Yucca Weekly Update

Councilmember Joyce Clark - City of Glendale, Arizona

Yucca District - where Glendale's past, present and future meet. **December 9, 2011**

Newest Mural In Historic Downtown Connects Businesses With Artists In City's Centerline District. One building in downtown Glendale is getting a head-turning look, thanks to a new mural which will grace the outer south wall of a longtime downtown restaurant. The mural project is part of Artwerks, a city program that is pairing business owners with local artists to enhance Glendale's redevelopment and revitalization of the Centerline District along the Glendale Avenue corridor.

Local artist Martin Moreno and students at Las Artes de Maricopa painted the mural, "El Corrido de Glendale, Arizona," which was created on tiles and will be secured in a steel frame on the south wall of Bitzee Mama's Restaurant, located at 7023 N. 58th Ave. When translated, "El Corrido de Glendale, Arizona" means to tell a story of Glendale to music.

At the inception of the project, Moreno met with business owners and citizens to discuss history, concepts and ideas for the piece of public art. From there Moreno was free to develop his vision of the piece, which is funded by donations. The mural on Bitzee Mama's wall will be a visible addition to the city's renovated walkway east of 58th Avenue that's home to First Saturdays, a monthly gathering of artists at work.

"El Corrido de Glendale, Arizona," presents a 100-year sweep of Glendale history in a work of art laden with symbolism. The 6'x16' piece includes a mariachi figure in front of a landscape featuring area agriculture, Native American pottery, the iconic Sugar Beet Factory, Glendale High School and the University of Phoenix Stadium, along with some historical features such as the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds and Sahuaro Ranch Park.

For more details on Artwerks initiatives, its artists or to become involved, visit the Art District page at www.glendaleaz.com/Centerline.

Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Day Luncheon and Inclusivness 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.

Enter to Win Fiesta Bowl Tickets. With the Fiesta Bowl just around the corner, the Glendale Visitor Center and Historic Downtown will transform itself into football central. The Visitor Center will "suit up," displaying team colors, jerseys from each team, setting its clocks to the time zones for the teams and starting a countdown clock to kick off, and will also offer special football goodie bags to football fans that stop by decked out in clothing supporting their favorite team. Plus, visitors and residents can enter to win a pair of Fiesta Bowl tickets by visiting the Glendale CVB Facebook Page at Facebook/GlendaleCVB. For more information, call 623-930-4500.

Be Safe While Shopping this Holiday Season. Glendale Police want to remind residents all over the Valley to be safe while out and about this hectic holiday season. Important tips include always locking car doors and hiding shopping bags; being alert to surroundings; parking in well-lit areas; and not shopping by yourself. In addition, be respectful of handicapped drivers, no matter how hard it is to find a parking space, do not parking in those special disabled parking spots.

City Gift Shop Has All Things Glendale For Gift Giving This Holiday Season. Holiday shoppers can find one-of-a-kind special Glendale mementos at the gift shop inside the Glendale Visitor Center. Items like city history books and small trinkets for stuffing stockings, including dozens of items with a Glendale connection are available from $2 to $50. Plus, shoppers can purchase a gift card that can be used at dozens of Glendale stores.

The Glendale Visitor Center accepts cash, check and credit cards. It is located at 5800 W. Glenn Dr., Suite 140 and open Mon.-Sat., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call (623) 930-4500. Read more.

Glendale Rededicates Air Force Jet at City Park. The F-100D Super Sabre, nicknamed "The Hun," displayed at Bonsall Park has been refurbished and will be rededicated on Dec. 15 to the military veterans of Arizona who have served our country.

The rededication ceremony will begin at 1 p.m. and feature comments from city dignitaries including Glendale's Mayor Elaine Scruggs and Councilmembers Norma Alvarez and Phil Lieberman. Also attending will be special guests from Luke Air Force Base and Warren H. Rice, a fighter pilot that actually flew this F-100. The public is invited to attend as well.

The F-100 at Bonsall Park served at Luke AFB from 1962 to 1969 where it was used for training young fighter pilots. Along with Arizona, this jet was deployed from California, Japan, Korea, Nevada and South Dakota. In 1971 the aircraft was dropped from air force inventory and transferred to museum status. It was installed at Bonsall Park in 1973. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the plane's removal from active use and its placement into the National Museum of the United States Air Force Static Display Program.

The plane was refurbished earlier this year. The complete facelift took more than 30 days to complete and involved removing the old paint and finish and giving the jet a new high-tech paint application and updated identification.

A special group of volunteers have helped considerably with the restoration project. Lt. Col. Marc "Dutch" Matthews, Arizona Air National Guard, and Lt. Col. & Mrs. David J. Kempson, Arizona Air National Guard, researched the flight history and background of the plane and are helping with fundraising efforts.

A fund has been created to support the annual maintenance of the fighter plane to preserve and maintain it for future generations to enjoy. Donations are being accepted; contact Michelle Yates at 623-930-2044 or myates@glendaleaz.com for more information.

Bonsall Park is located at 59th Avenue and Bethany Home Road.

Around Town

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 carriages 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

Santa's Workshop. Shopping with kids is simple and convenient at the Foothills Recreation and Aquatics Center's Santa's Workshop. Teaching kids the value of money is important, especially this time of year. Bring the kids to Foothills Recreation Center on Saturday, Dec. 10 to get all of their holiday shopping done in one easy stop! Items are priced just for little ones' budgets, all under $3, and Santa's elves will be on hand to wrap all purchases. The event runs 10 a.m. to noon. For more Information, call 623-930-4610.

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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