

# City CONNECTION

May 20, 2015

A Weekly Publication for City of Phoenix Employees

Meet this week's featured employee, **Assistant Planning & Development Director Cindy Stotler**. View her Doing What Matters video at [www.phoenix.gov/phxtv/phxtv-media/video/2743](http://www.phoenix.gov/phxtv/phxtv-media/video/2743)

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## Water safety campaign

Drowning is a serious problem in Phoenix, in part because of the large number of swimming pools in the area. Home pools are among the greatest hazards for young children. Last year in Phoenix, 39 children under the age of 18 were involved in water-related incidents. Sadly, five did not survive. On average, there have been about 72 drowning incidents per year in Phoenix in the last five years. Although the most common incidents involve toddlers in backyard pools where there was no fence or no supervision, the majority of fatalities involve adults.

In July 2014, Mayor Stanton created the Water Safety Ad Hoc Committee to address drowning incidents occurring at alarming rates in the City of Phoenix. The committee developed a strategic marketing plan to regularly provide information regarding the water safety campaign to the community beginning in April 2015 and running through July 2015. The goal of this effort is to engage the community by educating 16 trainers that will serve as advocates on water safety by educating 150 others over the course of twelve months. In tandem with the train-the-trainer model, the Save Our Summer (S.O.S.) Initiative will roll out to the community. The program will incorporate all existing water safety programs offered by the City into a year-round campaign. This initiative will also provide the community with the "Five to Stay Alive;" which will communicate important water safety information.

For more information about water safety visit [www.phoenix.gov/fire/safety-information/home/water](http://www.phoenix.gov/fire/safety-information/home/water) or contact Michelle Miller at 602-495-7398

## "Remembering Our Fallen" exhibit

View a special exhibit honoring Arizona's fallen military members who gave their lives in The War on Terror. The City is hosting the "Remembering Our Fallen" photo exhibit from May 18 through June 1 in the atrium of Phoenix City Hall. The very emotional exhibit is a collection of personal and military photos of the 149 Arizonans that died in military action in Iraq or Afghanistan after the September 11 terrorist attacks.\* It was created by national nonprofit Patriotic Productions and was brought to city hall at the request of Councilman Gates.

Patriotic Productions created the exhibit with financial support from Bellevue University. Patriotic Productions has created 16 state exhibits and has set a goal of creating exhibits for all 50 states over the next 18 months. More information on the exhibit is available online at [www.rememberingourfallen.org](http://www.rememberingourfallen.org).

"Remembering Our Fallen" is a free exhibit thanks to the financial sponsorship of the Phoenix Military Veterans Commission Foundation and is accessible from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

\*The list of fallen Arizona service members also includes two soldiers that were killed stateside while supporting the overseas efforts.

## “Water Safe, Water Smart – Build to Code”

May is Building Safety Month, a public awareness campaign to help individuals, families and businesses understand what it takes to create safe and sustainable structures. The campaign reinforces the need for



adoption of modern, model building codes, a strong and efficient system of code enforcement and a well-trained, professional workforce to maintain the system.

As a reminder, the Planning & Development Department has a display in the northeast corner of the atrium that will change each week to spotlight specific areas of building safety for the entire month. This week's theme (May 18-24) is "Water Safe, Water Smart - Build to Code".

Important tips to remember for backyard and pool safety:

- Make sure all pedestrian gates in the barrier fence for your pool are self-closing and self-latching. Other gates should be padlocked.
- Remove all chairs, tables, large toys or other objects that would allow a child to climb up to reach the gate latch or enable the child to climb over the pool isolation fence.
- Reaching and throwing aids like poles should be kept on both sides of the pool. These items should remain stationary and not be misplaced through play activities.
- Install either an automatic or manually operated, approved safety cover to completely block access to water in the pool, spa or hot tub. Never allow anyone to stand or play on a pool cover.
- Check for warning signs of an unsafe deck, including loose or wobbly railings or support beams, missing or loose screws that connect a deck to the house, corrosion, rot and cracks.
- Place the barbeque grill away from siding, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches. Do not use grills in a garage, porch or enclosed area that could trap carbon monoxide. Never grill on top of anything that can easily burn.
- When grilling, have a fire extinguisher, a garden hose or several gallons of water close by in case of a fire.
- Keep children away from grills when in use. Establish a safety zone around the grill and instruct the children to remain outside of the zone. A chalk line works great for this purpose. Never leave the grill unattended.

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Monday June 1** - The City Manager's Future Leaders Forums is offering a Brown Bag on Emotional Intelligence from noon to 1 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. The series is for current and next generation city leaders. Employees from all levels of the organization are welcome to attend and learn from top managers in the city about their careers, experiences, and lessons learned. The presenters of this event are John Chan Phoenix Convention Center Director, Moe Gallegos Human Services Director, and Karl Matzinger Housing Director. Employees should enroll in e-CHRIS using the class code CMLF10.

*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).*