

TEMPE TODAY

a community newsletter



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Tempe Tardeada celebrates city's Hispanic heritage

All are invited to the 15th Annual Tempe Tardeada from noon to 8 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 6, to celebrate and recognize Tempe's Hispanic roots. This free festival will take place at the Tempe Community Center Complex, 3500 S. Rural Road, at the southwest corner of Rural Road and Southern Avenue.

The tardeada is a vibrant afternoon festival and social dance featuring continuous entertainment, a dance floor, traditional Mexican foods, arts and crafts for children, community booths, tortilla-making demonstration, inflatables and fun for all. All activities are free. In conjunction with National Hispanic Heritage Month, the festival's goal is to celebrate and experience the legacy of Hispanic culture in Tempe.

Among the many performers set to appear are Power Drive and Mariachi Corazon Latino. For more information, visit www.tempe.gov/tardeada or call Ginny Belousek at 480-350-8979.



Healing Field honors those lost on Sept. 11, 2001

Tempe will honor the nearly 3,000 victims of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks at its tenth 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 Tempe Exchange Club Foundation and the City of Tempe.

The Healing Field memorial runs Tuesday, Sept. 10, through Saturday, Sept. 14. A special memorial ceremony will be held Sept. 11 at 5:43 a.m. to commemorate when the first plane struck the first tower (Arizona time). A candlelight vigil will be held that evening at 7 p.m.

New online resource for active military, veterans and their families

The City of Tempe has posted a new webpage – www.tempe.gov/military – designed to provide veterans, active military and their loved ones with resources to help during or after their service.

Councilmember Robin Arredondo-Savage, an Army veteran, came up with the idea to assemble a number of local and national resources in one place as a service and convenience to veterans and active military. There are links to resources dealing with education, healthcare, counseling, jobs and more. The webpage also will include personal stories to highlight Tempe residents who are serving or have served with distinction.

In addition, the city has started a listserv for community members who want to sign up to get occasional email updates that are relevant to veterans and active military. A link to sign up for the listserv is on the new webpage.

Arredondo-Savage expressed thanks to the many community organizations that partnered with the city to list their information online.

"The city is grateful for the brave service of our community members. We are in a position to be a location where those residents can find resources they need," she said. "I am proud to be part of this project and excited to watch it grow."

Families and service members are welcome to submit accomplishments or milestones for posting to the webpage. Contact Parrish Spisz at 480-350-8816 or parrish_spisz@tempe.gov.

CONTACT :



480-350-4311

E-Mail: Tempe311@tempe.gov

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Committee sees progress in support of neighborhoods, education

By Tempe City Councilmembers Joel Navarro and Kolby Granville

Just as school is out for summer, the Tempe City Council's Neighborhoods and Education Committee is taking a break, too. Between the time we began co-chairing the committee last fall and this brief pause, we have accomplished several key goals that we believe will help move the city forward in these areas.

Residents told us we should do more to get noisy parties under control. So we revamped the city's existing Nuisance Party Ordinance to allow Tempe Police the ability to cite party-goers on the first response and to post a citation on the door of the residence if needed. The ordinance also set up a new fee structure and increased the penalties if partygoers are involved in other criminal activity, such as underage drinking or possession of illegal drugs. Sponsoring organizations like fraternities or sororities also can be subject to nuisance party violations. For this, the committee thanks Arizona State University for its invaluable assistance in working out a solution amenable to all. The Council unanimously adopted the ordinance in June and it takes effect July 13.

In education-related matters, the city compiled a list of all the ways it assists with education, either by itself or with other institutions. These programs range from Kid Zone to free Youth Transit Passes to the Police Department's School Resource Officers to the districts' Teen Resource Centers. In the fall, the committee will hear from staffers and our partnering agencies on how we can improve and possibly expand our efforts.

Another significant undertaking has been a thorough study of residential code violations. During the recent economic downturn, there were painful yet necessary cuts to city services. However, it became clear from responses to the city's annual Community Attitude Survey that the appearance of our neighborhoods is perceived to have suffered overall.

We took that information and dug deeper. We asked which areas of the city may be struggling, how and to what degree. Code Enforcement staff quantified our questions, examined 640 single-family residences throughout the city at random and then let the data point out where we're having problems. As a result, Tempe's 2013-14 budget includes funding for three additional, temporary code compliance inspectors, specifically devoted to the neighborhoods north of Baseline Road that proved through the survey to have a greater number of violations.

Another way we're improving the look of Tempe is by addressing landscaping in our road medians and the strips of land between sidewalks and private properties. The city is responsible for many miles of rights-of-way and some stretches are looking a little tired. But we've commissioned a pilot project that will examine the most aesthetically-pleasing, cost-effective ways to spruce up these areas.

When the committee begins meeting again later this month, we will continue this progress by examining commercial code enforcement, graffiti and preserving desert landscaping in our parks. We invite community members to join the efforts and contribute ideas.

For committee agendas and minutes, visit www.tempe.gov/clerk. To contact us any time, call or email: Joel 480-350-8795 or joel_navarro@tempe.gov; Kolby 480-350-8796 or kolby_granville@tempe.gov.

Tempe Streetcar public meeting in fall

Valley Metro and the City of Tempe will host a public meeting this fall to seek input on the recommended route for Tempe Streetcar, a modern streetcar project to serve central Tempe residents, businesses and visitors.

Last spring, Valley Metro presented two modified route options to the public that both include a one-mile downtown loop on Mill and Ash avenues extending south to Apache Boulevard. This summer, both route options are being analyzed in areas such as ridership and costs. The two route options are described as:

Apache-Rio Salado: Rio Salado Parkway from approximately Packard Drive west to Mill Avenue, downtown loop to Apache Boulevard, east to Rural Road

Apache: Downtown loop to Apache Boulevard, east to Terrace Road

In April, the Federal Transit Administration approved the project to enter into Project Development. This is the first step in the queue for federal project approval and funding.

For additional information as well as meeting notices, visit www.valleymetro.org/tempestreetcar or join the Tempe Streetcar email distribution list by contacting Lisa Saldin at lsaldin@valleymetro.org.

Neighbors 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 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 9, at the Tempe History Museum, 809 E. Southern Ave. Tempe elected officials, Police employees and Neighborhood Services staff will be on hand at the kickoff to provide party tips and handouts. There also will be chances to win raffle prizes and opportunities to win party visits from areas of the city such as Fire, Recycling and Police. 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 create safer and better-connected neighborhoods. Be sure to save the date for this year's G.A.I.N. gatherings on Saturday, Oct. 26. For questions, email neighborhoods@tempe.gov or call 480-350-8234.

Tempe to test new vehicle on Orbit routes

The City of Tempe is evaluating whether to use a new type of bus vehicle for Orbit routes in the future. Bus manufacturer New Flyer is testing a new mid-size bus called New Flyer MiDi in partnership with the city. The MiDi bus is meant to fill a gap between small buses, such as those currently used on Orbit, and heavy-duty buses, such as those used on major streets like Rural Road and Baseline Road. As a test, a single MiDi bus has been used on all five Orbit routes on a rotating basis since late July and will continue until October.

The MiDi and current Orbit bus have different specifications: length is 24.5 feet for Orbit and 30 feet for MiDi; width is 8 feet 3 inches for Orbit and 8 feet for MiDi; height is 10 feet 8 inches for Orbit and 9 feet 4 inches for MiDi; 17 seats and room for six standing passengers on Orbit, and 27 seats and room for 26 standing passengers on MiDi. Both types have two wheelchair positions; Orbit has a vertical wheelchair lift and MiDi has a front door wheelchair ramp. To enter the bus, Orbit has a high floor with three steps at the boarding door, while MiDi has a low floor design that eliminates steps at the boarding door. The current Orbit buses have two bike racks, while the MiDi has no bike racks. Consistent with present practice, all future replacement MiDi buses would be required to have bike racks.

An analysis and public involvement process will be conducted to determine the feasibility of using a midsize, medium-duty bus model on Orbit routes. A public meeting will be held Sept. 28 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Tempe Transportation Center, 200 E. Fifth St. An online comment form will be available Aug. 1 at www.tempe.gov/orbit. If the testing program is successful and the general bus type is accepted by the Tempe community and City Council, the city could consider using this type of vehicle on Orbit routes with the next fleet replacement cycle beginning in 2017.



Green waste collection program benefits environment and bottom line

Beginning in July, Tempe moved from monthly collection of uncontained (bulk) waste to six collections per year – with four collections dedicated to green waste only. By collecting green waste separately from other bulk trash, the city is turning a significant portion of the solid waste stream into a new resource, benefiting both the environment and the bottom line.

Tempe's new green and bulk waste collection program benefits the community in a variety of ways, including: diverting green waste from the landfill and using it to create nutrient-rich compost, saving money and valuable landfill space;

cutting the number of annual miles driven in half; reducing fuel usage, saving fuel costs and cutting greenhouse gas emissions by more than 100 metric tons/year; eliminating at least six collection vehicles, resulting in savings of approximately \$1.5M over the next few years.

Historically, the majority of bulk waste Tempe residents put out for collection (70 to 80 percent) is green waste – tree trimmings, yard clippings and brush. Municipal composting programs like Tempe's are on the rise nationwide because they make sense environmentally and economically. Americans generate more than 250 million tons of garbage per year, much of which can be recycled/composted.

Much like Tempe's curbside recycling program that began 20 years ago, the new green and bulk waste collection procedures will take some getting used to. But Tempe residents have a history of championing programs that make the community more sustainable and help the environment.

Green waste collection includes:

- Tree trimmings and brush (tree limbs, branches, trunks and stumps must be cut into four-foot lengths or shorter and less than 19 inches in diameter).
- Leaves, cactus and hedge clippings (must be placed in a cardboard box).
- NO oleanders, palm fronds, grass, weeds or bagged items, as they don't compost well. (Note: bagged grass clippings can still be placed in the black/green trash bin for regular weekly collection.)

Mixed waste includes:

- Those materials that cannot be placed in residents' black/green garbage containers or recycled in blue recycling containers.
- Furniture, non-Freon appliances, such as washers and microwaves, and other items too large to fit in the trash bin.
- Oleanders, palm fronds, bagged grass and weeds, other bagged items and green waste.

Residents are asked to plan major brush and bulk disposal projects around the city's new collection schedule. Items should be placed out for collection no earlier than the weekend immediately before designated collection week and must be placed out for collection no later than 6 a.m. on Monday of the scheduled collection week.

For more information, call 480-350-4311 or visit www.tempe.gov/slashthetrash.

Calendar

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

August 22, 2013

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

September 12, 2013

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

September 26, 2013

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

Meetings are aired live on Tempe 11 and 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
City Manager

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

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News you can use

Recycle Right and Win!

Recycling is an important part of our community. It helps our environment, our economy and our quality of life. But the effectiveness of our recycling efforts is hindered when the recycling stream becomes contaminated. By recycling the right way, residents can reduce waste, conserve natural resources and create a more sustainable community. It ensures that everything you place in the blue barrel actually gets recycled.

Tempe's Recycle Right program recognizes residents for recycling correctly. Tempe residents who Recycle Right can win a Tempe Recycles Gold Card with valuable discounts at local businesses. Here's how the program works:

- Place clean, acceptable materials in your blue recycling barrel. Visit www.tempe.gov/recycling for our Recyclables List.
- Tempe's Solid Waste staff periodically will inspect residents' blue recycling barrels for contamination.
- If no contamination is found, the inspector places a Recycle Right sticker on the blue barrel and the address is entered in a drawing to win a Tempe Recycles Gold Card with discounts at participating businesses.
- If contamination is found, the inspector leaves recycling information for the resident and the blue barrel is re-inspected at a later date. Repeated incidences of contamination can result in reduced recycling service to that residence.

For more information, visit www.tempe.gov/recycling or call 480-350-4311.

Walk-in Wednesdays at Tempe Center for the Arts

The region's biggest and best open mic starts on Sept. 4 and continues from 6-10 p.m. every Wednesday through Nov. 27 at Tempe Center for the Arts, 700 W. Rio Salado Parkway. Walk-in Wednesdays Open Mic Night offers musicians an opportunity to perform original and cover songs in a friendly, attentive atmosphere void of noisy nightclub indifference. A sound system is provided. Performers must bring their own instruments. Sign-up begins at 5:45 p.m. A special youth segment is available for performers in high school or younger from 5-6 p.m.; the sign-up for that is at 4:45 p.m. There is no cover charge and light food and beverages are available. For more information, visit www.tempe.gov/TCAOpenMic.

September is National Emergency Preparedness Month

Preparing for an emergency in advance, whether it's a natural disaster, terrorist attack or man-made accident, can save the lives of you and your family. Here are some tips:

- Keep a three-day disaster supply kit with non-perishable food, water (one gallon per person, per day), first-aid supplies, battery powered or hand crank radios and flashlights, manual can opener, plastic and duct tape, filter masks, tools, emergency supplies, clothing and bedding.
- Grab medications and important documents once a disaster or emergency strikes.
- Keep additional supplies for shelter or home confinement for up to two weeks.
- Maintain a disaster supply kit where you work and in your car.
- Develop a family communications plan. If you aren't together when a disaster or emergency happens, determine how you would get in touch with each other or where you would meet.

In the event of a natural or man-made emergency, attempts will be made to contact residents through a reverse 9-1-1 phone system. For more information, visit www.tempe.gov/fire.

Don't flush it!

Just because the package says "flushable" doesn't mean it is true. Many items marketed as disposable or flushable, like baby wipes and disinfectant wipes, do not degrade like toilet paper and can clog pipes and lead to messy sewer backups. The drains that connect your home to the main sewer – often no wider than four inches – are only big enough to carry water, toilet paper and human waste. One of the best things you can do is to clean with a reusable sponge or cloth. If an item cannot be reused, recycled or composted, place it in the garbage. For more information, call City of Tempe Environmental Services at 480-350-2678.

Free family movie series returns in October

Join us Friday evenings in October for Movies in the Park, a free family movie series. Bring your blankets, a picnic dinner and the entire family to enjoy a great Halloween-themed movie in the park! Movies begin at dusk (approximately 6 p.m.) on the north soccer fields at Kiwanis Park (Mill Avenue and Baseline Road).

Oct. 4	Ghostbusters	PG
Oct. 11	ParaNorman	PG
Oct. 18	Monster House	PG
Oct. 25	Hotel Transylvania	PG

For more information, visit www.tempe.gov/movies or call 480-350-5200.

Academic achievement demonstrated in Tempe Union High School District

Tempe Union High School District students are prepared for and successful in college and career, and they complete postsecondary education ready to compete with their peers around the world for the best jobs. Here are a few reasons why:

1. \$73,671,104 in Scholarships in 2013
2. 49 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists in 2013
3. 19 Flinn Scholars in last five years
4. Three Presidential Scholars in 2013
5. 90% students going on to higher education
6. 3008 students in Advanced Placement courses
7. 2,376 students enrolled in dual enrollment classes
8. District 'A' rating
9. Three of seven schools received A+ School of Excellence Rating
10. Kennedy Center National School of Distinction in Arts Education
11. 90% District Graduation Rate
12. 97.42% Career & Technical Education Students Graduation rate
13. 1,356 students in Gifted Education classes
14. District test scores above state
15. District SAT and ACT scores above state and national
16. Two schools among the top schools by US News World Report; top schools on AIMS tests in the state; recognized among top fine arts schools in the state; highest dual credit courses offered in the state



Fall programs and classes begin the week of Sept. 3

This fall, Tempe is offering many new and continuing classes and programs for all ages and interests. Class topics include exercise and fitness, educational programming, sports leagues, foreign languages, music, art, theatre and dance. All of our

quality programs are offered at convenient times and locations, at affordable prices. For more information, visit www.tempe.gov/brochure or call 480-350-5200. Classes begin the week of Sept. 3.



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.

Thrive to Five helps Tempe children

Thrive to Five wants to ensure all children are ready to succeed in school. Free classes and support services are available for parents and caregivers of children birth to five including Kinder Prep, Ready to Read, Positive Discipline and more. Programs are offered in English and Spanish. Visit www.thrivetofive.org or call 480-858-2306 for class information and to register.

2013 Don Carlos Humanitarian Award

Tempe Community Council (TCC) is proud to host the 30th annual Don Carlos Humanitarian Awards on Wednesday, Oct. 16. Tickets are \$50 per person, \$80 for two tickets or \$400 for a table of 10. Visit www.tempecommunitycouncil.org/don-carlos or call 480-858-2300 to reserve your seat today!

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, all of our Don Carlos recipients are shining examples of how this city cares for and about one another.

Don Carlos recipients throughout history:

1984: Dr. William Payne
1985: Leonard Monti Sr.
1986: Margaret & William Kajikawa
1987: Jinnett B. Kirk
1988: Peggy Bryant
1989: Eliza Carney
1990: Naomi Harward
1991: Mimi & Mac Bohlman
1992: Virginia Tinsley
1993: Betty & John Waters
1994: Pat Hatton
1995: Lawn Griffiths
1996: Rudy Campbell
1997: Bobbie & George Overby
1998: Sue & Bob Lofgren
1999: Carol E. Smith
2000: Sue Searcy
2001: Zita Johnson
2002: Bobbie & Don Cassano
2003: David B. Cutty
2004: Joseph P. Spracale
2005: Jane & Dick Neuheisel
2006: Gail Fisher & Mel Kessler
2007: Linda Spears
2008: Pen Johnson
2009: Sue Ringler
2010: Catherine May & Dan Abbott
2011: Alice & Ralph Goitia
2012: Harry E. Mitchell

Lighten up on the lead foot and enjoy the ride

Whether you are taking a road trip or just heading down the street to the grocery store, it's always a good idea to remember to drive safely. When you are out and about in your car, please remember these tips.

- Always wear your seat belt.
- Obey the speed limits.
- Don't text or talk on your cell phone.
- Use turn signals to indicate your intention to turn or to change lanes.
- When a light turns green, make sure the intersection is clear before you go.
- Don't drink and drive.
- When approaching a METRO light rail crossing:
 - never stop or park your car on light rail tracks.
 - obey all traffic signals. A red arrow means "do not turn."
 - never try to beat a train through an intersection.
 - look for flashing headlights and listen for warning bells and horns.
 - look both ways before crossing the tracks.
- Be aware of what's going on around you.
- Watch for bicyclists and pedestrians.
- Provide bicyclists three feet of space when passing.