

This is a lightly edited reprint of an article that first appeared in the May, 2017 Youngtown Village Reporter...

Life Is Good in Youngtown

Government exists to enhance quality of life. We choose to live in certain municipalities and neighborhoods based on our perceptions of how our lives would be impacted by living there. Public policy decisions by government drive our perceptions of our towns and neighborhoods. So, how is Youngtown doing; what is its state or condition and how is it impacting our lives?

Youngtown's premier asset is its location. Half way between the 101 and 303 freeways and nestled between Grand Avenue on the north and Olive Avenue on the south, Youngtown provides easy access to world-class amenities in downtown Phoenix and surrounding communities without sacrificing its easy 'small-town' ambiance.

After a hard day at work or play, we come home to a very safe community thanks to excellent law enforcement by the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) and quick responses to fire and medical emergencies by the Sun City Fire and Medical Department (SCFMD). Our on-going relationship with newly elected Sheriff Penzone and the command officers of District 3 assures us that MCSO service levels will continue to be excellent. A new, state-of-the-art fire station scheduled to be completed and brought on-line later this fall, in Youngtown, will assure continued excellent response times to fire and medical emergencies.

Thanks to a rolling five year maintenance program, developed by our public works department, the streets, roads and alleys, in Youngtown, are in excellent condition. Recent improvements, like the Peoria Avenue straightening, at the north entrance to Agua Fria Ranch, continue to enhance mobility and safety. Additional street lights to be erected, later this year, along the Agua Fria Parkway and in neighborhoods in the older sections of Youngtown will enhance security and safety in our neighborhoods. Youngtown's involvement in projects like improving Grand Avenue and the construction of the Northern Parkway help assure enhanced regional transportation.

A well run library and several parks, along with the new bike/ped path recently constructed on the south side of Peoria Avenue, offer residents lots of opportunity for recreation. Projected construction of some 80,000 linear feet of sidewalks in the older neighborhoods of Youngtown, over the next couple of years, will encourage residents to safely interact with each other in their neighborhoods while enhancing the perception of Youngtown as a truly walkable community. Several new recreational projects, already in the works, are designed to further enhance recreational assets and opportunities.

We continue to cultivate a fertile commercial environment with programs like our commercial façade improvement grant program which is gaining momentum and showing some very positive results throughout the town. Our commercial real estate vacancy rate is low with several new businesses having recently located in Youngtown and we continue to work with commercial prospects looking to make Youngtown their home. Our streamlined governmental processes make us one of the easiest municipalities to work with.

Youngtown is financially stable with a strong rainy-day fund, no debt and fiscal policies designed to weather any storm while our tax burden on residents remains among the lightest in the Valley.

So, what is the state or condition of your town? It's pretty darned good—fiscally stable while constantly looking for ways to further enhance quality of life.

Life is good in Youngtown!

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