



Our Neighborhood

Fall 2013

“Paint Phoenix Purple” in support of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

One in four women and one in five teens in Arizona will experience domestic or dating violence in their lifetime.

In October, the city of Phoenix will “Paint Phoenix Purple” in observance of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Phoenix is committed to becoming a national leader in preventing and responding to domestic violence.

Residents can show their support for this first-ever campaign with displays of purple. Displaying purple throughout the community sends a strong message that there is no place for domestic violence in our homes, neighborhoods, schools or workplaces.



Install a purple light bulb on your porch, wear purple clothing on Fridays, tie a purple ribbon on your tree and car antenna, etc. Residents also can follow us on Twitter @PHXNeighborhood for facts and tips about domestic violence during the entire month of October. Together, we can raise awareness about domestic violence and its impact on families.

For more information about the Paint Phoenix Purple campaign, visit paintphoenixpurple.org. If you or someone you know is in need of victim services, call the city's Family Advocacy Center at 602-534-2120 or the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233.

Broadway Road “HAWK” Dedications

Neighborhood Services, in partnership with the city's Street Transportation Department, will dedicate two new pedestrian traffic signals this fall. The pedestrian-activated High-Intensity Activated Crosswalk (HAWK) aids in safer crossings by stopping traffic and, thereby, slowing vehicle speeds along highly-traveled corridors. According to traffic studies, the conditions along Broadway Road and 24th Street warranted the installation of three HAWKs in South Mountain Village – one on 24th Street, two on Broadway Road, and a two-stage crosswalk at 18th Street.

The first HAWK in the Village was installed last October at 24th Street and Wier Avenue. In December 2011, Brooks Academy (located east of 24th Street) closed its campus, which caused students to cross the busy 24th Street to attend Percy L. Julian School located west of 24th Street. It was critical that more intense traffic signals be installed to provide for safer student crossings.



The HAWK at 24th Street and Wier Avenue in South Phoenix.

Councilman Michael Johnson will join representatives from the Roosevelt School District Office, Percy L. Julian Elementary School, area stakeholders, and city staff to dedicate the new traffic signal at 22nd Street and Broadway Road. The dedication ceremony will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 17.

Councilman Johnson will again lead a HAWK dedication at 12th Street and Broadway Road at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 23. Representatives from the school district, Rose Linda Elementary School, area residents and city staff will be in attendance.

In response to the studies, Neighborhood Services funded three HAWK installations by the Street Transportation Department. Street Transportation supported the effort with the installation of the non-signalized crosswalk at 18th Street. Ironically, the 22nd Street signal was the 22nd HAWK installed by the city since the effort began in 2007.

For more information on the traffic signals, call 602-262-4659 or visit phoenix.gov/streets/safety/hawk.

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The benefits of housing counseling for new and existing homeowners

The city of Phoenix Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) is proud to have assisted nearly 500 families in achieving their dream of purchasing a home and continues to assist individuals in their journey to homeownership. These homebuyers are helping stabilize Phoenix neighborhoods by inhabiting formerly vacant, foreclosed single-family properties. NSP turns these vacant houses into homes by putting them under a renovation process and selling the property to a program eligible owner occupant with down payment and closing cost assistance.

To help these homebuyers achieve sustained, long-term homeownership, they receive homeownership education and budgeting classes that emphasize the benefits and responsibilities of owning a home. Did you know that homebuyers that receive pre-purchase counseling are twice as likely to succeed in keeping current on mortgage payments? The counselors are trained to help buyers with everything from finding a realtor and lender,

reading and understanding mortgage loans, choosing a home that meets the family's budgetary needs, and strategies on maintaining the home.



Residents at a counseling workshop facilitated by Neighborhood Housing Services of Phoenix.

Counselors can also help former homeowners looking to reenter the housing market and distressed homeowners looking to stay in their home. Did you know that distressed homeowners that seek assistance from a HUD-approved housing counselor typically receive better terms on a successful loan modification?

There are more programs to help homeowners now than any time in the last five years. If you know a distressed or former homeowner interested in receiving assistance, please refer them to a HUD Certified Housing Counseling agency listed in the table below.

For more information on the Neighborhood Stabilization Program and eligibility criteria, call 602-262-6602, email info@nspphoenix.gov or visit phoenix.gov/nsphome.

HUD Certified Housing Counseling Agencies

Chicanos Por La Causa

1402 S. Central Ave., Bldg A
 602-253-0838 | cplc.org

Community Housing Resources of Arizona

4020 N. 20th St., Suite 220
 602-631-9780 | communityhousingresources.org

Desert Mission Neighborhood Renewal

9229 N. Fourth St.
 602-331-5833 | jcl.com/desert-mission/neighborhood-renewal

Greater Phoenix Urban League

1402 S. Seventh Ave.
 602-254-5611 | gphxul.org

Neighborhood Housing Services of Phoenix

1405 E. McDowell Road, Suite 100
 602-258-1659 | nhsphoenix.org

Newtown Community Development Corps.

511 W. University Blvd., Suite 4
 480-829-5759 | newtowncdc.org

Tomorrows Involved Leaders Today

Letter from Danya Villasenor, TILT participant:

I attended the "Tomorrows Involved Leaders Today" (TILT) program at Phoenix College this past summer. I was part of TILT because I wanted to stay active learning new information that would benefit me and it worked!



Danya Villasenor (left) with her fellow TILT participants.

The learning opportunities taught me how to develop into a public speaker. Some of the proper aspects that should be used while public speaking is eye contact, a projected voice, fluent speaking, staying grounded and hand motions. Another introduction was to the College

Depot. We attended a presentation where I was provided information about going to college and learned that you can attend college completely free with scholarships.

This organization inspired me to meet new people and help my community. I was trained to always be prepared, especially in school, jobs and future careers. The mentors provided strategies that will benefit my future career as a crime investigator. I highly recommend TILT to every determined and responsible teenager who wants to succeed.

For more information on the TILT program, call 602-534-4444 or email ray.yocopis@phoenix.gov.

Neighborhood Block Watch Grant Applications Available Nov. 4

Block Watch groups and other neighborhood organizations are eligible 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 2014 Neighborhood Block Watch Grant Program will be available online at phoenix.gov/police/nbwgrant.html on Monday, Nov. 4, 2013.

Completed applications must be submitted by email to nbwgrants.ppd@phoenix.gov no later than 4 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 3, 2014.

More information regarding grant application requirements can be found on the website or by calling 602-262-6131.

Be in the Know: Code Compliance

The city of Phoenix Neighborhood Services Department enforces many city codes and ordinances, including:

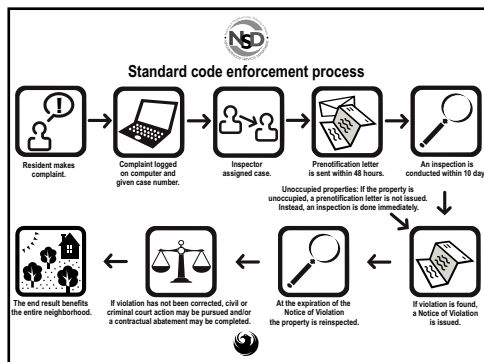
- Neighborhood preservation ordinance (NPO), which provides standards for property maintenance, upkeep and repairs.
- Zoning ordinance, which regulates the use of land within the city.
- Mobile vending regulations, which oversees compliance with vendor site plans on private property.
- Adult business licensing, which ensures compliance with specific site and licensing requirements.
- Portions of the animal ordinance, which prohibits roosters and swine, and regulates the keeping of livestock.

The code enforcement policy adopted by the City Council assures consistency in the enforcement process. The policy establishes guidelines to address standard and recidivist (repeat offender) cases to promote health and safety, protect the community from blight and deterioration, and to sustain and enhance the quality of life.

In Phoenix, the majority of code enforcement cases are the result of residents filing a complaint. Some cases are not the result of a resident complaint, but are generated for one or more of the following reasons:

- Common blight: Inspectors may expand on original complaints and address the same violations plus the eight most common blight violations on properties in the immediate area.

- Hazards: Conditions deemed as hazardous such as open and accessible pools, open excavations, vacant and accessible structures.
- Recidivist properties: Property owners with Notices of Ordinance Violations (NOV) or civil citations issued, and/or abatement actions taken within a 24-month period.
- Seamless service: Properties referred by other city of Phoenix departments and agencies.
- Targeted areas: Strategic code enforcement plans for targeted, neighborhood initiative and redevelopment areas.



NSD works in partnership with other city departments, agencies, communities and businesses to ensure compliance from residents and businesses with city codes, ordinances, licensing and regulations. Staff achieves compliance through a combination of education, resource and assistance referrals, and enforcement. More than 90 percent of code enforcement cases are resolved by the property owner/responsible party after receiving notice of the violations.

For more information on the most common blight violations enforced by code compliance and enforcement staff, download our 8 common blight violations brochure at phoenix.gov/nsd.

To learn how to identify and report common violations, and other important ways to get involved in the process, attend our free "Code Compliance 101" class. To sign up, or see other Neighborhood College class offerings, visit phoenix.gov/nsd/neighborhoodcollege.

To report a blight violation, call 602-534-4444, email blight@phoenix.gov, complete the online reporting form at phoenix.gov/nsd or use our smartphone app, "myPhxAz".

Tips from Energize Phoenix

The typical U.S. family spends about \$1,900 a year on home utility bills. Unfortunately, a large portion of that is spent on wasted energy. To keep more money in your pocket, try some of these easy, low-cost and no-cost energy saving moves:



- Replace existing incandescent light bulbs with CFLs (compact fluorescent light bulbs) to immediately lower your energy bill. CFLs use 75 percent less energy and last up to 10 times longer than incandescents, saving you more than \$40 over the life of each bulb. CFLs also operate cooler, producing 70 percent less heat, in turn saving on air conditioning costs.
- Plant trees or shrubs to shade air conditioning units but not to block the airflow. A unit operating in the shade uses as much as 10

percent less electricity than the same one operating in the sun.

- Water heating is the third largest expense in a typical home, accounting for 12 percent of a utility bill. There are four ways to cut your water heating bills: 1) use less hot water, 2) turn down your water heater's thermostat to 120 degrees, 3) insulate your water heater, and 4) buy a new, more efficient model.
- Most heat entering a home comes through the windows. Save money by keeping the sun off window glass. Use shades, awnings, patio covers or sun screens.
- Avoid placing lamps or television sets near your air-conditioning thermostat. The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause it to run longer than necessary.



Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods: Oct. 19

G.A.I.N. stands for Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods and is Arizona's answer to National Night Out (NNO), which is held in August. Due to soaring temperatures in August, communities statewide decided to observe NNO in October and renamed it G.A.I.N.



G.A.I.N. is a day of celebration for the successes of crime prevention through community involvement. Block Watches, apartment communities, schools, neighborhood groups, parks and businesses across Phoenix participate in events to:

- Show support for the efforts of those involved in the fight against crime
- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness
- Generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime programs
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships
- Send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back

This year's G.A.I.N. event will be held on Saturday, Oct. 19. Neighborhood organizations are invited to the upcoming G.A.I.N. kick-off event from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 5, at Metrocenter Mall, inside by Sears. Co-hosted by the Phoenix Police Department, this event will offer neighborhood groups, block watches, and members of the public opportunities to learn about programs and resources available to them.

Precinct Program Officers, Community Action Officers, Phoenix Police's Special Assignment Unit, along with a variety of city departments and local businesses will be on hand to answer questions and offer suggestions for creating successful G.A.I.N. events throughout the city. The event also will include drawings, (one of which is a fly along with the Phoenix Police Air Unit), the opportunity to meet representatives from the Mayor's Office, City Council, McGruff the Crime Dog, and the EZ Child Identification System, which will offer fingerprinting for children and seniors.

Registration forms are available online at phoenix.gov/police/gain. Neighborhood organizations are encouraged to register prior to Wednesday, Oct. 2, to receive a free Crime Prevention bag filled with prizes to take with them to their neighborhood G.A.I.N. event.

It's not too early to start thinking of ways you can help make G.A.I.N. a successful event for your community. For more information, call 602-495-0597 or email Officer Deb Iodice at deborah.iodice@phoenix.gov.

CALENDAR

To RSVP, view class descriptions or for more information on any of the Neighborhood College Workshops offered below, call 602-534-4444 or visit phoenix.gov/nsd/neighborhoodcollege.

OCTOBER

- 17 Landlord/Tenant Workshop**
6 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Sunnyslope Senior Center, 802 E. Vogel Ave.
- 21 Planes, Trains and Fire Trucks**
Learn about Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport, 3 to 5 p.m. Monday, Phoenix Aviation Advisory Room, Terminal 3
- 21 The Business of Community Associations**
6 to 8 p.m. Monday, Burton Barr Central Library, 1221 N. Central Ave., More info: 602-495-0380

NOVEMBER

- 9 Hands on Paint Sprayer Training**
8 to 10 a.m. Saturday, NSD West Facility, 3325 W. Flower St.
- 14 Social Media and You/Safer Social Networking**
6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Burton Barr Central Library, 1221 N. Central Ave.

DECEMBER

- 2 Planes, Trains and Fire Trucks**
Learn about Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport, 3 to 5 p.m. Monday, Phoenix Aviation Advisory Room, Terminal 3
- 7 Destination Downtown Tour (Downtown Phoenix Ambassadors)**
9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Downtown Phoenix Information Center, 101 N. First Ave.

VITA Volunteers

The city's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Campaign is seeking individuals who will become Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) volunteers. VITA volunteers help low-income working individuals and families by preparing their taxes and claiming the federal Earned Income Tax Credit.

Volunteers are needed for the upcoming season. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS), in partnership with the city of Phoenix, will be conducting free

training sessions from November to January at locations around the city.

Last year, volunteers helped prepare more than 5,000 returns, resulting in more than \$7 million to Phoenix residents. One hour of your time may be worth more than \$1,800 to a working family!

For more information, call 602-534-0543, email to eitc@phoenix.gov or visit phoenix.gov/eitc.

Lead Poisoning Prevention Week

Hundreds of thousands of children living in the country have elevated blood lead levels that may cause significant damage to their health. They can develop behavior and learning problems (such as hyperactivity), slowed growth, hearing problems, and aggressive patterns of behavior.



October 20 - October 26, 2013 • 1-800-424-LEAD (5323)
National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week

Stopping a child's exposure to lead from leaded paint, house dust, or any other source is the best way to prevent the harmful effects of lead.

To raise awareness of the consequences of lead poisoning among parents and pregnant women who live in homes built before 1978, the city's Lead Hazard Control Program (LHCP) is participating in National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (NLPPW) from Oct. 20-26. LHCP joins the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in encouraging parents to learn more about how to prevent lead poisoning.

The goals of National Lead Poisoning Week are to:

- Raise awareness about lead poisoning
- Stress the importance of screening the highest risk children younger than 6 years of age (preferably by ages 1 and 2)

- Highlight efforts to prevent childhood lead poisoning
- Urge people to take steps to reduce lead exposure

This year's NLPPW theme, "Lead-Free Kids for a Healthy Future," highlights the importance of testing your home, testing your child, and learning how to prevent lead poisoning's serious health effects.

Parents can reduce a child's exposure to lead in many ways. If your home was built before 1978, here are some simple things you can do to help protect your family:

- Mop smooth floors (using a damp mop) weekly to control dust.
- Vacuum carpets and upholstery to remove dust, using a vacuum with a HEPA filter or a "high efficiency" collection bag.
- Take off shoes when entering the house.
- Pick up loose paint chips carefully with a paper towel; wipe the surface clean with a wet paper towel.
- Frequently wash your child's hands and toys to reduce exposure.
- Get your child tested. Even if your young children seem healthy, ask your doctor to test them for lead.

For more information, contact the city's Lead Hazard Control Program at 602-534-4444 or call 1-800-424-LEAD (5323).

Neighborhood College: Navigate Phoenix Workshops



Earlier this year the city launched Neighborhood College, an exciting series of instructor-led, highly participatory workshops designed to increase your knowledge of the city, teach you how to access city resources, and provide you with the skills and ideas to build positive, sustainable communities. The Navigate Phoenix "track" features our most popular



Nearly 70 residents attended this summer's Landlord/Tenant Counseling workshop.

workshops, such as the Fundamentals of Grant Writing, Landlord/Tenant Counseling and Code Compliance 101, along with several new offerings.

Since the beginning of the year, more than 300 residents have attended the various workshops and the feedback has been extremely positive. Residents can visit

phoenix.gov/nsd/neighborhoodcollege to see a complete list of workshops available each month. To register, call 602-534-4444 or use our online registration system at phoenix.gov/nsd/neighborhoodcollege.



City of Phoenix

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Contact NSD

Neighborhood Services Department . . . 602-534-4444
or nsd@phoenix.gov

Code Enforcement
or Graffiti Busters 602-534-4444
or blight@phoenix.gov

Landlord/Tenant Counseling. 602-534-4444
or landlord.tenant.nsd@phoenix.gov

Neighborhood College 602-534-4444
or neighborhood.college@phoenix.gov

Neighborhood Stabilization Program . . 602-262-6602
or info@nspphoenix.gov

Shopping Cart Retrieval 602-534-4444
or shopping.carts.nsd@phoenix.gov

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 **/PhoenixNeighborhood**

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