

Leer en español

Hi District 8,

The holiday season is here, and there is so much happening across District 8 and throughout Phoenix! From Thanksgiving celebrations and important City Council updates to our upcoming Gingerbread Holiday Party, this week's newsletter is filled with ways to stay informed, get involved, and connect with our community. I hope you and your family enjoy a safe, joyful, and restful Thanksgiving.

A Thanksgiving Message to Our District 8 Community

As we head into the Thanksgiving holiday, I want to take a moment to share my gratitude for the incredible families, neighbors, and community partners who make District 8 such a special place. I hope you and your loved ones enjoy a warm, peaceful, and joyful Thanksgiving.

As a reminder, Phoenix City Offices will be closed this Thursday and Friday, November 26 and 27 in observance of the holiday. Please also note the following changes to solid waste services:

- No trash or recycling collection on Thanksgiving Day (Thursday, November 26).
- Thursday customers will be collected on Friday, November 27.
- Friday customers will be collected on Saturday, November 28.

Thank you for your understanding as our crews observe the holiday as well. Wishing you a wonderful Thanksgiving filled with rest, connection, and gratitude.

Sincerely,

Vice Mayor Kesha Hodge Washington

The District 8 Gingerbread Holiday Party







Get ready, District 8! Our 4th Annual Holiday Celebration is coming up, and this year's Gingerbread Holiday Party will feature free food, gift raffles, a DJ, hot chocolate, holiday photos with Santa and the Grinch, a sock-skating rink, and more. Plus, the first **300 attendees will be able to participate in free live screen-printing t-shirts to take home!**

You're invited to join us as we bring a warm, gingerbread-inspired theme to the Children's Museum of Phoenix for an evening of festive fun, community connection, and holiday magic.

When: Saturday, December 12, 2026, 5:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Where: Children's Museum of Phoenix (215 N. 7th St., Phoenix, AZ 85034)

RSVP requested by Monday, December 7.

For questions, contact council.district.8@phoenix.gov or call 602-262-7493. Let's celebrate the season together at The District 8 Gingerbread Holiday Party!

RSVP Today

RECAP: November 18 Formal City Council Meeting



This week, my colleagues and I approved several important items during the City Council Formal Meeting. These items included the official canvass of the votes from the November 2026 election, next steps for a housing development in Laveen, and a new vendor for the eviction legal services program.

The City Council approved the canvass of votes and announced and declared the results of the election. The election canvass confirms and validates every ballot cast, including early, mail, Election Day, and provisional ballots. Thank you to District 8 residents for their continued support and partnership as we work together to move Phoenix forward.

We also approved up to $50 million in housing revenue bonds through the Phoenix IDA to support the development of Laveen Park Place. This item supports the development of a 216-unit housing community in Laveen. All or a portion of the units will be set aside for occupancy by low- to moderate-income tenants.

Additionally, my colleagues and I approved a new vendor to expand access to the City's Eviction Legal Services Program. This program helps Phoenix residents stay housed through access to no-cost eviction legal services. Our approach supports both in and out of court legal assistance to help resolve eviction cases and maintain housing stability.

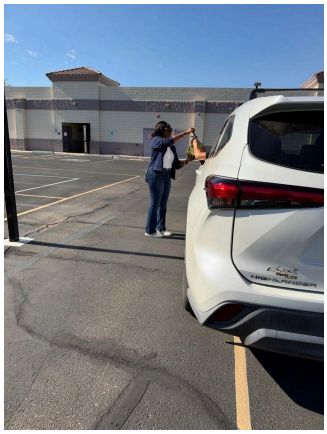
Thanksgiving Celebrations



This past weekend, I had the privilege of joining thousands of families at the Prensa Arizona Guajolotón Thanksgiving Celebration. It was heartwarming to connect with so many residents and help ensure families have what they need to enjoy a delicious holiday meal at home. From music and food to health resources, kids' activities, and even a Lucha Libre show, there was joy throughout the day.

I was also proud to support the Assistory Outreach Services turkey distribution, where volunteers and community partners came together to provide turkeys and holiday meal essentials to families in need. It was inspiring to see neighbors helping neighbors and to witness the generosity that makes our community stronger during the holiday season.







I also had the opportunity to sponsor the HeroZona Foundation turkey drive, which brought together businesses, nonprofits, and volunteers to help provide Thanksgiving meals to hundreds of local families. These events not only helped put food on the table but also fostered a sense of connection, support, and hope for those facing challenges during the holidays.

I'm grateful for the partnership of Prensa Arizona, Assistory Outreach Services, HeroZona Foundation, and every volunteer, organization, and community member who helped make these efforts possible. My office also had a great time tabling and sharing some fun kitchen-themed swag to help kick off the season. Together, these events showcased the generosity, compassion, and community spirit that make our city such a special place to call home.

Join Us at the 13th Annual Laveen Winter Festival

My office will be participating in the 13th Annual Laveen Winter Festival on Friday, December 4, 2026 from 5 to 8 p.m. at the David Glasser Athletic Complex, 5001 W. Dobbins Rd. This fun community event will include obstacle courses, games, activities, student performances, holiday vendors, food, and more. Admission is free, and tickets will be available for select activities. All proceeds support the Laveen Education Foundation. My office will be there passing out holiday swag items, so make sure to stop by and say hello.

Electric Light Parade

I am excited to be joining this year's APS Electric Light Parade on Saturday, December 5. I will be walking in the parade alongside the amazingly talented marching band from Cactus Canyon High School!

Watch as the streets of Phoenix come alive with twinkling lights and festive cheer as we celebrate the holidays on December 5 at 7 p.m. The parade route starts at Central Ave. and Montebello and ends at 7th Street and Indian School Road.

Bring your friends, family, and holiday spirit for an unforgettable evening filled with joy and excitement!



Learn more!

Upcoming Downtown Events



PJs in the Park: A Holiday Movie Under the Stars

When: Saturday, Nov. 28, 6-9 p.m.



Winter Wanderland: Holiday Joy at Every Stop

When: Saturday, Dec. 12, 4-8 p.m.

Where: Patriots Square at CityScape, 11 W. Washington St.

Guests are invited to wear their coziest pajamas for photos with Santa, “Shrek the Halls,” and a free screening of “The Polar Express,” with a free popcorn bar by 810 Entertainment and cookies from Insomnia Cookies. Hot cocoa and coffee from local business Maleta Cafe will be available for purchase, so guests can support a neighborhood favorite while enjoying the evening. Guests are encouraged to bring blankets or lawn chairs.

Visit our Website

Where: Multiple Downtown locations

Now in its fifth year, Winter Wanderland invites the community to wander the urban core and enjoy a festive lineup of entertainment, over-the-top décor, and holiday merriment at every stop. Expect aerial artistry, a puppet show by Great Arizona Puppet Theater, live music, cultural celebrations, and food and drinks, all guided by a percussion route.

Visit our Website

Community Calendar

City Council Meetings:
All Phoenix City Council **formal, policy and special meetings** are conducted in the City Council Chambers, 200 W. Jefferson St. Residents are invited to attend and participate.

- Phoenix City Formal Policy Meeting will be Tuesday, December 1, 2026, at 2:30 p.m.
- Community Services and Education Subcommittee on Tuesday, December 15, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.
- Transportation, Infrastructure and Planning Subcommittee on Wednesday, December 16, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

Stay in Touch with District 8!

Vice Mayor KESHA HODGE WASHINGTON DISTRICT 8

City Council - District 8 | 200 W. Washington St. | Phoenix, AZ 85003 US

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