

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

JANUARY/FEBRUARY



First Weekend Fun Continues With LIVE WELL FESTIVAL AND SWING 'N HOPS

Palm Desert First Weekend gets an energy boost in 2020 with featured events designed to help fulfill your New Year's resolutions for wellness and for kicking up your feet and having fun.

The festivities get underway at 10 a.m. on **Saturday, January 4**, with the fourth annual Palm Desert Live Well Festival at Civic Center Park. The

desert's largest health and wellness event, this popular day-long festival promotes mind, body, and spirit wholeness while showcasing the desert's top health and wellness professionals through more than 100 fun, educational, and interactive demonstrations that the whole family can enjoy.

Learn about physical fitness, proper nutrition, spiritual peace, and medicine while enjoying morning yoga, pilates and movement, a spin session, live entertainment, a kid's zone, and more.



What's Inside

SUPPORT SAN PABLO
BUSINESSES DURING
CONSTRUCTION

ART FILM SERIES CELEBRATES
12TH SEASON

IT'S RABBIT SEASON
IN PALM DESERT

PALM DESERT HALF
MARATHON RETURNS

INTERNATIONAL
SPORTS FESTIVAL AND
SENIOR GAMES

PALM DESERT HONORS
INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST
REMEMBRANCE DAY

NEW APP ENHANCES
COURTESY CART
EXPERIENCE ON EL PASEO

PUBLIC INVITED TO OPEN
HOUSE ON NEW COUNCIL
ELECTION PROCESS

In February, the First Weekend festivities jump to El Paseo and swing into full gear with the return of Swing 'N Hops on **Saturday, February 8**. Held from noon to 5 p.m. the family friendly five-hour party combines live music, craft beer gardens, gourmet street food, interactive art projects, and more.

These are just two of the many fun events featured as part of Palm Desert First Weekend, starting every first Friday of the month, November through May, and continuing throughout the weekend. For more information about First Weekend events, please visit www.pdfirstweekend.com.





Take a **free guided walking tour** and discover Palm Desert's celebrated public art collection. Tours are offered at 9 a.m. on selected Saturdays, September through May, as part of Palm Desert First Weekend.

January 4 — El Paseo Sculpture Exhibition, northeast corner of El Paseo & Highway 74

February 8 — Civic Center Park, south park entrance off Fred Waring Drive

Information: **760-346-0611, ext. 663**

Palm Desert's **Home Vacation Check Program** provides residents with enhanced security and peace of mind during vacations thanks to periodic visits by the City's Citizens on Patrol.

Information: **760-862-9848**

Residents who wish to report a problem with a short-term vacation rental are encouraged to call Code Compliance during business hours (8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday – Friday) at 760-776-6360 or call the **City's Short-Term Rental Hotline at 760-862-6900**. To report issues after 1 a.m., please call the Palm Desert Police Department at 760-836-3215.

The **federal Mortgage Credit Certificate Program** gives qualified home buyers in Palm Desert a better chance of getting a loan to purchase a home by reducing their taxes and increasing their effective income. Program participants must use an approved lender. For a list of approved lenders and more information, contact Riverside County EDA at the number below.

Information: **951-343-5470** or visit rivcoeda.org

Dates to Remember

NEW YEAR'S DAY

January 1

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 20

VALENTINE'S DAY

February 14

Presidents' Day

February 17



SUPPORT SAN PABLO BUSINESSES **During Construction**

Please join the City of Palm Desert and your neighbors and support local businesses along San Pablo Avenue during the construction of improvements there.

While on-street parking in front of San Pablo's unique mix of shops and restaurants has been temporarily reduced by the ongoing upgrades to the street, ample parking remains available behind the storefronts as well as on nearby side streets including Alessandro and Palm Desert drives.

Envisioned changes on San Pablo include new shade trees and landscaping, wider sidewalks, pocket parks, enhanced bike lanes and parking, a new roundabout at San Pablo and San Gorgonio Way, and a "road diet" that will narrow the wide, four-lane road to one lane in each direction.

While the City works to make this vision a reality, local businesses are being impacted. Thank you for joining the City and supporting these local merchants, who are open for business and looking forward to your visit.

For project information or to receive email construction updates text SANPABLO to 22828 to sign up, call **844-329-5999**, or email info@visionsanpablo.com. You can also visit the Vision San Pablo website at www.visionsanpablo.com.



Palm Desert's Art Documentary Film Series Returns

Palm Desert's Art Documentary Film Series returns for its 12th year in 2020 with a fresh lineup of compelling films designed for lovers of inspiring and thought provoking cinema.

The free, art-themed documentary series begins January 16 with a screening of *Kusama Infinity*. Now the top-selling female artist in the world, Yayoi Kusama overcame impossible odds to bring her radical artistic vision to the world stage. Kusama has endured and created a legacy of artwork that spans the disciplines of painting, sculpture, installation art, performance art, poetry and literary fiction.

The 2020 documentary film series is presented by the City of Palm Desert Public Art Department and the University of California, Riverside Palm Desert Graduate Center. Films screen on third Thursdays, January through April, at 6 p.m. in the auditorium at UCR Palm Desert, 75080 Frank Sinatra Drive. Admission is free, but reservations are recommended. For more information and reservations, please call **760-834-0800** or register online at palmdesert.ucr.edu/public-art-documentary-series.



Additional films include:

February 20

Obey Giant: The Art and Dissent of Shepard Fairey

Directed and produced by James Moll, this fascinating documentary explores the life and career of street artist and graphic designer Shepard Fairey. The film covers Fairey from his roots in punk rock and skateboarding to his role as one of the most well-known and influential street artists in the world — through his iconic Obama "HOPE" poster.



March 19

YARN

This unique documentary introduces viewers to the artists who are redefining the tradition of knit and crochet, bringing yarn out of the house and into the world. YARN weaves together wool graffiti artists, circus performers, and structural designers into a visually-striking look at the women who are making a creative stance while building one of modern art's hottest trends.

April 16

Jean-Michel Basquiat — The Radiant Child

Centered on a rare interview that director and friend Tamra Davis shot with Jean-Michel Basquiat more than 20 years ago, this film chronicles the meteoric rise and fall of the young artist. In the crime-ridden New York City of the 1970s, he covers the city with the graffiti tag 'SAMO.' In 1981 he puts paint on canvas for the first time, and by 1983 he is an artist with "rock star status" achieving critical and commercial success while being confronted by racism from peers.





It's Rabbit Season in Palm Desert

Colorful rabbit sculptures are multiplying and spreading across the Coachella Valley, thanks to artists Karen and Tony Barone, whose latest colony of coney recently debuted near Whole Foods Market at the northwest corner of Highway 111 and Town Center Way.

Dubbed *Desert@Warren 2*, the nine rabbit sculptures include two "Alpha Rabbits" that stand more than eight-foot-tall, a pair of "Love-Bunnies," an orange Rabbit called "Wheeee," and four other colorful rabbits covered in

large polka-dots. The new rabbits are second generation relations to the rabbit sculptures in the original *Desert@Warren* exhibition at the Atrium in Rancho Mirage.

The City is sponsoring the new sculptures, which are scheduled to remain in place through October 2020. A public dedication is scheduled on site on Wednesday, January 8, at 2 p.m.

For more information about the sculptures, visit baroneart.com or call 760-346-0611, ext. 664



Park Ceremony Recognizes INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

The Gerald R. Ford Chapter of Mensch Foundation International will hold its 10th annual International Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremony on Monday, January 27, at 1 p.m. at Palm Desert's Civic Center Park.

More than a decade ago, the United Nations General Assembly designated International Holocaust Remembrance Day as an annual day set aside to remember the Holocaust's many victims, celebrate those who survived, and remind the world to never forget what happened. The official date, January 27, coincides with the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp.

The Palm Desert event will include a variety of musical performances and speakers. A remembrance walk from the park amphitheater to the nearby *Holocaust Memorial* will serve as a moving conclusion to the program.

Civic Center Park is located at Fred Waring Drive and San Pablo Avenue. Limited seating will be provided and attendees are encouraged to bring chairs and/or blankets to participate in comfort. For more information and to volunteer, please email geigersa@gmail.com or call 760-416-3685.

Popular Half Marathon and 5K Return to Palm Desert



On Sunday, February 9, at 7 a.m., the New Balance Palm Desert Half Marathon and 5K celebrates its 22nd year as the Coachella Valley's longest running half marathon and 5K festival.

Celebrate with us and a few thousand friends by taking on a fast, scenic course. Participants can run as individuals or as members of a two- or three-person relay team. There is also fun for kids who can run in their own 1K race.

All races begin and end at Civic Center Park, which will again host a post-race festival featuring the newest shoes and apparel from New Balance and vendors from throughout the Coachella Valley. Attendees will be able to grab some post-race food and cheer on friends and family while enjoying a frosty beverage at the finish line beer garden. For more information and to register, please visit www.palmdeserthalfmarathon.com.

20th Annual Palm Desert Senior Games and International Sports Festival

This February, hundreds of athletes ages 35 to 90, return to Palm Desert to compete in the 20th Annual Palm Desert Senior Games and International Sports Festival. Registration is now open for this popular event, which will take place at venues throughout Palm Desert from February 4 through February 9.

The first senior games of the year in California, Palm Desert's festival is unique among other official senior games in the State as it allows athletes, ages 35 and up, to enjoy great competition in a variety of sports including track and field, soccer, golf, pickleball, table tennis, volleyball, and more. Multiple age divisions allow athletes to compete against their peers in individual and team sports



while chasing gold, silver, and bronze medals.

The Desert Recreation District and the City of Palm Desert host the Senior Games, which will begin with an Opening Ceremony at the Civic Center Park tennis courts on Friday, February 7, at 9 a.m.

The deadline for athletes to register is Monday, January 27. Spectator admission for all sports is free and open to the public. To learn more or register, please visit www.desertseniorgames.org or call 760-568-2560.

New App Enhances Courtesy Cart Experience on El Paseo

The City of Palm Desert and SunLine Transit Agency have teamed up to enhance the shopping experience on El Paseo.

The City recently integrated its El Paseo Courtesy Carts with SunLine's myStop® mobile app giving shoppers real time information about each cart's location on the street.

Shoppers using the app will be empowered to more conveniently and precisely time their arrivals and departures from the busy street along with the bags and boxes containing their purchases. myStop® app users will also have access to SunLine's transit network with the ability to travel throughout the valley on the agency's environmentally friendly buses.

Shoppers are invited to take advantage of both El Paseo courtesy carts, which seat up to five riders, and run from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. seven days a week, October through May. A third ADA accessible cart is available upon request.

More information about myStop® mobile app, which can be downloaded at your app store, can be found at SunLine.org.

To find out more about the courtesy carts and El Paseo shopping, please visit DiscoverPalmDesert.com.



Public Invited to Open House On NEW CITY COUNCIL ELECTION PROCESS

The public is invited to an Open House on Wednesday, January 15, at 6 p.m. at the Palm Desert Community Center where the community will have a chance to learn about and provide feedback on how Palm Desert will elect its City Council in November 2020 and beyond.

The Open House follows the announcement of a legal settlement between the City and plaintiffs Lorraine Salas and Karina Quintanilla related to the California Voting Rights Act and the fair representation of all Palm Desert residents in the City's electoral process.

"Working together, we have identified a two-district solution that embraces the goals of the California Voting Rights Acts and preserves the integrity and unity of our community," the plaintiffs and City representatives said in a joint statement. "This positive outcome illustrates the value of creativity and cooperation over confrontation."

The settlement will create a new downtown district, comprising about 20% of the City's population and represented by one elected City Council member, as well as a larger surrounding district, comprising about 80% of the population, from which four Council

members will be elected at large. The settlement also calls for the implementation of ranked choice voting, if feasible, in both districts.

The new downtown district, which will be focused on the Civic Center area and surrounding neighborhoods, helps fulfill longtime municipal goals identified in the City's strategic and general plans and will result in a more fully defined downtown Palm Desert. The downtown district aligns Palm Desert's electoral process with the California Voting Rights Act ensuring that the voices and votes of all Palm Desert residents are heard and translate to meaningful representation.

Ranked choice voting, currently used by several other California cities, has been recognized as a voting method that can help ensure that the candidate preferences of all voters are better reflected in election outcomes. Much like an instant runoff, ranked choice voting gives voters the power to rank their candidates in order of preference.

The Palm Desert Community Center is located in Civic Center Park at 43900 San Pablo Avenue. For more information about the Open House and how to participate, please call Palm Desert City Hall at 760-776-6411 or visit www.representpd.org.



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Websites
www.discoverpalmdesert.com
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.

Gina Nestande
Mayor

Kathleen Kelly
Mayor Pro Tem

Jan Harnik
Sabby Jonathan
Susan Marie Weber

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