

City CONNECTION

August 26, 2015

A Weekly Publication for City of Phoenix Employees

Meet this week's featured employee, Phoenix Police Detective Jemima Schmidt, and learn more about her efforts in a unique animal cruelty case. View her Doing What Matters video at www.phoenix.gov/phxtv/phxtv-media/video/2974.

Employee Suggestion Program: We want your ideas!

Got Ideas? We encourage you to participate in the Employee Suggestion Program by submitting those ideas, especially those that can improve city business. To download a suggestion form or learn more about the Employee Suggestion Program, visit <https://employee.phoenix.gov/training-and-elearning/employee-suggestion-program> today.



Get family fun down to a science: Family STEM Night at Burton Barr Central Library

Adults and kids of all ages are invited to a special evening of creative, cooperative, and hands-on science activities. Experiments with gravity, electricity and water, along with interactive games and competitions, let family members test, tinker and learn about science in daily life, school and work. Designed to complement concepts that are taught in school, these activities, games and experiments offer an opportunity for families to work together and get excited about science while having a blast!

Family STEM Night is 6–8 p.m., Friday, Sept. 4 at Burton Barr Central Library.

To learn more about STEM activities at the Library, visit <http://phoenixpubliclibrary.org/teens/Pages/MACH/MACH.aspx>.

Phoenix announces Smart City App hack finalists

The first annual Phoenix Smart City App Hack (PSCAH), an international competition to promote development of civic-focused mobile or web-based apps, has yielded its five finalists. The finalists, listed below, will move to the acceleration phase and get free app development assistance from local tech partners to prepare for the city finale in October. The winner will earn the right to represent Phoenix at the international competition at the Smart City Expo in Barcelona in November. The five finalists were chosen this month by a panel of local leaders and industry experts.



The city partnered with the Institute for Digital Progress (IDP) to participate in the Smart City App Hack to encourage local entrepreneurship and help turn citizens into app makers to design and build applications and startup companies that will make for a better, smarter and more sustainable Phoenix. App builders had to provide solutions to one of five global civic challenges: urban mobility, energy and emissions, shopping and retail, culture and tourism, and the collaborative city.

The five local companies providing technical assistance to the finalists are IntraEdge; Elbow Room Studios; Tallwave; Coplex; and Dezapp.

The five finalists:

ParkX – Formerly Park Genius, these U of A grads are taking on parking meters. ParkX allows motorists to pay for parking directly from their smartphone. The app sends reminders and alerts when the meter is about to expire and allows users to add money to the meter. The service is currently available in Tucson and cities in Texas. The company also partners with local businesses to offer parking validation for on-street parking, coupons and more. The fees run between 25 to 35 cents per transaction.

Synergy AZ – An app designed to build teams for civic projects via an app for citizens of Metro Phoenix to connect with volunteers for projects that they pitch and plan.

HER – A Tallwave portfolio company, HumansFirst, built HER, an app where "Amazon meets Siri" which uses their software that can comprehend and execute customer requests using Natural Language Processing. The app will allow users to shop, book travel, pay online, place local food delivery and more via text or voice on mobile devices.

Bloodhound – For those individuals suffering from dementia or diagnosed with a mental disability, this app is designed to help a safe return if the person has gone missing. The app is paired with a Bluetooth gadget that is affixed to the individual and for those that download the app, users will receive a notification if a missing person is within 50 feet of them. The app can be downloaded on Google Play and the Apple App Store.

Bus Plus – Commuters who use Valley Metro Public Transportation will be able to track buses within a mile radius and obtain detailed information about each bus (number, current speed, direction and more).

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Saturday, Aug. 29 – Safety Summit for Parents and Teens. Join us to learn about and discuss bullying, cyberbullying, social media and internet safety, distracted driving and youth alcohol. Washington Adult Center, 2240 West Citrus Way from 8 a.m. to noon.

Saturday, Aug. 29 – Grand Canalscape (Phase 1) Design Kickoff Event. Please join us at the design kickoff event for the first phase of the Grand Canalscape project. The purpose of the project is to provide a safe route for bicycle and pedestrian traffic away from city streets and integrate the canals into the surrounding communities through improved access, public art and landscaping. The goal is to increase usage and appreciation of the canal system in the Phoenix area. At this event you will have an opportunity to learn about the project, meet the project team and provide input on design elements, artwork and desired amenities.

To learn more about this project visit <http://grandcanalscape.com/>.

City Connection is published every week for city employees by the Communications 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.