

PEORIA NOW

OCTOBER 2016

www.peoriaaz.gov/news



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

Water Photo Contest



Calling all photographers! Use your imagination and snap a photo of yourself or someone else interacting with water in Peoria. Take a picture of thunderstorms rolling in, biking in the rain, jogging along a river or canal, playing in a splash pad, swimming in Lake Pleasant, *it's up to you!*

The winning photograph will be featured on the cover of the 2017 Sustain and Gain annual publication, which is sent to more than 66,000 Peoria households.

Runner-up photos will be featured on the Sustain and Gain Facebook page and on the Peoria Environmental Resources website. **The submission deadline is Nov. 4, 2016.** For more information, visit www.peoriaaz.gov/photocontest or call **623.773.7993**.

Defining Peoria's Future



Arizona Forward recently hosted the 36th Annual Environmental Excellence Awards and the City of Peoria had a night in the spotlight! We were honored to be recognized, taking home three esteemed Crescordia awards. While this is significant in itself, I was especially proud that we were also acknowledged for a fourth program, one that is particularly meaningful to me: our Sonoran Preservation Program.

Adopted in 2015, Peoria's Sonoran Preservation Program is an all-inclusive roadmap to identify, prioritize, and assemble our most cherished landforms and cultural assets for preservation. In Arizona, it is not an option to simply conserve or preserve land for the greater good. Even state land must be purchased by the highest bidder. Budget limitations and development pressures add to the challenges of protecting Peoria's pristine desert for its citizens.

Looking at Camelback Mountain, including the Echo Canyon Hiking and Recreation Area, Piastewa Peak Summit Trail and McDowell Mountain Regional Park, it's easy to see the protection of these areas has improved the quality of life for the residents who enjoy them, enhanced property values and helped to brand these cities as world-class destinations. If not for the efforts of forward-thinking leaders and civic-minded citizen groups such as the Preservation of Camelback Mountain Foundation, which was established over 50 years ago, the unimaginable would have happened and these pristine areas would not exist today.

Peoria's untouched desert is rich with history and just as revered as these iconic areas. As new growth ramps up in the second half of our city, we must not ignore the chance to actively manage how and where that growth will happen. We have one chance to do it right. It would be an incredible injustice to future generations if we fail to protect these lands.

Fortunately, with the Sonoran Preservation Program as a guide, the recommendations from the Quality of Life Citizens Committee and a chance for the voters to make their voices heard on the ballot this November, we are on the right track.

– Mayor Cathy Carlat

Upcoming Events

Saturday, Oct. 29 – Halloween Monster Bash – Peoria Sports Complex

Saturday, Nov. 5 – World BBQ Festival – Peoria Centennial Plaza

Friday, Nov. 18 and Saturday, Nov. 19 – Bluegrass Festival – Osuna Park

Friday, Dec. 2 – Old Town Holiday Festival – Old Town Peoria

PEORIA NOW

NOVEMBER 2016

COMING SOON

Trash/Recycling Pickup Holiday Schedule

Trash and recycling pickup will change due to the Veterans Day holiday.

Veterans Day (November 11)

Friday, Nov. 11 moves to Saturday, Nov. 12.

For the full 2016 trash/recycle pickup schedule, call 623-773-7160 or visit peoriaaz.gov/solidwaste.

General Election

Last Day to Register to Vote:

Oct. 10, 2016

First Day to Cast an Early Ballot:

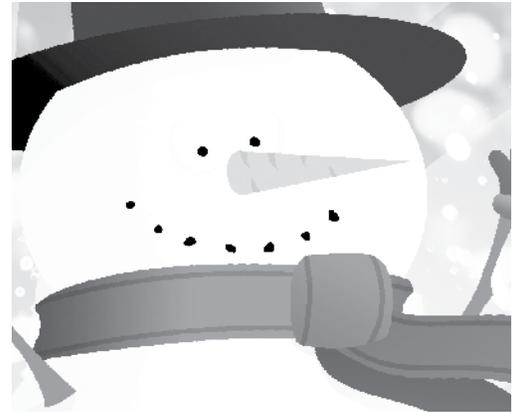
Oct. 12, 2016

Election Day: **Nov. 8, 2016**

Learn more about Prop. 400 at www.peoriaaz.gov/knowthefacts. Polling places can be found at www.recorder.maricopa.gov/pollingplace.

Celebrate the Holidays in Peoria

Join the annual tradition and celebrate the holidays at the Peoria Old Town Holiday Festival. This year's holiday festivities will be held 5 to 9 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 2 in Old Town Peoria, at Peoria and Grand Avenues. The heart of the festival is held in Osuna Park, but extends several blocks through Old Town. Attendees can stroll through the historic streets and enjoy all the event features, including a high school choral contest hosted by Theater Works, live entertainment in Osuna Park and the Peoria Community Center, and free historic museum tours from the Peoria Historical Society.



In addition to the entertainment, festival goers will get to see Santa and enjoy the inflatables, real snow, cookie decorating, hay rides, kids crafts, the shoppers circle, and a variety of food and beverages for sale. Parking and admission is free, but some activities have a nominal fee or require a wristband purchase.

Limited parking is available at the Peoria Community Center, accessed from Monroe Street or 84th Avenue. Additional parking is available at the municipal parking garages surrounding the event. For more information, call **623-773-7137** or visit www.peoriaaz.gov/specialevents.

Veterans Day Fun Run

The Peoria Veterans Memorial Board presents the Veterans Day Fun Run for families, adults and children on Sunday, Nov. 5, at Rio Vista Community Park, located at 8866 W. Thunderbird Rd. The fun run is \$15 with day-of-run check in at 7 a.m. and breakfast provided while supplies last. The run begins at 7:30 a.m. Also, there will be a ceremony to acknowledge the completion of the Veterans Memorial Wall at Rio Vista Community Park. The wall honors those who have or are serving our country. For more information about the 88-foot long, black granite wall, visit www.peoriaaz.gov/memorialwall. The proceeds from the run will support the Veterans Memorial Board projects. To register, call **623-773-7137** or visit www.peoriaaz.gov/specialevents.



- Pour cold fats, oils and grease into a covered, disposable container and throw it into the trash. **Do not pour them down sink drains or toilets.**
- Soak up spilled oils and grease with an absorbent material – such as paper towels or kitty litter – and throw into trash.
- Before washing dishes, scrape food scraps, fats, oils and grease into trash.
- Use sink strainers to catch any remaining food waste while washing dishes, then discard into trash.

For more information, call **623.773.7286** or visit www.peoriaaz.gov/utilities