

# PEORIA NOW

1954

## June 2012

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

[www.peoriaaz.gov/news](http://www.peoriaaz.gov/news)

## in the news

City Provides Childcare During Summer Months

Free Spanish Language Swim Lessons

Recreation Center Provides Relief from the Heat

Artist Exhibit Depicts Realism

Free Small Business Seminars

To read the full articles, visit:  
[www.peoriaaz.gov/news](http://www.peoriaaz.gov/news)  
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Call 623-773-7000

## Living Within Our Means



As we move into the budget season, there is a lot in the news about how local governments have weathered the economic downturn. Many Valley cities have been forced to lay off workers, mandate furlough days for employees, and cut city services to make up for the loss of revenue. There are a number of factors that have led to these decisions in other cities, but with good financial planning and conservative fiscal policies, the city of Peoria has survived the recession well. We are beginning to realize the benefits of the good decisions that have been made.

The main goal of City Council and staff during these tough times was to preserve key services and minimize the impact to Peoria residents. I am happy to report that we have done both. When we realized that the economy was taking a turn for the worst, our city staff sat down to revise revenue projections and make mid-year budget cuts that would allow the city to minimize the need for using reserve funds. From that point, we have continued to monitor revenues and make good financial decisions for Peoria.

Through a series of early retirements and evaluating open positions, we were able to reduce the number of staff members to a manageable level without laying off one employee or requiring furlough days for those employees who remained with Peoria. Additionally, we were able to defer raising water and wastewater rates for two years, in order to minimize the impact to residents and businesses in Peoria.

Our staff has been instrumental in securing federal funding through grants and close out funds for a number of important projects. Our ability to secure these funds was based largely on having projects ready to begin and matching funds available. In FY2012, our grants funding amounted to \$1.8 million, and we are on track to receive similar numbers in FY2013.

However, there are some things out of our control. The State is still dealing with large budget problems, and we expect that their need to balance a budget will have some negative effects on state shared revenue. We continue to work with our legislators to find solutions which will not place the burden on local governments.

With the dedication of an outstanding city staff, we have continued smart budgeting without sacrificing the services that our residents desire. We are cautiously optimistic that our economy is on the mend, so when the economy does rebound, the city of Peoria will be ready and able to meet the needs of developers and businesses looking to locate here.

**Mayor Bob Barrett**  
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[Bob.Barrett@peoriaaz.gov](mailto:Bob.Barrett@peoriaaz.gov)

## City Council Roundup



**Palo Verde District -  
Vice Mayor Ron Aames**

Communicating with citizens is one of the most important things a city does. Hearing from Palo Verde residents, as well as sharing important news and information, is my highest priority.

E-News about the Palo Verde District is available via your email. Those of you who reside in the original part of the Palo Verde District, who haven't already signed up, are encouraged to sign up now, as are the residents in the new part of the district. You are in the new part if you 1) live south of Tierra Buena to Cactus Road between the New River trail and the Peoria city border at 67th Avenue, 2) reside between Cactus Road and Peoria Avenue along the city's east border at 67th Avenue, or 3) are a resident of Casa del Sol East, Fairwood, or Townsend Square.

Just let me know if you would like to subscribe to Palo Verde E-News, and I'll take care of the rest. Your email information will not be shared with any outside source; you will only receive information from the City of Peoria. E-mail me at [ron.aames@peoriaaz.gov](mailto:ron.aames@peoriaaz.gov), and make the subject line, "Subscribe Palo Verde News." Or feel free to contact us by phone at (623) 773-7306.

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PEORIA NOW is a publication of the  
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Ph: 623-773-7000

## stay connected



**CHANNEL 11 e-NEWS** [www.peoriaaz.gov](http://www.peoriaaz.gov)

Due to the nature of printing and mailing, some content may be dated. For the latest news, visit one of these sources.



**Acacia District –  
Councilmember Tony Rivero**

In the next couple of months the City Council will be discussing and approving the budget. I encourage residents of the Acacia District and the City of Peoria to attend and participate in the discussions. We are not out of the woods in regards to the economic downturn, therefore it is important for the City Council to be fiscally responsible. The budget is one of my top priorities and I welcome citizen participation. In addition, I will continue to hold town hall meetings throughout the Acacia District. I will be posting dates and locations on my city website. These meetings are a great opportunity to meet your neighbors, learn about city services, and ask questions. Lastly, I would like to thank the residents who attended the first Spring Fling at Varney Park on March 8th. The event was a success as many in the community participated. Also, a special thanks to the Peoria High School JAG students who volunteered and assisted with the event.

To sign up for Acacia District email alerts, visit [www.peoriaaz.gov/acacia](http://www.peoriaaz.gov/acacia) or email me at [tony.rivero@peoriaaz.gov](mailto:tony.rivero@peoriaaz.gov).



**Ironwood District –  
Councilmember Dave Pearson**

Temperatures are on the rise and so is your electricity bill. You're looking to save money... any way you can. How about lowering your sewer bill? Not possible you say. Maybe, you can. If you have a lawn, lots of trees and shrubs, a swimming pool or other "outside" water uses you may be in line for a savings. Apply online ([www.peoriaaz.gov/ironwood](http://www.peoriaaz.gov/ironwood)). Click on the "Request for Sewer Appeal" link.

The city's Primary Election is August 28. Make sure you are registered to vote. You may vote by mail or in person. There will be several important City Charter Amendments on the ballot as well as council elections in three districts (Mesquite, Willow, and Ironwood). For voter information go to the Peoria City Clerk's Elections web page.

Looking for more about Peoria? Go to [www.peoriaaz.gov/ironwood](http://www.peoriaaz.gov/ironwood) to read my columns.



**Mesquite District -  
Councilmember Cathy Carlat**

Faster than we are usually ready for it, the heat of summer in Arizona is upon us. Just as quickly, most of us begin looking for ways to take a cool break.

Covering 10,000 acres of land, the Lake Pleasant Regional Park, located in Northern Peoria, offers a variety of amenities. From boating, water skiing, tubing, swimming, fishing, hiking, camping, and even star gazing events; our desert jewel is sure to satisfy the entire family.

The southeastern shore Pleasant Harbor Marina and the western end Scorpion Bay Marina are both fully equipped to supply many of your outdoor adventure and dining needs.

The Waterfront Grille and Dillon's Restaurant both offer unique lakeside dining experiences where you can escape the heat with live entertainment, cool drinks, and delicious food. Both marinas also offer a general store, where you can purchase all of your boating and fishing needs, swimwear, and boat rentals.

In addition to the many water activities, the Lake Pleasant Regional Park has 4 miles of pedestrian trails, and 148 sites for RV and tent camping. Pack up the entire family for a scenic picnic or an exciting overnight adventure. With a wide array of home-town activities, your visit to the Lake Pleasant Park will be filled with shared memories that will bring you back again and again.

For additional information about the Lake Pleasant Regional Park amenities, contact (602) 372-7460 or visit [www.maricopa.gov](http://www.maricopa.gov).



**Pine District -  
Councilmember Carlo Leone**

Did you know that weeds in excess of 6 inches are one of the most common code violations? Avoid the hassles of a citation, and keep your homes and neighborhoods beautiful. The City of Peoria has a tool lending program that assists homeowners, renters, and neighborhood groups with their yard clean-up projects or landscaping needs. The Tool Lending Center has a selection of

tools and equipment available to borrow for FREE! For a complete list of available tools and equipment, call (623) 773-7667 or visit [www.peoriaaz.gov/newsecondary.aspx?id=55289](http://www.peoriaaz.gov/newsecondary.aspx?id=55289).

In addition, the City of Peoria offers a Neighborhood Grants Program. This program is aimed at preventing the decline of neighborhoods throughout the City. The program is open to traditional neighborhood associations registered with the City, and formal neighborhood associations (HOA's). The City is anticipating that the application period will open in June, 2012, check the website for updates. For more information about either program, call the Neighborhood and Revitalization Section at (623) 773-7667.

Don't forget to sign-up for your Pine District newsletter by sending an email to [pine@peoriaaz.gov](mailto:pine@peoriaaz.gov) and we will take care of the rest.



**Willow District -  
Councilmember Joan Evans**

As Peoria prepares for the future, it is vital that all assets are managed and evaluated to yield the highest return. While open space, economic development, arts and recreation are important; one of the most important assets of a community, is its youth.

Because of this, the City of Peoria is finalizing a Youth Master Plan. This plan, which is still in the development stage, will focus on safety, civic engagement, educational and lifetime preparation, and out of school time enrichment availability.

It will stress, through public, private, and community partnerships, the establishment of a vision to help prepare our valuable assets for their future. Authentic youth civic engagement comes by involving them in the plans. Therefore, we will strive to involve youth in the process at all levels.

If you have an interest of becoming a sponsor or participant of this plan, contact the Community Services Department at (623) 773-7137.

Also, don't forget to register for the Willow District electronic updates. Emailed news will include information about upcoming activities, closures, and important happenings in your community.

Visit [www.peoriaaz.gov/willow](http://www.peoriaaz.gov/willow) or email [willow@peoriaaz.gov](mailto:willow@peoriaaz.gov) to register.

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**ALL-AMERICAN**  
*Festival*  
**PEORIA, ARIZONA**  
**July 4th, 2012**  
**PEORIA SPORTS COMPLEX**  
16101 N. 83RD AVENUE - PEORIA, ARIZONA

**GATES OPEN AT 5:00PM**  
**FIREWORKS 9:15PM (APPROX)**  
**FREE PARKING**  
**\$5 PER PERSON ★ KIDS 12 & UNDER FREE**



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