

City CONNECTION

November 24, 2015

A Weekly Publication for City of Phoenix Employees



To all those working over the holiday weekend....

On behalf of all city of Phoenix employees, a big thank you to all those who are working over the next few days. We appreciate all that you do, at all times and in all places, but especially on the holidays. For those making sacrifices away from their family and friends to help keep the city running, we thank you very much.

There's Black Friday and then there's Small Business Saturday

Six years ago, American Express launched this initiative to encourage people across the country to support small, local businesses during the holidays. Did you know:

- 55% of working population is employed by small businesses
- There are 27.9 million small businesses in the U.S.
- Small businesses generate 54% of all U.S. sales



Small business Saturday is held the day after Black Friday, a day when major retailers waste no time and spare no expense promoting holiday shopping. To join the city of Phoenix by shopping at small businesses near you, click [here](#).

It's the most wonderful time of the year... for cyber criminals

A new threat report by the Information Security and Privacy Office shows 45 million attacks on online retailers in just the last 90 days. Here's some tips to protect yourself:

- 1. Black Friday/Cyber Monday specials.** Cyber criminals use special discount offers to trick shoppers. They build complete replicas of well-known sites that take your credit card information but never deliver the goods.
- 2. Complimentary vouchers or gift cards.** Scammers like to post on social media phony voucher or gift card offers paired with special promotions or contests. Some posts or emails even appear to be shared by a friend (who may have been hacked).
- 3. Bogus shipping notices from UPS and FedEx.** So many people are shipping gifts this year, so hackers will try and claim your package has a problem. They want you to click on a phony link which could infect your computer with a virus and hold your files hostage until you pay a ransom.
- 4. Phishing on the dark side:** A new phishing email is circulating offering tickets to the new "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" movie. As the saying goes, if it's too good to be true....
- 5. How to "pay safe" this holiday:**
 - Use your browser to get to online retailers or track a package. Don't click on links.
 - Never pay online with a debit card; only use credit cards.
 - Avoid public WiFi when shopping online. Only use a secure connection at home.

If you are not into Black Friday shopping...

There will be a demonstration event at the Pueblo Grande Museum about prehistoric skills used by the Hohokam. Discover how axe heads, stone pendants and shell jewelry were created over a thousand years ago. **Details:** Saturday, November 28, 10 a.m. – noon. Admission: \$6 for adults, \$3 for children 6 to 17.

Homeless need help staying warm

During the winter, many homeless families and individuals end up on the streets without blankets, clothing and other necessities to keep warm.

The city is asking for donations to the Winter Respite Program. Blankets, new or used (but clean and freshly laundered), are the highest priority. The program also will accept clean warm clothing, such as jackets and coats, long pants, sweatshirts, sweatpants, winter hats and gloves. New underwear, socks, shoes and hygiene items also are needed.



The tax-deductible donated items may be delivered to any of the city's three Family Services Centers between 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, click [here](#).



Check your eligibility for the Green Organics Curbside Collection Program

The Green Organics Curbside Collection Program is a great way to go green for the upcoming year! This program provides a new large, tan container for your yard waste, such as grass clippings, twigs, branches and shrubs, and is especially perfect for households that have weekly landscaping maintenance and/or own large properties.

To check your eligibility for this program, click [here](#). If you're eligible and ready to sign up for the Green Organics Curbside Collection Program, please fill out this [online form](#).

Conquer the clutter this holiday season

Pulling out the holiday décor? It's the perfect time to declutter. Create some space to hide the gifts on your shopping list. Rachel Winter from Happy Home Organizers will share tips and tricks to organize your home and life! Space is limited, please [register](#). **Details:** 2 – 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 28, Burton Barr Library, 4th floor.



Congratulations!

A big shout-out to the following 23 employees from 12 different departments who graduated from Supervisory Academy #160 last Friday. It's designed to help supervisors take a "step up" to management by broadening practical skills in a variety of areas.

- Everett Brady
- Wayne Fichtner
- Jelena Stevanovic
- Cheryl Sutton
- Jeannette Arthur
- Aleesha Spencer
- Carmen Rentas
- Patricia Kirkland
- Amanda Murrietta
- Elizabeth Thompson
- Jeane Walloch
- Robyn Kessler
- Angela Ruiz
- Tony Salinas
- David Waldrip
- Tyler Kamp
- Ben Swanholm
- Greg Westover
- Michael Prado
- John Austin
- Andrew Price
- Anthony Spino
- Raymon Cruz

Pack your patience this weekend

Reminder that the holiday brings a lot of travelers in and out of Sky Harbor. Don't forget about using the PHX Sky Train for you and your guests as a great pickup / drop off option. Remember to follow Phoenix Sky Harbor on Facebook or Twitter @PHXskyharbor for travel information.

In need

Leave donations are currently being accepted for Placido (Chino) Carillo in the Aviation Department. If you'd like to participate, you can leave donations through eCHRIS.

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.