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## Business Briefcase: May 8, 2012



Hello dear readers, hot enough for you yet? Enjoy these temperatures in the 90s, because before you know it, triple-digits will be upon us.

OK, let's stop the chit-chat and get to the businesses at hand. First up, a new restaurant.

**Starpointe Café at Estrella** has been open since Feb. 3 inside the **Starpointe Residents Club** at 17665 W. Elliot Road in Goodyear. Even though it is inside the clubhouse for **Estrella** residents, anyone can eat at the restaurant.

New owners, and nine-year **Estrella** residents Michael and Norma Cunningham took over the café area after it had been closed down for a few months. Previously it was called **Café Quench** under the guidance of Jack and Debbie Kastel.

Michael Cunningham brings 30 years of experience in the food industry to the job, having graduated from a culinary school in San Francisco 22 years ago, Norma said.

However, people in the West Valley know him more for his paintings than his cooking, she said.

"A lot of people know him as an artist," Norma said. "He's part of the West Valley Arts Council."

He uses a bit of an artistic touch when preparing food at his American regional cuisine restaurant.

"Our theme is featuring fresh flavorful food," she said. "We want to do seasonal changes to keep things interesting."

The restaurant offers a wide variety of salads, such as Greek, Mandarin, watermelon and chef, and sandwiches, such as New York strip steak, meatball, hot pastrami and veggie.

"We're trying to get a sense of what our customers want," Norma said.

The couple plan to change the menu often and send weekly menu items via an email list every Monday, she said.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Moving on, let's head to Tolleson where **OC Management Recycle West** opened in April at 10297 W. Van Buren St., Suite 16.

This marks the first Arizona location for the 8-year-old company, which began in Florida and then opened a second location in Syracuse, N.Y., six years ago.

In fact, the OC in the name stands for Orange Crush, a reference to the Orange, as the company's founder, Tom Hannon, is a graduate of Syracuse University, as is his sister, Patty Hannon, who is running the Tolleson location.

The business is all about eRecycling, as they will take all your

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unwanted electronics and recycle them back into the economy, Patty said.

The company uses U.S. Defense Department and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act compliant data destruction devices to wipe your information off the unwanted electronics.

"We offer proof [too] as we send wipe reports to our clients," she said.

Electronics that OC Management will accept are circuit boards, components, computers, fax machines, copy machines, laptops, monitors, printers, scanners, servers, telephones, ups/batteries, wires, cables, ballast, meters and machinery.

The company will pick up unwanted electronics if it's a large order from a big company, though West Valley residents will have to drive their unwanted electronics to them if they want to dispose of household items, said Patty, who lives in Avondale.

The company is also doing a lot of fundraisers in the **community**, so people have an opportunity to drop-off unwanted items at such events, she said.

OC Management just did a fundraiser for **Estrella Mountain Community College** last week. People were able to drop off their electronics on the campus. OC Management then refurbishes the electronics and resells them. The **community college** will get 20 percent of the money raised from the recycling of the items donated at the event, Patty said.

Hours at the recycling storefront are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Now let's go to Litchfield Park, where a \$3.2 million expansion/construction project is about to start at the 353-acre campus of **La Loma Village**, 14154 Denny Blvd., and **La Loma Health Care Center**, 14260 Denny Blvd., which is on the northwest corner of Camelback and Litchfield roads.

This will mark the first significant expansion at the nonprofit continuous-care retirement **community** since it opened seven years ago. The facility provides homes for all levels of care, from no assistance whatsoever - casitas - to 24-hour nursing care rooms.

The project is set to start in the fall and is expected to take about 18 months.

"We're going to do it in phases as we're fundraising to make sure it is funded," said Susan Davis, the executive director for the campus.

The first phase is taking second-floor space in the care center portion of campus and converting it to 26 private rooms, Davis said.

Those rooms will be needed since Phase 2 is eliminating some existing ground-floor rooms to build a state-of-the-art, 6,400-square-foot rehabilitation center. This facility will serve both La Loma residents and the general public and will provide inpatient and outpatient therapy as well as cardiac rehabilitation.

"This is in response to a need because a lot of our patients currently have to travel far for these services," Davis said.

Two more parts of Phase 2 include the build out of a café, which will be similar in content to what you'd find in a Starbucks, Davis said, and an occupational therapy suite, which is a simulated home where patients can adjust to independent living.

Phase 3 calls for the creation of 10 new, one-bed apartments for adults who need some assistance, but don't need 24-hour care. The 10 rooms will be licensed for 15 beds, because some of the patients might be couples, Davis said.

And then the final part of Phase 3 is the only ground-up construction of the entire project, and that is the building of two casitas, one of 1,055-square-feet and the other of 1,455-square-feet. The twobedroom casitas are for people who need no assistance at all. The campus already has 12 such casitas, which are all filled, and since there is a waiting list, they decided to build two more, Davis said.

And now you know what I know.

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