

June 2015

Phoenix

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Highest S&P Credit Rating of 6 Largest U.S. Cities **AA+** STRONG CREDIT RATING STABLE OUTLOOK

How do you #LoveYourBlock? Take our survey

Cities of Service recently selected Phoenix as one of seven cities to receive a \$30,000 grant and two dedicated full-time AmeriCorps VISTA members to launch "Love Your Block."



Mayor Greg Stanton announces the Cities of Service "Love Your Block" grant during 2015 Mayor's Day of Recognition for National Service news conference. Also pictured: Vice Mayor Daniel T. Valenzuela, Councilwomen Laura Pastor and Kate Gallego, and Wendy Spencer, CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service.

The pilot mini-grant program, led by Mayor Greg Stanton, encourages residents in low- to-moderate income neighborhoods to engage in critical revitalization projects. Projects may include community gardens, neighborhood cleanups, tree planting, community murals, and graffiti abatement efforts, among others.

As we prepare to launch this program, we would love to know, how do you #LoveYourBlock? Visit phoenix.gov/volunteer and take the

"Love Your Block" survey to help provide information about your community and to learn more about where the pilot program will take place.

Free landscape irrigation workshops for Phoenix residents

Did you know Bermuda grass only needs irrigation once every three days in July, and once every four days in August? The Phoenix Water Conservation and Efficiency Office offers free landscape irrigation workshops in the spring and fall that can help you learn how to properly water your lawn and plants. Email tina.sleeper@phoenix.gov or call 602-534-3950 to sign up for a class near you.

Container placement reminder

When placing your green trash, blue recycling and tan green organics containers curbside for collection, please make sure that the containers are not interfering with pedestrian or vehicular traffic. Place the containers on the street backed up against the curb, opening toward the street. Keeping the containers on the street allows residents to use the sidewalk without having to walk into the street. Containers must be placed four feet apart from each other, and 15 feet away from a parked vehicle.

For more information about container placement and other helpful tips, visit phoenix.gov/publicworks or call 602-262-7251.

Save as You Reduce & Recycle

"Save As You Reduce & Recycle" offers residents that currently have curbside trash pick-up service the option of downsizing to a medium trash container for a savings of \$3 a month on their solid waste services bill. Additionally, residents must be enrolled in the city's recycling program before they can sign up for the "SAY R&R" program.

For more information, visit phoenix.gov/publicworks or call 602-262-7251.

Green Organics Curbside Collection reminder



Have you signed up for the Green Organics Curbside Collection program to receive your tan container? If so, here is a helpful reminder on what should NOT be placed inside: Palm fronds, oleanders, pyracantha, creosote, treated wood, trash, food waste, pet waste and recyclable materials.

These materials contaminate the green organics load and make them unusable for mulching and repurposing.

Eligibility to sign up for the Green Organics Curbside Collection program is dependent upon your area of residence. The service is an additional monthly service fee of \$5 per tan container. To check your eligibility and to learn more, please visit phoenix.gov/publicworks/green-organics-say-r-r. For additional questions, email reimaginephoenix@phoenix.gov

Donate old clothes

Please remember that textiles should not be placed in your blue recycling containers for curbside collection. The city of Phoenix DOES NOT accept textiles in its recycling stream at this time. Please donate your old textiles and clothing to a local non-profit organization, resale store or donation center.

For more information about what can be recycled, visit phoenix.gov/publicworks/recycling.

Phoenix prepares for the monsoon

The city's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management is preparing for the monsoon season by holding an upcoming Monsoon Preparedness Day. The city will partner with the National Weather Service, APS, SRP, nonprofit groups and volunteers to find improved ways of working together to enhance resources for residents during the storms.

Remember to keep these tips in mind to protect you and your family.

Driving: Don't enter dust storms or flooded washes, turn on your headlights and drive slowly, and if you pull off the road, turn off your car lights and keep your foot off the brakes.

Indoors: Stay away from windows, use surge protectors for delicate electronics, don't use sinks/showers, and don't use the telephone except for emergencies.

Outdoors: Stay away from metal, water, open spaces and tall objects during lightning storms, seek low ground, stay inside your car if a power line has fallen, and stay at least 100 feet away from downed power lines.

Volunteers needed to teach children to read

AARP Experience Corps, a nationally recognized and award-winning volunteer tutoring effort, is in need of adult volunteers to help children learn to read. AARP Foundation is partnering with Read On Phoenix, Mayor Greg Stanton's effort to get local students reading at grade level by third grade. Volunteers can help improve literacy among first through third graders in both one-on-one and small group tutoring sessions.

Did you know: Only 28 percent of Arizona's fourth grade students were reading proficiently in 2013? For information on how to become a volunteer, email ECPhx@phoenix.gov or call 602-256-3248.

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PHOENIX CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Greg Stanton	602-262-7111	mayor.stanton@phoenix.gov
Daniel Valenzuela, Vice Mayor, District 5	602-262-7446	council.district.5@phoenix.gov
Thelda Williams, District 1	602-262-7444	council.district.1@phoenix.gov
Jim Waring, District 2	602-262-7445	council.district.2@phoenix.gov
Bill Gates, District 3	602-262-7441	council.district.3@phoenix.gov
Laura Pastor, District 4	602-262-7447	council.district.4@phoenix.gov
Sal DiCiccio, District 6	602-262-7491	council.district.6@phoenix.gov
Michael Nowakowski, District 7	602-262-7492	council.district.7@phoenix.gov
Kate Gallego, District 8	602-262-7493	council.district.8@phoenix.gov

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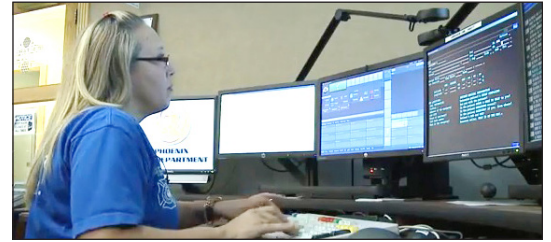
200 W. Washington St., Phoenix, AZ 85003
602-262-7177

For alternate format/reasonable accommodations, call 602-262-7177 or 7-1-1 Relay System.



“Doing What Matters” with Jennifer Gonzales, Emergency Dispatch Operator

In an emergency, residents count on fire emergency dispatch operators to help them through tense situations. Phoenix dispatcher Jennifer Gonzales recently experienced this first hand, when a father found his daughter in the pool, unconscious.



“Whether it’s a hurt finger or a drowning, we try to provide the best care we can provide, that’s why we became dispatchers,” said Gonzales. Fortunately, she was able to talk the father through administering CPR to his daughter and she made a full recovery. “That’s why we do the job, is because of those stories. They make it worth it.”

On any given day, dispatchers answer as many as 1,500 calls. They work around the clock answering 911 calls, as well as general questions from residents. They also support firefighters by coordinating when equipment, staff or other resources are needed to help them provide the best services for Phoenix residents.

Training is extensive, and consists of as many as 16 weeks in the classroom, on the job and CPR refresher courses.

To view more Doing What Matters segments, featuring other city of Phoenix employees visit: phoenix.gov/citymanager. For more information on water safety or a career as a dispatcher, visit phoenix.gov/fire.

Play the library’s Summer Reading Game, prevent “summer learning loss”

Numerous studies have shown that reading over the summer prevents “summer learning loss” and enables students to return to school better prepared to learn.

“Every Hero Has a Story” is a countywide effort to encourage kids and teens to read throughout their summer vacation. Phoenix Public Library’s summer reading program for kids, teens and adults, starts June 1 and runs through Aug. 1. To play the online Summer Reading Game, track your activities, and earn badges, register at maricopacountyreads.org. Kids (ages 6-11) who read 20 minutes a day are eligible for weekly drawing prizes.



Visit a library near you for a variety of fun-filled summer reading programs for kids, teens and adults. See you this summer at the library! For more information about the Phoenix Public Library’s summer reading program, visit phoenixpubliclibrary.org or call 602-262-4636.

Celebrate the Fabulous Phoenix 4th

The 30th annual Fabulous Phoenix 4th will feature one of the largest fireworks displays in the southwest. The free family event brings as many as 100,000 participants out to see the festivities. Included in this year’s event will be two stages featuring local entertainers, a variety of vendors offering festival-style food and drinks, arts and crafts, interactive exhibits and a classic car display. Youth activities, rides, inflatables and a water spray zone will be part of Kids World. A new feature this year includes Veterans Village, which will pay tribute to military veterans and include resources to assist with employment, health and finance. This year’s event will take place from 6 to 10 p.m. Saturday, July 4, at Steele Indian School Park located at Third Street and Indian School Road.

Visit phoenix.gov/parks for more information.