

PEORIA NOW

JULY 2017

www.peoriaaz.gov/news



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

Monsoon Season is Here



June 15 was the first day of monsoon season in Arizona. Here are some tips to keep your home and family safe during a storm:

- Trim heavy branches and landscape that may fall and cause damage in high winds.
- Clear curbs and gutters so storm water can flow freely away from your home.
- Stay indoors during electrical storms.
- Keep fresh batteries and flashlights handy.
- Don't go around barricades or enter flooded washes and streets.

For more information about blocked streets or drainage problems, call the Peoria Streets Department at **623-773-7432** (daytime) or **623-773-8311** (weekends and after hours).

NEW SITE! OLD TOWN PEORIA AT PEORIA AND GRAND AVENUES



SEPT 30, 2017 • 2-10:30 PM

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



LIVE MUSIC! LOS LOBOS

Strong Budget for FY17



Mayor and council approved the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget in May. This budget is balanced, maintains strong reserves, and is in conformance with the council adopted Policies of Sound Financial Management.

The total budget of \$590 million strikes a balance between available revenues and the needs of our fast-growing community. Above all, this budget reflects our commitment to Peoria citizens to provide exceptional core services and maintain the quality standards Peoria residents have come to expect.

With no increase to taxes, the budget includes additional staffing for public safety, the expansion of the Pinnacle Peak Public Safety Facility, construction of phase one of the Northern Community Park, and critical roadway improvements throughout the city.

I firmly believe residents should be able to rely on their local government to provide services and amenities in the most efficient manner possible. As we embark on another fiscal year, I hope residents share my pride in knowing that through another balanced budget, the City of Peoria is here to serve them.

I want to hear your ideas on how to make our city an even better place to live. Share your ideas at mayor@peoriaaz.gov, or stay connected with me on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Mayor Cathy Carlat
cathy.carlat@peoriaaz.gov

City Council Roundup

WILLOW DISTRICT – VICE MAYOR JON EDWARDS



Communities don't build themselves. The combination of HOAs, private businesses, municipal operations, and residents ensure that neighborhoods continue to thrive. Working together yields the best results.

Drivers near Sunrise Mountain High School have seen an increase in roadway construction. Three projects are currently underway targeting traffic flow and safety issues for students and parents. The summer break may seem long with kids to entertain at home; it seems a lot shorter when scheduling demolition, paving, sidewalks, handicap service ramps and restriping!

Pavement replacement on 83rd Avenue south of Deer Valley has long been on my list of priorities. Gone are the roadway ruts and patches after big rains, replaced by a smooth new layer of asphalt and new striping. This was a full pavement replacement, which takes more time and requires more traffic restriction. This is one of the busiest stretches of road in the Willow District, and the new surface is worth the inconvenience.

Two July projects in partnership with the school district and the Challenger Space Center will impact students, parents dropping off students, and the driving public. At the request of the high school, we've created an improved student drop-off and pickup plan. Lone Cactus Road, on the north side of campus, has been microsealed and restriped with a new crosswalk location for safe student drop off and pick up. The neighboring HOA kindly met with us at the school to represent their interests, and after a trial effort last spring, we all agreed on the plan. No more students jockeying across two lanes from mom's car in the morning!

Mitigating traffic congestion before and after school on 83rd Avenue in front of the campus has long had our attention. A deceleration lane and an acceleration lane at the Challenger Space Center entrance will make quite a difference. By reusing existing right-of-way for these new lane configurations, you no longer will find the curb lane closed to southbound traffic every school day during drop-off and pickup times, thanks to the combined work of all of our partners.

I really would like to hear from you. Email me at willow@peoriaaz.gov to ask a question, share input, or subscribe to Willow E-News. Your email won't be shared with others.

ACACIA DISTRICT COUNCILMEMBER VICKI HUNT



Sometimes making a difference in neighborhoods can be as simple as paint and pavement. The Acacia District includes some of Peoria's oldest communities. These are proud neighborhoods with residents who care. Historically these neighborhoods have no HOAs, as that was a non-existent concept when these communities rose from Peoria's agricultural history.

The city recently completed a project to paint several arterial, road-facing block walls in the Acacia District. With no HOAs to coordinate a project like this, there was zero chance these walls would ever get a uniform coat of paint. Summer projects along Cholla Road and on 79th Avenue in front of Peoria Elementary School turned faded, multi-colored walls into a long stretch of "Teddy Bear Brown." This not only enhances the aesthetics, it reinforces to passersby that

together we care about our neighborhoods.

Residential streets west of 85th Avenue near Jefferson are scheduled for complete pavement replacement this year. It's a bit of a messy process, and it takes much longer than other pavement maintenance processes but it's needed. Crews will come in and mill the existing pavement for removal. New asphalt will be poured and the new pavement surfaces will be striped accordingly. Drivers and residents will notice an immediate difference.

Addressing the structure of neighborhoods, the "bones" that make residents feel good about where they live, is important. Sometimes it's the really big things that need attention, and sometimes it's a coat of paint. I would like to hear from you, and what's important to you in your neighborhood. Contact me at acacia@peoriaaz.gov. If you would like to receive regular updates, subscribe to Acacia E-News. Your email won't be shared with others.

IRONWOOD DISTRICT COUNCILMEMBER BILL PATENA



In the upcoming year, there will be many new projects completed in the City of Peoria. One of these projects is the Veterans Memorial Wall at Rio Vista Park, located at 8866 West Thunderbird Road. If you have not had a chance to visit the site, I would encourage you to do so. The purpose of the wall is to honor and recognize all Veterans who have served in a branch of the Armed Forces as well as to provide a quiet, peaceful place for veterans, families and friends to gather. Over the next few months, work will continue at the site, which will include an expansion of the wall and the addition of waterside benches, where you can sit, reflect and pay tribute. A Huey helicopter will also be installed in the park west of the wall. The Veterans Honor Wall is scheduled to be dedicated in a ceremony at Rio Vista Community Park on Saturday, Nov. 11. For information on the Peoria Veterans Memorial Wall and Board activities, visit www.peoriaaz.gov/veterans.

The City of Peoria hosts many family friendly, special events throughout the year for residents to enjoy. This includes the annual 4th of July All-American Festival, the Halloween Monster Bash in October, the Peoria Old Town Holiday Festival, and several Parkfest events at neighborhood parks. Many of these events are free of charge, and provide hours of fun for families to enjoy. For more information on these events, visit www.peoriaaz.gov/specialevents or call **623-773-7137**.

I always enjoy speaking with the residents of Peoria, and I encourage you to contact me any time with any city questions, concerns or comments. Contact me at bill.patena@peoriaaz.gov, or call my office at **623-773-7538**. Don't forget to sign up for your Ironwood District weekly updates by sending an email to www.peoriaaz.gov/ironwood.

MESQUITE DISTRICT COUNCILMEMBER BRIDGET BINSBACHER



The best part of serving as your Mesquite District Councilmember is the ongoing opportunity to connect with communities and the constituents I represent. Through building relationships and creative thinking we are taking steps to offer satellite services in the northern part of our city. This will allow residents to take advantage of select classes and programs closer to home until we are able to build a much needed, full-service community or recreation center. Citizen engagement is also playing an important role in planning Peoria's future. We recently completed a successful redistricting process driven by the will of the citizens, and are developing our city's General Plan which sets the community's vision for the city's priorities and guides growth and development over the next 10 to 20 years. Citizens can share neighborhood issues, and offer ideas through an online survey. I encourage you to go to www.planpeoriaaz.com to participate and take part in shaping your city's future. Finally, I am pleased to report Peoria is making significant strides in the development of its third community park, which will be located in the Mesquite District, east of Dixileta Road and Lake Pleasant Parkway. I remain committed to leading a fiscally sound city, protecting your hard-earned tax dollars, public safety and a high quality of life for all. Please stay connected by signing up to receive my e-news at www.peoriaaz.gov/mesquite.

PALO VERDE DISTRICT COUNCILMEMBER MICHAEL FINN



It has truly been an honor and a privilege to work with the amazing city staff over the past year and serve with such a focused and well functioning council. Some of the items of interest from last year and moving into next year are the following.

Once again, the city staff and council were able to produce a balanced budget for next year with no tax levy increase. This is one of our most important jobs as a council and it was done very successfully thanks to the hard work of the city staff and council's collective focus.

Road construction continues in phases on 75th Avenue; however, you might have noticed that it is moving much more fluidly than the 75th and Thunderbird project did. We learned some valuable lessons that we are putting into practice with this project to help minimize disruptions.

I have also continued to ask for code enforcement assistance to keep the number of illegal advertisements at our intersections to a minimum.

City staff and more than 500 volunteers participated in Neighborhood Pride in the Palo Verde District, which assists older, non-

HOA neighborhoods with new landscaping, paint, and needed repairs to their homes. The results of these projects are truly stunning and all is provided free of charge to the homeowners through volunteer time and materials.

Thank you to all the residents who participated and provided input in the city's redistricting process. The new boundaries have re-balanced each of the six council districts. The new map can be found at www.peoriaaz.gov/redistricting.

Moving into next year, I will continue to apply focus on the conditions of our district and work with city and staff to further improve services and conditions. Please reach out to me and let me know if you have suggestions or concerns that you would like for me to address. This is our city and I appreciate your input on how it should look and be run. If you are not registered to receive the e-alerts, please sign up at www.peoriaaz.gov/paloverde.

PINE DISTRICT COUNCILMEMBER CARLO LEONE



Communication is a priority of mine when it comes to serving my constituents. I am active in the community and enjoy speaking with Peoria residents. One way I like to stay connected is by hosting community events such as identity theft shred events, park events, and HOA and Block Watch meetings. I would love to be a guest at your next community meeting to provide an update on what is happening in your city.

If you have some free time on your hands and are looking for volunteer opportunities, look no further than the City of Peoria. Please contact the Human Resources Department for more information at **623-773-7100**.

With summer upon us, it is important to find ways to stay cool. A great way to beat the Arizona heat is to take advantage of the city's public pools. The pools are located at Centennial, Peoria and Sunrise Mountain High Schools. For hours, cost, and information on swim lessons, contact the Community Services Department at **623-773-7137**. There are also many fun activities and programs for all ages at the Peoria Community Center. For information on these programs, please call **623-773-7436**.

Because of the USDA Summer Food Service Program for Children, the Peoria Unified School District Food and Nutrition Program serves free breakfast, lunch and dinner to any child this summer age 18 and under. Lunch and breakfast are served at all school sites and dinner is served each evening from 4:30 – 5:15 p.m., Monday – Friday at the Peoria Community Center, located at 8335 W. Jefferson. No identification is required to receive a free meal, and students do not have to attend a Peoria Unified School. For more information, please call **623-487-5185**.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact my office with any comments, questions or concerns. You may reach me at carlo.leone@peoriaaz.gov or at **623-773-7538**. Also, don't forget to sign up for your Pine District e-alerts by sending an email to pine@peoriaaz.gov.