



Across the Back Fence

June 2007

News For Neighbors From The City of Mesa Neighborhood Services Department

Fiesta District Open House

The City of Mesa has partnered with PMC Consulting to inform residents about future development plans for the Fiesta District. An open-house will kickoff the revitalization effort on June 5 from 5-8 pm in the center court at Fiesta Mall, located at the U.S. 60 and Alma School Road.

Planned development for the area includes major renovation to Westcor's Fiesta Mall, a Mesa Community College campus remodel to accommodate over 10,000 students, Poca Fiesta's planned remodel, and over \$6 million in renovations to the Hilton property. Banner Desert Medical Center has plans to build a new Children's Tower, which will bring over 800 jobs to Mesa. Fiesta Lofts, a recently approved mixed-use project will provide over 50,000 ft. of retail space and more than 400 luxury residential units to the City.

The Fiesta District is a hub for advanced business and financial services, health care and retail industry. In addition to being an excellent location for businesses that require Class A office space and executive hotel accommodations, businesses take advantage of quick access to the US 60 and Loop 101 freeways and numerous area amenities.

Fiesta Mall, one of two major regional shopping centers located in Mesa, serves as the centerpiece of this employment center. More than 20 restaurants are within walking distance of area office developments and parks. **For more information on the Fiesta District, please call Town Center Development Specialist Cathy Ji at (480) 644-3457, or PMC Project Manager Loreli Cappel at (805) 264-3128.**

Walk Across Mesa



This year, partnered with Banner Desert, the City of Mesa Fire Department and Neighborhood Services will Walk Across Mesa for Drowning Prevention.

Starting at 6:30 am June 23, volunteers will help flyer neighborhoods with drowning prevention information. The goal is to educate as many Mesa community members as possible with the important life saving information.

Volunteers are needed for the event. If you are a group or individual who is interested in participating, please contact Neighborhood Services Volunteer Coordinator, Katie Brown at (480) 644-3705 or e-mail Katie.Brown@cityofmesa.org

6th Building Strong Neighborhoods Program

The City of Mesa's sixth Building Strong Neighborhoods Initiative will be held in the Casa Mia neighborhood near Baseline Road and Sossaman Road. The program will begin with an orientation or "kickoff" meeting Thursday June 7. District 6 Councilmember Scott Somers will address the audience.

During the orientation meeting, residents will hear results of a door-to-door survey City staff have been conducting. Residents will use the survey results to prioritize issues that will be addressed by a variety of City services over a four-week period.

Casa Mia was built in 1975 and annexed into the City in 1986. The neighborhood recently received the Margie Frost

Advocacy and Organization Award as part of the 2006 Spirit of Mesa Awards. Casa Mia was recognized for its monthly meetings as well as its newsletters and long range plans.

The Building Strong Neighborhoods Initiative is designed to preserve and strengthen neighborhoods by providing residents and businesses with education, training and access to existing resources to address neighborhood concerns. Five similar initiatives have been held throughout the City since January. There are plans to continue the neighborhood projects in each City Council District during the 2007/08 fiscal year.

**For more information
Mesa Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator
Susan Frabotta (480) 644-5432**

Help End Disputes

Solve-It! is a mediation service that offers a peaceful approach to conflict resolution and allows people to reach a mutually satisfactory solution. They provide a safe and non-threatening environment with trained mediators who work toward solving conflicts at the community level. Originally founded in 1998, Solve-It! Community Mediation Service is provided through The Leadership Centre, a non-profit organization, and is funded by the municipalities of Apache Junction, Chandler, Gilbert, Mesa, and Queen Creek.

The City of Mesa currently has 3 scholarships available for mediation training through Solve-It. The 40-hour course will be held at various locations throughout the East Valley. Those who complete the program will become certified mediators, capable of providing community and justice system mediation services. Scholarship recipients must be Mesa residents over the age of 18.

For more information, contact Mesa Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator Jo Ellen McNamara at (480) 644-5432.

Natural Gas - Did You Knows

Did you know that natural gas is one of the safest and most reliable fuels available? Natural gas service is rarely interrupted. The City of Mesa continuously monitors its system to assure safe and efficient delivery of natural gas to your home.

Did you know that natural gas smells like rotten eggs?

Did you know that your gas appliance connectors should be inspected annually for corrosion in order to avoid gas leaks? Move appliances carefully to avoid damaging connectors and never reuse old connectors.

Did you know that the symptoms associated with carbon monoxide poisoning are similar to flu symptoms? Headaches, dizziness, drowsiness, nausea and vomiting are all symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning and will typically affect everyone in a household where the toxic gas is present.

If you smell natural gas, leave the area immediately and call the City of Mesa at (480) 644-4277 (GASS). In case of an emergency, call (480) 644-4277 or 911.

Congratulations Neighborhood Services Graduates

Mesa Leadership, Training and Development (Mesa LTD) held their graduation ceremony at the Marriott Hotel on Friday evening, May 4. Out of the approximately 25 participants, Neighborhood Services is proud to have three graduates participate in the ritual. Stephanie Bruning, Historic Preservation Planner; Cynthia Garza, Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator; and Lisa Wilson, Human Services Specialist participated in the nine-month program.



The Mesa Leadership, Training and Development (LTD) Program's purpose is to provide a unique opportunity to interested citizens to learn about the city and to help them assume positions of responsibility and leadership in the community's service organizations and city advisory boards and committees.

This year's 10-month learning experience day-long class sessions included guest speakers from the City of Mesa's Economic Development office, the Mayor/City Council/City Manager's office, Mesa Community College, A. T. Still University, as well as representatives from the state legislature. The class also took tours which included Williams Gateway Airport, Mesa City Court, and an SRP helicopter tour to learn about the area's canals and water and power systems.

For more information contact Pamela at the Mesa Chamber (480) 969-1307 or visit www.mesachamber.org/links.htm

Connector Program Now Hiring

The Mesa Fire Department/Mesa Community College Connector Program is now accepting applications. Connectors are Mesa Fire Department volunteers who perform a variety of non-emergency duties including but not limited to: fire crew support, crisis support, motorist assists, social service referrals, and transports.

Applications are being taken through June 8, 2007. No experience is necessary and all training and equipment is provided. Interested candidates can visit our website at www.cityofmesa.org/fire and download an applicant packet from the Connector Program page. If you don't have internet access, please call (480) 644-5042 to request an applicant packet.



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