

'TIS THE SEASON FOR HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS IN TEMPE

From now through the ringing in of the New Year, the City of Tempe's calendar is filled with holiday-themed events for residents and community members of all ages. Whether you want to revel in music and gleaming lights, shop for unique gifts or treat the kids to holiday activities, read on to learn how to celebrate the season in Tempe.



Fantasy of Lights Opening Night Parade Saturday, Nov. 24

Help kick off the holiday season at the annual [Fantasy of Lights Opening Night Parade](#) on Saturday, Nov. 24. Set amid the glittering lights of the festively decorated shops and restaurants of the Mill Avenue District, the free parade will step off at Third Street and Mill Avenue at 6 p.m. and will conclude with Santa arriving to hear gift requests from children.



Tempe Festival of the Arts Friday - Sunday, Nov. 30 - Dec. 2

Visit Mill Avenue between Third Street and University Drive from Friday through Sunday, Nov. 30 - Dec. 2, to experience the [44th annual Fall Tempe Festival of the Arts](#), Arizona's finest art and craft show and an award-winning holiday tradition ideal for the whole family. Browse and buy original arts and crafts that make for one-of-a-kind gifts and enjoy entertainment, street performers, exhibits and more. Children can create their own masterpieces to take home at the free Kids Innovation Station, and adults can relax in the Arizona Wine Festival and The Art of Beer microbrewery gardens. The festival is open from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. each day and admission is free.



Cahill Holiday Tea Friday, Dec. 7

Adults ages 50 and older are invited to the annual Holiday Tea at the [Cahill Senior Center](#) on Friday, Dec. 7, from 1-2:30 p.m. Attendees will sample a variety of teas and savor delicious pastries and finger sandwiches. The Dickens Carolers will provide an accompaniment of holiday songs. The cost is \$9 for RTA members and \$10 for non-members. You can [register online](#) or by calling 480-858-2420.

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**Travel from the North Pole
to New Orleans
Friday, Dec. 7**

Celebrate the holiday season with an exciting evening featuring a winter wonderland of activities as the [Tempe History Museum](#) and the [Edna Vihel Center for the Arts](#) team up to present a Night at the North Pole on Friday, Dec. 7.

Enjoy a cup of cocoa and explore the Family Fun Factory's Night at the North Pole in an exciting evening of great activities for the whole family at the Edna Vihel Center for the Arts from 6:30-9 p.m. This free event features make-and-take art projects, karaoke singing, cookie decorating and instant fun. Bring your camera and take photos of your kids with Santa Claus.

While strolling through the Family Fun Factory, don't forget to stop by the Tempe History Museum for a Dixieland and Christmas performance by the [Bad Cactus Brass Band](#) from 7-8:30 p.m.



**Fantasy of Lights Boat Parade
Saturday, Dec. 8**

See Tempe Town Lake become a nautical wonderland on Saturday, Dec. 8, during the free [Fantasy of Lights Boat Parade](#). Take the kids and grandkids to visit with Santa at Tempe Beach Park at 6 p.m. Then, at 7 p.m., the parade will begin with as many as 61 festively decorated and lighted boats of all sizes floating down the lake. The parade is the only time of the year when motorized vessels are allowed on Town Lake. Individuals, families and groups are invited to add to Tempe's holiday tradition by [entering](#) their people-powered, wind-powered or motorized boats. The deadline to apply is Monday, Nov. 26 at 5 p.m.



**Pyle's Holiday Toy Drive
Through Wednesday, Dec. 12**

While doing your holiday shopping, please remember to pick up a toy for the Pyle Holiday Toy Drive for families in need. All new, unwrapped toys, wrapping paper, bows, ribbons and tags will become part of [Tempe Community Action Agency's Holiday Toy Shoppe](#) at IKEA-Tempe, where local parents in need will be able to find gifts for their children. Gift cards donated will be used to buy gifts for those hard-to-shop-for teenagers. Donations can be dropped off at the [Pyle Adult Recreation Center](#).



**Danish Christmas at the
Petersen House
Various dates in December**

Once again, the [Petersen House Museum](#) will be filled with Danish Christmas decorations and traditions for the holiday season. The theme this year will be based on the Danish book, "Peter's Christmas", written by J. Krohn. It is the story of a young boy's Christmas in Denmark during the late 1800s. The story begins with holiday preparations in early December and follows Peter and his family from their Christmas celebration to the Twelfth Night, the traditional end of the Danish Christmas season. The house will be open 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Dec. 1, 8 and 15, and 1-4 p.m. on Dec. 2, 9 and 16.



**Larry Campbell Tree of Lights
Throughout December**

The [11th annual Larry Campbell Tree of Lights](#) will shine once again this holiday season to help support the Tempe History Museum's oral history program and honor or remember those you hold dear.

The fundraising program is presented by the Tempe Historical Society and is named for a past president of the Society who began the tradition. A donation of \$5 will place a light on the tree, and a \$10 donation will place a light as well as a "take-home" ornament on the tree in honor of the person represented. Veterans will be designated with a special ribbon and tag. A reception for the donors, honorees and families of those being remembered will be held on Sunday, Dec. 9 at 3 p.m. The tree will be on display in the museum lobby throughout December. For more information, call 480-350-5100.

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Lakeshore Jazz Series: Bob Ravenscroft Christmas Concert Friday, Dec. 21

Hear jazz renditions of your favorite holiday songs at the [Lakeshore Jazz Series](#) Christmas concert performed by Bob Ravenscroft. The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Tempe Center for the Arts Studio. Tickets can be purchased for \$35 at the Tempe Center for the Arts ticket office or by visiting www.tempe.gov/tca.



Swimming with Santa Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 27-29

After the busy Christmas season, Santa and Mrs. Claus have decided the best way to start their post-holiday vacation is by riding the waves at the [Kiwanis Recreation Center](#)! On Dec. 27-29, kids can swim with Santa or play games with Mrs. Claus on the beach. Free cookies and milk will be available to all guests and prizes will be raffled off each day. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be at the wave pool from 1-3 p.m., but you can make a day of it and swim until 5 p.m. Advance discount tickets will be available Nov. 23-Dec. 23 at the Kiwanis Recreation Center and will be \$7 for ages 13 and older and \$5 for 2-12 year olds. Tickets can also be purchased the day of the event and will be \$8 for ages 13 and older and \$6 for 2-12 year olds.

HELPING AT THE HOLIDAYS

Everyone thinks of volunteering at the holidays, and as a result, volunteer opportunities tend to fill quickly and early. Don't be discouraged; many organizations in Tempe still offer opportunities to help out during the holiday season... and throughout the rest of the year!

The City of Tempe has several free, family-friendly events coming up in December and is looking for volunteers to help with a variety of holiday happenings:

Danish Christmas Celebration (Saturdays & Sundays in December)

The Petersen House Museum is looking for volunteers to greet visitors, serve refreshments, direct visitors and help as needed during this annual holiday celebration.

Winter Extraordinaire (Saturday, Dec. 22)

The Tempe Public Library needs volunteers to help with craft activities and cookie decorating at this family fun holiday party!



Swimming with Santa (Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 27-29)

Santa's post-holiday vacation spot is the Kiwanis Wave Pool and volunteers are needed to help Santa and Mrs. Claus run fun games and activities with children on the side of the pool.

Interested volunteers can inquire about the above opportunities by calling the City of Tempe Volunteer Office at 480-350-5190.

Many other local organizations are looking for volunteers throughout the holiday season. To see a full list of volunteer opportunities and get contact information, visit www.tempe.gov/volunteer and click on "Resources."

WITH ALL THE HOLIDAY FUN, DON'T FORGET TO RUN FROM (AND WITH) THE COPS

The [Tempe Police Foundation](#) and the [City of Tempe](#) are teaming up to present the inaugural [Run from the Cops 5K](#). This is the community's chance to run from (and with) police officers without any repercussions!

The chip-timed community fun run/walk will be held on Saturday, Dec. 1 at 9 a.m. at the [Arts Park at Tempe Town Lake](#). In addition to the scenic 5K loop around Tempe Town Lake, there will be a free 1/2K Fuzz Run for children 10 years old and younger at 8:30 a.m. Participants of the 5K will receive commemorative T-shirts and Fuzz Run participants will receive play badges. The 5K entry fee is \$25 thru Nov. 30 or \$40 on Dec. 1. Day

of registration and packet pickup begins at 7 a.m.

The Run from the Cops 5K benefits the Tempe Police Foundation.





KID ZONE PRESCHOOL RECEIVES NATIONAL ACCREDITATION

As a NAC Accredited center, Tempe's [Kid Zone Preschool](#) has been recognized as an early care and education program that exemplifies excellence in the care of young children. By achieving the accreditation from the [National Accreditation Commission for Early Care and Education Programs](#), Kid Zone Preschool provides parents a program that has exceeded state licensing requirements and professional development opportunities for staff.

"Our Kid Zone preschool program establishes early learning standards for

our students in an environment that is safe and nurturing," said Rosemary Amature, Kid Zone Preschool Director. "We provide them with the fine and gross motor skills, educational curriculum and the social and emotional development needed to move to kindergarten."

The Kid Zone Preschool program is offered year-round at Getz School. In its fourth year, the program enrolls more than 75 students annually, ages 2 through Pre-Kindergarten.

READ YOUR FAVORITE MAGAZINE WITH YOUR TEMPE LIBRARY CARD

You can now read digital copies of some of your favorite magazines with your Tempe Public Library card!

Zinio™ and RBDigital are now providing a quick and easy way for library patrons to read digital copies of their favorite magazines. Using a computer, tablet, or smart phone, reading fans can access the library's catalog of selected digital magazines. Zinio's unique digital platform recreates a magazine page-for-page, including highly visual full-color pictures, while taking the reading experience even further through intuitive navigation, key word article search and interactive rich media elements such as audio and video.

Consumer Reports, Newsweek, Ladies Home Journal and the Harvard Business Review are just a few of the popular titles that are available. To learn more or find out how to get your own Tempe Public Library card, visit www.tempe.gov/library.



RESIDENTS ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN MEETINGS

The City of Tempe will hold a series of open houses to gather resident feedback related to needs for mobility and accessibility within, around and through Tempe for the [Transportation Master Plan \(TMP\)](#). The TMP provides the policy basis for how transportation funding is spent, and what projects or programs the city focuses on to provide transportation services for its citizens through the year 2040.

The plan will include elements related to streets, pedestrian facilities, bikeways, transit and high-capacity options (freeways and rail). The community is invited to attend an open house to provide input on Wednesday, Nov. 28 from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Tempe Transportation Center's [Don Cassano Community Room](#) or Saturday, Dec. 1 from 9:30-11 a.m. at the [Tempe History Museum](#).



SHOP TEMPE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Each year, shoppers make frenzied trips to the stores on Black Friday and click away at their computers on Cyber Monday. This year, celebrate a day shopping local on Saturday, November 24 for Small Business Saturday. A nationwide effort to keep local businesses thriving, [Small Business Saturday](#) brought out

over 100 million shoppers last year. When making your holiday purchases, be sure to remember your local Tempe businesses, which offer unique gifts, products and services. According to [Local First Arizona](#), for every \$100 spent at a locally owned business, \$73 stays in the state's economy. Happy shopping!



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

Sat, Nov. 24

[Family Storytime](#)

10:30 a.m.

[Tempe Public Library](#)

**Thurs-Fri,
Nov. 22-23**

Thanksgiving Holiday

City of Tempe offices closed.

Fri, Nov. 30

[Songwriter's Showcase](#)

Sugar Thieves

7:30 p.m.

[Tempe Center for the Arts](#)

Sat, Dec. 1

[Songwriter's Showcase](#)

Obadiah Parker

7 :30 p.m.

[Tempe Center for the Arts](#)

Sat, Dec. 1

[Suzy Foundation Boutique](#)

10 a.m.

[Tempe High School](#)

Thurs, Dec. 6

Winter 2013 Tempe Opportunities Brochure Available Online

www.tempe.gov/brochure

Mon, Dec. 10

Winter 2013 Registration Begins for Tempe Residents

Mon, Dec. 17

Winter 2013 Registration Begins for Non-Tempe Residents