

IN THIS ISSUE



NOMINATE A NEIGHBOR

BACKSTAGE PASS

BUDGET FORUMS

SPRING TRAINING TICKETS

Tempe accelerating help for people who are homeless



The City of Tempe is funding an accelerated response to help individuals and families experiencing homelessness, keep parks safe and launch an innovative mental health response team.

The funding will provide more homeless outreach specialists working citywide, a new mental health response team, assistance with housing, enhanced park maintenance, park security and other efforts. The City Council unanimously approved the proposal Dec. 9 at its Regular Council Meeting.

Backing a new Human Services-focused strategy, the City Council approved a mid-year budget adjustment of approximately \$262,000 and accelerated a fiscal year 2022-23 budget request

for more than \$1 million. The total investment of about \$1.3 million will enable quicker implementation of the comprehensive strategy, improving quality of life for those in need and the broader community.

“It’s important that we take a Human Services-focused approach to provide connections to housing and social services that can help individuals experiencing homelessness,” said Mayor Corey Woods. “I’m proud that our strategy takes a balanced approach to ensure that we assist those in need, do not criminalize homelessness and have safe, welcoming parks and public spaces.”

The approved proposal also provides recurring funding for private unarmed security professionals in city parks.

In recent years, the city has increased investments as part of its performance measure to end homelessness. This means transforming homelessness into a rare, brief and one-time experience for any person in our community who finds themselves in this situation. To do this, Tempe has developed a comprehensive system of support that includes street outreach, connection to social services, case management, crisis response, mental health resources, emergency and transitional shelter, housing and the jobs program. In addition, Tempe collaborates with nonprofits such as Tempe Community Action Agency and other community partners. More information is at tempe.gov/EndingHomelessness.



FanCon returns to Tempe Public Library

Save the date for the anticipated return of Tempe FanCon, an annual event featuring costume contests, artists, authors, shopping and activities for kids and adults. The 2022 festivities, which could include virtual or in-person options, will be held Saturday, Jan. 29, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit tempepubliclibrary.org/FanCon for details.

COVID-19
 Stop the spread and get vaccinated
Don't Wait. Vaccinate.
 Tempe
tempe.gov/coronavirus
 480-350-4311

Don't Wait. Vaccinate.

Tempe urges everyone eligible to get the COVID-19 vaccine and booster. It is the best protection available today against the virus. Finding a location to get the free vaccine is easier than ever. Text your zip code to 438829 for the closest locations or call 800-232-0233. The city also continues to host vaccination clinics. Flu shots and testing are available at the clinics as supplies allow. For a current list of opportunities, visit tempe.gov/vaccines.

Televised candidate informational opportunities



Three City Council seats are opening with terms of office beginning in July 2022. The Primary Election is March 8 and the General Election, if needed, is May 17.

As a community service, as it has in past elections, the City of Tempe will offer equal opportunities for candidates to provide information to residents. Pursuant to state law, these forums are purely informational and provide equal

opportunity to all candidates' viewpoints. The city remains impartial and does not support or endorse any particular candidate or viewpoint.

Candidate forums

A limited number of candidate debates/forums for city elections will be broadcast live on Tempe 11 and streamed at tempe.gov/tempe11. They will take place at the Tempe City Council Chambers, 31 E. Fifth St.:

- **Wednesday, Jan. 12, 7 p.m.** – Hosted by the Arizona Republic and Tempe Chamber of Commerce.
- **Wednesday, Jan. 19, 6 p.m.** – Hosted by the North Tempe Neighborhood Association and the League of Women Voters.
- A possible forum may be hosted by a community organization on **Wednesday, Feb. 2, at 6 p.m.**

Candidate "open mic" opportunities

Tempe 11 will tape and air televised statements from certified City Council candidates. Before the Regular Council Meetings on Jan. 13, Feb. 10 and March 3, residents can tune in to Cox Channel 11 at 5 p.m. to watch five-minute, unedited candidate statements that will be taped earlier on those same days. Statements also can be viewed anytime at tempe.gov/tempe11.

Register to vote by Feb. 7 for the March 8 election. Ballots will be mailed starting Feb. 9. Register to vote through the Maricopa County Elections Department at 602-506-1511 or at www.maricopa.vote.

Information about the election can be found at tempe.gov/election. Voters also

Neighbor nominations

Tempe is fortunate to have some amazing neighbors living, working and building strong connections in our city. We need your help to identify and celebrate them! Nominations are open Jan. 3 through Feb. 15, and many categories are available.

For all nomination forms, criteria and event information as available, visit tempe.gov/NeighborhoodCelebration.

A reimagined in-person celebration to recognize all award winners, enjoy music and refreshments, play some games, make new connections and build upon existing ones is being planned for Saturday, March 26, from 8:30-10:30 a.m., at Kiwanis Park Fiesta Ramadas, 5711 S. All-America Way.

EVENTS

JAN. 29

Transportation Open House in Tempe Public Library parking lot. 9-11 a.m.
tempe.gov/TempeinMotion

FEB. 13

Second Sundays on Mill. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free.
downtowntempe.com/secondsundays

FEB. 16

Free salary negotiation workshops.
tempe.gov/EqualPay

FEB. 27

Los Angeles Angels spring training tickets go on sale.
tempe.gov/diablo

MARCH 12

"A" Mountain Challenge returns!
downtowntempe.com/events/amountainchallenge

Full events calendar at tempe.gov!

Help us develop the next city budget

The city is developing the operating and capital budgets for fiscal year 2022/23 which begins July 1. The budget is a reflection of community priorities, which is why we need your input to help allocate the funds. Here's how to participate:

- Virtual budget forum: Wednesday, Feb. 16, Noon via Webex
- In-person budget forum: Wednesday, Feb. 16, 6 p.m., Tempe History Museum, 809 E. Southern Ave.
- Online survey: tempe.gov/forum, available Feb. 1 through March 7

In addition to these options, the city will be out in the community with pop-up engagement opportunities in the coming months. Learn more at tempe.gov/budget.

Backstage Pass with Councilmember Doreen Garlid



Councilmember Doreen Garlid will debut her community conversation series, Backstage Pass, in February.

Each quarter, Councilmember Garlid and Tempe staff will lead community members on a behind-the-scenes tour

of a Tempe facility. These tours provide access to areas the community normally does not have a chance to experience. After each tour, Councilmember Garlid will take questions about issues related to that place and life in Tempe. These tours are free. Everyone is welcome.

The first event takes place at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 2, at the Tempe Center for the Arts (TCA). Interested residents should meet at Tempe Center for the Arts, 700 W. Rio Salado Parkway, at 5:30 p.m. No RSVP is required. Visit tempe.gov/garlid for details. Face masks are required inside all city facilities, including the TCA.

Surveys show overall satisfaction

Residents and business owners believe that the City of Tempe should focus on streets and sidewalks, police services and neighborhoods in the coming year. They also are highly satisfied with services provided by Tempe Fire Medical Rescue and at the Tempe Public Library.

These results and more from the newly released 2021 Tempe Community Survey and Tempe Business Survey are available now at tempe.gov/surveys.

Every year, a third-party vendor conducts Tempe's survey of residents and, every two years, its survey of businesses. The input is used in city planning, budgeting and responding to community members' needs. Once again in 2021, among comparable cities nationally, Tempe ranked among the best-of-the-best.

Keep the water on – set up a payment plan today

Beginning in January, Tempe will resume water service disconnections due to unpaid utility bills. Tempe has not suspended water service for late/non-payment since the beginning of the pandemic to provide relief to those affected by COVID-19. It is now time to resume shut offs for unpaid, past due bills. If you are behind in your Tempe utility bill, please set up a payment plan today. Payment plans set up in advance of disconnections will keep the water on, while installment payments are made on the past due balance. Current balances will also need to be paid. Customer Service is available to assist online and by phone. Visit tempe.gov/CustomerService or call 480-350-8361. Full service is available by phone from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Interested in neighborhood grants? Fill out this survey

Residents are invited to participate in an online survey to provide input on the city's Marianne Corder Neighborhood Grant program, which has been funding neighborhood improvement projects all over Tempe for 27 years. The Tempe Neighborhood Advisory Commission, which serves an advisory role in the process of soliciting grant applications, is requesting your feedback by Feb. 28. How aware are you of the program? Has your neighborhood ever applied? Visit tempe.gov/NeighborhoodSurvey to fill out the brief survey. All the information needed to apply for these amazing grant opportunities is at tempe.gov/NeighborhoodGrants.

Free tax preparation for qualified residents

Tempe Community Council, in partnership with the VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) Program, announces its 21st year of free tax preparation services in Tempe. Taxpayers earning \$58,000 or less in 2021 are eligible for this free service from Jan. 31 to April 13. There is no income requirement for seniors or those with disabilities. IRS-certified volunteer tax preparers will help determine if you are eligible for Earned Income or other tax credits to maximize your refund or reduce taxes owed. Remote and drop-off tax service options are available by appointment only. Appointments open Jan. 15 and can be scheduled at tempecommunitycouncil.org/schedule-tax-appointment. An email address is required. For more details, visit tempecommunitycouncil.org/free-tax-preparation.

Tempe City Council

Corey Woods
Mayor

Randy Keating
Vice Mayor

Jennifer Adams
Councilmember

Robin Arredondo-Savage
Councilmember

Doreen Garlid
Councilmember

Lauren Kuby
Councilmember

Joel Navarro
Councilmember

Andrew Ching
City Manager

To contact the Mayor and Council, call 480-350-8110.

Check tempe.gov/clerk for updated schedules of City Council meetings and agendas or call 480-350-4311. Meeting dates are subject to change.

Meetings are aired live on Tempe 11 and streamed live at tempe.gov/tempe11.

Tempe Today editor Nikki Ripley
nikki_ripley@tempe.gov
480-350-8846 or
480-350-8400 (TDD)

Register for a winter class or program

Registration for winter classes and programs is now open! Explore dozens of options for exercise and fitness classes, arts programs, educational opportunities, sports, yoga, tennis, boating and so much more. Classes are available for every age, interest and ability. Peruse all offerings and register at tempe.gov/play or by visiting any city facility. Most classes begin in January. Youth scholarships are available for those who qualify. Face coverings are required inside all city facilities, except while active exercise is taking place. Thorough cleaning protocols remain in place to protect the health of class participants. Limited online classes are still available for those not ready to return in-person.

College Connect virtual and in-person sessions available

Tempe's College Connect program connects students and parents to the free resources they need to fulfill their dreams of a post-secondary education. Schedule a free, one-on-one appointment with an advisor who can help guide you every step of the way. Learn more at tempe.gov/CollegeConnect. Virtual and in-person sessions are available.

Tempe Empty Bowls celebrates 20th event

For 20 years, Tempe Empty Bowls has involved local students and artists to create clay bowls and other pottery to help raise money for the organizations that help hungry people in Tempe. After taking a year off due to COVID-19, the event is back with some changes. The 20th event is happening Saturday, Feb. 26, at the Tempe Library Complex, 3500 S. Rural Road, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. All current City of Tempe COVID-19 safety measures will be followed. No food will be offered at this year's event. There will be live music. Proceeds from the event benefit Tempe Community Action Agency and the United Food Bank. Since the event started, more than \$260,000 has been raised to feed the hungry in our community. The organizers of Tempe Empty Bowls have loved planning and hosting the event, but due to retirements and other commitments, 2022 will be the last Tempe Empty Bowls coordinated by the current organizers. They welcome a new group of volunteers to join this year to learn the ropes and take over the event for 2023. For more information, visit tempeemptybowls.org.

FEBRUARY 2022 Bulk/Uncontained Garbage and Green Organics Collection Schedule

Items must be placed by 6 a.m. on Monday of your collection week and no earlier than ten days prior.

AREA A JAN. 31-FEB. 3

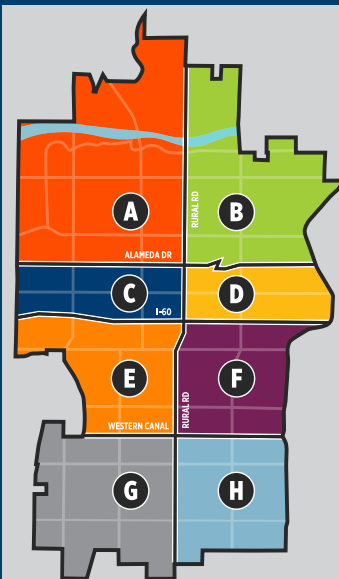
AREA B FEB. 7-10

AREA C FEB. 14-17

AREA D FEB. 21-24

AREA E FEB. 28-MARCH 3

tempe.gov/BulkTrash
480-350-4311



Bulk/uncontained garbage collection

Tempe offers bulk/uncontained garbage and green organics collection to residential solid waste customers six times per year. To help us collect efficiently, residents must place items by 6 a.m. on Monday of their scheduled collection week, no earlier than 10 days prior. The amount of material cannot exceed the size of a small SUV. The 2022 bulk/uncontained collection schedule will be mailed to residents upon request and is available at tempe.gov/BulkTrash.

Neighborhood Day at the State Legislature

If you've ever wondered what goes on at the State Capitol, join the Mayor and Council for Neighborhood Day at the State Legislature on Thursday, Feb. 3, from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., at the Arizona State Senate, 1700 W. Washington St. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet Councilmembers, learn about Tempe's legislative program and get acquainted with their Arizona legislative representatives. Participants can take self-guided tours after the program. Register at tempe.gov/neighborhoods or by calling 480-350-8234.

To receive email updates on bills that the City of Tempe is following at the Legislature, sign up by selecting the "Elections and Legislative Alerts" option under the "Tempe City Hall" heading at tempe.gov/enews. Throughout the legislative session, bills are monitored for neighborhood and city impacts. As these bills are scheduled for committees and floor votes, the Mayor will be sending alerts to notify you that the city needs your neighborhood's assistance. We frequently do not have much lead time when these bills are scheduled for a committee hearing or go to the floor, so these emails will have "ALERT" in the subject line so recipients will know that quick action is needed. Policy changes at the state level can affect resources, activities and operations in Tempe so it's important to stay informed. For more information, contact Tempe's Government Relations Officer, Marge Zylla, at 480-350-8922.



Zero Waste Day

Residents can dispose of unwanted items for reuse, recycling or repurposing on Saturday, Jan. 22, from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Fire Training Center, 1340 E. University Drive, at no charge. Participants must live in Tempe or Guadalupe and provide proof of residency. For the full list of items accepted, please visit tempe.gov/ZeroWaste.

Papago/North Tempe Character Area Plan approved

In December, the City Council approved the Papago/North Tempe Character Area Plan, which was formulated over nine months, involving hundreds of viewpoints from area residents. The plan concerns the area north of Loop 202 to the northernmost Tempe border. It also covers the adjacent county island. The population for the area is almost 10,000 people.

A character area plan is a policy-level advisory document that provides guidance for the design and planning in a designated area. It includes a description of the character of the area and provides design and development principles and strategies so that new development is consistent with the existing character and is sustainable.

A character area plan does not supersede county, state or federal guidelines and it does not come with funding. This plan may be consulted by Tempe planning and advisory committees and Tempe City Council but it is not a regulatory document.

The vision of the plan is to create a safe, sustainable, walkable, and attractive place that values its open spaces, environment, and historic and cultural resources, and land uses that support community needs and aspirations for the north Tempe area. For more information, visit tempe.gov/CharacterAreas.

Move with heart this February

Celebrate American Heart Month this February by walking, biking and taking public transit. Read below to find easy ways to improve your heart health.

Try walking

Walking 30 minutes a day can help reduce risk of heart disease and stroke, improve blood pressure and maintain body weight. Try taking a stroll down one of Tempe's beautiful multi-use paths or streetscapes.

Take a bike ride

Regular bicycling stimulates and improves your heart, lungs and circulation, reducing the risk of cardiovascular diseases. With over 217 miles of bikeways throughout the city, Tempe makes it easy to get around on two wheels.

Take transit

Riding a bus or taking the light rail to work is associated with better health, according to the American Heart Association. Transit users were shown to have lower rates of high blood pressure, diabetes and being overweight than walkers or bikers. So hop on one of Tempe's seven free circulators, two express routes, 13 local bus routes or the light rail to start your journey to a healthier heart.

Learn more at tempe.gov/TempeinMotion.