



# Sahuaro

## Weekly Update

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

Councilmember Gary Sherwood - Glendale, Arizona

March 20, 2015

Greetings Sahuaro Residents,

Regarding the West Valley Resort which I made some remarks here last week relative to the “Topping off Ceremony”, in the last paragraph on the subject (which came out of order – since corrected) I mentioned I would comment further this week about why there is still movement to halt this construction.

For years now we have heard the arguments presented by the opponents of the project, primarily two East Valley tribes concerned with preserving the market share of their casinos. Their claims simply don't hold up under scrutiny, as demonstrated by over a dozen rulings by courts and federal agencies in favor of the Nation. Objective, knowledgeable parties have reviewed the claims, counterclaims, accusations, and rhetoric, and their unanimous conclusion is the Tohono O'odham Nation has acted truthfully, honorably and legally in every respect.

The over-heated rhetoric by the opposition's accusations - the sky-is-falling, casinos-in-every-neighborhood arguments they continually are shopping around are the same erroneous claims that they presented years ago. Their arguments were as false then as they are today -- under no circumstances does the West Valley Resort trigger an expansion of gaming in Arizona. Multiple federal court decisions have confirmed everything the Nation has told us all along, the project is entirely consistent with the State's framework for limited gaming, and the Nation's right to just compensation for federal actions which destroyed lands and livelihoods.

With West Valley cities united in support and repeated rulings from the courts and the U.S. Executive Branch in favor of the project, the two opposing tribes have dumped millions of dollars into a lobbying campaign to get Congress to rewrite existing law to halt the Nation's project. The opposition's latest bill, H.R. 308 introduced by Representative Trent Franks in the House, and companion Senate bill, S. 152, introduced by Senators Flake and McCain back in mid-January are identical to the bills that failed last year. If passed, it would be a disaster for our communities and the families, who would lose out on thousands of new jobs.

Having failed to gain traction in the West Valley, the two tribes continue to try to manufacture opposition on the other side of the Valley, which has seen the biggest economic benefit from their casinos. There are currently seven casinos in the valley, six reside in the east valley and the only one in the west valley is 25 miles away from the current construction site. The reason for the opposition is simply greed.

Normally I would follow this with a past “Question of the Week” response but instead, let me finish with a blog post which I receive daily from Elliot F Eisenberg, Ph.D., a national and respected economist. This came out right after the November elections and notice the last line:

*The 2014 mid-term elections were the costliest mid-terms ever with total spending hitting \$3.67 billion or \$444/voter! The most expensive race was the NC senate race at \$113 million, followed by the CO senate race at \$97 million, the IA senate at \$85 million and the KY*

senate race at \$78 million. Mitch McConnell (R-KY), the new Senate Majority Leader, was the most prodigious fundraiser, nabbing \$28 million for himself. The Gila-River Indian Reservation in AZ spent over \$15 million trying to keep jobs out of Glendale.

Councilmember Gary Sherwood

**Glendale City Council Decides Against Sale and Relocation of Foothills Library.** On Tuesday, March 17, the Glendale City Council decided to not proceed with exploring the real estate transaction with Midwestern University that would have resulted in the relocation of the Foothills Library. The Council made its decision after reviewing recommendations from the Library Advisory Board, Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission and Arts Commission following each group's public meeting on the proposed sale and relocation. All three groups had unanimous recommendations against the proposal.

The collection of public comments is available for review [click here](#). For more information on Glendale's three public libraries, [click here](#).



**Glendale City Council Attends "Topping Off Event."** The Glendale City Council attended the "topping off" ceremony for the West Valley Resort. Councilmember Sherwood signed the beam before being permanently placed. \*Photo courtesy of Ed and Betty Sharpe-Glendale Daily Planet.



**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 p.m. 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](#) or contact Jon Froke, Glendale Planning Director at 623-930-2585 or by email at <mailto:jfroke@glendaleaz.com>.

**Boards and Commissions.** Are you looking for a way to serve and shape your community? Citizen involvement and input is essential to the success of local government. The city encourages you to consider submitting an application for appointment to one of Glendale's boards and commissions. Most boards/commissions meet once a month. We encourage you to apply for more than one board/commission because vacancies occur monthly. For the most current vacancies or a list of boards/commissions to serve on visit <http://www.glendaleaz.com/boardsandcommissions/>. For further information you may contact Kriss Carneal at 623-930-2814 or via e-mail at [kcarneal@glendaleaz.com](mailto:kcarneal@glendaleaz.com).

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