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### **District 5 Residents and Friends**

April flew by and spring is almost over! Read this edition to learn more about important topics such as:

- Amended Safe Medical Care & Food Distribution in Parks ordinance
- Maryvale Mercado this Saturday, May 2nd
- New 27th Ave. affordable housing projects
- Love Your Block Grant application is open
- Photo enforcement safety on Phoenix streets
- Summer camp registration is still open

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### **Safe Medical Care & Food Distribution in Parks Ordinance**

**Betty Guardado**  
COUNCILWOMAN | DISTRICT 5

DISTRICT 5

**HELP US  
SAVE OUR PARKS.  
NO NEEDLES IN OUR PARKS.**

**HELP SHAPE  
OUR PARKS POLICY**  
PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY - MAY 6

Your voice matters in District 5.

Councilwoman **Betty Guardado** is working with residents to gather feedback on a proposed ordinance related to medical treatment and food distribution in city parks. **Your voice can directly impact decisions being made at the May 6 City Council meeting.**

For more information, please contact our office.  
Office number is (602)262-7446 and  
[Council.District.5@phoenix.gov](mailto:Council.District.5@phoenix.gov)

**JOIN US MAY 6 -  
MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!**

**ATTEND THE MEETING**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
May 6, 2026 | 2:30 PM  
200 W Jefferson St  
Phoenix, AZ 85003  
Attend in person  
or watch live online.  
All are welcome!

SCAN TO REGISTER TO SPEAK

*Your voice makes a difference!*

**REGISTER TO SPEAK**  
Sign up to speak at the May 6 City Council meeting and share your perspective directly with City leadership.  
Registration required to speak.

Phoenix.gov/ParksOrdinance

STAY CONNECTED

**Next Wednesday, May 6th, Phoenix City Council will vote on the amended Safe Medical Care and Food Distribution Ordinance.** I will not support policies that introduce needles into our parks or allow certain types of large-scale food distribution that take away from the safe, family-centered spaces our parks are meant to be. [To read the details of the ordinance, please click here.](#)

Our parks are more than open spaces. They are where our children play, where families gather, and where our community comes together. I have heard from many

of you, especially our neighborhood leaders, who have worked tirelessly over the years to clean up, invest in, and reclaim these spaces. I share your pride in that work, and I will not support efforts that risk undoing that progress after **over \$14 million investment in our parks over the last 7 years.**

I have heard your concerns, and I share them. The idea of introducing needles into our parks or allowing activities that could compromise safety and access is simply not acceptable. No parent should have to question whether a park is safe for their child. No family should feel pushed out of a space that belongs to them.

This is not about turning our backs on people in need. I believe deeply in compassion, in dignity, and in providing real support to those who need it most; **but compassion without structure is not equity, and equity should never come at the expense of the very communities that have fought the hardest for these spaces.**



We can do both. We can provide services in ways that are safe, thoughtful, and appropriate in locations that are designed for that purpose without taking away from our parks or putting additional burdens on neighborhoods that have already carried so much. I will continue to stand with you, to fight for our neighborhoods, and to make sure that our parks remain what they were always meant to be: safe and vibrant spaces for our families today and for generations to come.

If you would like to join the meeting in person or watch on line, [click here for more information about the meeting](#) (The May 6th formal meeting agenda will be posted later Thursday evening).

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**Final Maryvale Mercado on May 2nd**

**MARYVALE MERCADO**  
Betty Guardado

**Saturday, May 2nd**  
**3:00PM- 7:00PM**

**Maryvale Community Center**  
**4420 N. 51<sup>st</sup> Ave Phoenix, AZ 85031**

**CINCO DE MAYO**

**Kid Activities**  
Jump Houses  
Carter Farms  
Petting Zoo 20+ Animals  
along w/ a hand led pony  
for the little one

**Live Entertainment**  
Live Banda Music  
La Pitiuena Tecno- Banda  
Baile folklorico -  
Petting Zoo  
Live Camel

**Free Family Event**  
Community Resources · Community Vendors

PHOENIX  
HeatReadyPHX  
arts+ culture  
NSD NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICE DEPARTMENT  
PhoenixPublicLibrary  
PHX

WWW.MaryvaleMercado.com

Join us for our final Maryvale Mercado of the season this **Saturday, May 2nd from 3pm-7pm**. This time, we will celebrate "Cinco de Mayo" with cultural dances, water activities, and festivities. If you haven't yet, check out our monthly vibrant, family-friendly community event that brings people together to celebrate culture, support local businesses, enjoy live entertainment, and children's activities.

Whether you're looking for delicious food, unique vendors, or engaging activities, we have something for everyone! Best of all, it's completely FREE to attend at the

Maryvale Community Center (4420 N. 51st Ave.) Learn more at [MaryvaleMercado.com](http://MaryvaleMercado.com)

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### **New 27th Ave. Affordable Housing Projects**



#### **Ribbon Cutting of The Glendale with Governor Hobbs — Thursday, April 9**

The Glendale, located at 27th Ave. just south of Glendale Ave., will provide 45 senior families with an affordable place to call home. The project also provides a host of wonderful amenities, like a community center, fitness space and an outdoor courtyard. All features thoughtfully designed for these incoming families. Thanks to The Richman Group for all of their hard work to bring this project to fruition and for

their commitment to providing increased housing options for residents of District 5. The City of Phoenix Housing Department has provided \$1.9 million in HOME gap funding and 20 housing vouchers for The Glendale. This shows our dedication toward creating new, high-quality housing for our residents.



### **Helen Drake Senior Village Ground Breaking — Friday, April 10**

This groundbreaking was about honoring the hard work, vision, and collaboration that make projects like Helen Drake Senior Village possible. I'm proud to bring this new housing to District 5. It will be the City's first affordable housing development built right next to an existing senior center, which will create a senior center residential campus where housing and services work hand-in-hand. Seeing the vacant land behind the Helen Drake Senior Center (27th Ave. just south of Northern Ave.) and recognizing the need for more affordable senior housing in this area, I suggested that this parcel be added to the list of City property associated with the Housing Phoenix Plan. Now, this co-located project is becoming a reality. The development will offer 1- and 2-bedroom units for seniors, 55 and older, with incomes at or below 60% of the area median income. The goal of this project is simple: to provide quality, affordable homes for seniors in a location that already offers great access to city programs, services and neighborhood amenities. The development will incorporate a resident community center, manager's office,

common laundry rooms and plenty of parking. The new walking path and sports courts will be shared by both residents and senior center members.

The project's architecture borrows from the senior center's contemporary design and draws inspiration from the existing varied roof forms, landscape elements and building orientation. A special thanks to all the community members that were part of planning this project, including Jeff Spellman and the VIP Coalition, as well as the North Glen Square Neighborhood Association. Your comments and feedback were instrumental in both the site and building design. I look forward to standing here again next year when these homes open and welcoming the first residents of Helen Drake Village to their new community.

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**Love Your Block Application Open**



The Love Your Block (LYB) Grants program is for neighborhood groups listed with Neighborhood LINK that are interested in making a difference in their community. The program is designed to develop and build neighborhood capacity by funding projects that benefit the community. Working on grant-funded neighborhood projects opens doors for networking and engaging with neighbors, which often results in a more cohesive community.

Neighborhood groups can apply for a grant for up to \$5,000 to implement a project in their neighborhood. Eight groups will be awarded annually. This year, the program is funded by our funding partners from the Phoenix Water Services and Public Works departments. This program is managed by the Neighborhood Services Department. The picture above is of the new mural at the Washington Activity Center which is an example of a neighborhood group working with the city to apply for a grant to beautify a community center.

The process to submit grant applications for the 2026. **Love Your Block Program is now open until May 26, 2026 (5 p.m.)** For more information or questions email: [loveyourblock@phoenix.gov](mailto:loveyourblock@phoenix.gov). or for more details, [click here for the website](#).

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**Photo Enforcement Safety on Phx Streets**



Photo safety cameras are on Phoenix roadways. Better a flash, than a crash.

**Cameras are in areas with a high number of speed-involved crashes**, including 15-mph school zones throughout the City during the school year.

Remember to always drive the speed limit and slow down, especially when in and around school zones. Since March 25th, drivers caught speeding can be issued a traffic citation. For more information and a **map of Photo Safety Corridor locations**, visit [Phoenix.gov/PhotoSafety](https://phoenix.gov/PhotoSafety).

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**Summer Camp Registration is Still Open**



**PHXPLAYS**  
Phoenix Parks & Recreation

# SAVE THE DATE

## SUMMER 2026 PHXPLAYS YOUTH CAMP

REGISTRATION OPENS  
MARCH 19, 2026  
AT 12 PM

LEARN MORE AT:  
[PHOENIX.GOV/YOUTHCAMPS](https://PHOENIX.GOV/YOUTHCAMPS)

As the school year is about to end, a summer of fun awaits! Registration for PHXPlays summer camp opened Thursday, March 19, and **there are still spots open** offering Phoenix residents affordable weekly and daily drop-in rates. There are several city recreation centers around the city, and two in district 5: Washington Activity Center (2240 W Citrus Way) and Maryvale Community Center (4420 N. 51st Ave).

Trained and experienced staff will facilitate on-site programs, including games, DIY crafts, field trips and much more. Activities are crafted around unique and engaging themes each week.

- **Camps run Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.**
- **Ages: 6-12 years old**
- **Cost: \$60 - \$80 per week, daily drop-in available**

Visit [Phoenix.gov/youthcamps](https://phoenix.gov/youthcamps) to secure your child's spot before they fill up!

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



[Visit the City of Phoenix City Council District 5 Website](#)

[Forward to a friend](#)