

PEORIA, A CITY WITH HEART

With the season of giving upon us, many of us find ourselves reflecting on our blessings. We take a little bit more time to give thanks to the family and friends that stand by our side, the jobs that continue to provide, and the home that grants us warmth and space to rest alongside those we love most.

It is during these moments of reflection, and certainly during this season, that we see an increase in generosity across communities. We give greater attention to those in need, and we seek new opportunities to make a difference in the lives of those who are less fortunate.

Homelessness is a growing national issue, impacting communities across America.

Although Peoria's homeless counts are significantly lower than what we see across the nation and across our state, we have a plan in place to address this need and provide support, resources, and enforcement, as appropriate.

Peoria recently opened a Community Assistance Resource Center. Located in the heart of Old Town Peoria, this center is a safe place where individuals can connect with services and non-profit organizations that provide personalized referrals to meet a variety of needs including financial guidance, medical care, child development services, addiction resources, nutrition assistance, and more.

In addition, Peoria has partnered with The Phoenix Rescue Mission, a local non-profit dedicated to ending hunger and homelessness in the Valley, and The Central Arizona Shelter Services to provide emergency shelter services for those in need. Peoria also has two police officers dedicated to homeless outreach. Even though our community doesn't have a large homeless population, our police department sometimes receives calls from residents asking that panhandlers be relocated. Our police officers make regular contact with these individuals to offer services. During this outreach, officers have learned that many panhandlers are not homeless, and often choose to ask for money from our generous residents.

It's important to note that in numerous decisions in the last two years, federal courts have ruled that individuals may not be criminalized for the action of panhandling or being homeless. Nonetheless, we are committed to working closely with our partners to encourage those in need to take advantage of safer conditions at shelter facilities.

Peoria commuters may have noticed new panhandling signs at key intersections throughout our city. These temporary signs are part of a regional effort and are intended to help residents understand that it's okay to say no to panhandling, while directing generous residents to credible organizations. Information about those organizations can be found at www.givesmartaz.org.

This site is managed by the Healthy Giving Council, which is a fantastic regional organization dedicated to educating and connecting residents to direct, healthy, and lasting ways to give to those in need. By working closely with the homeless community, they have learned that "unfortunately, one-off donations delivered to street corners, parks, or other locations provide short-lived relief and can delay or divert people from seeking services that can help end their homelessness." The Homeless Giving Council is sharing this message on more than 76 billboards throughout Maricopa County.

In Peoria, we recognize that our community is only as strong as the people in it. Every day, we are working to ensure all residents have access to the resources and services they need to live their best lives. Peoria is proud to be a city guided by compassion; and with a comprehensive and regional effort to combat homelessness underway, Peoria will continue to do all that we can to be part of the solution.

I want to hear your thoughts 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



TRASH/RECYCLING PICKUP HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

There will be NO CHANGE to the trash and recycling pickup due to the Christmas holiday.

For the full 2019 trash/recycling pickup schedule, call 623-773-7431 or visit peoriaaz.gov/holidaytrash.

AM PM Winter Camp!

Activities, games and field trips

Dec. 20, 23, 24, 26, 27, 30, 31 and Jan. 2 - 3
6 a.m. - 6 p.m. • \$27 per day
Register at www.peoriaaz.gov/ampm



PEORIA NOW

JANUARY 2020

COMING SOON

TRASH/RECYCLING PICKUP HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

There will be NO CHANGE to the trash and recycling pickup due to the New Year's Day holiday.

For the full 2020 trash/recycling pickup schedule, call 623-773-7431 or visit peoriaaz.gov/holidaytrash.

JOIN THE POLICE EXPLORERS PROGRAM

Is your teen interested in a career in law enforcement? The Peoria Police Explorers Program allows them the opportunity to learn about the law enforcement field through hands on training. The program is designed for teens ages 14-20. Attendees of the program will need to attend monthly trainings and events. The program also encourages community service opportunities, on the job learning, physical fitness and scenario based training. The Officer Advisors are committed to ensuring the youth leave the program as ethical, well-educated citizens that are ready to tackle challenges in the career field they choose. For more information about this program contact Officer Bryan Rauzan at Bryan.Rauzan@peoriaaz.gov or 623-773-8839.

CALLING ALL BASEBALL FANS! SPRING TRAINING IS COMING



Calling all baseball fans! Spring training 2020 is coming, do you have your tickets? If you want to attend the 2020 games, you can purchase single game tickets online at mariners.com or padres.com. Season tickets can be purchased at www.peoriasportscomplex.com. If you prefer to purchase your tickets in person, the Peoria Sports Complex ticket office and team store opens on Jan. 25. Don't miss out on the excitement of spring training.

HOW TO RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE



Are you unsure of what to do with your Christmas tree after the holidays? The City of Peoria's Solid Waste Division provides drop off locations for residents to recycle their live Christmas Trees. The trees are taken to a local farmer for composting. Before dropping off your tree, make sure all decorations, hooks and lights are removed. Trees can be dropped off beginning December 26, 2019 through January 3, 2020 at any of the locations listed below.

- Sports Complex (Padre's side)
- Home Depot (9201 W. Peoria Ave)
- Home Depot (25650 N. Lake Pleasant Pkwy.)
- Lowe's (8497 W. Thunderbird Rd.)
- Sunrise Mountain Library (21109 N. 98th Ave.)
- Walmart (21655 N. Lake Pleasant Pkwy.)
- Walmart (7975 W. Peoria Ave.)

All decorations, hooks and lights should be removed before dropping off the live tree.

WINTER WATER SAFETY DAY & POLAR PLUNGE

ALL AGES • FREE BREAKFAST • FREE TO ENTER
Saturday, Jan. 4 • 8-9 a.m. • Sunrise Pool at 21321 N. 86th Dr.
For more info, visit peoriaaz.gov/specialevents