

Connecting Tempe

THROUGH PEOPLE, PARKS AND PROGRAMS



September 16, 2009



Tempe's Play Day this Saturday

The big event is finally here! Join your family, friends and neighbors at Tempe's inaugural [Play Day](#) this Saturday, Sept. 19, from 8-11 a.m. at [Kiwanis Park](#) for a morning of free games and recreational activities, all meant to encourage play and physical activity in the lives of Tempe's families.

Tempe Play Day comes after Tempe was designated a [Playful City USA community](#) in July by [KaBOOM!](#), a national non-profit organization dedicated to promoting play in children's lives. Tempe was one of only 93 communities across the country to receive the honor.

At last week's Sept. 10 Tempe City Council meeting, [Mayor Hugh Hallman](#) formally announced the Playful City USA award and offered the following words:



Tempe realizes that conventional play is unfortunately on the decline with our children, giving way to video games, online social sites and other forms of sedentary and solitary activities. As such, the city of Tempe must take action to encourage and facilitate play so that our children can exercise their bodies and minds, appreciate the outdoors, interact personally with other children and release energy in a healthy and fun way. As Tempe commits more fully to the cause of play by continuing to provide quality programs and recreational spaces for children, we can help create a healthier and happier future for our children.

Do your part to create that healthy, happy future and have a blast while you're at it by attending Play Day. Make the most of Play Day by picking up a Play Day Passport at the information station located in the parking lot outside the [Batting Range](#). For each Play Day activity or event you visit or participate in, you will receive a stamp. You can then return your completed passport to the information station for entry into a raffle.



Play Day Activities

- 1-mile fun run
- Kayaking on Kiwanis Lake
- [NFL Punt, Pass & Kick](#) skills contest for ages 8-15
- Triple Threat baseball and softball skills challenge
- Field games
- Basketball drills and skills
- Beginning tennis lessons
- Bike rodeo
- Tempe Wonderland: inflatables, sand castles, chalk art, board games, jump ropes

Recycle your sneaks!

Bring your worn-out athletic shoes to Play Day for recycling in the [Nike Reuse-a-Shoe program](#). The shoes will be recycled to form Nike Grind, a material used in sports and playground surfaces like the 15 tennis courts at Tempe's [Kiwanis Recreation Center](#).

Visit the Play Day Web site at www.tempe.gov/events/playday to see a map of [Kiwanis Park](#) and find additional information.

Registration for fall programs continues

Tempe Parks and Recreation knows that your lives are unpredictable and your schedules are hectic, so we offer a variety of start dates for our fall programs to make it as convenient as possible for you and your family to participate in our programs. Even though some classes have already started, there are many more that will start in October, November and December. You can see the full lineup of affordable classes in the [Tempe Opportunities brochure](#) online, and you can register [online](#), at the [Parks and Recreation](#) office or at many community centers. Call (480) 350-5200 with any questions.

Ballet Under the Stars is Sept. 25

Spend a relaxing and affordable evening with a date, your family or a group of friends under the gorgeous Arizona sky on Friday, Sept. 25, as Ballet Arizona continues its annual season-opening tradition of [Ballet Under the Stars](#). The performance is free and will start at 7 p.m. at the [Tempe Center for the Arts](#) Amphitheater (on the east side of the theatre complex).

Ballet Under the Stars performances are directed by Ib Anderson and allow spectators the chance to enjoy dance in a unique outdoor setting complete with a stage, lighting, costumes and beautiful Arizona weather. Dancers will showcase a combination of classical and contemporary works in a casual setting. These once-a-year concerts often feature the debut performance of works created as part of the children's "Class Act" program.

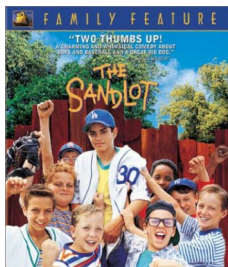
Ballet Under the Stars is an open-seating event, so bring blankets or lawn chairs and arrive early for best seating. Free parking is available west of Hardy Drive, but remember to allow ample time to walk to the amphitheater.

For more information, call (480) 350-5287.



Photo by Rosalie O'Connor

A night you'll remember FOR-EV-ER: Major League Movie Night



Next month, take a seat on the same field that Major League Baseball's Angels play on during spring training to watch one of the most popular baseball movies of all time. On Friday, Oct. 16, [Tempe Parks and Recreation](#) will host [Major League Movie Night](#) at [Diablo Stadium](#) where *The Sandlot* (PG) will be shown on a large, inflatable screen at dusk. Admission is free, and concession stands will be open throughout the movie. Bring blankets or lawn chairs to sit on, and laugh with friends and family as you watch a group of young boys get into – and out of – the "biggest pickle any of [them] had ever seen!"

Donate your old athletic shoes at Major League Movie Night for recycling in the Nike Reuse-a-Shoe program and receive a free reusable bag.

For more information on Major League Movie Night, call (480) 350-5200.

Eat a brat, dance the polka and strengthen Tempe's international relations



What could be a better combination than brats, kraut, beer, music and contributing to a great cause? Get out those lederhosen and knee socks and spend the weekend of Oct. 2-4 at the [37th annual Oktoberfest](#) at Tempe Town Lake. The annual event is a salute to Tempe's sister city, Regensburg, Germany, and benefits [Tempe Sister City Corporation](#). Hours of the event are 5 p.m. to midnight on Friday, 10 a.m. to midnight Saturday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is free, and tickets to various food and activity booths can be purchased at the event.



Tempe Oktoberfest is a fun event for the whole family, with plenty of entertainment and activities for kids and adults alike. Adults can sample beers from all over the globe, and children can participate in art projects, games and contests. For a complete list of entertainers and activities, visit www.tempeoktoberfest.com.

Tempe Oktoberfest is produced by Tempe Sister City volunteers to raise money for international student/teacher exchanges and humanitarian projects with Tempe's eight sister cities. Funds raised at Oktoberfest send a group of educators and high school students abroad each year. Funds also support humanitarian projects, like water wells in Timbuktu, Mali. For more on Tempe Sister City, visit www.tempesistercity.org.

Save the Date

Thursday, Sept. 24, 2-3:30 p.m.

Pyle Adult Recreation Center Chinese Tea

[Pyle Adult Recreation Center](#)

Enjoy Chinese teas, Asian finger sandwiches and desserts while listening to a traditional Chinese pipa player. For adults 50+.

RTA: \$10, Non-Member: \$12

Call (480) 350-5211 to register.

Saturday, Oct. 10, 7 a.m.-noon

8th Annual Hot Head Regatta

[Tempe Town Lake Marina](#)

Crews from all over the country will compete in boat races. Spectators can view the races from the north side of the lake or join in on the center of the action at the Tempe Town Lake Marina.

Friday and Saturday, Oct. 23-24

Pyle Fall Craft Boutique

[Pyle Adult Recreation Center](#)

Handmade arts and crafts, holiday gifts, refreshments and entertainment.

Saturday, Oct. 31, 5:30-9 p.m.

[32nd Annual Halloween Carnival](#)

Kiwanis Park

Free admission. Tickets for games and food booths can be purchased for 25 cents apiece with all proceeds going to local civic groups.