

West Valley VIEW

The community newspaper of Avondale, Buckeye, Goodyear, Litchfield Park & Tolleson, AZ
Phone (623) 535-8439

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Monday, November 30, 2009

11/27/2009

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Community Notes: November 27, 2009

Goodyear dentist collecting food, toy donations

Hilgers Orthodontics is collecting non-perishable food items and new, unwrapped toys through Dec. 17.

The Goodyear business, at 1646 N. Litchfield Road, Suite 210, will then turn all donations over to the Agua Fria Food Bank and Toys for Tots.

Hilgers is open from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Avondale firefighters collecting toys, clothing

Avondale firefighters will be collecting new toys and clothing to benefit needy children during the holiday season.

Donations will go to the Lions Club and the Agua Fria Food Bank, who will distribute them to families throughout the community, firefighters said.

From Nov. 30 through Dec. 10, unwrapped toys and clothing may be dropped off from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday at the Avondale Fire Station, 1825 N. 107th Ave., or at Avondale City Hall, 11465 W. Civic Center Drive.

Donations also may be left with firefighters from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Dec. 5, 6, 12 and 13 and all weekend days in front of the Kohl's department store, on the northeast corner of McDowell and Dysart roads.

EMCC leader to attend Leadership Institute

Clay Goodman, vice president of occupational education at Estrella Mountain Community College, was selected by a national review panel as one of 33 community college leaders to attend the Executive Leadership Institute sponsored by the League for Innovation in the Community College. The participants hold senior-level leadership positions in community colleges throughout the United States, Canada and New Zealand.

Avondale seeks input on city's 5-year plan

Avondale is seeking input for the five-year 2010-15 Consolidated Plan, a document that identifies housing and community development needs of low-income and special needs people and prescribes strategies to address them accordingly.

The Annual Action Plan within the Consolidated Plan describes activities that will be undertaken during the fiscal year using Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to meet the needs in the Consolidated Plan.

Avondale, AZ

50 °F / 10 °C

Mostly Cloudy
at 8:50 AM

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The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has allocated about \$500,000 in CDBG funds and \$190,000 in Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME) funds to Avondale for fiscal year 2010, which begins on July 1, 2010, and extends through June 30, 2011.

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Public participation and input is requested as a means to help assess the needs in the community by which the funds are allocated through the duration of the plan.

Jobs at the View

The public can participate in an online survey at www.avondale.org/conplan, or take the survey in person; survey forms are available at the Avondale Community Center and Avondale libraries.

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The public is also invited to participate in several public meetings. The next public participation meeting is at 6 p.m. Nov. 18 at Avondale City Hall, 11465 W. Civic Center Drive. The meeting will include a special report by the University of Arizona's Drachman Institute, which will present its survey findings on demographic, housing and visual conditions in the Old Town Revitalization area.

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For information, contact Andrew Rael, CDBG Manager, at 623-333-2715 or via e-mail at arael@avondale.org.

Avondale offers winter break camps

The Avondale Recreation Division is offering programs to keep children occupied during winter break.

Camp P.L.A.Y programs are open for children ages 5 to 12 and are offered Monday through Thursday for the weeks of Dec. 21 and Dec. 28.

Youths can be registered for separate 1.5 hour programs such as Winter Warm Up - Sports and Games, Creative Freeze - Arts and Crafts, Snow Days Science or Club E.L.F. (Enrichment with Literature and Film).

There is also the option to register for them all to have a full day camp experience.

Cost for each Camp P.L.A.Y Winter Break Camp class is \$20 per week for Avondale residents; \$25 per week for non-Avondale residents.

Registration after Dec. 12 is subject to a late registration fee of an additional \$5 per course. If your child registers for the entire day, he or she will be asked to bring a sack lunch, as lunch is not provided as part of the program.

Program dates and times are designed to give parents a chance to get last minute shopping done and get ready for the holidays.

Different classes are offered during each week of camp. The following times and sessions are available:

Winter Warm Up - Sports and Games Camp: 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Creative Freeze - Arts and Crafts Camp: 9:45a.m to 11:15 a.m.

Snow Days Science Camp: 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Club E.L.F. (Enrichment with Literature and Film): 2:15 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Avondale Camp P.L.A.Y Winter Break Camp is hosted at Avondale City Hall.

For more information or to register, go to <http://www.avondale.org/prld>, call 623-333-2400, or visit the recreation office in person at Avondale City Hall, 11465 W. Civic Center Drive.

Public input requested for General Plan 2030

Avondale wants your input for its General Plan 2030 update.

The General Plan is a comprehensive, long-range statement of goals and related policies

that guides physical, economic, and environmental growth and revitalization of a city.

It acts as a blueprint for future growth and development by guiding the city's day-to-day decision-making for land use and city services.

Municipalities are required by the state legislature under the Smart Growth Plus legislation to update their General Plans every 10 years. However, updating a General Plan does more than just meet legal requirements. It is a statement of a community's values, and a vision for Avondale's future growth and evolution.

In Avondale, the community, state agencies, and city staff will help guide the planning process through a series of stakeholder meetings.

Residents are asked to take a moment and complete a survey online:
www.avondale.org/generalplan.

There is an option to also take the survey in person by visiting an Avondale library for a paper copy.

These public participation surveys will be made available until January.

For more information, visit the General Plan 2030 Web page at
www.avondale.org/generalplan or contact Stacey Bridge-Denzak at 623-333-4015.

Fighter Country Partnership receives grant

Fighter Country Partnership, an advocacy group for Luke Air Force Base, was selected to receive grant funding from the Tohono O'odham Nation.

It was awarded \$55,000 to provide assistance to the Luke Airman's Fund, expand the community education program for the base and provide critical information technology upgrades.

The decision issued by the Tohono O'odham Nation came Sept. 14 and is part of its revenue sharing agreement with the state, in which it provides direct support to dozens of local governments and community programs each year.

Fighter Country helped launch the Luke Forward campaign last month to create awareness about Luke Air Force Base's mission to secure the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter.

Almost 10,000 people have already registered their support on the Web site,
www.lukeforward.com.

Goodyear gives for the holidays

The Goodyear Fill-A-Need program is gearing up and getting ready to help brighten the holiday season by helping to connect families in need with the generous gifts and donations made by city of Goodyear employees, residents and local businesses.

The program traditionally provides gifts for children such as toys, clothing and school supplies.

Donations are being accepted through Dec. 19.

Citizens, businesses and civic organizations are encouraged to participate in the program by donating items such as new unwrapped toys, money, holiday gift wrapping supplies and services. Cash donations are welcomed as are compliment discounts given by retailers.

Donations of items and cash can be made in person at Goodyear City Hall, 190 N. Litchfield Road.

Donated items should remain unwrapped.

Checks can be made payable to Adopt a Family. Donate in person, or mail to Goodyear City Hall, 190 N. Litchfield Road, Goodyear, AZ, 85338.

All donations and purchased items are wrapped and personally delivered by volunteers.

In 2008, more than 80 families experiencing crisis or extreme financial difficulty were served through this program.

To learn more about contributing to the program call 623-882-7113.

Be an angel for a Buckeye child this holiday season

Sponsor a child this holiday season by choosing a tag on a Salvation Army Angel Tree located at any of the following places in Buckeye:

Buckeye Chamber of Commerce, 508 E. Monroe Ave.; Cracker Barrel Old Country Store, 606 S. Watson Road; National Bank of Arizona, 219 N. Fourth St.; and M&I Bank, 1160 S. Watson Road.

Angel Tree tags represent Buckeye-area children whose parents have applied for assistance.

Tags will include gender and age along with gift suggestions for the child.

Ages range from newborn to 12 years old.

Sponsors can choose a tag, buy new toys or clothing for the child and return it unwrapped to the local business where the tree tag was selected. Children are often part of larger families, so we ask that rather than buy an abundance of gifts for one child, consider taking additional tags.

For more information or to learn how to donate toys or make a cash contribution, call the CAP office at 623-349-6600.

School seeks donations for toy, food drive

The Goddard School in Goodyear will begin a holiday toy and food drive for victims of domestic violence starting Dec. 4.

Donated items will go to the New Life Center in Goodyear. In addition to toys, residents in the Goodyear and surrounding areas can drop off food, clothing, and household items that will be distributed to families in their community who are affected by domestic violence.

For more information on The Goddard School holiday drive call 623-536-8185.

Grant deadline nearing

Soroptimist International of Estrella, a service organization striving toward improving the lives of women in the community, is offering two grants this fall.

The Violet Richardson award is given to a girl age 14 to 17 who volunteers in her community. The winner receives \$500 and the organization she helps also receives \$500.

Applications can be obtained by calling 623-935-5300. They must be filed by Dec. 1.

The Women's Opportunity Award is granted to a woman who is the head of her household and is attending or has been accepted into an undergraduate or vocational skills training program to improve her job status. The grant is valued at \$2,000 and may be used toward any cost associated with her effort such as books, child care and other expenses.

Applications may be obtained by calling 623-935-5300 and must be received by Dec. 1.

Historian recognized for work in Buckeye

Buckeye resident Verlyne Meck, author and historian, was chosen as a "2009 Arizona Culturekeeper."

She was selected from more than 100 applicants to receive the honor, awarded to 10 individuals in Arizona who are working to preserve the state's history.

Ten people have been recognized each year since 2003, when the annual program was created by longtime Valley philanthropist Katherine Herberger and under the direction of Arizona's official State Historian, Marshall Trimble.

Meck will be recognized in a naming ceremony at The Westin Kierland Resort and Spa in Scottsdale on Dec. 20.

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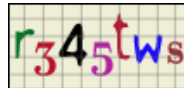
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