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It's time: fill out the 2020 U.S. Census

In mid-March, each household across the country will receive a letter in the mail from the U.S. Census Bureau with instructions on how to participate in this important count of all residents. It is easy and secure to fill out the Census and it is vitally important for Tempe. There are only nine questions. And for the first time, you can fill out the Census questionnaire online, and the letter you receive will tell you how.

iCount 2020

According to the U.S. Constitution, all residents must be counted every 10 years. If some Tempe residents are not counted, your community misses out on its fair share of federal funding for transportation, schools, housing and more. Everyone living in Tempe must be counted, including college students who live off-campus, non-citizens (including international students and residents) and even infants. Individuals who are homeless and those living in dorms or group homes are counted separately by the Census Bureau.

There are many public computers available for completing the Census at community centers in Tempe and at the Tempe Public Library, 3500 S. Rural Road. More information is at tempe.gov/census.

Interested in preschool this fall? Apply beginning March 16



Tempe PRE, the City of Tempe's high-quality, full-day preschool program, will begin accepting online applications for the upcoming school year at 8 a.m. March 16.

The application process is for new families; current families have already secured their spots. All students must be age three or four by July 31 and fully potty trained to be eligible for preschool. Families will be chosen by lottery and will receive email notifications beginning in April.

Free tuition, half-tuition and full-tuition options are available depending on eligibility requirements. Regardless of payment level, all families get the same benefits of Tempe PRE, including small class sizes, a play-based curriculum and early childhood-certified teaching staff.

The program serves 360 children at 12 established neighborhood schools in the Tempe Elementary and Kyrene school districts. Tempe PRE classrooms have all attained "quality" ratings by Quality First, Arizona's quality improvement and rating system for early learning programs.

The City Council launched Tempe PRE as a two-year pilot in August 2017, offering free preschool with the goal of boosting kindergarten readiness. Councilmembers later extended the program and introduced a sliding-scale tuition plan intended to widen availability to families and ensure the program's financial sustainability. Tempe PRE also helps families improve their quality of life. With access to high-quality preschool, they can increase employment and education opportunities. A Tempe PRE survey shows that 40 percent of families were able to increase their income by 28 percent as a direct result of accessing preschool. For information about applying: tempe.gov/TempePRE. To contact staff: pre-k@tempe.gov or call 480-858-7735.

Landlords: learn more about Section 8 housing vouchers

The City of Tempe is hosting an April 7 open house for Tempe landlords interested in exploring how to participate in the Housing Choice (Section 8) Voucher Program.

The city will explain the program's benefits to landlords and tenants. Landlords who already are participating are also welcome to attend and connect with the city's housing navigator and learn about increasing their participation. The event is 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Program Room A at the Tempe Public Library, 3500 S. Rural Road. Light refreshments will be served. Reservations are requested by emailing Housing Navigator Tina Van at tina_van@tempe.gov.

There are many advantages for landlords who accept housing vouchers: steady monthly cash flow; payment stability from the government; pre-screened tenants; consistent tenant base; and a high level of service through the city's housing navigator. Participating landlords also play a key role in helping Tempe expand housing options to those in need. Tempe participates in multiple housing voucher programs to serve the community. In addition to the Housing Choice program, the city offers specialty programs for military veterans, non-elderly disabled families, former foster care youth and others. For more information: tempe.gov/housing.



Tempe Pride

Celebrate Pride Week with Tempe! Join Downtown Tempe Authority and the City of Tempe Gay/Straight Alliance for a morning of rainbow roses and a preview of Tempe's Pride Parade float. Stop by Third Street and Mill Avenue from 8 a.m. to noon on Friday, April 3, to see the Tempe float and get a free rainbow rose from

Downtown Tempe Authority. The 10 a.m. Sunday, April 5, parade takes place on Third Street from Thomas Road to Indian School Road in Phoenix. Information is at <https://phoenixpride.org>.

Disability Awards

The Tempe Mayor's Disability Awards honor the achievements of exceptional individuals with disabilities, supportive employers and those who have shown dedication for improving quality of life for all Tempe residents. This year's event takes place at 3 p.m., Tuesday, April 28, at the Tempe Center for the Arts, 700 W. Rio Salado Parkway. Details are available at tempe.gov/DisabilityAwards.

Join Jennifer goes to 85281

Councilmember Jennifer Adams will bring "Join Jennifer," her quarterly conversation event, to 85281 on Wednesday, April 8, from 6-7:30 p.m., at the North Tempe Multi-Generational Center, 1555 N. Bridalwreath St., in Tempe. Anyone from anywhere in Tempe is welcome but topics for this meetup will focus on 85281. For more information on Adams' service in Tempe, visit tempe.gov/adams. For questions about the event, reach out to Alex Chin at alex_chin@tempe.gov or 480-350-8545.

Struggling to pay utility bills? Help is available.

When renters or homeowners are going through hard financial times, paying utility bills can pose an extra challenge. Help is available for Tempe residents through Tempe Community Action Agency (TCAA).

Households facing financial hardship can receive help with paying electric, gas and water bills through TCAA's Utility Assistance program. With financial support from the City of Tempe, Maricopa County and local utility companies, TCAA can help pay overdue bills and prevent potential service disconnects. The agency also offers education on various utility discount programs, financial coaching and more to help families avoid future crises.

Funds are limited; applications are prioritized for households with the greatest need. Details: tempeaction.org.

State of the Neighborhoods & Awards is April 4!

EVENTS

MARCH 27-29

Spring Tempe Festival of the Arts in downtown Tempe from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily. tempefestivalofthearts.com

APRIL 3

The Arizona Bicycling Summit is 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Discuss bike projects and issues. cazbike.org/summit2020

APRIL 4

April Pools Day is 1-5 p.m. at Kiwanis Wave Pool. Water safety activities, CPR demos and swim lessons. Free admission. tempe.gov/waves

APRIL 9

Senior Health and Wellness Expo happens from 8 a.m. to noon at the Pyle Adult Recreation Center, 655 E. Southern Ave. tempe.gov/pyle

APRIL 11

Kiwanis Club Easter Egg Hunt is 9 a.m. at the north soccer field at Kiwanis Park, 6111 S. All-America Way. Free and open to kids 10 and under.

Full events calendar at tempe.gov!



Tempe Bike Month gears up

Tempe Bike Month is an annual celebration to showcase the many benefits of biking in Tempe. Celebrate with the city at these free events:

Tour de Tempe – April 5 from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Join more than 1,000 bike riders at the 24th annual Tour de Tempe Community Bike Ride at Kiwanis Park, 6111 S. All-America Way. This free, 12-mile ride is led by members of the Tempe City Council. Registration starts at 7:30 a.m. and the ride starts at 9 a.m. Enjoy free breakfast snacks and coffee! T-shirts will be available for the first 850 riders. Helmets are required. Lost Our Home Pet Rescue will be on-site for pet adoptions. Learn more or register online now through April 1 at tempe.gov/BikeMonth.

Bike to Work Day – April 15 from 6:30 to 8 a.m.

Stop by one of seven locations during Tempe's 28th annual Bike to Work Day to get a free breakfast. Each location will have a limited number of bicycle tire repair kits and water bottles. T-shirts will not be handed out at this event. At 7 a.m., riders can also join Tempe City Council on a bike ride from U.S. Egg to Daily Jam in downtown Tempe. Visit tempe.gov/BikeMonth for a list of all breakfast locations.

Nominate Tempe's next bicycle hero

Do you know the Batman or Wonder Woman of bicycles? A person who not only celebrates bicycling, but also makes life better for Tempe's two-wheeled community? Nominate them to be Tempe's next Bike Hero! Tempe is accepting nominations for its 2020 Tempe Bike Hero Award now through April 30. Nominated individuals must live or work in Tempe and nominated organizations must be located in Tempe. Get more info at tempe.gov/BikeHero.

Free week of GRID bike riding

Get a free seven-day GRID pass by visiting gridbikes.com and using promocode BIKE2020.

Tempe has more than 217 miles of bikeways, including on-street bike lanes and multi-use paths. With one of the highest percentages of bicycle commuters in the country, and the highest in Arizona, Tempe has a strong bicycle culture and community. The city is designated a Gold-Level Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists.

For more information about all Bike Month events, visit tempe.gov/BikeMonth.

Register your vacation rental

The Tempe City Council recently approved an ordinance to create a short-term rental registration program to collect contact information for properties commonly referred to as vacation rentals.

A short-term rental is a residential property that is made available for stays shorter than 30 days. Some Tempe property owners are using popular online services to rent out homes and apartments. While providing financial opportunities for property owners, these rentals may negatively impact neighborhoods. The new registry is intended to help reduce neighborhood issues and increase public safety by having contact information available to emergency responders.

Property owners who offer short-term lodging must register their properties and obtain a Transaction Privilege Tax License before the property can be used as a rental. Details on signing up for the free Tempe registry are available at tempe.gov/ShortTermRentals or by calling 480-350-4311.

**Planning is underway for
FY 2020-21 city budget.
Get info: tempe.gov/BudgetPlan**



Keep Tempe beautiful by adopting a street, park or path

If you love Tempe and want to help keep it beautiful, consider adopting a street, park or path! Join other volunteers who give back to their community. Tempe residents, businesses and organizations with a passion for their community can invest time and love into their favorite areas, improving the community and environment for everyone. For more information and to sign up for your favorite spot today, visit tempe.gov/adopt.

Tempe City Council



Mark W. Mitchell
Mayor

Lauren Kuby
Vice Mayor

Jennifer Adams
Councilmember

Robin Arredondo-Savage
Councilmember

Arlene Chin
Councilmember

Randy Keating
Councilmember

Joel Navarro
Councilmember

Andrew Ching
City Manager

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

Check tempe.gov/clerk for updated schedules of City Council meetings and agendas or call 480-350-4311. Meeting dates are subject to change.

Meetings are aired live on Tempe 11 and streamed live at tempe.gov/tempe11.

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

Turn in old, expired meds

Tempe Police are partnering again with the Arizona Drug Enforcement Administration and law enforcement agencies across the state for an upcoming drug “take back” event. The aim of the event is to prevent accidental poisonings, overdoses and deaths due to the inappropriate use of prescription drugs and over-the-counter medications. It happens from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 25, at the Tempe Police south substation, 8201 S. Hardy Drive. Disposal is anonymous. In addition, two secure medication disposal kiosks are available for community members year-round during business hours at the Apache Police Substation, 1822 E. Apache Blvd, and downtown Police Headquarters, 120 E. Fifth St. For additional information, contact Molly_Enright@tempe.gov or 480-858-6148.

Local First Green Business Designation

Local First and the City of Tempe have partnered to help companies that want to add sustainable components into their operations. The Arizona Green Business program looks at how businesses handle waste diversion, energy and water conservation, pollution prevention, transportation efficiency, stormwater and wastewater practices and gives suggestions to help save money and the planet. Several Tempe businesses have already received this designation. This project received funding from the City Council-approved Tempe Innovation Fund. Learn more at <https://www.localfirstaz.com/greenbusiness>.

Celebrate Fix-a-Leak Week and save water

Continuous leaks in our home and landscape are a drain on the budget and the environment, but here in Tempe leaks have trouble staying hidden. Our residents are the first in the Valley to receive potential leak alerts due to the automated metering project and the free WaterSmart Customer Portal. Tempe residents acting on these alerts saved an estimated 8.6 million gallons of water last year by finding and fixing leaks. The best way to receive an alert without delay is by text message or email. Residents and other water customers are encouraged to register on the WaterSmart Portal

to set their communication preferences, check for indications of a leak and track their overall water usage. Visit tempe.gov/WaterSmart.

Zero Waste Day is April 18

Tempe residents can recycle anything that won't fit in the blue bin for free at Tempe's Zero Waste Day on Saturday, April 18, from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Tempe Fire Training Facility, 1340 E. University Drive. We will also be giving away free recycled paint and accepting non-perishable food donations for the Tempe Community Action Agency. Visit tempe.gov/ZeroWaste for a list of acceptable items and to learn more about how these items are recycled at Tempe's Household Products

April 2020
Mixed Bulk & Green Organics
Collection Schedule

	Collection Dates	Collection Type
Area A	Apr 6-9	
Area B	Apr 13-16	
Area C	Apr 20-23	
Area D	Apr 27-30	

tempe.gov/smart 480-350-4311

Items may be placed for collection **no earlier than 10 days prior** and **no later than 6 a.m.** on Monday of your collection week