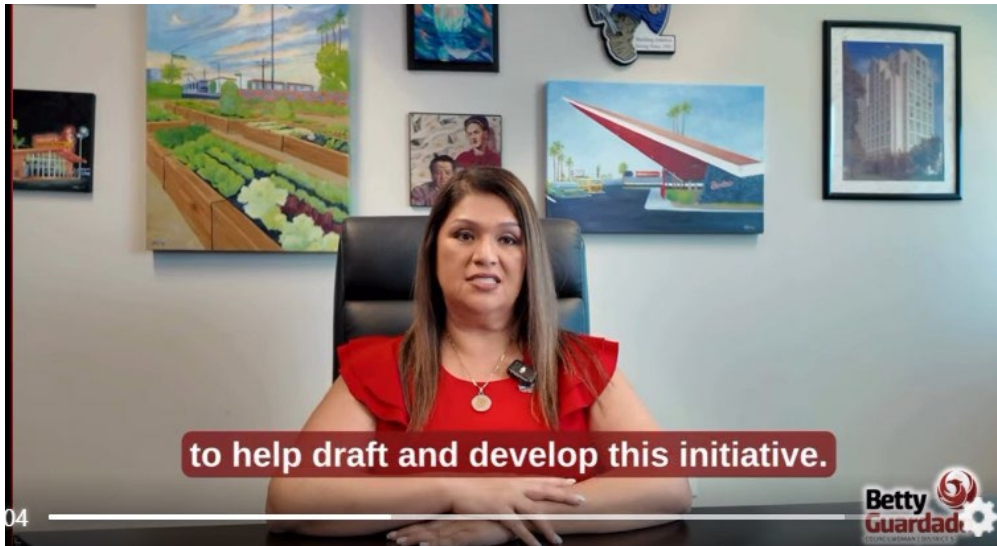


District 5 Residents and Friends

Big changes are happening this March! From opening park splash pads early to renaming city streets and facilities. Read this edition to learn more about:

- Community Transparency Initiative approved to improve public safety
 - Renaming holiday and city property process has started
 - Free Easter Jubilee at Homestead Park
 - Park splash pads open early due to the historic heat wave
 - Sponsor donated to Kool Kids Program fo free pool admission.
 - NCAA Legacy Project Washington Activity Center community celebration
 - Community city budget hearings
-

Community Transparency Initiative to Address Community Fear, Protect Civil Rights, and Strengthen Public Safety



Yesterday, the City of Phoenix approved the Community Transparency Initiative (CTI), a citywide effort developed in response to growing concerns from residents that fear tied to federal enforcement activity is disrupting daily life and undermining public safety across Phoenix.

In recent weeks, residents across the city have shared that they are increasingly afraid to report crimes, seek help, or access city services. City leaders warned that when people are too afraid to come forward, it creates dangerous gaps in public safety and weakens trust between the community and local government. I'm proud to have helped draft and develop the Community Transparency Initiative because this is about restoring trust, protecting civil rights, and making sure our community feels safe again.

The Community Transparency Initiative creates a coordinated system to document, evaluate, and respond to these concerns in a structured and accountable way. Key components include:

- A multilingual process for residents to report concerns and submit complaints
- Review and investigation of allegations, including coordination with the Phoenix Police Department
- Preservation of evidence and referral of potential violations to appropriate authorities
- Data tracking on impacts to City services, including calls for service and response

times

- Multilingual community resources, including a “Know Your Rights” information hub
- Training and clear protocols for City employees
- New standards governing the use of City-owned and City-controlled property
As part of the initiative, reports may also be shared with the Arizona Attorney General’s Office to support further review and accountability.

I want to thank Mayor Gallego for her leadership and partnership in moving this work forward. This is what it looks like when we come together to respond to our community with urgency and purpose. We are focusing on what we control—our property, our employees, our data, and our responsibility to keep people safe. City officials noted that the initiative is designed to comply with all applicable federal and state laws while ensuring Phoenix remains a place where residents feel safe reporting crime, accessing services, and participating in daily life.

Renaming Effort to Honor Farmworkers and Support Community Healing



Yesterday, the Phoenix City Council also approved a motion that I led to begin the process of renaming the City’s March 31 holiday to Farmworkers Day and to remove the name of Cesar Chavez from City-owned assets, including streets, parks, facilities, and public artwork.

The action comes in response to deeply troubling information that has surfaced, prompting the City to reexamine who it formally honors and whether those recognitions reflect the values of the Phoenix community. This is about doing what is right for our community. When survivors come forward and painful truths are brought to light, we have a responsibility to listen, to acknowledge that harm, and to act. We cannot continue to honor individuals in ways that conflict with the values we hold as a city—especially when those values include protecting women, children, and the most vulnerable.

As part of the motion, the City immediately began removing ceremonial signage and is initiating formal processes to rename Cesar Chavez Plaza, the Cesar Chavez Library, and other City facilities. The Phoenix Parks Board will also begin reviewing park names and facilities in accordance with its policies, and the Arts and Culture Commission will evaluate public artwork associated with Chavez.

The motion also directs the City Manager to provide regular updates to Council and

to develop a community engagement process that allows residents to help guide the renaming of these spaces.

Farmworkers represent resilience, sacrifice, and dignity. This change allows us to continue honoring that legacy while also ensuring that our public recognitions reflect who we are today. The City will begin engaging residents in the coming weeks to gather input and recommendations for new names and to ensure the process is inclusive and community-driven. This is a step toward healing. It is about standing with survivors, restoring trust, and making sure our public spaces reflect the values we want to pass on to the next generation.

Free Easter Jubilee at Homestead Park



EASTER JUBILEE



Homestead Park

2602 West Glendale Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85051

MARCH 28, 2026

10AM - 1PM

PICTURES WITH THE EASTER BUNNY!

**EGG HUNTS
INFLATABLES, FOOD AND MUSIC**



For more information: Call 602.261.8080 or email jaime.arismendez@phoenix.gov

You are all invited to join the Easter Jubilee this Saturday at Homestead Park on 26th Ave. and Glendale Ave. for another park reactivation event with the Parks and Recreation Department. This FREE event will be this Saturday, March 28th, from 10:00am to 1:00pm and will be a hoppin' good time! Ages 0-12 can enjoy hunting for eggs, crafting, taking photos with the Easter Bunny and more! The whole family can compete for prizes in our relay races and visit our food vendor DosMas! Check it out and say hi to our staff to connect you to city resources.

Park Splash Pads Open Early



Our city park splash pads are now open due to the early arrival of high temperatures this year! The Parks Department has opened 11 out of the 13 City of Phoenix splash pads beginning today Friday, March 20, through the summer. They will be open Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 8am-8pm. These facilities provide families and residents with a safe and enjoyable way to cool off as we move into the warmer months.

- Check out our 3 Splash Pads in District 5:
- Mariposa Park (3150 W Morten Ave.)
- El Oso Park (3451 N 75th Ave.)
- Dust Devil Park (10645 W Camelback Rd.)

For any potential issues or misuse of the splash pad, please contact the Park Rangers 24/7 hotline at (602)534-9919. Thank you to all the residents who keep an

eye on the park to keep it a safe place for our kids (picture above is from the grand opening of Mariposa Park splash pad in June of 2023).

Sponsor Donation for Kool Kids Program at Phoenix Pools



A big thank you to the Milwaukee Brewers for their donation of \$65,797 to Phoenix Aquatics! This contribution supports our Kool Kids Program, helping make summer a little cooler for Phoenix youth. Through this program, youth 17 and under can swim for FREE at participating city pools all summer long. Check out all Kool Kids pools at [Phoenix.gov/pools](https://phoenix.gov/pools).

NCAA Legacy Project at Washington Park



The poster features a vibrant background of orange, yellow, and blue wavy stripes, accented with red roses. At the top center is the 'PHX PLAYS' logo with 'Phoenix Parks & Recreation' written above it. The main title 'COMMUNITY CELEBRATION' is in large, bold, purple letters with a white outline. Below this, 'WASHINGTON ACTIVITY CENTER' is written in blue. The address '2240 W Citrus Way Phoenix, Az 85015' and the date 'Wednesday, April 1, 2026' are in blue, with the time '4:00 - 6:00 PM' below. A small photo of a woman in a white shirt is on the right. Logos for Betty Guardado and Washington Park Neighborhood are at the bottom.

Phoenix Parks & Recreation
PHX PLAYS

COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

WASHINGTON ACTIVITY CENTER

2240 W Citrus Way Phoenix, Az 85015
Wednesday, April 1, 2026
4:00 - 6:00 PM

The NCAA Women's Final Four Legacy Project presented by Dove serves to revitalize recreation facilities.

This Spring, the WAC has been transformed with refurbished indoor and outdoor basketball courts, a new computer lab, a teen lounge, and an outdoor mural created by a local artist.

The inspiration of the mural honors the Santa Rosa Barrio neighborhood history.

Betty Guardado
COUNCILWOMAN | DISTRICT 5

Washington Park
NEIGHBORHOOD

Mayor Gallego and I are honored to host the NCAA Legacy Project Dedication Press Conference on Wednesday, April 1 to celebrate the completion of the newly revitalized Washington Activity Center (2240 W Citrus Way Phoenix AZ 85017) in the Washington Park Neighborhood. The NCAA Women's Final Four Legacy Project

presented by Dove serves to revitalize recreation facilities. This spring, the WAC has been transformed with refurbished indoor and outdoor basketball courts, a new computer lab, a teen lounge, and an outdoor mural created by a local artist.

Then that same day starting at 4pm, we are co-hosting in collaboration with the Washington Activity Center staff and the Washington Park Neighborhood Association a FREE community celebration open to the public. We will celebrate the inspiration of the mural which honors the Santa Rosa Barrio neighborhood. Many of the residents are related to the original Santa Rosa Barrio farmworkers. There will be information, tours of the renovated gym and facility, a chance to see the mural, and free grilled hot dogs for residents. Please join us and spread the word!

Community Budget Hearings



The City of Phoenix Proposed 2026-27 City Manager's Trial Budget is available now to view, and your feedback on this Proposed Trial Budget for the next fiscal year is welcomed and encouraged. Before the Phoenix City Council is scheduled to vote on the budget in May, you are invited to participate in the budget process:

- Review the Proposed Trial Budget at your own pace
- Attend a Budget Hearing with City leadership
- Send feedback via email, phone, or social media

Access to all these options can be found on a special [Budget Hearings website](#).

We will host several Community Budget Hearings to hear from the public about the 2025-26 City Manager's Trial Budget. Join us for the Council District 5 budget hearing on Thursday, April 2 at 6pm at the Maryvale Community Center, Multipurpose Room, 4420 N. 51st Ave. The public is invited to attend these in-person hearings to provide comment on the proposed budget. This public discussion is among the reasons the city's budget so closely matches the community's highest priorities each fiscal year.

Thank you for reading and sharing the March 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. For regular updates, follow us on our social media accounts by clicking on the icons below.