



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

A Message from the Office of Councilman Daniel Valenzuela, District 5



Message from Councilman Daniel T. Valenzuela

I hope that you had an enjoyable holiday season and that your 2014 is off to a wonderful start!

At the beginning of every year, I find myself both reflecting on the past year and, more importantly, looking forward to the opportunities the new year holds. I am more committed than ever to enhancing public safety, revitalizing neighborhoods and fostering economic development, not only within District 5, but across the city of Phoenix.

In this issue of Neighborhood News, I have included a statement on my economic development strategy focus, upcoming events and news from around the city. This is already shaping up to be an exciting year for FitPHX and Reimagine Phoenix.

I would also like to welcome Councilwoman Laura Pastor (District 4) and Councilwoman Kate Gallego (District 8) to the Phoenix City Council. I look forward to working alongside them.

As always, please do not hesitate to call the office with your thoughts at (602) 262-7446, email us at council.district.5@phoenix.gov or, if your idea is shorter than 140 characters, tweet us at @DTVValenzuela.

Important Phone Numbers

District 5 Office	602-262-7446
Graffiti Busters	602-495-7014
Abandoned Vehicles	602-262-6151
Garbage Collection	602-262-7251
Illegal Dumping	602-262-7251
Neighborhood Enforcement	602-262-7844
Parking Complaints	602-262-6151
Property Maintenance Violations	602-262-7844
Illegal Signs	602-534-7100
Street Repair	602-262-6441



District 5 Snapshots

Top left: The District 5 team is excited to have new Chief of Staff Kelly Dalton on board!

Top right: Our Villa de Paz community meeting was standing room only on January 7. What a way to kick off the new year!

Middle left: Congratulations to the finalists of the Royal Palm Middle School Spelling Bee!

Middle right: Councilman Valenzuela moderated a StartUp Connect panel to discuss STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) initiatives in Phoenix with leaders of the local business.

Bottom: District 5 partnered with District 3 to hold a successful joint Royal Palm neighborhood meeting and potluck in late February.





Councilman Valenzuela and several Phoenix firefighters distributed car seats as part of a safety event in District 5.



We are excited to serve alongside Acting Fire Chief Kara Kalkbrenner.



Councilman Valenzuela interviewed CO+HOOTS founder and entrepreneur Jenny Poon for our latest DTV episode.



The Phoenix Environmental Quality Commission works hard to advise City Council on opportunities to protect our natural and built environments. Councilman Valenzuela was invited to discuss several exciting sustainability initiatives with the commission.



The Councilman attended SpoFit, a FitPHX talent identification event, where he met paralympic gold medalist Evan!



Councilman Valenzuela was honored to participate in the Love our Community event, which brought together local businesses affected by light rail construction, the faith community and our neighborhoods.

District 5 Updates

Statement on Economic Development Strategy Focus

On December 18, 2013, Councilman Valenzuela released the following statement on one of his top policy focuses for the year:

"Today, my colleagues and I on the City Council Finance, Efficiency and Economy Subcommittee approved the city's economic development strategy, which includes the cultivation of entrepreneurship and emerging enterprises - which I presented as one of my top policy priorities at the April 2, 2013 City Council Policy meeting. I focused on the Regional Innovation System (RIS) concept for Phoenix, requesting citywide support to foster immediate and sustained success for entrepreneurial and innovative activity.

"The goal is to make Phoenix the city of choice for those looking to create their own economic futures through entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurs have been responsible for the majority of new jobs created during the past decade, which is why this effort is vital to our city's overall economic development plan. Last year, I made it a priority to tour as many incubators, accelerators, co-working spaces, higher education institutions and business organizations as possible - approximately 20 to date - to find out what is working and what still needs to be done to grow this sector of our economy.

On December 12, I sent a memo to Acting City Manager Ed Zuercher highlighting the results of these visits ([Click here to read memo](#)). We have learned that the following needs exist in the entrepreneur community: create a brand to promote Phoenix as 'the' place for innovators; provide clear access to idea development resources; increase the concentration of entrepreneurs; and attract more capital to Phoenix. We already have taken a big step by joining the ASU Alexandria Co-working Network to offer collaborative space and resources at the Burton Barr Central Library, with plans to expand to all city libraries within the next few years. The next step is to expand partnerships with universities, colleges and commercial property owners along the light rail to create space for our growing entrepreneur community. We are off to a great start, but we need to move fast to stay ahead of other cities competing for the attention of these vital job creators."



Councilman Valenzuela met with CO-HOOTS staff last summer, amongst almost 20 other shared-working spaces.

Councilman Valenzuela's 2014 Subcommittees

Outside of City Council meetings, councilmembers serve on a combination of six subcommittees to study and recommend various policies to the entire Council.

This year, Councilman Valenzuela is honored to be chairman of the Downtown, Aviation and Redevelopment Subcommittee. He is also excited to serve on the following subcommittees:

1. Neighborhoods, Housing and Development
2. Finance, Efficiency, Economy, and Sustainability
3. Parks, Arts, Transparency and Education

Councilman Valenzuela's Statement on Granting Funds to Support Small Businesses

On January 29, Phoenix City Council voted to approve funding for five local organizations. Following the vote, Councilman Valenzuela released the following statement:

"Today, my Council colleagues and I voted to approve \$135,192 in U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) to five Phoenix-based organizations that support the growth of entrepreneurs and small businesses. Two of these organizations will focus on young businesses or entrepreneurs. Congratulations to Game CoLab, SEEDSPOT, A.E. Squared, LLC, Marketing with a Flair, Inc. and Local First Arizona Foundation. These organizations were identified through a fair and thorough request-for-proposal process.

"Incubators and accelerators are our present - and future - when it comes to job creation and economic growth. These innovation hubs are the link between entrepreneurs - our nation's top job creators - and success. Last year, I visited nearly 20 of these centers and experienced firsthand the positive impact on our economy. This helped lead to the city's creation of the HIVE @ Burton Barr, a space for entrepreneurs to connect with experts and resources - at no cost to them - to grow their ideas and achieve success. As a city, it is critical that we allocate resources to support these efforts, including CDBG funds - federal funding tied to job creation. Pumping these dollars into resources, services and support for our entrepreneurs will help ensure that new ideas, products and businesses stay right here in Phoenix - everybody wins!"

Kelly Dalton Joins District 5 Team as Chief of Staff

We are excited to have Kelly Dalton join us as the new District 5 Chief of Staff!

"I am honored to be working with one of the smartest and most talented people at the city of Phoenix," said Councilman Valenzuela. "Kelly's experience makes her an asset to the city and District 5 team, as we focus on our priorities of advocating for the needs of our Police and Fire departments, advancing policies to strengthen our neighborhoods, and our ongoing mission to promote long-term economic growth. We are excited to welcome Kelly to the District 5 team!"



Kelly is a third generation Phoenix native and proud alumnus of the University of Arizona, where she studied political science. Kelly served as Senior Policy Advisor for Mayor Phil Gordon and, most recently, Deputy Chief of Staff for Mayor Greg Stanton. Kelly also spent four years in Washington, D.C. helping cities and non-profit organizations obtain federal funding. She is board president of Phoenix Day and on the board of directors for the National Kidney Foundation of Arizona and ASU West Community Leaders.

"I am thrilled to have the opportunity to work with Councilman Valenzuela and the residents of Phoenix – Council District 5 in particular," said Dalton. "The Councilman is an effective, thoughtful, dedicated leader and I am excited to join his team. I look forward to advancing the Councilman's priorities and addressing the needs of the residents of Phoenix and District 5."



Councilman Valenzuela Brings Art Exhibit to City Hall in Honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Councilman Daniel Valenzuela hosted the Maryvale Family YMCA’s “Las Artes de Maricopa” exhibit, which depicted civil rights leaders Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Cesar Chavez, Rosa Parks, Nelson Mandela, Mother Theresa, among others, in honor of Martin Luther King Day. The artwork was on display at City Hall Friday, January 10-24.

“Our youth in Maryvale are using their talents to honor those who dedicated their lives to civil and human rights issues,” said Councilman Valenzuela. “The city of Phoenix is proud to have their artwork on display at City Hall during a day dedicated to a great leader for positive change.”

Since 2007, the YMCA has offered workforce development programming for youth between the ages of 14 and 21. The Las Artes de Maricopa Program offered an artistic avenue to learning and expression. The program was overseen by artists Martin Moreno and Diana Calderon. “The YMCA is proud to share the artistic achievements of its staff and youth participants,” said Matt Sandoval, vice president of community initiatives YMCA. “Creative expression changes lives for youth who are overcoming obstacles in life. The promise of their futures is evident in these art displays.”

Councilman Valenzuela’s Statement on Google Announcement

On February 19, Councilman Valenzuela released the following statement regarding the possibility of Google Fiber coming to Phoenix:

“It’s an exciting day for the city of Phoenix as we begin discussions with Google to bring its high speed Internet to our neighborhoods. Google is a company with an impressive, international track record and the fact that they want to make an investment of this scale in the city of Phoenix is exciting. Building a new local fiber optic network would allow residents to access the Internet at a lower cost and more efficiently, increasing educational and business opportunities for all of our residents.

“The Internet truly is the gateway to opportunity and there are still too many low-income families in the city of Phoenix that are unable to afford access to the Internet. This partnership with Google could result in an Internet connection for all families that would be more affordable. Additionally, bringing high-speed Internet to more Phoenix homes will spur economic growth and provide an additional tool for entrepreneurs of all socioeconomic levels interested in starting a business from home. This announcement could be a game-changer as we continue to improve the city’s economy.”

Upcoming Events

Phoenix Public Library Classes

The City of Phoenix is continuing to offer a variety of classes and programs through the library system, including at the Palo Verde and Yucca branches in District 5. From bilingual family story times to computer classes to insurance workshops, these classes are a valuable, and free, resource. Below is just one of many options. Please visit <http://events.phoenixpubliclibrary.org/events.jsp> for the complete list.

Event:	<u>Bilingual Family Storytime</u>	Registration:	Not Required
Date:	Wed, Mar. 26, 2014	Age Level:	Birth to 5 years
Time:	6:30 to 7 p.m.	Language:	English
Location:	<u>Palo Verde Library</u>		

Share books, stories, songs, rhymes, and music in a fun interactive program that builds early literacy skills. This program is designed for children birth to five years old accompanied by a favorite adult. *What is your child learning?* Children who love books and stories, and have opportunities to engage in active storytelling, become more successful readers.

Interfaith Cabinet

Councilman Valenzuela's Interfaith Cabinet will meet on March 25 from 9-10 a.m. at the Islamic Community Center (2515 W. Orangewood Ave). Please RSVP to council.district.5@phoenix.gov, if attending. If you are a leader in a District 5 faith community, please join us as we discuss opportunities to serve our district together.

Small Business Enterprise and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Certification Workshops

These two part workshops will be held six times throughout the year. During the first hour, individuals can apply for Small Business Enterprise (SBE) and/or Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) certification. The second hour will focus on identifying SBE and DBE business opportunities. All workshops are from 2-4 p.m. at the Calvin G. Goode Building (251 W. Washington St, 10th floor) and are open to the public. However, space is limited so please reserve a space by calling (602) 262-6790. For additional information about the SBE/DBE program, please visit phoenix.gov/eod/programs/sbeprogram. The English language workshops will be held in Room 10 East and the Spanish language workshops will be in Room 10 West.

Thursday, March 20 (Spanish)
 Wednesday, May 14 (English)
 Wednesday, August 13 (English)
 Thursday, October 23 (Spanish)
 Wednesday November 12 (English)

Neighborhood College

Neighborhood Services is continuing to offer classes for residents through the Neighborhood College program ranging from Blight Busters orientation to energy efficiency to paint sprayer training. For a complete listing, please visit <http://phoenix.gov/nsd/neighborhoodcollege/index.html> and email neighborhood.college@phoenix.gov with any questions.

Hance Park Community Celebration of New Park Design

An internationally renowned park design team will present the new design concept for Hance Park at a free community celebration March 27 from 5–8 p.m. that will feature live music, family activities, food trucks and a beer and wine garden.

This free community event, enHANCE: The New Park Plan, is presented by the Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department with event sponsor Hance Park Conservancy. The celebration will take place at the McDowell Mountain Music Festival’s music pavilion, located on the east side of the park at 3rd Street and Moreland. Festivities will include live music from Arizona School for the Arts, Rosie’s House, and local rock favorite Crisis. Attendees can celebrate with food from local gourmet food trucks and beverage purveyors as well as enter to win free tickets to arts and cultural venues.

At 6:45 p.m., designer and master planner Jerry van Eyck (www.melk-nyc.com), prime consultant and project manager Phil Weddle (weddlegilmore.com) and landscape architect Kris Floor (floorassociates.com) will present the new plan for Hance Park on the stage of the MMMF pavilion. Attendees will get a “sneak preview” of the master plan before it appears online.



Graphic source: www.downtownphoenixjournal.com

For the past several months, this highly regarded design team comprised of international, national and local talent has held public forums and workshops to craft a new design vision for this important downtown Phoenix park. The team gathered ideas and opinions from hundreds of conversations with public and private stakeholders to create the new master plan design for Hance Park.

The community celebration marks the completion of the new master plan process for Margaret T. Hance Park, which was first dedicated in 1992. Hance Park is a compelling site for a new urban park. Its 32 acres are located on Central Avenue over Interstate 10, a short distance from two light rail stations. Hance Park’s rich cultural assets include libraries, museums, the Japanese Friendship Garden, Irish

Cultural Center, the Cutler Plotkin Jewish Heritage Center, and various arts district activities, businesses and established neighborhoods. The new master plan envisions and positions the park as an integral component of the continued revitalization and transformation of Phoenix’s urban core.

The celebration’s co-sponsor, Hance Park Conservancy, is a volunteer-driven organization dedicated to enhancing and preserving Hance Park as a vital urban green space as well as cultural and recreational resource. The Conservancy unites the more than twenty arts, cultural, neighborhood, business and downtown organizations and individuals to work with the City of Phoenix and the community to identify and raise funding to implement the ambitious Hance Park Master Plan.

More information on the park design process, including the full Master Plan Program Report, is available online at <http://phoenix.gov/parks/parks/hancepark.html> or by calling (602) 262-4897. More information on the event and the Hance Park Conservancy is available online at www.hanceparkconservancy.org.

District 5 Village Planning Committee Meetings

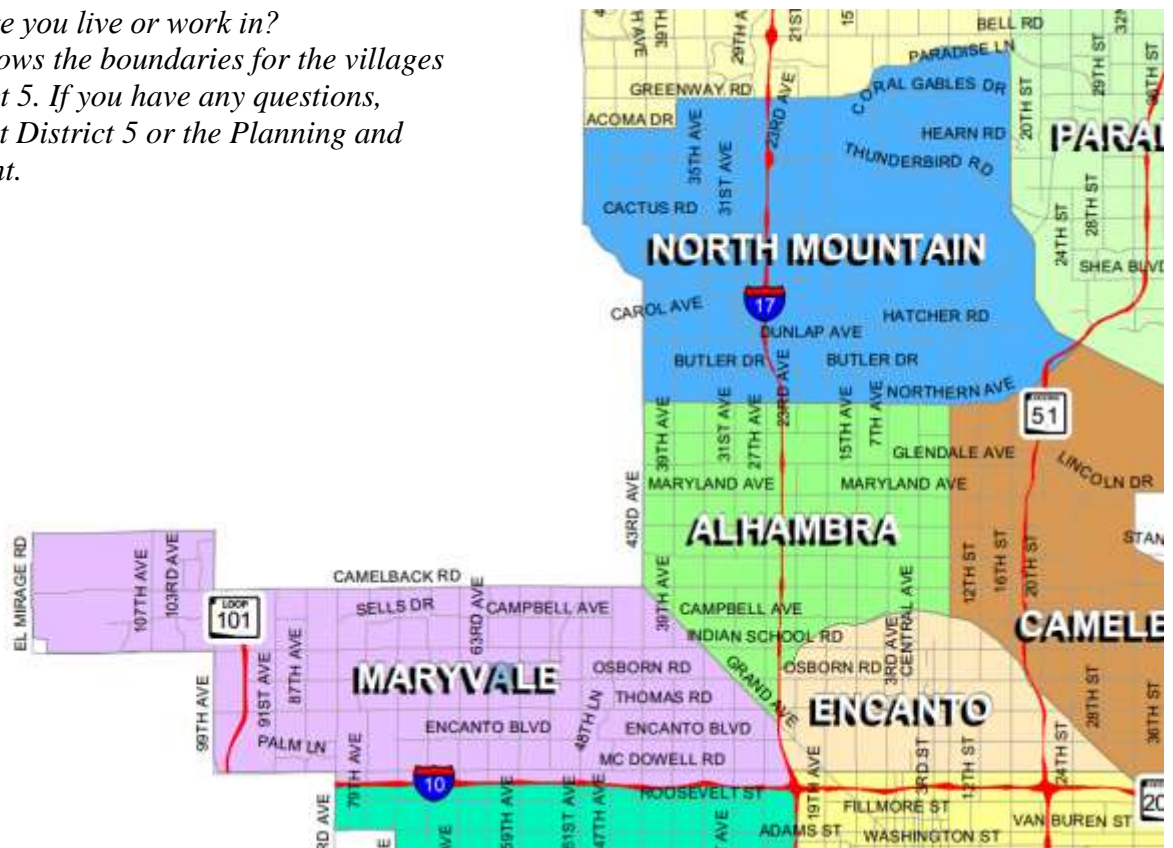
Phoenix is divided into 15 urban villages that are represented by village planning committees. These Council-appointed committees are made of residents of the village and make recommendations to the Planning Commission on zoning applications, General Plan updates, text amendments, and defining the character of village. Each village is staffed by a village planner on the Long Range Planning team. Village planning committees meet monthly and are open to the public. Village planning committee meetings provide a great opportunity to learn about your community, connect with your neighbors, and voice your opinions on planning and development issues in your village.

Alhambra Tuesday, March 26, 6:00pm at the Washington Activity Center (2240 W. Citrus Way)

Maryvale Wednesday, March 12, 6:00pm at the Desert Sky Mall New Community Room (7611 W. Thomas Road, Southwest entrance between Cinemas and Burlington Coat Factory)

North Mountain Wednesday, March 19, 6:00pm at the Cowden Center (9202 N. 2nd Street)

*Don't know which village you live or work in?
The map to the rights shows the boundaries for the villages that overlap with District 5. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact District 5 or the Planning and Development Department.*



City of Phoenix News

Phoenix Anti-Pension Spiking Measures will Save \$233M, Study Finds

An actuarial analysis finds that anti-pension spiking measures approved by Mayor Greg Stanton and the City Council are expected to save taxpayers \$233 million over the next 25 years.

The Segal Company, a New York City-based private actuarial and consulting firm, provided the city of Phoenix with its final analysis in mid-December.

Stanton and the Council eliminated the ability of current and future city employees to collect lifetime payments on future leave accruals, as well as phone and car allowances on October 31. The anti-spiking rules were recommended by the Council-led Pension Fairness and Spiking Elimination Ad Hoc Subcommittee, which was chaired by Vice Mayor Bill Gates.

Pension reforms passed in 2013 – the anti-spiking measures and combined with the Stanton-backed pension changes approved by voters in March – now provide a total savings of \$829 million over the next 25 years.

Phoenix's are among the toughest passed in the nation. Most other state and city governments have sought only to end spiking for new employees – but Phoenix's measures will affect all employees. Specifically, they:

- Eliminate counting future sick and vacation leave compensation toward a pension for all employees.
- End the use of allowances, such as communications and travel allowances, for pension calculation for all employees.
- Begin to overhaul our leave system to stop the practice of allowing unlimited sick leave accrual.

Councilman Valenzuela's Statement on the Appointment of New City Manager

On February 19, Councilman Valenzuela released the following statement after the appointment of new City Manager Ed Zuercher:

“I am thrilled that Ed Zuercher has accepted the position of City Manager. Ed has had an incredible 20-year career with the city of Phoenix and demonstrated that he is the most qualified individual to serve as our next city manager. We interviewed several talented candidates, during a thorough and transparent process, including three other finalists - Rick Naimark, Milton Dohoney, and Deanna Santana. I applaud each of them for their efforts during the interview process.

“During the time I have worked with Ed, he has proven himself to be an individual with integrity and humility. He is dedicated to continuing to build Phoenix's economy and meeting the needs of our residents. While serving as acting city manager, Ed has improved employee morale and encouraged city employees to focus on working smarter, saving money aggressively and treating residents with respect. While we have challenges ahead, I am confident that we have selected the right city manager to lead us in a positive direction.”

FitPHX Receives \$25,000 Coca-Cola Grant to Jumpstart WalkPHX

As part of the FitPHX program, the Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department will be enhancing walking paths at eight city parks, thanks to a \$25,000 grant from Coca-Cola of Arizona. The grant also will help pilot a new walking program at sites around the city.

“We’re excited to receive these funds to help get Phoenix moving,” said Mayor Greg Stanton. “You’ll see WalkPHX sites in all parts of the city – great places to walk, jog and run. WalkPHX will help give our residents an opportunity to become more active and healthy.”

FitPHX, part of the city’s Parks and Recreation Department, is planning and designing new signage and mileage markers at eight different city parks that have established walking paths. The city also will seek additional community partners to expand the WalkPHX program to other locations.

“FitPHX is about creating goals for your health and fitness, and Phoenix’s accessible park paths and sidewalks are great places to start,” said Councilman Daniel T. Valenzuela. “We thank our partners at Coca-Cola of Arizona for this grant, which we know is just the beginning of a major WalkPHX movement.”



Coca-Cola’s grants are targeted for programs supporting active, healthy living.

“Our goal is simple—to get people moving and excited about physical activity,” said Kim Cioto, Coca-Cola’s Vice President of Field Operations in Arizona. “Through our support of FitPHX, we hope to further inspire residents to get outside and be active while enjoying the many amenities the City of Phoenix has to offer.”

Parks and Recreation is planning design and installation of the signage and mileage markers for spring 2014. In addition, FitPHX also is working to identify and establish an interactive walking program that all can use, and will create a webpage with all the WalkPHX sites.

Bike Share Vendor Begins Street Demonstration

Residents will start seeing new GRID bikes around downtown over this month as the city’s bike share vendor CycleHop LLC began an on-street test of the rentable green bike system’s operations and technology in December.

"Phoenix can be a world-class bicycling city, with the support of its cycling community and great initiatives like bike share," said Mayor Greg Stanton. "Key to that success will be the rider experience, and this street demonstration helps us learn how to hit the ground rolling and launch GRID bikes in the best way."

CycleHop's green GRID bicycles and temporary green bike racks are located at three sites in downtown Phoenix: near Fifth Street and Van Buren Street, at Second Avenue and Adams Street near Phoenix City Hall, and on Central Avenue near Taylor Mall by ASU's downtown campus. A group of testers comprised mostly of CycleHop employees and city staff will use the system as typical customers, booking bikes online, via a mobile device, or on the bike itself; making trips for work or errands; and returning the bicycles to one of the hub locations later in the day, according to John Romero, director of CycleHop's Phoenix operations.

As we gear up to a system launch this spring, it's important for us to get feedback from riders by beta testing our communications and tracking systems," noted Romero. "The street test lets us see how customers are interacting with the bike, and what works best for different parts of our operation, like the restocking of bike hubs."

At the end of the street demonstration period, participants will be surveyed on their experience, and that feedback will be used to finalize preparations for the system launch in April.

"It was key for us to see the bicycle interface tested, early in the process. As we are getting third-generation bike share technology with the rollout of this program, we want to make sure all the positives of being on the cutting edge were clear to users," said Wylie Bearup, director, Street Transportation Department.

More information on the city's bike share program, and online pre-sale of memberships, is available online at the [Grid Bikes website](#).

Phoenix Increases Transparency with Online Open Checkbook

On December 23, the City's Finance Department announced it launched Phoenix Open Checkbook, a web application to provide residents with information about city spending in an online website.

"It is features like this and our city's commitment to fiscal responsibility that make Phoenix a municipal leader when it comes to transparency," said Mayor Greg Stanton. "We strive to serve the taxpayers who are entitled to easy access to this information."

The searchable format, available at phoenix.gov/finance and updated monthly, allows city purchases to be reviewed by department, vendor, and date; and can be downloaded as a report or Excel spreadsheet. The checkbook-level expenditure information does not require users to read through individual contracts and is downloadable for data analysis.

"Phoenix has an excellent track record of fiscal transparency, but we are always searching for ways to improve openness, accessibility and efficiency," said Acting City Manager Ed Zuercher. "The Phoenix Open Checkbook opens our checkbook and makes it available to our residents who want to see how the city spends taxpayer dollars."

"The Phoenix checkbook website is an important transparency tool that provides residents with information about how public money is being spent," said Serena Unrein, Public Interest Advocate for the Arizona Public Interest Research Group Education Fund.

The Phoenix Open Checkbook builds on several fiscal transparency measures, such as:

- Zero-based budgeting
- Annual community budget hearings in each City Council district
- Online access to the Summary, Detail and Capital Improvement Program budget reports and the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report
- Finance Department “Investor Information” webpage with in-depth financial reports, including a Financial Condition Report, the city’s Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and Bond Sales Official Statements and Continuing Disclosures
- The City Council approved a plan to redesign the phoenix.gov webpages using responsive web design so users can view pages on smart phones, tablets, laptops, desktop computers and all other web-enabled devices. The new design will be available in mid-2014.
- The Budget and Research Department redesigned the department’s [website](#), phoenix.gov/budget to make it more user-friendly and transparent
- All Phoenix City Council meetings are televised live on PHX 11, phoenix.gov and the city’s Facebook page. Meetings are archived on phoenix.gov and on the city’s YouTube channel, youtube.com/cityofphoenixaz

Sunshine Review, a non-profit organization dedicated to state and local government transparency, recognized phoenix.gov with a [2012 Sunny Award](#) for exceeding transparency standards for the content it provides to residents. This was the third year in a row Phoenix received the award and is one of only 214 jurisdictions out of 6,000 reviewed to be recognized.

To view Phoenix Open Checkbook, [visit the Finance Department website](#) at phoenix.gov/finance.

Transparency: City of Phoenix Vendor Payments

Department/Council: [by Month](#) [by Vendor](#)

Vendor: [by Month](#) [by Department](#)

More: [Contact Us](#) [Help](#)

The Phoenix Checkbook provides residents with information about the city's expenditures - year-tax dollars at work! Residents can review city purchases. The database is searchable by department or vendor. Payments can be viewed online with drill down capability and downloaded as a report or Excel spreadsheet. The searchable database is updated monthly.

Disclaimer: The data on this website represents vendor payments for the city of Phoenix. The data as represented is unaudited and may contain omissions. For audited financial statements please reference the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)

EPA Administrator and City Dedicate 1.2-Megawatt SunPower Solar Power System

On January 8, the Environmental Protection Agency and the city of Phoenix dedicated solar power panels that have been installed on two downtown parking garages. The 1.2-megawatt high-efficiency system was designed and built by SunPower Corp. and is expected to serve approximately 32 percent of electricity demand at the two garages.

“The city of Phoenix must continue to lead when it comes to solar energy,” said Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton. “These new installations are a clear example of how we can grow more efficient and sustainable while saving taxpayer dollars.”

“Investments like we’re seeing in Phoenix help set a national model in how cities and municipalities can come together to cut carbon pollution, save taxpayer dollars, strengthen local economies, and still safeguard the local environment,” said EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy.

“With the new solar arrays installed, Phoenix now has more than 15.25-megawatts of installed solar capacity at 26 facilities, which is the equivalent to powering more than 3,000 Valley homes,” said Vice Mayor Bill Gates, chairman of the City Council Finance, Efficiency, Economy and Sustainability (FECS) Subcommittee.

“Public-private partnerships like this one work because they take a comprehensive approach to addressing issues important to our residents, including health, quality of life and the responsible use of taxpayer dollars,” said Councilman Daniel Valenzuela, member of the FECS Subcommittee. “This is another big step on our way to becoming one of the most sustainable cities in the nation.”



“This SunPower system will reliably produce clean energy for years to come,” said SunPower Director Rick Whisman. “SunPower’s technology will ensure that the system delivers energy over the long-term, reducing operational expenses significantly with no upfront expenditure.”

The high-efficiency system was financed through a solar services agreement with SunPower Corp. Under the terms of the agreement, Wells Fargo Bank owns the system that SunPower designed, built, operates and maintains. The city is hosting the system and buying electricity at rates that are competitive with retail electricity, providing a hedge against rising electricity costs with no capital investment. The renewable energy credits (RECs) associated with the energy produced by the system will be transferred to APS in fulfillment of the state’s renewable energy standard and tariff.

SunPower installed the systems at the Adams Street and Washington Street garages in downtown Phoenix. System construction was completed in four months at the end of 2013.

According to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates, the system is expected to offset the production of more than 2.4 million pounds of carbon dioxide annually, which is equivalent of the annual emissions of 231 passenger vehicles or the emissions required to produce the annual energy needed for 166 homes.

City and Partners Collaborate to Host Zero-Waste Baseball Game

During Spring Training when the Arizona Diamondbacks host the Seattle Mariners March 13, baseball fans will notice something unusual at Salt River Fields – the absence of trash containers.

In an effort to bring awareness to recycling and composting, the city of Phoenix has partnered with the Arizona Diamondbacks, Republic Services and Salt River Fields at Talking Stick to host a “Zero-Waste Spring Training Event” on Thursday, March 13, at Salt River Fields at Talking Stick, 7555 N. Pima Road. The game starts at 1:10 p.m., but pre-game festivities start at 11:30 a.m.

This one-day event challenges baseball fans to recycle or compost the solid and food wastes they generate during the game instead of sending it to the landfill. The Zero-Waste Spring Training Event will be a first for Arizona. The idea was fueled by Phoenix’s new sustainability initiative called Reimagine Phoenix, which encourages residents and businesses to view trash as resources. Mayor Greg Stanton sees it as a huge opportunity to educate and reach out to residents and visitors about the benefits of increasing recycling and composting in the region.

"Producing less non-recyclable trash means less trips to the landfill and a lower impact on our air and environment," said Mayor Stanton. "This commitment to produce zero waste at a public event on the scale of a Spring Training game with our hometown D-Backs gets the word out that a lot of what we traditionally consider garbage is actually a usable resource."

Partnerships are crucial to achieving zero waste at this event. As Phoenix puts more focus on being a sustainable city, it also acknowledges that private and public partnerships will play an important role in achieving the city’s 40 percent diversion goal by 2020 (continued below).



Aside from the three partners mentioned, Salt River Fields’ concessions provider, Ovation Food Services, will be using recyclable and/or compostable paper products and utensils throughout the event. Grand Canyon University has agreed to provide volunteers on the day of the event to assist baseball fans in sorting out their waste and educating them about sustainability.

The Arizona Diamondbacks were eager to collaborate with the city and other partners to promote best environmental practices at sporting events. Councilman Daniel T. Valenzuela, who recently met with the D-backs and other professional sports teams at the Green Sports Alliance summit in New York, commended the D-backs for their initiative in increasing awareness on sustainability.

"In only a few short months, we are already seeing the results of our recent meetings with the Green Sports Alliance and the Arizona Diamondbacks," said Councilman Valenzuela. "When there is a conscious effort focused on sustainability, we can have a tremendous impact on reducing what we pitch in the trash. Working together - along with the incredible partners such as D-backs fans and volunteers from Grand Canyon University - we will Reimagine Phoenix and keep the cost of trash collection low for residents."

Derrick Hall, the Diamondbacks' president and CEO, has fostered a culture within the organization that, not only enhances the fans' experience, but reaches out to the community to bring awareness to causes that would improve it. The Zero-Waste event is in line with the organization's commitment to sustainability and environmental issues that come with sporting events.

"At the Arizona Diamondbacks, we have made an ongoing commitment to sustainability in all aspects of our business, which includes changing fan behaviors in simple ways around the ballpark," said Hall. "Along with our partners at the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, we are honored to partner with the city of Phoenix and Republic Services to host a zero-waste game at Salt River Fields, the first LEED Gold-certified sports venue of its kind in the United States."

The Zero-Waste event will rely heavily on solid waste collection provider, Republic Services, a Phoenix-based company and an industry leader in waste and recycling services, contracted by Salt River Fields. Republic Services has the incredible task of sorting out recyclables collected at the end of the game and hauling the food waste to a local food composting company. But the company is up to the task.

"We are thrilled to be a part of this all-star recycling team," said Mark Clatt, area president of Republic Services. "We want D-backs fans to turn out in big numbers to help prevent items that do not belong in the waste stream from reaching a landfill. With Mayor Stanton's leadership, we are making Phoenix a cleaner and healthier community for generations to come."

"We are very excited to host the first ever Spring Training Zero-Waste event at Salt River Fields at Talking Stick," said Diane Enos, president of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. "The Reimagine Phoenix initiative is a commendable effort to heighten awareness on sustainability, recycling and composting. We are honored to be part of this collaborative effort that promotes clean and environmentally sound communities."

Phoenix will recruit more than 100 volunteers during the event. The volunteers' interaction with baseball fans is vital to the success of the event and goal achievement. Residents interested in volunteering at the Zero-Waste event may register at the Public Works Department website.