

## Earth Day celebration April 22

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

The free event, sponsored by Keep Phoenix Beautiful, will include giveaways, booths and activities where you can obtain recycling and sustainability information.

Visit [earthdayphoenix.org](http://earthdayphoenix.org) for more information.

## Senior centers offer fun classes

Phoenix Perks, a series of weekly entertaining and educational programs for people 45 years and over, will be offered at three Phoenix senior centers – Pecos, 17010 S. 48th St., Shadow Mountain, 3546 E. Sweetwater Ave., and Devonshire, 2802 E. Devonshire Ave.

The programs include free classes ranging from working with stained glass to exercising with weights and movies as well as classes at a nominal fee that include scrapbooking, CPR, dance and colored pencil.

The activities are offered one day a week so check [phoenix.gov/seniorcenters](http://phoenix.gov/seniorcenters) for individual center registration information.

## Café opens at library

You now can grab a snack or a light lunch at Burton Barr Central Library, 1221 N. Central Ave.

The Open Book Café, which recently opened near the west side Central Avenue entrance, offers indoor and outdoor seating, Wi-Fi access and a menu that includes sandwiches, salad items, coffee and a variety of other beverages.

The 2,000-square-foot café was designed by Phoenix architect Will Bruder, who also designed the library. It is being operated by Emilio Mosca in partnership with the state Business Enterprise Program.

Library officials said a survey of library users showed that a café was the top request.

## April is National Fair Housing Month

Phoenix will mark National Fair Housing Month in April with a special training session, "Opening Doors, Profitability and Fair Housing in Today's Economy."

The event, jointly hosted with the Arizona Fair Housing Partnership, will be 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 13, at the Disability Empowerment Center, 5025 E. Washington St., Suite 200. The cost is \$15 in advance and \$20 on event day.

The month is designated to remind people that federal law prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental and financing of dwellings, and in other housing-related transactions, based on race, color, national origin, religion, gender, familial status and disability.

In addition to the training, the city also offers free fair housing workshops for housing providers and others throughout the year. The next session will be 9 a.m. Thursday, April 8, at Phoenix City Hall, 200 W. Washington St.

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

## 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 12 – 24.



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

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

Donated food will be distributed to Phoenix area food banks. The program collects more than 24,000 pounds of food annually.

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

## Graffiti materials must be secured

Graffiti is an ongoing issue in Phoenix, impacting the quality of neighborhoods, home values and public safety.

Keeping graffiti materials such as spray paint and broad-tip markers out of the hands of vandals is the first line of defense against this ever-growing problem.

The Phoenix Neighborhood Preservation Ordinance requires retailers to secure materials used for graffiti in an area not accessible to the general public. These products may be visible to the public but only accessible with the assistance of a store employee.

Retailers that violate this ordinance may be subject to a civil penalty of \$500 or more.

For more information, call 602-262-7844 or send an e-mail to [graffiti.busters.nsd@phoenix.gov](mailto:graffiti.busters.nsd@phoenix.gov).



<b>Phoenix City Council</b>	
Mayor Phil Gordon	602-262-7111
Michael Nowakowski, Vice Mayor	
District 7	602-262-7492
Thelda Williams, District 1	602-262-7444
Peggy Neely, District 2	602-262-7445
Bill Gates, District 3	602-262-7441
Tom Simplot, District 4	602-262-7447
Claude Mattox, District 5	602-262-7446
Sal DiCiccio, District 6	602-262-7491
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

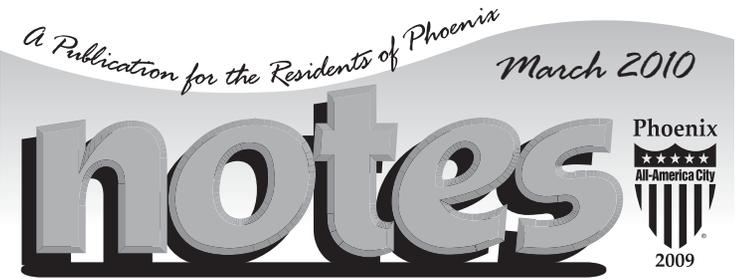
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For alternate format/reasonable accommodations, call 602-262-7176 or city TTY relay 602-534-5500.

Find Notes online at <http://phoenix.gov/PIONEWS/notesidn.html>



City of Phoenix



## Watch for your 2010 Census form

Be sure to check your mail carefully this month.

That's because you will be receiving something important – your U.S. 2010 Census questionnaire.

The official population count of everyone living in the United States, which is done every 10 years, is critical to Phoenix and each of its residents.

Each completed census form equates to funding for important community services such as job training, neighborhood fire stations, bus service, library hours, senior services and programs for children and youth.

For Phoenix, each person counted means about \$400 a year in federal and state funds to pay for those services and

many others. For Arizona, each person counted means about \$1,500 in federal money. Miss someone and the city will lose \$400 and the state will lose \$1,500 in each of the next 10 years. Miss a lot of people and the losses add up to millions of dollars.

In addition to the funding, the count also is used to determine the number of Congressional seats for each state and helps define the boundaries of the eight City Council districts and state legislative districts.

The information you provide is completely confidential and is not shared with any other government

agency. There are no exceptions.

Also, the form will have just 10 questions – the fewest in the history of the 220-year-old Census. It even comes with a postage-paid return envelope.

United States®  
**Census**  
**2010**  
IT'S IN OUR HANDS  
[phoenix.gov/census2010](http://phoenix.gov/census2010)

Getting an accurate population count is so important that if you don't return the questionnaire by the end of April, a

census representative will call you or visit your home as many as six times. If you still don't respond, your neighbors may be asked about the people residing in your home.

So when your Census form arrives, be sure to complete it promptly and drop it in the mail.

Remember, it's in your hands.

## Tee 'em up at city golf courses

It's spring time in Phoenix and that means the best golfing weather just about anywhere is back. And city residents can enjoy on any of the city's eight public golf courses.

Phoenix offers five 18-hole championship courses and three nine-hole courses, all of them with varied layouts and unique landscapes that range from

soaring desert mountains to city skyline views.

Each of them has full-service pro shops, practice facilities and equipment rentals as well as experienced teaching professionals.



Aguila Golf Course offers players scenic mountain views.

The city courses are: Aguila, 18 holes and Aguila 9-hole par 3, 8440

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## Tee 'em up at city golf courses

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S. 35th Ave.; Cave Creek, 18 holes, 15202 N. 19th Ave.; Encanto 18 and Encanto 9, 2775 N. 15th Ave.; Maryvale, 18 holes, 5902 W. Indian School Road; Palo Verde, 9-hole executive length, 6215 N. 15th Ave.; and Papago, 18 holes, 5595 E. Moreland St.

Residents can purchase special cards that give them discounts and the opportunity to earn reward points towards free golf.

Visit [phoenix.gov/golf](http://phoenix.gov/golf) for more information and spring specials.

## Weeds, brush, debris targeted

The Fire, Public Works and Neighborhood Services departments will team up again next month in a campaign to reduce the number of weed, brush and debris fires in neighborhoods.

Firefighters on April 1 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.

This year's effort will be aided by new technology, making it easier, faster and more accurate for firefighters to get the word to Public Works and Neighborhood Services when they find property that needs attention. Using mobile computers on their fire trucks and a special communication program, firefighters will be able to quickly generate an e-mail with a note about a violation and a map that pinpoints the location of the property.

The electronic equipment and paperless notification procedure will make it possible for firefighters to report violations throughout the year rather than only after the spring growing season.

## Hazardous waste collections set

Phoenix residents can dispose of common household hazardous waste and other items at collections from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 15, 16 and 17 at North Phoenix Baptist Church, 5757 N. Central Ave., and May 13, 14 and 15 at Desert West Sports Complex, 6602 W. Encanto Blvd.

A current municipal services bill showing solid waste fees and a matching photo I.D. with the same address are required.

The events accept batteries, oil, paint, antifreeze, pesticides, pool chemicals, computers, and household appliances, including refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners and heat pumps.

They do not accept commercial loads and large residential loads (more than five car or pickup tires per household, 20 gallons of paint or five gallons of other types of hazardous fluids).

The city will pick up household appliances at your home for a fee. Call for a collection appointment. Residents also may call for information about the availability and distribution of recycled paint.

For more information, call customer service at 602-262-7251 or visit [phoenix.gov/publicworks](http://phoenix.gov/publicworks).

## Mayor honors Arizona veterans

Mayor Phil Gordon and the Phoenix Military Veterans Commission will host the seventh annual "Mayoral Salute to All Veterans," at 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 27, at the Phoenix City Hall atrium, 200 W. Washington St.

This year's event will recognize members of the Arizona National Guard and Reserve who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Since Sept. 11, 2001, Arizona's Guard and Reserve units have gone into harm's way to protect the many freedoms we enjoy. We are proud to salute these courageous men and women, many of whom have served multiple tours and still are being deployed," Gordon said.

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

## Water, 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 \$3.78 to \$56.68. Phoenix'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 services technologies, and meet or surpass increased public health and environmental standards, as well as pay for unfunded federal mandates.

The fixed monthly service charge, which is based on customer's meter size and which 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 \$1.99 to \$2.18; for the medium months of April, May, October and November, it goes from \$2.44 to \$2.69; and for the high months

of June, July, August and September, it goes from \$3.16 to \$3.51.

Also, the environmental charge, which relates to activities taken to enhance the environment by way of federal regulatory requirements, goes from 37 cents to 40 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 third lowest combined water and wastewater single-family monthly bill as compared to 10 other southwest cities.

City	Average Monthly Bill
San Diego	\$109.80
Austin	\$100.48
San Jose	\$79.90
Kansas City	\$76.65
Dallas	\$75.54
Fort Worth	\$70.95
Oklahoma City	\$63.93
Tucson	\$58.37
Phoenix	\$56.68
Albuquerque	\$43.73
San Antonio	\$39.49

## 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 this month.

User	% (O&M)
<b>Residential</b>	
Single Family Residence	34.25
Multi-Family Residence	34.25
<b>Commercial</b>	
Domestic Strength	33.37
- With Dining	33.37
Laundries/Commercial	34.79
Mortuaries	37.48

Restaurants & Bakeries	34.29
- With Dining	35.09

Public	
Federal Buildings	34.24
- With Dining	33.76
All Other Public Buildings	34.24
- With Dining	33.76

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

## Residents may donate to city programs

Phoenix residents have long been passionate about city services that support youth, seniors, public safety, parks and outdoor activities.

Now, with cost-cutting measures impacting many of the programs, they have an effective way to help out.

It's the Change for Phoenix fund, which offers residents the opportunity to give tax-deductible donations to the city's general fund or individual department programs.

The idea for the fund came from a resident during city budget hearings where spending cuts that were prompted by the sour economy were discussed. Residents may contribute any amount they wish.

The fund accepts only monetary donations with a check payable to City of Phoenix – "Change for Phoenix Fund." In the check memo line, indicate where the contribution should be designated, the general fund or a specific program or department. Mail the contribution to City of Phoenix, City Treasurer, 251 W. Washington St., 9th floor, Phoenix, AZ 85003.

Visit [phoenix.gov/changeforphoenix](http://phoenix.gov/changeforphoenix) for more information.

## Phoenix Film Festival celebrates 10th year

The 2010 Phoenix Film Festival April 8 - 15 will feature more than 100 independent films, celebrities, world premieres, filmmaker discussions, educational seminars and parties.

The weeklong festival, now in its 10th year and the largest in the state, will be held in Phoenix at Harkins Scottsdale 101 Theatres, 7000 E. Mayo Blvd.

For tickets, which range in price from \$10 to \$425, visit [phoenixfilmfestival.com](http://phoenixfilmfestival.com) or call 602-955-6444.

