

MAYOR'S NEWSLETTER – WINTER 2017

ATTENTION – LOCAL NEWS FOR PHOENIX, OREGON



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Special edition featuring the Phoenix Community Center and Phoenix City Department Directors

This edition of the Mayor's Newsletter will feature contributions from your Phoenix City Department Directors. I've asked each of our department leaders to submit information about items that impact their department and influence the management of Phoenix. Many thanks to Police Chief Derek Bowker, Finance Director Janette Boothe, Public Works Director Ray DiPasquale and Planning Director Evan MacKenzie. You'll find their contributions in this newsletter to be interesting and informative.

Special thanks to Karen Jones for submitting a two page update about the Phoenix Community Center.

Town Hall Meetings Update - Upon coming into office I proposed having a series of town hall meeting that provide opportunities for you to offer your questions, concerns, and suggestions to me, the City Council and the city staff. It's important that we reach out to each other. Thanks to all the residents of **Creekside Estates and Bear Lake Estates** for hosting prior town hall meetings. Thanks to **Phoenix High School** staff and students for hosting our latest town hall meeting on October 16th. The town hall meeting at Phoenix High School offered yet another opportunity for you and your fellow citizens to express their comments and concerns regarding the Main Street "Road Diet". 95% of the town hall participants voted to return Main Street to a two lane traffic pattern.

Phoenix Planning Director, Evan MacKenzie, reported: *"The City conducted an open house meeting to engage the public in possible options for reconfiguring Main Street in downtown Phoenix before the October 16 City Council meeting at Phoenix High School. More than 50 people attended the meeting, listened to a presentation by the Public Works Director, and had an opportunity to discuss the options presented. City staff created a simple sheet that allowed attendees to vote for their preferred alternative, and add comments if they wished. 57 votes were received; 13 of which included written comments. The responses showed overwhelming support for a return to two travel lanes."*

Please continue to contact me and the City Council regarding your "Road Diet" opinions. **NEXT >>>**

A message from Police Chief Derek Bowker:

Citizens of Phoenix,

The Phoenix Police Department would like to thank all of you for your support. Mayor Chris Luz handed out blue light bulbs at a recent City Council meeting in support of the Police Department and its officers. This has not gone unnoticed. Several officers have commented to me on how good it makes them feel to see the blue lights and what it represents.

Scam Alert: *Several people around the county have recently been scammed by individuals calling and identifying themselves as an employee of the Sheriff's Department. They will make up a reason, usually you missed jury duty or have an unpaid ticket, and state that you now have a warrant out for your arrest. In order to take care of the warrant, they will tell you to go to a store or the bank and get a prepaid gift card or money order. They will make sure you stay on the phone with them while you are doing this. Once you have purchased the gift card or money order, they will ask for information from the document. This information allows them to cash the card or money order without actually having to receive it. Once you have given them the information, your money is as good as gone.*

These individuals usually work from out of the country and there is no way to get your money back or to charge them. If you receive a call like this, or any other call that does not seem to be on the up and up, contact the Phoenix Police Department at (541)535-1113 before following any instructions from someone whom you cannot verify they are, who they say they are. Remember, these individuals are very convincing and will give you Deputy's names and will remain persistent until you either give them what they want or they realize you are not falling for the scam.

Derek A. Bowker

Chief, Phoenix Police Department

Thanks Chief.

Concerns Of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.) adopted the blue light idea as a way for everyone to honor the officers who serve and protect us while remembering those who have died in the line of duty. Project Blue Light has grown steadily as a way of supporting our police officers and remembering our departed law enforcement officers across America. The concept is simple. Place a single blue light at your home in memory of fallen officers and to support Chief Bowker and our local officers.



My fellow Phoenix residents, please join me by "going blue".

Thanks.

Volunteer Spotlight – Krista Peterson

Each Mayor's Newsletter highlights contributions of our volunteers that help keep Phoenix moving along. In this edition I'm going to introduce you to **Krista Peterson** of our Planning Commission. Krista has lived in Phoenix since 1989 and brings 18 years of home building experience and real world planning knowledge to our Planning Commission. She started building houses on Samuel Loop and Jared Court in the late 90's. Along with her brother, they built 10 homes in Phoenix over a 4 year period. Her family enjoys walking their dogs and visiting the parks in Phoenix.



Krista said, "Starting in 2015, my husband and I purchased 2 homes in Phoenix that needed repair and built a brand new triplex. We are excited to bring quality rentals to Phoenix. Our newest multi-unit endeavor will provide more quality rentals for Phoenix. I feel like Phoenix is a great city to live in and I am happy see the direction that Phoenix is moving towards!"

New Business Spotlight – Amigos Mexican Restaurant



The former owner of the Phoenix Jack in the Box, Vin Metha, has opened up two **Amigos Mexican Restaurants** at the locations of two former Si Casa Flores restaurants. Located at the Shoppes at Exit 24 and in the Larson Creek (Albertson's) Plaza on N. Phoenix Rd., Vin and his business partner Mario Majano are committed to providing an upscale dining experience at affordable prices. Mario infuses expertise developed from his many years of experience with Miguel's and La Fiesta in Jacksonville. The N. Phoenix Road location offers a private VIP room that can be reserved for private events (sorry, already reserved for this year's Super Bowl). Keep it local and check out **Amigos**. I had the Pollo A La Diabla and it was excellent.

Contact the Chamber of Commerce at 541-535-6956 for membership info. phoenixoregonchamber.org

The Pollination Place

Have you visited The Pollination Place at 107 W. 1st St. yet? It's home to Beyond Toxics, Pollinator Project Rogue Valley and Center for Creative Change. This partnership is focused on outreach and education around saving our pollinators, eliminating toxins from our environment, and engaging the community through art. Rotating art shows, classes, and services offer many opportunities for visioning, conversation, connecting and support of local artists and community members.

Upcoming events: (A suggested donation of \$10 is appreciated for the Saturday series; all are welcome.)

*New art exhibit February 10 - "Bridges to 2050", artwork by Catie Faryl of Center for Creative Change

*February 3 - Pollinator Project Presents "Creating Pollinator Habitat in SW Oregon: Lessons Learned" with Tom Landis of Southern Oregon Monarch Advocates

Beginning in mid-January, Center for Creative Change will offer after school art, science and nature classes. Call Catie Faryl at 541-535-1854 for information.

The Pollination Place is open Tuesdays through Fridays, noon to 5 pm. Connect with us on Facebook: Beyond Toxics, Pollinator Project Rogue Valley, and Center for Creative Change.

1st Phoenix Community Center

Phoenix Community Pantry

THANK YOU, 2017 COMMUNITY DONORS!

- RAY'S MARKET for weekly donations, now joined by the new
- CARTWRIGHT'S VALLEY MEATS in Medford. They both donate through Oregon Food Bank's Fresh Alliance Program with ACCESS!

Thank You PHOENIX for donating to:

- PHOENIX FOOD PROJECT: 23,298 lbs and a MUCH APPRECIATED \$2,664.
 - JACKSON CO FUEL COMMITTEE: 450+ lbs, plus lots of assistance & great neighboring!
 - ACCESS BARRELS at Umpqua Bank and Fire District 5: 946 lbs
 - MAIL CARRIER'S FOOD DRIVE in June: a whopping 2,454 pounds!
 - RAY'S STUFF THE TRUCK donors: 161 bags!!!!
 - BSA TROOP 535 gathered 273 pounds in their Nov. canned food drive. Thanks, neighbors!
 - PHOENIX LIBRARY AMNESTY PROGRAM: 103 pounds! Keep on borrowing!
 - CITY OF PHOENIX EMPLOYEES Christmas Green Bag Drive!
- AND: THANK YOU, generous donors, who just drop a bag at the pantry!**

1st Phoenix Community Center:
PANTRY and CLOSET
Wednesdays from 1-3pm
Saturdays from 10 - noon

PHOENIX COMMUNITY KITCHEN
FREE Dinners:

2nd & 4th Thursdays served from 5-7pm

Little things you can do to help the 1st Phoenix Community Center Pantry and Kitchen:

Link your Fred Meyer card to their Community Rewards program by going to:
fredmeyer.com/communityrewards

Type in our NEW non-profit number: 83821
Please **RE-register** if you were registered last year!
Every time you shop and use your Rewards Card you'll be helping your Pantry & Kitchen at
1st Phoenix Community Center
earn a donation!

YOU still earn your Rewards & Fuel Points and Rebates, just as you do now.
THANKS!!!

Winter 2017 Report from your Community Center!

Our **COMMUNITY** organization is based on collaboration, confidentiality & compassion

 phoenix
food project

The Phoenix Food Project was formed in 2011 to support the small pantry that Phoenix 1st Presbyterian Church had been running for decades. From a lovely beginning of 50 pounds from 5 families we have grown to 262 households and organizations donating an average 3,800 pounds every other month. Since 2011, Neighborhood Coordinators have gathered 151,205 donated pounds of welcome groceries, hygiene products, diapers, winter hats & gloves – and toilet paper! We are under the umbrella of the Neighborhood Food Project, which started gathering groceries for the Ashland Emergency Pantry in 2009. NFP now encompasses every city in the Rogue Valley, countless states across the country, and Canada. It's such a simple idea! More info see:

www.phoenixfoodproject.org

2017 Tally: Phoenix Food Project's Neighborhood Coordinators gathered from our generous donors 23,298 lbs and \$2,664 We couldn't do this without you!!! Thank you: ARCHANGEL MICHAEL GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH MEMBERS and JACKSON CO. REPUBLICAN WOMEN for your continuing support of our pantry.

If nobody has knocked on your door to sign you up, maybe YOU could start a group in your neighborhood! **LEND A HAND** Saturday, Feb. 10 between 9 and noon at the Community Center to see what it's all about! **It's So Simple!** Sign Up. Get a green bag: fill it up. Your Neighborhood Coordinator (which might be YOU!) will pick up your bag for delivery.

To join up contact District Coordinator, Karen Jones at info@phoenixfoodproject.org

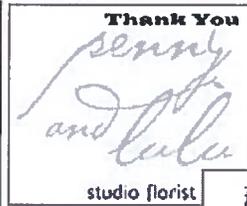
We'll ALL be glad to welcome you!



Volunteering at 1st Phoenix Community Center:
Got an hour? Half a day?
Once a week/month?

Stand up, sit down, rah rah rah: your time and talents are needed!!!
Please contact Volunteer Coordinator Carolyn "Lynza" Marshall
at 1.541.543.6874
leave a message, send an email, see us on Facebook, drop us a note.
Many hands make light work.

Phoenix Community Kitchen



For the lovely flowers for our Community Dinners!

Banners hung, invitations & posters out, "What's for dinner, Carolyn?" Spaghetti, garlic bread and a tossed green salad. Dessert T.B.A. - and so begins our twice-a-month, 2nd and 4th Thursdays FREE Dinner weeks. Executive Chef Alfred begins early prep. Dick and Alice lend hands, along with 20 core volunteers. January 25th, 2018: our 8th Anniversary's traditional Spaghetti Feed.

Year-end reports and the anniversary dinner always bring up memories of previous cooks and participants: Jabril Muhammad, Carlos DeBritto, Mike Stitt, and Jane Turner got the meatball rolling. Those who stirred the pots after: Mark Davis, Athena Hartley, Jordan Marshall, Larry Tarin, Marie Bat'el... and the list goes on.

This has been a wonderful year for youth. Trinity Mathis, in her second year of volunteering, has missed only four dinners in two years. Record Best for Youth. We received a \$250 cash donation from the Girl Scouts. Boy Scout Troop 535 has served several dinners and helped at the pantry. They get better every year. Jackie Reyes, Emily and Felicity, Renee and Relly, Tyler, Sierra and Dylan Luz, Phoenix' Mayor's children. You volunteers really are special to me -- and to our Community Center.

Yoko Ono, pictured above, has served at the dinner since the beginning. She creates beautiful bouquets and is her own kind self. Rick Hearst, Kaylie Snee, and Harold are our rock solid closers and security.

Chef Alfred. Alfred, pictured with Yoko, has been an absolute godsend. He absolutely loves cooking for the community and does a superb job. The dinners are delicious and special, topped off by his lovely desserts. Seconds please! He does it all on a slim budget, too-- with help from our Extreme Coupon Clipping Pantry Manager, Glenda.

COME FOR OUR FREE DINNER...
Join our FABULOUS 1st Phoenix
Community Center Teams!

THANK YOU, Kayla, Wilma & Crew
of the **IRON SKILLET @ PETRO**
for preparing
Phoenix Community Kitchen's
8th Anniversary
Spaghetti Feed Dinner, January 25th!

Phoenix Community Closet



1st Phoenix Community Center's Closet gives away gently used (and sometimes new) clothes. From the Closet's start as a Phoenix High Senior Project, our community has donated wonderful clothing and things that we have been sorting, displaying and distributing to anyone who comes to shop.

Closet volunteers put in 1,237 hours last year, moving clothes upstairs, sorting for stains and rips, season, size and kind, and helping people shop. We shop for customers who can't climb the stairs -- **and we always need more volunteers!**

We take donations of new, clean, lightly worn, mended clothes. WE REALLY NEED men's clothes, (especially size 30 to 34 jeans,) shoes, coats, shirts and ALL sizes of men's boxer briefs. PLUS: blankets, towels, coats, waterproof tarps and back packs for kids. **Watch for our late summer Back-to-School Clothing Give Away and Community Festival!**

We have a huge selection of women's tops, shoes, pants, dresses, skirts, PJs, purses, scarves and seasonal attire. (PLUS: fabric, curtains, blankets, towels and home decor.) You may drop off donations at --1st Presbyterian Church at 2nd & Church -- or, if you have a truck load, we will pick them up.

The Closet has no budget. Your nicest donations go to consignment. That money buys NEW underwear. When needed, the Presbyterians hold "Undie Sunday." New, packaged underwear fills the donation plate really fast! Join the cause!

Other groups benefit from our over-flow: Soroptimist's "Dress for Success" program (for women in the work force,) Friends of Animal Shelter (blankets and towels,) Family Nurturing Center, Phoenix & Talent Elementary and Phoenix High schools (stash of extra clothing for kids,) and Phoenix Library (kid's art supplies.) We share goods with Boys&Girls Club, Community Works, Goodwill, Butte Falls Community Center, Medford Senior Center, Hospice Thrift Ashland, Methodist Church Pantry, Talent Friends Church, Salvation Army, Magdalene Home and St. Vincent De Paul. And many more...

AND STILL we have enough STUFF to have a FUNDRAISING • INDOOR RUMMAGE SALE! SATURDAY, MARCH 10th!

DONATE your stuff! LEND A HAND: We are ALWAYS short of volunteers. Please call Carolyn Marshall to Reserve Your Volunteer Duty for Friday Set-Up and/or Saturday SALE! We Are Your Community Center, hosted at Phoenix 1st Presbyterian, 2nd & Church, 541-535-1119, P.O. Box 390 for \$\$\$!

A message from Phoenix Finance Director, Janette Boothe:



Finance Department Highlight: Revenue Earned From Marijuana Tax FY 2017/18

The City of Phoenix voters passed a ballot measure in November 2016 enabling the City to collect a three percent (3%) tax on recreational marijuana sales. Additionally, the decision to allow marijuana retailers within the City enables the City to receive a share of Oregon's marijuana tax revenue collected. The City of Phoenix chose to budget conservatively for the fiscal year 2017/18, budgeting for a total amount of revenue at \$15,000. The City of Phoenix Finance Department is pleased to share that with only half of the year's marijuana tax revenue, the City has collected just over \$83,000.

The marijuana tax revenue is dedicated for purposes of education, public safety and parks within the City. Revenue received will go a long way towards building up the community and used for purposes directly affecting community members. Outlined in the City of Phoenix Strategic Plan as priority goals include providing safe, accessible, family-friendly parks and increase park use through organized activities and providing safe, productive and professional work spaces for employees. Marijuana tax revenue may provide the City the opportunity to complete top objectives noted in the City of Phoenix Strategic Plan, such as prioritize, fund and complete the projects called for in the adopted Parks Master Plan and assisting in the funding for a new and improved City of Phoenix Police Department.

Deliberations will be held by the budget committee and City Council to establish specific uses and authorizations for use of the marijuana tax revenue collected.

Thanks Janette.

Phoenix citizens can rest assured that our City finances are strong. A solid, healthy budget is a "bedrock" result of governing wisely. Recent City Councils have worked hard to turn around our financial position and govern with a sound "live within our means" philosophy.

Budget Committee Openings - The Budget Committee consists of the seven City Council members and seven other Citizen Members from Phoenix. The Citizen Members are appointed by the Mayor with confirmation of the City Council. Citizen Members serve three year terms. We have three budget committee openings. Please let me know if you would like to serve on the committee.

Save the Date - Phoenix Community Center Indoor Rummage Sale Fundraiser - Saturday March 9th. Donate your stuff for a great cause. 1st Presbyterian Church at 2nd and Church.

A message from Ray DiPasquale, PE - Public Works Director:

The Public Works Department is responsible for the maintenance of and improvements to the water system, storm drainage system, parks facilities, and street system. A collaborative effort between numerous public officials is required to allow the city to function in a manner that is supportive of current and future conditions.

We have been extremely busy keeping pace with the residential and commercial projects currently being built around town. The crew has responded very well to the challenge of maintaining existing facilities, and dove-tailing their schedules with the developer's contractors to make sure projects are not delayed due to our required inspection and installation activities.

Since the weather has been cooperating with us, the crew has been working on several drainage and water service maintenance projects. Much of this work takes place on city streets and consequently incurs a certain amount of safety risks associated with construction work adjacent to travelled ways. We appreciate the courtesy and patience that the citizens have shown around our active work sites, and we ask that everyone exercise due caution when near an active work site. **Above all, Safety First!!**

A message from Evan MacKenzie - Planning Director:

What's happening with the Phoenix Urban Growth Boundary Expansion?

The City of Phoenix was granted several Urban Reserve areas through the Regional Problem Solving (RPS) process. Urban Reserves are areas where the City may expend its Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) to meet long-term growth needs. In order to expand the UGB, the City must first complete updates to several of our Comprehensive Plan elements. Together, the various elements in our Comprehensive Plan, combined with the RPS effort, will help the City justify an expansion into undeveloped areas east of I-5 and north of Fern Valley Road. The expansion will likely occur incrementally rather than all at once, and will ultimately provide the City with an additional 497 acres for new commercial (62%) and residential (27%) development. The remaining land will be dedicated to parks and open space.

Public Involvement

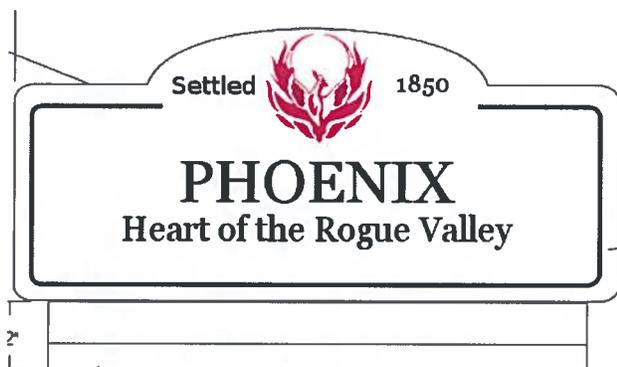
How do we engage the public in the 21st century? How do we inform a populace? News travels fast, and in this digital era, unchecked news travels even faster. In 2018, Planning & Building staff will undertake efforts to increase the availability of information to the public. We are somewhat hampered by a website that may not currently support all of the information we would like to post in an easily accessible manner, but we will work on it.

The Planning and Building Department looks forward to 2018 as a year that will build on the work of our predecessors to make Phoenix "The Little City that Could." We are at the leading edge of a growth expansion that will quite literally change the face of this community. Our goal is to do our best to preserve the things people like about this community while maximizing the development potential we see in our downtown and expansion areas east of Interstate 5.

Church Street News – North Church Street improvements are scheduled to happen in 2018. It's been great to hear from the residents of Church Street regarding the proposed changes. Your voices have been heard. The overall consensus is to reduce the improvement "footprint" in order to save trees, keep a rural small town feel and not have a Church Street that looks like Rose Street. City staff, the City Council and Church Street residents will continue to work together to format a solution that's responsive to residents of Church Street.

Phoenix Plaza - Construction is well under way for our **Phoenix Plaza Park and Building**, located on Main Street, between 2nd and 3rd Street. Adroit Construction and cooperative weather patterns have come together to keep the 6,300 square foot community center and park project on schedule. The Phoenix Plaza will enhance the quality of life and promote community involvement here in Phoenix. The project should be completed this summer. I'll keep you posted with ribbon cutting ceremony news.

Good News – We will be installing two welcome monument signs in Phoenix.



I have heard from some of you regarding the lack of signage that welcomes residents and visitors to Phoenix. **The solution: We will be installing two welcome monument signs.** The signs will be 5 feet high, 9 feet wide and 8 inches thick and mount to 24 inch wide concrete bases. One sign will be placed in the triangular landscaped area just off exit 24 as you approach downtown. The other sign will be placed at the beginning of the landscaped couplet area at the southern entrance

to Phoenix. The signs will be wonderful complements to our continuing efforts to beautify our city.

I hope you have you have enjoyed reading this edition of the Mayor's newsletter. Please contact me with your suggestions, concerns and recommendations as we work together to improve our Phoenix.

Take Care,

Chris Luz

Mayor, City of Phoenix (541)-535-1955 ext. 314 chris.luz@phoenixoregon.gov

As always, Phoenix says thanks to your City Council Members: Jim Snyder – President, Stuart Warren – Vice President, Terry Baker, Cindy Cameron, Mike Shunk, and Sarah Westover.

Gas prices in the valley are up slightly. Some great prices are: Shell (at the Petro Truck Stop right here in Phoenix) at \$2.63, Astro (1006 Riverside, Medford) \$2.65, Costco \$2.63 and Fred Meyers \$2.66.