

Housing Programs & Services

NEWSLETTER

Avoid costly mistakes in your home

Aside from regular HVAC inspected, there are certain home maintenance chores that can't be postponed or overlooked. To keep your family safe and to avoid costly damage, here are household chores to put on your checklist today.



Bugging Out

It is essential to keep a tidy house and regularly dispose of built-up trash inside and outside your home. This not only prevents rodent infestations, it prevents bugs like termites from invading your space and possibly causing structural damage. If you must have a stack of garbage outdoors (from a renovation project) or even a large pile of unused firewood, albeit temporarily, keep it away from your walls. That way you'll see potential problems before they get out of hand.

Sewer Saver

No one thinks about the sewer line until there's a problem—unfortunately by then, it's usually too late and can cost you thousands of dollars. Find out where and how your city line connects to your house, whether or not the line is clear and free of obstruction, and make it a yearly priority to have the system cleaned out.

Fire Hazard

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, about 170 people die from carbon monoxide poisoning every year. Carbon monoxide detectors (and fire alarms) should be installed in every bedroom of your home and 10 to 15 feet away from any furnace or gas stove in your home. Thankfully there are products that combine the two.

Stay Charged

Once you have smoke and carbon monoxide detectors installed in your home, it's essential to change the batteries every spring and fall. Even if the test on the alarm says the unit is working properly, put in new batteries that will last through the months ahead. And while you're at it, charge and change the batteries in flashlights, emergency radios and any other emergency supplies that require this type of power.

Pipe Problems

Going away for a period of time? Forgetting to shut off exterior water sources can cause damage to your home. Pipes can burst inside your walls and cause flooding—an expensive proposition to fix, not to mention all the personal items you'll lose from water damage. Locate and turn off the outdoor shut-off valves (there may be more than one!). Drain the pipes for any leftover water to prevent it from leaking.

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Notable News

September is safety preparedness month. A basic emergency supply kit could include the following:

- One gallon of water per person per day for at least three days
- At least a three-day supply of non-perishable food/manual can opener
- Battery-powered AM/FM radio, flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit, hygiene items and medications
- Whistle to signal for help
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Basic tools (wrench)
- Cell phone with chargers
- Clothes
- Cash, credit cards, and personal documents

Calendar

- August 5: First Day of school—Be safe around schools and watch for children walking and biking.
- September 1: Labor Day—city hall is closed.
- October 13: Columbus Day
- October 30: Halloween

Programs

Paint a Thon

The city once again will participate in the nationwide volunteer event through Rebuilding Together. The Rock n Roll Paint a Thon happens one Saturday in October where volunteers join together to paint the exterior of an elderly or disabled homeowner's home.

If you know of a homeowner who might benefit from this program, please ask them to contact Rebuilding Together at 480-774-0237 or <http://www.rebuildingtogetherphx.org/>.

If you wish to volunteer for the city's team, call 480-474-2635 OR If you wish to manage and recruit for your own team of a minimum of 15 adults, contact Rebuilding Together to register at 480-774-0237.

Looking to buy a home in AJ?

Habitat for Humanity Central Arizona is currently seeking families to experience the transition from tenant to homeowner in Apache Junction. Applications are being accepted now. Partner families are selected based on their level of need, willingness to become partners in the program and ability to repay the no-profit, no-interest loan. Homeowners invest hundreds of hours of their own labor into building their Habitat home and the homes of

others. Recipients can see monthly payments as low as \$500 per month with a zero interest mortgage, since the home is financed through Habitat. For more information, please visit www.habitatcaz.org or contact Habitat for Humanity at 602-268-9022 to schedule an appointment.

Housing Rehabilitation Funding Available

The City of Apache Junction has funding available for homeowners within the City of Apache Junction city limits. Funding is available to make improvements to owner occupied homes where one of the occupants is either elderly, under the age of 18, or disabled. Improvements can include, but is not limited to, electrical, plumbing, roofing, heating and air conditioning, and ADA accessibility improvements.

Homeowners may obtain an application either:

- 1) online at www.ajcity.net/rehab;
- 2) by phone at (480) 474-2635; or
- 3) by picking one up at City Hall 300 East Superstition Blvd in the Development Services Building

Funding is available on a first come first serve basis, so applicants are advised not to wait. For more information call (480) 474-2635.

Busy Bee Home Maintenance Tips

Complete these tasks for a maintenance free fall and winter...

- ⇒ Check and seal windows
- ⇒ Upgrade to a programmable thermostat
- ⇒ Shut off hose bibs
- ⇒ Check and maintain dishwasher
- ⇒ Clean gutters
- ⇒ Clean outdoor drains
- ⇒ Check toilets
- ⇒ Clear sink drains
- ⇒ Test carbon monoxide and smoke detectors
- ⇒ Weatherproof doors
- ⇒ Check roof for leaks or damage
- ⇒ Recaulk flashing
- ⇒ Lubricate door hinges and hardware
- ⇒ Service furnace
- ⇒ Vacuum air registers
- ⇒ Flush water heater
- ⇒ Check and upgrade insulation

Bees Wishes



RESOURCES

Now open in Apache Junction—Sun Life Family Health Center at 2080 West Southern Avenue, Suite B10.

Healthcare services include: Diagnosis and treatment of major and minor illness; management of chronic health conditions; women's wellness; well-child examinations and immunizations; patient education; referral; and follow-up care. Laboratory draw station will be available for convenience and a pharmacy will be added in October.

Most major insurance accepted including AHCCCS and Medicare.

Visit www.sunlifefamilyhealth.org

HOUSING PROGRAM PURPOSE AND GOALS:

1. Eliminate health and safety hazards in homes;
2. Benefit low to moderate income residents; and
3. Improve neighborhoods and encourage stability.

Housing Funnies

Trick or Treating Tips

1. Plan a route
2. Wear comfy shoes
3. Stay well lit
4. Avoid masks
5. Use flexible props
6. Check all candy
7. Visit homes that have lit porch lights



Accessibility

The City of Apache Junction invites and welcomes people of all abilities to use our programs, sites and facilities. Any question about our service for people with disabilities can be answered by Bryant Powell, ADA Coordinator (480) 474-5066, TDD (480) 983-0095, or adacoordinator@ajcity.net. Additional information may be found at www.ajcity.net/ada.

If you have a question or comment about anything written in this newsletter, please contact:
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