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August 1, 2011

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## **GLENDALE'S HISTORIC BEET SUGAR FACTORY PREPARES FOR TRANSFORMATION**

**GLENDALE, Ariz.** – One of the city of Glendale's oldest downtown buildings, the Beet Sugar Factory, is undergoing a restoration to reopen its doors in the heart of Glendale's Centerline District. The current owner of the 105-year-old landmark at 52<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and Lamar plans to open a business and preserve the original red-brick historic features of the five stories, 95-foot-tall structure.

The owner of this iconic factory, Ray Klemp, will assist in relocating Forward Brands from Phoenix to Glendale to create a production and distribution facility for premium quality spirits. Forward Brands is owned by Klemp's daughters, Lauren and Morgan. The improvements to the building are expected to take place in phases over the next several months and include repurposing a small house south of the sugar beet factory that will eventually become a tasting venue and special event location. Forward Brands produces vodka, flavored vodka, gin, whisky and cordials.

"This project honors Glendale's past by restoring the city's most significant historical structure within Centerline while also providing for economic benefit to the city," said Brian Friedman, Glendale Economic Development Director. "The remodeling of the Beet Sugar Factory and locating a new business in the building will help promote additional redevelopment in this part of our community."

*(more)*



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*Beet Sugar Factory Transformation*

The Beet Sugar Factory opened in 1906, six years before Arizona became an official state. Since then numerous businesses called it home, each producing a variety of products including sugar, beer, Squirt soda and soy sauce. A massive smokestack was removed in 1951 after being struck by lightning. While the history books call it the “Beet Sugar Factory,” local residents have also referred to it over the years as “sugar beet” instead. At one time the sugar beet was grown in Glendale and was the primary image of the city’s official seal. To this day, the old factory is a recognizable icon for historic downtown Glendale and a point of pride for the community.

“The immediate goal is to rehabilitate the Beet Sugar Factory, which will contribute to Glendale’s goals and our goals to redevelop and revitalize while making the building fully functional once again,” said Ray Klemp, the owner of the structure. “Our vision is that once the factory is restored, the production line is buzzing, the tasting room is full of people and the spirits being made there will be shipped nationally with the label reading ‘produced in Glendale, Arizona.’”

Construction for the first phase of restoring the building is expected to begin with the next 60 days. For more information on Glendale’s Centerline District, visit

[www.glendaleaz.com/glendalecenterline](http://www.glendaleaz.com/glendalecenterline).

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