

 **CONNECT**
NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 9, 2026

In This Issue

Almost Time!
CSFD Campaign

Remembering 9/11
25 Years Later...

Stay Healthy
Flu Shots are Here

Annual Campaign Starts Monday!



The waiting is almost over - this year's Community Service Fund Drive (CSFD) begins on Monday, Sept. 14. This year's theme is **Giving Never Gives Up**. If you are new to the City, this is an annual fundraising event for all City employees to participate in. With the help of Valley of the Sun United Way, you have the opportunity to choose from hundreds of local non-profits to support with a financial contribution.

In next week's PHXConnect newsletter, look for a special CSFD Magazine where you can learn how to donate, whether through a payroll deduction during 2027, a one-time donation, or through supporting department events and opportunities like pizza sales and drawings for baskets and other items.

Also, be on the lookout for details regarding the always-popular Hands and Hearts Fair. Mark your calendars now for Thursday, Oct. 22. We hope to see you there.

In case you missed it, take a couple of minutes and [watch this message from City Manager Ed Zuercher and this year's CSFD Chairperson, Transit Director Jesus Sapien](#).



Remembering 9/11: 25 Years Later



Twenty-five years later, Phoenix continues to honor the lives lost and the heroes who answered the call on Sept. 11, 2001.

This week, hear firsthand reflections from **Arizona Task Force 1** members who deployed to New York in 2001. Local youth will join the conversation to share how the legacy of that day shapes their generation.

All are welcome at Steele Indian School Park, Memorial Hall. It is happening on Thursday, Sept. 10, 6:30-7:30 p.m. **Details:** [Phoenix.gov/PHXRemembers](https://phoenix.gov/PHXRemembers)

Empowering Civic Participation

Join the Equal Opportunity Department and First Place AZ for an empowering webinar that helps people build confidence, understand their civic duties, and actively participate in voting and community decision-making.

Discover practical, accessible strategies that strengthen self-advocacy and inspire meaningful civic engagement for everyone in our community.

DETAILS:

- *Wednesday, Sept. 16 | Noon*
- *Register on PHXYou and Webex*
- *Meets Community and Organizational Awareness goal*



NEW: Film Discussion

The next Phoenix LGBTQ Employee Alliance film discussion is based on the film: *Mama Bears*. Participants are encouraged to watch the film ahead of time as it is not shown during the discussion session. Watch it [now on Kanopy](#). **Details:**

- Thursday, Sept. 17 | Noon
- Virtual Meeting Room link can be found in PHXYou
- Register at **PHXYou: LEA100-VTL-LGBTQ Film**, Course ID # 212742
- Earn 3X Community & Organizational Awareness points



More Chances to Get Your Flu Shot



Stay ahead of flu season by taking advantage of the City of Phoenix flu shot clinics. Receiving the vaccine can lower your chances of getting seriously ill and help protect those around you.

All City employees can receive a flu shot at no cost. Vaccines are available at City-sponsored clinic locations, the Employee Health Care Clinic, or through your regular health care provider.

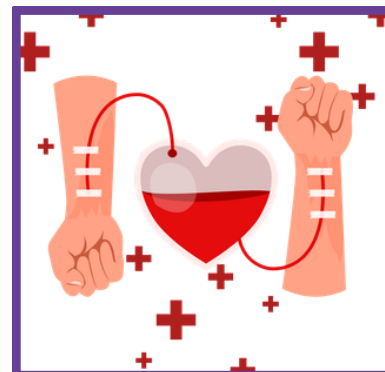
Visit any of the scheduled Flu Shot Clinics between Sept. 2 and Oct. 2, and you'll be entered for a chance to win a gift card. Click [here](#) for the schedule.

Make a Meaningful Impact

Give back to our community by donating blood and enter for a chance to win a gift card. Your donation helps make sure hospitals have the vital blood supplies they need to care for patients. **Details:**

- Sept. 15 & 16 | 8 a.m. - noon
- Phoenix City Hall, Assembly Rooms A and B

Make an [appointment today!](#)



Bring Your Family: Celebrate El Grito Phoenix!



Phoenix is an incredible city because of the people who serve it every day — and we want to say thank you!

City of Phoenix employees and their families are invited to join us for the 5th Annual El Grito Celebration on Saturday, Sept. 12, in Downtown Phoenix, as we celebrate Mexican Independence Day and help kick off Hispanic Heritage Month. Now in its fifth year, El Grito has become one of Downtown Phoenix's most exciting cultural celebrations, bringing together thousands of people for an evening filled with music, food, tradition, and community.

This year, we're excited to welcome legendary regional Mexican headliners La Original Banda Maguey and Banda Mach, along with Mariachi Continental Azteca, Fiesta Mexicana Dance Company, the traditional El Grito ceremony, nearly 100 vendors, great food, and much more.

As a special thank-you for everything you do for Phoenix, **City employees and their families can receive complimentary tickets to attend the celebration.** Grab them here: [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com).



Fitness Friday

Kick off your Friday with with a calming Seated Yoga & Stretch session! This engaging 30-minute Zoom Fitness Friday experience is designed to help you relax, reset, and boost your wellbeing. **Details:**

- Sept. 11
- 10 - 10:30 a.m.
- [Register here!](#)

Midweek Reset

Take a midweek pause with a brief, guided meditation each Wednesday on Zoom, beginning Sept. 16. These 15-minute sessions offer a simple way to reset and refocus. Join six sessions, and you'll be automatically entered into a wellness drawing. **Details:**

- Wednesdays from Sept. 16 - Oct. 26
- 10 - 10:15 a.m.
- [Register here!](#)

Nominations Now Open!

The deadline to submit for this year's annual AZ MLK Awards celebration, is Monday, Oct. 12 at 5 p.m. Submissions are now open for the following award categories:

- Calvin C. Goode Lifetime Achievement Award
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Living the Dream Award
- AZMLK "Drum Major for the Community"

Learn more about the award criteria and [submit your nomination here](#) today!



This event is organized by the Phoenix Human Relations Commission, in collaboration with the City of Phoenix Equal Opportunity Department, the AZ Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Committee, and Arizona OIC.

ICYMI: Women In Leadership Forum



If you missed August's special Women in Leadership Panel Discussion with members of Phoenix City Council, don't worry, you can watch it online! Thank you to all City Councilmembers who participated and shared insight into what it takes to be a strong leader.

Watching online: [WIL Leadership Forum 082526](#).

Cactus Bowl Employee Offer

The City of Phoenix has teamed up with the Fiesta Sports Foundation to give city employees early access to 2026 Cactus Bowl tickets.

The special access is open **now through 5 p.m. on Sept. 13** to give you reduced fees and priority for future years.

[Click this special link here](#) for tickets. Enjoy!



Featured Job of the Week

Police Recruit Phoenix Police Department

Close Date: Sept. 30, 2026

The Phoenix Police Department is now offering a **\$7,500** hiring bonus for new Police Recruits, paid in three installments: your first paycheck, upon swearing in as a Phoenix Police Officer, and after successfully completing probation. Plus, current city employees who refer a candidate may receive a \$2,500 referral bonus once the recruit is hired and completes probation. To qualify, the **referring employee's name and ID** must be listed on the application at submission.

This is your chance to Rise to Serve and make a meaningful impact in the Phoenix community. As a Police Recruit, you'll complete a paid 26 week training program at the Phoenix Regional Police Academy and graduate as an AZPOST certified Police Officer. The department offers community focused policing, ongoing professional development, career advancement opportunities, tuition reimbursement, and competitive benefits.

Interested in a rewarding career with purpose? Learn more about the hiring process and apply at www.JOINPHXPD.com.

SALARY DETAILS:

Police recruits are paid during the 26-week Police Academy an hourly rate of **\$34.39/hour or \$71,531.20 annually**. After successful completion of the police academy, new officers will earn **\$36.46/hour or \$75,847.20 annually**.

Opportunities are possible for additional compensation from overtime and/or off-duty work are available. Officers receive annual increases and can earn up to \$52.87/hour or \$109,984.16 annually.

Learn about role responsibilities and more information at phoenix.gov/jobs or log into eCHRIS

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know the City of Phoenix offers free events for youth, families, and seniors? From Helping Families in Need to Crafty Adults: Monarch Butterfly Week and Talk with a Community Specialist, there's something for everyone to enjoy, learn, and connect.

Discover what's happening around the city and [sign up here](#) today!



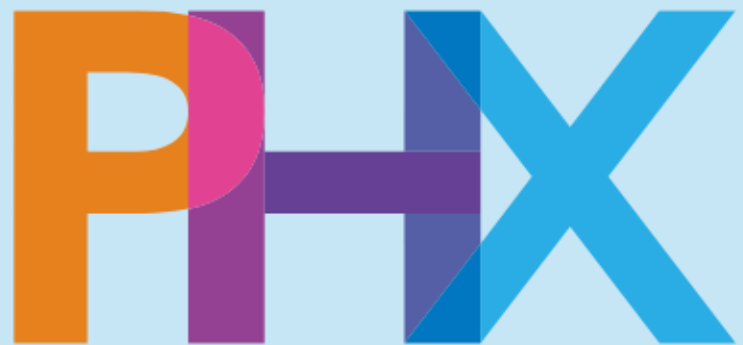
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International Airport
has been nominated for
four USA Today 10Best
Readers' Choice Awards!

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through Oct. 5, 2026!*

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