Arizona's Opportunity City

February 2011

El Mirage News

www.cityofelmirage.org | Vol. 2, No. 2 | 623-972-8116

Feb 26 & 27, 2011 at Gateway Park.

Multicultural Music Festival Feb 26-27 Gateway Park

Music fans and musician all around Arizona and the country will be coming to El Mirage for the 16th Annual Multicultural Music Festival the last weekend in February. Fans will be treated with a musical experience that's unmatched by anything offered in the west valley. In previous years this event has been held at the Peoria Municipal Complex. During the years in Peoria notable performers like CeCe Peniston, Joe McBride, Blue Lovett of the Manhattans, The Might Clouds of Joy, Stanley Jordan and The Jackson Southernairs have made this event one of the fans' favorite.

Organizers think this will be the biggest event to date." With six national headliners committed and negotiations still underway with others, we feel the current lineup and quality of the artistry is huge" stated, EJ Cutright of the NBHC. Blues legend Bobby Rush vote number 3 blues artists in the world behind BB King and Buddy Guy. Willie Clayton is considered one of the last remaining R&B and soul vocalist in the country. Chick Rodgers follows after the style of the "Queen of Soul" Aretha Franklin. Carvin Jones was recently voted one of America's top 50 guitarists. Tejano Music Award winner Monica Castro and jazz saxophonist Chris "Doc Stewart has long been considers tops in their genres.

Notable local favorites from Backbone Record, Riddle, Prayers of Thunder, MS Veen, Candice, Royce Murray, Full Moon Jazz & Hacksaw Blues along with youth dance teams, will be on hand to lead into to the featured headliners.

The event not only features quality artistry and music, it also brings much needed medical and community awareness to the citizens of El Mirage with information tables recruiting jobs and schools. Other features of the events are: Car show, kids' activities, 3on3 basketball and slam dunk competition and a possible carnival, that's still in negotiations at time of print.

The event is sponsored by in partnership with the City of El Mirage and the NBHC. Supported by The Sundome Performing Arts Association Gift to the Arts.

Parking is free. Admissions are $10 per car/$5 per car El Mirage residents and individuals.

For more information, contact the NBHC 623-204-0959 www.aznbhc.org

Patty Larson featured in the Incubator Lounge

Local artist Patty Larson is currently the featured artist in the Creative Industries Incubator in El Mirage. Patty is an innovative artist who paints mostly in the abstract style. Born and raised in the south suburbs of Chicago, Patty cannot remember a time when she did not love art. In high school in Illinois, she was part of the Gold Key Club, a special program for gifted artists. In a special contest for the Gold Key Award, Patty's abstract still life won first place. With that award under her belt and the encouragement of her teachers, she applied for a scholarship to the Art Institute of Chicago, and promptly won the coveted scholarship to that institution. Patty went to the Art Institute for one year, and then decided to change gears and start a family. Along with her husband Rob and son Cal, she lives and works in Surprise. As well as being a gifted artist, she is now also an art teacher. Patty currently works with homeschooled youth and teens in her home every week. She also teaches painting for adults, and has other creative classes that she offers. Patty has a passion for art and for creating art, and

MORE LARSON ON 7

Patty Larson

Top Luke Air Force Base official to address El Mirage Council on Feb. 24

On Thursday, February 24, 2011, Brigadier General Jerry D. Harris, Jr. will attend the regularly-scheduled meeting of the El Mirage City Council. The General will provide a current mission overview and update regarding Luke AFB and related missions.

Harris is the Commander of the 56th Fighter Wing at Luke Air Force Base. The 56th Fighter Wing's mission is to train F-16 pilots and maintainers while deploying mission-ready warfighters. As part of Air Education and Training Command, and home to more than 160 F-16 aircraft and 24 squadrons, the 56th is the largest fighter wing in the U.S. Air Force and graduates more than 400 F-16 pilots and 470 crew chiefs annually. The wing oversees the Gila Bend Air Force Auxiliary Field and is steward of the Barry M. Goldwater Range, a military training range spanning more than 1.7 million acres of Sonoran desert.

El Mirage is home to a large number of Luke AFB personnel and Harris' appearance marks the first time in recent years a top-ranking member of Luke Air Force Base has visited the El Mirage Council in an official capacity. The visit signals a new, more positive and cooperative approach the Council is taking toward Luke AFB.

Brigadier General Jerry D. Harris, Jr.

General Harris entered the Air Force through the Reserve Officer Training Corps, graduating from Washington State University in 1985. He is an F-16 pilot with more than 3,000 flying hours in a variety of aircraft. He was the Top Flyer in his Weapons Instructor Course and has combat time in Operation Desert Storm. His assignments include Chief of Strategy for 16th Air Force Commander and COMAIRSOUTH's Crisis Action Group, Naples, Italy. He has also served as the Combined Air and Space Operations Center Battle Director for operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

A decorated veteran, the general has commanded at squadron, group and wing levels. Prior to his current assignment, he was Assistant Director of Operations, Plans, Requirements and Programs, Pacific Air Forces, Hickam AFB, Hawaii. The public is invited to attend.

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Mayor Focuses on Economic Development

Last month I shared with you my perception of our City being filled with tough, hard-working and resilient people committed to changing our community for the better. I repeated the old saying "When the going gets tough, the tough get going!" and called for all of us to get going.

This month, I got going and tackled my first tough subject: economic development. With our economy in an ongoing recession, real, tangible economic development has become more critical than ever to our City. Plain and simple – El Mirage is a great place to live but we need businesses and the jobs those businesses bring in order for our community to not just survive but to thrive. With that in mind, I recently met with Jack Lunsford, President and Chief Executive of WESTMARC, a leading West Valley business coalition. WESTMARC has been instrumental in bringing West Valley communities together to focus on a teamwork-based, regional approach to economic development. Their leadership has been very beneficial to promoting our area and ensuring that all West Valley cities have a seat at the economic development table, regardless of size.

We discussed economic development in El Mirage and the implications of our community's newly-designated Foreign Trade Zone 277 status on future business and job-growth opportunities. Approved by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Foreign Trade Zones Board in late December, this new Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) serves El Mirage along with all other western and northern cities located in Maricopa County.

FTZ status is a very powerful economic development tool as FTZ companies (importers, third-party logistics providers, exporters, manufacturers, etc.) are able to utilize a number of cost savings benefits such as reduced duties that make investing, relocating or expanding into our area very attractive. I am pleased to share with you that the City of El Mirage played a very active role in helping our region secure Foreign Trade Zone status. Now we have the ability, along with other West Valley cities, to identify and recruit higher-paying industries and jobs to our region and develop a more diverse economic base that will better serve residents and our Community. Let there be no mistake: there is real potential here for El Mirage.

I have pledged to make economic development efforts a key focus for El Mirage and this initial meeting provides me with a good sense of our business and job growth opportunities. In the coming months, I will be meeting with residents, business owners, private landowners and economic development leaders to take advantage of these opportunities. The future is very promising but we have much more work ahead to turn economic development into a reality for El Mirage.

El Mirage Council Goes Green, Goes Paperless

For the first time in its 60 year history, the El Mirage City Council went paperless for its January Council Meetings. The move away from paper council packets and agendas to wireless netbooks was made in an effort to steer the City toward being environmentally-conscious and also to reduce costs.

Mayor Lana Mook admitted she was a bit nervous about not having a paper agenda and packet. "I'm not a computer pro by any means but using the computer netbooks was much easier than I expected," she said. "The Council meeting went smoothly and we all contributed toward minimizing our impact on the environment!" Councilman James McPhetres agreed. "So far, everything has worked just great and we're finding out that we really don't need to waste all of this paper."

Typical council packets average 53 pages, with the Clerk's Office printing a minimum of 10 copies per meeting for the Council and staff. City Clerk Richard Saathoff estimated that with a cost of $0.42 per page and close to 30 meetings per year, the Clerk's Office was spending approximately $6,500 a year just for printing, not including the numerous occasions when council packets are amended and reprinted. "Going paperless is going to save a tremendous amount of paper and staff time. I am excited the Council has chosen to go in this direction,"stated Saathoff. Vice Mayor David Shapera supports the savings in staff time. "We are constantly searching for ways for our city government to be more efficient with its resources. This move accomplishes the goal of doing more with less."

The Council's switch to conducting a paperless meeting was facilitated by I.T. Director Pat Timlin, who secured the computer netbooks for the Council at no cost. "The HP netbooks, which feature built-in Wi-Fi, were acquired through a year-end close out from our Verizon provider." He added "In addition to viewing their council packets and agenda on the netbooks, Council Members can also access the internet, their city email, and city documents through a wireless connection." Timlin explained that internet access is free through area Wi-Fi connections or Council Members can use the built-in wireless card at an additional cost of $42.00 per month. Of the seven Council Members who received the free notebooks, four have already requested to discontinue their wireless cards and utilize only the free area Wi-Fi connections in an effort to help save costs. Their decision is expected to save the City an additional $2,000 per year.

"Just like cities everywhere, we are dealing with some very serious budget issues. No savings initiative is too small to consider," explained Councilman Joe Ramirez. "Going paperless will save us nearly $8,200 in printing and staff time each year. This is definitely a good step in the right direction for the City and for the environment."

Councilman Lynn Selby is also enthusiastic about the move to a paperless Council meeting. "Every day, we are learning more and more about our impact on the environment. If we can still conduct business while cutting down on printing – and saving money and time in the process – then it makes perfect business sense. It's a win-win for City staff, for taxpayers and for the environment."

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Police hosting Free Shredding and Electronic Recycling Event

Prevent Identity Theft on Wednesday, February 9, 2011 by attending El Mirage's first Free Shred-A-Thon. Residents and business owners alike are encouraged to bring old bills, tax returns older than 7 years, medical records and other documents containing personal information that are no longer needed to Gateway Park (located at 10100 N. El Mirage Rd.) between the hours of 7:00-11:00 a.m.

The El Mirage Police Department is partnering with the Maricopa County Attorney's Office to provide the free event, where the public will be able to shred up to two full file boxes and/or bags of personal and financial information in an effort to prevent identity theft. Additionally, residents can bring recyclable electronic devices, such as old computers, keyboards, cameras, cell phones, TVs, radios, microwaves, etc. Everything that is turned in will be recycled; it is not refurbished or donated elsewhere. For more information, call Community Action Officer, Monica Rios at 623-433-9536 during regular business hours.

Police Help Make a Difference

The El Mirage Police Department took the vision of "providing extraordinary service to the community" to a new level during its recent food and toy drives.

Partnering with the local elementary schools, food donations were collected at various sites in El Mirage to assist the Saint Mary's Food Bank Stamp Out Hunger program. The Thanksgiving holiday food drive netted more than 1,800 pounds of food.

During the Christmas Toy Drive, held between November 22nd and December 15th, toys and clothing were collected at numerous sites including local merchants, the El Mirage Fire Department and the Pueblo El Mirage RV Resort. According to El Mirage Officer and project coordinator Monica Rios, 28 families took delivery of the toys for their children a week before Christmas. If the family had infant children, stuffed animals and blankets were also provided.

"Helping the community is more than just answering 9-1-1 calls," El Mirage Police Chief Michael Frazier said. "It's also about developing partnerships and assisting those who have encountered tough times, particularly during the holidays."

Outstanding El Mirage Police Officers Honored

On Jan. 7, the El Mirage Police Department held an Awards Ceremony to honor exemplary employees and outstanding performance during 2010. Awards were presented by Police Chief Michael Frazier and Assistant Chief Steve Campbell for Police Officer of the Year, Supervisor of the Year, Professional Staff Member of the Year, and Volunteer of the Year. One Sergeant and four officers also received the Lifesaving Award. This year's honorees are:

Officer of the Year - Officer Kim Walden

Officer Walden was honored for her dedication, strong work ethic and exceptional instincts.

Supervisor of the Year - Sergeant John Heffelfinger

Sergeant Heffelfinger was honored for his outstanding work in both patrol and administration during 2010.

Professional Staff Member of the Year - Gloria Jones

Ms. Jones was recognized for her 30 years of dedicated service to the El Mirage Police Department.

Volunteer of the Year - William Criteser

Mr. Criteser has donated approximately 923 hours to the El Mirage Police Department in various

MORE AWARDS ON 4

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AWARDS: Outstanding officers honored, From 3

capacities since July 2008.

Lifesaving Award - Sergeant Franco Cammarata, Officer Charles Gulikers, Officer David Patterson, Officer Andrew Vanderwerf

The life of an El Mirage resident was saved due to the quick thinking of the Sergeant and Officers who made entry into a residence and determined a medical emergency existed.

Assistant Chief Steve Campbell, Sergeant John Heffelfinger, Police Chief Michael Frazier pictured holding supervisor award.

Assistant Chief Steve Campbell, Gloria Jones, Police Chief Michael Frazier holding up staff award.

Assistant Chief Steve Campbell, Will Criteser, Police Chief Michael Frazier pictured holding volunteer award

Lifesaving awards pictured, Page 5

WHAT'S A DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT?

by Sharon Ravenscroft, Esq.
Cavanagh Law Firm, P.A.

Wills-Trusts-Estate Planning-Probate

"Domestic Partners" is a term used today to refer to people who live together but who are not married. Today, many times, older adults like to live with a brother or a sister, and they would be considered Domestic Partners. Domestic Partners also include same sex couples or non-married, heterosexual couples.

Domestic Partners usually are very close to each other and know the wishes of the other. A Domestic Partnership Agreement can set out the partners' desires about shared living expenses, property ownership and estate planning.

Domestic Partners can also confer legal rights on each other with powers of attorney for finances and health.

For more information see **www.sharonravenscroft.com** or contact Sharon D. Ravenscroft, Esq., of The Cavanagh Law Firm, P.A., with offices in Sun City and Phoenix, at (623) 815-7451 or **sravenscroft@cavanaghlaw.com.**

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LIFESAVING AWARD, From 4

Assistant Chief Steve Campbell, Officer Andrew Vanderwerf, Officer David Patterson, Officer Chares Gulikers, Sergeant Franco Cammarata, Police Chief Michael Frazier display the lifesaving award.

Focus on the Fire Department

El Mirage's Fire Chief is essentially the City's Community Risk Reduction Manager. What does that mean to El Mirage residents? The Fire Chief, through the management and deployment of fire department resources, works to identify and eliminate – or reduce – fire and life safety risks in the community. In those instances where a fire or life safety incident occurs, the Fire Chief ensures that the fire department is fully staffed, trained, and equipped to mitigate the incident and minimize the loss of life and property. Interim Fire Chief Howard Munding states "How a city deals with fire and life safety is a concern and quality of life issue for all current and prospective residents and businesses. We are working extremely hard to increase prevention measures that will help businesses and residents alike avoid loss and tragedy."

Working with business and residents:

Within the past two years, the El Mirage Fire Department (EMFD) implemented an annual fire inspection program of businesses in the City, performed 693 inspections and identified and abated more than 2,004 fire code violations. In addition, the Fire Department worked aggressively within the community to promote a safer environment by training more than 200 residents and City staff in CPR and installing more than 240 grant-funded smoke detectors in local homes. Fire fighters also personally knocked on the doors of individual homeowners with pools, informing them of a free pool fence program, sponsored by the Fire Fighters association and local charities, that could help homeowners avoid tragic pool-related deaths. Munding explains that "All of this is to achieve the end result of making our community a safer place to live and work."

Community Involvement:

El Mirage Fire Fighters don't just put out fires or install smoke alarms. They also provide community support for individuals and families, donating $300 for Christmas to a needy family and participating in the annual Fill the Boot Drive for the Muscular Dystrophy Association, raising more than $8,046. The EMFD also conducted public education activities reaching more than 3,458 adults and 7,670 children.

Working with other City Departments:

Additionally, the Fire Chief works with the Police Department on issues dealing with emergency response, public safety and fire investigations. For example, on New Year's Eve, the El Mirage Fire Department responded to a brush fire. After extinguishing the fire and determining the origin and cause of the fire to be illegal fireworks, EMFD turned the incident over to the El Mirage Police Department for further investigation. Other City Departments the Chief works with: Economic and Community Development to ensure new and existing businesses understand the fire code requirements of their building and their operation/process.; Code Enforcement to assist with identifying and mitigating community hazards; Building Department in a team approach to ensuring fire safety requirements are met during new construction and renovation projects; Public Works to coordinate fire safety requirements in City infrastructure; City Attorney to coordinate City Fire Code issues; City Court regarding enforcement issues relating to the fire code.

Analysis of incidents for 12/14/10 - 1/14/11:

7 – Fires
- 2- Brush fires
- 2- trash fires
- 2- dumpster fires
- 1- Other

167 – EMS Calls
- 2- Rescues
- 14-Automatic Aid Received
- 8- Medical Assist
- 130 – EMS Calls
- 12- Motor Vehicle Accidents

2- Hazardous Condition (No Fire)
- 1- Misc.
- 1- Electrical problem

42 – Service Calls
- 1- Person in distress
- 1- Lock out
- 3- Smoke odor
- 1- Animal problem
- 29 – Check Welfare
- 1- Assist Police
- 2- Assist Invalid
- 3- Other

33- Good Intent Calls
- 28 – cancelled en route
- 2 – No incident found
- 4- Other

8 – False alarms
- 5 – False calls
- 1 – System malfunction
- 1 – Detector activation – No Fire
- 1–Alarm system activation - No Fire
- 1- Miscellaneous

Total calls = 272
Average Response time: 00:05:18
Average Response time in El Mirage = 00:05:04

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Artist-in-Residence Gallery to show "Beautiful Chaos"

The Artist-in-Residence Gallery will feature "Beautiful Chaos,' the works of Danté Maritano Navarro, at the Third Thursday in February. Navarro is a twenty-nine year old artist and has been actively painting for the last five years. His medium consists of acrylics, pencil, spray paint, oil pastels, stamps, razor blades, and other objects Navarro says "this mash up of supplies keeps paintings interesting and varied in composition. All of the emotion that goes into a painting produces a result of beautiful chaos and an incredible amount of detail."

Top, Navarro's artwork will be shown in the Gallery February 17 through March 17.

Thomas Schultz, El Mirage Artist-in-Residence says Navarro's sharp-edged perspectives on life show great interpretation of our ever-complicated world"

Beautiful Chaos opens February 17 at the El Mirage Civic and Cultural Center, 14040 North El Mirage Road. Talk with the artist from 5 to 9 pm.

Walmart JOZ Program Supports El Mirage Small Business

El Mirage was one of ten cities in the country selected by Walmart to participate in the Job Opportunity Zone, or JOZ, program in 2008. Walmart made a significant financial contribution to the city with the intent to promote small business in the community. Since then, this program has seen the city establish the first new business emphasis in years – an arts-based small business initiative called the Creative Industries Incubator and a culinary initiative called the Kitchen Incubator. These initiatives expect to "grow" businesses from their founders' ideas to well-prepared businesses that are ready to flourish when they leave the incubator after a one-year term.

City development staff is starting the next initiative to work with small businesses in key areas of the city such as along Thunderbird Road and Grand Avenue.

"Our council has a clear emphasis on economic development and business creation to better serve the day-to-day needs of our residents," said Scott Chesney, the city's economic and community development director, "provision of needed services so our residents can avoid long trips for shopping and creation of new jobs are priorities to enhance the quality of life for residents and create a diversified financial base for the city."

Walmart's JOZ program provides financial support for small businesses in the incubator and, in the future, throughout our city, to better prepare for the ups and downs of the economy A solid small business base is an essential element of a sustainable economy and Walmart's partnership with the city is an example of how public and private efforts can come together for the benefit of the city's businesses and residents.

For more information, contact the El Mirage Economic and Community Development Department at 623.972.8116 or info@cityofelmirage.org

Kristi Vater talks with Third Thursday patrons.

Spotlight on El Mirage Arts Business

Divine Art Connections, LLC is a local business started and owned by Kristi Vater, an El Mirage resident since 2005. Kristi started this business with the idea of representing local artists who would rather create than sell their original works of art. Starting with an ensemble of just four artists, Kristi began taking her artists work to local venues around town. She also set up a website for interested clients to view her artists work. Vater had been doing this for about a year when she came across an article in her local El Mirage news about Arts Move El Mirage. Attending a meeting in early June of 2010, Vater became excited about the vision of the City of El Mirage for community transformation spearheaded by the arts. She decided to invest her business in this blossoming El Mirage arts enterprise by securing a studio in the brand new Creative Industries Incubator located at the El Mirage Civic and Cultural center. City economic development staff were instrumental in helping Vater achieve her goals of an actual gallery, which is something she had not yet obtained with her business. Opening in September of 2010, Vater has seen growth not just in her business but in her

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LARSON: Incubator Lounge, From 1

believes each person who creates has a God-given style that is all their own. Patty revels in teaching and creating art herself and thanks and credits God for the ability to do so. Patty's work is currently on display at the Creative Industries Incubator lounge in El Mirage at 14010 N. El Mirage Rd, El Mirage, AZ. A special reception will be held for Patty and her work Feb. 10 at 7 p.m. The artist will be on hand to greet guests and talk about her work. Her pieces are also on display at Divine Art Connections, LLC gallery this month in the same building.

For more information: divineartconnections@live.com.

Patty's artwork is varied in inspiration and intensity

IAMWE will take the stage February 17 at the Plaza.

IAMWE to perform at Third Thursday

IAMWE is a young band with a unique and timely philosophy. They believe that in this 21st century that finds us with roughly 7 billion people in it, we are all different and yet we are alike. They see diversity as polarizing both neighbors and friends. The members of IAMWE seek to create rock symphonies that celebrate our differences and show how music can bring us together. Lead singer and pianist Tim Maiden, Erik Brunner on bass, Josh Carlson on drums, Ryan Williamson on lead guitar, and Shane Tschida on guitar comprise the band.

"Our El Mirage arts community is excited to welcome up and coming Phoenix rock band IAMWE to our next Third Thursday event in February," said Kristi Vater, Divine Art Connections and head of the El Mirage Art Association.

You can find out more about them on their website www.iamweband.com. Don't miss this opportunity to see this cutting edge band in person at our very own Civic and Cultural Center on Thursday, February 17th. Third Thursday is located at 14010 N. El Mirage Rd., El Mirage, AZ 85335. This event is from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

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Calendar of Events - February 2011

City Buildings and El Mirage Library will be closed on Monday, February 21 for Presidents' Day

EL MIRAGE BRANCH LIBRARY

CHILDREN

SKIP ALONG STORY TIME - February 1, 8, 15, 22 (Tuesdays) 10 a.m.

Ages 1-5 and their caregivers. Join us for fun books and silly songs. Community Room. Maricopa County Library District's El Mirage Branch Library, 14011 N. 1st Ave., El Mirage, 602.652.3000 www.mcldaz.org.

VALENTINE'S DAY CRAFT - Feb. 10 (Thursday) 3:30 p.m.

Ages 5 +. All supplies provided. Registration needed. Community Room. Maricopa County Library District's El Mirage Branch Library, 14011 N. 1st Ave., El Mirage, 602.652.3000 www.mcldaz.org.

TEENS

TEEN MUSIC MEET-UP - Feb. 17 - 3:30 p.m.

Ages 13 and up. Bring in your instrument and meet other local musical teens. Information coming! Check with the library. Community Room. Maricopa County Library District's El Mirage Branch Library, 14011 N. 1st Ave., El Mirage, 602.652.3000 www.mcldaz.org.

ADULTS

FRIENDS OF THE EL MIRAGE LIBRARY - Feb. 22 - 1:30 p.m.

Join the Friends and help support your library. New members welcome! Community Room. Maricopa County Library District's El Mirage Branch Library, 14011 N. 1st Ave., El Mirage, 602.652.3000 www.mcldaz.org.

ORGANIZING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY SEARCH

Feb. 23 -1:00 p.m.

The Mesa Regional Family History Center will present a first lesson in genealogy for beginners wanting to pursue family history. Includes How-to's and useful free links. The Mesa Center is the second largest Family History Center in the United States.

Youth & Adult Sports

Coed, Men & Women Slow-Pitch Softball League

The City of El Mirage and NSA is currently seeking Men, Coed and Women teams for play during the Spring Season for Friday and/or Sunday nights.

These coed and men adult softball leagues will have teams playing 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 the season. NSA rules apply for all leagues.

Entry fee is $350 plus $25 registration fee (does not include umpire fees). League starts Friday, February 11th for Co-Ed. (10 team Maximum for Friday Night ONLY!) NEW! Co-ed and Men's League starts Sunday, February 13th

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

Over 30 - Coed Adult Soccer League

West Valley's premier Adult Coed Soccer League. We've created a place where you can go to play the sport your body needs, without the usual hustle and bustle of a traditional Fitness Center and Health Club. From the state-of-the-art new El Mirage Gateway Sports Complex, the acoustically designed fields, to the children-friendly playgrounds, where you can leave your children as you play your game. We've created a secure and safe environment where you can play soccer in a friendly atmosphere and do the work your body needs, while keeping your stress level down!

For league information please go to www.azcoedsoccer.com or call 1-800-BSA-0886.

ACYFL - Arizona Competitive Youth Football League

Spring 2011 El Mirage Knights Tackle Football - Be part of the city tackle football program. ACYFL strives to provide a nurturing and supportive environment in which children can improve their football skills and participate with other teams in a safe and fun environment.

ACYFL is now registering youth for the 2011 Spring Season. For more information or to register please call Bryan De Ruiter at (623) 418-1486 or email b.knights@live.com ACYFL League website: www.acyfl.com

White Tanks Little League

Registering Now for 2011 Spring Season!

The City is continuing to work with the newly established White Tanks Little League with their new home beginning in El Mirage. White Tanks Little League is accepting registrations now through mid February. Please stay posted by visiting www.eteamz.com/whitetanksll.

Volunteer Board Members are also needed for the spring season! If you are interested and able to be part of the established White Tanks Little League Board, please contact WTLL directly at (623) 241-4602 or whitetanksll@msn.com

Benfica Youth Soccer League - Benfica Youth Soccer Academy

This on-going academy will use soccer education to bring out greatness in the youth and families of our community. Beginning in March of 2009, the academy provides the highest success rate of youth soccer players in order to further their personal goals and aspirations. We are proud to provide year round developmental soccer in a festive environment for the whole family.

Registered participants in the Monday - Thursday (6:00 pm -8:30 pm) academy will be taught the sport of soccer by professional trainers and coaches. Youth will develop discipline while learning soccer skills to improve precision and technique. Youth will receive trainings through a progressive and balanced process while learning in a fun and developmental environment with respect for the spirit of the sport.

For more information regarding upcoming soccer programs please call 1-800-BSA-0886 or go to www.azbenfica.org

SENIOR CENTER

At the El Mirage Senior Center, we believe no one should ever feel lonely or bored. We have created a warm and welcoming environment for all El Mirage seniors to come spend their time. When you come to the center, we will welcome you with open arms. You will come as a stranger, but leave as family. Come visit and see what the center has to offer you. For more information on the Senior Center Program please call, (623) 876-4232.

February ongoing Activities

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

Mondays, 9:30 a.m. – Debbie's Craft Corner

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!

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

February Special Activities

Feb. 2 - Senior Committee Group Meeting, 9:30 a.m.

Feb. 9– Guest Speaker on Medicare, 10 a.m.

Feb. 9 – VIP Gallery Showing with Thomas Schultz, 10: 30 a.m.

Feb. 14 – Valentine's Day Party, 9 a.m.

More CALENDAR on 9

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Work begins on new well site

The City has started construction of a new well site in the Brisas subdivision to provide required additional water supply and storage to the community. Located at the same site as the original agricultural well used in the area prior to any homes being built and identified in the original subdivision plat, the new well site is now necessary to adequately serve area water and fire needs.

The well drilling contractor has completed the initial boring of the well to a depth of nearly 1,500 feet. According to Public Works Director Lance Calvert, the water quality at the location is excellent and final well casing will be completed in February. The well rig and temporary sound walls will be removed from the site as soon as the final well casing is put in place. Construction of the well requires intermittent night operation due to the basic mechanics of the drilling process. Once drilling is complete all future construction will be during normal construction hours. "We appreciate the residents patience with the current nighttime operations," said Calvert. "This well will help serve the water needs of the City for generations."

A new well site is being built to provide additional water supply and starage to the community. The well will be nearly 1,500 feet.

Once the well is completed, construction will begin on the booster pumps, disinfection system, and storage reservoir. To provide additional space for the equipment associated with the well, the City acquired an adjacent home out of foreclosure. That home site will help blend the well facilities into the neighborhood. The existing empty well lot will be used for a storage reservoir and is planned to be shorter than the adjacent homes and blend aesthetically into the existing neighborhood including the placement of appropriate trees and landscaping.

The new well including the reservoir construction is scheduled to be completed within a year and will join the eight existing well sites currently in service within the City. A water master plan completed in 2008, identified the need for additional wells and storage reservoirs within the City including the Brisas site currently under construction.

All of the City's water is supplied by groundwater from these wells. The well site construction is funded by below market interest rate loans through the state Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona (WIFA) paid by user rates. WIFA financing provides significant savings due to lower interest rates and reduced closing costs.

CALENDAR: Activities for all ages, From 8

Feb. 16 – Monthly Birthday Celebration, 10 a.m.

Feb. 21- Closed in Honor of Presidents Day

Feb. 23 – Guest Speaker by Catholic Outreach – Memory, 10 a.m.

Feb. 28- Field trip to Cerreta's Candy Factory

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ELN

Community News and Events

El Mirage resident Bob Jones selected Cub Master of the Year

Local resident and community leader Bob Jones is Cub Master for Cub Scout Pack 922, which meets weekly at the Dysart Community Center in El Mirage. On Saturday, January 15, Jones was named Cub Master of the Year for the Lake Pleasant District. Recognized for his efforts to inspire, motivate and encourage youth to follow their dreams, be successful in their endeavors and strive to be good citizens at all times, Jones was honored for successfully launching the Cub Scout program in El Mirage after earlier attempts had failed.

"There is no one better to receive this award than Bob Jones, who gives 110% every day to be the best person, role model, citizen and Cub Scout Master that he can be," stated one Cub Scout volunteer.

Known as "Cubby Bob," Jones promoted the El Mirage Cub Scout Program at City Council Meetings, with community leaders (Home Owner Association Leaders), Civic Leaders within the city (Police & Fire Departments), and representatives from various schools and the Dysart Community Center. His efforts resulted in growing support and sponsorship of Scouting in El Mirage, and the ability to introduce the city's first Boy Scout Program.

Bob Jones, Cub Master of the Year

Pack 922 is a "Family Pack", and encourages the involvement of all family members in Pack activities. Under Bob's leadership, Pack 922 expanded from a single den (with 5 kids) to 6 dens (Tigers-2, Wolf-1, Bear-1, Webelos I-1, Webelos II-1) – over 30 scouts/families.

The Pack has monthly excursions and camping trips and has engaged in community fundraising to ensure that all children who want to participate in scouting can do so.

In addition to scouting, Bob Jones is an active Board Member for the Dysart Community Center and serves as President of his El Mirage HOA community.

Congratulations from the City of El Mirage to local resident Bob Jones.

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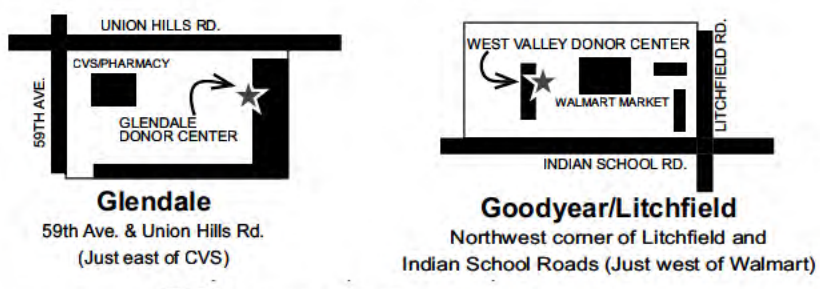

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White Tanks Little League grows in El Mirage thanks to dedicated family

White Tanks Little League was established in 2009 in El Mirage but also serves children in the communities of Surprise and Youngtown. White Tanks Little League is dedicated to providing a safe and fun environment where kids can grow in the game of baseball while learning about team unity, fairness, & respect. The league has grown rapidly over the last few seasons with the help of the City of El Mirage and the great Board Members and parents that make up the league. White Tanks prides itself in offering a competitive edge to baseball while focusing on providing a fun and fair atmosphere for kids to grow. WTLL is a non-profit organization run 100% by volunteers.

Jeff Justus, President of WTLL, father of four and El Mirage resident for 11 years; joined the league during White Tanks Little League's inaugural season in 2009 as head coach. He was looking for a baseball program for his son who had played ball for years and was looking for a program that would help develop his skills on a more competitive level. Jeff felt that Little League was the perfect balance between recreation ball and travel ball. He quickly became involved on the board as the Information Officer and found himself volunteering for so much more. His passion for baseball and the youth of the community was evident and he was asked to consider the role of the President. Jeff's love for baseball and Little League made his decision a simple one.

In the fall of 2009, he was voted on as WTLL President. He has continued to coach each season and is dedicated to creating the best experience for the kids.

Jeff says "I volunteer because I love baseball and I love kids, it's that simple. I want WTLL to feel like family. Not only do I love volunteering but I want to teach my children by

More FAMILY on 11

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Karen's Kreamery to open at Gateway Park

City officials recently selected Karen's Kreamery as the concessions vendor for Gateway Park. Karen's Kreamery was selected after a process of submitted proposals was evaluated by elected officials and staff. The Mayor and Vice Mayor participated in the interviews and evaluations of the prospective organizations and were in agreement that Karen's Kreamery was the choice for the city.

Staff will be working with Karen's Kreamery over the coming weeks to build out the concessions facility at Gateway Park. Karen's Kreamery may be onsite earlier with mobile concessions facilities for residents' enjoyment as the weather warms. Hours of operation will include most weekday evenings and all day on weekends and some holidays.

For more information on opening dates, watch the city's web site at www.cityofelmirage.org

Jeff Justus and his family are dedicated to creating the best experiencce for kids.

FAMILY: Passion for baseball and youth, From 10

example".

He quickly adds that the league wouldn't be possible without his amazing Board Members. People like Dave Hunter VP and Jeff Kaiser Junior VP have been with the league from the beginning. He also gives credit to the most recent Board Members and his wife Kim, who have been instrumental in the leagues' growth and success. He hopes that White Tanks Little League will continue to grow and be able to touch as many children's lives as possible.

The league is now registering for the spring 2011 season! Also, if you would like to become involved in the new league, they are looking for new Board Members, volunteer coaches/umpires, child grants, in-kind donations and sponsors! Visit www.whitetanksll.com or call the league hotline at (623)241-4602 for more information.

SPOTLIGHT: Arts business, From 6

artist representation, which has grown to over 15 artists at this point and time, including most recently renowned watercolor artist Jan Bullington, who is herself also an El Mirage resident. "The chance to be part of this emerging arts colony is beyond exciting," says Vater, "I'm amazed at how many wonderful artists and artisans we have right here in our community". The opportunity to work with local artists and artisans, and to see the El Mirage Art Association, of which she is now director, take shape has been beyond her wildest dreams. Vater believes in the vision of the City of El Mirage, in seeing community transformation take place through the willingness of the citizens and the City to work together and partner together. Also she believes that the arts can have such a huge part in that city transformation, as art and culture are languages so many people can speak. She has had many visitors to her gallery comment on how wonderful it is to have an emerging arts district out here in the West Valley and how timely it all is. Many have benefited and enjoyed the once a month El Mirage art event, Third Thursday. This event has highlighted many talented and gifted artists in the El Mirage Gallery curated by Artist-in-Residence Thomas Schultz, along with the Creative Industries Incubator, hosted by Divine Art Connections, WHAM, and Anthony Galto Designs, and in the vendors and demonstration artists who attend the event. Vater believes the collaborative effort creates such a wonderful vibrancy and atmosphere of creativity to our city that is just going to continue to grow. Kristi has also hosted art events such as monthly art talks, and artist receptions through her business, and hopes more people here will take advantage of what is being offered. To contact Vater, or inquire about Divine Art Connections, LLC you can e-mail at divineartconnections@live.com, or phone at (602)790-8133.

Notice to the Public:

The City of El Mirage will no longer post warning signs for drivers entering "mobile" photo-enforcement zones in areas where the posted speed limit is less than 40 m.p.h. Please increase safety in our community by slowing down and obeying the speed limit. Traffic fines for speeding in excess of the posted speed limit vary depending upon the speed cited. Defensive Driving Courses start at approximately $173.00. The fine for red-light violations is $170.00.

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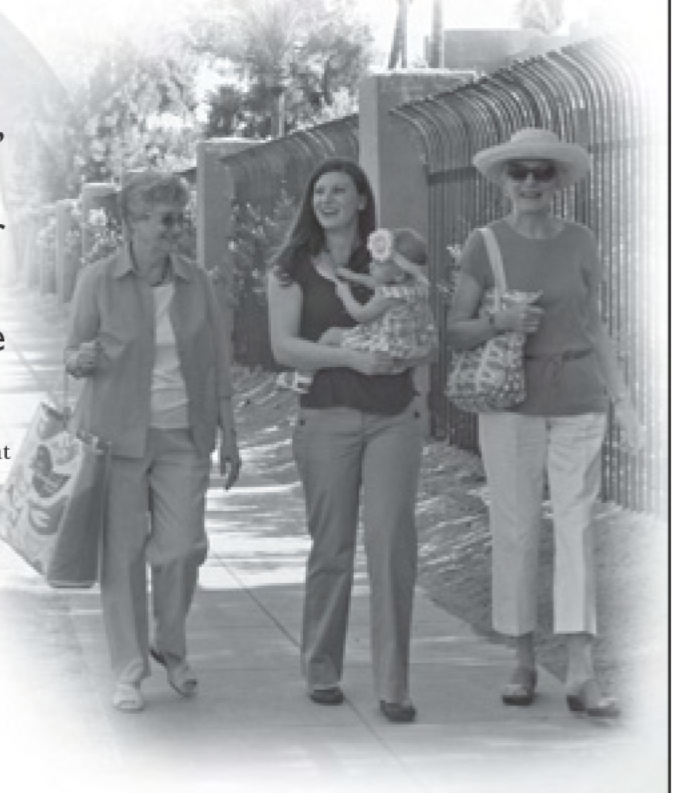

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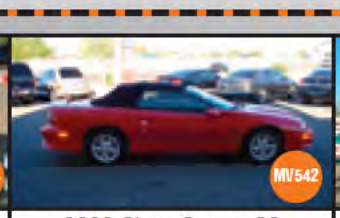
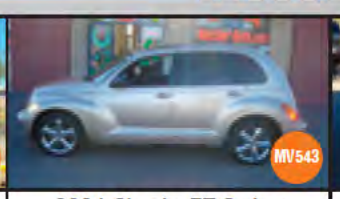
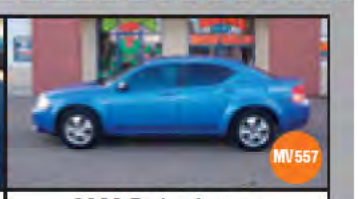
MV554	 MV542	MV525	 MV543	MV540	 MV557
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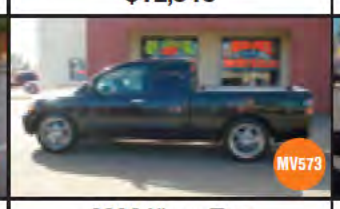
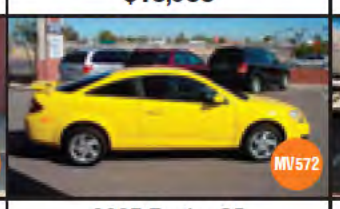
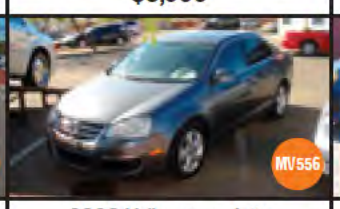
MV559	MV564	 MV573	 MV572	 MV556	MV567
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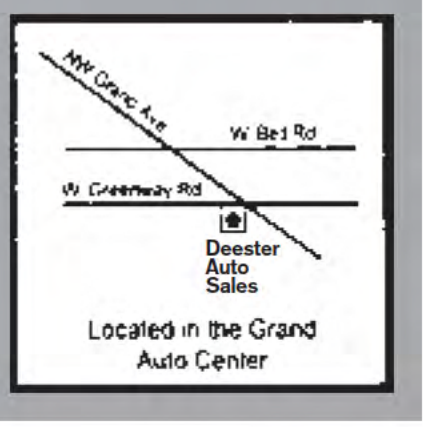
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