



Preparing to celebrate Scottsdale's 75th anniversary

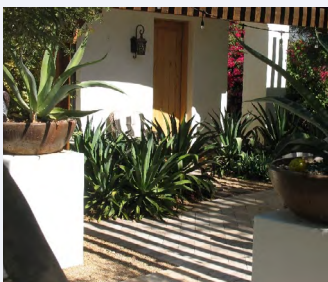
In 2026, the City of Scottsdale will proudly mark its 75th anniversary—a milestone honoring the people, progress and spirit that shaped our community since its incorporation on June 25, 1951. Throughout the year,

we invite you to join us in celebrating the vibrant history, unique culture and exciting future of “The West’s Most Western Town.” From community events and historical highlights to opportunities for reflection and fun, this anniversary is more than a celebration—it’s a tribute to the city we all call home.

Check out planned events and activities (including an online place to share your fondest memories of Scottsdale) by visiting [Scottsdale75.com](https://www.scottsdale75.com).

Scottsdale’s local celebration coincides with a national one: the United States will commemorate its 250th anniversary on July 4, 2026, marking 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence. A year-long series of events will take place across the country, making 2026 a truly historic year to celebrate both locally and nationally.

Strong roots start in the fall



If your plants look tired after summer, it may be time for replacements. Fall is the best season to plant in Scottsdale — the cooler weather allows roots to establish, making plants stronger and better able to soak up beneficial rainwater.

For long-term success, choose Arizona-friendly plants that thrive with less water and care. Planting desert trees can provide filtered shade for sensitive species like agaves, helping soil stay cooler and moister. Shade cloth is another option when natural shade isn’t available.

Today’s landscaping trends favor low-water-use plants and smart placement over heavy watering. With the right choices, you can enjoy a vibrant, resilient yard year-round.

Learn more: watch our YouTube video [Grow Strong & Healthy Trees in the Desert](#) and download free guides [Landscape Plants for the Arizona Desert](#) and [Landscape Watering by the Numbers](#) at [ScottsdaleAZ.gov](https://www.scottsdaleaz.gov), search “publications.”

Family fun, frights and firsts at Scottsdale's Fall Festival

The Scottsdale Fall Festival is moving to the Scottsdale Civic Center, 3939 N. Drinkwater Blvd., and we’re leveling up the fun! This free, family-friendly event takes place from 5 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 18, and features a live band, DJ and magic show.

Kids can fill their bags in Trick-or-Treat Alley, explore our festive Pumpkin Patch and enjoy more than 25 carnival-style games, crafts, face painting and hands-on activities.



Plus, visit booths hosted by city departments to learn about upcoming projects and chat with staff.

Costumes are welcome (but not required), and best of all — everything is free to enjoy!

Outdoor water use creeping up? As irrigation systems age and leaks occur, water efficiency often falls by the wayside. Schedule your free, one-on-one Outdoor Water Efficiency Check

to learn how to adjust your irrigation clock and to identify common age-related issues that may need attention. Call 480-312-5650 to schedule your check today.



Help create safer streets in Scottsdale.

The city is launching Safe Streets Scottsdale – a comprehensive Transportation Safety Plan designed to improve road safety and reduce serious collisions. Your input will help shape the plan's goals and priorities.

Now through November, you can get involved by:

- Joining interactive community walking assessments
- Taking part in virtual bike ride experiences
- Completing a community questionnaire

The plan will be developed during regularly scheduled Transportation Commission meetings, which are open to the public.

Don't miss your chance to share your ideas and help make Scottsdale's streets safer for everyone. Learn more and sign up for engagement opportunities at [ScottsdaleAZ.gov](https://scottsdaleaz.gov), search "Safe Streets Scottsdale."

What's in my backyard? Get answers to that question at a relaxed community open house with food, kid-friendly activities, a fire station tour and the chance to talk one-on-one with city staff. Learn about projects, services, and events happening in your neighborhood while connecting with friends and neighbors close to home.

5:30 – 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 27, Fire Station 613 (26380 Hayden Road)

This is the first in a series, each tailored to a specific area – look for one coming to your area at [ScottsdaleAZ.gov](https://scottsdaleaz.gov), search "WIMBY."

The Bentley Scottsdale Polo Championships return to WestWorld Nov. 8–9. Expect thrilling matches, high fashion, luxury cars and live music for what's known as "the world's greatest polo party."

Now in its 14th year, the event is the most attended polo tournament in the country and features six matches with top teams from around the globe, along with a special match between the U.S. Army and U.S. Navy squads.

New this year, the Polo Party coincides with the WestWorld Art & Wine Experience, showcasing 100 artists, more than 20 Arizona wineries and interactive exhibits throughout the weekend.

Learn more and view ticket options at thepoloparty.com.



McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park celebrates 50 years.

On Oct. 4, the community is invited to the park's **Golden Jubilee celebration**, part of the annual **Railfair weekend**. Enjoy live music, activities, historical displays and a commemorative ceremony honoring the park's legacy as one of Scottsdale's favorite spots for family fun over the last 50 years.



The festivities don't stop there. Enjoy some of Scottsdale's most popular family events throughout 2025:

- **Halloween Spook-Track-ula (Oct. 10-31)** – A month-long transformation of the train ride into a family-friendly haunted adventure.
- **Holiday Lights (Nov. 29 – Dec. 30)** – A dazzling holiday tradition featuring festive displays and a train ride through a winter wonderland.
- **Noon Year's Eve (Dec. 31)** – A daytime New Year's celebration for families with a train ride, music, activities and a "noon" countdown.

This summer, the park opened several highly anticipated features designed to enhance the visitor experience year-round, including a 10,000-square-foot train-themed indoor play space, a 5,000-square-foot splashpad play area and new entry plaza. For details on events, tickets and park amenities, visit [TheRailroadPark.com](https://therailroadpark.com).

Things To Do

For complete details, search [ScottsdaleAZ.gov/events](https://scottsdaleaz.gov/events):

- **Recycle electronics** 7:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. Oct. 4, at the city's North Corporation Yard
- Learn efficient **irrigation techniques**, 11 a.m. Oct. 16, at Mustang Library
- **Trunk-or-Treat** with Scottsdale Police 5 - 8 p.m. Oct. 30, 7601 E. McKellips Road
- Shop the **Arts and Crafts Fair** 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Nov. 1, Granite Reef Senior Center
- Attend Scottsdale's **Veterans Day Commemoration** 10:30 a.m. – noon, Nov. 11, Civic Center Memorial Lawn adjacent to Scottsdale City Hall

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



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