



north central news

the voice of the north central phoenix community since 1999

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Small but mighty pantry serves those in need

By Kathryn M. Miller

On a morning just after Thanksgiving, the Arizona Kosher Food Pantry is absolutely bustling with activity. Volunteers are busy cooking an evening meal, sorting through donations from a recent clothing drive and putting together food boxes for neighbors who stop by seeking assistance.

All are welcome at the pantry says Daniel Gilkarov, who has managed the kitchen, kosher meat shop and other aspects of the pantry for the last two-and-a-half to three years. “Any faith, any denomination. There’s no racism here. There’s no discrimination.”

And their service area?

“The Valley, that’s the boundary,” he added.

Now, thanks to grants secured by Yechezkel Friedman, president and founder, the organization has a new food service trailer, placed into action in November 2022, that will make serving the expanse of the Valley more manageable.

Ezras Cholim of Arizona was founded in 2015 by a group of volunteers, including Friedman, who sought to meet the needs of people in the Jewish Community facing catastrophic illness. The group became the foundation of the nonprofit organization, which has expanded to provide a continuum of services to alleviate hardships of sick, hungry and

please see PANTRY on page 6



A rendering of the proposed multi-family residential development at the southwest corner of 22nd Street and Indian School Road shows how the developer will preserve a landmark sign (rendering courtesy of Embrey Partners, LTD).

Indian School property rezoning sought

By Kathryn M. Miller

The Camelback East Village Planning Committee, at its Dec. 6 meeting, heard a presentation from developers who are seeking to rezone a 5.61-acre property at the southwest corner of 22nd Street and Indian School Road from a mix of general commercial and residential zoning to a Planned Unit Development (22nd & Indian School PUD) to allow multifamily residential and limited commercial uses.

The developer, Embrey Partners, LTD, is proposing a multifamily residential development consisting of a four-story, for-rent apartment building with a parking garage. According to the applicant narrative, the proposed development will have a unit mix of approximately 227 one-bedroom, 89 two-bedroom and 4 three-bedroom units, for total of 320 apartment units. The site will feature amenities including, but not limited to, a community club house, pool and spa, fitness center, open space landscape court with dog park, and a leasing office and mail lounge. The pool and open space landscape court provide approximately

20,325 square feet of common open space.

The narrative also says that the development will celebrate the historic quality of the site by preserving the historic sign on Indian School Road (currently for the Die Trying Training Facility and previously a Beall’s Plumbing sign) and creating a compatible design with the surrounding commercial and residential areas.

During the Dec. 6 presentation, representative for the developer Wendy Riddell addressed some comments regarding the height of the project.

“One of the comments that we had early on, both from community and from [planning] staff was about

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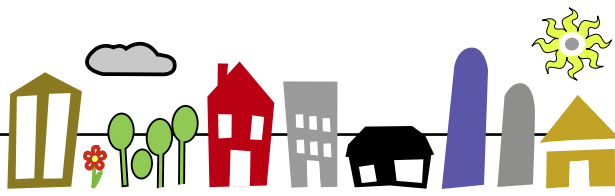


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From the Editor

Hello and Happy New Year, North Central Neighbors!

As 2022 eases into 2023, many of you may be making New Year's resolutions, and you are not alone in that.

Our New Year's resolution here at *North Central News* is to continue to connect with you and our greater North Central community; to focus on the stories that are important to you, and to shine a spotlight on North Central residents and businesses doing amazing things in the community.

To do that, we need to hear from you. Please continue to send your story ideas, news tips, community event information or even just questions about things going on in your neigh-



borhood. We will do our best to provide coverage and answers. Keep in mind that our editorial deadline is the 15th of the month.

We will also have some new ways for you to connect with us online in the coming months, as well as new ways to explore the news on our website this year.

In the meantime, we hope that you enjoy our January issue. The cover stories this month feature an organization that helps local families in need and a rezoning request for a proposed redevelopment project at Indian School Road and 22nd Street. Learn about Camelback High's Link Crew in the School Days section on page 24, and check out the mother-and-daughter owned cafe and market featured in Food for Thought on page 38.

All my best,

Kathryn M. Miller

Editor, North Central News

kathryn@northcentralnews.net



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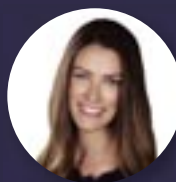
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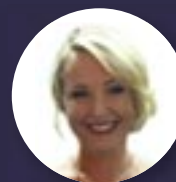
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Project gives schools a ‘green’ boost

Arizona Sustainability Alliance (AZSA), in partnership with Bank of America, American Forests, Maryland Elementary, Washington High School, and the Girl Scouts Arizona Cactus Pine held a successful tree planting Dec. 3 to beautify the campus while providing much needed shade to students and staff. Over 50 volunteers planted 56 trees between the two school campuses.

AZSA’s Tree Planting Program aims to increase shade canopy within urban spaces by incorporating native and desert-adapted trees into the landscape, as well as educating local residents on the benefits of urban forestry.

Kayla Killoren, AZSA’s Tree Planting programs manager said, “I am extremely happy with the turnout of the event. Seeing people out here planting trees to help beautify the schools and improve the overall community is really rewarding.”

Ashley Anderson, principal of Washington High School said,



Volunteers planted trees at Washington High School in December as part of an urban forestry program (photo courtesy of Arizona Sustainability Alliance).

“Washington High School is grateful for the generous tree donation from Arizona Sustainability Alliance, American Forests, and Bank of America. We love to continue to find ways to beautify our campus for our students and community, and these trees help to accomplish that goal. We are appreciative of the volunteers that generously offered their

time and hard work to plant these trees across campus.”

Regions in need of urban forestry development are often identified using the American Forests Tree Equity Score Tool (<https://treeequityscore.org>). This index determines need by identifying social and economic factors including unemployment rates and poverty levels,

as well as ecological factors like average temperature and existing tree cover. Maryland Elementary and Washington High School both have a tree equity score of 73. Prioritizing areas with lower tree equity is crucial in Arizona, so that we can improve the overall shade canopy and bring about equitable change across all communities.

For more information about Arizona Sustainability Alliance’s ongoing Urban Forestry efforts and other local sustainability projects, visit www.azsustainabilityalliance.com.

Travel identification deadline extended

In December, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced that it has again extended the deadline for domestic airline travelers to have a federally-compliant form of ID.

The new date is May 7, 2025. The Arizona Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Division follows TSA guidelines, and still encourages people to consider getting the Arizona Travel ID to avoid delays or other travel issues at TSA checkpoints once this takes effect.

Beginning May 7, 2025, you will need a federally-compliant credential — like the Arizona Travel ID — to get past TSA checkpoints at airports for domestic flights. For most people, the main reason to get the Arizona Travel ID, the state says, is because it will make travel easier. Without the Arizona Travel ID or other form of federally-compliant identification such as a valid U.S. Passport, fliers risk missing an airline flight because the standard driver license will not be accepted at TSA checkpoints.

This credential is distinguished by a star in the upper right corner and is available to Arizona residents as a driver license or identification card.

Residents can walk in to an office for this service, but scheduling an appointment is suggested, which can be done online at www.azmvdnow.gov. Even if you haven’t activated your AZ MVD NOW account, you can still schedule a Travel ID appointment.

Because the Arizona Travel ID is compliant with the federal standards, you will need to provide extra documentation.

More information, and a full list of qualifying documents are available at www.azdot.gov/TravelID.

NORTH CENTRAL’S ‘HIDDEN GEM’

New Contemporary Elevations

A hidden gem in the middle of Phoenix’s most livable neighborhood, the North Central home of your dreams is waiting at Willow. Tucked behind a privacy gate, this 14-home community showcases indoor and outdoor living with flexible and open floorplans that encourage connection with nature and neighbors, as well as the vibrant city beyond.

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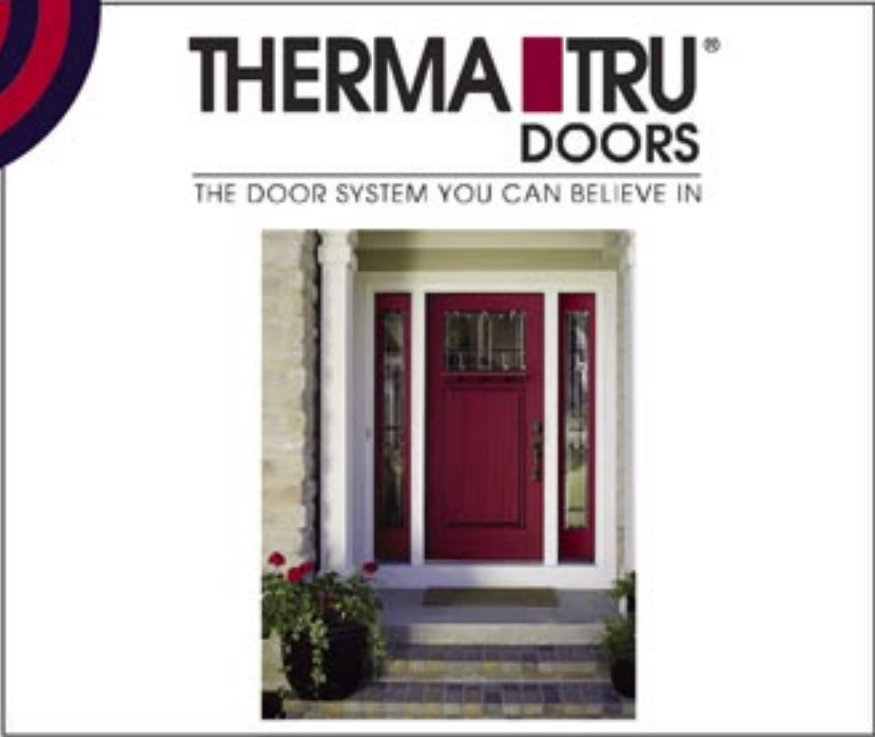
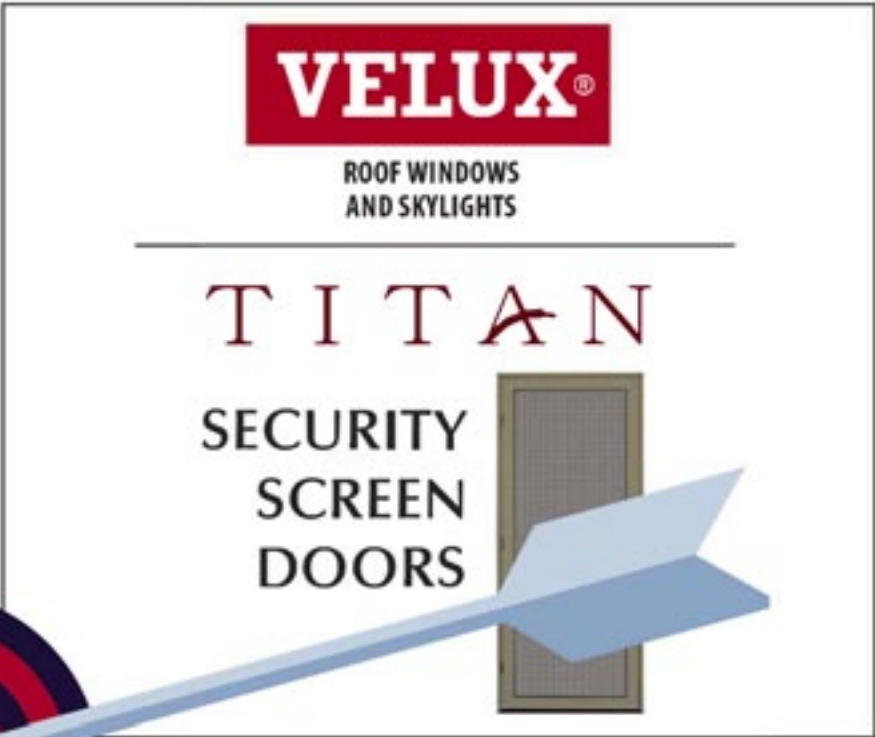
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COMMUNITY



Working in tandem, Ezras Cholim of Arizona and the Arizona Kosher Food Pantry are helping meet the many, diverse needs of Valley residents (photo by Kathryn M. Miller).

PANTRY continued from page 1

impoverished community members. In January 2018, Ezras Cholim was named a partner agency by St. Mary's Food Bank — and its first kosher food pantry. The Arizona Kosher Pantry opened its doors to the public Feb. 14, 2018.

Currently, the pantry and its small team of volunteers provide 300-400 prepared meals each week, including 60-70 meals to Ukrainian war refugees through the Beth El Phoenix congregation.

"We do a majority of the cooking literally out of these two, little dinky ovens and this kitchen," Gilkarov said, as we walked through a small kitchen area humming with activity and into the meat preparation area.

"About 3,000 meals, nearly 4,000 meals have gone out in the last three to four months. I mean we are cooking nonstop."

The whole facility is only about 2,600 square feet, from which the staff not only prepares meals every day but serves those in need who stop by and preps the new state-of-the-art food service trailer that takes the pantry's services on the road every-other week.

"We bring it out to Solano Park and different areas where we can hand it out to the homeless, clothing for the kids, clothing for women, for men. And they can come and choose what they want," Gilkarov said, adding, "We provide this not just for the homeless community, anybody who really needs a meal. We don't charge anything for it."

Of course, to do this kind of work, grants can only get the organization so far, and donations are always wel-

comed, as are volunteers.

For more information, visit <https://azkosherpantry.org/ezras-cholim-of-arizona-homepage/>

REZONING continued from page 1

the height and wanting to make sure that we actually stepped back that height where it is adjacent to more traditional single-family residential zoning. So, the area that you see in blue [located along 22nd Street and Amelia Avenue] is actually only a maximum height of 35 feet, when its adjacent to that single-family zoning within 65 feet of the center of 22nd Street."

Riddell added that the 22nd Street streetscape would include a new five-foot detached sidewalk and 5-foot landscape strip between the curb and sidewalk.

Later in her presentation, when discussing featured and potential amenities, she noted that the developer has been talking with a local art organization to potentially bring in an artist incubator space where art could not only be show, but also provide for artist workspace.

The Camelback East Village Planning Committee meets the first Tuesday of the month. Learn more at <https://www.phoenix.gov/villages/camelback-east>. Follow the progress of the development on the City's Planned Unit Development case page: www.phoenix.gov/pdd/planning-zoning/pzservices/pud-cases.

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Taste the Desert at Garden Show

The Maricopa County Home & Garden Show returns to the Arizona State Fairgrounds Friday, Jan. 13, through Sunday, Jan. 15, for its 30th year.

Valley residents are invited to support Arizona businesses and learn how to improve their green thumb, shop DIY projects, attend seminars and enjoy sampling delicious food and beverages at Taste the Desert.

Included for free with admission, Taste the Desert is a hands-on culinary education and tasting event with local food and beverage experts and aficionados. Daily seminars on wine pairing, coffee roasting and brewing, Kombucha, teas, mastering flavor profiles, and more will be offered.

“The new year brings opportunity for renewal and improvement. This show gives attendees an opportunity to feel educated about any item they take home,” said Katie Jones, Maricopa County Home Show manager. “We’re thrilled to celebrate our 30th anniversary of bringing the Home Show to the Valley and hope to provide endless inspiration for your home in 2023.”

The Arizona State Fairgrounds are located at 1826 W. McDowell Rd., Phoenix. For event tickets or additional information, call 602-485-1691 or visit www.mchomeshows.com.

Donate your used books and media

Each year, shoppers will find almost half a million books, media and treasures at the VNSA Book Sale, all donated from the public, businesses, schools and other groups. To help this event happen, the organization takes in donations all year long, and residents are encouraged to drop off their no-longer-needed books and media.

Occasionally, the VNSA receives items that are not suitable for the Book Sale. Water damaged, excessively soiled, or torn books are not kept. Whenever possible, VNSA donates books they cannot sell to other nonprofit organizations that may have a use for them.

Individual donors will receive a receipt for donations at the time of pick-up. Those who have made a donation using a VNSA donation box, or if the VNSA volunteer did not pro-

vide a receipt at the time of donation, email info@vnsabooksale.org to request a receipt and provide the details of the donation.

All VNSA drop boxes are painted beige with navy lettering on a yellow VNSA sign and are located as close to a curb as possible. Volunteer staff empties boxes every week.

Donation drop boxes at the following Phoenix locations:

- 4224 N. 44th St. (north of Indian School Rd.)
- 3420 E. Shea Blvd. (SR-51 & Shea, NE corner) – parking lot on west side of the building
- 2336 E. Mulberry Dr. (24th St., south of Osborn)
- 5521 N. 7th. St (7th St. & Missouri, NE corner near Bashas’)
- 3121 N 3rd Ave (Central & Osborn, west entrance of Park Central Mall)

Save the date for the annual VNSA book sale, Feb. 18–19 at the Arizona State Fairgrounds. The event will run 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Learn more at www.vnsabooksale.org/donate.

Abrazo campus to hold job fair

Abrazo Central Campus will hold a campus-wide hiring event Thursday, Jan. 19, from 2–5 p.m. The job fair will be for all current vacancies throughout the hospital. Applicants are encouraged to attend the event at 2000 W. Bethany Home Road in Phoenix.

Career opportunities are available for nurses, allied health, food services and more. On-site interviews will be held for positions in all hospital departments on both day and night shifts. Applicants should bring their resume and plan to meet with hiring managers for potential immediate job offers.

“Walk-ins very welcome, and if you would like to let us know you are coming please email your resume with the RSVP to Wendy.Fitzpatrick@tenethealth.com,” said Abrazo recruiter Wendy Fitzpatrick.

Abrazo Central Campus is a teaching hospital with services including neurosurgery and stroke care, robotic surgery, emergency services, ICU, graduate medical education and nurse training.

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COMMUNITY

Dreamy Draw bike path to open in 2023

After its closure for construction of the Drought Pipeline, the Dreamy Draw bike path is now scheduled to be completed and opened in early 2023. In addition, the Perl Charles Memorial Trail (#1A) remains closed as construction of the 66-inch pipeline continues and is anticipated to reopen early 2023.

Open routes within the Phoenix Mountains Preserve include the 22nd Street trail, 32nd Street trail, 40th Street trail, Mesquite trail, Quartz Ridge trail, Piastewa Peak Park, and Trail 100.

Dreamy Draw Recreation Area and its facilities are anticipated to reopen in the summer of 2023. The City of Phoenix held a celebration Dec. 21 as the final section of pipe in the drought pipeline is set to be installed to address drought conditions. As of Dec. 19, the City says that the final section will be fully installed in the next few weeks of final construction and added that restoration activities have been delayed due to supply chain issues and the high demand for construction services in the Valley.

Information on the Dreamy Draw Recreation area project can be found at www.phoenix.gov/parks/trails/projects#dreamy.

Annual Chinese festival set for January

Celebrate the Lunar New Year at the 33rd annual Phoenix Chinese Week Culture and Cuisine Festival, which runs Jan. 21-22 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Steele Indian School Park.

This free two-day festival offers something for everyone. Enjoy continuous live entertainment including dragon and lion dances, folk dances, musical and cultural performances, Tai Chi and martial arts demonstrations. There also will be a variety of Asian food trucks and food vendors, a beer garden, merchandise vendors, several exhibits lots of hands-on activities. Kids can enjoy arts and crafts and a children's play area.

Test your skill using chopsticks, take a selfie in full traditional Chinese costume, play a game of Mahjong, learn how to use the abacus, try a Chinese yo-yo, have your English name translated into Chinese characters and much more.

Steele Indian School Park is located



This map shows current closure and expected opening dates around the Dreaming Draw Recreation Area (photo courtesy of City of Phoenix).

at 300 E. Indian School Road. For more information, visit <https://phoenixchinese-week.org>. For questions about vendor booth opportunities, email phoenixchinese-week@gmail.com.

Support available for co-op food business

The city of Phoenix and Thrive Consultancy, Inc. are partnering to launch a free 2023 spring Sustainable Cooperative Food Business Training Program to Phoenix residents interested in collaborating to start a sustainable cooperative food business.

"This 10-week program is a great opportunity for local aspiring food entrepreneurs to connect and receive training at no cost," said Environmental Programs Administrator Nancy Allen. "Past participants have teamed up to design food-based businesses such as sustainable farms, food trucks, and more proving the value of the program."

Participants will work with their peers to create business plans, develop start-up budgets and marketing pitches for a co-developed sustainable cooperative food business idea. Mentorship and business tools also will be available.

Bi-weekly training sessions are held in downtown Phoenix beginning Jan. 30 through April 5 on Mondays and Wednesdays from 5-7 p.m. Only 25 spaces are open for the program and all participants must attend for all ten weeks to complete the program.

Apply by Jan. 15 at <https://www.thriveconsultancyinc.com/training-program#applications>.

2023

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5722 N 10th Place
7121 E Rancho Vista Dr
7305 W Country Gables Dr
38012 N 4th Avenue
8828 N 5th Street
805 W Northview Ave
920 E Colter Street

2020 E Bethany Home Rd
121 E Claremont Street
909 W Vista Avenue
1314 E Oregon Avenue
9175 W Alex Avenue
2124 N 209th Drive
6706 N 43rd Avenue
8926 N 15th Lane
3040 W Alice Avenue

935 E Vermont Avenue
2654 S Balboa Drive
3134 E Sports Court
32807 N 23rd Avenue
330 W Diana Avenue
5024 W Topeka Drive
2715 E Campo Bello Dr
25533 N 140th Drive
6510 S 38th Lane

31 W Royal Palm Road
1329 E Lawrence Lane
12632 N 34th Place
4425 N 14th Avenue
13705 N 98th Avenue
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COMMUNITY

Register to vote for Council runoff

Two Council seats, District 6 and District 8, will head to a runoff election March 14 after none of the candidates received the 50% +1 votes required to secure the seat during the Nov. 8 election. The election is for a four-year term that begins April 17.

The latest date to register to vote in the March 14 city of Phoenix Council runoff election is Monday, Feb. 6. In-person voting will be held over three days: March 11, 13 and 14.

On the horizon, elections for mayor and council members in Districts 1, 3, 5 and 7 will be held Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2024, with a runoff election March 11, 2025, if necessary.

To learn more about 2022 city elections, visit www.phoenix.gov/city-clerk/elections. To check your voter status or to register to vote in Maricopa County, visit www.maricopa.vote.

Nominations open for Thrive

The Arizona Coalition to end Sexual and Domestic Violence is seeking nominees for its 2023 Thrive Luncheon Awards. Residents who know a survivor, advocate, activist, or responder who deserves to be recognized for their work ending sexual and domestic violence in Arizona are invited to submit a nomination.

The organization is accepting nominations now until Feb. 3 for its Thrive Luncheon Awards. The only event of its kind in Arizona, the Thrive Luncheon will be held Tuesday, May 16, at the Lighthouse Artspace in Scottsdale, and is designed to uplift survivors and honor advocates and allies. Proceeds from the event support the organization's prevention, advocacy and education efforts to fulfill its mission to end sexual and domestic violence in Arizona by dismantling oppression and promoting equity among all people.

For more information, visit www.acesdv.org/thrive-nominations.

Historical society hosts McMahon

The Sunnyslope Historical Society and Museum will host a free presentation by Pat McMahon this month.

McMahon is an actor and broad-

caster, best known for his portrayal of numerous characters on "The Wallace and Ladmo Show," a daily children's variety show broadcast on KPHO-TV in Phoenix. He is also a longstanding fixture on the Phoenix broadcasting scene where he has worked at KRIZ, KOY and KTAR radio stations-serving as program director, disc jockey and talk-show host.

The presentation will be held Saturday, Jan. 21, from 10 a.m. to noon. Refreshments will be served. Seats are limited. No reservations will be accepted for the event. Sunnyslope Historical Society and Museum is located 737 E. Hatcher Rd., Phoenix. For more information, call 602-331-3150 or visit www.sunnyslopehistoricalsociety.org.

Spaghetti dinner to raise funds

One-man jazz band Igor Glenn will be the featured entertainer at Lura Turner Homes' 13th Italian dinner, Saturday, Jan. 28.

The fundraising event will be held at Madison Baptist Church, 6202 N. 12th St., Phoenix, with seating times at 4 and 6 p.m. Tickets are \$20 tickets for adults; \$10 for children for a delicious meal prepared by Personal Touch Catering. Hidden Treasures Antiques will have collectibles and paintings for sale. All proceeds benefit the special needs men and women who live at Lura Turner Homes for Developmentally Disabled Adults.

For tickets or information, contact Max McQueen at Lura Turner Homes, 602-943-4789, or go to www.luraturnerhomes.org.

Arcadia-Biltmore constable appointed

In December, the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors appointed Chris Wible to become Arcadia-Biltmore Justice Precinct Constable. He replaces Carolyn Lane, who resigned in September. The Precinct covers a large swath of north central Phoenix in Supervisorial District 3.

Constables execute, serve and return processes, warrants and notices and attend justice courts when required. It's a job Wible knows well, the County says. Back in 2016, he served as constable in the Desert Ridge Precinct. He'll hold this position through the remainder of Lane's term, which ends in December 2024.

“Eric was outstanding! He made the home selling process super easy. I could not have asked for a better realtor. Eric is very compassionate and really helps minimize the stress from start to finish. I would Highly recommend him!” –Cindy Q.

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COMMUNITY

Sorority gives back to schools

Seven schools in the Phoenix Metro area each received a \$1,922 donation made in honor of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc 100th anniversary. The women of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc, Beta Mu Sigma & Beta Pi Chapters, in partnership with the Giving. Learning. Developing. (GLD) Foundation, made the donations to each of the selected schools' representatives during its centennial gala in mid-November on the campus of Arizona State University.

The nominees were narrowed down based on criteria that included the percentage of minority students, the number of students on free/reduced lunch, total student enrollment and more. In North Central, Solano Elementary was honored.

Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc. was organized on Nov. 12, 1922, in Indianapolis, Indiana by seven educators. Since its inception 100 years ago, the dynamic women of the fantastic sorority have built and sustained a rep-

utation for leading positive change to help uplift the community through sisterhood, leadership, and service.

Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. was the first African American sorority in the state of Arizona (Beta Mu Sigma) — chartering in 1950 and at Arizona State University (Beta Pi) in 1952. The women of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc are educators, lawyers, doctors, engineers, politicians, social workers and more. With a focus on serving the community, the Beta Mu Sigma and Beta Pi Chapters host several programs throughout the year. Examples include their annual school supply drive (Operation Big Book Bag), voter registration events, breast cancer awareness programs and annual swim clinic (Swim 1922) focusing on water safety.

For more information, visit www.sgrhol1922.org. For more information on the GLD Foundation visit www.gldfoundation.org.

JFCS welcomes new director

Jewish Family & Children's Service (JFCS), in December, announced it has hired Jonathan Levin as the new senior director of Philanthropic Services.

Levin will oversee fundraising initiatives, donor engagement and supervise team members toward success. He will work with prospects for annual, major, and planned gifts ensuring a positive donor experience.

“Jonathan’s experience and knowledge in fundraising makes him well-suited to take on this role at JFCS,” said Len Gutman, vice president of Philanthropic Services, at Jewish Family & Children’s Service.

Levin is a long-time development professional, having held the position of vice president of Development for Zeta Beta Tau Foundation for over five years. Other previous experience includes roles at the executive level in technology, commercial real estate management, and banking.

The JFCS is a nonprofit, non-sectarian organization that strengthens the community by providing behavioral health, healthcare and social services to all ages, faiths, and backgrounds. Learn more at www.jfcsaz.org.



Johathan Levin





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COMMUNITY

Pet of the Month
Meet nine-years-young
Australian Kelpie

What is one of the best ways to stay warm when the weather starts to get chilly? Chowder, the nine-years young Australian Kelpie, has an idea...adopting him!

Hiding his age extremely well with his puppy-like cuteness, this senior baby was originally rescued by the Arizona Humane Society (AHS) all the way back in May of this year as a stray. Chowder underwent treatment in the shelter's trauma hospital for a mass and was adopted but unfortunately returned in September of this year. Being with AHS for much too long now, this makes Chowder one of the shelter's longest residents. But he continues to be hopeful his perfect forever family will show up one day.

Chowder is a loving boy who was extremely shy at first but has come out of his shell and shown himself to be a bouncy, wiggly and happy pup. Always the first to give his favorite people a smile, the best home for this pointy-eared doggo would be one where he is the only pet in the home as other four-legged friends cause him great stress. Chowder would much rather play, go on walks and cuddle with his two-legged friends.

To help him find his true forever home, Chowder's adoption fee is waived. Interested adopters can meet cute Chowder (pet number 696964) at the Arizona Humane Society's South Mountain location. His adoption fee includes his neuter 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 based on your schedule — by appointment, walk-in or curbside (cats and critters only).

Mom and pups rescue
seeks volunteers

Residents 18 and older who love dogs and are looking for volunteer opportunities may want to check out Almost There, a mom & pups rescue organization.

All new volunteers must attend an orientation and complete additional training for the chosen role. According to the organization's website, current



The nine-year-old Chowder is a loving boy who was extremely shy at first but has come out of his shell and shown himself to be a bouncy, wiggly and happy pup.

volunteer roles include matchmaker, mother lover, puppy preschool teacher, mutt makeover artist, fundraising team, event team, paparazzi, videographer, canine caregiver, doggy day trip chaperone and more.

Almost There is located at 2611 E. Indian School Rd., Phoenix. To become a volunteer, check the website for current opportunities and complete the volunteer application to get started: www.almosttherescue.org/volunteer. For more information, call 480-336-9860.

Reading program
helps shelter pups

Over the holiday season, Dr. Seuss Enterprises and the Petfinder Foundation teamed up with the Arizona Humane Society (AHS) for a special, Grinch-themed #ReadToMax holiday program. On Dec. 10, kids ages 7–12 with a soft spot for canines participated in a festive holiday event where they read the classic tale of “How the Grinch Stole Christmas!” to dogs up for adoption.

Arizona Humane Society regularly hosts Reading Fur Fun events where kids read to shelter dogs as they have come to recognize the positive, calming effects that story times have on their pups. The #ReadToMax event on Dec. 10 was themed after Max, the Grinch's four-legged sidekick, providing this special reading activity with a festive twist, while also celebrating the classic tale's 65th publishing anniversary.

Reading Fur Fun events are held at the Arizona Humane Society's South Mountain Campus, located at 1521 W. Dobbins Rd., Phoenix. Families can

find out more information and sign up for a future reading event by visiting www.azhumane.org/reading.

Pet festival lands
at Indian School Park

The Sixth Annual Doggie Street Festival Phoenix will take place Saturday, Jan. 28, at Steele Indian School Park.

Running from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., this “not-to-be-missed” companion animal adopt-a-thon is a fun celebration of furry best friends and an opportunity to explore pet products and services, treats, vet tips, music, a kids' booth, auction prizes and more. Friendly dogs are welcomed to attend with their people.

To-date, rescues scheduled to be in attendance at the event include Any Rat Rescue, Arizona Weimaraner Rescue, AZ Husky Rescue, Regal Dane Rescue and Saving Paws Rescue.

Event admission is free. Steele Indian School Park is located at 300 E. Indian School Rd. Phoenix. For more information, visit www.doggiestreetfestival.org.



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COMMUNITY

Council approves
GO Bond Program

Tuesday, Dec. 13, Phoenix City Council voted to approve the proposed \$500 million 2023 GO Bond Program as presented by the GO Bond Executive Committee.

After three months of committee deliberation and public input, the GO Bond Executive Committee recommended several projects and programs for City Council consideration. A summary of allocations per subcommittee as well as a list of recommended projects/programs to be completed is available on the City’s website.

Phoenix City Council approved the following allocations per program area totaling \$500 million: Arts & Culture, \$50,385,000; Economic Development & Education, \$38,000,000; Environment & Sustainability, \$26,000,000; Housing, Human Services & Homelessness, \$63,000,000; Neighborhoods & City Services, \$44,615,000; Parks & Recreation, \$64,000,000; Public Safety, \$132,500,000; and Streets & Storm Drainage, \$81,500,000.

City staff will begin the next steps to prepare election materials for City Council approval and then voters will decide the outcome during a November 2023 Special Bond Election.

In a released statement, Mayor Kate Gallego applauded the GO Bond committees for the months of effort that went into creating the final proposals.

“This was a complex project, and our committee members — who already lead busy lives — generously gave of their time and expertise to prioritize and craft these proposals that came to the council today. I am deeply grateful for their commitment to making the City of Phoenix a better place.”

Read more about the proposed projects at www.phoenix.gov/bond.

Homeowner guidance,
assistance available

Arizonans who fell behind on their mortgage or are struggling to make payments due to effects from COVID-19 can receive free help from nonprofit housing counseling agency Take Charge America to apply for up to \$40,000 in financial assistance through the Arizona Homeowner Assistance Fund.

The fund is a \$196 million program funded by the American Rescue Plan to

prevent foreclosure among the state’s most vulnerable homeowners. The program provides up to \$40,000 per household to pay for mortgage, property tax or homeowner association delinquencies that could lead to foreclosure. HAF funds can also be used to pay other eligible housing costs including overdue utility and insurance bills.

To be eligible for the HAF program, homeowners must have experienced a financial hardship after Jan. 21, 2020, due to COVID-19 (job loss, reduction of income, increased health-care costs, caring for a family member); have an income equal to or less than 150% of the area median income; and seek assistance for their primary residence.

To schedule a free call with a Take Charge America counselor for help in applying to the HAF program, Arizona homeowners can call 866-987-2008 or visit www.takechargeamerica.org/homeowner-assistance-fund.

Mercy C.A.R.E.
grants available

Nonprofit organizations working to advance health equity across Arizona are encouraged to apply for a 2023 Mercy C.A.R.E.S. Community Reinvestment Grant. The grants typically range from \$20,000 to \$500,000 and are awarded to strategic projects, with measurable outcomes, that demonstrate tangible, positive impact to the community and align with one or more of Mercy Care’s community health focus areas.

These health focus areas are Managing Chronic Conditions; Supporting Mental Health and Well-Being; Addressing Housing Security; and Empowering Recovery from Substance Use.

Mercy C.A.R.E.S., which stands for Community Action Resources Education and Service, is Mercy Care’s community giving initiative. Through grant funding, sponsorships, volunteer efforts and board participation, Mercy C.A.R.E.S. supports AHCCCS’ Whole Person Care Initiative, which addresses Social Risk Factors to improve health outcomes. Since 2016, the Mercy C.A.R.E.S. Community Reinvestment grant program has invested nearly \$15 million in local organizations.

The initial grant window is open through Jan. 20. To begin the application process, visit www.mercycares4az.org.

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6138 N 15th Dr • \$527,500
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TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS



In mid-December, the AlphaGraphics Camelback team celebrated the groundbreaking of its new printing facility, which is expected to open in mid-2023 (submitted photo).

AlphaGraphics breaks ground

After a decade-long search to find the perfect Camelback Corridor building site, AlphaGraphics Camelback will move into an all-new, custom-built printing facility on the southwest corner of 24th Street and Campbell

Avenue in 2023. Founded in 1981 and still operated by Tucson native Larry Furlong, the Camelback franchise is the fifth-highest volume location out of 270 AlphaGraphics nationwide.

Furlong first fell in love with printing during freshman year in high school, when he signed up for class at the school's print shop. After seeing a note that the AlphaGraphics near campus was seeking students for afterschool jobs, he started working part time, and then transferred to the company's new location in downtown Phoenix the day after graduation. Working his way up to manager right around the time that the company started franchising, Furlong launched his own franchise Oct. 10, 1981.

Defying predictions that the digital revolution would lessen the need for print shops, the Phoenix company has grown to more than 35 full time employees and often runs its printing press 24 hours a day. Which led to the search for the new space.

"After three decades in central Phoenix, we had outgrown our existing location, which pre-dated the digital printing revolution and was originally designed in the 1960s as an appliance store, so it was always an awkward fit for a print shop," Furlong said in a released statement. "But we were determined to stay in the Camelback Corridor, which meant competing with national chains for some of the most expensive real estate in the state."

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ing location at 2120 E. Camelback Rd., the company says that it worked with LGE Design Build to craft a bespoke printing facility that will serve the neighborhood and beyond for the next three decades. Besides expanding the previous footprint by 2,000 sq. ft., the stylish, contemporary design features a soaring double-sided glass atrium entry. Stepping into the high-tech printing bay, the sleek, grey concrete block walls are broken up with peak-through window walls to showcase the bustling print floor, and new, larger digital equipment that it couldn't fit at the old location.

"Because technology changes so quickly, we will be retiring a lot of our printers and taking advantage of our first-ever facility designed for the digital age from the ground up," Furlong added.

In addition, as part of the company's commitment to eco-friendly practices, including using 90 percent FSC certified paper from sustainably managed forests, the lumber used in the new building will also be FSC certified. The new 12,000 sq. ft., state-of-the-art, eco-friendly printing facility is scheduled to open in mid-2023.

Business Briefs
Dunkin looks to develop Dunlap site

At a Dec. 1 Zoning Adjusting hearing, several zoning variance requests were approved that will facilitate a new Dunkin drive-through location at 701 W. Dunlap Ave.

Located on the southwest corner of 7th and Dunlap avenues, the property has been sitting vacant for many years. It is also directly across 7th Avenue from BlackRock Coffee Bar and less than a block away from locally owned Cultivate Coffee.

The existing building, a defunct gas station, and its canopy will be demolished, and the underground fuel tanks will be removed to make way for new ground-up construction of a 1,090 square-foot coffee and donut shop (Dunkin) with a drive-through lane operation, a walk-up window and small outdoor dining area. There will be no indoor dining or public restroom.

In addressing the concerns of the 7th Avenue Estates Homeowners Association regarding potential light

pollution, Paul Faust, vice president of operations for Dunkin in Phoenix, stated that typical hours for this type of location are generally opening between 4:30-5:30 a.m. closing between 8-9 p.m. Given that the property is bordered by commercial buildings, the impact was considered negligible. Other concerns addressed were length of drive-through lanes, which the Dunkin representative said met the standard of their other locations, and potential noise from the positioning of the ordering box.

The Zoning Hearing Officer approved the requests of the owner, Atlas BL Dunlap, LLC, with stipulations, among them that a west and south wall will be built at a continuous height of six feet to act as a noise buffer. The owners will have 18 months to pull construction permits.

Renovation planned for Esplanade

The ownership of the Esplanade office buildings announced plans to fully renovate and upgrade the four-building campus. Located at 2425,

2525, 2575, and 2555 E. Camelback Rd. in the Biltmore area, the \$45 million project will add approximately 30,000 square feet of new amenity space and overhaul the existing buildings. Construction is expected to start in early spring of 2023.

A new 16,000 square foot, two-story central amenity building will be the heart of the property and will include a full-service café and bar, collaborative workspaces, lounges, and game areas with pool tables and golf simulators. The second floor will be dedicated to health and fitness, offering a state-of-the-art gym and studio spaces for group classes and social wellness programs.

A new 8,000 square foot conference center will provide groups a venue that will accommodate up to 100 person events, including a variety of meeting rooms and coworking spaces outfitted with superior AV/IT equipment tailored to producing podcasts, live stream studios, and more.

The campus will also be enhanced with a redeveloped landscape, a new shade structure, new lobby entrances,

please see ESPLANADE on page 20

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TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

ESPLANADE *continued from page 19*

and pedestrian-friendly walkways and surfaces to create a cohesive, interconnected campus. In addition to the new gym and studio spaces, the robust health and wellness program will include recovery rooms, infrared saunas mother's rooms and meditation spaces. The redevelopment is expected to be complete by the third quarter of 2024.

For more information, visit www.esplanadephx.com.

Retailer moves to new location

Nearly a year and a half after opening their original location at 10th Street and Indian School Road, Patrick and Mary Burch, owners of Cave + Post Trading Co., are moving their men's boutique into an expanded space in the former Easley's Fun Shop at 5th Avenue and McDowell Road (509 W. McDowell Rd., Ste.102, Phoenix). The new spot gives them 1,500 square feet to display their men's apparel, accessories, home goods, personal care items, and one-of-a-kind gifts.

"We loved the charm of our first location in a historic home, but it became clear we needed room to grow," said Patrick. "Our new space is perfect for us. We've recreated the same vibe as our original shop, and now we're welcoming people from the Willow, Encanto, FQ Story, and Roosevelt neighborhoods who are discovering us while grabbing a coffee at Caffè Vita, a beer at Roses by the Stairs, or waiting for their takeout at Little O's next door."

"We may be a men's boutique, but we offer a number of items, including one-of-a-kind jewelry, shoes, t-shirts, fragrances, and home goods, that appeal to both men and women."

Learn more at www.caveandpost.com.

Highnoon recognized by Better Business Bureau

Better Business Bureau Serving the Pacific Southwest (BBB) named Highnoon as a winner of the 2022 BBB Torch Awards for Ethics in Greater Arizona at a November event. The award honors businesses that go above and beyond to operate with integrity and raise awareness about marketplace trust.

"At Highnoon we have a saying, 'We aren't here for the easy answers. We're here for the right ones.' This saying directly applies to our vision of doing ethical, trustworthy business each and every day," Highnoon managing partner Ken Bonham said.

Winning businesses have displayed an outstanding level of commitment to ethics and trust by illustrating the character of their organization's leadership, how an authentic culture is being fostered, how their company prioritizes its relationship with customers, and the impact the organization is making in their community.

"Honesty builds trust, which is a vital aspect in the success of a business. For 21 years, BBB has been recognizing outstanding companies in Arizona for their solid commitment to doing things the right way and we are so proud of our 2022 winning businesses," said Shelley Bradley, director of Signature Events for BBB Serving the Pacific Southwest (torchawards.bbbcommunity.org).

Highnoon recently relocated from Tempe to a 23,000-square-foot Phoenix office at 5343 N. 16th St., Suite 300. Learn more at www.highnoon.co.

Community leader joins board

Kate Brophy McGee has joined the Maricopa County Special Health Care District board, which oversees Valleywise Health, Arizona's leading public teaching hospital and safety net system of care.

Brophy McGee, a community leader for over two decades, was sworn in Dec. 5 for a four-year term on the elected five-member board.

"I will bring my 25 plus years of public service experience to the highest and best use for this organization to benefit the patients we serve," Brophy McGee said.

Steve Purves, Valleywise Health president and CEO, said Brophy McGee "brings invaluable public leadership experience and perspective of our board at a critical time in our history. Valleywise Health and the community we serve will benefit greatly from her knowledge and expertise."

Also in December, director Woody Thomas was elected chairman and director Mark Dewane vice-chairman of the board.

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ZAP!
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Tribute To Grandma Doris

BLONDIE: A NICKNAME GIVEN BY GRANDMOTHER, NOW A BUSINESS CREATED BY GRANDDAUGHTER!

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This Comic was created by Blondie Realtor aka Megan Ternes with the use of a flyer design program and the program's tools.

This ad has been approved by HomeSmart.

Blondie Realtor aka Megan Ternes is an Independent Contractor who hangs her Real Estate License with HomeSmart - A Brokerage.

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CURRENT LISTINGS/ESCROWS

620 W Lawrence Rd	New Price	10,479SF	7BR/7.5BA	\$4,500,000
4412 N 13th Pl	In Escrow	Multi plex		\$1,150,000
30111 N 166th Pl	Just Listed	3350SF	5BR/3.5BA	\$ 749,000
1516 W Glenn Dr	Just Listed	2032SF	3BR/2BA	\$ 625,000
1400 E Bethany Home Rd #29 ..	In Escrow	1756SF	2BR/2.5BA	\$ 599,000
106 E Echo Ln	In Escrow	1503SF	2BR/1.75BA	\$ 499,000
2233 E Sheridan St	Just Listed	2262SF	4BR/3BA	\$ 485,000
5220 N 16th Lane	Just Listed	2004 SF	4BR/3BA	\$ 424,900
1102 W Glendale Ave #116 ...	In Escrow	1791SF	3BR/2.5BA	\$ 415,000

96 homes SOLD in 2022. Call me to discuss your real estate needs and the value of your home. 602.376.1341. I work 7 days a week and am always available to help.

SOLD HOMES 2022

7020 N Wilder Rd.....	\$3,400,000	7247 N 6th Pl*.....	\$1,040,000	5302 N La Plaza Cr.....	\$ 565,000
5445 E Lincoln	\$2,849,000	1825 E Cinnabar Ave**.....	\$ 989,000	3401 W Taro Ln	\$ 550,000
4901 E Lafayette Blvd	\$2,700,000	1146 W Royal Palm Rd*.....	\$ 980,000	1106 E Wagon Wheel Dr	\$ 549,000
800 E Circle Dr	\$2,500,000	1324 E Lupine Ave	\$ 975,000	6532 N 16th Dr	\$ 530,000
7020 N 21st St	\$2,450,000	42 E Marlette Ave	\$ 970,000	77 E Missouri Ave #17.....	\$ 520,000
1527 W Caribbean Ln.....	\$2,000,000	121 E Claremont St*.....	\$ 935,000	1527 E Hudson Dr	\$ 519,000
3120 E Coolidge St	\$1,990,000	132 E Tuckey Ln.....	\$ 925,000	700 W Northern Ave	\$ 510,000
7011 N Wilder Rd.....	\$1,745,000	10251 N Central Ave.....	\$ 915,000	804 E Corte Oro Dr	\$ 494,000
1 E Northview Ave	\$1,700,000	7730 N 2nd Ave	\$ 900,000	1124 E Rose Ln #21**.....	\$ 485,000
526 E Tuckey Ln.....	\$1,575,000	1033 E Kaler Dr	\$ 899,000	6357 S Blake St	\$ 480,000
3229 E Sells Dr	\$1,525,000	7904 S 29th Pl	\$ 875,786	1241 E Kaler Dr	\$ 475,000
205 W Lawrence Rd.....	\$1,362,000	4128 E Sunnyside Dr	\$ 825,000	903 W Glendale Ave #3	\$ 465,000
5112 N 34th Pl	\$1,300,000	77 E Missouri Ave #67.....	\$ 815,000	2340 E Turney Ave	\$ 450,000
3436 N 38th Pl	\$1,299,500	7536 N 10th Dr	\$ 740,000	8850 S Grandview**.....	\$ 449,000
7588 E Via Dona Rd*.....	\$1,275,000	800 W Bethany Home Rd.....	\$ 800,000	7526 N 10th Pl	\$ 440,000
640 E Echo.....	\$1,266,500	8058 E Via Del Desierto	\$ 775,000	605 E Royal Palm Square.....	\$ 435,000
18005 N 65th Pl	\$1,225,000	7549 N 16th Dr	\$ 740,000	6125 N Central Ave #5.....	\$ 435,000
10 E Cactus Wren Dr	\$1,225,000	6614 N 19th St	\$ 725,000	7321 N 11th Pl	\$ 425,000
2016 E State Ave.....	\$1,200,000	534 E El Camino Dr	\$ 720,300	8125 N Central Ave #18.....	\$ 425,000
613 E Vista Ave*.....	\$1,200,000	8123 N 13th Way	\$ 699,000	914 E Osborn Rd #205.....	\$ 425,000
901 W Wagon Wheel Dr.....	\$1,200,000	4735 E Sleepy Ranch Rd.....	\$ 690,000	6223 N 12th St #13.....	\$ 422,000
202 E Kaler Dr	\$1,195,000	827 W Linger Ln	\$ 656,000	1507 E Pinchot Ave	\$ 403,000
1545 E Northern Ave	\$1,070,000	2316 E Desert Cove	\$ 630,000	2531 S 156th Ave.....	\$ 378,000
8989 E Gainey Center Dr #228	\$1,063,325	1415 E Flower St	\$ 616,000	5816 N 64th Dr	\$ 342,000
1025 E Morten Ave*.....	\$1,050,000	1102 E Vista Ave	\$ 606,000	750 E Northern Ave #1089*.....	\$ 310,000
8902 E Rusty Spur Pl	\$1,050,000	8039 N 10th Ave	\$ 600,000	7640 N Dreamy Draw #3.....	\$ 299,000
9411 N 13th Way	\$1,150,000	1105 E Wagon Wheel Dr*	\$ 600,000	1263A E Maryland Ave.....	\$ 255,000
		7321 N 11th Pl	\$ 575,000		
		8124 E Whitton Ave	\$ 570,000		
		1110 E Orangewood Ave.....	\$ 565,000		

*represented both buyer and seller
**represented buyer



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1516 W Glenn Dr. • \$625,000



5302 N La Plaza • \$565,000



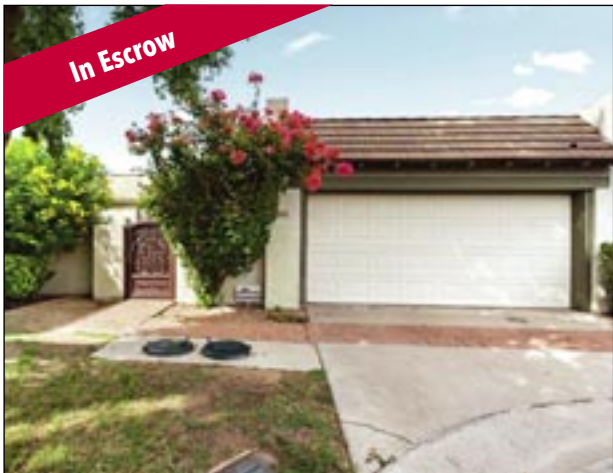
30111 N 166th Pl • \$749,000



1102 W Glendale Ave #116 • \$415,000



5220 N 16th Ln • \$424,900



106 E Echo Ln • \$499,500



1507 E Pinchot Ave • \$403,000



1400 E Bethany Home Rd #29 • \$599,000



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The Camelback High School Link Crew welcomes incoming freshmen and helps them feel like they are not alone on their journey as they transition into the high school environment (photo courtesy of Camelback High School).

Link Crew offers support, opportunities

By Maya Harrison

If you've never seen the wonders that Camelback High School has to offer, you would think it's a regular public high school. But from an insider's point of view, I know that we offer so many amazing opportunities and lead ways for students to experience. At the end of my sophomore year of high school, I was introduced to a program called Link Crew that I ended up falling in love with. It was a program that I, unfortunately, wasn't able to experience my freshmen year due to the pandemic.

Link Crew is a student-led and motivated program to make our incoming freshmen feel as comfortable as possible with the huge transition from middle school to high school. Juniors and seniors form a bond with our incoming freshmen to make them feel like they are never alone in this journey of high school. We made it our job as upperclassman to run their orientation, welcoming events, as well as other activities that go towards community service.

As the members of Link Crew, we went through two days of training to learn how to welcome our fellow students as warmly as possible. We were assigned to a group of scholars to personally welcome and get to know. We planned a welcoming assembly fol-

lowed by various fun, interactive activities to build friendships and bonds with them.

Our goal for mentoring freshmen is to make sure they always have a familiar face to find whenever they're feeling stuck or need a friend. We've even developed a shirt design that is bright green, purposely meant to be easily spotted if we are needed. It was my honor to see my freshmen come up to me in the following months, whether it was a simple "hi" or a meaningful conversation. But the fun didn't stop there! We've also ran tie-dye events to give them customized Camelback swag, a movie night to relax and have fun, and even tutoring and pizza sessions for them to receive the help they need. Link Crew has truly gone over and beyond for our freshmen!

Link Crew also offers multiple opportunities for service hours. The program provides its members with the chance to volunteer at nonprofit organizations, such as St. Mary's Food Bank, or even just trash clean up events at Camelback to keep it beautiful and lively. We also show our school spirit by attending sports events and sell items such as clear back packs to fundraise for our program. Giving our service to the community is very important to Camelback High School, and Link Crew is paving the way for students of many generations to show gratitude and appreciation to our school.

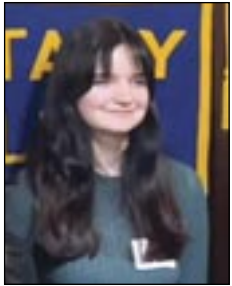
SCHOOL DAYS

Although it may seem like a hassle to manage freshmen or volunteer often, we as members are being supported by staff and facilities who love the program and the students just as much as we do. Link Crew has made an impact on thousands of students across America, and I sincerely love providing my time to participate in such a giving program. The program deserves recognition as well as celebration for all of the students that they support each and every day. We will continue to devote our time to making such a positive community here at Camelback High School.

Maya Harrison is a member of the Camelback High School Link Crew.

School Briefs
GLENDALE UNION
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Sunnyslope senior
recognized by Rotary

Sunnyslope High School senior Abby Wolf recently attended a local Rotary club meeting to celebrate being named Rotary Student of the Month. Phoenix West Rotary also celebrated two more students from Cortez and Moon Valley.



Abby Wolf

NJROTC cadets host
'Clash of the Titans'

Excellence continues at Thunderbird High School as NJROTC hosted the Area 11 "Clash of the Titans" Field Meet. A tough field of 10 schools competed in Unarmed Drill, Armed Drill, Color Guard, Academics, push-ups, sit-ups, and two relay races. In the end, Thunderbird NJROTC ended up in third place overall, and qualified for the Regional Playoffs in San Diego, California.

GUHSD to hold
teacher job fair

Glendale Union High School District is hiring for the 2023–24 school year. Residents are invited to become part of a top-performing high school district in the Metro-Phoenix area. The annual job fair will be held Saturday, Jan. 28, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Greenway High School in the

media center 3930 W. Greenway Rd. Phoenix.

The district says it is committed to hiring exceptional teachers and providing the necessary resources to enable them to achieve success and satisfaction while fulfilling the mission of the district. GUHSD offers a nationally recognized teacher-mentoring program, extensive professional development opportunities, competitive teacher salaries, generous benefits package, and more.

To apply, visit www.applitrack.com/guhsdaz/onlineapp and then reserve an interview by calling the GUHSD Human Resources Department at 623-435-6017.

District leader named
Superintendent of the Year

Glendale Union High School District (GUHSD) Superintendent Brian Capistran recently was selected as the All Arizona Superintendent of the Year for a large size school district by the Arizona School Administrators.

The mission of the Arizona School Administrators is to promote and support educational excellence in school leadership. ASA seeks to honor outstanding Arizona administrators for their professionalism, dedication, leadership, and exemplary contributions to education in Arizona. The award was presented at the Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA) conference Dec. 14.

Capistran has been an educator in the district for the past 28 years.



Brian Capistran

MADISON ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL DISTRICT
Open enrollment forms
are now available

Open enrollment interest forms are now available for the 2023–24 school year for the Madison School District. The district invites parents to inspire their child's passion for learning and leading through its solid academic foundation and Signature Programs that help students grow and develop their unique interests.

Signature Programs include STEAM, Spanish Immersion, Visual & please see ENROLLMENT on page 26

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SCHOOL DAYS

ENROLLMENT continued from page 25

Performing Arts, International Baccalaureate, REACH — Profoundly Gifted, and Traditional Academy. Open enrollment is for families who live outside the district or school boundary.

Open enrollment is for families who live outside the district or school boundary. Families must complete their online Open Enrollment Interest Form before Jan. 26 and will be given priority according to the groups the district has established.

Learn more at www.madisonaz.org/enrollment.

Author visits
Madison Traditional

In December, Madison Traditional Academy students received a special visit from award-winning author Bridget Heos, who shared her process for researching and writing her books.

During the presentation, the author read her book, “Mustache Baby,” aloud to the students. She also discussed how books are published, illustrated and printed.



Author Bridget Heos read from her book, “Mustache Baby,” at a December presentation (photo courtesy of Madison Elementary School District)

PHOENIX UNION
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Students offer
messages of hope

North High School in Phoenix will receive \$1,000 for creating one of the Valley’s largest tangible displays of hope.

In September, working in conjunction with Teen Lifeline, students attending 21 Valley high schools created nearly

19,000 handwritten messages of hope during Teen Suicide Prevention Awareness Month (www.teenlifeline.org). These tangible demonstrations of encouragement aim to help their peers struggling with depression, anxiety or thoughts of suicide. The messages of hope were written on strips of paper and turned into paper chains. Joined together, these chains would stretch nearly one mile in length.

With 3,250 links, North High School earned the prize for the most handwritten links of any school in the Valley. That’s enough links for the chain to stretch across the school’s football field more than twice. The prize money will be used to create a permanent display of hope on the campus.

Science teacher receives
Fulbright grant

Lauren Hubert, a science teacher at Camelback High School, has been selected to receive a grant from the Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching research program sponsored by the U.S. State Department for 2022–23.

A science teacher at Camelback since 1999, Hubert served seven years as Science Instructional Leader, earned National Board Certification in 2017, has been a sponsor of active Camelback Science Club for 23 years, and helped start the new Camelback Travel Adventure Club to promote global awareness and cultural experiences in 2021.



Lauren Hubert

Hubert grew up in Phoenix and ended up at Camelback in part, she says, due to the encouragement of her mom and a Camelback alum.

For the 2022–23 cohort, only 23 teachers were selected nationwide by the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board to travel to one of 10 foreign countries to do an academic research project. Starting Jan. 1, Hubert will spend three months in Singapore visiting the Ministry of Education & Curriculum Divisions as well as observing at several schools to research how Singapore is teaching students in K-12 classrooms about global climate change and sustainability.

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL DISTRICT
Teachers win
Supply My Class awards

Several Washington Elementary School District teachers were honored with the APS Supply My Class Award, including Desert View Elementary School teacher Karen Moreno and Moon Mountain Elementary School teachers Suzette Alexander, Kyra Harris and Careen Vierthaler.



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SCHOOL DAYS

The APS Supply My Class program awards \$500 to randomly selected teachers in APS service territory to help ensure they have the resources they need to support their students’ success.

Maryland receives tree donation

The Arizona Sustainability Alliance, American Forests, Bank of America and the Girl Scouts Arizona Cactus Pine donated 21 trees to Maryland School in December.

Fifty volunteers helped beautify Maryland by planting 21 trees around campus. These trees will help to mitigate extreme temperatures and improve air quality, all while providing students and teachers an enhanced campus for years to come.

WESD to host kindergarten events

The Washington Elementary School District will offer kindergarten open house events Tuesday, Jan. 24, from 5–7 p.m. Available at 27 locations, these events will provide future kindergarteners and their families with



Fifty community volunteers came together in December to help beautify the campus at Maryland School by planting 21 donated trees (photo courtesy of WESD).

opportunities to meet teachers, explore classrooms, receive important information about the KidSpace childcare program, transportation services and school meals and more.

The free, full-day program offers a developmentally appropriate, research-based curriculum that addresses reading, writing, math, science, social studies, physical education and art, with

time for fun and interaction

The district currently is enrolling kindergarten students for the 2023–24 school year. Its free, full-day program offers a developmentally appropriate, research-based curriculum that addresses reading, writing, math, science, social studies, physical education and art, with time for fun and interaction. Anyone who has a child turning 5

before Sept. 1, 2023, is encouraged to attend the event.

To learn more about kindergarten enrollment, call 602-896-6950 or visit www.wesdschools.org/kindergarten.

Districtwide job fair set for Jan. 19

Residents looking for meaningful employment inside Arizona’s public school are invited to attend a districtwide job fair Thursday, Jan. 19, from 3:30-6:30 p.m. at the WESD administrative center, located at 4650 W. Sweetwater Ave. The district is looking to fill a variety of positions including elementary school teachers, substitutes, paraprofessionals, bus drivers, nutrition services helpers, social workers, custodians and much more.

Walk-ins are welcome for substitute and support staff vacancies. Those interested in teaching or speech pathologist job openings should preschedule an interview by Jan. 18 by calling 602-347-2622.

To view available positions at the district’s 33 schools and apply, visit <https://jobs.wesdschools.org>.

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SCHOOL DAYS

Sixteen Brophy seniors received the Distinguished Student Award in December. The award honors students who excel in the classroom, as leaders and volunteers and who participate in other activities (photo courtesy of Brophy College Preparatory).

CHARTER AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS Seniors recognized as ‘distinguished’

Each school year, Brophy recognizes 32 seniors with Distinguished Student Awards — 16 in the fall and 16 in the spring. On Dec. 5, Brophy honored the following seniors as fall Distinguished Students: Adam Acunin, Strider Aston, Michael Bennan, Peter Calihan, Rodrigo Carvajal, Michael DeBarros, Sameer Godbole, Ben Jackson, Carson Lauer, Asher Martin, Austin Moran, Carlos Nowakowski, Aidan Parris, Miguel Quintana, Jesus Ruiz Suarez and Amar Toric.

Students are chosen by faculty based on activities and accomplishments that have brought them to the attention of the faculty and also their peers. It is often a combination of

excelling in the classroom, taking leadership positions, volunteering, participating in immersion trips and more.

Athletes sign letters of intent

Six Brophy College Preparatory seniors from the class of 2023 made their collegiate commitments to play college sports next fall at a ceremony on Nov. 9.

The signees included JT Craig (Army West Point/baseball), James DeCremer (Oregon State University/baseball), Trevor Karber (University of San Diego/golf), Arman Madi (Northern Arizona University/basketball), Brennen McHenry (University of Texas/track and field) and Nuri Todd (Long Beach State University/baseball).

More students are expected to sign in the spring.

2023 – 2024 SCHOOL YEAR

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We are all able to direct our own personal stories with little to no systematic interference because the blessing of freedom. If you ask your neighbors to define freedom, I imagine you would get several nuanced responses and robust debates, which is exactly as it should be.

That debate is allowed because of the sacrifices of those who serve and have served our country in the Armed Forces. That we sometimes take that sacrifice for granted shows what an amazing job our armed services have done.

Thank you to the people who have fought for our freedom, and I wish you all a Happy and Safe 2023!

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Winner for Last Month – Curt Ingram | Last Month’s Answer – Robbie Ftorek

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Artplay sessions help me identify and manage my own emotions...

AGES 4-16

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SCHOOL DAYS



Xavier students celebrated Computer Science Education Week in December. The school was one of the first in Arizona to require successful completion of a computer science coding class in order to graduate. (photo by Lisa Zuba).

School excels in computer science

Computer Science Education Week (CSEdWeek) is an annual national program dedicated to inspiring K-12 students to take interest in computer science, advocate for equity and celebrate the contributions of students, teachers and partners in the field.

Xavier College Preparatory was one of the first schools in Arizona to require successful completion of a computer science coding class in order to graduate. Students take the course during their sophomore year.

The school also has the largest chapter of the National Computer Science Honor Society in the nation, and all its members are young women.

AP Computer Science teacher, Leon Tynes, Jr., said of the week-long event, "We celebrated the restart of the Robotics Team and Club, the addition of project-based learning in our Computer Science courses, the introduction of the Unreal Engine in our curriculum, and the large number of AP Computer Science Principles students developing mobile applications that make the world a better place. We are now incorporating robotics and physical computing in all of our introductory computer science courses."

It is appropriate that Xavier leads in computer science education. The school was started by the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The first person in the United States to obtain a Ph.D. in computer science was Sister Mary Kenneth Keller, of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (BVM) (Irving C. Tang earned a D.Sc.

in computer science the same day as Keller, on June 7, 1965.) Xavier's administration continues to be led by Sisters from the same BVM order.

Xavier's computer science graduates have been accepted into prestigious computer science programs at Duke, MIT, and Princeton, and have worked for companies such as Microsoft, Pixar and Intel.

Annual 'Elf Drive' serves families in need

Brophy held its annual Elf (Extending Love to Families) Drive from Nov. 28 to Dec. 12. The Brophy community partnered with the Division of Developmental Disabilities to "adopt" 51 special families and collect gifts to help provide a holiday filled with joy.

These families, many struggling financially and falling within the state's poverty guidelines, have at least one child or family member challenged by cerebral palsy, autism, epilepsy or cognitive delays.

Student receives innovation honor

Brophy sophomore Bremer Kaprosy was honored in November at the Governor's Celebration of Innovation as a Future Innovator of the Year. The recognition included a \$1,500 prize and the opportunity to meet and discuss internships with more than 700 Arizona technology companies.

Bremer's project, "Building a Cold Rocket Engine," won second place in the Arizona Science Fair's Engineering Division.



GENERATIONS



Oasis Intergenerational Tutoring Program volunteer Lea Ann Rhea helps student Ruby Rubio improve her reading skills (submitted photo).

Senior Living
Volunteers sought
for literacy program

As children gear up for their second semester of school, volunteer tutors are needed to help them finish out the year successfully.

The Oasis Intergenerational Tutoring Program is looking for community members who are interested in sharing their love of reading with a child. By becoming a literacy tutor, you will support a student once a week for an hour during the school day to experience enjoyment and success in the skills of reading, writing, and communication.

Oasis is a nonprofit organization

that partners with the Madison School District to pair adults, who may or may not be retired, with students needing literacy support. The program serves kindergarten through fourth-grade children in four of the district's elementary schools: Camelview, Heights, Rose Lane and Simis.

Tutors receive training by a reading specialist along with a tutor handbook, bag and materials. Upcoming Tutor Training will be held Jan. 17 and 18, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Madison Camelview, 2002 E. Campbell Ave.

For more information and/or to register for training, contact Kim Gullo at 602-664-7285 or e-mail her at kgullo@madisoned.org.

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GENERATIONS

Seniors Spring into fitness at PC

Phoenix College (PC) is gearing up for its Spring 2023 semester, and residents are invited to get fit in the new year in two ways.

First, register for Fitness 100 membership to the college's Fitness Center, which includes access to treadmills, weight lifting equipment, a stretching and workout area, and group exercise classes (Yogalates, Zumba, Total Body Conditioning, All-Level Strength Training, Balance Training, Boot Camp, and Yoga). The Fitness Center fee is \$10 per month with a one-time \$15 registration fee.

Group Fitness Classes are open to healthy community members of all ages. The schedule includes specialty programs developed for seniors, including SilverSneakers. Seniors aren't limited to these programs and are welcome to join any class of their choosing. Conversely, some non-seniors elect to join SilverSneakers and BrainSavers. Click on the "Group Fitness" link on the website.

Residents also are invited to sign up for a one-credit physical education (PED) class, which includes pickleball, jogging/running, boot camp, resistance training and yoga. Classes begin mid-January and typically run 14–16 weeks. A one-credit class costs \$85 for Arizona residents with a one-time \$15 registration fee.

A schedule of classes can be found at www.phoenixcollege.edu/current-students/fitness-center.

Phoenix College is located at 1202

W. Thomas Rd. The Fitness Center is located on the west side of campus, with ample parking at the corner of 15th Avenue and Thomas. For more information, call 602-285-7296, contact Devi Davis-Strong, manager, at devi.strong@phoenixcollege.edu or visit www.phoenixcollege.edu.

Educational series explores retirement planning

Older Phoenix residents are invited to join the Social Security Administration's ongoing retirement planning educational series, provided in partnership with The Area Agency on Aging Phoenix and hosted by the Phoenix Public Libraries.

Available programs include a Medicare 101 session on coverage options every first Tuesday of the month, followed by My Social Security 101 session a week later. These are free, live sessions with Q & A.

Contact the library at 602-262-4636 for times or for a phone-in option.

Kids & Families Acacia Library hosts literacy programs, more

Local libraries are more than just a place to read books, and this month, the Acacia Library is hosting several events for early learners.

Mondays at the library, from 9:30–10 a.m., children ages 3-5 years who are excited about getting a head start on kindergarten, and their favorite grown

please see LIBRARIES on page 34

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GENERATIONS

LIBRARIES *continued from page 32*

up, can join Tools for School. Participants will learn activities that build kindergarten skills that they can practice at home.

Children ages birth to 5, along with their favorite grown up, can sing, dance and move during Music and Movement. Held Thursdays, 10:30–11 a.m., the fun, active program helps build reading skills.

Finally, save the date to register for Kindergarten Bootcamp. The seven-week series will be held March 3 to April 21, Fridays, 10:30–11:30 a.m. Geared towards children entering kindergarten in fall 2023, the series meets once a week for seven weeks and gives families a taste of kindergarten. Registration is required and by registering, participants agree to attend all seven weeks. Registration will open Friday, Feb. 3, at 10:30 a.m.

Acacia Library is located at 750 E. Townley Ave. in Phoenix. For complete information regarding library programs and services, visit the Phoenix Public Library website at www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org or call 602-262-4636.

Outstanding youth leaders sought

The City of Phoenix Youth and Education Office is now accepting applications for the 2023 Outstanding Phoenix Youth Leader of the Year awards.

The awards recognize and honor the outstanding achievements of young people, enhance the perception of youth and raise community awareness of their positive contributions.

“The Outstanding Phoenix Youth Leader Award has long-lasting impacts. Knowing that the money awarded to these amazing teens allows them to further their education and continue to make a difference is why this program is so essential to Phoenix youth,” said Youth and Education director Tim Valencia.

The program is open to any students currently enrolled in high school in Phoenix or who live within Phoenix city limits. Two students will be selected as winners from each City Council district and receive an award of \$500. In addition, each district-level winner will be eligible for an additional \$1,500

award if they are selected as the city-wide winners.

Students interested in applying will need to write an essay and submit a recommendation letter and proof of legal residence in the United States. Finalists will be interviewed by members of the community. District award winners will be invited to a luncheon sponsored by Rotary 100 and Salt River Project (SRP) where the citywide award winners will be announced.

Eligible students can apply online at www.phoenix.gov/education/outstanding-youth-leader before 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 24.

New parent guide available

To reach more new parents, Arizona’s early childhood agency, First Things First (FTF) has updated its online guide filled with information and new resources for parents-to-be.

The AZ New Parent Guide, available on the FirstThingsFirst.org website, is intended to help families meet the challenges of being a new parent and support their baby’s healthy develop-

ment and learning. Available online in English and Spanish, it covers a variety of important topics, including pregnancy, feeding, safety, the first few weeks at home with a newborn and more.

FTF encourages soon-to-be parents to use the time during pregnancy to learn more about how their child will develop, how to care for them in their first weeks and months, and how they can help them learn and grow. The AZ New Parent Guide is a reminder that all parents need help sometimes.

Parents to-be often look to their experienced friends and their own parents and family members for advice. But as more and more parents have grown up with technology from an early age, they also expect to find information at their fingertips.

Everything from having a healthy pregnancy, preparing to give birth, the first six months with your newborn — it is all in the guide. To find the AZ New Parent Guide and more parent resources for those with babies, toddlers and preschoolers, visit www.firstthingsfirst.org, under the “For Parents” tab.



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Barbara Gehring and Linda Klein will bring their personal, women-centric comedy to Herberger Theater Center this month (photo by Tony Shapiro).

Laughing at life's challenges

"The Secret Comedy of Women" returned to the Herberger Theater Center Dec. 28 and will run through Jan. 22.

The original comedy is described as "a laugh-out-loud, immersive theatrical triumph about the challenges of being a woman," that "celebrates the joy of the journey from girlhood to womanhood."

Written and performed by Barbara Gehring and Linda Klein, the show offers an examination of growing up, getting older and laughing at life as a female. Since 2008, the show has played to more than a quarter of a million theatergoers nationally.

Born out of the writings the two authors discovered in their real-life childhood diaries, "the show is a mix of sketch comedy, improvisation, audience participation and songs and videos that remind everyone of the very funny and very charming similarities all women share."

Tickets range from \$45 to \$65 and are available at the Herberger Theater Box Office, located at 222 E. Monroe St., Phoenix. For tickets, call 602-252-8497, or visit www.playhouseinfo.com/herbergertheater.

Concert series hosts award-winning organist

Music at Trinity's 2022–23 concert series continues this month with the Helen Peel Memorial Organ Concert Sunday, Jan. 22, at 4 p.m. at Trinity

Cathedral. This year's recitalist is Alcee Chriss III, winner of the Canadian Organ competition in 2017 and silver medalist in the Longwood Gardens International Competition in 2016.

Chriss brings an exuberance to his organ playing that has electrified audiences worldwide. He will perform works of Dupré, Bach, Reger and more. The concert is free of charge.

Trinity Cathedral is located on the corner of Central Avenue and Roosevelt. Parking is available in the garage just north of the Cathedral and on surrounding streets. For more information, call 602-254-7126 or visit www.trinitymusicaz.org.

Museum changes First Friday offerings

Friday, Dec. 2, the Phoenix Art Museum celebrated its last monthly, free-access First Friday event at Phoenix Art Museum. As the museum concluded that program, it is preparing to launch two new quarterly community-access programs in 2023 that will eliminate reduced-cost tickets to special exhibitions.

Beginning in 2023, the museum will instead host four PhxArt AfterHours events per year. Hosted on select Fridays, AfterHours will feature free admission to every exhibition and gallery, including special and traveling exhibitions. Visitors will also enjoy expanded art-making programs, food and specialty beverages, performances and other entertainment in a

please see MUSEUM on page 36

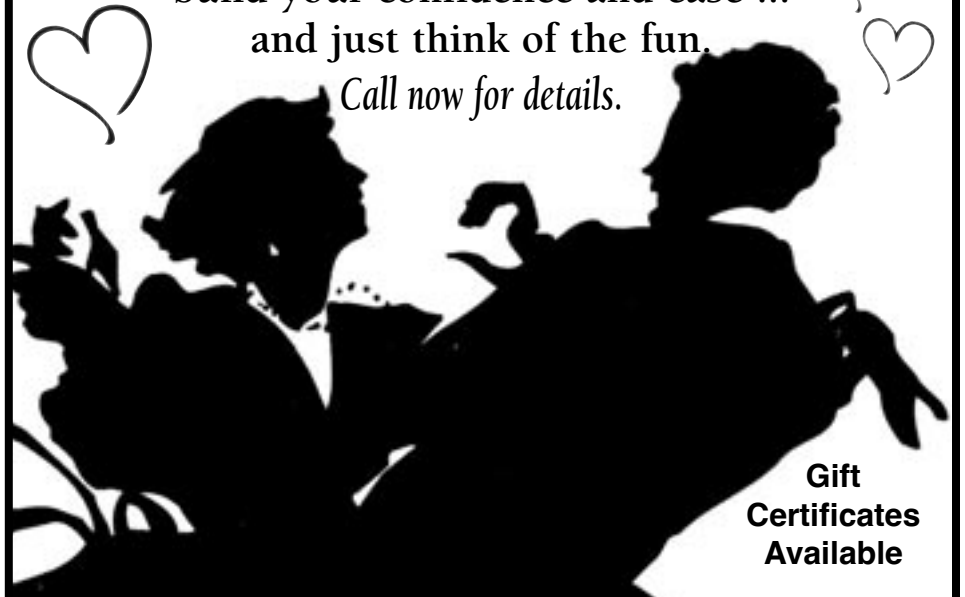
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

MUSEUM continued from page 35

party-like atmosphere.

The AfterHours 2023 events are scheduled to be held Feb. 3 (featuring the public premiere of “MOVE: The Modern Cut of Geoffrey Beene”), April 7, Sept. 1 and Dec. 1

This year, the museum also will launch PhxArt Family Fundays, marking a return to an all-ages, free-access day. Family Fundays will feature free admission to every gallery, with programming designed to engage intergenerational audiences of all interests and abilities. PhxArt members will also enjoy exclusive benefits and experiences on PhxArt Family Fundays.

The 2023 dates for PhxArt Family Fundays are Feb. 26, May 28, July 30 and Oct. 29.

The Pay-what-you-wish Wednesdays, reduced youth admissions and some other popular free access programs will continue in 2023.

Phoenix Art Museum is located at 1625 N. Central Ave. For more information, call 602-257-1880 or visit www.phxart.org.

On the Town

Welcome the new year with live music and theater, art, family- and pup-friendly outings and events for bonsai lovers and car enthusiasts and much more. See you on the town in January!



John Rivera Collective
Opening Ho’olaule’a: ‘He’e Nalu: The Art and Legacy of Hawaiian Surfing’
Jan. 6–7
Heard Museum
www.heard.org; 602-252-8840

Purely Classical
w/Steven Moeckel, violin
Jan. 6–8
The Phoenix Symphony
www.phoenixsymphony.org;
602-495-1999



Kim Weston
Jan. 7
The Nash
www.thenash.org; 602-795-0464

Bonsai & Pottery Exhibit
Japanese Friendship Garden
Jan. 8
www.japanesefriendshipgarden.org;
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Dale Watson
Jan. 10
The Rhythm Room
www.rhythmroom.com; 602-612-4981

Eugene Hideaway Bridges
Jan. 11
The Rhythm Room
www.rhythmroom.com; 602-612-4981

‘Constellations’
Jan. 11–29
The Phoenix Theatre Company
www.phoenixtheatre.com;
602-254-2151

Disney on Ice
Jan. 12–15
Footprint Center
www.ticketmaster.com

The Senators
Jan. 13
Valley Bar
www.valleybarphx.com

Django Reinhardt Birthday Celebration
w/ ZAZU West
Jan. 13
The Nash
www.thenash.org; 602-795-0464

Performance Pop-Up: Julian Davis
Jan. 14
Herberger Theater Center
www.herbergertheater.org;
602-252-8497

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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www.rhythmroom.com; 602-612-4981



Dan Wilson Quartet

Jan. 20
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www.thenash.org; 602-795-0464

‘Tosca’

Jan. 20–22
Arizona Opera
www.azopera.org; 602-266-7464

Performance Pop-Up:
Kriti Dance

Jan. 21
Herberger Theater Center
www.herbergertheater.org;
602-252-8497

Alex Weitz CD Release

Jan. 21
The Nash
www.thenash.org; 602-795-0464

‘An American in Paris’

Jan. 25–March 12
The Phoenix Theatre Company
www.phoenixtheatre.com;
602-254-2151

Okkervil River

Jan. 26
Valley Bar
www.valleybarphx.com

The Robert Cray Band

Jan. 26
Celebrity Theatre
www.celebritytheatre.com; 602-267-1600

Totally 80s

Jan. 27–29
The Phoenix Symphony
at Madison Center for the Arts
www.phoenixsymphony.org;
602-495-1999

Hot Dogs & Jazz

Jan. 28
The Nash
www.thenash.org; 602-795-0464

‘When Dreams Take Flight’

Jan 28
Phoenix Boys Choir at Pilgrim Rest
Baptist Church
www.boyschoir.org; 602-264-5328

Performance Pop-Up:
Ballet Folklorico Quetzalli

Jan. 28
Herberger Theater Center
www.herbergertheater.org;
602-252-8497

Ari Lennox

Jan. 28
The Van Buren
www.thevanburenphx.com

M is for Mozart

Jan. 28
The Phoenix Symphony at Madison
Center for the Arts
www.phoenixsymphony.org;
602-495-1999

Dennis Rowland
& Hope Morgan

Jan. 29
The Nash
www.thenash.org; 602-795-0464



Bush

Feb. 1
The Van Buren
www.thevanburenphx.com

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.northcentralnews.net.

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Who We Are

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

Location & Meeting

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

Tour Boundaries

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

Join Us!

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

For more information or to become a member,
visit our website at
<https://northcentraltour.com/>



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Café Chat
One-stop shopping, dining
at family owned spot

By Marjorie Rice

The corner of 7th Avenue and Missouri has long been a favored destination for North Central diners.

Over the years, there's been a changing menu of eateries including Sylvia's La Canasta (closed in 2018) and Hana Japanese Eatery on the northwest corner. There's a Starbucks to the south and La Piñata across the street (in the former Mary Coyle's). A series of markets, next to pizza and burger spots rounded out the offerings, occupying the southeast corner's mini-strip mall.

The latest in that location is Corner on the Market and the adjacent Hatch-it Green Chile Burgers and Tacos, which opened four years ago. As the name suggests, Hatch-it's menu focuses on New Mexico chiles, with a green chile Santa Fe burger and green chile pork burrito leading the list as customer favorites.



Kelly Bower-Hall and her mother, Kathy Blackwell, show off their fresh baked breads at their Corner on the Market Hatch-It Green Chile Burgers & Tacos in Phoenix (photo by Darryl Webb/Special for North Central News).

Corner on the Market takes it up another notch, with a selection of crusty artisan bread — green chile, sourdough, olive, cranberry-walnut among the favorites — salsas from Las Cruces, N.M., green chile beef pizzas, taco salad,

stew and a green chile meatloaf sandwich. There are plenty of other offerings on the market's menu — pastries, cookies and other sweets, cheese, salami, salads, more pizzas and sandwiches.

The wall between the two business-

es has been opened, so it's an easy amble from Hatch-it to the market.

Owner Kathy Blackwell opened the businesses four years ago after happening on the location by accident.

"I was driving around, just checking out stuff, and saw the market was empty and thought, 'This looks like a good corner,' she said. 'Traffic is crazy along here.'"

With decades of experience in the food business, she immediately saw the possibilities and decided to lease the market space. (A taco shop was next door, and while she was working on painting and organizing the market area, Blackwell also leased that space, opening Hatch-it before the market was completed.)

"I've been in the grocery business most of my life," Blackwell said. "From Tucson to North Dakota, I've done it all — truck stops, delis, groceries, health food, convenience stores. My last job before here was helping to put together one of the largest truck stops in the country, in Tioga, N.D., from the ground up."

For more than 25 years, her daughter, Kelly Bower-Hall, has been at her side. "I've only had one boss in my whole life — after my first job at 16 it's always been her. I followed her around, everywhere she's gone."

Why the focus on Hatch chiles?

"My brother works for a green chile business in New Mexico," Blackwell said. "He worked with Mark Miller, a famous chef in Santa Fe, and helped me develop some of our recipes."

That includes those Santa Fe burgers. "They're really special," said Bower-Hall. "We use a special green chile guacamole, and green chile mayo."

"And the burgers are fresh, never frozen," Blackwell said. "They're made from chopped fresh chuck brisket and served on a brioche bun."

Together, the shops are a destination made for lingering, starting at breakfast, perhaps with a latte from the coffee bar (which includes Roc2 brews from the Roastery of Cave Creek), house-made bagels, scones and pastries, breakfast burritos and sandwiches and more.

Some customers almost make a day of it, tele-commuting at their laptops with breaks for pizza, burgers, salads from the market and Hatch-it, then picking up bread, milk, cheese, salami and other items before heading home.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Others meet friends and head for a quiet corner, sinking into comfy couches to chat, play games or cards and decompress.

“People can put the busy life aside and talk with people like we used to before cell phones,” Bower-Hall said. “We hope people will come by, feel comfortable, take their time, sit, talk and hang out with friends and neighbors.”

The corner also is a convenient stop for commuters, who can stop in for a quick meal, coffee and pastries for the office, and market items for home that might include a bottle or two from the extensive selection of wines from Italy, Spain, France, New Zealand and Australia. (There’s a special on now that includes a pizza and bottle of wine for \$25, and 10 percent off a case of wine.) Customers can find some unique items in the market, Blackwell said. “You won’t find these breads anywhere else. And our olive oil. We have olive oil from Spain and Lebanon. It’s wonderful. Once you have this olive oil, you’ll never buy it in the store again.”

And don’t miss the pies. “Like grandma’s pies from the days when you visited and she always had a pie on the



The 2023 Arizona Wine Festival, set for Jan. 27-29 at Heritage Square Park, will celebrate the unique offerings of Arizona’s wine industry (photo courtesy of Arizona Wine Festival).

table,” Bower-Hall said. “We sold a ton of them — special-order pies and breads — for Thanksgiving.”

There’s also catering, Blackwell said. “We recently did a party for 150, with red and green enchiladas.”

“We also will special order anything, including gift baskets and wine crate filled with our bread, olive oil, wine — anything,” Bower-Hall said.

“We’ve done several for realtors as gifts for their customers.”

Hatch-it Green Chile Burgers and Tacos, and Corner on the Market, 5345 N. 7th Ave., are open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday. For information, call 602-607-5048, or visit www.hatchitphx.com and www.cotmphx.com.

Dining Briefs

Festival celebrates Arizona wine

Over the course of three days, some 20 Arizona wineries will pour over 150 wines at the 2023 Arizona Wine Festival. Presented by Willcox Wine Country Partnership, along with other wineries from around Arizona, the festival will be held at Heritage Square Park in downtown Phoenix, Jan. 27–29.

The three-day festival will kick off with a winemakers’ dinner to support Horses Help Foundation, an accredited therapeutic and recreational agency that serves the special needs population through a unique collaboration of horses and people. The two-day festival will feature the wineries, live music, food trucks, artists and other local vendors.

While viticulture originally began in Arizona in the 16th century when missionary Spanish Jesuit priests began to plant grapevines and make wine for sacramental use, the modern Arizona wine industry has since grown from just a few wineries in the early 1980s into over 100 licensed and bonded

please see FESTIVAL on page 40



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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

FESTIVAL continued from page 39

wineries, many of which are receiving national and international attention and accolades for their wine.

With the recent approval of the Verde Valley as an American Viticultural Area (AVA), Arizona now has three AVAs: Sonoita, Willcox and the Verde Valley. This brings increased awareness distinction of Arizona wines.

Heritage Square is located at 113 N. 7th St., Phoenix. Tickets range from \$20-\$35. To purchase tickets, visit https://the_arizona_wine_festival.eventbrite.com. For more information, visit www.willcoxwinecountry.org.

Pedal Haus updates catering menus

Pedal Haus Brewery has updated its catering menus at monOrchid, as well as at its three Valley locations.

In November 2021, Pedal Haus opened its location on Roosevelt Row in the monOrchid building. The company also took over management of the monOrchid and the operation of Kahvi Coffee + Cafe.

monOrchid is a 6,000-square-foot event venue that can be transformed into an event space for weddings, private dinners, receptions and more. The large open floor plan allows guests to customize the layout and includes both indoor and outdoor areas, a lounge and bar spaces. The in-house catering team offers a full suite of services including event setup and clean-up, full bar and service staff, rentals up to 150 people for seating and multiple food and drink packages.

Pedal Haus in Downtown Phoenix also can be reserved for private events and can be combined with the monOrchid gallery space to host up to 400 people. The dining room, keg alley, front patio, brewer's table, mezzanine and lounge are the distinctive options at this location. The dining room can seat 50 people, the keg alley can seat 40, the front patio is large enough for 40 seats and the mezzanine has space for 90 seats. The Tempe and Chandler locations also are available for events.

monOrchid is located at 214 E. Roosevelt St., Phoenix, for additional information, visit

www.monorchid.com www.pedalhaus-brewery.com.

Family-owned restaurant brings Italian to the table

If one of your New Year's resolutions is to eat more Italian food, the family-owned and operated The Sicilian Butcher and its sister restaurant, The Sicilian Baker, have got you covered.

Centered on a build-your-own experience with hand-rolled meatballs made daily, The Sicilian Butcher offers made-from-scratch pasta and Sicilian-style charcuterie boards, perfect for gathering with friends. The restaurant features an indoor-outdoor bar, a large outdoor patio for open air dining with a backyard garden vibe, and plenty of indoor dining space to enjoy.

The Sicilian Baker may appeal to many diners' creative, sweeter side with its build-your-own cannoli bar. Or, go for the traditional tiramisu, made with espresso syrup-soaked lady fingers and served with a sweet mascarpone cream. Another option, the Lobster Tail, is made with a buttery flaky dough served with Nutella or vanilla custard filling.

The Sicilian Butcher and The Sicilian Baker are located at 15530 N. Tatum Blvd. (Suite 160 and Suite 140, respectively), in Phoenix. For more information, visit www.thesicilianbutcher.com or www.thesicilianbaker.com.

Street Eats returns for 2023

Food truck aficionados can hit up 40 different food trucks during two days of fun at the at the 2023 Street Eats Food Truck Festival.

Set to take place at Salt River Fields the weekend of Jan. 28-29, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., the event will feature all types of food, with every menu including a \$2 sample. Once inside the festival, attendees can use cash or credit cards at all bars and food trucks (assuming the trucks takes credit card, most do). The event will include live music, lawn games, eating contests, local vendor marketplace, a free kid's zone and more.

Salt River Fields at Talking Stick is located at 7555 N. Pima Rd., Scottsdale. For tickets and more information, visit www.streeteatsaz.com.

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