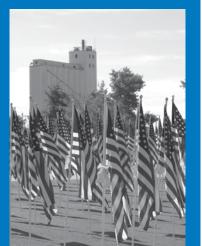
a community newsletter

volume 28 ~ Issue 8



Healing Field remembers those lost on Sept. 11

Tempe will honor the nearly 3,000 victims of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks at its ninth annual Healing Field tribute at Tempe Beach Park. The public is invited to view the display of American flags representing victims of that terrible day. A moving display of patriotism and unity, Healing Field is a free event presented by the Valley of the Sun Exchange Clubs Foundation and the City of Tempe.

It is open to the public Sunday, Sept. 9, through Tuesday, Sept. 11. On Sept. 11, there will be a 5:40 a.m. ceremony and a 7 p.m. candlelight vigil.



480-350-4311

www.tempe.gov/newsroom

August 2012



Former and current Tempe Mayors gather July 2. From left to right: Harry Mitchell, Mark Mitchell, Hugh Hallman and Neil Giuliano.



City Clerk Brigitta Kuiper administering the Oath of Office to three City Councilmembers, from left to right, Joel Navarro, Kolby Granville and Corey Woods.

Mayor Mitchell sworn in; new Vice Mayor appointed

Mayor Mark Mitchell has been sworn into office, along with three Councilmembers, and the City Council has appointed a new Vice Mayor.

The swearing-in ceremony, conducted by City Clerk Brigitta Kuiper, took place July 2. Mitchell, a 12-year veteran of the City Council, won the four-year Mayoral term during the May 15 General Election. Councilmembers Joel Navarro and Corey Woods were sworn in to their second, four-year terms – they were re-elected during the March 13 Primary Election. Councilmember Kolby Granville was sworn in to his first term on the City Council he was elected in the General Election.

Councilmember Onnie Shekerjian was appointed by her colleagues to serve a two-year term as Vice Mayor. According to Tempe's Charter, the Vice Mayor fulfills the duties of Mayor when needed. Two-term Mayor Hugh Hallman, who did not run for re-election, marked his last City Council meeting on July 2. More information about the Tempe City Council is available at www.tempe.gov/elected.



Help determine Tempe's future get involved in General Plan 2040

Would you like more open space? More bike lanes? Where should we locate high rises?

What kinds of jobs should we try to attract? Should we have more historic districts? If you have an opinion about the kind of city you would like to live in, you should get involved with Tempe's General Plan 2040.

General Plan 2040 is the community's vision for the next 30 years. This vision is created by you and your neighbors and, to ensure the plan reflects your point of view, you get to vote on it. That's state law.

The General Plan guides development, land use, sustainability, transportation, mass transit, economic development, historic preservation, neighborhood enhancement, open space and recreation, public art and cultural amenities and human services. It is referred to for zoning requests, building permits, economic development decisions, and when designing roads, parks, paths and public facilities.

Two public meetings will be held to gather ideas and opinions on Sept. 24 and Jan. 21. The time and places of these meetings will be announced soon on www.tempe.gov/ calendar. Meeting times, a draft of the plan and an online survey also will be available soon at www.tempe.gov/gp2040. For questions, contact Senior Planner Nancy Ryan at 480-350-8096.

Tempe 2012-13 budget set

The City of Tempe has set its operating and capital budgets for the 2012-13 fiscal year, which began July 1. There are two separate aspects of the budget: operating budgets like the General Fund, Transit Fund, Golf Fund and others that pay for day-to-day operations; and the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), which uses secondary property taxes to repay bonds that fund repair and construction projects.

Operating budgets

On June 14, the City Council approved operating budgets for the coming fiscal year. The total operating budget, including all funds, is \$470.9 million. Residents may note that amount is more than the \$363.3 million operating budget in 2010-11. There are a few reasons for the increase, including that Tempe is using part of its fund balance to pay off \$74 million in debt earlier than expected in order to save money in interest down the road. In addition, the city is now noting, for accuracy's sake, any grants, donations or restricted funds that it receives as part of the operating budget.

Tempe is cutting 3 percent from the General Fund budgets over the next several years in anticipation of the July 2014 expiration of the temporary two-tenths of a cent sales tax approved by voters in May 2010. For 2012-13, that 3 percent cut is \$5.2 million. It will be made through reductions in departmental budgets, with no impact to city services.

For more details on the 2012-13 budget, visit www.tempe.gov/budgetplan.

Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

The City Council voted June 28 to hold the property tax levy on existing properties steady. As a result, the City of Tempe portion of the property tax bill on a median-value home will decrease in 2013 from what it was in 2012. That's because, in 2011-12, the Maricopa County Assessor's Office valued the median Tempe single-family home at \$149,500, so the city's property tax on that home is \$267.05 at the current rate of \$1.79 per \$100 of assessed valuation.

In 2012-13, the value of the median single-family home in Tempe will drop to \$124,500. So the city's property tax on the median home next year will drop to \$266.60 now that the rate has been set at \$2.14. Residents should note that their own tax bills could increase or decrease based on the assessed values assigned to their specific properties by the Maricopa County Assessor's Office.

The action adheres to the Council policy set last year to keep the total property tax bill – also known as the property tax levy – on existing properties relatively constant from year to year. The policy mandates that the city can never increase the annual levy on existing properties by more than the Consumer Price Index rate of inflation, which is currently 2.7 percent for 2012-13. For next year, Council approved a lower-than-allowed 2 percent inflationary adjustment.

It is important to note that Tempe is changing the way it reports its CIP budget. In 2011-12, the CIP was noted as \$49.3 million; for 2012-13, it is \$124.2 million. That is not because Tempe is undertaking a variety of new projects. Rather, it reflects that the city now intends to re-appropriate each year any CIP funds that were previously approved by Council but not spent in the prior year. Tempe believes it is more transparent for those projects to come before the Council again each year.

Kick off ASU football season with discounts and a party

Did you know that Tempe residents and city employees can purchase tickets to ASU's Aug. 30 season-opener at a discount of 25 percent to 35 percent? It's called City of Tempe Night and it's a longstanding tradition aimed at encouraging the community to support its college team.

New this year, you can join fellow Tempe residents before the game in the air conditioned comfort of Old Main for Tempe Tailgate, an expo of city services and programs. Starting at 4:30 p.m., families will be able to indulge in a great tailgate meal at a reasonable price, visit with Sparky, meet City Council members and learn about city offerings. Tailgate tickets will be available at the door or via a special registration site to be announced soon at www.tempe.gov under the "Hot Topics" heading. The website will allow participants to pay for game tickets and tailgate tickets at the same time. Game tickets also can be purchased by calling 480-727-3521 – be sure to tell them you're a Tempe resident or employee to get the discounted price.

Interested in volunteering in Tempe?

Check out the "Get Involved" tab on the city's homepage at www.tempe.gov.

Tempe goes back to school

Are you an Arizona State University student wondering about traffic safety? Are you a high school junior looking for volunteer opportunities to bolster college applications? Are you the parent of an elementary school student looking for after-school homework help for your child? Tempe has all those answers and more at a dedicated webpage in honor of the annual return of school: www. tempe.gov/backtoschool. The city wants its learners of all ages to be successful, so look for more back to school outreach throughout August.

Gather your neighbors and Adopt-A-Street, Path or Park

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. And, you'll be surprised by some of the things you'll find.



Adopt-A-Street

Adopting a street includes things like pulling weeds, reporting graffiti and damaged light poles and picking up litter. The length of an adoptable street is a minimum of one mile, but no more than two miles. The commitment is a few hours each cleaning with a



minimum of one clean-up every three months for two years.





Adopt-A-Path

Adopt-A-Path volunteers help with removing litter, pulling weeds, reporting graffiti and damaged city property on the multi-use path system. It's a great way to get out and enjoy the day while helping to clean up Tempe paths. The length of an adoptable path is a



minimum of one mile, but no more than two miles. Most Tempe multi-use paths are also available for adoption. The commitment is a few hours each cleaning with a minimum of one clean-up every three months for two years.





Adopt-A-Park

Tempe's parks help increase the visual appeal of neighborhoods and provide a safe place for neighbors to gather, friends to meet and kids to play. Clean-up duties include removing trash, raking leaves, pulling weeds, fluffing playground sand, sanitizing playground



equipment and more. Applications are accepted year-round. To adopt a street, path or park, call 480-350-4311 or visit www.tempe.gov/adopt for a volunteer agreement and request form.



Sign up for classes!

Registration begins Aug. 13, Classes begin Sept. 4 www.tempe.gov/brochure

Neighbors can G.A.I.N. from connecting

Join fellow Tempe residents for some party planning at the Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods (G.A.I.N.) Kickoff Event at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 27, at the Tempe History Museum, 809 E. Southern Ave. Tempe elected officials, Neighborhood Services staff and Police employees will be on hand at the kickoff to provide party tips, handouts and helpful information. There also will be chances to win raffle prizes from event sponsors and opportunities to win party visits from areas of the city such as Fire, Recycling and Police. As the kickoff date approaches, participants can pre-register their events at www.tempe.gov/GAIN or they can do so at the kickoff.

G.A.I.N. is an annual event designed to unite neighbors and help create safer and better-connected neighborhoods. Be sure to save the date for this year's G.A.I.N. gatherings on Saturday, Oct. 20. For questions, email neighborhoods@tempe.gov or call 480-350-8234.



Be stormwater smart

With summer monsoon season upon us, help protect our stormwater system – and ultimately our groundwater supply and urban lakes – by avoiding use of pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers and other outdoor chemical products when rain is likely.

When it rains, excess fertilizer, pesticides, oil, gasoline and other chemicals can wash off lawns and driveways, polluting the stormwater system as well as Tempe's lakes and other water bodies. Residents can help keep these products from ending up in

the stormwater by avoiding use when rain is likely and properly storing them under cover.

Making sure that only rain goes in the storm drains ensures that our water supply remains clean and safe. Tempe has a series of stormwater tips to help people keep lawn chemicals, as well as oil, gasoline, pet waste and other pollutants, out of the storm drains. For more information, visit www.tempe.gov/stormwater.

Calendar

This is the tentative August/September schedule for Tempe City Council meetings.

August 9, 2012

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

September 6, 2012

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

September 20, 2012

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

Meetings are aired live on Tempe 11 and the Internet 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 NavarroCouncilmember

Corey WoodsCouncilmember

Charlie MeyerCity 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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City of Tempe 31 E. 5th St., Tempe, AZ 85281 www.tempe.gov

News you can use

Safely dispose of expired, unneeded medications

Tempe Police and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) encourage community members to safely dispose of unneeded and expired prescription and over-the-counter medications at an anonymous disposal event on Saturday, Sept. 29, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Tempe Police South Substation, 8201 S. Hardy Drive.

Each year, Arizonans turn in thousands of pounds of medications at sites operated by law enforcement agencies across the state, including Tempe. Many abused prescription drugs are obtained from the home medicine cabinet. These events aim to impact accidental poisonings and overdoses, to stop theft and drug resale, and to encourage residents not to dispose of medications by flushing them down toilets, which can adversely impact our water supply and the environment.

Bring medications in original containers with personal information removed from labels. Syringes and needles of any kind cannot be accepted. For more information about the event, contact Molly Enright, Tempe Police Community Affairs/PIO, 480-858-6148, molly enright@tempe.gov.

Resources for residents dealing with stray and feral cats

Maricopa County Animal Care and Control provides resources for residents and neighborhoods affected by feral cats. In addition, the agency has a foster program for people who want to look after abandoned infant kittens. For more information on county programs, call 602-506-PETS (7387) or visit www.maricopa.gov/pets. In addition, the Animal Defense League of Arizona operates a spay-neuter hotline for cats at 602-265-7729.

Grandparents get in free at KRC on Aug. 26

The Kiwanis Recreation Center wave pool offers families a fun way to cool down this month. Grandparents will be admitted free on Sunday, Aug. 26, from 1-3 p.m., with a grandchild's paid admission. For more information, call 480-350-5201.

2012 Don Carlos Humanitarian Award

Tempe Community Council is proud to host the 29th annual Don Carlos Humanitarian Awards on Wednesday, Oct. 10, in the courtyard of the Arizona Historical Society Museum, 1300 N. College Ave. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$50 per person, \$80 for two tickets or \$400 for a table of 10.

Since 1984, TCC has presented these awards to honor those who have dedicated their lives to giving back and caring for others. Considered one of Tempe's most prestigious distinctions, Don Carlos recipients are shining examples of how this city takes care of each other. Past recipients include former Mayor Rudy Campbell and former Councilmember Carol Smith, among many others. More information is available at www.tempecommunitycouncil.org/doncarlos or by calling 480-858-2300.

Tempe Links Classic Golf Tournament

The Tempe Chamber is holding its 18th annual Tempe Links Classic on Wednesday, Sept. 19, from 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the ASU Karsten Golf Course. This dynamic tournament features a full round of golf with cart, prizes, boxed lunch, a silent auction and barbecue dinner with live emcee. The tournament is a modified scramble with a blind draw for teams, a fun format that encourages speedy, unintimidating play. Participants may register and play as a foursome as they enjoy the afternoon with friends or special clients. Single spots and foursomes are available. Registration begins at 11:30 a.m., and the shotgun start is at 12:30 p.m. Cost is \$125 (single), \$400 (foursome) for members and \$150 (single), \$500 (foursome) for non-members. To have your company recognized at the event, please consider a raffle or auction prize donation. To learn more, e-mail sean@tempechamber.org.

Prostate health awareness walk Sept. 22

Join hundreds of Valley residents at the Tim Barber Walk for POP (Prostate On-site Projects) on Saturday, Sept. 22, at 7:30 a.m. at Kiwanis Park. The annual event is a festive, educational walk to highlight National Prostate Cancer Month. Free prostate screenings are available to the first 100 men who register. For more information, visit www.prostatecheckup. org or call 480-964-3013.

New GED assessment in 2014

Beginning in January 2014, a new assessment will be in effect that ensures that the GED is no longer an endpoint for adults, but truly a transition to higher education, training and better-paying iobs.

The new, computer-based assessment will focus on four content areas – literacy, mathematics, science and social studies – and will continue to provide adults the opportunity to earn a high school credential. In addition to new and more rigorous content, it will also measure career and college-readiness skills because the skills required for jobs that pay family-sustaining wages have increased. The new test, which will be given only at approved test centers, will reflect the realities of both the workplace and of postsecondary education.

GED Testing Service has announced that the cost for the new assessment will be \$120. This price will remain in effect through the end of 2014. The new GED assessment will continue to be approximately seven hours in length.

Students who have started testing under the current GED Series 2002 must pass all five parts by Dec. 31, 2013. If you desire to obtain a GED before the new assessment takes effect, contact the Tempe Adult Education Program at 480-839-0292 x3097 for registration and enrollment information.

Get ahead of the curve and stay up to date on street restrictions and bus detours

Fall is right around the corner, which means special events like ASU football games and Nathan's Triathalon will happen in the downtown area. Along with those events will occur street restrictions and bus detours. Often, when Tempe hosts an event, repairs an aging water line or paves a street, it requires that streets be restricted or closed or for a bus route to de detoured. That's why Tempe encourages residents and visitors to get up-to-date information about major street restrictions/closures and bus detours within the city of Tempe. You can get information by the following ways:

- Sign up to receive emails at www.tempe.gov/lists
- Follow us on Twitter or Facebook (only major street closures will be posted)
- Check our web site at www.tempe.gov/ streetclosures

So get out there this fall and enjoy the great weather, but remember to plan ahead and drive safely.

Chill out at Sun Devil football season opener tailgate

You don't have to sweat to be a Sun Devil football fan.

You can tailgate with the best of them for the season opener - inside - and still hang out with Sparky, the new Tempe City Council and your friends and neighbors.

The Tempe Tailgate happens on Thursday, Aug. 30, inside the cool air conditioning of Old Main on campus. Have a barbecue dinner. Meet Sparky. Listen to music by Carol Pacey and the Honeyshakers and get to know about City of Tempe programs and services. You'll get fired up for the game and learn how to save money and have fun in your hometown.

Cost for the tailgate is \$10 for adults. Kids under 12 are just \$5. Tempe residents can purchase tickets to the game at a 25-35 percent discount by calling 480 727-3521. Details and tickets: bit.ly/tempetailgate.

