



ak-Chín O'odham Runner



Maricopa, Arizona

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August Community Meeting

Story by Mihio Manus

During the Community Meeting on Mon, August 25 at 6 p.m., two Community departments presented updates before Chairman Louis Manuel, and Councilmembers Delia Carlyle and Terry Enos and gathered attendees.

The Ak-Chin Health Education and Diabetes Program presented a short video that featured members of their staff promoting participation in a 5K walk/run which was held this past May.

Marc Matteson said one of the goals of the program is to promote healthy lifestyles and activities for everyone in the Community. He said he hopes the community outreach that the department is undertaking will affect healthier lifestyles.

Matteson also told the attendees that the Health Education and Diabetes Program does have diabetes supplies like syringes, alcohol wipes and blood testing stripes for those that might need them in emergency or extenuating circumstances. For example, if a person wasn't able to get to the clinic before the weekend but needed supplies to get them through, they could get assistance from the Diabetes Program.

The program also offers a therapeutic shoe program for Community members.

Martina Guy Peters talked about other programs the department has undertaken to promote healthier lifestyles for all age groups. For elders, they have put on chair volleyball games and square dancing. For Community employees, they have promoted a 10-week weight loss challenge that many have participated in.

Dwayne Yazzie said the department also offers strength training to all age groups. Yazzie said if Community members are interested in individual training to focus on specific areas of their health, they can contact him to set up appointments.

Chairman Manuel asked, "How much do you think you could expand on services with your own facilities?"

Matteson responded that the

department is currently making the best of the space they have. He said that preventative measures are very important as opposed to reactive ones. So getting people in to utilize their services is what the department is concentrating on.

"People have to be interested," Matteson said. However, he continued that the department has elicited good response to the programs they've instituted.

Brittany Allcott, Community Events Planner, presented an update on her department as well.

"I do some of the larger events here on the Community," Allcott said. She talked about the upcoming Employee Bash and Masik Tas as some of the events her department is working on. She is on the core committees for both events.

Allcott said her department helps to conduct tours of the Community and also facilitates tours for outside media throughout the Community departments and enterprises. Community Events also assists departments with planning their own events. So if departments are looking for facilities or things like chairs to accommodate meetings or events, they can help.

The department also works with Community partners like the Ak-Chin Pavilion, Live Nation and the Arizona Rattlers.

Allcott mentioned that they are able to assist Community members with Coppersky vouchers that are good for one year of membership to the recreation facility. For information on these vouchers, Community members need to contact the department.

The department has recently conducted a 'soft roll-out' of the Community FB page which will serve to post Community events and updates.

Allcott said she hopes the social media endeavor will help in getting the word out on events that affect the community.

HopeKids and families enjoy fun Saturday at UltraStar



After a morning movie, HopeKids and their families enjoyed the rest of the day for several games of bowling in Ten Pins Down, arcade games and laser tag.

Story and photos by K. Morago

Life is not easy for children with special needs or diagnosed with terminal illnesses, and those families that try to make time for an outing is sometimes difficult. Until you meet a HopeKid.

UltraStar at Ak-Chin welcomed HopeKids and their families for a day of fun on Saturday, August 23rd. Choosing between two movies, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles or Puss In Boots, each HopeKid and their family watched movies prior to the theatres opening to the public. This allowed those children with wheelchairs, low immune systems, or wearing oxygen masks a safe and comfortable movie watching environment.

There was much excitement for the t-shirt wearing HopeKids, some who traveled over an hour to reach UltraStar. Many were excited to move from the movies to bowling, or the arcade and laser tag activities. With their smiles, you wouldn't know the seriousness of the medical issues some faced. Children diagnosed with rare forms of cancer, epilepsy, heart issues, and other disorders; the Saturday event was about creating memories with their families, and enjoying life.

"We walk the journey with them, no matter where it takes them," said HopeKids Arizona Executive Director Bridget Asheim, who with Lisa Sweeney, Program Manager, hosted the special August movie event which brought over five hundred people to UltraStar.

Bridget was with a HopeKid when she met UltraStar President and CEO Alan Grossberg at the Scottsdale location sharing the vision of HopeKids last year. Moved, Alan welcomed the organization to view movies there. This is the first time HopeKids visited Ak-Chin and both Alan and Adam Saks, General Manager/Vice-President were on hand to welcome them all and received personal thank you's from grateful families.

Talking with Bridget and Lisa, the stories of families connecting with other families facing similar struggles was

heartwarming. A week prior to the event the HopeKids organization reached a thousand families they have served. Those attending Saturday's event included families that have children who became cancer free and those that lost their child, wanting to help in the HopeKids mission.

The movie outing is one of many events held each week. Last year, HopeKids brought family memories by hosting two hundred events, which included all Arizona major sporting events.

HopeKids was founded in 2001 to help "restore hope and transform the lives of children with life-threatening medical conditions, their families and the communities in which we serve," according to their official website.



It's all about speed for the HopeKids in the arcade.

To learn more about the organization or if you have a HopeKid, visit www.hopekids.org or visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/HopeKidsArizona.

This month's movie event at UltraStar will be Dolphin Tale 2.

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