

# 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

MARCH/APRIL  
2017



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## Couture and Cuisine at Fashion Week El Paseo/ Palm Desert Food & Wine



One of the season's most scintillating happenings – **Fashion Week El Paseo** – returns to palm desert, march 18 to 25, to celebrate a 12th year of fabulousness.

the week-long extravaganza and its famous red carpet will once again grace the top of the parking structure at the gardens on el paseo where top designers will showcase their newest collections along with fresh ideas from emerging talents.

highlights include michael Costello and the stars of *Project Runway* unveiling their spring/summer 2017 collections, the popular Le Chien canine fashion show, and a finale featuring new York designer Cd greene, whose exclusive and edgy looks are created with architectural precision.

this is the seventh year that fashion week will include **Palm Desert Food & Wine**. the popular event brings together celebrity chefs and sommeliers for three extraordinary days of fabulous food and premium wine tasting, march 24 to 26. a portion of the proceeds benefit friends of the james beard foundation.



this year's list of culinary celebrities is led by food expert gail simmons, *Food & Wine* special projects director and judge on bravo's *Top Chef*, who is hosting the three-day festival. featured chefs include james beard award winner gale gand, partner and founding executive pastry chef of t r u in Chicago; tory mcphail, executive chef at Commander's palace in new Orleans;

Los angeles-based chef and restaurateur brooke williamson, runner-up on *Top Chef* season 10 in seattle and competitor in *Top Chef*'s current season, winner of esquire network's *Knife Fight*, and star, host, and mentor on mt v's *House of Food*; and aarti sequeira, host of food network's *Aarti Party*, and 2010 winner of *Food Network Star*; and many more.



Gail Simmons

**Fashion Week El Paseo** march 18 - 25

Tickets and information: [www.fashionweekelpaseo.com](http://www.fashionweekelpaseo.com)  
or 888-596-1027

**Palm Desert Food & Wine** march 24 - 26

Tickets and information: [www.palmdesertfoodandwine.com](http://www.palmdesertfoodandwine.com)  
or 888-596-1027



The public is invited to the **25th Annual Senior Inspiration Awards Luncheon** on Friday, March 24. The event at the JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort and Spa

will recognize 11 outstanding individuals from Riverside County and each of the Coachella Valley's nine cities. Hal Gruen is Palm Desert's 2017 honoree. Tickets are \$30 and benefit the regional access project foundation.



Hal Gruen

Tickets and information: **760-863-2556** or [www.seniorinspirationawards.org](http://www.seniorinspirationawards.org)

The City has established a **Short-Term Rental Afterhours Hotline - 760-833-7998** - so that residents can conveniently report problems with rentals in their neighborhoods when City hall is closed.

Afterhours Hotline: **760-833-7998**

Business hours (8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday - Friday): **760-776-6360**



While they are helpful tools, **portable blowers**, lawnmowers, and other powered equipment can be noisy. To allow necessary work while protecting the enjoyment of

residents and visitors, the **City regulates the hours when these tools can be used**. From October through April, permitted hours are Monday through Sunday, **9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.** With the exception of blowers, maintenance activities for golf courses and tennis courts can operate from 5:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., seven days a week. Information: **760-776-6360**

The City's free **docent led public art tours** continue on March 4 at 9 a.m. with a tour of the art at the Palm Desert Library. Participants are invited to meet at the entrance to the library, 73300 Fred Waring Drive. April's tour will feature the art of the El Paseo exhibition. Participants are invited to meet at the northeast corner of El Paseo and Highway 74.

Information: **760-346-0611, ext. 664** or visit [www.palmdesertart.org](http://www.palmdesertart.org)

## Dates to Remember

**Daylight Saving Time Begins**  
March 12

**First Day of Spring**  
March 20

**Annual Clean Up Day**  
April 15

**Earth Day**  
April 22



Photo by Jack Hartin

## Open Call Celebrates 19 Years of Talent

The McCallum Theatre Institute presents its 19th annual Open Call talent Competition, Thursday through Saturday, April 13 to 15. Open Call presents the Coachella Valley's best performers in an exciting talent competition. Local artists team up with staff and crew to present four visually stunning and energy-filled performances.

This annual, sell-out event has become an audience favorite and is fun for the entire family. Audience members will vote for their favorite acts at the Thursday and Friday evening (7 p.m.) and Saturday matinee (2 p.m.) performances. Winners will be announced at Saturday evening's final performance at 7 p.m.

Open Call tickets go on sale March 2 at the McCallum Theatre box office, 73000 Fred Waring Drive, and start at \$12. Tickets can also be purchased online at [www.mccallumtheatre.com](http://www.mccallumtheatre.com) and by calling **760-340-2787**.

## Film Series Concludes with **Compelling Documentaries**



*Bending Sticks: The Sculpture of Patrick Dougherty*

The 2017 Palm Desert Public Art Documentary Film Series continues on March 16 with a free screening of *Bending Sticks: The Sculpture of Patrick Dougherty*.

In a career spanning four continents and three decades, internationally acclaimed environmental artist Patrick Dougherty has created over 200 majestic sculptures out of nothing more than saplings. *Bending Sticks* follows Dougherty and his collaborators during a year of "stickwork" revealing his creative process, inspirations, thoughts about the temporary nature of his work, and unusual personal story. Katherine Hough, Chief Curator at the Palm Springs Art Museum, will lead a discussion of the film following the screening.



*Packed in a Trunk: The Lost Art of Edith Lake Wilkinson*

The popular series of free public art-themed documentary films concludes on April 20 with *Packed in a Trunk: The Lost Art of Edith Lake Wilkinson*.

Edith Lake Wilkinson moved from West Virginia to New York by herself in 1888 to study at the Art Students League. During the next three decades Wilkinson created artwork and a life for herself. This film depicts Edith's great-niece, Jane Anderson (Emmy-winning writer & director) two-year exploration as she seeks recognition for her great-aunt's life's work. Instead of a featured speaker, the film will be preceded by an awards ceremony for the UC/R Palm Desert/Palm Springs Art Museum Artists Council Spring Exhibit People's Choice Award.

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 UC/R Palm Desert, 75080 Frank Sinatra Drive. 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/events.html](http://palmdesert.ucr.edu/programs/events.html).

## taking a Closer Look at **Short-Term Rentals**



Palm Desert is known internationally as a wonderful place to visit. Our residents know their community is also one of the best places in the world to grow up, work, raise a family, and retire.

The City wants to preserve the qualities that make Palm Desert desirable to residents and visitors alike.

Recent developments in nearby communities have led to concerns that Palm Desert might experience a significant increase in the number of short-term rental properties, which could threaten the character of our community.

In an effort to avoid this and plan thoughtfully and fairly for the future, the Palm Desert City Council recently passed a temporary

moratorium on new short-term rental permits in the City.

The year-long moratorium will provide the City with time to evaluate the opportunities and challenges posed by the increasing popularity of vacation rentals and discuss strategies that respect the rights of homeowners while preserving neighborhoods and the fabric of our community.

For more information about the moratorium, please call the Community Development Department at **760-346-0611, ext. 483**.

# Historical Society Art Show

## Features Classic Desert Paintings

The historical society of palm desert presents an exhibition of paintings by kathi hilton and her late father, john hilton, march 17 to 20, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. the historical society, located at 73861 el paseo, will host an opening reception for the exhibition on saturday, march 18, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

john hilton is the best known of the early desert painters and many consider the hiltons the first family of desert art. both father and daughter highlight the sublime colors of the land and sky, picturing the desert we know as a celestial place. kathi hilton will be in attendance all four days of the exhibit and be available to talk with visitors about the luminaries she and her father knew, including desert painters jimmy swinnerton, maynard dixon, and bill bender, as well as her dad's friends general george patton and howard hughes.



Beaconing Palms by Kathi Hilton



Symphony in Sand by Kathi Hilton

a resident of roosevelt, utah, kathi hilton grew up at her father's gem shop and art gallery at valerie jean corners in thermal, and often visited the *Desert Magazine* art gallery in palm desert. Once headquarters of the vibrant smoke tree painters scene, the building is now occupied by manhattan in the desert restaurant. kathi and her father also spent time at the living desert, where john hilton and other artists painted dioramas for wildlife exhibits. she will be showing her paintings from the California and utah deserts, along with a selection of her father's landscapes - some painted at his former home in 29 palms - as well as his sketches from a baja trip that were reproduced in the book *Hardly Any Fences*.

for more information, please call **760-346-6588** or visit [www.hspd.org/](http://www.hspd.org/)

## COps Volunteers Enhance Public Safety through vacation home Check and Other programs

Volunteering for community service can be a very rewarding experience, especially if it is volunteering for the palm desert Citizens On patrol (COps).

COps volunteers receive specialized training including Cpr/first aid, traffic control, driver's safety, and patrolling requirements. they work closely with police and firefighters, monitoring police radio traffic and responding to accident scenes where they assist with traffic control.

COps volunteers also operate the City's **Vacation Home Check Program**, which provides palm desert residents with enhanced security and peace of mind during extended vacations. COps volunteers patrol and visit registered single-family homes in non-gated communities while residents are away for two weeks or more. these ongoing visits include checking for broken windows, evidence of intrusion, and other obvious problems, which are reported to the resident and the police.

to register for the vacation home Check program, residents can fill out an application at the portola Community Center, 45480 portola avenue. for more information about the vacation home Check program or about becoming a COps volunteer, please call **760-862-9848**.



## ENJOY ARIAS OUTDOORS AT THE FESTIVAL OF OPERA & ART



Experience inspiring vocal artistry and beautiful music in a scenic setting at the eighth annual festival of Opera and art on saturday, march 19, from 1 to 6 p.m., at the Civic Center park amphitheater.

this fun, free event features world class vocalists and the desert winds freedom band performing a thrilling program. in addition to the wonderful music, there will be art displays and interactive activities for all.

attendees are invited to bring blankets, chairs, and umbrellas to enjoy the afternoon. food and non-alcoholic drinks will also be available for purchase.

Civic Center park is located at 73510 fred waring drive (fred waring and san pablo avenue). for more information, please call **760-323-8353**.

## Free, Safe Disposal of Used Oil and Oil Filters

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, march 4, from 8 to 11 a.m. at autoZone, located at 34860 monterey avenue.



used oil must be stored properly in a clean, sealed, uncontaminated container. workers at the event will accept up to five gallons of used oil per vehicle. it is illegal to transport more than five gallons of used oil in a personal vehicle.

anyone who is unable to participate in this event can dispose of their used oil and oil filters free of charge at burrtec's recycle Center and at other certified collection centers in palm desert. for more information, please call **760-776-6416**.

First  
Weekend  
Spring Events  
Feature  
Wildflowers  
and New Art



First Weekend fun continues this spring with a colorful and inspiring lineup of free events highlighted by a celebration of wildflowers in March and an exciting new art exhibition in April.

Held on Saturday, March 4, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the foot of the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument, the Coachella Valley Wildflower Festival celebrates a 10th year of promoting wellness, recreation, and the beautiful outdoors. The popular annual favorite features wildflower hikes, local artists, a kids' zone, beer and wine garden, and a wide variety of exhibitions and vendor booths.

Drenching winter rains have set the table for a magnificent display of wildflowers and all are encouraged to come out and enjoy nature's fireworks as part of a fun day. Offsite parking is a must with regular shuttles running throughout the day between the festival and St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, 47535 Highway 74, where parking is free.

In April, First Weekend celebrates the debut of *Desert X*, an art event on display through April 30 that will make the Coachella Valley and its landscape a canvas for a curated exhibition of site-specific works by established and emerging artists. Palm Desert will be the site of multiple *Desert X* artworks and festivities. The Palm Springs Art Museum in Palm Desert kicks things off on Friday, April 7, from 4 to 9 p.m. with its free Galen First Friday celebration featuring a talk by local *Desert X* artist Phillip K. Smith II followed by live music and craft beer in the Faye Sarkowsky Sculpture Garden.

On Saturday, April 8, at 10:30 a.m., the art inspired fun continues at Cap Homme/ Ralph Adams Park where participants will get to converse with *Desert X* creators followed by a hike up the Homestead Trail to glimpse unique perspectives on *Curves and Zigzags*, artist Claudia Comte's compelling *Desert X* installation.

These are just a sample of the many exciting events featured as part of First Weekend Palm Desert. For more information about First Weekend events, visit [www.pdfirstweekend.com](http://www.pdfirstweekend.com).

For more information about the Wildflower Festival, visit [www.desertmountains.org](http://www.desertmountains.org) or call 760-862-9984.



PALM DESERT

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Websites  
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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.

Jan Hamik  
Mayor

Sabby Jonathan  
Mayor Pro Tem

Kathleen Kelly  
Gina Nester  
Susan Marie Vitor

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







