

TEMPE TODAY

a community newsletter



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Tempe Diablos charity game March 4

Nothing can beat an afternoon of baseball – except for the feeling of helping a great organization while you're cheering on those Angels! Join the Tempe Diablos for their annual charity game at 1:05 p.m. on Tuesday, March 4, when the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim take on the Texas Rangers.

All proceeds from the game will go to Rachel's Challenge, an organization that works to combat bullying in schools. Based on the life and writings of Rachel Joy Scott who was a victim of the Columbine school shooting in 1999, Rachel's Challenge was created to equip and inspire students to replace violence, bullying and negativity with respect, kindness and compassion. One of the largest school-based character development programs in the nation, Rachel's Challenge visited more than 2,200 schools last year. The Tempe Diablos have created grants to bring this program into Tempe schools. For more information on Rachel's Challenge or the Tempe Diablos, visit www.tempediablos.org.

Tickets are on sale at www.ticketmaster.com or you can purchase them at the Tempe Diablo box office beginning Feb. 15. Tempe Diablo Stadium is located at 2200 W. Alameda Drive. Visit www.tempe.gov/diablo for information on games, tickets, stadium hours, directions and parking.



Updated name for Tempe Fire better reflects its functions

In January, the city announced that the Tempe Fire Department updated its name to the Tempe Fire, Medical, Rescue Department in order to better communicate all the services it provides.

With six fire stations and more than 160,000 residents in Tempe, the department responds to all types of emergency situations here and in neighboring cities through a regional automatic aid agreement. In 2013, more than 79 percent of Tempe Fire's 24,861 calls within the city were for medical-related purposes. The change better reflects the true nature of the department.

"We will continue to provide the same high-quality services to the public," said Chief Greg Ruiz. "This is an exciting time for us with many new initiatives on the horizon and we must continue to be a proactive service provider. The name update will provide a clearer picture of the services we offer to the community."

The department name will be updated over five years on everything from trucks and equipment to stationary and business cards. The estimated cost for the updates is \$10,000 over a five-year period. Many of the updates will be made only as equipment and uniforms are replaced.

Similar name updates have been happening locally and nationally, as fire departments seek to ensure community members are aware of the evolving nature of the services they provide.

Tempe Fire, Medical, Rescue Department is an all-hazards department that responds to a variety of incidents including fires, automobile accidents, medical emergencies, hazardous materials and technical rescues. It also promotes emergency preparedness, fire prevention and life safety programs throughout the community. Information is available at www.tempe.gov/fire. Follow the department on Twitter at @TempePoliceFire or on Facebook at TempePoliceandFire.

CONTACT:



480-350-4311

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Tempe sets Special Election for General Plan 2040

The City Council has set a May 20 Special Election to ask Tempe voters to ratify General Plan 2040.

As required by state law, cities must update their General Plans every 10 years and get voter approval. All General Plan documents reflect a community's vision for where it wants to go in the future; the documents are less specific than a given city's zoning and development code.

Tempe residents and other community members, such as property and business owners, have worked for more than a year at public meetings to update the city's General Plan 2030 to become General Plan 2040. The City Council adopted General Plan 2040 at its Dec. 12 meeting, and set the election date through a formal vote at its Jan. 9 Regular Meeting.

Arguments supporting or opposing General Plan 2040 that are to be published in the publicity pamphlet must be filed by Feb. 19. For details on requirements and costs to file an argument, contact the City Clerk's Office at clerk@tempe.gov or 480-350-8241.

The deadline for voter registration is April 21. Early voting details will be announced soon.

General Plan 2040 can be accessed at www.tempe.gov/GP2040. Detailed information about this and other 2014 elections is available at www.tempe.gov/election.

Get help for hoarding

Imagine going into a smoke-filled home with boxes and papers stacked from floor to ceiling. You can't see anything and getting through the house is almost impossible. That is the type of situation the Tempe Fire, Medical, Rescue Department encounters all too often. Hoarding makes it difficult for first responders to help in the event of an emergency. It's a dangerous problem all around the Valley, but help is available.

If you have a friend or loved one who may have a problem with hoarding, seek help from the Arizona Hoarding Task Force at azhoarding.com. The group provides help in finding support groups and personal organization services. Tempe residents also can find help through CARE 7, the City of Tempe Crisis Response Team at 480-350-8004 or tempe.gov/care7. To learn more, watch our video about hoarding at youtu.be/1HQSu4kvdlo.

Classes begin in March

Spring into something new! The Spring 2013 Tempe Opportunities Brochure features hundreds of programs for every interest, age and ability and includes health and fitness, art, dance, special interest, sports, aquatics and boating offerings. The brochure will be available online and can be found at city facilities beginning Feb. 13. Registration for Tempe residents will begin Feb. 18 and Feb. 24 for non-residents. Visit www.tempe.gov/brochure or call 480-350-5200 for more information. Registration can be completed online, by fax or in person at many Tempe community centers. Classes begin the week of March 17.

Access 3,000 free e-books from Tempe Public Library

The Tempe Public Library has begun creating its own collection of free e-books that will provide library cardholders shorter waiting times for popular books and better match the reading patterns of Tempe readers. Previously, library patrons accessed e-books from the Greater Phoenix Digital Library, along with cardholders from all libraries in Maricopa County.

This startup collection is larger than most libraries of Tempe's size; the number of titles available will continually increase. Check out the books at www.tempe.gov/library.



Play like a kid at 5th Annual PlayDay

On Saturday, March 1, kids of all ages can have fun and stay active at the city's 5th Annual PlayDay. The free community event will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Kiwanis Lake within Kiwanis Park, at Mill Avenue and All-America Way. Families can join structured and unstructured games and activities, including kayaking, football, softball and tennis drills/skills, inflatable games and more.

Diablo Dash at PlayDay, a free, family-friendly obstacle course, will start at 10 a.m. A first-time event sponsored by the Tempe Diablos, the course will have you running, crawling, climbing, sliding and laughing your way through a bubbling foam pit to the finish line.

For information, visit www.tempe.gov/familyactivities or call 480-350-5200.

Consider placing leaves in compostable bags

Some Tempe residents are using compostable bags for their leaves, pine needles and raked clippings, allowing them to be placed out for the city's Green Waste collection. Because the bags are biodegradable, they don't hinder the composting process or contaminate the final product. Residents can request trial bags from the city by calling Tempe 311 at 480-350-4311 or filling out a service request at www.tempe.gov/311. Compostable bags also can be purchased online through most hardware, lawn and garden stores. It is important to make sure they are "ASTM D6400 approved" bags. In mid-2013, the city changed the way it collects uncontained (bulk and green) solid waste – for all the details on those changes, visit www.tempe.gov/slashthetrash.

New year, lower water rates

Starting in 2014, most residential water utility customers in Tempe will see a decrease of just over 2 percent in their water and wastewater rates. The Tempe City Council in November adopted a resolution to adjust rates for water and wastewater that will result in lower monthly utility bills for most residents.

Each year, the city evaluates water and wastewater rates and makes necessary adjustments to ensure full recovery of operating costs, meeting regulatory requirements, financing capital programs and maintaining an unreserved fund balance.

This year, Tempe held a series of customer workshops and, as a result of their input, changed the way it calculates sewer rates, resulting in an overall decrease in the wastewater bill for a single-family residential customer. The estimated combined net effect of water and wastewater adjustments for the average single-family residential customer is an overall decrease of \$1.16 or 2.2 percent per month. The changes will be effective with charges beginning Jan. 1, 2014.

The rate adjustments are based on a detailed cost-of-service rate analysis. Rates are structured for each customer class to assure that utility customers pay their share of the costs. Because rates are structured specifically for each customer class, individual customers will see different rate impacts. For information, visit www.tempe.gov/water.

CenturyLink upgrading communication network

CenturyLink recently began an extensive effort to upgrade its communication network in Tempe, including installing new communication pedestals along arterial streets, alleyways and residential areas throughout the city. This means that excavation work will be done in some residents' yards and alleys. Work in residential areas will be done within the public utility easement or right of way, with the majority of the excavation being done by hand.

CenturyLink merged with Qwest in April 2011 and is in the process of rehabilitating the distribution network in order to improve its internet and phone services as well as offering Prism, a television service that competes with Dish Network, DirectTV and Cox.

Per CenturyLink's agreement with the city, pits are to remain open no longer than 72 hours (three working days), and restoration is to be completed within 10 days. The city will be monitoring the work, and all excavations are expected to be returned to their previous conditions.

CenturyLink will notify residents of affected properties, as well as the two properties on either side, by placing door hangers 48 hours prior to beginning work at a given location. The door hangers will include a CenturyLink hotline number for questions and concerns. The company's work in Tempe is expected to be completed by the end of 2014.

Public meetings to shape new character areas

As reported in the January issue of Tempe Today, the city is creating eight "character areas" representing the unique personalities of particular geographic parts of Tempe. The designations recognize areas and groups of neighborhoods that contain common land use, housing design and commercial characteristics that may be distinct from other parts of Tempe.

The City Council and city staff are working closely with each area's stakeholders – from residents and property owners to schools and businesses – to develop a plan for each character area. The goal of the planning process is to develop a vision for each area starting with identifying its current assets and assessing its future needs. Between this year and 2018, the city will focus on two areas per year, starting with Area 7 (Kiwaniis/The Lakes) and Area 8 (Corona/South Tempe).

Area 7

An Area 7 kickoff meeting for stakeholders from this area will be held Wednesday, Feb. 26, at 6:30 p.m., at Aguilar Elementary School, 5800 S. Forest Ave.

Area 8

An Area 8 kickoff meeting for stakeholders from this area will be held Monday, March 3, at 6:30 p.m., at Arizona Community Church, 9325 S. Rural Road.

For more information and a map of all the character areas, visit www.tempe.gov/characterareas.

For expanded coverage of Tempe, visit:
www.tempe.gov/newsroom

Tempe 2014 Bike Heroes

Residents Ryan and Jennifer Guzy have been named the city's 2014 Tempe Bike Heroes for their work in increasing awareness of bicycling and promoting it as a viable mode of transportation. The city's Transportation Commission selected the couple from among several nominations.

As president of the Tempe Bicycle Action Group from 2008 to 2012, Ryan significantly modernized the organization. The couple was instrumental in growing the Tour de Fat bike ride to more than 10,000 participants while raising \$80,000 annually for local non-profit organizations. Each year, Jennifer coordinates roughly 200 volunteers for the event, which is often heralded as one of the largest and best-run Tour de Fat events in the country.

Jennifer also spearheads the annual bicycle count, which assigns volunteers to count the biking population at key intersections in Tempe. Ryan created new ways for the bicycle community to get involved in city government by creating a community forum with City Council candidates. Ryan was also a member of the General Plan 2040 Community Working Group and is very active in bicycle-related projects in Tempe.

For more information on bicycling in Tempe, visit www.tempe.gov/bike.

Calendar

This is the tentative February/ March schedule for Tempe City Council meetings.

February 3, 2014

4 p.m., Committee of the Whole

February 13, 2014

6 p.m., Issue Review Session

7:30 p.m., Regular Meeting

February 24, 2014

4 p.m., Committee of the Whole

February 27, 2014

6 p.m., Issue Review Session

7:30 p.m., Regular Meeting

March 20, 2014

6 p.m., Issue Review Session

7:30 p.m., Regular Meeting

March 24, 2014

4 p.m., Committee of the Whole

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, times and locations with the City Clerk's Office, 480-350-8241 or at www.tempe.gov/clerk.

IRS and Formal meetings are aired live on Tempe 11 and www.tempe.gov/tempe11.

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

Tempe Today editor Nikki Ripley
nikki_ripley@tempe.gov
480-350-8846 or
480-350-8400 (TDD)

City of Tempe
31 E. 5th St., Tempe, AZ 85281
www.tempe.gov

News you can use

Want to learn more about antiques?

The Questers Hayden's Ferry Chapters is hosting its 17th Annual Antique Seminar to benefit the city's Petersen House Museum. Lectures will showcase various antiques experts on topics such as silver, photographic prints, mourning jewelry, tablecloths, campaign buttons, Bowie knives and Victorian toothpick holders. The lectures are from 7-9 p.m. on Feb. 4, 11, 18 and 25 at the Tempe History Museum, 809 E. Southern Ave. Advance registration for the whole series is \$40 or \$45 at the door; individual seminars are \$15 each. For more information, call Julie at 480-838-2414.

ASU Alumni Association hosts networking mixers

Arizona State University alumni and supporters are invited to expand their professional networks at two upcoming mixers hosted by the ASU Alumni Association:

- Members of the association's Women in Business group will meet March 19 at Salut Kitchen Bar, 1435 E. University Drive.
- Members of the Maroon & Gold Professionals group will meet April 1 for networking at Carson Ballroom inside Old Main on ASU's Tempe campus.

For information or to RSVP for either event, visit <http://alumni.asu.edu/services/career-resources>.

Free Art Friday

Free Art Friday is an interactive art series that 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 Feb. 14 and March 14 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Edna Vihel Center, 3340 S. Rural Road. Registration is not required. For more information, visit www.tempe.gov/familyactivities or call 480-350-5287.

Baseball history lecture

Learn about sports and leisure in Tempe on March 20 as part of the Third Thursday lecture series called Good Sports: The History and Future of Local Sports. From Little League and high school basketball to Sun Devil football and spring training baseball, sports are important to Tempeans. Join the staff of the Tempe History Museum on the third Thursday of each month for a look at the impact sports have had on Tempe and how they will shape the future. This month's topic is Arizona Early Baseball. All programs begin at 7 p.m. at the Tempe History Museum, 809 E. Southern Ave. Admission is free. No registration is required. Visit www.tempe.gov/museumevents for more information.

Tempe Leadership project aims to provide produce to those in need

Valley food banks often have difficulty accepting large donations of fresh food from grocers and farmers because they lack a method to transport it without spoilage. Tempe Leadership's Class XXIX is working on a fix: purchasing a refrigerated food truck that United Food Bank can share with partner agencies. You can help – the class is raising funds through contributions small and large. Learn more about the project, and how to help, at www.bucktruck.org.

Free tax preparation for qualified residents

Tempe Community Council's Financial Stability Initiative offers a free tax preparation site and Earned Income Tax Credit refunds for taxpayers earning \$52,000 or less in 2013. Seniors and those with disabilities also qualify for the free service. Tempe's tax site will be open each Saturday, Feb. 1 to April 12, from 9 a.m. to noon (except March 8 and 15) and Wednesdays Feb. 5 to March 5, from 5-7 p.m. The tax site is hosted by Landings Credit Union, 2800 S. Mill Ave. Visit tinyurl.com/TCCFreeTax for details and what to bring to your visit.

Nominations open for Mayor's Disability Awards

Since 1988, the City of Tempe and Tempe Community Council have partnered to highlight the accomplishments of people with disabilities as well as spotlight individuals, businesses and organizations that promote the advancement and equal opportunity for those with disabilities. Nominations are currently being accepted at www.tempecommunitycouncil.org/mayors-disability-awards to recognize someone for their ability, advocacy, accessibility or achievements relating to disabilities. Deadline for submissions is 5 p.m. March 21.