

El Mirage News

www.cityofelmirage.org

Vol. 2, No. 10

623-972-8116



City Councilman Roy Delgado
Councilman Delgado to Chair County CDAC

El Mirage City Councilman Roy Delgado was recently elected Chairman of the Maricopa County Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC). The CDAC is made up of elected officials from nine cities and towns throughout Maricopa County. These officials act in an advisory capacity on matters concerning the County's administration of the HUD Community Development Block Grant program, which assists low to moderate income individuals with affordable housing and a variety of public services. Councilman Delgado has served on the CDAC for six years and is enthused about his recent appointment as Committee Chair. Councilman Delgado stated, "The CDAC is really about addressing the regional needs of smaller cities and towns in Maricopa County. As Chairman, I take this responsibility very seriously, and will continue to support all CDAC communities in improving the lives of our citizens."

In addition to CDAC, Councilman Delgado is serving a second year as Chairman of the Maricopa County Library District's Citizens Advisory Committee. He was originally appointed to the committee by County Supervisor Max Wilson in 2004.

The choice is yours in the Bond Election

The City of El Mirage is conducting a Nov. 8 bond election. In just a few days, El Mirage voters will receive a "Voter Information Pamphlet" providing them with information on the bond election. Official mail-in ballots will arrive the week of Oct. 10.

To facilitate open and transparent information that may aid you in your consideration of this issue, the City has developed a list of "Frequently Asked Questions." Additional information is available on the City's homepage at www.cityofelmirage.org.

1. What is a bond and why do we have elections?

A bond is a legal promise to repay borrowed funds. In Arizona, a general obligation bond is a legal promise to repay bor-



rowed funds from property taxes.

In the same way homeowners borrow money in the form of a mortgage to finance the purchase of their home, a city borrows money in the form of bonds to finance the

acquisition, design, construction, expansion and/or renovation of facilities such as fire stations, police stations, parks, recreational facilities, city buildings, etc. to better serve the community.

Just like mortgages,

bonds are repaid with interest over a specified period of time; however, in order for a city to sell bonds, it must go to the voters for approval. Therefore, the City of El Mirage called for a bond election. By law, bond funds may not be used to fund daily operating expenses or salaries. In addition, bond funds may only be used for the specific projects approved by voters.

2. When is the Bond Election and how do I vote?

The bond election is November 8, 2011.

This will be an all-mail election, meaning voters will NOT vote in person. In addition, voters will not be required to initiate a request for a ballot. Instead, the Maricopa County Elections Department will use the active voter registration list to generate an election mailer packet. This will enable ALL eligible voters to participate in the election process.

Voters will receive a "Voter Information Pamphlet" the week of October

4, 2011.

The first day ballots will be available is October 13, 2011. All ballots are due by November 8, 2011.

In order to be valid and counted, the ballot and affidavit must be delivered to the Maricopa County Recorder's Office before 5:00 p.m. or may be dropped off at the El Mirage City Clerk's Office between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Election Day, November 8, 2011.

3. How was the bond package determined?

The City of El Mirage has the responsibility to provide for the well-being and safety of its citizens. From 2000 to 2010, the City of El Mirage grew from a population of 7,609 to 31,797 residents – a growth of more than 400%. The substantial increase in population brought with it an increased demand for city services.

The City of El Mirage does not have a community recreational facility with a swimming pool (such as a YMCA) located within El Mirage to serve its citizens. Instead, residents must drive to other cities such as Goodyear or Glendale to make use of their YMCA and the swimming pools, community meeting space, and classes and programs they offer. When using other cities' facilities, El Mirage residents may pay higher non-resident rates.

The City of El Mirage also does not have a secure and permanent police station to house the El Mirage Police Department. There are no public restrooms, no locker room facilities for

MORE CHOICE ON 6

Mayor's Message: What you want matters most

Typically, I use this column as an opportunity to communicate directly with you on what has been taking place in our community. This month, I want to share with you information about our City's future.

In just a few short weeks, you will be receiving ballots in the mail to cast your vote on the City's bond election. You will be asked whether or not you want to bring a community recreational facility with swimming pool to El Mirage, along with a professional and more secure police station to house the El Mirage Police Department. The cost to the average homeowner in El Mirage is less than \$2 a month to bring these two important facilities to El Mirage.

I believe our community needs – and deserves – to have a premier recreational facility with a swimming pool. I believe our police officers need – and deserve – a more secure police station. I also believe wholeheartedly that YOU deserve an opportunity to vote on this issue. As an El Mirage resident, YOU deserve the right to determine El Mirage's future. That is why you are being asked to vote in this election.

Rather than tell you what I think the benefits are of a YMCA-type facility with swimming pool, I thought I would share with you a letter from someone who knows. Georgia Lord is Mayor of Goodyear and she can tell you firsthand the wonderful benefits of bringing a facility such as that to our community because the City of Goodyear recently secured a



Mayor Lana Mook

YMCA for their own community. I hope you will give Mayor Lord's thoughts and real-life positive experience with the YMCA strong consideration when casting your vote. But most importantly of all: don't forget to vote!

Letter from Georgia Lord, Mayor of Goodyear:

Dear Mayor Mook:

As the Mayor for the City of Goodyear, it is my understanding that voting yes for this bond election would provide the City of El Mirage an opportunity to build a YMCA. While it is not my place to ask you to support this measure, I am able to speak with confidence about the benefits of

MORE MAYOR'S MESSAGE ON 2

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Council Corner: City leaders vote yes on question 1

By a vote of 6 to 1, we strongly believe you should have a voice in choosing the future of our community. Today, you are asked to allow the issuance of bonds to fund construction of two very important facilities: (1) a community recreational facility with swimming pool and (2) a secure, permanent police station facility for the El Mirage Police Department (EMPD). The average cost to the El Mirage homeowner of providing these two facilities is \$1.96 per month.

In this matter, we believe the entire City would benefit greatly from having access to a YMCA or similar facility providing ALL residents with a gathering place for community activities, swimming, health/fitness opportunities and recreational classes at reduced rates. The YMCA also offers preschool care, before and after school care, education and teen leadership, etc. There is no question our community has a strong need for this.

An urgent need also exists for a better, more secure police station. For years, we have asked the men and women of the EMPD who put our safety first to do so in sub-par conditions. They operate out of overcrowded, inadequate trailers/modular buildings. Having toured our existing station, we know firsthand our officers desperately need better. This ballot question is not about trying to satisfy a "want" for the EMPD. Instead, it is very much about fulfilling a legitimate need.

We are voting YES on Question 1. A community recreational facility with swimming pool and a professional, secure police station would provide much needed opportunities to residents, help crime reduction efforts, and strengthen our property values. These would be facilities of which the community can be proud. More importantly, these are facilities the community needs. Ultimately, we believe it is up to you to decide what kind of future you want for El Mirage.

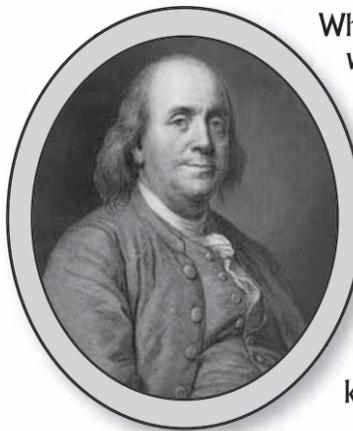
MAYOR'S MESSAGE, From 1

having a YMCA in your community. YMCA programs teach young people important values such as caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility. Through a variety of fun and rewarding activities, kids also develop valuable skills, while increasing their confidence and self-esteem. At the Goodyear YMCA, there is a sense of community. Families come together and participate in fitness, sports, and instructional classes or just to socialize with their friends.

Now more than ever, when our youth and teenagers can so easily give in to poor choices with their idle time, when families are stressed due to personal financial burdens and accessible community gathering places are sparse if they exist at all, a YMCA will be that safe harbor, that positive, place, that can turn a city into a tight-knit community. Obviously this is a very personal choice that affects everyone in El Mirage. Even if it is a facility that you may not use, a YMCA has the effect of helping so many others just by being in your City.

Please consider these benefits as you make your decision on whether your community would benefit from a YMCA

*Sincerely,
Georgia Lord
Mayor*



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Play ball: Improvements coming to Gentry Park

Much needed renovations are coming to Gentry Park over the next several months. Earlier in the year, the City Council selected Gentry Park renovations as one of its top priorities under the capital improvement program. Park design is currently underway and will be consistent with the design of Gateway Park, but on a smaller scale. Im-

provements will include the reconfiguration of the ball field to Little League dimensions and rotation of the field for more efficient use. In addition, a new concession building is planned that will include restrooms similar to those at Gateway Park. The City has been working with White Tanks Little League to finalize the design of the much needed im-

provements. Little League President Brent Hines said, "We are excited about the improvements being made at the park. They are great recreational enhancements for the community and will be completed just in time for the upcoming baseball season."

Construction is estimated to begin this November with project completion estimat-

ed in April 2012. The Little League field is scheduled to be open for the first day of Little League play at the end of February. For more information on the improvements, check out the City website at www.cityofelmirage.org and click on the "Capital Improvement Project Update" link. For more information on the White Tanks Little League, go to the Little League website at www.whitetanksl.com.

El Mirage parking going solar

Solar covered parking structures have been installed at Gateway Park and at the Library/Senior Center complex. These new structures will provide solar power to both locations and reduce City utility expenses, while providing shaded parking for visitors. All components of the solar shade structures are made in the USA. The solar panels will generate approximately 80 percent of the parking structures' power needs, with the remaining power provided by Arizona Public Service



MORE SOLAR ON 8 Solar Covered Parking Structure at Gateway Park.

Dysart Ranchettes Neighborhood to see roads paved using grant funds

The City has been awarded just over \$2 million in federal grant funds to complete permanent road improvements in the Dysart Ranchettes neighborhood, with no matching dollars required from the City. "For both the City and the residents who live in the area, it's a huge win for us all," said Mayor Lana Mook. Federal and state officials recently granted the City authorization to move ahead with project procurement and construction.

The Mayor and City Council considered the Ranchettes road improvements a high priority due to the poor condition of existing roadways. Until the permanent improvements are made, the existing dirt roads will be covered with millings and a temporary seal to minimize dust. Permanent improvements will include properly aligning the roadways within the existing right-of-way, grading the roadways to drain along existing drainage swales, and paving the roadways 20 to 23 feet wide with two-foot concrete edge

gutters without curb.

Lance Calvert, City Engineer said the \$2 million project should begin after the New Year and be completed by summer of 2012. The construction cost is covered by a federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) grant. Dust is the primary source of air pollution in the Valley. Paving roads, shoulders, and alleys is a critical way to protect and improve air quality while supporting long-term sustainability in the Valley.

The road improvement project targets three unpaved miles between Varney and Peoria, north to south and Dysart and El Mirage, west to east. Two blocks of the neighborhood - Wolfley Drive and Sahuaro Drive between 127th and 129th Avenues - will remain unpaved because they are private streets. The City is working with property owners along these streets to determine proper right-of-way dedication and future road improvements.

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News from the El Mirage Fire Department

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It's Fire Prevention Week: Protect your family from fire

Fire Department encourages residents to keep homes safe during Fire Prevention Week Oct. 9 to 15

What's the best way to protect your family from fire? Be ahead of the game, of course. With more than 360,000 home fires reported in the United States in 2009 according to the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), your best defense is a good offense. That's why the El Mirage Fire Department is teaming up with NFPA from Oct. 9 to 15 to let the community know: "It's Fire Prevention Week: Protect Your Family." This year's campaign focuses on preventing the leading causes of home fires - cooking, heating and electrical equipment, as well as candles and smoking materials. Additionally, the campaign urges people to protect their homes and families with life-saving technology and planning.

"In 2009, 2,565 people died in home fires. Nearly all of these deaths could have been prevented by taking a few simple precautions like having working smoke alarms and a home fire escape plan, keeping things that can burn away from the stove, and always turning off space heaters before going to bed," says Howard Munding, Fire Chief of the El Mirage Fire Department. "Fire is a dangerous opponent, but by anticipating the hazards, you are much less likely to be one of the nearly 13,000 people injured in home fires each year."

In 2010, El Mirage had 11 structure fires resulting



The Country Food Market in El Mirage was destroyed by fire on Sept. 8.

in more than \$126,000 in losses. Just last month, the iconic Country Market was destroyed by fire. The fire was caused by electrical problems. "I've seen the same electrical problems in many homes. For a fire to break out, you need three things: heat, fuel, and oxygen. To prevent fires, we need to keep these elements from coming together. Electricity left unchecked or misused provides the heat needed to start the fire," says Munding.

The El Mirage Fire Department offers the following tips for protecting your home and family from fire:

- Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.

- Have a three-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires

and space heaters.

- Replace or repair damaged or loose electrical cords.

- If you smoke, smoke outside.

- Use deep, wide ashtrays on a sturdy table.

- Blow out all candles when you leave the room or go to bed. Avoid the use of candles in the bedroom and other areas where people may fall asleep.

"While preventing home fires in El Mirage is always our number one priority,

it is not always possible," Munding continued. El Mirage residents need to provide the best protection to keep their homes and families safe in the event of a fire. This can be achieved by developing an escape plan which you practice regularly, and equipping homes with life-saving technologies like smoke alarms and home fire sprinklers."

The following tips will help keep your family safe if there is a fire in your home:

- Install smoke alarms inside each bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home (including the basement).

- Interconnect all smoke alarms in the home so when one sounds, they all sound.

- Test smoke alarms at least monthly and replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old or sooner if they do not respond when tested.

- Make sure everyone in your home knows how to respond if the smoke alarm

sounds.

- Pull together everyone in your household and make a plan. Walk through your home and inspect all possible ways out. Families with children should consider drawing a floor plan of their home, marking two ways out of each room, including windows and doors.

- If you are building or remodeling your home, consider installing home fire sprinklers.

The El Mirage Fire Department will be at local schools and businesses not only during Fire Prevention Week to promote fire safety but throughout the year.

To schedule a fire/life safety program for your group, please contact the El Mirage Fire Department at 623-583-7968.

To learn more about "It's Fire Prevention Week. Protect your Family from Fire!" visit NFPA's web site at www.firepreventionweek.org.

THE BLUE BYLINE

News from the El Mirage Police Department

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October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

The El Mirage Police Department is proud to announce the kick-off of its domestic violence assistance program during October - Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Many of the emergency calls received by the Police Department relate to domestic disturbances. In the first six months of 2011, El Mirage police officers received approximately 380 domestic violence-related calls for service. According to the National Domestic Violence Hotline, an average of 21,000 calls a month were received nationwide in the first six months of 2010.

The assistance program currently being developed includes members of the Police Department, other City staff, volunteers, and partner agen-

cies in the West Valley. The goal of the program is to reduce the effects of domestic violence through education, awareness, intervention, and accountability. Though the program is in its infancy, plans are being made to eventually provide immediate, on-scene assistance to victims, as well as follow-up services that will include education and referrals to a host of other resources. The department is fortunate to have two experienced volunteer victim advocates on board to help with planning, implementation, and case management.

Police officers and other department staff will be wearing purple ribbons throughout the month to signify the department's commitment to

domestic violence prevention efforts. Ribbons are available to the El Mirage community at the El Mirage Police Department Administration Office, 14405 North Palm Street during business hours.

To report domestic violence in progress, call 9-1-1. Non-emergency reports can be made by calling the Police Department at 623-933-1341. For further information about domestic violence, visit the Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence at www.azcadv.org.



Fire Department weekly report

Summary of activities and responses from 9/9/11 - 9/15/11

Rescue & Emergency Medical Service - 33

- o EMS call - 28
- o Medical assist - 2
- o Other - 3

Hazardous Conditions (No Fire) - 1

Service Calls - 4

- o Lockout - 1
- o Animal Problem - 1
- o Illegal Burning - 1
- o Other - 1

Good Intent call = 3

- o Cancelled En-route - 2
- o No Incident upon arrival - 1

False Call = 2

Total Calls for Service = 64
Estimated Dollar Loss = \$0

Avg Response time in El Mirage = 00:05:06

Consular notification: Video goes statewide

What is Consular Notification? According to the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (ratified by the U.S. and Mexico), a Mexican National arrested by a U.S. law enforcement agency has the right to request that the Mexican government be notified of

the arrest. The intent of the notification is to bridge the communication barriers that may result when officers with limited Spanish speaking abilities arrest Mexican Nationals who speak and understand only Spanish or limited Spanish. Currently, the U.S. Depart-

ment of State requires arresting officers to read or make available a standardized statement that informs an arrestee of the right to Consular Notification.

During a 2010 review of its arrest policies, the El Mirage Police Department identified the need

to address the Consular Notification requirement. In researching the availability of an audio or video recording of the standardized statement through the U.S. Department of State and the Mexican Con-

MORE BLUE BYLINE ON 5



Surprise Police Chief Michael Frazier, Executive Director of AZPOST Lyle Mann, El Mirage Police Chief Steve Campbell, and Consul General of the Mexican Consulate Victor Manuel Trevino.

BLUE BYLINE: Consular notification, From 4

consulate in Phoenix, Police staff discovered that such a recording did not exist. A Police Department representative then worked with Fernando de la Mora and others from the Mexican Consulate to produce a video of the standardized statement for use by law enforcement agencies. The Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training Board (AZPOST) offered its production studio to create a professional-level product. The video incorporates the script of the required statement, as well as a supplemental message from the Mexican Consulate, further explaining an arrestee's right to Consular Notification.

In early 2011, officers of the El Mirage Police Department tested the video during a 60-day trial period. The officers overwhelmingly agreed that the video was effective in explaining the Consular Notification process and recommended it for use by other law enforcement agencies. From the Mexican Consulate perspective, the video helped Mexican Nationals feel that their rights were respected during post-arrest processing. Recently, the police chiefs of El Mirage and Surprise met with AZPOST and Mexican Consulate representatives to review the video and formally agree on its statewide distribution.

According to El Mirage Police Chief Steve Campbell, "The Consular Notification video will become

a valuable tool for law enforcement in Arizona. It has also helped the Department build key relationships with

the Mexican Consulate." Statewide distribution of the video will take place over the next few weeks.

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Youth receive opportunity to travel to Portugal

Soccer is an integral part of local cultures across the world, and Benfica Soccer Academy of El Mirage is giving city youth the chance to experience this first hand. Thanks to sponsorships, donations, and fundraisers initiated by parents, Benfica will be taking eleven soccer players ages 11 and 12 to Portugal to play soccer in a country where soccer is a way of life.

The young players will be in Portugal for seven days beginning October 9th to attend the Portuguese Soccer Federation National Training Center in Desmor where they will



Rui Filipe with El Mirage Benfica Soccer Academy players.

practice with local coaches and compete against young Portuguese players. Benfica has also planned sightseeing trips as well as additional soccer games for the El Mirage players in Rio Maior, Obidos, Nazare, and other cities.

The trip was organized by Rui Filipe, Founder and Managing Director of Benfica, who enjoyed a successful soccer career in Europe as a player and coach.

According to Filipe, "The chance to interact with kids from a different country is an opportunity of a lifetime that our kids will never forget."

POEM donates Christmas tree

Over the past several months, the grassroots civic organization known as the People of El Mirage (POEM) conducted a fundraising drive to purchase and donate a Christmas tree to the City of El Mirage. "Christmastime is a great time of

year for all of us to come together and celebrate our community," said POEM Board Member Laurie Carnal. "Having an official City Christmas tree gives us a reason and a place to gather and continue building that sense of neighborhood and community that makes El Mirage such a great place to live."

POEM raised the funds and will purchase the tree closer to planting season.



City officials anticipate the tree to be planted at the Civic Center Plaza at 14010 N. El Mirage Road. In exchange for the donation, the City has agreed to maintain the tree. POEM

members and volunteers are planning a tree-lighting ceremony in early December and donations are being sought for new outdoor Christmas tree lights to be used for the ceremony. Boxes of new outdoor Christmas tree lights can be dropped off with Doug Strong at the El Mirage Senior Center between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m.

Doug can be reached at 623-876-4232 or dstrong@cityofelmirage.org.

El Mirage helps out animal kingdom

What does the City of El Mirage have to do with the Wildlife World Zoo in Litchfield Park?

Well, thanks to El Mirage, some large zoo residents can finally scratch that itch they can't reach. Recently, El Mirage began donating used street sweeper brushes to the zoo. The sweeper brushes are mounted on scratching posts in the giraffe and rhinoceros exhibits so the animals can scratch themselves. According to zookeepers, not only are the animals able to relieve an itch, they can also clean their teeth by gnawing on the brushes' stiff bristles. "How long the brushes last in the exhibit areas depends on the animal and how itchy they get," said Jack Ewert, the zoo's Assistant Director.

The El Mirage Public Works Department

had previously been disposing of the brushes when they were no longer effective for sweeping city streets. City Engineer Lance Calvert came up with the idea of donating the used brushes to the zoo when he heard about a similar program at a zoo in the Midwest. When informed of the availability of the brushes, the zoo readily accepted them. The City now delivers used brushes to the zoo on an as-needed basis instead of throwing them away.

El Mirage Public Works Operations Superintendent Robert Senita says donating the old sweeper brushes is just another way the City is becoming sustainable. "This is an innovative way of recycling our used equipment for the benefit of the animal kingdom," he said.

CHOICE: Residents receive Voter Information Pamphlet on bond election, From 1

male or female police officers, and police evidence is housed in a trailer.

June 23, 2011 at a regularly scheduled Council meeting, the El Mirage City Council called for this Bond Election by a vote of 6-1.

4. What will the bonds be used for?

To build a community recreational facility with swimming pool and a permanent police station.

5. Can the bond funds be used for any purpose?

No. The bond funds must only be used for the purposes presented to and approved by the voters.

6. Why is the Bond Election being held now?

After talking with numerous voters and community leaders and participating in a series of informal workshop sessions, the El Mirage City Council indicated that providing residents with a community recreational facility with swimming pool and a secure permanent police station were top priorities for this year. The Council unanimously adopted these two priorities as official goals to pursue for 2011-2012.

7. How much is the bond and what is included?

The total bond amount being requested is \$8.5 million. The City anticipates the monies from the bond to be paid back over a 30 year period.

\$2.5 million would be allocated to design, develop, construct, improve, equip and furnish community recreational and swimming facilities within the City. It is expected that the City would own the land and buildings constructed, while the management and operations of the facility would be the responsibility of an outside organization such as a YMCA, and that this organization would pay rent to the City and the lease would provide the tenant with an option to purchase the land and building in the future based on terms deemed to represent the City's best interest.

The remaining \$6.0 million would be allocated to pay the costs to design, develop, construct, equip and furnish a police station facility within the City of El Mirage to house the El Mirage Police Department.

8. Why can't the City of El Mirage pay for these projects

with existing funds?

All of the City's existing funds are dedicated to providing services to City residents or dedicated to other projects. Maintaining a sufficient reserve is essential for good fiscal management.

Depleting the City's reserves would leave the City in a vulnerable position and unable to respond to changes in the environment or economy.

9. How will this bond affect my taxes?

As described in the pamphlet to be mailed to each residence in which a qualified elector resides, the City estimates the average homeowner in El Mirage would pay an additional \$1.96 per month in property taxes to repay the bonds issued to provide residents with a community recreational facility with swimming pool and a permanent police station. For the average homeowner in El Mirage, this would amount to an annual increase of \$23.52 for these two facilities.

10. Where will these new facilities be located?

If voters approve the Bond Election, the City preliminarily plans to locate a community recreational facility with swim-

ming pool on five acres of land adjacent to Gateway Park, to be donated by the John F. Long Family.

If voters approve the Bond Election, the City preliminarily plans to locate the permanent police station facility on approximately two acres of land south of Gateway Park, also to be donated by the John F. Long Family.

11. Will I be able to use the new community recreational facility with swimming pool?

It is expected that all El Mirage residents will have access to the community recreational facility with swimming pool at a reduced "resident" rate as compared to visitors and users from other cities.

12. Do I have to be a property owner to vote in the bond election?

No. In order to vote in the bond election, you must live in the City of El Mirage and be a registered voter.

13. I want to vote but I am not registered. Where can I get a voter registration application and what is the deadline?

The last day to register to vote for this Bond Election is Monday, October 10, 2011. To register to

vote or verify/update your voter registration, visit <https://services.arizona.com/webapp/evoter/register?execution=e1s1>

14. Okay, I voted. Now what?

Please make sure you have placed your ballot in the envelope and sealed and signed the exterior of the envelope. Then either place the envelope in the mailbox (postage is prepaid) or you can return the ballot to El Mirage City Hall, 12145 NW Grand Avenue, El Mirage.

15. I made a mistake on my ballot. How do I get another ballot?

Replacement ballots are available at: El Mirage City Clerk's Office, 12145 NW Grand Ave., El Mirage, AZ 85335, Monday through Friday: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

You can also visit the Maricopa County Recorder's Offices at one of two locations:

111 S. 3rd Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85003 or
510 S. 3rd Ave., Phoenix, AZ, 85003

Check the Maricopa County Recorder's Website at www.recorder.maricopa.gov for office hours.

Friends of the...Library News

Any readers who regularly visit the El Mirage Library will have noticed recently that all the books accumulated along the back wall of the library are gone. The City gave the Friends of the Library some storage space in the Gallery so the books could be sorted and readied for sale. Thanks to the City for being so

generous! Please continue to drop off donations of slightly used books, music, and movies at the library and they will be moved to the Gallery storage area.

The next Friends of the Library sale will take place at the City's upcoming 60th Birthday Celebration at Gateway Park on Saturday, November 19th. Friends of

the Library will be at the celebration to sell books, accept donations, and sign up new members. Anyone who would like to be involved with the organization may contact members at the November sale.

In December, look for the first annual "Year-End Blowout" sale. The Friends will have special

early shopping hours for members only and deep discounts for everyone on merchandise all day long. The December sale is not only a great time to stock up on reading material or Christmas gifts, but also a chance to join Friends of the Library or renew a membership. Watch the El Mirage News for more information on the November and December events.

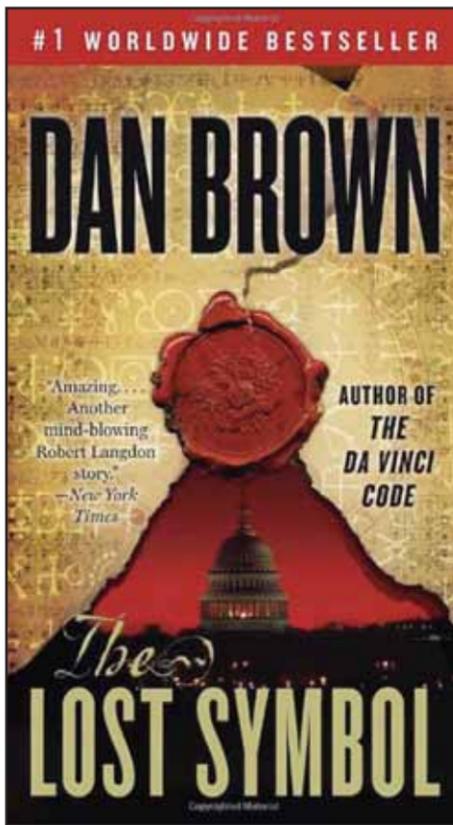
Dan Brown does it again

A Book Review by Mark L. Smith

If you liked The Da Vinci Code and Angels and Demons, you will love Dan Brown's newest book, The Lost Symbol. Like the others previously mentioned, this book features Professor Robert Langdon pitting his intellect against a ruthless criminal. The author once again has done his homework and included real sects, places, and historical facts to make his fiction believable. But instead of prancing all over Europe or Rome, this story takes place right here in the U.S.A.

In this story, Langdon is called to Washington, D.C. to decode a cryptic Masonic message. In National Treasure style, the author unfolds the fascinating secrets left by our founding fathers in multiple locations around our nation's capital from the Capitol Building itself to the Washington Monument. Some of Langdon's dearest friends are involved in the action along with a foul-mouthed female federal agent. Langdon's own life is on the line as he zeros in on the ruthless villain to foil his evil plan. [Note that Brown's books are for adult audiences and include strong language and graphic violence.]

The book offers not only fast-paced fiction, but a chance to brush up on American history with things you won't find in the typical textbook. The Lost Symbol and other books by Dan Brown are available in standard and large print, audio, downloadable electronic formats, and also in Spanish from the Maricopa County Library District. The local El Mirage Branch has the book in English and Spanish plus audio formats. And for those of you interested in the facts behind the fiction, the District also has non-fiction works about that - A book called Secrets of the Lost Symbol by



Daniel Burstein and a documentary on DVD entitled Hunting the Lost Symbol. Books can open up a whole new view of the world. Come explore the world at your local library.

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National Take Back Initiative Day Oct. 29



It's time to get rid of unused and expired medication.

The El Mirage Police Department, in partnership with the the Drug Enforcement Administration invites you to clean out your medicine cabinets and bring your unused/expired medications to the Police Department from 10 a.m. to

1 p.m. on Oct. 29.

Removing these medications helps make the community safe, healthy, and drug free.

- All over-the-counter and prescription medication will be accepted.
- No glass containers, intravenous solutions, injectibles, syringes or needles will be accepted.

SOLAR: El Mirage parking going solar, From 3

(APS). Overall utility costs for both parking structures will decrease since the cost

of solar power is less than the cost of electrical power provided entirely by APS.

The City of El Mirage partnered with Kennedy Partners of Phoenix to become the first city to utilize an innovative process of combining federal energy efficiency grants, APS solar incentives, and tax credits through a power purchase agreement (PPA) for the design, construction, and operation of the solar structures. Kennedy Partners provided financing for the solar power project through NRG Solar, LLC. "While the process was complex and unique, we had great partners to make the project a success," said El Mirage City Engineer Lance Calvert, who conceived of the project. Kennedy Partners

and NRG Solar had provided solar projects for two school districts in Tucson and Gila Bend prior to the El Mirage project. According to Allison Suriano of Kennedy Partners, "Schools have been quick to adopt solar power projects. El Mirage is a leader among municipalities with the (no indent at 'completion of its project...'), and we are seeing increased interest from other cities as a result."

El Mirage Energy, LLC, an independent corporation, will own and operate the solar power systems on the shade structures. The City will buy power from the systems for approximately 12 cents per kilowatt-hour. One cent of the rate will go toward the ultimate purchase of the systems over

the 20-year agreement. At the end of the agreement, the City will own and operate the systems with no power costs. Monitors at both the library and the park will show visitors exactly how much power is produced at the shade structures and how important clean energy sources can be in protecting the environment.

The overall construction cost of the projects is estimated at \$1.1 million. There were no upfront local costs to the City to construct the solar shade structures. The City applied \$69,537 in federal grant funds to the project, made possible through the Arizona Commerce Authority and their oversight of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding.

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12302 NORTH 128TH AV --- 3 BEDRM --- 2 BATH --- DEN CAN BE USED AS A FOURTH BEDROOM --- 1901 SQUARE FEET --- FRESHLY PAINTED INTERIOR --- NICELY LANDSCAPED CORNER PROPERTY --- BOTH TILE AND CARPET --- OPEN KITCHEN WITH BREAKFAST BAR --- CEILING FANS --- MASTER BATH HAS TWO SINKS --- LARGE WALK IN CLOSET RENT \$995 MONTH

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HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS



- Go trick-or-treating with a grown up.
- Do not let your children go alone.
- Make sure your costume lets you move, see, and hear easily.
- Watch for cars driving into or backing out of driveways.
- Visit only neighborhoods you know.
- When crossing the streets, STOP and Look both ways before crossing streets.
- Wear a light-colored or bright costume so drivers can see you.
- Walk on the sidewalk or facing traffic if there are no sidewalks.
- Stay in areas that are well lit.
- Put glow-in-the dark patches or stripes on your costume.
- Have your parents check your candy before you eat it.
- Carry a flashlight or glow stick.
- Don't eat opened candy or homemade treats unless you know where they came from.
- Stay in areas that are well lit.
- Some hospitals will x-ray treat bag contents.
- Travel in groups or with an adult and never enter a home!
- Report any suspicious or criminal activity to the El Mirage Police Department at 623.933.1341 or in case of an emergency, call 9-1-1.

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Fourth Friday Family Art Fest Oct. 28



Fourth Fridays celebrates Halloween by offering Day of the Dead artwork, a costume contest, salsa challenge, food and drinks, and Hispanic cultural music and performances. The event will take place from 6 to 9 p.m. Oct. 28 at El Mirage City Plaza, 14010 N. El Mirage Road. Admission is free. For more information, or to participate in the Salsa Challenge, visit www.cityofelmirage.org, or call 623-876-2942.

Save the Date 60th Anniversary Celebration



Saturday, November 19, 2011

Event starts at Noon
Gateway Park -10100 North El Mirage Road
For more information visit www.cityofelmirage.org or call 623-876-2942.

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3:00-5:00 p.m.
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Sunday, October 16, 2011 • 9am-4pm

Admission: Adults \$5.00 Children 12 & Under Free

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

The El Mirage Senior Center is a welcoming place for all 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 beginning at 11:30 a.m. daily to El Mirage seniors for \$2.50. Hours

of operation are . . .

Mondays 1st & 3rd of each month, 10 a.m. – Blood Pressure Checks

Mondays, 9:30 a.m. – Arts & Crafts

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays, 9:30 a.m. – Exercise

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. – Senior Strides walking club

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. – BINGO for prizes!

Wednesdays & Fridays, 9:30 a.m. – Wii Bowling

Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. – Texas Hold'em

Fridays 1st & 3rd, 9:30 a.m. – Rummage Sale

Every Third Wednesday, 10 am – Birthday Celebration

Once to twice a month – Fieldtrips to destination spots

The Senior Center accepts donations for monthly rummage sales. All proceeds go to the Senior Committee Group's events and activities. Volunteers are also encouraged and welcomed.

LIBRARY

14011 N. 1st Ave.
602-652-3000

All Maricopa County

Library District Libraries are closed Monday, October 10th for Columbus Day.

Children (ages 1 to 5): Apple Harvest Story Time – 10 a.m. Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25. Fun stories and silly songs for fall in the Community Room.

Kids and Teens – All ages: Writing & Publishing Workshop - 4 p.m. Oct. 6. Meet local teen author Savanna Halman. Get advice on writing and publishing a book. Savanna is the author of Lunar Eclipse, an action-packed drama where the new girl in school ends up fighting the Universe's most dangerous criminals. See the book at www.createspace.com/3516380. In Community Room.

Drawing with Bryan Kilgore (Ages 8 and up): 4 p.m. Oct. 13. Back by popular demand, Bryan Kilgore inspires kids and teens to expand their creativity. Kilgore is an artist, teacher, owner of Kilgore Studios 75, and also the creator of Bre Bre & BJ and Logos graphic novels. All supplies provided. In Community Room.

Fall Craft Time (ages 8 and up): 3:30 p.m. Oct. 20. Fall craft time. All sup-

plies provided. Registration required. Registration begins Oct. 1. In Community Room.

Adults: Friends of the El Mirage Library – 1:30 p.m. Oct. 25. Join the Friends and help support your library. New members welcome. Community Room.

Youth & Adult Sports

Coed, Men & Women Slow-Pitch Softball League: The City of El Mirage and NSA is always seeking Coed 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/\$350 for new teams.

Sunday Night Co-Ed Softball: Winter season Nov. 6 to Dec. 18. Cost is \$350 for returning teams/\$375 for new teams.

Teams can contact Chris Franciscus by e-mail at chris@playnsaaz.com, or by phone, 412-874-4074.

The coed adult softball leagues will have teams playing games at El Mirage Gateway Park.

Over 30 - Coed Adult
MORE CALENDAR ON 11



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Chandler	Tietz, Bob	480-893-0600	Phoenix	Frensdorf, Eric	480-722-9771
Gilbert	Hodjati, Ali	480-307-3939	Phoenix	Hughes, Ed	602-882-1531
Glendale	Cerreta, Jonathan	602-617-8939	Phoenix	Joseph Profeta	602-540-1020
Glendale	Hawkins, Mindy	623-533-4302	Phoenix	Noble, John	602-722-9309
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Glendale	Harrison, Virginia	480-334-1115	Scottsdale	Drummond, Ian	480-748-1375
Glendale	Platt, Thomas	602-615-8470	Scottsdale	Hilton, Pamela	602-481-4006
Goodyear	Nissalke, Tabitha	623-606-3378	Scottsdale	Jones, LeMar	602-318-8672
Lake Havasu	Cheon, Judy	928-486-0793	Scottsdale	Washington, Bill	602-550-3880
Litchfield Park	Rasmussen, Ashley	623-203-8770	Surprise	Zillmer, Ed	602-410-9242
Mesa	DiQuattro, Stefanie	623-687-4915	Tempe	Dishman, Robert	480-217-9507
Mesa	Lanterman, Rob	602-550-4813	Tucson	Reisig, Gerry	520-990-7653
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CALENDAR: Upcoming events in El Mirage, From 10

Soccer League: West Valley's premier Adult Coed Soccer League. For information, go to www.azcoedsoccer.com, or call 1-800-BSA-0886.

White Tanks Little League: The City continues its partnership with White Tanks Little League. For information on spring and fall baseball seasons, visit www.eteamz.com/whitetanksl.

Volunteer Board Members are also needed each season. If interested, contact WTLI directly at 623-241-4602.

Benfica Youth Soccer League: The academy uses soccer education to bring out greatness in community's youth and families. Registered participants in the Monday through Thursday class meet 6 to 8:30 p.m. For information, call 1-800-BSA-0886, or go to www.azbenfica.org.

El Mirage Martial Arts Academy: The Martial Arts Academy is enrolling 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 information, call 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).

DYSART COMMUNITY CENTER
1414 N. El Mirage Road
623-974-4156

Citizenship: 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. beginning Sept. 23. Eleven classes every Monday beginning 7 to 9 p.m. Sept. 19. Price is \$20. Learning the civic questions, practice interview and filling out the N-400 application.

Computer Basics: 6 to 8 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Price is \$25. Learn computer basic skills. Mi-

crosoft 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, November through April. Price is \$30. Preparation course for the GED exam

Rosetta Stone: Times vary. Price is \$25. Basic English vocabulary through a computer software program.

E.S.L. - (English as a Second Language) Classes: Times vary. Price is \$60 for 9-month program. One-on-one Basic English Language lessons tailored to individual needs. All classes held at the Dysart Community Center. To register, contact Susie at susier@dysartcommunity-center.org, or call 623-974-4156.

After School Program: Kindergarten through high school. In session 1 to 7 p.m. Mondays 3 to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. \$1/day Contact Priscilla Pena at priscillap@dysart-communitycenter.org, or 623-583-2137.

WE NEED YOU: Volunteers needed to teach English as a Second Language asap. Requirements: 2 hours per week, patience, and willingness to teach others

Contact Susie Ratley at

susier@dysartcommunity-center.org, or 623-974-4156.

MARICOPA INTEGRATED HEALTH SYSTEM

A health fair will be 9 a.m. to noon Nov. 5 at The El Mirage Family Health Center, 12428 W. Thunderbird Road, Free medical screenings and health information will be available.

For more information, contact Venus Ramirez at 602-344-1841.

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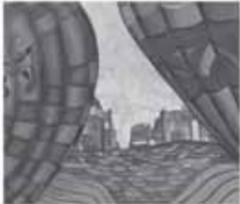
West Valley Arts Council

Upcoming Arts Events

ON EXHIBIT HOME ART & STUDIO TOUR PREVIEW OCT 7-NOV 4



NOV 6/3pm ALTURAS
With a repertoire of international sounds, this not-to-be missed performance will open your eyes, ears, and hearts to the richness and beauty of South American folk music. **\$10 ADULT/\$5 STUDENT**
Sponsored by CALA ALLIANCE. Outdoor concert. Bring a blanket/lawn chair.



NOV 13/11-5pm
WEST VALLEY HOME ART & STUDIO TOUR
Eight talented artists. Incredible collections of art. One amazing day. See what inspires these creative talents when they open their doors just for you for this fifth annual tour. This year's event features homes and artist studios in Surprise, Sun City, and Peoria. **\$25 SELF-GUIDED TOUR**

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48 month lease. Total due at lease signing, \$5,721, no security deposit required. Lease end termination fee, \$200. Based on 10,000 miles per year. Additional charges may be imposed at end of lease term. On approved credit. Plus tax, title, license and \$399 doc fee. STK. #BM233771



NEW 2011 FORD RANGER \$12,858
MSRP..... \$18,985
DISCOUNT...-\$2,127
FACTORY REBATE.....-\$4,000
Or Lease \$129/Mo.
For

36 month lease. Total due at lease signing, \$6,110, no security deposit required. Lease end termination fee, \$200. Based on 10,000 miles per year. Additional charges may be imposed at end of lease term. On approved credit. Plus tax, title, license and \$399 doc fee. STK. #BPA61808



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EPA Estimate. Actual mileage may vary.

NEW 2012 FORD FOCUS \$14,514
MSRP..... \$16,995
DISCOUNT...-\$1,981
FACTORY REBATE.....-\$500
Or Lease \$119/Mo.
For

48 month lease. Total due at lease signing, \$8,406, no security deposit required. Lease end termination fee, \$200. Based on 10,000 miles per year. Additional charges may be imposed at end of lease term. On approved credit. Plus tax, title, license and \$399 doc fee. STK. #CL189667



NEW 2011 FORD FUSION \$15,503
MSRP..... \$20,420
DISCOUNT...-\$2,417
FACTORY REBATE.....-\$2,500
Or Lease \$129/Mo.
For

66 month lease. Total due at lease signing, \$6,403, no security deposit required. Lease end termination fee, \$200. Based on 10,000 miles per year. Additional charges may be imposed at end of lease term. On approved credit. Plus tax, title, license and \$399 doc fee. STK. #CR137965



NEW 2011 FORD ESCAPE \$17,509
MSRP..... \$21,785
DISCOUNT...-\$2,276
FACTORY REBATE.....-\$2,000
Or Lease \$197/Mo.
For

66 month lease. Total due at lease signing, \$2,556, no security deposit required. Lease end termination fee, \$200. Based on 10,000 miles per year. Additional charges may be imposed at end of lease term. On approved credit. Plus tax, title, license and \$399 doc fee. STK. #BKC52076



NEW 2011 FORD F150 \$18,520
MSRP..... \$23,390
DISCOUNT...-\$2,870
FACTORY REBATE.....-\$2,000
Or Lease \$229/Mo.
For

66 month lease. Total due at lease signing, \$3,726, no security deposit required. Lease end termination fee, \$200. Based on 10,000 miles per year. Additional charges may be imposed at end of lease term. On approved credit. Plus tax, title, license and \$399 doc fee. STK. #BKD68098



NEW 2012 FORD MUSTANG \$19,425
MSRP..... \$23,105
DISCOUNT...-\$2,180
FACTORY REBATE.....-\$1,500
Or Lease \$159/Mo.
For

66 month lease. Total due at lease signing, \$2,664, no security deposit required. Lease end termination fee, \$200. Based on 10,000 miles per year. Additional charges may be imposed at end of lease term. On approved credit. Plus tax, title, license and \$399 doc fee. STK. #C5234955



NEW 2011 FORD TAURUS \$22,954
MSRP..... \$25,995
DISCOUNT...-\$3,041
Or Lease \$219/Mo.
For

72 month lease. Total due at lease signing, \$3,426, no security deposit required. Lease end termination fee, \$200. Based on 10,000 miles per year. Additional charges may be imposed at end of lease term. On approved credit. Plus tax, title, license and \$399 doc fee. STK. #BG172861

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NEW 2011 FORD EDGE \$24,214
MSRP.....\$29,030
DISCOUNT...-\$2,816
FACTORY REBATE.....-\$2,000
Or Lease \$259/Mo.
For

72 month lease. Total due at lease signing, \$3,317, no security deposit required. Lease end termination fee, \$200. Based on 10,000 miles per year. Additional charges may be imposed at end of lease term. On approved credit. Plus tax, title, license and \$399 doc fee. STK. #BBB11433



NEW 2011 FORD F250 \$24,638
MSRP.....\$31,900
DISCOUNT.....-\$3,762
FACTORY REBATE.....-\$3,500

STK. #BEC70932



NEW 2011 FORD EXPLORER \$24,973
MSRP.....\$29,185
DISCOUNT...-\$3,212
FACTORY REBATE.....-\$1,000
Or Lease \$279/Mo.
For

72 month lease. Total due at lease signing, \$3,601, no security deposit required. Lease end termination fee, \$200. Based on 10,000 miles per year. Additional charges may be imposed at end of lease term. On approved credit. Plus tax, title, license and \$399 doc fee. STK. #BGA76939



NEW 2011 FORD FLEX \$25,541
MSRP.....\$30,390
DISCOUNT...-\$2,849
FACTORY REBATE.....-\$2,000
Or Lease \$289/Mo.
For

72 month lease. Total due at lease signing, \$3,985, no security deposit required. Lease end termination fee, \$200. Based on 10,000 miles per year. Additional charges may be imposed at end of lease term. On approved credit. Plus tax, title, license and \$399 doc fee. STK. #BBD33668

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