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Maricopa

November 2018

EDUCATION

Did your school make the grade?

Salute to Veterans

Annual parade a labor of love

GOVERNMENT

Big ideas for big city property



Events
Calendar

THINGS TO DO

Take flight with 'Peter Pan'



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Raquel Hendrikson

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ON THE COVER: Army veteran Gary Lee Erickson enjoyed last year’s inaugural Veterans Day Parade and plans to participate again this year.
Photo by Mason Callejas

Veterans: You are truly appreciated

It's not always easy to thank veterans. One never knows how a face-to-face "thank you for your service" from a stranger will be received, because the phrase can sound trite and military service comes with a lot of baggage unknown to those who never donned the uniform. The opportunity to show appreciation is not readily available, either, even in a city where more than 10 percent of the population is comprised of veterans.

Fortunately, the women of Maricopa's American Legion Auxiliary and their volunteers organized an outstanding Veterans Day Parade last year, a first for the city. This year, they are doing it again. Gary Lee Erickson, our cover subject, calls it a humbling experience for veterans, but it's the 90 percent of Maricopans who benefited from their service who are truly awed by the veterans.

The parade isn't by any means the only event in November for Maricopans. Activities impact all ages, from the Province Arts & Crafts Fair put on by the 55+ crowd to the production of "Peter Pan" presented by Maricopa High School students, check out what's going on in our Things to Do section.

This month's issue also gives a tip of the hat to the growing music program at Desert Wind Middle School, where Roger Wagner has been waving the

baton. See where the city has increased its number of A-rated schools, grade yourself as a parent (thanks to Priscilla Behnke) and get some advice from Bernadette Russoniello on earning early college credits.



Considering a property purchase? Check out the housing market in our Home section. The City of Maricopa knows a thing or two about property ownership, and there is an overview of some of the municipality's larger vacant lots in this issue.

Master Gardener Trudy Fuller has tips for dealing with the desert willow, while

Joan Koczor has a warning for seniors about scams and Al Brandenburg has advice for choosing an in-home caregiver.

Those stories and much more are in the November edition.

Happy reading,

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We are thankful for you

Dear Readers,

Unbelievably, the holiday season is upon us. Halloween is in the rear-view mirror, and now folks are counting down the number of shopping days until Christmas.

But before we get there, we celebrate Thanksgiving. In that spirit, I am writing to tell you how thankful we are for you, our readers. It is for you and because of you our company, services and jobs exist.

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On behalf of my colleagues at InMaricopa, thank you. Thank you for your readership. Thank you for your support. And thank you for your support of our advertisers.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Appreciatively,

SCOTT BARTLE
Publisher



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Contributors



JEFF KRONENFELD
The son of a librarian and a professor, the staff reporter has been a carpenter's apprentice, surfer and book store event coordinator.



KYLE NORBY
The multimedia specialist, a 2014 graduate of Maricopa High School, loves film, going to concerts, video games and standup comedy.



BERNADETTE RUSSONIELLO
An educator for 17 years, she is a finalist for Teacher of the Year, a national award to be presented by the Association for Career and Technical Education this month.

Gallery



Maricopa Mud Run had a fun start at Copper Sky Oct. 13, but rain created more hazards, prompting a continuation to Nov. 3.
Raquel Hendrickson



Terese Sanchez sang the lead in Maricopa Community Theatre's production of "Cabaret" Oct. 10.
Raquel Hendrickson



AnnaMarie Knorr (left) spoke with state House candidates Hollace Lyon and Bret Roberts during the Oct. 6 InMaricopa.com Town Hall.
Raquel Hendrickson

City officials cut the ribbon on a growing collection of bus shelters Oct. 17 at one of the new structures on the Central Arizona College campus.
Raquel Hendrickson



Maricopa Unified School District Governing Board met with Maricopa City Council at City Hall Oct. 16 to discuss school safety.
Raquel Hendrickson

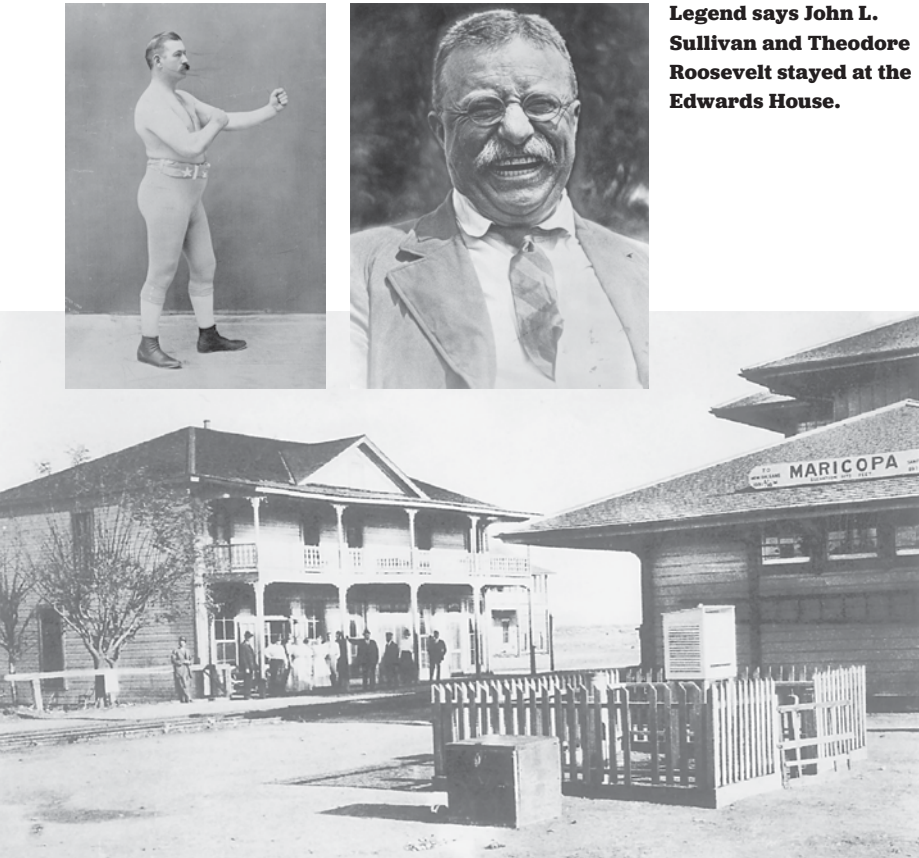
Eight Maricopans competed in the third All-Maricopa Poetry Slam Oct. 6 at Honeycutt Coffee. Winner Jasper Smith (seated in black jacket) and second-place Tristan Marshall (back right) earned spots in the All-Arizona Slam in February.
Jeff Kronenfeld



History

Edwards House hosted presidents

Maricopa famously does not have a hotel now, but during the early years of the last century, it had one of the busiest inns in the state. James and Mary Ellen Edwards moved to Maricopa from Texas in 1890 and ran the Edwards House for 20 years. Among the many rail travelers said to have stayed at the hotel were President William McKinley, President Theodore Roosevelt and boxing champion John L. Sullivan. Edwards House was also reportedly a Harvey House (a chain of hotel/restaurants next to railways) and was often called that the rest of its existence. The McCarthy family bought the two-story hotel around 1910, and it was later owned by the Deal family before it was destroyed in a fire in 1931 along with the neighboring train depot.



Maricopa Historical Society

Legend says John L. Sullivan and Theodore Roosevelt stayed at the Edwards House.

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Teacher feature

Music teacher uses technology, humor for ‘new kind’ of education

By Jeff Kronenfeld
 Photos by Kyle Norby

For Desert Wind Middle School music teacher Roger Wagner II, classes are about more than sick beats and woodwinds. In addition to teaching kids how to play instruments and compose music using digital tools, Wagner II is also helping develop their social and life skills. For Wagner, who is also assistant marching band director at Maricopa High School, and his wife Michelle, music teacher at Legacy Traditional School, music is part of daily life.

Wagner received his bachelor’s degree in music from Grand Valley State University in Michigan and began teaching in Maricopa in 2013. At that time, Desert Winds had around 90 kids in band and orchestra. The school’s choir was defunct. Further, he learned many elementary schools in the Maricopa Unified School District didn’t have any music education. “They could realistically could go K through 12 without having a music class,” Wagner said.

Wagner immediately set out to revamp the school’s music programming and restart its choir. He estimates more than 300 students now participate in the school’s band, orchestra and choir. Working toward his master’s in music education from Arizona State University while teaching at Desert Wind, Wagner began developing his modern music class in 2014. The class gave him an opportunity to experiment with a new kind of music education for his students. “When you get in your car and you flip on the radio, you’re probably not listening to concert band,” Wagner explained. “There’s a cognitive dissonance not only for me internally, but for the profession about what’s the future.”



Desert Wind Middle School music teacher Roger Wagner II started teaching in Maricopa in 2013.



Bella Ebner, president of DWMS Band Club, said Wagner makes music education fun.

Wagner happened to be in the right place at the right time and met the brand manager for Ableton Live, a company that produces tools for creating and arranging music digitally. At first just using Ableton’s software, which the company gave to him through an educational partnership, Wagner began creating a course that would help prepare students to create and play their own music.

“In music education, we call that [course] more of a music industry sort of thing,” Wagner said. “What we’re working towards is having almost a little boutique record label.” At first Wagner didn’t have instruments for the class, so he began by making instruments from reclaimed materials, what the unpretentious teacher preferred to call “trash.” Eventually, he was able to secure a number of guitars from a tax credit and later ukuleles as well. After reducing the class size slightly, he had enough instruments for each student. “I’ve seen him grow that program considerably since he’s been here with the integration of technology,” said Desert Wind Principal June Celaya. “I think some of that is because he uses some really cool assessment approaches so that kids can really evaluate their own personal growth with it and how they’re playing.”

Celaya noted Wagner has also been very successful in engaging the community by partnering with ASU, CenturyLink and others. He also worked to integrate school music more deeply into Maricopa, helping make the band a fixture at parades and other public events. While his integration of technology and contemporary music have done much to help him build his school’s music programing, his passion and humor are still key to his success as a teacher and music director. “It’s really cool because he’ll use fun analogies when teaching us about intonation and notes and stuff like that,” said eighth grader Bella Ebner, who is also president of the school’s Band Club. “He just likes to make sure that we’re all on the same page and that we’re all getting better together.”

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Veterans Day Parade returns to celebrate those who served

By Michelle Chance Photos by Mason Callejas

It was a morning decorated with patriotism and appreciation for the men and women who served our country. Veterans from many eras, young and old, participated in Maricopa’s inaugural Veterans Day Parade last November. Many said they are looking forward to doing it again this year on Nov. 10.

Maricopa resident Gary Lee Erickson served from 1969 to 1971 as the cannoneer in a M42 Duster tank in the 6th Calvary, 1st Brigade of the U.S. Army. A member of the local American Legion Post 133 and participant in last year’s parade, Erickson said he was humbled by the support displayed by spectators.

It’s also a way for veterans themselves to pay respect to the nation.

“Marching in the parade is not for glory, but to show our pride in our country and our flag,” Erickson said.

Organizer Gabriela Potter, president of the American Legion Auxiliary of Maricopa Post 133, said she and an array of other volunteers,

began organizing and fundraising for this year’s event almost as soon as last year’s ended.

The celebratory event is one that has come together in its first two years entirely by the community, Potter said. Staff from many city departments, Ak-Chin Indian Community, Tortosa Homeowners Association, local veterans’ groups, schools, restaurants and small businesses have contributed their time to the effort.

“We want to thank the community for helping us make it a success last year, and we hope that this year we can do great things to continue this tradition for many years,” Potter said.

The route along Porter Road is much



The Veterans Day Parade gives participants and attendees the opportunity to say “thank you” to veterans.

the same, but instead of beginning at Legacy Traditional School, participants will meet just east of the charter school campus at Central Arizona College on Bowlin Road.

The parade will end at Leading Edge Academy, where veterans will again be treated to a complimentary luncheon and performances by schoolchildren.

Veterans will also have free transportation at the beginning of the event from Leading

Edge Academy to CAC provided by the city’s COMET service and Totalride.

It’s a labor of love done to promote patriotism and education of our country’s brave soldiers, Potter said.

Veteran Don Sazama served in the U.S. Navy from 1961 to 1965. The Maricopa resident for the past decade said the city’s first parade made veterans feel very appreciated.

His view from a parade float granted him the view of grateful civilians. “There were a lot of people standing in their yards and waving at us and it made us feel good,” Sazama said.

Besides the common expression of thanking veterans for their services, servicemembers said there are other ways to acknowledge veterans during events like this.

“Civilians honor us just by attending the parade and when the colors pass they should put their hands over their hearts,” said Erickson, the Army veteran.

IF YOU GO

What: Veterans Day Parade
When: Nov. 10 at 9 a.m.
Where: Porter Road
Cost: Free
Info: ALPost133az.org/Auxiliary

“Marching in the parade is not for glory, but to show our pride in our country and our flag.”
—Gary Lee Erickson



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American Legion Auxiliary of Maricopa Unit 133
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Gallery



The Maricopa High School Marching Rams braved wet weather at the AzMBA – University of Arizona Band Day. The band came in fourth place in the 3A class. *Submitted*



The Maricopa High School girls swim team won its first meet Sept. 27 against Combs. The boys were also winners on the day. *Victor Moreno*

Maricopa Elementary students planned and hosted a Fourth Grade Parent Leadership Cafe Sept. 28. *Submitted*



MHS sophomore Shakira Gillespie tried for a dig against Centennial Sept. 19. The team was 2-19 through Oct. 18. *Raquel Hendrickson*



Maricopa High School senior Jacob Cowing made a reception near the goal line at Williams Field in a 34-21 loss Oct. 5 in 5A San Tan competition. Cowing scored a touchdown in the game. *Raquel Hendrickson*



Maricopa students Rori Gosiak, Thoma Abel, Joseph Abel, Zoie Zimpleman, Aubrey Pick and Kaden Rogers celebrate winning the student competition at the Show Low Film Fest with “Kindness Equals Calm” Oct. 14. *Submitted*



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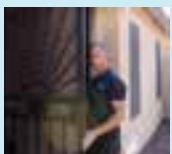
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1 FBI arrests man suspected of being ‘Wiggin’ Out Bandit’



2 MHS football ‘warned’ by AIA after Homecoming scuffle

3 Parents left in lurch after charter school closes



4 Maricopa family victim of ‘swatting’ by Tucson student

5 Man accused of robbing Shell station a second time

6 MHS volleyball pulls out 2nd win of long season

7 MUSD desegregation funding divisive issue



8 Woman carjacked at knifepoint while loading groceries

9 Mud Run abbreviated by downpour



10 Despite flooded golf course, Arroyo Grill re-opens

SCHOOL GRADES



“We are excited to earn an A rating for our wonderful school. This A rating represents the dedication and care of each and every one of our staff and our students’ hard work. I am so proud and excited for our students, staff and community to have another A school in Maricopa.”
*Butterfield Elementary School
Principal Janel Hildick*

“Pima Butte is ecstatic about receiving the 2018 ‘A’ rating. This achievement was due to the tireless effort and dedication of our teachers, the hard work of our students and the support of our families. We are extremely proud of this recognition.”
*Pima Butte Elementary
Principal Randy Lazar*

- A** Butterfield Elementary (MUSD)
Legacy Traditional School (charter)
Pima Butte Elementary (MUSD)
- B** Leading Edge Academy (charter)
Maricopa Elementary School (MUSD)
Santa Cruz Elementary School (MUSD)
Santa Rosa Elementary School (MUSD)
- C** Camino Montessori (charter - closed)
Desert Wind Middle School (MUSD)
Graysmark Schools (charter)
Maricopa High School (MUSD)
Maricopa Wells Middle School (MUSD)
Saddleback Elementary School (MUSD)
Sequoia Pathway Academy (charter)
- D** Stanfield Elementary School (SED)

A = Excellent: Distinguished performance on the statewide assessment, significant student growth, high four-year graduation rates, students are on track to proficiency or overall performance is significantly higher than the state average.
B = Highly Performing: High performance on statewide assessments and/or significant student growth and/or higher four-year graduation rates and/or moving students to proficiency at a higher rate than the state average.
C = Performing: Adequate performance but needs improvement on some indicators including proficiency, growth or graduation rate.
D = Minimally Performing: Inadequate performance in proficiency, growth and/or four-year graduation rate relative to the state average.
F = Systematic failures in proficiency, growth and graduation rates and/or performance is in bottom 5 percent of the state.



GRADUATION RATES (2017)

Percent graduating in four years from Maricopa High School and Sequoia Pathway Academy

Number of graduates	MHS 350	SPA 57
Total	76%	97%
Economically Disadvantaged	77%	96%
Male	71%	97%
Female	81%	96%
White	81%	94%
Hispanic	80%	100%
African-American	65%	*
Native American	54%	*
Asian	73%	*

*Sample size too small

Source: AZED Oct. 5



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- Maricopa Elementary School
- Pima Butte Elementary School
- Saddleback Elementary School
- Santa Cruz Elementary School
- Santa Rosa Elementary School
- Desert Wind Middle School
- Maricopa Wells Middle School
- Maricopa High School
- RAM Academy



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— James A Chaston, CPA

CAC offers students college credits while in high school

By Bernadette Russoniello

Parents and students often ask what they need to do to get ahead. Central Arizona College offers multiple programs and partnerships with local schools to assist our Pinal County scholars with opportunities.

Pinal County high school students are eligible to earn 35 college credits for free starting the summer after their sophomore year. CAC offers two incredible programs, First Step and Early College, to help local youth advance their academic pursuits.

First Step allows students to take five college credits free each summer, starting the end of their sophomore year. Interested students simply reach out to their high school counselor, complete the application form and make an appointment at their local CAC campus for testing and advising.

Students will take the Accuplacer exam, a college-readiness assessment offered through the College Board, testing skills and abilities in mathematics, reading and language. Depending on scores, high school students



Bernadette Russoniello

can begin taking college-level courses, including ENG 101/102 or MAT 151 (College Algebra), that will transfer to in-state universities. Students can also choose to take exploratory courses, such as a Culinary Arts classes including Italian Cuisine, Asian Cuisine or Cake Decorating.

During the school year, students may be eligible to participate in Early College — a program that allows students to continue taking college coursework while concurrently enrolled in their high school courses. Again, CAC offers students five credits free per semester.

Students must pay for the cost of books and

supplies and provide their own transportation to campus. CAC offers many classes online.

For students concerned about the additional course load during the academic year, Maricopa High School offers dual enrollment. These courses allow students to earn high school and college credit simultaneously. MHS offers ENG 101/102, MAT 121 (Intermediate Algebra) and MAT 151 (College Algebra). Next year, MHS hopes to expand offerings to include Biology 181/182. For dual enrollment courses, the school provides the books, but students must pay for the college credits — \$86 per credit hour. For three-credit-hour classes the course costs \$258; four-credit courses cost \$344.

CAC offers two incredible programs, First Step and Early College, to help local youth advance their academic pursuits.”

The bottom line: Students with a definitive plan and quality advising could complete their Associates Degree by the summer after their senior year. Or, students can begin working on their Arizona General Education Curriculum that fully transfers to all in-state universities for little to no cost. CAC offers AGECE options in arts, business and sciences.

Contact CAC’s Maricopa campus at 520-494-6400. For more details on what courses transfer from community college programs to state universities, visit AzTransfer.com.

Bernadette Russoniello is the Career and College coordinator at Maricopa High School. She can be reached at BRussoniello@MUSD20.org.

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O’er the ramparts we watch’d were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket’s red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there,
O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O’er the land of the free and the home of the brave?



Parents should be graded on their child's education

By Priscilla Behnke

School grades are out! The state has gone through their latest equation and graded each school. In honor of the latest grades I propose a parental involvement challenge. After all, decades of empirical data show parents are the No. 1 influencer of their child's success.

How would you be graded on:

Attendance? Are you getting your kiddo to school regularly? Frequent absences put kids behind quickly. Education builds as it goes. When you miss part A, part B doesn't make much sense. It can compound the difficulty of an already-hard-to-understand subject.

Timeliness? We work closely with the schools. The teachers we talk with tell us there appears to be a correlation between chronic tardiness and academic achievement. This makes sense; they are frequently missing part

of a lesson. They are also learning from you that being on time isn't important. Future employers might disagree.

Communication? Are you communicating with your child's teachers? Asking them what it is you can do at home to help them learn in the class? Today it's easier than ever through email and phone apps. Parents can now check grades daily while connecting with their child's teacher via the app.

Reading? It's a lost art. Are you reading to your kids, or listening to them read to you? When I spoke with teachers on how parental involvement could improve, this one stung. I fell very short here. Which is unfortunate because reading is a valuable skill. I took two workshops recently for business. Both experts told me, if you want to improve your business, read. We as parents



Priscilla Behnke

should be encouraging reading. By listening to our kids read we can help them improve and give them the practice they need.

Life skills? Are you teaching them responsibility, kindness, respectfulness, follow-through, or are you hoping the teachers will do that for you? In an ideal world, students come to class on time and learn the grade level curriculum and move on to be competitive and contribute in society. However, teachers are often balancing both the responsibility of educating the next generation and raising a few of them on the way.

Be Awesome is dedicated to developing confident, connected and successful youth. Parents are key in this endeavor and they are key in their child's education and school climate. Get involved. Even if it's just by simple little steps at home.

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PBehnke@MACAASA.org

Priscilla Behnke is program director for Maricopa CAASA and Be Awesome Coalition.

After more pay, teachers deserve more respect

By Murray Siegel

Support for teachers flourished in Maricopa during last spring's teacher walkout. Citizens, including many parents of schoolchildren, carried signs and wore red to demonstrate backing of the teachers' demand for a meaningful pay increase.

Maricopa accurately reflected American attitude about teacher pay. A 2018 poll by Phi Delta Kappa, the professional educators' organization, reported two of three Americans say teachers are underpaid. When the question was asked of parents of public school students, 78 percent indicated they would support teachers in their community who would go on strike for more pay.

If we assume the governor's promise of a significant increase in teacher salary structure is forthcoming, one might ask what is the next concern our state's educators need to solve.

Ask a teacher, "Besides your pay, what needs to be improved to allow you to be satisfied with your teaching career?" Many teachers would

reply there was a need for the public to demonstrate more respect for teachers and the job they perform.

The Phi Delta Kappa poll gave evidence of a lack of public respect for teachers. A majority of Americans polled answered they would not want their child to become a public-school teacher. That 54 percent number was the first time that poll response had exceeded 50 percent since the poll began in 1969. What can be done here in Maricopa to improve respect for schools and teachers?

The new MUSD superintendent, Dr. Tracey Lopeman, is seeking great community involvement in the district's schools. If you have the time, volunteer at a local school. Besides providing help for the school, observe

the good things that are happening and spread the word among your friends and neighbors.

If you have a child in an MUSD school, you can engage more closely with your child's teacher(s). Find out what your child is learning in school, volunteer to help in the classroom, become a field trip chaperone or become active in the parent-teacher organization.

Many a parent will tell a teacher, "Thank you for helping my child," without ever indicating what that help was. Learn what the teacher is doing for your child and be specific with your praise. Then, tell your friends, so more positive news about our schools travels by word of mouth. Unfortunately, some Maricopans disparage our schools without real facts. You can read on InMaricopa.com about various accomplishments, but many people need to see the positive happenings first hand.

The respect for education in Maricopa will be maximized and our teachers will know that they are valued.

Murray Siegel, Ph.D., has 44 years of experience teaching mathematics. He is in his fourth year as a volunteer at Butterfield E.S.



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City seeks purpose for undeveloped property

By Raquel Hendrickson

From State Route 238 to Stanfield, the City of Maricopa owns a wide array of land parcels. Since 2004, the City has acquired about \$143 million in property.

While there are parks, public buildings, streets, rights of way and other uses on much of the property, City Hall has some parcels listed simply as “miscellaneous,” and there are still undeveloped acres. The City has plans for some parcels, but others will sit empty for the foreseeable future.

“We are doing the city an injustice by not developing these properties,” Councilwoman Julia Gusse said. “Our predecessors did a great job of securing these properties for future development and growth; it’s time we put them to good use.”

One of the longest-held properties has been the most divisive and the least likely to be developed any time soon.



PEED PROPERTY

Called the Peed property and noted as miscellaneous, the 11-acre parcel on SR 238 cost the city \$1.2 million in 2006.

“It has no water; it has no utilities,” Councilmember Marvin Brown said. “The city bought it because a former council member pushed the former council to do so.”

The property initially was brought to the council as 150 acres for a possible location of a city hall. At the time, the council was set to spend \$14.6 million for it. Steve Baker, then-councilmember, was a real estate agent representing property owner Dennis Peed. While Baker recused himself from votes on the matter, it was a relationship that vexed residents and other Realtors.

After months of debate in 2006, the City ended up buying only the southern portion of the property abutting SR 238. It’s continued lack of infrastructure keeps it on a backburner, but some current councilmembers have ideas.

Councilmember Nancy Smith said her vision of the SR 238 corridor is “something similar to the Price Road Corridor in Chandler. Basically, it would include light industrial businesses with high paying jobs.”

Peg Chapados, who is leaving city council in December, said she, too, sees a major transportation corridor, “a development with elements that complement surrounding growth and that offers the benefits and accessibility of being on SR 238.”

Though there has been little recent city discussion about the Peed property, Councilmember Vincent Manfredi sees it being part of a thriving business park, though it is used as asphalt storage now. There are caveats.

“The city only owns a tiny portion of the surrounding area,” Manfredi said. “Much of the development of the Peed property rests on the shoulders of surrounding development. Before anything can really be accomplished with the Peed property, there are some flood-zone limitations that must be corrected.”

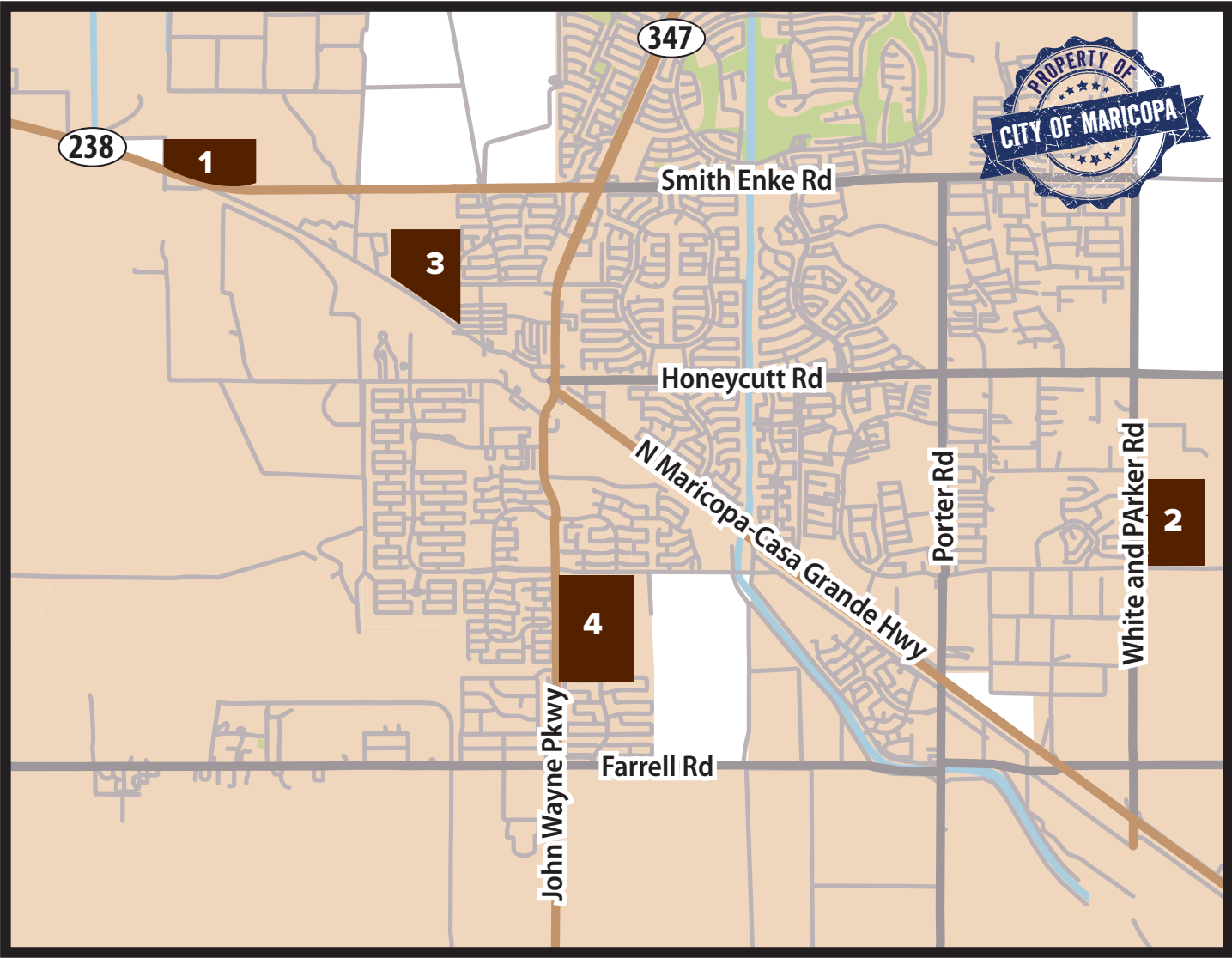


CITY CENTER

In 2008, Maricopa acquired 129 acres off White and Parker Road for City Hall and a city center at a cost of \$3 million. Five years later, the City Hall building (\$14.5 million) and police station (\$3.9 million) were completed, but there remain open spaces for development. What kind of development has been an ongoing discussion this year. Its full cash value now is \$12.6 million.

Smith said her vision for city center correlates with an open house held earlier this year for public feedback. “It would include civic buildings, small businesses, diverse housing and restaurants,” she said. “It would be walkable, have open space and be a place to meet up with family and friends.”

Chapados said it should be an area “where people come to live, work, play, learn, socialize and recreate.” Manfredi said it could be something “similar to the Desert Ridge Marketplace in Phoenix.”



- 1 PEED PROPERTY**
Location: State Route 238
Size: 11.52 acres
Purchased: June 1, 2006
Purchase price: \$1,199,796
- 2 CITY CENTER**
Location: White & Parker at Bowlin Road
Size: 106.7 acres
Purchased: Dec. 30, 2008
Purchase price: \$3,005,040
- 3 ESTRELLA GIN BUSINESS PARK**
Location: Edison Road
Size: 51.32
Purchased: June 30, 2011
Purchase price: \$2,284,900
- 4 COPPER SKY**
Location: State Route 347 at Bowlin Road
Size: 128.96 acres (plus 4.819 acres for substation property)
Purchased: June 30, 2010 (plus March 1, 2014, for substation property)
Purchase price: \$6,740,425 (plus \$146,346 for substation property)

Public property

COPPER SKY

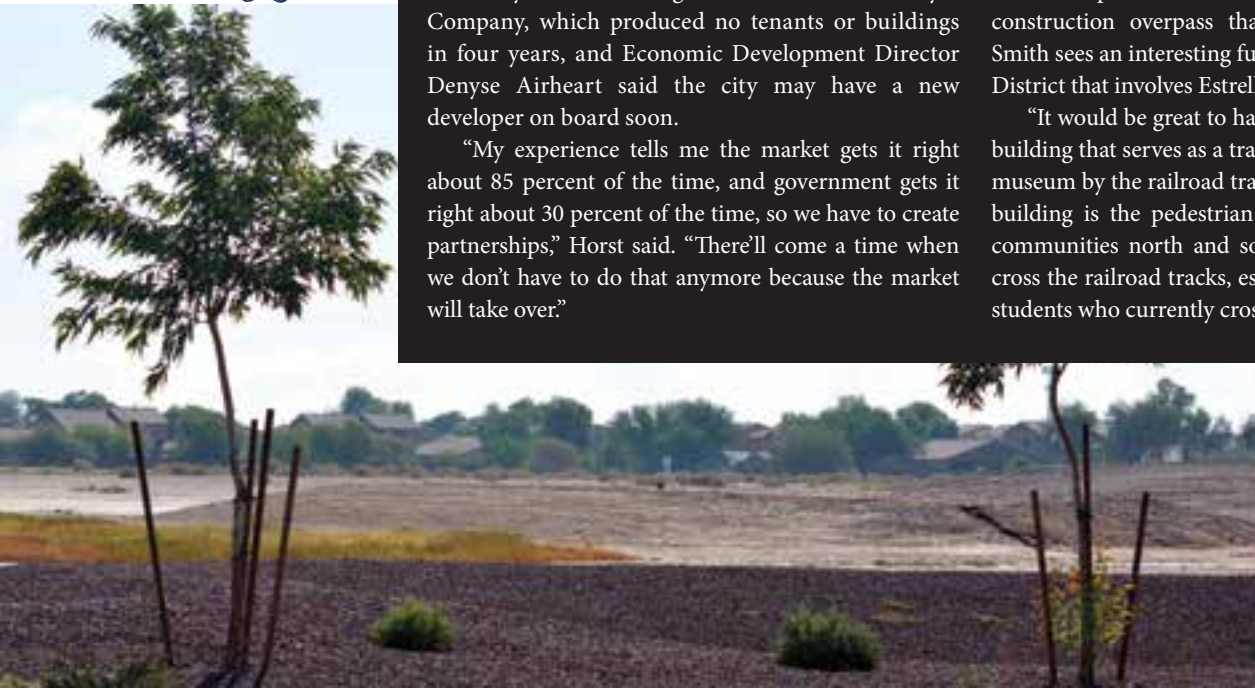
In 2010, the City acquired part of Bowlin Plaza property that was to become Copper Sky and the police substation at Copper Sky. The cost of the five acres for the substation and 118.5 acres for the park was \$6.8 million. Another \$15.9 million was invested in the recreation center and aquatic center in 2014.

From the beginning, Copper Sky was seen as more than a park. A recent contract with Commercial Properties Inc. aims at commercial development on city land between the park and John Wayne Parkway, to be anchored by a hotel.

Chapados wants the area to create the “sense of place” developers have long talked about for Maricopa. “A robust combination of retail, a hotel or two, and possibly residential units that complement Copper Sky as an active, vibrant recreation and aquatic destination to be enjoyed year-round.”

Cecil Yates, property management director for CPI, told the Maricopa City Council he already had three hotel users interested. “They want to stick shovels in the ground as soon as possible,” Yates said.

“I think you’ll find that at the end of the day the City will sell that land, but it will be to restaurateurs, hoteliers, residential units, shops, all those type of things,” City Manager Rick Horst said. “The public benefit will come in a lot of forms, to include the revenues needed to support Parks and Rec and Public Safety, but also lifestyle.”



ESTRELLA GIN BUSINESS PARK

Maricopa purchased the Estrella Gin property for \$3.1 million in 2011. It has been intended for a light industrial business park. Manfredi also imagines a container park.

“This property has a lot of potential, if we can find the right developer to work with us as a city,” he said.

But it has been a struggle to bring in companies. The City ended its agreement with The Boyer Company, which produced no tenants or buildings in four years, and Economic Development Director Denyse Airheart said the city may have a new developer on board soon.

“My experience tells me the market gets it right about 85 percent of the time, and government gets it right about 30 percent of the time, so we have to create partnerships,” Horst said. “There’ll come a time when we don’t have to do that anymore because the market will take over.”

Chapados said she would like the business park to complement “Maricopa’s Heritage District and rich history through design function, and tenancy.” She added it “is poised to be Maricopa’s first job-center/business-park destination that also offers a place to house historically significant components, like a museum. It’s easily accessible with room to grow and lots to offer.”

Maricopa is also heavily invested in the under-construction overpass that will re-create midtown. Smith sees an interesting future coming to the Heritage District that involves Estrella Gin property.

“It would be great to have a nice, historical-looking building that serves as a train depot, café and historical museum by the railroad tracks,” she said. “Close to this building is the pedestrian overpass that allows both communities north and south of the tracks to safely cross the railroad tracks, especially for the high school students who currently cross there.”

MISCELLANEOUS

• The area now called Pacana Park was acquired in 2006 for \$1.8 million. It was 18 acres. In 2008, the City acquired 10 acres for \$700,000 to expand Pacana Park to the south.

• In 2007, the City — with its municipal fire department taking over for the Maricopa Volunteer Fire Department — purchased scattered pieces of property of 1-3 acres each for future fire stations. The stations have been built on Porter Road, Edison Road, Bowlin Road and Alterra Parkway. There remains one parcel lying well outside the city boundaries but in the middle of Maricopa’s future planning area. What is listed as the Stanfield Site is a one-acre, vacant lot on Pepper Place in Hidden Valley Estates. It was acquired for \$10,000 on a quitclaim deed.

• The city acquired the building for the current Maricopa Public Library in 2009 with a sale price of \$1.9 million, according to county records.

• In 2010, Maricopa paid \$3 million for a strip of land along the Santa Rosa Wash east of White and Parker Road and south of Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway.

Vincent Manfredi is a minority owner in InMaricopa.

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2018 ushers in the biggest tax law changes since the mid 1950s

By James A. Chaston, CPA

Changes to Individual Taxes

Taxpayers either take itemized deductions or the standard deduction whichever is greater. In 2017, the standard deduction for a married couple was \$12,700, for 2018 it is now \$24,000. As a result, most people that used to itemize now will just claim the standard deduction. Which also means, that your mortgage interest, state taxes, charitable deductions, work related expenses and medical expenses will provide NO TAX BENEFIT when you claim the standard deduction. Singles are half of Marrieds and Heads of Household is 75% of Marrieds.

Personal Exemptions, which in 2017 provided a deduction for each person and dependent of \$4,050 is now gone. It has been replaced by an increased or new dependent

credit. For dependents 16 and under, the credit increased to \$2,000 from \$1,000 and the phaseout of this credit increased from \$110,000 to \$400,000 which means that for many two income homes, they will actually get this credit now. For dependents over age 16, there is a new \$500 credit per dependent.

Mortgage interest is only deductible for proceeds that go directly to purchase or improve the property, proceeds that pay for other items are not deductible and you must prorate the deductible and non-deductible portion, this includes wrapping refinance costs into the new loan, interest for these costs are no longer deductible. Only interest for loans up to \$750,000 for up to two properties is deductible, loans above this is not deductible.



James A. Chaston



Work Related Expenses are no longer deductible for those that can still itemize deductions.

State Taxes paid are limited to \$10,000 for those that can still itemize deductions.

This is only for Federal Taxes, Arizona did not change the standard deduction, it is still \$10,336, so many taxpayers will claim the standard deduction for Federal, but still have to track and file itemized deductions for Arizona.

Alimony, moving expenses, investment expenses, casualty losses, union dues, tax preparation fees all no longer deductible.

Changes to Small Business Taxes

Small Business Owners get a 20% deduction for Qualified Business Income, this is quite convoluted and not as straight forward as you might think, talk to a tax professional about this one. But basically, if you make \$50,000 of qualified business income you get a \$10,000 deduction and pay tax on \$40,000, not \$50,000.

Entertainment is no longer tax deductible, but just recently the IRS clarified that business meals are still 50% deductible.

Depreciation changes, for the most part you can depreciate 100% of equipment purchases and much more on vehicles than prior years.

Like-kind exchanges only available for Real Property and more clarification that they are not available for fix and flips.

Cash Basis is available for all companies with less than \$25 Million in gross sales and they can automatically change back.

Flat rate for C Corporations of 21%



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Commercial activities, in brief



Signal Healthcare received a commercial permit for a 9,000-square-foot building at Edison Place Shops at 44565 W. Edison Road. The company plans to create medical offices in the empty corner west of Big O Tires. The project is valued at \$796,000.

Directly across the street on the north side of Edison Road, VP Edison 15 LLC received a commercial permit for a 4,886-square-foot building for **Brakes Plus** at 44510 W. Edison Road. It is valued at \$592,770. Next to it, on the corner of Edison and John Wayne Parkway, VP Edison 15 has

Straightline Builders constructing an **IHOP** that will be 4,767 square feet, valued at \$628,338.

Apex Motor Club is starting to “move dirt.” Enterprises 238 received a permit to demolish a shed, water tank and pole barn on the property at 22408 N. Ralston Road. It also received a grading permit. The property is owned by Private Motorsports Group, which plans a private track for sports cars.

Rosati's Pizza, going in at 21423 N. John Wayne Parkway (the former Zoyo Yogurt), was granted a commercial tenant improvement

permit for the 1,050-square-foot space next to Starbucks as well as a permit for a temporary “Coming Soon” sign.

Dutch Bros. received a development review permit for its planned drive-thru on John Wayne Parkway south of Culver's. The project also received its requested variance for its setback.

Pinal County is adding construction for a No. 14 building at Maricopa Grand Professional Village, 41600 W. Smith-Enke Road, with tenant improvement of a white box for suites 2 and 3. It also received a permit for an automatic fire sprinkler system.

Maricopa Fiesta at 20920 N. John Wayne Parkway was approved to remove a 500-gallon waste oil tank and install a 285-gallon above-ground tank.

Joe's: A Barber Shop, recently opened at Maricopa Business Center, 44480 W. Honeycutt Road, Suite 101, received permits for minor plumbing and electrical and received a final inspection.



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Business briefs

Arizona Forward honors Global Water

Global Water Resources was one of the award recipients at Arizona Forward's 38th annual Environmental Excellence Awards Oct. 6.

As a finalist for "waste reduction," Global Water submitted its Total Water Management project. That involves "owning and operating the water, wastewater and recycled water utilities within the same area." Arizona Forward also noted Global Water's relationships with local landowners and University of Arizona's Maricopa Agricultural Center in implementing the program to new developments and delivering recycled water to farm acres.

The awards were presented by SRP as title partner.



Accepting Global Water Resources' award for waste reduction is (front row from left) CEO Ron Fleming, Mayor Christian Price and Tim Sabo; (back row from left) Jake Lenderking, Clint Arndt, Jon Corwin and Jeff Lemley.

NEW BUSINESS LICENSES

The following received new or renewed business licenses in Maricopa between Sept. 16 and Oct. 15:

Commercial: Joe's: A Barber Shop, My Maricopa Landscaper, The Real Estate Resource Center

Home-based: Accurite Doors & More, Barbara Nesbihal, Bejeweled by Jamilah, Copa Grande Media, Debra Wright, Jeanne Bracey Jewelry Making, Los Lobos Cuellar Enterprises, Massage Life, Sugar Plum Snocones, SnugAsA Bug Leggings, Take Two Creations, Tina Leach

Lemongrass Spa Independent Consultant, White House United

Out of town: A2Z Construction & Landscaping, Anritsu Americas Sales Company, Arizona Hardwood Floor Supply, AZ ATM Expert, Day Star Screens, Easy Ice, Fire Sure Protection, Ice Now, K Star BBQ, Luginut Auto Repair, Modern Paving Inc., Outdoor Dimensions, Secret Consulting, Speedy Striping, Straightline Builders

Peddler: Arizona Environmental Progress

Nonprofit: Hearts & Hooves of Arizona, Maricopa A's Inc.

Health inspections

Food inspectors knock 8 eateries

Of the 40 Maricopa eateries inspected by Pinal County health inspectors Sept. 16-Oct. 15, eight were marked down.

Plaza Bonita received an "N" for needs improvement Sept. 20. An N is one step above a failing grade. It was found by inspectors to have beans stored at inadequate holding temperatures, as well as employees giving conflicting statements on how long things had been left out to cool. The food manager was not on site when called on, and the cold prep table — required to be kept below 41 degrees F by the Department of Health Services — was observed to be 45-47F.

Walmart, its in-store eateries and two other establishments in Maricopa all received an "S" for satisfactory. Walmart's issues with the water temperature in its hand-washing sinks date back to Aug. 7, 2017. Hand-washing sinks are required to provide hot water at a minimum 100 degrees consistently. The store was scheduled to be re-inspected after Oct. 26. If the sinks are still not functioning properly, it could result in an N rating. The issue was attached to Walmart's bakery, deli and McDonald's, as well.

Sunrise Café was observed to have poorly maintained storage; dangerous chemicals stored above food, food stored within six inches of the ground, packaged and unpackaged food stored within proximity to one another, wiping cloths used for various functions — some food-safe and others not — in the same color, and in no way separated. An employee handwashing sink was also used improperly, the owner was observed wiping up eggs and then rinsing the cloth in said sink during inspection, and meat was sitting on the sink/counter underneath a soap container.

Fry's Marketplace was found to lack Shellstock tags in its inventory, and oysters were removed. Dairy products had temperatures too low and were found hard frozen. Temperature alarms were in disrepair. Fry's Deli also scored an S for having an incorrect sanitizer solution.

EXCELLENT [No violations found]

- 99 Cents Only Store
- Aliberto's Maricopa
- Bashas' Bakery
- Bashas' Deli

- Bashas' Starbucks
- Bashas' Store
- Bounce Back Nutrition
- Brooklyn Boys Italian Restaurant & Pizza
- Burger King
- Children's Learning Adventure Childcare Centers
- Cilantro's Mexican Cocina
- Francisco's Mexican Food
- Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakhburgers
- Fry's Marketplace — Starbucks
- Fry's Marketplace — Sushi
- Good Donuts
- Honeycutt Coffee
- Jersey Mike's Subs
- Little Caesar's Pizza
- Maricopa Head Start
- Maricopa High School
- Maricopa High School — Concessions
- Maricopa Shell — Dairy Queen
- Maricopa Shell — Food Mart
- Native Grill and Wings
- The New HQ
- Papa Murphy's Pizza
- Raceway Bar & Grill
- Rob's Convenience
- Shamrock Farms
- Sonic Drive-In
- Starbuck's Maricopa Station



SATISFACTORY [Violations corrected during inspection]

- Fry's Marketplace
- Fry's Marketplace — Deli
- Sunrise Café
- Walmart
- Walmart — Bakery
- Walmart - Deli
- Walmart — McDonald's

NEEDS IMPROVEMENT [Critical items noted during inspection cannot be corrected immediately requiring follow-up inspection]

- Plaza Bonita

UNACCEPTABLE [Gross, unsanitary conditions necessitating the discontinuation of service]

- None

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Family: 2 children, 3 grandchildren
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Like most about Maricopa: The small-town feel
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Quote: Doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results
Words to live by: Carpe Diem

Learn more about Rita at InMaricopa.com/Getting-To-Know

Willow or not, this tree works in Maricopa

By Trudy Fuller
Photos by Ivanka Kim

There is nothing more humbling than gardening on the low desert of Arizona. It has been five years since we moved to Maricopa from the Southeast. Greeting us in the Maricopa backyard were waist-high weeds on steroids and struggling trees and bushes.

Things have gradually progressed since then. Two important things were responsible for a very modest turnaround. One was by chance finding a copy of the magazine called *Landscape Plants for the Arizona Desert: A Guide to Growing More Than 200 Low-Water-Use Plants* compiled by the Arizona Municipal Water Users Association (also available online at AMWUA.org/Plants). The other was finding and enrolling in the Garden and Landscape Short Course at the Maricopa Agricultural Center here in Maricopa.



Trudy Fuller



One low-water-use native tree included in the previously mentioned *Landscape Plants for the Arizona Desert* is the heat-loving desert willow known in the botanical world as *Chilopsis linearis*. You may think planting this fast-growing, multi-stemmed tree means you don't have to water at all. These trees originated on the banks of washes, creeks and streams, so there was at least occasional water available in their natural habitat.

Due to the long-standing drought here on the low desert in the city of Maricopa and Pinal County, one definitely needs to water deeply during the intense heat of summer at least once a week. In addition to having the characteristic of a sprawling, large bush, the desert willow can also be started from a cutting as a single-stemmed tree. When the single-stemmed tree is young, allow some of the lower branches to remain on the trunk for a couple of years, as this will encourage the trunk to grow thicker.

Pruning needs to be done in the winter after the leaves have dropped. Here in Maricopa, this leaf drop occurs after our first period of cold weather, usually from mid-November until after the new year. Those who maintain swimming pools need to be aware of this phenomenon. The desert willow delivers filtered shade as opposed to dense shade, so wind usually progresses easily through its branches with few, if any, dropped limbs during the monsoon season.

When given adequate water, the desert willow will bloom from April through October. On the eastern edge of our city, the most profuse blooming occurred this year in April and May. The delicate fragrance of these trumpet-shaped blooms, ranging from pink and lavender to purple and even white, attract hummingbirds, butterflies and pollinating bees. Another plus for our environment is this tree is not susceptible to pests or diseases. All it asks is full sun and a soil that drains well. However, sometimes these trees can tolerate some shade too, as can be seen on the west side of my two-story home.

In parting, note that the desert willow is not a willow at all but belongs to the family of the pink and red trumpet vine. Who knew? ☎

☎ 520-374-6263
macmastergardener@gmail.com

VA loans popular option in Maricopa

By Dayv Morgan

At about 50,000 people, the city of Maricopa is significantly smaller than Maricopa County, which boasts a population of 4.3 million.

Despite our small-town nature, Maricopa almost doubles the ratio of VA home loans over the Maricopa County housing market.

Between January and September, VA loans made up 11.1 percent of the loans for closed home sales in the city. Maricopa County's VA loan figure was 6.6 percent over the same period.

Because VA home loans require veterans to occupy the homes they purchase, it could safely be assumed we have a very patriotic city with almost twice as many veterans and active-duty servicemembers purchasing homes per capita as the Phoenix area.



Dayv Morgan

There are many benefits for those who qualify for a VA loan. According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, generally there is often no down payment unless required by the lender, no private mortgage insurance, no credit score requirement and VA loans can also be used to refinance an existing home.

The current maximum loan amount for VA loans is \$453,100.

Veterans and active duty servicemembers who meet certain length-of-service requirements are usually eligible for a VA loan, along with other certain groups of individuals. To learn if you are eligible, call the VA at 1-877-827-3702. ☎

Dayv Morgan is a Maricopa Realtor and owner of HomeSmart Success.



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Home Sales



Kyle Norby

1. 43198 W. Bailey Drive, The Villages at Rancho El Dorado

The most expensive home sold in Maricopa Sept. 16-Oct. 15 was a two-story in The Villages. The 12-year-old home has a pool, gourmet kitchen and professionally landscaped yard, as well as a master-suite balcony overlooking a gorgeous backyard. The cost of the home went up nearly 73 percent since the recession. It had been on the market for less than \$200,000 in 2011. Now with many upgrades it fetched \$360,000.

Sold: Oct. 11
Purchase price: \$360,000
Square footage: 3,955
Price per square foot: \$91.02
Days on market: 33
Builder: Hacienda Homes
Year built: 2006
Bedrooms: 5
Bathrooms: 3
Community: The Villages at Rancho El Dorado

Features: Split-level downstairs, upstairs loft and master suite, three-car garage, RV gate, stainless steel appliances, kitchen island with breakfast bar, heated swimming pool, outdoor fireplace.
Listing Agent: Rute Haag, HomeSmart Success
Selling Agent: Ted A. Anderson, HomeSmart Success

- 2. 19042 N. Ibis Way, Senita.....\$342,500
- 3. 42302 W. Bravo Drive, Rancho El Dorado.....\$322,000
- 4. 22163 N. O'Sullivan Drive, Rancho El Dorado.....\$320,000
- 5. 40997 W. Novak Lane, Homestead North.....\$308,000

For a full list of last month's Maricopa home sales, see InMaricopa.com/Real-Estate.



Kyle Norby

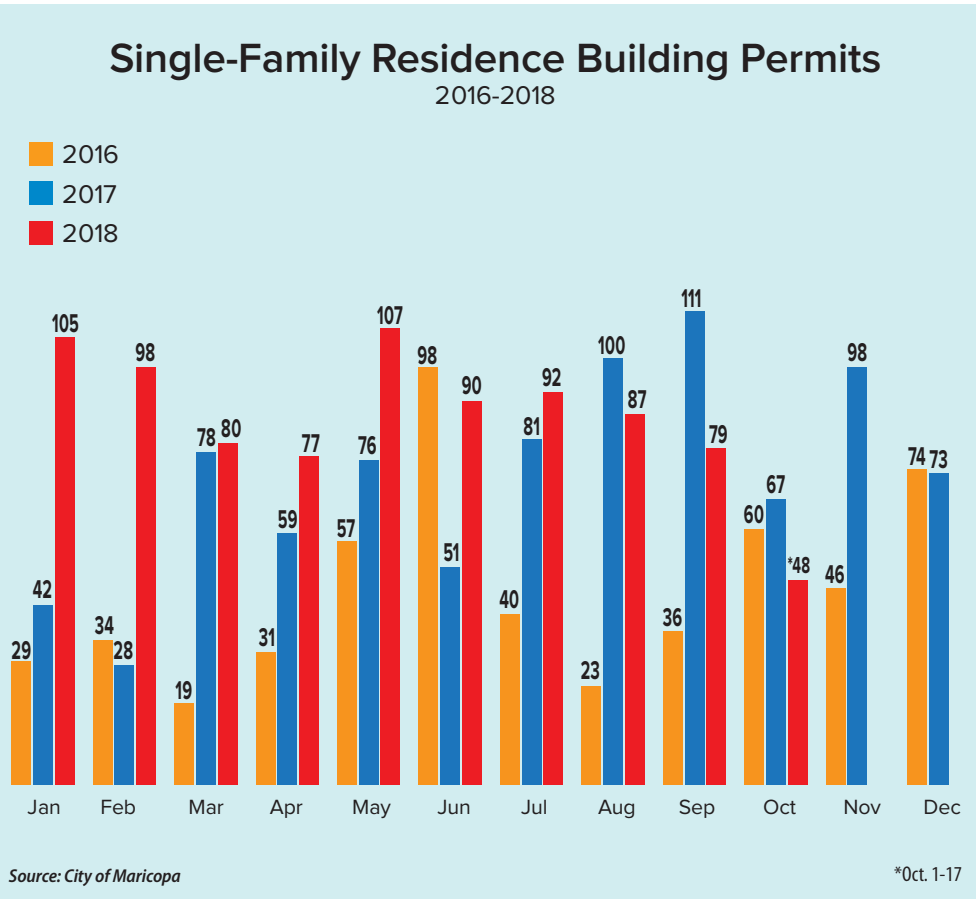
1. 18374 N. Celis St., Smith Farms

The least expensive home sold in Maricopa Sept. 16-Oct. 15 was on the market less than a month in the Smith Farms subdivision. Its selling price of \$147,500 was less than a percentage point higher than the last time it sold in 2007. The one-story house overlooks a greenbelt and includes an eat-in kitchen.

Sold: Sept. 27
Purchase price: \$147,500
Square footage: 1,321
Price per square foot: \$111.66
Days on market: 27
Builder: KB Home
Year built: 2007
Bedrooms: 2
Bathrooms: 2
Community: Smith Farms
Features: Extended covered patio in back, two bedrooms plus an office/den, two-car garage
Listing Agent: Jo Ann A. LaRussa, Keller Williams Legacy One
Selling Agent: Manuel M. Zambrano, Go Sold Realty

- 2. 21362 N. Reinbold Drive, Rancho El Dorado.....\$162,000
- 3. 17316 N. Rosa Drive, Santa Rosa.....\$170,000
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Rezoning may open door for apartments

By Raquel Hendrickson

A developer wants to build a 100-unit apartment complex in Maricopa, and a vote by Maricopa City Council may spur the project.

As proposed by Englewood Group, Vista Village will be constructed on a triangular, six-acre lot north of Walmart and south of Banner Health on Porter Road. The multi-building development would include two-story and three-story buildings with a pool, laundry, fitness center and playground.

The city council approved the re-zoning of the property from light industry to general mixed use. It was not an approval of the project but allowed Englewood Group to start the development process. It would be the first apartment complex in the city.

No member of the public or city council spoke against the re-zoning at the Tuesday hearing. Planner Rodolfo Lopez said the Development Services Department did not receive any public comment, either.

However, social media reaction to the idea was mixed.

Brandon Woodhouse I hope the council is bringing the “investors” to the table regarding infrastructure! Why would we keep zoning and permitting for residential without making significant infrastructure improvements? Are we going to keep bottlenecking neighborhoods onto city streets that are not being improved upon. (Developed, paved, widened, etc.) Developers should be sharing these costs before they are permitted to build.

Lisa Wages Manning If this is built, I'll vote against any member who allowed it. I realize we don't get to pick or choose who wants to build here, however we DO get to choose which we DON'T want!! No apartments!

Dikta Reid There is a college right there people!!! The riffraff is already in Maricopa. Hospital workers live in apartments. Teachers live in apartments. Young families live in apartments. The rent for houses is getting out of hand. Single parents live in apartments. Good people live in apartments. Bad people live in houses too!



The rezoning was previously recommended by city staff and by the Planning & Zoning Commission.

Development Services commissioned a study last year on housing needs in Maricopa. The idea of an apartment complex has been controversial in the past, with opponents saying rentals bring crime, but it has gained interest in the past year.

The Housing Needs Assessment Report from July 2017 noted 97 percent of Maricopa's housing is single-family homes, far above the Arizona average of 64 percent. It found a lack of “work force” housing for teachers, police, etc.

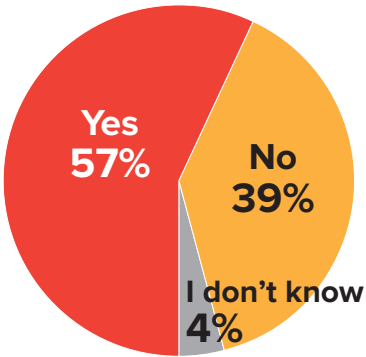
“For single people who wish to live alone, there are no housing options other than living alone in a large home,” the report stated.

The result is two or more families renting one “single-family” home.

Englewood, which has 74 properties in Arizona, Indiana and Illinois, has been eyeing Maricopa for more than a year.

ONLINE POLL

Do you believe apartments are likely to bring more crime to Maricopa than existing rental homes do?



Total Votes: 1187
Source: InMaricopa.com Oct. 6-19

The cost of Thanksgiving dinner

(serves 10)

	2017	2018
16-pound turkey	\$22.38	\$23.68
Milk (gallon)	\$2.99	\$2.19
Rolls (dozen)	\$2.26	\$2.28
Pie shells (2) 9-inch	\$2.45	\$1.98
Sweet potatoes (3 lb.)	\$3.52	\$2.74
Green peas (1 lb.)	\$1.53	\$2.38
Whipping cream	\$2.08	\$2.58
Bread stuffing (14 oz.)	\$2.81	\$2.98
Pumpkin pie mix	\$3.21	\$2.98
Fresh cranberries (12 oz.)	\$2.43	\$1.72
Veggie tray (1 lb.)	\$6.74	\$6.28
	\$52.80	\$51.79



Last year, the cost of food items for a traditional Thanksgiving meal was at its lowest since 2010, according to Arizona Farm Bureau. This year, it is predicted to be just a little lower, with the falling price of some grocery items credited to tariffs as farmers lose their overseas markets.

Consumer Price Index: The index for meats, poultry, fish, and eggs fell 1.0 percent in September, with all its major component indexes falling. The fruits and vegetables index also fell, declining 0.5 percent. The index for dairy and related products declined 0.3 percent.

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Seniors most targeted by con artists

By Joan Koczor

Persons of any age can become a victim of a scam. Senior citizens are the most susceptible. Financial scams targeting seniors have become so prevalent they are now considered “the crime of the 21st century.” Why? Because seniors are thought to have a significant amount of money sitting in their accounts. And they are especially susceptible to perpetrators of a scam because they grew up in a more trusting time and were raised to be polite and trusting, making them easy targets for con artists.

However devastating, too often older adults are embarrassed to report the crime.

It is not always strangers who perpetrate these crimes. They can be committed by an older person’s own family members, most often their adult children. Oftentimes, they

have solid credentials – social workers, lawyers and financial advisors – offering a variety of help from taking care of personal business to managing their legal and financial matters.

A few common scams:

The Grandchild Scam is a high-pressure scam working on your fear for a loved one. You receive a home call — usually late at night – advising you your grandchild or other relative is in trouble, in an accident or arrested, and needs cash immediately. Hang up immediately and contact the relative in question. If you are unable to reach them, get your family involved. Never wire money to anyone you don’t know personally.

The Disaster Charity Scam is a phone request from someone claiming to be a representative of an organization that serves people involved in a recent disaster, usually





Joan Koczor

an event that has been on the news to add credibility to their request. Unless you have verified the request with the organization in question, do not donate money over the phone. If you do, a credit card or bank information will be needed to complete the transaction. This will give the scammer unlimited access to your money.

Online prescription drug purchases also create opportunities for crooks. Scammers sell drugs to unsuspecting consumers and then pose as drug enforcement agents threatening to sue the victims for buying drugs illegally if they do not pay up.

If you’ve bought drugs online and are being scammed, the Drug Enforcement Administration advises you to hang up and report the incident to the DEA.

Be especially cautious as the holiday season approaches when you are most stressed. And most vulnerable. Scammers will prey on your vulnerability.

 **ConsumerFraudReporting.com**
 **MPD (520) 568-3673**

Joan Koczor is a senior advocate and a member of the Age-Friendly Maricopa Advisory Committee.

Guidelines for finding in-home caregiver

By Al Brandenburg

Maricopa Multi Cultural Consortium recently held an educational presentation by Comfort Keepers Inc. on senior care within their own homes. Many questions were asked by attendees about features, costs and extent of services provided. The presentation, although very informative, raised questions as to whom to use, whether it be a company or the best qualified individual.



Al Brandenburg

Hiring a caregiver directly

If you opt to find a caregiver yourself, you will have a great degree of control over who will ultimately be providing for the senior in need. You will have the opportunity to survey a wide range of candidates and meet with them individually, so you can get the best feel for who will be able to most effectively manage the senior’s situation. It can be helpful to begin the relationship at a one-on-one level.

Hiring directly also means you must put in the necessary work to vet and investigate candidates for the position. There are numerous resources at your disposal to find caregivers, starting with your family, friends and colleagues and also including Internet services such as Craigslist and Care.com. Once you have found a candidate through these sources, you must continue to investigate them.

Hiring a caregiver through an agency




An in-home senior care placement agency will have a roster of screened caregivers who are ready to provide help for your senior at a moment’s notice. A great advantage of using an agency is they will handle any and all paperwork. Payroll issues, tax matters and any legal situations will all be the responsibility of the agency, so all you have to do is cut the agency a check. One of the most important things an agency can provide is a larger support network of caregivers. This means if any personal emergency or conflict occurs with the caregiver you hire, you don’t need to worry about finding a backup.

However, there are a couple issues to keep in mind when hiring a placement agency. One is the cost. An agency will charge a premium price for their services, and you may be able to acquire equally qualified help for a lower price if you hire directly. Also, enlisting the aid of an agency doesn’t mean you can simply walk away from the situation. You still need to be active and involved in the care that is being provided. (Source – Senior AdviseTM)

Some caregivers in or near Pinal County:

- At Home Solutions, Casa Grande, 520-876-5470
- Angels Care Home Health, Casa Grande, 520-876-0622
- Comfort Keepers, Maricopa, 520-233-2848
- Parent Helpers Home Care, Maricopa, 480-448-6164
- Visiting Angels, Phoenix, 480-886-1165


Al Brandenburg is Maricopa Multi Cultural Consortium director and secretary.

Dr. C. Jon Beecroft


Dr. Kelvin Crezee

Dr. Alex Stewart



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AHWFAC.com

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A Caregiver’s selflessness puts the client, in many instances before themselves. Patience, gently spoken words of encouragement and hope, a smile, a soft touch are ways they accomplish this. Even just being a presence in the home, having someone to clean the home or cook a meal when someone is no longer able are all things that bring Seniors, the infirmed, the disabled and many times family members comfort beyond words. They are ready with a smile even in adverse or embarrassing circumstances. Handling an unpleasant task with grace while maintaining the dignity of their client are just a few of the many ways our Caregivers provide exceptional care. They do it because they have a passion to help people. They work hard to achieve and maintain their certifications — all while serving for those under their care.

So, if you have a Caregiver in your life or know someone who does, please take a moment to thank them for what they do! If you are in need of a Caregiver, please call us today.




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Do you suffer from

Headaches?

Skin issues?

Abdominal pain?

Irritable bowel?

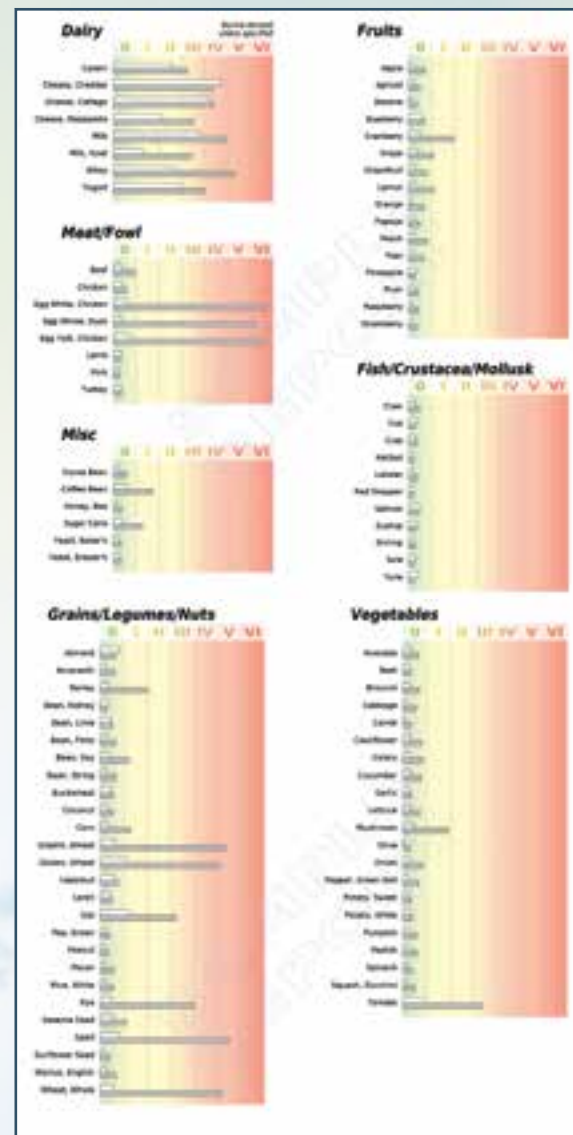
Autoimmune disease?

Behavior issues (children)?

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— COLLEEN FLYNN



Valerie Jacobs, MD PhD

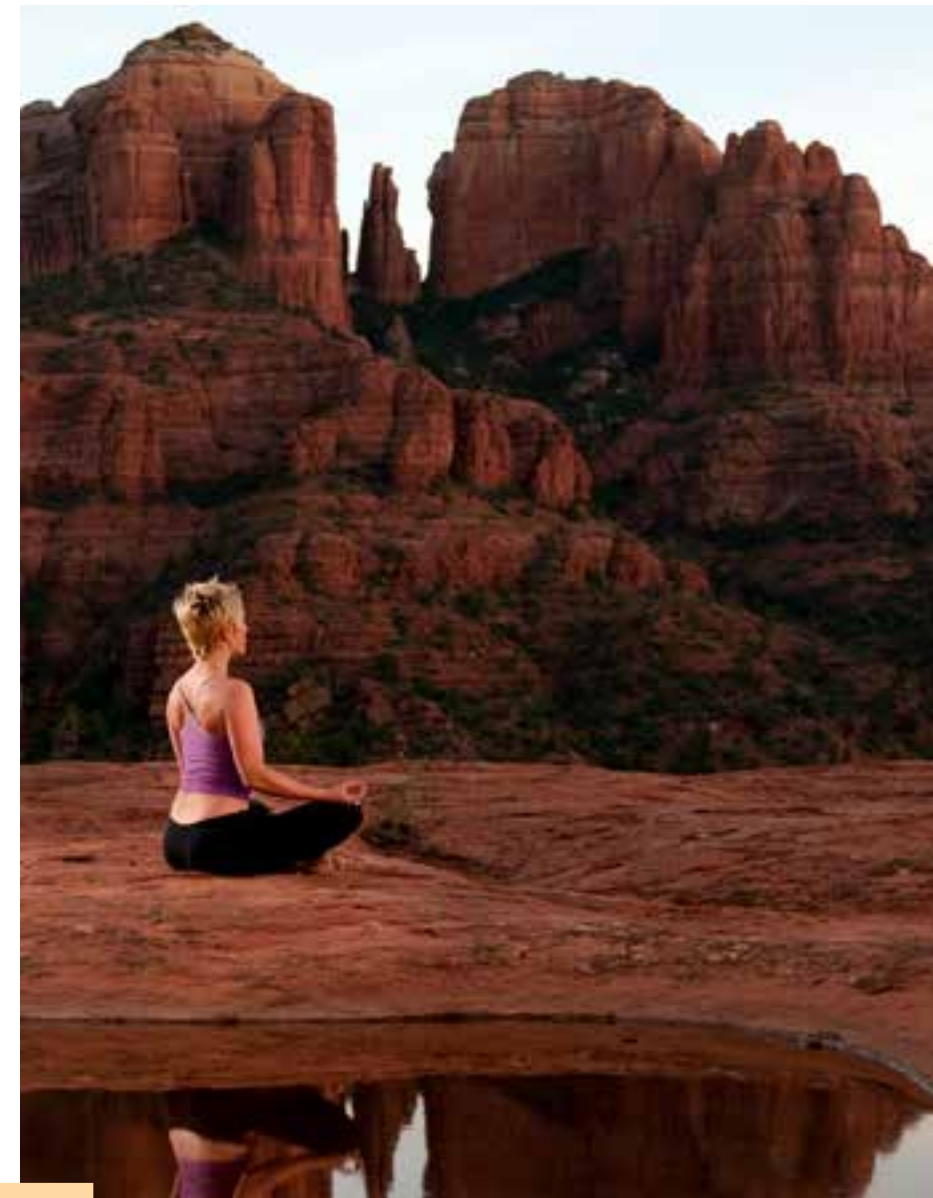
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Mindfulness and gratitude

By Davis Plunkett, Manager of Integrated Behavioral Health and
Maria Villalobos, Community Relations Coordinator Sun Life Family Health Center



physical health as it can help relieve stress, treat heart disease, lower blood pressure, reduce chronic pain, and improve sleep. Mindfulness improves mental health by helping treat depression, substance abuse, eating disorders, conflict, anxiety disorders, and obsessive-compulsive disorder.

Mindfulness meditation builds upon concentration practices that primarily involve concentration. Concentration meditation techniques such as tai chi, yoga, focusing on the sensation of breathing can induce relaxation response which reduces the body's response to stress.

Here are some tips to get started with mindfulness meditation:

- Just go with it. Begin by focusing your attention. Just observe your natural state, your thoughts and emotions as they are today. Each day may be different. Each moment may be different. Just observe your thoughts without judgment.
- Sensory awareness. Notice each of your five senses. What are you hearing? What are you seeing? What sensations can you notice in your body?
- Mindfulness is a skill. Just with any skill it takes practice. Mindfulness may feel uncomfortable at first. It may not even seem relaxing. That's okay- just notice those reactions without judgment.
- Accept exactly where you are. Practice having compassion for yourself and where you are today. The goal is to accept each moment without judgment. If you become distracted, (which is expected!) gently redirect your thoughts to the present moment.

Life can be messy and busy. We go through our day, juggling work, errands, children, sports, housework ... the list goes on. Too often we go about the day that when we have a moment to reflect we have difficulty remembering what we did. There is such a rush to get things done or be somewhere that we don't feel as were present in the moment but simply going through the motions. Many of us look for methods of not only being able to enjoy the moments life brings but being able to be present in those moments.

Mindfulness is simply being in the present moment and accepting it without judgment. There are many mental and physical health benefits of mindfulness. Mindfulness can bring improvements in both physical and psychological symptoms as well as positive changes in health, attitudes, and behaviors.

Mindfulness improves well-being by making it easier to savor the pleasures in life as they occur, helping you become more engaged in activities, and creates a greater capacity to handle adverse events. Mindfulness improves

Aspects of the above information were adapted from www.helpguide.org/harvard/benefits-of-mindfulness.htm#exercises and Seligman, M.E.P., Rashid, T., Parks, A.C., *American Psychologist* 61(8), Nov 2006, 774-788.



Sponsored Content



NOV
4

Submitted
Maricopa Music Circle hosts a fundraiser in Rancho El Dorado.


MMC Chamber Orchestra opens 10th season with art auction

Maricopa’s premier music ensemble ushers in its 10th season with a free special event Nov. 4. Maricopa Music Circle chamber orchestra’s “Autumn Musicale” is a fundraising event for the orchestra and includes both a concert and a silent auction of fine-art works on paper and canvas.

The concert’s theme riffs on the foliage’s perennial change of colors in fall. Composers often think of individual orchestral instruments in painterly terms, like expressions of a palette of colors with each instrument possessing its own color and degree of transparency or opaqueness (along with high or low range and other features).

MMC’s “Autumn Musicale” will shed its spotlight on music for solo instruments and smaller ensemble combinations, along with music for the full ensemble. The natural pairing with the music will be the silent auction of fine-art works by established artists such as Colorado’s Sandy Day Selbert and several Maricopa-based artists.

The concert highlights the individual artistry of MMC’s own dedicated musicians and includes several rarities — a newly-discovered work for viola and piano by Russian master Dmitri Shostakovich (an Arizona premiere) and a Mozart piece for glass harmonica now arranged for mixed quartet. Other program music is by Glazunov, Bartok, Tchaikovsky, Bach and U.S. composers Edward MacDowell and Scott Joplin, the ragtime king.

The free event includes a light reception. It will take place from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in Rancho El Dorado at 43356 W. Courtney Drive, where there is ample on-street parking. 

 **Samples of MMC live performances at bit.ly/YouTube_MMCM and bit.ly/YouTube_MMCM**

IF YOU GO

What: Maricopa Music Circle “Autumn Musicale”
When: Nov. 4, 3 p.m.
Where: 43356 W. Courtney Drive
How much: Free

Things to Do

NOVEMBER

2

Treats for Troops
3-6 p.m., Family Dentistry of Maricopa
44870 W. Hathaway Ave.

8-Bits Video Gaming
4 p.m., Maricopa Public Library
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

3

Yard Sale for Against Abuse Shelter
8 a.m., Yard Sale Benefit for Against Abuse
40050 Santi Road

Province Arts & Crafts Fair
9 a.m.-2 p.m., Province Town Hall
20942 N. Province Parkway

Relay for Life Maricopa
10 a.m., Copper Sky Regional Park
55345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Maricopa Mud Run Part 2
10 a.m., Copper Sky Regional Park
55345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Market on the Move
8-10 a.m., Sun Life Center for Children
1856 E. Florence Blvd., Casa Grande

4

Autumn Musicale
3 p.m., Maricopa Music Circle
43356 W. Courtney Drive

5

The 1857 Battle on the Gila
5:30 p.m., Maricopa Public Library
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

6

Veterans Day 100-year Commemoration
4 p.m., Central Arizona College
17945 N. Regent Drive

City Council Work Session
6 p.m., Maricopa City Hall
39700 W. Civic Center Plaza

City Council Regular Session
7 p.m., Maricopa City Hall
39700 W. Civic Center Plaza

8

STEAM Day
4-7 p.m., UltraStar Multi-tainment Center
16000 N. Maricopa Road

Peter Pan
7 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

9

Veterans Day Breakfast
8 a.m., Maricopa Unified School District
44150 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande Hwy.

Ladies Night
6 p.m., Ace Hardware
21542 N. John Wayne Parkway

Peter Pan
7 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

10

2nd Saturday Maricopa Market
8-11 a.m., Sequoia Pathway Academy
19265 N. Porter Road

Veterans Day Parade
9 a.m., Bowlin Road/Porter Road

Peter Pan
2 p.m. & 7 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

Maricopa Police Department Annual Awards
6 p.m., Province Ballroom
20942 N. Province Parkway

14

8-Bits Video Gaming
4 p.m., Maricopa Public Library
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

MUSD Governing Board Meeting
6:30 p.m., Maricopa Unified School District
44150 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande Hwy.

17

2018 Fall Fling Craft and Vendor Event
8 a.m.-4 p.m., Maricopa Community Church
44977 W. Hathaway Ave.



For details on these and other local events — and to list your own — visit InMaricopa.com/Calendar.

Things to Do

Province Community Garage Sale
9 a.m.-noon, various Province locations

Family Farm Day
10 a.m.-2 p.m., Maricopa Agricultural Center
37860 W. Smith-Enke Road

Artists' Studio Crawl
10 a.m.-2 p.m., various locations

18

Artists' Studio Crawl
Noon-4 p.m., various locations

20

City Council Work Session
6 p.m., Maricopa City Hall
39700 W. Civic Center Plaza

City Council Regular Session
7 p.m., Maricopa City Hall
39700 W. Civic Center Plaza

22

Maricopa Turkey Trot
8 a.m., Copper Sky Regional Park
44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

DECEMBER

1

Merry Copa Holiday Festival & Santa Run
3 p.m., Copper Sky Regional Park
44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

1-2

Joy to the Herd
9 a.m., Shamrock Dairy
40034 W. Clayton Road, Stanfield

SUNDAYS

Narcotics Anonymous
7 p.m., Maricopa Community Church
44977 W. Hathaway Ave.

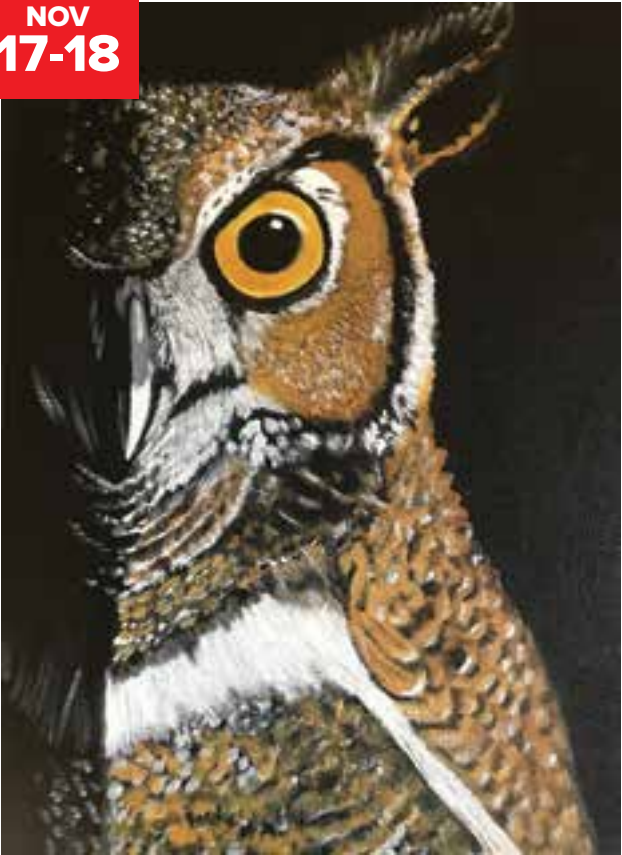
MONDAYS-FRIDAYS

Senior Drop-In
8 a.m.-4 p.m., Santa Cruz Elementary School
19845 N. Costa del Sol Blvd.



For details on these and other local events — and to list your own — visit InMaricopa.com/Calendar.

NOV
17-18



Painting “Owl” by Susan Cameron

Studio Crawl lets fans watch artists create

Maricopa Arts Council presents its fourth Artists Studio Crawl Nov. 17-18.

One of MAC’s more popular events, the crawl is Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. It has served as an inspiration for the artists to share their most creative moments, the tools they use and works in progress.

The Studio Crawl is a drive-yourself, fun day to varying artists’ studios in Maricopa.

“We are surely a lucky town to have so many incredible talents who are opening their homes and studios to all of us and in doing so may possibly inspire others to take the creative leap,” said Susan Cameron, whose home studio is on the tour. “Enjoy the day with the family and see some amazing pieces of artwork.”

Featured artists:

- Diane Hebert, glass bead and jewelry maker
- Linda Taylor, gourd artist
- Rocky Dunne, fused-glass artist
- Herman Neuberger, artist and metal sculptor
- Brad Kammeyer, oil painter
- Sommer Mills, upcycled floral designer
- Susan Cameron, pastels and acrylic painter
- Tiffany Yazzie, weaver

MAC will distribute maps to the studios and information on the artists in flyers to be available at Honeycutt Coffee, the Chamber of Commerce and Maricopa Public Library. 



NOV
8-10

Antonio Gonzales
and Taryn Story

Raquel Hendrickson

MHS kids flying high in *Peter Pan*

By Raquel Hendrickson

One of the first curiosities Alexandra Stahl noticed on becoming the theater teacher at Maricopa High School this year is the affinity the MHS Theatre Company had with *Peter Pan* without producing the play.

In past performances, company members have performed pieces from musical off-shoots of the J.M. Barrie story like *Finding Neverland* and *Peter and the Starcatcher*.

“They just seemed destined to do it,” Stahl said.

The troupe performs the play Nov. 8-10 as its fall production. It is not a musical but the play that originated in 1904.

Though it is her fifth year teaching (she was previously at Poston Butte High School in San Tan Valley), this is Stahl’s first with MHS Theatre Company. She worked to get familiar with the program and the students during spring semester.

“Casting was a real process. These kids are insanely talented,” Stahl said. “I’ve never been so proud of a cast.”

Senior Taryn Story plays the title character.

“I really like how it’s written,” she said. “It’s written for kids, but there’s a lot that adults can take out of it.”

Junior Genevieve Burno, who just finished a production of *Cabaret* with Maricopa Community Theatre, plays Wendy, the eldest daughter in the



Aidyn Curtis

Raquel Hendrickson

Darling household.

“It’s timeless,” she said. “So much can be taken from it.”

Theater tech teacher Kevin Piquette brought in ZFX Flying Effect to mount rigging and teach four of the cast members how to “fly” and the tech crew how to fly them. All had to sign letters of indemnity.

“Logistically, it’s a nightmare,” Piquette said of soaring students, “but I don’t think you can do *Peter Pan* without it.”

IF YOU GO

What: Peter Pan or The Boy Who Would Not Grow Up

When: Nov. 8-9 at 7 p.m., Nov. 10 at 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.

Where: Maricopa High School Performing Arts Center, 45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

How much: \$5

Who: Taryn Story (Peter Pan), Genevieve Burno (Wendy), Antonio Gonzales (Hook), Simon Ty (John), Derek Blakely (Smee), Aidyn Curtis (Princess Tiger Lilly), Taya Johnson (Michael), Kjirsten Lemon (Mrs. Darling), Douglas Moulton (Mr. Darling), Brandon Korittky (Curly), Emma Schrader (Nana), Alexia Esquivel (Liza), Jae Luna (Slightly), Cannon Jones (Tootles), Julianna Goodrum (Nibs), Zephaniah Coleman (Omnes), Hannah Panter (first twin), Alex Hurley (second twin), Kade Cruse (Gentleman Starkey), Tommy Dryden (Cecco), Miles Starks (Bill Jukes), Matthew Ferguson (Noodles), John Jackson (Cookson), Francis Trast (Skylights), Alex-Ann Velasco (Mullens), Chief Great Big Little Panther (Nicholas Perez), more than 50 others.



ACTORS WHO HAVE PLAYED PETER PAN

Nina Boucicault (1904)
Maude Adams (1905)
Zena Dare (1914)
Jean Forbes-Robertson (1927)
Eva LeGallienne (1928)
Mary Martin (1954)
Sandy Duncan (1980)
Cathy Rigby (1990)



NOV
3

Submitted

Province opens its gates for November activities

The public is invited to two shopping events this month in Province. For both, non-Province residents must check in at the gatehouse on Smith-Enke Road and Province Parkway to receive a dashboard pass.

The annual arts and crafts fair is set for Nov. 3 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Province community building. Peruse 25 booths featuring wooden crafts, framed photography, handcrafted bags, jewelry, metal sculptures, floral arrangements, oil paintings, holiday décor, quilts and more.

“We are lucky to have such talented people who live in Province,” said Province Lifestyle Director Mindy Pieper. “Shoppers will find one-of-a-kind gifts just in time for the holidays.”

Two weeks later is the Province Community Garage Sale. Bargain lovers can shop more than 50 participating homes Nov. 17 from 9 a.m. to noon.

To access this mega sale, the public must use the Province gatehouse entrance located on Smith-Enke Road. There, motorists will be given a map of participating addresses and a dashboard pass to be displayed while shopping in the community.

Find books, antiques, household items, décor, clothing, jewelry, furniture, art and other valued possessions.

Non-residents visiting the Province community center building must be accompanied by a realtor or a Meritage representative.

mpieper@ccmcnet.com

IF YOU GO

What: Province Arts & Crafts Fair

When: Nov. 3, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Where: Province Community Building, 20942 N. Province Parkway

How much: Free



DON'T LET THE HOLIDAYS SCARE YOU!



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16000 N. MARICOPA RD., MARICOPA, AZ 85139

*must include purchase of food & beverage package



11th Annual Ak-Chin Masik Tas Celebration Ak-Chin Circle 16000 N. Maricopa Road

LIGHT PARADE
Saturday, Dec. 8, 7 p.m.
along Farrell Rd.

RODEO EVENTS
Dec. 15-16
Ak-Chin Circle Arena

FREE Gin Blossoms concert
Friday, Dec. 14 at 7 p.m., Ak-Chin Circle Field
FREE Carnival, Dec. 14-16, Ak-Chin Circle

For more info-call (520) 568-1045 or visit our website:
http://ak-chin.nsn.us/_masiktas/

Things to do



NOV
8

Free STEAM Day puts fun in fundamentals

Science, technology, engineering, arts and math take the spotlight on National STEAM Day Nov. 8.

The Maricopa Ak-Chin STEAM Foundation will feature STEAM-related, hands-on demonstrations for the whole family from 4-7 p.m. at UltraStar Multi-tainment Center. The event is sponsored by the Pinal County Board of Supervisors.

Santa Rosa and Saddleback elementary schools will demonstrate engineering activities. There will also be coding, virtual reality, 3D printing and STEAM in art. Business and college organizations will offer STEAM exhibits and activities, too.

STEAM Day is supported by the Arizona SciTech Festival, which will have Street Team members leading and showcasing the "STEMonstrations." Come meet the newest chief science officers from Maricopa, Pinal County and Arizona.

The STEAM Foundation's goal is to prepare today's students for tomorrow's workforce by increasing kids' opportunities for engagement and awareness of STEAM-related disciplines.

IF YOU GO

What: STEAM Day
When: Nov. 8, 4-7 p.m.
Where: UltraStar Multi-tainment Center, 16000 N. Maricopa Road
How much: Free
Info: Dan Miller, President/CEO, Maricopa Ak-Chin STEAM Foundation, Inc., dan.miller@maricopasteam.org, 520-840-3727
Donna Jagielski, Technology Integration specialist, MUSD, djagielski@mUSD20.org, 520-568-5100 ext. 1086

SHAMROCK FARMS ANNUAL Joy to the Herd Holiday Event

Shamrock Farms will become a winter wonderland where families will enjoy a tour and a day of activities on the farm, including a snow slide, crafts, visits with Santa and more.

December 1st and 2nd
Admission: \$15 for adults and children
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

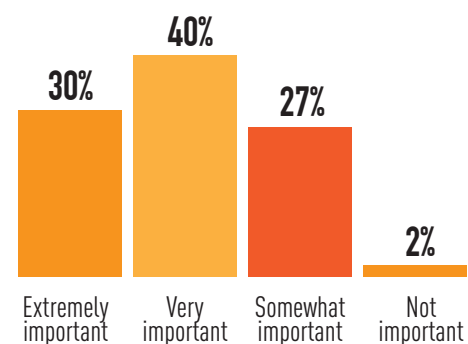
It's a winter wonderland!
15 Tons of Snow * Holiday Crafts
Face Painting * Visits with Santa & Roxie
Free Product Tasting

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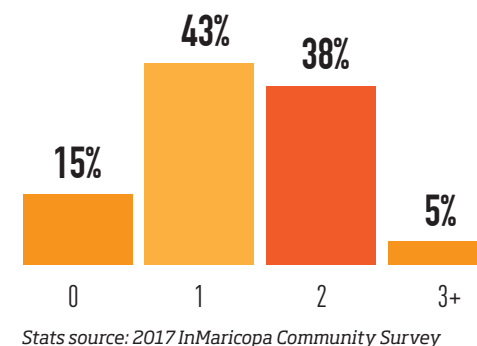
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