

MAKE A LIST, CHECK IT TWICE... AND CROSS ALL YOUR GIFTS OFF IN TEMPE!

Make the City of Tempe's Community Services Department your one-stop-shop this holiday season. Check out the great gift ideas below – they are all easy to find, easy to wrap and best of all... there's something for everyone on your list.

Winter Class or Program

Help your loved ones get a jump start on their New Year's Resolutions by getting them a Tempe class or program. With hundreds of opportunities available, there is something for everyone— from your artistic tot to your athletic spouse. Visit www.tempe.gov/brochure to “shop around” and register.

Magic Mountain Trip for Teens

Don't know what to get that hard-to-shop-for teen on your list? Look no further. Tempe's Escalante Center is offering a turn-around trip to Magic Mountain just for teens. Register your teen for this trip, which will take place March 8 – 10, 2013. Cost of the trip is \$65 and includes admission to the theme park, transportation and chaperones. With a gift like this, you just might be in competition with Santa himself. For more information, visit www.tempe.gov/escalante or call (480) 350-5800.

Fitness Center Membership

If you've got someone on your list looking to get fit or stay active, a membership to one of Tempe's four fitness centers is the perfect thing to place under the tree.



The City of Tempe's fitness centers offer a variety of fitness equipment and are conveniently located through the city. For more information, visit www.tempe.gov/fitness.

Batting Range Passes

If you've got little sluggers at home, fill their stockings with batting range passes! Kiwanis Batting Cage passes offer 20 tokens for \$19 or 50 tokens for \$44. Tokens are equal to one game, or 14 pitches. For more information, visit www.tempe.gov/battingcage or call (480) 350-5727.

Swimming with Santa

Want a great stocking stuffer to keep your kids crazy for Christmas even after the big day is over? Tickets are now on sale for Swimming with Santa, the Kiwanis Wave Pool's annual holiday event. After a long night delivering toys to good boys and girls, Santa and Mrs. Claus will be taking



their vacation time in the lovely Tempe, AZ weather. Bring your kids to swim in the wave pool with Santa, spend time doing crafts with Mrs. Claus and thank the big guy for those gifts he left under the tree. For ticket and event information, visit www.tempe.gov/kiwanis or call (480) 350-5201.

KEEPING TEMPE'S WATER SAFE

As we head into the winter rainy season, it's important to take extra care to keep our stormwater drainage system free of harmful pollutants. Rainwater that doesn't get absorbed into the ground is considered stormwater runoff. In Tempe, most runoff ends up in the city's underground stormwater drainage system, which ultimately carries the untreated water to our urban lakes, rivers, parks and, in some cases, eventually to our drinking water aquifers.



We can all keep our Tempe water safe for use through reducing stormwater pollution by:

- Cleaning up after pets
- Refraining from feeding wild animals at waterside locations
- Avoiding the use of pesticides, fungicides and algacides whenever possible, especially right before rainy weather
- Using pool treatment products that contain no copper or minimal amounts and keeping all water from pools, fountains and spas on properties
- Washing vehicles at a commercial car wash that retains pollutants or in a location that doesn't drain to the street
- Never disposing of automotive fluids in storm drains
- Reporting illegal dumping

For questions or more information about Tempe's Stormwater Management Program, visit www.tempe.gov/stormwater.

FREEZE YOUR PAWS FOR A CAUSE!



POLAR BEAR PLUNGE

At The Lakes

Looking for an awesome way to give back in 2013? Start your New Year off with the coolest fundraiser (literally) in the desert with the 2013 Polar Bear Plunge benefiting Tempe's [Adapted Recreation Programs](#). Last year, over 200 Polar Bears and Teddy Bears gathered for the inaugural plunge, where \$4,255 was raised for Tempe's Special Olympics Team.

This year's event will be held on at **Saturday, Jan. 12** at the [Lakes Clubhouse](#) in Tempe. Registration begins at 8 a.m. and the Plunge begins at 9 a.m. Polar Bear participants will jump into the "cool" 65-degree swimming pool to earn their bragging rights.

For those not quite crazy enough to jump, you can still join in the fun by registering as a Teddy Bear. Registration is \$20 and all Bears will enjoy yummy snacks, hot beverages, a cool T-shirt, raffle prizes and a warm & fuzzy sense of community. Register at www.LakesPolarPlunge.com.

This year's event will benefit the Tempe's Adapted Recreation Programs. These programs provide opportunities

for the special needs community to participate in recreational and social activities and include Special Olympics Team Tempe, Buddy Bowling, Camp Challenge, Fabulous Friday Dances and many more.

The desert-style plunge is hosted by The Lakes Women's Club and Team ASA. Team ASA is a non-profit organization that provides financial support for children and adults with unique physical or mental challenges, enabling them to



join clubs, organizations and leagues that foster a sense of self, a sense of team, and an extended family. From bowling with friends on Saturday mornings, to swimming the third leg for his team's relay, to taking home Special Olympics Arizona's "Most Inspirational Athlete" award for Team Tempe at the Fall 2008 games, Asa Lynn Draper radiated positivity, light and sportsmanship. This organization has been created in his memory.

Follow us on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/GoTeamAsa. You can see lots of great pictures from the 2012 Polar Bear Plunge, receive the latest information about the 2013 Plunge and learn about the fabulous raffle prizes that will be given away. Brrring it!

PROJECT CONNECT BRINGS TOGETHER COMMUNITIES FOR THOSE IN NEED



In partnership with [Valley of the Sun United Way](#) and [Sun Valley Community Church](#), Tempe held a [Project Connect](#) on Thursday, Dec. 19. Project Connect is a Valley of the Sun United Way initiative that brings together communities and organizations to provide resources for those struggling during these hard economic times.

At Project Connect, individuals and families who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness are connected to more than 30 health and human service providers to accomplish a series of personal goals that empower them

on their road to a new life and increase self-sufficiency for themselves and their families. Project Connect occurs once a month in a different valley city. Volunteers act as guides to connect individuals seeking help with key resources.

Rooms normally filled with Sunday School students served as makeshift hair salons and clothing stores, and a small chapel became a resource center filled with information about organizations and homeless service providers. Department of Motor Vehicles representatives made Identification Cards and a bicycle repair station provided bike tune-ups. The Dial

Shower Power Trailer, [Tempe Leadership Class 25's Class Project](#), was on-site to provide warm showers.

Homelessness impacts our entire community, with thousands of individuals experiencing homelessness in Maricopa County on any given day, and many at risk after experiencing a job loss, medical cost or foreclosure. Project Connect is a big part of a regional solution to end homelessness. It is a national model which changes individual lives and the community as a whole.

TEMPE FIREFIGHTERS RESTORE AGING GRILL AT HOLLIS PARK



In the 1960s, [Tempe firefighters](#) built grills at [Tempe Beach](#), [Hollis](#), [Jaycee](#) and [Daley](#) parks under the direction of firefighters Charlie Burleson and Burt Hollis as a way to give back to the community.

During the last few weeks, Tempe Fire Department Captain Phil Golosewski and Fire Engineer Robin Kwiatkowski have been demolishing the old grill at [Hollis Park](#) and preparing the foundation for the new concrete work and grill.

“Rebuilding this grill allows us to give back to the community,” said Tempe Fire Department Captain Phil Golosewski. “It’s a part of the Tempe Fire Department’s history, and restoring it honors the legacy of our partnership with the community.”

RING IN THE NEW YEAR AT MILL AVENUE'S NEW CELEBRATION

Mill Avenue in Tempe will be completely open for business this [New Year's Eve](#) – a new twist for the state's most popular place to ring in the new year. Revelers and families are invited to come out for an evening of responsible celebration.



For the first time in many years, there will be no gates around Mill Avenue, no admission fee and no street closures around downtown Tempe on Dec. 31. Area restaurants and nightclubs will be offering entertainment and extended premises for the night. The city and [Downtown Tempe Community](#) are partnering with [Radio Disney](#) for family entertainment from 6 – 9 p.m. on a stage on Seventh Street, west of Mill Avenue. Children's activities and a variety of food trucks also will be in the area.

At 9:30 p.m., dance-pop duo S.O.S. takes over with their energetic combination of party rock and hip-hop. Bluegrass/Americana/ Folk-pop outfit Jared & The Mill begin at 11 p.m. and take us through the countdown to 2013 at midnight.

Two fireworks shows will help announce the coming of 2013. At 9 p.m., an early show will allow kids and families to partake in the annual tradition of New Year's Eve, while adults can witness the 12 a.m. fireworks show officially celebrating Arizona's strike of midnight.

 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

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| Fri, Dec. 21 | Lakeshore Jazz Series:
Bob Ravenscroft Christmas Concert
7:30 p.m.
Tempe Center for the Arts | Sat, Dec. 29 | Saturday Storytime - Ages 0-3/families
10:30 – 11 a.m.
Tempe Public Library |
| Fri, Dec. 21 | National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day | Sat, Dec. 29 | 24th Annual Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl
8:15 p.m.
Sun Devil Stadium |
| Sat, Dec. 22 | Winter Extraordinaire! All Ages
10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Tempe Public Library | Mon, Dec. 31 | Tempe's New Year's Eve Celebration
5 p.m. – 12:30 a.m.
Mill Avenue |
| Dec. 27 - 29 | Swimming with Santa
1 – 3 p.m.
Kiwanis Recreation Center | | |