

# PEORIA NOW

APRIL 2017

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



A monthly publication of city-centered news and current events for the citizens of Peoria, Arizona.

## Razor Focused Financial Management

There are many reasons to live in areas outside city borders. Knowing those options could equate to lower costs, why would anyone choose to live in a city instead?

The answer to that question comes in many forms; but boiled down, people value the services and programs that a city provides. I believe when you live inside the borders of a city, you should feel confident that the taxes you pay bring real value to your family, benefit your wellbeing, and reflect your interests.

With high expectations from our residents, Peoria must be razor-focused on financial management. I'm proud of our city's thoughtful approach to long-term planning, which has contributed to our reputation for having a strong balance sheet, in good and bad times. We adhere to closely held Principles of Sound Financial Management to ensure transparency, protection, and oversight. And, we balance our budget, and live within it, every year. Our prudent financial practices and policies bring the benefit of a strong financial bond rating, allowing us to receive some of the lowest interest rates available.



City general fund revenues come from a variety of sources. The majority, 33 percent, comes from sales tax. Property taxes make up a very small portion of our revenue, only about two percent. Most of your property taxes go to the county and the schools. The State of Arizona has a contractual agreement to collect certain funds, such as income, gas, and sales taxes, and distribute them back to counties and cities based on population. These funds, called state shared revenues, account for about 31 percent of Peoria's general fund. Additionally, we receive fees intended to offset the cost of providing certain services, such as recreation programs and building permits.

There's no doubt that sales tax plays an important role, which is exactly why we urge residents to shop local and why tourism is so important. And, considering Peoria has the lowest local sales tax rate of any surrounding city, it makes it easy to shop right here in Peoria.

Fifty-five cents from every dollar pays for the core services citizens rely on such as police and fire personnel. Twenty-eight cents from that same dollar goes to public safety and economic development. The remaining 17 cents are used for items such as the construction and maintenance of traffic signals and public transportation.

While Peoria is already home to more than 170,000 residents, half of our city remains to be built, making growth one of the greatest challenges we face. While we can't legally stop growth, we constantly look for ways to mitigate its effects. The challenge of managing growth has increased with changes to state legislation. As an example, fees paid by developers to help fund the impacts created by their new communities, such as public infrastructure, parks, trails, open space, and libraries, have been drastically reduced and are not sufficient to cover these costs.

An additional challenge to paying for growth is the result of the state taking a portion of the gas tax that is to be shared among all Arizona cities. Without these funds, which are designated by taxpayers to build and maintain roads, fulfilling this core service for Peoria residents is greatly hindered.

Challenges aside, our residents are our most important priority, and we remain committed to ensuring every action we take and every dollar we spend brings the most value possible to each citizen who makes the choice to live within Peoria's borders.

— Mayor Cathy Carlat

PARTY FOR THE PLANET'S  
**PLANETPALOOZA**  
SATURDAY,  
APRIL 22, 2017  
5 to 8 p.m.  
at Westwing Park  
27100 N. Westwing Pkwy

**New River & Trail Clean Up**  
7 to 10 a.m.  
Dream City Church parking lot,  
21000 N. 75th Ave., Glendale

For more information, call 623.773.7137,  
email [peoriaplanetpalooza@peoriaaz.gov](mailto:peoriaplanetpalooza@peoriaaz.gov)  
or visit [peoriaaz.gov/specialevents](http://peoriaaz.gov/specialevents)



**CHALLENGER**  
space center  
ARIZONA  
21170 N. 83rd Dr.  
Peoria, AZ 85382

### I had an adventure in space

- ASTRO TOTS:** K-1st grades
- MERCURY:** 2nd & 3rd grades
- GEMINI:** 4th & 5th grades
- APOLLO:** (Advanced camps)  
6th-8th grades

**\$125** Half day, weeklong  
**\$250** Full day, weeklong  
**\$275** Full day, weeklong advanced

For more information,  
visit [www.azchallenger.org](http://www.azchallenger.org).

PEORIA NOW is a publication of the City of Peoria, Office of Communications  
8401 West Monroe Street  
Peoria, Arizona 85345 | 623.773.7000

**stayCONNECTED**  
[www.peoriaaz.gov](http://www.peoriaaz.gov) CHANNEL II e-NEWS

Due to the nature of printing and mailing, some content may be dated. For the latest news, visit one of these sources.



# PEORIA NOW

MAY 2017

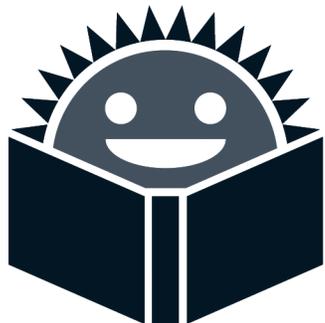
COMING SOON

## Name Our New Park

Citizens can suggest names for Peoria's next community park. The city is currently in the planning stages for its third community park, which will be located east of Dixileta Road and Lake Pleasant Parkway. To submit names, visit [www.peoriaaz.gov/nameourpark](http://www.peoriaaz.gov/nameourpark). The deadline for submissions is Thursday, June 15.

## Water at your Fingertips

May 7-13 is Drinking Water Week and Infrastructure Week is May 15-19, both of which are vital to the operations of a city. You may not think about how you get your water or where your waste goes, but Peoria does. With your help, the city runs the treatment plants, pumps, and pipes that deliver clean water and safely carry away waste water. For more information, visit [www.thevalueofwater.org](http://www.thevalueofwater.org).



Mayor Cathy Carlat  
presents

# Peoria READS!

*Today a Reader,  
Tomorrow a Leader!*

## Light Out? Give Us a Shout!

The City of Peoria owns and maintains about 16,000 street lights. All our lights work on dusk to dawn sensors to turn on and off automatically. If a street light is flickering or is completely out, the city can fix it.

It's easy to report a street light outage in Peoria, especially if you have the light pole number or nearest address. To report a street light outage, just call **623-773-7432**, email [streetrepair@peoriaaz.gov](mailto:streetrepair@peoriaaz.gov) or fill out a repair request form at [www.peoriaaz.gov/lightrepair](http://www.peoriaaz.gov/lightrepair). If it's after hours, you can leave a message with the light location details and whether you would like a return call. That's all it takes to keep the lights on in Peoria!



## Plan Peoria AZ: Creating General Plan 2040

How can Peoria preserve and enhance its high quality of life while reaching its fullest potential as a community? That's one of many questions to be explored as part of the process to update Peoria's General Plan.

A General Plan is the city's roadmap to the future. It is a visionary document that takes a comprehensive view of growth and development over the next 10 to 20 years, helping to guide all aspects of city growth such as new development, redevelopment, economic development, city services, parks and open space, including: health and safety, public facilities, and the natural environment. Starting in April, the city will be holding community workshops to brainstorm ideas for the General Plan 2040. Those workshops will be from 6 to 8 p.m. on April 24 at the Development and Community Services Building Point of View Room, April 25 at Sunrise Mountain Library Community Room and April 26 at Copper Hills Church Westwing Room.

The General Plan website, [www.planpeoriaaz.com](http://www.planpeoriaaz.com), will be your primary source for information, upcoming events, documents and presentations, and more.



General Plan 2040

## Read at least 20 minutes a day from June 1 to August 1 for chances to win great prizes!

Return the completed bookmark to Peoria libraries by August 4, 2017. Earn additional drawing tickets by attending upcoming Peoria events.



For more information,  
call 623.773.7137 or visit  
[www.peoriaaz.gov/library](http://www.peoriaaz.gov/library)

