HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

I love this time of year when we get to spend time with our family and friends, eat delicious food and open presents! I enjoy seeing people of different religions and beliefs come together to celebrate their holiday traditions. In the Nowakowski household we celebrate Polish and Mexican traditions. It’s a great way to pass down family traditions to our children.

As you gather with your family please remember the men and women who serve in our nation’s military. These brave men and women and their families sacrifice every day to keep our country safe and free, and the holidays are a great time to keep them in your thoughts.

You can also reach out to those who are less fortunate and are not able to afford a meal or a gift for their child. Organizations such as St. Mary’s Food Bank, St. Vincent De Paul, and Salvation Army: Christmas Angels and domestic violence shelters are seeking donations to help individuals and families in need. Please reach out to one of these great organization to see how you can help.

Remember, when shopping this holiday season shop in Phoenix as every sales tax dollar goes to vital city services such as police and fire.

On behalf of the Nowakowski family, I wish you a joyous Holiday Season and a New Year filled with many blessings.

Michael Nowakowski
Councilmember, District 7
The new Desert Sky Transit Center in west Phoenix is now open for service. The Desert Sky Transit Center is going to make riding the bus in Maryvale and the West Valley safer and more convenient for more than 140,000 riders expected to use the facility each year.

The new transit center, comfortably close to the existing facility, is located at 79th Avenue and Thomas Road. The center features many significant upgrades over the current Desert Sky Mall facility aimed at improving the overall bus rider experience, including:

- Assigned bus stalls for each route that services the center, including:
  - Route 29 – Thomas Road
  - Route 75 – 75th Avenue
  - Route 83 – 83rd Avenue
  - I-10 West RAPID
  - MARY – neighborhood circulator
  - Route 685 – Ajo/Gila Bend to Phoenix connector
- Three digital information kiosks
- Drinking fountains
- Covered parking
- Bike racks and bike lockers
- Spacious covered seating and waiting areas

The new transit center is a state-of-the-art facility that brings improved safety and convenience for bus riders into the heart of Maryvale. I’m excited to bring this facility to the residents of District 7 and surrounding area.

**NEW DESERT SKY TRANSIT CENTER OPEN FOR SERVICE**

The Phoenix Police Department’s Targeted Enforcement Squad has been awarded a grant ($60,000.00) by the Governor’s Office of Highway Safety (GOHS). This grant money will support the deployment of officers related to the education and enforcement of underage drinking/DUI and illegal street racing. This enforcement is crucial in promoting a safe travel environment for everyone.

Throughout the year the Targeted Enforcement Squad regularly participates in deployments to address underage drinking and street racing enforcement. More specifically they will address the party crew problem. This will be done by identifying party crew activities and conducting enforcement at party crew events.

For more information on the Underage Drinking/DUI and Illegal Street Racing Education and Enforcement please contact Sergeant Mitch Kulwin. He can be reached at (602) 526-0148 or mitch.kulwin@phoenix.gov.

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**YOUTH AMBASSADOR EXCHANGE PROGRAM**

The application for the 2016 Phoenix Sister Cities Youth Ambassador Exchange Program is now available online!

The purpose of the Youth Ambassador Exchange Program (YAEP) is to offer opportunities for Phoenix high school students to appreciate and understand the cultures of our Sister Cities through a reciprocal three-week home hosted international exchange experience.

The Phoenix Sister Cities Selection Committee will select high school students (Sophomores or Juniors), each of whom will be assigned as a Youth Ambassador to one of the ten Phoenix Sister Cities. Through the Sister City program, Youth Ambassadors will have the opportunity to experience the sister city and the culture in ways not available to the typical international visitor.

To find out more about the program please visit www.phoenixsistercities.org or call 602-534-3751.

The deadline to apply is December 18, 2015. Please share this information with anyone interested in a one of a life time experience!
VITA Volunteers Needed

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) volunteers help prepare thousands of tax returns resulting in millions of dollars in federal refunds to Phoenix residents.

The city of Phoenix Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) campaign, in partnership with the Internal Revenue Service VITA program, is seeking individuals who want to become volunteer tax preparers. The EITC campaign offers free tax return preparation to households with an annual income of $54,000 or less.

Tax professionals (enrolled agents and other tax return preparers) can earn continuing education credits when volunteering. The city of Phoenix will be conducting free IRS processed-based tax law training sessions from November to January at various locations.

Nationally, the EITC helped an estimated $6.5 million people out of poverty, including 3.3 million children.

To volunteer for the upcoming tax season, go to volunteer.phoenix.gov and search VITA or for more information call 602-534-0543.

DEAD ANIMAL PICKUP

On Private Property:
Dead animals on private property can be picked up by commercial companies for a fee, please consult a telephone directory.

Contact your veterinarian for compassionate recommendations for you and your pet.

It is illegal to bury a dead animal or place it in your garbage or recycling container for collection.

In the City Right-of-Way:
The city of Phoenix will remove dead animals in city right-of-way. To report a dead animal on a public street, call 602-262-6791.

Service hours are from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days a week. Calls during service hours will be handled in a three-hour timeframe. Calls after 6 p.m. will be addressed shortly after 6 a.m. the following day.

Freeway/Highways:
To report dead animals on freeways, call 602-712-7355, the main number for ADOT's Communication and Community Partnerships Office.

Further information: Email us or call the Contact Center at 602-262-7251.
Fireworks: Know The Facts Before You Buy!

Fireworks law regulates when fireworks can be bought, sold and used in Arizona. The new law does not apply to novelty items: snappers, snap caps, glow worms, snakes, party poppers, toy smoke devices and sparklers, which have always been considered permissible.

The sale of permissible consumer fireworks is allowed: May 20 – July 6 and December 10 – January 3.

The use of permissible consumer fireworks is allowed: June 24 – July 6 and December 24 – January 3.

Permissible fireworks for sale under state law may not be sold to person(s) under the age of 16. The penalty for selling, buying or using fireworks outside the permissible dates is a fine of $1,000. Use of fireworks on preservation land owned by the City of Phoenix is prohibited and is a Class 1 Misdemeanor with a $1,000 fine.

For more information, visit phoenix.gov/fire
Free Event! Movie in the Park
Holiday Festival
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11
4–7 P.M.
(MOVIE STARTS AT 5:30 P.M.)
MARGARET T. HANCE PARK
67 W. CULVER ST. (BETWEEN 3RD & 5TH AVE)

Councilman Nowakowski invites you to this Holiday event to enjoy pictures with Santa, seasonal games, music and a holiday movie! Bring a blanket! For more information, please call 602.262.7492.

WE WILL ALSO BE COLLECTING WARM CLOTHES FOR THE HOMELESS. PLEASE CHOOSE TO GIVE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON BY DONATING YOUR GENTLY USED CLOTHES, NEW UNDERGARMENTS AND BLANKETS. WE WILL HAVE COLLECTION BINS ON SITE.

Santa Clause Ornament Decorating Music

Cesar Chavez Library Presents, The 3rd Annual
Reading
In A Winter Wonderland
A Family Literacy Afternoon

SATURDAY
December 12
2:00-4:00 pm

A fun filled afternoon of activities, games and treats
Set within a festive winter atmosphere

Join us in expanding greater family literacy across our community.

*Books *Games *Crafts *Wagon Ride
*Snow Cones *Snowflake stamps
*Read to Orlagh the Therapy Dog!
*Music *Popcorn

South Mountain Community College Storytelling Institute!

Cesar Chavez Library, 3635 West Baseline Road, Laveen, AZ
Thai Basil Restaurant
114 W. Adams St. Suite 104
602-759-8737
www.thaibasilaz.com

Thai Basil carries an array of authentic Thai dishes. The spiciness and bold flavors of Thai ingredients can be tasted with every bite you take. The food is incredible, staff is friendly and prices are reasonable! Located in the heart of Downtown Phoenix, you need to stop by. We promise you won’t be disappointed.

Every month you can catch our show Phoenix 2020 “A Clear Vision for the Future” on Cox Cable Channel 11 or catch us on www.youtube.com/cityofphoenixaz.

Remember, to catch all the episodes online and stay tuned for all future episodes as I explore the district to visit new restaurants and businesses and bring you all the latest information pertaining to the City of Phoenix. Remember to like me on Facebook and follow me on Twitter to get all the latest District 7 news and events!

College Depot is a free, full-service college access center located at Burton Barr Central Library in downtown Phoenix. The team of college planning advisors and assistants offer one-on-one appointments and workshops regarding admissions, financial aid, and scholarships.

**Weekly Walk-In Assistance** No appointment necessary! Drop-in and receive help on a first-come, first-served basis with various elements of the college admissions and financial aid process including FAFSA updates, scholarship searches, “To Do” student portal tasks and more.

Every week Wednesday: 5:00-6:30 p.m. Friday: 2:00-3:30 p.m. Saturday: 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

**PRODUCE ON WHEELS**
Saturday, January 2, 2016
8:00am—11:00am
Laveen Baptist Church, 5036 W. Dobbins Rd, Laveen, AZ

Variety of produce will be available!
- *Cucumber (Euro)*
- *Eggplant*
- *Honeydew Melon*
- *Tomatoes (Grape)*
- *Tomatoes (Roma)*
- *Tomatoes (on the Vine)*
- *Watermelon (Medium)*
- *Watermelon (Mini)*
- *Squash (Yellow)*