

# PEORIA NOW

JULY 2018

[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.

## Be Prepared for Monsoon Season



June 15 was the official start to the monsoon season in Arizona. Each year, monsoon storms ravage the Valley. Here are some tips to keep your family and home 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 nearby.
- Don't pass barricades or enter flooded washes and streets.
- Keep important documents and your emergency kit handy.

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

## Join our Youth Summer Meal Program

Through July 27, the Peoria Community Center and Peoria Main Library are offering free meals for kids 18 and under. Lunch (12-1 p.m.) is at the library and snacks (2-2:30 p.m.) and dinners (4:30-5:15 p.m. Mon.-Thu., 4-4:45 p.m. Fri.) are at the center. Parents eat for \$3. For more information, call **623-773-7436**.

## FY2019 Budget Update



As we approach a new fiscal year, I am proud to report that we do so as a fiscally-sound city and with a fully-balanced budget that meets today's demands, while planning for our best future.

With no increase to taxes, the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget of \$660 million maintains strong reserves and conforms to the council-adopted Principles of Sound Financial Management. City council also approved the city's 10-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) of \$729 million, which provides for a variety of major investments in parks, roadways, public safety facilities and water and sewer infrastructure.

The budget maintains essential services and funding for all of the things that matter most to our citizens.

Public safety is a top priority, and this budget includes 12 new public safety positions for the Peoria Police Department. Critical funding for Peoria's Fire-Medical Department was also provided, which includes the expansion of Peoria's ambulance service from two to four full-time ambulances and the addition of 14 new firefighters and training for eight new paramedics.

With a focus on our community and neighborhood services programs, we are pleased to provide funding for the Community Works Program, which provides meaningful improvements to neighborhoods. In addition, funding for a new Support and Resource Center has been allocated to offer direct program, intake and referral services to residents.

Creating and managing a balanced budget is one of the most important responsibilities of city government. The FY2019 budget reflects your city's steadfast commitment to providing exceptional core services that meets the priorities of our citizens. As we move forward, we remain focused on our community's goals and long-term considerations to ensure every tax dollar is put to work for those that call Peoria home.

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](mailto:mayor@peoriaaz.gov), or stay connected with me on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

**Mayor Cathy Carlat**  
[cathy.carlat@peoriaaz.gov](mailto:cathy.carlat@peoriaaz.gov)

## City Council Roundup



### PALO VERDE DISTRICT - VICE MAYOR MICHAEL FINN

I had the privilege to serve another year as councilmember and vice mayor of a very cohesive city council. One of the milestones for the council this year was to adopt ordinance updates. One of the updates pertained to the sign code ordinance. This was a collaboration of staff, council and local businesses working together to make needed changes. The update provides clear specifications on the types of signs that are permitted and prohibited. These technical aspects of city government ensure that Peoria continues to be a city we are all proud to reside in.

Another issue of importance to me is the maintenance of our city right-of-ways. I periodically meet with staff regarding areas of improvement, and we are currently working on a system to implement a better maintenance rotation to ensure our right of ways meet our high expectations.

I would like to thank the Palo Verde residents for their patience during the 75th Avenue and Cactus Road intersection improvements, which included the installation of a new storm drain and waterline and relocation of underground utilities, including fiber, cable, communication and gas lines. Most importantly, the addition of through-way and turn lanes will make for a safer intersection.

I look forward to another year representing the Palo Verde District. If you would like to receive my e-news updates, sign up at [www.peoriaaz.gov/paloverde](http://www.peoriaaz.gov/paloverde) or contact me at **623-773-7785**.



### ACACIA DISTRICT - MAYOR PRO TEM VICKI HUNT

Communities and neighborhoods are the lifeblood of any city. City investment in neighborhoods can make all the difference to how residents feel about where they live. Acacia neighborhoods have benefitted recently from some big improvements.

In June, pavement improvements were applied to miles of local streets. City council approved a comprehensive pavement review process earlier this year. A technical survey determined that several Acacia neighborhoods were in need of substantial asphalt maintenance. Some streets were slurry sealed, which preserves the existing pavement surface. Roads in almost as many neighborhoods were milled and then overlaid with a new

asphalt surface. Temporary street closures and parking restrictions are a small price to pay for the dramatic improvements for the driving public.

With the addition of the new 83rd Avenue bus route, new bus stops were necessary. From Northern Avenue to Cactus Road, along 83rd Avenue through the Acacia District, creatively designed bus stops are being constructed. The bright blue shelters feature shaded seating and a display of Peoria's city flag. In the months ahead, bus shelters along existing bus routes on Peoria Avenue will begin to be fitted with the new shelter design.

The Acacia District features some of Peoria's oldest neighborhoods. These neighborhoods are the root of the city, and it is important that we recognize the continued need to upgrade streetlights, traffic signals, intersections and parks. Let me know how we can help in your neighborhood by emailing me at [acacia@peoriaaz.gov](mailto:acacia@peoriaaz.gov).

### IRONWOOD DISTRICT COUNCILMEMBER BILL PATENA



As you may recall, I wrote last year about the family-friendly events that the city of Peoria hosts 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. If you have not had the opportunity to attend a Peoria special event, I would encourage you to do so. For more information on these events, visit [www.peoriaaz.gov/specialevents](http://www.peoriaaz.gov/specialevents) or call **623-773-7137**.

The city of Peoria invests great effort and resources to maintain various infrastructure systems and amenities to meet residents' needs. This includes the park down the street, libraries, police and fire stations, the pipes that deliver water to your house and so many other things that we all take for granted in a well-run community. To ensure that we adequately maintain this infrastructure each year, the city carefully prepares a 10-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP). This plan identifies new infrastructure needs, as well as areas where reinvestment in the present infrastructure is needed. The CIP also identifies appropriate funding sources for all of the projects within its 10-year plan, which is critical to ensuring a sustainable future for Peoria.

I am honored to serve as councilmember in the Ironwood District. I always enjoy speaking with the residents of Peoria, and I encourage you to contact me with any questions, concerns or comments at [bill.patena@peoriaaz.gov](mailto:bill.patena@peoriaaz.gov) or **623-773-7538**.

### MESQUITE DISTRICT COUNCILMEMBER BRIDGET BINSBACHER



In the past 12 months, we have worked tirelessly to keep taxes low and meet the needs of Peoria residents. I have been working closely with my constituents, businesses and community partners

to understand and respond to various needs and concerns in the Mesquite District.

We have improved traffic and intersection issues, which include expediting the widening of Happy Valley Road. We have increased police presence and improved response times, and we will continue to put the safety of Peoria residents first. Peoria has expanded resources and support for small businesses and entrepreneurs. Recently council adopted a long overdue code amendment to the Temporary Use Permit process. The update will simplify and organize requirements, which will have a positive impact on short-term activities and special events on private property.

After receiving hundreds of park name submissions, the Peoria Parks and Recreation Board narrowed the list down to five names that reflected the geography, traditions and characteristics of the area. The council unanimously voted on "Paloma Community Park." The Spanish word "paloma," which means "dove," refers to a unique geographical feature in the area. The long-awaited groundbreaking will take place in the fall with a completion date of 2020.

I am excited to be part of the upcoming growth in the Mesquite District. I will continue to work with residents to bring quality projects to our city that will enhance our property values and quality of life. To stay connected, sign up at [www.peoriaaz.gov/mesquite](http://www.peoriaaz.gov/mesquite).

### 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, homeowner association workshops 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.

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, call the Parks and Recreation Department at 623-773-7137. There are also fun activities and programs for all ages at the Peoria Community Center, including active adult programs and fitness classes. For information on these programs, call 623-773-7436.

The Peoria Unified School District Food and Nutrition Program is serving free breakfast, lunch and dinner to any child this summer age 18 and under as part of the USDA Summer Food Service Program for Children. Lunch and breakfast is served at all school sites and dinner is served each evening from 4:30 – 5:15 p.m., Monday through Friday at the Peoria Community Center, located at 8335 W. Jefferson. A midday snack is provided each afternoon between 2 and 2:30 p.m. at the community center as well. No identification is required to receive a free meal, and students do not have to attend a Peoria school. Meals for those 19-years or older cost \$1.75 for breakfast and \$3 for lunch or dinner. For more information, call **623-487-5185**.

As always, do not hesitate to contact my office with any comments, questions or concerns. You may reach me at [carlo.leone@peoriaaz.gov](mailto:carlo.leone@peoriaaz.gov) or **623-773-7538**.

### WILLOW DISTRICT COUNCILMEMBER JON EDWARDS



A review of maintenance for our parks and right-of-ways has been one of my central focuses for the past year. As one of the fastest growing cities in the state, Peoria's community assets are also

increasing. It is very important to me that we have a clear vision for how city parks, medians, public street corners and other city properties are maintained regularly. I realize that some of our older parks need a bit more tender care so we continue to practice the "right tree – right place" approach to update the landscaping inventory. Going forward, I will continue to work with city staff to be sure our vision is in focus.

As a board member for Valley Metro, I helped christen the new 83rd Avenue bus route. The new route connects from the Bell Road area to Camelback Road along 83rd Avenue. Until four years ago, Peoria had only two dedicated bus routes, neither of which connected in our city north of Cactus Road. The 2014 Thunderbird Road route extension increased local ridership tremendously. With the addition of the 83rd Avenue route through the heart of Peoria, residents can now easily connect to east-west bus routes on Thunderbird Road and Peoria Avenue. Furthermore, I'm excited to share with you that Peoria will be adding a local circulator bus to supplement bus service for local residents. Details to come!

I really would like to hear from you. Email me at [willow@peoriaaz.gov](mailto:willow@peoriaaz.gov) to ask a question, share input or subscribe to Willow E-News. Your email will not be shared with others.