

City CONNECTION

February 25, 2014

A Weekly Publication for City of Phoenix Employees

Meet this week's featured employee, Mike Eppard, Water Services, who recently saved a pelican's life at Tres Rios Wetlands. View his "Doing What Matters" video at phoenix.gov/phxtv/phxtv-media/video/2421.

Be aware of guidelines regarding political activity

On Tuesday, Aug. 25, Phoenix voters will elect a mayor and council members in Districts 1, 3, 5 and 7. If needed, a runoff election will be held Nov. 3.

City employees who are Phoenix residents are encouraged to vote, but all employees should be aware of city, state and federal guidelines that regulate involvement in campaign matters.



City guidelines: Administrative Regulation 2.16 and city manager policy state:

- City employees cannot participate in or donate money to Phoenix mayoral or council member campaigns.
- City employees cannot sign petitions for any candidate running for city elective office.
- City employees cannot display bumper stickers, posters or other campaign material on city property or at their individual work sites.

State guidelines: Arizona Revised Statutes govern certain political activities of municipal employees.

Permitted activities: At the direction of the city, municipal employees may participate in distributing informational reports about local proposed bond elections.

Prohibited activities: Cities may not use employees or resources to influence elections. Also, municipal employees may not influence the vote or political activities of their fellow employees or subordinates.

Federal guidelines: The Hatch Act establishes federal rules of political involvement for city employees connected to programs funded by a federal agency.

Permitted activities: Municipal employees may run for public office in non-city, nonpartisan elections; campaign for and hold office in political clubs and organizations; contribute money to political organizations; and attend political fund-raising events.

Prohibited activities: Employees may not be candidates for public offices in a partisan election; may not use official authority or influence to interfere with or affect the results of an election or nomination; and may not directly or indirectly coerce political contributions from fellow employees or subordinates.

If you have any questions, review A.R. 2.16 and discuss the issue with your supervisor.

Fresh Express Bus brings fruits and veggies to you

Join Councilman Daniel Valenzuela at noon Tuesday, March 3, at Second Avenue and Adams Street to welcome the Fresh Express Bus, a new Fit4Phoenix program.

The Fresh Express Bus offers downtown employees the option to purchase fresh fruit and vegetables from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at the downtown intersection. The mobile market will sell fruits and vegetables at affordable prices, including bananas (four for \$1), apples (three for \$1), potatoes (three for \$1), tomatoes (two for \$1), avocados (three for \$1) and much more.



The rollout of the Fresh Express Bus kicks off National Nutrition Month, which is promoted annually by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

On another wellness note, Cigna selected the city of Phoenix as a finalist in its first annual Well-Being Award. Local employer applicants were evaluated based on the core components of their employee wellness programs, including program goals, implementation, incentives, leadership engagement and employee participation.

Nationwide retirement consultant on-site at Personnel Building

Nationwide Representative Desso Genov is available on-site in the Personnel Building for one-on-one meetings from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. every Wednesday.

The purpose of this service enhancement is to provide additional assistance to employees considering retirement in the near future and to those looking to enroll, review or update their retirement account. Genov also can provide other assistance related to the City's 457/401(a) Plans, including helping you determine if you're contributing enough to your Plans account to meet your goal. He can also review your account, provide information about the city's Plans, explain retirement planning tools on Nationwide's phoenixdcp.com website, and more.

Employees can schedule appointments with him by visiting phoenixdcp.MyRetirementAppt.com or by calling Nationwide's Phoenix Office at 602-266-2733.

NEWS BRIEFS

The City Manager's Office will resume its leadership development Brown Bag series from noon to 1 p.m. on the first Monday of the month beginning in April. During the sessions, which are held at City Council Chambers, the city's top managers will offer advice on career advancement, navigating and thriving in change, focusing on innovation, and developing new approaches to organizational challenges. The series kicks off April 6 with "Professionalism in Policymaking" (code CMLF05). Upcoming sessions include "Labor Management/Relations," May 4 (code CMLF08); "Emotional Intelligence," June 1, (code CMLF10); and "Engaging Employees in Decisions," July 6, (code CMLF09). Use e-CHRIS to register.

The National Forum for Black Public Administrators Central Arizona Chapter will host its annual Professional Development Seminar on March 13. The event will take place from 7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. at Desert Willow Conference Center, 4340 E. Cotton Lane. City employees are invited to attend with supervisory approval. NFBPA Executive Director Regina V.K. Williams-Gates will be the keynote speaker, and retired Assistant Aviation Director Carl Newman will be presented with the Marks of Excellence Award. Registration is \$25 and professional development funds may be used. For registration information, contact Martin Whitfield at 602-683-2623 or email martin.whitfield@phoenix.gov.

Are you planning to fly out of Sky Harbor International Airport during spring break and want to save money? For the entire month of March, the airport is offering savings on already deeply discounted parking for travelers reserving in advance. For just \$5 a day, you can park in the West Economy Park & Walk, which is an on-airport parking choice that gives travelers the option of parking and walking to the terminal. No bus service is available; travelers will find the parking area most convenient to Terminal 2. To take advantage of the \$5 special, visit skyharbor.com/prepaidparking (there is a \$2 service charge per transaction). More information about Prepaid Discount Parking and all parking options at Phoenix Sky Harbor is available at skyharbor.com.

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.