



May 14, 2021

Greetings,

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

- FREE COVID-19 Testing
- District 3 Community Coffee Chat on Comprehensive Roadway Safety
- 32nd Street: Shea Blvd. to Cholla St. Improvements
- Central Avenue: Bethany Home to Arizona Canal Proposed Lane Changes
- Drought Pipeline Construction Update
- City Pools Reopening & FREE Swim Lessons
- Community Centers Reopening
- Senior Centers Reopening
- Annual Fire Ban in Desert Parks and Preserves
- Dog Park Closures
- Shaw Butte Central Trailhead Impacted Access
- District 3 Street Transportation Department Updates

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,

Debra Stark
Councilwoman
City of Phoenix
[Council District 3](#)



FREE COVID-19 Testing

Mobile Van #1

Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays.
Offers antigen and antibodies test. [Read More.](#)



Mobile Van #2

Mondays or Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Saturdays.
Offers antigen results in 15 minutes and PCR with results within 24 hours. [Read More.](#)

Walk-Up/Drive-Up Sites

Weekends (varies) from 7 a.m. – 1 p.m. (varies)
Offers PCR test with results in 24 hours.



For more testing opportunities citywide, visit phoenix.gov/covidtesting.

May 20 – Virtual Community Coffee Chat



Mark your calendars! Our District 3 Community Coffee Chat is **Thursday, May 20 at 8:30 a.m.** on WebEx!

Our Street Transportation Department director and staff will join us to talk about **Comprehensive Roadway Safety**, the City Council's recent \$6 million investment toward this initiative, and the approval to develop a Roadway Safety Action Plan.

Grab your coffee and join us from the comfort of your home. Let us know you're coming: **RSVP** to council.district.3@phoenix.gov or 602-262-7441.

Join from meeting link:

<https://cityofphoenix.webex.com/cityofphoenix/j.php?MTID=mb23f45632c92bc944b093c5b0a042314>

Join by meeting number:

Meeting number (access code): 133 713 3058

Meeting password: RkT5qwxhP53

Join by phone:

1-415-655-0001

32nd Street: Shea Blvd. to Cholla Street Improvements

The Street Transportation Department hosted a virtual public meeting on May 11 regarding the 32nd Street: Shea Boulevard to Cholla Street Improvements. The meeting had great public turnout and participation. Thank you to all who attended!

In case you missed it, the presentation and meeting recording are both available on the project webpage:

phoenix.gov/streets/North32ndStreet.

A survey is also available until June 7 on the project webpage. Please submit your feedback and share with anyone who may be impacted. To receive project updates, submit your email address at the end of the survey.



Central Avenue: Bethany Home to Arizona Canal Proposed Lane Changes

A blue poster for a virtual public meeting. At the top is the "Streets PHX" logo with "STREET TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT" underneath. The main text reads "Virtual Public Meeting" in large white letters. Below that, it says "Proposed Lane Changes" and "Central Avenue, Bethany Home Road to Arizona Canal". At the bottom, it says "May 20 at 6 p.m." and "www.phoenix.gov/streets/lanechanges".

Streets PHX
STREET TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

Virtual Public Meeting

Proposed Lane Changes
Central Avenue, Bethany Home Road to Arizona Canal

May 20 at 6 p.m.
www.phoenix.gov/streets/lanechanges

The City of Phoenix Street Transportation Department is seeking your input on proposed changes to the travel lane striping on Central Avenue from Bethany Home Road to the Arizona Canal.

Please join us for a live virtual public meeting on **Thursday, May 20 at 6 p.m.** Learn more about the proposed changes and register to

participate in the virtual meeting by calling the project hotline at 623-825-3444 or visiting the project website at phoenix.gov/streets/lanechanges/central.

Drought Pipeline Construction Update

Phoenix Water is building new pipelines and pump stations to ensure all customers will have access to safe, clean and reliable drinking water for generations to come. With shortages looming on the Colorado River, these improvements will provide a way to move water supplies to those areas at risk for shortage.



What to watch for:

- Work will continue on 31st St. near Paradise Ln.
- Utility Relocations are currently underway on 32nd St. between Greenway and Thunderbird.

12" Water Main Relocation 31st St. North of Paradise Ln.

This operation is underway and anticipated to be complete by early June (pictured above). Short periods of water service interruption may be necessary. Affected customers will be notified at least 48 hours in advance of any water service interruptions.



66" Pipeline Installation 31st St. South of Bell Rd.

Construction of the 66" pipeline is scheduled to start May 24, 2021, at the future booster pump station on 31st St. south of Bell Rd. The pipeline will head north on 31st St. to Bell Rd. and continue east on Bell Rd. to 32nd St. Water service interruptions are not expected.

For project information, call 602-235-2666 or visit phoenix.gov/droughtpipeline.

To sign up for project updates, email waterworks@phoenix.gov.

City Pools Open May 29 & FREE Swim Lessons

The Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department is preparing for the summer 2021 pool season, with select pools and splash pads opening **May 29**.

12 city pools will open this summer:

- Cortez
- Deer Valley
- El Prado
- Encanto
- Falcon
- Maryvale
- Paradise Valley
- Pecos
- Perry
- Starlight
- Sunnyslope
- University



Pools will operate on the normal seasonal schedule and be open six days a week from May 29 (Memorial Day weekend) to August 1 (closed Fridays), and on Saturdays and Sundays only from August 7 to September 6 (Labor Day).

Capacity at the pools has been modified this summer and customers will need to reserve a time to participate in open swim. The reservation process for open swim times will be available starting May 27. Open swim will be available in three 90-minute time blocks each day, and reservations can be made up to three days in advance each Monday and Thursday throughout the season. Youth must be accompanied by someone at least 16 years old for open swim, and youth age 17 and younger will receive FREE admission to open swim at all pools.

Reservations for open swim can be made by visiting the [Pools webpage](#).

All swim lessons at city pools will be offered for FREE during summer 2021 and available to youth ages 3 to 12. Lessons will be presented in four sessions and registration for each session will open on dates staggered throughout the summer, as listed below:

Session A: June 7 to June 17 – registration opens May 13 at 4:30 p.m.

Session B: June 21 to July 1 – registration opens June 10 at 4:30 p.m.

Session C: July 5 to July 15 – registration opens June 24 at 4:30 p.m.

Session D: July 19 to July 29 – registration opens July 8 at 4:30 p.m.

Due to COVID-19 protocols, the number of classes and number of students in a class have been reduced this summer. Additionally, based on student skill level, a parent or guardian will be required to accompany their child in the water for some lessons.

The complete swim lesson schedule for 2021 and instructions about how to register is available on the [Aquatics Programs webpage](#).

Adult swim lessons, water aerobics, swim and dive teams, the water basketball league, and other special events and programs will not be offered at city pools this summer.

Rentals of City Pools by High School Swim and Dive Teams

Select city pools will be available for rental use by high school swim and dive teams for the 2021 fall season. All teams will be required to follow city and Arizona Interscholastic Association COVID-19 safety guidelines.

Community Centers Reopen June 7

The Phoenix City Council approved a plan for the tiered reopening of community centers and to resume the process for special park permits and special activity requests for private events of more than 50 people held on park property.

Tiered Reopening of Community Centers for Summer Youth Camps

The city's community and recreation centers have been closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic since March 2020, and the following 11 Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department facilities will reopen effective **June 7** for annual summer youth camps and limited indoor recreation classes by registration only. Drop-in use of these facilities will not be available.

- Deer Valley Community Center
- Desert West Community Center
- Eastlake Community Center
- Goelet A.C. Beuf Community Center
- Longview Neighborhood Recreation Center
- Maryvale Community Center
- Paradise Valley Community Center
- Pecos Community Center
- South Mountain Community Center
- Sunnyslope Community Center
- Washington Activity Center



Those facilities will be operated with the following COVID-19 protocols and safety amenities in place:

- Open at 50 percent capacity
- A mask or face covering will be required per the [city's mandate](#)
- A COVID-19 screening survey will be required upon arrival at a facility
- Temperature checks will be administered upon arrival at a facility

- Public facing reception areas will provide contactless customer service (plexiglass barriers have been installed at all service desks)
- Positioning of facility furniture and installation of signage to encourage physical distancing
- Hand sanitizer stations and touchless light switches have been installed at all facilities
- Fresh air intake volume has been increased at all facilities
- Janitorial staff will clean high-touch surfaces and restrooms daily

In-person summer youth camps for ages 6 to 12 will be offered at those 11 locations starting the week of June 7. Options for camps and other indoor recreation classes will be viewable on the [Activenet registration website](#) starting May 7. Registration for summer camps and programs will open on May 12 at 4:30 p.m.

Online registration is recommended, but in-person, walk-in registration will be available from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on May 12 at the following community centers – Desert West, Eastlake, Longview, Paradise Valley, South Mountain, and Washington. After May 12, in-person registration will be available by appointment only at the [Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department's division offices](#).

Summer youth camps will be operated at 50 percent capacity and participants will be required to wear a mask or face covering. Additionally, as part of COVID-19 protocol, lunch will be held outdoors. Misting or cooling towers will be used in the outdoor eating areas, and an indoor contingency plan will be used on days when there is inclement weather, or the forecast includes a heat advisory. Camp participants will be provided a pre-packaged lunch or can bring their own lunch daily. Also, swimming pool activities and field trips will not be a part of this year's summer camp programming.

City staff continues to work with public health professionals to monitor the Arizona Department of Health Services Community Transmission indicators. Once Phoenix has reached the moderate spread risk category, the city's remaining 16 community centers will reopen, capacity levels at centers will increase to 75 percent, and open gym and fitness room activities will resume at reduced capacities by reservation only.

Permit Process for Private Events Held on City Park Property

Effective May 10, the process will resume for community members to apply for a special activity request to hold a private event in a city park with more than 50 people, such as a birthday party or family gathering. That includes resuming the process to apply for a beer permit, or for use of an inflatable bounce house or amplified sound on park property.

Requests for a special event on park property that is open to the public still must be submitted for review by the [City Manager's Special Event Committee](#). Examples of these events include festivals, food truck events, craft fairs, etc.

Senior Centers Reopen June 7

The Phoenix City Council also approved the reopening of **all 15 senior centers**, to include on-site meal and senior shuttle services, with reduced capacities in a tiered approach.

Programming will be executed with the following mitigation efforts in place:



- Face coverings required in alignment with City of Phoenix facility mask mandate, except when eating
- A COVID-19 screening survey will be required upon arrival to the facility to determine their fitness to remain at the center.
- Temperature checks
- Due to maximum 50 percent occupancy limit for members, a reservation process will be utilized to offer morning (9 to 11:30 a.m.) and afternoon (1 to 3:30 p.m.) class and activity sessions; to maintain distancing, seniors will only be permitted to attend either the morning or the afternoon classes or activity sessions. When surveyed by staff, those seniors who responded agreed that this would allow the most number of individuals to attend.
- Public facing reception areas will provide contactless customer service. Plexiglass barriers have been installed at all service desks.
- Social distancing of center furnishings, including plexiglass dividers installed on tables, and installation of signage to encourage member, vendor and staff compliance with social distancing.
- Virtual programs and activities will continue to be provided utilizing digital instructor stations and remote TVs.
- Daily on-site janitorial staff will frequently clean and disinfect touched surfaces and restrooms throughout their day.
- Cleaning of games, craft items and exercise equipment will occur after each member use.
- Cleaning of computer laptops will occur after each laptop has been returned.
- Disinfectant wipes, hand sanitizer, disposable masks and gloves for members and staff will be readily available.
- Fresh air intake volume has been increased at all senior centers to circulate a higher concentration of fresh air into the buildings. MERV13 air filters have been installed at all senior centers.

More information: [Human Services Older Adult Programs \(phoenix.gov\)](https://www.phoenix.gov/human-services/older-adult-programs)

Annual Fire Ban in Desert Parks and Preserves in Effect

The Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department has put into effect its annual ban of open fires in the city's desert parks and mountain preserves. The Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department's [annual fire ban is also in effect as of May 1.](#)



In consultation with the Phoenix Fire Department, smoking and charcoal fires are included in the ban due to the extreme fire danger that the combination of low humidity, increased temperatures, excessive dry vegetation, and frequent high winds create each spring.

The ban applies to Camelback Mountain, Deem Hills Recreation Area, Lookout Mountain, Papago Park, Phoenix Mountains Park and Recreation Area, Phoenix Mountains Preserve, Phoenix Sonoran Preserve, North Mountain Park, Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Area, and South Mountain Park/Preserve. The ban does not apply to the city's flatland parks.

For those using the city's desert parks and preserve land, the fire ban stipulates the following:

- Open wood and charcoal fires are prohibited
- Propane or gas grills may be used, but only in established picnic areas
- Smoking outside enclosed vehicles is prohibited year-round
- Fireworks are prohibited year-round

Motorists traveling through or near Phoenix's desert parks and mountain preserves should use extreme care with smoking materials and dispose of those only in their vehicle's ash tray.

To protect their homes, residents whose property borders the city's preserve land may remove dry shrubs, brush and grasses, and trim dead branches from trees within the 10-foot strip of land that borders their property. By creating this 10-foot "buffer zone" residents can help to protect their homes from potential brush fires in the adjacent preserve land.

Preserve neighbors also should check irrigation lines and pool back-flush hoses to ensure that water is not seeping into the preserve. Outside water sources encourage unnaturally dense vegetation growth, which increases fire risk.

For general information regarding removing vegetation, residents can contact a Phoenix Park Ranger at 602-495-5458 or natural.resources.pks@phoenix.gov.

Dog Park Closures

During the late spring, summer and fall months, City of Phoenix dog parks undergo annual maintenance.

- **Grovers Basin / Echo Mountain Off Leash Arena:** Large and small dog areas closed June 1 to July 5.
- **Rose Mofford Sports Complex Dog Park:** Large dog area closed June 1 to July 15. Small dog area closed July 16 to August 31.
- **Paradise Valley Park Dog Park:** Large dog area closed July 5 to August 23. Small dog area closed August 24 to September 7.



For all dog park closures citywide, visit phoenix.gov/parks/parks/dog-parks.

Shaw Butte Central Trailhead Temporary Closure and Alternate Route



Access to the Shaw Butte Central Trailhead and the initial portion of the trail will be closed beginning **May 17** and last for approximately one week while construction work is being completed. While access will be impacted, an alternate route will be available for walk-in users.

Crews will be installing a new containment berm along the north edge of the Shaw Butte Mountain Service Tower Access Road at 12898 N. Central Ave.

The construction work is part of a flood control diversion project and containment berm designed to improve the flow of storm water and maintenance of the Tower Access Road. The project will also reduce the impact of stormwater runoff and deposited debris to the homes that back up to the mountain.

District 3 Street Transportation Department Updates

Check out all the projects Street Transportation crews have been busy completing around District 3 from March 29 through April 30!



Street Right-of-Way Landscape Maintenance

Crews maintained the landscaped areas within the street right-of-way at Cave Creek Rd. and Greenway Rd.; 7th Ave. and Greenway Pkwy; 7th Dr. and Thunderbird Rd.; and 12th St. and Greenway Pkwy.

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.

Roadway Repair Work

Street maintenance crews completed significant roadway repairs at Creek Rd. and Cortez St.

Drainage Construction

As part of routine maintenance, crews inspect for obstructions, clear vegetation and make repairs to keep flow lines open. Crews performed maintenance, construction or repair work at 7th St. and Thunderbird Rd.; and Greenway Pkwy. from 16th St. to 24th St.

Alley Maintenance

Street maintenance crews graded the dirt surface at an alley near E. Sylvia Str. and N. 27th Pl.

ADA Curb Ramp Retrofit

This project has been designed for the removal and replacement of non-ADA compliant curb ramps, damaged concrete curb, gutter, valley gutters, and aprons or sidewalks, and the installation of new ADA compliant curb ramps citywide. Newly compliant ADA ramps were installed along 32nd St. to 40th St.; and Thunderbird Rd. to Greenway Rd.



Shangri La Road Improvements

This project includes roadway improvements to add curb and gutter along the south side of Shangri La Road west of 15th Street, a new catch basin, and an 18-inch buried drainage pipe to remedy street flooding that occurs west of the intersection to a wash crossing.