



Tempe Today

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a community newsletter

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www.tempe.gov/newsroom

December 2012



P.F. Chang's Rock 'n' Roll Arizona Marathon & 1/2 Marathon

On Sunday, Jan. 20, about 25,000 runners will compete when the P.F. Chang's Rock 'n' Roll Arizona Marathon & 1/2 Marathon runs through Phoenix, Scottsdale and Tempe. The full marathon begins in Phoenix and the half-marathon starts in Tempe. Bands will play throughout the course, encouraging runners to reach the finish line near Sun Devil Stadium.

Tempe and the marathon planners make every effort to ensure that north Tempe is as accessible as possible on this day. Freeways will be open but expect delays. It is recommended that you drive around the course instead of trying to cross it if you need to travel near these areas.

For information on road closures, bus detours and traffic restrictions, visit www.tempe.gov/streetclosures. For event details, visit <http://arizona.competitor.com>.



Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl is Dec. 29 in Tempe

Tempe is proud to be the host city for the Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl on Saturday, Dec. 29, at Sun Devil Stadium!

Formerly known as the Insight Bowl, the game has become a must-see for fans and a favorite destination for teams. The renowned Big Ten and Big 12 conferences,

annually among the national leaders in attendance and television ratings, each send one of their top teams to Tempe.

The 24th Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl kicks off at 8:15 p.m. Tickets start at \$25. Call 480-350-0911 or visit www.fiestabowl.org.



Celebrate New Year's Eve in downtown Tempe

Two nights after the big game, head down to Mill Avenue for a New Year's Eve celebration that will have something for the whole family.

For the first time in many years, there will be no gates around Mill Avenue, no admission fee and no street closures in the area on Dec. 31.

This summer, the Fiesta Bowl announced that it would no longer be putting on its longstanding Fiesta Bowl Block Party in downtown Tempe. A comparable event could not be planned in time for this New Year's Eve, but Tempe intends to work with the Downtown Tempe Community and community members to plan a block party for next year.

This year's celebration will include entertainment and activities at area restaurants and nightclubs, as well as a stage on Seventh Street west of Mill Avenue that will feature music from Radio Disney from 6-9 p.m. Children's activities and a variety of food trucks also will be in the area. At 10 p.m., the stage will transition to showcasing a local band. Two fireworks shows will light up the night at 9 p.m. and midnight.

Those coming to Mill Avenue on Dec. 31 are encouraged to use public transportation or to take advantage of the taxicab services that will be in the area. Visit www.millavenue.com/newyears eve for more details on the celebration.



One Call to City Hall
480-350-4311



Mayor delivers his first State of the City address

By Mayor Mark Mitchell

Last month, I was honored to give my first State of the City address. It is a privilege to serve this community, and I'm thankful to voters for this opportunity. I'm also grateful to share this responsibility with the most dedicated City Council in the Valley.

When I was first elected to the Council, it was the start of a new millennium. Tempe Town Lake was barely a year old. There was no Tempe Center for the Arts, no Tempe Marketplace, no high-rise

buildings or urbanization of our downtown, and no light rail.

Now, over a decade later, we have a light rail system that connects our region, extensive residential and business investments along our Town Lake and in downtown. The city has also transformed what was a vacant wasteland into a thriving regional shopping center.

These projects became a reality because of the foresight of leadership that planned for a vibrant future. Tempe is where it is today because of forward thinking. And today, for the same reason, we are poised for a strong economic recovery.

If our city can transform in this short time, imagine what we can do in the years ahead.

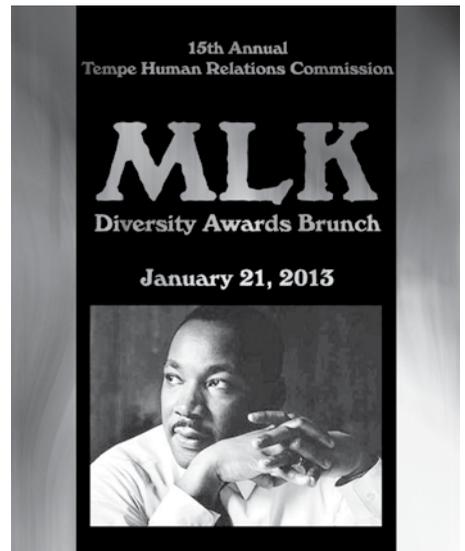
Tempe is already seeing a resurgence of economic activity, with new developments on Town Lake, the Discovery Business Campus in south Tempe, and the Stadium District at ASU. Tempe is also working to attract a hotel conference center to complement our downtown and attract major conferences. With a healthy business sector, we will continue to cultivate a high quality of life for our community. Tempe has a long history of enhancing our neighborhoods, improving our infrastructure and investing in economic development projects that benefit the community and brings a return on our investment.

We are doing this by creating a roadmap for success through our 11 Strategic Priorities. These priorities are shared among three council committees: Neighborhoods and Education, Finance and Effective Infrastructure, and Economic, Lake, Downtown and Advanced Transportation. Through these committees, the Council will concentrate on changes that make sense for Tempe.

I often say, Tempe is at its best when we're a regional player. In today's world, it's more important than ever. It requires hard work, advocacy and interaction to ensure we get the resources necessary to grow.

That will be my focus as mayor. And that's why I support engaging our regional and national partners. By working together, we can ensure a bright future for our community and our region while strengthening Tempe's economy. Living and doing business in Tempe has never been better, and as the Beatles wrote, "It's getting better all the time."

I'm excited to be your mayor and I promise to make you proud. If you would like to contact me, call 480-350-8965 or email me at mark_mitchell@tempe.gov.



MLK Diversity Awards Brunch

All are invited to attend the 15th Annual City of Tempe MLK Diversity Awards Brunch on Monday, Jan. 21, at 9 a.m. at The Buttes Resort, 2000 Westcourt Way. The keynote speaker will be Cody Williams, Maricopa County Justice of the Peace, in the South Mountain Justice Court. The awards brunch honors community members and groups that demonstrate a commitment to honoring and celebrating diversity in the Tempe community. The cost of the event is \$5 each for the first 500 people who RSVP. Call 480-350-8979 for registration information. Diversity Award nominations are being accepted through Dec. 7. Do you know an individual, community group, educational organization or business that exemplifies the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr? If so, visit www.tempe.gov/mlk to nominate them for this prestigious award.

City of Tempe holiday collection schedule

Tempe wants residents to know about adjusted solid waste collection schedules due to the city-observed holidays of Christmas and New Year's Day. If your regularly scheduled collection day falls on either of these holidays, your trash or recycling will be picked up on Wednesday of that same week. Christmas collections will shift to Dec. 26 and New Year's Day collections will shift to Jan. 2. Residents must have containers at the curb by 6 a.m. For a list of recyclable items, visit www.tempe.gov/recycling.

Holiday decoration safety tips from Tempe Fire

The holiday season brings joy and excitement to families, but it can also bring tragedy. Careless handling of Christmas trees, candles and lights can cause fire dangers. The most important thing you can do to be fire safe during the holidays is to plan ahead and take precautions. Christmas trees are part of the traditional holiday season, but if not handled properly, they can cause fires. A dried out tree can catch fire and burn a living room in just 30 seconds. Here are some tips to keep your home safe during the holidays:

- Cut one inch off the bottom of your tree so it will draw water better. Keep your tree in a water-holding stand and full of water.
- Do not place the tree near any heat source.
- Buy artificial trees with safety approved labels (UL or FM).
- Never use electrical decorations on an aluminum tree.
- Never use candles on a tree.
- Do not overload circuits or extension cords.
- Be careful not to use tree lights with cracked or broken wiring. Use only laboratory approved lights. Turn them off before going to bed or leaving home.
- Do not place lights or candles near anything that can easily catch on fire like curtains, furniture or bedding.
- Put candles in non-flammable, sturdy holders or candlesticks. Do not place them where they can easily be knocked over like in windows or near exits.
- Use only lighters designed to be child resistant and keep all matches and lighters out of reach.

Learn about the different types of lights and the proper way to install them on your tree at <http://bit.ly/XhIMzx>. Learn how to prevent candle fires at <http://bit.ly/r17C0Z>. For more safety tips, visit www.tempe.gov/fire.

Christmas tree dropoff sites

Residents can recycle Christmas trees at the following locations – 24 hours a day, seven days a week through Jan. 27, 2013:

- Tempe's Household Products Collection Center, 1320 E. University Drive
- Kiwanis Park parking lot west of Kiwanis Park Recreation Center, 6111 W. All-America Way

Before dropping off any Christmas trees, remove tree stands and nails, ornaments, lights, garland and tinsel. The trees will be chipped and recycled into compost materials. For more information, call 480-350-4311, email tempe311@tempe.gov or visit www.tempe.gov/recycling.

It's time for annual resident survey

Tempe wants to know how satisfied you are with life in the community we share. In the coming days, about 2,400 residents will receive surveys in the mail. Please take the chance to offer your feedback about everything from safety and appearance to trash pickup and recreation classes. Your confidential ideas and opinions will help the city shape its services for the future. If you prefer to fill the survey out online or by phone, those options are available. For any questions, call Community Relations Director Shelley Hearn at 480-350-8906.



Reporting is critical in fighting graffiti

When you see graffiti on public or private property, it's important to report it immediately. If you are witnessing the graffiti being painted, call the Tempe Police non-emergency line at 480-350-8311. For all other cases, report graffiti by calling Tempe 311 at 480-350-4311, via an online form at www.tempe.gov/311 or via email at tempe311@tempe.gov.

It is important to note that graffiti can be reported anonymously. If you report online or call, you will be requested, but not required, to leave your name and phone number. Contact information can help officers when they investigate graffiti and other crimes, but you're not required to provide personal information in reporting. When graffiti on public property is reported, the city works to respond within 24 hours. Graffiti on private property should be painted over by the property owner within 10 days as specified in the Tempe City Code, Chapter 22, Article VI, Sections 100 & 101.

Check out this Tempe 11 video on the city's graffiti removal team: www.youtube.com/watch?v=rKamTnAsG58.

Adopt-A-Street, Path or Park!
Call 480-350-4311 or visit
www.tempe.gov/adopt

Calendar

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

December 13, 2012

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

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

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 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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City of Tempe
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www.tempe.gov

News you can use

Open house events highlight community centers

Take a look at Tempe's community centers during an Open House Week, Jan. 26-31. Each center will be hosting an open house so residents can check out all of the great activities Tempe offers for Adults 50+. There will be programs, refreshments and door prizes. For more information, visit www.tempe.gov/familyactivities.

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., at 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 for details and a list of what to bring to your visit.

Volunteer 101 Academy

Tempe Community Council (TCC), in partnership with the City of Tempe and Tempe Leadership, will host a Volunteer Seminar on Jan. 23 from 10-11:30 a.m. Volunteer 101 is your chance to learn about volunteer opportunities throughout the community and develop your skills as a volunteer. To register or to learn more, call TCC at 480-858-2300.

Walk-in Wednesdays at TCA

Walk-in Wednesdays Open Mic Night begins its 2013 winter session from 6-10 p.m. on Jan. 2 and continues every Wednesday through May 29 at the Tempe Center for the Arts, 700 W. Rio Salado Parkway. Adult performers can sign up at 5:45 p.m. Youth wishing to play from 5-6 p.m. can sign up at 4:45 p.m. Walk-in Wednesdays offers musicians a chance to play their songs in a friendly, attentive atmosphere. Light food and beverages are available. There is no cover charge. For more information, visit www.tempe.gov/TCAOpenMic.

Blood drive at Tempe Center for the Arts

Did you know that every time you donate blood, you lose approximately one pound? That's one way to trim down after the holidays! If you are interested in helping those in need, don't miss the Saving Arizona Blood Drive from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Jan. 6 at the Tempe Center for the Arts, 700 W. Rio Salado Parkway. The drive will be in the Lakeside Room. Donors will be entered to win prizes. Visit www.bloodhero.com for details.

Kyrene open enrollment

The Kyrene School District welcomes students throughout the Valley to apply for open enrollment. The 2013-14 open enrollment application will be made available on Jan. 7 at www.kyrene.org/oe or visit the district office for a hardcopy. For more information, call 480-541-1516.

The Hits @TCA

Tempe Center for the Arts' newest music series, The Hits @TCA, continues with The Piano Man and celebrates the music of Billy Joel and Elton John at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 8. These two superstars come to life in this multimedia tribute starring Terry Davies. Backed by his nine-piece band, Davies recreates the amazing music and memories created by two of the most successful artists in the history of rock and roll. The show features a combined catalog of hits including all-time favorites, Piano Man, New York State of Mind, Only the Good Die Young, My Life, Your Song, Daniel, Rocket Man and Candle in the Wind. TCA is located at 700 W. Rio Salado Parkway. For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/RfwtPE>.

Childsplay's latest production will moo-ve you

Childsplay presents, "Click, Clack, Moo," on Saturdays and Sundays, Jan. 20 through March 2, in the Tempe Center for the Arts Theater. When the animals of Farmer Brown's farm get fed up with their working conditions, they take to their typewriters and turn the barn upside down. This peaceful protest will quack audiences up as Duck, Cow, Hen and the rest of the animals embark on an uproarious farm adventure, based on the delightful picture book by Doreen Cronin. Recommended for age 3 and older. TCA is located at 700 W. Rio Salado Parkway. For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/MTr1Ms>.

Regional cooperation to make greater Phoenix an ‘age-friendly’ community

The Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) has been awarded a \$150,000 grant from the Pfizer Foundation and Grantmakers in Aging (GIA), a national association of funders, as part of Community AGenda: Improving America for All Ages. This new initiative is funding nonprofits in five U.S. cities to help accelerate local efforts to make communities “age-friendly” – that is, great places to grow up and grow old.

MAG will develop business plans and expertise for implementing locally-relevant age-friendly models in the Phoenix area, (including Tempe) based on an assessment of the needs of three-to-five neighborhoods. MAG will also create a website for older adults ages 60-70, to help them plan to remain in their communities as they get older.

MAG has raised \$129,800 in cash and in-kind pledges from the city of Phoenix, Sun Health, Benevilla, Duet, the Tempe Community Council, Chicanos por la Causa, and the Area Agency on Aging, with more requests pending. Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust sponsored MAG’s previous work in aging, including providing funding for the Municipal Aging Services Project and serving on the leadership team for the City Leaders Institute on Aging in Place. Dr. Wayne Parker, Director of Research and Evaluation of the Trust, will advise the evaluation of the region’s work in the Age-Friendly Cities Initiative and Carol Kratz, Program Director, will guide the implementation of the project.

“Research tells us that most people want to grow old in the places that matter most to them, around family and community,” said John Feather, PhD, CEO of Grantmakers In Aging. “But that’s only going to be possible if all of us – regional planners, elected officials, citizen groups, philanthropies, industry and others – start thinking and taking action now to put age-friendly ideas into practice. Supporting age-friendly development is a natural role for local philanthropies because of their unique knowledge of the people and particular needs of their own regions.”

For Tempe News:
www.tempe.gov/newsroom

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 purpose of the Disability Awards is to 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.

Submissions are due by 4 p.m. on Friday, March 22, to Tempe Community Council, 34 E. 7th St., Building A, Tempe 85281
Fax: 480-858-2319 Email: tccinformation@tempe.gov

‘Tis the season for cooler weather

Remember to be safe this winter when using a fireplace or space heater

As the weather cools off, many residents will use a fireplace or space heater to keep warm this winter. But without using simple safety precautions, that fire could turn deadly. The Tempe Fire Department reminds you to be safe when using a fireplace or space heater. Keep your family safe and warm by following these safety tips:

- Have the fireplace checked and cleaned by a Chimney Safety Institute of America certified chimney sweep.
- Always open the damper before lighting the fire and keep it open until the ashes are cool.
- Read the instructions on artificial logs and follow them carefully. Never add an artificial log to a natural wood fire that is already burning. Wait at least two hours before adding an artificial log to a natural log fire because it could cause a flare-up.
- Never use gasoline, a charcoal lighter or other fuel to light or relight a fire as the vapors could explode.
- Do not use coal or charcoal in a fireplace because of the danger of carbon monoxide.
- Do not burn trash or gift wrap in the fireplace because certain plastics, foam rubber and other coated materials can cause deadly fumes.
- Always use a screen around the fireplace to keep sparks from flying out.
- Keep items such as carpets, pillows, furniture or papers away from fireplaces and space heaters.
- Always make sure that the fire is completely out or a space heater is turned off before going to bed or when leaving the house.
- If you are going to utilize any natural fuel burning, propane and/or natural gas appliance in your home, an operating carbon monoxide detector is recommended.

For a complete list of safety tips, visit our web site at www.tempe.gov/fire.

New Year, New You!

2013

A New Year wouldn't be complete without making a few New Year's resolutions. To help you get started, here are ten easy, convenient and economical resolutions and solutions to help make 2013 the best yet!

1. Lose weight and get fit



Year-round, Tempe offers hundreds of reasonably priced and convenient exercise and fitness classes designed to get you and your family away from the TV or computer and into shape. This issue is chock-full of great ideas!

2. Pay off debt and achieve financial stability



Money may be tight right now, but that doesn't mean you can't afford to have fun! Tempe hosts plenty of inexpensive — and many times, free — events and programs throughout the year. In 2013, look for the Movies in the Park free family movie series at Kiwanis Park in May and October, Free Art Fridays, Family Storytimes, Wild Wednesdays, Play Day and the Annual Family Halloween Carnival.

3. Spend more time with loved ones

Plan to devote more time to having fun with your family in 2013. Spend time in one of Tempe's classes designed for parents and children alike by visiting a Drop-In Storytime with your little one, trying a dance class designed for parents and children or attending a photography class with your teen. Take a moonlight kayak ride for a relaxing evening with your spouse or take your parent to an open house at Tempe's community centers Jan. 26 - 31, for a look at the exciting things Tempe has to offer to adults 50+. Tempe has plenty of classes and activities for everyone and their loved ones!

4. Get organized

Make organization a priority this year! Check out this issue of Tempe Opportunities for classes that help make the huge task of organization a little simpler.

5. Enjoy life more



Pack a picnic lunch or reserve a ramada and host a family or corporate gathering at a Tempe park! Tempe's 48 parks are strategically located so that there is one park within approximately one mile of every resident.

6. Give up a bad habit

They say it takes 21 repetitions to turn an action into a habit, but we all know it takes a lot longer to kick it! Make a commitment, track your progress, enlist the support of a friend or family member and find alternatives to replace the bad habit (see resolution # 7). Giving up a habit isn't always easy, so be patient and reward yourself when you make progress.

7. Learn something new

With programs for toddlers, youth, teens, adults and adults 50+, and a variety of adapted recreation leagues and programs, look no further than this issue of Tempe Opportunities to learn a new hobby, sport or skill. Some of the newest additions include the Storybook Chef classes for Tots, Science Art Lab for Youth, Creative Writing Workshop for Teens, Real-Estate Workshops for Adults and Tai Chi for Adults 50+. You can learn multiple things in the New Year, so why choose just one?

8. Be more charitable and help others

Gather your friends and neighbors and Adopt-A-Park, Path or Street. It's the perfect opportunity to help make your neighborhood a better place to play. Or connect with a special-needs athlete by becoming a bowling buddy. Join Tempe's Adapted Recreation Buddy Bowling League and spend your Saturday mornings knocking down pins and building new friendships.



9. Be more eco-friendly



Participate in the 4th Annual Arbor Day 5K on April 26 and help replenish Tempe's urban forest. All of the proceeds go to the Trees for Tempe program. Find out more at ArborDay5K.com.

10. Reduce stress

Do you have some extra stress now that the holidays are over? Whether you'd like to attend an event, fitness class or even a counseling session, Tempe has something for everyone interested in winding down after the holiday season.

www.tempe.gov/brochure

480-350-5200

Winter class registration

The winter issue of the Tempe Opportunities brochure is full of new and continuing classes and programs for all ages and interests. Class topics include exercise and fitness, educational programming, sports leagues, music, art, dance and more. All of these quality programs are offered at convenient times and locations, at affordable prices.

The new brochure is available in all City of Tempe facilities or can be viewed at www.tempe.gov/brochure. The winter brochure is full of activities and classes occurring between January and March 2013. Registration begins in December and the first classes begin the first week of January. For more information, visit www.tempe.gov/brochure or call 480-350-5200.

Thrive to Five spring classes

Thrive To Five, a project of Tempe Community Council's Commitment to Schools of Tempe and Kyrene will be offering new classes for parent and caregivers in the spring. Funded by First Things First to provide family support services to parents and/or caregivers of children aged birth to five years old, Thrive To Five has the goals of promoting understanding of early child development and brain growth and to provide families and caregivers with the knowledge, skills and resources to help children reach their potential. New class listings are available online each month. Check <http://thrivetofive.org> or call Isela Blanc 480-858-2306 for more information. Classes include free childcare with reservation, unless otherwise indicated.



12th Annual Cinderella Affair

Tempe Community Council and the East Valley Women's League will be outfitting high school students in need with the perfect prom dress on March 22 and 23.

To collect all the dresses needed, dress drives will be hosted all around the Valley from February 1-24. Check www.cinderellaaffair.org for drop-off locations.



or are a Surepay customer and would like to contribute to Help to Others, please call 480-350-8361 or visit Tempe's Customer Services counter at 20 E. Sixth St.

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Holiday giving opportunities

During the holiday season, please remember the less fortunate in your gift giving. To find out what our local nonprofits are doing for those in need, and how you can help, check the Tempe Community Council website (www.tempe.gov/tcc) for a listing of service projects and donation ideas.

Donate and help make a difference

Your monthly donation to the Help to Others program assists those in your community who need it most. Providing food, clothing, shelter for families and seniors and counseling services and after-school programs for at-risk children, your generous donations stay in our community and help make this a better place for us all. If you would like to donate a larger dollar amount per month,