



As 2009 draws to a close, I would like to thank all of you for your continued support and involvement with city issues. Your feedback is necessary and allows us to do the best possible job of representing your interests. Thank you for volunteering your time and supporting our city events and functions.

Just like every city in the state and throughout the nation, Glendale faced some difficult economic challenges this year, but we have kept moving forward and have not lost sight of our priorities and vision for our great city. I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on 2009 and what made this year significant for the City of Glendale.

Our most important priority is, and always will be, the safety and well-being of Glendale citizens and property. Our focus on public safety was evidenced this year by the opening of a new home for Fire Station 151 in downtown Glendale. The move came after 40 years at the old Fire Station location. This transition was necessary to improve our overall response times and provide us with more capacity to maintain our fire equipment to serve our community at the highest level.

In March we added another important feature to the sports and entertainment district in western Glendale. We held the grand opening of our state-of-the art Camelback Ranch Spring Training Facility and hosted our first spring training season for the Chicago White Sox and the Los Angeles Dodgers. Our sports and entertainment district has established Glendale as a regional center of activity and a nationally recognized tourist destination.

During these difficult economic times, Glendale continues to attract and expand businesses and create jobs for our residents. Conair recently announced an expansion at the Glendale Airpark that will create 350 new jobs in Glendale. We have also made a commitment to revitalize Glendale Avenue through the Glendale Centerline Project, which continues to be among our highest priorities.

We continue to improve the quality of life for our residents by providing additional recreational and leisure opportunities. In September, we held a Grand Opening for the Western Area Park Pavilion. This huge park project includes many exciting family-friendly features that will provide fun opportunities for our residents of all ages.

All of us, from individual employees to business owners to government leaders, were affected by the economy in 2009. The City of Glendale was no exception. Just like all of you, we had to step up and face those challenges. After difficult budget workshops that

involved extensive research and difficult decisions, we made necessary reductions to our expenses while maintaining the level of service that our residents have grown accustomed to.

Difficult times often lead to solidarity, innovativeness and sacrifice. I will always remember 2009 as a year when our employees came together, found new ways of doing things, and acted selflessly for the greater good. Each of our departments was asked to make significant reductions to their budgets in 2009. These reductions meant that they had to create new ways to provide services with fewer resources. They have met all challenges. Please take a moment to say a few words of appreciation to our outstanding employees when you see them.

The cuts to the city's budget meant many of our employees would take on a greater workload, and all of our employees, with the exception of public safety, would agree to take thirteen days of unpaid furlough which was the equivalent to a 5% reduction in pay. The Glendale Police Department and Fire Department employees also came forward and each made their own respective sacrifices for the benefit of the city's economic situation.

We have learned a lot in 2009 and we will strive to make 2010 the best year that it can possibly be. We will continue to work toward our goals, and with your continued support, feedback, and enthusiasm, we will create the best possible future for all of Glendale.

I know you will all be busy this holiday season, and I will take a brief hiatus from sending out my bulletin during the coming weeks. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy Hanukkah! I wish you all the best of goodwill and happiness for the new year and you will hear from me again in 2010.

Bulletins". Please contact me at (623) 930-2260 or mayorscruggs@glendaleaz.com, if you have any comments or questions. I strive to provide the most timely information and best possible service to you, the citizens of Glendale. I sincerely appreciate your feedback.