

# Housing Programs & Services

NEWSLETTER

## Tax Preparation Available to All Residents of Apache Junction

The IRS may owe YOU money! You may qualify for federal tax credits and not even know it. The Earned Income Credit (EIC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC) are federal tax benefits for working people like you. Some workers can receive a refund even if they don't owe taxes! If you worked in 2012, had children living with you and earned less than \$47,000 OR if you did not have children living with you and earned less than \$14,000 you qualify!

The EIC and CTC are valuable but complex tax breaks for working people that could be worth up to \$5,891 for EIC alone. Residents may also receive free tax preparation assistance and free E-filing of their tax returns by IRS trained community volunteers.

**You could earn extra credit through the CTC!** Workers raising children could get an even larger refund by claiming the CTC. Workers who raised a child under age 17 who lived with them for more than half the year could be eligible. The CTC is worth a maximum of \$1,000 per child. Most families receive a credit worth several hundred dollars. To claim the CTC, a worker, spouse and child must have an SSN or an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN).



Get all the money YOU earned! If you were eligible for the EIC or CTC in the past but did not claim them, you can get your refund for up to three back years. Ask the volunteer tax preparers at the free tax help site in Apache Junction for help. (see Resources page 2 for location details)

People interested in having their taxes prepared for free, should come with the following items:

- Proof of Id
- Social Security Cards
- Birth dates
- Current year's tax package
- Wage and earning statement (s) Form W-2, W-2G, 1099-R, from all employers
- Interest and dividend statements from banks (Forms 1099)
- A copy of last year's Federal and State returns if available
- Bank Routing Numbers and Account Numbers for Direct Deposit
- Total paid for day care provider and the day care provider's tax identifying number (the provider's Social Security Number or the provider's business Employer Identification Number)

The Apache Junction site is an E-file site only (see Resources page 2 for location details); all returns will be filed electronically. Therefore on a married filing joint tax return, both spouses must be present to sign the required forms.

**Program sponsored by:** City of Apache Junction, Apache Junction Public Library, Internal Revenue Service, and AARP Tax-Aide.

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## Notable News

March 12, 2013 is Election Day, Proposition 100 Home Rule will appear on the ballot. "Home Rule" is the option under which citizens and the city council they elect make annual budget decision for their city "at home" rather than by using the State imposed limitation.

The Home Rule Renewal Option does not empower the City Council to create new and additional taxes, nor does it enable the City to spend beyond the revenue it currently receives.

Learn more at: <http://www.ajcity.net/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=480> and go out to vote!

## Calendar

- February 3—Super Bowl Sunday
- February 12—Mardi Gras
- February 14—Valentine's Day
- February 18—President's Day  
City office closed
- March 12—Election Day
- March 17—St. Patrick's Day
- March 31—Easter Sunday
- April 15—Taxes Are Due
- April 22—Earth Day
- April 29—Arbor Day



## 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 February 11 to February 16, 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.

### Fair Housing Month

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 if one of the seven covered classes are effected:

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. 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.

## Busy Bee Home Maintenance Tips

April 22nd is Earth Day, try these helpful tips to keep the Earth green, clean, and safe...

Disposing of leftover paint — Unless it has dried to a solid, you need to take special precautions; tossed in the trash, paint solvents can eventually contaminate groundwater. You can speed up the drying process by putting cat litter in the can. Or go to [earth911.org](http://earth911.org) for links to programs in your area that recycle paint by giving it to schools or charities. The site also lists the 2,000 household hazardous waste centers in the country that accept all sorts of hard-to-dispose-of stuff, from batteries to cleansers.

Recycling tips — **PAPER** Do: Recycle paper with staples, clips, or spirals intact — the metal will be filtered out by machines later. Don't: Include any paper with food stains (think pizza boxes), as they can contaminate a load. **PLASTICS** Don't: Forget to remove bottle caps. They're made of a different type of plastic and can mess up a whole batch. Do: Return plastic bags to stores.

**GLASS AND METAL** Do: Rinse out bottles, jars, and cans; throw away (or recycle) caps. Don't: Worry about labels — they'll burn off at the plant. Do: Include washed pie tins and foil, metal bottle caps, wire coat hangers, scrap metal.

**APPLIANCES** SRP offers a rebate program for turning in broken or inefficient refrigerators, dishwashers, air conditioners, and more.

*Bees Wishes*



## RESOURCES

Don't miss out on FREE Tax Preparation services! The City of Apache Junction location for the free E-filing tax preparation is:  
The Apache Junction Public Library  
1177 N. Idaho Road

Beginning February 6, 2013. The tax preparation service is provided during two time slots daily, Wednesday through Saturday, at 9:00 a.m.-11 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Reservations are required and can be made at the Library's service desk or by calling 480-474-8555 after January 1, 2013. Reservations will be taken on a first come, first serve basis.

## 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.

## Not So Housing Funnies



Everyone deserves safe, decent and affordable housing.

<http://worldwildlife.org/species/polar-bear>

If you have a question or comment about anything written in this newsletter, please contact:  
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Monday to Thursday 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.