



Housing News

The housing division within Development Services of the City of Apache Junction is pleased to present the housing programs and services newsletter. This newsletter is intended to offer a brief look into the housing division and programs that are offered to the citizens of Apache Junction.

As a community member, organization or previous recipient of housing services, you will be sent this newsletter. Should you wish to not receive this newsletter, please contact the housing office to request to be removed from the mailing list. It is intended that this newsletter be a resource for information that is distributed quarterly. We hope that you enjoy it.

This newsletter will provide information on programs that are happening within the community that will benefit homeowners. Providing a livable community is all encompassing which extends beyond housing. Offering community services is key. One such service is the City's outreach to notify residents of special tax credits and incentives. The Economic Stimulus Payment which is being offered as a special tax refund to eligible taxpayers has not been received by over 2,000 Apache Junction residents. The IRS needs you to submit your taxes in order to receive this rebate, however many taxpayers who receive social security benefits and

who do not normally file taxes are missing out. Please contact the IRS or the housing program coordinator to see how you can obtain this rebate. We will also discuss special opportunities for homeowners. One such opportunity is the 4th Annual Paint-a-Thon. Neighborhood revitalization not only includes building new homes but fixing up a much loved home. The Paint-a-Thon gives homeowners an opportunity to spruce up the exterior of their home or help out a neighbor paint theirs. The City is currently seeking eligible homeowners and volunteers to participate in this great community event.

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Housing Programs

If you have a question or comment about anything written in this newsletter, please contact the housing division:



City of Apache Junction
Housing Division
300 E. Superstition Blvd.
Apache Junction, Arizona 85219
(480) 474-2635
Fax: (480) 474-5102
TDD: (480) 983-0095
www.ajcity.net
hpatel@ajcity.net

The City of Apache Junction has offered a housing rehabilitation program for low income homeowners since 1987, investing more than \$3 million in State and Federal grant funds.

The city's housing rehabilitation program is designed to provide safe and decent housing to City of Apache Junction residents by offering funding options to assist homeowners with the rehabilitation of their home. Specifically addressing health and safety issues, correcting code violations and accumulated deferred home maintenance projects in order to increase the life and improve the livability of homes owned by seniors, families, or persons with disabilities.

All applicants must meet the following

criteria in order to be considered for either the emergency repair or housing repair programs:

1. Full-time resident and owner of the home and land for a minimum of one year, within the City limits of Apache Junction;
2. Have homeowner's insurance;
3. An occupant must be either over the age of 62, under the age of 18, or disabled; and
4. Meet income eligibility requirements.

Applications are always being accepted, although you may be placed on a waiting list. Applications are available on the City's website at www.ajcity.net.



Calendar and Events



September 1, 2008 is Labor Day, honor a civil servant today. City offices are closed!



September is the Governor's Housing Forum, City staff will attend to gain information on housing programs/policies.



October 25, 2008 4th Annual Rock n' Roll Paint-a-Thon. Volunteers and homeowners needed!



November 11, 2008 is Veterans Day, honor military personnel today. City offices are closed!



November 27, 2008 is Thanksgiving, eat well and be thankful! City offices will be closed on both November 27th and 28th.

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.



Animal Control is offering a voucher program to spay or neuter your pet. Call (480) 983-4405 to see if you qualify.



Check out the city's website at www.ajcity.net for additional helpful information.



For more information on any of the above information, please contact the housing office at (480) 474-2635.



Notable News

Habitat for Humanity's Ironwood Trails subdivision is looking for the last lucky homeowner to own and occupy a solar home that is energy efficient and built by volunteers and your neighbors. Potential homeowners must provide income information to become eligible. If you or someone you know is in need of safe and decent affordable housing at a great cost and 0% interest, then contact Habitat for Humanity at (602) 262-8675.



Housing Funnies



Now this is overgrown vegetation!

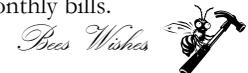
Busy Bee Home Maintenance Tips

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 Fall of each year.

- Check and seal all windows with caulking
- Install a programmable thermostat
- Close all exterior access for critters to invade your home
- Check and maintain your dishwasher
- Clean out gutters
- Clean outdoor drains
- Check toilets for leaks
- Check and maintain your furnace. The flame should be blue with little to no yellow. Call a professional to see about their maintenance programs
- Weatherproof doors

- Power wash your exterior
- Check and re-caulk flashing
- Deep clean your home
- Cover your air conditioning unit
- Test all smoke and carbon monoxide detectors

Energy efficiency is key to a low cost running home. Check with your utility provider to see what you can do to make your home more energy efficient. Checklists and helpful hints are available on their websites and are most often included with your utility bills. Be certain to watch your statement for any change in usage of water and/or electricity, this may indicate a leak or an item overworking and drawing too much electricity. Most providers also offer programs to help decrease the cost of your monthly bills.



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.