

**MAYOR'S NEWSLETTER**

**ATTENTION – IMPORTANT LOCAL NEWS**

**JEFF BELLAH, MAYOR**

**541-535-1955 EXT 305 (VOICEMAIL)**

[Jeff.bellah@phoenixoregon.gov](mailto:Jeff.bellah@phoenixoregon.gov)



**FELLOW PHOENIX CITIZENS,**

In this newsletter, I want to update you on activities and issues in Phoenix. The elections are over and all of us are grateful that the citizens of Phoenix have confirmed their satisfaction in the direction we are taking the city through the democratic process of voting. The City Council for the next two years will be comprised of the following elected officials.



**Bruce Sophie – Councilor\***  
**Karen Jones – Councilor\*\***

**Jeff Bellah – Mayor**  
**Stan Bartell -- Councilor**  
**Terry Helfrich – Councilor**

**Chris Luz – Councilor**  
**Carolyn Bartell – Councilor**

\*2015 Council President

\*\*2015 Council Vice President

**PHOENIX URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY (UR) PROGRESS:** The Phoenix Urban Renewal Agency (PHURA) has hired a new Executive Director. Mr. Jim Sharp has over 30 years commercial real estate development experience, over 25 years of Executive Construction Management experience and has worked with Economic and Redevelopment Agencies in several states, including Oregon. We look forward to working together to improve our community. Mr. Sharp has stepped in and quickly brought himself up to speed. He has already proposed changes to the downtown infrastructure along Main Street with the potential to promote more timely construction and enable the achievement of significant cost savings. Please visit the PHURA Website at <http://www.phoenixura.com/> for more details and a complete list of planned projects with timelines for the next five years.



**RETIREMENTS:** Dan Marshall, the long-time Fire Chief for Jackson County Fire District 5, (includes Phoenix, Talent and surrounding areas), retired on January 1<sup>st</sup>. The Phoenix City Council recognized his contributions and presented him with a plaque to honor his service at the January 4<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting.



Also retiring in January was Joe Strahl, our long-term contract Engineer. Joe was instrumental in helping to guide the development of

our water and street systems. Joe also received recognition by the Council, and January 20, 2015 was proclaimed as **Joe Strahl Day** in the City of Phoenix.

Both of these fine professionals will be greatly missed. We wish them well deserved retirements.

**MEDICAL MARIJUANA DISPENSARIES/FACILITIES:** Phoenix continues to maintain a moratorium prohibiting the operation of any business that possesses, tests, processes or distributes marijuana until May 1, 2015. In the interim, the City Council has passed an Ordinance that will prohibit Dispensaries from locating near schools, parks and residences if a license is granted in the future. Additionally, there are limits on hours of operation and other restrictions that are in place if and when a business license is issued. Although the Oregon Legislature has much work to do to develop the rules to implement the successfully approved Measure 91 on Recreational Marijuana usage, the city will continue to plan for local time, place and manner restrictions for the eventual implementation under the oversight of the Oregon Liquor Control Commission. One issue where we get complaints is from neighbors of people who are growing marijuana in their back yards. The City Council will review this practice shortly and would appreciate public input.



### Phoenix Library Activities

Jody Fleming, Phoenix Library Branch Manager

- Our new Saturday hours have been terrific! We had 17 people of all ages come to wrap jars in yarn, and 45 people attended Lego Day. Programs scheduled in February include **Painting with Marbles** on February 14th from 1 - 2 pm, and showing **Disney's Frozen in Spanish** on Saturday, February 21st at 1 pm. All programs and events are free. We supply the materials, and serve popcorn and soda at the movie!
- AARP will begin their tax assistance program on Tuesday, February 3rd, from 9 am to noon. They will be at the Phoenix Branch every Tuesday through April 14.
- Our Monday Movies continue on February 23<sup>rd</sup> with episodes of the **Flintstones TV** show. We serve popcorn and soda, all ages are welcome, and it's always free. Sponsored by the Friends of the Phoenix Library.
- Our **Mystery Readers Roundtable** meets Tuesday, February 17, from 2 - 3 pm. The theme this month is arson and fire-related crimes.
- **Story Time** occurs Thursdays at 11 am, and the **Dominoes Group** meets every Thursday from 1 - 3 pm.

**INTERCHANGE / FERN VALLEY ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND DOWNTOWN PHOENIX:** Even with winter's colder temperatures and wetter conditions, construction on the Fern Valley Interchange project continues unabated in

and around Interstate 5 exit 24. Bridge beams were set on the first half of the Bear Creek Bridge last October. Construction now is focused on tying the steel to the bridge deck in preparation for a spring deck pour. For more information visit the ODOT Website at: [http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/REGION3/Pages/fvi\\_index.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/REGION3/Pages/fvi_index.aspx)

**REMINDER!** During the construction on the Interchange, Fern Valley Road and Hwy 99 on Main Street, the hazards will be consistent and challenging to drivers for most of the next two years. Because of these conditions, it is extremely important that everyone ensure they obey all traffic laws while driving carefully and defensively. The Phoenix Police Department has increased traffic patrols in these areas and there have definitely been more speeding and other driving citations issued.

**PARKS AND RECREATION:** We have a new entry sign at Blue Heron Park that is a very attractive addition. Additionally, a student from Phoenix High School completed a "Blue Heron" Design which is also on the side of the Band Shell at the park.

We plan to have 20 flower baskets downtown again this year with improved maintenance by working with Ashland and possibly Talent.

The Parks Committee is planning to sponsor an Easter Egg Hunt for the children on April 4<sup>th</sup> so watch for more details.

Plans are being developed for a kick-off BBQ at Blue Heron Park in June to be co-sponsored by the Community Dinner volunteers at the Phoenix Presbyterian Church. This is a wonderful group and they continue to sponsor free dinners and social interaction on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays



each month from 5-7 pm at the church.

Watch for more activities being planned for this year including the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Dog Days Parade, Vegi-Jam, Homecoming Parade, and concerts in the park.

**STREET AND WATER INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR:** We plan to complete a large project this summer to repave streets and replace main water lines in the Coral Circle neighborhood and on a portion of 1<sup>st</sup> Street between Colver Road and Hilsinger. Currently we are planning the following time schedule:



February 17, 2015	OPEN FOR BIDS ON THE PROJECT
March 17, 2015	OPEN AND REVIEW
April 6, 2015	COUNCIL AWARDS PROJECT
April 16, 2015	CONSTRUCTION BEGINS
June 30, 2015	PROJECT COMPLETION

The 1<sup>st</sup> Street repaving portion of the project funded through a grant received this year and through funds we have set aside for Capital Improvements. There will be some inconveniences during this construction but the will be worth it. Later this summer we are planning to do major maintenance on a large of streets with Chip Seal Surface sealing. Our five year goal is to bring all of our streets up to the **Green Level**,

**PHOENIX CITY-WIDE SPRING CLEANING DAY!**

***Earth Day: Saturday, April 18th, 8am - 4pm at Phoenix Public Works***

Limited to Phoenix residents only: help make your neighborhood beautiful -- bring in trash, appliances, electronics, yard debris!

More info at the ORGANIZING MEETING (Help us organize a great, worthwhile day!)

1st Phoenix Community Center - 2nd & Church -- 3:30pm, Feb 21st. Bring your ideas!

Contact: Phoenix Public Works or Councilor Karen Jones at: [karen.jones@phoenixoregon.gov](mailto:karen.jones@phoenixoregon.gov)

BIDS  
DATE  
will be the rest  
results  
number

meeting all standards.

**IMPORTANT PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT**

PLEASE fix your cats (and dogs!) before breeding season this winter. The cost is \$25 per cat. In just 2 years, 1 unfixed cat can result in 67 cats being born. Females can start having kittens when only 4 months old.

SNYP (Spay Neuter Your Pets) offers FIX-it tickets at the Southern Oregon Humane Society (SOHS) on Table Rock Rd. SOHS is open from 11am to 5pm 7 days a week.

If you cannot pay \$25, SNYP can help. Call them at [541 858-3325](tel:5418583325).

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:** Do you know or would you like to know more about the Phoenix Food Project? Learn how you can help with this valuable program or get help if you are in need, by going to [onegreenbag.org](http://onegreenbag.org) or emailing Karen Jones at [phoenixfoodproject.org](mailto:karen@phoenixfoodproject.org).

**LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES:** The Little Free Library project is progressing with final plans to build 3 of the structures for Phoenix on February 21<sup>st</sup>. Once installed at City Hall, Otto Caster Park, and by the Head Start Building near the Elementary School, everyone will have places



to borrow and leave books for all to enjoy. I look forward to this project being completed by the Ford Family Foundation Leadership Class.

**BUDGET COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** The City of Phoenix needs Budget Committee Members to complete our Annual Budget during the period of April to June this year. The Budget Committee is comprised of the City Council and seven community members. We will review, modify and recommend approval of a final budget from proposals put forth by the City Manager and his departments for 2015-2016. A final budget will then be submitted to the City Council for our General Operating Fund, Streets, Water, Parks and Special Funds. I believe citizen involvement and participation is critical to the success of this process. This is an extremely important function of the city and we need people with the willingness to serve. If you can help us, please pick up an application from City Hall. Thanks for your consideration.

Thank you also for your support for all things PHOENIX and your confidence that we are moving forward as a community. I can be reached by email at [jeff.bellah@phoenixoregon.gov](mailto:jeff.bellah@phoenixoregon.gov), phone [\(541\) 535-1955 x 305](tel:5415351955x305), or through drop-in hours at City Hall on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1-3pm. I would also be glad to meet you at other times by appointment. Feel free to contact any of our Council members with ideas, concerns and comments. We especially appreciate feedback from citizens on issues we are facing as a city.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Bellah". The signature is written in a cursive style.

**Jeff Bellah**  
Mayor, City of Phoenix