Yucca Weekly Update

Councilmember Joyce Clark - City of Glendale, Arizona

Yucca District - where Glendale's past, present and future meet. **September 5, 2008**

Disabilities Commission Grants. The city is offering grant awards of up to $500 to eligible 501(c)(3) non-profit groups that are located in Glendale, or whose target clientele include Glendale residents with disabilities.

To be eligible for a grant award, organizations must use the funds to assist in providing or improving social, cultural, physical or sustenance benefits.

The grants are intended to assist qualifying groups in initiating new programs or enhancing existing programs and services. They are also available to help organizations develop or enhance social programs and to make improvements to existing facilities. Grants of up to $500 are awarded semi-annually, in the spring and the fall, to qualifying organizations. Click here or call (623) 930-2297 for more information.

PARKS & RECREATION PROGRAMS, PEOPLE AND FACILITIES RECEIVE AWARDS. Glendale's programs, people and facilities received awards at the annual Arizona Parks and Recreation Association awards banquet held Wednesday, Aug. 27.

The 2008 Outstanding Educational Program Award went to Sahuaro Ranch Park Historic Area. Sahuaro Ranch Park Historic Area Education Program is a part of Sahuaro Ranch, a historic site which operated as a farm from 1886 to 1980.

Many of the ranch's buildings still stand today. Under the guidance of the Glendale Parks and Recreation Department, Sahuaro Ranch provides a free education program for elementary school-aged students, both through schools and for families. Historic places such as the ranch afford visitors a chance to experience an authentic past, and the ranch is a link to Glendale's traditional agricultural identity. Read more.

The 2008 Community/Neighborhood Special Event Award for Populations Over 100,000 went to GlendOberfest, the city's annual fall festival. GlendOberfest 2007 was held at Sahuaro Ranch Park Historic Area. The event encouraged residents to journey back in time to the late 1800's to an atmosphere of Old Towne Glendale. Sahuaro Ranch Park Historic Area hosted a costume parade, carnival games, carnival rides and other traditional activities and set them within their historically appropriate context.

The Glendale Historical Society helped maximize the historic themes and learning experiences that made this such an extraordinary social and cultural event. Click here for info on this year's GlendOberfest.

The 2008 Outstanding Facility Award for Populations Over 100,000 went to Glendale's X-Court. The X-Court is a state-of-the-art custom designed facility to accommodate the use of skateboarders, BMX bikes, in-line skates and scooters alike. It is a no-fee facility measuring nearly 30,000 square feet of rideable surface. The facility also offers a 1,400 square foot, full-service concession and pro shop.

Staff worked closely with design teams, California Skate Parks, Glendale PD, Glendale Engineering and surrounding neighbors to ensure the facility would meet everyone's visual and functional expectations. Read more.

The 2008 Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Ted Hansen. Ted Hansen is a dedicated volunteer. He has served on the Glendale Parks and Recreation Citizen Advisory Commission for the past five years and was selected to serve as the Commission's Chairperson for the last three years. Mr. Hansen represents what it means to be a park and recreation advocate and volunteer.

The 2008 Professional Award was presented to Shirley Medler, Deputy Director of Glendale's Parks and Recreation Department. Shirley oversees citywide recreation, special events and facility operations, and directs a staff of over 200 full-time and part-time park and recreation employees. Shirley has been a leader in the Arizona Parks and Recreation Association by serving as President, board member and committee member and served as the National Recreation and Park Association State Affiliate for Arizona. Her greatest personal attributes that make her so effective in her job and one of Glendale's most appreciated and liked employees, are the kindness, sense of humor and caring heart with which she approaches her job, her fellow employees and her life.

Freeway Closure. Loop 101 (Agua Fria Freeway) will be closed at Camelback Road this weekend for rubberized asphalt paving. The south-bound lanes will be closed from 9 p.m. Friday to 8 p.m. Saturday (September 6). Northbound lanes will be closed from 9 p.m. Saturday to 5 a.m. Monday (September 8). DETOUR: Traffic must exit at Camelback Road, then use 91st or 99th avenues to re-enter the freeway at Bethany Home or Thomas roads.

Senior Safety Class

Join the Glendale Police Department for a FREE, comprehensive class in senior safety. “Senior Safety: Late Life Lessons” will be held at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, September 17 at the Glendale Adult Center, 5970 W. Brown St.

Topics will include:

- Be alert when out & about
- Make your home safe & secure
- Watch out for con artists & scams

Reserve your seat today! Call (623) 930-2571 or click here for more information.

Around Town

Teddy Bear Day. Celebrate National Teddy Bear Day in Historic Downtown Glendale! Have fun with friends, family and your favorite furry bears on Saturday, Sept. 6 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and enjoy a fun-filled day of make-and-take arts and crafts, sweet treats and exclusive deals in Historic Downtown Glendale. For more information, contact the Glendale Visitor Center at (623) 930-4500 or on the Web at www.visitglendale.com The Glendale Visitor Center is located at 5800 W. Glenn Drive, Suite 140.

Vacant Homes and Rental Property Forum. *What you need to know to protect your neighborhood!* The Glendale Police Department is hosting a free vacant homes and rental property forum. The forum will be held from 7-9 p.m. on on Monday, September 8 at the Glendale Council Chambers, 5850 W. 59th Ave. Pre-registration is required as seating is limited. To register, call (623) 930-4037.

The Glendale Coffeehouse. It never changes. There is no better place to be at 7 p.m. on the first and third Wednesday of the month than the Glendale Coffeehouse at Glendale Main Library, 5959 W. Brown St. For more information, call (623) 930-3573. Admission is free.

Ballet Under the Stars. Ballet Arizona kicks off its season of Ballet Under the Stars in Glendale on Thursday, September 18 at 7 p.m., at Sahuaro Ranch Park Historical Area. Glendale residents and visitors will have the first opportunity to enjoy the popular free performance, which is a wonderful opportunity for families to enjoy an amazing cultural experience in a beautiful outdoor setting. Bring blankets or lawn chairs to enjoy this magical, free performance. For more information, visit www.balletaz.org or call (602) 381-0184.

Family Fitness Fair. A Family Fitness Fair will be held on the front lawn of Glendale Main Library, 5959 W. Brown St., from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on September 20. The whole Family is invited to attend this free event to learn about fun activities that they can add to their fitness routine. You’ll take home ideas of free or inexpensive ways to keep the family in shape. Learn how to play Frisbee tag and other aerobic games, plus fun water activities. No registration is required. This program is part of the library’s *Be Fit: New Skills for a New Future* series. For more information, call (623) 930-3537.

Fire Prevention Parade. The Glendale Fire Department will host the 26th Annual Fire Prevention Parade sponsored by Southwest Gas, in downtown Glendale on Oct. 4. The ever-popular parade will begin at 10 a.m., traveling west on Glendale Avenue from 52nd to 58th avenues. It will feature fire vehicles, clowns, scouts and much more! The parade will end at Murphy Park, where families will find a fun safety fair which will include food vendors, arts and crafts, safety information booths, live music, attractions for the kids and a static display of fire apparatus from around the state. The fair will be held from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. For more information, click here or call the Fire Department at (623) 703-1571.

Click here for the City Council Meeting schedule.

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