

Music

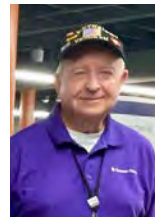
Sun City Concert
Band resumes
rehearsals; **9**



INDEPENDENT

Neighbors

Senior Center
volunteer gives back
to the Sun Cities; **16**



September 2, 2026 Volume 66 Issue 35 Your Nonpartisan Community Newspaper • YourValley.net

From snowblower to Sun City: RCSC president looks ahead

By Zev Black
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Tom Foster, Recreation Centers of Sun City president, said he knew he had to move from Iowa when one February day in the 2010s the snow was so heavy that his snowblower couldn't handle it. The sunny state of Arizona was an obvious choice to never shovel the driveway again.

Before coming to Arizona, Foster worked as a public utility regulator then did treasury work, selling bonds and running institutional portfolios. He was offered a similar job in Sun City and made the move.

He got involved with the RCSC because he thought the methodology for figuring out how to spend money within the group was not well documented. So, he helped write the first attempt at how the RCSC would make sure there was "adequate review and authorization before funds were spent."

"There was a lot of money at stake as to how this community was going to move forward," Foster said. "And not just stand still but try to better itself for the next generation of retirees. I don't know that we had thought

• See **RCSC** on page 5

Sun City Fire and Medical yet to receive tax money



Sun City Fire and Medical board chairman Tim Wilmes and board member Charles Vickers. (Independent Newsmedia/Zev Black)

By Zev Black
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Sun City Fire and Medical Department held its monthly meeting Aug. 25 to discuss finances and July statistics, among other topics.

According to Finance Director Gabe Buldra, the department still has not received tax statements from Maricopa County. At the June meeting, he said the total tax levy was at \$16,296,190.

"We are working to try to figure out what's going on in the county," Buldra said.

The Maricopa County fire chiefs, according to Buldra, offered a letter to the county treasurer explaining the trouble they are having with not getting reports from the county in a timely fashion.

This is an issue because tax collection is an important source of funding for the department.

The department had \$1,609,000 in expenses during July. This was under budget by \$49,000, according to Buldra.

• See **Fire** on page 5



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SUNDIAL



The Sundial Auditorium has a new, shiny finish that is extremely slip resistant. (Independent Newsmedia/Zev Black)

Sundial Auditorium receives remodel

By Zev Black
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Sundial Auditorium, 14801 N. 103rd Ave., has been refurbished. The room hosts many events throughout the year, including concerts and game shows along with clubs like the Country Line Dance Club and Dance for Fitness.

"It's incredibly important," Doreen Rafferty, head of activities for the Recreation Centers of Sun City, said about the room. "This is a vital location for fun in Sun City."

Both the floor and stage are getting a new screen coating which, according to RCSC Repair and Maintenance Project Coordinator Vern White, will make the actual wood harder. He added that the wood is around 37 years old.

The floor doesn't need to be replaced yet, but, if that were to happen this year, White estimated it would cost around \$500,000. This project was only around \$35,000.

"We're trying to watch out for the members' dues, how the money is spent and how soon it has to be spent," White said. "That's basical-

ly what we look at for everything."

Rafferty said this was a proactive move, adding the RCSC is always looking after the safety of its members.

"What this has done is eliminated any potential trip hazards or future damage that could become a bigger problem," she said.

"Risk of injury is a huge part of that. That's part of what we're trying to prevent here."

The coating that was used is the highest slip resistant coating on the market, according to White. He added it is the same coating used for many high school basketball courts in the Valley.

"The slip coefficient is as high as you can get for this type of floor," he said.

White said he's hoping the floor won't have to be replaced for another eight years. But that depends on how much the wood splits.

Reporter Zev Black can be reached at zblack@iniusa.org. Please submit comments at yourvalley.net/letters or email them to AzOpinions@iniusa.org. We are committed to publishing a wide variety of reader opinions, as long as they meet our Civility Guidelines.

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RCSC

• From page 1

about that enough until this particular board and that general manager came in.”

He said he really enjoys living in Sun City, adding 99% of the people in the community are “awesome.”

“There are some who are a little outspoken at times and don’t really have filters,” he said. “But, generally speaking, the people here are really great people. When I’m trying to do things, my intent is for it to be in the best interest of Sun City as a whole.”

He likes that residents are comfortable letting the board know about their point of view.

RCSC Director John Bressett said he’s been golfing with Foster for about 12 years. He believes the president cares about finding the best outcome for every resident.

“The biggest thing is that he cares,” Bressett said.

“People may think he doesn’t and they all say ‘well, you’re catering to the 2% or the 10% or the 20%,’ and he’ll say ‘no, I’m trying to do what is best for everybody.’”

It can be difficult to please everyone, especially with major concerns like water. According to Foster, this is the biggest issue facing Sun City.

If Arizona’s share of the Colorado gets



Recreation Centers of Sun City President Tom Foster. (Independent Newsmedia/Zev Black)

cut, Foster said the water would have to come from underground aquifers which would not be good for the community.

“It means we will have less water for Viewpoint Lake or Dawn Lake or watering golf courses because it’s going to be used just for the basic necessities of life,” he said.

Foster is preparing for the harsh reality of losing water.

“There’s going to be a lot of lakes and ponds that may not have as much water in them as they had in the past,” he said. “Sorry, but it’s just the reality of the situation.”

A way to help mediate this is by making some of the golf courses desertscape, which some residents may not like but could be necessary, he said.

Foster said with his next blank years as president of the RCSC, he will work with the board to do what he thinks is best for all of Sun City.

“They (the board) honestly are trying to do what they believe is in the best interest of Sun City,” he said. “I know not everybody buys into that. There is constantly always someone out there who thinks there are some kind of shenanigans going on here. But there’s not.”

Fire

• From page 1

He added that the group ended July with \$16.5 million, an increase of \$1.7 million year-over-year.

“Our capital fund is growing as we continue to kind of pass some of those strings on the general fund,” Buldra said. “Putting money aside for capital and our capital needs in the future, which is really important.”

Assistant Chief Jason Casey, who was sitting in for Chief Rob Schmitz, reported 1,091 total calls during July.

Of those, 22 were related to fires, nine were for hazardous conditions and 40 were false alarms or false calls. There were 965 calls made for rescue and emergency medical service.

The department also continued its trend of receiving more aid than giving to other districts. It received 152 calls for aid and sent out 242.

This has been the case for each month since December, 2025. When asked about it earlier this year, Fire Chief Rob Schmitz said he wasn’t sure of the reason, adding that he hadn’t seen this with the Sun City district before.

In addition, 745 ambulances were dispatched during July with 582 transports to the hospital.

“That was actually pretty in line with the last several months and with last year,” Casey said.

The next board meeting will take place 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 22, at the Administrative Offices, 18602 N. 99th Ave.

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MUSIC



Church music director Rory Dowse. (Independent Newsmedia/Zev Black)

Music brings new life to Sun City church

By Zev Black
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Faith Presbyterian Church, 16000 N. Del Webb Blvd., is looking for more ways to expand beyond just a place of worship. Part of that initiative can be seen with the introduction of Musicality Music Academy, a school at the church founded by music director Rory Dowse.

Dowse, from Northern Ireland, first started playing piano when he was two. He said he grew up watching Barry Douglas and was greatly inspired by him.

"We're particularly proud of him because we're a population of two million people," Dowse said. "He was this guy who was just reaching

all the way around the world, so he was a great inspiration."

He has since studied the instrument at Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, England, and the Royal Irish Academy of Music in Dublin, Ireland. He has been teaching piano for the past 20 years.

Dowse said music has a special place in the world.

"It heals their soul," he said. "It's such a special, special thing. It's a story-telling element where words fail, that's when music takes over."

The church's pastor, Greg Emery, furthered this sentiment, adding that music transcends age, race and background.

• See **Music** on page 8

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Sun City church slates deed fraud presentation

Faith Presbyterian Church, 16000 N. Del Webb Blvd., will host a presentation on “Deed Fraud – How Stealing Your Home Happens & How to Prevent It” 10-11 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 10.

Leslie Hoffman, director of recording services for Maricopa County, will explain how deed fraud happens, warning signs homeowners should be aware of and steps property owners can take to help protect themselves and their homes.

The program is part of Thoughtful Thursdays – Information from Trusted Experts, a series of educational programs for the community.

The program is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. For reservations or more information, contact Joanna Conde at 602-908-5889.

Music

• From page 6

That idea is part of the reason why he wants the church to become more than just a place where people can attend services.

“We’re on a quest to share this campus with the community,” Emery said.

“Churches that were designed to just be used on Sundays or maybe Wednesday nights is not a great use of assets. What Rory is doing is trying to engage people across the age range and music is one thing that we all have in common.”

Dowse said he was inspired by one of his instructors in Dublin.

“It was just the way he thought, the way he was,” Dowse said. “Storytelling was everything at the instrument for him. I noticed a conspicuous lack of value for that whenever I was studying in England. It was much more technique and doing big things.”

He added he thought this was impressive but that musicians have somewhat lost the storytelling and spiritual aspect of music. He want-

ed to build an academy specifically around the idea that sharing stories through music that can bring people together.

Attendees of the class will learn music created from the 1500s to today in classes capped at six people. One-on-one lessons are also available, but Dowse said he liked the group sessions because it gives this a social aspect.

Those looking to join do not need any prior music experience.

“What I think is really special about this school in particular is it’s designed not only for the musicality aspect, but for people here over 55 specifically but also catering to the younger ones as well,” Dowse said. “We’ve got a very specific niche that we’re looking into.”

For more information about Dowse, go to rorydowse.com/about-rory.

For more information about the school, go to musicalitymusicacademy.com.

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SUN CITY CONCERT BAND RESUMES REHEARSALS

The Sun City Concert Band will resume rehearsals 9-11 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 8, at the Fairway Recreation Center, 10600 W. Peoria Ave. Brass and woodwind instruments are welcome. The band is directed by Ken Jaeger and associate director Charles Musgrave. For more information, contact band president Jane Higgs at 623-910-6355. (Submitted Photo/SCCB)



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EPCOR's rate proposal: The rest of the story for Sun City

There is another part of EPCOR's current rate proposal that Sun City residents should know about: a new physical connection between the Sun City and Sonoran water systems.

EPCOR describes the connection as an operational improvement that could enhance flexibility and reliability. That may provide benefits. But connecting previously separate systems can also create new cost, operational and water-resource relationships that deserve careful examination.

Sonoran Water Services continues to experience substantial growth. Sun City, by contrast, is mature and essentially built out. As the West Valley grows, new wells, pipelines, storage, treatment capacity and water resources will require substantial investment.

The important question is not simply whether connecting the systems is good or bad. It is what the connection means for Sun City customers.

What benefits will Sun City receive? What new costs, risks or obligations might it assume? To what extent, if any, are the connection and related investments driven by growth outside the Sun City District? And how will those costs ultimately be divided among customers?

A physical connection can increase operational flexibility, but it also means decisions involving water supply, capacity and infrastructure in one area may have consequences for customers in another.

Those relationships should be understood before determining who

LETTERS

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pays for them.

The Residential Utility Consumer Office, which represents residential ratepayers, will have an important role in examining EPCOR's evidence and assumptions.

As growth continues across the West Valley, these decisions can affect how future water-system investments and risks are shared.

Sun City should pay its fair share of costs it causes and benefits it receives. It should not be required to subsidize costs properly attributable elsewhere.

That determination should be supported by evidence, transparent accounting and measurable benefits.

Greg Eisert
SUN CITY

The author has represented Sun City and Youngtown ratepayer interests in electric, water and wastewater proceedings before the Arizona Corporation Commission since 2012, and has participated in related appeals through the Arizona Supreme Court. This is part two of two; last week focused on what costs Sun City customers are being asked to pay and why.

One vote doesn't make Abe Hamadeh a model of integrity

In her letter, Kudos to Rep. Hamadeh for supporting stop insider trading act, Nikki Colletti praises Rep. Abe Hamadeh for "putting principle first" and demonstrating

"real public service."

Hamadeh deserves credit for voting to restrict congressional stock trading. So do the other 231 House members who voted for the bill. But one bipartisan vote hardly establishes exceptional integrity.

Colletti contrasts Hamadeh with politicians who "sell out to the highest bidder." Yet Federal Election Commission records show his campaign received \$269,960 from political committees, including corporate and special-interest PACs, from January 2025 through July 1, 2026.

Boeing's PAC gave Hamadeh \$5,500 in 2025. Hamadeh sits on the House Armed Services Committee, helping shape defense policy and authorization. The contribution is legal and proves no quid pro quo, but voters have every right to scrutinize money from industries with enormous stakes in congressional decisions.

Hamadeh's campaign has also received money from CVS Health's PAC. CVS owns Caremark, which recently settled an FTC case alleging anticompetitive practices that artificially inflated insulin list prices. When corporations with major interests in federal health policy help finance congressional campaigns, voters should pay attention.

Then there is judgment. Just two days before this vote, Hamadeh publicly opposed extraditing Andrew and Tristan Tate to Britain. The brothers face serious charges, including rape and sex-trafficking allegations. They deny wrongdoing and deserve due process. Hamadeh's decision to intervene on their behalf is also relevant when assessing claims

• See **Letters** on page 15

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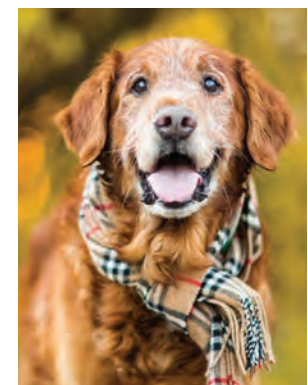
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SUN CITY ELKS HONOR VETERANS

The Veterans Service Committee of Sun City Elks Lodge #2559 organized an ice cream social Aug. 19 at the Arizona State Veterans Home, where they provided personal and recreational supplies to the residents. The group will also host veterans from MANA House and Ashley's Place for an evening of recognition and dinner with lodge members Friday, Sept. 18, at the lodge's POW/MIA dinner. (Submitted photo/Sandy McLemore)

HEALTH

Parkinson's disease expert presents workshop

Benevilla invites older adults, caregivers, families and community members to Aging Well: Live Empowered, a free community event from 9 a.m.-noon, Thursday, Oct. 8, at Radiant Church, 10701 W. Boswell Blvd.

Part of the program includes a presentation on understanding Parkinson's disease. Holly A. Shill, M.D., director of the Muhammad Ali Parkinson Center and Movement Disorder Program at Barrow Neurological Institute in Phoenix, will present "Where Are We in the Understanding of Parkinson's Disease?" from 10 to 11 a.m.

During the presentation, Shill will discuss risk factors associated with the development and progression of movement disorders and Parkinson's disease, early symptoms that are of-

ten overlooked, new medications and emerging therapies and exercise and lifestyle strategies that support brain health and function.

Designed to help individuals plan confidently for today and tomorrow, Aging Well: Live Empowered will bring together more than 40 trusted aging-well organizations and resources in one convenient location. Attendees can connect directly with local experts, learn about programs and services available throughout the community and gather practical information to support healthy, independent, and engaged aging.

Attendees who pre-register and attend the event will also receive an entry into a drawing for a chance to win a \$50 Fry's Gift Card.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Rock and roll with Sun City residents

By Zev Black
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Sun City residents can look forward to rockin' and rollin' this fall when the Recreation Centers of Sun City kicks off its Fall Ticketed Concert Series. Song and dance will fill the air for five nights of fun starting Wednesday, Nov. 4, in the Sundial Auditorium, 14801 N. 103rd Ave.

The series will run through Wednesday, Dec. 9, with concerts every Wednesday night.

This is the second year of the fall series, according to Doreen Rafferty, head of activities for the RCSC. She said residents can expect something totally different this year.

"Every season is new in its own right," Rafferty said. "We don't always cover the same genres or the

same decades. Each season has its own identity."

She said the lineup is decided based on resident input along with trying to diversify from past concerts.

This year's series consists of rock and roll bands, something Rafferty said the RCSC had some unease about.

"When I first started here, there was a concern or a voiced opinion that maybe we weren't ready for rock and roll," she said. "But we found out we are ready. Rock and roll is a huge span of time so we've had a very positive response to bringing in this type of season."

Bryan Altherr, musical director for the Rhythm Ramblers, loves live music, emphasizing how great it is for the Sun City community.



A Beach Boys tribute band plays in front of a sold out crowd in 2025. (Submitted Photo/RCSC)

"What I've noticed the most is that it brings back happy memories," he said. "These tribute groups bring them back to their high school and their formative years."

He added concerts like these are a social event, saying he loves seeing

people bring their friends because that's "really important to us at our age now."

Rafferty echoed this sentiment. "I think that the membership of RCSC absolutely loves music," she said. "They have enabled us to make this kind of growth for them. And they love to dance."

There is space to get up and dance on the sides of the room for those who want to move their body.

Each concert will run 6–7:30 p.m. Doors open at 5 p.m.

Those interested in attending can purchase tickets over-the-phone by calling 623-561-4680 or in-person by going to the activities office at the Sundial Center. Members can also purchase tickets at tinyurl.com/ya6adc2j.

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Letters

• From page 10

about his character and judgment.

Give Hamadeh credit for one good vote. Just don't turn it into a character reference.

Public service is a record, not a press release.

Anne Whitmore
SUN CITY WEST

This writer is using a pen name.

Why is Hamadeh calling out Hobbs when he won't debate?

Arizona Congressional District 8 Rep. Abe Hamadeh sure likes to throw stones at glass houses, but runs away afterward. He called out Gov. Katie Hobbs for not debating his fellow House Republican gubernatorial candidate, Andy Biggs, while Hamadeh running away from CD 8 opponent Bernadette Greene-Placentia's debate challenge.

It would be one thing if Rep Hamadeh would meet with the constituents in his district, but has failed to do so for nearly two years. This, from an elected official who should be running for CD 1, the district he actually resides in.

He fails at hearing our issues, because he doesn't understand them. How could he if he doesn't live amongst us?

It's time for our representatives to represent us, not the lobbyists and deep pockets of D.C. It's also time for the state and local Democratic parties to spend money on races that can make a difference, rather than protecting safe districts.

We need to elect a representative that lives in the district they represent, and one that understands our issues. That person is Bernadette Greene-Placentia. She has and will walk a mile in our shoes, not in the shoes of someone who hopes can advance his career, as Rep. Hamadeh does.

The West Valley has been overlooked for too long. That stops Nov. 3.

Bill Eikost
GLENDALE

Bernadette Greene-Placentia is seeking to unseat incumbent Abe Hamadeh in CD 8, which includes parts of Glendale, Peoria, north Phoenix, Sun City, Sun City West and Surprise.

Northwest Valley Democrats to host Sun Cities meeting

Discussion of labor union developments will take center stage at the next Northwest Valley Democrats monthly meeting Wednesday, Sept. 9, at the Sun City West Foundation Building, 14465 R.H. Johnson Blvd. Doors open at 6 p.m.

The club will welcome Maxwell Ulin, attorney for Unite Here, Local 11, who will present on "Plan 2028," a multi-union strategy designed to amplify worker power, coordinate bold economic demands and build a unified labor front across industries.

As a civil rights and workers' rights attorney, Ulin represents more than 32,000 hotel and food service workers across Arizona and southern California. Before earning his law degree from Harvard Law School, he worked as an outreach worker for farmworker legal aid and organized workers in northern Mexico, helping unionize auto-parts and textile industries.

A resident of north Phoenix, Ulin serves on the LD2 Democratic Committee and is the third vice chair of the Maricopa County Democratic Party.

RSVP at northwestvalleydemocrat.com. This meeting is open to the public.

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VOLUNTEER

Senior Center volunteer gives back to the Sun Cities

Spends four hours a week with other seniors

By Jennifer Jimenez
 INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Sun City resident Frank Hinds has been volunteering at the Banner Olive Branch Senior Center for more than two years.

His volunteer job occurs in the food pantry on site. On this particular day, his job was to ensure everyone was abiding by the rules and monitoring the types of items they can take.

Hinds volunteers one day a week from 7 to 11 a.m. and it gives him something to do and give back.

Banner Olive Branch Senior Center Director Jennifer Lawless said volunteers like Hinds are beloved by many of the individuals who visit the pantry.

“People always share stories with me and make things for us, like this hat, and it is great to see them every week,” said Hinds.

Hinds has been giving back to the community for many years and said he was connected with Lawless through her and his daughter’s friendship. She suggested he join the group and volunteer at the center, and that is really why he decided to get involved.

“I enjoy interacting with people, and I have gotten to know a lot of these folks,” he said.

The food choices include a focus on nutritional health, and the residents who pick up food can be more creative about what they choose to eat and make healthy choices right inside the pantry, Hinds explained.

Eighteen years ago, his daughter was killed by a red-light-runner.



Banner Olive Branch Senior Center volunteer Frank Hinds gives back to the community. (Independent Newsmedia/Jennifer Jimenez)

Then, he started the non-profit Red Means Stop Coalition that focused on traffic, safety, education and reminding people of the consequences of running a red light.

“It was a big program for a while and I did a lot of national interviews. I went to New York and interviewed with CNN,” said Hinds.

The organization was formed in 1998 and Hinds said there was a lot of support early on, but over time it just got harder to get support with many non-profit organizations in existence.

Reporter Jennifer Jimenez can be reached at jjimenez@iniusa.org. Please submit comments at yourvalley.net/letters or email them to AzOpinions@iniusa.org. We are committed to publishing a wide variety of reader opinions, as long as they meet our Civility Guidelines.

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News in Brief

Sun Health offers dementia support group

Sun Health Wellness is offering a dementia caregiver support group in the West Valley.

This group meets from 3 to 4 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 2 and 16 and Oct. 7 and 21, at Grandview Terrace Health & Rehab, 14505 W. Granite Valley Drive.

This group brings together community members to share experiences, gain practical strategies, access resources and connect with others who understand this journey.

Visit sunhealthwellness.org or call 623-471-9355.

West Valley Chorale announces Young Singers Competition

The West Valley Chorale, under the direction of Ken Goodenberg-er, announces the seventh annual Young Singers Competition. Cash prizes up to \$2,000 will be awarded to winners.

Prize money is raised from patrons attending our concerts and supporters.

High school juniors and seniors from throughout Phoenix metropolitan area school districts are eligible and encouraged to compete. A video, headshot and “Application of Intent” (available at westvalleychoraleaz.org/west-valley-young-singers-competition/) must be submitted by email to YSCEntries@westvalleychoraleaz.org. The submission deadline is Saturday, Sept. 1.

Semifinalists will be invited to sing in the final competition at Shepherd of the Hills United Meth-

Nebraska Club prepares to return

The Nebraska Club will host its welcome back dinner 5 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 20, in the Foundation building’s Grand Canyon room, 14465 W. R.H. Johnson Blvd.

The club’s November event is an “Almost Thanksgiving Dinner” 5 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 17, also in the Foundation building Grand Canyon room.

There are two weekly breakfast outings, which are a time to meet fellow Nebraskans and learn more about each other. These take place 7 a.m. Saturdays year-round at Tivoli Gardens, 12555 W. Bell Road.

Every Tuesday, starting later this fall, the Nebraska men get together at the Hole in One Restaurant, 13573 W. Camino Del Sol.

Visit nebraskaclubsuncities.org for more details about these and other club activities.

odist Church, 13658 W. Meeker Blvd., Sept. 26. A professional accompanist is provided.

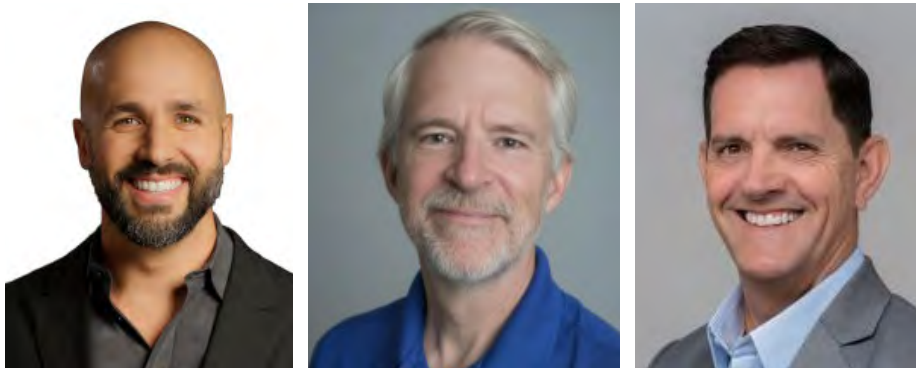
Full details are available at westvalleychoraleaz.org/west-valley-young-singers-competition.

The West Valley Chorale is a Surprise 501(c)(3) nonprofit performing arts organization comprised of auditioned singers from eleven communities throughout Phoenix and the West Valley.

Support comes from Sanderson Lincoln, Royal Oaks, Setterberg Jewelers, advertisers, ticket sales, and tax-deductible patron donations.

Donations can be mailed to The West Valley Chorale, P.O. Box 9415, Surprise, AZ 85374.

POLITICS



Ryan Caracciolo, Jim Scott and John Crowe. (Submitted photos/Art Goes)

Republican club slates meeting, speakers

The Sun City West Republican Club will meet Saturday, Sept. 12, at Church on the Green, 19051 R.H. Johnson Blvd.

Doors open at 8 a.m., social time is at 8:30 a.m. with coffee and donuts available and the meeting starts at 9 a.m. Paid-up members are admitted without a donation; \$3 will be accepted at the door from non-members, which helps to pay for the room rental.

September featured speakers will include: John Crowe, candidate for Mar-

icopa County Community College board member at large; Ryan Caracciolo, candidate for Maricopa County Community College Board, District 4; Jolynn Herber, candidate for County Special Health Care Board, District 4; and Jim Scott, PORA board president.

All Republicans and Independents from the Sun Cities and surrounding areas are welcome to attend.

Visit scwrepublicans.com for more information.

Banner Olive Branch Senior Center offers meals, pantry service

Banner Olive Branch Senior Center, 13049 N. 103rd Ave., offers in dining, to-go meals and food pantry services. The food pantry available at no cost 7-11 a.m. Tuesday-Thursday. The center staff recommends a suggested donation of \$5 (\$5 fee for under 60).

Lunch is served at 11 a.m. at no cost for anyone over 60. Breakfast is served 6:30-8:30 a.m. Monday-Friday. Cost is \$5 for breakfast and is open to all. To-go meals are now available daily for \$5/meal and are open to all. To-go meal distribution is 11 a.m.-noon Monday-Friday. The center also offers benefits reviews and informa-

tion and referral services as well as many activities. Call 623-465-6000.

Menu

- Wednesday, Sept. 2 - Pork stuffed peppers, Scandinavian mix vegetables, broccoli, roll, peaches
- Thursday, Sept. 3 - Pot roast, carrots, collard greens, brown rice, pear
- Friday, Sept. 4 - Egg salad sandwich, raisin salad, sliced cucumber, strawberries
- Monday, Sept. 7 - Labor Day - closed
- Tuesday, Sept. 8 - Pork meatballs in tomato sauce, roasted vegetable couscous (eggplant, zucchini, peppers), carrots, pineapple chunks

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Sun City - September 23, 2026 - Sundial Recreation Center

Sun City West - October 28, 2026 - SCW Foundation Center

Mesa - November 13, 2026 - Mesa Marketplace Swap Meet

Apache Junction - January 6, 2027 - Central Arizona College

Surprise - January 19, 2027 - The Colonnade

Litchfield/Goodyear - February 17, 2027 - Tuscany Falls Clubhouse(Pebble Creek)

Chandler - February 23, 2027 - Sun Lakes Country Club

Peoria - March 25, 2027 - Westbrook Village

Sun City West - April 13, 2027 - SCW Foundation Center

Sun City - May 3, 2027 - Sundial Recreation Center

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POLICE REPORTS

Editor's Note: The following information is obtained from Maricopa County Sheriff's Office District 3. This column lists arrests, not convictions, unless otherwise stated. Arrested persons listed here who are later found not guilty are welcome to inform the Independent by calling 623-972-6101.

AUG. 7

- A vehicle crash with no injury was reported at 2:54 p.m. in the 11800 block of North Sun Valley Drive.
- A vehicle crash with injuries was reported at 4:13 p.m. in the 9900 block of West Santa Fe Drive.
- Narcotics were reported at 2:34 p.m. at the intersection of Michigan and 112th Avenue.
- A vehicle crash with no injury was reported at 12:53 p.m. at the intersection of West Bell Road and North Del Webb Boulevard.
- Threats to commit an offense were reported at 11:10 a.m. at the intersection of West Bell Road and North Del Webb Boulevard.
- A burglary was reported at 4:14 a.m. in the 13100 block of West Lariat Lane.
- A vehicle crash with no injury was reported at 6:44 a.m. at the intersection of North 105th Avenue and West Thunderbird Boulevard.
- Civil action was reported at 2:56 a.m. in the

11100 block of West Kolina Lane.

AUG. 8

- An assault was reported at 9:28 p.m. in the 15500 block of West Ballard Drive.
- A theft from a vehicle was reported at 5:44 p.m. in the 13200 block of West Buckskin Trail.
- A burglary was reported at 11:07 a.m. in the 12800 block of West Jadestone Drive.
- A fraud or con game was reported at 1:30 p.m. in the 11000 block of West Coggins Drive.
- A burglary from a vehicle was reported at 8:45 a.m. in the 10600 block of West Tropicana Circle.
- Criminal damage was reported at 3:20 a.m. at the intersection of North 111th Avenue and West Jersey Avenue.

AUG. 9

- A vehicle crash with no injury was reported at 9:46 p.m. in the 11600 block of West Olive Avenue.
- Shoplifting was reported at 9:31 p.m. in the 10600 block of Northwest US60 Grand Avenue.
- A vehicle crash with no injury was reported at 12:22 p.m. in the 14800 block of West Deer Valley Drive.
- A theft from a vehicle was reported at 11:03

a.m. in the 16300 block of North 115th Avenue.

- A vehicle crash with no injury was reported at 7:14 a.m. at the intersection of North 107th Avenue and West Augusta Drive.
- Criminal damage was reported at 6:33 a.m. in the 10300 block of West Manzanita Drive.

AUG. 10

- A vehicle crash with no injury was reported at 9:26 p.m. at the intersection of North 105th Avenue and West Peoria Avenue.
- Narcotics were reported at 4:35 p.m. in the 13000 block of North 103rd Avenue.
- A vehicle crash with unknown injuries was reported at 4:42 p.m. at the intersection of West Bell Road and North Boswell Boulevard.
- A theft was reported at 11:11 a.m. in the 10000 block of West Royal Oak Road.
- A fraud or con game was reported at 9:30 a.m. in the 13200 block of North 108th Avenue.
- A theft was reported at 11:11 a.m. in the 10000 block of West Royal Oak Road.
- A fraud or con game was reported at 9:30 a.m. in the 13200 block of North 108th Avenue.

AUG. 11

- A burglary was reported at 7:05 p.m. in the 18800 block of North 99th Drive.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported at 4:30

p.m. at the intersection of 99th Avenue and Willow Creek Circle.

- A theft was reported at 1:02 p.m. in the 13800 block of West Sandridge Drive.
- Criminal damage was reported at 9:11 a.m. in the 10900 block of West Coggins Drive.
- Criminal damage was reported at 6:28 a.m. in the 21800 block of West Harding Avenue.

AUG. 12

- Suspicious activity was reported at 2:49 p.m. in the 18100 block of West Carol Avenue.
- A fraud or con game was reported at 2:55 p.m. in the 11000 block of West Thunderbird Boulevard.
- Forgery was reported at 2:04 p.m. in the 14500 block of West Granite Valley Drive.
- A vehicle crash with no injury was reported at 9:27 a.m. at the intersection of North R.H. Johnson Boulevard and North Spanish Garden Drive.
- A vehicle crash with no injury was reported at 9:24 a.m. at the intersection of North 99th Avenue and West Palmeras Drive.
- Trespassing was reported at 4:02 a.m. in the 10500 block of West Coggins Drive.



Phyllis Brady

Phyllis Brady passed away peacefully at the age of 90 on Thursday, August 13, 2026, with her son by her side. She was a cherished wife,

mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and dear friend to so many.

Phyllis was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Tom III, who passed in January 2018. Together, they shared 63 beautiful years of marriage, building a life filled with love, family, and cherished memories.

She is lovingly remembered by her son, Tom IV; daughter-in-law, Joanne; and grandchildren, Jenna and Thomas. The love she gave them was unconditional and unwavering, and the warmth of that love will remain a lasting part of

their lives.

For more than 30 years, Phyllis dedicated herself to teaching, leaving a lasting impact on countless students and colleagues. She believed that you should never stop learning and maintained her membership in the Lifelong Learning Club until her passing. She was also a dedicated member of Delta Kappa Gamma, an International Society for Women Educators. Her love of education and commitment to supporting women in education were a meaningful part of her life and legacy.

In addition to the

organizations she belonged to, she kept active with her Bridge Club, Mahjong and many other games. Her favorite past time, however, was boat rides on the lake with her family!

Phyllis had a remarkable gift for making people feel loved, valued, and special. Throughout her life, she stayed connected to family and friends through handwritten letters, with her signature smiley face and the words, "you are special," on the back of the envelope - a small but meaningful gesture that perfectly reflected

who she was: thoughtful, encouraging, and full of love.

Phyllis leaves behind a legacy of love, kindness, positivity, devotion, and cherished memories. She will be deeply missed by her family, friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing her.

A Funeral Mass will be held at St. Joachim and St. Anne in Sun City, Arizona, on Thursday, October 22, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. Following the Mass, her ashes will be lovingly placed at the National Cemetery of Arizona in Phoenix, where she will be laid to rest beside

her beloved husband, Tom.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly asks that donations be made in Phyllis Brady's memory to Delta Kappa Gamma's scholarship fund to support young women pursuing graduate education.

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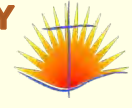
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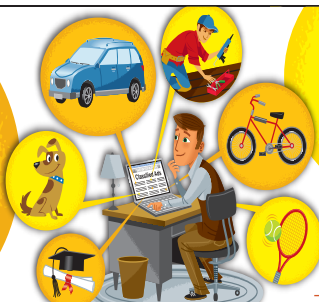
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Be a Civility Advocate!



Civility Checklist

How to engage in respectful, honest & civil dialogue about public issues

- ☐ **Take the high road.** Respond to the topic — not the person. Refrain from demonizing others for their opinions. Assume those you disagree with are, like you, genuinely interested in improving the community.
- ☐ **Be respectful.** Bullying, public humiliation, insults, name-calling, harassment, and threats directed at another person — or that person's race, gender, religion, ethnicity, etc. — have no place in civil discussions. Find ways to respectfully disagree without questioning someone's character or motives.
- ☐ **Be truthful.** Base your opinions/arguments on facts. Value honesty. Make only accurate statements when making your point and avoid exaggeration and stereotypes. When appropriate, cite your sources of information that others may question.
- ☐ **Don't misrepresent.** Always identify your opinions as opinions (not stating opinions as facts). Never misrepresent the views of others or falsely claim your opinions represent someone else. If quoting the words of others, identify and credit the source.
- ☐ **Listen & learn.** It's both polite and respectful to listen to those we disagree with (as well as those we support) and be genuine in our attempts to understand their point of view. Expand your mind by thoughtfully seeking out views that don't agree with your own.
- ☐ **Look for common ground.** When disagreeing with others, look for even small areas of agreement — which can be the gateway to working together for the greater good.
- ☐ **Respect privacy.** Keep private things private — whether it involves your own information or those with whom you disagree. Revealing private information about someone else is rude, unethical, potentially harmful and, in many cases, illegal.
- ☐ **Set a good example.** Practice civil behavior online as well as in public and in your interaction with others. Encourage others to practice these civil behaviors. And it's OK to challenge disrespectful behavior — but be courteous, respectful and helpful in your approach.



Now that you've read the checklist, take the Civility Pledge at yourvalley.net/civility-pledge.

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