

GIVING BACK

We're three weeks into 2012 and for some, those New Year's resolutions might be falling to the wayside. But Abraham Lincoln said it best: "Your own resolution to succeed is more important than any other."

If you haven't yet selected a New Year's resolution or are already looking to find a new one, may we suggest adding "make a difference" to the top of that list? It may sound like a resolution beyond your reach, but in Tempe, there are many opportunities, both large and small, to make a difference in the lives of others and the Tempe community.

FREEZE YOUR PAWS FOR A CAUSE

We've got the perfect opportunity for you to start off the year with an incredibly rewarding splash. On Saturday, Jan. 28, plan to be a Polar Bear and support [Tempe Special Olympics](#) with a freezing cold jump at the [Inaugural Polar Plunge at the Lakes](#). It will be the coolest thing you do all year (literally!)

Polar Bear participants will jump into a cool swimming pool to earn their bragging rights! For those not quite crazy enough to jump, you can still join in the fun! Just be sure to register as a Teddy Bear. All Bears will receive yummy snacks, hot beverages and a cool t-shirt. Registration is \$20.

Nearly 200 athletes with intellectual disabilities participate year-round on Team Tempe in a variety of sports including bowling, golf, kayaking, power lifting, track and field, swimming and more. The Tempe Special Olympics program is a partnership between The ARC of Tempe, Tempe Elementary School District, Tempe Union High School and the City of Tempe.



KEEP TEMPE CLEAN AND GREEN

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.

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



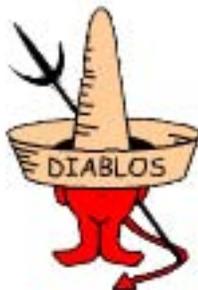


ROOT, ROOT, ROOT FOR THE HOME TEAM AND LOCAL CHARITIES

Nothing can beat the feeling of a nice afternoon of baseball, rooting for your favorite spring training team... except the feeling of helping a great Tempe organization while you're cheering on those Angels!

On Tuesday, March 6, join the Angels as they compete in their home opener against the Chicago White Sox. All proceeds from ticket sales, parking, concessions and merchandise from this game will go directly to the Tempe Diablos local charities. The [Tempe Diablos](#) help enhance the Tempe community by providing support for academic excellence and the educational needs of our children.

Spring Training tickets are available at www.ticketmaster.com. You can purchase them in person at the [Tempe Diablo Box Office](#), beginning Feb. 18 at 9 a.m. Visit www.tempe.gov/diablo for information on games, tickets, stadium hours, directions and parking.



PLANT A TREE AND LEAVE A LEGACY

In collaboration with the City of Tempe, Tempe Leadership Class 27 has devoted their efforts to "Trees and Trails," a project aimed at reforesting [Kiwanis Park](#). The class aims to re-plant up to 50 dead or dying ash, eucalyptus and sumac trees that were planted when the park was built in the 1970's. In addition, an interactive learning trail that provides educational information about the importance of trees in our community, with portions of signs providing early learning opportunities for children, will be installed.

You can help in the effort by attending a "[Trees and Trails](#)" fundraising event or by volunteering for the tree planting.



If you're still looking for a way to help out Tempe's parks, start preparing to run or walk in the 3rd Annual [Arbor Day 5K](#) (www.arborday5K.com)! Coming Friday, April 27 at Giuliano Park, this event raises money for the [Trees for Tempe](#) program.



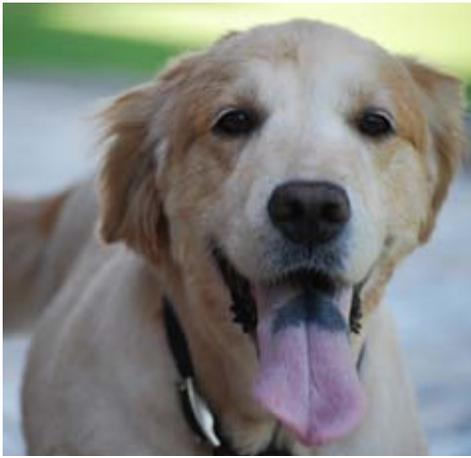
HELP CHILDREN LEARN TO READ

The City of Tempe was recently awarded a \$245,000 grant from the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust to expand the AARP-Experience Corps early literacy tutoring program. Experience Corps is in its sixth year in Tempe, providing one on one literacy tutoring to struggling first through third graders at selected schools in the Tempe Elementary and Kyrene School Districts.

Adults 50+ have the opportunity to make a difference in a child's life through Experience Corps. Hundreds of students have received assistance and thousands of hours have been donated by dedicated volunteers who work with assigned students for an entire school year. Results show increases in literacy skills and teachers report that participating students are more confident, and as a result, more likely to participate in the classroom.

The grant will allow the program to double in size, serving up to twelve schools, providing assistance to approximately 750 students and engaging over 100 adult volunteers. To find out more about Experience Corps, please visit www.tempe.gov/volunteer/experiencecorps2.htm.





SHOW SOME PUPPY LOVE FOR A NEW FURRY FRIEND

Make the difference in the life of a pet by adopting a pound dog at the annual Valen'Tails adoption event on Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 11 and 12 at [Kiwanis Park](#). Various dog breeds, sizes and ages will be available. All dogs are healthy, spayed/neutered, current on vaccinations, micro-chipped and are available for a \$55 adoption fee.

Any of these dogs would make a wonderful pet—and great companion for a day of play in one of Tempe's five [dog parks](#)! For more information on the adoption event, visit www.pawsaz.org.



EXPLORE YOUR VOLUNTEER OPTIONS

Be sure to visit the Volunteer Expo on Thursday, Jan. 19 at the [Tempe History Museum](#) Community Room from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. This is your opportunity to explore a wide variety of volunteer options and find the one that's just right for you!

Meet and talk personally with representatives from helping organizations across Tempe and the East Valley, including the Arizona Humane Society, CARE7 Crisis Response Team, Engineers in the Classroom, Neighbors Helping Neighbors, Project CURE, Save the Family, Tempe Center for the Arts, Tempe St. Luke's Hospital, Tumbleweed Center for Youth Development, Volunteers in Policing and more!

For more information on the Volunteer Expo visit www.tempe.gov/volunteer or contact Mary Anna Bastin in the City of Tempe Volunteer Office at 480-350-5190 or maryanna_bastin@tempe.gov.



THINGS TO EXPLORE IN TEMPE



OPEN MIC RESUMES FOR SEASON 7

If you're a dashboard drummer or a shower singer who secretly wishes to perform on stage, join the Walk-in Wednesdays Open Mic Night at [Tempe Center for the Arts](#) for its seventh season.

[Walk-in Wednesdays Open Mic Night](#) offers musicians an opportunity to perform original and cover songs in front of friendly, attentive crowds. There is no cover charge to play or enjoy the performances, which are scheduled from 6-10 p.m. every Wednesday. Performer sign-up begins at 5 p.m. A special youth segment allows students in high school and younger to perform from 5-6 p.m. (sign-up at 4:30 p.m.)

Singer, songwriter Walt Richardson serves as host of the series, from which performers are selected for the popular Songwriters' Showcase series appearing on Tempe 11 and Eight/KAET, Arizona PBS.



TEMPORARY SOLAR HOME ON DISPLAY

Tempe is one of just 12 North American cities to receive a visit from dasHAUS, a traveling home designed to teach people about innovations in sustainable home construction.

dasHAUS, a full-size, solar-powered home featuring the latest market-ready renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions from Germany, is being constructed in the Arts Park at the Tempe Center for the Arts. Visitors can learn about a multitude of sustainability technologies during a free tour. Tours are available Monday, Jan. 23 thru Sunday,

Jan. 30. Reservations are required and can be made at <http://tempe.dashaustour.com/rsvp/> or calling dasHAUS at (415) 248-1242.

The exhibit is sponsored by Arizona State University, the City of Tempe, the Greater Phoenix Economic Council and Valley Forward. For information on dasHAUS and the most up-to-date schedule of events, visit <http://phoenix.dashaustour.com/>.



BOOT SCOOTIN' GOOD TIME ON MILL AVE.

[Third Thursdays](#) is back in 2012 with an all new line-up beginning with January's country-themed jam! Come down to Mill Avenue on Thursday, Jan. 19 for a night of fiddles, banjos, and attitude as Rose's Pawn Shop brings

their alt-country anthems to Tempe. With a musical style located somewhere between Hank Williams and the Misfits, these guys will keep your boots scootin' all night.



To receive up-to-date information about exciting events and opportunities happening between Connecting Tempe newsletters, become a fan of Tempe Recreation on [Facebook](#).

SAVE THE DATE

- Wed, Jan. 18 & 25** [Walk-in Wednesdays Open Mic Night](#) **Fri, Jan. 27** [Lakeshore Jazz Series: Gretchen Parlato](#)
6-10 p.m.
Tempe Center for the Arts
700 W. Rio Salado Parkway
7:30 p.m.
Tempe Center for the Arts
700 W. Rio Salado Parkway
- Thurs, Jan. 19** [Volunteer Expo](#) **Sat, Jan. 28** [Inaugural Lakes Polar Plunge](#)
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Tempe History Museum Community Room
809 E. Southern Ave.
Benefiting Tempe Special Olympics
8 a.m.
The Lakes Clubhouse
5501 S. Lakeshore Dr.
- Thurs, Jan. 19** [Third Thursday Night Café](#) **Fri, Feb. 10** [Annual Adapted Recreation](#)
7 p.m.
Tempe History Museum
809 E. Southern Ave.
[Valentine's Social Dance](#)
6:30 - 9 p.m., \$5 fee
Edna Vihel Center for the Arts
3340 S. Rural Rd.
- Fri, Jan. 20** [Free Art Friday](#) **Sat, Feb. 18** [3rd Annual PlayDay in Tempe](#)
9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Edna Vihel Center for the Arts
3340 S. Rural Road
Free community day of play
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
[Kiwanis Park](#)
Mill Ave. & All-America Way
- Fri, Jan. 27** [Where is Amelia's Plane?](#)
Free Museum Presentation
7 p.m.
Tempe History Museum
809 E. Southern Ave.