



north central news

the voice of the north central phoenix community since 1999

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Four ways to love your community

By Kathryn M. Miller

Research suggests that a high percentage of New Year’s resolutions barely last beyond January — with Americans averaging about 32 days before breaking their resolutions. There are ways to make lasting changes, the experts say, and part of that process is focusing on starting a behavior. Another top predictor of success? Consider a group resolution.

So, this Valentine’s month, perhaps it is time to set aside the failed resolutions and focus on starting something positive and joining forces with fellow residents to show some love for your community. Here are four ways to do that.

Focus on the greening of things.

Keep PHX Beautiful, a Keep America Beautiful affiliate founded in 1982, provides tools to empower communities through education, volunteer opportunities and community events.

All three of these aspects come together at their two community gardens — both of which are in the North Central area. Residents can participate in the beautification programs, “And we teach you how to do it at home, too,” said Terry Gellenbeck, the director of Recycling with Keep PHX Beautiful. “You could even garden in an apartment or a condo. There are ways of doing it. We can show you how to do that, even in our harsh climate.”

please see FOUR WAYS on page 8



The 15-acre lot on the west side of Central Avenue between Turney and Glenrosa avenues has the opportunity to fulfill many aspects of the Transit Oriented Uptown District Policy Plan (photo by Kathryn M. Miller)

Residents ask: Where is the walkability?

By Kathryn M. Miller

Walking around the Carnation neighborhood with residents is an eye-opening experience. As developers have jumped on the Transit Oriented Development (TOD) train and completed projects, neighbors point out way in which they say the vision of the Reinvent PHX TOD Uptown District Plan already has failed.

Reinvent PHX was established in 2015 with one main goal: To create walkable, opportunity-rich communities. Implemented to guide future development along mass transit corridors, the policy plan came with a new Walkable Urban (WU) Code, and the establishment of TOD Districts.

The Uptown District is one of seven with adopted policy plans in place — running from Indian School Road north to Missouri Avenue; 7th Street west to 15th Avenue — and the district policy plan is specific in its vision (www.phoenix.gov/pdd/tod/reinvent-phx).

But what exactly is walkability? According to Reinvent PHX, walkable places include streets that encourage walking, bicycling, public transit use, and slow-

er traffic speeds; enough people to support daily living amenities, such as grocery stores, daycare centers, health clinics, and public transit; short block patterns and a mix of uses that reduce distances to destinations; cool, shaded areas for relaxation and social interaction; public places that are free from violent crime.

Now, nearly 10 years in, is the Uptown plan living up to its promise? “Absolutely not,” say residents in the Carnation neighborhood and beyond. Residents say that the city is deferring too much to developers, and that, as the pace of approved multi-residential developments picks up, options to make the vision a reality are quickly disappearing.

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COMMUNITY

From the Editor

Love is in the air this month, but we are (mostly) skipping the romance. Instead, on the cover, we catch up with residents who love their communities, and show it by campaigning for walkable neighborhoods, collaborating with neighbors on community projects, and finding ways to connect, engage and create a better environment for all.



Two more community-loving activities for your consideration: voting and volunteering. The deadline to register to vote for the March 14 Council District 6 runoff election is Monday, Feb. 6. Visit www.phoenix.gov/cityclerk/elections. And if you want to make volunteering a part of your life, check out www.arizonan nonprofits.org/tools-resources/volunteer-center, www.handsonphoenix.org

and www.volunteermatch.org.

I also spoke with local artist Nancy Kravetz, who, at 85, is still actively painting and showing her work, and attended a surprise car giveaway at 3A Automotive. Read those stories in our Community and Taking Care of Business sections.

In Food for Thought, Marjorie Rice catches up with Gadzooks Enchiladas & Soup owner Aaron Pool as he builds his go-to enchilada and dishes on changes at the company.

Finally, you may have noticed that we launched a new website in January. As we work to make our content more accessible and provide new features, including a monthly calendar of events, we also will continue to provide you with more ways to connect online in the coming months.

In the meantime, we hope that you enjoy our February issue!

All my best,

Kathryn M. Miller

Editor, North Central News
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COMMUNITY

'Be awake to the world' Local artist inspires at 85

By Kathryn M. Miller

North Central artist Nancy Kravetz says that beauty and inspiration can be found everywhere; you just have to be open to seeing it.

Born in the picturesque seaside town of Newburyport, Massachusetts, art came into Nancy's life early and she drew inspiration from the natural beauty that surrounded her.

And as a teen, she was encouraged by a teacher to pursue art, and from 1951–1952, she poured her inspiration into oil painting and life drawing classes at the Sargent School of Painting. She continued her education in Boston for the next few years, and in 1957, she married her husband, Bob Kravetz.

The couple came to Arizona for the first time in 1961, and few years later, came back to Phoenix to stay. They settled in North Central Phoenix, where they purchased their first (and only) home in 1967.



Nancy Kravetz at age 17 (photo courtesy of the artist).

Nancy found inspiration in the desert landscapes of her adopted home state, along with some excellent teachers. In 1969, she decided to expand her artistic horizons and delve into acrylics. "At the time, acrylic paint wasn't that popular," Nancy said, "but I wanted to learn how to work with it."

She asked the owner of the art supply store on Central Avenue for a teacher recommendation, "and she directed me to Dorothy Fratt. It was a serendipitous meeting," Nancy recalled. The two-plus years she spent studying with Fratt were crucial to Nancy's artistic journey. Along with acrylics, she learned design and color theory, drawing and watercolor. She gained a teacher, mentor and friend.

"She just was the most amazing teacher, an inspiration. And it wasn't



North Central artist Nancy Kravetz works from her home studio and is still finding new artistic inspiration at age 85 (photo courtesy of the artist).

just painting lessons, it was about art in general, and what was going on in the art world."

During that time, she moved away from realistic art, gravitating toward more abstract work.

"I really wanted to try something different," Nancy said, "and I took very quickly to an abstract expression of what I was either seeing or feeling."

As the years went by, Nancy raised three boys with Bob and became involved in the community, but she always found time to learn new techniques and explore the world around her through her art, which gave her a real feeling of accomplishment.

"You start out with an idea, especially with something abstract, and then you're faced with a blank canvas... I guess it's the joy of creating something. It just gives me a lot of pleasure. And it's calming...it's frustrating also," she laughed.

Nancy still works in her studio every day producing new work. At 80, her work was shown at Shemer Art Center, then at Mayo Clinic last year. Now at 85, her artwork will be shown at The Gallery at Mountain Shadows resort beginning in mid-February with an opening reception March 1. (Visit www.nancykravetz.com.)

After nearly 70 years as a visual artist, Nancy is still trying new techniques and she encourages people of all ages to be unafraid to try new things.

"Just take new experiences!" And keep your eye open to finding inspiration in the everyday, Nancy added, even in a gorgeously colored piece of dryer lint. "Just be awake to the world and look for experiences that move you."

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COMMUNITY

WALKABILITY continued from page 1

“Carnation is in danger of becoming a high-rent district with nothing but residential apartment buildings,” said Cliff Valenti, the Development chair for the Carnation Association of Neighbors. “I strongly believe WU-Code and Uptown TOD are not being implemented in a way that will make Phoenix more walkable. It is being implemented as an incentive to maximize development intensity without providing walkable elements, or even the elements necessary to sustain a community.”

Extreme height across from single-family residential; too much density and gated apartments blocks; a lack of diversity in housing, with no affordable or ownership opportunities; no close access to healthy food; no investment in sidewalks, lighting and other basics; and a lack of built-in mixed-use component requirements — all of these things lead up to non-walkable communities, neighbors say.

One project that has the opportunity to fulfill many aspects of the Uptown plan is located on the west side of Central

Avenue between Glenrosa and Turney, and is still in the preliminary stages. The 15-acre site is being developed by Petree Properties (www.centralandglenrosa.com) and will eventually include 1,600 units. Currently, the project calls for 7,000 square feet of retail/commercial — far too little, say residents.

Petree cites ample available commercial in the Downtown Phoenix Retail Submarket, which encompasses Uptown. Their project will be built in four parcel phases over 10 to 12 years, and they will continuously monitor retail space, they say.

“If it appears that we would have success in leasing a larger amount of retail space, then we will build it,” said Eric Kenney, CEO of Petree.

But residents point to the language of the Uptown plan. By 2040, the plan’s “Community Vision” calls for Central Avenue to be “lined with mixed use, live-work, and creatively reused buildings that contain cafés, small retail stores, and restaurants on the ground floor, with offices and apartments above.”

Another concern for the Glenrosa development, extreme height across the street from single-family residential.

One parcel calls for a 70’ structure across from homes on Glenrosa (between 1st and 2nd Ave.), another, a 22-story, 240-foot tower at the northwest corner of Central and Glenrosa (which is the height of the City Square tower at 2nd Avenue and Clarendon).

The Carnation neighborhood is far more concerned about the height across from existing residential than along Central Avenue; however, according to the plan’s 2040 vision, “Buildings that have been constructed over the past two decades have been generally 3 to 5 stories and are compatible with adjacent neighborhoods,” and the area around Steele Indian School Park is “home to healthy lifestyles and affordable residences... Families of all incomes live in mixed-income apartments, some in buildings up to 15 stories, which were constructed to meet the high demand for housing in the District and architects designed thoughtful height transitions adjacent to existing neighborhoods.”

The current zoning for this site (in place before the TOD/WU Code) would allow for up to 500-foot-tall commercial structures, the developer

points out, and their proposed height matches the requested zoning. But if more compatible heights and mixed-use elements are called for in the plan, residents again ask, why is the Planning Department not holding developers to this vision from the start?

Neighbors also firmly state that they are not anti-development. They understand the need for more housing, but they feel that the development should be holistic, taking into consideration the existing neighborhood, and how it will function after the housing is built. Their view is very much in line with the spirit of Uptown District Plan.

The lack of mixed-use in developments is a concern of residents elsewhere in the Uptown District, including the proposed Magnolia Camelback on the northeast corner of 7th Avenue and Camelback. The 4-story multifamily community will include 249 units, with no mixed-use elements. The project was approved by the Alhambra Village Planning Committee Dec. 20 and by the Planning Commission Jan. 5. An appeal to that approval, citing non-walkable aspects and lack of

please see WALKABILITY on page 12



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North Central Is A True Luxury Home Neighborhood

My dad moved to Central Phoenix in 1964 and once I graduated from Coastal Carolina University, located in South Carolina, I moved to North Central. It was 1978 and I came to work for my dad at the Jockey Club nightclub at 20th St and Highland (now a parking lot, but it was east of Ed Debevis, a Big Four Restaurant) for 7 years. We sold it in 1985 and reopened another Jockey Club at Uptown Plaza (Central and Camelback, Uptown Plaza) in 1987. A few years later, I begin selling residential real estate in 1991.

Many of the luxury realtors, who sold in Arcadia, Paradise Valley and Scottsdale, did not consider North Central as a community that would offer luxury homes. Their focus was on their specific areas east of the Central Corridor. I mainly focused and marketed in our area believing it was the best area in the valley.

Thirty years ago, there were not many million-dollar home sales and even through the early 2000s, I was sure it would only be a matter of time. Our kids attended All Saints' Episcopal Day School, Brophy College Prep and Xavier College Prep and I had coached my kids in RAMMS for many years. I was also a board member for RAMMS and specialized in raising money for team sponsorships. When I look back, we were both very busy, burning the candle from the inside out.

I listed and sold 7110 N. Central Ave. for the first time in 1996 for \$3.2 million (I have had the pleasure of selling this home three times). An appraiser had to use comps from Arcadia and Paradise Valley because, at that time, the highest home sale in Central Phoenix, was around \$1.65 million. The multiple million-dollar home sales really did not start happening until after 2010 and gradually we started seeing more and more. I really owe a lot to North Central News, the newspaper. I felt the paper allowed exposure for our real estate market within our area as well as the rest of the valley. It is the reason I continue to advertise, publishing 3-4 pages every month and have been since 1999.

In 2021, I sold 6035 N. Central Ave. for \$3.5 million and, again, this was the highest sale ever in North Central. This time there was no appraisal issues as the buyers paid cash for their home. I was lucky enough to sell 26 homes, each over a million dollars in 2021 (five were over \$2 million). In 2022,

I sold 26 homes over a million dollars and five sales were over \$2 million.

This past month, we closed 6811 N. Central Ave., for my North Central clients/buyers, for \$2.4 million. Also, my clients offered their home at 35 E. Myrtle Avenue for \$2.2 million, currently in escrow. We listed the estate located at 620 W. Lawrence Road. This is the highest-priced home ever offered in North Central at \$4.5 million (living square footage is over 10,000 square feet and situated on a 1.8 acre lot). It is currently in escrow. The family moving to the estate, is coming from our North Central neighborhood

It is safe to say that our North Central community is undeniably an incredible place to live with excellent public and private schools, some of the best variety of restaurants and retail stores, easy access to all areas of town and the best residents in all of Maricopa County and offers a multitude of homes, including but not limited to, luxury homes.

Thank you to all, for your support the past 32 years. It is my privilege and honor to represent you in the selling and buying of your home. I specialize in our area, and will work to sell or help you buy, regardless of your listing price. Whether you have a condo or a luxury home, please consider me as your realtor.

We do have the best realtors in the Valley working in our North Central community. We share in continued education and meet twice monthly for our North Central tours, where we work together to promote and provide feedback among our respected agents. I celebrate the camaraderie and overall goal to provide exceptional service to our clients in our neighborhood.

Hope every day is Valentine's Day in the month of February.

Bobby Lieb

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COMMUNITY

FOUR WAYS *continued from page 1*

But Gellenbeck's main focus is the Three Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

"It's usually in that order," he said "They're all important; we've got to do all three."

But it all starts with reduction, "Try to reuse a grocery bag, instead of taking plastic ones. That reduces the amount of waste that you create. Buying only the amount of food that you're going to eat; hazardous waste, like paint, don't buy more than what you need."

For information on ways to achieve all Three Rs or to find an I Recycle PHX event, visit www.keepphxbeautiful.org.

Connect at the library.

The Phoenix Public Library system achieves its mission to "connect today's community to a world of possibilities" through its 17 branches throughout the city, and four affiliate libraries in Central Phoenix. And as Florence Foster, a librarian at the Acacia Branch Library, said, "Libraries are more than a place to get your next great read. We are so much more than that."

Residents can take advantage of programs such as Culture Pass, Seed Library, Interlibrary loans, free public Wi-Fi, Kids Café and an extensive eLibrary.

"The connections that I see patrons make when they visit our branch continues to be my favorite thing about libraries," added Foster. "It is those human interactions and connections that make my work fulfilling. It can be looking up a list of books written by a favorite author, it can be a conversation for reading recommendations, it can be a conversation with a young patron about her shoes, it can be being schooled by a young patron that Chichen Itza is a place in Yucatan, Mexico, or the sense of fellowship and community that is palpable when one attends a craft program or a book club." The flagship Burton Barr Central Library is open seven days a week; others are open Monday through Saturday. Call 602-262-4636 or visit www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org for information.

Attend city meetings.

Phoenix is not only the fifth largest in the country, it is one of the fastest growing cities, which can make it challenging to keep up on issues impacting neighborhoods. Residents who would

like to engage with their city are encouraged to attend a City Council meeting.

Attending meetings in the middle of the day might be challenging for many but all Council and subcommittee meetings are broadcast live and recorded. They can be viewed online at www.youtube.com/user/cityofphoenix-az. For meeting agendas and information, visit www.phoenix.gov/cityclerk/publicmeetings/city-council-meetings.

Those who are interested in learning more about housing or commercial developments in their immediate neighborhoods can attend a Village Planning Committee (VPC) meeting. The City of Phoenix is divided into 15 urban villages, each with a VPC. City staff also frequently update the VPC on neighborhood and city-wide initiatives at these meetings. Learn more at www.phoenix.gov/villages.

Meet your neighbors, then do some good.

One of the best ways to help find solutions to issues impacting neighborhoods is to join forces with other neighbors.

Sunnyslope's PHX LUV Neighborhood Association & Block Watch (www.phxluv.com) is just one of hundreds of groups across the city who are, in their words, "focused on helping make the world around us a better, happier place."

Stacia Hurst, founder of PHX LUV, says that one of the biggest benefits of neighborhood groups is "how it changes the neighborhood. People are getting out of houses and they're meeting each other."

"LUV" stands for Leadership, Unity, Volunteerism, she said. "These three values really drive our stewardship roles as we collaborate with other groups and find ways to give back to the community."

To find a neighborhood organization, a good place to start is the Neighborhood Services Department. Through Neighborhood Notification, the city provides information directly to organizations about public initiatives and meetings and obtains community input on projects that may impact their neighborhoods. Visit <https://www.phoenix.gov/nsd>.

"There's no reason to not get involved," Hurst added. "Everybody's got good ideas. And that's what it takes — neighbors working together to find some new ideas. Start something together...you've got to start somewhere."

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COMMUNITY

Celebrate Melrose at annual Street Fair

The Melrose 7th Avenue Street Fair is a one-day event that spans over a half mile in the heart of Phoenix's Melrose District. The 2023 event celebrates the Seventh Avenue Merchants Association's 22nd year and the 20th Street Fair. It is scheduled for Saturday, March 4, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

More than 25,000 community enthusiasts attended the event last year. The Street Fair runs along 7th Avenue from Indian School to Camelback Road. It is free to the public and features over 200 local and independent artisans, food trucks, live music, a farmers' market, kid's activities and craft beer garden. All of this including the local businesses along 7th Avenue. Patrons can also enjoy the ever-popular Chester's Classic Car Show, which welcomes over 200 classic, antique and vintage cars, truck and hot-rods.

The Seventh Avenue Merchants Association (SAMA) is a nonprofit organization established to further the unique character and assets of the

Melrose Curve to facilitate safety, community, revitalization and beautification.

For more event information, visit www.melrosemerchantsassociation.com.

Enjoy an evening of stargazing

The North Mountain Visitor Center invites residents to an evening of stargazing and planet gazing.

Resident Jeff Geyer will have his telescope set up in the parking lot Friday, Feb. 3, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. During this time, residents can stop by and view stars and planets. The whole family is invited to take a close-up view of the wonders of the sky.

Those who have a telescope and would like to set theirs up as well are invited to do so.

This is a free community event; however, donations to the Save Our Mountains Foundation (<https://saveourmountains.org>) will be accepted during the event, with the proceeds go toward the operation of the North Mountain Visitor Center. In case of inclement weather or cloudy skies, the event will be rescheduled.

North Mountain Visitor Center is located at 12950 N. 7th St., Phoenix. For more information, call 602-343-5125 or visit <https://northmountain-visitorcenter.org>.

Faith Lutheran announces new pastors

North Central's Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church (Faith-La Fe) is now served by a new team of pastors.

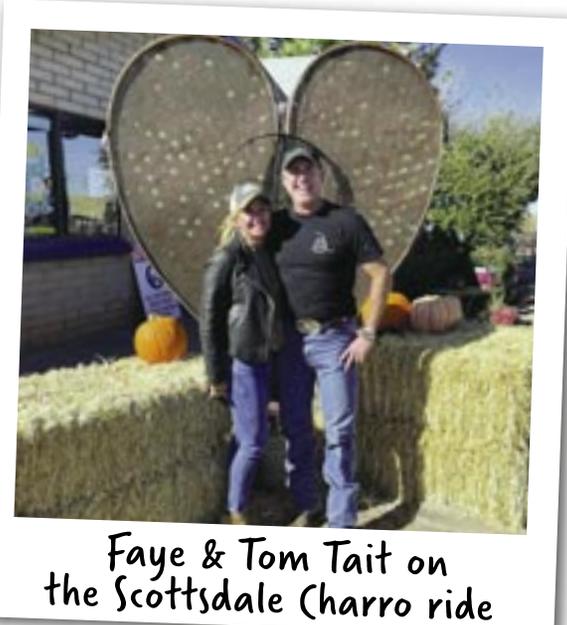
Rev. Jonathan Linman comes to Phoenix from the East Coast where he served for three decades in various capacities as pastor of congregations, seminary professor, and a bishop's assistant, most recently in New York City, and the Washington, DC area. Rev. Veronica Alvarez has made Phoenix her home for a number of years and engaged in part of her training to become a pastor at Faith-La Fe. Together, they serve as a team to lead the English-speaking members of the congregation who worship at 9 a.m. on Sundays and the Spanish-speaking members who worship at 11 a.m.

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church is located at 801 E. Camelback Rd. For additional information, call 602-265-3394 or visit www.faithalive.com.

Thinking about selling while prices are still high?

Here are some inexpensive ways to get your home ready to sell:

1. Power-wash the outside of your home and clean the inside and outside of all the windows.
2. Freshen up your flower beds with geraniums & petunias for spring & buy a new front door mat.
3. Update your current kitchen with new hardware (knobs) for the kitchen cabinets.
4. Declutter your house by donating books, furniture, lamps and sports equipment to the Junior League Rummage Sale 2/25/23. Please visit jlp.org for more details.
5. Paint the front door and touch up scuffed walls and baseboards.
6. Replace old kitchen and bathroom faucet.



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In my high school days, I was fortunate enough to become friends with **Greg Cole**. Back then I was a little wild and not always prone to make the best decisions. Many weekend nights I slept on the couch at his parents' house.

Joe and Marianne Cole took a liking to me for some reason, and **treated me like a second son**. When Joe passed over the recent holiday season, it reminded me of his profound impact on my life. His ability to influence without the need to be the loudest voice in the room was powerful. His actions taught me how to listen, to discern information, to be empathetic and be open to new ideas. **He had a quiet but effective sense of humor, and his off-the-charts intellect always left me wanting to know more.**

Thank you, Joe and Marianne, for all your support and guidance through these years. **Joe, I will miss you.**

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What paper did Joe Cole start his journalism career at?

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* Source of data: ARMLS & The Cromford Report for single-family dwellings.

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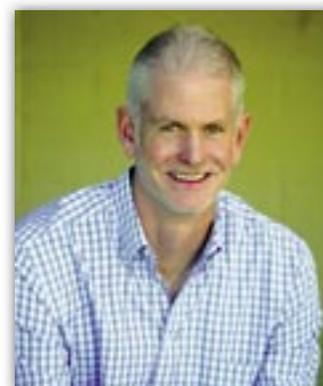
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COMMUNITY

WALKABILITY continued from page 6

a mixed-use, was filed and is scheduled to be heard by Council Feb. 1.

While this development has commercial and retail on all adjacent corners, as well as opportunity for future development, says Joshua Bednarek, acting assistant director of the City of Phoenix Planning & Development Department's Planning Division, residents point to the next-door Broadstone on Camelback, with 284 units and no mixed-use elements, as another failure of too much density, bringing in too many vehicles and further creating unwalkable neighborhoods.

The concern, if projects are approved now, the opportunity to meet the plan will disappear, leaving them with an unwalkable, unsustainable neighborhood.

Other neighborhoods are equally concerned and the issue of walkability goes beyond identified TOD areas. At a Dec. 6 Camelback East Village Planning Committee meeting discussing a project just north of the Gateway District TOD, committee member Christina Eichelkraut spoke about the need for walkability in general.

"For many of us, walking is not a luxury," she said. "It is not a perk. It is not a neat feature of where you live. It is a necessity. So, having useful development that is walkable is key, and it also speaks to the dignity of where you live."

In a follow-up conversation, Eichelkraut elaborated, "Is mere proximity to transit really 'supporting' an initiative that ostensibly aims to create a more walkable urban landscape? Does the utility and practical use of the development really not matter? Just be near a bus stop or the light rail and we're good?"

Valenti added, "My ultimate hope is that Planning and City Council start scrutinizing these projects more in the short term, then revise WU-Code so it imposes a menu of requirements upon developers in exchange for the tremendous benefit this city has given them through this zoning code."

There have been some "wins" in implementing the Uptown plan, says Bednarek, specifically with the amount of housing projects that have been approved.

"You could point to some real gains in attempting to address the Uptown policy plan's housing needs," Bednarek said. "Those projects also have been coupled with some really great design

standards on the ground floor."

He also pointed to stipulations for a direct paseo connection into Steele Indian School Park within "The Central Park" development at the northeast corner of Indian School and Central (a project that is currently stalled), and the activation of the canal and Grand Canalscape improvements, both big wins for Uptown.

"It's a long-term plan, and we still have a way to go and we are finding new ways in which we can look to partner with the community and developers to help implement the vision."

He added, "I would encourage folks if they want to talk through what they're seeing, what they're not seeing, how to participate in the process, what we can and cannot do under rezoning case, don't hesitate to reach out. We're here to help and want to be great stewards of this area for them and for the rest of the community."

At the end of the day, Uptown neighbors want city leadership, in this case District 4 Councilwoman Laura Pastor, to hear their concerns and take action before more projects are approved and viable options are gone.

The neighbors have asked Pastor to follow through on a promised Uptown Development Town Hall. While Carnation representatives did meet with Pastor and Bednarek in mid-January to discuss area development issues, a date for the town hall has not yet been set, but is in the works.

"I don't have a specific date in mind, but that's going to come together relatively soon, I think in the next couple of weeks," Bednarek said.

The sooner the city takes action to bring about the promise the Uptown Plan's TOD, the better, neighbors say.

"Without Laura Pastor taking initiative and making it happen, it will never happen," said Carnation neighbor Jeremy Thacker. "It's happening from the developer's perspective, but from the community's perspective, they're not delivering what was promised to make it a livable area."

The city of Phoenix has an Uptown policy plan in place, created in good faith with the community. It remains to be seen whether they will find a way to work with community and developers to fully realize that vision.

But the neighbors are hopeful that their combined voices will be heard, and Thacker added, "Where there is a will there is a way."

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County connects residents to resources

The Maricopa County Public Health Department has compiled a list of 1,500 resources that provides residents with access to low and no cost services.

With information on everything from housing, utilities, parenting, healthcare, mental health, dental, food, clothing, transportation, domestic violence, legal services and much more, the website offers a one-stop resource for residents looking for sustenance.

For information, visit www.findhelp-phx.org.

Lura Turner to host High Tea fundraiser

Lura Turner Homes will host “A Harvey Girls High Tea” March 4. The organization’s biggest fundraiser of the year, this year’s high tea will pay homage to the spirit of the Harvey Girls, with the hopes that former Girls from the Winslow Chapter will be able to be in attendance at the event. Given that most of these women are in their 80s and 90s, their attendance has not yet been confirmed, however.

According to the Arizona Memory Project website, entrepreneur Fred Harvey opened a series of eating houses along the Santa Fe Railway, the Harvey Houses, which evolved into America’s first restaurant chain. The company operated from 1876 through the 1960s and introduced innovations such as the refinement of dining in the West and the widespread employment of women

known as “Harvey Girls.” Winslow, Arizona, boasted three Harvey Houses, including La Posada Hotel.

Traditional Harvey Girl uniforms were considered too severe for the hotel’s southwestern setting, the Memory Project said, so colorful appliquéd aprons were introduced during World War II. Over the years, many Winslow Harvey Girls left service to marry local railroaders, ranchers, and businessmen and settle in town, where generations of their descendants still reside.

Lura Turner Homes’ mission is to provide adults with disabilities a safe, enriching, loving family environment with the purpose of ensuring their health, happiness, security, and the fulfillment of their highest potential. The 2023 High Tea fundraiser will assist the organization in that mission.

Visit www.luraturnerhomes.org to learn more about the organization and find event details.

It’s Girl Scout Cookie season!

The Girl Scout Cookie Program is underway in Arizona. The program kicked off Jan. 16 in central and northern Arizona, and this year it is not only bigger and better than ever, says Girl Scouts–Arizona Cactus-Pine Council (GSACPC), but longer as well. For the first time in the history of GSACPC, the local cookie season will take place for seven full weeks, from Jan. 16 to March 5.

Visit www.girlscoutsaz.org/cookiefinder to find a cookie booth near you.

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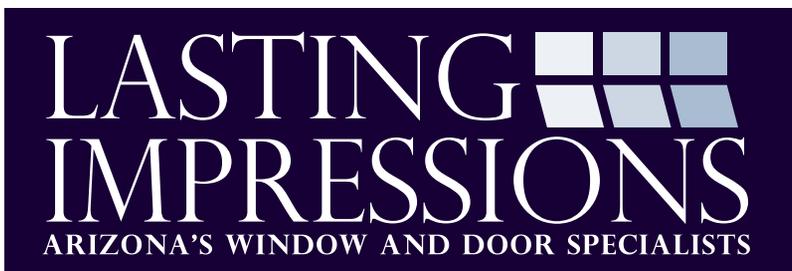
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COMMUNITY

Discover Willo at annual tour

Residents are once again invited to take a stroll through history as the annual Willo Home Tour & Street Fair returns to the iconic neighborhood Feb. 18–19. The 2023, and 34th annual, event will feature beautifully restored historic homes and gardens, as well as a street fair.

During the Saturday Twilight Home Tour and Sunday morning tour, residents will have the opportunity to tour historic homes representing a variety of architectural styles and eras. Guests will be given a map showing where the homes are located and then may visit them in any order. When inside the homes, homeowners may be available to answer questions but there is not a guided tour.

On Sunday, in addition to the home tour, there will be a street fair, featuring local vendors and winding down Monte Vista Road and Holly Street, along with the Antique Car Show on Holly. The Street Fair opens at 9 a.m. and will include live music,



One of the 2022 tour homes was this house, which was built in 1929 as an English Tudor Revival cottage. The brick walls and the steeply pitched gable roof are remnants of the original house (photo courtesy of Willo Historic Neighborhood).

food trucks and a beer and wine garden. Parking is available at the parking garage located at 1st Avenue and Holly. Visitors also may park in any available location within the neighborhood. Trolleys will run continuously throughout the day, and guests are welcome to

hop on and off at their convenience.

Tickets are \$25 each day (children aged 12 and under attend for free) and may be purchased online or the day of the event at Walton Park, 301 W. Holly St.

For updates on the tour, visit www.willophx.com/home-tour.

Get ready to planPHX

The City of Phoenix is embarking on the 2025 update of the Phoenix General Plan and is looking to the community to help shape it.

The General Plan, planPHX, is the long-range guide for designing the city's future. It addresses a wide array of issues including energy, housing, equity, sustainability, neighborhoods, public facilities, natural resources, transportation and land use.

Arizona law requires that the City's General Plan be updated and/or re-adopted and approved by voters every 10 years. At its Jan. 10 Policy meeting, the council unanimously approved the Public Participation Plan, and opportunities for continuous public participation in the update process will be provided through December 2023.

City leadership emphasized that success of the update depends on public input. The updated General Plan is expected to go to voters on the November 2024 ballot. For updates, visit www.phoenix.gov/pdd/generalplan2025.

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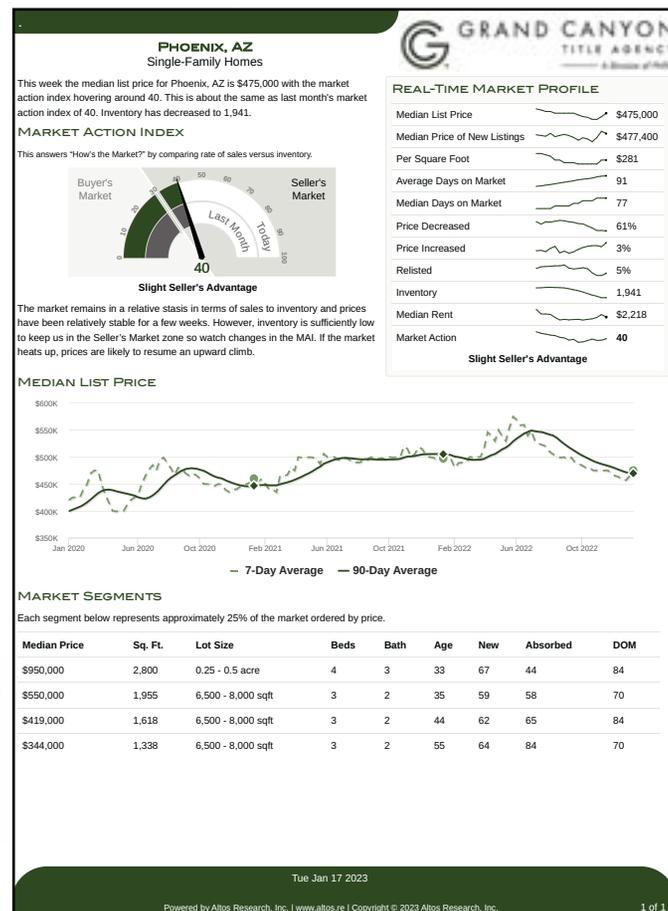
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COMMUNITY



The nine-week-old Elliot is an energetic furball ready to find her forever family (photo courtesy of Arizona Humane Society).

Pet of the Month

Meet Elliot: an energetic torbie

Kitten season is around the corner for most of the Southwest, especially in Arizona. With such acclimate weather perfect for feline breeding, the Arizona Humane Society (AHS) will soon be welcoming thousands of sick, injured and abused kittens, a majority of them being orphaned and underage with nowhere else to go.

Although born after the usual season for kittens, Elliot and her littermate were brought to AHS in December as underaged, orphaned kittens by a Good Samaritan. Weighing less than a pound but, overall, relatively healthy, this sweet baby went right into a Foster Hero home with an AHS employee where she was given the care that her mother normally would provide. This included regular feedings, weighing to ensure she was getting enough/not too much food and stimulation to help her go to the bathroom.

Now that she is nine weeks old and big enough for her spay surgery, the sweet domestic shorthair torbie is ready for her forever family. Extremely loving and tolerant of all handling, Elliot's story is a perfect example of why AHS works to care for tiny patients like her that most other shelters are unable to and how important fostering is when it comes to giving these fragile kittens a second chance at a great life.

Interested adopters can meet energetic Elliot (animal number 720306) at the Arizona Humane Society's PetSmart Scottsdale location in Old Town. Her adoption fee includes her spay surgery, current vaccinations, a microchip and a free follow-up wellness exam with a VCA Animal Hospital.

Visit www.azhumane.org/adopt to choose one of three convenient ways to adopt.

Fundraiser to benefit rescue

Mane Attraction Salon is joining forces with PACC911 for the 23rd Annual Beauty to the RESCUE.

PACC911 brings together the many animal welfare organizations throughout Arizona, providing four key resources: large outdoor adoption events, ongoing fundraising, educational outreach, and medical assistance to soften the high-cost veterinary care.

The fun, festive and pet-friendly fundraiser will be held Sunday, Feb. 26, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the salon. During the event, the salon will be open and offering select services for a minimum donation, a raffle, boutique vendors and adoptable animals. Proceeds from the salon services, raffle and silent auction, along with a percentage of vendor sales, will go directly to PACC911's Critical Care Program.

Mane Attraction Salon is located at 3156 E. Camelback Road. For event details and to purchase raffle tickets, visit www.maneattractionsalon.com/beauty-to-the-rescue. For additional information, call 602-956-2996.



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TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS



As part of their 2022 Turbo Boost Car Giveaway, Nadine and Jimmy Alauria of 3A Automotive & Diesel surprised community member Nate Catlin with a mechanically restored Toyota Avalon (photo by Kathryn M. Miller).

Local business honors deserving resident

By Kathryn M. Miller

In December, Sunnyslope's 3A Automotive & Diesel put out a call for nominations — they were looking for

“someone who works hard, helps others and could really use a boost of a more reliable car.” The nominations were for the company's 2022 Turbo Boost Car Giveaway, and the nominated resident would receive a mechanically restored Toyota Avalon.

This isn't the first time that 3A has given back to the community in this way. The family-owned and operated business, which was established in Sunnyslope in 1975 by “Big Jim” Alauria, began the car giveaway about eight years ago. In 2018, the company wanted a new way to help support their community.

“In 2018, we asked for a different type of nomination; [someone] who not only needs a car (or more reliable car), but someone who also works hard, helps others and could use the boost of a more reliable vehicle to help them further the good they do in their community,” said Nadine Alauria prior to the event. She and her husband, Jimmy, represent the second generation of 3A ownership.

After a couple of timing delays, the business was finally able to make the surprise announcement on Jan. 5, joined by dozens of community members, including District 3 Councilwoman Debra Stark, Washington Elementary School District representatives, including superintendent Dr. Paul Stanton, a host of Phoenix Police officers, local neighborhood group representatives, 3A employees and friends, family and coworkers of the winner.

The company kicked off the com-

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TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

munity event with grilled burgers at 11 a.m. At noon, it was time to announce the winner, and Jimmy provided some background on the process.

“One of the things that’s amazing about this process is you hear some really amazing stories about great people; you hear some heart wrenching stories about people who are really struggling. You know cars are, let’s face it, they’re expensive... we know that this is something that can really help somebody that’s in need,” he said.

Nadine then told the crowd that the winner had been nominated by several people and called by one co-worker, “one of the hardest working people she’s ever met.”

“We were just really moved by their work ethic and several of the people who nominated him said that he was very caring, kind and obviously very passionate about their profession and we were very moved by that,” Nadine added.

With that, the business owners announced Nate Catlin, a paraprofessional at Mountain View School, as the winner of the 2022 giveaway. The surprise and delight on the face of Catlin

was heartwarming, as was the excitement of his family and co-workers. His mom and sister work at the same school and were able to help coordinate the surprise.

Catlin has worked at the Sunnyslope school since graduating from high school five years ago, “a feat in itself these days in many professions, but especially in the teaching profession with everything teachers have dealt with these past few years with COVID,” Nadine told us prior to the announcement.

“Nate is a stellar individual who works hard and takes pride in his profession and helping his students,” she said. “He doesn’t miss work, even though he relies on family and friends to give him a ride to and from work. He often has to stay much later after school to get a ride home.”

For his part, Catlin was a little overwhelmed by the moment, “I’m not really sure what to say. I really appreciate it...it’s really hard to believe. Thank you, I’m going to drive this as soon as possible!”

At that point, the 3A manager

brought out the keys and Catlin, all smiles, got behind the wheel and started his new car for the first time.

Business Briefs

ONE Community offers business assistance

In an effort to assist LGBTQ+ owned, and LGBTQ+ inclusive businesses and organizations in Maricopa, Coconino, Pima and Yavapai counties, ONE Community offers grant funded technical assistance, training and mentoring as part of the AZNavigator team.

AZNavigator, the organization says, is a team of 10 organizations working together across Arizona to improve quality and access to small business support services. From startups to established businesses, the team of experts can help stabilize, reinvent, or scale companies in the following areas: connectivity and support for LGBTQ+ workers, employers, entrepreneurs; advocacy; marketing; inclusivity training; and socially responsible business advocacy.

ONE Community can connect business owners with partner organiza-

tions on the team to help them with many other small business needs including financial support, website development and veterans’ services.

“From startups to established businesses, our team of experts can help stabilize, reinvent, or scale your company,” the advocacy organization said in a released statement.

For additional information, click on AZNavigator under the “Programs” link at www.onecommunity.com.

Chamber announces legislative priorities

In January, the Greater Phoenix Chamber announces its legislative priorities for the First Regular Session of Arizona’s 56th Legislature. This session, the Chamber is advocating for enhanced workforce opportunities, a new plan for the extension of Prop 400 and a structurally sound balanced budget.

“The Greater Phoenix Chamber’s 2023 legislative agenda reflects the priorities of our members — first and foremost, we want to ensure that businesses have the tools they need to navi-

please see PRIORITIES on page 20

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TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

PRIORITIES continued from page 19

gate through the current economic challenges,” said Mike Huckins, vice president of public affairs for the Chamber. “The Chamber’s utmost goal is to advocate and prioritize policies this session that will put Arizona in the spotlight as a leader in national and global economies.”

Serving as a voice for 2,400 member businesses at each level of government, the Chamber’s public affairs team looks forward to advocating for pro-business and pro-growth policies on behalf of its membership.

For more information on the Chamber’s legislative priorities, review the 2023 Public Policy Guide. Visit www.phoenixchamber.com.

Career coaching event scheduled

Career Connectors will host a live Zoom presentation, “See Me, Hear Me, Love Me, Hire Me,” Thursday, Feb. 9, from 9 to 11:30 a.m.

Presented by Bridgett McGowen, the high-energy session will help job seekers

find out what it is employers want in today’s competitive professional environment and how they can communicate “with every word you say and with every move you make so they can see you, hear you, love you, and hire you.”

In addition, presenter Dori Gilbert will join the event to discuss “How to Revitalize Your Career Path.” For those who are changing careers, industries, or feeling stuck in their current situation, this review of five career vitals will help participants recognize when they are energized or fatigued and tips on how to revitalize them.

For details or to register, visit <https://app.careerconnectors.org/ccfeb2023>.

Hickman elected chair of county board

In January, Clint Hickman took the gavel again, for the third time, in Maricopa County. The longest current-serving member of the Board of Supervisors was elected chairman by his colleagues. He represents District 4.

At the “Passing of the Gavel” ceremony Jan. 11, Hickman said he wants to

focus on what the county can do to “meet the demands of a new economy where affordable housing is tough to come by and skilled workers are in high demand.”

“Since 2020, this Board has invested tens of millions of dollars in long-term infrastructure, particularly affordable housing,” said Hickman, “In 2023, many of those infrastructure projects will be completed and available to residents. This is great news for folks in need now, and it’s essential for future quality of life in our region.”

Hickman also said he’d like to see more focus on job training programs such as those run by the county’s workforce development team. In 2022, Maricopa County devoted \$14.5 million to job training efforts. He also noted increased homelessness and a taxed regional water supply as two priorities, but emphasized they require cooperation and commitment at all levels of government. He spoke at length about the problem of fentanyl and the need to hold those bringing the deadly drug into the community accountable.

Learn more at <https://www.maricopa.gov/224/board-of-supervisors>.

Housing trade group announces new officers

In January, the statewide trade group for the apartment industry, Arizona Multihousing Association (AMA), announced the election of its 2023 officers.

AMA’s 2023 board chair is Linda Coburn with NexMetro Development. She is joined by Lisa Rosenfeld, vice chair, HSL Asset Management; Adam Greco, treasurer, Mark-Taylor Residential; Stacy Hogue, secretary, Greystar Real Estate; Scott Hines, immediate past chair, PEM Real Estate Group; Michelle Howland, IPC executive, Blue Steel Security Services; and Mark Zinman, ex-officio legal, Zona Law Group.

“With more than 100,000 new residents moving into the state each year, our industry will continue to be an economic engine,” Coburn said. “That translates to more than 1 million new Arizonans this decade, and about 10,000 new apartments each year to meet the rising demand for housing.”

Learn more at www.azmultihousing.org.

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35 E Myrtle Ave	In Escrow	5196SF	4BR/5BA	\$2,200,000
910 E Kaler Dr	Just Listed	4205SF	4BR/4.5BA	\$1,500,000
5576 N 12th St	Just Listed	2326SF	3BR/2.5BA	\$ 799,500
30111 N 166th Pl		3350SF	5BR/3.5BA	\$ 749,000
1516 W Glenn Dr	New Price	2021SF	3BR/2BA	\$ 599,500
1400 E Bethany Home Rd #29	New Price	1756SF	2BR/2.5BA	\$ 599,000
1222 E Wagon Wheel Dr	Just Listed	1540SF	3BR/2BA	\$ 545,000
106 E Echo Ln	In Escrow	1503SF	2BR/1.75BA	\$ 499,500
2233 E Sheridan St		2262SF	4BR/3BA	\$ 485,000
5220 N 16th Ln	In Escrow	2004SF	4BR/3BA	\$ 424,900
1001 W Solcito Ln	In Escrow	1765SF	3BR/2BA	\$ 399,900
16182 W Winslow Dr	Just Listed	1588SF	3BR/2BA	\$ 399,500

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800 E Circle Dr	\$2,500,000
7020 N 21st St	\$2,450,000
1527 W Caribbean Ln	\$2,000,000
3120 E Coolidge St	\$1,990,000
7011 N Wilder Rd	\$1,745,000
1 E Northview Ave	\$1,700,000
526 E Tuckey Ln	\$1,575,000
3229 E Sells Dr	\$1,525,000
205 W Lawrence Rd	\$1,362,000
5112 N 34th Pl	\$1,300,000
3436 N 38th Pl	\$1,299,500
7588 E Via Dona Rd*	\$1,275,000
640 E Echo	\$1,266,500
18005 N 65th Pl	\$1,225,000
10 E Cactus Wren Dr	\$1,225,000
2016 E State Ave	\$1,200,000
613 E Vista Ave*	\$1,200,000
901 W Wagon Wheel Dr	\$1,200,000
202 E Kaler Dr	\$1,195,000
1545 E Northern Ave	\$1,070,000
8989 E Gainey Center Dr #228	\$1,063,325
1025 E Morten Ave*	\$1,050,000
8902 E Rusty Spur Pl	\$1,050,000

9411 N 13th Way	\$1,150,000
7247 N 6th Pl*	\$1,040,000
1825 E Cinnabar Ave**	\$ 989,000
1146 W Royal Palm Rd*	\$ 980,000
1324 E Lupine Ave	\$ 975,000
42 E Marlette Ave	\$ 970,000
121 E Claremont St*	\$ 935,000
132 E Tuckey Ln	\$ 925,000
10251 N Central Ave	\$ 915,000
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1033 E Kaler Dr	\$ 899,000
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4128 E Sunnyside Dr	\$ 825,000
77 E Missouri Ave #67	\$ 815,000
7536 N 10th St	\$ 810,000
800 W Bethany Home Rd	\$ 800,000
8058 E Via Del Desierto	\$ 775,000
7549 N 16th Dr	\$ 740,000
6614 N 19th St	\$ 725,000
534 E El Camino Dr	\$ 720,300
8123 N 13th Way	\$ 699,000
4735 E Sleepy Ranch Rd	\$ 690,000
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2316 E Desert Cove	\$ 630,000
1415 E Flower St	\$ 616,000
1102 E Vista Ave	\$ 606,000
8039 N 10th Ave	\$ 600,000
1105 E Wagon Wheel Dr*	\$ 600,000
7321 N 11th Pl	\$ 575,000
8124 E Whitton Ave	\$ 570,000

1110 E Orangewood Ave	\$ 565,000
5302 N La Plaza Cr	\$ 565,000
3401 W Taro Ln	\$ 550,000
1106 E Wagon Wheel Dr	\$ 549,000
6532 N 16th Dr	\$ 530,000
77 E Missouri Ave #17	\$ 520,000
1527 E Hudson Dr	\$ 519,000
700 W Northern Ave	\$ 510,000
804 E Corte Oro Dr	\$ 494,000
1124 E Rose Ln #21**	\$ 485,000
6357 S Blake St	\$ 480,000
1241 E Kaler Dr	\$ 475,000
903 W Glendale Ave #3	\$ 465,000
2340 E Turney Ave	\$ 450,000
8850 S Grandview**	\$ 449,000
7526 N 10th Pl	\$ 440,000
605 E Royal Palm Square	\$ 435,000
6125 N Central Ave #5	\$ 435,000
7321 N 11th Pl	\$ 425,000
8125 N Central Ave #18	\$ 425,000
914 E Osborn Rd #205	\$ 425,000
6223 N 12th St #13	\$ 422,000
1507 E Pinchot Ave	\$ 403,000
2531 S 156th Ave	\$ 378,000
5816 N 64th Dr	\$ 342,000
750 E Northern Ave #1089*	\$ 310,000
7640 N Dreamy Draw #3	\$ 299,000
1263A E Maryland Ave	\$ 255,000

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1222 E Wagon Wheel Dr • \$545,000



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SCHOOL DAYS

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Students in Madison Highland Prep’s Introduction to Engineering class engage in activities, projects, and problem-based learning, which provides hands-on classroom experiences — in this case, building and testing launchers (photo courtesy of MHP).

MHP program offers focus on STEM

In January, Introduction to Engineering students at Madison Highland Prep (MHP) tested launchers to see how far they could launch.

MHP integrates its Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) curriculum program through embedded projects. In support of the STEM program, the school has partnered with Project Lead the Way (PLTW) in exposing its students to the STEM curriculum. The PLTW program engages students in activities, projects, and problem-based learning, which provides hands-on classroom experiences. The school’s students create, design, build, discover, collaborate and solve problems while applying what they learn in math and science. They are exposed to STEM fields through professionals from local industries who supplement the real-world aspect of the curriculum through mentorships and workplace experiences.

Students will be required to complete the dual college enrollment courses as a requirement for graduation: Introduction to Engineering & Design, Principles of Engineering & Design and Aerospace Engineering. The students will have an opportunity to take other dual college enrollment course for additional college credit.

Madison Highland Prep is located

at 1431 E. Campbell Ave. For additional information, call 602-745-3800 or visit www.madisonhighlandprep.com.

School Briefs

GLENDALE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT Sunnyslope welcomes peer tutors

In January, Title One coordinator Nikki Calandra welcomed more than a dozen peer tutors on the first day of the semester.

Peer tutors will work in classrooms with teachers to meet the needs and challenges of the student body. They can assist teachers in teaching lessons or handle small group or one-on-one tutoring sessions.

The program debuted the first week back from winter break with highly motivated juniors and seniors filling the tutor spots.

GUHSD is hiring

Glendale Union High School District (GUHSD) is hiring for several support staff positions including, instructional assistants, a videographer, maintenance, bus drivers and more.

To learn more about available positions, benefits or to apply for a support staff position, visit www.guhzdaz.org and click on the “Employment” link. For more information, call 623-435-6000

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SCHOOL DAYS



Volunteer Frederick Moor (standing) introduces Australian bass clarinetist Ros Dunlop (background) to the Washington High School Band (photo courtesy of Washington High School).

Washington Band hosts international musician

On Jan. 5, Washington High School (WHS) hosted Australian bass clarinetist, Ros Dunlop, in the band room. One of the leading bass clarinet soloists in the world right now, she was in town for the International Clarinet Association festival held at Glendale Community College.

The musician gave an intimate, world-class performance for WHS band and AP Music Theory students. Her internationally-celebrated body of work incorporates multi-media performances that range from musically illustrating the sounds of native Australian bush animals, to expressing both the sorrow and a sense of hope surrounding certain humanitarian crises worldwide, a profound example of, “Where words fail, music speaks,” the school said. They also extended special thanks to Frederick Moor, a long-time band volunteer, for arranging the visit.

Washington hosts girls’ wrestling

Washington High School hosted the district’s Second Annual Girls’ Wrestling Tournament Jan. 6, with team members from nine schools participating.

With few opportunities for girl wrestlers, former WHS coach Steven Gould decided it was time to give girls the experience they need to help grow the program district-wide, the school said, adding, “The friendly event promotes competition among sister schools, and it was a great day for GUHSD.”

**MADISON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Madison School District has positions open**

Madison School District is currently hiring staff members for a variety of roles across the district. Positions include teachers, aides and paraprofessionals. *please see POSITIONS OPEN on page 26*

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SCHOOL DAYS

POSITIONS continued from page 25

sionals, secretaries, before and after school program staff, food service staff and custodians. Full-time and part-time positions are available.

Madison offers employee benefits such as health insurance, participation in the Arizona State Retirement plan and more. For additional information and to apply, call 602-664-7900 or visit www.madisonaz.org/jobs.

Fragile Planet visits Simis Elementary

Madison Simis Elementary School recently received a visit from Fragile Planet Wildlife Park. Students had the opportunity to see and learn about several different endangered animals such as the Honduran Milk Snake, the Indonesian Ring Tailed Skink, the Quaker parrot and the Silkie chicken. They also learned about conservation efforts to help endangered animals and how they can do their part in keeping rare species protected.

As an International Baccalaureate school, students at Madison Simis learn



A staff member from Fragile Planet Wildlife Park brought a Silkie chicken and other endangered animals to Madison Simis school in January (photo courtesy of Madison Elementary School District).

through interactive experiences, by asking questions and developing an understanding about the world around them.

Madison welcomes board members

At a Jan. 10 organizational meeting, Scott Holcomb was selected as Madison Elementary School District governing board president and Karen Gresham was selected as governing board vice president. The district also welcomed newly-elected governing board member Christine Thompson.

OSBORN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Enrollment is open for 2023-24 school year

The Osborn Elementary School District announced that enrollment is now open for the 2023-24 school year. Registration for kindergarten through eighth grade, as well as students enrolling in the Montessori program, can be completed online by visiting www.osbornnet.org. In addition to its Montessori program, Osborn offers dual language, preschool and English learner programs.

For questions or to schedule a tour at any of Osborn's award-winning schools, call 602-707-2000 or visit www.osbornnet.org.

District recognizes outgoing, new board members

In mid-December, the Osborn School District bade a "tearful goodbye" to its outgoing board members,

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SCHOOL DAYS



Sue Corbin and Juan Carlos Flamand (second and third from the right, respectively) were thanked by the district for their service on the governing board. They are pictured with current board members, from left, Luis Peralta, Ylenia Aguilar and Ed Hermes in December (photo courtesy of Osborn School District).

Sue Corbin and Juan Carlos Flamand. In a social media post, the district said, “Thank you for everything you have done during your time on the Osborn Governing Board — we look forward to the continued impact you will make on our community in the future!”

The two newest governing board members, Leanne Greenberg and Violeta Ramos, were elected in November.

PHOENIX UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
North High senior accepted to Yale University

Sarah Ramos-Gonzalez, an International Baccalaureate senior at Phoenix Union High School District’s

(PXU) North High School, was recently admitted to Yale University through Early Action. The student committed to Yale and received a full-ride scholarship, along with a few thousand in grant money.

Sarah said that she became interested in Yale after her older sister was accepted. Her older sister graduated from North High School in 2021 and is currently attending Yale. Her parents are immigrants from Jalisco, Mexico. A Gates



Sarah Ramos-Gonzalez

please see YALE on page 28



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SCHOOL DAYS

YALE continued from page 27

Scholarship semifinalist, Sarah always wanted to attend college on the East Coast and intends to major in Sociology at the university. Her goal is to attend law school after her undergraduate career and become a lawyer.

Sarah's current extracurricular activities include Varsity cross country and the hiking club, she is also Moot court president and treasurer of the NHS. In her spare time, she volunteers in the community and enjoys doing a Rubik's cube — she can complete it in 30 seconds.

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT Teacher is a 'Wishes' recipient

The Washington Elementary School District (WESD) recognized Desert View Elementary Math and Science teacher Shawon Cave as a winner of the Palo Verde Fiesta Bowl Charities Wishes for Teachers program. Each year during the holiday season, this program awards select Arizona K-

12 teachers with \$2,500 grants to fund classroom supplies and projects.

Cave plans to use his grant to create a science lab with purchases of science equipment and decorations.

Teacher interview fair slated for February

WESD invites residents to a Teacher Interview Fair, scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 11, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the WESD Administrative Center. The district plans to hire elementary, middle and special education teachers and speech pathologists. The district said that it offers competitive salaries, leadership opportunities, teacher support, loan forgiveness, great benefits and more.

In-person and virtual interviews will be available. To schedule an interview, call 602-347-2622. Walk-ins are also welcome. Visit www.wesd-schools.org for more information.

CHARTER AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS Charter school receives \$1 million Yass Prize

Arizona Autism Charter Schools (AZACS), a public charter school for students with autism in Arizona and the first charter in the West dedicated to serving neuro-divergent learners, has been named America's most innovative and effective educational organization winning the \$1 million Yass Prize.

AZACS said in a press release that the prize recognizes its efforts to expand unique individualized learning programs and supports the creation of a national accelerator for Autism-focused charter schools, which will enable similar schools to be established in every state.

The Yass Prize for Sustainable, Transformational, Outstanding and Permissionless Education, administered by the Center for Education Reform, is awarded to the education provider whose innovative program provides students the most effective, transformational, and lasting educational experience possible with a clear, barrier-free path to success.

AZACS is a Title 1 school, with approximately 76 percent of students qualifying for free and reduced-price lunch and more than half of the students identifying as Hispanic. AZACS also offers a fully accredited online school serving children with autism and other special needs across the state.

Visit www.autismcharter.org to learn more.



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SCHOOL DAYS

Xavier math students place third in competition

Math students from Xavier College Preparatory took third place in the 27th Annual Math/Science Field Day at Scottsdale Community College Jan. 12.

The Math/Science Field Day is an annual competition hosted by the college that is open to all high school students in the area. Xavier College Prep sent 15 students to compete in various math-related activities, such as problem solving, algebra 2/geometry, pre-calculus or calculus. All teams were given a task to complete in a fixed amount of time that utilized skills from mathematics and science and teamwork.

Throughout the day, students had the opportunity to win scholarships to Scottsdale Community College and other prizes by participating in a variety of competitions.

The day began with the math competition, in which senior Dario Turicothe notched the not only the high score for Xavier but the second highest overall across 14 high schools.

During the afternoon, the project team demonstrated their knowledge of



Xavier students attending the 27th Annual Math/Science Field Day included Shriya Tummalo, Sophia Herget, Jacquie Vogel, Norah Dentz, Ava Silvernail, Daria Turico, Nina Rawal, Tatum Zerbib, Cassara Ryan, Evelyn Papez, Alanna Knowlen, Sarah Klemmer, Cara Schillinger, Harper Hipps and Abby Pearson (submitted photo).

keeping their heads above water. Seniors Cassara Ryan, Tatum Zerbib and Nina Rawal constructed a tin foil boat that supported more 100 nickels, almost more than anyone else. In the science portion of the competition, junior team members Cara Schillinger, Harper Hipps

and Abby Pearson made the top three.

In the final round the school was up against Perry and Benjamin Franklin. The round was a nail biter. The school took an early lead being the first to answer a math question correctly. In the end, Xavier walked away with third place.

Kiernan will receive Inés Pascual Award

Brophy College Preparatory will present Jennifer Kiernan with the Inés Pascual Award for Generous Service at the Mother-Son Communion Breakfast on Saturday, Feb. 11.

Each year, Brophy recognizes a woman in the community who models the compassion and commitment of Inés Pascual, a Spanish nobelwoman, who saw that St. Ignatius received food, shelter and medical care. This year, Kiernan will be honored with the award for serving the community in extraordinary ways with her work with Saving Amy, where she is the founder and executive director. Saving Amy is a nonprofit that works to break the cycle of homelessness by providing programs to produce stability and long-term success for families.

To learn more about the Inés Pascual Award, visit www.brophyprep.org.

Brophy Black Family Alliance will host festival

The Brophy Black Family Alliance will host a Black History Festival from noon until 4 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 25, on Brophy's campus. The public is invited to attend this free event that celebrates Black history, culture, food and more. There will be vendors, music and dancing.

Brophy is located at 4701 N. Central Ave. in Phoenix. For more information on the Brophy Black History Festival, contact Brophy's director of equity and inclusion, Deena Sellers, at dsellers@brophyprep.org.

Holiday event helps fund future projects

Bells were ringing with children singing at the Montessori Day School Winter Program and Bazaar, which sent students, staff and families humming into the holidays. In January, the school's Parent Committee reported a take of \$866 from the event, helping to move forward the Gaga Ball Court, Greenhouse and Movie Under the Stars projects.

Meanwhile, school administration is planning for 2023–24 enrollment to begin in February.

Montessori Day School is located at 9215 N. 14th St. For additional information, call 602-943-7672 or visit www.mdpsc.org.

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GENERATIONS

Senior Living Dementia presentation includes simulation

Hospice of the Valley's Dementia Care and Education Campus will host a dementia experience and education event Saturday, Feb. 11, from 9 a.m. to noon.

The interactive presentation, presented by Michelle Bales, LMSW, APHSC-C, the Adult Day and Intergenerational program manager, features an 8-minute experience that presses participants to perform everyday tasks as if they were living with cognitive impairment. The simulation will be followed by a general review of the most common types of dementia and how the progressive brain changes impact thinking, functioning and behaviors.

Participants will then explore improvisation techniques, sensory experiences and other person-centered approaches that optimize meaningful connections with the person living with dementia. These approaches focus on the ultimate goal of helping people live well with dementia.

The Dementia Care and Education Campus is located at 3811 N. 44th St. in Phoenix. For question or to register, send an email to events@dementiacampus.org or call 602-767-8300. For additional information, visit www.dementiacampus.org.

AARP hosts virtual and in-person classes

AARP Arizona, in conjunction with its community partners, offers dozens of free events to Valley residents each month — with everything from Virtual Happy Hour tours to fitness, trivia and more.

This month, online programs include Eating the Rainbow, Tuesday, Feb. 7, at 10 a.m. Coach SheriAnne addresses the benefits of "eating the rainbow," or striving to create meals that feature a colorful plate. This strategy helps ensure that you are getting all of the necessary vitamins and nutrients and is likely to help cut down on white, highly processed foods. The discussion is part of Back to Basics, an ongoing series about living healthier, more fulfilling lives. On the day of the event, visit the organization's Facebook Live page.

Virtual classes via Zoom this month include live trivia Feb. 9 and Feb. 23, as

well Balance Matters and Qigong Class, both on Feb. 21. In February and beyond, Marshall Shore, the Hip Historian, Hosts Arizona History Happy Hour each Thursday at 7 p.m., and provides a virtual tour of historic sites and landmarks. The event takes place on Facebook Live.

In person, the Encanto Park Clubhouse will host FitPHX Morning Yoga at 9 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 11, and Church of the Beatitudes will host a one-hour drum circle session Tuesday, Feb. 28, at 6:30 p.m.

To access AARP Arizona's Facebook Live events, visit www.facebook.com/aarp-arizona. For additional event information, visit <https://local.aarp.org/phoenix-az/aarp-events>, or send an email to azaarp@aarp.org.

Alzheimer's caregiving conference scheduled

The Alzheimer's Foundation of America (AFA) will launch its 2023 Educating America Tour in Phoenix, Thursday, Feb. 16, with a free Alzheimer's & Caregiving Educational Conference. The free conference, which begins at 10 a.m., is open to everyone and will allow participants to learn from experts in the field of Alzheimer's disease, brain health and caregiving.

Sessions will include "Preventing Alzheimer's Disease: From Cradle-to-Grave," "Aging in Place Along the Alzheimer's Spectrum" and "What Happens Next? Best Practices in Palliative Dementia Care."

There will also be a special presentation, "Highlights of a Baseball Reminiscence Program," an initiative designed to promote socialization and improve quality of life for individuals living with dementia and their caregivers, by the Phoenix-based Society for American Baseball Research, a member organization of AFA.

Free, confidential memory screenings will be conducted throughout the day. The conference will be held at the Ahwatukee Event Center, 4700 E. Warner Rd., Phoenix. For more information or to register, go to www.alzfdn.org/tour.

Those who cannot participate in the conference or have immediate questions about Alzheimer's disease, can

GENERATIONS

connect with licensed social workers seven days a week through AFA's National Toll-Free Helpline by calling 866-232-8484 or web chatting at www.alzfdn.org.

**Kids & Families
Spring break camp
explores science**

Arizona Science Center will bring back its Camp Innovation spring break camp in March.

Campers in grades 1-2 are invited to Dogs! A Science Camp, while campers in grades 3-6 will be exploring Impossible Science! These five-day camps will be held March 13-17 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Dogs! A Science Camp is tied into the Center's featured exhibition, "Dogs! A Science Tail." Younger campers will explore the senses and adaptations that make both wild and domestic dogs so amazing, as well as explore canine careers and animal sciences.

Impossible Science investigates the magic produced when science, math and creativity are combined. Older

campers will explore the sneaky science behind optical illusions, invisibility with refraction, secret marshmallow messages and card tricks using the scientific method.

Camp Innovation runs March 13-17, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. A limited number of scholarships are available to residents. For camp costs or to register, visit www.azscience.org/events-programs/camp-innovation.

**Kids Café
offered at libraries**

Multiple Phoenix Public Library locations offer Kids' Café service as part of the library's long-standing partnership with St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance.

Children ages 0-18 can enjoy a free and healthy meal Monday through Saturday at select library locations. North Central, families can visit the Yucca Library, 5648 N. 15th Ave. (Tuesday through Thursday), or the Burton Barr Central Library, 1221 N. Central Ave. (Monday through Friday, with "Grab and Go" meals available on Wednesdays). Both libraries are near light rail.

Visit www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org/kids/programs/kids-cafe for additional information.

**Duet offers support
for men, more**

In addition to its many other services for the health and wellbeing of aging homebound adults, family caregivers and grandparents raising grandchildren, Duet is now offering a Men's Virtual Family Caregiver Support Group.

From managing daily household tasks to finding emotional support, male caregivers have unique challenges. Many have found themselves in a situation with few people to help navigate a loved one's care, and they risk emotional and physical burnout. Whether caring for a spouse, a partner, a parent, or a friend, Duet wants people to know that they are not alone. Duet: Partners In Health & Aging offers a safe space for men in this targeted support group to share openly and find emotional support.

This support group is led by George Burson, a male caregiver, who has experience caring for his mother. It is open to all male caregivers, is free, and held

the first Saturday of the month at 10 a.m. via Zoom. To RSVP, contact Burson by email at burson@duetaz.org or call 602-274-5022, ext. 139.

In addition, the nonprofit's Kinship Care Services is partnering with DES to present information on obtaining child support benefits, eligibility requirements, the process and next steps. Residents are invited to join Duet Thursday, Feb. 16, from 6 to 8 p.m. to find out if they qualify for these benefits and how to go about getting these benefits for their family.

Reservations are required, zoom code will be sent the day of the workshop. Reservations required by Friday, Feb. 10. Contact Patricia Dominguez at 602-274-5022, ext. 120, or dominguez@duetaz.org.

For additional information, visit www.duetaz.org.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



This colorful artwork was created by one of Act One's featured artists, Sentrack, who was born and raised in Phoenix (submitted photo).

Grant will provide student access to arts

In December, Act One, a local non-profit organization that provides access to the arts for Arizona's Title I schools, announced that it has received a \$100,000 grant from the Burton Family Foundation, a supporting organization of the Arizona Community Foundation. The organization said that the substantial gift will help support a new season of content for Act One's curated, groundbreaking virtual reality arts program.

"As we build on the success of the VR program in reaching schools, children and communities who have geographic limitations to in-person arts experiences, we recognize the need to offer a new season of content for the VR field trip program," said Bernadette Carroll, executive director of Act One.

The nonprofit provides meaningful arts experiences that enhance the academic and creative potential of children and families. The nonprofit makes the arts accessible to thousands of children and families in Arizona each year through field trips for pre-K-12 students from Title I schools, the VR Arts Immersion program and the Culture Pass program.

The grant will enable the nonprofit to develop season two of the VR arts program, which will launch in late Spring of 2023. The funds will also be used to replace headsets and enable an upgrade to the technology. The eventual goal of Act One's VR program is to build a five-

season content library where teachers can differentiate their program needs based on age, grade and subject area.

To learn more, visit www.act1az.org.

Film Festival returns to in-person screenings

After two years of being held entirely online, the Greater Phoenix Jewish Film Festival (GPJFF) announced that a limited return to in-theater film screenings will be offered at its 27th annual event.

Taking place Feb. 19 through March 5, the 2023 Festival will feature both in-person and virtual screening components, each celebrating Jewish culture with an exciting lineup of films showcasing Jewish life, traditions, history and heritage.

The festival will present 24 feature-length Jewish films hailing from over a dozen different countries. Viewers will have the opportunity to travel from the beaches of South Florida to the ateliers of Paris; from a high rise in Tel Aviv to the rolling hills and lush acres of Monticello; from the backrooms and boardrooms of Germany to multiple villages and towns of wartime Europe.

Three carefully-selected films will screen in-person at select Harkins Theater locations, Feb. 19-20. Virtual screenings will begin Thursday, Feb. 23 and continue through Sunday, March 5. All virtual showings will be available throughout the entire virtual festival timespan and will no longer be limited to a 72-hour screening window.

For details, visit www.gpjff.org.



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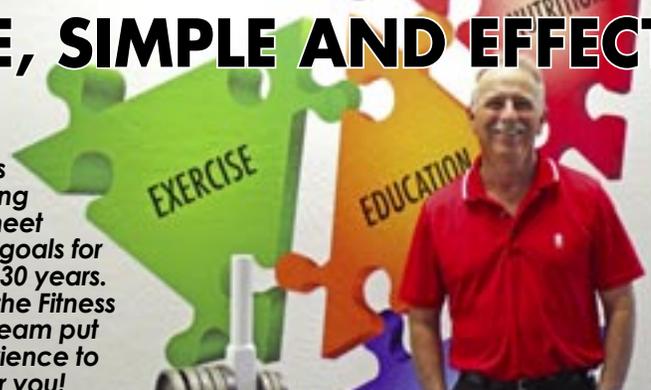
**Our staff will be onsite at the Family Life Center at North Phoenix Baptist Church:
5757 N Central Ave Phoenix, AZ 85012
Thursday, February 23, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Explore the Southwest through a Zuni lens

Maps act as a physical expression of one's place in the world and the universe. Over time, the Zuni world has been remapped, with names changed, boundaries drawn, and cultural presence erased. A new exhibit, "A:shiwi A:wan Ulohnanne: The Zuni World," at Pueblo Grande Museum challenges these assumptions through 31 artistic representations of Zuni maps and places in the Southwest.

The exhibit, on loan from the A:shiwi A:wan Museum and Heritage Center, a Pueblo of Zuni Tribal museum, explores the landscapes of the Southwest through a Zuni lens.

"A:shiwi A:wan Ulohnanne: The Zuni World" will be on display at Pueblo Grande Museum from Feb. 9 to Sept. 17. In celebration of the opening, representatives from the A:shiwi A:wan Museum and Heritage Center will give a presentation about the exhibition. The public is invited to attend a free opening exhibit lecture from 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 9.

Pueblo Grande Museum & Archaeological Park is located at 4619 E. Washington St., Phoenix. For additional information, call 602-495-0901 or visit www.pueblogrande.com.

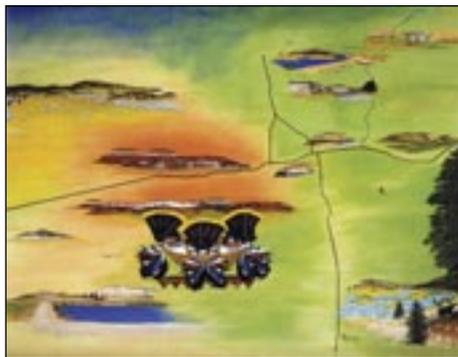
Boys Choir celebrates 75 years at gala event

The 75th Anniversary edition of the Phoenix Boys Choir's signature fundraising gala is just around the corner.

The event will be held from 6 to 9 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 25, at the historic Heard Museum in central Phoenix. The emcee for the evening's festivities will be former Phoenix Suns star Cedric Ceballos, with live performances by the PBC Cadet Choir, Town Choir, Tour Choir, Young Men's Ensemble and Masters Men's Ensemble. The Orpheus Male Chorus will lend their voices to the night, as well. With the addition of a delicious dinner and both live and silent auctions, the event is one that residents will not want to miss.

Proceeds from the gala enable the organization to continue providing lifechanging experiences for the youth it serves, particularly for those whose participation in the Choir's programs would not be possible without supplemental financial assistance.

For additional information, visit www.boyschoir.org/gala.



Artwork: "Ho'n A:wan Dehwa:we" (Our Land) by Ronnie Cachini (2006) will be part of a unique exhibit of artistic representations of Zuni Maps opening in February at the Pueblo Grande Museum (submitted image).

Three-day short film challenge launches

Valley filmmakers are invited to grab their gear, gather their cast and crew and get ready for the A3F (Almost Famous Film Festival) 72 Hour Short Film Challenge. The event takes place Feb. 17-20 and is open to all ages and skill levels. The event offers an opportunity to make a short film and become "Almost Famous."

On Friday, Feb. 17, A3F will announce the guidelines for the challenge on its website and social media pages. Teams will then have three days, or 72 hours, to make a 1- to 5-minute film based on a theme, a prop and a line of dialogue. The film can be any genre.

Films that beat the 72-hour deadline will be viewed and scored by a judges panel and the Top 20 films will play at a public screening on March 2 at AMC Arizona Center 24 Theatres in downtown Phoenix.

Find additional information and register a team at www.thea3f.net/72hour_2023.html.

Nature-inspired exhibit opens at Garden

Now through May 14, residents can experience Rotraut's nature-inspired large-scale sculptures, paintings and photography at the Desert Botanical Garden.

As an internationally acclaimed artist, part-time Valley resident Rotraut's artwork takes inspiration from the human subconscious and explores the relationship between the sky, sun and universe. Her work has been displayed in numerous galleries and museums, including in London, Paris, San Francisco and Scottsdale.

Desert Botanical Garden is located at 1201 N. Galvin Parkway. For additional information, visit www.dbg.org.

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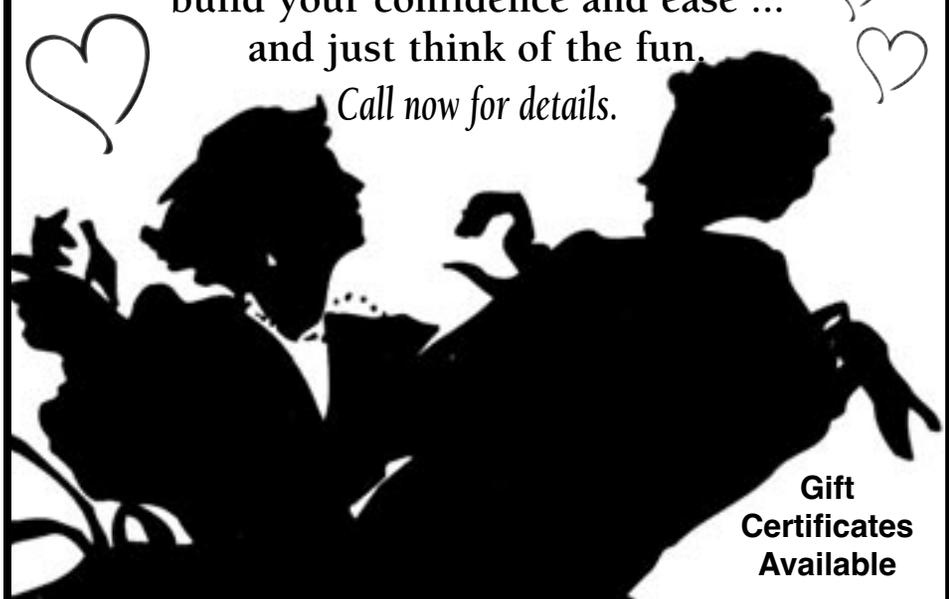
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On the Town

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(Photo by Rosalie O'Connor)



‘An American in Paris’

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36th Anniversary Show and Grand Reopening

Feb. 2–4
Fiddler’s Dream
www.fiddlersdream.org

‘Joe Turner’s Come and Gone’

Feb. 3–19
Black Theatre Troupe at Helen K. Mason Performing Arts Center
www.blacktheatretroupe.org;
602-258-8128

Jeff Libman Quintet

Feb. 4
The Nash
www.thenash.org; 602-795-0464

Margo Price

Feb. 6
Crescent Ballroom
www.crescentphx.com; 602-716-2222

‘Giselle’

Feb. 9–12
Ballet Arizona at Madison Center for the Arts
www.balletaz.org;
602-381-1096

Superbowl Experience

at Margaret T. Hance Park (free)
Feb. 9–12
www.azsuperbowl.com/events

American Amigos

Feb. 10
The Rhythm Room
www.rhythmroom.com;
602-612-4981



Trousdale

Feb. 10
Valley Bar
www.valleybarphx.com;
602-716-2222

‘Sleeping Beauty’

Feb. 10–26
Valley Youth Theatre
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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602-716-2222



Marcos Crego

'Good Old Havana Nights'
Feb. 11
The Nash
www.thenash.org; 602-795-0464

Early James

Feb. 13
The Rebel Lounge
www.therebellounge.com;
602-296-7013

'The Glass Menagerie'

Feb. 16 – March 5
Arizona Theatre Company
at Herberger Theater Center
www.arizonatheatre.org;
602-256-6995

Big Sandy and His Fly-Rite Boys

Feb. 17
The Rhythm Room
www.rhythmroom.com;
602-612-4981

'The Music of John Williams in Concert'

Feb. 17-19
The Phoenix Symphony
www.phoenixsymphony.org;
602-495-1999



World Championship Hoop Dance Contest

Feb. 18-19
Heard Museum
www.heard.org; 602-252-8840

66th Annual VNSA Used Book Sale

Feb. 18-19
Arizona State Fairgrounds
www.vnsabooksale.org; 602-265-6805

Slow Crush

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The Rebel Lounge
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Fort Vine & Galactic Harmony

Feb. 25
Crescent Ballroom (free)
www.crescentphx.com; 602-716-2222

Dexter Gordon Centennial Celebration

Feb. 25
The Nash
www.thenash.org; 602-795-0464

Mindy Gledhill

Feb. 25
Crescent Ballroom
www.crescentphx.com; 602-716-2222

Ray On My Mind

Feb. 25
Madison Center for the Arts
www.themadison.org



Betty Who

Feb. 28
The Van Buren
www.thevanburenphx.com;
480-659-1641

All event dates are current at time of publication. Check with individual venues for the most up-to-date show information. For news about other upcoming events as they are announced, visit www.northcentral-news.net/events.



RAY ON MY MIND



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25

This concert/theater work brings the music and the story of the great Ray Charles to vivid life. Portraying Ray, master pianist/vocalist Kenny Brawner leads his 11-piece orchestra and three sultry vocalists (a la the Raelettes) in performing this American legend's most popular hits. The music is interwoven with monologues depicting how gospel, blues, jazz, and country-influenced Ray's style, while also reflecting on American social history, his epic battle with drugs, and his triumphant return home.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Café Chat

Taking enchiladas to a new level

By Marjorie Rice

It's lunch time at Gadzooks Enchiladas & Soup, and Aaron Pool is concocting the combo he's feasted on for a decade.

He slides a cazuela from the open-fire pizza oven, bubbling with enchiladas and ready for toppings.

A lot of toppings.

"This is what I've eaten for 10 years now," Pool said. "It's a combo that I love — two enchiladas, one roasted tomatillo chicken and one guajillo-braised short rib of beef — made with tortillas that we make fresh, then topped with our Christmas sauce that's half green and half red. I like the contrast of flavors, and it's like having completely different meals in one dish."

Pool tops the dish with Chihuahua cheese, "lava" habanero sauce, honey-vinaigrette cabbage slaw, pico de gallo and jalapeño ranch dressing. And a



Gadzooks Enchiladas & Soup founder Aaron Pool in his restaurant at 7th Street and Osborn Road (photo by Darryl Webb/special for North Central News).

sprinkling of cotija cheese.

It's been his go-to meal since he opened the restaurant in March 2013. In a small building at 7th Street and Osborn Road that began as a gas station and segued into a custom dress shop

before becoming the original restaurant location, Pool stands behind the counter, layering his lunch and talking about how he got started in the business.

"I graduated from ASU in 2009, and I had this idea for an enchilada and soup

shop because I love enchiladas," he said. "I had no idea what the hell I was doing. Luckily for me I was just a super naïve 24-year-old. My dad says that was a blessing. You don't know any different, so you think, 'Oh yeah, I can do that.'

"My mom worked in the kitchen with me when we opened. She was my main prep cook for many years. The recipes were a mixture of me figuring out how to cook stuff, and my mom's recipes: the soups, cornbread, the smashed jack potatoes — basically a mashed potato with a lot of garlic, green onion, Mexican cheeses and cream."

Service is an assembly line of sorts, where customers build their own combination enchiladas and tacos. They begin with house-made tortillas — corn or a 50/50 blend of flour and corn masa. Fillings include Pool's favorite chicken and short ribs, along with Modelo-braised bison (get there early, it sells out fast). There also are green chili pork shoulder, smashed potatoes, sauteed spinach and mushrooms, corn-

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

bread (more on that later), and spicy potato hash (only on Sundays).

The selections are baked in individual earthenware cazuelas until bubbly, then come toppings that can include goat cheese or a fried egg, asadero and chihuahua cheese, red and green sauce, jalapeno ranch, salsas, chile or honey vinaigrette, scratch-made crema, cotija cheese, honey vinaigrette slaw, pickled onions and pico de gallo.

All those can go on soup (tortilla and potato-corn chowder) and chopped salads as well.

“When I was doing the business plan for Gadzooks, I wanted every ingredient to be the best, like what is the best shredded beef I’ve ever had and how can I make one as good or better,” Pool said. “And I wanted something different, too. That’s where the bison came in. I’d never seen it braised or shredded. We braise it in Modelo beer.”

About that cornbread — think of corn pudding with chilies and cheese, more for spooning than eating by the slice. Absolute heaven. It’s a variation on their mom’s corn casserole, Aaron said.

“We asked her, ‘What if you made the corn casserole but you used some of the Mexican ingredients we have?’ So, we put serrano chilies, chihuahua cheese and crema in it and baked it. When it was done, we said, ‘Oh my God, this is really good.’ It has a creaminess, like a tamale.

“People started putting it in their enchiladas. You talk to somebody about Gadzooks, they’ll probably tell you about the cornbread.”

From that original 7th Street shop, the restaurant has grown to locations in Central Phoenix, Chandler, Mesa and Chase Field. Another will open soon at Epicenter in Gilbert.

Aaron’s brother Jared, who moved to Phoenix after practicing dentistry in San Francisco, shares managing responsibilities with Aaron. Their mother, Linda, operates Mama Linda’s bakery at 20th Street and Osborn and supplies cookies and cakes for Gadzooks. Another brother, Drew, part owner of Wren House brewery and tap room, selects the beers for the restaurant.

The business has expanded into Poolhouse Hospitality Concepts, with Gadzooks and recent additions Green Woodpecker and Poolboy Taco.

The Green Woodpecker, originally a Walgreens then a floral and gift shop in Park Central, serves beers and al pastor tacos cooked on an open-fire trompo.

“We used the name Green



Jasmin Smith of Süss Pastries will join the line-up of Arizona chefs at Taste of the NFL (photo by Melinda Jane Myers Photography courtesy of Jasmin Smith).

Woodpecker as an ode to what it was in the ‘70s,” Pool said. “It’s really cool to see that space transform”

The group also will open Poolboy Taco on the corner of Earl and Central, at the main entrance of Park Central. “It’s a glass box, basically, a kitchen with counter service and all outdoor dining,” Pool said. “We’re working to elevate that experience and make that

outdoor environment feel welcoming, like you’re in a park.”

Gadzooks Enchiladas & Soup, at 3313 N. 7th St., is open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., all week. Other locations are at 40th Street and Camelback, Arizona and Frye in Chandler, and Wilson and University in Tempe. For more information, call 602-279-5080, or visit www.gadzooksaz.com.

Dining Briefs

Taste of the NFL kicks off In February

With Super Bowl LVII coming to the Phoenix area this month, residents will find a host of related events, including the 32nd annual Taste of the NFL.

The NFL’s largest sanctioned charity event will bring together top players and legends, five celebrity chefs and 2,500 football and foodie fans for one great cause: a culinary experience to raise awareness and funds to tackle hunger and food insecurity in youth across America.

This year’s event will be held at the Chateau Luxe in Phoenix, Saturday, Feb. 11, and will benefit GENYOUth, a national nonprofit whose End Student Hunger Fund has raised millions of dollars to help schools deliver and distribute meals to at-risk students. Event proceeds will directly benefit Phoenix schools and high-needs school districts in 31 other NFL club markets across the country.

Celebrity chefs including Andrew Zimmern, Carla Hall, Lasheeda Perry, Tim Love and Mark Boucher together with over 25 Arizona-based culinary

please see NFL on page 40

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

NFL continued from page 39

superstars, including Beau MacMillan, Christopher Gross, Maria Mazon and others, will join top NFL stars and entertainment and sports celebrities.

Jasmin Smith of Süss Pastries is among the participating Arizona chefs. Her baked goods are available at Modern Harvest, 6050 N. 16th St., and a half-dozen or so other North Central locations. In addition, Yesenia Ramirez of Salvadoreño Restaurant, one of two PepsiCo Foundation IMPACTO Hispanic Business Accelerator Chefs, will participate this year. Visit Salvadoreño Restaurant at 8911 N. Central Ave., Suite 101.

For tickets and information, visit www.tasteofthenfl.com.

Wine-themed fundraiser returns

The First Press Fine Wine Dinner and Auction returns for the first time since the pandemic on Saturday, Feb. 18, at the private SRP Pera Club. The event will feature exceptional wines paired with cuisine custom-created by Tarbell's.

A 20-year tradition, the event is an formal affair featuring a wine-tasting reception, a five-course wine-paired dinner, and wine-themed auction lots. This year's event, "Toast to Mardi Gras," will benefit Friends of Public Radio Arizona, which supports the programs and outreach of public radio in Phoenix including KJZZ, the NPR station, KBACH, the 24/7 classical music station, and SPOT 127 Youth Media Center, which offers free digital media classes to high school students.

Tickets and sponsorship information is available at www.firstpressarizona.com.

Feel the love at February dining events

Chef Micah Wyzlic at Phoenix City Grille has put together two special menus for February dining

On Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, the chef has created a special menu that includes New England clam chowder; entrees including smoked prime rib, filet and lobster, and pistachio-crust Chula Seafood California halibut. For a sweet finish to the meal, try the red velvet cheesecake.

Valentine's Day dining takes place from 4 p.m. to close; last seating begins at 8 p.m.

If Valentine's is not your thing, on Tuesday, Feb. 21, diners can attend an exclusive NULU private single-barrel pairing dinner. Each dish will be paired with a single barrel pour. The pairing dinner takes place at 6 p.m.; cost is \$160 per person plus tax and gratuity. A portion of the proceeds from the dinner and bottles sold during the evening will benefit the Phoenix Children's Hospital Heart Center. Seating is limited; to make a reservation, send an email to brittnee.reed@outlook.com or call 602-510-7174.

Phoenix City Grille is located at 5816 N. 16th St. For more information, call 602-266-3001 or visit www.phoenixcitygrille.com.

New menu reflects Oaxacan-inspired origins

Los Sombreros, introduced in December a revamped menu designed to offer what it calls "elevated cuisine at a reasonable price." The restaurant has added new dishes to its dinner menu, extended happy hour to 2-6 p.m. every

day and expanded its lunch menu to include house specialties and best-selling brunch items.

Several of the signature dishes served at Los Sombreros were developed by a twice-nominated James Beard Award chef who attended culinary school in Oaxaca. His proteges continue to celebrate his legacy with the addition of new Oaxacan-inspired dishes. Some of these specialties can now be found on the lunch menu, available each day until 3 p.m.

In light of current inflation, the restaurant team has reduced the price of the lunch chicken enchiladas from \$12 to \$10 and has added a la carte tacos for only \$3.50 each. The restaurant also is now serving brunch daily. Los Sombreros also expanded its drinks menu to include new signature cocktails and its own labeled beer produced by SunUp Brewing. For fans of the restaurant's sauces, the restaurant will begin selling its tableside salsa and other sauces and mole to take home.

The restaurant has three Valley locations, including Uptown Phoenix at 322 E. Camelback Rd. For more information, visit www.lossombreros.com.



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