



# COPRA CHRONICLE

Issued by and for the City of Phoenix Retirees Association  
*Your advocate in pension and insurance matters*

March 2020

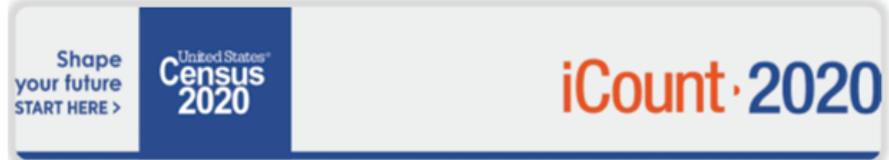
**MEMBERSHIP IS OUR STRENGTH**

Issue 3

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## EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE UPCOMING 2020 CENSUS



Have you marked your calendar? The 2020 Census is here and your participation is vital! Every 10 years, the U.S. Census Bureau counts how many people are living in the United States and uses that data to allocate \$675 billion in federal funds to support programs in education, healthcare, transportation, parks and recreation services and other important local resources. Counting everyone in your household in the 2020 Census is your opportunity to help your community receive funding for public programs and services.

**Filling Out the Census Form:** Participating in the census is now easier than ever with three secure and confidential ways to respond. Each household will receive a code in the mail in March 2020, directing the head of the household to complete the questionnaire online, by phone, or by mail. 2020 will be the first time in history that people can complete the form online, making it convenient for families on-the-go. To complete the survey digitally, go to the website listed on the census information you receive in the mail, answer the questions and click submit.

Additionally, you can call the toll-free number on the notification mailed to your household to respond by phone, or you can fill out your census form by hand and mail it back in the pre-paid return envelope. Each method takes under 10 minutes to complete and is completely safe and secure.

**Census Security:** The Census questionnaire asks you to share demographic information but your answers are strictly kept private and anonymous, even to other government agencies. Title 13 of the U.S. Code prohibits the Census Bureau from releasing any identifiable information about you or anyone else in your household. This law extends to protect your information from being shared with any person, organization, court, business or government agency, including law enforcement.

*(Continued on page 3)*



### ***"Membership is our Strength"*** **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership for COPRA is \$12 per year or \$50.00 for 5 years. If you have changed your address, email address or phone number or have any questions about dues payments, please contact Linda Henderson.

Linda can be reached by: telephone at (623) 693-9955, or by e-mail at [lindajoyhenderson@gmail.com](mailto:lindajoyhenderson@gmail.com)

#### **Mail payments to:**

COPRA  
PO Box 2464  
Litchfield Park, AZ 85340

#### **PayPal Payments:**

You can send in dues via PayPal. Use our email address [Phoenixcopra@gmail.com](mailto:Phoenixcopra@gmail.com) from your account.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Rob Sweeney

Two months of 2020 in the books – Check! You still have time to create your annual checklist of things you should look into and then follow through. To help you get started, consider the following:

- ✓ Annual medical physical
- ✓ Vaccinate yourself against the flu and shingles viruses
- ✓ Replace batteries in smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms
- ✓ Review beneficiary information at your financial institutions
- ✓ Request a free copy of your credit report/history
- ✓ Establish a health goal and map out a plan to get there
- ✓ Invite a fellow City of Phoenix Retiree to join COPRA

Our annual State of the City and Retirement Systems Update General Membership Meeting is coming up on March 19, 1:30 pm at the Washington Activity Center. Retirement Systems staff will be present to offer notary services for Members who need to submit their COPERS' eligibility letters. This is a reminder that eligibility letters were recently mailed to COPERS members whose last name begins with the letters N-Z. Completed AND notarized letters need to be submitted to Retirement Systems by April 6 to ensure your benefits continue as normal.

Have a great March and get working on those checklists!

Rob

## THINGS TO DO IN MARCH

March seems to be the month for the arts. Here are some exhibitions and excursions for you this month.

### **Wonderspaces**

#### **Scottsdale Fashion Square**

**7014 E. Camelback Rd., Scottsdale**

**Tues-Fri, noon – 10 p.m.; Sat, 10 a.m. – 10 p.m.; Sun, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.**

**Thru March 15**

**\$15 - \$24**

[wonderspaces.com](http://wonderspaces.com)

Visitors interact with, and become part of, the colorful art as this interactive experience offers 13 immersive, thought-provoking and conversation-starting artworks spread across a 16,000-square-foot exhibition space. Presented by Wonderspaces and featuring everything from glowing lights to a sewing machine orchestra, the show welcomes all ages to explore imaginary worlds where the rules are different. Twelve of the works are new to Arizona, with Submergence by Squidsoup returning by popular demand.

### **Arizona Fine Art Expo**

**26540 N. Scottsdale Rd., Scottsdale**

**10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Thru March 22 \$10, season pass; \$8, seniors and military**

[Arizonafineartexpo.com](http://Arizonafineartexpo.com)

**480-837-7163**

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## EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE UPCOMING 2020 CENSUS (CONT.)

*(Continued from page 1)*

Anyone employed by the Census Bureau is sworn under oath to protect any identifiable information. Violating this law is a federal crime which could result in a \$250,000 fine and/or up-to 5 years in jail. These strict penalties are put in place to ensure that census data is only used to generate the statistics that guide the distribution of \$675 billion in federal funding and allocation of congressional representation.

The Census Bureau also houses a group of cyber security experts who monitor and secure the bureau's technology 24/7. They work alongside federal intelligence agencies to provide continuous protection from census scammers and incoming cyber threats.

**Why You Count:** You count for your community! In Arizona, census data helps with the distribution of federal funding across 55 programs, including the National Lunch Program, federal student loan programs, and many other programs that enhance quality of life. For each person counted, the state receives \$2,959 in federal funding totaling more than \$20 billion per year, which goes toward vital services including schools, emergency services, and hospitals.

The United States has counted its population each decade since 1790. Every 10 years you have a chance to participate and make sure you are counted, both for you and your community. Now is the time, the 2020 census is here!

As members of iCount2020, the regional census outreach campaign to educate the public and ensure an accurate count of Arizona in the 2020 Census, we have made education about the census a priority. People can email or call our census coordinator, Leila Gamiz at [leila.gamiz@phoenix.gov](mailto:leila.gamiz@phoenix.gov) or 602-262-4078 to learn more about how every man, woman and child has a direct impact on local programs. The upcoming 2020 Census is a monumental event that only occurs every ten years. It is important that we get it right to ensure Phoenix receives its fair share of funding.

Visit <https://icount2020.info/> to learn more about local census efforts.

Source: District 1 News, January 24, 2020

## APS WORKING WITH COMMUNITY GROUPS TO HELP LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Local Electricity provider Arizona Public Service (APS) does more than provide electricity to households in Arizona. The company partners with many community organizations to strengthen local communities.

### **Diamond Back Fields Building**

Along with the Arizona Diamondbacks, APS provides new and updated field equipment, including lights, scoreboards, fencing, grass and irrigation systems.

Since 2000, the Arizona Diamondbacks Foundation has built or refurbished 42 baseball and softball fields representing a community investment of more than \$10 million. With support from APS, and charitable contributions from D-backs players, the program has allowed children from across the state to play baseball and softball at quality facilities. The fields generally feature new lights, a branded electronic scoreboard, new fencing and backstops, new irrigation and new grass and dirt with additional support provided by local contractors and businesses.

The evaluation and determination of the location of each field is determined by a grant process. A new "Diamonds Back Field" is awarded annually.

Applications are due in July of each year and a link to the application form is available on the Arizona Diamondbacks' website at:

*(Continued on page 4)*

## NEW RETIREES (JANUARY 2020)

James Baker	Street Transportation	Mark Paxton	Parks & Rec.
Daniel Baxter	Phx Convention Center	Richard Raney	Water Services
Steve Carter	Planning and Dev Dept	Roberta Reid	Aviation
Carol Donahue	Human Resources	David Rivera	Water Services
Diane Halter	Charging	Daniel Simpson	Police Dept,
Susan Kapuza	Water Services	Valerie Smith	City Manager
Nellie Maciel	Housing	Ellen Sweeney	Housing
Jerianne Mackenzie	Water Services	Jeane Walloch	Library
Scot Obal	Finance Dept,		

## APS WORKING WITH COMMUNITY GROUPS TO HELP LOCAL COMMUNITIES (CONT.)

(Continued from page 3)

<https://www.mlb.com/dbacks/community/foundation/field-building-program>.

### First Responder Grants

In partnership with the Firehouse Subs Safety Foundation, APS provides funding for life-saving equipment to public safety organizations in the APS service territory and within 60 miles of a Firehouse Subs location. Applications are reviewed quarterly and can be accessed on their website at <https://firehousesubsfoundation.org/>.

Since the Foundation started, it has granted over \$48 million to provide equipment, training, and support to hometown heroes.

### The Rebound Project

With the Phoenix Suns, APS revitalizes basketball courts in communities across the state based on need, court condition and the number of youth impacted. Applications are open October through April annually. Applications are available on the Phoenix Suns' website at <https://www.nba.com/suns/aps-rebound-project#>

## YOUR DEFERRED COMPENSATION BENEFIT

When was the last time you reviewed your retirement savings plan? Your local Nationwide office can assist you with a variety of services to help you manage your account, keeping you in control of your finances. You can visit your local Nationwide office for any of the following:

- Enrolling in a Deferred Compensation Plan
- Completing Post-Employment Health Plan (PEHP) forms
- Rolling over other retirement assets (401k, 403(b), IRA, etc.)
- Submitting your 457(b)-loan payoff
- Any other plan questions

**Please note:** effective February 18, the local Nationwide office has a new home: 3300 N. Central Ave (the ASRS building), Suite 600 Phoenix, AZ 85012

You can visit Nationwide weekdays, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Visitor parking tickets will be validated during business hours.

For more information, call 602-266-2733, option 9.

Source: PHXConnect, February 5, 2020

## CITY MANAGER COLUMN ED ZUERCHER, City Manager



Ed Zuercher

Hello! I hope February treated you wonderfully. I would like to share the following information and a few opportunities we have in the upcoming weeks.

If you're looking for the latest news from the city of Phoenix, you can now find it all in one place. The Communications Office has created a dynamic online news and information platform that easily connects you with a real-time feed of content about the city. In the PHXNewsroom you can catch unique local programming produced by PHXTV and find news and updates. The distinctive look, feel and functionality of the PHXNewsroom was developed by the Communications Office and Information Technology Services Department staff in collaboration with all city departments. It's easy to read, easy to watch, and easy to share and can be found at <https://www.phoenix.gov/newsroom>.

As you know, every year the city of Phoenix develops its annual budget. More than \$1.4 billion General Fund operating budget includes everything from police and fire services, to parks, libraries, and senior services. To help residents better understand how our budget is created, the Budget & Research Department has added a new tool to gather feedback and help you see what makes Phoenix run. Called FundPHX, this software lets you see for yourself what each service costs, and how much it would cost (or save) when you change service levels. You can explore the tool at <https://www.phoenix.gov/FundPHX>.

The city of Phoenix Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program opened on Tuesday, Jan. 28. There are three ways we can help many residents file taxes and save hundreds of dollars in paid preparer fees. Residents can do it online from home, visit one of our facilities where a volunteer can guide them through the online process or make an appointment for a certified preparer to do their taxes. Learn more about income-eligibility requirements at [Phoenix.gov/EITC](http://Phoenix.gov/EITC).

### YOUR E-MAIL IS YOUR ENTRY

As you all know, receiving the COPRA Chronicle by email significantly defrays the printing and postage costs for COPRA. An added benefit is that if there is any important information that COPRA wants to send you, we have your email address on file and can transmit to you in a timely fashion.

In order to encourage our COPRA members to receive the Chronicle by email, your COPRA Board started a new program! Each month, we will randomly select one member who receives their Chronicle by email and that member will receive a \$25 gift certificate to a grocery store (Fry's or Safeway).

The February winner is **Andrew Brown. CONGRATULATIONS ANDREW!**

If we already have your email address, you are automatically entered! If you do not receive the Chronicle by email do so NOW! You can provide your email to Linda Henderson at [lindajoyhenderson@gmail.com](mailto:lindajoyhenderson@gmail.com). She can also be reached by phone at (623) 693-9955.

**Sign up now!**

### ARIZONA'S BIGGEST PARKING GARAGE IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION!

Arizona's biggest parking garage is going up in the middle of Phoenix in one of its oldest shopping centers – Park Central Mall.

The 10 story parking garage with 551,000 square feet will have more than 2,000 spaces for the new \$100 million Creighton University medical school, apartments, restaurants, office tenants and another hotel.

The City supported developers, Plaza Cos. and Holualoa Cos., move to revitalize the aging mall, but asked

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## DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THESE SENIOR DISCOUNTS?

- Arby's Senior Discount:** 10% off – Also reports of a free drink (55+) varies by location
- Burger King Senior Discount:** 10% off (60+) plus additional discounts on coffee and soft drinks
- Captain D's Seafood:** "Happy Wednesday Offer" Choice of 8 meals + drink for \$4.99 or less- varies by loc. (62+)
- Chick-fil-A Senior Discounts:** Chick-fil-A offers a free refillable senior drink, not including coffee. – Varies by location.
- Chili's Restaurant Senior Discounts:** Chili's offers a 10% senior discount (55+)
- El Pollo Loco:** 10% senior discount (60+), 15% military discount
- Golden Corral:** Senior discount varies by location
- KFC:** Free small drink with any meal (55+)
- Krispy Kreme Senior Discount:** 10% off (50+) (age and discount varies depending on location).
- McCormick & Schmick's:** 10% savings on food and beverages (excluding alcohol) for AARP members (50+)
- McDonald's:** Discounts on small coffee everyday (55+)
- Old Country Buffet:** Daily discounts for seniors (55+)
- Papa John's Senior Discount:** Papa John's says to check with your local stores (meaning no standard senior discount policy). Try coupon codes GET40 or 25OFF. AMAC members receive 25% off, enter code "25SAVE"
- Subway:** 10% off (60+) varies by location
- Taco Bell:** 5% off; free beverages for seniors (65+); offer varies by location
- Waffle House Senior Discounts:** 10% off every Monday (60+)
- Wendy's Senior Discount:** Senior age and the special offer will vary depending on the restaurant location. Please ask the restaurant for details.
- White Castle:** 10% off (62+)
- Fry's Food Stores:** 10% off on the first Wednesday of every month (55 +)

Compiled from Internet Searches

## THINGS TO DO IN MARCH (CONT.)

*(Continued from page 2)*

Guests can meet and watch nationally acclaimed and award-winning artists at work in 124 patron-friendly studios as Thunderbird Artists hosts this art adventure.

### **Holocaust by Bullets**

**Burton Barr Library Thru March 13 FREE**

**1221 N. Central Ave., Phoenix**

**Mon, Fri, Sat 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Tue – Thur 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.; Sun, 1 p.m. – 5 p.m**

[Holocaustbybulletsaz.com](http://Holocaustbybulletsaz.com)

The Phoenix Holocaust Association presents Holocaust by Bullets: 10 Years of Investigation, which offers research uncovering the step-by-step nature of the crimes committed against Jews and Roma by the Nazis. Lectures, films and discussions are planned throughout the Valley to coincide with the exhibit, which moves to ASU Noble Library in Tempe, March 16-April 26.

### **Art on the Wild Side**

**Phoenix Zoo, Savanna Gallery Thru May 31**

**455 N. Galvin Pkwy., Phoenix**

**Call for times and ticket prices. 602-286-3800**

[phoenixzoo.org](http://phoenixzoo.org)

Lucy Dickens, Anne Peyton and Joye DeGoede share their unique visions of wildlife and conservation via photography, paint and mixed media in this exhibit. Art is available for purchase, with a portion of proceeds

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## IN REMEMBRANCE

Suzanne Johnson	10/09/2019
Cloteal Darkins	12/04/2019
Carrel Gawan	12/28/2020
Alan Vernon	01/01/2020
Sarah E Burrell	01/11/2020
Lavonne Rini	01/12/2020
Eddie O'Connor	01/13/2020
Florence Ludovici	01/17/2020
Judy Landers	01/17/2020
Al H. Sayler	01/20/2020
Sally Sainz	01/20/2020
Aubrey Mundy	01/25/2020
Pauline Miller	01/26/2020
Barney Shebek	01/30/2020
Charles Waugh	01/30/2020
Anne Aldridge	01/31/2020
Adolpho Ruiz	02/08/2020
William Wagner	02/12/2020
Gregoria Escobedo	02/12/2020
Valerie Smith	02/13/2020

## THINGS TO DO IN MARCH (CONT.)

*(Continued from page 6)*

benefiting the Phoenix Zoo's conservation initiatives.

Source: Phoenix Magazine (online)  
2/7/2020

## ARIZONA'S BIGGEST PARKING GARAGE (CONT.)

*(Continued from page 5)*

for more parking for Park Central that the light rail runs along. The City and developers formed a Community Facilities District to fund the parking garage.

Construction is scheduled to start at Park Central later this year.

Source: The Arizona Republic, Feb. 6, 2020

### Disclaimer

All articles are for informational purposes and not intended to be a substitute for professional, legal, financial or medical advice. Consult an attorney or other professional what is best for your situation. COPRA expressly disclaims and denies liability for any decisions based on the information presented.

COPRA website.....	<a href="http://www.phoenixcopra.com">www.phoenixcopra.com</a>
COPERS website.....	<a href="http://www.phoenix.gov/copers">www.phoenix.gov/copers</a>
COPMEA website.....	<a href="http://www.copmea.com">www.copmea.com</a>
City Retirement Systems (COPERS).....	(602) 534-4400
Human Resources - Benefits Section.....	(602) 262-4777
COPMEA.....	(602) 262-6858

## 2020 COPRA BOARD

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### Chronicle Article Deadline

Please be advised that the deadline for submitting articles for the Chronicle is the **20th day of the month** before you want the article to appear. Any member may submit material for publication, but the Editor determines what will appear in the final copy based on suitability and available space.

This is your Chronicle. Help us by submitting articles of general interest. Tell us about yourself, your family, a trip you've taken or an interesting hobby you have. Suggestions are always welcomed.

E-mail to: [COPRAnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:COPRAnewsletter@gmail.com)

Or mail to: Mary Dysinger-Franklin, 6208 E. Desert Cove Ave, Scottsdale, AZ 85254

## MARCH COPRA CHRONICLE

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**POSTMASTER**

Please send address corrections to:  
COPRA  
PO Box 2464  
Litchfield Park, AZ 85340



### 2020 MEMBERSHIP MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Membership meetings held at the  
**Washington Activity Center**  
**2240 W Citrus Way, Phoenix, AZ**

**March 19, 2020** at 1:30 pm - City Manager's Office and the Retirement Office

Board meetings are held quarterly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the Month  
Except for June, July and August. These meeting dates will be announced