



DISTRICT 3 NEWS

A Message from Phoenix Vice Mayor Debra Stark

Hello District 3,

In this newsletter you will find the latest news, announcements, and event details that I want to share with you.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact my office with questions, comments, or concerns at (602) 262-7441 or council.district.3@phoenix.gov.

Respectfully,

Councilwoman Debra Stark



City of Phoenix

The Phoenix City Council will have a Formal meeting on **Wednesday, March 6th at 2:30 p.m.**

Members of the public can attend and speak in-person, by phone, or virtually via Webex. Pre-registration is required to speak on an agenda item or during the Public Comment period. To find the agenda and information on how to register to speak and how to submit an e-comment, visit [Phoenix City Council Meetings](#).



District 3 March Community Coffee Chat

Please join us on March 13th at 8:30am •
Native American Connections -
1431 E. Dunlap Avenue, Phoenix AZ.

We will have speakers from the Community Assistance Program to present about volunteer opportunities and from Budget & Research to discuss the budget season.

We will also share District 3 and citywide updates.

Coffee and pastries will be provided.



Please let us know you are coming!
RSVP to council.district.3@phoenix.gov or call 602-262-7441

District 3 Community Coffee Chat

Please join us on **March 13 from 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.** for our District 3 Community Coffee Chat at **Native American Connections – 1431 E. Dunlap Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85020.** Our guest speakers will be from the Community Assistance

Program to present on volunteer opportunities, and from the Budget and Research Department to discuss the upcoming budget season.

Coffee and pastries will be provided.

Please RSVP by Monday, March 11 at 602-262-7441 or council.district.3@phoenix.gov!



Hike Right PHX Monthly Hiking Group

To help foster a culture of safe hiking for people of all experience levels, The Parks and Recreation Natural Resources Division (NRD) will lead a guided hiking group titled Hike Right PHX. This group meets monthly, on the second Saturday each month, at various trail locations across the city. Each group hike takes place at a popular trailhead where NRD staff will meet with hikers for a one-hour group hike. During this hike, hikers will learn about the trail and other aspects of the city's Mountain Parks and Preserves, services provided by the Parks and Recreation Department, and hiking safety tips through personal conversation with NRD staff. Ideally, the monthly hiking group will continue through the summer

months, emphasizing hiking in the early morning and evening hours. The group can be used as a marketing tool to steer hikers away from trails during the most dangerous parts of the summer.

Inaugural Hike Right PHX group hike:

When: Saturday, March 9, 2024, at 8 a.m.

Where: North Mountain Visitor Center, 12950 N 7th St, Phoenix, AZ 85022

Trail: North Mountain National Trail, 1.6 miles, Moderate/Difficult Level

For more information about hiking dates, please visit [City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation - Hike Right](#).



[Juniper Library](#) will be closed for enhancements Monday, March 18 through Sunday, March 24.

The book drop **will be** available during the closure.

Hold requests for pick up at Juniper Library during its closure will automatically be made available for pick up at nearby Agave Library; or for your convenience you may select an alternate holds pick up

location at a nearby [Phoenix Public Library](#) by selecting your preferred pickup library location when placing a hold.

The two closest Phoenix Public Library locations are:

[Agave Library](#) | 23550 N. 36th Ave., 85310

[Cholla Library](#) | 10050 Metro Parkway E., 85051

For additional library locations or more information about library services, visit phoenixpubliclibrary.org or call 602-262-4636 (for TTY dial 7-1-1).



PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

**PRESERVE
SHAPE
BUILD**

City of Phoenix Approves New Streamlined Plat Approval Process

The Phoenix City Council approved changes to the Phoenix City Code that will streamline the plat approval process, reducing the time customers will wait to receive final approval by approximately 30 days. The amended code will accelerate the building of affordable housing and other developments in Phoenix

while making the process more efficient for developers and property owners. The City encourages stakeholders, developers, and the public to familiarize themselves with the amended sections before the changes go into effect on April 1, 2024.

“This is another process improvement the City is implementing to assist in building more affordable housing projects,” said Vice Mayor Debra Stark. “This change makes the process more efficient by allowing administrative approval of plats. Instead of awaiting City Council approval, city staff, who are in the office daily, can now record plats quicker. Avoiding delays in the homebuilding process helps keep housing prices affordable.”

To learn more, please visit phoenix.gov/newsroom/planning-and-development/3026.



Celebrate the Year of the Dragon with Phoenix Sister Cities

Join Phoenix Sister Cities for events in March to celebrate the Lunar New Year and our relationships with Chengdu, Himeji, Taipei and Suwon.

On March 8, Lin Sue Flood (formerly Cooney – longtime anchor at KPNX-12) will lead the International Book Club discussion of *The Book of M* by Peng Shepherd (her daughter) at Changing Hands Bookstore from 6 to 7:15 p.m. The event is free.

Join the Taipei Committee from 2 to 4 p.m. on March 16 for the second annual Mahjong Mash at ASU West Valley Campus. Learn how to play Mahjong while enjoying snacks and drinks at this family-friendly event. Free admission and parking.

Finally, the Chengdu, Himeji, and Taipei City Committees host a virtual Tea Journey Across Asia from 2 to 4 p.m. on March 23. Learn about the history of tea in each city, discover the secrets to brewing and tasting tea, how it is served, common customs, and more. Tea will be shipped to participants in advance. Tickets are \$8/members; \$10/non-members.

Registration for all events and tickets for the Tea Journey are available at phoenixsistercities.org.



APPLICATION NOW OPEN!

Vacant Storefront Program

PHOENIX
IS **HOT** 

**Vacant Storefront Improvement
Assistance Program**

The Vacant Storefront Improvement Assistance Program seeks to assist challenged retail/commercial properties in the City of Phoenix by providing financial grant assistance for public infrastructure improvements to support the recovery and occupancy of vacant retail properties. The program further intends to ensure that retail building owners remain competitive while revitalizing and beautifying the surrounding community. Building owners may apply for up to \$250,000 of assistance. This program is funded through the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund program (SLFRF) as authorized by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA). Funds must be completely spent by December 31, 2024.

Examples of potential public infrastructure improvements include:

- Sidewalk/street installation and/or repairs
- Street/traffic lights
- Place making signage
- Landscape enhancements/improvements in the right-of-way
- Median installation
- Bus shelter enhancements/improvements
- Water/sewer line installation and/or extension
- Public art installation

For eligibility requirements and additional information, please visit [Invest in Phoenix](#).



Teen Dating Violence Awareness

The Family Advocacy Center (FAC) is a place where a victim can come in for services related to domestic and sexual violence and other violent crimes. FAC provides comprehensive victim advocacy, counseling, case management, support groups, forensic medical examinations, and investigative interviews. The center is a free resource for the community.

For teens who are victims of dating violence, the FAC provides a variety of services including restraining order filing, safety planning, resources, and education on stopping the cycle of abuse and not continuing it into adulthood.

To receive services from the FAC, law enforcement involvement is not required. The center offers a trauma-informed approach that provides the victim with knowledge of their rights. The victim decides what is best for them and how they want to proceed.

A few tips for parents to remember:

- Watch what your child is doing on social media
- Monitor apps on mobile devices
- Know who the child is talking to and the frequency
- Observe the child's demeanor and recognize changes
- Build a rapport with your child
- Talk about safety planning
- Have respect for each other

For more information on the services, visit the [Family Advocacy Center website](#). To receive services, call 602-534-2120 or [submit a request online](#).



Community Budget Hearings

In early April, the City of Phoenix will host 9 in-person Community Budget Hearings to gather feedback on the proposed fiscal year 2024-25 Trial Budget. Additionally, two virtual/in-person hearings will be held April 2 at 6 p.m. and April

6 at 10:30 a.m. in City Council Chambers. Community Feedback is a vital part of the budget process and will be considered in the development of the City Manager's budget. The Budget Hearing website is currently being updated with the [Community Budget Hearing schedule and hearing information](#).



Fund PHX

[FundPHX](#) is an online tool that was launched in January 2020 designed to educate and engage the public in the City's annual budget process. The tool is available with the 2023-24 adopted budget in both English and Spanish, giving residents an opportunity to try their hand at balancing the City's General Fund operating budget. It also allows residents to provide feedback on current funding levels and share community priorities with staff. Information collected in the tool from residents will be shared regularly with City Council, so it can help guide development for the upcoming 2024-25 operating budget.



Volunteers Needed for Income Tax Assistance

Every year, the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program prepares free tax returns for low-to-moderate-income individuals and families.

VITA volunteers receive free training and are certified by the IRS to prepare basic tax returns. Greeters, screeners, bilingual interpreters, and site coordinators are also needed.

Training is free and available online to complete at your own pace. You can become a volunteer with as little as 8 hours of training and get IRS certified with 24 hours of training. Ready to sign up and work as a VITA volunteer? Register for an Information Session [here!](#)

Learn more about VITA at phoenix.gov/taxhelp.



Office of Homeless Solutions

The Office of Homeless Solutions (OHS) provides support for people experiencing homelessness and is committed to ending homelessness through a comprehensive, regional approach to shelter and heat relief, outreach, supportive and behavioral health services, homelessness prevention, and supportive housing.

This monthly report does not encompass the totality of the City's efforts to address homelessness but rather provides a review of the key highlights from the preceding month and an update on major upcoming projects.

[View the latest report.](#)

[View the Phoenix Homeless Solutions Data Dashboard.](#)



District 3 Street Transportation Department Updates

This report from the Street Transportation Department covers the period from December 29 through February 1 in District 3.

Phoenix Awarded Funding to Support Roadway Safety Education

The Arizona Governor's Office of Highway Safety recently awarded \$140,000 to

the Street Transportation Department to support educational outreach efforts connected to the city's comprehensive [Vision Zero Road Safety Action Plan](#).

ADA Curb Ramp Retrofit

These projects include the removal and replacement of non-ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant curb ramps, damaged concrete curb, gutter, valley gutters, and aprons or sidewalks, and the installation of new ADA compliant curb ramps. Newly compliant ADA ramps were installed in the areas bounded by 32nd St to 40th St., Shea Blvd. to Cactus Rd.

Street Right-of-Way Landscape Maintenance

Crews maintained the street right-of-way on Cave Creek Rd. and Cactus Rd. This work typically includes weed and trash removal and landscape pruning. This helps provide a safe environment for the public and enhances the image of the city's streets. For more information about the street right-of-way landscape maintenance program, visit phoenix.gov/streets/ROWlandscape.

To view planned or completed street maintenance, visit the interactive pavement maintenance dashboard at phoenix.gov/pavement.

Healthy Giving



This email was sent by Council District 3 at 200 West Washington Street, 11th Floor, Phoenix.AZ 85003.

[Unsubscribe or update your email preferences](#)