Barrel District Network News

Vice Mayor Yvonne Knaack - Glendale, Arizona

September 5, 2014

Glendale Employee Receives Parks & Recreation Professional of the Year From Local Organization. Mike Gregory, Glendale parks and recreation administrator, was recently honored as Parks & Recreation Professional of the Year by the Arizona Parks & Recreation Association (APRA) at their recent annual conference.

Gregory was nominated for his consistent strong leadership, innovative solutions to complex challenges and staff development, displaying his versatile expertise in many areas of his field. With more than 21 years of professional experience, he has maintained a strong commitment to APRA as an industry leader.

Some of the recent significant projects Gregory led include coordinating an Arizona State Tourism Association grant for Thunderbird Conservation Park improvements for directional and safety signage; creating a partnership with Arizona Game and Fish to implement an urban fishing program at an existing park; implementing the use of laptops for lead staff out in the field to increase communication levels and expedite problem resolution; forming a partnership with the City of Peoria in creating an annual environmental awareness event "*Party for the Planet*" at the Skunk Creek Linear Park; coordinating the 2013 *"Wild Flower*" project at our largest conservation park with the non-profit Leadership West organization; and leading a department "*Partners N' Parks*" program for voluntary public involvement in the maintenance of neighborhood parks. In addition, he played a major role this past year in applying for national re-accreditation through National Recreation & Parks Association (NRPA.)

Throughout his career, Gregory has committed to learning and professional development. He is a Certified Parks and Recreation Professional (CPRP) and a graduate of the nationally-recognized Maintenance Management School. For additional information on Glendale's Parks, Recreation & Library Services Department visit www.glendaleaz.com/parksandrecreation.

Glendale Glitters Spectacular Kicks Off Seven Weeks of Lights in Downtown Glendale On November 28. Glendale's award-winning holiday lighting event has become a family tradition across the Valley and state, and this year the celebration kicks off on Friday, Nov. 28 and Saturday, Nov. 29, from 5-10 p.m. each evening. The stunning display of 1.5 million lights will illuminate sixteen blocks of Historic Downtown Glendale, making it the largest free holiday light display in Arizona.

This year's Glendale Glitters is presented by Sears Vacations. Free admission and free shuttles make this award-winning festival one of the best-loved events for Arizona families year after year. In fact, the event was named azcentral.com Critics' Choice for the Best Kid Event in the state in 2012.

Visitors of all ages will delight in holiday entertainment, delectable food, hand-crafted holiday gifts, a children's winter wonderland and petting zoo, shopping and, of course, visits with Jolly Ol' St. Nick. The always-entertaining stage show will feature special honored guests to help flip on the lights, as it counts down to the lighting ceremony on Friday evening, Nov. 28 beginning at 5:30 p.m.

The holiday magic continues with more events in downtown Glendale, each Friday and Saturday through Dec. 20, from 6-10 p.m. each evening:

- Dec. 5-6 : Glendale's Jingle Bell Rockin' Nights
- Dec. 12-13 : Glendale's Winter Wonderland Weekend
- Dec.19-20: Glendale's Spirit of Giving Weekend

The glittering magic of Glendale's holiday display remains lit nightly through Jan. 10, from 5 to 11 p.m. each evening. Historic Downtown Glendale is located at 58th and Glendale avenues. For more information, call the Special Event Hotline at 623-930-2299, or visit www.glendaleaz.com/events.

Glendale Glitters is presented by Sears Vacations, and sponsored by Blue Cross® Blue Shield® of Arizona*, Valley Buick-GMC Dealers, Cerreta Candy Company, ABC-15 KNXV, KMLE, KOOL, Live 101.5, The Arizona Republic and the Arizona Coyotes.

Around Town

Council Meetings and Workshops. To review the posted agenda and web video of Council Workshops and meetings, please click here.

September is Library Card Sign-Up Month! Studies show that children learn best when they have the opportunity to pursue their own interests. That's why a library card is the most important school supply of all. Glendale Public Libraries provide students with access to innovative programs, classes and education resources to support their curiosity. Best of all, it won't cost you a thing – it's all free with a library card. Open the door to a world of possibilities for the student in your life and sign up for a library card today. Stop by one of Glendale's three libraries, call 623-930-3530 or visit www.glendaleaz.com/library.

Interested in the History of Sahuaro Ranch Park? Take a free tour this month. Visit the Sahuaro Ranch Historic Area's Main House (built between 1891-1898) and learn details about the house, its role at the ranch, and about the people who lived there, during this free tour. Call 623-930-4201 to schedule group tours with more than 10 people. Tours are offered from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Thursdays-Saturdays, and 1 to 4 p.m., Sundays in September, at the Sahuaro Ranch Park Historic Area, 9802 N. 59th Ave. For more information visit: http://www.glendaleaz.com/SRPHA/index.cfm

Calling All Katy Cats! Take a Selfie with Katy to Win Tickets to September Concert. Katy Perry is one of the globe's hottest pop stars, and her concert tour visits Glendale at Jobing.com Arena on Sept. 25. The Glendale Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) will give away a pair of tickets to one lucky fan with a special contest.

Fans can head to the Glendale Visitor Center, 5800 W. Glenn Dr., suite 140, to snap a selfie with Katy….well, a Katy Perry cut-out, that is! The life-size cut-out of Katy's image will make a great post for your social media pages, and when you use the hashtag #KatyPerryInGlendale, you will be entered in the ticket giveaway.

There are multiple possibilities to enter, using the hashtag on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. The deadline to enter is 11:59 p.m., Friday, Sept. 19. The winner will be drawn at random by Sept. 22 and be notified by email.

Heading to the Katy Perry concert? Download the Glendale CVB app, free for iPhone and Android devices, to get directions and find restaurants, shopping and other things to do while you're in the area.

For more information, contact us at www.visitglendale.com or 623-930-4500.

The Glendale Police Department 2014 Shred Event – Oct. 4. Bring up to three bankers boxes of materials for shredding to Target, 10404 N. 43rd Ave., between 8-11 a.m., on Saturday Oct. 4. The event will be held in the southwest parking area. *Due to the popularity of this event, it may conclude early if trucks are full*. For further information call 623-930-4044.

Contact Vice Mayor Knaack

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