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# Education spurs growth

**AS MORE HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS** pop up in and around Maricopa, complaints are lodged about roads and the transportation infrastructure needed for all these new people coming into this city.

In a roundabout way, the Maricopa Unified School District override passed in November may play a key role in helping to fix these problems.

The continuation of the override, which allows for an extra 10% to be added to the school system's budget, is targeted at keeping class sizes small and technology current. It's funding that's much needed to help bring our educational system up to par.

People don't always associate schools with infrastructure, but they should.

Major industrial leaders certainly seem to look at it that way.

When corporations are trying to figure out where to locate their facilities, they want to make sure they'll have an educated workforce from which to hire.

The override will improve schools and that will attract more industry to Maricopa.

Right now, Maricopa is largely a commuter city. More and more houses are going up each day.



No matter what, that piece of the growth is happening. There's a good reason for it. If you look at what's going on all around Maricopa, the whole region is experiencing an economic boom. All these new people are going to have to go somewhere.

What's needed now, however, are serious good-paying jobs located in Maricopa.

That kind of growth will allow more people to spend less time in their cars. They will get to work where they live. That in and of itself will ease some of the transportation problems we are now experiencing.

As more goods are produced in Maricopa, improved transportation infrastructure will be needed to help bring those products to market.

But none of this is likely to happen without a well-educated workforce.

In November, the community of Maricopa voted to maintain elevated spending on education, and that decision is going to pay serious dividends down the road.

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An advocate for seniors, she has lived in Maricopa since 2005.



**TERRY LEAMON**

The owner of My Maricopa Plumber shares tips with readers to help them avoid plumbing problems.

## ON THE COVER

Kallie Stewart was photographed by Jason Rziha during a mountain bike race in October at White Tank Mountain Regional Park.



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1960s



## There yesterday, gone today

Shown is a picture of the NAPA Auto Parts from the 1960s. The store was razed at the end of 2020 due in large part to the newly constructed overpass. The foundations of the old McCarthy Hotel were beneath it. It started out as a small grocery store and blacksmith shop, then a tractor, truck and auto parts store, then Valley Auto Parts, then NAPA. This store sat at the old junction of the Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway and John Wayne Parkway. Now the street is called Mercado Street.



2021

## THIS MONTH BACK IN...

For these and other historical stories, visit [InMaricopa.com](http://InMaricopa.com).



2004

PGA professional John Daly came to Maricopa to help Southern Dunes Golf Club break ground on its new clubhouse. The former PGA and British Open champion liked what he saw and indicated he would be back. Daly, who was known as an outlaw of sorts on the PGA tour, told the crowd "I won't come just once" and hinted at the possibility of hosting one of his foundation's events at Southern Dunes in the future.



2007

It was announced in the first week of December 2007 that the first McDonald's fast food eatery would open the following summer in Maricopa. The 4,950-square-foot restaurant was to include two drive-through lanes at the Shops at Maricopa Fiesta Commercial Center in the 20700 block of North John Wayne Parkway (north of Edison Road). The restaurant opened in August 2008.



2013

In November, the highest-priced house sold for \$320,000 on West Bravo Drive. The 2,865-square-foot home was on the market for 27 days. The lowest-priced house sold for \$55,500 on West Hathaway Avenue. The two-bedroom home was on the market for 80 days. The average list price for homes in November was \$163,172, while the average selling price was \$159,208. On average, homes sold in November were on the market for 82 days.

Maricopa Historical Society: Brian Petersheim Jr.

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## The Oatman Massacre: Rescued by the Mojave

BY C.M. CURTIS

*EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the fourth article in a series dealing with the Oatman massacre and the experiences of the family members who survived it.*

**Y**OU WILL RECALL THAT THE family of Royce Oatman left Maricopa Wells in early 1851 and four days later were attacked by a group of 19 natives, whose tribe remains unknown. Fourteen-year-old Olive and her seven-year-old sister Mary Ann watched in horror as their five siblings, their pregnant mother and their father were butchered. Lorenzo, their 15-year-old brother was clubbed on the head and thrown off a 20-foot embankment.

Olive and Mary Ann were forced to walk barefoot for days to the village of their captors where they endured a year of hard labor and abuse, before finally being sold to the chief of the Mojave tribe and his wife. Life with the Mojave tribe was peaceful and the Oatman girls were treated well. The chief and his wife adopted them into their family and treated them as their own daughters. But there came a season of drought, and the ensuing famine took the lives of many members of the tribe, including Mary Ann. Olive barely survived. Five years after the massacre, the commander at Fort Yuma learned that Olive was alive and living among the Mojaves and he sent an emissary to negotiate her release. Her adoptive father resisted at first, but when the negotiator made threats of reprisals against the Mojaves by the soldiers at Fort Yuma, he was forced to capitulate.

We will continue the story from the personal perspective of Olive Oatman.

You are Olive Oatman. It has now been five years since the massacre of your family. After all you have endured during those years, once again your future is being decided by others. You are being returned to White society.



Olive Oatman was returned to Fort Yuma, across the Colorado River, in California. The military fort is pictured in 1875.

Aespano, the wife of the Mojave chief, the woman who has adopted you and loved you like a daughter, is disconsolate at your departure. The historical record does not make it clear if you want to go back to the world of your fellow whites, or if you prefer to stay with the people who have treated you so well for the past four years and whose language and ways have become your own, but one can imagine that you are filled with mixed emotions.

On Jan. 22, 1856, after an arduous 10-day journey by foot, you and the Mojaves accompanying you reach Fort Yuma. At this point in your life, you look every inch a Mojave woman.

A calico dress is brought to you as you arrive at the fort. You are taken to see the camp commander, who attempts to interview you, but you have nearly forgotten the English language and you struggle to answer basic questions.

However, you still understand spoken English and the camp commander tells you something you had not imagined to be possible, the shock of which is so great it causes you to faint: Your brother, Lorenzo, is alive. And he has been searching for you.

We will return to the day of the massacre:

You are 15-year-old Lorenzo Oatman. Your family is being slaughtered by hostile natives. You have been clubbed on the head and are bleeding profusely. You regain partial consciousness and struggle to rise. The natives see this, and they carry you to the edge of a 20-foot embankment, hurling you over the precipice, confident that the jagged rocks below will finish their murderous job.

Hours later, you regain consciousness and drag yourself back up the embankment, where you find the bodies of your family members strewn about the site like so many rag dolls. Your feelings at that moment can only be imagined. The horror you feel is worsened by the fact that the bodies of two of your sisters, Olive and Mary Ann, are missing from the scene and you realize they have been taken by the hostiles. Taken for what? you ask yourself, and you imagine scenarios more horrible than the fate that overtook those who lie dead on the ground around you.

The natives have taken everything of value from the wagon. You have no food or water. You begin walking. You struggle to remain upright, falling often, frequently losing consciousness. You hallucinate, seeing fantastic forms and scenes. You are beset by wolves. They follow

you; they lick up the blood that drips to the ground from your wounds. Some of them come right up to you, apparently sensing you are too weak to be a threat to them.

Nightmarish days and nights pass. Finally, you encounter two Pimas who give you a little food and water and tell you they will return. Shortly after they leave, you see some wagons in the distance. You approach them and gratefully find that these travelers are friends from your old wagon company. You, and some of the men, return to the scene of the massacre to bury the remains of your family. When you get there, you find bones and body parts scattered around the site. Scavengers have been eating the bodies of your beloved parents and siblings.

A month after the massacre you finally are sufficiently recovered from your injuries to return to Fort Yuma. You vow you will never stop searching for your two sisters.

**To be continued in the January 2022 issue of InMaricopa**

*C.M. Curtis, American Western author and historian, is the best-selling author of 11 books, including eight westerns. His books can be found on Amazon or at [www.cmcurtisauthor.com](http://www.cmcurtisauthor.com)*

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## Veterans Day Parade

Since Maricopa's first Veteran's Day parade in 2017, the annual event was planned and run by American Legion Auxiliary Unit 133. But in 2020, the coronavirus pandemic shut down large gatherings everywhere. Another group, Maricopa Veterans, worked with the city to plan a safe march down Porter Road that gave residents a chance to honor their veterans. The Auxiliary had its own separate, safe event— a car caravan through Province. This year, the two groups worked together on a bigger, better event to honor veterans and their families, with Gabby Potter of the Auxiliary and Joseph Harvey of Maricopa Veterans co-chairing the event.

Victor Moreno



# Boom Town

South side of Maricopa poised for huge growth

BY JAY TAYLOR

## NEWS FLASH — MARICOPA IS GROWING. FAST.

But if you think you have a grasp of how big Maricopa might be down the road, you'd better think again, because City Manager Rick Horst has some numbers that will blow your mind.

"We envision our city alone — and people get nervous when I say this, because it will be decades from now — we'll be a million people one day," Horst said. "Just because of our growth and our size, the area we have. So, think of three Chandlers, and that's going to be us someday."

The city is off and running toward those numbers. Today, there currently are nearly 6,000 acres of land in one stage of development or another, from the pre-application process to finishing lots and preparing for construction. That amount of land will yield 20,618 combined dwelling units — both single-family homes and apartments, although the vast majority are single-family homes.

Given that number of units, the city is looking at adding another 54,000 people over the next decade or so, which would bring the city's population to about 125,000. There are lots of reasons why.

According to Greg Davis, the president of Chandler-based Iplan Consulting, which is working on one of the larger developments, the 1,886-acre Santa Cruz Ranch at the southwest corner of Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway and Murphy Road, it's all about available land.

"The sections of land that are available in the far east or west Valley are there, but they are farther away from central Phoenix than Maricopa is," Davis said. "They're also more expensive. That's why we're seeing Maricopa come to the top of the list of places to build. Geographically it's actually closer than those other places. And Maricopa is especially attractive with all the new jobs coming into the southeast Valley and being so close."

Mayor Christian Price was told the same thing in a recent meeting with Land Advisors Organization, a Scottsdale company that consults with land developers when they showed him a map of the entire metro Phoenix area, from Anthem to Casa Grande and Buckeye to Queen Creek.

Price said Land Advisors told him and Horst, "There is not a single spot of land anywhere in here that is not either in a holdout position, where a family owns it, and they don't want to sell it; that has been purchased and is already slated for development; or is currently under development in some fashion. There is not a single plot of land that doesn't fall into one of those categories. You guys — Maricopa — are all that's left. You're the last bastion."

Price said that makes Maricopa ground zero for every site selector looking for land in and around the Valley.

"We've been working toward this for 10 years," Price said. "We've been laying the foundation for years to take advantage of this situation...and now it's about to happen."

Davis said it's just the way growth works. Like many who thought 10 or 20 years ago that land in San Tan Valley, Queen Creek, Goodyear or Buckeye might be so far out that it would never be developed, those are now some of the hottest growth areas in metro Phoenix. And he said Maricopa is next.

"It's the next logical extension of growth for the Valley," he said. "All the infill spots are spoken for, or they are going to higher density projects like apartments. There are fewer and fewer opportunities to find the large tracts of land that are needed for single family home

developments and Maricopa has them."

For those who would rather see Maricopa maintain a more rural lifestyle and put off all the growth, both Horst and Seth Keeler, the project manager of the Santa Cruz Ranch project for master developer W Holdings, offer a note of encouragement.

"I think it's important to note that a lot of people think, 'Oh, that's going to happen tomorrow,'" Horst said. "It's not going to happen tomorrow. It's going to take years if not decades for it all to be realized. And people say we're not ready for it, and they are right, we're not ready now. But we'll get ready for it incrementally as the development occurs."

Keeler said his project is well down the road from beginning construction.

"We haven't even started those projections," he said when asked about a construction timeline. "The project is zoned for a master planned community. It was zoned several years ago in the county. We've had the land for a while, and it is currently still being farmed. There's still a pretty good amount of time until we put shovels in the ground, maybe a couple of years. A lot of factors go into play. We haven't even engaged any builders yet. When we do get to that point, that's when we'll get more of a firm timeline on when construction will start."

## Annexation on the way

One thing that will happen as part of the growth process is the annexation of a tremendous amount of land. Many of the projects in discussions lie south of Maricopa's city limits,

yet within the city's immense planning area, which stretches from Interstate 10 to the border of Goodyear an area spanning 252 square miles. To provide the level of services the residents of those communities will require, they will need to be annexed into the city. Horst said any annexation will be voluntary, not forced. That will then provide those residents with an enhanced level of public services like police and fire services, as well as street maintenance and other necessities.

And it will all be ready when the time comes, Horst said.

"Remember, 18 years ago when the city was founded, we had 1,040 people," he said. "Now we have 70,000, and we managed to grow and build roads and build fire and police forces and public works and libraries to support these first 70,000. It makes sense that we can do it for the next 70,000 too. But we didn't snap our fingers, and all of this was here. It had to be planned for and had to be funded and had to be built one step at a time. And while we're not perfect, I think if you look at it compared to some other cities, we're doing pretty well for an 18-year-old city."

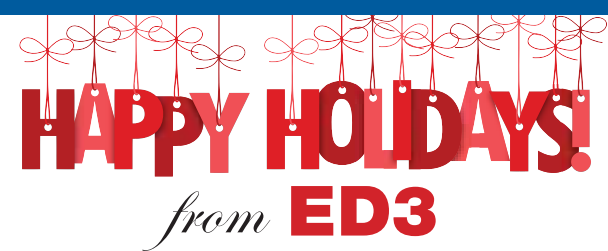
He said the growth will all happen as it needs to. Where the city has four fire stations now, it will build number five, then number six. The same will happen with police, although Horst said the number of police officers in a city is not a product of population, but rather of need. So, a city with a low crime rate like Maricopa needs fewer officers per thousand population than a city with a lot of crime.



Construction crews work on the exteriors of new homes being built at the Palo Brea development just north of the Harrah's Ak-Chin Hotel and Casino.



5 HOLIDAY SAVINGS TIPS



- 1. Use ENERGY STAR® qualified LED light strands; they typically use 70% less energy and last 10 times longer.
- 2. Use blankets and natural sunlight to help heat your home before turning up the thermostat.
- 3. Utilize a timer for lights.
- 4. Incorporate reflective ornaments and tinsel in your décor; they are just as bright at night and multiply your resources for shine.
- 5. Use crock pots, toaster ovens and microwaves instead of your stove or oven.



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He added that is a primary reason the city puts a heavy emphasis on public safety in our town — and not just in a traditional sense. “Public safety doesn’t just mean police and fire,” he said. “It means having things for children to do, it means quality of life, good parks, libraries, all the things that attract families to want to come and live here. So, when we talk about public safety it’s a whole lot more, than just police and fire.”

Horst said it is beneficial to both the city and the residents of these outlying areas to have them annexed into the city.

“If we don’t annex, those projects are still going to build, and you still have the impact from them on city services,” he said. “But now the city doesn’t control it and they don’t pay us the fees to fix the problems. You’ll have all the impacts without the fees to resolve or mitigate those impacts. They’ll use our parks, they’ll use our libraries, we’ll be the closest police and fire, but they won’t be paying taxes to the city, so the burden falls to the taxpayers within the city. So, you want to have a living, breathing, growing city, but you want to do it right.”

The developers of the new communities coming to town will pay for the expansion and enhancement of those services through the impact fees they pay the city.

The current impact fees for residential developments in south Maricopa are \$6,243 per single-family home (\$2,965 for streets, \$1,207 for parks and recreation, \$131 for libraries, \$496 for police services, and \$1,444 for fire services. Multi-family units pay a total of \$4,508 per unit, with \$814 going to parks and recreation, \$88 for libraries, \$334 for police and \$973 for fire.

Fees are higher in the south part of the city as it is farther away from the existing facilities.

“It all depends on the impact, why it’s called an impact fee,” Horst said. “It’s based on units, based on traffic counts, it’s different if it’s a residential vs. commercial project. For instance, a Circle K has hundreds of cars a day in and out, whereas a home you come and go only so many times a day. Homes have the least amount of traffic impact vs. commercial. Most people don’t understand that; they see homes and think, oh no, we’re going to increase our traffic. And yes, we are going to increase our traffic, but we will manage that traffic, so it falls within our standards.”

Davis said his clients see the growth in Maricopa as a positive and think the city offers a terrific opportunity.

“My clients are high on Maricopa the city,” he said. “They are expanding the infrastructure in terms of roads and also things like restaurants and shopping, so people don’t have to leave town for those things any more like they used to.

And Horst said he sees both points of view when it comes to growth and development vs. those who want to live a more rural lifestyle.

“I’d probably take two tracks,” he said. “All those farmers and ranchers who lived in what is now the incorporated city of Maricopa years ago, they all elected to sell. They all took the money and put it in the bank and they probably retired. Number two, those who elected to stay, no one’s ever going to encroach on their two- or three-acre lot if they don’t want to sell. No one is going to change their lifestyle - what they do, what they eat, what to enjoy — not at this level of government. But at the same time, he doesn’t have the right to tell his neighbor how to enjoy his land either, or whether or not to sell it. So, it’s a balance.

“That’s ultimately what community is. Community is a balance.”

“My clients are high on Maricopa the city.”  
GREG DAVIS, IPLAN CONSULTING

Maricopa's Roadmap for Growth

It’s an exciting time to live in this beautiful city! Maricopa is on pace for hundreds of new businesses and thousands of new residents over the coming years. The vision and planning to realize that future is already in place.

“We estimate our population is somewhere around 70,000 people. I’m often asked, ‘how will we build for the next 70,000?’ My answer is, ‘the same way we built for the first 70,000; strategically and responsibly.” - Rick Horst, City Manager

To meet the needs of our rapidly growing city, we must invest in the infrastructure to support our community and keep us connected with our neighboring cities. The East-West Corridor Project puts us on a fast track to accomplish both.

The project consists of a 4-lane parkway that runs from Maricopa through Casa Grande and connects to the I-10 freeway. Not only will it give Maricopa another entrance to the city, it also paves the way for an essential expansion of housing and commerce.

“We will build for the future in stages. For example, we all want to see traffic on 347 alleviated. To get there, we need fewer people to commute. For that to happen, we need to attract the businesses and jobs to allow Maricopa residents to work where they live. The East-West Corridor is the next step of the process.” - Nathan Steele, Chief Economic Development Officer

The East-West Corridor gives us the immediate benefit of an alternative route to the greater Phoenix area in the event of major traffic incidents along the 347 and includes plans for a bridge along Porter Road over the Santa Rosa Wash.

The first phase of the project is set to begin during the first quarter of 2022. That section runs from the 347 to Porter Road. Pinal County and the City of Casa Grande are our partners in this endeavor and have roles and responsibilities for its completion. Construction for the entire project will last at least 18 months.



We know there is high interest in these types of projects. So, the City of Maricopa created a dedicated page to community development. To find out what’s in the works for commercial, residential and street improvement projects all over the city, visit [whatsnewmaricopa.com](http://whatsnewmaricopa.com)





# Coming developments in and around Maricopa

**D**evelopment is rampant in Maricopa, and there are as many opinions about it as there are rooftops being added to the city. One thing is certain — we are on the verge of a population and housing wave unlike any other ever seen in the city.

Based solely on projects that have already submitted documents to the city to begin the development process, Maricopa is looking at 20,618 new homes and potentially almost 54,000 new residents in the next five years or so. That would take the city's population to right around 125,000. Here is an overview of what is coming:

**1. ANDERSON FARMS**

**Type:** Single-family houses for sale  
**Location:** between Bowlin and Farrell and Murphy and Hartman roads  
**Acres:** 640  
**Dwelling units:** 2,200  
**Projected # of residents:** 5,720  
**Estimated opening:** 2023

**2. AMARILLO CREEK**

**Type:** Single-family houses for sale  
**Location:** south of the Ak-Chin Community and south of Peters and Nall, north of Papago, west of Green and east of Amarillo Valley.  
**Acres:** 175  
**Dwelling units:** 600  
**Projected # of residents:** 1,560  
**Estimated opening:** TBD

**3. ANDERSON RUSSELL**

**Type:** Single-family houses for sale  
**Location:** southwest corner of Anderson Road and Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway  
**Acres:** 111  
**Dwelling units:** 440  
**Projected # of residents:** 1,144  
**Estimated opening:** 2025

**4. CENTURY COMMUNITIES**

**Type:** Single-family homes for sale  
**Location:** southeast corner of Murphy and Ferrell roads  
**Acres:** 326  
**Dwelling units:** 1,600  
**Projected # of residents:** 4,160  
**Estimated opening:** TBD

**5. COPA FLATS**

**Type:** Apartments  
**Location:** Porter and Applegate roads, north of the Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway  
**Acres:** 40  
**Dwelling units:** 312  
**Projected # of residents:** 811  
**Estimated opening:** 2023/24

**6. HAMPTON EDISON**

**Type:** Apartments  
**Location:** south side of West Edison Road west of State Route 347  
**Acres:** 12  
**Dwelling units:** 151  
**Projected # of residents:** 393  
**Estimated opening:** 2023

**7. HANCOCK GUNSMOKE**

**Type:** Single-family homes for rent  
**Location:** Seven Ranches, southwest corner of Honeycutt and Gunsmoke roads  
**Dwelling units:** 253  
**Projected # of residents:** 611  
**Estimated opening:** 2023

**8. HIDDEN VALLEY RANCH**

**Type:** Single-family homes for sale  
**Location:** southwest corner of Warren and Papago roads  
**Acres:** 1,160  
**Dwelling units:** 3,600  
**Projected # of residents:** 9,360  
**Estimated opening:** TBD

**9. HOGENES FARMS**

**Type:** Single-family homes for sale  
**Location:** south of the Union Pacific railroad tracks, north of McDavid Road, west of Green Road and east of Rachel Road.  
**Acres:** 773  
**Dwelling units:** 2,705  
**Projected # of residents:** 7,033  
**Estimated opening:** 2023/24

**10. HONEYCUTT RUN**

**Type:** Single-family homes for rent  
**Location:** southeast corner of Honeycutt and Hartman roads  
**Acres:** 19  
**Dwelling units:** 208  
**Projected # of residents:** 541  
**Estimated opening:** 2023/24

**11. PECAN GROVE**

**Type:** Single-family homes for sale  
**Location:** northwest corner of Steen and Murphy roads  
**Acres:** 80  
**Dwelling units:** 296  
**Projected # of residents:** 770  
**Estimated opening:** TBD

**12. PORTALES TOWNHOMES**

**Type:** Townhouses for rent  
**Location:** southwest corner of Edison Road & Wilson Avenue  
**Acres:** 2  
**Dwelling units:** 33  
**Projected # of residents:** 86  
**Estimated opening:** TBD

**13. SANTA CRUZ RANCH**

**Type:** Single-family homes for sale  
**Location:** West Val Vista Road, south of Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway.  
**Acres:** 1,886  
**Dwelling units:** 6,600  
**Projected # of residents:** 17,163  
**Estimated opening:** 2026/27

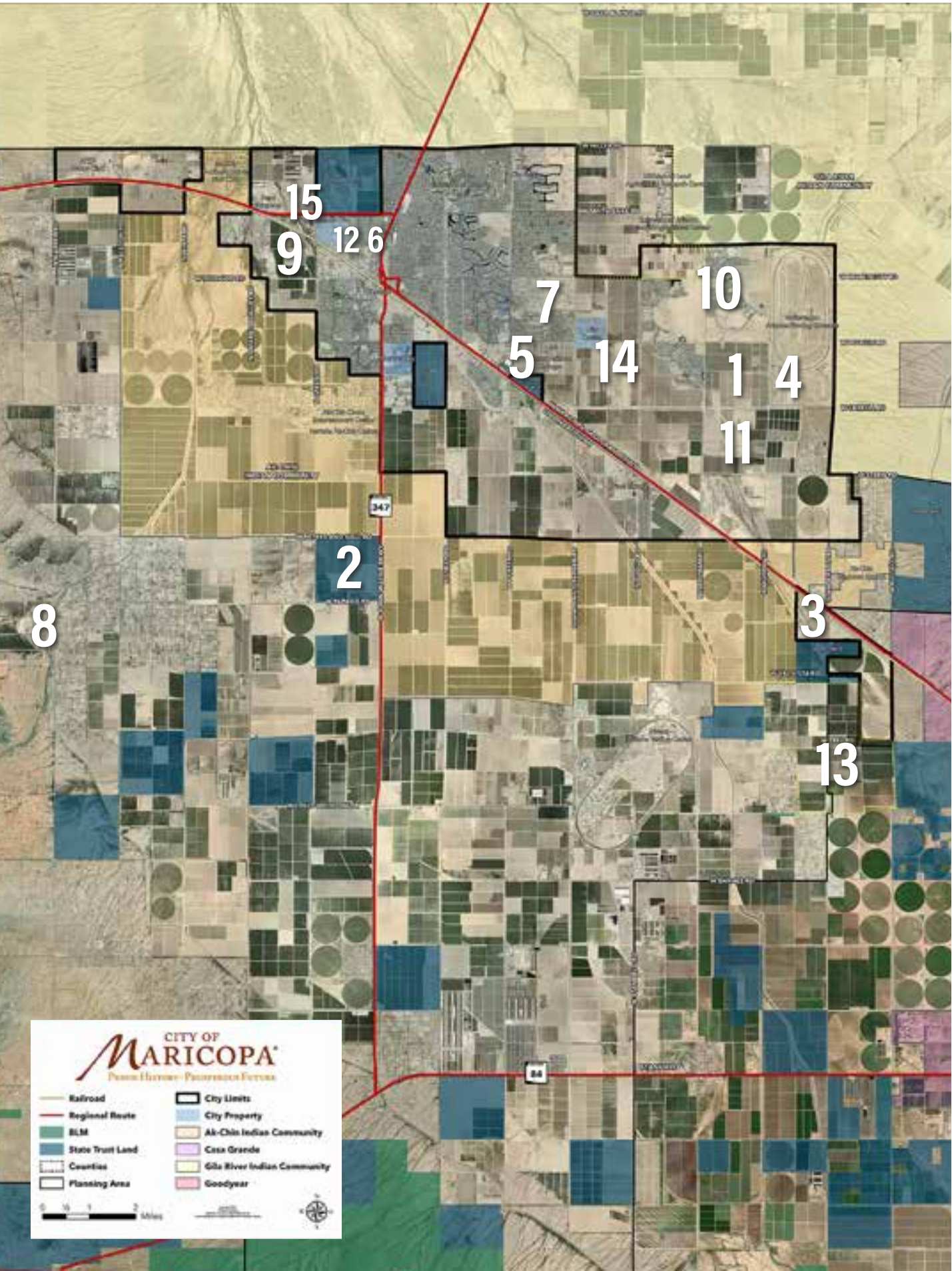
**14. SORRENTO PHASE II**

**Type:** Single-family homes for sale  
**Location:** southwest corner of Bowlin Fuqua roads  
**Acres:** 365  
**Dwelling units:** 1,100  
**Projected # of residents:** 2,869  
**Estimated opening:** 2024/25

**15. WEST MARICOPA VILLAGE**

**Type:** Apartments and single-family homes for rent  
**Location:** southeast corner of Loma Road and State Route 238  
**Acres:** 30  
**Dwelling units:** 520  
**Projected # of residents:** 1,378  
**Estimated opening:** 2023/24

**TOTALS**  
**Acres:** 5,663  
**Dwelling units:** 20,618  
**Projected residents:** 53,599





# With growth comes infrastructure

BY JAY TAYLOR

**W**ITH ALL THE GROWTH TAKING place in Maricopa, and thousands more homes on the drawing board, you must wonder if the city can keep up. But the leaders of area utilities say they have the capability and funding to match the city's explosive growth.

The first requirement for new developments is roads. City manager Rick Horst said they will come as warranted because developers pay the tab for all the streets within a given development. The city may pay for a base level road to get to the development, but those who will benefit from those roads pay for them.

He uses the example of Bowlin Road directly south of city hall. The city improved the alignment when city hall was built, even though there was no development in the area. But Horst said there was a good reason for that.

"That road right now is just chip sealed for public access but mostly it's for public safety, so police and fire have faster access," he said. "But that is not going to be the final road between White and Parker and Tortosa. Ultimately the developers will come in and they'll widen it and put in the bike lanes, and the gutters, sidewalks, street lights, landscaping and more. We want the developers to pay for it, not the taxpayers."

Horst discussed the 20,000-or-so homes planned for the southern part of Maricopa, saying that while it may seem like a daunting task to provide that much infrastructure, it all will be done as growth requires it.

"If someone builds south of the city, they'll obviously build all the roads and bridges within that project," Horst said. "But the connectors that get them from there to the city have to be accommodated, too. That could be half-road improvements (out to the center line of the road). It's all about fairness and equity. But at the same time, you have to build enough for people to get through safely."

"So, it's very rare that the taxpayer pays for new growth," he added. "New growth pays for new growth. And the developers, of course, recoup their costs by passing on the price to the homeowners, the people who ultimately purchase the new homes. But the city does not charge a fee for developer-required infrastructure — we just demand that they build the infrastructure."



Global Water's treatment plant at Anthony Boulevard and West Bowlin Road in southeast Maricopa was in mothballs for over a decade. It will be a key facilitator of growth in the southern and western parts of the city.

Other infrastructure is not paid for by developers. Electricity, water, telephone and internet are paid for through private investment. The city's primary utility providers — Electrical District #3, Global Water and Orbital Communications — all say they are prepared and well-positioned to meet the city's growth needs.

Brian Yerges, general manager of ED3 in Maricopa, said his company is already planning for that growth. The company will invest \$50 million over the next five years to improve and expand its local distribution system.

But they too get help from developers.

"Developers are responsible for upfront infrastructure costs," he said. "So, when a new subdivision is built, most of the time they are fronting the capital upfront to build out the electric within the development."

He added that while the developers pay for the initial infrastructure, ED3 must pay for maintenance and upgrades as needed. He also said that if a major commercial development

or factory comes to town that also would fall to the developer.

"If a large commercial development came, and a large transformer at a substation is purely for that commercial project, we wouldn't ask ratepayers to pay for that, we expect the commercial developer to pay for that. If it's a transformer being shared by all kinds of customers, then we would pay for it. It's a case-by-case scenario depending on who the user is."

A concern for many residents of Maricopa is that massive growth will overtax the available water supply. In a desert suffering through unprecedented drought, it is a legitimate concern. But not necessarily a valid one, according to Jon Corwin, vice president and general manager of Global Water, the city's water utility.

According to Corwin, Global Water has more than enough water to accommodate the growth projected for the area over the next decade.

He noted that any developer that wants to build a community is required to provide the

state with a certificate of assured water supply, which shows that developer has a contract with a water provider for the amount required for that community for 100 years. Those looking to develop in Maricopa get that certificate through Global Water. And Corwin said they have plenty to give.

"As a utility we're managing that process, and we have what is called a designation of assured water supply," he said. "Currently, we have approximately 23,000 acre feet of allotment in our designation of assured water supply, and we only use about 7,000 acre feet of that currently. So, the city could triple in size in terms of water usage and we would still have enough water to meet that need."

All of Global Water's supply comes from groundwater. So, the drought conditions that have dramatically lowered water levels in Lake Mead do not affect Global or its customers in Maricopa, as they do not use any Central Arizona Project allocations in the city.

Although Corwin said there is plenty of supply for the future, but getting water to all those new homes and then treating the wastewater is another story. Global Water has an answer that is 15 years in the making.

Prior to the Great Recession that began in 2007, Global built its Southwest Plant near Papago and Green roads. It was designed when much of today's growth initially began to emerge, although it was stalled due to the economic downturn. And so was the Southwest Plant. But it is emerging from mothballs and being recommissioned to meet the future need in the southern part of Maricopa.

"Our Southwest Plant is going to take everything south of Papago Road and west of 347 and potentially west of Ralston Road," Corwin said. "We believe utilities should be planned on a regional scale, and Global Water has planned for many years regionally to prepare for this growth."

Corwin said Global has been working with property owners for years to develop agreements to allow easements through landowners' properties so it can run water distribution mains and other infrastructure to serve both the landowners and neighboring properties.

"Certainly, there would be a lot of infrastructure that would have to go in the ground, but a lot of that planning has already been done," he said. "There still is obviously the detailed engineering that would need to be done but the planning is the critical element. We need to be in lock step with the city and developers, and the process can take some time, but it's very important to us that we're not holding up that development."

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John Schurz, the president and general manager of Orbitel Communications, the city's primary phone, cable and internet provider, agreed with Corwin on the importance of planning.

"I commend the community leaders and builders who are doing a great job setting the tone for growth. They are great for the city," he said. "We are doing a lot of planning with all the new building going on. Our plan is to provide fiber optic service to all of these new-build homes. That will allow for speeds of up to 1 GB, which is about five times the current peak speeds.

Schurz said Orbitel offered speeds of about 25 MB a decade ago, and are now up to 200 GB, with plans to launch 1 GB service to all Maricopa customers next year.

"All these investments and improvements are done with private capital," he said. "It's a sizeable commitment. But because we have seen that the growth is there and the need is there, the answer is yes, we want to make that investment. We want to make sure we stay ahead of the growth curve, and we also want to make sure we stay ahead of supply chain.

"Our company over the past decade has put in about \$20 million in private capital," he continued. "We're expecting a similar growth rate over next decade, so you can see what kind of investment we'll be making in the community."

Horst said the city is constantly evaluating where it stands in terms of infrastructure and what it needs to do to stay ahead of the curve. The city's Infrastructure Improvements Plan (IIP) lists the projects it anticipates will need to be built based on growth, and those plans are ever-changing.

"Typically, those are done every five years but in a vast growth city like ours we find we have to do it more often, otherwise we'd get behind," he said. "We actually adopted our IIP a year and a half ago and we're already in the process of re-doing three of the elements now (transportation, parks and recreation, and fire). And of course, that plan is reviewed very closely by developers because they don't want to pay any more than they have to."

Horst is certain regional growth will continue, and Maricopa will be right in the center of it.

"Maricopa is the largest city in Pinal County, which is right in the center of Pima and Maricopa counties," he said. "This is going to be the growth county for the decades to come and we have to be ready for it, and we will."



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Shipping containers are stacked up at a Los Angeles area port in February.

# Supply-chain disruption felt in Maricopa

BY BOB MCGOVERN

**T**HE COVID-CAUSED CRISIS IS shorting the availability of many consumer goods and hampering construction projects. Here's what's happening and who it's impacting here in the city.

## The Problem

The great supply chain disruption of 2021 is making it harder for consumers to buy all sorts of products and goods, from video game consoles, winter coats and toys for the kids to construction supplies, tires and Christmas decorations. It started with the onset of the pandemic a year earlier with shortages in specific

industries — semiconductors, for example — and panic buying of toilet paper, disinfecting wipes and other household products.

With people unable to leave their homes, spending moved from services to goods. Using stimulus checks and money saved from canceling vacation plans, people bought new furniture or TVs, added home offices, renovated kitchens, and purchased exercise or recreation equipment. With the spread of the delta variant, much of that spending never swung back toward services this year as expected. In fact, people are buying more stuff than ever before. And now, of course, we are approaching the holiday season.

That consumption binge is simply overwhelming the physical and logistical limits

of the vast global infrastructure that moves consumer goods from factories to bricks-and-mortar and online stores. There's just too much imported stuff trying to move through that network of transport and warehousing.

"We've spent decades optimizing supply chains to carry a very specific amount of cargo during very specific times of the year across very specific modes of transportation," Nathan Strang, an expert on ocean trade logistics at the supply chain tech and consulting firm Flexport, told Slate.com in October. "As soon as we exceeded the design capacity of those systems, it broke."

With the scarcity of goods, prices have risen — dramatically in some cases.

Cameron Venti



Auto service technician Filiberto Zuniga works on a car at Iconic Tire & Service Center in Maricopa.

## The Local Impact

### ICONIC TIRE

Jeremy Darrow spends 10-12 hours a week just searching for enough tires to put on his customers' vehicles.

Pre-pandemic, tires were ordered, delivered and ready for installation without too much effort.

But now there's a shortage of tires coming from China and other overseas locations due to COVID-related factory shutdowns and supply chain issues, including tires that are "sitting on the water" and in containers that can't get unloaded, he said.

"It's a necessity," said Darrow, area supervisor for Iconic Tire, which operates tire and service centers in Maricopa and four other regional locations. "If the customer needs a tire today, I'm going to do everything I can to get that tire today."

The fill rate on orders from some tire manufacturers was 15-20%, and that was considered good, he said.

"It has been a very big game of chess to make sure that we keep product on the shelves and in our warehouse to be able to take care of our customers," he said. "I'm checking with Goodyear every single day to find out if my local distribution center doesn't have it, then if I can get it shipped in from California or Texas, or wherever there is availability."

The Goodyear dealer increased its prospects recently by taking on a full line of Yokohama tires made in the United States.

"On our first order we had about an 85% fill rate on that because they're all coming out of the U.S., so that that's been good," Darrow said. "That's what we've been doing to try and stay ahead of the curve."



Jeremy Darrow

That has helped Darrow in his effort to meet the goal of 400-600 tires in stock at each location.

Ironically, the pandemic has been good for business at Iconic. From the early days, when people were home, they were getting new tires and repairs on their vehicles, said Darrow. He figures customers wanted to be road-ready when they could go back to work or travel. That demand has continued straight through 2021.

Sourcing auto parts has also been a challenge — to a lesser degree — met by buying from a wider group of distributors and using more-expensive original equipment from dealers instead of original equipment-equivalent parts, which are in short supply, he said.

Aftermarket companies that two years ago had stocked 10 types of brake pads for the same Honda Civic are down to two or three options.

Darrow said he began to see signs of the supply chain disruption intensifying at the beginning of the year, and then it got bad in mid-year.

"There's a lot of talk that it may not get better till the first or second quarter of 2022," he said.

**“It has been a very big game of chess to make sure that we keep product on the shelves and in our warehouse to be able to take care of our customers,”**

JEREMY DARROW, ICONIC TIRE

### EXCEPTIONAL COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

For a city in the midst of a huge residential and commercial growth spurt, it's not surprising that one of the most significant impacts of the pandemic has been a shortage of construction materials and equipment.

The opening of the new La Quinta hotel at Copper Sky was delayed for months as the general contractor waited for supplies to be delivered.

And now the company building one of the most anticipated new projects, the city's first hospital, is battling a recent shortage of supplies as it seeks to open on time this month.

"Sourcing materials for the construction of Exceptional Community Hospital has been a challenge with the lack of availability and delayed shipments that have recently become an issue," said Cyrus Mahboubi, senior project manager of BMH As-Built, the Texas construction company erecting the facility.

"Fortunately, we were prepared and made adjustments and substitutions to ensure that the hospital and ER will open as soon as possible — before the end of the year," he continued. "Beyond supplies, the availability of workers has also slowed progress. We know the community of Maricopa desperately needs medical services and are all working with focused dedication and excited anticipation as we move toward the opening of our new Exceptional Community Hospital."



A worker installs lights on a sign at the new Exceptional Community Hospital.



## ARIZONA BIKE GARAGE

How do you open a bike shop with hardly any bikes to sell?

Matt Stewart found out last year when he opened Arizona Bike Garage, the first bike shop in Maricopa, during the pandemic.

COVID was going strong in late summer 2020, six months after the onset of the virus in the United States. As people were cooped up at home with gyms closed, U.S. sales of bikes soared as much as 120% over the previous year as families pedaled in the fresh air to get recreation and exercise.

With many Asian factories closed early on, the virus was already impacting the availability of products, including imported bicycles, about 90 percent of which are manufactured in China, and bicycle parts — high-end gears and brakes, specifically — much of which are manufactured by Shimano in Japan, according to a Forbes report.

Stewart opened his store amid this backdrop, which meant the bit of stock he did have was very expensive bikes, which he could still obtain.

“We couldn’t get anything for a long time,” he said.



Matt Stewart, who opened Arizona Bike Garage last year, saw in his first year of business the problems caused by the supply chain shortages brought on by the pandemic.

But the pandemic also hit hard at the core of his business, bicycle repairs, with parts difficult to procure.

More than a year later, with demand for bicycles back to regular levels, Stewart has the bikes. Months and months after he initially put in orders, they arrived. He had at least 60 bikes — 90% of them priced at \$800 or less — in stock in early October. To ensure he can get parts, he has expanded his roster of distributors.

“For the most part we’re able to get everything we need just through having five distributors instead of one,” he said.

Repairs, he said, kept his business afloat last year. He has added hundreds more products on his website to help offset the slow summer months, when it is too hot in Arizona for most people to be thinking about their bikes. Selling more merchandise to a national audience would help even out revenue flow through the year, he said.

## WALMART

Walmart, the largest retailer in Maricopa and the world, addressed supply chain problems in an Oct. 8 press release by Joe Metzger,

executive vice president of supply chain operations for Walmart U.S.

“We have all seen and heard a lot in recent months about supply chain issues across the retail industry,” he wrote. “With so many news stories about port delays, increased consumer demand and holiday season forecasting, it’s natural to wonder whether items will make it to store shelves and how this might affect holiday preparations.”

According to Metzger, the multinational retailer has taken steps to navigate the hurdles and minimize disruption to ensure it can satisfy customers this holiday season.

“We’ve worked with suppliers to source holiday merchandise earlier than usual and are finding ways to move those products inside our supply chain network as quickly as possible,” Metzger wrote. “We have been laser-focused on inventory levels since the start of the pandemic and reported higher inventory in the second quarter this year than a year ago. While we’d like to see inventory levels continue to improve, we’re on the right track.”

Among the actions identified by Metzger to ensure shoppers can find what they are looking for, Walmart:

- Has chartered ships, diverted shipments through less congested ports and rerouted inland shipments, utilizing less conventional transportation methods to avoid rail delays
- Has hired more than 3,000 drivers this year, with more in the pipeline
- Is hiring 20,000 permanent supply chain positions to help move products through facilities as quickly as possible
- Has added storage capacity in fulfillment and distribution network through new facilities.

Those efforts by Walmart and other large retailers, who are spending millions to charter ships and planes to move merchandise, are serving to crush small retailers and manufacturers at this critical time of the year, according to a Nov. 7 report in the New York Times.

“Independent shop owners, who have no such recourse, say they’re often the last in line for products because manufacturers prioritize larger, more lucrative contracts,” the story said.

## WHEN WILL IT END?

The consensus: supply chain problems will last through Christmas and well into next year.

Many economic experts, including Federal Reserve chairman Jerome Powell and Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, see the effects lasting through mid-2022.

Heather Mason, president of the National Bicycle Retailers Association, a U.S. trade group, told Quartz.com that her industry looks to be dealing with the effects into 2023.

In October, the Conference Board Consumer Confidence Index increased, reversing declines in the previous three months. It shows more consumers are planning to buy homes, cars and big appliances. Nearly half of respondents said they are planning to take a vacation within the next six months.

According to Deloitte Insights, consumer spending was on track to rise 8.1% this year and forecast to grow 3% in 2022. Its economists project that spending on goods and services will both return to pre-pandemic levels by the end of next year, which could ease the logistical logjam.

But until Americans’ appetite for consumption lets up, shortages and price increases will likely continue.

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# Business, development around town

**CVS Drugs** at 44274 W. Smith-Enke Road will spend \$75,000 to remodel its existing pharmacy area of about 1,200 square feet in Rancho El Dorado. The work is being done for Pinal County AZ CVS by Diamond Contractors Inc.

**Santa Rosa Springs** will construct a ramada shade structure in parcel 4 at 42460 W. Iron Point Road valued at \$30,000. Sunset Tartesso LLC is contracting for the work with Rhino Contracting LLC.

A shade sail will be erected at 22455 N. Powers Pkwy. at **Cogburn Park in Rancho El Dorado**. The \$12,500 project will be done for Gehan Homes of Arizona LLC by Otago Development Inc.

A permit for construction of a shade sail was granted to **Meritage Homes** of Arizona Inc. for a \$10,500 project at 40085 W. Carey Dr. in Little Pardner Park. Otago Development Inc. will complete the project.

At Sonoran Creek Marketplace at 20300 N. John Wayne Pkwy., **ATI Physical Therapy** will contract for the interior buildout of Suite 120. The \$150,000 project at the single-story space will include architectural, mechanical, electrical and plumbing work done for John Wayne Pkwy Maricopa AZ LLC by Tree Stone Construction LLC.

**Lennar Homes** will have grading and drainage work done at 17394 N. Freeland Ln. as part of the on-site improvement plans at the location. Lennar Arizona Construction Inc. is doing the work for Lennar Anderson Palmisano Farms.

**Volkswagen of America**, DBA Vorelco Inc., has been issued a right of way permit to splice existing cable at 17169 N. Murphy Road. The Fishel Construction Co. will do the work.

The City has hired **Sunland Asphalt & Construction Co.** to apply slurry sealing on Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway from Maricopa Groves Parkway to the intersection of Honeycutt Road, as well as the intersection of Honeycutt Road and Plainview Parkway.

**Electrical District #3** will install facilities necessary to relocate the overhead line at 42326 W. Farrell Rd. at the request of the city. Tee Pee Contractors Inc. will be doing the work for Mary and Duane Rudnick.



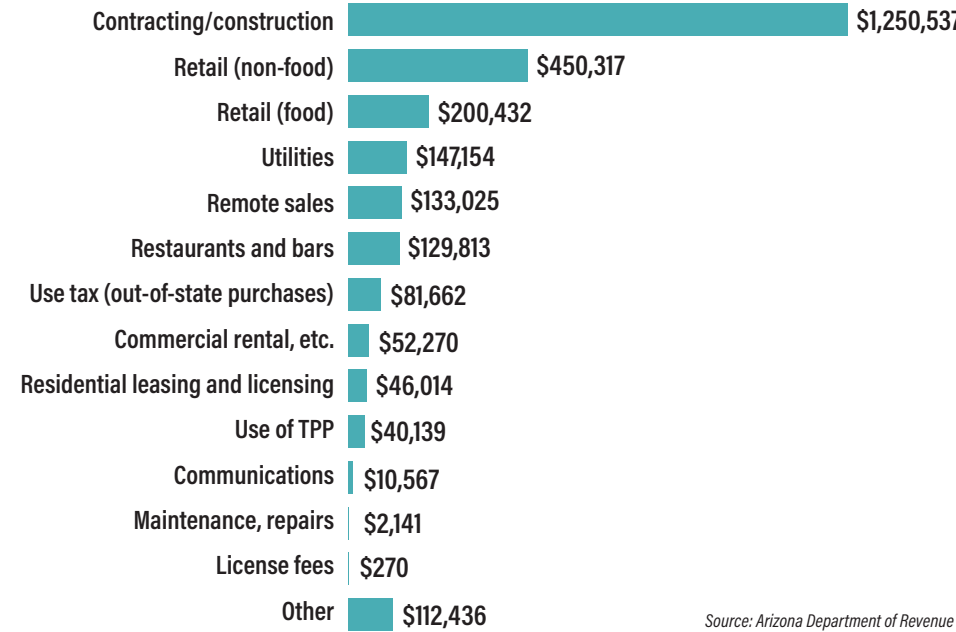
A \$75,000 project at the CVS on Smith-Enke Road will renovate its pharmacy area.

**Copa Flats Apartments** will install an underground fire line at 17485 N. Porter Road for a multi-family housing development. The owner of the property is El Dorado Porter 27 LLC, with work to be performed by Johnson Carlier LLC. The project also will include a hydrant flow test.

**Sherwin Williams Paints** at 44565 W. Edison Road will install two new wall signs and tenant panels into the existing monument sign at Maricopa Groves. Sign Works GSW LLC will do the work.

## Maricopa Sales Tax Collections

In October, businesses paid more than \$2,656,777 in transaction privilege taxes. Here's where people spent money based on the amount of sales tax collected:



Source: Arizona Department of Revenue

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# Development Recap

The past month has seen a significant number of major housing projects, both single- and multi-family crop begin moving toward reality here in Maricopa. Here is a look at some of the most prominent projects currently in the approval process:

## P&Z approves Copa Flats apartments

The Planning & Zoning Commission gave the go-ahead to the Copa Flats apartments, a proposed 13-acre, 312-unit multi-story, multi-family project east of N. Porter Road at the intersection of N. Porter Road and W. Applegate Road, north of Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway.

The project has been designated as affordable housing, which is designed to accommodate municipal workers, entry-level professionals and others who are working but may not have enough money to purchase a home.

The measure was approved unanimously, with the stipulation that when presented to city council the site plan will call for a minimum of 592 parking spaces, which would bring it into compliance with the city code.

Copa Flats features a mix of one, two and three-bedroom units with 48 one-bedroom, one-bath units; 108 two-bedroom, two-bath units; and 156 three-bedroom, two-bath units. Real Estate Equities' pre-application narrative calls for 13 buildings, all of which will be three stories and about 35 feet in height. There will be 24 units per building.

## Pecan Grove to bring nearly 300 homes to southeast part of city

The area near the city's second high school is seeing the benefits of a school in the area as developer Emmerson Holdings, LLC of Scottsdale is planning a community of 296 single-family homes for sale at the northwest corner of Steen and Murphy roads according to pre-application documents filed with the city.

The location is less than a mile south of the new school. The property lies within Maricopa's city limits so annexation would not be required.

## Former Anglin Dairy could be site of 2,200 homes, apartments

Moonlight Ridge is proposed as a 489-acre community being developed by Forestar USA Real Estate Group on the former site of the Anglin Dairy Farm. The company is seeking



Nearly 300 homes will be built at Pecan Grove on property at Steen and Murphy roads.

to rezone the area from Industrial to a Planned Area Development that would include about 1,350 single-family homes and 850 multi-family units. With that mix of 2,200 total dwelling units, the community would be home to about 5,700 residents.

The proposed project is at the northwest corner of W. Smith-Enke and N. Green roads, east of Ak-Chin Southern Dunes Golf Course.

Initial plans show the development also will include mixed-use zoning as well as 180,000 square feet of neighborhood commercial. The commercial portion of the community will be in the southeast corner of the parcel, at the intersection Smith-Enke and Green.

## P&Z approves 995 acres for Santa Cruz Ranch

The Planning & Zoning Commission has approved an amendment to the city's General Plan Future Land Use Map, converting 995 acres from undesignated land use to Master Planned Community, clearing the way for the Santa Cruz Ranch project to move forward to review by the city council.

In total, Santa Cruz Ranch includes 1,886 acres. Of that, 891 acres already have been zoned for master planned community, which can include residential, mixed-use, commercial, and light industrial uses. When completed, the Santa Cruz Ranch project could be the site of more than 6,600 homes and 17,000 people.

## Planning & Zoning denies apartments

The Planning & Zoning Commission denied the application request of Lincoln Avenue Capital, LLC for a zoning change from commercial to mixed use and also approval of the site plan, landscape, photometric and elevation plans for a 228-unit apartment community planned for the Seven Ranches area of the city.

Commission chair Linda Huggins and members Jim Irving, Rachel Leffall and Dan

Frank voted against the request, while Ted Yocum and Bill Robertson voted in favor. Vice chair Michael Sharpe, who has moved out of the city but still sits on the commission, was absent.

The proposed project is a residential, multi-family project with nine 3-story buildings at southwest corner of W. Honeycutt Road and N. Continental Blvd., just west of White and Parker Road. The property on the corner of the main intersection is zoned commercial.


The objections from those voting against the project were two-fold: the lack of input afforded to the other property owners in the Seven Ranches area, and the single use plan for an area the developer is asking to be converted to mixed use zoning.

## Century Communities to develop 141 acres north of SR238

Century Communities has filed pre-application documents with the city to develop 141 acres north of Smith-Enke Road at 47726 W. State Route 238. According to the documents, Century plans to build 448 single-family residential homes on lots ranging from 4,000 to about 6,000 square feet.

Century currently is under contract to acquire the land from Angel Investors, LLC. The pre-application documents state the Colorado-based homebuilder plans to build in five phases on the land, which lies just east of Ak-Chin Southern Dunes Golf Course.

Century currently has built, or is in the process of developing, eight other communities in central Arizona in cities including Casa Grande, Eloy, Coolidge, and Arizona City. The company is proposing lots of 40, 45, and 50 feet wide. In areas zoned RS-4, the lots would be a minimum of 6,000 square feet; in RS-5-zoned areas, the minimum would be 4,000 square feet.

With 448 houses, the community would home to 1,165 people, using the U.S. Census Bureau's formula of 2.6 people per household. 

Brian Petersheim Jr.

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# 8 skin issues an IPL Photofacial can improve

BY KRISTINA DONNAY, FNP-C

**INTENSE PULSED LIGHT (IPL) TREATMENTS** have been around for more than 20 years and have been effective in treating a wide range of cosmetic issues. Yet it still amazes us at how many people are unaware of this amazing technology and its wonderful benefits. An IPL is a type of laser that uses Intense Pulsed Light. Maricopa Wellness Center uses Lumecca by InMode, the gold standard in IPL technology. Lumecca is safe, powerful and effective at treating various skin issues.

## What skin issues can an IPL Photofacial improve?

- 1. Sun Damage:** Being in the sunniest state comes with an extended amount of UV damage to our skin. Sun Damaged skin can be rough, dry, and have irregular coloring. Skin can lose its resilience and develop lines and wrinkles.
- 2. Age spots or liver spots:** Age spots are often a direct result of sun damage. IPL therapy improves age spots by heating and correcting dermal tissue with excessive concentrations of melanin (age spots).
- 3. Freckles:** Freckles can be beautiful but if you would prefer yours less noticeable IPL therapy can lighten them if desired. Freckles are spots that have more melanin and are darker than the surrounding skin. Sun exposure can cause freckles to darken further over time as well as create new ones. IPL therapy breaks up the dermal cells in freckles that have excessive melanin and reduces or eliminates their appearance.
- 4. Broken blood vessels** or spider veins are networks of red lines that spread across the skin and can appear on the face as well as other body parts. The light pulses from an IPL close off the flow of blood to the visible red lines and divert it to intact vessels below the skins surface.
- 5. Rosacea:** Rosacea is a common condition that causes the skin to redden on the face. Often around the nose, cheeks, chin, or

forehead. As time passes the condition can grow worse and pimple like bumps can form and blood vessels become visible on the skin's surface. IPL therapy will close off surface blood vessels, while breaking up discolored skin cells, and stimulating the development of healthy collagen rich skin.



- 6. Acne:** The most common type of acne is from oil and dead skin clogging pores. This creates blackheads, whiteheads, pustules, and in extreme cases, cysts. IPL therapy penetrates deep into clogged pores and eliminates bacteria that causes infection and inflammation while also stimulating new healthy skin growth.
- 7. Rough skin texture:** rough skin is caused by a myriad of issues from sun damage to inflammation. Utilizing an IPL can help restore a smooth complexion by stimulating collagen production in the dermal layer. This rejuvenates the surface tissue below creating a healthier and more youthful texture.

- 8. Skin Redness:** Skin redness can be caused by exposure to the wind or cold, or by a person becoming flushed easily. No matter if skin redness is caused by pigmentation problems or excessive blood



flow near the surface, IPL therapy can treat the problem by closing blood vessels near the surface and breaking up cells with excess pigmentation. It also rejuvenates the skin to make it less reactive.

## Best time of the year to get an IPL is in the Winter Months.

While IPL therapy is a non-surgical procedure, the skin can become highly sensitive to UV rays. Patients need to avoid sun exposure for a couple days post therapy. With the winter months Arizona experiences the lowest numbers on the UV Index and reduced daylight hours. With reduced sun exposure your skin has time to heal, regenerate, and repair from IPL therapy.

Most people require one to three IPL Lumecca treatments to reach desired results. There is minimal down time associated with the treatment. Most clients can go about their day or back to work in 24 hours. The IPL treatment is comfortable and takes less than an hour.

Please give our office a call at (520) 464-6193 for a free consultation and to see if an IPL is right for you.

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# From diabetes to athletics: Foot care matters

DR. ALEX M. STEWART

**DR. ALEX M. STEWART OF MARICOPA** Foot and Ankle Center is a board-certified specialist recognized by the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery. He earned his doctoral degree in podiatric medicine from Midwestern University and completed his residency at The University of Texas Health Science Center — San Antonio in its department of Orthopedics.

Dr. Stewart's extensive training and current practice focus on foot and ankle trauma, diabetic care, reconstructive surgery, and sports medicine. As a former collegiate baseball player and avid golfer, Dr. Stewart can relate to athletes of any age and performance level.

Dr. Stewart has been at Maricopa Foot and Ankle for nine years and has experience

in treating everything from minor ailments to major trauma.

## Do you or a loved one suffer from diabetes?

Diabetes can have a wide range of effects on the body. Ranging from eye problems, kidney problems to circulatory issues and nerve pain. It is very important to monitor your blood sugar and manage your diabetes properly to avoid complications.

The American Diabetes Association recommends having an evaluation every six months. We offer a wide range of treatment for our diabetic patients, including diabetic management, neuropathy care, wound care, and nail care.

## Did you know that Medicare has special benefits for most diabetic patients?

For most Patients with diabetes, Medicare will cover nail trimming every nine weeks at our office.

Medicare will also cover one pair of diabetic shoes and custom protective inserts per year. Thankfully, we have many stylish shoe options to choose from. Make sure to use your benefits before they expire.

If your loved one is suffering from diabetes give us a call. Maricopa foot and Ankle is open daily, and we can often accommodate same day appointments.

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## GETTING TO know

**JIM CARLISTO**  
AREA DIRECTOR  
72Sold (Hague Partners)

**Hometown:** Oceanside, CA  
**Maricopan since:** 2005  
**Family:** Married for 38 years and one son, James Carlisto Jr.  
**Cars:** I love electric vehicles  
**Hobbies:** Golf and travel  
**Pet peeve:** Laziness  
**Dream vacation:** Italy

**Like most about Maricopa:** Small town but with 2 great golf courses and really everything you need

**Book:** "Secrets of the Millionaire Mind"  
**Song:** "Here Comes the Sun" by The Beatles  
**Musician:** Coldplay  
**Team:** Arizona Cardinals  
**Athlete:** Jack Nicklaus

**Food:** Italian and Mexican  
**Drink:** Don't drink alcohol  
**Restaurant:** Maricopa-Say Sushi  
**Getaway:** Boston  
**Words to live by:** You don't have to earn what you don't spend.

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## Service you deserve

BY CHRIS J. SCOGGINS, CPA

**A** RECENT MEETING WITH A NEW client reminded me of a few things. Important things that we should not forget.

This Client was looking for a new CPA. Not just because his old CPA had messed up last year's tax returns. This business owner was sitting in my office was because that old CPA had made every effort to avoid his client and every excuse to explain that this error was not his fault.

This is a great reminder of what our clients and community expect from a professional. Our clients expect us to be knowledgeable and competent regarding our fields of expertise. Whether you are a physician, a mechanic, a retail store owner or a CPA, you need to have a solid understanding of your products, services and industry. Here is a list of seven qualities that you should use in evaluating any business you patronize:

### 1 Do they answer the phone during business hours?

The telephone is still the #1 way to connect with new customers. If they are too busy to answer the phone, they are likely too busy to provide quality service.

### 2 If they miss your call, do they return your call (or email)?

Not every business owner can be available at all times. However, a business owner focused on client satisfaction will make the time to return calls (or emails) as soon as possible.

### 3 Do they answer your questions thoroughly and do you understand the advice you are receiving?

If someone can clearly explain a complex issue, they likely have a deep understanding of the subject. If you are more confused after

talking with a professional, the problem isn't you, it's them.

### 4 Do they keep their appointments and commitments on a timely basis?

Time management is a key quality for a successful business owner. If a business is regularly running 30 minutes behind, or misses important deadlines, that is a direct reflection on the owner of that business.

### 5 Are they willing to quote a price for their services...and then stick to their price?


Any business should know what it takes to get the job done and be able to quote a price or range of prices with confidence.

### 6 When they make a mistake, do they correct it as quickly as possible?

I have yet to meet the person who hasn't made a mistake. If the business failed to fix the problem, they should promptly admit the mistake and do everything they can to correct the issue.

### 7 Do they admit that they don't know everything?

As a CPA, we have millions of pages of rules and regulations to study. It is impossible to know "everything." If the professional admits to not knowing the answer but is willing to research the question to provide the correct advice, that is a very good sign!

These are seven simple questions that will help you to decide if a business is worthy of your trust and patronage. 

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# Reverse osmosis: What you need to know

BY TERRY LEAMON, MY MARICOPA PLUMBER

**REVERSE OSMOSIS (RO) IS A WATER** purification process that uses a partially permeable membrane to remove ions, unwanted molecules and larger particles from drinking water. RO systems have four components.

## Prefilter

Larger particles, such as silt, rust and scale, are removed by the prefilter. This extends the life of your system and allows the semipermeable membrane to attack smaller particles.

## Membrane

The center of the system, the RO membrane allows hydrogen and oxygen to pass through the microscopic pores. Dissolved solids too small to have been caught by the prefilter are removed from the water and flushed to the drain.

## Final Polish

Water flows from the membrane to holding tank, which stores the clean water until your turn on your faucet. But before the water is dispensed, it flows through one more state of filtration. An activated carbon filter removes any remaining tastes and odors, delivering only the freshest, cleanest water possible.

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Toma Fitzgerald and  
Terry Leamon

Our go-to reverse osmosis system manufacturer is Ultima. All Ultima RO systems are built-to-order and use only the highest quality components on the market.

Ultima ROs are built in the United States. Every system is tested for water quality and structural integrity. Do not make the mistake of saving a few dollars and buying a system of inferior materials that is not tested for quality.

Ultima ROs produce great-tasting water and eliminate the need to keep buying bottled water. This means your RO will pay for itself in a short amount of time. That's why, with over 500,000 sold, Ultima ROs are a great choice.

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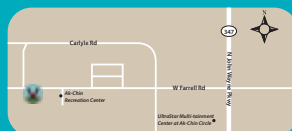
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A summary of the Oct. 14 - Nov. 9  
food inspections by Pinal County  
Environmental Health Services:



**Ready-To-Eat Time/Temperature Control for Safety Food, Disposition**  
Observed mold inside two open containers of salsa that were being held in the walk-in cooler. Containers did not have a date mark. Observed open bag of cut lettuce with out date mark in the walk-in cooler. Manager voluntarily discarded salsa and lettuce. Reviewed date marking requirements. Monitor date marks daily.

**Food Storage-Preventing Contamination from the Premises**

Observed whole watermelon being stored directly on the floor in the walk-in cooler. Food must be stored a least six inches off the floor. Manager was instructed to store food at least six inches off the floor and endured watermelon is properly cleaned.

**Backflow Prevention, Air Gap**

Observed the three compartment/ prep sinks are directly connected to the sewer. A direct connection may not exist between the sewage system and a drain originating from equipment in which food, portable equipment, or utensils are placed. Any changes made to the facility after the original plan review must be pre approved by the Department. Correct immediately and contact Department for re-inspection.



**Cooling**

Internal temperatures of cooked chicken being held in a deep, covered, metal container in the reach-in cooler was 87-89°F. Per the manager, the chicken was cooked and placed in the cooler approximately four hours prior. Chicken was discarded. Internal temperatures of cooked chili being held in a deep, covered, metal container in the walk in cooler with a date mark of 10/20 were 45-46°F. Chili was discarded.

**Time/Temperature Control for Safety Food, Hot and Cold Holding (P)**

Internal temperatures of shredded chicken being held stacked under hot (89°F) chicken were 55-56°F. Per the manager the cooked chicken was placed in the cooler approximately four hours prior. Shredded chicken was discarded.

**Cleaning Receptacles**

Observed the waste oil receptacle being stored directly outside the back door on the side walk. Observed the receptacle and sidewalk to have a build-up of debris and staining on the walk. Please clean at a frequency that negates build-up and staining.



**Certified Food Protection Manager**

Not present. Obtain and maintain certification in the facility.

**Using a Handwashing Sink-Operation and Maintenance**

Observed the hand sink at the bar to be full of ice and beer. Please maintain hand sink accessible at all times. Beer and ice were removed from sink.

**Consumption of Animal Foods that are Raw, Undercooked, or Not Otherwise Processed to Eliminate Pathogens**

Per the person in charge, the in use menu is offering hamburgers cooked to order without the use of a complete advisory.



**Time/Temperature Control for Safety Food, Hot and Cold Holding (P)**

Internal temperatures of cooked vegetable patty sandwiches being held in the hot holding display case were 115-121°F. Manager voluntarily discarded sandwiches. Maintain foods in hot holding at or above 135°F.



**When to Wash (P)**

Observed staff use their gloved hands in direct contact with cutting board and prep table being used to prep raw chicken then begin to continue with cleaning prep station used for ready to eat foods. Employee was immediately stopped and instructed to remove soiled gloves and wash their hands. Employee was instructed to remove soiled wiping cloth from service and sanitize affected areas.

**Time/Temperature Control for Safety Food, Hot and Cold Holding (P)**

Internal temperatures of the following items being held in the pizza prep cooler were 50-63°F: corn, cheese, cut tomatoes, blue cheese, chicken, boiled eggs, cooked pizza, cut greens and cut cabbage. Manager voluntarily discarded these items.

**Cooling Methods**

Internal temperatures of cut lettuce being held in deep, closed, plastic containers for approximately 3.5 hours were 47-52°F. Reviewed cooling methods. Manager immediately washed lettuce in ice water. Ambient air temperature of the prep cooler was 51°F and resulted in a cold holding violation.



**Cooling**

Internal temperatures of cooked chicken being held in deep, closed, plastic containers in the walk-in cooler were 67-74°F. Per the manager and date mark of 10/14; the chicken was cooked last night.

**Ready-To-Eat Time/Temperature Control for Safety Food, Disposition**

Observed open container of pre-cooked ham being held in the walk-in cooler with an expired make date of 10/8. Monitor date marks daily to not exceed a total of seven days including the day it was made/prepped/opened.



**Sanitizers, Criteria-Chemicals (P)**

In-use sanitizer in the three-compartment sink and deli spray bottles were tested to be over 400ppm. Manager confirmed test. Staff stated the automatic dispenser was broken and they were manually preparing the sanitizer solution. Reviewed testing methods. Staff provided new solution at manufacturer recommended levels of 200-400 ppm.

**Warewashing Machines, Automatic Dispensing of Detergents and Sanitizers**

Internal temperatures of the following items being held in the pizza prep cooler were 50-63°F: corn, cheese, cut tomatoes, blue cheese, chicken, boiled eggs, cooked pizza, cut greens and cut cabbage. Manager voluntarily discarded these items.

**Cooling Methods**

Staff stated the automatic dispenser was broken and resulted in a priority violation.

**EXCELLENT**

- Bashas' — Bakery
- Bashas' — Retail
- Fry's Marketplace
- Fry's Marketplace — Starbucks
- Fry's Marketplace — Bakery

- IHOP Restaurant
- Maricopa High School — Culinary Arts
- Plaza Bonita
- Roots Eatery
- True Grit Tavern

**SATISFACTORY**

- Bashas' — Deli
- The Duke at Rancho El Dorado
- Fry's Marketplace — Deli
- Native Grill and Wings
- Riliberto's Restaurant
- Sunrise Diner

**NEEDS IMPROVEMENT**

- Helen's Kitchen

Source: Pinal County

**EXCELLENT** No violations found. **SATISFACTORY** Violations corrected during inspection. **NEEDS IMPROVEMENT** Critical items noted during inspection cannot be corrected immediately requiring follow-up inspection. **UNACCEPTABLE** Gross, unsanitary conditions necessitating the discontinuation of service.

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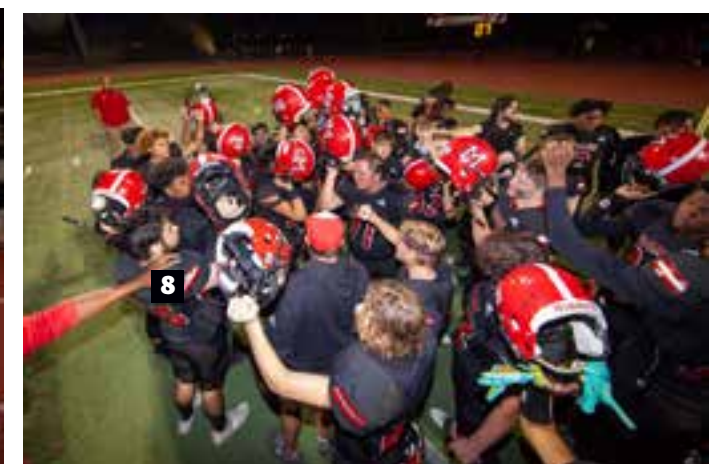
## A strong finish

**1.** The Maricopa High School swim teams had their best showing in the four-year history of the program at the state championships at Mesa's Skyline High School Aquatic Center. The Rams had six individual swimmers and four relays qualify for the state meet in which the girls finished 20th and boys 16th.

**2.** For the Maricopa High girls, freshman Sidney Stolle made the finals in the 200 freestyle, finishing in seventh place. Katelyn Owens, a junior, finished 26th in the 100 breaststroke in 1:11.99 for a school record. In the relays, the girls 200 medley relay team of freshman Rachel Grubbs, Owens, senior Dorianne Hames and sophomore MacKenzie Fair finished 25th.



Victor Moreno



## Senior athletes recognized

Gilbert High's football team slipped past Maricopa 21-19 on Nov. 5. The contest was Maricopa's final home game of the season and was Senior Night, where 15 seniors were honored. Gilbert jumped out to a 21-7 lead in the first quarter, but Maricopa fought back in the remaining three quarters. Maricopa finished the season with two wins.

Victor Moreno



# Maricopa tween races mountain bike to new heights

BY BOB MCGOVERN

**K**ALLIE STEWART KNEW SHE COULD BE BETTER, FASTER.

Her introduction to mountain bike racing late last year was encouraging: she improved significantly with each race and even garnered a few top-five finishes.

She wanted to perform better in the Arizona Cycling Association's 2021 race series for middle schoolers. The 12-year-old committed to raising her game this past summer for when the series resumed from its COVID hiatus last year. With assistance and support from her parents, she stepped up her training ahead of the four-race season that began Sept. 12.

"She really worked hard in the off-season and came in stronger for the 2021 season," said her father, Matt Stewart, an airline pilot who owns Arizona Bike Garage, Maricopa's only bicycle shop, and started a mountain bike riding group in town.

Kallie's focus was on improving her speed by increasing her strength and endurance.

"I would do spin bike for 45 minutes a day and then we started riding our bikes more on the trails," Kallie said. "We also started running miles, starting off with like one or two miles."

Soon, she was going three miles on her runs.

"It wasn't so much us telling her she needed to do it," Matt said. "She just wanted to do it and would ask what she needed to do to be better."

The work paid off.

## MAKING HER MOVE

The nonprofit Arizona Cycling Association was organized in 2012 to develop interscholastic cycling teams for grades 6-12. An affiliate league of the National Interscholastic Cycling Association, its focus is providing a first-rate mountain bike racing experience that promotes equality, camaraderie and health among its young competitors.

The ACA's middle school program, designed to introduce its youngest riders to the sport of mountain biking, is "focused on fun, fitness, skills and trail etiquette, with a taste of the competitive aspects of mountain biking that they will find when in high school, minus the additional pressures when team scoring and season overall standings are applied," said Mike Perry, the association's president and executive director.

Hundreds of kids participate in its annual race series at courses across the Phoenix area. Race distances get longer as racers get older. Middle schoolers like Kallie compete in one-lap races on 5- to 6-mile-long, hilly courses through the woods or desert.

On Sept. 12, Kallie raced in the first of the four races in the 2021 series. Riding a 6-mile course through the Ponderosa pines at Fort Tuthill County Park in Flagstaff — with 365 feet of climbing — the work she put in over the summer was evident.

Competing as an Independent in the Middle School South division — her school, Legacy Traditional, does not affiliate with ACA — she finished second with a time of 28 minutes, 33 seconds, less than eight seconds behind the winner from El Grupo, a youth cycling group in the Tucson area.

It was the last time Kallie would cross the finish line behind another rider.

Two weeks later, she made her move in the Coconino National Forest — elevation: 8,000 feet — in Flagstaff. Clad in her black cycling pants, matching golden-yellow jersey and helmet, pink shoes and gray-and-black gloves, Kallie propelled her black Trek around the 5.1-mile Arizona Nordic Village course and its 385 feet of incline in 31:37, besting the next rider by more than a minute. The third-place rider was more than five minutes behind Stewart.



Kallie Stewart navigates a trail through the woods of the Coconino National Forest in Flagstaff during a September race. She competed this year in a four-race series for sixth-grade girls in the Arizona Cycling Association's South Division.

Jason Rziha

## RACING IN THE DNA

The focus of the ACA's middle school program may not be on competition, but Kallie tackled her races with a fierce, competitive spirit nonetheless. She wants to win.

The desire and determination to race is in her family DNA.

Matt, her father, started racing BMX bikes at age 9, the beginning of a lifetime in racing. He went on to compete in motocross, super

moto and sport bikes, before retiring six years ago, he raced sprint cars.

"Basically, I raced anything I could get my hands on," he told InMaricopa last year.

"I rode bikes as a kid like everyone else, but it became a family thing for us," he said. "When I raced bikes, my dad was racing cars. He stepped back from cars and bought motorcycles for my sister and me and it bloomed from there, and it turned into a career."

Kallie's mother, Katrina, and her uncle, Dean, were national motocross champions in Canada and the United States, respectively. Their 65-year-old father still rides motocross.

"She just gives it 110%, no matter what she does," Katrina added. "Whether it's racing or school, she just has that personality where she's just competitive, so competitive naturally."

She said the training and the racing are helping to prepare Kallie and her brother, Jack,

“

*She just gives it 110%, no matter what she does. Whether it's racing or school, she just has that personality where she's just competitive, so competitive naturally.”*

KATRINA STEWART  
KALLIE'S MOTHER





Kallie, 12, and her brother Jack, 9, are following in the footsteps of their racing parents, Matt and Katrina Stewart.

### KALLIE STEWART

**Age:** 12

**Family:** Dad Matt, mom Katrina and brother Jack, 9, also a mountain biker

**School:** Legacy Traditional School

**Favorite activity:** An animal lover, she enjoys working with Ty, the family's adopted Dogo Argentino mix.

**Possible future career:** Professional racer, veterinarian or doctor

for the rest of their lives.

"We know the dedication it takes, the sacrifice, and the blood, sweat and tears, you know," she said. "Kallie is in, Jack is in. (He will compete in January as well.) We'll go alright some days and they have so much fun. And then we'll go some other days and they're complaining the whole time because it's hot or the trail's hard. I really like that they ride the bikes because it's such a mental toughness you have to have, and I think it teaches them so much.

"We just come from a very athletic background."

Matt said the social aspect of racing has been good for Kallie, too, providing an opportunity to meet girls her own age with a common interest.

### CHALLENGING TRAILS AHEAD

Even before the 2021 season began, Kallie's father knew she had gotten faster.

Before the races, riders can travel to the site and do a pre-race ride to gain familiarity with the course.

Kallie and her father rode the trail through the woods at the county park in Flagstaff before the first race.

"We were going up the hill and she went in front of me," Matt recalled. "I couldn't keep up with her. I knew she was going to be good."

He wasn't too surprised. They would go to the pre-races and see high school and other middle school racers riding the easier trails. Meanwhile, Kallie and her dad would be on

### INTERESTED IN MOUNTAIN BIKE RACING?

The Arizona Cycling Association offers scholastic cycling teams for children in grades 6-12.

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more challenging trails with a higher degree of climbing.

Kallie plans on competing in the ACA series next year and through her middle and high school years, but first has a goal for the first half of 2022.

"I want to qualify for nationals," she said.

That challenge will begin in January. She will compete in the Mountain Bike Association of Arizona's 2022 XC Race Series, which will include races with many of the same riders on some of the same courses in the ACA series. It culminates in a state championship race in May. The top 10 finishers in each age group qualify for the USA Cycling National Championships in Colorado in July.

Even though Kallie will not turn 13 until August, she will compete in the 13-14 age group for junior beginners. Her mother will join her, competing in the 30-39 age group for intermediate women.



This Christmas, Kallie will find something under the tree to help expand her cross-training regimen, her father promised.

With racing in her blood, a fierce dedication to pedaling faster and a supportive family, Kallie appears to be well-positioned to chase her dream in Colorado — and perhaps in a future Olympics if that's where the trail leads.

"She's super self-disciplined," Katrina said. "She'd get up in the morning and be like, 'Hey mom, how long have do I have to be on the spin bike for?' or 'Mom, can we go for a run this afternoon?' We've never had to push her. She just has this natural drive."

Carrie Schmidt



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# Benefit of MUSD override goes well beyond students

BY JAY TAYLOR

**V**OTERS IN MARICOPA FACED A big decision Nov. 2 in deciding the fate of Proposition 457, the continuation of the Maricopa Unified School District's 10% budget override. And while the election wasn't going to determine city policy, city officials believe it will help shape the future of its schools — and the city at large.

City taxpayers had to decide whether to continue funding a 10% budget override for schools. Supporters stressed the override was not a new tax, and that a "Yes" vote was simply an extension of a critical funding mechanism in place since 2016.

The override passed, although by a razor-thin margin of just over 1% with 4,200 votes, or 50.46% of the vote, for continuation, and 4,124 votes, or 49.54%, against.

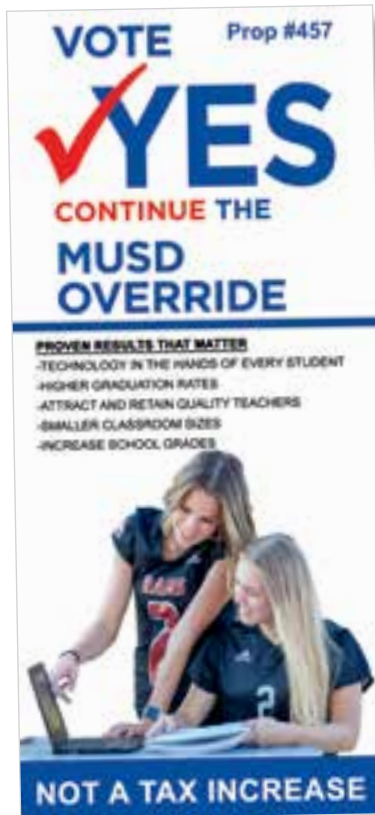
MUSD Governing Board president Ben Owens said the override reaches every part of the district.

"The renewal of the override is a significant win for the students in MUSD," Owens said. "The funding provided by the override impacts every child in our district. Thank you to voters for the continued support. We appreciate the hard work of so many that worked to help share the MUSD story and why the override is so important."

The override was originally approved five years ago by voters. It allows the district to exceed its management and operations (M&O) budget by 10%, about \$5 million per year in MUSD's case. That is a big number with an enormous impact on education in the city.

"That \$5 million equates to about 70 teachers and counselors," district Superintendent Tracey Lopeman explained before the election. "Most of the funding goes to teacher and staff salaries. Also, \$500,000 goes to the Ram Academy and \$500,000 to technology, for which the last override helped meet the district's 1:1 goal of a laptop for every student and teacher."

According to Christine Dickinson, a member of the Yes for MUSD Schools Political Action Committee, the override allowed the



district to be prepared for the remote learning necessitated by the COVID pandemic.

"We have a computer for every child," she has said previously. "The district now has an inventory of over 8,000 computers, and every teacher has their own laptop. Our new, updated technology thanks to the override is much more efficient and more mobile, so that during the pandemic they could take the computer home with them. It (the override) is a necessity."

In the runup to the vote, Lopeman pointed out that had the district not had that 1:1 ratio of technology — every student having a laptop — "we would have been in really rough shape with the COVID outbreak. We would not have been able to conduct remote learning like we did with all our students."

Funding has been an issue for schools in Maricopa — and across Arizona — for years. The state government has traditionally funded schools at a low level, which led to the "Red for

Ed" movement in 2018, which culminated in a successful state ballot initiative that resulted in a tax on the wealthiest Arizonans to fund education at a higher level.

According to city councilmember Bob Marsh, who supported the continuation, education funding challenges are nothing new.

The override "helps make up for reductions in school funding coming from the state, where the legislature has a history of meager education funding," he has said, explaining the need for the override.

"For more than 30 years, Arizona has experienced a decline in public education budgets, leaving us near the bottom of the country. Our school districts do their best to do more with less, but this override is critical for investing in new technology, for the important RAM Academy...program, and for maintaining approved class sizes."

As Maricopa's population has soared over the past 15 years, so have the number of students in MUSD. Supporters say the override is crucial to keeping pace with that growth. Enrollment in MUSD's nine schools grew 21% from 2015-16 until last school year and is expected to reach nearly 10,000 students by 2025-26, an increase of more than 50% in just 10 years.

The cost of the override is low. Residents pay about 38 cents per day to cover its cost (per \$100,000 of assessed value on their home), or about \$11.40 per month.

City Manager Rick Horst said the benefits of the override far outweigh the cost.

"The greatest economic tool we have is our citizens, and that includes our youth," Horst said. "They will one day be our business owners and the leadership of this community. They will be the schoolteachers, the firefighters, all those types of things. I think it's very short-sighted to say, 'Well, my kids don't live here, I don't want to pay that tax.'"

"You can take that approach, but eventually you're going to have to pay more. You'll have to pay for more police officers, because of increased crime, pay to clean up

vandalism, blight, all those other things, because education is the heart and soul of our community, and it always has been. And frankly, it's the heart and soul of our nation."

Governing Board member Robert Downey also commented on the override's impact on the bigger picture for the city.

"All parents want their kids to do well in life, to do better than they did," Downey said. "They want their kids to be taught that each one of them can reach the sky and go beyond. A proper education is a critical component in making that dream a reality. By supporting the override, parents and the community are sending a message that they support MUSD and its goal to provide additional support for those kids who need it."

Lopeman said the override's greatest benefit is lower class sizes, even accounting for explosive growth in student population. The 2016 override, which enable the hiring of dozens more teachers and staff, reduced the district's average class size by 6-8 students, depending upon the grade. She said those numbers make a huge difference.

"When you have class sizes that are

low, that's one way to attract and maintain quality teachers," she said. "When we attract and maintain quality staff, the quality of our product continues to elevate. One of the biggest benefits to this is having class sizes that are enviable."

Had the override vote failed, MUSD's future was gloomy. While Lopeman had stressed the quality of education would have remained high due to the district's quality teachers, the educational experience for children, and the work environment for the teachers and staff, would have diminished.

The district would have seen reductions of 6-8 teachers in each of the district's six elementary schools, 7-11 fewer in each middle school and another 11 at Maricopa High School. Other cuts could have included a RAM counselor, a RAM teacher on special assignment, three elementary school counselors, two instructional tech specialists and one elementary school librarian.

Lopeman said that in addition to addressing the shortcomings in the state's funding of schools, the override can have broader implications in the community.

"The State of Arizona does not fund low class size," Lopeman said. "It does not fund technology the way that it should. So, when we have this additional funding that the voters approved, it creates class sizes and systems that are attractive to teachers. When we can tell a teacher their community supports them, that's attractive."

"What if we can get teachers to invest in, and move to, and stay in Maricopa," she continued. "That elevates our whole community."

Passage of the override also keeps MUSD competitive with school districts in the surrounding areas, most of which also have overrides in place. The Kyrene, Tempe Elementary, Tempe Union, and Chandler Unified districts all have 15% overrides; the Casa Grande Elementary and Casa Grande Union High School districts are at 10%.

Lopeman said the vote showed that the city appreciates what MUSD is doing.

"We are grateful for the support and confidence of our community," she said. "This is an endorsement of the work our teachers and staff do every day."

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## The beauty of mathematics

BY MURRAY SIEGEL

**WHAT IS MATHEMATICS?** To many readers of this column, it is subject matter you must learn in school with a series of rules and methods which appear to be of little use outside of the classroom. Teachers are tasked with developing competencies in mathematics, and, for the most part, Maricopa schools in recent years have done well at promoting these competencies.

For those who love numbers, they perceive the beauty of math with its consistencies. For example, adding any two odd numbers, no

matter what their size, will yield a sum that is even. Yet, multiplying those same two odd numbers will always give an odd product. Consider two triangles, each with 30-, 60- and 90-degree angles. Even if one is the size of Arizona and the other can fit on the head of a pin, the side opposite the 30- degree angle will have a length exactly half the length of the side opposite the 90- degree angle. There is beauty seen in this consistent behavior.

The question must be asked, "As a teacher develops the mathematical competency of his or her students, how can the beauty of math be introduced?"


Dr. Ranjani Iyer, who teaches math in Michigan, wrote an article in Edutopia entitled "Guiding Students to Discover the Beauty of Math" which provides answers to the question.

Iyer believes the key to learning about the richness of math begins with establishing her three Rs: rigor, relevance and relationship. She creates a positive classroom environment where students are secure in their ability to explore problems, which permits a reduction in their fear of math, and through exploration they discover the beauty inherent in numbers.

"Challenging students' thinking in new and exciting ways using hands-on activities and experiential-based projects transforms a boring classroom into an engaging one," she writes.

Modern technology allows students at all levels to deal with realistic situations with the opportunity to ask, "What if we try this?" Students working in groups can generally be more creative than attempting to solve a problem by oneself.

Iyer recommends that teachers expose students to patterns such as the Fibonacci sequence, where an interesting structure can be applied to real world phenomena in biology or aesthetic beauty.

Whether seeking creative answers to meaningful problems or simply being enthralled by mathematical structure, students can gain confidence in the subject, thus no longer believing math is an academic subject with little practical purpose. 

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

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



## Mobile Elementary Teacher Feature

### Cindy Koontz Master Teacher


BY TERI DOMINGUEZ M.ED.

**TEACHER QUALITY IS THE KEY FACTOR TO STUDENT SUCCESS.** Students, especially those struggling in math and reading, need a teacher with the experience and intervention skills that can only be developed over years of working successfully with students. A native Maricopan, Cindy Koontz has been a teacher for over 22 years, and has taught at Mobile Elementary for seven years. Mrs. Koontz has taught the kindergarten through second grade level for several years and has taught all levels of the elementary curriculum. Over the years, Mrs. Koontz has developed an expertise and style that has made her a master teacher, an expert in her field, both highly qualified and highly effective, and fueled academic success for countless students over the years.

**Mrs. Koontz's K-2 Classroom Sets Up Students for Success.** A Master Teacher knows just the right way to set up a classroom to maximize learning and foster student achievement. When you walk into Mrs. Koontz's classroom, you immediately feel that you have entered a safe, creative, and inclusive environment. Students at all levels are actively engaged in learning activities. Her classroom is set up with a whole child focus to create multiple learning opportunities that incorporate visual learning, tactile learning, auditory learning, and learning through movement and play. The focus of her classroom is her small group table, where students receive rigorous standards-based lessons in reading and math. "I design daily lessons to meet the Arizona Department of Education academic standards at the highest level." Remarks Mrs. Koontz. Students in her



Many people will recognize Mrs. Koontz's Wild Horse on display at the Maricopa Library.

**Small Class Sizes are fundamental.** Small class sizes make a big difference for developing readers. Reading is one of the fundamental skills all young children learn in school. In her small class size multi-age classroom, Mrs. Koontz works closely with developing new readers and provides highly personalized intervention and one-on-one instruction to struggling students. This makes a huge positive difference her students' achievement in reading comprehension and reading fluency, resulting in higher test scores and better overall readers. The small class size also allows her to differentiate instruction to meet the needs of advanced learners who need to learn by discovery and problem-solving techniques and foster social/emotional learning. The multi-age classroom also offers her students unique learning opportunities. Mrs. Koontz pointed out that, "Multi-age classrooms offer students exposure to education and curriculum at multiple levels. It is a wonderful and unique opportunity for children to be both mentor and mentee as they work and socially blossom...I am so privileged to teach in such a classroom and I invite all parents to stop by and visit us and see what your child has been missing!" 

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## Skip the 'Zestimate' and get a 'Xactimate'

BY DAYV MORGAN

**A FEW WEEKS AGO, ZILLOW** announced that it was shutting down its Zillow Offers program of buying homes for cash.

As a result, Zillow is selling the homes it recently bought, some at a loss.

Some analysts portrayed this move as a shift in the real estate market.

It's true that real estate is now selling at all-time highs, but Zillow's latest move has little to do with the market and a lot more to do with

its own actions.

In essence, they used flawed 'Zestimates.'

A good example came in August, when an agent in my office listed a property in Homestead for \$465K.

After 30 days, the price had been lowered to \$440K. Then Zillow came in and offers \$473K, or \$33k over the asking price, with no other competing offers. Zillow proceeded to close, and is now trying to sell the property for \$494K. They will likely have a hard time getting that price, as I estimate the current market value to be around \$440-450K.

Third party estimates often use algorithms, which can be very inaccurate.

These companies very seldom have anyone on the ground in these markets where they are offering estimates of property value.

Want another example?

As of today, Zillow estimates my home to be worth \$536K, while Redfin has it at \$573K. Both are using the same data.

Why would you put yourself in a position where you must guess which one of these estimates are correct?

Don't settle for a "Zestimate," call a Realtor for a "Xactimate."

They can tour your home and provide comparable prices of similar homes local to your's, so you can list with confidence and know you are getting the right price.

There are so many factors to weigh that can't be included in an algorithm.

Consider the difference in price between a one-story and a two-story home. Or what about the difference in price between a home with a pool, or no pool?

There are other factors to take into account, including the year the home was built, upgrades/condition, garage count, bedroom and bath count, lot size, lot premiums, and the date of sale.

A local realtor considers all these issues.

An online outfit? Not so much.

Zillow used its own algorithms to purchase houses and we are now seeing the results. 🗨️

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

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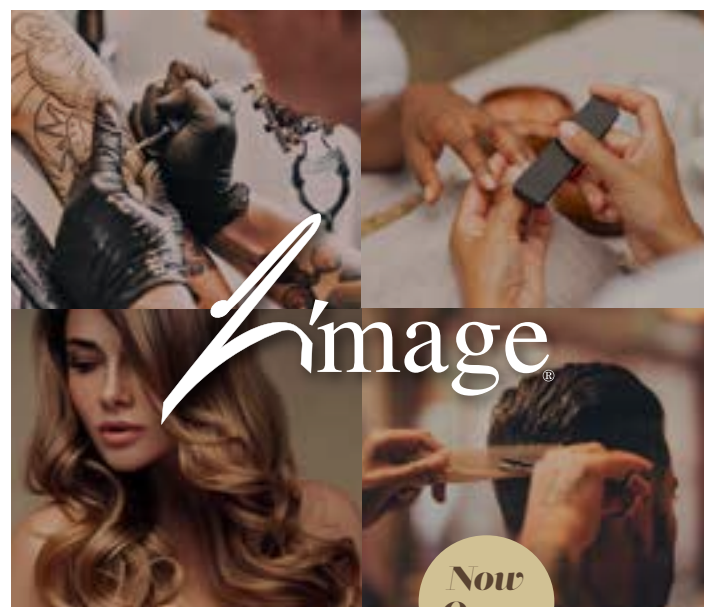
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Roselles are large, striking bushes producing multiple flowers per branch that attract hummingbirds and beneficial insects to the garden during late summer.



# The Roselle

BY AMANDA RICE

**H**IBISCUS SABDARIFFA or roselle, is known by a number of names across the world, including Jamaican sorrel, Flor da Jamaica, Florida cranberry, Red Thai Hibiscus, red sorrel and many others. Originally from Africa, the roselle is now grown throughout the tropics and subtropics and is an important agricultural crop in east Asia, Africa and southeast Asia. I was first introduced to roselle plants 10 years ago while researching resilient food-producing plants that my children would eat willingly, and for the last 10 years my family has looked forward to the harvest each fall.

The roselle, a perennial in the tropics, is grown successfully as an annual in our local area in well-drained fertile soil. Planted in the early spring, the roselle grows quickly but does not draw your attention until late in the summer when this okra relative thrives. The heat and sun of Arizona encourage the roselle growth with plants reaching up to 8 feet in height and width. It is in late summer, when many other plants are struggling from the heat of the Arizona summer, that the roselle becomes the center of the garden in full bloom. Roselles are large, striking bushes producing multiple flowers per branch that attract hummingbirds and beneficial insects to the garden during late summer and into the fall. It is from the base of these flowers that the noteworthy fruit develops. The bright red fruit called the calyx develops at the base of the flowers, surrounding the seed pod, becoming fully ripe a few days after the flower dies back. The fruit is sour tasting, similar to a cranberry, and is harvested from late October until the first frost. The calyces are not the only edible portions of the roselle

plant. The leaves and young sprouts of the plant can be used in salads raw or cooked in vegetable dishes. The seed pods are a source of pectin and the seeds can be roasted, used in soups, or as a coffee substitute. The outer petals of the red calyces, which are sources of calcium, niacin, riboflavin and iron, are harvested by removing the outer red petals from the center seed pod. The outer petals of the calyces can be eaten raw, harvested for use in a number of recipes, or preserved by dehydration. The fresh calyces are used in a variety of drinks such as a traditional Jamaican Christmas drink, a “cranberry” sauce or relish, simple flavored syrup, as a replacement for cranberries in recipes, used to make jelly with the seed pods as a source of pectin, and dried for tea. The roselle is a striking addition to any landscape, thriving in the summer heat and soils in our area and producing a unique versatile fruit. [In](#)

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

Pinal County Master Gardeners at Maricopa Agricultural Center

Brian Petersheim Jr.

## most expensive HOME SOLD



43198 W. Knauss Drive Nov. 12 \$ \$590,000

This two-story home in The Villages features a grand front entrance including large front patio. Entering the home into the formal living room, step up into the formal dining room, and into the kitchen all with soaring cathedral ceilings. The sunken family room has great views of the backyard featuring a large pool, above ground hot tub, outdoor kitchen, and large covered patio. Upstairs is the loft, 4 bedrooms, and oversized master featuring a double-sided fireplace and sitting area. The home was on the market for 10 days and sold for \$10,000 under asking price.

**Community:** The Villages **Builder:** Hacienda  
**Square feet:** 3,955 **Year built:** 2006  
**Price per square foot:** \$149.17 **Bedrooms:** 5  
**Days on market:** 10 **Bathrooms:** 3

- 2. 42795 W. Misty Morning Lane, Province.....\$530,000
- 3. 18704 N. Cook Drive, Glennwilde .....\$510,000
- 4. 22057 N. Diamond Drive, The Lakes.....\$510,000
- 5. 40834 W. Robbins Drive, Homestead North .....\$507,608

## least expensive HOME SOLD

42000 W. Morning Glory Way Oct. 18 \$ \$242,620



The least expensive home sold is a new build in Province. This energy-efficient single story home features travertine-look tile flooring, granite countertops and island in the kitchen, and a covered patio. It sold for asking price.

**Community:** Province **Builder:** Meritage Homes  
**Square feet:** 1,333 **Year built:** 2021  
**Price per square foot:** \$182.01 **Bedrooms:** 3  
**Days on market:** 2 **Bathrooms:** 2

- 2. 17490 N. Gatun Ave., Alterra South.....\$255,000
- 3. 42050 W. Morning Glory Way, Province.....\$261,170
- 4. 19394 N. Smith Drive, Maricopa Meadows .....\$265,000
- 5. 21272 N. Duncan Drive, Rancho El Dorado.....\$267,000

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# Wild things

As the weather moderates in Maricopa and Pinal County, the wild animals are sure to become more active. Here's a look at some animals that are common around the city and what to do if you encounter them.

## JAVELINAS

While javelinas look like wild pigs, they are members of the peccary family, a group of hoofed mammals originating from South America. Javelinas are common in much of central and southern Arizona. While javelinas can be somewhat aggressive and damage vegetation, the biggest danger they pose are the other animals they can attract, including wild dogs, coyotes and even mountain lions, as those are animals that prey on javelinas.



**WHAT TO DO:** If you find yourself near javelinas, you should never feed them. This will cause them to return and to lose their fear of humans. Javelina have poor eyesight and sometimes bite humans who feed them. While the danger is minimal, you should avoid all contact.



## COYOTES

Coyotes are common in rural and urban areas statewide. They are clever and will take advantage of any food source. Yards with fruit on the ground, pet food and unsecured garbage cans and even pets can attract these wild animals. Coyotes may see larger or loud dogs as a threat to their territory and may lure and attack dogs that are off leash.

**WHAT TO DO:** If you see a coyote, take notice. Make loud noises. Keep eye contact. Shout and bang pots and pans or rattle empty soda cans with pebbles in them. Do not turn and run away. They may chase you down. Be aggressive. Wave your hands or objects like sticks and brooms. Throw small stones, or if you have it on hand, use mace if you come across a bold animal that refuses to leave.

*Information provided by the Arizona Game and Fish Department.*

## RATTLESNAKES

There are two main varieties of rattlesnakes you are likely to encounter in and around Maricopa. The Western Diamond Backed Rattlesnake and the Sonoran Coral Snake. The Western Diamond Backed snake can get aggressive if angered enough. The Sonoran Coral Snake is very shy but is still highly venomous. Both snakes are attracted by shelter, water and a supply of rodents.



**WHAT TO DO:** Move away slowly and deliberately when you find yourself near a rattlesnake. Back away until you get to a safe distance. Usually, the snake will hold its ground or back away from you at the same time. A rattlesnake isn't likely to chase you. If it moves toward you, it's looking for a safe spot that's in your direction. Pets should be restrained until the snake has moved on.



## SCORPIONS

According to the Arizona Poison and Drug Center, there are 30 different species of scorpions in Arizona and only one, the bark scorpion is considered deadly. At full maturity, it's only an inch and half in length. It's small but climbs well. Scorpions are dormant during the day. During the warm months most stings reported to the poison center occur at night.

**WHAT TO DO:** If you come across a scorpion inside your home, it's time to contact an exterminator and get on a routine maintenance plan. In order to keep them away, make sure your grass is cut short, and keep any trash or debris away from your home. In the off chance you are stung, clean the site with soap and water, and use a cold compress while you position the affected limb into a comfortable position. Most bites can be medicated with an over-the-counter pain reliever.

## GILA MONSTER

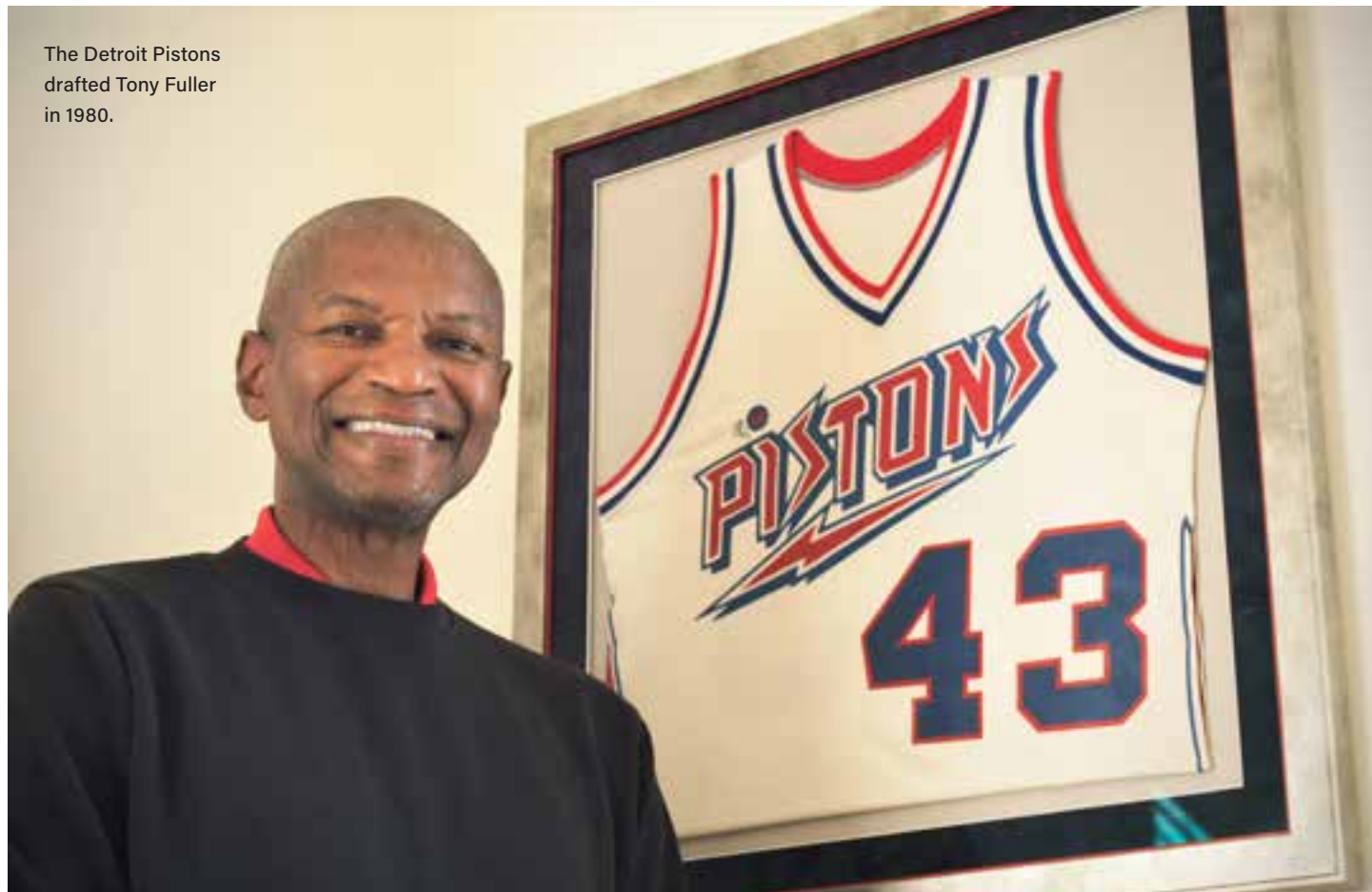
The Gila Monster is the largest lizard in the United States, weighing in about 2 pounds and sometimes reaching a length of 20 inches, including its tail. It moves slow and spends most of its time underground. They are most active in the spring. They burrow into the ground during the hottest months of the year but emerge during the rainy season in late July and August.



**WHAT TO DO:** If you encounter a Gila Monster, stay out of its path and give it room, and it will likely move along. If you encounter one in the yard, move away, alert anyone in the vicinity, and restrain pets. If a Gila Monster is left alone for a couple of hours, it will likely move on. If it does not leave after several hours or even after a day, you can contact your local Game and Fish Department office for advice. This reptile is venomous, but very few people have been bitten by a Gila Monster.



The Detroit Pistons drafted Tony Fuller in 1980.



# MHS teacher jumps from hoop drills to pupils

BY TOM SCHUMAN

**B**OTH ON THE BASKETBALL court or in the classroom, Anthony Ike “Tony” Fuller has had one goal: help young people reach their potential.

The former basketball coach at Maricopa High School from 2016-19 has had a positive impact on many students and players at the high school and college levels. A teacher at the school, he currently works to help students who have failed classes to recover those credits.

“You’ve got so many young men who are just lost — the lack of discipline, lack of self-love and lack of soft skills you need in life to be productive,” Fuller said. “You try to impart those life lessons. Every once in a while, I get a letter or card or phone call with someone saying thanks.”

Fuller appreciates the gratitude and is quick to recognize those people who have helped him throughout his own coaching career, which got underway after being taken in the 1980 NBA draft by his hometown Detroit Pistons — he averaged four points in 15 games in his only season — and two seasons in Anchorage, Alaska, in the Continental Basketball Association.

He had started his college career at Vincennes Junior College in Indiana, playing for acclaimed coach Alan Bradfield, who earned three national titles as part of a dozen trips to the National Junior College Athletic Association championship tournament.

But location as well as the “opportunity to play and broaden my horizons” led to him to transfer to Pepperdine University, whose campus overlooking the Pacific Ocean in

Malibu, California, has been called “a place that looks more like a beach resort than a private university” by Expedia.com.

“It turned out to be a great move for me,” said Fuller, 63.

His decision to head west, after all, led to his long association with Coach Jim Harrick, who would helm the storied UCLA basketball program for eight seasons, joining the legendary John Wooden as the only coaches to win national championships in Westwood.

As a junior, Fuller was coached by Gary Colson — 563 victories in 34 years as a head coach — who would move onto the University of New Mexico.

In came Harrick, for whom the 6-foot-4 Fuller averaged 19.5 points and 6.8 rebounds a game during an outstanding senior season at shooting guard. Fuller was later inducted into the Pepperdine Hall of Fame.

After his short professional playing career, he began his coaching tenure with Harrick — including six years as an assistant at Pepperdine and four at UCLA.

“Jim Harrick was the biggest male influence in my life,” Fuller said. “I wrote him a Father’s Day note this past year trying to express what

he meant to me. I will never be able to repay him for all he has done for me.”

## BOUNCING TOWARD EDUCATION

When Tony Fuller returned to Pepperdine as a coaching assistant from 1982-88, he would complete his undergraduate degree and work on his master’s degree in education. He climbed the ladder from graduate assistant to part-time and eventually full-time assistant. The Waves won 112 games in that span and earned three NCAA tournament berths.

In 1988, Harrick got the call to go to UCLA, one of the nation’s legendary programs, and Fuller joined him. He describes the four years there as special, citing everything from the Pauley Pavilion facility to the famed alumni — think Bill Walton, Gail Goodrich, Walt Hazzard, Sidney Wicks and others — who would stop by the coaches’ office.

When Wilt Chamberlain came in one day wanting to know when the weight room was going to be open, Fuller says he was happy to oblige.

The Bruins earned NCAA tourney berths in each of Fuller’s four seasons there, including reaching the Elite Eight in 1992.

Fuller was then hired as a head coach for two seasons at San Diego State and another two seasons back at Pepperdine, before returning to the assistant ranks for a decade at Colorado State, Utah State and Stanford. While with Stanford, Fuller lists four straight victories at the University of Arizona’s McKale Center as a top accomplishment. The Cardinal were regulars in the NCAA tourney, also reaching the Elite Eight one time.



Tony Fuller stands with a room full of keepsakes from a coaching career that spanned decades.

With his son preparing to enter high school, Fuller gave up the life on the road of a college coach and entered the high school ranks. He coached nine years at Brophy College Prep in Phoenix (156-94 record), taking his team to the state title game in 2011. It was a mutual decision, he said, to end his tenure there.

After a year off the bench, Fuller was selected from more than 40 applicants in 2016 to become the new head coach at Maricopa. He spent three years with the basketball program and is in his sixth year overall at the school. He has taught physical education and college career technology, among other courses.

A Maricopa resident since shortly after being named coach, he moved to Province in early 2021. After so many years of traveling and living in big cities, he is happy to stay close to home and feels the community is a really nice place to live.

While basketball has taken him all over the world, he goes back to his Midwest roots in saying, “The fundamentals are much more evident there, and the fan enthusiasm and following are much more intense.”

The lack of execution and the abundance of three-point shots in today’s professional games are troubling for someone with as much coaching experience as Fuller. He enjoys watching the top women’s college teams and the strong fundamentals they bring to the game.

Fuller acknowledged the impact of a career that spans portions of five decades in the game.

“Everything I ever got was through basketball — basketball and education.”



## THE AUTHOR HAS GAME

Tony Fuller may have spent more than 40 years on the basketball court, but he is quite proud of some work he did behind a computer.

Fuller wrote and published “MEMORIES: The Amazing Life and Untimely Death of the Legendary Dennis Edwards,” the unfiltered story of a cousin who served several stints as lead singer for the legendary Motown group, The Temptations.

“He died in 2018 under bizarre circumstances,” Fuller recalled. “I just wanted to share our life together and his life. I had no experience in writing. But it’s on Amazon and people like it; they write good reviews.”

A couple of examples:

*“This book was an insightful, funny and heartwarming look at the life of the fantastic singer Dennis Edwards. A good book should make you feel different emotions. This book did that for me. Once I started reading, I could not put it down.”*

*“Author Anthony Fuller captures the highs and lows of the famous life of his cousin, Dennis Edwards in this intimate biography. I devoured the book and found it impossible to put down. Fuller stirs every emotion from anger to deep sadness to laughter through his insightful character development.”*

Fuller, who said it took about six months to compile the work, hopes to do more writing once he retires from teaching.





## Helping senior loved ones enjoy the holidays

BY AL BRANDENBURG

**W**ITH THE HOLIDAYS RIGHT around the corner, it's an ideal time to start planning for the festivities. Enjoying the holiday cheer will help maintain a positive mindset, which, in turn, helps one stay healthier. Keeping one's body, mind, and spirit in top shape is a priority for a happy life. The holidays are an emotional time that is usually associated with family, from the time we're

kids anticipating all the colorfully wrapped presents we're going to get to our adult lives, making the magic happen for our own kids. For some seniors who have lost a spouse or close friend or may not live close to their families, however, the holidays can seem to point a magnifying glass at the sadness and isolation they are experiencing. If you feel a loved one is experiencing sadness or depression around this time of year, try some of these steps:



**Focus on being a companion:** What makes the holidays so special? It's spending quality time with friends and loved ones. These

are what make the memories we cherish so much. No matter what you do together, it can be special. No matter what age you are, spending time together enjoying a meal, exchanging a gift, or just having a few laughs is essential to keeping your social life active. Sometimes this takes a shift in your thinking to one of complete generosity. Seniors often feel isolated, depending on their

circumstances, so simply spending time with a family member or good friends fills them with a lot of joy. In fact, tap into that inner curiosity you have deep inside you and ask questions about the stories they're sharing with you. These connections help maintain a rich and rewarding mental health.




**Be Santa's helper:** Everyone loves to have a clean, organized home that's festively decorated for the holidays. As we age, however, it gets more and more difficult to do that kind of

work, especially the outdoor tasks. So, think about volunteering a weekend to help with picking up around the house, moving things that could cause a tripping hazard, vacuuming, and other needs. Then help unpack the holiday decorations and start getting creative. You can also help with wrapping presents and addressing envelopes for greeting cards. Play or sing holiday music to set a festive mood. Maybe make mulled cider, eggnog or hot chocolate to serve to your loved one while decorating, cooking or reminiscing together. Small gestures can go a long way.



**Be a celebrity chef:** Find out ahead of time what their favorite holiday meal is and make a day out of preparing it and enjoying it with them. Go online and track down the recipe first and make sure you have all the ingredients. Then, invite them to help you cook so it can be a shared experience. Feel free to make enough that they have leftovers to enjoy later. One of the best things to seeing all the beauty of the holiday decorations is the aroma and taste of fresh-baked cookies. Making Christmas cookies keeps the mind alert. Use frosting like paint and make your cookies like an art project.

The most important thing to remember, whether you have an aging parent or grandparent, a family friend, or a longtime neighbor, is to make sure they know you're thinking about them and that they are loved and appreciated.

To that end, have a safe and joyous holiday season. 

*Al Brandenburg is a member of the Maricopa Senior Coalition.*

Sources: AARP, getgoldencare.com, myagingcare.com, dailycaring.com

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## Traveling by air just got easier

BY JOAN KOZCZOR

**T**RAVELING BY PLANE IS ONE OF the safest and fastest ways to get to your destination. But crowded airports, long waits at security checkpoints, and baggage restrictions can make flying challenging when you have a disability.

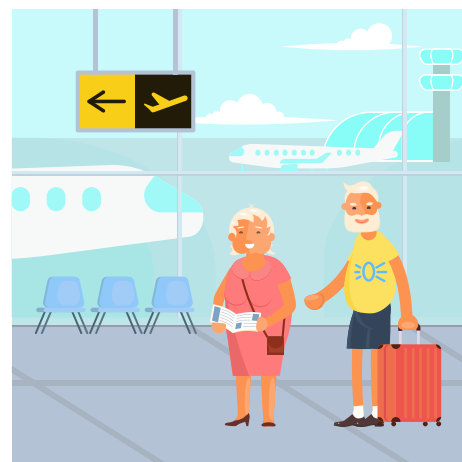
Worldwide, airports are constantly adapting to accommodate passengers with a range of hidden disabilities, often with the help of cutting edge technology. From smart glasses for blind travelers to sensory rooms for passengers with autism, the industry's resourceful initiatives

help make air travel a more manageable experience.

The aging Baby Boomer population and people affected by Alzheimer's and related dementias (ADRD) has resulted in an increasing numbers of older adults choosing air travel. This is concerning since adverse outcomes, including confusion and delirium, can be exacerbated by unfamiliar environments, such as airports and in-flight situations

An ADRD diagnosis does not necessarily end the desire to travel for leisure, and air travel may be necessary for family and/or care reasons.

Many airports are choosing to become a Dementia-Friendly Airport. A Dementia Friendly Airport accommodates the needs of persons living with dementia and their care partners in such a manner to enable them to safely and comfortably navigate the procedures required to travel by plane by the use of clear signage, minimizing visual and auditory stimulation. Readily accessible toilets. Providing airport personnel, TSA staff, volunteers, vendor employees and airline employees who are



trained and experienced in supporting the needs of persons with dementia and their care partners from check in to boarding.

In September, The City of Phoenix was among the first and largest city to commit to joining Dementia Friendly America (DFA).

The city's newest initiative, which launched Sept. 21 at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport, involves specific training, and other options that will make it easier and more comfortable for people experiencing dementia — and their families and traveling companions — to travel through the airport.

Changes at Sky Harbor include the Compassion Cacti Lanyard Program. The special lanyard, worn around the neck, identifies a traveler as a person who experiences dementia, making it easier for airport staff to recognize them and offer assistance.

The lanyard also gives travelers the ability to enter new, quiet areas, such as the Compassion Corner, that offer minimal distractions — something that can help avoid the agitation and confusion that can present itself when a person experiencing dementia is away from home.

Traveling should be a relaxing and enjoyable experience. With a continuing number of airports adapting the Age Friendly Dementia program, persons affected with Dementia and related disabilities can travel in a less stressful environment making travel a pleasurable experience for the caregiver and their loved one.

[Alzheimers.org.uk/sites/default/files/Dementiafriendlyairports.com](https://Alzheimers.org.uk/sites/default/files/Dementiafriendlyairports.com)

[InMaricopa.com/Columnists](https://InMaricopa.com/Columnists)



## Holiday gift suggestions

BY RON SMITH

**I**N AN ATTEMPT TO REDUCE holiday stress, I'm going to provide you with some gift suggestions for friends and loved ones. Of course, in the spirit of my monthly articles, my suggestions will focus on gifts that might help improve the lives of loved ones or friends who have faced some of the challenges to aging well.

Ensure that your friend or loved one is living in a home that is comfortable and safe for them by performing a home assessment. You can procure a **HomeFit Guide** from AARP to assist you in the assessment. You can go to: <https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/housing/info-2020/homefit-guide.html> to either download or order a printed guide. It is available in several languages and will lead you through a room by room safety review of all the areas in and around the house.

- For those who are suffering from arthritis, the OXO Good Grips line of products has many innovative and helpful tools, storage containers and gadgets designed to make life easier. Potential aids include a button hook tool or a motion sensor trash can. Adaptive eating utensils are great for people with severe cases of arthritis.
- Vision changes as we age are inevitable. Hopefully, many people will be able to keep their vision sharp with annual check ups and revised prescriptions, but that's not true for everyone. Good lighting is very important. Check your loved one's home. Upgrade bulbs or add lamps to help improve lighting where needed. If there are ceiling fixtures, upgrades to LED lighting can not only improve lighting quality but reduce maintenance and the need for a ladder to change bulbs. It can also reduce the chance of falls.

- For those living in nursing homes or assisted living, consider adaptive clothing to make dressing/undressing easier. A digital photo frame can help keep family close between visits; A comfortable blanket has many uses, or a Wheelchair friendly blanket. Consider a puzzle board that can hold the puzzle being constructed when it needs to be moved. Get them a personalized pouch or bag for a walker or wheel chair. Moisturizers and cosmetics are welcome or a credit for the beauty salon.
- COVID taught us many lessons about isolation. For your friends or family living alone, consider increasing visits or phone calls. Arrange for a trip to the park, the senior center or a day trip. Get your loved one a monitor that can detect falls or emergencies. This can be a wonderful solution. Consider registering your loved one with the Maricopa Police Department's **Y.A.N.A. (You Are Not Alone)** program. Y.A.N.A. provides regular phone calls, planned home visits and referrals to community resources

when needed. They work with service agencies to meet the needs of residents with limited mobility. Combating isolation is one of the most beneficial gifts that can be given.

- If your friend or a loved one is a diabetic, I would like to recommend that you encourage them to enroll in the Diabetes Self-Management Workshop sponsored by the Pinal-Gila Council for Senior Citizens. This is a virtual healthy living with diabetes workshop that is intended to help you learn how to take control and manage your health.

Happy holidays everyone! Let's be kind to each other. Safe travel and happy family gatherings.

*Ron Smith is an aging-in-place advocate, a Certified Aging-in-Place Specialist (CAPS) and a Certified Living in Place Professional (CLIPP™).*

**More gifts can be found at:**  
[InMaricopa.com/holiday-gift-suggestions/](https://InMaricopa.com/holiday-gift-suggestions/)

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## calendar 12.21

**6**  
**Maricopa Historical Society meeting**  
5 p.m., Maricopa Library & Cultural Center  
18160 N. Maya Angelou Drive

**7**  
**Maricopa City Council meeting**  
7 p.m., City Hall  
39700 W. Civic Center Plaza

**8**  
**Maricopa Planning & Zoning Commission meeting**  
6 p.m., City Hall  
39700 W. Civic Center Plaza

**10**  
**MOPS — A Group for Moms**  
9 a.m., Copper Sky  
44345 W. MLK Jr. Blvd.

**11**  
**Maricopa Living Nativity**  
5 p.m., Community of Hope Church  
45295 W. Honeycutt Ave.

**13**  
**Friends of the Library meeting**  
5:30 p.m., Maricopa Library and Cultural Center  
18160 N. Maya Angelou Drive

**21**  
**Maricopa City Council meeting**  
7 p.m., City Hall  
39700 W. Civic Center Plaza

**Sundays**  
**Narcotics Anonymous**  
7-9 p.m., Maricopa Community Church  
45295 W. Honeycutt Ave.

**Mondays**  
**Narcotics Anonymous**  
7-9 p.m., Maricopa Community Church  
45295 W. Honeycutt Ave.

**Tuesdays**  
**Maricopa Cruise-in**  
5-9 p.m., Behind Burger King  
20699 N. John Wayne Pkwy.

**Thursdays**  
**Maricopa Police Cadets meeting**  
6 p.m., Maricopa High School  
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

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

**Alcoholics Anonymous**  
6:30 p.m.  
50881 W. Papago Road

**Celebrate Recovery Small Group Meeting**  
7 p.m., Maricopa Community Church  
44977 W. Hathaway Ave.

**Teen Support Group**  
6:30 p.m., Northern Lights Therapy, PLLC  
21300 N. John Wayne Parkway, Ste. 103

**Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting**  
7 p.m., 50881 W. Papago Road

ALL EVENTS ARE TENTATIVE

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

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