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a community newsletter

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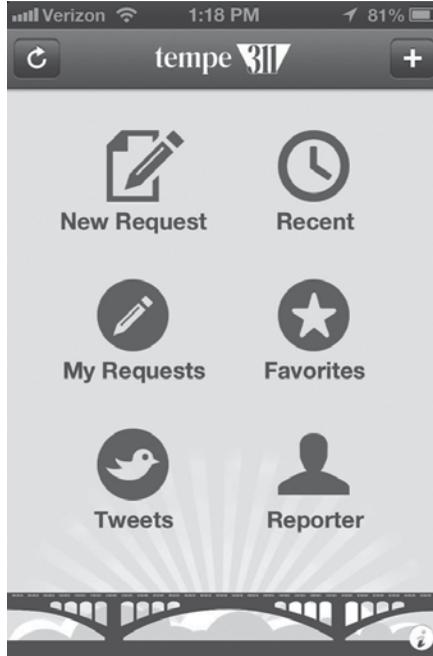
Tempe Diablos charity game Feb. 24

Nothing can beat the feeling of a nice afternoon of baseball and rooting for your favorite spring training team – nothing except the feeling of helping a great organization while cheering on those Angels!

Join the Tempe Diablos for their annual charity game at 1:05 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 24, when the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim take on the Oakland Athletics.

All proceeds from ticket sales, parking, concessions and merchandise from this annual game go directly to local charities through the Diablos. This year's game will support Rachel's Challenge, an organization that works to combat bullying in schools. Based on the life and writings of Rachel Joy Scott, a victim of the 1999 Columbine school shooting, Rachel's Challenge was created to equip and inspire students to replace violence, bullying and negativity with respect, kindness and compassion. One of the largest school-based character development programs in the nation, Rachel's Challenge was presented in 2,200 schools last year. Now the program will come to Tempe schools. For more information, visit www.tempediablos.org.

Tickets are on sale now at www.angels.com or can be purchased at the Tempe Diablo Stadium box office beginning Feb. 9. The stadium is located at 2200 W. Alameda Drive. Visit www.tempe.gov/diablo for information on games, tickets, stadium hours, directions and parking.



Tempe 311 launches free mobile phone app

With Tempe 311, help is just a smart phone away. Android and iPhone users can now download a free app that allows them to send service requests to the city's Customer Relations Center whenever they choose and from wherever they are.

Simply download the app at www.tempe.gov/311. Android users can also search for Tempe 311 in Google Play and iPhone users can find it in the App Store. The new app now fully completes the functionality of Tempe 311, which also can be accessed by calling 480-350-4311 from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays, by filling out a request form at [www.](http://www.tempe.gov/311)

www.tempe.gov/311, or by emailing tempe311@tempe.gov.

Whether you want to report a street light outage or ask about your recycling service, the City of Tempe has got you covered through the first centralized, municipal call center in Arizona. Tempe 311 provides a fast and easy way for community members to connect with their city, making life easier and providing greater value and service. Specially trained employees have access to information for any area of the city – and if they don't know the answer, they will rapidly find the people who do. The system also streamlines the process for getting requests for service to city employees in the field, making resolution of issues even faster.

It is important to note that residents should continue to reach the Tempe Police Department for emergencies. Call 911 for emergencies and 480-350-8311 for issues like minor property crimes and loud parties.

Tempe hopes other Maricopa County communities eventually will form a regional 311 network that would allow anyone in any part of the county to call 311 and get directed to the community they need.



One Call to City Hall

480-350-4311

E-Mail: Tempe311@tempe.gov



Councilmembers Joel Navarro and Kolby Granville

Tempe has great style and substance

By Councilmembers Joel Navarro and Kolby Granville

As a premier city in Arizona, Tempe has a well-earned reputation as a hub for entertainment, recreation

and amenities like Tempe Town Lake and the Tempe Center for the Arts.

But what may be lesser known is the high priority placed on the basics, too. We care about all aspects of our residents' quality of life, including the appearance of neighborhoods, the look of local strip malls and the sense of community in schools.

As co-chairs of the city's new Neighborhoods and Education Committee, we are committed to preserving residential areas, enhancing commercial centers and fostering relationships with local schools. Our committee is one of three recently established by the City Council after it agreed on 11 strategic priorities. Details are available at www.tempe.gov/councilpriorities.

Tempe's efforts in the arenas of economic development, education and service delivery would be wasted if we did not have attractive, close-knit neighborhoods where people want to live. Here are some of the ways we are working to improve life in our neighborhoods:

- **Residential upkeep** – How do we want to look as a community? How do we get there? Our housing stock is aging compared to younger Valley communities, so it takes more of a collective effort to keep neighborhoods looking their best. We are examining the creation of minimum standards to guide code enforcement activities. What's more, we are working to develop and provide free architectural blueprints to residents who want to make simple additions or changes to houses with floor plans that are common in Tempe. The idea is to encourage home improvement by saving residents design expenses.
- **Commercial property upkeep** – As a landlocked community focused on infill, we sometimes see vacant parcels that are transitioning from one use to another. We are looking to set standards for how those vacant parcels should look, particularly in high-density areas like downtown. In addition, we need incentives and greater consequences for the owners of strip malls and other businesses to maintain and improve their properties.
- **Managing negative behaviors from residents/visitors** – Single-family homes and apartments in Tempe have long been occupied by young people, including Arizona State University (ASU) students. We are partnering with ASU to mitigate negative behaviors from students living off campus, such as loud parties, illegal parking and inadequate property maintenance.

Just as neighborhoods are crucial to our community's success, the availability of quality education at all levels can make or break a community. Companies want to locate in cities where families can get great educations. We are committed to continuing the solid partnerships Tempe has with the Tempe Elementary School District, the Kyrene School District, the Tempe Union High School District, ASU, Rio Salado College, University of Phoenix and others. Students and the city benefit when we share facilities and staff expertise, and when we include schools in community events.

We encourage community involvement in the committee. Visit www.tempe.gov/clerk for committee agendas and minutes. To contact us at any time, call or email: Joel 480-350-8795 or joel_navarro@tempe.gov; Kolby 480-350-8796 or kolby_granville@tempe.gov.

Community members: what are your priorities?

The City of Tempe will hold public meetings in mid-late February to hear from residents on their priorities for capital improvement projects in the 2013-14 fiscal year and beyond. These projects range from major equipment replacements and street improvements to new facilities and building updates. They are budgeted separately from operating expenses such as salaries and office supplies. Tempe would like to review its capital improvement approach and hear from residents about what types of infrastructure improvements they think are most important. Public meeting dates will be posted to www.tempe.gov/budgetplan as soon as they are set; they also will be announced via the city's email notification system and through social media.

For updated details on the formulation of operating budgets for the 2013-14 fiscal year, as well as projected dates for City Council discussions and votes on both the operating and capital budgets, visit www.tempe.gov/budgetplan.

Save the Date

2013 Neighborhood Workshop and Awards

Saturday, April 13
starting at 7:30 a.m.

This year's workshops will include sessions on sustainability and how you can live more green!



Tempe firefighter marks 40 years of service

Gary Ells has been around firefighters his whole life. Growing up in Superior, Arizona, the town had a dedicated, small group of volunteer firefighters, and Ells watched them fight dozens of fires

even on the coldest nights. After leaving Superior in the early 1970s to attend Arizona State University, he would become one of Tempe's most respected and knowledgeable firefighters.

On Dec. 4, 1972, after briefly working at Rural Fire in Scottsdale, Ells joined the Tempe Fire Department. It was a small department then, with only about 50 firefighters.

"Tempe was the whole package," said Ells. "They had the best trucks and the best uniforms and the best people."

Since then, Ells' many positions within the department have included firefighter, engineer, captain, battalion chief and his current role as deputy fire chief. The first 20 years of his career were the hardest because of the volume of fires that were occurring. The second 20 were focused on preparing for the future. As a deputy, he spends most of his time planning for worst-case and everyday scenarios. In 2002, Ells was inducted into the Arizona Fire Service Hall of Fame in recognition of his contributions to improving fire service in Arizona.

"I've never gotten tired of riding in a fire truck," he said. "It's been an ever-evolving career and I've gotten to know some of the very best people in the field."

Ells' love of firefighting has left an impression. Two sons have joined the profession – one in Tempe and another in Peoria. Ells plans to retire in 2014 and spend time with his family, enjoying the outdoors.

The Tempe Fire Department is an "all hazards" fire department that responds to all types of incidents, including fires, automobile accidents, medical emergencies, hazardous materials responses and technical rescues. For more information about the department, visit www.tempe.gov/fire.



Maja Wessels named Tempe's 2013 Bike Hero

Join Mayor Mark Mitchell as he presents bicycle advocate Maja Wessels the 2013 Tempe Bike Hero Award at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 21, at the Tempe City Hall Council Chambers, 31 E. Fifth St.

The award recognizes individuals and organizations working to increase awareness of bicycling as a viable mode of transportation. They are nominated by community members and the annual recipient is selected by the Tempe Transportation Commission.

Wessels was nominated for her commitment and dedication to bicycling. She rides her bike every day on the 20-mile round trip to work. She believes that bike lanes make her commute much safer. Riding her bike to work is great exercise and allows for her family to own only one car.

Fare increase takes effect March 1 for transit services

The Valley Metro Board of Directors approved a fare increase that takes effect March 1 for bus, light rail and some Dial-a-Ride services. Increases in fares are necessary to preserve service with operations costs each year. The increases include \$.25 for the local bus/LINK/light rail single fare and \$.50 for the Express/RAPID single fare. Increases will also occur with reduced fares for local bus/LINK/light rail, ADA Dial-a-Ride services, the rural bus route service, and employer and school-issued passes. Details are available at www.valleymetro.org.



Who's Your Neighbor program focuses on our rich diversity

The City of Tempe hosts a quarterly lecture series called Who's Your Neighbor, to increase understanding and celebrate the diversity in our community. While we may know our own cultures and lifestyles, we may not know as much about our neighbors' traditions. Join the next presentation on the Pacific-Asian Culture with speaker Eric Tang, Chair of the 2013 Arizona Dragon Boat Festival. The program will be Wednesday, March 20, from noon to 1 p.m., in the Tempe City Council Chambers, 31 E. Fifth St. Bring your lunch and dessert is on us! For more information, call Ginny Belousek at 480-350-8979 or visit www.tempe.gov/diversity.

Calendar

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

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

March 7, 2013

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

March 20, 2013

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

March 21, 2013

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

Meetings are aired live on Tempe 11 and at 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.

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.

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News you can use

Tempe Elementary District starts rigorous middle school program

Starting next school year, the Tempe Elementary School District will launch the Tempe Academy of International Studies. It will serve about 120 sixth-grade students during the 2013-2014 school year and expand to serve seventh- and eight-graders in the years to follow. The school will be located on a portion of the McKemy campus, 2250 S. College Ave. For more information, visit www.tempeschools.org/tempeacademy.

Experience Corps looking for volunteers

In partnership with AARP, the City of Tempe offers a unique volunteer opportunity for adults 50+ to work with elementary school children. AARP Experience Corps is a nationally recognized literacy program currently running in 19 cities across the country. More than 2,000 volunteers nationwide make this program possible and create a significant impact in their communities. In Tempe, there are 57 volunteers who work in seven Tempe and Kyrene elementary schools. Volunteers work one-on-one to improve literacy among third grade students. This fall, Tempe's Experience Corps program is expanding into three new schools and is looking to add about 30 more volunteers. Volunteers do not need any special skills, just a willingness to share their experience, time and patience. Comprehensive training, support services and orientation are provided. Learn more by attending one of two information sessions: Monday, March 18, and Tuesday, April 16, at 10:30 a.m. in the Tempe Connections Café, 3500 S. Rural Rd. For more information on the program, visit www.tempe.gov/adults50plus or call 480-858-2464.

Kiwanis Club of Tempe's annual Community Easter Egg Hunt is March 30

Children 10 and under are invited to a free Easter egg hunt at 9 a.m. on Saturday, March 30, at the north soccer field of Kiwanis Park, 6111 S. All-America Way. More than 7,000 plastic Easter eggs with prizes, and stickers inside will be scattered on the field where children of two different age groups will be turned loose at the appointed times to gather up as many eggs as they can. Young children must be accompanied by parents. Children should bring their own baskets or bags to collect eggs. For more information, visit www.kcot.org or call Mike Jennings at 602-791-5322.

Spring classes begin in March

Spring into something new! The Spring 2013 Tempe Opportunities Brochure features hundreds of programs for every interest, age and ability and includes 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-residents. Visit 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. Classes begin the week of March 18.

Tempe Center for the Arts offers many upcoming events

There is a hub for art of all kinds in Tempe and it is located inside the stunning building at 700 W. Rio Salado Parkway. It's the Tempe Center for the Arts and, whether you're a regular visitor or you've never been inside, you need to check out all that is going on at this community jewel. For more information on the events below, visit www.tempe.gov/tca.

- Tempe is one of the lucky few to play host to Green Revolution, an eco-friendly, green-themed exhibition that engages visitors by addressing local environmental issues.
- On March 1, Maestro Daniel Meyer leads The Phoenix Symphony and piano great Chu-Fang Huang in Saint-Saëns' Piano Concerto No. 2. Tickets begin at \$18.
- On March 9, the Lakeshore Jazz Series presents an evening with multiple Grammy nominee Karrin Allyson. Tickets start at \$25.
- On March 30, former Phoenix Symphony resident conductor Robert Moody returns to lead The Phoenix Symphony at Tempe Center for the Arts. Tickets begin at \$18.
- On March 28, Tony Vicich brings his long-running stand-up comedy show to TCA. Tickets start at \$10.
- On March 23, the Lakeshore Jazz Series continues with the Dominick Farinacci Quartet. Tickets start at \$35.