



# Sahuaro

## Weekly Update

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

**Councilmember Gary Sherwood - Glendale, Arizona**

**April 3, 2015**

Greetings Sahuaro Residents,

I am very excited to announce that I have a new council assistant, Van Ornelas. If you recall, Nan Robinson retired in January after serving the Sahuaro District for over ten years.

Van has over a decade of experience serving in various government and community outreach positions. He spent 5 years doing public affairs and community relations work with ASU and also previously served as a representative for an Arizona School Boards Association. Van also has experience developing communications strategies and print, radio, and TV messaging. He has a Masters of Public Administration from City University of New York and a Bachelor Degree in Communications from ASU. He started on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and will be also assisting Councilmember Samuel Chavira in the Yucca district.

I wrote briefly last week about the first General Plan community meeting held March 25<sup>th</sup>. Every city and county in Arizona is required by state law to prepare and maintain a planning document (called the "General Plan") which serves, in our case, the city's blueprint for future decisions concerning land use and resource conservation. All specific plans, subdivisions, public works projects, and zoning decisions must be consistent with the General Plan.

Our last General Plan was voted on in 2002 and projected out to 2025. Each jurisdiction is required to update their plan and take it to the voters approximately every ten years. With all that was occurring within the city a few years back, the process to update was delayed. Instead of rushing the process thru to have an update for 2035 and voted on in 2014, council decided it was best that all the necessary steps be completed in a realistic timeframe with plenty of public outreach and take this plan out to 2040 and be voted on during the August elections in 2016.

The General Plan update will address – land use development, transportation, public facilities and services, economic vitality, open space and recreation, and resource conservation. Glendale's planning area is about 90 square miles with about 40 percent undeveloped. A third of this planning area has yet to be taken into city limits and is unincorporated. The focus on this update is largely is on growth areas, including Arrowhead Ranch, downtown, Loop 101/Westgate-area, Glendale Airpark, Loop 303 corridor, Northern Parkway and unincorporated county areas.

The Glendale update plan is called "Envision Glendale 2040" and is currently being led by the planning department, a public steering committee, and outside consultant Matrix Design Group. I will keep us informed as to upcoming meetings. There will be two more general meetings and six council district meetings, which are scheduled to start next month.

Another topic mentioned briefly last week is that of Empereon Constar located near the SW corner of 51<sup>st</sup> Ave/Bell. This is no ordinary call center having one of the best employee retentions in the industry. They have five centers located in four states, including the Glendale location. They have been audited 39 times in their nearly ten years of existence and never have had a finding. They Glendale location opened a year ago and is currently hiring to bring on twenty-five employees per week for the next several months eventually leading to 800 employees at this center.

Here's another sampling of the Arizona Republic's "sound-off" which runs in Saturday's Glendale community section asking West Valley elected officials to weigh in on that week's question. This one ran in June of last year but is appropriate for some of the topics in this week's letter:

Question: What is your city's No. 1 priority for economic growth and development and what needs to happen to make that a reality?

*Our number one priority is to create high quality jobs and develop financially sound projects that increase the city's tax base. We have been successful in accomplishing this priority recently, adding over 10,000 jobs to the local market over the past six years. During FY2013-14, Glendale welcomed several large projects resulting in \$119 million in new private investment. Also during FY2013-14, Glendale attracted several large projects that are expected to contribute substantial new annual ongoing revenue to the city. For this to continue, the Federal government needs to keep our economy on a continued nice slow uptick, locally, we need to be smart on our zoning, especially around the new 303 and Northern Parkway corridors.*

Councilmember Gary Sherwood

**Young at Heart - Glendale Union High School District Student Art Exhibition.** During April, the gallery will showcase works by the talented students from nine Glendale Union High School District schools. Works by approximately 25 faculty members will also be featured. Join us for a fun evening to meet the artists and enjoy live music with light refreshments, 5-9 p.m. on Thursday, April 9. Gallery hours: 6-9 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, April 3 - April 25.

Gallery Glendale at Westgate, 9380 W. Westgate Blvd., is made possible through a partnership between the City of Glendale and Westgate Entertainment District. Admission to the gallery is free and open to the public. Most exhibits feature artwork available for sale. For more information, call 623-930-3557 or visit [www.glendaleaz.com/galleryglendale](http://www.glendaleaz.com/galleryglendale).

**2015 Shred Event.** The Glendale Police Department and Councilmember Tolmachoff will host a 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. 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.

### **Glendale Begins Water Storage Program** ***Underground Water Storage Allows City to Save for Future Drought or Shortages***

As the desert heat begins to debut, the Glendale Water Services Department continues to demonstrate proactive planning for the long summer and dry years ahead. Glendale recently became a partner with the Central Arizona Project (CAP) in a water management plan for storing water that could later be used during times of Colorado River shortages.

"This water storage program will allow Glendale to store water in underground aquifers and receive a credit for the water stored. We can later recover these credits in the form of pumped groundwater should there be a drought, shortage, or additional growth," explains Water Services Director, Craig Johnson.

Water storage in the desert is a tricky process as evaporation from the dry summer heat causes lake levels and other natural storage to fall. The CAP recharge plan uses underground water storage instead. Over the last two decades, Glendale and other member cities of the Arizona Municipal Water Users Association (AMWUA) have collectively invested \$400 million in storing nearly 1.7 million acre-feet of water underground. That's enough water to meet the needs of the AMWUA cities for more than two years.

For more information on Glendale's award-winning Water Conservation programs visit [www.glendaleaz.com/WaterConservation/](http://www.glendaleaz.com/WaterConservation/).

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