

# Glendale looks forward to economic prosperity

## Mayor Elaine Scruggs

### Glendale Connection Column

#### July, 2001

The last couple months have been truly exciting ones for the city of Glendale. In April, we announced our partnership with The Ellman Companies, which will make Glendale the new home of the Coyotes hockey team; will bring quality development to a 200-acre parcel of land in our western area; and will assure the long-awaited redevelopment of Manistee Town Center.

Just four days later, we announced that Bechtel Corporation will relocate to Talavi Business Park in a new center which will be their largest administrative operation serving North America.

These projects represent the City Council's goals and also what you, our residents, have been telling us that you want for Glendale. A quick overview of each project shows why the Council took the bold steps necessary to bring these opportunities to Glendale.

Most of the publicity has focused on the Coyotes arena and what it will do to make Glendale a Valleywide destination for entertainment. But, the arena will occupy less than 5 acres in a 200-acre project to be developed by The Ellman Companies near the Loop 101 and Glendale Avenue.

Besides the 17,500- seat arena, Ellman will build a minimum of 1.6 million square feet of retail space, restaurants, hotels, Class A office space and quality residential areas. They have acquired the land and will design and construct all development on it. Upon completion, Glendale will reimburse Ellman up to \$180 million and own the arena. The facility will be available to the city for other public uses throughout the year.

General Obligation bonds authorized for public improvements, along with parking revenues and sales taxes generated on the site, will fund the arena. This project will not affect current city services nor delay planned capital projects.

The Manistee Town Center at 59<sup>th</sup> and Northern avenues is being purchased by the city of Glendale. The Ellman Companies will redevelop the site into a mixed-use commercial center and will reimburse the city in full for the purchase price after it is developed. This revitalization project is so important to the city that we would not have agreed to finance the arena if Manistee had not been included in the overall deal. Restoring this former shopping mall to the vitality and hub of activity that we remember from years gone by cannot happen soon enough for the Council and the neighbors.

Bechtel Corporation will be the first recipient of \$1 million set aside in an Economic Opportunity Fund created by the City Council to attract major employers with quality jobs. The million dollars will include rebates of certain permit fees; but more than half will be earned through an employment development incentive for new, qualified full-time positions with an average wage of \$18 per hour. In addition, Glendale will benefit from an estimated \$15 million in capital investment, which is the value of a 150,000-square-foot Class A office building near 59th Avenue south of Bell Road.

On behalf of the Councilmembers, I want to thank all of you who have thanked us by letter, e-mail, telephone messages and personal conversations for our efforts to bring all of these economic development victories to Glendale. We are encouraged by your enthusiasm and appreciative of your support. As a Council, we believe firmly that we have taken the right steps to ensure Glendale's best possible future.