



PHX CONNECT

The Weekly Connection Newsletter for City of Phoenix Employees • October 6, 2021

2022 OPEN ENROLLMENT

2022 Enrollment Window: Oct. 18—Nov. 12

It's almost time for the 2022 city of Phoenix Open Enrollment. You can select your benefits for the next calendar year beginning Monday, Oct. 18 through 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 12. Due to higher healthcare costs, rates are increasing this year. To read about the 2022 health plans and insurance rates, check out the online [2022 Benefits Guide](#) or visit phoenix.gov/benefits.

Reminder: The [2022 Benefits Guide](#) will not be mailed out to employees, however, they are available by request in limited supply.

You are invited to join an upcoming Open Enrollment webinar session to go over all the changes. These sessions are designed to help you determine the best plan for you and will also have an online chat function with the city's Benefits team. You can register online!

- ◆ Friday, Oct. 8, 2 – 3:30 p.m. [Register Here](#)
- ◆ Monday, Oct. 11, 9 – 10:30 a.m. [Register Here](#)
- ◆ Wednesday, Oct. 13, 2 – 3:30 p.m. [Register Here](#)

****IMPORTANT Flexible Spending Account CHANGE****

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 provides relief for Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA), impacting both health and dependent care FSAs. The city adopted a 12-month grace period that provides employees the flexibility to spend down 2021 funds through Dec. 31, 2022, for eligible expenses incurred through Dec. 31, 2022.

All unspent 2021 funds will be forfeited after Dec. 31, 2022. However, for the plan year ending in 2022, the grace period will be limited to the first 2 ½ months of the 2023 plan year.

If you have questions or would like to request a Benefits Guide, [email the Human Resources Benefits Office](#) or call 602-262-4777.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month is underway, and there are many ways you can get involved. Throughout the month of October, the city is holding an [item drive](#) to support victims of domestic violence. Drop-off locations include the 18th floor of City Hall and all Phoenix Library branches.



PAINT PHOENIX PURPLE
Domestic Violence Awareness

[Watch this video from the PHXTV team](#) about this donation drive to help domestic violence survivors.



Employees are also encouraged to attend the [Facts and Misconceptions about Domestic Violence](#) webinar on Oct. 14 at 10 a.m. Earn 3x diversity points when you register in eCHRIS with code PPP21. Find more events, drives and information posted on the PaintPhoenixPurple.org website.

Follow the city's special social media page dedicated to this campaign: [@PaintPHXPurple](https://twitter.com/PaintPHXPurple) on Twitter.

JUST ANNOUNCED:

The Phoenix City Hall Cafeteria was open today for service and will be again tomorrow with a limited menu from 11 a.m.—1 p.m.:

- ◆ Thursday, Oct. 7:
Red chili pork burritos with rice and beans.

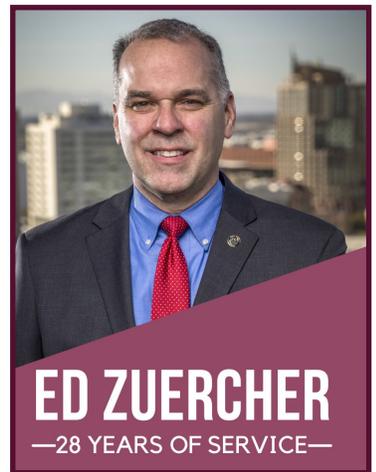
They will serve for as long as supply allows.

Thanks for your patience as they work to fully reopen for service to city employees.

ED'S FINAL CITY MANAGER PODCAST

This week City Manager Ed Zuercher will retire after 28 years with the city of Phoenix. His impressive career started when he left a job as a high school teacher and coach to come to Phoenix as a management intern. He planned to stay for one year. In this edition of the [City Manager's Podcast](#), Ed shares the one attribute about city employees that attracted him to Phoenix in the first place and kept him here for nearly three decades.

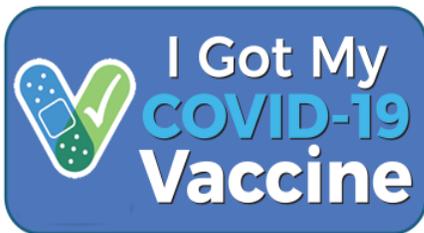
The podcast also addresses the future. What's next for Ed (and why it isn't golf)? And what's next for the rest of us who aren't yet retiring.



COVID-19 UPDATES

Employees can learn the latest COVID-19 developments by visiting the city's [Employee Health Updates](#) webpage online for more information. The city continues to encourage employees to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

REMINDER: The COVID-19 booster shot is rolling out to Arizonans. Right now, those ages 65 and older as well as high risk individuals are eligible. While the city determines the best way to offer the booster option, those interested now should go through the [Arizona Department of Health Services website](#) or by calling their COVID-19 hotline at 844-542-8201 (select option 8).



For the initial vaccine, the city has partnered with **Healthwaves** to host a vaccine site for **employees** 18 years and older near Sky Harbor Airport at 1615 W. University Dr., Tempe, Suite 137. **Appointments can be scheduled by calling 480-968-1886.**

Rapid COVID-19 tests are now available at the Assembly Rooms on the first floor of Phoenix City Hall, on Wednesdays from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Employees must schedule appointments for themselves and household family members by calling 602-534-0693 to receive a rapid test, which typically produces results in 15 minutes while you wait. **No walk-ups accepted.**

This testing is for those who are NOT experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you have any symptoms, please do not enter City Hall. **Employees with symptoms can schedule an appointment online for the city of Phoenix Employee Healthcare Clinic**, located at 1 N. Central Ave.



SECURITY TRAINING

Security Awareness Training Now Underway

The 2021 Security Awareness Training is live and employees are encouraged to complete all modules before the Oct. 31 deadline. The mandatory training is designed to protect yourself and the city from scams and potential attacks. You will receive weekly emails from the Security Education Platform regarding your account, assigned training modules, and training reminders until completion. For more information about the 2021 Security Awareness Training, please visit the [information page](#).

STARTS MONDAY

Beginning Oct. 11, buses will return to boarding from the front doors. Don't forget to have your fare ready before boarding. Riders can purchase fares at light rail stations, select retail locations, or with cash using the on-board farebox.

Masks are still required while riding with the extension of the federal mask mandate through Jan. 18, 2022. For more information, visit [Valley Metro's COVID-19 page](#).

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: PHOENIX FOOD DAY & HEALTHFEST

Volunteers are needed to help stuff goodie bags with giveaways, resources and prizes for the 8th annual **Phoenix Food Day & Healthfest** events. The city and Junior League of Phoenix are once again presenting two drive-thru events for our west and south Phoenix communities. We are providing 2,000 goodie bags for each event, that's a total of 4,000 bags! Volunteers will stuff bags at the Phoenix Convention Center and you'll have a code for parking. There will be a maximum of 15 people in the space and we are requiring all volunteers to wear masks, which we will provide along with sanitizer and wipes.



- ◆ Saturday, Oct. 9: 9 - 11 a.m. or 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- ◆ Wednesday Oct. 13: 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
- ◆ Friday, Oct. 15: 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
- ◆ Saturday, Oct. 16: 9 - 11 a.m. or 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

If you are interested in signing up for any of shifts below, [please email Karen Ibarra](#) by **noon on Friday, Oct. 8.**

2021-22 MENTOR PHX PROGRAM



Have you thought about becoming a Mentor?

Are you looking for guidance to make progress on your professional goals?

If the answer to any of these questions is "yes", then you may be a good candidate for the city's MentorPHX Program! The MentorPHX Program matches employees (Mentees) who want to enhance their leadership and organizational effectiveness skills with Mentors who are will share their expertise and networks to further develop others.

This six-month development process is designed to support individuals at all levels who will commit to a one-on-one partnership. In the first four years of MentorPHX, 88 mentoring pairs completed the program and 90% of the Mentees have made progress towards or completed their professional goals. [Get started today but applying now.](#)

LEAVE DONATIONS

The following employee is accepting leave donations:

- ◆ **Evelyn Pardellas, Aviation**

Use eCHRIS to make your donation to these and other employees. For a complete list of employees accepting leave donations, visit the [Leave Donation website](#).

ECHRIS MAINTENANCE

Plan Ahead for Planned Outage

eCHRIS will be unavailable starting Friday, Oct. 8, at 6 p.m. to Sunday, Oct. 10, at 6 p.m. for some routine maintenance.

After maintenance is complete, employees may notice a new image on the login page as well as navigation icons, but the user experience will remain the same.



The Community Service Fund Drive (CSFD) is underway. If you are new to the city or just want to catch up on this year's opportunities, listen to the [City Manager's podcast](#) which covers it all.

Through Oct. 15, representatives from each city department are facilitating fun and engaging ways to support the drive. Be on the lookout for those opportunities in your departments.

More information can be [found in eCHRIS](#).

SO MANY OPTIONS

One-Stop Shopping for Fundraisers

Departments all across the city are finding creative ways to contribute to this year's Community Service Fund Drive. Check out virtual auctions, drawings, merchandise and more on the CSFD Intranet Page under "Department Events."

With so many opportunities to donate for CSFD, your head may be spinning on where to start!

[Check out this web page](#) which lists all submitted department fundraising events.



CMO CAMPING GEAR DRAWING

The City Manager's Office is hosting a CSFD Camping Gear Drawing. The camping gear will include a custom made, portable, Cardinals-inspired fire pit, two camping chairs and smores ingredients. Tickets can be purchased for \$5, \$10 or \$20 and the winner will be announced on Oct. 8. Sign up using the online [enrollment form](#) and all donations must be collected by Management Intern Cooper Payne on the 12th floor of City Hall.

WALK FOR THE WILD

The city of Phoenix invites everyone to join us in celebrating Urban Wildlife Conservation Day and take part in the 1st annual Walk for the Wild. It's happening on Saturday, Oct. 9 from 8 - 11 a.m. at the Rio Salado Restoration Area at 2439 S. Central Ave.

This will kick off Walk for the Wild Week with an in-person celebration of our local urban wildlife. There will be: 3k walk on a paved path, Audubon native plant sale, Milkweed for monarchs planting, native seed giveaway, bird education and partner booths. Bring water with you, but water fountains and restrooms will be available. While this event is outdoors, masks and social distancing are recommended.

Check out [this flyer for more information](#). You [can register here](#).

VOTE ON THE CUTEST PET

Voting is now open for the City Clerk Department Cutest Pet Contest through Oct. 12.



It is only \$1, per vote. Please go to their [special pet contest web page](#) for more information on how to place your vote and how to pre-order your amazingly cute calendar!





In 1994, Rodney Wilson, a Missouri high school teacher, believed a month should be dedicated to the celebration and teaching of gay and lesbian history. He gathered other teachers and community leaders. Together, they selected October because public schools are in session and existing traditions occur that month.

LGBTQ History Month is an annual month-long observance of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender history, and the history of the gay rights and related civil rights movements. In addition to recognizing achievements of men and women in the LGBTQ community, it also encourages informative discussions to learn more about the leaders in the movement who drove equality forward. LGBTQ History Month is celebrated in October to coincide with:

- ◆ National Coming Out Day (Oct. 11)
- ◆ Anniversary of Matthew Shepard's murder in 1998 (Oct. 12)
- ◆ Anniversary of the first march on Washington held in 1979 (Oct. 14)
- ◆ Spirit Day to show support of LGBTQ youth (Third Thursday in October)

The Phoenix LGBTQ Employee Alliance has assembled a display in the City Hall Atrium to celebrate LGBTQ History Month and includes topics such as bullying, mental illness, sexual diversity, LGBTQ history and culture. The exhibit will be available for viewing inside Phoenix City Hall for the month of October.

PHOENIX PRIDE PARADE

The Phoenix Pride Parade is back. Everyone is invited to walk with the city of Phoenix team on Saturday, Nov. 6. See [how to join and get a free shirt](#) today!

JOB OF THE WEEK

Aviation Internship \$17.57 - \$26.65 / hourly

This 18-month internship program provides real world experience in operating and maintaining one of the busiest airports in the world. The successful intern will receive extensive training and gain valuable aviation industry experience by completing administrative and operational projects in the numerous divisions involved in operating Sky Harbor International Airport. The successful intern will rotate between our Aviation Divisions. The Aviation Department currently has one vacancy.

Requirements: Bachelor's degree in airport/aviation management, aeronautical science, aeronautics, air traffic management, public administration, business administration, political science, finance, communications, or other related degree. Working irregular hours, second and/or third shifts, weekends, holidays, and evenings may be required.

For more information about this position, visit the [city's employment website](#) online or log into eCHRIS. [Check out the latest job openings.](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

The new Applicant Tracking System (ATS) is almost here! The new ATS will leverage manager self-service access and improve the overall time to hire by ensuring interview process details are determined in advance, hiring matrix criteria are documented and made consistent with the job posting, and by providing direct access to review prior job announcement details or to submit new content for the job posting.

