

Help celebrate Earth Day

You can celebrate Earth Day and learn how you can help keep Phoenix beautiful at a lunchtime celebration from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 22, at Cesar Chavez Plaza, Jefferson Street and Second Avenue.

The event, sponsored by Keep Phoenix Beautiful, will include booths and other activities where you can learn about recycling and sustainability and pick up useful giveaways.

Visit keepphxbeautiful.org for more information.

Sewer charge covers operation, maintenance, new facilities

If you are connected to the city of Phoenix sewer system, your monthly municipal service bill also includes a sewer service charge to recover operation, maintenance and new facilities costs.

The table below shows by major user type the percentage of the total monthly charges attributed to operation and maintenance (O&M) of the system. The remainder pays for new facilities costs. The information is based on rates effective in March 2008.

User	% (O & M)
Residential	
Single Family Residence	35.44
Multi-Family Residence	35.44
Commercial	
Domestic Strength	34.54
- With Dining	36.15
Laundries/Commercial	39.94
Mortuaries	41.65
Restaurants & Bakeries	40.34
- With Dining	41.38
Public	
Federal Buildings	34.50
- With Dining	35.68
All Other Public Buildings	34.50
- With Dining	35.68

(41.72 percent of the sewer environmental charge is used for operation and maintenance of the system, while the remainder pays for new environmental facilities costs.)

Be sure to do your shopping in Phoenix

The slowdown in the economy has forced the city to trim millions of dollars from its budget, reduce and eliminate services and programs and lay off personnel.

That's all the more reason you should make sure Phoenix is where you do your shopping.

Sales taxes on the merchandise you buy at businesses located in the city help pay for city services such as police, fire protection, parks, libraries, senior centers, neighborhood preservation and street maintenance. When you shop in other cities, the taxes support the budgets of those communities.

There are notable shopping opportunities in all parts of Phoenix, including destinations with distinctive settings and stores recognized for their iconic brands, some of which are unique to Phoenix. For a list of major Phoenix shopping venues, visit phoenix.gov/shoppPhoenix.

Among them are: Arcadia Crossing, 4535 E. Thomas Road; Biltmore Fashion Park, 2470 E. Camelback Road; Christown Spectrum Mall, 1703 W. Bethany Home Road; Desert Ridge Marketplace, 21001 N. Tatum Blvd.; Desert Sky Mall, 7611 W. Thomas Road; Desert Sky Palms Center, 7502 W. Thomas Road; Metrocenter, 9617 N. Metro Parkway West; Outlets at Anthem, 4250 W. Anthem Way; and Paradise Valley Mall, 4568 E. Cactus Road.

Hazardous waste collections set

Phoenix residents can dispose of common hazardous wastes and other items at collections 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 23, 24 and 25 at North Phoenix Baptist Church, 5757 N. Central Ave., and May 14, 15 and 16 at Desert West Park, 6602 W. Encanto Blvd.

The events accept batteries, oil, up to five gallons of paint, antifreeze, pesticides, pool chemicals, computers, five road tires per household and household appliances that use refrigerants, including refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners and heat pumps. Commercial loads will not be accepted.

The city also will pick up household appliances at your home for a fee. Call for a collection appointment. For information, send e-mail to pwserve@phoenix.gov, visit phoenix.gov/publicworks or call 602-262-7251.

DiCiccio rejoins City Council

Sal DiCiccio, who served on the City Council from 1994 to 2000, is back on the job.

The developer and business owner was selected by the council to fill the District 6 seat left vacant by Greg Stanton, who resigned in February to take a position with the state Attorney General's Office.

He will serve the remainder of Stanton's four-year term, which ends in January.

Ironically, he was replaced on the council by Stanton when he gave up his seat in 2000 to run for U.S. Congress.

"I'm relieved and honored, but there is a lot of work to do," DiCiccio said after receiving the appointment.

He said he will focus on jobs, quality of life issues and neighborhood preservation.

A graduate of Arizona State University with a bachelor of science in business administration, DiCiccio is married and has 4-year-old twin daughters.

notes

Phoenix City Council	
Mayor Phil Gordon	602-262-7111
Tom Simplot, Vice Mayor & District 4	602-262-7447
Thelda Williams, District 1	602-262-7444
Peggy Neely, District 2	602-262-7445
Maria Baier, District 3	602-262-7441
Claude Mattox, District 5	602-262-7446
Sal DiCiccio, District 6	602-262-7491
Michael Nowakowski, District 7	602-262-7492
Michael Johnson, District 8	602-262-7493
Garbage/Trash Service	602-262-7251
Landfill/Disposal Information	602-262-7251
Recycling	602-262-7251
Water/Wastewater	602-262-6251

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City of Phoenix

notes

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City proposes new voting concept

The city is seeking community input on a proposal that would give voters more days to cast their ballots at the polls and more voting sites from which to choose.

Under the proposal, approximately 25 voting centers would be established that could be used by any registered voter, regardless of their home address.

Among the benefits of such a plan are:

- Voters, who currently must vote at the polling place in the precinct where they reside, could cast ballots at any voting center

convenient to their home, work or activities.

- In addition to the day of the election, the centers would be open for several days, such as the Saturday and Monday before a Tuesday election, thereby allowing more opportunities for voters to participate.

- The total number of facilities and workers needed would be reduced, allowing only the best facilities and most knowledgeable and skilled workers to be used.

The plan, which would reduce the number of polling places from 128 and election costs by an

estimated \$250,000, would address the fact that an overwhelming number of Phoenix residents vote early by mail rather than at the polls. In the city's last election in May, 96 percent of votes cast were by mail. In city elections since 2001, ballots by mail averaged more than 80 percent of all ballots cast.

To obtain feedback on the proposal from residents and other interested parties, the city has scheduled a series of citywide meetings that will be held late this month and in early April.

For more information on the proposal and community meeting dates, times and locations, call 602-261-8683 or visit phoenix.gov.



Library launches new card

Phoenix Public Library customers now can carry their library cards on their key chains as well as in their wallets.

The library has introduced a colorful new library card that comes in both credit card-size and a new key tag size.

New customers will receive the new-look card in both types for free when they join the library, while existing card holders may switch to the new card and receive both sizes for a \$2 fee.

The new style was designed and donated by Phoenix artist and card designer Kiyomi King, a



self-described "book-a-holic" who was issued the first official new card. Her design of the new card reflects the library's tagline, "Yours to Explore."

In appreciation of her donating the design, the library will host an exhibit of her work at Burton Barr Central Library, 1221 N. Central Ave., in May and June.

For more information, call 602-262-4636 or visit phoenixpubliclibrary.org.

Phoenix Film Festival returns

The 2009 Phoenix Film Festival April 2 – 9 will feature more than 100 independent films, as well as world premieres, filmmaker discussions, celebrity events, educational seminars and parties.

The weeklong festival, which will be held in Phoenix at Harkins Scottsdale 101 Theatres, 7000 E. Mayo Blvd., has become Arizona's largest film festival and is the film party of the year.

For tickets, which range in price from \$10 to \$425, visit phoenixfilmfestival.com or call 602-955-6444.

April is Fair Housing Month

Phoenix residents can learn about fair housing practices at workshops scheduled for next month, Fair Housing Month.

The free, city-sponsored sessions will be 9 to 11 a.m. Friday, April 3, at Phoenix City Hall, assembly room C, 200 W. Washington St., and Tuesday, April 21, at Burton Barr Central Library, 1221 N. Central Ave.

The workshops will cover how fair housing practices apply to apartments, houses, condominiums and mobile home parks, as well as landlords, leasing agents, real estate agents, property managers and others.

For more information or to register, call 602-262-7486 or 602-534-1557/TTY.

City honors vets

Mayor Phil Gordon and the Phoenix Military Veterans Commission will host the sixth annual "Mayoral Salute to All Veterans", at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, April 7, at the Phoenix City Hall Atrium, 200 W. Washington St.

This year's event will pay special tribute to those who served during World War II.

"We are proud to salute all the brave and courageous veterans of our U.S. Armed Forces who are proudly serving, or have served, this nation all over the world to protect our freedom," Gordon said.

The event is open to veterans and the public. For more information, call 602-534-1275.

Asian Festival April 18 - 19

East will meet West at the 15th annual Arizona Asian Festival next month.

The free festival, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, April 18, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, April 19, at Phoenix Heritage & Science Park, 115 N. Sixth St., will feature ethnic cuisine, arts and crafts, martial arts demonstrations, cultural dances and music and a variety of other activities.

Also, the Avenue of Cultures will offer special booths of different cultures for discussion and viewing of art and culture items.

Get your bike in shape

It's time to pump up those bicycle tires and oil the chain so you can take part in some of the events Valley Metro and its partners are planning for Valley Bike Month in April.

Among them is Bike-a-Palooza, a free bicyclist's expo and safety fair featuring a 13-mile community ride, bicycles and parts for sale, obstacle-course training for kids and demonstrations on how to load your bike on the bus. It will be held from 7 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 5, at Kiwanis Park, 6111 S. All American Way, Tempe.

Also, the Great Bike Chase, a three-mile fun ride through downtown Phoenix to see the Arizona Diamondbacks play the San Diego Padres at Chase Field, will be Sunday, April 26. Pre-ride activities will begin at 9 a.m. at Margaret T. Hance Park, 1134 N. Central Ave., and the ride will start at 11 a.m. A \$14 fee covers the ride and a game ticket.

To see a full lineup of activities, visit ValleyMetro.org or call 602-262-RIDE (7433).

Check out library book sale

More than 200,000 books, videos, CDs, DVDs and magazines, priced at \$2 or less, will be on sale at the Friends of the Public Library book sale next month.

The annual sale, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, April 25, and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, April 26, at the library warehouse, 1330 N. 29th Drive, will benefit the Phoenix Public Library.

On Sunday, all merchandise will be 50 percent off.

For more information, visit plfriends.org.

Water and wastewater rates rise

Phoenix residents who receive city water and wastewater services will see a slight rise in their bill this month.

The average customer's monthly costs for water and wastewater services will increase by \$4.13 to \$52.84. The city's water and wastewater rates remain among the lowest of comparable cities nationwide and in the Valley.

Phoenix continues to use your money wisely to rehabilitate and replace aging water and wastewater lines, improve treatment plants, enhance security, integrate new customer service technologies, and meet or surpass increased public health and environmental standards, as well as pay for unfunded federal mandates.

The fixed monthly service charge for water, which is based on customer meter sizes and allows for a basic

amount of water use and recovers the billing, collections and meter-maintenance costs, will remain the same.

The new water rate applies to the volume of water used beyond the amount included in the fixed monthly service charge. The average increase is based upon a single-family residential customer using 11,344 gallons of water per month.

Under the new schedule, for the low usage months of December, January, February and March, the per-unit (748 gallons) rate goes from \$1.83 to \$1.99; for the medium months of April, May, October and November, it goes from \$2.20 to \$2.44; and for the high months of June, July, August and September, it goes from \$2.81 to \$3.16. Also, the environmental charge, which is for federally required activities taken to enhance the environment,

goes from 31 cents to 37 cents per unit.

The wastewater rate increase is reflected in the sewer and environmental charges that are applied to the average consumption for the period of January, February and March. The fixed monthly service charge of \$1.22 will remain the same.

Phoenix has the second lowest combined water and wastewater single-family monthly bill as compared to other major southwest cities.

City	Average Monthly Bill
San Diego	\$97.43
Austin	\$93.32
San Jose	\$74.81
Dallas	\$70.95
Kansas City	\$70.06
Fort Worth	\$68.91
Oklahoma City	\$62.10
Tucson	\$55.70
Phoenix	\$52.84
Albuquerque	\$43.83

Parking meter rates, enforcement increase

Motorists in Phoenix begin paying more for all metered parking this month as the city completes a phasing in of new rates.

Although the City Council approved an increase of 90 cents per hour in December, full enforcement did not begin until March 16 because the 2,300 meters had to be recalibrated.

Under the new plan, hourly rates increase to \$1.50 and enforcement is extended to 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays. Previously, the hourly rate was 60 cents and the meters were enforced from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

The increase is the first since 1992 when motorists paid 40 cents an hour. It also is the first time since 1984 that meters have been enforced on Saturdays.

In addition to the rate adjustment, the city is looking into possibly increasing the fine for parking violations to \$60 with a prompt payment discount of \$30. Currently, the fine is \$31 and the discount is \$15.

New technologies for meters also are being

examined, including the use of credit and debit cards. As part of a pilot program, 49 meters at five downtown locations have been converted to accept cards.

They are located on Third Avenue between Adams and Monroe streets; Washington Street between Third and Fourth avenues; Jefferson Street between Second and Third avenues; Second Avenue between Adams and Monroe streets; and Jefferson Street between Third and Fourth avenues.



Volunteers honored for community involvement

Four individuals and one business have been honored with awards by the city's Human Services Commission and Human Services Department for their leadership in improving the quality of life of area residents.

The top award – the Golden Heart – went to Carol Kratz, senior program officer for the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust, who was cited for her efforts in seeking innovative assistance programs for the trust to support.

She was instrumental in the department obtaining grants for a number of programs, including Fall Prevention and the Phoenix Perks Café. She also assisted in providing funding to give holiday gift cards to 50 low-income seniors.

Other winners were Alejandra Valenzuela, a Carl Hayden High School student; Dr. Mark Morales, former chair of the Head Start Health Services Advisory Committee; Molly Bograd, a member of the Senior Services Committee; and Old Navy Stores.



Carol Kratz

Help restock food banks during "Food for Fines"

Pay your library fines and help restock the pantries of Valley food banks during Phoenix Public Library's annual "Food for Fines" campaign April 13 – 25.

Fifty cents will be deducted from your overdue fines for each nonperishable food item donated at any of the 15 Phoenix Public Library locations.

Homemade food items or food for fines related to lost or damaged books cannot be accepted.

Donated food will be distributed to Desert Mission Food Bank and St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance. The program collects more than 24,000 pounds of food annually.

For more information, call 602-262-4636 or visit phoenixpubliclibrary.org.