

# Housing Programs & Services

NEWSLETTER

## Holiday Safety Tips

During the holiday season mixing electricity with trees can be a fire hazard. Electrical fires can start for a variety of reasons and the results can be tragic, therefore use caution this holiday season.

Here are some safety tips when dealing with electricity...



- Turn off holiday lights before going to sleep or leaving the house unattended.
- When stringing lights outside, use a dry, wooden or fiberglass ladder and be sure to stay away from overhead power lines.
- Use only strings of outdoor lights, spotlights, sockets and extension cords approved by the Underwriter's Laboratories (UL).
- Do not use frayed cords. In addition, extension cords should only be used on a temporary basis and are not intended as permanent household wiring.
- Keep the bulbs from touching Christmas tree needles, branches and decorative items.
- Before putting up lights, check wires, plugs and sockets for wear or damage. If damaged, either repair or discard them.
- Use more than one circuit to avoid overloading household wiring.
- Do not use candles near flammable materials or where they can be knocked over or reached by small children or family pets.
- Unplug lights from electrical outlets before changing bulbs.

- Do not hang lights on a metallic tree. The danger of shock is great. Instead of hanging lights, use a spotlight to illuminate metallic trees.

- There should be a smoke detector on every level of the house and outside each sleeping area. It also is important to have detectors installed properly and tested to ensure they are in working condition.

- As a precaution, all homes should have at least one class ABC extinguisher, placed in an easily accessible area. An extinguisher with an ABC classification puts out all three types of fires: combustible-liquid fires; fires from burning wood, paper and cloth; and electrical fires. It is important to check the pressure in the extinguisher at least every month and refill or replace if it's low. Know how to properly use the extinguisher.
- To reduce the risk of electrical shock, make sure that GFCI (ground fault circuit interrupters) protection is provided for outlets at outdoor receptacles and test the GFCI monthly to make sure it is working properly. If GFCI receptacles are not available, portable GFCI equipment may be used. The Consumer Product Safety Commission advises that more than two-thirds of the 300 annual electrocutions nationwide could be prevented with the use of GFCI protection.

## In This Issue

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

## Notable News

Funds are available to help qualified home buyers with down payment and closing cost assistance and financing for rehabilitation assistance to purchasers of Neighborhood Stabilization Program properties. The funds will be available to applicants who meet income and other qualifications and intend to purchase or rehabilitate properties within a select Apache Junction neighborhood.

If you or someone you know is looking for an opportunity to be a homeowner, contact the Pinal County Housing and Community Development Department office, Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm at (520) 866-7203.

## Calendar

- November 24th—City offices closed for Thanksgiving
- December 7th—Pearl Harbor Day
- December 26th—City offices closed for Christmas
- January 2nd—City offices closed for New Year's Day
- January 16th—City offices closed for MLK Day

## Programs

### The Agency With Answers On Aging - Pinal Gila Council for Senior Citizens

If you, a family member or an older person you know, needed some type of service or assistance, would you know where to turn for help? What if you needed unbiased information to understand your Medicare billing, or information on long term care nursing, or assisted care options? How about if you were unable to prepare your own meals due to illness or disability? And what if a loved one is isolating or becoming more and more forgetful, where would you turn for help? For these questions and many others, persons living in Pinal and Gila counties may call on Pinal-Gila Council for Senior Citizens (PGCSC).

As the designated Area Agency on Aging and Aging & Disability

Resource Center it serves as the region's information, assistance, and referral hub for all services related to seniors and persons with disabilities.

PGCSC either provides services directly or will make a referral to an appropriate agency that may be able to help. PGCSC is considered the agency with answers on aging, however in some cases services may not be available, or waiting lists may apply. But if you don't call, you will never know what's available.

PGCSC is only a phone call away. Even if you are just trying to figure out who might be able to help, PGCSC is a great start. Pinal-Council for Senior Citizens has its main office in Casa Grande, at 8969 West McCartney Road, and can be reached toll-free at (800) 293-9393 or 520-836-2758.

## Busy Bee Home Maintenance Tips

Arizona Winters can be treacherous. As winter approaches, heating your home can also be costly. Often portable space heaters are used in place of traditional heating methods. There are potential hazards in using portable space heaters.

Things to remember when using a portable heater:

- To avoid electrical shock, do not use a portable heater anywhere near a bathtub, shower or sink.
- Never touch a portable heater if you are wet or standing on a wet surface.
- Do not use electric heaters with frayed cords or exposed wiring.
- Never leave a space heater unattended.
- Never place the heater where children or pets are likely to come in contact with it.

When buying a portable heater, keep these tips in mind:

- Make sure the heater you buy is Underwriters Laboratory (U.L.) listed.
- Select a heater with a cut-off device that will turn it off if it tips over.
- To avoid overheating, select a heater with a thermostatic control.

Stay safe and warm!

*Bees Wishes*



## RESOURCES Free Dump Week

All AJ city residents can take one free load to the Landfill during the week of November 7th to November 12, 2011. Be sure to bring proof of residency (such as a water bill).

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.

## 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.

*Always ask for help when hanging your lights or you could end up like this!*



Housing Funnies

## New City Hall Hours

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.