



SUMMER 2009

Message from Councilwoman Peggy Neely

I hope this finds you enjoying the summer and finding great ways to keep cool. The month of July is not just the first full month of summer or the month we can expect monsoons, it also marks the beginning of a new fiscal year at the city. As we've all read and seen, the city's budget, like the whole economy, is still in a state of downturn.

Sales tax collections, which account for a large part of the city's General Fund and pay for police and fire, parks and other vital services, have been lower than expected. As a result of the downturn, the Council and staff have had to make some tough decisions this year and we may need to make more. However, I am confident that making tough decisions now will position us for a better future. With the current downturn, the city is looking for ways to do more with less and we are committed to working to maintaining services.



In the down economy, it is more important than ever to bring new jobs to District 2, and that is what I've been working hard to do. Our efforts have been successful so far. The recent addition of APL, the fourth largest container shipping company worldwide, and Axway, a provider of business integration applications, has added to District 2's portfolio of employment opportunities, which includes the corporate office of Republic Services, one of the largest waste management firms in the U.S.; the Phoenix division of computer chip-maker SUMCO; the Desert Ridge campus of American Express; and the prestigious Mayo Clinic, to mention a few. The addition of APL alone will result in the addition of approximately 200 new local jobs once the company is finished relocating to the Kierland area and completes its staffing.

Thank you for all that you do for District 2 to make it one of the best places in the city to live, work and play. As always, please feel free to call 602-262-7445 to speak to a member of my staff or e-mail me at council.district.2@phoenix.gov if you have any questions or if I can be of assistance.

Councilwoman Peggy Neely
District 2
City of Phoenix



Staycation in District 2

With the downturn in the economy, many families are looking for alternative ways to enjoy a vacation. A great idea we've heard a lot about lately is a "staycation", a vacation in town, visiting local resorts, restaurants, shops and theatres. District 2 has many great options for a "staycation". For those looking for a get away close to home, there are two top-notch resorts in the district: the J.W. Marriott Desert Ridge Resort & Spa and the Westin Kierland Resort and Spa. Both resorts offer beautiful accommodations, restaurants, spas and are close to shopping and entertainment. They also are both family-friendly and offer programs for children. For information on the JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort and Spa, you can visit jwdesertridgeresort.com or DesertRidgeEscape.com and for information on the Westin Kierland you may contact the sales and reservation office at 480-624-1202.



J.W. Marriott Desert Ridge Resort & Spa



If you're staying at home, but looking for great shopping and entertainment, there are several shopping centers in District 2 and also many wonderful locally-owned small businesses. Desert Ridge Marketplace, located at the Loop 101 and Tatum Boulevard, offers a variety of shops, restaurants and a movie theatre. Kierland Commons, located at Greenway Parkway and Scottsdale Road, offers a variety of shops and restaurants and through the month of July is host to a Saturday evening concert series. CityNorth, located on the southwest corner of 56th Street and Deer Valley Road, offers shopping and a variety of restaurants including Kona Grill, Ocean Prime and 25 Degrees.

In addition to the resorts and shopping centers there are many small locally-owned businesses in the district. To name a few on Bell Road, there are several furniture stores: J&K, Eclectica and Cupids. If you're hungry after shopping there are many great restaurants in the area. A couple of them are the McDonalds at Cave Creek and Bell Road and the Wagon Yard located at 26th Street and Bell Road.

If you are considering a "staycation" or just looking for a new place to shop or eat, I would encourage you to visit our District 2 businesses. Not only will you be supporting a local business, but the tax dollars stay in Phoenix, helping our local economy.



Kierland Commons



Help keep your neighborhood beautiful



Safe, attractive neighborhoods are key to maintaining a vibrant community. The city of Phoenix has a list of “top eight” blight violations that we would like you to know about so you can keep your neighborhood a great place to live.

- Dead or dried vegetation must be removed and disposed of properly.
- Inoperable vehicles must not be visible from beyond the bounds of one’s property.
- Junk, litter and debris must be removed from properties.
- Property owners must maintain buildings, structures and their surrounding grounds. Windows, doors and other openings must be kept secure.
- Outside storage on residential properties is not allowed if visible from beyond the bounds of one’s property lines. Boats, campers and other personal items are allowed in a limited area of the rear yard of residential properties.
- Fencing and screening walls must meet height regulations, be structurally sound and made from the same materials.
- Driveways must be dust-proofed.
- Property owners are responsible for removal of graffiti from all sidewalks, walls, fences, signs and other structures and surfaces visible from beyond the bounds of the property.

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Green pools

Do you have a green pool in your neighborhood? If so, you’re not alone. Each summer, concerned residents call my office looking for help with green pools in their neighborhood. These sludge-filled pits typically breed mosquitoes and are a nuisance for neighborhoods, many of whom have been rocked by a wave of foreclosures over the last year. As we all know, mosquitoes contribute to outbreaks of West Nile Virus, a disease that is particularly harmful to children and seniors. In the Valley, the Maricopa County Environmental Services Department handles complaints dealing with green pools, stagnant water and mosquitoes.

You can always report a hazardous green pool in your neighborhood by logging on to the Maricopa County West Nile Virus Web site at maricopa.gov/wnv to submit an electronic complaint, or by calling Maricopa County’s West Nile Virus Hotline at 602-506-0700. You also can inquire about West Nile Virus, get a ground fogging schedule for the Valley or obtain mosquito-eating fish from Maricopa County Vector Control.

In addition, please feel free to also report green pools to the Phoenix Neighborhood Services Department at 602-262-7844 or send an e-mail to blight@phoenix.gov. Green pools are a violation of the city code and Neighborhood Preservation inspectors can investigate these properties and issue notices of violation. Thank you for being a good partner and helping to keep your neighborhood beautiful.





Pool safety tips

While you're having fun with your family, I want to share some tips from the Fire Department on ways to make sure your family stays water-safe this summer. In 2008, Phoenix firefighters responded to 82 drowning incidents that resulted in 26 fatalities. Here are some things to keep in mind to help you protect your family around water this summer and all year, so your family doesn't become a part of the statistics.

- NEVER allow children to be alone near a pool or any water source. This includes bathtubs, buckets, toilets and ponds.
- Do not allow children to play in the pool area.
- Never swim alone, or while under the influence of alcohol or medications.
- Use an approved barrier to separate the pool from the house.
- Keep tables, chairs and ladders AWAY from pool fences.
- Mount life-saving devices near the pool.
- Post the 9-1-1 number on the phone. Think about installing a phone near the pool area. NEVER leave children alone near the pool while talking on the phone.
- Learn to swim.
- Learn Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)

Remember, one drowning in our city is one too many. Stay safe around pools this summer by always designating a pool watcher! For more information about water safety, please call the Phoenix Fire Department's Water Safety Hotline at 602-534-7665 or visit phoenix.gov/fire/watersafe.html. Don't forget, a few seconds is all it takes for a child to drown.

New businesses in D2

Two new businesses have announced plans to locate to District 2. APL, a leader in the shipping industry and the seventh-largest container shipping company in the world, is relocating its regional headquarters from Oakland to the MAX at Kierland building, northwest of Scottsdale Road and Paradise Lane. The facility will eventually house between 300-400 employees. About half of these positions will be filled locally, with employees from other APL offices filling out the staffing. The relocation of APL to Kierland is especially exciting because it means the addition of quality new jobs that District 2 residents will be able to apply for.

Also relocating to District 2 is Axway, a global software company whose products are used by more than 11,000 organizations in more than 100 countries worldwide. Axway employs 150 people in Arizona, with plans to add five to 10 new positions this year and 40-50 more over the course of the next two to three years. Axway was located in Scottsdale prior to moving to Phoenix and the new location of their headquarters is southwest of the intersection of Scottsdale Road and the Loop 101.

I am truly excited about both of these quality companies locating to District 2 and enhancing the city's transportation technology presences respectively. The new job opportunities associated with these companies will only benefit the city's economic development and especially District 2.





Off Road Vehicles

By Community Action Officer Karen Freund,
Cactus Park Precinct

Have you taken a drive up I-17 lately? Isn't it amazing how many new communities are being built in what used to be wide open desert? I am certain that more than just a few parents were excited when they bought homes in these areas, thinking they and their children would have a place to ride their off-road vehicles. Unfortunately, this type of activity is illegal.

Phoenix City Code 36-62 states that "no person shall operate a vehicle on or across any portion of a vacant lot other than on an established dust-proof driveway", which includes the desert, mountain preserve and wash areas. (For further clarification, quads, golf carts, dirt bikes, etc. are considered motorized vehicles.) The fine for this code is \$127.00 per violation. There are also additional charges if the vehicle is unregistered (\$552.00), uninsured (\$462.00 - \$1362.00), and if the driver is unlicensed (\$97.00). So far, we're up to a minimum total of \$1370.00, and we haven't even taken into consideration a day off from work for a court date or to accompany your child to court. There also is the possibility of criminal trespassing charges. Are you or your child driving across your own property, or does it belong to someone else? Would you want people driving across your property and causing damage?

Please keep in mind, as well, any one operating a vehicle on a city street, needs to be a licensed driver with the proper endorsements (i.e., motorcycle), vehicle registration and insurance. In addition, in order to be "street legal", you are required to have eye protection, helmet (children), mirror, head lamp, tail light, etc.

Please enjoy your new homes and the surrounding desert area, but enjoy it as a pedestrian and not on a motorized vehicle. If you are looking for a place to ride you will need to leave the city limits of Phoenix, which now extends up to just past New River Road.

Help keep your neighborhood beautiful

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Blight has a negative impact on the value of surrounding homes and our community as a whole. If you would like to report a blight issue, or if you have any questions about the Neighborhood Preservation ordinance, please call 602-262-7844 or send an e-mail to blight@phoenix.gov. Don't forget, free paint and tools are available from the Neighborhood Services Department for community clean ups. According to Jerome Miller, the City's Neighborhood Services Director, residents also can participate in a new volunteer program recently approved by the City Council called Blight Busters. This citywide program will assist neighborhoods with the use of volunteers in the removal of graffiti, illegal signs and neighborhood blighting conditions. You can contact the District 2 Office or go to the city's Web site for more details on this new volunteer program.



This newsletter is produced by Councilwoman Peggy Neely and the District 2 staff. If you have any questions, please contact the District 2 office at 602-262-7445 or via e-mail at council.district.2@phoenix.gov. We're here to serve you!