



# Sahuaro

## Weekly Update

*The Sahuaro District:  
Celebrating Recreation, Education and Cooperation*

Councilmember Gary Sherwood - Glendale, Arizona

February 13, 2015

### **SAVE THE DATE!**

*Sahuaro District Meeting*

*Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.*

*Sunshine Residential Home, 17201 North 63<sup>rd</sup> Avenue*

Greetings Sahuaro Residents,

As you notice right off the top, yes, I am having my first district meeting of the year in less than two weeks. I plead for your attendance as there is so much going on in the city, especially right now. Much of this doesn't go out to the media, or if it does, they give it their own spin. Additionally, there is not enough room in a newsletter to capture all of these happenings and this forum is perfect for getting a terrific amount of information out in a relaxed ninety minute meeting. I will have the City manager and Directors of Economic Development and Community Services in attendance. The location of this meeting will be at the beautiful new headquarters of Sunshine Residential Homes just north of the Fire Station off from Bell Rd and 63<sup>rd</sup> Ave. Great refreshments will be served.

As you may or may not have heard late yesterday, our City Manager, Brenda Fischer resigned with a date yet to be determined. It is with sadness that I report this because in her twenty months that she has been with the city she has righted our ship. I will withhold my personal thoughts on this matter until a later date because most of what occurred that lead up to this was discussed in an executive session. The only thing that I can say is that a new council was seated in mid-December and eight weeks later this occurred.

This news has been shocking to the public that follows us closely. Brenda came into Glendale as a city that was reeling financially, facing rock bottom staff morale, and looking at questionable activities by previous top managers – including the former city manager, his top assistant and top financial and budget officers. Here are some additional comments that were reported in the Phoenix Business Journal recently by Eric Jay Toll. *Fischer is one of 30 women to be recognized by the Phoenix Business Journal for professional accomplishments as a Woman in Business this year.*

*In an interview last month, just before Super Bowl XLIX, Fischer was relaxed and spoke fondly of accomplishments during her administration at the city. She joined Glendale after serving as city manager in the City of Maricopa and as a city administrator in Henderson, Nevada. "What a difference two years makes," said Fischer. "We have a totally different management staff, a young council, and a community beginning to trust the city's performance."*

*She talked about the bond rating information from Moody's and Standard & Poor's. The two rating agencies classed the city's finances as "stable," a rating allowing moves to cut debt service cost by \$47.5 million.*

*Fischer spoke with pride of the city being a more healthy organization doing good things.*

*"We're becoming more competitive in the market and able to do the types of things cities need to do," she said. "We've implemented a technology strategic plan to better serve our citizens over the next five years with improvements in systems and service delivery."*

*As she checked off her accomplishments, the only item she had on her to-do list to complete was a long-range capital improvement program.*

*Fischer planned to bring the council a strong budget recommendation for next fiscal year. "This time it's an actual balanced budget and*

*there are no reductions in services proposed,” she said.*

*She said that during the last year, the city had slowed turnover and stabilized its professional staff. “We’re now at a point that we can plan where we want to grow and go after the types of businesses that we need in Glendale,” she said.*

*Fischer also talked about the upcoming city council retreat with plans to help the council define a city vision.*

*“We’re ready for it,” she said. “We’re building trust through performance in Glendale.”*

I hope to have Brenda at my district meeting still, as she is a scheduled speaker.

I trust everyone will have a wonderful President Days long weekend!

Sincerely,

Councilmember Gary Sherwood

**Correction To Last Week’s Email.** The discovery of new technology will improve the photos included in the weekly e-newsletter. Last week’s e-newsletter was the first to display the high quality advancement. I would like to invite you to review last week’s photos by visiting the link provided below.

<http://www.glendaleaz.com/CityCouncil/documents/Sah02-06-15.pdf>

**Public Meetings Scheduled to Explore Library Relocation.** The public was invited to attend several meetings to give input and learn more about a proposed concept regarding the potential sale and relocation of the Foothills Library. The Glendale City Council has given direction for presentations on this topic to be conducted at public meetings with the Library Advisory Board, Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission and Arts Commission. These meetings were conducted on February 9, 11 and 12<sup>th</sup> at various locations.

The Library Services Division will compile the public input from these groups and share with the City Council. The Library Services Division has also established an online public comment form and phone hotline where residents can provide input. Those responses will be shared with the City Council. To access the online or phone comment opportunities or to learn more about this proposal, please visit [www.glendaleaz.com/Library/PotentialFoothillsRelocation.cfm](http://www.glendaleaz.com/Library/PotentialFoothillsRelocation.cfm).

**Glendale City Manager Recognized with “Outstanding Women in Business” Honor.** Glendale’s City Manager, Brenda Fischer, will be recognized at the 14th Annual Outstanding Women in Business event sponsored by the Phoenix Business Journal on March 30. Fischer is one of only 30 nominees who are receiving this year’s prestigious award.

Fischer began her career in Glendale in July 2013 and took the job as the city was facing a \$30 million deficit. In just 19 months, Fischer has strengthened the city’s financial outlook by eliminating Glendale’s structural deficit leading both Moody’s and Standard & Poor’s to improve the city’s outlook from negative to stable and overseeing the refinancing of bonds to save the city in excess of \$47 million. She has also implemented a citywide organizational restructure, streamlining departments saving more than \$1 million while improving services for residents. Most recently, Fischer directed efforts for Glendale’s hosting of the 2015 Super Bowl, earning the city worldwide recognition while welcoming 100,000 people on game day to Glendale’s sports and entertainment district.

Fischer is Glendale’s first female city manager with 20 years of municipal leadership experience. She served as the city manager for the city of Maricopa and had management roles in Glendora, California, North Las Vegas and Henderson, Nevada. She is a credentialed city manager from the International City/County Management Association and a member of the Arizona City/County Management Association. Fischer’s master’s degree is in public administration from the University of Nevada and her bachelor’s degree is in journalism/public relations with a sports information emphasis from the University of Southern California.

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