



3TV Newscast & Extra Information

Saturday, May 16

06:44 AM Mountain Standard Time on Saturday, May 16, 2009

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PEORIA "GREEN YOUR RIDE EVENT"

The event is located at Park West on Northern Avenue just west of the Loop 101 in Peoria.

Peoria is determined to be a leader in sustainable practices and recently launched a Web page at www.peoriaaz.gov/sustainability to explain steps it has taken - such as purchasing cleaner-running city vehicles, modernizing climate-control systems in public buildings and improving water management - as well as suggest things individuals can do to reduce their effects on the environment, conserve energy and meet their needs without compromising the needs of the future. By working with the Bell Road auto dealerships and staging Green Your Ride at Park West, the city also bolsters its Peoria First initiative, which aims to encourage consumer spending in Peoria and keep residents' tax dollars in the community. To learn more about this campaign, visit www.peoriaazfirst.com.

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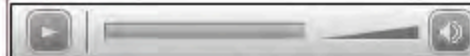
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Unsung heroes of public works get their due

Government work has been the butt of many a joke, and the jokes tend to be funny because they carry a kernel of truth.



BILL MATTINGLY

Those of us in government often view things from a unique, institutional perspective and describe them in language salted by abbreviations and acronyms. It's easy to forget how something that seems perfectly logical from our perspective could mystify our customers.

But beyond the stereotypes are hundreds of dedicated city workers performing the everyday tasks that keep Peoria running: repaving streets, maintaining traffic lights and collecting garbage and recyclables. If these folks do their jobs well, there is no reason for the public to notice them.

That's why we celebrate Public Works Week annually. This year, it

starts Monday and runs through Friday. Our challenge, of course, is how to make it relevant to anybody but ourselves and our families.

MY TURN

This is how I'd frame it: Public works is similar to running your household, just on a much larger scale. You choose between drawstring or twist-tie garbage bags. We deal in 32-, 60- and 90-gallon bins. You occasionally have to seal a crack in your driveway; we maintain 559 miles of city streets. You shuttle the kids to and from music lessons or sports; we operate Dial-A-Ride service for your neighbors who have no other way to get around.

To mark Public Works Week, then, we've chosen another area in which we can use our expertise to help you with an everyday challenge.

Green your ride. During the last year, as gas prices fluctuated wildly, many people found themselves pondering the economics of buying a hybrid, alternative-fuel or

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simply fuel-efficient vehicle. Well, the Public Works Fleet Division has been doing that math for years, and more than a quarter of Peoria's 720-vehicle fleet vehicles run on B-20 (20 percent biodiesel, 80 percent diesel), E-85 (85 percent ethanol, 15 percent unleaded), gas/electric hybrid technology, propane or electricity alone.

We hope to share this knowledge with the public, and kick off Public Works Week early, with a “Green Your Ride” auto show today at the Park West shopping center, on Northern Avenue just west of Loop 101. From 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., a number of Peoria's own Bell Road auto dealerships will display one or two of their “greenest” vehicles, with representatives there to

answer questions. Several of the city's alt-fuel, heavy-work vehicles will be on display too — in a family-friendly “Touch-a-Truck” area. The kids also will love watching Peoria's E-Lampinator bulb eater at work. Bring your used-up compact-fluorescent and fluorescent-tube bulbs for safe, free disposal and watch the machine gobble them.

Folks attending our show, which will be adjacent to the farmer's market at Park West, also can get information about bike safety, recycling, trip reduction and water conservation.

Those of us who work on Peoria's Municipal Campus, along with those who work in outlying city facilities, like to think of Peoria as a leader in sustainable practices. We relish this opportunity to show how we have tweaked our operations to reduce our environmental footprint and, in many cases, save taxpayer dollars.

The writer is Peoria's director of public works.

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COMMENTARY

Editorials, Opinions and Letters

Peoria has expertise to share with residents

Performing public works like running a household - just on a much larger scale

Government work has been the butt of many a joke, and the jokes tend to be funny because they carry a kernel of truth.

Those of us in government often view things from a unique, institutional perspective and describe them in language salted by abbreviations and acronyms. It's easy to forget how something that seems perfectly logical from our perspective could mystify our customers, the people of Peoria.

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GUEST COMMENTARY



Bill Mattingly
Public Works Director
City of Peoria

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applied for the Supreme Court and whose identities are available to the public for review. Capitol Media Services reported last week that 17 people have filed applications to replace McGregor.

Former Gov. Janet Napolitano's choices led to three Democrats on the same bench, but this Supreme Court hasn't turned into a "wildly liberal" branch of state government.

In fact, unlike the federal version, the state's highest court generally doesn't move too far from the mainstream of public policy — either to the liberal or conservative ends of the spectrum. This is precisely because the entire selection process, and not just the final nomination, is subject to public scrutiny and to restrictions that prevent anyone from acting solely on political whims.

So what the governor doesn't like in this case happens to be good for the rest of Arizona.

marriage question was the only reason she was named runner-up rather than winner in the Miss America pageant, it is Miss North Carolina who deserves an apology. And, that should come from those who jumped to conclusions without adequate evidence. As it happens, Miss California has had an enormous amount of media attention, while Miss North Carolina seems to have been forgotten. What a travesty.

My View

Peoria has expertise to share with residents

Please be brief (no more than 300 words for letters and 700 words for my views) and type or print name, address, city and phone number for verification. Letters and call-in comments may be edited for clarity and length.

BILL MATTINGLY
PEORIA PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

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CONTACT US

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FAX: 623-876-3698
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HER
EDITOR
DITOR

Time to green your vehicle in honor of Public Works Week.

By Bill Mattingly

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GUEST Commentary

Bill Mattingly



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Editor's note: Bill Mattingly is Peoria's Public Works director.

May 13, 2009 Powered by
TECNAVIA

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5:07 pm

Park West set to Green Your Ride

STAFF REPORT

Check out the latest in alternative-fuel, hybrid, fuel-efficient and clean-running vehicles at Peoria's "Green Your Ride" auto show Saturday at Park West.

Several of Peoria's Bell Road auto dealerships will send their greenest vehicles, along with representatives to answer questions. Two of the newest models, the Ford Fusion Hybrid and Honda Insight, will be on display, along with the market-leading Toyota Prius and vehicles from Mercedes, Nissan and Saturn.

Green Your Ride will run from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. adjacent to the Saturday farmer's market at Park West, on Northern Avenue west of Loop 101. Peoria's Public Works Department is staging the event as an early kickoff to national Public Works Week, which is next week.

"During the last year, as gas prices fluctuated wildly, many people found themselves pondering the economics of buying a hybrid,

alternative-fuel or simply fuel-efficient vehicle," said Public Works Director Bill Mattingly. "Well, the Fleet Division has been doing that math for years."

Along with the new cars, several of Peoria's alternative-fuel or hybrid work vehicles will be on display in a "Touch-a-Truck" area for kids.

Carrying on the sustainability theme, visitors are encouraged to bring used compact-fluorescent and fluorescent-tube bulbs for safe, free disposal and watch as the city's E-Lampinator bulb eater gobbles them up. Other "green" city divisions will be on site with information about bike safety, recycling, trip reduction and water conservation.

For information about Green Your Ride, contact Public Affairs Specialist Stuart Robinson, 623-773-7336 or stuart.robinson@peoriaaz.gov, or Business Development Specialist Maria Laughner, 623-773-5121 or maria.laughner@peoriaaz.gov.

Stocking up on healthy tips



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Valley residents enjoy a morning of health and wellness at Vistancia's health fair May 2 at the Peoria community. Nearly 200 people attended the event featuring a Peoria Police Department women's safety awareness class, a blood drive and blood pressure screenings administered by Walgreens. Consumers also were able to interact with participating vendors, including Hi Health, Sport Chalet and Juice Plus.

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PEORIA NEWS

Peoria offers summer camps for teens

Peoria's Recreation Division will offer volleyball, soccer, basketball, softball and baseball sports camps for teens this summer.

All camps will be at

For Peoria news updates every day, visit www.yourwestvalley.com.



Skatepark hosts 3 weekend competitions

The Rio Vista Skatepark will be a hotbed of weekend competition

Amateur Inline Skating Championship will be May 23. There will be five age divisions for beginner and advanced skaters. Registration is \$30 and can be done at www.inlineleague.com. Qualifying begins at noon, with on-site

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might not have a job next school year. The notices were sent out in accordance with state law.

However, as more information on the state budget and federal economic-stimulus money emerged, the district was better able to project a budget that laid off fewer teachers.

Matt Hinds, a first-grade teacher at

But after she was asked to come back next school year, she was relieved and pleased to have a job.

"I feel more relaxed, because not knowing what's going to happen gives you a lot more things to consider for the future, like, 'What job will I get and what it will look like?'" she said. "This definitely cleared my mind of those things."

Public Works Week starts 'green'

Peoria is launching Public Works Week with an auto show of alternative-fuel, hybrid, fuel-efficient and clean-running cars on Saturday at Park West.

The day includes browsing top-of-the-line, environmentally friendly cars, activities for kids and learning ways to conserve energy on a daily basis.

Green Your Ride

What it is: Several of Peoria's auto dealerships along Bell Road will display their "greenest" vehicles and send dealer representatives to answer questions for those attending. Models that will be on display include the Ford Fusion hybrid, Honda Insight, Toyota Prius and green vehicles from Mercedes, Nissan and Saturn.

In keeping with the eco-friendly theme, attendees are encouraged to bring any compact-fluorescent and fluorescent-tube light bulbs for free and safe disposal. The city's E-Lampinator machine will be on site to show what happens to those bulbs when properly recycled.

When is it: Saturday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Park West, Northern Avenue, west of Loop 101.

What's next: Green Your Ride will kick off Public Works Week, May 18-22.

Learn more: www.peoriafirstaz.com or www.peoriaaz.gov/sustainability.

— Marjon Rostami, *The Republic/azcentral.com*, marjon.rostami@arizonarepublic.com

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PEORIA NEWS

Z2 FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2009

Life goes on for Peoria shopping center

Park West owner seeks bankruptcy protection

By Erin Zlomek and Marjon Rostami
THE REPUBLIC | AZCENTRAL.COM

Step foot inside Peoria's Park West shopping center and there is little indication that a month ago its owner filed for the biggest real-estate bankruptcy in U.S. history. Security guards continue to patrol the center's canopied walkways, and office crowds pack its restaurants at lunchtime.

"We're continuing as normal," said center Marketing Manager Jean Ah-smuhs.

General Growth Properties, owner of Park West and the Arizona Center in downtown Phoenix, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in April in order to reorganize debt that was a product of



TOM TINGLE/THE REPUBLIC

Park West merchants, like Grimaldi's Pizzeria where John Williams (left) of Glendale and Mark Jones of Chandler are enjoying lunch, are having their own promotions.

See **PARK WEST** Page 3

Does it Feel Like a Toothache in Your Leg or Thigh? Do You Have Hip Pain?
Are You As Stiff As a Board When You Try to Get Up From a Chair?
Have You Run Out of Hope?

How 3 Lies About Low BACK PAIN
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at our HealthSource® Clinic. I hate empty promises, and I also hate the lies most folks have been told about their backs. That's why it's important I expose these MYTHS about back pain:

PARK WEST

Continued from Page 2

the sour economy. So far, the bankruptcy's affect on Peoria residents has been minimal: no tenants have left, and the center's monthly farmers market will hold its final gathering of the season Saturday (the market starts up again in September, an arrangement made before the bankruptcy).

Park West business owners, on the other hand, have felt the pain. Marketing and promotion of stores has been scaled back and the center's end-of-year events schedule is in limbo, which could hurt foot traffic, tenants report.

"Concerts and big outdoor events were in the preliminary planning stages. Right now, all those are on temporary hold until (the owners) get a better indication of where they are going," said tenant and Scottsdale In-Company owner Steven Koepfel.



TOM TINGLE/THE REPUBLIC

Little has changed since the owner of Park West shopping center in Peoria filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. Empty stores are visible in the center.

Ahsmuhs did not elaborate. Park West festivities in the immediate future are still a go, such as this Saturday's city-sponsored, "Green Your Ride" car show.

Koepfel is quick to point out that General Growth Properties' financial problems do not reflect the daily operations of Park West tenants. Many business owners said they are faring well despite the ailing economy, and that they have improvised

to make up for management's lack of advertising.

For example, Grimaldi's Pizzeria owner Rich Seidner has offered deals to grade-school groups, and WineStyles owner Tawna Turner organized weekend wine tastings at her store to support local charities.

Park West's financial setbacks are a microcosm of Peoria's slowed, upscale retail growth.

Retail vacancies hover around 13.5 percent along the

Loop 101 corridor (the highest anywhere in the Valley), where the center is located off of Northern Avenue, said Rick Murphy, a retail real-estate specialist with brokerage CB Richard Ellis. That number is up about 4 percent over last year.

When Park West was conceived around 2006, it was a symbol of developers' effort to emulate Scottsdale-caliber shopping in Peoria. Fireplaces and reflecting pools dot the resort-themed center. Early on, Scottsdale Jean Company and Sandbar Mexican Grill, both popular Scottsdale haunts, signed up as tenants. At the time, those retailers were said to be taking a chance by opening their first locations in the West Valley.

Now, the growing concern among tenants is that filling remaining vacancies will become even harder because of the bankruptcy.

Ahsmuhs said the filing "has not affected the ability to sign

new tenants."

Business owners paint a different picture.

"Foot traffic has been off," Koepfel said.

Turner added that empty storefronts are highly visible throughout the center. While a Harkins movie theater and a handful of bars get busy on weekends, Park West is still missing a quaint coffee shop or cafe where people can gather during the weekdays, she said.

Ahsmuhs would not disclose Park West's number of vacancies.

General Growth Properties could also sell the center to pay off creditors. A new, financially stable owner could alleviate some of the stresses felt by business owners.

Though, Koepfel said he believes the center's small crop of boutique tenants, and its positioning along the Loop 101, make it a core asset that General Growth Properties is not likely to slough off.

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