

[Southwest Valley](#)

Avondale upgrading to LED lighting

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The Arizona Republic

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Light fixtures being replaced

Avondale is replacing 168 high-energy-use fixtures with more-efficient LED lighting.

Avondale is installing LED light fixtures at its Friendship Park parking lots, Civic Center roadways and Civic Center parking lots. The retrofit project is funded by \$232,000 in grants.

"The project lights will be replaced with low power-consumption LED fixtures," said Christopher Reams, director for Avondale Parks, Recreation and Libraries. "Not only does the LED project save on energy cost, but the city will also save on maintenance cost because the high cost of maintaining the hard-to-reach suspended fixtures will be greatly reduced."

The retrofit project is expected to save the city thousands of dollars.

Focus on 'Come & Play'

Avondale's itty bitty resident play group, "Come & Play," is the focus of Avondale's next "City Hall Comes to You" from 10 to 11 a.m. March 30 at Sam Garcia Western Avenue Library, 495 E. Western Ave.

"Come & Play" facilitators will join the mayor and City Council members March 30 in meeting with residents.

Come & Play is a joint effort among Avondale, Phoenix Children's Hospital and First Things First, which was approved by Arizona voters to ensure young children have access to [quality](#) early-childhood experiences.

Come & Play is [hosted](#) from 10 to 11 a.m. Wednesday mornings at the library. Come & Play is open to all babies, toddlers and young children up to age 5, accompanied by an adult. There is no cost.

For information about Come & Play, call Candice Ratlief, 623-333-2721.

Excellence awards gala April 16

Estrella Mountain and Glendale community colleges, Rio Salado College and the Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation are hosting the Fifth Annual Awards for Excellence Gala, 6 p.m. April 16 at the Wigwam, 300 E. Wigwam Blvd., Litchfield Park.

This year's theme is public-safety services. Proceeds benefit student scholarships, endowment efforts and academic programs. The evening's festivities include a reception, silent auction, dinner and entertainment

[Tickets](#) are \$75 each. Information: Suzanne Smelser, GCC College Advancement Services, at suzanne.smelser@gmail.com or 623-845-3477.

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