

Housing Programs & Services

NEWSLETTER

Housing News

The 4th Annual Paint-a-Thon was a huge success. Thirty volunteers participated and painted the home of an eligible homeowner. Each year in October volunteers are sought to paint the homes of eligible homeowners who do not have the financial resources or physical capabilities to complete this project on their own. If you know of someone or are interested in receiving this service next year, or wish to volunteer, feel free to contact the Program Coordinator at (480) 474-2635. This wonderful community based project is geared to spark community pride and initiate other homeowners to paint their homes and clean-up our neighborhoods.

Pinal County is looking for neglected pools and abandoned swimming pools. "Green Pools" are potential breeding sites for mosquitoes capable of carrying and transmitting West Nile Virus and other mosquito-borne diseases. If you know of such a pool you can help by contacting Pinal County the Division of Environmental Health at 866-287-0209 ext. 6200. Pinal County will investigate the report and treat the pool with a mosquito control product that will prevent mosquito breeding for up to 150 days. They will also instruct the property owner about proper pool maintenance.

The City of Apache Junction is working with Desert Schools Federal Credit Union to offer a series of FREE classes at the Multi-Generational Center. These classes cover a variety of topics

that may help you or someone you know. The classes available in November include:

Identity Theft on Saturday, November 15th from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.



Summary...
In this class, participants learn how to prevent identity theft through three areas of deter, detect and defend. Participants will learn what

type of information identity thieves are looking for, how to better protect this information and the steps to take if they are victims of identity theft.

Topics include:

- The damaging effects of identity theft
- How identity theft occurs
- Everyday steps one can take to prevent identity theft

Medicare on Tuesday, November 18th from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

More classes are being scheduled to include: Help with buying a home and understanding your credit. For an up to date schedule of classes you can visit our website at: <http://www.ajcity.net/index.asp?NID=418>

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 85219
Phone: (480) 474-2635
Fax: (480) 474-5102
TDD: (480) 983-0095
www.ajcity.net
hpatel@ajcity.net

In This Issue

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

Notable News

The Housing Division has revamped its website which offers many resources and information that may be useful to City residents. Such topics include information on the housing rehabilitation programs, resources for assistance with rental and homeowner information including down payment assistance for first time home buyers and other statewide resources and assistance. The City's website in general provides information on many topics relating to City Government. Check out the website at www.ajcity.net and search under departments for the Development Services Department Housing Division.

Calendar

- **11/11/08** Veterans Day, honor the military. City offices are closed!
- **11/27/08** Happy Thanksgiving, eat well and be thankful! City offices are closed both the 27th and 28th.
- **12/25/08** Christmas Day. City offices are closed.
- **1/1/09** Happy New Year! City offices are closed.

Housing Programs

Did you know there was a program that lets low-income wage earners get an earned income tax credit check in their paychecks **right now**? It's called the Advance Earned Income Tax Credit program; a family with two children earning less than \$38,646 (\$41,646 if filing jointly as married couple) is eligible for as much as \$4,824. Best of all, there's no need to wait until next year to claim the benefit. The program allows employers to begin adding the next year's earned income tax credit into paychecks right now. This extra income could help homeowners pay their mortgage and their monthly bills. Check it out at www.irs.gov/individuals/article/0,,id=96515,00.html

Are you or someone you know experiencing financial crisis be-

cause of your mortgage situation and may be facing foreclosure? Arizona Saves and Neighborhood Housing Services of Phoenix can give you the tools and information to help in a series of FREE workshops to be held in November and December. Contact Neighborhood Housing Services at (602) 258-1659 to reserve a seat. Classes will be held in Phoenix at Neighborhood Housing Services 1405 E. McDowell Rd.

Applications are being accepted for eligible homeowners to participate in the City's Housing Rehabilitation Program. This program assists homeowners with the rehabilitation of their home by addressing health and safety issues, correcting code violations and accumulated deferred home maintenance projects. Contact the Program Coordinator for information at (480) 474-2635.

RESOURCES

- Facing financial difficulties and possibly foreclosure? The Governor's Office has set up a website to assist families with finding resources and help in these trying economic times. Check out www.az211.gov
- Need to know where to go for help? Check out the People's Information Guide available on the City's website under the Housing Division's *Quick Links* or for a printed copy, contact the Program Coordinator.
- Pinal County offers a special resource guide for human services throughout Pinal County. Check out their website at <http://www.pinalresources.org/>

Housing Funnies

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.



Talk about living on the edge!

Busy Bee Home Maintenance Tips

Each season brings new tasks and activities in your home. To keep your home safe and maintained it is recommended that you complete the following tasks in the Winter of each year.

- Check and maintain your furnace. Replace filters. The flame should be blue with little to no yellow. Call a professional to see about their maintenance programs
- Vacuum the air registers
- Check and flush hot water heater
- Re-caulk bathtub
- Check crawl space for any unwanted items, critters, or debris
- Test all smoke and carbon monoxide detectors
- Check circuit breakers and fuses, contact a professional if fuses blow or circuits trip frequently.
- Caulk all windows and install weatherstripping to the doors.

Here are some energy saving ideas for your home:

Set your hot water heater to 120 degrees, inspect for leaks and insulate the pipe from the tank to the wall.

It is common practice for people to close doors to rooms that are infrequently used or to close air vents in those rooms. This does not save on energy. Perhaps consider setting the temperature in your home with a programmable thermostat to 78 to 80 degrees when you are home and 80 degrees or higher when you are away.

If you are unable to weatherize your own home or need assistance with your utility bills there are programs to help. Contact the City's Housing Program Coordinator for more information at (480) 474-2635.

Bees Wishes

