Youngtown Village Reporter

May 2025
youngtownaz.org

In the Heart of the Northwest Valley

STARTING APRIL 5TH AT OUR YOUNGTOWN LOCATION!

Farmer's Market

EVERY SATURDAY
8:30-11:30
12033 N. CLUB HOUSE SQUARE
YOUNGTOWN, AZ 85363



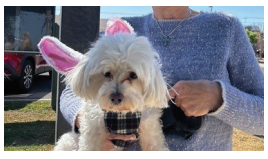
FRESH PRODUCE
BREAD &
MISC PRODUCT

VALLEY VIEW COMMUNITY FOOD BANK

Pool Safety Page 7



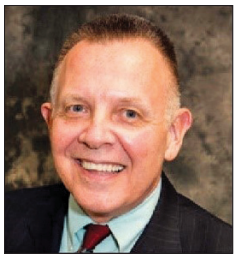
Dog Park News Page 5



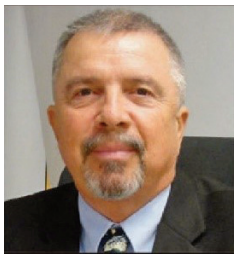
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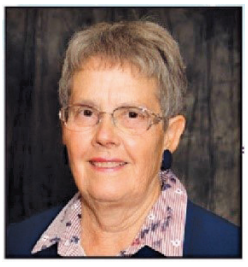
From the Mayor...
Tradition—At Its Finest!



Michael LaVault
Mayor



Charles Vickers
Vice Mayor



Margaret Chittenden
Councilmember



Karen Haney Duncan
Councilmember



Michael Francis
Councilmember



Kathryn French
Councilmember



Jodi Kaczynski
Councilmember

Lightly edited article originally written for 'Luke Visions'



The Air Force announcement of its decision, in August, 2012, to establish an F-35 pilot training center at Luke Air Force Base (Luke AFB) was the culmination of a lengthy and focused regional marketing effort whose foundation featured each and every city and town in the West Valley standing shoulder-to-shoulder in support of Luke AFB and its future flight mission.

That same strong community support and ideal local flying conditions also convinced the Air Force to continue to add F-35 Lightning aircraft, at Luke AFB, eventually bringing the total of these '5th generation' fighters to 144.

Luke AFB is named after Frank Luke Jr., born in Phoenix (Arizona Territory) in 1897. Frank Luke Jr., AKA the Arizona Balloon-Buster, was the first aviator to receive the Medal of Honor which was awarded to him posthumously for his service during World War I. Luke's signature 'kill' or victory was the German observation balloon--a target protected by withering anti-aircraft ground fire and German Fokker aircraft making it an especially dangerous and difficult target. Altogether, Luke scored 18 aerial victories before being killed, on September 29, 1918, at age 21. An amazing 13 of those victories were scored in 7 days (September 12-18, 1918) even though he did not fly on two of those seven days.

Luke was flying a 200 hp, wood and fabric, French biplane—the Societe Pour L'Aviation et ses Derives (SPAD) XIII when he was shot down near Murvaux, France. He died shooting it out with approaching German soldiers fulfilling his promise to never be taken prisoner.

Luke was considered an 'ace of aces' racking up more 'kills' or victories than any other aviator in World War I except Eddie Rickenbacker who once called Luke "…the most daring aviator and greatest fighter pilot of the entire war…" Luke was considered a brilliant pioneer in the development of aerial combat skills.

NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITY

Email your article to Jeanne Blackman: jblackman@youngtownaz.org

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TOWN OF YOUNGTOWN

12030 North Clubhouse Square, Youngtown, AZ 85363

Mayor and Council: 623-933-8286 • Town Administration: 623-933-8286

Building Inspector: 623-933-8286 • Library: 623-974-3401 • Municipal Court: 623-972-8226

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office Non-emergency: 602-876-1011 • Emergency: 9-1-1

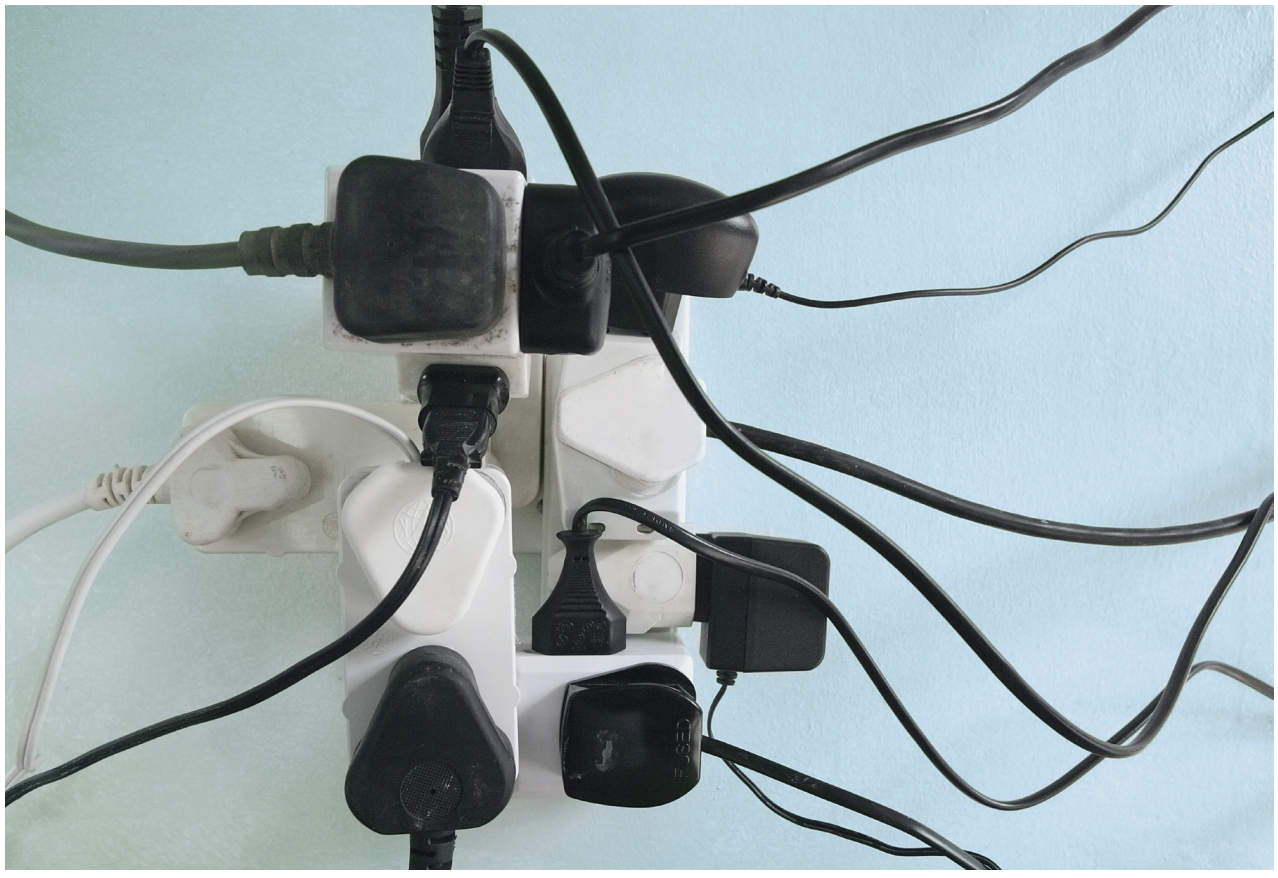
Town Administrative Office hours Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. • www.youngtownaz.org

Fire Safety in the Home

Stay Alert, Stay Safe



By: **Kenny Kovak**
Fire Marshal
Sun City Fire District



As temperatures rise and households prepare for summer, Sun City Fire and Medical (SCFMD) remind residents that May is Fire Safety Month — a critical time to take steps that can prevent devastating fires at home and in the community.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), house fires increase during warmer months due to outdoor cooking, electrical overloads, and dry conditions. Fire departments across the country are using this month to educate the public on how to minimize fire risks and respond effectively in emergencies.

Top Safety Tips for May:

1. Test Smoke Alarms: Ensure all smoke alarms in your home are working properly. Replace batteries at least once a year and consider upgrading them to alarms with 10-year-old batteries.

2. Create an Escape Plan: Every household should have a fire escape plan that includes two ways out of each room and a designated meeting spot outside. Practice regularly with all family members.

3. Grill Safely: Keep grills at least 10 feet away from siding, deck railings, and overhanging branches. Never leave a grill unattended while in use.

4. Proper Storage of Flammable Materials: Store gasoline, propane, and other flammable liquids outside the home in approved containers.

5. Electrical Safety: Avoid overloading outlets and extension cords. Check for frayed wires and replace damaged cords immediately.

6. Yard Maintenance: Keep lawns and bushes trimmed. Remove dead vegetation and debris that could easily catch fire.

We encourage everyone to take this time to review safety practices at home. Preparedness is the key to saving lives and minimizing damage.

A Season to Stay Vigilant

Fire safety isn't just a one-month effort — but May is the perfect time to build good habits that can last all year. Whether it's a quick test of a smoke alarm or a full family drill, the actions you take now could prevent a tragedy tomorrow.

For more tips and local event information, visit www.scfmd.az.gov.

Youngtown Municipal Court

As part of a continuing public legal education program, the Youngtown Municipal Court is offering a unique public awareness presentation on identifying and protecting yourself against the ever-present electronic scams that are becoming more pervasive.

Agents from the United States Secret Service and the MCSO computer crimes division will shed light on "The Dark Web" and the most recent hi-tech scams targeting the American public.

Learn who is hacking banks, corporations, city, state, and federal agencies in an attempt to acquire your personal information, and how it is being bought and sold on the web.

Find out what entities are behind the keyboard and digital phone calls, and where they are originating from.

An update on what can be and what is being done to stop both foreign and domestic scammers.

Seating is limited.

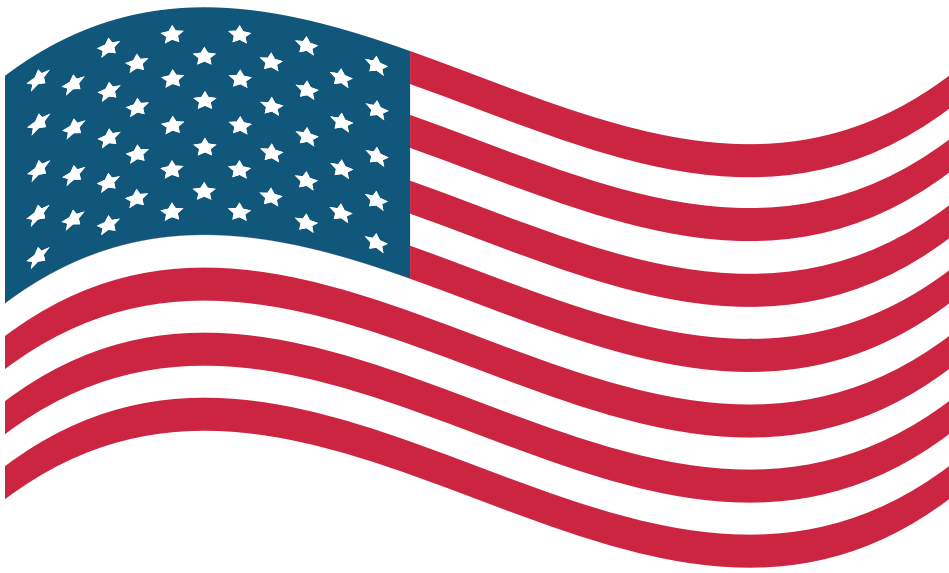
Date: Wednesday June 18

10:30 - 11:30 with time for public questions

Please call the Youngtown Municipal Court with questions or for more details.

623-972-8226

12033 Clubhouse Sq.
Youngtown, AZ



HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY



Youngtown Public Library

May 2025

The Youngtown Public Library just finished celebrating National Library Week. Celebrated nationwide, this is the time when we acknowledge and thank all those who keep our libraries running and serving the public. We would like to thank our volunteers who help at the library every week, the Friends of the Youngtown Public Library who support our programming, and our staff who are there day-to-day serving you. We would also like to thank all of you who support the library and use our services. You are the reason we are here. Thank you all!

MAY IMPORTANT DATES

May 1	Color Our World Summer Reading Program Registration Begins
May 6	Rather Be Reading Book Club at 10:00 a.m.
May 7	Storytime with Miss Mary at 10:30 a.m.
May 14	Storytime with Miss Mary at 10:30 a.m.
May 21	Storytime with Miss Mary at 10:30 a.m.
May 26	Library Closed – Memorial Day Holiday

UPCOMING EVENTS

STORYTIME WITH MISS MARY: Storytime with Miss Mary meets on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. Join us for songs, dancing, and of course stories! Storytime with Miss Mary is supported by the Arizona State Library, Archives & Public Records, a division of the Secretary of State, with federal funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

RATHER BE READING BOOK CLUB: The Rather Be Reading Book Club will meet on Tuesday, May 6 at 10 a.m. We are reading Project Hail Mary by Andy Weir. For more information contact Mary Vass, Library Manager at 623-974-3401.

LOCATION

The Youngtown Library and the Youngtown Historical Museum are located in Town Square, between Alabama and Youngtown Avenues, just west of 112th Avenue. For additional information about the Library or the history of Youngtown, call (623) 974-3401 and speak with Mary Vass, Library/Museum Manager.

The Youngtown Public Library offers many services, including:

- **FREE Book, DVD, and Kits checkout (with a Youngtown Library card)**
- **FREE WI-FI**
- **FREE use of 6 Public Computers**
- **FREE Tax Forms**
- **FREE faxes (with a Youngtown Library card) – 10-page limit**
- **Printing/Copies $ .15 each**

LIBRARY HOURS

Monday – Thursday: 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Friday – Sunday: Closed

Clubs and Organizations

AARP Board
MEET: 3rd Tuesday of the month 4:30 p.m.
Kathryn French – 480-322-0512

AARP CHAPTER 1
MEET: 1st Friday of the month 5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Kathryn French – 480-322-0512

AGUA FRIA RANCH HOA
MEET: 2nd Wednesday of the month 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
OFF: June, July and August
Ogden & Company/Jackie Monty 623-628-4708

CRAFT CORNER
MEET: Every Monday 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Charlene McGarvey - 623-363-4608

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY
MEET: Every Other Month on the 2nd Thurs. 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
OFF: June, July and August
Pam Kisala – 602-361-9287

YOUNGTOWN ART COMMISSION
MEET: 4th Wednesday of the month 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
OFF: June, July and August
Val Wilson – 623-810-3137

YOUNGTOWN CITIZENS' DOG PARK
MEET: 3rd Saturday of the month 10:30 a.m. – Noon
OFF: June, July and August
Margaret Chittenden – 480-861-1576

YOUNGTOWN COMMUNITY FUND
MEET: 4th Wednesday of the month 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Roger Cox – 623-826-3665

All clubs meet in the Clubhouse unless otherwise noted.

NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITY
Email your article to Jeanne Blackman:
jblackman@youngtownaz.org
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Town of Youngtown Passport Hours

Monday: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. - Appointments Only
Tuesday: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. - Appointments Only
Wednesday: 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. - Walk Ins Only
Thursday: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. - Appointments Only
Friday: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. - Appointments Only
2nd Saturday of each month: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Walk Ins Only

Please call Town Hall at 623-933-8286 to schedule an appointment.

For application forms, information on documentation required, fees, and a wealth of other passport and international travel information, visit the only official website for passport information - travel.state.gov.



Happy Mothers Day

News You Can Use…

Canine Happenings at the Dog Park!

May showers bring May flowers!!

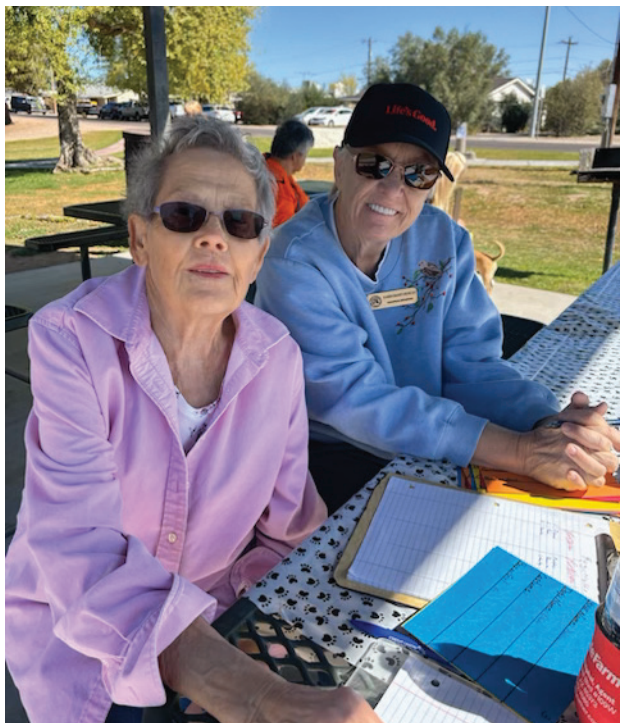
Where are the days going? They sure are flying by!

Soon it will be time to think about getting away with our pets, to a cooler place with a focus on road trips as perhaps a long weekend or maybe even longer! Remember to send your photos of your trips to our editor for inclusion in our upcoming editions of the Youngtown Village Reporter.

Here is an update on the Citizens' Dog Park of Youngtown beautification project. At the dog park board meeting on February 15th, Town Manager, Jeanne Blackman, gave an overview to the board, concerning the sprinkler system, pavers, picnic tables and other future enhancements to the dog park. And at the March 15th board meeting, our guests were Tim Blake, President of LandCare who does all of the landscaping for the Town and Town Manager, Jeanne Blackman. The two of them outlined their thoughts and visions to improve the dog park. The area where the park is now was once used as a parking lot and muddy pond for events in the late 1990's and early 2000's. But now is the time to update much of the park's infrastructure. Tim explained new technology, using smart technology, to upgrade and monitor the effectiveness of the sprinkler system. Town staff is currently reviewing LandCare's proposal for the improvements. This takes time, but the end results will be great! The board thanked both of them for their time and thoughtfulness! Youngtown will be working towards a new and improved park with the new sprinkler system in place and other amenities. We ask for your patience as this process moves forward. Projects worth doing take time! Thank you to the staff, LandCare and the Dog Park Board!



A furry friend getting ready for a walk



Council members Haney-Duncan and Chittenden



Getting ready for a walk



Sunnie and Mayor LeVault as judges



The first spring Easter pet parade was held Saturday, April 7th, hosted by the Youngtown Dog Park committee! The morning was clear, sunny and pleasantly warm! There was a nice turnout of dogs and their owners! Many participated in the Easter costume contest, dressing up their furry friends! The judges were Mayor Mike LeVault, new Councilmember Jodi Kaczynski, and Sunnie Booth, Administrative Assistant, from MCSO. Councilmember Karen Haney Duncan assisted with the event setup. First place was Irene with her dog Pickles, second place was Pam with her dog Bonnie and third place was Denise with her dog Liberty! Our thanks to all who came out to enjoy the walk and the judges and volunteers who donated their time! The winners received gift cards for $25.00, $15.00 and $10.00.

The next dog park meeting will be May 24th which will be one week later than our normal meeting schedule due to the shred-a-thon the Town will be hosting with AARP. Our June meeting will be held on the 21st. We welcome all who would like to participate in these meetings.

Please call Margaret Chittenden, Board Chair, if you have any questions, at 480-861-1576.

NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITY

Email your article to Jeanne Blackman: jblackman@youngtownaz.org

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Extra Eyes: APS, Firefighters Team Up with New AI Smoke-Detection Cameras

Technology aids in early wildfire detection and strengthens emergency response

New artificial intelligence (AI) fire-sensing cameras operated by Arizona Public Service (APS) are proactively searching 24/7 for early signs of wildfires in targeted, high fire-risk areas. They alert APS fire mitigation experts and fire dispatch centers when smoke and heat traces are detected. As part of its comprehensive wildfire mitigation strategy, APS is enhancing collaboration with firefighters and providing fire dispatch centers access to live camera feeds and fire detection information.



"The new AI cameras act as powerful extra sets of eyes. When minutes matter, early fire detection provides real-time information so firefighters can respond faster and we can make critical operational decisions about our energy grid to help keep communities safe," said Scott Bordenkircher, APS Forestry and Fire Mitigation Director. "Our wildfire mitigation efforts over the past 10 years, strengthened by partnerships with federal land managers, the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management and local fire departments, is key to delivering safe, reliable energy to customers."

"The Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management knows the capabilities of the AI cameras, and the critical asset they can be for the state, when it comes to DFFM's wildfire response. We will have the ability to tap into the cameras and those feeds will help increase our situational awareness as well as provide our dispatching center with timely information to relay to our boots on the ground," said Tom Torres, Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management Director. "We appreciate the collaboration with APS to enhance our fire suppression response efforts so DFFM can better serve and protect our residents and communities."

The new technology from Pano AI is helping mitigate wildfire risk through a variety of features, including:

• More than 30 APS AI cameras mounted in elevated locations across Flagstaff, Payson, Prescott, Sedona, north Phoenix and southeastern Arizona by this summer.

• Smart AI that evaluates and detects fire smoke optimally within a 10-mile range and studies the way smoke looks to prevent mistaking other images like fog or dust as signs of wildfire.

• Connected satellite data that produces information on the size and location of the fire and 24/7 live stream using ultra-high-definition cameras with 360-degree views that can zoom in on a specific location.

"Arizona faces a growing threat from wildfires and early detection is critical to protecting communities and infrastructure," said Arvind Satyam, Pano AI Co-founder and Chief Commercial Officer. "By partnering with APS, we're bringing cutting-edge technology and real-time intelligence to the frontlines of wildfire response. These AI-powered cameras spot smoke from miles away and provide actionable insights that help the utility and emergency responders move quickly and decisively."

Recent examples of AZ wildfire detection through the lens of AI

December 2024:

• The Horton Fire, caused by human activity, ignited in the Tonto National Forest during a time of year when wildfire risk is typically low.

• An AI camera in Payson notified APS fire mitigation specialists of the smoke. .

• APS fire mitigation specialists worked with first responders and because of weather conditions and APS's previous removal of overgrown and unwanted brush, firefighters were able to use power line corridors as fire breaks to help keep flames from spreading.

• Firefighters used the cameras to help monitor the fire's growth overnight.

February 2025:

• An AI camera in the Prescott National Forest detected smoke from the Brady Fire when it was less than one acre in size.

• Installed on a communication tower, in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, the camera system immediately notified APS and the forest's dispatch center.

• Firefighters' swift and tactical response helped contain the fire's spread and, due to the fire's distance from power lines and the camera's early detection of smoke, the fire did not impact APS equipment or service to customers.

What else does APS do to help reduce wildfire risk?

• APS takes an in depth, multi-layered approach that spans across many teams from fire mitigation specialists with experience working as wildland firefighters to tree experts, meteorologists, lineworkers, engineers, data analysts and drone pilots to keep power flowing safely and reliably through more than 38,000 miles of power lines.

• The APS Wildfire Mitigation program includes regular power line inspections, preventative upgrades, clearing hazardous brush and vegetation from power lines and wildfire monitoring technology, like weather stations, fire modeling software and high-definition cameras, utilized to help prevent, reduce and respond to wildfire risk.

For more information on APS's wildfire mitigation efforts, visit aps.com/wildfiresafety. To learn more about the wildfire camera technology, visit pano.ai

APS serves about 1.4 million homes and businesses in 11 of Arizona's 15 counties, and is a leader in delivering affordable, reliable, and clean energy in the Southwest. The company is committed to serving customers with 100% clean power by 2050. As owner and operator of Palo Verde Generating Station, one of the nation's largest producers of carbon-free electricity, and with one of the country's most substantial renewable energy portfolios, APS's current energy mix is about 54% clean. With headquarters in Phoenix, APS is the principal subsidiary of Pinnacle West Capital Corp. (NYSE: PNW).

NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITY

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In The Works
May 2025



Gregory Arrington
Community Development/Public Infrastructure Manager

As families move outdoors to enjoy nice weather in spring and summer, special precautions should be taken to ensure outdoor areas are safe from potential hazards. Swimming pools, barbecue grills, gardening tools and fertilizers, and lawn toys, all pose risks to children and adults alike.

Pool Safety Tips

• Practice constant, adult supervision around any body of water, including pools and spas. Nationally, drowning is a leading cause of death to children under five.

• If you're considering a swimming pool purchase, contact your local Building Department first to determine exactly what permits are needed and what requirements you must follow.

• In-ground and above-ground pools, including inflatable pools holding more than 18 inches of water, must be surrounded by a fence or other barrier at least five feet high. Any gates in the fence must be self-closing and self-latching.



• Reserve a spot on a wall or fence near the pool for lifesaving devices, including a portable or mobile telephone.

• Steps and ladders for above-ground pools should be secured or removed when the pool is not in use.

• Use a cover for the pool when it is not in use.

• Make sure drain covers are properly fitted and paired or have vacuum suction releases to prevent being trapped under water.

• Consider installing a pool alarm that can alert you if someone enters the pool.

• Spa water temperatures should be set to 104 degrees Fahrenheit or lower to avoid an elevated body temperature, which could lead to drowsiness, unconsciousness, heat stroke, or death.

• Designate the grilling area as a "No Play Zone" and keep kids and pets well away until grill equipment is completely cool.

• Check propane cylinder hoses for leaks before use.

• Do not move hot grills.

• Never add charcoal starter fluid when coals or kindling have already been ignited, and never use any flammable or combustible liquid other than charcoal starter fluid to get the fire going.

• Don't leave toys, tools and equipment in the yard.

• Keep steps, sidewalks and patios in good repair.

• Check all swings, slides, playhouses and other structures for sharp objects, rusty metal pieces, breaks or weakened support pieces.

• Learn cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

Grand Opening! Paul's Auction House
11129 W. Michigan Ave.





AARP ANNUAL SHRED-A-THON

HOSTED BY YOUNGTOWN

12030 N. CLUBHOUSE SQUARE
YOUNGTOWN, AZ

SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2025
FROM 8:00 A.M. TO NOON



SAFELY ELIMINATE YOUR OLD DOCUMENTS

SHRED TRUCKS ON SITE

MINIMUM $2.00 DONATION PER BANKER-SIZED BOX

"NO ELECTRONICS"