

# Hello District 5 Residents and Friends!

Fall is finally here, and the event season is in full effect! In this October edition, learn about a neighborhood victory, the Halloween and G.A.I.N. events, the Park Ranger 24/7 call center, the neighborhood park enhancement program, District 5's new Policy and Research Director, and voting information.

#### Neighborhood Victory: Royal Inn Closure



On September 24, the community won a huge victory: the Royal Inn was permanently closed! For over two years, we've been advocating for the rights of our local residents to enjoy their front yards and for our children to walk to school safely. The presence of drugs, prostitution, and crime at the Royal Inn has long stripped our community of these basic rights. This is a step forward in reclaiming the safety of our neighborhood streets, especially along the 27th Ave. Corridor.

Special thanks to everyone who played a part in making this happen:

- City of Phoenix Police Department and Human Exploitation And Trafficking Unit
- City of Phoenix Neighborhood Services Department
- Berkley Square Neighborhood Association
- Rancho Solano Block Watch
- Violence Impact Project Coalition

Their consistent support and commitment to the neighborhood's well-being were critical. It's important for our residents to feel empowered and to send a strong message that crime is unacceptable in their neighborhoods. We appreciate their trust and their patience. We celebrate this big achievement and acknowledge there is still a lot of work to be done throughout district 5 and the City of Phoenix.



When neighbors work together and collaborate with the City of Phoenix, they can have a positive impact on our neighborhoods. Pictured above is the first meeting of concerned neighbors on February 1, 2022 in a neighborhood parking lot where they discussed their complaints of criminal activity related to the Royal Inn. During this meeting, I asked the residents to get involved and to support the City Council vote to approve funds for the 27th Ave. Community Safety Plan. Then, my office supported them in establishing their own neighborhood group, now known as the Berkeley Square Neighborhood Association, which documented and reported their complaints, leading to this long-awaited action.

## Halloween and G.A.I.N. Events



This month, check out the many G.A.I.N. (Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods) events throughout the City, which my office is proud to host in partnership with the Parks & Recreation Department. Join us this Friday, October 18 at 6 p.m. for a Trunk or Treat event at Homestead Park (2602 W. Glendale Ave.) This familyfriendly event will include candy, inflatables, cool cars, music, and the ribbon cutting of a brand-new playground!



The Washington Park Neighborhood Association will co-host the annual Family Fright Night this Saturday, October 19 from 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. Neighbors, local businesses, and community resources join together for a fun family-friendly evening at the Washington Activity Center (2240 W. Citrus Way) with games, candy, food trucks, arts and crafts and a costume contest. The movie in the park starts after 6 p.m. Get ready for a spooktacular evening at our free annual family event, SCARYVALE at MARYVALE hosted by the Maryvale Community Center! Bring the whole family for a night full of fun and frights with food trucks, trunk or treat with show cars, spooky escape rooms, and a costume contest this Saturday, October 19 from 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. at Maryvale Park (4420 N 51st Ave.).

#### Park Rangers 24/7 Call Center



The Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department launched the new 24/7 Parks Code of Conduct Answering Service, available at 602-534-9919. This initiative aims to empower residents to report concerns about code of conduct violations in Phoenix parks 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. My office received requests from residents for years for a way to contact the Park Rangers, and I am proud to have supported the creation of this new method to keep our parks safe and clean.

When residents call the hotline, they will connect with an operator who will log their concerns and forward them to the Park Ranger team. Rangers will review each report, prioritize each based on urgency and location, and respond, ensuring that park safety remains a top priority. Callers can provide their name, phone number and email address. Park Rangers will only reach out if further information about the reported issue is needed. In case of a life-threatening emergency or crime, please call 911 immediately.

To learn more about the Parks Code of Conduct and trespassing policies, residents can visit the Parks and Recreation Department's website at www.phoenix.gov/parks/code-of-conduct. The new 24/7 Parks Code of Conduct Answering Service demonstrates the City's commitment to maintaining safe, clean, and accessible parks to be enjoyed by all. For any questions or concerns, please contact the Parks and Recreation Department's Natural Resources Division at 602-495-5458 or natural.resources@phoenix.gov.

# **Neighborhood Parks Enhancement**



The City of Phoenix has announced the Neighborhood Parks Enhancement Program, made possible by the recently approved General Obligation (GO) Bond Program. With \$1.5 million allocated for minor capital improvements, this initiative will ensure that each council district receives dedicated funds to enhance local parks.

From September 27 to November 8, 2024, eligible neighborhood organizations can submit project proposals at <u>www.phoenix.gov/neighborhood-parks-enhancement-</u> <u>program</u>. Selected projects will be announced in early 2025, with completion scheduled within the GO Bond Program timeframe from 2024 to 2029. Let's work together to enhance our community spaces!



I am excited to officially announce that Amy Ramirez is our new Council District 5 Policy and Research Director. She was born in Phoenix and raised in the District 5 Maryvale community. She received a Bachelor of Science in Public Service and Public Policy: Law in Policy from Arizona State University. One of her favorite things to do is dance salsa and travel with family.

Amy is the co-founder of the Camelback Community Neighborhood Association alongside her family and continues to foster relationships with her neighbors to improve the community. She brings her passion, experience, and knowledge to continue the work she already started and is excited to meet and work with all of our District 5 residents!

## General Election: Vote Now until Nov. 5th



For the general election on November 5th, registered voters in the City of Phoenix have the opportunity to vote for Mayor and Councilmembers (Districts 1, 3, 5, and 7), and on three ballot propositions. Please keep these important dates in mind so you can participate in this year's election:

- October 9th Early voting began, and early ballots were mailed.
- October 9th November 4th In person voting prior to Election Day
- November 5th In person voting on Election Day
- November 20th Final election results (Canvass of Vote)

For more detailed information about voting, <u>please visit the City Clerk by clicking</u> <u>here.</u> In addition, there are federal, state, county, school district, and other sections of the ballot. To learn more, visit the <u>Maricopa County Recorder's Office by clicking here.</u>

Thank you for reading and sharing the October Neighborhood News with family, friends, and neighbors. As always, please contact our office for your comments, questions, and concerns, at (602) 262-7446 or <u>council.district.5@phoenix.gov</u>. For regular updates, follow us on our social media accounts by clicking on the icons below.



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