



Tempe Today



a community newsletter

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www.tempe.gov/newsroom

August 2009



Healing Field tribute begins Sept. 11

Tempe will honor the nearly 3,000 victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks at its sixth annual Healing Field tribute at Tempe Beach Park. Beginning Friday, Sept. 11, through Monday, Sept. 14, the public is invited to view the display of American flags representing victims of that terrible day.

A moving display of patriotism and unity, Healing Field is a free event presented by the Valley of the Sun Exchange Clubs Foundation and the City of Tempe. Tempe Beach Park is located at 80 E. Rio Salado Parkway. The display is viewable during park hours, 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. each day. On Sept. 11, the event will open with a ceremony at 5:40 a.m., and there will be a candlelight vigil at 7 p.m.

For more information, visit www.tempe.gov/events/healingfield.

To see a preview of this year's Healing Field event, tune in to the August episode of Tempe 411, which airs daily throughout August for Cox cable subscribers on Tempe 11.



Tempe strives for a sustainable community

By Tempe Mayor Hugh Hallman

Our community is on the cutting edge, and following a uniquely "Tempe" approach, to creating a sustainable community. As elected representatives of Tempe, we take seriously the three elements of true community sustainability: economic, environmental and cultural.

We have been working with residents, planning staff, business owners, local engineers, professors and architects. Some of our efforts include building environmentally sensitive structures, preserving our public, open, and "green" spaces, improving public transit and decreasing cut-through traffic, implementing high-quality water conservation, fleet transition to natural gas, and sustainable redevelopment of the Apache Boulevard Corridor.

This approach has been applied to a couple of our community's most visible, recent achievements: transforming environmentally hazardous dumping grounds bordering the Salt River into the Tempe Center for the Arts and the Tempe Marketplace.

As Chair of the Community Sustainability Committee, I am joined by Vice Mayor Shana Ellis and Councilmembers Onnie Shekerjian and Corey Woods. Our scope of work involves addressing environmental programs and capital projects, and ranges from creating environmentally sustainable programs, such as recycling programs, resource conservation and waste reduction programs, to developing cost-effective environmental design standards that are specifically applicable to the arid, relatively warm climate of Tempe.

The effort is sufficiently broad that it has generated three subcommittees to focus on analyzing the city's building codes, the application of new technologies, and assessing all of these efforts for cost-effective, economy-enhancing opportunities.

The Subcommittee on City Code Sustainability focuses on developing City Codes for sustainable practices that are permissive rather than mandatory – making building green possible, but not mandatory, to allow room in our laws to facilitate the fast-changing applications of green building to be implemented by businesses and developers with the least cost and delay. The subcommittee is working to identify state, county and city codes, ordinances and policies that are best practices for sustainability.

The Subcommittee on Technology focuses on developing methods, tools and practical financing methods to encourage and assist in the use of technology and sustainable practices that use sustainable modes.

Finally, the Subcommittee on Economic Sustainability focuses on creating efficiencies and economic benefits. This subcommittee examines through the lens of careful cost/benefit analysis to assure that the efforts we put forth make economic sense and will help us build Tempe's economy for the future on a sound foundation.

Our efforts over the past many months have tangible economic results in the community we all live in and serve. In the midst of one of the worst economic downturns in this generation, we are well poised to meet the future with practical, cost-saving, environmentally sensitive approaches to doing business in Tempe, while remaining committed to our employees and our residents alike. Despite the economic downturn, Tempe remains a city in relatively solid fiscal shape.

These efforts haven't been easy so far, and they won't be easy in the future either. But we continue to work hard to achieve these goals and create a sustainable Tempe. We are seeking to manage what we have wisely. Our efforts continue to balance our spending. And all of this is to be sure that we save what we have inherited – a great community – for future generations.

Tempe adopts budget for 2009-2010

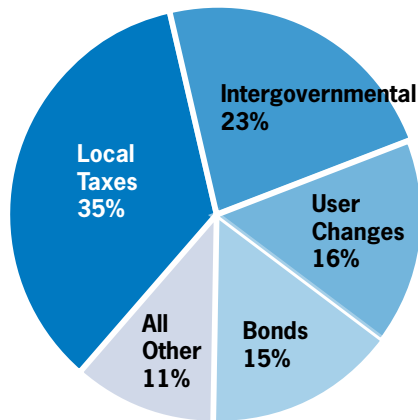
The Tempe City Council in May adopted a \$500.7 million budget for fiscal year 2009-2010, covering the period from July 1, 2009, to June 30, 2010. The budget includes \$404 million for city operating expenses and \$96 million for capital improvements.

Overall, the budget decreased by 11.7 percent from the prior year. The operating budget increased by 1.3 percent and the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) decreased by 43 percent. A key element of the operating budget is a plan for covering a projected \$34.5 million deficit in the city's General Fund. This plan includes targeted expenditure reductions, salary and benefit freezes and reductions, position eliminations, targeted revenue enhancements and a drawdown of a portion of the city's fund balance reserves.

Capital Project spending is projected to decrease due to lower spending in the Transit and Water/Wastewater programs. This is due to the completion of the light rail system and project progress at the Johnny G. Martinez Water Treatment Plant. Capital highlights include continued funding for parks and recreation improvements, water and wastewater enhancements, transportation improvements and public safety upgrades.

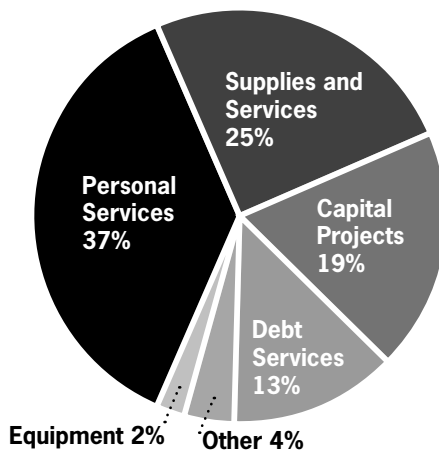
Revenue

Overall, local taxes continue to provide the largest city revenue source, representing 35 percent of the total. Intergovernmental represents 23 percent, while user charges, such as water, sewer, solid waste and recreational fees, account for 16 percent. Bonds provide 15 percent and all other miscellaneous operating revenue accounts for the remainder. Tempe relies heavily on local taxes, such as sales and property taxes, to provide core city services.



Expenditures

Personal services (employee salaries and benefits) represent the largest expenditures at 37 percent of the total budget. Supplies and services represent 25 percent, capital projects account for 19 percent, and 13 percent is earmarked for the retirement of debt. The remainder is for capital equipment and miscellaneous expenses.



Public Safety (Police and Fire) accounts for the highest number of city employees at 744 positions, or 41 percent.

Pascua Yaqui Tribe grants \$95,000 to Tempe

The Pascua Yaqui Tribe has generously provided \$95,000 in grants to the City of Tempe to be used for educational programs that benefit the community.

Accepted by the Tempe City Council at its June 30 meeting, the grants are part of a 2002 statewide voter-approved proposition requiring Indian communities with casinos to give 12 percent of their annual profits to Arizona cities, towns and counties for services that benefit the general public. The Pascua Yaqui Tribe chose Tempe programs for three grants:

- Tempe Public Library received \$55,000 for its Tempe Veterans History Project, to provide a multigenerational learning opportunity for Tempe youth. Beginning next year, the library and Tempe Connections, a nonprofit community service program, will use video and photographs to preserve the wartime experiences of American veterans in 20th and 21st century conflicts.
- The Tempe History Museum received \$15,000 to upgrade its program for fifth-grade students in the Tempe Elementary School District. The museum will revise the program from a timeline perspective to an emphasis on themes, including "Surviving in the Desert," "Building our Community," "Living Together," and "College Town." As part of the program, a docent will lead students through an activity in each exhibit. The program is scheduled to begin in fall 2010.
- Tempe received \$25,000 to expand Experience Corps program, the nationally recognized literacy program hosted by the city in partnership with the Tempe Elementary School District. The expansion will provide more volunteers and increase tutoring hours at Meyer Elementary School. This fall, adult volunteers will tutor and mentor about 250 students in kindergarten through third grade. The program began in Tempe in 2006.

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Get into the action with Orbit

The city's transit program, Tempe in Motion, will make it easy for residents to get to all Arizona State University home football games. Residents who live along any of the Orbit routes (Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars and Jupiter) are encouraged to use the service. Hours of operation on Orbit will be extended until midnight on game days. Residents who do not live along an Orbit route are encouraged to park at the Tempe Library Complex, 3500 S. Rural Road, and take Orbit Jupiter to the game.

Upcoming ASU home football games and tentative kick-off times:

- Sept. 5 at 7 p.m. – ASU vs. Idaho State
- Sept. 19 at 7 p.m. – ASU vs. Louisiana-Monroe

For information, please call 480-858-2350 or visit www.tempe.gov/tim. To learn more about ASU football, visit <http://thesundevils.cstv.com>.

Hear the perspectives of Tempe transit riders in the August episode of Tempe 411, which airs daily throughout August for Cox cable subscribers on Tempe 11.

Tempe hosts Orbit public meetings

Tempe residents are encouraged to attend one of three public meetings to learn more about potential route changes to the existing Orbit neighborhood circulator system. The purpose of these meetings is to gather ideas from neighbors and get input on potential route changes using existing monetary resources. The same information will be presented at all three meetings.

Two meetings are scheduled at Tempe Transportation Center's Don Cassano Community Room, 200 E. Fifth St., for Sept. 9 at 6 p.m., and September 12 at 10 a.m. Another meeting is scheduled at Pyle Adult Recreation Center, 655 E. Southern Ave., for Sept. 14 at 6 p.m.

Orbit is a free bus route system that uses minibuses to serve residential areas and connect them to local destinations including parks, shopping areas, other neighborhoods, major bus and light rail routes, schools and multigenerational centers. Orbit buses are smaller and quieter than traditional buses. Each bus holds about 20 passengers and travels along collector and residential streets. Residents may board Orbit anywhere along residential streets by signaling the driver. An online comment form will be available Sept. 1.

For more information call 480-350-2775 or visit www.tempe.gov/tim.

Tempe offers on-site registration for free youth transit pass

The city's transit program, Tempe in Motion, encourages Tempe youth to participate in the Youth Transit Pass program. Passes are valid through June 30, 2010, and allow youth ages 6 to 18, who live in Tempe, to ride all Valley Metro bus routes and the METRO light rail free. A parent or guardian must accompany the youth and bring the youth's birth certificate when registering for the program. Special on-site registration will be held at the Tempe Public Library, 3500 S. Rural Road, on Aug. 22 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free passes are also available at the Tempe Transit Store, 200 E. Fifth St., from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Free one-hour public parking is located at 117 E. Fifth St., across from the Transportation Center.

For information, contact the Tempe Transit Store at 480-858-2350 or visit www.tempe.gov/tim. For transit routes and schedules, call 602-253-5000 or visit www.valleymetro.org.



E.W. Hudson

In May, a renovated Hudson Park was unveiled to excited community members. Located at Cedar Street and Spence Avenue, this 49-year-old, three-acre park is named in honor of cotton farmer-turned-developer Estmer "E.W." Hudson.

Born in Kentucky in 1881, Hudson moved to Arizona in 1904 and to Tempe in 1915. He played an important role in Arizona agriculture, especially the development of Pima cotton. Hudson worked for the USDA in Sacaton after his arrival in Arizona, and was assigned to assist in the production of cotton. In 1916, Hudson introduced Salt River Valley farmers to the new Egyptian cotton, commonly known as Pima cotton. It quickly became a cash crop. The military wanted it, and cotton quickly replaced other crops common to the area. The cotton boon continued as the military sought as much cotton as could be grown. By 1920, after World War I, the demand for cotton diminished significantly as many military contracts ended. Cotton production shifted to more traditional agricultural products, and Hudson moved onto other pursuits.

Purchasing 160 acres in 1920 in what was then south Tempe, Hudson began a second career as a residential developer. His first project was College View and University Heights (1946-53), followed by Hudson Manor (1948-55), and Hudson Park (1958-59). Ultimately, he converted more than 1,000 acres of Tempe land into residential developments – all while he lived in the same two-story brick house he built for his family in 1920.

Hudson died in 1972 and is buried in Tempe Double Butte Cemetery.

Opened in 1960, the original Hudson Park grew out of the last of the Hudson residential developments. Its completed renovation is the first of many such projects, as Tempe has begun a program to revamp all of its neighborhood parks.

Calendar

City Council Meetings

The August/September schedule for Tempe City Council meetings:

August 20, 2009

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

September 10, 2009

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

September 17, 2009

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 on the Web site at www.tempe.gov/clerk.

Tempe City Council

Hugh Hallman
Mayor

Shana Ellis
Vice Mayor

P. Ben Arredondo
Councilmember

Mark W. Mitchell
Councilmember

Joel Navarro
Councilmember

Onnie Shekerjian
Councilmember

Corey Woods
Councilmember

Charlie Meyer
City Manager

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

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News you can use

Tempe tennis facility honored

The Tennis Industry Association and United States Tennis Association have named Tempe's Kiwanis Recreation Center (KRC) a Top 50 Tennis Welcome Center for 2008. The facility was recognized for delivering a variety of tennis programs to new and current players of all ages in an effort to increase participation in the game. Only four facilities in Arizona were selected for 2008. KRC was selected for its increased participation figures involving new and returning players, its support of industry programs and its community tennis development. For more information, visit www.tempe.gov/tennis or call 480-350-5721.

Cool summer fun

The Kiwanis Recreation Center (KRC) wave pool offers families a fun way to cool down in September. Theme Day promotions are from 1-3 p.m. and the wave pool is open from 1-5 p.m. Regular admission to the wave pool is \$3 for ages two to 12 and \$6 for 13 and older. Children younger than eight must have an adult with them at all times while in the water.

Grandparent's Day: Sept. 5, from 1-3 p.m. Grandparents get in free with their grandchild's paid admission.

Boy Scout's Day: Sept. 19 from 1-3 p.m. Boy Scouts get in free when they wear their uniform or shirt.

Happy Birthdays Day: Sept. 26 from 1-3 p.m. Free admission with proof of September birthdays.

KRC also provides fitness programs and equipment. For more information, visit www.tempe.gov/fitness, or call 480-350-5201 or 480-350-5050.

METRO light rail extends weekend hours

METRO light rail now operates later on weekends, to after 2 a.m. on Friday nights to Saturday mornings and Saturday nights to Sunday mornings. The last full trip of the night occurs at 2 a.m. and arrives at the opposite end-of-line at 3 a.m. METRO provides 20-minute service past 7 p.m. The METRO Board of Directors approved the extension in May in response to feedback from customers and businesses along the line. For detailed METRO service schedule, go to "What to Know" section of METRO's home page, at www.metrolightrail.org.

Free xeriscape classes

The City of Tempe is offering free xeriscape classes in September and October to teach residents about planting and caring for hardier, drought-resistant landscaping. Participants will receive a free workbook, brochures on conversion and design, and information on drip irrigation and lawn care. Classes are scheduled for 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the City of Tempe South Police Community Room, 8201 S. Hardy Drive:

- **Saturday, Sept. 26:** Conversion from lawn to xeriscape, its principals and design aspects, selection of plant materials and maintenance.
- **Saturday, Oct. 3:** Selection of xeriscape plant materials and maintenance.
- **Saturday, Oct. 10:** Drip irrigation design, installation and maintenance.

To register, call Richard Bond at 480-350-2627.

Tempe selected as a 2009 Playful City USA

Tempe is one of 93 U.S. cities selected for the first time as a Playful City USA by KaBOOM!, a national non-profit that promotes play. Tempe was chosen because of its creative initiatives to increase the quantity and quality of play and playgrounds in Tempe, while improving access to existing play opportunities. Tempe joins KaBOOM! in the belief that play has purpose, and that unstructured play in particular helps make children happier, fitter, smarter, more socially adept and creative.

In keeping with its new title, Tempe will host a Play Day on Saturday, Sept. 19, from 8-11 a.m. The free event will be held at Kiwanis Park, at Mill Avenue and All-America Way, and will feature structured and unstructured games, races and events for all ages. Call Tempe Parks and Recreation at 480-350-5200 or visit www.tempe.gov/rec for more information.

Tempe Today Expanded Online Version



Tempe teen is Youth of the Year

Precious Wilson, a Marcos De Niza High School graduate, was selected in March as the East Valley Youth of the Year for the Boys & Girls Clubs of the East Valley, receiving scholarships that will assist as she enters

college this fall. She received \$20,000 over four years from The Victoria Lund Foundation, a computer, a \$600 scholarship from Maricopa Community Colleges and a \$1,000 scholarship through the Joe Henderson Memorial Fund.

Being named Youth of the Year is the highest honor a Boys & Girls Club member can receive.

“Every year we honor teenagers we believe to be our pride and joy,” said Ramon Elias, president and CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the East Valley.

Wilson, 17, has been a Boys & Girls Club member for nine years, and enjoys taking ballet classes, playing the violin and cello, and participating in church ministries, choir and community service activities. She plans to major in business management and dance.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of the East Valley serves more than 30,000 children and teens annually, providing a positive place to grow, learn and recreate. For more information, go to www.clubzona.org. To see a video segment on Wilson and her achievements, tune in to the August episode of Tempe 411, which airs daily for Cox cable subscribers on Tempe 11.

Sign code changes assist Tempe businesses

In July, the Tempe City Council approved a nine-month change to its sign code that is expected to help businesses with promotional efforts during a tough national economy, while respecting the sign ordinance that residents have long supported for community aesthetics.

Businesses will be allowed to obtain two sign permits each year for significant events such as special sales; each sign can be displayed for 21 days. Previously, businesses were allowed one event sign annually that could be displayed for 14 days.

Temporary, portable signs that direct people to apartment and condominium developments also were enhanced from three to six square feet. Sale, lease and rent signs for commercial, industrial and multi-family properties were increased from six to 16 square feet.

For information on the sign code changes, call 480-350-8435.

Volunteers needed for human service funding process

Tempe Community Council (TCC) and the City of Tempe are looking for volunteers to participate in Agency Review, a human services grant review process. Community members who volunteer will review requests for funding from human services agencies and will make funding recommendations to the Tempe City Council. The time commitment includes three to four days over a two-month period, beginning in November, in addition to proposal reading time.

Agency Review funds come from the city's General Fund, federal Community Development Block Grants, water utility customer donations through Tempe's Help to Others program, and the Tempe Community Foundation endowment. More than \$1 million will be allocated to about 40 Valley-wide agencies that serve Tempe clients.

Volunteers commit to a one-hour training session in November, reading six to nine proposals, a half-day of interviews in January and an optional full-day final meeting in February. If you live or work in Tempe and you're interested in this volunteer experience, contact Caterina Mena at 480-858-2311 or via e-mail at caterina_mena@tempe.gov.



What is your Tempe Karma?

Learn how you can make a difference in Tempe! A new Web site, www.tempekarma.org, exists to help you find meaningful ways to get involved in our community, because change for the better begins at home. The donation of your time and treasure has the power to transform this city, forever impacting your karma and the karma of Tempe.

2009 State of the Schools Address

The Tempe Chamber of Commerce presents the 2009 State of the Schools Address on Wednesday, Sept. 30, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Embassy Suites Tempe, 4400 S. Rural Road. Registration opens at 11 a.m.

This year's panel will feature Tempe Elementary School District Superintendent Dr. Arthur Tate, Kyrene School District Superintendent Dr. David Schauer and Tempe Union High School District Superintendent Steve Adolph. Other education community representatives will be on hand from the Maricopa Community College District, Arizona State University, Pinnacle Education and the Arizona Department of Education.

For ticket information, call 480-967-7891 or visit www.tempechamber.org.

Evans-Compadre Academy opens in August

Tempe Union High School District's Evans-Compadre Academy, located at 4525 S. College Ave., will open its doors Aug. 10 for students looking for a non-traditional high school campus. Programs and services include credit recovery classes, online classes, individualized learning, flexible schedules and more. A Teen Resource Center will be located at the academy for students in need of supplies and clothing. To learn more about Evans-Compadre Academy, call 480-752-3560 or visit www.tuhsd.k12.az.us/chs.

For ticket information, call 480-967-7891 or visit www.tempechamber.org.

Teen Resource Center to open in September

Communities In Schools will open the first Teen Resource Center for Tempe Union High School District students the week of Sept. 7. Located at the new Evans-Compadre Academy, 4525 S. College Ave., the volunteer-staffed center will provide high school students with an array of basic items. Gently used clothing and shoes are currently being sought to stock in the new center. Cash donations are also needed to purchase hygiene supplies and toiletries, backpacks and other teen essentials. For more information about donating or volunteering, call Lynette Stonefeld at 480-858-2316 or via e-mail at lynette_stonefeld@tempe.gov.

CITY OF TEMPE

REUSEASHOE
GET YOUR OLD SHOES BACK IN THE GAME

Recycle with Nike Reuse-A-Shoe

Thanks to a grant from the Arizona Recycling Coalition, Tempe is expanding its Nike Reuse-A-Shoe Program to include more drop-off locations and, starting this fall, at school and special event collection drives.

Recycling diverts athletic shoes from landfills and captures a valuable resource. The shoes are ground up and used to create rubberized playing surfaces. Any brand of athletic shoe is acceptable, as long as there are no cleats or spikes. Donors are asked to remove metal eyelets from the shoes before recycling.

Indoor collection bins are located at: ARC Thrift Store (3400 S. Mill Ave.); ASU Student Recreation Center (400 E. Apache Blvd.); University Presbyterian Church (139 E. Alameda Drive); and Westside Multigenerational Center (715 W. Fifth St.)

Outdoor collection bins are located at: Arizona Historical Society Museum (1300 N. College Ave.); Household Products Collection Center (1320 E. University Drive); Jaycee Park (517 W. Fifth St.); Kiwanis Recreation Center (6111 S. All-American Way); Tempe Public Library (3500 S. Rural Road); and Tempe South Police Substation (8201 S. Hardy Drive).

For more information, call 480-350 8145 or visit www.tempe.gov/recycling.

Recycling tips

Here are some tips for Tempe residents to help make recycling even more effective:

First, please do not bag your recyclables! All acceptable items may be mixed in your blue barrel recycling container. Bagged recyclables are treated like garbage and disposed. However, shredded paper may be placed in a clear plastic bag and tied shut. All items must be clean, dry and empty before you place them inside a recycling container. This will prevent liquid spills that can cause contamination.

The following items are not recyclable in your blue barrel recycling container:

- Cereal box inserts
- Chemical containers
- Dog or cat food bags
- Food waste or liquids of any kind
- Paper towels, napkins, facial, and toilet tissue
- Plastic bags, utensils, caps, and bubble wrap
- Self-sealing or cardboard mailing envelopes with padding or bubble wrap
- Stained glass, light bulbs, mirrors, porcelain, and ceramics
- Styrofoam
- Waxed coated fast food beverage cups

A list of acceptable recyclables is available at www.tempe.gov/recycling.