



Throughout the Year

12 events to check out in 2024

BY ALLISON KUESTER

As the new year hits, so does all the planning — for events, vacations and dinners. Phoenix, in all of its glory, is filled to the brim with activities and festivals for everyone, so how is anyone supposed to decide what to do? Well, here are our picks for the top activities of each month of the coming year.

January: The Anthem Cars and Coffee

The Anthem Cars and Coffee is a car show held on January 6 where everyone is welcome to start their morning by looking at pristine display cars while sipping on a warm cup of coffee. This event is a great way to meet new people while seeing gorgeous cars.

Outlets North Phoenix, 4250 W. Anthem Way, Phoenix, free admission, 7 to 10 a.m., www.anthemcarsandcoffee.com

February: Fountain Festival of Fine Arts & Crafts

An all-day festival spanning the weekend of February 23, this event showcases hundreds of artists, live music, various cuisines and beer gardens. You can pop in for an hour or two or spend the whole day there admiring the local

artists and food of Phoenix.

Avenue of the Fountains and Saguaro Boulevard, Fountain Hills, free admission, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, February 23, and Saturday, February 24, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, February 25, www.fhchamber.com/artfairs

March: Tempe Festival of Arts

One of the oldest festivals in the Southwest. Guests can come and enjoy artists from all over the country as well as local musicians while simultaneously taking in the history of Mill Avenue. The festival has something for everyone whether it be food or an artist you enjoy.

Mill Avenue, Tempe, free admission, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday, March 8, to Sunday, March 10, www.tempefestivalofthearts.com

April: Arizona Diamondbacks vs. Los Angeles Dodgers

Others may have been shocked that the D-backs swept their arch enemies in the 2023 NLDS, but us Arizonans were not. The Dodgers were so verklempt that they went out and signed Shohei Ohtani and Yoshino-

bu Yamamoto. Watch the rematch at Chase Field.

Chase Field, ticket prices and times TBA, Monday, April 29, and Tuesday, April 30, www.dbacks.com

May: "Mad Hatter the Musical"

During the beginning of May, The Herberger Theater is putting on a new production of "Mad Hatter the Musical." What better way is there to spend the hot summer days of May than sitting in a stunning theater watching a production of this exciting new musical? Come see the dazzling whimsy of the Mad

FUN continues on page 14

Hatter plus artful costumes and sets.

Herberger Theater, 222 E. Monroe Street, Phoenix, tickets start at \$57.50, various times through May 19, www.herbergertheater.org

June: Botanical Desert Garden Flashlight Tours

While the sun starts to really burn during these summer months, Phoenix at night is a wonderful place and time to take a walk around a Botanical Garden. Botanical Desert Garden offers flashlight tours through June. It's a fun and calming way to spend your hot summer nights.

Desert Botanical Garden, 1201 N. Galvin Parkway, Phoenix, \$29.95, dates TBA, www.dbg.org

July: Lake Pleasant Fireworks

Fireworks are a classic way to celebrate the Fourth of July, and if you want to get out of the house and enjoy the stars and fireworks with a gorgeous scenery behind them, Lake Pleasant is the perfect place. Early in the evening, there are festive activities to participate in, but if you would like a quieter evening, everyone is welcome to come later to watch the fireworks show.

Lake Pleasant Regional Park, Peoria, cost and time TBA, www.maricopacountyparks.net

August: Musical Instrument Museum

Come visit the Musical Instrument Museum and experience an enriching display of musical art from all around the world. The museum regularly hosts performances and has audio tours for you to better understand the art of music and instruments.

Musical Instrument Museum, 4725 E. Mayo Boulevard, Phoenix, cost varies, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, www.mim.org

September: Restaurant Week

Restaurant Week is an immersive experience in which dozens of restaurants around the city offer deals on their best dishes. Presented by the Arizona Restaurant Association, this week will include some of the best restaurants in the Phoenix area as it has done in many years previous.

Various restaurants around town, Friday, September 20, to Sunday, September 29, www.azrestaurant.org

October: Halloween Stroll

Every year in Downtown Tempe, a big trick-treating Halloween walk is held with over 30 Downtown craftsmen. It's a wonderful place to soak up the festive spirit of Halloween with the grandkids and also support your local businesses. It's been a hit for years, and it's not looking to change anytime soon!

Ragsdale-MLK Park, 24 E. Sixth Street, Tempe, time and date TBA, free

November: Water Lantern Festival

The Water Lantern Festival is a great way to connect and create memories with your loved ones. You can gather up with your friends and family and float your hopes down the river, or on the other hand, you can introduce yourself to brand new people and share dinner with them at a food truck. A perfect and sentimental way to greet autumn into the year.

Kiwanis Park, 5992 S. All America Way, Tempe, tickets start at \$25.99, 3 to 7 p.m. Friday, November 1, and Saturday, November 2, www.waterlanternfestival.com

