

SWING INTO SPRING TRAINING AT TEMPE DIABLO STADIUM



Are you ready to tear into a bag of peanuts and put on a baseball cap? It's almost time for Cactus League Spring Training! Hear the crack of a bat and smell the fresh-cut grass while watching America's favorite pastime as the Angels return to their spring home in Tempe.

The Angels will host the Chicago Cubs at [Tempe Diablo stadium](#) for their spring training home opener on Saturday, Feb. 23. The season will run through March 27 at Tempe Diablo Stadium, when the Angels will take on the Texas Rangers. Tickets are available [online](#) or you can purchase them at the Tempe Diablo box office beginning Feb. 9.

The annual charity game will be held at 1:05 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 24 and the

Angels take on the Oakland Athletics. All proceeds from ticket sales, parking, concessions and merchandise from the game will go directly to the [Tempe Diablos](#) local charities. This year's game will support [Rachel's Challenge](#), an organization focused on preventing bullying in schools.

Fans can park and get a free ride to the stadium with the return of the [Angels Spring Training trolley](#). Game attendees

are encouraged to park at one of four Downtown Tempe [Park-It](#) locations, board the trolley and let someone else do the driving. The trolley will circulate between the Mill Avenue District and Tempe Diablo Stadium every 20 minutes beginning two hours before game time, until 30 minutes after game time on game days.



FREE ART FRIDAY FEATURES FRIENDS IN FEBRUARY

On Friday, Feb. 15 head to the [Edna Vihel Center](#) from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. for [Free Art Friday](#), where this month's theme is *February is for Friends*. The free, family interactive art series gives preschoolers and caregivers the opportunity to create art, learn about music and movement and have a great time! Each month has a different theme and featured art projects.

Free Art Friday will be held on Friday, March 15, Friday, April 19 and Friday, May 17 from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. March will feature *St. Patrick's Day Celebration*, April will celebrate *Goin' to the Zoo*, while May will highlight *Dr. Seuss Day*. Registration is not required for these free, leisurely mornings of activities.

EXPERIENCE THE FUN OF TEMPE AT PLAYDAY 2013



Tempe will host a free day of play for kids of all ages to celebrate play and reap the benefits of being active. The City is hosting

the celebration in keeping with its designation as a [Playful City USA](#) community for the fourth consecutive year. [PlayDay](#) will be from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 2 at Kiwanis Park, Mill Avenue and All-America Way.

Participants of PlayDay will have the opportunity to join in on structured and unstructured games and events, including: kayaking, football, softball and tennis drills and skills, inflatable games, dance and movement classes and more! All activities will take place at Kiwanis Park. Registration for spring classes and programs will be available on-site.



[KaBOOM!](#), a national non-profit organization dedicated to promoting play in children's lives, chose Tempe as a Playful City USA community this past spring. In the sixth year of the program, KaBOOM! named 213 cities and towns across the country- 12 of which are in Arizona- as Playful City USA honorees. This is Tempe's 4th consecutive year to receive this designation because of the way it uses play and play spaces to positively impact childhood wellness, public safety and quality of life.



TEMPE SPECIAL OLYMPICS SEEKS VOLUNTEER COACHES

If you were a high school track star, love to run in your spare time or just want to be a part of a great cause, Tempe Special Olympics needs you! [City of Tempe Special Olympics](#) track and field program is looking for volunteer coaches to help athletes practice their events, time and measure athletes' results. The team practices on Mondays from 4:45 – 6 p.m.

at [Marcos de Niza High School](#) and track and field season runs from Monday, Feb. 11 through Monday, April 22.

Tempe Special Olympics is offered for athletes with intellectual disabilities to learn sportsmanship and teamwork while achieving personal goals. Volunteer coaches would be working with small

groups of athletes in a particular track and field event, such as the 50-Meter Dash, long distance running or a throwing event.

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Josh Bell at (480) 858-2469 or josh_bell@tempe.gov.



TEMPE HISTORY MUSEUM CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

I have a dream.

Those four words have become synonymous with a call for equality. On Saturday, Feb. 9 at 6:30 p.m., Elmer Green will recite this famous speech by [Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.](#) at the third annual Black History Month celebration at the [Tempe History Museum](#). The event is free and appropriate for all ages.

Green knows seven of Dr. King's speeches verbatim. He has been reciting them with great passion for more than 30 years in the Greater-Phoenix area. In addition to the speech, there will be a performance by the Hester Sisters and contemporary jazz from New Groove. David Toliver Sr. from the [Archer-Ragsdale Arizona Chapter](#) of the Tuskegee Airmen will give a presentation about the heroic efforts of the [Tuskegee Airmen of WWII](#), recently featured in the hit movie, [Red Tails](#).

The Archer-Ragsdale Arizona Chapter is named in honor of two original Tuskegee Airmen, Fred Archer, the first African American USAF Chief Master Sergeant and Lincoln Ragsdale, a Civil Rights leader and prominent businessman in the Phoenix area after completing his military obligation as a P-51 fighter pilot at Luke Air Force Base.

The Tempe History Museum will also host a screening of the release of "A Legacy in the Valley," a documentary film featuring the life and legacy of two African American woman pioneers, who made history in the state of Arizona. Recognized and designated as an Arizona Centennial Legacy Project, the film tells the story of Helen K. Mason and her great grandmother Mary Green, the first African-American woman to settle in Phoenix.

TEMPE YOUTH BECOME POLICYMAKERS FOR A DAY



More than 100 youth and community leaders will exchange ideas and propose solutions for issues facing young people at Tempe's 33rd annual [Youth Town Hall](#) on Tuesday, Feb. 12.

Youth Town Hall, which is presented by the Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission (MYAC), gives youth the opportunity to have direct impact on policies affecting them. Middle and high school students in Tempe participate in the policy-making process by engaging in dialogue with community decision makers, including school board members, business leaders and public service agencies. Recommendations from the Youth Town Hall are submitted to the Mayor and City Council for possible action or policy change.

The topics to be discussed at this year's event are teen healthy relationships, school transitions and career planning, and teen volunteerism and civic engagement. Past Youth Town Hall events have resulted in the formation of youth programs such as teen leadership training, school-based counseling and life skills groups, school-based after school prevention programs, violence prevention programs and daycare for teen parents attending school.



TEMPE CARES PROJECT BUILDS COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBORHOOD PRIDE

[Tempe Cares](#), the one-day community care project devoted to cleaning up Tempe's neighborhoods, schools and parks, will be held Saturday, March 2 starting at 8 a.m.

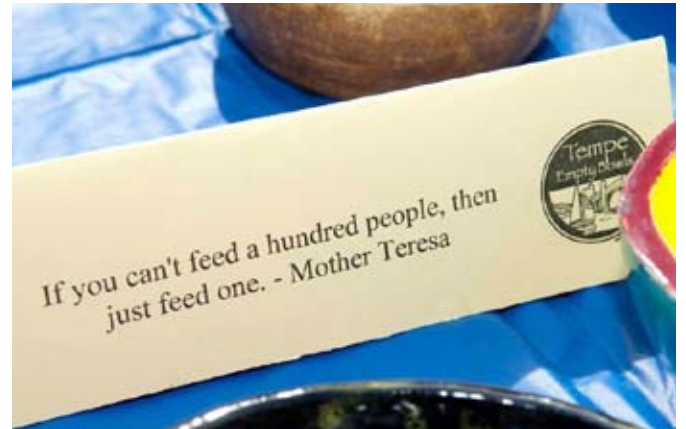
This 22-year-old project enables volunteers of all age, both skilled and unskilled labor, to come together on one day to help transform the appearance of Tempe's neighborhoods and community spaces. Organized by the Tempe Cares committee of [Tempe Leadership](#), the day brings together resources and volunteers to improve the quality of life for everyone in Tempe.

In 2013, the projects will include Tempe Elementary School District schools [Rover Elementary School](#) and [Fees College Preparatory Middle School](#), [The Center for Habilitation](#), and [Clark Park neighborhood Association projects](#).

Several hundred individuals, groups and businesses commit to volunteers, donations and in-kind resources to help make Tempe Cares day happen. If you are interested in participating or making a donation, please email tempecares@gmail.com with your information.

HELP THE HUNGRY AT THE 12TH ANNUAL TEMPE EMPTY BOWLS EVENT

[Tempe Empty Bowls](#) is a fun community event featuring a selection of hand-crafted bowls and live entertainment. The event raises awareness about hunger in Tempe and also raises money for [United Food Bank](#), [Tempe Community Action Agency](#) and the [Escalante Community Garden](#).



Hand-crafted bowls, planter pots, mugs, necklaces, platters and vases will be available for purchase on Friday, Feb. 22 at [6th Street Park](#) (just south of City Hall in downtown Tempe) and Saturday, Feb. 23 Community Center Courtyard, 3500 S. Rural Rd. (courtyard is nestled between Tempe Public Library and Vihel Center buildings) from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. both days. Friday's entertainment will include music from [Walt Richardson](#), and Saturday from Randy Olson and Friends.

All pieces are made by potters at the City of Tempe Ceramics Program, local artists, and children ranging from elementary to high school students. With the purchase of a bowl, Whole Foods Market will offer a simple meal of soup and bread, symbolic of the caloric intake that must sustain many in the world for an entire day.

TEMPE CONTINUES COMEDY SERIES

The [Tempe Comedy Concert Series](#) returns to [Tempe Center for the Arts](#) with eight shows in February and March.

On Friday, Feb. 15, guests can see Chris Bennett perform. Bennett has been seen on the Jimmy Kimmel Live show and at numerous clubs and festivals around the country. He has earned Funniest Actor in New York and Funniest Person in the Valley titles and earned honors in the 2006 Southwest Comedy Festival and The Ha Ha Comedy Café's Contest in North Hollywood, Calif.

Performances will continue through March with guests including Tony Vivich, Jonathan Gregory, Kristofer Royer, Ken Kaz and Kirsten Alberts and Kevin O'Dea.



On March 22, audiences will participate in a live Improv show with several of the best comedy troupes in town.

All shows are at 7:30 p.m. in the Lakeside unless otherwise noted. Tickets range from \$10 to \$25, not including fees, and are on sale through the Tempe Center for the Arts Box Office. Use Promo Code: Tony for \$3 off.

CELEBRATE SCIENCE AND SCIENCE FICTION WITH TEMPE

For the second year, [Geek Week and Geeks' Night Out](#) are coming to Tempe, blending science, technology and fun to celebrate the Arizona SciTech Festival.

GEEKS' NIGHT OUT FESTIVAL:

Feb. 21, 5 – 10 p.m.

Come to Sixth Street Park, at Mill Avenue and Sixth Street, for an evening of science, science fiction, music and pop culture. Visit with [NASA](#), [Geoff Notkin - the Science Channel's Meteorite Man](#), the [Arizona Ghostbusters](#), [Phoenix Comicon](#) and [Pop Culture Paradise](#) graphic novelists from around the country. There will be crazy robots from [Greathouse Labs](#), [University of Advancing Technology](#) and Tempe school district robotics clubs. Play video games with [Evil Controllers](#) and [Game Truck Party](#). Tempe Elementary and Tempe Union High School Districts will show golf technology, dissect gravity and more.

GEEK WEEK:

Feb. 15-24

[Tempe Elementary School District](#) and [Tempe Union High School District](#), [Boys and Girls Clubs](#) and [Kid Zone](#) will have



special classes and activities focusing on science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Tempe businesses are encouraged to sign up to open their doors and show people how science is part of their everyday activities.

The event is a partnership among the [Downtown Tempe Community](#), [Arizona State University Venture Catalyst](#), [ASU Walton Sustainability Solutions Initiatives](#), [College Times](#) and [Terralever](#).

HACKETT HOUSE MARDI GRAS PARTY

[Tempe Sister Cities](#) is hosting an International Mardi Gras Celebration on Friday, Feb. 8 from 6:30 – 10 p.m. to welcome Tempe's newest Sister City Cusco, Peru home of Machu Picchu!

The event will feature live music and international cuisine provided by Gabriela Arizona, voted best Peruvian Chef by [Phoenix Magazine](#). There will be a full bar, raffle and door prizes as well as a prize for best costume at the event held at the [Hackett House](#), the charming building that was once Tempe's first bakery. Cost is \$30 at the door includes one drink.

The Hackett House hosts fundraising special events, tea parties and children's programs. All money raised through the Hackett House supports the award-winning Tempe Sister City Organization, which sponsors student, teacher, practical and professional exchange programs with Tempe's eight international sister cities.

TEMPE SISTER CITIES GEOGRAPHY BEE

On Wednesday, Feb. 13, [Tempe Elementary School District](#) students in fourth through eighth grades will come together to compete for the chance to win the overall [Tempe Sister City Geography Bee](#) at Tempe City Hall from 9 – 11 a.m. The student participants each won their school-level National Geographic Bee Competitions.





TEMPE TOWN LAKE CLEAN-UP

As a result of the hard freezes the Valley of the Sun experienced earlier this year, thousands of fish died, some of which resided at [Tempe Town Lake](#). The fish are Tilapia, a tropical fish that can't survive in cold temperatures.

Crews have been working for the past week to remove the dead fish. When

the fish die, they sink to the bottom of the lake and then float to the surface about 10-14 days later. The rain and heavy water flow from last week's storms carried additional Tilapia from lakes, ponds and rivers upstream. The City hopes to have the situation resolved this week.



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, Feb. 9

[Lakeshore Jazz Series](#)

Eddie Daniels & Roger Kellaway
7:30 p.m.

[Tempe Center for the Arts](#)

Sat, Feb. 9

Angels Spring Training Tickets on sale

[Tempe Diablo Stadium](#)

Mon, Feb. 11

[Spring Opportunities](#)

[Brochure Available](#)

Wed, Feb. 13

**[Tempe Sister Cities](#)
& [Tempe Elementary School District](#)
[Geography Bee](#)**

9 – 11 a.m.
Tempe City Council Chambers

Thurs, Feb. 14

**Valentine's Day and
Arizona Statehood Day
(Happy Birthday Arizona!)**

Fri, Feb. 15

[Free Art Friday](#)

February is for Friends
9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
[Edna Vihel Center](#)

Mon, Feb. 18

Presidents Day

City of Tempe offices closed

Tue, Feb. 19

[Spring Registration Begins](#)

for Tempe Residents

Thurs, Feb. 21

[Geeks' Night Out](#)

5 – 10 p.m.
[6th Street Park](#)

Mon, Feb. 25

[Spring Registration Begins](#)

for Non-Tempe Residents

Sat, Mar. 2

[2013 PlayDay](#)

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Kiwanis Park

Sat, Mar. 2

[Tempe Cares](#)

8 a.m.