

PEORIA NOW

1954

September 2012

A monthly publication of city-centered news and current events for the citizens of Peoria, Arizona.

www.peoriaaz.gov/news

in the news

Peoria to Hold Meetings Concerning Electronic Billboards

City of Peoria Launches Civic Engagement Application

New Seminar Helps HOAs Create Budgets

Partnership Expands Making Local Parks More Enjoyable

Preview Fall Recreation Programs for Free

City of Peoria and BioACCEL Hire Director For BioINSPIRE

City of Peoria Projects Benefit All Peoria Residents

To read the full articles, visit:
www.peoriaaz.gov/news

*No access to the internet?
Call 623-773-7000*

Happy Trails



As the weather begins to cool down, we are reminded of the reasons why we deal with the Arizona heat throughout the summer. Mild days and cool nights give us the perfect opportunity to enjoy the Arizona outdoors and stay active.

Here in Peoria the City has spent the last three years partnering with local, state, and federal agencies to invest more than \$3.5 million in the development of the New River Trail. This trail is more than 9 miles of continuous multi-use trail from Olive Avenue to north of Deer Valley Road. Take some time during the weekends to walk, jog, rollerblade, skateboard, or bike this scenic route. Pets are welcome and there are underpasses at all the major streets that cross over the trail, so you and your family will not have any conflicts with vehicular traffic.

The New River Trail also connects to the Skunk Creek Trail at Rio Vista Community Park. The Skunk Creek Trail will take you out of Peoria, but is a great option if you are looking to experience a longer bike ride.

Additionally, Peoria manages and maintains over 10 miles of mountain hiking trails. These trails provide a quality experience for all levels of skills and abilities from beginners to advanced hikers.

Please remember that even though the weather is cooling down, hydration is very important during these outdoor outings. Dehydration is actually more likely to occur during the cold weather months when we are less likely to feel thirsty. In Arizona the sun is still shining despite the cold, so it is important to continue to protect ourselves from the harmful UV rays. So remember to pack your water bottles, sunscreen, sunglasses, and hats and stay safe out there!

For more information on the City's trail systems, please visit www.peoriaaz.gov.

Mayor Bob Barrett

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City Council Roundup



**Palo Verde District -
Vice Mayor Ron Aames**

Communicating with citizens is one of the most important things a city does. Hearing from Palo Verde residents, as well as sharing important news and information, is my highest priority.

E-News about the Palo Verde District is available via your email. Those of you who reside in the original part of the Palo Verde District, who haven't already signed up, are encouraged to sign up now, as are the residents in the new part of the district. You are in the new part if you 1) live south of Tierra Buena to Cactus Road between the New River trail and the Peoria city border at 67th Avenue, 2) reside between Cactus Road and Peoria Avenue along the city's east border at 67th Avenue, or 3) are a resident of Casa del Sol East, Fairwood, or Townsend Square.

Just let me know if you would like to subscribe to Palo Verde E-News, and I'll take care of the rest. Your email information will not be shared with any outside source; you will only receive information from the City of Peoria. E-mail me at ron.aames@peoriaaz.gov, and make the subject line, "Subscribe Palo Verde News." Or feel free to contact us by phone at **623-773-7306**.



**Acacia District -
Councilmember Tony Rivero**

The month of June brought a new beginning to the Acacia District and downtown Peoria. First, the downtown celebrated the reopening of Wagoner I. This is a step in the right direction as we are improving and making our downtown more welcoming to business and patrons. Second, the construction of Pioneer Community Park

continued

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has begun. The new 80-acre park will have six new lighted dual-use baseball/softball fields with shaded spectator seating and four lighted soccer fields, all capable of accommodating tournament play to help generate revenue needed to fund the park's operating costs. A five acre urban fishing lake with catch and keep fishing will be supplied by reclaimed water from the adjacent Butler Water Treatment facility. The lake is part of the urban fishing program managed by Arizona Fish and Game Division who will be stocking the lake. In addition, the lake will serve as the reservoir for the park's daily landscape irrigation needs. Other amenities include a large ramada area, dispersed small ramadas, two children's playground areas, and a shaded splash pad. Concrete walk paths, a multi-cell dog park, and large turf areas for informal recreation will all be illuminated for evening use. Parking will be dispersed throughout the park for efficient ingress, egress, and access to the park amenities.

To sign up for Acacia District email alerts, visit www.peoriaaz.gov/acacia or email me at Tony.Rivero@peoriaaz.gov.



**Ironwood District -
Councilmember Dave Pearson**

Cooperation Works - Turning from 83rd Avenue south of Union Hills Road into the Super Walmart is a little safer thanks to the help of the City of Glendale and especially Glendale Councilman Manny Martinez. After my first meeting with Councilman Martinez to express your safety concerns, he worked to speed up construction of a traffic signal at the location, showing that our two cities can get much accomplished if we work together.

Drive Carefully Around Schools - Now that school is in session take special care when driving in school zones. Pay extra attention to speed signs and crossing guards. Our children's safety is paramount.

Apply for Peoria Grants - You are just in time to apply for a Neighborhood Grant. Associations and HOAs may request up to \$12,000 to improve Peoria neighborhoods. Ironwood District groups may also apply for up to a \$2,000 SNAP Grant. Go online to www.peoriaaz.gov/Ironwood to get information about both.



**Mesquite District -
Councilmember Cathy Carlat**

Fall is a wonderful time of year. With the promise of cooler weather, many Peoria residents get excited about the thought of spending time outside again. Thankfully, the City of Peoria's Community Services Department has been planning a variety of programs and activities for the entire family.

Taking advantage of the beauty of the Lake Pleasant area, there are several kayaking classes available, including an introductory course to learn how to maneuver the kayak, or a day exploring nature. In addition, Scuba Diving and Marine Wildlife Ecology program are offered. The courses are designed to teach children about scuba diving and the Lake Pleasant environment. Classes will be held at both the Sunrise Mountain High School Pool and Lake Pleasant.

If you are looking for recreation activities away from the lake, the list is endless! Fall sports programs include flag football, kickball, softball, tennis, soccer, volleyball, and basketball. For additional information about these programs, and a complete listing of the numerous activities available, please contact the Community Services Department at **623-773-7137**.

To keep updated about what is happening in your city, register for the Mesquite District electronic news alerts by visiting www.peoriaaz.gov/mesquite. Contact Councilmember Cathy Carlat at Mesquite@peoriaaz.gov or by calling **623-773-7306**.



**Pine District -
Councilmember Carlo Leone**

The City of Peoria Fire Department takes home safety seriously, and offers an array of safety programs for Peoria residents. One of the programs has been tailored specifically for seniors and focuses on educating seniors about fire and home safety issues. Trained City volunteers will go to your home, and evaluate if there are potential hazards and provide you community resources. A complimentary program to the

Home Safety Visit is the Residential Lock Box Program. A metal box is mounted outside your residence by City staff, and a copy of your house key is placed inside the lock box. The metal box is only accessible to Police and Fire personnel in the event of an emergency which prevents you from opening the door for Police or Fire as a result of a slip or fall or instances of a stroke or heart attack. The fee for the lock box is \$50.00, but this greatly reduced price is well worth investment. To schedule your Home Safety Visit, or order your Residential Lock Box, contact Tim Eiden, Fire & Life Safety Education Specialist, at **623-773-7919**.

Don't forget to sign-up for your Pine District newsletter by sending an email to Pine@peoriaaz.gov and we will take care of the rest.



**Willow District -
Councilmember Joan Evans**

As we approach cooler months, the time comes again for the City of Peoria's Celebrate the Constitution Contest. In its twelfth year, this contest was founded to help celebrate Constitution Day, which is observed on September 17th.

Any children, kindergarten through twelfth grade, living within the City of Peoria, are encouraged to participate in this educational and fun contest where students may shed their view on a predetermined topic. The contest guidelines allow students to either create a poster or submit an essay, depending upon their grade level.

Once the submissions have been turned into the child's school, a panel of City of Peoria judges will evaluate the entries. Awards range from a \$25 gift card, to a \$1500 college scholarship! In addition to these awards, winners will be announced at a Peoria City Council Meeting.

For additional information about the program, please visit your school front office or contact Joan Evans or Briana Decker at **623-773-5133**.

FREE WATER CONSERVATION & LANDSCAPING CLASSES

at the Development & Community Services Building (Point of View Room), 9875 N. 85th Ave. Peoria, AZ 85345

Cool Season Vegetable Gardening • Wildflowers for Your Desert Garden • Landscape Container Gardening • Homeowner's Tree Care Workshop • Landscape Watering 101 • Landscaping for Difficult Locations • Xeriscape: Desert Fusion Garden Lecture and Walking Tour • Fall and Winter Color Splashes for Desert Landscapes • Desert Gardening with Perennials • The Dirt on Compost • Landscaping in the Arizona Desert

Classes start October 4, 2012. Space is limited - REGISTER NOW!