

Las Sendas Up Close

Bringing neighbors closer to their community

October 2013

iPLAN is Go-to Source for Custom Home Designs

By Kimberly Searles

In a time when the housing industry spiraled downward, iPLAN has become the go-to source for custom home designs.

Many factors play into the 18-year-old firm's success, according to President Alan House.

"It boils down to design talent and attention to detail," said Alan. "We're also proud to have an 88 percent first-time plans approval rating."

Proven designs and planning methods don't hurt, either. As an architectural firm, iPLAN has created hundreds of luxury homes ranging from 2,000 square feet to 22,000 square feet. A former aerospace engineer, Alan worked at the Boeing plant in Mesa.

His expertise in the aerospace industry translates well into the custom home design arena when blended with his business partner Ben Scheier's unique design talents and experience. Ben's talents were honed in some of the Southwest's most luxurious settings—La Jolla, Rancho Santa Fe and Scottsdale.

"With iPLAN, we bring aerospace processes and



Alan House,
Ben Scheier,
Joel Moreno



procedures to an industry that has none," stated Alan. "Those processes include focus on details and getting things done right the first time."

Ben, along with the talented design team, has propelled iPLAN into a premier source for custom design homes. Focused on innovative and elegant design solutions, their penchant for perfection begins with developing a good rapport with their clients. In fact, many times, the team is out in the dirt, working with their clients and builders.

In addition to custom home design, iPLAN offers semi-custom and production homes, working with some of the finest builders in the area, such as Blanford and Lennar. The team also provides architectural review services for Las Sendas and other prestigious communities.

Their commitment to creative design and quality also has garnered them an invitation to design a custom home for this year's Street of Dreams event. Located in Gilbert's Whitewing at Germann Estates, Street of Dreams features five brand new luxury show homes designed to impress and inspire. iPLAN's home sits in the middle of the Street of Dreams, and will be open to the public from Oct. 19 through Dec. 1. ■

iPLAN provides a full-service custom home design for projects of all sizes. Learn more about iPLAN by visiting them at www.iplandesign.com, or contacting Ben Scheier at (480) 980-1119. You also can like them on www.facebook.com/IPLANLLC.

FAMILY-OWNED GUS'S OFFERS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

By Kimberly Searles

Located at Power and McKellips roads, Gus's New York Pizza and Bar works hard to serve up something for everyone.

Whether your appetite is large or small, Gus's features a full menu filled with their family tried-and-true recipes.

An Arizona tradition for nearly 40 years, and opening in Northeast Mesa in 2012, Gus's focuses on creating high-quality freshness and a distinctive style, making them stand out from others.

"The food is good, and the servers are always polite," said one online reviewer.

With football season in high gear, Gus's invites you to come watch your favorite teams battle it out while enjoying a mouthwatering assortment of pizzas, wings, subs and fresh salads. What they are most famous for is their 32-inch NY Giant Pizza—enough to feed your whole family, and have leftovers the next day.

Order the whole pizza, or get it by the slice. Gus's even offers Stromboli, available in one-size-fits-all to appease every appetite. Their menu also includes a full array of pasta, including Lasagna, Fettuccine Alfredo and Eggplant



Parmesan. You can even build your own pasta, which comes with freshly made garlic bread.

"In addition to making dishes that are unique and flavorful, we want to create an atmosphere that's enjoyable for our customers," said the owner.

It's true—Gus's offers a variety of ways to enjoy your time. From their amazing drink selection and happy hour deals, to their indoor or outdoor seating, Gus's truly does offer something for everyone.

One reviewer on iDine.com mentions their attractive and casual ambiance. "The service was fast and attentive, but unobtrusive, while the food was tasty, well-prepared. Overall, Gus's is an enjoyable experience, and we've added it to our regular neighborhood dining out list."

If you have a hankering for great pizza and good times, Gus's New York Pizza and Bar is the place to go in Northeast Mesa. ■

Gus's New York Pizza and Bar is located at 2015 N. Power Road, in the Target shopping plaza. Choose from dine in, delivery or carry-out dining. Call (480) 924-4877, or order online at www.gussnypizzabar.com.



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HEALTH

MULTI-TRAINED PROFESSIONAL Joins Cosmos Spa Team

By Dawn Abbey

Cosmos Salon and Day Spa is pleased to announce the addition of a licensed massage therapist and aesthetician to its staff.

"We are very excited to welcome Jill Batista to our team of professionals," said Sandy Barbetta. She and her husband, Cosmo, are co-owners of Cosmos Salon and Day Spa.

A graduate of both the Southwest Institute of Healing Arts and the Southwest Institute of Natural Aesthetics, Jill is a 16-year veteran in the field of massage and healing bodywork. She has worked in numerous day spas, chiropractic clinics and wellness centers. At one point, she operated her own successful practice in Colorado. Her special areas of expertise include relaxation, therapeutic, focused tension relief, hot-stone and prenatal massage services, as well as craniosacral therapy.

"My approach is holistic," said Jill, "and I have a strong commitment and devotion to the practice of massage, skin care, health and well-being. By listening carefully to my clients, I can focus on the areas of tension, as requested, with effective thoroughness and care, using a blend of learned techniques and customized treatments for pure relaxation, or deep and therapeutic."



Jill Batista

As an aesthetician, Jill's specialty is facial and body waxing, including the Brazilian bikini wax. She also performs a variety of facial services, microdermabrasion and peels. In addition, she offers a complimentary skin analysis, with skin care and product recommendations. Originally from Arizona, Jill is excited to be here as a new addition to the fabulous team at Cosmos. ■

To set up an appointment with Jill or any of the Cosmos Salon and Day Spa team, or for more information, call (480) 844-0707. Cosmos Salon and Day Spa is located in The Village at Las Sendas, at the northeast corner of Power and McDowell roads.



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COMMUNITY

Empty Bowl Events ASSIST PAZ DE CRISTO

Submitted by Mesa
Community College

It may take a village to raise a child, but sometimes it takes a village to sustain the village itself. Such was the case when a fire broke out at Paz de Cristo Community Center this past spring, rendering the center's kitchen unusable. The center, which serves about 200 meals each night to those in need in the East Valley, was unsure how it would continue its mission to help the poor.

Thanks to an outpouring of support and generosity from community restaurants, businesses, faith groups and individuals, Paz de Cristo was able to continue its nightly service. These local restaurants donated catered food or provided food at cost to donors at the center, proving that with assistance and support, Paz de Cristo is an unstoppable source of support for Valley residents.

"The community really rallied behind us," said Christine Oliviero, business manager and volunteer coordinator for Paz de Cristo. "We were very thankful for their donations."

Following along those lines, Mesa Community College (MCC) will be holding two fund-raising events to further support the anti-hunger and empowerment services offered by the non-profit agency, Paz de Cristo.

For a \$10 donation, those attending Empty Bowl

events can take home a one-of-a-kind bowl made by accomplished local artists and dine on a simple meal of bread, soup and water in observance of World Hunger Day. All proceeds go to Paz de Cristo.



MCC offers two Empty Bowl events for the community to attend:
Wednesday, Oct. 16, at MCC's Southern and Dobson Campus (Center Courtyard under the big tent)
1833 W. Southern Ave.
Hours: 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., and evening 5 to 8 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 23, at MCC's Red Mountain Campus (Mesquite Building, Community Room)
7110 E. McKellips Road
Hours: 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., and evening 5 to 8 p.m.

Local organizations donate clay, glaze, soup, dinner rolls, entertainment, volunteers and much more. Sponsors include *The Arizona Republic*, Alpine Valley

Bread Co., Marjon Ceramics and Laguna Clay Company, Mesa Arts Center, MCC Art Department, New Frontiers, Pita Jungle, T.C. Eggington's, Red, White and Brew, Shamrock Farms and Sysco. ■

For more information about Mesa Community College, visit the Web site at www.mesacc.edu.

DINING

O'Neill's Guarantees UNDER 100 DEGREES

By Paul O'Neill

O'Neill's Place still guarantees it to be under 100 degrees.

It's been a long hot summer, and with temperatures still hovering around 90 degrees, things are ice cold at O'Neill's, especially the beer.

With baseball winding down, and some disappointment with the Diamond Backs not taking first place or even the wildcard, we can now put all our hopes in the Cardinals. So, let's go Cards, and come on down to O'Neill's Place to watch them all season, along with all your NFL favorites. O'Neill's Place offers the complete NFL Package, ESPN Game Plan and Big 10 for those college fans, too.

During the football season, O'Neill's Place offers Happy Pricing on select beers and spirits, \$3 Bloody Mary's and our infamous \$8 burger and a beer on Mondays and Thursdays.

Continuing all winter is Prime Rib Saturday Night, and, of course, for all our wonderful children in school, the A for Achievement Program. Beth also has brought back her famous mini desserts. So, come on down and enjoy one after some great food and spirits.

In a follow up from last month's article, it does seem Paul O'Neill actually is the most interesting man in the world. Paul may not always drink beer, but when he does, he drinks at O'Neill's Place!

If you have not already, please do like us on Facebook, and follow all of Beth's updates.

Come thirsty. Come hungry. ■

O'Neill's Place is located at 2855 N. Power Road, on the northeast corner of Power and McDowell roads, in The Village at Las Sendas.



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A Closer Look at

LAS SENDAS GOLF CLUB

Features Entertainment, Dining & Golf



A Closer Look, Las Sendas Golf Club...is a monthly column written for the Up Close Publication by Las Sendas Golf Club. In this column, you will get an in-depth look at upcoming entertainment, dining and golf events. Our brand is our mission—to reach out to the community with entertainment, dining and golf events as your pathway to fun, recreation and a pleasurable lifestyle.

ENTERTAINMENT

LIVE...AT LAS SENDAS is pleased to present Andrew Johns on Thursday, Nov. 14, along with our amazing Chef's Grand Buffet. Andrew Johns is a musician and comedian with just a few keyboards, drums, a ton of talent and a huge diverse repertoire. Andrew has been compared to the late entertainer Victor Borge, as his sometimes goofy nature and cerebral sense of humor can shine through, usually at the appropriate moments. He also can be described as a combination of Billy Joel and Elton John, with fabulous renditions of both artists, as well as many other popular pianists and soloists. Andrew's amazing vocal range allows him to tackle everything from light opera, including Les Miserable and Phantom of the Opera, all the way over to impersonating Louis Armstrong, Norah Jones, Macy Gray and Led Zeppelin.



With his vocal expertise, you will hear harmonies that you're not sure how or from where they are coming. Mostly, it's thanks to his classical piano background and perfect pitch as a child, which has led to the amazing ability to mimic and cover so many genres and styles. Basically, if he's heard it, he can play it.

So, if you're looking for Elton, Queen, The Rolling Stones, Glenn Miller, Earth Wind and Fire, Michael Buble, Muse, Seal, John Mayer, Journey, Billy Joel, The Fray, Marvin Gaye, Jimmy Buffet, Van Morrison, Zac Brown Band, Sting, ABBA, Garth Brooks, Average White Band, Paul Simon, Peter Gabriel, Phil Collins, Stevie Wonder, Lady Antebellum and many more, Andrew Johns is your obvious choice. Even Lady Gaga has been known to creep into the middle of a song.

Cocktails are from 6 to 6:30 p.m. The Chef's Grand Buffet is from 6:30 to 8 p.m., and the show begins at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$60 per person or a table of eight for \$400. Only 200 tickets will be sold. To purchase tickets or a table, please call Erica at (480) 396-4000, or send an e-mail to egomez@lassendas.com.

Hold the Date**

Please hold the following dates in your calendar for our 2013-2014 **LIVE... AT LAS SENDAS** calendar of events:

- ♦ Jan. 16—A Night of Comedy
 - ♦ Feb. 20—Dinner Theatre
 - ♦ April 17—Dueling Pianos
 - ♦ May 29—Show Band
 - ♦ July 17—Dinner Theatre
- **Dates are firm, entertainment subject to change.

DINING

Hallowine

Join us on Friday, Oct. 25, for our Hallowine Adult Costume Party. We are serving cocktails, a three-course dinner, paired with amazing red and white wines, followed by an evening of great music and dancing. Our event will be hosted in our wonderful Vistas Pavilion. Our ghoulish décor is a must-see. Cocktails will be served from 6 to 6:30 p.m.

Dinner will be served from 6:30 to 8 p.m., with dancing from 8 to 11 p.m. Tickets are \$55, and can be purchased by calling Erica at (480) 396-4000, or by sending an e-mail to egomez@lassendas.com.

Sunday Football

We have NFL Sunday Ticket

Join us every Sunday to watch your favorite NFL team on one of our 12 HD flat screen televisions. Come early and enjoy breakfast and our amazing \$5 Bloody Mary Bar, starting at 9 a.m. Great snacks are on with \$5 appetizers, 50 cent wings and buckets of beer until 4 p.m. Cool off and join us for Happy Hour, from 4 to 7 p.m., and our Pasta Buffet, from 5 to 8 p.m.

The Patio—Music and Dining

Our evening entertainment is back on The Patio at Las Sendas, from Tuesday through Saturday. Come and relax. Take in our awesome views of the Valley and the beautiful sunsets.



PACKAGES AND PROMOTIONS

Holiday Parties for Small Businesses Thursday, Dec. 5

The Vistas Pavilion is offering a Holiday Party package customized for smaller businesses. Your package comes with a buffet, band and dance floor. Our buffet was specially designed by our Executive Chef and includes turkey, ham, salmon, pasta, salads, baby glazed vegetables, potatoes and delectable desserts. Each group will have their own assigned section, and can choose from host or cash bar options. To reserve your tables, please call Jacklyn Russo at (480) 396-4000.

GOLF

Maximize Your Golf Assets Las Sendas Golf Academy

If you are a golfer you may be asked, "What is your biggest advantage on the golf course?" Many would say, "my short game," "my driver," or "my putter." However, none of these will work if your body lets you down. It is a well-known fact that both men and women hit the ball further with better physical fitness.

Las Sendas Golf Club is proud to host our first Golf and Fitness Fair, on Nov. 12, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The team of professionals will include PGA and LPGA teaching professionals, medical professionals and fitness professionals.

You will experience fun and informative sessions, which include a video of your golf swing and tips, as well as basic physical assessment, fitness techniques and a putting clinic. Lunch will be provided in the Vistas Pavilion.

Space is limited. So, reserve your spot now. Registration forms are available on www.lassendas.com (Instruction – Programs) and in the Las Sendas Golf Shop, or by sending an e-mail to tberman@lassendas.com. The cost of the Golf and Fitness Fair is \$75 per person, and payment is due upon registration.

Following the Golf and Fitness Fair, there will be an opportunity for you to experience the Las Sendas Golf Course at a reduced rate of \$40 plus tax. Register now. You won't want to miss this.

Junior Golf Sticks Programs Las Sendas Golf Academy

The Las Sendas Golf Academy offers a developmental approach to the game. We stair-step our lessons to match skill levels as junior golfers become more experienced. The goal of our junior golf program is to develop fundamental skills of the golf swing, and to teach each player what it takes to be a champion and to adopt a love for the game.

We teach the full swing, short game, putting, golf course etiquette, rules of the game and on-course play. Ages of students range from 5 to 15. Juniors are grouped according to age, gender and skills level.

A CLOSER LOOK AT LAS SENDAS GOLF CLUB (CONTINUED)

We provide instruction in a fun and creative learning environment. We have a team of PGA and LPGA teaching professionals who take pride in providing superior junior golf lessons. There are 20 group golf sessions, starting on Friday, Nov. 1, from 4 to 5:30 p.m., at the Las Sendas Golf Club.

STICKS Program
Juniors, ages 5 through 15, are welcome. Juniors are grouped according to skill levels of beginner to intermediate and by age.

BIG STICKS—Junior Club (New)
The Big Sticks Program is for ages 12 through 15, and for more experienced junior golfers. It is an opportunity to learn and prepare the junior golfer for competitive golf. They will have a chance to qualify for the Junior Club,



To register, visit our Web site at www.lassendas.com (Instruction - Programs). Registration forms are available in the Las Sendas Golf Shop, or by sending e-mail to tberman@lassendas.com. Payment is due upon registration. Registration forms and payment should be submitted to Tracy Berman at the Las Sendas Golf Shop.

GOLF SHOP
Gifts and Apparel

The Las Sendas Golf Club is very excited to bring you, the residents and neighbors of Las Sendas, a great new array of gifts and clothing this season. We are looking high and low for fun and cool new things on which to put our logo so you can wear your pride on and off the golf course this

and test their knowledge of the rules of golf. They will elevate their golf game by competing in supervised on-course play with other juniors.

Sessions are offered, starting at \$20 each.

season. From home necessities to athletic gear and lifestyle wear, you will be thrilled at some of our treasures right here in the Golf Shop at Las Sendas.

Don't let those words, Golf Shop, fool you. You don't need to play golf to find something for every taste in our shop. Next time you are passing by or grabbing a bite to eat on The Patio or at The Grille, be sure to stop in and



CHEF'S RECIPE OF THE MONTH



Crab Cakes from Chef Jason

- 1 pound crab meat—lump or jumbo lump is best
- 1/3 cup mayonnaise
- 1 egg yolk
- 1/4 cup Panko bread crumbs
- 1/4 cup red onion—finely diced
- 1/4 cup red bell pepper—finely diced
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1/2 lemon—squeeze out juice
- 1 tablespoon Old Bay Seasoning
- 1/4 cup chopped parsley
- 2 cups Panko bread crumbs—to bread cakes

Place all ingredients into mixing bowl, and mix until incorporated. Chill for two hours. Portion into 4-ounce cakes, and bread with Panko bread crumbs. Sear in sauté pan with light oil until golden brown and warm throughout.

check out all the new and exciting things we are bringing into the shop, from wine glasses and tumblers, to beach towels, blankets and framed prints.

New items are rolling in every day. For the ladies, maybe you need a pair of yoga pants, a new tennis skort, or possibly some Nike sleeves to keep you warm on a brisk winter morning run. For the gentlemen, we have you covered from head to toe, with new weekend wear, including cool Las Sendas logoed T-shirts, shorts, a styling pair of Oakley shades and flip flops. We are certain you will be surprised at what you find.

Golf Equipment
For you golfers out there...We have some amazing deals in the golf shop right now on golf equipment from prior seasons. Come on in and check us out. ■



LIVE... AT LAS SENDAS

A Night with Andrew Johns



Thursday, November 14th
The Vistas Pavilion
6:00pm-6:30pm Cocktails
6:30pm-8pm Buffet Dinner
8pm-10pm Andrew Johns

Las Sendas Golf Club
7555 E. Eagle Crest Drive • Mesa, AZ 85207

Andrew Johns comes to us from Canada and is truly an amazing musician / comedian. He plays keyboards, a drum machine and brings enormous talent with a huge repertoire and diversity. Andrew has been compared to Victor Borge with his sometimes "goofy" nature and cerebral sense of humour. Andrew's amazing vocal range allows him to tackle everything from light Opera including Les Miserable and Phantom all the way over to impersonating Louis Armstrong, Norah Jones, Macy Gray and Led Zeppelin.

Chef's Grand Buffet
Cheese Board, Charcuterie, Carved Beef, Shellfish, Chicken, Sea Bass
Salads, Vegetables, Rice, Potatoes, Pasta, Petite Fours
Chocolate Mousse, Banana Bread Pudding

Tickets \$60 per person, buy a table of 8 for \$400
Reserve early for preferred seating - 8 per table
Tickets available at Las Sendas Golf Club
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By Lorraine Ryall, Realtor, CDPE, CSSN
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MARKET UPDATE

If you are purchasing a home and have been watching the market, you may have noticed quite a few price reductions on currently listed homes in the past month.

August and the first half of September have seen home prices decline from the previous month. This is partly due to the cyclical nature of the market in Arizona, where the summer months are always slower, but also due to the increase in mortgage rates. Supply has increased by 1.1 percent, and demand decreased 3.7 percent. The forecast for October is for prices to increase as the market starts to pick up again, and the current pending sales list price is

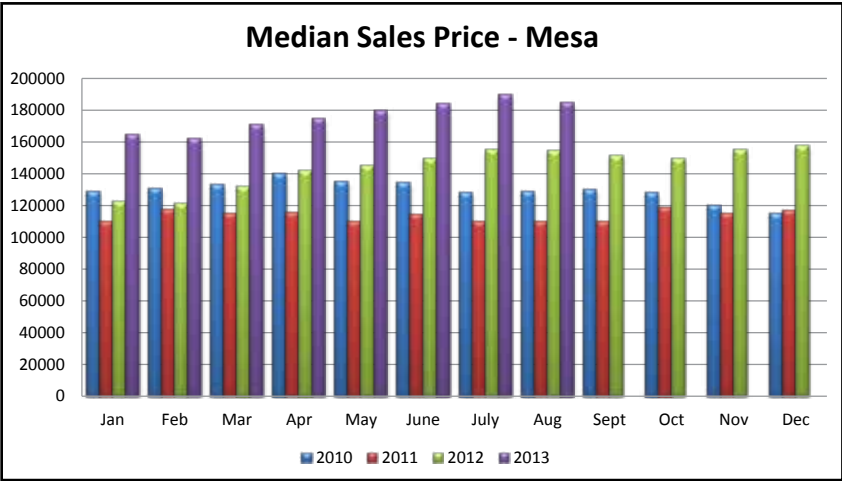


2.5 percent higher than this time last month. However, the new announcement by the Feds will probably push prices even higher than projected.

MORTGAGE RATES DROP AFTER THE FEDERAL RESERVE'S ANNOUNCEMENT

With the announcement that the Feds are not going to start tapering off on purchasing treasuries and mortgage-backed securities it purchases each month, mortgage rates immediately started to drop. With this second chance on lower interest rates, buyers are going to be jumping back in as quickly as they can to lock in their rate before anything changes and rates start to increase again.

For sellers, with this increase in demand, and still record low inventory, it's a perfect seller's market. Higher demand and low inventory means multiple offers and higher prices. But who knows how long this reprieve will last. Should the economy start picking up steam again, chances are the tapering off will resurface, driving rates back up. So, now is the best time to make your move.



CHARTS AND STATISTICS

As the charts last month were very small, I am now only using one chart each month in my articles, but the others can be viewed on my Web site at www.Homes2SellAZ.com/blog, along with a current monthly market update video. ■

Call me at (602) 571-6799, or e-mail to Lorraine@Homes2SellAZ.com. Visit my Web site at www.Homes2SellAZ.com. Get an Instant Home Value Report at www.InstantHomeValueAZ.com.

DINING

ENTER DESSERT BAKING CONTEST

Submitted by Flancer's Incredible Sandwiches and Pizzeria

OK, so, you think you can bake? Well, the word *desserts* spelled backward is *stressed*! No need to stress this, though.

If you are the winner, for one year, your charity of choice will receive \$1.50 from every order of the winning dessert sold at both of our restaurants. You also will receive a \$100 Flancer's Gift Certificate, as well as a super cool trophy.

All you have to do is send your recipe and a photo (which would be helpful, but not essential), along with your charity of choice and a brief description of your dessert, and why it is so good. Send this information to jeff@flancers.com.

If selected, we will request a baked sample, for our Dessert Baking Contest judges, on Sunday, Oct. 13, at our Mesa restaurant.

Our past winners' charities have been Beloved Little Penny, from Mesa, who needed a heart transplant, Susan G. Komen for the Cure, Gabriel's Angels and Brain Food. Each year, we raise thousands of dollars for these charities. Let's raise some money for your charity, too. ■

Rockin' taste buds since 2000, Flancer's Incredible Sandwiches and Pizzeria is a family-friendly restaurant, providing unique food on freshly baked bread. Staff members get to know the customers by sight. You can enjoy Flancer's at the Mesa location, 1902 N. Higley Road, just south of McKellips Road.



Check out www.flancers.com, or visit them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/flancerscape and www.facebook.com/flancersmesa.

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LOCAL BUSINESS

Enjoy Your Warm POOL ALL WINTER

By Dawn Abbey
As fall nights get cooler, the temperature of your pool water is falling fast, too. Days are warm and sunny, and the pool is so inviting, but most Arizonans experience an uncomfortable brrr factor if they brave a jump into the water.

"Heating your pool isn't as expensive as you might think," said Chris Quam, owner of Arizona Pool Guy, Inc. "Using the same heat pump technology that heats and cools our homes, we can have heated, and even cooled water for our pools all year long," Chris explained. "Pool heat pumps are energy efficient, costing 25 to 50 percent less than using propane, oil or natural gas, and even 20 percent less than electric resistance." "Your pool is a big investment in family recreation," said Chris. "If you can't use it comfortably in summer and winter, you're missing out. I've been heating and cooling my pool at home here in Northeast Mesa for several years now." As a single dad of two active daughters, Chris says he can't keep them out of the pool in any season. "While your neighbor's unheated pool goes unused, you and your family and friends can swim in warm water for months longer for as little as \$50 a month."



Chris Quam

Each pool setup is different, and Chris calculates the exact size specifications needed to heat your pool for the lowest cost possible. An Arizona state licensed contractor and designated a certified pool operator, Chris has 10 years experience in the pool business. He started Arizona Pool Guy, Inc., about six years ago. "We do new builds, remodels, re-plastering, decks, water features, install variable-speed pumps, and do all maintenance and pool service," Chris stated. "And of course, we install pool heaters and coolers. All of our pool techs are well-trained and reliable," he continued. "We're always happy to come out and give a free estimate for a heating/cooling system or any type of pool service needed." Arizona Pool Guy, Inc. is offering fall specials for pool owners. "Right now, we are having a fall special on heat pumps, and we'll add a free solar pool cover to save you even more money, for anyone who contracts to do a heat pump installation during October. Just clip the coupon in this newspaper." ■ For more information about pool heat pumps, variable speed pumps, or any pool service or repairs, contact Chris Quam, at Arizona Pool Guy, Inc. Call (480) 699-0607.

COMMUNITY

This Year's Holiday Boutique is Bigger and Better

Submitted by Red Mountain United Methodist Church
The Red Mountain Crafters are pleased to present its Holiday Boutique, at Red Mountain United Methodist Church, on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 1 and 2, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Through the Holiday Boutique, the multi-talented and loving hands of the Red Mountain Crafters offer you the opportunity to experience the joy from their labors, and take some happiness home with you.

So much is new this year. We have a number of new crafters, new projects, as well as the return of some of the favorites you always look for in a boutique. The eighth annual Holiday Boutique will feature items from Fantastic Florals and Wood Shop Wonders,

together with professionally sewn table settings, aprons, towels and purses. Holiday décor and lighted things are sure to enchant. Gourds and jewelry and so much more also will be available for your choosing. So, you will want to set aside enough time to take in all of the love and beauty the crafters have to share. Bid on a silent auction item. Buy books for pennies on the dollar at the used book sale. Treat yourself to goodies from the bake sale, too. Please join us at Red Mountain United Methodist Church for the Holiday Boutique. Your participation will help support Children's Ministries and the Red Mountain Preschool, offering educational opportunities for neighboring children of all faiths. We will greet you with a happy welcome, plenty of warm smiles and friendly conversation. ■ Red Mountain United Methodist Church is located at 2936 N. Power Road. For more information, call the church at (480) 981-3833.



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Chiropractor Can Be a Golfer's Best Friend

Lynn Pangburn, DC

Every golfer knows how a problem with the swing really impacts their game. So often, golfers, especially novices, try to kill the ball by hitting it as hard as possible. This puts a lot of strain on the spine and can cause pain. One way to reduce spinal stress is by decreasing backswing and follow-through. By reducing the X-factor in their swing (the opposite twisting motion between the hips and shoulders), most golfers can reduce spinal stress. Another idea to improve your swing is to have your back evaluated by a chiropractor. "Most professional golfers see a chiropractor because it helps their game so much," said Dr. Lynn Pangburn, of Red Mountain Chiro-Med. "Being a chiropractic patient has really helped me immensely... lifting weights and seeing a chiropractor on a regular basis has made me a better golfer. I've been going to chiropractors for as long as I can remember. It's as important to my training as practicing my swing." —Tiger Woods, Professional Golfer "I see golfers every day who benefit greatly from chiropractic," stated Dr. Pangburn. "When your spine is misaligned, it affects every part of your body. Chiropractors are the golfers' best friend. Chiropractic care greatly improves the body's mechanics, while reducing pain and the risk of injury." For more information on playing better golf by improving your swing, call Red Mountain Chiro-Med at (480) 359-1401. You can book an appointment to have your spine evaluated for better golf. The office is located at 2044 N. Recker Road.

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SPORTS

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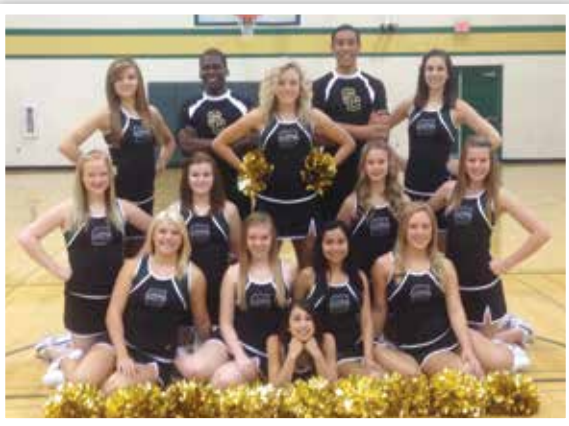
By Sharon Wozny

Walk into a room where there is a vivacious, energetic, passionate and enthusiastic person, and you feel the energy from your head to your toes—you just want to be a part of that momentum.

That person is Cathy Underwood, Skyline High School's varsity cheer coach for the past two years. She is bringing a new level of excellence to Skyline varsity cheer. Her vast dance background makes her the perfect leader for the varsity squad. Her talents were seen as a member of the Coyotes, Rattlers and Suns dance/entertainment teams. Skyline fans are in for a treat when her squad of cheerleaders takes the field.

Cathy's passion for what she does is contagious. Not only are there 12 girls on varsity, but she also has two boys who stunt and tumble, bringing a spirit of motivation and determination to the squad. For the first time in Skyline's history, Cathy has started a Pom Line, with 15 members. Their mission, this year, is just to compete. Skyline's campus is a buzz Friday mornings as the band and cheer march across the campus, gearing up the students for a Friday night football game. Just another way Cathy is showcasing her squad of cheerleaders.

Cathy is the varsity leader, but she couldn't do what she does without her other coaches, Marta Kraft, Liz Orna and Jade Morgan. Just as they work collaboratively, so do all the cheer members. The squad practices first hour, and are led by their three captains. They are Tylar Alvarez, Darcy Bates and Evelyln Brozewicz.



High standards, both academically and athletically, are the goal. Tumbling expertise is a must, along with stunts, kicks and dance moves. Besides cheering at football and basketball games, Skyline cheer will be preparing to enter the world of competitions.

November will be a busy month as they compete in Regionals and the Desert Showdown. January brings competition at State and AZ All Stars. "I want the squad to walk off proud of how they presented

themselves on the mat," Cathy said. She strives to instill positivity and pride by requiring her team members to volunteer in the community throughout the year. "They are young people who are learning how to give back and make a difference," Cathy stated. Last year, cheer members volunteered with Royal Recycle. This year, they will be cheering on the sidelines of PF Chang's Rock 'n' Roll Marathon.

On Thursday, Oct. 17, Skyline cheer will be hosting a kids clinic. All girls 4 to 13 years old can come to this fee-based clinic from 4:30 to 7 p.m., to learn the cheer moves. On Friday night, Oct. 18, at the varsity game, the girls will join the cheer squad on the field to show off their moves.

Cheer requires dedication and passion, along with money. Look for the team to hold fund-raisers throughout the year, whether it is a carwash, selling candy bars or fitness cards.

See you on the sidelines. Go Coyotes! ■

For more information on Skyline cheer, or to sign up your aspiring future cheerleader, contact Cathy Underwood at clunderwood@mpsaz.org.

SPORTS

FIRST GOLF TOURNAMENT Proves Successful

Submitted by Red Mountain High School Boys Golf Team

The Red Mountain High School Boys Golf Team hosted its first Golf Tournament Fund-raiser on Saturday, Sept. 14, at Red Mountain Ranch Country Club.

There was a fun format on several holes throughout the day involving the Boys Golf Team. There also was a prize-filled raffle and lunch, which left the participants full of good food, good prizes and good fun.

A silent auction included some fun items from PGA professional Charlie Beljan, who is a Red Mountain High School Boys Golf alumnus. He also recently enjoyed his first PGA win at the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals Classic. Charlie, along with coach Rich Hamilton, thanked everyone for their support before the players scrambled off to the first tee assignments.

The Red Mountain High School Boys Golf Team members for the 2013-2014 season are J.T. Rodenkirch, John Corr, Logan Downey, Brady Dominguez, Jared Sanner, Tommy Sullivan, Trey Sendler, Jake Guess, Aiden Daly, Gabriel Velarde and Tyler Huffman.

Red Mountain High School Boys Golf wishes to thank the community for all of their support in making this Golf Tournament Fund-raiser a success. ■



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EDUCATION

Fremont Junior High School INTRODUCES NEW PRINCIPAL

By Sharon Wozny

Fremont Junior High School is under new leadership, with Todd Roberts taking over as principal. Mr. Roberts comes to this position with many years of teaching and administrative experience. Before entering education, he was in the corporate world. He loved what he did. However, at a crossroads in his career, and because he loved working with teenagers, he decided to bring his skills to the field of education.

After receiving his degree in secondary education and administration, Mr. Roberts ventured to Westwood High School for 13 years, where he was a teacher and a team leader. Summit Academy, a kindergarten through eighth-grade school in Mesa, was his next stop where he was the International Baccalaureate school coordinator and an assistant principal for six years, under the tutelage of Mark Andrews.

Mr. Roberts hails from New York, moving here in 1988. He and his wife claim to have "... the prettiest dog there ever was ...," along with two cats. In his spare time, Mr. Roberts loves to hike and bike. He completed an Ironman Triathlon in 2008. Being a New Yorker, the Giants and Yankees rank as his favorite teams, but with his wife being from Wisconsin, there is some football craziness on game days.

His passion for students and doing what is best for them is tangible as you visit with him. Junior high students are their own special brand, and Mr. Roberts recognizes this. "Their energy is all over the place," he said, "and they are sincere with such wide ranges of maturity." He wants all his students to be successful. Therefore, they can be successful in high school, becoming prepared for the next step in their lives and educational careers.

Knowing this success cannot be accomplished alone,



Todd Roberts

he relies on his supportive, caring and unselfish staff who provide him with feedback, engage in crucial conversations and share the leadership. A plus of his job is going into the classrooms to watch his teachers engaging the students in learning.

Fremont Junior High School has many wonderful traditions, such as Coffee with the Principal, which Mr. Roberts plans on continuing. It keeps the lines of communication open and invites the parents to feel at home with the principal. "I didn't come in to fix or repair," Mr. Roberts said. "Fremont is a wonderful school, receiving an A rating from the state. I want to continue the great things that are going on here," he continued. "I am proud to be part of this learning community where

teaching the common core and bringing the best to our students is the goal."

Each Mesa school has its own personality and programs, which the community identifies with as a whole. The Common Core Standards demand new ways of teaching and learning. Mr. Roberts is excited about what this means for the school. Therefore, to stay on the cutting edge and keep Fremont in the top of Arizona's schools, three new programs are being offered.

First, Fremont Junior High School will offer the elective class of Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID). A total of 35 students are already enrolled. AVID is a college-readiness program, which prepares students for college by offering support through training in writing, inquiry, reading, organization and collaboration.

Second, Mesa is applying a curriculum focusing on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Beginning in January 2014, art will be added to make it STEAM, with one class as a pilot.

Finally, four feeder schools, Jefferson, Salk, Las Sendas and Falcon Hill elementary schools, are part of bringing technology into the hands of the students by giving all the sixth-graders amplified tablets. Next year, when they attend Fremont Junior High School, they will be ready to learn with this technology. These are just three ways in which Mr. Roberts and Mesa Public Schools are thinking outside the box to meet the needs of all their students.

With Mr. Roberts leading them, Fremont Junior High School has the recipe for success, as they focus on their students' growth by bringing them creative ways of learning, innovative technology and showing them just how fortunate they are to be Fremont Falcons. ■

Real Estate

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John Karadsheh

Las Sendas Area Market Report

Sales for the Month of August 2013

Address	Square Feet	Community	Sold Price	Short Sale or REO*
7245 East Melrose Street	1,605	Windsong	\$199,000	
7251 East Northridge Street	2,104	Windsong	\$255,000	
7416 East Odessa Street	1,571	Silverhawk	\$265,000	
2846 North Rowen Circle	1,571	Silverhawk	\$270,000	
3055 North Red Mountain #80	1,571	Ironwood Pass	\$275,000	
6927 East Portia Street	1,911	Vintage Hills	\$304,000	
7563 East Wolf Canyon Street	1,756	Mountain Gate	\$321,500	
6931 East Sierra Morena Circle	3,006	Cobblestone	\$330,000	X
3608 North Paseo Del Sol	2,451	Rolling Hills	\$350,000	
6949 East Sugarloaf Cir.	3,870	Sonoran Hills	\$525,000	
4107 North Silver Ridge Circle	3,017	Legacy Hills	\$580,000	
4118 North Mirada Circle	3,490	Granite Preserve	\$762,500	
4208 North Via Cobre Circle	5,338	Copper Canyon	\$1,425,000	
4240 North El Sereno Circle	7,149	Copper Canyon	\$1,500,000	

ONLY ONE DISTRESSED SALE IN AUGUST!
Information gathered from the Arizona Regional Multiple Listing Service is deemed reliable, but not guaranteed. Sales Information Provided By John Karadsheh, ABR, CRS, ASSOCIATE BROKER, Coldwell Banker Trails & Paths Premier Properties. www.BuyAndSellAZ.com

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LOCAL BUSINESS

Eastmark Focuses on COMMUNITY AND LIFESTYLE



Submitted by Taylor Morrison

It was love at first sight for newlyweds Don and Jennifer Sage. As the two stood in front of the gleaming Taylor Morrison model, at Mesa's Eastmark, they knew this home was the one for them. "We fell in love with the Lily floor plan as soon as we saw it," said Don. "We couldn't resist the opportunity to live in the neighborhood in a beautiful open floor plan like this house. Taylor Morrison managed to give us the perfect house." Considered to be the future heart and hub of the East Valley, Eastmark is being touted for its forward-thinking design and master plan creativity. That makes Eastmark the perfect fit for Taylor Morrison homebuyers, according to Bob Thompson, vice president of sales and marketing for Taylor Morrison. "The beauty of Eastmark is that it gives homebuyers the opportunity to create, connect and maintain a way of life that focuses on community, a vibrant lifestyle and a central hub for their future," Bob said. That connected living experience factored heavily in the Sage's buying decision. "We were attracted to Eastmark because of the convenient location and the overall feel of the neighborhood," Bob said. "We liked the idea of all of the amenities,

including the parks, events and amphitheater. The potential to feel a strong connection to our neighbors was very inviting." With four bedrooms and two baths, the Lily offers plenty of living space for any homebuyer. The 1,739-square-foot home puts an emphasis on entertaining, with a large great room connected to both the gourmet kitchen and an outside covered patio. "The spacious great room allows us to not feel cramped but still maintain a cozy atmosphere," Bob said. "We also love the features we were able to upgrade to with Taylor Morrison. Our perfect home was within our financial reach." In addition to the Lily, Taylor Morrison also models the two-story Jasmine, which offers four bedrooms, 2.5 baths and a three-car garage in a floor plan measuring approximately 2,985 square feet. Don said the purchase was made easier by Taylor Morrison's sales and design staffs, especially the couple's sales agent, Peggy Powers. "She has been there with us for every step of the way, answering questions and helping us feel like a part of the family," Don said. ■ For more information on Eastmark and Taylor Morrison, please visit the Web site at www.taylormorrison.com.






COMMUNITY

LAS SENDAS GARAGE Sale Coming Soon


Las Sendas Elementary School, located at 3120 N. Red Mountain, will host the seventh annual Community Garage Sale in the school's parking lot on Saturday Oct. 26, from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Las Sendas PTO will sell reserved parking spaces for \$25 each. Participants can set up their own garage sale, and keep the profits. Reservations will be taken through Wednesday, Oct. 23. Spaces go rather quickly, so reserve yours today! You do not need to be a Las Sendas resident to participate. Payment is required to reserve your space. You can send or drop off payment with your name, contact information, and number of spaces needed, \$25 each space, to the Las Sendas Elementary School front office. ■

For further information, contact Krystal Schmier at (602) 448-9732, or e-mail mamaschmier@gmail.com.





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LOCAL BUSINESS

AAA Gold Exchange Assures No Tricks, ONLY TREATS FOR CUSTOMERS

By Kimberly Searles

In the spirit of Halloween, there are no tricks—only treats—when choosing AAA Gold Exchange for your business. “Working with our customers is a treat for us,” said David Perlaza, marketing manager for AAA Gold Exchange. “In turn, it’s only right to treat our customers well so they walk out of our doors happy that they received a fair and honest exchange.” The heart of AAA Gold Exchange is good customer service, according to David. Their team takes the time to work with each customer, making sure customers understand the process of cash for gold, as well as the formula AAA uses. Unlike other cash for gold businesses, they prefer not to rush the deal.

“As a customer, you want to feel valued, and rushing to get a deal can, many times, trick you into agreeing to an unfair price that you don’t realize until later,” said David. AAA makes it easy for customers to get cash for their jewelry. You bring in your unwanted gold, silver or diamonds, and their specialist will evaluate your items in front of you. Throughout the process, they let you know the standards by which they evaluate

the items. When that is all done, they will provide a quote. “Being honest is something we take pride in,” said David. “Once the quote is made, we’re not going to pressure you into making a decision on the spot. That’s not creating a positive atmosphere.” It’s also one of the reasons so many of their customers are repeat clients. Everyone can expect a friendly atmosphere and a fair deal at AAA. As an accredited business with the Better Business Bureau, AAA Gold Exchange has several locations in Arizona, California and Hawaii. Leave the tricks to the ghosts and goblins, and visit AAA Gold Exchange for all your cash for jewelry needs. ■

AAA Gold Exchange buys gold, silver and loose diamonds. They also buy platinum. With four valley-wide locations, you can find them in Northeast Mesa, at 1152 N. Power Road, Suite 102. Their hours of operation are Monday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Sunday, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit them online at aaagoldexchangeaz.com and on [Facebook.com/AAAGoldExchangeAZ](https://www.facebook.com/AAAGoldExchangeAZ).



EDUCATION

AREA TEACHER Receives Honor

By Kimberly Searles

On Sept. 9, radio station KNIX and Fulton Homes honored Red Mountain Ranch Elementary School (RMRE) teacher Dianne Szonn as Teacher of the Week. Representatives from both KNIX and Mesa Public Schools’ EdTV, as well as Parent Teacher Counsel co-chairs Cassie Sterling and Amy Smith, surprised Mrs. Szonn with the award during class.

A Red Mountain Ranch resident, she teaches fifth grade at the school and goes above and beyond to help not only her students, but also all students at RMRE. “Mrs. Szonn does so much for RMRE that it is unbelievable sometimes,” said Amy Smith. “She truly is deserving of this award.”

Mrs. Szonn is dedicated to improving her school, which she demonstrates in the way she teaches her students and participates in school activities. She takes her responsibilities a step further by handling all of RMRE’s technology updates. She maintains the school’s Web site, which she also designed.

Believing technology should be embraced and used as a learning tool, she often holds education sessions for her coworkers, students and parents, helping them learn how to benefit from the newly purchased Smart boards. In her spare time, Mrs. Szonn researches new technology service, and even drives to Arizona State University on her personal time to purchase (with PTC monies) gently used computer monitors. Before installing them in the classrooms, she tests the monitors to ensure they work properly for the students.

This year, Mrs. Szonn continues to use her skills for good by heading up RMRE’s new Yearbook Club, even getting Staples to help purchase cameras for the group to use. She, along with one adult volunteer, is working with a group of 25 students to make the Yearbook Club a new tradition at the school.

“Mrs. Szonn is deserving of this honor because she makes RMRE a place of excellent learning,” stated Amy. Congratulations, Mrs. Szonn, from all of us at Up Close Publications. ■





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AAA GOLD EXCHANGE had over 2 million dollars in pay outs last month thanks in part to thousands of repeat customers and referrals.

EDUCATION

KINDERGARTEN TO FIRST GRADE: A Smooth Transition At Self Development Charter School

By Jen Salvatori

Many parents are excited, yet a bit apprehensive, about their child's transition from kindergarten to first grade.

Their concerns are primarily focused on academic preparedness and the social well-being of their child.

Commonly asked questions are:

- Is my child ready for the full school day experience?
- Is my child prepared academically for grade one?
- Will my child's teacher motivate and support him to succeed?
- Will my child get along with others and make new friends?

The answers to these questions are yes. Parents of Self Development Charter School (SDCS) grade-one students can rest assure their children will receive the academic, emotional and social support to smoothly transition to first grade and have a successful year.

The students' success is due, in large part, to the dedication of the Self Development Charter School faculty. The first-grade teachers include Loni Hopkins, Naomi Medina, Jamie Smith and several support staff. Each teacher brings a wealth of early childhood development knowledge and experience in classroom management and instruction.

This school year marks Ms. Medina's ninth year with SDCS and Self Development Preschool. She has extensive training and experience in early childhood development.

Ms. Smith has taught kindergarten at SDCS, and this is her second year as a first-grade teacher. Prior to teaching at SDCS, she was the director of an after-care program (kindergarten through grade six).

Ms. Hopkins is new to SDCS this year. She has



experience in elementary education, and was the director of a children's program, as well. This team of teachers is dedicated to each student's transition and growth throughout their first-grade year.

The first-grade curriculum continues the SDCS advanced curriculum design. Students learn one full grade level ahead of Arizona State Department of Education Standards. First-

grade students obtain a solid foundation in mathematics, language arts (phonics, reading and writing), science and social studies.

While adding to the students' knowledge base, the teachers instill good learning and study skills, such as note taking, organizational skills and presentation skills. This is done in a supportive environment, where students are encouraged and supported by their teachers. Support staff, also known at SDCS as *pull-out teachers*, are available, as well, to assist students with concept mastery and/or enhance the curriculum.

Beside the emphasis on student learning and academic growth, the students have opportunities to develop other talents and skills, such as art and music. Students have the chance to participate in after-school clubs, as well. Sports Club and Tutoring Club are among the clubs offered to first-grade students. Students are urged to participate in these activities, which enhance their physical and academic skills, as well as provide social opportunities outside the classroom. ■

For more information regarding Self Development Charter School, please contact the front office at (480) 641-2640.

LOCAL BUSINESS

POPPY'S IS YOUR Halloween Store

Submitted by Poppy's Home Décor

It is interesting to consider whether we really are excited for Halloween, or just ready for the hot days of summer to be over.

Understanding this, we can get ready for the prelude of the holidays. There will be Thanksgiving, family gatherings, food, and early morning blowout sales for everyone on your Christmas list.

Now is the time for us to enjoy this time of the year. So, with that being said, let's talk...

You don't have to park your brooms and rush into the kitchen to create a creepy collection of ghoulish goodies. Let Picadilly Square Sandwiches and Sweets scare up an assortment of freaky foods for some ghoulish good times.

Cast your spell on trick or treaters with an enchanting assortment of door and wall décor.

Decorate your hallowed halls a ghostly affair with some not-so-undaunting ideas.

Let us help turn up the glam factor on your Halloween décor. We have Mark Roberts' witches, polkadot pumpkins, floral-filled witches' boots and lots more.

Let Poppy's dress up your home in the spirit of the season.

Sign up for our Halloween décor classes. And don't forget to order your ghostly treats.

Piccadilly Square is located in Poppy's Home Décor. Poppy's is located at 7143 E. Southern Ave., Suite 107, Mesa.

Store hours are Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Visit the Web site at poppyshomedecoraz.com, or like us on Facebook.

We also do season decorating, as well as full service interior design. ■

For more information, call (480) 325-4900.



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DINING

Pacino's Quickly Becomes a NEIGHBORHOOD FAVORITE

By Kimberly Searles

If you haven't experienced the delectable dishes at Pacino's, you are definitely missing out on one of Northeast Mesa's newest treasures.

Serving up fine Italian fare for just more than three months, the story of Pacino's actually begins in the Bronx, New York. That's where owner-operator Frank Spaccarelli learned the secrets of Italian cooking, in the kitchens of his mother, his grandmother and his uncle, Tommy.

"Pacino's allows me to honor the values of quality, freshness and passion that I learned long ago in my family's kitchens," said Frank.

He also adds part of his own personality to Pacino's, clearly evident in not just the food, but the atmosphere, as well. Frank brings a little bit of Hollywood, Bronx, Scottsdale and a whole lot of Italian to our corner of the Valley.

From the traditional items, such as chicken parmigiana, to the blow-your-mind lasagna béchamel, Pacino's offers something for every taste. They even offer delicious options the kids will love, like spaghetti and meatballs, chicken tenders and fries.

Frank, along with his co-owner and wife, Alicia, and Chef

Charles Delipizzi, collaborate to offer daily and weekly specials. Such specials include bone-in angus ribeye, risotto, veal picatta and so much more.

"For us, Italian food isn't merely a dining option," Frank stated. "It's a passion that we want to share with others."

Equally important is the service and atmosphere. The open-area kitchen creates an inviting presence, almost as if you were back in the Bronx, in Frank's family kitchen. The images of Al Pacino—Frank's doppelganger—add a touch of Hollywood to the scene. The service brings it all together.

"We pride ourselves on creating an unforgettable dining option through out-of-this-world good food and attentive service," said Frank.

So far, that plan has garnered Pacino's 4.5 stars on Yelp, and a place in the top 10 restaurant advisors on Trip Advisor. That's reason enough to stop by Pacino's soon and indulge your taste buds. ■



Pacino's is located in The Village at Las Sendas, at 2831 N. Power Road. For information or take-out orders, call (480) 985-0114. Hours are 10:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday; 10:30 a.m. to whenever, Friday and Saturday; and 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., on Sunday. Visit them online at pacinosaz.com and on [Facebook.com/pacinosrealitalian](https://www.facebook.com/pacinosrealitalian).

COMMUNITY

Las Sendas Resident Sews OUTFITS FOR OVERSEAS ORPHANS

Submitted by *Dresses for Orphans*

Dresses for Orphans, a nonprofit organization, sews outfits for children in overseas orphanages, with the mission of helping these orphans feel special, loved and cared for by providing new, specially made dresses and shirts.

It started as the brainchild of Darlene Carpenter, a Las Sendas resident, when she was semi-retired and looking for volunteer opportunities. She knew she enjoyed doing things to benefit kids, and had a strong sewing background.

Darlene started making outfits in her home, and a short time later, several other women wanted to be part of what she was doing. *Dresses for Orphans* was born, and today, more than 40 volunteers (including several winter visitors) meet to make the outfits in Mesa, while two other groups do the same in Washington and Ohio. More than 13,000 outfits have been made and sent to 91 orphanages in 29 countries, including Haiti, India, Kenya, Mexico, South Sudan, Swaziland, El Salvador, Russia, China and Uganda.

The comments received indicate how thankful these children are for their new dress or shirt:

"What you are doing makes a huge difference. You are exchanging rags for lovely clothes. This gives hope and dignity." (Uganda)

"Wow! We just received the darling and beautifully handcrafted outfits. Of all the

donations we have received, these are by far the highest quality." (Philippines)

"All the children are very excited, and some can't sleep because they are so happy. They have never had new dresses and T-shirts before. They never get very excellent dresses—this is the first time." (Myanmar)

While the primary emphasis of *Dresses for Orphans* is to provide a new outfit to orphaned children overseas, they are serving the Mesa community, as well. When a dress is made, there is half a T-shirt that remains as a scrap. Fabric is added to these scraps to make a new T-shirt or a dress. These outfits are donated to the poorest schools in the Mesa district, where the school nurse gives them out. Also, *Comfy Cozys for Chemo* shirts have been made for children with cancer at Phoenix Children's Hospital.

Why be concerned about the welfare of orphans around the world who one has never met? Perhaps it could best be summed up in this quote from Mother Teresa of Calcutta (1910-1997) when she said, "I have come to realize more and more that the greatest disease and greatest suffering is to be unwanted, unloved, uncared for, to be shunned by everybody, to be just nobody, to no one." ■

To learn more about *Dresses for Orphans*, please visit the Web site at www.dressesfororphans.org. New volunteers are always welcome. To learn more about how to become involved with this unique organization, please call Darlene at (480) 807-2672. See our ad for our garage sale on page 11.



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REAL ESTATE

CHECKLIST HELPS NEW HOME Final Walkthrough Process

By John Karadsheh

Several weeks or even months can pass between the day you put an offer on a house and the day you close escrow and take possession of it. In between, a lot can happen that can affect the condition of the property, such as a leaky roof, a dripping faucet or stains on the carpet.

The AAR Residential Resale Real Estate Purchase Contract states, "Seller warrants and shall maintain and repair the Premises so that at the earlier of possession or COE: (i) all heating, cooling, mechanical, plumbing and electrical systems (including swimming pool and/or spa, motors, filter systems, cleaning systems and heaters, if any), free-standing range/oven, and built-in appliances will be in working condition."

It is imperative that you and your REALTOR® do a final walkthrough prior to closing to assess the condition of the property to ensure that it is in relatively the same condition as the day you signed the contract. As you walk through the home with your agent, use a checklist as a guide to help you make sure everything is working properly, and note any questions you might have. Below are just a few items in a typical checklist.

Plumbing—Flush all toilets, and check for leaks. Do they keep running after they flush? Run the sink and shower faucets, and check for proper drainage. Also run the water long enough to ensure the water heater is functioning.

Electrical—Make sure the utilities are on, especially if the home has been vacant for a long time. Operate all of the lights, switches and ceiling fans. Verify that the oven, microwave and dishwasher all turn on and function properly.



John Karadsheh

Heating and Air Conditioning—Use the thermostat to operate the heating and cooling systems, and check all of the registers.

Outside—Walk around the property, and verify that all of the landscaping is in similar condition as the day you wrote the contract. Also look for broken windows or damaged stucco. If there is a pool, check the motor and other related equipment for leaks.

General—Open and close all windows and doors to verify that they operate properly. Look for stains on the ceilings, as this might indicate a leaking roof.

The final walkthrough also is the time to verify that any repairs the seller agreed to do as part of your inspection period were completed. As per the AAR Residential Resale Real Estate Purchase Contract, "If Seller agrees in writing to correct item disapproved, Seller shall correct the items, complete any repairs in a workmanlike manner and deliver any paid receipts evidencing the corrections and repairs to Buyer three (3) days prior to COE Date." If you hired a home inspector, he will typically do a re-inspection for a small fee. Depending on the agreed upon repairs, this may be wise to take advantage of this option.

Verifying the condition of probably one of the largest investments you will ever make, prior to signing those final closing documents, is one of the most important actions you will take in the entire home buying process. ■

John Karadsheh is a licensed REALTOR® with Coldwell Banker, Trails and Paths Premier Properties. He also is an Associate Broker, Accredited Buyers Representative, a Certified Residential Specialist, and was voted in the Top 10 Residential Real Estate Agents in Arizona for 2012 and 2013 by Ranking Arizona, the Best of Arizona Business. You can contact John with any of your real estate questions. Call him at (602) 615-0843, or go to his Web site at www.BuyAndSellAZ.com.

COMMUNITY

Mountain View Toro's CLASS OF 1983 CELEBRATES REUNION

Submitted by Mountain View Class of 1983

Come celebrate, renew old friendships and share old memories with our Mountain View Class of 1983 as we get together for our 30th class reunion, from Friday, Oct. 18 through Sunday, Oct. 20.

Join us for a Friday Night Get Together at the Monastery Bar and Grill, Family Day on Saturday, Oct. 19, and the Reunion Dinner at Fort McDowell on Saturday evening, Oct. 19. If you still are enjoying the adventure of renewing your old friendships, we will be attending the Arizona Taco Festival on Sunday, Oct. 20.

Please visit our Web site at www.mountainviewtoros83.myevent.com. You also can visit our Facebook page at Mountain View Mesa, AZ Class of 1983.

Buy your tickets on the Web site, post pictures or read about old friends.

If you have further questions, e-mail Karen Kelly at KKellylv@hotmail.com or Kara McLaughlin at p2k3m@yahoo.com.

We feel sure this will be our best reunion ever. However, it won't be the same if you're not there. We hope you will be able to attend, and look forward to seeing you in October.

Help us find our classmates. Please share this announcement with them by e-mail, Facebook, bulletins, newsletters or any other opportunity you have to notify them of the reunion. Thank you.

Class of '83 Rocks! ■

CLASS OF '83

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FINANCE

Make the Dream of Home OWNERSHIP A REALITY

By Helen Groom

Mortgages are getting ever more complex, and if you don't have the right advice, you could end up making an expensive mistake.

Whether you're upside down, refinancing, buying, selling, building your dream home or considering a reverse mortgage, you have a lot riding on your loan specialist. Since market conditions and mortgage programs change frequently, sometimes even hourly, you need to make sure you are dealing with a top professional who is able to give you quick and accurate financial advice. Make sure you use an experienced, licensed loan officer with the knowledge and expertise you need to explore the many financing options available today.

Ensuring that you make the right choice for you and your family should be your ultimate goal. It is important to work with a licensed loan officer who is committed to providing you with mortgage services that exceed your expectations.

When shopping for a new mortgage, remember rate is not the only thing you should consider. Make sure to ask for a Good Faith Estimate (GFE). This will show you the actual fees and closing costs the lender is going to charge for your loan. A GFE is the perfect tool to use when shopping for a mortgage. Remember, however, until you lock your loan, the rate shown in a Good Faith Estimate is just that, an estimate.

Helen Groom



While Good Faith Estimates are great for comparing lenders' fees, they don't take into consideration the quality and level of service you will receive. You want to favor lenders who close on time. Quite often, that isn't the loan officer who paints a rosy, no problem, easy loan scenario upfront.

It is far better to work with a licensed loan officer who won't tell you what you want to hear, rather what you need to hear. Knowing ahead of time, what issues might arise during your loan process, and how they are going to be addressed, helps eliminate the stress so often associated with the home loan process. Remember, do your homework, get a good faith

estimate and ask for references.

At New West Lending, Inc., we treat each customer as an individual, not a number. You won't be placed into a loan profile formula created by the banking industry. Our in-house processors and underwriters consider your story, history and your goals. We use common sense, and will help you obtain the best loan possible. ■

Whether you're upside down, want to refinance, take cash out, or purchase a new home, give Helen Groom, a licensed loan officer with New West Lending, Inc., a call at (602) 761-4043. You will be glad you did.

LOCAL BUSINESS

There are Many Benefits to LANDSCAPE/SECURITY LIGHTING

Submitted by Eagle Electrical

Installing landscape/security lighting to your home's entrances and walkways not only makes for great aesthetics, but also is crucial for safety.

Landscape lighting, when properly designed and installed, can illuminate and detail landscape, trees, flowers, pool areas, water features and any architectural designs around the home. It also can be a great selling point by increasing the curb appeal and setting your home apart from the rest.

A well lit landscape and yard presents a feeling of security and maintenance. When keeping your outdoor areas illuminated, you present a feeling of care and involvement with your home. Installing motion detectors around the home also will deter strangers and unwanted visitors from entering your home. In addition, such lighting will illuminate faces approaching the front door, allowing you to identify wanted or unwanted visitors.

There are a variety of options for outdoor lighting available on the Internet or at your local home improvement store. With the many benefits of functional outdoor lighting, Eagle Electrical will help you add beauty, function and safety to your outdoor areas. ■

For more information, or to contact George Robbins, call (480) 659-4942, or send an e-mail to George@EaglePAE.com. The company also has a Web site at www.eagleplumbingandair.com. Free estimates are available.



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