

City CONNECTION

May 27, 2015

A Weekly Publication for City of Phoenix Employees

Meet this week's featured employee, **School Resource Officer, Jason Groen**. View his Doing What Matters video at <https://www.phoenix.gov/phxtv/phxtv-media/video/2761>

Summer reading is almost here

Summer reading starts on June 1. Learn the ins and outs of the program before it begins. Get a head start by signing up early. The first 10,000 kids (ages 6-11) who sign up get a free reading timer!

Who? All ages. There is something for everyone. Kids, teens and adults can participate. **What?** Play the online Summer Reading Game. Register, track your activities and earn badges at <http://www.maricopacountyreads.org>. Reach 250 points and earn a tasty treat from Chipotle or Raising Cane's. Reach 500 points and earn a book from a list of selected titles. Kids (ages 6-11) who read 20 minutes a day are eligible for weekly drawing prizes. **Where?** All Phoenix Public Library locations. A variety of free Summer Reading programs for kids, teens, and adults will be scheduled June 1 – Aug. 1 throughout the Valley. Check the [Library calendar](#) for programs at a location near you.

When? June 1 – Aug. 1 **Why?** There are many benefits to participating in summer reading, beyond family fun and earning prizes. Numerous studies have shown that reading over the summer prevents "summer learning loss." Play the Summer Reading Game. Read 20 minutes a day and make reading a lifelong habit. See you this summer at the Library! For more information: <http://www.maricopacountyreads.org>
<http://phoenixpubliclibrary.evanced.info/signup/EventCalendar.aspx?df=list&nd=130&kw=summer+reading>



"\$ave Energy - Build to Code"

May is Building Safety Month, a public awareness campaign to help individuals, families and businesses understand what it takes to create safe and sustainable structures. The campaign reinforces the need for adoption of modern, model building codes, a strong and efficient system of code enforcement and a well-trained, professional workforce to maintain the system.

In honor of Building Safety Month, the management team of the Planning & Development Department hosted a nacho bar for all staff members last week. Those who attended the lunch also were treated to a reading of a Building Safety Month poem prepared by Jack Roberts, Structural Inspector II. Read the poem at: <https://www.phoenix.gov/pddsite/Documents/bsm2015poem.pdf>

As a reminder, the Planning & Development Department has a display in the northeast corner of the atrium that will change each week to spotlight specific areas of building safety. This week's theme (May 25-31) is "\$ave Energy - Build to Code".

Important tips to remember for green and sustainable building:

- Heating and cooling uses more energy and drains more energy dollars than any other system in the home. Approximately 43% of utility bills cover heating and cooling.

- In cooler months, close curtains and shades at night to keep warmth in and keep them open during the day.
- Try new lighting control technologies for off switch lighting like motion sensors or timers. Using these new options can reduce lighting use by 50 to 75 percent and save the lighting portion of energy bills that account for 11% of overall household energy consumption.
- Replace ordinary light bulbs with Compact Fluorescent Light (CFL) bulbs. If every household replaced just one light bulb with a CFL bulb, America could save enough energy to light nearly three million homes.
- Install a programmable thermostat to keep your home comfortably warm in the winter and comfortably cool in the summer.
- Replacing old windows can save between seven and 24 percent of the household heating and air-conditioning costs.
- Plug home electronics, such as TVs and DVD players, into power strips and turn the power strips off when the equipment is not in use. TVs and DVDs in standby mode still consume several watts of power.
- Choosing energy-efficient products can save families approximately \$400 a year while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Choose ENERGY STAR® certified products when you buy or replace household appliances.
- In the workplace, be sure that the "stand-by mode" function is activated as this automatic "sleep mode" saves energy and money when the equipment is not in use.
- Regularly change the filters in the heating and cooling system of your home or office. Dirty filters can cost up to \$5 a month extra, overwork the equipment and result in dirtier indoor air.



NEWS BRIEF

Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day - Let Your Child Be A Game Show Contestant!

For the city of Phoenix's annual Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day, hosted by the Phoenix Green Team, employees are invited to bring their children to a unique and exciting event: A game show that combines the fun style of Jeopardy with the team format and antics of Family Feud. This will be a wonderful experience for kids to play and learn together about sustainability initiatives and issues in Phoenix, covering such categories as air and water quality, food, waste diversion, and more. The kids will get prepared by hearing an exciting presentation and they'll have the tools they need to play the game. Kids ages 7 and up will have the opportunity to test their knowledge while competing in teams. In the traditional Jeopardy style, this sustainability activity will bring the familiar sights and sounds of the show (buzzers and all!), and groups will earn points based on answers framed as questions about sustainability trivia. Contestants will have the chance to earn prizes. Don't let your daughter or son miss out on participating in this awesome event. RSVP by June 8 to Trudy Merrill at Trudy.merrill@phoenix.gov or at 602-256-5669 with your contestant's name, age, sex, and parent contact information. First come, first served. Thursday, June 11 from 9 a.m. to Noon in the Calvin Goode Building, conference room 10 East.

Dress to stay cool. Triple digit temperatures are here starting this weekend. That means it's time to dress for the heat. As is tradition in the city of Phoenix, between Memorial Day and Labor Day, employees are encouraged to dress appropriately for the heat. Please make sure your dress is appropriate for the work that you perform, and employees who have an official city uniform should continue to wear their uniforms.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Thursday, June 4 - Friday June 5 – Did you know that every three seconds, someone needs blood? Help United Blood Services declare independence from blood shortages this summer. Blood donations traditionally plummet during the summer months and city employees can make a difference. It is not too late to sign up. To make an appointment, visit <http://www.bloodhero.com>, and enter sponsor code: PhxGov. Appointment times are available between 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in City Hall, assembly rooms A & B.

City Connection is published every week for city employees by the Public Information Office, 12th floor, Phoenix City Hall, 200 W. Washington St., Phoenix, AZ 85003. For more information about the publication or to submit story ideas, email contactus@phoenix.gov.