

Phoenix

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February 2015

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Highest S&P Credit Rating of 6 Largest U.S. Cities **AA+** STRONG CREDIT RATING STABLE OUTLOOK



Registration opens for free Phoenix Business Experience

Businesses of all sizes are invited to attend the City of Phoenix Business Experience, a free event March 10 that will connect business owners with city experts in procurement, construction, sales taxes, business assistance and more at the Phoenix Convention Center.

The inaugural event's keynote speaker will be Jason Rowley, president of the Phoenix Suns and Phoenix Mercury.

The event begins at 8 a.m. (with registration at 7 a.m.) and concludes at 4:30 p.m. at the Convention Center's South Building. More than a dozen workshops will be offered, including:

- The city of Phoenix procurement process and e-procurement system
- City business assistance programs and business initiatives
- City of Phoenix transaction privilege



- sales taxes
- Legal aspects of city contracts
- Getting city construction or design jobs
- Competing for city contracts

The city's Finance Department is coordinating the event, and city staff will present the workshop sessions.

There is no registration fee, and lunch is included. However, space is limited. Register for the event by Feb. 27 at phoenix.gov/businessexperience. For more information, visit the Business Experience website or call 602-262-6033.

We Read at Phoenix Public Library

Families are invited to take the "We Read 30-Day Challenge" at Phoenix Public Library. Read every day for 30 consecutive days between Feb. 1 and April 1 to earn prizes, including a T-shirts for kids and book bags for parents. Book logs to record your reading activity are available at any of the library's 17 locations and online at phoenixpubliclibrary.org.

For more information, visit the library website or call 602-262-4636.

Earned Income Tax Credit campaign assists families

The Human Services Department has launched its annual Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) campaign, which offers free tax preparation at 15 Phoenix sites.

The campaign helps low- and moderate-income working families who earned less than \$53,000 in 2014 with free tax-filing that enables them to receive an EITC tax credit up to \$6,143.

A list of Phoenix sites, including hours and days of operation, is available at phoenix.gov/eitc.

Taxpayers must bring a picture ID for themselves and spouse; Social Security cards and/or Individual Tax Identification Number cards for all household members; proof of income, including W-2s and 1099 Retirement Income; information for other income; 1095-A verification of medical insurance premium tax credit; verification of all other deductions/credits; and the amount paid to child care provider (if applicable). If filing jointly, both adults must be present to sign the return.

For more information, visit phoenix.gov/eitc or call 1-877-211-8661.

Join FitPHX downtown walk/run

Grab your sneakers or walking shoes and join the crowds for a free weekly walk/run in downtown Phoenix every Monday evening.

Check in for "Meet Me Downtown Phoenix," a FitPHX event, is between 5:15 and 6:30 p.m. at The Corner Restaurant at CityScape, 50 W. Jefferson St.

The route is three miles, with a two-mile extension for runners looking for extra distance, and highlights downtown Phoenix destinations, restaurants and

businesses. The event includes prizes and incentives.

Title Sponsor for "Meet Me Downtown Phoenix" is Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona; partners include Downtown Phoenix, Inc., Sole Sports Running Zone, the Phoenix Parks Foundation, CityScape Phoenix, The Corner restaurant and Meet Me Concepts.

For more information or to register, visit phoenix.gov/fitphx and click on "Meet Me Downtown," or call 602-262-6864.

Digital cities survey ranks Phoenix in top 10

The Center for Digital Government, a national research and advisory institute on information technology policies and best practices in state and local government, ranked Phoenix in the top 10 in its annual Digital Cities Survey for its technology initiatives and projects.

Phoenix received recognition in the 250,000 or more population category, tying with Long Beach, Calif., for sixth

place. The city was awarded the top-ten ranking based on the redesign of phoenix.gov, online transparency, cybersecurity education and other initiatives.

More information about the Center for Digital Government and the 2014 Digital Cities Survey is available at digitalcommunities.com.

Public Works can collect your green organics

If your property has lush vegetation or if you do yard maintenance every week, then the Green Organics Curbside Collection could be the service for you.

For an additional \$5 a month per requested container, customers receive a large tan container for yard waste such as tree branches, leaves, grass clippings and untreated wood. The tan containers will be collected on the same day as your trash and recycling containers. The green organics waste will be processed into mulch.

Materials not accepted for the green organics program are palm fronds, oleanders, creosote and treated wood. The Green Organics Curbside Collection service is not a composting program, therefore food waste should not be placed in the tan containers.

Find out if your area is eligible for the program by visiting phoenix.gov/publicworks and clicking on "New Solid Waste Programs" or call 602-262-7251.

Doing What Matters...

Public safety is the number one priority for the city of Phoenix, and the individuals behind the badge are some of the top police officers in the country...people like Police Commander Lisa Ruggiero.

Commander Ruggiero grew up in Tucson and the Bronx, N.Y., and is the first in her family to choose law enforcement as a career. A 24-year veteran of the Phoenix Police Department, she spent many years on patrol working directly with the community and is currently in charge of the Desert Horizon Precinct.

Commander Ruggiero is passionate about safety and devoted last month educating the public about Shannon's Law and pedestrian safety. Shannon's Law was passed after the 1999 death of 14-year-old Shannon Smith, who was in the backyard of her central Phoenix home when a bullet fell from the sky, striking her in the head.

As for pedestrian safety, Commander Ruggiero noted that accidents often occur when motorists fail to yield for pedestrians in crosswalks and when pedestrians cross mid-block or disregard safety around bus stops and the light rail. "We want to impress upon people to be safe all year round," Commander Ruggiero says.



Police Commander Lisa Ruggiero

Repairing leaky toilets can save money

A leaky toilet can quietly waste hundreds of gallons of water each week, which is why it is important to check for leaks.

To find out if your toilet is leaking, put a few drops of food coloring in your toilet tank. Do not flush. If after 15 minutes you have colored water in the toilet bowl, it indicates a worn-out seal around the flapper is leaking water from the tank to the bowl. Replace the flapper to stop the leak. This easy fix can save more than 600 gallons of water a month.

A great resource for homeowners is the free guide, "Find and Fix Leaks That Are Draining Your Budget," which can be ordered at phoenix.gov/waterservices (look for the link that says "Water Resources and Conservation.")

The website has more water-saving tips and information. Follow the Water Services Department on Twitter: @PHXWater and Facebook: [Facebook.com/PhoenixWaterServices](https://www.facebook.com/PhoenixWaterServices).

Donate your gently used tablet or eReader

Did you receive a tablet or eReader as a holiday gift? If so, consider donating your old device to Phoenix Public Library.

Tablets and eReaders in working order will be collected this month and used for library programming or added to the collection of eReaders available to the community for checkout. Devices that cannot be used will be turned over to a local technology recycling company.

Stay green by keeping your used technology out of the landfill while giving back to the community.

For more information, visit phoenixpubliclibrary.org or call 602-262-4636.

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For alternate format/reasonable accommodations, call 602-262-7177 or 7-1-1 Relay System.



ADA compliance information available online in Spanish

Information about the city's Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance Program is available in Spanish on the city's website.

The city's Equal Opportunity Department oversees the compliance program, which ensures that all city programs, facilities and activities are accessible for people with disabilities in compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).



The Spanish-language ADA section mirrors the English version and includes ADA accommodations requests for city programs, facilities and activities, complaint forms and contact information.

The link to the Spanish-language information can be found at phoenix.gov/eod/services/disabilitiesact.

To request an ADA accommodation in Spanish or for more information, call 602-256-4129.