Barrel District Network News

Councilmember Yvonne Knaack - City of Glendale, Barrel District **December 3, 2010**

Glendale's Gingerbread Nights, Tonight & Saturday. Join us for Glendale's Gingerbread Nights from 6-9 p.m., Dec. 3-4 in Downtown Glendale, 58th and Glendale avenues. Enjoy family fun all about gingerbread, including gingerbread décor, gingerbread-flavored food and beverages and all sorts of other treats to satisfy your sweet tooth, as well as holiday performances and storytelling provided by Bookmans & The Arizona BookPALS. Read more.

Spirit of Giving Food Drive. Businesses in Historic Downtown Glendale have coordinated a holiday food drive to benefit St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance that will run through the city's Spirit of Giving Weekend at Glendale Glitters on Dec. 10-11.

Downtown Shoppers can give back to the community by donating non-perishable food items at downtown shops and restaurants.

The food drive conclusion coincides, and partners with the city's Spirit of Giving Weekend on Dec. 10-11. Part of the state's largest free holiday light display, this event is designed to pay tribute to nonprofit organizations that help those in need. St. Mary's Food Bank, along with many other charitable groups, will be featured as part of the festival, as well as the entertainment and festivities visitors have come to appreciate in downtown Glendale.

Items most needed for the food bank are peanut butter, canned vegetables, canned fruit, soups and stews, rice, pasta, beans and tuna.

Click here for more information on Glendale's Spirit of Giving Weekend.

Design-a-Sign Winners. Glendale elementary students were recently recognized by the City Council for their winning entries in the Sanitation Division's "Recycling is Fun" contest.

The Sanitation Division holds an annual contest, now in its sixth year, for children ages six through nine, inviting them to submit a drawing featuring this year's theme "Recycling is Fun." Winners in each age group will have their artwork reproduced on a sign for display on the side of one of the city's garbage trucks.

This year's winners are (pictured l-r) **Victoria Munoz** (age 9), **Vance Lo Pinto** (age 8), **Viviana Tena** (age 7), and **Jack Szokol** (age 6). A total of 53 children participated in the contest, representing 10 schools in Glendale. Every child that entered received a certificate of recognition.

For more information on Glendale's recycling programs, click here.

AARP Tax-Aide Seeks Volunteers. The nation's largest volunteer-run tax assistance and preparation service is seeking volunteers in Glendale to assist in tax preparation and to become leadership coordinators.

The Glendale Adult Center will once again host an American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Tax-Aide Site at the facility, located 5970 W. Brown St. Volunteers of all ages are welcome. It is not necessary to be an AARP member or retiree to volunteer.

For more information, click here or call Nancy Gililland at 623-584-9823 or call the toll-free number at 1-888-OUR-AARP (1-888-687-2277). The free AARP Tax-Aide is a program of the AARP Foundation, offered in conjunction with the IRS.

Legislative Link Program. The city of Glendale invites residents to attend a legislative session update meeting on Thursday, Dec. 9. This update meeting is part of the free Legislative Link program that enables citizens to stay informed and closely track neighborhood-related matters and bills being discussed at the Arizona State Capitol.

Glendale's Neighborhood Legislative Link program not only keeps residents up-to-date on issues impacting their local community, it also provides citizens a way to actively engage in the state law-making process.

Residents are welcome to participate in this Legislative Link meeting from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 9 at the Glendale Adult Center, 5970 W. Brown St.

At the meeting, residents will receive an overview on:

- How the Arizona State Legislature works
- Who represents Glendale at the State Legislature
- How to track neighborhood issues being discussed at the State Legislature
- What issues are being discussed at the State Capitol

Residents are asked to register in advance of the meeting by calling 623-930-2813 or via email to dburt@glendaleaz.com by Wednesday, Dec. 8.

Around Town

Click here for the City Council meeting schedule.

Catch the Christmas Spirit with "My Kids in Sign." A "My Kids in Sign" performance is the perfect way to get the whole family ready for the upcoming holidays. This troupe will sing—and sign—a variety of Christmas numbers at two performances at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 4, in the auditorium of the Glendale Main Library, 5959 W. Brown St.

The My Kids in Sign program began in 1989, with six first-grade students from Pendergast Elementary School. Since that time, the troupe has expanded to include students from across the Valley ranging from six to 19 years old.

My Kids in Sign has performed at the opening of the Arizona State Senate, the Southwest District Convention of Kiwanis International, Glendale Glitters, Channel 3's "Good Morning Arizona," and at many other venues throughout the state. Diane McGowan is the group's director. The program is free. For more information, call 623-930-3537.

Trail of Two Cities Bike Ride. Join us for this fun, free family event on Saturday, Dec. 4, 2010 at Rio Vista Community Park, 8866 W. Thunderbird Road. The ride will go from 8-10 a.m. To register, call 623-773-5209

Community Education Expo. Join us from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 4 at the Foothills Recreation and Aquatics Center, 5600 W. Union Hills Drive for the Community Education Expo. Residents can explore a variety of cultural, culinary, language, music, and personal development offerings at this free event. It's a fun family event with hands-on opportunities for all ages and a chance to learn about the Special Interest Classes offered by Glendale Parks and Recreation. For more information, call 623-930-4612.

'Dine & Glitter' Co-op Holiday Parties. Small and mid-size businesses are encouraged to celebrate the season with a shared holiday party at the Glendale Civic Center on Friday, Dec. 10, from 6-11 p.m. The event will combine several company parties into one large event. To make a reservation for 'Dine and Glitter,' contact the Glendale Civic Center at (623) 930-4300. Read more.

4th Annual Santa's Workshop. Kids of all ages are invited to Santa's Workshop where they can purchase holiday gifts (everything is $1) for friends, family and even pets. Join us from 10 a.m. to noon at the Foothills Recreation and Aquatics Center, 5600 W. Union Hills Dr., on Saturday, Dec. 11. Santa's elves will be on site to wrap their selection in holiday wrapping paper. For more information, call 623-930-4610.

Glendale Coffeehouse. On Thursday, Dec. 16, Members of the Glendale Public Library's Acoustic Jam Session will take the stage to entertain audience members with holiday favorites. Join us for this free program at 6:30 p.m. in the Main Library auditorium, 5959 W. Brown St. For more information, call 623-930-3573.

2011 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Day Luncheon. The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Day Luncheon is considered one of the state's premier celebrations of King's life and ideals. Reserved seats for the luncheon on Friday, Jan. 14, 2011 are $40 per person and tables of 10 can be reserved at a cost of $400. To reserve your seat, contact the Glendale Visitor Center at (623) 930-2955. Click here for more information.

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