

# Youngtown Village Reporter

August 2023  
youngtownaz.org

In the *Heart* of the Northwest Valley

## Relationships and Hands-on Learning Define Youngstown's Only Elementary School Within the Town Limits

*Tuition-free, accredited learning and free before and after school care for Youngtown residents are just a few reasons families choose Discover U for K-6 education.*

Families in Youngtown have an elementary school option right in their own backyard. Small, safe, and student-centered, Discover U prioritizes a personalized learning environment for students. From 12 interest-based clubs students can select from, hands-on, relevant learning, @educators are focused on helping students grow and achieve. "Our teachers truly care about the students on our campus," explains school principal Keristin Jones. "We believe it's important to know our students by name, by face, and by family. Each student comes to us with a unique history and learning style. By building relationships with the student, we are able to meet them where they are and help them become successful."

### Relationships Matter at Discover U

Building relationships extends beyond the students and to the families who are invited to be an active part of the learning community. Discover U holds monthly family nights, empowering students to showcase projects that demonstrate their learning. Students proudly present lessons, art displays, models, science projects, and other exhibitions of progress. Additionally, Discover U offers family movie nights, holiday parties, and other social events, allowing students and families to deepen friendships outside of class time.

Relationships are central to Discover U, even extending to community partners such as the Northwest Valley YMCA. The school works closely



with the YMCA, extending and enriching learning opportunities for students. Before and after school care at the YMCA, which is free to all Youngtown residents through a grant from the town, includes homework assistance, STEM projects, games, sports, art, and more. The school believes it's a partnership that builds connections between students, families, and the local community, deepening the roots in Youngtown.

### Learning Is About More Than Academics

As a tuition-free public charter school, Discover U provides an educational approach focused on

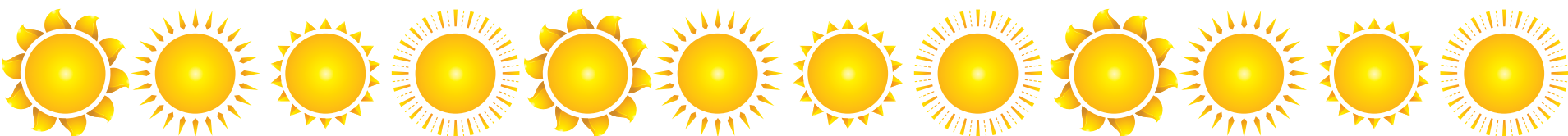
students' curiosity and discovery. "Our mascot is an astronaut, so we better be about discovery and exploration," Jones laughs. "Our environment allows students to ask questions, make observations, develop critical thinking skills, and use problem solving to expand their application of knowledge. We've created a comfortable environment where learning comes alive through hands-on projects so that students apply their education to real-world scenarios."

Jones goes on to explain that Discover U's educational philosophy is about more than academics. The school emphasizes development of the whole child, including strong character traits, respectful interactions with peers, physical education,

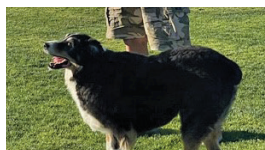
and early college and career exploration.

"It's important that our students are more than academically prepared," concludes Jones. "We want them to be productive, prepared citizens of Youngtown and our state, ready to positively contribute to our society. Partnering with families, we know Discover U is a great place to build this foundation for success in school and in life."

Discover U is managed by Leona Schools and is a tuition-free, non-profit public charter school serving K-6 students. Free breakfast is served to all students, and Youngtown residents also receive free before and after school care in partnership with The Northwest Valley YMCA. School begins August 3. To enroll, or for more information: DiscoverUlearning.com or 623-974-4827.



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News**  
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**All  
Together  
Now**  
Page 6



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# From the Mayor... Luke Air Force Base — the Best of the West Valley

*This is a lightly edited reprint of an article I wrote several years ago but is a fitting re-read as we celebrate the birth of our great nation...*

Some 17 years ago, I was a somewhat reluctant transplant from Illinois. My wife, an Arizona native, had just gone through a serious illness and we decided to move her back home to Arizona so she could be close to her family.

Going from the cornfields and forests of Illinois to the Sonoran desert of the Valley-of-the-Sun was, in many ways, a jarring experience. The visual contrast between lush verdancy and the pastels and creams of the desert landscape was intense. Early on, in my first summer, I learned about the dangers of steering wheels and heat conductivity.

But as we settled into our new home, I fell in love with the West Valley with all its many and varied attributes and amenities. Chief among them is Luke Air Force Base (AFB).

Luke AFB, as I quickly learned, is of vital importance not only to the region but also to the state and the nation. Luke AFB contributes



in excess of \$2 billion annually to the Arizona economy and is one of the largest employers in the state.

Luke began as a 1440 acre land lease from the City of Phoenix to the Army Air Corps in 1941 and was first known as Litchfield Park Air Base. Later that same year, it was renamed Luke Field in honor of Frank Luke Jr. a WWI flying ace and the first aviator awarded the Medal of Honor. (The award was posthumous since Frank Luke Jr. was killed in action on September 29, 1918 at age 21 after his 200 hp SPAD XIII bi-plane was shot down near Murvaux, France).

The United State Air Force became a separate military service on September 18, 1947 and, after a

five year deactivation between WWII and the Korean War, Luke Field was reactivated and officially named Luke Air Force Base.

Some 12,000 pilots were trained at Luke Field during WWII and over the years, in excess of 55,000 fighter pilots have been trained at Luke AFB. In modern times, the vast majority of Middle-Eastern-Theatre pilots have been trained at Luke AFB. With its desert location and close proximity to the Barry M. Goldwater Bombing Range, it is an ideal training facility for this country's current military missions.

In August of 2012, the Air Force announced the selection of Luke AFB as a pilot training center for the new

Joint Strike Fighter or F-35 program. The F-35 is an exportable '5th generation' fighter and is the product of a partnership of nine countries: the United States, Australia, Canada, Denmark, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

This announcement was the culmination of an arduous, years long, unprecedented cooperative marketing effort which saw every municipality in the West Valley along with Maricopa County, the State of Arizona and many of the region's major employers come together, as partners, to petition and lobby the Air Force to place this critical mission at Luke AFB.

Local, county and

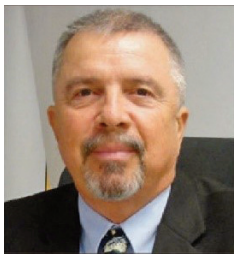
state leaders have worked hard, for decades, defending Luke from the BRAC process (Base Closure and Realignment Commission) of the 1990s and developmental encroachment of the early 2000s. This unprecedented support and co-operation has assured that Luke AFB will be able to fulfill its daily flight missions and remain an integral part of the West Valley well into the future.

The West Valley Partnership still meets on a regular basis and continues to look after and stay involved with Luke AFB and Luke works hard to involve itself in the communities surrounding it.

As I travel throughout the West Valley, fighter jets are a ubiquitous presence in our desert skies. I always look up and follow their trajectories as they streak overhead and I think about the importance of Luke AFB, on so many levels, and what it means to the security of the West Valley, Arizona and the United States as fighter pilots--Air Force men and women-- train daily to assure fulfillment of the Air Force mission to "fly, fight and win".



**Michael LaVault**  
Mayor



**Charles Vickers**  
Vice Mayor



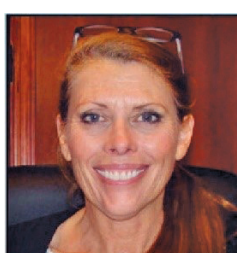
**Margaret Chittenden**  
Councilmember



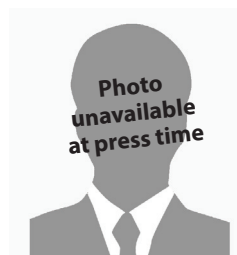
**Karen Haney Duncan**  
Councilmember



**Michael Francis**  
Councilmember



**Susan Hout**  
Councilmember



**Jim Starke**  
Councilmember



## 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)



# Leave Fireworks to the Experts



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

**J**uly 4th is synonymous with barbecues, parades, and fireworks. The National Safety Council advises everyone to enjoy fireworks at public displays conducted by professionals, and not to use any fireworks at home. They may be illegal, or even worse, not safe.

In 2017, eight people died and over 12,000 were injured badly enough to require medical treatment after fireworks-related incidents. Of these, 50% of the injuries were to children and young adults under age 20. Over two-thirds (67%) of injuries took place from June 16 to July 16. And while the majority of these incidents were due to amateurs attempting to use professional-grade, homemade or other illegal fireworks or explosives, an estimated 1,200 injuries were from less powerful devices like small firecrackers and sparklers.

Additionally, fireworks start an average of 18,500 fires each year, including 1,300 structure fires, 300 vehicle fires and nearly 17,000 other fires.



## Fireworks Safety Tips: If You Choose to Use Legal Fireworks

As a 'rule of thumb', legal fireworks are those that do not fly through the air or go "BOOM". Consumer fireworks are

generally legal to buy in Arizona, and if you choose to use them, be sure to follow the following safety tips:

- Never allow young children to handle fireworks.
- Older children should use them only under close adult supervision.

- Never use fireworks while impaired by drugs or alcohol.

- Anyone using fireworks or standing nearby should wear protective eyewear.

- Never hold lighted fireworks in your hands.
- Never light them indoors.

- Only use them away from people, houses and flammable material.

- Never point or throw fireworks at another person.

- Only light one device at a time and maintain a safe distance after lighting.
- Never ignite devices

in a container.

- Do not try to re-light or handle malfunctioning fireworks.

- Soak both spent and unused fireworks in water for a few hours before discarding.

- Keep a bucket of water nearby to fully extinguish fireworks that don't go off or in case of fire.

- Never use illegal fireworks.

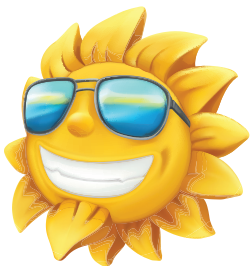
Better yet, grab a blanket and a patch of lawn, kick back and let the experts handle the fireworks show.

## Sparklers Are Dangerous

Every year, young children can be found along parade routes and at festivals with sparklers in hand, but sparklers are a lot more dangerous than most people think.

Sparklers burn at about 2,000 degrees – hot enough to melt some metals. Sparklers can quickly ignite clothing, and children have received severe burns from dropping sparklers on their feet. According to the National Fire Protection Association, sparklers alone account for more than 25% of emergency room visits for fireworks injuries. For children under 5 years of age, sparklers accounted for nearly half of the total estimated injuries. Consider using safer alternatives, such as glow sticks, confetti poppers or colored streamers.

# Savor Summer





# Youngtown Public Library

## August 2023

Exciting things are coming to the Youngtown Public Library! The Youngtown Public Library recently received three Collection and Programming grants from the Arizona State Library. These grants are focused on three specific age groups in the Library; preschool children, elementary school children, and retired adults. The first grant is to enhance our storytimes at the Library. It will purchase new books and materials designed for early childhood development. The second grant focuses on our school aged children. The grant will provide additional biographies that all elementary children need for school. It will also include programs to go along with the biographies. The final grant focuses on our retired community. The grant will provide activity kits to help people with dementia or memory issues keep their brains active to help slow the progression of memory loss. The kits will be available for the community to check out, as well as, for game day afternoons at the Library. More information will come as plans and programs are finalized.

### AUGUST IMPORTANT DATES

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| August 1 | All Together Now Summer Reading Program ends |
| August 1 | Rather Be Reading Book Club at 10:00 a.m.    |

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| August 9  | Storytime with Miss Mary at 10:30 a.m.          |
| August 15 | Last day to order your free summer reading book |
| August 16 | Storytime with Miss Mary at 10:30 a.m.          |
| August 23 | Storytime with Miss Mary at 10:30 a.m.          |
| August 30 | Storytime with Miss Mary at 10:30 a.m.          |

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**ALL TOGETHER NOW SUMMER READING PROGRAM:** August 1 is the final day to log your minutes read. Your free 1000-point book must be ordered by August 15 and all prizes must be picked up by September 15.

**STORYTIME WITH MISS MARY:** Storytime with Miss Mary is back from the summer break. Join us every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. for a storytime filled with books, songs, and fun!

**RATHER BE READING BOOK CLUB:** The Rather Be Reading Book Club is back from summer break. We will meet on August 1 and will be reading Agatha Christie's Death on the Nile. For more information contact Mary Vass, Library Manager at 623-974-3401

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

- **FREE Book and DVD checkout** (with a Youngtown Library card)
- **FREE WI-FI**
- **FREE use of 6 Public Computers**
- **FREE Tax and Legal Forms**
- **FREE faxes (with a Youngtown Library card) – 10-page limit**
- **Printing/Copies \$ .15 each**

### LOCATION

The Youngtown Library and the Youngtown Historical Museum are located in Town Square, between Alabama and Youngtown Avenues, just west of 112th Avenue. For additional information about the Library or the history of Youngtown, call (623) 974-3401 and speak with Mary Vass, Library/Museum Manager.

### LIBRARY HOURS

Monday – Thursday: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Friday – Sunday: Closed

## Clubs and Organizations

### 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

### GIRL SCOUT TROOP 997

MEET: 2nd and 4th Thursdays at the Clubhouse and off site other Thursdays  
azgstroop997@gmail.com

All clubs meet in the Clubhouse unless otherwise noted.

### YOUNGTOWN CITIZENS' DOG PARK

MEET: 3rd Saturday of the month 10:30 a.m. to noon  
OFF: June, July and August  
Margaret Chittenden – 480-861-1576

### 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 FUND

MEET: 3rd Wednesday of the month 5:30 p.m.  
Madelon Jeffreys – 623-977-4661

## AARP Historic Chapter #1

Yes, we are the first chapter established AND located in Youngtown which is the first retirement community in the US. We have a monthly member meeting the first Friday of every month. We enjoy a delicious Potluck each month and have a guest speaker with great information for our age



group.

The membership for our club is just \$10 per year and you must be a member of National AARP. We meet in the Youngtown Clubhouse/

Council Chambers located at 12030 N. Clubhouse Square in Youngtown. We would love to have you join our group. We have openings for all board positions and welcome everyone to join us. For more information, please contact Jay Lickus at 623-734-5438.

## 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.



# News You Can Use...

## Canine Happenings at the Dog Park!

Welcome to the new visitors of Youngtown Dog Park; Miss Blue a cattle dog and Miss Willow a young Mastiff.

Youngtown is proud to have such a lovely dog park that is accessible to all. Our park is divided into 2 sections; an area for large dogs and an area for small dogs. When visiting the dog park please check out the posted rules to keep the park friendly and clean. Thank you to those who have been assisting in park clean ups; our four-legged friends love the lush green grass. Our four-legged friends and their buddies love to run through the green grass enjoying each other's company.

As a reminder, Monsoon season is upon us from now until September. Last summer was pretty mild except for several micro-bursts. Here are some suggestions to keep your pets safe during monsoon season:

1. Make sure your pets are microchipped and current on Maricopa License tags.
2. Don't forget to keep an ID tag on your pets at all times.
3. Secure your backyards- Be sure there are no openings like spaces between gate posts and the fence. Sometimes our pets can squeeze through the small openings.
4. Try creating a hiding area in a closet, bathroom, or maybe the laundry room with their favorite blanket or bed along with some of their favorite toys close by.
5. Try putting on some music when there is loud



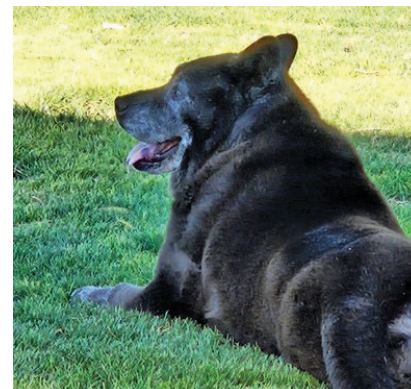
Irene with Pickles & Dale



Willow checking out her new doggie park



Cattle dog Blue



Suzie enjoying morning breeze



Zaylee on Washington Beach

thunder and lightning. The loud noises can scare anyone, so putting on the music can help quiet the noise.

6. Some owners have tried and loved the thunder shirts to help keep their furry friends calm during storms.

7. Remember to keep pets inside when storms

are approaching.

If the worst happens and your loved ones get out, make sure to call Maricopa County Animal Control at 602-506-7387. It might be a good idea to keep a copy of your pet's license number handy in case you need to relay that information to animal control.

If you are planning a road trip with your furry friends this summer, please send Councilmember Chittenden your photos to include in the Youngtown Village Reporter Articles. We love seeing all the traveling pups on their adventures.

Donations can be made at the following loca-

tions: Koppy's on Michigan Avenue, Spoiled Rotten Pet Salon at 11246 N. 113th Avenue, Youngtown Library and as always Youngtown Town Hall, Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

For the months of July and August there will be no Citizens' Dog Park meetings. Our next meet-

ing will be held on Saturday, September 23, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. in the kitchen area of Youngtown Square Clubhouse.

Volunteers are the best! Thank you to those who keep the area clean, and keep items picked up. We have a very friendly, happy, and helpful group of residents, always looking out for each other!

The dog park is a great place for your furry friends to get some exercise and for you to meet some new friends! We hope to see you there!

Please contact Councilmember Chittenden at 480-861-1576 for questions or text photos with your pets' names and the location of the photos.



# All Together Now at the Youngtown Public Library

The All Together Now summer reading program has special activities every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. Pictured is Ms. Jack presenting Science Heroes: Saving the Earth Together. We saved the Earth from Dr. Sludge while doing some cool science experiments.





# In The Works

## August 2023



**Marty Mosbrucker**  
Public Works Manager

project/spending request is presented is; how does the new project/spending request affect the residents/customers quality of life? The next question is; does the project/issue relate to the council/department priorities? The additional questions are; are there environmental implications? What is the cost and what are the funding sources? What is the justification and risk analysis? What happens if the project is not approved? If applicable, provide a contingency analysis. Show examples of best practices from other cities. What departments will be involved? What are the in-house staff requirements? Are outside consultants needed? Are special equipment resources needed? Are there on-going maintenance and operations costs involved? As you can see,

quite a bit of work goes into the budgeting process. The uncertainty of economic conditions caused by the pandemic of 2020 until 2023 necessitated a fiscally conservative approach to the Town's budget process. The Town maintained this conservative approach for fiscal year 2020/21 and fiscal year 2021/22. The fiscal year 2022/23 for the public works dept., which ends June 30th, has been somewhat conservative with a cautious approach due primarily to pandemic supply chain labor shortages and the skyrocketing cost of materials. Further analysis of planned projects is necessary, in order to operate in a fiscally responsible manner. When operating from a fiscally responsible manner, it is necessary to provide a "business as usual" ap-

proach concerning the Town infrastructure. Basic services continued with street resurfacing, park maintenance, building maintenance, stormwater management, fleet management and the Town staff safety program. Now that the pandemic seems to be in the far rear-view mirror, the Town can resume to budget for capital improvement projects that address the questions posed in the beginning of this article. In the year prior to the pandemic, up until March 2020, numerous capital improvement projects were completed. In the Town buildings, security surveillance cameras were installed. The flooring in several Town buildings was upgraded. A remote video conferencing system was added to the council chambers. Street resurfacing continued and will continue as

planned; additional storm water mitigation was installed. New street and traffic control signs were installed in the section of Town north of Peoria Ave. In the Parks, new tables were added, the benches around the lake were replaced. Concrete borders were added around Maricopa Lake. A new aeration system was installed in the lake. Two decorative water features were installed in the lake. Professional arbor work was completed on the park trees. Citizens' Dog Park received new sod. Shade structures were installed in the Citizens' Dog Park. The basketball court at David C. Uribe Park was resurfaced. Right of way weed spraying was conducted and will continue to be conducted. Alley weed spraying is conducted twice a year; once in the spring and once in

the late fall. The remainder of the year, weed eradication in the alleys, is the responsibility of the resident whose property is adjacent to that section of alley. Right of way utility work was performed and inspected. The Town offered hazardous waste collection at no cost to residents. For FY 2022/23, the sod was replaced in the Citizens' Dog Park at no cost to the Town. A free to the residents' household hazardous waste pick up event was conducted. The street resurfacing project was completed in the Agua Fria Ranch section of Town. After council budget approval of the FY 2023/24 public works capital improvement projects is completed, I will detail the planned improvements in the September article.

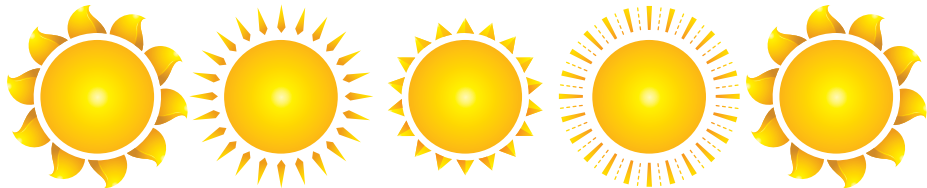
## Youngtown Community Fund Medical Lending Center

The Youngtown Community Fund DbA Medical Equipment Lending Center has been in Youngtown for 60 years servicing those in need of durable equipment to assist in their recovery process and enhance their quality of life. We also service El Mirage, Peoria, and Surprise. We loan our equipment for up to 4 months



at no cost. We have many items available to loan. We don't discriminate for any rea-

son. Age, race, religion, sexual orientation, or financial ability are not a factor in our lending practices. We are located at 11215-A W. Nevada Ave. in Youngtown. We are open Monday-Friday from 9am-1pm and would be happy to assist you. No appointment or prescription is needed.

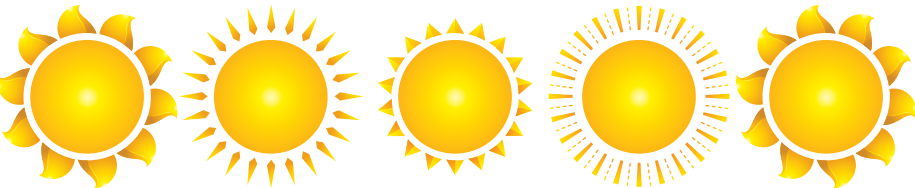


## In The Spotlight

The Town of Youngtown features 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!

### Prestige Office Systems, LLC

We sell new and used office furniture as well as specialize in moving, delivery, and installing office furniture. You can even give us a call for your office cleaning and sanitizing needs. (602)-699-3900 11129 W. Michigan Ave, Unit 8,9,10 Youngtown, AZ 85363





**Heat exhaustion is a milder form of heat-related illness that can develop over several days of exposure to high temperatures and inadequate or unbalanced replacement of fluids. Those most prone to heat exhaustion are elderly people, those with high blood pressure, and those working or exercising in a hot environment.**



# HEAT EXHAUSTION

- Faint or Dizzy
- Excessive sweating
- Cool, pale, clammy skin
- Nausea or vomiting
- Rapid, weak pulse
- Muscle cramps



## What should you do?

- Get to a cooler, air conditioned place
- Drink water
- Take a cool shower or use cold compresses

## DO YOU KNOW THE DIFFERENCE?



# HEAT STROKE

**Heat stroke is the most serious heat-related illness. It occurs when the body is unable to control its temperature. The body's temperature rises rapidly, the sweating mechanism fails, and the body is unable to cool down. Body temperature may rise to 106 or higher within 10 to 15 mins. Heat stroke can cause death or permanent disability if emergency treatment is not provided.**

**CALL  
9-1-1!!!**

- Throbbing headache
- No sweating
- Body temperature above 103°
- Red, hot, dry skin
- Nausea or vomiting
- Rapid, strong pulse
- May lose consciousness