

# High-Tech Rec Center Offers Host of Activities

## Facility at Rio Vista Park Offers Holistic Approach to Wellness

Peoria this month celebrated the opening of its Rio Vista Recreation Center, the city's first full-service recreation facility.

The center is located in the 54-acre Rio Vista Community Park, off Thunderbird Road just west of Loop 101. Its architecture is striking, full of curves and overhangs in various shades of orange. It offers visitors plenty of natural light and scenic views of the surrounding park and its amenities.

"Our goal was to create a beautiful building that would complement the park," says Jackie Stanley, the rec center's supervisor.

The recreation center features many "firsts" for a municipal facility in Peoria: the first public indoor gymnasium, the first indoor climbing wall and the first indoor racquetball courts. It offers special-interest classes, programs and activities for a variety of audiences, as well as an indoor exercise facility featuring weights and fitness machines, a gym suitable for basketball and volleyball courts, and an indoor track for jogging or walking.

The exercise facility is overseen by certified fitness professionals who can answer questions and help users get the most from dozens of exercise machines. When they are not on their scheduled floor shifts, these staffers are available for personal training. New pass holders are eligible for a two-session Start Smart package to get on a personalized fitness plan. After that, they can book sessions individually or at a volume discount.

According to Stanley, a goal for the center is to promote wellness in the community. "That's why the fitness aspect is accompanied by classes, support groups and health screenings," she says. The center also offers space for simple relaxation, including a spacious outdoor deck overlooking both a lake and the Peoria Veterans Memorial.

Like the park around it, the recreation center is family friendly. It offers on-site child care for the tiny tots and an adventure center for older kids and teens.

One of the largest banquet halls in the city rounds out the center's substantial list of amenities. The room is adjacent to a catering kitchen



It was "game on" at the new Rio Vista Recreation Center when the facility opened Sept. 8. Exercise rooms, basketball & racquetball courts, a climbing wall and indoor track offered just about any preferred form of fun and exercise to the hundreds who turned out.

and an outdoor patio. It is available for rent, as are three conference rooms.

The facility is state of the art. In order to use the latest in exercise equipment, pass holders check in using biometrics: a single fingerprint is their ticket inside, eliminating the need to carry ID cards.

Peoria residents and non-residents alike can purchase admission to the facility daily, monthly or annually – though residents receive a better rate.

**For more information on the Rio Vista Recreation Center, including rates for admission and room rental, visit [www.peoriaaz.gov/riovista](http://www.peoriaaz.gov/riovista).**

## CITY OF PEORIA CURBSIDE RECYCLING

IT'S EASY! IT'S CONVENIENT! IT'S ALMOST HERE!

**CURBSIDE RECYCLING  
IS COMING SOON  
TO PEORIA NEIGHBORHOODS!**

TURN TO THE INSIDE BACK PAGE FOR MORE INFO . . .

# City Services Score Highly with Residents

If a city's "product" is quality of life, Peoria is hitting the mark – 83 percent of Peoria residents report they are satisfied with their quality of life.

Peoria recently worked with a leading market-research firm to survey residents about their satisfaction with the city. Results show that residents rate their community above the national average in just about every category.

For example, 81 percent say they are satisfied with the quality of city services and 73 percent are satisfied with the job that Peoria's mayor and City Council are doing.

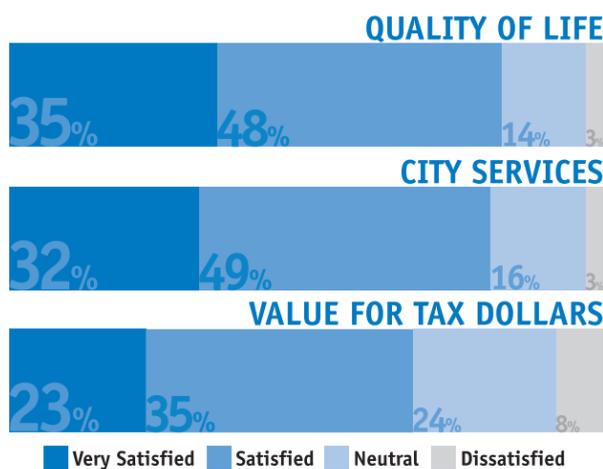
"Clearly the results give city employees high marks across the board," says Mayor Bob Barrett.

Indeed: Among residents who had contact with a city employee during the previous year, 83 percent are satisfied with the way they were treated.

The survey also revealed that this publication is the No. 1 source of city news for residents. More than half

### Residents Rate Peoria

Survey of 811 randomly-selected registered voters living in Peoria



Precision at least ± 3.5%; confidence level=95%

of those polled cited Peoria FOCUS as their source for information about the city. The only area in which Peoria lags is in residents' satisfaction

on the flow of traffic and ease of getting around town. Only 33 percent are satisfied with the status quo, and

63 percent believe those areas should receive the most emphasis from city officials in the next two years.

City Manager Terry Ellis says that comes as no surprise.

"Traffic congestion is certainly a Peoria issue, but it is also a regional issue and would probably be the top complaint of citizens in other Valley cities as well," Ellis says.

Some traffic relief is on the way. "Our Capital Improvement Program identifies \$395 million in projects over the next 10 years to improve traffic flow and convenience."

**View the full report, including charts, graphs, maps and cross-tabular data, at [www.peoriaaz.gov/citizensurvey](http://www.peoriaaz.gov/citizensurvey).**

# CITY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

## July

- Approved a \$300,000 contract with AMEC Infrastructure to design traffic signals for the following intersections: 83rd Avenue and Jomax Road; Lake Pleasant Parkway and Jomax Road; and 103rd and Northern avenues.
- Okayed a \$130,000 contract with Premier Engineering to design intersection widening improvements at 83rd Avenue and Deer Valley Road.
- Approved \$213,000 for the design of widening and drainage improvements along Deer Valley Road between 83rd and 91st avenues.
- Approved sidewalk improvement locations to be addressed under the FY08 Annual Sidewalk Program. Included are a section along Olive Avenue near 89th Avenue and a section along 91st Avenue near Pinnacle Peak Road.
- Awarded a \$285,000 contract to Ames Construction Inc. for advance work on the widening of Happy Valley Road from 75th Avenue to Lake Pleasant Parkway.
- Agreed to join Valley Metro Rail for planning possible future light-rail in the West Valley at a cost of \$50,000 in membership dues.

## August

- Approved a fee structure for the Rio Vista Recreation Center. For information and prices on annual passes, facility rental and other activities, visit [www.peoriaaz.gov/riovista](http://www.peoriaaz.gov/riovista).
- Authorized the Peoria Police Department to accept two state grants totaling \$61,000, money that will fund a full-time victims' advocate and related services.
- Approved approximately \$735,000 for paving and drainage improvements in the vicinity of 89th Avenue and Williams Road.
- Approved more than \$830,000 for improvements at the intersections of Grand, Peoria and 83rd avenues, including median improvements on Grand and a dedicated right-turn lane from southwest-bound Peoria to northwest-bound Grand.
- Received a progress report from the Peoria Police Department on the development of a photo red-light enforcement program. Based upon the timeline associated with the city's contracting process, the photo enforcement at selected Peoria intersections could begin in the late fall.

## September

- Discussed the status of various ongoing efforts to manage traffic congestion, including: installation and synchronization of traffic signals; enhanced monitoring; coordination with neighboring jurisdictions; additional bus and the possibility of rail service; bike lanes; and an update of Peoria's Transportation Needs Study.
- Awarded a \$9.1 million contract to build and install a new citywide public safety and general government radio system that will improve coverage, safety and interoperability among Peoria's public safety and emergency responders.
- Approved a \$4.8 million construction contract for phase two of the Thunderbird Road widening project from Loop 101 west to 94th Drive.

## Mayor's Report

Like many folks, you may think the stadium at the Peoria Sports Complex is used only during Spring Training.

Not so.

As I write this column, the Mariners' and Padres' Rookie League teams are winding up their seasons.

And by the time you read it, the Sports Complex will be gearing up for an even bigger endeavor: the Arizona Fall League. The season opens Oct. 9 and runs through Nov. 15.

Fall League games provide a phenomenal opportunity to see tomorrow's stars today. MLB.com calls it "an elite 'finishing school' for players who are considered ready, or nearly so, for the majors." More than 70 players from last fall reached the major leagues this season. The league also has produced three Cy Young Award winners – including Arizona Diamondback Brandon Webb – and four major-league MVPs.

Two Fall League teams are based in Peoria. Most days, either the Peoria Javelinas or the Peoria Saguaros will play a home game at 12:35 p.m. They will take the field against the Mesa Solar Sox, the Phoenix Desert Dogs, the Scottsdale Scorpions and the Surprise Rafter, as well as each other. In addition, Team USA will visit for exhibition games – vs. the Javelinas Oct. 25 and the Saguaros on Nov. 1 – before heading to Taiwan for the International Baseball Federation's World Cup Tournament.

Each major league ball club sends a number of top prospects to the Valley, where the pool of players is divided among six teams. The Javelinas will comprise players from the Braves, Mariners, Nationals, Rockies and Yankees. This season's Saguaros hail from the Dodgers, Marlins, Padres, Phillies and Tigers.

Ticket prices are a bargain. General admission is \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors (55 and older) and youths (17 and under). Groups of 20 or more can buy tickets for \$3 apiece. Season passes are \$75 for adults and \$65 for seniors; family season passes are \$105 and good for up to six people.

The Peoria Sports Complex is a vital cog in baseball's player development system – a role that extends far beyond Spring Training. Get in on the ground floor by turning out for a game this fall.

(Visit [www.peoriaaz.gov/sportscomplex](http://www.peoriaaz.gov/sportscomplex) or call 623-773-8700 for more information.)

**Mayor Bob Barrett**

## Stay in tune with your government - tune in to Peoria Channel 11

(available to Cox and Qwest cable customers)

**City Council meetings** are televised live (usually the first and third Tuesdays of each month) and rebroadcast daily at 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. through the following Sunday.

**City Council study sessions** (held prior to the second meeting of each month) are recorded and broadcast daily at 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. through the following Sunday.

**Planning and Zoning Commission meetings** are televised live (usually the first and third Thursdays of each month) and rebroadcast at 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. the following Tuesday through Sunday.



## 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 agenda packets and meeting minutes are also available at [www.peoriaaz.gov/council](http://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

School is back in session, and the kids are back at work. Traffic safety near schools should be a priority for everyone. The speed limit in school zones is 15 mph. Peoria has a zero tolerance policy for school zone speeders. Keep your eyes open and your foot light on the gas pedal – 15 means 15 in Peoria!

### Ironwood District – Councilmember Dave Pearson

Peoria and a local school have teamed together to improve play fields for children living in the northern part of the Ironwood District (between Beardsley and Deer Valley roads). Successful after-school recreation programs resulted in overused sports fields at Coyote Hills Elementary School. Workers from the city and the Peoria Unified School District tilled four acres of turf, replanted grass and reconditioned softball fields during the renovation.

### Mesquite District – Councilmember Cathy Carlat

Peoria proudly joins a growing list of eco-conscious cities as curbside recycling begins. Delivery of the cocoa-colored barrels begins Sept. 24 and will continue through Nov. 8. City solid waste customers will receive an information packet explaining what is recyclable, along with a collection-date schedule. The impact of recycling is so great, recycling 35 percent of our trash reduces emissions equivalent to taking 36 million cars off the road! For more information, call 623-773-7836 or visit [www.peoriaaz.gov/recycle](http://www.peoriaaz.gov/recycle).

### Palo Verde District – Councilmember Ron Aames

Community policing is collaboration between the police and the community that identifies and helps to solve community problems. The Peoria Police Department is committed to community policing and has a number of programs and units focusing on community involvement and exploring ways to expand their community policing efforts. To learn more please contact the Peoria Police Department at 623-773-7099 or visit [www.peoriaaz.gov/police](http://www.peoriaaz.gov/police).

### Pine District – Councilmember Carlo Leone

If you are planning a trip outside the United States, you probably will need a passport. The City of Peoria has been helping people obtain passports since 2003. With increased demand, it can now take up to four months to receive a passport—make sure to allow enough time to complete the process. The employees at the City Clerk's Office do a great job to move the work along as quickly as possible. Stop by and see them, or call 623-773-7343.

### Willow District – Councilmember Joan Evans

Fighter Country Partnership leads community support and advocacy for the preservation of Luke Air Force Base. Just a few of their many efforts include educational partnerships that assist Air Force personnel in financial planning, counseling services for base personnel, and events designed to raise funding for base programs. The City of Peoria is proud to be a member of Fighter Country Partnership. If you are interested in membership, please call 623-882-2191.

## City Works to Jump Start Additional Bus Service

### Future Light Rail and Commuter Trains Also Considered

Peoria's Transit Division is working to increase fixed-route Valley Metro bus service in the city. The result could be additional routes, additional service on existing routes or a combination of the two.

The "early start" alternatives being discussed would use city money -- \$1.6 million generated by a 0.3 cent sales tax Peoria voters approved in September 2005 -- to begin additional bus service that isn't funded within the Maricopa County Regional Transportation Plan until 2016.



Smart**move.**

#### Bus Routes Serving Peoria:

**Grand Avenue Limited** – Serves Oldtown Peoria Park & Ride lots while taking Grand Avenue between Surprise and downtown Phoenix's Central Station.

**No. 67** – Shuttles between Arrowhead Towne Center and Buckeye Road, using Bell Road and 67th Avenue in Peoria.

**No. 106** – On Peoria Avenue between Sun City and the Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale.

**No. 170** – On Bell Road east of 75th Avenue between Arrowhead Town Center and Scottsdale.

#### Valley Metro Express Routes for Daily Commuters:

**No. 573** – Serves Park & Ride lots at the Church of Joy (75th Avenue and Beardsley Road) and Jobing.com Arena and takes commuters to stops in downtown Phoenix.

**No. 572** – Originates in Surprise and stops at Arrowhead Towne Center en route to Scottsdale Airpark.

[www.valleymetro.org](http://www.valleymetro.org)

Once projected ridership is determined on the proposed routes, a recommendation will go to the City Council. If all goes well, the city could start phasing in the additional service early in 2008 -- most likely starting with weekend service along Peoria Avenue, according to Peoria Transit Manager Randy Roberts.

#### Rail Services in Peoria's Future?

The City Council made news on July 10 by agreeing to join Valley Metro Rail, which will guarantee Peoria a seat at the table during discussions about extending light rail west to University of Phoenix Stadium and Westgate in Glendale. That participation will make it easier for Peoria to link up with the light-rail service if that is ever desired -- either via a northern extension or by altering bus routes to deliver passengers to rail stations in Glendale.

Talks are also under way about the feasibility of heavy-rail commuter train service using the existing rail corridor along Grand Avenue. City officials have attended two multi-jurisdictional meetings on the topic.

"It's something the city is looking at very closely," says Palo Verde District Councilmember Ron Aames, who took part in the meetings.

Aames says the talks have advanced from the "Do we want it?" stage to the "How do we do it?" stage.

"BNSF, which is the railroad that operates the freight trains on the tracks along Grand Avenue, definitely is interested looking at in combining the freight with commuter rail, so that's a very positive thing," he says.

**For more information on Peoria's transit services and plans, call the Transit Division at 623-773-7435.**

## City Council Sets Aside \$1 Million for Local Improvement Projects

Peoria's fiscal year 2008 budget includes a \$1 million "Community Works" allocation to pay for smaller capital projects that directly affect the quality of life in residential neighborhoods.

The city's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) covers many large-scale projects of regional significance. "Community Works complements that," says city Budget Analyst Dawn Irvine, "providing a pool of money to address specific neighborhood needs."

Each city department that has CIP responsibilities offers ideas for Community Works projects. Irvine says these ideas are based upon observations, citizen input, requests from other agencies and the like. In previous years, small projects like those addressed in the Community

Works program often were unfunded in the city's \$1.1 billion 10-year Capital Improvement Program.

"These are smaller projects that were noted for needing attention," Irvine says.

A management committee evaluates the suggestions and decides which will be presented to the City Council with the year's CIP.

Projects included this fiscal year will address school-safety (\$76,000), and the lack of shade canopies and picnic shelters in city parks' "dog-friendly areas" (\$30,000). Also in the mix are landscaping improvements along portions of Cactus Road and 83rd, 87th and 89th avenues and three sidewalk-construction projects -- two on Lake Pleasant Parkway and one on 103rd Avenue.

## CITY OF PEORIA CURBSIDE RECYCLING

IT'S EASY! IT'S CONVENIENT IT'S ALMOST HERE!

### City Prepares for Curbside Recycling Delivery of First Recycling Container in Late September

After a year of planning and public education, Peoria will roll out its new curbside recycling program this fall.

A city contractor began delivering cocoa-colored recycling barrels to homes on Sept. 24 and will continue for about seven weeks. Changes in collection days will be phased in as well, starting in each neighborhood the week after the containers are delivered.

Each recycling barrel arrives with an information packet detailing which collection day will be for recyclables and which will be for trash -- as well as what can and can't be recycled. The city also has created a hotline (623-773-7836) and Web page ([www.peoriaaz.gov/recycle](http://www.peoriaaz.gov/recycle)) to answer residents' questions and concerns.

#### 1,400 a day.

The rollout will begin on the south side of Bell Road and move south to Northern Avenue. In mid-October, the contractor will return to Bell and start moving north.

"The contractor can deliver 1,400 containers a day," says Jesse Duarte, Peoria's solid waste manager. "It should be quite a spectacle when the workers sweep through a neighborhood block by block."

Residents will know when to look, because the city plans to give them a "heads up" by putting notices on their doorknobs the week before. However, they don't need to be home for the deliveries. Delivery of the containers should be completed by Nov. 9.

For multifamily housing such as apartment complexes and mobile-home parks, participation in the city's recycling program will be at the discretion of the property managers. The city's Solid Waste Division will work with interested property managers on a case-by-case basis.

"We hope most of them will opt in," Duarte says, "and we will work with them as much as we can to meet their tenants' needs."

With the arrival of curbside recycling, Peoria will remove its communal recycling containers -- those white dumpsters in parking lots around town.

#### Garbage or recyclable?

On their recycling collection days, residents should place their cocoa barrels curbside by 6 a.m. The contents should be loose, not bagged.

Office paper, newsprint, magazines, advertising circulars and brown bags should go into the recycling barrels. Broken-down boxes, glass, metal cans and plastic items labeled #1 or #2 on the bottom can be recycled too.

Where things tend to get complicated is with food and beverage containers. While the materials may be recyclable, attached food and beverage residue can contaminate the barrel.

"Often a slight rinse is all that's needed for food/beverage cartons, cans, glass bottles and jars to go into the recycling bins," Duarte says. "So remember: 'Rinse and recycle' or 'toss in the trash.'"

So what constitutes good, old-fashioned garbage? Anything naturally occurring outdoors -- such as dirt, rock, tree branches, leaves, twigs and grass -- should be pitched, as well as construction materials, electronics and food. Paper-based kitchen and bathroom products (like paper plates and tissues) are no-nos too, as is paper run through a shredder. And don't bother trying to recycle non-paper packaging materials, such as packing peanuts, bubble wrap, plastic bags, Styrofoam cups or food carry-out containers.



Peoria**Recycles**

[www.peoriaaz.gov/recycle](http://www.peoriaaz.gov/recycle)

623-773-7836

# CALENDAR

See more listings at [www.peoriaaz.gov/events](http://www.peoriaaz.gov/events)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 30	24 31	25	26	27	28	29

- TV Oct. 2** City Council Meeting, Council Chamber, 7 p.m.
- TV Oct. 4** Planning and Zoning Commission, Council Chamber, 6:30 p.m.
- Oct. 4** Peoria Performances: The Sahnas Brothers (Jazz), City Hall Amphitheater, 7 p.m.
- Oct. 11** Peoria Performances: The Fabulous Decades (60s, 70s, 80s and more), City Hall Amphitheater, 7 p.m.
- TV Oct. 16** City Council Study Session, City Hall Pine Room, 4 p.m.
- TV Oct. 16** City Council Meeting, Council Chamber, 7 p.m.
- TV Oct. 18** Planning and Zoning Commission, Council Chamber, 6:30 p.m.
- Oct. 18** Peoria Performances: Come Back Buddy (50s), City Hall Amphitheater, 7 p.m.
- Oct. 20** Peoria Police G.A.I.N. Public Safety Night, Rio Vista Community Park, 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- Oct. 25** Peoria Performances: Javier Garcia (current hits), City Hall Amphitheater, 7 p.m.
- Oct. 27** Halloween Monster Bash & Balloon Illumination, Peoria Sports Complex, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., free admission.
- TV Nov. 1** Planning and Zoning Commission, Council Chamber, 6:30 p.m.
- TV Nov. 6** City Council Meeting, Council Chamber, 7 p.m.

- Nov. 12** City offices closed to observe Veterans Day. Holiday trash collection in effect.
  - TV Nov. 15** Planning and Zoning Commission, Council Chamber, 6:30 p.m.
  - TV Nov. 20** City Council Study Session, City Hall Pine Room, 4 p.m.
  - TV Nov. 20** City Council Meeting, Council Chamber, 7 p.m.
  - Nov. 22-23** City offices closed to observe Thanksgiving. Holiday trash collection in effect.
  - TV Dec. 6** Planning and Zoning Commission, Council Chamber, 6:30 p.m.
  - Dec. 7** Peoria's Oldtown Holiday Celebration, Peoria Municipal Campus, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.
  - TV Dec. 18** Special City Council Meeting and Study Session, City Hall Pine Room, 4 p.m.
  - TV Dec. 18** City Council Meeting, Council Chamber, 7 p.m.
  - TV Dec. 20** Planning and Zoning Commission, Council Chamber, 6:30 p.m.
  - Dec. 25** City offices closed to observe Christmas. Holiday trash collection in effect.
- The Council Chamber, City Hall & City Hall amphitheater are located on the Peoria Municipal Campus (8401 W. Monroe St.)
- TV** Broadcast live (or on tape) on Peoria's Channel 11 (on Cox & Qwest cable), and rebroadcast throughout the week. Visit [www.peoriaaz.gov/channel\\_11](http://www.peoriaaz.gov/channel_11) for schedule.

**PEORIA'S HALLOWEEN MONSTER BASH AND BALLOON ILLUMINATION**  
**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 5-9 PM**  
 Peoria Sports Complex Info: 623-773-7198  
[www.peoriaaz.gov/specialerevents](http://www.peoriaaz.gov/specialerevents)

# PEORIA Performances

Music under the stars at the Peoria City Hall Amphitheater  
 8401 W. Monroe St.

Bring your blanket, cushions, snacks and refreshments to these free concerts. Shows start at 7 p.m.

- Oct. 4** The Sahnas Brothers (Jazz)
- Oct. 11** The Fabulous Decades (Music of the 60s, 70s, 80s and more)
- Oct. 18** Come Back Buddy (Music of the 50s)
- Oct. 25** Javier Garcia (Current hits)

No glass containers or alcohol are permitted in the amphitheater. Please leave pets at home.

Info: [www.peoriaaz.gov/specialerevents](http://www.peoriaaz.gov/specialerevents) or 623-773-7198

## Introducing the Peoria Veterans Memorial

at Rio Vista Park

Dedication Ceremony  
 9 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 10  
 Rio Vista Community Park  
 8866 W. Thunderbird Rd.

WE SHALL PAY ANY PRICE, BEAR ANY BURDEN, MEET ANY CHALLENGE

Memorial sponsorship opportunities are available.  
 Information: 623-773-7120

## 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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RSS feed now available! Info: [www.peoriaaz.gov/news](http://www.peoriaaz.gov/news)

# PEORIA FOCUS

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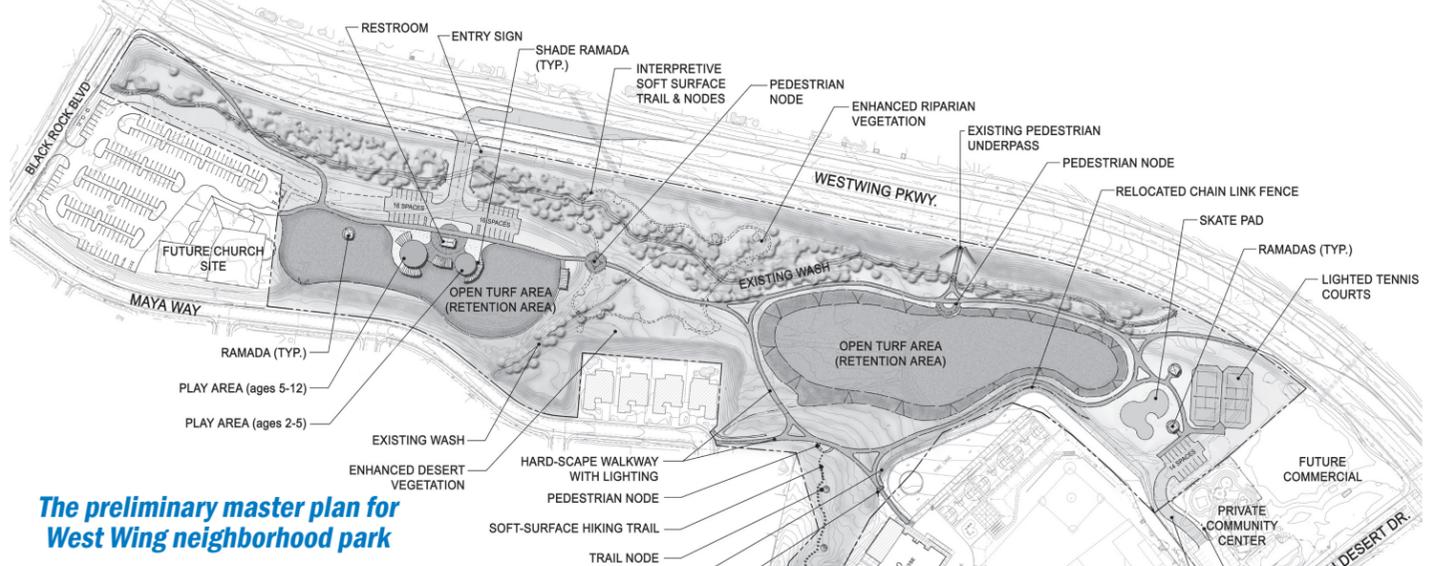


**Building Peoria is a biannual update about major city construction projects.**

**Find more information online at:**  
[www.peoriaaz.gov/BuildingPeoria](http://www.peoriaaz.gov/BuildingPeoria)

## Design by Community

### How Neighbors Work Together to Help Create a Local Park



**The preliminary master plan for West Wing neighborhood park**

When more than 200 people gather for a city-sponsored public meeting, it is unusual, but that's the number of folks who turned out in July for the first public meeting to discuss plans for the West Wing neighborhood park. Another 50 or so attended a second meeting in August – all interested in working with the city's park staff and design consultants to make sure the park in their neighborhood will reflect their vision and the unique character of the area.

The process is nearly identical each time Peoria builds a park. The city hires a firm with expertise in park design, information is gathered and then a kick-off meeting is held to take the pulse of the neighborhood.

"This is, in my mind, the most important phase of the project," says Jeff Sargent, the city's parks projects administrator. "You're looking at the opportunities and constraints, and really trying to understand what the neighborhood wants."

After an initial meeting, designers combine the draft park elements with the feedback to create a preliminary master plan for the park. That plan is presented to the neighborhood at a second meeting, at which additional feedback is received.

The people who live around a proposed park aren't the only ones with a say in how it is built. In the particular case of West Wing park, the site abuts a private recreation center on one side, the local elementary school on another, and a future church on a third side. All of these organizations were consulted and offered a chance to be part of the process.

West Wing faces one more challenge – meeting the standards of the Army Corps of Engineers, which is charged with ensuring that the natural drainage corridors in the area are maintained.

Only after months of discussion and consideration does the preliminary master plan for a park become final.

From there, many months of additional work lie ahead before the day when ascending balloons and laughing children will celebrate the park's opening.

The master plan is taken into final design, where the rough sketches become the detailed blueprints needed to actually build the park. From there, the public bid process to select a construction company is held and after that, construction usually requires about 12 months.

The process is similar for each park the city builds, but the outcomes can be quite different. That is intentional, because neighborhood parks are designed as just that: recreation and gathering areas for people to exercise and enjoy the outdoors. But local parks are more, because when designed and built properly, they also connect people with each other, helping turn a collection of homes into a neighborhood.

## Dedication of Veterans Memorial Scheduled for Nov. 10



**The Peoria Veterans Memorial features this famous quote by President John F. Kennedy: "We shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, in order to assure the survival and the success of liberty." The memorial will be dedicated on Nov. 10, the day before Veterans Day.**

Peoria will dedicate its Veterans Memorial at Rio Vista Community Park Nov. 10, the day before Veterans Day.

The 88-foot black granite wall features inscriptions describing significant U.S. military events throughout history. These inscriptions are sponsored by local veterans associations or other groups that wish to honor those who have gone in harm's way to serve the nation.

To date, about a dozen panels have been sponsored, out of 80 opportunities. If your organization would like to be part of this tribute by donating the etching of one or more panels on the memorial (\$400 per space of 20 inches by 16 inches), please contact Kirk Haines, parks manager, at 623-773-7120.

Organizations that participate before Oct. 5 will see their sponsored etchings when the memorial is unveiled.



# Street, Traffic and Drainage Projects

## 1 Happy Valley Road, Lake Pleasant Parkway to Terramar Boulevard

Phase I of the project will build the roadway from Terramar Boulevard to 83rd Avenue. Construction is anticipated to begin this winter and be completed in the fall of 2008. This phase also includes the grading of the roadway between 83rd and 91st avenues, as well as Happy Valley median improvements from 75th Avenue to 67th Avenue. (Phase II of the project will include the paving of Happy Valley Road from 83rd Avenue to 91st Avenue and the reconstruction of Happy Valley Road from 91st Avenue to Lake Pleasant Parkway. Phase II is expected to begin in the summer of 2008 and is slated for completion in the summer of 2009.)

**Status: Pre-construction activity for Phase I is under way**  
**Estimated Construction Start: January 2008**

## 2 Beardsley Connection to Loop 101

This project will extend Beardsley Road from 81st Avenue across New River to a one-way frontage road on the west side of Loop 101 from 75th Avenue to Union Hills Drive. A U-turn bridge over Loop 101 adjacent to the Union Hills Drive overpass will allow frontage road traffic to access the northbound/eastbound lanes of Loop 101, while southbound traffic may access the freeway from a new on-ramp.

**Status: Final design & land acquisition in progress**  
**Estimated Construction Start: Spring 2008**

## 3 Intersection Improvements: 83rd, Peoria and Grand Avenues

Construction of a new right turn lane from westbound Peoria Avenue to westbound Grand Avenue, extending the existing left turn lane pocket for eastbound Grand Avenue to eastbound Peoria Avenue, median and railroad crossing signal improvements, and pavement rehabilitation work on 83rd Avenue at the railroad crossing. Short term full closures of 83rd and Peoria avenues at the railroad crossing will be required during construction.

**Status: Construction contract awarded**  
**Estimated Construction Start: Fall 2007**

## 4 Lake Pleasant Parkway, 95th Avenue to Williams Road

Construction of two northbound and two southbound lanes on Lake Pleasant Parkway between 95th Avenue and Williams Road. In addition to the roadway improvements, the project will include bike lanes, street lighting, traffic signals, median curbs, box culverts and landscaping. The developer of the Camino a Lago South subdivision is paying for and managing this project.

**Status: Construction is under way**  
**Estimated Completion: Early 2008**

## 5 Rose Garden Lane Drainage Channel

The Rose Garden Lane Channel is one of several individual drainage projects recommended in the Glendale-Peoria Area Drainage Master Plan. This project will intercept drainage north of Rose Garden Lane and west of 95th Avenue and convey the flow to the Agua Fria River. The project includes a drainage channel, box culverts, laterals, catch basins and a large retention basin.

**Status: Construction is under way**  
**Estimated Completion: Fall 2008**

## 6 Thunderbird Road Widening

The southern half of the roadway (the eastbound lanes) will be expanded from two to three lanes from Loop 101 to 94th Drive, while the northern half (the westbound lanes) will be expanded from two to three lanes from Loop 101 to 91st Avenue. The bridge over New River will also be widened. Other planned improvements include a raised landscaped median, sidewalks and bike lanes from 91st Avenue to Rio Vista Boulevard.

**Status: Construction contract awarded**  
**Estimated Construction Start: Winter 2007**

## 7 83rd Avenue & Thunderbird Road Intersection

This project consists of street widening and intersection improvements to add turn and acceleration lanes. The Arizona Department of Transportation will manage construction of this project.

**Status: Construction contract awarded**  
**Estimated Construction Start: Fall 2007**

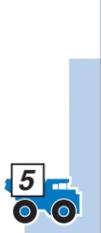
## 8 67th Avenue Improvements, Olive Avenue to Thunderbird Road

The cities of Peoria and Glendale are cooperating to complete drainage, street and right-of-way improvements along 67th Avenue between Olive Avenue and Bell Road. Improvements include: intersection widening at Olive Avenue, Cactus Road and Thunderbird Road; storm drain improvements north of Peoria Avenue; street light installation; landscape and irrigation system improvements; and curb, gutter, sidewalk and paving improvements.

**Status: Construction contract awarded**  
**Estimated Construction Start: Winter 2007**



A biannual update on major  
 For additional projects a  
[www.peoriaaz.gov](http://www.peoriaaz.gov)



### LEGEND

-  Right-of-way or underground pipe work
-  Street work
-  Unincorporated Maricopa County

This map is intended for general reference only.  
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 Department. 623-773-7000 [www.peoriaaz.gov](http://www.peoriaaz.gov)

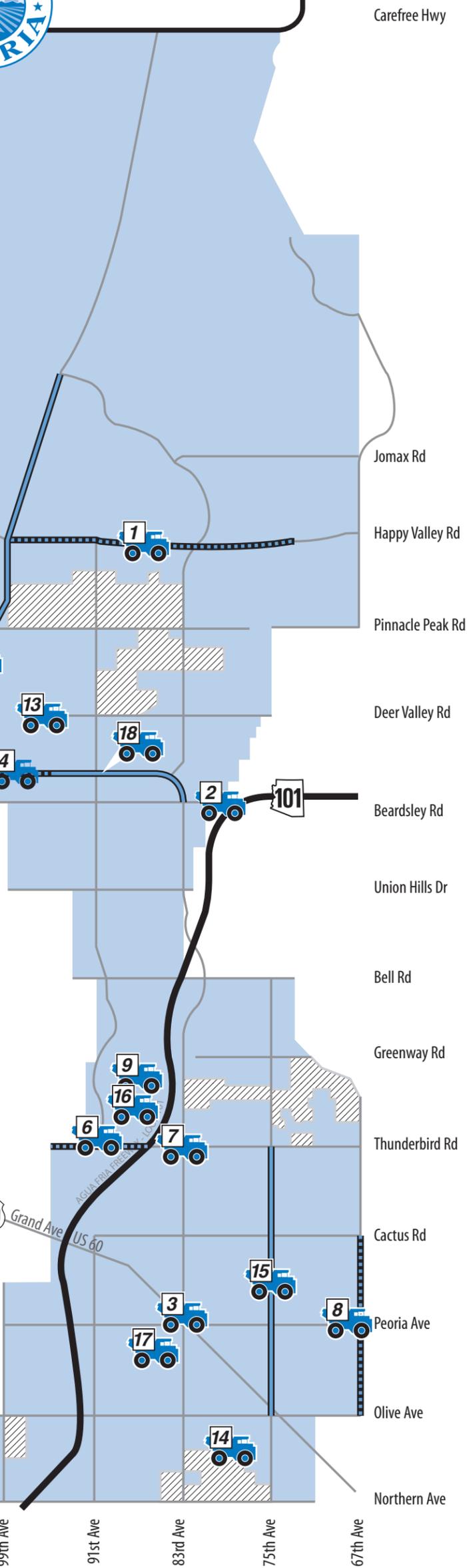
115th Ave

107th Ave



# BUILDING PEORIA

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and information, visit:  
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## Parks, Facilities, Water and Wastewater Projects



### ***New River Trail Pedestrian Bridge – Rio Vista Community Park***

This project consists of design and construction of a 12-foot wide, 340-foot long pedestrian bridge linking the east and west banks of New River near Rio Vista Community Park. Connecting the trails on the two sides of the river here will help reduce vehicular trips to the park by encouraging residents in Desert Harbor and other nearby neighborhoods to travel to Rio Vista on foot, bicycle or other alternate means – which also should free-up parking spaces.

**Status:** *Construction is under way*  
**Estimated Completion:** *October 2007*



### ***Jomax Water Reclamation Facility***

The Jomax Water Reclamation Facility expansion will increase treatment capacity from 750,000 gallons per day to 2.25 million gallons per day. The facility serves Vistancia and future development in the area.

**Status:** *Construction in progress*  
**Estimated Completion:** *Spring 2008*



### ***Twin Buttes Water Treatment Plant***

The plant will treat water from the Central Arizona Project canal west of the Agua Fria River to serve northwest Peoria.

**Status:** *Final design begins Summer 2007*  
**Estimated Construction Start:** *Summer 2009*



### ***West Agua Fria Water & Wastewater Lines***

Water transmission pipelines and wastewater interceptor pipelines in the area of Peoria located west of the Agua Fria River (in Vistancia) will be built. These lines will be sized to meet the needs of the Vistancia development and other future developments planned in the area.

**Status:** *Construction in progress*  
**Estimated Completion:** *Spring 2008*



### ***Deer Valley Road Sewer***

Design and construction of a 24-inch sanitary sewer line along Deer Valley Road from Lake Pleasant Parkway to 91st Avenue. This sewer will provide service to the Camino a Lago project and add capacity to the area.

**Status:** *Construction in progress*  
**Estimated Completion:** *Spring 2008*



### ***Butler Water Reclamation Facility***

The facility will treat 10 million gallons of wastewater a day when completed in 2008. The treated effluent will flow by pipeline to a facility being built by Salt River Project near Bethany Home Road and New River, where it will percolate back into the aquifer. This process will allow the city to claim groundwater recharge credits through which it can draw potable water through its well system.

**Status:** *Construction in progress*  
**Estimated Completion:** *Fall 2008*



### ***75th Avenue Water Line***

A 16-inch water line along 75th Avenue from Thunderbird Road to Olive Avenue will be installed to provide service to the southern areas of Peoria located east of the Agua Fria River.

**Status:** *Construction in progress*  
**Estimated Completion:** *Fall 2007*



### ***Rio Vista Recreation Center***

Construction of a 51,000-square-foot recreation center will include a gymnasium with two courts, an indoor walking/jogging track, a bouldering and rock climbing wall, an aerobics room, a dance room, a fitness equipment room, a children's area, racquetball courts, classrooms, locker rooms and a large meeting & conference room with an outdoor patio to accommodate up to 300 people.

**Status:** *Opened September 8, 2007*



### ***Development & Community Services Building***

This 75,000-square-foot facility on the southwest corner of the municipal campus will house the Community Development, Community Services, Engineering, Public Works (Administration) and Utilities departments. Customer access to the city's development counters and parks & recreation office will be much improved thanks to a substantial parking area directly in front of the building.

**Status:** *Construction in progress*  
**Estimated Completion:** *Winter 2007*



### ***Lake Pleasant Parkway Right-of-Way Landscaping***

Median landscaping along Lake Pleasant Parkway from 83rd Avenue and Union Hills Drive to 95th Avenue, and from Williams Road to Pinnacle Vista Road will be designed and installed.

**Status:** *Construction under way*  
**Estimated Completion:** *Winter 2007 through Spring 2008*

**FINISHED**

# City of Peoria Construction Lingo

Use this list to help understand some of the terms found in city construction documents.

## **Bonds**

A method for financing construction projects. When “selling” bonds, the city actually is borrowing money to finance construction projects – an action that can happen only with approval from the city’s voters. The bonds are paid off (the loans are repaid) through a dedicated funding source such as the secondary property tax rate, water rate or wastewater rate.

## **Box Culvert**

Structures built beneath roadways as conduits for buried storm water or sanitary sewers.

## **Capital Improvement Program**

The city’s 10-year plan for construction and financing of facilities and infrastructure.

## **Catch Basin**

A curbside opening that collects rainwater from streets and serves as an entry point to the storm drain system.

## **City Transportation Sales Tax**

A three-tenths-cent (\$.003) sales tax collected in Peoria and used exclusively to fund transportation projects and programs. Approved by the city’s voters in September 2005.

## **County Half-Cent Transportation Sales Tax**

A half-cent (\$.005) countywide sales tax used to fund regional transportation projects such as freeways, bus routes and major arterial streets. In Peoria, this fund helps pay for projects such as the Beardsley Connection to Loop 101.

## **Design-Build**

A construction method through which a single contractor is responsible for both design and construction of a project. Considered an alternative to the traditional design-bid-build process, design-build reduces project schedules and improves efficiency because all participants in the process (such as architects, engineers and contractors) are in regular contact.

## **Design Concept Report (DCR)**

Through the Design Concept Report process, project parameters are defined, and different construction alternatives are compared and contrasted. Once a Design Concept Report is finished, the project moves into the Final Design phase.

## **Development Impact Fees**

Fees paid by developers to reflect the incremental cost of expanding city infrastructure to support new development.

## **Final Design**

The final design of a project from which construction documents will be created.

## **General Obligation Bonds**

A method of financing city construction projects (see “Bonds”), general obligation bonds are used to finance construction of general city infrastructure and facilities, and are repaid through the city’s secondary property tax rate.

## **Half Street**

New streets are often constructed one-half at a time. For example, a developer building a large shopping center may be required to build the roadway adjacent to the development – the half street. This half street will be configured to allow traffic to move in both directions until the second half of the street is completed.

## **Lateral**

A drainage pipe that transfers flow into a main drainage line.

## **Notice to Proceed (NTP)**

Authorization for a contractor to begin construction.

## **Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)**

Maricopa County’s Regional Transportation Plan provides a broad vision for the regional transportation system for the next two decades, addressing freeways and other highways, streets, transit, airports, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, freight, demand management and system management, including intelligent transportation systems and safety. Learn more at [www.mag.maricopa.gov/project.cms?item=411](http://www.mag.maricopa.gov/project.cms?item=411).

## **Retention Basin**

An area built to collect and retain storm-water runoff.

## **Revenue Bonds**

A method of financing city construction projects (see “Bonds”), revenue bonds are used to finance construction of water or wastewater infrastructure and are repaid through water or wastewater rates.

## **Right of Way**

Publicly owned land within which roads or underground infrastructure (such as water or wastewater lines) are built.

## **Traffic Signal Warrants**

Traffic signal warrants are a set of criteria used to determine whether a traffic signal can be installed safely at a particular intersection.

## **Utility Relocation**

When building a road or other city project, underground or overhead utility infrastructure such as fiber-optic cable and electric power lines often must be relocated. This is a potentially time-consuming element of city construction projects.

## **Value Engineering**

A process through which the conceptual design of a project is carefully compared with the ultimate project goals in order to ensure the project will deliver maximum value for minimum cost.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **How do I report streets in need of repair?**

Request service online at [www.peoriaaz.gov/streetrepair](http://www.peoriaaz.gov/streetrepair), or call the Public Works Streets Division at 623-773-7432 (Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.).

## **How do I request paving or re-paving on my street?**

The Public Works Streets Division (623-773-7432) will take requests for paving or re-paving and refer them to the pavement maintenance supervisor. (Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.).

## **How do I request a sidewalk or sidewalk repair on my street?**

Request service online at [www.peoriaaz.gov/streetrepair](http://www.peoriaaz.gov/streetrepair), or call the Public Works Streets Division at 623-773-7432 (Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.).

## **How do I find out what streets or lanes are closed because of road construction?**

Sign up to have updates e-mailed to you by visiting [www.peoriaaz.gov/e-news](http://www.peoriaaz.gov/e-news), then check mark the “Road Closures” box and follow the instructions. Or, visit the city’s street restrictions page ([www.peoriaaz.gov/engineering](http://www.peoriaaz.gov/engineering)), then click “Traffic Engineering,” then “Road Closures”).

## **How do I report loud noise caused by construction work?**

Call Code Compliance at 623-773-7162 (Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.). After hours or weekends, call the Police Department non-emergency line at 623-773-8311.

## **How do I report excess dust from a construction project?**

Signs are posted at each construction site with contact information to report complaints or concerns. If no such sign is posted, call Code Compliance at 623-773-7162.

## **I’m concerned about speeding and cut-through traffic in my neighborhood. What can I do?**

The Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP) is designed to reduce speeding and cut-through traffic by partnering neighborhood leaders with the city’s traffic management staff. For more information on the program, visit [www.peoriaaz.gov/NTMP](http://www.peoriaaz.gov/NTMP) or call 623-773-7394.



This publication is part of a comprehensive effort to help city residents stay informed about construction projects around town.

Visit [www.peoriaaz.gov/BuildingPeoria](http://www.peoriaaz.gov/BuildingPeoria) for more information.