

PEORIANOW

www.peoriaaz.gov/news

AUGUST 2020



Stay Connected



2020 GENERAL PLAN

Did you know that once every 10 years Peoria residents have an opportunity to vote on the future of their city? That is because Arizona cities are required to ratify their general plans every decade and, this November, Peoria residents will see the Peoria General Plan 2040 on the ballot. Over the last year, the Peoria General Plan 2040 was developed with the help of feedback from residents and businesses and includes more descriptive land use categories and maps that would provide an additional layer of information to residents and developers.

These new land use categories along with other changes throughout the document will help Peoria preserve and enhance its high quality of life while reaching its fullest potential as a community. The plan is dynamic and intended to be periodically updated to keep pace with the community's evolving economic and environmental conditions and goals regarding growth and development. For more information, visit www.peoriaaz.gov/generalplan.

LIBRARY CURBSIDE PICKUP

The Peoria Main and Sunrise Mountain Libraries have curbside pickup service for residents. For those residents with holds, library staff will contact them through email or by phone to let them know when they can pick up their items. Each library has designated parking spots for curbside patrons to park. Library staff wear gloves and masks and practice social distancing. All items, carts and bookdrops have been and will continue to be sanitized. Both library lobbies are open Monday through Thursday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday 1-5 p.m., Sunrise Mountain Library is also open Friday 1-5 p.m. and the Peoria Main Library is open Sunday 1-5 p.m. For more information, visit www.peoriaaz.gov/library.



WATER SAFETY IS IMPORTANT ALL YEAR

As we approach the end of summer, we should not let our guard down. Living in the Sonoran Desert, we are naturally drawn to the water for relaxation and cool recreation. Whether it is in our backyard pools or beautiful Lake Pleasant, water is all around us and it is important that we are as safe as possible when enjoying these great amenities.

Often referred to as the "Jewel of the Desert," Lake Pleasant has become a treasured destination, where families enjoy fun water activities such as boating, swimming, fishing, paddleboarding and kayaking. As popularity of the second largest lake in Arizona continues to rise, public safety becomes increasingly important. Currently, the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office handles policing of the lake, while the Peoria Fire-Medical Department works day and night to make sure visitors are safe. As with any situation, though, the best way to stay safe is to know your environment and be prepared.

Whether at home enjoying the family pool or around a larger body of water, help prevent the risk of drowning by following these important water safety tips:



- No one should swim alone, including adults.
- Always supervise children around any body of water. Drowning is silent. When a person slips under the water, there is no splashing, no yelling, no breathing. Nothing replaces constant eye-to-eye supervision of children. When you turn your back, shift your attention, start a conversation or check your phone—this is when drowning can happen.
- All members of the family should learn CPR.
- Make sure your home pool has a fence with a self-closing and self-latching gate; and be sure to check for other ways to access the pool, such as windows and doggie doors.
- Do not keep toys in or around the pool. This may encourage children to reach and fall in.
- Keep a phone near the pool. In case of an emergency dial 911.
- Keep children away from buckets with liquids in them. Children can drown in as little as one inch of water. This includes toilet lids, which should be closed and secured.
- Use a proper flotation device for children who cannot swim yet. Water wings and other toys should not be used as personal flotation devices. These may give parents a false sense of security. Air-filled water wings can puncture and deflate.

As you prepare your family to enjoy time around water, check out the swim lessons offered by the City of Peoria. Drowning is one of the leading causes of preventable deaths in children, and these lessons are here to provide critical life safety skills to save lives. Learn more at www.peoriaaz.gov/aquatics and by visiting the Peoria Fire-Medical Department page at www.peoriaaz.gov/safetytips.

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

— Mayor Cathy Carlat

PEORIA NOW

SEPTEMBER 2020

TRASH/RECYCLING PICKUP HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Your trash pickup day may change due to the Labor Day holiday.

Pickup scheduled for Monday, Sept. 7, 2020 will move to Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2020. Pickup scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2020 will move to Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2020. Thursday and Friday will have no changes.

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



MOSQUITO SAFETY

Mosquitos can have a constant presence in Arizona, especially during the summer months. They can also have an impact on the community's health and comfort. In situations where there are large amounts of mosquitos, property values can be effected and outdoor work and recreation can be challenging. It is up to every member of the community to do their part to help prevent the spread of mosquitos within their neighborhood. What can you do?

- Make sure that outside water does not sit for more than four days.
- Drain water from unused items like birdbaths, flowerpots and wheelbarrows that are left outdoors.
- If you have a pool, make sure the pool pump is working properly and moving water efficiently.
- Check flat roofs for any standing water.
- Remove shrubs where mosquitos can live and breed.

There are many other steps that residents can take to keep mosquitos at bay. For more information, visit the Maricopa County Vector Control website at maricopa.gov/2041/Backyard-Checklist.

KEEP YOUR HOME SAFE FROM FIRES



Home fires can occur at any time and, oftentimes, they are preventable tragedies. There are precautions homeowners can take in their home to help prevent a bad situation from becoming even worse. In order to assist with this, the Peoria Fire-Medical Department has put a list together of valuable tips for preventing and surviving a household fire.

- First and foremost, it is crucial to ensure that your smoke detectors are maintained and in working order. Install a minimum of one smoke detector outside every room and in every sleeping area. A two-story house should have at least one per floor.
- Be sure to check the smoke detector batteries at least once a month.
- Make sure your family has a home evacuation plan and go over it as a family. Practice it to ensure it is not forgotten. Remember that there should be at least two exits per room.
- In addition to the family plan, talk to your children about fire safety so they will understand what to do in an emergency.
- When you are cooking, stay in the kitchen at all times. Do not leave towels by the stove.

To learn more, visit www.peoriaaz.gov/fire.

WATERING TIPS FOR THE SUMMER MONTHS



The summer months, before the monsoon season starts, are very dry in Arizona, which can lead to stressed plants. On the other hand, it can also lead to overwatering in an attempt to compensate for the lack of moisture. Water conservation in Arizona is very important, especially during the summer months. How do you know when to water, and how much?

- First, try using the 1-2-3 plan to figure out how deeply your plants need water at the root zone.
- Water to a depth of one foot for small plants like grass and annuals.
- Medium plants like shrubs should be watered to a depth of two feet.
- For your large plants like trees, you want to water to a depth of three feet.

In order to test how much water you have used, use a soil probe, a long screwdriver or a sharpened piece of rebar. An hour after you have watered, insert the probe in to the soil. If the soil is wet, it will slide in easily. You will know when you have hit dry ground as the probe will go no further. When the probe easily slides to the recommended depth, you know you have watered enough. To figure out when to water again, use the probe a few days later as the ground has started to dried out, when the probe can only go in a few inches, it's time to water again.

There are many other resources for ensuring efficient watering to help preserve our precious water here in the desert. Visit www.peoriaaz.gov/waterconservation for more information.