



Tempe Today

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a community newsletter

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www.tempe.gov/newsroom

April 2013

Tempe gears up to renew free transit passes for youth

Beginning May 13, the City of Tempe will begin issuing new transit passes to current and new participants of the Tempe Youth Free Transit Pass program. The passes are valid July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014.

The program allows youth ages six to 18 who live in Tempe to ride all Valley Metro bus routes and the METRO light rail free. A parent or guardian must accompany the youth and bring the youth's birth certificate along with proof of Tempe residency when registering for the program.

On-site registration will be held at the Tempe Public Library, 3500 S. Rural Rd., on May 25 and Aug. 24 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free passes are also available at the Tempe Transit Store, 200 E. Fifth St., from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Tempe and Valley Metro offer bus service seven days a week. Most Tempe buses run Monday through Saturday until 1 a.m. and Sunday until 10 p.m., with rush hour service every 15 minutes Monday through Friday from 6-9 a.m. and 3-6 p.m. METRO runs seven days a week every 12 minutes from 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. (and every 20 minutes during all other times) from 5 a.m. to midnight (2 a.m. on weekends).

For a list of program requirements including registration forms, contact the Tempe Transit Store at 480-858-2350 or visit www.tempe.gov/tim. For transit routes and schedules, call 602-253-5000 or visit www.valleymetro.org.



Register for summer classes starting April 22

Summer is just around the corner and Tempe has all kinds of opportunities for the whole family! Choose from art, dance, special interest, sports, aquatics, health and fitness and boating programs.

The 2013 Summer Opportunities brochure will be available at www.tempe.gov/brochure beginning April 18. Copies also are available at City of Tempe facilities. Tempe residents can begin registering for summer classes and camps on April

22. Non-residents can register beginning April 29. Registration can be completed online, by fax, by mail or in person at many Tempe community centers. Classes will begin the week of June 4. For more information, call the Recreation Administration Office at 480-350-5200.



Sign up for City Council email updates

Tempe community members can now sign up for email updates from the Mayor and City Council by visiting www.tempe.gov/enews and signing up for categories of interest. Mayor Mark Mitchell and each City Councilmember have individual lists under the "News" category. In addition, each City

Council committee has a list under the "Calendar" category.

Councilmembers Robin Arredondo-Savage and Shana Ellis chair the Economic and Advanced Transportation Committee. Councilmembers Joel Navarro and Kolby Granville chair the Neighborhoods and Education Committee. Vice Mayor Onnie Shekerjian and Councilmember Corey Woods chair the Finance and Technology Committee. City staff will send occasional email notices to list subscribers about upcoming meetings and committee-related issues.

City staff also will distribute information to subscribers of the Mayor's and Councilmembers' lists about their individual activities and community outreach efforts.

Community members can adjust their subscriptions at any time. Visit www.tempe.gov/enews to get started.



One Call to City Hall

480-350-4311

E-Mail: Tempe311@tempe.gov

Sustainability isn't just a buzzword in Tempe

By Vice Mayor Onnie Shekerjian and Councilmember Corey Woods



The City Council Finance & Effective Infrastructure Committee focuses on organizational efficiency, responsible management of city-owned infrastructure and sustainability. When done right, practical sustainability is good for the environment, community and bottom line. It means making smart choices so that we conserve resources – both natural and financial.

As co-chairs of this committee, we're committed to: ensuring Tempe is financially stable in the long term; planning for effective infrastructure to support city services and future growth; making advanced technology a priority for residents and businesses; and operating efficiently, effectively and sustainably.

Here are some ways we're helping take care of people, profit and planet for a better community:

- Last year, we implemented energy audits and retrofits of city facilities, reducing electricity use by 15 percent, saving more than \$500,000 in energy costs annually and reducing greenhouse gas emissions by more than 4,200 metric tons. We continue looking for new ways to reduce our carbon footprint.
- This year, Tempe celebrates 20 years of providing curbside recycling, and we're introducing new programs to make recycling and solid waste efforts more efficient.
- We convert green waste – from parks, city facilities and neighborhoods – into nutrient-rich compost that goes back into public spaces and residents' gardens.
- Tempe's Household Products Collection Center receives more than 300,000 pounds of waste from residents each year for recycling and safe disposal – keeping it out of the landfill and groundwater.
- Tempe is investing in new technology to improve quality of life for residents and businesses, including new opportunities to provide greater bandwidth and wi-fi access at public facilities.
- Tempe 311 offers residents an enhanced customer service experience by providing a central point of contact for requesting help or information using a wide array of options, including phone, email, online reporting and our new smartphone app.
- We're developing and investing in opportunities to provide renewable energy – from harvesting the power of the sun to turning waste grease into fuel. We recently launched the Tempe Grease Cooperative to collect grease from our downtown restaurants in the first step toward transforming waste grease into renewable energy.
- We believe it's our responsibility to our community, businesses and taxpayers to strive for organizational efficiency through responsible management of city-owned infrastructure, which supports an environment for prosperity. We recently implemented a robust capital asset management program that supports a philosophy of life cycle replacement, including preventative capital maintenance to extend the life of city-owned assets and ensure an ongoing commitment to the city's infrastructure.



As we move forward, we want to hear from you. This month, we're hosting two public forums to talk about sustainability and gather ideas about what we can do to be more sustainable in the future. The forums will be held April 11 and 13, with guest speaker Nick Brown from Arizona State University's Global Institute for Sustainability. For information, visit www.tempe.gov/green or call 480-350-4311. We hope you can join us for these important discussions.

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: Onnie 480-350-8819 or onnieshekerjian@tempe.gov; Corey 480-350-8798 or corey_woods@tempe.gov.

Tempe names Greg Ruiz as Fire Chief

In March, Interim City Manager Andrew Ching appointed 24-year veteran Greg Ruiz as Tempe Fire Chief. Ruiz had been serving as Interim Fire Chief since the retirement of Mark Simmons in April 2012. With 24 years in the fire service, including 19 years in Tempe, Ruiz brings a wealth of experience to the job. He is a Tempe resident, a graduate of Tempe Leadership Class XXII and soon will be a graduate of the U.S. Fire Administration's Executive Fire Officer Program. Ruiz has a Bachelor's degree in Public Administration from Grand Canyon University and a Master's degree in Educational Leadership from Northern Arizona University.

Changes to bulk and green waste collection

Tempe is changing the way it collects bulk and green waste in order to increase efficiency and sustainability. Starting in July, the city will move from monthly collection of uncontained waste to every other month, with four collections dedicated to green waste and two collections for mixed waste (bulky items and brush).

The majority of bulk waste Tempe residents put out for collection (70 to 80 percent) is green waste – tree trimmings, yard clippings and brush. The new collection schedule is designed so that green-waste collection coincides with those months when residents tend to do the most landscape trimming and maintenance.

The amount of green and bulk waste allowed for each collection will be limited to approximately 10 cubic yards – picture a pile about 15 feet long, six feet high and three feet deep. Residents with bulk waste needs that exceed that amount will have monthly access to two transfer stations where they can bring their bulk materials as necessary, as well as other service and disposal options.

Benefits of these changes include:

- cutting annual miles driven in half – reducing fuel usage, saving fuel costs and reducing greenhouse emissions by more than 100 metric tons per year;
- eliminating need for at least six collection vehicles, resulting in savings of approximately \$1.5 million over the next few years; and
- keeping costs of providing solid waste collection services as low as possible.

Collection schedule information will be mailed to Tempe residents in May and available at www.tempe.gov/recycling.

Get engaged in 2013-14 budget efforts

The City of Tempe is in the midst of drafting operating and capital budgets for the 2013-14 fiscal year. They will not be finalized until June, but work is progressing to plan for what will be needed to fund city services and capital needs. In addition, the city is planning for the expiration of the additional sales tax approved by voters in 2010. The 2013-14 fiscal year will be the last year with the additional funding from the tax.

For updated details on the formulation of operating and capital budgets, links to the PowerPoint presentation from two February public meetings, as well as projected dates for City Council discussions and votes, visit www.tempe.gov/budgetplan.

Splash into spring at Kiwanis Wave Pool

This spring, the fun comes in waves at the Kiwanis Wave Pool, located at 6111 S. All-America Way. Admission for visitors 13 years and older is \$7 and all swimmers ages 2-12 are \$5. For hours of operation and other details, visit www.tempe.gov/waves.

Tempe Police and Fire now together on Facebook and Twitter

The Tempe Police and Fire departments have co-launched Facebook and Twitter accounts to enhance communications with and provide important information to community members.

Public safety alerts, fire safety and crime prevention tips, police officer and firefighter recruitment information, upcoming community events and breaking news are among the topics that will be posted. The goal is to make it easy for residents to stay informed about current issues affecting public safety in Tempe and provide chances to communicate directly with the Police and Fire employees who serve our community. Follow us on Twitter at @TempePoliceFire and join us on Facebook under “City of Tempe Police and Fire.”

Community members should still call 911 for emergencies and 480-350-8311 to report suspicious activity, loud parties or other non-emergency problems. For more information about the Tempe Police and Fire departments, visit www.tempe.gov/publicsafety.

Fire employee honored for 45 years of service



Guelich, left, pictured with Chief Greg Ruiz, received a Jim L. Gaintner Leadership Award in January.

For more than four decades, Fred Guelich has devoted himself to protecting and serving the community as part of the Tempe Fire Department.

He began his career as a firefighter in 1968 and later served as a Fire engineer. During that time, Guelich worked at all of Tempe's six fire

stations. In 1995, he was hired as a civilian Fire Inspector and was promoted to Senior Fire Inspector in 1997. He has been working in that capacity since.

Today, Guelich's duties include data analysis, mapping, reporting and graphing, and other technical services. Perhaps his most detailed project was a more than two-year effort to create half-mile section fire response maps of the city. The maps are now among the most comprehensive in the state, marking information like addresses, gate entries, fire sprinkler connections, hazardous materials, elevators and more.

Guelich said it is hard to separate the years as a firefighter and those as an inspector, calling them “one continuous career” over 45 years. He has no immediate plans to retire.

“Although much has changed, there is still much that has remained the same,” he said.

Calendar

This is the tentative April/May schedule for Tempe City Council meetings.

April 4, 2013

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

April 18, 2013

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

May 9, 2013

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

May 30, 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

Andrew Ching
Interim 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

Join Java with Joel

Tempe City Councilmember Joel Navarro will connect with residents during the latest in a series of Saturday morning gatherings over coffee called, "Java with Joel." Community members are invited to stop in, buy a beverage and chat with Navarro on Saturday, April 27, at Cartel Coffee Lab, 225 W. University Dr., from 9-10 a.m. The topic of the morning will be neighborhoods, so residents are encouraged to bring any related successes or concerns for discussion. For more information on Councilmember Navarro, visit www.tempe.gov/navarro. For questions on the April 27 gathering, call 480-350-8916.

Movies in the Park

Spend Friday evenings in May catching a flick at Kiwanis Park! Bring blankets and a picnic dinner to watch kid-friendly films on one of the largest inflatable screens in Arizona. Each movie begins at dusk (about 7 p.m.). The free series kicks off May 3 with "Wreck it Ralph" and ends May 31 with "Monsters, Inc." For more information, visit www.tempe.gov/movies or call 480-350-5200.

18th Annual Women in Business Conference

The Tempe Chamber of Commerce presents the 18th Annual Women in Business Conference on May 22 at the Fiesta Resort Conference Center. A trade show featuring local and national organizations and businesses provides the backdrop to a luncheon and presentations by powerful keynote speakers. The event's speakers will deliver inspirational messages that touch on the theme: "Reach, Achieve, Celebrate!" The award for Business Woman of the Year also will be presented. Learn more at www.tempechamber.org.

Arson Awareness Week begins May 5

In conjunction with Arson Awareness Week, which begins May 5, Tempe Fire urges residents to become more aware of why people – especially children – intentionally set fires. The department's Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Program is a multi-level approach to the education and treatment of juveniles involved in setting fires. The program aims to reduce the number of fires started by juveniles and to assist parents and children in understanding the dangers of playing with fire. Parents should always: keep matches and lighters out of reach of children; use child-resistant lighters; and talk to kids about the dangers of playing with matches and lighters. For information about the program, visit www.tempe.gov/fire and click on "Fire Prevention & Life Safety Tips" in the left column.

Jerry Riopelle to headline Songwriters' Showcase at TCA

Singer-songwriter-producer Jerry Riopelle will headline Songwriters' Showcase IX on Friday, May 17, at 7:30 p.m. the Tempe Center for the Arts (TCA), 700 W. Rio Salado Parkway. Riopelle, an Arizona Music and Entertainment Hall of Fame inductee, will take the stage in with three local musicians for a night of original music that is being taped for rebroadcast on Tempe 11 and KAET. For more information, visit www.tempe.gov/TCAShowcase.

Tempe Community Chorus spring show

The Tempe Community Chorus presents its "Spring Song Fun Fest" on Sunday, June 2, from 4 to 5:30 p.m., at the Tempe Center for the Arts (TCA), 700 W. Rio Salado Parkway. The concert features music for all ages – from "Bridge over Troubled Waters" to "Memories" to "Mighty Mouse" complete with kazooos. Bring the family – there's a song for everyone. Support your hometown nonprofit chorus. Tickets are \$10. For information, visit www.tempecommunitychorus.org.

Arbor Day 5K

Join Tempe for the third annual Arbor Day 5K on Friday, April 26, at 6 p.m. at Tempe Town Lake. Race proceeds benefit Trees for Tempe, a program to plant new trees and replace damaged trees in city parks and community gathering spaces. For race information or to register, visit www.arborday5k.com. For Trees for Tempe information, visit www.tempe.gov/parks.

Enroll now in Tempe Elementary School District summer school

Tempe Elementary School District is registering students for fun and educational summer classes in what is one of the least expensive programs in the Valley. The program offers a variety of classes for in- and out-of-district students going into kindergarten through ninth grade.

This year, the Summer Enrichment Program will focus on integrating Common Core Reading and Math State Standards into fun and engaging activities to prepare students for the coming year. Due to popular demand, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) classes are back, including "Li'l Engineers," "Engineering and Robotics," "Run by the Sun and more," and "T is for Toys." Many other classes involving fun, hands-on experiences will return, including sessions on bubbles, crime scene analysis, art, cooking and computers.

Classes run Monday through Thursday, from June 3 through June 27, at Rover Elementary and Fees College Preparatory Middle School. Transportation within the Tempe Elementary District boundaries is available. Registration is online at www.tempeschools.org/summerschool or in-person at the Sanchez Administration Building, 3205 S. Rural Road. For more information, call 480-730-7306.

International studies school accepting applications

Tempe Academy of International Studies is now accepting and reviewing applications. The Tempe Elementary School District will implement the renowned International Baccalaureate (IB) academic program at the school starting next school year. The school will be located on a portion of the McKemy campus, 2250 S. College Ave.

The new school will serve sixth-grade students during the 2013-2014 school year, expand to include sixth- and seventh-grade for 2014-2015, and add eighth-graders for 2015-2016. The IB program, a rigorous interdisciplinary curriculum that stresses critical and creative thinking skills with a global perspective, is active in 3,473 schools, including Tempe High School. For more information, visit www.tempeschools.org/TempeAcademy.

Emergency Medical Services Week begins May 19

Emergency Medical Services Week kicks off May 19 in Tempe. The purpose of Emergency Medical Services Week is to bring together the community and medical personnel to promote safety and acknowledge the dedication of those individuals who provide day-to-day lifesaving services. To celebrate, there will be an open house on May 18 at Fire Station 273, 5440 S. McClintock Drive from 9:30 a.m. until noon. Residents can tour the fire station, see demonstrations of medical and fire equipment, receive hands-only CPR instruction, get blood pressure checks and ask questions about the Tempe Fire Department. For more information about the open house, visit www.tempe.gov/fire.

Tempe recognized for Mental Health Court and housing program

In March, Magellan Health Services recognized the Tempe Mental Health Court and the city's Housing Services Division with Community Partnership Champion Awards for building and sustaining community partnerships.

In addition, Magellan presented two city staff members with Certificates of Appreciation: Tempe Municipal Court Presiding Judge MaryAnne Majestic "for partnering to help those with mental illness through the Tempe Mental Health Court and the Regional Homeless Courts"; and Tempe Homeless/Fair Housing Coordinator Theresa James "for partnering in establishing housing units for homeless individuals facing mental health challenges."

Magellan is a behavioral health services agency that, according to its website, serves thousands of people in Arizona with needs ranging from children's services to substance abuse treatment.

Tempe has operated a Mental Health Court since 2003. The court aims to assist defendants in getting the mental health care they need while addressing their misdemeanor violations of the law. The Mental Health Court docket is held every Tuesday, staffed by a Judge, Prosecuting Attorney, Public Defender and case managers from the various agencies that work with the mentally ill. Approximately 150 people a year have their cases processed through the Tempe Mental Health Court docket. James and the Housing Services Division were honored because they put Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing stimulus funds to use by creating 35 permanent supportive housing units for chronically homeless people who were living with serious disabilities or medical conditions. Most had serious mental illnesses.

Using the stimulus funds, the city was able to house the individuals for 18 months. Meanwhile, the city's Section 8 waitlist opened and each individual was given the option to apply for a Section 8 voucher. Today all are living in permanently affordable housing units.

Majestic also serves as Presiding Judge of the Maricopa County Regional Homeless Court, a cooperative effort to resolve misdemeanor warrants and offenses involving homeless defendants. The goal is to coordinate interventions that often help the individuals become employed and obtain housing.

Nominate someone for 2013 Don Carlos Humanitarian Awards

Tempe Community Council is now accepting nominations for the 30th annual Don Carlos Humanitarian Award. Presented annually by the Tempe Community Council Board of Directors, the Don Carlos Humanitarian Award is considered to be one of Tempe's most prestigious honors. This award is presented to a person, or couple, who has given outstanding service to our community over an extended period of time, has benefited the less fortunate in lasting ways and has made Tempe a better place to live. The nominee should be a person who is, or has been, a resident of Tempe or who works in Tempe, has served the community by volunteering to help his/her fellow citizens in some important way and has brought credit to his/her profession or organization through personal service to others. Nomination forms are available online at www.tempecommunitycouncil.org/don-carlos or by calling 480-858-2300.

Pyle Adult Recreation Center brings health resources to adults and seniors

The Pyle Adult Recreation Center, 655 E. Southern Ave., invites adults and seniors to explore and experience community resources at the free Senior Health & Wellness Expo.

From 8 a.m. to noon on Thursday, April 11, participants will have the opportunity to discover services offered by more than 50 companies while enjoying free health screenings, demonstrations, healthy resources, a light breakfast and prize drawings.

The health screenings include:

- Blood pressure checks provided by Fellowship Square
- Hearing screenings provided by Valley ENT
- Cholesterol and blood glucose screenings (must fast before) provided by Tempe St. Luke's Hospital

Mind, Body & Balance and the Arizona School of Massage Therapy will be providing free chair massages. Participants are invited to take part in a short Zumba class demonstration and observe other exercise classes. For more information, visit www.tempe.gov/adults50plus or call the Pyle Adult Recreation Center at 480-350-5211.

Tempe receives national diversity award

The City of Tempe Diversity Office received the 2013 City Cultural Diversity Award from the National League of Cities' Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials. The award was presented at the National League of Cities Congressional City Conference in Washington, D.C. on March 11. The NBC-LEO City Cultural Diversity Award honors community leadership in developing creative and effective programs designed to improve and promote cultural diversity.

Tempe received the award for its program, "Teens Conversing to Build a Better Community," which is a program that fosters community dialogues on issues of diversity while promoting civil discourse. Most importantly, the program serves as a succession plan to develop Tempe's next wave of inclusive leaders. "The best way to embrace our differences begins with conversation," said Diversity Director Rosa Inchausti. "Tempe is known for being a progressive city, not only with business, technology and regional issues, but also with diversity and inclusion. We hope these teens, who recognize the value of people and their differences, will continue to serve on Tempe's Boards, Commissions, committees and even City Council."

The City of Tempe Diversity Office was created in August 2002. Through its collaboration with the Human Relations Commission they promote inclusiveness and equity for the City of Tempe community. For more information, visit www.tempe.gov/diversity.

Tempe Poetry in April welcomes essayist

Author Jeredith Merrin joins moderator Catherine Hammond for a poetry reading and discussion at 7:30 p.m. on April 10 in the Gallery at Tempe Center for the Arts, 700 W. Rio Salado Parkway. There is no admission; light food and beverage is available for purchase.

Merrin is the author of two collections of poetry from the University of Chicago Press, SHIFT and BAT ODE. She has published a critical book on the American poets Marianne Moore and Elizabeth Bishop (An Enabling Humility, Rutgers U. Press). Her essays and reviews on Moore, Bishop, Randall Jarrell, Billy Collins, John Clare, Kenneth Koch and others have appeared in The Southern Review and elsewhere, and her poems may be found in such journals as Ploughshares, The Paris Review, Slate, The Southern Review, Virginia Quarterly Review, and The Yale Review. She recently moved to Arizona from Ohio (where she was Professor of English at the Ohio State University) and is at work on a new volume of poems.

Tempe Poetry in April celebrates National Poetry Month with a series of readings on Wednesdays in April and an online poetry chapbook that includes each poet. The intent is that the audience may explore the writers in both oral and written form. Following the reading itself, Hammond moderates an interview period. The discussion is then opened to the audience. By completing all these activities, audiences enjoy a deep, respectful exploration of the poets' work.

Remaining readings

April 17 – Karen Rigby

April 24 - Myrlin Hepworth