

Council Corner

Councilmember Georgia Lord



I recently had the opportunity to see first hand how Goodyear's Community Funding program in partnership with Junior Achievement of Arizona is reaching out to schools, teaching our youth real-world skills. Junior Achievement (JA) believes every child deserves an education in economics and finances to inspire and prepare them for success

in a global economy. Their goal is to prepare young people by showing them how to generate wealth and effectively manage it, how to create jobs which make their communities more robust, and how to apply entrepreneurial thinking to the workplace.

In partnership with Goodyear's Community Funding program, Junior Achievement (JA) is providing K-12 financial literacy, workforce readiness and citizenship education to Goodyear's children. Goodyear students participate in JA's in-class, after-school and experience-based programs. On October 9, 2008, two teams from Agua Fria High School participated in JA's Stock Market Challenge at the Arizona Biltmore. After receiving classroom instruction, students compete to see who can grow their mock-stock portfolio and create the highest net worth. Agua Fria students placed 9th and 14th out of 50!

Fifth and 6th grade students are participating in the JA BizTown™ (JABT) program. JABT is an innovative learning program that provides students with an understanding of basic economic concepts as well as "consumer" skills they will use as adults. The program combines 20 hours of in-class learning with a day-long visit to our mini-town, where students have the opportunity to run banks, manage restaurants, read utility meters, write checks and even vote. It is a fully interactive, true-to-life, simulated town where students learn the fundamental relationship between academics and life beyond school. This year, 364 Goodyear students will participate in this exceptional program.

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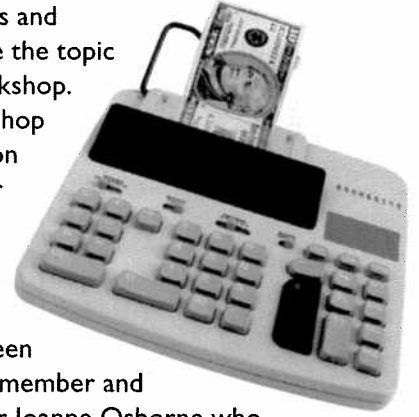
P.S. An additional 128 Palm Valley students will participate in JA's after-school programs. You can be part of the solution. To volunteer or make a donation, visit www.jaaz.org, call 480-377-8500 or e-mail info@jaaz.org.



Free Small Business Workshop Series Offered

Two free workshops are being offered by the City of Goodyear on Feb. 17 and 19 to local businesses to help them prosper during these tough economic times. The workshops are scheduled for 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., room 117 at City Hall, 190 N. Litchfield Rd. Speakers and topics will be different each evening.

The economy, trends and opportunities will be the topic of the Feb. 17th workshop. The Feb. 19th workshop will include a panel on marketing, customer service and staying competitive.



This free business success series has been organized by councilmember and small business owner Joanne Osborne who recognizes the importance of our local business community and the needs they have in today's economy. "These workshops will provide local businesses with insights and tools they can use to maneuver through the market's difficult conditions and stay competitive," states Osborne.

For more information and to reserve a seat, contact Parrish Spisz at 623-882-7781, or e-mail parrish.spisz@goodyearaz.gov. Visit the Goodyear website at goodyearaz.gov/seminars for more information as it becomes available.

Education Summit Brings Schools and City Together

The City of Goodyear is hosting its first "Education Summit" on January 27, 2009 with the superintendents of school districts and principals of schools serving Goodyear children. The summit's goal is to begin a dialogue with those six school districts to add value to our children's education and services.

By the Goodyear Mayor and Council working in partnership with our schools, it will advance Goodyear's goal of strengthening youth and families. Councilmember Joanne Osborne organized this seminar as part of her strategy to find ways the City can enhance the schools that serve our families.