



## Council discusses proposed dog park

On June 18, an interested and creative group of 21 local residents met to discuss a prospective dog park in Youngtown. They brought ideas and thoughts to make this project a reality.

The initial, short-noticed meeting was advertised through flyers handed out at the Town Hall, Youngtown Library and surrounding area where people walk their dogs.

MORE DOG PARK ON 10

# Youngtown to begin major fire flow improvement project

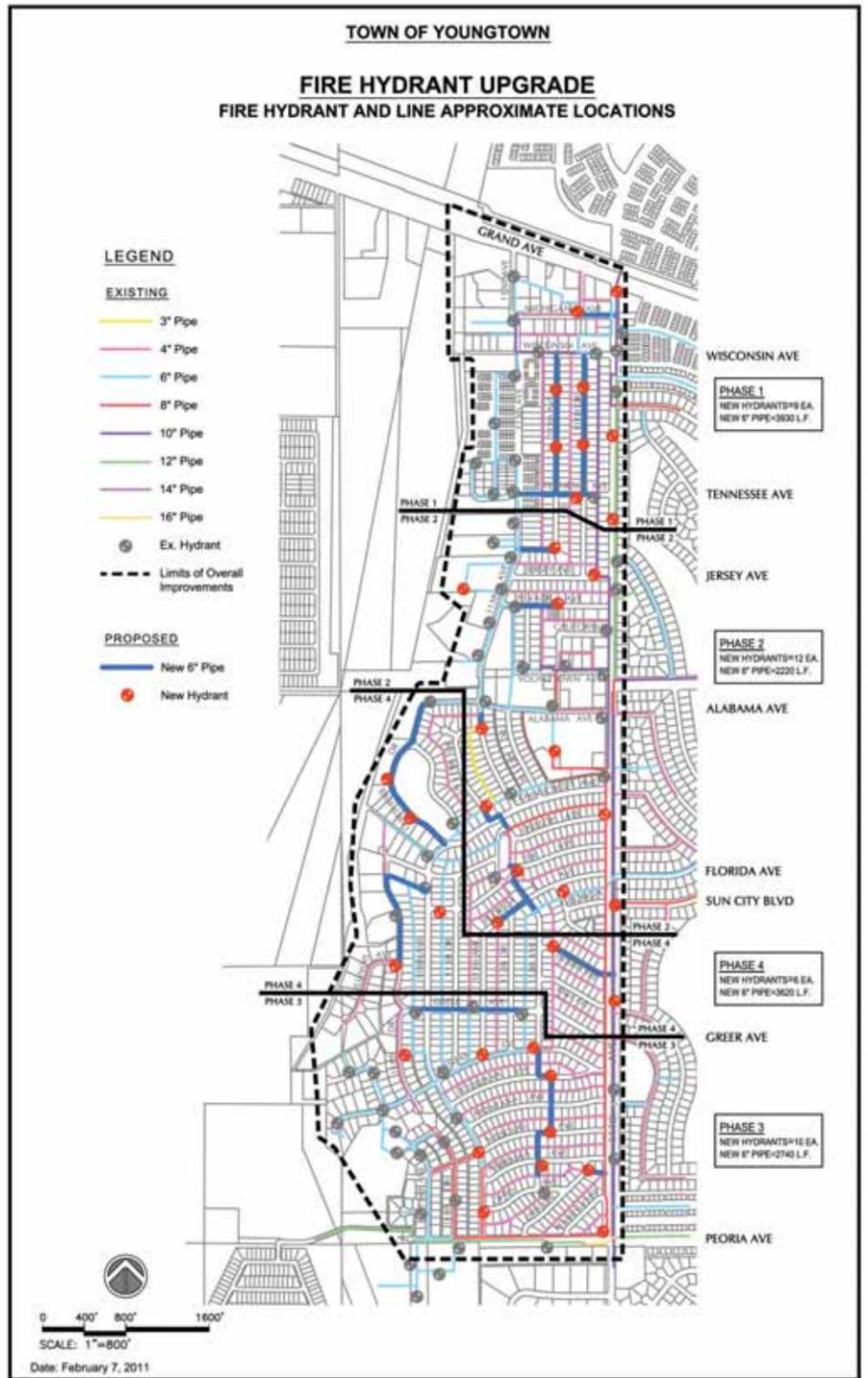
The Town of Youngtown announces that Phase I of its fire flow improvement project began June 13, in the area of town bordered by Grand Avenue to the north, Tennessee Avenue to the south, and 111th to 113th Avenue.

The multi-year improvement project will significantly improve the 1950's - 1960's antiquated fire flow system and give firefighters the ability to pump adequate water for firefighting purposes. Installation of more than 4,000 linear feet of six-inch pipe and several fire hydrants will take place in the Town's right of way.

According to Project/Program Manager Mark Hannah, the project is all about life safety and hazard mitigation. "The current water supply lines are quite capable of ensuring an adequate supply of water for drinking, cooking and bathing purposes. Unfortunately, these lines were never intended to guarantee the 1,000 gallons per minute flow that today's firefighters expect when they hook up to a hydrant," according to Hannah. "All of this will change for the better when each phase is completed and the new lines are charged with water."

Due to funding constraints, the Town has planned the project's construction to span 3 to 4 years, with a total estimated cost of \$2 million using both Town funds and HUD grants.

Work on Phase II could



This map details all the phases of the Youngtown fire flow project.

begin as early as December 2011.

Mayor Michael LeVault hosted a ceremonial groundbreaking gathering at 111th Drive and Wisconsin Avenue on Monday, June 13.

LeVault said, "Fire

flow improvement has been a priority since I took office in late 2006; it represents a major infrastructure upgrade for Youngtown. Council and staff have worked hard to make this project a reality. Both our residents and

our firefighters will be safer as a result of these improvements..."

For more information about Town projects, programs, and activities, visit [www.youngtownaz.org](http://www.youngtownaz.org) or contact the Town offices, 623-933-8286.



Building Safety Inspector Building has complete shower stall and linen closet behind solid wall.

## Government projects; trench, repair, remodel

Staff continues to repair and remodel the government's old, but sturdy facilities for greater efficiency reflecting responsible stewardship and fiscal aptitude.

Trench - Final segment to connect all Clubhouse Square buildings through a data conduit is due to be completed within two weeks. The Public Works crew, Mac Araiza and Gilbert Ochoa, under PW Manager Jim Fox's guidance, is supplying the labor. Funding is through a grant from the Tohono O'odham Nation for the Town's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) housed in the Police Department building.

Repair - Town Hall's Front Office ceiling has been noticeably sagging and cracking for several months and after thorough inspection, a decision to repair has been scheduled. A period of chaos and inconvenience is apparent, but not having the "sky falling" during work hours is a bonus.

Remodel, Repair - The need for more usable space for

MORE REPAIRS ON 7

## Explore and shop Youngtown: Business directories available

Did you know Youngtown . . .

- Is anchored by two national convenience stores and two digital signs?
- Correction—"Oldest Youngtown Business"

In the March edition it was reported a plumbing business as holding this distinction, but a report was received that the local funeral business is the oldest business in continuous operation in Youngtown. They have been a Youngtown business since 1962 (49 years). When it opened there was an unobstructed view of



Grand Avenue - before the hotels were built.

The Town of Youngtown maintains the Youngtown Business Directory. Hard copies are available at the Town Offices, Library and online at [www.youngtownaz.org/businesses](http://www.youngtownaz.org/businesses). If you have any question about a particular business or category, contact the Town Administrative Office 623-933-8286.

Explore and support Youngtown's business community by shopping local.

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# Fire-flow; the odyssey continues

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

Odyssey: a long wandering or voyage usually marked by many changes of fortune.

That accurately describes the process Youngtown has pursued, since 2007, to implement long awaited fire-flow improvements, needed for public safety, in the older part of Youngtown (north of Peoria Avenue).

Most water lines in that part of town were constructed in the late 1950s and 1960s. Rural, surrounded by farm and ranch land, Youngtown was not exactly the edge of the earth but you could see the edge of the earth from there. Little thought was given to providing adequate water flow for fire fighting. Code compliance, in those days, was all about providing enough pressure at the kitchen tap and bathroom shower.

Since those early days, the west valley has be-

come the fastest growing region in the valley and Youngtown is now part of the vast Phoenix megaplex, surrounded by urban development. The need for adequate fire fighting capabilities is crucial. Requiring our firefighters to stretch hose for blocks in order to access functioning fire hydrants is not safe. Successful firefighting requires quick and ready access to fire hydrants which provide sufficient water pressure and flow.

Recognizing this, Youngtown filed, as an intervener, in Arizona American Water Company's rate increase hearing before the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) in January 2008 asking the ACC to order the Company to bring fire flow delivery up to International Fire Code standards (1500gpm in commercial areas and 1000gpm in residential areas). Improvements would need to be made in Youngtown, Phase I Sun City and a small portion of Peoria. The company would then

be allowed to recover their initial construction cost through a cost recovery mechanism of about \$1.20 per month for the average residential customer.

The Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) recommended that the ACC vote to implement the plan but the ACC, in a split vote, decided to over-rule the ALJ and refused to order the improvements.

Youngtown appealed to the ACC asking that they reconsider; we were denied. Next, we went to the Arizona Court of Appeals asking that the ACC cause the improvements to be made for public safety and fairness reasons, arguing that all residents in the water district should be provided an equal level of service. We were denied by the Court of Appeals. The Arizona Supreme Court refused to hear the case.

Finally, we asked the Company to separate and reengineer the improvements into a Youngtown only project. We then began the search for funding.

Estimating a 3-4 year completion time; we have successfully applied for Community Development Block Grant funds sufficient for completion of phases I and II or about half the project.

Phase I construction (starting at Grand Avenue and working south) is cur-

rently in progress and will be completed shortly. We anticipate Phase II construction will be completed sometime in the next fiscal year.

I'll keep you posted as we search for phases III and IV funding as the odyssey to make Youngtown a safer community continues.

## Hyperthermia silent killer

What silent killer takes the lives of children every year, Hyperthermia. Hyperthermia is an elevated body temperature due to failed thermoregulation and occurs when the body produces or absorbs more heat than it can dissipate. This is something that can happen to the most cautious parents or caregivers. A change in your daily routine, exhaustion or worries can make the human brain forget that you may have a sleeping child in the backseat of your car.



### Ages:

Children that have died from vehicular hyperthermia in the United States (1998 - 2009) have ranged in age from 5 days to 14 years. More than half of the deaths are children under 2 years of age.

### Statistics:

- Total number of U.S. hyperthermia deaths of children left in cars, 2009: 33
- Total number of U.S. hyperthermia deaths of children left in cars, 1998 - 2010: 454
- Average number of U.S. child hyperthermia fatalities per year since 1998: 37

### Circumstances:

- An examination of media reports about the 443 child vehicular child deaths for a twelve year period (1998 - 2009) shows the following circumstances:
  - o 51% - child "forgotten" by caregiver
  - o 30% - child playing in unattended vehicle
  - o 18% - child intentionally left in vehicle by adult
  - o 1% - circumstances unknown

### Safety Recommendations:

- Never leave a child unattended in a vehicle. Not even for a minute.
- If you see a child unattended in a hot vehicle call 9-1-1.
- Be sure that all occupants leave the vehicle when unloading.
- Always lock your car and make sure children do not have access to keys or remote entry devices.
- Place something in the backseat that you will need to take out with you when you stop.

Parents and other caregivers need to be educated that a vehicle is not a babysitter or play area ... but it can easily become a tragedy.

*Ken Rice, Fire Marshal, Sun City Fire Department*



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Michael LeVault



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## TOWN OF YOUNGTOWN COUNCIL ACTIONS REGULAR MEETINGS

Disclaimer: This document does not contain the complete official meeting minutes but is intended to provide information about meeting activity. To obtain official meeting minutes, please contact the Youngtown Clerk's Office.

DATE: JUNE 2, 2011  
TIME: 6:16 p.m.  
PLACE: TOWN CLUBHOUSE, 12033 CLUBHOUSE SQUARE

Selected Councilmember Jacob L. Duran to serve as Vice Mayor for two years.

Awarded Contract for Janitorial Services to

Regency Cleaning Solution, LLC in the amount of \$1,550 per month for three years.

Approved Amendment to Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Maricopa County Animal Care and Control at an annual cost of \$7,276.50 for Fiscal Years 2011-2014.

Approved Resolution 11-18 to approve and accept the final budget of the Agua Fria Ranch Street Lighting Improvement District for FY 2011-12.

Approved Resolution 11-19 for adoption of Tentative Town Budget for Fiscal Year 2011-2012.

## TOWN OF YOUNGTOWN COUNCIL ACTIONS SPECIAL MEETINGS

Disclaimer: This document does not contain the complete official meeting minutes but is intended to provide information about meeting activity. To obtain official meeting minutes, please contact the Youngtown Clerk's Office.

12033 CLUBHOUSE SQUARE

Approved Resolution 11-20 ordering an ad valorem tax for Agua Fria Ranch Street Lighting Improvement District (AFR SLID).

Approved Contract with Larsen Allen LLP for Town audit for Fiscal Year 2010-2011 in the amount of \$19,845.00...

Approved Resolu-

tion 11-21 adopting Final Budget for FY 2011-2012 totaling \$4,717,550.00.

Approved Resolution 11-17 supporting Grand Avenue Coalition.

Approved Resolution 11-22 adopting Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) No. 54, Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type definitions.

DATE: JUNE 23  
TIME: 6:11 p.m.  
PLACE: TOWN CLUBHOUSE,

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# Youngtown Public Library June News

## Story time at the library for kids of all ages

We had our first Story Time on June 7 at 10:30. Our two readers regaled the four adults, nine children, two volunteers and the library manager with almost an hour of reading. Our topic was Summer time and we enjoyed stories about the Rainbow Fish, other creatures who live in the sea and family vacation fun.

You will see how we make use of our little space in the Children's Area. The children were given take home coloring sheets and

were allowed to choose a little incentive to come back next time. There were bubbles, note pads or bracelets (courtesy of the Maricopa County Summer Reading Program – from last year.)

Our Story Time continues every Tuesday morning at 10:30 until August. We will enjoy readings and activities about dinosaurs, poetry, Independence Day, pets, zoo animals, feelings, deserts, travel and back to school.

Come on and join us!!!



Kids of all ages sit and enjoy the stories during Story Time at the library.

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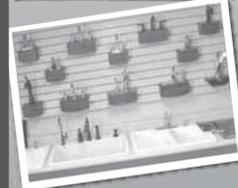
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# New use for old Public Works Yard

Look for the sign at the old Public Works Yard announcing the new home of the Youngtown Community Garden. The group of residents steering the development of Youngtown's first community garden have met for their second brainstorming meeting and finalized the site and mission statement. They will present their vision to council at the July 21 work session.



The Youngtown Community Garden committee held their second meeting in June and is off to a great start. To learn more about the Community Garden or to get involved call Town Hall, or e-mail [dorena.mello@gmail.com](mailto:dorena.mello@gmail.com).

There are still a lot of ways that you can get involved and be a part of history in the making. Here are just a few ways:

- 1) Looking for landscaping/gardening experience to help with design
- 2) Equipment to help

clear site and prepare dirt along with volunteers

3) Attend meeting or council workshop

There will be other needs and opportunities as we move forward. The next scheduled community garden meeting is 11 a.m. July

16 in the Clubhouse Kitchen area. All residents are welcome and encouraged to attend the meeting.

Youngtown Community Garden Mission Statement: Working together to grow a healthy community one seed at a time.

## English as a second language classes begin Aug. 1

**JOIN US FOR ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE**  
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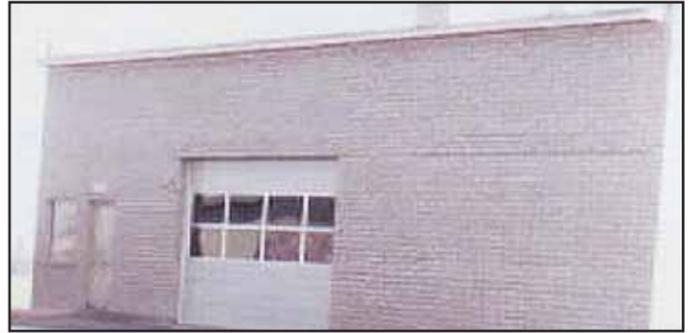
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# 40 Years in Youngtown - History of Koppy's Body Shop

By LORA KOPPY RICE

40 years ago, in June 1971, Ambrose and Helen Koppy, opened Koppy's Body Shop, in Youngtown Arizona.

Ambrose was the only employee, Helen was a stay at home wife, so naturally he recruited four of his six children to work with him to help get things done. (Two oldest were serving in the armed services at the time) Gary and Gail were 17, Lora was 15, and Paul was 12 years old. After school and weekends you could find at least one or more of the kids at the shop helping. Lora and Gail actually built the first spray booth for the shop, and it

is still up and running, next to the modern downdraft booth.

In the early 70's there were very few other businesses in operation on Grand or Michigan Avenue in Youngtown; Lundberg's Mortuary had already been in operation across the street, along with a flower and pet grooming shop (owned by Lundberg's). Down the street to the east, was Rosemary's Hair Salon and Del Webb Realty, in one building together. Ritter's Chalet was here, along with Sambo's Restaurant on Grand Avenue. Even back then you could go to Circle K for a cold drink. Chuck's Automotive was just around the corner on 113th Avenue.

Most everything else was dirt lots, which Lora and Gail used as their personal driving track, so they could test for their drivers licenses. Youngtown was and still maintains a quiet small town atmosphere, you knew everyone and they knew you too.

Koppy's has had wonderful relationships with every business here; it has always been like one big family. There has been bowling leagues, picnics, holiday parties, BBQ's, weddings, funerals and wonderful practical jokes, here in Youngtown.

There are so many stories that could be told. We still have the thank you letter from one customer, who was thrilled with Ambrose

for painting his canes! Lots of wrought iron furniture was painted here, not to mention refrigerators and stove tops. Whatever a customer asked for, Koppy's tried to help them.

Mrs. Greer, whose family owned the property Youngtown was built on, was alive then, what a tough little lady she was, Ambrose got a big kick out of her! Great customer, but she never liked to pay until her CD's matured, so Koppy's would just have to wait.

No one would deliver anything out to Youngtown. Whenever we did ask if they could deliver, their reply was "Where's Youngtown?", and they still say that. Everything

Koppy's needed from parts to paint, would have to be picked up. At that time you could get to Phoenix and back in 30 minutes. Ambrose would time whoever he sent, to make sure they went straight to where he was sending them and back. No stopping for anything. He was very strict in that respect, but he had a business to run.

Ambrose had a passion for hunting and fishing. There would be times when he would be conditioning himself for a hunting trip, to Alaska, that he would look like a hermit backpacking on Grand Avenue. He would load up a huge pack at the shop, strap it on and backpack to the White Tank Mountains and back.

Then after his hunting trips he would drive his camper to the shop and cook up elk, venison, fish or moose for all the customers and employees.

In the fall of 1983, Ambrose decided to go into semi-retirement, just stopping in at the shop daily to pick up his mail. Tragedy struck when Ambrose had a stroke in 1984, the doctors did not give much hope. Because he was in such good shape, and with great rehabilitation, Ambrose came back 100%. Then in the spring of 1985, Ambrose had a heart attack, this time the prognosis was not good, congestive heart failure. He never got his

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## Youngtown resident studying to be Interior Designer

Say hello to student, Thelma Wright. Thelma can be seen working on her studies, here at the Youngtown Library. She is pursuing a state certification in Interior Design (one of the fastest career tracks these days).



She is an A student at Estrella Mountain Community College. You can see that she is enjoying her research. Both library staff and volunteers have watched her as she has taken classes in Introduction to Interior De-

Youngtown resident Thelma Wright is studying to be an Interior Designer.

sign, Modern and Ancient Architecture, Colors and Design Elements and Fabrics. The next course work will include an Introduction to Drafting.

This is a career change for this Youngtown resident as she provided service to children for 22 years as a school bus driver.

Learning is great! Keep it up, Thelma, and thanks for the inspiration.

## REPAIRS: Government projects, From 1

the necessary materials and file cabinets for two active positions (PW Manager and Building Safety Inspector/Plan Reviewer) in the Building Safety Inspector Building initiated this project. A simple sketch was completed, contract awarded and work began. During the remodel portion behind wall #1 was found an abandoned closet with a capped gas line inside masonry walls. Then behind wall #2 a ceiling to floor turquoise painted shower and linen closet was discovered with many old galvanized pipes. The shower drain had been left open (we wondered where that odor

was coming from). Due to sagging ceiling tiles and subsequent removal, further inspection revealed no insulation in the entire building. As an adobe building built in the 1940s, this could be understandable, but 70 years later it is a necessity. This additional cost was added to the list for completion.

With each new discovery, we find ourselves asking what and why? Hopefully no more walls in Clubhouse Square will be taken down and the old buildings will hold their secrets. Now, could there be a tunnel from Town Hall to Maricopa Lake?

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# NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITY

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## The doctor said, 'he would look like a Frankenstein cat'

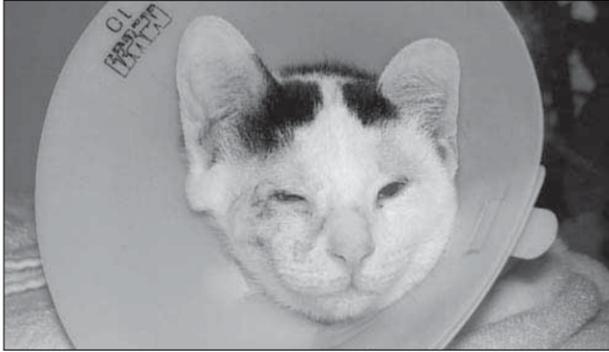
And he did. It took 3 hours of surgery to repair the huge hernia causing a bulge on his right side. His eyelids took less time. Coming home from surgery, his little face was extremely swollen and temporarily distorted. Dr. Linney didn't lie; he did look like a Frankenstein cat.

Shasta arrived at 4 Paws mid-December, 2010. This tiny abandoned kitten was seeking warmth and food, somehow made his way into a restaurant's kitchen. His thanks for the effort were to be kicked and beaten with a broom in an effort to remove him from the premises. A worker picked up the tiny kitten and brought him to 4 Paws. He had named the kitten Shasta.

Covered with dirt and grease, the staff at 4 Paws was not certain just what

color Shasta was. He turned out to be a lovely black and white kitty with problems with both his eye lids, and now a bulge on his side, a hernia possibly from birth, possibly from the blows he received at the kitchen. No matter, everything had to be repaired or Shasta wouldn't survive. So small, he went immediately into foster care. At this time, he was very afraid of humans, small wonder, but would still purr his heart out when held.

At his first visit to Sonora Veterinarian Specialists, Shasta met Dr. Linney, the talented surgeon who would perform Shasta's complicated surgeries. Shasta's left eye lid was turned inside. The constant rubbing of the eyelashes would have caused permanent damage to his eye, and probable blindness. Shasta's right eye



Shasta, 3 weeks after surgery.

was another issue. There was no inner eyelid. This would definitely have to be repaired, or Shasta would face the loss of his right eye from the constant rubbing of the eyelid itself. And then he had the hernia. It was very large, and life threatening.

The date of the surgery was set. It was a complicated surgery for the right eye. Dr. Linney fashioned an inner eyelid from a graft taken from the corner of

Shasta's mouth. The curved eyelid was corrected on his left eye, and then after 3 hours to repair the huge hernia, Shasta was ready to recover. He spent the first 2 weeks with the 4 Paws attending veterinarian, then moved on to his foster home for more time to recover and to learn to be a much adored member of foster family.

Finally, 3 months after surgery, and many visits to Dr. Linney for re checks,



Lookie, No collar on me!

the e-collar was removed for brief periods of time; we didn't want him to scratch away at his newly reconstructed right eye! Shasta is currently living with his foster family, and soon will be ready for adoption. It has taken a tremendous amount of TLC to get this kitty boy where he is now. Shasta has a kitty friend who he would very much like to be his companion cat in his new home. It will help him

make the transition from his foster home into his forever home. For the lucky family that adopts

Shasta, there will never be problems regarding any possibly reoccurring issues with either the hernia or his eyes. Dr. Linney will be there for Shasta. Please call Pam at the 4 Paws Adoption Center for further details regarding adopting Shasta and his kitty friend at 623-876-8778. 4 Paws is indebted to Dr. Linney Shasta's extremely talented surgeon, Dr. Mistui and the competent, compassionate staff of Sonora Veterinary Specialists for their incredible ability to save this kitten's life; and to all the Members and Friends of 4 Paws without whose donations Shasta's life saving surgery would not have been possible.

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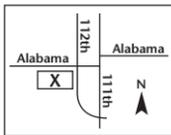
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# PETS911 disconnected

Recently, Councilmember Margaret Chittenden contacted me regarding the PETS911 phone number that is stamped on the Dog License Tags. During a recent 'encounter' with a lost dog, Councilmember Chittenden attempted to contact the Maricopa County Animal Control utilizing this number. While doing so she learned that the number had been disconnected. Concerned about dog owners being unable to be reunited with their lost dog, Councilmember Chittenden asked me to look into this matter and I spoke with Mr. Pete Martin, the Operations Support Division Manager with MCACC.

During this conversation with Mr. Martin, I learned the following information regarding the PETS911 phone number which I asked him to send to me in the below email which I will share with the residents of Youngtown.

"Chief McDonald,

It was a pleasure speaking with you this afternoon.

The Pets911 phone number 1-888-Pets911 was

owned by Pets911 and was a resource provided to Maricopa County at no cost to reunite lost dogs with their owners. At the time of implementation, the only way someone could contact MCACC was Monday through Friday, 8:00AM through 5:00PM. The Pets911 phone number enabled 24/7/365 access, a win-win situation for Maricopa County and the dog owners.

Fast forward seven years, Pets911 was sold, the new owner promised MCACC that things would remain the same, promised better service including Cloud technology; then in November of 2010, the number was disconnected. Fortunately, we saw things deteriorating and had already placed our first order of tags with our 602-506-7387 (Pets) number engraved on them. Since that time, we have been renewing all licenses with our tags and we're happy to say that we have replaced just about 80% of the more than 300K active tags in our database. We hope to have the remaining, compliant licenses fulfilled/

replaced with our tags by the end of November, 2011.

The majority of people who call the Pets911 number printed on the tags end up calling our main number since Maricopa County is printed on the tags with Pets911's number. We have reunited several dogs with their owners and have not heard any news about a dog not being reunited due to the Pets911 number printed on the tag.

MCACC's automated phone system enables people to follow the prompts to enter a tag number to retrieve the dog owner's phone number 24/7/365. We also have agents available to assist from 8:00AM through 5:00PM Monday through Friday. Finally, if one of our Animal Control Officers finds a dog wearing a tag, we will drive to the address on file to return the dog home. If no one is at the residence we will leave a note for the owner to pick up their pet at our shelter.

If I can be of any further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely, Pete Martin,

Operational Support Division Manager

For the dog owners in our small town, I thought this information would be informative and useful. I would also like to thank Councilmember Chittenden for bringing this matter to my attention!

Terry McDonald,  
Chief of Police,  
own of Youngtown

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Councilmember Margaret Chittenden looks on as Councilmember Judy Johnson addresses residents at the first meeting held to discuss a dog park in the Town of Youngtown.

## DOG PARK: From 1

Good ideas and thoughts were discussed about the prospective dog park location, rules and regulations. The attendees volunteered to research all aspects regarding size and hours of operations with input from neighboring communities.

This initial meeting was short noticed, but the group plans to meet again on the following Saturdays: July 9 at 10 a.m. and again on July 16 at 9:00 a.m., at the Youngtown United Methodist Church, 113th and Alabama Avenues.

Chittenden invites all interested current and future dog owners to attend prepared to share their suggestions and be an important part of this grassroots project to give our doggies a protected environment to interact in their social network, Youngtown's future dog park.

## KOPPY: Built lasting relationships in the community over the years, From 6

strength back. On December 17th, 1985 Ambrose passed away.

Devastated, as the family was, the shop did not even close on that day. The shop was busy and people needed their cars back for the holidays. Lora came in and contacted all the customers. When Lora called one customer in particular, Mr. Sidney Feldman, he rushed right down, and spent the entire day in the office with Lora, so she would not be by herself. Sidney helped

to answer the phones, and wait on customers. He even brought down a sandwich for Lora. What great customers we have.

As time has gone on, Kopy's Body Shop has made a lot of changes. Every time the "kids" made a new change, Helen always let the "kids" know how proud Ambrose would have been. Helen Kopy passed away September 26, 2000.

Since opening in 1971, Kopy's has tripled in size, covering almost 2 1/2 acres. The shop

now runs a full time tow truck service, Sun City Radiator and Smart Start Ignition Interlock of Sun City. Also we are now a certified payment station for all utilities or any other payment you may need to make, like, insurance premium, credit card, car payments etc.

Lora, Paul and Gary are still there every day. Lora's daughter, Valerie, is the receptionist. Lora's son, Matthew, is an aspiring paint technician. Paul's sons, Shannon and Gage are

body technicians. Gail went to school and became a licensed massage therapist in 1992. She always pursued it part time, and four years ago she went full time. Gail works at Tranquility Massage and Yoga Studio, right here in Youngtown, but she still does the marketing for Kopy's Body Shop.

Kopy's Body Shop made one small change in 2010, by becoming a CARSTAR Collision Center. This has brought more value to the service our custom-

ers receive. Now Kopy's is able to give a nationwide written warranty, to all our customers. The Kopy family still remains the owners of Kopy's CARSTAR Collision that will never change.

Kopy's would like to say thank you, to all our customers. We appreciate all the support, and faith you have put in us and our service over the years. With hard work and determination, Kopy's hopes to be around another 40 years.

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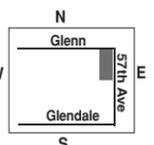
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## From the bench... felony assaults

Testimony regarding felony assaults on police officers can be dramatic and show just how dangerous their job really is, but the assault and attempted murder of Surprise Police officer Bill Porter was exceptionally so.

Some time back, while on graveyard shift, Officer Porter was patrolling the White Tank Mountain Park when he spotted four individuals in a restricted area after hours. Officer Porter, just six months as a sworn Peace Officer approached the four men.

One of the individuals put his hands into his pockets and spoke to Porter in a dialect of Spanish, Porter described as possibly from a Central American country.

Officer Porter, in Spanish, ordered him to keep his hands where he could see them. What happened next was a surrealistic nightmare for any officer. The suspect turned sideways to Porter pulled out a pistol he had hidden in his pocket and fired a single shot at Porters chest at al-

### LESSONS FROM THE BENCH



Lex E. Anderson  
Youngtown Magistrate

most point blank range.

The bullet did in fact hit Porter squarely in the chest and knocked him to the ground. At that instant the other suspects began kicking Porter in the head, chest and groin. Officer Porter's bullet proof vest saved his life and stopped the round from the single shot, homemade zip gun.

The kicking to the head and groin were taking a toll on Porter and he was beginning to lose consciousness. Additionally, the men were now struggling with him for his service weapon. If they managed to get it, they would surely execute him with his own gun.

At this critical moment Porter, a former Marine,

said that he could remember the words of his combat training instructor "GET UP OR DIE".

Porter grabbed a handful of hair from one suspect that was on top of him which pulled completely from the suspects scalp. At the same time Porter, with his thumb, gouged the eyeball right out of the suspect's eye socket who was trying to pull his service weapon from his holster.

The suspects fled the area screaming after involuntarily leaving behind some substantial physical evidence. Officer Porter, who was blinded by his own blood, had to grope in the dark for his radio in order to call for back-up before the suspects could organize another attack. A bullet proof vest, combat training and a bit of luck kept this assault from becoming a murder.

The suspects in this case have yet to be caught, however with the DNA evidence recovered, it may be just a matter of time...if they are still alive.

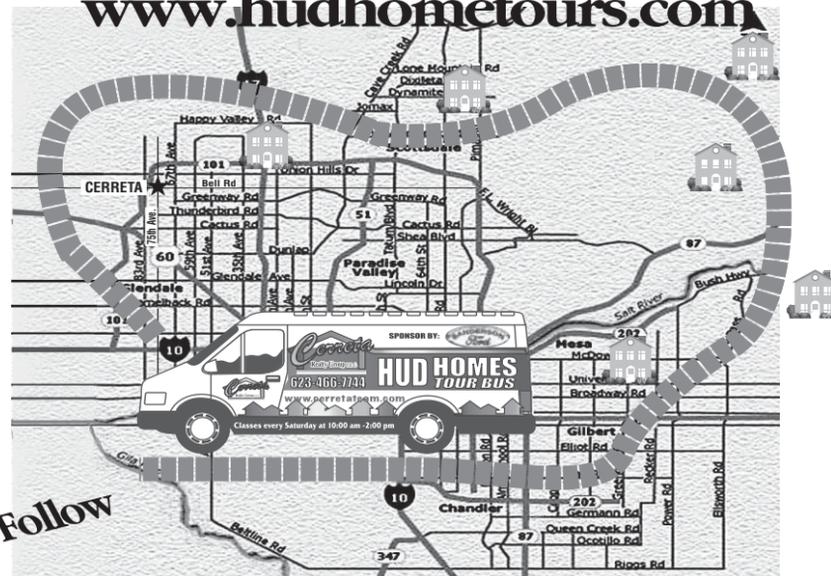
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