



Commentary
by:
Cathy Carlat

Social Media



Councilmember – Mesquite District
City of Peoria

Social media is all around us. With smart phones resting in our pockets, obtaining information is literally an arm's reach away. The City of Peoria has recognized this growing demand and has developed a variety of systems to help make access to local activities, amenities and services as effortless as possible.

To assure that Peoria citizens have instant access to community information, the city maintains a presence on Facebook, Twitter, and You Tube. Through these venues information is shared daily, including new programs, service schedule changes, and even recorded videos of meetings.

There's an app for that! GoPeoria is a new application available on the Android Market and the iTunes App Store which allows users to quickly obtain information about shopping, entertainment, recreation, arts and cultural activities, all within the City of Peoria. Users can input their location and easily find nearby attractions. The following site will further detail the application:
www.visitpeoriaaz.com.

Additionally, the Peoria Police Department has recognized the benefits of connecting with residents of all ages through technology. The Community Notification Emergency System (CENS) system is designed to quickly inform registered users of an emergency situation within their area. To register, visit:
www.maricoparegion911.org/cens.htm.

The Peoria Police Department also offers a system called Crime Reports and Tip Soft SMS (short message service). Through these applications, tipsters can text, call, or email any helpful information without ever revealing their identity. People often worry about coming forward with information, for fear of unintended involvement or retaliation. This system eliminates these concerns and allows people to freely relay their information. Contact 623-773-7096 for additional information.

Many of us live very busy lives. We are overscheduled, rushed, and often pulled in multiple directions. Having services such as these, available within media sources we already utilize, allows us to remain engaged in activities happening within our communities, informed about service changes, and even interactive in fighting crime. To keep updated about information pertaining to the Mesquite District, be sure to register for my email updates by visiting my website:
www.peoriaaz.gov/mesquite .



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