



Maricopa

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January 2020

IN REVIEW

Look back
at a year,
a decade

GOVERNMENT

Searching for
answer to
water puzzle

Working Woman

An independent life
beyond Louis Johnson
and The Duke

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Look back, look forward in 2020

2020 rings in the end of an era and the beginning of another. What will the new '20s bring to Maricopa?

Last year brought the beginnings of commercial projects and the end of the overpass construction. In this issue we look back at some of our top stories of 2019 and the 2010s as a decade.

On our cover is Alice Johnson-McKinney, a long-time farmer and landowner, who moved to the area in 1969 and has seen a lot of eras come and go. Over the years, she's been asked often about her late husband Louis Johnson and good friend John Wayne, but she has quite a story of her own that starts in this issue and continues at InMaricopa.com.

This month, we also look inside the water debate between the state's Department of Water Resources and the Pinal AMA. We break down the letter grades recently assigned to area schools. We also check in with Maricopa Family Advocacy Center after one year to see how its relationship



with Maricopa Police Department and Against Abuse is fighting domestic violence.

Police Chief Steve Stahl talks about the past and the future in a Q&A with InMaricopa you can also watch on video. You can also read about the ending lifecycle of smoke detectors, career-preparedness resources for high schoolers and tips for saving your plants during a winter frost.

Much more is in this issue of InMaricopa.

Happy reading,

RAQUEL HENDRICKSON | Editor
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Kyle Norby

History



Maricopa Historical Society

Future SR 347

A 1949 photo from atop the water tower was taken after a flood. The Maricopa dirt road heading north runs along the bed for the former Maricopa & Phoenix Railroad line that stopped running in the mid-1930s. Maricopa Market is the upper-right, white building. Today, the road is John Wayne Parkway, also known as State Route 347, also known as Maricopa Road.

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The official opening of the overpass across the Union Pacific tracks was a highlight of 2019 in Maricopa.



Victor Moreno

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Contributors



VICTOR MORENO
The freelance photographer is a familiar face at most community events and owns his own business.



JOYCELYN CABRERA
An ASU student, she writes for her journalism classes while moonlighting at InMaricopa.



RITA BRICKER
A Pinal County master gardener, she teaches classes for U of A Cooperative Extension.

ON THE COVER: Alice Johnson McKinney in the house she has called home since 1969, when she married Louis Johnson and kind of adopted John Wayne in the process. *Photo by Victor Moreno*

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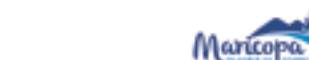


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One year in, Family Advocacy Center making a difference

Center helps public safety, nonprofits embrace domestic violence victims

Story and photos by Joycelyn Cabrera

After a year in operation, Maricopa Family Advocacy Center has proved its necessity in the community's efforts to combat domestic assault.

It joined Against Abuse Inc. in assisting survivors of domestic violence. Those who live in Maricopa can seek shelter or medical attention close to home, which has not always been the case.

"Can you imagine getting sexually assaulted and then getting into a car with a stranger?" said Mary Witkofski, founder of the Maricopa Family Advocacy Center. "Victims sometimes decline participating in the criminal justice system due to the amount of travel, or decline in getting that examination."

Witkofski is programs manager with the Maricopa Police Department. Before the center opened in January 2019, survivors had to turn to law enforcement or travel to the nearest center for medical care and investigative procedures with victim's advocates — more than 45 minutes away to Eloy, San Tan or Mesa.

The long travel times for treatment is a contributor to unreported cases and women staying with their abusers, according to Dynia Abraham, domestic and sexual violence residential services director for Against Abuse Inc.

"One of the first questions after disclosure that they say is, 'Where is it? How far? Is this something that takes a really long time?' because people are in crisis in that moment in time," Abraham said. "And when those answers were different, we would get a lot more, 'No, thank you, I just want to go take a shower and lay down.' We don't see that much anymore. 'It'll take 15 minutes,' and they'll say, 'OK.'"

One survivor, who spoke on condition of anonymity to protect her and her children from re-victimization, provided perspective.

"Because of what happened, our house was destroyed," she said. "We were homeless, we couldn't even move back in. Every window was shattered, one of the bullets had hit a water line so the bottom of the house was six inches in water, the ceilings in the bathroom and laundry room had fallen in; it was an absolute disaster."



For the past year, the Family Advocacy Center has given victims and comfortable place to be examined, change clothes and find resources.

“

Can you imagine getting sexually assaulted and then getting into a car with a stranger?”

— Mary Witkofski, Maricopa Family Advocacy

The survivor said the exit plan for her family would have looked much different had she had access to a center in town at the time.

"What would've been different and really helpful to me and my family is, because our situation involved a crime other than domestic violence, we were taken to the police station," she said. "I think they would have taken us to the advocacy center and had the police come there, which would have been a lot easier on the kids and I."

At the police station, the family was provided a change of clothes after the abuser had died on the scene.

"When you're at the police station, it [is] an open room with fluorescent lights, and we're not even wearing our (own) clothes, and we've been in a physical fight, and it's uncomfortable," she said. "Whereas at the advocacy center, we would've felt much more comforted. So, it would've made a big difference."

The Maricopa Family Advocacy Center is a program within the Maricopa Police Department.

MPD Officer Donnie Burnias has firsthand experience responding to domestic violence calls throughout the community. He said he gets them every day.

"It's probably one of the most common calls in the country," Burnias said. "Everyone lives together, everyone has problems, and sometimes those problems need the police department to intervene."

Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence reported 73 domestic-violence-related deaths in the state from Jan. 1 to Oct. 31, 2019. That included an incident in Maricopa that resulted in the deaths of two adults and an unborn child.

"I expect the numbers to go up because the services are there and available," Witkofski said. "More comfortable reporting, not having to travel, having the center here raises awareness."



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According to Witkofski, law enforcement can respond to a call on domestic violence and then bring the victims to the center, or the victim can call crisis lines and request a victim's advocate to escort them.

"All the patrol officers work very closely with Mary and the FAC (Family Advocacy Center)," Burnias said. "Anytime the Victim's Assistance Program or DVRT (Domestic Violence Response Team) needs to go to a residence, we go with them."

Burnias said the role of local police is de-escalating the situation and assisting the survivor with any criminal law questions.

Many survivors have gone through the advocacy center and have been turned over to Against Abuse for emergency housing after initial investigations.

Against Abuse is a nonprofit organization offering resources for survivors of violence. Against Abuse offers emergency resources like the advocacy center, but also long-term resources to guide survivors back into society.

In fiscal 2017, the Arizona Department of Economic Security recognized Against Abuse in a Programs Fund Report for providing the fourth-highest number of shelter overnight

stays for men, women and children.


"It's a really important resource to have," the survivor said. "Women and children need a place to go, and there are sometimes men also. But we really, really need it here. Sometimes these women come with the clothes on their back if they're even lucky to have that."

Advocates from Against Abuse provide calls to places of employment and landlords, legal advocacy, job interview accompaniment and supervised visitation for children, among several other services.

"Our goal is to provide services, support and education to all who experience the effects of family dysfunction or violence," said Torri Anderson, an Against Abuse board member.

Anderson has worked on the board 15 years, after identifying the need of domestic violence services in Pinal County with various other members. She said the community has become more empathetic and aware of domestic violence survivors compared to other communities around Arizona.

"Domestic violence is a very serious thing," Burnias said. "It impacts the whole family. It can get to the point where people's lives are being lost due to domestic violence. We have

to be sympathetic to this family and talk to them and kind of figure out how can we assist them, so that both parties are safe from each other, and give them information about the next step." 

THE TURNAROUND

Dynia Abraham, domestic and sexual violence residential services director for Against Abuse Inc., said her most memorable case at the Maricopa shelter involved a mother and her children becoming self-sufficient while utilizing their resources.

"We had a mom with a few children come into our shelter program, she was married to someone who would not allow her to work or to interact with her children," Abraham said. "So, her children were at home but she wasn't allowed to talk to them. She was assaulted, so she came in, we provided domestic violence support group and education for her.

"She was able to get her first job while staying in shelter, her first bank account, driver's license, she became very independent. She bonded and grew a really deep relationship with her children, she did end up getting employment. After a few months she was able to get an apartment."

Maricopa Family Advocacy Center 2019

Survivors 96
Interviews with minors and vulnerable adults 50
Assaults: physical, sexual, child abuse, elder abuse, strangulation

Against Abuse Maricopa 2019

Adults 220
Children 189
Nights of housing 15,267

Abuse Reports

Daily calls to domestic-violence hotlines nationwide: 20,000
Arizona hotline calls in 2018: 39,000
Pinal County hotline calls in FY 2019: 706

The Arizona Department of Economic Security estimates 10 million people a year are physically abused by an intimate partner in the United States.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES TRANSFORMING TO CREATE ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



MARICOPA, Ariz. December 12, 2019 - The City of Maricopa Development Services Department has transformed into Economic and Community Development, further increasing the City's effort to support economic development throughout the community.

"Our message to developers is 'not only are we open for business, but there is no better community in Arizona for business,'" City Manager Rick Horst said.

As part of this reorganization, the City will launch several new initiatives with the goal to improve the permitting experience for customers. One of these initiatives will be a project liaison program, in which a single staff manager will be assigned to all development projects. This person will serve as the overseer to coordinate staff processes, eliminating the need for applicants to go to multiple departments and speak with multiple staff regarding various aspects of their project. This program, among others, will streamline the process and ensure that all aspects of the community development are addressed during the development process - from building safety to the economic impact of the community.

"Every project, every new road constructed, every new building built, every new housing community; every project presents economic realities and economic opportunities," Horst said. "We have to engage earlier in the community development (project) process to leverage these opportunities to create community wealth. This change will put a renewed focus on economic development via the community development process in lieu of a stand-alone effort."

The added emphasis on economic development will build on a successful 2019 that saw the City of Maricopa break ground on its first hotel within city limits, open the overpass on State Route 347, and approve 943 housing permits.

Current Assistant to the City Manager Nathan Steele will step in as the new Director of Economic and Community Development. Mr. Steele has previously served in several communities in three different states, most recently as the Planning Manager for the Town of Yountville, CA.

Jennifer Bostian will become the Economic Development Manager tasked with emphasizing Place-Making and Product Development via the Community Development Process.

"Our future includes continued growth and increased opportunity," Horst said. "Opportunity is not always realized unless we are prepared, from the foundation up, to seize that opportunity and make it a reality."

These changes are expected to go into effect January 1, 2020.

"I have had the pleasure of working with Maricopa since 2012 and I can honestly say there is no better city to work with. The Leadership and Staff are dedicated to the community in every way. Their willingness to invest in the technology and support to ease the process is unmatched in Arizona. I always look forward to working in Maricopa!"

Casey Treadwell – Vice President of Southwest Development for Thompson Thrift Retail Group



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Water problems

Global, others dispute state's 100-year outlook

By Raquel Hendrickson



William Garfield (left) of Arizona Water Company, Jake Lenderking of Global Water and Pinal County Supervisor Steve Miller are heading a stakeholders process to rethink the regulating structure in the Pinal AMA.

Raquel Hendrickson

Water is a basic necessity for human existence, and the idea of losing it can cause a visceral reaction.

So, when the director of Arizona Department of Water Resources said Pinal County would be 8 million acre-feet short of meeting demand in 100 years, pushback was almost immediate. Water companies, water groups and elected officials declared the information ADWR included in its update to the Pinal Active Management Area model was flawed.

But while saying ADWR was underestimating water resources and overestimating use, they concurred water conservation is important.

"We definitely need to be using our water as effectively as we can," said William Garfield, member of Arizona Water Company's board of directors. "That comes across all water-using sectors. Agriculture has come a long way in improving farming practices. Within our service area in Casa Grande, for example, over the last 20 years, single-family use has dropped 40%."

That ground-level accounting of current water use sometimes conflicts with the assumptions made at ADWR. The department wanted a comprehensive model that included data from Gila River Indian Community and looked at how communities might impact each other through their water use.

ADWR hydrologists updated and corrected data in the 2014 version of the

groundwater model. When they ran the model with the new numbers, the results were alarming. They indicated Pinal County would be 10% shy of meeting demand by 2115.

"Looking out 100 years, there is insufficient groundwater in the Pinal Active Management Area to support all existing uses and issued assured water supply determinations," ADWR Director Tom Buschatzke said at the time of the release of the information in October and again at a DWR stakeholders meeting in November.

But assumptions behind that declaration have been questioned.

"They assume we are using approximately three times the water we actually are using today," said Jake Lenderking, director of the Water Resources department at Global Water Resources.

Global Water has a designation of assured water supply of 23,000 acre-feet per year.

"We use about 7,000, so we have lots of room to grow in that proven designation," he said.

The problem is that ADWR's hydrologists feel impelled to state Global's current use as 23,000 acre feet.

"From a legal standpoint, because they've issued that determination, they feel that they legally have to account for it in the groundwater model because they can't say whether or not we're actually using it tomorrow," Lenderking said. "But I don't think there's any practical way we can go from using 7,000 acre feet to 23,000 acre feet next year."

Lenderking, a board member of the county's Water Augmentation Authority, has appeared on "Horizon" to discuss such water issues. In November, he, Garfield and Steve Miller, a Pinal County supervisor, tackled the subject as a panel for a Pinal Partnership presentation.

A legislative ad-hoc committee created in 2019 appointed Miller, Garfield and Lenderking to lead a stakeholders process "to hopefully rethink how we do some of this in a scientific way and in a real practical water way," Lenderking said. "How can we make changes? Can we import water? Can we provide incentives? Is there a good process we can implement that fixes our existing regulator structure, so we can get farm water transferred to municipal water using less?"

Garfield said it should be easier for those with designations or certificates to change to uses that require less water.

How old is your water?

Global Water draws its water supply from the aquifer in the Maricopa/Stanfield Basin and Eloy Basin. It has been gathering there for centuries. The basins are combined in the groundwater model as the major active basins in the Pinal AMA.

"This is what I would call older groundwater. It's been here a long time," Lenderking said. "There are sources of recharge along the mountain fronts and the stream beds. The aquifer is replenished through times when the rivers and streams flow. There is also sub-flow moving underground, but it's very little, and I believe it's coming up basically in the Santa Cruz drainage, so from the Tucson AMA. It's very minimal compared to the other things."

Global Water has nine active wells and a 10th coming online soon. Its water supply is groundwater and effluent or recycled water. It has done its own groundwater flow modeling over time. ADWR counts water as physically available if it is either between the land surface and the bedrock or 1,100 feet, whichever is shallower. It does not consider it available below 1,100 feet.

"The aquifer over here goes about 8,000 or 9,000 feet below land surface," Lenderking said. "We're only allowed to count to 1,100 feet in the assured water supply program."

He said the ADWR model counts only existing wells and their existing depth, which he said is also misleading.

"We will deepen wells. We will move wells. That's our job," he said. "I think we're going to see water supplies imported into the

Pinal AMA over time that are going to also help to change this picture. I don't see any real municipal demand, the way it stands today and the way it's growing today, being unmet."

The assumptions about wells in the Pinal AMA skewed the modeling results, he said.

Even in simulated animation of the 100-year flow modeling by ADWR, the Maricopa area looks to be sitting on a surplus of water while the rest of the Pinal AMA dries out. Global Water has long stated Maricopa is in "a very nice place" in its access to water.

Assured Water Supply

ADWR's groundwater flow model considers all grandfathered rights like agriculture, designated and certificated rights such as municipalities and utilities and then analyses of assured water supply, which are anticipated requests that would need to be converted into certificates. Though they account for 11 million acre feet in the model, ADWR is doubtful any of the analyses would get approval.

Permitted water use is five times what actually is being used today. Those trying to get in line for certificates have a hard row to hoe.

"DWR has made abundantly clear that the water people have asked for, they need subsequent approvals and are very unlikely to get them," Lenderking said. "When you think about the fact that they're not going to allow any of those analyses to go forward, is there really a shortfall? Did they really overissue? Are we really in a long-term deficit? No."

That virtual hold on certificates of assured water are causing frustration. The ad-hoc committee — comprised of lawmakers David L. Cook, Noel Campbell, Rosanna Gabaldón, Gail Griffin, Bret Roberts and Diego Rodriguez, with Buschatzke as a member as well — was created to find solutions to the "groundwater physical availability issue."

"Having been a builder, a developer, and having gone through the process of getting a certificate of assured water... having close ties to the agricultural community, I've seen the issues," Miller said. "I've seen them coming for a long time."

Garfield said the stakeholder process may be the best option for finding a path for developers to gain a certificate. Some might come to the table with their own water supply, such as an agreement with a Native American community for Central Arizona Project water, but those would be special circumstances.

Miller quoted iconic cattleman and member of the Governor's Water Augmentation Council Bas Aja's idiom, "If money can fix the problem, you don't have a problem."

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2 named to Maricopa Economic Development board

Maricopa Economic Development Alliance (MEDA) named two new members to its board of directors. Jason Plotke, co-founder and president of Private Motorsports Group, and Mike Adams, group president of Great Western Bank, were named to the board at the end of the year. MEDA is a 501(c)3 corporation that is the City of Maricopa's private-public partnership for economic development.

Plotke's PMG owns Apex Motor Club, which opened phase one of its motorsports country club in 2019. "The elected leadership and the city staff in Maricopa have been great partners to us as we continue to expand Apex Motor Club in the area," Plotke said. "It is important to me as a business owner to be involved with the communities where we do business. With a commitment to smart economic growth, the mission of MEDA and its board of directors aligns with that philosophy."

Adams manages commercial bankers focusing on commercial, industrial, manufacturing, agricultural and real estate construction lending and deposit activities throughout the state. Great Western's predecessor was the first bank in Maricopa. "Our business philosophy has always been to support the communities where we do business," Adams said. Our local bankers are committed to the City of Maricopa and the ongoing successes of its businesses and residents. I'm happy to join other business leaders on the MEDA board as we continue to advance the City's economic development initiatives."



Mike Adams



Jason Plotke



Angela Mattson, employed at Buff City Soap, shows off the wares. Raquel Hendrickson

Business briefs

Wade Jurney Homes received administrative design review of five plans for 53 lots in the Alterra subdivision.

Volkswagen, continuing to construct its charging station at its facility at 17169 N. Murphy Road, received commercial permits for a small office and a bathroom.

Pinal County's project to expand its court and administrative complex at 19955 N. Wilson Ave. was allowed right of way for potholing to determine future utilities.

Buff City Soap opened its doors Dec. 14 at 21101 N. John Wayne Parkway.

Forestar Real Estate Group received subdivision improvement permits for three parcels in Rancho Mirage Estates.

The former Pet Club at 21145 N. John Wayne Parkway received a commercial tenant improvement permit to expand as a boarding facility and 24/7 pet hospital as **Exceptional Pets Maricopa**.

AAMCO Total Car Care, being constructed at 20215 N. John Wayne Parkway, and the new fire department administration building at 45695 W. Edison Road check out on automatic fire sprinkler systems. **Sacate Pellet Mill's** northside hay company installed a sprinkler system in its office, 38743 W. Cowtown Road.

Global Water Resources received a permit for "minor interior alterations" at its office, 22590 N. Powers Parkway, a project valued in city paperwork at \$680,000.

Clean bill of health for eateries

The 13 food establishments inspected by Pinal County Environmental Health between Nov. 18 and Dec. 17 received squeaky-clean reports.

EXCELLENT [No violations found]

- Children's Learning Adventure
- Copa Craze
- Culver's of Maricopa
- Denny's
- Dickie's Barbecue Pit
- Firehouse Subs
- Francisco's Mexican Food
- The New HQ
- Panda Express
- Raceway Bar & Grill
- Sunrise Café
- Sunrise Preschool
- Tacos 'n' More

SATISFACTORY [Violations corrected during inspections]

None

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

Getting to KNOW

RENEE WOODFORD
HIDDEN BLESSINGS DECOR



Hometown: Chandler
Maricopan since: 2017
Family: Husband of 20+ yrs and 5 grown children
Pets: Samson, our 100-pound labrador
Pet peeve: Someone chewing loudly near me
Like most about Maricopa: Small-town friendliness!

FAVORITE ...
Charity: "Acts" by Central Christian Church
Book: "Love Does" by Bob Goff
Movie: Notting Hill
Restaurant: Bucca di Beppo
Getaway: Oceanside, California
Website: HiddenBlessingsDecor.com
Words to live by: "Just love everybody and I'll sort them out later." – God

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

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Chris J Scoggin, CPA

Focus on your health instead of weight in 2020

By Kristina Donnay, FNP-C

Focus on your health instead of weight in 2020

When it comes to New Year's resolutions, weight loss is one of the most common we set for the new year. Why not stop focusing on the scale and instead focus on your overall health? Do you have brain fog, increased belly fat, poor sleep, anxiety, low libido, irritability or joint pain? You may be a candidate for bioidentical hormone replacement therapy (BHRT).

Hormones coordinate everything from digestion, brain function, immune function, mood, libido and more. As men and women age, our hormones decline or get out of balance having a big impact on our health and well-being.

BHRT pellet therapy is the delivery of hormone replacement via pellets placed under the skin. Data supports this as the

safest and most effective method of BHRT. Pellets are compounded from organic plant materials and have the exact molecular structure of those hormones found naturally in the body. Pellets are about the size of a cooked grain of rice.

Using a painless office procedure, the pellets are inserted under the skin. Medical literature

has shown this delivers a consistent level of hormones into the bloodstream, avoiding the fluctuations that occur when using creams, pills, shots, patches or other methods. In women, pellets last 3 to 4 months; men 4 to 6 months.



Medical Director
Kristina Donnay



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SPONSORED CONTENT

Local Realtor opening new brokerage

By Kyle Norby

Realtor and family man Brian French has had a lot of changes in his busy life. He has retired from coaching soccer after 17 years, married and even left his previous brokerage. French is now focused on opening his own brokerage this month and is determined as ever to continue serving his clients in the Maricopa community any way he can.

Now working as a team leader and manager for the fastest growing residential real estate brokerage in the country, My Home Group, French made it clear his goals and intentions are still the same.

"We help people buy, sell and invest in homes," he said. "I love helping people out, I love taking care of people. I'm also a super-honest guy. I don't sugarcoat anything. If your house smells, I'm gonna tell you it smells."

French is excited to bring the My Home Group brand to Maricopa with his office going in the space that used to be a counseling and treatment center in The Shops at Maricopa business complex.

"A lot of these places, they don't tell their agents how to succeed or try to help them," French explained. "I'll help them, and My Home Group will help them. We don't hide anything we want people to succeed and that's what I like about it. I've joined other brokerages and they don't tell you anything."

French's office also pays for training classes in many sections of real estate to maintain a well-trained team of agents.

Brian has recently gotten married and has grown his family of one child to two.

"I'm remarried to my wife Kwin. She is Filipina. She's a teacher at a high school in Casa Grande," French said with a smile. They now have a 20-month-old daughter together named Kylisse.

Brian and Kwin plan to have a bigger wedding in the Philippines over the summer and have already had a vision of more children in the future.

Brian cited that some of his success and

love for the city of Maricopa comes from his roots in Omaha.

"I'm from Nebraska, so small-town people are super-nice there, and Maricopa reminds me of Nebraska," French said. "It's one of the safest cities in Arizona and probably one of the best for families."

Maricopans that have been clients of Brian in the past have come to call him a friend. A past home seller and buyer, Chandra Gilbert, recalled her emotional time working with French.

"My husband passed away while we were selling our home in Rancho. I haven't talked about it much," Gilbert said. "Brian is dear to

my heart. He was able to sell my home and get me in a house in Homestead that was the perfect fit for me."

Chandra said she is thankful to have Brian in her life and will never forget how he helped her through tragedy. She is one of many clients French has kept relationships with well beyond the paperwork being signed.

With Maricopa's growth expected to double in the next 10 years, there is no shortage of work in the real estate business. Working in sales for over 20 years and real estate for five, French is still learning every day. He said if you are not listening and willing to try new things, you are not doing your best.

"I listen to everybody and anybody on my team," French said. "I don't ever worry about what other people are doing; I just worry about myself and my team."

French reflected on how he believed the real estate industry as a whole should work.

"If you're not making any money, who cares?" he said. "Don't worry about the money. If you just help people, the money will come," French said.

Brian French's My Home Group office is slated to open Jan. 25.

623-451-1916
thebrianfrenchgroup@gmail.com



Kyle Norby

Brian French is opening his own brokerage in January; below with wife Kwim, son Kyler and daughter Kylisse.



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Tax prep tips

By Chris J. Scoggin, CPA, Chaston Taxes and Accounting partner

Individuals

Well, the good news is there were no MAJOR changes in tax year 2019. However, the changes from the Tax Cut and Jobs Act (TCJA) that went into effect in tax year 2018 are still causing some confusion with our clients. So just to refresh:

In 2018, the standard deduction was doubled, so most taxpayers now do not need to itemize deductions.

- If you itemize, you can only deduct up to \$10,000 of state, local and property taxes.
- The personal exemption was eliminated.
- The Child Tax Credit was doubled to \$2,000 per child for ages 16 and under, and \$500 for older children and certain other dependents.

Most of these deductions and credits are inflation adjusted so some of the new tax year 2019 deduction amounts are:

- The standard deduction has increased from \$12,000 to \$12,200 for Single taxpayers and from \$24,000 to \$24,400 for married filing jointly.
- For Traditional (tax deductible) and Roth IRA contributions, you can contribute up to \$6,000, and if you are 50 or older, the contribution limit is \$7,000. These contribution limits may be reduced for higher incomes if you have a retirement plan offered through your employer.

Finally, with the historically low tax rates passed with the TCJA, it is our opinion this MAY provide an opportunity for some taxpayers to accelerate income that will eventually be taxable and pay the tax at this year's (2019 or 2020) reduced rates, before the rates are likely increased at some point in the future. This strategy can be complicated and should be discussed with your CPA and



Chris J. Scoggin

Financial Planner before implementing.

Business

The Business tax questions we have been asked more than any other are what is QBI, and what is a Specified Service Trade or Business (SSTB). QBI or Qualified Business Income is income generated by a qualified small business that has gross receipts of \$25 million or less. QBI allows you to exclude 20% of this income from taxation. This is a huge tax break but it comes with a lot of asterisks!

The first asterisk is this deduction phases out once qualified business income reaches \$321,400 (2019) and is totally eliminated when QBI exceeds \$421,400. There are some very effective planning opportunities if you feel your business income is at or just over these limits. Feel free to give Chaston Taxes and Accounting a call or talk to your accountant for advice.

Lastly, the most asked question is "What is a Specified Service Trade or Business (SSTB)?" The QBI Deduction is not allowed for SSTBs. As a broad generalization, this is a business where the principal asset (and revenue generator) is the reputation, skill or effort of the owner(s). For example, as a CPA and Partner in Chaston Taxes and Accounting, I do not qualify for the QBI deduction. However, if possible, we will ensure you get every deduction allowed under this year's regulations! ☎

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2019

MOST VIEWED

YEAR IN REVIEW

Community Stories



Feb. 20
Credit card skimmers found in Maricopa



Feb. 25
Bad gas haunts Maricopa drivers over weekend



May 17
ADOT seeks condemnation of NAPA site



May 30
Icy eatery coming to Maricopa?

Aug. 2
What's New in Maricopa Development

June 29
Construction worker falls through roof

Aug. 12
HOA cracks down on street parking



Sept. 8
Basement home most expensive sold in Maricopa



Sept. 18
Eatery, hotel planned for plaza development

Sept. 12
'Big Boy' historic locomotive to pass through Maricopa



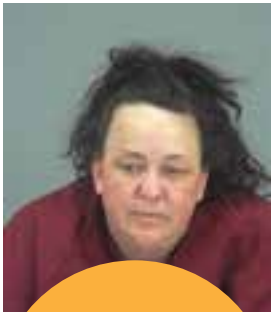
Crime Stories



Jan. 2
Other shoe drops as Maricopa Police nab suspected car burglar



March 5
Cobblestone homeowner shoots intruder



March 19
Woman accused of abusing children to make Youtube videos



May 1
MPD investigation under way in Alterra

May 14
McGangster tries to fight fast-food employees

May 10
White and Parker crash reported as fatal

June 22
Teen dies in MCGH crash



Aug. 16
Threatening voicemails lead to Maricopa woman's arrest

Sept. 18
Murder-suicide reported at Maricopa home

Oct. 28
Fast-food employee accused of stealing credit cards

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3



4



5

1. Ak-Chin Indian Community braved the rain to host the Masik Tas Light Parade Dec. 7. *Raquel Hendrickson*
2. Maricopa Chorus sang carols at Merry Copa with a balloon-glow backdrop. *Kyle Norby*
3. Pinal County Animal Care and Control hosted a dog-adoption event at Raceway Bar & Grill. *Kyle Norby*
4. Consultant Mark Rafferty points to an end date in 2022 on a draft timeline to build a second high school for MUSD. *Raquel Hendrickson*
5. For the first time, Copper Sky Regional Park hosted Arizona Rugby Fest Dec. 14. *Raquel Hendrickson*

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Life with the cotton, the cattle and The Duke

Alice Johnson-McKinney stays on independent path

By Raquel Hendrickson



Alice Kulbeth Johnson-McKinney first traveled from Arkansas to Arizona in 1955 at age 15.

“My dad had a heart condition, and the doctor said, ‘If you lived in a warmer climate and didn’t work so hard, you could increase your life expectancy.’ He had a brother that worked for the mines in Globe, so we sold the house and everything and moved to Arizona.”

It was just the beginning of a remarkable life that included picking cotton, performing country music, waitressing, flipping houses before it was cool, marrying four times (twice to the same man), being caretaker to ailing spouses and standing centerstage in one of the most iconic friendships in Pinal County history.



Submitted

“Oh, she’s a great lady,” said Paul Shirk, president of the Maricopa Historical Society. “And she has so many stories. Every time I talk to her, I hear a story I haven’t heard before.”

People like to ask her for stories about John Wayne, but she likes to share the full history as much as she can while she’s still here and can remember the details.

“There’s not too many of us left, the older farmers,” she said. “We’re getting old and passing on.”

In the 1950s, Johnson-McKinney’s father was a logger and took a little time to land a

job with the Globe mining companies. Back in Arkansas he had played fiddle in a country band that also included 11-year-old Alice on upright bass and her little brother Larry playing mandolin/guitar. They had a regular gig on a local radio station. Based on that youthful experience, Alice and Larry landed jobs in Arizona before their parents did.

She marched into a Globe radio station and said they wanted to play on air and get paid.

“She said, ‘We can’t pay you unless you get sponsors,’” Alice recalled. “So, I went to town to a men’s store, and they said they’d be a sponsor. And I went to a furniture store, and they were a sponsor. We went back to the radio station, so they gave us a 30-minute program on Saturday mornings, and they paid us.”

She also landed a job as a car-hop at a foot-long hot dog place in Chandler.

Johnson-McKinney lasted in Globe through six weeks of school before deciding to return to her grandparents in Arkansas and finish high school in a school with more

amenities. She also picked a lot of cotton on their small farm, up to 300 pounds a day while daydreaming of being a movie star. After graduation, she returned to Arizona.

When she was 19 and Larry was 14, they went to California to make a record. While waiting for their own recording session, Alice ended up recording two lines of a commercial for a clothing outlet because the chosen model could not fake a southern accent. They drew the interest of a talent scout, but their parents were not prepared to quit their jobs in Globe.

By 1965, Alice was married and divorced with a 6-year-old daughter, Becky, when she was waitressing at Copper Hills Restaurant in Globe. The owner, local icon Danko Gurovich, set her up on a blind date with a much-older, well-to-do farmer named Louis Johnson. It definitely was not a meet-cute.

“I was supposed to meet Louis at Durant’s Restaurant in Phoenix. It’s an hour and a half drive from Globe, and I never had gone on a blind date, so I just decided not to go. I didn’t show up,” she said. “Well, apparently he had had John Wayne fly over and was with him at Durant’s. Louis was really embarrassed and took a lot of razzing from the Duke because I didn’t show up.”

Johnson and Wayne had been partners growing cotton in Pinal County since 1958. Widely dubbed the best cotton farmer in the state, Johnson grew up picking cotton in Arizona and bought his first acres near Stanfield for \$50 an acre when he was just 19.

“The Anderson Clayton Company would buy the land for you,” Johnson-McKinney said. “You would agree to use his gins, and then you just paid them back.”



Alice Johnson, proving to her Arizona pals she could pick 300 pounds of cotton a day, always worked in one way or another. Louis Johnson and John Wayne were already business partners when Alice came on the scene. The barn remains on the Stanfield property from the famed 26 Bar Ranch cattle sales.



Kyle Norby



Raquel Hendrickson

The 26 Bar Ranch had headquarters in Stanfield and in Springerville, and Alice Johnson-McKinney keeps books of photos and information in her home office.



Victor Moreno

2010-2019

Decade In Review

Maricopa has seen plenty of ups and downs as the decade came to an end. InMaricopa's top stories over the years paint a picture of how the city of Maricopa took on the 2010s.



2012

- Most viewed story:** New Amtrak schedule frustrates commuters
- Most viewed crime story:** MHS teacher arrested on drug charges
- Top Stories:**
- Construction begins on 90-store upscale outlet center
 - New Mexican restaurant opens this week
 - Multi-tainment center offers job fair, more.

2010

- Most viewed story:** 7 businesses receive permits this week
- Most viewed crime story:** Handgun found at Desert Wind Middle School, 8th grader in custody
- Top Stories:**
- Global Water increases rates
 - Wild horses still run in desert near Maricopa
 - Real estate markets fail to revive



2013

- Most viewed story:** Teen mom expecting ... but not expecting this
- Most viewed crime story:** Former MPD detective accused of theft filed for bankruptcy
- Top Stories:**
- Son wakes mom, saves from house fire
 - Fatal motorcycle accident halts train, traffic
 - See a rattlesnake? Call a firefighter



2014

- Most viewed story:** Copper Sky park, rec center draws near
- Most viewed crime story:** After guilty plea, former realty broker behind bars
- Top Stories:**
- Fry's unveils apparel department
 - ED3 rates compare favorable to APS's
 - Judge Sulley disbarred

2015

- Most viewed story:** Behind the costs: New water rates kick in
- Most viewed crime story:** Bodies found at Papago Road property, arrest made
- Top Stories:**
- ADOT approves overpass funding
 - Battle of the Burbs
 - PCSO investigation leads to 5 Stanfield arrests

- Maricopan drops 110 pounds in 5 months
- Laura Walsh drops new music this weekend



2018

- Most viewed story:** Pinal County prepping December appeal to road-tax ruling
- Most viewed crime story:** Grandson arrested in death of Maricopa woman
- Top Stories:**
- Apex breaks ground on private racetrack after tumultuous year
 - Mom seeks justice in son's fatal hit-and-run
 - Maricopa men arrested after deadly crash on SR 143



2016

- Most viewed story:** Maricopa largest target of 'scary clown' threats
- Most viewed crime story:** Shooting death reported in Rancho El Dorado
- Top Stories:**
- Edison Pointe to bring 130,000 square feet of retail to Maricopa
 - Maricopa homebuilding takes dramatic upswing
 - Q&A with Pinal County sheriff candidates

2019

- Most viewed story:** Eatery, hotel planned for plaza development
- Most viewed crime story:** Woman accused of abusing children to make YouTube videos
- Top Stories:**
- City cuts ribbon on overpass
 - White and Parker crash reported as fatal
 - Murder-suicide reported at Maricopa home

2017

- Most viewed story:** Residents await Edison Pointe
- Most viewed crime story:** Maricopa grieves loss of 4 children in Illinois fire
- Top Stories:**
- Amtrak starts shuttle service in Maricopa

Johnson and Wayne eventually combined their neighboring properties, and Johnson managed the 10,000 acres.

By 1965, when Gurovich tried to be matchmaker, Johnson and Wayne were moving into the cattle business after the federal government cut back on water allotments for cotton. Able to grow cotton on only a section of his land, Johnson created a feedlot.

He and Wayne put together 50,000 acres for a grassland ranch near Springerville in Apache County and bought purebred Herefords, paying over \$100,000 for a single bull. Wayne and Johnson were in the middle of the effort to construct the 26 Bar Ranch when Alice came into the picture.

The day after that failed blind date, Gurovich pushed Alice to call Johnson and apologize. "Out of sympathy, I made another date with him because he asked me to bring Becky along. So, I said, "That's pretty smart."

That first date was to the ranch he and Wayne were putting together. "Everyone" had told Alice how smart Johnson was. While that was not her first impression, she said she soon learned "everyone" was right. Johnson was intelligent, wise and a heck of a farmer.



"He wasn't a big man, but his heart made up for it."

She dated Johnson for a while, but Becky's father came back into the picture. She decided to try marriage with him again for Becky's sake. Not only did it break Johnson's heart, but it didn't take. "You should never marry a person a second time, because the problems are still there."

When she divorced again, Johnson was

Alice and Louis Johnson married in 1969 and moved to his farm between Maricopa and Stanfield.

waiting for her.

"We were very compatible," she said. "Before we got married, we talked about a lot of things. It seemed like everything that suited him suited me... We were able to converse about everything."

Johnson-McKinney said a level of trust built because she would never take money from him while they were dating. "I had a job and I was able to pay my bills and I had my own house."

She also worked at a bank for a time and at Roosevelt Lake Estates, where she waitressed.

She married Louis Johnson in 1969, and they moved to the ranch between Stanfield and Maricopa, where they were surrounded by cotton.

"When I first came here in '69, I don't think the road had been paved that many years," she said of Maricopa. "It looked like Stanfield. It had a bar and a service station and a small grocery store."

Never one to be idle, she got to work in the four-acre yard and planted trees all over the property. She wanted evergreens to remind her of the pines in Arkansas. She and her brother stuccoed the 17-year-old, block house, a large but modest home.

Still sensing she was bored and a little isolated as a young woman used to working, Johnson had friend Verna Cooper take his wife to a meeting of the Cotton Wives Club, part of the Arizona Cotton Growers Association. Under Cooper's wing, Alice joined the club and eventually became president. She still maintains friendships from the group.

Johnson and Wayne had started their annual cattle sale in 1968 at the Stanfield farm. He and Wayne trucked bulls and heifers down from Springerville. The sale started small but grew to national renown.

"One year we had ranches represented from 37 states," Johnson-McKinney said. "John Wayne being a partner didn't hurt any, as far as people wanted to see him, but the cattle were very good. That took precedent over celebrities."

See the rest of the story at InMaricopa.com.

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Q&A with Maricopa Police Chief Steve Stahl

By Raquel Hendrickson

After eight years on the job as Maricopa's top cop, Chief Steve Stahl talked with InMaricopa about the challenges of policing a growing community, trends he finds the most disturbing, the use of on-body cameras, why he is jealous of Oro Valley and what he considers the department's biggest failure last year (it may not be what you think.)

Stahl came to Maricopa Police Department in 2011 as the interim chief and became chief in 2012.

How is Maricopa Police Department adapting to the growth of the city?

We have people who come with preconceived notions. They come with a set of expectations that they're used to in their prior jurisdictions. Those are challenges sometimes to us to educate them on, "That doesn't apply here in Arizona," or "That doesn't apply in Maricopa." The biggest challenge regarding growth is the set of expectations that we are, one, trying to address, trying to meet with these citizens, but also trying to educate everyone on what is a realistic goal for us to accomplish together.

For the past year, what has concerned you the most?

I do not believe that we've done a sufficient job in educating parents and children about the dangers of vaping. It is deadly, it is serious and it is still such a new thing that people haven't had time listen to or research the scientific studies. And all the scientific studies say it is a dangerous thing. So those are some of the dangers. I worry about our youth because it leads to other activities with our youth. Vaping won't give them the sufficient high, so they have to go to a different drug, which may be marijuana. Today's marijuana is nowhere even close to the marijuana concentrations that were out there when I was growing up. It is much stronger, it is much more dangerous.

How is the on-body camera program affecting police work?

I think it's affecting it greatly to the positive. In fact, if you polled our police officers, if you went out and rode with them on the street, you won't see them go out on the street without their on-body camera. They want



GETTING TO KNOW CHIEF STEVE STAHL

Hometown: Redfield, South Dakota
Age: 58
Family: Wife Liz, two adult daughters
Education: Master's degree, Northern Arizona University
Previous work: Mesa Police Department (1987-2012), Enterprise leasing sales

to have that protection. It serves a couple different purposes. They can use it as a tool to de-escalate an angry or upset person. They can remind that person that they're recording this incident, and that usually calms the situation down. Our officers use it for report-writing so they are able to remember certain details they might forget, so our report-writing is better. And we've heard that both from our city prosecutors and from our county attorney. Finally, I think it's a great training tool. Our officers can watch themselves and our training unit can watch the video and formulate some training scenarios from that video so we can learn and be better at what we do.

What was MPD's biggest failure last year?

I still think one of the failures that we still need to address, all of us, not just the police department, is the seriousness of domestic violence. We have to get beyond, "This is a private matter and should only be addressed as a family." We have to get rid of our ego and we have to get rid of our self-pride and we have to reach out for help. I don't mean that I want us as a police department to criticize and/or be the state officials of domestic violence. What I mean by that is we now have a service available. We have a family advocacy center that you don't have to report a crime to,

but you can call for services and that system will set you up in the services so that you don't have to be involved in the system. That's what I'm hoping we can do a better job of. As a police department, as a community, we had one death, and that was a domestic violence situation. One is too many. It's unacceptable. We still need to address that collectively.

MPD and the fire department take up 50% of the city budget. How do you stay fiscally accountable?

That's an interesting question. I believe, and I've said this before to our city council people, we are if you compare us to other police departments throughout the state, we are well under most of those police departments. If you look at Oro Valley PD, who prides themselves on being the second-safest city in the state of Arizona, they have 2.5 officers per 1,000 residents. They have 43,000 residents, and they have 108 police officers. I could do a lot with 108 police officers.

Video highlights

Diversity in the ranks

"It's going to take years to get the female population in law enforcement where it needs to be."

Policy for on-body cameras

"It is left up to the discretion of the officer."

MPD biggest successes of 2019

"I'm going to brag about our family advocacy center, first and foremost."

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7

1. Maricopa High School dancers put on a show for their recital Dec. 6.

Victor Moreno

2. The Maricopa High School boys' soccer team started its season 3-3.

Raquel Hendrickson

3. MHS junior Brooke Smith and the girls' basketball team opened with an 8-3 record.

Raquel Hendrickson

4. CERT's John Mulquin helps gather donations for Maricopa Fire/Medical Department's Ride for Toys drive.

Kyle Norby

5. Leading Edge eighth grader Elijah Tanon finished second in the Maricopa Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving Day.

Raquel Hendrickson

6. MHS senior Freya Abraham was named a semi-finalist for both the revered Flinn Scholarship and the Coca-Cola Scholarship.

Submitted

7. The girls' soccer team at MHS, here listening to the national anthem, outscored opponents 22-6 for the first month of the season.

Raquel Hendrickson

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Letter grades a reality check for Maricopa schools

By Raquel Hendrickson

When the accounting was done for last school year, Maricopa had moved from having three A-rated schools to one A-rated school. But other schools were happy to see growth.

Fourteen schools in Maricopa were assessed by the Arizona Department of Education for the 2018-19 school year. Nine of them are in Maricopa Unified School District while the others are charter schools. The elementary and secondary schools at Sequoia Pathway were looked as a hybrid for a combined score, but results were also given individually.

K-8 and high school have slightly different measuring tools and different ranges for letter grades, but both have much of the scoring weight in student growth. Student growth is measured in proficiency and subgroup improvement. “Subgroups” are determined by economically disadvantaged, special education and other factors.

Pima Butte Elementary School, an A school last year, excelled by earning 1.5 points more. That gave the MUSD school a percentage of 99.35, the highest in Pinal County. A dearth of English Language Learners made the school eligible for only 90 points rather than 100.

“Pima Butte Elementary School has a smaller ELL population than a number of our elementary sites and as a result that portion of the state’s school letter grade calculation is

not a factor to Pima Butte’s overall score and rating,” Principal Randy Lazar said.

When a school already rates “excellent,” showing even more growth can be difficult. But Pima Butte found a way to squeeze in the extra and increase its percentage.

“Under the Acceleration/Readiness section, we earned a couple more points in 2019,” Lazar said. “This helped raise our overall points.”

Among Pinal County schools, 65 percent earned a C-rating or lower.

High schools benefited from better reporting in the way the Department of Education scored the College and Career Readiness Indicators category. Maricopa High, again C-rated, moved very close to a B based on CCRI while Sequoia Pathway jumped into the B category as its CCRI points grew from 11.8 to 18.6.

“2018 was a baseline year for all of our schools, and several points were lost as we were determining the process for data gathering and reporting,” said Mark Plitzuweit, CEO of Edkey Inc., the parent company for Pathway. “Some of our principals reported more accurate information for 2018 than others. 2019 brought the focus on maximizing those points for all of our Edkey Inc. secondary schools.”

He said the result of “judicious” data gathering across the Edkey organization resulting in important CCRI growth.

“We expect these results to be stable in the years to come,” Plitzuweit said.

Though Pathway’s secondary school moved from 69.77 in 2018 to 77.75 in 2019, there were several staffing changes after the school year, including around 10 faculty resignations and terminations during the first semester of this year, with several posts filled by long-term substitutes. The impact on the next assessments is guesswork.

Noting MHS scored 68.5 and needed 70.2 for a B, MUSD Governing Board member Patti Coutr  said during a November meeting, “The smallest amount of points can make a big difference... Even though they’re still a C, they’ve significantly increased every year for the last three years. So, they’re making progress. That’s always good to see.”

MUSD’s two middle schools, however, have low C ratings. Desert Wind dropped from 66.8 to 62.87 while Maricopa Wells had only a fraction of a point difference in its results.

MUSD’s Butterfield Elementary, which had jumped from a C to an A last year, lost some growth points to score a high B. Legacy Traditional School, a charter usually posting an A, had a similar fate as a decline in growth points left it with a high B rating. Leading Edge Academy, also a charter, last year was less than a point from an A but this year moved to a low B.

Saddleback Elementary gained growth points and went from being MUSD’s only C-rated elementary to earning a solid B rating.

Meanwhile, the charter school Holsteiner Agricultural School saw all its numbers tumble to fall from a C to an F. According to the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools, Holsteiner dropped its charter because of low enrollment.

School letter grade quantitative measurements are a mix of federal and state requirements. Schools are assessed on their proficiency and growth in English language arts and math, the proficiency and growth of ELL students, graduation rates, absenteeism, growth of subgroups and results of ACT or SAT, “or earning an industry credential, certificate or license.”

Dennis Koch, director of Assessment Technology at MUSD, reminded board members the district has a goal of “being a highly performing district with school letter grades of B and higher.”

- A Excellent
- B Highly performing
- C Performing
- D Minimally performing
- F Failing

	2018	2019	Points Eligible
--	------	------	-----------------

MARICOPA HIGH SCHOOL

Proficiency	12.13	12.71	30
Growth	15.1	12.89	20
EL Gr/Pr	6	8	10
Graduation	19	14	20
CCRI	12.4	17.9	20
Bonus	2	3	6
Total Points	66.63	65.50	
Percentage	66.63%	68.5%	

SEQUOIA PATHWAY 9-12 CHARTER

Proficiency	13.83	15.55	30
Growth	15.16	13.13	20
EL Gr/Pr	--	--	10
Graduation	20	20	20
CCRI	11.8	18.60	20
Bonus	2	3	6
Total Points	62.79	67.28	
Percentage	69.77%	77.75%	

BUTTERFIELD ELEMENTARY

Proficiency	19.49	21.72	30
Growth	49.34	43.18	50
EL Gr/Pr	10	7	10
A&R	10	10	10
Bonus	3.5	2	5
Total Points	92.33	68.99	
Percentage	92.33%	72.49%	

DESERT WIND MIDDLE SCHOOL

Proficiency	14.05	17.44	30
Growth	34.03	28.43	50
EL Gr/Pr	6	5	10
A&R	10	10	10
Bonus	2	2	5
Total Points	66.08	60.87	
Percentage	66.08%	62.87%	

HOLSTEINER AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL (CHARTER)

Proficiency	12.87	10.34	30
Growth	44.79	29.17	50
EL Gr/Pr	--	--	10
A&R	4	2	10
Bonus	1.5	0	5
Total Points	63.16	41.51	
Percentage	70.17%	46.12%	

LEADING EDGE ACADEMY (CHARTER)

Proficiency	20.93	20.45	30
Growth	39.79	36.92	50
EL Gr/Pr	10	7	10
A&R	10	8	10
Bonus	3.5	2	5
Total Points	84.22	72.37	
Percentage	84.22%	74.37%	

LEGACY TRADITIONAL SCHOOL (CHARTER)

Proficiency	26.72	26.47	30
Growth	43.18	36.63	50
EL Gr/Pr	9	10	10
A&R	10	10	10
Bonus	3	1.5	5
Total Points	91.9	83.10	
Percentage	91.9%	84.60%	

MARICOPA ELEMENTARY

Proficiency	17.9	18.66	30
Growth	46.28	43.08	50
EL Gr/Pr	8	10	10
A&R	10	10	10
Bonus	2	2	5
Total Points	84.17	81.74	
Percentage	84.17%	83.74%	

MARICOPA WELLS MIDDLE SCHOOL

Proficiency	15.83	13.25	30
Growth	30.29	29.44	50
EL Gr/Pr	4	8	10
A&R	10	10	10
Bonus	2	2	5
Total Points	62.12	60.68	
Percentage	62.12%	62.68%	

PIMA BUTTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Proficiency	26.88	26.63	30
Growth	48.16	48.28	50
EL Gr/Pr	--	--	10
A&R	8	10	10
Bonus	5	5	5
Total Points	88.04	84.91	
Percentage	97.82%	99.35%	

SADDLEBACK ELEMENTARY

Proficiency	16.42	18.14	30
Growth	33.03	37.49	50
EL Gr/Pr	10	9	10
A&R	8	10	10
Bonus	2	2	5
Total Points	69.45	74.63	
Percentage	69.45%	76.63%	

SEQUOIA PATHWAY K-8 CHARTER

Proficiency	18.79	18.09	30
Growth	32.04	33.90	50
EL Gr/Pr	3	7	10
A&R	10	10	10
Bonus	3.5	3.5	5

Total Points	67.33	68.99	
Percentage	67.33%	72.49%	

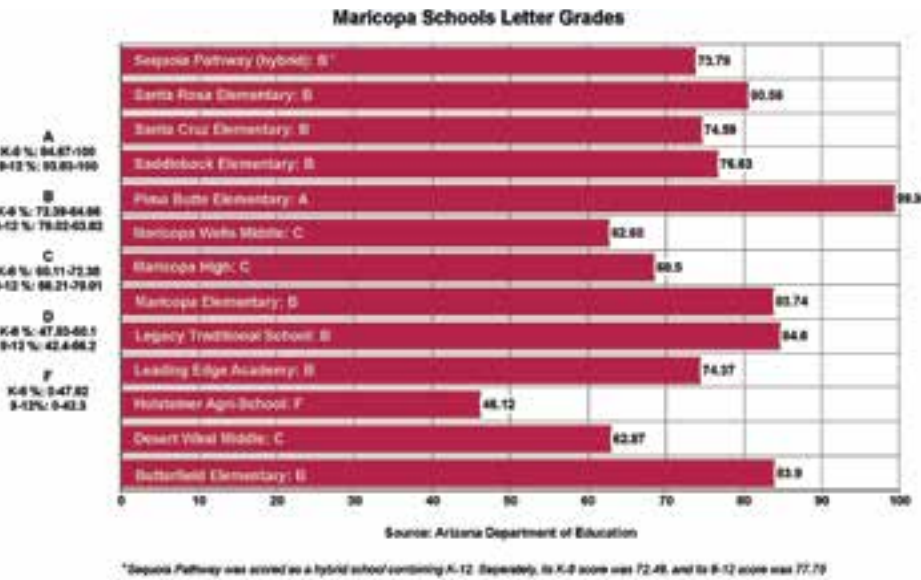
SANTA CRUZ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Proficiency	21.6	20.36	30
Growth	43.69	32.73	50
EL Gr/Pr	4	10	10
A&R	10	8	10
Bonus	3.5	3.5	5
Total Points	82.79	71.09	
Percentage	82.79%	74.59%	

SANTA ROSA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Proficiency	19.59	20.89	30
Growth	44.69	38.16	50
EL Gr/Pr	6	8	10
A&R	10	10	10
Bonus	3.5	3.5	5
Total Points	83.78	77.06	
Percentage	83.78%	80.56%	

EL Gr/Pr means English Language growth and proficiency. CCRI is college and career readiness indicators. A&R means acceleration and readiness measures.







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CAVIT, CTE prepare high schoolers for career

By Bernadette Russoniello

Students in Arizona have unique opportunities to earn both academic credit while learning technical skills and workplace standards for a variety of business and industry career fields. Career Technical Education (CTE) provides students with a robust offering of technical standards, work-based learning, employability skills and hands-on learning. The goal of CTE programs is simple: Graduate students with both the academic preparedness and job-ready skills for success in college and career. CTE students who participate and finish a career pathway (2+ year program of study) are more likely to finish their high school diploma, continue



Bernadette Russoniello

to post-secondary education and advance faster in their workplace than their non-CTE peers.

Program examples:

- **Air Force Junior Officer Training Corps Aerospace Science and Leadership.** Completers (2 years) enlist at higher rank and pay than non-ROTC students.
- **Automotive Technologies.** Learn the essentials of transmission, breaks, electrical, engine performance, engine repair, etc. Students take the Automotive Service Excellence certifications.
- **Digital Photography.** Learn the basics of photography, digital imaging and Adobe Photoshop, explore creative styles, run a portrait studio for senior photos.
- **Engineering.** Utilize project-based learning to show students how math and science provide the foundation for modern engineering.
- **Graphic Design.** Create illustrations, logos, photography and typography using advanced equipment and software. Earn Adobe Associate Certification.
- **Marketing.** Leaders in marketing, management, hospitality and finance focuses on entrepreneurship, social media, Google certifications
- **Information Technology, Networking and Computer Maintenance.** Help students develop critical thinking and complex problem-solving skills. Students

- prepare to take the CCENT professional certification exam.
- **Sports Medicine.** Earn Emergency Medical Responder, First-Aid and CPR while identifying symptoms of sports injuries and developing skills in injury prevention.
- **Technical Theatre.** Learn the elements of Event Production including set design and lighting, sound design and audio engineering and set construction.
- **Cosmetology.** Work toward state license for hair styling while earning 44 credits toward an Associate's Degree in Cosmetology at Eastern Arizona College.
- **Dental Assisting.** Obtain two Dental Assisting National Board industry certifications, as well as OSHA 10-Hour Healthcare and CPR instruction.
- **Fire Science.** Sit for industry certifications throughout the course of the program, including Wildlands Fire, Fire Fighter I and II and/or EMT.
- **Law Enforcement.** Students are eligible to apply for security guard state certification when they reach age 18.
- **Nurse Assisting.** First Year Program: Training on CPR, OSHA, Career Guidance and Direct Care Worker; Second Year Program: Training on Licensed Nursing Assistant
- **Veterinary Assisting.** Prepare for immediate employment as a veterinary assistant and college veterinary technician education.

MHS CTE: BRussoniello@musd20.org; CAVIT: CavittSchools.com

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

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Cobblestone sports most-expensive home sold in 2019



Kyle Norby

With six bedrooms, it was one of the largest and was certainly the most expensive home sold in Maricopa in 2019.

A 4,380-square-foot Fulton Home at 22737 N. Sunset Drive in Cobblestone Farms was sold by its owner/agent for \$470,000 in August. It had previously been on the market 11 years earlier for \$359,900. The house not only went through major remodeling with lots of custom accessories but also had prime location on a cul-de-sac next to a greenbelt and overlooking a community water feature.

The home included a swimming pool, a spa and a gym. Besides the three-car garage, there was parking for up to three vehicles on its long driveway.

Built in 2005, the house was on the market two months. It sold for \$10,000 under its asking price.

In the city, the house with the next-highest selling price was a four-bedroom, four-bath home in Province that went for \$440,000. Province had six homes in the Top 10 most-expensive homes of the year. Two were in Cobblestone Farms, one in Rancho El Dorado and one in Homestead North.

Local Realtor pays for homeowner upgrades

Dayv Morgan takes risk to ensure clients sell homes quickly, for maximum value

When it's time to sell or invest in a home, Maricopans have a unique opportunity to benefit from using a local agent who is so committed to selling a home that he's willing to pay out of his own pocket for improvements. Dayv Morgan of HomeSmart Success offers to cover the costs of renovating and updating a home before putting it on the market, in order to increase its value and marketability.

All homes experience wear-and-tear over the years, and Dayv counters that by installing new carpet, fresh paint and even full kitchen remodels when necessary. The selling price can then be increased to cover, and usually exceed, the cost of the improvements.

"Move-in ready homes sell much faster and for a significantly higher amount," he commented. "When a buyer walks into a home that looks and feels like it was just built, because it has new paint, flooring, and appliances, they will pay a premium."

Dayv, who sells over 100 homes annually, advised that such improvements not only help the seller make more money but also benefit the buyer as well. "Most buyers in Maricopa don't have the money, after they buy a house, to fix it up. They would much rather pay a slightly higher price and finance the upgrades through the mortgage. If they paid \$10,000 for improvements and put it on a credit card they would end up paying 14 to 18 percent interest.



Dayv Morgan

If that \$10,000 is instead done by the seller and included in the price of mortgage, now they're only paying 4 or 5 percent."

The program Dayv developed allows a seller to access his pool of preferred contractors, with whom he has negotiated reduced fees, or sellers can use their own referrals to make the repairs. Regardless of who completes the work, he pays up front for the improvements and is reimbursed from the proceeds of the sale, without charging any interest to the seller.

The idea came to him after seeing companies like Open Door and HomeVestors "low-ball" sellers to buy their home as-is, and then after making a few cosmetic improvements they would list the home on the MLS and resell it for a profit. He was surprised to see how much equity owners were giving away by selling their home direct to an investor. As a listing agent he created a process that allows sellers to "flip their own house" and keep the profit themselves. "It



doesn't cost the owners anything out of pocket, and it increases their return," Dayv noted. "It's a win-win for everyone involved — the buyer, the seller, myself as the Realtor, and even the city of Maricopa as it helps the neighborhood values to increase."

A 14-year resident of Maricopa, Dayv Morgan lives in the Palo Brea subdivision with his wife and four sons.

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**MOST
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Kyle Norby

1. 44557 W. Granite Drive, Cobblestone Farms

The most expensive home sold in Maricopa Nov. 16-Dec. 15 is a two-story, five-bedroom home with a private pool and a putting green. On the market several times since 2006, it sold for 48% above its previous selling price in 2015. On market for three months, it sold for its asking price.

Sold: Dec. 13

Purchase price: \$369,900

Square footage: 3,721

Price per square foot: \$99.41

Days on market: 94

Builder: Fulton Homes

Year built: 2005

Bedrooms: 5

Bathrooms: 3

Community: Cobblestone Farms

Features: Granite countertops, soaking tub, three-car garage plus three-car parking slab, heated pool, extended patio

Listing Agent: Lauren Rosin, West USA Realty

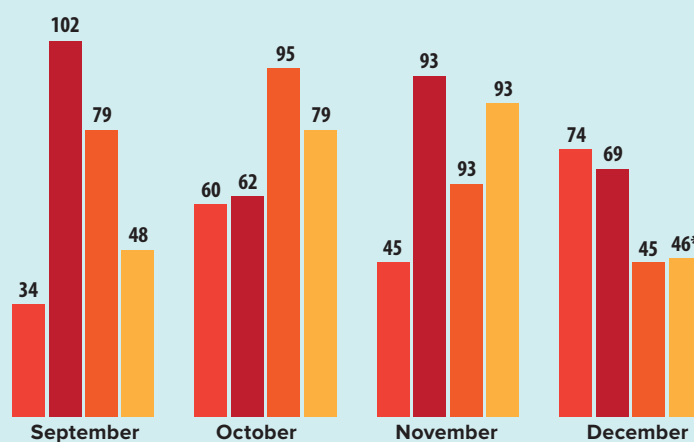
Selling Agent: Davee Jacobs, Long Realty Uptown

2. 22693 N. Sunset Drive, Cobblestone Farms	\$345,000
3. 21550 N. Backus Drive, Rancho El Dorado	\$335,000
4. 40615 W. Dennis Lane, Smith Farms	\$324,000
5. 41941 W. Monteverde Court, Glennville	\$322,000

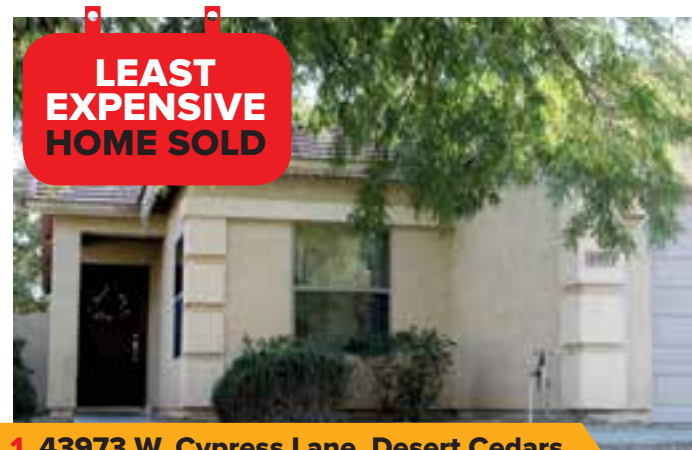
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*Dec. 1-18



Kyle Norby

1. 43973 W. Cypress Lane, Desert Cedars

The least expensive home sold in Maricopa Nov. 15-Dec. 15 was a one-story, three-bedroom home in Desert Cedars. It previously served as a rental property on Cypress Lane. On the market for two months, it sold for its asking price.

Sold: Nov. 27

Purchase price: \$180,000

Square footage: 1,455

Price per square foot: \$123.71

Days on market: 58

Builder: Lennar

Year built: 2005

Bedrooms: 3

Bathrooms: 2

Community: Desert Cedars

Features: New carpet, covered patio, eat-in kitchen with breakfast bar, near Copper Sky

Listing Agent: Jill Comfort, Comfort Realty

Selling Agent: Brandy Karczewski, United Brokers Group

2. 42442 W. Mira St., Santa Rosa Springs	\$181,000
3. 42332 W. Michaels Drive, Rancho El Dorado	\$184,800
4. 43735 W. Carey Drive, Rancho El Dorado	\$185,000
5. 42332 W. Colby Drive, Rancho El Dorado	\$186,000

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


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Winter is coming: Protect your plants from frost

By Rita Bricker

As I write this, today's high temperature is projected to be 71 degrees. However, you aficionados of "Game of Thrones" know to heed the warning. Winter is coming.

And with winter comes the potential for frost or even a freeze in our low desert. Light frost is defined as temperatures between 29 and 32 degrees. Significant damage will occur only to succulents or very tender plants at those temperatures.

A moderate freeze or killing frost occurs when temperatures dip as low as 25 degrees. The moisture in plant cells freezes and bursts, damaging most vegetation and foliage. Even root-hardy perennials can be significantly affected.

A drop in temperature to below 25 degrees constitutes a severe freeze that can lead to desiccation and death to almost all plants.

So how can we prepare for the eventuality of an overnight frost or freeze?

First, know what kinds of plants you have and what their cold tolerance is. Many cool-season vegetables like broccoli, spinach, peas, carrots, lettuce and radishes can thrive in the cold, as can most plants native to our area. On the other hand, bougainvillea, geraniums, succulents, citrus trees and perennial bulbs are quite sensitive to frost and must be protected.

Next, determine what kind of protection is best suited to your plants. Citrus and young fruit trees will benefit from having their trunks wrapped all the way to the ground with burlap, towels, or even cardboard.

Vulnerable potted plants should be brought indoors when frost or freeze is predicted. If just a light frost is on the way,

it will probably be sufficient to bring these tender plants up under the porch and near the walls of the house which may retain some warmth from the daytime sun.

Shrubs may need to be covered overnight. It is important to cover these plants all the way down to the ground and to do so before dusk so daytime warmth from the soil is not lost. Sheets, blankets and towels will all suffice. White frost cloth, which can be purchased by the foot at most garden centers, is especially nice to use because it can be left on the plant even during the daytime, as it allows sunlight to penetrate.

Other methods include warming water-filled milk jugs in the daytime sun and placing them around sensitive plants, along with some covering. The jugs retain warmth longer than the surrounding air and ground. You may also water your plants just before a freeze. As the moisture is released from the wet soil it actually warms the air around the plants.

A final thought: Leave freeze-damaged plants alone until spring. When you see new growth sprouting, then you can prune away any frost damage.



Rita Bricker

2020 Maricopa real estate could look a lot like 2019

By Dayv Morgan

2019 continued last year's trend of increasing home sales, increasing home prices and decreasing active listings. And then there were the home starts.

June's 112 homebuilding permits would have seemed amazing were it not for July's whopping 148. Though a little less than last year, the year's total of 967 is 178% more than the total in 2015. So, home construction continued to play a big part in Maricopa real estate.

The rise in prices has been steady but modest. While the median sale price of \$227,000 was 7% higher than last year, well ahead of the Valley's growth of 4%, it still trailed the Phoenix Valley median price of \$248,100, a fact that keeps homebuyers interested in Maricopa.

Demand and the cost of materials and labor for new construction played roles in Maricopa's marketplace.

People were buying homes more quickly in 2019, and the year-end active listings were lower than normal with just 346. Lower inventory is a nationwide trend likely to continue in 2020, helping average prices continue to rise.

Most of Arizona's housing market is predicted to stay pretty hot through most of 2020. At the same, time mortgage rates are

expected to stay low. So, buyers and sellers could be in for an exciting time.

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



Dayv Morgan

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MARICOPA DATA

	Jan. 1, 2018	Dec. 1, 2018	Dec. 1, 2019
Median sold price	\$190,000	\$212,000	\$227,000
Average sold price	\$204,000	\$214,000	\$232,000
Ratio of original list price to sold price	97.7%	97.4%	98%
Active Listings	428	406	346
Average days on market	60	66	55
	2017	2018	2019
Homes sold in first 11 months	1,805	1,906	2,005
Single-family house building permits Jan. 1-Dec. 18	789	993	967



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Seniors, don't stress the small stuff

By Joan Koczor

As we begin the New Year it might be a good time to re-think our priorities.

Several articles focusing on ... between age 65 and death give axioms of how we should rethink our "Golden Years." Some of the suggestions you may find thought-provoking. Others you may not agree with.

Use the money you've saved. Use it and enjoy it. Stop worrying about the financial situation of your children and grandchildren. Don't feel bad spending your money on yourself. You've taken care of them for many years, and you've taught them what you could. You gave them an education, food, shelter and support. The responsibility is now theirs to earn their own money.

Adapt a healthy lifestyle. Do moderate exercise like walking every day. If you are more ambitious, join a health club. Eat well and get sufficient rest. Stay in good shape and

be aware of your medical and physical needs. As we age, it seems easier to become sick, and more difficult to remain healthy. Keep in touch with your doctor, do tests even when you're feeling well. Stay informed.



Joan Koczor

We experience pain and discomfort more as we get older. Try not to dwell on them but accept them as a part of the cycle of life we're all going through. Minimize them in your mind. They are not who you are, they are something that life added to you. If they become your entire focus, you lose sight of the person you used to be.

Don't stress over the little things. You've already overcome so much in your life. You have good memories and bad ones, but the important thing is the present. Don't let the past drag you down and don't let the future frighten you. Feel good in the now. Small issues will soon be forgotten.

Laugh a lot. Remember, you are one of the lucky ones. You managed to have a life, a long one. Many never get to this age, never get to experience a full life. But you did. So, what's not to laugh about? Find the humor in your situation.

Have pride in yourself and what you've achieved. Your history, your memories and the life you've lived so far. There's still much to be written. Don't waste time thinking about what others might think. Now is the time to sit back and enjoy. Be at peace and as happy as you can be.

Mark Twain may have said it best: "Life would be infinitely happier if we could only be born at the age of 80 and gradually approach 18."

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

Get serious about smoke, CO detector alarms

By Al Brandenburg

Most homes in Maricopa are just over 10 years old, and 10 years is the useful life expectancy of the original smoke detectors built into our homes. If you haven't already replaced your smoke detectors, then it's time to get serious about doing it now.



Al Brandenburg

You might be diligent about replacing your batteries to quiet the low-battery chirping, but it is important to check the date of manufacture and date of expiration listed on the back side of the detector. If your home is more than 10 years old, the unit most likely has expired and may not sound an alarm if there is a fire even with fresh batteries. Licensed electricians can provide new detectors and install them for you. You can also buy them and install them yourself. They are not expensive.

The easiest solution is to buy exact replacements of the smoke detectors you have now, using the same bases, wiring and connectors. (Remember to turn off the circuit breaker controlling the smoke detector first.) To disconnect the old alarm twist it, and it will drop down so the wires can be disconnected. Then plug in the new unit's wire connector and twist it onto the base. No tools required.

Consider installing new alarms with 10-year lithium-ion batteries instead of regular alkaline batteries. Whatever way you choose to do it, do it now. It's time.

Death from carbon monoxide poisoning can occur within minutes. You can help keep your family safe by using a carbon monoxide (CO) detector, which can alert you to the presence of this odorless, silent toxic gas.

Fuel-burning appliances such as gas stoves, gas dryers, gas water heaters and gas furnaces are generally well-designed, tested and safe to use, but over time components can age and get clogged. Should there be a clogged vent or any part of the appliance becomes faulty, hazardous levels of carbon monoxide could be released in your home.

When your CO detector is beeping:

- DO NOT IGNORE the beeping of the alarm.
- Open all windows to get air ventilation
- Turn off any gas appliances
- After the home has been ventilated, reset the carbon monoxide detectors
- If the detectors do not sound the alarm again, to ensure your safety call a qualified technician to inspect and repair any gas problems.
- Should the alarm sound a second time, call 911.
- If the alarm did not go off, but the unit is chirping, replace the battery and check the expiration date inside the unit to see if the unit needs replacing.



If anyone is showing symptoms of CO poisoning:

- Get everyone (including your pets) out of the house immediately.
- Call 911.
- Do not re-enter the home until emergency services has indicated it is safe to return.

CO alarms need replacing every five to seven years. You can get more advice from Maricopa Fire Department at the non-emergency phone number, 520-568-3673.

Al Brandenburg is the director and secretary of Maricopa Senior Coalition.

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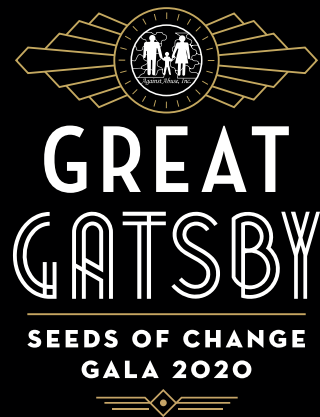
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Calendar

JANUARY

- 6**
Maricopa Historical Society: Father Kino
5:30 p.m., Maricopa Public Library
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road
- 7**
MHS Boys' Soccer vs. Sunnyside
4 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.
- MHS Girls' Soccer vs. Sunnyside**
6 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.
- City Council Meeting**
7 p.m., Maricopa City Hall
39700 W. Civic Center Plaza
- MHS Girls' Basketball vs. Campo Verde**
7 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.
- 8**
MUSD Governing Board Meeting
6:30 p.m., Maricopa Unified School District
44150 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande Hwy.
- Pathway Boys' Basketball vs. Canyon State**
7 p.m., Sequoia Pathway Academy
19287 N. Porter Road
- 9**
MHS Girls' Basketball vs. Notre Dame
7 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.
- 11**
Copa City Dems Meeting
4 p.m., Copper Sky Police Substation
17985 N. Greythorn Drive
- 14**
Pathway Girls' Basketball vs. Imagine-Surprise
5:30 p.m., Sequoia Pathway Academy
19287 N. Porter Road
- Heritage Boys' Basketball vs. San Tan**
6:30 p.m., Heritage Academy
41000 W. Heroes Way
- Pathway Boys' Basketball vs. Imagine-Coolidge**
7 p.m., Sequoia Pathway Academy
19287 N. Porter Road

- 16**
Heritage Boys' Basketball vs. Madison
6 p.m., Heritage Academy
41000 W. Heroes Way
- Pathway Boys' Basketball vs. ASU Prep**
7 p.m., Sequoia Pathway Academy
19287 N. Porter Road
- 17**
MHS Girls' Basketball vs. Higley
7 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.
- 18**
Family Fishing Day 2020
8 a.m., Copper Sky Regional Park
44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
- Copa Glow Night Market**
4-9 p.m., Copper Sky Recreation Complex
44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
- 21**
MHS Boys' Basketball vs. Casteel
7 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.
- 22**
MUSD Governing Board Meeting
6:30 p.m., Maricopa Unified School District
44150 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande Hwy.
- 23**
MHS Wrestling vs. North
4 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.
- Pathway Girls' Basketball vs. ASU Prep**
7 p.m., Sequoia Pathway Academy
19287 N. Porter Road
- 24**
MHS Girls' Soccer vs. Goldwater
6 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.
- MHS Boys' Basketball vs. Gilbert**
7 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.
- 25-26**
Maricopa Disc Golf Open
8 a.m., Copper Sky Recreation Complex
44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

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Calendar

25 Senior Expo
10 a.m., Copper Sky Multigenerational Center
44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

28 MHS Girls' Soccer vs. Campo Verde
5 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

Heritage Boys' Basketball vs. Summit
6 p.m., Heritage Academy
41000 W. Heroes Way

MHS Boys' Basketball vs. Campo Verde
7 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

MHS Boys' Soccer vs. Campo Verde
7 p.m., Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

Pathway Girls' Basketball vs. Basis-Chandler
7 p.m., Sequoia Pathway Academy
19287 N. Porter Road

Pathway Girls' Basketball vs. Mission Heights
7 p.m., Sequoia Pathway Academy
19287 N. Porter Road

Heritage Boys' Basketball vs. Basis-Scottsdale
6:30 p.m., Heritage Academy
41000 W. Heroes Way

Feb. 1 ArtsFest Maricopa "Song and Story"
7 p.m., Maricopa Performing Arts Center
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

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

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

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

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