

Shop Phoenix this holiday season to support city services

hen you shop this holiday season, remember to Shop Phoenix and give yourself the gift of community services.

Sales taxes on the merchandise you buy at businesses in Phoenix pays for city services, such as police and fire protection, maintenance of parks, keeping libraries open, operating senior centers, preserving clean and blight-free neighborhoods, and maintaining streets. Because

sales tax revenue is so important to funding basic city services, making purchases within Phoenix helps ensure adequate funding for those services.

The largest revenue component for funding basic city services is sales tax, which accounts for 41 percent of General Fund revenues.

By shopping in Phoenix, residents have a direct impact to support the city services they enjoy. For more information, visit phoenix.gov/shopphoenix.

Downtown festival celebrates arts

elebrate the city's vibrant arts and culture scene at the second annual Phoenix Festival of the Arts, Dec. 13-15 at Margaret T. Hance Park, 1202 N. Third St.



Festival hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

The event will feature more than 80 performances and presentations. Activities include a community mural,

"flash mob" performances, a family fun zone, food trucks, and a beer and wine garden.

The event is sponsored and produced by the

Phoenix Center for the Arts and Arizona Humanities.

For more information, please visit phoenixfestivalofthearts.org or call 602-254-3100.

Tax-preparation volunteers needed

The city's Earned Income Tax Credit campaign is seeking individuals to become Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) volunteers.

VITA volunteers help low-income working individuals and families by preparing their taxes and claiming the federal Earned Income Tax Credit. Free volunteer training sessions will be held from November to January at multiple locations.

For more information about volunteering, visit phoenix.gov/eitc, email eitc@phoenix.gov or call 602-534-0543.

Beginning in January, call 1-877-211-8661 or visit 211arizona.org for free tax-preparation locations.

Holiday Trash and Recycling Collection

Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 28

- Thursday's collection moves to Friday, Nov. 29
- Friday's collection moves to Saturday, Nov. 30

Christmas Day, Wednesday, Dec. 25

- Wednesday's collection moves to Thursday, Dec. 26
- Thursday's collection moves to Friday, Dec. 27
- Friday's collection moves to Saturday, Dec. 28

New Year's Day, Wednesday, Jan. 1

- Wednesday's collection moves to Thursday, Jan. 2
- Thursday's collection moves to Friday, Jan. 3
- Friday's collection moves to Saturday, Jan. 4

The North Gateway and 27th Avenue Transfer Stations are closed on all holidays.

To better serve you, always place your containers at least four feet apart and clear of obstructions, such as light poles, parked cars, and mail boxes.

For more information about the holiday collection schedule, visit phoenix.gov/publicworks.

Electric Light Parade delivers magic

one of the biggest free holiday celebrations in the state returns to Phoenix with the APS Electric Light Parade on Saturday, Dec. 7.

The theme for the 2013 parade is "Wild West Holiday Roundup." The event features more than 60 illuminated entries, including custom floats, marching bands, performance groups and more.

The parade gets underway at 7 p.m. on Central Avenue at Montebello (just south of Bethany Home Road). It then heads south on Central to Camelback Road, where it will turn east to Seventh Street then turn south and end at Indian School Road.

For more information, visit phoenix.gov/parks or call 602-534-FEST.

New feature makes airport parking even easier

ow there is an easier and faster alternative for parking and paying at Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport - Credit Card Express. The new service allows travelers to use their credit or debit card to enter and exit airport parking facilities.

To use Credit Card Express, travelers insert their credit or debit card into a machine upon entry and reinsert it when exiting. The system will bill the card based upon the time at the parking facility and print a receipt, eliminating the need to take a parking ticket.

Credit Card Express accepts American Express, Discover, Mastercard and Visa. For more information about airport parking options and amenities, visit skyharbor.com/parking.

'Save Our Space' campaign gets underway

he holidays are hectic, but that is no excuse to park in a spot reserved for people with disabilities – even if it's just for a minute.

Motorists who illegally park in a

spot designated for people with disabilities could be taking away a space from someone who really needs it. Violators face fines ranging from \$288 to \$480.

Police officers and volunteers will be patrolling parking lots and issuing tickets to illegally parked motorists this holiday season. To report violations, obtain information or become an enforcement volunteer, call 602-534-SPACE (7722).

For more information, visit phoenix.gov/eod, phoenix.gov/police or call 602-534-1951.

Teach English in Japan for a school year

hoenix Sister Cities is seeking college graduates for an opportunity to live and work abroad in Phoenix's sister city of Himeji, Japan, during the 2014-15 school year.

The individuals selected for the assignment will work as assistants to Japanese instructors, teaching English at the junior-high level. Recent college graduates with limited previous teaching experience are eligible to apply.

Applicants must be fluent in English, college graduates, at least 21 years old and Maricopa County residents. The terms of employment will be Sept. 1, 2014, through Aug. 31, 2015.

The deadline to apply is Friday, Feb.7. For more information, visit phoenixsistercities.org or call 602-534-3751.

Ring in the New Year with Phoenix Public Library and take the family reading challenge

hree Phoenix Public Library locations will host First Night celebrations from 5 – 9 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 31. Families can "Ring in the New Year" with musical performances, crafts and other interactive fun at Burton Barr Central, Mesquite and Palo Verde libraries.

Families also are invited to take the "We Read 30 Day Challenge," Feb. 1 through March 31, 2014. Read every day for 30 consecutive days to earn prizes, including a We Read T-shirt for kids and book bag for parents. Book logs will be available beginning Jan. 20 at all Library locations.

Reminder: nine library locations have changed their mid-week service hours. Agave, Cesar Chavez, Cholla, Ironwood, Juniper, Mesquite, Palo Verde, Saguaro and Yucca libraries are now open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

For more library news and information, visit phoenixpubliclibrary.org.

Homeless need help staying warm

uring the winter, many homeless families and individuals end up on the streets without blankets, clothing and other necessities to keep warm.



Once again this year, the city is asking for donations to the Winter Respite Program. Blankets, new or used (but clean and freshly laundered), are the highest priority. The program also will accept clean warm clothing, such as jackets and coats, long pants, sweatshirts. sweatpants, winter hats and gloves. Underwear and socks (new only), shoes and hygiene items also are needed.

The tax-deductible donated items may be delivered to any of the city's three Family Services Centers.

For more information, visit phoenix.gov/humanservices/programs/ volunteer/index.html. Residents also may contact Anissa Blair at the Family Advocacy Center at 602-534-3071 or email anissa.blair@phoenix.gov.

Students invited to apply for Youth **Ambassador Program**

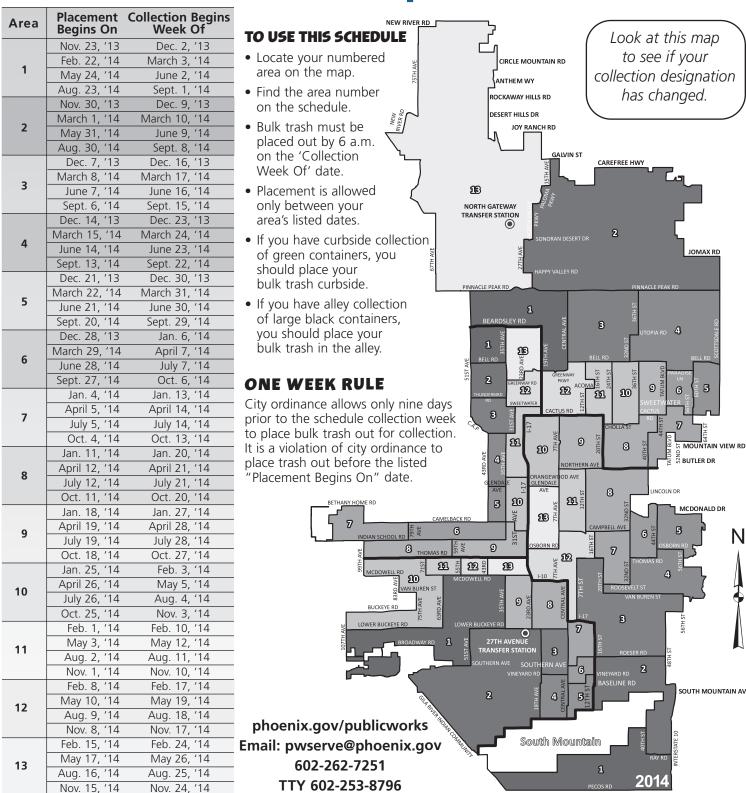
he Phoenix Sister Cities Youth Ambassador Exchange Program is accepting applications from high school sophomores and juniors who are interested in an international experience and learning about another country.

The program offers students the opportunity to visit one of Phoenix's ten sister cities during the summer to learn more about the city and its culture through a three-week, home-hosted experience. The students reciprocate by housing their host brother or sister when they visit Phoenix later that same summer.

Youth Ambassadors are selected based on maturity, flexibility, self-confidence, leadership and communications skills. The deadline for applying is 5 p.m. Dec. 20.

For more information or an application, visit phoenixsistercities.org or call 602-534-7351.

2013-2014 Bulk Trash Pickup Schedule



BULK TRASH CREWS DO NOT PICK UP...

- More than 20 cubic yards per residence, or a pile the size of a SUV.
- Loose debris and litter. Please sweep or rake after collection if necessary.
- Loose grass, leaves, weeds, twigs and hedge clippings. These items must be bagged or boxed and securely tied to be collected.
- Household hazardous waste (HHW), such as antifreeze, pool chemicals, oil, batteries and paint.
- Community piles.
- Materials such as bricks, concrete, dirt, rocks, asphalt and roofing shingles/tiles.
- Construction materials in excess of 25 lbs. or over four feet long generated by a residence.
- Any construction material generated by a contractor.
- Metal or car parts in excess of 20 lbs. or over four feet long.
- Any type or size of tire.
- Glass such as windows, shower doors, patio doors, mirrors, fluorescent tubes, etc.
- Appliances that use refrigerants such as freezers, refrigerators, and air conditioners.

Celebrate the Year of the Horse during **Chinese Week**

elebrate Chinese New Year 4712, the Year of the Horse, during Phoenix Chinese Week, Feb. 3 to 9.

A variety of cultural and educational events will be held throughout the Valley during the week, including the Chinese Week Cultural and Food Festival. The free festival, Feb. 7–9 at the Chinese Cultural Center, 668 N. 44th St., will feature live entertainment, children's activities, food and vendors.

For more information, visit phoenixchineseweek.org or call 480-406-7470.

Phoenix

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Residents can recycle Christmas trees

hoenix residents may drop off Christmas trees and wreaths the Christmas Tree drop-off are: day after Christmas until early January.

When bringing in your tree, remember to:

- Bring the tree unbagged.
- Remove all decorations, lights and tinsel.
- Remove the tree stand and all nails and metal stakes.
- Secure tree during transport. Tie it down with material that can be untied or cut easily.
- Only dispose of trees in marked drop-off areas.
- Sites accept single trees from city of Phoenix residents. For multiple tree loads, contact 602-262-7251.

Some of the locations for the live

- Deer Valley Park, 19th Avenue and Utopia Road
- Paradise Valley Park, 40th Street south of Union Hills Drive
- Desert West Park, 67th Avenue and **Encanto Boulevard**
- Madison Park, 16th Street and Glenrosa Avenue
- Mountain Vista Park, 50th Street just north of Ray Road
- Cesar Chavez Park, 35th Avenue and Baseline Road
- Phoenix Transfer Stations also accept Christmas trees.

For a complete list of tree recycling locations in various Phoenix areas, visit phoenix.gov/publicworks/recycling/ christmastreecycling.html or call 602-534-9440.

Wrapping paper and gift bags: What can be recycled?

oliday wrapping papers soon will be strewn all over living room floors. And with that scenario comes the question, "Which should be thrown and which should be recycled?"

Most holiday wrappers and greeting cards can be placed in your blue recycling containers, but there are exceptions. The following cards and wrapping materials should not be placed in you recycling bins:

- Foil-embossed papers
- Plastic wrap (from gift baskets)
- Ribbons or bows
- Materials with glitter

Gift-givers are encouraged to reuse gift bags and wrappers or use craft paper, newspapers and comics pages to wrap presents.

Mark your calendar for another 'I Recycle Phoenix'

ecycle your old computers, electronics, cell phones, TVs, clothing, golf balls even artificial Christmas trees, ornaments and holiday lights - at the "I Recycle Phoenix" Festival, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 28, at Christown Spectrum Mall, 1703 W Bethany Home Road.

The event also offers free document and computer hard-drive shredding.

"I Recycle Phoenix" is presented by Keep Phoenix Beautiful, the city of Phoenix and a dozen other businesses and nonprofit organizations.

For more information, visit phoenixrecycles.org or call 602-262-4820.

Neighborhood Block Watch grant applications available online

lock Watch groups and other neighborhood organizations are eligible for grants of up to \$10,000 to help fund programs that fight crime and improve the safety and quality of life in their areas.

Applications for the 2014 Neighborhood Block Watch Grant Program are available online at phoenix.gov/police/nbwgrant.html. Completed applications must be submitted by e-mail to nbwgrants.ppd@phoenix.gov no later than 4 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 2, 2014.

For more information, visit phoenix.gov/police/nbwgrant.html or call 602-262-6131.