

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
2016



What's Inside

Half Marathon Debuts
in Palm Desert

Sister Cities Hosts Poker,
Pets, & Family Fun Walk

International Sports
Festival and Senior Games

Art Film Series
Celebrates Eighth Season

Palm Desert Police
Offer Free Car Seat
Safety Checks

New Community Gallery
Exhibition Features
Mandalas and Fragments

Join your City
and be Prepared
for Strong El Niño

First Weekend Fun Continues with Color Run and Swing 'N Hops



The new year is set to deliver more first Weekend fun highlighted by the return of a popular fit and fabulous favorite in January and the February debut of an exciting new event that will bring live music, swing dancing, and craft beer to the heart of El Paseo.

The fun begins on Friday, January 8, and continues throughout the weekend, with an exciting lineup of free events highlighted by the Palm Springs Art Museum in Palm Desert's third annual Galen New Year's Resolution 5k Color Run on Saturday, January 9.

Runners and families can kick off their resolutions for a healthy new year by burning some holiday-induced calories at this colorful event.

Held on a USA Track and Field certified course, the race begins and ends at the Palm Springs Art Museum in Palm Desert with registration at 6 a.m. and the race starts at 8 a.m. Food, music, and interactive art activities in the Faye Sarkowsky Sculpture Garden will round out the day's festivities.

On Saturday, February 6, the first Weekend party swings into full gear with the debut of the Swing 'N Hops Street Party on El Paseo. This fun, first-time event takes place outdoors from noon to 4 p.m. in the heart of Palm Desert's upscale shopping and dining district, El Paseo. Held in the street between San Pablo Avenue and Larkspur Lane, the four-hour dance party pairs live music by the Jennifer Keith Quintet with swing dance instruction, craft beer gardens, gourmet street food, swing era fashions, interactive art projects, and a vintage car show.

These are just two of the many cultural events featured as part of first Weekend Palm Desert. Starting every first Friday of the month, and continuing throughout the weekend, the public is invited to discover a celebration of world-class arts and entertainment in Palm Desert, from guided art tours and musical theater, to classic cars and concerts.

For more information about all of the exciting first Weekend events, visit www.pdfirstweekend.com.



Farmers Market Returns to Morning Hours

Back by popular demand, Palm Desert's Certified farmers' Market has returned to Wednesday mornings, giving residents and visitors an opportunity to enjoy the sunshine while shopping for fresh, regionally grown fruits and vegetables and other artisanal products.

After trying evening hours, the weekly farmers' Market will now take place from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. every Wednesday. Market organizers said that while the evening market was popular in the spring when days were longer, a large number of regular customers, farmers, and vendors had asked that the market return to its popular morning time.

Located at the western intersection of Highway 111 and El Paseo, 72559 Highway 111, Palm Desert's market is one of only three state and county Certified farmers' Markets in the Coachella Valley. "Certified" means all the produce from participating vendors has been grown at California farms registered and inspected by their county agriculture departments. For more information, please call 760-322-3521.



The City of Palm Desert is offering free Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training, Monday through Friday, January 25- 29, from 8 a.m. to noon.

led by Riverside County Fire Department's office of emergency services, the 20-hour, five-day class teaches basic first aid, light search and rescue, and disaster preparedness. Enrollment is limited to the first 40 registrants.

Information and registration: 760-776-6326

The City's free docent led public art tours continue in 2016 on Saturday, January 9, featuring the sculptures of the el Paseo exhibition. The tour meets at 9 a.m. at the northeast corner of el Paseo and Highway 74. February's tour on Saturday, February 6, features the art in Civic Center Park. The tour meets at 9 a.m. by the flags inside the park's south entrance from Fred Waring Drive.

Information: 760-346-0611, ext. 664 or visit www.palmdesertart.org



The City offers an afterhours Hotline - 760-833-7998 - so that residents can conveniently report problems with short-term rentals in their neighborhoods when City Hall is closed. During regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, please call Code Compliance at 760-346-0611, ext. 360.

Short Term Rental Afterhours Hotline: 760-833-7998

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: 951-343-5469 or visit www.rivcoeda.org

Dates to Remember

New Year's Day
January 1

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 18

Valentine's Day
February 14

Presidents' Day
February 15



Popular HALF MARATHON and 5K DEBUT in Palm Desert

On Sunday, January 24 at 7 a.m., the 18th annual new balance Palm Desert Half Marathon and 5k will make its debut in an exciting and scenic new location - Civic Center Park.

After 17 years in Palm Springs, the popular event moves to the heart of the Coachella Valley with the same attention to detail and quality that participants have come to expect for nearly two decades.

This year's Palm Desert Half Marathon and 5k will feature a more competitive, runner friendly course while continuing to embrace walkers and dogs. Expanded post-race festivities will include more food options and a beer garden presented by Coachella Valley Brewing Company.

Half marathon participants can sign up as individuals or in two- or three-person relay teams. Half marathon registration is \$70 from January 1 - 23 and \$75 on race day. Relay registration is \$95 per team from January 1 - 23 and \$100 on race day. 5k registration is \$40 January 1 - 23 and \$45 on race day. For more information, please visit www.palmdeserthalf.com or email info@southland-events



Sister Cities Foundation Hosts POKER, PETS & FAMILY FUN WALK



Enjoy a day at the park and get fit with your family and furry friends this coming Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday at the Palm Desert Sister Cities Foundation's Poker, Pets, & Family Fun Walk.

This family friendly, first-time event will give participants and their pets a chance to walk in beautiful Civic Center Park while placing bets and collecting cards at five stations around the park. The best poker hands will win prizes.

The fun kicks off at the flagpoles near the Fred Waring Drive entrance to the park on Monday, January 18, with registration at 8 a.m. and the walk at 9 a.m. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 per child or pet with a \$35 maximum charge per family.

The Palm Desert Sister Cities Foundation is a nonprofit organization that fosters principles of citizen diplomacy and global cooperation through programs and exchanges that promote culture and economic development to enrich the citizenry of Palm Desert and its sister cities - Gisborne, New Zealand and Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo, Mexico.

All proceeds from the walk will assist school teachers from these sister cities to attend the McCallum Theatre's annual aesthetic education program. For more information, please call 760-413-6567.

16th ANNUAL

Palm Desert SENIOR GAMES and INTERNATIONAL SPORTS FESTIVAL

This February, hundreds of athletes, ages 35 to 90, will travel to Palm Desert to compete in the 16th 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 18 to 21.

Palm Desert's festival is unique among other official senior games in California as it allows athletes, ages 35 and up, to enjoy great competition in a variety of sports including track and field, soccer, basketball, golf, pickleball, swimming, table tennis, volleyball, and more. A variety of age divisions allows athletes to compete against their peers 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 Palm Desert Community Center, 43900 San Pablo Avenue, on Thursday, February 18, at 9 a.m. A welcome wine reception will be held on Friday, February 19, from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Community Center.

The registration deadline is Sunday, February 7. Spectator admission is free and open to the public. To learn more or register, please visit www.desertseniorgames.org or call 760-568-2560.



Palm Desert's ART DOCUMENTARY FILM SERIES Celebrates Eighth Season



Discover inspiring and thought provoking cinema at the 2016 Palm Desert art Documentary film series. The popular series' eighth season of free, art-themed documentaries begins January 21 with a screening of *Sol Lewitt: Wall Drawings*.

The film focuses on a celebrated retrospective of the art of Sol Lewitt, who during a four-decade long career produced more than 1,200 wall drawings using a deliberately limited repertoire of lines and geometric shapes to create works of remarkable complexity. A question and answer session with Steven Biller, editor-at-large for *Palm Springs Life* and contributing writer to *Art Ltd* will follow the screening.

The documentary film series is presented by the City of Palm Desert Public Art Department and the University of California, Riverside Palm Desert Graduate Center. All films screen the third Thursday of the month, January through April, at 6 p.m. in the auditorium at UCR Palm Desert, 75080 Frank Sinatra Drive. Each screening will include a featured speaker who will answer questions about that night's film. Admission is free, but reservations are recommended. For more information and reservations, please call the Palm Desert Public Art Department at 760-837-1663 or register online at palmdesert.ucr.edu/programs/ArtDoc2016.html.

Additional films include:

February 18

Calder – Sculptor of Air

Alexander Calder (1898-1976) revolutionized the art of sculpture, freeing it from its stand and adding movement to the art itself. This film retraces his unique quest and explores the masterpieces that have marked the history of 20th century art. *Featured speaker:* Dr. Steven Nash, former director of the Palm Springs Art Museum

March 17

Beyond These Walls: Building Community through Public Art

In 1992, a small group of community leaders in Portsmouth, Ohio asked, "How can we create pride in our community, improve the local economy, and change a dying part of town...?" This film tells the story of the visionaries and artists who transformed a drab, 2,200-foot section of floodwall into a vast display of public art, history, and pride.

Murals: Transformations

This short (9-minute) documentary tells the story of how the Palm Springs Unified School District started and maintains a thriving mural program with a collection of over 80 murals. *Featured speaker:* Louisa Castrodale, Arts Coordinator, Palm Springs Unified School District

April 21

A Model for Matisse

Directed by Barbara Freed, *A Model for Matisse* documents the association between the nun sister Jacques-Marie and Henri Matisse. Their relationship began when she started working as his personal nurse, but she soon began posing for the painter. Eventually, sister Jacques-Marie played a critical role in helping Matisse design the Chapelle du Rosaire, one of the greatest accomplishments in the famous artist's remarkable career. *Featured speaker:* Emily Culhan, Programs Coordinator, Children's Discovery Museum of the Desert

new Community Gallery exhibition features **MANDALAS & FRAGMENTS**

The Palm Desert Community Gallery features artwork from Paul J. Hamel and Randall Weidner in its new exhibition, *Mandalas and Fragments*, on display January 28 - April 8. The public is invited to a reception to honor the artists on Monday, February 1, from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Taking a modern twist on traditional mandalas, Paul Hamel's artwork tells stories that symbolize life's paths and journeys. He moved to Palm Springs after retiring from a career as a principal with the Los Angeles Unified School District. Now, a part-time English-as-second-language instructor at College of the Desert, Hamel employs his knowledge of graphic design and computer software to create his works.

Randall Weidner began his career as a registered architect and, after many years of practice, returned to his first love - creating art fulltime. He fully envisions what a completed painting will look like prior to the first brushstroke. The Palm Springs resident attributes this approach to his career, where he had to finalize blueprints prior to breaking ground for construction.

The Palm Desert Community Gallery is located in Palm Desert City Hall, 73510 Fred Waring Drive, and is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, please call 760-346-0611, ext. 664 or visit www.palmdesertart.org.

Palm Desert Police Offer Free Car Seat Safety Checks



Parents, grandparents, and all those who transport children in a vehicle are encouraged to attend a free car seat safety check event at Palm Desert Soccer Park on Wednesday, January 20, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

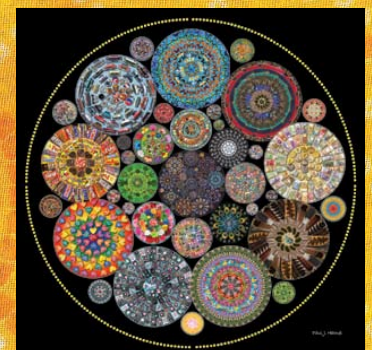
Hosted by the Palm Desert Police Department in the soccer park's south parking lot, the event will provide expert safety inspections of car seats to ensure that each seat is properly fitted for the child it is intended to protect. Parents are encouraged to bring their children to the event to ensure an accurate fit.

In addition to inspecting the car seats, experts from the Palm Desert Police Department and the Riverside County Injury Prevention Center will make appropriate adjustments and provide instruction on how to properly install car seats. Educational materials will also be provided, including information about applicable laws and when a child should transition to a new seat.

Palm Desert Soccer Park is located at 74735 Hovley Lane East. For more information and to RSVP, please call 760-836-1697 or email sAustin@riversidsheriff.org.



Fragments Number 8 by Randall Weidner



Modern Mandala Collection by Paul J. Hamel

