

# El Mirage News

[www.cityofelmirage.org](http://www.cityofelmirage.org)

Vol. 3, No. 2

623-972-8116



## Community survey to determine travel patterns, transit needs

During the month of February, a survey will be conducted in El Mirage to identify the commuting patterns as well as the transit-related needs of City residents. The survey, funded through a federal Department of Transportation grant award, marks the first time residents will be asked to provide detailed information about how and when they're getting to and

from work, school, shopping, health care, and other destinations.

In addition, residents will be asked to identify their preferred modes of transportation and any special accommodations that would help make their commutes more enjoyable. Survey results will be an important resource for planning future City transit projects.

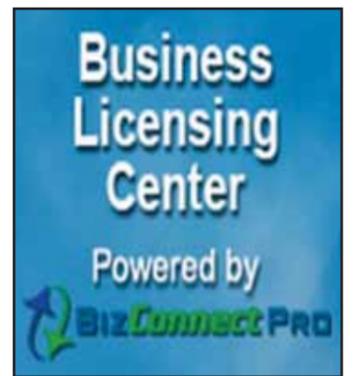
ReSEED Advisors, a transportation planning organization, was recently selected to conduct the survey among residents. Survey questions will be available in English and Spanish on the City's website at [www.cityofelmirage.org](http://www.cityofelmirage.org) and at El Mirage City Hall.

For more information, contact the City Administration Office at 623-876-2973.

## El Mirage contracts with BizConnectPro

El Mirage has contracted with BizConnectPro to provide business licensing and license renewal services. The BizConnectPro system provides a greater degree of service and convenience to the City's business community by offering licensing and renewal services on line. Users may access their business license accounts year round. BizConnectPro will process all documents, payments, and reconciliations, and its customer service representatives are available via telephone and e-mail. According to City Manager Spencer Isom, "BizConnectPro is a great example of the innovations and efficiencies the City is striving to bring to its operations."

BizConnectPro gives the City the ability to communicate directly with its business community through an infoblast feature that will keep business owners apprised of critical information that may impact their businesses. Ac-



ording to Mayor Lana Mook, "The City welcomes new businesses. We wanted to ensure that the licensing process is as convenient as possible."

In the coming months, BizConnectPro will be launching a business directory to bring a greater degree of visibility to the El Mirage business community. Businesses will be featured in up to two categories chosen by each business entity.

For more information about BizConnectPro, go to <http://www.bizconnectpro.com/elmirage.html>.

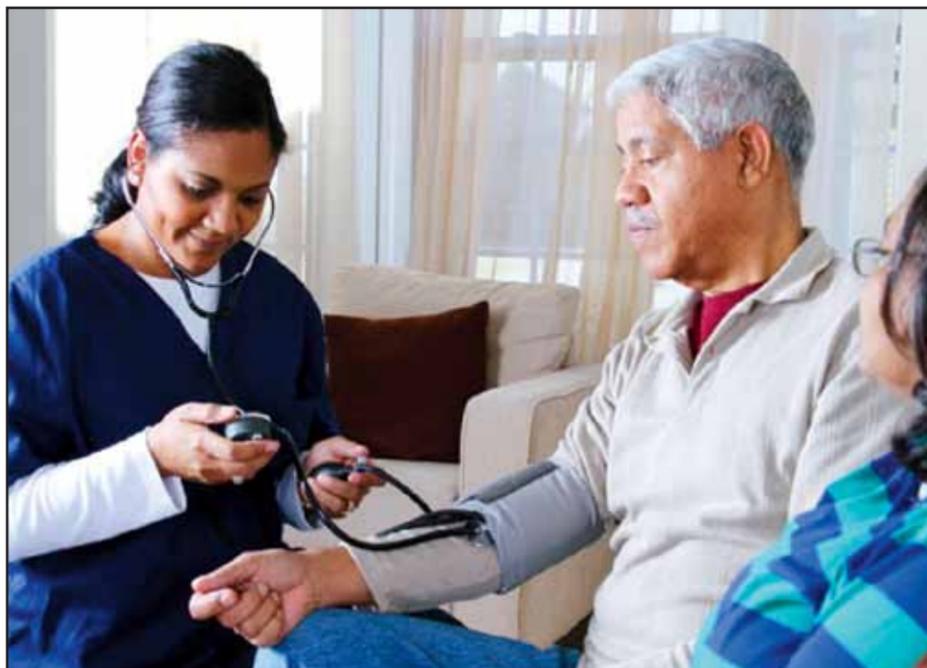
## El Mirage Family Health Center part of diabetes project

As part of the Maricopa Integrated Health System (MIHS), the El Mirage Family Health Center is participating in a new health care initiative to help prevent diabetes in seniors. MIHS has partnered with Novo Nordisk, Inc., a leader in diabetes care, and the Valley of the Sun YMCA, to identify, recruit and refer up to 100 adults age 65 and older with pre-diabetes to the YMCA's Diabetes Prevention Program. Scholarships covering participation in the program will be funded by Novo Nordisk.

The burden of diabetes is enormous on older adults in the U.S. Nearly 8 of every 10 people have either diabetes or pre-diabetes. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), approximately 27 percent of all U.S.

adults aged 65 and older have diabetes, and an estimated 25 percent of them are undiagnosed. In Arizona, where the rate of diabetes is 31 percent higher than the national average, an estimated 248,100 adults 65 and older have diabetes and another 461,000 have pre-diabetes.

"In Maricopa County, we estimate more than 250,000 older adults have pre-diabetes. Many of them could benefit from a diabetes prevention program that is available right in their communities," said Patricia Stradleigh, Registered Nurse and Manager of the El Mirage Family Health Center. "With this program, we have the opportunity to identify people at risk of developing type-2 diabetes and give them a chance to participate in their own



backyards."

Stradleigh will lead a team of care managers at seven of MIHS' 11 family health centers to assist in identifying participants for the program. To be eligible for the program, an individual must be 65 or older; overweight or

obese (defined as having a body mass index of  $\geq 25$ ); a diagnosis of pre-diabetes (defined by blood test values on the A1C (5.7 - 6.4 percent) or fasting plasma glucose of 100 - 125 mg/dl; and having an existing relationship with a primary

care provider.

The first 100 eligible seniors will have their choice of attending the YMCA's Diabetes Prevention Program on site at the El Mirage Family Health Center at 12428 W. Thunderbird Road, the Glendale Family Health Center at 5141 W. LaMar Road, or a local Valley of the Sun YMCA location. Transportation assistance is available.

Interested and eligible participants may call Patricia Stradleigh at 623-344-6505 for more information.

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## Mayor's Message: 2011 council goals in review

Last February, the City Council formally adopted a number of goals which were deemed most important in 2011 and 2012 for supporting economic development, reducing costs, increasing citizen involvement, and enhancing the quality of life for all El Mirage citizens. As I enter my second year as your mayor, I wanted to take the opportunity here to review these important goals with you, and let

you know what the City Council has accomplished with respect to each one in 2011. Listed in order of priority:

### Capital Projects

**1. Initiate Gentry Park improvements.** The project involves major renovations to the 40 year-old park, so that the quality of all renovations is consistent with the level of quality at Gateway Park.

Design of park improvements was completed last fall and all construction contracts were awarded by November. Contractors have begun removing the original fencing and dugouts. Reconfiguring the ball field is also well underway, which will improve field safety for players and spectators.

**2. Resolve culvert issues.** The project involves restricting pedestrian access to the eight existing culvert structures along the drainage wash from Dysart Road to Cactus Road.

Heavy gauge steel grates now cover nearly all culvert entrances and retaining walls are near completion. The Council expects



Mayor Lana Mook

completion of the project by the end of January.

**3. Explore connecting to the City of Tolleson waste facility.** The project focuses on completion of a feasibility study to determine the viability of connecting El Mirage's wastewater operations to the City of Tolleson's Wastewater Treatment Plant. The connection would cross the Agua Fria River.

Preliminary findings for the feasibility study were reviewed in April. Responses from contractors concerning project design are currently being evaluated.

**4. Construct a new Northwest Valley recreational facility in El Mirage.** The project would bring a multi-generational

facility to the City that will include elements for children, adults, and seniors encompassing recreation, sports, fitness, child care, and social activities for residents of El Mirage and the surrounding area.

Following voter bond approval in early November, Council members and staff toured several recreational facilities. The City then solicited contractor qualifications for architectural and engineering services, and submissions from the responding firms are under review.

**5. Construct a new police facility in El Mirage.** The project provides the Police Department with a new 20,000 square foot station that would replace the series of aging modular buildings that make up the current facility.

Once bond approval was assured, Council members and staff toured police facilities in other communities. The City solicited contractor qualifications for architectural design services and submissions from responding firms are

**MORE GOALS ON 3**

# El Mirage News

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**Health & Safety Expo**  
Friday, February 17, 2012  
9:00AM—1:00PM

The 1500+ residents of Pueblo El Mirage Golf Resort encourage you to participate in the Health & Safety Expo on February 17, 2012 in the Banquet Hall.

Complimentary Coffee & a Breakfast Bar will be available for Breakfast.

A Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad will be available for purchase for lunch.

This is a great opportunity to get acquainted with your local Health Services and Emergency Service providers.

The American Red Cross will be offering a blood drive in our local community. If you are interested in donating blood, please contact Cindy on 623-583-6092.



**THIS IS A FREE EVENT TO PARTICIPANTS AND EXHIBITORS**

Some of the agencies & exhibitors that we have asked to participate are: our local police and fire units, American Red Cross, Hospice, Maricopa Integrated Health System, Banner Health, Sky Med, Miracle Ear, and many, many others...

If you would like to participate or have questions, please contact:  
Cindy Brock - 623-583-6092  
Social Coordinator—PEMAct2@RobertsResorts.com  
11201 N El Mirage Rd - El Mirage, AZ 85335

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# GOALS: Mayor's Message: Review of goals, From 2

under review.

6. Construct a new fire station or renovate and expand the existing fire station. The Council evaluated each option proposed under this goal and determined that the fire safety needs of our growing community warranted a new station. Since the original station was built in 1997, our population has quadrupled to an estimated 32,000 residents. The original station became inadequate to accommodate the additional equipment and firefighters needed to meet the emergency needs of our citizens.

Last July, we were finally able to move ahead with construction of the new station, and it has proceeded very well since then. As of

the end of 2011, firefighters were selecting furniture and fixtures for their living quarters.

Speaking of firefighters, the Council was able to rehire 6 firefighters in 2011 who were laid off in June of 2010 by the previous Council. Through lengthy negotiations with the Federal Emergency Management Administration to preserve grant funds, along with line-item scrutiny of departmental budgets, the Council was able to restore Fire Department staffing to the level appropriate for our community.

The "fiscal crisis" declared two years ago was part of the justification used by the previous Administration to lay off the firefight-

ers mentioned above. With fiscal responsibility as its mission, the current Council provided policy direction that supported streamlining some departments and positions to significantly reduce operational overhead. By the end of 2011, these steps had helped the City turn a corner financially. We feel strongly that the City is now on the right track. A conservative budget is in place and a realistic five-year plan has been established to complete the City's most important capital projects.

7. Continue improvements along Grand Avenue. During 2011, the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) identified the Thunderbird Road/Thompson Ranch Road intersec-

tion as a priority project eligible for funding assistance. ADOT has hired an engineering consultant to complete the preliminary design and an environmental assessment.

### Other Initiatives

1. Attract businesses to existing retail center on the corner of Greenway and Dysart Roads. Based on studies involving traffic

MORE GOALS ON 8

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## El Mirage Council rescinds impact fees

In late December, the El Mirage City Council passed a resolution to rescind impact fees normally charged for expansion of infrastructure and public services on future development projects. In part, the Council action was in response to Senate Bill 1525 passed in mid-2011, which significantly limits the ability of municipalities to collect impact fees except for essential public services. In addition, the bill requires municipalities to develop new fee regulations and infrastructure

improvement plans by August 2014.

El Mirage has taken a decidedly positive approach to the bill's passage. According to Mayor Lana Mook, "The Council is pro-growth. We feel eliminating impact fees offers the City an opportunity to attract new businesses, since many neighboring communities still have these fees in place."

Removal of impact fees is part of a larger effort by Council to attract development in El Mirage.

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# FOCUS ON THE FIRE DEPARTMENT



News from the *El Mirage Fire Department*

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



## Building safety unit now part of El Mirage Fire Department

In recent months, the City's Building Safety unit was combined with the Fire Department, a move that may seem unusual at first glance. However, a closer look at what fire prevention and building safety have in common reveals that the combination makes sense.

The mission of any fire department is to prevent the loss of life and property during emergencies situations, and fighting fires is the most visible way a department fulfills this mission. Fire prevention, although not as obvious, is an equally important function of a fire department. Enforcing building and fire codes, conducting fire safety inspections, and promoting fire safety education in the community are among the ways a fire department also fulfills its mission.

A building safety unit has a similar mission - to protect the health, safety, and general welfare of the public during the construction and occupancy of buildings and other structures. Unit staff ensures that structures are designed and engineered according to current building and fire codes, and enforces these codes before, during, and after the construction process. Their responsibilities also include reviewing building plans, issuing permits, and conducting rigorous inspections.

When plans for a building are submitted to the City for review, many aspects of the building are examined in addition to structural integrity. Fire walls, fire protection systems, Fire Department



Building Inspector Paul Schechter reviews plans for the fire station under construction.

access, fire lanes, hydrant placement, proposed use, exits, occupant load, electrical, plumbing and mechanical systems are all checked for code compliance.

When a building receives a Certificate of Occupancy (C/O), the building's owner and the public are assured that the building was constructed according to applicable codes and is safe. Once the C/O is issued, the job of the building safety unit is complete in most communities. Ensuring that the building remains code compliant then becomes the responsibility of the fire department.

In El Mirage, Building Safety staff has been cross-trained and certified in the technical skills involved in fire inspections as well

as building code compliance. Therefore, they are able to assist the Fire Department in its after-construction responsibilities.

Combining the City's building safety and fire department functions into one division - the Fire, Building and Life Safety Division - supports better coordination and more comprehensive oversight of construction projects before, during, and after construction. In addition, the new division is able to offer more centralized customer service to developers, contractors, and business owners, saving them time and money.

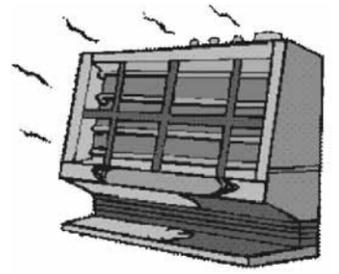
For building and fire safety questions, contact the El Mirage Fire Department at 623-593-7968.

## Home heating safety

Each winter, the high cost of home heating fuels and utilities cause many Americans to search for alternate sources of home heating. The use of wood burning stoves is growing and space heaters are selling rapidly. Fireplaces are burning wood and man-made logs. All these methods of heating may be acceptable. They are, however, a major contributing factor to home fires. According to the National Fire Protection Association, heating equipment fires accounted for 18% of all reported home fires in 2009 (second behind cooking) and 22% of home fire deaths. Additionally, space heaters - portable and stationary - accounted for 32% of home heating fires and 79% of home heating fire deaths.

Many of these fires can be prevented by identifying potential hazards and following a few safety tips:

- All heaters need space. Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away from heating equipment.
- Use heating equipment



that has the label of a recognized testing laboratory.

- Only purchase portable space heaters with an automatic shut-off, so if they tip over they will shut off.

- Plug space heaters directly into the wall outlet without the use of extension cords.

- Allow wood stove and fireplace ashes to cool before disposing of them in a tightly covered metal container. Keep the container at least 10 feet away from the house.

- Make sure all fuel-burning heating equipment is vented to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

For more fire safety information, visit [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org) and [http://www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/home\\_prev/](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/home_prev/)

## THE BLUE BYLINE

News from *El Mirage Police Department*



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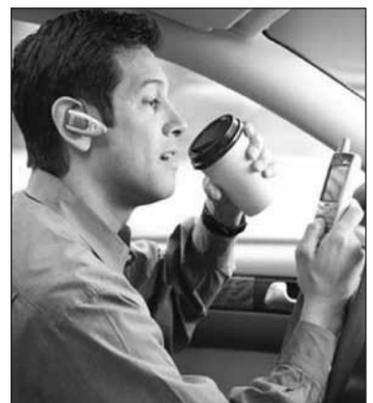


## Driving distractions can kill

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) released the results of the 2010 survey data related to car collisions, and there is convincing evidence that distracted driving kills. In 2010, an estimated 3,092 fatalities occurred in distraction-affected crashes. Distractions can include careless driving, texting, or talking on the phone when driving.

Ironically, while most drivers said they are willing to answer a call and many will send a text while driving, almost all of these same drivers reported that they would feel very unsafe as a passenger if their driver was sending or receiving text messages. More than one-third report that they would feel very unsafe if their driver was using a handheld phone.

The El Mirage Police Depart-



ment urges drivers to be distraction-free. Drivers should not use their phones or any hand-held devices when driving, since conversations are a distraction. Inexperienced drivers are particularly distracted by passengers and music.

Information obtained from: <http://distraction.gov/content/press-release/2011/12-8.html>

**MORE BLUE BYLINE ON 5**

## Be a community Hero...Learn CPR



The El Mirage Fire Department is taking reservations now for the next Community CPR class.

March 31, 2012  
9am - 1pm  
Cost: El Mirage Residents = \$10



For more information contact the El Mirage Fire Department at 623-583-7968 or [www.cityofelmirage.org/fire](http://www.cityofelmirage.org/fire)

## Community generosity supports holiday toy, food drives

This year, the El Mirage Police Department provided Christmas toys to approximately 90 children, thanks to the generosity of area residents who donated toys at drop-off locations throughout City offices and the Pueblo El Mirage community. The Police Department also "adopted" 50 residents of the El Mirage Senior Village. Residents received gifts, as well as a visit from Santa and his elves during their annual holiday lunch.



Police Department volunteer Jonathan Kacer helps sort and distribute toys.

owners Association conducted a toy and food drive of its own, with donated food going to the Valley View Community Food Bank.

Montecito Estates Home-



Members of the Montecito Estates HOA with donated toys and food items.

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**DRAGON WORLD**

# Classic cars wanted



Showcase a classic car at the Feb. 4 Friday Community Fun Fest on Feb. 24 from 6 to 9 p.m. as the theme is Blast to the Past. To participate, call Angela at 623-876-2942, or e-mail Aserda@cityofelmirage.org.



Mayor Lana Mook (left) congratulates Christy Eusebio.

## Christy Eusebio named El Mirage Employee of the Quarter

Christy Eusebio, Senior Accountant for the Finance and Technology Services Department, was named El Mirage Employee of the Quarter for the fourth quarter of 2011. Eusebio was selected by a committee of her peers, who cited the numerous revenue generating initiatives she helped develop to stabilize City revenue streams and improve operations.

In addition to her work in Finance, Eusebio led the employees' 2011 United Way campaign, enhancing contributions through weekly employee events and outreach to area businesses. She was presented a certificate acknowledging her achievements at the City Council's Jan. 12 meeting.



## Volunteers needed

Sixteen volunteers are needed for the IMS Arizona Marathon starting 7 a.m. Feb. 19. Help cheer runners on to victory while showing your hometown spirit. Call Angela at 623-876-2942 to sign up.

February 24th

6 - 9 p.m.



The City of El Mirage invites all residents and community members to attend the new 4th Friday - **Community FUN Fest!** The goal of each event is to celebrate community, culture, and art. This month, the theme is **Blast to the Past!**



**Music & Entertainment | Art | Food & Drinks**  
**Classic Car Show | Vendors | Dancing**  
**Black & White Photo Contest**



**Free Admission**  
El Mirage City Plaza  
14010 N. El Mirage Road  
Located on the northwest corner,  
Thunderbird and El Mirage Road.





Andi Welsh is introduced at the Jan. 12 City Council meeting.

## Andi Welsh, new assistant to the city manager

On Jan. 3, Andi Welsh began her new position as Assistant to the City Manager in El Mirage. She has served in local government for over ten years and comes to El Mirage after seven and a half years in Sedona as the Assistant to the City Manager and, most recently, as the Director of Community Services, and Arts & Culture. Prior to her tenure in

Sedona, she served as a management assistant in Treddyfrin Township, Pennsylvania and as an intern with the Santa Cruz, California Police Department.

Welsh holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California and a Master of Science degree in Public Administration from Villanova University. She is an active mem-

ber of the International City/County Management Association and the Arizona City/County Management Association.

Welsh will be working closely with the Mayor and Council as the City's intergovernmental relations coordinator. She will also assist City Manager Isom with public relations and special projects.



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**GOALS: Mayor's Message: Review of goals,** From 3

patterns, two new businesses chose the Dysart/Thunderbird Road intersection versus the Greenway/Dysart location and the City was happy to accommodate them.

Aaron's, Inc. opened its El Mirage location in mid-October at 13030 West Thunderbird Road. The store offers office furniture, consumer electronics, home appliances and home accessories. Around the same

time, Auto Zone opened its new store at 13050 West Thunderbird Road, selling a broad range of auto parts and accessories. As 2011 came to a close, the Valero Gas Station at the southeast corner of Dysart and Thunderbird was under construction and is expected to open for business in the coming months.

As a side note, the Council welcomed Karen's Creamery to Gateway Park this past year. We regularly hear from park visitors who appreciate not only the restaurant's location, but the quality of food items offered.

2. Work with WeMAR, Luke Air Force Base, and other organizations to increase property values and rental rates and to promote more affordable housing. First and most importantly, the Council publicly affirmed its support of Luke's mission to bring the F-35 fighter jet to Arizona and become the largest F-35 training facility in the world. El Mirage is now counted among all other West Valley cities and towns as an advocate for Luke's presence in the

West Valley as vital to our economy both now and in the future.

The Council's direct interactions with the Western Maricopa Association of Realtors (WeMar) was somewhat limited in 2011, the result of the persistently sluggish real estate market. Nevertheless, WeMar, Luke, and the Council will continue to support each other's endeavors to draw new homebuyers and new businesses to El Mirage, to build the financial strength of our community.

3. Use Fire and Police Department personnel to help improve the City's image, by encouraging public safety staff's increased involvement with residents and in community-based events and activities. The work of our Fire and Police Departments this past year to draw our community together has been nothing short of extraordinary. Their community involvement activities have included HOA meetings, picnics, facility tours and ride-alongs, as well as food and toy drives, CPR classes, children's education programs, and numer-

ous on-line tools developed to keep residents informed of public safety issues and concerns.

The Council applauds all of these efforts, and we encourage every resident to continue engaging our public safety personnel so that El Mirage remains a safe, livable City for everyone.

4. Seek partnership with Luke to locate defense contractor in El Mirage. Improving the City's relationship with Luke Air Force Base was really the Council's most important concern in 2011 and we were successful in our efforts. The partnership concerning a defense contractor will be investigated in depth during 2012.

5. Amend sign ordinance for businesses making it more compatible to the needs of small and existing businesses in El Mirage.

Last April, the City Council approved an ordinance (No.11-04-05) allowing businesses greater latitude regarding the types of signs they could use to promote their products and services. The Council continues to actively seek

**MORE GOALS ON 9**

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# GOALS: Mayor's Message: Review of goals, From 8

ways that make El Mirage an appealing place to do business.

6. Digital signs at Gateway Park and along Grand Avenue. Last fall, the Council approved installation of a digital billboard at Gateway Park to inform passing motorists about the many events and activities taking place in our City. In recent weeks, the Council also approved two digital billboards to be constructed along Grand Avenue. These billboards offer long-term revenue potential for the City, since they can be leased to outside entities for advertising purposes.

The following are more long-term projects that continue to require significant Council attention as we enter 2012:

- Utility Rates. An in-depth study of all utility rates charged to our residents resulted in Council approval of a long-range plan to stabilize rates and bring much needed curbside recycling to our City. Rates will continue to be monitored to ensure that they support the services and infrastructure for which they were intended.

- El Mirage Road. El Mirage Road is to be improved as a road of regional significance to three lanes in each direction from Northern Avenue to Gateway Park and two lanes in each direction from Gateway Park to Thunderbird Road. Costs will be shared among project partners (El Mirage, Maricopa County, and the Maricopa Association of Governments). The project will be constructed in phases over the next several years. El Mirage Road includes improvements to Thunderbird Road and a connection to Grand Avenue. Downtown areas are scheduled to include wide sidewalks and buried power lines.

- Community Events. During 2011, the City inaugurated several new community events:

- 4th Fridays, 60th Anniversary Celebration, Spring Music Festival, Easter Egg Hunt, Christmas Tree Lighting and Pancake Breakfast. The Council will continue to pursue additional ways to broaden the sense of community that is so important to making El Mirage a great place to live.

- Community Garden and Farmers Market. The Council received several comments from residents and others during 2011 about the prospect of developing a community garden and farmers market in the City. As a result, the southeast corner of Thunderbird and El Mirage Roads was set aside as the project site and an irrigation system installed by the City's Public Works Department. In recent months, the City has been the beneficiary of several donations for the garden including approximately 50 trees, railroad ties for garden boxes, and bricks for a seating area. This spring, the Council will be working closely with staff and residents so that gardeners can begin growing their own fruits and vegetables at the site. The long-term opportunities for community development presented by this project are many.

- Citizen Advisory Committees. Seven citizen advisory committees were instituted during the 4th quarter of 2011 to give residents expanded opportunities to work with the Council on

various community issues. The focus of the individual committees are home improvement/revitalization, parks and recreation, public safety, senior services, water and energy conservation, El Mirage history, and the community garden/farmers market.

Each committee, spearheaded by a Council member, will be responsible for meeting specific goals annually.

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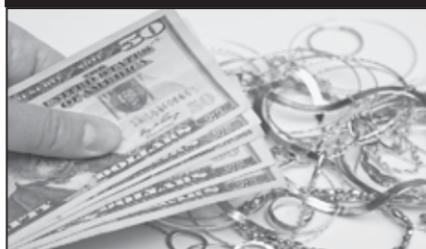


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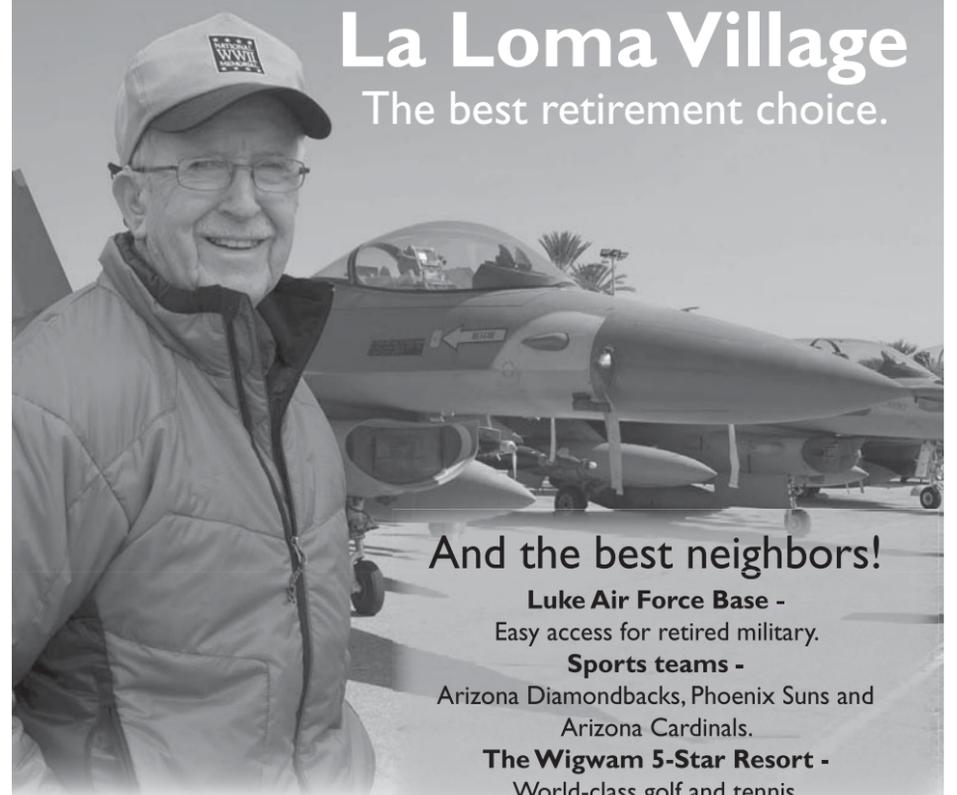
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# The hits just keep on rolling: A book review by Mark L. Smith

Let's start the New Year with a bang (or two or three). I had some extra time off this holiday season that allowed me to read a few new novels by some of my favorite authors. I know I have reviewed books by two of these authors before, but their newest books are worth the added billing.

The first of these is Nicholas Sparks's *The Best of Me*. Sparks is best known for his first novel *The Notebook*, but all of them that followed are equally well written, each with its own twists of tragedy and romance. This last one carries on the tradition of portraying young lovers in a small town in North Carolina (Spark's home and favorite venue) who are driven apart by their families, but end up going home for the funeral of a mutual friend and wondering if this is their second chance. As in his former books, Sparks takes us deep into the psyche of each character, their inner struggles and desires, and their outer relationships with each other. And as in his other novels, the story is filled with the emotion and ironies of everyday life and human relations.

The second novel is *Kill Me If You Can*



by James Patterson. Patterson is a prolific writer with multiple series and co-authors, all full of suspense. His newest novel is no exception. It tells the story of a young New York artist and his newfound girlfriend, caught up in a hired killing spree for stolen diamonds. He ends up with the diamonds and risks his life and hers to hold onto them. The action takes them to Paris, Venice, Amsterdam, and back again to New York, with alternating scenes of romance and adventure and more twists than a sack full of snakes.

The third novel is the second in a new series by Richard Paul Evans, the author of *The Christmas Box* and related stories. The first, *The Walk*, chronicles the misadven-

tures of a Seattle man who loses his wife, his home, and his business in rapid succession and contemplates suicide. When a voice tells him to stop, he decides to leave town and embarks on a cross-country trek from Seattle to Key West because Key West is the farthest point on the map. He only makes it as far as Spokane when a violent encounter leaves him fighting for his life. The second book, *Miles to Go*, finds him giving back by helping a few others who are struggling in silence in their own lives while he recovers from his own ailments to resume his life on the road.

These and other books and audiovisual materials await your discovery or rediscovery this new year at your local El Mirage Branch of the Maricopa County Library System.

Don't forget to join the local chapter of Friends of the Library so we can keep quality materials available to all. Join us at the next meeting of the Friends of the Library 1:30 p.m. Jan. 24, or look us up at the next Fourth Friday at the El Mirage Civic Plaza at 5 p.m. on Jan. 27.

## American Cancer Society will hold free Relay For Life March 31

The Relay For Life supports all forms of cancer research. At Relay, teams of people camp out at a local high school, park, or fairground and take turns walking around the track. Each team has someone on the track at all times during the event. Because cancer never sleeps, Relays continue overnight.

This year's event for the cities of El Mirage, Sun City West, Youngtown and Surprise will be held at Valley Vista High School on the outdoor track. The event opens to the public at 10 a.m. with fun and food for people of all ages. The official opening ceremony will begin at 3 p.m. with the survivor and caregiver lap at 3:30 p.m. Entrance to the public closes at 11 p.m.

A free dinner for survivors and their caregivers will be provided by Texas Roadhouse Restaurant and will begin at 6 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Registration for the free dinner is required.

The luminaria lap remembering those who are still fighting or have lost their fight will begin at 9 p.m.

Everyone is invited. Join a team or start your own, register as a survivor or caregiver, become a sponsor or a vendor for the event online at <http://main.acsevents.org>, or call 800-227-2345.

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All Maricopa County Library District libraries will be closed Monday, Feb. 20 for Presidents' Day

**CHILDREN**

**SNOWFLAKE STORY TIME:** 10 a.m. Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28, meet in the Community Room and enjoy fun stories and silly songs for children ages 1 to 5 years and their caregivers.

**ARIZONA'S BIRTHDAY PARTY AND TRIVIA:** 4 p.m. Feb. 16, ages 8 and older can meet for trivia, refreshments and the Grand Canyon Game to celebrate the Arizona.

**ALL AGES**

**FRIENDS BOOK SALE:** 6 p.m. Feb. 24, get great deals on gently used books and movies! Includes Spanish and Large Print. Located at the El Mirage Civic and Cultural Center, right next to the library.

**ADULTS**

**FRIENDS OF THE EL MIRAGE LIBRARY:** 1:30 p.m. Feb. 28, help support the El Mirage Library. New members welcome.

**INTRODUCTION TO E-BOOKS:** 1:30 P.M. FEB. 29, use a beginner's guide to downloading digital books, audio, and video from the library. Check out a few devices that day, or bring in your own. Program is limited to questions about digital books, and will not address specific technical questions about each device. Registration recommended.

**DYSART COMMUNITY CENTER**

**14414 N. El Mirage Rd.**  
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**COMPUTER BASICS:** 6 to 8 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, Learn computer basic skills: Microsoft Word, Internet and creating an email account. Price is \$25.

**CITIZENSHIP EXAM PREPARATION CLASSES:** Wednesday Nights. Cost is \$25. Learn the information to prepare to test for the U.S. Citizenship exam.

**GED :** 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday; 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Monday through Tuesday. Prepare for the GED exam. Price is \$30.

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To register, contact Susie at [susier@dysart.com](mailto:susier@dysart.com)

**AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM:** 1 to 7 p.m. Mondays; 3 to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, Kindergarten through high school youth and teens after school

program. Cost is \$1 per day drop-in rate, or \$20 per month. Contact Priscilla Pena at [priscillap@dysart-communitycenter.org](mailto:priscillap@dysart-communitycenter.org), or 623-583-2137.

**WE NEED YOU:** Volunteers needed to teach English as a Second Language. Requirements are two hours per week, patience, and willingness to teach others. Contact Susie Ratley at [susier@dysart-communitycenter.org](mailto:susier@dysart-communitycenter.org), or 623-974-4156 for more information.

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<b>February 4-5</b> <b>Ramada Inn Peoria</b>	<b>BUY!</b>	<b>Peoria</b> <b>8599 W. Grand Ave.</b>
<b>February 18-19</b> <b>Glendale Civic Center</b>	<b>SELL!</b>	<b>Glendale</b> <b>5750 W. Glenn Dr.</b>
<b>March 3-4</b> <b>Ramada Inn Peoria</b>	<b>TRADE!</b>	<b>Peoria</b> <b>8599 W. Grand Ave.</b>

SHOW WILL FEATURE ANTIQUE FIREARMS, BLACK POWDER FIREARMS, MODERN FIREARMS, OLD WEST MEMORABILIA, GUN CLEANING SUPPLIES, GUN PARTS, GUN ACCESSORIES, KNIVES, INDIAN ARTIFACTS, JEWELRY, BOOKS AND MUCH MORE!  
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# Facts and community questions regarding photo enforcement

In an effort to promote driver safety, El Mirage implemented a photo enforcement program two years ago utilizing both speed and red light cameras, as well as a mobile speed enforcement vehicles.

The fixed red light photo system has sensors embedded in the roadway which are connected via computer to the intersection traffic signals. When the red light is cycled, the sensors detect vehicles which enter the intersection while the light is red. Photographs are taken of the violation and the registered owner is cited. During red, amber and green cycles, the same sensors measure the speed of vehicles entering the intersection, and citations for excessive speed violations are also issued.

Locations for photo enforcement:

- El Mirage Road and Northern Avenue
- El Mirage Road and Olive Avenue
- Thunderbird Road and 129th Avenue
- Grand Avenue (US 60) and Primrose Street

The following questions and corresponding answers are provided by the El Mirage City Court to help drivers understand the citation process:

**Q.** I received a citation two years ago. Why is my license being suspended now?

**A.** When the Photo Enforcement System first became active, the Court had no personnel to track all of the citations for which people did not appear. The Court added a new position in 2011 to begin processing and defaulting these cases, and the Arizona Motor Vehicle Division began

sending suspension notices near the end of 2011.

**Q.** Why was my license suspended?

**A.** Your license has been suspended due to failure to appear and respond to a Photo Enforcement citation issued by the El Mirage Police Department. Either you were personally served with a copy of the citation, or a person in your household was served. The Court has received a document called "Proof of Service" which explains who received the citation. A copy of the proof of service will be provided to you upon your request. If you or someone in your household was served, and you did not respond to the ticket, then you are responsible for paying the ticket, whether or not you were the driver. Your driver's license will not



be reinstated unless the fine is paid in full.

**Q.** I was not the driver. Why do I have to pay the citation?

**A.** If you were not the driver, the citation provided instructions on how to nominate (name) the person who was the driver. If you did not follow the instructions to properly nominate the driver prior to the date you were required to appear in Court, then you will be considered to have failed to appear. This means you no longer have the opportunity to dispute the ticket,

or have a trial, or nominate another driver.

**Q.** I was never served a summons to appear in court. How can I be responsible?

**A.** The proof of service contains a sworn statement from the process server who delivered the citation and documents to you or someone at your residence. This sworn statement is proof that you or someone in your household was served. If you believe that the process server has committed the crime of perjury by swearing falsely to the statement, then you should report that crime to the police. The Court does not investigate, charge, or arrest people for committing crimes.

**Q.** Can I get a payment plan, get my fine reduced, or get a restricted license until the fine is paid off?

**A.** The Court cannot remove your license suspension until the fine is paid in full. The Court cannot remove the additional collection and default fees which were added after you failed to appear. The Court cannot issue a restricted or work-only license. You may make payments on the amount owed at any time, but your license will not be re-instated until the entire amount is paid.

**Q.** How do I dispute my suspension/citation?

**A.** Challenges to license suspension or default of the citation must be in writing and explain the reasons why the Court action should be reversed.

Contact the El Mirage City Court at 623-815-2186 for additional information.

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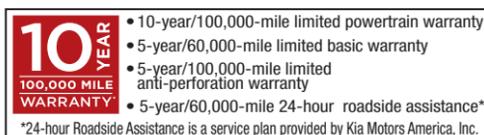
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