

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

A Message from Director Briana Velez

October 2026

Hello Streets Team!



As the monsoon is coming to a close, I would like to once more take a moment to thank everyone involved during our summer storm events, from responding to calls, working after hours, handling internal communications, to working in the field out in the elements, you bring great pride to the team and the City of Phoenix.

Recently the Neighborhood Services Department hosted its fourth annual Neighborhood Synergy Conference. Street Transportation staff presented on "Traffic Signal Technologies," highlighting cutting-edge

initiatives the City is advancing, including smart detection systems, adaptive traffic signals, and modern communication devices aimed at improving mobility and enhancing safety throughout Phoenix.

The Community Service Fund Drive (CSFD) is now officially underway and runs through October 31. Please help our team reach its goal of 60% participation. Simply log into eCHRIS, select the CSFD button, and follow the prompts, whether you choose to donate or not. It's quick and easy. More information can be found on pages 2 - 5.

Our department will also be selling kettle corn, computer critters, and Wednesday Denim Days throughout the campaign. Let's work together to help reach this year's citywide goal of \$703,800 and support a variety of charities through Valley of the Sun United Way. For questions or volunteer opportunities Alyssa Whitten, is serving as the Street Transportation CSFD Chair for 2026.

As we close out summer and enter a well-deserved fall season, I'm excited about the many projects underway and the kickoff of our 2026 G.A.I.N. season. Thank you for everything you do for the residents and visitors of Phoenix. I'm extremely proud to work alongside all of you.

Briana





Community Service Fund Drive

In partnership with Valley of the Sun United Way, the Community Service Fund Drive (CSFD), held annually each fall, offers City employees an opportunity to make a positive impact in our community. Since its inception in 1998, City employees have collectively raised more than \$27 million through the CSFD!

Your support fuels real change

The CSFD addresses urgent needs now—like hunger, homelessness prevention, and education gaps - while building long-term solutions that strengthen our entire community. More importantly, all proceeds directly benefit those in need right here in Maricopa County.

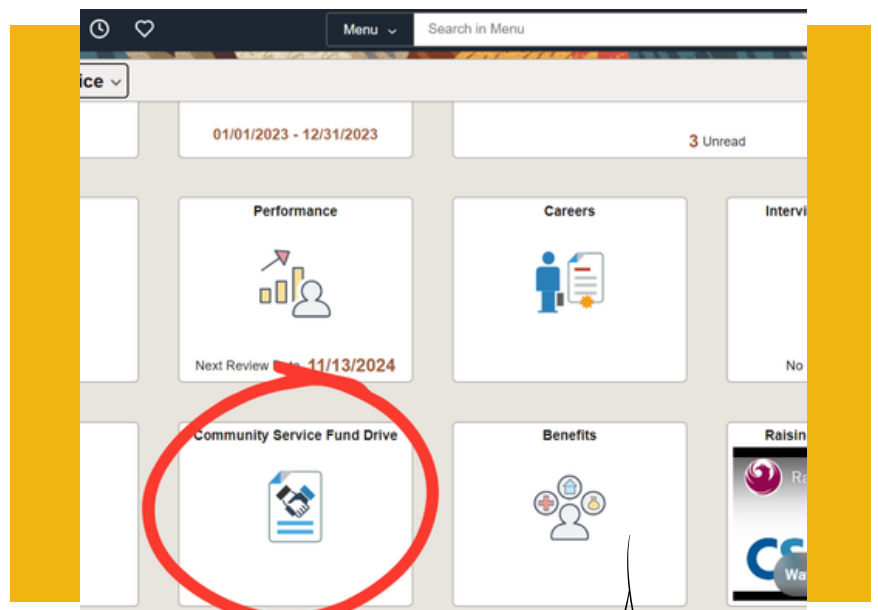
Ways YOU can support

Now through October 31, City of Phoenix employees can choose to donate money to support a variety of charities through the Valley of the Sun United Way as part of the CSFD.

This year's department goal is to raise \$17k and 60% participation. Here's how you can help Streets reach our goal:

Donate

1. Log into your eCHRIS account and select the "Community Service Fund Drive" button from the home screen.

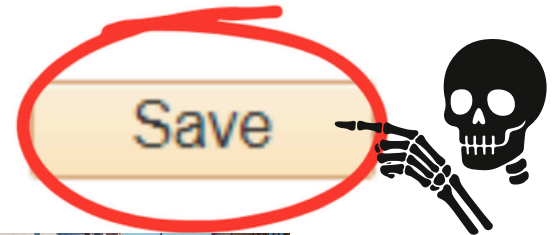




2. Complete the form where applicable.
You can select your contribution amount or select to NOT donate.



3. Don't forget to hit "Save." Even if you cannot make a contribution at this time, selecting "No donation" helps reach our participation goal!



The annual Hands & Hearts Street Fair taking place on **Thursday, Oct. 22, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at City Hall.**

The Hands & Hearts Fair serves as a way to help departments strive to continue to meet their department CSFD goals by hosting activity and food booths. With supervisor approval, all employees are invited and encouraged to attend and participate! Come by the Streets CSFD booth and support your department!





The Street Transportation CSFD Committee is hosting a few fundraiser activities!
Check them out!

Denim Days

Support CSFD and enjoy a
mid-week dress down day



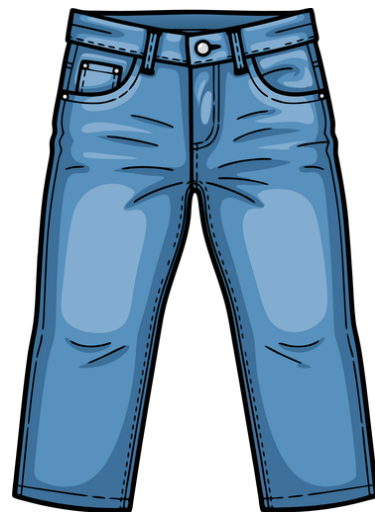
Supervisor Approval Required

Cash accepted at
the 5th floor front
desk or scan to
pay electronically

**Wednesdays during CSFD
through 10/28**

**1 day- \$5
6 days - \$20**

"On wednesdays we wear jeans"





NATIONAL CYBER SECURITY AWARENESS MONTH

October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month, and each year the City recognizes this month by ensuring employees have the necessary training to defend against cyberattacks.

The 2026 Security Awareness Training campaign began on October 1, and runs through the end of the month. All employees who have access to the City of Phoenix network are required to complete Security Awareness Training. This includes all full-time, part-time, and seasonal employees, volunteers, interns, and contractors. **Training must be completed by Saturday, October 31, to maintain access to the City's computer network.**



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

The APS Electric Light Parade is December 5 at 7 p.m. The annual parade is the highlight of the holiday season as the City and other organizations participate in walking the 2.5 mile route in Central Phoenix.

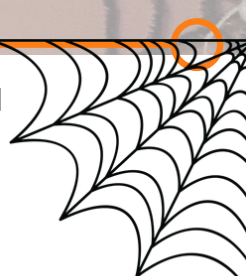
We looking for department employees and their families (minimum age is 8 years old) to volunteer as walkers.

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact **Kevin Sonoda** via email at kevin.sonoda@phoenix.gov





WHAT'S HAPPENING



American Council of Engineering Companies of Arizona (ACEC) Roads and Streets Conference 2026

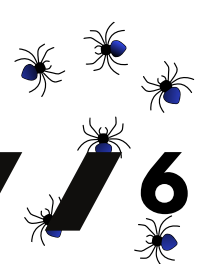
Street Transportation staff attended a three-day action-packed conference in Tucson, from Sept. 23 to 25. The conference provided opportunities to connect with brilliant minds from Arizona and across the country, all dedicated to shaping the future of our communities through engineering and innovation. More than 1,500 transportation professionals attended and the conference featured more than 50 hours of technical sessions and 140 exhibitors.



AV AMERICA



Assistant Director, Matt Wilson, represented the City of Phoenix on a panel at the AV America conference on the future of Robo-Taxis in New York. The conference provided a high-level platform for industry leaders, policymakers, transit agencies, investors, and technology innovators to discuss the future of robo-taxis and autonomous ride-hailing. Focusing on understanding deployment realities, enabling supportive regulatory frameworks, assessing commercial viability, and exploring how robo-taxis can integrate into future transportation networks.





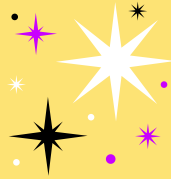
KUDOS FROM THE COMMUNITY

“

I wanted to send an email singing the praises of Aaron Dickson and his team. I live in north Phoenix and directly behind my property is a wash that every year has an area of overgrown bushes and weeds. Mr. Dickson and his competent team have for the last several years cleaned that area out to the elation of my neighbors and me.

This year I contacted Aaron on Tuesday and on Saturday his team was back there cutting all the overgrown bushes down. I told my neighbor I felt like the Mayor of Phoenix getting such a quick response to my request. Thank you for helping this long-time Phoenix resident deal with a problem that grows back every year.

All the best!
Steven B.



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Traffic Engineering Supervisor, Simon Ramos, recently presented at the NSD Neighborhood Synergy Conference. Several community members left comments about the presentation to event organizers.

"It was an eye opener to the number of traffic issues that are addressed by digital means and the work between each city."



"Incredibly insightful."

"This was a fantastic presentation. People are quick to complain about traffic, road quality, photo enforcement, etc. without realizing how good we have it in Phoenix and how much the city does to improve quality of life in Phoenix. More publicity on these topics would be smart media strategy for the city."



FAREWELL



Lauren Evans

Public Information Officer, Directors Office

In September we said goodbye to our Public Information Officer, Lauren Evans on the CPET Team. Lauren began her career with the City of Phoenix as a Public Information Specialist in the Parks and Recreation Department, promoting up to the Street Transportation Department. Where she was a key a member of our Communications and Public Engagement Team, highlighting the work and employees of our department through social media, external and internal communications. We wish Lauren the best on her future endeavors.



CONGRATULATIONS!



Nic Santiago

Traffic Engineer II, Traffic Services Disvision

The Traffic Services Division is excited to share some great news. Traffic Engineer II Nicolas (Nic) Santiago, has officially passed his EIT/FE exam.

For anyone unfamiliar, the EIT/FE (Engineer in Training / Fundamentals of Engineering) exam is a nationally recognized certification that serves as the first major step toward becoming a licensed Professional Engineer. It demonstrates a strong foundation in engineering principles and represents a significant achievement for anyone pursuing licensure.

Please join us in congratulating Nic, on reaching this important milestone. This accomplishment reflects his hard work, dedication, and commitment to advancing his career.



HUMAN RESOURCES NEWS

YEARS of SERVICE

5 Years

Hector Castro
Anatolio Pacheco, Jr.
Santiago Romero, Sr.

15 Years

Scott Conley

40 Years

Wenzell Vinson

10 Years

Roman Ballesteros
Rosalio Jimenez
Jose Miguel Rodriguez Diaz

25 Years

Erik Anderson
Ray Cruz



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