



Sahuaro Weekly Update



“Where neighbors help neighbors build community.”

Vice Mayor Steve Frate, Glendale Arizona

April 15, 2011

Dear Sahuaro District Residents,

In an effort to keep you informed on the issue of the proposed establishment of Indian Reservation land in Glendale, I have included information on legislation recently introduced by U.S. Senators Jon Kyl and Dianne Feinstein - The Tribal Gaming Eligibility Act.

– Vice Mayor Steve Frate

FEINSTEIN, KYL: STOP CASINO RESERVATION SHOPPING. Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senators Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) and Jon Kyl (R-Ariz.) recently introduced the Tribal Gaming Eligibility Act, legislation clarifying the standards that must be met before new casinos can be opened on newly or recently acquired Indian lands.

In the last decade, the Department of the Interior has received dozens of applications from tribes seeking to build casinos on lands that are hundreds, or even thousands of miles away from where they live today.

The Feinstein/Kyl legislation ends this practice of reservation shopping by requiring that tribes only open casinos on trust land acquired after the passage of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988 if the tribe meets certain conditions or can:

- Demonstrate a substantial modern connection to the land; and
- Demonstrate a substantial aboriginal or ancestral connection to the land.

“The Indian Gaming Regulatory Act was originally intended to promote tribal economic development and self-sufficiency -- not to enable tribes to become gambling enterprises that constantly expand to new casino locations.” said Senator Kyl.

California has become ground zero for tribal casino construction. There are presently 58 Las Vegas-style casinos across the state from the Oregon border in the north to the Mexican border in the South.

In 2006 the California Research Bureau compiled a report on the effects of casinos on communities. The report found that casinos increase violent crime and gambling addiction, strain local government budgets, increase traffic congestion and increase personal bankruptcies.

“Local governments and families have expressed growing concern about these casinos and about reservation shopping. Any tribe seeking to take land into trust for gaming should demonstrate a substantial direct connection to the land before a casino is placed in a community’s backyard,” Senator Feinstein added. [Click here](#) to review legislation (S. 771)



Sahuaro Ranch Park Sports Complex Renovations. The city of Glendale will be reopening the sports complex at Sahuaro Ranch Park, 63rd Avenue and Mountain View Road, with a ceremony at 9 a.m., Saturday, April 16. The facility has been closed since last fall while it received a facelift and renovations.

The public is invited to attend the ceremony where Glendale’s Vice Mayor Steven Frate and other dignitaries will speak and throw the “first pitch.” Once the ceremony is over a girls fast-pitch tournament will begin with all fields of the complex in play.

The renovations and redesign of the sports complex focused on the lack of shade; opportunities for “green” improvements; and efficiencies in electrical, water and other costs. The design added two multi-purpose fields to the original ball field design to support youth soccer, football and other organized activities. The new design increases comfort and capacity of the seating areas for viewing events and the fields are now completely handicapped accessible.

The sports complex was originally constructed in 1986 — this year marks the 25th anniversary. Approximately 72,000 games have been played at the complex since it opened.

Council Appoints Residents to Advisory Groups. The Glendale City Council has appointed several residents to serve on advisory boards and commissions.

Congratulations and many thanks to the following Sahuaro District neighbors who have volunteered to serve: Joe Cable, Aviation Advisory Commission; Brent Ackzen, Citizens Bicycle Advisory Committee and Citizens Transportation Oversight Commission; Mounib Shaaban (chair) and Robert Steiger, Commission on Persons with Disabilities.

Residents can request an application to serve on a citizen advisory group or obtain more information by calling the Council Office at 623-930-2249 or visiting www.glendaleaz.com/boardsandcommissions.

Shred It & Forget It. The thought of someone stealing something tangible from you is frightening. The thought of someone stealing your identity can be even more so. The fact is, should someone steal your identity, its after-effects can haunt you for years to come. It's truly devastating. Often times, the victims of identity theft don't even know their personal information has been compromised until it's too late. There are a variety of ways you can protect yourself:

- Do not disclose personal information to strangers via the Internet, telephone, applications or through the mail unless you initiated the contact.
- Order a copy of your credit report from each of the three credit bureaus at least once a year.
- Install firewall and anti-virus software on all your computers.
- Never leave outgoing mail in your mailbox, especially with checks enclosed.
- Pay attention to your bank and credit card statements and examine the activity for unauthorized charges.
- Limit the items you carry with you, for example don't carry your Social Security card or birth certificate on your person.
- "Shred It & Forget It"

Glendale's Community Action Teams are proud to partner with the Target Corporation and Cintas Document Management Company to offer free document shredding to the community to help combat identity theft. Credit card offers, tax returns, medical bills and old bank statements should be shredded rather than simply thrown in the trash. The "Shred It & Forget It" events scheduled throughout the year offer a fast, convenient, drive-thru service where you can bring up to three standard-size file boxes of documents for secure shredding. The next event is Saturday, April 30th at the Target located at 10404 N 43rd Avenue from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. or until the shred trucks are full. For more information on identity theft and "Shred It & Forget It," call (623) 930-2571.

Around Town

[Click here](#) for the City Council meeting schedule. [Click here](#) for past Council meeting agendas and minutes. [Click here](#) to watch a City Council meeting online.



The Great American Cleanup. The city of Glendale will participate in the Great American Cleanup, the nation's largest community improvement program. Sponsored by Keep America Beautiful, this program takes place annually March through May. Nationwide the program involves an estimated 2.8 million volunteers who help beautify parks and recreation areas, clean waterways, pick up litter, and plant trees and flowers.

If you would like to volunteer to help clean up Glendale neighborhoods and parks, contact the city of Glendale Community Volunteer Program at 623- 930-2915 or email awilkie@glendaleaz.com by Monday, April 18.

Two other short-term projects giving residents the opportunity to get involved are coming up soon, they are: Make Earth Day Everyday, Saturday, April 30 and Join Hands Day, Saturday, May 7. Visit www.glendaleaz.com for more information.

Live at the Library. Join us for one of the West Valley's most popular monthly musical series – Live at the Library. The series is held on the fourth Thursday of the month and begins at 6:30 p.m., at the Glendale Main Library, 5959 W. Brown St. On April 28, Young Sounds of Arizona, composed entirely of middle school and high school age students, presents "The Magic of Jazz, the Freshness of Youth" for an unforgettable evening of jazz music. For more information, call 623-930-3573.

Contact Vice Mayor Frate
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