

Bright Side

A P U B L I C A T I O N O F T H E C I T Y O F P A L M D E S E R T

July/August
2016



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Palm Desert's July 4th Celebration Features Fireworks, Live Music, and Fun

Palm Desert will throw a party to celebrate 240 years of freedom on Monday, July 4, with free Independence Day festivities featuring fireworks, live music, and more at Civic Center Park.



Swing Cats Big Band

The fun kicks off at 7:30 p.m. with a presentation of our nation's flag by a color guard made up of U.S. Marines, followed by a concert featuring the Swing Cats Big Band, who will perform a variety of popular swing and big band favorites.

After the concert, the nighttime sky will light up at 9 p.m. with a spectacular 20-minute-long fireworks display synchronized to contemporary and classic patriotic-themed songs simulcast on radio stations The Mix 100.5 FM and 93.7 KCLB.

A warm welcome is extended to residents of Indian Wells and Rancho Mirage. Palm Desert thanks those cities for providing financial contributions to help defray the costs of this year's celebration.

This year's event will include the opportunity to buy taste tempting treats from a variety of food vendors. Attendees are also encouraged to bring picnic dinners, blankets, and chairs to enjoy the show. Alcoholic beverages, smoking, and portable barbecues are prohibited. Private fireworks are illegal in Civic Center Park and throughout Palm Desert. Flashlights are recommended for safety exiting the park.



To protect public safety during the holiday celebration in the unusually busy park, golf carts will not be allowed to operate inside park grounds on July 4. The dog park in Civic Center Park will also be closed that day.

Civic Center Park is located at 73510 Fred Waring Drive (Fred Waring and San Pablo Avenue). Road closures around the park, including Magnesia Falls Drive, are scheduled to begin at 4 p.m. Parking will be allowed at the park until 6 p.m. with access from Fred Waring Drive. Private vehicles will not be allowed into the park once lots are full.

For the comfort and convenience of attendees, free, air-conditioned shuttle service will be provided between The Gardens on El Paseo and the park, from 6 p.m. until 10 p.m. The Gardens is located at the corner of El Paseo and San Pablo Avenue.

For more information, please call 760-346-0611, ext. 416.



Independence Day falls on Monday this year, which means that **trash service for residents and businesses in Palm Desert will be delayed by one day.**

Information: 760-346-0611, ext. 416

Palm Desert Visitor Services will be closed with the rest of City Hall for the Independence Day holiday on **Monday, July 4.** It will reopen on Tuesday, July 5, and resume normal hours, Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.



Information: 760-568-1441



The City has **office space available** at the Portola Community Center at the competitive rate of \$1 per square foot per month.

Information: 760-346-0611, ext. 331

Rising temperatures can bring **increased coyote activity** in residential areas. You can help protect yourself, your pets, and your property by following some **simple steps.** Never feed coyotes. Do not leave pet food outside. Bring pets inside at night and do not leave them outside unattended. Put garbage in tightly closed containers that cannot tip over. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife's website – www.dfg.ca.gov/keepmewild – offers helpful information about how to live with coyotes and other wildlife.

Information: 909-484-0167



Dates to Remember

Independence Day
July 4



Protect Your Pets on July 4

The celebration of our nation's independence on July 4 is a happy and exciting occasion for proud Americans, but the loud noises associated with fireworks and other festivities on that day can be confusing and frightening to pets.

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) advises pet owners to keep their dogs and cats at home in a quiet, sheltered, and escape-proof area during fireworks displays.

The City of Palm Desert encourages residents who live in affected areas to follow the SPCA's advice and protect their pets. Pet owners are advised to bring their pets indoors during the 20-minute fireworks display at Civic Center Park scheduled to start at 9 p.m. on Monday, July 4.

For more information about the City's Independence Day Celebration, please call 760-346-0611, ext. 416.

Enjoy Cool Pools and Hot Fireworks at Palm Desert Aquatic Center

The Palm Desert Aquatic Center is one of the desert's coolest places to celebrate Independence Day this July 4.

Enjoy a day filled with swimming, water play, and fun activities topped off with a great view of the fireworks at the City's Independence Day Celebration in neighboring Civic Center Park.

Hours for the Aquatic Center's three pools will be extended with doors opening at 5:30 a.m. and recreation swim starting at 11 a.m. The Aquatic Center will stay open until after the fireworks, which start at 9 p.m. Diving boards and slides will close at dusk.

Admission for Palm Desert residents is \$4 for adults (ages 13 - 59), \$3 for seniors and youth (ages 6 - 12 or 60 and up), and \$2.50 for children (ages 2 - 5). Children under 2-years-old are free. Admission fees for non-residents are slightly higher. The Aquatic Center's concession stand will be selling a variety of food and drink items.

Thousands of people attend Palm Desert's Independence Day Celebration each year and parking can be a challenge, especially in the late afternoon when streets around Civic Center Park and the Aquatic Center begin to close.

Aquatic Center visitors are encouraged to arrive early and plan for parking. Alternative options include Magnesia Falls Drive east of Portola Avenue as well as the parking lot for Magnesia Falls Park. For more information, please call 760-565-7467.



please leave fireworks to the pros

Personal fireworks are illegal in Palm Desert and the City's firefighters encourage everyone who enjoys the eye-popping colors and earth-shaking explosions of a good display to attend an organized public fireworks show such as the City's Independence Day Celebration at Palm Desert Civic Center Park on Monday, July 4.

Fireworks are not toys. When things go wrong with fireworks, they typically go very wrong very fast and the results can be deadly. Fireworks and sparklers are designed to explode or throw off showers of hot sparks and they burn at temperatures exceeding 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit, hotter than a blow torch.

More fires are reported on Independence Day in the United States than on any other day of the year and fireworks account for nearly half of those fires.

The Riverside County Fire Department provides a website with fire safety and emergency incident information as well as the dates and locations of public fireworks displays at www.rvcfire.org. For more information, please call 951-940-6985.



COPS Vacation Check Program offers enhanced summer security

Sizzling summer temperatures inspire many Palm Desert residents to leave town in July and August for vacations in cooler destinations.

Vacationing residents and others who need to leave their Palm Desert homes for extended stays have a way to feel more secure about their property thanks to the City's Citizens on Patrol (COPS) Vacation Check Program.

COPS volunteers will patrol and visit registered single-family homes in non-gated communities while residents are away for two weeks or more.



These ongoing visits will check for broken windows, evidence of intrusion, vandalism, and other obvious problems. COPS inspections will be confined to the exteriors of participating homes and any problems will be reported to the resident and the Palm Desert Police Department, as appropriate.

To register for the Vacation Check program, residents can fill out an application at the Portola Community Center, 45480 Portola Avenue, or contact Citizens on Patrol at 760-862-9848 to request a form via mail.

Completed applications must be submitted in person at the Portola Community Center and proper identification is required. For more information, please call **760-862-9848**.



save a life While supporting Your community



The fourth annual Nine Cities Blood Drive Challenge returns in July with Coachella Valley communities competing head-to-head to see which one can inspire the most blood donations.

Mark your calendar, ask your neighbors to do the same, and show your community spirit by giving blood on Saturday, July 16, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Palm Desert Community Center. Your donation will support your community and could save a life.

After placing first in 2014 with 138 donated units of blood, Palm Desert fell to fifth place last year with only 59 units donated. We hope to reclaim the champion title this year and once again be number one in life saving donations.

Donors must be at least 15 years of age (ages 15-16 need a signed parental consent form), be in general good health, and weigh a minimum of 110 pounds.

All donors will receive a free, single-day admission ticket (\$38.99 value) to Wet 'n' Wild Palm Springs, valid through the 2016 season.

The Palm Desert Community Center is located at 43900 San Pablo Avenue adjacent to Civic Center Park. For more information and to make an appointment, please call LifeStream at **800-879-4484** or visit LStream.org.

Palm Desert Wants You!

Do you love Palm Desert and have a few hours per month to devote to serving your community? Openings on City committees and commissions present opportunities for residents who would like to get involved and provide advice to the City Council on issues of local interest and concern.

Examples of current opportunities include the Citizens' Sustainability Committee, Youth Committee, Cultural Resources Preservation Committee, Art in Public Places Commission, and the Library Promotion Committee.

Applications for service on all standing committees and commissions are accepted at any time. The City Council reviews applications annually and at other times when vacancies arise.

All applicants are required to attend at least two meetings of the committee or commission for which they are applying and then complete an application package and submit it to the City Clerk's Office. Meeting schedules can be accessed on the "Calendar" page of the City's website - www.cityofpalmdesert.org.

For applications and more information, please contact the City Clerk's office at **760-346-0611, ext. 304**.



thank You for embracing Reusable shopping Bags

The City of Palm Desert thanks its residents and visitors for their embrace of reusable shopping bags and commitment to a better, cleaner environment.

As the Coachella Valley's retail center, Palm Desert initiated its "Bring Your Own Bag" campaign in late 2014 to discourage single use plastic grocery bags and promote reusable shopping bags. Since October 1, 2015, grocery and other retail stores in Palm Desert have been prohibited from providing customers with single use plastic bags.

To ease the transition, the City gave away nearly 10,000 reusable, collapsible shopping bags made of recycled material and held nearly two-dozen give-away events at local grocery stores and large retailers where shoppers received

information about the impacts of plastic bags as well as free, reusable, biodegradable shopping bags.

Recyclable paper bags are still available at many retailers for a cost of 10 cents per bag. **The 10-cent charge goes to merchants, not the City, and is intended to encourage the use of recyclable bags and offset the higher cost of paper bags to store owners.**

Discarded single-use plastic bags pollute the environment and can harm wildlife. Reusable bags conserve resources, decrease water pollution, and save money by reducing litter. Experts say that four or five reusable bags, used once a week, can replace more than 500 single-use plastic bags a year. For more information about Palm Desert's commitment to sustainability, please call **760-346-0611, ext. 664**.



City Welcomes
New Assistant Police Chief

Palm Desert is pleased to welcome Lieutenant Anthony Baur as the City's new Assistant Police Chief.

A 26-year veteran of law enforcement, Lieutenant Baur is the City's primary point of contact for all police services and represents the Police Department on Palm Desert's Executive Committee and Public Safety Commission.

After graduating from the Riverside Sheriff's Academy in 1991, Baur began his law enforcement career as a patrol deputy in the unincorporated areas of Mecca, Thermal, and Oasis. In 2001 he was promoted to a position as an investigator in the Palm Desert station, specializing in crimes against children and sexual assaults.

Five years later, he was promoted to sergeant with another promotion to lieutenant in 2015. Assignments in his 26 years with the Sheriff's Department have included supervising patrol, large scale special events, and working in the Property and Evidence Bureau, Investigations Unit, and in the Personnel Bureau.

His most recent assignment was as an administrative lieutenant

in the Palm Desert Sheriff's station where he worked until assuming his current position earlier this year.

A Palm Desert resident who has lived in the Coachella Valley for 44-years, Lieutenant Baur knows the community well. He lives here with his family, including three children. In addition to his police work, Lieutenant Baur enjoys fitness and martial arts.

Lieutenant Baur said he feels fortunate and excited about his new role as Palm Desert's Assistant Police Chief.

He advises residents and visitors who observe illegal activity to call 911. For activities of concern that do not pose an immediate threat to safety or property, Baur encourages people to contact the Police Department's non-emergency number 760-836-3215 or to call the City's Code Compliance Department hotline at 760-776-6360.

"I enjoy working with the community and feel very strongly about maintaining the quality of life that residents enjoy here in Palm Desert," he said.



Lieutenant Anthony Baur



PALM DESERT

phone 760-346-0611

e-mail

info@cityofpalmdesert.org

Websites

www.palmdesert.org

www.cityofpalmdesert.org

Watch City Council meetings live online at www.cityofpalmdesert.org on the 2nd and 4th Thursday each month at 4 p.m.

Robert A. Spiegel
Mayor

Jan Hamik
Mayor Pro Tem

Sally Jonathan
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Susan Marie Valer

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Look what's on the Bright Side... inside!