

# Housing Programs & Services

NEWSLETTER

## Getting Ready for Summer

Maintain your heating and cooling equipment to prevent future problems and unwanted costs. Keep your cooling and heating system at peak performance by having a contractor do annual pre-season check-ups. Contractors get busy once summer and winter come, so it's best to check the cooling system in the spring and the heating system in the fall.

### A typical maintenance check-up should include the following:

- **Check thermostat settings** to ensure the cooling and heating system keeps you comfortable when you are home and saves energy while you are away.
- **Tighten all electrical connections** and measure voltage and current on motors. Faulty electrical connections can cause unsafe operation of your system and reduce the life of major components.
- **Lubricate all moving parts.** Parts that lack lubrication cause friction in motors and increases the amount of electricity you use.
- **Check and inspect the condensate drain** in your central air conditioner, furnace and/or heat pump (when in cooling mode). A plugged drain can cause water damage in the house and affect indoor humidity levels.
- **Check controls of the system** to ensure proper and safe operation. Check the starting cycle of the equipment to assure the system

starts, operates, and shuts off properly.

### Specific to Cooling

- **Clean evaporator and condenser air conditioning coils.** Dirty coils reduce the system's ability to cool your home and cause the system to run longer, increasing energy costs and reducing the life of the equipment.



- **Check your central air conditioner's refrigerant level** and adjust if necessary. Too much or

too little refrigerant will make your system less efficient increasing energy costs and reducing the life of the equipment.

- **Clean and adjust blower components** to provide proper system airflow for greater comfort levels. Airflow problems can reduce your system's efficiency by up to 15 percent.

### Specific to Heating

- **Check all gas (or oil) connections, gas pressure, burner combustion and heat exchanger.** Improperly operating gas (or oil) connections are a fire hazard and can contribute to health problems. A dirty burner or cracked heat exchanger causes improper burner operation. Either can cause the equipment to operate less safely and efficiently.

### Actions To Do Yourself

- **Inspect, clean, or change air filters** once a month in your central air conditioner, furnace, and/or heat pump. Your contractor can show you how to do this. A dirty filter can increase energy costs and damage your equipment, leading to early failure.

[www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)

## In This Issue

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

## Notable News

The Apache Junction Public Library has many great activities to help keep you cool this summer. Check them out at <http://www.ajpl.org/> or call 480-474-8555. Library hours are Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 9:00 to 5:00 and Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 to 8:00.

- Tales at the Cozy Books Mondays at 10:00 and 3:00.
- Tween Game Nights (ages 9-11) on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month from 5:00-7:00.
- Teen Events on the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 5:00 to 7:00.
- Pleasant Piano Tunes with Barbara Saturdays at 1:00.
- Thursday Night Movies 1:30 (with subtitles) and 5:30.

## Calendar

- May 4th is Firefighter Day—Thank a firefighter today
- May 27th is Memorial Day—City offices will be closed
- June 2nd is Cancer Survivors Day—Donate to help find a cure
- July 4th is Independence Day—City offices will be closed



## Programs

### Free Dump Week

The Apache Junction Landfill is offering Apache Junction residents another drop off opportunity this February at no cost in partnership with Allied Waste/ Republic Services. Any city resident can take one free load to the Landfill during the week of May 6 to 11, 2013. Be sure to bring proof of residency (such as a water bill). It is recommended that you a) Contact your current trash provider for curbside bulk trash pickup options, b) Provide for your own bulk trash pickup at any time. A resident can show proof of residency and their bulk trash can be dumped at the Apache Junction landfill for \$8.70. The Landfill's days and hours of operation are Monday through Saturday from 6:00 am to 4:00 pm. For further information contact the Apache Junction Landfill at (480) 982-7003 or the Public Works Department at (480) 982-1055.

### Looking to buy a home in AJ?

Pinal County has received grant funds from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development to assist potential homeowners with down payment and closing cost assistance as well as funding to make improvements to the home. Homes available for this program must be foreclosed, bank

owned, or short sale properties within a designated Apache Junction neighborhood, other restrictions apply. For additional information about the program and whether you may qualify, contact Patricia Farnsworth from Pinal County Housing at (520) 866-7234.

### 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](http://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

Safe Storage of Hazardous Household Chemicals will keep your home and family safe. Identify the hazardous chemicals by looking for the signal words **Caution, Warning, Danger** or **Poison** on the label. Use a product with the signal words Caution or Warning and follow the label directions. Avoid products with the signal word Danger or Poison.

DANGER indicates greater precaution should be taken. Accidental exposure of the eye or skin to the undiluted product could cause tissue damage or the material could ignite if exposed to an open flame. POISON is the strongest indication of a hazard. It can be found on lye, some car care items, and insecticides. Under "Poison" you might add "Contents of this product are harmful or fatal if swallowed."

Safe Storage includes:

- Buy only what you need and use it all before buying more.
- Store in original container. Never put in a food or drink container.
- Never remove product labels.
- Store products where children cannot find them.
- Keep hazardous products in a cool, dry place, away from pilot lights, stoves, or water heaters.
- Store corrosive, flammable, reactive, and poisonous products on separate shelves.
- Ensure all containers have secure lids.
- Stack products so they can not fall over.
- Always return the product to its proper place after using it.
- Inspect your home for hazardous products and discard old items.

*Bees Wishes*



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](http://www.ajcity.net)  
[hpatel@ajcity.net](mailto:hpatel@ajcity.net)  
Monday to Thursday 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

## RESOURCES

Did you know?...

- Dawn helps to eliminate fleas from your pets? Just add a drop to their bath water.
- Wipe a Bounce fabric sheet over your pet to make them smell instantly fresh.
- Colgate toothpaste works well on burns.
- 1/4 cup of vinegar and 1/4 cup of honey, take 1 tablespoon 6 times a day and it will cure your sore throat.
- Use Listerine to disinfect a broken blister.
- Mix 2 cups of Quarter Oats and 1 cup of water, warm in the microwave for 1 minute. Then apply to your hands to sooth arthritis pain.

## 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

The summer heat is fast approaching, don't get caught without air conditioning. Regular



maintenance and check ups from a licensed professional will help to extend the life of your air conditioning unit.