

City CONNECTION

December 17, 2015

A Weekly Publication for City of Phoenix Employees

Meet this week's featured employee, Environmental Quality Specialist Joe Gibbs. View his Doing What Matters video at <https://www.phoenix.gov/phxtv/phxtv-media/video/3266>

College Depot success story

College...it's not a dream, it's a plan. Just ask Griselda and Breanna, a mother-daughter duo that turned their college dreams into reality with help from [College Depot at Phoenix Public Library](#)—a free, one-stop shop for assistance with college admissions, scholarships and financial aid.

Griselda Rivera, who did not complete high school, wanted a better education for her daughter, so she sought out College Depot. Inspired by her daughter's college success, Griselda, with the support of College Depot, earned her GED and is now pursuing a master's degree.

Do you want to pursue a higher education, but aren't sure where to start? Follow in the footsteps of Griselda and Breanna and visit College Depot on the second floor of Burton Barr Central Library. Also check out the city's tuition reimbursement program [here](#).



Watch out for those No Burn Days

With the holidays approaching, it's time again to remind Maricopa County residents and businesses to not burn wood or wax logs in fireplaces, chimineas and outdoor fire pits on designated No Burn days. If it's a No Burn Day, please leave the fireworks to the professionals.

All the smoke and soot from these activities pose serious health risks for children, the elderly and anyone with heart and lung problems. Lives literally depend on your cooperation. Sign up to receive alerts and find more detailed information at <http://CleanAirMakeMore.com/noburn>. To learn more about No Burn Days watch [City Update](#).

Free T-shirt alert!

Are you ready for some football themed volunteering? What could be more fun than that! The Arizona Organizing Committee for the Championship Campus needs you Jan. 8-10, 2016! Energetic and friendly volunteers are needed for a variety of roles, including greeting fans at Fan Central, assisting with football themed activities, interactive games and exhibits, and more! Free commemorative t-shirts available for those who volunteer. 18 years and older. For more information, click [here](#) or contact Melissa at mascher@azchampgame.org.

Stay connected with the city of Phoenix

In this digital world, the city of Phoenix is keeping you informed and entertained on all platforms. Have you seen us on: (click on logos)



We have school spirit, yes we do... We have school spirit, how about YOU?

The city of Phoenix is getting super excited for the upcoming College Football Championship game on January 11. While the game is in Glendale, all the pre-game fun will be in downtown Phoenix. The final four teams in the hunt for the title are: Clemson, University of Alabama, Michigan State University and University of Oklahoma. Are you a die-hard fan of these schools? We want to hear from you. Please send us your favorite memory and pictures of you dressed up like a super fan, and we may use them on social media and even in an upcoming City Connection. Email us your entry [here](#).



Want a ticket to Playoff Fan Central?

As a way of saying thank you to downtown, the College Football Playoff has given the city complimentary tickets for entry into Playoff Fan Central in the Phoenix Convention Center on Friday, Jan 8, Noon - 3:00 p.m. This exclusive opportunity is only available to downtown employees and residents. A limited number of tickets will be available during today's Employee Holiday Reception, just look for the Downtown Phoenix Ambassadors (orange shirts) from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at City Hall Atrium. Free parking is available in the 305 Garage with your city ID.

Winter break ideas

The city of Phoenix has 31 recreation centers and all of them are offering affordable activities for the kids during their upcoming winter breaks. Programming includes field trips, holiday crafts, sports and games. Enrollment is currently underway for all winter and spring classes and programming. **Details** to sign up:

- Stop by your local recreation center
- Call 602-262-6862
- Log on [here](#).

Changes coming to pension program

Effective January 22, 2016, Tier 2 employees (those hired after July 1, 2013) will see a reduction of the employee contribution rate for the City of Phoenix Employees Retirement System. The contribution rate will be reduced to 11%, matching the August 2015 voter-approved charter changes. If you have any question, please contact the Retirement Office at 602-534-4400 or e-mail copers@phoenix.gov.



Day of Service

If you are looking for something to do on the upcoming Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday on January 18, you could donate your time with a Day of Service. The city of Phoenix is hosting a series of clean-up projects at several city parks.

Details:

Monday, January 18, 2016

7:30 a.m. – 9 a.m.

Sign up by calling 262-6439 or online [here](#).

What's COOL in Your Zip?

PHXTV is bringing back its popular COOL in Your Zip series where the city channel highlights COOL places in Phoenix to go, see and experience. Do you have a restaurant in your neighborhood that people should check out? Is there a quirky store down the street that has unique items for sale? Maybe there's a hidden gem where you can enjoy the outdoor weather that everyone should know about. Whatever it is, we want to hear about it. E-Mail your ideas [here](#) and they may be featured.



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.