



# Tempe Today

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a community newsletter

volume 29 ~ Issue 1

[www.tempe.gov/newsroom](http://www.tempe.gov/newsroom)

January 2013

## 2013 Regional Unity Walk

Get your walking shoes ready in celebration of cultural diversity at the Regional Unity Walk and Diversity Festival on Saturday, Feb. 2. Join several Valley cities as they "Walk for Unity in Our Community." The walk and festival are free. Registration is not required.

Families, community organizations, scout groups, school clubs and church groups are encouraged to participate. Walkers should arrive at their assembly points by 10 a.m. The walk begins at 10:30 a.m. Participants from Chandler, Gilbert, Phoenix and Scottsdale will meet at the Town Lake Marina; those from Tempe, Guadalupe, and Mesa will meet at the Tempe Beach Park amphitheater.

Both walking routes are approximately one mile, and will end at Tempe Beach Park. Walkers are encouraged to carry flags, signs or banners announcing their group's identity and promoting diversity. Each walker will receive a free T-shirt corresponding to their city.

The free festival, which will begin as walkers arrive and last until noon, will feature a welcome by dignitaries, entertainment, jump houses for the kids and food. Transportation will be provided to bring walkers back to their assembly points. For more information, call 480-350-8979.

Visit [www.tempe.gov/diversity](http://www.tempe.gov/diversity) for a map to the assembly points.

## Spring training in Tempe – what could be better?

Are you ready to take off that sweater and put on a baseball cap? It's almost time for Cactus League Spring Training! Hear the crack of a bat and smell the fresh-cut grass while watching America's favorite pastime as the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim return to their spring home in Tempe.



The Angels will host the Chicago Cubs at Diablo Stadium for their spring training home opener on Saturday, Feb. 23. The season will run through March 27 at Diablo Stadium, when the Angels will take on the Texas Rangers.

Tickets are sold at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or you can purchase them at the Diablo box office beginning Feb. 9.

Tempe Diablo Stadium is located at 2200 W. Alameda Drive. Visit [www.tempe.gov/diablo](http://www.tempe.gov/diablo) for information on games, tickets, stadium hours, directions and parking.

## Playing for keeps in Tempe

It will be an active Saturday on March 2 as hundreds of kids of all ages descend on the city's 4th Annual PlayDay. The free community event will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Kiwanis Park, Mill Avenue and All-America Way. Children and adults can participate in structured and unstructured games and activities, including kayaking on Kiwanis Lake, lawn tennis, creative art and much more. For information, visit [www.tempe.gov/familyactivities](http://www.tempe.gov/familyactivities) or call 480-350-5200.



This past summer, Tempe was one of 151 cities across the nation to be named a Playful City USA community by national non-profit organization, KaBOOM!. Tempe was given this designation for the third consecutive year because of the way it uses play and play spaces to positively impact childhood wellness, public safety and quality of life.



tempe **311**  
One Call to City Hall  
480-350-4311  
E-Mail: [Tempe311@tempe.gov](mailto:Tempe311@tempe.gov)

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## Police launch new program for community safety

Tempe Police have implemented a new program to enhance community safety. OffenderWatch can be accessed at [www.tempe.gov/police](http://www.tempe.gov/police).

Community members can view registered sex offender information, and have the option to sign up for alerts notifying if an offender moves into your neighborhood. OffenderWatch includes a mapping function, convictions, names, addresses, photos, safety tips and educational information. Key personnel from schools and parks and recreation, as well as residents in a quarter-mile radius, will receive notification from police that a sex offender has moved into the area. Level 2 and 3 sex offenders are mandated by law to register.

OffenderWatch includes a community component and a law enforcement-only component. Tempe Police work hard to ensure that offenders are in compliance with their release and registration conditions. Every moment counts during a child abduction or attempted luring, and makes this increased intelligence and technology capability especially critical. Detectives, crime analysts, communications staff and police officers patrolling streets will have real-time access to information critical in the first moments, minutes and hours of a reported child crimes incident.

Tempe Police want to emphasize that it is important to assure that individuals subject to the sex offender registration protocols are in legal compliance. It is equally important to emphasize that we as a police agency protect the rights of everyone in our community.

## Help shape the future of Tempe

Tempe residents are invited to help plan the future of our city by attending a General Plan 2040 public meeting Tuesday, Jan. 22, from 5-7 p.m. at the Tempe History Museum, 809 E. Southern Ave.

The Tempe General Plan is the overarching policy document for the City of Tempe. It holds the community's vision for the future and is an expression of how the community wants to grow and change during the next 30 years.

Arizona statutes require each city to adopt a comprehensive and long-range General Plan every 10 years to guide the physical development of the community. The plan is designed to provide us with the objectives we need to follow to become the Tempe we envision.

The General Plan update process began in September 2012 and continues through November 2013 when the proposed plan will be taken for Council approval. The Council appointed a 23-member Community Working Group that meets monthly to provide input and assist city staff with developing the goals, objectives and strategies of the plan. Tempe voters will be asked to ratify the new plan in May 2014.

For more information or to take our online survey, visit: [www.tempe.gov/gp2040](http://www.tempe.gov/gp2040). Feedback from the survey will help us create the final version of General Plan 2040.

You can contact us with questions and comments about the general plan at [GP2040@tempe.gov](mailto:GP2040@tempe.gov) or call 480-350-8073 to have a City of Tempe staff member contact you.

## Roof rat prevention is in your hands

Roof rats are back – or, more accurately, they never left. Come to a community meeting to learn how you and your neighbors can work together to prevent and control roof rats on Tuesday, Feb. 12, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., at Arizona Community Church, 9325 S. Rural Road in Building G Room 5.

Join Barry Pacey, roof rat wrangler and an activist in Phoenix's Arcadia neighborhood, to hear his experiences and suggestions regarding how to tackle existing roof rat problems as well as how to prevent them from entering your home or yard. Roof rat traps and bait will also be available for purchase.

### Signs of roof rat activity include:

- visual sightings on power lines, trees, bushes, patios and in garages, storage sheds and homes
- hollowed-out citrus or fruit
- rat droppings
- gnawing or scratching noises in attics, walls and/or around eaves of homes
- damage to plastics and coverings on electrical wires
- unsettled pets

For more information, visit [www.tempe.gov/roofrats](http://www.tempe.gov/roofrats) or contact Neighborhood Services at 480-350-8234 or [neighborhoods@tempe.gov](mailto:neighborhoods@tempe.gov).



## Teamwork for Tempe

Tempe's Adopt-A-Street, Adopt-A-Park and Adopt-A-Path programs allow individuals, businesses and organizations to help maintain Tempe's streets, multi-use paths and parks. While Tempe does its best to clean up litter, pull weeds and remove graffiti, we could use your help. You and your friends can get out there and do something good for the environment and for your community. Applications are accepted year-round. To adopt a street, path or park, call 480-350-4311 or visit [tempe.gov/adopt](http://tempe.gov/adopt) for a volunteer agreement and request form.



## Geeks Night Out

Robots! UFOs! Meteorites!  
Celebrate science and  
science fiction with Tempe

For the second year, Geek Week and Geeks' Night Out are coming to Tempe, blending science, technology and fun to celebrate the Arizona SciTech Festival. The event is a partnership among the Downtown Tempe Community, Arizona State University Venture Catalyst, ASU Walton Sustainability Solutions Initiatives, College Times and Terralever.

### Geeks' Night Out Festival: Feb. 21, 5-10 p.m.

Come to Sixth Street Park, at Mill Avenue and Sixth Street, for an evening of science, science fiction, music and pop culture. Visit with NASA, Geoff Notkin - the Science Channel's Meteorite Man, the Arizona Ghostbusters, Phoenix Comicon and Pop Culture Paradise graphic novelists from around the country. There will be crazy robots from Greathouse Labs, University of Advancing Technology and Tempe school district robotics clubs. Play video games with Evil Controllers and Game Truck Party. Tempe Elementary and Tempe Unified High School District will show golf technology, dissect gravity and more.

### Geeks' Night Out Rapid Pitch: Feb. 21, 3-5 p.m. at Terralever

Startup companies with great ideas can pitch their products to experienced mentors. Great companies could win space at ASU SkySong and guidance from experts.

### Geek Week: Feb. 15-24

Tempe Elementary and Tempe Unified High School District, Boys and Girls Clubs and Kid Zone will have special classes and activities focusing on science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Tempe businesses are encouraged to sign up to open their doors and show people how science is part of their everyday activities. More details are available at [www.tempe.gov/geeks](http://www.tempe.gov/geeks). Contact [Kris\\_baxter@tempe.gov](mailto:Kris_baxter@tempe.gov) or [Amanda\\_Nelson@tempe.gov](mailto:Amanda_Nelson@tempe.gov) to find out how to participate in Geek Week and Geeks' Night Out.

## Spring class registration begins Feb. 19

Spring into something new! The Spring 2013 Tempe Opportunities Brochure features hundreds of programs for every interest, age and ability, including health and fitness, art, dance, special interest, sports, aquatics and boating offerings. The brochure will be available online and can be found at City of Tempe facilities and Tempe Fry's Food Stores beginning Feb. 14. Registration for Tempe residents will begin Feb. 19 and Feb. 25 for non-Tempe residents. Visit [www.tempe.gov/brochure](http://www.tempe.gov/brochure) or call the Recreation Administration Office at 480-350-5200 for more information. Registration can be completed online, by fax or in person at many Tempe community centers.

## Neighborhood Day at the State Legislature

Tempe residents are invited to join the Mayor and Council at the State Capitol for Neighborhood Day at the State Legislature on Monday, Jan. 28, from 10 a.m. to noon, to meet their legislators, learn about the city's legislative program and tour the Arizona House of Representatives and State Senate. The program will start at the League of Arizona Cities and Towns, 1820 W. Washington St., Phoenix. Residents are encouraged to share the stories of their neighborhoods and find out how the legislature will impact the future of our community.

If you plan on attending, RSVP with the Neighborhood Services Division at 480-350-8234 or [neighborhoods@tempe.gov](mailto:neighborhoods@tempe.gov). Free parking is available at the League building. To take public transportation to the event, visit [www.valleymetro.org](http://www.valleymetro.org) for bus, light-rail and park-and-ride information.

## Water rate adjustments begin this month

Beginning this month, Tempe water customers will see a small increase in their water service rates – about \$2.41 more per month, from \$44.27 to \$46.68 – for a typical single-family household. The increase is part of the city's annual water rate adjustment process, designed to make sure each customer pays the appropriate share for the services they receive.

The City Council in November approved the rate adjustment, and the new rates went into effect Jan. 1. The adjustment allocates the costs of producing and delivering water among the city's various water customer categories, which include single-family and multi-family residential customers as well as commercial, industrial and landscaping customers. The rates are based on the volume of water consumed by each customer category and the cost to produce that water.

The council considered raising rates for both water and sewer services, but opted to increase only water rates, using some of the water fund balance to offset a sewer rate increase.

Tempe has performed annual cost-of-service rate studies since 2006, working with Red Oak Consulting, an industry leader in utility finances. The study uses a complex model that looks at the most current financial information to identify the amount of revenue needed to operate the city's water utility in the next fiscal year, as well as projections for the following nine years.

Tempe is transitioning from a long period of focusing on federally mandated water quality changes, specifically the Safe Drinking Water Act, to a phase of now focusing on maintaining and replacing aging infrastructure.

# Calendar

**This is the tentative January/February schedule for Tempe City Council meetings.**

## **January 10, 2013**

6 p.m., Issue Review Session  
7:30 p.m., Council Meeting

## **January 24, 2013**

6 p.m., Issue Review Session  
7:30 p.m., Council Meeting

## **January 31, 2013**

4:30 p.m., City Council  
Strategy Session

## **February 7, 2013**

6 p.m., Issue Review Session  
7:30 p.m., Council Meeting

## **February 21, 2013**

6 p.m., Issue Review Session  
7:30 p.m., Council Meeting

## **February 27, 2013**

4:30 p.m., City Council  
Strategy Session

**Meetings are aired live on Tempe 11 and the Internet at [www.tempe.gov/tempe11](http://www.tempe.gov/tempe11).**

City Council meetings are held in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 31 E. Fifth St. Agendas are posted 24 hours before each meeting outside the Council Chambers and on the second floor of City Hall. Meetings are subject to change. Confirm dates and times with the City Clerk's Office, 480-350-8241 or at [www.tempe.gov/clerk](http://www.tempe.gov/clerk).

# Tempe City Council

**Mark W. Mitchell**  
Mayor

**Onnie Shekerjian**  
Vice Mayor

**Robin Arredondo-Savage**  
Councilmember

**Shana Ellis**  
Councilmember

**Kolby Granville**  
Councilmember

**Joel Navarro**  
Councilmember

**Corey Woods**  
Councilmember

**Charlie Meyer**  
City Manager

To contact the Mayor and Council, call 480-350-8110.

Tempe Today is produced by the Communication and Media Relations Division

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# News you can use

## **Money management classes for families**

Tempe Community Council and the City of Tempe are offering free financial education classes for adults and children ages 6-17. A three-part workshop series will include sessions on budgeting, taking charge of your credit and home buying. All classes are tailored to each age group. The upcoming series will be held Feb. 19, 26 and March 5, from 5:30-7:30 p.m., in the Kyrene District Office, 8700 S. Kyrene Road, in Tempe. Dinner will be served. Register online at <http://bit.ly/TCCKyrene13> or via email at [diane\\_bennett@tempe.gov](mailto:diane_bennett@tempe.gov).

## **Tempe History Museum hosts antiques and collectibles seminars**

Hayden's Ferry Questers will sponsor its annual Antique and Collectible Seminars each Tuesday in February, in the community room of the Tempe History Museum (SW Corner of Southern and Rural) from 7-9 p.m. The dates are Feb. 5, 12, 19, and 26. Funds from the seminars are used for restoration of the Petersen House Museum in Tempe. Seminar topics include: history of the Petersen House; jadeite; lace; handbags/purses; antique appraisals; guns; dating and caring for old photographs; and the history of the Phoenix Pioneer Cemetery. Cost for all four nights is \$40 with an advance reservation or \$45 at the door. Individual sessions are \$15. Reservations can be made by calling Julie at 480-838-2414.

## **Tempe Fire offers free blood pressure checks**

Tempe Fire Department personnel are available seven days a week to take free blood pressure readings. Residents can stop by any Tempe fire station from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Residents should ring the doorbell located near the main entrance of the fire station. No appointment is necessary. There will be times when firefighters will be out of the station responding to emergency calls. If the crew is away from the station, check back at a later time or try another station.

## **Free tax preparation for income-qualified residents**

Tempe Community Council's Financial Stability Initiative offers a free tax preparation site and Earned Income Tax Credit refunds for taxpayers who qualify. This service will be available each Saturday, Feb. 2 to April 13, from 9 a.m. to noon (except March 9 and 16 for Spring Break) and Wednesdays, Jan. 30 and Feb. 6-27, from 5-7 p.m. The service is hosted by Tempe Schools Credit Union, 2800 S. Mill Ave. For free tax preparation, taxpayers must have earned \$50,270 or less in 2012. Check [bit.ly/TCCVITA](http://bit.ly/TCCVITA) for details.

## **12th Annual free prom dress boutique**

Tempe Community Council and the East Valley Women's League are proud to present The Cinderella Affair. High school juniors and seniors in need are invited to attend the boutique to shop for a free prom dress. The 12th annual Cinderella Affair Boutique will be held Friday, March 22, from 3-8 p.m., and Saturday, March 23, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Pyle Adult Recreation Center, 655 E. Southern Ave. You can donate a new or gently used prom dress or accessory to help a girl in need. Donation sites will be set up all over the Phoenix area from Feb. 1-24. Check [www.cinderellaaffair.org](http://www.cinderellaaffair.org) for a full listing.

## **Chamber presents exciting series of speakers**

The Tempe Chamber of Commerce's Women in Business Council presents its 2013 Leadership Speaker Series in January and February to guide participants in becoming positive leaders in all settings. Each session (Jan. 18, Jan. 25, Feb. 1, Feb. 8) will be 8-9:30 a.m. at the Homewood Suites by Hilton, 4750 E. Cotton Center Blvd., in Phoenix. The cost per session is \$20 for Chamber members and college students with student ID, and \$30 for the general public. Members can buy four tickets for the price of three at \$60. For more information and to register, visit [www.tempechamber.org](http://www.tempechamber.org) or call 480-967-7891.

## **Nominate someone extraordinary in your community**

Tempe Community Council and the City of Tempe are accepting nominations for the 25th Annual Tempe Mayor's Disability Awards. The Disability Awards honor those in our community who have overcome significant barriers to succeed in the workplace, as well as those employers and architects who support the full participation of people with disabilities in the workplace and all aspects of community life. Nominations are currently being accepted to honor these outstanding individuals in wide range of categories. View a full list of nomination categories and download the nomination form at [www.tempecommunitycouncil.org/mayors-disability-awards](http://www.tempecommunitycouncil.org/mayors-disability-awards). Submissions are due by 4 p.m. on Friday, March 22, to Tempe Community Council, 34 E. Seventh St., Building A, Tempe, 85281. Nominations also can be faxed to 480-858-2319 or e-mailed to [tcinformation@tempe.gov](mailto:tcinformation@tempe.gov).