Yucca Weekly Update

Councilmember Joyce Clark - City of Glendale, Arizona

Yucca District - where Glendale's past, present and future meet. **December 2, 2011**

Thunderbird Conservation Park Trails to Receive Makeover. Hikers, bikers and equestrians will find a smoother path during their outdoor adventures thanks to a $44,000 grant from Arizona State Parks that is going to spruce up trails at one of Glendale's most popular parks. Trail improvements have begun at Thunderbird Conservation Park and are expected to continue until mid-January.

The trail maintenance will be concentrated on five trails in the park (H-2, H-2A, H-3, H-3A and H-4) and provide approximately six miles of improvements. YRU Contracting, based out of Idaho, will complete the trail maintenance. The company has built and maintained over 700 miles of trails and constructed 20 major trail bridges in 15 states. The trail maintenance includes boulder removal, leveling, installation of erosion control features and retaining walls and infilling with native materials.

Trail notices and signs will be posted at each end of the trail work site to warn hikers of the trail work ahead. Work will be done on the trails from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday through Friday, with a break on Saturdays. Click here for more information about Thunderbird Park.

Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Day Luncheon and Inclusiveness Award Nominations. The life and ideals of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. will once again be celebrated by the city of Glendale during the 2012 Unity Day Luncheon. Join us as we celebrate the life and ideals of Martin Luther King Jr. with a special luncheon on Friday, January 13th, at the Glendale Civic Center from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Each year in January, Glendale honors Dr. King and his ideals with a luncheon that brings the community together in celebration of King's work and the ongoing efforts to promote a society that is just, peaceful and understanding.

This year's keynote speaker will be Freedom Rider, Jim Zwerg, who has appeared on Oprah and the PBS documentary, American Experience: Freedom Riders. The luncheon is hosted by the City's Diversity Committee, which promotes an environment with a high value on individuality, dignity, respect and professional growth.

The committee will also present the Promoting Inclusiveness Award to acknowledge the recipient's contribution to promoting inclusiveness within our community. Nominations must be received (or postmarked) by 5 p.m. December 16, 2011. For more information and to access the on-line nomination form, click here.

Legislative Link Program. The city of Glendale invites residents to attend a legislative session update meeting to be held Monday, Dec. 5. The meeting is part of the free Legislative Link program that enables citizens to stay informed and closely track neighborhood-related matters and bills being discussed at the State Capitol. The program not only keeps residents up to date on issues impacting their community, it also provides citizens a way to actively engage themselves in the state law-making process. Read more

Glendale Glitters – Spirit of Giving Weekend. Downtown Glendale will be aglow with 1.5 million lights as well as 'the spirit of giving' as we celebrate the generosity that the season brings. It'll do your heart good to get into the spirit of giving by learning about and paying tribute to those selfless organizations that make our community a better place to live. Highlights include all the fun family activities that Glendale Glitters always brings, such as make-and-take crafts and free showings of "Home Alone" twice nightly plus donation drives for worthy local charities and food banks. The Spirit of Giving weekend is Dec. 2-3 from 6-10 p.m. each night.

Around Town

Artwerks First Saturday. Historic Downtown Glendale will turn into a living masterpiece on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., as First Saturdays happens just east of Murphy Park. Learn more

Open Air Market December 3. The marketplace, which features antiques, collectibles, art treasures, crafts and food, will be held 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 3. The market will be held at the corner of 57th Drive and Glendale Avenue in the parking lot of A Mad Hatter's Antiques, located at 5734 W. Glendale Ave. The Open Air Market will continue on the first Saturday of each month through May. For more information and to learn about becoming a market vendor, call 623-931-1991.

Glendale's Winter Wonderland Weekend. Won't it be nice to play in the snow without having to shovel your driveway? You won't need snow tires to head to downtown Glendale for Winter Wonderland Weekend, which will feature a children's snow field. Make sure to bring the mittens and sip hot cocoa, as you enjoy delightful winter fun not usually found in the Valley. To make it even more magical, snow will fall at the snowfield throughout the evening. More winter fun will include free make-and-take crafts, face-painting, Santa Claus, free showings of "The Polar Express" twice nightly and horse-drawn carriage rides. Winter Wonderland Weekend is Dec. 9-10 from 6-10 p.m. each night, with 1.5 million dazzling lights, free admission and fun for the whole family.

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!

Plus! 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 more information, call the Glendale Civic Center at 623-930-4300.

Santa's Workshop. Santa's Workshop will take place from 10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Dec. 10. A store will be set up inside the Foothills Recreation and Aquatics Center with a variety of items that kids of all ages can purchase for holiday presents. All items will be priced $3 or less. Santa's elves will be on site to wrap their purchases in holiday wrapping paper. Arrive early for the best selection! The center is located at 5600 W. Union Hills Drive. For more information, call 623-930-4610.

Coffeehouse. The Main Library Coffeehouse welcomes Members of the Glendale Public Library's Acoustic Jam Session as they take the stage to entertain the audience with holiday favorites. Join us on Thursday, Dec. 15, 6:30-7:30 p.m., in the auditorium.

Teen Library Council Meeting. Are you looking for something fun to do that can actually make a difference? By becoming a Teen Library Council member, young adults can earn volunteer service hours, have a good time and meet new people, all while helping to make the library a better place for teens. Attend the Thursday, Dec. 15 Teen Library Council Meeting from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. at Velma Teague Branch Library, 7010 N. 58th Ave. The library is currently recruiting teens, ages 12-18, to provide input on the selection of books and music for the branch's teen collection. Council members also participate in the planning and presentation of library teen events. For more information or to register, call 623-930-3441.

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