

Housing Programs & Services

NEWSLETTER

Those Pesky Pests

Here are some tips on how to rid your home of those pesky pests.

Cockroaches

- Put boric acid on TOP of your kitchen cabinets (not inside), if space allows between ceiling and cabinets, the roaches will take the boric acid to their nests, killing all of them. Boric acid is toxic by mouth - keep away from children and pets.
- Catnip is a natural repellent to cockroaches and non-toxic to humans and pets. Small sachets of catnip can be left in areas of cockroach activity. Catnip can also be simmered in a small amount of water to make a "catnip tea" which can be used as a spray to apply around baseboards and behind counters.
- Keep a spray bottle of soapy water on hand. Spraying roaches directly with soapy water will kill them.
- Leave bay leaves, cucumber slices or garlic in the affected area as deterrents.
- Ensure the attic and/or crawlspace has sufficient ventilation.
- Make sure that all foundation and attic vents are equipped with tight-fitting screens.
- Seal as many exterior cracks and holes as possible on the outside of the home.



Termites

- Get rid of wood around your home. Remove old form boards, old tree stumps, and wood debris. If you must store firewood near your home, stack it off the

ground and don't allow it to lean against the home. Never allow wood to contact soil.

- Make sure gutters and downspouts are unclogged. Water should be channeled from downspouts away from your foundation. Repair leaking pipes and don't aim sprinklers against your house. Slope soil away from your home. Trim shrubbery blocking any vents.

Ants

- Keep a small spray bottle handy, and spray the ants with a bit of soapy water.
- Set out cucumber peels or slices in the kitchen or at the ants' point of entry.
- Leave a few tea bags of mint tea near areas where the ants seem most active. Dry, crushed mint leaves or cloves also work as ant deterrents.
- Trace the ant column back to their point of entry. Set any of the following items at the entry area in a small line, which ants will not cross: cayenne pepper, citrus oil (can be soaked into a piece of string), lemon juice, cinnamon or coffee grounds.
- Mix one liter of water, one teaspoon of Borax and a cup of sugar. Soak cotton balls in the solution and place them in a small yogurt container with holes punched in the lids to allow ants access. Place container in a location where ants are present. Ants will carry the bait back to their colonies where it will eventually kill the colony. Important: use indoors only; must be kept away from pets and children.

In This Issue

1	Those Pesky Pests
1	Notable News
1	Calendar of Events
2	Programs
2	Busy Bee Home Maintenance Tips
2	Resources
2	Housing Funnies

Notable News

Don't miss out on FREE Tax Preparation Services! The City of Apache Junction and the Apache Junction Public Library, in collaboration with the Internal Revenue Service and AARP Tax Aide, are offering a free tax preparation E-filing site in Apache Junction for ALL residents. The free E-filing tax preparation site is at the Apache Junction Public Library, 1177 N. Idaho Road, from February 4, 2015 to April 11, 2015. Services are provided two times per day, Wednesday through Saturday, between 9:00 a.m.-11 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Reservations are required and can be made at the Library's service desk or by calling (480) 474-8555 after January 1, 2015. Reservations will be taken on a first come, first serve basis.

Calendar

- February 2: Ground Hog Day
- February 14: Valentine's Day
- February 16: President's Day. City offices are closed.
- February is Black History month
- March 17: St. Patrick's Day
- April 1: April Fool's Day
- 1st week of April is Library Week. Visit our public library today!

Programs

Bring home your own K-9 Hero

The Friends of Apache Junction is assisting the Apache Junction Police Department in a fund raising campaign. The K-9 Hero is a miniature stuffed replica of the Police Department's canine officer Daimont. Proceeds from the K-9 Hero donations will be used to purchase Honor Guard uniforms for the Apache Junction Police Department. Minimum donation per dog is \$20.00, more is deeply appreciated.

Honor Guards play a significant role in the community, they are utilized for various ceremonies throughout the year such as Veterans Day parades, police memorials, award ceremonies, and other civic events. Currently, the Police Department does not have an

Honor Guard because it does not have the required formal dress uniforms.

You can make your donation and receive your K-9 Hero at the following Apache Junction locations:

- Paws and Claws Care Center - 725 E. Baseline Road;
- Apache Junction Parks and Recreation Department - 1001 N. Idaho Road; and
- City Hall-Development Services Department - 300 E. Superstition Blvd.

Donations for K-9 Heroes may also be made online through the Friends of Apache Junction blog: www.friendsofapachejunction.wordpress.com. Simply go to the donate page and enter K-9 Hero in the box marked purpose. For additional information, please contact Roger Hacker at 480-474-5086.

Busy Bee Home Maintenance Tips

Spring is fast approaching. Get your home ready by completing the following simple and inexpensive tasks:

1. Clean windows and repair screens.
2. Unclog and secure gutters and downspouts.
3. Regrade around your foundation.
4. Have a professional clean and check your air conditioning system in preparation for the summer heat.
5. Check attic fans and remove any debris.
6. Test all GFI outlets.
7. Change your furnace filter.
8. Change the batteries in your carbon monoxide and smoke detectors.
9. Weatherproof your doors by replace old, cracked and loose weather stripping.
10. Pressure wash your homes exterior.
11. Lubricate door hinges and hardware.
12. Clean dryer vent.
13. Clean behind and under appliances.
14. Clean oven.
15. Clean walls and ceiling.
16. Dispose of accumulated garbage around the home.
17. Trim bushes.

Bees Wishes



RESOURCES

The Apache Junction Landfill is offering AJ residents another FREE Dump Week February 9th through 15th. Each resident, with proof of residency, may bring one load of trash to the dump for FREE! The Landfills hours are Monday through Saturday from 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

For further information, call Apache Junction Landfill at (480) 982-7003 or the city's Public Works Department at (480) 982-1055.

HOUSING PROGRAM GOALS:

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



If you have a question or comment about anything written in this newsletter, please contact:
City of Apache Junction
Housing Division
300 E. Superstition Blvd.
Apache Junction, Arizona 85119
Phone: (480) 474-2635
Fax: (480) 474-5102
TDD: (480) 983-0095
www.ajcity.net
hpatel@ajcity.net
Monday to Thursday 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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.