

PEORIA NOW

AUGUST 2017

www.peoriaaz.gov/news



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

Services Elevate Peoria's Character

A city does more than address the life-sustaining basics of its residents. A vibrant community is measured by the opportunities that parks, recreation, libraries, and the arts can provide. In the City of Peoria, we've seen these services elevate possibilities for personal growth among residents, vastly improving their quality of life and serving to both entertain and mobilize good health.

Peoria is home to 36 neighborhood parks, two large community parks, and nearly 25 miles of river and mountain trails that allow residents to hike, bike, and experience the great Sonoran desert without leaving the city. In addition, the Rio Vista Recreation Center and Peoria Community Center, along with two libraries and three public swimming pools, offer an abundance of programming and services for residents who are looking to sharpen their mind and enhance their body. It is in these public areas where children embrace a love of reading and sports, where grandparents learn how to use computers, and it is in these places where families spend priceless hours together, creating the memories that matter most.

The Peoria Sports Complex is another point of pride. Serving as the spring training home to the Seattle Mariners and the San Diego Padres, Peoria was proud to announce a renewed, long-term lease agreement with both teams through the year 2034. In addition to providing our community with a \$52 million economic boost, the facility is also a workhorse that is busy during the other 11 months of the year with large events and activities for kids and the business community.

Operating facilities and recreation areas like these requires considerable personnel, expertise and planning. As a nationally accredited organization, the Peoria Community Services Department plans current and future needs through council approved documents such as the Community Services Master Plan. This all-inclusive plan addresses needs, trends, level of service expectations, facilities, programs, operations and maintenance forecasts, and of course, funding analyses.

The city also established a fund for public art that amounts to one percent of the value of each capital improvement project constructed. The policies of the Public Art Program are administered by the Community Services Department and are aided by the Peoria Arts Commission, comprising of leaders in the arts community who volunteer their time and expertise to determine needs, establish scope of work and call to artists, and hold public meetings.

While there is no doubt Peoria has excellent amenities, it is important to recognize they require significant investment. For example, more than \$4.5 million is required each year to operate both the Peoria Main and Sunrise Mountain Libraries, which are always bustling with activity. From adult and youth programs and services, to computer classes and book clubs, our libraries remain some of our community's best-loved assets. They also provide services many residents wouldn't have access to otherwise, such as the free Wi-Fi and public computers.

Knowing the considerable investment that is required to keep up with fast-paced growth, the City of Peoria relies on a mix of revenues to offset the ongoing costs of offering these services. This includes fees from sports and recreation programs, and among others, rentals for fields and ramadas. Incoming revenues equate to nearly \$9 million each year; and by operating lean programs that maximize our resources, we ensure we are providing the best service and amenities possible for residents.

Quality parks, recreation, libraries, and cultural amenities help to define a community's character. These facilities and services are an essential part of the values and sense-of-place that make Peoria a highly sought-after community. For additional information about these amenities, visit www.peoriaaz.gov/recreation.



– Mayor Cathy Carlat

Trash/Recycling Pickup Holiday Schedule

Trash and recycling pickup will change due to the Labor Day holiday.

Labor Day (September 4)

Monday, Sept. 4 moves to Tuesday, Sept. 5.

Tuesday, Sept. 5 moves to Wednesday, Sept. 6.

For the full 2017 trash/recycle pickup schedule, call 623-773-7160 or visit peoriaaz.gov/holidaytrash.

Upcoming Events



Oktoberfest in Peoria Centennial Plaza on Friday and Saturday on Sept. 22-23

Somos Peoria! in Old Town Peoria on Saturday, Sept. 30

G.A.I.N. Public Safety Night at Pioneer Community Park on Saturday, Oct. 14

Explore the Library at the Peoria Main Library on Saturday, Oct. 21

Monster Bash at the Peoria Sports Complex on Saturday, Oct. 28

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



PEORIA NOW

SEPTEMBER 2017

COMING SOON

Don't Forget About Bulk Trash Pickup

The second round of bulk trash pickup has begun for the year. Check the interactive map on www.peoriaaz.gov/bulktrash to find out what zone you are in and your collection date. To ensure all neighborhoods are serviced, collection is on a rolling schedule, twice a year.

Services for this pickup include mattresses, exercise equipment, washers, microwaves, and sofas. They do not include cleaners, batteries, oil-based paint, biological waste, tires, auto parts, bricks, or roofing material.

If you are a resident who requires bulk trash collection on a date outside of the normal collection one, please call the City of Peoria for details and special scheduling.

For more information about bulk trash pickup or special scheduling, call **623-773-7160** or email customerservice@peoriaaz.gov.

Safety Tips for Children Heading Back to School

As students head back to school, it's important to remind them of the key safety tips. According to AAA, 13 percent of children walk to school, and nearly one-third of child pedestrian fatalities occur between 3-7 p.m. Here are a few back-to-school safety tips for parents to discuss with their children.

- Take a friend with you when walking/riding to and from school. Walk and ride in well-lit areas, and never take shortcuts. When walking and biking, stay aware of your surroundings and observe all traffic rules.
- Stay with a group while waiting at the bus stop. If anyone bothers you while going to or from school, get away from that person and tell a trusted adult.
- If someone tries to take you somewhere, move away from them quickly and yell, "this person is trying to take me away!" Or, "this person is not my father/mother!"
- Never play in parks, malls, etc. by yourself. Get your parents'/guardians' permission and always let them know where you are going to be.
- If you walk/ride home alone, call your parents/guardians when you are home. Make sure you keep the door locked; do not open the door for or talk to anyone unless the person is preapproved by your parents/guardians; never tell someone that you are home alone. Have a neighbor or trusted adult you can call if you're scared or there's an emergency.
- Trust your feelings. If someone makes you feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused, get away and tell a trusted adult what happened.

Celebrate German Heritage at Oktoberfest

Celebrate all that is German with authentic food, beer and more at the 12th annual Old World Oktoberfest returning to Peoria on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 22 and 23. This family event also features traditional German music, competitions, and entertainment, including live Festmusik straight from Germany, along with inflatables and rides, and vendors offering a variety of German products. It's all happening from 5-10 p.m. at Peoria's Centennial Plaza, 9875 N. 85th Ave. Admission is \$5, but ages 20 and under are free. For more details, visit www.peoriaoktoberfest.com.



SEPT 30, 2017 • 2-10:30 PM
OLD TOWN PEORIA AT PEORIA & GRAND AVENUES

LIVE MUSIC!



Games, Inflatables & Food!
Cigar Bar, Beer & Margaritas!

GENERAL ADMISSION: | AGES 12 & UNDER: **FREE**
\$5 before 5 p.m., \$10 after



For more information, call 623.773.7137
or visit peoriaaz.gov/specialevents