

# Yucca Weekly Update



Councilmember Joyce Clark - City of Glendale, Arizona

Yucca District - where Glendale's past, present and future meet.

November 30, 2012

**Farewell Reception.** Glendale residents are invited to a farewell reception for Mayor Elaine Scruggs and Vice Mayor Steve Frate. A gathering will be held in the Council Chambers Lobby from 5:00 – 6:45 p.m. on Tuesday, December 11, 2012. This will provide an opportunity to thank Mayor Scruggs and Vice Mayor Frate for their years of service to the community, and to wish them well in retirement. Cake and coffee will be served and no reservations are necessary.



**Glendale Firefighters' 11th Annual Holiday Toy and Clothing Drive.** For the eleventh straight year, Glendale firefighters are putting on their Santa hats to host a clothing and toy drive for Glendale Elementary School District children in need.

Firefighters are asking residents to donate new toys and new clothing for this effort. The items in need include: socks, underwear and jackets (for all ages), plus blankets, pillows and toys. The need is greatest for ages six to 14.

The new clothes and new toys will be given to families who are part of a special wish list in the school district, as provided by the schools' nurses and social workers. Last year, Glendale Firefighters assisted more than 500 families and collected more than \$60,000 worth of new clothing and toys for families in need.

Firefighters will collect donations on three Saturdays: Dec. 1, 8 and 15, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the K-Mart at 67th Avenue and Bell Road. In addition, drop off sites have been set up at all nine Glendale fire stations and the Glendale Fire Marshal's Office.

For more information regarding the Holiday Toy and Clothing Drive, please call 623-930-4400.



**Glendale Civic Pride Keepsake.** The Glendale Civic Pride Ambassadors have produced the 14th in a series of collectible ornaments that features another Glendale Point of Pride. The 2012 keepsake showcases the Glitter and Glow event in Historic Downtown Glendale. Featuring colorful hot air balloons surrounding Murphy Park, the ornament is beautifully packaged for gift-giving. The keepsakes can be purchased for \$13 (plus tax) at the Glendale Visitor Center, 5800 W. Glenn Drive, Suite 140. For more information, call 623-930-4500 or visit [www.visitglendale.com](http://www.visitglendale.com).

**Holiday Decorations Increase Risk of Fire.** Now that Thanksgiving is over, a majority of people's attention will turn to the heart of the holiday season. As residents begin hanging holiday lights and decorations, many of them do not realize that these decorations dramatically increase the risk of fire at their home.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), an estimated 240 home fires involving Christmas trees and another 150 home fires involving holiday lights and other decorative lighting occur each year. Together, these fires result in 21 deaths and \$25.2 million in direct property damage.

The Glendale Fire Department encourages everyone to follow the simple safety tips listed below to ensure a safe and happy holiday season.

- Check holiday lights, even new ones, for damage. Lights packed in small containers may have frayed wires, gaps in the insulation, or broken or cracked lights. Always return or throw away any set of lights that are damaged.
- Use only lighting listed by an approved testing laboratory.
- Never link more than three light strands together, unless done by a professional electrician.
- Check your lights on a daily basis to make sure they are cool to touch. They should never get warm.
- When leaving your house, always unplug internal and external holiday lights.
- All decorations including Christmas trees should be nonflammable or flame retardant.
- Make sure decorations do not block exits.
- Never leave a candle burning unattended.
- Keep candles clear of curtains, decorations and other combustibles.
- Open flames like candles should never be on or near a Christmas tree.
- Do not burn holiday wrapping paper in the fireplace because the coating on it could cause a flash fire.

**Grand Avenue Closures and Restrictions.** This weekend crews will begin with the first of two weekends of repaving a portion of US 60 (Grand Avenue) west of Glendale. When completed, Grand Avenue will be repaved in both directions between 71st and 84th avenues. The second weekend of paving is scheduled for mid-December. The work will require overnight closures of 75th, 83rd and Peoria avenues at Grand Avenue. Please expect lane restrictions and closures throughout the work zone and plan accordingly. [Click here](#) for more details.

## Around Town

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**Council Meetings and Workshops.** To review the posted agenda and web video of the Nov. 27 Council Meeting, please [click here](#).

**Glendale Glitters throughout the Holiday Season.** The holiday magic continues in downtown Glendale Friday and Saturday evenings, Nov. 30 - Dec. 15, from 6-10 p.m. each night, with 1.5 million dazzling lights, free admission and fun for the whole family. This weekend, Glendale's Spirit of Giving Weekend will celebrate and showcase numerous community organizations and non-profits that make a positive difference in the lives of Valley residents. The city is again partnering with the St. Mary's Food bank for a food drive. The weekend will be highlighted by wonderful food and beverages, including gourmet food trucks, horse and carriage rides, pony rides, miniature pony carriage rides, inflatable rides, a zip line and visits with Santa Claus. In addition, attendees can enjoy a holiday movie classic! Dr. Seuss' *The Lorax* will play on a big screen at 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. both nights.

**Authors @ the Teague.** Local mystery authors from the Arizona Desert Sleuths chapter of Sisters in Crime will discuss and sign their latest themed anthology, "SoWest: Desert Justice," at the upcoming Authors @ the Teague event at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 8 at Velma Teague Branch Library, 7010 N. 58th Ave.

In the 20 stories in this collection, "Evil abounds...Frustrations mount...Victims fight back, police pursue bad guys, scores are evened...but when all else fails, get a taste for how the desert claims its own!" The program is free, and books will be available for purchase and signing. Books will cost \$14. For more information, please call 623-930-3439.

**Free Energy-Saving Devices at Winter Classes.** Learn easy tips on how to save energy in your home by attending a Simple Savings Energy Class. Glendale residents that attend a class will be given a free high efficiency showerhead, a programmable thermostat and a four-pack of CFL bulbs. Hundreds of Glendale residents have already taken the class, learning how to put energy dollars back in their pockets. The class will be offered at the Glendale Main Library at 5959 W. Brown St. from 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec 13. To register, call 623-930-3760.

**Glendale Glitter & Glow Block Party Rocks Downtown Glendale.** Glendale Glitters holiday light display concludes with a rockin' block party, Glendale Glitter and Glow, on Jan. 12, from 4-10 p.m. with fun for the whole family!

Take in the stunning 1.5 million lights along with more than 20 hot air balloons glowing brightly amidst the trees throughout 16 blocks of Historic Downtown Glendale. A highlight for visitors will be specially-shaped balloons, as well as mass glows, in which the balloon pilots will fire the balloons all at once to create an illuminating spectacle.

For more information, call the Special Events Hotline at 623-930-2299 or visit [www.glendaleaz.com/events](http://www.glendaleaz.com/events).

## Contact Councilmember Joyce Clark

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