

# El Mirage News

www.cityofelmirage.org

Vol. 1, No. 9

623-972-8116

## New Year greetings from Mayor Lana Mook

Times are tough, no doubt about it. But, there's an old saying that may sound familiar to many of you: "When the going gets tough, the tough get going!" I strongly believe our small community is filled with tough, hard working individuals; folks with a whole heck of a lot of common sense and a determination to keep moving forward, no matter what. When I began my campaign for Mayor, I met many of these folks as I walked door-to-door throughout El Mirage. Most of you don't like to answer the front door after you've had a long busy day, so I consider it a true privilege to have met and talked with as many of you as I did. What I learned after knocking on hundreds of doors is many of you are pleased with some things about our city and

frustrated with others – but by no means are you ready to give up on our community. You were full of ideas and encouraged to know there are people willing to listen to you and serve on your behalf. Whether you just moved to El Mirage in recent years or you grew up here, I discovered that you are tough, resilient, and ready to "get going!" These are exactly the type of people El Mirage needs as we work to put our small city back on track.

I've been an Arizona resident for nearly 30 years and, during that time, I've seen our great State experience a tremendous amount of change. A good bit of that change has been for the better but some of that change has created challenging circumstances for us. After years of growth and prosperity, Arizona



Mayor Lana Mook

is now reeling from the financial blows of a continuing recession and El Mirage, like many of its neighboring cities, has a tough road ahead. Does this mean we roll out of town on the first train

to greener pastures? No, it means you and I roll up our sleeves and put our shoulders to the proverbial wheel; we come together to share ideas, figure out what will work best and chart a plan of action that will move our city forward in the right direction.

A good, positive first step for El Mirage will be to reach out to our West Valley neighbors in a sincere and professional manner to let them know we are ready to work together. El Mirage can no longer afford to be isolationist in its policies and attitudes and I am determined to work well with my fellow council members and our neighboring city officials to promote the concept of regional teamwork. By working with

### Mayor Lana Mook is joined by four new council members

Raised in El Mirage, Councilman Joe Ramirez has called the City of El Mirage home for more than 50 years. A straight shooter, Councilman Ramirez graduated from Dysart High School and attended Glendale Community College before working in the construction industry for more than 30 years and growing his own construction company. Mr. Ramirez has been a life-long contributor to the West Valley, having previously served on the

MORE MAYOR MOOK ON PAGE 2

## El Mirage rocks the plaza at Third Thursday on Jan. 20

El Mirage, get ready to rock like you've never rocked before.

Hold on to your seat for a new fundraising event for the El Mirage Art Association, that's fun-

raising for artists, collectors and pretty much anyone who likes to rock-in a chair that is.

For the next five months, emerging and professional artists will be collecting old

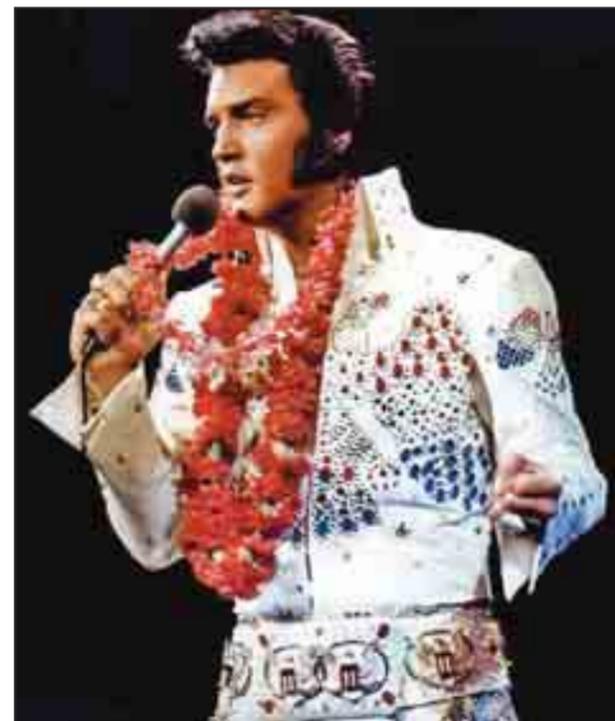
chairs, so get in there and clean out your garages and storage units, El Mirage. Easy chairs, dining room chairs, office chairs, rocking chairs, backless chairs, armless chairs...

even legless chairs; no chair will be turned away! Throughout the coming months the Art Association will be busy gathering up those dilapidated seats. Watch as these castoffs receive a second life, turned into whimsical, sometimes beautiful and often provocative works of art to be displayed around the city at various venues for a 30-day period beginning May 19, 2011.

The chairs will be unveiled at Third Thursday's Rock & Roll Celebration on May 19 at the Civic & Cultural Center. After the public art exhibit, the Art Association will host a gala at which these now collectible works of art will be auctioned off. Proceeds will benefit Arts Move El Mirage.

### Get ready to Rock & Roll

Say you're ready to Rock & Roll now! Then grab your guitar and blue suede shoes and head for the Third Thursday "El Mirage Rocks!" kick-off on Jan. 20, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at El Mirage Civic & Cultural Center.



Elvis will rock the house at Third Thursday El Mirage on January 20, 2011.

**What:** El Mirage Rocks!  
**When:** Thursday, January 20, 2011  
**Time:** 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
**Where:** El Mirage Civic & Cultural Center  
 14010 El Mirage Road  
 North of Thunderbird next to Bill Gentry Park



Turn up the volume on the juke box at dance the night away at El Mirage Rocks!

MORE ROCKS ON PAGE 8

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## MAYOR MOOK: From Page 1

our neighbors, El Mirage stands a much better chance of benefiting from regional growth and economic development.

Just as important, I believe El Mirage should demonstrate its support of our military and the dedicated men and women who serve at Luke Air Force Base. While I will always strive to put the safety of El Mirage residents first, I will also work hard to express my support for the present and future missions of Luke AFB. I do not believe that these two goals are mutually exclusive. The selection of Luke AFB as the preferred location for the new F-35 Pilot Training Center can be a win-win for all of us, especially as Luke contributes more than 8,000 jobs and approximately \$2.17 billion annually to the Arizona economy. Many of these workers live right here in El Mirage. I look forward to working with base officials and other leaders as the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process for the F-35 unfolds.

Finally, I think it is important to recognize, on behalf of each and every resident of El Mirage, that this city runs on your tax dollars. I know you work extremely hard for your money and I am committed to doing everything I can to ensure it is used wisely. In addition to working on the upcoming budget, I plan to call for a comprehensive review and analysis of our City finances over the past several years so we can learn where our inefficiencies and weaknesses are and correct them. Ultimately, this will save you money. As we work to regain solid financial footing, now is not the time to tolerate wasteful spending or poor financial management.

Thank you for your time and I hope you will continue to stay tuned to our City newsletter during the coming months as we begin our work in moving the City of El Mirage forward. Times may be tough but we are at an important crossroads and now is the time to "get going!"

Sincerely,  
Lana Mook

## MAYOR MOOK: New council members, From Page 1

El Mirage City Council as well as volunteering his time to numerous civic projects and events such as the Christmas Toy Drive, Clean Our Community program, and Habitat for Humanity, where his construction company donated the labor and materials for the construction of the basketball court in El Mirage. Councilman Ramirez grew up in El Mirage, raised his family here and plans on retiring here – this is why he believes it is so important to get informed about the daily business of our city. He invites you to learn more about the issues being discussed in El Mirage and join him in working toward promoting a more active citizenry.

Councilman James McPhetres is known for his passion and commitment to our country and our U.S. Military. Councilman McPhetres entered the United States Air Force in 1976 and during his service he was awarded the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Air Force Organizational Excellence Award, the Air Force Good Conduct Medal, the Air Force Humanitarian Award and the Air Force Achievement Medal. After leaving active duty, McPhetres has served as a full-time Air Force Reserve member and was a member of the inauguration team to start and activate the first F16 Reserve Fighter Squadron at

Luke Air Force Base. In addition, he was personally called upon by the Office of the Secretary of Defense to participate in a military human resources initiative designed to save millions of taxpayer dollars. Councilman McPhetres has received the Air Force Commendation Award and Meritorious Service Medal during his tenure in Arizona for performance of outstanding service, superior leadership, professionalism, enthusiasm and dedication. As well as coaching Little League Baseball and Youth Football for more than four years, Mr. McPhetres has served as a City of El Mirage Police Volunteer, a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee for El Mirage, and as president of his homeowners' association.

A retired businessman with more than 30 years of experience, Councilman Lynn Selby is committed to bringing a strong emphasis on economic development to El Mirage in order to bring in new tax-generating businesses. With an extensive background of managing cash flows, developing yearly budgets and managing personnel and inventory, Mr. Selby has made it a top priority to help make El Mirage into a "business friendly" community. Councilman Selby's focus on recruiting new businesses to El Mirage and supporting existing

local businesses will in turn benefit all residents through the creation of a more stable and diversified tax base. The protection of our citizens via strong, responsive and efficient public safety departments is also a high priority for Mr. Selby. The end result Councilman Selby envisions is a small-town community where its' members can live, work, shop and play.

Councilman John "Jack" Palladino has always given his time back to his community, beginning with his service as a medic in the United States Army nearly 40 years ago. After retiring from active duty, Councilman Palladino went to work for the U.S. Post Office, where he served for more than 30 years before retiring from his position as Acting Manager of one of the U.S.P.S. Boston facilities. During this time, Mr. Palladino also volunteered as a Little League Coach and with the Knights of Columbus. Shortly after retiring, he and his wife moved to Arizona and he currently works part-time with the Pueblo El Mirage Post Office. With the City of El Mirage facing extremely challenging financial conditions, Councilman Palladino is committed to exploring all avenues for improving city services while at the same time promoting increased efficiency in our local city government.

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**El Mirage News**

Published monthly by the City of El Mirage • Marianne Archibald, Publishing Coordinator  
12145 NW Grand Avenue, El Mirage, AZ 85335  
Phone 623.972.8116 Fax 623.876.4603 TDD 623.933.3258  
info@cityofelmirage.org

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# THE BLUE BYLINE

News from the El Mirage Police Department  
14405 N. Palm St. 623-933-1341, www.cityofelmirage.org/police  
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## Holiday food drive an overwhelming success

With the Thanksgiving holiday behind us, we can reflect upon the memories of generosity and kindness from our neighbors and community. The El Mirage Police Department held its 2nd annual Police Holiday Food Drive in November. Collection boxes were strategically placed throughout the city of El Mirage and 1,862 pounds of food was collected. With all the help and support from the citizens of El Mirage, 1,862 pounds of food were



With all the help and support from the citizens of El Mirage, 1,862 pounds of food were delivered to the St. Mary's Food Bank.

to recognize Riverview and Surprise Elementary School for coordinating their own food drive events

and donating the can goods to the police department in order to help with our food drive. This was the first time the police department coordinated a food drive event with the local schools and we look forward to more partnerships in the future.

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## Low crime rate in El Mirage

Thanks to the success of community partnerships and proactive policing, El Mirage has a low crime rate for fiscal year 2009/2010. The crime rate is a measurement that compares the number of crimes to the population in an area, and is calculated for both violent and property crimes. The violent crime category includes Homicide, Rape, Robbery, and Aggravated Assault, and the property crime category includes Burglary, Larceny/Theft, Motor Vehicle Theft, and Arson. Violent and property crime counts and rates are voluntarily reported to the FBI

under the UCR (Uniform Crime Reporting) program. While other crimes are tracked for the city, violent and property crimes are the standard for crime rate calculation and city comparisons.

For the 2009/2010 fiscal year, the violent crime rate for El Mirage was 2.6 and the violent crime rate was 26.5. The combined crime rate (violent and property crimes) was 29.1. This means that there were 29.1 crimes reported for every 1000 residents. This rate is

MORE THE BLUE BYLINE ON PAGE 4

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### What's a Living Will?

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

### Wills-Trusts-Estate Planning-Probate

A living will is the common, media name for a health care declaration. In a living will, a person can declare the type of medical treatment wanted at the end of life; either due to a terminal condition or because of a vegetative state or irreversible coma.

With a living will, a person can direct the type of life prolonging care to be used or avoided. For example, if it will be futile, many do not want to be placed on a breathing machine or be given artificial food and fluids. The option to die at home can also be chosen. Women can direct a desire to be kept alive if she is pregnant, so her baby can be born. Organ donor preferences can be listed. This is important since Arizona driver's licenses no longer list organ donor preference.

For more information see [www.sharonravenscroft.com](http://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](mailto:sravenscroft@cavanaghlaw.com).

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### Stay involved through social media

In an effort to provide timely information to the community, the El Mirage Police Department is taking advantage of technology. You can now follow the El Mirage Police Department on Facebook and be among the first to hear about community programs and events. Citizens can also sign up to receive notices of events, road closures, and emergency situations via email or text message by signing up at [www.Nixle.com](http://www.Nixle.com). For further information, contact Crime Analyst Aimee Currey, 623-433-9519, [acurrey@cityofelmirage.org](mailto:acurrey@cityofelmirage.org).

## THE BLUE BYLINE

### Rewards for reporting graffiti

Graffiti is a crime that affects everyone in the community. It invites other criminal activity into the community, costs money to repair and replace damaged property, and decreases property value. The El Mirage Police Department is committed to decreasing graffiti in our community. Officers vigilantly patrol the city and take reports on new graffiti. They also work closely with other city departments and property owners to insure that graffiti is quickly removed. To report graffiti in your neighborhood, call the El Mirage Police Department at 623-933-1341.

If you have information that leads to the arrest of a known graffiti vandal, you may be eligible for a reward of up to \$250. Contact the graffiti hotline at 602-262-7327 to report graffiti vandals.

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### CRIME: Low in El Mirage, From Page 3

lower than many of the other Valley agencies, including Avondale, Chandler, Glendale, Mesa, Phoenix, Tempe, and Tucson. Caution should be used in comparing city data since different cities may track, count, and report crimes differently. Even though most agencies utilize the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting standards, individual processes are subject to each departments' policies and procedures.

You can help keep crime rates low in El Mirage. Report any suspicious or criminal activity immediately. For emergency and in progress crimes, call 9-1-1, and for



Keep crime rates low in El Mirage by immediately reporting suspicious or criminal activity.

non-emergencies call 623-933-1341. Decrease your chances of becoming a victim by locking your homes, businesses and vehicles, as

well as securing other property against potential theft and/or damage. Providing criminals less opportunity will result in less crime.

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# Stop random gunfire

## A Holiday Message from Your Police Chief

As the holiday season approaches, many of us are making plans to spend time with our family and friends to celebrate the coming of the new year. Unfortunately, it's also a time when random gunfire can bring tragedy to our community.

In 1999, 14 year old Shannon Smith of Phoenix died instantly when she was struck in the head by a bullet from random gunfire. Shannon was an award winning athlete and honor student when she was killed while talking on the phone with friends while in her backyard. As a parent, I can't even imagine the pain and grief that Shannon's parents must have experienced in losing their daughter in such a senseless manner. Shannon was just one of many children and adults who have been injured or killed due to random gunfire over the years. But her death did make a difference. Shannon's parents re-focused their grief into a campaign to STOP RANDOM GUNFIRE. In July 2000, the Arizona legislature enacted "Shannon's Law", making it a felony to recklessly discharge a firearm into the air.

Please join me along with our mayor, council members, city manager, and all the men and women of the El Mirage Police Department in spreading the word among your friends, family, and neighbors to STOP RANDOM GUNFIRE!

We can all help STOP RANDOM GUNFIRE by discouraging and stopping celebratory gunfire this New Years Eve...

- Talk to your friends and family about the real dangers of random gunfire (just as in Shannon's case, every bullet fired in the air comes down somewhere)

- Call 9-1-1 to report incidents of random gunfire (The El Mirage Police Department will be out in full force on New Years Eve)

Enjoy the holidays and celebrate the New Year by helping us to discourage, prevent and STOP RANDOM GUNFIRE. We need your help to keep our community safe this holiday season.

Michael T. Frazier  
El MIRAGE POLICE CHIEF

# Para el disparo al azar

## Un Mensaje de Su Jefe De Policia Sobre Los Diaz Festivos

Con los Diaz Festivos acercandose, muchos de nosotros estamos hacienda planes para pasar este tiempo con nuestras familias y amigos para celebrar el año nuevo. Desgraciadamente tambien es un tiempo cuando el disparo al azar puede traer tragedia a la comunidad.

En 1999, Shannon Smith de 14 años de edad, de Phoenix murió al instante cuando cayo una bala de un disparo al azar. Shannon era una atleta de premio y un estudiante de honor cuando ella fue matada hablando por telefono con sus amigos en su propia yarda. Como un padre, no puedo imaginar la pena y el dolor que los padres de Shannon sintieron a perder a su hija en una manera insensata. Shannon fue sola una de muchos otros niños y adultos que han sido heridos ó matados debido al disparo al azar sobre los años. Pero la muerte de ella si hizo una diferencia. Los padres de Shannon enfocaron sus penas en una campaña para PARAR EL DISPARO AL AZAR. En Julio del año 2000, la legislatura de Arizona promulgo "La Ley de Shannon" hacienda el disparo descuidado al aire libre una felonía.

Por favor acompaÑame con nuestro alcalde, miembros del consejo de la ciudad, administrador municipal, y todos los hombres y mujeres del Departamento de Policia de El Mirage a propagar la noticia entre sus amigos, sus familias y vecinos a "PARAR EL DISPARO AL AZAR".

Todos nosotros podemos PARAR EL DISPARO AL AZAR en desanimar y parar el disparo celebratorio esta vispera de Año Nuevo!

- Habla con sus familias y amigos sobre los peligros del disparo al azar. (Asi como en el caso de Shannon, cada bala despedida en el aire se cae en algún lugar.)

- Llame al 9-1-1 a reportar incidentes del disparo al azar. (El Departamento de Policia de El Mirage estará en fuerza al máximo en la vispera del Año Nuevo)

Disfrute los Diaz Festivos y celebre el Año Nuevo, en ayudando a nosotros a disuadir evitar, y PARAR EL DISPARO AL AZAR. Necesitamos su ayuda para mentener nuestra comunidad segura estos Diaz Festivos.

Michael T. Frazier  
Jefe de Policia de El Mirage

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# Arts Move El Mirage launches Creative Aging Project

The stars are aligned for arts and aging programs to be part of the process and part of the solution. The National Center for Creative Aging (NCCA) is dedicated to fostering an understanding of the vital relationship between creative expression and the quality of life of older

people. Their understanding of aging shapes today's arts and aging field, and serves as the "blueprint" for Creative Aging El Mirage, part of Arts Move El Mirage programming to focus initiatives in 2011.

Enhancing quality of life by embedding the arts in the lives of older adults and the communities in which they live is more than a goal. It is one facet of a broader movement in the arts and aging services fields: a push toward designing or redesigning community so that the infrastructure works harmoniously to support everyone's needs as defined by all community members.

Evolving conditions for older adults in our society—including new knowledge about the aging process, demographic shifts, and increasing enthusiasm for the concept of productive aging—offer significant potential to advance the arts and aging field.

According to the National Center for Creative Aging, older adults can and should participate in the arts no matter what their age or their physical or mental ability. And not just any arts, but high-quality, participatory arts programs conducted over



**"All Things Are Possible"**  
by Corey Couterier



Learn about abstract art and artists at a free gallery lecture on Jan. 13, 2011.

## Abstract Art Talk

A gallery lecture on "Abstract Art" will take place 6:30 p.m. Jan. 13 at the Creative Industries Lounge located at the El Mirage Civic & Cultural Center. The lecture, presented by Divine Art Connection owner Kristi Vater, will touch on the history of abstract art and will talk about a variety of abstract artists and their work.

The lecture will be from 30 - 45 minutes or so in length and is free to the public.

What: Abstract Art Lecture  
When: January 13 at 6:30pm  
Where: Creative Industries Lounge  
14010 N. El Mirage Road  
Just north of Thunderbird Road  
next to Bill Gentry Park.

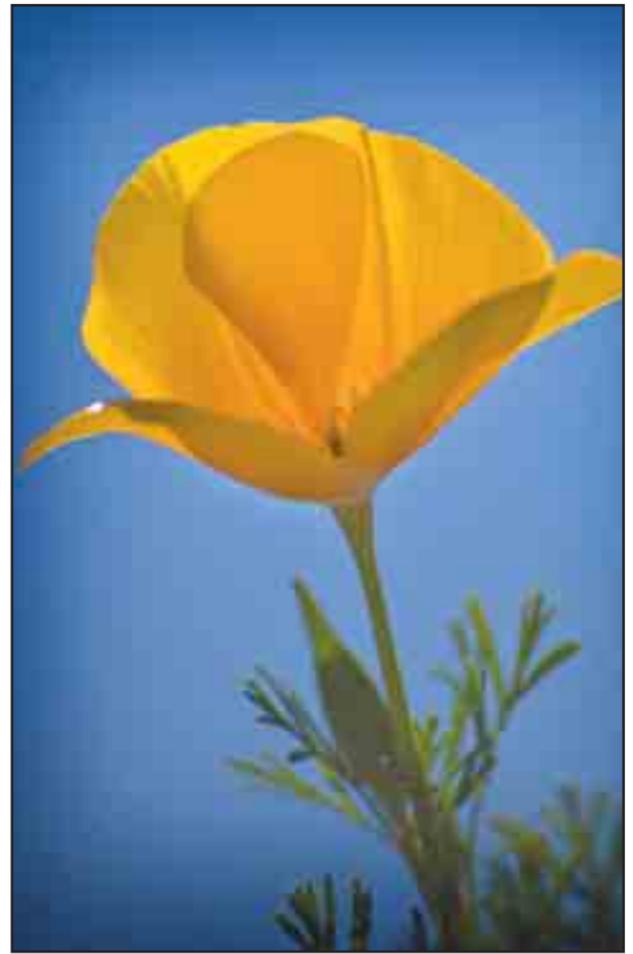


**"Iris" by David Halgrimson**

a significant period by professional teaching artists.

NCCA statics report

that the arts help all residents of a community to develop a sense of communal identity; bond



**"Poppy in the Sky" by photographer David Halgrimson.**

socially; communicate with each other across generations, income, abilities, and cultures; and

contribute to preserving or restoring social capital.

**MORE ARTS ON PAGE 8**

## Mysterious Light photography exhibit opens Jan. 20 at El Mirage Gallery

El Mirage Art Gallery is pleased to present Mysterious Light, a solo exhibition by acclaimed photographer and artist-in-residence Thomas Schultz. Exploring the medium of photography using a highly original technique, which includes radically extended exposure times, the artist "paints" the light onto each element in the frame, methodically and delicately illuminating the composition inch by inch. Using a variety of light sources and an extensive palette of colors, Schultz creates deeply luminous photographs that capture the mood and atmosphere of a moonlit night.

"I hope people are surprised at how interesting the world is from a night perspective," said Schultz.

Schultz, who leads night photography workshops and tours, said night photography captured his interest because it expands on human perception.

"Our eyes lose sensitivity to color in low light levels, but the camera sees the color that is there," he said. "And the camera can take a block of time and condense it into a single moment. Whether it's 30 seconds or two hours, the camera records that time and shows it in one image as if it were happening all at once."

**What:** Mysterious Light Photography Exhibit  
**When:** Jan. 20 - Feb. 13  
**Opening Reception:** Jan. 20, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
**Where:** El Mirage Civic & Cultural Center, 14010 N. El Mirage Road, El Mirage.  
**Info.:** [www.artsmoveelmirage.org](http://www.artsmoveelmirage.org)  
**Studio:** 623.876.4221  
**Cell:** 623.236.6405  
**Email:** [Thomas@thomasschultz-photography.com](mailto:Thomas@thomasschultz-photography.com)



**Thomas Schultz' photos capture the mood and atmosphere of a moonlit night.**

The night also presents interesting challenges.

"Night photographers generally are faced with extreme contrasts between the brightest and deep shadow areas," he said. "Finding the best exposure and what are the most important things to emphasize or highlight are the main challenges."

Mysterious Light will be on view from January 20 to February 13, 2011. Gallery hours are Saturday from 10am to 4pm. Opening reception is on Thursday, January 20, 5pm to 9pm.

Portions of this project were made possible by a grant received from the WVAC. The West Valley Arts Council exists to build audiences for all of the arts, to drive arts policy forward, and to champion arts education throughout the West Valley.

For a peek into the creative world of Thomas Schultz, visit his blog at [www.thomasschultzphotography.blogspot.com](http://www.thomasschultzphotography.blogspot.com)

For up to date information on the

exhibits, workshops and eclectic gatherings taking place at El Mirage Artist in Residence Studio & Gallery visit [www.elmiragegallery.blogspot.com](http://www.elmiragegallery.blogspot.com).

### Daylight and Moonlight

In broad daylight, and at noon,  
Yesterday I saw the moon  
Sailing high, but faint and white,  
As a schoolboy's paper kite.

In broad daylight yesterday,  
I read a Poet's mystic lay;  
And it seemed to me at most  
As a phantom, or a ghost.

But at length the feverish day  
Like a passion died away,  
And the night, serene and still,  
Fell on village, vale, and hill.

Then the moon, in all her pride,  
Like a spirit glorified,  
Filled and overflowed the night  
With revelations of her light.  
And the Poet's song again  
Passed like music through my brain;  
Night interpreted to me  
All its grace and mystery.

By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

## El Mirage chosen to host 2011 Multicultural Music Festival

The 2011 Multicultural Music Festival will take place at the new El Mirage Gateway Park February 26-27, due to construction at the Peoria Municipal Complex Amphitheater where the event has been held for the past 15 years. The festival have been voted by New Times "Best" in the valley for its unique blend of quality artistry and service to the community. Gateway Park was selected for accessibility, location and space. Over 6000 is expected to attend the 3-day festival.

The event includes performances by national recording artists: Fel Davis of Public Announcement,



Tejano Music Award winner Monica Castro will perform at the El Mirage Music Festival.

Elaine Stepter, lead singer for award winning 70's group Rolls Royce, Showtime at the Apollo winner Candice and Blues legend Bobby Rush. Local favorites from Riddle Entertainment,

Rocket 88s, New Creation, Royce Murray Band, artists from Backbone Records and others TBA.

The festival offers something for the entire family with a kid's zone, car show, food & merchandise vendors, education and health awareness information tables. Admission is: \$10 per car/ El Mirage residents are \$5 per car/\$5 for individuals.

The festival is supported by Sundome Performing Arts Association Grants for the Arts and The Northwest Black History Committee in partnership with the City of El Mirage. For more information contact: NBHC 623-204-0959

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**ARTS: Creative Aging Project,** From Page 6

**Two New Creative Aging Programs**  
 Arts Move El Mirage recently launched the Senior Center Art Gallery, a rotating exhibit curated by Kristi Vater, owner of Divine Art Connections which is located in the City's new Creative Industries Incubator. Vater installed the work of four artists that Divine Art Connections represents: Corey Couterier,

Jan Bullington, David Halgrimson and Mary Minni. "Plans are to have the artists visit the seniors throughout the month to present the meaning and process behind their works and engage in creative conversation," said Vater. New exhibits featuring new artists will be installed every six to eight weeks. Also launched was Senior Day at El Mirage Art

Gallery, a special "behind the scenes" art tour led by artist in residence Thomas Schultz on the second Wednesday of the month. "Both programs got off to a wonderful start," stated Marianne Archibald, Arts Move El Mirage Program Manager. To keep the program going strong, Archibald will attend the The Creative Arts and Aging Regional

Issues Forum on January 27 in Phoenix. The Forum, hosted by the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust, will discuss the opportunities available in the areas of arts, aging and healthcare for the Greater Phoenix area. "We intend to continue to develop and expand our Creative Aging Program," said Archibald. "Our goal is to integrate arts and aging into a synergistic model for other communities."

**EL MIRAGE ROCKS THE PLAZA:** From Page 1

Gene Styles will headline a night of Rock & Roll at El Mirage Rocks! Styles started performing 10 years ago as an Elvis Tribute Artist and has expanded his Elvis show throughout Arizona and nationwide. Just as Elvis Presley did, Styles interacts with the audience while performing and – of course – teddy bears and scarves are always being received by the Elvis fans. Attend "El Mirage Rocks" to find out why Pat McMahon of the AZTV Morning Show said that Styles, as an Elvis Impersonator, is the closest thing to Elvis Presley that he ever saw or heard. As an Elvis Impersonator, Styles has thrilled the audience as only Elvis Presley could. He captures his look and moves to make you feel as if you are watching Elvis Presley. In the last year, Styles has performed on such TV shows as The Pat McMahon talk show, on the Midday Show hosted by

Jan D'Atri on Channel 12, and the AZTV Prescott morning show, along with many other shows around the Greater Phoenix area. Get ready to rock around the clock, El Mirage! In addition to the musical lineup, you can enjoy watching a Rock & Roll dance competition, taste specialty foods, browse a wide array of arts and crafts vendors, participate in a Karaoke contest, and the grand opening exhibition of Mysterious Light at El Mirage Gallery. Mark your calendar now for Thursday, January 20, 5pm to 9pm for El Mirage Rocks! In fact, make it your New Year's resolution to mark every Third Thursday in 2011. For up to date information on El Mirage Rocks and Third Thursday events visit [www.ThirdThursdayElMirage.com](http://www.ThirdThursdayElMirage.com).

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**Nursing Assistants Class Schedule**

Morning Class (9:00 am to 1:15pm)	Evening Class (4 pm to 8:15 pm)
January 24, 2011	January 17, 2011
February 14, 2011	January 31, 2011
March 7, 2011	February 21, 2011
March 28, 2011	March 14, 2011
	April 4, 2011

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## El Mirage Branch Library January 2011 programs

All Maricopa County Library District Libraries are closed Saturday, Jan. 1 for New Year's Day &

Monday, Jan. 17 for Martin Luther King/Civil Rights Day

### CHILDREN

**SKIP ALONG STORY TIME**  
January 11, 18, 25 (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.mclad.org.

**MAGIC & BALLOONS**  
January 27 (Thursday)  
3:30 p.m.

Enjoy a magic show and balloon fun from Michelle at Magic & Balloons! Location is Dysart Community Center, 14414 N El Mirage Rd. Maricopa County Library District's El Mirage Branch Library, 14011 N. 1st Ave., El Mirage, 602.652.3000 www.mclad.org.

Enjoy a magic show and balloon fun at Dysart Community Center.

**ADULTS**  
**HOW TO CREATE AN E-MAIL ACCOUNT**  
January 19 (Wednesday)  
9:30-10:30 a.m.

Learn how to sign up for a free e-mail account, how to compose messages, send mail, and reply to and forward messages. You need to know how to use a mouse, to scroll within a screen and to enter information into text boxes for this course. Registration needed. Community Room. Maricopa County Library District's El Mirage Branch Library, 14011 N. 1st Ave., El Mirage, 602.652.3000 www.mclad.org.



Enjoy a magic show and balloon fun at Dysart Community Center.



**BYOC (Bring Their Own Cereal)** and spend the morning discovering new artwork, watching cartoons, meeting new friends, and feeling luxuriously lazy at Saturday Morning ArtToons.

### Saturday Morning ArtToons BYOC: Bring Your Own Cereal

Some of most folk's favorite childhood memories revolve around Saturday mornings. It was the height of luxury to be able to sit around in your pajamas all morning and watch your favorite cartoons after indulging in some sweet, colorful cereal for breakfast. As adults, we don't often give ourselves permission to be that lazy on Saturdays. We're too busy running the kids to soccer games, catching up on all the errands we didn't finish during the week, or popping into the office for a couple of hours to finish up a project.

Well, Thomas Schultz wants to change all that. "I think the time has come to return to the simple pleasures of our childhood, and set aside a lazy Saturday morning," said Schultz.

Schultz recently launched Saturday Morning ArtToons,

a gathering of friends, and friends-to-be, inside his Artist in Residence Studio & Gallery. Schultz provides coffee and juice. Visitors are encouraged to BYOC (Bring Their Own Cereal) and spend the morning discovering new artwork, watching cartoons, meeting new friends, and feeling luxuriously lazy.

"I want to create that same atmosphere of anticipation for Saturday morning that we all were waiting for as kids," said Schultz.

Invite your friends to join you at Saturday Morning ArtToons and see just how good it feels to be a kid again. "I promise you everyone will have fun, and you'll have little more work to do than setting out cereal boxes, toppings and milk," said Schultz.

**What:** Saturday Morning ArtToons  
**Where:** Artist in Residence Studio & Gallery; 14010 N. El Mirage Road, El Mirage  
**When:** Saturdays 9:00AM to 4:00PM  
**Info:** 623-876-4221 or 623-236-6405

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# Put a freeze on winter fires

It's a cold winter night. You decide to use a space heater, or perhaps light a fire in the fireplace, to save on the heating bill. Comfortable from its warmth as bedtime approaches you think, "What harm could it cause to leave it on overnight?"

Think again. While these heating devices may help you feel cozy and warm, they can become extremely dangerous if not

used properly. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), in 2008 heating equipment was involved in an estimated 66,100 reported home structure fires, 480 civilian deaths, 1,660 civilian injuries, and \$1.1 billion in direct property damage

Home heating fires are largely preventable when you know the rules. The El

Mirage Fire Department's goal is to reduce the number of home-heating fires in our community. But we need your help. We are urging El Mirage and West Valley families to use extra caution this winter when heating your home.

The majority of heating fire deaths is caused by space heaters!

To help keep our community safe and warm

this season, El Mirage Fire Department recommends that you follow these guidelines:

■ Space heaters need space. Keep all things that can burn, such as paper, bedding or furniture, at least 3 feet away from heating equipment.

■ Turn portable heaters off when you go to bed or

**MORE FIRES ON PAGE 11**



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- The annual household income is not over 80% of the area medium income based on family size (example: \$48,000 for a family of three)
- Have the financial ability to obtain a mortgage loan
- Must contribute a minimum of \$1,000 towards down payment and/or closing costs

**A homebuyer may qualify if all of the following are met:**

- Have not owned a home in the last 3 years
- Intend to occupy the home as the primary residence

Applications are available at El Mirage City Hall at 12145 NW Grand Ave. Currently, there is NOT a waiting list. It is on a first come, first serve basis; therefore, don't delay, apply today!

Monthly homebuyer assistance informational seminars are conveniently held on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm in the El Mirage Senior Center, 14010 N El Mirage Road, El Mirage. The next two seminars are scheduled for Jan. 11, 2011 and Feb. 8, 2011. Seating is limited, call 623-876-2959 to reserve a seat.



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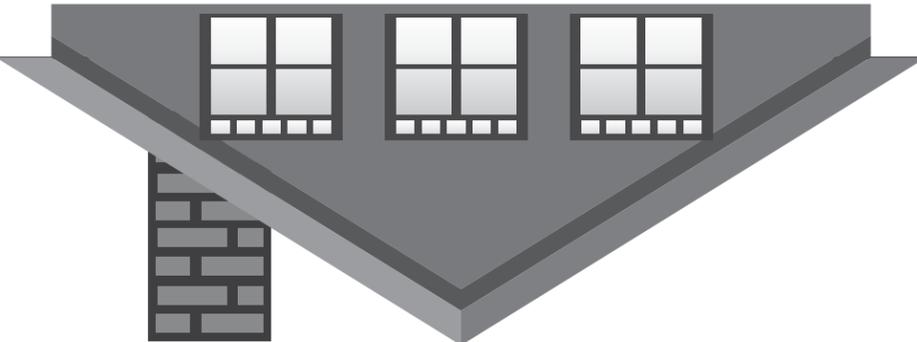
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# Fireworks use is banned in El Mirage

On October 28, 2010 the El Mirage City Council passed an ordinance banning the use of all fireworks within the City limits.

The use of fireworks was previously banned under the adopted City Fire Code; however, a new ordinance was required because of a new State Law that goes into effect on December 1, 2010, which allows the sale of certain type of "consumer fireworks" throughout the State.

Highlights of the new fireworks ordinance are:

- The sale of fireworks is prohibited to persons

under the age of 16

- The use of all consumer fireworks within the City of El Mirage is prohibited

- Violation of the ordinance is a Class 1 Misdemeanor, punishable up to \$2,500 and/or 6 months in jail.

- Additionally, anyone using prohibited fireworks that results in an emergency response will be charged for the full cost of the emergency response for providing police, fire, rescue, and emergency medical services at the scene of an incident.

"These actions were needed to preserve the safety of our community,"

said Assistant Fire Chief Howard Munding. "First off we live in a desert and experience extremely dry conditions most of the year, posing a large fire danger year round. Second is that fireworks need an ignition source, such as matches or lighters, in order to "play" with them. Common sense tells you that is not a good combination", said Munding.

Every year thousands of fires are started and people are injured or killed as the result of using fireworks. In 2008, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) documented 22,500 fires, resulting in 1

death and 40 injuries. That same year, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reported more than 7,000 people were treated in emergency departments for injuries sustained from fireworks, and more than half of those injured were children.

"My recommendation is to leave the use to the professionals," said Munding

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## FIRES: Put a freeze on fires, From A1

leave the room.

- Plug power cords only into outlets with sufficient capacity and never into an extension cord.

- Inspect for cracked, frayed or broken plugs or loose connections. Replace before using.

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. For the best protection interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home — when one sounds, they all

sound. Test smoke alarms at least once a month.

- Install and maintain a carbon monoxide alarm in a central location outside each sleeping area.

- Never use an oven to heat your home.

With simple precautions, you can help us meet our goal of decreasing home-heating fires this winter.

This safety tip is provided by the El Mirage Fire Department.

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<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$24<sup>99</sup></p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">A/C Check</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Visual inspection of drive belts, hoses &amp; pulleys. Test system for pressure &amp; leaks. Test cooling capacity</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">Coyote Tire &amp; Auto</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">With this coupon. Freon &amp; repairs additional if needed. Dye test at additional charge. Most cars &amp; light trucks. Not valid with other offers or prior services. Exp. 2-28-11. ELM</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$39<sup>99</sup></p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">2011 SPECIAL!</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Regular price \$59.95. Lube, oil &amp; filter, brake inspection. Complete vehicle inspection.</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">Coyote Tire &amp; Auto</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">With this coupon. Most cars &amp; light trucks. Disposal fee extra. Not valid with other offers or prior services. Exp. 2-28-11. ELM</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$50<sup>00</sup> OFF</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">Per Axle Brake Service</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">For sure stops, we install brake pads or shoes, resurface drums or rotors &amp; adjust drum brakes on serviced axle.</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">Coyote Tire &amp; Auto</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">With this coupon. Most cars &amp; light trucks. Not valid with other offers or prior services. Exp. 2-28-11. ELM</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$54<sup>95</sup></p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">Power Steering Flush</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Regular price \$89.99</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">Coyote Tire &amp; Auto</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">With this coupon. Most cars &amp; light trucks. Special Honda &amp; Toyota fluids extra. Not valid with other offers or prior services. Exp. 2-28-11. ELM</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$59<sup>99</sup></p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">All Wheel Alignment</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Helps prevent early tire wear with computerized accuracy, plus we inspect steering &amp; suspension. Regular price \$79.99</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">Coyote Tire &amp; Auto</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">With this coupon. Most cars &amp; light trucks. Parts &amp; shims extra if needed. Most cars &amp; light trucks. Not valid with other offers or prior services. Exp. 2-28-11. ELM</p>
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