

PEORIA

NOW

July 2014

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

www.peoriaaz.gov/news

in the news

Grants Now Available to Help Revitalize Neighborhoods

Questions about New River Utility Company

Teens Helping Teens Through Acts of Kindness

Revitalizing A Neighborhood At No Charge

To read the full articles, visit:
www.peoriaaz.gov/news



Though Peoria was incorporated as a city on June 7, 1954, the area was settled by farmers from Peoria, Illinois in 1886. Learn more about Peoria's history at peoriaaz.gov/history.

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



8401 West Monroe Street
Peoria, Arizona 85345
623.773.7000

Keeping Citizens Safe

I hope by now you have had a chance to visit Pioneer Community Park at 83rd Avenue and Olive. Officially opened at the end of September, it has already hosted a number of events. If you haven't been able to attend an event, perhaps you've had a chance to participate in a baseball or softball game, or rent out a ramada for one of your own parties. As the weather warms up, the Splash Ground is a great place to take the kids to cool off and burn some of that summer energy.

Throughout the recession, the Peoria City Council made it a priority to not cut City services for our residents. While some Valley cities were closing pools and cutting library hours, we worked to make sure you had a place to go for entertainment at a reasonable cost. Unfortunately, we also had to delay some of the projects that were scheduled to begin during the difficult economic times.

Today I am happy to say that we are scheduled to begin the design report for Community Park #3 in northern Peoria in FY 2015, with construction taking place in FY 2017 and 2018. The unique site identified for this park will dictate the specific amenities, but typical community parks may include lighted sports fields, playgrounds, trails, and ramadas.

I look forward to watching Peoria continue to grow and thrive through the coming years.

If you have questions about these or any other city matters, please contact my office at 623-773-7368.

Mayor Bob Barrett
Bob.Barrett@peoriaaz.gov

City Council Roundup

Palo Verde District - Vice Mayor Ron Aames

The Vineyards, Ridgemere, Bristol Manor, Windmill, Tierra Norte, Foxwood, Discovery at the Orchard, and many other subdivisions share something in common – nice, new neighborhood entry signs. As an avid supporter of proud neighborhoods, I have worked with dozens of neighborhoods to bring significant presence and pride with the addition of neighborhood signage. Neighborhoods like Foxfire, Cactus Heights, Peppermill Run, Cobblestone and Sweetwater Place now have updated perimeter walls with a fresh coat of matching paint on major street-facing walls. When residents take pride in their neighborhood, Peoria is a better city.

Peoria offers exceptional outreach through the Neighborhood Grant program and the Graffiti Hotline. The grant program assists neighborhoods, as active partners, with up to \$12,000 for projects that improve livability for residents. Grant applications are accepted two times each year, in the summer and in the fall. We have worked hard to make sure that the process isn't overwhelming and is accessible to any neighborhood with interest in making improvements.

Graffiti left unattended is not acceptable. We have staff that is dedicated to covering graffiti on public property, and in most cases we can have the graffiti taken care of within a day or two. Graffiti should be reported to the hotline (623-773-7094) seven days a week, 24 hours a day. Be a partner with me, and with greater Peoria community – report graffiti when you see it.

For more information on these and other neighborhood improvement opportunities, contact Councilmember Ron Aames at 623-773-7306 or ron.aames@peoriaaz.gov.

Acacia District – Councilmember Tony Rivero

The City of Peoria celebrated another successful 4th of July. Once again, our community came together to celebrate Independence Day! I would like to take the time to thank our events staff for organizing one of the most successful and well attended events in the valley. I would also like to thank our City Council for their bold leadership and for reducing the food tax citywide. The City Council worked hard on this issue and a majority of us agreed that you deserved a break. Lastly, I would like to wish the best of luck to the teachers at Peoria High School and the class of 2015 in the upcoming school year.

Ironwood District –

stayCONNECTED



CHANNEL II e-NEWS 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.

Councilmember Bill Patena

Throughout my career, I have had the honor of working with individuals in need and have found myself drawn to human services fields. Considering these services are near and dear to my heart, I am beyond elated to share the news of Benevilla's newest location at the Peoria Main Library.

Benevilla is a nonprofit organization that specializes in providing extensive support for older generations, individuals with intellectual disabilities, children, and even the families who care for these individuals. With a complete facility in Surprise, the Peoria office location will provide a local connection for all Peoria residents. This office will be utilized for attracting and training new volunteers, providing parenting classes, and of course, helping residents gain access to the variety of health and human services available. These services include programs such as the Meals on Wheels, Friendly Visitors, and even transportation.

If you aren't already familiar with the incredible impact that Benevilla has on communities, including their range of services, I urge you to visit their website at www.Benevilla.org; or, even better, stop by the Peoria Main Library to visit with our newest community representative.

Benevilla is founded upon the principal of Cultivating Caring Communities and I am certain that their newest Peoria location will bring this mission one step closer to each of us. For additional information, please contact Benevilla at **623-584-4999**.

Mesquite District - Councilmember Ben Toma

As some may know, I was recently appointed by the Peoria City Council to fill the Mesquite District Council seat vacancy, created by Mrs. Cathy Carlat. I am both honored and excited to have this opportunity to serve our great community and I look forward to working with residents throughout the Mesquite District.

Living in the Westview Community, I have seen development flourish over the last several years. As residential and commercial development projects continue to advance, I hope to apply my strong family values and extensive business experience, in both finance and real estate, to ensure smart growth continues. In doing so, I believe Peoria will see economic growth that fosters and encourages strong community values; while ensuring that families, public safety, and education remain key priorities.

I believe that northern Peoria is full of opportunity and I am excited to work with residents on their needs and interests. Please feel free to email me at Mesquite@peoriaaz.gov or call me at **623-773-7306** with any needs or concerns.

Pine District - Councilmember Carlo Leone

With summer upon us, pool season has officially started. I would like to take a moment to remind everyone of the importance of water safety. We are constantly reading in the paper about people of all ages being injured or drowning in pools and lakes. Please take extra care around water and never leave children unattended, not even for a moment.

I hope you take advantage of our three public pools located at Centennial, Peoria and Sunrise High Schools. Admission is \$1 for youth and \$2 for adults 17 and older or passes can be purchased for \$25 for an individual and \$75 for a family. The city offers several free open swim days throughout the summer. In addition, there are still free swim lessons and \$5 swim lessons available, thanks to Peoria Fire Charities and SRP sponsorships. For more information, visit www.peoriaaz.gov/recreation.

Don't forget to sign-up for your Pine District email updates on community activities and the Pine District newsletter by sending an email to pine@peoriaaz.gov and we will take care of the rest.

Willow District - Councilmember Jon Edwards

Work on the Skunk Creek Trailhead is progressing quickly. In cooperation with the Flood Control District of Maricopa County, the Peoria project will create a large parking lot with pull-through spaces large enough to accommodate vehicles with horse trailers. Included in the project will be an overlook to the federally protected wetlands habitat in the riverbed which is immediately adjacent to the new trailhead. Safety fencing will be in place when the trailhead opens to the public, and new safety rail will be constructed on the existing trail between 75th and 83rd avenues. A covered ramada with a drinking fountain will be welcomed by trail users who begin their trek at the Skunk Creek Trailhead, as well as users who start elsewhere on the Sun Circle Trail.

The Sun Circle Trail, which is a smaller interior loop of 376 mile-Maricopa Trail, incorporates the Valley's canal and waterway trails. The Sun Circle Trail is one of the jewels of the Valley. With the addition of Peoria's Skunk Creek Trailhead, there will be seven trailheads eastward toward the Maricopa Country boundary near Usery Pass.

Citizens have made it very clear to me that trails and parks are important. I'm thrilled that by the time temperatures are below triple digits again in the fall, we will have a terrific new amenity for cyclists, walkers, joggers, and equestrian enthusiasts. Once again, Peoria sets the bar high for excellence!

ELECTION INFORMATION

The primary election will take place on Tuesday, Aug. 26 for the offices of Mayor and Council members in the Acacia, Mesquite, Palo Verde, and Pine Districts. The candidates can be elected if they receive more than 50 percent of the vote. If a run-off is necessary, the City General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 4.

For more information go to www.peoriaaz.gov/Elections.



AM PM BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE

- Dates:** August 6 - May 21
- 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 Peoria city limits
- Fees:** AM: \$6 a day
PM: \$9 a day
AM/PM: \$14 a day or \$56 per week



We offer Break Camps during September Break, Columbus Day Break, Winter Break, January Break, February Break, Spring Break and Testing Break as well as 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

For more information,
call **623-773-7137**