

Housing Programs & Services

NEWSLETTER

Smoke Alarms Save Lives

One of the most important safety devices for the home is the smoke alarm. Properly installed, working smoke alarms will give you the early warning you need to escape from a fire. If you don't have them, or yours are 10 years or older, it is time to buy new smoke alarms. They are inexpensive and can be purchased at any local hardware store.



Placement

- Your alarms should be located outside bedrooms or sleeping areas.
- Additional smoke alarms should be located on each floor level of a multi-story home.
- Do not place smoke alarms in kitchens, garage, unheated attics, or crawl spaces.

Maintenance

- Smoke alarms should be tested at least once a month, using the test button.
- Change the batteries at least once a year, or when an alarm begins to chirp.
- Read the booklet that comes with your alarm and keep it in a safe place for future reference.

Smoke alarms behaving badly

Smoke alarms are highly reliable but can sometimes be fooled by cooking or steam. If yours goes off when there is no fire, it may need to be moved a few feet to a

new position. It could also have dust or insects in it, so try vacuuming it out. If it continues to act up, replace it with a new alarm.

Conduct a walk through of your home

- Keep clothes, blankets, curtains, towels, and other items that can be easily set on fire at least three feet from space heaters, and away from stove burners.
- Place space heaters

where they will not tip over easily.

- Have chimneys cleaned and inspected annually by a professional.
- Clear away trash, flammables, and decorative materials.
- Always use metal mesh screen with fireplaces and leave glass doors open while burning a fire.
- Never leave cooking unattended.
- Be sure your stove and small appliances are off before going to bed.
- Check for worn wires and do not run cords under rugs or furniture.
- Never overload electrical sockets.
- Keep lighters and matches out of the reach of children.
- Never leave cigarettes unattended and never smoke in bed.
- Make sure cigarettes and ashes are out. The cigarette needs to be completely stubbed out in the ashtray or run under water.

Compliments of Wells Fargo Home Mortgage and the AJ Fire District.

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Notable News

Did you know that March 9th was Barbie's birthday? Here are some other Nationally recognized events/months:

February is...

- Library Lover's Month—visit the Apache Junction Public Library!
- National Crime Prevention Month—Say Thank you to an AJ Police Officer!

March is...

- American Red Cross Month—donate blood today!

April is...

- National Child Abuse Prevention Month—Support organizations like CAAFA however you can!
- Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month—adopt a pet from the Paws and Claws Care Center!
- Fair Housing Month—report illegal fair housing practices by calling 480-474-2635.

Calendar

- February 20 — President's Day. City offices will be closed.

Programs

Housing Rehabilitation Program seeking eligible homeowners in Apache Junction

The city continues to seek applications for the housing rehabilitation program. Eligibility requirements are dependent upon income, homeownership, and other factors. Please contact (480) 474-2635 for specific information on the program and how to get an application.

Fair Housing

April is Fair Housing month. Everyone is entitled to equal rights under the Fair Housing Law. The Fair Housing Law covers those persons who feel they may have been discriminated against due to their Race, Color, National Origin, Religion, Sex, Disability or Familial Status.

There are eight prohibited practices under the law:

- 1) Refusing to rent, sell or negotiate for the rental or sale of a dwelling;
- 2) Subjecting people to different terms, conditions and/or privileges;

- 3) Limiting housing choice by word or conduct;
- 4) Otherwise making housing unavailable;
- 5) Misrepresenting availability;
- 6) Making, printing or publishing discriminatory notices, ads, or statements;
- 7) Discriminating on the basis of disability, reasonable modifications are acceptable; and
- 8) Retaliation.

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 February 20th to February 25th 2012. 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.

Busy Bee Home Maintenance Tips

Did you know that the air inside your house is probably more polluted than the air outside? Though we think of our homes as places of safety and refuge, they may be falling short of this expectation. Ironically, with today's high-tech windows, weather-stripping, insulation, and other energy savers, our houses don't "breathe" as well as older, drafty homes. As a result, a residual buildup of indoor air pollutants can occur.

Ventilation can solve many air-pollution issues, but it's tricky to ventilate rooms without wasting energy. Of course, there are many types of airborne pollutants, from cigarette smoke to pet dander to molds. To deal with these, you can get either a whole-house or room-size air cleaner.

Although building materials containing asbestos were phased out in 1986, many homes built before that date have materials that include asbestos. In many cases, asbestos can be left alone or covered over if the material isn't flaking or crumbling, but some types— notably ductwork—should be removed because air blowing through ducts can loosen and carry the fibers throughout the house.

Lead poisoning is a serious hazard for everyone; children and pregnant women are especially vulnerable to its effects. Though lead was outlawed as an ingredient in paint in 1978, lead is found in older paint, plumbing, and the solder used to join pipes. Before sanding, scraping, or stripping old paint, test it for lead. (You can buy a simple test kit at home improvement centers.) For more information about dealing with lead, contact the National Lead Information Center at (800) 424-5323.

Bees Wishes



RESOURCES

The CENTER provides many services to the community, some free and some for a small fee. Programs include: Virtual One Stop for Job Seekers, Basic Health Screening, Personal Enrichment Programs, Resource Navigation, Fitness and Health Education Classes, Student Internships and Volunteer Work, First Things First Parent and Child Programs, On Site Benefit Application Assistance, Low Cost Dental Outreach Clinic, Personal Wellness Planning and Coaching, Chronic Disease Self Management Programs, and Computer Assisted Health Education Programs. Visit **The Center** at 2066 W. Apache Trail Suite 104 or at www.thecenter.co.

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.

Happy St. Patty's Day on March 17th— May you always have walls for the winds, a roof for the rain, tea beside the fire, laughter to cheer you, those you love near you, and all your heart might desire!



"Don't worry. It's not an electrical fire."

New City Hall Hours

If you have a question or comment about anything written in this newsletter, please contact:
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Housing Funnies