

# CITY OF LAS VEGAS ANNOUNCES HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

The spirit of the holidays looms throughout the community as the City of Las Vegas Department of Parks and Leisure Activities prepares for a joyous and festive season.

The season begins with three holiday workshops during Thanksgiving week. Sponsored by the Mirabelli Community Center, 6200 Elton Avenue, a seminar of Christmas crafts will be held on November 26. This will be followed by a workshop on bow making November 27. On November 28, the center offers Christmas Decorating and Gift Ideas. More Christmas fun continues December 3 with a workshop on holiday wreaths followed by a seminar on holiday hors d'oeuvres on December 4. All the above mentioned workshops are designed for adults. The community center will also host an evening of "No Hassle Christmas Shopping." Drop your children off at the center on December 6 and let them enjoy fun and games while you enjoy shopping without the worry. A children's workshop on decorating hot chocolate mugs is scheduled for December 11 and a holiday cookie exchange is scheduled for December 13 and 14. The Christmas break, December 17-28, will be filled with a variety of activities for children, including a two-day Nintendo Tournament. Call 386-6359 for times and fees.

The Adaptive Recreation Division, designed for citizens with special needs, sponsors a Thanksgiving feast on November 30, a Christmas party on December 14, and a Christmas bake sale on December 15. The Lorenzi Park Adaptive Recreation Center, 3333 W. Washington Avenue, will host "Christmas Days," December 12-14, three days of holiday fun. Call 648-2377 or 386-6358 for details.

December 24 is the date of a Christmas party at the Doolittle Community Center, 1901 North J Street. The party begins at 3:00 pm and is designed for children 6-12 years old. The party is free and includes games, refreshments, and a special guest from the North Pole. The party will kick-off a two-week Christmas break program, which runs through January 4. The program features supervised recreational activities such as movies, sports and games. Registration for the "Holiday Fun" program will be accepted through December 21. The Doolittle Center also conducts its annual canned food drive for needy citizens through-

out the holiday season. Donations can be made by calling 386-6374.

An additional canned food drive is being sponsored by the Robison Community School, 825 Marion Drive. Bring your donations to the community school prior to December 17 for distribution to needy families. A Christmas dance recital will be hosted at the school on December 7 featuring students from the various classes and programs they

offer. 459-0201 is the number to call.

The Brinley Community School, located at 6150 Smoke Ranch Road, sponsors their annual Christmas show on Tuesday, December 11 at 6:30 pm. Call 646-9046 for information regarding "Junior Leader Kids Kamp" and the Brinley C.I.T. Program (Counselors in Training). Both programs are designed for teens and take place during Christmas recess.

An old-fashioned Christmas party will be sponsored December 7 at the Charleston Heights Community School, 300 S. Torrey Pines Drive. Decorate cookies, make old-time candy, design Christmas decorations, and all of this at no charge, including refreshments. Call 878-8644.

An afternoon of Christmas entertainment will be offered Tuesday, December 15 by the Baker Park Community School, 1100 E. St. Louis Avenue. Beginning at 2:00 pm, the entire family can enjoy entertainment put on by students at the school. The free party includes making popcorn balls and decorating cookies. Call 733-6599 for full details.

In addition, "Holiday Kids Kamp," a program to assist the working parents, will be offered at three community school locations: Baker Park, Brinley and Charleston Heights. The program runs December 17-28, 9

am to 5 pm, for a fee of \$35 per child. Early drop off and late pick up are available. Call 646-9046 for details. Enrollment limited.

The Department also offers "Holly Daze" camp, December 17-28 at the Dula Senior Complex, 430 E. Bonanza Road. Again, the program is designed to assist working parents and will accept participants as early as 7:00 am. Participants must be between the ages of 6-12 years old. Registration begins December 4 and is limited to the first 70. The cost is \$35 per child. Register at 749 Veterans Memorial Drive or call Tona Taylor at 386-6297. Activities will include swimming, arts and crafts, roller skating, bowling, cooking and sports.

All daily programs running during the holiday break will be closed on December 25 and January 1.

## FOOD STAMP BENEFITS, ELIGIBILITY LEVELS AND DEDUCTIONS INCREASE

WASHINGTON, Oct. 31 - Monthly benefits for millions of participants in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Stamp Program increased on Oct. 1. At the same time, food stamp income eligibility levels went up by about 5 percent, meaning a family can have more income and still qualify for food stamps.

"These food stamp benefits are the highest on record," said Catherine Bertini, assistant secretary of agriculture for food and consumer services. "The changes are a result of annual adjustments for the cost of living and a 3-percent increase in basic benefits mandated by law."

As a result of the increases, the maximum food stamp allotment for a family of four in the 48 contiguous states and the Dis-

trict of Columbia increased from \$331 to \$352 a month - about 6 percent. Gross income levels, which help determine eligibility for households that do not include an elderly or disabled member, increased from \$1,311 a month to \$1,376 a month for a family of four. Net income levels, used to determine eligibility and benefits for all households, increased from \$1,009 to \$1,059 a month for a family of four.

Deductions from gross income, which are used to determine a household's net income, also increased. Standard deductions increased from \$112 to \$116 per household in the 48 contiguous states and the District of Columbia. Shelter deductions increased from a maximum of \$177 to a maximum

\$186 a month per household for the same areas. Standard and shelter deductions are higher in Alaska, Guam, Hawaii and the Virgin Islands. The maximum

dependent care deduction remained \$160 per dependent and the earned income deduction remained at 20 percent of earnings.

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