

Recycle your Christmas tree

The city and A to Z Equipment Rentals & Sales will provide opportunities for residents to recycle their Christmas trees. Fourteen city parks will accept single trees from residents any time between Friday, Dec. 26, and Sunday, Jan. 4, in designated areas where special collection bins are located.

The parks are:

North

- **Deer Valley**, 19th Avenue and Utopia Road
- **Sereno**, Sweetwater Avenue and 56th Street
- **Paradise Valley**, 40th Street, south of Union Hills Drive
- **Cactus**, 38th Avenue and Cactus Road
- **Mountain View**, Peoria and Seventh avenues

Central

- **Marivue**, Osborn Road and 59th Avenue
- **Washington**, Maryland and 23rd avenues
- **Madison**, Glenrosa Avenue and 16th Street

- **Los Olivos**, Devonshire Avenue and 28th Street

- **Desert West**, Encanto Boulevard and 67th Avenue

South

- **El Reposo**, Alta Vista Road and Seventh Street
- **Mountain Vista Park**, 50th Street, north of Ray Road
- **Desert Foothills**, Desert Foothills Parkway and Chandler Boulevard
- **Cesar Chavez Park**, 35th Avenue and Baseline Road

A to Z Equipment will accept trees at no charge from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 26 through Jan. 5 except on Dec. 30 and 31 when trees will be accepted from 9 a.m. to noon. The stores will be closed on New Year's Day. Phoenix stores are located at 4050 E. Indian School Road and 15634 N. 32nd St.

Trees may be left at the city's disposal facilities at 27th Avenue and Lower Buckeye Road and at the North Gateway Transfer Station, 30205 N. Black Canyon Freeway (exit I-17 at Happy Valley Road, exit roundabout at East Frontage Road, north three miles). Sites are open 5:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekends. The 27th Avenue site is closed Sundays. The service is free to Phoenix residents who drop off one tree.

To donate a live tree, call 602-262-6386.

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

MLK breakfast Jan. 16

Local residents who have helped make Phoenix a more unified community will be recognized Friday, Jan. 16, at the annual Arizona Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Awards Program and Breakfast "Stand Up for Justice."

The event, 7 - 9:30 a.m. at the Sheraton Phoenix Downtown Hotel, Third Floor Grand Ballroom, 340 N. Third St., will honor winners of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Living the Dream Award and the Calvin C. Goode Lifetime Achievement Award.

Tickets are \$65 per person and \$650 for a table of 10. The reservation deadline is 5 p.m. Jan. 9. Call 602-254-5081 for more information or to buy tickets.

Stay safe around METRO rail

Light rail has an excellent safety record in cities throughout the United States.

In Greater Phoenix, METRO has incorporated the best design elements and safety practices from other communities to help make its light rail operation among the safest.

Some of the design features include countdown crosswalk signals for pedestrians, landscaping to discourage jaywalking, platform heights that permit no-step entry to the train and cameras that allow the train operators to see that passengers have cleared the doors when boarding and disembarking.



Others include special turn lanes and turn signals for motor vehicles, six-inch curbs that prevent vehicles from crossing the tracks at non-controlled

locations and traffic signals that control street traffic alongside the tracks.

Here are some simple tips that can help you and your family stay safe around light rail:

- Light rail is quiet; look and listen for the train.
- Obey the traffic signals; stop on red.
- Use the crosswalks and obey all signals.
- Stay off the trackway; never drive, bike, walk or skateboard on the tracks.
- Stay clear of the overhead wires; they are energized.

For more information and to see a safety video, visit phoenix.gov.

Watch your holiday recyclables

The city's residential recycling program does not accept the following holiday-related materials in the blue Phoenix Recycles barrels:

Plastic or foil wrapping paper; ribbons/bows/yarn; foil-embossed greeting cards; plastic bubble wrap from toys; foam packing materials; confetti; Christmas tree decorations; strings of lights or light bulbs; Christmas trees (artificial or real); holiday decorations such as wreaths, candles and ceramics; electrical extension cords or wires; paper cups; and plastic utensils, plates and cups; and other "film" plastic. Take plastic bags to grocery stores for recycling.

For more information, call 602-262-7251, visit phoenix.gov/publicworks or send e-mail to pwsolve@phoenix.gov.



Phoenix City Council	
Mayor Phil Gordon	602-262-7111
Peggy Neely, Vice Mayor & District 2	602-262-7445
Thelda Williams, District 1	602-262-7444
Maria Baier, District 3	602-262-7441
Tom Simplot, District 4	602-262-7447
Claude Mattox, District 5	602-262-7446
Greg Stanton, District 6	602-262-7491
Michael Nowakowski, District 7	602-262-7492
Michael Johnson, District 8	602-262-7493

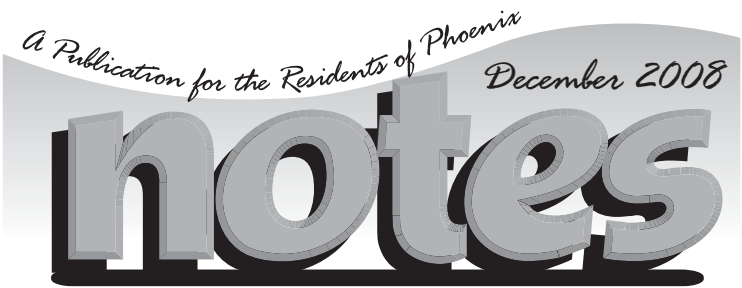
Garbage/Trash Service	602-262-7251
Landfill/Disposal Information	602-262-7251
Recycling	602-262-7251
Water/Wastewater	602-262-6251

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City of Phoenix



Block Watch grant applications available Jan. 2

Block Watch groups and other neighborhood organizations are eligible again this year for grants of up to \$10,000 to help fund programs that fight crime and improve the safety and quality of life in their areas.

Applications for the 2009 Neighborhood Block Watch Grant Program will be available online at phoenix.gov/police/nbwgrant.html beginning Friday, Jan. 2.

Several important changes have been made to this year's application and the

filing procedures. Under the new process:

- Applications only will be available online.
- All applicants will use the same form regardless of the amount of money they are requesting.
- The applications must include a budget narrative for the items that would be funded with a grant.
- Completed applications only will be accepted by e-mail to [nbwgrant@](mailto:nbwgrant@phoenix.gov)

phoenix.gov and they must be received no later than Friday, Feb. 6.

- Applicants must submit by U.S. mail a meeting roster from two different months of the previous year and a copy of a meeting agenda showing that a crime prevention or safety topic was discussed at that meeting.

More information, including a video presentation about the new application, can be found on the Web site.

Random gunfire can kill

Firing a gun into the air to celebrate New Year's Eve is not only foolish and illegal, but it can be deadly, too.

Stray bullets from random gunfire have seriously injured and even killed innocent people.

Please help us make sure such senseless tragedies don't happen again. Don't use a gun to celebrate the New Year and if you hear or witness random gunfire, call 911.



It's coming
METRO light rail begins operating this month. Full coverage of the opening of the rail service as well as the grand opening of the Phoenix Convention Center's new North Building can be found inside.

'Shop Phoenix' message targets Phoenix businesses

For several years now, the city has been urging its residents to shop in Phoenix.

That's because the sales taxes on their purchases support the city's general fund and help pay for police, fire, libraries, parks and other basic services.

Now, the campaign is being expanded to include the city itself.

Under a plan approved by the City Council, the city will try to solicit responses from businesses located in the city when it seeks bids for many of the goods and services it purchases on a regular basis.

While Phoenix firms currently receive much of the city's businesses, a number of contracts also go to companies outside of the city and state. City officials are hopeful the plan to get more city businesses involved in the bidding process will help promote job creation while bolstering the city's sales tax revenues.

Rock 'n' Roll race to close streets

The P.F. Chang's Rock 'n' Roll Arizona Marathon and 1/2 Marathon returns to Phoenix on Sunday, Jan. 18.

And again, it will require the closure of a number of streets.

The two races will be run on separate courses, both of which start at the State Capitol near 17th Avenue and Washington and Jefferson streets and run through central and east Phoenix to Tempe.

Streets surrounding the routes will be closed between 5 a.m. and 3 p.m., so plan ahead and expect delays. Visit the marathon's link on phoenix.gov or call 480-518-3742 for road closures, course maps and alternate travel routes.

Airport offers shuttles from METRO stop

Looking for a convenient way to get to and from Sky Harbor International Airport? Give the METRO light rail a try.

Although the train will not run through the airport when it begins service Dec. 29, there will be an airport stop a few blocks away at Washington and 44th streets where you can transfer to a free shuttle bus.

The buses, which have plenty of space for luggage, will stop at the train station and each of the three airport terminals every 10 minutes during the same hours that the trains will be operating.

Planners opted not to have METRO run through the airport because it would have required up to seven additional stops for light rail commuters.

Homeless need help staying warm in winter

When nighttime temperatures drop and days cool down, many of the community's homeless end up on the streets without blankets or warm clothing.

You can help by donating new or used blankets, jackets, long pants, sweatshirts, sweatpants, hats, gloves, shoes and coats as well as new underwear, socks and hygiene items.

There also is a need for baby food, formula, diapers and children's blankets.

Donated items, which are tax deductible, may be delivered through March 18 to city family services centers – Travis L. Williams, 4732 S. Central Ave.; Central Phoenix, 1250 S. Seventh Ave.; John F. Long, 3454 N. 51st Ave.; and Sunnyslope, 914 W. Hatcher Road.

For more information, call 602-262-4520.

Hazardous waste collection set

Phoenix residents can dispose of common hazardous wastes and other items at collections 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Jan. 15, 16 and 17 at Palmcroft Baptist Church, 15825 N. 35th Ave., and Feb. 19, 20 and 21 at Pecos Park, 17010 S. 48th St.

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 pwsolve@phoenix.gov, visit phoenix.gov/publicworks or call 602-262-7251.

City bolsters convention business

Phoenix is taking a step up in the convention business – a giant step.

After five years of construction, the city this month is putting the finishing touches on a \$600 million expansion and renovation of the downtown Phoenix Convention Center that triples the size of the facility to nearly 900,000 square feet and puts it among the top 20 largest convention venues in North America.

With its increased size and mixture of room accommodations, the city now will be able to host most of the national conventions that large trade groups, businesses and others hold in major cities throughout the country every year.

In addition, the number of delegates the convention business is expected to draw annually climbs to 375,000, a sharp increase over the 135,000 who have attended in past years.

All of the new activity at the downtown facility will give the city's lodging, dining, entertainment and other tourist revenues a big boost because convention attendees generally are the highest spending visitors. Many of them bring their families with them and stay additional days after their conventions close.

The second and final phase of the expansion and renovation project wraps up with the

opening of the North Building. The first phase included construction of the West Building, which opened in 2006, and renovation of the South Building, which remains on the site from when the facility was called the Civic Plaza.

The North and West buildings, which are connected by underground passages and a



The completion of the Phoenix Convention Center's North Building ends a five-year expansion and renovation project that tripled the size of the convention facility.

150-foot bridge, offer four levels of meeting and exhibition space totaling 707,000 square feet. The South Building is a stand-alone facility that has another 143,000 square feet of space.

The North Building is three times the size of the West Building, and features a 45,600-square-foot ballroom, the largest in the state.

The new building also will add more food options to the downtown with five themed eateries open to the public.

Other highlights include over \$3.2 million worth of public art through the city's Percent for Art program and a water harvesting garden that will reuse the condensation from the heating and air conditioning units to water landscaping.

Visitors will be able to tour the North Building at an open house from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, as part of the opening of the METRO light rail.

How to ride the rail

Riding the light rail is easy. Simply board the train with your activated pass. Keep your pass handy because light rail passengers are subject to fare inspection at any time and must present an activated pass or one-ride receipt upon request. Because METRO stations are dedicated to transit use only, you must also hold a valid pass to be on the station platform.

METRO security officers will regularly patrol the system and will ask passengers at random to produce a valid transit pass. Violators are subject to fines ranging from \$50 to \$500 and may lose their transit privileges.

The buy-then-activate fare system lets you purchase a pass at light rail stations or other locations without having to use it immediately. You are required, however, to activate your pass immediately before you ride.

A one-ride pass is automatically activated when you buy it. When you buy a one-ride pass, keep your receipt to prove that you paid your fare. The one-ride pass allows you either one ride on light rail or one ride on the bus, but not both.

All-day, three-day, seven-day and 31-day passes can be activated in one of three ways: choose the "activate" option when you buy your pass at the vending machine; place a pass purchased earlier into the activation slot on the vending machine; or dip your pass into a bus fare box.

The employer-issued Platinum Pass or ASU transit cards must be tapped on the orange target located near the station entrance every time you ride.

If you buy a light rail or local bus pass and then decide to take an Express or RAPID bus, simply pay the upgrade difference in cash at the bus fare box. Credit and debit cards are not accepted.

Celebrate light rail. Convention Center Dec. 27

The opening of the METRO light rail and the Phoenix Convention Center's North Building will be celebrated Saturday, Dec. 27, with free train rides, parties along the rail line and an open house at the convention facility.

The free rail service will be offered from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. along the 20-mile route between Phoenix and Mesa.

Phoenix will kick off the festivities - Phoenix Rising: A Downtown Celebration - with a ribbon-cutting at the METRO station at Third and Washington streets followed by a large party with live entertainment, vendors and other activity inside the nearby Convention Center.

A second large party hosted by the city and also featuring live entertainment and vendors will be at the train station at 19th and Montebello avenues where the light rail line begins.

Also, Sky Harbor International Airport will host a party at the station at 44th and Washington streets to introduce its new free shuttle bus service that will transport airport visitors between the train stop and the three airport terminals.

In addition, there will be large parties in Tempe at the Veteran's Way and College Avenue station and in Mesa at the Main Street and Sycamore station, and smaller parties at other stops on the line.

All of the parties will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

METRO will continue its celebration on Sunday, Dec. 28 by offering free rides from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Regular service begins Dec. 29, but rides will remain free through Dec. 31. Fares, which will be \$1.25 one way and \$2.50 for all day, will be required beginning Jan. 1.

When to ride the train

On Dec. 29, METRO will begin operating on a daily basis, about 20 hours per day. The tentative service schedule is 4 a.m. to midnight with the first full trip, across all 20 miles, beginning at 4:40 a.m. and the last full-trip at 11 p.m.

On weekdays, trains will arrive at all stations every 10 minutes between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. and every 20 minutes during other hours. On weekends and holidays, trains will arrive at stations every 15 minutes between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. and every 20 minutes during other hours.