



Maricopa

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October 2019

BUSINESS

What's new in development

GOVERNMENT

MUSD's state of transportation

PEOPLE

Hats off to first responders

THINGS TO DO

Maricopa Teen Hall for kids, parents

MUSIC & MOVEMENT

Teen dancer part of ArtsFest Maricopa



**HEALTH
GUIDE**

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A big, blooming October

Maricopa has been in full bloom this year with construction of homes and businesses, and more on the way. The growth is bringing more people and more ideas about how to have a good time. That means a few first-time events happening this October to enhance the activities already established.

Take, for instance, our cover subject, Makayla Thacker, one of the teen dancers who will perform at the brand-new ArtsFest Maricopa this month. Learn about her in this issue.

An inaugural steampunk party for adults during the Halloween season combines the talents of several new businessowners, led by cosplay master-costumers Mythical Gardens. What is steampunk? Find out inside. Also new is a Maricopa Historical Society supper that will have lots of historical tidbits on the menu.

It's not all fun-and-games. Check out some of the new economic development planned for the area. Find out from Fire Chief Brady Leffler how the

growth is impacting his department. While you're there, thank the community's first responders for the work they do. Rosemary Quesenberry is ahead of us on that one as she hosts her annual "Silent Heroes" event for police and fire, one of the many events on our calendar.

This issue also puts the spotlight on many of Maricopa's school counselors. Find out how Habitat for Humanity is helping the new Hope Women's Center, and learn about a change at the top for Maricopa Chorus.

Also inside, you'll find our informative Health Guide.

It is a very busy October. Happy reading,



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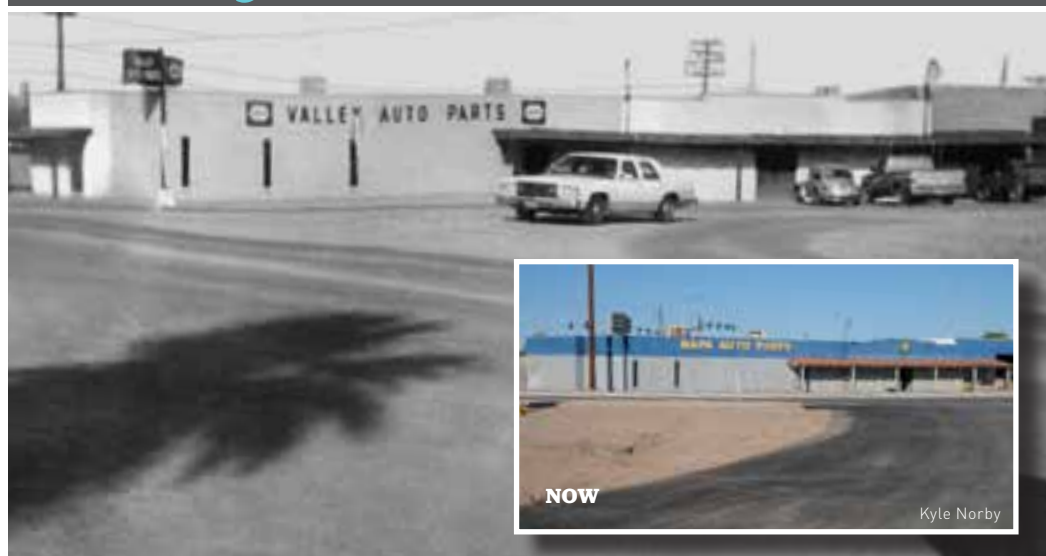


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History



Maricopa Historical Society

In its final phase?

Built in 1962, Valley Auto Parts was the NAPA store on the northeast corner of State Route 347 and Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway. It is one of the longest-operating businesses in Maricopa. The building maintains several features from its early years. Original owner Don Pearce sold it in 2002, and the Dugan family has operated it as NAPA Auto Parts and Mel's Auto. The Arizona Department of Transportation was granted possession this year, with stated plans to demolish it as part of the overpass-construction project.

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MHS Theatre Company prepares for the fall production of "Peter and the Starcatcher."

Victor Moreno

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Contributors



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She is a Maricopa High School graduate and student at ASU's Cronkite School of Journalism.



VICTOR MORENO
He is a frequent freelance photographer of city and school events in between portrait sittings.



DANIELLE NELSON
A member of the Be Awesome Youth Coalition, she remains active in the community while starting college classes.



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MUSD Transportation

Student growth, aging fleet create demand for new buses

Preparing for a lease-purchase of more school buses at Maricopa Unified School District, Director of Transportation Sergio Pulido outlined the current fleet situation amid a growing student population. The lease-purchase is estimated at nearly \$1 million over five years.

Annual
48
BUSES (INCLUDING VANS AND SHUTTLES)
800,000
MILES
160
SQUARE MILES OF COVERAGE

Pulido: The district's many unpaved roads are responsible for much of the wear and tear on buses.

Daily
124
GENERAL-EDUCATION ROUTES
72
SPECIAL-NEEDS ROUTES
315
SPECIAL-NEEDS STUDENTS
DOOR-TO-DOOR

Pulido: "In transportation, you always want to be an organizational culture that prioritizes people over programs and invests in the support of students and staff. Transportation will continue to transport students in a safe, friendly and efficient manner anywhere at any time — let it be transporting students to different school sites, on field trips, routes or even functions for the City of Maricopa."

Staffing
40
BUS DRIVERS
4
SUBSTITUTE BUS DRIVERS
9
SUBSTITUTE BUS AIDES
10
NON-CDL DRIVERS (ALSO BUS AIDES)
3
MECHANICS
5
OFFICE PERSONNEL
71 TOTAL

Pulido: "Retention is at its all-time high right now, and I'm very proud to say that."

Aging buses

73%
ARE 12 YEARS OR OLDER

17%
ARE 3-11 YEARS OLD

10%
ARE THE NEWEST PURCHASES

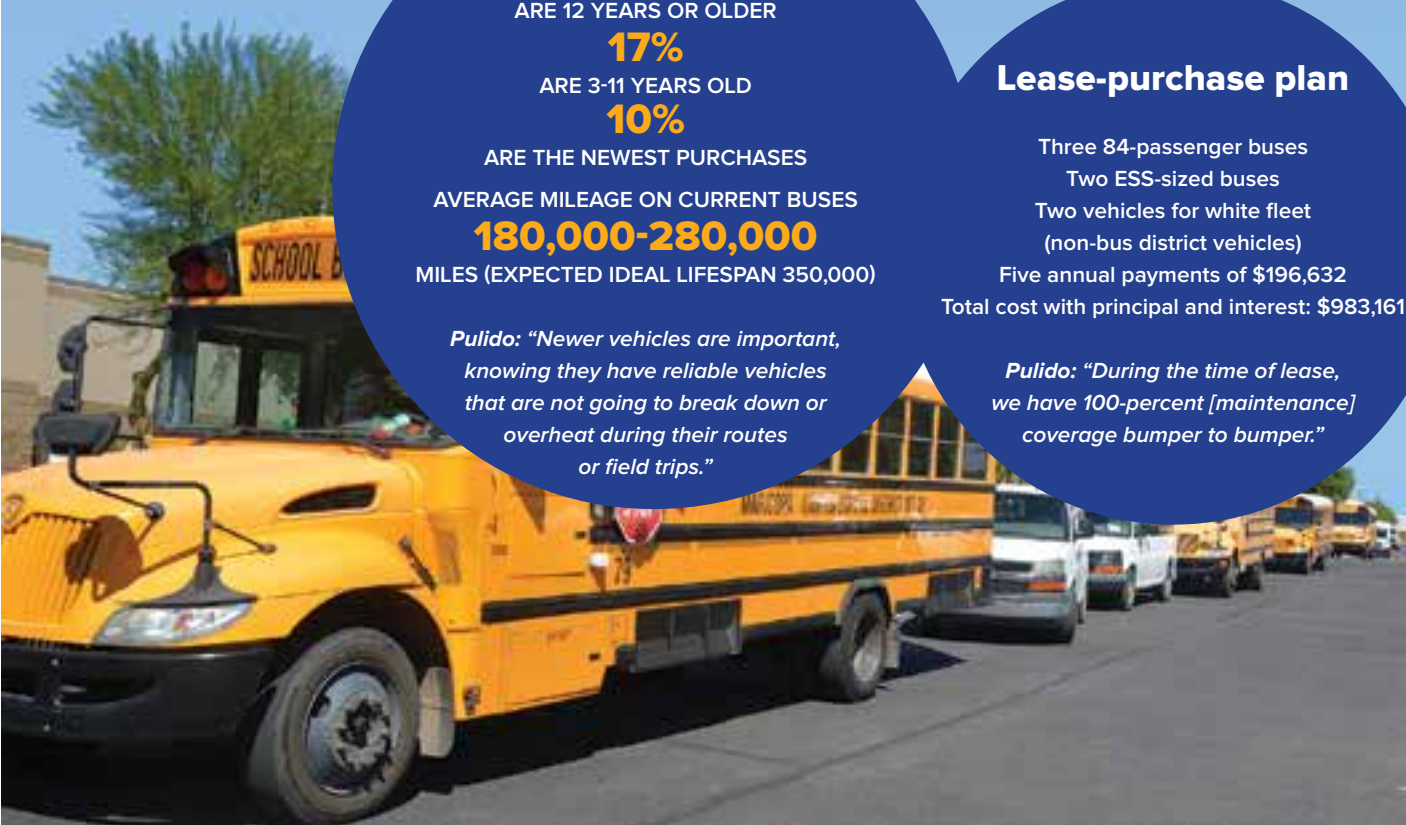
AVERAGE MILEAGE ON CURRENT BUSES
180,000-280,000
MILES (EXPECTED IDEAL LIFESPAN 350,000)

Pulido: "Newer vehicles are important, knowing they have reliable vehicles that are not going to break down or overheat during their routes or field trips."

Lease-purchase plan

Three 84-passenger buses
Two ESS-sized buses
Two vehicles for white fleet (non-bus district vehicles)
Five annual payments of \$196,632
Total cost with principal and interest: \$983,161

Pulido: "During the time of lease, we have 100-percent [maintenance] coverage bumper to bumper."



Sergio Pulido

Pulido on: DPS inspections

"Last year, yes, we had a few failures. These items were addressed and repaired right away. Buses were back on line the very next day. To prevent future failures, what we have done in Transportation is added a mock DPS inspection to every vehicle that comes into the shop for [preventive maintenance] services. This is important because it would keep the vehicle in compliance according to minimum standards and to the Department of Public Safety. We will continue this practice on any future vehicles that we purchase."

Air conditioning

"On newer vehicles, we've already experienced on the four big buses that we've bought in the past, they're better quality AC units; they're efficient and they work very, very well. Most of those vehicles are on field trips. Less breakdowns and more efficient units. What we've done is taken measures and better steps to improve our AC units, the older ones that we have, so they're working. We're replacing the parts, which are filters, condensers, compressors, expansion valves, things like that. We spent quite a bit of money last year on repairing these AC parts on these vehicles."

Overcrowding

"Student overload, we definitely want to prevent that. We're not going through that right now, and I'm very proud to say that, but we're very close to that. Avoiding doubles runs is another important factor. Last year, we all know that we experienced quite a few double runs at the high school and middle schools. Adding more buses will prevent that from happening."



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Hotel breaks ground, City preps for more Copper Sky development

Story and photos by Raquel Hendrickson

Ahead of the Sept. 20 groundbreaking for the La Quinta Inn at Copper Sky, the City of Maricopa changed the zoning for commercial space around it to the new zoning code. That brought 20 acres into conformity with the General Plan.

City council also adopted a minor land use change to the General Plan for about 30 acres, changing them from commercial/employment to mixed use.

Preparing the acres for commercial and residential development has taken a lot of steps for the city.

The City sold the 1.89-acre parcel for the hotel to Maricopa Auberge LLC in May. La Quinta Inn is planned for the southwest corner of the Copper Sky commercial area, next to the dog park. A hotel is seen as a vital initiator for commercial enterprises next to the park.

"We have this beautiful park, and it's one of the nicest in the state, and yet we don't have the ability for folks to come and have tournaments here and stay here," Mayor Christian Price said. "When you start to look at the employers and you start to look at the domino effect that happens, it's a really big deal."

City Manager Ricky Horst also focused on landing a hotel to stir economic development on the property.

"Last year, we came to the city, it was the weekend. We met Rick, the city manager. He asked us, first question, how long it takes to build a hotel," investor Ravikumar Balenalli said during the groundbreaking. "We said, if everything works out, one year. That was last September."

The new mixed-use designation for the commercial area at Copper Sky will allow the city's plans for retail, restaurants, senior housing and more.

Price said without the construction of the overpass across the Union Pacific tracks, the development might not be happening.

"We've been working on infrastructure for a really long time in the city and will continue to do so," he said to a crowd at the hotel groundbreaking that included members of the State Transportation Board. "Infrastructure is key if you're going to have amazing economic development. If we don't have a way to move our goods and services, if we don't have a way to move our people, then it just doesn't happen."



While city officials and franchise owners celebrated the groundbreaking of a La Quinta Inn on a parcel at Copper Sky, the property around it was being zoned for even more commercial enterprises.



La Quinta Inn & Suites Groundbreaking



The City of Maricopa celebrated the groundbreaking of La Quinta Inn & Suites on Friday, September 20. Our first hotel will be the newest version of La Quinta Inn & Suites and will have 89 rooms, an outdoor pool and a restaurant with outdoor seating. Located at 44345 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd in the new Copper Sky Commercial Complex, watch for the construction to start very soon!

"We located La Quinta Inn & Suites in the City of Maricopa because of the pro-economic development climate and the leadership did what they said they would do at every point of the project. We look forward to being a part of the community."

- Andy Bhakta
Developer and Franchise Owner



SUCCESS *You Can See*

New Fire Administration Building Construction Started

Construction of the new fire administration building is underway. The facility will be about 12,000 square feet of office and warehouse and is located at 45695 W. Edison Road in the Estrella Gin Business Park. The department expects to be moving in next Spring.



Madison Pointe Construction Underway

A new retail development and storage center is underway. AAMCO Transmissions & Total Car Care will be the first store constructed. CubeSmart Self Storage will follow early next year. Three building pads are still in the process of being marketed. More information to follow about this exciting new retail development.



For more information contact:
Jennifer Bostian
Economic Development Project Manager
520-316-6812
jennifer.bostian@maricopa-az.gov

Watch for our City updates every month!

Business, other developments in brief

AAMCO is building a 4,411-square-foot shop at 20215 N. John Wayne Parkway north of Maricopa Self Storage. It received a commercial permit for the project valued at \$595,441 to be built by Henes Construction. It also received permits for turn lane and driveway off John Wayne Parkway and other improvements.



AAMCO

Ground was broken for a **La Quinta Inn** at Copper Sky Sept. 20. The hotel is planned for 89 rooms in four stories at 44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

The former Pet Club is now **Exceptional Pets** at 21145 N. John Wayne Parkway. Managed by Bridgette Graeb, the location carries pet supplies and offers salon and spa services, including horse feed and tack.

Seeking to turn an old building in the Heritage District into office space, Gen Systems Inc. received a commercial tenant improvement permit for work at 45115 W. Garvey Ave., a property owned by **Maricopa Heritage Pointe**.

Aztec Ventures plans to open a comic book store, gaining a commercial tenant improvement permit for 20800 N. John Wayne Parkway, Suite 108.

The **City of Maricopa** filed notice of its plan to adopt new development fees. A public hearing on the matter is tentatively scheduled for Oct. 15 for adoption in November. The proposed maximum development fee on a single-family home is \$5,473.



Maricopa Heritage Pointe

Sacate Pellet Mill put in a fire sprinkler for its northside hay office, a 4,230-square-foot structure at 38743 W. Cowtown Road. It is owned by Red River Cattle Company.

Wendy's completed its fire hood suppression system and had its permit for a 348-square-foot patio addition before opening Aug. 29 in the former Carl's Jr. at 21000 N. John Wayne Parkway.

The City granted a permit for **Maricopa Police Department** to install four shade canopies in its parking lot at 39675 W. Civic Center Plaza. The listed value was \$120,000.

Global Water spreads service to Coolidge

Global Water Resources has signed agreements with the City of Coolidge and Saint Holdings that will result in the company providing water, wastewater and recycled water service to a large portion of Coolidge's 30-square-mile southern planning area.

While still subject to Arizona Corporation Commission regulatory approvals, with these agreements Global Water anticipates providing integrated utility service to this area where large-scale economic development projects are underway. This includes the rail-served Inland Port Arizona, a 2,700-acre mega-site under development by Saint Holdings that has been designed to support the manufacturing and distribution needs of incoming businesses.

Earlier this year, Saint Holdings sold a 400-acre portion of Inland Port Arizona to Nikola Motor Company, where Nikola plans to construct a 1 million-square-foot, world-class manufacturing facility.

"Saint Holdings is a tremendously innovative land developer, as demonstrated by many significant wins for the communities where they operate," Global Water president and CEO Ron Fleming said. "We are excited to partner with them on these projects, where we will deliver both professional water resource management and customer service to Nikola and others."

Corrections/Clarifications

- Editing of the story "HOA cracks down on street parking," August 2019, gave the impression Rancho El Dorado Community Manager Dawn Haskins had spoken to media about the issue. She did not. Her comments were drawn from the HOA notice cited in the story.
- Sidebar information attached to "ArtsFest Maricopa to debut with 'Music & Movement,'" September 2019, had incorrect information. The concert is Oct. 19 at 7 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m.
- The story "Police chief apologizes to community for school mishap," September 2020, the phrase "does not like to air details of its inner workings," should have specifically referred to personnel matters.

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HEALTH INSPECTIONS

EATERIES GET CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH

Thirteen of 14 food establishments in the Maricopa area inspected by Pinal County health personnel from Aug. 16 to Sept. 15 received top marks. The exception was a slight markdown for Rob's Convenience, a store on Papago Road that did not have adequate hot water pressure in the hand-washing sink or its three-compartment sink.



EXCELLENT [No violations found]

- Central Arizona College — Café
- Central Arizona College — Culinary
- Dollar General
- F.O.R. Maricopa
- Gyro Grill
- Legacy Traditional School
- Maricopa Elementary
- Sequoia Pathway Academy — K-6
- Sequoia Pathway Academy — Secondary
- Shell — Dairy Queen
- Shell — Food Mart
- Sonic Drive-In
- Wendy's

SATISFACTORY [Violations corrected during inspection]

- Rob's Convenience

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

None

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

None

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Before any aesthetic procedure know the risks, provider


By Kristina Donnay, FNP-C

Maricopa father-daughter team Bill Day and Kristina Donnay, FNP-C, opened Maricopa Wellness Center in April 2019 to provide first-class aesthetics services with the convenience of staying in Maricopa. MWC is a fully licensed medical facility specializing as a full-service Med Spa, utilizing cutting-edge technology and the latest treatment options for patients' bodies and skin.

Medical spas operate under the supervision of a medical director and are a hybrid of a medical clinic and day spa. Donnay, board-certified in aesthetics and a Certified Master Injector, is Maricopa Wellness Center's onsite medical director. Day, a formerly retired business executive, is the office manager. Their focus is helping people look and feel better

in their own bodies, combining customized, medical-grade services in a relaxing spa-like setting.

Maricopa Wellness Center's treatment menu includes laser services, hair removal, skin tightening, acne treatments, Ultherapy, microneedling, Botox, fillers, chemical peels, rejuvenation services, medical weight loss, IV therapy, Lipo MIC B12 shots and natural hormone balancing with Evexipel.

Maricopa Wellness Center has been nominated as "BEST NEW MED SPA" by My Face My Body. Learn more at MaricopaWellnessCenter.com, call or stop in at 41600 W. Smith Enke Road, Building 14, Suite 3 to meet their licensed staff of professionals and learn about optimum health. LIVE WELL. BE WELL. 



Kristina Donnay, Medical Director



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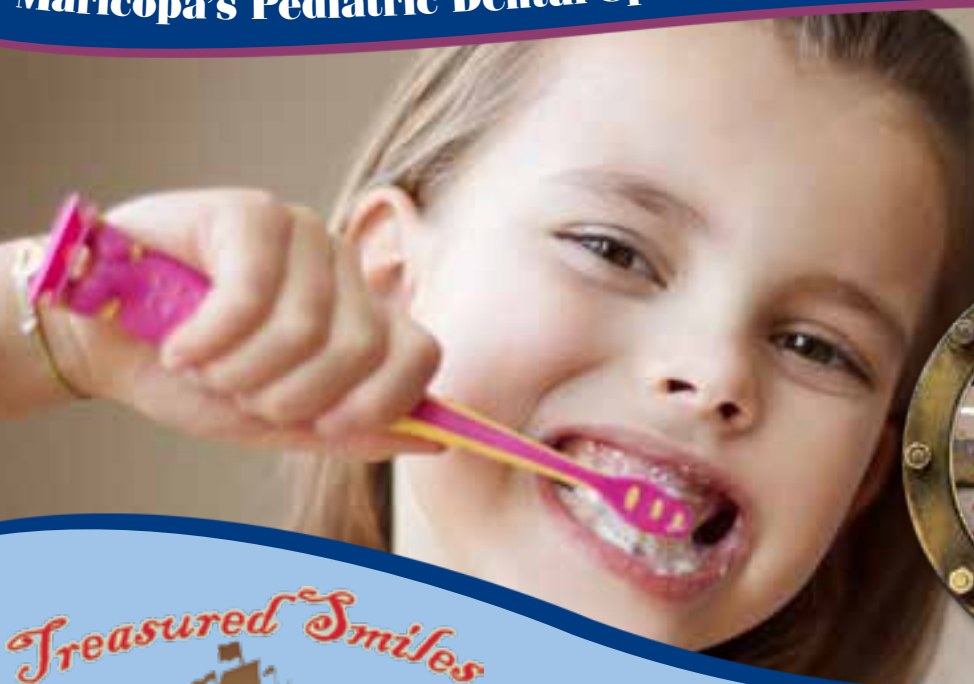
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ANNUAL NEW RESIDENT GUIDE
Deadline is November 29th

The New Resident Guide is hand-delivered to new residents and distributed through local utilities, realtors, home builders, city hall and more. Lock in your ad space by November 29th to avoid missing a great opportunity to reach new residents in Maricopa.



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1. Maricopans check out the art display "Celebrations" on the walls of City Hall. *Raquel Hendrickson*

2. Maricopa Police Department Commander James Hughes speaks at the 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony at the MPD Substation. *Raquel Hendrickson*

3. Rocky Myers teaches rookies the basics of pickleball at the newly opened outdoor courts at Copper Sky. *Raquel Hendrickson*

4. Maricopa Unified School District Governing Board honored high school teacher Aidan Balt (center) for earning a Fulbright Teachers for Global Classrooms Program grant and fellowship for an international assignment. Picture with her are (from left) board members Joshua Judd and Patti Coutre, Superintendent Tracey Lopeman, board member Torri Anderson, Board President AnnaMarie Knorr and Board Vice President Ben Owens. *Raquel Hendrickson*

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Q&A with Fire Chief Brady Leffler

By Raquel Hendrickson
Photos by Kyle Norby



Brady Leffler has been chief of the City of Maricopa Fire/Medical Department since 2013 and is manning the organization through a city growth spurt. Currently under construction and scheduled to be finished next spring is an administration building that will replace a series of trailers that has housed MFMD offices for years.

You came into a department that was in a bad state, to put it mildly. How did you bring it around?

Honestly, it was in worse shape than I could have ever imagined. The morale was horrible. They were not meeting industry standards in any way, shape or form. The big positive side was the people were fantastic. The firefighters were really committed to doing the job. In my opinion, they just didn't have a plan to do it right. So, I came in and I basically warned them that there's going to be a lot of changes, and it's been changing ever since. It was a long road, but I believe now we are positioned to be, and I believe we actually are, one of the better departments in the Valley.

How would you describe your personnel right now?

Outstanding. I think everybody would say that, but this is true. We've got some real talent. My plan is to stay another three or so years. My focus now is setting this department

up for the future with succession planning.

You are getting a new administration building. How will that improve the operations of the department?

It kind of goes in line with the reorganization that we've just done. It basically puts people in the right places with the right tools to take this administration to a new level. When people come here to visit in this trailer, which is much better than what we used to have, it's still difficult here sometimes when we have sensitive conversations we go to our cars because the walls are thin here. Sometimes it's personnel-sensitive material we don't want overheard. That will go away with the new building.

What's your favorite aspect of the new building?

Everything. The previous place to this one was old and run-down, and it had multiple, multiple problems. I won't go

BRADY LEFFLER

Hometown: Yuma
Residence: Mesa (soon to be Gilbert)
Family: Fiancée and three grown children
Education: Bachelor's degree in business management University of Phoenix; master's degree in education Northern Arizona University
Previous experience: Chandler Fire Department volunteer, Mesa Fire and Medical Department captain, battalion chief, deputy chief and assistant chief, Upper Pine River Fire Protection District deputy chief

into the details. This place, thanks in large part to ADOT because ADOT has helped us with this move, this is much better. But again, it's still a trailer, and it's still a mobile and it still has paper-thin walls, and we still have issues with rodents and the like. But, again, there's a beautiful new building on the horizon, which is very welcome.



The local firefighters' union has an agreement with the City that includes a pension plan that doesn't seem to impact their Social Security benefits. How does that work?

They'd probably answer that question better than I can. Essentially, they are part of the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS). The majority of the firefighters in the Valley that are part of that system do not pay Social Security, but way back when the City began, there were some issues with how that was orchestrated. So, they were charged with Social Security. The City made an agreement with them to help them with that because it was just a mistake at that time. I'm not sure if that answers your question, but there have been ongoing discussions about how to deal with that.

What are you looking forward to most as far as where you want this department to go?

I think it's kind of where I want it to be now in terms of structure, in terms of organization. I want to see increased training, I want to see more certified safety officers, and I want to see this department completely prepared for what I feel is going to be explosive growth in this city. Not to be behind that curve, if we can do some things now, get some things in place in terms of hiring, get some things in place as far as funding for stations and firetrucks and things like that and get that ready for the next five or 10 years, which I think is going to be amazing.



The full Q&A with Chief Brady Leffler appears at InMaricopa.com, where he talks about:

CHALLENGES

"The dangers out there to the firefighters are substantial."

COSTS

"Just about everything we do, we try to scale back, do everything we can to reduce costs."

FUTURE

"A new station within the next seven to 10 years is going to be necessary, probably south of the tracks."

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Hats off to first responders

First Responders Day is Oct. 28. Firefighters, police officers, dispatchers and EMTs are the first line of response in a community emergency and individual crises. Their uniforms represent the city, but their work is often very personal. Though they help people in ways few others can, in many instances, they are meeting people on one of the worst days of their lives, witnessing horrific scenes and even putting themselves in precarious situations. Some told us why they do what they do:



MPD Officer Jenny Soto and MFMD firefighter Rich Winston

Victor Moreno

Deputy Fire Chief Brad Pitassi

“I just fell in love with the whole service element of the job. It’s been the best, most rewarding career I’ve ever had.”



Kyle Norby

Fire Capt. Chazz Dupree

“I just realized when I grew up, I gotta figure out something I really wanna do, and what I’m passionate about is service. I liked the service aspect of it. That’s how I was oriented. Money wasn’t what made the wheels turn for me. It was doing service and helping others.”



Kyle Norby

MPD Communications Manager Jennifer Hagen

“It’s about being able to make a difference in somebody’s life. If you’re a 911 operator, and you get that phone call, how you do your job can impact the person on the other line. It’s rewarding. I believe I am truly helping people. Even if you can help just one person, it’s all worth it.”

Public Safety Communications Dispatcher Kendra Lange

“To me, there’s something new every single day. It wasn’t anything I thought I would ever want to do, but now that I’m in it, I love it and I couldn’t see myself doing anything else. It does bring me happiness. People truly appreciate what you do. I would continue to work here because I have a good support system inside of the police department and in the city that raised me too.”



Patrol Officer Logan Szczepaniec

“I grew up in a family of law enforcement. I grew up day-in and day-out talking to grandparents and uncles who were police officers. My dad was a firefighter, so he kind of steered me in his route, but there was always a strong influence as far as the law enforcement side. It’s in my family blood.”

Police Sgt. Robert Wenderoth

“I was always interested in investigations. I wanted to officially go into the FBI. At a county fair back home, I ran into some deputies and some Explorers, which is a youth group with the police departments, and I started with the Explorers and fell in love with the local aspect of it. I found my niche in investigation and decided to stick with the local route.”



Cindy Kennedy, Allie Miller and Kari Raflik singing with Maricopa Chorus.

Maricopa Chorus changes leaders for new season

Story and photos by Raquel Hendrickson

Six years after founding Maricopa Chorus, John Janzen is passing the baton, so to speak, to a new artistic director. “I moved to Ahwatukee three years ago,” Janzen said. “I’ve been looking for at least a year for how to transition Maricopa Chorus to other leadership... I’m still on the board. It’s officially still my choir.”

Janzen, a baritone with the Arizona Cantilena Chorale and possessor of a degree in choral conducting, is stepping aside for Don Raflik, who’s performed everything from punk rock to polka music. The move comes as the Chorus is preparing for the holidays and for the second part of ArtsFest Maricopa.

The community chorus was established in 2013 primarily to sing Christmas music, but then expanded its repertoire. “It was just natural that I would start a choir when I couldn’t find one here,” Janzen said. “I’ve been in choirs so long.”

Raflik, who directs three choirs for Our Lady of Grace Catholic parish, joined Maricopa Chorus last year. Now he will step to the front as the chorus plans its holiday gigs and prepares for February’s portion of ArtsFest Maricopa.

Before he discovered Maricopa Chorus, Raflik had been hoping to create an interfaith community choir to sing carols during the holidays.

“Then one year I’m looking through InMaricopa and I see this ad for the Maricopa Chorus to do caroling, and I said, “This is

perfect for me,” Raflik said.

He did not know Janzen, and he lost the ad. Nearly two years later, Raflik stopped in a Mesa music store for some sheet music. Chatting with one of the employees, he mentioned he lived in Maricopa. She told him her husband directed the Maricopa Chorus.

“I said, ‘Oh! Finally,’” Raflik said. The providential encounter with Wendy Janzen helped everything fall into place.

Raflik and other members of the Our Lady of Grace choir caroled with the Chorus, and Raflik became a member last year.

The fact that Maricopa Chorus is not church-affiliated, he said, made it even more inviting.

“It’s not just churches,” Janzen said. “It’s been community wide.”

The Chorus has performed for civic and

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other secular events along with Christmas shows. They have sung for Thanksgiving events, Shop with a Cop, Santa Claus and Merry Cop.

There are currently 15-16 active singers in the choir. Raflik would like to build that to 30, including more men. Janzen and Raflik acknowledged that is a difficult task. A couple years ago, Janzen was the only male singer in the choir.

Raflik said the same issue exists in the Our Lady of Grace choirs. He has gifted, degreed male singers in the congregation who are retired and would rather listen than sing.

Growing beyond holiday music, the Chorus had to create the mechanism to deal with logistics, performing insurance, paying for music and supplies and for material for their costumes. At Christmas, the singers don 1800s outfits created by Connie Scheidt, who was among the first singers to join the Chorus and is on the board.

Christine Fruchey was also an early member, answering an ad in the newspaper.

“Most of us had been singers in the past and were a little rusty but grateful and excited to have the opportunity to sing with a

group again,” Fruchey said. “The experience of making music as a group is exhilarating, peaceful, fun and unforgettable. Although some of the members have changed, the venues are different, and we now meet only around the holiday season instead of year-round. Maricopa Chorus is still like a family to me.”

“The experience of making music as a group is exhilarating, peaceful, fun and unforgettable.”

—Christine Fruchey

The transition of artistic directors is another change for the group.

“We still get to be together to share our love of choral music every year, and hope to continue the tradition in the future,” Fruchey said.


The Chorus has dues to help cover costs,

but they invite contributions and want to build their base of sponsors. Raflik scouts for singers at karaoke, other choirs and schools. They have had singers as young as 13. “Ninety percent of the whole entire population of the world can sing,” he said. “Everybody thinks they’re in the 10 percent, but they’re really not. If you can sing ‘Happy Birthday,’ you can sing.”

Getting more men into the Chorus, Janzen said, “would allow the choir to do a better variety of music. Right now, we have to tailor everything to soprano, alto and baritone. It opens things up if you have four-part harmony. Sounds better, too.”

Christmas caroling is usually the easiest music they tackle. It is unison singing, and everyone at least knows the melody. Not every member is expected to be at every Christmas gig, and losing one voice in caroling doesn’t change the sound of the Chorus.

Other choral music and pop music they perform can be more demanding, like the program they are putting together for the February portion of ArtsFest Maricopa.

“That will be more tailored to someone who might know how to read music already and is more established,” Raflik said. 

About Don Raflik

Originally from Milwaukee, Don Raflik has been involved with the local Catholic choirs since he moved to Hidden Valley in 1996. That was when the congregation was still the St. Francis de Sales Mission.

At Our Lady of Grace, he leads the traditional choir, the seasonal choir and a choir for special occasions.

“I’ve been playing music ever since the sixth grade, mostly drums but I play piano, saxophone, guitar. I mostly played in bands, so I don’t have a degree.”

He left home at 18 to play in rock bands. Harley-Davidson sponsored one band around the country. His repertoire has included jazz, ska, reggae and Dixieland.

“I played every single week probably from my 17th birthday until I was 45, every week at least once,” he said. “When I was in Vegas, I played six nights a week for five years in a row.”

The Rafliks moved to Maricopa for the peacefulness. At the time the community had no traffic light and was mainly comprised of orange and pecan groves.



John Janzen (left), founder of Maricopa Chorus, is passing the artistic duties to Don Raflik.

He and his wife Kari, an accompanist for choirs at church and Heritage Academy, have two sons. He has owned liquor stores, worked as an electrician and owned his own company in Maricopa. But his life has been about music.



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A Born Dancer

Meet Makayla from ArtsFest Maricopa

Dancers from Desert Sun Performing Arts will perform as part of the inaugural ArtsFest Maricopa this month. The evening is “Music & Movement,” featuring Maricopa Music Circle and DSPA on stage, a school ensemble in the lobby during intermission and art by professionals and students.

Among the DSPA dancers is 15-year-old Makayla Thacker, daughter of Vince and Kimberle Thacker, who has been with the company since she was a toddler. “When I first opened my studio, she came in on Day 1 on her tippy-toes and in her diaper,” instructor/choreographer Ceylan Gentilella said of the now-established performer.



What to know about Makayla Thacker

Residence: University of Arizona Maricopa Agricultural Center

School: Heritage Academy

Class: Sophomore

- I started dancing at 2 years old.
- I dance because I want to help people feel and express emotions. I used to think that showing emotion was weakness, but showing emotion is what makes us human.
- My favorite style of dance is Lyrical.
- My favorite piece of choreography is choreographed by Ceylan Gentilella. The piece is about being betrayed so severely that you just can't forgive them. The song to this piece is titled “Uninvited.” I like this piece the most because it gives me the chance to get all of the negative emotions out.
- When I'm not dancing, I usually like to sing and hang out with my friends.
- I plan on going to a college with a good arts program and auditioning for ABT (Arizona Ballet Theatre). After that I am not really positive on my plans, but I definitely want to dance for as long as I can.



IF YOU GO

What: ArtsFest Maricopa
When: Oct. 19, 7 p.m. (doors open at 6 p.m.)
Where: MHS Performing Arts Center, 45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.
How much: \$18 at the door (October and February sessions \$24 thru Oct. 7 and \$30 afterward)
Tickets: ArtsFestMaricopa.BrownPaperTickets.com

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FREE TOWING FROM MARICOPA

Service Learning Projects Contribute to a Culture of Values in the Maricopa Unified School District



Service learning challenges students to examine real-life scenarios, and to make an impact in ways that are meaningful to them. They learn the importance of being kind to others, how to come together for a great cause, and how to stay active in the community. The result is investment and ownership in causes that make a difference to the residents of Maricopa.

“Teachers and school leaders complement a values curriculum by providing opportunities for scholars to learn the importance of community and civic responsibility. Service projects like clothing drives and neighborhood clean ups help students grasp concepts like empathy, service, responsibility, honor, and leadership. These real-life experiences create a culture of values in MUSD and the surrounding community benefits as well.”

– Dr. Tracey Lopeman, Superintendent



Maricopa Wells Middle School NJHS

Maricopa Wells National Junior Honor Society challenged home rooms to compete to see which classroom could bring in the most canned food.



Desert Wind Middle School Blended Learning

The cohort cleans up at the VFW the first Saturday of every month.



Maricopa High School's Graphic Arts and Design Program

Maricopa High School's Graphic Arts and Design program brought the City of Maricopa, Art for the Heart, a community-wide Arts and Fine Craft Festival and Charity Fundraiser for The American Heart Association last February.

Maricopa High School INTERACT Club

The club has more than 50 members and is a place to make new friends at school and in the community, while helping others. Recently, the club wrote thank you letters to Maricopa's police and fire departments to recognize their contributions to the community.



Maricopa High School Air Force JROTC

- Promotes the districtwide canned food drive July 30-May 22. Cadets visit schools throughout the year to pick up and deliver clothing, supplies and food to Copa Closet and Maricopa Pantry. To learn how to donate, call Maricopa High School at 520-568-8100.
- Escorted families of fallen officers to planes at American Airlines annual Snowball Express events.
- Posted colors at 2018 State VFW Convention with Iraqi Prisoner of War (POW) Joseph Hudson
- Posted Flowers at Maricopa Memorial Day Ceremony





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Raquel Hendrickson



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Victor Moreno



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Victor Moreno



Victor Moreno

1. Maricopa High School students get wound up at Copper Sky during RamFest. *Victor Moreno*
2. MHS volleyball started the year with a record of 3-2, one win more than the Rams had all of last season. *Raquel Hendrickson*
3. Sequoia Pathway football started the season 3-0 to take the lead in the Independent Region of the Canyon Athletic Association. *Kyle Norby*
4. Jemel Marquez and Darrius MGAughy dance hip hop to DNA during a showcase at MHS. *Raquel Hendrickson*
5. The MHS cross country team scored some personal bests at Ojo Rojo Invitational in Chandler. *Raquel Hendrickson*
6. The Pathway volleyball team is dominating the CAA's Region 5, opening the season with an 8-2 record. *Kyle Norby*
7. Mary Brokenshire performs "Don't Rain on My Parade" for MHS Theatre Company. *Raquel Hendrickson*

Despite a loss to Apollo, Maricopa High School had a bit of fanfare on Homecoming night as Priscila Urena and Trey Camarilla were announced as queen and king.

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'We grew with you'

Celebrating school counselors

A counseling department plays a vital role in a school's ability to meet the needs of all students. Maricopa Unified School District's Counseling Department has grown to 16 full-time counselors, and Sequoia Pathway Academy has a counselor in its campus. Among them, they have earned more than 15 master's degrees. MUSD is applying for the School Safety Grant through Arizona Department of Education to support future growth. MUSD has four guidance counselors, a mental health counselor, a college and career coordinator, an Ak-Chin advisor and an Exceptional Student Services counselor who serve the high school. There are four school counselors, an Ak-Chin advisor and an ESS counselor serving the middle schools, and three full-time elementary school counselors, an Ak-Chin advisor and an ESS counselor serving elementary schools. Four of the counselors hold clinical supervisor licensure through the Arizona Board of Behavioral Health.

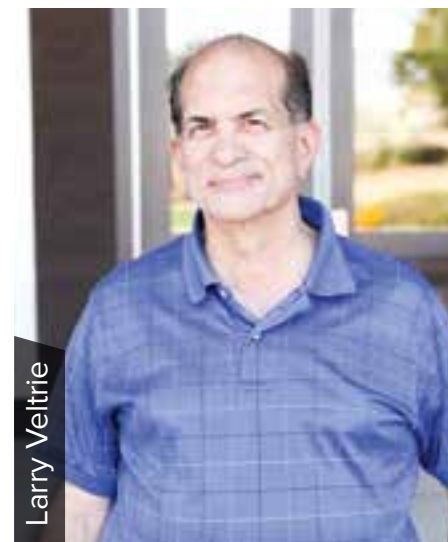
Maricopa High School Counseling Department

Vanessa Stone (seniors)

Stone is a new addition to the counseling department at MHS. Stone received a Master of Science in clinical mental health counseling from Prescott College with a focus on ecopsychology and wilderness therapy, and bachelor's degree in social work from Weber State University. Stone has a profound love and passion for people and connection with the natural world. Their prior work has included leading activity-based, adventure work and ecotherapy interventions with youth and adults in a variety of group settings. Outside work, Stone loves to spend time exploring with their dog, Xavier, rollerblading and swimming.



Dawniele Castellanos



Larry Veltrie

Dawniele Castellanos

Deana Paine (sophomores)

"I have been at Maricopa High School since 2012, starting as a math teacher before moving into the position of school counselor. I completed a BS in psychology at the University of Illinois, an M.S. in education and counseling psychology from the University of Kentucky and an M.S. in academic advising from Kansas State University. Married for 30 years, my husband and I have five children (including three MHS grads!) and one grandchild. I love baseball, travel, reading and spending time with my family and our dogs."



Mark Lavit

Dawniele Castellanos



Deana Paine

Dawniele Castellanos

Mark Lavit (freshmen)

"I have over 16 years of experience working in the behavioral health field and in education. I have worked in a variety of capacities, which include clinical supervisor, integrated care manager, rehabilitation counselor, case manager, high school guidance counselor and career counselor. I consider myself a lifelong learner and am currently seeking my doctoral degree in organizational leadership. When I am not working, I am usually with my two children, who are in third grade and kindergarten. We love taking road trips up north with our family dog and spending time with our horses."



Teresa Valisto

Submitted

Teresa Valisto (Ak-Chin students)

"I am a member of the Ak-Chin Indian Community. I am married to Benjamin Valisto, a member of the Tohono O'odham Nation. Our two daughters and I are graduates of MHS. I have been working as the Ak-Chin Student counselor 23 years. I started working in 1996 and have seen many changes over the years. I am here to assist students and the staff so that our students can be more successful in their education. I enjoy my job working with the students of the Ak-Chin Indian Community. They are like my own children and I am here for them."

Bernadette Russoniello (College and Career coordinator)

"Serving at MHS 18 years, I am excited by my current role in advising students on opportunities beyond high school and organizing impactful events and experiences for college and career."



Bernadette Russoniello

Dawniele Castellanos

I attended Arizona State University's Barrett Honors College attaining concurrent degrees in English and history, a post-baccalaureate in secondary education, and an M.Ed. in curriculum design and instruction, in addition to an M.Ed. in educational leadership from Northern Arizona University. My years as an educator have taught me learning never stops, education and knowledge cannot be static, and a professional community of support is essential for success."

Lynette Nelson (Mental Health)

"Originally from New Jersey, I have lived in Idaho, Washington, Colorado, Wisconsin and Korea. I have a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's in counseling from Arizona State University and a master's in public administration from the University of Colorado. I have worked with children and families over 30 years. My husband and I have six children and five grandchildren. I love to travel, make jewelry and play with Peaches, my 4-year-old pug. I have a passion for supporting young people and am thrilled to be here at Maricopa High School."



Lynette Nelson

Dawniele Castellanos

Amber Liermann (Exceptional Student Services)

"This is my 16th year here at MUSD as an ESS counselor. My favorite part of my job is seeing students achieve their goals. I live in Maricopa and have three children attending MUSD. I am a foster parent and have positive relationships with community agencies. In my free time I enjoy working out at the gym and riding my motorcycle."



Amber Liermann

Dawniele Castellanos

Sequoia Pathway Academy

Rebecca Collins

"I have been a school counselor seven years and currently, for the past two years, have worked at Sequoia Pathway. I have three children — a senior, a sophomore and a seventh grader. My family has been in Maricopa 13 years, and I've been married for 20 years. I love our community and I am grateful every day that I get the opportunity to work with the students of Maricopa."



Rebecca Collins

Submitted



Laura Lopez

Dawniele Castellanos

Maricopa Wells Middle School

Laura Lopez

"I was born and raised in Phoenix. I began my journey as a school counselor in 2011 at Maricopa Wells. I have a bachelor's degree from Arizona State University in social work and a master's degree in education – school counseling from Ottawa University. I enjoy working with students and their families. My husband Rodolfo Lopez and I welcomed our beautiful daughter, Isabel, in 2017. She definitely keeps us busy. We love traveling and spending time in the Bay Area visiting family when we get the chance."



Danielle Baird

Dawniele Castellanos

Danielle Baird

"My role is to assist MWMS students with their academic, career and social/emotional development. I have been working as a school counselor in MUSD since 2014 and am a resident of our great city of Maricopa. Originally from New Jersey, I have a dual

bachelor's degree in psychology/justice studies and my Master of Arts in counseling psychology specializing in school counseling and mental health. I have worked previously in the juvenile justice system, child welfare and social service fields. Before I transferred to MWMS, I served at both MHS and Desert Wind Middle School."

Jackie Kellar

(Exceptional Student Services)

"I am the ESS counselor for Desert Wind, Maricopa Wells and Maricopa Elementary. I have my master's degree from University of Denver in social work and am an independently licensed clinical social worker. I am married and have three children. I'm not a regular mom, I'm a cool mom. Similar to Olaf, I like warm hugs. I can truffle shuffle with the best of them because nobody puts baby in a corner. I love working with kids especially being their biggest cheerleader. I am trained in CBT, DBT, solution-focused therapy and mindfulness, because there is no crying in baseball."



Jackie Kellar

Dawniele Castellanos

Desert Wind Middle School

Rudolph Skeete

Skeete earned a master's degree in education and counseling with PPS credentials, licensee professional clinical counseling recertification from Azusa Pacific University; Child Welfare & Attendance credentials from California State University, Dominguez Hills; and a bachelor's degree in criminal justice administration from California State University, Los Angeles. He brings over 20 years' experience as an



Rudolph Skeete

Dawniele Castellanos

educator, 13 as a counselor in middle and high schools. "I truly love working in collaboration with students, parents and staff; enjoy cooking a variety of foods from around the world. Track and field is my favorite sport, but I also played professional rugby in South America."

Molly Colgan

"I was born and raised in Arizona and cannot imagine calling anywhere else home. I first realized that I wanted to go into the field of education while I was in the sixth grade, and I never strayed from this path. I graduated from Northcentral University with my bachelor's in secondary education - English. I became an eighth-grade English language arts teacher in Phoenix and later returned to school myself and received my Master of Education degree in school counseling from Ottawa University. In my spare time, I like to read, write, learn and travel cross-country by train."



Molly Colgan

Dawniele Castellanos

Butterfield Elementary and Santa Cruz Elementary

Tara Roy-Pablo

Roy-Pablo has been a counselor with MUSD since 2006. She worked four years at MWMS, six years at MHS and recently began working at Butterfield Elementary and Santa Cruz Elementary. She is a licensed MSW with the AZ Board of Behavioral Health Examiners, a Certified Guidance Counselor and School Social Worker with the Arizona Department of Education and serves as a field liaison with Arizona State University's School of Social Work. In her spare time, she enjoys hanging out with her family, road-trips, gardening and spending time with friends.



Tara Roy-Pablo

Dawniele Castellanos

Santa Rosa Elementary and Saddleback Elementary

Alyse Belletti

"I am starting my second year with MUSD as an elementary school counselor. I was born in Colorado Springs but consider myself a native as I have lived in Arizona a majority of my life. At Arizona State University, I graduated summa cum laude with a master's degree in marriage and family therapy. Most of my professional career has been spent working as a clinical therapist, providing community-based services to children with autism. In my spare time, you will find me with my family and two German shepherds. I enjoy camping, traveling and making lifelong memories."



Alyse Belletti

Dawniele Castellanos

Maricopa Elementary and Pima Butte Elementary

Anna Luna

"I have my master's degree in social work from Loma Linda University and an undergrad in sociology with a minor in psychology. I have been in the education and social work field since 2006 and have worked for Native American reservations, public K-12 schools and in drug prevention education. I am a board member of Mindfulness First. I teach cultural competency in social work at the college level and work as a community liaison for Cornerstone Healing Center in Scottsdale. I am a foster mother-turned-adoptive mother to two amazing little kiddos who have caused me gray hairs and deep laugh lines."



Anna Luna

Dawniele Castellanos

Sheila Pablo-Bandin (Ak-Chin)

"I am the Ak-Chin K-5th grade advisor for students of MUSD. I oversee all students of the Ak-Chin Indian Community with the permission of our parents/guardians. As the K-5th the adviser/tutor I am responsible for providing educational guidance and assistance for students and families within the MUSD. I have been in my position over 13 years and have found my home to help support my community and MUSD schools. I am grateful to be working with an amazing staff and am looking forward to the continued partnership."



Sheila Pablo-Bandin

Submitted

Dawniele Castellanos

(Exceptional Student Services)

Castellanos is a licensed clinical social worker in Arizona. She is a transplant from California and has lived in Arizona for the past 13 years. She received her bachelor's degree in psychology from Azusa Pacific University and her master's degree in social work from California State University of Long Beach. Castellanos has worked with children, youth, and families since receiving her master's degree. She likes to travel, read and go to movies.



Dawniele Castellanos

Dawniele Castellanos

Lattice method could be best, if bureaucrats got out of the way

By Murray Siegel

Americans have been debating for decades how to improve the quality of public education. A series of recent events have pointed out one irritant in our education process is state bureaucrats who devise rules for our schools without having the proper knowledge.

I have been a volunteer at Butterfield Elementary School since 2015. Last year I was asked to observe the teaching of math in all five fourth-grade classrooms. The students were learning how to multiply multi-digit whole numbers and the lessons included opportunities for students to use various methods. These methods were all mathematically correct, but I saw that the collection did not include what I consider the most effective multiplication method, Lattice Multiplication (LM).



Murray Siegel

When I asked the teachers why they presented the various methods and why they did not include Lattice, they said the methods were required by the Arizona Department of Education and that the LM was not among those required.

I called the Education Department and spoke with the woman who is responsible for the math curriculum in elementary schools. I asked her why Lattice was not included. She replied the LM was not effective. I strongly disagree but realized I had no chance to change her mind.

What is LM? Rather than trying to explain it without benefit of dynamic graphics, I suggest you visit the YouTube link bit.ly/LatticeM.

This year I am teaching an advanced

math class at BES, comprised of the top math students in the school's fifth grade. One day, I gave the class five minutes to compute 396 X 478 using any method they preferred. The results are troubling to me since only 11 of the 30 students obtained the correct answer.

These are the best math students in a school graded "A" by the state, yet most could not work a problem that was to be mastered in fourth grade. The fault does not lie with the district, or with the school principal or with the classroom teachers, since they are following the state's dictates. This is but one small topic in a child's education, so how many other academic topics are being taught inefficiently because of a state bureaucrat?

Have these bureaucrats taught in an elementary classroom in recent years? The dynamic of the elementary classroom has changed and those with no relevant experience are prone to make serious errors that affect our children's education. This requires serious legislative investigation.

Murray Siegel, Ph.D., has 44 years of experience teaching mathematics. He is in his fifth year as a volunteer at Butterfield Elementary School.

Be Awesome: College student offers tips on high school survival

By Danielle Nelson

Now that I have graduated high school and am off to college, I want to share things I learned that will help you be more successful in the future.

1 Stress is manageable. There are some do's and don'ts of handling stress, like you should never freak out or procrastinate because that doesn't help anyone, and it makes everything worse. For example, your homework might feel overwhelming and TV might be more fun, but I know if you take the time and ask for help you can get it done. And let's face it, everything you watch is on-demand; you can stream it later.

So, when things get stressful, what I want you to do is stay calm and collect your thoughts so you can make logical decisions without

your emotions clouding your judgment. Then you will make good decisions.



Danielle Nelson

2 Be present in everyday life. It can be tempting to immerse ourselves in a sport, a job or our books, and forget to forge meaningful relationships. Don't take anything for granted in high school. I don't want you guys to be so focused about school that you miss out on all the fun that comes with life, especially high school. I want you to enjoy the people around you and your surroundings. Live in the moment.

3 DON'T DO DRUGS OR DRINK ALCOHOL! You can get through high school without any of the bad stuff. Marijuana stinks, and alcohol will eventually kill you. I

know you might be influenced to do it with your friends in the moment, but just think of how you would feel if your future kids were doing this behind your back. Just resist the urge, and your body will thank you when you're older.

4 Communicate with your parents. Finally, our parents. I know, this is a big one. I want you to open up to them. I know it's not easy, but give them a chance. They have a lot on their plate. And be honest, if you make it easier on them, they will be easier on you. They want what is best for us. I don't want you to yell at them or snap on them, even if you do think they deserve it. They have done so much for us, the least we can do is to be open and honest with them.

It turns out a lot of what they say is true.

Daniele Nelson is a recent high school graduate from Maricopa. She attended a school in Phoenix. Her siblings attend Maricopa Wells and Maricopa High School. They are all involved with Be Awesome Youth Coalition Leadership.

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New center for women in crisis gets helping hand from Habitat

Story and photos by Raquel Hendrickson

With the oversight of Habitat for Humanity, a home north of Maricopa Meadows is being converted into Hope Women's Center.

Habitat for Humanity has been at work in a rare location for the organization — Maricopa.

Specifically, Habitat is converting an old home into a center for a Christian nonprofit, Hope Women's Center, which offers free services to teen girls and women facing any crisis. Habitat for Humanity is acting as general contractor for the renovation of a former rental property on McDavid Road north of Maricopa Meadows.

"Hope Women's Center is a resource and referral center for women and teen girls facing any difficult life situation," said Tammy Abernethy, CEO of Hope Women's Center. "So, ages 13 and up and come. We do free life-skills classes, free mentoring, support groups, pregnancy testing. We have a free children's center while moms are onsite taking classes."

Habitat for Humanity is volunteer-based and known for building homes alongside the future homeowner, who otherwise might not be able to afford housing. The organization does not often receive calls from Maricopa, and its closest corporate office is in Peoria.

"We renovate and build new homes all the time," said Todd Buckner, assistant construction director from Habitat's Peoria office.



"Habitat is partnering with Hope right now to oversee the sight for them, their volunteers and their subs."

He estimated the project would take nine to 10 weeks. Abernethy said, ideally, the renovation would be done by the end of the year.

"A lot of that's going to depend on volunteers and on the availability of the contractors and the helpers to come up," she said.



Habitat volunteers and subcontractors look over plans for the gutted building.

Early work at 45978 W. McDavid Road was cleaning out the building and hauling away decades of refuse. HWC has already seen helping hands, including RTM doing the thankless task of hauling an old trailer off the property.

Vanessa Behrens, a Maricopan who will manage the location, said there will eventually be a parking area and landscaping. From the inside, dumpsters were filled and walls were stripped out to get down to the basics.

"It's got good bones, nice block," Buckner said. "There's no foundation issues, so it's perfect to renovate."

HWC received zoning for the project last spring. It will be the organization's fifth location.

It is a half-mile from Maricopa High School and about a mile from the Family Advocacy Center. Abernethy said she hopes to work with both entities as well as Against Abuse "and other great organizations that are already here. We want to come along side and support what they're doing. Our heart is partnership."

She said typical clients are in poverty or a domestic violence situation or some kind of crisis. "It's a safe place. It's free. Our whole goal is, how do we help them restore, heal and move forward in their lives."

Behrens formerly managed a pregnancy center in Maricopa. She said she realized the girls and women they were helping had more needs and issues to resolve than unplanned pregnancies.

"I was so excited to find Hope Women's Center and then to have them come to Maricopa," she said.

Maricopa's A Heart for You Pregnancy Center merged with Hope Women's Center in 2017.

Abernethy said along with free classes and referrals, HWC is organized to encourage clients to return. "Every time a woman comes, she's earning points, and with her points she's able to get material resources. We want to help women move from trauma to transformation."

[HopeWomensCenter.org](https://www.HopeWomensCenter.org)
[HabitatCAZ.org](https://www.HabitatCAZ.org)

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Raquel Hendrickson



Submitted



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Top left, Abigail Poland, with MHS German teacher McKay Jones, shows where she lived for nearly a month in Germany this summer. Bottom left, Poland joined other foreign students at the Brandenburg gate. Right, Poland in a traditional dirndl.

Für die Familie

German trip rises above stereotype for MHS teen

By Raquel Hendrickson

Oktoberfest, one of the biggest, most extensive, annual parties in the world, is a staple of the Bavarian region of Germany. It inspires much smaller celebrations of German culture — food, traditional clothing and lots of beer-drinking — in sundry spots in the United States.

“Fun fact: All the stereotypes of Germany come from Bavaria — the lederhosen, Oktoberfest,” said Abigail Poland, who spent 24 days in Germany this summer as part of a cultural-exchange program.

Poland, a 15-year-old junior at Maricopa High School, is only two generations separated from Bavaria herself. Her grandmother, Gudrun von Kampen, emigrated to the United States alone at the age of 16 in 1950 after helping her family rebuild their bombed-out home.

“There are so many stereotypes with Germany, and there are a lot of misunderstandings because of everything that happened in the past,” Poland said. “That’s not what Germany is. World War II was one terrible period in German history, and German culture is so much richer and so much more amazing than that.”

Poland, who lives in Maricopa Meadows, studied two years of German at MHS and then took the National German Exam. She scored in the top 10 percentile, making her a gold medalist and qualifying her to apply for the Study Trip Award provided by the German Foreign Office and its Pedagogical Exchange Service. Winners stay with a host family, attend classes at a local high school and experience cultural field trips.

“The application process is, you answer a few questions, some in English, some in

German, and you write a letter to a potential host family in German,” Poland said. “Then you have an interview in German — well, part in German. They were really forgiving. Because I was so nervous, a lot of mine was in English.”

She was one of 44 American students chosen for the Study Trip Award through American Association of Teachers of German. The program paid for her roundtrip flight from Newark, New Jersey, to Aschaffenburg in northeast Bavaria.

“I was so shocked and overwhelmed and so grateful that I had the opportunity,” she said.

Though “blessed with better-than-average, self-selected students,” MHS German instructor McKay Jones said, “it’s no exaggeration to say that Abby is a once-in-a-generation student. Motivation, attitude, ambition, love of languages — she’s just really enthusiastic. I think that’s one of the reasons she was selected. That really came across.”

Her grandmother, who now lives in Mesa, was one of the reasons Poland wanted to study German in the first place and why

she was particularly excited about the trip.

“Her family was too poor. They weren’t able to feed all their kids and pay all their bills. There was an aunt that lived in America that my grandma didn’t really know and later found out that she wasn’t the nicest aunt. She said, ‘Send Gudrun to me, and I’ll take care of her.’ So, when she was 16, she came over and made a life for herself.”

But her grandmother was never chatty about the past.

“I’ve grown up my whole life visiting her very frequently, and she’s never even told me,” Poland said.

“She’s a very happy person, and obviously talking about your country being destroyed and being bombed and being homeless, and all that happening to her, she just never talked about it,” said Leah Poland, who is Abigail’s mother and Gudrun’s daughter. “I didn’t even hear the story until I was in junior high.”

Just earning a trip to Germany was not a guarantee Abigail would have the opportunity to travel to her family’s old haunts.

“I told her, ‘They’re not obligated to drive you all over the place,’ but her host family was amazing,” Leah Poland said. “They drove her twice more than an hour away to visit my uncle in an old folks’ home. He has no other living family. He was so happy to see her.”

Abigail previously had worn her grandmother’s dirndl, a traditional peasant dress that shows up frequently at Munich’s Oktoberfest. She wanted to purchase one but found them too expensive — “hundreds of euros” — but her uncle helped her acquire one.

Her uncle was also a treasure trove, sharing family stories and giving Abigail a huge box of family photos.

What’s more, her host family drove her two and a half hours to visit the home where her grandmother grew up, a home that was in the family for generations before being sold in the 1980s when her great-grandmother passed away.

“Even when I just mentioned visiting her house, my oma [grandmother] told me two new stories we’d never heard before,” Abigail Poland said.

Her host family was comprised of a mother, two sisters and, for part of the time, the mother’s “life partner.”

“I noticed right off the bat the feeling was different,” Poland said. “I felt like there was so much less pressure. A lot of people think Germans are cold, but I think Germans are chill. They are so much more open and talk about their feelings. It’s OK if you’re not happy and

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smiling and saying ‘Oh, I’m doing great’ all the time. The German stereotype is that Germans have no feelings, but I felt like it was the exact opposite, that Germans were very open with their feelings.”

Her hosts also got her to come out of her nervous-foreigner shell.

“Here, I make a lot of jokes,” she said. “In Germany I wasn’t comfortable because I didn’t know what the humor was. I didn’t know if it was going to go badly. But I remember a conversation I had with my host-sister, and she was like, ‘Just try. What’s it going to hurt if you try?’ That changed a lot of things for me.”

She traveled with a group of other foreign students to Munich, Frankfurt and Berlin. She hung out with her host-sisters and their friends. She couldn’t always follow conversational details but knew the gist.

“Her German when she got back just blew me away,” Jones said. “It was basically a month of immersion.”

“You can see how language mirrors culture,” Poland said. “In English, there’s a log of ambiguity. In German, the words are what they mean. It’s very straightforward and real in the same way the people are straightforward

“One culture is not more valid than another, and neither is a language, and neither is a people. I learned so much in Germany. I’m ready to take on the world, and I have so many opportunities now.” —Abigail Poland

and real.”

Jones said the program is Germany’s investment in the future. “They want the German programs in the U.S. to stay vibrant, and there aren’t very many of them, especially in the Southwest.”

She gained a sense of independence that may have taken longer to obtain without the experience. The youngest of the five children of Leah and Matthew Poland, Abigail had never flown before she boarded the plan from Phoenix to the East Coast.

“I learned to not be afraid,” she said. I had adults and other people around to help me, but it was like I was completely alone. I learned how to do stuff for myself. And I learned to get over my fears. On the planes I was absolutely terrified on takeoffs and landings on the way there. I was sitting in the middle and on the aisle, which was good. Anytime I would look out the window, I was like, ‘Nope, nope, nope.’ On the way home I had a window seat, and I wasn’t terrified. I was leaning into the window. It was so interesting to me to see that difference.”

Poland’s experience realized the goals of the program and showed why the German government sets its sights on foreign teenagers. For her, the experience wasn’t about lederhosen or oompah bands or bier steins or anything else that might celebrate the German culture in an Oktoberfest kind of way.

“I want to raise cultural awareness, not just of German culture but of cultures around the world,” Poland said. “One culture is not more valid than another, and neither is a language, and neither is a people. I learned so much in Germany. I’m ready to take on the world, and I have so many opportunities now.”

1 test score could earn you free college

By Bernadette Russoniello

Every October students across the country put their academic merit to the test through the PSAT/NMSQT assessment provided by the College Board. The PSAT is a preliminary SAT, a full-length practice test that mimics the environment and conditions for the formidable college admissions test.

Additionally, for students in their junior year of high school, the exam is a two-for: it also serves as the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

Last October, two Maricopa High School students achieved at the top of the nearly 1.5 million students who tested. Placing in the top 1 percent of test takers in the state, Angello Gianni Hernandez-De la Pena and Freya Abraham outperformed their classmates throughout the state and nation. Sept. 11, they were announced as National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalists and recognized by the College Board for their outstanding

academic performance.

The National Merit Scholarship program will announce their finalists later this fall; students then compete for the ultimate honor of being named a Merit Scholar. This honor comes with financial rewards: \$2,500 from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation plus entry into nearly \$31 million in scholarship awards from business and industry partners reserved specifically for Merit Scholars.

From our state universities, Angello and Freya can expect full-ride awards.

Students register for the PSAT/NMSQT at Maricopa High School with a \$16 fee; 11th grade students who qualify for free or reduced lunch receive a fee waiver for the test. This year, students will test Oct.16. MHS also participates in the PSAT 10, an additional practice test opportunity geared to underclassmen for the spring. This year’s PSAT 10 will be April 30.

Although Angello and Freya are open to offers from universities across the nation, both



Bernadette Russoniello



Angello Gianni Hernandez-De la Pena and Freya Abraham

are happy with the idea of staying in-state at the honors colleges at either U of A or ASU. Angello plans to study computer science while Freya plans to pursue medicine.

CollegeBoard.org

Bernadette Russoniello is the College and Career coordinator at Maricopa High School.



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Arizona growing seasons produce biannual annuals

By Rita Bricker

Are you ready to replace plants crisped by our hot, dry summer? Many of us in the desert Southwest plant annuals to revitalize our landscapes after the ravages of summer.

The scientific definition of an annual plant is one that completes its life cycle from germination to the production of seeds and, ultimately, death in a single growing season. In Arizona we have two distinct seasons for growing annual flowers or vegetables. Thus, "biannual" annuals, not be confused with biennials like hollyhocks, which require two growing seasons to mature. This column addresses mainly the fall season ornamental annuals.

Flowers with their vibrant colors, heady perfumes, and infinite variety of shapes and designs can bring us out of the winter doldrums when almost everything else is dormant. It is a real treat to see chrysanthemums, petunias and geraniums again making their appearance like winter visitors in the low desert areas of central Arizona.



Rita Bricker



Petunias

A key to success with annual flowers of any season is bed preparation. If you follow the advice of fellow Master Gardener Al Brandenburg in the August issue of InMaricopa, you will be well on your way, as growing fall annual flowers requires exactly the same preparation as growing cool season vegetables. Your flower bed or pot needs a good location with adequate sunlight and loose, well-drained soil that has been amended and is free of weeds.

Amendments like compost, well-aged manure, peat moss or leaf mulch will keep the soil loose, improve water-holding capacity and provide good drainage. Annuals will also benefit from the addition of fertilizer containing nitrogen and sulfur (to acidify our naturally-alkaline dirt) to the soil before planting.



Chrysanthemums

Now is almost the time to plant fall flowers, but don't be hasty. Even though fall annuals are appearing in garden centers already, it is still too hot to plant them. Wait until mid- to late-October before you get out your gloves and trowel.

Some favorite fall annuals are fragrant carnations and stocks, darling pansies, chrysanthemums (which can transition growing seasons), playful snapdragons, ever-popular petunias in their many variations, and cheerful marigolds. These plants all have a long blooming period and may still be vibrant as late as April or May.

And that's the time of year to pull out your winter lovelies and prepare to plant your summer annuals. Biannual annuals? Yes! 📌

Rita Bricker came to Maricopa from Tempe and is a member of Pinal County Master Gardeners.

Plan ahead for multi-generations under one roof

By Dayv Morgan

While the standard homebuyer may be looking for a three or four-bedroom for their nuclear family, American culture in the 21st century is turning more and more toward multigenerational housing.

Whether it's grandparents moving in, adult children coming back home or other relatives needing temporary living space, the need to accommodate other adults who need reasonable independence and privacy has become a trend.

K. Hovnanian Homes estimates one in five Americans is currently living in a multigenerational arrangement, "a 30 percent increase since 2007."

Because of this rise in demand, more builders are designing with multigenerational living in mind, including two in Maricopa. Lennar, for instance, is building in Alterra and has what it calls "two homes under one roof." Going beyond the casitas that are often just detached bedroom/bathroom setups,

the new design has a bedroom, living room, bathroom, kitchenette, and laundry that are a suite of the main house but can be closed off for privacy.

The K. Hovnanian floorplan, which is currently being sold in Maricopa Meadows, follows the same concept and is called "Extra Suite."

When buying a home, it is wise to think into the future about what your extended family's needs will be in five or 10 years. If your house does not have a built-in suite, are there existing living spaces that can be converted to have a second kitchen, maybe a second laundry, just in case?

In some areas of the country it is common to convert garage space into living quarters, but this is not recommended in Maricopa. Almost every home is on a post-tension slab, making it difficult to put in extra plumbing after the home is built. You also don't want to lose parking and storage space, as that will hurt resale value.



Dayv Morgan

Even if you don't have a current need for a multi-gen home, having a private suite with a private entry opens up the opportunity to rent a room in your house. With the lowest home-rental rates in Maricopa around \$1,200 per month now, a single person would find a \$500-\$600 suite a sweet deal.

The reasons for bringing adult generations under one roof can range from economic pressures to aging or special needs. And while no one anticipates their family having an accident or health issues impacting the way they live in their home, it has become the reality for many, and it's good to consider such possibilities when buying or updating a home. 📌

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

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**MOST
EXPENSIVE
HOME SOLD**


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

**LEAST
EXPENSIVE
HOME SOLD**

1. 17425 N. Avelino Drive, Sorrento

The least expensive home sold in Maricopa from Aug. 16 through Sept. 15 was on the market less than three months on the east side of Maricopa. The home backs up to Hartman Road. It sold for \$6,900 under the asking price.

Sold: Aug. 24
Purchase price: \$165,000
Square footage: 1,079
Price per square foot: \$152.91
Days on market: 76
Builder: Hancock
Year built: 2008
Bedrooms: 3

Bathrooms: 2
Community: Sorrento
Features: Dog run, covered back patio, full master suite
Listing agent: James Mickelson, HomeSmart Success
Selling agent: Maasai Dineh Robinson, Rockstar Realty

- 2. 43176 W. Elizabeth Ave., Senita** **\$172,000**
- 3. 37067 W. Amalfi Ave., Sorrento**..... **\$175,000**
- 4. 36428 W. Barcelona Lane, Tortosa** **\$177,500**
- 5. 40077 W. Bonneau St., Desert Passage** **\$178,000**

1. 42359 W. Little Drive, Rancho El Dorado

The most expensive home sold in Maricopa from Aug. 16 through Sept. 15 is a two-story home overlooking the 10th hole of The Duke at Rancho El Dorado. With lots of aesthetic additions, it sold for just \$200 under its list price. The property is now about \$78,000 shy of its 2005 price.

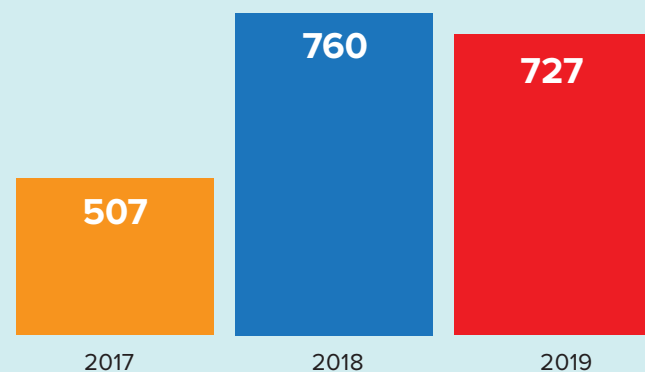
Sold: Sept. 11
Purchase price: \$342,300
Square footage: 2,997
Price per square foot: \$114.21
Days on market: 154
Builder: DR Horton
Year built: 2005
Bedrooms: 5
Bathrooms: 3

Community: Rancho El Dorado
Features: Two levels, three-car garage, private pool, golf-course views, loft, RV gate, slab parking for three additional vehicles
Listing agent: Robyn J. Bernzott, Re/Max Fine Properties
Selling agent: Carrie Pagnussat, HomeSmart

- 2. 21992 N. Dietz Drive, Rancho El Dorado** **\$325,100**
- 3. 20224 N. Peppermint Drive, Province**..... **\$325,000**
- 4. 44558 W. Sedona Trail, Cobblestone Farms** **\$320,000**
- 5. 41032 W. Walker Way, Homestead North** **\$320,000**

Single-Family Residence Building Permits

Year-to-Date 2017-2019



Source: City of Maricopa

*Jan. 1 – Sept. 15



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Time to downsize, de-clutter

By Joan Koczor

Some of us are reaching that stage of our life when we are considering downsizing. Some are looking forward to removing the clutter and enjoying free time by moving to a smaller place that requires less upkeep.

If you are experiencing medical issues or unable to care for yourself, downsizing should be considered. At this time, it may become necessary for family, friends or your physician to discuss your options. Family members should use caution to ensure the senior feels part of the process.

Once the decision to downsize is made they will need to discuss what living arrangement is best for them.

Typically, renting or buying a smaller home or condominium, living with a family member or friend, assisted living, retirement community or nursing home facility are a few options you may have. Are there road

trips you always wanted to take? You might consider an RV.

Taking into consideration where you will be moving and space available, a list of things you want to take with you and what

can be donated or discarded can be helpful in the de-cluttering process.

Ask yourself: Is it necessary? Do I really want it? When is the last time I used it? Any financial value? Sentimental value? Are there a few things to pass along to family members?

No family members nearby?

Feeling overwhelmed? There are several senior placement agencies in Arizona that can work with you. A representative will assess your situation taking into consideration your medical condition and needs, location and financial status.

If you are considering a senior placement agency do some research. Are they reputable?



Joan Koczor

Is there a language barrier? Is the agency familiar with Medicare/Medicaid? Consider an agency that has the best experience dealing with all types of insurance. Does the agency charge a fee?

Downsizing is a life changing experience but not as scary as it sounds. It can also present new opportunities. A smaller living space means less maintenance and can free up time to pursue your hobbies, allow time to travel without the worry of what has to be done at home and more time for socialization. Check off a few items on your bucket list.

As with anything, exercise caution. Get as much information as you can before you make any decision. More importantly, do what is right for you.

Joan Koczor is a senior advocate and is on the advisory board for Maricopa Seniors, Inc.



Emma Schrader, Ricky Raffaele, Joey Russoniello and Taya Johnson rehearse for "Peter and the Starcatcher."

Victor Moreno

MHS Theatre presents 'Peter and the Starcatcher'

By Raquel Hendrickson

Despite a late changeout of the entire show just before auditions, Maricopa High School Theatre Company is making fast work of its fall production, "Peter & the Starcatcher."

An origin story for "Peter Pan," which the troupe performed last fall, "Peter and the Starcatcher" became celebrated for its sets and costuming in its Tony-Award-winning run in 2012.

"It's the prequel, so it has so many sweet moments that tell you how Peter Pan came and how the story they fell in love with last year exists," said theater instructor Alexandra Stahl, who directs the play.

Stahl had wanted to wait another year or two before producing "Starcatcher" because of the close proximity to last year's production. MHS Theatre Company planned to perform "She Kills Monsters," a nerd comedy drawing inspiration from Dungeons & Dragons, but in mid-July the administration asked Stahl for something less controversial for now.

What made "Starcatcher" work well in the shortened timeframe was the fact many in the company were already well-versed in the basic story and were excited about the project. There is lots of word play and definitely pirates.

"It started out with some of the same

IF YOU GO

What: Peter and the Starcatcher

Who: MHS Theatre Company

When: Oct. 24-26, 7 p.m.,
matinee Oct. 26, 2 p.m.

Where: MHS Performing Arts
Center, 45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

How much: \$5 students;
\$7 general admission, \$10 VIP
ASL interpretation available

characters, and that made it a little bit easier," Stahl said, "but I didn't want to bring back the red Hook coat, because I didn't want people to be like, 'That's Hook!'"

Stahl was looking for "youthful innocence" in the casting of the orphan known only as Boy for much of the show. That turned out to be sophomore Joey Russoniello.

"Honestly, I love the show," Russoniello said. "We saw the show when we went to Nationals over the summer. I never thought it would even be a possibility for me to play this role. And then we ended up doing the show."

A singer before joining the company as a freshman, Russoniello has had to step up his acting skills.

"It's a really good challenge," he said. "That was something I really needed to develop, and this show is really pushing me to do that."

Junior Taya Johnson plays Molly, who eventually is revealed to be [spoiler alert] the Starcatcher. In "Peter Pan" last year, she played Michael.

She describes Molly as a 13-year-old Victorian with an unusual educational upbringing and independent character. She watched a bootleg version of the original show on YouTube a couple of times and also fell in love with the story.

"It's my first lead role, so I'm very nervous," Johnson said. "I'm really happy I have the opportunity to do this play."

The play does not lean heavily on either of the titular roles.

"It's basically storytelling theatre. There's no one person who is the star," Stahl said. "They're all telling the story together. Many play multiple characters throughout the show. There's some points where these characters are listed in the script as 'Narrator Molly' or 'Narrator Boy.'"



Victor Moreno

CAST

Boy (Peter) - Joey Russoniello; **Prentis** - Emma Schrader; **Ted** - Ricky Raffaele; **Lord Leonard Aster** - Simon Ty; **Molly Aster** - Taya Johnson; **Mrs. Bumbrake** - Haley Lemon; **Captain Robert Scott** - John Jackson; **Gremppkin** - Aliyah Garcia; **Bill Slank** - Douglas Moulton; **Alf** - Derek Blakely; **Mack** - Angelina George; **Black Stache** - Julie Goodrum; **Smee** - Jae Luna; **Sanchez** - Mary Brokenshire; **Fighting Prawn** - Mary Brokenshire; **Hawking Clam** - Grace Goodrum; **Teacher** - Haley Raffaele; **Ensemble** - Morgan Cutrara, Gracee Clark, Ashton Crosniak, Isabella Netro, Astraya Ellyson

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Calendar

OCTOBER

1

MHS Boys' Golf Home Meet
2 p.m., Ak-Chin Southern Dunes
48456 W. Hwy. 238

Sequoia Pathway Boys' Soccer vs. Canyon State
4 p.m., Pacana Park
19000 N. Porter Road

MHS Volleyball vs. Casteel
6 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

2

MHS Girls' Golf Home Meet
2 p.m., The Duke at Rancho El Dorado
42660 W. Rancho El Dorado

3

Registration opens for Santa Run 5K
All day, Copper Sky
Multigenerational Complex
44345 W. Martin Luther
King Jr. Blvd.

MHS Swimming Home Meet
4 p.m., Copper Sky Aquatic Center
44345 W. Martin Luther
King Jr. Blvd.

MHS Volleyball vs. Gilbert
6 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

Sequoia Pathway Volleyball vs. Desert Heights
7 p.m., Sequoia Pathway Academy
19287 N. Porter Road

4

MHS Football v. Campo Verde
7 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

Sequoia Pathway Football vs. ASU Prep
7 p.m., Pacana Park
19000 N. Porter Road

7

Maricopa Historical Society: Maricopa Archaeology 101
5:30 p.m., Maricopa Public Library
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

9

Maricopa Community Theatre's 'Freaky Friday, the Musical'
7 p.m., Leading Edge Academy Maricopa
18700 N. Porter Road

10

MHS Swimming Home Meet
4 p.m., Copper Sky Aquatic Center
44345 W. Martin Luther
King Jr. Blvd.

Maricopa Community Theatre's 'Freaky Friday, the Musical'
7 p.m., Leading Edge Academy Maricopa
18700 N. Porter Road

11

Maricopa Community Theatre's 'Freaky Friday, the Musical'
7 p.m., Leading Edge Academy Maricopa
18700 N. Porter Road

Clint Black: Still Killin Time 30th Anniversary Tour
8 p.m., Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino
15406 Maricopa Road

12

Friends of the Maricopa Library Fall Book Sale
9 a.m., Maricopa Public Library
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

Maricopa Community Theatre's 'Freaky Friday, the Musical'
2 p.m. & 7 p.m., Leading Edge Academy Maricopa
18700 N. Porter Road



**Oct
19**

Kyle Norby

Be Awesome teens include (from left) Danielle Nelson, Jiselle Diaz, Dan Nelson, Nichelle Nelson, Madelyn Homan, Brianna Coronado, Deanna Nelson and Matea Bernales.

Maricopa Teen Hall all about teenagers

Maricopa Teen Hall, a new expo tailored for teens and those raising teens, is scheduled for Oct. 19, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., at City Hall.

The free event will include lunch and fun activities.

It will be a town-hall-style event, but without the politics. Topics will range from how to get a job to building healthy relationships. Exhibitor space is available.

The planning committee includes representatives from Be Awesome Youth Coalition, InMaricopa and the City of Maricopa.

Maricopa Teen Hall encourages discussion about Internet safety, mental health, drugs and alcohol education, human trafficking and more. It is a forum for teens and their parents or guardians to share their knowledge and experience while learning valuable information.

"Life is challenging for teens and their parents," Be Awesome Director Priscilla Behnke said. "We are excited to bring resources to Maricopa families and fulfill our mission of creating confident, connected and successful youth."

Be Awesome is a local nonprofit charged with developing confident, connected and successful youth. InMaricopa believes in uniting the community and one of its core values is to create prosperity for our clients and community. Both organizations join committee member Councilmember Nancy Smith in a dedication to Maricopa's successful future through its youth.

Sponsors include McDonald's, Pinal 40, Supervisor Anthony Smith, Fitzgibbons Law Offices, Councilmember Nancy Smith, Councilmember Vincent Manfredi, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and Walmart.

There are partnership, sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities available. Any donations/sponsorship revenue that exceeds cost of producing the event will be earmarked for teen scholarships. Contact Behnke at 520-428-7750 or PBehnke@BeAwesomeYouth.life.

IF YOU GO

What: Maricopa Teen Hall

When: Oct. 19, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Where: Maricopa City Hall, 39700 W. Civic Center Plaza

How much: Free

RSVP: MaricopaTeenHall.com



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*To purchase tickets visit:
www.mhs50.com*

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Email: maricopahistory@gmail.com

Phone: (520) 705-0890



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



Oct
26

Submitted

Historical Society inaugurates ‘Tales & Treasures’

The Maricopa Historical Society is introducing a new fundraiser this year to combine local history, silent auction and dinner. The “Tales & Treasures” supper event is scheduled for Oct. 26 at Leading Edge Academy.

“We’re excited to present our first annual fundraising supper that demonstrates the goal of presenting our history in a fun and informative format,” said MHS President Paul Shirk.

A social hour will begin at 3 p.m. with appetizers and beverages, displays of historical items, bidding on silent auction items and the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets for drawings of a handmade lap quilt and the unique table centerpieces.

Supper will be served at 4 p.m., after which each table will be treated to short stories from Maricopa Historical Society “Tale Blazers,” who will share their knowledge and experiences about Maricopa’s history and events.

Maricopa Historical Society is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving history and artifacts.

Did you know?

- Snake Town was the earliest known settlement in the area, seven miles east of Maricopa Wells and occupied by the Hohokam (Huhugam) until around 1200 AD.
- John Butterfield’s Overland Mail Company had its first stagecoach run through the area in 1858.
- The population of Maricopa in 1900 was 160.
- A bond was passed to build Maricopa High School in 1956.

To enjoy a night of history and lore, you can purchase tickets online at [MHS50.com](https://mhs50.com) or by mail at Maricopa Historical Society, P.O. Box 902, Maricopa AZ 85139. Online reservations (no paper tickets) purchased before Oct. 12 are \$45 per adult or \$40 per Maricopa Historical Society member. Admission at the door is \$55.

 MaricopaHistory@gmail.com
 **Brenda Campbell, 520-705-0890**

IF YOU GO

What: Tales & Treasures
Who: Maricopa Historical Society
When: Oct. 26, 3-6 p.m.
Where: Leading Edge Academy, 18700 N. Porter Road
How much: Advance tickets \$40/member \$45/nonmember; at the door \$55
Info: [MHS50.com](https://mhs50.com)

Calendar

Copa City Dems Meeting
4 p.m., Copper Sky Police Substation
17985 N. Greythorn Drive

15
Shutter Shots Digital Photo Contest
All day, various locations

MHS Volleyball v. Campo Verde
6 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

17
MHS Swimming Home Meet
4 p.m., Copper Sky Aquatic Center
44345 W Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Zonta Club of Maricopa
5:30 p.m., The Villages Clubhouse
20991 Butterfield Parkway

MHS Volleyball v. Williams Field
6 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

18
Senior Lunch and Learn
11 a.m., Copper Sky Multigenerational Center,
45345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

19
Maricopa Teen Hall
11 a.m., Maricopa City Hall
39700 W Civic Center Plaza

ArtsFest Maricopa
7 p.m., Maricopa Performing Arts Center
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

22
MHS Volleyball v. Higley
6 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

23
State of the City
6 p.m., Maricopa City Hall
39700 W. Civic Center Plaza

24
Mysterious Mansion Mayhem
6 p.m., various locations

“Peter and the Starcatcher”
7 p.m., Maricopa Performing Arts Center
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

25
Mysterious Mansion Mayhem
6 p.m., various locations

“Peter and the Starcatcher”
7 p.m., Maricopa Performing Arts Center
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

26
Battle of the Bands Lip Sync Contest
1 p.m., Copper Sky Regional Park
55345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Maricopa Historical Society’s Tales & Treasures
3 p.m., Leading Edge Academy
18700 N. Porter Road

Harvest Festival
5 p.m., Central Arizona College
17945 N. Regent Drive

Mysterious Mansion Mayhem
6 p.m., various locations

“Peter and the Starcatcher”
7 p.m., Maricopa Performing Arts Center
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

Copa Adult Steampunk Halloween
8 p.m., Raceway Bar & Grill
49237 W. Papago Road

27
Silent Heroes Golf Tournament
1 p.m., The Duke at Rancho El Dorado
42660 W. Rancho El Dorado Parkway



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

Calendar

Mysterious Mansion Mayhem
6 p.m., various locations

28
Mysterious Mansion Mayhem
6 p.m., various locations

Nov. 2
Relay For Life of Maricopa
5 p.m., Copper Sky Multigenerational Center,
45345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

SUNDAYS

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

MONDAYS

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

Parents of Addicted Loved Ones (PAL)
7 p.m., Maricopa Behavioral Health Services
21300 N. John Wayne Parkway, Suite 103

TUESDAYS

Senior Donuts & Coffee
1-4 p.m., Copper Sky Multigenerational Center, Room A
45345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Celebrate Recovery Coffee & Karaoke
5 p.m., Maricopa Community Church
44977 W. Hathaway Ave.

WEDNESDAYS

Babytime
9:30 a.m., Maricopa Public Library
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

Harrah’s Club 777 Toastmasters
3 p.m., Harrah’s Ak-Chin Casino
15406 N. Maricopa Road

S.M.A.R.T. Kids
3:30 p.m., Maricopa Public Library
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

Maricopa Police Explorer Post Meeting
5 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

THURSDAYS

Family Story Time
4 p.m., Maricopa Public Library
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

Narcotics Anonymous
7 p.m., Ak-Chin Social Services
48227 W. Farrell Road

FRIDAYS

Senior Game Time
9 a.m.- noon, Copper Sky Multigenerational Center, Room A
45345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Learn to Bowl like a Pro – with a Pro
6 p.m., UltraStar Multi-tainment Center
16000 N. Maricopa Road

Al-Anon Meeting
7 p.m., Community of Hope Church
45295 W. Honeycutt Ave.

The Answer Is – Game Show
8 p.m., UltraStar Multi-tainment Center
16000 N. Maricopa Road



Oct
27

Submitted

Golf tourney benefits cops, firefighters

By Joycelyn Cabrera

The “Silent Heroes” fourth annual charity golf tournament and silent auction will benefit Maricopa’s police and fire department for First Responders Day, Oct. 27.

Rosemary Quesenberry has organized the benefit, dividing the proceeds evenly between Maricopa Police Department and Maricopa Fire/Medical Department. Registration for the event at The Duke at Rancho El Dorado is \$80 per golfer, \$320 for a foursome. The cost includes range balls and dinner.

Funds raised will specifically be given to MPD for the Federation of Police Emergency Assistance Fund, which aids officers with out-of-pocket medical bills, and MFMD to restore a vintage Ford fire engine from 1949.

The Maricopa nonprofit “Silent Heroes” was established to assist the police and fire departments with community outreach and education and to acknowledge the sacrifices of first responders.

Fire Chief Brady Leffler has been in the fire service for 30 years and has been the chief of Maricopa’s department since 2013. “I was looking for something where I could give back and I could help people in whatever capacity that meant,” Leffler said.

The benefit will kick off with a 1 p.m. shotgun start. Golfers are expected to be at The Duke golf course in Rancho El Dorado by 12:30 p.m. The dinner and silent auction will begin at around 5 p.m.

The tournament will be played in a best-ball format, and prizes will be awarded for longest drive and straightest drive.

Donations are accepted for the silent auction, which already has commitments from sponsors to include signed sports memorabilia and boxed bottle of wine from Castello di Amorosa’s Napa Valley vineyard, signed by the winemaker.

To donate products for the silent auction, email Quesenberry at running4renton@msn.com.

Quesenberry said she has been very fortunate to have local businesses donate each year.

“Police and fire work hand-in-hand ... Those two units work really close together and I felt it was important that our community shows support. We know it’s not an easy job,” she said.

 W2Wgolf.com/silent-heroes



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

Steampunk Halloween makes Maricopa debut

By Raquel Hendrickson

Mythical Gardens LLC is giving adults a reason to revel in the Halloween spirit.

The local designer of custom cosplay clothing will host the inaugural Copa Adult Steampunk Halloween at Raceway Bar & Grill. The evening will include a costume contest, scavenger hunt, DJ music, dancing, Declan Shade Photography booth and lots of food.

What is steampunk?

Inspired by the Victorian science-fiction vision of the likes of Jules Verne and Edward S. Ellis, what is now called steampunk re-imagines the age of invention and even the “Wild West.” Cosplay costumes incorporate mechanisms and gadgetry of the time to transform even the most coquettish outfit into something audacious.

“It’s just a crossover from the Victorian era from the late 1800s and early 1900s to steam-engine days, but it’s gotten to be a

crossover with Disney or sci-fi or anything they want. They mix everything up,” said Jenny Zaragoza, co-owner of Mythical Gardens. “There’s some people who use steampunk when they really want to keep it authentic between the 1800s and 1900s, but now you just mix it with everything, and it’s just fun. There’s no right or wrong for steampunk.”

Those who don’t want to go full steampunk but just want a taste of it for the evening will find a hat or a mask available from Mythical Gardens. Jenny and her sister Linda make custom costumes, but a limited number of outfits can be rented for the night, too.

“We will turn the patio into a big Halloween bash,” said Jenny Zaragoza. “We were doing it for local businesses so people could get to know some of the local businesses and have someplace where we could all get together as adults and have a great Halloween party.”



Rand DelCotto, owner of Raceway Grill, is creating the menu and will run a cash bar, and Uniquely Yours Cake Design will supply specialty cakes.

“It’s for something different, networking and to just have a good time and dress up, something they don’t get to do very often,” said Misty Newman, who operates Arizona Outdoor Adventures and is a sponsor of the event.

General admission is \$40 per person. VIP seating is \$65 and includes hats and masks. Sponsorships are available from \$100 to \$500. A portion of funds raised benefits two 501(c)(3) efforts – the Zaragozas’ weighted blankets for children with autism and Newman’s camping program for youth at AOA.

Mythical Gardens is also creating a Quilt of Remembrance to be auctioned off at the party. Zaragoza is asking anyone wishing to honor a fallen hero to create a 5-by-5 quilt block to be added to the quilt.

If you need a quilt block or if you would like to rent a steampunk costume, email Info@MythicalGarden.com as soon as possible.



Jenny Zaragoza (in red hat), co-owner of Mythical Gardens, is hosting Copa Adult Steampunk Halloween at Raceway along with Misty Newman of AOA and other sponsors.



IF YOU GO

What: Copa Adult Steampunk Halloween

When: Oct. 26, 8 p.m.-2 a.m.

Where: Raceway Bar & Grill, 49237 W. Papago Road

Who: MythicalGarden.com

Info: [Facebook.com/SteampunkHalloweenEvent](https://www.facebook.com/SteampunkHalloweenEvent)

Tickets: [EventBrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) (promotion code Hallow10)

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Josh Turner concert rescheduled after tragedy

Following a California traffic accident that took the life of one of his crew members and injured others, Josh Turner canceled the rest of his concerts in September.



Overpass construction impact on businesses shifts

To say the overpass construction has been complicated for Maricopa citizens and businesses alike would be an understatement.

Murder-suicide reported at Maricopa home

Maricopa Police Department is investigating a murder-suicide on Windrose Drive in Desert Cedars.



Mission-style home least expensive sold

The least expensive home sold in Maricopa from July 16 through Aug. 15 is a mission-style, three-bedroom house in Parcel 12 of Tortosa.



MUSD to rework 'disappointing' policy after LDS pushback

A school policy updated in April has had unintended consequences at Maricopa High School this fall.



'Big Boy' historic locomotive to pass through Maricopa

Union Pacific's historic Big Boy steam locomotive No. 4014 is touring the Union Pacific system throughout 2019 to commemorate the transcontinental railroad's 150th anniversary.



South Mountain Freeway's first interchange opens

The South Mountain Freeway's first new interchange at 40th Street has opened on schedule, an important step forward for the state's largest-ever freeway construction project.



City prepares to impose new development fees

The City of Maricopa intends to impose new development impact fees in 2020. It sent out notice of a public hearing on the matter scheduled for Oct. 15.



Ace shoplifting incident lands man back in jail

Ched Bayles, 30, was arrested Sept. 14 on suspicion of shoplifting and additional outstanding warrants.



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