



Cactus Weekly Update



Councilmember Ian Hugh - Glendale, Arizona

October 4, 2013

Councilmember Hugh to host
Cactus District meeting,
Wednesday October 23,
6:00pm,
Historic Manistee Ranch,
5127 W. Northern Avenue.
(enter at 51st Avenue, south
of Northern)
Appetizers & Refreshments
will be available

City of Glendale Hires New Financial Services Executive Director. Tom Duensing has accepted the position of executive director of financial services and will begin working for Glendale on Oct. 15.

In his new position, Duensing will be responsible for the overall direction of the city's financial services operations, directing the preparation of the annual budget, guiding city management and council through the annual budget process, overseeing the coordination and preparation of the operating and capital improvement budgets, along with conducting financial forecasting. An Arizona native, Duensing is a CPA with more than 20 years of experience in government finance including strategic financial planning, budget balancing projects, financial statement preparation, and independent auditing along with general government management. He received his bachelor's degree in accounting from Arizona State University and his master's degree in management from Western International University. For more information, [click here](#).

Glendale's Office of Special Events Wins Three International, Two State Awards. Glendale has garnered five new awards from the festival industry's top professional organization, the International Festival and Events Association (IFEA), for excellence in event production. The following awards were given for the 2012-13 event season, for events with a budget under \$250,000:

- Gold - Best Full Length TV Program (local) for the Glendale Glitter & Glow Block Party: These behind-the-scenes stories, produced by the city's Emmy award-winning television station, Glendale

11, takes viewers up close and personal with the amazing hot air balloons that thrill festival goers every year. In addition, it includes a rocking audio tour of the numerous eclectic live bands that dot every corner of historic downtown Glendale. This was the only Gold award given out to any agency in the state of Arizona. [Click here](#) to watch the Glendale Glitter & Glow Block party video.

- Silver - Best Pin or Button for the Glendale Glitter & Glow Block Party: This award was presented for a special commemorative pin given to the hot air balloon pilots as a "thank you" for bringing all their equipment and crews out to participate in Glendale Glitter & Glow Block Party and showcasing their balloons at the event.
- Silver - Best Miscellaneous Clothing for the Glendale Chocolate Affaire: Tee-shirts are a staple at festivals and every year, visitors can find a new tee-shirt design to take home to commemorate the event. This award was given for a "50 Shades of Chocolate" shirt, which played up the romantic aspect of the Chocolate Affaire.

The awards were announced at IFEA's annual conference in Pittsburgh, PA on Sept. 16-18. These awards come on the heels of the Office of Special Events receiving several state festival awards as well, from the Arizona Talent in Event Concepts (AzTEC) 19th annual awards presentation.

IFEA awards for the 2012-13 Season are for events with attendance over 20,000, were:

- Gold – Best VIP Gift for the Glendale Chocolate Affaire: This gift was presented to the romance novelists from around the region and country who appear at the festival to interface with fans, sign autographs and conduct educational seminars. The gift was a stylish hat featuring the event logo.
- Silver – Best Photo of Participants for Glendale Glitters Spectacular: this photo, taken of the Fiesta Mexicana Dance Company, was part of the annual event's Countdown to Glendale Glitters Show leading up to the flipping of the switch for 1.5 million lights.

For a calendar listing of Glendale's award-winning festivals, [click here](#).

The Glendale Police Department Participates in National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, which provides the Glendale Police Department with an opportunity to educate the community, emphasize that domestic violence is a crime, warn abusers that they will be prosecuted and offer victims aid and support.

The Glendale Police Department's Family Violence Unit will be presenting information about the dangers of domestic violence as well as steps to hold abusers accountable and what resources are available to help victims leave an abusive relationship to residents of several local domestic violence shelters, medical students at Midwestern University, criminal justice students at Glendale Community College, and marriage and family students at Kellis High School during the month of October 2013. They will also be providing Patrol officers of the Glendale Police Department additional training for handling domestic violence calls for service. For further information, [click here](#).

Around Town

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

Glendale CVB Kicks off Stockings for Soldiers Drive. Stuff a stocking for a soldier and get into the holiday spirit early with the Glendale CVB, which is coordinating a "Stockings for Soldiers" program through Nov. 9, with the conclusion of the drive at the 17th Annual Downtown Glendale Holiday Open House.

The CVB is asking the public to donate items from a list (see below) and encouraging all to stop by the Glendale Visitor Center to sign holiday greeting cards, which will be included in the boxes. The Glendale Visitor Center is located at 5800 W. Glenn Drive, Suite 140. Office hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. The holiday greeting cards, along with the collection boxes are located in the lobby of the Visitor Center.

Items that are needed include: small canned food & fruit (Pop-Top Lids), individual drink powder packets (Wylers', Crystal Light) coffee bags (Folgers Singles) candy and snacks, beef jerky, foot and body powder, microwave popcorn, tuna packets, crackers, hand towels and wash cloths, travel pack facial tissue, twin sheets and pillow cases, Lysol, air freshener, sunscreen, non-aerosol insect repellent, wet wipes, razors, hand and body lotion, hand sanitizer, crossword puzzles, pocket-sized games, AA batteries, calling cards, DVD's and CD's and holiday-themed candy/candy canes. Travel size items are preferred.

The holiday-themed boxes will be sent to deployed military men and women in mid-November just in time for the holiday season. For more information call 623-930-4500 or visit www.visitglendale.com.

Front Porch Specials Mark 19th Annual Event in Downtown Glendale. Enjoy autumn temperatures and great discounts at the 19th Annual Catlin Court Front Porch Festival and Old Towne Marketplace in historic Downtown Glendale on Saturday, Oct. 19. The shops will turn inside out as they showcase hundreds of items on lawns and front porches from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Starting the day at the Glendale Visitors Center is encouraged to pick up a walking map and discount card for various stores. It is located at 5800 W. Glenn Drive, Suite 140. Admission and parking are free.

For more information, contact the Glendale Convention and Visitors Bureau at 623-930-4500 or visit www.visitglendale.com. You can also follow Glendale on www.facebook.com/GlendaleCVB and www.twitter.com/GlendaleCVB.

STEM @ Your Library: The Science and Technology Behind Ghost Hunting. Join Lindsay Brown and his paranormal team, Ghosts of Arizona, on Saturday, Oct. 19 from 3 to 4:30 p.m. at Glendale Main Library, 5959 W. Brown St. Learn about the science and technology used when conducting paranormal investigations at this free program. This panel of experienced investigators will offer a "show and tell" of the equipment they use, explain how it works, as well as share some of their evidence. Time will be spent discussing some of the ways they have debunked paranormal claims tied to reported hauntings, as well. STEM is an educational initiative featuring science, technology, engineering and mathematics. This program was supported with funds granted by the Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records Agency, a division of the Arizona Secretary of State, under the Library Services and Technology Act. Call 623-930-3537 for more information.

Contact Councilmember Hugh

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