

El Mirage News

Special Edition

www.cityofelmirage.org

Vol. 2, No. 8

623-972-8116

City budget process: Six months in review

First Steps: The City Budget

The City of El Mirage kicked off 2011 with newly-elected Mayor Lana Mook and Council Members Lynn Selby, Jack Palladino, Joe Ramirez and Jim McPhetres joining existing Council Members Roy Delgado and David Shapera. After collaborating in a series of informal workshops facilitated by Dr. Spencer Isom, the Council agreed to focus El Mirage's limited resources on critical projects and objectives arrived at by consensus. A list of Council goals and objectives can be found by visiting www.cityofelmirage.org and selecting "Council Goals" from the left column titled "Quick Links."



El Mirage City Council Members Break Ground on Two New Businesses.

With Council priorities identified, Dr. Isom immediately began this year's budget process. The City was facing a potential \$4.7 million budget deficit for FY 11-12 largely due

to projected cuts in State shared revenues based in part on a significant drop in population. City Manager Isom and City Finance Director Robert Nilles met with each department to

identify needs vs. wants and requested each department submit budget proposals reflecting cuts of 5%, 10%, and 15%.

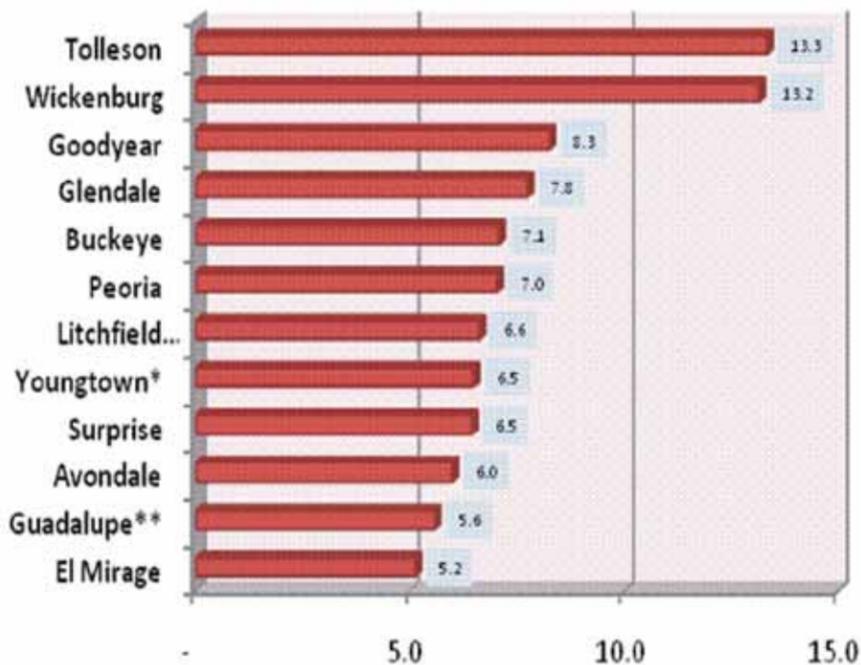
A Citywide staff meeting was held to educate

employees on the projected deficit and seek assistance in identifying ways to increase efficiency and reduce costs. Employees were asked to offer suggestions for innovations and efficiencies

in providing service to residents. Management Staff also conducted numerous Council workshops and public budget hearings to ensure an open and transparent budget process.

Efficiency and Innovation

The challenge of this year's budget process provided Staff with an opportunity to improve and streamline the City's organizational structure. The result was a considerably less top-heavy structure saving the City \$733,500 in payroll costs, an approximate 5% reduction. With a population of 31,767, the City of El Mirage averages 5.2 employees per 1,000 residents. Based upon a 2010 survey, the City of El Mirage continues to have the fewest employees per capita in the West Valley, even when compared to municipalities which do not maintain their own police and/or fire departments (El Mirage has both).



Municipal Employees Per Capita

As the City has adapted to doing more with less, innovations and efficiencies have continued to increase. For example, the El Mirage City Court implemented a new Home Detention/Electronic Monitoring program permitting incarcerated non-violent criminal defendants who meet stringent requirements to serve a portion of their jail sentences under "house arrest." The first month of the program resulted in a savings of approximately \$6,300 with a potential annual savings of more than \$90,000.

Stabilizing Utility Rates

Another efficiency measure introduced to help alleviate the budget deficit was the restructuring of El Mirage's utility rates. In 2010, the City of El Mirage commissioned an independent and extensive rate study of the City's utility program which was not generating enough revenue to cover the City's expenses and capital needs. The independent analysis identified the need for the City to increase water, sewer and sanitation rates by 10%.

Without the 10% increase in utility rates for FY12, the cash deficit in the City's Water fund would have approached \$2 million. The cash deficit in the Sewer fund would have been approximately \$300,000. Although the sewer system requires 10% increases for the next two years to meet annual debt service coverage and capital requirements, no increases are projected for years 3 and 4.

Municipality	Water	Sewer	Sanitation
Agua Fria - Verrado	\$29.33	\$74.80	\$16.00
Litchfield Park	\$16.59	\$52.16	\$26.68
Goodyear	\$20.50	\$48.67	\$22.80
Glendale	\$27.82	\$34.12	\$16.30
Average	\$26.07	\$33.66	\$16.89
El Mirage	\$37.49	\$26.02	\$11.14
Surprise	\$30.59	\$24.78	\$16.63
Buckeye	\$30.27	\$23.16	\$15.00
Avondale	\$20.26	\$25.27	\$20.00
Peoria	\$22.81	\$19.56	\$15.06
Sun City	\$17.08	\$18.11	\$16.00

Combined Water/Sewer/Sanitation Rates for West Valley

It is noteworthy, despite the rate increase, El Mirage sanitation rates remain among the lowest in the State and the combined wa-

Read more budget on Page 2

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BUDGET: City budget process: Six months in review, From 1

State Revenues to El Mirage Declining

State shared revenue is the largest single revenue item for the City of El Mirage but Arizona's budget crisis led state officials to cut revenue to cities to balance the State's budget. El Mirage's portion of state shared revenue is \$610,000 lower than the previous year and nearly \$3 million lower than four years ago, contributing to the City's own budget deficit.

In addition, property values in El Mirage have steadily declined over the past two years. Today,

the average home value in El Mirage is approximately \$68,000. To address fluctuating assessed valuations, the City of El Mirage adjusts its primary property tax rate to ensure a consistent dollar amount is collected each year. In years where assessed valuations climb, the City reduces its rate to the property owner. In years where assessed valuations decline, the City increases its rate to the property owner. The net result is the average property tax bill remains relatively consistent. This year, due to a total projected



El Mirage Police Officers Awarded for Outstanding Service; City Council Dedicates Property Tax to fund Public Safety.

decrease in revenue of more than \$1.4 million, the City enacted a 2% increase in its primary property tax rate in accordance with State law. This represents

an increase of \$0.19 per month or \$2.23 per year to the average homeowner in El Mirage.

Unlike many other Arizona cities, El Mirage relies

solely on property taxes to help fund city services instead of imposing additional and numerous special taxing districts upon residents to raise more revenue.

The El Mirage City Council passed a June 23, 2011 resolution dedicating the increase toward funding City police and fire services exclusively.



Economic Development in El Mirage

Federal and State cuts in funding along with the ongoing recession contributed significantly to the City's anticipated deficit. Recognizing the critical need to broaden the City's tax base to help fund essential and mandated city services such as police and fire, the City of El Mirage is focusing on recruiting new businesses and jobs to the City.

The first six months of this effort has seen the arrival of Karen's Creamery Café at Gateway Park, and the construction of a 7,000 square foot AutoZone store and an Aaron's Inc. (nearly

complete). Aaron's annual sales are projected to be \$1-2 million. AutoZone and Aaron's Inc. company statistics are strong indicators of El Mirage's future. Aaron's Inc. has been in business since 1955 and has over 1,700 locations nationwide. AutoZone has been operating for more than 30 years with approximately 4,600 stores. Valero, a national corporation, also has plans for a fuel station/convenience store facility to locate on the southeast corner of Thunderbird and Dysart Roads.

When choosing a location, business owners need to know their customers and employees

MORE BUDGET ON 6

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El Mirage News

Published monthly by the City of El Mirage • Leah Hubbard, Editorial Coordinator
12145 NW Grand Avenue, El Mirage, AZ 85335
Phone 623.972.8116 Fax 623.876.4603 TDD 623.933.3258
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NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITY

Friends of the Library need your help

Please Recycle Your Books to Us! The El Mirage Chapter of the Friends of The Maricopa County Library District need your donations of gently used paper back or hard cover books, CD's or DVD's. Donations can be dropped off at the El Mirage Library during normal busi-

ness hours. A receipt for tax purposes can be supplied if needed.

The Friends of the Library are a non-profit organization that raises money to help support our local library. All monies raised are used right here in El Mirage to support the Summer Reading Pro-

gram and speakers and programs at the library that may not be funded through the annual budget.

The Friends of the Library participate monthly in the Fourth Friday Family Art Fest in El Mirage with a book and music sale. Come by and check

out what we have for sale. Books can be purchased for as little as \$0.25. We are also looking for new members and volunteers. The Friends meet monthly in the El Mirage library on the Fourth Tuesday of the month at 1:30 p.m.

For more information contact the library.

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Tamar Myers strikes again: A book review by Mark L. Smith

For those of you who have read Tamar Myers's Penn Dutch Inn mystery series starring the spirited Magdalena Yoder (who describes herself as "big as life and twice as ugly") or her equally entertaining Den of Antiquity mystery series about pint-sized antique dealer Abigail Timberlake, you are in for a whole new adventure with her new series that takes place in colonial Africa.



The versatile Myers proves she is capable of serious literature with this new African series. Born in the Belgian Congo to American missionaries, Myers' writing is drawn from experience. Her first book, *The Witch Doctor's Wife*, describes the rise of a disabled but plucky second wife to the local witch doc-

tor from an obscure servant for an American missionary woman to a national hero as she stands up for her rights against the white rulers.

The author's second book, *The Headhunter's Daughter*, describes the struggles of a white girl raised in a tribe of head-

hunters as she resists being brought back to civilization. The slapstick comedy of Myers' other books is replaced with an unobvious irony as the simple African characters try to understand the illogical actions of the whites. Although this historical fiction series is more

MORE BOOK REVIEW ON 11

El Mirage regularly monitors city water

The City recently installed forty drinking water sample stations throughout the service area to enhance our water quality monitoring program which safeguards compliance with federal, state and county drinking water regulations. These stations will allow the City of El Mirage Water Division to collect water samples to ensure the best and highest quality water is sent to you, the customer.

The City collects 40 water samples per month and analyzes the samples for bacteria, chlorine levels, and disinfection byproducts. Locations for the stations were chosen based on the need to gather representative samples of the water quality in all distribution areas.

Consequently, factors such as population density, water pressure, proximity to water mains, maximum residence time and accessibility were considered.

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News from the El Mirage Fire Department
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Fire Department Awards Picnic recognizes efforts

This summer, the El Mirage Fire Department held its First Annual EMFD Awards Picnic to recognize the extraordinary efforts of members of the El Mirage Fire Department. The gathering at Gateway Park drew over 30 attendees for food, fun and awards.

One of the first annual awards to be presented was the "Chief's Award," presented by Fire Chief Howard Munding. The Fire Chief, at his/her discretion, annually presents the Chief's Award to an employee who has performed in a manner exceeding all expectations. This year's first-ever recipients were: Capt. Dave Cleveland, Capt. Juan Rodriguez, Engineer Joe Fusco and Fire Fighter Brian Tulk.

Individual Citations were presented to those individuals distinguishing them-

selves in the performance of their duties or exceptional contribution to the progress of the department. Awardees were: Engineers Mark Bessey, Chris Richardson, Joe Fusco, Erik Lauer and Fire Fighter Steve Kruzal.

Congratulations to these outstanding El Mirage Fire Fighters for their hard work and dedication on behalf of all El Mirage residents.

Fire Fighter Brian Tulk Receives the Chief's Award for unselfishly giving his time and talents as a certified mechanic both on and off-duty. His willingness to perform repairs on EMFD vehicles has saved the City thousands of dollars in labor costs versus sending vehicles out to area repair facilities.



August is Drowning Prevention Month: Watch kids around water

Drowning is one of the leading causes of death for children under age four in Arizona. You don't have to have a swimming pool for your children to be at risk of drowning. Every year children drown in wading pools, bath tubs, buckets of

water and even in the toilet! Everyone involved with children needs to be aware of water safety practices. Already in 2011 there have been 96 water-related incidents in Maricopa County resulting in 26 deaths, including 11 children.

Since 2006, El Mirage has had only two water-related incidents, both involving children, with one resulting in a fatality. That may sound good to some but even one incident is one too many because these incidents are preventable.

Infants are most at risk in a bathtub, and can drown in as little as one inch of water. At least one child per year tends to drown in Maricopa County alone. There is no treatment or medication to "undo" injuries sustained in a drowning, so preventing

these tragedies is critical. To avoid a tragic drowning accident, ALWAYS watch your children around water, inside the home, around the pool and around the yard.

Children must be supervised while bathing. Leaving a child in charge of a younger sibling is not acceptable. Many tragedies occur when the child is left alone in the tub for "just a few seconds" while the telephone is being answered or while the parent or adult caretaker is getting a towel. Immediately empty the bathtub once the bath is finished.

Children have also been known to drown in toilet bowls. A young toddler is inquisitive by nature and is

drawn to any body of water, including the toilet bowl. Because of a toddler's head and body weight distribution, the child that reaches into the toilet and falls in head first may not have the strength to right himself and escape. Silently, the child drowns. Safety latches for toilet seats are recommended.

To help keep your kids safe, The El Mirage Building Safety Department will perform free of charge inspections on all pool fences and home barriers. Simply contact Building Safety at 623-876-2932 to set up an appointment. Together we can keep El Mirage's precious resource, our children, safe.

Water Safety: Watch out for water buckets

Nationally, about 25 children drown every year in buckets, and many more are hospitalized. Many of the containers involved in drowning were 5-gallon buckets containing liquids. Most were used for mopping floors or other household chores. Many were less than half full. The 5-gallon bucket is particularly dangerous because its heavier weight makes it more

stable than a smaller bucket, and unlikely to tip over when a child uses it to pull up. These containers are about half the height of the infants, and with several gallons of water, weigh more than children of that age. A young child's curiosity, along with their crawling and pulling up while learning to walk can lead to danger when buckets are used around the house. Curious

children lean forward to play in the water. When they topple into the bucket, they are unable to free themselves and drown.

To prevent a tragedy follow these simple tips:

1. Never leave any bucket of water or other liquid unattended (even a partly filled bucket can be a drowning hazard).
2. Immediately empty out buckets when finished.

Playing with fire is dangerous: Inform youth before they get hurt

Youth fire-setting is an often overlooked behavior that can have devastating consequences. Over the past two years El Mirage has had several fires (big and small) that were started by juveniles playing with fire. There are four common factors that influence fire-setting behavior among children and adolescents. These factors impact all types of fire-setting and include:

child easily discovered the ignition source or already knew where it was located and how to obtain it.

2. Lack of adequate supervision. The lack of adequate supervision is a factor that can influence all ages of fire-setting among children and adolescents. Parents are often shocked to discover their child has engaged in fire-setting over a prolonged period of time.

3. A failure to practice fire safety. A failure to practice fire safety is a factor that often affects children and their parents in the following ways:

a. Young children often lack understanding of the dangers associated with

fire-setting and safety rules about fire.

b. Older children and adolescents may not have received school-based fire safety education about the dangers of the inappropriate use of fire, penalties for such behavior, and direction on what to do if a fire occurs.

c. Parents/Care providers may not be aware of the significance of youth fire-setting, appropriate fire safety education, penalties, or what actions to take in the event a fire occurs.

4. Easy access to in-

formation on the Internet. Information regarding fire-setting, designing explosives, and how to do tricks with fire is a problem that demands attention. Technology has made explicit media available to youths on many dangerous and often illegal activities. They are able to experiment with

fire or incendiary materials and instantaneously post results for the world to see and oftentimes replicate.

The El Mirage fire department participates with other Valley fire departments in Youth Fire Setter Intervention Program. This program is taught by specially trained area fire-

fighters and fire safety specialists to break the chain of events that could lead to a devastating tragedy.

Don't wait until it is too late. If your child is playing with fire, matches, or lighters contact the El Mirage Fire Department at 623-583-7968 for more information.

Analysis of incidents for June 2011

El Mirage Fire Units responded to the following incidents during the month of June 2011:	TOTAL.....229
Structure fires.....1	Total Fire Loss = \$0
Other fires.....14	Average Response Time to calls in El Mirage = 00:05:02
EMS calls.....146	Training Hours = 791.75 Hours
False Alarms.....11	Fire Prevention = Conducted 48 Annual Fire Inspections
Other service calls.....57	

THE BLUE BYLINE

News from the El Mirage Police Department

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Police officer earns Employee of the Quarter

This summer, the City of El Mirage honored El Mirage Police Officer Monica Rios as Employee of the Quarter. Officer Rios began her service with the EMPD in July 2000 and quickly earned the respect of community members and co-workers with her work ethic and friendly, positive attitude. In 2002, Officer Rios was certified as a Detective and is now in charge of doing all criminal background investigations on city new-hires as well as serving as the Community

Action Officer, organizing neighborhood programs and community public safety outreach events.

These duties alone keep Officer Rios very busy yet she also serves as the Training Coordinator for the EMPD. In this position, her primary responsibility is to ensure each EMPD employee maintains yearly adequate training. She had the arduous task of identifying training deficiencies and rectifying it with a training schedule for the entire department. To accom-

plish this, Officer Rios reorganized the department's training program and systematically redeveloped the training files and lesson plans. Today, the EMPD is using the most up-to-date training aides and simulators.

Officer Monica Rios is the smiling face the community associates with the El Mirage Police Department. She takes an active role in the Special Olympics Torch Run, the El Mirage Christmas Toy Drive and various scouting and community

events. The City of El Mirage and the El Mirage Police Department are honored to have an outstanding city employee in Officer Monica Rios.



El Mirage Police Officer Monica Rios was honored as Employee of the Quarter.

Code Enforcement has new home

Effective May 1, 2011, the City's Code Enforcement Officers have merged with the Police Department. This re-structure allows for a more efficient Code Enforcement process by aligning them with the

City's other law enforcement branch. Code Enforcement Officers are now sporting consistent uniforms of forest green shirts and tan pants, making them easily identifiable as City officials.

More BLUE BYLINE on Page 10

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BUDGET: City budget process: Six months in review, From 2

have an efficient way to get to their facility, making transportation a vital component of any economic development effort. To address economic development and transportation needs, officials

have engaged in the largest single public capital project in the City's history.

A \$54.7 million project, the El Mirage Road Improvement Project will establish El Mirage Road

as a road of regional significance with three lanes in each direction from Northern Avenue to Gateway Park and two lanes in each direction from Gateway Park to Grand Avenue via Thunderbird

Road. The Downtown portions of this corridor will include wide sidewalks and the undergrounding of overhead power lines. Not only does the project represent a significant partnership between El

Mirage and the Maricopa County Dept. of Transportation (McDOT), it also embodies an important opportunity to promote much-needed development and re-development along El Mirage Road.

Meeting Needs with Limited Resources

The past six months reflects the City's aggressive vision for El Mirage's future, evidenced by Council approval of 23 major capital improvement projects currently under development. These projects signal the City's shift into a results-oriented approach to public improvements and development to meet resident needs while doing more with less.

Improvements to Gentry Park, the installation of access barriers at wash culvert structures, the El Mirage Road Improvement project, continuing improvements along Grand Avenue, and the implementation of curbside recycling (set to

begin Sept. 1) are among the many capital projects being spearheaded by the City. In addition, the final design of the voter-approved new Fire Station has been completed and construction is expected to begin in early fall adjacent to the existing fire station. A full listing of the City's projects can be found by visiting www.cityofelmirage.org, selecting the "City Services" tab and clicking "Capital Improvement Project Update."

The City was able to pursue many of these needed projects due to successful grant research and applications. For example, six El Mirage Fire Fighters are partially funded by a federal



City Manager Dr. Spencer A. Isom Greets SAFER grant-funded El Mirage Fire Fighters.

SAFER grant, saving the City more than \$600,000 over the course of several years. Another example of

the City's successful grant initiatives was the recent award of more than \$1.6 million in grant funds to

pave public dirt roads in the Dysart Ranchettes.

The City navigated a highly competitive grant

process to receive these funds and achieved additional success in landing an extra \$444,000 through a separate grant process. El Mirage's aggressive grant efforts effectively eliminated the City's local match, saving taxpayers more than \$1 million.

Successful grant applications bring in regional, state and/or federal dollars to fund the City's capital improvement efforts. As of June, 2011 the City of El Mirage had completed grant applications for an estimated \$798,000 in funding, with additional applications for approximately \$270,000 in funding currently in development.

Building Our Sense of Community

One of the best things about living in a small city is the increased sense of community and belonging among a network of neighborhoods and families. In the last six months, the City of El Mirage renewed its commitment to providing opportunities for residents to participate in and enjoy community events that allow them to celebrate living in El Mirage. In April, 2011 the City's Recreation & Senior Services re-established the Easter Celebration and Annual Egg Hunt at Gentry Park which drew over 1,000 residents and participants.

El Mirage also hosted the Luke West Valley Recreation Family Expo and continues to partner with



The El Mirage Fire Department Conducts Community Outreach.

the El Mirage Arts Group (EMAG) to host monthly Fourth Friday events featuring free entertainment and art exhibits and demonstrations. The Dysart Com-

munity Center is another success story for El Mirage residents and children in the sharing of resources, information and assistance.

Positive and professional

police and fire departments are essential to any community as citizens must feel safe and assured their police officers and fire fighters are there to help. Through

sincere efforts to connect with the community, the El Mirage Police and Fire Departments have earned the trust and respect of residents. El Mirage has one

of the lowest crime rates in the West Valley and its fire fighters have garnered the respect of their peer agencies as part of the Phoenix's mutual aid program.



Easter Bunny (aka Council Member Roy Delgado) Visits El Mirage



Local Cub Scouts present official city birdhouse to El Mirage Council.

Summary: A Balanced Budget & Improved Outlook

Prior to 2011, the City experienced its share of turmoil, negative publicity, and strained relations among residents and with neighboring West Valley cities. In the past six months, El Mirage's Council and City management resolved these issues along with the projected \$4.7 million budget deficit.

Staff chose to tackle these challenges by conducting training sessions and workshops for the Council, implementing a highly transparent budget process that included input from citizens, employees, and Council, reorganizing the City administration into a streamlined and efficient structure, and studying ways to

optimize limited financial resources.

A balanced budget was adopted reflecting Council priorities and addressing the needs of the community without negatively impacting service levels. Through innovations and efficiencies, the budget was reduced by \$3,258,317 from FY 11, a 4% savings to the taxpayer. Just as importantly, the budget included an addition to the City's "Rainy Day Fund" to help the City in facing future economic challenges.

More work needs to be done to ensure El Mirage's future as a vibrant and successful community but a review of the past six months demonstrates the City's dedication to meeting resident needs while creating a better El Mirage.

Weekly curbside recycling coming to El Mirage

WHAT IS CHANGING?

- In addition to your green 96-gallon barrel used for refuse, a 96-gallon blue barrel will be delivered for commingled recyclables. The blue recycling barrels will be delivered between August 1st and August 31st. Do not set the blue barrel out for collection until the night before the first recycling day, September 1st, as it will not be serviced until then.
- The blue recycling barrel will be used for papers, plastics, glass, aluminum/steel/tin cans, and boxes. This is a single-stream recycling program, meaning that all recyclable items are placed in the blue barrel together – there is no need to sort or separate them before placing in the blue barrel.
- Items that cannot be recycled in the blue barrel must be placed in the trash barrel(s) you currently have.
- Collection days will remain the same; however, trash will be collected on Mondays only, and recycling will now be collected every week on Thursday. You will need to set your trash barrel out for Monday collection, and the blue recycling barrel out for Thursday collection. All trash and recycling must be contained in your trash or recycling barrel and not on the ground. Items not placed in your City of El Mirage barrels will NOT be collected.

The first recycling collection in your blue barrel will be on Thursday, September 1, 2011.

WHAT WILL REMAIN THE SAME?

- Just as before, have your barrels out at the curb the previous night or by 5:30 am the day of collection (trash barrel on Monday, blue recycle barrel on Thursday).
- You will continue receiving service twice each week, but now Monday is devoted to trash and Thursday to recycling.
- Continue to bag and tie all trash before placing in the green barrel. Bagging refuse is especially important now that the trash barrel will be serviced weekly. Abiding by this Maricopa County requirement will help reduce odors and prevent fly breeding. However, do NOT bag recyclables in the blue barrel.
- You will continue receiving the high-quality service from Parks & Sons at the same low rate!

We are excited about the new program and we are happy to be working with you in protecting our environment. Please use the recyclables guide to assist you in identifying and preparing your recyclables. By participating in this program, you will help decrease the volume of material taken to the landfill, ultimately reducing the negative impact on the environment and natural resources. We are committed to the success of this recycling program and the satisfaction of our customers. Additional information is available online at www.parksandsons.com/elmirage.htm.

COLLECTION SCHEDULE

Please review the updated collection schedule reflecting the new trash and recycling days, which will go into effect Thursday, September 1, 2011. Trash will be collected on Mondays, and recycling (blue barrel) will be collected on Thursdays.

August 2011

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			
TRASH		RECYCLE				

September 2011

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	
TRASH		HOLIDAY		RECYCLE		

Please note that both trash and recycling collections will be delayed

October 2011

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					
TRASH		RECYCLE				

Commingled Recycling Program

Please use this guide to assist you in properly preparing and disposing of your recyclable materials. We appreciate your cooperation and participation in this program as we do our part to help protect the environment. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Customer Service at (623) 974-4791, or visit us online at www.parksandsons.com.

RECYCLABLE

PAPER



- Newspaper, junkmail, envelopes
- Magazines and catalogs
- Telephone books
- White or colored paper
- Brown paper bags

CANS



- Aluminum cans
- Steel/tin cans
- Aerosol cans (must be empty)
- Foil and foil baking pans

BOXES



- Cardboard without packing materials
- Chipboard

PLASTICS 1 & 2



- PET (plastic bottles)
- HDPE (plastic jugs, cartons)
- Look for triangle with 1 or 2

PLASTICS 3 - 7



- Plastic food packaging and cups
- Styrofoam cups, containers
- Look for triangle with 3 thru 7

GLASS



- Food jars
- Beverage bottles

NON-RECYCLABLE

- Plastic grocery bags
- Wax-coated paper
- Shredded paper
- Window or auto glass
- Diapers
- Hazardous waste containers (oil, anti-freeze, paint)
- Hangers (metal or plastic)
- Household trash
- Unnumbered plastics
- Tires
- Construction waste
- Appliances
- Landscaping/yard waste
- Carpeting
- Vehicle parts
- Paper towels, napkins, or facial tissues

PREPARATION OF RECYCLABLES

- Recyclables need to be relatively clean, dry, and empty. Examples of relatively clean include a mayonnaise jar wiped clean of residue with a spatula or emptying a soda bottle completely in the sink.
- Lightly rinse the recyclable container, if necessary, to remove food particles. Please be conscientious of your water use while rinsing the containers. The recyclables do not need to be run through a dishwasher, but simply cleaned of most residue.
- Do not place recyclables in a plastic bag – they should be uncontained when placed in the recycling bin. Continue to bag and tie your trash placed in the trash receptacle as doing so will help contain odors and reduce pests.
- Remove non-recyclable material from the recyclable item (such as plastic cereal inserts). Plastic and metal caps and labels do not need to be removed from the recyclable items.

Recycling receptacles must be out for collection the previous night or no later than 5:30 am the day of service.



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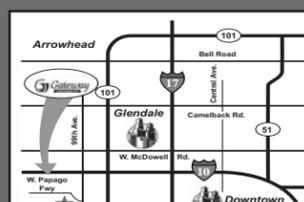
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EL MIRAGE SENIOR CENTER
14010 N. El Mirage Road
623-876-4232

The El Mirage Senior Center is a warm and welcoming place for all El Mirage seniors to come spend their time. When you come to the center, we will welcome you with open arms. You will come in as a stranger, but leave

as family. Hot meals are served 11:30 a.m. to El Mirage Senior's daily for \$2.50. Hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Seniors 55+ and better are welcome. Come visit and see what the center has to offer you.

Monthly On-going Activities:

- Mondays 1st and 3rd of each month, 10 a.m. Blood Pressure Checks
- Mondays, 9:30 a.m. Arts & Crafts
- Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9:30 a.m. Exercise
- Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. Senior Strides walking club
- Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. BINGO for prizes
- Wednesdays and Fridays, 9:30 a.m. Wii Bowling
- Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. Texas Hold'em
- Fridays 1st and 3rd, 9:30 a.m. Rummage Sale
- Every Third Wednesday, 10 a.m. Birthday Celebration
- Once to twice a month Fieldtrips to destination spots

The Senior Center accepts donations for monthly rummage sells while all proceeds go towards the Senior Committee Group Events & Activities. Volunteers are also encouraged and welcomed.

learn about art in this introductory class for kids ages 9 to 17. Each participant will leave with a frame-able piece of art. All supplies provided. Registration required. Registration begins Aug. 1.

ALL AGES: BASIC COMPUTER CLASS 10

a.m. Aug. 16. For new computer users, no experience needed! Learn the parts of a computer, how to use a mouse and keyboard and how to open and close windows. Registration required, register starting Aug. 1.

ADULTS: FRIENDS OF THE EL MIRAGE LIBRARY 1:30 p.m. Aug. 23. Join the Friends and help support your library. New members welcome! The Friends of the Library are a non-profit organization donating all monies raised to support specific programs in El Mirage like the Summer Reading Program and other functions not funded through the annual budget.

FRIENDS BOOK SALE: 6 p.m. Aug. 26. Great deals on used books and movies located at the El Mirage City Plaza, right next to the library. Space provided by Fourth Friday event.

DYSART COMMUNITY CENTER
14414 N. El Mirage Road
623-974-4156

After School Program: Kindergarten through high school youth and teens, is now in session Mondays, 2 to 7 p.m., and Tuesday through Fridays, 3 to 7 p.m. There is a 1\$ per day

drop-in rate, or \$20 per month if paid by the first of the month. Contact Priscilla Pena at priscilla-pena@dysartcommunitycenter.org, or 623-583-2137.

GED Classes: Tuesday 6 to 8 p.m. and Wednesday 5 to 9 p.m. Contact Susie Ratley at susier@dysartcommunitycenter.org, or 623-974-4156 to register.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL) TUTORING: Registration begins 8 a.m. Sept. 6. First 100 are guaranteed a 1-on-1 tutor. Student fee is \$60 for 9-month program.

Rosetta Stone English Language Learning Computer Program open from 3 to 8 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Cost is \$25 annually.

Contact Susie Ratley at susier@dysartcommunitycenter.org, or 623-974-4156 to register.

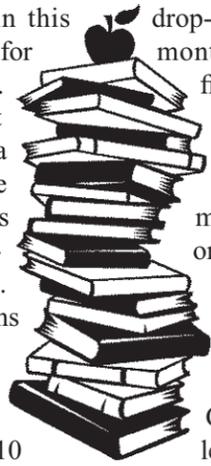
WE NEED YOU: Volunteers needed to teach English as a Second Language starting in September

Requirements: 2 hours per week, patience, and willingness to teach others. Contact Susie Ratley at susier@dysartcommunitycenter.org, or 623-974-4156.

EL MIRAGE SPORTS ACTIVITIES YOUTH & ADULT SPORTS

Coed, Men & Women Slow-Pitch Softball League: The City of El Mirage and NSA is seeking Coed teams for play

MORE CALENDAR ON 9



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EL MIRAGE BRANCH LIBRARY
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Reading Programs CHILDREN & TEENS: PAINTING WITH PATTY, FOR KIDS & TEENS Thursday, 3:30 p.m. Aug. 25. Paint and

DYSART COMMUNITY CENTER
14414 N. El Mirage Road
623-974-4156

After School Program: Kindergarten through high school youth and teens, is now in session Mondays, 2 to 7 p.m., and Tuesday through Fridays, 3 to 7 p.m. There is a 1\$ per day

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Wednesday Ladies Day
10:30am-2:30pm

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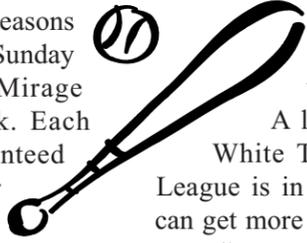
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EXPIRES 8-31-11

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CALENDAR: Community events for August, From 9

mer, and Fall seasons for Friday or Sunday nights at El Mirage Gateway Park. Each team is guaranteed eight regular season games with a single elimination tournament at the end of each season. NSA rules apply for all leagues. Ten team Maximum for Friday nights only. Teams or individuals interested should contact Chris Franciscus by e-mail at chris@playnsaaz.com, or at 412-874-4074.



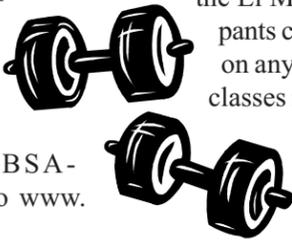
Friday Night Co-Ed Softball: Fall Season is Sept. 9 through Oct. 28. Cost is \$350 for returning teams and \$375 for new teams. Winter Season is Nov. 4 through Dec. 16. Cost is \$325 for returning teams and \$350 for new teams.

Sunday Night Co-Ed Softball: Fall Season is Sept. 11 through Oct. 30. Cost is \$350 for returning teams and \$375 for new teams. Winter Season Nov. 6 through Dec. 18. Cost is \$350 for returning teams and \$375 for new teams.

Over 30 - Coed Adult Soccer League: The West Valley's premier Adult Coed Soccer League has created a place where you can go to play the sport your body needs, without the usual hustle and bustle of a traditional Fitness Center and Health Club. With the state-of-the-art new El Mirage Gateway Sports Complex, acoustically designed fields, and children-friendly playgrounds, you can play soccer in a friendly atmosphere and do the work your body needs, while keeping your stress level down. For league information go to www.azcoedsoccer.com, or call 1-800-BSA-0886.

White Tanks Little League: Although White Tanks Little League is in season you can get more information regarding summer and fall baseball and the league by visiting www.eteamz.com/whitetanksl. Volunteer Board Members are also needed each season! If you are interested and able to be part of the established White Tanks Little League Board, please contact WTLL directly at 623-241-4602, or whitetanksl@msn.com.

Benfica Youth Soccer League: The ongoing academy uses soccer education to bring out greatness in our community's youth and families. The academy provides the highest success rate of youth soccer players in order to further their personal goals and aspirations. We are proud to provide year round developmental soccer in a festive environment for the whole family. Registered participants in the 6 to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday academy will be taught the sport of soccer by professional trainers and coaches. Youth develop discipline while learning soccer skills to improve precision and technique and receive trainings through a progressive and balanced process while learning in a fun and developmental environment with respect for the spirit of the sport. For more information regarding upcoming soccer programs please call 1-800-BSA-0886, or go to www.azbenfica.org.



El Mirage Martial Arts Academy: The City of El Mirage Martial Arts Academy is enrolling for Okinawa Karate classes to all ages at the El Mirage Senior Center, 14010 N. El Mirage Road.

Kids ages 6 to 12 are taught 6 to 7 p.m. Monday and Wednesday in a traditional, structured setting, without forgetting that Karate can be very fun! Students learn effective self-defense skills through diligent training. Students routinely learn life skills. Honesty, integrity, courtesy, respect, and work ethic are examples of the character-building exercises shared with students nightly with special emphasis on the philosophy of stranger danger. Each class is available for a \$45 monthly fee.

Adults age 13 and up train 7 to 8:30 p.m. Monday and Wednesday at their own speed. Students work to develop into healthy, well conditioned individuals, both physically and mentally. They train so that they may master the art of weapon less defense. Students challenge themselves rather than compete with other students. These martial art classes are great for the whole body and mind.

For more information, call Martial Arts Instructor Richard Gutkosay at 623-628-6725, or 602-721-4587.

Ladies Fitness Boot Camp: Ladies Fitness Boot Camp has landed in the El Mirage. Participants can join classes on any Monday. The classes run three days a week for four weeks from 1 to 1.5 hours.

Monday, Wednesday and Friday classes are 5 to 6:10 a.m. All El Mirage Residents get 50 percent off for their first month. To get started go to www.ladiesfitnessbootcamp.com and fill out the registration form. For more information, visit www.ladiesfitnessbootcamp.com, or contact Tracey at 623-252-1FIT (1348).

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Police offer burglary prevention tips

Summer is still here and many residents are still on vacation. Residential burglaries often occur during the day when residents are gone to work or when there is evidence of the residents being out of town. Here are some tips to help keep your property safe:

- Keep your doors & windows closed and secure. Utilizing anti-theft products on the inside of

doors and windows and an alarm system can also be helpful.

- Use a timer so that lights, radio, or TV turn in inside your home. This helps give the appearance that the house is occupied.

- Suspend your newspaper service until you return home.

- Request vacation watch through the Police Department. This will notify officers that you are

not home and when you will return.

- Document your valuables, including pictures and serial numbers. In the case of a theft, this will help identify your property and increase the chances of your property being returned to you should it be recovered.



Many insurance companies provide tools to help you record this information.

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Let's Get Ready!

St. Joachim & St. Anne Catholic Parish in Sun City will be enrolling returning and new students for **2011-2012 Religious Education in St. Anne's Hall** after the 4 & 5:30pm Saturday Masses on Aug. 6, 13 & 20.

Parents may also register students Mon. through Fri. at the parish office.

Classes are Wednesday's 6:30-8pm in St. Anne's Hall beginning Sept. 14.

There will be a Parent-Teacher meeting Wed., Aug. 31 @ 7pm in St. Anne's Hall.

For more information call 623-972-1179

11625 111th Avenue
Sun City, Arizona 85351-3746
(623) 972-1179

Church of St. Joachim & St. Anne

Kids are going back to school: Police remind residents to drive safely around school zones

The El Mirage Police Department reminds you to watch closely when driving in residential areas and around schools. Area schools

resume Monday, August 8, 2011. Be careful to watch for school zones, school buses and pedestrian traffic.

The El Mirage Police

Department is actively involved in traffic operations that encourage the safe travels of all residents and visitors to our community.



El Mirage Police Officer Randy Stewart gets promoted.

Officer promoted to Sergeant

On Friday, July 1, Randy Stewart was promoted to Sergeant for the El Mirage Police Department. Sgt. Stewart worked as an Acting Sergeant on the night shift prior to being officially promoted after a competitive interview process. Sgt Stewart has been with the El Mirage Police Department since 2003 and previously held assignments as the School Resource Officer for Dysart High School and as an Administrative Officer. Congratulations Sgt. Stewart.

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Be a **MAX** DONOR

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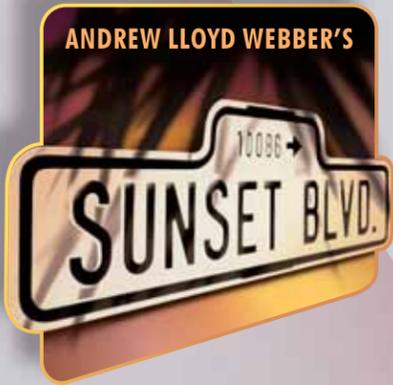
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NOVEMBER -
DECEMBER, 2011



JANUARY -
FEBRUARY, 2012



MARCH -
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