

Scottsdale encourages residents to direct dollars to social service agencies

A recent street count in metropolitan Phoenix shows a continued rise in homelessness – a 22 percent increase over last year. Along with that, the public has seen various activities that may be related to homelessness rise, including sleeping in public places, littering and panhandling.

City staff are working to direct those in need to appropriate resources while accommodating citizens' concerns about excessive panhandling and related issues.

In addition, the city has placed temporary signs in various locations that encourage the public to donate to social service



agencies rather than giving to individuals asking for money.

While handing money to someone may feel good in the moment, donating dollars instead to social service agencies that help those in need is a more effective way to address the root causes of homelessness and panhandling.

The city also discourages panhandling (which is not illegal) because of the safety hazards associated with it. Panhandlers may distract drivers or obstruct views, and put themselves at risk alongside busy roadways.

In addition to the temporary signs, which will be moved as needed to areas where panhandling is prevalent, city staff are distributing community resource cards to people experiencing homelessness and helping those individuals with access to social workers and job training specialists.

In Fiscal Year 2018/19, the City Council approved nearly \$769,000 to support 18 nonprofit agencies working to address various aspects of homelessness, including support for regional shelters. This is in addition to the direct services provided by city of Scottsdale social workers and agencies located at city human services facilities (such as Vista del Camino).

The city has developed a resource page for residents and others seeking more information about this challenging topic. Visit ScottsdaleAZ.gov and search "panhandling" to find links to social service agencies and programs along with legal information relating to homelessness and panhandling.

The city remains a committed partner, working with state and federal governments, non-profit organizations, faith communities and compassionate, committed citizens to improve the lives of those in these difficult situations.



VOTERS WILL CONSIDER COMMUNITY PROJECTS IN NOV. 5 BOND ELECTION

The Scottsdale City Council unanimously agreed to seek voter approval to issue bonds for 58 community projects totaling up to \$319 million. The projects will appear on the ballot grouped in three questions: (1) parks, recreation and senior services; (2) community spaces and infrastructure; and (3) public safety and technology.

This will be Scottsdale's first election conducted completely via mail – every registered voter in Scottsdale will be sent a ballot with prepaid return postage.

If voters approve, the city expects to finance these projects by issuing general obligation bonds to be repaid through secondary property taxes. The financial impact of the bond election will vary from resident to resident based on property values and the number of bond projects financed.

The estimated average annual tax rate for the proposed bond authorization is \$0.2877 per \$100 of limited assessed valuation used for secondary property tax purposes.

The City Council set the bond program at \$319 million after confirming that the bonds can be issued in stages as existing bonds are paid off in order to keep the city's secondary property taxes at or below current levels.

Find a complete list of bond projects, frequently asked questions about bonds and the election, and more information at ScottsdaleAZ.gov search "election."

Pictured above: Fire Station 613 at the southwest corner of Jomax and Hayden roads was built with bonds approved by voters in 2015.

Important dates for Scottsdale's Nov. 5 Special Election

- Wednesday, Aug. 7 (5 p.m.): Deadline to file ballot arguments in support or opposition to the bond questions
- Monday, Oct. 7: Voter registration deadline for this election
- Wednesday, Oct. 9: Maricopa County begins mailing ballots
- Tuesday, Nov. 5: Deadline for ballots to be received (NOT postmarked)

Find more election information and helpful links at ScottsdaleAZ.gov, search "election."



Drinkwater Boulevard/Civic Center reconstruction nearing completion

Although it may not look it, things are progressing on the emergency reconstruction of the Drinkwater Boulevard bridge/Civic Center project.

The area and street were closed last July due to structural concerns found during inspections.



New reinforced concrete walls now support the structure. The existing opening will be filled-in with hollow-core slabs and topped with a concrete deck. Once closed in, new waterproofing and drainage systems will be installed, followed by electrical work and basic landscaping.

The reconstruction project, funded by deferring other planned projects and using savings from recently completed projects, is on schedule to reopen this fall.



Once reopened for the public, the Civic Center landscaping and features will be minimal.

There is an unfunded project on the Nov. 5 bond election that would finance construction and improvements on the entire Civic Center per the Civic Center Master Plan.

Learn more at ScottsdaleAZ.gov, search “construction.”



Know what's below before digging. Aug. 11 is National 811 Day – and a little nudge to remind you to always check before you dig.

Have you ever wondered about the different colored markings on roads or in yards? They're a sign that a contractor or homeowner put safety first and identified utility lines prior to excavation. Call 811 or go to Arizona811.com to request a utility line locate at least two working days prior to digging.

“Bag & tie” your garbage and grass to beat the summer heat. Keeping waste bagged reduces spills, odors and pest problems, which is especially important during the summer heat. It's more than a good idea, it's the law. Learn more at ScottsdaleAZ.gov, search “bag & tie.”

SCOTTSDALE UPDATE is published six times per year by the city of Scottsdale. If you have questions or suggestions, please email communications@ScottsdaleAZ.gov.

General city information:

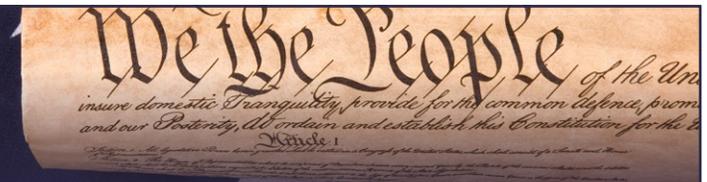
480-312-3111 or email questions@ScottsdaleAZ.gov



Visit these Scottsdale museums for free Sept. 21. Both the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art and Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West are participating in Museum Day, an annual celebration of boundless curiosity hosted by Smithsonian magazine. Learn more and download your ticket beginning Aug. 15 at SmithsonianMag.com/MuseumDay.

Join NASA Solar System Ambassador Mark Johnston to explore the top 30 mysteries in astronomy, Aug. 15. It seems the more astronomers learn, the more mysteries they uncover. One of NASA's experts will talk about a few recently solved mysteries, and many more that are still a puzzle. The free program is at 6 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 15, at Mustang Library.

Scottsdale Show and Tell takes place in conjunction with the free Children's Learning and Play Festival, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 7, at WestWorld. Learn more about city programs and services while enjoying activities such as nature exhibits and a children's play zone. Find more at ScottsdaleAZ.gov, search “show and tell.”



Constitution Day Contest showcases American pride.

Mayor W.J. “Jim” Lane hosts the annual program to commemorate the Sept. 17, 1787, signing of the U.S. Constitution. Students in first grade through high school can submit essays or art/video pieces and earn great prizes.

Submit entries through Tuesday, Sept. 17, at any Scottsdale Library information desk or electronically to kkuester@ScottsdaleAZ.gov. Get details at ScottsdaleAZ.gov, search “constitution contest.”

MORE THINGS TO DO

For more info, search terms in bold at ScottsdaleAZ.gov:

- Registration opens July 29 for city **after school programs**
- **Events below are part of the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy's educational series - learn more at McDowellSonoran.org:**
- Fauna of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve - Part 1: Mammals Aug. 6 at Mustang Library
- Become “Inspired by Nature” Sept. 3 at Mustang Library



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