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# Economic Reporter

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER PRODUCED BY THE CITY OF MESA OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FIRST QUARTER 2014

## City of Mesa lands Apple in Gateway Tech Corridor

Apple Inc. has purchased the former First Solar building for its manufacturing partner, New Hampshire-based GT Advanced



Technologies. The 1.3 million sq. ft. facility is located just off the Loop 202 at Signal Butte and Ellsworth roads.

GT Advanced Technologies will manufacture for Apple creating approximately 700 new, permanent jobs and 1,300 construction jobs. Apple will also be working with Salt River Project to use 100 percent renewable energy, greening the grid and allowing for the utility to invest in entirely new, renewable energy projects.

The City of Mesa had previously invested heavily in the infrastructure in the area to accommodate forthcoming manufacturing and high-tech companies, which made it an attractive, “move-in ready” location for Apple.

The Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA) announced it will provide a \$10 million grant from the Arizona Competes Fund, a \$25 million pool used to close deals to bring high-wage businesses and jobs to the state. The grant is contingent upon job creation and capital investment by Apple and its manufacturing partner.

Apple is applying for Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) status. The FTZ status will provide the company with federal and state tax breaks. FTZs have long been established to help promote economic growth in the U.S. through international trade.

To learn more about Apple, go to [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com). To learn more about GT Advanced Technologies, visit [www.gtat.com](http://www.gtat.com). Career opportunities at the facility are listed at [tinyurl.com/GTAdvancedJobs](http://tinyurl.com/GTAdvancedJobs).

## A.T. Still University introduces its virtual anatomy lab, a first in any Arizona medical school

After a one-year build-out on the Mesa campus, A.T. Still University (ATSU) introduced an innovative anatomy lab that will be offered to students and the community alike.

The new lab, which was initiated by ATSU’s School of Osteopathic Medicine in Arizona (ATSU-SOMA), is presented in a virtual setting offering the same anatomy practicum, but without actual cadaver dissection.

“The virtual anatomy lab is a monumental milestone in educational healthcare technology,” said Jay Crutchfield, MD, assistant professor, ATSU-SOMA. “Participants can experience the human anatomy as if there was a physical cadaver in front of them.”



The 56-seat virtual anatomy lab is the first-of-its-kind for any medical school in Arizona and is unique among other medical schools in the United States. Using state-of-the-art computer systems, combined with software specially designed

for teaching anatomy and exclusive software, the future of anatomy education will be offered to students starting fall 2014.

Images of real cadavers are shown in 2D and 3D dimensions.

“The virtual lab will serve the local community as a site for continuing education conferences,” said Dr. Crutchfield. “This allows surgeons, radiologists, and family physicians the opportunity to gather and discuss current medical issues and allows the potential for telemedicine links for patients in rural destinations.”

Initiatives like the virtual anatomy lab underscore ATSU’s mission in training healthcare professionals of the future. Students will experience technology used every day in the practice of medicine, whether in a large urban environment or a rural community setting. Learn more about ATSU at [www.atsu.edu](http://www.atsu.edu).

## Economic Development Advisory Board

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### STAFF

**William Jabjiniak,** Economic Development Department Director

The Economic Development Advisory Board meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30 am in the Lower Level Council Chambers (57 East First Street). All meetings are open to the public.



## The Quick Jab *by Bill Jabjiniak*

### Mesa's economic development accomplishments receive international accolades

Accomplishments do not just happen. Economic development is a team sport and it takes the efforts of many to win the game. In Mesa, we have a passionate City staff; strong leadership in Mayor Scott Smith and the City Council; exceptional support from our City Manager, Chris Brady; and a committed Economic Development Advisory Board. Add a supportive business community and the experienced economic development partners from the region and the state, and we have a team that can and has accomplished great things.

In October 2013, the City of Mesa Office of Economic Development was honored with three prestigious awards. The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) presented Mesa with an Excellence in Economic Development Gold Award for its 2012 Economic Reporter newsletter series and a Silver Award for the 2012 Mayor's Downtown Development Summit. In addition, the City received the Governor's Excellence Award for Innovation in Economic Development from the Arizona Commerce Authority in recognition of the Able Engineering expansion project.



The Gold and Silver Excellence honors were presented at a ceremony during the IEDC Annual Conference held in Philadelphia. IEDC's Excellence in Economic Development Awards recognize the world's best economic development programs and partnerships, marketing materials and the year's most influential leaders. These awards honor organizations and individuals for their efforts in creating positive change in urban, suburban and rural communities.

The Innovation in Economic Development honor was presented at an awards ceremony during the Arizona Governor's Economic Development Conference held in Flagstaff.

My deepest thanks and appreciation go out to all who have participated in Mesa's economic development successes of 2013. We expect 2014 to be another prosperous and active year.

To review past Mesa economic activity, visit the newsletter archives at [www.mesaaz.gov/economic/newsletters.aspx](http://www.mesaaz.gov/economic/newsletters.aspx).



INTERNATIONAL  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
COUNCIL

## Mesa holds Urban Development Summit featuring national experts

Nearly a year ago, Mesa convened the first Downtown Development Summit hosting developers and financiers from around the country to see what Downtown Mesa had to offer. In December 2013, the Summit was expanded to encompass urban development in areas, such as the Fiesta District, and was cohosted by the Neighborhood Economic Development Corporation (NEDCO), Sustainable Communities Collaborative (SCC), and the City of Mesa, and sponsored by J.P. Morgan Chase. In conjunction with the Summit, the Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU) hosted its first-ever local discussion on its national Live/Work/Walk Finance Initiative.

The focus of the Summit promoted opportunities in Downtown Mesa and the Fiesta District, examined innovative healthcare design, and provided networking with local and national leaders in development and finance.

With more than 100 people in attendance, national urban-development experts from around the country spoke on topics ranging from Emerging Urban Markets to Developing and Financing Main Streets. For more information about NEDCO, SCC and CNU, visit [www.nedco-mesa.org](http://www.nedco-mesa.org), [www.sustainablecommunitiescollaborative.com](http://www.sustainablecommunitiescollaborative.com), and [www.cnu.org](http://www.cnu.org).

## Grand opening for LAUNCHPOINT, Mesa Technology Accelerator



The grand opening for LAUNCHPOINT, Mesa Technology Accelerator was hosted in December by the City of Mesa and Arizona State University (ASU), co-partners in the facility. LAUNCHPOINT is a specialized facility where entrepreneurs are provided flexible work space, mentorship guidance, business development assistance, networking opportunities, access to capital, and access to select University assets.

LAUNCHPOINT offers three levels of participation: Landing Pad; Onsite; and Offsite.

- **Landing Pad** is for businesses requiring only a semi-private office space for a few days or a month.

- **Onsite** is for businesses needing a private office, an experienced team of business consultants and space for one to two years. It offers 140 sq. ft. of office space plus 100 hours of one-on-one business consulting.
- **Offsite** is for businesses that don't require the office space, but want the business consulting and connections.
- All three programs offer participation in LAUNCHPOINT'S Mentor Network, coordination with public and private partners such as Arizona Commerce Authority and Greater Phoenix Economic Council, and a connection to ASU through its interns and initiatives.

"Innovation and entrepreneurship are hallmarks of ASU, and we are committed to the success of entrepreneurs and their new ventures both within the university and in the community," said ASU President Michael M. Crow. "Our partnership with the City of Mesa and the opening of LAUNCHPOINT brings valuable new-business resources to our community that will help accelerate the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the East Valley."

At the event, it was announced that LAUNCHPOINT will accept applications for the program until February 27. Qualified applicants will be given an opportunity to "pitch" their business to a panel comprised of local business leaders. The first 10 applications accepted into the program will each receive a promotional package for their business valued at \$10,000.

For more information about participating in the program, contact Shea Joachim at 480-644-3562 or [shea.joachim@mesaaz.gov](mailto:shea.joachim@mesaaz.gov).

## Mesa in final process of purchasing former Air Force Research Lab

In November, final approval was given by the Mesa City Council to allow City Manager Chris Brady the authority to execute transactional documents on behalf of the City to purchase the former Air Force research lab from the U.S. Air Force.



The City has been leasing the facility from the Air Force since June 2011 and renamed it Arizona Laboratories for Security and Defense (AZLabs). The City contracts with McLean, Va.-based Alion Science and Technology Corp. to manage the facilities and lease space to companies doing high-security research and development.

The purchase price is \$454,000 for the lab, which includes 93,000 sq. ft. spread over 10 buildings on 6.5 acres just west of the Gateway Airport. The lab also sits adjacent to LAUNCHPOINT, Mesa Technology Accelerator and Arizona State University Polytechnic campus, and is an important part of Mesa's strategy to recruit high-tech, high value companies to the Gateway area. For information, visit [www.azlabs.org](http://www.azlabs.org).



## Higher Education Roundup

### A.T. Still University

A.T. Still University's Arizona School of Health Sciences (ATSU-ASHS) offers a wide-range of master's programs, doctoral programs and online certificates in areas of health sciences.

The ATSU-ASHS Doctor of Health Sciences (DHSc) online program is currently accepting students for its three online certificate programs, which include Leadership and Organizational Behavior, Global Health, and Fundamentals of Education.

These advanced online health science degree programs provide health professionals with the knowledge and skills to excel in project management, decision-making, organizational leadership, establishing evidence-based standards and gaining competencies to apply research to professional practice.

The enrollment deadline is January 17, 2014. For more information, visit [www.atsu.edu/doctor-of-health-science-degree](http://www.atsu.edu/doctor-of-health-science-degree).

### Benedictine University at Mesa

Benedictine University at Mesa encourages students to help shape the campus' spirit by joining the University's first-ever Student Senate, establishing new clubs, or getting involved in one or more of many upcoming opportunities.

Clubs currently forming include Rotaract, the Nutrition Club, Habitat for Humanity, the Psychology Club, the Association of Latino-American Students, the Book Club and the Bacon Club (to promote the appreciation and use of bacon). Sports will be offered beginning in 2014, including men's and women's golf, cross country, tennis and volleyball, with plans to add badminton, basketball, soccer, swimming, baseball and softball for the 2015-2016 academic year.

To learn about academics, financial aid, student life and more, the University is hosting "Saturday Preview Days" on January 11, February 8 and March 8. The next "Preferred Visit Day" is January 20 and the Spring Open House is March 2. All events are held at Gillett Hall, located at 225 E. Main St. in Downtown Mesa. The University is now accepting applications for spring and fall enrollment.

For more information about Benedictine University at Mesa, please visit the Charles Gregory Enrollment Center at 51 E. Main St., Suite 105, in Downtown Mesa or [www.ben.edu/mesa](http://www.ben.edu/mesa), or contact 602-888-5533 or [mesa@ben.edu](mailto:mesa@ben.edu).



### Chandler Gilbert Community College

#### Training Taiwanese pilots

A unique 11-month program is training 24 Taiwanese students to become FAA-certified commercial pilots. Chandler-Gilbert Community College (CGCC) in partnership with the University of North Dakota Aerospace Foundation is working with TransAsia Airways, based out of Taiwan, to deliver the condensed program. The students will complete their studies in April 2014.

#### Aviation Symposium set

CGCC will host the 17th annual Aircraft Maintenance Symposium in partnership with the Federal Aviation Administration's Scottsdale Flight Standards District Office on March 6 and 7. The two-day program offers aviation inspectors the chance to take the eight class-hours needed every year to renew their certificates for free. It also offers aviation professionals a chance to hear the latest technology trends and safety issues from volunteer instructors who are leaders in the field.

#### Nursing offers concurrent enrollment program

CGCC's nursing program began offering a concurrent enrollment program with Northern Arizona University, where students simultaneously earn an associate and bachelor's degree in nursing. Learn more at [www.cgc.maricopa.edu](http://www.cgc.maricopa.edu).

### DeVry University

DeVry University and Keller Graduate School of Management are offering a Master of Public Administration (MPA) program with an emphasis on government management. A special cohort is being formed for East Valley county and city government employees. Plans are to start this cohort as soon as the March 2014 session providing there is a full cohort of ten or more students. Students do not need to be a current county or city employee to enroll.

Classes will be held on Fridays, during the day, at the Mesa DeVry/Keller Learning Center, on the fifth floor in the Bank of America building on Alma School Road and Southern Avenue. For more information, contact Russell Riter at 602-908-1029 or [rriter@devry.edu](mailto:rriter@devry.edu).

## Mesa Community College

Mesa Community College (MCC), one of the first and largest community colleges in Arizona, has been serving the community for nearly a half-century. Cutting-edge classroom instruction coupled with innovative research and service-learning opportunities enhance the skills and abilities of students thereby aiding in their success and benefitting local employers and the economy.

Community members and businesses are encouraged to participate in the diverse community-oriented programs offered at MCC campuses. In addition to seasonal sporting events, each campus hosts family-oriented events the first Friday of each month. Check MCC's Public Events Calendar at [www.mesacc.edu/calendars](http://www.mesacc.edu/calendars) to learn more about art and theater presentations and student- and campus-sponsored programs.

## Upper Iowa University

Upper Iowa University (UIU) staff and students participated in the Make a Difference Day Project. There were more than 1,700 volunteers who joined in one of more than 50 projects across the City of Mesa.

Residents, neighborhood groups, local businesses, service organizations, church groups, City of Mesa employees, and UIU staff, family members, and students volunteered on a Saturday morning to work on a variety of community projects. Projects included cleaning yards and painting houses as part of the Neighbor Helping Neighbor Program, cleaning parks and alleys, distributing fire safety information, and painting walls and curb numbers. Volunteers also used the MyMesa App to report graffiti on walls, streetlights, and bus stops.

Upcoming, UIU will be hosting Discussion Sessions with various businesses in the area to link the school's programs with the employment skills and needs addressed by these businesses. Learn more about UIU-Mesa at [uiu.edu/locations/educationcenters/uscenters/mesa.html](http://uiu.edu/locations/educationcenters/uscenters/mesa.html).

## Westminster College

Westminster College at Mesa offers new and transfer students

a wide variety of scholarship opportunities, and because these scholarships are stackable, students can receive substantial financial assistance. Ninety-eight percent of all Westminster students receive financial aid.

Freshman scholarships at Westminster include:

- Academic Scholarships of up to \$5,000 for those with at least a 3.25 grade point average and at least a 23 on the ACT or a 1590 on the SAT;
- International Baccalaureate (IB) Scholarships of up to \$5,000 for those who graduate with an IB diploma;
- Project Lead the Way Scholarships of up to \$5,000 for those who have successfully completed a four-year biomedical sciences or Pathway to Engineering program;



- Scholarships of up to \$5,000 for AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program graduates; or
- Mesa Counts on College Scholarships to freshmen students eligible for the Federal Pell Grant.

Transfer students can qualify for up to \$5,000 in scholarships with a GPA of at least 2.75 and Phi Theta Kappa students are eligible for a new \$10,000 Phi Theta Kappa Scholarship. Additional Westminster College grants are also available.

Find out more information on scholarships by contacting Mesa Director of Admissions Hillarie Price at 480-747-3863 or [Hillarie.Price@westminster-mo.edu](mailto:Hillarie.Price@westminster-mo.edu). Spring semester classes begin January 13, 2014.

## Wilkes University

Wilkes University will offer inaugural scholarships to Arizona residents who wish to earn a Master of Science in Engineering Management. Scholarships will reduce tuition by as much as 30 percent for qualifying students and are available to engineering management students who enroll in spring 2014. Scholarships range from \$3,000 to \$8,000, and are based on undergraduate grade point average (GPA). Professional experience will also be considered. Recipients must be Arizona residents.



Tuition for the Engineering Management program is \$770 per credit. Classes start in January at the Mesa Center for Higher Education, 245 West 2nd Street.

To qualify, applicants must submit a completed program application, official undergraduate transcripts, a resume or work history, and two letters of recommendation by January 6, 2014. Applications can be completed online at [www.wilkes.edu/Mesa](http://www.wilkes.edu/Mesa).

\*Mesa Educates U higher education updates are provided by the institutions. To submit material for inclusion, please email [Sara.Sorensen@mesaaz.gov](mailto:Sara.Sorensen@mesaaz.gov).



## Phoenix-Mesa metro: one of the top 26 high-tech markets in the nation

The Phoenix-Mesa metro area has been named one of the top 26 core and emerging high-tech markets in the U.S. by Jones Lang LaSalle's 2013 United States High-Technology Office Outlook Report. Key drivers in the report were high-tech growth, high-tech services concentration, share of U.S. venture capital funding, intellectual capital, and innovation.

According to the Arizona Commerce Authority, the state has 7,196 high-tech companies employing 105,643 people – 66,675 in service and 38,968 in manufacturing. Fifty-four of every 1,000 private sector workers, are employed by high-tech firms, which pay an average wage of \$82,018. Arizona's high-tech industry is expected to grow at a 1.3% annual rate.

Although comprising only 3.3 percent of private national employment, the high-tech sector is a significant driver of economic growth. According to University of California, Berkeley economist Enrico Moretti (the author of *The New Geography of Jobs*), jobs within innovative industries, of which high-tech is a major component, have such a significant economic impact that for each innovation job created, five additional jobs in a variety of other industries are created as a result. In contrast, the manufacturing sector only creates roughly 1.7 new jobs per manufacturing job created. Such numbers bode well for Mesa's job growth as it continues to attract and expand high-tech companies such as Apple, Boeing, Bridgestone and Able Engineering. For more information, visit [www.mesaaz.gov/economic](http://www.mesaaz.gov/economic).

## Arizona #1 for future job growth

*Forbes* magazine has ranked Arizona the best state for future job growth in its recent annual Best States for Business report. Arizona is expected to have the fastest job growth projected at three percent annually over the next five years, according to Moody's Analytics. The job gains are expected to boost household incomes 3.6 percent annually through 2017. Moody's also forecasts Arizona's economy to expand by a U.S.-best of 4.6 percent annually. According to the *Forbes* report, key industries include construction and leisure/hospitality, followed by business services, financial activities, and education and health services.

"We need to ensure the new jobs are quality jobs and not low-wage," stated Bill Jabjiniak, City of Mesa Economic Development Director. "We need to keep our eye on the ball and grow base industries – export industries that create higher-wage jobs. That's the real opportunity." For information on the study, go to [www.forbes.com/pictures/mli45efehf/1-arizona](http://www.forbes.com/pictures/mli45efehf/1-arizona).



## Chicago Cubs spring training facility near completion, grand opening set



The Chicago Cubs and the City of Mesa are putting the final touches on the new spring training facilities and Riverview Park for the grand opening January 25. The \$99 million facility will be open for public tours from 2-6 PM. The inaugural Chicago Cubs game at the park will be February 27 against the Arizona Diamondbacks. Currently, the name of the stadium is Cubs Park, however the Cubs have naming rights with the option of selling the name to a sponsor. [www.mesaaz.gov/bettermesa/cubs.aspx](http://www.mesaaz.gov/bettermesa/cubs.aspx).

## Mayor Scott Smith talks jobs in Mexico

Mayor Scott Smith, President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, joined a delegation to Mexico led by the Brookings Institution. Smith was invited to participate in the Global Cities Initiative conference in November, with stops in Mexico City and Querétaro. A select delegation of senior, corporate, civic and government officials came together from the United States, Mexico and Canada to discuss the distinct roles of cities in North American trade, share competitiveness strategies, foster enduring business linkages and boost North American trade, productivity and competitiveness.

"I am honored to be invited to participate in the Global Cities Initiative," Mayor Scott Smith said. "North American trade is vitally important to our success as a nation and discussing strategies with our neighbors can only strengthen our competitiveness and boost our economies."

The conference centered on the aerospace and technology industries, which Mesa has focused on through the H.E.A.T. Initiative for economic development (Healthcare, Education, Aerospace, Tourism/Technology). The first two days of the conference were spent in Querétaro, which is known as "Mexico's Silicon Valley of Aerospace" and is home to the National Aeronautics University. Several aerospace companies that have a presence in Mesa have manufacturing operations in Querétaro.

Mayor Smith has worked with the Brookings Institution since taking office in 2008. He was a facilitator on the Phoenix Metro Business Plan and participates in meetings, conferences and panels as President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. To learn more, visit [tinyurl.com/MayorVisitsMexico](http://tinyurl.com/MayorVisitsMexico).

## Gateway Airport adds two new destinations, planning 20th anniversary event



Gateway Airport's primary carrier, Allegiant Travel Group, recently launched new nonstop service to Ft. Wayne, Indiana and Manhattan, Kansas, increasing the total number of cities served out of Gateway to 35. In addition to the new service, Allegiant also announced nonstop service to Honolulu, Hawaii will return to Gateway in June 2014.

The Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport Authority will be turning 20 in March 2014. To celebrate the milestone, the Airport is planning "Gateway Aviation Day," presented by Eastmark. The free event will be held on Saturday, March 8 from 9 AM to 2 PM on the Airport's north ramp. Activities will include over 50 aircraft on display, a kids' zone, a business exhibition hangar, aircraft fly-bys, food, and more. For more information, contact Brian Sexton at [bsexton@phxmesagateway.org](mailto:bsexton@phxmesagateway.org).

## Visit Mesa recruits local talent to produce new destination video



Visit Mesa has recently released a new destination video entitled *Limitless* to lure travelers to Mesa. The video, currently available on YouTube, features the local band

*Weird is the New Cool* along with lead singer and Mesa native Kyle Collins, who was commissioned to pen the featured song.

The three-minute video, shot over the course of five days in September, captures a collection of visitor attractions and experiences exclusive to Mesa, along with showcasing regional offerings in Gilbert, Queen Creek and along the Apache Trail. The upbeat music helps carry the viewer through all Visit Mesa's targeted lifestyles including arts and culture, Western heritage, agritourism, education, water recreation, outdoor exploration and desert renewal, dining and nightlife, hotels and shopping. To view the video, visit [www.visitmesa.com/media-gallery/view/destination-video](http://www.visitmesa.com/media-gallery/view/destination-video).

## Mesa Chamber creating Falcon Field District development group

The Mesa Chamber of Commerce Business Expansion Council is working closely with the City of



Mesa Office of Economic Development and local businesses to create a regional taskforce for the Falcon Field District to identify opportunities and obstacles facing existing and new businesses around Falcon Field Airport. The information gathered will be instrumental in the Expansion Council's business growth and retention efforts. Working in conjunction with City staff, the regional taskforce's outreach plan will provide the City's Office of Economic Development vital information necessary for the future

growth and success of the Falcon Field area. Looking forward, the Expansion Council will form regional taskforces in each of the remaining districts (Gateway, Downtown, Fiesta, Riverview, and Superstition) to identify specific needs for each area. For more information, visit [www.mesachamberofcommerce.org](http://www.mesachamberofcommerce.org).

## Mesa one of the safest cities in the United States

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) 2012 Uniformed Crime Report (UCR), the City of Mesa, Arizona ranks 3rd in the nation in overall lowest crime rates among cities with a population of 400,000 or greater.

The UCR "Part 1" crimes consist of Violent and Property Crime Categories: Violent Crimes: Homicide, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Property Crimes: Burglarly, Theft, Stolen Vehicles.



Among cities with a population of 400,000 or larger, Mesa had the 3rd lowest Violent crime rate and 4th lowest Property crime rate, for an overall 3rd lowest Part 1 crime rate. Mesa is experiencing historic lows in crime and by all accounts, 2013 will be lower than 2012.

"The Mesa Police Department's extensive use of intelligence led policing and predictive policing policies are just a few of the many reasons why Mesa is one of the safest cities in the United States," said District 3 Councilmember Dennis Kavanaugh, who is Chair of the Council Public Safety Committee. "I could not be more proud of the outstanding work being done by the men and women of the Mesa Police Department and we will continue to support them by giving them the assets and resources necessary to keep our city safe."

Mesa Police Chief Frank Milstead credits, "community partnerships and world class policing by the men and women of the Mesa Police Department," for this success. He adds, "with the trust and support of a community all things are possible. Without these, little can be accomplished. We value greatly the strong relationship we enjoy with the citizens of Mesa and recognize that this success is as much theirs as it is ours."

## Light Rail Construction Update

The seasonal break for light rail construction in Downtown Mesa is October 1, 2013 to April 30, 2014.

This break restores two lanes of traffic in each direction, on-street parking, finished sidewalks and ramps at each intersection, and left-hand turns at signalized intersections on Main Street through Downtown. During the break, construction will be focused west of Country Club Drive and east of Centennial Way. To obtain weekly updates about the light rail construction, contact Rob Antoniuk with Valley Metro at 602-435-8209 or [rantonik@valleymetro.org](mailto:rantonik@valleymetro.org).



## City of Mesa Office of Economic Development

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[www.mesaaz.gov/economic](http://www.mesaaz.gov/economic)

## EVENTS

### JANUARY

**16 East Valley Breakfast with Governor Brewer**  
Hilton Phoenix East/Mesa  
1011 W. Holmes Ave, Mesa, AZ  
7:30-9 AM  
Register: [tinyurl.com/BrkfstWithGovernor](http://tinyurl.com/BrkfstWithGovernor)

**20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday**  
City offices closed

**23 AAED Legislative Luncheon**  
Senate Lawn  
11:30 AM-1:30 PM  
[www.aaed.com](http://www.aaed.com)

**25 Chicago Cubs Stadium/Riverview Park Grand Opening**  
2100 W. Rio Salado Parkway, Mesa, AZ  
2-6 PM

### FEBRUARY

**2-4 International Economic Development Council's 2014 Leadership Summit**  
Irvine, CA  
Register: [tinyurl.com/IEDCsummit](http://tinyurl.com/IEDCsummit)

**4 Mayor's State of the City Breakfast**  
Mesa Convention Center  
201 N. Center St., Mesa, AZ  
7-9 AM  
Register: [tinyurl.com/MayorStateOfCity](http://tinyurl.com/MayorStateOfCity)

**11 Mesa Gateway Area Tour**  
By invitation  
Location: TBA

**17 President's Day Holiday**  
City offices closed

### MARCH

**20 Business-2-Baseball**  
Cubs Park  
By invitation

**29 Falcon Field Airport Open House**  
4800 E. Falcon Dr., Mesa, AZ  
9 AM-2 PM

## Escobedo at Verde Vista, Encore on First hold grand openings



Grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremonies were held in December for two Downtown housing projects – Escobedo at Verde Vista at 435 N. Hibbert and Encore on First at 25 W. First Ave.

Escobedo at Verde Vista is the redevelopment of the former Escobedo public housing site in Mesa, now a new mixed-use development which includes apartments accessible to the physically disabled and the new headquarters for Save the Family Foundation of Arizona. Encore on First is a five story, 81-unit urban building designed to provide transit-oriented living for independent seniors.

Both Escobedo and Encore are tax-credit-financed housing projects approved last year by the City Council and the Arizona Department of Housing. For more information, visit [tinyurl.com/EncoreOnFirst](http://tinyurl.com/EncoreOnFirst) and [tinyurl.com/EscobedoAtVerdeVista](http://tinyurl.com/EscobedoAtVerdeVista).

## Downtown Mesa Association produced successful events in 2013

During 2013, the Downtown Mesa Association hosted several events that attracted thousands of people Downtown, generating business for Mesa merchants.

The Downtown Mesa Wedding Walk drew over 100 brides to seven venues resulting in 48 wedding bookings at participating venues. The Mesa Rocks Block Party featured seven bands and attracted 4,000 people. Nightmare in Mesa, complete with live music, street performers, vendors and zombie clad volunteers, drew 5,000. Old West Fest pulled in more than 4,000 attendees with live music, gun fight re-enactments, quick draw competitions, stagecoach rides and other family activities. Motorcycles on Main was attended by 5,000 people each month.

Downtown Mesa's largest special event, the Great Arizona Bicycle Festival, paired with El Tour de Mesa attracted nearly 10,000 people to watch the 70-mile bike ride and partake in a family festival that included live music, a bike swap, a kids bike rodeo, a custom bicycle build competition, a BMX freestyle show, food and a Friday-night Critterium through Downtown streets.

2014's events include Mesa Wedding Walk on Sunday, January 19; Mesa Rocks, Spring 2014; CycloMesa (the Great Arizona Bicycle Festival), April 4-5; Motorcycles on Main, every first Friday; and Kidtastic, every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. Learn more at [www.downtownmesa.com](http://www.downtownmesa.com).

## Mesa venues becomes inspiration for all ages

In 2014, Mesa will be filled with experiences that stimulate curiosity and provide opportunities for



exploration and self-discovery. February brings the grand reopening of Arizona Museum for Youth as the new i.d.e.a. Museum (imagination, design, experience and art), with the first exhibition being The Art of the Robot.

Arizona Museum of Natural History, which hosts 140,000 visitors annually, recently opened the new exhibition Cretaceous Seas, featuring sea life preceding the extinction of the dinosaurs.

On March 19-23, spark! Mesa's Festival of Creativity, will bring thousands of visitors to the Mesa Arts Center and feature numerous technology "interactives" and creative opportunities. The new spark! After Dark event will feature light, music and fire experiences from 7-10 PM March 21 and 22.

These events and many others will be featured in a collaborative promotional effort to promote the amazing opportunities in Mesa during the AZ Sci-Tech Fest. Other featured Mesa events will include offerings at THINKspot, ASU Polytechnic, Mesa Public Schools, Mesa's airports and more. Watch for information about MESA DISCOVERY TREK: A Creative Sci-Tech Adventure, or visit the website at [mesadiscoverytrek.com](http://mesadiscoverytrek.com).

Companies interested in exhibiting at or sponsoring any of these events may contact Cindy Ornstein at [cindy.ornstein@mesaartscenter.com](mailto:cindy.ornstein@mesaartscenter.com).