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Jan 9 – 22, 2021

Vol 31, No 1

*More stuff ...*



**Canal path rocks with shared sentiments**

Billy Hardiman captures photos of tiny thoughts with a big helping of creativity. *Page 4.*



**Top films of the year**

Oue media writer appraises the best movies of 2020.

*Page 22.*



**Expanding capacity**

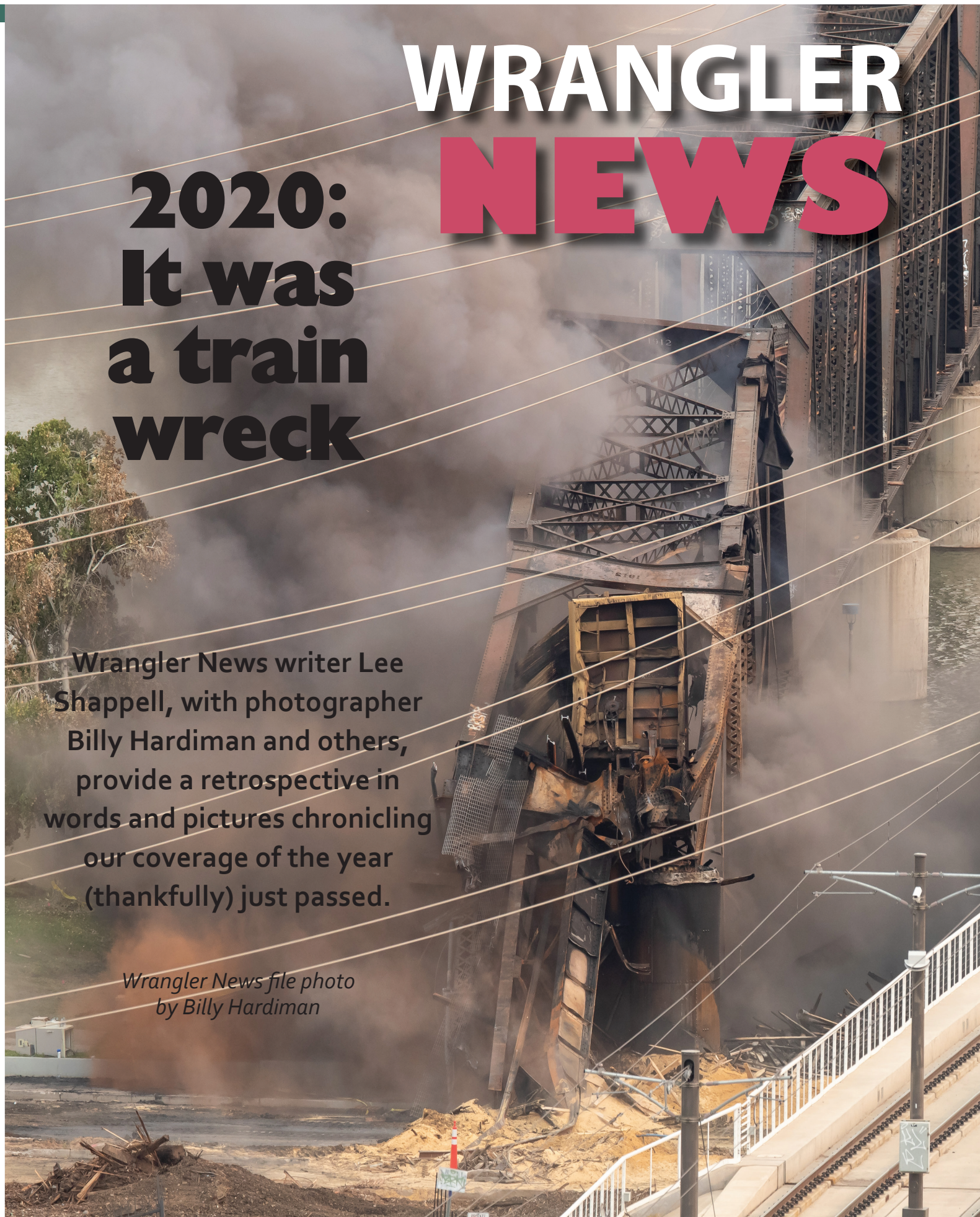
Restaurants increase their outdoor seating areas. *Page 3.*

# WRANGLER NEWS

## 2020: It was a train wreck

Wrangler News writer Lee Shappell, with photographer Billy Hardiman and others, provide a retrospective in words and pictures chronicling our coverage of the year (thankfully) just passed.

*Wrangler News file photo  
by Billy Hardiman*



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CHEVROLET 

FIND NEW ROADS™

# Tempe, W. Chandler beat Ducey in race to boost outdoor seating

Chandler and Tempe were a step ahead of Gov. Doug Ducey, who last month announced his executive order allowing restaurants to expand or create outdoor seating in an attempt to increase acceptable capacity and with it increase business during social distancing brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The governor's order, however, goes a step further than the Chandler and Tempe measures by providing \$1 million in funding to cover the cost of creating the outdoor spaces, as much as \$10,000 per restaurant for items such as outdoor furniture, barriers, patio heaters and patio covers.

"Transforming operations for our restaurants isn't easy and it certainly isn't cheap, especially during a pandemic that's been a challenge of a lifetime for our local and small businesses," Ducey said. "That's why ... I am issuing an executive order that will allow restaurants to pass sidewalks and other rights-of-way, cutting red tape. In Arizona, we have the luxury of a beautiful winter that lends itself to grabbing a table outdoors." Ducey's order remains in effect indefinitely.

## Chandler a step ahead 'On the Street'

Chandler already had launched a program that allows businesses that deal with indoor capacity



Nate Cruz, owner of Slices on Mill Avenue, created a patio in a parking area outside his store to boost seating capacity, which had been reduced inside by social distancing mandates. — Tempe photo

restrictions to expand onto sidewalks or on-street parking areas outside.

"On the Street" also gives patrons who were uncomfortable dining inside at this point the option to continue supporting their favorite local establishments safely outdoors. The program tentatively will continue through May 31.

"Local businesses are a vital part of our economy and this program is another way Chandler is helping

businesses during COVID," Chandler Mayor Kevin Hartke said. "We all must continue doing our part to mask up and keep a healthy distance, and 'On the Street' allows businesses to offer an outdoor experience for our community that's not quite comfortable with indoor activities. I commend our staff for implementing this idea that's seen success in several parts of the country."

The Brickyard, in Downtown Chandler's Historic Square, was the first business approved to offer on-street dining.

"The past few months have been challenging for the entire industry," said Gavin Jacobs, co-owner of the Brickyard. "On the Street' allows my business to safely expand its dining options while meeting our customers at their comfort level. As soon as we heard about this program, we jumped on the opportunity."

Mingle + Glaze, a downtown cheese shop and eatery, and Burst of Butterflies, a create-and-paint studio downtown, also are participating.

Street expansions are limited to streets with a speed limit of 25 mph or lower, with no more than one travel lane in each direction (excluding center turn lanes) and with designated on-street parking.

Eligible establishments must have street frontage

— SEATING, Page 23



**Randy Goff**  
Broker/Owner

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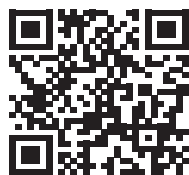
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**Advocacy group  
launches efforts to  
support Tempe PD**

*Tempe said to reflect many  
municipalities that are  
divided over policing*

By Lee Shappell

There are factions pushing for review, reform and perhaps even defunding the Police Department. Tempe's Public Safety Task Force is scheduled to convene the final of its six meetings on Dec. 21, after which recommendations will be made and residents may respond and offer input.

And there are factions that support the police, advocating for respect for law and order, and for a strong, well-trained, well-funded department. Tempe businessman Mike Bradley founded such a support group this fall, True Blue Tempe, to stand in support of the Tempe Police Department.

"As a business owner, I understand the value of having a Police Department that is backed by its local community," Bradley said. "Our police officers help to maintain law and order, which means mutual respect and support is necessary in order for society to flourish.

"When law and order is compromised, businesses suffer."

It was a turbulent summer. From Minneapolis, to Louisville, to Portland and Seattle, and even to Tempe, there were incidents of perceived brutality or other wrongdoing involving police officers, followed by public reactions that in some places rose to rioting.

Organized opposition to the police in Tempe were, for the most part, peaceful marches.

Still, the specter of a potentially weakened Police Department does not sit well with Bradley, whose dad was a Phoenix Police motorcycle officer, and others in the Tempe business community.

Bradley created True Blue Tempe, to provide a platform for business leaders to stand behind the Police Department.

Fourteen businesses have signed on thus far: Arredondo Insurance – owned by the family of Tempe City Council member Robin Arredondo-Savage, Residence Inn Tempe Downtown/University, Serendipit, Spectra Electrical Services, Inc., ECD Systems, LLC, iDesign Home Solutions, The RFP Success Company, SBS Construction Products, Creative Promotions, Holt Concrete Contracting, Inc., BlockWatch, Integrated Security Technologies, CARSTAR T&S Body Works / Epic Automotive Brands and Business RadioX.

"Growing up in a large family, we were taught respect for authority at a young age," said Pete Clark, director of iDesign Home Solutions, a True Blue Tempe member. "Nationally, this value system has suffered over the years. True Blue Tempe allows us to surround ourselves with people and businesses that still believe in respect for our local law enforcement, who are committed to serving our communities.

"Discussing our community and supporting our local law enforcement can be accomplished in many ways. However, by pledging support and becoming a member of True Blue Tempe, it authenticates our commitment to the cause in support of our officers."

Business owners can pledge their support on True Blue Tempe's website, truebluetempe.org, and gain access to resources, including guides on small-business crime prevention, ways to help TPD, training employees on how to engage with police and police appreciation ideas.

"We want to reach out to officers to show support and let them understand in these times that they are not alone," Bradley said.

While True Blue Tempe has no official affiliation with the Tempe Police Department, former chief Sylvia Moir gave her support and current members of the department also have voiced support.

"When Mike first reached out with this initiative, we were blown away by his passion and thoughtfulness, especially during a time of wavering support this year," said Michael Pooley, assistant chief of TPD. "As our officers see this growing support from our community, it encourages them to



Tempe police officers confer at a scene. Police departments have been under fire in the city and across the nation, giving rise to protests and reform, as well as organizations like True Blue Tempe. — Photo courtesy Tempe True Blue

continue to do the great work they have always done.”

Bradley said that he has reached out to Interim Police Chief Jeff Glover to discuss True Blue Tempe but has not yet connected with him.

Six meetings of the Tempe Public Safety Task Force have been held. A strategic plan, which would contain any recommendations of any restructuring or reforms of the Police Department, are expected in late January. Community members may then comment on the draft plan during public meetings, likely to follow in late winter.

The task force is focusing on policies, hiring, use of technologies, training, data and how the city engages with people who are Black, Indigenous, people of color, people experiencing homelessness and those with mental health challenges.

Bradley, 63, attended Marcos de Niza High. He is a 1981 graduate of Arizona State University. He says that his pioneering family has been in the Tempe area since 1901. He now lives in Ahwatukee. He owns a Tempe security firm, ECD Systems, just south of Tempe Marketplace, which employs about 100.

He is concerned about the department’s future in the wake of the task force.

“So when all this started happening with the defund the police, which is kind of the root of all this, it upset me,” Bradley said.

While Bradley’s company is among the 14 members of True Blue Tempe, his business and his advocacy group remain separate, he said.

“I’ve kept my business out of it,” Bradley said. “True Blue Tempe is my program. I’m paying for it. I’m paying for the website. I’ve hired the marketing for it. I manage the program.”

He acknowledges that it has been “an uphill battle” getting word out about True Blue Tempe and convincing businesses to join.

“It’s been my experience that some business owners don’t like the idea of lending their name,” Bradley said. “They’re concerned about what their own staff might think, and if they’re in the retail space, they might be concerned about pushback from customers.

“We needed an advocacy group that would come out in support of the police to counter the efforts to tear down the police. That doesn’t mean they’re perfect, but you don’t just throw the baby out with the bath water.

We watched what was happening in Portland, how businesses were being impacted: Shut down, boarded up, losing their business, because the police weren’t responding. The local governments weren’t supporting the police and businesses suffered.

“For a business to flourish, they need

— POLICE, Page 8

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## \$1.2M in grants to help small businesses, employees impacted by COVID-19

More than 180 Tempe-based small businesses last month split \$1.2 million in grants from the city to help sustain them during the COVID-19 pandemic as part of the Tempe Small Business Grant Program.

The hospitality industry, among the hardest-hit, received 47 percent of the grant money, the highest percentage awarded to a sector.

Health care and social assistance came next, receiving 13 percent.

Twenty-six percent of the awards went to minority-owned businesses and 31 percent to female-owned businesses (some recipients are both female and minority).

The average grant amount was \$6,880. Awards were based on \$1,300 per full-time employee to a maximum of \$10,000, whichever was less.

The grants provide business owners with money to help meet expenses so they can retain or hire staff.

Stormy Dodge and her business partner — and mother-in-law — Rox Dodge, who own funky

rockabilly clothing shop Rocket-a-Go Go in Danelle Plaza at Mill and Southern avenues, received grant funding. Not only is the family business female-owned, but Rox Dodge is Hispanic and Native American.

“It was such a relief when we found out we got the grant,” Stormy Dodge said.

“This means job security for our employees and will allow us to consider expanding our business into the space adjacent to ours. That could mean hiring additional people.

“The support from Tempe has been incredible. The city has been great, but also, people have been rallying around the idea of shopping local and supporting neighborhood businesses. That has been so important to our business these last few months.”

The Tempe Small Business Grant Program is among several designed to help Tempe’s neighborhood businesses.

The city offers free safety supplies for businesses with fewer than 100 employees, has enacted a free extension of premises program, and allows additional signage and banners without a permit.

More information: [tempe.gov/Small Business](https://www.tempe.gov/Small Business)  
<https://www.tempe.gov/government/economic-development/small-business/tempe-small-business-grant> or contact [jill.buschbacher@tempe.gov](mailto:jill.buschbacher@tempe.gov).

## Chandler council ceremony

Two newly elected Chandler City Council members are soon to take their seats and the city of Chandler will host an installation ceremony at 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 14.

Elected officials to be sworn in at the ceremony include Councilmember Mark Stewart as well as the two new faces: Councilmembers Christine Ellis and OD Harris. All three officials will serve a four-year term.

They will join seated Councilmembers René Lopez, Matt Orlando, Terry Roe and Mayor Kevin Hartke. Leaving the council are Sam Huang and Jeremy McClymonds.

The public is encouraged to attend the event virtually. The installation ceremony will be live-streamed on the city’s website at [chandleraz.gov/video](http://chandleraz.gov/video), Facebook and Chandler’s YouTube channel. The event also will be broadcast live on cable TV (Cox Channel 11, CenturyLink Channel 8502 and on Orbital Cable in Sun Lakes).

The installation will be broadcast from City Council chambers, 88 E. Chicago St., and will occur after the council’s regularly scheduled meeting. Social distancing measures will be in place, limiting the capacity for in-person attendance.

Masks will be required for those attending the ceremony in-person.

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**Police**

From Page 5

an environment where law and order exists, where there's peace, where there's prosperity.

When that goes away, when the police go away, you might as well not do business anymore. Business has a lot at stake."

According to its website, True Blue Tempe advocates for respect for the rule of law, where law-enforcement agencies observe laws that limit their powers.

Understanding that the job of police is harder now than ever, it pledges to train employees to respect police, demonstrate appreciation to officers, and advocate with politicians for a strong, well trained and well-funded agency.

It recommends donating to the Tempe Police Foundation, which funds specialty units, programs and initiatives that might otherwise lack sufficient

funding; the Tempe Mounted Patrol, which consists of seven horses, one sergeant, two full-time officers, 13 reserve officers, one part-time groom and 18 teenage volunteers; the Tempe Officer's Association, which supports the community and Police Department through charitable giving and promotion of public-safety programs.

True Blue Tempe suggests posting a positive experience that involves a local officer on social media, tagging the department so it sees it and reposts it.

Companies can put together a quick care package filled with goodies or send a handwritten note to local police precincts; decorate with the color blue, for example hanging a blue ribbon outside to show support; pick up an officer's tab at a restaurant; host a company fundraiser, with proceeds to help fund police training events or to purchase and deliver bulk snacks to local precincts.

Information: [truebluetempe.org](http://truebluetempe.org).

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**MORE INFORMATION TO COME:**

- New Student Orientations  
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- Virtual Q&A  
Jan. 21, 28 & Feb. 4
- Speciality Night  
Jan. 26



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## W. Chandler site for telecom move

The tech industry's already large footprint in West Chandler is growing yet again with Comtech EF Data Corp. signing a 15-year lease for the entire 146,000 square feet at 305 N. 54th St.

The company will be consolidating 300 to 400 employees from four buildings in Tempe into the single building, which officials say can facilitate all operations and provide for future expansion. Comtech plans to begin operating in the building by June.

"The West Chandler employment corridor's central location and highly skilled workforce has a long track record of attracting advanced technology companies like Comtech," Chandler Mayor Kevin Hartke said. "Comtech is a respected leader in the telecommunications industry and we look forward to building a close partnership with them in the years ahead."

Comtech designs, develops and manufactures satellite ground equipment used throughout the

world. The new manufacturing facility will have state-of-the-art design and production techniques, including analog, digital and RF microwave production, hardware assembly and full-service engineering.

It will support the anticipated growth and long-term goals of Comtech and enable the company to realize operating cost savings and efficiencies. In addition, based on the new location in the well-known technology corridor of Chandler, many employees will have their commute times reduced, resulting in positive environmental impacts and less congestion.

"While the Chandler-based building will be primarily used for Comtech EF Data personnel and operations, we will also leverage the new high-volume technology manufacturing facility for our other business segments," said Fred Kornberg, chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Comtech.

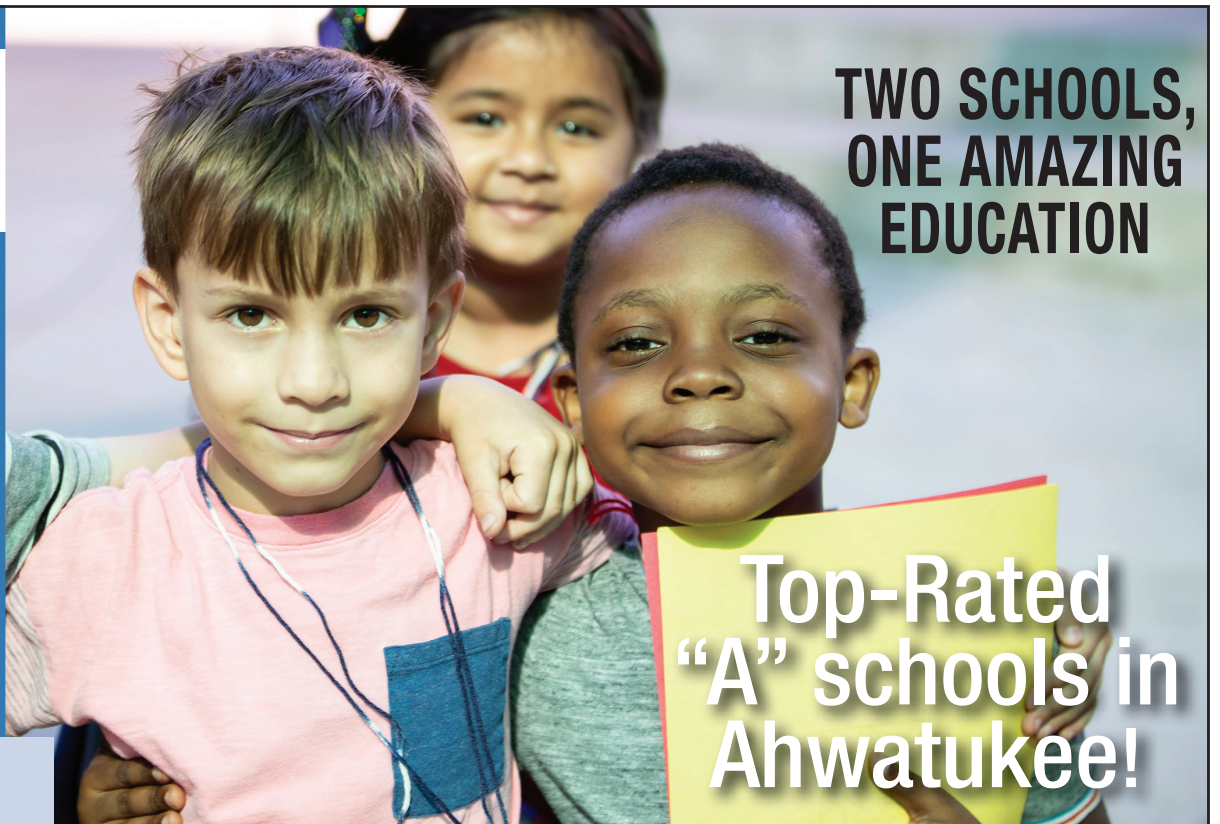
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# BRIEFLY

## Horizon Honors enrollment set

Horizon Honors schools, which are currently accepting lottery forms for 2021-2022 enrollment, has issued a reminder that lottery forms must be submitted online by Jan. 22.

In addition, the school will hold online Q & A sessions for interested as follows:

Pre-Kindergarten , Monday, Jan. 11 at 5 p.m.; Kindergarten , Monday, Jan. 11 at 6 p.m.; Grades 1-4, Tuesday, Jan. 12 at 5 p.m.; Grades 5-6, Tuesday, Jan. 12 at 6 p.m.; Grades 7-8, Wednesday, Jan. 13 at 5 p.m.; and Grades 9-12 Wednesday, Jan. 13 at 6 p.m.

To sign up for the lottery and/or the information sessions, visit [horizonhonors.org/lottery](http://horizonhonors.org/lottery) and complete the form.

Horizon Honors, located in Ahwatukee, consists of tuition-free, public, charter schools that provide continuous learning, K-12. Over 1,500 students from cities throughout the East Valley attend the schools. Both Horizon Honors Schools are graded "A" by the Arizona Department of Education.

## Input sought on marijuana regs

The passage of marijuana initiative, Prop 207, in November was the first step in creating new rules, licensing procedures and land-use regulations regarding marijuana in Arizona.

Now, Tempe residents took a survey regarding the aspects of the ordinance that the city can regulate. The survey is now completed. Visit [tempe.gov/forum](http://tempe.gov/forum) to get additional information.

Once results are tabulated, a proposed ordinance will be crafted and sent to the Development Review Commission and Tempe City Council. Anyone who would like to watch these meetings or participate in them should visit [tempe.gov/clerk](http://tempe.gov/clerk) for details. Meeting dates and times:

6 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2021:

Development Review Commission.

4:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 28: Tempe City Council Special Meeting, first public hearing.

6 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 11: Tempe City Council Regular Meeting, second and final public hearing.

For more information, email [planning@tempe.gov](mailto:planning@tempe.gov).

## Human services vols needed

Want to make a difference in the lives of your fellow Tempeans? Tempe Community Council's Agency Review program is seeking volunteers for 2021 to help direct human services funding that supports those in need in the community.

Agency Review is the process by which Tempe Community Council manages the distribution of human services funds for the city of Tempe. These funds total about \$1.2 million in grants to local human services organizations.

Grants support needed programs and services for children, families, those experiencing homelessness, older adults and others.

For the Agency Review program, TCC utilizes volunteers from the community to aid in the grant process. These volunteers review applications submitted from local nonprofit organizations, conduct interviews and make recommendations to the Tempe City Council for funding selected nonprofits.

No experience is needed to volunteer. To qualify, interested individuals need only be at least 18 years old and live or work in the city of Tempe. Once qualified, volunteers are required to attend training in January and work about 20 hours over a four-month period, from January to March. To apply, visit [tempecommunitycouncil.org/agency-review](http://tempecommunitycouncil.org/agency-review). Information: Kim Van Nimwegen at 480-858-2303 or [Kim\\_VanNimwegen@tempe.gov](mailto:Kim_VanNimwegen@tempe.gov)



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# Reducing waste, feeding area's hungry a win for community

By Janie Magruder

**H**earty chicken casserole, creamy au gratin potatoes, tasty green beans and other comfort foods were on the New Year's Day menu at two Tempe facilities that provide affordable housing to formerly homeless and low-income people.

None of the two dozen residents at Good Shepherd Homes of AZ - East are executive chefs, and most don't cook at all. But a few were able to warm up the dishes, enabling the diners to greet 2021 with full bellies.

The meal was thanks to Waste Not, a nonprofit that has created sustainable food systems in Arizona for more than 30 years. Nearly 1 million Arizonans — 1 in 4 children and 1 in 5 adults — struggle with

food insecurity because they lack consistent access to adequate food, according to Waste Note.

The organization collects perishable and prepared foods that otherwise would have been discarded into landfills. Donations come from grocery stores, restaurants, catering companies, resorts and event venues, and are delivered the same day to more than 70 nonprofit agencies serving those in need.

These agencies include homeless shelters, transitional housing, senior facilities, preschools, after-school programs, rehabilitation centers and food pantries. Waste Not has 56 volunteers helping its fleet of drivers who pick up and deliver about 3.5 million meals in metropolitan Phoenix each year.

This effort recently was streamlined by a new app developed by Waste Not partner Feeding America, which for 40 years has provided food to Americans in need through a nationwide network of food banks.

The app, MealConnect (mealconnect.org), enables food businesses to post available products for donation which then are matched seamlessly to local food banks and other nonprofit partners for distribution.

Before MealConnect, Waste Not was using staff drivers and refrigerated trucks to pick up and deliver, but that became costly especially when the coronavirus hit and donations dropped off, said Hillary Bryant, community engagement manager. MealConnect's launch last spring enabled Waste Not to begin using volunteer drivers at a time when area food banks

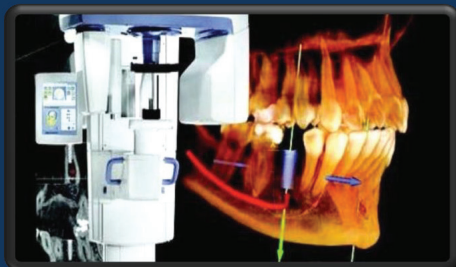
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Lauren Davis, service coordinator at Good Shepherd Homes of AZ East, participates in a Waste Not food delivery.

— Photo courtesy Steve Carr

were cutting back on volunteers due to risks from the coronavirus. The timing could not have been better, she said, given the jump in need due to the pandemic.

“The benefits have been three-pronged,” said Bryant, noting that more than 500 meals were

delivered via MealConnect in 2020. “It’s great to see the connection between those who have food to give, those who really need food and those who want to help their communities by volunteering in a way that they are not around a lot of people.”

Contributions of food, from major grocery stores and Arizona State University to swanky resorts and small businesses, have run the gamut, Bryant said. Trays of refried beans, boxes of cupcakes, crates of produce and individual containers of meals of salmon, broccoli and rice have been donated.

Recently, Waste Not received a large number of baked goodies from Urban Cookies, which were delivered to the Boys & Girls Clubs — an offering that did not disappoint.

“The kids went gaga,” she said. “A simple cookie brings joy in hard times.”

At Good Shepherd Homes, said service coordinator Lauren Davis, residents receive food from Waste Not every Wednesday — sub sandwiches, salads, sheet cakes and even meats, which they put into slow cookers, adding vegetables they’ve received from food banks, Stone Soup-style.

“There’s no hunger at Good Shepherd because of Waste Not,” Davis said. “A lot of our people came from homelessness, and they are grateful to have sandwiches and other heat-and-eat foods.”

In 2019, Waste Not rescued nearly 2 million pounds of food. Donations (visit [mealconnect.org/donate](http://mealconnect.org/donate)) are needed more now than ever, Bryant said.

“People often donate to a lot of food drives in the fall and winter, and then spring comes and that tapers off,” she said. “But hunger doesn’t just go away after the holidays are over, particularly in a pandemic.”



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The next in a series free of Tempe Virtual Job Fairs, [tempe.gov/JobFair](http://tempe.gov/JobFair) in which area companies will present hiring opportunities, are 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Jan. 26 and March 16.

It's a chance for job-seekers to learn about the companies and their openings directly from hiring managers/recruiters.

Companies must have at least 10 available positions to be eligible.

For employers, the benefit is enhancing brand awareness and marketing to a large local audience through targeted promotion and platforms.

Candidate matching to the positions will be done through Tempe's partnership with Career Connectors, PipelineAZ, Maricopa County/Az@Work and BestCompaniesAZ.

Job fair participation, job postings and candidate matching are all free to

employers and job seekers.

For details or to register go to [tempe.gov/JobFairs](http://tempe.gov/JobFairs).

About 10 companies will present at each job fair. Among the types of jobs available are IT, customer service, production and education.

By creating a job-match profile at Pipeline AZ, candidates are matched with open positions based their on skills.

They can be contacted by employers for interviews for 14 days following each job fair.

For questions, contact Sheila Coulam, 480-442-0583, or [contact@careerconnectors.org](mailto:contact@careerconnectors.org).

Employers interested in presenting at these events should contact Jill Buschbacher, economic development program manager, at [jill\\_buschbacher@tempe.gov](mailto:jill_buschbacher@tempe.gov).

For any who have been economically affected by COVID-19, inquiries are asked to check [tempe.gov/coronavirus](http://tempe.gov/coronavirus) for additional resources.

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# SPORTS . . . with Alex Zener

## Teams thankful to finally start winter season

The recent increase in COVID-19 cases that took Arizona's intensive-care units to more than 90 percent capacity caused the Arizona Interscholastic Association Executive Board to revise starting dates for high school winter sports seasons yet again.

The new starting date for competition now is Jan. 18. The AIA said the setback from Jan. 5 is for the safety of the student-athletes and to improve chances that the seasons can even be played and completed.



Alex Zener

Teams may practice for 14 days after students return to school following winter break.

The end of regular seasons now will be March 5.

Spring sports seasons are to open March 1. Conferences may modify the length of those seasons.

The Executive Board said that only a government prohibition of sports could change the winter sports start date.

There will be no scrimmages, invitationals or regional tournaments. Corona del Sol High basketball coach

**Neil MacDonald** said that he's just thankful his team gets to play.

### Corona del Sol boys basketball

The Corona boys basketball team has tried to stay focused and be ready when the season starts, according to MacDonald.

"We have worked hard not to dwell on it, or any of the negativity that is out there," MacDonald said. "We are grateful for every opportunity we have to be in the gym together, trying to improve.

"We appreciate that it appears we will have a season starting in mid January."

Corona has 15 players on varsity, including seven from last season.

Five of the returnees were starters or saw significant court time, including 5-foot-9 point guard **Roberto Yellowman**, 6-2 small forward **Elijah McDaniel**, 6-2 center **RJ Richey**, 6-1 shooting guard **Brandon Lee** and 5-11 shooting guard **Quinn Thorne**.

— ZENER, Page 21

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# Retrospective

## We look back with 20/20 vision on a year lacking the optics of normalcy

Coverage by Lee Shappell, Joyce Coronel, Billy Hardiman and the many contributors to our coverage of Tempe and West Chandler through a relentlessly unique year. Pages 16-19.

### 1. How our communities dealt with the COVID-19 pandemic.

People died. Businesses failed. Schools closed. We stayed home. Lives were disrupted. Nerves were frayed. Anger spilled. The virus took a horrible toll on our communities.

Yet the COVID-19 pandemic also revealed our heart, our spirit and our character.

We adapted. We worked together. We helped each other. And we got through it. Tempe Mayor Corey Woods' first state of the city address focused on Tempe's resiliency.

Indeed, Tempe worked with lenders to arrange emergency loans for small businesses. The Tempe Community Foundation provided grants to its most vulnerable residents. A Chandler physician used his battle savvy to charge through to provide care to patients. COVID survivors donated life-saving plasma to help others survive. SRP extended its shut-off ban. Tempe and Chandler were ahead of the curve as each relaxed regulations to allow restaurants to build makeshift patios to serve guests outdoors when inside dining rooms were not desirable – or even allowed.

Yes, we lost an Ostrich Festival, Oktoberfest, the Tempe Arts Fair and other traditional revenue-producing events. But Arizona's pioneering spirit never was more evident than in how we found a way to deal with unprecedented adversity.



CVS at 5975 W. Chandler Blvd. becomes early rapid-result COVID-19 test site.



Coronavirus survivor Sally Hartley donates plasma



Chandler physician Karl Viddal survived COVID-19



Stormy, left, and Rox Dodge get small business grant



Empty paper-goods shelves at a Tempe Walmart



## 2. Social justice moves to the forefront.

The Memorial Day murder of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer had ripple effects all the way to our neck of the woods. Our residents demanded more. More in how we treat each other. More equitable opportunities and resources. More from how our police engage and interact with us.

Even Tempe, long the Valley leader in addressing social issues, saw the need to improve. After several high-profile events involving inappropriate actions and use of force by officers, Police Chief Sylvia Moir agreed to resign. Woods convened the Public Safety Advisory Task Force, which conducted six meetings, addressing such things as police recruitment, hiring and training. It will issue a report early in 2021 that could include suggesting a package of Police Department reforms.

The Right to Breathe initiative was created in Tempe, which employs a holistic, comprehensive approach to how the city can proactively bridge the gap of opportunity for its youth of color and those in vulnerable communities.

Even as these initiatives were being rolled out, a White Tempe police officer was disciplined for holding a Black man at gunpoint despite searching for a White suspect at a Tempe hotel. The officer and his supervisor were disciplined.

Still, it was a year in which more voices were empowered and steps were taken toward systemic change.

## 3. The changing face of politics

In Woods, Tempe elected its first Black mayor. He is vibrant. He is an effective communicator. He has vision. Already he had given City Hall new energy. Those who've felt left behind and disenfranchised seem to have rallied behind Woods, who has been quick to push a social-reform agenda. He might not take Tempe in a drastically new direction, but he seems destined to get it to long-held goals faster.

Chandler elected two new City Council members, Christine Ellis and OD Harris. Chandler faces new challenges as it approaches build-out. Its western business community continues to reel from the pandemic. The newcomers have plenty to do. Continuing development of Chandler's high-tech industry will go hand-in-hand with its need for jobs creation.

## 4. The changing face of education

New superintendents will take their seats in Kyrene, Tempe Elementary and Chandler Unified school districts as Jan Vesely, Christine Busch and Camille Casteel, respectively, retire. The superintendent of Tempe Union High School District, Kevin Mendivil, is embattled as many parents rage over his decision to close campuses in favor of online distance learning during the pandemic.

Where are these districts headed with new leadership? Will cookie-cutter campuses continue – when they finally reopen – or will they specialize and be more different than alike to compete with charter schools and private facilities? It's all a bit of the unknown because all four districts also go into 2020 with two newly elected members on each School Board.



Corey Woods, Tempe's first Black mayor, is making changes



Jeff Glover, interim police chief; Sylvia Moir, resigned as chief; Officer Ronald Kerzaya, demoted



TUUSD parents fume over COVID-19 school campus closures

## 5. The changing face of commercial property

South Tempe has longed for the amenities of its neighbors north of the U.S. 60. High on the list are more restaurants, coffee shops and wine bars.

So it was particularly onerous to an energized group of neighbors when plans were revealed to put a Valvoline Instant Oil Change on a vacant lot on the corner Warner Road and McClintock Drive. They packed a hearing in front of City Council to protest. Eventually, they were heard, and the oil-change shop proposal was denied. It might not yet be over. Legal action could follow by the property owner, who insisted he followed all procedures for his proposal.

There was a collective gasp when the popular Tempe Public Market abruptly shut down at Rural and Warner roads. It was precisely the kind of establishment the community wants. But there was a collective sigh of relief when Postino moved quickly to take over the space and reopened as a wine bar under its brand in September.

Neighbors remain edgy about the future of a vacant parcel on the northwestern corner of Rural and Warner bordering the Tally Ho Farms development.

## 6. Preserving the face of residential property

Several Sunburst Farms neighbors, who enjoy owning horses and riding them on South Tempe bridal paths, said “neigh” when a property owner in adjacent Shady Lanes Estates built a block wall around his property that took 10 feet out of an easement dedicated to the equestrian community for the path. Tempe determined that the easement is private and, therefore, it has no legal enforcement abilities and that the wall does not require a city permit.

Neighbors also made it clear that they’re not crazy about group homes in residential areas. Corona del Sol Estates residents were furious when plans were revealed to put an assisted-living group home in their upscale South Tempe neighborhood. Rallies ensured over outcries of potential decreased property values.

In August, Jim Robinson, who’d purchased the five-bedroom, 3,000-square-foot home intending to convert it into an assisted living home for 10 residents, put the property up for sale. Group homes in residential areas remain legal in Tempe if proper permitting is obtained.

## 7. The reeling business community forges on

Each firm that furloughs employees or eliminate positions or goes out of business takes a piece of our community with it. Unemployment is a critical issue in Tempe and West Chandler. Arizona’s nation-low unemployment benefits do little to help.

Yet several firms also gave our area reason for hope. Carvana announced it was hiring 200 people in Tempe. CVS is bringing 500 jobs to Chandler.

Chandler created the “I Choose Chandler” campaign to focus on the importance of patronizing local businesses.



Postino replaces Tempe Public Market Cafe as a popular watering hole



Equestrian lovers, homeowners clash over South Tempe bridle path



Bogey's Sports Bar & Grill owner Elaine McCombie is thrilled to reopen

## 8. Iconic bridge damaged in downtown Tempe

It seems fitting that in 2020 a train wreck is among the top stories. After the billowing smoke had cleared from wreckage of a train that left the track, the southernmost 150 feet of the iconic, 108-year-old Union Pacific Railroad Bridge over the Salt River had sustained serious damage. Union Pacific on Aug. 2 blew up the unstable stretch in downtown Tempe and rebuilt it.

"I remember that bridge because my dad was an engineer for Southern Pacific for 34 years," said Harry Mitchell, 80, a former Tempe High civics teacher, city councilman, mayor, state senator and U.S. representative in the state's 5th Congressional District. "I remember crossing that bridge on trains many times because we used to take the train to California and back East."

"It is easy to forget that the railroad was the equivalent of the airlines and the interstate highway rolled into one," said Michael Monti, whose family for nearly six decades owned Monti's La Casa Vieja restaurant in a historic adobe building built in 1873 on the southern bank of the river. "It was the lifeblood of commerce, what the railroad could bring you and where it could take you, before the age of the automobile and the airplane."

## 9. Corona football's 1st undefeated season

While the program had taken a few lumps through the years amid a flurry of coaching changes, the senior class led the Corona del Sol High football team to its first-ever undefeated regular season and its first-ever berth in Arizona's Open Division playoffs, reserved for the best of the best. Further, the Aztecs' junior varsity and freshman teams also went undefeated, giving hope for continued success.

Week after week, the varsity's explosive offense scored at will and its stingy defense more often than not held opponents to single-digit scoring before being defeated by Hamilton in the playoffs.

The heart and soul of the team was quarterback Quade Swearingen, an example for every player on how to act off the field, work on the field and in the weight room, and excel in the classroom. By staying for four years, he changed the culture of players leaving after their freshman year or playing sports other than football.

## 10. Human trafficking: another pandemic

They're young, desperate and vulnerable. They're usually from difficult home backgrounds that left them seeking something: love, affection, food, shelter, money. And there are people out there who can't wait to prey upon them. Human trafficking isn't foreign to Tempe and Chandler. One need look no further than the major bust in January by a consortium of East Valley law enforcement entities, in which more than two-dozen people were arrested in a major human-trafficking bust. Then, on Aug. 24, a former University of Arizona football player who now lives in Tempe was indicted and arrested on human trafficking charges.

One alarming but not altogether surprising trend is that many of the victims have come through the foster-care system. When young people time out of the system, they become vulnerable to those who want to exploit them. "Kids are generally not abducted here. Trafficking is different than snatch-and-grab kidnapping," said Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowich, director of the ASU Office of Sex Trafficking Intervention Research, consultant to police departments from Las Vegas to Phoenix to Tucson and regarded as the leading expert in the Southwest. "These are complicated kids with complicated lives, so they're more likely to be trafficked than anyone else because they have more wants and more needs."



A fiery derailment destroys section of iconic Union Pacific railroad bridge



Quarterback Quade Swearingen, left, and Anyale Velazquez carry Aztecs to playoffs

# Civic, business, school and faith leaders answer our question: What are your hopes for 2021?



I continue to be inspired by Chandler's strength, innovation and spirit of giving. In 2021 we will work diligently to put our community first to see a bright, healthy and thriving year. Our community has an incredible wealth of entrepreneurs, businesses and organizations with which I look forward to

continuing our work together to make Chandler the best city to live, work and play. — **Kevin Hartke, Mayor of Chandler**



It's our hope that Arizona Community Church can continue to be a source of inspiration and hope to all our neighbors and friends in 2021. Never forget that the Lord loves you more than you can possibly imagine... and demonstrated this love by sending his own Son as the Savior of the

world! If you don't yet have a church home, please know that our doors are always open, and you are always welcome. — **Bill Meiter, Pastor of Arizona Community Church**



I think living through a world pandemic brought out our strengths as individuals, families, businesses and communities. Resilience, for one, comes to mind and it has been truly inspiring to see people and businesses alike lending support, reimagining companies to become part of the solution. We came together

to ensure not only the survival of each other, but our business community as well. I am confident you will see this continue in 2021. — **Terri Kimble, President and CEO, Chandler Chamber of Commerce**



2020 was unprecedented for the challenges it brought us. I am confident that 2021 will be unprecedented for the way we bounce back. We are resilient—especially our students—and I truly believe this pandemic is creating a generation of innovators and problem solvers." — **Laura Toenjes, Superintendent, Kyrene School District**

**Toenjes, Superintendent, Kyrene School District**



Respect, equality and justice for you is my hope in the days ahead. I pledge to lend you my hand. Never striking you with my hand or hurt you by my comments on social media. Hope arrives when I never lie about you only extend the kindness and truth of Jesus. Hope comes

when you do not doubt my resolve to look like, sound like and talk like Jesus. I offer hope to you by resetting my daily focus on knowing more about Jesus, His sufferings, resurrection, truth and mercy. In 2021 can we promise to show each other more of Jesus? — **Roger Ball, Pastor, First Baptist Church of Tempe**



It was a crazy 2020. My main hope for the coming year is that our world finds its way back to a sense of normal as we learn how to overcome the Covid virus. I hope also that our society can find a greater sense of peace and unity as we move into 2021. Locally, I hope that our neighbors

in the Kyrene Corridor have a healthy and prosperous new year, and that they can enjoy more quality time with family and friends.— **Randy Goff, Owner, Chandler Mortgage**



My hope for the next year is to find abundance in all our circumstances, have gratitude for all blessings and trials and increase in kindness in both word and deed. — **Leslie Walston, owner, Great Harvest Bakery**



The future of the Tempe Chamber is bright, and our outlook remains positive. As we move into 2021, we will continue to focus on our workforce initiatives while stepping up our advocacy efforts on behalf

of the business community. As businesses deal with the challenges the global pandemic created the need for a strong advocacy voice is more important than ever. Our ability to connect people and advocate for business allows us to continue serving our members and strengthening our community. — **Anne Gill, President and CEO, Tempe Chamber of Commerce**



My hopes for Tempe in 2021 all revolve around quality of life for our community members. The highest priority, of course, is reducing the number of COVID-19 cases through following safety precautions and having an ample,

well-run vaccine distribution. If we continue to pull together, we can resume life in 2021 in an even stronger Tempe – one that is both physically and economically healthy. I am also intensely focused on affordable housing, public safety, homelessness and supporting our local Tempe businesses. We have many initiatives and expanded services planned in all of these areas." — **Corey Woods, Mayor of Tempe**



I know I'm not alone in hoping for an end to the spread of COVID, as the vaccines become more widely available in our community. I also hope that 2021 can be the year of a "new normal" for our students and

their families—in the sense that we can all gradually return to a more normal way of life, and also carry forward the lessons of resilience and innovation that we learned via the events of 2020. — **Kevin Mendivil, Superintendent, Tempe Union High School District**

# Zener

From Page 15

“We lean heavily on returning seniors Roberto Yellowman and Elijah McDaniel,” MacDonald said. “Both have played varsity since their sophomore year and have a lot of big-game experience.

“In addition, we are expecting more production from RJ Richey this season. We are excited to see juniors Brandon Lee and Quinn Thorne come into their own this year after playing larger roles in the second half of last season. Both are talented guards who have bright futures.”

Other returning players include 6-2 senior forward **Talal Hasan** and 6-2 senior small forward **Jeffrey Maurer**.

The Aztecs also have **Gabe Pesqueira**, an experienced 6-2 senior transfer.

“Gabe will definitely add depth at the small forward position for us,” MacDonald said.

Corona has seven players new to the varsity, including two sophomores and a freshman.

“We believe our two sophomore bigs, 6-foot-8 **Ollie Hinder** and 6-foot-6 **Michael Dehorney**, will both contribute to our team success as well as 6-foot-5 junior power forward **Peyton Beauer**,” MacDonald said. “Our freshman player, 5-foot-10 **Preston Lee**, has been impressive this fall and will certainly add depth at the guard position.”

Additional new players include 6-5 junior forward **Nikola Kostadinovski**, 5-9 junior guard **Hunter Stratton** and 5-9 junior shooting guard **Raymond Lam**.

Despite restrictions placed on players during the off-season due to the coronavirus, such as no summer basketball camps and limited workouts in the fall, the skills of all players improved, according to MacDonald.

“We think we have a very balanced team this season on offense, defense and rebounding,” said MacDonald. “We have a number of players capable of contributing on any given night.”

According to the revised schedule on the AIA’s [azpreps365.com](http://azpreps365.com), Corona opens at home Jan. 19 against Desert Vista, followed by a Jan. 22 visit to

Mountain Pointe and a Jan. 23 home game with Perry.

On Jan. 26, the Aztecs face Desert Ridge at home before ending the month with a Jan. 29 visit to Highland.

No fans are allowed until COVID-19 metrics are appropriate. Some games are expected to be available on the subscription live-streaming NFHS Network ([nfhsnetwork.com](http://nfhsnetwork.com)).

## Additional fall sports state-championship results

Marcos de Niza High sophomore **Luke Sieveking** ran in the Division III cross-country state championships on Nov. 12 at Crossroads Park, placing 63rd among 150 runners from 18 schools.

McClintock’s girls cross-country team had seven runners in the Division II state cross-country championships. The Chargers took 10th among 16 schools.

McClintock’s lead runner was freshman **Alessandra Allocca**, 45th place among 137 runners, in 20 minutes, 54.2 seconds.

Allocca was following by freshman **Samantha Tillett** in 58th, sophomore **Taylor McLane** in 66th, senior **Olivia Fisher** in 85th, senior **Rachael Pabst** in 89th, senior **Ella Zeiders** in 96th, and freshman **Jenny Sanders** in 109th.

Marcos de Niza had six swimmers in the Division II state swimming and diving championships Nov. 7 at Rio Salado Swim Club.

The boys team took 18th place among 29 teams. Its 200-yard medley relay team of **Corbin Bray**, **Edwin Morales**, **Hayden Porter** and **Sam Supriyasilp** placed 16th.

Supriyasilp touched the wall in eighth place in the 200 individual medley in 2 minutes, 6.01 seconds. Bray tied for 20th in the 100 butterfly.

Porter took seventh in the 100 breaststroke in 1:03.07. Supriyasilp was 17th in 1:04.58.

**Michael Flaherty** placed 16th in 1-meter diving.

The Marcos girls swim team’s only state-meet qualifier, **Pyper Hatch**, tied for 20th in the 100-yard breaststroke in 1:15.34.

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# DIVERSIONS . . . with M.V. Moorhead

## Our master of film wizardry offers his 2020 'Best Of' list



First Cow, a well-received American drama chronicling the story of two men in the Oregon Territory during the early 19th century, is one of 2020's film offerings.



**W**eird in many far more important ways, 2020 was a weird movie year. For one thing, it was for most of us a vastly truncated moviegoing year; at this writing, I haven't gone to see a movie at a theater, either a press screening or a regular commercial showing, since my wife and I went to that new version of *Emma* in late March.

This is almost certainly the longest such stretch for me since I was a small child. I also haven't been to a movie at any kind of public venue at all since I went to see *Sonic the Hedgehog* at the West Wind Drive-In in Glendale a few days later.

All the same, I've managed to see quite a few movies.

Via streaming, DVDs and the like, movies have been a major diversion during the months of lockdown, as well as the months since the relaxation of lockdown during which many of us still haven't heard of a movie worth risking COVID infection to see on a

big screen.

The releases of lots of big-budget, screen-filling movies got postponed, like the James Bond flick *No Time to Die*. So 2020 turned out to be a year for the sort of movies that critics often claim to wish would get more attention: low-budget indies, obscure festival bait and—especially—documentaries to get releases and notice they might otherwise have struggled to find.

This year we got Korean small-town horror with *Zombie for Sale*, micro-budget Great Lakes absurdism with *Lake Michigan Monster*, sexual awakening at church camp with *Yes, God, Yes*, and a comic Scottish *Most Dangerous Game* with *Get Duked!* We got documentaries about everything from Harry Chapin to the Moonies to President 45's psychology. And all of them got a marketing push that would have been all but unthinkable the year before.

Anyway, here are the ten films that, at this writing, seemed like they helped me pass this Plague Year most agreeably:

*The Trial of the Chicago 7*—Aaron Sorkin's dramatization of the 1968-70 trial was as lively, funny, sad, cogent, thought-provoking and entertaining as anything I saw this year.

*First Cow*—The story of two guys trying to get

ahead in the Oregon Territory in the early 19th Century, directed and co-written by Kelly Reichardt, is an austere and heartbreaking take on the American Dream.

*Never Rarely Sometimes Always*—More tough but touching naturalism, this following a teenage girl in trouble as she and her best friend travel from small-town Pennsylvania to New York City. Sidney Flanigan gives one of the performances of the year in the lead.

*The King of Staten Island*—Pete Davidson co-wrote and stars in a semi-autobiographical comedy about a directionless young guy in the title borough, directed by Judd Apatow; Marisa Tomei plays his widowed Mom. The movie's a little poky and shapeless, but it's hilarious and good-hearted.

*Desert One*—The disastrous attempted rescue mission of the American hostages in Iran in 1980 is chronicled in this painfully honest documentary from Barbara Kopple, fleshed out with graceful animation by Zartosht Soltani.

*Promising Young Woman*—Carey Mulligan shines in this harsh but bracing and caustically witty rape-culture revenge shocker, an impressive feature debut for writer and director Emerald Fennell.

*Kajillionaire*—Maybe the strangest big-name release of the year, this deeply eccentric portrait of a family of the smallest of small-time grifters is made unforgettable by performances from Evan Rachel Wood, Richard Jenkins, Debra Winger and Gina Rodriguez.

*My Darling Vivian*—This documentary about Vivian Liberto, the first wife of Johnny Cash, is told by their four daughters. It's essential viewing for Cash buffs, but fascinating for anybody.

*The Way I See It*—Another documentary; this one about Reagan and Obama White House photographer Pete Souza's awakening to political engagement. There are maybe too many corny inspirational anthems, but the subject's photos are potent.

*Borat: Subsequent Moviefilm*—The *Candid-Camera*-on-crack style of comedy practiced by Sasha Baron Cohen is, I must admit, not my cup of tea; I find it excruciatingly embarrassing to watch at times. But there's also no doubt that Cohen, through the adventures of his "Kazakh" alter-ego Borat, makes highly trenchant and relevant satirical points, and Maria Bakalova, the young Bulgarian actress who plays Borat's daughter, brings the movie an unexpected dose of genuine emotion.

Happy New Year everybody; have a great 2021, at the movies and everywhere!

# Interim police chief alters procedures

## *Tempe officer's policy violation in hotel incident leads to changes within the department*

The Tempe Police Department, in the wake of disciplining an officer in an incident that cost the city \$300,000 for wrongfully holding a Black man at gunpoint, is implementing several new policies.

Interim Police Chief Jeff Glover said that TPD operational and policy changes as a result of recent use-of-force incidents include:

- Implementing policy modifications that are expected to result in endorsement from the 8 Can't Wait organization.
- Implementing additional levels of internal review for use-of-force incidents, including review of body-worn camera footage.
- Strengthening standards and overall expectation for professionalism with every interaction, which includes addressing the use of profanity.
- Ensuring whole-department de-escalation training by the end of 2021. Currently, de-escalation training has been provided to half of the department's officers through a partnership with Arizona State University.
- Dedicating a full-time supervisor for employee wellness with plans to expand into a larger wellness unit that will monitor and assist officers who respond to traumatic incidents and facilitate mandatory, regular counseling for officers.

Glover, who assumed his role Oct. 12, acknowledged calls from some community members to terminate the employment of Officer Ronald Kerzaya, who was involved in the hotel incident. Glover noted that Tempe adheres to a system of progressive discipline, meaning that certain actions equal certain specific discipline – unless it can be shown that an officer has a pattern of behavior for which he or she has been disciplined. Kerzaya had no previous discipline in Tempe.

“My determination of discipline in Officer Kerzaya’s case does not excuse his behavior, which was unacceptable and disheartening. We must address the behavior,” Glover said. “But we must also take responsibility and make the changes that will help ensure this does not occur again.”

Kerzaya will not return as a patrol officer for at least one year but will remain in an administrative role with the department. He also served a two-week unpaid suspension.

While searching for a White suspect at a call at a Tempe hotel this summer, Kerzaya held a Black hotel employee at gunpoint, which violated several policies, TPD said.

Kerzaya responded to the call Aug. 29 when the manager at Hawthorn Suites, 2301 E. Southern Ave., called Tempe Police about an armed man seen on the property. The gunman was reported as a White male.

Kerzaya was directed by the hotel manager to an exterior stairwell door. An African American man, hotel employee Trevonyae Cumpian, came through that door.

The officer held Cumpian at gunpoint until his identification could be verified with the hotel manager.

At a special meeting Dec. 9, the City Council approved a financial settlement of \$300,000 with Cumpian, who had filed a notice of claim, the precursor to a lawsuit.

Kerzaya will take part in a performance-improvement process and has passed a psychological examination that determines fitness for duty.

A third-party review of the incident will take place at Glover’s further policy and training changes may come out of that.

Tempe Police, in its internal investigation, said the interaction caused concern for police leadership and did not demonstrate the respect and professionalism expected of officers.

It also concluded that the officer’s supervisor, Sgt. Kevin Ameiss, failed to provide adequate supervision.

Ameiss, Kerzaya’s immediate supervisor at the time of the Hawthorn Suites incident, and who was also on-scene, received a 40-hour unpaid suspension. He was found through the department’s investigation to have not properly supervised Kerzaya or managed the scene at the hotel.

The Tempe Public Safety Advisory Task Force, convened by Mayor Corey Woods, is examining police operations and recommending a plan to the city manager for reimagined police services in the future that ensure fair and equal treatment of Black, Indigenous, people of color, homeless people and those with mental-health challenges. Woods said he will bring the Hawthorn Suites case to the task force for discussion.

City Manager Andrew Ching, who directly supervises Glover in his role, said he is satisfied with the plan to hold Kerzaya accountable and to make changes to better support, train and manage officers.

“People are hurting in Tempe and across our country, and rightfully angry about concerning cases involving police,” Ching said. “I share the determination that we must keep what is good about the necessary profession of policing while we create systems and foster behaviors that better respect the dignity of each individual.”

The Tempe Citizens’ Panel for Review of Police Complaints and Use of Force will review the hotel matter involving Kerzaya in January.

## Seating

From Page 3

on the ground floor of a building.

Businesses must submit an application and receive approval from the city. “On the Street” is not limited to restaurants nor to businesses downtown. It is citywide. Information on qualifications for the program can be found online at [chandleraz.gov/OnTheStreet](http://chandleraz.gov/OnTheStreet).

For more information or to initiate the application process, contact Downtown Redevelopment Specialist John Carter Owens at 480-782-3047 or email [john.owens@chandleraz.gov](mailto:john.owens@chandleraz.gov).

## Tempe’s Woods sees value in outdoor seating

Tempe had created a similar program, a free expansion-of-premises permit, allowing businesses into parking lots and sidewalks outside of shops, before Ducey’s executive order. On Dec. 8, Woods amended it to dovetail with Ducey’s order, extending to MAY 9, 2021.

Mayor Corey Woods signed a proclamation that allows retail businesses, restaurants and bars to expand onto city or private property without incurring a fee. It creates more space to safely serve customers. Additional review and approval is required by the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control if alcoholic beverages are to be served.

The state funds in Ducey’s “Safest Outside Restaurant Assistance Program” to help restaurants cover costs of expanding outdoor seating is \$1 million initially, to be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis for eligible businesses that have been approved for an extension of premises. To be eligible, applicants must comply with all COVID-19 related Executive Orders; demonstrate extension of premises approval by a local governing body and the Arizona Department of Liquor, if applicable; plan to extend the premises for a minimum of three months; must have fewer than 50 employees; and must be Arizona owned and operated. Applications opened Dec. 7.

More information is available at [azcommerce.com](http://azcommerce.com).

Additionally, The Arizona Office of Tourism is providing \$100,000 to help restaurants and other dining establishments safely and effectively expand outdoor dining options. The ARA will provide direct consultation to any Arizona dining establishment interested in expanding its premises to increase physical distancing and maximize seating capacity amid the pandemic.

ARA will assist in navigating the local and state permitting process, and provide application review. It will expand public-health campaigns that inform Arizona restaurants of current public-health best practices.

## Two virtual Council meet-ups

Councilmembers Lauren Kuby and Jennifer Adams will soon hold their regular conversation events.

Kuby's meet-up takes place at 6 p.m. Jan. 27 – check [tempe.gov/kuby](http://tempe.gov/kuby) for details. She will discuss sustainable and livable communities.

Adams' meet-up happens at 6 p.m. Feb. 3 – check [tempe.gov/adams](http://tempe.gov/adams) for details. She will focus on issues related to the 85281 zip code, though any resident is welcome. Please join either or both opportunities and bring your ideas and questions.

## City partners with ASU to offer COVID saliva tests

The City of Tempe and ASU are offering free COVID-19 saliva tests every Tuesday at Cahill Senior Center, 715 W. Fifth St. The university's free saliva-based COVID-19 test is quick and easy, with results in 24 to 48 hours.

Visit [tempe.gov/testing](http://tempe.gov/testing) to register for a test at Cahill Senior Center or find links to other testing dates and locations.

About 40 percent of people who contract COVID-19 never experience symptoms, so even those who feel fine should consider getting tested to stop the unintentional spread of the virus. In addition, people should be tested if they have: spent more than 15 minutes within 6 feet of unmasked people not in their core group; traveled by air; or been exposed to someone who has COVID-19.

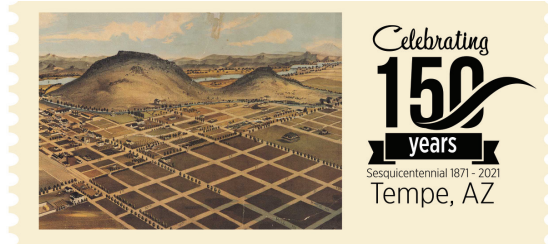
The City of Tempe has an abundance of pandemic information and resources at [tempe.gov/coronavirus](http://tempe.gov/coronavirus). Twice a week, we put out a COVID-19 focused email update – sign up to receive that or any other types of city emails at [tempe.gov/enevs](http://tempe.gov/enevs).



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## 150 years looks good on us

This new year marks Tempe's 150th birthday, also known as our sesquicentennial. We will not ask you to say that word three times fast.

For 15 decades, Tempe has innovated, explored, grown and become more diverse. Now, a year-long celebration of Tempe's past, present and future is underway. Our sesquicentennial will bring together businesses and organizations to showcase Tempe through a variety of events and interactive digital opportunities.

Tempe History Museum will unveil its new feature exhibit, "Tempe 150," which will bring to life photos, videos and artifacts dating back to our city's pioneer founding in 1871.

It all culminates with a community celebration in November.

Connect to Tempe's sesquicentennial events and exhibit at [tempe.gov/tempe150](http://tempe.gov/tempe150), or call the Tempe History Museum at 480-350-5100.

## Recognize great neighbors

Now, more than ever, compassionate, close-knit neighborhoods are a wonderful comfort. Every neighborhood has people, properties and practices deserving of thanks and recognition. Help us celebrate them by nominating a neighbor for a Neighborhood Award in categories including Neighbor of the Year, Property Beautification, Alley Upkeep, Sustainability and Water Conservation. Individuals or groups can nominate.

The submission deadline is Wednesday, Feb. 17. All nominees and category winners will be celebrated at the 2021 State of the Neighborhoods Awards and Workshops on Saturday, April 17.

Go to [tempe.gov/StateoftheNeighborhoods](http://tempe.gov/StateoftheNeighborhoods) for nomination forms and event details as available.

## Utility rate adjustments will begin in January

Following a public rate study and City Council approval, new rates for water and solid waste services go into effect Jan. 3.

The rates are expected to increase the utility bill for the median single-family home by about \$5.19 a month – \$3.25 for water and \$1.92 for solid waste services.

These rate adjustments will help ensure the reliability and affordability of basic water and solid waste services. They will also help support the replacement of aging infrastructure, which will mean fewer water main breaks and interruptions to service.

The increased solid waste collection rates will help us continue to address important issues like alley conditions, recycling diversion and growing the city's green organics program, all of which provide a better quality of life and long-term cost savings to residents.

Wastewater rates will remain the same.

Water and solid waste services are fully funded by ratepayers. Since city sales and property taxes do not fund these services, the costs must be recovered through residents' monthly fees. The 2021 rate adjustments are based on a detailed cost of service analysis to ensure that each utility customer class pays its proportionate share of the cost to provide those services.

If you have questions about the rate adjustments, contact Customer Service at 480-350-8361, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. More information about the rates and the public process to adjust them is at [tempe.gov/UtilityRates](http://tempe.gov/UtilityRates) – click on "2020 Utility Rate Study" in the left navigation bar.



# Tempe to honor individuals, groups with MLK awards

The MLK Diversity Awards, hosted by the city of Tempe and the Human Relations Commission, honor people who demonstrate a commitment to diversity, inclusion and who exemplify the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This year's program honors 11 people and organizations, including students, who work to make Dr. King's dream a reality.

The award ceremony will be broadcast live at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 1, and can be viewed via Tempe 11, Facebook, Cox cable channel 11 and on Century Link 8012.

Those selected to receive the award include: **African American Advisory Committee - Prayer Breakfast Sub-Committee** — Vera Brooks, Michelle Brooks-Totress, and Kim Dartez established the Black History Month Faith Action Prayer Breakfast in 2019 as part of their work with the African American Advisory Committee.

**Joseph Delgado** — As a freshman at Northeastern University, Joseph Delgado was introduced to Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. just after Dr. King had finished speaking at the Roxbury Church in Boston. After hearing Dr. King, Joseph made a vow to live his life in service to others. He has dedicated his

and time and energy getting people registered to vote in Arizona.

**Jazin Hodge** — An NYU student with his sights set on law school, Jazin Hodge can be found volunteering at the Boys & Girls Club Ladmo Branch, working with national groups on civic and leadership opportunities for young Black men or working on local food drives during the pandemic to ensure vulnerable youth don't go hungry.

Also being honored by the awards are: **Islamic Community Center; Margot and Maddy McArdle; Danielle Nieto; Project Humanities; Jazmine Reyes; Devynn Thurston; and Kay Wright.**

Information: [tempe.gov](http://tempe.gov)

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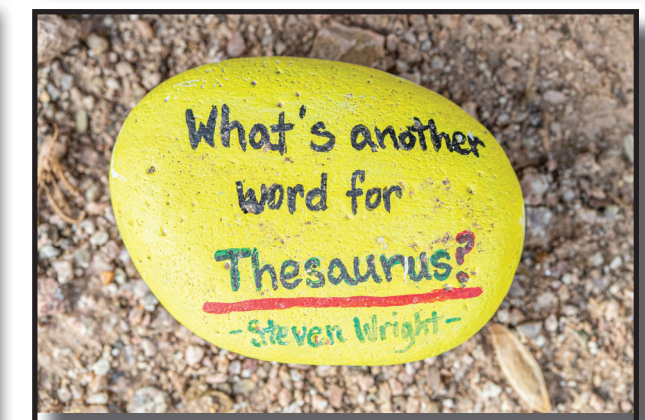
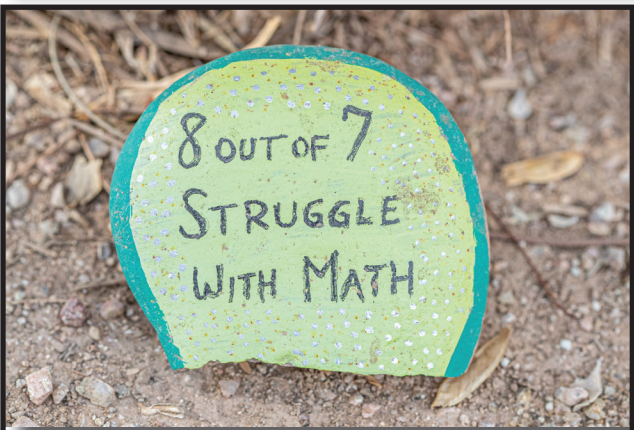
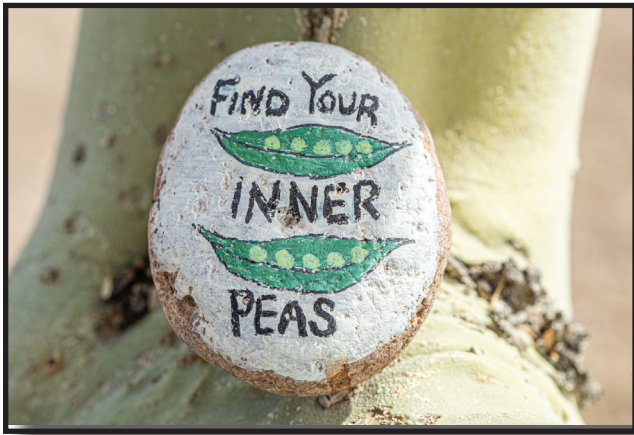
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*photos by Billy Hardiman*



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Announcements appearing in our Neighborhood Services section are placed by local business owners who want to be a reliable go-to source that you can trust now and in the future. Ads in this section appear in 6 consecutive issues at a cost of \$150, plus tax, which includes an accompanying classified ad at no additional charge. Call 480-966-0837 for information.

# Chandler Businesses! Apply for a free “I Choose Chandler PPE Kit”

*\*Must meet program qualifications*

## \$240 value—Kit includes:

- 2 boxes of 50 non-medical surgical masks
- 1 automatic hand sanitizer standing dispenser
- 1 gallon of hand sanitizer

To see if your business qualifies, visit:

[www.ChandlerChamber.com](http://www.ChandlerChamber.com)

Call 480-963-4571



*“Protecting public health has been Council’s top priority throughout the pandemic. The I Choose Chandler PPE Kit Program is another way the City continues to create innovative programs to keep employees and patrons safe, while providing much needed assistance to our business community.” ~ Chandler Mayor, Kevin Hartke*

Chandler businesses must meet the following criteria to be eligible for a PPE Kit:

- Be a registered business with the City of Chandler
- Have 100 or less employees
- The following are excluded from qualifying: Non-Profits, home based businesses, vacation rentals, rentals of commercial property, internet based businesses, kiosks or vending businesses, car service provider (i.e. Uber, Lyft, other taxi service)

Visit [www.ChandlerChamber.com](http://www.ChandlerChamber.com) to fill out the application.

# Quality of police services, condition of streets are among your top priorities

Commentary by Jennifer Adams



Each year, the City of Tempe asks residents how satisfied they are with a variety of facilities and services we provide. And, thankfully, each year you eagerly respond and give us your honest opinions. The 2020 Tempe Community Survey is available to read at [tempe.gov/survey](http://tempe.gov/survey).

While it is a long, detailed document, the survey results are broken down into charts, graphs and maps that make it easier to absorb how our community is feeling about various topics.

I hope you will make a point of checking it out and reading about how your neighbors feel. You can also dive as deeply as you would like to see the data behind the numbers, including the geographic and demographic breakdowns of the feedback.

In the 2020 survey, which was distributed by mail to thousands of randomly selected households

late last summer, you told us that your top priorities for the next year are police services, the condition of city streets and sidewalks, human services and neighborhoods.

Each survey respondent was asked to choose no more than three priority areas and the top areas selected were: police services (41 percent); condition of city streets and sidewalks (27 percent); social/human services (23 percent); and neighborhoods (23 percent).

Other survey responses that I found interesting included:

- 92% of residents are satisfied with the fire services of Tempe Fire Medical Rescue.
- 80% of residents are satisfied with feelings of safety in their neighborhoods, which is up from 74% in 2019.
- Feelings of safety at night in neighborhood parks, desert parks and larger destination parks have all improved.
- 87% of residents are satisfied with residential trash collection services, which is up from 85% in 2019.
- 74% of residents are satisfied with the quality of city golf courses, which is up from 69% in 2019.

In the coming weeks and months, we will keep community members informed about how the city is

approaching the top priorities named in the survey.

Work is ongoing in all service areas and some proposed investments may be reflected within the budget for the 2021-22 fiscal year, which begins July 1.

Many of the survey questions we pose each year are related to the performance measures we have established as a city. Tempe offers online dashboards to track how we are doing with achieving our goals with these performance measures. You can visit [tempe.gov/StrategicManagement](http://tempe.gov/StrategicManagement) to view the dashboard.

Please do not forget about my next Join Jennifer virtual conversation event. It is happening Wednesday, Feb. 3, at 6 p.m.

While we will be focusing on topics of interest to the 85281 zip code, any residents are welcome to participate. Visit [tempe.gov/adams](http://tempe.gov/adams) for the link and instructions to join.

As always, I hope you reach out to me anytime with ideas, questions or concerns.

Please email me at [jennifer\\_adams@tempe.gov](mailto:jennifer_adams@tempe.gov), call me at 480-350-8835 and follow me on Facebook at JenniferAdamsTempe.

*Jennifer Adams is a member of the Tempe City Council.*



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## Carol Royse, Luxury Division, announces her “Trade Up Program”

Many home sellers are concerned with the market being so limited in inventory their home would sell too fast, and the question arises, “where would we go.” Carol Royse, CEO of the Carol Royse Team has solved this dilemma by instituting a new program that solves this housing dilemma.

Royse knows, when a home seller who is moving up and looking to buy, find themselves inevitably stuck in a “Catch 22” situation. Either they sell their present home first and take the risk of not being able to find the right home, or they take the risk of owning two homes. The thought of storing their furniture and artwork is not appealing. Or they place a contingent offer on the home they are wanting to buy, knowing most sellers will not accept a contingent offer. This dilemma can lead to confusion and frustration. Until now, the only solution has been buying a home while not having their current home sold and risk owning two homes. Many sellers are concerned with the thought of maintenance on both homes and keeping the home they are selling in “show condition.”

Carol’s “Trade Program” allows sellers, who are likewise buyers, to step out of this undesirable situation completely. As a rule, most buyers who look at homes over \$700,000 already own a home. Since higher priced homes do not attract first time buyers, Royse’s Trade Program works well for those home sellers.

If you find yourself in this “Catch 22” situation, Call Carol Royse today for a no-obligation consultation on the Carol Royse “Trade Up Program”. Carol Royse is an expert in the sales of high-end real estate. A member of Keller Williams Luxury Division, bringing global home buyers and sellers together. Hosting a local radio show each week, Carol brings accurate, local real estate information to Tempe and the surrounding areas. Carol is a sought-after speaker and trainer on Real Estate. She is considered a leader in the Real Estate Industry.

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**Tune in Every Sunday from 2 to 3 pm**  
**on 550 KFYY to hear the**  
**"Carol Royse Radio Show" or go to**  
**[CarolHasTheBuyers.com](http://CarolHasTheBuyers.com) to listen to our Podcast**



**I can help you to better understand what to do to get your home market ready. Call Carol today for a no obligation consultation.**

*I am here to serve you and the needs of our community at the highest level.*

**Carol Royse, Keller Williams Realty East Valley**

*Each Keller Williams® Office is Independently Owned and Operated*



**Don't Get Stuck Owning 2 Homes - Ask About Our Trade Up Program**