

NEWS FOR NEIGHBORS



NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCES

Fall 2009 HOA Academy

Beginning September 10 through October 22 Neighborhood Programs, in partnership with The Leadership Centre, will begin the Fall 2009 Homeowner Association (HOA) Academy. The HOA Academy will provide a curriculum that will address key fundamental concepts that speak to the core of what ensures a successful and sustainable HOA. The curriculum will also provide training on how to effectively address challenges that affect those who live in an HOA.

The HOA Academy will be comprised of six classes that will occur every Thursday from 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. at the McCullough-Price House located at 300 South Chandler Village Drive. In addition to the classes, the curriculum will include participation at the East Valley HOA Summit.

The HOA Academy is free to all Chandler residents but is limited to 30 students per class. Also, You do not have to enroll in every class to be part of the Fall 2009 HOA Academy.

Students completing five of the six classes will receive a Certificate of Completion and will be recognized at a future City Council meeting.

If you have any questions regarding this program or if you would like attend the classes, please visit www.chandleraz.gov/neighborhoods to download an application or contact Judy Ramos, Neighborhood Programs Coordinator at 480-782-4348.



Hurry and register soon because classes are filling fast!

Park Manors Park Celebration & Dedication

Come celebrate the grand opening of the newly renovated and renamed Park Manors Park

Saturday, September 26th

8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

395 W. Erie (corner of Nebraska St. and W. Erie).

The park renovation was part of a Neighbors in Action (NIA) Program that began over two years ago. The park renovation was the final step in bringing this program to a close. The improvements were in response to citizen comments and requests initially made when the NIA Program began. The improvements include a shade structure for the existing playground area, a ramada, landscape and irrigation improvements, lighting, benches, picnic tables, walkways and accessible routes, installation of one drywell, and site wall painting. Additionally, there will be the installation of a history kiosk that will commemorate the history of the neighborhood, the school and the surrounding area. This will be the City's last history kiosk installation since the program has been postponed due to budget constraints.

Mayor Boyd Dunn will dedicate the park and history kiosk. Music will be provided by the Chandler High School Band. In Addition, there will be a pancake breakfast beginning at 8:30, along with photographs and fun activities for the entire family.

Go Green Corner



Chandler is a member of ICLEI - International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, an organization comprised of over 500 U. S. local governments that provides education and software to assist localities in improving the efficiency of their energy utilization.

Chandler has used ICLEI's Clean Air & Climate Protection Software to calculate the City's Carbon Footprint. In 2008, governmental operations at the City generated the equivalent of 131,430 tons of carbon dioxide. Streetlights, traffic signals, and ballpark lighting accounted for nearly a quarter of the City's carbon footprint (30,084 tons).

A state-of-the art Sodium Hypochlorite Generation System was installed as part of the recent expansion of Chandler's drinking water treatment plant, replacing a water disinfection system that utilized gaseous chlorine.

The new system produces a bleach solution on site for chlorination, eliminating the need to store hazardous chemicals at the facility. The same technology is being utilized at the new Santan Vista Water Treatment Plant in Gilbert, a facility supplying drinking water to both Chandler and Gilbert.

For information about Chandler's Green initiatives, visit www.chandleraz.gov/green

GREEN TIP

Pay attention to High Pollution Advisories (HPAs).

When an HPA is issued, use alternative transportation methods, limit the use of any gas-powered vehicles or tools, and wait until after 4 p.m. to refuel your vehicle.



Home Water Audits Save Residents Money

The City of Chandler has offered free home water audits for over a decade. This program is designed to help customers reduce water waste and lower their water bills. Conducted by trained staff, audits often identify leaks and ways to reduce outdoor water consumption while still maintaining a lush, beautiful landscape. Last year residents saved up to 40 percent on their water bills after following water conservation advice.

A water audit is an inspection and evaluation of the plumbing and water-using fixtures, equipment, and practices in the home to determine water uses and losses, and to identify and evaluate opportunities to save water by installing water-saving fixtures, changing water use habits, and implementing other conservation measures. A water audit serves as an important starting point for identifying cost-effective ways to save water in the home.

Chandler's water conservation specialists will make a site visit to your residence and check the reading on your water meter, correlate it to your previous bill and determine if any leaks are evident in your household and service line. Next, your water consumption both indoors and outdoors will be evaluated. Finally, recommendations specific to your residence will be made on ways to conserve water and possibly save money on your water bill. The audit will even provide guidance on efficient irrigation and drought-tolerant landscaping.

Leaks are often caused by indoor fixtures like faucets and toilets but can also be from water softener or RO systems. A common cause of increased water consumption is the toilet. Over time, toilet flappers can become warped which allows water to leak from the tank into the bowl. Often silent, they can be responsible for thousands of gallons that are lost down the drain each month.

Other sources of water waste identified during an audit include water softeners, automatic pool fillers, leaks in irrigation lines and irrigation timers that are programmed to over water. Outdoors spas, pools, misting systems, fountains or automatic irrigation systems can be another cause of high water use or leaks.

Replacing unused grass areas with colorful low-water use landscaping can be another way to save money and water. Plus, you may be eligible for a rebate of up to \$600!

Contact the Water Conservation office for more information at 480-782-3580.



Code Enforcement On Stray / Feral Cats



The City of Chandler adheres to animal control laws adopted by Maricopa County when concerning cats. There are no leash or license laws for cats and no agency picks up stray or feral cats. This does not mean cat owners cannot be held civilly liable for damages caused by their cats.

If you are experiencing problems with cats roaming on your property, the City recommends talking to the pet owner first in order to resolve the problem with minimal conflict. If speaking with the pet owner does not resolve the situation, there are several deterrents you can try to discourage cats from entering your yard.

NOTE: Attempts to deal with roaming cats by catching and euthenizing them have proven ineffective, according to Maricopa County Animal Care & Control. If feral cats are simply removed from an area, others will take their place and the problem repeats itself.

The Humane Society states that citizens may use recognized, humane traps, baited with plenty of food and water located in a shaded area, to trap roaming

cats. Trapped cats can be taken to the Maricopa County Animal Care & Control shelter or the Arizona Humane Society. Fees determined by the shelter are typically involved.

There are also animal welfare groups that sponsor programs to help control the population of feral cats. The cats are sterilized so they will not reproduce and can continue living outdoors. These groups are well versed on where to get traps, how to use them, where to take the cats for sterilization, and what to do afterwards.

If you have stray cats entering your yard, there are several deterrents residents can try that may keep cats away from the property such as the following:

- Spray concentrated orange juice or hang orange or lemon peels in areas where cats are spraying. They are put off by the citrus scent.
- Get a motion-detecting device that turns on a sprinkler or bright light in response to motion in your yard or garden.
- Squirt a hose at the cat whenever they come by or squat. You just want to shock the cat, not knock the cat over. Some people believe a squirt gun

works best.

- Use commercial cat repellants available in garden stores, pet shops and online. Read the directions carefully, and be sure to wear gloves for chemical sprays or use non-chemical repellants that emit an ultrasonic electric pulse which cats find annoying.

For more information on stray and feral cats, you can contact Code Enforcement at 480-782-4320 or any of the following organizations:

Maricopa County-Animal Care & Control at (602) 506-7387
www.maricopa.gov/pets

Arizona Humane Society at
(602) 997-7585
www.azhumane.org

Animal Defense-League of Arizona at
(602) 273-7842
www.adlaz.org

Spay Neuter Hotline at
(866) 952-SPAY (7729) or e-mail:
feralcats@adlaz.org

Altered Tails at (602) 943-SPAY (7729)
www.alteredtails.org

Alley Cat Allies at www.alleycat.org

Holistic Urgent Response Team (H.U.R.T.)

In celebration of National Preparedness Month, The Chandler Fire Department is hosting the H.U.R.T Facilitator Training Course

Saturday, September 19, 2009
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Chandler Fire Training Facility (3550 S. Dobson Rd.)

The course is free and open to individuals of community and faith-based organizations who want to learn how to prepare others for emergencies and disasters. The H.U.R.T Facilitator Training was created by Care Inc. and will be taught by their instructors.

To register, please contact Loretta Warren-Ellis, Community Preparedness Program Coordinator at 480-782-2161 or e-mail certaadmin@chandleraz.gov by Monday, September 14, 2009.



Homebuyer's Program Makes Homeownership Affordable

Owning a home in Chandler is as affordable as ever thanks to a federally funded program being promoted to first time homebuyers.

Chandler has partnered with the Newtown Community Development Corporation to help income-qualified families rehabilitate and purchase up to 17 foreclosed homes using \$1.4 million in Neighborhood Stabilization Funds received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

A series of workshops are being held to educate the community about the City's First Time Homebuyer's Program. The one-hour workshops will be held at 6:30 p.m. on the following dates:

- Thursday, September 24, Chandler High School Multipurpose Room, 350 N. Arizona Avenue
- Thursday, October 22, Chandler Community Center 125 E. Commonwealth Avenue

Under the program, buyers of foreclosed Chandler homes will only pay for the cost of the home. The land will be held in a trust to ensure the home remains affordable indefinitely. With this program, the purchase price is reduced because the buyer only has to afford the cost of the structure, not the land.

Potential buyers cannot have owned a home within the past three years and must meet certain income criteria. The maximum income for a family of four is \$79,080. The program includes homeowner education and counseling services and buyers may be eligible for down payment assistance.

Purchased homes must be located within the 85225 Zip Code area bounded by Elliot Road, Chandler Boulevard, Arizona Avenue and Alma School Road.

To register for a workshop, or to learn more about the program, contact Chandler's Neighborhood Resources Division at (480) 782-4320.



A-OK Program Helping Chandler Residents

Beginning September 1, 2009, the utility billing system will be updated giving residents a more convenient way of contributing to local charities. There has been an increase in number of residents using their computers for online bill payment. The City's billing system however, was not equipped to accept on-line donations to its Chandler Acts of Kindness donation program, or A-OK for short. Chandler non-profits were missing out on thousands of dollars of potential contributions. With the new system, Chandler residents are now able to donate to local charities on-line when paying their Chandler utility bill.

The A-OK program was developed in July of 2000 to give residents an opportunity to voluntarily contribute \$1 with their utility payment each month. The contributions collected go back into the community through a grant process to support a variety of human service programs which provide basic needs such as food, shelter, clothing, medical services, and transportation to low income Chandler residents.

Last year, Chandler's A-OK program donated \$71,000 to local non-profits, which in turn helped thousands of Chandler residents in need by providing food, clothing, emergency shelter, employment placement services, disability assistance, and educational classes.

For more information about Chandler's A-OK program, please contact Neighborhood Resources at (480) 782-4320.

Live Love Day is Approaching

Live Love, a non-profit organization, and Neighborhood Programs are teaming up for the third Live Love Day in Chandler on Saturday, October 24th. Through this partnership we will be connecting organizations, families, and individuals to build strong and caring communities. We are expanding on last year's success and are targeting four neighborhoods where we will be providing assistance to many families in need.

To participate in this wonderful event, contact Melinda Gunther at melindagunther@whatislivelove.com or Judy Ramos, Neighborhood Programs Coordinator at 480-782-4348

