

Recreation in Style Rio Vista Park Only Gets Better

Rio Vista Park has been Peoria's most popular recreation destination since it opened in 2005. Its skateboard park is always whirring with activity. The sand volleyball courts are home to leagues and pickup games just about every night. The large picnic ramada is a gathering place for groups and families. The lighted fields host little league baseball and softball games for all ages, and the urban lake is a convenient spot for budding and experienced anglers.

But wait – there's more. That's only the first phase of the park. The second phase under construction will add more lighted playing fields (perfect for soccer and youth football), a lighted walking path and the park's ultimate focal point – the 52,000-square-foot Rio Vista Recreation Center.

The early phases of the recreation center's construction already draw the eyes of travelers near the Loop 101 and Thunderbird Road. While other parts of the park can be seen from

certain spots on adjacent roadways, the center's 36-foot-high block walls can't be missed.

This is not your father's recreation center. The days of single story buildings with large "flexible" spaces that can host many activities (but aren't really designed for any of them) are gone. The Rio Vista Recreation Center redefines the concept of community recreation.

"We traveled the Valley to research public and private facilities and took the best ideas to put them here," said J.P. de la Montaigne, Peoria Community Services director. "We're excited, and our patrons are going to be amazed."

Amazing is the right word. From the exterior architecture of block, glass and steel; to the large open lobby (with its climbing wall and pedestrian walkway overhead); to the indoor track that will overlook the full-size basketball courts from the second floor – the Rio Vista Recreation Center will be an amazing facility.



Thanks to recent construction progress, artist's renderings of the Rio Vista Recreation Center (inset) are coming to life. Pictured is the building's north side as seen from across the urban lake.

But this isn't just about looking impressive, it's about providing recreation resources that Peoria doesn't have today.

"Thanks to a wonderful relationship with the Peoria Unified School District, we have been able to offer great programs to our residents," said Brenda Rehnke, recreation manager. "But we haven't been able to provide certain programs because there are some things you just can't host at a school. Soon we'll have the facility to offer those programs and more."

Indoor rock climbing, dance and fitness classes and indoor sports leagues for basketball and racquetball all will have a home at the new recreation center. The facility also

will feature an exercise area with fitness machines and free weights, an indoor track, classrooms, a teen program area, child care and a large multipurpose meeting and event space. A walkway over the urban lake will take visitors from the recreation center to the future Peoria Veterans Memorial.

Construction of lighted fields and parking at the north end of Rio Vista Park, as well as the walking path, are scheduled for completion in October. The Rio Vista Recreation Center is expected to open, along with the Peoria Veterans Memorial, in May 2007.

For more information, contact the Community Services Department at 623-773-7137 or e-mail communityservices@peoriaaz.gov

Get Chili, Get Coffee at Rio Vista

Rio Vista Community Park soon will welcome Chili Davis Premier Baseball, which recently broke ground on a 2,000-square-foot indoor/outdoor facility. With batting cages, pitching tunnels and a full-service Starbucks coffee shop on the grounds of the park, the facility will offer practice fields and provide professional instruction for baseball and softball players of all levels.

Desert Fusion Garden Ready to Bloom at City Hall

The City of Peoria plans to lead by example in promoting water-saving desert landscaping.

In 2005, the city's Utilities Department recognized a special opportunity to demonstrate a commitment to water conservation. While most of the city's municipal campus featured low-water-use landscaping, large grass-covered mounds that had been intended for expansion of City Hall dominated the front of the building. Water conservation staff realized that it was tough to encourage residents to convert to low-water-use landscaping when two of the largest grass areas in the city sat right in front of City Hall!

Since the area no longer was needed for expansion of the building the City Council gave approval to remove the turf mounds and install desert landscape. The "Desert Fusion

Garden" will be an oasis for employees and visitors to the city's municipal complex while showcasing the vibrant colors of the area's native surroundings.

By November 2005, the grass was stripped off and the conversion project was underway.

Studies find that 70 percent of water is consumed outdoors for uses such as watering non-native plants and lawns. The city is hoping that the Desert Fusion Garden will provide visible evidence to help convince residents that "Xeriscape" – landscaping with emphasis on colorful, low-water use plants, is as beautiful as traditional landscaping.



The Desert Fusion Garden will offer shady spots in a beautiful desert setting.

The Desert Fusion Garden will be divided into five display areas, giving residents several options when considering their own landscape: Child Friendly, Color Explosion Northern Latitudes, Sonoran Accents and Tropical Oasis. These groupings show how aesthetic plants can be used to achieve certain looks in low-water-use landscaping.

"When implementing the garden we wanted to create a place for people to relax, learn and gather ideas about landscape water conservation through the use of Xeriscape," explains Christina Klien, water conservation specialist.

The common misconception of Xeriscape is that it is nothing but rock and cacti. The Desert Fusion Garden will expose that myth and display how Xeriscape can be beautiful, colorful and inviting.

Mayor John Keegan thinks the project does that and more. "It shows the city's dedication to water conservation," he says. It is an important message because reducing landscape water use is vital to accomplishing the city's water conservation goals.

The Desert Fusion Garden is scheduled for completion by October 2006, when the city plans to host a grand opening ceremony.

For more information on water conversation, Xeriscape and the Desert Fusion Garden, visit www.peoriaaz.gov/utilities/conservation or call 623-773-7286.

CITY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

April

- Accepted a \$50,000 grant from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety to fund additional radar units and police overtime. The additional money will help the Police Department target aggressive driving, speeding, child-seat safety violations and DUI enforcement.
- Approved a \$423,000 contract for pre-construction services for the Butler Water Reclamation Facility. Construction of the \$121 million facility (to be located at 79th Avenue and Butler Drive) will start in July.
- Received a report on 2006 Spring Training. More than 200,000 fans attended games at the Peoria Sports Complex, creating an estimated \$36.7 million in local economic impact.

May

- Amended Chapter 13 of the City Code relating to camping in the city. The amended code prohibits camping or overnight stays in the parking lots of retail establishments, except in specifically approved areas.
- Accepted the Not-for-Profit Council Subcommittee recommendations on expenditure of \$667,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds. The money will support 16 different agencies and programs that provide local community assistance including: Community Services of Arizona, Boys & Girls Clubs, the West Valley Child Crisis Center and the St. Mary's/Westside Food Bank Alliance.
- Approved labor contracts with Peoria's three employee unions – the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (two-year agreement), the United Phoenix Firefighters Association (two-year agreement) and the Peoria Police Officers Association (one-year agreement).
- Approved the \$857 million 10-year Capital Improvement Program, a fully funded and balanced plan that provides the schedule and funding for Peoria's street, park, facility, drainage, water and wastewater construction projects for the next decade. (For more information, see the Fiscal Year 2007 Budget in Brief in this issue of FOCUS.)

June

- Selected Patrick Hickson as Councilmember for the Ironwood District. Mr. Hickson will serve on an interim basis until a candidate is elected and qualified to fill the remainder of the unexpired term. The Ironwood seat was vacated by Bob Barrett, who resigned to run for mayor.
- Set the city's Fiscal Year 2007 primary property tax rate at 29 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation (the same as for FY 2006) and the secondary property tax rate at \$1.20 per \$100 of assessed valuation (a 10 cent reduction in the rate from FY 2006).
- Adopted the \$654 million Fiscal Year 2007 City Budget: \$202 million for operations, \$353 million for capital improvements, \$60 million for debt service and a \$39 million contingency appropriation. (For more information, see the Fiscal Year 2007 Budget in Brief in this issue of FOCUS.)
- Approved a \$696,000 contract for design and pre-construction services for a new branch library. The 20,000–25,000 square foot library will share 11 acres with a future city park near 98th Avenue and Lake Pleasant Parkway.

July

- Approved an agreement with the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) to locate an ADOT alternative traffic operations center within the Peoria traffic management center. Peoria's traffic management center will be part of the new Development and Community Services building (at the municipal campus) scheduled for completion at the end of 2007.
- Authorized an agreement with the Regional Public Transit Authority (Valley Metro) to update the city's transit plan. The update will address existing transit operations in Peoria and also ensure that future fixed-route bus lines work within the countywide regional transportation system.
- Accepted a report from the City Manager on updated population figures from the 2005 mid-decade Census. According to the Census Bureau, Peoria's official 2006 population is 138,143.

Mayor's Report

A Performance in Two Acts

Professional & Community Stages Make Peoria Unique

These days, it's sometimes hard to recognize one city from another because each has the same national chain restaurants and retailers. But Peoria has something most other cities don't – performing arts. Here in Peoria we already enjoy top-quality professional theater, and that is soon to be joined by a state-of-the-art community theater. An active performing arts community is a cultural asset to any city, and in that regard, we are twice blessed.

The curtain rose on Act 1 last fall when the Arizona Broadway Theatre opened on Paradise Lane adjacent to the Peoria Sports Complex. This professional dinner theater boasts a beautiful auditorium that seats 400, along with a gourmet kitchen and several event spaces.

The company is finishing its inaugural season with a presentation of "The World Goes Round: The Songs of Kander and Ebb," a tribute to one of Broadway's most successful teams that includes hits such as "Cabaret," "All That Jazz" and "New York, New York." The production runs through Sept. 10.

I cannot overstate how impressive this facility is, and its productions are of the highest quality. This is professional theater of a caliber not often seen off Broadway. Peoria is lucky to call the Arizona Broadway Theatre one of our own.

Act 2 comes in December with the opening of the \$12.9 million Peoria Center for the Performing Arts in Oldtown. A partnership between the city and Theater Works, the center will feature a 250-seat main auditorium, dressing rooms, a scene shop, an 80-seat experimental theater, two classrooms and office space for Theater Works, a non-profit group serving the West Valley since 1986.

The Peoria Center for the Performing Arts will be quite different from the Arizona Broadway Theatre. It will be community theater, run by Theater Works volunteers. Theater Works has been doing this for 20 years, so the productions promise to be high quality in an intimate setting that will provide a unique cultural experience for the audience.

Supporting these performing arts venues means supporting Peoria. Money generated by the Arizona Broadway Theatre and the Peoria Center for the Performing Arts stays here in our city. The people who build sets, cook and serve food and create costumes are local. Actors are local or stay in nearby hotels and eat in our restaurants, and theatergoers from across the Valley and across the country make Peoria a destination.

Collaboration among the city, the Arizona Broadway Theatre and Theater Works is a "win, win, win" situation. Each complements the others. But another group wins as well: We, the people of Peoria.

I heartily recommend putting an afternoon or evening aside to experience the Arizona Broadway Theatre and, soon, the Peoria Center for the Performing Arts. They're part of what makes our city unique.

Mayor John Keegan

CITY COUNCIL District Roundup

Contact the Mayor and Council
by calling 623-773-7306.

Council meetings are held the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Peoria City Council Chamber, 8401 West Monroe Street

Call the City Clerk's Office at
623-773-7340 for
agendas or more information.

Council agendas, meeting minutes,
district maps, and other information are
also available on the city web site at
www.peoriaaz.com/council



All regular City Council meetings are broadcast live on Peoria's Channel 11 (on Cox & Qwest cable), and re-broadcast each night through the following Sunday.

Acacia District – Vice Mayor Vicki Hunt

The intersection improvements at 83rd Ave. & Grand have largely been completed. Decorative sidewalks, new landscaping and improved crosswalks & pavement markings are in place. The Peoria Avenue intersection pedestrian-access improvements are in the final stages. With the dedication of the Pioneer Memorial in the next year and the opening of the Peoria Center for the Performing Arts this winter, the downtown is coming alive.

Ironwood District – Councilmember Patrick Hickson

Travelers using Thunderbird Road can look forward to improvements. The intersection at 83rd Avenue will see additional dedicated turn lanes, and improvements will be made at the intersection at Loop 101. The roadway west of Loop 101 is planned for widening. Additional lanes will be added west to 95th Avenue. Work is underway to secure the necessary right of way for the intersection and widening projects to commence.

Mesquite District – Councilmember Cathy Carlat

Peoria Leadership Institute is seeking students for the fall 2006 and spring 2007 sessions. Residents who are interested in learning more about how municipal government works are encouraged to attend this in-depth 11-week program. The fall session begins September 6, 2006, and continues every Wednesday at 6 p.m. Residents can sign up or learn more by calling 623-773-7000 or visiting www.peoriaaz.gov/up.

Palo Verde District – Councilmember Pat Dennis

Wouldn't it be great to work in the city you call home? The City of Peoria is hiring! Employees enjoy a progressive work environment, competitive salaries and outstanding benefits. For a full listing of available positions or to get more information, call the Human Resources Job Hotline at 623-773-7105 or visit www.peoriaaz.com/jobs.

Pine District – Councilmember Carlo Leone

Peoria's Dial-a-Ride service is there for people who have trouble getting around on their own. Whether it's a trip to the doctor's office or the grocery store, reserve a time with Peoria Dial-a-Ride by calling 623-773-7435. Dial-a-Ride operates Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., and reservations need to be made by 6 p.m. the previous day. Fares are minimal: free for kids under 6 (one per adult); \$1 for disabled and ages 6 to 12 and ages 65 & older; and \$3 for the general public.

Willow District – Councilmember Joan Evans

Peoria Police put the Commercial Enforcement Unit (CEU) on the streets earlier this year. The CEU creates a link between businesses and the police department in high activity areas. An area of emphasis for the unit is patrol and response around the "entertainment district" adjacent to the Peoria Sports Complex. Additional officers in this busy area help keep businesses thriving and the public safe. When you see officers on patrol, say hello and thank them for helping keep Peoria safe.

Primary Election is September 12th

Voters participating in the city's Sept. 12 primary election will decide a zoning referendum (Proposition 400) and cast ballots to help choose Peoria's next mayor and city councilmembers in the Acacia, Ironwood, Palo Verde and Pine districts.

Peoria Proposition 400:

Proposition 400 is a zoning referendum on a City Council action to rezone approximately 44 acres of property (generally located) south of the southeast corner of Jomax Road and Lake Pleasant Parkway from Suburban Ranch (SR-43) to Planned Area Development (PAD). This change would permit a 54-lot subdivision (currently known as Querencia) that is consistent with and conforms to the General Plan of the City. This referendum will decide whether that rezoning is upheld or rejected.

A "Yes" vote on Proposition 400 shall affirm the City Council's decision to rezone the property from Suburban Ranch (SR-43) to Planned Area Development (PAD).

A "No" vote on Proposition 400 shall overturn the City Council's decision to rezone the property, leaving the existing Suburban Ranch (SR-43) zoning district in place.

Key Election Dates

- Aug. 10 Early voting begins for Primary Election
- Aug. 14 Voter Registration closes
- Sept. 1 Last day to request a ballot to be mailed
- Sept. 8 Last day to vote at a Satellite Voting Location*
- Sept. 12 Primary Election

* The Peoria City Council Chamber Executive Conference Room (8401 W. Monroe St.) will serve as an early voting satellite voting location from Aug. 28 through Sept. 8. Hours of operation: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday – Friday.

Voter Registration

In November 2004, Arizona voters approved Proposition 200, which became effective in January 2005. It requires proof of citizenship for new voter registration and proper identification for registered voters at the polls. All voter registration is administered by the Maricopa County Recorder – Elections Department. For more information on these requirements or to register to vote, visit www.recorder.maricopa.gov or call 602-506-1511 (TDD at 602-506-2348).

At the Polls

In accordance with Proposition 200 requirements, voters at the polls must present "acceptable identification" in order to receive a ballot. The law allows for various forms of "acceptable identification," the most common is a valid Arizona driver license. To learn more about this requirement, contact the Maricopa County Recorder's office at www.recorder.maricopa.gov or call 602-506-1511 (TDD at 602-506-2348).

For more Peoria election information, visit peoriaaz.gov/clerk or call the Peoria City Clerk's Office at 623-773-7340.

Para una copia de esta información en español, contacta por favor la Oficina de Empleado de Ciudad en 623-773-7340.

Peoria Hits the Trail

The city's first dedicated mountain trail dips low into a natural desert wash before tracing an old wildlife path to the peak of East Wing Mountain. It's not a terribly difficult climb, but members of the small group that inaugurated the path on a warm June morning definitely earned the view that greeted them at the top. Lake Pleasant to the north with the Sonoran desert stretched between, and the homes and winding roads to the south that make up many people's only vision of life in the Phoenix metro area.

Peoria, however, has a different vision.

"Our Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan is a working guide to how Peoria's parks, trails and recreation amenities will serve the community," says J.P. de la Montaigne, the city's Community Services director. "We work with the community on regular updates to the plan, and the people have told us that they want development of our trail system to be a priority."

The East Wing Mountain trail, located within walking distance of the newly opened Sonoran Mountain Ranch Park, is one way that vision is coming to life. The trail, 1.5 miles to the peak and back down, offers a path of moderate difficulty and the option of a steeper, shorter and tougher climb.

The park and trail were developed and deeded to the city by Element Homes, master builder within Sonoran Mountain Ranch. Through agreements like this, developers earn credits to pay the impact fees they owe to the city – fees that help offset the cost of expanding infrastructure to serve new development.

"Sonoran Mountain Ranch is a prime example of how a cooperative relationship between the city and a developer makes a real difference for the community," said Kirk Haines,



Parks Manager Kirk Haines led the inaugural climb up the city's first dedicated mountain trail to the peak of East Wing Mountain.

Peoria's Parks manager. "If we had simply collected impact fees to build the park and trail ourselves, we would still be in the planning stages. Working together from the beginning, we've been able to open these amenities for the community much earlier than would otherwise have been possible."

Cooperation is the name of the game, and it is paying off for trail development in the southern part of the city as well. Along the New River Corridor, which runs generally north and south through Peoria west of the Loop 101, improved multiuse paths are in various stages of development. The section from Grand Avenue north to Rio Vista Community Park recently was completed, and other pieces are being developed with financial assistance from state and federal grants.

"Over the next 10 years, Peoria's trail development will represent a \$12 million to \$15 million public investment," says de la Montaigne. "The result will provide a variety of linked, multiuse and mountain trails that offer experiences for everyone, for every level of ability or fitness."

For more information, call the Community Services Department at 623-773-7137.

"Where the Rubber Meets the Road"



ROAD CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



Intersection Improvements - Lake Pleasant Parkway & Happy Valley Road

Improvements were slowed to allow coordination and utility relocation related to retail developments on the corners and construction of a waterline between Jomax Road and WestWing Parkway. Traffic signals are expected to be energized and the intersection completed this September.

Lake Pleasant Parkway, Williams Road to WestWing Parkway

The majority of pavement work along this stretch of road is scheduled for completion in September, when new traffic signals at Happy Valley Road, Pinnacle Peak Road and the Pinnacle Peak Public Safety Station (for emergency vehicle use) are to be energized. Completion of this segment will provide two lanes in each direction plus a center median and turn lanes. Once the road construction is substantially complete, occasional lane restrictions may be required while final construction items and cleanup are completed and landscaping is installed (tentatively scheduled for later this year).

Lake Pleasant Parkway, 95th Avenue to Williams Road

This last segment of Lake Pleasant Parkway will be built by the developer of the Camino a Lago project. That developer reports that work will begin in November and will take about a year to complete.

67th Avenue Road Widening, Pinnacle Peak Road to Happy Valley Road

This project will add lanes to 67th Avenue as an interim measure until the final roadway construction funded in Fiscal Year 2011. One additional lane in each direction will be added, giving the road two northbound lanes and two southbound lanes plus a center turning lane. Utility relocation is scheduled for August, with construction to begin in September or October and last about three months.

Intersection Improvements – 83rd Avenue & Pinnacle Peak Road

Major improvements to this intersection, including a traffic signal, widening and underground water and drainage lines are scheduled to begin in October and be completed in February 2007.

Waterline Installation – 75th Avenue, Olive Avenue to Cholla Street

The Utilities Department is installing a 16-inch waterline along 75th Avenue from Olive Avenue to Thunderbird Road, which will force intermittent lane restrictions on 75th Avenue. Phase One (from Olive Avenue to Cholla Street) began in July and should be completed in December. Phase Two (Cholla Street to Thunderbird Road) will follow immediately and is scheduled for completion in May 2007.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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27	28	29	30	31		

August

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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

October

- Aug. 3** ‡Planning & Zoning Commission, Council Chamber, 6:30 p.m.
- Aug. 17** ‡Planning & Zoning Commission, Council Chamber, 6:30 p.m.
- Aug. 21** Special City Council Meeting & *Study Session, Public Safety Administration Building, Peoria Room, 4 p.m.
- TV Aug. 21** Special City Council Meeting, Council Chamber, 7 p.m.
- Sept. 4** Labor Day, City Offices Closed, Holiday Sanitation Schedule
- TV Sept. 5** City Council Meeting, Council Chamber, 7 p.m.
- Sept. 7** ‡Planning & Zoning Commission, Council Chamber, 6:30 p.m.
- Sept. 12** Primary Election
- Sept. 19** City Council *Study Session, Pine Room, City Hall, 4 p.m.
- TV City Council Meeting**, Council Chamber, 7 p.m.
- Sept. 21** ‡Planning & Zoning Commission, Council Chamber, 6:30 p.m.
- TV Oct. 3** City Council Meeting, Council Chamber, 7 p.m.
- Oct. 5** ‡Planning & Zoning Commission, Council Chamber, 6:30 p.m.
- Oct. 17** City Council *Study Session, Pine Room, City Hall, 4 p.m.

- TV Oct. 17** City Council Meeting, Council Chamber, 7 p.m.
 - Oct. 19** ‡Planning & Zoning Commission, Council Chamber, 6:30 p.m.
 - Oct. 28** Halloween Monster Bash & Balloon Illumination, Peoria Sports Complex, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- *Council Study Sessions are held as needed. Call the City Clerk's Office at 623-773-7340 to confirm meeting times and for agendas, or check the web at www.peoriaaz.gov/council
- ‡Call the Planning Division at 623-773-7200 or check the web site at www.peoriaaz.gov/planning to confirm meeting times and for agendas.
- City Hall and Council Chamber are located at the City of Peoria Municipal Complex, 8401 West Monroe Street.
- TV** All City Council meetings are broadcast live on Peoria's Channel 11 (on Cox & Qwest cable), and re-broadcast each night through the following Sunday.



ACTIVITIES FOR EVERYONE!

For more information about or to register for these programs visit RECREATION.PEORIAAZ.GOV or call 623-773-7137

★ AM/PM BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

The perfect solution for working parents, AM/PM offers K-6 grade children a well-rounded program in a secure environment, located at all elementary schools within Peoria. State licensed with DES funding available for qualified families.

★ LIL' LEARNERS TOO

Learning and fun is a supervised and secure environment for children ages 4-5. Weekdays during the school year from 8:30am - 11:30am. State licensed with DES funding available for qualified families.

★ ADULT DAY PROGRAM

Designed to provide unique and challenging activities in a small group setting for individuals with a disability. Weekdays in two locations from 8am - 2pm. DES/DDD funding is available for qualified participants. Call 623-773-7925 for more information.

★ YOUTH LACROSSE LEAGUE

Three league divisions for boys & girls ages 7-13. Games on Saturday mornings, September 30-November 18. Registration \$45 for residents, \$55 for non-residents by August 28. Call 623-773-7117 for more info.

RECREATION.PEORIAAZ.GOV

New Online Account Services

City of Peoria utility customers can now access account information, make payments, view account history and more - all via a secure Internet connection. It's free and easy!

To sign up, have your account number handy and visit <https://myaccount.peoriaaz.gov>

Questions? E-mail customerservice@peoriaaz.gov or call 623-773-7160.

Want the Inside Scoop?

Peoria Leadership Institute is your opportunity to get an up-close look behind-the-scenes at how the City of Peoria operates.

If you'd like to learn more about the city's budget and finances, public works, utility, police and fire operations through interactive discussions with management staff, then Peoria Leadership Institute is for you.

Applications for the Fall 2006 and Spring 2007 sessions are being accepted. Apply online at www.peoriaaz.gov/up or call the Communications and Public Affairs Department at 623-773-7000.

Peoria Institute applicants must be Peoria residents age 18 & older.

City of Peoria Telephone Numbers

ALL NUMBERS ARE IN THE 623 AREA CODE

AM/PM Program	773-7137	Library (Sunrise Mountain Branch)	487-5150
Building Inspections	773-7225	Mayor and Council Offices	773-7306
City Attorney's Office	773-7330	Parks and Recreation	773-7137
City Clerk's Office	773-7340	Peoria Job Hotline	773-7105
City Manager's Office	773-7300	Peoria Municipal Court	773-7400
Code Compliance	773-7162	Planning and Zoning	773-7200
Community Center	773-7436	Police (non-emergency)	773-8311
Community Development	773-7200	Solid Waste Billing	773-7160
Dial-a-Ride	773-7435	Solid Waste Collection	773-7431
Fire Department (non-emergency)	773-7279	Street Maintenance	773-7432
Graffiti Hotline	773-7094	Water Billing / Service	773-7160
Library (Main)	773-7555	Water Leaks	773-7433



Get the latest city news delivered via e-mail. Sign up for Peoria Snapshots, the city's electronic newsletter, at www.peoriaaz.com/e-news

PEORIA FOCUS

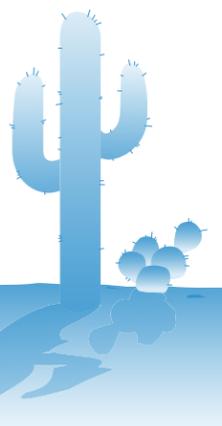
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BUDGET IN BRIEF

City of Peoria • Fiscal Year 2007

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 City of Peoria Budget is a road map for the year ahead. The budget is balanced (projected revenues support all projected expenditures) and sufficiently robust to maintain the programs and services city residents expect.



The budget totals \$654 million, including operations, capital projects, debt service requirements and reserve funding. Because of several high-profile capital projects and new debt service requirements related to developer reimbursements, the total figure is substantially larger than last year.

This budget responds to the continuing growth of the community, both in terms of public facilities and the expansion of services triggered by population increases. The budget funds 97 new full-time equivalent staff positions. Of this recommended total, 38 FTEs are in public safety, including 23 in the Fire Department and 13 in Police. An additional 25 positions will support facilities slated for construction in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), highlighted by the 52,000 square foot Rio Vista Recreation Center currently under construction. Of the remaining

34 positions all but 10 are supported through user charges or outside funding sources.



The budget reflects the priorities identified by the City Council over the past year. The new 0.3 percent transportation sales tax approved by voters in September 2005 is incorporated into the budget for the first time. A ten cent reduction to the city's secondary property tax rate is possible due to recent increases in property valuation in combination with debt limitations imposed by state law.

The budget conforms to the City Council's adopted "Principles of Sound Financial Management" and is based upon long-term financial forecast models. Other financial forecasting tools are consistently employed to identify and provide early warning signals for longer-term financial trends and problems. The city continues to maintain strong reserves for unforeseen circumstances and events, whether of a financial nature or natural disaster.

As the city grows, overhead costs inevitably grow as well, and the size (and scale) of direct costs increase. Price

increases for utilities, fuel and other commodities have strained department budgets in the past year. Increases in employee retirement contributions, risk management costs, health insurance and wage increases will absorb a sizeable amount of expected revenue growth.



The FY 2007 budget incorporates the City Council's financial philosophy and principles of financial management. That combination ensures that Peorians get good value for their tax dollars. Read more about it inside this Budget in Brief.

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City of Peoria

FY 2007 Total Budget:	\$654 million
Operations:	\$202 million
Capital Improvements:	\$353 million
Contingency:	\$39.5 million
Debt Service:	\$59.5 million



Budget Highlights

The city's operating departments have identified budgetary requirements to maintain service levels in response to population growth, and to open and operate new facilities. For example, 14 new firefighter positions are required to staff the new Jomax Fire Station, slated for construction this year. A new fire battalion is also needed to provide emergency command and control in the northern part of the city. Three new fire inspection positions are proposed to improve inspection turnaround time in this crucial development service.



14 new firefighters will staff the Jomax Fire Station slated for construction this fiscal year.

Seven new staff positions are included to operate the future Rio Vista Recreation Center and the community park's new ball field and multi-purpose fields. Additional park maintenance workers are also funded to maintain new neighborhood parks around the city.

Based upon citizen input and direction from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, the budget also includes \$80,000 to build off-leash dog areas in three city parks.

New Capital Improvement Program (CIP) engineers and project managers, and a new inspector, are included in the budget to ensure that Peoria's ambitious CIP can be executed in a timely manner.

Peoria's Dial-a-Ride service is currently limited in the area north of Pinnacle Peak



Additional resources will allow Dial-a-Ride to operate on an equal and consistent basis throughout the city



Road. The Fiscal Year 2007 budget will add four transit drivers to the Public Works Transit Division. These additional resources will allow Dial-a-Ride to operate on an equal and consistent basis throughout the city, including the fast-growing area north of Pinnacle Peak Road.

A high priority of the City Council is the Neighborhood Traffic Management



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Program; thus, \$250,000 (one-time funding) is included to give the Traffic Engineering Division what it needs to catch up with the backlog of neighborhood requests for traffic mitigation projects.

The FY 2007 budget includes 13 new staff in the Police Department. It will add one new police officer to each patrol shift, a new commercial traffic enforcement officer, and a family crimes detective. These new positions will strengthen patrol operations out of the Pinnacle Peak Public Safety Station and reduce commute time (and increase productivity) for officers working in the northern part of the city.



13 new police staff will strengthen patrol operations around the city

BUDGET FOCUS: EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Following Hurricane Katrina, the city sent emergency responders to assist with recovery efforts. The lessons those individuals learned were brought back to Peoria - as a result, all city departments were directed to explore additional disaster preparedness and security measures. A number of initiatives were identified as a result and are included in the FY 2007 budget.

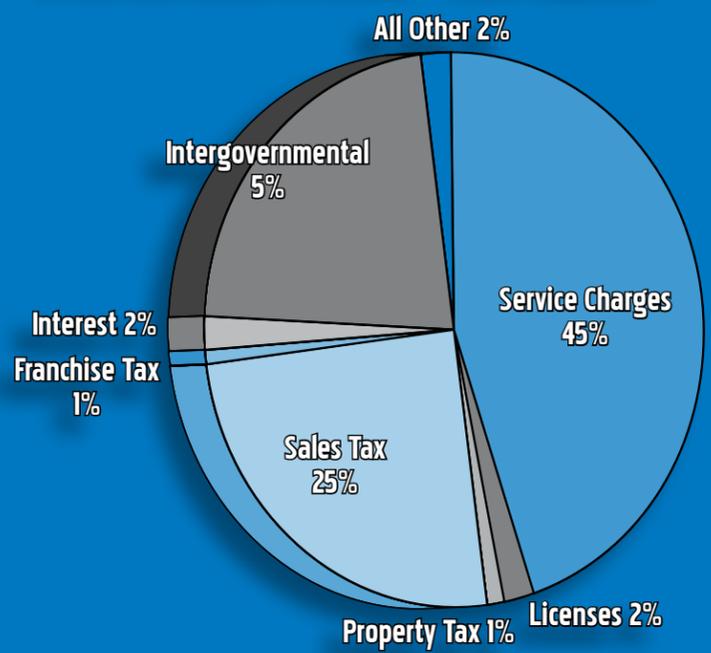
These include funding for additional emergency preparedness training, disaster recovery system reviews, security at remote utility sites, emergency response equipment and damage assessment team capacity. Additionally, the city has applied for federal funding and key staff have been accepted into the National Fire Academy to receive specialized disaster training.

Fiscal Year 2007 Revenues & Expenditures

The regional (and national) economic environment has been good for Peoria. Statewide employment gains and robust growth in personal and corporate income have helped sustain the Arizona economy. Locally, new commercial development and retail activity have bolstered the city's revenues.

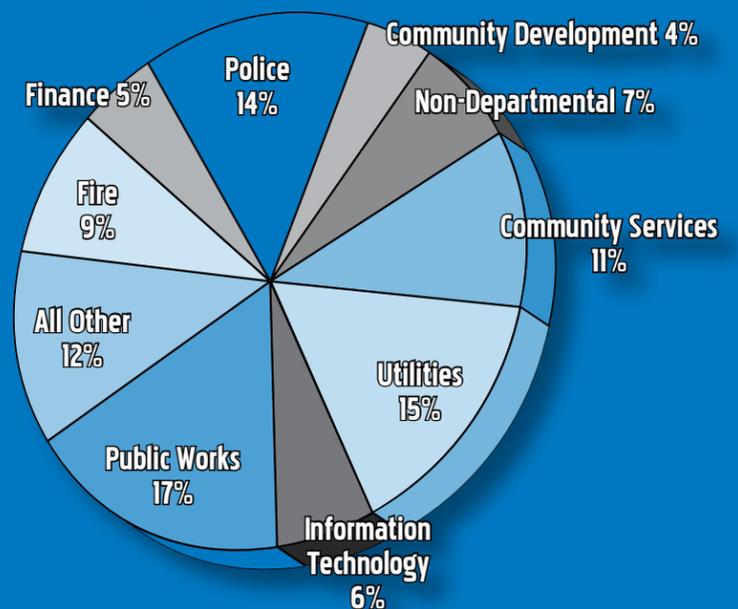
Based upon this economic scenario, the city expects to increase revenue in the year ahead. The city's retail sales tax collections are estimated to increase by approximately 10 percent. Primary property tax collections should rise by 11 percent as a result of new residential and commercial development and appreciation of existing properties.

FY 2007 Operating Budget Total Revenue Sources - \$238 million



Another important component is state-shared revenues which include portions of the state-collected income tax and sales tax. Based upon the recently completed special Maricopa County census, the city's allocation of state-shared income tax is expected to increase about 32 percent in FY 2007. This will provide additional financial resources to support Peoria's rapid population growth.

FY 2007 Operating Expenditures by Department - \$202 million



Non-Departmental expenditures are primarily charges for services provided between functions within city government, such as fleet and building maintenance. Expenditures which do not apply to a specific department, such as city participation in regional organizations like the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG), are included here as well.

All Other includes the remaining city departments: Budget, City Attorney, City Clerk, City Manager, Communications & Public Affairs, Economic Development, Engineering, Human Resources, Mayor and City Council and Municipal Court.

CITY OF PEORIA FISCAL YEAR 2007 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is the city's budget for financing large capital projects. This 10 year funded program is closely aligned with the city's General Plan and integrates various facility and infrastructure master plans.

As the CIP is developed, careful consideration is given to understanding how the maintenance and operating costs of large capital facilities affect the city's operating budget. Facilities are not included in the CIP unless sufficient ongoing revenue to support their operation and maintenance is identified.

The 10-Year CIP totals \$825 million; the Capital Budget for FY 2007 totals \$353 million. These highlighted projects are scheduled to begin or be completed in Fiscal Year 2007:

Parks & Recreation Facilities

- 1 **Rio Vista Community Park - Phase II** - Additional playing fields plus the 50,000-square-foot Rio Vista Recreation Center (\$1.8 million; total project cost \$19.2 million).
- 2 **Terramar Neighborhood Park** - A 5-acre neighborhood park adjacent to Terramar School (\$14 million).

Public Safety & Administrative Facilities

- 3 **Jomax Fire Station (Station 197)** - located at the northeast corner of 75th Avenue and Jomax Road (\$44 million; total project cost \$5.7 million).
- 4 **Peoria Center for the Performing Arts** - completion of the 250-seat theater in Oldtown Peoria (\$6.5 million; total project cost \$12.9 million).
- 5 **Development and Community Services Building** - a 75,000-square-foot facility on the municipal campus will house the Community Services, Community Development, Engineering and Utilities departments (and part of the Public Works department) (\$12.6 million; total project cost \$26.6 million).

Streets

- 6 **67th Avenue widening, Pinnacle Peak Road to Happy Valley Road** - interim widening to two travel lanes in each direction plus a center turn lane (\$750,000).
- 7 **83rd Avenue & Pinnacle Peak Road Intersection** - traffic signal installation and intersection expansion (\$940,000).
- 8 **83rd Avenue & Thunderbird Road Intersection** - intersection expansion (\$1.5 million; total project cost \$2.7 million)
- 9 **Beardsley Connection to Loop 101** - final design of the freeway connection & frontage road extensions and land acquisition funded in FY 2007; construction funded in FY 2008 and FY 2009 (\$6 million; total project cost \$30.1 million).
- 10 **Lake Pleasant Parkway** - completion of the city-funded portion of the roadway to include two lanes in each direction plus a center median and turn lanes from Williams Road to WestWing Parkway (\$12.8 million; total project cost \$38.9 million).
Note: The final portion of the roadway from 95th Avenue to Williams Road will be constructed by the developer of the Camino a Lago project. The developer has indicated that work will start in November 2006 and last about a year.

Wastewater

- 11 **Butler Water Reclamation Facility** - construction of a 10-million-gallon per day water reclamation facility (located at 79th Avenue and Butler Drive) and associated pump stations and pipes (\$121 million).

Water

- 12 **16-inch waterline, 75th Avenue from Olive Avenue to Thunderbird Road** (\$3.8 million)
- 13 **24-inch waterline, 79th Avenue from Greenway Road to the Peoria Sports Complex** (\$1.5 million).



The City of Peoria, Arizona Fiscal Year 2007 Budget in Brief is produced by Communications and Public Affairs Department for the City of Peoria Budget Office. For more information on the city's budget, check online at www.peoriaaz.com/budget or call the Budget Office at 623-773-7126.

