

City CONNECTION

FEBRUARY 4, 2015

A Weekly Publication for City of Phoenix Employees

Phoenix Green Team hosts discussion about 'blood diamonds'

Just in time for Valentine's Day, the Phoenix Green Team presents, "Blood Diamonds Are Not a Girl's Best Friend," at noon Wednesday, Feb. 11, at the Calvin C. Goode Building, 10 East conference room.



Blood diamonds, also called conflict diamonds, is a term used for a diamond mined in a war zone and sold to finance an insurgency. The term is used to highlight the negative consequences of the diamond trade in certain areas.

Is it possible to find conflict-free and responsibly sourced jewelry? The Green Bag presentation will feature diamond experts from Mother of Gideon at Biltmore Fashion Park who will talk about environmentally and socially responsible purchasing practices. They'll show you how to shop with confidence and without fear when making significant diamond and jewelry purchases.

Door prizes will be awarded; feel free to bring your lunch. Employees who attend can earn triple diversity training credit under the city's Equal Opportunity Plan - your attendance will count toward your departmental goals.

For more information, call Rosanne Albright with the Office of Environmental Programs at 602-256-3452 or email rosanne.albright@phoenix.gov.

Coming soon: pay-by-phone system for parking meters

The city, in partnership with Pango USA, is planning to introduce a new pay-by-phone system for parking meters and pay stations to provide greater ease and flexibility in paying for on-street parking.

Along with providing greater ease of payment, the Pango system will help drivers remember where they parked and locate public on-street parking spaces. The system also allows restaurants, shops and other businesses to provide complimentary parking promotions to their customers via prepaid codes.

The city operates approximately 2,000 parking meters throughout the city, and the new pay-by-phone system will be primarily available in the downtown, uptown and Capitol areas of Phoenix. All existing forms of payment (credit/debit cards and coins) will continue to remain in place.

To sign up for Pango, visit myPango.com, download the Pango app available for iOS, Android, Windows Mobile and Blackberry devices or call 1-877-myPango (1-877-697-2646). Although the Pango app is available for download, use of the service to pay for parking in Phoenix will remain unavailable until the system goes live. Clearly marked signs and decals with directions on how to use Pango will soon start appearing on meters and around the city.

For more information about on-street parking in Phoenix visit phoenix.gov/streets or contact Ben Carpenter with Street Transportation at 602-262-6284 or email ben.carpenter@phoenix.gov.

City offers free tax-filing for qualified families

The city of Phoenix Human Services Department has launched its Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) campaign to help low- and moderate-income working families who earned less than \$53,000 in 2014 with free tax-filing services and an EITC tax credit up to \$6,143.



Individuals and families who qualify also may be able to file for the child tax credit, dependent care credit and the education tax credit at the city's free tax preparation sites.

Fourteen primary sites, located in Phoenix, offer free tax-filing services. A list of Phoenix sites, including hours and days of operation, is available at phoenix.gov/eitc. It is important to note that hours and days of operation vary for different locations.

Taxpayers must bring a picture ID for themselves and spouse, Social Security cards and/or Individual Tax Identification Number cards for all household members, proof of income – including W-2s and 1099 Retirement Income – information for other income, 1095-A verification of medical insurance premium tax credit, verification of all deductions/credits and the amount of money paid to child care provider (if applicable). If filing jointly, both adults must be present to sign the return.

For information about the city of Phoenix EITC program, visit phoenix.gov/eitc or call 1-877-211-8661. For more information about Valleywide EITC site locations and hours of operation, call the Internal Revenue Service at 1-800-906-9887 or visit irs.gov.

NEWS BRIEFS

Mark your calendar for "Data Privacy and the Internet of Everything," a lunch-and-learn session in recognition of Data Privacy Day. Find out simple steps to protect yourself and your family from being victims of cybercrime and identity theft during the event from noon to 1 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 26, at the Calvin C. Goode Building, 10 East Conference Room. No registration required for the discussion, which is presented by Information Technology Services' Information Security and Privacy Office.



Phoenix Chinese Week kicks off at noon Monday, Feb. 9, in the City Hall atrium with a lion dance and wushu demonstration. Employees will also be able to sample a variety of Chinese pastries and get information about Chinese Week events and the free Cultural and Cuisine Festival at Margaret T. Hance Park, Feb. 13 to 15. For more information, visit phoenixchineseweek.org.

Families are invited to take the annual "We READ" 30-day challenge at Phoenix Public Library. Read together for 30 days between Feb. 1 and April 1 to earn fun prizes including a "We READ" t-shirt for kids and library tote bag for adults. To participate, pick up a game board at any of the library's 17 locations. For more information, visit phoenixpubliclibrary.org or call 602-262-4636.

Public Works and Phoenix Public Library partner with Office Max and Terracycle to repurpose used pens, pencils and markers. Since the program began five years ago, 110 pounds have been collected and shipped, totaling about 5,000 writing implements. The collection bin is located on the sixth floor of City Hall. Proceeds help the Friends of the Phoenix Public Library.

PEOPLE

Jim Moreno with Public Works witnessed a car hit a young girl while driving his truck last month. He immediately called 911 and blocked the intersection with his vehicle to prevent any further harm to her and stayed with her until emergency responders came. The girl was transported to the hospital and is going to be okay.

In memory of . . .

Fire Emergency Dispatcher **Megan Lange**, who died in a recent auto accident on her way home at the end of her shift. Donations can be made online through the Megan Lange Memorial Fund at phoenix.gov/fire (look for the Eventbrite link).

City Connection is published every week for city employees by the Public Information Office, 12th floor, Phoenix City Hall, 200 W. Washington St., Phoenix, AZ 85003. For more information about the publication or to submit story ideas, email contactus@phoenix.gov or call 602-262-6213.