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Phoenix Public Library's Bookmobile is On the Road!

For the first time in over 30 years, Phoenix Public Library will be able to provide library services and resources throughout Phoenix with a Bookmobile.



Outfitted with approximately 2,500 items for check out featuring a diverse range of authors, genres and age levels, a large print collection; and [Seed Library](#) items and [Culture Passes](#); Bookmobile visits will give the community access to Storytime programs, S.T.E.A.M. activities, Wi-Fi, and signing up for a Phoenix Public Library card. When providing service, the driver's seat and passenger seat rotate 180 degrees to face a tabletop work area, where staff can create new cards for customers, check out their materials, or assist them with connecting to information and resources. Some of the bookshelves are mobile book carts, which can be wheeled outside for outdoor events. In the back area of the bookmobile is a small children's nook with bench seating, where storytimes can be conducted when it's too hot outside. When weather allows, Bookmobile librarians will provide a wide range of outdoor library activities and programs with the assistance of a built-in outdoor sound system and flatscreen TV mounted on the side of the vehicle.

The Bookmobile will provide regular service Tuesday through Saturday every week with serving neighborhoods with limited access to library services its primary focus. Members of the community will be able to find Bookmobile stops close to them and also request Bookmobile outreach visits via the [Bookmobile's location page](#) on Phoenix Public Library's website, phoenixpubliclibrary.org.

Phoenix City Librarian Retires



Rita Hamilton, Phoenix City Librarian has officially announced her retirement in April after serving Phoenix as City Librarian for 13 years. "This is not a decision I have made lightly," said Rita Hamilton. "It has been my great honor to work alongside the passionate Phoenix Public Library team to bring important public library services to young readers, families, life-long learners, and those looking to the library for resources, information, or a service that simply helps."

"I want to first thank Rita for her leadership these past 13 years in her role as the City Librarian, as well as recognize the positive partnerships that have been developed during her tenure, including the Public Health efforts that were successful as a result of the Phoenix Public Library Team," said Phoenix City Manager Jeff Barton. "Effective March 18, 2024, I have asked Mitch Menchaca, Phoenix Arts and Culture Director to help with the transition as the Interim City Librarian while we conduct a national recruitment."

"I am thrilled to have been asked to step into this important role and work with the Library team," said Mitch Menchaca, who will continue in his current role as Arts and Culture Director in addition to the acting role. "There is a lot of synergy between the arts and culture sector and our public libraries—not just in literacy but as community hubs that advance the quality of lives for residents."



City of Phoenix and Phoenix Public Library wish Rita a happy and well-deserved retirement. Rita's retirement is effective April 5, 2024, allowing for a seamless transition with interim City Librarian, Phoenix Arts & Culture Director Mitch Menchaca. The City of Phoenix will conduct a recruitment for the next leader in a new chapter of the 125-year Phoenix Public Library story.

April is National Poetry Month

Voices: Poets

In celebration of National Poetry Month, we encourage you to explore the diversity of poetry from around the globe and throughout history. Find a voice or two that resonate with you and really soak up their works and begin to see the world through a new lens. [Discover our resources for exploring the voices of poets.](#)



National Poetry Month Challenge

Let's celebrate poetry in April! Grab your muse and read poems and/or complete fun activities. Earn two badges (in addition to Registration and Completion badges) to receive a special poem bookmark. Stop by your [Phoenix Public Library location](#) to browse poetry books and participate in poetic pursuits. Challenge open to ages 5 and up. [Take the challenge now!](#)

Summer Teen Volunteer Applications are Now Open

Phoenix Public Library needs spirited teens (ages 13-17) to volunteer with the annual Summer Reading program. This is a great opportunity to learn valuable customer service skills and being a Library Volunteer looks great on your resume. Plus, you'll have fun working with other teens inspiring young children to become better readers.



Interested in applying? [Visit our website](#) for available Teen Summer Volunteer opportunities for Summer 2024.



Solar Eclipse Experience

Get ready to safely view the total solar eclipse on Monday, April 8!

Attend a stary storytime, eclipse STEAM event, Out of this World Family Trivia or Solar Eclipse Viewing Party at your local or regional branch!

Solar eclipse viewing glasses are available for customers at [Phoenix Public Library locations](#) while supplies last, through April 8.

Participants ages 17 and under may receive preference receiving glasses, depending on available supply.

[Learn more about the eclipse and find stellar programs to attend.](#)



April Program Highlights

Con-Fusion 2024

Various dates and locations through April 27

Phoenix Public Library is hosting Con-Fusion: The Adventure Continues! Our series of genre-themed mini-conventions is still in full swing, now through April 27. Each event will feature family friendly activities and local authors, artists, artisans and performers. Join us to geek out on Sci-Fi & Fantasy, Romance, Poetry & Songwriting, Comics & Anime, and Mystery, Horror & True Crime. Cosplay encouraged, but please leave all prop weapons at home. Join us! There's something for the whole family.

Opioid Education Programs

Various dates and locations April 9 - May 29

This program will cover what is an overdose, signs, and symptoms, what causes an overdose, safety messaging and how to respond to opioid overdose using naloxone. These programs, presented by the City of Phoenix Office of Public Health and Southwest Behavioral Health Services, will cover identifying opioid overdoses, their causes and how to respond as well as how to safely dispose of drugs and drug-related materials.

Spring Health Fair

Saturday, April 13 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
[Burton Barr Central Library](#)

Burton Barr Central Library is hosting a Health Fair on Saturday, April 13th, from 10am-3pm that will offer a wide range of health services and health-related information to attendees. This program is hosted in partnership with several medical and health-focused community partners. This program is open to all ages (as applicable) at no cost and is accessible to uninsured, underinsured, and/or Medicare and Medicaid eligible guests. Learn about services available at the Spring Health Fair.

Author Talk with Xochitl Gonzalez: A Livestream Event

Wednesday, April 17 from 4 - 5 p.m.
[South Mountain Community Library](#)

The Library Speakers Consortium is a new eResource at the Phoenix Public Library! Author events are livestreamed every month and viewers may type questions for authors to answer live during the event. Join us in the library to watch this livestream together. Can't come to the library? Stream the event wherever you are by clicking [here!](#)

Join us as we chat with award-winning and bestselling author Xochitl Gonzalez about her newest novel *Anita de Monte Laughs Last*.

Ready, Set, Bloom

Saturday, April 20 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
[Yucca Library](#)

Celebrate spring at Yucca Library! Join us for a family storytime followed by crafts. Drop in anytime between 10:30 and noon to decorate a pot, plant seedlings and make your own Earth Day game using recycled materials.

National Safe Drug Disposal/Take Back Day

Saturday, April 27 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
East Employee Parking Lot, [Burton Barr Central Library](#)

National Safe Prescription Drug Disposal/Take Back Day aims to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs. On the day of event community members bring their expired or unused medications to the location designated and law enforcement will receive the drop off items in order to dispose of them in a safe manner. **Pills and Containers ONLY. No needles, inhalers, or liquids.** This program will provide a drive through style disposal.

Presented in Partnership with the Phoenix Office of Public Health, the Phoenix Police Department, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith, and Family, and the Phoenix Indian Center's Urban Indian Coalition of Arizona.

Rare Book Room Saturdays



Join us in the [Rare Book Room for open "walk-in hours](#). Enjoy a chance to explore the Room, browse the reference collection, and view select rare items on display including miniature books, artists' books, manuscript leaves, and more. The browsable reference collection includes books on the history of printing, history of the book, papermaking, and typography.

**Capacity is limited to 10 visitors at a time. Once capacity is reached and a line forms, visitors will enter a timed experience of a maximum of 15 minutes. No food or drink allowed in the Room. Personal belongings will be kept in the office adjacent to the Rare Book Room. Photography without flash is permitted. All other library standards of conduct will apply.*

Saturday, April 27 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
[Rare Book Room](#)
[Burton Barr Central Library](#)

Plan Ahead When Visiting Burton Barr Central Library



Plan ahead when visiting [Burton Barr Central Library](#) through Thursday, April 11, 2024.

From April 5 through 7, the March Madness Music Festival® is scheduled to be held in Hance Park, adjacent to Burton Barr Central Library. This will have an impact on access to the immediate area around Burton Barr Central Library and access to library parking and book drop beginning March 21 through April 11. We're advising planning in advance for visits to Burton Barr Central Library during this time. [Check the website](#) frequently for updates.

What Were You Wearing?

In 2019, the City of Phoenix launched a Sexual Violence Awareness campaign called "Let's Talk Teal." In addition to activities that directly impact survivors of sexual violence, the initiative emphasizes having important conversations to prevent and end sexual violence.

"What Were You Wearing?" is an art installation challenging victim blaming and one of the most common questions survivors of sexual assault hear when they tell their stories. Featuring narratives of sexual assault survivors and a re-creation of what they were wearing when they were assaulted. "What Were You Wearing" is on exhibit April 9 through April 24, 2nd floor, Burton Barr Central Library as part of the "Let's Talk Teal" initiative.

Visit "Let's Talk Teal: Sexual Assault Awareness" to learn more about the City of Phoenix's partnership with the Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence.



City of Phoenix Happenings

602 Day

On June 2, the City of Phoenix will officially celebrate 602 Day for the first time. The local holiday will be an opportunity to celebrate Phoenix as a great place to live, work and enjoy life. The goal of 602 Day is to partner with businesses, cultural organizations, and other groups to provide events and community engagement opportunities that cultivate civic pride.

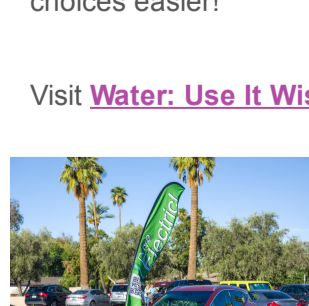
We invite your business or organization to participate in 602 Day by hosting an event celebrating Phoenix on June 2nd, offering special discounts or admissions for \$6.02, or any other ideas you might have. If you have questions or suggestions, please join us as at one of our 602 Day information sessions in April. To sign up for an information session visit 602Day.com.

Planting with Purpose This Spring

In central Arizona, the Sonoran Desert's magic unfolds with every drop of rain. With our recent storms and warming temperatures, now is the perfect time to change your landscape or install a new one. Check out our guest blog at Water - Use it Wisely and see how our free desert landscape design guides can make your spring planting choices easier!



Visit [Water. Use It Wisely](#) for desert landscape design ideas and planting tips.



Phoenix Hosts Drive Electric Event

The City of Phoenix Office of Sustainability is celebrating Earth Day by hosting a free ride and drive electric vehicle event on April 20 from 8 a.m.-noon at North Phoenix Baptist Church. Vehicle owners will bring their electric vehicles for attendees to sit in, ride in, or even drive! A variety of vehicle makes will be available including Lucid, Tesla, Rivian, Kia and more! Register: <https://bit.ly/4b7c1Se>

Introducing Smart Public Transit Fare

Valley Metro is updating fare technology (what riders use to pay) and this summer bus/light rail riders will have the option to pay on the app or use the new reloadable Copper cards. It's super easy! Load money onto your account, scan/tap every time you ride using the new pay-as-you-go system. Learn more and sign up for updates at valleymetro.org/faretechnology.

