



Tempe Today

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a community newsletter

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November 2012



Register for winter classes

The winter issue of the Tempe Opportunities brochure is full of new and continuing classes and programs for all ages and interests. Class topics include exercise and fitness, educational programming, sports leagues, music, art, dance and more. All of these quality programs are offered at convenient times and locations, and at affordable prices.

The brochure will be available beginning Dec. 6 in all City of Tempe facilities or online at www.tempe.gov/brochure. Registration begins Dec. 10 for Tempe residents and Dec. 17 for non-residents. Classes begin the week of Jan. 7. For more information, call 480-350-5200.



Tempe is the place to be this holiday season

This parade kicks it all off...

Enjoy the beauty of the holiday season amid the glittering lights of the Mill Avenue District at the 2012 Fantasy of Lights Opening Night Parade. More than 50,000 people are expected to attend this free annual event, which starts at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 24.

The parade steps off at Third Street and Mill Avenue, and proceeds south to Seventh Street, ending at the Centerpoint Plaza, where a festively decorated tree awaits ceremonial lighting. The parade includes as many as 40 units, including floats, balloons, clowns, marching bands, and the arrival of Santa Claus. Following the parade, Santa takes a seat to hear gift requests and take photos. Families, neighborhoods and groups are invited to enter the parade with floats, bands, marching units, equestrian units and other novelty marching units. For more information, visit www.downtowntempe.com and click on Fantasy of Lights under the Events tab.



This festival is the best for unique holiday shopping...

Arizona's finest art and craft show and a Valley tradition for 44 years, the Fall Tempe Festival of the Arts will welcome nearly 400 artisans and more than 200,000 visitors during its fall run on Mill Avenue in downtown Tempe. The festival will be Nov. 30 to Dec. 2, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Admission is free.

Attendees can enjoy live entertainment, kids' activities, street entertainers, great food and wine and microbrewery specialties. Visit the festival information booth at Fifth Street and Mill Avenue for a complete vendor listing and festival map. For more information, visit www.tempefestivalofthearts.com.



These boats are decked out...

Light up the night and be dazzled at the Valley's most unique holiday event: the Fantasy of Lights Boat Parade Presented by SRP at Tempe Town Lake. Head to Tempe Beach Park, at Mill Avenue and Rio Salado Parkway, on Saturday, Dec. 8. Admission is free for spectators. The event opens at 5 p.m., while Santa Claus arrives at 6 p.m. and the parade begins at 7 p.m. Begun in 1999, the Boat Parade will feature as many as 50 festively lit boats of all sizes. After dark, more than 1,000 luminarias will illuminate the sidewalks and paths of Tempe Beach Park in a special display provided by

Tempe South Rotary. Fireworks will conclude the light-filled night. For more information, visit www.downtowntempe.com and click on Fantasy of Lights under the Events tab.



One Call to City Hall
480-350-4311

Tempe Fire celebrates 15 years of international accreditation

The Tempe Fire Department has once again received international accreditation from the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE) and Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI), a distinction which lasts five years. In 1997, Tempe Fire was the first U.S. fire agency to receive the designation; today it is one of just 150 agencies.

Accreditation involves a written self-assessment with exhibits and documentation of performance indicators. This document is reviewed by a team and an on-site visit is conducted to ensure the validity of the self-assessment and the quality of services. The process culminates with a hearing and presentation before the CFAI.

“The Tempe Fire Department has found accreditation particularly helpful in planning for the future of the organization and finding areas where service can be improved,” said Interim Fire Chief Greg Ruiz. “This accreditation demonstrates the capabilities of the men and women of the Tempe Fire Department and their ability to provide the highest level of service to the community.”

The National Fire Protection Association estimates there are 30,125 fire departments in the United States. Tempe is one of five accredited agencies in Maricopa County and one of eight in Arizona.

For more information on the department, visit www.tempe.gov/fire.

Don't flush it!

Just because the package says “flushable” doesn't mean it's true. Many items marketed as disposable or flushable – like baby wipes and facial tissues – don't degrade like toilet paper and can clog pipes and lead to messy sewer backups. While many household cleaning products are labeled and marketed as disposable or flushable, they really aren't.

Items that shouldn't be flushed include: diapers (cloth, disposable, flushable); facial tissues; baby wipes or disinfectant wipes; toilet scrub pads; floor cleaning pads; and napkins or paper towels.

Our sewers are designed to dispose of very specific things. The drains that connect your home to the main sewer – often no wider than four inches – are only big enough to carry water, toilet paper and human waste.

In 2009, Consumer Reports tested many of the leading brands of toilet paper and flushable wipes and concluded that all of the wipes completely failed the disintegration test, while even the strongest, thickest toilet papers broke down quickly. Consumer Reports recommended disposing of wipes in the trash rather than the toilet. Instead, use reusable sponges or cloths, or place items that aren't reusable in the garbage.

For more information, contact City of Tempe Environmental Services 480-350-2678.

Stay up-to-date on street restrictions and bus detours

Now that the cooler weather is here, Tempe comes alive with special events and football games, which have impacts on traffic flows and bus routes. In addition, crews regularly work on repairing and improving streets and water lines. That's why Tempe encourages residents and visitors to get up-to-date information about major street restrictions/closures and bus detours within Tempe. You can get information by:

- Signing up to receive emails at www.tempe.gov/enews
- Following us on Twitter or Facebook
- Checking our web site at www.tempe.gov/streetclosures

Before you head out the door, plan ahead by checking these resources and you can get where you're going faster and easier.

Keep pollutants out of stormwater

Rainwater that doesn't get absorbed into the ground is considered stormwater runoff. In Tempe, most runoff ends up in the city's underground stormwater drainage system, which ultimately carries the untreated water to our urban lakes, rivers, parks and, in some cases, eventually to our drinking water aquifers. Two pollutants of particular concern are copper and pathogens.

Copper is a naturally-occurring trace element found in the earth's crust and surface waters. At low concentrations, it is essential to plants and animals. At higher concentrations, it can become toxic. The sources of copper in stormwater range from natural to manmade, and include: air emissions and soil erosion; industrial and commercial activities; cooling towers and electrical equipment; various household products such as copper-bearing pesticides and algacides; vehicle brake pads; and some pressure treated woods.

Pathogenic organisms – such as bacteria, viruses and protozoans – are often found in stormwater runoff and can adversely affect lakes and waterways. Animal waste is major a source of E. coli bacteria as well as other pathogens. How you can help:

- Clean up pet droppings and dispose in a trash bin.
- Don't feed wild animals at waterside locations.
- Avoid using pesticides, fungicides and algacides, especially right before rainy weather.
- Use pool treatment products that are copper free or contain only minimal amounts.
- Keep pool, fountain and spa water on your property or discharge it to the sanitary sewer when possible. Pool drainage may be discharged to the right-of-way or street only if it's de-chlorinated and pollutant free.
- Wash your vehicle at a commercial car wash that retains pollutants or in a location that doesn't drain to the street.
- Never dispose of automotive fluids in storm drains.
- Report illegal dumping. If you suspect illegal dumping in the storm drain, call 480-350-2811 or visit www.tempe.gov/stormwater and click on the complaint form.

The best way to reduce stormwater pollution is to stop it at its source. To learn more, visit www.tempe.gov/stormwater. If you have questions, call 480-350-2678.



Tempe offers professional counseling

For more than 25 years, Tempe residents have been able to seek help for everything from depression and grief to domestic violence and relationship problems by

taking advantage of the city's counseling program. Tempe employs licensed professional counselors and Master's level counselors for this confidential service.

Services are available for individuals, couples and families who are not eligible for counseling through their health insurance or AHCCCS. Fees are \$5 to \$40 per session based on family size and income. The program's offices are on the second floor of the Tempe Public Library, 3500 S. Rural Rd. For more information or to make an appointment, call Social Services at 480-350-5400.

Interested in volunteering in Tempe?

Check out the "Get Involved" tab on the city's homepage at www.tempe.gov



Tempe takes home five Environmental Excellence awards

In late September, the City of Tempe received five awards at Valley Forward's 32nd Annual Environmental Excellence Awards, including a first place Crescordia Award for the Tempe Town Lake Pedestrian Bridge. The awards recognized sustainability initiatives of public and private projects, including homes, commercial buildings and public spaces.

The pedestrian bridge won in the category of Buildings and Structures: Industrial and Public Works. Completed in 2011, the bridge is part of Tempe's overall efforts to reduce traffic, improve air quality, connect people to culture, conserve water and create shade. It provides access to miles of

regional paths. The bridge was built almost entirely with federal funds.

A series of temporary public art installations in vacant commercial spaces called IN FLUX won an Award of Merit in the category of Art in Public Places. IN FLUX supports local merchants, property owners and artists, bringing renewed vitality to Scottsdale's and Tempe's downtowns. The third cycle of displays is slated to begin this fall.

The Crosscut Multi-use Path Phase II won an Award of Merit in the category of Site Development and Landscape: Trails. The project is a mixed-use, one-mile trail through north Tempe. Using sustainable materials, the project converted an unpaved maintenance road into a shaded, accessible regional link in the Valley's pedestrian/bicycle system.

A public art element called Contours and Crossings, by artist Mary Lucking, won an Award of Merit for Art in Public Places. The work incorporates three artistic bridges at Tempe's Crosscut Canal. This project was also recognized as outstanding public art by the Americans for the Arts' Public Art Network's Year in Review.

Tempe Boards and Commissions need you!

Do you have special interest or expertise in a field? Do you like giving back to your community? Chances are the City of Tempe could use your service on one of several city Boards and Commissions that now have vacancies.

Hundreds of residents and other community members currently serve on Tempe Boards and Commissions, which advise the City Council on all aspects of life in Tempe. For example, there is a commission dedicated to aviation and one devoted to disability concerns. Another commission specializes in historic preservation and one is committed to the arts. Find your perfect fit at www.tempe.gov/clerk.

Some of the groups require Tempe residency. In addition, some require experience in specialized fields, such as plumbing, engineering, architecture and more.

Applications must be submitted by 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 26. They can be submitted via email (clerk@tempe.gov), mail, fax (480-858-2012), or in person at the City Clerk's Office, 31 E. Fifth St., second floor. For questions, call 480-350-8241.

Calendar

This is the tentative November/December schedule for Tempe City Council meetings.

November 1, 2012

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

November 8, 2012

4:30 p.m., City Council Strategy Session

November 15, 2012

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

December 13, 2012

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

Meetings are aired live on Tempe 11 and the Internet at 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.

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

Charlie Meyer
City Manager

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

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City of Tempe
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www.tempe.gov

News you can use

Get your tax credit!

You can now make an online tax credit donation for the Tempe Elementary School District at www.tempeschools.org/taxcredit. Schools use the donations for academic and extracurricular programs, such as educational field trips, fine arts programs and after-school tutoring. Arizona law enables taxpayers to make a tax credit contribution of up to \$400 per calendar year if filing status is married, filing a joint return; \$200 per calendar year if filing status is single or head of household; and \$200 per calendar year if filing status is married, filing a separate return. Donations must be made by Dec. 31.

Stay safe when cooking this holiday season

Every year, people using deep fryers accidentally start fires and cause hundreds of injuries. And 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, and more injuries occur in the kitchen than any other room in the home. Be safe this holiday season when preparing your holiday meal. For tips, watch a Tempe 11 cooking safety video at bit.ly/QsCCEH or visit www.tempe.gov/fire.

Holiday giving opportunities

During the holiday season, please remember the less fortunate in your gift giving. To find out what our local nonprofits are doing for those in need, and how you can help, click "Give Help" on the Tempe Community Council website (www.tempecommunitycouncil.org) for a listing of service projects and donation ideas.

Swimming with Santa

Santa needs a vacation, and he's coming to Tempe! The big guy in red is exhausted after delivering toys all over the world in one night, and Mrs. Claus is always so busy archiving the naughty/nice list. So, every year, they decide the best post-holiday vacation is riding the waves at the Kiwanis Recreation Center, 6111 S. All-America Way. Join them Dec. 27-29 to swim, play games and enjoy complimentary cookies and milk. Stick around and you could win fantastic raffle prizes that will be given away each day! Swimming with Santa is from 1-3 p.m. each day, but you can stay and make a day of it until 5 p.m. Advance discounted tickets are available Nov. 21 – Dec. 24. Tickets can also be purchased the day of the event for a higher price. For more information, visit www.tempe.gov/kiwanis or call 480-350-5201.

Larry Campbell Tree of Lights

The 11th Annual Larry Campbell Tree of Lights will shine again this holiday season at the Tempe History Museum, 809 E. Southern Ave. Presented by the Tempe Historical Society, this fundraiser is named in memory of Larry Campbell, a past president of the society. Honor a loved one with a light on the special tree. Give a donation of \$5 to place a light or \$10 to place a light and receive a take home ornament to help support the museum's oral history program. For more information, visit www.tempe.gov/museum or call 480-350-5100.

Danish Christmas at Petersen House

Once again, the Petersen House Museum will be filled with Danish Christmas decorations and traditions for the holiday season. This year, decorations will be based on the Danish story, Peter's Christmas, written by J. Krohn. It is the story of a young boy's Christmas in Denmark during the late 1800s. Admission is free, though donations will be accepted. The house is located at 1414 W. Southern Ave. Hours of operation for the holiday season will be Saturdays (Dec. 1, 8 and 15) from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sundays (Dec. 2, 9 and 16) from 1-4 p.m. For more information, visit www.tempe.gov/museum or call 480-350-5100.

Night at the North Pole

On Friday, Dec. 7, the Tempe Community Complex will be transformed into the North Pole! Night at the North Pole will be an evening of fun holiday activities for the whole family. Stop by the Edna Vihel Center, 3340 S. Rural Road, between 6:30 and 9 p.m. and create art projects, sing karaoke, decorate cookies and grab a cup of hot cocoa. Throughout the evening, wander across the plaza to the Tempe History Museum where the Bad Cactus Brass Band will be playing Dixieland and Christmas favorites between 7 and 8:30 p.m. For more information, visit www.tempe.gov/familyactivities or call 480-350-5200.

‘Tis the season for cooler weather. Remember to be safe this winter when using a fireplace or space heater.

As the weather cools off, many residents will use a fireplace or space heater to keep warm this winter. But without using simple safety precautions, that fire could turn deadly. The Tempe Fire Department reminds you to be safe when using a fireplace or space heater. Keep your family safe and warm by following these safety tips:

- Have the fireplace checked and cleaned by a Chimney Safety Institute of America certified chimney sweep.
- Always open the damper before lighting the fire and keep it open until the ashes are cool.
- Read the instructions on artificial logs and follow them carefully. Never add an artificial log to a natural wood fire that is already burning. Wait at least two hours before adding an artificial log to a natural log fire because it could cause a flare-up.
- Never use gasoline, a charcoal lighter or other fuel to light or relight a fire as the vapors could explode.
- Do not use coal or charcoal in a fireplace because of the danger of carbon monoxide.
- Do not burn trash or gift wrap in the fireplace because certain plastics, foam rubber and other coated materials can cause deadly fumes.
- Always use a screen around the fireplace to keep sparks from flying out.
- Keep items such as carpets, pillows, furniture or papers away from fireplaces and space heaters.
- Always make sure that the fire is completely out or a space heater is turned off before going to bed or when leaving the house.
- If you are going to utilize any natural fuel burning, propane and/or natural gas appliance in your home an operating carbon monoxide detector is recommended.

For a complete list of safety tips, visit our web site at www.tempe.gov/fire

12th Annual Cinderella Affair

Tempe Community Council and the East Valley Women’s League will be outfitting high school students in need with the perfect prom dress March 22 and 23, 2012.

To collect all the dresses we will need, we will host dress drives all around the Valley from February 1-14. Check www.cinderellaaffair.org for drop-off locations and thank you for making dreams come true!

Nominate Someone Extraordinary in Your Community

Tempe Community Council and the City of Tempe are accepting nominations for the 25th Annual Tempe Mayor’s Disability Awards.

The purpose of the Disability Awards is to honor those in our community who have overcome significant barriers to succeed in the workplace; as well as those employers and architects who support the full participation of people with disabilities in the workplace and all aspects of community life. Nominations are currently being accepted to honor these outstanding individuals in wide range of categories. View a full list of nomination categories and download the nomination form online: www.tempecommunitycouncil.org/mayors-disability-awards

Submissions are due by 4:00pm on Friday, March 22, 2013 to Tempe Community Council 34 East 7th Street, Building A, Tempe 85281 Fax: 480-858-2319 Email: tccinformation@tempe.gov

‘Tis the season; holiday decoration safety tips from Tempe Fire

The holiday season brings joy and excitement to families, but it can also bring tragedy. Careless handling of Christmas trees, candles and lights can cause fire dangers. The most important thing you can do to be fire safe during the holidays is to plan ahead and take precautions. Christmas trees are part of the traditional holiday season, but if not handled properly, they can cause fires. A dried out tree can catch fire and burn a living room in just 30 seconds. Here are some helpful tips to keep your home safe during the holidays:

- Cut one inch off the bottom of your tree so it will draw water better. Keep your tree in a water-holding stand and full of water.
- Do not place the tree near any heat source.
- Buy artificial trees with safety approved labels (UL or FM).
- Never use electrical decorations on an aluminum tree.
- Never use candles on a tree.
- Do not overload circuits or extension cords.
- Be careful not to use tree lights with cracked or broken wiring. Use only laboratory approved lights.
- Do not place lights or candles near anything that can easily catch on fire like curtains, furniture or bedding.
- Turn tree lights off before going to bed or leaving house.
- Put candles in non-flammable, sturdy holders or candlesticks. Do not place them where they can easily be knocked over like in windows or near exits.
- Use only lighters designed to be child resistant and keep all matches and lighters out of the children’s reach.

Learn about the different types of lights and the proper way to install them on your tree at <http://bit.ly/rJiqUb>.

Learn how to prevent candle fires at <http://bit.ly/r17C0Z>. For a complete list of holiday safety tips visit www.tempe.gov/fire