



# north central news

the voice of the north central phoenix community since 1999

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www.northcentralnews.net

## Two options possible for Hatcher Road

By Colleen Sparks

Wider sidewalks, underground utilities, driveway upgrades and other changes could be coming to Hatcher Road as the city studies streetscape improvements to try to meet residents' needs.

The city of Phoenix's Street Transportation Department held a virtual meeting in November to talk about two possible options for upgrading that area to address community members' priorities. Many projects have been conducted on Hatcher Road and in its surrounding vicinity previously as ways to try to better serve residents and to offer infrastructure that encourages walking, bicycling and other active transportation methods, as well as to increase connectivity through the Complete Streets Program.

"This study is a direct result of the community," said Brianna Velez, city of Phoenix Assistant Street Transportation director. "The community expressed interest in better connectivity and better safety."

*please see HATCHER ROAD on page 4*



The Rise Uptown hotel, which was originally two mid-century office buildings, was transformed by Lorenzo Perez and Venue Projects, which is helping to revitalize the area around 4th Avenue and Camelback Road (photo by Marjorie Rice).

## Preserving character, brick by brick

By Marjorie Rice

Preserving historic neighborhoods, homes and commercial properties is more than a sentimental nod to the past, a new report says.

Preservation also pays dividends through increased property values, improves the environment and helps conserve affordable housing, says "Preservation Phoenix Style: A Study of the Impacts of Historic Preservation in Phoenix," conducted by consultants PlaceEconomics and the Phoenix Historic Commission. The 66-page report is a comprehensive look at the city's historic preservation efforts over the past several decades.

In North Central Phoenix, historic neighborhoods including Windsor Square and Medlock Place, and the resurgence of restaurants, and revamped commercial buildings along Seventh Street, and Central and Seventh avenues, demonstrates the benefits of preservation rather than demolition, said Historic Commission Chair Dan Klocke.

"We have value in our older buildings that should not be overlooked," he said. "The data shows that when used in a smart way, historic preservation can strengthen our local economy and businesses and be very productive."

The commission will begin talks with City of Phoenix planning staff about next steps, including increased funding for at-risk buildings and potential changes in zoning codes.

"Neighborhoods that are historically designated are relatively safe from demolition," Klocke said. "Not completely, but much greater than in non-designated commercial corridors that have buildings that when mixed with old and new can be really fun."

Upward Projects' Postino, Windsor, Federal Pizza, Churn and Joy Ride restaurants on Central Avenue "are great examples of using older buildings and adapting them for new uses," Klocke said.

*please see PRESERVATION on page 6*

## in this issue

- New year brings in a new editor, page 3
- 'I Recycle Phoenix' returns to Christown, page 8
- Youth leader program seeks applicants, page 14
- New Madison superintendent named, page 24
- It's all Greek at Sunnyslope eatery, page 35

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## COMMUNITY

## From the Publisher

### New year brings new editor to NCN

A new year often brings changes. That's certainly true for *North Central News*, as we said good-bye to editor Colleen Sparks at the end of the year and welcomed Kathryn M. Miller to the position.

Colleen, who served as editor since July 2019, has taken a position as a public information officer with the Arizona Department of Economic Security. We're very sorry to see her go but happy that she has the opportunity to move on to something new and different. I really appreciate the great work Colleen has done at *North Central News* and I know she will shine in her new role as well.

A skilled editor, Kathryn comes to us after 16 years at the *CITYSunTimes* newspaper, where she progressed from staff writer to editor-in-chief. A North Central resident, she has been a member of the North Phoenix and Phoenix Metro Chambers of Commerce and was involved in the Washington High School Music Boosters and Site Council. Kathryn will be responsible for covering local news and events and coordinating and editing our monthly content in print and in our online sites. Many of you will have the opportunity to get to know Kathryn as she works with community leaders and members in sharing information about issues, events and activities in North Central.

Our best to Colleen in her new endeavor and welcome to Kathryn!

*Tara Blanc, Publisher*



Kathryn M. Miller has joined *North Central News* as the new editor (staff photo).

Coulon, who will receive the Calvin C. Goode Lifetime Achievement Award; and Kim Covington, Lloyd Hopkins, Nadia Khalighi and Richard Yarbough, who will receive the Living the Dream Award.

For updates and information about the free virtual event, visit [azmlk.org](http://azmlk.org). To watch the virtual celebration, visit [Youtube.com/CityofPhoenixAZ](https://www.youtube.com/CityofPhoenixAZ).

## Annual MLK event to be held virtually

The 36th Annual MLK Awards Celebration, "Believe in the Dream," will be presented virtually at 11 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 14. The winners of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Living the Dream Awards, and the Calvin C. Goode Lifetime Achievement Award will be honored for their lifelong commitment to creating a compassionate and socially just community.

The 2022 honorees are Robbin



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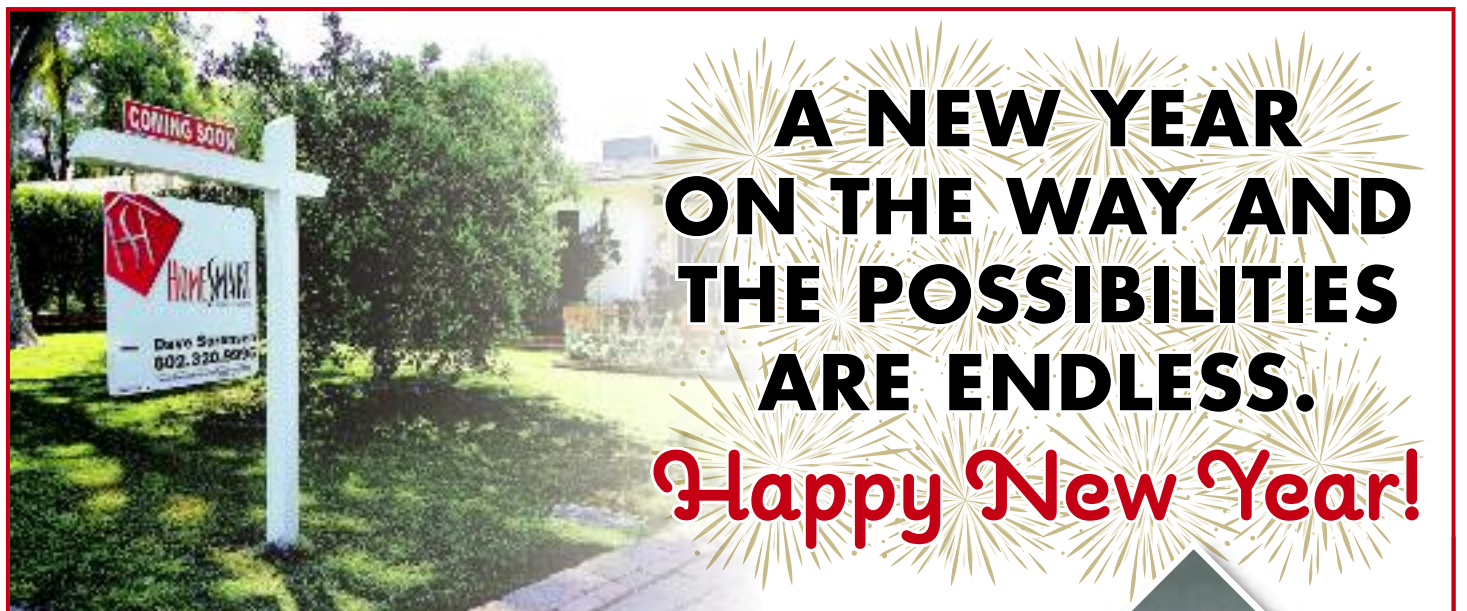
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COMMUNITY

HATCHER ROAD continued from page 1

City officials are in the pre-design study process, where they talk about different ideas for the road to see what is feasible and how they could bring proposals to fruition. The two options presented at the virtual meeting were developed after a survey of the community, meetings with residents and other conversations.

Option A calls for trees to be added and the sidewalk to be widened on the south side of Hatcher Road between 19th and 17th avenues, said Marielle Brown, project manager for this area and city Active Transportation Program manager. Utilities would be moved underground on Hatcher Road between 17th and 7th avenues and driveway aprons would be upgraded to make them more accessible, Brown said. Sidewalk improvements would be made and utilities moved underground between 7th and Central avenues in this option.

The city's Option B would be similar to Option A with trees planted near a canal, utilities moved underground and sidewalks widened on the north

and south sides of Hatcher Road between 19th and 17th avenues, Brown said. In this proposal, sidewalks also would be widened on the north side of Hatcher Road between 17th and 7th avenues. A center turn lane could be added, as well as a bicycle lane buffer, and sidewalks on both sides of Hatcher Road between 7th and Central Avenue would be enhanced. Trees would be planted near the canal in Option B.

Brown said Option B would cost about \$3.6 million and Option A would cost \$3.1 million. In a survey taken by those watching the virtual meeting, 14 people said they favored Option B while two people said they prefer Option A. Out of respondents, 19 did not answer the question on which option they liked best. There were three people who said they want to see no changes to Hatcher Road in that area.

One resident said the plans looked great and asked if the city would consider adding pedestrian crosswalks between 5th and 6th avenues on Hatcher Road. Brown and Mark Glock, city of Phoenix deputy Street Transportation director, said city offi-

cials could investigate that idea. Another resident asked how these upgrades to Hatcher Road would impact local businesses as they would need to give up space for the sidewalk upgrades. Brown said the improvements would not affect businesses' parking spaces or ingress and egress once the project is done, but that ingress and egress for businesses would be impacted during the construction period.

Another meeting will be held on the possible Hatcher Road work sometime this spring.

FTA grant to help fund light rail extension

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has awarded a \$158.1 million construction grant to the City of Phoenix and Valley Metro for the Northwest Extension Phase II Light Rail Project.

The 1.6-mile light rail extension, which will be constructed and operated by Valley Metro, will provide access to the region's light rail system for com-

munities in north and west Phoenix, Glendale and Peoria. The project will support transit-oriented development in the corridor, including the redevelopment of the Metrocenter Mall site. The extension will link the Metrocenter area to existing regional activity centers including the North Central Avenue office corridor, downtown Phoenix, Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport, and Arizona State University.

The Phase II project will improve transit service in a corridor where 31 percent of the population lives below the poverty level and 18 percent of the households do not own a car. It will also improve connectivity across Interstate 17, which presents a formidable barrier to east-west travel in northern Phoenix.

The project includes three stations, three bridges, a multi-modal transit center, and a parking structure. The total project cost is \$401.3 million, with \$158.1 million in funding provided through FTA's Capital Investment Grants (CIG) Program.

The light rail line is expected to open in February 2025.

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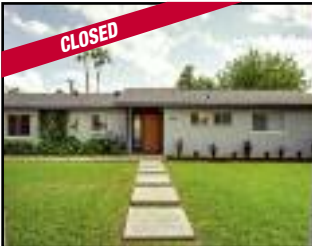
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While 2021 wasn't perfect there was still so much good. As we continue to learn to navigate through these unprecedented times, it is a constant reminder of the importance of family, patience, health and having a place to call home. I am blessed to have had so many amazing clients this year and appreciate you and your referrals more than you know. Happy Holidays to your family!

North Central Phoenix is in high demand and there is a shortage of supply. Is now a good time to sell? Yes, now is a great time to sell. Call me for a free market analysis and marketing consultation.



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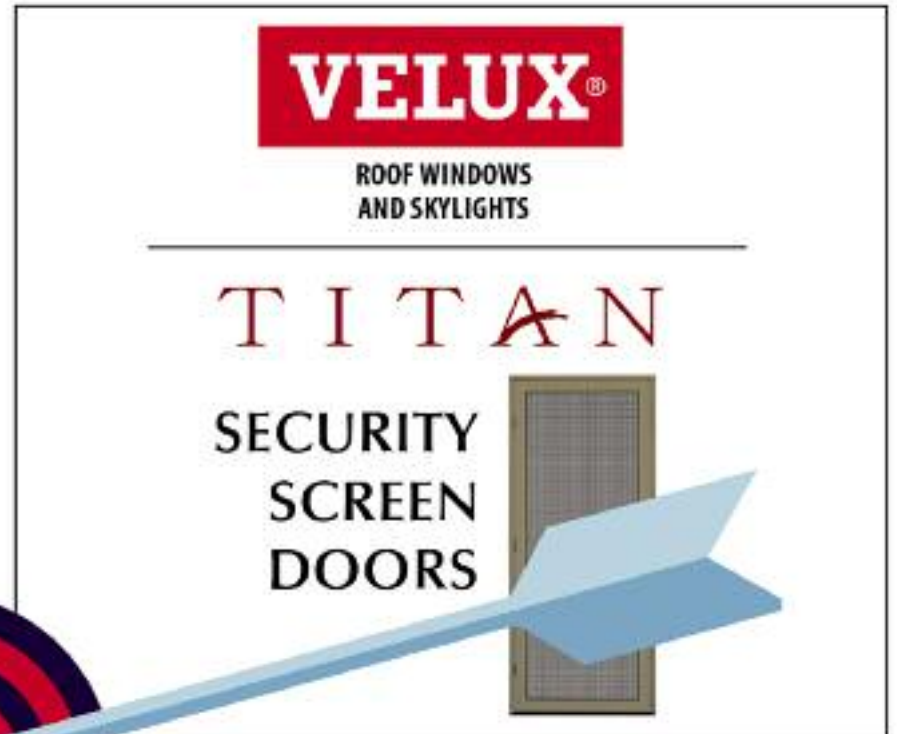




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COMMUNITY

**PRESERVATION** *continued from page 1*

Another is the Melrose neighborhood, where Melrose Pharmacy owner Teresa Dickinson worked with owners of Figs Home and Garden, Copper Star coffeeshop and Wag N’ Wash pet food and grooming to form a merchants association.

Dickinson bought the Wagon Wheel building, a strip mall, in 2005. “It was basically a hoarder’s paradise, filled with junk,” she said. “We worked really hard on revitalizing the area. It used to be a bunch of vacant buildings, with a lot of crime, and since we formed the Seventh Avenue Merchants Association the neighborhood has really picked up.”

Now her property houses a restaurant, wine shop, lounge and barber-shop as well as the pharmacy. And it’s a magnet for residents.

So are Modern Manor furniture store and Valentine restaurant and lounge, a 60-year-old Melrose-area dry cleaner that went out of business and in 2017 took on a new life, offering a pleasant spot for coffee and conversation, dining and shopping.

Copper Star Coffee is a former gas station – the defunct pumps are still out front – now a coffeeshop and a popular hangout.

“The neighborhood is very supportive of our businesses,” Dickenson said “We’re like a small town within a big city.”

Another neighborhood where re-use of old commercial properties is booming is the area around Central and Camelback avenues, between 7th Avenue and 7th Street.

Venue Projects’ Rise Uptown hotel on Camelback and 4th Avenue, and the The Newton next door, are helping to revitalize the area, said Venue co-owner Lorenzo Perez. The company also is a partner in the renovation of the old Beef Eater’s into The Newton, with a mix of retail and dining. Perez, an architect by training, founded Venue Projects with partner Jon Kitchell in 2008, early in the Great Recession.

“We saw properties at reasonable prices that would allow us the opportunity to experiment and innovate with them in a new way. Historic neighborhoods were resurging in the ’90s and 2000s and I remember thinking, ‘Why isn’t commercial following suit?’”

The company has transformed properties in North Central Phoenix and sees

potential in areas that have been largely overlooked as adaptive use candidates.

The Rise Uptown hotel originally was two executive office buildings. “We liked its mid-century architecture,” Perez said. “We thought it would be an opportunity to tell Phoenix’s history as a ’50s city; it really came into its own during that era. It’s been fun to give it new life.

“Our goal – our whole business model as a company – was to preserve heritage buildings and creatively redevelop them into unique places that celebrated our Phoenix heritage, and use them as opportunities to tell those old stories and start celebrating our culture.

“But we’re never going to have our history and heritage if we keep erasing it. Let’s show the value of old structures and what we can do with them to generate strong neighborhoods and create economic opportunity for entrepreneurs.”

Sunnyslope could be the next area for that kind of revitalization, Perez said. Where others might see nondescript strip malls and small commercial buildings, Perez sees opportunity.

“There is great building stock there,” he said. “They have a lot of that precious old small-scale commercial that is, in my opinion, irreplaceable. It’s at a price where a lot of small, mom-and-pop businesses can operate, and it would be really hard to do that scale of commercial today with that kind of character, at a cost that’s feasible.”

Not everyone is on-board with the push for preservation – at least when it comes to historic designation for homes outside historic neighborhoods.

Bobby Lieb of HomeSmart Realty, who has been working with buyers and sellers in North Central Phoenix for 30 years, says historic designation can turn off potential buyers, who want freedom to do what they want with their property.

Buyers looking in designated historic neighborhoods such as Encanto and The Willo are ready to live with the restrictions in such areas, he said, but the average person who comes to North Central is turned off if they can’t do what they want – up to and including razing a vintage home on a large lot and subdividing it. He cites horse properties as an example.

“A lot of people don’t like to see these properties taken down,” Lieb says, adding that the properties, often on large lots, often are bought by developers who tear down the buildings and

*please see PRESERVATION on page 8*



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| 115 W Rose Ln • \$1,530,000   | 3183 E Rose Ln • \$1,000,000<br><i>*represented buyer and seller</i> |
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COMMUNITY

Get rid of your stuff at recycling event

Keep Phoenix Beautiful (KPB) will bring its popular “I Recycle Phoenix” festival to Christown Spectrum Mall on Saturday, Jan. 15, to help Valley residents recycle items they no longer need. Through partnerships with the City of Phoenix’s Public Works Department and other local organizations, KPB will accept a variety of items taking up space in homes, offices, closets, drawers, and garages. Items collected will be recycled or donated to local nonprofits.

Items that you can recycle, repurpose or donate range from electronics, magazines, bicycles, sporting equipment, office supplies, gently used household items, gently loved toys and document shredding. Non-perishable food, hygiene products and used clothing will also be accepted for Nourish Phoenix Food and Clothing Bank.

Books, toys, bikes, sporting equipment, clothing and art supplies will be donated to local nonprofits, such as Treasures 4 Teachers and Bike Saviours.

Westech Recyclers will take electronics and old cell phones and residents can bring documents to be shredded by Security Document Destruction. Up to five banker boxes of documents will be shred for free.

If you still have a live Christmas tree to dispose of, you also can bring it to the event. Just be sure to remove all the ornaments, lights, tinsel and stands. Trees will be recycled into mulch for the city.

Items that will not be accepted include CRT TVs and monitors, single-use batteries, fluorescent tubes, and light bulbs. Household hazardous waste items such as paint, tires and chemicals will also not be accepted.

See the full list of accepted items at <https://www.keepphxbeautiful.org>.

The event runs from 7 a.m. until noon behind the Wal-Mart store (enter off Montebello Avenue).

This is a free, nonprofit-run event open to all Valley residents. Monetary donations are welcome as well. For more information or other event dates, visit <https://www.keepphxbeautiful.org/i-recycle-phoenix/>.

PRESERVATION continued from page 6

subdivide the land.

Lieb understands his view is not popular with people who want to preserve these vintage properties.

“People who have lived there forever don’t want to see changes,” he said. “But in the real world it’s up to the family, and they want the most money they can get. That has driven prices up. Now instead of seeing two and one-half acres just sitting there with a 100-year-old house, you’ve got five, six new homes that are going for \$1.5 million-plus, and that helps everybody.”

Rick Ramella, a realtor with Highland Real Estate for 14 years and a member of the North Central Phoenix Homeowners Association board of directors, says his clients are a mix, with some wanting older homes despite potential restrictions, and others who would not touch anything designated historic because of those restrictions.

“You’ll always find buyers for older homes, places that were built in the ’50s and ’60s,” he said. “People eat that up.” Ramella estimated 200 to 300 homes

in the North Central area likely are designated historic or located in the area’s five historic neighborhoods: Medlock Place, Pierson Place, Windsor Square, Woodlea and Yapple Park.

On the commercial side, Ramella praised groups like Upward Projects and the Melrose Merchants Association for adapting and re-using vintage properties that add character to those neighborhoods. “Some of the best cities I’ve been to have a lot of historic stuff, and that is part of what gives a city its character and in some ways defines what it is.

“I’m really glad they saved those buildings and made something really cool out of them,” he said.

His clients like them, too, Ramella said. “That’s a huge selling point when people can walk or bike to a place like that. It’s why you see it mentioned in half the listings for the Central Corridor: ‘Just up the street from Windsor and Postino and Federal Pizza.’ ”

The 66-page study, “Preservation Phoenix Style: A Study of the Impacts of Historic Preservation in Phoenix,” is available online at [phoenix.gov/pddsite/Documents/Preservation](http://phoenix.gov/pddsite/Documents/Preservation).



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## Who We Are

We are a more-than-175-member-strong group of actively selling agents who have a vested interest in the community, the real estate market and North Central Phoenix. This tour is a cooperative effort among the active REALTORS of the Central Corridor. The tour has been in existence for more than 35 years and is an all-volunteer organization.

## Location & Meeting

Our meetings are held on the first and third Friday of each month beginning at 9:00 am. Our meeting spot is at The Casa patio, 7878 N. 16th St., Phoenix, AZ 85020. Following the meeting, we tour up to 10 homes new to the market. We require those REALTORS who have a property on the tour to attend the meeting and then participate in the virtual tour of all houses on that day's tour. Each agent provides constructive feedback on price, condition, and key features of the home. The goal is to network with fellow REALTORS who also specialize in North Central Phoenix neighborhoods and help sell the property.

## Tour Boundaries

Tour boundaries are Campbell Avenue to the south, 40th Street to the east, 19th Avenue to the west, with the northern border running south of the North Phoenix Mountain Preserve (roughly Peoria) and just north of Lincoln from 16th Street east to 40th St. The Phoenix Country Club area also is included.

## Join Us!

We love working with new members. Join our team and receive news and information about new homes on the market in the North Central Region of Phoenix.

**For more information or to become a member,  
visit our website at**

**<https://northcentraltour.com/>**

## COMMUNITY

### Volunteer help needed for dementia campus

As the opening of Hospice of the Valley's Dementia Care and Education Campus draws closer, the nonprofit agency is looking for compassionate volunteers to support families living with dementia.

Volunteers are needed to assist in patient care and activities engagement, the creative arts and other special skills such as hair stylists, nail artists and yoga instructors.

Located at 44th Street and Indianola Avenue in Phoenix, the Dementia Care and Education Campus will provide support for people living with all types of dementia, from early to advanced stages. Integrative therapies such as music, art and pet visits are used to engage the senses, spark joy and enrich daily life for both patients and families.

To learn more, contact Angela Hofler at [ahofler@hov.org](mailto:ahofler@hov.org) or 602-739-4717. For more volunteer opportunities with Hospice of the Valley, visit [www.hov.org/volunteer](http://www.hov.org/volunteer).

### Home & garden show returns to fairgrounds

The Maricopa County Home & Garden Show, the largest home show in the Southwest, returns Jan. 7-9 to the Arizona State Fairgrounds at 1826 W. McDowell Road.

Back by popular demand, the show will feature the "Tiny Home Street of Dreams," with everything from luxury micro mansions, studio pods, converted vehicles, DIY yurt kits and more. You'll also find free crafting workshops, flower seminars, DIY classes and master gardener seminars all weekend long. Browse exhibits from more than 800 local home improvement and remodeling experts, sample wine, enjoy cooking demonstrations and much more.

Show hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is \$6 for adults and \$1 for children 3-12 with children under 3 free. For more information, visit <https://maricopacounty-homeshows.com/attend/>.

### Affordable housing project breaks ground

Trellis Community Development has broken ground on Trellis at Mission, a new affordable rental housing develop-

ment at 621 W. Mission Lane in Sunnyslope. The project will include 43 townhomes ranging from 900 to 1,300 square feet in nine buildings containing 25 two-bedroom, 12 three-bedroom, and six four-bedroom units. The townhomes will be available to qualified low-income renters who will have the option of transitioning to homeownership after 15 years of residency.

One hundred percent of the units at Trellis at Mission are reserved for households with incomes below 60 percent Area Median Income (AMI). Through an equity/rental credit arrangement, tenants at the project will accumulate value over time toward an eventual opportunity to purchase their unit.

While all residents, regardless of move-in date, will have an opportunity to participate in the program, longer-term tenants will accrue even more value. This incentivizes residents to stay in place, which has the additional benefit of stabilizing the community, as those tenants invest in their property, home, community, and neighborhood over time.

For more information, visit <https://trellisaz.org/trellis-at-mission-breaks-ground/>.

### Grant will fund bike, pedestrian safety

The Arizona Governor's Office of Highway Safety recently awarded \$25,000 to the City of Phoenix Street Transportation Department to support its ongoing bicycle and pedestrian safety programs.

The funding will be used to purchase bicycle helmets for students that participate in the city's annual bike-to-school events, as well as LED stop sign paddles for crossing guards stationed at high-traffic locations citywide.

Additional resources about bicycle and pedestrian safety issues and programs are available on the Street Transportation Department's Safety Topics webpage.

To improve safety for all users of Phoenix's roadways, the department is developing a Road Safety Action Plan and is facilitating the public engagement phase of that process. Community members are encouraged to provide input that will help shape the plan by taking an online interactive survey.

For more information, visit <https://www.phoenix.gov/newsroom/street-transportation/2157>.



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**COMMUNITY**


**Pet of the Month**

**Cautious cutie pie is ready for his closeup**

Aptly named after one of the most notable artists of the Renaissance period, Donatello is most definitely a work of art that continues to be shaped by love and patience each day. The adorable one-year-old chihuahua/beagle mix came to the Arizona Humane Society (AHS) extremely frightened and shut down but has been making progress each day.

Donatello was one of more than 20 animals that were brought in by AHS' Cruelty Investigators earlier this year. In the shelter's trauma hospital, it was found that this cutie was relatively healthy physically but it was mostly his emotional state that worried AHS staff.

While in AHS' care, staff members and volunteers alike have worked every day to help Donatello become a little less timid and build his confidence. He has gone from completely avoiding everyone to gently sitting and waiting to be leashed before it is time to go out. Although still scared and quite nervous



Donatello is a one-year-old chihuahua/beagle mix looking for a quiet "fur-ever" home with a yard for exploration (photo courtesy of the Arizona Humane Society).

at times, Donatello does well when he is allowed to go at his own pace and has people that understand his quirks.

Understandably, Donatello would do best as the only dog in a quiet home with a yard that he is able to explore in. This cutie pie also loves shredded chicken and would greatly benefit from positive reinforcement within his future forever home to help him learn that the world isn't so scary while adjusting to his new life.

Donatello's animal number is 680384. AHS' Virtual Adoption Matchmaking Program is available to place pets, like dashing Donatello, with their forever families. While Donatello may have been already been adopted by the time of your virtual appointment, AHS has dozens more wonderful pets who also need loving homes. You can meet some of the dogs, cats and other companion animals at the shelter, or view available pets on the Adopt pages on the website.

To schedule an appointment online or to see all adoptable animals right now, visit [www.azhumane.org/adopt](http://www.azhumane.org/adopt).

**Find new friends at doggie festival**

Find a new furry friend or new stuff for the one you have at the Sixth Annual Doggie Street Festival Phoenix on Saturday, Jan. 29, at Steele Indian School Park from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This companion animal adopt-a-thon and fun celebration of people's furry best friends presents pet products and services, food, vet tips, music, kids fun booth, auction prizes and much more. Bring your friendly dog.

Opportunities also are available for sponsors, vendors, volunteers and to provide auction prizes. For more information visit [doggiestreetfestival.org](http://doggiestreetfestival.org).





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For more information, visit the Facebook event page at <https://fb.me/e/1aviCCyki>, call David Bonney, realtor at United Country Real Estate, at 623-680-5725 or send an email to [david@unitedcountrycc.com](mailto:david@unitedcountrycc.com).

The program is open to anyone living in the Valley. Funding will be allocated to qualifying applicants on a first come, first served basis. For more information or to apply, visit <https://www.changex.org/us/funds/phoenix-community-challenge>.

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4582 S Wildflower Pl • \$735,000  
1735 W Seldon Ln • \$510,000  
1742 W Seldon Ln • \$534,900  
10858 N 11th St • \$370,000  
521 W Marlette Ave • \$405,000
- 1050 E Clinton St • \$300,000  
5817 N 12th Pl • \$599,900  
3444 W Apollo Rd • \$259,900  
721 E Sierra Vista Dr • \$620,000(4-Plex)  
1313 W Luke Ave • \$346,500  
1125 E Shangri La Rd • \$435,000  
1123 W Orangewood Ave • \$530,000  
10407 N 11th St 3 • \$1450 Mo.  
821 E North Ln 2 • \$1350 Mo.  
1010 W Vista Ave • \$2795 Mo.
- 7529 N 8th Ave • \$2195 Mo.  
4601 N 12th Ave 3 • \$1350 Mo.  
4601 N 12th Ave 2 • \$1050 Mo.  
4601 N 12th Ave 1 • \$1000 Mo.  
910 W Wagon Wheel Drive • \$670,000  
4455 E Paradise Village Pkwy S 1024 • \$268,000  
1055 N. Recker Rd. 1007 • \$247,000  
14840 N. 47th Pl. • \$522,000  
10628 N. 73rd Dr. • \$242,500  
7025 N. 22nd Dr. • \$280,000
- 3543 W. Tuckey Ln. • \$214,900  
230 W. Denton Ln \$457,500  
802 E. Cavalier Dr \$430,000  
1320 E. Bethany Home Rd. Unit 26 • \$206,000  
22627 N. 45th Pl • \$655,000  
564 W Nido Ave • \$2695 mo.  
6514 N 13TH Dr • \$1495 mo.  
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### TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

## Business Briefs

### Community invited to preview homes at Karma

Neighbors who are interested in learning more about Karma, a collection of 11 two-story, single-family residences set for completion in summer 2022, are invited to a preview event this month.

The Brokery, a local, boutique residential real estate brokerage, in conjunction with Boyer Vertical, is hosting the Karma Phase Two Release event from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 22, at the southeast corner of Bethany Home Road and 13th Place. Guests will enjoy complimentary bites and sips from local restaurants including Luci's Marketplace and Bluewater Grill, and get a first look at home sites, floor plans and pricing for the six remaining homes in the second phase of the development. Attendees can also take hard-hat tours of Karma Phase One homes, which broke ground in November.

Karma is located in the Madison Heights neighborhood and offers three modern floor plans ranging from 2,380 square feet to 2,610 square feet. Each sustainability-focused two-story home will include four bedrooms, 2.5 or 3.5 bathrooms, two-car garages and private back yards.

Visit [www.karmaphx.com](http://www.karmaphx.com) for details.

### Chamber event features university presidents

Join the Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce this month for Valley Voices: The State of Higher Education featuring the presidents of Arizona's three state universities. The fifth annual forum with the leaders who are shaping Arizona's state universities takes place on Wednesday, Jan. 26, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at the Musical Instrument Museum (MIM) in Phoenix.

Hear from new Northern Arizona University president, Dr. José Luis Cruz Rivera; Arizona State University president Dr. Michael Crow; and University of Arizona president Dr. Robert Robbins as they share updates from their respective universities, how they're working together to strengthen Arizona's talent pipeline, and how business and education can work in tandem toward economic recovery in the years ahead.

The cost for the event is \$35 and



Check out Karma, 11 unique single-family residences at Bethany Home Road and 13th Place during a preview event on Jan. 22 (submitted photo).

\$95 for nonmembers. The MIM is located at 4725 E. Mayo Blvd. To register or for more information, visit <https://business.phoenixchamber.com/events/>.

### Find business support at StartUpPHX

Phoenix Public Library's hive@central, an entrepreneurial resource and services program, is now StartUpPHX. Providing refreshed programing, resources and networking opportunities to local business creators, StartUpPHX provides free robust services and support for entrepreneurs.

Specialized programs such as "Developing a Lean Business Plan," "New Business Startup," "You Don't Know What You Don't Know About...Communication" and more are available for anyone wanting to bring new and local business ideas to fruition.

Visit <https://www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org/StartUpPHX> to learn more.

### Grants now available for Phoenix businesses

Small business resiliency grants up to \$15,000 are now available for Phoenix businesses through the PHXbizGrants program.

An allocation of \$8 million in funds from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 by the Phoenix City Council created a program helping micro and small businesses with the pandemic's economic impact. The PHXbizGrants application portal is now available on the city's website.

Grant money covers any business expense categorized as a "deductible expense" by the Internal Revenue Service. Companies receiving awards

**please see GRANTS on page 18**



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TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

GRANTS continued from page 16

from previous city grant programs are eligible to apply. Payroll, business rent or mortgage payments, insurance, inventory, or utilities were among the uses of previous grant awards. There is no repayment required for grants used for these legitimate business expenses. Business expenses incurred since March 2021 are eligible for the grant funds.

Micro and small businesses with 25 or fewer workers may apply for PHXbizGrants. Grant awards range from \$3,000 to \$15,000, depending on the number of employees and the location of the business. Eligibility requires businesses to have operated in Phoenix for at least one year and show a 25 percent loss of revenue due to COVID-19.

The Arizona Community Foundation and Local First Arizona are processing grant applications on behalf of the City. Visit [Phoenix.gov/PHXbizGrants](http://Phoenix.gov/PHXbizGrants) for complete information and a link to the grant application form. For assistance, answers to questions and more information, contact Local First Arizona at [PhoenixGrants@](mailto:PhoenixGrants@)

[LocalFirstAZ.com](http://LocalFirstAZ.com) or call 602-777-7636. Applications will be accepted until April 15, 2022, unless all grant funds are awarded prior to this deadline.

Hear from lawmakers at Chamber kick-off

Get a sneak peek at this year's top legislative issues straight from Arizona's key decisionmakers at the Greater Phoenix Chamber's annual Legislative Kick-Off Reception at the Phoenix Art Museum on Thursday, Jan. 13.

Learn about the top priorities for the business community in 2022, how lawmakers will proceed with the start of the Second Regular Session of Arizona's 55th Legislature and what plans are being made for economic recovery in the new year. This is an opportunity to hear where the state is headed in 2022 and keep your business informed about top policy issues to stay ahead of the curve.

Check-in begins at 5:15 p.m. and the program runs from 5:30 to 7:30. The event is complimentary for Chamber members and invited guests. Cost for non-members is \$100 per individual.

The Phoenix Art Museum is located at 1625 N. Central Ave. For more information or to register, visit <https://phoenixchamber.com/>.

TFA names new director for Phoenix region

Teach For America (TFA) has named Steve Erickson as the next executive director of its Phoenix region where he will oversee all aspects of the regional operations. Erickson will lead approximately 120 Teach For America corp members who serve more than 9,000 students in local public schools. He also will work to continue efforts with more than 1,000 Phoenix-area alumni (previous corps members) of the program. This includes more than 100 school, district, and community leaders who lend their experiences to help expand educational opportunities for students and families.

Erickson has served in various roles within the Phoenix region since his introduction to Teach For America as a Phoenix corps member. Following his time in the classroom, he joined TFA's national recruitment team where he

was responsible for doubling the number of candidates joining TFA from the University of Arizona and Arizona State University. Erickson joined TFA's Phoenix regional staff in 2009. He and his wife, Vanessa, a Teach For America alumna, live in Central Phoenix.

HomeSmart headquarters moving to central Phoenix

HomeSmart, one of the top 10 real estate brokerages in the United States, is moving its headquarters from Scottsdale to a new office at 4040 E. Camelback Rd., Suite 165. HomeSmart has 12 corporate branch offices across the Valley. The centrally located office is close to the Biltmore area with easy access to Central Phoenix and beyond.

The 2,400 square foot facility will have five private offices and two conference rooms. It will feature amenities such as no cost copying and printing for HomeSmart agents, a full kitchen and agent workstations. Hours of operation will be 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday and a 24/7 key card access for HomeSmart agents.

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## CURRENT LISTINGS/ESCROWS

7020 N Wilder Rd .....	In Escrow .....	6461SF .....	6BR/6BA .....	\$3,400,000
7011 N Wilder Rd .....	Just Listed .....	7581SF .....	7BR/7.5BA .....	\$1,999,000
526 E Tuckey Ln .....	In Escrow .....	4504SF .....	4BR/3BA .....	\$1,650,000
3229 E Sells Dr .....	Just Listed .....	2533SF .....	4BR/3BA .....	\$1,610,000
7517 N 3rd Ave .....	In Escrow .....	3800SF .....	4BR/2.5BA .....	\$1,250,000
2016 E State Ave .....	In Escrow .....	3433SF .....	5BR/3BA .....	\$1,250,000
202 W Kaler Dr .....	In Escrow .....	2970SF .....	3BR/2.BA .....	\$1,195,000
1545 W Northern Ave .....	In Escrow .....	3893SF .....	5BR/3BA .....	\$1,100,000
8902 E Rusty Spur Pl.....	In Escrow .....	2431SF .....	2BR/2BA .....	\$1,050,000
1509 E McLellan Blvd.....	Just listed .....	2215SF .....	3BR/2.5BA .....	\$ 669,000
1415 E Flower St.....	In Escrow .....	2223SF .....	4BR/2BA .....	\$ 650,000
1527 E Hudson Dr.....	In Escrow .....	2880SF .....	6BR/2.5BA .....	\$ 599,500
700 W Northern Ave .....	New Price .....	1320SF .....	2BR/1BA .....	\$ 540,000
77 E Missouri Ave #17 .....	In Escrow .....	1641SF .....	2BR/2BA .....	\$ 550,000
6606 N 20th St .....	In Escrow .....	2051SF .....	3BR/1.75BA .....	\$ 450,000
5816 N 64th Dr.....	In Escrow .....	1305SF .....	3BR/1.75BA .....	\$ 350,000



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Featured Homes for January



77 E Missouri Ave #17 • \$550,000



7321 N 11th Pl • \$450,000



1509 E McLellan Blvd • \$669,000



1415 E Flower St • \$650,000



914 E Osborn Rd #205 • \$425,000



5816 N 64th Dr • \$350,000



700 W Northern • \$540,000



7536 N 10th St • \$810,000



1527 E Hudson Dr • \$599,500

92 homes SOLD in 2021 and 9 properties currently in escrow. Call me to discuss your real estate needs and the value of your home. 602.376.1341. I work 7 days a week and am always available to help.

SOLD HOMES 2021

6035 N Central Ave.....	\$3,500,000
8634 N 52nd St.....	\$2,395,000
5706 N Central Ave.....	\$2,112,000
1527 W Caribbean Ln.....	\$2,000,000
7234 N 3rd St.....	\$1,860,000
4501 E Calle Tuberia.....	\$1,800,000
777 E Circle Rd.....	\$1,650,000
5808 E Turquoise Ave.....	\$1,640,000
115 E Rose Ln.....	\$1,530,000
1747 E Las Palmaritas.....	\$1,495,000
625 W Echo Ln.....	\$1,450,000
17 W Sierra Vista Dr.....	\$1,350,000
8413 N Diller Grove Ln.....	\$1,348,571
3436 N 38th Pl.....	\$1,299,500
712 W Vogel Acw.....	\$1,250,000
6809 N 12th Ave.....	\$1,210,867
1545 W Northern.....	\$1,100,000
3183 E Rose Ln.....	\$1,000,000
3312 E Sells Dr.....	\$1,180,000
6 E Cactus Wren Dr.....	\$1,075,000
2015 E Glenn Dr.....	\$1,039,000
8421 N Diller Grove.....	\$1,029,049
2685 E Canyon Pl.....	\$1,000,000

505 W Solano Dr.....	\$950,000
6246 E Helm Dr.....	\$938,000
6846 N 3rd Ave.....	\$925,000
5501 E Beryl Ave.....	\$925,000
7140 N 9th St.....	\$901,000
1364 E Victor Hugo.....	\$900,000
5139 N 10th Pl.....	\$895,000
12733 E Cochise.....	\$875,000
6233 N 5th Pl.....	\$865,000
6520 N Central Ave.....	\$850,000
5102 N 2nd St*.....	\$840,000
1124 W Myrtle Ave.....	\$825,000
5428 E Cannon Dr.....	\$825,000
7536 N 10th St.....	\$810,000
10261 N Central Ave.....	\$774,000
5125 N 34th Pl.....	\$750,000
15504 E Chicory Dr.....	\$750,000
9621 N 26th Pl.....	\$725,000
7838 N 4th Pl.....	\$710,000
2144 E San Juan Ave.....	\$700,000
8725 E Clarendon Ave.....	\$680,000
1309 W Linger Ln.....	\$670,000
340 E Osborn Rd #3.....	\$669,000
340 E Osborn Rd #4.....	\$669,000
7302 E Rovey Ave.....	\$650,000

8725 E Clarendon Ave.....	\$650,000
20 W Alicen Ct.....	\$643,000
1 W Cheryl Dr.....	\$640,000
6830 N 4th Pl.....	\$635,000
8735 N 11th Ave.....	\$630,000
1555 E Ocotillo Rd #17.....	\$627,500
77 E Missouri Ave #72.....	\$625,000
15 W Beryl Ave.....	\$615,000
1117 E State Ave.....	\$612,500
1345 E Missouri Ave.....	\$609,000
1402 W Berridge Ln.....	\$599,000
907 E Berridge Ln.....	\$595,000
5107 E Blomfield Rd.....	\$575,000
3827 N 33rd St.....	\$575,000
5338 E Questa Tierra Dr.....	\$540,000
527 W San Juan Ave.....	\$535,000
1807 E Winter Dr.....	\$520,000
4231 W Monte Cristo Ave.....	\$520,000
15 W Cochise Dr.....	\$520,000
2040 W Trotter Trail.....	\$500,000
6301 N 14th Pl.....	\$495,000
6418 N 13th Ave.....	\$483,850
1326 E Stella Ln.....	\$475,000
117 W Oregon Ave.....	\$475,000
5138 N 79th St.....	\$474,000

1414 E Earll Dr.....	\$425,000
7321 N 11th Pl.....	\$425,000
914 E Osborn Rd #205.....	\$425,000
3920 W Sandra Terrace.....	\$460,000
1026 E Wagon Wheel Dr.....	\$450,000
7343 N 8th St.....	\$450,000
5 E Butler Dr.....	\$429,900
6522 N 5th Ave.....	\$425,000
1414 E Earll Dr.....	\$425,000
930 E Bethany Home Rd.....	\$420,000
1 E Butler Dr*.....	\$420,000
1132 E Orangewood Ave.....	\$419,000
1232 E Palacio Ln.....	\$395,000
2531 S 156th Ave.....	\$378,000
7887 N 16th St #122.....	\$360,000
100 W Maryland Ave L1.....	\$351,000
1536 E Mission Ln.....	\$349,900
2019 E Campbell Ave #115.....	\$299,900
2940 E Campo Bello.....	\$299,000
7557 N Dreamy Draw #139.....	\$280,000
1245 E Maryland Ave*.....	\$255,000
1263A E Maryland Ave.....	\$255,000
4354 N 82nd St #204.....	\$240,000

\*represented both buyer and seller



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# Health Briefs

## Nonprofit offers support for weight loss

TOPS Club, Inc. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), a nonprofit weight-loss support organization, offers an individual approach to weight loss and overall wellness. Consistent group support, health education, and recognition are all key components to successful weight management.

TOPS support is provided through weekly in-person or online meetings. In-person meetings include private weigh-ins; members sharing challenges, successes or goals; a brief program covering a variety of health and wellness topics; and awards and recognition for the week. Online meetings, which are conducted via Zoom, are offered three times during the week and include the opportunity to discuss challenges, successes or goal; a prepared program and guest speakers and action steps related to the program presented.

Visitors are able to attend their first TOPS in-person meeting free of charge and are encouraged to try more than one chapter, since they're all a little different. Membership is \$37 per year, plus nominal chapter fees. Online membership is only \$37 per year, no matter where the member is located.

TOPS chapters in North Central meet at First Christian Church at 6750 N. 7th Ave. and Saints Simon And Jude Cathedral School at 6351 N. 27th Ave. There are other chapters around the Valley. To learn more about membership options or to find a local chapter, visit [www.tops.org](http://www.tops.org) or call 800-932-8677.

## Start a journey towards fitness in 2022

The City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department makes it easy for residents to get out and get fit through its FitPHX WalkPHX program. Enjoy getting outdoors, being physically active, and spending time with family and friends by taking a

walk in one of the city's many parks.

Not a fan of gadgets? No fitness tracker is needed on this journey. The self-led walking paths found at each park location have been mapped with signage that indicates where to start and just how far you've gone.

In the North Central area, check out Los Olivos Park (2802 E. Devonshire Ave.); North Mountain Park (10600 N. 7th St.); Steele Indian School Park (300 E. Indian School Rd.); and Washington Park (6655 N. 23rd Ave.).

Those who are looking for a group walk can find an organized WalkPHX event by visiting the program website at [www.phoenix.gov/parks/fitphx/walkphx](http://www.phoenix.gov/parks/fitphx/walkphx). The next FitPHX Walking Club kicks off Feb. 7 and runs through March 25.

## Kick off the new year by giving the gift of life

In December, America's Blood Centers, the American Red Cross and the Association for the Advancement of Blood & Biotherapies joined forces to

raise the alarm that the blood supply in the U.S. has reached one of its lowest levels in recent years. The organizations noted that blood centers across the country are reporting less than a one-day's supply of blood, which is considered a dangerously low level.

During the holiday season and the winter months, donations tend to decrease due to travel and inclement weather, making the need for blood donations in even more urgent. Valley residents can find information about donor eligibility, discover blood facts and statistics and register as a donor on the American Red Cross website.

This month, the American Red Cross Greater Phoenix Region office, located at 4747 N. 22nd St., Suite 100, will host blood drives every Friday. The events will run from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., with donation times available throughout the day. To sign up to donate at one of these events, to find a blood drive in another area or to learn more about donating blood, visit [www.redcross.org/give-blood.html](http://www.redcross.org/give-blood.html).



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relationships between  
patients and their  
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Preventing  
complications or  
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physical activity  
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Improving eating  
habits and  
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## Madison district names new superintendent

The Madison Elementary School District Governing Board voted in December to enter into contract negotiations with Dr. Kimberly Guerin, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services for the Scottsdale Unified School District, to serve as Madison's next superintendent. Pending the result of successful contract negotiations, the board is expected to officially approve Guerin as the next Superintendent effective July 1, 2022. The board made its decision based on its lengthy evaluation of three highly qualified candidates, considering feedback from all stakeholders.

Prior to her current role, Guerin served the Paradise Valley Unified School District as the assistant superintendent of leadership - elementary, director of elementary education, assistant director of curriculum and principal of Echo Mountain Elementary School. Guerin regularly leads sessions on the topic of effective leadership at both Arizona School Administrator and Arizona School Board Association conferences.

Guerin grew up in the Valley, graduating from a neighboring school district. She and her husband Jeff, who is a Madison alumnus, have two children, a daughter and a son.

Madison's current superintendent, Dr. Kenneth Baca, will retire at the end of this school year after four years of dedicated service to the district.

## School Briefs

### GLENDALE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT Enrollment open for second semester

The Glendale Union High School District is offering enrollment opportunities for the second semester, which begins on Jan. 4. All nine of the district's schools are ranked among America's best high schools by *U.S. News & World Report* and provide athletics, extracurricular activities, cutting-edge STEM opportunities, career and technical education options and more.

Families outside of the district may



Dr. Kimberly Guerin has been named as superintendent for the Madison Elementary School District effective July 1 (photo courtesy of Madison Elementary School District).

enroll their children at any of the district's schools under the state's open enrollment policy, which allows Arizona students to attend public high schools that are outside of their attendance boundaries. For more information or to enroll a student, visit <https://bit.ly/3DvyXTZ>.

## Seniors advance to Flinn semifinals

Three Sunnyslope High School seniors have advanced to the semifinalist interviews for the Flinn Scholarship. Henry Calkins, Ezri Tyler and Sheena Kroodsma were among 80 semifinalists selected from a total of nearly 1,100 applications across Arizona.

Approximately 40 finalists will be selected from this group to interview in March with a selection committee that will choose the 20 students for the Flinn Scholars Class of 2022. The Flinn Scholarship, which includes funding for tuition, housing, meals, and study abroad, is valued at more than \$120,000.

## Sunnyslope coach earns NFHS Coaches honor

Sunnyslope badminton coach Sarah Schlesinger has been named the 2020-21 West Section Girls Other-Badminton Coach of the Year by the National Federation of State High School Associations National Coaches Association. Schlesinger was nominat-



SCHOOL DAYS



Washington High’s Interact Club made and donated 200 scarves to Andre House in December (photo courtesy of the Glendale Union High School District).

ed by the Arizona Interscholastic Association. Honorees were selected based upon their performance in the 2020-2021 school year, lifetime community involvement, school involvement, and philosophy of coaching.

Junior Maddie Schlesinger and senior Alison Rodriquez, Sunnyslope’s number-one badminton doubles team, took the state title after defeating Chaparral in three sets at the state tournament in October. Seniors Kaitlyn Cotter and Rebecca Rodriquez also competed at the event.

Washington High students help community at holidays

Two student organizations at Washington High School donated time and resources during the holidays to help those less fortunate.

Interact Club members volunteered their time at the Andre House by making and donating 200 scarves. The club also prepared and served more than 500 meals to guests at Andre House.

Students in the Washington High dance program organized a change war between classes. The dance program’s goal was to raise money to feed people in need during the holiday season. Each class donated every day during November and they raised over a thousand dollars. All the money was donated to St. Vincent De Paul.

MADISON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Madison District launches THRIVE series

As the landscape of childhood continues to evolve, it is imperative that parents are steeped with resources to approach and support their child in ways that align with the students of the

Alpha and IGeneration.

To help provide such support, the Madison School District this month will launch its THRIVE series of interactive online offerings for parents and community members.

Offerings will run Jan. 27 through May 12 on a variety of topics including coping and resiliency, digital wellness, vaping awareness and education and support for the unique transitions from elementary to middle school and middle school to high school.

Additional information will be provided closer to the event dates and will be found at madisonaz.org

PHOENIX UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
North senior receives Match Scholarship

North High senior Mia Vesely has been accepted to the University of Pennsylvania’s College of Arts and Sciences through the QuestBridge National College Match Scholarship program. Vesely, who was one of 1,674 students nationwide who received a Match Scholarship, was selected on the basis of academic and personal excellence, academic commitment, tenacity, and care for others.

QuestBridge is a platform that connects the nation’s brightest students from low-income backgrounds with leading institutions of higher education and further opportunities. Through these exchanges, QuestBridge aims to increase the percentage of talented low-income students attending the nation’s best universities and the ranks of national leadership itself.

For more information about the scholarship program, visit <https://www.questbridge.org/>.

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SCHOOL DAYS

**PRIVATE AND CHARTER SCHOOLS**  
**Brophy athletes sign letters of intent**

Sixteen Brophy College Preparatory student-athletes have signed National Letters of Intent to play NCAA sports. The NLI program includes 652 Division I and Division II participating institutions.

The students include Brayden Bozak (University of Las Vegas/golf), Jack Warner Brown (United States Air Force Academy/tennis), John “Jack” Brown (Davidson College/soccer), Henry Chabot (Chapman University/baseball), Ian DiMaria (Grand Canyon University/rugby), Jack Dozer (University of Denver/golf), Gage DuBois (University of Arizona, diving), Thomas Joswiak (University of Missouri/swimming), Kellen Newsome (Northwest Nazarene University/baseball), Trey Phillips (New York University/basketball), Cole Rassas (United States Air Force Academy/lacrosse), George Rubelsky (Columbia University/golf) and Jack Sorenson (Holy Cross University/swimming).

In addition, three students signed to play Division I football: Benjamin Morrison (Notre Dame University), Tyler Powell (University of Arizona) and Zach Swanson (University of Texas).

**School to host first drones competition**

Madison Highland Prep will host the state’s first High School REC Foundation Ariel Drones Competition (RADC) on Jan. 15.

This year’s tournament challenge is called “RADC DownDraft2,” which is a technical course that is played on a 28-by-28-foot indoor field. Two opposing alliances compete in different three-minute matches. The object of the game is earn a higher score than the opposing alliance by scoring small and large balls in corner and floor goals, as well as landing drones in the designated landing zone at the end of the match. Teams also will compete in the Programming Skills Challenge, where one drone takes to the sky to try to score as many points as possible through programming.

Madison Highland Prep’s sister school,

Highland Prep, as well as teams from California and New Mexico, will take part in the tournament.

**Xavier student wins Teens in Action Award**

Xavier Senior Kate Blair has achieved more in her 17 years than many people do in a lifetime.

During the summer of 2021, Blair represented Arizona at the Teen Miss America Pageant where, out of 51 competitors, she won the “Teens in Action” award. She spoke about her social impact initiative, “raise a voice for childhood cancer” during a three-minute interview.

Influenced by Blair’s younger sister who was stricken with cancer and now recovered, Blair took action early on by first selling candy in her yard to support children with cancer. She went on to raise \$200,000 for a variety of childhood cancer charities and has addressed members of Congress on several occasions in Washington, DC.

Blair was recently selected as a semi-finalist out of over 68,000 applicants to The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation,

which recognizes and awards a \$20,000 scholarship to 150 students nationally who make a significant impact on their schools and communities.

At Xavier, Blair is part of Gatorline, Xavier’s performance dance company, Political Action Club, Key Club and three Honor Societies.

**MHP student lands engineering internship**

Madison Highland Prep senior John Baricza has been selected for an internship with Squickmon’s Engineering and Automation, a manufacturing and design firm in Phoenix. The internship will afford Baricza the opportunity to learn about many areas of the design and manufacturing process, including work with electrical system design, sheet metal fabrication, CNC machine programming, quality control processes, and more.

Although Baricza plans to pursue astronautical engineering as a career, he says he is excited about this opportunity because with this internship “I will be able to further develop and take away applicable skills in engineering.”

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**Xavier Entrance Exam**

Saturday, Jan. 8, 2022 or Saturday, Jan. 22, 2022 at 7:30 a.m. Registration for exam and application information at [xcp.org](http://xcp.org). 9th Grade applications are due Monday, Jan. 24, 2022.

**Affording a Xavier Education**

Financial Aid Workshops available to interested parents during the Entrance Exam Testing, Jan. 8, 2022 and Jan. 22, 2022.



SCHOOL DAYS

Primary school launches family food panty

A local primary school is seeking donations for a new quarterly food pantry for families. What began as a one-time event at Midtown Primary School has blossomed into a quarterly event for families who need some extra help.

Families can come and “shop” for breakfast, lunch, dinner and snack supplies and also find toiletries, dish soap, paper towels and toilet paper. They also can provide feedback and share what they really need and what would be helpful for the pantry to provide. The Midtown Primary School pantry is by invitation only.

“There is power in choice and the pantry allows families to get exactly what they need,” says Lindy Ross of the Midtown Staff. The food pantry is a way for families to stock up for the weeks during break when kids are home. Midtown Students receive breakfast, lunch, dinner, and two snacks at school, so there is a gap for parents to provide that when students are at home over break. The next pantry will be prior to spring break.

Two donors, Auto Glass Inspection Services and Revolution Church, have donated both food and time to the event. In addition, two youth hockey teams, the Chandler Ice Den’s Squirt Black Bears and PeeWee Bruins, sponsored a peanut-butter-and-jelly drive to support the pantry. Tyler Ross started the drive after hearing about the pantry. He decided to do a peanut-butter-and-jelly drive because kids can make sandwiches themselves without an adult to help. Many times, that is exactly what is needed, according to Ross.

To donate food to the pantry, bring items to the Midtown Primary School



Tyler Ross led a peanut-butter-and-jelly drive by two youth hockey teams to help support the Midtown Primary School’s new food pantry (photo courtesy of Lindy Ross).

in the educational wings behind the church at 4735 N. 19th Ave.

Phoenix Christian Prep to host open house

Phoenix Christian Preparatory School will host “Launch Life,” an open house and live tour of the campus, on Saturday, Jan. 29, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event includes the opportunity to meet members of the administration, faculty and staff along with students, parents and coaches. Lunch will be provided for all guests.

Those who attend will be entered into a drawing for a \$1,000 scholarship for the 2022-23 school year and for those families who are new to the school, the application fee will be waived.

Phoenix Christian Preparatory School is located at 1751 W. Indian

*please see OPEN HOUSE on page 28*



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# HAPPY HOUR WITH HERSCH

Faith is an interesting word. It is commonly used to describe someone’s belief in God or their religion, which makes sense, since the basic definition means a complete trust in someone or something. Recently, someone asked me if I was religious and I purposely responded that I have faith, which they thought was an interesting answer. It got me thinking about my own faith. I was raised on the ideals and tenets of Catholicism, and I am grateful they are the foundation of my faith system. However, I am also a skeptic at heart and reaching me through dogma will never work. The concept of humanism is just as big a part of my faith.

Humanism teaches that people have an ethical responsibility to lead lives that are personally fulfilling while at the same time contributing to the greater good. It espouses resolving problems through science and reason to make the world a better place. I believe in all human beings and our capabilities. The mix of these beliefs resonates with me and creates my faith. I’m sure this system will modulate as I continue to try and grow, but I am thankful I have faith and I hope you do too, whatever that looks like. We are all sharing a very complicated world where we need to dig a little deeper to understand and appreciate each other.

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# Senior Living

## New year is a good time to check in with seniors

The new year marks an ideal time to evaluate the well-being of aging seniors in your life. After a busy holiday season, many may note some concerns with elderly relatives.

Sara Wilson, CEO of Home Assist Health, a Phoenix-based nonprofit that serves approximately 400 seniors and individuals with disabilities annually, says that seniors often don't want to ask for help because they are afraid of being put in a long-term care home or being moved from where they are comfortable. Many families don't realize they can stay in their own home and have help come to them.

Signs that it may be time to have a conversation about in-home care include problems keeping up with house cleaning/yard work; missing appointments or other obligations; poor person-

al hygiene or bladder control issues; difficulty with mobility or standing; difficulty driving or accidents; depression, seclusion or changes in mood; loss of interest in activities; multiple chronic illnesses; significant weight gain or loss; trouble chewing, swallowing or taking medication; or a recent fall.

If you're concerned, consider contacting an organization such as Home Assist Health that provides free phone interviews and in-home evaluations. Services include personal care assistance, companionship, housekeeping, respite care and habilitation. Specialty services include enhanced care transitions and enhanced chronic disease management.

You also need to determine whether your loved one has insurance for home care, which may come from a Medicaid long-term care benefit, select Medicare Advantage plans, or a private long-term care insurance plan. For those without home care benefits from insurance, there are other payment methods for access care at home.

For more information on Home Assist Health's services, visit [homeassisthealth.com](http://homeassisthealth.com) or call 602-795-7920.

## Keep busy at local senior centers

The city of Phoenix's two senior centers in North Central will offer a full line-up of activities this month.

The Devonshire Senior Center offers a Morning Mindfulness class at 10 a.m. and a documentary film at 11 a.m. on Mondays, a Technology Hour at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays, a Line Dancing class at 1 p.m. on Thursdays, and a Friday Draw and Sketch Class at 11 a.m. Participants can register for the programs up to one day prior.

Devonshire Senior Center, located at 2802 E. Devonshire Ave., includes a fitness center, dance/exercise room, billiards room, meeting space and an art gallery and offers programs and activities from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. In addition, the Human Services Department offers nutritional and social services for older

adults. For more information, call 602-262-7807 or visit [www.phoenix.gov/seniorcenters](http://www.phoenix.gov/seniorcenters).

To help seniors stay in shape, Sunnyslope Senior Center offers Geri-Fit Strength Training on Mondays and Fridays at 10 a.m. and a Gentle Chair Yoga (in person or virtual) on Thursdays at 10 a.m. Ben's Fine Art meets every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. and there will be a Book Club (in person or virtual) meeting on Monday, Jan. 24, from 1 to 2 p.m. The center also hosts Movies at the Center every Monday and Friday at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Contact staff to find out which movie will be playing.

Co-located with the Sunnyslope Community Center at 802 E. Vogel Ave., Phoenix, Sunnyslope Senior Center offers a variety of activities, games, billiards, exercise classes and health programs. The center is open 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. For more information, call 602-262-7572 or visit [www.phoenix.gov/seniorcenters](http://www.phoenix.gov/seniorcenters).

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## GENERATIONS

## Kids & Families

### Enjoy skating in your socks

The Children's Museum of Phoenix has brought back its popular winter experience, SOCK SKATING which is skating on white, slippery tiles reminiscent of ice but without the chill. This year's SOCK SKATING experience will be moved inside the Museum and will be an expanded version of the activity than previous years when it was outside.

Kids and their parents are invited to slip, slide and glide across a white slippery surface in their socks. It's just like ice skating but without the frosty fingers and fear of blades. Kids can sock skate to music and enjoy festive wintery decorations throughout the space.

SOCK SKATING will be open for play Feb. 6 and is free with paid museum admission of \$16 per person. Members and children under age 1 are free. Masks are required for all guests ages 2 and above, regardless of vaccination status, when inside the museum.

For more information, visit <https://childrensmuseumofphoenix.org/>.

### Get a close-up look at trucks, other vehicles

Bring your family to explore and touch more than 40 different vehicles and trucks at Touch A Truck for Camp Patrick on Saturday, Feb. 5, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the parking lot of North Phoenix Baptist Church.

Get a close-up look at everything from fire trucks, police vehicles, helicopters, race cars, military vehicles, and more. The Phoenix Coyotes will be there, along with food, vendors and activities for the kids.

The cost to attend is \$5 per person/\$20 max per family. All proceeds go to fund Camp Patrick, a free camp for kids with Spina Bifida where kids can strengthen their independence, try new things, and make lifelong friends with children who are similar.

### Children's Museum opens makerspace exhibit

The Children's Museum of Phoenix's new makerspace exhibit, THE WORKSHOP, is open for play through March 20, 2022.

The exhibit offers a hands-on, creative space where children can gather materials, create a blueprint, use tools such as hammers, screwdrivers, saws, nails, measuring tapes, wrenches, levels, wires, drills and more. Young inventors can wear protective goggles, hardhats, and safety vests; workspaces offer workbenches, tables, stools, and recycled materials in addition to other repurposed materials. All inventors will gain confidence and stretch their imagination in a safe environment for risk-taking and prototyping. THE WORKSHOP is a space that will empower children to create through inspiration.

The exhibit is outdoors, located in the museum's courtyard area, which can be accessed from the museum's second floor. Admission to THE WORKSHOP is free with museum admission of \$16 per person. Members and children under the age of 1 are free. Masks are required for all visitors 2 years of age and up while inside the museum.

For more information, visit <https://childrensmuseumofphoenix.org/>.

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Tango Argentina will take the stage Jan. 13-14 at the Madison Center for the Arts as part of its inaugural U.S. tour (photo courtesy of Tango Argentina).

## Tango Argentina comes to Madison

Tango Argentina brings eight of Argentina's best tango dancers and musicians to The Madison Center for the Arts as part of its inaugural tour of the United States. This extraordinary program combines tango traditions with contemporary stories to show how the art form has evolved throughout its history.

Tango Argentina is a stunning production that explores the evolution of Tango and the history of its birthplace: Buenos Aires. Audiences will discover the sensuality and charisma of this dance and music genre alongside eight dancers and a quartet of live musicians, all of whom are experts in the art of Tango.

Performances are Jan. 13 and 14 at 7 p.m. Tickets range from \$35 to \$65. For tickets or more information, visit [www.themadison.org/tango-argentina](http://www.themadison.org/tango-argentina).

## Kick off 2022 with music at the The Nash

The Nash will ring in 2022 with a January line-up that includes a variety of performers and musical styles.

The concert venue's Special Events series will feature the flute-vibes/piano duo of Warren Wolf and Mayu Saeki on Jan. 13, song stylist Rebecca Kilgore on Jan. 22 and jazz from the Nicki Parrott Trio on Jan. 26.

The calendar also includes a "musical conversations" with Michael Powers on Jan. 14 and an opportunity to step back into the sparkle of "Old Hollywood" on Jan. 15 as vintage jazz

singer Jackie Lopez performs the great hits from Frank Sinatra and Nat "King" Cole to Peggy Lee.

The Nash is located at 110 E. Roosevelt in downtown Phoenix. Beer, wine and soft drinks are available for purchase. For performance times or to purchase tickets, visit [thenash.org](http://thenash.org)

## Enjoy live music at Beatitudes Church

Church of the Beatitudes will offer two musical events this month in its Worship Center at 555 W. Glendale Ave.

The church kicks off its 2022 Jazz Concert Series on Sunday, Jan. 9, at 6 p.m. with the jazz stylings of West by Northwest, a quartet of jazz musicians that features Tom Wakeling, Brice Winston, Angelo Versace and Dom Moio, four of the Valley's most prolific jazz artists. Attend the live performance in-person (masks required) or watch the event by livestream.

Purchase tickets for a \$10 suggested donation through Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/jazz-series-west-by-northwest-tickets-215970211717>. To attend the live performance, choose "General Admission." You will receive your tickets via email. To watch the event livestream, choose "Livestream Access Only." You will receive a confirmation email with links to watch the concert.

The church's Worship Center Concert Series opens its 2022 season with guitar artist Dr. Eduardo Minozzi Costa on Saturday, Jan. 29, at 4 p.m.

*please see SERIES on page 34*

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February 4-5 (3 performances total)
- **Music of Frank Sinatra and Beyond with Tony DeSare**  
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## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

### SERIES continued from page 32

You'll hear 90 minutes of classical selections from one of today's leading Brazilian guitarists. Minozzi Costa is the winner of 10 International Guitar Competitions and has performed classically at Carnegie Hall. Attend the live performance in-person (masks required) or watch the concert by livestream.

Purchase tickets for \$20 per person for general admission, \$25 for preferred seating, and children 12 and under for free to attend the live performance or \$20 per device to watch the event livestream through Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/worship-center-concert-series-dr-eduardo-minozzi-costa-fine-guitarist-tickets-216608992327>. To attend the live performance, choose "General Admission" or "Preferred Seating." You will receive your tickets via email. To watch the event livestream, choose "Livestream Access Only." You will receive a confirmation email with links to watch the concert.

Both performances are family-friendly. To learn more, visit <https://beatitudeschurch.org/music-arts/>.

### Pan for gold at Cave Creek Museum

If you're interested in Arizona's gold mining history, check out the Arizona Gold Mining Experience at the Cave Creek Museum. The special event, held the second Saturday of every month from October through May, includes storytelling, demonstrations that showcase the ore extraction process and the chance to pan for gold.

The experience begins with a lively retelling of the Cave Creek mining district's history. Watch the operation of the Golden Reef stamp mill, which was brought from its former location at the Golden Reef Mine on Continental Mountain to the museum and is connected to a working tramway and ore carts that carry the ore to the mill. You also can peer into a mineshaft to see blasting techniques used by hard rock miners and visit a blacksmith shop for a demonstration of the skills used to fabricate parts and tools onsite.

Wind up your experience by trying your luck at the gold panning station, where museum volunteers show visitors how to pan for ore and minerals.

The Arizona Gold Mining Experience opens at 11 a.m. in the museum lobby. Admission is \$7 for

adults, \$5 for seniors and children under 12 are free. Arrive early to purchase admission prior to the event.

The Cave Creek Museum is located at 6140 E. Skyline Drive in Cave Creek and is open October through May. Call 480-488-2764 or visit <https://cavecreekmuseum.org/> for more information.

### Music at Trinity sets spring concert line-up

Music at Trinity has announced the line-up for its Spring 2022 Concert Series at Trinity Cathedral, 100 W. Roosevelt Street. Upcoming concerts feature international and local organists, chamber and choral music, and a spotlight concert by R. Carlos Nakai.

The annual Helen Peel Memorial Concert will take place on Sunday, Jan. 16, at 3 p.m. This year's event features Spanish organist Raul Prieto Ramirez, who serves as the civic organist and artistic director for the Spreckles Organ Society in San Diego. His program will include the works of Bach, Chopin, Prokofiev, Sousa and Bernstein.

Stefan Donner, organist at St. Leopold's and St. Peter's in Vienna, will perform the works of Mozart, Franck, Duruflé, and Schmidt on Friday, Feb. 11, at 7 p.m.

R. Carlos Nakai, the pre-eminent Native American flutist, will perform with guitarist William Eaton and percussionist Will Clipman on Sunday, March 6, at 4 p.m. Reservations for this free concert are required.

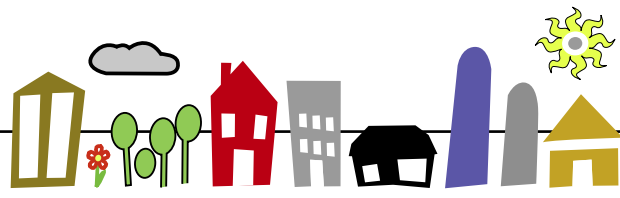
For more information on artists and performances, visit [trinitymusicaz.org](http://trinitymusicaz.org). All concerts are free unless otherwise noted.

### Scorpius returns with 'D.G.'

Scorpius Dance Theatre returns to The Phoenix Theatre Company with "D.G.," which is inspired by the Oscar Wilde novel, "The Picture of Dorian Gray." In this morally ambiguous Victorian tale, lust, greed, beauty, and the quest for eternal youth create messy, blurred lines between good and evil.

Performances run Thursday, Jan. 27, through Saturday, Jan. 29, all starting at 7:30 p.m. at the Phoenix Theatre at 1825 N. Central Ave. Tickets are \$25 plus fees. For tickets or more information, visit <https://www.scorpiusdance.com/tickets/>.





## FOOD FOR THOUGHT



Dinner at GreekTown is a family affair. From left, sons Grigori and Dimitri Vassiliou, mom Anastasia and dad, George Vassiliou. They're serving souvlaki, left, shrimp in lemon sauce and classic Greek salad (photo by Marjorie Rice).

## Café Chat

### Savor the sounds and tastes of Greece

By Marjorie Rice

Bouzoukis and belly dancing, spanakopita and pastitsio – George Vassiliou and his family have been sharing the sounds and tastes of Greece for six decades and three generations. They're still sharing at GreekTown, on Seventh Street in Sunnyslope.

Every night but Sunday, George, his wife Anastasia, and sons Grigori and Dimitri continue a tradition that dates back to 1968, when George's late father, also named Grigori, opened his first supper club in California.

Grigori Vassiliou was a noted musician and singer, George said. "He came to Montreal in 1950 and was a guitar player and singer for many famous bouzouki players, and he backed up many of the famous Greek women singers in New York in the first stereo recordings of their music."

When Grigori would get a new job at a supper club, he'd pack up the family, now including four children, and travel to sites across the U.S. and Canada on gigs that could last up to two years. "I went to 15 schools across the country," Vassiliou said.

The clubs combined stage shows and Greek dishes, bringing a taste of home to Greek immigrants and introducing others to food and dancing made famous by

the movie, "Zorba the Greek."

In 1968, Grigori gave up the peripatetic gig life and moved to California, following that supper club formula when opening the Athenian Gardens. It was immensely popular, George said, but the 1994 Northridge earthquake convinced Grigori that his family needed to move to where the earth didn't.

Eventually they settled in Phoenix and in 1975 opened the Greek Village supper club.

"We all participated in the show and the food," George said. "I actually did a table dance where I lifted the table with my teeth. My dad had seen another dancer do it and he said I could do it too because I had a strong jaw because I talked so much!"

That metamorphosed into the Grecian Village, still with a stage show, then the Bacchanal. While the names and locations shifted, they've always had the same recipes, George said, but taken up several notches by his wife Anastasia, an accomplished chef.

They sold that location to two of the dancers and opened the original GreekTown on Seventh Street and Glendale, with no stage show.

By then George was running the operation while his dad acted as maître 'd, occasionally singing and playing the bouzouki. When they lost their lease, George took the plunge and bought a property, originally a Pizza Hut.

*please see GREEKTOWN on page 36*

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## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**GREEKTOWN** continued from page 35

“I wanted to own my own place,” he said. “I decided I wanted to redevelop Sunnyslope in my own crazy way. People said I was nuts. The area was a mess but I could see the potential.

“Sunnyslope is Brooklyn – people from all levels: millionaires and working class people. I thought it would grow, and I was right.

“Eventually the whole area kind of metamorphosed. When Little Miss Barbecue came there, it solidified the area as a little culinary gem with unique restaurants. You truly have the mom-and-pop feel in Sunnyslope.”

The ambiance is warm and welcoming – but it’s the food that keeps people coming back. Start with a unique take on fried calamari: pan seared calamari in a garlic, olive oil and lemon sauce. And don’t miss the souvlaki: pork or chicken cubes grilled on skewers. It’s the most popular dish on the menu.

“You can get a gyro and Greek salad that’s enough for two meals, or a \$50 bottle of wine and a rack of lamb that you couldn’t get at a fine steakhouse,” George said.

While there’s no stage show to accompany the food, that doesn’t mean a night out at GreekTown is a sedate venture. George, Grigori and Dimitri occasionally will break into a sirtaki, their arms linked over their shoulders, stepping, knees bent, in a pattern made famous by “Zorba the Greek.”

It’s the kind of lively mix that the Vassilious have been serving up since the ’60s, a uniquely Greek way of doing things.

“You kind of feel like family when you come in,” George said. “It’s a continuation of my father’s spirit. It’s more like a vacation in Greece than a restaurant.”

GreekTown, at 8519 N. Seventh St., is open from 4 to 10 p.m., Monday through Saturday (“Never on Sunday!” says a sign at the door). For more information, call 602-674-8881 or visit [greektownrestaurant.com](http://greektownrestaurant.com).

## Dining Briefs

### New café art signals hope for the new year

A new life-size sculpture at Giving Tree Café in central Phoenix aims to offer a sign of hope to the community after the challenges of the past couple of years.

Based on the iconic 1932 Ebbets photograph “Lunch Atop a Skyscraper,”



‘Lunch Atop a Skyscraper,’ a new sculpture at the Giving Tree Café in central Phoenix, is intended to symbolize hope and a confidence in the future (photo courtesy of Ampersand PR).

the sculpture replicates the image of 11 steelworkers photographed while eating lunch on a girder more than 800 feet above the ground. The workers were part of the crew responsible for building the 69-story RCA building, now the Rockefeller Center. At the time, the U.S. was in the throes of the most devastating depression in history, and the erection of the building signaled hope and a confidence in the future.

According to the café owner, David Warr, the similarities in the eras and the symbolism behind the memorable image are what prompted him to ensure the sculpture, created by sculptor Blake Emory and produced by Gregory Kirschenbaum, has a permanent home.

“‘Lunch Atop a Skyscraper’ stands as a testament to our resourcefulness and resilience. Our community has been through a challenging couple of years. Yet, we pulled ourselves up from our bootstraps, and we’ve grown stronger,” said Warr.

Giving Tree Café is located at 2024 N. 7th St., Suite 11. It is open daily from 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., and serves all day breakfast, lunch and dinner.

For more information, call 480-630-0200 or visit [www.givingtreecafe.com](http://www.givingtreecafe.com).

### Banham’s Cheesecake celebrates its first year

There is a new spot in North Central where neighbors can satisfy their sweet tooth. Under the ownership of the husband-and-wife team of Chris and Adriana Banham, Banham’s Cheesecake opened in January 2020 at 28th Street and Indian School Road in the former Papa John’s location.

The Parisian café styled shop offers flavors that range from traditional and various berry and fresh fruits to coconut cream, brownie and duce de

leche, as well as seasonal specialties. Patrons can stop in and enjoy a slice with a coffee, or purchase an entire cheesecake to take home for the family or for a special occasion.

The owners say that they have an anniversary celebration in the works for January, so residents can follow Banham’s on Facebook for updates — or stop by and say hello.

Banham’s Cheesecake is located at 2836 E. Indian School Road. For more information, call 602-824-8657 or visit [www.banhamscheesecake.com](http://www.banhamscheesecake.com).

### Neighborly Public House, debuts in Central Phoenix

Neighborly Public House, the newest offering from Common Ground Culinary, has opened inside The Colony, a 1950s-era mixed-use development at 7th Street and Missouri.

Christopher Collins, chef/owner of the Valley-based Common Ground Culinary, has put his personality into the menu, which includes grilled California artichoke, a Maine lobster roll, Sticky baby back ribs and a double thick pork chop. There’s also a kids’ menu, things to share and sweet finishes. The bar delivers one of the restaurant group’s most adventurous cocktail lists, featuring southern twists on classics like a peach Old Fashioned crafted with infused Elijah Craig 94 proof bourbon, Rothman and Winter Crème de Peche, lemon cordial and a lemon wheel.

Neighborly Public House is open from 4 to 9 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday; 4 to 10 p.m. Thursday through Saturday; and 4 to 9 p.m. on Sunday. For more information visit [www.neighborlypublichouse.com](http://www.neighborlypublichouse.com) or follow the eatery on Facebook and Instagram.

### New, refreshed Womack reopened in December

The Womack, a live music cocktail lounge on 7th Street, reopened in December with a new indoor-outdoor layout, fresh new food and drink menus, and a lineup of live music and entertainment hosted nightly.

Highlighted by an all-new menu of Japanese-style craft cocktails, the Womack also features all-natural wines, and Arizona-brewed craft beers. Featuring chef-crafted bar bites, the Womack’s in-house kitchen also serves up a selection of vegan and vegetarian dishes. The space was completely revamped, including a state-of-the-art sound and lighting system. The front façade was blown out to create a seamless indoor-outdoor space and bring the live music right out onto the dual outdoor dining patios.

The Womack is partnering with several pop-up restaurants to bring the Valley’s best eats right to the parking lot and has launched an all-new Sunday Drag Brunch from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the newly expanded indoor-outdoor patio.

The Womack is located at 5749 N. 7th Street and is open 4 p.m. to 2 a.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday. For more information, visit <https://www.thewomack.us/>.

### Genuine Concepts to open new flagship restaurant

Set to debut in February, Genuine Concepts will launch its flagship namesake restaurant in the space that previously housed The VIG Uptown. The Genuine will deliver an elevated dining experience built around Chef Jeremy Pacheco’s main tool, a custom-crafted Forno Bravo wood-fired oven that will touch nearly every dish on the menu.

The VIG Uptown at 6015 N. 16th St., closed its doors in December to make way for The Genuine. A new location will be announced soon.

Located in what was originally a mid-century modern bank designed by famed architect, Ralph Haver, The Genuine will invite guest to enter via a fire-pit lounge into the main dining room, highlighted by the former bank vault, now a back bar, and a semi-open kitchen built around the massive wood-burning oven.

For more information, visit [www.genuineconcepts.us](http://www.genuineconcepts.us).



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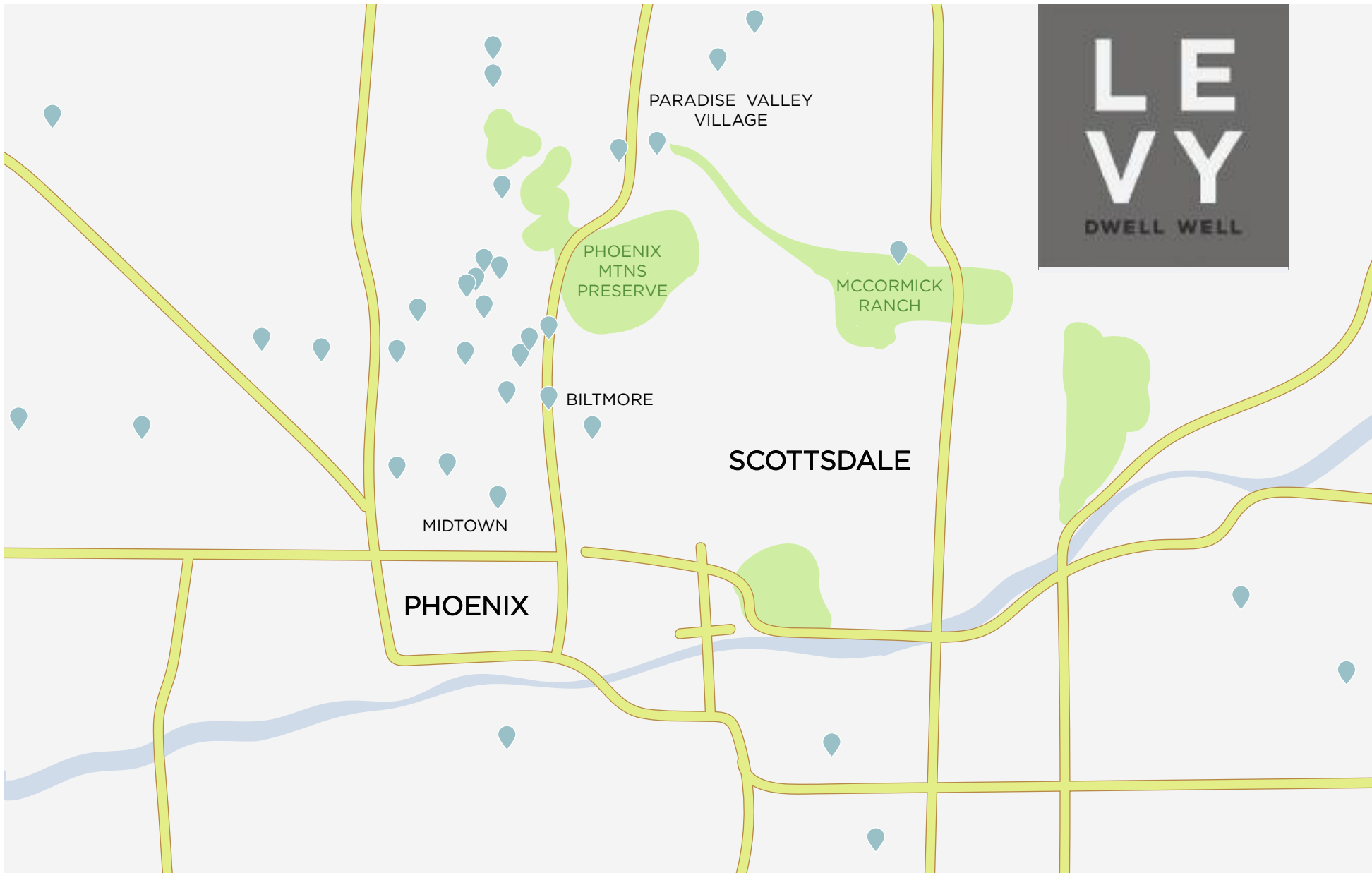
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