



PHXCONNECT

The Weekly Connection Newsletter for City of Phoenix Employees • November 27, 2019

Special "Gratitude" Edition

Please enjoy this special edition of the employee newsletter as co-workers express their gratitude for those around us all. -Happy Thanksgiving!



I want to say thanks to the Accounts Payable Help Desk crew. Each time I email them, they are always so professional, kind, quick to reply. If it is really complicated, they call and take the time to help me. That matters, but more importantly THEY matter!! Shout out to Ms. Nicole Messina, as she is the one who usually works with me the most.—Sherylynee

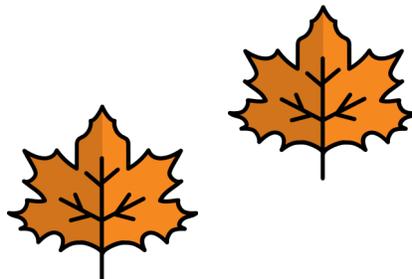
I want to express my gratitude for the Phoenix Police Strategic Information Bureau for having me back in the bureau and being so welcoming as I settled into my new position! Everyone here has been very friendly, knowledgeable and hardworking!



I am grateful to Beth Zima for her enthusiasm in leading the work in the city garden. She works hard to keep it growing and productive.

I am grateful for my coworker Lizette Rodriguez. She is always willing to help people and is not afraid to put herself 2nd. She is incredible!

I would like to send thanks to Phoenix Police and Fire. I think the work that's asked of them is extremely difficult in today's world as it is. Throw in the intense heat in the summer months and all the scrutiny the Police are facing these days, I don't think they get enough credit for the jobs they do.. so THANK YOU! - Eric



I appreciate the hard work and dedication that my Industrial Pretreatment Program (IPP) team puts in every day. As inspectors and regulators, they may not get recognition often, but they provide an essential service. Their efforts protect the sewer and the environment. Thank you to Christie, Laura, Julie, Kyle, Joel, Chase, Milton and Tarun for making IPP better each day! - Chelsey

I headed to the front of the grocery store to check out, where I found two Phoenix firefighters bagging groceries for the clerks while a third was in the checkout line. I was told by a worker that "they always help when they come in!" It was really refreshing to see this unsolicited community engagement, and little acts of kindness really go a long way in building our community. Hats off to Ty Parten and his crew.

Not only am I thankful for my spouse, children, family and friends, I'm very blessed to be working with a great group of people in the division and the entire Parks and Recreation Department. They are fun, caring people with strong work ethics. From the bottom of my heart, thanks! - Jeanne

I would like to show gratitude to my team. They are the Behavior Support Team serving the Head Start Birth to Five program. They are an incredibly dedicated, hardworking and compassionate group who care deeply about the people we serve. Their names are: Gail Saraydar, Kathryn Norman, Amanda Mahan and Ronit Aliskevich.



I am grateful to my teammates on the Light Rail team. Their concern for the projects and their ongoing consideration for the residents of Phoenix is truly inspiring. They constantly renew my faith in public service.

I just wanted to take a minute and say thank you to those I work with at Central Booking. We have some pretty amazing people who work very hard everyday, to ensure that bookings are completed for our GREAT officers!

I am grateful for the opportunity to work with some of the most positive and compassionate co-workers in the City of Phoenix - the Banking & Cashiering team. Although many of them had had to persevere through some of life's difficult storms, they show up each day with a joyful attitude and warm smile, providing acts of good service to every customer that calls on the phone, or walks through our doors.—Lisa

I want to express gratitude to the Technical Services team at the Phoenix Public Library. As a new team member, I soon learned how dedicated this team is on getting thousands of new books and media items sorted and cataloged each week so our community can have access to these new items for not only their enjoyment but for new gained knowledge. This small team of hard working individuals can run circles around Santa's elves!! - David

We are especially grateful for all of our supervisors and how they balance the needs of our personal lives and promote camaraderie and teamwork, all while encouraging us to learn more and grow in a fun family-feel work environment!



I am grateful for the city's Public Records Request Liaisons who work diligently to process requests promptly for the city's residents, businesses, and media organizations. Liaisons work with department stakeholders to ensure customers have a single point of contact for updates and delivery of records. In 2019, the city will process around 100,000 requests! Phoenix is a big city with lots of requests! Thank you, liaisons! - Kristen



I would like to express my complete gratitude to Public Works Admin. and especially to the PW Fiscal section. My mom passed away in February and I was notified while at work. I was devastated. My team was so kind and helpful to me during my time of bereavement. I will never forget their kindness and concern. Thank you so much Public Works. - Celeste

Thank you for your kind words...

We received so many emails about gratitude ... that we couldn't use them all this newsletter. We will bring you more of them throughout the holidays...



A Message from the City Manager

I want to take a moment during Thanksgiving week to say *Thank You* to all city employees. It is important to express gratitude for what you do every day to work smart, spend wisely and be kind.

Throughout the year, I have shared stories with you of the extra efforts employees give to serve our great city with pride. It makes me proud to be part of the team with you all. The city of Phoenix has the best employees in the country.

We may not be one of the oldest big cities in the U.S., but our roots go back more than a hundred years [and this short video](#) lets us pause and be grateful for some of our past and our present this Thanksgiving week. Take a moment of gratitude to think about the amazing city we live and work in.

Thank you to the thousands of city employees who will be working on Thanksgiving and the day after to provide service at essential areas like the airport, police, fire, 911, convention center, streets, public works, libraries, parks and more.

Please mark your calendar for Thursday, December 19, from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m., for our annual holiday gathering in the city hall atrium! More details will be announced soon.

Be safe and Happy Thanksgiving, -Ed

Inclusive Schools Week

The city of Phoenix invites everyone to recognize Inclusive Schools Week, which is celebrated the first week annually in December by families, schools, and organizations. The *Week* highlights and celebrates schools and families that provide support and quality education to all students, including those who are marginalized due to disability, gender, ethnicity, geography and language.

This year's theme is "People First Language." People First Language acknowledges that a person is a person first before any other words are used, rather than referring to them in terms of a diagnosis, their socio-economic status, cultural heritage or other factors. The Head Start Birth to Five Program believes in opening doors to a more inclusive world through using "People First Language."

Instead of this ... say that:

- ◆ A foster child ... a child in foster care
- ◆ An autistic child ... a child with autism
- ◆ A homeless person ... a person who is experiencing homelessness



Online Survey: Employee Education Opportunities

The city of Phoenix is working with [Achieve60AZ](#) to increase the number of Arizonans with post-high school education or certification. You are invited to participate in a brief survey (less than 15 minutes) on education assistance, including tuition reimbursement that is offered by the city of Phoenix. Your participation is confidential and will help Achieve60AZ learn about ways to improve education assistance for employees across Arizona. To access the survey, click on the following link:

[Achieve60AZ Survey](#). The survey will be available through Dec. 10.

If you have any questions about Achieve60AZ's efforts, please [contact Breanne Bushu](#). If you have any questions about the survey or focus group, please [contact Aimee Sitzler](#). There will also be an opportunity to participate in a focus group. Information on how to register and participate will be sent later.

