

# Youngtown Village Reporter

January 2021  
youngtownaz.org

In the *Heart* of the Northwest Valley

## Youngtown Municipal Election Results

Youngtown held its Municipal Election on August 4th, 2020. This election resulted in the re-election of Councilmembers Susan Hout, Jack Duran, and Chuck Vickers.

held on November 19th, 2020, the winners of the election were sworn in earlier at Town Hall by Town Clerk Nicole Smart, due to the Council Meeting being held by teleconference.

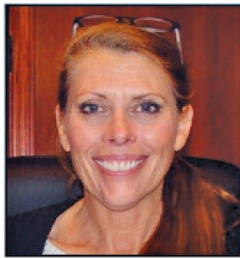
nomination of Charles "Chuck" Vickers was made for another term as Vice Mayor.

We congratulate the Mayor, Vice Mayor and all of the Councilmembers, and wish you all the best.

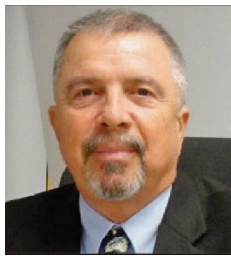
Following the seating of Councilmembers, the



Jack Duran  
Councilmember



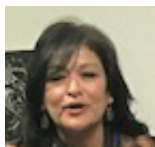
Susan Hout  
Councilmember



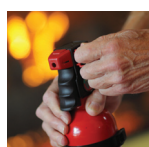
Charles Vickers  
Vice Mayor



**Diane Cordova**  
Congressional  
Recognition  
Page 4



**Home  
Fire  
Safety**  
Page 7



PRSR STD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
Phoenix, AZ  
Permit No. 1424  
ECRMSSDDM  
Postal Customer



*From the Mayor...*

# Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All!

2020 will be remembered as the year our universe was turned upside down! As this crazy, crazy year winds down, I want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy, saner and prosperous

New Year! Let's take time to count our blessings and thank God for them. Let's reach out (even if it's virtually) to our neighbors and friends who are less fortunate. Let's bring good cheer

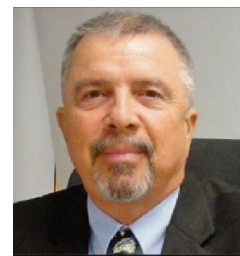
into the lives of those around us who may be feeling despondent and wish them good cheer and brighten their day. Let this be a time for families, for reflection and for renewal. As 2020 winds down, look

forward to 2021 with hope, anticipation and optimism. We stand on the cusp of a brighter new year filled with great promise and unlimited potential. May you and your families be safe and

secure and may your futures be blessedly prosperous and filled with satisfaction, peace and tranquility. So, as we wind down 2020, I say: "...Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!"



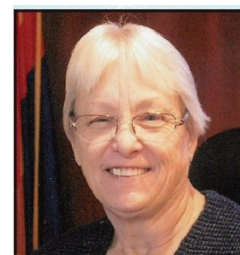
**Michael Lavault**  
Mayor



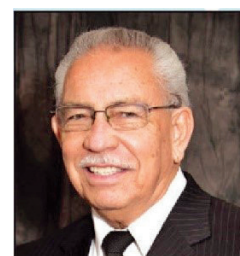
**Charles Vickers**  
Vice Mayor



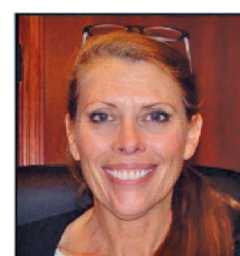
**Margaret Chittenden**  
Councilmember



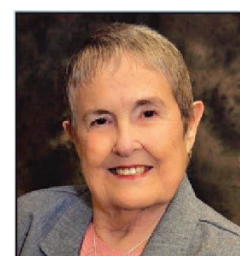
**Karen Haney Duncan**  
Councilmember



**Jack Duran**  
Councilmember



**Susan Hout**  
Councilmember



**June Miller**  
Councilmember

## Have a Safe and Happy New Year!

New Year's Eve is celebrated at evening social gatherings, where many people dance, eat, and watch or light fireworks to ring in the New Year. However, learn how to celebrate the New Year and make sure you are aware of local fireworks regulations in your area. Don't get confused with the fact that you can purchase fireworks or where they can be legally used. Here's a look at Youngtown's ordinance Sec. 9.04.010 It is unlawful for any person within Town limits to blast or use gun powder, fireworks, or other explosive devices unless

authorized by the Town Council. The BIG fireworks that explode and go up in the air are still illegal to purchase and use in Arizona at ANY time such as bottle rockets, firecrackers, roman candles, etc. The following Federally deregulated novelty items like snappers, party poppers, snap caps, glow worms, snakes, toy smoke devices, sparklers, and wheels are all great to use during this celebration. If you have any questions, please contact Youngtown Code Enforcement at 623-933-8286.



### TOWN OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED THE WEEK OF CHRISTMAS

from Thursday, December 24, 2020 through January 3, 2021 in observance of the Christmas holiday.

The office will open at 8:00 a.m. on January 4, 2021. If you have an emergency and need to speak with someone, please call Town Manager Jeanne Blackman at 623-388-7899 or Mayor Mike LeVault at 623-262-7744. Thank you!



### TOWN OF YOUNGTOWN

12030 North Clubhouse Square, Youngtown, AZ 85363

Mayor and Council: 623-933-8286 • Town Administration: 623-933-8286

Building Inspector: 623-933-8286 • Library: 623-974-3401 • Municipal Court: 623-972-8226

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office Non-emergency: 602-876-1011 • Emergency: 9-1-1

Town Administrative Office hours Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. • [www.youngtownaz.org](http://www.youngtownaz.org)



# Phone Scam

The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office have been made aware that there have been fraudulent calls going out to the public with someone posing as a "Sgt. McGhee" or a variety of other names of Office employees. During these scam calls, the person is claiming that because of a failure to appear in court, it is required that you report to the district and pay \$2,500.00. In some instances, the caller posing as a Deputy Sheriff is requesting you make a payment in the form of "Gift Cards" by purchasing gift cards from local stores and then providing them the account numbers on the gift cards after they've been purchased. Please be aware that the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office will NOT call anyone and will NOT request payment in any form whatsoever over the phone. If you receive a call like this, please report the number to 602-876-1011 or 602-876-TIPS (8477).

## Community Fund News Medical Lending Center

YES! We are open. We are here to help. We know medical equipment needs still arise. There are still falls, other accidents, surgeries, and illnesses besides Covid-19 that make a need for our equipment. So, we have worked to make it safe to stay open. Mary M. needed a walker and was relieved to find us open. When she got here, she was pleased to see we had shower chairs also. All our clients are appreciative. Covid-19 precautions are being taken and masks are required. Our door is locked for everyone's protection. Knock and show us you are wearing a mask and assure us you are virus free. As always, we carefully clean and sanitize all equipment upon return to be sure it is ready to loan again. Would a walker or wheelchair make your holidays a little brighter and safer? We are here for you if you live in Youngtown, El Mirage, Surprise or Peoria. Our mission is to enhance the lives of the residents of our area by loaning durable medical equipment for short term use. We have walkers,

wheelchairs shower chairs, canes and more. Having out of town company? Don't forget you can borrow equipment for their visit whether it is a wheelchair, shower chair or even a stroller or highchair for a little one. This service is FREE! Donations are accepted and appreciated but not required. We serve Youngtown, El Mirage, Surprise and Peoria. A reminder to those wanting to take advantage of the State of Arizona's program working with Qualifying Charitable Organizations, we are qualified for the program. They have added a code you must use when utilizing the credit. Our code is 20790. We cannot give advice on using this credit. It would need to come from your accountant. Stop and check out the Medical Lending Center at the Youngtown Community Fund, Inc. at 11215-A West Nevada Ave, Youngtown. Our phone number is (623)-977-4661 and our hours are Monday through Saturday 9 am to Noon. Check out our web page: [www.YoungtownCommunityFund.com](http://www.YoungtownCommunityFund.com).



Each month the Town of Youngtown will be featuring some of our local businesses who make up the many wonderful, long standing businesses that service our residents and the surrounding communities in the Northwest Valley! Please meet one of our hidden treasures right here in Youngtown!

## Youngtown Bargain Storage



Youngtown Bargain Storage opened its doors to members of the Youngtown, Sun City and El Mirage communities in mid-2012. The 292-unit facility was fully renovated to offer quality storage units for both business and personal storage use, along with several retail suites. The company has focused on providing outstanding customer service to our customers and to the general public. Our managers set themselves apart by knowing customers by name and becoming experts in exactly what fits in each size storage unit. Our units range from 4'X5' to 10'X30' for self-storage along with covered parking spaces. We try to keep our rates low and tend to be, on average, 13% less than our competitors. Our retail suite spaces are currently

home to Palmers Kitchen and Bath, Get Great Flooring, Spoiled Rotten Pet Salon, Vision of Hope, and Dee's Gifted Hands and Spa, and opening soon Daliciousss. Crystal is the current property manager at the Youngtown location and has been so for a little over 3 years. Youngtown Bargain Storage's office hours are Monday thru Friday 8:00AM -5:00PM. The office is closed on weekends and major holidays. You can reach us by phone at 623-974-4459 or email us at [manager@youngtownbargainstorage.com](mailto:manager@youngtownbargainstorage.com). Please visit our website at [www.youngtownbargainstorage.com](http://www.youngtownbargainstorage.com) and come by and check out our retail shops and help support other local small business owners.



# Youngtown Public Library

## January 2021

HAPPY NEW YEAR from the Library! We are a great source for information, and we are happy to help you!

Because of COVID-19, we are still temporarily CLOSED to the public, however, we continue to answer phone calls and offer CURBSIDE SERVICE to check out books and movies. You can put items on hold by accessing our Card Catalog using the link on the Youngtown website at [www.youngtownaz.org](http://www.youngtownaz.org), or by calling us at (623) 974-3401. We also offer digital books through the "Libby" app. Just call us for instructions!

We carry all the latest books and movies! You can rent DVD's for a week, and check out books for two weeks for FREE!

### LOCATION

Both the Library and Historical Museum are located in Town Square, between Alabama and Youngtown Avenue,



just west of 112th Avenue. For additional information about the Library or the history of Youngtown, call (623) 974-3401.

Once the Library re-opens, please join us for BOOK CLUB on the third Friday of every month and Friends of the Library club will meet every other month, and we will offer tours of the Museum by appointment.

### The Youngtown Public Library still offers many services, including:

- Curbside Service Mon – Thursday from 9:30 am – 3:30 pm
- FREE WI-FI Mon-Fri from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
- All the latest DVD's! They can be checked out for FREE for one week
- FREE Tax Forms
- FREE Legal Forms
- FREE Career Information
- Copies \$ .15 each
- Faxes – free with our library card
- Reference questions – (623) 974-3401

## Clubs and Organizations

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS ARE NOT MEETING AT THE MOMENT DUE TO COVID-19. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT THE BOARD MEMBERS.**

### AARP Board

MEET: 3rd Tuesday of the month 4:30 p.m.  
Jay Lickus – 623-734-5438

### AARP CHAPTER 1

MEET: 1st Friday of the month 5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.  
Jay Lickus – 623-734-5438

### AGUA FRIA RANCH HOA

MEET: 2nd Wednesday of the month 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
OFF: August  
Ogden & Company/Jackie Monty 623-628-4708

### BOOK DISCUSSION CLUB

MEET: 3rd Friday of the month 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.  
Meets in the Youngtown Library  
Heidi Speed – 623-974-3401

### CRAFT CORNER

MEET: Every Monday 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Betty Trolen – 623-974-9130

### FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

MEET: Every Other Month on the 3rd Friday  
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.  
OFF: June, July and August Teresa Felton – 760-415-5446

### OPEN PAINTING

ALL MEDIUMS WELCOME  
MEET: every Monday 9:00 a.m. - Noon  
Beverly Meers – 972-5145

### WOOD CARVERS CLUB

MEET: every Tuesday of the month 8:00 a.m. - Noon  
Terry Damato – 623-933-2426

### YOUNGTOWN ART COMMISSION

MEET: 4th Wednesday of the month 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
OFF: June, July and August Val Wilson – 623-810-3137

### YOUNGTOWN COMMUNITY GARDEN

MEET: 1st Saturday of the month 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
OFF: June, July and August Val Wilson – 623-810-3137

### YOUNGTOWN DOG PARK COMMITTEE

MEET: 3rd Saturday of the month 11:00 a.m.  
OFF: June, July and August  
Margaret Chittenden – 480-861-1576

### YOUNGTOWN COMMUNITY FUND

MEET: 4th Wednesday of the month  
8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.  
Madelon Jeffreys – 623-977-4661

### YOUNGTOWN WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

MEET: Every Wednesday of the month 10:30 a.m. - Noon  
OFF: June, July, August Madelon Jeffreys – 623-583-8047  
All clubs meet in the Clubhouse unless otherwise noted.

## Congressional Recognition for Diane Cordova



The award is given to non-profits, advocates, individuals, police officers, fire fighters, first responders, nurses, students, and groups that makes an impact in the community.

**Diane Cordova, owner of Merciful Grace Center was awarded the Congressional Recognition from Monica Yelin from Congresswoman Debbie Lesko's office.**

# News You Can Use...

## Canine Happenings at the Dog Park!

**W**oof, woof! By that we mean, Happy New Year and many blessings for a less emotionally gripping 2021! We are tough and there is a light at the end of this pandemic. As Covid numbers continue to increase, we find an opportunity to remind everyone to stay vigilant and keep that social distance when out at the dog park, or anywhere in public.

We were saddened that the Citizens' Dog Park Committee was not able to bring you our annual Pet Blessings and Photos with Santa this year, but look forward to future events (hopefully) in 2021. In the meantime, we are brainstorming ideas to keep people and pets active and out and about, while staying safe.

Ask your dog if he or she wants to go for a walk! Did you know virtually all of our town parks are pet friendly? Of course leashes are a necessity, but we encourage you to visit and enjoy!

**Greer Park and Cactus Garden**  
 Located at town square (Alabama and 112th), this small park boasts easy access to pick up materials at our library, visit the post office, enjoy two shaded ramadas, numerous picnic tables and our wonderful cactus garden. It's an

easy park to navigate especially for those with limited mobility.

**Dog Park and Schliefer**  
 Located west of 113th and Alabama, let the dogs run off-leash (fenced areas only), shoot hoops or play in the sand. The far side of this park includes horse-shoe pits. Though the playground equipment and public restrooms are currently closed, it's a great place to meet while staying 6 feet apart.

**Maricopa Lake**  
 Lovingly known as the duck pond, the old story is that 'back in the day', there was a dock on our pond, with a boat residents could use. Rumor has it that people actually swam as well! Nowadays, come to fish (BUT DON'T EAT FISH OR LET DOGS OR HUMANS SWIM), walk the half mile loop, and enjoy paved paths that are handicapped accessible. The park has numerous distanced picnic tables and a grill. Again, due to the pandemic, public restrooms and playgrounds are currently closed.

**Janice Beck/ Caliche Park**  
 Located south of Connecticut and 113th Ave, this park is quiet, peaceful and an easy walk at less than half a mile. This is a wonderful park with sidewalks to accommodate wheelchairs and walkers.

There is a shaded picnic table area as well.

**Memorial Park:**  
 Located on the corner of Peoria and 111th Ave. This is one of our electronic sign locations, so feel free to stay and let your dog sniff as you stay updated on town information.

**David C. Uribe Park in Agua Fria Ranch**  
 Behind the QT off Olive and Agua Fria Ranch Parkway, you'll find Uribe park. David C. Uribe was

a police officer killed in the line of duty, this park is in honor of him. This gorgeous park offers green space, amenities, a playground and plenty of shade. Many residents also walk the parkway, it's beautifully kept and has sidewalks.

The Citizens Dog Park of Youngtown had our November monthly meeting to discuss and determine the following:

- Replacement of two trees: Discussion

centered on various nurseries and pricing for ficus trees

- Maintenance schedule: Concern was voiced regarding the new mowing schedule on Saturdays Mayor LeVault will check into having the dog park mown on different days other than Saturdays

- Discussion and Action regarding the purchase and installation of permanent ashtrays in the small and large dog

sides  
 • Future meetings to be held in an outdoor venue to inspire more community participation. Look for agenda posts to see where and when

That's it for current business, our next meeting is SATURDAY JANUARY 16, 2021 at 11:00 am. We will be distancing at Schliefer Park, so please consider joining us.

In the meantime, here is a word search:

C	I	T	I	Z	E	N	S	D	O	G	P	A	R	K	Y	O	U	N	G	T	O	W	N	R
T	Y	Y	E	W	R	C	I	W	Q	V	D	W	F	N	M	V	C	R	H	A	S	D	F	H
Z	X	C	V	B	N	M	T	W	D	V	Y	U	I	O	D	E	S	A	G	T	M	Q	W	F
V	A	A	D	C	V	G	B	M	R	T	H	D	F	Q	V	C	Z	P	B	S	T	A	Y	G
H	X	C	E	R	T	J	A	N	I	C	E	B	E	C	K	D	V	Y	H	C	V	M	G	B
I	V	M	R	T	V	B	H	W	Q	A	C	F	T	E	A	I	E	G	B	H	V	T	H	H
Y	R	T	H	N	M	L	Y	W	Q	L	V	B	T	D	R	T	X	X	T	L	J	E	G	K
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V	M	R	E	A	T	R	E	T	Y	H	D	F	C	B	M	N	R	E	S	C	G	U	F	G
J	E	I	M	S	R	X	M	C	C	C	W	Q	T	F	H	G	F	R	V	R	U	P	L	K
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P	B	C	A	V	R	S	O	C	I	A	L	D	I	S	T	A	N	C	E	E	W	H	U	C
P	D	D	I	B	R	T	C	B	M	M	T	A	R	B	G	G	Y	R	M	E	E	I	N	M
B	O	F	F	N	R	G	I	B	R	N	N	G	K	T	E	R	T	H	K	G	Y	V	J	K
D	W	F	C	M	T	F	I	E	E	Q	R	T	G	E	B	N	M	R	L	B	H	R	N	G
T	N	O	F	V	D	A	V	I	D	C	U	R	I	B	E	C	U	R	W	T	K	D	K	P

Key: CALICHE, CITIZENS DOG PARK, COME, DAVID C URIBE, DOWN, GREER, HEEL, JANICE BECK, MARICOPA LAKE, MEMORIAL, NO, OFF, PICK UP WASTE, SCHIEFFER, SIT, SOCIAL DISTANCE, USE A LEASH, WOOF

Written by Susan Hout

# In The Spotlight

Each month the Town of Youngtown will be featuring some of our local businesses who make up the many wonderful, long standing businesses that service our residents and the surrounding communities in the Northwest Valley! Please meet one of our hidden treasures right here in Youngtown!

## Koppy's Body Shop

### 50 Years in Youngtown

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 4 of his 6 children to work with him to help get things done. (2 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 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, Koppy'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 Koppy passed away September 26th, 2000.

Since opening in 1971, Koppy'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. Paul's son, Gage is the lead body technician. Gail went to school and became a licensed massage therapist in 1992. She always pursued it part time, and 7 years ago she went full time. Gail works at her own massage studio, right here in Youngtown at Wisconsin Plaza, but she still helps with the marketing for Koppy's Body Shop.

Koppy'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, June 2021, will mark the 50th year, with the 2nd and also the 3rd generation now running the business.

# In The Works

## January 2021



**Marty Mosbrucker**  
Public Works Manager

### months of FY 2020/2021

If there was a benefit to be gained from the pandemic, the pandemic started to gain momentum just as the Town began its budget process for FY 2020/21. Due to the uncertainty of revenue caused by the pandemic, the Town adopted a zero-based budget, focusing primarily on day to day business without adding capital improvement projects. In the past few years, the Town has been very progressive with numerous capital improvement projects. Thankfully, with sound fiscal management

and planning for the unknown by the Mayor and Council, the Town is able to weather financial storms. Just like budgeting for your household, its smart to plan for the unknown and create a contingency fund. The residents should be proud to have a dedicated Mayor, Council, Town Manager and staff committed to adding capital improvements coupled with sound fiscal policy. We should be in a better position this spring with the hope for a vaccine, to assess financial conditions and we may be able to add capital improvement projects for the next fiscal year which

begins July 1, 2021.

### Looking forward to the next six months of FY 2020/2021

We still plan on conducting street resurfacing this fiscal year, sometime in the spring. When that time arrives, the resurfacing schedule will be presented in this article. A street resurfacing program is necessary in order to prevent spending money on asphalt repairs or milling and overlay of asphalt. This is one area where it makes good sense to pay a little now, relatively speaking, or pay

much more later, if delayed.

### Appreciation and gratitude

Town employees have continued to work during the pandemic. The Town Manager had the wisdom to reduce virus exposure to Town employees by limiting staff where appropriate. Staff has risen to the occasion and worked very diligently in continuing to provide essential services to the community. This pandemic has proven that when Americans are faced with unprecedented challenges, they are flexible, creative, resourceful, hardworking

and diligent. The community residents do their part by adhering to the new and temporary community rules in the Town parks, buildings and businesses. It's quite a sacrifice to restrict the activity that you have become accustomed to doing. Self-discipline always reaps a reward. The reward of this discipline is to render this virus useless, to protect yourself and to protect others. I, for one, smile in appreciation for the sacrifices that we all have and continue to make. We will get through this, together. Thank you!

Out with the old, in with the new! The new year brings hope for a new future! May the best year be ahead for you, your family and your friends.

### Looking back on the first six

## NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITY

Email your article to Jeanne Blackman: [jblackman@youngtownaz.org](mailto:jblackman@youngtownaz.org)

*The right to accept or reject rests with the publication editor.*

# As Winter Season Fast Approaches, Vigilance Around Home Fire Safety is Critical



By: **Jim Fox**  
Fire Marshal  
Sun City Fire District

common in November through March with multiple contributing factors at play: Cooking fires, the number-one cause of home fires year-round, increase during the holiday season with more cooking fires occurring on Thanksgiving Day than any other day of the year; Christmas Day, the day before Thanksgiving, and Christmas Eve follow as the top winter days for home cooking fires. Holiday decorations involving candles, electrical lighting, and Christmas trees contribute to a rise in home fires during the winter months as well. Meanwhile, as temperatures drop nationwide, heating equipment jumps to the leading cause of home fires. Now add the pandemic to the mix. As citizens continue to spend more time at home, they'll be doing more cooking and home

heating throughout the day, ultimately spending more time engaging in activities that collectively increase the likelihood of home fires. With these potential hazards on the horizon, your Fire Department is taking a proactive approach to make citizens aware of the hazards and remind everyone to take extras precautions in the upcoming months. Waiting until tragedy strikes and responding after the fact is too late. Getting through the winter months during a pandemic will be trying for all of us, but putting the time, energy and resources into protecting communities remains critical to fire safety at home - the very place people are at greatest risk to fire. Getting distracted from those efforts is a risk we simply can't afford to take.

*National Fire Protection Association*



With the pandemic continuing to impact our work and daily lives in countless ways, this year has been anything but typical. At times, these shifts and challenges have made it difficult to remain focused on business as usual. However, we can't afford to be distracted from keeping communities safe as the coldest months approach and the public's risk to fire increases; vigilance remains critical. Home fires are more



## **CDBG COVID-19 RENT & UTILITY ASSISTANCE**

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**RENT**



**ELECTRIC**



**WATER**



**GAS**

## **HAVE YOU FALLEN BEHIND ON YOUR RENT OR UTILITY PAYMENTS?**

- **UP TO 3 MONTHS OF ASSISTANCE**
- **COVID-19 FINANCIAL HARDSHIP REQUIRED**
- **FAMILIES MUST INCOME QUALIFY (EXAMPLE: FAMILY OF 4 MUST EARN LESS THAN \$62,250/YR)**

### **ELIGIBLE LOCATIONS**

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- Buckeye
- El Mirage
- Fountain Hills
- Goodyear
- Guadalupe
- Litchfield Park
- Tolleson
- Wickenburg
- Youngtown
- Unincorporated areas within Maricopa County

**CALL OUR HOTLINE AT: 602 - 506 - 2000**