

# City CONNECTION

April 8, 2015

A Weekly Publication for City of Phoenix Employees

This week's featured employee, **Principal Planner Josh Bednarek**, discusses the Phoenix General Plan and the PlanPHX process. To learn more, view "Doing What Matters" at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=neIcixPAsMA>.

## Use life events to review your 457 and 401(a) plan beneficiaries

"Life events" are occasions that can affect the major decisions you make. Any event may qualify, including marriage, divorce, births, deaths - even tax time.

Life events may be a good time to review and update your 457 and 401(a) plans beneficiary designation form on file with Nationwide Retirement Solutions, the administrator for the city's 457 and 401(a) plans.



You may want to make reviewing your form an annual event, something you do at tax time or on your birthday. As you review the form, consider not only your primary beneficiary, but also contingent beneficiaries – the person or persons who would receive your assets if the primary beneficiary passes away before you do.

It may be wise to consult your attorney before making beneficiary designations since neither Nationwide nor the city can offer legal or tax advice.

After you pass away, Nationwide must follow what's on the beneficiary designation form on file, regardless of whether those designations reflect your current wishes. Make sure your beneficiary designation form has kept up with your life:

- Change your beneficiary online at phoenixdcp.com by logging onto your online account or select the Support & Forms tab to download a form.
- Request a form by calling Nationwide at 602-266-2733 or toll-free at 800-891-4PHX (4749).
- Pick up a form at Nationwide's Phoenix office at 4747 N. Seventh St., suite 418.

## Say thanks to your department's volunteers

April is National Volunteer Appreciation Month - a time to say thank you to all those dedicated volunteers for helping to make Phoenix one of the friendliest and most livable cities in the nation.

This past year, an estimated 30,000 people volunteered their time through the city's Volunteer Phoenix program, amounting to more than 550,000 hours. Volunteer Navigators help make Phoenix Sky Harbor the "friendliest airport in the nation," while Police and Fire volunteers help keep our neighborhoods safe.



Volunteers also help the Human Services and Law departments provide extra care for seniors, veterans, youth and the homeless, and they share their love of reading through programs at the Phoenix Public Library. Other city departments also rely on volunteers, all of whom provide that extra level of customer service.

On Thursday evening, Mayor Greg Stanton, City Council and City Manager Ed Zuercher will recognize more than 30 exceptional Volunteer Phoenix members from city department volunteer programs.

More information about Volunteer Phoenix is available at [phoenix.gov/volunteer](http://phoenix.gov/volunteer) and Twitter @myvolunteerphx.

### **Restock Valley food banks during Food for Fines**

Library customers can pay overdue fees and help restock the pantries of Valley food banks during Phoenix Public Library's annual "Food for Fines," April 11 – 25.

During "Food for Fines," 50 cents will be deducted from a customer's library account fees for each non-perishable food item donated at any of the city's 17 libraries. A maximum of \$75 can be paid with donated food. Perishable, expired, beyond sell by date and homemade food items will not be accepted.

Donated food will be distributed to Desert Mission and St. Mary's food banks. Last year, the program collected nearly 70,000 pounds of food.

For more information, call 602-262-4636 or visit [phoenixpubliclibrary.org](http://phoenixpubliclibrary.org).



### **NEWS BRIEFS**

**The City Manager's Leadership Development Brown Bag series is held from noon to 1 p.m. on the first Monday of the month at City Council Chambers.** During the sessions, 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 next topic in the series is "Labor Management/Relations," May 4 (code CMLF08), followed by "Emotional Intelligence," June 1, (code CMLF10); and "Engaging Employees in Decisions," July 6, (code CMLF09). Use e-CHRIS to register.

**California's drought is a reminder that every drop of water counts, so take a minute to see if the toilets in your house are leaking.** Your commode could be quietly wasting hundreds of gallons of water each week. To check for leaks, put a few drops of food coloring in your toilet tank. Do not flush. If after 15 minutes you have colored water in the toilet bowl, a worn-out seal around the flapper is leaking water from the tank to the bowl. Replace the flapper to stop the leak, an easy fix that can save more than 600 gallons of water a month. For more water-saving tips and information visit [phoenix.gov/water](http://phoenix.gov/water).

### **PEOPLE**

Leave donations are being accepted for **Sylvia Castillo** with Community and Economic Development. Submit leave donations through eCHRIS.

### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**Tuesday, April 14.** City of Phoenix Employees for Christ April Luncheon. Guest Speaker Vice Mayor Daniel Valenzuela. Fruit and veggie platters and drinks will be served. Bring your lunch and a friend. Noon - 1 p.m. City Hall, 10 East (new location). For more information, contact Olivia Cabrera at 602-534-9618 or [olivia.cabrera@phoenix.gov](mailto:olivia.cabrera@phoenix.gov).

*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](mailto:contactus@phoenix.gov) or call 602-262-6213.*