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WEEKLY UPDATE

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

FRIDAY
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2007

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THE 100 BEST COMPANIES TO WORK FOR

We've always known there are some great places to work in Tempe. Now, this reality has been validated by *Fortune Magazine* in their list of **100 Best Places to Work for 2007**. The list includes seven [7] companies with a Tempe workforce, including the coveted new number one company - **Google**. Additionally, **Edward Jones** and **Medtronic** offer regional campuses in Tempe, along with **PCL Construction's** Civil Construction Southwest regional office which bills \$200 million annually in transportation and wastewater construction projects. Rounding out the top 100 is Swedish-based **IKEA**. Congratulations to these stellar companies! As *Fortune* says, "The people are brilliant. The perks are epic." And we're glad you call Tempe home.



- 1. Google
- 5. Whole Foods
- 16. Starbucks
- 29. Edward Jones
- 42. PCL Construction
- 72. Medtronic
- 96. IKEA

www.fortune.com

TEMPE MUSIC FESTIVAL - "THIS IS THE SOUND OF TEMPE"

The **Circle K Tempe Music Festival** announced some of its top bands this week: **O.A.R.**, **The Fray**, and **Cowboy Mouth**. The largest music festival in Arizona, Tempe Music Festival boasts three stages of entertainment featuring national, regional and local acts. The event will also host its own **Garage Band Competition** sponsored by **SRP**, where high school and college-aged bands from across Arizona will compete for scholarships, all new instruments from Fender, and the opportunity to open for O.A.R. and The Fray on Saturday night.

Tickets go on sale January 27 and may be purchased at all Ticketmaster outlets or online at www.ticketmaster.com. More details: www.tempemusicfestival.com

pictured: 2006 performance by **Gin Blossoms**; lead singer **Robin Wilson** said, "This is the sound of Tempe."

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Four Seasons Resort
Troon at Scottsdale North

INVEST SOUTHWEST ASU Technopolis

Economic Development staff has partnered with **ASU Technopolis** to help promote **Invest Southwest**. ASU Technopolis is the administrator of the conference. Invest Southwest is the premier growth-capital conference in Arizona and the Southwest. Since 1992, Invest Southwest has connected investors to the Southwest's most promising ventures. The conference takes place on February 22, 2007 at the Four Seasons Resort, Troon at North Scottsdale, where 13 up-and-coming companies present their plans and financing opportunities to an audience of angel investors and venture capitalists from across the U.S. Additional information and conference registration is available at www.investsouthwest.org/.

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AZ MILLS

Mills Corporation, owner of **Arizona Mills Mall**, entered into a definitive agreement to be acquired by Canadian-based office owner **Brookfield Asset Management Inc.** for \$7.5 billion. The deal is expected to be completed in the second quarter of this year. Brookfield will acquire The Mills Corps' 38 properties in the United States totaling approximately 47 million square feet. Brookfield owns and manages one of the largest portfolios of office properties and hydroelectric power generation facilities as well as transmission and timberland operations in North and South America and Europe. Arizona Mills Mall is the state's fifth busiest mall, attracting regular shoppers from Mexico, Tucson and the surrounding area. Staff is in contact with the new owners and will work with Brookfield to ensure continued success at Arizona Mills.



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“Great **DISCOVERIES** and improvements invariably involve the cooperation of many minds.”

— Alexander Graham Bell, Inventor [1847-1922]



PRESS ON!

Best in Culture -- St. Petersburg, Russia; Florence, Italy; Cancun, Mexico; Walt Disney World and Miami, Florida and... **Tempe, Arizona**. *AAA Living* magazine [Jan 07] named Tempe as one of the **Six Best Vacation Destinations in the World**. The arts and culture scene at **ASU Gammage** and spring training baseball at **Tempe Diablo Stadium** makes Tempe a vibrant and inviting Southwestern community, according to the magazine.

Best in Location -- Tempe ranks at the top of the target investment list for real estate investors, according to *AZRE Magazine* [Jan-Feb 07] and the commercial brokers at **Colliers International**. Their reasons for the community's high desirability? Proximity to Sky Harbor Airport, our extensive freeway system, light rail, Tempe's demographics and the presence of ASU and Tempe Town Lake. The magazine compares Tempe to **San Diego's Gas Lamp District** and the **Los Angeles Grove**.

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GROWING STATE... CHANGING MARKET... FLOURISHING COMMUNITIES!

Governor Napolitano and **Sheila Harris**, Director of the **Arizona Department of Housing** spoke at this year's 5th Annual **Homes For Arizonans Day** at the State Capitol on Wednesday. The program theme this year, "*Growing State... Changing Market... Flourishing Communities*," was in keeping with Arizona's explosive growth in 2006 and its effect on the state's housing market. This annual event is an opportunity for the public and policymakers to learn about housing efforts being initiated by various business, agencies and non-profit organizations from across the state, as well as the significant role housing plays in our state's economic health. Councilmember **Shana Ellis** and staff members **Craig Hittie** and **Theresa James** represented Tempe and our affordable housing efforts at the event.

Arizona Department of Housing www.housingaz.com/

Tempe's **Downpayment Assistance Programs** www.tempe.gov/housing/dap/dap.htm

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BrownBag SERIES

The **BrownBag** professional development and travelogue series kicks-off its 2007 season on **Wednesday, 24 January** with **John Minett**, Urban Design Facilitator, Placemaker and resident Euro, presenting *Walking Through Bonn*. The series will resume **Wednesday 21, February** with **Vic Linoff**, proprietor of *Those Were the Days* and owner of the historic Goodwin Building on Mill Avenue, presenting *Town Centers, Public Spaces and Chicago Architecture*. Future Bags may include **Dave Fackler**, retired Development Services Manager and world traveler; **Nancy Welch**, Morrison Institute; as well as other notable and notorious personages. Unless noted otherwise, all presentations occur at noon in the Orchid 2 conference room, located on the second floor of the Orchid House Building, across the hall from Suite 208 - the Community Development Office. All are welcome. B.Y.O.B. [Bring Your Own Bag].

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TRACKING THE NEW YEAR

The 2007 Community Development New Year's e-card was sent in late December to a list of about 1,200 developers, business leaders, Realtors and VIPs. Representative of Tempe's continued commitment to technology and innovation, the department chose to send an electronic greeting rather than using a traditional paper card. [Every year, there are 2.65 billion holiday cards sold in the America, which is enough to fill a football stadium field 10 stories high!]

More than just saving paper and resources, not many senders can tell you how many people actually opened their holiday card. Thanks to web tracking, however, Tempe can say more than 95 percent of those who received the 'Happy New Year 2007' greeting viewed it. The card has been viewed 1,163 times at www.tempe.gov/business/NewYear.

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COMMUNITY DESIGN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT HISTORIC PRESERVATION HOUSING NEIGHBORHOOD ENHANCEMENT REDEVELOPMENT SPECIAL PROJECTS TOWN LAKE

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