

Canines Unleashed in City Parks!

Dog-Friendly Areas to Open in December

Portions of three city parks will go to the dogs by the end of the year, but that is no reason to howl.

The City Council approved \$64,000 in August to fence off the least-used sections of Alta Vista, Parkridge and Sunnyslope parks and turn them into "dog-friendly areas" by December. The city will spend an additional \$16,000 on bag dispensers, bags, benches, signage and trash bins.

The city would like to include an official dog park in a future community park, but construction is several years away. After searching doggedly for an interim solution, officials decided to throw canine lovers a bone. City staff chose the term "dog-friendly areas" to describe the temporary enclosures that will allow pooches to play, fetch or train unleashed in existing parks.

"We are responding to citizen and City Council requests," says Ana Lia Johnson, a management analyst with the Peoria Community Services Department. "There has been a lot of interest in developing this type of facility."

City officials devised this stopgap solution after surveying residents around five parks thought to be suitable for canine cohabitation. After results showed almost 81 percent in favor, the city decided to move ahead, though budget constraints dogged the process, reducing the number of parks to three: Alta Vista and Parkridge in northern Peoria and Sunnyslope in southeastern Peoria.

Each dog-friendly area will have two play sections – one for small dogs (25 pounds or less); one for large dogs. Dogs must be leashed prior to



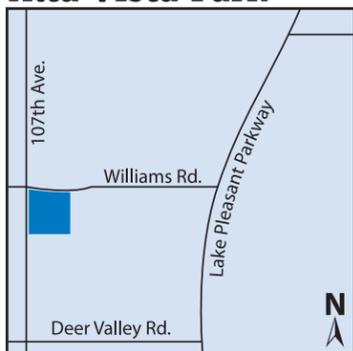
entering and upon leaving a fenced area; gates must be closed at all other times. Each dog handler must be at least 12 years old or accompanied by an adult, and will be limited to

two dogs. All dogs must be licensed, vaccinated and sporting a visible tag. Dogs behaving aggressively toward people or other dogs must be removed immediately, and females in heat will be prohibited. Puppies must be older than 4 months.

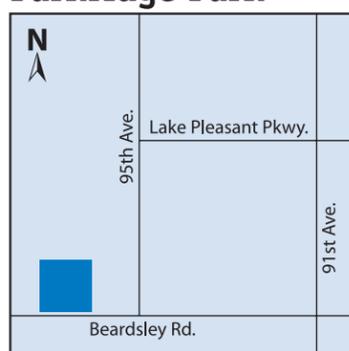
Residents will be expected to clean up after their dogs, using the bags and trash containers provided. Smoking will be prohibited, as will dog treats, food and alcoholic beverages.

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

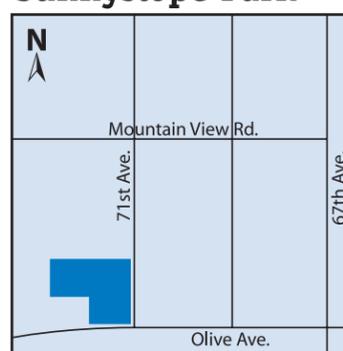
Alta Vista Park



Parkridge Park



Sunnyslope Park



Sculpture to Honor Peoria's Pioneer Founders

After completing a nationwide call to artists last summer, the City Council awarded a \$100,000 contract to artist Emanuel Martinez to create a Pioneer Memorial in historic Oldtown Peoria. Martinez was selected by the Peoria Arts Commission from three finalists.

"The decision was not an easy one," says Grady Miller, Communications and Public Affairs Director and staff liaison to the Peoria Arts Commission. "All of the entries were outstanding."

In 2004, civic and community leaders established the Peoria Pioneer Memorial Committee. With the financial support of the Peoria Historical Society, the committee's goal is to create a memorial to honor the contributions of Peoria's pioneer families.

The fund raising for the project was a grass-roots effort involving financial contributions from civic leaders, businesses and many of the city's longtime farming families. The Peoria Arts Commission matched the \$50,000 raised by the Historical Society.

Martinez's four-sided bronze bas-relief sculpture will mark the entrance to Oldtown Peoria at the intersection of 83rd and Grand avenues. Each side of the 13-foot sculpture will depict a scene of historic Peoria, including a farmer, a woman harvesting cotton, a man herding sheep and the historic Central School. The project began this summer and the dedication is scheduled for January 2007.

Installation of the memorial will take place after the completion of several projects at the intersection,



Artist Emanuel Martinez is creating the Peoria Pioneer Memorial Sculpture that will welcome visitors to the city's historic Oldtown.

including new pedestrian-friendly sidewalks, a brick-and-concrete viewing area and landscaping.

For more information, contact the Communications and Public Affairs Department at 623-773-7300.

CITY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

August

- Approved an \$81,000 contract to conduct a community branding project to help define community identity and focal points and guide future marketing and communications efforts.
- Approved an agreement with the Arizona Department of Transportation for the installation of fiber-optic cable and dynamic message signs on the Loop 101 freeway in Peoria.
- Approved an agreement with the Flood Control District of Maricopa County for phase one of Rose Garden Lane drainage channel improvements. This \$8 million project will provide a regional drainage solution south of Rose Garden Lane between Lake Pleasant Parkway and the Agua Fria River; project cost to be shared equally by the city and district.
- Approved an \$850,000 contract for widening 67th Avenue between Pinnacle Peak and Happy Valley roads. The project will create two travel lanes in each direction plus a center turn lane; completion is targeted for December 2006.
- Awarded a \$19.6 million contract for construction of a Development and Community Services Building, the new home for the Community Development, Community Services, Engineering and Utilities departments. The facility is under construction on the southwest corner of the municipal campus (85th Avenue and Mountain View Road) and is scheduled for completion in December 2007.

September

- Presented the Kosier family with a key to the city. The Kosier's hardware store in Oldtown Peoria opened in 1925 as a blacksmith shop, and closed this year after 81 years of continuous service.
- Established a Sister Cities Board and a Veterans Memorial Board. These new citizen advisory bodies will assist the City Council by offering recommendations for the Sister City Program and the new Veterans Memorial being built at Rio Vista Community Park.
- Recognized the winners in the annual Constitution Commemoration Contest, which promotes understanding and appreciation of the U.S. Constitution. Students in fifth through 12th grades participated, and the top high school senior was awarded a \$1,500 college scholarship.
- Recognized Greenway Water Treatment Plant supervisor John Kerns and plant instrument technician Chris Opsahl, who recently were named Plant Supervisor and Instrument Technician of the Year (respectively) by the Arizona Water Pollution Control Association. Peoria's Greenway Water Treatment Plant was named Water Treatment Plant of the Year by the association.
- Approved a \$3.2 million contract for construction of Fire Station 197, which will be built at the northeast corner of 77th Avenue and Jomax Road. Construction will begin in October and is scheduled for completion in Summer 2007.

October

- Approved a contract to install a traffic counter camera system in the area around the Peoria Sports Complex. The system will allow city traffic engineers to monitor traffic around the stadium during high volume events, such as spring training baseball and concerts.

Mayor's Report

Two New Opportunities to Serve Peoria

With all the recent attention on Peoria's Mayoral and Council District elections, it is easy to overlook another very important part of the city's government – Peoria's boards and commissions. Serving on boards and commissions is another way that individuals who want to contribute their energy and ideas to the community can do so.

On Sept. 5, the City Council established two new citizen advisory boards: the Sister Cities Board and the Veterans Memorial Board. Now these boards exist on paper, waiting for people to bring them to life.

Peoria has been a partner with the Borough of Ards, Northern Ireland, for several years. Some wonderful things have happened because of this relationship. A student exchange program has offered high school students from Ards and from Peoria the chance to experience life in a different culture. Some of the friendships formed through this program will last a lifetime.

An arts exchange program has allowed local artists from both communities to exhibit and sell their work to new audiences. We're also trying to bring civic groups like Rotary International together with their overseas counterparts. Economic development staffs from both communities are looking at ways the relationship can bear fruit on a larger economic scale, through tourism and business partnerships.

As the sister city relationship becomes increasingly robust, we recognize that, so far, it has been primarily a relationship between governments. By establishing the Sister Cities Board, we hope to make the relationship truly one between communities and individuals. The Sister Cities board will bring their experience and ideas to help develop and promote Peoria's Sister City program.

The Veterans Memorial Board will help oversee the future memorial to the city's military veterans that will be dedicated at Rio Vista Park on Memorial Day, 2007. While a Mayor's ad-hoc committee helped craft the memorial itself, the Veterans Memorial Board will help guide the memorial's evolution and the activities that will take place there.

As a veteran, I understand the valuable contributions and sacrifices those who serve, and have served, in the military make. I look forward to appointing a group of people to help recognize that service and ensure that Peoria's Veterans Memorial will always be a place of dignity and a source of pride for our community.

These new boards will consist of seven people each, appointed to four-year terms. While residency in Peoria is not a requirement, it is the City Council's earnest desire that enough Peoria residents will apply to fill out each of these new boards. To apply, contact the Peoria City Clerk's Office at 623-773-7340, or visit www.peoriaaz.gov/clerk and click on "Boards and Commissions."

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 at www.peoriaaz.gov/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

If you have not yet gone by to see the "new" Peoria High School campus, don't miss the chance. Peoria's stately, historic campus has undergone renovation over the past two years. A two-story academic building just opened in August with 32 state-of-the-art classrooms. A new practice gym sits beside a wonderfully renovated main gym, both of which are adorned with a large, arched entry monument. The cornerstone campus of the central part of the city will be the newest "old" campus in the valley.

Ironwood District – Councilmember Patrick Hickson

The City Hall Complex is growing. On the south side of City Hall, just west of the Public Safety Administrative Building, construction is under way on the Development and Community Services Building. The future home of Utilities, Engineering, Community Services, Community Development, and offices for Public Works is due to be completed in 16 to 18 months. A new neighborhood park will occupy the space between the public safety building and the new building.

Mesquite District – Councilmember Cathy Carlat

The city works with the Peoria and Deer Valley unified school districts to design a "Suggested (Safe) Route to School Walking Plan" for every elementary school within Peoria. The purpose is to prepare a suggested walking route that is ideally based upon input from parents, school officials and city staff. A copy of the plan can be requested at each school.

Palo Verde District – Councilmember Pat Dennis

The City of Peoria recently gathered its emergency response team to walk-through the potential actions and reactions that would be necessary to serve the community during a pandemic flu outbreak. Individuals from Maricopa County and other government agencies also joined the exercise. Residents and businesses are encouraged to take a look at how well they are prepared for emergencies or disasters. Emergency preparation guides and information are available at www.ready.gov.

Pine District – Councilmember Carlo Leone

For Peoria seniors - the Peoria Fire Department has developed a program that will come to homes and conduct a free courtesy home inspection. Someone from the Community Relations section of the Peoria Fire Department will talk about health and safety issues and provide educational materials and other helpful resources. They also will bring a gift bag full of goodies. Call 623-773-7279 for more information and to schedule an appointment.

Willow District – Councilmember Joan Evans

Do you have a library card? With your library card you can check-out great holiday books, CDs and DVDs. The Peoria Public Library carries a number of great holiday titles including Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker" on CD and Dickens' "A Christmas Carol". Library cards are free to anyone who lives in Maricopa County. You can obtain information about getting a library card by visiting www.peoriaaz.gov/library or calling 623-773-7555.

Water Reclamation Plant - City's Biggest Project



Peoria broke ground recently on the largest capital project in the city's history.

When it opens in Summer 2008, the \$121 million Butler Water Reclamation Facility will give Peoria an additional 10 million gallons per day of water. That's because the city is permitted to pump additional groundwater equal to the amount it recharges back into the ground using the facility.

Since 1978, Peoria has contracted with, and sent wastewater to a treatment facility in Tolleson but has not received that reclamation benefit. The Tolleson plant is aging and will require very costly upgrades in the near future.

"The Butler facility will eliminate our reliance on the city of Tolleson for this essential municipal service," says Peoria Utilities Engineering Manager Shawn Kreuzweisner.

Construction of the plant is funded by a mixture of bonds, development fees and operating revenue, all tied to water and wastewater operations. The plant, which could be expanded in the future to treat 13 million gallons

per day, will serve the area of the city south of Beardsley Road.

More than eight miles of underground pipe will carry wastewater from around the city to the plant, then convey the reclaimed water to a facility being built by Salt River Project (SRP) near Bethany Home Road and New River. At the recharge facility, large, open basins will let the reclaimed water percolate back into the aquifer.

According to Kreuzweisner, the Butler Plant (located just south of the Peoria Municipal Operations Center at 79th Avenue and Butler Drive) will be neighborhood friendly. "It's set back from the roadway and screened from public view with a landscaped buffer between itself and neighboring property," he says. Treatment processes will be state-of-the-art, located underground or enclosed in buildings.

"It's designed to be architecturally pleasing," says Kreuzweisner. "It's not just a box - it will actually be attractive, with curved walls, arched roofs and a number of other design features."

For more information contact the Utilities Department at 623-773-7286.

Peoria Leads Wildfire Response

It's a staple of TV news. Firefighters spread through the brush battling yet another roaring wildfire. But did you realize that it could be the men and women from your neighborhood firehouse risking their lives?

When state and federal authorities put out the call for help, they contact the Peoria Fire Department, which oversees the West Valley response for the Central Arizona Wildland Response Team.

"We then call other West Valley departments and coordinate getting those trucks and firefighters on the road," says Billy Morris, Peoria's training captain. "This year we've had crews out in central Nevada, Oregon, Washington and Montana."

During Arizona's peak wildfire season - May, June and July - firefighters from the Northwest return the favor. "When it's burning here; it's not burning there," Morris says.

The effort also has raised awareness of the threat posed by wildfires.

"After the Rodeo-Chedeski fire in 2002, there was a need to get fire agencies together so we could pool our



personnel and resources and start the necessary training," says Peoria Deputy Chief Larry Rooney. "Fighting wildfires is a different kind of effort than fighting structure fires."

Though all new Peoria firefighters receive some training about wildfires, about 25 have volunteered for specialized training known as "red card certification." They must maintain skills and be recertified each year.

Local fire response is undiminished by wildfire deployments, Morris says. "If we don't have the equipment or manpower to spare, we dispatch another city's." Costs for wildfire deployments are borne by the state in need, so there is no drain on Peoria's budget.

The big benefit to firefighters and the citizens they serve is the experience gained.

"We're all training together; we're all using the same fire suppression techniques. We learn to fight fires up there; they learn to work in the conditions we have here," Morris says. "You can't get that kind of training staying home."

Cash for Neighborhood Projects

Peoria residents looking to improve their neighborhoods have a new tool at their disposal -- a new Neighborhood Grant Program that will provide up to \$12,000 for resident-initiated projects.

City officials hope the grants will bring neighbors together. The benefit to the city will be better neighborhoods and new relationships with citizens.

"People want to be heard," says Bill Patena, the city's Neighborhood Services Manager. "They want a connection with the city but are not sure what that connection should be. It all has to do with communication."

While the grant program will be open to formal homeowners' associations (HOAs), it is also intended to foster relationships in traditional neighborhoods without organized HOAs. In order to apply for the grant, neighborhoods will work with the city to create neighborhood associations, which provide structure and communications without the regulatory and assessment authority of HOAs.

Peoria's Neighborhood Services Division designed the grant program after studying similar initiatives in nearby cities.

To apply for a grant, a community group must be registered with the city



A new grant program encourages people to develop relationships and improve Peoria's neighborhoods.

and open to all neighborhood residents. The city will take applications on a first-come, first-served basis. The citywide program will be capped at \$75,000 per year.

Grant money can be used only for the project outlined in the application. Recipients may not apply for another grant until the first project is completed.

Requests for \$2,000 or less can be reviewed and approved by city staff, but those greater than \$2,000 must be evaluated by a city Neighborhood Grant Committee. HOAs may be required to match whatever amount the city contributes.

Grants will be awarded based upon certain criteria, including financial need; the level of resident support and involvement; and the potential for the project to increase neighborhood pride and cohesiveness.

For more information contact the Neighborhood Services Division at 623-773-5140.

Election Update

Peoria residents will have to wait until the Nov. 7 general election to find out who will serve as mayor starting in January 2007, as well as who will fill two City Council seats. No candidate in those races tallied the 50 percent plus one needed to win outright in the Sept. 12 primary election.

Pine District Councilmember Carlo Leone won re-election in the primary. He will return for another four-year term on the City Council, joined by Councilmember Vicki Hunt, who ran unopposed in the Acacia District.

The Nov. 7 general election ballot will feature the Peoria runoff elections as well as 19 statewide ballot propositions.

One of those propositions is of particular interest to city leaders. Proposition 104 - a state constitutional amendment regarding municipal debt - stands to have a significant positive effect on Peoria's ability to build roads, police and fire facilities.

Debt-limit categories set the maximum amount cities can borrow (through separate, voter-approved bond elections) for construction projects. These limits are calculated as a percentage of the city's overall assessed property value. If approved, Prop. 104 would move transportation and public



safety construction projects from their current debt-limit category (6 percent) to the category currently shared by park, water, and sewer construction projects (20 percent).

Proposition 104 will not raise or reduce taxes, nor will it provide more or less money for construction. If it is adopted, cities would gain decision making flexibility in building roads and public safety facilities because of the larger pool of money available in that 20 percent debt-limit category. Borrowing money to build projects through bond sales must still always be authorized by the city's voters, and repaying those bonds still must be supported through the city property tax rate.

Each registered voter will receive an election publicity pamphlet in the mail describing all 19 propositions on the Nov. 7 ballot. This information also can be viewed on the Arizona secretary of state's Web site, www.azsos.gov/election.

For more information on the Nov. 7 general election, visit www.peoriaaz.gov/election06

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November

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December

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January

Nov. 2 *Planning & Zoning Commission, Council Chamber, 6:30 p.m.

Nov. 4 Sunset Park dedication, Vistancia, 8:30 a.m.

Nov. 9 Peoria Veterans Memorial Ground-breaking, Rio Vista Park, 8:30 a.m.

Nov. 10 Veterans Day, city offices closed, holiday trash schedule

Nov. 11 Qwest Family Movie Night at the Peoria Sports Complex, 7 p.m.

Nov. 14 City Council Meeting, Council Chamber, 7 p.m.

Nov. 16 *Planning & Zoning Commission, Council Chamber, 6:30 p.m.

Nov. 23-24 Thanksgiving Holiday, city offices closed, holiday trash schedule

Dec. 1 Oldtown Holiday Festival, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., Osuna Park

Dec. 7 *Planning & Zoning Commission, Council Chamber, 6:30 p.m.

Dec. 12 City Council Study Session, Pine Room, City Hall, 4 p.m.

Dec. 16 Qwest Family Movie Night at the Peoria Sports Complex, 7 p.m.

Dec. 21 *Planning & Zoning Commission, Council Chamber, 6:30 p.m.

Dec. 25 Christmas Day, city offices closed, holiday trash schedule

Jan. 1 New Year's Day, city offices closed, holiday trash schedule

TV Jan. 2 City Council Meeting, Council Chamber, 7 p.m.

Jan. 4 *Planning & Zoning Commission, Council Chamber, 6:30 p.m.

Jan. 15 Martin Luther King Day, city offices closed, holiday trash schedule

Jan. 16 City Council Study Session, Pine Room, City Hall, 4 p.m.

TV City Council Meeting, Council Chamber, 7 p.m.

Jan. 18 *Planning & Zoning Commission, Council Chamber, 6:30 p.m.

Jan. 20 Qwest Family Movie Night at the Peoria Sports Complex, 7 p.m.

*Call the Planning Division at 623-773-7200 or check the web site at www.peoriaaz.gov/planning to confirm meeting times and to obtain agendas.

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.



FREE
MOVIES UNDER THE STARS
 AT THE
PEORIA SPORTS COMPLEX
 16101 N. 83rd Ave.

Nov. 11 - Daddy Day Care
Dec. 16 - A Shark's Tale
Jan. 20 - Madagascar

Gates open at 6 p.m.
 Movie starts at 7 p.m.

Bring your blankets & lawn chairs.
 Food will be available for purchase.

BUILDING PEORIA

83rd Avenue & Pinnacle Peak Road Intersection Improvements
 Improvements will widen the intersection to accommodate one through lane in each direction and a left turn lane, and a traffic signal will be installed. Curb, gutter, sidewalk ramps, and street lighting will be built, and portions of the water and sewer lines planned for the area will be installed so that future construction in the roadway is minimized. Estimated project completion is March 2007.

67th Avenue Interim Widening
 Additional lanes will be added to 67th Avenue between Pinnacle Peak and Happy Valley roads 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. Construction is underway and is expected to be complete this December.

107th Avenue & Northern Avenue Intersection Improvements
 This Maricopa County Department of Transportation / City of Peoria project has reconstructed the intersection and alleviated some street elevation issues in and approaching the intersection. In addition, a traffic signal will be constructed. The project will be complete this November.

For more information on these or other road construction projects in Peoria, contact the Engineering Department at 623-773-7210.

For a current list of road closures and lane restrictions, visit: www.peoriaaz.gov/roadclosures

Peoria's Oldtown Holiday Festival

Fireworks * Snow Area * High School Choral Contest *
 *Entertainment * Crafters * Hay Rides * Food*
 Cookie Decorating and Santa, Too!

Friday, Dec. 1st, 5 pm to 9 pm
 Osuna Park and Oldtown Peoria
 (83rd Avenue & Washington Street)

For more information:
www.peoriaaz.gov/events
 or call 623-773-7198

FREE Admission

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



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PEORIA FOCUS

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