

# TEMPE TODAY

a community newsletter



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SEPTEMBER 2013



## Fire Safety Fair is Oct. 5

On Oct. 5 from 9 a.m. to noon, the Tempe Fire Department will celebrate Fire Prevention Week (Oct. 6-12) by holding a free safety fair at the Tempe Fire Training Facility, 1340 E. University Drive. Activities will include fire extinguisher training, CPR demonstrations, ambulance and fire truck tours, a vehicle extrication demonstration and more.

The purpose of the event is for residents to learn lifesaving skills. The 2013 theme for Fire Prevention Week is "Prevent Kitchen Fires." The kitchen is often one of the busiest and most dangerous places in the home. Sixty five percent of all residential fires are related to the kitchen with more injuries occurring there than any other room in the home.

Watch a Tempe Fire cooking safety video at <http://bit.ly/rApUSw>.

## New program helps local businesses

Business owners in Tempe have a new option for assistance in improving the appearance of their buildings. It's called the Storefront Improvement Program and it is the first citywide program of its kind in Arizona.

The program is designed to revitalize commercial buildings, support small businesses, reduce code violations and enhance the livability of neighborhoods by waiving fees, expediting city review of plans and providing matching funds in some cases. When businesses look better and more up-to-date from the outside, they bring in more customers and residents can take greater pride in their neighborhoods and perhaps feel motivated to improve their own properties.

Exterior improvements to businesses could include new or improved windows, doors, paint, signs, stucco, awnings, canopies, lights and ADA accessibility.

There are two versions of the program, depending on whether the applicant businesses are located within the Apache Boulevard Redevelopment Area or similar area eligible for federal block grants, or in any other area of the city.

For more information on the program, visit <http://1.usa.gov/13fx0ZG> or contact Senior Planner William Kersbergen at 480-350-8839 or [william\\_kersbergen@tempe.gov](mailto:william_kersbergen@tempe.gov).



## Town Lake financing plan clarified for residents and property owners

The Tempe City Council took action in July to update how Town Lake property owners reimburse the city for the lake's original construction and to clarify who pays for lake maintenance.

The Council voted unanimously to amend the Rio Salado Financing Plan and the city's agreement with the Community Facilities District (CFD) property owners. When the lake was built, the city determined each nearby property owner's one-time share of the total Town Lake capital expense and the annual share of operations/maintenance costs.

Owners of vacant properties currently pay 20 percent of the operations/maintenance costs they would owe annually if they were developed. The owners of vacant properties

*Town Lake continued on page 2*

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also must pay their one-time share of the initial capital expense of the lake; that amount compounds every year by 5 percent while the land is vacant. That provision was intended to make the city whole on its investment by introducing an inflationary factor to the repayment amount. The city has now reduced that annual rate to 2.2 percent, which is the current Western Regional Consumer Price Index (CPI) and is consistent with the intent of the original agreement. The rate would be applied retroactively back to the 2009-10 fiscal year.

Once a property is developed, the owner can pay the total amount owed (including the compounded interest) up front or they can pay it over 25 years. If they choose the latter, they traditionally have paid an additional, annual interest rate of 5 percent, which was the original interest rate on the bonds issued by the city. The city has now reduced the repayment interest rate to 3.64 percent, which matches the rate of Tempe's refinanced lake construction bonds.

The Council also acted to clarify responsibilities for ongoing infrastructure replacement. The lake was set up with a portion of property owners' annual operations/maintenance fees (\$531,000) being earmarked for infrastructure replacement. Originally, it was only planned that this amount would cover replacement of rubber bladders. It was never determined who should pay for everything else, such as buoys, docks and repairs to the lake walls or recovery wells.

For that reason, the Council moved to clarify that the \$531,000 is to be used for "movable parts," like the recovery wells, buoys, docks and, eventually, for things like the hydraulics on the future western dam. The costs for other, more permanent structures, such as dam piers, dam steel and lake walls, are to be paid by the city – an arrangement that has always been intended. These clarifications have not reduced the assessments paid by private property owners within the lake district.

At the July 30 meeting, Mayor Mark Mitchell spoke about impacts of the investment in Town Lake since its opening. He said the financing plan changes do not raise property taxes or sacrifice improvements to neighborhood parks.

The changes were first proposed by the Tempe Enhanced Services Commission, which held public meetings to examine and recommend clarifications to the lake financing plan that would better reflect its original intent.

As a side benefit or byproduct of the financing plan adjustments, the city believes the actions could boost lakeside development by making it more feasible for property owners to develop their properties. Developed properties pay 100 percent of their annual lake operations/maintenance costs rather than 20 percent when they are vacant. This helps the city cover less of the lake operations/maintenance for undeveloped properties. And, if more property owners pay their shares of original lake costs, the city can repay the lake construction bonds even sooner. A total of \$28 million is still owed to the city from the property owners.

## Residents have options for bulk waste disposal

Most of us have material throughout the year that is just too bulky to fit in our regular trash or recycling bins – material such as yard waste, furniture and old appliances. Tempe used to pick up this material on a monthly basis. Recently the city made changes that will increase our efficiency and sustainability – and help keep rates as low as possible for customers.

Tempe now collects bulk waste six times per year, with four collections dedicated to green waste only and two for mixed waste (bulk trash and green waste). For residents whose bulk waste needs exceed the scope of Tempe's collection schedule, here are some options:

**Public dump** – Residents can dispose of bulk materials twice per month per residence, up to 2,000 pounds, for no charge at two convenient transfer stations (utility bill and driver's license with Tempe address required for proof of residency):

- Sky Harbor Regional Transfer Station  
2425 S. 40th Street, Phoenix  
602-454-2050  
Mon.-Fri. 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sat. 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Lone Butte Transfer Station  
1000 S. Kyrene Road, Chandler  
520-796-0036  
Mon. - Fri. 5 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sat. 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Extra bin** – Residents can order a free, extra blue recycling bin or an extra black trash bin for \$7.56 per month. Call 480-350-4311 to order.

**On-call collection** – Tempe offers on-call collection services starting at \$31. Call 480-350-4311 to schedule a free estimate. Appliance pick-up – Visit [www.tempe.gov/recycling](http://www.tempe.gov/recycling) or call 480-350-4311 for appliance pick-up options.

**Household Products Collection Center** – Residents can deliver household hazardous waste (including motor oil, paint, cleaning products, lawn and pool chemicals) to Tempe's HPCC, 1320 E. University Drive. Open Friday from 7 a.m. to noon and Saturday 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Zero Waste Events** – Tempe holds multi-purpose recycling events twice each year, in April and November, where residents can bring many materials for recycling and safe disposal. Visit [www.tempe.gov/slashthetrash](http://www.tempe.gov/slashthetrash) for more information.

## Nominations sought for Tempe's 2014 Bike Hero Award

The Tempe Transportation Commission is seeking nominations for the 2014 Tempe Bike Hero Award, which celebrates bicycling in Tempe. The public is encouraged to nominate a person or organization in Tempe for increasing awareness of bicycling or promoting bicycling as a viable mode of transportation. Individuals must live or work in Tempe and organizations must be located in Tempe. The deadline for nominations is Nov. 30. For more information or to obtain a Tempe Bike Hero Award application, visit [www.tempe.gov/tim](http://www.tempe.gov/tim) or call 480-350-8663.

# Fall Events Preview



## ASU Homecoming glitters

Arizona State University is proudly gearing up for the annual Homecoming celebration set to take place Oct. 19. "Sun Devil Homecoming: All that Glitters is Gold" will highlight the spirit, pride and tradition found across all four campuses. The annual parade and block party will begin four hours prior to the ASU vs. Washington football game at Sun Devil Stadium. The fun will begin at McAllister Avenue and University Drive and continue on University to College Avenue. A time for the game will be determined by the PAC-12. For details and a complete schedule of Homecoming events and activities, visit <http://homecoming.asu.edu>.

## "Spook-tacular" good times

Tempe's 36th Annual Family Halloween Carnival will be held on Sat., Oct. 26, from 5-9 p.m. at the Kiwanis Park soccer fields, located on the northeast corner of Guadalupe Road and All-America Way. The event features carnival games, live entertainment, face painting, food booths, train rides, inflatables, a toddler play area and more! Tickets for attractions can be purchased for 25 cents. Booths are operated by local civic groups as a fundraiser. Most activities require 3-4 tickets. Be sure to dress up for the Halloween costume contest and you might win a prize! The carnival is sponsored by the Tempe Diablos. For more information, visit [www.tempe.gov/halloween](http://www.tempe.gov/halloween) or call 480-350-5200.

## Mayor's State of the City is Nov. 21

The Tempe Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with the City of Tempe is pleased to present Mayor Mark Mitchell's State of the City Address on Thursday, Nov. 21, from 7:30 to 9 a.m. at the Tempe Mission Palms Hotel, 60 E. Fifth St.

All are invited to attend the presentation, which aims to inform and engage community members in Tempe's present and future. The mayor will be sharing his thoughts on the local social and economic climate, along with his vision for the growth and future of Tempe and Arizona.

Registration is at 7:30 a.m.; the breakfast and program start at 8 a.m. Register at [www.tempechamber.org](http://www.tempechamber.org) or by calling 480-967-7891.

## Free family movie series returns

Join us Friday evenings in October for Movies in the Park, a free family movie series. Bring your blankets, a picnic dinner and the entire family to enjoy a great Halloween-themed movie in the park! Movies begin at dusk (approximately 6 p.m.) on the north soccer fields at Kiwanis Park (Mill Avenue and Baseline Road).

Oct. 4 Ghostbusters PG Oct. 18 Monster House PG

Oct. 11 ParaNorman PG Oct. 25 Hotel Transylvania PG

For information, visit [www.tempe.gov/movies](http://www.tempe.gov/movies) or call 480-350-5200.



## Tempe Old Settlers Association

For more than a century, longtime Tempe residents have gathered for an annual reunion to socialize and share memories. On Saturday, Oct. 26, the Tempe Old Settlers Association will hold its annual celebration from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Arizona Community Church, 9325 S. Rural Road. Guests are asked to bring a potluck dish to share. Old Settlers members must have been born in Tempe or have lived in the city for at least 30 years. For more information, call Councilmember Joel Navarro at 480-688-9907.

## Fall Arts & Crafts Boutique

Start your holiday shopping early at the Pyle Adult Recreation Center's Annual Fall Arts & Crafts Boutique! This event features handmade items and gifts from more than 50 artists and crafters of all ages, as well as prizes, food and entertainment. Shop Friday, Oct. 25, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturday, Oct. 26, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Pyle Adult Recreation Center, 655 E. Southern Ave. For more information, visit [www.tempe.gov/pyle](http://www.tempe.gov/pyle) or call 480-350-5211.

## Halloween Moonlight Kayak

Spend a spooky evening out on Tempe Town Lake for a special Halloween-themed Moonlight Kayak on Friday, Oct. 25, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Enjoy an evening paddling while spine-chilling stories are told by a professional storyteller. No experience is necessary. Costumes are encouraged! Participants must be at least 10 years old and must be accompanied by an adult if under 18. Price is \$30 for ages 16 and up, and \$15 for ages 10-15. All equipment is provided. To register, visit [www.tempe.gov/boating](http://www.tempe.gov/boating) or call 480-350-8069.

## Halloween Adventure

A special Halloween-themed adventure will be held Friday, Nov. 1, from 6-8 p.m., at Escalante Community Center, 2150 E. Orange St. The event will provide fun activities for the whole family including crafts, carnival games, Halloween costume contest, a DJ and more! Admission is \$3 per person. Children 5 years and under are free. For more information, visit [www.tempe.gov/escalante](http://www.tempe.gov/escalante) or call 480-350-5800.

# Calendar

**This is the tentative September/October schedule for Tempe City Council meetings.**

## **September 12, 2013**

6 p.m., Issue Review Session  
7:30 p.m., Council Meeting

## **September 19, 2013\***

*\*tentative, check website for updates*  
6 p.m., Issue Review Session  
7:30 p.m., Council Meeting

## **October 3, 2013**

6 p.m., Issue Review Session  
7:30 p.m., Council Meeting

## **October 24, 2013**

6 p.m., Issue Review Session  
7:30 p.m., Council Meeting

**Meetings are aired live on Tempe 11 and [www.tempe.gov/tempe11](http://www.tempe.gov/tempe11).**

City Council meetings are held in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 31 E. Fifth St. Agendas are posted 24 hours before each meeting outside the Council Chambers and on the second floor of City Hall. Meetings are subject to change. Confirm dates and times with the City Clerk's Office, 480-350-8241 or at [www.tempe.gov/clerk](http://www.tempe.gov/clerk).

## **Tempe City Council**

**Mark W. Mitchell**  
Mayor

**Onnie Shekerjian**  
Vice Mayor

**Robin Arredondo-Savage**  
Councilmember

**Shana Ellis**  
Councilmember

**Kolby Granville**  
Councilmember

**Joel Navarro**  
Councilmember

**Corey Woods**  
Councilmember

**Andrew Ching**  
City Manager

To contact the Mayor and Council, call 480-350-8110.

Tempe Today is produced by the Communication and Media Relations Division

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# News you can use

## **Tempe Cares wants to help beautify neighborhoods**

Tempe Cares, a one-day city beautification program from Tempe Leadership, is searching for a 2014 spring project to improve the appearance of the community through volunteer support. The group is looking for a project that would enable 300 volunteers and skilled laborers to come together for a day of work. Project types could include, among other things: painting, landscaping or cleanup at owner-occupied homes; graffiti removal; improvements of retaining walls, alleys and parks; and landscaping renovations. Email [tempecares@gmail.com](mailto:tempecares@gmail.com) with your request and include a contact name, information on the scope of the project and assistance you could provide to the project. Submissions are due by Sept. 30. The Tempe Cares committee will review all projects and provide a decision to the winning submission by Dec. 1.

## **East Valley Business Expo**

The East Valley Business Expo takes place on Wednesday, Oct. 2, at the Mesa Convention Center, 201 N. Center St., from 2-6 p.m. This is the southeast Valley's largest business expo of the year, with 1,500 attendees and more than 140 exhibitors. It provides an incredible opportunity for networking, business-to-business connections and business-to-consumer contacts. Door prizes, an emcee, guest speakers, complimentary food from on-site restaurants and a cash bar keep the event exciting and engaging. Booths are available on a first-come, first-serve basis at [www.eastvalleybusinessexpo.com](http://www.eastvalleybusinessexpo.com). Admission for attendees is free with a business card. The expo is produced by the Tempe, Chandler, Gilbert and Mesa Chambers of Commerce.

## **Threadz is open at two high schools**

In partnership with Commitment to Schools in Tempe and Kyrene and the Tempe Union High School District, Threadz Teen Resource Center has recently expanded from one to two sites. The aim is to clear the way for students age 12-18 to learn by providing them basic items they need, such as clothing, shoes, hygiene products and school supplies. The newest location of Threadz is at Tempe High, 1730 S. Mill Ave. It is open on Tuesdays from 2:30-4:40 p.m. The original location, at Compadre North Academy, 4525 S. College Ave., is open on Thursdays from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Any high school student in the Tempe Union High School District or middle school student in the Tempe Elementary or Kyrene districts can shop once per month at no cost for the items they need. For more information, including how to make donations or volunteer, contact Lynette Stonefeld at 480-858-2300.

## **Tempe teachers invited to apply for Sister Cities educator exchange**

Applications are available for this year's 2013-14 Professional Educator Exchange Program. This is an opportunity to explore international educational systems, travel, learn about another culture and connect with fellow educators around the world.

Selected applicants will live with a host teacher in their sister city for approximately two months in summer 2014, learning about the schools and culture. Participants will, in turn, host a sister city guest teacher. Educator exchange cities include: Skopje, Macedonia; Regensburg, Germany; Lower Hutt, New Zealand; and Trollhattan, Sweden. Applications are due by 3 p.m. Oct. 30 and are available beginning Sept. 1 at [www.tempesistercities.org](http://www.tempesistercities.org). Applicants must be U.S. citizens, teach full time at an accredited school in Tempe, have at least three years of teaching experience, and continue employment with their current Tempe school or district for the 2014-15 school year. For more information, visit [www.tempesistercities.org](http://www.tempesistercities.org) or email Linda Parrish at [lparrishaz@gmail.com](mailto:lparrishaz@gmail.com).

## **ASU Legends Luncheon Oct. 18**

Arizona State University has sent hundreds of its football players to the NFL and other professional leagues, and has distinguished itself in conference and bowl play. To recognize those players and coaches who have contributed to the proud legacy of the football program, the ASU Alumni Association will honor current and incoming inductees to ASU's Ring of Honor at its Oct. 18 Legends Luncheon. Tickets to the luncheon are \$55 for ASU Alumni Association or Sun Devil Club members and \$70 for non-members. For more information on the event and the rest of the Alumni Association's Homecoming schedule, visit <http://alumni.asu.edu/events/homecoming>.

## Tempe's HAWK still taking flight

Did you know Tempe has two HAWKS? No, not the bird, but unique pedestrian beacon signals called High-intensity Activated crossWalks – or HAWKS. Located at Tempe's Western Canal multi-use path, this signaling system is designed to make crossing easier for pedestrians and bicyclists while minimizing the wait time for motorists. The signals are located just north of Elliot Road at the Western Canal on both Rural Road and McClintock Drive. Each signal is designed without a green light and remains dark until a path user activates the signal. For instructions on how to use HAWK, watch our video on YouTube.



## New book chronicles history of African Americans in Tempe

A new book by Jared Smith, history curator for Tempe History Museum, explores the journey of African Americans in Tempe from the earliest days of the community until present day.

Free copies of the book will be available at the museum, 809 E. Southern Ave., during

a Sept. 5 forum about Tempe's African American history. Members of the African American Advisory Committee, which helped collect and preserve this history, will participate. Councilmember Corey Woods will facilitate the discussion, which begins at 7 p.m.

"The African American Experience in Tempe" traces the hardships faced by African Americans in the late 1890s and early 1900s and shows Tempe's progression as a diverse and welcoming society. It tells the stories of Buffalo soldiers, railroad workers, barbers, athletes, college students, World War II veterans, blacksmiths and musicians.

The book is filled with photos of Tempe from 1890s through present day. Also featured in the book are visits by Dr. Martin Luther King and President Barack Obama as well as an interview with Woods, who is Tempe's first African American council member.

The book is a publication of the Tempe History Museum and its African American Advisory Committee. It was published with a grant from the Arizona Humanities Council.

## Sun Devil Football 2013 City of Tempe Night

Come support Sun Devil Football on Saturday, Sept. 14, as they look to conquer the Big Ten Champion Wisconsin Badgers. Your Sun Devils are led by Head Coach Todd Graham and 16 returning starters, including consensus All American Will Sutton and offensive weapons Chris Coyle, Marion Grice and DJ Foster. Don't miss our annual City of Tempe night inside Sun Devil Stadium as all City of Tempe residents can purchase discounted tickets for this premium game. To purchase your seats, visit <http://promo.sundeviltickets.com> and enter the promo code TEMPE. For any questions or to inquire about season tickets and groups of 15 or more to any home games, please call Nick Deutsch at 480-727-3521 or email [nick.deutsch@asu.edu](mailto:nick.deutsch@asu.edu). Visit [www.thesundevils.com](http://www.thesundevils.com) for more information on Sun Devil Athletics.

## Monster Mash

The Centers for Habilitation (TCH), a Tempe-based non-profit that provides services for individuals with disabilities, is hosting its annual Halloween-themed fundraiser. TCH Monster Mash: A Spirit of Giving Gala will be held from 7-11 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 19, at the Pera Club in Tempe. For more information and tickets, visit [www.tch-az.com](http://www.tch-az.com) or call 480-730-4221.

## Have a safe and fun Halloween

Halloween is a time to dress up and have fun with friends, but it's also the No. 1 day of the year for childhood falls. Many Halloween-related injuries can be prevented by following these safety tips from the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Safety Council:

- Use flashlights, stay on sidewalks and avoid crossing yards.
- Cross streets at the corner, use crosswalks and do not cross between parked cars.
- Wear clothing that is bright, reflective and flame resistant.
- Use face paint instead of masks.
- To avoid tripping, don't wear long, baggy or loose costumes or oversized shoes.
- Travel in small groups with an adult.
- Go only to well-lit houses and do not enter them.
- Carry a cell phone and know how to call 911.
- Adults should inspect candy before letting kids eat it. Discard any unwrapped candy or open containers. Do not eat any unwrapped candy.
- Use flexible costume knives and swords.
- Motorists should remember to drive slowly and watch for children in the street.
- When carving pumpkins, have the children draw a face on the pumpkin and have an adult do the carving.
- Place lit pumpkins away from curtains and do not leave lit pumpkins unattended.



## Tempe's Hackett House celebrates 125 years with a party on Sept. 18

Beyond being one of the city's oldest commercial buildings, Hackett House

is home to the Tempe Sister City Program. It offers a gift shop with items from Tempe's sister cities, and hosts public events, such as tea parties, internationally-themed cooking classes and programs for children. The venue also may be rented for special events.

The community is invited to a free party celebrating the Hackett House and its 125 years in Tempe. Experience everything the Hackett House offers, such as the tradition of tea and scones, cooking demonstrations and tours. The party starts at 5 p.m. on Sept. 18. It is free.

Built in 1888, the Hackett House is the oldest fired brick building in Tempe and is among the oldest existing buildings in Maricopa County. Originally the Tempe Bakery, the Hackett House buildings, located at 401 and 405 S. Maple Ave., are associated with the first significant phase of commercial development in Tempe.

Not unlike what happened recently with real estate along the light rail line, developers bought land along the proposed railroad line that was being built in 1887. The bakery complex was a result of this effort. William Hilge opened Tempe Bakery, producing bread in his ovens and delivering it daily in Tempe and Mesa until his death in 1905.

For more information about the history of Hackett House, visit [www.tempe.gov/historicpres](http://www.tempe.gov/historicpres). For information about Hackett House events, rental or tours, visit [www.hacketthouse.org](http://www.hacketthouse.org) or call 480-350-8181. There is no need to RSVP for the 125th anniversary party.

## Learn how to xeriscape your yard

With Tempe's fall landscape workshop series, you can learn how to beautify your yard and conserve water while enjoying the historic Rose Eisendrath House. The free workshops will teach you how to convert your yard to xeriscape, which simply means landscaping in ways that reduce or eliminate the need for supplemental water.

The series of three workshops teaches residents how to plan, design, implement and maintain a beautifully xeriscaped yard. The workshops are held on three consecutive Saturdays, each focusing on a different phase of the process:

- Oct. 26      Converting your lawn to a beautiful xeriscape: principles and design
- Nov. 2        Selecting and maintaining xeriscape plants
- Nov. 9        Designing, installing and maintaining drip irrigation

Workshops are held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the SRP Center for Water Education at the Rose Eisendrath House, 1400 N. College Ave. Participants receive a free xeriscape workbook and brochures about conversion and design, drip irrigation and maintenance.

To register for the workshops or for more information, call Richard Bond at 480-350-2627.



## Computer classes at North Tempe Multi-Gen

Beginning this fall, Tempe Public Library Outreach will provide free computer classes for seniors at the North Tempe Multi-Generational Center. The "Senior Techs" computer series is designed to help adults 50+ gain technology skills and improve self-confidence when using computers. Class topics will cover basics such as cut and paste, emailing files/pictures, using a USB drive, going wireless and more. Seniors who are interested in e-reader or tablet devices are encouraged to register for the "Exploring E-readers and Tablets" class, which will be offered at both the North Tempe Multi-Generational Center and the Escalante Community Center during October. Participants will discover the basics of choosing an e-reader or tablet and how to download free e-materials from the Tempe Public Library. An assortment of devices will be available to practice with during the class. Some basic computer experience/skill is required. To register for these and other computer classes visit [www.tempe.gov/brochure.g](http://www.tempe.gov/brochure.g)