



Sahuaro

Weekly Update

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

Councilmember Gary Sherwood - Glendale, Arizona

March 13, 2015

Greetings Sahuaro Residents,

Yesterday, the Tohono O'odham and the Desert Diamond Casinos and Entertainment had a "Topping off Ceremony" at the West Valley Resort construction site, marking a major milestone in construction as the final steel beam is added to the framework of the interim gaming facility. Construction of the West Valley Resort is moving forward rapidly, with millions of dollars already invested in site preparation, concrete, and steelwork. More than four dozen companies have been retained for construction of the interim facility, with 1,300 workers contracted for the project that is set to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2015.

Once completed, more than 500 new, permanent jobs will be created in the community to operate the interim facility. It will feature 1,089 slots, food court, bar, and rewards center, and will include a 1,100 space surface parking lot. While this facility is operating, construction of the \$400 million project will continue, including the gaming facility and all of the resort amenities that go with it. At the same time, there is still a movement by a couple of the tribal nations, our two senators, and a number of our congressmen to push for legislation that would halt construction of this project and push aside thousands of jobs and an eventual \$300m annual economic impact for the region. I will make comments on this next week on how this has always been about limiting competition of gaming to the east side in addition to the one casino in the SW corner of the valley, some 25 miles away from the West Valley Resort.

This past week was spent in Washington DC at the annual Congressional National League of Cities conference. I was joined by the mayor and all but one of our councilmembers. Included in this trip was a meeting at the Pentagon to meet with Under Secretary of the Air Force, Kathy Ferguson, to discuss possible additional partnerships with Luke AFB and to discuss current initiatives between the West Valley cities that would benefit both local Luke and the local municipalities for shared services as an example. We also received updates on potential additions to the base in making sure that along with the primary mission of being the premier training base for the F-35's for the next forty years that we continue to make the base relevant in other areas while Congress continues to make overall cuts to our military bases.

An area that the NLC has been advocating hard is on transportation. Among local officials, no federal priority rates as consistently high as transportation infrastructure. That's because for cities, every transportation project is a partnership - with other local and regional authorities, with the state, with the federal government and with the private sector. Despite rapid change in technology and the transportation marketplace, federal policy has remained passive. Cities are leading the charge to modernize transportation infrastructure with innovative, creative solutions. We need support from federal partners that recognize the role of local government to make the best choices for our communities.

Here's another sampling of the Arizona Republic's "sound-off" which runs in Saturday's Glendale community section where they invite West Valley elected officials to weigh in on that week's question. This one ran in last October:

Question: What is the top transportation need for your city or community?

Today, the personal vehicle is still king in the valley but as Glendale's twenty-five year General Plan is currently being worked on, so is our long range transportation planning. A top need for our community is to become more multi-modal in our transportation planning. As the baby boomers age in place and the millennials demand other options beside personal vehicles, we need to enhance mobility for our citizens. In a typical community like Glendale, 20-40% of the total population cannot drive due to disability, economic, age constraints, or vehicle failures. Our transportation needs are so different today than say thirty years ago and as a First Tier Suburb we need to work closely with Phoenix on transit integration. Our vehicles will continue to be a priority as will the timing and safety of our streets but all other forms of transportation will continue to become more of a priority.

Councilmember Gary Sherwood

2015 Shred Event. The Glendale Police Department will host their 2015 Shred Event on April 11th, 2015. This free service is a valuable resource that helps residents properly dispose of personal information that can lead to identity theft if not disposed of properly. The Shred Event on April 11th will be open to the public from 8-11 AM and will take place at Highland Lakes School located at 19000 N. 63rd Ave Glendale, AZ 85308, just north of 63rd Ave and Union Hills. Each household is limited to three banker's boxes and due to demand, the event may conclude if trucks are full. For further information, please contact Doreen Anderson with the Glendale Police Department at 623-695-0440.

Council Workshop Meeting Time Moved on Library Relocation Proposal. On Tuesday, March 17, the Glendale City Council will hear the recommendations from the Library Advisory Board, Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission, Arts Commission and public comment on the potential sale and relocation of the Foothills Branch Library to the Foothills Recreation and Aquatics Center.

The workshop meeting time has been moved to 9:30 a.m. instead of 1:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers located at 5850 W. Glendale Ave.

In early February, the City Council requested public meetings be held with each of the citizen groups to provide the public with a presentation of the relocation concept while answering questions and providing an opportunity for public comment. The public comments collection is available for review at <http://www.glendaleaz.com/Library/PotentialFoothillsRelocation.cfm>.

Questions regarding the potential sale and relocation of the Foothills Branch Library to the Foothills Recreation and Aquatics Center can be directed to 623-930-3554.

First of Several Public Workshops Set For Glendale General Plan. Glendale residents are invited to offer input at the first of three public workshops on the Glendale 2040 General Plan. The first meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 25th from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Glendale Civic Center located at 5750 W. Glenn Drive.

Every city and county in Arizona is required by state law to prepare and maintain a planning document called a general plan. A general plan is designed to serve as the jurisdiction's "constitution" or "blueprint," and is the document that is used by the City Council and Planning Commission to guide future land use, public service, and resource decisions. All plans, subdivisions, public works projects, and zoning decisions must be consistent with the general plan.

As part of its Envision Glendale 2040 project, Glendale's General Plan update will cover the topics that are covered in the current General Plan (such as land use, growth areas, and circulation), as well as add some new topics required by Arizona law and local needs (such as energy and neighborhood preservation).

The March 25 workshop is the first of three public meetings. Dates for the other two meetings will be announced in the coming months.

For more information, please visit [Envision Glendale 2040](http://www.glendaleaz.com/Envision2040) or contact Jon Froke, Glendale Planning Director at 623-930-2585 or by email at jfroke@glendaleaz.com.

Contact Councilmember Sherwood
Council Office: (623) 930-2249
E-mail: gsherwood@glendaleaz.com