



# north central news

the voice of the north central phoenix community since 1999

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www.northcentralnews.net

## Residents to developer: 'Stick with the plan'

By Kathryn M. Miller

At its Sept. 11 meeting, the Encanto Village Planning Committee (EVPC) approved by a 9 to 4 vote the developer's request to modify or remove stipulations that bound The Central Park to a 2019 plan, putting the development of the last large parcel along a mile stretch of Central Avenue that much closer to realization. For better or worse, barring any challenges by City Council members, the future growth of Central Avenue from Indian School Road to Camelback Road may soon be in the hands of developers.

The Petree Properties project (on the northwest corner of Central and Glenrosa avenues) and the Forty600 project (on the southwest corner of Central Avenue and Coolidge Street) were approved by Council Sept. 6. However, there are still some hurdles for other Central Avenue projects. An appeal was filed on PHO-1-23—Z-27-15-4, the project located on the northeast corner of Central Avenue and Pierson Street known as Omninest East, and will be heard by the Planning Commission Oct. 5. The Planning Hearing Officer (PHO) heard the case for The Central Park (PHO-1-23—Z-9-19-4) Sept. 20, and continued the project to Oct. 18, citing a lack of adequate time to review an updated site plan and a pending meeting between the developer and the Parks & Recreation Department that may have ramifications on the site plan, among other issues.

**please see PLAN on page 8**



During the 2023 Sunnyslope Studio Tour, local artist Kris Kollasch will show her work and host two other artists at her home — Studio 11 on the tour (photo by Kathryn M. Miller).

## Tour explores the artful heart of Sunnyslope

By Kathryn M. Miller

Art can heal, inspire, educate, and question; it can be fun and fantastic, thought-provoking and heartwarming and, sometimes, it is just heavenly to hold or lovely to look at. This month, the self-guided Sunnyslope Studio Tour returns for a sixth year, and both aficionados and those curious about art will have the opportunity to meet local artists in their own creative spaces and explore art's many facets in person.

"Since I was a kid, I've always wanted to be an artist," said Kris Kollasch, who has not only fulfilled that dream as a working artist but is spearheading the organizational efforts of the 2023 Studio Tour.

From fine art and murals to themed environments and public art, Kollasch says that she's always liked to explore different mediums. Residents will enjoy visiting the artist's fun and quirky domain in Studio 11 on this year's tour. (Don't miss saying "hello" to Simon!)

"What's great about the Studio Tour is you get a chance to meet the artists face to face, and there's a real diversity of artists and styles," said Kollasch, who has

lived in North Central and worked from her home studio for nearly three decades.

She sees the studio tour as a way to engage and connect with the broader community, and to highlight the diversity of the area as well.

"Sunnyslope is a very interesting community because we cover so many demographics. I think this is a great opportunity for us to invite people from the larger Phoenix area to come and see what's happening inside.

"We've learned to live and commune together and that's important — that we respect the people that have been here for a really long time. And I think

**please see TOUR on page 6**

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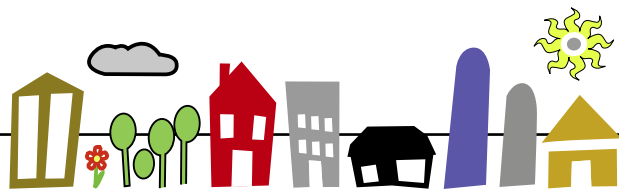
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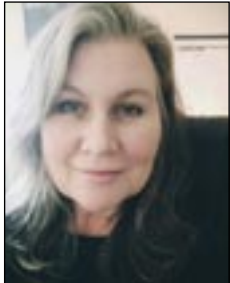


COMMUNITY

## From the Editor

Hello, North Central Neighbors!

For this month's cover stories, we continue to follow progress of The Central Park, an 18-acre development on the northeast corner of Central Avenue and Indian School Road. We also highlight three of the artists participating in this year's Sunnyslope Studio Tour. The event invites residents to meet a diverse group of local artists in their working studios and even the opportunity to purchase art for their own space.



In our Community section, we highlight the recently completed renovations at Solano Park, including a new Skate Plaza, and introduce you to the AHS Pet of the Month, a sweet Australian Kelpie mix named Thelma.

If you attended Faith Lutheran Preschool, they are celebrating their 40th anniversary Oct. 1 — and the community is invited. Read this story and catch up on North Central school news in School Days.

Marjorie Rice caught up with John Stidham at the Original Breakfast House for this month's Café Chat. The neighborhood favorite was recently named one of the "Top 150 Mom and Pop Businesses" in the U.S. — and our team says it lives up to the hype. Read more in Food for Thought.

As always, you can catch up on other community, business and dining news as well as explore our round-up of things to do in the Valley this month and beyond. Finally, hopefully you all are enjoying the cooler Arizona fall weather and we hope that you enjoy our October issue!

Until next month, all my best,  
 Kathryn M. Miller  
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Phoenix District 5 Councilwoman Betty Guardado, center with scissors, was joined by Solano Elementary School students, Parks staff, Cowtown S.K.A.T.E. leadership and others at a celebration of the new skate plaza at Solano Park (photo by Kathryn M. Miller).

### Community celebrates Solano Skate Plaza

By Kathryn M. Miller

The community came together Sept. 18 to celebrate improvements to Solano Park — in particular a new skate plaza.

Since December 2022, the park has been undergoing extensive improvements, including the new skate park, pickleball courts and a resurfaced basketball court. But there is still work to do. The City of Phoenix Office of Arts & Culture will be adding a skateable art feature, “Pipe Dreams,” to the center of the skate plaza. The feature is expected to be completed in early 2024.

At the celebration event, Phoenix District 5 Councilwoman Betty Guardado thanked the many entities involved, including Laura and Trent Martin from Cowtown Skateboards, Shannon McBride of 19North, the Parks & Recreation Department, Osborn School District Superintendent Michael Robert, and especially the Solano Elementary students, who were in attendance and will keep the park activated.

“I know that this park has been challenging at different moments,” Guardado said, “but it’s been very exciting to see everyone out here playing pickleball...I see the kids out here skating. It’s very exciting and it warms my heart every single time that we’re able to activate a park.”

Phoenix Parks and Recreation Director Cynthia Aguilar also thanked the children at the event and encouraged them to share their ideas on other amenities that they would like to see at parks.

“Tell your parents, tell your teachers, tell your superintendent...they will get the information to us and we would love to continue putting things in this park that will bring you here to enjoy a safe park,” Aguilar said.

Also in attendance, Trent Martin spoke on behalf of Cowtown S.K.A.T.E. foundation, which was instrumental in bringing the skate plaza to fruition. The foundation, founded by Martin and his wife Laura, also in attendance, is the philanthropic arm of Cowtown Skateboards, a skate shop founded locally in 1997 by Phoenix skateboarders.

“Our whole mission is expanding access to skateboarding for children, adults, everybody,” Martin said. “Just the mental, physical and social, health, well-being, all the benefits that it provides.”

The foundation has worked with the City of Phoenix extensively, Martin added, “It’s really exciting that they believe in our mission of expanding access to skateboarding. We approached them with other community members from the area probably five years ago and they were receptive to it and wanted to have a skate park in central Phoenix. Here is where we decided, with the community, and we’re really happy that this is here.”

After addressing the crowd, Martin drew raffle tickets and presented two excited kids with brand-new Cowtown skateboards.

Solano Park is located at 5625 N. 17th Ave. The park is easily accessible from light rail and other public transportation options. Learn more at [www.phoenix.gov/parks](http://www.phoenix.gov/parks).

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COMMUNITY

**TOUR continued from page 1**

that’s what is beautiful about it — the diversity of it.”

For Kollasch, art, in all its various forms, is at the heart of that communal experience.

“Art heals us, whether that’s music or dance, or the art of cooking — the things that we have these passions about. Art helps us cope. It gives us a language to get out things that we can’t normally express.”

Further up the road from Kollasch’s studio is artist Ed Taylor, Studio 5 on the tour, whose art feels like a voyage of discovery — a seeking of something greater. A newcomer to Sunnyslope, but not to Phoenix, this is Taylor’s first year participating in the tour.

With everything from large painted panels, burlap coffee bags and pāua adorned pieces to small watercolor prints on camel dung paper and letterpress books of poems (created on his ca.1890 Washington Press), much of the New Zealand transplant’s art also is an examination of language within the art itself.

During moments of grief and pain in his life, two of his more striking pieces became a source of healing and catharsis for the artist. The first was painted after a 2011 earthquake that devastated Christchurch, New Zealand.

“I’m quite attached to my hometown, I hadn’t lived there for 20 years, but they had a massive earthquake that killed 200 people, and it really affected me. I just started painting little scenes of places I remember growing up. So, it was kind of about healing the damage,” Taylor recalled. Pointing to one portion of the piece, he added, “This is Māori in here for, ‘Send love to the future. Send love to the past. Be love now.’ I borrow from other languages.” On another section of the piece, “That’s Galilean Aramaic — the first part of the Lord’s Prayer.”

Another work, one of his largest and perhaps most personal pieces, depicts the Lady of Guadalupe and has held various titles, but the one that resonates most with Taylor is “A future free from the limits of language.”

“I spent my whole life being agnostic and it was while I was painting that, my father died, and I started really thinking about what it’s all about.”

Taylor added a poem, written to his father, that his friends helped him translate into Spanish. The poem adorns the edges of the painting and

explores the “eternal questions that change and yet stay the same” and looks toward “a future free from the limits of language.”

“That’s why I put language into my paintings...old language and things that I really don’t understand. I feel like language is so important to who and what we are, and yet it binds us to who and what we are. If we are more than just humans, if there is an afterlife of any sort, I think it’ll be free from language. I think that’s the premise [of the painting], once I’m free from language, I’ll see my father again.”

Another artist participating for the first time this year is Harold Lohner, Studio 9 on the tour. For him, art is largely about the process — a puzzle of sorts that he has engaged with since childhood.

“I’ve been doing art my whole life,” Lohner said. “I became an art major in college and then graduate school and then I taught for 33 years at a college in upstate New York.

“Printmaking is my major medium. I enjoy the process of it. You have to take images apart and put them back together, like a separation that you would have in color printing. I print one color at a time and build up the colors on top of that — layer after layer, that appeals to me.”

Lohner has also created fonts for the past 25 years, “They’re what you would call display fonts; decorative things that you can use.”

The artist has lived in the Phoenix area for close to 10 years, and as he researched the history of his new home, he incorporated it into his art, such as a monoprint series that focuses on Dreamy Draw. He is eager to share his discoveries and his artistic process with tour attendees.

“One of the things I love about the tour is that it is self-guided,” Lohner said. “You can start and stop anywhere. So, if you’re having fun, you can keep going on and if you’ve had enough you can stop.”

Lohner will have his printing press set up and in production throughout the tour weekend, which is bound to draw the interest of attendees.

“People love to see that stuff, the behind-the-scenes process. And I think it makes the art more meaningful, seeing a little bit of how it was made,” he said.

The opportunity to see artists in their creative space and to learn how art

*please see TOUR on page 10*



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**TIME FLIES!**

This year has been brimming with unforgettable moments. Attending our first Super Bowl in Glendale with my son Sean, Glendale witnessed Taylor Swift The Eras Tour at State Farm Arena, and Beyoncé's The Renaissance Tour in August were highlights. Professionally, I orchestrated the highest-priced home sale in North Central Phoenix and also secured the highest price per square foot, sale. It was even more satisfying to both of my clients. Transitioning to Launch | Compass Real Estate brought exciting changes, including new partnerships, a Phoenix office, and a talented host of independent agents dedicated to making real estate transactions seamless.

Most importantly, my wife, MaryAnn, and I enjoyed our first solo vacation since our honeymoon. Like many Phoenixians, we escaped the scorching 110-degree heat for a series of summer getaways.

Our first stop was Newport Beach, CA, where my brother, Michael, and friend, Martin Arellano, played golf at the stunning Pelican Hills course with breathtaking views. We also connected with Compass Real Estate agents there, fostering relationships that are beneficial to our clients in both Arizona and California.

Our rejuvenating four-day trip to Laguna Niguel, or Dana Point, California, was a welcome break. We even squeezed in meetings with local agents for those considering relocating. Rest assured, we've interviewed them for you.

We came back to our own home project: remodeling our primary

bathroom and bedroom floor, led by Leigh Kohrs of Kohrs Construction, LLC. They specialize in residential remodeling, offering project management, design, and hands-on support. Leigh, who worked on our kitchen renovation a couple of years ago, resides in North Central Phoenix with her husband, John. They recently became empty nesters.

Our community boasts higher property values, thanks in part to the top-ranking Madison Unified School District, despite Arizona's low teacher pay ranking. For more on Madison Bond and Override, visit <https://www.madisonaz.org/domain/62>. Upcoming election: November 7.

As cooler mornings and evenings approach, our North Central Phoenix neighborhood resumes its monthly gatherings. We invite you to embrace our fantastic community and pleasant fall weather. If you're considering a move or know someone who is, I'd be delighted to meet with you.

See you around North Central,

*Bobby Lieb*

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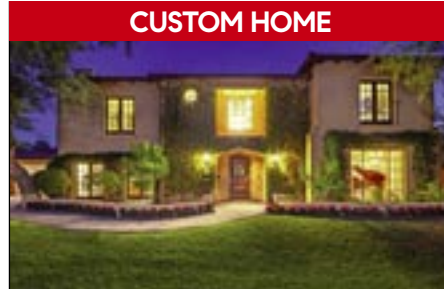
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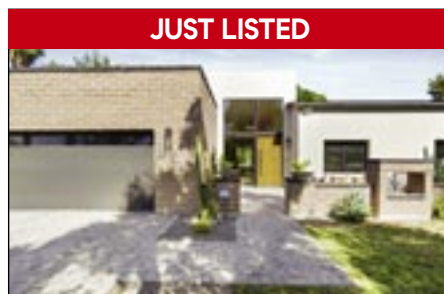
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**COMMUNITY**

**PLAN continued from page 1**

At issue is a request to modify or delete seven stipulations — which the 2019 rezoning approval was contingent upon. The project, as proposed and approved by Phoenix City Council in July 2019, featured a total of 600 residential units, a 200-room hotel, 760,000 square feet of commercial space, and 170,000 square feet of ground-level retail and restaurants. At the same time, the Phoenix Indian School Specific Plan (Plan) was repealed on the basis that its primary goals had been met (the development of Steele Indian School Park and expansion of the Veterans hospital), and that The Central Park development, as presented and approved in 2019, “will address the outstanding goals and policies” of the Plan. Adopted in December 1991, the Plan’s Land Use Concept included minimums of 1,200 housing units and 100,000 square feet of retail development, and a number of items focusing on open space and walkability, including a 100-foot diagonal view corridor from Central Avenue and Indian School Road that focused on the historic cafeteria tower



After neighbor input received at an Aug. 21 meeting, the developer of The Central Park will bring the proposed grocery store to a more prominent place along Central Avenue at Monterosa Street (rendering courtesy of Pivotal Group).

and the distant Piestewa Peak.

When a “reimagined” project came back to the city in July 2023, the developer/owner of the property, Pivotal Group, had a brand-new design that stripped away much of the openness of the 2019 approved plan and the stipulations they wanted to get rid of spoke directly to many of the goals within the Plan their project was approved to meet.

At two August meetings, the devel-

oper’s requests were continued to September by both the EVPC and the Planning Hearing Officer, with the caveat from the EVPC that developers meet with neighbors in the meantime, which they did on Aug. 21.

At the Aug. 21 meeting, 30 or so neighbors showed up to express their concerns to the developer’s representatives, Jason Morris and Benjamin Tate of Withey Morris Baugh, PLC. At the subsequent Sept. 11 EVPC meeting, Morris indicated that, in response to neighbor input, the developer would remove all on-street parking on the east/west thoroughfare and add other pedestrian- and bike-friendly updates and presented an updated “market” space that would be situated directly on Central Avenue at Monterosa Street to create frontage retail access. Some of these items were added as stipulations, some were just updated design features.

Residents have found some positives in the July 2023 reimagined project. It is one of the few true mixed-use projects that has been proposed along Central Avenue, and residents are encouraged that the project is finally moving again after seeing no visible progress since 2019. The project offers an interior public gathering space and while it has significantly reduced the amount of retail and housing (to 78,000 square feet of ground-floor retail and restaurant space, to include a market/grocer space and 1,450 housing units, a portion of which will be for purchase), it is far more than the Petree development that sits on close to the same acreage and offers no ownership options. The Central Park also includes 245,000 square feet of office space; Petree has none.

*please see PLAN on page 10*

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## COMMUNITY

**PLAN continued from page 8**

Area residents were ready to pursue an appeal on The Central Park if the PHO had recommended approving the developer's latest request.

"The Central Park (TCP) 17.8-acre Transit Oriented Development (TOD) project at Steele Indian School Park Version 1.0 was nothing more than football's version of a 'pump fake,' a ruse utilized to get the city council to fall for repealing the overriding, and visionary Phoenix Indian School Park Specific Plan," said Ken Waters, an outspoken area resident who has appealed many Central Avenue projects that lack walkability and mixed-use components. He added, "Version 1.0's stipulation language complied with the visionary Plan, and TCP 2.0 does not. Let's obviously stick with the original visionary Plan stipulations."

Residents in the Carnation neighborhood have been working towards more symbiotic walkable development in the area since Reinvent PHX was established in 2015 with one main goal: To create walkable, opportunity-

rich communities. Implemented to guide future development along mass transit corridors, the policy plan came with a new Walkable Urban (WU) Code, and the establishment of TOD Districts. Residents say that many of the developments that they have seen come to their Uptown District in recent years have fallen short of the vision ([www.phoenix.gov/pdd/tod/reinvent-phx](http://www.phoenix.gov/pdd/tod/reinvent-phx)).

Cliff Valenti, chair of the Carnation Association of Neighbors development committee ([www.carnationassociation-az.com](http://www.carnationassociation-az.com)) goes further.

"The system in Phoenix is broken when a conditional up zoning is granted and subsequently all the agreed-upon conditions are disregarded," Valenti said in advance of the Sept. 20 PHO meeting. "The Encanto Village Planning Committee is failing at their role of scrutinizing development and supporting local residents who are supposed to have a voice in this process. Additionally, the Planning Commission leans heavily towards favoring developers, making it an uphill battle to make any meaningful progress without the

active participation of the EVPC."

Valenti added, "Nonetheless, we are considering an appeal to the Planning Commission if the Planning Hearing Officer fails us, too."

Information on all upcoming City of Phoenix public meetings and hearings can be found at [www.phoenix.gov/city-clerk/publicmeetings/notices](http://www.phoenix.gov/city-clerk/publicmeetings/notices).

**TOUR continued from page 6**

is made is a unique aspect of the tour, as is the personal connection that can be made with art and its makers.

"I think art is important, societally, because it documents history," Kollasch said. "And it's something pretty to put on your wall, too, but it also is a way for the art buyer to express their own interest, their own taste, their own feelings, because they might really resonate with a piece of work."

She adds that her hope is that residents will support local artists, not just during the tour but beyond.

"We are part of the community and a part of society — making things and creating things and documenting

things," Kollasch said. "You can go to the store and buy something that was made in China that has no meaning whatsoever. Or you can buy something that actually goes directly into the pockets of your next-door neighbor and helps us survive."

The sixth annual Sunnyslope Studio Tour will be held Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 21-22, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The tour features 14 studios from Northern Avenue to Peoria Avenue and 19th Avenue to 18th Street., hosting 25 local fine artists. Artwork will be available for sale during the tour — ranging from \$50 to \$5,000.

Area businesses supporting the event as sponsors include 3A Automotive Service, Barry's Ace Hardware, Eye Opener, Hansen Mortuary, North Mountain Brewing Company, Phoenix Luv and Zipps Sports Grill. Physical maps will be available at some of the supporting businesses, and residents can find a list of participating studios, artist bios, and soon a Google map showing the studio locations. Learn more at [www.sunnyslopestudiotour.com](http://www.sunnyslopestudiotour.com).

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# Phoenix Housing Market Snapshot as of 9/7/23

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

## Single Family Homes

**\$599,236**

Average Monthly Sold Price



↓0.7% from last month  
↑5.9% from last year

**\$307.48**

Average Monthly Sold \$/SF



↑1.8% from last month  
↑2.2% from last year

Supply is starting to rise again. The increase was very modest for the first 6 weeks, but last week saw active listings rise over 3.2% to 12,476. This is still a small number (last year we had over 19,000 at this time), but the trend is of psychological importance. Buyers can flex their muscles a little. Of course, any major change in mortgage interest rates could set a cat among the pigeons. This uncertainty works both ways, but the 7% level seems to have established itself as the borderline between good and bad sentiment.

**\$850,000 - SOLD**

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# HAPPY HOUR WITH HERSCH

I'm so disappointed in the demise of the Pac-12 Conference, which will basically cease to exist as of 2024, as 10 of its 12 members have announced plans to move to other conferences.

I will miss college basketball commentator (and former UCLA hoops great) Bill Walton making his "Conference of Champions" statement before each broadcast. The Pac-12 has been in some form of existence since 1915 when it was formed as the Pacific Coast Conference. It is indeed the conference of champions, producing 553 national champions, more than 200 more than the next closest conference.

The Pac-12's dominance in Olympic Sports is unrivaled. In the recent Tokyo Olympics, Pac-12 affiliated athletes won 108 medals, 35 of which were gold. This would have put them only behind the United States in total medal count.

Though the Pac-12's overall excellence cannot be disputed, it has lately been lacking in the one area currently in the spotlight - men's football. Funny then that in its last season of football it goes undefeated the first weekend, the only conference to do so.

They say the only thing constant is change, but I feel that this change is not in the best interest of the schools, student athletes, alumni or fans. It sure seems like the Pac-12's commissioner and school presidents misplayed their hand.

## \$100 TRIVIA CONTEST

Which Pac-12 university has won the most national championships?

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Winner for Last Month – Patrick Garrity | Last Month's Answer – Skyline Chili

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COMMUNITY

### Dreamy Draw celebrates reopening

At a Sept. 7 ribbon-cutting ceremony, the City of Phoenix officially reopened the Dreamy Draw Recreation Area. The area had been closed for more than a year as the Parks & Recreation Department finished improvements to the park, which coincided with the City's Drought Pipeline Project.

The recreation area is a popular destination for hikers, bikers and families, who will see improvements to the site that include an expanded parking area, three small family-friendly ramadas, and a new, six stall gender-neutral restroom, four designated pull-through equestrian trailer parking spaces, added for easy access, as well as a bike lane redesign, which includes an adjacent natural surface walking path. There are ADA accessible routes from the parking lot to the ramadas, restroom and to the Dreamy Draw Bike Path.

"We are dedicated to providing our community with access to quality recreational opportunities," said District 3 Councilwoman Debra Stark,



Phoenix District 3 Councilwoman Debra Stark and Phoenix Parks and Recreation Leadership cut the ribbon signifying the reopening of the Dreamy Draw Recreation Area Sept. 7 (photo courtesy of City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department).

who attended the Sept. 7 event. "The Dreamy Draw Recreation Area has been a cherished part of our community for many years, and we look forward to seeing it reach its full potential with these exciting improvements."

Dreamy Draw Recreation Area is located at 2421 E. Northern Ave. and is open from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. (extended hours apply during summer months).

Learn more at [www.phoenix.gov/parks/trails/locations/piestewa-peak](http://www.phoenix.gov/parks/trails/locations/piestewa-peak).

### Pastor suspends congressional run

In an Aug. 18 social media post, Laura Pastor, a three-term councilwoman representing Phoenix Council District 4, announced that she will suspend her campaign to run for Congress in Arizona's 3rd Congressional District. The post read, in part, "...lately, I have developed some health concerns — not life-threatening, just enough for me to

take stock and to prioritize my well-being. With that in mind, I have decided to suspend my campaign for Congress in 2024." Pastor added that she is "full steam ahead on my next 4 years on the Phoenix City Council."

### Gala event celebrates 40 years

Phoenix Indian Center announced that the 40th Annual Silver & Turquoise Ball will take place Oct. 20, at the Sheraton Phoenix Downtown Hotel. This year's theme is "Celebrating Our Voices."

The event will include silent and live auctions with American Indian art, jewelry, gifts and services from local businesses. The event also will feature musical highlights choreographed by Afro-Indigenous performance artist Zoey Reyes (Dineh/Chicana) and a special Indigenous-inspired dinner created by Chef Nella (Diné).

Individual tickets for the event are \$275. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit [www.phxindcenter.org](http://www.phxindcenter.org).

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**COMMUNITY**



On days with an Excessive Heat Warning, access to some trails at Camelback Mountain will be restricted year-round as part of the City's expanded heat safety trail program (photo courtesy of Phoenix Parks and Recreation).

### Trail closure program expands

At its Aug. 31 meeting, the Phoenix Parks and Recreation Board voted to expand the City's heat safety trail program that closes popular trails during the hottest days of the year. The approved changes were made effective immediately.

The program will now be in effect all year long (previously May through October). Access will be restricted to Echo Canyon and Cholla Trails at Camelback Mountain and all trails associated with Piestewa Peak from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on days when the National Weather Service issues an Excessive Heat Warning.

During times when trail access will be restricted, parking lot gates will be closed, and signage will be posted. Closure information also will be communicated through the Parks and Recreation Department's website and social media accounts, as well as to local resorts and hotels. Learn more at [www.phoenix.gov/parks/trails](http://www.phoenix.gov/parks/trails).

### Park plays host to Pride event

This year's Phoenix Pride Festival will once again be a two-day celebration designed to bring the Valley's diverse LGBTQ and allied communities together for a weekend of camaraderie and celebration of the past, present and future, while raising funds for the Phoenix Pride community programs and educating the public about the existence and continuing civil rights battle facing the community.

Scheduled to take place Oct. 21–22 at Steele Indian School Park, the Phoenix

Pride festival will feature over 150 entertainment performances on seven stages and over 300 exhibitors showcasing a huge variety of food options, shopping opportunities, and community resources. The festival brings a variety of food vendors, as well as an Arts Expo, Main, and Community Stages, KidSpace, Dance Pavilion and more.

In addition, the annual Phoenix Pride Parade will take place Oct. 22 at 10 a.m. The parade will step off at 3rd Street and Thomas Road and continue north to 3rd Street and Indian School Road.

Combined with participation from government officials, services, private corporations, and celebrities, the Phoenix Pride Festival aims to raise positive awareness of the Phoenix metropolitan LGBTQ community. For additional information or to purchase tickets, visit [www.phoenixpride.org/events/pride-festival](http://www.phoenixpride.org/events/pride-festival).

### Vintage Market returns to Melrose

The Melrose Vintage Market kicks off a new season this month in the Melrose neighborhood.

The monthly neighborhood outdoor market will be held on the Sunday of third Thursday weekend of each month between October and April from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 700 W. Campbell Ave.

Sixty-plus local vendors will offer handmade goods, vintage collections, art and local food. Admission is free at the dog-friendly event.

Parking is available around the building as well as throughout the neighborhood. For more information, visit [www.melrosevintagemarket.com](http://www.melrosevintagemarket.com).

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### 1. What will I be doing?

- Do I plan to continue working past age 65 or after I reach my full retirement age? Full time or part time?
- Are there hobbies I want to pursue that will either cost money or make money?
- Is there volunteer work that may also have costs associated?
- Do I plan to travel? Where?
- Are there things I enjoy that have related costs?

### 2. Where will I be living?

- Will I stay in my current home or downsize to something smaller or a rental property?
- Will I move to a retirement community or assisted living facility?
- Will I sell my home and replace it with an RV or other alternative living option?

### 3. What situations could impact my expenditures?

- What health care coverage do I need for my health conditions?
- Do I have an emergency fund for unexpected situations such as a health care crisis or property loss due to a natural disaster?
- What if I stop working sooner than expected?
- What happens if I experience a significant income loss?

### 4. What barriers are keeping me from investing?

- I have nothing extra to invest.
- I have education loans or other debt.
- I don't know how to start an investment plan.
- I have time to start saving later.

### Next steps

Prepare rather than panic. Create an outline from your answers to these questions. It should give you the framework to calculate the income you may need to support your retirement lifestyle.

Decide to adjust your spending patterns today. Choose something you really don't need and redirect that amount into your retirement savings. Take advantage of growth potential over time. Pay yourself first instead of spending money on something that won't support your future retirement needs. Creating that nest egg now could reduce your stress about money.

Start or add to an emergency fund. Even if the amount seems very small, it's important to take the first step. As that amount grows and the behavior becomes a habit, you will likely gain confidence and momentum in your investment activities.

Meet with a financial advisor to review your answers and turn your outline into a plan to help you work toward your goals.

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## COMMUNITY

### Light rail extension begins testing

As construction of the Northwest Extension Phase II project nears its end, Valley Metro will begin system testing to prepare for the opening of the light rail extension this fall.

The testing phase includes station vehicle clearance overhead electrification system, traffic signal coordination, switches that allow trains to move from track to track and overall operational readiness. As testing continues, trains will operate more frequently to test the service schedule and prepare operators.

Safety is critical during this vital phase of the project, and Valley Metro asks residents who travel in the area obey all traffic signals and message boards; stay off the tracks unless crossing at designated pedestrian crosswalks; and look for flashing headlights and listen for warning bells and horns.

The Northwest Extension Phase II project extends light rail west on Dunlap Avenue from 19th Avenue, then north on 25th Avenue and across I-17 at Mountain View Road, ending on the west side of the freeway near the former Metrocenter Mall. Opening day is expected to be early 2024.

Learn more at [www.valleymetro.org/project/northwest-extension-phase-ii](http://www.valleymetro.org/project/northwest-extension-phase-ii).

### New high-capacity transit alternatives

Valley Metro and the city of Phoenix are seeking community feedback on the recommendation for the West Phoenix High-Capacity Transit Alternatives Analysis. The study, initiated in fall 2022, seeks to identify a high-capacity transit option for West Phoenix residents.

Currently, the recommended transit type is light rail, with a route that would travel from Central Avenue west along Indian School Road to 75th Avenue, then jog down to Thomas Road and on to the Desert Sky Mall Transit Center.

The project team hosted two public meetings in September and has an open public comment period, which closes Oct. 6, to gather input on the recommended transit route and mode for West Phoenix.

Presentation materials and public comment form to submit feedback is available on the project website: [www.valleymetro.org/project/west-phoenix-high-capacity-transit-alternatives-analysis](http://www.valleymetro.org/project/west-phoenix-high-capacity-transit-alternatives-analysis).

### Church hosts October events

Desert Christian Fellowship Church will offer two free community events this month.

A senior potluck will be held at noon, Thursday, Oct. 12. Neighborhood seniors are invited to bring a friend and a favorite dish to share this month. The theme for the event is Hawaiian Luau, and participants can enjoy island food, games, music and prizes, as well as meet some new friends.

Area families are invited to head to the church Friday, Oct. 27, from 5 to 8 p.m. for the annual Trunk or Treat event, which offers a safe alternative to other Halloween activities. The church will have a bounce house on site and families can take part in crafts and games and enjoy food and plenty of free candy.

Desert Christian Fellowship Church is located at 1445 W. Northern Ave. For additional information, call 602-861-4008 or visit [www.desertchristianfellowship.com](http://www.desertchristianfellowship.com).





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COMMUNITY

## Pet of the Month

### Sweet Thelma seeks special family

With a heart as kind as her sweet face, Thelma is truly a special girl who deserves a special home full of love and light. After nine months of care through the Arizona Humane Society (AHS), the seven-year-old Australian Kelpie mix cannot wait to find her true forever home and show how much love she has to give.



Seven-year-old Thelma is a sweet Australian Kelpie mix looking for a special family to love (photo courtesy of Arizona Humane Society).

Thelma is an incredibly kind soul that was found as a sick, injured stray on the San Carlos Reservation in February of this year. Thanks to Banfield Foundation, AHS has hosted a number of mobile veterinary clinics in this community to help provide accessible veterinary care to pets in need, including Thelma. A quick assessment determined she was in need of additional care.

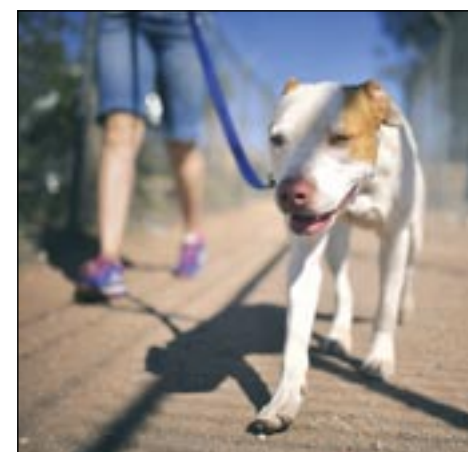
tick fever, which was resolved with medication, and a form of tumor that was resolved with chemotherapy. However, she may need further diagnostics or treatment in the future and would love to have a family that understands her needs.

Upon arrival at AHS, it was clear to trauma hospital staff that her bulging eyes were non-seeing as well as very painful and she was in need of surgery. The lovely pup was also found to have

Although she has adjusted incredibly well with heightened sound and smell skills, Thelma would love time to adjust in her new home so she can learn the route and where everything is —

with the help of treats, of course! Safety protocols in her new home would ensure there are baby gates for stairs and a fenced pool if there is one.

Because Thelma (pet number 725863) is staying in her Foster Hero home until she finds her forever home, those who have fallen in love with her as much as AHS has and are interested in setting up a meet and greet are encouraged to call 602-997-7585, ext. 1145 or visit [www.azhumane.org/adopt](http://www.azhumane.org/adopt) for more information.



Valley pooches and their people are invited to attend the 25th annual Walk to Save Animals Nov. 4 to support the Arizona Animal Welfare League (submitted photo).

## AAWL set for Walk to Save Animals

Valley animal lovers are invited to support the Arizona Animal Welfare League, Arizona's oldest and largest no-kill shelter, at its 25th annual Walk to Save Animals, Saturday, Nov. 4. This family and pet-friendly event helps raise funds for vulnerable animals throughout the state.

To celebrate this milestone event, AAWL partnered with State Forty Eight to create a limited edition T-shirt for all Walk participants. The community event will be filled with pet friendly activities, including the clinic corner with pet health supplies, a fun play zone, pictures with Santa, dog training demonstrations, shopping, food trucks and an on-site adoption center.

Friends, family, coworkers and pets can enjoy fun activities. Participants will be supporting AAWL's mission of saving dogs and cats in need.

The Walk to Save Animals is AAWL's largest annual fundraiser,

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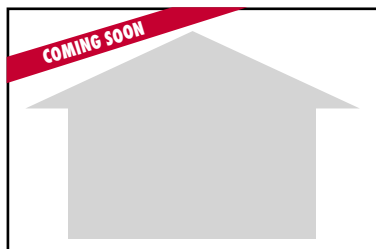
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## COMMUNITY

bringing together a community of people and pets to support the shelter's life-saving programs, including adoptions, behavior training and low-cost vet care.

Registration is \$25 per participant and the first 1,500 walkers will receive a limited-edition State Forty Eight/AAWL T-shirt. Additional prizes are available for select fundraising goals. The event runs from 8 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Nov. 4, at Tempe Beach Park, 80 W Rio Salado Pkwy. Learn more at [www.aawl.org](http://www.aawl.org).

## Retailer launches Halloween shop

Regardless of the shape, size and species, PetSmart says that its new Scary Tails Halloween shop will offer a little something for everyone to celebrate the season. Treats, toys, décor and costumes for cats, dogs, guinea pigs, reptiles, fish and more are now available in stores nationwide and online.

A variety of seasonal products are available within PetSmart's new Halloween collection, including classic costumes for cats and dogs — from the always-favorite pumpkin, to spiders, devils, hot dogs, cowboys and lions. Also available are treats, toys and collars. Pets can enjoy jack-o'-lantern rawhide alternatives, candy-adorned bandanas, frightfully fun teaser toys and batty collars.

Smaller pets can get in on the fun too, with costumes like a scorpion for bearded dragons or a pumpkin spice latte for guinea pigs. Pet parents can spread the spookiness to their habitats with Halloween-themed bedding, aquarium ornaments and terrarium hides.

Learn more at [www.petsmart.com/halloween](http://www.petsmart.com/halloween).

## Grant supports older pooches

The Grey Muzzle Organization recently announced the recipients of its annual grants, and dogs at the Arizona Humane Society (AHS) are among the winners with a \$10,000 grant.

AHS is one of 90 animal welfare organizations chosen from 370 applicants to receive a grant to help local senior dogs. In total, the organizations have received \$848,000 in grants to help save or improve the lives of at-risk old dogs in their communities.

Senior dogs like Grace, a 10-year-



PetSmart celebrates the season with its Halloween shop, offering costumes for pets big and small (submitted photo).

old Jack Russell Terrier, whose oral health was affecting her overall health. Like many senior pets, Grace's teeth had begun to decay. Eventually, her teeth became so painful, she could barely eat. Her owner knew she needed help, but he couldn't afford the dental treatment Grace needed on his own,

which prompted him to reach out to the AHS' Pet Resource Center for help ([www.azhumane.org/resources-to-keep-your-pet](http://www.azhumane.org/resources-to-keep-your-pet)).

AHS says that, thanks to the Grey Muzzle Grant, the organization was able to help Grace get the care she needed. Now, after undergoing dental

surgery, Grace is back at home with her beloved family, including her beloved owner and furry best friend. She can eat again free of pain, which has greatly improved her quality of life.

Over the past 15 years, the national nonprofit Grey Muzzle Organization has provided more than \$4.6 million in grants to support senior dogs and help them find, and stay, in loving homes. Learn more at [www.azhumane.org](http://www.azhumane.org) or [www.greymuzzle.org](http://www.greymuzzle.org).

## Fashionable fundraiser celebrates 25 years

The Arizona Humane Society will hold its 25th annual Compassion with Fashion fundraiser this month. The event will be hosted at JW Marriott Scottsdale Camelback Inn Resort & Spa.

The event, scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 22, from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., will celebrate the joy of pets and lives saved, complete with a seated luncheon, silent and live auctions, and a fashion show.

Learn more at [www.azhumane.org/compassion-with-fashion](http://www.azhumane.org/compassion-with-fashion).

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Construction is moving along on The Royale Commons, shown here facing southeast towards the main entrance off of 6th Drive, and towards retail spaces for Window Coffee Bar and STEMSWAG Floral & Gifting (submitted photo).

Anticipation grows for retail development

By Kathryn M. Miller

There is still not a firm opening date set for The Royale, a much-anticipated mixed-use retail development located at 635 W. Glenrosa Ave. in the Melrose District, according to owner Mark Howard.

“Construction in general can be very unpredictable, but post COVID it’s been a nightmare,” Howard said. “We are still experiencing major delays in electrical panels and some sub-contractor shortages. It’s very frustrating for us and for our tenants but we are glad that all eight tenants are signed and ready to get their businesses activated at The Royale.”

Those eight tenants, all local, independent businesses, will meet a variety of retail needs for area residents. They include YUMBAR, owned by Howard who also is the owner of FEZ Restaurant & Bar, a restaurant and bar serving up a flavorful metropolitan menu and full line of cocktails; Rocco Designs, a full service architecture, interior design and fine art studio and the creative behind The Royale; Cult Hair Salon & Spa, a full service hair salon as well as a full service aesthetician offering a variety of skin care services; StemSwag Floral & Gifting, a full service florist with an urban twist specializing in one-of-a-kind arrangements, plants, eclectic gifts and event services; Window Coffee Bar, one of the friendliest and most popular coffee

shops in Phoenix serving up next-level coffees, teas, and baked goods; LIX Uptown Ice Cream, which crafts some of the most unique flavors, and fully lactose free; Scotty Kirby Photo + Design, who offers their unique and celebrated style to a wide range of clientele from acclaimed drag artists to local retail businesses; and Your Health & Wellness, a local primary care provider meeting the unique healthcare needs of the LGBTQ+ community.

Howard added, “We hope to be open before the end of the year.” Learn more at [www.royalephx.com](http://www.royalephx.com) or follow The Royal on social media, @RoyalePHX.

Business Briefs

Chamber announces Athena finalists

The Greater Phoenix Chamber invites residents to celebrate outstanding businesswomen in the community and to support all nominees, finalists, and recipients, past and present.

In late August, the Chamber announced the 11 women chosen as finalists for its 36th Annual ATHENA Awards, continuing its strong tradition of recognizing outstanding Valley businesswomen. The award recognizes a woman in the public and private sectors and highlights an upcoming leader in the Valley as an ATHENA Young Professional. ATHENA finalists are chosen for their excellence in business and leadership, dedication to the com-

please see FINALISTS on page 22

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### TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

#### FINALISTS continued from page 20

munity, and support and mentorship of others.

The private sector finalists are Ginger Clayton, CEO, Elontec; Melody Lewis, owner and founder, Indigenous Community Collaborative; Jen Scrivner, chief operating officer, Goodmans; and Kristen Shroyer, co-founder and chief impact officer, ONEHOPE.

Public Sector finalists are Tara Jackson, president, Arizona Town Hall; Jeri Royce, president & CEO, Advance Community; Lorraine Tallman, founder and CEO, Amanda Hope Rainbow Angels; and Dawn Trapp, CEO, Civitan Foundation, Inc.

The Young Professional finalists are Ashlee Atkins, diversity manager, ASU Enterprise Partners; Naquana Borrero, CFRE; director of development and communications Jazz in Arizona/The Nash and owner, Bella Vita Consulting Group; and Heather Vana, senior director of external communications, Avnet.

Three ATHENA Award recipients will be announced during the Greater Phoenix Chamber's ATHENA Awards Luncheon, which will be held Wednesday, Nov. 15, 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort & Spa For additional information or to register, visit <https://phoenixchamber.com> and click on the "Events" link. Registration closes Nov. 3.

#### Esplanade announces hospitality provider

The ownership team behind the \$45 million renovation and enhancement of the Esplanade campus announced that DMK Restaurants will be the culinary and hospitality provider at the mixed-

use office destination. Founded in 2009, DMK is led by David Morton of the Morton's Steakhouse family.

The partnership advances upgrades in progress to four office buildings and the addition of 30,000 square feet of new amenity space to the one million-square-foot campus, according to Robert Marino vice president of asset management at Tourmaline Capital Partners.

DMK's scope at the Esplanade includes a full-service restaurant and bar, a grab-and-go coffee shop and marketplace, which will offer artisanal coffees, gourmet iced teas, locally prepared pastries, freshly prepared sandwiches and sandwiches, gourmet snacks, and house made sushi, as well as food and beverage offerings available within the property's private tenant network, allowing tenants to have items delivered directly to their offices throughout the campus.

The renovation and redevelopment are expected to be complete by June 2024. For more information visit [www.esplanadephx.com](http://www.esplanadephx.com).

#### Coalition addresses higher ed attainment

The Arizona Coalition for Career Readiness (ACCR) has formed to put career planning resources in local classrooms, including Phoenix College and north central Phoenix public schools. The coalition's goal is to advance Arizonans' quality of life with career development opportunities to help meet the workforce goals outlined in Achieve60AZ, an initiative that aims to help 60 percent of Arizona adults attain a postsecondary degree or credential by 2030 (<https://educationforwardarizona.org/progress/az-60-action-plan>). Founding coalition members include

*please see COALITION on page 24*

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TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

**COALITION continued from page 22**

Arizona Business and Education Coalition (ABEC), Junior Achievement of Arizona (JA), Center for the Future of Arizona (CFA), Valley of the Sun United Way, and Pipeline AZ. The Pipeline AZ career development and exploration platform is a singular hub for the coalition's work around building comprehensive career pathway information in Arizona.

These five organizations have collaborated to ease workforce transitions and bridge existing career journey gaps by combining resources and expanding outreach and programmatic efforts, which includes MyFutureAZ (<https://myfutureaz.pipelineaz.com>).

JA has also aligned some of its programs with the MyFutureAZ platform to best serve its students. "When we work together, not only is our impact greater, but the process is more efficient for educators and administrators," said Anne Landers, chief operations officer, Junior Achievement of Arizona. "ACCR will empower students to gather essential information about career support and planning to prepare them for an



Local wedding planner Lisa Foster has earned recognition for her team's personalized events (submitted photo).

increasingly global and technologically advanced workplace."

The Opportunities for Youth Grant through Valley of the Sun United Way and Pipeline AZ provides Arizonans aged 16-24 who are not working or in school with expanded access to education and employment opportunities such as hands-on, work-based learning, appren-

ticeships, and mentoring experiences.

Visit [www.arizonaccr.org](http://www.arizonaccr.org) for details.

**Wedding planner earns 'top' recognition**

The founder of Stylish Events by Lisa has been recognized as the top wedding planner worldwide in 2023 by *OK Magazine*.

After 12 years of experience, Lisa Foster says that she and her team have learned to honor a timeless reception or put a unique spin on an event. The team plans a variety of events including weddings, social gatherings, corporate and destination events, photoshoots and non-profit galas. On average, the company produces between 36 and 50 events a year.

"We are honored to be awarded #1 wedding planner worldwide," said Foster, "We believe that each event should be everything an individual, couple, or business thought it would be and more. Listening to our clients and getting to know them is what helps us set our events apart."

Foster encourages individuals interested in choosing her as their wedding planner to book as soon as they can. Wedding season runs from September to May in Phoenix, and many clients will reach out to have the event of their dreams come to life.

Learn more at [www.stylishevents-by-lisa.com](http://www.stylishevents-by-lisa.com).

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5737 N 2nd Ave.....In Escrow.....	4169SF.....	4BR/4BA.....	\$ 1,900,000
6809 N 12th Ave.....Just Listed.....	5BR/4.5BA.....	3387SF.....	\$ 1,555,000
77 E Missouri Ave #32.....In Escrow.....	3575SF.....	3BR/2.5BA.....	\$ 849,900
6629 N 14th St.....In Escrow.....	1890SF.....	3BR/2BA.....	\$ 839,000
77 E Missouri Ave #67.....Just Listed.....	4BR/3BA.....	3184SF.....	\$ 825,000
2227 E Palmyra Ave.....In Escrow.....	3BR/2.5BA.....	2278SF.....	\$ 750,000
902 E Kaler Dr.....	1/2 acre.....	LOT.....	\$ 750,000
240 W Missouri Ave #25.....New Price.....	2167SF.....	2BR/2.5BA.....	\$ 675,000
3618 E Coronado Rd.....In Escrow.....	1720SF.....	3BR/2BA.....	\$ 459,900
5720 N 64th Dr.....Just Listed.....	1561SF.....	4BR/2BA.....	\$ 399,900
4727 E Lafayette Blvd #128.....New Price.....	720SF.....	1BR/1BA.....	\$ 325,000

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5319 E Rockridge Rd*.....	\$3,825,000	7101 N 3rd Ave.....	\$1,157,500	715 W Culver St.....	\$ 625,000
6534 N 27th St.....	\$2,410,000	1324 E Lupine Ave*.....	\$1,075,000	1400 E Bethany Home Rd #29.....	\$ 585,000
6811 N Central Ave*.....	\$2,400,000	5130 N 6th St.....	\$1,065,000	17726 W Larkspur Dr.....	\$ 575,000
510 E Ocotillo Rd.....	\$2,130,000	5645 N 7th Ave.....	\$1,000,000	7748 N 7th Ave.....	\$ 572,500
35 E Myrtle Ave.....	\$2,125,000	322 W Stella Ln.....	\$ 895,000	1222 E Wagon Wheel Dr.....	\$ 515,000
25 E Myrtle Ave.....	\$1,935,000	3103 E Hazelwood St.....	\$ 830,000	1516 W Glenn Dr.....	\$ 505,000
304 W Orangewood Ave*.....	\$1,800,000	2524 E Beryl Ave.....	\$ 799,000	1001 W Solcicio Ln.....	\$ 400,000
11608 E Onyx Ave.....	\$1,750,000	6811 N 11th Pl.....	\$ 785,000	106 E Echo Ln.....	\$ 495,000
4902 E Piccadilly Rd*.....	\$1,700,000	12243 N 58th St.....	\$ 750,000	5220 N 16th Ln.....	\$ 400,000
6518 N 25th Way*.....	\$1,683,000	21206 N 62nd Ave.....	\$ 725,000	16182 W Winslow Dr.....	\$ 378,000
345 E Pomona Rd.....	\$1,500,000	23 E Laurie Ln.....	\$ 715,000	10432 N 11th St #2.....	\$ 359,900
334 W State Ave.....	\$1,375,000	3011 N 166th Pl.....	\$ 685,000	23836 W Wier Ave*.....	\$ 339,000
910 E Kaler Dr.....	\$1,260,455	122 E San Miguel Ave.....	\$ 675,000	4239 N 20th St.....	\$ 280,000
512 E Adair Dr*.....	\$1,235,000	5576 N 12th St #1.....	\$ 675,000	6541 N 41st Ave.....	\$ 270,000
50 E Lamar Rd.....	\$1,200,000	5804 N 14th Ave.....	\$ 650,000		
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IN ESCROW



77 E Missouri Ave #32 • \$849,900  
3575SF • 3BR/2.5BA

NEW PRICE



240 W Missouri Ave #25 • \$675,000  
2167SF • 2BR/2.5BA

IN ESCROW



6629 N 14th St • \$839,000  
1890SF • 3BR/2BA

REMODELED



4727 E Lafayette Blvd #128 • \$334,900  
720SF • 1BR/1BA

IN ESCROW



2227 E Palmyra Ave • \$750,000  
2278SF • 3BR/2.5BA

LOT



902 E Kaler Dr • \$750,000  
14,262 sq ft lot

IN ESCROW



3618 E Coronado Rd • \$459,900  
1720SF • 3BR/2BA



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SCHOOL DAYS

### Preschool celebrates four decades

By Kathryn M. Miller

Established in 1983, Faith Lutheran Preschool is about to recognize a major milestone — and families both past and present are invited to attend the celebration.

The preschool is part of Faith Lutheran Church, located near the corner of 7th Street and Camelback Road. The church has a long history in Phoenix. Due to the rapid growth in the city of Phoenix, and increasing wartime attendance at Grace Lutheran Church, it was decided in early 1944 that consideration be given to the formation of a new mission in North Phoenix.

The first service was held on May 20, 1945, and by July 8 of that year, the mission was organized with 76 charter members. Those members, and others who joined them worshipped in Madison School until the chapel at Faith Lutheran was dedicated on Feb. 23, 1947. Even today, descendants of those original members worship at the church.

Fast forward to 1983, when the preschool was founded and housed in the education wing of the church, which was built in 1950. The preschool started with eight children, two teachers and a director. Today, the school has



Faith Lutheran Preschool has provided care for area children — from infant to five years of age — for 40 years (submitted photo).

15 employees serving 52 families with children ranging in age from infant to five years of age, says preschool director Alma Cortes — and multiple generations of families have been served by the school.

“Jan Kuenzli helped fund the preschool,” Cortes said. “Her daughter was one of the first babies to attend FLP — her name is Jessica Jones. Jessica currently has a son in our program, Zachary.”

It is that continuity and connection to the community that keeps the school thriving, Cortes said, “With families, staff and children, it’s just like a small

community, where we all know each other. Even though a child might not be in their room, they know the teachers just by seeing them in the hallway...and it makes them feel more comfortable.”

As the 40th anniversary of the preschool approaches, that community — both past and present — is invited to celebrate the milestone. An anniversary party will be held at the school, located at 801 E. Camelback Road, Sunday, Oct. 1, from 2–5 p.m. and will include food, raffles and games.

For information about the school, visit [www.faithlutheranpreschool.org](http://www.faithlutheranpreschool.org).

### School Briefs

#### GLENDALE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT GUHSD schools ranked among best

Since 2007, all nine Glendale Union High School District (GUHSD) high schools have ranked on *U.S. News & World Report* for Best High Schools, and this year is no different. The district congratulated its high schools — Apollo, Cortez, Glendale, Greenway, Independence, Moon Valley, Sunnyslope, Thunderbird and Washington — for keeping up the incredible work.

Learn more about the district at [www.guhsdaz.org](http://www.guhsdaz.org).

#### Sunnyslope wins at golf tournament

The annual district golf tournament teed off at Arizona Traditional Golf Course, and excellence was on full display. Sunnyslope High School’s team took home the District Championship, while Sunnyslope golfer Jackson Pieratt snagged the title of Individual Tournament Champion.

#### Washington High unveils new turf field

Washington High School’s Varsity Football team and the Purple Pride

**ST. FRANCIS XAVIER**  
A Jesuit school forming Kids for Others  
Preschool - 8th Grade



discover  
**THE POSSIBILITIES**

.....

From Preschool to 8th Grade, we provide opportunities for our students to cultivate excellence in mind, body and spirit. Our mission is to send forth Kids for Others.

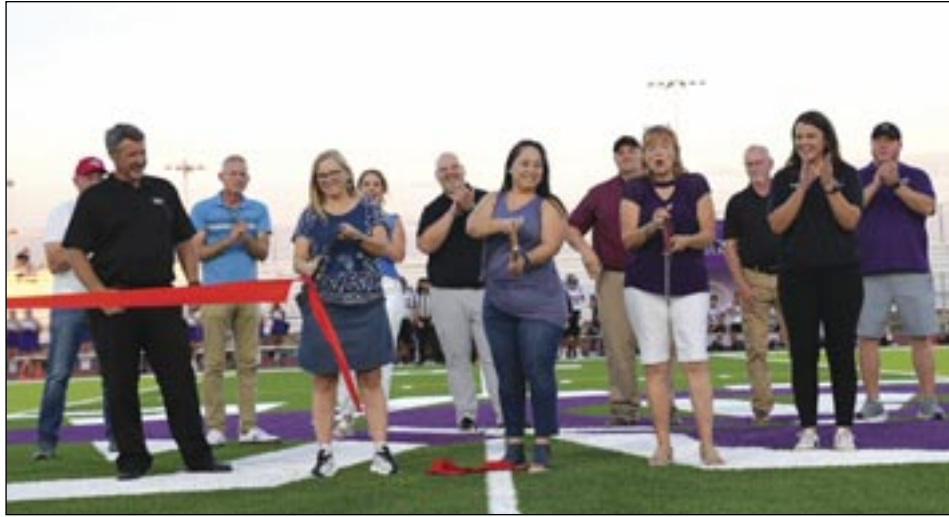
Join us on Tuesday, October 24th for our Preschool and Kindergarten Open House to learn more about our school community.

[school.sfxphx.org](http://school.sfxphx.org)

SCHOOL DAYS

Marching Machine played and performed on a brand-new turf field at the school's season home opener game, Aug. 25. A complete renovation took place over the summer and included the turf field as well as new lighting, stadium seating and scoreboard.

The district expressed its gratitude to the community for its support through bond dollars that allowed for the remarkable renovations at Ram Stadium. GUHSD governing board members and many of the contractors whose companies performed the work were on hand Aug. 25 to celebrate the new field with a ribbon cutting.



GUHSD celebrated a new turf field at Washington High School with a ribbon-cutting event Aug. 25. In the front row, pictured from left to right, are Matt Belden, Assistant Superintendent of Operations & Athletics; Pam Reicks, Governing Board member; Laura Arita, Governing Board clerk; Patti Hussey, Governing Board member; and Ashley Anderson, Washington High School principal (photo courtesy of GUHSD).

**MADISON SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Get ready for kindergarten**

While the new school year may have just started, many families with children starting kindergarten in the 2024–25 school year are already preparing for their children to begin school next fall.

It's an exciting time, and parents and caregivers often have questions about how to help their children suc-

ceed as they begin their academic journey. Madison School District kindergarten teachers and early childhood program staff offer tips on preparing for this next big step.

Families should encourage independence, such as practicing opening lunch box containers and zip lock bags without help. It is also essential to build self-advocacy skills, such as ask-

ing when they need help or don't understand the instructions. Families also should encourage a child's confidence to try new things, provide opportunities to make simple decisions, and help children to accept minor disappointments, frustrations or changes in schedule.

Before school begins, children should be able to recognize all 26 upper

and lowercase letters of the alphabet and their sounds, write their first and last names, count and recognize numbers zero through 20 and identify and draw basic shapes.

Children may struggle with separation when school starts, but prolonging a goodbye can make the separation more difficult. If a child is upset when they leave, parents should assure the student that they love them, their teacher will take care of them and express confidence that they can handle the school day.

Finally, finding opportunities to schedule playdates with classmates is an excellent opportunity for children to interact with friends and peers outside of school.

For families with children entering kindergarten next fall, Madison School District is hosting its annual Discover Madison Tour Friday, Nov. 3. On the tour, families will have the opportunity to learn more about Madison's elementary schools and signature programs.

To learn more and sign up, visit [www.madisonaz.org/discovermadison](http://www.madisonaz.org/discovermadison).



**DISCOVER PCDS**

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR OPEN HOUSE**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5th, 11am-1pm

[PCDS.ORG/OPENHOUSE](http://PCDS.ORG/OPENHOUSE)



PCDS is a private, independent school, Pre-k through Grade 12.



**YEAR FOUNDED**

As a nonsectarian, nonprofit, college preparatory day school



**ENROLLMENT**

In our co-ed student body, 37% identify as students of color



**AFFORDABILITY**

24% receive need-based financial aid grants at an average of \$15,000



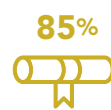
**CLASS SIZE**

15 students average per class



**STUDENT:TEACHER**

8 students average per 1 teacher



**FACULTY DEGREES**

85% of Upper School faculty hold advanced degrees



**CAMPUS SIZE**

40 acres  
Athletic fields, aquatic center, gyms, auditorium, music spaces, and science, art & tech center



**ATHLETICS**

14 state championships in the past 3 years  
12 Upper School sports and 13 Middle School sports



**SCHOOL HOURS**

7:50am–3:00pm  
Hot lunch included daily for Lower and Middle School, optional for Upper School

3901 East Stanford Dr, Paradise Valley, AZ 85253 602.955.8200

SCHOOL DAYS

**Students hold Hibiscus for Hawaii fundraiser**

Madison Meadows Middle School and Madison Park Middle School students recently held an art sale fundraiser, benefitting the Public Schools of Hawaii Foundation.

Students created various hibiscus-themed artwork using markers, pencils, watercolors and more. The 300 pieces of artwork sold raised more than \$2,000 to benefit the organization and help support students impacted by the wildfire in Maui.



Students at two Madison schools created hibiscus-themed artwork to support their peers in Maui (photo courtesy of Madison School District).

**PHOENIX UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT PXU school garners high rankings**

Phoenix Union High School District's (PXU) Bioscience High School recently ranked highly on national and local rankings made by *U.S. News & World Report* in its "2023-2024 U.S. News Best High Schools" list.

On the 2023-24 list, the school was #359 in national rankings, #14 in Arizona schools, #10 in Phoenix metro

area high schools, and #1 in Phoenix Union schools.

At Bioscience, students have the opportunity to take Advanced Placement coursework and exams. The AP participation rate at the school is 60 percent. The total minority enrollment is 88 percent, and 65 percent of students are economically disadvantaged, according to the *U.S. News* data.

The school, one of 18 in PXU, is

located at 512 E. Pierce St. in Phoenix. Learn more at [www.pxu.org](http://www.pxu.org).

**WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT Teachers win 'Supply' award**

Several WESD teachers are winners of the Arizona Public Service (APS) Supply My Class Award for the 2023-

24 school year. Congratulations were extended to Desert View Elementary School teacher Karen Moreno, Moon Mountain Elementary School teachers Elena Dowers, Sarah Miller and Anita Willand, and Mountain View School teacher Donaleen McCluskey.

Entering its sixth year, the APS Supply My Class program awards \$500 to 500 randomly selected teachers in APS service territory to help ensure they have the resources they need to support the success of their students.

**Maryland welcomes wellness room**

Students at Maryland School can now enjoy a new Wellness Center thanks to hospital employees from Abrazo Central Campus.

Maryland recently held a dedication ceremony to unveil the new Wellness Center, which offers students a calming environment to help with emotional needs. The room was made possible due to the support of Abrazo Central Campus employees who helped with painting and outfitting the area. Physicians from the hospital's medical

**THE XAVIER EFFECT**

**Where Young Women Finish Strong**

**xcp.org**

**Xavier College Preparatory** is a Catholic community that strives to prepare young women of faith with knowledge, skills, and integrity to meet the challenges of a changing global society in a positive and productive manner celebrating unity.

**8th Grade Day**  
Friday, Oct. 27, 2023 | 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**Open House**  
Sunday, Oct. 29, 2023 | 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**All are welcome**

**Admissions/Placement Exam**  
Saturday, Dec. 2, 2023 or Saturday, Dec. 9, 2023 at 7:30 a.m. Registration for exam and application information at [xcp.org](http://xcp.org). 9th Grade applications are due Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2024.

**Affording a Xavier Education**  
Financial Aid Workshops available to interested parents during the Entrance Exam Testing, Dec. 2, 2023 and Dec. 9, 2023.

SCHOOL DAYS



Maryland School and WESD leadership were joined by students and Abrazo hospital staff at a recent dedication ceremony for the schools new Wellness Center (submitted photo).

staff also provided funding for furniture and equipment, for a total contribution valued at more than \$12,000.

During the ceremony, guests and students had the opportunity to tour the room and all it has to offer.

WESD continues attendance campaign

Washington Elementary School District (WESD) shared the continuation of its #AttendanceMattersWESD

campaign. The theme for the month and the school year is "Showing Up Together." The district initiated the campaign last school year with a focus on emphasizing the importance of being in school each day and improving student attendance across the district.

According to the district, the attendance rate for the 2022-23 school year was 91.95 percent, which was an increase of 3.95 percent from the previous year.

please see CAMPAIGN on page 32

Phoenix Christian  
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

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**October 12**  
Morning Visit

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*Accepting Applications for SY24-25*



**ASA'S OPEN HOUSE | Saturday, November 4, 2023**  
*Campus Tours and Shadow Days also available on select dates.*  
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Questions? Email [admissions@goasa.org](mailto:admissions@goasa.org)  
**GOASA.ORG/ENROLL**



SCHOOL DAYS

CAMPAIGN continued from page 31

Additionally, the WESD reduced chronic absenteeism by more than 11 percent. This year, the goal is to increase daily attendance by 2 percent and decrease chronic absenteeism by 8 percent.

In support of these goals, the district will share important attendance tips and resources on social media all school year long. Visit [www.wesd-schools.org/attendancematterswesd](http://www.wesd-schools.org/attendancematterswesd).

CHARTER AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Student earns top band honor

All Saints' Episcopal Day School seventh-grade student, Miles Sheriff, was one of 100 students chosen from around the state to participate in the Arizona State University Wind Band program Middle School Honor Band.

Students were nominated by their band director and selected to participate based on their skill level. The event included a day of master classes, rehearsals, and a final performance on the ASU Gammage stage.

All Saints to host parents of prospective students

All Saints' Episcopal Day School will host open houses for prospective parents Nov. 14, Dec. 7 and Jan. 11 beginning at 9 a.m. During the open house, prospective parents, will meet faculty and administration, receive general information about the school, and



In September, the Brophy Varsity Football team attended the Honor Bowl in San Diego (photo courtesy of Brophy Athletics).

learn about curriculum and student life.

To register, visit [www.allsaints.org/admission/visit-us](http://www.allsaints.org/admission/visit-us).

Applications for the 2024-25 school year open Monday, Oct. 2. The admissions team is available to help families learn more about All Saints'. Contact Jacquie Kennedy, Director of Admissions, at [jkennedy@allsaints.org](mailto:jkennedy@allsaints.org) with any questions or to schedule a tour.

For more information, visit [www.allsaints.org](http://www.allsaints.org) or call 602-274-4866.

Bronco football team wins Honor Bowl

Brophy College Preparatory's varsity football team defeated Cathedral Catholic High School 31-21 in the Honor Bowl game Sept. 1 in San Diego.

Senior Charlie McGinnis went 13-for-20 for 166 yards and had two passing touchdowns. He added a rushing touchdown to tie the game at 7 in the first quarter. He has accounted for seven touchdowns in the first two games (5 passing, 2 rushing) after accumulating nine in 11 games last season (6 passing, 3 rushing).

Sophomore Daylen Sharper was named the team's Honor Bowl Most Valuable Player. He scored on a nine-yard reception to help put the Broncos up 28-14, finishing with five catches for 102 yards and a touchdown.

The Broncos helped the cause with three interceptions in the game, including two by Brophy senior Jack Sebald. Brophy senior Leo Roth received the team's Character Award presented by the Honor Bowl.

Xavier students earn AP distinction

The College Board's Advanced Placement Program offers students the opportunity to take college-level courses while still in high school. During the 2022-23 school year, 18 Xavier College Preparatory students earned the AP Capstone Diploma while 18 other earned the AP Seminar and Research Certificate.

A score of 3 or higher on an AP Exam has multiple benefits for students, including earning college credit, and advancement placement in courses. The 18 Xavier students who were awarded the AP Capstone Diploma by earning scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar, AP Research, and on four additional AP exams were Emily Alaimo, Emily Barlett, Capri Cadwell, Chloe Chun, Sonya Colattur, Andrea Dinglasan, Danielle Dyer, Carly Elghoul, Eleanor Halaby, Mary Mayfield, Monica Nitu, Abigail Pearson, Joscelynn Perez, Cara Schillinger, Reyna Silva, Hope Smith, Talia Udelman and Abigail Zimmerman.

Another 18 students were awarded the AP Seminar and Research Certificate by earning scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research: Zaara Arora, Brett Arthur, Adela Campo, Halle Carns, Claire Carpita, Andrea Cobb, Abigail Gliss, Isabella Gomez, Ava Gonzales, Summer Goodman, Asiana Guang, Elise Kindle, Annamaria La Sota, Marcella Medina, Maya Nagaraj, Kristina Stender, Megan Wheeling and Isabella Woods.

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[madisonaz.org/enrollment](http://madisonaz.org/enrollment)

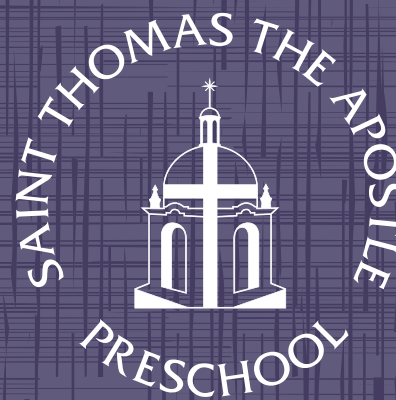






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We invite you to join us for an informative morning which includes: a welcome presentation, meeting teachers, staff, and parent volunteers, followed by a tour and an opportunity for Q&A.

Check in begins at 8:45am; Program begins at 9:00am

Please contact the school office with any questions. This presentation is for parents only.

Let us know you're coming! [staphxschool.org/admissions\\_inquiry\\_form](http://staphxschool.org/admissions_inquiry_form)



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**10AM-3PM**

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SCHOOL DAYS

**Brophy presents Auction 2023**

Brophy College Preparatory will hold its fall auction, Timeless Frontier, Saturday, Oct. 21. The event will take place from 5:30-11 p.m. on Brophy's campus in Harper Great Hall. Proceeds from the auction will benefit the Brophy Financial Aid Fund.

Join the community for a night of cocktails, dinner and dancing. For more information and to reserve a ticket, visit [www.brophyprep.org/giving/auction](http://www.brophyprep.org/giving/auction).

**Annual open house set for Nov. 4**

Brophy College Preparatory will host its annual Open House from noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 5, on campus. It is open to the public and students of all ages are invited to attend with their parents. The school says that it is never too early to think about becoming a Brophy Bronco.

Campus tours and information on academic programs, sports and co-curricular activities, as well as financial aid

and the admissions process will be offered at the event. Attendees will have the opportunity to talk to students, faculty, administration, coaches and parents.

To register for the event, visit [www.brophyprep.org/admissions/learn-more/open-house](http://www.brophyprep.org/admissions/learn-more/open-house).

**MHP students recognized as AP Scholars**

Madison Highland Prep (MHP) announced that it had 32 students recognized as 2022-23 AP Scholars.

The AP Scholar Award recognizes high school students who have demonstrated exemplary college-level achievement on AP exams. AP Exams are held every year during the first two weeks of May with two tests being given a day. MHP has a number of students who take multiple AP Exams during this stressful but exciting time of the year.

Learn more at <https://madisonhighlandprep.com>

**Seniors named Merit semifinalists**

Seven Xavier seniors, Chloe Chun, Sonya Colattur, Harper Higgs, Mackenzie Lopez, Abigail Pearson, Cara Schillinger and Ava Silvernail, were named semifinalists in the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program. The program honors individual students who show exceptional academic ability and potential for success in rigorous college studies.

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation announced the names of approximately 16,000 Semifinalists in the 69th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,140 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$28 million that will be offered next spring.

The nationwide pool of semifinalists, representing less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest-scoring entrants in each state. The number of semifinalists in a state is proportional to the state's percentage of the national total of graduating seniors.

MeritScholar designees are selected on the basis of their skills, accomplishments, and potential for success in rigorous college studies, without regard to gender, race, ethnic origin, or religious preference.

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Dec. 7  
Jan. 11  
9-11 a.m.

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**GENERATIONS**

## Senior Living Residents give back on Grandparents Day

In recognition of Grandparent’s Day in September, 250 senior citizens who go to the Optum Community Center at 12th Street and Glendale Avenue joined four other Optum Community Centers across the Valley, to create necessity bags for the foster children of local nonprofit Southwest Human Development. The bags included personal messages of hope and inspiration.

When children are placed in foster care, their lives are turned upside down and they need a way to contain their most important possessions, the center said. Many of the seniors at Optum are grandparents and great grandparents. They want to help these children, and this is their way of giving back.

Optum Community Centers are neighborhood hubs for local seniors 55 and older to gather with friends in a



Older adults at the North Central Optum Community Center created bags in September for children in foster care (photo courtesy of Optum – Arizona).

shared journey of physical and social well-being. The centers provide interconnected, wrap-around services to help seniors at no cost so they can stay

physically active, socially engaged, mentally stimulated and emotionally supported. Learn more at [www.optum.com](http://www.optum.com).

## ‘Understanding Dementia’ workshop offered

The Hospice of the Valley Dementia Care and Education Campus will offer a workshop to residents in October to explore different aspects of dementia.

Geared toward caregivers, “Understanding Dementia: A Challenging Journey” is a three-hour workshop that will explore dementia and its progression from early to advanced stages, and offer participants the opportunity to learn how to maintain meaningful connections and discuss ways to reduce stress.

The speaker, Dr. Maribeth Gallagher, directs Hospice of the Valley’s Dementia Program, which has received national and international awards for its innovative approaches to dementia care. She is a psychiatric nurse practitioner with a doctoral degree in nursing. Her commitment to improving dementia care was initially inspired



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- Three large suites remaining
- Residents have included two retired MD’s and a doctor’s wife.
- All-American staff
- Outstanding personalized care.
- Memory care



A bright, accessible and modern kitchen with commanding great room access



Our roomy dining room is an art gallery!



BLISS FAMILY • ASSISTED LIVING HOMES

**GENERATIONS**

by her own experience as a family caregiver, sharing the journey with her loved one from diagnosis to death.

The workshop will be held Thursday, Oct. 5, 8:30 a.m. to noon, at the Dementia Care and Education Campus, 3811 N. 44th St., Phoenix. The event is offered at no charge. To learn more or register, send an email to [events2@dementiacampus.org](mailto:events2@dementiacampus.org) or call 602-767-8300. Walk-ins are welcome.

Learn more at <https://dementiacampus.org>.

**Help is just a phone call away**

According to the Area Agency on Aging, older adults are especially vulnerable to suicide, but help can be as close as a phone call away.

Residents of any age can dial the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline at 988. In Maricopa County, the Area Agency on Aging’s Senior Help Line, 602-264-HELP (4357), is another important resource for older men and women struggling with signs and symptoms of depression that could lead to suicide attempts.

According to the Suicide Prevention Resource Center, suicide rates are particularly high among older men, with men ages 85 and older having the highest rate of any group in the country. Suicide attempts by older adults are much more likely to result in death than among younger persons.

“Being aware of the suicide risk factors among older adults and how to address them is critical in saving lives,” said Heidi Donniaquo, the Area Agency Director of Behavioral Health. “While senior adults comprise about 12 percent of the population, they account for nearly 20 percent of suicides.”

Signs and symptoms of depression in older adults include sadness or feelings of despair; unexplained or aggravated aches and pains; loss of interest in socializing or hobbies; weight loss or loss of appetite; feelings of hopelessness or helplessness; and lack of motivation and energy.

“It’s difficult when you hear someone you love or care for express thoughts about suicide, but it’s critically important to remember that there are steps that can be taken to find help and support,” Donniaquo said. Those steps include:

- Talking. Your willingness to express your concern for the person in crisis can be the first step in getting

that person help.

- Listening. Being an active listener is another way of reminding a person in crisis that they are not alone.

- Remaining present. Your physical and emotional presence in the person’s life makes a difference. If you are worried about their safety, get help from a mental health professional immediately.

- Calling or texting 988. When someone dials 988, they will be connected to the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. This confidential support line is available 24 hours a day to provide free help to people in suicidal crisis or mental health-related distress.

**City seeks literacy volunteers**

The City of Phoenix Youth and Education Office is looking for committed and passionate individuals age 50 and older to assist second- and third-grade students in increasing their reading fluency skills. The City of Phoenix, in partnership with AARP Foundation Experience Corps, is recruiting volunteers aged 50 and above to support a tutoring program designed to improve literacy skills for Phoenix elementary school students in second and third grade.

Opportunities are available at nine Phoenix school districts. Residents who love reading and inspiring Valley youth are encouraged to sign up for this opportunity.

For more information, contact [ecphx@phoenix.gov](mailto:ecphx@phoenix.gov) or visit [https://cop.samaritan.com/custom/501/volunteer\\_home](https://cop.samaritan.com/custom/501/volunteer_home) to learn more about this and other opportunities available through the Volunteer PHX program.

**Kids & Families ‘Gross’ camp opens registration**

Kids who are curious about bodily functions or wonder what type of wild animal left behind that stinky pile of poop are invited to attend the Arizona Science Center’s Camp Innovation.

The camp returns this fall break with “That’s Gross!,” where future scientists will have the chance to explore the science of the slimy and sticky. Discover the fascinations of the human body, funky foods and strange but successful animal adaptations through hands-on STEM activities at this week-long camp.

*please see CAMPOn page 38*



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**GENERATIONS**

**CAMP continued from page 37**

Available to students ages 6-14, Camp Innovation Fall Break runs October 9-13. Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Arizona Science Center is located at 600 E. Washington St. For more information, call 602-716-2000 or visit [www.azscience.org](http://www.azscience.org).

**Gymnastics academy offers fall break activities**

Registration is open for Impact Gymnastics Academy's Fall Break Camp 2023, which runs Oct. 9-13. Camp attendees will rotate through gymnastics rotations, open gym and Ninja Zone. Campers will do crafts and enjoy meeting special guests. The camp is open to youth ages 4-14, and no gymnastics experience is necessary.

The cost for a full day of camp (9 a.m. to 3 p.m.) is \$340 per week; \$255 for a half day (9 a.m. to noon or noon to 3 p.m.) Before and after care is offered. Campers are asked to bring lunch, snacks, and plenty of water; as well as wear gym-appropriate clothing.



Fall Break Camp at Impact Gymnastics will include gymnastics rotations, open gym, a Ninja Zone and more (photo courtesy of Diamond Collective Photography).

Impact Gymnastics Academy is located at 7812 N. 12th St. For additional information, call 602-870-7574 or visit [www.impactgymaz.com](http://www.impactgymaz.com).

**STEM opportunity open to high school students**

A new opportunity is open to local Arizona high school students who are passionate about STEM or interested

in making a positive impact in their community.

The Luminosity Lab at Arizona State University introduced the Illuminate Challenge, a year-long competition designed to empower and inspire high school students across Arizona. The goal is to take on the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in innovative ways. Students

not only get the chance to make a real difference but also gain valuable experiences, mentorship, networking opportunities, and even some cool prizes. Registration is open until Oct. 6.

In addition, the Vanderpoleg Luminosity Scholarship Program is an extension of The Luminosity Lab's approach, and offers a chance for incoming freshmen and sophomores at ASU to dive into real-world innovation. The focus is on systems thinking and rapid product realization. Applications for this scholarship will open in early October.

For additional information on the programs visit [www.illuminatechallenge.com](http://www.illuminatechallenge.com) or [www.theluminositylab.com](http://www.theluminositylab.com). Questions may be emailed to [luminosity@asu.edu](mailto:luminosity@asu.edu).

**Discover conservation through volunteerism**

The Arizona Sustainability Alliance is looking for mentors for the Youth Conservation Workforce Program, as well as young people to participate in the program.

More than an opportunity for Arizona's young minds, the program offers a platform for growth, mentorship, and environmental impact and aims to empower young people while encouraging them to care for the environment.

Youth participants are the heartbeat of projects that enhance the environment, protect wildlife, and build resilient communities. From tree-planting initiatives to urban farming projects, every day is a chance to create positive change. The organization says that the benefits to youth are many, including hands-on experience by engaging in real-world conservation projects; receiving guidance and support from experienced professional; developing leadership skills and eco-conscious values; and connecting with peers who share a passion for sustainability.

Joining the program as a mentor, counselor, teacher, or administrator allows residents the opportunity to play a pivotal role in shaping the next generation of eco-conscious leaders.

To learn more, visit [www.azsustainabilityalliance.com/azsa-youth-conservation-workforce-development-azycwd](http://www.azsustainabilityalliance.com/azsa-youth-conservation-workforce-development-azycwd).

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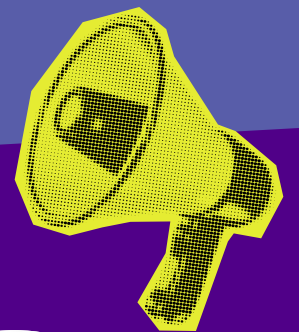
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Fushicho Daiko will kick off the Music at Trinity season on Oct. 29 (submitted photo).

### Music at Trinity kicks off concert series

Music at Trinity, under the direction of Erik W. Goldstrom, will kick off its 2023–24 Concert Series at Trinity Cathedral in October. The season runs through May.

First up in the series is Fushicho Daiko Oct. 29 at 4 p.m. The group celebrates the passion, focus and community of ensemble Taiko drumming, bringing the excitement of original and traditional Japanese drumming into full focus. This dynamic performance will be filled with joyful celebrations, comic interludes and powerful songs. Learn more at [www.fushichodaiko.com](http://www.fushichodaiko.com).

Trinity's resident chamber music ensemble, Urban Nocturnes, take the stage Nov. 2, at 7 p.m. The fall concert opens with turn-of-the-20th century composer Quincy Porter's Little Trio for flute, violin, and viola, and features Karen Sinclair, Christopher McKay, Viviana Cumplido Wilson, and Olga Gorelik. Learn more at [www.urbannocturnes.com](http://www.urbannocturnes.com).

Trinity Cathedral is located at 100 W. Roosevelt St. in downtown Phoenix. For more information, visit [www.trinitymusicaz.org](http://www.trinitymusicaz.org).

### Season of jazz performances begins

Church of the Beatitudes will begin its 2023–24 Jazz Series season on Sunday, Oct. 15, with Lauren Hooker Quintet. Six concerts will be held during the series, which will run from October through April.

Performances begin at 6 p.m., and the cost to attend is \$10 at the door. Church of the Beatitudes is located at 555 W. Glendale Ave. Parking is available off of 7th Avenue. For additional information, call 602-264-1221 or visit [www.beatitudeschurch.org](http://www.beatitudeschurch.org).

### Deadline extended for transit artists

Valley Metro announced that the deadline has been extended for artists to apply for its Capitol Extension (CAPEX) Light Rail Public Art Project. The new deadline is Wednesday, Oct. 25.

Up to eight established and emerging artists will be selected to create artwork that reflects the character of the surrounding community for the 1.4-mile western extension of the existing Valley Metro light rail line from downtown Phoenix to the Arizona State Capitol. The project will include three, split platform stations (six total platforms) along the route: 1) at 7th Avenue, on Washington and Jefferson streets, 2) at 13th Avenue on Washington and Jefferson streets. There are two new traction power substations that are also planned.

Experienced public artists are invited to apply for the six station platform projects (\$300,000). Emerging public artists are invited to apply for the two traction power substation projects (\$50,000).

To apply, visit <https://artist.callforentry.org> and search for "CAPEX" under the "Find Calls" link. Learn more at [www.valleymetro.org/project/capitol-extension](http://www.valleymetro.org/project/capitol-extension).

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Saxophonist Roxy Coss will kick off a new women's initiative at The Nash (submitted photo).

### Nash launches Women's Initiative

A new multi-year program to address the gender-based inequities in jazz music will kick off this month at The Nash, a jazz club and education center in downtown Phoenix

Led by artistic director Mary Petrich and administrative director Naquana Borrero, the Women's Initiative program will include masterclasses, jam sessions, concerts and film screenings throughout the year, to showcase and foster female jazz artists. The Nash is kicking off the season with a jam-packed weekend Oct. 7-8.

Highlights from the kick-off weekend include events with one of the nation's leading jazz musicians, saxophonist Roxy Coss. Saturday, Oct. 7, at 2 p.m., Coss will lead a masterclass with the young women of The Nash Jazz DivAZ, (high school and middle school musicians) followed by two high-energy concerts at 7 p.m. and 9:15 p.m.

On Sunday, Oct. 8, the public is invited to a free panel discussion and film screening of "The Girls in the Band," a documentary that traces the marginalization of female jazz instrumentalists through history. The weekend concludes with a Sunday Jam Session, hosted by Pam Morita and Mary Petrich.

For more information, call 602-795-0464 or visit [www.thenash.org](http://www.thenash.org).

### On the Town

This month, fall is in full swing with family-friendly things to do, a celebration of Indigenous Peoples' Day, live local music, dance and theater,

national touring acts and Spooky Season events galore. See you on the town in October!

#### Young Fathers

Oct. 2  
Crescent Ballroom  
[www.crescentphx.com](http://www.crescentphx.com);  
602-716-2222

#### 'Tiananmen: A New Musical'

Oct. 4-10  
The Phoenix Theatre Company  
[www.phoenixtheatre.com](http://www.phoenixtheatre.com);  
602-254-2151

#### 62nd Annual Phoenix Greek Festival

Oct. 6-8  
Holy Trinity  
Greek Orthodox Cathedral  
[www.phoenixgreekfestival.org](http://www.phoenixgreekfestival.org)



#### Tommy Castro and the Painkillers

Oct. 8  
The Rhythm Room  
[www.rhythmroom.com](http://www.rhythmroom.com);  
602-612-4981

#### Owl City

Oct. 8  
The Van Buren  
[www.thevanburenphx.com](http://www.thevanburenphx.com);  
480-659-1641

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Mary Crozier

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Learn how to set a stunning dinner table, style a holiday mantel, craft a charcuterie board, and take your décor seamlessly from fall to winter, plus join in a Q&A session to talk about styling, entertaining, and design.

Registration includes morning tea and coffee, a luncheon in Bella Terra's orchard, afternoon champagne and bites, and a gift bag.

**CHOOSE FROM TWO DATES:**

Friday, Oct. 20 • 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. OR Saturday, Oct. 21 • 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
*The cost is \$350 per person. Space is limited.*

For more information and to register, visit [lifeatbellaterra.com/fall-styling-workshop/](http://lifeatbellaterra.com/fall-styling-workshop/)



MARY CROZIER  
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[celebrateanddecorate.com](http://celebrateanddecorate.com)

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

**Indigenous Peoples' Day PHX Fest**

Oct. 9  
Margaret T. Hance Park  
www.ipdphx.com

**The Psychedelic Furs and Squeeze**

Oct. 10  
Celebrity Theatre  
www.celebritytheatre.com;  
602-267-1600

**'Evening with a Chair'**

Monologue and Scene Showcase  
Oct. 11  
Midtown Players at  
Central United Methodist Church  
www.midtownphx.org/midtown-players



**Carnival of Illusion Presents Skullduggery**

Oct. 12  
Wrigley Mansion  
www.carnivalofillusion.com

**11th Anniversary House Party**

Lewis Nash & The NY All-Stars  
Oct. 13  
The Nash  
www.thenash.org; 602-795-0464

**Brahms and Dvořák: To Die For**

Oct. 13-15  
The Phoenix Symphony  
www.phoenixsymphony.org;  
602-495-1999

**'Frankenstein'**

Oct. 13-15  
Arizona Opera  
www.azopera.org; 602-266-7464

**'The Addams Family'**

Valley Youth Theatre  
at Herberger Theater  
Oct. 13-29  
Valley Youth Theatre  
www.vyt.com;  
602-253-8188

**Annular Solar Eclipse Viewing Party**

Oct. 14  
Arizona Science Center  
www.azscience.org; 602-716-2000

**Phoenix College Mariachi Band**

Oct. 14  
Herberger Theater Center  
www.herbergertheater.org;  
602-252-8497

**Carolyn Wonderland**

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

**Michelle Branch**

Oct. 19  
The Van Buren  
www.thevanburenphx.com;  
480-659-1641

**'Match Girl'**

Oct. 19-21  
Scorpius Dance Theatre  
at Herberger Theater Center  
www.scorpiusdance.com

**Fall Plant Sale**

Oct. 19-22  
Desert Botanical Garden  
www.dbg.org; 480-941-1225

**'Barefoot in the Park'**

Oct. 20-Nov. 5  
Arizona Theatre Company  
www.arizonatheatre.org;  
602-256-6995

**National Theatre Live: 'Frankenstein'**

Oct. 22  
Phoenix Art Museum  
www.phxart.org; 602-257-1880

**Peppa Pig's Sing-Along Party**

Oct. 22  
Arizona Financial Theatre  
www.arizonafederaltheatre.com;  
602-379-2800

**Jennifer Knapp & Sarah Peacock**

Oct. 24  
The Rhythm Room  
www.rhythmroom.com;  
602-612-4981

**UPTOWN Plaza**

**HALLOWEEN TRICK OR TREATING**

SATURDAY 5-8pm  
OCTOBER 28

Get in the Halloween spirit with trick-or-treating at Uptown Plaza! Plus, a **SPOOKY SURPRISE** will be roaming the plaza from 6-8pm.

Participating businesses include **AJ's Fine Foods, Scoopwell's, Lou Malnati's, Huss Brewing Co, Chula Seafood, Hi, skin** and more.

Visit [www.uptownplazaphx.com/events](http://www.uptownplazaphx.com/events) for the full list.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Spooky Safari

Oct. 25-27  
The Phoenix Zoo  
www.phoenixzoo.org; 602-286-3800



The Hu

Oct. 26  
The Van Buren  
www.thevanburenphx.com;  
480-659-1641

'Juan Gabriel'

Oct. 26-29  
Ballet Arizona  
at Phoenix Symphony Hall  
www.balletaz.org; 602-381-1096

'The Gospel at Colonus'

Oct. 27-Nov. 12  
Black Theatre Troupe  
www.blacktheatretroupe.org;  
602-258-8128

Roman Orona – Indigenous Beats

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



Dr. Jesse McGuire

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

KJZZ Halloween Party

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

Arizona State Fair

Thru Oct. 29  
State Fairgrounds  
www.azstatefair.com;  
602-252-6771

'Night of the Living Dead'

Oct. 31  
Orpheum Theatre  
www.orpheumphx.com;  
602-262-7272



Halloween at Rosson House

Oct. 31  
Heritage Square  
https://heritagesquarephx.org;  
602.258.0048

All event dates are current at time of publication. Check with individual venues for up-to-date show information. Find events throughout the month at www.northcentralnews.net/events.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

# Café Chat

**Start the day with a smile at Original Breakfast House**

By Marjorie Rice

John Stidham just couldn't get the hang of hanging out.

After nearly 40 years in the restaurant business, most of it on the Monterey Peninsula, he decided to retire and move to Phoenix, but retirement didn't last long.

"I got bored," said Stidham, who has owned and operated a string of 11 restaurants, from breakfast to delis to steakhouses to fine dining. Within two years, he was back in business, opening his 12th restaurant, Original Breakfast House (OBH), on 32nd Street just south of Thunderbird.

That was 10 years ago, and today OBH draws customers from all over the Valley, thanks in part to accolades that consistently list OBH as one of the top breakfast spots in the state. Recently *Entrepreneur Magazine* named OBH



At Original Breakfast House, owner John Stidham and his team serve up fresh breakfast classics surrounded by décor that harkens back to his roots on the California Coast (photo by Darryl Webb, special for *North Central News*).

one of the top 150 mom-and-pop businesses in the country, and one of the publication's 15 "hidden gems."

That notoriety helps bring first-timers, Stidham said, but it's the friendly

service and ample servings of scratch-made omelets, pancakes, waffles and baked goods that keep them coming back.

The restaurant's décor harkens back to Stidham's roots on the

California Coast, with surfboards and photos of seaside scenes filling every cranny of wall surface. It's all part of the fun atmosphere that begins with the huge vintage jukebox just inside the entry. (There's also a fee-free ATM for customers because OBH doesn't accept credit or debit cards.)

"There's no such thing as a bad day at the beach," said Stidham, an avid surfer "many moons ago."

The extensive menu includes pancakes, waffles, eggs and omelets — the usual breakfast fare but with Stidham's personal twist.

"When I got here, I was really surprised that I couldn't get dishes with more Mexican flavors," he said. "Even the better breakfast restaurants might have a token huevos rancheros, but not much else from Mexico. That didn't make any sense to me."

OBH's fare includes breakfast burritos, chimichangas and enchiladas, along with chilaquiles, a crispy carnitas and avocado omelet topped with red chile sauce and queso fresco, and OBH eggs Benedict with birria — Mexican braised beef — instead of ham.

Stidham's menu also includes breakfast items from all over the country, including shrimp and grits, and creamed chipped beef on toast, a special favorite with the many veterans who are OBH regulars.

He prides himself on fresh ingredients, especially berries. "You won't see fresh berries anywhere in the Valley like I have," he said. That includes strawberries and raspberries piled high on the triple-berry French toast.

"My customers love to see our experimentation," Stidham said. "They'll come in and try all my specials. Chicken-fried chicken with deep-fried French toast is a customer favorite. It's a killer."

The menu includes monthly specials, and it reflects Stidham's tastes for distinctive flavors and house-made dishes with fresh ingredients — local whenever possible.

"We're one of the few restaurants in town that makes Hollandaise sauce from scratch," he said. "We make it three or four times a day, so our Benedicts are a step above. To me, a breakfast restaurant also has to have an

<p><b>PART OF THE LUCI'S FAMILY</b></p> <p>Located at The Orchard Formerly Pomelo</p>			

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

in-house bakery with cinnamon rolls, hand-squeezed orange juice and the best coffee you can get.”

Fall specials will include pumpkin pancakes and other seasonal flavors.

November also will feature one of OBH’s most popular events, centered around Veterans Day. “It’s the biggest day of the year for us,” he said. “We feed vets for free, all day Saturday of Veteran’s Day weekend, there’s outside music and a muscle car show in the parking lot. Veterans who come for this for the first time always come back.” For Stidham, himself a Vietnam vet, veteran issues are a key focus for OBH’s community outreach.

“For a couple of weeks before Veterans Day we do a big fund-raiser for Tunnel to Towers, matching funds our customers give,” he said. Tunnel to Towers helps provide mortgage-free homes to military and fallen first-responder families and builds homes adapted for injured veterans and first responders.

“I’m very fortunate to be able to do all this at my age,” Stidham said. “I couldn’t do it without the staff. I don’t have any turnover. It’s a very upbeat,



The interior of the forthcoming North Central O.H.S.O. location is coming together as the owners seek a fall 2023 opening (submitted photo).

cheerful environment, for customers and for staff.”

To say Stidham pampers employees may be an understatement. One recent staff event included a pedicure party.

“I didn’t just pay for it, I had one!” he said. “In November the girls are going to a place in Scottsdale where they teach you how to blend your own lipstick.”

OBH is very much a family spot.

“We’re not on Camelback or Scottsdale Road,” Stidham said. “We’re out here in the neighborhood. We have a very diverse clientele from all over the Valley, especially on weekends. It’s kind of like ‘Cheers.’ I try to greet everybody who comes in the restaurant. I know all their names, and when a new person comes in, my servers know to introduce me.

“We take hospitality to the next

level. Our goal is to exceed the customer’s expectations, starting from the parking lot. Every aspect should be ‘Wow’ and ‘Welcome.’

Original Breakfast House, at 13623 N. 32nd St., is open from 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., seven days a week. The restaurant is cash-only and does not accept credit or debit cards. A fee-free ATM is available in the lobby. For information, call 602-482-2328, or visit [www.originalbreakfasthouse.com](http://www.originalbreakfasthouse.com).

### North Central O.H.S.O. nearing completion

By Kathryn M. Miller

Residents who have been looking forward to the opening of the new North Central O.H.S.O. Brewery and Eatery & Little O’s location, won’t have to wait too much longer, according to the owners.

“We’re excited to share an update on our project to revitalize one of Arizona’s most historic venues — a place that’s been a central hub in the community since 1883,” said owner

*please see COMPLETION on page 46*



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 Mystery Bag Saturday  
*94 cent mystery bag*  
 Pink on Purpose Sunday  
*10% off daily item purchase if wearing mostly pink*

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

**COMPLETION continued from page 45**

Brian Roehrich. “Thanks to the invaluable insights from the Sunnyslope Historical Society and the creative touch of Arts Cool Phoenix, we’re creating a space that honors the neighborhood’s rich heritage and spirit.”

The building, located along the Arizona Canal at 8525 N. Central Ave., was most recently the bicycle-centric Spoke & Wheel. The property itself started as a dance hall in 1883, where people would travel tree-lined dirt roads to enjoy the music of Robinson’s Orchestra. By 1934, it had secured the state’s second liquor license, transforming into The Arbor, where people dined, danced and relaxed in an old-fashioned beer garden.

“Throughout the years, despite changing names and owners, it has remained a vibrant community gathering spot,” Roehrich continued. “We are fully committed to continuing that legacy.”

He added that learning about its rich past has only deepened the team’s commitment to preserving the architectural integrity and soul of the building.

“Preservation has challenges, and our construction journey has had a few unexpected turns. Yet, we’re navigating each step with respect for its history and excitement for its future. While we are hopeful for a fall opening, we have yet to finalize a specific date as we continue working on some unexpected yet necessary improvements. We can’t wait to open our doors and start this venue’s next chapter with all of you.”

Stay up to date on the location’s progress at [www.ohsobreweryconcepts.com/central](http://www.ohsobreweryconcepts.com/central).

**Local coffee spots offer seasonal flavors**

By Kathryn M. Miller

Even before the official arrival of fall, the seasonal “pumpkin spice” made a return to many coffee house menus. But there are other flavor profiles out there year-round that not only capture the spirit of the season, but tantalize the taste buds. Here are a few of those flavors and where to find them at local joints in North Central.

New to the Melrose neighborhood,



The Aztec Mocha offers a flavor-packed start to the day at Window Coffee Bar (photo by Kathryn M. Miller).

Window Coffee Bar opened in July at 903 W. Camelback Road in the former Goldberg & Osborne building. The renovated space is open, friendly and bustling on a daily basis, and the owners expect the drive-through window service to be open by fall. For a flavorful start to the day, try the Aztec Mocha latte. Added to the chocolate profile is cinnamon and other hints of spice. The

coffee spot also offers a wide selection of pastries and quick bites. Visit [www.windowcoffeebar.com](http://www.windowcoffeebar.com).

North Central offers a number of other independent go-to coffee spots. Favorites include Copper Star Coffee, located in a re-purposed service station at 4220 N. 7th Ave. Check out their Lavender mocha and don’t miss their in-house baked pastries and made from scratch bagels. Visit [www.copperstarcoffee.com](http://www.copperstarcoffee.com).

Other favorites that are Melrose adjacent include First Draft Book Bar at Changing Hands Bookstore — another adaptive reuse at 300 W. Camelback Road. Check out the Smaug, Earl Gray tea steeped in espresso and lavender syrup, topped with a milk of choice, either steamed or iced. First Draft also serves up wine, beer and pastries. Learn more at [www.firstdraftbookbar.com](http://www.firstdraftbookbar.com).

Another homegrown coffee purveyor, Press Coffee, opened earlier in 2023 at the Sprout’s Osborn location at 7th Avenue and Osborn. Try the Espresso Honey Cinnamon Shaker — an iced concoction with espresso, honey, vanilla, cinnamon and oat milk. Also offered at this location, baked goods from Mark Chacón’s Chacónne Patisserie. Visit [www.presscoffee.com](http://www.presscoffee.com).

Further afield, visit another local hotspot, Luci’s Marketplace. Located on the northwest corner of 16th Street and Bethany Home Road, patrons will find so much more than coffee, but the Dirty Chai latte hits the sweet spot for those wanting a hot or cold spicy, caffeinated treat. Neighbors can also stop by The Other Bar, in the same building, or visit the sister location, Luci’s at The Orchard at 7100 N. 12th St., for a delightful outdoor dining experience. Learn more at [www.lucisgoodness.com](http://www.lucisgoodness.com).

Of course, if pumpkin spice is the only thing that will bring the season to your cup, rest assured you can find it at most of these establishments.

**Dining Briefs**  
**Travel the Urban Ale Trail**

Downtown Phoenix Inc.’s annual Urban Ale Trail returns for its 10th year with a Halloween-themed event Saturday, Oct. 28.

Beyond its variety of creative culinary options, Downtown Phoenix also boasts an extensive and diverse craft beer

*please see ALE TRAIL on page 48*




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**ALE TRAIL** *continued from page 46*

scene. Participants will have the opportunity to taste (and sip) their way through some of the state’s best bars and restaurants Oct. 28 from 1 to 5 p.m. Each location will serve three varieties of 4-ounce beer samples for \$5 each, plus a complimentary snack. There is no registration necessary, and the Trail is self-guided and can be done in any order.

Organizers remind participants to bring cash for samples/tips; don’t forget the sunscreen and good walking shoes, and add, “please don’t drink and drive (that means bikes, too).”

Kick off the Urban Ale Trail at Downtown Phoenix, Inc., 1 E. Washington St., Ste. 230. For more information, visit [www.dtpnx.org/aletrail](http://www.dtpnx.org/aletrail).

**Former Shady’s spot goes Sunny**

Sunny’s Lounge (Say Less) opened Sept. 19 in the former neighborhood spot that, for almost two decades, was Shady’s Fine Ales and Cocktails.

The new neighborhood bar is designed especially for those in the food

and beverage sector, according to the team behind Sunny’s — the hospitality group Barter & Shake, known for its Century Grand concept up the road at 3626 E. Indian School Road. Inspired by the catchphrases deeply ingrained in the service industry, Sunny’s Lounge (Say Less) takes its name from one such expression that encapsulates the essence of teamwork and camaraderie, Mat Snapp, EVP of operations of Barter & Shake, explained.

“Say Less’ is more than just a name; it’s our mantra. It represents our commitment to understanding your needs without you having to say much, offering a personalized experience for each guest,” Snapp said. He added that in service industry parlance, “Say Less” means an agreement or an understanding without further comment. It encourages direct, succinct communication without unnecessary detail. It means, “We’ve got your back!” This ethos is at the heart of the establishment.

Sunny’s Lounge is located at 2701 E. Indian School Road. For more information, visit [www.drinkmoresayless.com](http://www.drinkmoresayless.com).

**Taste of Japan lands in Phoenix**

Heritage Square will play host to Taste of Japan as it heads to Phoenix for the first time. The cultural experience and food extravaganza will take place Oct. 7–8 offering authentic Japanese food, drink, pop culture, anime, cosplay, entertainment, shopping and other fun activities at a family-friendly event.

Taste of Japan will feature vendors and restaurants offering a variety of food from traditional dishes to an array of street foods. Go for the food, and stay for the entertainment with live music, Japanese drummers, martial artists, anime and pop culture that will offer fun for all ages.

The adults won’t want to miss Yokocho Fest (21 and over), a full sake experience. This “VIP” experience ticket will include premium sake tastings, sponsored goodies and more.

In addition, a Tuna Cutting Show will take place Saturday, Oct. 7, between 1–2 p.m. Fresh cut tuna and sushi can be purchased from “Sushi Boy” in the Yokocho area.

Heritage Square is located at 113 N. Sixth St. Tickets available include 1-day (\$15), 2-day (\$25) and VIP (\$69). For more information or to purchase tickets, visit [www.tasteofjpn.com](http://www.tasteofjpn.com).

**Birdcall is now open in North Central**

Birdcall’s new North Central Phoenix restaurant is now open in the former Burger King location at 7025 N. 7th St. The location, which opened Sept. 25, is the chain’s second in the Valley, with a third opening this fall.

Birdcall’s focus is on all-natural, made-to-order menu items that include sandwiches — everything from a Nashville Hot to the Rancher and Grilled Chicken Caesar to the “Meati” vegetarian — salads, tenders and sides. The restaurant also offers a breakfast menu, desserts, cocktails, beer, canned wine, shakes and more.

In addition, to support the communities that it serves, Birdcall donates one percent of all purchases to the local community.

For menu, hours, or more information, visit [www.eatbirdcall.com](http://www.eatbirdcall.com).



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