WRANGLER NEWS

TEMPE INDEPENDENT

Community

Narcan available to help curb overdose deaths; **4**



September/October 2026 Volume 36 Issue 810 Your Nonpartisan Community Newspaper • YourValley.net

Chandler council OKs grant-funded west canal paths into Tempe

By Jason W. Brooks
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

In the spirit of calling itself a bicycle-friendly city, Chandler is about to embark on one of the larger recent shared-use trail projects it's ever undertaken on the far west end of the city.

The Chandler City Council, by unanimously approving a recent consent agenda, approved three contracts related to planning and construction of the Kyrene Branch and Highline Canal shared-use paths, with grant funding picking up about 94% of the $4.373 price tag for the paths.

The project will add concrete paths to existing unpaved paths along both canal banks, which run close to the Tempe-Chandler city border along Ray Road, between 54th Street and Kyrene Road.

The dual-element project — several years in the making — will enhance the pedestrian and bicycle facilities along Salt River

• See **Paths** on page **6**

City may ban license-plate cameras; council vote in October



By Madeline Bates
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

What once towered over Tempe streets is now covered with a trash bag. Automatic License Plate Readers, or ALPR cameras, have grown controversial across the nation as companies like Flock and Axon have been accused of privacy misuse and aiding in arrests from federal and local police.

Now, Tempe is beginning the discussion to ban the technology altogether.

Tempe councilmember Bobby Nichols, one of the newest council members, ran on an agenda of ending the city's existing contract with Flock, making his presence known at many meetings before he was elected and urging the rest of the council to follow.

The city announced the cancellation of the Flock contract on July 25 at a time when no regular meetings were scheduled and the next scheduled meeting was Aug. 31. In September, the council approved a contract with Axon Enterprise Inc. for equipment but not ALPR cameras.

Following the announcement in July, over 30 Flock cameras in the city were covered with trash bags, while the city says it is still waiting for Flock to remove the cameras.

Mayor Corey Woods said he had spoken to each of the council members and sensed that many of them were against using the ALPR cameras.

"I got the feeling that the council didn't want to keep doing this," he said. "You know who your colleagues are. All seven of us are in the community and listening to what our residents want and the overwhelming majority did not want this."

Woods, however, is still a proponent of the technology, previously sharing that the technology helped find missing children without an Amber Alert and has helped return hundreds

• See **Cameras** on page **9**

Phoenix resident Evan Graber stands in a Home Depot Parking lot in Tempe near a Flock camera while looking at a shed. (Independent Newsmedia, Madeline Bates)

RENOVATE YOUR GATE

YOUR GATE NEED AN UPDATE?
LOCAL FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED

PAGE 7

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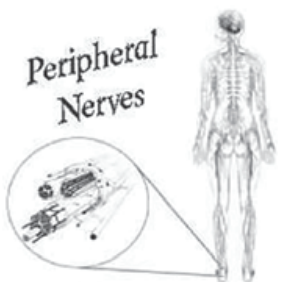
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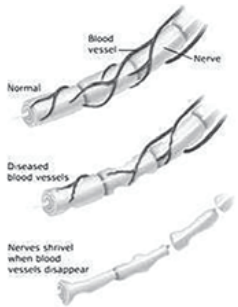
PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY AND CHRONIC PAIN WARNING!

Mesa, AZ — The most common method your doctor will recommend to treat your chronic pain and/or neuropathy is with prescription drugs that may temporarily reduce your symptoms. These drugs have names such as Gabapentin, Lyrica, Cymbalta, and Neurontin, and are primarily antidepressant or anti-seizure drugs. These drugs may cause you to feel uncomfortable and have a variety of harmful side effects .

Chronic pain and/or peripheral neuropathy is a result of damage to the nerves often causing weakness, pain, numbness, tingling, and the most debilitating balance problems. This damage is commonly caused by a hands and feet which causes the nerves to begin to degenerate due to lack of nutrient flow.



As you can see in Figure 2, as the blood vessels that surround the nerves become diseased they shrivel up which causes the nerves to not get the nutrients to continue to survive. When these nerves begin to "die" they cause you to have balance problems, pain, numbness, tingling, burning, and many additional symptoms. The main problem is that your doctor has told you



to just live with the problem or try the drugs which you don't like taking because they make you feel uncomfortable. There is now a facility right here in Mesa that offers you hope without taking those endless drugs with serious side effects.

(See the special neuropathy severity examination at the end of this article) In order to effectively treat your neuropathy three factors must be determined.

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Aspen Medical will do a chronic pain and neuropathy severity examination to determine the extent of the nerve damage as a public service to you and/or your family and friends. This neuropathy/pain severity examination will consist of a detailed sensory evaluation, extensive peripheral vascular testing, and a detailed analysis of the findings of your neuropathy.



Aspen Medical will be offering this chronic pain and neuropathy severity examination from now until October 30th, 2026. Call 480-796-1136 to make an appointment to determine if your chronic pain and peripheral neuropathy can be successfully treated.

Due to our busy office schedule, we are limiting this FREE consultation to the first 15 callers. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO SUFFER ANOTHER MINUTE, CALL. Call 480-796-1136 … NOW!

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COMMUNITY

ON YOURVALLEY.NET

Police seek help to find serious injury hit-and-run suspect

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Tempe Police Department is seeking the public's assistance in identifying a vehicle they think is connected with a serious injury hit-and-run from an incident at 10:30 p.m. Sept. 4.

Police say a 16-year-old girl was in a crosswalk when she was struck by the car at Baseline Road and Calle Los Cerros Drive in Tempe. Police believe the car may be a dark gray, 2014-16 Mazda 3, four-door sedan.

The car is expected to have significant damage to the front driver's side, including damage to the driver's side headlamp assembly and front bumper area. The car will likely be missing a substantial portion, if not all, of the front bumper cover.

Anyone with information on a potential matching vehicle is asked to contact the Tempe Police Department through the non-emergency number at 480-350-8311.

To send an anonymous tip via text message to the Tempe Police Department, text the keyword TEMPEPD and your tip to 847411.

You can also submit a tip at https://www.tempe.gov/government/police/submit-a-crime-tip.

Tempe e-bike rules change

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

In July, Tempe's e-bike ordinance went into effect, changing the rules of where e-bikes and scooters were allowed to drive and the speed limits of these vehicles.

The new regulations classify vehicles in three classes with specific laws and guidelines for each class.

A Class One e-bike is a bicycle that is only pedal-assisted, like many of the bikes that Lime and Bird offer for the public to rent.

Class Two bikes are bikes that do not require pedaling.

Class Three bikes are pedal-assisted only, and have a max speed limit of 28 miles per hour.

All e-bikes require headlights, taillights, reflectors and speedometers.

The above are excerpted from stories at https://www.yourvalley.net/tempe-independent.

Tempe giving Narcan to residents to help curb overdose deaths

By Madeline Bates
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

When Alfred Gaines was experiencing an overdose years ago, someone in his inner circle immediately sprayed naloxone, better known as Narcan, into his nose.

Narcan is a nasal spray that delivers naloxone and is designed to reverse opioid overdoses quickly and can quickly restore normal breathing to a person if their breathing has slowed or stopped because of an opioid overdose.

Now, coming up on a year of sobriety, Gaines and the city of Tempe are ready to educate the public on how these medications can save a life.

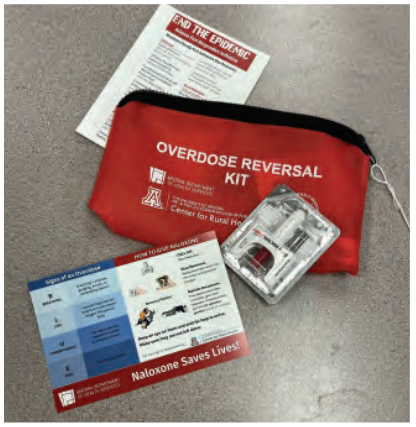
"When you overdose it's not like you see a light at the end of the tunnel, it's dark and there's nothing until a first responder comes but the scariest part is that you never know when it's going to happen," Gaines said.

Tim Burch, City of Tempe health and community services director, said in a press conference that the city received $9.7 million from the One AZ Fund to be used through 2038 to help educate the public about the use of naloxone and distribute free kits to the public.

"We want every home to have access to the resource with proper training of how to use it," Burch said.

The CDC says common opioids are heroin, fentanyl, oxycodone and other drugs used as both

• See **Narcan** on page **5**



Overdose reversal kit with two 4 mg doses on naloxone and resources to help those in active addiction. (Independent Newsmedia/Madeline Bates)

Capt. Kevin Johnston explaining what to look for in an overdose patient and how to administer Narcan. (Independent Newsmedia, Madeline Bates)

Narcan

• From page **4**

prescriptions and illicit substances.

Tempe Police say that due to the low dosage and the effects of naloxone, if Narcan is administered when a patient is not having an overdose, there are often minimal consequences.

Kits are available at the Tempe EnVision Center, any Tempe Fire Station or if you take a Tempe Medical Rescue CPR class.

The Tempe Coalition also distributes kits, as it aims to reduce underage drinking and drug use, but also assists with education on and prevention resources.

Burch said the city has paired with the Tempe Coalition to already educate teachers, but is working to educate other school staff and the general public.

Tempe Fire Capt. Kevin Johnston says that while Narcan is often given to those experiencing overdose from recreational drug use, people who do not use drugs should keep it on hand to prevent a mistake from being fatal.

He mentioned that small children and the elderly can often get confused or take medications unknowingly and that naloxone is safe for people of all ages and sizes, but to always call 911 for help.

"This is really for everybody, and we want to get it into the hands of the community at large," he said.

Johnston says that each kit distributed by the city comes with two 4 mg doses of naloxone and an instruction card about signs and symptoms of an overdose.

Johnston says to wait at least two minutes for signs of responsiveness before administering another dose, but to always wait with the patient for paramedics and make sure they are in a position that prohibits choking.

Gaines will celebrate a year of sobriety on Sept. 22. Since then he has become a behavioral health technician and is working on furthering his credentials to be able to help people who are in active addiction. He is also part of a peer support group that administers Narcan to the unhoused community

"I'm a prime example of who this can help. I lived it. There's people that I know out there and the best way to help them is to show them the legs," Gaines said.

To voice your opinion on this story, connect with us at AzOpinions@iniusa.org.

TEMPE RELIGIOUS EVENTS

Several events at Our Lady Mount Carmel Catholic Church

Our Lady Mount Carmel Catholic Church is having several events in October, including a gala and an event to honor the rosary. The 71st Living Rosary event will be at 7 p.m. Oct. 13.

The annual Soar Auction Dinner is at 5 p.m. Oct. 24 at 2121 S. Rural Road. To learn more or purchase tickets, go to https://olmctempe.com.

A Temple Emmanuel movie night and gathering slated

For the children of the Temple Emmanuel congregation, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Sept. 26 will be a movie in the Sukkah. Snacks will be provided.

Those looking for a weekday activity are welcome to join Yarn Yentas where knitting and fun meet 10-11:30 a.m. Wednesdays in the lobby of Tempe Emmanuel.

To voice your opinion on this story, connect with us at AzOpinions@iniusa.org.



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Paths

• From page **1**

Project canals, connecting to the regional trail network at the Chandler-Tempe border, a news release states.

The council member who asked for a presentation on the project, Matt Orlando, had high praise for the concept and the community input gathered during planning.

"It's an exciting project several residents keep asking about," Orlando said. "Everyone will love it, I think."

Jason Crampton, Chandler's transportation planning manager, told Council that since the project carries into Tempe, it was important for grant funding to cover much of the overall project costs, as it's a Chandler-run project that will benefit some Tempe residents.

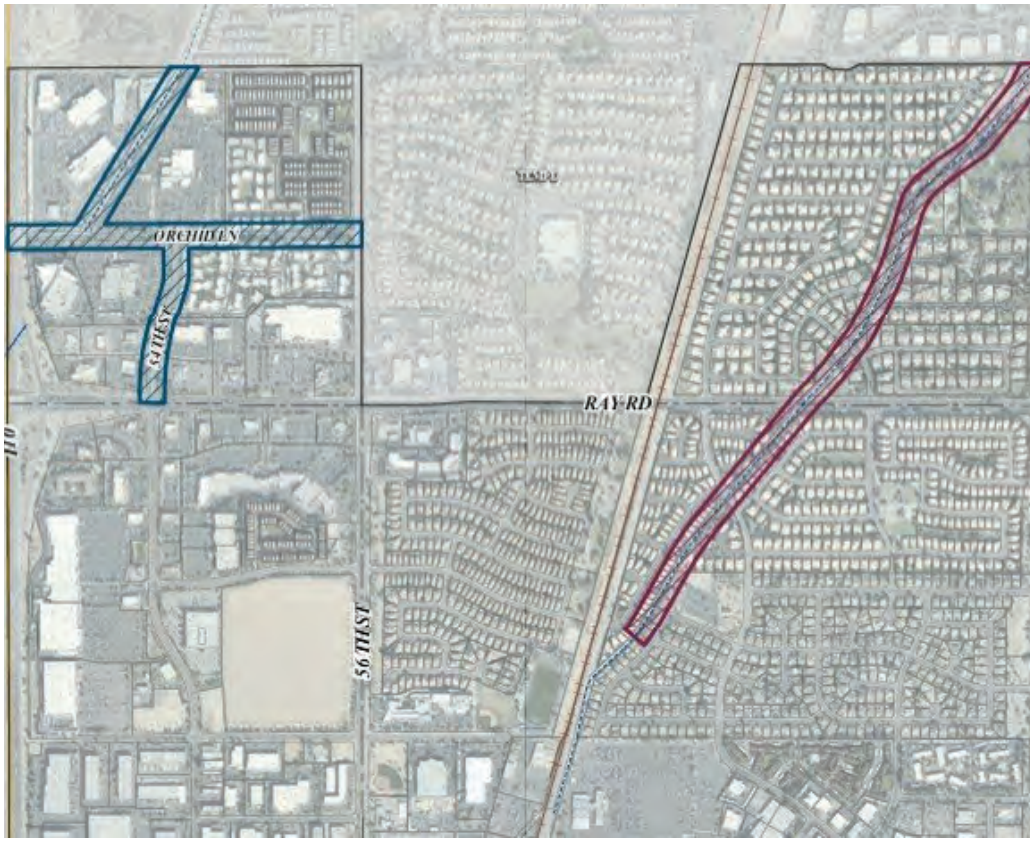
"In fact, the northern end of the Kyrene Branch project will be inside the city of Tempe, and the traffic signal that helps riders and pedestrians get across Kyrene Road (at Knox Road) will be owned and operated by that city," Crampton said.

The roughly 1 mile of Kyrene Branch improvements will start at the Knox-Kyrene intersection and follow the canal to the southwest, past the Lavender Farm and through neighborhoods, crossing Ray Road and ending just south of Linda Lane.

The Highline Canal improvements begin at the existing concrete terminus at the Chandler-Tempe line and continue southwest along the canal to Orchid Lane, or about a quarter-mile.

Crampton said improvements will include, in addition to the concrete paths, lighting, landscaping and irrigation, wayfinding signs and pavement markings, as well as new bike lanes installed along Orchid Lane and 54th Street.

Improvements made within SRP right-of-way are for non-motorized transportation only, a staff report states. Motorized vehicles, including electric bicycles, are not permitted within SRP right-of-way.



This map shows the Highline Canal on the left and the Kyrene Branch on the right, near Kyrene road in west Chandler. The Chandler City Council recently approved more than $4 million in mostly grant-funded contracts to create a concrete shared-used path along both canals. (Courtesy of city of Chandler)

In an effort to deter illegal motorized vehicle activity along the Kyrene Branch Canal, the report states, Chandler staff worked with SRP to have temporary gates installed, which prevent mid-size and large motorized vehicles from accessing the canal bank.

The project went through extensive public outreach during project planning and design phases. The Transportation Policy Division hosted open-house public meetings about the project as long ago as August 2022.

This project was identified in the city's 2019 transportation master plan as a recommended near-term project.

Early feedback led the project team to make several design changes, the staff report states, including removal of a proposed traffic signal at Ray Road, adding private property and other signs and eliminating a sidewalk gap along Kyrene Road.

The news release states the construction management agreement was awarded to Dibble CM LLC. The construction agreement was awarded to KLASS Services Inc. and the post-design services agreement was awarded to Kimley-Horn and Associates Inc.

The completion time is 450 calendar days from the issuance of a notice to proceed, the staff report states. KLASS Services Inc. was chosen from among five bidders for the main contract, with its $3.530 million bid the only one of the five that was less than $4 million.

The grant, according to the staff report, is a $3.329 million Federal Highway Administration congestion mitigation air quality grant.

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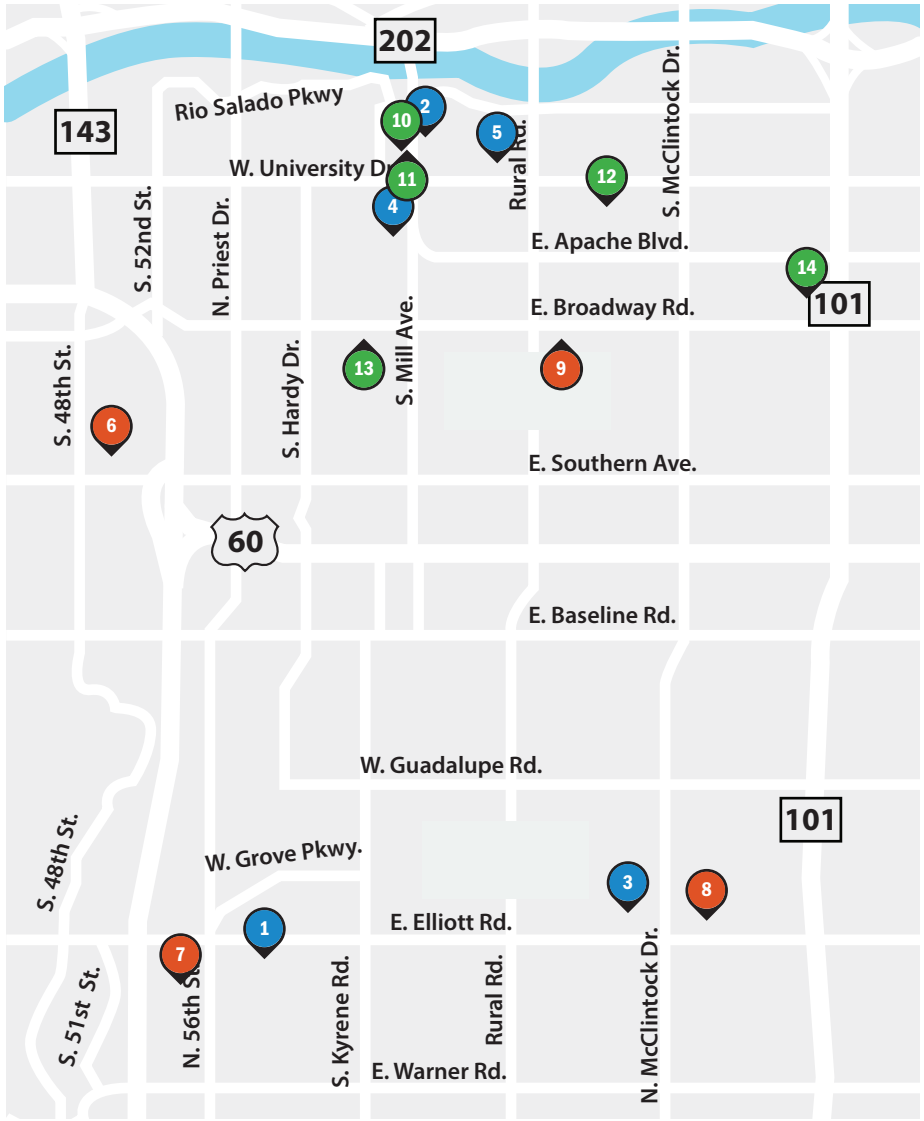
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BUSINESS MOVES



Compiled by Madeline Bates
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

OPENINGS

1 **French Toast Café** recently opened at 1245 W. Elliot Road in Tempe. Kyoto Bowl left the location and shortly after French Toast Cafe moved in.

2 **Culinary Gangster** opened at 501 S. Mill Ave. in downtown Tempe.

3 **Big Stitch Embroidery** opened at 1700 E. Elliott Road Located near Loop 101 and McClintock,

4 **Urban Hip-E** opened at 950 S. Mill Ave. Mediterranean fast casual comes to Mill Avenue with parking and walkability from ASU campus. Open 11 a.m.-9 p.m. every day. Go to UrbanHip-E.com.

5 **Sparky's Shop** recently opened at 777 E. Novus Place in Tempe.

CLOSINGS

6 7 8 9 **Salad and Go** locations recently closed, including the following locations in Tempe: 3229 S. 48th St., 7800 S. Priest Drive and 1804 E. Elliot Drive. Salad and Go locations unexpectedly closed after the company announced bankruptcy in August. The sites at 909 E. Broadway and 1804 E. Elliot (above) are anticipated to become **7Brew** locations in 2027.

IN THE NEWS

10 11 For almost a year the **Tempe National Bank** and **Tempe Hardware** buildings on Mill Avenue in downtown Tempe have been vacant. The city aims to change that. The Tempe City Council recently unanimously approved an ordinance authorizing the city to lease the historic bank and hardware buildings on Mill Avenue at 524 and 526 S. Mill Ave. in downtown Tempe.

12 **Four Peaks** haunted brewery tours began Sunday, Sept. 20 and run through Thursday, Oct. 29. Tours are offered Sunday through Wednesday nights, with a 7 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. time slot available each night. Tickets are $40 and include a souvenir T-shirt and 32-ounce crowler of Four Peaks Pumpkin Porter, currently on tap at the 8th Street Pub in Tempe, 1340 E. Eighth St., and available statewide. The Four Peaks Brewery website states its building, which used to be a creamery, is haunted by the ghost of Victor Vogel, who was the superintendent of the Borden Creamery and Ice Factory when it inhabited that building. https://www.fourpeaks.com.

13 **FABRIC Incubator**, 711 W. Broadway Road in Tempe, a nonprofit that helps emerging fashion designers start their brand and business, recently received $7,000 from the state of Arizona through the Arizona Commission on the Arts. Go to https://fabricincubator.com.

14 **North Metal and Chemical Co.** recently purchased for $6.1 million a 25,807-square-foot industrial facility at 1401 S. Siesta Lane in Tempe. Constructed in 1997, the tilt-concrete building has two office areas, 18-foot clear height warehouse space, two truck-well loading doors, two grade-level doors, and a private fenced yard. Constructed in 1997, the tilt-concrete building is designed to support a variety of industrial and manufacturing operations. North Metal and Chemical Co. is relocating operations from a smaller leased facility in Queen Creek to the newly purchased Tempe location.



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FROM THE COVER

Cameras

• From page **1**

of missing vehicles.

He said that due to the potential for misuse and lack of oversight, he wanted to act in the best interest of the community.

"I didn't want to continue with something that could cause erosion of public trust," Woods said.

Nichols said he received an "outpouring of support" from the public about ending the contract, as the decision was not a political one, but a concern of public privacy.

Nichols, a member of the Phoenix Democratic socialists organization, said he spoke with a variety of political beliefs about their concerns.

Maricopa Libertarian Party Chair Eric Fowler addressed the council on Aug. 31 wearing a yellow shirt with a camera on it with text that said: "Don't Spy on Me." He asked the council to consider examining the data storage methods that Axon uses before approving the contract, but applauded them for choosing to cancel the Flock contract.

"Free people are not subjects. They are not raw material for a company's models. Any dragnet that catalogs the innocent places plates or faces inverts the 'innocent until proven guilty' principle," Fowler said at the meeting.

An August report from the Cato Institute, a right-leaning think tank based in Washington, D.C., says both Republican and Democratic lawmakers oppose the use of Flock cameras in their communities.

Big businesses use ALPR cameras. Ulta Beauty and Home Depot both use ALPR cameras in their parking lots, and both claim that it is for anti-theft purposes only.

"Like many retailers, we use license plate readers in our parking lots. These cameras are used for the purpose of detecting and preventing theft and protecting the safety of our customers and associates. We do not grant access to our license plate readers to federal law enforcement," Home Depot says on its website, addressing immigration enforcement.

On Aug. 13 the city of Surprise canceled its contract with Flock after an officer was placed on leave after being accused of using ALPR data for personal reasons.

Officers in Chandler, Apache Junction and Goodyear have all been investigated and accused of data misuse, resulting in either a resignation or suspension of employment.

Axon contract approved

Tempe Council on Sept. 10 passed an ordinance to approve an almost $7 million five-year contract with Axon Enterprise Inc. in a 6-1 vote, with Nichols dissenting.

The ordinance includes a clause that prohibits the city from turning on the automatic license plate reader technology.

Nichols' freshman colleague Brooke St. George voted to approve the contract with Axon, citing cost-saving measures.

"Item 8A1 was a consolidation of several cost-saving measures saving the city over $3 million," she said. "I ran on fiscal responsibility, and I believe that a 'yes' vote was the most fiscally responsible one to make," she said.

While Axon Technology still has the power to operate ALPR technology, Tempe says that there has been no misuse or breach of privacy involving collected data.

Sgt. Robert Ferraro, president of the Tempe Officers Association, told the council that he was concerned

• See **Cameras** on page **11**





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- **Advocate Award** - An organization who has advocated in support of our youth.

Youth Awards

- **Youth Champion Award** - An individual or group aged 12 - 19 who has served as a role model to their peers and/or overcome challenges to inspire others.
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Nominate a Youth or Adult Champion by Oct. 4!
Submit a nomination & review criteria at TempeCoalition.org

This publication was made possible by SAMSHA grant number B08TI088091. The views expressed in these materials do not necessarily reflect the official policies or contractual requirements of the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) or the Department of Health and Human Services; nor does mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

FROM THE COVER

Cameras

• From page **9**

about the rhetoric surrounding the cameras and wanted the council to focus on what matters in public safety and how technology is used on a daily basis.

"Now we sit here debating whether to forbid certain technologies by adding restrictions to the city code. Maybe we should consider banning Microsoft Word while we're at it because we don't like what people say," he said.

May ban technology

Now, Tempe wants to go further than canceling a contract and ban the technology from all municipal property.

A second hearing is Oct. 15 where the council is to make a decision on an ordinance. The draft ordinance states "the City Council desires to prohibit the use of ALPR technology within the municipal boundaries and further establish potential penalties and remedies for misuse."

The ban would not include private property, as businesses such as Home Depot, Arizona Mills Mall and others have Flock cameras in their parking lots.

Nichols took to social media on Sept. 21 in a skit that had him speaking with a cardboard cutout of Sen. Bernie Sanders, a fellow Democratic Socialist who endorsed him running for council.

"We are working to enshrine that change in city law," Nichols said in the video posted to his social media accounts.

Should the council approve the ban, the ordinance would go into effect on Nov. 14, 30 days following the decision.

To voice your opinion on this story, connect with us at AzOpinions@iniusa.org.



Sponsored Content

Meet Franklin Zyriek: A Voice for Kyrene Schools



I am Franklin Zyriek, running for the Kyrene Governing Board to build on our district's legacy while preparing it for the future. I am honored to be endorsed by the Kyrene Education Association, Kyrene's professional teachers' organization. If elected, I will focus on three key priorities:

1. Prepare students for the future: I support the responsible use of emerging technologies to strengthen critical thinking, creativity, and real-world problem solving. I will also explore career-connected opportunities that reflect Arizona's economy, including semiconductor manufacturing and healthcare.

2. Responsibly steward Kyrene's assets: Declining enrollment has forced difficult choices, including school closures. I will advocate for the responsible stewardship of district property, maintain flexibility for changing demographics, and engage the community to identify productive uses for Kyrene facilities.

3. Strengthen programs and attract families: I will build on Kyrene's strengths in academics, gifted education, and the arts, while exploring innovative ideas like middle school dual enrollment and a Speaker's Bureau connecting students with industry professionals.

I am a proud product of Kyrene del Norte, C.I. Waggoner, Kyrene Middle School, and Marcos de Niza High School. I am running to give back to the district that provided me with the skills to succeed.

I earned an undergraduate degree in interdisciplinary studies and a Master of Public Policy from American University. My professional experience includes serving as a junior policy staffer in the U.S. Senate and as an analyst at Salt River Project, where I developed strong financial, analytical, and collaborative skills.

My commitment to public service began early. As a Kyrene student, I participated in student council and the Student Superintendent Council. In high school, I served on the Tempe Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission, which further fueled my passion for public service.

I grew up surrounded by educators. My grandmother taught second grade for over 35 years after starting her career in a one-room schoolhouse and later working for Head Start. My grandfather served as president of Northern Arizona University, after starting his career as a school bus driver.

A strong Kyrene education can open doors of opportunity for every child. I am committed to being a thoughtful steward of Kyrene, ensuring every student has the opportunity to learn, grow, and reach their full potential.

I hope to earn your vote on November 3. Visit **franklinforkyrene.com** to learn more.

Together, we can build a bright future for Kyrene.

BUSINESS

Tempe council votes to approve ordinance to lease bank, hardware buildings

By Madeline Bates
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

For almost a year the Tempe National Bank and Tempe Hardware buildings on Mill Avenue in downtown Tempe have been vacant. The city aims to change that.

The council recently unanimously approved an ordinance authorizing the city to lease the historic bank and hardware buildings on Mill Avenue at 524 and 526 S. Mill Ave. in downtown Tempe.

Past businesses have cited raising rent costs, construction and slower traffic in the downtown area as to why many businesses have left the area or closed indefinitely.

Koby Preston, a law clerk, spoke to the council about the EDM scene, or Electronic Dance Music areas that have been monopolized by large companies, and contributed to the loss of Darkstar, an 18-and-over Tempe nightclub that once occupied the bank building and closed in January.

"I ask that you all keep in mind the broader context of the industry to prevent monopolization in the city."

Robert Moore, president of the Tempe Historic Preservation Association, said this could also be an opportunity to bring back a business based in art to the downtown area.

"This is a great opportunity to create more community spaces. We have to start somewhere and this can be a space that can re-seed the art environment of downtown," he said.

The council did not have comments about the project and did not discuss potential tenants in public. Per the city charter, the ordinance will be effective in 30 days, or on Oct. 10.



The corner of Mill Avenue and Fifth Avenue in downtown Tempe. (Independent Newsmedia, Madeline Bates)

Mill Avenue businesses band together to improve low sales

By Madeline Bates
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Mill Avenue, one of the most recognizable spots in Tempe, has undergone many changes in the past few years in the form of construction, roadwork and new businesses.

Christian Loria, marketing director for C.A.S.A. Tempe, is one the drivers of a new coalition of businesses. He and Cassidy Lujan, owner of The Plan Mill, are working to ensure that their businesses stay afloat and have a space to create solutions between the city council and local business owners.

Loria said other businesses like Rodeo, Varsity Tavern, Cactus Sports and the Shoe Mill have joined in the effort and will make a team to work with other groups in Tempe.

"We aren't against improvements and we want to foster support for change but the businesses on Mill are suffering because of it," Loria said.

On Aug. 5, basement piano bar Low Key closed its doors after over a decade serving Mill. Other businesses like Dragon Tea and Mellow Mushroom were once long-term tenants but have closed, with officials citing lower sales and higher rents.

"Its not any singular thing that has made this an issue, but with construction leading to slower foot traffic and expenses like labor and overhead, it's become more difficult to plan for the future," Loria said.

Lujan, who says she doesn't have the funds to hire an employee, says she would like to see more improvements to communication and marketing for Mill Avenue, aiding individuals to feel empowered to share their struggles.

"Tempe's problem is that the city is very intertwined, and it's like that for a reason. This coalition is to give a voice to the small business owners and shake things up," Lujan said.

Businesses interested in joining the coalition can visit https://www.millavenuecoalition.org. Anyone looking for more information can email info@millavecoalition.com

To voice your opinion on this story, connect with us at AzOpinions@iniusa.org.

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Tempe Coalition is a grant-funded project of Tempe Community Council a 501(C)3 nonprofit
This publication was developed with funding from the Arizona Parents Commission on Drug Education and Prevention, as authorized by A.R.S. §13-901.02 and administered by the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith & Family

School honors first responders on 9/11 anniversary

By Madeline Bates
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Kyrene de la Mariposa Elementary School honored the first responders of Sept. 11, 2001, by inviting the Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts and Tempe Police to an assembly.

The Sept. 11 event was led by Principal Spencer Fallgatter, who invited parents and Tempe Police officers to educate students about what happened in New York 25 years ago.

"It's so important for our students to continue to remember what sacrifices have been made by our active and inactive military and law enforcement," Fallgatter said.

In 2025, an estimated 100 million people in the U.S. were under age 25, and even more were small children during the attacks.

Fallgatter says that it's important to educate the youth about Patriot Day and to never forget what happened and how military and first responders sprang into action.

Officers Karl Kresin and Kentrell Whitehead said they started the day with a moment of silence as a force before some went to go educate or serve, in honor of those who have fallen.

Tempe volunteers on Sept. 11 also hosted Healing Fields, where over 3,000 flags were placed in the lawn at Tempe Beach Park. Other events include a concert, a moment of silence and a candlelight vigil.

"We always get a big turnout, and it's really important to us to see everyone show up," Kresin said.

Tempe Healing Fields is hosting events throughout the weekend and is looking for volunteers to help take down the flags at 6 a.m. Sept. 14.

To voice your opinion on this story, connect with us at AzOpinions@iniusa.org.



From left to right: Kyrene parent Ammon Orr, Army reservist; Tempe Officer Kentrell Whitehead; Kyrene Principal Spencer Fallgatter; Tempe Officer Karl Kresin; Kyrene grandparent Dr. Stephen Judd, retired Navy. (Independent Newsmedia, Madeline Bates)

Tempe council approves driveway change near elementary school

By Madeline Bates
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Tempe City Council gave the green light for a family to move their driveway, despite concerns from neighbors and the potential impact to a school across the street.

The Goettle family owns a home across from C.I. Waggoner Elementary School and were seeking approval from the council to abandon an easement to move the home's driveway from the property's south end to its west end.

After hearing public comment and concerns from the neighborhood, the council voted 5-2 with Councilmember Doreen Garlid and Vice Mayor Arlene Chin dissenting.

Councilmembers Brooke St. George and Nikki Amberg, who both opposed the project during the first hearing Aug. 31, said despite concerns, they were happy to approve of the project because of changes made and the approval from the school.

"I'm not a safety expert. I'm not a transportation expert, but I asked you to go to the school and ask them about their concerns. I'm going to be voting yes because it's very rare that when we get up here people take the time to correct the changes we're asking for, and you actually did that. Thank you," she said.

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PROP 430
PROPOSICIÓN 430
YES OR NO
SÍ O NO

There's an election on Tuesday, Nov. 3, and Chandler voters will cast a ballot for Prop 430 to continue the Local Alternative Expenditure Limitation, also known as Home Rule.

El martes 3 de noviembre se llevará a cabo una elección, y los votantes de Chandler emitirán su voto a favor de la Proposición 430 para continuar con la Alternativa Local al Límite de Gastos, también conocida como la Regla de Autogobierno.

Remember, Prop 430 is NOT a tax increase.

Recuerde que, la Proposición 430 NO es un aumento a los impuestos.

The Home Rule Option allows a city to make its own decisions about how to spend its tax revenues. If it doesn't pass, Chandler would collect $232 million that it would not be authorized to spend, impacting public safety, street maintenance, recreation programs and planned capital improvement projects.

La Opción de la Regla de Autogobierno permite que una ciudad tome sus propias decisiones sobre cómo gastar sus ingresos fiscales. Si no se aprueba, Chandler recaudaría 232 millones de dólares que no estaría autorizada a gastar, lo cual impactaría la seguridad pública, el mantenimiento de calles, los programas de recreación y los proyectos planeados de mejoramiento capital.

chandleraz.gov/HomeRule

We need your input to make Chandler roads safer

Between 2021-2025, there were over 16,000 crashes on Chandler streets. Of those, 356 resulted in a severe injury and 74 resulted in one or more fatalities. This is why the Chandler Roadway Safety Action Plan is so important.

We need your input to reduce the frequency and severity of crashes across the city! Visit **chandleraz.gov/SafeStreets** to learn more about the plan and TAKE THE SURVEY to provide your feedback on the current state of street safety in Chandler. Together we can make a difference!



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REAL ESTATE

Home sales in Tempe remain ahead of 2025

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Single-family home sales in the greater Phoenix area continued to rise, up 3.8% year-to-date through August compared with 2025. Pending sales slipped slightly, down just 1.1%, and new listings dipped 2.8%, according to data from Phoenix Realtors.

Greater Phoenix overall outpaced the rest of the country. Nationally, home sales dipped 1.7% from the previous month, while year-to-date sales were up 2.4%.

In August, of major valley cities, Tempe had the strongest sales in the market, up 23.6%, and a significant decline in pending sales, down 51.8%. New listings were down 3.2%. The median home price in Tempe declined from $555,000 in 2025 year-to-date data to $540,000 this year.

"Looking at the year-to-date numbers, homes are selling in the market," said Sammy Glassman, board president of Phoenix Realtors, said of greater Phoenix. "As an individual month, however, August showed its traditional summer softness. Sales tend to pick up as we head into fall."

Year-to-date trends move upward

Although August was very slow in 2026 compared with 2025, consistent with the seasonal pattern of the past decade, results for the first eight months of the year show a steadier trend.

So far in 2026, 43,194 homes have

• See **Real Estate** on page **21**



The median sales price for homes in Tempe is $522,500, which is down 3.2% from August 2025. The average sales price of $577,687 is up 0.8% from last year in August. (Independent Newsmedia, Arianna Grainey)

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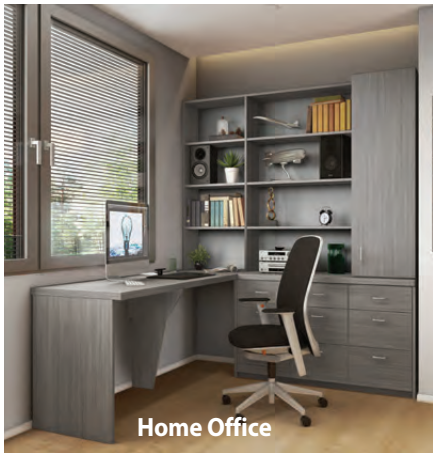
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SPORTING EVENTS IN TEMPE

Arizona State football returns to Tempe

Arizona State University football is hosting several home games at Mountain America Stadium this fall after winning the Union Jack Classic against Kansas in London. Tickets for all games are available for purchase now online and at the stadium.

Home schedule:

- Oct. 3 — Baylor
- Oct. 10—Hawaii
- Oct. 24—Kansas State
- Nov. 7—CU Boulder
- Nov. 21—Oklahoma State

Walking for a cause

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk is 8 a.m. Oct 24.

This event will honor breast cancer survivors with a group photo and walk around Tempe Beach Park to raise funds and awareness about breast cancer.

Spooky stand up paddle boarding

Witches Regatta paddle board meet-up is 9: 30 a.m. Oct. 24.

This free meet-up event at Tempe Beach Park encourages all participants to wear a witch hat or costume!

Witches Regatta SUP Event — Tempe Town Lake Boat Marina, Tempe

To voice your opinion on this story, connect with us at AzOpinions@iniusa.org.

High school students partner with Teen Lifeline to raise awareness on suicide

By Madeline Bates
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

In 2025, there were over 720,000 people who died by suicide according to the World Health Organization. This is also the leading cause of death for people age 15-29. For the eighth consecutive year, Teen Lifeline has gathered high school students to help spread awareness and aim to end suicide.

Teen Lifeline, a nonprofit that aims to end teen suicide has announced that around 70 high school students across Arizona are part of their campaign to help spread the word about Teen Lifeline's hotline in honor of September being named Suicide Awareness Month.

Aidan Whitaker, a senior at McClintock and a football receiver, said the campaign was personal after he had family friend who died by suicide.

Aidan was one of three nominees from McClintock to be part of the project. He hopes to play college football after graduation and wants to spread awareness on depression and mental illness.

"I really hope these videos raise awareness so that people don't resort to it as a way out," he said.

Michelle Moorehead, executive director of Teen Lifeline, said that the support nearly doubled between 2025 and 2026.

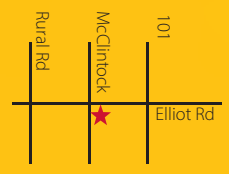
"The heart of Teen Lifeline peer to peer connection. We're hope that this empowers more people to reach out if they're struggling," Moorehead said.

For anyone struggling with thoughts of suicide please call the Suicide Hotline at 988 or Teen Lifeline at 602-248-8336 to speak or chat with a representative. The Teen Lifeline website is https://teenlifeline.org.



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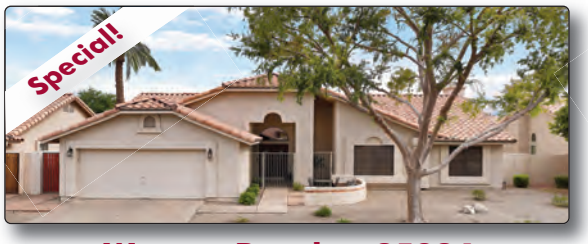


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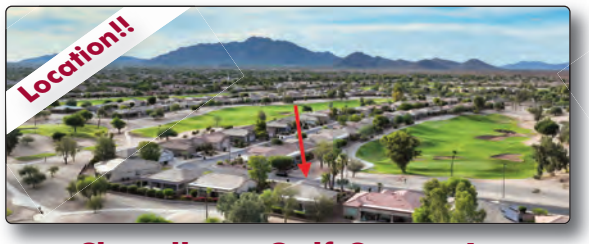
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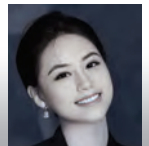


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Free rainwater, greywater recycling workshop

The City of Tempe Sustainability and Resilience Division, as part of the Rain to Roots initiative, is partnering with Watershed Management Group on a series of workshops to help community members create their ideal desert landscape while making the most of rainwater and greywater.

These nature-based solutions can mitigate heat in our community, encourage a healthy urban landscape, and reduce potable water use in the landscape.

The classes are free to attend and a la carte, and will be held at several different facilities around Tempe:

• Passive and Active Rainwater Harvesting is 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, Oct. 3, at EnVision Center, 1310 E. Apache Blvd. Learn how to save water while creating a rainwater-sustained native landscape! We'll cover best practices for passive rainwater harvesting (basins) and active rainwater harvesting (cisterns).

• Building Healthy Desert Soils is 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, Oct. 31, Escalante Center, 2150 E. Orange St. By integrating typical waste streams such as greywater, stormwater, plant trimmings, and compost, you can bring desert soil to life. By the end of this class, you will have the skills necessary to promote a productive urban landscape.

• Rain Garden Care is 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, Dec. 5, at YMCA, 7070 S. Rural Road. Learn about selecting low-water-use native plants that build wildlife habitat, shade your home, and create an appealing landscape for your yard.

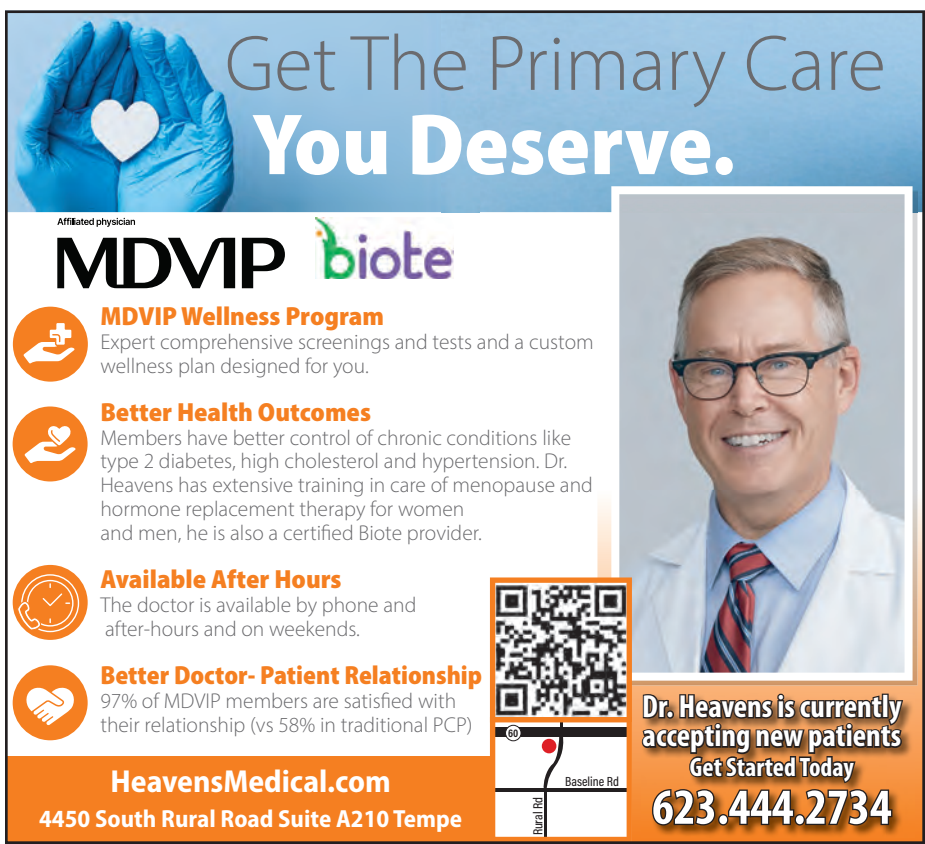
• Introduction to Greywater is 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, Jan. 16, 2027, at Elias-Rodriguez House, 927 E. Eighth St. Your washing machine, shower,

• See **Water** on page **23**



A series of workshops are planned to help community members create their ideal desert landscape while making the most of rainwater and greywater. (Special to Independent Newsmedia, Arianna Grainey)





Real Estate

• From page **16**

sold, with another 42,768 deals pending. That's nearly 86,000 homes at those stages compared with fewer than 85,000 in the same period last year.

Even though the median sales price of a home notched up slightly to $483,000 from 2025's $480,000 in year-to-date data, the affordability index remained flat at 73. At that level, the affordability index indicates that the typical household earns about three-quarters of the income needed to afford the median-priced home. Homes are sitting on the market longer; year to date, that's 78 days, compared to 73 last year.

For information on Phoenix Realtors, go to https://www.phoenixrealtors.com

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, https://www.yourvalley.net/civility-checklist/.

TEMPE HOUSING BY THE NUMBERS

New listings: 92 (-3.2%)
Pending sales: 41 (-51.8%)
Closed sales: 68 (+23.6%)
Days on market until sale: 52 (-10.3%)
Median sales price: $522,500 (-3.2%)
Average sales price: $577,687 (+0.8%)
Percent of list price received: 97.7% (+0.1%)
Inventory of homes for sale: 275 (+16.0%)
Months supply of inventory: 3.7 (+12.1%)
(Percent change reflects year-over-year data for the indicated month).
Source: Phoenix Realtors market report for August 2026

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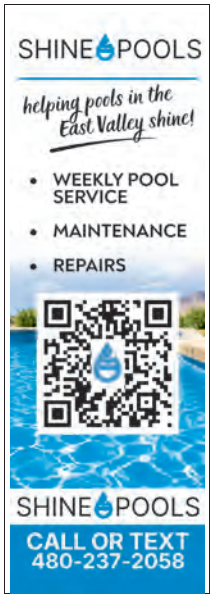


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THINGS TO DO

OCT. 11

City Hall Farmers Market

From this date, the event at 31 E. Fifth St. in Tempe will be held most Sundays 8 a.m.-noon between October and April and 7-11 a.m. May to September.
It is to feature a variety of small-business vendors selling produce, baked goods, ready-to-eat foods and handmade items.
Go to tempe.gov/CityHallFarmersMarket or by on Instagram @TCHFarmersMarket.

OCT. 23

Dementia Tempe Summit

The 10th annual event is 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Tempe Center for the Arts, 700 W. Rio Salado Parkway.
Whether you're caring for a loved one or seeking answers for yourself, the free event offers a welcoming space to connect, learn and find hope.
Explore a resource fair featuring local organizations and services, hear from guest speakers and take part in an educational session designed to support you on your journey.
Go to https://anc.apm.activecommunities.com/tempeopportunities

OCT. 23

Family Boo Bash

The free event will run 6-10 p.m. at Kiwanis Park's north soccer fields at Baseline Road and Ash Avenue with a costume parade and contest at 6:30 p.m. and a movie screening at 7:30 p.m.
Activities include train rides, face painting and dance party.
Dress up and participate in the costume contest and parade.
Bring your blankets and settle in for our featured flick, Toy Story 5 (G). Food concessions and carnival games will be available for purchase, hosted by nonprofits.
Event made possible by Tempe Diablos Charities with the help of other organizations.
Go to https://tinyurl.com/mvrz896j

Water

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bathroom sink, and bathtub can be a consistent source of greywater irrigation for high-water-use plants in your landscape. Learn how to tap into these resources to help support your landscape and hydro-local living.

• Sustainable Desert Living for Renters is 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, Feb. 20, 2027, at Elias-Rodriguez House, 927 E. Eighth St. Join for a renter-specific workshop that will introduce you to simple, practical ways to live more sustainably, no matter where you live. Through hands-on demos and honest conversations, we'll re-frame sustainable living as something accessible to everyone.

• Cultivating Native Edible Landscapes is 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, March 27, 2027, at EnVision Center, 1310 E Apache Blvd. Participants will explore what "native edible" means from ecological, regional, and cultural perspectives, gaining insight into how these plants have been traditionally used and their role in supporting healthy ecosystems. We will review a variety of native edible species, discussing their identifying features, ideal growing conditions, and sustainable harvesting practices.

Registration is required for all participants. Go to https://form.jotform.com/262026621297153.

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