

September 2017

## A September full of sports, fitness, arts and exhibits

As you take that post-back to school breath and get ready to focus on all things fall, there's still time to register for classes! Sports for the kids, fitness/de-stress lessons for you, art classes and museum exhibits for everyone – it's all happening this month and it's all available at [www.tempe.gov/brochure](http://www.tempe.gov/brochure). And of course – we've also got your free September events preview along with an introduction to a Kid Zone supervisor whose enthusiasm will melt your heart. Happy pre-fall!



## Get out on the lake in a kayak!



Lingering September heat gives you an even better reason to be out Tempe Town Lake. Kayaking enthusiasts can participate in **Kayak Touring** (ages 18+) and get fit while advancing their skills and learning boat-handling and rescue techniques. Classes begin Sept. 8.

For a more leisurely experience, nothing beats **Glow Paddle**, where families can kayak under the stars with glow-in-the-dark accessories. Kids must be at least 10 years old.

Visit [www.tempe.gov/boating](http://www.tempe.gov/boating) for more information on these kayaking experiences and all the city's boating activities.

## Youth basketball, flag football and tennis

Quality programs, expert staff and less expensive than most sports clubs. These three things make Tempe's [youth sports programs](#) stand out from all the others. Youth Hoops basketball, flag football and tennis all begin in September. Basketball and football programs are \$89; tennis programs are \$42.

To register for football/basketball, visit [www.tempe.gov/YouthSports](http://www.tempe.gov/YouthSports). To register for tennis, visit [www.tempe.gov/tennis](http://www.tempe.gov/tennis).



## De-stress with sports and fitness for adults

### *Tennis for beginners*

“Learn to Play Tennis” for adults meet twice a week for three weeks at Kiwanis Recreation Center. Players will learn basic elements of tennis while developing skills and meeting new people. The fee is \$42; classes start every month. Visit [www.tempe.gov/tennis](http://www.tempe.gov/tennis) for registration information.



### *NEW! Functional Fitness Self-Care Yoga Series*

Attend one or all four self-care yoga classes that will help you reduce daily aches and pains, prevent injuries and get the most of your day. Each class targets something specific, so we recommend taking all four! Check out pages 36-37 in the [Tempe Opportunities brochure](#) for class descriptions and dates. Fees range from \$49-\$59.

## Arts and craft classes for the family

### *The basics of sewing*

Don't miss out on one of our most popular classes – **Sewing 101!** You'll learn hand-sewing stitches and machine techniques while sewing your own first masterpiece. Classes begin Sept. 25; the fee is \$45. This class is open to students ages 14+. To find more information on this and other sewing classes, go to page 42 in the [brochure](#).



### *Painting for adults*

Tempe has added two new painting classes for adults; **Beginning Painting** and **Portrait Painting**. Classes start the first week of September and the fee is \$50. Check out page 31 in the [brochure](#) for more info.

### *Creative painting with your tot*

Living with a toddler with an insatiable appetite for crayon wall art? **Basic Art Skills** lets you and your little one experiment with basic art supplies and tools while creating art. Classes begin Sept. 5; the fee is \$20. Check page 6 of the [brochure](#) for more info on all our tot art classes.

## Adapted recreation: Friday night dance party

The first two Fridays of each month offer great social opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to come out with friends and family to have some fun. This month, check out the sports-themed **Fabulous Friday Social Dance** on Friday, Sept. 8, 6:30 p.m. at Edna Vihel Center. Admission is \$4. Visit [www.tempe.gov/AdaptedRecreation](http://www.tempe.gov/AdaptedRecreation) for more information and a full list of events.



## Kid Zone student becomes the teacher

We all have at least one. That special teacher or caregiver whose name we remember to this day. Whose face we won't ever forget because he/she made such a significant impact in our lives. For Kid Zone site supervisor Matt Billingsley, that person's name is Jeremy King and that connection was made at Kid Zone.

Matt started attending Kid Zone as a kindergartener at Wood Elementary and continued the program through fifth grade. Jeremy – or “Mr. Jeremy” as Matt called him – was the site supervisor for all six years. That daily after school interaction developed into the first close, adult relationship Matt had aside from his parents. Today – twenty years later – Jeremy is Matt’s supervisor and mentor.

Matt’s Kid Zone experience was such an influential part of his childhood that he applied for a job with the program as soon as he turned 16. To his surprise, “Mr. Jeremy” was part of that initial interview process. He was hired as an entry level employee and hasn’t looked back. Since then Matt worked his way through the Kid Zone ranks, taking positions at Meyer, Broadmor and Curry/Connolly.

“It’s all about that connection we all share,” Matt said of his students. “My favorite time of the day is being around the kids. Seeing their enthusiasm, such happiness in everything they are doing.”

Matt also has a knack for building Kid Zone programs. He was instrumental in rolling out the first middle school program at Curry/Connolly. He wrote and won a grant for a new robotics program and continues to develop creative curriculum and activities for his students.



“Matt is an amazing relationship builder with the kids and their parents,” said Kid Zone Manager Jeremy King. “He has taken what he remembers from his days as a participant and uses that knowledge to develop his own plans and programs.”

Matt’s Kid Zone experience has come full circle. He is now a full-time site supervisor at Wood Elementary, where he went as a kid. He says he doesn’t see himself ever leaving.

“I feel like I’m home now,” Matt said. “I know this community, I know these families. I get paid to hang out with kids – it’s crazy.”

Even though Matt is all grown up now, with a wife and newborn at home and running his own program, he still refers to his supervisor as “Mr. Jeremy”.

“The bond we have with these students can be lifelong,” Jeremy said. “We get to know their entire families. To see Matt paying it forward to a new generation of students is incredibly rewarding and meaningful.”

To learn more about Kid Zone, visit [www.tempe.gov/KidZone](http://www.tempe.gov/KidZone).



## Preschool program at Escalante

Did you know that Tempe's Escalante Community Center offers a drop-in preschool program? It offers a variety of organized educational activities for children ages 3-5, two days a week. An emphasis is placed on the development of social, motor and cognitive skills in a fun, safe and educational setting. The fee is \$80 for the 15-week program, which includes three family events. [Click here](#) for the schedule or call 480-350-5814 for more information.

## Become a lifeguard or swim instructor

Swimming season may be coming to an end but the city's need for qualified lifeguards and swim instructors is just ramping up. Lifeguards and swim instructor trainings begin in September and October.

### *Lifeguard training*

This is an American Red Cross certification course that includes first aid, CPR, and lifeguard training. Candidates must be 15+ and able to perform swimming skills necessary to complete the course requirement.

### *Starfish Aquatics Swim Lesson Instructor*



Candidates learn to teach courses in the Starfish Swim Instructor Program, which include water safety and stroke techniques. Successful candidates will teach classes to students of all levels and ages. Must be 16 years old and have a basic knowledge of the swimming strokes.

The fee for each training is \$140. Check page 57 in the [Tempe Opportunities brochure](#) for training dates and times. Attendance is required for all days listed in the sessions.

## Fall swim lessons

The end of summer doesn't mean the end of swim lessons in Tempe. Classes for swimmers of all ages and experience levels kick off in September. Find levels and registration information at [www.tempe.gov/swim](http://www.tempe.gov/swim).

## 4th annual writing contest: Get ready!

The fourth annual [Tempe Community Writing Contest](#) is back in 2018 and now is the time for aspiring writers to prepare. The Tempe Public Library will host several writing workshops and classes in September to help writers hone their skills leading up to the contest kickoff in January. Check out the [library calendar](#) for days and times for *Writer's Connection*, *Writing Workshops with Duane Roen: Getting Started with Family History Research*, and *Writing Studio*. All three classes being offered throughout the month.

And don't forget to save the date - submissions for the writing contest are open beginning January 8, 2018.



## Free College Connect workshop and college fair on Sept. 16

Students and parents are invited to a free College Connect workshop and college fair on Saturday, Sept. 16 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Tempe Public Library. Workshop topics include communication skills, social media etiquette and how students can market themselves to colleges. Attendees will also get plenty of one-on-one time with college representatives and career planning resources at the college fair. Registration is encouraged; visit [www.CollegeConnectTempe.org](http://www.CollegeConnectTempe.org) for more info.



## TCA celebrates 10-year anniversary with Jordin Sparks



There's still time to get your tickets! The TCA 10th Anniversary Celebration featuring Jordin Sparks, presented by Northern Trust will take place on Friday, Sept. 8. Enjoy cocktails, entertainment, a silent auction and a preview of the gallery at TCA's "Tempe Xhibition".

Tickets are \$75 and can be purchased at [tca.ticketforce.com](http://tca.ticketforce.com); doors open at 5:30 p.m. For more information, visit [tca.ticketforce.gala](http://tca.ticketforce.gala).

## Free family events in September

It wouldn't be September in Tempe without a bunch of free, family-friendly events to take part in.

### *Sept. 9: Tempe History Museum: Performances at the Museum*

Beginning Sept. 9, celebrate women in local music with an incredible lineup of musicians. September performers include *Las Chollas Peligrosas* and *Mariachi Pasion*. [Click here](#) for a full list of performers and more info. All performances begin at 7 p.m.



### *Sept. 22: Free Art Friday*

Free Art Friday returns on Sept. 22 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the Edna Vihel Activities Center. Create art and learn about music and movement at this free, family-friendly program. September's theme is *Master of Art*. Visit [www.tempe.gov/FamilyFun](http://www.tempe.gov/FamilyFun) for more info.



### *Sept. 28: Ballet Under the Stars*

The Tempe Center for the Arts Amphitheatre will come to life with dance on Sept. 28 at 7 p.m. as [Ballet Arizona](#) continues its annual season opening tradition with [Ballet Under the Stars](#).

## Save the date for these early October events!

Friday, Oct. 6 - [Movies in the Park](#) featuring Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory

Sunday, Oct. 8 - 19th Annual [Tempe Tardeada](#) festival

