

PEORIA NOW

SEPTEMBER 2017

www.peoriaaz.gov/news



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

Emergency Preparedness Tips

September is National Preparedness Month. Being prepared for any emergency is as easy as 1, 2, 3.

1. Have a household disaster plan.

Develop a plan for your family so they know what to do, how to find each other, and how to communicate in an emergency.

2. Have an emergency supply kit.

Keep enough supplies in your home to survive on your own for up to 10 days.

3. Have a "go bag." Every member in your family should have a bag with items you may need in the event of an evacuation.

For more information, visit www.ready.gov.

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage at Somos Peoria

In honor of National Hispanic Heritage Month, the city of Peoria is hosting ¡Somos Peoria! on Saturday, Sept. 30 in Old Town Peoria. From 2 to 10:30 p.m., eat delicious food, play a variety of games, visit arts and craft vendors, and listen to Los Lonely Boys and Los Lobos. Admission is \$5 before 5 p.m. and \$10 after 5 p.m. with children under 12 free. Get tickets at www.somospeoria.com.

Open Space: Here Today, Gone Tomorrow

Peoria's population has grown 50 percent since 2000 and while there are many reasons residents are drawn to our community, access to 740 acres of public open spaces and parks, 27 miles of trails, and the natural beauty of the Sonoran Desert is certainly one of Peoria's greatest appeals.

With purposeful planning, city council and I work daily to ensure that as we grow, we hold on to the characteristics that set us apart. This is all the land we will ever have and we have only one opportunity to do it right.

Peoria's Sonoran Preservation Program was developed in 2015, with the guidance of Peoria residents and land agencies who participated in more than 20 community meetings. This all-inclusive plan details Peoria's natural assets and specifies how to balance desert lands and cultural amenities with future growth. By outlining 15 key land areas that are ecologically, culturally, and historically significant, we can better assess how to maintain a healthy balance between passive and recreational open space areas, and residential and commercial needs.

A well thought-out, strategic plan shows potential businesses and homeowners that we have a long-term vision for our community. In fact, open space is a significant asset to property values and by maintaining a strong balance between land uses, the value of each grows exponentially.

The Palo Verde Park and Ruins is an excellent example of the incredible and sensitive history that exists right in our backyards. By understanding the culture of these lands, the City of Peoria developed an educational, reflective, and recreational asset that honors how the earliest settlers of the Hohokam Tribe used these lands, and the remarkable ruins that remain today. This area is now listed in both the Arizona and National Registers of Historic Places.

Recognizing the vast majority of open space and other sensitive areas are not owned by the City of Peoria, this plan was created with respect for private property rights and individual, state, or federal landowners. It helps us understand what assets exist, so when development is impending, we can have the right conversation with the landowners, before it is too late.

As the pressures of growth continue to mount, we must commit to ensuring our most precious lands and cultural areas are safeguarded and accessible for future generations. In doing so, we will help keep our property values high; and we will be better positioned to manage growth, all while doing our part to preserve Arizona's heritage – Peoria's heritage – for generations to come.

Peoria's General Plan Update is underway. To share your feedback about the future of our community, including open space opportunities, visit www.planpeoriaaz.com.

– Mayor Cathy Carlat



PEORIA NOW

OCTOBER 2017

COMING SOON

New Bus Route Comes to Peoria



Beginning Monday, Oct. 23, Valley Metro bus Route 83 will extend to serve riders traveling between Camelback and Bell Roads along 83rd Avenue. If you are going to popular destinations such as the P83 Entertainment District, Peoria High School, Pioneer Community Park, Peoria Sports Complex or Arrowhead Mall, climb aboard Route 83. An All-Day Transit Pass is only \$4. The new portion of the route will operate at half-hour frequencies on weekdays from 5 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. and hourly on weekends from 6 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. To check schedules, visit valleymetro.org or call **602-253-5000**.

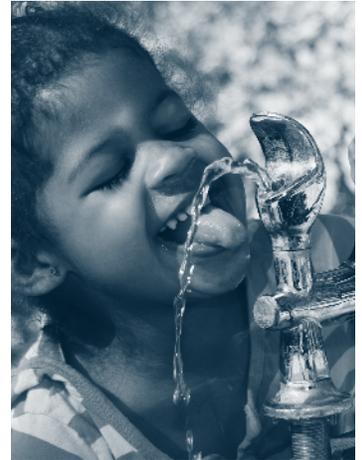
Tips for Conserving our Most Precious Resource

While fall is just around the corner, the weather is still hot in Peoria, which means residents might be using more water for lawns and plants to keep them healthy. The hot weather also means the sun can wreak havoc on sprinklers, causing cracks and breaks that could go undetected for months.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the average household's leaks can account for more than 10,000 gallons of water wasted every year. To reduce waste and keep utility rates down, the city recommends practicing the following conservation methods to ensure water is not wasted:

- Use a broom, not a hose, to clean driveways and walkways.
- Turn off the tap water while brushing your teeth and washing your hands.
- Consider purchasing a dual-flush toilet. You may even qualify for a rebate.
- Water the grass, not the gutter! Adjust your sprinklers to apply water where it is needed, not wasted.
- Only run the dishwasher while it is full. This will save you 1,000 gallons a month!
- Turn off the tap! Don't leave water running needlessly.
- Make sure every tap in your home has a high-efficiency faucet aerator.
- Plant drought-resistant shrubs and plants. If you convert to Xeriscape, you may qualify for a rebate.
- Use a pool cover to keep your pool clean, reduce chemical use, and prevent water loss.
- Adjust your irrigation as the seasons change and turn it off when it rains.
- Water your yard naturally with microbasins that harvest storm water for future use – perfect for monsoon season.
- Turn off your water when you go out of town.

Citizens can report leaks to the city in a number of ways, including calling the customer service center at **623-773-7160**, emailing customerservice@peoriaaz.gov or using the PeoriaReporter app. For more information about how you can reduce your water usage, visit www.peoriaaz.gov/conservation. Peoria has enough water to use, but never enough to waste!



**HALLOWEEN
MONSTER BASH**

**FREE
Admission
& Parking**

**Saturday
Oct 28th
5 p.m. - 9 p.m.**

Peoria Sports Complex, 16101 N. 83rd Avenue, Peoria, AZ