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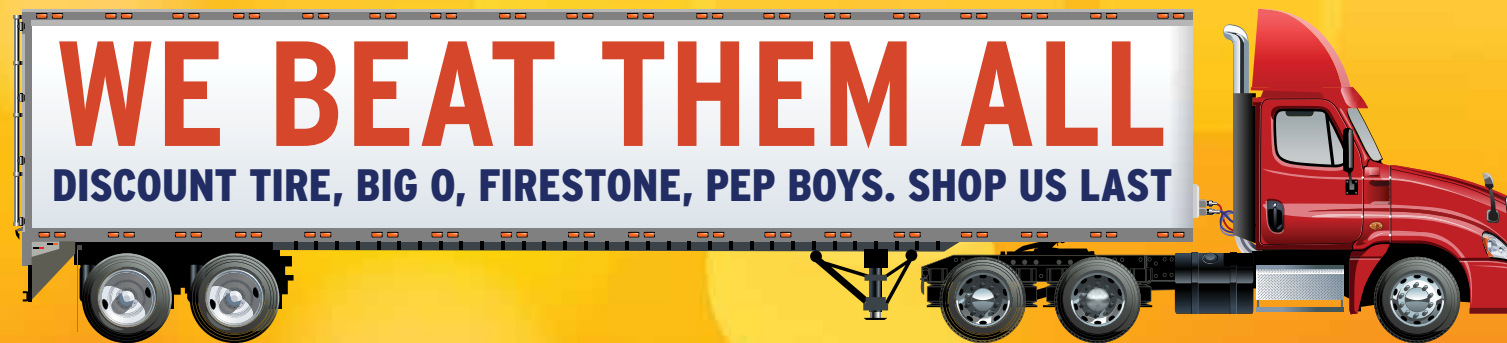
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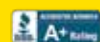


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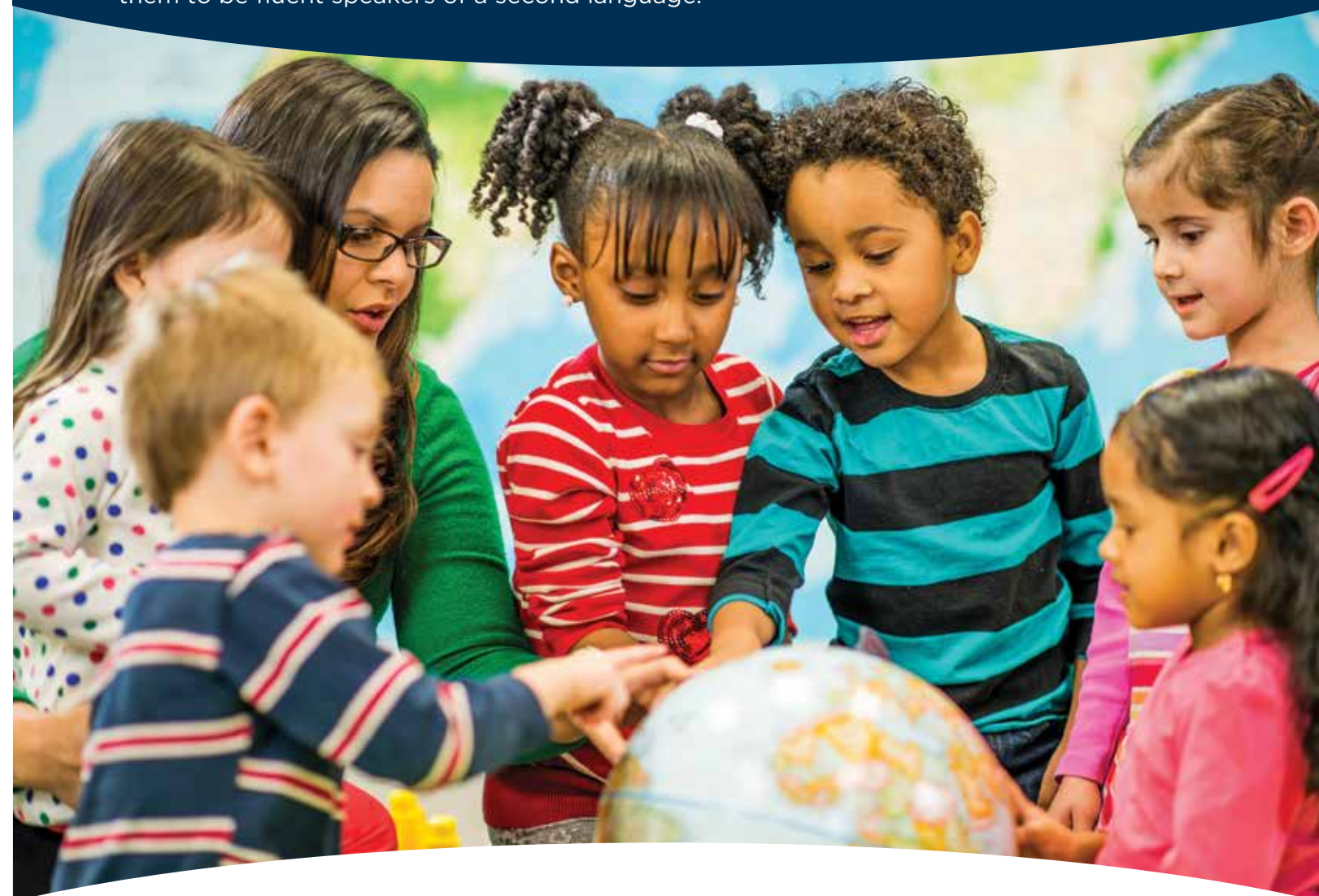
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The road to Maricopa

347.

The number elicits trunkfuls of emotion: dread, sorrow and, perhaps most of all, anger.

Its four lanes are inadequate for the traffic. Its three high-speed intersections invite accidents, deadly accidents. It's a playground for the worst drivers among us.

Which is why Bret Roberts is trying to spur much-needed action to address the shortcomings of the main thoroughfare between Maricopa and the Valley.

The city resident and state representative, who knows the highway well, introduced a bill earlier this year to insert tens of millions of dollars into the state budget to help build an overpass at Riggs Road, one of State Route 347's most dangerous intersections.

There's much work to be done, and a solution at Riggs is only the first step, Roberts reminds. He also says there's a much better chance of getting all of that funding if his fellow residents do their part.

Robert Downey was on a perilous road when he was rescued by his teachers as a young student in Belfast, Ireland. They snatched him from family tragedy and set him on his way to chase the American dream. Now, after a successful 40-year



career in information technology, he is paying it forward.

The new member of the Maricopa Unified School District Governing Board wants every district student to graduate with the same dream. "I'll do anything I can to make that happen," he says.

Build it and they will come.

That's the City's hope with the scheduled late-March opening of the new library and culture center. Replete with gathering places for the community, the huge, state-of-the-art facility will serve as a town center – and a fine place to check out a book or learn a new craft.

In the coming months, the old library will be transformed into the Maricopa Community Center, a place for our seniors and veterans to gather, and the old veterans center will be reborn as a city museum.

Also this month, get up to speed on business development activity and read about the 12 restaurants dinged by county food inspectors. And check out our soaring "parting shot." photos of winter athletes at Maricopa High School.

Enjoy the magazine.

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ON THE COVER

State Rep. Bret Roberts was photographed at State Route 347 and Riggs Road, where he believes an overpass would help reduce the number of deadly accidents. *Photo by Merenzi Young / Eye of Odin Studios*

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Volume 16, Issue 4
InMaricopa
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Loading station

This photo from the 1950s looks west across the old Maricopa Road from a loading station north of the railroad tracks, where trailers of fresh, local produce awaited shoppers. A variety of crops was grown in Maricopa, including nearly 3,000 acres of peas, potatoes, watermelons, cantaloupes and lettuce, the late Phyllis Rust, a Canadian who moved to town in 1953, recalled in an oral history for the Maricopa Historical Society. Today, the view from the western side of the overpass includes the 76 gas station that closed in January.



THIS MONTH BACK IN...

For these and other historical stories, visit InMaricopa.com.



April 1

2010

A 7.2-magnitude earthquake south of the U.S.-Mexico border rattled Maricopa on a Sunday afternoon, with residents reporting tremors shook their homes and chandeliers, and sloshed pool water.



April 4

2014

Vice Mayor Edward Farrell apologized to the community at a city council meeting for a Facebook post praising the deceased Westboro Baptist Church pastor known for picketing military funerals and expressing anti-gay sentiment.



April 16

2018

The Maricopa Unified School District hired Tracey Lopeman as superintendent with a three-year contract through June 30, 2021. She replaced Steve Chestnut in the role.

Top to bottom: Bob McGovern, Maricopa Historical Society

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

COPPER SKY COMMERCIAL

City of Maricopa

The acreage in front of Copper Sky Regional Park has already started to develop. La Quinta Hotel is nearly complete, and that is only a small piece of what is to come. The City of Maricopa elected leaders and staff studied an economic impact analysis to put a development agreement in place with Shea Connelly Development, LLC. as the master developer for the Copper Sky Commercial project. The City of Maricopa continues to work closely with developers to bring the best possible offerings to Maricopa residents.



We couldn't be happier working in conjunction with the City of Maricopa. From our introduction at the Senior Expo 2020 to the initial permitting process, we are encouraged to have so many welcoming city officials and ambassadors. Seasons Living at Copper Sky, an assisted living facility, will break ground later this year, and we look forward to becoming official citizens of Maricopa.

– Dan Williams President & COO | Seasons Living

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For more information on this project and everything else happening in town, visit www.WhatsNewMaricopa.com

Roberts works to speed SR347 improvements

BY BOB MCGOVERN

BRET ROBERTS DRIVES THE DANGEROUS HIGHWAY a dozen times a week for most of the year.

The Maricopa resident has seen serious accidents on State Route 347, sat in its traffic and witnessed people driving recklessly on the four-lane highway with three high-speed intersections, daring to become another statistic.

With about 40,000 vehicles using the road every day, many Maricopans have witnessed the same craziness on the primary thoroughfare in and out of town. Some cannot mention their last commute to or from the Valley without using salty language. Or posting photos or video of other drivers doing stupid things to their Facebook page.

But when Roberts talks about the problems on SR347, his voice is heard all the way to the state Capitol, where he is in his second term as a state representative from Legislative District 11, which includes Maricopa.

For the second straight session, Roberts introduced legislation, House Bill 2068, in January seeking \$35 million toward construction of an overpass on SR347 at Riggs Road, the most dangerous intersection on the 13-mile stretch between I-10 and the Maricopa city limits. The bill passed through the House and Senate and awaits action during the state budget process.

“The ask in the bill is \$35 million but it doesn’t mean you’ll get \$35 million or anything,” he said. “We won’t know till the budget is passed.” That is expected in May.

If the full appropriation is included in the budget — the money would be moved from the General Fund to the Arizona Department of Transportation in Fiscal Year 2022 — it would represent a significant effort to get the ball rolling quicker on a multi-year, multi-pronged effort to increase safety and reduce congestion on the highway, including widening to six lanes and addressing intersections at Casa Blanca Road and the cement plant.

“I focused on the Riggs Road project because of the number of fatalities at that intersection, and serious accidents on top of that,” he said. “That particular intersection, for whatever reason, is a really problematic intersection. It seems like the best place to try and direct some funds there.”



In 2019, there were 308 traffic accidents on SR347 between I-10 and State Route 84, according to data from the Arizona Department of Transportation. Four deaths and more than 140 injuries were reported in those incidents.

Of the 308 accidents, 57 occurred in the vicinity of milepost 185, near the Riggs Road intersection.

In the past two years, there have been nine fatalities at the intersection, Roberts said. Most recently, a motorist was killed in an accident in late December.

And the problems look to get worse.

“Maricopa is growing,” he said. “More houses. More people moving here. And we obviously have a traffic problem.”

‘THE OPPORTUNITY WAS THERE’

Four years ago, Roberts was on his way out of public service when he made a U-turn to seek a state House seat.

Coming off a four-year term as Pinal County constable of Maricopa/Stanfield Justice Court after winning election in his first campaign for elected office in 2014, he and his wife, Oly, decided he would not seek re-election.

That decision came after Roberts after won plaudits for becoming Pinal County’s first presiding constable.

“As constable, Bret Roberts had a very positive impact on the office and in many ways changed the public’s perception of the office in a positive direction,” said Glenn Morrison, who succeeded Roberts as constable. “He served his community with compassion and dedication. I was honored to follow him in this office.”

When state Sen. Steve Smith decided to run for Congress, then-state Rep. Vince Leach ran for Smith’s Senate seat. That left Leach’s House seat vacant.

Roberts had no real interest in politics until he became disturbed by national policy decisions by the Obama Administration. That was the inspiration to start being someone who paid attention, he said.

He became active in local and county politics, serving as a Republican committeeman and getting to know many people. That led to the successful campaign as constable, and then suggestions that he consider a run for Leach’s House seat.

“I kinda blew it off at first,” Roberts recalled. “Then it came up again. I was told I would have some support. So, I started to explore the opportunity, and there was no pushback. I was actually thanked for considering it.

“I went back and forth on it. It was a third of the paycheck (he received as constable) and way more public scrutiny. Ultimately, we made the decision to run.”

In the end, Roberts just couldn’t pass it up.

“I think it was just more about the opportunity,” he said. “The opportunity was there and it’s not always there. It was never my intention to run for higher office when I ran as constable. It was really kind of an afterthought.”

‘A MAJOR UNDERTAKING’

He won election to the state House in November 2018 and began his first session two months later. He was re-elected in November 2020 to his second term.

“It should also be noted that instead of remaining constable, he chose to take the harder road and advance to the state legislature,” Morrison added. “This demonstrates his dedication to public service.”

Now in his third legislative session, Roberts said the experience has given him the opportunity to gain more in-depth exposure on many issues.

“A lot of important stuff comes through the Legislature,” he said. “I’m one of 90 individuals out of 7 million in the state of Arizona that gets to weigh in on policy for the entire state.”

It’s been a unique year so far legislatively, he said, with the recent election cycle underscoring polarization between Republicans and Democrats, as well as making COVID-related policy.

“A lot more people are more intensely involved in this session,” he said. “I’m seeing a lot more intense frustration from individuals.”

As one member of a collective body trying to find solutions in a polarized legislature, Roberts said his influence is limited. “It’s a major undertaking to convince 31 out of 60 representatives to vote a certain way.”

“Rep. Roberts is a dedicated public servant who works tirelessly to serve the constituents of LD11,” said state Sen. Vince Leach, who knows Roberts well. “I am very proud to call him a seatmate and friend.”

Roberts hasn’t yet decided if he will seek a third term in 2022. He can serve two more two-year terms before term limits kick in, though he could run for Senate.

“I don’t have any reason to not seek re-election at this point,” he said. “I like what I do, being involved. I would venture to say I’m leaning toward seeking re-election.”

Roberts said there is an X factor in his decision, with the 2020 census and redistricting delayed. It remains to be seen if Maricopa will end up in a redrawn district.

“It’s a factor out of everyone’s control,” he said.

As far as running for other office, Roberts was noncommittal.

“I don’t have any desire to be (Maricopa) mayor or go to D.C.,” he said. “I’m not saying I wouldn’t entertain it, I just I don’t have any plans for any other elected office.”

‘MUCH GREATER INTEREST’

For now, Roberts is working to make sure the overpass appropriation clears the budget process.

There are encouraging signs that years and years of handwringing about the SR347 situation is giving way to possible solutions, a process hampered by the sheer number of stakeholders who must cooperate to get the job done, including City of Maricopa, Gila River Indian Community, Pinal and Maricopa counties,

“

Rep. Roberts understands how important State Route 347 is to the people of Maricopa and has been a champion for finding solutions. His pursuit of funding for the Riggs Road overpass is nothing short of outstanding.”

DALE WIEBUSCH

INTERGOVERNMENTAL

AFFAIRS DIRECTOR,

CITY OF MARICOPA



“The city putting up \$1 million for a project outside of city limits is a testament to how important the issue is.”

BRET ROBERTS

state Department of the Transportation and Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG).

“This year, there has been much greater interest” in a solution, Roberts said.

Gila River recently provided its long-awaited input on the MAG study, which can now move into the next phase, including the gathering of public input on different facets of the plan, Roberts said.

The City of Maricopa recently threw financial support behind the overpass.

“The city putting up \$1 million for a project outside of city limits is a testament to how important the issue is,” Roberts said.

Gila River, Pinal County and MAG also want to kick in funding, Roberts said.

Meanwhile, the fate of an important source of funding for improvements on 347 rests with the state Supreme Court.

Voters in 2017 passed Propositions 416 and 417, the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) plan and the mechanism to fund that plan, respectively.

But the Goldwater Institute, a conservative think tank which has contested Prop 417 since before the election, sued, claiming the 20-year, half-cent sales tax on purchases up to \$10,000 was an illegal tax.

Despite the lawsuit, the RTA has collected tens of millions of dollars since April 2018 with the approval of the courts. Those revenues would help fund improvements to SR347 and the creation of an east-west corridor between Maricopa and Interstate 10 at Casa Grande.

A Supreme Court ruling is expected in the spring.

That situation aside, Roberts and Maricopa officials are encouraging residents to reach out to legislative leaders — Rep. Regina Cobb, chair of the Appropriations Committee, Vice Chairman Rep. John Kavanagh and House Speaker Rusty Bowers, and their cohorts in the Senate — to press support of his bill.

“Maricopa is fortunate to have Sen. Vince Leach involved in those conversations,” Roberts said. “Hopefully, that can have a positive effect.”

‘CHAMPION FOR FINDING SOLUTIONS’

Roberts’ efforts haven’t gone unnoticed by city leaders.

“Rep. Roberts understands how important State Route 347 is to the people of Maricopa and has been a champion for finding solutions,” said Dale Wiebusch, the City’s intergovernmental affairs director. “His pursuit of funding for the Riggs Road overpass is nothing short of outstanding.”

“I am very pleased and appreciative of the efforts

Bret Roberts and his wife, Oly, with daughter Olivia, who is now nearly 3. “She is daddy’s princess,” he said.



Rep. Roberts put forth to get this bill passed,” agreed Councilmember Henry Wade. “I am also happy that the citizens of Maricopa let their voices be heard through the legislative process as well. Moving forward, it will be a great asset and beneficial to the City of Maricopa’s economic growth and our fellow SR347 users.”

Councilmember Rich Vitiello concurred, saying Roberts was doing a “a great job. The city of Maricopa appreciates his hard work.”

Roberts enjoys his role in the Legislature and loves life in Arizona since moving here more than 20 years ago. Wanting to live somewhere with small-town charm but close to opportunities in the Valley, they eventually settled in Maricopa with their three children in 2009, riding out the financial crisis.

Their three adult children attended Maricopa Unified School District schools and their son is an ASU graduate.

Over the years, the Roberts have volunteered at concession stands for MHS football games and helped organize group motorcycle trips.

Daughter Olivia joined the family in 2018 and will soon be 3.

“She is daddy’s princess,” Roberts laughed. “So spoiled.”

Sometimes, when he is conducting the people’s business in Phoenix, his wife will put on Arizona Capitol TV so Olivia can see her daddy at work.

“I admire Rep. Roberts’ commitment to his family,” said Judge Lyle Riggs, who Roberts worked with as constable. “The time commitment to serve in public office is tremendous, but he has balanced quite well this time commitment with being a husband and father.”

On a recent Friday afternoon, as hundreds of cars alternately whizzed through the 347-Riggs intersection or sat in a line of traffic at the light, Roberts surveyed the confluence of the busy highway and rural road.

It wasn’t difficult to imagine he was picturing the overpass, and a day not so far in the future when his daughter — indeed, all Maricopans — can drive the 347 more safely.



REP. BRET ROBERTS

Age: 48

Hometown: Bowling Green, Ohio

Maricopan since: 2009

Elected positions:

State representative, 2019-current;

constable, 2014-2018

Salary: \$24,000 annually, plus \$60 per diem for the first 120 days of regular and special sessions

Committees: Criminal Justice Reform, Government and Military, Public Safety and Education

Previous occupations: Detention officer, mortgage banker

Hobby of the moment: A recent obsession with leatherworking, borne out of a purchase of boots and a plethora of YouTube videos.

His first project was a business card case. “For whatever reason, it has fascinated me. There’s so many different things you can do.”

Merenzi Young / Eye of Odin Studios

Wild and colorful horses to decorate the city

PHOTOS BY VICTOR MORENO

“Maricopa Wild Horses,” an arts initiative by City Manager Rick Horst, was unveiled March 18 at City Hall. Ten sculptures of horses decorated by local artists were presented to the public. Over the next six weeks, the pieces of art will be placed at locations around the city.

There were 49 designs by 28 artists submitted for the program. In conjunction with the Cultural Affairs and Arts Advisory Council, the city selected designs by 10 artists: Riley Burke, Susan E. Cameron, Kristal C. Coles, Bonnie DelTurco, Kristal Melody Hoeh, Cindy Koontz, Kimberly Mask, Maria Pour, Cindey Reyes and Mai May Tallwing.

The statues will be galloping to the following locations: Pacana Park, Copper Sky Park, the new Maricopa Library and Cultural Center, City Hall, Pinal County Courthouse building, Maricopa Elementary School, Oasis at the Wells, Maricopa Police Substation and near the Courtney Tyler State Farm office.



COPPER TURQUOISE SKIES

Artist: Kimberly Mask

Sponsor: Be Awesome Coalition

Location: Maricopa Elementary School



PATRIOT

Artist: Kristal Melody Hoeh

Sponsor: Daughters of the American Revolution

Location: Maricopa police substation, Copper Sky



CELESTIAL

Artist: Bonnie DelTurco

Sponsor: The Ray Nieves Family

Location: Copper Sky Recreation Complex

FRIENDS OF THE MARICOPA LIBRARY

Artist: Cindy Koontz

Sponsors: Philip “McD” Hartman Family, Oliver and Hermina Anderson, and David and Barbara Brady

Location: Maricopa Library and Cultural Center

New library expands as cultural gathering place

BY BOB MCGOVERN

“A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people. It is a never-failing spring in the desert.” – Andrew Carnegie



The city's new Maricopa Library & Cultural Center is “meant to be a gathering place to connect people,” said Jennifer Bostian, center, deputy director of community services. She and members of the library team — from left, Ashley Jackson, supervising librarian Andy Gallegos, Kianna Carman and supervising librarian Kevin Drinka — paused for a photo during preparations.

WHEN THE CITY OF MARICOPA SET out a couple of years ago to build a bigger library, the focus was more than books.

Sure, there were plans to expand the collection of about 60,000 items in a new facility, but there was a greater goal: build a scalable, signature gathering place to connect the community as part of a future town square.

The name of the new Maricopa Library & Cultural Center, which opened March 27, reflects that objective. The facility, at 27,000

square feet, more than three times larger than its predecessor, is about 60% library and 40% meeting space. Patrons will certainly have access to more volumes and digital media, but the real essence of the place is as a town center.

By design, the library was constructed on city-owned land next to City Hall at White and Parker and Bowlin roads, the geographic center of the city. It lies within the footprint of the proposed 140-acre City Center complex that would become a focal point for the city and serve as a destination downtown area of

shops and entertainment venues. The current police station, situated between City Hall and the library, is envisioned, in part, as a space for recitals and a music studio after the department moves across town.

With the \$10.6 million, state-of-the-art library, the city is taking steps to up its cultural game. An atrium bisecting the building will serve as a space for performances and has gallery-type hardware to feature artwork from the community. It can accommodate about 600 people.

The east side of the building features a 2,000-square-foot, audio-visual-enabled meeting room that can accommodate 250 people. There are separate spaces dedicated for craft, technology and creator/maker labs. Drop-down gates will separate the library from the cultural center so much of the building can be used when the library closes in the evening. A plaza with a raised stage and seating offers an outdoor space for programming.

“It’s meant to be a gathering place to connect people,” said Jennifer Bostian, deputy director of community services. In her role, Bostian oversees the library, the planned veterans/senior center at the old library on Smith-Enke Road (related story, page 40), and the planned museum at the former vet center and welcome center in the iconic Silver Horizon railcar on Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway.

“This building will provide the type of space available needed to accomplish those connections,” she said. “Previously, only Copper Sky could offer such space.”

Nathan Ulyot, community services director for the City, said he is excited about the possibilities.

“With the new facility, the opportunity to learn and connect, like the size of the facility, greatly increases,” he said. “The stage on the north side of the facility will be able to host performances in spoken word, dance, theater and music. Artists and community groups will have ample opportunity to access the library to perform and connect with others to plan and perform.”

Bob McGovern



Shelves were being stocked with books before the scheduled opening. A second phase of construction could potentially add another 25,000 square feet to the library.

29,000 CARDHOLDERS AND GROWING

The former library, an 8,000-square-foot building, was built for about \$2 million in 2009, when the population of the city was about 41,000. Its shelves were full of 57,000 books, but another 2,000-5,000 items had to be kept in storage. It had two public rooms: a study room for up to four people and a meeting room that could seat about 30 people.

In 2019, the most recent pre-pandemic year, the library recorded more than 200,000 patron visits and 5,000 participants in its summer reading program.

“The current library is not big enough for our population,” Bostian said. “We are busting at the seams.”

Today, the library has 29,000 cardholders as the city continues to add residents every year.

Construction on the new X-shaped building began March 2020 and took a year to complete. Phase 1 sits on about 2.2 acres of the 4.75-acre parcel and includes pre-planning to facilitate expansion to the west. The main entry is on the east side, where a 136-space parking lot is accessible from both Civic Center Plaza and Bowlin Road. More than a third of the site is landscaping.

Phase 2 could potentially add another 25,000 square feet to the library.

The book-lending operation takes up the western half of the building, with separate areas for adults and children. On the children’s side, there is a toddler area and storytime room.

Bob McGovern

With shelving space for 80,000-85,000 volumes — and room to expand as needed — the library will be adding to its collection in the coming months and years. But books have moved out of storage, including a collection of young adult material purchased with a grant awarded in 2020, according to Bostian. And more volumes collected over the past year will supplement the regular supply of new titles in adult fiction and non-fiction.

One major change from the Smith-Enke location is information technology. While Pinal County had been providing technology maintenance, the city has taken over that role.

FEATURES AND SERVICES

- Adult and children’s libraries
- Desktop computers
- Laptop computers (for checkout within building)
- Conference rooms (available for private parties)
- Notary services
- Print/copy room
- Reference resources
- Library of things (future)
- Chairs and tables throughout building

“While the county has been taking care of a lot of our IT equipment, the nice thing is we can now be a fully city-run library,” Bostian said. “We’ll still be on the county library system, but fully supported from an infrastructure perspective by City Services. I think it will operate very well. We’ve got everything we’ll need.”

The lending operation will be run by Kevin Drinka, who has been with the library since 2006 and oversaw the move into the Smith-Enke location. He left in 2014 to become a library director in a small Illinois city and returned to Maricopa five years later to become supervising librarian.

But in a sign of the value the city places on the programming, the library has another master’s-level supervising librarian, Andrew Gallegos. He is the former children’s librarian.

“They both bring really great experience across the board,” Bostian said.

‘EXPANDING LIKE CRAZY’

Gallegos’s focus is on providing experiences, both for learning and enjoyment in the form of book clubs for all ages, coding and other digital classes for kids, arts classes and a maker lab.

Over past year, there has been almost no in-person programming due to health concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic, though virtual programming was expanded to help meet the demand.

BY THE NUMBERS

OLD LIBRARY	NEW LIBRARY
COST	
\$2 million	\$10.6 million
SIZE	
8,000 s.f.	27,000 s.f. (expandable)
MEETING SPACE	
1 small study room 1 small meeting room	1,000-square-foot meeting room, plus many smaller rooms and spaces
ITEMS	
57,000	61,000 plus/minus (with space for about 20,000 more)

Now, the library is poised to offer the somewhat-cloistered community many more opportunities to get out of the house and do something.

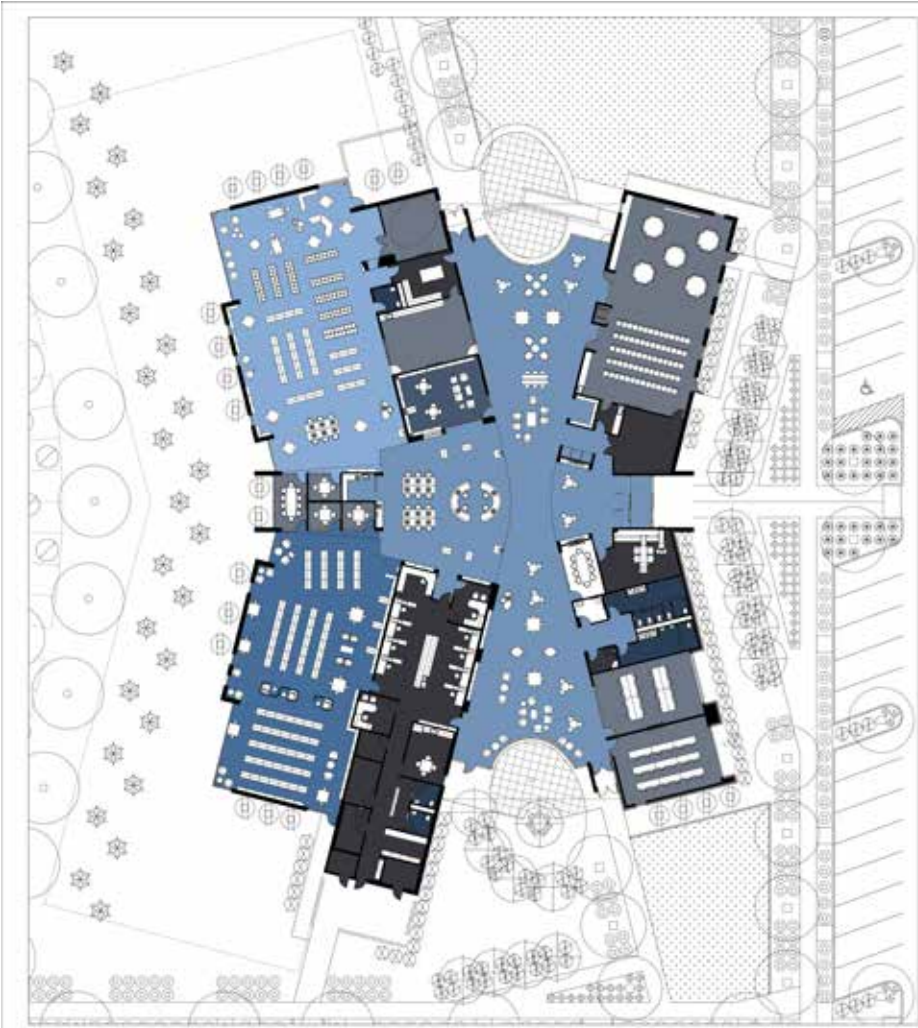
“The city has been needing more meeting space, more spaces for programming,” Bostian said. “The programming is just expanding like crazy.”

Moreover, a growing number of nonprofits are getting in touch to request space for their own programming. Residents and groups can reserve a meeting room on the city website.

“We’re working with more community groups than we’ve ever been able to,” Bostian said.

“I’m really excited,” said Jamila Miquel, who chairs the board of directors of the Friends of the Library, a non-profit organization dedicated to support and enhance the library. “We need as much space as we can get to provide programming to meet the needs of everyone.”

She pointed to potential all-ages programs like Parenting 101 and intergenerational activities to bring together seniors and young adults. “We can probably offer a lot more tutoring and educational classes,” she added.



The X-shaped facility is bisected by an atrium.

HOW TO VOLUNTEER

Dependable volunteers are always needed. The minimum age is 15. Applications can be completed and returned to the circulation desk and a volunteer coordinator will reach out within two weeks. The library currently has openings to assist with:

- Shelving
- Assisting in library programs (all age groups)
- Star Reader program
- Special events
- Special projects
- Homebound delivery driver

BECOME A FRIEND

The Friends of the Library are looking for members.

 [MaricopaFriends.yolasite.com](https://maricopafriends.yolasite.com)

There are big plans for reading programs in the city, according to Miquel.

While the Summer Reading Program was forced to meet virtually in 2020 due to the pandemic, “this year we are bringing it back full force, and we’re working on a reading program for the winter,” she said. “We’re trying to expand literacy in the community.”

In part to handle the increased programming, the staff has grown to nine full-time and 15 part-time employees, with some of those part-timers hired in recent months to prepare for the move to the new facility.

“The library has been raising cultural awareness through its programming for years,” Ulyot said. “The programming team led by Andrew Gallegos, Ashley Jackson and Stephannie Interrante have found innovative ways for youth and adults to learn about and experience different cultures through materials and programs at the current library.”

Hidell Associates Architects

FUNDS FOR THE FUTURE

The desire for a new municipal library goes back at least 15 years. In 2006, a \$15 million, 60,000-square-foot facility was planned. That dream collapsed with the Great Recession, and an 8,000-square-foot building was constructed, even though it was clear from the start it would be too small for the population. (The industry standard for libraries is one square foot per resident. The area population is estimated to have grown to more than 60,000 today.)

The library was built with \$6.28 million of capital improvement funds (from the General Fund), \$3.3 million of development impact fees and \$1.1 million in Highway User Revenue Funds. No debt was incurred and no taxes were increased, Bostian noted.

But filling the shelves at the new library will be expensive. Adding 20,000-30,000 volumes at an average cost of \$20 per title will cost \$400,000 to \$600,000. Typically, the library receives \$40,000-\$60,000 annually from city and county funding sources, depending on the vagaries of budgets.

So, the library has launched a community fundraising effort with a \$250,000 goal to provide a long-term, alternative funding source

to support programming and lending material expenses, Bostian said. The library is partnering with the Maricopa Community Foundation to administer the Designated Fund, which will provide a way to accept tax-deductible donations.

MAKE A DONATION

 mcfaz.org/current-funds/

In early March, just about two weeks into the campaign, \$40,000 had been raised, with key early donations by Global Water (\$10,000 to kick off the fund), the Friends of the Library (\$5,000), library builder Haydon Construction (\$5,000) and Courtney Tyler State Farm (\$1,000). Several individuals have already committed contributions to the fund, Bostian said.

The library wanted to memorialize financial supporters, so the Friends of the Library developed a concept to provide recognition. Donors who give \$250 or more are added to the Donor Wall in the northern part of the atrium, which features a little girl looking through a telescope to a night sky dotted with donor stars. The bigger the donation, the bigger the star.

There are limited spaces at each giving level.

“The Maricopa Public Library has been a place for our community to gather for decades,” Ulyot said. “Whether through volunteerism or financial gifts, community support has always been part of the success of the facility. With this beautiful new building and the added element of the cultural center, we are looking to continue to expand and provide even greater opportunities for discovery and engagement.

“The donor wall will help make that possible,” he added, “and will allow us to celebrate those who support everything the MLCC will stand for.”

Bostian believes that if the past is any indication, Maricopans will embrace their new library, opening hearts, minds and wallets.

“This is a generous community.” 

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 **[Maricopa-AZ.gov/Departments/Community-services/Library](https://maricopa-az.gov/Departments/Community-services/Library)**
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2 is better than 1

BY KRISTINA DONNAY, FNP-C

WHEN IT COMES TO ACHIEVING your head-to-toe aesthetic goals, one size does NOT fit all. What may work wonders for someone else's aesthetic needs may produce less-than-ideal results for you. While non-surgical cosmetic treatments like Botox or laser facial rejuvenation can work well enough on their own, combining multiple therapies can help you achieve the non-surgical results you are seeking.

The signs of aging on your face and body are usually due to three processes: 1) loss of skin elasticity (skin does not “bounce back” when stretched), 2) decrease in volume (skin appears deflated or less plump) and 3) damage to the skin from sun exposure. Even though there are continuing advances in cosmetic treatments, there is not a single procedure that can treat all of these effects at the same time.

Combination treatment: what It means

When two or more cosmetic treatments are performed together, it's called a combination treatment. These days, there are lots of different choices when it comes to non-surgical facial rejuvenation and body enhancement. Both Morpheus8 and Evoke can be used to diminish wrinkles, increase elasticity and decrease skin “sagging” in the face and neck. Radiofrequency treatments (such as Morpheus8 and Evolve) work wonders on cellulite and loose skin around the legs, abdomen and arms. Morpheus8 can help diminish dark spots, hyperpigmentation and acne scars. Finally, topical creams containing vitamin A and antioxidants are recommended for daily skin care and maintenance. Combining two or more of these methods is often the best way to create a custom solution for your specific trouble areas.

Assessing the options

First, you need to be clear about your cosmetic goals. Are you looking for a more even skin tone? Are wrinkles a concern? What about boosting and regenerating collagen? After assessing your current situation and understanding what type of results you want, an experienced aesthetic practitioner will present you with options for treatments, some of which may include a combination of treatments to address multiple areas. Combination treatments can often be performed all in the same week or month. But



it may also be necessary to wait a few weeks between each treatment to ensure that you've had time to heal or recuperate between procedures. Beware of any practice that offers treatments that promise “instant results” or do not provide you with a thorough consultation. Most “instant results” do not hold up to the test of time.

Examples of combination treatments

While your ideal combination treatment will depend on your specific needs and goals, here are a few examples of combination treatments that often produce dramatic and satisfying results:

- **Facial resurfacing (Morpheus8) + collagen rejuvenation (Evoke)** — an excellent combination for skin toning, softening of texture and wrinkle reduction.
- **Laser treatments (Areolase Neo laser facial) + acid peels (Vi Peel)** — this synergistic treatment has proven extremely effective for those with moderate to severe acne problems.
- **Collagen and elastin building (Morpheus8) + Neuromodulator (Botox or Jeuveau)** — combined these treatments can reduce the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles while tightening and firming your skin for a more defined facial contour.

- **Skin resurfacing (Morpheus 8) + Fat ablating and skin tightening (Evolve)** - this combination produces the best results for body contouring. The skin can appear tighter, firmer and more youthful. These combined treatments can be done on the legs, abdomen, arms, back or buttocks.

If you're looking for a dramatic change to your current appearance, contact us. The

experienced team of aesthetic professionals at Maricopa Wellness Center will discuss all of the options available to you and provide recommendations for combination therapies that will help you achieve your goals. LIVE WELL BE WELL.

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What to do, and not do, when you're involved in a crash

BY ANGEL RAYMOND, ESQ.

ACAR CRASH CAN BE A SCARY event. Most people may feel confused, disoriented, angry, stressed, fearful, pain or any number of other emotions. Here are three things to do if you are involved in a crash.

1. **Remain calm and focused and evaluate the situation.** Take a moment to re-center. Then check yourself and any passengers for injuries. Call the police immediately, even if you do not feel injured. Stay in your vehicle until the police arrive unless it is safe to exit. Check on others involved, again, only if it is safe.
2. **Gather information.** Make sure you get the license, registration, insurance and vehicle details of everyone involved. Police gather this information, too, but you should do it yourself. See if any witnesses are around who can give you their statement and contact information. Cooperate with responding law enforcement as they investigate.
3. **Document the event.** Take photos or videos of all damage and people involved if this can be done safely. If the crash happened at an intersection or other place where the scene is important, take photos of the area including locations of any debris. When you get home, download or print a satellite photo of the area for reference.

And here are “don'ts”.

1. **Do not refuse aid of first responders.** Even if you may not be experiencing anything unusual physically, allow responding EMTs to examine you to make sure nothing is seriously wrong. Adrenaline and other chemicals produced in our bodies in times of stress can mask injuries and symptoms. If responders have concerns, allow them to transport you to a local emergency room.
2. **Do not sign documents unless for the police.** No one at the scene but police or a tow operator should need your signature.
3. **Do not admit fault for causing the crash.** Of course, you should be honest about how it occurred, but crashes happen in split-seconds and you will not know



what everyone else involved may have done or failed to do. You could be admitting to something that was not your fault which can be difficult to undo later.

Once you make it through the initial aftermath, here are two ways to protect yourself.

First, you should always go to your medical doctor or local clinic after a crash as soon as you can, even if you initially go to the emergency room. Insurance companies tend to value the opinions of medical doctors much higher than chiropractors or naturopaths.

Second, make an appointment to see an experienced attorney. We offer free consultations after car crashes and can help you determine if you need legal help. We can also ensure your rights and interests are protected from predatory insurance companies.

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A detailed look at the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

BY CHRIS J. SCOGGIN, CPA

SINCE THE START OF THE PANDEMIC one year ago, the Federal Government has provided about \$6 trillion in total economic relief to individuals, businesses and state and local government, including the \$1.9 trillion approved when President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act into law on March 11. This represents 27% of our total economic output for 2019.

Much of the economic relief in the American Rescue Plan is administered through the tax code in the form of direct payments (stimulus checks) and expanded Child Tax Credit in 2021. The size and method of relief will revive debate over the proper role of spending in the tax code and whether the temporary benefits should become permanent after the economy has recovered.

While several provisions in the American Rescue Plan are targeted to the pandemic,

like the extended unemployment insurance (UI) benefits, other aspects, like the expanded Child Tax Credit, are unrelated and not well targeted toward the pandemic. Overall, about \$850 billion is directed to individuals with \$65 billion is directed to businesses and \$1 trillion to state and local government.

Most provisions are temporary expansions for 2021 to combat the pandemic. But some policymakers are already considering making permanent several newly expanded benefits like the Child Tax Credit later this year, which would have a budgetary cost of well over \$1 trillion over the next 10 years.

Below, I provide more detail on the three major tax-related benefits in the American Rescue Plan: a third round of direct payments, extended UI benefits and a \$10,200 UI income exemption for 2020, and an expansion of the Child Tax Credit.

\$1,400 Stimulus Payments (Economic Impact Payments)

The American Rescue Plan provides a third round of stimulus payments up to \$1,400 for adults and dependents. Households with earnings of more than \$80,000 for single filers, \$120,000 for Head of Household filers, and \$160,000 for married filing jointly will not receive any payment. The payments begin to phase out at \$75,000 for single filers, \$112,500 for Head of Household filers, and \$150,000 for joint filers—meaning about 89 percent of filers will receive a payment.

Unemployment Benefits

The American Rescue Plan also extends through Sept. 6, 2021, the three federal unemployment insurance expansions created by the CARES Act. The American Rescue Plan increases the total number of weeks of benefits available to individuals who cannot return to work safely from 50 weeks to 79 weeks, matching the expiration of the broader UI benefits.

The law maintains the federal supplement at its current level of \$300 a week for weeks beginning after March 14 and before Sept. 6, 2021. The American Rescue Plan provides 53 weeks of federal UI benefits after the state benefits end, up from 24 weeks.

The American Rescue Plan contains a new provision to exempt \$10,200 of unemployment benefits received in 2020 from income taxes. The exclusion is retroactive, applying to unemployment insurance benefits received last year, largely to reduce the issue of surprise tax bills. It only applies to individuals with incomes below \$150,000.

Expanded Child Tax Credit

Finally, the American Rescue Plan greatly expands the Child Tax Credit by allowing households with children to claim up to \$3,600 for younger children or \$3,000 for children age 6 or older regardless of earned income.

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Business, development around town

Supreme Pools and Saunas LLC will install a swimming pool and spa at Oasis at the Wells, 41535 W. Shea Way, for **Mountain Trace Development**, for \$79,000.

Three permanent shade structures covering a total of nearly 1,100 square feet will be constructed for \$55,000 as part of the replat of lots 18 and 19 at the Maricopa Power Center, Oasis at The Wells. The work will be done by **LP Shade Industries**.

Global Water will convert a fence from chain link to masonry block at the **Palo Verde Utilities Co.** facility at 41265 W. Hiller Road at a cost of \$9,500. Six modular buildings will be removed at Sequoia Pathways Academy, 19265 N. Porter Road, at a cost of \$62,300. **Torcom Construction** will do the work.

Kooline Plumbing received a permit for a modular office at 40521 W. Magnolia Road to serve as an operations office and storage facility for vehicles and equipment. Owners Nazeem Mohammed and Farzana Afroza contracted the work.

T&K Contracting LLC will perform grading and drainage work valued at \$65,000 at 21270 N. Loma Road. The site will be used to stockpile material for future use in the development of a project at the site.

A fire flow test will be performed at 20400 N. John Wayne Pkwy. for the Sonoran Creek Marketplace re-subdivision of lots 2 and 3. The work will be performed for the City of Maricopa by **HDC Fire Protection**.

The Lakes at Rancho El Dorado Phase III will perform a hydrant flow test at 40440 W. Agave Road as part of a replat of lots 1064-1224. The work will be done by **Richmond American Homes of Arizona**.

Heritage Academy will conduct a hydrant flow test at its facility at 41000 W. Heroes Way as part of a replat of Glennwilde Parcel 17.

Meritage Homes will construct a 4-foot-by-8-foot marketing sign and eight flags in a replat of parcel 15 at 40397 W. Williams Way in Homestead North. The project will be done by **Arrow Graphics**.

Fulton Homes will convert the sales office at 41563 W. Barcelona Drive in Glennwilde to a garage.

Lennar Arizona will convert two sales offices — at 44767 and 44781 W. Rhea Road — in Alterra South to garages on lots 297 and 298. **Lennar Construction** will complete the work.

ZAYO has requested a Right of Way/Utility Easement on Honeycutt Road for the installation of a new fiber optics wireline to provide Internet services to schools and public libraries. Work will be done by **Fishel Construction**.

About 492 linear feet of 4-inch PE8100 pipe will be installed, requiring 100 square feet of pavement removal by **NPL Construction** at Hathaway and Condrey avenues.

Conduit, fiber and backhaul radios will be installed along Honeycutt Road from Plainview Street to White and Parker Road, then south to City Hall. The work will be done by **Sturgeon Electric Co.**

An upgrade of internet, phone and cable services for Copper Sky and surrounding area will be completed by **Native Technology Solutions** for Desert Cedars Homeowners Association.

Work in the right-of-way to complete off-site work at 44900 W. Bowlin Road will be done by **Alexander Building Company**.

A 4-foot-by-4-foot bell hole will be installed on the shoulder at John Wayne and Alterra parkways by **NPL Construction Co.**

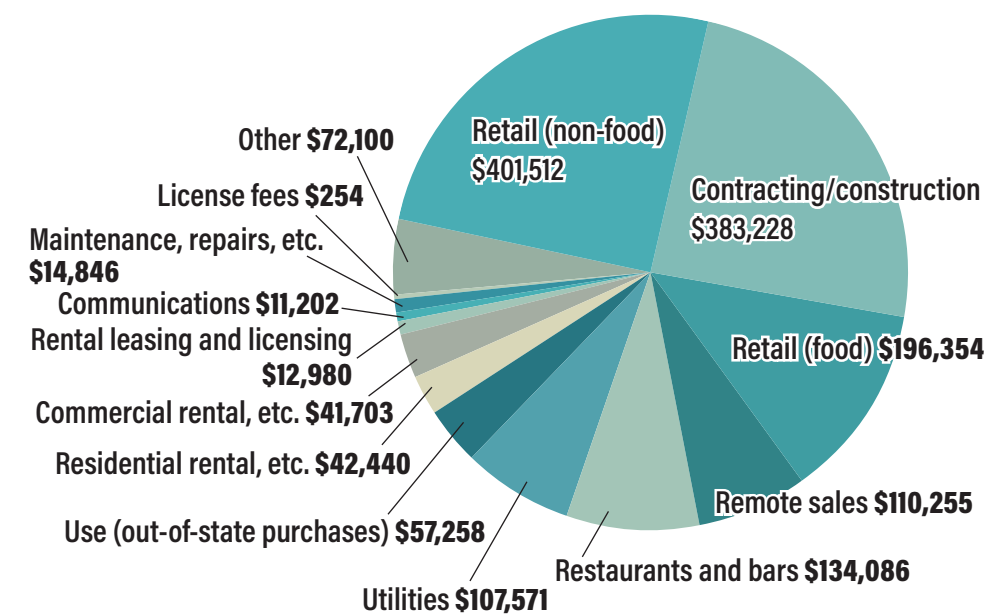
A right-of-way permit for installation of internet services was granted to **Kooline Plumbing** at 40901 W. Honeycutt Road with work to be done by Native Technology Solutions.

Improvements including paving, grading, signing, striping, sewer and water will be done at 22461 N. Rummler Road and 39950 W. Hillman Drive in the Lakes at Rancho El Dorado for **Metro Red 1 LLC** by Otago Development.

Improvement plans were issues for a subdivision final plat at 21929 N. Rummler Road in the Lakes at Rancho El Dorado for **Meritage Homes of Arizona**.

Maricopa Sales Tax Collections

In February, businesses paid nearly \$1.59 million in transaction privilege taxes. Here's where people spent money based on the amount of sales tax collected:



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- Window Repairs/Replacements
- Window Retrofits
- Custom Shower Doors/Enclosures
- Multi-Slide Patio Doors
- Enclosed Patios
- Table Tops
- Shelves
- Mirrors

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- Windshield Repair
- RVs
- Luxury Vehicles
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12 eateries tagged by inspectors

Twelve Maricopa eateries were marked down by Pinal County health inspectors from Feb. 10-March 14.

Brooklyn Boys Pizzeria & Restaurant

After a worker's bare-hand contact with ready-to-eat lettuce, the manager at Brooklyn Boys Pizzeria & Restaurant was asked to instruct the employee to wash their hands and don clean gloves. After the employee rinsed and dried their hands, the manager was further instructed to provide handwashing procedure training to include washing hands vigorously with soap for at least 20 seconds. The manager provided the training and employee properly washed their hands. The inspector also observed an employee use their bare hands to plate ready-to-eat cut lettuce. The manager was asked to have the worker stop, wash their hands and provide a barrier between their bare hands and ready-to-eat foods. The employee washed their hands and donned clean gloves and the lettuce was discarded. Gaskets on the prep cooler also were observed to be damaged. The manager was asked to have the cooler repaired.

Chipotle Mexican Grill

The internal temperatures of black beans and pinto beans held in the take-out line warmer at Chipotle Mexican Grill were 120-122 degrees and 83-89 degrees, respectively. The manager said the beans were there for about 40 minutes. The manager was instructed to reheat beans to at least 165 degrees and maintain foods in hot holding at or above 135 degrees.

Cilantro's Mexican Cocina

The internal temperatures of cooked rice and cooked soup being held in closed, plastic containers in the walk-in cooler at Cilantro's Mexican Cocina were 50-55 degrees and 47-48 degrees, respectively. Foods for cold holding should be maintained at or below 41 degrees.

According to the manager, the rice and soup were cooked and placed in the cooler the night before. The rice and soup were voluntarily discarded. Cooling methods, time/temperature parameters and educational materials were reviewed. The internal temperatures of cooked rice held in the steam well were

degrees. According to the manager, the cheese sticks had been reheated and ready for sale about an hour earlier. The hamburger sticks were voluntarily discarded by the manager, who was reminded to maintain foods for hot holding at or above 135 degrees.

Circle K (Made to go)

The internal temperatures of cheese being held above the chill line in the prep cooler at Circle K (Made to go) were 49-50 degrees after being placed in cooler about four hours earlier. The manager voluntarily discarded the cheese. Foods for cold holding should be maintained at or below 41 degrees.

EXCELLENT

[No violations found]

- Arby's
- Maricopa High School
- Maricopa High School — Culinary Arts
- Pizza Hut
- Rosati's Pizza
- Sonic Drive-in
- Sunrise Preschool

SATISFACTORY

[Violations corrected during inspection]

- Brooklyn Boys Italian Restaurant & Pizza
- Chipotle Mexican Grill
- Cilantro's Mexican Cocina
- Circle K (Honeycutt and Porter roads)
- Circle K — Made to go (Honeycutt and Porter roads)

- Helen's Kitchen
- Li's Garden
- Raceway Bar & Grill
- Subway
- Sunrise Diner
- Tacos N' More
- Wingstop

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

Helen's Kitchen

An employee at Helen's Kitchen was observed hand-battering raw fish and placing it into a fryer located on the open porch of the permitted mobile food truck. The truck's water and electricity were not on at time of inspection, so a hand sink was not accessible. The employee was instructed to wash their hands after removing soiled gloves and prior to donning new gloves. The worker entered the inside kitchen to wash their hands.

Li's Garden

An inspector observed a Li's Garden cook wash hands at the three-compartment sink and then continue with food prep. The manager was asked to instruct the employee to stop and wash their hands at the designated sink. An employee was observed using their bare hands to put ready-to-eat chicken in a to-go carton. The manager was asked to instruct the employee to use a barrier between bare hands and ready-to-eat foods. Tongs were provided and the manager voluntarily discarded the chicken. The hand-wash station on the cook line was observed to be lacking soap. The manager was notified and asked to maintain soap at all times. Soap was provided.

The internal temperatures of cooked shrimp being held above the chill line of the cook line prep cooler were 62-65 degrees. The manager said the shrimp was cooked and placed in the cooler about 90 minutes earlier. The shrimp was moved to a walk-in freezer to chill quickly. Foods for cold holding should be at or below 41 degrees.

The internal temperatures of cooked chicken held in a deep, covered, metal bowl in the upright reach-in cooler at the cook line was 70-90 degrees. The manager said the chicken was cooked and placed there about an hour earlier. The inspector reviewed cooling methods and time/temperature parameters. The manager reduced the chicken onto a flat, metal sheet pan and placed it in the cooler to chill quickly.

After stating the restaurant does not have a food probe thermometer, the manager was asked to obtain and maintain thermometer readily accessible to food service workers. A re-inspection will be done within 10 days to verify correction.

The inspector observed a covered barrel of water outside the back door of the facility. The manager stated the barrel

of water is used to pre-soak hood filters for cleaning. Liquid waste can be a source of bacterial contamination and support populations of pests. The manager was instructed to dispose of wastewater properly and according to law, immediately after use.

A build-up of debris/grease was observed on and around the grease receptacle located outside. The manager was asked to clean the receptacle frequently enough to avoid build-up.

Raceway Bar & Grill

A Certified Food Protection Manager Certification was not present at Raceway Bar & Grill. The manager was asked to obtain and maintain certification.

The internal temperatures of pork removed from the grill for plating were 118-123 degrees. The manager and staff were instructed to cook all parts of pork meat to at least 145 degrees for at least 15 seconds. The pork was then cooked to 178 degrees and the manager provided a thermometer.

The operator is offering undercooked "cooked to order" burgers and eggs without the use of a complete consumer advisory, that includes the disclosure. A correction was provided at time of inspection. The inspector also observed in-use cutting boards were scarred. The manager was asked to repair the boards so they are smooth and easily cleaned.

Subway

The internal temperatures of meatballs being held in the steam well at Subway were 118-120 degrees. Foods in hot holding should be maintained at or above 135 degrees. The manager voluntarily discarded the meatballs.

Sunrise Diner

A dishwasher sanitizer at Sunrise Diner was found to be at 0.0 ppm chlorine. The unit was not to be used until repaired to provide

50-100 ppm chlorine. A three-compartment sink was set up, and reinspection of the of the unit was required by Feb. 23.

The internal temperatures of ground beef being held in a deep, covered, metal container in the reach-in cooler was 49-51 degrees. The manager said the beef was cooked and placed in the cooler the night before. The internal temperatures of cooked sausage held in the grill line cold-holding drawers were 83-88 degrees. The sausage was cooked and placed in the drawer about two hours earlier, according to the manager, who voluntarily discarded the beef and sausage. The inspector reviewed cooling time/temperature parameters and methods.

The internal temperatures of gravy and cheese held in the cook line steam well were 99 degrees. The cook said the items were cooked and placed in the steam well about 90 minutes earlier. The cook was instructed to reheat the items to at least 165 degrees and maintain foods in hot holding at or above 135 degrees.

The internal temperatures of salsa held on a bed of ice at the wait station were 48-50 degrees. The salsa was placed on ice about an hour earlier, said the manager, who was instructed to move the salsa to the cooler to chill quickly. Foods in cold holding must be maintained at or below 41 degrees, the inspector reminded.

Tacos N' More

An employee at Tacos N' More was observed, while wearing gloves, to wring out a wet cloth stored in the food prep sink and use it to wipe down counters. The employee then began to continue with food prep at the fryer and prep station. The person in charge was asked to instruct the employee to stop food prep, remove the soiled gloves, wash their hands and put on clean gloves prior to starting food prep. Wiping cloths must be stored in a proper solution of

sanitizer and the person in charge was instructed to provide sanitizer buckets to store wiping cloths.

The internal temperatures of cooked steak being held in plastic, covered, container in the walk-in cooler were 50-51 degrees. The item was cooked and placed there the night before, said the person in charge, who voluntarily discarded the steak. The internal temperatures of cooked steak and cooked beef being held in stacked, plastic, covered containers in the walk-in cooler were 55-65 degrees. The meat was cooked about four hours earlier, according to the person in charge, who was instructed to remove the meat from the plastic containers and reduce onto a sheet pan and place in cooler to quickly chill. The inspector reviewed cooling methods and time/temperature parameters and a cooling handout was provided.

Wingstop

An employee at Wingstop was observed returning to the kitchen from the outside and beginning to handle clean dishes in the food prep area. The worker was immediately stopped and instructed to wash their hands and the inspector reviewed handwashing protocol. The internal temperatures of cooked potatoes being held in stacked, covered, plastic containers in the walk-in cooler were 57-73 degrees. According to the facility's time/temperature log, the potatoes were cooked about 4.5 hours earlier. The three containers found to be above 70 degrees were discarded. The remaining nine containers were uncovered, product was reduced and positioned in the walk-in cooler to provide adequate cooling. Cooling methods were reviewed.

GETTING TO know

FRANCISCO MANUEL MAGALLON

Owner – operator

Giovanni's Custom Flooring

Hometown: Phoenix

Maricopan since: 2006

Family: Five boys, three girls

Hobbies: Watching my kids play sports; golf, martial arts

Pet peeve: Lazy people; the toilet paper goes over, never ever under.

Dream vacation: Japan, Thailand

Like most about Maricopa: I absolutely love the people's willingness to help one another

FAVORITE ...

Charity: Maricopa Pantry

Book: The Art of War

Movie: Enter the Dragon

Team: Cardinals

Food: Mexican, Italian, Japanese, Chinese

Drink: Bourbon

Meal: Barbacoa

Learn more about Francisco at InMaricopa.com/Community/Getting-to-know

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Construction continues at Sonoran Creek Marketplace as carpenters frame stores adjacent to the Sprouts Farmers Market and a crew makes improvements to Edison Road at the entrance of the center.

Sonoran Creek adds tenant; opening on track

BY JAY TAYLOR

THE LINEUP OF STORES THAT will join Sprouts Farmers Market at the new Sonoran Creek Marketplace is beginning to fill in, with the confirmed addition of another tenant.

Eight previously-announced tenants have been confirmed by developer Thompson Thrift.

Business owner Janell Freeman announced in March she will open Neon Barre, a group fitness studio, in the shopping plaza on the west side of John Wayne Parkway at West Edison Road.

And a new dining concept for the city could soon be another addition at the center.

“We have a couple of other potential food tenants getting close, but nothing is official yet,” said Andrew Call, vice president of development management for the Southwest region of Thompson Thrift. “One of those would be a new concept to Maricopa.”

Call would neither confirm nor deny the new eatery in current negotiations is Mod Pizza, a build-your-own meal concept specializing in personal artisan pizzas and salads, which was identified in a city Facebook group as an imminent tenant.

Construction of the center is on target for completion in the third quarter of this year, with tenants likely opening early in the fourth quarter.

“This project is still expected to be completed this year,” Call said. “We think the first opening will be in the fourth quarter of this year, although it’s possible we may get a few in the third quarter. As for Sprouts, we’re planning on wrapping up that build in the third quarter.”

While the much-anticipated Sprouts might prove to be the first business in the center to open, there is no guarantee, he said.

“They could be first, but sometime smaller tenants can stock, staff and turn around in just about 24 hours,” he said. “When we get to the end of a project like this it’s a toss-up as to who opens first.”

City manager Rick Horst said Sonoran Creek will provide a huge benefit to the city in jobs, tax revenue and economic development. Upon completion, Sonoran Creek will consist of about 82,000 square feet of new retail. Horst said the development will create 282 new jobs with \$10.4 million in annual wages and an annual economic output of more than \$25.6 million.

“But for most people,” Horst said, “it will simply be a great addition to the city of Maricopa and mean a little less traffic on the 347 as they support local businesses in lieu of other communities.”

Call said four to six more tenants are being sought for the center, which has a capacity of 12

to 14 spaces, including a separate building that could house one large tenant or two to three smaller businesses.

Thompson Thrift’s research indicates Sonoran Creek will be a “significant piece of the economic development picture for Maricopa,” Call said. “It will spur new services and restaurants that are desperately needed, as well as more new retailers.”

As in similar projects, Thompson Thrift prefers to develop projects that fill a community need, Call said.

“When one corner gets developed, it spurs development not just across the street, but the area surrounding the new development. And something like a Sprouts tends to carry a bit of a flag that, once it gets planted, is a magnet for other retailers and other shops.”

TENANT LIST GROWING

Confirmed

- Sprouts Farmers Market
- Brake Masters
- Discount Tire
- Wynn Nail Salon
- The Joint Chiropractic
- State Farm
- Jimmy John’s
- Filiberto’s Mexican Food

Business owner announced

- Neon Barre

Bob McGovern

La Quinta resets grand opening amid COVID-19 delays

BY JAY TAYLOR

THE LONG-AWAITED OPENING of the first hotel to operate in Maricopa in 66 years will have to wait just a bit longer.

Originally slated to greet travelers at the end of March, the La Quinta Inn & Suites at Copper Sky is now looking at an opening date in late April or early May, according to its owner.



Jay Taylor

La Quinta will employ about 20 people, including front desk attendants and housekeepers.

Originally slated to greet travelers at in the summer of 2020, the La Quinta Inn & Suites at Copper Sky is now looking at an opening date in late April or early May.

“COVID had a pretty large impact on the construction,” owner Andy Bhakta said. “According to the general contractor, their materials did not show up in a timely matter.”

In addition to keeping visitors in town for sports tournaments and other large events, the hotel will be a boon to City coffers. The City’s special projects director, Josh Bowman, said the hotel will generate about \$300,000 per year in direct and indirect revenues.

An impact study by Applied Economics, a business valuation firm, predicts the hotel will generate \$235,000 annually in new sales, lodging and property tax to the city. Additional indirect tax revenue from employees and visitor spending is estimated at \$63,000 annually.

The hotel will employ about 20 people, according to Bhakta, who also owns La Quinta franchises in Holbrook and Williams. He said local residents can expect to see a “Hiring Now” banner flying sometime this month, after the parking lot is graded. Front desk attendants and housekeeping, laundry, janitorial and maintenance staff will be hired.

The hotel will feature a pool, jacuzzi, fitness center and meeting rooms. There will not be a restaurant on the property, but Bhakta said guests will have access to a hot continental breakfast daily once COVID-19 guidelines allow it. Room rates will start at \$99 per night and reservations can be booked for dates starting June 15.

“We are live to book, however only after June 15 for now,” he said. “As we get closer to completion, we will move the date for earlier bookings.”

Despite the delays, Bhakta said he is ready for opening day.

“We are so ready to open,” he said. “We are very excited; it’s around the corner.”

Local owners to build kid-friendly restaurant

BY BOB MCGOVERN

A KID-FRIENDLY RESTAURANT IS coming to Maricopa.

But its self-serve craft beer wall and selection of wines will appeal to adults, too.

Two city residents, Ray Jones and Terrann Gillespie, will open a Crave Hot Dogs & BBQ, a quickly expanding franchise started in 2018 in Long Island, New York, according to RestaurantNews.com. The local franchisees will build a restaurant, but no location or timeline was specified in the report.

The menu posted online at iwantcrave.com shows plates of smoked brisket, pulled pork and pulled chicken. There’s also a Brisket Bowl — a skillet filled with smoked brisket, 4-bean baked beans, cheddar cheese, BBQ

sauce, diced tomato and onion.

The gluten-free, beef hot dogs are served on buns and come with two free toppings — chili, jalapeno, bacon, spicy pickle chips or craft beer cheese, for example — with additional toppings available. The menu also features bratwurst and mild or hot sausage as well as sandwiches and salads. Four kids’ meals are available.

Part of Crave’s unique concept is a self-serve beer wall with as many as 32 local craft brews. Patrons can choose a beer and decide how much to pour. Wines will also be available at the wall.

Family fun is also part of the concept. Games such as cornhole, giant connect four and board games will be available for the kids. TVs will show sports. Crave hosts events like princess parties, trivia nights, \$2 Tuesdays and Kids Eat Free on Wednesdays. Most locations feature a patio and some have a drive-thru.



The restaurant offers self-order kiosks and an app enables customers to order ahead and get their order at curbside or by delivery.

The Maricopa location will be Crave’s first in Arizona, according to the corporate website.

Neither Crave’s corporate office nor the franchisees returned requests for comment about the plans for Maricopa.

Teachers put Downey on path to success, and he wants to pay it forward

BY JAY TAYLOR

ROBERT DOWNEY’S PATH TO A SEAT ON THE Maricopa Unified School District Governing Board started a continent away.

His journey, marked by family tragedy, may be different from his fellow board members, but he shares their goal — to help develop better students.

For Downey, it’s about paying back a debt to the educators in Belfast, Northern Ireland, who rescued him in his early years and gave him a shot at a successful life.

The oldest of six boys, Downey’s father died when he was a young boy — and his 26-year-old mother was pregnant with his youngest brother.

“My teachers did a lot for me,” said Downey, who recently retired after a 40-year career in information technology, the past two decades with Honeywell in the Valley. “We grew up poor, and I was only 10 when my dad died.”

He said his teachers pointed him toward a variety of pursuits, including ROTC, athletics, running and the Boy Scouts, which provided the education, will, knowledge and confidence “to go for it” and keep him out of trouble.

“Where I’m from, 98% of students left school by the 10th grade,” he said. “They had to go to work and help support their families. Because of the help of those people, I was able to do more than that.”



The persistence learned from school mentors paid off as he graduated college with an honors degree in computer science from the University of Ulster in Northern Ireland. He went to work for the French company Bombardier Aerospace, the largest employer in Northern Ireland, where he worked for 20 years before being recruited to the United States in 1995.

He was brought over by an aerospace company, Philadelphia-based CDI, in support of a project for Allied Signal in the Valley. Allied Signal later acquired Honeywell but kept the name.

It had long been a dream for Downey. “I always wanted to come here since the moon landing,” he said. “I wanted to come to America to be an American. And to live the American dream.”

On his arrival to the States, Downey immediately appreciated his newfound liberty. In Belfast, three decades of “the Troubles,” the conflict over whether Northern Ireland should remain part of the United Kingdom or join the Republic of Ireland in a united Ireland, meant he couldn’t simply go out and do things.

“When we left, you couldn’t even go for a hike in the local park because of the Troubles,” he said. “The Belfast city center shut down at 6 p.m. There were barriers around the city center. There was nothing — no restaurants, nowhere to go, nothing to do.”

In this country, he and his wife, Barbara, and the family could go to the theater and dine in restaurants.

“The freedom to get in your car and drive wherever you want to, is an amazing thing that we take for granted here, and we forget how special that freedom is,” he said. “The opportunities here were immense for my kids and they were very good for Barbara and me.”

A long career in information technology and growing up in a different culture has provided skills, though perhaps untraditional, that Downey feels will translate well to his Governing Board role.

“I think I can draw a little bit from all aspects of my career,” he said. “My time in the corporate world will definitely help me understand the finances. I attended two of the board meetings (before being sworn in Feb. 16) and I understand what they cover. I am impressed by the people and the subject matter they are handling on a daily basis.

“I think I’m good at listening and knowing what’s going on,” he added. “It’s about understanding how you can help the families.”

Downey said he’s already interested in the district’s Maricopa Virtual Academy and the foreign teachers program.

He will draw upon his own personal experience to guide him on the school board. His wife was a pastor of a church congregation



MUSD Spotlight Community Leaders

CONTRIBUTE TIME AND SUPPORT TO HELP MAKE OUR SCHOOLS A GREAT PLACE TO TEACH AND LEARN.



Jennifer Estrada
Parent Volunteer
Butterfield Elementary School



Howard Zolty
Community Member
Maricopa Elementary School



Andrew Hage
Parent Volunteer
Pima Butte Elementary School



Amy Duncan
Parent Volunteer
Saddleback Elementary School



Tammy Ash
Volunteer
Santa Cruz Elementary School



Emerald Corley
PTO Member
Santa Rosa Elementary School



Nathan Cabral
Parent Volunteer
Desert Wind Middle School



Albert & Leticia Santiago
Parent Supporters
Maricopa Wells Middle School



Rockstar Cheer
Business Partner & MHS Cheer Support
Maricopa High School



Staci Blazkowski
Math Teacher
Desert Wind Middle School

MUSD Spotlight Recognition

MUSD Spotlight Employees

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Kristin Krueger
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Butterfield Elementary School



Kim Williams
Special Education Teacher
Maricopa Elementary School



Diana Jones
ESS Paraprofessional
Pima Butte Elementary School



Maureen Derse
2nd Grade Teacher
Saddleback Elementary School



Klarissa Zuniga
Library Aide
Santa Cruz Elementary School



Nicole Orth
Behavior Specialist
Santa Rosa Elementary School



Emily Roderick
Math Teacher
Desert Wind Middle School



Ana Zuniga
Lead Custodian
Maricopa Wells Middle School



Kevin Piquette
CTE Theatre Technology Teacher
Maricopa High School



Karla Hyde
Student Activities/Accounts Receivable
Business Department

MUSD Spotlight Students

SET THE BAR HIGH AND ARE RECOGNIZED FOR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT, DEMONSTRATING GREAT CHARACTER, HELPING OTHERS, AND BEING GREAT AMBASSADORS FOR THEIR SCHOOLS.



Ian Meza
3rd Grade
Butterfield Elementary School



Mary Platt
5th Grade
Maricopa Elementary School



Enoch Skousen
2nd Grade
Pima Butte Elementary School



Jacoby Roos
5th Grade
Saddleback Elementary School



Liam Armstrong
2nd Grade
Santa Cruz Elementary School



Luna Garcia
4th Grade
Santa Rosa Elementary School



Catherine Correa
8th Grade
Desert Wind Middle School



Kaila Sampsell
7th Grade
Maricopa Wells Middle School



Carlos Pino
11th Grade
Maricopa High School



Robert Downey, with his wife Jane, was sworn in as a member of the Maricopa Unified School District Governing Board, by Judge Lyle Riggs on Feb. 17.

of 500-600 members.

Downey ran events for her.

"I ran the youth program, the Rainbows group, which is a support group for kids who'd lost a parent," he said. "As it grew, it came to include kids who had lost a parent through divorce as well as death, which gave me a lot of chances to work with young people and try to make a difference in their lives."

ROBERT DOWNEY

Age: 62

Hometown: Belfast, Northern Ireland

Maricopan since: 2017

Occupation: Retired

Elected position: Maricopa Unified School District Governing Board; term runs through 2022

Previous: Information technology in the aerospace industry for Bombardier, Allied Signal and Honeywell

In his words: "I always wanted to come here since the moon landing. I wanted to come to America to be an American. And to live the American dream."

'A GOOD FIT BECAUSE HE LOVES KIDS'

Downey was widowed in 2013. He recently remarried after meeting his wife Jane in a singles group at Cornerstone Church in Mesa.

After retiring in November from Honeywell, Downey said the couple went to see their financial planner and told him they wanted to support some charitable organizations, both financially and with their time.

As they were going through that process, a colleague reached out to him who thought he would make a good addition to the MUSD board.

"Someone tapped me on the shoulder, and I thought it might be a way for me to help," he said. "I have been blessed with good teachers, good education and extracurricular activities in my life. Those things motivated me to go on to university and go on to have a really good life and career. If I can do anything to help these kids get some of those same kinds of things, I'll do anything I can to make that happen."

That suggestion came from Lewis Sanders, whom Downey knew from their work together in the Pinal County Republican Committee. Shortly after they met, Sanders told Downey he would be a good candidate for the open seat.

"He came here in 1995 from Ireland, he's a great family man, takes extremely good care of his kids, he interacts with them all the time," Sanders said. "He interacts with people, he is a very caring, compassionate person. Knowing him like I did I thought he would be a good fit because he loves kids."

Downey was intrigued and applied. The Pinal County Superintendent of Schools Jill Broussard interviewed five candidates for the seat vacated in September when board member Patti Coutre resigned to take a

position as an administrative assistant in the district's maintenance department.

Downey was appointed from a field of candidates that included Edward Farrell, Darris Pedro, Yolanda Miranda and Tracey Armstead-Payton, who ran for a seat in the November election and came up just 17 votes short.

Sanders believes Downey will thrive in his new role.

"He's got plenty of common sense, foresight and the ability to get along with people," said Sanders. "He can look at and analyze the curriculum and he has all those things that will make him great with both the kids and the parents. He'll be looking out for the students."

'WE HAVE TO TAKE CALCULATED RISKS'

Broussard said Downey stood out in a field of strong candidates.

"Maricopa has had a history of providing wonderful applicants for open board seats, and this was no different," she said. "All five candidates had engaging personalities, unique life experiences and sincere care for their community. Mr. Downey represents another unique set of experiences, skills and talents. I believe he will be a good addition to help strengthen the board in doing what is best for our students."

Looking at the board from the outside (at least so far), Downey saw several issues he identified as priorities for the district.

"Well, COVID is obviously number one," he said. "It's an intersection of health and education, and the social aspect of it in kids' lives is very important."

He said getting students caught up will be critical, and planning of the new high school, the district's ability to handle the city's population growth and finances are key.

Downey said the Governing Board and Broussard share a big vision and want to be recognized as the best district in the state and across the country.

"I want us to be compared with the districts in Chandler," he said. "They want to be the best — I like that."

And while Downey may have ideas about what his new endeavor will entail, he is also honest about not knowing all to expect as a Governing Board member.

"I'm an open and honest person so I have to say I don't know exactly what I'm getting myself into," he said. "But I do know how to get thrown in the deep end and survive."

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EDUCATION



Wanted: More women in engineering

BY MURRAY SIEGEL


FOR MANY YEARS, EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO ENTICE more women to pursue careers in engineering. Today, if you ask somebody to describe an engineer, the response would be a white male, probably wearing glasses and socially awkward. Given that description, how can we expect young girls to envision themselves in that field?

What is needed are role models, vibrant women who are experiencing successful engineering careers. One great example who meets that need is Hannah Budinoff, Ph.D., assistant professor of Systems and Industrial Engineering at the University of Arizona.

Budinoff grew up in Phoenix, attended Xavier Prep, an all-girls school, and that experience helped her gain confidence to face the challenges of an engineering education. She then received her undergraduate mechanical engineering degree from UofA. When asked why she chose an engineering program, she indicated that in high school she gradually realized science and math provided both fun and interest. She enjoyed mechanical design and chose to major in mechanical engineering.

Her undergraduate experience included internships which led to a full-time position with Honeywell as a design engineer. She found the job fit her personality but thought she could accomplish more as an engineering professor. Returning to graduate school, she received her doctorate in mechanical engineering from the University of California, Berkeley, and accepted a position at her alma mater. In addition to her teaching duties, Budinoff's research focuses on solving problems in design and manufacturing.

When queried about her perception of opportunities for young women in engineering today, Budinoff said she believes the field offers a wealth of opportunities. Engineering is not only an exciting creative field, it is currently making attempts at diversity. She hopes that as a professor, she can contribute to growing the numbers of women finding real success in the profession.

Previously, I have suggested means to increase the number of Americans entering STEM (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics) fields. Certainly, one way is to motivate higher numbers of underrepresented populations, such as women and minorities, to consider applying for admission to STEM programs in college. It is obvious the needed academic preparation is one factor, but visible role models to entice interest is also important. Telling the story of female engineering professors like Budinoff is helpful in the quest to enlarge the number of U.S. women in technical fields. 

Murray Siegel, Ph.D., has more than 44 years of teaching experience and volunteers at Butterfield Elementary School.

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CAC earns Bronze Military Friendly School designation

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CENTRAL ARIZONA COLLEGE has earned the 2021-2022 Bronze Military Friendly® School designation.

Institutions earning the Military Friendly School designation were evaluated using both public data sources and responses from a proprietary survey. Over 1,200 schools participated in the 2021-2022 survey with 747 earning the designation.

The 2021-2022 Military Friendly Schools list will be published in the May issue of G.I. Jobs magazine and can be found at www.militaryfriendly.com.

Methodology, criteria and weightings were determined by Viqtory with input from the Military Friendly Advisory Council of independent leaders in the higher education and military recruitment community. Final ratings were determined by combining the institution's survey response set and government/agency public data sources, within a logic-based scoring assessment. The institution's ability to meet thresholds for student retention, graduation, job placement, loan repayment, persistence (degree advancement or transfer) and loan default rates for all students and, specifically, for student veterans were measured.

"CAC is honored to receive 2021-2022 Bronze Military Friendly School designation," stated Elizabeth Barrett, CAC Military & Veteran's Services school certifying official. "We are committed to assisting our service members and their families, along with veterans and

their spouses and dependents, to reach their educational goals."

"Military Friendly is committed to transparency and providing consistent data driven standards in our designation process," said Kayla Lopez, national director of military partnerships for Military Friendly. "This creates a competitive atmosphere that encourages colleges to consistently evolve and invest in their programs. Schools who achieve designation show true commitment and dedication in their efforts. Our standards assist schools by providing a benchmark that promotes positive educational outcomes, resources, and support services that better the educational landscape and provide opportunity for the military community."



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1. Resident Ben Wilson took this photo of his Corgi, Wayne Wilson, on a March 14 stroll through the fields along on Farrell Road, near Hartman Road.

2. Singer Adina Howard hosted the COPA Music Festival on Feb. 20 at Copper Sky Regional Park. *Kevin Vasquez*



3



4

3. Players, families and coaches with the Maricopa Militia youth football league volunteered at the Maricopa Pantry on March 6. Khaymon Brooks, left, and Jaxsten Brooks helped pack and load boxes of food that assisted more than 700 families. *Submitted*

4. Maricopa Lady Rams' sophomore guard Sapphira Reyes dribbles out of trouble during a Feb. 19 home win against the Paradise Honors Panthers. *Sammantha Herbaugh*



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Growing garden veggies in desert all about timing, location

BY AL BRANDENBURG

YOU MAY HAVE STARTED TO plant your tomatoes, peppers and cukes. Early April in Arizona's low desert garden is one of the most beautiful times of year, but one of the biggest mistakes made by Maricopa gardening rookies



is timing. Spring in Wisconsin, for example, is much like autumn in Arizona so people may plant the wrong thing at the wrong time.

Raising vegetables in the desert can be daunting to people who forget the planting cycle is different. Planting tomatoes in May can lead to heartache in July. The desert has two growing seasons — spring and fall. And both have vegetables that grow best in colder or warmer temperatures. Folks from the East or Midwest should think of low desert summers as a gardening winter, not a time to sow seeds. Summer is our harshest season, but unlike December in Indiana, vegetables can grow in July if you plant warm-weather vegetable


varieties in early spring. The planting season may seem topsy-turvy to transplants, but you can still plant a garden now or start to plan a fall garden.

As with real estate, location matters. Look at where and when shadows are cast in your yard and place the garden accordingly. Vegetable plants like sunlight, at least 6-8 hours a day. It's easier to mitigate too much sunlight than too much shade. Shade cloth is an easy, inexpensive fix. Start modestly. Even veteran gardeners can be frustrated.


I recommend a -four-foot-by-four-foot, raised bed at least 18 inches high. Many local nurseries and home-improvement stores sell ready-made gardening beds, or you can build one from untreated wood. Valley soil is rich in minerals but lacks organic matter. For raised beds, I recommend a 50-50 planting mixture of native soil and compost that can be purchased at Ace or Lowes.

Vegetables also need to be watered at least one foot deep. The urge may be to overwater, but it's as dangerous as underwatering. Plants need oxygen, and too much water can drown them. As temperatures heat up, annual plants will need more frequent watering. Water to a depth of about six inches, and allow the top of soil to dry out before watering again.

Plant appropriate vegetables and varieties. For instance, don't plant a tomato in late March that will take 90 days to bear fruit. That tomato would be harvested when temperatures are likely in the triple digits. Read labels and select varieties that are 45 to 60 days to harvest. This is the time to plant cucumbers, beans, green onions and peas.

Have fun! 

Al Brandenburg is a Pinal County Master Gardener.

 Master gardener, 520-374-6263, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Sources: GrowingInTheGarden.com, InHabitat, APNursery.com, Extension.Arizona.edu

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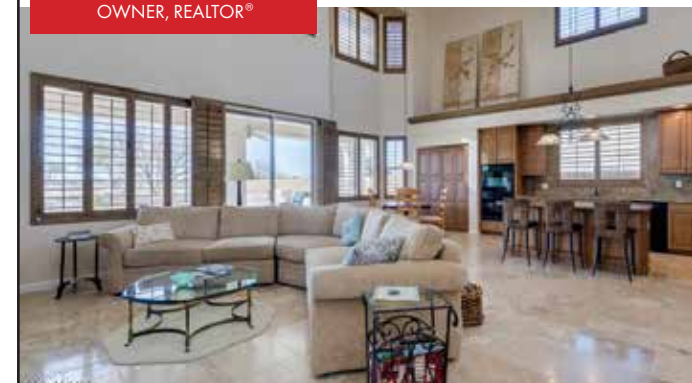
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HOME



To be ready for unexpected costs, consider a home warranty

BY DAYV MORGAN

WITH 75% OF THE HOMES IN MARICOPA AT LEAST 10 years old, it is imperative for homebuyers to budget for unexpected home repair costs.

When air conditioning units or appliances fail suddenly, the cost of repair or replacement can be a shock. Think about the rest of the home. The water heater may be nearing the end of its life span or the cooling system may date to 2005. And who knows what your roof looks like under the tiles.

A home warranty plan is an important part of buying a home. While home insurance can cover you against structural damage and theft, a home warranty can repair or replace systems and appliances that stop working due to normal wear and tear.

The "1% Rule" recommends that homeowners budget 1% of the purchase price of their home for annual maintenance. For a \$325,000 home, that's \$3,250 a year.

According to US News and Freddie Mac, however, homebuyers will spend as much as 4% of the property's value on annual maintenance and repair costs. For the same \$325,000 home, that could be \$13,000 annually.

The estimated average yearly cost of maintaining a home in Arizona is \$16,097, according to a recent survey by Porch.com.

Another recent study found a quarter of homeowners could not afford to make a \$1,000 repair.

The many homes in Maricopa built from 2004-2006 during the boom are now 15 years old. Mechanical systems are aging, and appliances have a certain life expectancy. They will fail — someday.

The list of recommended home maintenance is long and includes draining the hot water heater, changing out HVAC filters, oiling your garage door rollers, cleaning the dryer vent duct and damper or servicing the evaporative cooler of your AC system.

But not many homeowners keep up the maintenance of their home as well as they maintain their car.

A good home warranty plan may help offset these unexpected costs. When agreeing to buy a home, the buyers have to state in the purchase contract whether they want a home warranty and who will pay for it. Just know that in today's seller's market, that cost will almost always be borne by the buyer. Sellers don't need to offer that incentive in such a hot market.

What does a home warranty cover?

Plans vary, and it depends how much you want to pay. The average plan costs between \$300-\$600 in annual premiums and covers:

- Oven/Range
- Dishwasher
- Garbage disposal
- Plumbing
- Water heaters
- HVAC
- Electrical systems
- Doorbells
- Inside plumbing
- Ceiling fans
- Upgrade options
- Refrigerators
- Washers/Dryers
- Spa/Pool systems
- Garage door openers

What is not typically covered?

- Outdoor items/systems
- Faucet repairs
- Pre-existing conditions
- Code violations
- Improper installation

Typically, when something does break or wear out, you can call your home warranty representative first, and they will send over a repair professional in their network. Some companies let you pick your own repair company.

Often, homeowners will pay a service fee, between \$75-\$125 typically, for that in-home visit.

Always examine the inclusions and exclusions of a home warranty carefully and discuss it with your agent before signing. There are many stories about claims being denied, with insurers claiming a repair is necessary because of a pre-existing condition, which is not covered.

Arizonans would be wise to delve into the coverage specifics of individual home warranties for HVAC systems, and use that as a basis for your decision.

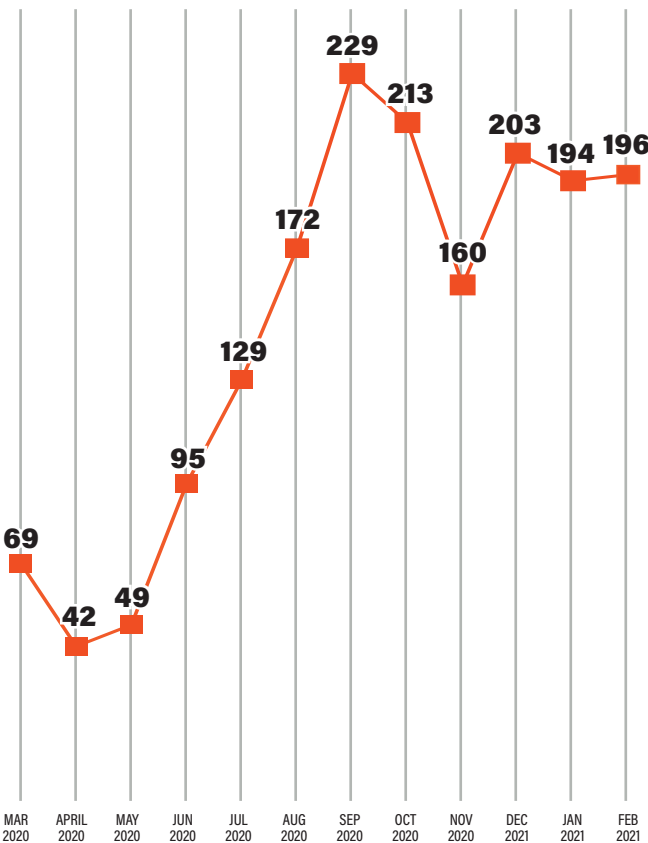
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most expensive HOME SOLD	41888 W. Laramie Court, Glennwilde	March 12	\$ \$589,900
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The most expensive home sold in Maricopa Feb. 11-Mar. 12 was a single-story in Glennwilde. This semi-custom home sits on an oversized, cul-de-sac lot with no neighbors behind the property. The paver driveway leads to an RV gate and path to the tiled, front porch. The upgraded kitchen features double ovens, gas cooktop and large center island with granite counter tops. Every part of the open floorplan features a view to the backyard that is ready for entertaining. A large pool, outdoor kitchen with pergola, extended patio with plenty of seating and metal-roofed gazebo offering lots of shade. The home was under contract the same day it was listed and sold for \$10,000 under list price.

Square feet: 3,299
Price per square foot: \$178.81
Days on market: 107
Builder: Fulton Homes
Year built: 2018
Bedrooms: 4
Bathrooms: 4

Community: Glennwilde
Features: Oversized cul-de-sac lot, mother-in-law suite, 2 dens, formal dining, 9-foot double slider patio doors, 3-car tandem garage, electric-vehicle outlet, RV gate, pool, outdoor kitchen with pergola.

- 2. 40866 W. Parkhill Drive, The Lakes\$550,000
- 3. 42397 W. Blue Suede Shoes Lane, Province\$530,000
- 4. 18121 N. Tara Lane, Glennwilde\$490,000
- 5. 41691 W. Harvest Moon Drive, Province\$469,900

least expensive HOME SOLD	44916 W. Gavilan Drive, Acacia Crossings	Feb. 27	\$165,000
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The least expensive home sold in Maricopa Feb. 11-Mar. 12 was a one-story, 3-bedroom in Acacia Crossings. It was a short sale with no flooring, faucets, sinks or water heater. On the market for over a year, it sold for asking price.

Square feet: 1,639
Price per square foot: \$100.67
Days on market: 407
Builder: Shea

Year built: 2003
Bedrooms: 3
Bathrooms: 2
Community: Acacia Crossings

- 2. 41767 W. Sagebrush Court, Province.....\$222,000
- 3. 19407 N. San Pablo Street, Tortosa\$226,725
- 4. 45060 W. Zion Road, Alterra South.....\$233,990
- 5. 20484 N. Cloud Nine Lane, Province.....\$235,000

Bob McGovern

Gated, multifamily community planned at Tortosa

BY BOB MCGOVERN

A GATED, MULTIFAMILY DEVELOPMENT is planned for a 20-acre property in Tortosa. Honeycutt Run will consist of 209 single-story and detached units at the southeast corner of Honeycutt and Hartman roads, according to the developer, Sandbox Development Consultants of Phoenix.

The development will border homes on West La Paz Street to the south and North San Marin to the east.

The property, zoned CB-1 for commercial business, was intended to be developed more than 10 years ago as a small retail store, restaurant and gas station.

It would need to be rezoned for mixed use.

The plan is still under review by the city but is scheduled to be presented to the



Planning and Zoning Commission at its April 12 meeting, said Peter Margoliner, assistant planner in the city's Economic & Community Development department.



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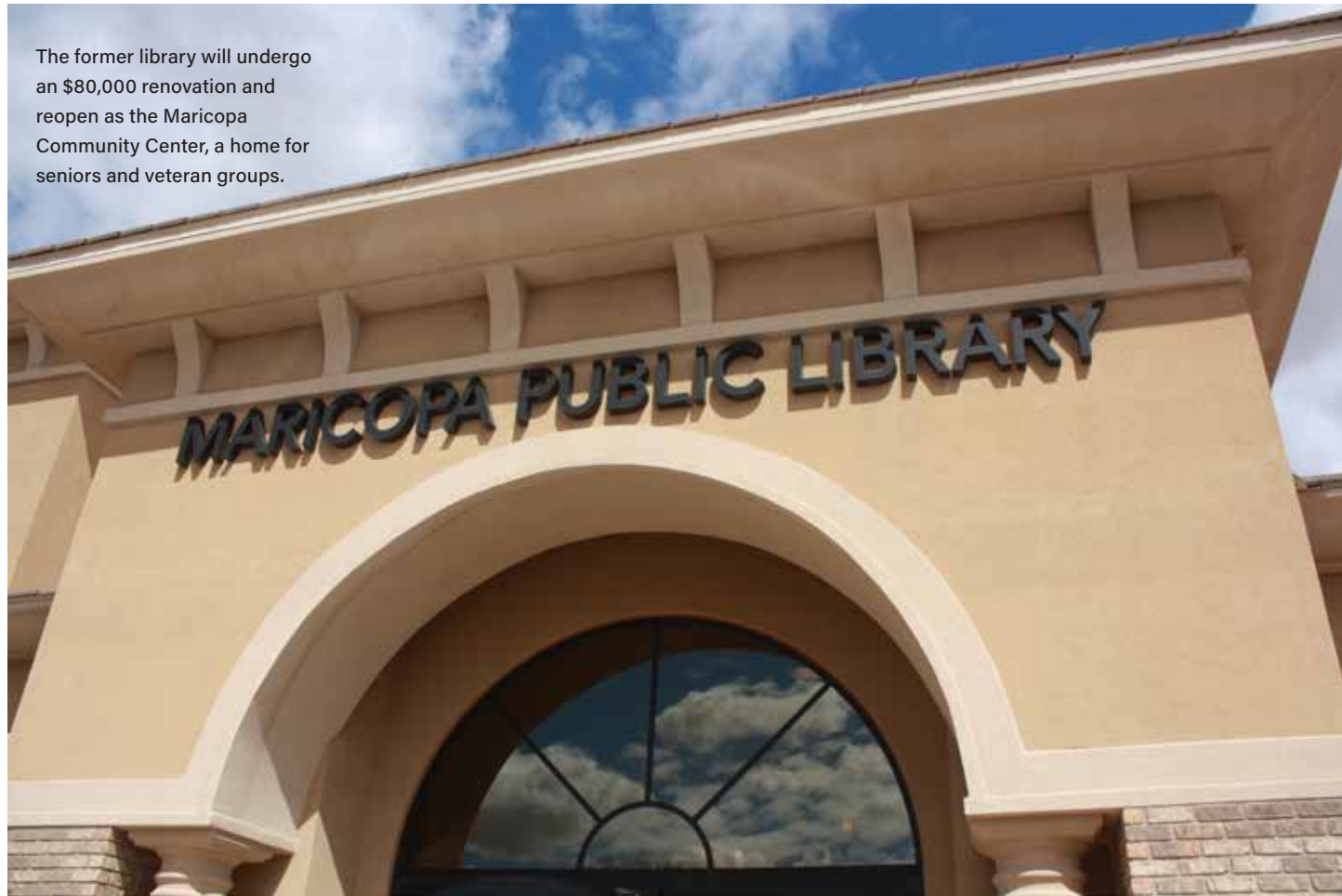
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The former library will undergo an \$80,000 renovation and reopen as the Maricopa Community Center, a home for seniors and veteran groups.



Veterans, seniors to share Maricopa Community Center

BY JAY TAYLOR

WITH THE RECENT OPENING of the Maricopa Library & Cultural Center, renovation of its former space will result in new headquarters for a number of civic groups.

The \$80,000 renovation of the old library at 41600 W. Smith-Enke Road is expected to be completed by early July.

When ready, the 8,000-square-foot building will be christened the Maricopa Community Center and welcome several veterans and seniors' groups in the city.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 12043, American Legion Post 133 and the Blue Star Mothers of Maricopa will make the move from their current home at on West Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway, near the school district

administration building. According to City Manager Rick Horst, their quarters on the west side of the community center will be called the Maricopa Veterans Center. While those three groups will have dedicated space, the door is open to others. "All veterans are welcome to the center regardless of their affiliation," Horst said.

Seniors will benefit from the changes, too. Currently, senior groups do not have a regular space for their activities. Seniors will have priority in booking time in the eastern part of the facility.

"The facility will house space dedicated to our senior community," Horst said. "We are not hosting any specific senior group, but all groups may use the facility. Staff will coordinate all schedules and uses."

An atrium in the center of the building can serve as meeting space or as overflow for larger events held by the seniors or veterans.

Once the veterans move, their former home — which was Maricopa's original library — will be renovated for use as a museum and meeting place for the Maricopa Historical Society. According to Horst, the \$100,000 renovation will include repairs to the roof and HVAC system. Adjacent to the museum, the Silver Horizon railcar from the California Zephyr passenger train will likely become a welcome center. The historic dome car was moved to its location in the former Rotary Park in 2019. It is currently being rehabilitated with the installation of new windows and electricity.

According to Horst, the museum should be

Bob McGovern

ready by October.

Neither the veterans nor the seniors will have to pay for their meeting space at the Community Center.

'A VIABLE RESOURCE'

Joan Koczor, president of city council's Age Friendly Maricopa Committee, said the new center will offer significant advantages over the current system.

"The availability of rooms for meetings is a definite plus," she said. "As a senior advocate in Maricopa, one of the biggest issues I've always found is that if there was another group that needed the space we were in, we had to leave. Copper Sky rooms A and B were originally intended for seniors but that hasn't happened."

Seniors used to meet at the Copa Center on Honeycutt Road, but they moved out in April 2017 before it was torn down to build the overpass.

"We had the use of that building for years, we had it Monday through Friday from 8 to noon and could extend hours if we needed to," she said. "That was the main building for us where we had security and knew we'd have a room."

Kyle Norby



After the Copa Center was razed, seniors dispersed to other locations and had the option of using Copper Sky, if rooms were available, Koczor said. But over the past year, with the difficulty of getting members together due to the pandemic and facility issues, many have split

American Legion Post Commander Bryan Moore and his son, Parker, pause during a prayer at a 9/11 flag-raising ceremony in September. Moore said the veterans need a flagpole at their new center.

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into smaller groups to play cards or conduct other social gatherings. Koczor is hoping they will return and the community center “will be a viable resource.”

But despite all the advantages the new center will provide, one veteran official sees drawbacks in the move.

Post Commander Bryan Moore said the American Legion’s current location has a patio area with a grill and furniture. He said the Smith-Enke building is nice, but he doesn’t know if they’ll be able to have those things in the new place.

There is no space to accommodate his group’s many outdoor events.

The American Legion and VFW posts hold joint flag-raising ceremonies to commemorate wars, 9/11 anniversaries and holidays, but it is not clear if those public events can be held the new location, he said. “We have to have a flagpole and it is yet to be seen where that can be done at the new place.”

The lack of storage, Moore said, may prevent club members from providing a service they have offered in the past, obtaining items for distribution to fellow veterans in need.

“We try to keep items on hand that we acquire for future use by our fellow vets,” he said. “If we find someone who wants to donate a wheelchair or a walker, and if we don’t have an immediate need, we’ll store it until we have a veteran who needs it. This could make it harder for us to do those kinds of things.”

‘SO MUCH MORE SPACE’

The veterans seem to have at least a temporary solution to the storage issue.

“We have gotten a commitment from the Maricopa Food Bank to let us use some of their space,” Moore said. “It’s a little inconvenient to be having to run out to Papago Road any time we need something, but we’ll make do.”

Despite some of the hiccups that may occur during the transition to the new facilities, Horst said the feedback has been mostly positive.

“This has been our plan for nearly two years,” he said. “Our veterans seem to be happy. Our seniors do not presently have a space. Now they will, and they have expressed their excitement.”

Jennifer Bostian, the city’s deputy director of Community Services, said the renovated facilities will create more opportunities for

people to meet and connect. “We’ll just have so much more space to do things,” she said. “At the Community Center, even the central part will be open for the community to use.”


Previously, she said, there were a couple of meeting rooms at Copper Sky and a meeting room at the old library that could hold about 30 people.

“That was really about it,” she said. “This will make it much easier for groups to find a place to get together.”

She also sounded a note of caution to those who may be experiencing some growing pains from the process.

“People always worry when there is change,” she said. “But the city is bending over backward to be sure everyone is getting what they need. Of course, there will be some things that have to be adjusted for. The seniors are going to be thrilled.”

Bostian said Horst has personally met with them to make sure they are getting what they need.

“I think everyone is going to be very pleased when things settle down and everyone has had a chance to adjust to the new situation and their new space.” 

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Keeping your brain healthy: preventative measures

BY JOAN KOCZOR

A RECENT ARTICLE FROM MAYO Clinic states we are living longer than previous generations and should prepare ourselves to encounter new health risks, like cognitive decline.

Mild cognitive impairment (MCI) is the stage between the expected cognitive decline of normal aging and the more serious decline of dementia. It's characterized by problems with memory, language, thinking or judgment. It happens at different times and is noticed to affect different elements of people's lives. Although it's age-related for most, the exact cause is not known.

Many people notice gradually increasing forgetfulness as they age. It may take longer to think of a word or to recall a person's name. You lose your train of thought or the thread of conversations, books or movies. You find yourself overwhelmed by making decisions, planning steps to accomplish a task or understanding instructions.

Other medical conditions and lifestyle factors have been linked to an increased risk of cognitive change, including diabetes, smoking, high blood pressure, elevated cholesterol, obesity, depression and lack of exercise.

Currently, there is no standard treatment for MCI, but Mayo suggests integrating healthy habits into everyday life. Even a small change can make a big difference.


Be social. Recent studies show having social ties and maintaining frequent contact helps preserve mental ability. Participate in church groups, volunteer or join a group with similar interests.

Stimulate your mind. Take a class. Learn a new language. Research topics of interest on the internet. Stretch your brain power with puzzles and other challenging activities.

Take a fitness class. Exercise in mid-life years can significantly reduce the risk of mild cognitive impairment. It can also give your energy a boost and promotes activity in different parts of the brain. It is also a great way to meet new people.

Maintain a healthy weight and diet. Obesity at mid-life can decrease brain function. Grab an apple instead of a donut. Fruits and vegetables help with weight control and helps supply brain-healthy antioxidants.

Do not smoke. During mid-life, smokers increase the risk of brain atrophy and decline in executive function in later years.

Maintain a commonsense approach to your health and take preventative steps to ensure a healthy future. Visit your doctor regularly. Make a list of questions or concerns you might have, and don't leave until they are addressed. 

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

 [MayoClinic.org](https://www.mayoclinic.org)

 [InMaricopa.com/Columnists](https://www.inmaricopa.com/columnists)

calendar 04.21

3

The Maricopa Market Craft fair
9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Legacy Traditional School
17760 N. Regent Drive

Easter Egg Hunt

10 a.m. – ages 1-5
11 a.m. – ages 6-10
Jane Askew Memorial Park
Rancho El Dorado entrance

Inside the Creative Mind

Online lecture, with painters
Susan Cameron, Jenniann West
2 p.m.
Facebook Live

5

Veteran Support Group
6:30 p.m.
Northern Lights Therapy
21300 N. John Wayne
Pkwy., Suite 103

6

Maricopa City Council Meeting
7 p.m.
City Hall
39700 W. Civic Center Plaza

11

Maricopa Music Circle
Online concert
2 p.m.
Facebook Live

12

Veteran Family Member Support Group
6:30 p.m.
Northern Lights Therapy
21300 N. John Wayne
Pkwy., Suite 103

14

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

17

The Maricopa Market Craft fair
9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Legacy Traditional School
17760 N. Regent Drive

19

Veteran Support Group
6:30 p.m.
Northern Lights Therapy
21300 N. John Wayne
Pkwy., Suite 103



For details on these and other local events — and to list your own — visit [InMaricopa.com/Calendar](https://www.inmaricopa.com/calendar).

20

Maricopa City Council Meeting
7 p.m.
City Hall
39700 W. Civic Center Plaza

26

Veteran Family Member Support Group
6:30 p.m.
Northern Lights Therapy
21300 N. John Wayne
Pkwy., Suite 103

28

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

CONTINUING

SUNDAYS

Narcotics Anonymous
7 p.m., 45295 W. Honeycutt Ave.

MONDAYS

Virtual Storytime
9 a.m., Maricopa Public Library
[Facebook.com/MaricopaLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/MaricopaLibrary)

Narcotics Anonymous
7 p.m., 16540 N. Porter Road

TUESDAYS

Maricopa Cruise-in
5-9 p.m., behind Burger King
20699 N. John Wayne Parkway

Celebrate Recovery Small Group Meeting

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

WEDNESDAYS

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

THURSDAYS

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

FRIDAYS

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

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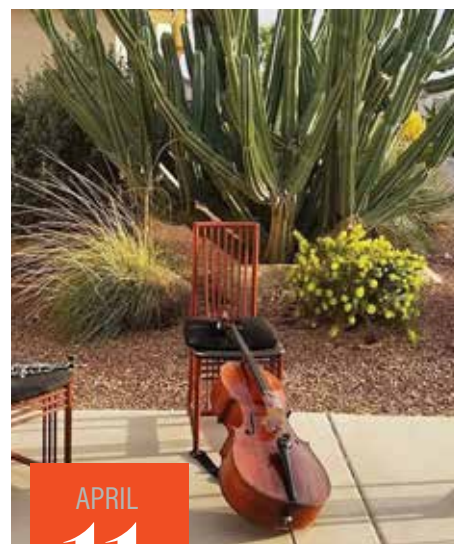
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APRIL
11

Maricopa Music Circle tunes up for April 11 online concert

The Maricopa Music Circle chamber orchestra will usher in spring on April 11.

"The orchestra of soloists" will present a free concert streamed online at 2 p.m. featuring solo and ensemble performances of Bizet's "Farandole" and Ravel's "Rigaudon" alternating with film-composer Henry Mancini's beloved "Moon River" and "La Cucaracha" in a clever arrangement by Gary Zaimont.

Recent performances were recorded only for the concert.

Other selections will include tuneful variations by British suffragette composer Ethel Smyth, a Celtic harp solo, the haunting flute Sicilienne (a sorrowful viola song by Gabriel Fauré) and a touch of Gershwin.

Founded in 2009, Maricopa Music Circle is the city's premiere chamber orchestra featuring local musicians. The group performs at venues in Maricopa and nearby cities.

The chamber orchestra's diverse selections include standard orchestral works and solos, seasonal music, popular tunes, jazz and big-band standards. All arrangements are adapted for the group.

Every Music Circle instrumentalist will have a spotlighted turn in the April concert.

MaricopaMusicCircle@yahoo.com
 Facebook.com/MaricopaMusicCircle

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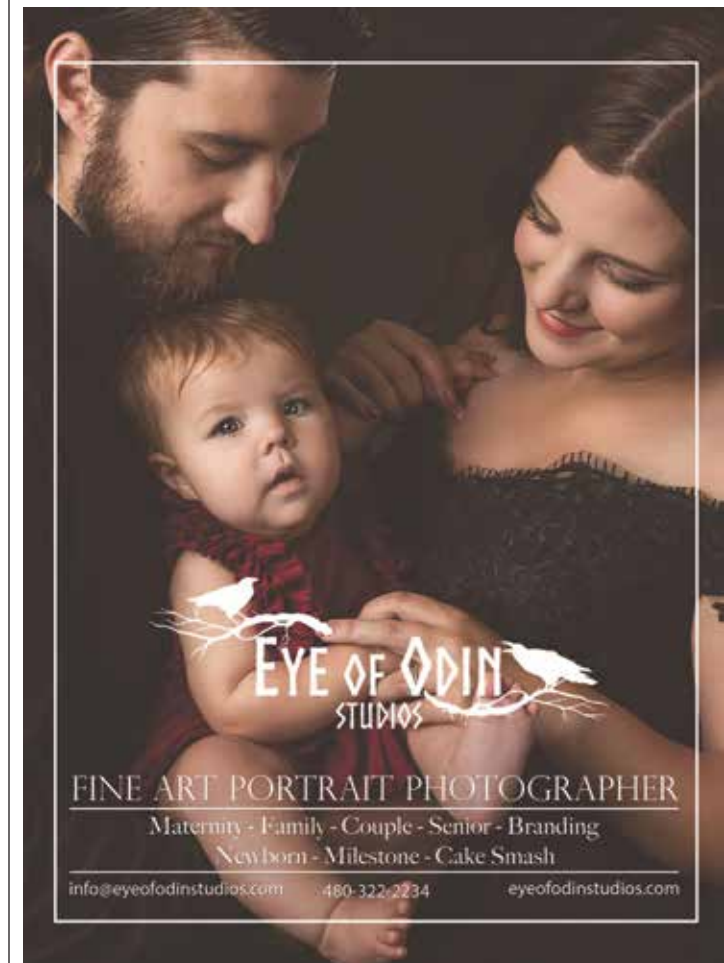
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Pit bull owner faces imminent criminal charges, civil suit in attack



Mayor, council offer thoughts on recreational marijuana



Lifting of occupancy limits has limited impact on restaurants



MUSD board votes, 2-1, to hire new MHS athletic director



Ducey executive order requires schools to reopen

TRENDING



Council OKs zoning change for West Maricopa Village



As Riggs Road overpass bill advances, council kicks in \$1M



Gun taken from vehicle in Villages burglaries overnight



La Quinta hotel construction curbs Copper Sky parking



Board revisits quarantine rules, gets update on 2nd high school



Santa Cruz students learning at home due to staff quarantines



9 key COVID questions answered by Pinal County Health Team



Nearly 75% say city should have recreational pot dispensary



COPA Music Festival: a night of soul, R&B (GALLERY)

POLL



Did you – or will you – get the COVID-19 vaccine when available?

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Moises Romero

This soaring view of the Sierra Estrellas mountain range was taken March 11 by Moises Romero in a rental glider from AZSoaring.

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