

# Housing Programs & Services

NEWSLETTER

## Safety Tips

Each year, nearly 21 million injuries occur in your home. The Home Safety Council wants your family to be safe from injuries. Follow these safety tips to help avoid getting hurt, especially from the three most common causes of home injuries: falls, poisoning, fire and burns. (homesafetycouncil.org)



Falls are the leading cause of unintentional injury in the home.

- 1) Use bright lights at the top and bottom of stairs and make sure hallways and dark areas in the home are well-lit at night with nightlights.
- 2) Install grab bars in the tub, shower and near toilets.
- 3) Use a rubber bath mat or non-slip strips in the tub.
- 4) Wipe up spills and splashed bathwater promptly.
- 5) All stairs and steps need handrails along both sides, secured along the full length of the stairway.
- 6) Keep stairs and pathways clear of clutter.
- 7) In homes with babies and toddlers, use baby gates at the top and bottom of stairs.

More than 66% of homes with young children report that household chemicals are stored in unlocked places.

- 1) Know the national poison control center toll-free number--1-800-222-1222 -- and keep the number by every phone in the home.
- 2) Look around your home, under the sink, in the garage, for cleaning products and automotive fluids that say "Caution", "Warning" or "Danger" on the label. Store

these away from food, in locked cabinets out of sight and reach of children.

- 3) Carbon monoxide is a poison you can't see, smell or taste. CO is produced by fuel-burning appliances and equipment in your home. These need proper maintenance for safe use. Also install a carbon monoxide detector to alert you if the CO level becomes unsafe.
- 4) Install child locks on all cabinets, especially where potentially harmful items are stored.

- 5) Be sure cleaning products and other household substances have child-resistant closures.
- 6) Keep all medicines and vitamins in original containers in a secure area, away from children.
- 7) Store dangerous chemicals such as pesticides, automotive fluids and paint thinner in a secure locked cabinet.
- 8) Always store gasoline in an approved container.

57% of fire and burn-related injuries occur in the home.

- 1) Check the setting of your water heater and make sure it's set no higher than 120 degrees F.
- 2) Install smoke alarms on each level of your home, in or near sleeping areas.
- 3) Know how to escape a fire. Find two exits out of every room -- the door and possibly a window. Choose an outside meeting place in front of the home. Practice your plan twice a year with all members of the family.
- 4) Stay in the kitchen while food is cooking on the stove.
- 5) Make sure an adult is in the room constantly while a candle is burning. Be sure to lock matches and lighters away from children.

## In This Issue

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

## Notable News

**10 FREE** standard spiral CFL bulbs to all residents of the City of Apache Junction!

Eligible residents must live within the corporate limits of Apache Junction. For information call 474-5080.

Bring in your old incandescent bulbs and proof of residency to receive a voucher to redeem for your **10 FREE** CFL bulbs at Best or Ace Hardware.

City Hall Development Services  
300 E. Superstition Blvd.  
Monday—Friday  
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

## Calendar

- September is Health Aging Month <http://www.healthyaging.net/>
- September 5: Labor Day—City offices closed
- September 11: Grandparents Day!
- October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month
- October 10: Columbus Day—City offices closed
- October 22: Paint-a-Thon
- October 31: Halloween

## Programs

### Financial Assistance for 1st Time Homebuyers

The City of Apache Junction is working with Pinal County to assist first-time homebuyers get into homes.

The County will be using its \$3.17 million allocation of HUD Neighborhood Stabilization funding to address foreclosure issues. Much of the funding will be used to help qualified home buyers with down payment and closing cost assistance and financing for rehabilitation assistance to purchasers of NSP3 properties. The funds will be available to applicants who meet income and other qualifications and intend to purchase or rehabilitate properties within select neighborhoods in Apache Junction, Coolidge and Casa Grande.

The qualifying neighborhood within Apache Junction encompasses the area bounded on the East by Idaho Road, South by Southern Avenue, West by Ironwood Drive, and on the

North by 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue between Ironwood and San Marcos and 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue between San Marcos and Idaho Road.

To learn more about the specific income and financing prerequisites, please contact the Pinal County Housing & Community Development Department office, Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to Noon or by phone at 520-866-7203. The office is located at 970 North Eleven Mile Corner Road, Casa Grande, AZ.

### Rock n Roll Paint a Thon

Each October the City of Apache Junction, in collaboration with Rebuilding Together, seeks eligible homeowners to take part in the Rock n Roll Paint a Thon. This event will take place on October 22, 2011, where volunteers will paint the exterior of homes for low income elderly or disabled homeowners. If you or someone you know could use some sprucing up. Please contact the City's Program Coordinator at 480-474-2635 for information and an application.

Volunteers are needed!!!!!!

## Busy Bee Home Maintenance Tips

A clean dryer vent lint trap is so important because not only does it lead to greater efficiency in your dryer, but will also prevent any kind of fire hazard in your home. When there is so much lint, the dryer has to work much harder than usual, and eventually is working much harder than it was made to work. As you may imagine, this also causes the dryer to function less efficiently. It takes longer for clothing to dry, and the dryer heats up to a higher temperature.

The buildup of lint in your dryer lint trap and your dryer vent hose is the greatest fire hazard you will have in your home. In fact, firefighters say that the most common type of house fires they fight are dryer fires caused by lint buildup. While shorts and high load on the electrical components cause some of the dryer fires, the underlying cause of these problems is a build up of lint in the dryer, especially in the vent and the lint trap.

It is generally very easy to remove the lint trap and remove lint. Every month or two, you should thoroughly clean it by using a soft brush and dish soap, especially if you use fabric softener sheets. These sheets can completely close up the mesh in the lint trap.

Here is another fast drying tip—use the high speed spin cycle in your washer to extract excess water, this will reduce time and energy to dry your laundry.

*Bees Wishes*



## RESOURCES

Since 1983, the AJ Food Bank has been providing emergency short term assistance to families in need. Five days worth of food is provided every 60 days for families. Participants must 1) live within the boundaries of McDowell Road south to Queen Creek Rd and Ellsworth Rd east to Queen Valley Rd.; 2) provide a valid picture ID; 3) provide proof of residency; and 4) meet Federal Poverty Guidelines.

The AJ Food Bank is located at 575 N Idaho Rd. #701 in Apache Junction. They can be reached at (480) 983-2995. Services are offered Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Fridays from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Volunteers are welcome!**

### 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.

Try this handy energy saving alternative to a clothes dryer and a babysitter!



## Housing Funnies

If you have a question or comment about anything written in this newsletter, please contact:  
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Housing Division  
300 E. Superstition Blvd.  
Apache Junction, Arizona 85119  
Phone: (480) 474-2635  
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