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YOUNGTOWN

Village Reporter

VOLUME 6 NUMBER 3

youngtownaz.org

March 2012

Youngtown Village Reporter
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General Plan 2025

It is time for Youngtown to update its General Plan! The State of Arizona requires that each municipality provide an update of its General Plan every ten years. This is a great opportunity for Town residents to voice their hopes and dreams for the future of Youngtown.



Gayle Cooper, Youngtown's Economic Development Consultant.

One of the important items that will be woven through this latest General Plan is sustainability, and one of the ways in which sustainability can be achieved is through a concerted effort toward economic development. As a result, this update, labeled General Plan 2025, will contain a section, or Element, on Economic Development.

Would you like to see the Town progress and thrive? Do you have ideas regarding how that can be accomplished?

If so, please join the Blanton & Cooper consulting team for the first public meeting:

Visioning Exercise will be March 12, 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Town Hall Clubhouse, 12033 Clubhouse Square. *See you there.*



GENERAL PLAN UPDATE INVITATION TO PUBLIC WORKSHOP

How would you like Youngtown to look in 2025?

Your opportunity to chart the town's future is now!

The first **PUBLIC MEETING** for input into the General Plan Update will be held on March 12th from 7:00 till 8:30 PM. Joe Blanton and Gayle Cooper of Blanton & Cooper, LLC will meet with the public for a *Visioning Workshop* to explore the ideal image of Youngtown in 2025.

Town Hall Clubhouse
12033 Clubhouse Square
Youngtown, AZ 85363

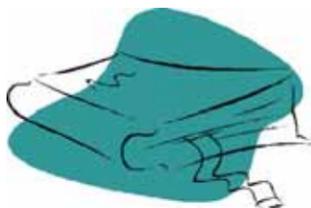


Additional information about the General Plan Update process may be obtained by contacting Joe Blanton of Blanton & Cooper at 623-256-8439.

BLANTON & COOPER

Story Time at the Youngtown Public Library

If you are between 2 and 5 years old, and want to hear some amazing stories and do some coloring projects, come to Story Time at the Youngtown Public Library on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.



Want to learn more about what is going on at the Youngtown Public Li-

brary? Read Youngtown's March library news on page 4.

In The Works: Managing the Youngtown's lake

By **JIM FOX**
PUBLIC WORKS MANAGER

As many of you know, Youngtown has its own Lake. Maricopa Lake, at the western edge of the Town between Connecticut Avenue and just south of Alabama Avenue, is another in the list of Youngtown's Parks. In the lake we have fish, turtles, and water fowl.

The lake is an oasis in the center of the Metropolis to get away from it all and just enjoy the peace and quiet. I see many fishermen enjoying the lake with the "catch and release" rules of the lake, as well as families enjoying the ducks and others just walking on the walking path around the lake. The lake brings

so much enjoyment to all of our residents. Unfortunately, the lake has become neglected in the past several years, regarding the maintenance required to keep a lake looking attractive and an amenity to the park. Just this last week, we treated the lake with an algaecide and some other chemicals to get the lake back to what it should look like. But this is a temporary measure that needs to be done repeatedly. We have placed a budget proposal together to rejuvenate the lake over the next three years which will involve some additional work to maintain the lake the way we all want it to look.

Meanwhile, enjoy the tranquility of another of Youngtown's amenities.



YOUNGTOWN COMMUNITY DAY

Saturday, March 10, 2012, 9 a.m. – Noon

Greer Park -112th Avenue and Alabama



CO-SPONSORED BY THE TOWN OF YOUNGTOWN AND MARICOPA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Events and Informational Booths:

- MCSO Swat Team including a tactical vehicle Demonstration
- Bomb Disposal Team with the remote controlled robot
- K-9 Team Demonstration
- Trails/Search and Rescue Team and Vehicles
- Maricopa County Animal Control
- Youngtown Code Enforcement

This is Youngtown residents' opportunity to meet MCSO deputies, support staff and available resources from the Maricopa County Sheriff's Department!



Mayors Message...Making a better Youngtown

By **HONORABLE MICHAEL LeVAULT**
MAYOR
TOWN OF YOUNGTOWN

Over the past several years, Youngtown Town Council and staff have worked diligently to complete major, often decades overdue, infrastructure improvements and to win millions of dollars in grants to finance them:

* Street lights have now been installed in virtually every neighborhood in town.

* Nearly eight miles of alleys have now been paved, bringing Youngtown into compliance with Maricopa County's 5% reduction plan for PM 10 emissions.

* Phase 1 of the 4-phase fire-flow project has been completed, phase 2 funding has been secured and application has been made for financing of final phases 3 & 4. Completion of this project will bring town-wide fire-flow up to international fire code standards

and greatly improve fire safety.

* A plan has been developed and partially funded to eliminate the stop sign and dog-leg intersection at Peoria and 115th Avenues and replace them with a sweeping curve entering the Agua Fria Ranch subdivision from the north. This will allow quicker access and response by first responders and emergency vehicles. Youngtown was recently awarded just

under \$200,000 in grant monies to help finance this project.

* The older section of Peoria Avenue, from 111th Avenue to 115th Avenue has been completely rebuilt and upgraded to better handle the heavy traffic flow in and out of Agua Fria Ranch. This rebuild was also engineered to better handle water runoff during heavy rain.

These improvements are all being done on a

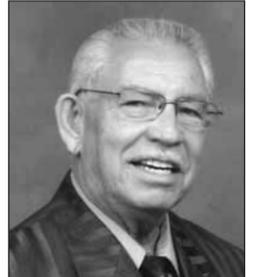
pay-as-you-go basis; the town has incurred no debt to finance them. While doing all this we have managed to build a surplus, or rainy day fund, of around 60% of annual expenditures. Prudent outsourcing of services, such as the recent contract with Maricopa County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) for policing, will allow the Town to continue to improve its fiscal condition.

This next year will be

critical for Youngtown. We will continue to make fundamental decisions about our Town's future while creating a vision to enhance economic development. There will be lots of opportunities, like the recently seated Citizens' Tax Advisory Committee (CTAC), for citizen input and involvement in this process. Continued citizen involvement will help us create and sustain a bright and vibrant future for Youngtown.



Mayor Michael LeVault



Vice Mayor Jack Duran



Councilmember Margaret Chittenden



Councilmember Susan MacKay



Councilmember Dorena Mello



Councilmember Shirley Oglesby-Gustafson



Councilmember Judy Johnson



Mayor Jackie Meck, Mayor Tom Schoaf, Vice Mayor Joe Pizzillo, Mayor Mike LeVault, Mayor Lana Mook, Mayor Sharon Wolcott and IMS Dr. John Dover congratulated runners at the IMS Marathon finish line. Read about the IMS Marathon on page 8.

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Youngtown Contact Information

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Mayor and Council: 623-933-8286
Town Administration: 623-933-8286
Building Inspector: 623-933-8286 Ext. 117
Code Enforcement: 623-933-8286 Ext. 133
Library: 623-974-3401
Municipal Court: 623-972-8226
Emergency: 9-1-1
Non-emergency: 602-876-1011
Public Works: 623-933-8286 Ext. 117
Website: www.youngtownaz.org
Town Administrative Office hours:
Monday through Friday: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
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Published monthly by the Town of Youngtown
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TOWN OF YOUNGTOWN COUNCIL ACTIONS REGULAR MEETINGS

DATE: Feb 2, 2012
TIME: 6:50 p.m.
PLACE: TOWN CLUBHOUSE, 12033 CLUBHOUSE SQUARE

Approved: Resolution 12-04 authorizing the Town of Youngtown to submit a revised Five-Year Consolidated Plan governing the use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for the final fiscal years FY 2013-2014 and FY

2014-2015. Approved: Contract for General Plan 2025 by consultant Blanton & Cooper, LLC at a cost not to exceed \$19,500 and to end by June 30, 2013.

DATE: Feb 16, 2012
TIME: 6:45 p.m.
PLACE: TOWN CLUBHOUSE, 12033 CLUBHOUSE SQUARE

Approved: Resolution 12-05 repealing Resolution 11-29 and

adopting eligibility requirements and rules for usage of the Town Clubhouse by the general public.

Approved: Resolution 12-06 adopting a fee schedule for reserving the use of town parks facilities by the general public.

Approved: Ordinance 12-03 amending the code of Youngtown, Arizona, Title 5 Business Licenses and Regulations, Chapter 5.04 Business Li-

censes Generally, by adding New Section 5.01.100 Fingerprint Processing related to granting the Arizona Department of Public Safety the authority to process fingerprint cards required under certain sections of Title 5.

TOWN OF YOUNGTOWN COUNCIL ACTIONS SPECIAL MEETINGS

DATE: Feb 21, 2012
TIME: 7:34 p.m.
PLACE: TOWN CLUBHOUSE, 12033 CLUBHOUSE SQUARE

Approved: Resolution 12-07 Expressing support for a low-income senior housing development and authorizing and directing the

Town Manager, Town Clerk, and Town Attorney to take all steps necessary to carry out the purposes and intent of this resolution.

Resident competes in Ms. Senior Arizona Pageant

Local Youngtown resident, Ferris S. Whitfield, will be competing in the Ms. Senior Arizona Pageant on March 24, 2012. The 23rd annual pageant will be held at Valley Vista High School Performing Arts Center

in Surprise. The winner of the pageant will compete in the Ms. Senior America Pageant in April in Florida. As the only Youngtown contestant, we wish Ms. Whitfield good luck in the pageant!

? Monthly Trivia ?

1. Who was the president whose first, middle and last names all had the same number of letters?
2. What bird's eye is bigger than its brain?
3. How did the Jeep acquire its name?
4. What did the 45-foot tall "Hollywood"

5. What were the names of the 3 baseball-playing DiMaggio brothers?
6. What gangster's business card read: "Second-hand Furniture Dealer"?



See answers on page 7

If you have an interesting trivia question that you would like to submit, send it to Jamie Boyett at jamieboyett@cox.net.



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SUNDAY SCHOOL
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- WORSHIP 10:00 AM

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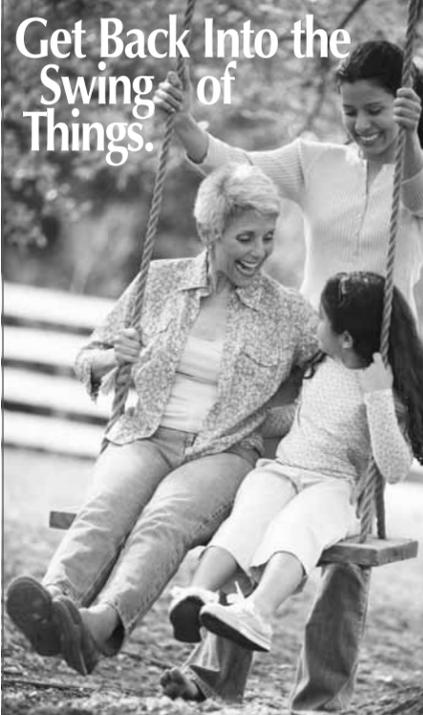
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NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITY

To submit your article, e-mail it to:
jamieboyett@cox.net

The right to accept or reject material rests with the publication editor

Youngtown Public Library March 2012 News

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

The Youngtown Library is still caring for a stray cat, while we have been trying to find his owner. He has become a welcome addition to our staff, and we have appropriately named him "Dewey", after the book of the same name. The book is based on the true

story of a beloved library cat of Spencer, Iowa, and also after the Dewey Decimal System. The charming story tells the tale of a kitten who was stuffed into a library book return slot, and rescued the next day by the library director. Come to the library and check-out

the book or come in and visit our very own Town Library cat. You can follow his adventures on our blog, "youngtownlibrary.tumblr.com".

The library is open on all Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (except for holiday weekends). We will be closed on Saturday, March 17, 2012 in observance of St.

Patrick's Day.

Story Time continues on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. for ages 2 - 5.

Resume Writing assistance is available with Diana Green, our library clerk, on Mondays and Tuesdays from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

The library is always happy to receive donations

in the form of hard back books and DVD's. Also, if anyone is looking into their estate planning, our library would greatly appreciate anyone who wants to bequeath part of their estate to our library fund. The library offers a large selection of books, magazines, and newspapers, for travel, organization, cooking,



reading, and many other areas. Come and look at all the information. There are community notices, Youngtown Clubs to join and volunteer opportunities.

Hours of operation are: Monday - Friday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Saturdays 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

The Youngtown Historical Museum is open for tours by appointment.

*Heidi Speed,
 Library Manager
 623-974-3401*

'Friends of the Youngtown Library' host March Madness Sale

The "Friends of the Youngtown Library" have had a lot of nice things happening at our library. The "Books and More" sale in December was a nice success. The proceeds were given to the library to be used for Audio Books on CDs. This was the "Friends" way of giving back. The Library

had donated many of their old audio cassettes (that were no longer being checked out) to the sale. With the money they have purchased 14 new audio books on CDs. Some of the titles are: Steve Jobs by Walter Isaacson, Every Day a Friday: How to Be Happier 7 Days a Week by Joel

Osteen, Zero Day by David Baldacci, Lethal by Sandra Brown, The Time of Our Lives by Tom Brokaw and many more.

Two of the "Friends" members made seasonal tablecloths for the front entrance display table. It adds a nice festive touch for our patrons.

The "Friends" participated with an information table at the Town of Youngtown/AARP Chapter #1 Health Fair in February.

Our ongoing sale at the Library will feature VHS tapes. Come in for the March Madness Sale and get three for \$1.00 beginning March 1.

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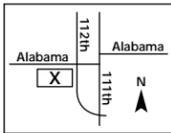
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Many people came out to enjoy the 8th Annual AARP Health Fair.

AARP News: Health Fair a success

The 3rd Annual AARP Chapter #1 Health Fair was a huge success. Thank you to everyone who participated and came out to the event.

The next AARP Chapter #1 meeting will be on Friday, March 2, beginning with a potluck dinner at 5:30 p.m. Meetings are open to all national AARP members.



8th Annual AARP Chapter #1 Shred-a-Thon

Saturday, April 7th
8 a.m. until Noon

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From the Bench...The 83 year old woman

The 83 year old woman never dreamed that she would be losing her life savings when she answered the phone that evening. On the other end of the line was a smooth talking man who said he represented a company that would come out

and inspect the woman's mobile home for any repairs that might be needed.

The caller stated that the inspection service was free of charge and with no obligation. The sales pitch sounded reasonable to the woman and she agreed to meet with the inspectors the following day.

The next morning several individuals arrived to "inspect" the woman's mobile home. They stated that they were licensed and bonded contractors, but provided no proof or documentation.

They assured the woman that they were specialists, experienced in all areas of mobile home repair. After completing the "inspection" they advised the woman that her mobile home needed leveling, new plumbing and numerous other "urgent" repairs that would cost in excess of \$5,000.

No written evaluation of the repairs needed or estimates of costs was given to the elderly widow, but she wrote them a check anyway as a down payment to start the work.

Over the course of the next few weeks, she secured another \$3,000 from her mea-



Lex Anderson
Town Magistrate

ger savings and gave it all to the defendants in this case. At no time did the individuals that received payment make or attempt any repairs to the woman's mobile home. The woman later stated to investigators that she called the defendants and asked about the work that was to be done, only to get a variety of excuses as to why they had not started the job.

Eventually, the woman went to the police as well as the Arizona Registrar of Contractors office. It was discovered that the defendants in this case never had been licensed contractors, and to the contrary, records showed that the same defendants had previously been charged and convicted for contracting without a license.

A case agent from the Registrars of

Contractors office suggested that an independent repair service organization conduct an inspection on the woman's mobile home. She agreed and was subsequently informed that none of the repair or "leveling" was ever needed. Based on this information, the absence of a contractor's license, as well as the criminal history of the defendants, the police became involved in the matter. A criminal history check showed that the defendants had lengthy records as well as current outstanding arrest warrants in three states including Arizona.

The woman in this case was able to pick out all of the defendants from a police photo lineup and arrests were made of all the suspects.

After the story came out in the newspaper, more victims came forward and aided in the prosecution. Defrauding anyone, especially the elderly is a shameful crime. Hopefully the public will become aware that all it takes is a phone call to the Registrar of Contractors office to find out if a person is really licensed.

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~ KARATE - FITNESS - KICK BOXING - MEN - MMA - WOMAN ~

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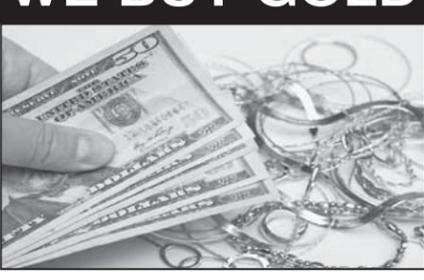


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Linking safety and code...

Spring is high weed season for Code Enforcement

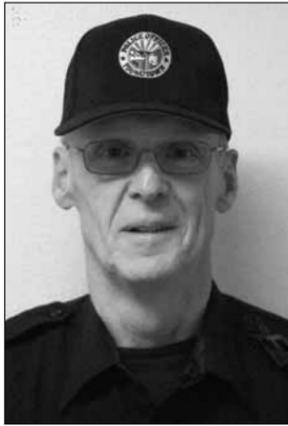
Spring is here, which means the Town's two code enforcement officers are out in full force to address seasonal violations.

The code enforcement division has opened numerous cases in the past couple of weeks for high grass and weeds. This is typical for this time of the year and you'll see that increase rapidly if we get any rain. The Town of Youngtown considers any grass over six inches or any weeds

to be within violation according to Chapter 8 of the Code.

In addition to getting the noxious weeds and grass issues dealt with, code enforcement is responsible for investigating who is responsible for the vacant property in hopes of obtaining voluntary compliance. If voluntary compliance is not obtained the town could ultimately have the property abated and a lien assessment applied.

Although most vio-



Mike Kessler

lations are addressed without issuing a citation here in Youngtown, some cases call for a fine to be issued.

There are many reasons for controlling the height of grass and having weeds removed. It preserves the value

of the home and beautifies the town. It also contributes greatly to the health and safety of you and your neighbors. This can cut down on the problems for allergy sufferers too.

Thank you for taking pride in the town you live in.

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Deputy Dawg...MCSO in action

This month we are introducing a new Youngtown Village Reporter column which will reflect interesting facts and actions by Youngtown's policing force, Maricopa County Sheriff's Office (MCSO).



Youngtown is in MCSO's District III which also provides policing services to Sun City, Sun City West, and Aguila. There are 61 personnel and 42 deputies in District III and there are six deputies and one detective

assigned just to Youngtown.

There are various MCSO details that address particular areas of public safety. One is called District III's Sheriff's Criminal Action Team (SCAT).

The SCAT personnel specialize in a proactive approach to law enforcement by targeting areas that are either high crime areas (i.e., speeders) or need for extra law enforcement.

During two separate details during January, SCAT issued 43 civil citations and three criminal citations. It is important to keep in mind SCAT's activities are over and above the normal MCSO operations responding to calls for service, etc. in the Town of Youngtown.

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Answers to Monthly Trivia questions

1. Ronald Wilson Reagan.
2. Ostrich.
3. Jeep is an abbreviation used in the Army for "General Purpose" vehicle

4. Hollywoodland.
5. Joe - Vince - Dominic.
6. Al Capone

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On Sunday, Feb. 19, Councilmember Dorena Mello and other Youngtown residents manned the Mile 8 water station for the IMS Half-Marathon. They provided water, Gatorade and support for the participants. Thank you to the QT staff on Olive Avenue and Agua Fria Ranch Parkway for donating cups.

IMS Marathon runaway success

Hundreds of runners participated in the fourth annual IMS (Integrated Medical Services) marathon race on Sunday, Feb. 19. Participation was up a whopping 30% over last year. The event generated donations of more than \$65,000 for local charities and causes.

Courses for a marathon, half marathon, and 5K race took runners through several West Valley towns and cities. This year, the half marathon wended its

way through the northwest valley communities of Surprise, El Mirage, Youngtown, and Peoria before terminating at Westgate shopping center in Glendale.

Town Councilwoman Dorena Mello organized a group of volunteers at a water station at mile 8 in Youngtown.

Mayor Mike LeVault joined Mayors from Buckeye, El Mirage, Litchfield Park and Surprise to congratulate runners at the finish line.

West Valley Genealogical Society News

Upcoming meeting will feature guest speaker Byron Bailey

Byron Bailey, President of the Farmington, MI Genealogical Society, delegate to the Michigan Genealogical Council, Family Search Group Administrator for the U.S. Michigan County marriages 1820-1956 indexing project, and confirmed "genealogy-holic", will speak on The Forgotten War--The War of 1812 at the March 12 Meeting. Mr. Bailey has been active in genealogy since 2005. He has presented and held workshops for the Farmington, MI Community Library where he introduces genealogical databases.

The meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m., Monday, March 12, at the First Presbyterian



Byron Bailey is the guest speaker at this month's West Valley Genealogical Society meeting.

Church, 12225 N. 103rd Ave., Sun City. Attendance is open to anyone interested in pursuing family history. Bring a friend.

The West Valley Genealogical Society, partnering with the Arizona Association of University Women, will host an Arizona Centennial Luncheon on March 15 at 12:30

p.m., at Palmbrook Country Club, Sun City, Arizona. Guest Speaker Jim Turner, MS-History, University of Arizona, noted retired historian from the Arizona Historical Society, free-lance editor, teacher, researcher, and author, will speak on "Mr. Gadsden's Purchase - or - Why Arizona Does Not Have a Beach". Registration and a \$20 fee covering expenses of the event are required by March 2. Door prizes will be awarded. Registration Form is available at azwvgs.org. For questions call the WVGS Library at 623-933-4945. Come and learn about one of the unique events in Arizona history.

Wanita Zarumba, Publicity, West Valley Genealogical Society

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