Barrel District Network News

Councilmember Yvonne Knaack - City of Glendale, Barrel District **August 3, 2012**

Luke Air Force Base Lands F-35 Mission. After spending nearly three years building regional and statewide community support for the new F-35 mission at Luke Air Force Base, *Luke Forward* officials are thrilled with the announcement from the Department of Defense that the Glendale base will serve as the Air Force's new F-35 training center.

The Air Force's decision to station 72 F-35s for the training of both U.S. and foreign pilots, with the potential to add more F-35 squadrons in the near future, reaffirms an ongoing commitment by the Air Force to the long-term viability of Luke AFB. Read more.

Judge Rules in Favor of Glendale. Maricopa County Superior Court Judge Robert Oberbillig upheld the decision by the Glendale City Clerk to reject the initiative petitions seeking to amend the City Charter provision related to the city's transaction privilege (sales) tax levy. Judge Oberbillig based his decision on the City Clerk having the legal authority to reject the petitions that contained language that was inaccurate and capable of misleading voters. The judge agreed with the city that the integrity of the election process was compromised. Click here to read the judge's ruling.

First Time in Nearly 20 Years Glendale Temporarily Adjusts General Sales Tax Rate. The city of Glendale temporarily adjusted its general sales tax rate for the first time since 1993. Glendale's general sales tax rate will increase from 2.2% to 2.9%, a 0.7% adjustment. This past June, the Glendale City Council approved the new rate and its automatic expiration on August 1, 2017.

Glendale is not the only Valley city to increase its sales tax rate to weather the effects of the ongoing economic downturn. Since 2006, almost 30 Arizona cities and towns have increased their sales tax rates, according to the Model City Tax Code, a uniform tax system managed by the Arizona Department of Revenue. Some of the Valley communities include: Phoenix, Mesa, Tempe, Peoria, Paradise Valley, Buckeye, Cave Creek, Goodyear, Litchfield Park, Queen Creek, Tolleson, Wickenburg and Youngtown. The state of Arizona also raised its sales tax rate during this time to address its budget shortfall. Outside Maricopa County, 15 other Arizona cities – from Flagstaff to Sierra Vista – have increased their sales tax rates.

When spending $50 in Glendale, the new temporary rate will cost an extra 35 cents. A similar scenario on a $100 purchase will see an additional 70 cents per purchase. Glendale's temporary sales tax rate is expected to generate up to $22 million a year.

To see a full reporting of all financial transactions in Glendale and a searchable database for all expenditures, click here. For more information on the city's budget and finances, click here.

Rock & Roll Paint-A-Thon Seeks Applicants, Volunteers. Do you own a single family home, but due to age or physical impairments are unable to get it painted? If so, the Annual Rock & Roll Paint-A-Thon program, held on Saturday, Oct. 27th may be able to help. This program, which matches volunteers with those in need of assistance, helps maintain neighborhoods by painting homes of applicants who are 60 years of age or older and/or have a permanent disability, or veteran homeowners who have limited financial resources and are unable to do the work themselves. Read more.

Parks and Recreation Fall Activities Guide. The Fall 2012 Activities Guide magazine is now available at the Glendale Libraries, Recreation Centers and online here. Don't miss all the great Glendale programs available. Highlights of this issue include:

- Over 40 different youth classes
- The NFL Punt, Pass and Kick Competition
- The GRASP after school program
- Activities at Sahuaro Ranch Park Historic Area
- Two great running programs
- Adult softball leagues
- Classes for body and mind
- Exciting culinary classes

Water Safety Event. Free CPR demonstrations, free mini swim lessons, water safety details along with swimming will be available at "Verano Sano," a free water safety and pool event, on Saturday, Aug. 4, the last day of recreation swim at Glendale's aquatic centers.

Glendale Parks, Recreation & Library Services and the Glendale Fire departments have teamed up with Radio La Campesina, the Caesar Chavez Foundation and SRP for the event, which takes place from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Rose Lane Aquatics Center, 5003 W. Marlette. Click here for more information or call 623-930-4608.

Glendale Convention & Visitors Bureau Highlights Tourism Trends at Annual Meeting. Learn about one of the state's most vital industries at the Glendale Convention & Visitors Bureau's Annual Meeting, where guests will discover how tourism is moving the local and state economy forward. The annual meeting will be held at 8 a.m., Thursday, Aug. 16, at the Arizona Broadway Theatre, 7701 W. Paradise Lane.

The meeting is open to the public. During the meeting, members and others will receive an update on the Glendale CVB's tourism programs from the past year and upcoming initiatives. Attendees will also learn about the latest travel trends and the state of the hospitality/tourism industry through a special guest panel discussion featuring Sherry Henry, director of the Arizona Office of Tourism; Debbie Johnson, president and CEO of Arizona Lodging & Tourism Association; Kiel Klaphake, co-founder and executive producer of Arizona Broadway Theatre; and Nora Trulsson, a freelance writer who writes for *Sunset*, *US Airways Magazine*, *Phoenix Magazine* and *Chicago Tribune*. Tickets are $20.00. Read more.

Around Town

Dog Days of Summer. The 3rd Annual Dog Days of Summer will be held on Saturday, August 4, from 7-10 a.m. in Downtown Glendale. The theme for this year's community event is Picnic Breakfast in the Park with your Pooch! Pratt's Pets will be in Murphy Park flipping "Woofles" pancakes for dogs, and Bitzee Mama's will be serving egg burritos, all proceeds to benefit Sun Valley Animal Shelter. Click here for more information on the event and the dog look-alike contest.

"The Four Paths to Getting Published." Are you interested in publishing your own works? Join us from 2-3:15 p.m., Saturday, August 4 at Velma Teague Branch Library as Kris Tualla provides a concise and complete explanation of your publishing options. Tualla will explain what each path requires and what it pays. An active member of Romance Writers of America, the Historical Novel Society and Sisters in Crime, Kris created Arizona Dreamin', Arizona's first romance-reader event. Velma Teague Branch Library is located at 7010 N. 58th Ave. This is a free program. For more information, call 623-930-3431.

Backyard Stargazing for Everyone. This free backyard stargazing class is fun for the entire family. Join us from 7-9 p.m., Monday, August 6, at Glendale Main Library Auditorium, 5959 W. Brown St. After dark, telescopes will be in place in front of the library for viewing the night sky. For more information, call (623) 979-1393.

Authors @ The Teague. Award-winning author Sean Chercover will discuss and sign his latest thriller, *The Trinity Game* from 2-3:15 p.m., Thursday, August 9 at Velma Teague Branch Library, 7010 N. 58th Ave. The book is about Vatican investigator Daniel Byrne who has debunked hundreds of miracles, but even this skeptic can't explain the newly accurate prophecies of his con artist uncle, the Reverend Tim Trinity. For more information, call 623-930-3431.

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