



Batter up!

Spring training is about to begin in Tempe – can you smell the popcorn and hear the crack of the bat?

There's nothing like spring training baseball at Tempe Diablo Stadium with the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim. Be there for the first pitch of the season on Wednesday, Feb. 25, when the Angels play the Chicago White Sox. The last Angels game of the season at Diablo Stadium is April 2.

Tempe Diablo Stadium is located at 2200 W. Alameda Drive. Visit www.tempe.gov/diablo for more information on the upcoming schedule, how and when to purchase tickets, directions to the stadium and parking details.



Tempe technology and development committee to measure needs of residents and businesses

By Tempe City Councilmember Onnie Shekerjian

Technology, economic development and redevelopment are synergistic areas that are vitally important to our community's success. If we plan well now for how to best handle these, we can set up systems that last well into the future.

Together with members of our community, Councilmember Corey Woods and I are committed to reaching meaningful goals as part of our work on the City Council's new Technology, Economic and Community Development Committee. We want to fully examine the issues involved, make plans to advance the ball and work diligently over the two-year life of our committee to bring lasting progress to the city in these areas. A crucial element of our committee's work will involve public forums to gain input in several areas. Our community has expertise we must tap in order to enhance the service our city provides. Here is a brief look at our committee's three areas of focus and our initial action plans for each:

Technology

We will hold public forums to seek input on technologies such as an online payment system, tools to manage constituent service and the like. Big ideas can come from traditional and unexpected sources. Let's ask our community to share their expertise for the benefit of all. Another goal is to ensure transparency and accountability in government through open access to information. This could include improvements such as electronic building plan review. Finally, we want to explore and implement social media opportunities to better connect those near and far with the City of Tempe.

Community Development

It is critical to develop planning strategies along transportation corridors that encourage visually sensitive development that works with alternate modes. We want to assist that goal, particularly as it relates to Apache Boulevard.

In tandem with the city's Historic Preservation Commission, our committee will work to preserve, rehabilitate and reuse significant buildings and sites.

Commercial strip centers are the backbones of our neighborhoods, providing needed services and gathering places that connect residents. Let's look at how best to rehabilitate these centers by learning what the city could do to encourage updates to properties and attraction of symbiotic tenants. We will first conduct an assessment of existing centers and their needs.

Economic Development

Tempe is an economic engine in the Valley and has received accolades for its ability to attract business in high tech and other sectors. Now, especially given today's global economic challenges, what can we do to best serve and attract businesses? By tapping the knowledge of our friends in the university, community college and business arenas, our committee will determine how the city could be more laser-like in creating economic stimulus. This will involve conducting an assessment of our assets and our needs. Our work will dovetail with the work of other Council committees, such as the Sports, Recreation, Arts and Cultural Development Committee. Their efforts to attract sports and tourism-related business ties in well with our committee when it comes to the bigger picture of economic vitality in Tempe.

The assessments in each area will conclude this spring. At that time, we will be ready to act on the information gathered. In the second year of this committee, we will be able to refine our goals and continue pursuing progress.

As always, I am energized and enlightened by talking to Tempe's residents and business community. Please give me a call at 480-350-8819 or e-mail me at onnie_shekerjian@tempe.gov with any questions or ideas you have on these or other topics.



Tempe program grows roots

This summer's monsoon storms ravaged Tempe parks, uprooting and splintering more than 400 city-owned trees. In October, the devastation led the city to revitalize its Trees for Tempe program, which uses donations and volunteer service to purchase and plant new trees in parks and rights-of-way.

Tempe-based GE Money pitched in to re-plant 19 trees at the Tempe Center for the Arts, while RISO, Inc., purchased 46 trees for Mitchell Park, near Mitchell Drive and Ninth Street. Residents from the Mitchell Park East and West neighborhood associations volunteered Dec. 6 to plant 45 15-gallon trees and one 48-inch box tree.

For more information on Trees for Tempe, including how to donate money or time, call Denise Rentschler at 480-350-5209 or e-mail denise_rentschler@tempe.gov.

Help manage roof rats by harvesting citrus

Many citrus lovers in Tempe wonder two things when their homegrown harvests arrive in the backyard: "How will I ever eat all this fruit?" and "What can I do to prevent roof rats?"

Both questions can be answered each Saturday, Jan. 31 through March 28, at the annual Arcadia citrus collection, from 8 a.m. to noon, at the Scottsdale Elk's Club, 6398 E. Oak St.

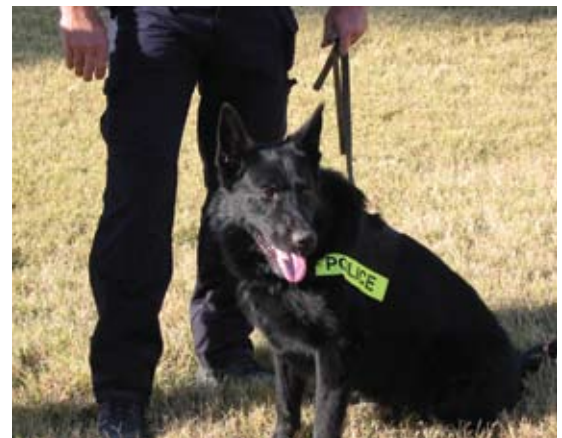
Donated citrus is delivered to food banks, senior centers and charities. What's more, your donation of freshly harvested fruit will reduce your risk of attracting roof rats. One of the most effective ways to prevent roof rats from taking up residence in your yard is to pick up all fruit and nuts from the ground, and to harvest all citrus promptly and completely.

For more information on the Arcadia citrus collection or on roof rat prevention and control measures in Tempe, contact the Neighborhood Services Division at 480-350-8234 or neighborhoods@tempe.gov. Residents can also visit www.tempe.gov/neighborhoods/roofrats.htm.

2009 Regional Unity Walk is in Tempe

Residents are invited to join Tempe, Chandler, Mesa, Gilbert, Scottsdale, Phoenix and Arizona State University in the 2009 Regional Unity Walk. Participants will gather Saturday, Feb. 7, for a short walk that begins at two different Tempe locations. The mission of the event is to promote mutual respect and understanding. The groups from the two locations will merge together and walk towards the Tempe Art Park for a morning celebration. Families, community organizations, scout groups and church groups are invited to participate. Walkers are encouraged to carry signs celebrating the community's diversity and unity.

Residents of Chandler, Gilbert, Phoenix and Scottsdale are asked to meet at the Tempe Town Lake Marina. Residents of Tempe and Mesa, as well as Arizona State University staff members, are asked to meet at ASU Lot 59. Free T-shirts will be distributed at the assembly points. Participants must report to the assembly locations at 10 a.m. The walk will begin at 10:30 a.m. For more information, visit www.tempe.gov/diversity or call 480-350-8979.



K-9 joins Tempe police

Tempe Police Officer Chuck Bridges has a new partner in his patrols of city streets: 3-year-old German shepherd Deuce. Thanks to a \$10,000 donation from Wal-Mart following the 2008 line-of-duty death of K-9 Baloo, the department was able to purchase Deuce. He was chosen for his strength and drive, and may be trained in the future to serve as a narcotics dog. Deuce receives ongoing training for four hours each week. The department's K-9 unit began in 1979 and has six dogs and six handlers. Two police K-9 dogs also work in the narcotics unit.



Cinderella Affair

Many high school girls dream of dressing up in gorgeous gowns and heading to the prom, but not all families can afford pricey formalwear. You can help by donating new or gently used formal dresses, purses, jewelry and wraps

as part of Cinderella Affair, a volunteer project of the Tempe Community Council. Donations will be accepted Feb. 6-20 at more than 24 drop-off locations throughout the Valley. Visit www.cinderellaaffair.org for a list of participating sites.

The 7th Annual Cinderella Affair boutique will take place March 27, from 3-7 p.m., for students of the Tempe Union High School District and on March 28, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., for all Valley-area high school junior and senior girls at the Pyle Adult Recreation Center, 655 E. Southern Ave. Girls may select one dress and accessory free of charge. To offset operating costs, tax deductible monetary donations are appreciated and may be mailed to Tempe Community Council/Cinderella Affair at 34 E. 7th St., Tempe, 85281. For more information, call 480-858-2307 or tccinformation@tempe.gov.

Mayor's Disability Award nominations

The City of Tempe Commission on Disability Concerns, in partnership with Tempe Community Council (TCC), is pleased to announce the 21st Annual Tempe Mayor's Disability Awards on April 29 from 3:30-5:30 p.m. The awards honor community members who have overcome significant barriers to succeed in the workplace, as well as employers 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 outstanding employees and employers. For a list of award categories and to download nomination forms, go to www.tempe.gov/tcc/Events/2009DisabilityAwards/home.htm. Nominations must be delivered, faxed or postmarked by 4:30 p.m., March 31. The fax number is 480-858-2319. TCC's address is 34 E. 7th St., Building A.

Buy a bowl, feed a child

Purchase a handmade bowl and help feed hungry children at the Empty Bowls event on Friday, Feb. 27, at Sixth Street Park, and Saturday, Feb. 28, at the Tempe Library Complex, 3500 S. Rural Rd., between the Tempe Public Library and the Vihel Center.

The bowls, which are available for a donation of \$10, are created by potters at the City of Tempe Ceramics Program, local artists and Tempe middle school and high school students. With the purchase of a bowl, Whole Foods Market will provide a simple meal that is symbolic of the caloric intake that sustains many in the world for an entire day.

Proceeds from the event go to the United Food Bank and the Tempe Community Action Agency to help prevent hunger. In 2008, Empty Bowls raised an event record high of \$15,000.

For more information, call 480-350-5883 or visit www.tempeaction.org.



Tempe Town Lake

Tempe Town Lake has been home to celebrations, firework displays, boaters, fishers, bicyclists, marathons and triathlons for almost a decade.

The concept for the lake began in 1966 at Arizona State University. Throughout the 1970s through the 1990s, various studies and plans were explored. On June 2, 1999, Tempe began filling the 220-surface-acre lake and declared it officially full on July 14, 1999. There are two inflatable dams on the east and west ends of the lake that can be deflated or inflated in 45 minutes.

Town Lake opened to the public in November 1999 with the official dedication ceremony. The renovated, 25-acre Tempe Beach Park opened in June 2000. In addition to the the stunning Tempe Center for the Arts, which opened in 2007, many other locations are available for visitors to enjoy.

Tempe Beach Park: Built in 1931, the park hosts events such as the Insight Fiesta Bowl Block Party, Ironman Arizona, the Tempe Music Festival, July 4th festivities and more. It is also home to the Cox Splash Playground, which is open from April through September.

Town Lake Marina: Opened to the public in January 2004, the marina includes boat launches, boat storage, parking and a park for concerts and events.

Paths and Parks: More than five miles of paths and 64 acres of lake-edge parks are available for skating, running, bicycling, walking and recreation.

For more information, visit www.tempe.gov/lake/.

Calendar

City Council Meetings

The January/February schedule for Tempe City Council meetings

January 8, 2009

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

January 22, 2009

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

February 5, 2009

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

February 18, 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

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

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

News you can use

Tempe Youth Showcase auditions

Destiny awaits children and teens born to perform at the Third Annual Tempe Youth Showcase. Auditions will be held Saturday, Feb. 21, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., in the lower-level Program Room of the Tempe Public Library, 3500 S. Rural Rd. Auditions are open to Valley youths ages 5-18. Acts must be less than six minutes and all types of performing arts are encouraged. Youth interested in serving as a hosts/hostesses also are encouraged to audition. The Tempe Youth Showcase will be held at the Tempe Center for the Arts on April 12. Call Lynette Stonefeld, Communities in Schools, to reserve an audition time at 480-858-2316.

Valentine's Day Dance

The City of Tempe Adapted Recreation Program will host its 7th annual Valentine's Day Dance for individuals with intellectual disabilities ages 13 and over. Historically, this event has drawn more than 300 participants from all over the Valley. The event will be Friday, Feb. 13, from 6:30-9 p.m. at the Edna Vihel Center for the Arts, 3340 S. Rural Road. There will be a DJ, snacks and more. For more information, call 480-858-2469.

Tuscany in the Desert

Join the Tempe Chamber and its Ambassadors Committee on a culinary journey through Tuscany on Thursday, Feb. 26, from 6-9 p.m. The evening of dining, drinks, dancing, a silent auction and live entertainment will be at The Waterfront, 5350 S. Lakeshore Dr. Tickets are \$40 and include admission, dinner and a complimentary drink. For more information, visit www.tempechamber.org or call 480-967-7891.

Breakfast for Chamber Champions

On Feb. 17 at the Tempe Mission Palms, the 12th Annual Breakfast for Chamber Champions will honor outstanding businesses and members of the community as the 2008 Business Excellence Awards are presented, including: Volunteer of the Year, Spirit of Tempe and the Tempe Leadership Outstanding Community Leadership Award. The Grammy-style event includes breakfast at 7:30 a.m. and the chance to mingle with the top business leaders in the Valley. For more information, visit www.tempechamber.org or call 480-967-7891.

City information available through e-mail news service

The City of Tempe makes it easier than ever to stay up-to-date on current city events and information with regular e-mails to subscribers. The City of Tempe's Web site allows users to sign up for a free service that e-mails them information on the latest city news, recreation classes, traffic, arts and events. Once residents subscribe, they will periodically receive e-mails with information about what they have selected and they can adjust their subscriptions to receive more or less information.

In addition to e-mails about specific topics, residents can also sign up to the Tempe in Touch calendar. The calendar allows for specific categories to be chosen, ranging from library and museum activities to Town Lake and downtown events. Then, every Thursday morning, subscribers will receive the upcoming 14 days of their chosen activities. Subscriptions for either service can be changed or cancelled at any time.

The City of Tempe does not sell or share the e-mail addresses of those who sign up for this service. Only authorized city staff members have access to send information through the list service, maintaining the quality and credibility of each posting. For more information or to sign up, visit www.tempe.gov/lists/.

Antique seminars return to Tempe

The Hayden's Ferry Chapter of the Questers hosts the 13th annual Antique Seminar in February. The seminar showcases various professionals in the antique industry. Lectures include topics such as collecting and the Internet, antique clocks, quilts, beads, 1950s vintage collectables and Hummel Figurines. Lectures are held from 7-9 p.m. on Tuesdays, Feb. 3, 10, 17 and 24, at the Pyle Adult Recreation Center, 655 E. Southern Ave. There is a \$40 early registration fee for the series or \$45 at the door. Participants can also attend individual lectures for \$15 each. For more information or to register, call Ann at 480-350-5140 or Ruth at 480-839-1729.