

West Valley VIEW

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

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

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CantaMia Volunteer Fest planned

CantaMia, a new active adult community in Goodyear, is planning a Volunteer Fest in conjunction with its Village Center opening from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 19 and 20. West Valley nonprofits that wish to have a complimentary table at the event should contact Martha Moyer at 602-861-8006
begin_of_the_skype_highlighting 602-861-8006 end_of_the_skype_highlighting or e-mail martha@MasterPlannedCommunications.com.

Firefighters hit streets for MDA

Each year, firefighters from across the U.S. and Canada raise millions of dollars through their "Fill the Boot" campaigns, in which firefighters greet motorists and shoppers asking them to donate money to the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Firefighters have become the greatest contributor to MDA, having raised \$27.6 million in 2010 and a total of \$450 million to MDA since 1954. Donations are used for the worldwide research efforts of MDA to eradicate 40 neuromuscular diseases. The contributions made by the community through local firefighters also go toward MDA's summer camps for children, profession and public health education and other important programs.

Goodyear firefighters have begun their annual MDA fundraising campaign this month. Firefighters will be located at the intersection of Palm Valley Pavilion and Litchfield Road from 8 a.m. until noon each weekend in March. In 2010, Goodyear firefighters presented the MDA with just over \$14,000, and have set a goal to surpass that amount for 2011.

For information about the MDA and other Goodyear Firefighter Charities, visit www.ugff.org/community/events.

Buckeye youths take part in 2nd annual Sticker Shock

The Way Out West (WoW) Coalition launches its second annual Prevent, Don't Provide Alcohol to Anyone Under 21 Sticker Shock Campaign today.

The spring break campaign is designed to raise awareness about the dangers of providing alcohol to minors. The campaign also raises awareness to alcohol retailers, other local businesses and the Buckeye community about the trend of underage drinking in the community.

Today, students from Buckeye-area high schools and WoW Coalition members will visit various businesses throughout the town and talk to them about the importance of preventing alcohol consumption by minors. The group will present these businesses with a packet of information and "Prevent, Don't Provide" stickers to put on doors and beer coolers, along with posters to hang on walls and in bathrooms, and table tents to display on tables.

Statistics from Buckeye show that one in five youths in Buckeye reported drinking alcohol with their parents, and 60 percent reported drinking alcohol where a parent was present, according to a press release provided by the WoW Coalition.

The Way Out West Coalition was established in November 2008 as a result of a collaborative project through the Partnership for a Drug Free America and Youth Evaluation and Treatment Centers. The WoW Coalition focuses its work in the town of Buckeye and neighboring communities.

Writers workshop set in Avondale

Avondale Public Libraries is hosting a Writers Workshop from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 9 at the Avondale Civic Center Library, 11350 W. Civic Center Drive. Space is limited, and pre-registration is required.

The workshop's focus is narrative poetry - telling a story through poem. Breakout sessions will detail poetry story elements and narrative structure. Beginning and advanced poets are welcome.

Interested participants are asked to register by e-mailing their name, phone number and e-mail address to libraryevents@avondale.org. Participants will be contacted by a library representative regarding space and availability.

UTI leads blood donations in state

America Segura from Universal Technical Institute was among the top 1 percent of award-winning blood drive coordinators recently honored by United Blood Serves, earning a Hero Award for providing the largest impact on the blood supply.

Of the 1,267 organizations that sponsored blood drives last year, 195 coordinators earned Valentines for Life awards for reaching significant milestones in recruiting blood donors. Only 22 organizations across Arizona qualified for the coveted honor.

Universal Technical Institute also received the award for the highest number of Power Red donations in the state, recruiting 749 donors to give double red cell donations during the year.

United Blood Services has been Arizona's nonprofit community blood provider since 1943, and serves patients in approximately 50 Arizona hospitals. The UBS network is one of the nation's oldest and largest nonprofit blood service organizations, and is a founding member of America's Blood Centers and the American Association of Blood Banks.

Cities offer HOA seminars

The municipalities of Avondale, Buckeye and Goodyear have joined to offer the Southwest Valley HOA Academy, a comprehensive series of instruction on homeowners associations. The series of academy courses will be hosted at from 8:30 a.m. to noon April 9 and April 16 at Goodyear City Hall, 190 N. Litchfield Road. The cost for each seminar date is \$5.

On April 9, two seminars are offered. One is on budget and finance techniques for HOAs. This seminar, taught by a community management professional, will focus on creative ways homeowners associations can manage their finances in the current economic climate. The second is on legal aspects of foreclosures and delinquent assessments, where attendees can learn the legalities of managing and maintaining homeowners associations experiencing numerous foreclosures and delinquencies. The topic will be taught by an attorney from Mulcahy Law Firm.

Another two seminars will be presented on April 16. The first is a case study called "HOA Rags to Riches," where participants can learn how a West Valley homeowners association on the verge of bankruptcy implemented techniques and policies to cut expenses and realized a surplus in two years. The other seminar is on legal aspects of transitions, parking, self-help and dealing with bankrupt developers. This seminar, taught by an attorney from Mulcahy Law firm, will focus on current concerns being faced by HOAs today. The 2011 legislative update will also be discussed.

For further information or to register, call 623-333-2720. For online registration, visit www.avondale.org/playnow.

Baseball leagues open in Avondale

The city of Avondale is now 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 years old, while Coach Pitch is open to children ages 6 to 8. If a participant is 6 years of age, 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 Catch Pitch will take place on Wednesday nights beginning the week of April 18. The season will last eight weeks total, with six weeks of games. Practices could be at Festival Fields or Friendship Park, and offered on weekdays Monday through Thursday, depending on registration. All games will be held at Avondale Friendship Park, 12325 W. McDowell Road. The deadline to register is March 31. Volunteer coaches are needed for both leagues.

Early registration fees are \$40 per resident or \$48 per non-resident if registered by March 24. For those registering from March 24 until March 31, fees are \$50 per resident or \$58 per non-resident.

Register in person at the Recreation Office at Avondale City Hall, 11465 W. Civic Center Drive, or online at www.avondale.org/sports, or by calling 623-333-2400.

'Cover Girls' art exhibit being showcased at EMCC

Featuring the art of Peter Bugg, an exhibit called "Cover Girls: Women Breaking Through the Glossy Page" is part of a range of events behind held on the campus of Estrella Mountain Community College in honor of Women's History Month. The month's activities are intended to call attention to women's issues and how everyone can be a catalyst for change in the way women are represented in the media.

Born and raised in Madison, Wisconsin, Bugg studied economics at the University of Chicago as an undergraduate and completed his Master of Fine Arts in photography at Arizona State University in Tempe. His work was featured in the 2009 Arizona Biennial at the Tucson Museum of Art, and more recently, in the "Open for Business" exhibition at the Arizona State University Art Museum. He teaches photography and creates art work in the Valley of the Sun.

The exhibit is available for viewing in Estrella Hall and Komatke Hall on the EMCC campus. The opening celebration includes an art walk and dessert reception from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. March 22. The events are free and open to the public. The college is at 3000 N. Dysart Road in Avondale.

For information about the art exhibit, contact Joyce Jackson at 623-935-8055.

Help offered to teenage mothers

Trinity Mother of Preschoolers (MOPS) group was recently awarded a Reach More Moms grant from Mothers of Preschoolers International. Trinity MOPS chose to help local teenage mothers and have formed a group called Teen Mothers of Preschoolers, which offers help to teenager mothers who have children, newborn to age 6.

MOPS consulted with the Teen Outreach Pregnancy Services to reach as many teenage mothers as possible. According to a 2009 survey, more than 1,500 teen mothers are in the Southwest Valley, and more than 4,000 in the city of Phoenix. Many of the mothers do not return to school and lack support or resources.

The group will have bi-weekly meetings and play dates for teen mothers of preschoolers. MOPS will also hold a rummage sale from 7 a.m. to noon March 18 at Trinity Lutheran Church, 830 E. Plaza Circle in Avondale. Part of the proceeds will benefit Teen MOPS.

For information about Teen MOPS and its upcoming events, call Ruth Fisher at 623-935-4665 or call or text 480-235-1473. For information about Trinity's Mothers of Preschoolers, visit www.trinitymopsaz.org or www.mops.org. For information about Teen Outreach Pregnancy Services, visit www.teenoutreachaz.org or call 623-334-1501.

Avondale, Tolleson hosting hazardous waste collection event

Spring cleaning? Avondale and Tolleson are invited to take part in a household hazardous waste event, scheduled from 8 to 11 a.m. April 9. Items will be collected at Coldwater Park, 10 N. Eliseo Felix Way in Avondale (from Dysart Road, enter from Western Avenue). There is no charge, however, Avondale and Tolleson residents will be

required to show a copy of a recent water bill and photo identification in order to drop off items.

Acceptable items include:

- Hope repair chemicals, such as paint, thinners, solvents, adhesives (10 gallon paint limit)
- Automotive liquids: motor oil, antifreeze, car batteries, old gasoline
- Lawn chemicals: pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers
- Pool chemicals, fire extinguishers and gas cylinders
- Compact fluorescent light bulbs
- Appliances: washers, dryers, stoves, dishwashers, refrigerators, freezers, evaporative coolers
- Up to five scrap auto tires (no rims and no truck tires)
- Most electronics and cell phones

No ammunition, explosives, bio-waste, commercial

waste, construction waste, smoke detectors or televisions are permitted. A complete list of items can be found online at www.avondale.org, or call the city of Avondale Sanitation Hotline at 623-333-4700, or the city of Tolleson Field Operation Department at 623-936-7141.

Avondale hosts Camp P.L.A.Y. for spring break

The city of Avondale Recreation Division is offering fun programs to keep children occupied during spring break.

Camp P.L.A.Y. programs are open to youths ages 5 to 12 and are offered Monday through Thursday for the week of March 14-17. Children can be registered for a variety of separate 90-minute programs, such as basketball, skills and drills, speed agility and recreation fun. There is also the option to register for all four classes to have a full day camp experience. Classes run through the day from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The cost for each Camp P.L.A.Y. spring break class is \$35 per week for Avondale residents, \$40 per week for non-Avondale residents, or register for the entire day - all four classes - for a discount rate of \$85.

Avondale Camp P.L.A.Y. spring break sports camp is hosted at the Randall McDaniel Sports Complex, American Sports Center, 755 N. 114th Ave., Avondale.

For information or to register, visit www.avondale.org/camps, call 623-333-2400, or visit the recreation office in person at Avondale City Hall, 11465 W. Civic Center Drive. City Hall is open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Families offered leisure time at Avondale library

"Come & Play" from 10 to 11 a.m. Wednesdays at the Sam Garcia Library, 495 E. Western Ave. in Avondale.

Come & Play is a joint effort between the city of Avondale, Phoenix Children's Hospital and First Thing's First. Tiny tykes are invited to the library story time area as it transformed into a large playroom where mothers, fathers, caregivers and children can meet to play and socialized. The purpose is to provide a fun destination to learn and play. Come & Play is open to all babies, toddlers, and young children up to age 5, accompanied by an adult. There is no cost or registration, and attendees can come and go as they please. The program is intended to be an open play date and doesn't have activities planned.

For information, contact the playgroup coordinate, Candice Ratlief at 623-333-2721.

Volunteers needed for art therapy

Free Arts of Arizona, a nonprofit organization that brings therapeutic, creative arts programming to abused and homeless children, is looking for volunteers ages 16 and older in the West Valley.

The program specifically targets the healing effects of the arts to children ages 3 to 21 who live in residential treatment centers, group homes and crisis shelters.

The volunteer commitment is as little as one hour a week, and training and support are provided. Volunteers need not be artists to apply. For information, visit www.freeartsaz.org or call 602-258-8100.

Tolleson vice mayor to be recognized at NLC

Tolleson Vice Mayor Kathie Farr will be recognized by the National League of Cities for reaching the Gold level in its Certificate of Achievement in Leadership program, sponsored by the NLC Leadership Training Institute (LTI).

To achieve the Gold level, a local official must earn 50 credits encompassing all five core competency areas of the LTI curriculum, referred to as Cornerstone, Competent Practitioner, Communicator, Collaborator and Catalyst.

Farr is one of fewer than 210 NLC members to have reached the Gold level in the Certificate of Achievement in Leadership program since its inception.

NLC is committed to strengthening and promoting the leadership capacity of the nation's local elected officials. As part of the NLC mission to create stronger communities, the Leadership Training Institute provides local officials with the professional development opportunities to assist them in promoting positive change and innovation within their communities. At the same time, seminars are designed to explore the nature and practice of local governmental leadership.

Each training seminar addresses one or more of the core areas of municipal leadership, including personal leadership growth and development, effective governance, effective communications, skills in developing and promoting partnership and managing change.

NLC's Leadership Training Council established the Certificate of Achievement in Leadership program in 1999. The primary purpose of the program is to recognize and acknowledge excellence in leadership by NLC members.

The National League of Cities is the nation's oldest and largest organization devoted to strengthening and promoting cities as centers of opportunity, leadership and governance. NLC is a resource and advocate for 19,000 cities, towns and villages, representing more than 218 million Americans.

Community garden open to public

The Garden Patch is Avondale's first community garden located to the east of the Avondale Civic Center Library, 11350 W. Civic Center Drive. The garden will consist of communal and individual plots. Communal plots are for everyone to jointly garden larger plots, and individual plots are for community groups, families or individuals to garden.

The organic gardens will help to nutritionally supplement means in a healthful way. The Garden Patch is a way to bring the community together, not only in a healthy way, but also to encourage and promote social interaction and environmental stewardship. All ages are encouraged to participate, especially youths.

To become a garden member, there is a nominal fee, which covers the costs of water and insurance. Plot sizes are 10 by 20, and are available, not just to Avondale residents, but to the greater West Valley community, as well. Parking and a Valley Metro bus stop are available at the Avondale Civic Center Library directly across the street from the garden.

The public is welcome to attend Planting Day at Garden Patch, which will also include a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 10 a.m. March 26.

Garden Patch Group is an Arizona nonprofit with a pending 501c3 status. For information, volunteer opportunities, to make donations, or to become a member, e-mail garden.patch@yahoo.com, or call 623-333-1914.

EMCC partnership with NAU to aid culinary students

Estrella Mountain Community College and Northern Arizona University have announced an agreement that will allow students in the EMCC culinary studies program a convenient way to transfer into NAU's School of Hotel and Restaurant Management to earn a bachelor's degree from the university. The transfer agreement will allow

students who earn an associate in applied science degree in culinary arts through EMCC to transfer to NAU to complete the upper-division coursework to earn their bachelor's degrees in Hotel and Restaurant Management.

Students who complete their first two years at EMCC can transfer up to 75 credits from the culinary studies degree to the Hotel and Restaurant Management Program. After entering the NAU HRM program, transfer students from EMCC may pursue upper-division courses in person at the NAU campus in Flagstaff, at NAU on the Scottsdale Community College campus or through NAU Online.

In operation since 2002, the culinary studies program at EMCC offers a 16-credit basic culinary studies certificate, a 23-credit baking and pastry certificate, a 33-credit culinary studies certificate and a 64-credit degree program resulting in an associate in applied science degree.

Current EMCC students interested in the program will each have an individualized track for transfer, and should consult an EMCC adviser. NAU's "Connection" partnership with the Maricopa Community Colleges streamlines the transfer process for students to earn NAU degrees at local community colleges, online or in Flagstaff. EMCC students with specific questions regarding transfer credits may consult an NAU program coordinate at scottsdale@nau.edu or call 480-423-6461.

Church hosting tax credit drive

Each Monday morning through April 11, Phoenix Christian West in Goodyear will be conducting a tax credit drive. If you would like to make sure your tax dollars go toward education, go to the school for more information. The school is at 14900 W. Van Buren St. on the north end of the Skyway Church campus.

Court volunteers needed

Become a court visitor/observer for the Maricopa County Superior Court Guardianship Review Program. Volunteers spend approximately one hour per week at various sites in the Valley to review court files of vulnerable adults. A visit to the protected person's place of residence is made to evaluate the ward's care and placement. Volunteers must pass a background check and are issued a court identification badge. Mileage reimbursement is available. For an application and information, contact Anna Gonzales with Probate Court Investigations at 602-506-3669.

Luke recreation event to include pet expo, chili cook-off, art contest

The Luke West Valley Recreation Committee, a subcommittee of the Luke West Valley Council, has announced its fifth annual Recreation Expo scheduled for April 30.

The Expo will take place at Gateway Park in El Mirage and feature displays and information booths all focused on fun, healthy ways to enjoy recreation in the West Valley. The committee has implemented new events this year, including a Pet Expo with wiener and Chihuahua dog races, fashion show, adoption and rescue booths, vaccines, micro-chipping, and police K-9 demonstrations.

Also part of the event will be a youth art contest with the theme of "Me and My Pet." An industrial rideshop skateboard contest will be held, and stage entertainment, a disc jockey, games, prizes, bouncers, balloon twisters, face painters, pony rides and a petting zoo will all be part of the action, as well. Also new is the Best of the West Firehouse Chili Cook-Off, where all the cities' fire stations will compete against each other for the best chili.

Join Avondale, El Mirage, Glendale, Goodyear, Litchfield Park, Peoria, Surprise, Tolleson, Maricopa County Parks and Luke Air Force Base at the fifth annual Luke West Valley Recreation Expo from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 30 at Gateway Park, 10100 N. El Mirage Road in El Mirage. The event is free to the public, though there are costs for food, drinks and some activities. Contact Ruth Espinoza at 623-333-2413 for more information, or visit www.westvalleyrecreation.com.

Free help offered for filing taxes

Through April 12, trained tax professionals will provide free tax preparation assistance to low-income, elderly, and disabled individuals seeking assistance with their 2010 IRS tax filing.

Trained volunteers from the AARP Tax Aide Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program will be on hand at the Avondale Community Center, 1007 S. Third St., from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Tuesday.

Individuals seeking assistance will need to take:

- Social Security or Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITIN) for each family member and working adults.
- W2S, 1099s and other income forms
- Childcare provider name, address and tax ID
- Bank routing and account numbers for checking and savings accounts
- Name, address and phone number of landlord for renter's credit

Cost is free to low-income individuals, senior citizens and the disabled. For information, call 623-333-2401 or visit www.avondale.org/seniors.

Children's art show to benefit advocacy center, Riah's Rainbow

Stillpointe Early Education Services and New Wave Events are partnering to present the Stillpointe Children's Art Show. Proceeds will go to support the Southwest Family Advocacy Center in Goodyear and the Buckeye chapter of Riah's Rainbow.

The art show will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 19 at Christ Evangelical Church at 918 S. Litchfield Road in Goodyear.

Artists will range from 3 years old to third grade, and will display their art in three different categories: paint and paper, kitchen construction and clay and dough.

The public will be able to vote on their favorite piece in each age bracket. Winners of the People's Choice Awards will receive four tickets to the Missoula Children's Theater, compliments of the West Valley Arts Council. Each artist will receive a prize for participating.

The entrance fee to attend the show is a new art supply, which will be donated to Riah's Rainbow. Volunteers from the organization will be present to collect crayons, markers, paint and paper and take them to children at Phoenix Children's Hospital for children living with cancer.

The registration fee for artists is \$5 for child artists, or \$10 per family. Exhibitors can display their programs for \$25. The proceeds will go to the Southwest Family Advocacy Center. The multidisciplinary facility is developed and funded by the police departments of Avondale, Buckeye and Goodyear, and provides a safe place for children and families going through a difficult time.

To register an artist or exhibit, go to www.stillpointecenter.com. For information on sponsorship packages, contact Doris Goetz at donewwave@msn.com.

Avondale lets artists show work in store windows

The city of Avondale's windowARTspace program allows artists to display artwork in the windows of businesses along Western Avenue.

Businesses, schools and groups interested in providing exhibit space or exhibiting artwork in windowARTspace should contact Ruth Clark at 623-333-2724 or by e-mail at rclark@avondale.org.

Free family fitness events offered 1st Saturday of each month

Goodyear in ACTION has organized free family fitness events to take place the first Saturday of every month from March to November. Residents in the West Valley who attend the events will be given an ACTION passport to record their progress. The ACTION passports can be turned in at Goodyear in ACTION Day, Nov. 5, for prizes. Each event includes "active activities" for children, while adults will work toward earning their presidential fitness patches. For information, event details and times, visit GoodyearInACTION.com.

Estrella ENT serves as collection site for New Life Center

Estrella Ear, Nose and Throat is partnering with New Life Center to serve as a collection site for the West Valley-based nonprofit. The practice will focus on collecting and donating diapers, formula and new undergarments for children ages 0 to 18.

New Life Center is a nonprofit organization that provides shelter, counseling, education, advocacy and other services for victims of domestic violence and their families.

Estrella Ear, Nose and Throat, located at the La Loma Medical Campus at 14044 W. Camelback Road, Suite 220, is accepting donations weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. The practice offers comprehensive treatment of disorders such as sinusitis, allergies, chronic snoring, ear infections and hearing and balance problems for children, adolescents and adults.

For information, call 623-535-8770 or go to www.estrellaent.com.

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