Mark your calendar for 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, Nov. 3, as the city’s Neighborhood Services Department (NSD) and members of the Anti-Graffiti Task Force host a citywide Graffiti Free Phoenix: Wipe It Out Day! On this day, hundreds of volunteers and our entire NSD staff will be armed with paint and roller brushes to remove graffiti from places throughout the city’s neighborhoods.

Volunteers are needed to make this a successful event. Neighborhood organizations, corporate or faith-based volunteer groups and residents who want to lend a helping hand are encouraged to sign up.

Staff also has planned a kick-off rally from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 27, at the NSD West Facility, 3325 W. Flower St. During this event, we’ll bring as many volunteers together to celebrate our citywide anti-graffiti efforts and distribute paint and information on where groups will be working the following Saturday. It’s going to be lots of fun and we hope to see you there!

For more information, call 602-534-4444 or register to volunteer at myvolunteerphoenix.org.

Neighborhood College kicks off in January

The city’s Neighborhood College is a new, exciting series of instructor-led, highly participatory workshops designed to increase residents’ knowledge of their city, learn how to access city resources and prepare individuals and groups to become our next generation of neighborhood leaders.

Participants in Neighborhood College can choose from a variety of workshops that allow them to explore and learn about Phoenix’s rich history, hidden gems, and city services and processes. Additional workshops will allow participants to gain insight into group dynamics, leadership style, and a more in-depth look at how the city works for them.

These workshops and experiences will assist residents in finding the resources they need to have a positive impact in their communities.

Neighborhood College will offer two tracts of workshops. The first tract, “Navigate PHX,” offers workshops for any resident looking to gain a new perspective on their city and the communities they live in and how to better access city services.

The second tract, “Neighborhoodology,” is for active neighborhood organizations listed with the city and looking to enhance their capacity through a more interactive, hands-on experience designed to increase their knowledge of civic engagement.

(continued on page 4)
Vacant foreclosed houses affect communities in many ways: increased opportunity for crime, neighborhood blight and decreased home values. South Mountain Village was hit hard and accumulated more than 6,100 foreclosures since 2008 and is now benefiting from NSP investment. The Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) was designed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to help cities address the effects of foreclosure in hard hit areas. Through NSP, the city of Phoenix is expected to turn 2,200 vacant, foreclosed properties back into homes through renovating single- and multi-family properties, offering homeownership incentives and affordable rental opportunities.

To date, $5.6 million in federal investment has been made in South Mountain Village, improving 94 homes. Forty-six buyers purchased newly renovated homes through NSP’s Move-In Ready Program and invested $4.1 million in primary mortgages. Renovations address health and safety issues, improve energy efficiency and enhance curb appeal. Eligible buyers receive $15,000 in down payment assistance, housing counseling and homebuyer education.

Marialena Martinez and Anthony Sacco purchased their first home through the Move-In Ready Program in South Mountain Village, close to Marialena’s parents and Anthony’s job at Eli’s Barber Shop. They worked closely with Mandalay Homes, the developer that renovated their home. Claudia Schulz of Mandalay recalls, “When this home was added to the inventory they were very excited because it was in the neighborhood they wanted.” Marialena said, “The home was perfect, it fit all our criteria and we’re happy to stay in the area instead of being further out, like when we were renting. Our new home is a dream come true...we are excited and very thankful.” Anthony added, “We are forever grateful to NSP; this is the best investment we have made.”

To learn more about the Neighborhood Stabilization Program’s homeownership opportunities, call 602-262-6602 or visit phoenix.gov/nsphome.

Money saving tips to promote a “greener” lifestyle:

- Install a programmable thermostat to lower utility bills and manage your heating and cooling systems efficiently.
- Air dry dishes instead of using your dishwasher’s drying cycle.
- Turn things off when you are not in the room, such as lights, TVs, entertainment systems, and your computer and monitor.
News from APS: Dive into savings with an APS Pool Pump Rebate

Swimming pools can be one of the largest consumers of electricity in a home.

That is why APS offers a $200 instant rebate at participating retailers on variable-speed pool pumps to help keep your pool clean, clear and healthy - all while saving you money.

Switching to a variable-speed pool pump can save up to $400 a year in pool energy costs, and with an APS rebate, your payback can be as little as two years.

These energy efficient pool pumps apply variable-speed technology which uses up to 80% less energy, while keeping your pool just as clean. An added benefit is that they are substantially quieter than the standard pumps. In fact, some variable-speed pool pumps can operate as low as 10 decibels, less than the sound of a human whisper.

But, one of the biggest differences between pool pumps is speed. Single-speed pool pumps filters at only one speed – fast. The faster you filter your pool, the more energy you use and the more it costs to run. Today's new, variable-speed pool pumps automatically adjust the flow rate to keep up with the needs of your pool. The higher speeds clean quickly and then automatically adjust to a lower speed maintaining water cleanliness. Every pump is professionally calibrated after installation to ensure maximum efficiency.

Residential customers in APS service territory are eligible to participate. The pump must be installed on a single family residential in-ground swimming pool and used for filtration purposes.

For more information on switching to an energy efficient, variable-speed pool pump, visit APS online at aps.com/pools or call a program representative at 800-230-8904.

Frank McCune is a Manager of Community and Business Relations for APS.

Coming soon! City seeks outstanding male and female high school students

The Outstanding Young Man and Young Woman (OYMYW) of the Year program recognizes and honors the outstanding achievements of Phoenix youth.

Each year, 16 high school students are selected as council district winners, along with the teacher who inspired them the most. Each of the district winners will receive a $250 cash award. From the district winners, two overall winners will be announced and each will receive an additional $2,000 cash award.

Winners from each council district, and the citywide Young Man and Young Woman of the Year, will be recognized at an event in the spring. Applications for 2013 honorees will be available online on Monday, Oct. 1, at phoenix.gov/nsd/programs/youth/outstanding/index.html.

For more information on the youth awards, call 602-534-4444 or email mailbox.youth@phoenix.gov.
Introducing new security website

The city’s Information Technology Services’ Information Security & Privacy Office (ISPO) recently launched a new security awareness website at phoenix.gov/infosec as a great resource to help educate residents about the importance of information security and safeguards to protect confidential data.

The site includes information for everyone on how to protect their family, computers, identity and privacy, as well as information for businesses. It also contains numerous resources and fun videos – all presented in easy-to-understand language with clear protection strategies. Be sure to view the Topic Library on the Resources page for downloadable copies of all ISPO presentations and articles.

Volunteers needed for tax assistance!

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Initiative is an entirely volunteer-driven project. Volunteers are needed to help return millions of dollars annually to Phoenix families.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) volunteer tax preparers:

- Complete and become certified through the IRS tax law and software training course
- Provide free basic tax return preparation for eligible taxpayers

Volunteers serve from January to April. Free VITA Tax Preparer and Refresher courses are given by the IRS from November to January. Classes are provided at various locations within the city limits and/or online.

Become a VITA volunteer!
Applications are available for the upcoming tax season. Fill out the online application at phoenix.gov/eitc or call 602-262-6658.

Neighborhood College kicks off in January (continued from page 1)

and community building. This tract is specifically designed to offer neighborhood associations and block watch groups a greater level of detail and information to assist them in working in their communities and with the city.

Whichever tract you’re interested in signing up for, we’ll be ready for you in 2013! For more information, call 602-534-4444 or email nsd@phoenix.gov.

CALENDAR

OCTOBER

3 Code Compliance 101 Workshop
6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday
Broadway Heritage Neighborhood Resource Center
2405 E. Broadway Road
RSVP: np.research.nsd@phoenix.gov or 602-495-5350

18 Landlord/Tenant Workshop
5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday
Helen Drake Senior Center, 3581 W. Northern Ave.
602-534-4444

27 Graffiti Free Phoenix: Wipe It Out Kick-off Rally
9 to 11 a.m. Saturday
NSD West Facility, 3325 W. Flower St.
602-534-4444 or myvolunteerphoenix.org

NOVEMBER

3 Graffiti Free Phoenix: Wipe It Out Day
8 a.m. to noon Saturday
Citywide
602-534-4444 or myvolunteerphoenix.org

@PHXNeighborhood
/PhoenixNeighborhood
Illegal signs: let’s work together to remove blight

Signs promoting businesses and various products can be found in the rights-of-way on major thoroughfares throughout the entire city. Although these signs are very common, what you might not know is that they are illegal.

Due to cutback, city departments have not had the resources to combat blight caused by illegal signs, and the problem continues to grow. In fact, in 2011-12, the city’s Neighborhood Services Department (NSD) received 475 complaints, removed 850 illegal signs and referred 81 perceived violations to Development Services. In addition, our Blight Buster volunteers removed 7,256 illegal signs.

In this year’s budget, based on resident input and City Council feedback, City Manager David Cavazos proposed positions in NSD and Planning and Development Services to restore enforcement, removal and related education on illegal signs.

Through this effort, the city will partner with business organizations to educate members, business owners and residents about legal signage. Those who ignore the sign ordinance could potentially face fines ranging from $250 to $2,500 per violation.

On another note, once the general election is over this November, campaigns have 15 days to remove signs in the right-of-way and 10 days to remove signs on private property.

Residents are always encouraged to report violations at 602-534-4444 or by email at illegal.signs@phoenix.gov.

City honors NSD staff

City Manager David Cavazos, Vice Mayor Michael Johnson and Human Resources Director Janet Smith recognized 16 individual employees and 19 employee teams this summer at the 2011 City of Phoenix City Manager’s Employee Excellence Awards Ceremony. Congratulations to our hardworking staff that were honored!
To receive this information in alternative print/audio formats, contact the Neighborhood Services Department, 200 W. Washington St., 4th Floor, Phoenix AZ  85003.
Voice number 602-534-4444 | TTY 602-495-0685