

Working to make our part of the world smaller, every day.

Winter 2024

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Community-wide Yard Sale Feb. 23, 24, 25

For sellers, it's out with the old stuff. For buyers, in with the new stuff.

We'd like to help you with your spring cleaning goals so we're hosting our third annual community-wide yard sale.

Last year, more than 50 of our AONA neighbors hosted a yard sale on this weekend, attracting a wide variety of bargain hunters and weekend shoppers. The event garnered a lot of positive feedback from hosts and shoppers alike.



Participation is open to neighbors residing within the AONA boundaries (40th St to 56th St between Indian School and Thomas).

You sign up for your own yard sale, you set up your yard sale, you keep the ca\$h.

We do the advertising through The Arizona Republic, Nextdoor, Instagram, and Facebook.

We place signs around the 'hood (and you can, too).

Yard sale hosts will receive additional info about hosting as we get closer to the event.

Purge or Splurge! Make it a 'shop 'til you drop' weekend. Or not! We just want you to be a part of a neighborhood event.

Learn more about the Community-wide Yard Sale

Go to our **Yard Sale page** on the **AONA website** to sign up to host a sale and to learn more about the sale including days and locations.

To host a sale or to learn more:
<https://bit.ly/AONAYardSale2024>

Food truck night

May 9, 2024

First Chinese Baptist Church

4910 E. Earll Rd.



Start Mother's Day weekend right and salute your favorite matriarch with a no-cook night.

More inside:



- **About the City's leash law**
Good leashes make good neighbors. Learn about the city's ordinance.
- **56th St rebuild set for 2025**
With citizen input, the City's Streets and Transportation Dept. has presented its plans to neighbors.
- **IMPORTANT: What's a DOJ consent decree?**
The costs, effect and result of consent decrees on local police agencies and herre in Phoenix.
- **Short-Term Rentals** are now required to register with the city and to notify neighborhood associations and neighbors.

With apologies to Mark Twain:

Good leashes make good neighbors

Did you know that Phoenix has a leash law?

That law generally requires dog owners to either have their dog confined on their property or have the dog under control on a leash no longer than six feet.

If the dog isn't confined or leashed, the animal is considered to be "at large," and that legal status could spell potential trouble for the owner and the dog itself.

The state has a statute that applies but **Phoenix's leash law is more restrictive than the state version** by applying to most dogs out in public, though it does make some exceptions.

The exceptions to Phoenix's law include dogs that are in designated dog parks and dogs being used for livestock control or for hunting, competing in a kennel club event, undergoing supervised training, participating in a state-approved race or working in law enforcement operations.

The exceptions wouldn't apply to unleashed dogs being walked on neighborhood streets, allowed to roam free in regular parks or unrestrained on the owner's unfenced property.

The law also specifies that the dog must be "under control" by the owner when on a leash and not "charge, chase, or otherwise display aggression" toward a person or another animal.

Violations can prompt enforcement officers to apprehend and impound the dog and issue a citation to the owner. Outcomes could result in fines or even jail time for the owner.

Potential outcomes for the dog can be severe, as some impoundments can result in animals being put up for adoption or even euthanized, depending on circumstances.

Under the Phoenix leash law, an enforcement officer may kill an at-large dog that "is dangerous, vicious, or fierce and a threat to human safety" and cannot be safely impounded.

Leash-law violations in Phoenix can be reported to **Maricopa County Animal Care and Control** through its website or a call center at **602-506-7387**. Emergency calls should be directed to 911, and non-emergency calls also can be made to the police department's non-emergency line, **602-262-6151**, said **Sgt. Lacy Rounds**, a lead officer with the county agency.

An officer from the county agency or Phoenix police will respond initially, depending on availability and whether the situation is an emergency, Rounds said.



Phoenix has a dog leash law that requires dogs be confined on their owners property or under control on a leash six feet long or less. The city's law is more restrictive than state law.

A leash-law violation is considered an emergency if the dog has bit someone and remained at large. Phoenix police **Sgt. Steve Nicks**, a community action sergeant for the Mountain View Precinct, said a patrol officer responding to a report of a leash law violation would try to locate the dog's owner and then explain the law's requirement "and allow them the opportunity to comply with city code and put their dog on a leash."

There's a reason that Arizona law "looks down upon dog owners who let their pets roam freely," according to the Mesa law firm of Skousen, Gulbrandsen & Patience.

"Though you know your dog's behaviors and training, the rest of the public is unaware of their tendencies, and they may view your dog as a vicious animal."

Phoenix leash law ordinance:
<https://bit.ly/PhoenixLeashLaw>

56th St. rebuild still coming, a year later than expected

Phoenix's plan to redesign and reconstruct 56th Street along the Arcadia Osborn neighborhood's eastern border and northward to Camelback Road remains on track but will take a year longer to complete than previously planned, city officials say.

In a Nov. 29 virtual public meeting, Street Transportation Department officials presented an update on the project to make the 1.5 mile section of 56th Street between Camelback and Thomas roads safer and more comfortable for pedestrians and bicyclists.

The project continues to evolve and planning is 90 percent complete, officials said.

The city has said the project originated from citizen input. Residents have cited gaps in current sidewalks and bike lanes, poor visibility along parts of the street and other shortcomings while urging the city to make 56th Street safer for pedestrians and cyclists since at least 2017.

While 56th Street in the project area is classified as a collector street that connects local streets and major arterials, many drivers use the street to travel between arterials -- Camelback Road on the north, Thomas Road on the south and Indian School Road in the middle.

The project's planning area currently has some sections lacking walkways while there are safety problems due to school-related parking problems and visibility constraints caused by vegetation at intersections.

Redesign features include 10- to 12-foot-wide pathways for pedestrians and cyclists on both sides of the street, buffers between those pathways and vehicle lanes and installation of inward-arc curbing and slightly elevated sections of vehicle

lanes to slow traffic in some areas.

According to the Arizona Republic, **the 56th Street project is part of a broader "Complete Streets" initiative** to have roadways serve pedestrians, cyclists, wheelchair users and transit users as well as automobile drivers.

The target date to begin construction has slipped from Fall 2024 to Fall 2025 because of requirements tied to federal funding that will help pay for the project mandate. Under those requirements, a construction contract can't be awarded until needed privately owned property is acquired, officials said.

Property acquisition will include slivers of 11 parcels to accommodate wider sidewalk ramps to comply with ADA criteria and construction easements affecting 33 parcels to allow workers to temporarily use five or so feet of land off the right-of-way. Contractors are to fully restore all easement areas to their original condition.

The design work is supposed to be done by Spring 2024 while the process of acquiring necessary right-of-way from adjacent properties has started and is expected to be completed by February 2025.

The City Council on Oct. 18 authorized city officials to begin acquiring the necessary land.

"We are making good progress on this," City Engineer Eric Froberg said during the Nov. 29 virtual briefing.

Construction is expected to take 18 months and require relocations of utility lines.

While some federal funding has been obtained, local funding will pay for most of the project, now estimated to cost \$23 million, officials said.



Short-term rentals to now notify neighborhoods

Registration, notification, background checks for owners, renters now required

We reported to you in November that Short-Term Rentals (AirBnB, VRBO and others are STRs) will now be required to meet higher standards with the City of Phoenix.

AONA and other city neighborhoods lobbied the city for improvements to protect neighbors and neighborhoods from problematic rental homes.

As a result, STR operators are now required to do the following:

- register the location with the city
- send notification of STR status to neighbors and neighborhood associations

We think (and hope) that these measures will allow the city--and the neighborhoods like ours around the city--to get a better handle on STRs.

AONA will keep a running list of STRs within our boundaries. To date, we have only received two notifications.

Do you know of an STR in our neighborhood? You can let us know at aonainfo@gmail.com and we'll follow up with the city to check on the site.



Looking for a sign?

You've told us that you love these neighborhood signs that identify our community. Learn how you and your neighbors can sponsor a sign. Drop us a line, and we'll tell you about it.

Email us at aonainfo@gmail.com to learn about sponsoring a sign topper on your corner.

Context and background on an important issue:

What would a DOJ consent decree mean for the future of Phoenix?

Since August 2021, the federal **Department of Justice (DOJ)** has been conducting an in-depth inquiry into the “patterns or practices” of the Phoenix Police Department.

When the DOJ conducts investigations in police agencies and wishes to fix shortcomings it finds, DOJ will usually propose a consent decree for the city to sign; the document would be a contract between DOJ and the city. It likely would include significant issues that could cause headaches for the city and its residents.

A signed consent decree would head off a possible DOJ lawsuit against the city. But it would legally bind the city to obey everything stipulated in the decree.

The first issue is that **DOJ often wants local government leaders to sign on before even viewing the investigation report** on which the consent decree is based.

Then there are the costs associated with such an agreement. If a consent decree is issued, as has been done with other agencies, it will cost millions, perhaps tens of millions of dollars to implement. And it will last for years.

Another question in relation to the costs: What effect will a consent decree have on recruitment of officers?

PPD is already down, by conservative estimate, 500 sworn officers. That’s the equivalent of two completely staffed precincts.

A key thing for citizens to know are the efforts of **Interim Police Chief Michael Sullivan**. He has implemented many reforms to engage citizens and to improve practices.



Our last newsletter reported on PPD’s new Continuous Improvement Program, a tool to help make changes that benefit citizens and the department. The union representing police officers, the **Phoenix Law Enforcement Association (PLEA)**, issued an open letter to **Mayor Kate Gallego** saying why agreeing to a DOJ consent decree would not be good for our city. Unions representing

firefighters and other city employees signed on to the letter. You can read that letter at:

<https://bit.ly/PoliceUnionopenLtrToMayor>

At present, we don’t know what will happen with the DOJ and its inquiry. We will focus on the partnership of neighborhoods and community with our police department. We care about the ‘now,’ but also about the future. Stay tuned. For current info and resources, go to:

<https://bit.ly/PHX-DOJ-inquiry>



Do your part: SCAN & SIGN UP for our emails

and you’ll be in the know on local neighborhood issues like public safety, zoning and events. It’s simple & easy and we won’t litter your inbox and we won’t share your information. Promise!

Sign up with your email at:

www.bit.ly/AONAemail

Visit AONA at our website:

www.arcadiaosbornphx.com

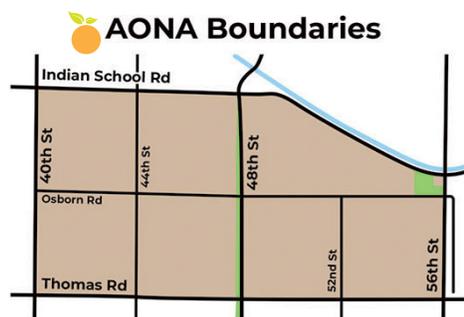
And:

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www.instagram.com/arcadiaosborn

We would love to hear from you!

Interested in building a safer and more connected community? We’re always looking for volunteers to help with activities and outreach. Email us.



aonainfo@gmail.com

Newsletter sponsored by
City of Phoenix Block Watch Grant

Since 1997, AONA works to connect neighbors & protect our community through information & advocacy

AONA is a 501(c)(3) organization.