

City CONNECTION

June 22, 2011

A Weekly Publication for the Employees of the City of Phoenix

News Briefs

Parks and Recreation is offering night golf at Palo Verde Golf Course.

Night Flight Golf is set for July 15, Aug. 13 and Sept. 10 at Palo Verde, 6215 N. 15th Ave. The nine-hole course will be lined with glow lights and players will receive a glow necklace and glow ball. Each foursome will receive a flashlight to wave up the next foursome. For safety reasons, no golf carts will be used. The cost for a great night of fun is \$100 a foursome. Each event will be run in a tournament format, with goodie bags for each player. To register, call 602-249-9930. For more information, visit phoenix.gov/parks.

Are you interested in becoming a board member of the City of Phoenix

Employees' Retirement System (COPERS)?

If so, plan on attending a workshop from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 7, at City Hall, 10 East Conference Room. For more information, call Anna Martinez with Retirement Systems at 602-256-4323.

The recent City Hall blood drive was successful, with 138 city employees

donating. More than 400 lives can be saved as a result of their donations, according to United Blood Services, which conducts city blood drives.

ITS reactivates password policy

Information Technology Services (ITS) has reactivated a policy for city employees to change their desktop computer passwords every 60 days.

This policy had been suspended temporarily during the one.phoenix.gov project implementation where city departments were migrated to a consolidated network directory.

Passwords are the primary electronic control to prevent unauthorized access to most networks and applications, and it is important they be created correctly to reduce the risk of unauthorized usage.

Employee passwords should:

- Be at least eight characters long
- Use at least three of these attributes – an uppercase character (A-Z); a lowercase character (a-z); a number (0-9); and a special character (e.g. !, @, #, but do not use ?, %, or *). An example using all four of these attributes is Diam0ndb@cks.

Passwords should not be:

- Individual-related (for example, address, birthday, license plate, social security number, pet's name); job-related (job title, work location); or family-related (spouse's or children's names or birthdays).
- Similar to or match the User ID.
- Predictable dictionary words, such as January, February or March.

Remember, the same password cannot be reused within a 12-month period, and it will expire in 60 days. The city's password security policy prohibits writing down passwords on post-it notes, keeping them under keyboards and phones or taping them to computer monitors.

The Phoenix Police Department and Municipal Court will not be affected by these changes. For more information or if you have questions, contact your department's LAN administrator.



Give plenty of thought to your password.

Legislation affects service-credit transfers

Effective in July, the method of retirement service-credit transfers between COPERS and the Arizona State Retirement System will change because of recent legislation.

Previously, retirement service credits (time) would be transferred between systems without possible service reduction or member cost. Beginning July 2011, retirement service credit transfers will be based on an actuarial present value methodology to the extent the prior retirement system is funded on a market value basis. With this calculation, for the member to receive all of his or her service credits, the member may have to pay for a portion of the service or accept a reduced transfer of service credits.

If you have service credit on account at the Arizona State Retirement System, you should contact COPERS at 602-534-4400.

Computer users: be on alert for scareware

Some city employees have received pop-up messages on their desktop computers that “Windows Web Security” has detected spyware or viruses. These pop-ups are fake - their purpose is to get you to install malicious software on your computer.



Be aware of fake pop-up security warnings

This type of scam is called scareware, and it often combines a scam with malicious software. You get a pop-up warning that your computer has a virus and you must click to remove it or download (and pay for) “antivirus software.”

In these scams, the virus is entirely fictional. When you click to remove it or download the “antivirus software,” you are actually installing malicious software - and if you paid for the fake antivirus software, you’ve just given your credit card information to a bad guy.

While these pop-ups may look authentic, delete it if you get one and contact the Enterprise Help Desk at 602-534-HELP if you think your computer may have been infected with a virus.

More information about viruses is available on the ISPO Intranet site, accessible by typing “ISPO” in your browser or by sending an e-mail to ISPO@phoenix.gov.

Motorists can help prevent state wildfires

With three major wildfires burning across the state, the Arizona Department of Transportation urges drivers to be extra careful when operating their vehicles.

Dry, hot and windy weather in Arizona create ideal conditions for a wildfire, and motorists should be aware of the important role they play in wildfire prevention.

Approximately 60 percent of wildfires in Arizona are human caused and most can be prevented, according to State Forester Scott Hunt with the Arizona State Forestry Division. Preventing wildfires is everyone’s responsibility, especially when operating a motor vehicle. ADOT recommends following these wildfire prevention tips to reduce the threat of fire in Arizona.

- Never park your vehicle on dry grass, or drive through tall grass.
- Never throw a lighted cigarette out the window of a vehicle.
- When pulling trailers, attach safety chains securely; loose chain can drag on the pavement and cause sparks, igniting roadside fires.
- Do not park where vegetation is touching the underside of your vehicle.
- Look behind you before driving away to check for signs of a developing fire.
- Observe “Red Flag” warnings. Warnings are issued when weather conditions are conducive to the easy start and rapid spread of wildfires.
- Driving into smoke can be dangerous - avoid active fires by calling 5-1-1 or log onto ADOT’s Traveler Information site at az511.gov to seek alternate routes.



Additional information on the Wallow Fire, Horseshoe Two Fire and Murphy Fire can be obtained through the Arizona Division of Emergency Management at azein.gov, the state’s online source for real-time emergency updates, preparedness and hazard information.

Another source for wildfire information is wildlandfire.az.gov, which is supported by wildland fire agencies in Arizona as part of an interagency collaboration.

People

2080 Club

Members of the 2080 Club have 2,080 hours of sick leave – equivalent to one year. Congratulations to the following new members: **Michael A. Pablos**, Aviation; **Alison C. Herring**, Community and Economic Development; **John Workley**, Finance; **Kathleen Haggerty**, Human Resources; **David Pristavec**, Information Technology Services; **Charles Hawkins**, **Edward Valenzuela**, Water Services; **Dale K. Hooker**, **John C. Simmons**, Fire; **Gail L. Aamodt**, **Gary M. Bucklin**, **Jeffrey T. Nielsen**, **Nicholas Rosander**, **Scott E. Sayban**, **Richard S. Simonick**, **Joseph Munoz**, **Jeffrey Dickson**, **Michael McGillis**, **Paul Miller**, **James Newhouse** and **Warren Poole**, Police.

Retirement

Lauri Wingenroth with Budget and Research is retiring after 27 years with the city. Join her for a retirement celebration from 9 to 11 a.m. Thursday, June 23, at City Hall, assembly rooms A and B. For more information, call Melissa Stewart at 602-262-4805.



Birdwatching in - New Mexico

Deborah Sedillo Dugan with the Public Information Office took the city bird to Fort Sumner, N.M. Billy the Kid was killed and buried in Fort Sumner in 1881.

Do you need a city bird for your travels? If so, you can request one by sending an email to joyce.valdez@phoenix.gov.

