

## Activity book helps kids enjoy METRO

Are you getting ready to take your kids for a ride on the METRO light rail?

If so, be sure to get them a copy of "METRO Safety for You," a free activity book designed to help them learn about the light rail system and how to be safe when they are around it.

Developed by the cities of Phoenix, Tempe and Mesa, METRO and the Injury Free Coalition for Kids, the booklet includes a map of the rail system, interesting information on the tracks, trains and signs they will see along the way and important safety tips for them to follow.

It brings to life characters from the METRO Web site and a fun story line involving kids taking the train to a birthday party in the park. As they head out, there are pictures to color, signs to identify, mazes to work through and words to find or unscramble, all suitable for using as the METRO trains whisk you along to your destination.

Although the booklet is designed for children with third- through sixth-grade reading levels, older kids will enjoy the puzzles, pictures and activities as well and parents of younger kids can read and work the puzzles with them.

The activity book is available in limited printed copies from the Phoenix Street Transportation Department at 602-262-4613 or phoenix.gov/ftpalias/streets/lrtsafety.pdf.

## Look for WaterSense

If every household in Phoenix replaced an old toilet with a new, high-efficiency toilet, more than 9.5 billion gallons of water would be saved every year.

Phoenix joined the Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense program as a partner to promote awareness of water-saving techniques and products.

Look for the WaterSense label when buying new bathroom fixtures or looking for a certified irrigation specialist to design an irrigation system.

You can test your "WaterSense" online at [epa.gov/watersense/quiz](http://epa.gov/watersense/quiz).

## Teens sought for River Rampage

The Parks and Recreation Department is recruiting participants for its summer River Rampage program, a weeklong outdoor adventure program for teens.

Open to young people with and without disabilities, the adventure takes place on the San Juan River, bringing together teens of diverse abilities, cultures and backgrounds in a wilderness setting.

There is no cost to take part in the program, although participants are required to complete 40 hours of volunteer service in the community.

For more information or to request an application, call 602-534-5681. Applications also are available at phoenix.gov/parks.



A River Rampage adventure offers fun for all.

## Solid waste fee increases

The monthly solid waste collection fees have been increased.

The residential rate is now \$26.80, up \$1.35 per month from the previous year. Commercial rates at disposal facilities also increased to \$38.25 a ton, up \$2.

The increases are necessary to keep pace with inflation and to maintain existing environmental programs and infrastructure.

For more information, call 602-262-7251 or visit phoenix.gov/publicworks.

### Disposal facilities set weekend summer hours

The weekend summer hours for the North Gateway and the 27th Avenue Transfer Stations are 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 2 through Oct. 2. The North Gateway Facility is open both Saturdays and Sundays, while the 27th Avenue Facility is open on Saturdays and closed on Sundays. Weekday hours remain unchanged at both facilities: 5:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. For trash disposal facility information, call 602-262-7251 or visit phoenix.gov/publicworks.

## Household utility help available

Low-income residents may be eligible for special assistance with household appliances and other equipment.

The Human Services Department utility replacement and repair program covers water heaters, cooking stoves, refrigerators, evaporative coolers and furnaces and minor repairs to air conditioner units and plumbing systems.

To be eligible, residents must be at or below 200 percent of the poverty guidelines and not have received services from the program in the past 12 months. All applicants must provide proof of identity and citizenship. Assistance is offered as long as funding is available.

To obtain a list of documents needed to verify eligibility, schedule an appointment or learn more about the program, call 602-262-4520.



<b>Phoenix City Council</b>	
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

Published by the city of Phoenix  
Public Information Office  
200 W. Washington St.  
Phoenix, AZ 85003  
602-262-7176  
phoenix.gov

For alternate format/reasonable accommodations, call 602-262-7176 or city TTY relay 602-534-5500.



City of Phoenix

A Publication for the Residents of Phoenix

April 2009

# notes

## New program gives old buildings new life

A new city program is making it easier to adapt older buildings for new business uses – benefiting small business owners, neighborhoods and residents.

The program offers business owners relief from some building codes and zoning ordinances, including, in some cases, fire sprinkler systems and parking requirements, while maintaining safety.

"The goal was to find ways to simplify the process, save time and save money, while maintaining public safety of these buildings,"

notes Mark Leonard, program chairman and interim director of the Development Services Department.

Some buildings already have been converted under the program.

A 1940s fire house in Sunnyslope was turned into



An old home makes an ideal taco shop.

a trendy wine café called Bomberos; a vintage gas station was transformed into Copper Star Coffee on Seventh Avenue and a 1920s residence was

reborn as America's Taco Shop on Seventh Street.

To learn more about the program and the unique businesses now open, visit phoenix.gov/video and click on "Building Phoenix."

Business owners interested in the program may contact the Development Services Office of Customer Advocacy at 602-534-7344.



Customers are filling up with coffee where motorists once filled their cars with gasoline.

## Weeds, brush, debris targeted

The Fire, Public Works and Neighborhood Services departments are teaming up again this year in a campaign to reduce the number of

weed, brush and debris fires in neighborhoods.

Firefighters next month will begin surveying neighborhoods for brush and debris fire hazards and forwarding the location of possible violations to the Public Works and Neighborhood

Services departments for city code enforcement.

The city requires that property owners keep lots, properties, alleys and easements free from litter, garbage, overgrown vegetation, dead trees, brush, weeds and other conditions that present health, fire or safety hazards.

inside

- Surplus goods auction
- METRO activity book
- City gets energy payoff

## 'Silent Sunday' expands to North Mountain Park

Cyclists, skateboarders, wheelchair users and stroller-riding tots now have two mountain parks where they can call the roads their own one day a month.

The Parks and Recreation Department has expanded its popular "Silent Sunday" program that began in South Mountain Park three years ago across town to North Mountain Park.

The program reserves roadways in the parks to alternative modes of transportation, giving visitors one day each month to enjoy the parks without motor vehicle traffic.

The two parks will host the event from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. with North Mountain holding it the second Sunday of each month, May 10, June 14, July 12, Aug. 9, Sept. 13, Oct. 11, Nov. 8 and Dec. 13, and South Mountain holding it the third or fourth Sunday, May 24, June 21, July 26, Aug. 23, Sept. 27, Oct. 25, Nov. 22 and Dec. 20.

Motor vehicles will be allowed to park at the Havasupai Ramada at North Mountain, 10600 N. Seventh St., and at the Environmental Education Center at South Mountain, 10409 S. Central Ave. Trailhead access sites outside of the parks will remain open to motor vehicles.

For more information about the parks, visit [phoenix.gov/parks](http://phoenix.gov/parks).

## Hazardous waste collections planned

Phoenix residents can dispose of common hazardous wastes and other items at collections 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 14, 15 and 16 at Desert West Park, 6602 W. Encanto Blvd., and 7 a.m. to noon June 18, 19 and 20 at Los Olivos Park, 2802 E. Devonshire Ave.

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 [pwserv@phoenix.gov](mailto:pwserv@phoenix.gov), visit [phoenix.gov/publicworks](http://phoenix.gov/publicworks) or call 602-262-7251.

## Reach 11 adds more soccer fields

Phoenix now is home to the largest soccer complex in the state following the completion of the second construction phase of the Reach 11 Sports Complex.

The complex at Cave Creek and Deer Valley roads now includes 18 championship soccer fields as well as restrooms, concession stand, maintenance building, offices, storage facility, playground, ramada picnic area and lighted parking for 2,200 vehicles.

Ten of the playing fields are lighted and one of them has synthetic turf.



The facility has become a popular site for local, regional and national soccer tournaments since the first

phase opened in 2007 and already has generated more than \$1.4 million in sales tax revenues for the city.

Reach 11 is a U.S. Bureau of Reclamation area that the city developed for recreation as part of a land-use agreement with the federal agency. The development was financed with voter-approved bond funds.

More information is available at 602-534-6268 and [phoenix.gov/SPORTS/reachsprt.html](http://phoenix.gov/SPORTS/reachsprt.html).

## Library reduces hours

Phoenix Public Library has reduced its operating hours.

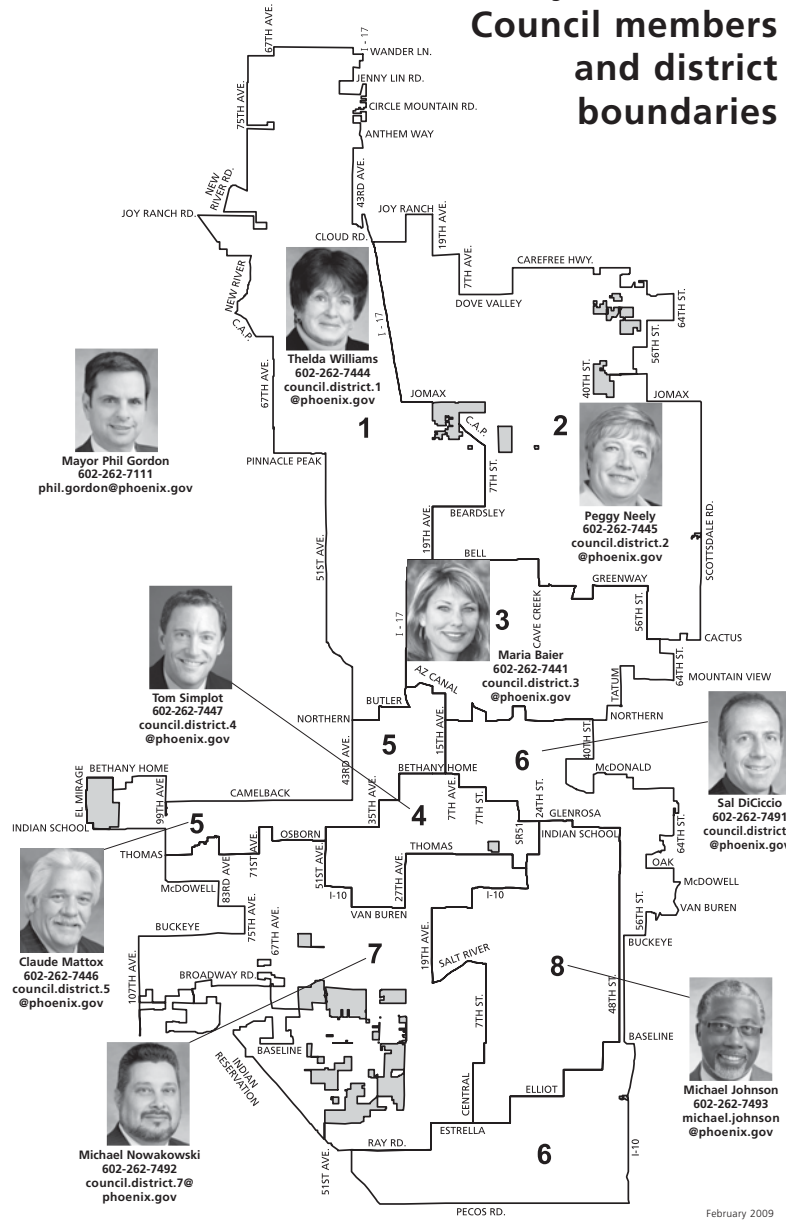
The new hours at all 15 locations are 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

Eight libraries – Burton Barr Central, Cesar Chavez, Cholla, Ironwood, Juniper, Mesquite, Palo Verde and Saguaro – are open from 1 to 5 p.m. on Sundays.

The changes were prompted by budget cuts made necessary by the slowdown in the national and local economies.

For more information, call 602-262-4636 or visit [phoenixpubliclibrary.org](http://phoenixpubliclibrary.org).

## City of Phoenix Council members and district boundaries



February 2009

## City gets big payoff for saving energy

Finding ways to reduce your energy consumption really can pay off.

That's what the city did last year and not only did it reduce its monthly electricity costs, but it also netted a hefty rebate.

Arizona Public Service Co. turned over to the city a check for \$825,000 for its successful participation in the utility's Solutions for Business and Renewable Energy Incentive programs, which encourages businesses, municipalities, schools and nonprofit agencies to improve their energy efficiency.

City departments earned the rebate for installing energy efficient equipment and renewable energy projects at Sky Harbor International Airport's Terminal 3 and 4; the 23rd Avenue Waste Water Treatment Plant; the Phoenix Convention Center and several fire, library, police and parks facilities.

The energy efficient improvements included the installation of new lighting, variable speed drive motors, pumps and water- and air-cooled chillers. Also, the Convention Center installed a 100-kilowatt solar energy package on the roof of the West Building.

The improvements are expected to save the city more than \$16.7 million in electricity costs over the life of the installations.

## Census Bureau begins address survey

Several hundred U.S. Census Bureau field workers will be on the streets of Phoenix for the next four months confirming the mailing addresses of all of the homes and other living quarters in the city.

The canvassing campaign is an early effort by the bureau to make sure that every household in the city receives a 2010 Census questionnaire when they are mailed to residents next February.

All of the field workers – some on foot and others in vehicles – will be wearing Census Bureau identification badges and some also will be carrying special bags with the Census Bureau name and logo. They also will be carrying either laptop computers or smaller, hand-held computers as they move through each neighborhood in the city.

For more information, call the Phoenix Census Bureau office at 602-427-0660 or 602-427-0680 or visit [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).