities and goals, determining your new budget, deciding on a plan of action and making the commitment. Join us for this free seminar at 6 p.m., Thursday, July 16 at the Main Library, 5959 W. Brown St. Reservations are not necessary to attend this free class. For more information, call the Main Library at (623) 930-3531.

Canyon Experiences: Sublime to Silly. Are you an actual hiker or the armchair type of trekker? Either way, you will enjoy "Canyon Experiences: Sublime to Silly" when award-winning landscape photographer Gary Ladd comes to Foothills Branch Library, 19055 N. 57th Ave., at 7 p.m. on Thursday, July 16. Call (623) 930-3844 for more information.

Poetry and Art Contest. Teens, let your creative side shine in the Foothills Branch Library's Summer Art and Poetry Contest. The deadline for submissions is 6 p.m. on Friday, July 17. Winners will be announced and unveiled on Saturday, August 8, at the end-of-summer Celebration of the Arts! Pick up a copy of the entry guidelines at the Foothills Branch or download them from the library's Web site, www.glendaleaz.com/library. Poems must be inspired by one of four art prints from the branch's Mobile Masterpieces collection, on display in the Foothills' teen area. For more information, call Karen at (623) 930-3853.

B.A.G. I.T. (Bus and Gus Individual Training). A class is being offered to Glendale residents who are interested in learning about how to travel on the bus. No need to register, just show up and learn how to ride Valley Metro Public Transportation or Gus the Bus. Join us on July 23 at 10 a.m. or 6 p.m., at the Glendale Adult Center, 5970 W. Brown St., in room 102. For more information, click here or call (623) 930-2035.

3rd Annual World Records Day. Do you have what it takes to break a Guinness World Record? If so, give it your best shot at Foothills Recreation and Aquatics Center, 5600 W. Union Hills Drive. World Records Day begins at 10 a.m., Saturday, July 25 and will showcase a variety of established world records waiting to be broken! For more information, call (623) 930-4610.

Contact Councilmember Joyce Clark

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