

# 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

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER  
2016



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## FIRST WEEKEND

pdfirstweekend.com | Palm Desert

# Street Highlights the Return of First Weekend Palm Desert

Palm Desert continues to be the destination for an inspiring and fun-filled weekend of arts and culture each month with the return of First Weekend in November.

The excitement begins on Friday, November 6, and continues throughout the weekend with an exciting lineup of free events highlighted by Street – a unique celebration of music, art, fashion and food inspired by street culture – on Saturday, November 7, from 5 to 10 p.m. on the deck at Westfield Palm Desert.



Focused around energetic art and music with a hip-hop flare, Street will feature unique art walls and sculptures curated by the Coachella Valley art scene as well as live music from artists including DJ Alf Alpha and the Pleyboyz, Speak, Thr3 Strykes, Nikko Gray, and Cakes. Local favorite Stuff Pizza, as well as food trucks from Los Angeles and Orange County, will provide mouthwatering treats in an outdoor setting that offers some of the Valley's most breathtaking views.

Street is just one of the many exciting 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.

In conjunction with First Weekend and El Paseo After Dark, the Palm Springs Art Museum in Palm Desert will host First Fridays at the gallery from 4 to 8 p.m. beginning November 6. These fun, free events feature live music, performance art, and film screenings every first Friday of the month, November through May. Participants will be able to view the current exhibition on display in the gallery followed by entertainment in the Faye Sarkowsky Sculpture Garden from 5 to 7 p.m.

First Weekend partners include El Paseo Shopping District, Palm Springs Art Museum in Palm Desert, El Paseo Cruise Night, Palm Desert Public Art Program, the McCallum Theatre, the Gardens on El Paseo, Westfield Palm Desert, the Living Desert, and the Indian Wells Theater at Cal State.

For more information about all of the exciting First Weekend events, visit [www.pdfirstweekend.com](http://www.pdfirstweekend.com).

For more information about Street, please visit [www.palmdesertstreetscene.com](http://www.palmdesertstreetscene.com) or call 760-346-2121.





Palm desert's weekly Certified Farmers' Market is back giving residents and visitors an opportunity to shop for fresh, regionally grown fruits and vegetables and other artisanal products located

at the western intersection of highway 111 and el Paseo, 72559 highway 111, the Farmers' market now offers new, more convenient hours from 4 to 8 p.m. every wednesday through may.

Information: 760-322-3521

Palm desert residents can safely dispose of their used oil and oil filters in a convenient and environmentally friendly way at the City's Used Oil and Oil Filter Recycling Event on Saturday, november 7, from 8 to 11 a.m. at napa auto Parts, 42100 beacon hill, in Palm desert.

Information: 760-776-6416

the mcCallum theatre institute presents the 18th Annual Choreography Festival on Saturday, november 7, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, november 8, at 4 p.m. more than 100 finalists from across the nation will compete for \$26,000 in cash awards and a paid engagement at the mcCallum.



Information and tickets

760-340-ARTS or at [www.mccallumtheatre.com](http://www.mccallumtheatre.com)

the City will host a free, two-day shredding event at City hall, 73510 Fred waring drive, on Friday and Saturday, november 20 and 21. Shredding will take place from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. or until the trucks are full. this free event is open to Palm desert residents and businesses. businesses will be limited to ten boxes of materials per day.

Information: 760-776-6416

## Dates to Remember

Daylight Saving Time Ends

november 1

Election Day

november 3

Veterans Day

november 11

Thanksgiving

november 26

Christmas Day

december 25

New Year's Eve

december 31



## Celebrate the Season

Families, friends, and anyone who enjoys a good time is invited to ring in the winter holidays together at a community celebration of seasonal cheer on Friday, december 4, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

located in the courtyard and entrance to the Palm desert City Council Chamber, the evening's fun will include a festive light display, delicious treats, and a visit from Santa Claus that will offer ample opportunities for pictures with Santa.

Palm desert Civic Center, 73510 Fred waring drive, is located at Fred waring d rive and San Pablo avenue. to learn more about this free, family friendly event, please call 760-346-0611, ext. 386 or visit [www.cityofpalmdesert.org](http://www.cityofpalmdesert.org).

## CITY THANKS COMMITTEE & COMMISSION MEMBERS

### Community Volunteers

those of us who are fortunate enough to live and work here know that that Palm desert is a uniquely wonderful place. much of the credit for our community's warm, inviting character belongs to Palm desert's involved citizenry, many of whom generously serve as volunteers.

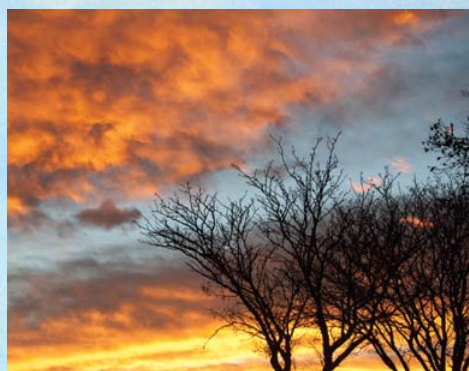
more than 100 residents serve on Palm desert's 16 standing committees and commissions, and represent the community through appointments to outside organizations including the Palm Springs airport Commission, Coachella Valley mosquito & Vector Control district, and joslyn Center.

the Palm desert City Council along with City staff deeply appreciate and gratefully recognize the service of Palm desert's committee and commission members who dedicate their valuable time and exceptional talents to ensure that our community continues to be a thriving and beautiful place to live, work, and prosper.

## Enjoy Looking Around at the Community Gallery



Roy's Motel and Cafe by Dennis Johnson



Creation by Robert Quintana

the Palm desert Community gallery will feature artwork from dennis johnson and robert Quintana in its new exhibition, *Looking Around*, on display november 12 through january 22. the public is invited to an opening reception to honor the artists on monday, november 16, from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

dennis johnson's artwork is an exploration of the landscapes in both the rural and urban areas in which he has traveled and lived. recurring themes found in his work include familiarity, cultural and historical context, and iconic representations of contemporary urban landscape into which he infuses text and diverse media.

robert Quintana has been a practitioner of photography since his brother handed him his first camera at age 13. Since then, his photographs have been influenced by such greats as ansel adams and Salvador dali. through the study of these artists' work, he has created his own aesthetic of simple, eccentric, and eclectic artwork that highlights natural beauty, contrast, and light.

the Palm desert Community gallery is located in Palm desert City hall, 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](http://www.palmdesertart.org).

# GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

## Mapping Palm Desert's Future

Palm Desert has changed a great deal since its incorporation in 1973. Today, our community is poised for more exciting changes as the City plans how Palm Desert will develop over the next 20 years through an update of its general Plan.

As part of the update process, the City is reaching out to organizations and agencies as well as groups of residents, business owners, and other stakeholders who would like to learn more about the proposed changes.

A general plan guides a city's physical development including buildings, roads, parks, and other key infrastructure. Palm Desert's existing general Plan was written in the early 2000s and adopted in 2004. The 20-month update process, which began in June 2014, is building upon the City's recently adopted vision Palm Desert Strategic Plan, which outlined a new 20-year vision for the community along with specific goals designed to realize that vision.

Areas that have been identified for the most change under the updated general Plan include the highway 111 corridor, the undeveloped lands west of the Cal State and UC campuses, and San Pablo Avenue from Magnesia Falls Drive to El Paseo.

Key concepts include creating a walkable, landscaped, community space on San Pablo with wide sidewalks, shade trees, a cycle track, and reduced traffic lanes; reworking the frontage roads on highway 111 to make them flow more easily and provide wider sidewalks and enhanced landscaping; and permitting new development of taller, mixed-use buildings at strategic locations.

An administrative draft of the new general Plan has been completed and the associated environmental impact report is expected to be completed and ready for public review before the end of the year. Public hearings before Palm Desert's Planning Commission and City Council are expected to take place in early 2016.

To learn more about the new general Plan, or to schedule a presentation for your organization or group, please call 760-776-6386 or email [rstendell@cityofpalmdesert.org](mailto:rstendell@cityofpalmdesert.org).



## Furry Face Joins Force

The Palm Desert Police Department's newest member comes from the Netherlands, is 3½ years old, and has a wet, black nose. His name is Rio and he is a Belgian Malinois (pronounced malinwa) police service dog.

Rio and his handler, Deputy Patrick Mushinski, have already completed basic canine training and narcotics detection school and are busy patrolling the streets of Palm Desert. Serious police work is Rio's primary job, including suspect apprehension and narcotics detection.

Sun City Palm Desert resident Maria Malter donated \$15,000 to the City to pay for the purchase and training of a new police dog to take the place of Van Snapp, who recently retired after serving as the City's police dog since 2007.

In addition to sometimes dangerous police work, Rio and Mushinski, who has worked out of the Palm Desert Sheriff's Station for four years, also serve as ambassadors for the Palm Desert Police Department making appearances and demonstrations at schools and local events.

"Everybody loves dogs," Mushinski said, adding that Rio does not have the police dog's stereotypical gruff personality. "He's actually really sweet, very playful, and silly. He's a good dog."

For more information about Rio and Deputy Mushinski, please call 760-836-1600.



## Palm Desert's Open City Hall Offers Residents a New Way to Be Heard



Throughout Palm Desert's history, its residents have shaped what the City is and determined where it is headed. The City values this input and is constantly looking for ways to encourage resident engagement and make it more convenient.

Now, residents have a simple and effective new way to weigh in on important Palm Desert topics and see what their neighbors and fellow residents are saying thanks to Open City Hall Palm Desert.

Open City Hall is an online forum exclusively for Palm Desert residents. Participation is easy. Simply go to [www.peakdemocracy.com/3092](http://www.peakdemocracy.com/3092) and click on the Open Town Hall link.

When you post your first statement, you will be asked for your name and home address. This confidential information is exclusively used to confirm that statements are being posted by Palm Desert residents and not by people outside the community.

Open City Hall is operated by Peak Democracy, a non-partisan company whose mission is to broaden civic engagement and build public trust in government. Their strict privacy agreement ensures that your information is kept confidential.

As with any public comment process, participation in Open City Hall is voluntary. City leaders will review posted statements and incorporate the input into their decision-making process along with other public input.

However you choose to participate in your local government, thank you for helping to make Palm Desert an even better place to live, work, and play.



The City of Palm Desert's new 2016 calendars have arrived. Entitled "Palm Desert: A Natural Beauty," the City's 2016 Calendar pays tribute to the breathtaking mountain vistas, hidden oases, and colorful assortment of flora and fauna that can be found in and around our community.

The spectacular images, most of which were captured by celebrated nature photographer Tom Brewster, feature locations including The Living Desert, Desert Willow Golf Resort, Eric Johnson Memorial Gardens, and a variety of scenic trails in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument.

Free calendars are available for pickup at Palm Desert City Hall, the Historical Society of Palm Desert, Palm Desert Library, Joslyn Center, Palm Desert Area Chamber of Commerce, Desert Willow Golf Resort, and other convenient locations. For more information, please call **760-776-6380**.

**2016**  
CALENDARS  
HIGHLIGHT  
THE  
BEAUTY  
OF  
PALM DESERT

**Palm Desert Honors Veterans**  
at Civic Center Park



Palm Desert honors the sacrifices of those who have served in our nation's military and recognizes the dedication of those who continue to serve with a free Veterans Day celebration at Civic Center Park on Wednesday, November 11, at 11 a.m.

This year's event will feature speeches from active duty and veteran military service members, including Lieutenant Colonel Brian Middleton, Commanding Officer Third Battalion, Fourth Marines, who recently returned from deployment in the Middle East where he was part of Operation Inherent Resolve.

The celebration will also feature a patriotic concert performed by the Heatwave Boys and Girls Club Jazz Band. Attendees are invited to bring blankets and portable chairs to the park's amphitheater to enjoy the program in comfort. Alcoholic beverages and smoking are prohibited.

Civic Center Park is located at 73510 Fred Waring Drive on the northeast corner of Fred Waring and San Pablo Avenue. For more information, please call **760-346-0611, ext. 386**.



**PALM DESERT**

phone 760-346-0611

e-mail  
[info@cityofpalmdesert.org](mailto:info@cityofpalmdesert.org)

Websites  
[www.palmdesert.org](http://www.palmdesert.org)  
[www.cityofpalmdesert.org](http://www.cityofpalmdesert.org)

Watch City Council meetings live online at [www.cityofpalmdesert.org](http://www.cityofpalmdesert.org) on the 2nd and 4th Thursday each month at 4 p.m.

**Susan Marie Weber**  
Mayor

**Robert A. Spiegel**  
Mayor Pro Tem

**Jan Hamrik**  
**Sally Jonathan**  
**VanGerner**

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







