



Cactus Weekly Update



Councilmember Ian Hugh - Glendale, Arizona

June 28, 2013

Department of Defense to Assign Three Additional F-35 Squadrons at Luke AFB. Officials from West Valley cities and community groups as well as state and federal leaders are thrilled with the announcement by the Department of Defense that Luke Air Force Base will receive three additional squadrons of the Air Force's new F-35A Lightning II fighter jet.

Luke AFB will now have more F-35A's assigned to its base in Glendale than any other installation in the Air Force. The announcement also paves the way for Luke to have a total of six squadrons totaling 144 F-35A jets when the base fully transitions to an F-35A training center over the next several years. The Air Force plans to phase out and eventually replace its aging fleet of F-16s with the new, more technology advanced F-35A.

The first three F-35A squadrons are scheduled to begin arriving at Luke AFB next year.

The Department of Defense's announcement comes almost one year after Luke was selected as the new training center for the F-35A, which is the Air Force's version of the military's new stealth fighter that will also be used by the Navy and Marines.

After completing a lengthy environmental study last summer, Air Force officials decided to initially assign only three F-35A squadrons at Luke even though the study indicated the base could accommodate six squadrons. At that time, the plan was for the Air Force to have until December 2014 to decide where to add three more F-35 training squadrons. One squadron is made up of 24 aircraft and several hundred support personnel. For more information, [click here](#).

Public Safety Officials Remind Residents of Safety During Independence Day Celebrations. How are you celebrating this Independence Day? Whether it is a backyard barbecue, pool party or watching fireworks, Glendale officials want to remind residents of important information to keep your family safe.

Although the state allowed the sale of consumer fireworks in 2010, many communities around the Valley including Glendale banned fireworks within city limits. There are some allowable 'novelty' items (federally deregulated) that are legal in Glendale which include sparklers, snappers, snap caps, glow worms, snakes, smoke devices and party poppers.

Glendale recommends that residents take the safe route and attend one of the many fireworks shows offered across the Valley, including the Fireworks Fest at Westgate Entertainment District, July 4, 5-9:30 p.m.

Many Fourth of July parties will also involve backyard barbecues. Although July is the peak month for fires caused by barbecue grills, these types of fires can happen at any time throughout the year. For more information and summer safety tips, [click here](#).

Christmas in July, Historic Downtown Glendale July 20. Santa is vacationing in Arizona this year, appearing in Historic Downtown Glendale on Saturday, July 20 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for the city's annual Christmas in July celebration. Visitors will enjoy a fun-filled day of holiday crafts, sweet treats and exclusive deals in Old Towne and Catlin Court, while having the opportunity to donate to a summer food drive. With only 158 days left to get all of your shopping for gifts and decorations complete, start early and avoid the rush! Christmas cheer begins at the Glendale Visitor Center, where you'll pick up your holiday map, coupons and savings pack and take a spin on the prize wheel (for the first 250 visitors). Santa himself will greet visitors and pose for photos, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at A Mad Hatter's, located at 5734 W. Glendale Ave. Photos will be available for a nominal fee or shoppers are welcome to take their own pictures with Santa. For more information, [click here](#)

Vote for Sahuaro Ranch Park to Win. Help Glendale make Sahuaro Ranch Park number one in the “America is Your Park” contest sponsored by Coca-Cola. The winning park will receive a \$100,000 grant to help restore, rebuild or enhance activity areas.

Should Sahuaro Ranch Park win, Glendale will use the funds to enhance active areas such as the playgrounds, soccer fields, volleyball courts, walking paths or softball complex. The park with the most votes will win the grand prize of \$100,000. The second place park will be awarded \$50,000 and the third place park will receive \$25,000. In addition, \$15,000 will be awarded to a randomly picked park that is between 4th and 25th places.

Voting is easy and can be done daily. You will need to register, but it is quick and easy. Vote online by computer or mobile device at www.coke.com/parks. You can also link your Foursquare account and earn five votes when you check in at the park. Or you can log at least 20 minutes of activity each day with MapMyFitness and earn 10 votes for the park. Take a walk or play volleyball, play softball or enjoy another activity at Sahuaro Ranch Park and log it.

“America Is Your Park” is just one of the ways Coca-Cola is inspiring people to rediscover the joy and fun of being active this summer. For more information about the contest, [click here](#). For more information about Sahuaro Ranch Park, [click here](#)

Glendale Celebrates National Parks And Recreation Month With Variety Of Activities. July is National Parks and Recreation Month across the country and Glendale has created a calendar of activities to celebrate.

Fun, healthy entertainment and adventures for you and your family are featured during the month of July at Glendale’s recreation centers and parks for the public to experience and enjoy. Activities include sliding down Rose Lane Aquatics Center’s water slide, early morning hiking at Thunderbird Conservation Park, visiting a dog park, a bread-baking class and many more.

The calendar is available at <http://www.glendaleaz.com/parksandrecreation> and is interactive, so viewers can click on an activity and go to more information and details on the web.

Parks and recreation is an important quality of life feature for individuals, communities and families. It can provide social, economic, environmental, health and community benefits.

For more information on Glendale’s parks and recreation facilities and programs, call 623-930-2820.

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

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