



Bright Side



PALM DESERT

a publication
of the
City of Palm Desert

January/February
2013



What's Inside

International Sports Festival
and Senior Games

Share Your Thoughts
on Palm Desert's
Concerts in the Park

Neighborhoods Invited
to Participate
in City's Emergency Radio
Program

Documentary Film Series
Showcases Public Art

Palm Desert Honors
International Holocaust
Remembrance Day

Remember Rules of the Road
for Golf Carts

2013 Calendars Are Here

Holiday Greeting Card
Recycling

New Sculptures Debut on El Paseo

A spinning "Sunflower" made of bicycle wheels; a colorful "Rocket" that started out as a sea kayak; and a "Hot Metal Flower Bouquet" created from a Jaguar engine, hub caps, and fire extinguishers - these are just a few of the fanciful and thought-provoking sculptures that have recently been installed on El Paseo as part the 2013/2014 El Paseo Invitational Exhibition.

The public is invited to a free ceremony celebrating the new exhibition on Monday, January 7 at 6 p.m. at The Gardens on El Paseo, 73545 El Paseo. Featured artists will be introduced on the lawn in front of Saks Fifth Avenue.

Palm Desert's Art in Public Places Commission selected the 18 artworks from among scores of artists who submitted their work for consideration. The 2013/2014 exhibition includes works from local Coachella Valley artists as well sculptures created by international artists from Canada and Israel. This year's

exhibition even features a work by a Hollywood star - "Handstand" created by actor Daniel Stern, who starred in *City Slickers*, *Diner*, and *Home Alone* and was the narrator's voice on the *Wonder Years*.

The artworks will be displayed on pads in the El Paseo median for two years. Docent-led walking tours feature the Exhibition's sculptures and the City's public art collection. These tours are free and open to the public.

The popular El Paseo Invitational Exhibition and the City's extensive public art collection are reasons why the City of Palm Desert has been named one of five art destination cities in America by *Southwest Art Magazine*. For more information or to schedule a tour, please call 760-346-0611, ext. 664 or visit www.palmdesertart.org.



"Sunflower" by Patricia Vader



"Handstand" by Daniel Stern



"Hot Metal Flower Bouquet" by Ron Simmer



The City has established 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**). **Rental Afterhours Hotline: 760-833-7998**

The City's **annual Student Art and Essay Contest** will be featured in the



Palm Desert Community Gallery from February 14 – April 12. This year's theme is *American Idols Who is Your Role Model?*

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



The City has **office space and community rooms available** at the Portola Community Center. The office space is available at the highly competitive rate of \$1 per square foot per month. Meeting space is available to local nonprofits and community groups for one time or monthly use at no charge.

Information: **760-346-0611, ext. 331**



Dates to Remember

New Year's Day
January 1

Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 21

Valentine's Day
February 14

Presidents' Day
February 18



Palm Desert International Sports Festival and Senior Games



This February, hundreds of athletes ages 35 to 90, will travel to Palm Desert to compete in the 13th 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 7 to February 10. 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 basketball, golf, lawn bowling, pickleball, racquetball, shuffleboard, swimming, table tennis, track and field, volleyball, and more. A variety of age divisions allows athletes to compete against their peers while chasing gold, silver, and bronze medals.

Palm Desert's Festival is hosted by the Desert Recreation District and the City of Palm Desert and includes an Opening Ceremony on Friday, February 8, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. at Civic Center Park Amphitheater featuring live music, a beer garden, and barbecue. The Opening Ceremony is free to attend, but the barbecue costs \$15 per person.

The deadline for athletes to register is Friday, January 25. Admission for spectators to all sports is free and open to the public. To learn more or register for the Festival, please visit www.desertseniorgames.org or call **760-541-4184**.

Share Your Thoughts on Palm Desert's Concerts in the Park



The City's concerts at Civic Center Park are an annual favorite with residents and visitors alike, delighting attendees of all ages with live music performed under the stars.

In recent years, the City has explored different times for the shows, holding them in the summer and fall and receiving enthusiastic responses from concertgoers, regardless of the season.

Now, residents have a chance to weigh in on the popular concerts and tell the City what they think by filling out a brief survey (enclosed). Survey questions range from queries about the best time to hold the concerts to the type of music that attendees would like to see and hear performed.

Surveys can be returned through the mail at no charge or dropped off at City Hall, 73510 Fred Waring Drive, or at the Palm Desert Visitor Center, 73470 El Paseo, Suite F-7. The survey can also be completed and submitted online by visiting the City's website at www.cityofpalmdesert.org.

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

Neighborhoods Invited to Participate in City's Emergency Radio Program



The City of Palm Desert is inviting interested neighborhood groups and homeowner associations to participate in the City's Emergency Operation Center Radio Program.

This voluntary program will enable participating residents to communicate with City Hall during major disasters. Participants will provide critical information about their neighborhoods, allowing authorities to assign resources more efficiently and accurately during a major disaster. There is a minimal cost to purchase a radio and provide monthly maintenance.

For more information about the program and how to participate, please call **760-346-0611, ext. 326**.

Free Film Series

Fifth Season Showcases Public Art



Discover inspiring and thought provoking cinema at the 2013 Palm Desert Public Art Documentary Film Series. The popular series' fifth season of free, public art-themed documentaries begins January 17 with a screening of *The Lost Bird Project*.

Moved by the stories of extinct American birds, sculptor Todd McGrain sets out to bring their vanished forms back by permanently

placing his evocative bronze memorials at the location of each bird's demise. The film will be followed by a question and answer session with the film's co-producer and cinematographer Scott Anger.

The 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, in Palm Desert. Each screening will include a featured speaker who will discuss that night's film. Admission is free, but reservations are recommended. For more information and reservations, please call 760-837-1663 or register online at palmdesert.ucr.edu/programs/events.html.

Additional films include:

February 21 - *Downside Up*

With 80 percent of its downtown buildings closed, North Adams, Massachusetts united blue-collar locals with art world luminaries to transform economic failure into America's largest center for contemporary art. Featured speaker: Bill Schinsky, founder and director of the Coachella Valley Art Center.



March 21 - *Waste Land*

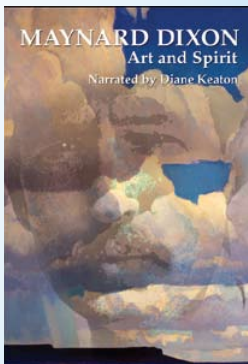
This Academy Award-nominated film follows artist Vik Muniz from Brooklyn to his native Brazil and the world's largest garbage dump in Rio de Janeiro where he photographs and collaborates with an eclectic band of "catadores" - pickers of recyclable materials. Featured speakers: Karen Riley, S.C.R.A.P. Gallery Executive Director and Lisa Soccio, Director, Walter N. Marks Center for the Arts and Assistant Professor of Art History College of the Desert.



April 18 - *Maynard Dixon: Art and Spirit*

This film reveals the artist's life through interviews with his family, friends, and members of the art community. The film is enriched with more than 400 of Dixon's paintings and drawings, portraits of Dixon, family photographs, and rare audio by his second wife, celebrated photographer, Dorothea Lange. Featured speaker: Jayne McKay, the film's writer, producer, and director.

Maynard Dixon: Art and Spirit is being shown in conjunction with Desertscape 2013. For more information on Desertscape events throughout April featuring plein air artwork in the Coachella Valley visit www.Desertscape.net.



Park Ceremony Recognizes International Holocaust Remembrance Day

In 2005, the United Nations General Assembly designated January 27 as International Holocaust Remembrance Day, 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 Gerald R. Ford Chapter of Mensch Foundation International will hold its third annual ceremony in honor of this special day on Sunday, January 27, beginning at 1 p.m. at Palm Desert Civic Center Park.

Scheduled speakers include economic analyst Morris Beschloss, who escaped Nazi Germany as a child; Rabbi Yonason Denebeim, Director of Chabad of Palm Springs; Laszlo Kalman, the Hungarian Consul General in Los Angeles; and Dr. Bernd Fischer, the German Consul General in Los Angeles.

Highlights will include a musical performance by a guest cantor and a remembrance walk from the park's amphitheater to the nearby Palm Desert Holocaust Memorial that will serve as a moving conclusion to the program.

Civic Center Park is located at Fred Waring Drive and San Pablo Avenue. Attendees are encouraged to bring chairs and blankets for the ceremony. For more information and to volunteer, please email geigersa@gmail.com or call 760-416-3685.



REMEMBER *Rules of the Road for Golf Carts*

Palm Desert adopted its pioneering Golf Cart Transportation Program two decades ago, giving residents the freedom to use their golf carts as a convenient and environmentally friendly way to get around town.

Today, many residents still take advantage of the program and use golf carts for travel on streets in Palm Desert with a speed limit of 25 miles per hour or less. Some golf cart drivers, however, are unaware of the guidelines for their use, and could be placing themselves and others at risk.

Golf cart drivers must have a valid driver's license and observe the same rules of the road as automobiles. Only golf carts with valid City permits are allowed to use the designated golf cart routes, lanes, and paths that crisscross the community.

To be permitted, golf carts must be electrically powered, conform to industry standards for manufactured golf carts, and provide an unobstructed view to the rear from the driver's seat. They must also be equipped with many of the same safety features as cars and other passenger vehicles, including seat belts for all occupants, turn signals, side and rearview mirrors, and head, tail, and brake lights.

To obtain a City permit, the golf cart must first be inspected by a Palm Desert code enforcement officer to confirm that the cart meets the requirements. A \$10 permit can only be purchased after the cart passes inspection. Permits are valid for two years.

For more information and to get your cart inspected, please call 760-346-0611, ext. 477.



