

El Mirage News

www.cityofelmirage.org

Vol. 2, No. 11

623-972-8116

City of El Mirage

Celebrating 60 Years (1951 - 2011)

Every person has a story to tell. It is in those stories where the uniqueness of each individual is found. It is also in those stories where the distinctive history of El Mirage can be collected and preserved. As El Mirage prepares to celebrate its 60th year as a city, long-time residents agreed to share their memories of life in El Mirage long ago.

City of El Mirage: The stories of us

James Broyles, 86 and wife Catalina, 74

They made their way to El Mirage in 1951, where James had come to work as a foreman at Rala Singh's Farm near Glendale and Highway 303. The farm was approximately 2,000 acres of cotton, corn, melons, celery, and lettuce fields. Catalina was a farm worker, who picked and cleaned cotton 12 to 14

hours a day at 60 cents an hour. They lived in Labor Camp #54 on the canal close to Van Buren, where there were separate, outside show-ers for men and women. A long building served as sleep-ing quarters for everyone, and meals were prepared by individual families in a small kitchen in the same building.

The Broyles don't remember exactly when Cesar Chavez came to town, but they do remember beginning to work 8-hour days as a result. In addition to being a farm worker, Catalina worked for a Lutheran mission that helped provide food and clothes for many farm workers in the area, especially during Thanksgiving and Christmas. She did this for more than 10 years. James and Catalina had 3 children – one boy and two girls. When the family was able, they drove up north to Flagstaff in their 1951 Chevy to hunt, fish and just enjoy being together. The Broyles saved for months to buy the car used. Closer to home, James liked exploring the White Tank Mountains and built his own sand buggy to reach the highest points.

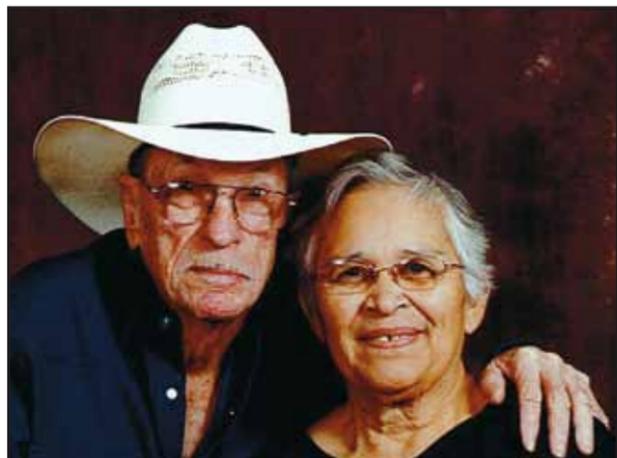
James is rather modest about his life prior to liv-

ing in El Mirage. He was a hero. During World War II, he was a young tail gunner stationed in Shyamnagar, Bengal, India. His unit flew supply transports across the

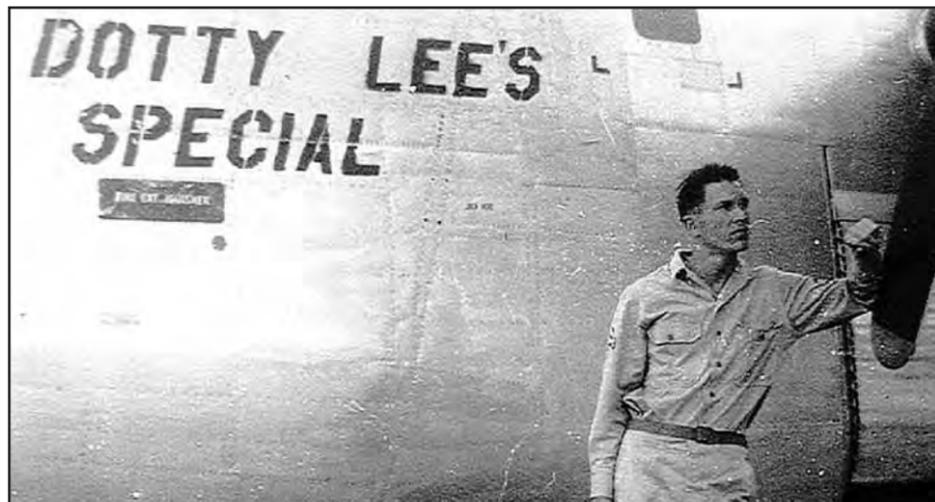
Himalayas (referred to as "jumping over the hump") into China. On his final such trip, the transport – "Dottie Lee's Special" – was shot down, and of the 10 men

aboard, only James and three others survived to make their way over 700 miles to finally reach India six months later.

MORE STORIES ON 6



James and Catalina Broyles today



James Broyles at age 19, U.S. Army Air Corps

60th

City of El Mirage

ANNIVERSARY & CARNIVAL

FEATURING:

FREE ADMISSION

Food & Drinks | Canned Food Drive

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CARNIVAL RIDES

Sneak Preview of Carnival - Friday, November 18th, 4 p.m. - 10 p.m.

HISTORICAL CEREMONY

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10100 N. El Mirage Road | North of Olive

CityofElMirage.org/Events | 623-876-2942

SATURDAY,
November 19th, 2011

Noon - 10 p.m.

Read More About 60th Anniversary and Carnival on page 7

Important City Announcement: City of El Mirage Office Closure Notice

El Mirage City Hall, 12145 NW Grand Ave. and the El Mirage Senior Center, 14010 N. El Mirage Road will be closed in recognition of the following holidays:

- Veteran's Day - Nov. 11
- Thanksgiving - Nov. 24 and 25
- Christmas Holiday - Dec. 26 to 30
- New Year's Day - Jan. 2, 2012

The Municipal Court, 14010 N. El Mirage Road will remain open Dec. 27 to 30.

Fire and Police Emergency and Non-Emergency Services will be fully operational during the holiday closures.

Utility Payments: Residents wishing to make payments for utility bills may utilize the drop box in the City Hall parking lot, or the www.XpressBillPay.com feature on the City's website at www.cityofelmirage.org.

Trash Holiday Schedule: http://parksandsons.com/EIMirage_HolidaySchedule.html.

For questions, call 623-972-8116.

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Mayor's Message: Our Collective Responsibilities

During the past several weeks, I have listened to and read many comments concerning the upcoming bond election from a broad spectrum of homeowners, business owners, educators, and citizens whose lives and livelihoods are deeply rooted in El Mirage. Through all of the various communications, there has been a recurring theme – that we must work collectively if El Mirage is to be the vibrant, welcoming

community that we envision for the future. Working collectively means sharing in the responsibilities necessary to bring about lasting change. I see the bond election as an essential way for us to do just that.

Currently, our Police Department operates in a facility not indicative of its responsibilities. The station, most of which is made up of trailers and modular buildings, is more than 25 years old. These 'temporary' facilities house evidence, documents, and equipment critical to the Department's operations. The station lobby, administrative offices, and arrestee intake areas are severely cramped and generally lack the most basic security measures such as cameras, locking doors, and alarm systems. This is the day-to-day work environment in which our Police Department must function.

As we go about our daily lives, we depend on the El Mirage Police Department to ensure our safety, no matter who we are or where we live in the City. In turn, the Police Department operates under a 'community policing' philosophy that advocates for open dialogue and com-



Mayor Lana Mook

community partnerships to help police resolve a myriad of our public safety concerns. You only need to look to the many neighborhood meetings, school functions, and community events where officers are present to understand the Department's firm commitment to community-inclusive solutions. On November 8th, El Mirage voters have a chance to make an important commitment to the Police Department. By voting 'Yes', you will give the Department a well-deserved, new police station. More importantly, your vote will affirm the belief that a safe community is a collective responsibility we must share with a Department dedicated to our protection.

This belief in collective responsibility is far reach-

ing. It also encompasses the quality of life we each share with our own family and with other families in El Mirage. The question surrounding the need for a recreational facility is, in many respects, one centered on what we want collectively for our families, especially our children. Are they safe, healthy, inspired, and well-adjusted? And if we are unsure, then we have to ask ourselves if, as a community, we are prepared to invest in ways that allow our children to be everything they can be.

Most of us think of recreational facilities in terms of sports and fitness, but they can be so much more. Many routinely provide youth with mentors, homework tutors, art programs, job assistance, health education, camps, and a host of other programs. Youngsters left alone at home and unsupervised while their parents work are offered a safe, supportive place to go. For adults of any age, such facilities provide conversation and connectedness, in addition to a host of health and recreational programs.

Collective responsibility is

MORE MAYOR ON 3

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Council Corner: El Mirage Property Taxes in Perspective

Local governments throughout our state and around the country use primary and secondary property taxes to help fund important projects such as roadways and police and fire departments. The tax rates vary widely from one municipality to another depending on assessed property values, as well as the special 'districts' communities establish to help fund other projects such as street lights (SLid), maintenance improvement (MID) and other community facilities (CFD). Some communities are even in overlapping districts, which means their residents pay multiple taxes for basic services. The 'district' services referenced here are included in El Mirage's primary and/or secondary tax rates. Factoring in these special taxing districts begins to provide a more ac-

| West Valley | Primary | Secondary | Fire District | SLid | CFD | MID |
|-----------------|---------|-----------|---------------|------|-----|-----|
| Avondale | X | X | | | | |
| Buckeye | X | | | X | X | |
| El Mirage | X | X | | | | |
| Glendale | X | X | | | | |
| Goodyear | X | X | | X | X | |
| Litchfield Park | | | | X | X | |
| Peoria | X | X | | X | X | X |
| Surprise | X | | | X | X | |
| Youngtown | | | X | X | X | |

curate basis for comparing El Mirage taxes to those of its neighboring communities.

The above chart shows municipalities in the West Valley and the various taxing districts they have established:

As the chart indicates, Youngtown does not have a primary or secondary property tax, but the residents of Youngtown's Agua Fria Ranch development pay taxes for a fire district, street light district, and a community

facilities district. As a result, Agua Fria Ranch residents pay a higher tax rate than the residents of El Mirage. In Surprise's Marley Park, residents pay a primary tax, a community facilities district tax, and a street light improvement district tax. As a result, Marley Park residents also pay a higher tax rate than El Mirage residents.

The information above is intended to put El Mirage property taxes in proper per-

spective, and counter claims that the City's taxes are among the highest in the Valley.

MAYOR: Collective Responsibilities, From 2

crucial to building the El Mirage that so many of us have wanted for a very long time. Some may feel that this is not the perfect time to vote for a new police station and recreational facility. It is my belief that, although not perfect, it is the right time for this vote.

I understand there are some voters who have concerns about the construction costs of the new facilities and the impact on their property taxes. Please know that construction costs

are lower now than they've been in the last two years, and staff has certainly done its due diligence to ensure that property tax increases will be kept to the lowest levels possible. I trust that you will give serious consideration to the benefits the new facilities will bring to you, your family, and our entire community. I hope, too, that you will recognize that such benefits, or the lack thereof, are the collective responsibility of every El Mirage citizen.



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FOCUS ON THE FIRE DEPARTMENT



News from the El Mirage Fire Department

13513 N. El Mirage Road • 623-583-7968 • www.cityofelmirage.org/fire
Operations and administration open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday



Smoke Alarms Save Lives

More than 3,000 people die in home fires each year in the United States; most of whom are in homes without a working smoke alarm.

The El Mirage Fire Department encourages residents to take care of their smoke alarms as they would any other essential appliance. Far too many people have died in fires as a result of not having working smoke alarms or

sprinklers.

The El Mirage Fire Department offers a few helpful tips on smoke alarms and sprinklers:

- Place properly installed and maintained smoke alarms both inside and outside of sleeping areas and on every level of your home.

- Inspect and test smoke alarms monthly and change alkaline batteries at least

once every year.

- When changing the battery, take a couple of minutes to clean your smoke alarms. Smoke alarms get dusty as does everything in Arizona. Dust is a frequent cause of nuisance alarms. Use “canned air” dusters like you use to clean your computer or use a vacuum cleaner to remove the dust.

- Interconnected smoke



alarms are best because if one sounds, they all sound.

- Get smoke alarms that can sound fast. The U.S.

Fire Administration recommends that every home or place where people sleep be equipped with both ionization and photoelectric smoke alarms or dual sensor smoke alarms, which contain both ionization and photoelectric smoke sensors.

- If possible, install residential fire sprinklers in your home.

Senior citizens or others

with physical challenges who may have difficulty changing batteries can contact the Fire Department for help. Citizens will need to purchase the batteries and department members will replace them.

Residents who do not have a smoke alarm in their homes may contact the El Mirage Fire Department at 623-583-7968 to have the alarm installed.

Fire Department Monthly Report: September 2011

El Mirage Fire Units responded to the following incidents during the month of September 2011:

Structure fires....2
Other fires.....2
EMS calls....188
False Alarms...14
Other calls....62
TOTAL.....268

Total Fire Loss - \$427,000

Significant Incidents/Activities

- 9/7 – Structure fire at the Country Market, 14310 North Alto Street.

- 9/16 - El Mirage Fire units were first on scene at a serious accident at 129th Avenue and Cactus Road in which a truck broadsided a car heading north on Cactus Road. Using the “Jaws of Life,” firefighters extricated the car’s driver and began treating the driver and passenger. Both occupants of the car were flown by helicopter to an area hospital. The driver of the truck was not injured. Units from Surprise, Sun City, Sun City West, Southwest Ambulance, and Luke AFB assisted with the treatment and transport of the patients.

- 9/28 – Three 12 year-old boys at Surprise Elementary School were treated and transported to Banner Thunderbird Medical Center after overdosing on prescription medication brought to school by another student.

THE BLUE BYLINE

News from the El Mirage Police Department

14405 N. Palm St. • 623-933-1341 • www.cityofelmirage.org/police

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Meet Chaplain Rick Palmer of EMPD

The El Mirage Police Department (EMPD) is honored to have several dedicated volunteers who help support the Department’s mission. Among them is Chaplain Rick Palmer, who will celebrate his 10-year anniversary with the Police Department next March. As the chaplain, he provides emotional and spiritual support to the members of the Police Department in times of crisis and in their day-to-day duties. Chaplain Palmer earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Wayland Baptist University, majoring in human services and minoring in criminal justice. He also holds a master of arts degree in theology from Fuller Theological Seminary. Palmer describes one of his primary roles as that of a good listener. “There are times when people just need someone to listen. Police work is getting more complex as time

passes and this adds to the stress of the job.”

Prior to his volunteer time with El Mirage, Chaplain Palmer served 25 years as an officer and detective with the Phoenix Police Department working in patrol, investigations, and the repeat offender program. It is this experience that allows him to be so effective in offering assistance. “There are a lot of barriers I did not have to overcome that an ‘outsider’ may have experienced coming into a police community. My prior experience as a police officer was an immense asset. Once the officers knew that I had law enforcement experience, this made it easier for them to relate to me because they knew I would understand a lot of what they are experiencing.”

Chaplain Palmer describes a difficult time for him and the department. “Probably the most



Chaplain Rick Palmer

difficult situation I had to deal with was the death of Lieutenant Paul Esparza in June 2004. He had developed a terminal illness and eventually succumbed to it. I was at the hospital the night he passed away. I will never forget the walk I had to make to the waiting room to

tell his fellow officers and friends that he had passed.”

Volunteers like Chaplain Palmer are vital to the success of the El Mirage Police Department. Not only do they provide a valuable service to the department and to the community, but they also receive a great personal benefit.

“Becoming chaplain was a bit of a shift for me. Going from the role of police officer to that of a chaplain took some time. It has been a time of learning. The people on the police department may not realize it, but they have taught me a lot. The way in which I perform my service as chaplain has been greatly influenced by those whom I serve. The nearly ten years I have served as chaplain have gone by very quickly. We have had good and bad times, but I would not trade it for anything and I look forward to the years ahead.”

Nationwide Emergency Alert System Test Nov. 9

A nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) is scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 9, at noon MST. The test will be broadcast over radio and television stations statewide and last approximately three minutes. The EAS has never before been tested simultaneously nationwide.

“We’re testing the EAS on November 9 to ensure the system works as expected,” said Arizona Division of Emergency Management Director Lou



Trammell. “The test is just that—a test. There will be no need for alarm, but we want people to know about the November test because it may last longer than the monthly tests.”

In the aftermath of a national catastrophic event,

authorities will transmit crucial information to the public through as many methods as possible. The national EAS program provides the nation with an unparalleled communications network, available even under the direst conditions.

Visit the Arizona Emergency Information Network (AzEIN) website at www.azein.gov for real-time emergency updates, preparedness and hazard information, and multimedia resources.

Victim assistance volunteers needed

The El Mirage Police Department is in the process of developing a Victim Assistance Unit to provide crisis and ongoing support to victims of domestic violence in the City. This unit will assist victims with resource referrals and domestic violence education. Unit members will also attend community events and provide support throughout the legal process. In 2010, the El Mirage Police Department responded to an average of 2 domestic violence-related calls a day.

Between January and August 2011, the calls have increased to an average of 3 a day. Victim advocates must complete an application and pass a background investigation including a criminal history check, polygraph, and drug test. For an application, or questions about the Victim Assistance Program, contact Victim Advocate Iva Rody at irody@cityofelmirage.org.

Why building permits?

Your home or business is an investment! If your construction project does not comply with the codes adopted by the City of El Mirage, the value of your investment can be reduced. Insurance companies may not cover work done without permits and inspections. If you decide to sell a home or building that has had modifications without a permit, you may be required to tear down the addition or patio, leave it unoccupied, or make costly repairs. There was a kitchen fire recently in El Mirage where the insurance company did not pay for the repairs because of a patio built without permits.

Step 1: Talk to Your Local Code Official.

Building code officials will gladly answer your questions about your project to help you avoid problems that could cost you time and money. You will be asked basic questions, advised of any requirements, and, if necessary, referred to other departments (Planning and Engineering) for their approval. Call 623-876-2932 or visit the city offices.



Step 2: Submit Your Application.

You will need to submit an application along with any plans or sketches of the project. Applications and basic submittal information can be found on our website www.cityofelmirage.org, click on Building Safety under City Services. This page also has numerous handouts and documents that may help you with your permit plans.

Step 3: The Application Review Process

Code officials will review your plans and determine if your project is in compliance with local codes and requirements. If your plans meet the requirements, a permit is issued. If not, suggestions will be provided to help correct any problems. Some simple projects such as patios, electrical or plumbing repairs, and fencing may be reviewed and approved at the

front counter of City Hall's Development and Community Services Department.

Step 4: Receive Permit.

Once plans are approved, a fee will be charged based on the valuation of your project. This fee pays for city services to process, review, and inspect your project. The permit should be posted on the job site.

Step 5: Inspections

Inspections are required to make sure the work conforms to the approved plans and code standards. Again, you will have access to the expertise of the code officials/building inspector to help you with questions or concerns regarding your project. Inspection requests should be phoned in one business day prior to the inspection date.

Step 6: Final Approval

When the project is complete, the City of El Mirage

will provide you with documentation confirming the job complies with City code. You will have the satisfaction of a job done right.

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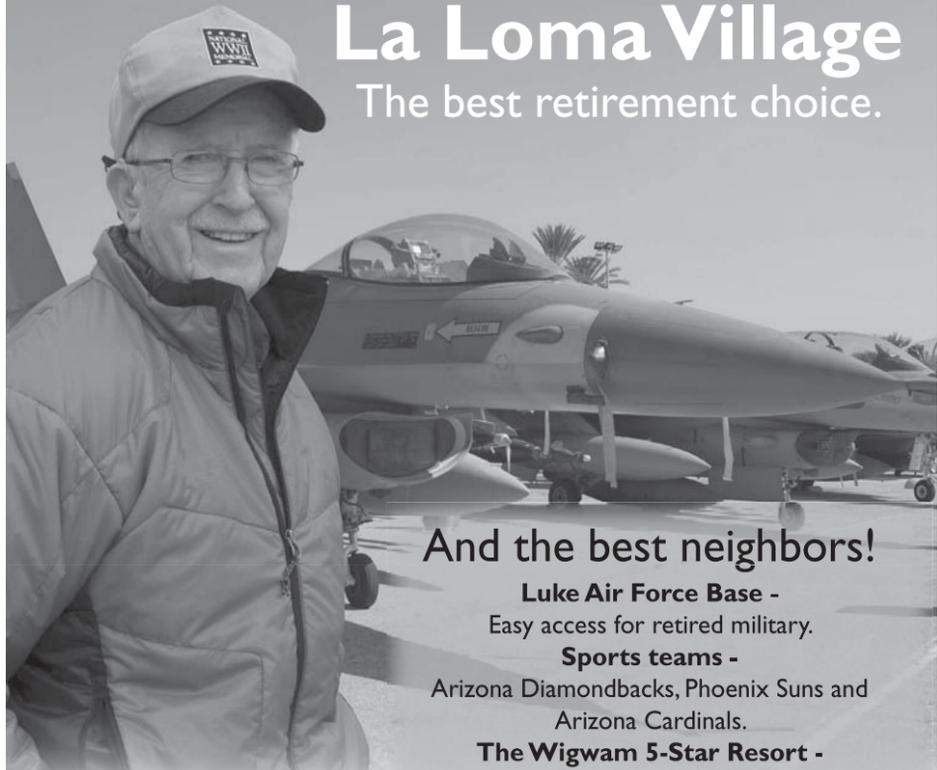
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STORIES OF US: Celebrating 60 years, From 1



Maria Camacho's husband, Salvadore (glasses) and six of their seven sons

Maria Soccoro Camacho, 83

Maria and her husband, Salvadore were migrant workers who came to El Mirage in 1955. They worked on several farms harvesting onions, potatoes, tomatoes, lettuce, and grapes. Both the Camachos drove trucks to the fields. When asked what they did for enjoyment back then, Maria replied laughingly that they celebrated the children's birthdays. The Camachos had 13 children – 7 boys and 6 girls – whose births covered all 12 months of the year. When they needed gas or repairs for the trucks, they would take

them to Gustavo's Gas Station, which was located across Thunderbird Road from where the El Mirage Post Office is today. Groceries were purchased at Salivas' Grocery Store, also on Thunderbird. What Maria remembers most about El Mirage is how safe her family felt living here. "You could leave the doors and windows open, and sleep outside if you wanted.

No one would bother you." Currently, Maria resides with her youngest son, Evaristo on North 121st Lane in El Mirage.

Lidia Vasquez Moreno, 77

Lidia and Leonardo Moreno came to El Mirage in late 1961 on the advice of her brother-in-law, who owned some vacant land in the City at El Mirage Road and Ventura Street, and told them there was work here. The Morenos moved into a house on Alto Street after spending a couple of months with friends in Agua Fria. Leonardo went to work as a laborer for \$50 a week for Lee Wong, who grew green onions and also drove a water truck to keep the dust down on City roads. Lidia was a stay-at-home mom for the most part, taking care of their 8 children – 5 girls and 3 boys. Among their favorite meals were rice, chicken, and beef enchiladas. Whenever the kids were sick, Lidia took them to see Dr. Shackelford on Alto Street, who worked in El Mirage about 50 years. Together with his wife, a registered nurse, Dr. Shackelford delivered many babies at homes. He also saw children for the usual colds and occasional broken bones, and affectionately called all the boys "Bruno". Lidia regularly bought groceries at Page, Yingland, and Salivas markets, but big purchases like bicycles were reserved for Western Auto, where customers could put items on lay-away until they were paid for. When reminiscing



Lidia and Leonardo Moreno's Wedding Reception, January 1958



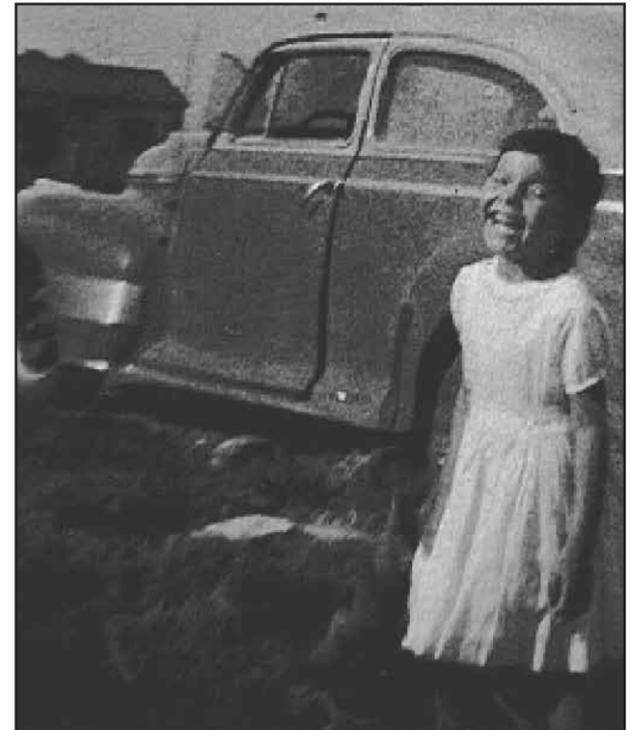
Lidia Moreno's daughter, Lina in 1961 in front of the fence at their El Mirage home

about her life with husband, Leonardo, she says because her temper when she'd lose it. Lidia's sister and four of her daughters currently reside in El Mirage. about her life with husband, Leonardo, she says because her temper when she'd lose it. Lidia's sister and four of her daughters currently reside in El Mirage.

Maria Louisa Gomez, 86

Maria was born in Mexico and came to El Mirage in 1954 by way of Texas. She and her husband, along with 6 children ages 2 months to 12 years, left Texas in search of more work, since the harvests in Texas had been poor for a couple of years. They initially rented two rooms in a small house on Main Street in El Mirage, and began building their own home, one room at a time, after renting for two years. Maria was up at 4:00 am most mornings to make breakfast for the children and work lunches for her and her husband. In spite of 14-hour work days, Maria's family made time every Friday night to attend the El Peso Drive-in in Phoenix. Before the start of the movies, the family would drop by a Phoenix market to pick up fish and root beer for dinner that evening.

At 117th and Grand Avenue, the current location of Pratt's Pets, Maria's older children would catch the school bus to Peoria. A worker at the nearby "Y" Cantina would watch the neighborhood children to ensure they got on the bus safely. Like many of her neighbors, including Maria Camacho, Maria Gomez shopped at Salivas' Grocery Store. Maria learned to drive at age 49 in a 1941 Chevy, the family's first car. Throughout the 1970's, Maria attended English language classes at El Mirage School and



Maria Gomez's daughter, Olivia with the first family car, a 1941 Chevy

what is now Dysart Community Center. When she felt her English was proficient enough, she went to work cleaning homes in Sun City, doing so for 23 years. Having only completed a 5th grade education in Mexico, Maria wanted her children to appreciate the opportunities for learning that they were given in the U.S. The children took their mother's advice. Today, the children are lawyers, teachers, certified mechanics, and administrators.

Maria Gomez still lives in the same home on Main Street that her family built in 1957. When asked what she thinks of El Mirage now, she replied, "I like the paved streets and street lights."

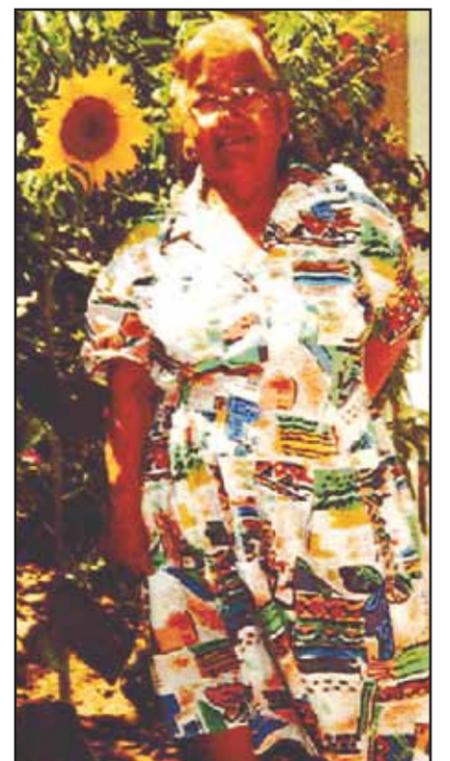


Maria Gomez with son, Eligio in front of Mr. Blue's house, her neighbor on Main Street in 1961

Luisa Bermea, 86

Luisa was born in Texas and has lived in El Mirage for 47 years. The Bermea family lived in a two-bedroom home on Primrose, and her husband and four boys all worked for various farms, growing and harvesting cotton, radishes, broccoli, and onions. The largest agricultural operation in the area, owned by the Boswell Company, encompassed hundreds of acres of cotton. During the 1970's, Luisa recalls sunflowers growing 'everywhere' in El Mirage. Sundays were reserved for mass at Santa Teresita Catholic Church, which was founded in El Mirage in 1968 and still serves as a mainstay of faith for area families today.

Luisa Bermea with one of many sunflowers that grew throughout El Mirage



The real story of El Mirage lies in the voices of its people. Together, those voices are hopeful of the City's future, even as they honor memories of the past. The family, faith, hard work, and determination that distinguished the lives of long-time residents, will ultimately secure the future of many more generations who will call El Mirage home.

Celebrate the city's 60th anniversary

Located in the heart of the Northwest Valley, El Mirage has emerged from its small town, agricultural beginnings to become a thriving urban city with a population of almost 32,000. Fast forward to 2011, and the City is celebrating its 60th year of incorporation as a city and the growth that has taken place since then. The City of El Mirage will host a 60th Anniversary and Carnival event, complete with rides for the whole family, a historical ceremony, beer garden, music, entertainment and more on November 19th from 12 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Gateway Park, 10100 N. El Mirage Road (north of Olive). The City would like to extend an invitation to the entire El Mirage community – families, friends, and neighbors – to celebrate. The 60th Anniversary is a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow citizens, community groups, and businesses, while enjoying the wonderful festivities. Admission to the event is free and open to all ages. Other West Valley communities are invited to celebrate with El Mirage as well. The City will also

be holding a canned food drive in conjunction with the celebration to benefit a local food bank.

Kicking off the musical entertainment from noon to 3:30 p.m. will be Peppermint James, a local Phoenix band whose influences include the Beatles, the Wailers, and traditional jazz and blues. The group has even shared the stage with Blues Traveler, Robert Randolph, and the Family Band. They are a must see! Step back into the 1950's for a lively performance featuring Come Back Buddy. The group plays the tunes of Buddy Holly and will be gracing the stage from 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. The highlight of the event will be

the historical ceremony with Mayor Lana Mook featuring the unveiling of the 60th Anniversary Commemorative Coin, along with a special El Mirage video presentation. Closing out the evening will be the headlining performance of international Tejano recording artist and '2009 Best New Female Artist', Monica Castro. Monica is a former resident of El Mirage and a graduate of the University of Phoenix.

No carnival is complete without delicious food and drinks, and this celebration will be filled with scrumptious treats to suit every taste. The event will also feature a beer garden sponsored by the Riff Raff Bar

& Grill. The carnival will be open for a sneak preview on Friday, November 18th from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. Carnival ride tickets can be purchased for \$1.00 and will be good for all rides for both days of the carnival. The 60th Anniversary and Carnival is a celebration you don't want to miss.

For information, visit www.cityofelmirage.org/events, or call 623-876-2942.

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 2011- 5th Anniversary

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- Assistant Statement of Deficiencies
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 Nov. 7, Dec. 5 2011 & Jan. 2, 2012
 8:30am-12:30pm
Pharmacy Tech
 Nov. 7, Dec 5 2011 & Jan. 2, 2012
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Nursing Assistants Class Schedule

| Morning Class (9:00 am to 1:15pm) | Evening Class (4 pm to 8:15 pm) |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Nov 14, 2011 | Nov 7, 2011 |
| Dec 12, 2011 | Dec 5, 2011 |
| Jan 9, 2012 | Jan 2, 2012 |

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With the holiday season rapidly approaching, Dysart Community Center staff wishes to remind West Valley residents to consider donating locally. The center serves many adults in El Mirage and throughout the Northwest Valley

Donate Locally

through English classes, 1-on-1 tutoring, citizenship classes, and an after-school program serving children ages 5 to 18. According to Jessie Singer, the center's Executive Director, "Programs would not survive without individual donors who are looking to make a difference right in

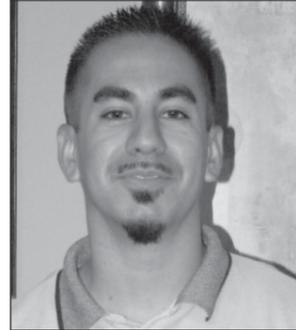
their own neighborhood. Through our programs, we help many adults improve or obtain employment by learning the English language. We ensure that our youth are motivated to stay in school." The center is most in need of toys, cash donations, and volunteer time. Dysart Community

Center is at the corner of El Mirage and Well Roads in El Mirage. Staff welcomes visits by the public to see firsthand the many programs provided.

Contact Jessie Singer, Executive Director at jsinger@dysartcommunity-center.org, or 623-249-3812.

Staff finds, returns customer's money

On October 5th, a customer came to City Hall to pay his water bill. While at the customer service counter, he accidentally left an envelope containing \$600 in cash. Ruben Ojeda, Customer Service Representative, subsequently found the envelope and immediately brought it to his supervisor, Oni Boston.



Customer Service Representative Ruben Ojeda

A receipt also left in the envelope helped determine the customer's identify. The money was locked in an office safe and the customer was contacted by phone.

The grateful customer offered staff a reward for returning the money, but staff graciously declined the reward.

Susie Ratley named top 40 Hispanic leader under 40

Susie Ratley, Dysart Community Center's Adult Education Director, has been named as one of Chicanos Por La Causa's 40 Hispanic Leader Under 40. Ms. Ratley grew up in El Mirage, attended school in the Dysart Unified School District, volunteered as a



youth member on the Community Center's Board of Directors, and completed her undergraduate studies at Arizona State University. Her role at the Community Center focuses on helping adult education enrollees learn employment-related basic skills.

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El Mirage welcomes Aaron's, Inc.

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held October 13th to officially welcome Aaron's, Inc. to El Mirage. The new store at 13030 West Thunderbird Road is one of more than 1,800 company-operated and franchised stores located throughout the United States and Canada.

Aaron's was founded in 1955 when current Chairman R. Charles Loudermilk, Sr. and a partner borrowed \$500 to purchase 300 chairs and rented each of them out for 10 cents per day to auction houses. From these modest beginnings, Aaron's has become an



Mayor Mook joins Todd Sergi, Principal at Capital Development Partners and son for Aaron's ribbon cutting

industry leader in specialty retailing. At Aaron's, customers have the choice to buy, lease, or lease-to-own office furniture, consumer electronics, home appliances, and home accessories. City officials

expressed their gratitude to Aaron's management for believing in the vitality and future growth of the City.

"We look forward to a successful partnership," said Mayor Lana Mook.

Lights needed for city Christmas tree

Spread some holiday cheer by donating items to light the City's Christmas Tree. The City

is currently seeking:

- New Holiday Time© LED, multi-colored light strands ap-

propriate for outdoor use, 60 or 180 count, strung on 12" x 4" green wire, string-to-string

- Sixteen (16) function memory control box

Items are available at the El Mirage Wal-Mart Store and may be dropped off to Doug Strong at the El Mirage Senior Center, 14010 N. El Mirage Road, between 9 a.m. and noon on weekdays.

Contact Doug at 623-876-4232.

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- Save the Date -
Saturday, December 17th, 2011



City of El Mirage Christmas Celebration & Parade
El Mirage City Plaza, 14010 N. El Mirage Road
More Information: Contact Angela Serda
Aserda@cityofelmirage.org | 623-876-2942



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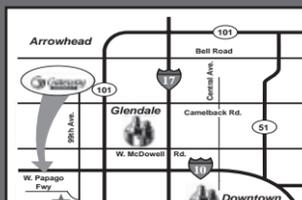
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

EL MIRAGE LIBRARY
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602-652-3000

All Maricopa County Library District Libraries are closed - Friday, November 11 for Veteran's Day & Thursday, November 24 for Thanksgiving Day

CHILDREN (ages 1 to 5) - APPLE HARVEST STORY TIME - 10 a.m. Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29. Fun stories and silly songs for Fall.

THREE LITTLE PIGS - 10 a.m. Nov. 9. Local Favorite Storyteller Janet Kubat brings the Three Little Pigs to life; your kids act out the parts in this fun time for kids ages 2 and up!

ALL AGES - FRIENDS BOOK SALE AT GATEWAY PARK - noon to 4 p.m. Nov. 19. El Mirage 60th Birthday Bash is the place for great deals on gently used books and movies. Includes Span-

ish and Large Print books. Located at Gateway Park, 10100 N. El Mirage Road.

ADULTS - FRIENDS OF THE EL MIRAGE LIBRARY - 1:30 p.m. Nov. 22, Join the Friends and help support your library. New members welcome!

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

Computer Basics - 6 to 8 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Cost is \$25. Learn computer basic skills: Microsoft Word, Internet and creating an email account.

GED - 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday year-round; 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Monday to Tuesday for November through April. Price is \$30. Preparation course for the GED exam.

Rosetta Stone - Times vary. Price is \$25. Basic

English vocabulary using a computer software program.

E.S.L. - (English as a Second Language) Classes - Times vary. Price is \$60 for 9-month program. Get 1-on-1 Basic English Language lessons tailored to individual needs.

To register for classes, contact Susie at susier@dysartcommunitycenter.org, or call 623-974-4156.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM - Kindergarten through high school youth and teens can meet Mondays, 1 to 7 p.m.; Tuesday through Fridays 3 to 7 p.m. A \$1 per day drop-in rate or \$20 per month will be collected. Contact Priscilla Pena at priscillap@dysartcommunitycenter.org, or 623-583-2137..

WE NEED YOU - Volunteers needed to teach English as a Second Language. Requirements: 2 hours per

week, patience, and willingness to teach others. Contact Susie Ratley at susier@dysartcommunitycenter.org, or 623-974-4156 for more information.

YOUTH & ADULT SPORTS

Co-ed, Men's & Women's Slow-Pitch Softball League - The City of El Mirage and NSA is always seeking Co-ed teams for play during upcoming seasons for Friday and Sunday nights.

Friday Night Co-Ed Softball - Winter Season: Nov. 4 to Dec. 16. Cost is \$325 for returning teams and \$350 for new teams. A Single Elimination Tournament at the end of the season.

Sunday Night Co-Ed Softball - Winter Season: Nov. 6 to Dec. 18. Cost is \$350 for returning teams and

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12817 W. MYER --- EL MIRAGE --- 4 BEDRM --- 2 BATH --- 1,615 SQ. FT. --- BUILT 2002 --- DYSART UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT --- SPLIT MASTER BEDROOM --- VAULTED CEILINGS --- EAT IN KITCHEN --- GREAT ROOM --- SOME APPLIANCES INCLUDED --- NICE BACKYARD --- RENT \$950 PER MONTH

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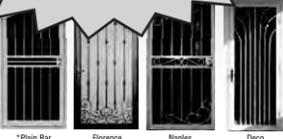
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CALENDAR, From 10

\$375 for new teams. Single Elimination Tournament at the end of the season.

Teams interested should contact Chris Franciscus by email at chris@playnsaaz.com, or by phone at 412-874-4074.

These coed adult softball leagues play games at the El Mirage Gateway Park. Each team will be guaranteed 8 regular season games with a single elimination tournament at the end of each season. NSA rules apply for all leagues.

Over 30 - Co-ed Adult Soccer League - West Valley's premier adult co-ed soccer league. Play the sport your body needs without the usual hustle and bustle of a traditional fitness center or health club. From the state-of-the-art, acoustically designed fields to the children-friendly playgrounds at Gateway Park, you can play soccer in a secure and safe environment. Visit www.azcoedsoccer.com, or call 1-800-BSA-0886.

White Tanks Little League - The City continues to work with the White Tanks Little League. Although White Tanks Little League is in season, you can still obtain information regarding spring and fall baseball seasons. Visit www.eteamz.com/whitetanksl.

Volunteer Board Members are also needed each season - If you are interested and able to be part of the White Tanks Little League Board, contact WTLL directly at 623-241-4602, or whitetanksl@msn.com.

Benfica Youth Soccer League - Benfica Youth Soccer Academy. This is a year-round academy providing developmental soccer in a fun environment for the whole family. Registered participants in the Monday to Thursday (6 to 8:30 p.m.) academy will be taught the sport of soccer by professional trainers and coaches. For information regarding upcoming soccer programs, call 1-800-BSA-0886.

El Mirage Martial Arts Academy - The Martial Arts Academy is enrolling for Okinawa Karate classes for all ages at the El Mirage Senior Center.

Kids ages 6 to 12 are taught 6 to 7 p.m. Monday and Wednesday in a traditional, structured setting. 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.

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

Ladies Fitness Boot Camp - Participants can join classes on any Monday. The classes run three days a week for four weeks from 1 to 1.5 hours each day. Monday, Wednesday and Friday classes are 5 to 6:10 a.m.

All El Mirage residents get 50 percent off for their first month. This is a \$100 value. To get started, go to www.ladiesfitnessbootcamp.com and fill out the registration form. Contact Tracey at 623-252-1FIT (1348).

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

The Senior Center will be closed Monday, September 5 for Labor Day

The El Mirage Senior Center is a warm, welcoming environment where all El Mirage seniors can come spend quality time. Hot meals are served at 11:30 a.m. daily for only \$2.50. Hours of operation are Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Monthly Ongoing Activities

1st Monday of each month, 9 a.m. - Blood Pressure Checks

Mondays & Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. - Arts & Crafts

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays, 9:30 a.m. - Exercise Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. - BINGO.

Wednesdays & Fridays, 9:30 a.m. - Wii Bowling Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. - Texas Hold'em

Fridays, 10:30 a.m. - Loteria

1st and 3rd Fridays of each month, 9:30 a.m. - Rummage Sale

Every Third Wednesday, 10 a.m. - Monthly Birthday Celebration

Once or twice a month - Fieldtrips to various locations

The Senior Center accepts donations for monthly rummage sales. Proceeds go to the Senior Committee Group for future events & activities. Volunteers are encouraged and welcomed.

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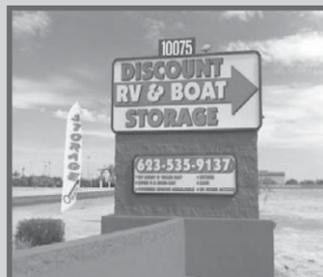
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www.westvalleysymphony.org

VETERAN'S DAY SALUTE
 Sunday, Nov. 13, 2011 3:00PM
 Valley Vista Performing Arts Center, Surprise

Copland's Lincoln Portrait, Sousa Marches, and more. Join us & honor America's veterans.
 Michel Dixon, Narrator

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CELEBRATION OF THE SEASON
 Sunday, Dec. 18, 2011 3:00PM
 Valley Vista Performing Arts Center, Surprise

With guest artists: tenor Ken Goodenberger and the West Valley Chorale. Christmas Concerto, Suite of Carols for Winds, and much more!
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 Sunday, Jan. 22, 2012 3:00PM
 Sundial Auditorium, Sun City

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 Sunday, Feb. 12, 2012 3:00PM
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 Sunday, Mar. 11, 2012 3:00PM
 Valley Vista Performing Arts Center, Surprise

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