



# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

A Message from Phoenix Councilwoman Betty Guardado

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## Hello District 5 Residents and Friends,

February has been a very busy month in our city, especially as we continue to provide safe reliable constituent services, emergency relief and critical services to our most impacted residents, and advocate for the needs of our residents and neighbors. Read this issue for updates on Coronavirus relief efforts, addressing homelessness, community engagement, and the new household hazardous waste pick-up program.

### City of Phoenix Coronavirus Relief Efforts



**The City of Phoenix continues Coronavirus relief grants for rent & utility assistance.** As of February 19, 2021, the Water Services Project Assist has provided financial assistance to 3,143 delinquent accounts due to the economic hardship of the pandemic. A total of \$1,745,012.23 have been distributed and over 600 customers in District 5. In March, as a result of recent federal legislation, more relief funds will be available to provide emergency relief assistance coming directly to impact residents. More information is available on [Phoenix.gov/renthelp](https://phoenix.gov/renthelp).

**Also, we launched the Second COVID-19 mobile testing van (Van #2).** Similar to Van #1, this new unit, administered by the city's new medical partner, [Premier Labs Solutions](#), will offer COVID-19 antigen testing with rapid results, as well as Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) testing with results emailed to the individual in 1-2 days for added assurance. While Van #1's goal is to make COVID-19 testing accessible to Phoenix's underserved communities, Van #2 will focus on bringing accessible testing to areas in the city considered to be "hot spots," or areas that are showing a higher incidence of reported COVID-19 cases.

**Finally, we also launched a static site at Maryvale Community Center and Park.** It is located at 4420 N. 51st Ave. and operates three days a week – Monday, Wednesday and Friday – from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. The tests will be administered by the city's existing medical partner, [Vincere Cancer Center](#), and will offer PCR tests to community members at no out-of-pocket-cost.

The best way to find a complete and updated list of COVID-19 testing services, locations and times is to visit [phoenix.gov/COVIDtesting](https://phoenix.gov/COVIDtesting). All testing services offered by the city are supplemented by CARES Act Relief Funds.

## Homelessness Shelter Expansion & Investments in Solutions



The City of Phoenix is investing millions of dollars to meet the needs of those in our community experiencing homelessness. This includes efforts to not only assist those currently lacking shelter, but also those struggling to stay in their homes as we work to provide more affordable housing options.

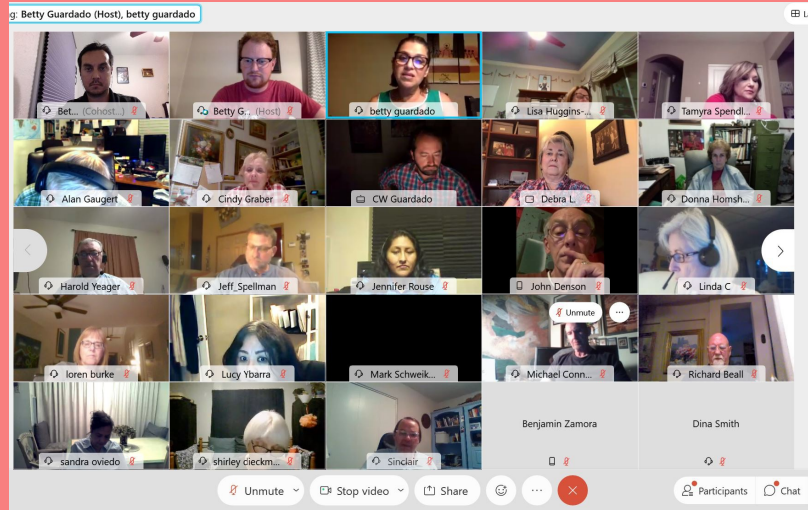
The city has committed \$20 million from the 2020-2021 fiscal budget and more than \$150 million in federal grant funding to help thousands of Phoenicians find shelter, work and long-term solutions to the challenges of homelessness, such as council-approved shelter bed expansion, housing and shelter partnerships, summer heat relief, emergency shelter option, housing veterans, affordable housing, rent and mortgage assistance. Councilwoman Guardado is committed to working with other local governments for a strategic regional approach to address homelessness. Visit the city's newsroom for more information for specific details: [www.phoenix.gov/newsroom/human-services/1742](http://www.phoenix.gov/newsroom/human-services/1742)

## Little Free Libraries in Neighborhoods and Parks

Considering our public libraries are not open for in-person services, we appreciate the partnership with [Southwest Human Development](#) to provide Little Free Libraries for District 5 residents & our parks. These beautifully decorated libraries offer free donated books to neighborhood children. They have been installed at Maryvale, Holiday, Washington and Mariposa Parks. Visit [LittleFreeLibrary.org](http://LittleFreeLibrary.org) for a map of all new and existing libraries. Also, thanks to our Parks and Recreation Department for installing them and working with our residents.



## District 5 Neighborhood Leaders Meeting



We organized our first District 5 virtual neighborhood leader meeting of 2021. We appreciate the commitment of all the long-time leaders, as well as new neighbors who have taken action to engage their neighborhood. It was insightful to hear directly from our residents, as we work together to find solutions to the issues affecting all of us.

### February is Black History Month



February is Black History Month. In its recognition, City of Phoenix created a playlist of videos of key black leaders, including our very own Vice Mayor Calvin Goode(1927-2020). We appreciate all the contributions of our black residents and workers, past and present. Watch here: [Black History Month Highlights](#)

### Household Hazardous Waste Home Pick-up Pilot Program

The City Council recently approved the implementation of a 6-month pilot program that will allow solid waste customers to schedule a home pickup of their household hazardous waste (HHW) materials. For more information and to schedule pick-up, visit [www.phoenix.gov/publicworks/HHW](http://www.phoenix.gov/publicworks/HHW). Check out the short fun PSA & share: <https://youtu.be/ftwG4hVuaV4>.



**Thank you** for reading and sharing the **February Neighborhood News** with family, friends, and neighbors. As always, please contact our office for your comments, questions, and concerns, at (602) 262-7446 and [council.district.5@phoenix.gov](mailto:council.district.5@phoenix.gov). And, for daily updates, follow us on social media accounts and click on the icons below.





City of Phoenix

**Councilwoman  
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