

West Valley VIEW

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

Tuesday, January 04, 2011

Community Notes January 4, 2011

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Buckeye academy offered

Interested in learning more about how the town of Buckeye operates? Considering serving on the Town Council, its boards or commissions, or pursuing some volunteer opportunities in the future?

Wish to learn more about the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station and the possibility of the F-35 fighter being assigned to Luke Air Force Base?

Then check out the Buckeye Leadership Academy. Formed six years ago with a partnership among the town of Buckeye, the Buckeye Valley Chamber of Commerce and APS, the academy encourages the development of new leaders who will serve the town in a myriad of roles.

The academy offers citizens the opportunity to learn more about town services, gain an awareness of town and community needs and resources, prepare for some form of public service and build new relationships, officials said.

Presenters at the academy include some outside organizations, including representatives from Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, Luke AFB, the Buckeye Water Conservation & Drainage District and Estrella Mountain Community College.

The 12 Thursday night sessions begin Feb. 10 and end with a graduation dinner on April 28. Participants will hear from the mayor, Town Council members and the town attorney at the first meeting.

Also presenting detailed descriptions of their departments during the remaining 10 sessions will be the town manager, town clerk and the directors of finance, human resources, information technology, police, fire, community development, community services, economic development, water resources and public works.

Class sizes will be limited and applicants must be willing to commit to attending all 12 sessions. Applications must be received by Jan. 15.

To receive an application for the academy, which is free and open only to town of Buckeye residents, call Deanna Kupcik at 623-386-2727, or e-mail Deanna@buckeyevalleychamber.org.

The application can also be downloaded from the chamber Web site: www.buckeyevalleychamber.org, filled out and then faxed to Kupcik at 623-386-7527.

Free sand bags available

Weather-watchers are preparing for heavy winter rains during the next few days, and Goodyear residents are encouraged to stock up on sand and sand bags to protect their homes and property from runoff water.

Residents can pick up sand bags, fill them with sand, and take them home for personal use. Shovels are not provided, so residents are advised to take their own. Sand bags are in refuse containers next to the sand piles and available at the north end of the Goodyear Community Park parking lot, 3151 N. Litchfield Road, and at Roscoe Dog Park, 15600 W. Roeser Road, west of Estrella Parkway south of MC 85.

Free sand and sand bags are provided to residents courtesy of the Goodyear Public Works Department.

Avondale offers name recognition opportunities

Avondale's Recreation Division provides a sponsorship program offering banner placement at Festival Fields and Friendship Park. Community businesses and organizations are invited to promote their name to thousands of park visitors, and support Avondale's parks at the same time.

Avondale Recreation is dedicated to providing opportunities to everyone to participate in programs designed to build school, character, and good sportsmanship. Every season, tens of thousands of community members - more than 500,000 annually - participate and compete in organized sports at Avondale parks. In order to keep field use fees as affordable as possible, Avondale Recreation must offset expenses with contributions and donations. By making a donation or sponsoring a city of Avondale park, businesses and organizations are contributing to the promotion of open spaces to play, and making a difference in the community.

Sponsorships are \$500 per business or organization for a six-month period. Participating businesses will have the name of their organization placed on a customized 4-foot by 8-foot banner, which will be hung at one of the designated parks for thousands of community members and park visitors to see. Sponsorships are limited; deadline for sponsoring is Jan. 15 for February through July. For information, or to reserve a banner in your organization's name, contact Avondale Recreation at 623-333-2400. More information and applications are available online at www.avondale.org/sponsorship.

Registration open for winter softball tourney

Avondale announces a men's and coed slow pitch softball tournament at Festival Fields, scheduled for Jan. 15 and 16. All league and community teams are welcome. The tournament is a double elimination. Prizes for first, second and third place are based on 12 teams in each division. The tournament is organized, conducted and administered under modified USSSA guidelines.

Advanced registration is required. The deadline to register is Jan. 13. The cost is \$250 per team. If paying on the day of the tournament, the fee is \$275. Those teams, however, must still call and pre-register.

Festival Fields is at 101 E. Lower Buckeye Road in Avondale. Register in person at the Avondale Recreation office or online. Avondale Recreation is at Avondale City Hall, 11465 W. Civic Center Drive. For information, visit www.avondale.org/sports or call 623-333-2400. Office hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Avondale opens T-ball, Coach Pitch registration

The city of Avondale is accepting registrations for its youth coed T-ball and Coach Pitch leagues. Children will have the opportunity to learn the basic skills of baseball in a fun, safe, recreational atmosphere. T-ball is open to children ages 4 to 6, while Coach Pitch is open to children ages 6 to 8. If a participant is 6 years old, he or she must have played T-ball in order to participate in Coach Pitch.

Games for the T-ball league will take place on Mondays; games for Coach Pitch will take place on Wednesday nights beginning the week of Feb. 7. The session will last eight weeks total with six weeks of games. Practice may be at Festival Fields and/or Friendship Park, and offered on weekends Monday through Thursdays, depending on registration. All games will be held at Avondale Friendship Park, 12325 W. McDowell Road. Deadline to register is Jan. 20. Volunteer coaches are needed for both leagues.

The fee for early registration is \$40 per resident and \$48 per non-resident. For registration after Jan. 13, the fee is \$50 per resident and \$58 per non-resident.

Register in person at the Recreation Office or online. The recreation office is at Avondale City Hall, 11465 W. Civic Center Drive. Call 623-333-2400, or visit www.avondale.org/sports.

League sponsorships now available in Avondale

Organizations can now have their names emblazoned on the shirts of Avondale's youngest athletes. Avondale's Recreation Division is announcing sponsorship opportunities for its 2011 Winter/Spring T-ball and Coach Pitch Leagues. Community businesses and organizations are invited to support youth sports programs and promote their name at the same time.

Avondale Recreation is dedicated to providing youths with opportunities to participate in programs designed to build skills, character and good sportsmanship. Every season, the city provides hundreds of girls and boys the opportunity to participate and compete in organized sports. In order to keep registration as affordable as possible, Avondale Recreation must offset expenses with contributions and donations. By making a donation or sponsoring Avondale's youth sports programs, businesses and organizations will not only be contributing to a youth league program, but will also help to make a difference in the community.

Sponsorships are \$250 per team per season. Participating businesses will have the name of their organization placed across a team league uniform for hundreds of community members to see. Sponsorships are limited to 32 teams. The deadline to reserve sponsorship for the winter league is Jan. 27 and March 24 for the spring league. For information or to make a sponsorship reservation, contact Avondale Recreation at 623-333-2400. Space is limited and is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Organizers: Shanty Irish event deemed a success

The 10th annual Jim McCoy Family "Shanty Irish/Great American" charity golf tournament, benefiting the Boys and Girls Club, was recently held at the Palm Valley Golf Club in Goodyear.

This year, 35 men and women golfers participated for prizes awarded in three separate flights, which were selected by handicap. Gift certificates were also given for closest-to-the-pin shots and for the longest drives. Many door prizes were also won by the gathered players at the luncheon served after the round of competition.

As in previous years, a special person was named as the honoree for the tournament. This time it was Bill Arnold, former mayor of Goodyear, who was selected to be honored. The master of ceremony and former Goodyear City Manager Stephen Cleveland, as well as Goodyear Vice Mayor Joe Pizzillo and Tolleson Mayor Adolfo Gamez recognized Arnold for his many contributions to the west side. A letter of commendation was sent from Litchfield Park Mayor Tom Schoaf.

As for the outcome of the competition, John Kobierowski was the Top Golfer, scoring a low gross score of 56 on the Lakes Course. He received from Jim McCoy the Champions Trophy on which his name, as medalist, will be engraved.

In the women's flight, Mary Liotta took first place; Carol Peterson came in second; and Analee Emery, visiting from New Zealand, placed third.

The men's "A" flight was won by Scott McDonald; Gamez was the second-place finisher; and Bill Strain gained third.

In the "B" flight, Dan Pareja was the first-place winner; Scott Kossoudji placed second; and Jerry Michaeletz came in third.

Susana Pacheco of the Avondale branch of the Boys & Girls Club was presented with \$300 in the name of the late Joe McCoy, a former Avondale school teacher.

Sponsors of the event who donated gifts were the Vision Center, Osborne Jewelers, the Clubhouse Grill, and the Golf Center on Indian School Road.

The Jim McCoy family extends thanks to the sponsors and those who participated in the event and its success.

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