



Cactus Weekly Update



Vice Mayor Ian Hugh - Glendale, Arizona

January 23, 2015

Glendale Receives Improved Rating Outlook from Standard & Poor's. Standard & Poor's has given the city of Glendale an improved rating outlook, upgrading the city's rating to stable and confirming the city's financial actions are producing results. The city's continued growth with its operational surplus was a strong factor for the improved outlook.

The affirmative response from Standard & Poor's follows a September 2014 similar rating change from Moody's Investors Services, which also changed the city's outlook to stable from negative on the city's outstanding General Obligation bonds.

Per direction from the City Council in November, the city is working to refinance bonds in an effort to lock in lower interest rates and save the city potentially millions of dollars in the future.

For more information about the city of Glendale, visit the city's [website](#).

Glendale's Economic Development Office Begins 2015 with Major Momentum. The city of Glendale's Economic Development Office starts the new year buoyed by additional job growth, the welcoming of new businesses and major projects to its list of accomplishments. From January 2014 to December 2014, Economic Development staff assisted in the location or expansion of 13 companies resulting in the creation of 1,826 jobs. The new or expanding businesses occupy more than 1.1 million square-feet of space in Glendale resulting in the city having an occupancy rate of 94.4 percent for industrial space, 92.9 percent for retail and 74.7 percent for office space with only a few main office buildings of significant size remaining citywide.

The City's reputation for expedited services and meeting client timeframes continues to attract many high quality employers to the city.

Some business highlights from this past year include American Furniture Warehouse, a new 600,000-square-foot furniture retailer, opening its doors in August at the intersection of Bethany Home Road and 99th Avenue, adjacent to the Loop 101 and Tanger Outlets at Westgate opening their 68,000-square-foot Phase II in November.

Progressive Leasing has absorbed 53,000-square-feet at Talavi Corporate Center in north Glendale and is planning to hire 500 people by the end of 2015. The groundbreaking was held in May for Aspera, a mixed-use development at the Loop 101 and 75th Avenue.

An 180,000-square-foot medical office by Banner Medical Group will anchor the project, which will also include luxury apartments, assisted living, retail opportunities and Treasure House, independent living facilities for developmentally disabled adults.

For more information, visit the city's [website](#).

Glendale Offers Behind-the-Scenes Look at City Government. Glendale University 101, a 10-session program sponsored by Cox Communications which offers a behind-the-scenes look at how city government works, is now accepting applications through Friday, February 20 to attend classes that begin Wednesday, March 4.

Glendale residents and those who own businesses in the city can sign up for Glendale University (GU) 101 to learn more about city government directly from the mayor, council members, city manager and top city staff. In the 19 years since the program was started, more than 930 people have attended.

The program's continued popularity is credited to the one-on-one interactions among attendees and the core curriculum that focuses on everything from the city courts to utilities.

GU 101 classes are held 6 to 9 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning March 4 and running through May 6. The series kicks-off with a night of getting to know your Mayor and Councilmembers. Subsequent sessions cover the inner workings of a variety of city services, including public safety, city court, public works, community services, finance and budget and much more.

The classes, which are free, are limited in size to encourage interaction between attendees and the elected officials and city staff who teach each unit.

To participate in GU 101, you must be 16 or older, a resident of Glendale or own a business in Glendale. Attendees who complete eight of the ten GU 101 classes and attend a City Council meeting will be honored on the final night, May 6, at the graduation ceremony.

The deadline for registering for Glendale University 101 is Feb. 20. Call Gwen Benoit for an application at 623-930-3554, or visit www.glendaleaz.com/education/.

Fire Department Warns Residents to Take Precautions Against Influenza Activity. By the time the holiday season ends in Arizona, the Influenza (flu) season is well underway. The 2014-2015 flu season is no exception. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported widespread activity overall, with an increasing number of cases in Arizona over the past two weeks. The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) categorized activity as “Regional” last week, when an estimated 600 cases were reported by laboratories.

The flu is a contagious respiratory illness spread mainly by droplets made when people cough, sneeze, or talk. It can cause mild to severe illness, and can sometimes even lead to death. Symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, headache, fatigue, muscle aches, vomiting, and/or diarrhea. People at high risk of serious flu complications include young children, pregnant women, people with chronic health conditions like asthma, diabetes or heart and lung disease and people 65 years and older.

Seasonal influenza A H3N2 viruses have been the most common this year, which can cause more severe flu-like illnesses. There has been some concern about the effectiveness of the flu vaccine; however, vaccination will protect against some strains of the virus and can lessen the impact symptoms of the flu.

Here are some safety tips from the Glendale Fire Department to help keep you and those around you healthy:

- CDC recommends a yearly seasonal flu vaccine as the first and most important step in protecting against seasonal flu. ***It is not too late to get vaccinated.***
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- If you are sick with flu-like illness, CDC recommends that you stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities. (Your fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.)
- If you are at high risk for serious flu complications and develop symptoms, the CDC recommends you check with your doctor or other health care professional promptly. Treatments, such as antiviral drugs, work best when they are started within 48 hours of the onset of symptoms.

Detailed Flu information and handouts can be found at the following websites:

- Maricopa County Flu information: <http://www.maricopa.gov/publichealth/stopthespread.aspx>
- CDC Flu information <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/>
- U.S. Health and Human Services information: <http://www.flu.gov/>

For further information or if you have any questions, contact Jannine Wilmoth, Emergency Management Coordinator, 623-872-5008.

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