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District 5 Residents and Friends,

We wish you and your family a safe and healthy holiday season. In this December edition of the Neighborhood News, learn about the third annual Very Merry Maryvale event, the North Glen Square Neighborhood light parade, 2023 lifeguard hiring incentives, a tax preparation volunteer opportunity, tree planting and composting, and a HUD action plan survey.

The Third Annual Very Merry Maryvale



This past Saturday, December 10th, the third annual Very Merry Maryvale Holiday Celebration was an amazing success!

Over 1,000 community members, including about 450 children, celebrated with us. Most of the kids were from our local Maryvale public elementary schools. Each child received a gift, and everyone enjoyed the delicious traditional Mexican food provided by Felicidad Catering LLC. The families also enjoyed the live entertainment by the Cultural Coalition, arts and crafts with our community partners, and – of course – our special guest: Santa Claus!

Special thanks to our contributing sponsors:

- Arizona Coyotes

- Core Construction
- City of Phoenix, Office of Arts and Culture
- Labor's Community Service Agency
- La Indiscreta 106.7 FM
- United Phoenix Firefighters Local 493

In addition, thanks to our partners who coordinated the event:

- City of Phoenix, Parks and Recreation Department
- Milwaukee Brewers
- Cartwright Elementary School District
- Alhambra Elementary School District



Santa Dave with Ballet Folklorico Esperanza dancers in the North Pole.



Councilwoman Guardado with the lucky raffle winner of a new bicycle.

North Glen Square Neighborhood Light Parade



If you want to watch this annual neighborhood tradition that began in the middle of the pandemic but you don't live in the neighborhood, Mariposa Park (3150 W. Morten Ave.) is a great place to enjoy the parade. Toy and food donations are welcome and will be collected in the second car of the parade as it passes by.

Phoenix Offers \$3,000 incentive to 2023 Certified Aquatics Staff



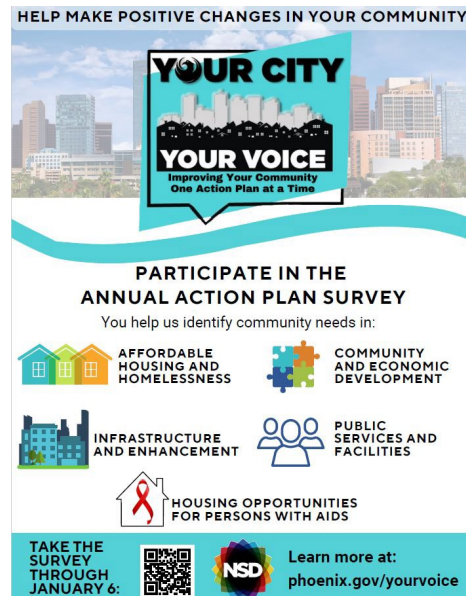
The Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department is offering \$3,000 in incentive pay for certified lifeguards. There is a need to hire pool managers, assistant managers and hundreds of lifeguards ahead of the 2023 pool season to safely open as many of the city's 29 public pools as possible.

Eligible certified managers, assistant managers, and lifeguards will receive \$500 on the first paycheck, and the remaining \$2,500 as a one-time payment at the end of the 2023 pool season.

To receive the pay, a person must become certified as a lifeguard, work the entire summer through Labor Day weekend and finish in good standing.

As Councilwoman and Chair of the Community and Cultural Investment Subcommittee, I am ensuring we deliver the best service to our residents. We must continue to raise wages and benefits for our essential city employees. Our committee will continue to support the important efforts by our Parks and Recreation Department to address the shortages in our lifeguard and pool staffing levels. [Click here for more information.](#)

2023 Annual Action Plan Survey Open until Jan. 6th





HELP MAKE POSITIVE CHANGES IN YOUR COMMUNITY

YOUR CITY
YOUR VOICE
Improving Your Community
One Action Plan at a Time

PARTICIPATE IN THE ANNUAL ACTION PLAN SURVEY
You help us identify community needs in:

- AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS
- COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENHANCEMENT
- PUBLIC SERVICES AND FACILITIES
- HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS

TAKE THE SURVEY THROUGH JANUARY 6:   Learn more at: phoenix.gov/yourvoice

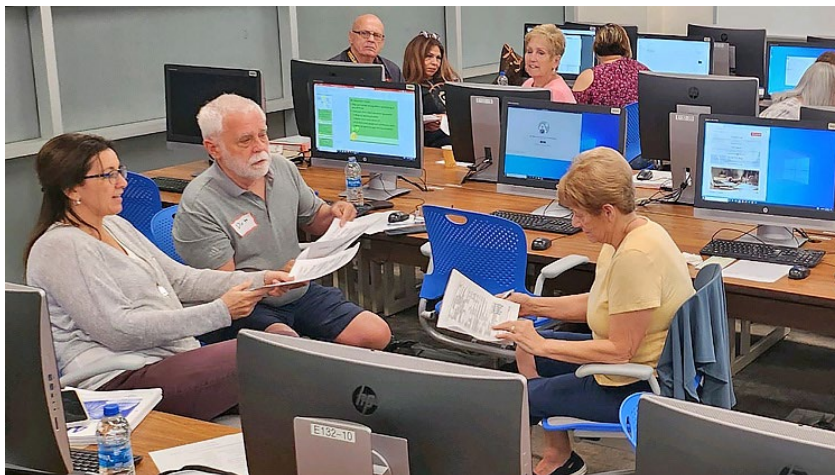
Your city, your voice! The City of Phoenix needs your input to help make important investments in our community by taking the Annual Action Plan

Survey. Each year, the City receives millions of dollars in federal funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and we want to hear from our residents and business owners about how you think that money should be spent.

When you take the survey, you help us identify needs in housing and homelessness, community and economic development, infrastructure and enhancement, and public services and facilities. These funds help make real change; they can be used for projects like improving parks and streetlights, creating programs for youth and seniors, providing services for people experiencing homelessness or living with HIV/AIDS, and helping families buy their first home.

Your voice is important! Tell us what matters most in your community. Take the Annual Action Plan Survey now through January 6th at www.phoenix.gov/yourvoice.

Volunteers Needed for Tax Season 2023



The City of Phoenix needs your help to save taxpayers hundreds of dollars on filing their taxes. Don't worry, you don't need to be an accountant or a math whiz to give back to your community. The City's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program will provide all the training you need to help low-to-limited-income individuals and families file their returns for free.

VITA volunteers are certified by the IRS to prepare basic tax returns or help taxpayers complete their own taxes using free do-it-yourself VITA tax software. But we need more than just tax preparers to volunteer. Greeters are the friendly faces who welcome residents to their appointment.

Volunteering for VITA doesn't require a huge time commitment and comes with a flexible schedule. We ask that you volunteer for a minimum of four hours per week during tax season from mid-January through mid-April. The training is free and available online to complete at your own pace.

Ready to sign up and work with our VITA team? Register for the next Virtual Information Session. [Register here.](#)

Tree Planting in Parks Report for 2022



We supported a recent tree planting with Alhambra School District and the West Plaza Neighborhood Association at La Pradera Park (39th Ave. and Glendale Ave.). We're grateful for 50 trees that were donated by the ASU Knowledge Exchange for Resilience.

The City of Phoenix plants about 1,500 trees every year. Trees benefit the community by providing a cooling effect that saves lives and reduces energy costs; improving air quality; strengthening quality of place and the local economy; reducing storm water runoff; improving social connections; promoting smart growth and compact development; and creating walkable communities.

The Parks & Recreation Department will plant a total of 592 trees in District 5 by the end of 2022. To support this effort, our office allocated \$30,000 from our council budget from Fiscal Year 21-22. Special thanks for all their hard work of planting hundreds of new trees in our district and all over the City of Phoenix.

Christmas Trees and Wreath Recycling



The Public Works Department offers Phoenix residents several drop-off locations for their live Christmas trees and wreaths to be composted. Trees or wreaths may be dropped off at any of the participating Phoenix parks anytime between Monday, Dec. 26, 2021 and Sunday, Jan. 8, 2021. Contact Phoenix customer service at 602-262-6251 or email cityservicesbill@phoenix.gov for more information. Below are drop off Locations in west Phoenix:

- Washington Park - 23rd Ave. and Maryland Ave.,

- Desert West Park - 67th Ave. and Encanto Blvd.
- Marivue Park - 59th Ave. and Osborn Rd.

[For more information, click here.](#)

Thank you for reading and sharing the November Neighborhood News with family, friends, and neighbors. As always, please contact our office for your comments, questions, and concerns, at (602) 262-7446 or council.district.5@phoenix.gov. For regular updates, follow us on our social media accounts by clicking on the icons below.



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