

# PEORIA

# NOW

July 2013

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

Staff Seeks Input on New Park

Window Opens for Neighborhood Grant Applications

Street Improvements Continue in Westbrook Village

Peoria's Bond Ratings Affirmed

Library A Cool Escape from Summer Heat

Business Receives \$250,000 Innovation Challenge Grant

To read the full articles, visit:  
[www.peoriaaz.gov/news](http://www.peoriaaz.gov/news)



**Residents Feel Safe in Their Neighborhoods**

# 94%

**SATISFACTION**

Read all about it at  
[www.peoriaaz.gov/citizensurvey](http://www.peoriaaz.gov/citizensurvey)

PEORIA NOW is a publication of the City of Peoria, Office of Communications



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Peoria, Arizona 85345  
623.773.7000

## Keeping Citizens Safe



A vital part of every community is the safety of its streets and neighborhoods; and you may have seen in the local news lately that the economy is slowly recovering. Builders are starting to pull more permits in cities throughout the Phoenix Metro area and developers are starting to purchase land once again.

In Peoria, we are seeing the same trends. Though building never came to a complete halt here, it certainly slowed to a near crawl there for a couple of years. And a City that relied heavily on residential growth for our budget projections had to quickly reevaluate those budget numbers and make adjustments.

As a City, we have done a great job of weathering the economic downturn, while many local governments have not. We have done so without cutting the core services that our residents rely on. We have managed to keep taxes and fees low; and continue to work to provide the businesses and citizens of Peoria with the best city government we can.

Additionally, we learned some lessons throughout the past five years, and we are putting those lessons to work for us now. In the last couple of years, our Economic Development Department has worked hard to recruit businesses to the City of Peoria. The Council set a priority of bringing high-paying jobs to the citizens, and I am proud to say that we have delivered.

Later this year, Maxwell Technologies, with headquarters in California, will open their recently located ultracapacitor manufacturing in Peoria. This summer, Trine University opens their Peoria branch and is offering a variety of degree programs to residents of Peoria and the entire Phoenix Metro area.

As a City, I am proud of what we have accomplished in the last five years and I know that Peoria will continue to thrive in the years to come.

As always, if you have questions, comments, or concerns, contact my office at **623-773-7368**.

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

## City Council Roundup



### Acacia District – Vice Mayor Tony Rivero

The City of Peoria recently celebrated a successful Cinco de Mayo celebration on May 4. Our community, non-profits and local schools came together to celebrate our diversity. Cinco de Mayo was an opportunity for our local schools to raise money for their academic programs and reach out to parents and students.

In addition to celebrating Cinco de Mayo, the Mayor and Council has worked very hard to finalize the FY14 budget. I am proud to say that the City of Peoria did not raise utility rates, property and sales tax while sustaining and improving customer service provided to our residents.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate the Class of 2013 at Peoria High School and other Peoria Schools and I wish them a safe and productive summer.

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**.



### Ironwood District – Councilmember Bill Patena

It is hard to believe that nearly half a year has passed since I was elected as the Ironwood District Representative. The time truly has flown and it is amazing how quickly the days have passed. Nevertheless, I have spent the last several months touring the district boundaries and evaluating the needs of our communities.

Our district is unique, in that we are significantly built out and many established communities are starting to show the indications of age. While this is a natural part of a well lived community, some areas are in need of a little neighborhood revitalization, to help preserve the integrity of the area, while increasing the livability and safety.

The City of Peoria has a variety of programs created to help with this initiative, which includes the emergency home repair, tool lending program, and among others, our neighborhood pride program. For further information about these programs or to learn how you can help revitalize your community or home, please contact **623-773-7250**.

# stayCONNECTED

CHANNEL II 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.



### Mesquite District - Councilmember Cathy Carlat

The City of Peoria's Communications Department has just concluded the 2013 citizen satisfaction survey. The survey polled 1,200 randomly-selected Peoria residents with overwhelmingly positive results.

It is exciting to see that 93% of residents rated the overall quality of life in Peoria as either "excellent" or "good." Additionally, of the 34 services for which comparisons were available, 28 rated above the national benchmark. On average, residents gave favorable ratings for almost all of Peoria's services and agreed with the overall direction the City is taking, which is much higher than comparable cities.

The data collected from this survey is crucial, as it is used as an evaluation tool for current City processes and as a guide as we move forward. Comparing the 2009 survey to the 2013 survey, ratings increased for almost every category, showing that the valuable feedback we receive from residents is successfully integrated into the organization. To read the full results, visit [www.peoriaaz.gov/citizensurvey](http://www.peoriaaz.gov/citizensurvey).

To keep updated about what is happening in your city, register for the Mesquite District electronic news alerts by visiting [www.peoriaaz.gov/mesquite](http://www.peoriaaz.gov/mesquite). Contact Councilmember Cathy Carlat at [Mesquite@peoriaaz.gov](mailto:Mesquite@peoriaaz.gov) or by calling 623-773-7306.



### Palo Verde District - Councilmember Ron Aames

Peoria is looking at a self-certification program that will allow the building permitting process to be completed in 24-hours. Architects and engineers become certified through a city course covering all code and building requirements. The plans they submit and sign off on under the program

are then processed by the city in a day or less. Safety is insured through reviews in the field during the building process, with developers and contractors subject to penalties if there are errors in the plans.

The program is intended to reduce the need to hire a large city permitting staff during building booms, which in the past then needed to be reduced during busts, and to attract developers and businesses to Peoria, as the waiting time to obtain a permit is reduced greatly, often by many months.

So, while maintaining Peoria's high building safety standards, this public-private partnership for obtaining building permits is expected to:

- Improve Peoria's competitiveness in attracting businesses and
- Lower costs for taxpayers.

Great neighborhoods are the byproduct of residents who care. Let's talk about how we can help your neighborhood. E-mail me at [Ron.Aames@peoriaaz.gov](mailto:Ron.Aames@peoriaaz.gov), or feel free to contact my office by phone at 623-773-7306.



### Pine District - Councilmember Carlo Leone

The heat is on! Arizona heat can be deadly if you are not prepared. You can avoid heat-related illnesses such as heat stroke and heat exhaustion by doing the following; stay hydrated by increasing your fluid intake, even if you are not thirsty; limit outside activity during 11am to 3pm; when engaging in outside activity be sure to rest frequently in the shade to allow your body to cool down; wear hats, sunglasses and sunscreen. Remember to never leave children or pets unattended in a vehicle, and don't forget to check on your elderly neighbors.

Some signs of heat stroke are extremely high body temperature, rapid strong pulse, throbbing headache, dizziness, nausea, and confusion.

Heat-related illness can be deadly, so if you or someone you know are experiencing these types of symptoms, seek immediate medical assistance. For more information about heat-related illnesses, please call 602-506-4926 or visit [www.maricopa.gov/publichealth/Programs/Heat/default.aspx](http://www.maricopa.gov/publichealth/Programs/Heat/default.aspx).

Cool down in one of our Peoria pools. For a complete list of open swim hours, locations, and fees, please call 623-773-7137 or visit [www.peoriaaz.gov/aquatics](http://www.peoriaaz.gov/aquatics).

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 Jon Edwards

Peoria could decide in June to become the first Arizona community to appoint youth to a seated position with the city council. The purpose of this participation is to actively include youth in city council discussions. Young Peorians have asked to be civically engaged, and we are providing a place to grow that interest.

Beginning with the start of the school year, members of the Peoria Youth Advisory Board will apply for the position as the council youth liaison. The youth liaison will receive council agendas in advance of meetings with the opportunity to ask questions prior to City Council meetings. The non-voting youth liaison may provide perspective on any agenda items. They will then report back to the Youth Advisory Board regarding key issues occurring in Peoria.

Peoria kids are an amazing bunch, and it's time that we take them up on their interest in our community. For more information on the Peoria Youth Advisory Board, go to [www.peoriaaz.gov/teenteam](http://www.peoriaaz.gov/teenteam) or contact Community Service Director, John Sefton at 623-773-7137.



# AM PM BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE

- Dates:** August 7 - May 22  
**Time:** 6 a.m. until school opens  
 school dismissal to 6 p.m.  
**Ages:** Kindergarten – 14 years old  
**Locations:** Programs located in all PUSD elementary schools within the city limits  
**Fees:** AM: \$6 a day  
 PM: \$9 a day  
 AM/PM: \$14 a day or \$56 per week



*Also, camps are offered during Fall, Winter and Spring Breaks, and on Early Release days upon school dismissal. Every site is licensed by the Department of Health Services. DES and Military funding available for those that qualify.*



**City of Peoria**  
COMMUNITY SERVICES

Registration packets are available online  
[www.peoriaaz.gov/ampm](http://www.peoriaaz.gov/ampm)

For more information,  
call 623-773-7137