

# connecting tempe

THROUGH  
PEOPLE,  
PARKS &  
PROGRAMS

FEBRUARY 10, 2012

Punxsutawney Phil may have seen his shadow last week, but it doesn't look like our Arizona "winter" will be lasting much longer. Enjoy the beautiful early spring weather with some activities right here in Tempe's backyard. Tee off at Tempe's Rolling Hills or Ken McDonald Golf Courses, take in a softball game at Arizona State University, enjoy a Geek's Night Out, celebrate the Angels' spring return to Diablo Stadium or act like a kid again at Tempe PlayDay 2012. There's something for everyone!



## PLAY LIKE A KID AGAIN AT TEMPE PLAYDAY 2012

Kayaking, tennis, softball, inflatables... sounds like a day full of play!

In keeping with its designation as a Playful City USA community for the third consecutive year, Tempe will host a free day of play for kids of all ages to celebrate play and reap the benefits of being active. [PlayDay](#) will be Saturday, Feb. 18, from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at [Kiwanis Park](#), Mill Avenue and All-America Way.

Come out and join the fun. There will be plenty of 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 on and around Kiwanis Lake.

[KaBOOM!](#), a national non-profit organization dedicated to promoting play in children's lives, chose Tempe as a Playful City USA community this past summer. In the fifth year of the program, KaBOOM! named 151 cities and towns across the country – 11 of which are in Arizona – as Playful City USA honorees. Tempe was given this designation for the third consecutive year because of the way it uses play and play spaces to positively impact childhood wellness, public safety and quality of life.

"KaBOOM's recognition of Tempe as a play-friendly city is a great validation of the efforts of residents, City employees and community organizations to make outdoor spaces and recreational

opportunities a priority," said Mayor Hugh Hallman.

For more information on Tempe PlayDay 2012, visit [www.tempe.gov/events/playday](http://www.tempe.gov/events/playday) or call Tempe Recreation at 480-350-5200.





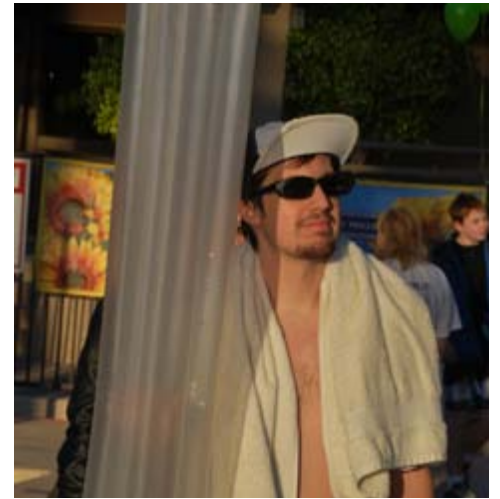
## INAUGURAL POLAR PLUNGE A “FREEZING” SUCCESS!

79 Polar Bears plunged into the cool swimming pool at The Lakes community to raise awareness and money for Tempe Special Olympics on Saturday, Jan. 28. The Mayor of Tempe, Hugh Hallman, lead the thrill-seekers in the inaugural plunge.

More than 100 Teddy Bears cheered as the Polar Bears earned their bragging rights for entering the 65° water. Brittney Shipp, from Good Morning Arizona, broadcast the inaugural event live on 3 TV.

Thanks to our wonderful partners – The Lakes Women’s Club, Team Asa, Davidson Belluso, 17,000’, Williams Express Document & Print Services, Ramsey Justice Foundation, Sparkprenuers and Sunflower Markets – for making the event so much fun.

[The Inaugural Polar Plunge at The Lakes](#) raised \$4,255 for Tempe Special Olympics. Thank you Bears!



## KIDZONE LEADER HONORED FOR HIS COMMITMENT TO AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

What makes [KidZone](#) special isn’t necessarily its programs, but its staff, who keep kids motivated and excited to return every day. Jeremy King is one of those people. Assistant Recreation Coordinator at the Kyrene de la Mariposa Elementary School, King works tirelessly to make sure children are provided with an after-school home away from home.

King was recently recognized for his accomplishments at The [Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence’s Spotlight on Afterschool Excellence Awards](#). He received the award for Outstanding Afterschool Professional for his commitment to all 140 of his KidZone students. Having worked in the before- and after-school area for over 12 years, King knows the importance of such programs. He serves

close to 175 families throughout the week and works to “create memorable childhood experiences for every student, every day.”

The KidZone enrichment program that provides before and after-school programming for children in Pre-School through 8th grade is available in 19 Tempe and Kyrene schools. KidZone provides a safe and educational environment for children requiring out-of-school care. For more information, visit [www.Tempe.gov/KidZone](http://www.Tempe.gov/KidZone).



## INTEL GIVES BACK WITH TEMPE PARK BEAUTIFICATION PROJECTS

As you probably read in the last issue of [Connecting Tempe](#), there are many groups and organizations in the Tempe community who love to give back.

Intel has been volunteering to help with projects that beautify the Tempe community. Recently, they participated in clean-up and beautification projects at both [Evelyn Hallman Park](#) and the [LoPiano Habitat](#). Between the two projects, Intel brought out close to 75 volunteers to participate.

Through Intel's volunteer program, the company gives back \$10 to a local non-profit organization for every hour their employees spend volunteering at one of these projects. Not only have they worked in the beautification of these parks, they have donated to Tempe based non-profit organizations.

Intel will be participating in another beautification project at the LoPiano Habitat on Wednesday, April 4 where close to 100 volunteers will be participating.

## TEMPE YOUTH SPORTS HITS THE COURT SUN-DEVIL STYLE

The ASU basketball season is in full swing and the [City of Tempe Youth Sports](#) will be sporting their Sun Devil pride at an ASU Women's Basketball Game on Saturday, Feb. 18 at 2 p.m. The K-8th grade winter basketball participants and their families will be there to cheer on the Lady Sun Devils as they take on the Washington State Cougars.

Following the game, the Youth Sports basketball participants will receive the real college basketball experience when they take the court for some skills and drills activities with their City of Tempe coaches and take a tour of the arena, locker rooms and practice facilities.



## GET YOUR GEEK ON!

Star Wars, Software and Science Fiction come together for a celebration of all things Geek at [Geek's Night Out](#) on Thursday, Feb. 16 from 5-10 p.m. at

[MADCAP Theaters](#) on Mill Avenue. The event will be filled with something for every geek in the family – video games, sci-fi, robots, Ghostbusters, a mad scientist, children's science authors, comic book artists, all-kinds of hands-on activities and more!



The special February edition of Mill Avenue's [Third Thursdays](#) is a partnership with the [Downtown Tempe Community](#), Arizona State University, LaunchSpot and the Business Journal. It's a blend of all things science, technology and fun to celebrate the [Arizona SciTech Festival](#).

## KEN MCDONALD GETS BEST WINTER GOLF COURSE – AGAIN!

Tempe's [Ken McDonald Golf Course](#) was selected as the Best Winter Golf Course in the 2011 New Times Best Of Awards for the second year running.

affordable – even in the winter. Winter rates at Ken McDonald fluctuate but rarely go above \$32.

Make your tee time today at [www.tempe.gov/golf](http://www.tempe.gov/golf) or call 480.350.5250.

It's hard to improve upon perfection – especially when perfection comes cheap. However, Ken McDonald Golf Course, the 2010 winner of New Times' Best Winter Golf Course, has managed to make the course even better than it was last year. Improvements include elongating the 11th hole and acquiring brand-new golf carts. The par 72 course is scenic, always in great shape and most importantly,



# FREE TAX ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY TEMPE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Don't pay hundreds of dollars to have your taxes done! [Tempe Community Council's](#) Financial Stability Initiative offers a free VITA site and earned Income Tax Credit Refunds for families who qualify.

[Tax preparation](#) will be hosted at [Tempe Schools Credit Union](#), 2800 S. Mill Ave., at the following dates and times:

- Saturdays, Jan. 28-April 14 (except March 10 & 17), 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
- Wednesdays, Feb. 1-29, 5-7 p.m.


For free tax preparation, families must have an annual income of \$55,000 or less for 2011. Single individuals must have an annual income of \$35,000 or less for 2011.



# KAJIKAWA SOFTBALL CLASSIC RETURNS TO TEMPE FEB. 9 – 11

The reigning National Champion Arizona State University Women's Softball Team will host the annual Kajikawa Classic Thursday, Feb. 9 through Sunday, Feb. 12, 2012 at [Farrington Stadium at ASU](#) and the [P. Ben Arredondo Sports Complex](#) in Tempe.

Named after legendary ASU softball coach, Bill Kajikawa, the Kajikawa Classic is an ASU softball tradition. The 2012 Classic will host 29 teams and a total of 74 games will be played throughout the four-day event. Teams play in round-robin fashion and the winning team is determined by percentage. This year's classic will feature many teams that appeared in the 2011 Super Regionals and the Women's College World Series, including the National Champion Sun Devils! For more details, visit [www.thesundevils.com](http://www.thesundevils.com).

 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

**Thurs, Feb. 16**

[Spring Opportunities Brochure](#)  
**Available Online**  
Feb. 21 - Tempe Residents  
Registration Begins  
Feb. 27 - Non-Tempe Residents  
Registration Begins

**Sat, Feb. 18**

[Tempe PlayDay 2012](#)  
9 a.m.-12 p.m.  
Kiwanis Park  
Mill Avenue & All-America Way

**Thurs, Feb. 16**

[Geek's Night Out](#)  
5-10 p.m.  
MADCAP Theaters  
730 S. Mill Ave.

**Sat, Feb. 18**

[Spring Training Tickets on Sale](#)  
9 a.m.  
Tempe Diablo Stadium  
2200 W. Alameda Dr.

**Thurs, Feb. 16**

[Third Thursday Night Café](#)  
7 p.m.  
Tempe History Museum  
809 E. Southern Ave.

**Fri, Feb. 24**

[Free Art Friday](#)  
9:30-11:30 a.m.  
Edna Vihel Center for the Arts  
3340 S. Rural Road

**Fri, Feb. 17**

[Lakeshore Jazz Series](#)  
Benny Green Trio  
7:30 p.m.  
Tempe Center for the Arts  
700 W. Rio Salado Parkway

**Sat, Feb. 25**

[Performances at the Museum: A Concert Celebrating Black History Month](#)  
6 p.m.  
Tempe History Museum  
809 E. Southern Ave.