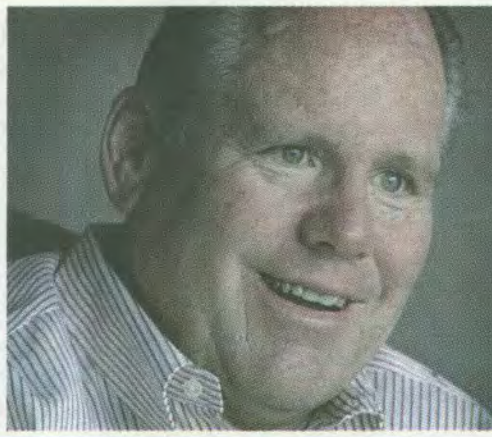


# Benoit Invites Fed's



SALTON SEA – Supervisor John J. Benoit extended an invitation for U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar to join the Salton Sea Authority.

Benoit was encouraged by the Secretary's positive reception and promise of short term help and exploration of long-term federal involvement in the governance of the Salton Sea Authority.

"Secretary Salazar expressed that we all need to work together and that people at the local level have the best understanding of the Salton Sea."

SEE PAGE 2

# WEEKLY Desert STAR



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DESERT HOT SPRING, CA Saturday Dec. 15, 2012 will go down in history as the day with the largest and most successful parade in small town history. On a shoestring budget with a Cracker Jack parade committee headed up by Joe McKee, more than 1,700 participants brought an estimated 5,000 spectators the long-anticipated event. Complete with marching bands, diplomats, city merchants, city officials, politicians, floats, religious organizations and many more, 66 organizations paraded down our city streets.

SEE PAGE 2



## OVERWHELMING SUCCESS

Desert Hot Springs brings back Holiday Parade tradition



## HARC Surveys Coachella Valley



PALM DESERT, CA- Health Assessment Resource Center (HARC) plans to conduct its third triennial survey of health in the Coachella Valley in January 2013. The local non-profit organization strongly encourages individuals to participate so professionals can more accurately identify the region's most pressing health needs.

Beginning the week of Jan. 7, residents across the Coachella Valley will receive phone calls from HARC subcontractor Kent State University. The phone interview, which lasts approximately 23 minutes, gathers data on a wide range of topics related to health and well-being such as nutrition and hunger, physical activity and weight, chronic illness, mental health, preventative screening, healthcare usage, and barriers and challenges to accessing health.

The 2013 assessment is the third study of local health conducted by HARC. Organizations from both the public and private sector regularly rely on the reference data to obtain funding, develop programs, and train employees.

SEE PAGE 10

## Grant Helps LOCAL BUSINESSES GO GREEN!

PALM SPRINGS, CA - The City of Palm Springs is offering a new grant to help local businesses go green.

To qualify for the grant, businesses must register and participate in the new City of Palm Springs Green Business Partnership Certification Program. By participating as a founding partner, the first 50 businesses will receive free certification, a \$150 value.

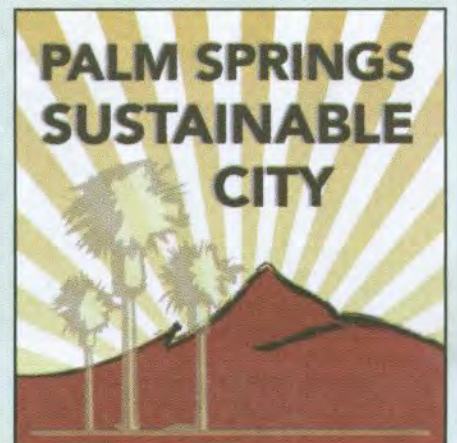
To sign up, businesses can visit the self-assessment certification website at [palm Springs.greencertificationprogram.com/](http://palm Springs.greencertificationprogram.com/). Businesses will be recognized with a seal to place on their website or in their store or office window. All businesses are

encouraged to join the growing network of Palm Springs businesses that have a desire to go green and partner with the City of Palm Springs Office of Sustainability.

The Green Packaging and Food Service Products grant is one of the benefits of joining the new Green Business Partnership Certification Program. The grant incentivizes businesses to switch from unsustainable packaging, such as plastic bags or Styrofoam, to biodegradable and compostable packaging and materials.

The first year of the pilot program for fiscal year 2012-13 provides for a total budget of \$20,000 or 40 grants of up to \$500 per

SEE PAGE 2





## Health Assessment Survey Begins

Continued from page 1

HARC needs everyone's help! By just answering the phone and responding to this important survey, Coachella Valley residents can become a key component of helping organizations offer their much-needed programs.

HARC Board President, Glen Grayman, MD said, "The 2013 needs assessment will not only help produce the most current, statistically valid data available today, it will also help healthcare professionals better understand the relative progress or setbacks that have occurred within specific categories."

He goes on to say, "Armed with the baseline data gathered in the previous two Community Health Monitors, this updated study gives us an opportunity to identify trends

with key metrics."

HARC brings together a steering committee of more than 35 community partners and leaders, which include hospitals, school districts, county government, public safety and private sector interests. All have given input

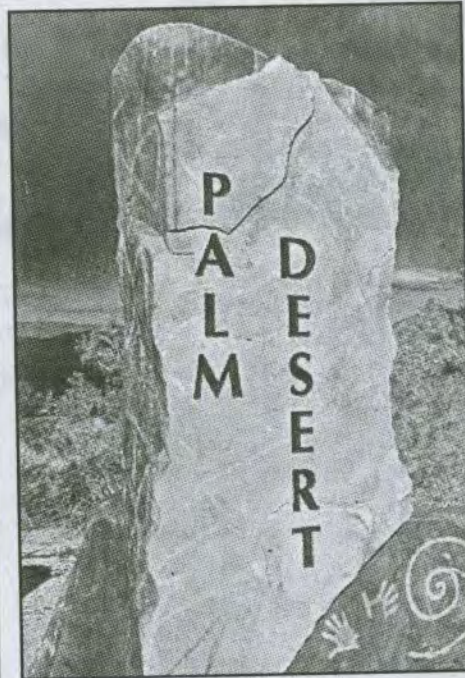


on the structure of the survey, ensuring that the data will be useful to a wide array of organizations.

HARC plans to share the results of the survey in early

2014 when a summary of the findings will be shared with the community.

Formed in 2006 by a consortium of more than 35 public and private healthcare agencies, the Health Assessment Resource Center (HARC) conducts a confidential community health status assessment in Eastern Riverside County and the Coachella Valley every 3 years to identify major health and quality of life issues. The nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization is funded in part by contributions from community partners, as well as entities that contract with the agency for customized public health research. More information can be obtained by calling HARC at (760) 404-1945, or visiting the organization's website at [www.harcddata.org](http://www.harcddata.org).



**PALM DESERT, CA** – The City of Palm Desert is encouraging residents interested in public service to apply for openings on the City's committees and commissions. The following committees and commissions currently have vacancies.

### BUILDING BOARD OF APPEALS

Meets as needed to hear appeals regarding interpretation of the Uniform Building Code and condemnation and abatement of dangerous structures.

### CITIZENS' SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Composed of industry professionals, this committee reviews proposals and helps develop appropriate policies and actions to meet the goals outlined in the City's Environmental Sustainability Plan and Greenhouse Gas Inventory.

### CULTURAL RESOURCES PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Created as part of

the City's Historic Preservation Ordinance for the purpose

of preserving areas and specific buildings within the City that reflect its cultural, social, economic, political, architectural, and archaeological history.

### HOUSING COMMISSION

Provides input to the City Council and Housing Authority Board regarding housing policies and procedures as well as proposals, programs, and strategies.

### PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Reviews all recreational related concerns of the City and recommends policies for its recreational areas.

### PLANNING COMMISSION

Reviews land use applications and advises the City Council on policies and objectives related to planning, growth, and development. Applicants should have knowledge of development

# Palm Desert Residents Invited To Apply To Serve On City Committees and Commissions

and/or municipal planning.

### PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION

Serves as a public forum to consider law enforcement and comprehensive public safety matters and to make recommendations to the City Council regarding those matters.

### RENT REVIEW COMMISSION

Meets as needed to adjudicate the City's mobile home rent control ordinance, receive testimony, and render fair and impartial decisions they relate to this ordinance.

All applicants are required to attend at least two meetings of the committee commission for which they are applying. A questionnaire regarding attendance included in the application package and must be submitted for consideration. For applications and more information, please contact the City Clerk's office at 760-346-0611.

# REDHOT Holidays!

Check out our selection of **Sexy Holiday Costumes And Accessories** for men and women!

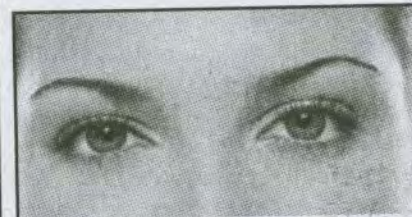


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