



# Cactus Weekly Update



Councilmember Ian Hugh - Glendale, Arizona

January 25, 2013

**Glendale's "Follow Your Money" Tool.** Glendale residents can follow the city of Glendale's budget through a comprehensive tool, Follow Your Money, available on the website. This easy-to-use budget tool enhances transparency and allows users to access the city's expense and revenue financial data to see clearly what's coming in and what's going out.

In 2010, the Arizona State Legislature passed Arizona Revised Statute (A.R.S.) §41-725, which established online comprehensive financial reporting requirements for Arizona and its local municipalities. Although Glendale was in compliance with the statute through the publishing of its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report on the city website, the city's Information Technology and Finance departments took the statute requirements for the state as a guide and created Follow Your Money to further promote transparency. The first phase of the tool was released to the public July 2012.

The first phase of Follow Your Money provided users the ability to easily search and download the current year's expenditure data as well as the previous three fiscal years. Searches can be conducted by fund, department and citywide spending along with vendor spending. The tool provides a graph that shows total expenditures of the search and users may select how much data to view at once and how it is sorted, alphabetically or by amount. Users can also access spending on a specific date or payments to specific vendors; and Follow Your Money is updated every 24 hours.

The second phase of Follow Your Money provides users with a substantial amount of enhancements to the first phase. Now users may also compare how city departments are performing against their budgets. It provides quarterly financial performance data for the selected fiscal year and previous three fiscal years in a graphical format that shows quarterly actuals versus budget data for expenditures and revenues.

While phase one focused on detailed information, phase two provides the amended budget, actuals, percentage of total budget and a three-year actual average for each quarter. All this information is also presented with a bar chart for easy comparisons. The second phase provides an overall look at the city's budget that includes expenditures, revenues and all the city's financial funds that didn't exist in phase one.

Both phases of Follow Your Money are now up and running and ready to be used at <http://www.glendaleaz.com/FollowYourMoney>.

**Two Glendale Firefighters Receive Awards From VFW.** Two Glendale Fire Department members received special recognition from the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S., Sandy Coor Post No. 1433. The award presentation is an annual tradition for the veterans to acknowledge the efforts of the men and women protecting the community.

Captain Paul Morales, a 15-year veteran of the Glendale Fire Department, won the VFW's "Firefighter of the Year Award" for his outstanding service to the department and its members and to the safety of the community. Engineer Michael Patten received the VFW's "EMT of the Year" award for his outstanding service to the department through his expertise as a paramedic. Captain Morales is currently the Glendale Fire Department's Firefighter of the Year.

Captain Morales and Engineer Patten were presented with the awards at the January 17 Glendale Chamber of Commerce meeting. The veterans who honored Morales and Patten served in a variety of wars including World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

**The Glendale Chocolate Affaire – Feb 8-10.** The 18<sup>th</sup> annual Glendale Chocolate Affaire is famous for its dozens and dozens of chocolatiers, but did you know that music, the arts and romance are also highlights of this award-winning festival?

While you are enjoying delights like chocolate-covered strawberries, goat milk fudge or chocolate-covered bacon, you can also enjoy fantastic musical performances, plein air artists painting throughout the festival, as well as myriad romance novelists meeting fans, signing books, and offering writing workshops.

Event hours are Friday 5 to 10 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday noon to 5 p.m. The event will be held in Historic Downtown Glendale's Murphy Park, located at 58th and Glendale avenues. For more information and the entertainment line-up, visit [www.glendaleaz.com/events](http://www.glendaleaz.com/events) or call the special events hotline at 623-930-2299.



**Glendale Celebrates Historic Preservation Project, Jan. 28.** After many years, the Myrtle Avenue Cultural Gateway project, located at Grand and Myrtle avenues, has reached completion and the city of Glendale will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Monday, Jan. 28 at 10 a.m. Community members are invited to join city staff, elected officials, Congressman Ed Pastor and residents of the Floralcroft Historic District, which surrounds the property, to celebrate the occasion. The project includes two buildings. The Morcomb Adobe House (1936) and the former service station have been renovated to portray how they looked in the city's early days, providing lasting evidence of Glendale's heritage and history.

## Around Town

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

**Local Romance Authors at the Library.** With Valentine's Day and Glendale's Chocolate Affaire approaching, it's a good time to pick up a romance novel. Show support for local authors as they discuss and sign their small-press and self-published romance novels at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 26 at Velma Teague Branch Library, 7010 N. 58th Ave.

Authors will have approximately five minutes each to promote their book with a group signing afterward.

The program is free, but books will be available for purchase and signing. For more information, call 623-930-3439.

**Renovate Your Yard: Landscape Design and Renovation.** Whether you just want to give your yard a facelift or you're new to the Valley of the Sun, this class provides the basics on landscape design for our unique climate. This free class will be held on Tuesday, January 29 at the Glendale Main Library Auditorium, 5959 W. Brown St. from 6-7:45 p.m. The class is free but registration is required. Call (623) 930-3760 or e-mail [bpatrick@glendaleaz.com](mailto:bpatrick@glendaleaz.com) to register.

**Sahuaro Ranch Park Site of Antique Tractor and Engine Show.** A variety of gas engines and tractors from years gone by will be showcased and will perform at the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Winter Antique Tractor & Engine Show Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 9 and 10, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Sahuaro Ranch Park Historic Area, 9802 N. 59<sup>th</sup> Ave.

The show includes engine displays and demonstrations, tractor pulls, crafters, a blacksmith exhibition, children's activities, Sahuaro Ranch historic home tours, hayrides and a pedal tractor raffle. A plowing demonstration will be held on Saturday and a tractor parade will be held at 1 p.m. on both days. Attendees may also participate in a silent auction and peruse antique cars on display.

Admission is \$5 per adult with children under age 12 free with a paying adult. This event is presented by the Arizona Early Day Gas Engine & Tractor Association.

For more information on the event, call 623-435-3955 or visit [www.aedgeta.org](http://www.aedgeta.org). For more information about Sahuaro Ranch Park Historic Area visit [www.glendaleaz.com/SRPHA](http://www.glendaleaz.com/SRPHA).

**Acoustic Jam.** Join us for the Acoustic Jam from 6 to 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 30, at the Main Library, 5959 W. Brown St. Bring your acoustic instrument and play round-robin style. The public is also invited to enjoy the music. For more information, call 623-930-3573.

**Childsplay Theatre: Recipe for Disaster.** Join us with theatre troupe, Childsplay, as two "master" chefs' constant arguing makes a mess of an important exam for one struggling young apprentice. Culinary chaos ensues, as one chef struggles to top another and the apprentice tries desperately to convince them to put down their spatulas and work together. This hilarious new play mixes physical comedy and music tossed with a dash of improvisation teaching civility in a most delicious way. This free performance is recommended for grades 2-12; audience members of all ages are welcome. The performance of "Recipe for Disaster" will be held from 6 to 7 p.m., Monday, Feb 4 at Foothills Branch Library, 19055 N. 57<sup>th</sup> Ave. For more information, call 623-930-3837.

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