

# Across *the* Back Fence

December 2008

News For Neighbors From The City of Mesa Neighborhood Services Department

## Grand Funk Railroad To Perform At Light Rail Opening in Mesa

One of the top selling bands of the 1970s, Grand Funk Railroad, will be the headlining act at "It All Starts Here!" sponsored by SRP, which celebrates the City of Mesa's grand opening of its light rail station. The event will be held Saturday, Dec. 27 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Sycamore Transit Center, located near Main Street and Dobson Road.

Grand Funk Railroad, formed in 1969, has several top selling albums and singles, including two number one hits: "Locomotion" and "We're an American Band." Other hit singles include "Some Kind of Wonderful," "Bad Time" and "I'm Your Captain/Closer to Home." "I'm excited to hear that Grand Funk Railroad is headlining Mesa's light rail grand opening party," Mesa Mayor Scott Smith said. "What a great band to celebrate the start of our modern railroad."

Besides Grand Funk Railroad, local bands The Chadwicks, Rock Lobster and SRP's Second Shift will also perform during the day-long celebration. There will also be food, activities for children and free rides on the light rail trains. With the exception of limited City services, the event is entirely funded by the community. "It All Starts Here!" sponsored by SRP, is also being funded by Mesa Convention and Visitors Bureau, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, Toby Keith's I Love This Bar and Grill, DMB Associates, Gaylord Entertainment, Westcor, Boeing, Valley Metro Regional Public Transportation Authority (RPTA), Empire Southwest, Southwest Ambulance, Jump and Shout, Shirtail and Arizona Rattlers.

The City will also be introducing Valley Metro LINK, a state-of-the-art transit service with rail-like comfort, speed and reliability. Valley Metro LINK will serve a 12-mile corridor, running from the Superstition Springs Park-and-Ride connecting to METRO rail at the Sycamore Transit Center. Like Metro rail, rides on Valley Metro LINK will be free from Dec. 27 through Dec. 31.

**For more information on the event, or if interested in being a sponsor or vendor, contact Public Information and Communications Coordinator Heather Gray at (480) 644-3332.**

## Foreclosure Survival

The Leadership Centre will hold two sessions on Foreclosure Survival for Families and Neighborhoods. Topics to be covered include: "What are foreclosures and what can we do about them?," & "Creating a Crisis Budget" and "Neighborhood Solutions.". Opportunities to receive one-on-one counseling will be available.

If you or someone you know need helps, call (888) 995-HOPE to connect to a HUD-approved agency or (877) 448-1211 to connect to the Arizona Foreclosure Helpline.

*The foreclosure seminars are sponsored by The Leadership Centre, in partnership with the City of Mesa, City of Chandler, Town of Fountain Hills, Town of Gilbert, Town of Queen Creek and City of Apache Junction. It is co-sponsored by the Arizona Foreclosure Prevention Task Force.*

**December 13, 2008  
9:00 a.m.-Noon,  
Gilbert Town Hall  
50 E. Civic Center Drive**

**January 10, 2009  
9:00 a.m.-Noon  
City of Mesa Utilities Building  
640 N. Mesa Drive**

## Animal Control New Number

A new phone number has been established for the City of Mesa Animal Control Unit, which was recently transferred from Mesa Police to Neighborhood Services. You can call (480) 644-2268 to report an animal problem or to request information. Animal Control officers are available Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Messages can be left after hours and calls will be returned the next business day.

**For more information, contact Animal Control Supervisor Diane Brady at (480) 644-2044.**

## Don't Let The Grinch Get You

The Mesa Police Departments wants you to be safe this holiday season. Here are a few safety tips to avoid becoming a victim of a crime this holiday season.

- Never leave the keys in your vehicle.
- Lock the door, even when you are away from the vehicle for a short time.
- Always roll up your windows when you leave your vehicle, even when it's parked in the driveway or garage.
- Place items out of sight before you reach your destination. If you are not planning on taking personal property with you lock them in the trunk BEFORE you get to your destination. Nobody needs to see what you are placing in your trunk.
- If you are making purchases for the holidays, try not to overburden yourself - if you are putting items in your car, glance around and see if anyone is watching you, and remember, always keep your newly purchased items out of sight!
- Do not leave any mail in your vehicle. These have your name, address and possibly may contain personal financial information.
  - Use anti theft devices to further protect your vehicle
  - Do not leave tools or other accessories in the bed of a pickup truck. Lock up tools, equipment and other valuable items with a heavy duty lock.
  - Memorize your license plate. In the event your vehicle is stolen, you will be immediately able to assist police in identifying your vehicle.
  - Keep your garage door shut at all times unless you are physically in view and can see if anyone enters the area.
  - Put up any holiday decor (Christmas tree, etc) out of sight from passer-bys on the street. There is no need to let everyone see what kind of decorations, what size presents, etc. that you have in your home.
  - When throwing out trash after the holidays, toss out large boxes that identify your new t.v. , electronics, etc. in a recycling bin away from your home. Again, no need to let people know what you got for the holidays!
  - If you see a drunk driver, call 9-1-1 immediately



## Pioneer Park Train 2009 MLK

Do you remember playing on the train over in Pioneer Park as a kid? You may be wondering "What ever happened to that train?" Well, the good news is that it's still in the park but the bad news is that it needs your help.



After more than 50 years of providing fun and adventure to kids from all over the Valley, the choo choo is chugged out! Rust, corrosion, vandalism and neglect have all have taken its toll. Please join in the efforts of the Save Our Train Committee and the Foundation for Mesa Parks to help raise funds for the restoration of the Pioneer Park Locomotive.

For more information, visit [w.saveourtrain.com](http://w.saveourtrain.com) or call Rene at (480) 862-3169 or Jim at (480) 329-3226. Help save a great piece of Mesa history and a slice of Americana!

The theme Many Faces, One Community is relevant to the world we live in today. Join us to celebrate the obstacles our city has overcome and the people who utilize the teachings of Dr. King to make a difference in our neighborhoods.

### Saturday, January 17

#### Night of Tribute

Westwood High School Auditorium  
945 West 8th Street  
6:00pm - 9:00pm  
Open to Public - Free

### Monday, January 21

#### Breakfast

8:00 am - 10:00 am  
Mesa Marriot  
200 N Centennial Way, Mesa

#### Parade

11:00 am - Noon  
Downtown Mesa

For information contact  
Bob Troidl (602) 721-1664

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