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**ART IN PUBLIC PLACES FEATURES  
CAPLINGER AND PACHOLKA AT TWENTYNINE PALMS CITY HALL**

Art in Public Places at City Hall features desert paintings by Chuck Caplinger and night sky photography by Wally Pacholka in a new exhibit from September 1 to October 30. The public is invited to a reception for the artists on Tuesday, September 8, from 5 to 6 p.m., prior to the City Council meeting at Twentynine Palms City Hall, 6136 Adobe Road.

The new exhibit, “Desert Land and Sky,” contains more than 30 framed works by the two artists, ranging from wildlife and landscapes to astral images of the starlit desert sky.

Artist Chuck Caplinger is widely known for his vibrant oil paintings of coyotes, lizards, ravens, and landscapes of the desert Southwest. His award-winning paintings and portraits hang in public and private collections around the world, and his murals can be seen in Twentynine Palms and in cities throughout California and Texas. Caplinger’s art career dates back to the 1960s, working with RCA Service Co., contracted to NASA in Huntsville, Alabama, at the George C. Marshall Space Flight Center, as art director/illustrator for Wernher Von Braun’s Research and Development Dept. After moving to California in 1980, he worked with Lonestar Pictures, painted celebrity portraits, and operated Caplinger Studio in Hollywood, before moving to Twentynine Palms in 1997, with his actress wife, Holgie Forrester.

Caplinger regularly exhibits his work in gallery exhibitions throughout Southern California and the Morongo Basin, including the annual Joshua Tree National Park Art Festival. His paintings have also been featured in *Southwest Art Magazine*, at the Hollywood Entertainment Museum in Los Angeles, and in 2001, at the Edward-Dean Museum in Cherry Valley, CA, in an exhibit titled “The West—From the Reservation to the Range—A Retrospective,” which also featured bronzes by Charlie Russell and Frederick Remington.

Award-winning astrophotographer Wally Pacholka returns to the desert from his home base in Long Beach to exhibit a series of stellar photographs at City Hall, “America the Beautiful at Night.” Celebrating a banner year in 2009, Pacholka

has had some important additions to his many worldwide publications. Two of his images were featured in the *LIFE Magazine* book *Hidden America*, published in June 2009 by Time Inc. Home Entertainment. One of his night sky photographs captured the front cover of *Beautiful Universe 2009*, a special edition magazine for the International Year of Astronomy and the 400th anniversary of Galileo's telescope; and he celebrated his 34th publication by NASA – a world record for an individual.

Since receiving international recognition for his famous images of the Hale-Bopp Comet over Joshua Tree National Park in 1997, Pacholka's photography has been featured on the NASA web site, in *National Geographic* magazine, and has received multiple "Picture of the Year" awards by *Time* and *Life* magazines. His night sky photographs and cards are sold in more than 30 national parks, and he currently has displays on six continents and 50 cities as part of the International Year of Astronomy 2009.

The "Desert Land and Sky" exhibit is sponsored by the city's Public Arts Advisory Committee and is on display through October 30 at City Hall, 6136 Adobe Road, open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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