

Sahuaro Weekly Update



Councilmember Gary Sherwood - Glendale, Arizona

February 1, 2013



Pictured at the St. Joseph's Westgate Medical Center Groundbreaking Ceremony, (l-r) Councilmember Gary Sherwood, Councilmember Manny Martinez, Mayor Jerry Weiers, Councilmember Ian Hugh and Councilmember Sam Chavira



Myrtle Avenue Preservation Project Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. (l-r)

Congressman Ed Pastor, Councilmember Ian Hugh, Mayor Jerry Weiers, Councilmember Sam Chavira, Councilmember Gary Sherwood, Councilmember Yvonne Knaack, Councilmember Manny Martinez and seated, Councilmember Norma Alvarez. [Click here](#) for information about the project.

Welcome to February Sahuaro District Residents,

This is the last of a three part series introducing myself to you. This week I want to share my vision, what I feel the council goals should be, my personal goals within the city and the implementation of an advisory group that is nearly assembled.

The vision is stated here in bullet form:

- Ensuring our core services — law enforcement and emergency and fire protection
- Marketing our access to transportation, technological and cultural amenities valley-wide
- Supporting our historic downtown, and our sports and entertainment district
- Promoting our burgeoning restaurant scene and our array of unique retail corridors
- Encouraging a streamlined process for businesses wishing to locate in Glendale
- Providing optimal services to our citizens and visitors
- Taking pride in our diverse housing, successful schools, and inviting neighborhoods
- Embracing those who want to move here, live here, and raise a family here

An added vision for this council is to bring back decorum and respect for one another's opinions and each other; after all we are working for the best interests of the citizenry of Glendale. We need to set a great example for the staff, for the employees, and our constituents.

The near term goals of this council are significant in what it will take to accomplish and the expectations are high; but I'm optimistic that this new council is going to develop the proper framework, have the right discussions with the right personnel and meet if not surpass these goals. In my opinion these goals include hiring or at least naming a permanent city manager within the next three months, this is very doable. That person can then make decisions regarding the positions currently on hold – police chief, HR director, assistant city manager, director of transportation services, and director of neighborhood & human resources.

Secondly, write a scope and conduct the necessary financial audit that makes us all feel comfortable with our numbers, our process, and our appropriations.

Thirdly, now that the previously agreed to arena lease management deal has expired, council and staff need to look at the realistic numbers of the arena, with and without the Coyotes, the true cost of managing an arena with and without a hockey team, and all of the intangibles that come with and without a viable arena. This decision must be made within the next month or so because the opportunity to hang on to this franchise will go away shortly thereafter. It is my belief, and I have studied this issue for well over a year and solicited many professional opinions from those that are in the business, that without this franchise in place for the next twenty years, the development around the Westgate area will be suppressed, businesses themselves will close up and the vision for this area as an economic engine will not come to full realization.

These three goals listed above need to be accomplished in the same short timeframe and actually carry the same weight in terms of importance.

Almost equally as important is to write a scope and conduct the necessary independent outside financial audit that makes us all feel comfortable with our numbers, our process, and our appropriations. We need to tackle Camelback Ranch as we begin to make yearly payments on this development – the positive purchase of the 75 acres of surrounding land by the Van Tuyl Group could give that a positive boost. This council I know is committed to making sure that the five year city sales tax increase of .7% goes away in 2017 but if we can retire portions of it sooner, as an example, drop it to .5% in mid-2014, .4% sometime in 2015, .2% in 2016, then by all means it will be done and would be a goal of mine.

Most of all, we must restore the faith in the public and our employees that we can tackle the issues we have in front of us. It will be a difficult year or two but we have the assets, the talent, and the positions to pull out of this as long as the feds don't screw things up in Washington and we can continue the uptick in the local economy.

In terms of personal goals, I want to make sure I am visible to you, that if you stay engaged I will stay engaged with you. I'm a big believer in communications and as you can already see, I have personalized my first three newsletters. I'm involving myself on as many regional committees as I can possibly accommodate and I will be taking on board positions for Metro Light Rail and Valley Metro Regional Public Transit Authority (RPTA). Your input is valuable and encouraged and I will always do my best to explain my positions which might not necessarily agree with yours but you will always have the basis of how those decisions were made.

Finally, I'm in the process of forming a group that came to my mind during the early stages of my campaign and for now it will be called "SAG", Sahuaro Advisory Group. The intent of the group is to basically be a sounding board for what comes up at city hall. I will bring forward issues for those in the group to weigh in on as well as resolutions and ideals to assist in solving or getting around those issues. I'll engage the group often when something comes up that effects our neighborhoods and city.

It is made up of about 70% of Sahuaro residents with the balance residing elsewhere in Glendale. They are residents that respect their city, have no axe to grind and are engaged in a positive manner. The number of residents that I had in mind for this group was around 25 which are close to where I am presently. I'm also going to invite a few business owners from the district as well. Most of the time we'll be able to communicate by email but I'm also guessing that we'll try to get together as a group when it makes sense to do so. That ends my introduction as your new Sahuaro Councilperson. I will continue to communicate in many forums and I will try to add to this newsletter as often as possible.

Please don't hesitate to call me with ideas or if you would like to share your thoughts with me, contact me at 623-930-2245 or gsherwood@glendaleaz.com

Sincerely,

Councilmember Gary Sherwood

St. Joseph's Westgate Medical Center. A groundbreaking ceremony was held on January 30th to welcome the new St. Joseph's Westgate Medical Center located on 99th Avenue, north of Glendale Avenue and west of the Loop 101. Dignity Health is also the parent company of St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center, Chandler Regional Medical Center, and Mercy Gilbert Medical Center.

The first phase of the new medical center will include a 60,000 square foot hospital on 35 acres with 24 inpatient beds, an emergency room, two operating rooms, a diagnostic services area and an ambulance bay. This \$44 million facility is expected to be open in March 2014 and will initially hire 200 employees.

Construction is expected to be finished shortly after completion of the hospital in March 2014.

Substance Abuse Seminar Offers Strategies to Protect Children. According to DoSomething.org, more than 60 percent of teens said that drugs were sold, used or kept at their school. This can give any parent cause for concern, but on Feb. 8, a seminar titled "notMYkid," will provide parents information to protect their children.

At the notMYkid seminar, parents will receive tips on how to speak with kids about substance abuse, an overview of legal implications of drug use and information on how to maintain trust in the parent/child relationship.

The seminar isn't just a presentation, but an opportunity to create a family plan, learn the most recent information about the most common drugs abused and gain strategies to keep children safe from the growing problem of drug abuse and addiction.

The seminar will be held from 6 to 8 p.m., Friday, Feb. 8 at the Foothills Recreation & Aquatics Center, 5600 W. Union Hills Dr. The price is \$10 per adult; registration is accepted at 623-930-4600 or online at www.glendaleaz.com/ParksandRecreation under the "Quick Links" registration link. Child care is provided as part of the registration for ages 2-9, and a pass can be picked up at the front desk of the center before the seminar.

A buffet of finger foods, snacks and drinks will be provided. For more information, call 602-652-0163.

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