

# Red Mountain Ranch Up Close

Bringing neighbors closer to their community

October 2012

## LAS SENDAS GOLF CLUB'S Seasonal Kickoff Highlights Amazing Transformation

By Dawn Abbey

You won't believe your eyes when you step into the newly renovated Las Sendas Golf Club.

It's still the same warm and friendly place you love, but it now hosts three distinctively transformed and separate dining establishments—Bogey's at Las Sendas; The Grille at Las Sendas; and The Patio at Las Sendas. "They're all so unique, we felt they deserved more definitive names," said Dennis Shaw, director of food and beverage at Las Sendas.

With overseeding scheduled to end Oct. 19, Las Sendas Golf Club has slated Oct. 20 for its seasonal kickoff celebration. The whole neighborhood is invited to come in and check it out. There's a lot happening.

"The golf course and the club's dining establishments are open to the public," said Dennis. "We're casual and family-friendly, and we want everyone to enjoy our great food and drinks, and the spectacular views from our hilltop location."

Sunday and Monday Night Football specials are still in play, with the NFL Sunday Ticket in The Grille throughout the season. "This is the center of camaraderie and fun," said Dennis. "We now have twice as many TVs, twice as many draft beers, lots of additional seating and Monday Night Football Happy Hour, from 3 p.m. until close. We even serve gluten-free beer. Breakfast, with a \$5 Bloody Mary bar, starts at 10 a.m. on Sundays."

If you want a quiet, intimate dining experience, Bogey's new elegantly appointed dining room is the place. It has been separated from the rest of the establishment by a wall and large door leading to The Grille, but contains the activities and excitement in the bar.

The first thing you'll notice is the new front entrance, under a porte-cochere. Bogey's life-size likeness greets you as you enter. The dining room,



decorated with Humphrey Bogart memorabilia, seats 40, and can be rented for private parties. "We still offer complimentary limousine service for Bogey's within approximately a three-mile area, so you can enjoy yourself, and let someone else do the driving."

Dining also is available on The Patio, with magnificent views of the golf course, desert, mountains and city lights. "It's a great place for enjoying breakfast, lunch, dinner or a sunset cocktail," said Dennis. A variety of musical entertainment is scheduled Wednesdays through Saturdays, from 6 p.m. to close.

Las Sendas currently is making seasonal changes to its menus, under the direction of recently returned original chef Cory Mingo.

Love to dress up for Halloween? Come experience *Hallo Wine*, a limited seating, wine-pairing dinner and costume party at Bogey's, on Saturday, Oct. 27. Make reservations now for the beer and wine cocktail party with appetizers, followed by a three-course dinner with wine pairings, all for \$48 per person plus tax and gratuity. Costumes are a must, and the best one receives a great bottle of wine.

It's not too early to reserve your Thanksgiving dinner, according to Dennis. "We serve traditional favorites in-house, or you can order our *Turkey Takeout*, a complete, gourmet holiday meal ready to serve," he said.

"We're working to make Las Sendas your new hub for food and fun," Dennis continued, "So, come out and give us a try." ■



Las Sendas Golf Club is located at 7555 E. Eagle Crest Drive in Las Sendas. For reservations or more information, call (480) 396-4000, or visit [lassendas.com](http://lassendas.com).

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E-mail: Publisher@PhillipsWest.com

(480) 748-1127

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Kim Phillips

ADVERTISING

Kim Phillips (480) 748-1127

STAFF WRITERS

Dawn Abbey  
AnnElise Makin

COPY EDITOR

Sandra Van Dyke

DESIGN

LuckyYou! Creative, publication design  
Erin Loukili, Misty Voitovski  
www.luckyyoucreative.com

Ramey Newell, Web site design  
KeenGraphics.net

CONTRIBUTORS

Rose Buttita, John Karadsheh,  
Nancy Nemitz, Jay Williamson

www.UpCloseAZ.com

DINING

# FLANCER'S NEW MENU GOES HEALTHIER AND LIGHTER

By Dawn Abbey

Flancer's Incredible Sandwiches and Pizzeria has just introduced a new light menu, they call *Healthier, Lighter, Yet Still Full of Sin*.

"Now, when we say light, we don't mean light on flavor and satisfaction. It's still full of sinful taste," said Greg Ringel, manager of the Mesa location.

"Our light menu will still rock your taste buds like our original favorites do, but we've substituted flavorful alternatives for higher fat and calorie ones," Greg explained. "It started several years ago, when owner Jeff Flancer started to eat lighter, himself, and we started adding more light items to the menu. Now, we've gone all out on a full light menu."

Spearheading the efforts in the kitchen is new chef, Tim Briggs, a graduate of Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts, in Scottsdale, with 15 years of experience. "Tim has developed our new whole wheat pasta entrées," said Greg.

Diners can enjoy pasta with either chicken, or vegetarian spinach and mushrooms, topped with a choice of three sauces – basil pesto with roasted bell peppers and parmesan cheese; red sauce with fresh basil; or olive oil, garlic, parsley and sun-dried tomatoes. Each comes with a green salad dressed with light olive oil and vinegar. "Calorie counts run from 420 to 609 per serving, depending on the combinations," said Greg.

Still want a Philly Cheese Steak? How about substituting grilled chicken and a whole wheat wrap with all the works?

And of course, the famous pizza hasn't been forgotten. Now available on thin, whole-wheat crust, the 10-inch or 12-inch sizes can be had for only 612 and 788 calories respectively. Request light cheese for fewer calories and add vegetables or chicken.

Incredible sandwiches are still incredible with fewer calories, with five favorites being offered, now made with whole wheat wraps, or even lettuce wraps, instead of bread, and a green chili mustard dressing, replacing ranch. These include Chile Verde Birdie Turkey, Ace of Clubs, Vibes of Veggie, Perfect Prickly Pear and No Bones About It (substituting grilled chicken for breaded).

New light sides include fresh steamed veggies and green salad with light olive oil and vinegar dressing.

And with all the calories you saved on dinner, you can dig into one of Flancer's yummy desserts. ■

Flancer's is located in Mesa, at 1902 N. Higley Road. Call (480) 396-0077. The Gilbert restaurant is located at 610 N. Gilbert Road. Call (480) 926-9077. For more information, call or visit flancers.com.



Flancer's Chef, Tim Briggs

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# Does It Really Matter

## WHICH REALTOR DOES YOUR SHORT SALE?

By Lorraine Ryall, REALTOR®,  
Certified Distress Property Expert  
(CDPE), CSSN  
Coldwell Banker Trails and  
Paths Premier Properties

**A**bsolutely. If you needed an electrician, you wouldn't hire a plumber. If you needed brain surgery, you wouldn't go to a foot doctor – OK maybe that's a bit of a stretch, but you get my point.

Unfortunately, any Realtor can do a short sale, whether or not they have had any training or experience. They can even call themselves short sale experts or specialists without ever having done one before. There is no certification or training required by the Arizona Department of Real Estate, but there should be.

Short sales are totally different from regular sales. A lot more paperwork needs to be completed, and each bank has its own requirements. The Realtor needs to have knowledge of each bank's documents and forms, as well as have them available to give to the homeowner. One of the most important aspects of doing a short sale is submitting a correct and complete short sale package to the bank. If not submitted correctly, it can be rejected or take weeks or even months to get sorted out.

A good short sale Realtor should have a lot of experience dealing directly with the banks, and will know what the banks

will and will not accept. They also should have experience in negotiating with them directly to ensure the successful close of the short sale.

Many Realtors use a third party company. Once the homeowner signs the listing agreement, it is then handed over to another company to work with the bank. While it may save the Realtor time because they don't have to deal with the banks themselves, it has been my experience that using a third party is a negative for the homeowner. Usually, these third party companies have a huge number of short sales they are working on, and you become just another file number. The success rate is lower, and the short sale process takes a lot longer.

There also are many different programs available from both the government and the banks offering the homeowner relocation assistance. These programs will pay the homeowner anywhere from \$1,000 to \$30,000 to do a short sale. The Realtor needs to know which of these programs would apply to the homeowner, and what the requirements are to qualify.

When a short sale is not successful, it is often because of the Realtor's lack of knowledge, experience or follow-up with the bank. Choosing the right Realtor really can make all the differ-



Lorraine Ryall

ence in whether or not your short sale closes.

While there is no official required certification, one of the most recognized and respected designations by the real estate industry and the bank is the Certified Distressed Property Expert (CDPE). If a Realtor has

this certification, this professional has a thorough understanding and knowledge of the options and programs available

to homeowners, and has been trained specifically in short sales.

There is no cost to the homeowner to do a short sale. ■

Contact me today for a free confidential consultation or to find out more about short sales and other programs available. You can call my cell at (602) 571-6799, or send an e-mail to [Lorraine@ArizonaShortSaleToday.com](mailto:Lorraine@ArizonaShortSaleToday.com). Visit my Web site at [www.ArizonaShortSaleToday.com](http://www.ArizonaShortSaleToday.com).

## Banks Have an Army on Their Side...

### Who's Fighting For You? I am.

**W**hen I started doing short sales 5 years ago I had no idea it would turn from a job into a passion. Many Realtors hate doing short sales, I love them. Why? Because they are a challenge and I get the chance to fight for the underdog, stand up for what's right, and win. Every short sale is unique, everyone's hardship or situation is a little different, but they all have one thing in common, they just need someone who has the knowledge and experience to negotiate a successful short sale and someone who won't accept no for an answer.

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LOCAL BUSINESS

# SARAH'S HALLMARK OFFERS cards, unique gifts, and a U.S. Post Office

By Dawn Abbey

It is rather difficult to write this article because I am giving away my biggest timesaving secret ever. Sarah's Hallmark is not only a great place to buy cards, gifts, wrapping paper and collectibles, but there is a full-service U.S. Post Office contract station tucked away in the back of the store. You almost never have to wait more than a few minutes, if at all, to be served. This station is not only a great alternative to standing in line at the Falcon Field Post Office, but it also is a one-stop shop for a quick and easy shopping and mailing experience. If you are one of those people who waits until the last minute to get that birthday, anniversary, hostess or holiday gift, you can run into Sarah's Hallmark, pick out a great gift, get a bag or box for wrapping, select beautiful gift wrapping and bows, a perfect card, and then take it all to the post office in the back, and mail it right out. Done!

"We have complete postal services, supplies, flat-rate boxes and even do international shipping," said Dee Babicke, owner, with husband, Jack, of the shop in the Basha's Center at Higley and Brown roads. "We try to keep the wait to under 10 minutes, and we always have an extra employee available to serve the postal customers if it gets busy. It is a little more crowded during the holiday season, so we open two full-time postal

terminals starting in November," she continued. "And if the line gets really long, we might surprise our customers by handing out cookies or chocolates to make the wait more fun."

Since this location is a Hallmark Gold Crown Store, this store owner is able to offer exclusive Hallmark items not available in other outlets. "More than half of our merchandise is in addition to our Hallmark lines," said Dee. "We even have a fashion boutique with designer jewelry and handbags, and highlight Vera Bradley."

The store also features Harley Davidson items, kids' toys and books, Precious Moments and other collectibles, Southwestern-themed gifts, gourmet candies and coffees, as well as a huge assortment of holiday décor, ornaments and crèches. "There's really something for everyone," Dee stated.

Keepsake ornaments are a popular Hallmark tradition, and on Oct. 6 and 7, the store will debut this year's new collection. Sarah's Hallmark has its own special club for Keepsake collectors whose members receive

special benefits on a variety of products available only to them.

The store is hosting a Keepsake Ornament Collector Club party on Thursday, Oct. 4, from 6 to 8 p.m., at the store, for Sarah's Hallmark club members. Participants will discuss the new 2012 ornaments. Information will be shared regarding events happening in the store this holiday season. If you would like to join, membership is free, and refreshments will be served.

With Christmas on the way, Sarah's Hallmark has planned a holiday open house for Nov. 10 and 11. Specials and discounts will be featured on many items throughout the store, including Christmas and holiday décor and gifts. The public is invited to come in to shop and do any mailing. Refreshments will be served.

According to Dee, the store has been a family affair for more than eight years. Their sons, Jack, Jr., and Christopher, help run the business, which includes three more Sarah's Hallmark stores in Scottsdale, Chandler and a newly opened location in Casa Grande. ■

*Sarah's Hallmark is located at 1112 N. Higley Road. Hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday; and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., on Sunday. The postal station is available from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., on weekdays; and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., on Saturday. Last pick-up is at 3:45 p.m., on weekdays, and at 4 p.m., on Saturday. For more information, call (480) 981-8828.*



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FINANCE

SOME MARRIED WOMEN MAKE FINANCIAL MISTAKES

By John P. Duncan

A recent survey found more than 60 percent of women feel they are better at handling money than men.<sup>1</sup>



However, married women sometimes find themselves in perplexing financial situations—conditions that might be avoided with a little planning and/or foresight. With vigilance, you can plan to steer clear of these mistakes.

**NOT SAVING ENOUGH FOR RETIREMENT AFTER MARRIAGE**—If your spouse earns a huge salary and has invested avidly, you may have less impetus to save for retirement yourself. Your IRA, 401(k) or 403(b) may start to seem more supplemental than primary. Yet what happens if the relationship ends someday, and you personally end up with a retirement savings shortfall? *Keep contributing to your own retirement accounts.*

**DIPPING INTO RETIREMENT SAVINGS ONCE MARRIED**—If your spouse is really wealthy or has much greater net worth than you do, your retirement nest egg may seem minor in comparison. Your spouse may tell you, with all the investments and savings you collectively possess, taking a loan out of your 401(k) won't be so bad. Well, drawing down your own retirement savings could look like a very bad move 20 or 30 years from now. Who knows what changes life could have in store? *Resist the temptation to siphon off your retirement savings.*

**TRUSTING A RECKLESS SPOUSE WITH YOUR FINANCES**—When you love someone who is cavalier with money, look out. Beware of ceding financial control or your financial say in such a situation. If you marry someone with severe debt problems, don't think you will be financially immune from the effects of those problems. If your spouse is a wastrel, or has a terrible credit rating, do not *hand over the keys* to the household

finances. *Watch what goes on with the bank accounts, investment accounts and credit cards among you—keep communication open and encourage transparency.*

**FORFEITING SOME OR ALL OF YOUR FINANCIAL IDENTITY**—You may have taken your spouse's name, but that does not mean you need to give up your own credit card for a shared one, merge your personal checking account into a joint one, and so forth. If you don't use a credit card for several months or years, you won't have to pay a fee, but it could show up as *inactive* on your credit report. The credit card issuer may move to close the account, and losing the credit history of that card could hurt your credit score. *Retain individual savings and investment accounts and individual credit cards.*<sup>2</sup>

**DIVORCING WITH AN EQUAL RATHER THAN EQUITABLE FINANCIAL SETTLEMENT**—If a divorce happens, the impulse may be to amicably split things 50/50. The focus may be on keeping custody of your kids or keeping your home. Your financial potential may be a distant second. However, you must keep your financial future in mind.

Quite often, a woman will be instrumental in building a business or professional practice with her spouse, but she may not be a part of that successful company or professional entity after a divorce. If you divorce and have helped your spouse build a business to greater or lesser degree, you may not only find yourself out of work but taking a job, which pays less, or having to learn new skills to compete in the job market. Your earnings potential and retirement savings potential may be affected. *If you should divorce, seek an equitable settlement that considers your future financial potential. This is even more important than retaining material wealth or real property from the marriage.*

**LOSING TOUCH WITH YOUR CAREER PATH**—If you have happily put a career aside to raise kids, keep in mind you might find yourself returning to work sooner rather than later. Life events, economic

necessity, personal desire and growing children may all be factors. Yet a long, total absence from the workplace can make it difficult to return. The technology or outlook of any given field can change radically across a few short years. *Try to keep a foot (or at least a toe) in your career via consulting or networking efforts.*

**THE TAKEAWAY—LOOK OUT FOR YOUR FINANCIAL WELL-BEING**—It is OK to emphasize (and plan for) your own financial destiny when you are married. In fact, it is both wise and appropriate to do so. ■

For more information, call (480) 285-1998. Gold Leaf Advisory is located at 2929 N. Power Road, Suite 101.

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POLITICS

# Their Choice or Your Choice?

## Tired of Mesa “politics as usual”? So am I.

By Greg Gadek

My name is Greg Gadek and I am the Democratic candidate for State Senate in Mesa’s LD-25. A registered Independent for most of my life; I have lived in Mesa for more than 25 years, and raised my family here. Over the years, I have watched our city double in size, while becoming vastly more diverse. Yet the political leadership has never changed, and, lately, our leaders have become out of touch with the average person in their own community.

In this election season, we saw Russell Pearce’s appeal fade with Mesa’s leaders. So, they picked and endorsed a new heir apparent in my opponent, Bob Worsley. This is how Mesa politics traditionally has worked. Bob’s campaign manager, Ryan Anderson, explained to a local newspaper, “Once a candidate has been chosen by community leaders, that decision ripples through the church and social networks.”

While these comments are no surprise to most of us, they are a slap in the face to those who believe in the democratic process. Some consider it a foregone conclusion that the hand-selected nominee will win, especially since he has pumped \$200,000 of his own personal fortune into his campaign (an Arizona primary record), but the real question is, who will be served?

I am proud to be a participating Clean Elections candidate, which includes a \$670 limit on family contributions, a \$150 limit from any individual, and a promise to accept no corporate or Political Action Committee donations. Mesa should not be sold to the highest bidder. Its residents deserve better.

I have been increasingly frustrated with the shift our state has taken to the extreme right, including the tone and priorities of the state legislature. They have mismanaged the state budget. In per capita spending, nationally, we rank lowest in education funding, yet highest in money spent on prisons. Additionally, the Capitol and other state buildings have been sold and leased back, a 10-year advance taken on lottery ticket sales, and the one-cent tax increase approved by voters to help our schools has been diverted.

Meanwhile, legislators have spent their time (and our money) on legalizing fireworks, advocating for guns in bars and on school campuses, and debating whether a woman is pregnant two weeks before conception. We need to change our priorities, and elect leaders who will serve the average hardworking Arizonan.

My legislative priorities would include restoring our state’s national reputation, properly funding public schools, creating good jobs here in

Arizona, and making health insurance affordable for all. Specifically, I would support common sense job creation by giving Arizona companies the first crack at state and local contracts so our tax dollars create jobs here, not in India or China.

In our new Mesa District 25, Independents, Democrats and moderate Republicans outnumber ultra conservatives. If you, like me, believe in the core values of justice, equality, good citizenship and economic prosperity for all, I hope you will take the time to learn more about our campaign. This campaign is based on the ideals and principles that all people deserve to be treated with respect and dignity, and the fact no one should be disenfranchised from the political process. I am committed to serving your needs, and will stand up for what is fair.

The silent majority in Mesa has been arrogantly ignored in the past, but this year, *You Have a Choice*, and I am proud to be your candidate for the State Senate in LD 25. ■

For more information about Greg Gadek and his campaign for State Senate, as well as events, issues, or to find your polling place, visit [Gadek2012.com](http://Gadek2012.com), or e-mail Greg your questions at [Greg@Gadek2012.com](mailto:Greg@Gadek2012.com).





Don't let politicians decide this election...  
**YOU HAVE A CHOICE**

**COMMON SENSE SOLUTIONS**

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- Create better jobs
- Restore Arizona's reputation

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BEAUTY

# True Essence Salon and Spa SUPPORTS BREAST CANCER RESEARCH

**By Dawn Abbey**  
**T** rue Essence Salon and Spa, Mesa's only Aveda Concept Salon, is supporting National Breast Cancer Awareness Month this October by helping to raise funds for the Breast Cancer Research Foundation at New York City's Columbia University. "We will donate \$4 from the sale of each special edition Pink Ribbon Hand Relief," said salon owner Maytee Green. "Since 2004, Aveda North America has contributed more than \$1.83 million to the foundation, from employees and guests who donate through our fund-raising activities each October. Our staff wants to be a part of supporting those with breast cancer by helping fund this research." And you can feel good about where your money goes because more than 88 cents of each dollar donated to the foundation goes directly to research and awareness programs, according to Aveda's Web site. "Aveda strives to use natural plant- and flower-based, and organic ingredients in all its products," explained Maytee. "So, they are very supportive of this independent, nonprofit organization that is exploring the environmental causes and links to breast cancer, like exposure to toxic chemicals and pollutants." The foundation's cruelty-free research studies the relationship between environmental exposures and genetic susceptibility to breast cancer. In 2011, the project evolved to include research to help better understand when breast

cancer susceptibility begins, according to Aveda's Web site. Maytee invites regular and new guests to come in and support the cause by trying a great natural hand therapy. "Aveda creates a wide variety of skin and hair care products, as well as natural cosmetics and hair color," she said. "If you are looking for a more natural approach to beauty, and products without petrochemicals or artificial fragrances, you can find them here." Maytee suggests coming in to browse their product lines. "We will always give you a free consultation on what products would work best for you," she promised. "You can be sure they are made with the highest quality, natural plant-based and organic ingredients available." Aveda also is known worldwide for its support of environmental programs, such as utilizing wind power credits for their manufacturing plant and company-owned sites. Providing clean water for rural villages in India, fighting animal cruelty, sourcing organic products and recycling also are important to Aveda. ■

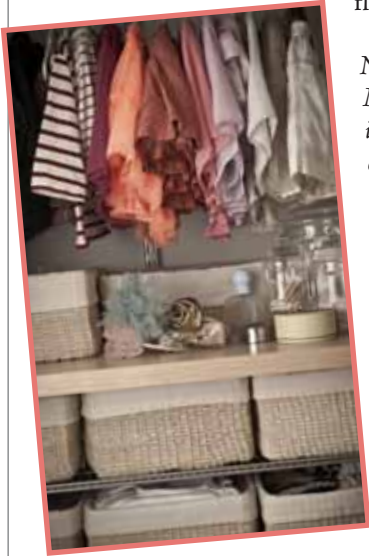


For more information, call True Essence at (480) 396-3112, or visit them next door to Bashas', on the northwest corner of Power and McDowell roads. To learn more about Aveda's products and sustainability programs, visit [Aveda.com](http://Aveda.com). To find out more about the Breast Cancer Research Foundation, visit [bcrcure.org](http://bcrcure.org).

ORGANIZING

# THROWING EVERYTHING ON THE FLOOR is not the answer

**By Nancy Nemitz**  
**N**othing should be thrown on the floor. Not dirty clothes, not clean clothes, not clothes from your suitcase, or your children's uniforms. The floor isn't the place for paper of any kind—newspapers, paper plates with last night's leftovers, wrapping paper, receipts, important documents or mail. The floor isn't a dumping zone. Don't drop the dog's leash on the floor, the towels, or whatever else you have in your hands. You have counters, hooks, shelves, closets, hangers, containers, and, most importantly, trash cans, for a reason. Pick it up, and put it away. Get rid of the clutter. Start with what's on the floor. ■



Nancy Nemitz, a Red Mountain Ranch resident, is a professional organizer and owner of Create the Space Professional Organizing LLC. For more information, call (480) 223-8939. Visit her Web site at [createthespace.com](http://createthespace.com), or send an e-mail to [nancy@createthespace.com](mailto:nancy@createthespace.com). She will help you find your floor again.

COMMUNITY

# Pet Planet Presents Community Fair

**By Dawn Abbey**  
**P**et Planet will celebrate the grand opening of its fifth Arizona store on Saturday, Oct. 20, with a family-oriented community fair, beginning at 10 a.m., at Zahara Center, located behind Walgreen's, at Power and Thomas roads. A true highlight of the event will be an Adopt-A-Thon of pets rescued by Phoenix Animal Care Coalition (PACC911), as well as free pet companion photos, free gifts, discount coupons and a free pet self-wash. Las Sendas resident Laura Leah English, chief executive officer and co-founder of Pet Planet, is joining with local businesses in Zahara Center, such as Victory Energy Wellness Center and the women's entrepreneurial group Support and Empower the Vision of Entrepreneurial Networking (SEVEN), to offer giveaways, shopping discounts and activities, such as face painting and doggy games, for families and pets. During the day, Victory Energy Wellness Center will host 12 free seminars,

which will inspire, motivate and inform, according to center owner Jolene Victor. Topics will include how to eliminate toxins in your home; P-R-I-O-R-I-T-I-E-S for the entrepreneur—10 things you need to know; retirement has changed—your next move; healing your money wounds and making the money you desire; how free radicals and stress damage our bodies; and healing methods for you and your loved ones. There also will be acupuncture demonstrations by Natascha Hebell-Fernando, as well as drawings and giveaways. Members of SEVEN will have more than 30 vendor booths offering giveaways and discounts on such items as jewelry, skin care products, eyelash extensions, coffee, candy, cookies and chocolate. The same is true for insurance, home and financial services, weight loss and health products, candles, gifts and much more.

"We are excited to expand into the East Valley, as residents here have a strong commitment to health and lifestyle," said Laura Leah. "Animal guardianship is strong in Arizona, as it is a very family-oriented state, which translates to a high pet population. As a low-price leader in quality pet health food and nutritional products, we will save the consumer money." Unique to Pet Planet is its adaptation of the Guardianship Movement, a campaign to encourage responsible adoption, and the spaying and neutering of animal companions. "These initiatives are very timely, with the overwhelming animal overpopulation in Arizona," Laura Leah explained. Nearly 15 years ago, when Laura Leah and her mother, Joan Bauer, opened their first Pet Planet store, the two had a vision to be more than just a store. They had a dream. "We want to

encourage a global society where all pets are loved, respected, protected and kept in good health—a society without pet overpopulation, homelessness or abuse," Laura Leah said. Pet Planet promotes the use of the term guardianship instead of owner when referring to our animal companions. "More than just semantics," explained Laura Leah, "we believe this instills a more compassionate relationship between an individual and animal." Pet Planet's four other Valley locations are in Phoenix, at Tatum and Cactus Roads; Scottsdale, at 90th St. and Via Linda; Ahwatukee, at 40th St. and Chandler Blvd.; and Ray and Dobson roads in Chandler. These stores also will offer discounts, giveaways and pet-friendly activities in celebration of the Mesa store opening. ■

For more information about Pet Planet and the Guardianship Movement, visit [PetPlanetHealth.com](http://PetPlanetHealth.com). For details on the free seminars, call (480) 422-7022. For information regarding SEVEN, visit [s-e-v-e-n.org](http://s-e-v-e-n.org).







JOIN PET PLANET IN CELEBRATING OUR

# Mesa Store Grand Opening!

**SATURDAY + SUNDAY - OCTOBER 20 & 21, 2012**

Pet Planet's 5th Location - Zahara @ Power & Thomas Rd.

October 20, 10am - Join us for a community fair with S.E.V.E.N.  
Featuring over 30 vendors for families & pets

**ADOPTION DAYS!**

Featuring a rescue group from PACCG11

**FREE GUARDIAN PHOTOS**

4x6 photo with your pet companion!

**GOODIE BAGS**

For first 150 guests!

**OUTDOOR DOGGIE GAMES**

**Special Grand Opening Savings!**

**FREE**  
*Smoked Bone!*  
Throughout the month of October!

  
0 20121 02055 8

\*Valid in October of 2012 at Pet Planet Mesa. Offer cannot be combined with any other promotion or discount.  
\*One coupon per person per visit.

**FREE**  
*Self Wash!*  
Oct 20 or 21, 2012

  
0 20121 02056 5

Valid on October 20 or 21, 2012 at Pet Planet Mesa. Offer cannot be combined with any other promotion or discount. One coupon per person per visit. Selection may vary, while supplies last.

**25% OFF**  
*one, non-food item!*  
Oct 20 or 21, 2012

  
0 20121 02057 2

Valid on October 20 or 21, 2012 only at Pet Planet Mesa. Offer cannot be combined with any other promotion or discount. Excludes canned, raw and dry food and supplements.

There is nothing more important to us than your pets' health



REAL ESTATE

# We have seen the bottom of the real estate market

**By John Karadsheb**  
There is no doubt in anyone's mind that the last few years have been rough for real estate in the United States, and especially Arizona. Since the end of 2005, home sales have been steadily declining, but there is a light at the end of the tunnel. This year is on pace to be the third best year in terms of units sold since 2000. Through Sept. 10, the number of sales has already outpaced the number of sales for the years 2000, 2001, 2002, 2007 and 2008. Furthermore, the inventory is at near record lows.

YEAR	TOTAL # OF HOME SALES
2000	55,319
2001	62,524
2002	68,410
2003	79,512
2004	98,294
2005	104,132
2006	73,923
2007	54,228
2008	59,218
2009	91,751
2010	90,106
2011	100,695
2012 (Jan. 1 through Sept. 10)	63,728
2012 (Projected)	98,500

Since the beginning of the year, the inventory for single-family homes that are active in the MLS has been hovering around 10,000 to 11,000 units. The law of supply and demand is starting to take effect. Here is a graph, which shows the number of residential sales per year, according to the Arizona Multiple Listing Service, Inc.

I am in the trenches of the real estate world every day, and, at certain price points, we are seeing the same intensity of activity we saw in 2005. Homes priced aggressively are getting multiple offers, and the banks are motivated to sell what little inventory of homes they have left on their books. Home values have been steadily increasing this year, and many homeowners who, at one point, had underwater mortgages, are now starting to see hints of equity.

As the cooler weather starts rolling in, so does our prime time for selling real estate in the Valley of the Sun. If you are curious about your home's value, please don't hesitate to give me a call. It might be worth more than you think. ■

John Karadsheb is a licensed REALTOR® with Coldwell Banker Trails And Paths Premier Properties. He also is an Associate Broker, Accredited Buyers Representative and a Certified Residential Specialist. He was voted the No. 2 Residential Real Estate Agent in Arizona 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](http://www.BuyAndSellAZ.com).



FINANCE

# FINANCIAL ADVISOR TO HOST LUNCH & LEARN

Las Sendas resident and financial advisor John Duncan, of Gold Leaf Advisory, will be hosting a *Lunch and Learn* workshop on Tuesday, Oct. 16 and Thursday, Oct. 18 from noon to 1 p.m. The workshop, entitled *Empowering Women to Make Good Financial Decisions*, will feature a catered lunch as well as important information on gaining financial peace of mind. John and staff will be on hand to meet and greet local residents and discuss financial options specifically geared toward women who want to remain independent. The *Lunch and Learn* will be held in the conference room at 2929 N. Power Road, Suite 101, located in The Village at Las Sendas, at the northeast corner of Power and McDowell roads. Space is limited and reservations are recommended by Oct. 10. ■

To RSVP, or for more information, call (480) 285-1998, or e-mail [info@goldleafadvisory.com](mailto:info@goldleafadvisory.com). More information on Gold Leaf Advisory can also be found at [www.GoldLeafAdvisory.com](http://www.GoldLeafAdvisory.com).



## GROUP ENERGY SESSIONS

**OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER:**

**SATURDAY, OCT. 6** – Self-worth for School and Work at 10:30 a.m.

**WEDNESDAY, OCT. 10** – Forgiveness at 7:00 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, OCT. 24** – Awakening your Magnificence at 7:00 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, NOV. 7** – Unblocking the Healing Process at 7:00 p.m.

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<p><b>Custom Home!</b> \$525,000 Red Mountain Ranch</p>	<p><b>SOLD!</b> \$375,000 Whisper Mountain</p>	<p><b>Huge Lot!</b> \$365,000 Mountain Bridge</p>
<p><b>SOLD!</b> \$300,000 Red Mountain Ranch</p>	<p><b>SOLD!</b> \$235,000 Alta Mesa</p>	<p><b>Sale Pending!</b> \$115,000 Silverstone</p>
<p><b>2.50 Acre Lot!</b> \$220,000 Apache Junction</p>	<p><b>.81 Acre Lot!</b> \$175,000 Thunder Mountain</p>	<p><b>1.87 Acre Lot!</b> \$175,000 Near Las Sendas</p>
<p><b>SOLD!</b> \$620,000 Arboleda</p>	<p><b>SOLD!</b> \$435,000 Red Mountain Ranch</p>	<p><b>SOLD!</b> \$316,000 Las Sendas</p>

[www.BuyAndSellAZ.com](http://www.BuyAndSellAZ.com)

## Desert Rose Preschool at Las Sendas

A place where children learn and feel secure because they are surrounded with love, patience and understanding. Classes for 3-year-olds, 4-year-olds and Pre-K.

For more information, call preschool director and teacher Rose Buttitta at (480) 654-4223.



COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE IS ONLY A MONTH AWAY

It is almost time for the Red Mountain Ranch Community Garage Sale, which will take place on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 9 and 10. This is one of the largest community garage sales held in the Phoenix area. We had 176 homes signed up to sell last year, which was an all-time record. We hope to have more sellers this year. This guarantees a large crowd of customers for the garage sale sellers. This sale offers a wonderful opportunity to sell items and make money for those things you no longer use and are taking up space in your garage or closets. It also is a time to visit and get to know your neighbors in Red Mountain Ranch. Our garage sale brings thousands of possible customers coming to our community and your home to buy your items for sale. Last year, the roads in Red Mountain Ranch were filled with buyers' cars and trucks. Buyers love the bargains they find. We do all the work for you in providing buyers. Your \$15 pays for a \$1 million liability insurance policy, banners at the three entrances to Red Mountain Ranch, signs on the main roads in our community, as well as newspaper and e-mail advertising.

Our HOA has approved and reserved the November dates for our garage sale. Please do not have an individual sale without paying the \$15 during our sale weekend. You can pick up your garage sale packets on Wednesday and Thursday, Nov. 7 and 8, between 5 and 7:30 p.m., at 6455 E. Raft River Road, which also was last year's pick-up location. The packets will include everything needed for your garage sale. If you live in Red Mountain Ranch and would like to sell items at the sale, please mail your \$15 and the completed coupon to the address listed below. You do not want to miss out on this sale. Send it today while you are thinking about it. ■



MAIL-IN COUPON

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Send your coupon, together with your check, to Garage Sale Chairman Jay Williamson, 6508 E. Star Valley St., Mesa, AZ 85215. For more information, send an e-mail to jaynwilliamson57@yahoo.com.

COMMUNITY

SOCIAL CLUB MEETING FEATURES Speaker From Salt River Project

By Jay Williamson, Social Club Publicity Chairman  
The Oct. 11 meeting of the Red Mountain Ranch Social Club will feature a speaker from the Salt River Project (SRP) electrical utility, which services Red Mountain Ranch. The presentation is projected to include facts about SRP and details about its operations. The speaker is expected to include information regarding what to do if there is a power outage, as well as steps the utilities take to prevent them. In addition, the speaker will present ways you can reduce your electric bills. Attend this meeting if you want to know more about your local electrical provider. The speaker will be happy to answer any of your questions. You are invited to be our guest. You do not have to be a member of the social club to attend. We will be meeting on Thursday, Oct. 11, at 9:30 a.m., at the Country Club, located in the middle of Red Mountain Ranch. Hope to see you then. ■

For more information, contact Red Mountain Ranch Social Club Publicity Chairman Jay Williamson. Send an e-mail to jaynwilliamson57@yahoo.com.

Real Estate In Red Mountain Ranch  
brought to you by: Red Mountain Ranch Area Market Report  
Sales for the Month of August 2012  
Coldwell Banker Trails and Paths Premier Properties, John Karadsheh

Address	Square Feet	Sold Price	Short Sale or REO*
6205 E. Roland St.	1,502	\$150,000	X
3562 N. Kashmir	1,502	\$163,500	
5951 E. Tinto St.	1,553	\$180,000	
6628 E. Sugarloaf St.	2,381	\$200,000	
3756 N. Tabor	2,445	\$255,000	
4240 N. Lomond	2,544	\$260,000	X
6127 E. Saddleback St.	2,564	\$267,000	
3450 N. Platina Cir.	2,834	\$300,000	
4055 N. Recker Rd. #77	3,134	\$428,500	

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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Make Sure to Join Us for All Day Sunday & Monday Night Football With Food & Drink Specials!  
Enjoy our sports bar and new media set up!  
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LIVE Entertainment ON THE PATIO! Tues. - Sat. 6pm - Close  
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EDUCATION

# Wonderful Teacher Enhances HANDS-ON AND ENRICHED LEARNING EXPERIENCE

**Submitted by Self Development Charter School**  
Self Development Charter School (SDCS) continues its tradition of providing an outstanding education for its students, improving its existing programs, and adding new programs.

SDCS is one of the top performing schools in Arizona. Our students are passionate about lifelong learning and achieving academic success. Our faculty team works diligently to prepare students for life in the age of technology.

SDCS is fortunate to have some wonderful faculty members, including Ms. Rachel Hunt, coordinator of the science program at SDCS. "An outstanding education remains the foundation for future opportunities and options," she stated. Ms. Hunt asserts that knowledge in science and mathematics is critical for success in academics.

Instilling the value of an excellent education can be accomplished through the educator's personal love and joy of the learning process. "Students are typically inspired by what they experience in a learning-centered classroom," this coordinator added. SDCS emphasizes a hands-on approach to teaching science.

Ms. Hunt has played a critical role in developing the hands-on approach of the science curriculum at SDCS. For many years, Ms. Hunt has taken her mobile science

laboratory from classroom to classroom, from first grade to middle school. Her passion for her subject matter can only be compared with her drive to help her SDCS students achieve academic success.

Ms. Hunt's classroom environment is conducive to learning critical thinking skills, solving problems and being creative. The classroom instructions are purposefully designed to address specific cognitive processes to hone students' higher-level thinking. Her students' everyday classroom experiences include reasoning, analyzing, evaluating, synthesizing and reflection.

The teaching approach practiced by Ms. Hunt includes the flexible grouping of students for maximum learning, and focuses on concept mastery. Students move from one group to another based on their need for assistance or enrichment. Students who finish early are given opportunities to participate on challenging projects for continuous intellectual growth.

Ms. Hunt diligently works one-on-one with many students, before, during and after school hours to help them thrive in an accelerated learning environment. Hands-on opportunities give students real life experiences, instill self-confidence, and develop a love for learning. ■

For more information, please call Self Development Charter School at (480) 641-2640.



FUNDRAISER

# Preregister now for the Hit for the Cure TENNIS AND GOLF TOURNAMENT

**By AnnElise Makin**

Take a swing at cancer. "Swing whatever you want, a tennis racket or a golf club," said Hit for the Cure Co-Chair Judy Smee.

Judy has been drumming up support continuously for the 11th annual *Hit for the Cure*. This remarkably successful fund-raising event will be coming around again to the Red Mountain Ranch Country Club (RMRCC) on Friday, Nov. 9, and on Saturday, Nov. 10.



"Last year, we raised more than \$19,000, the most ever, for the American Cancer Society—East Valley," Co-Chair Wendy Skarda proudly announced. "Judy donated some extra dollars to round off the sum."

The Hit for the Cure originated out of a genuine concern for Red Mountain Ranch neighbors who were struck with cancer. About 12 years ago, Jan Edson, a 15-year breast cancer survivor, was coordinating car pools for a breast cancer patient support group.

These *bosom buddies* developed strong bonds of friendship and the iron will to do something. Many of these women also had a passion for tennis. Soon, a match was made with RMRCC's tennis division. And

so the Hit for the Cure was born.

The Hit for the Cure, strongly driven by local survivors, such as Wendy Skarda and cohorts of seriously committed volunteers, has continued to evolve. Last year, the mission was changed to include all forms of cancer.

"Now, we moved to a later date, not the usual Breast Cancer Awareness Week in October, to include more winter visitors," Judy stated. She became engaged in the Hit for the Cure in memory of her mother, who was lost to breast cancer.

All new this year is golf. Now, you can do it all, golf in the morning and tennis in the afternoon, with a lunch served in between. The Hit for the Cure will kick off with a Bean Bag Bash and Cocktail Hour the evening before.

Matches start at 7 a.m. Saturday, and will be played all day. The dinner, a Texas-style barbecue, served by the Club's culinary team, starts at 6 p.m., followed by the awards ceremony. The auction will include select items, such as tennis or golf lessons. The winner of the 50/50 raffle also will be announced then.

Like last year, members of the band *Chord on Blue* will donate their time, and provide the music for the evening. Sheridan Skarda, Wendy's daughter, will perform some very moving songs, which she wrote about her mother's exemplary fighting spirit.

Once again Barnet Dulaney Perkins Eye Center has stepped forward as the main sponsor by adopting court 1. Other courts



are still available for advertising banners at \$500 each.

Donations for the Hit for the Cure can be made any time in the form of Wall Donation certificates of \$50 or \$100 each. New are the net sponsorships, at \$300 each. Additional volunteers

are welcome any time, as well.

There are many ways to get involved in the Hit for the Cure, even if you play no sports at all. Sponsor a tennis court, buy a wall donation, or simply spread the word. Cancer affects all of us at some point in life.

So, strike back soon enough, because it is better to have a hoot than not give a dime. The Hit for the Cure isn't just a fund-raising event, but also the friendliest community event in the neighborhood.

"This is a great opportunity for all of us at the RMRCC to get everybody together for a common cause," tennis pro Ray K. said. And it also is a welcome chance for all nonmembers to check out the wonderful amenities of the club. ■

Preregistration is required to save your spot. Spaces on the courts and on the greens are limited. So, register early via e-mail with Ray K. Anybody can participate in the Hit for the Cure. For more information, e-mail Ray at rayk@rmrcc.com.

## COME TO THE HIT FOR THE CURE AT THE RED MOUNTAIN RANCH COUNTRY CLUB

### FRIDAY, NOV. 9

Bean Bag Bash and Cocktail Hour  
Kick-Off Night, 7 p.m. by court 1  
Drinks and appetizers served

in advance or on the courts for \$5 each.

- Pick-up ball girls or boys are available for hire for a donation.

### SATURDAY, NOV. 10

Golf and Tennis Tournaments  
7 a.m.—Check-in opens  
8 a.m. to noon—Golf tournament  
7 a.m. to noon—Tennis doubles tournament  
6 p.m.—Dinner, awards, auction and music

Spaces in tennis and golf competitions are limited. This event is open to all interested players in the neighborhood. No club membership is required.

To save your spot, preregister your team for the tennis tournament via e-mail with Ray K., at rayk@rmrcc.com.

Golfers, please call the Golf Shop for registration information at (480) 985-0285.

Court and net sponsorships are still available. If you are interested, please call Ray at (602) 367-7473.

COMMUNITY

# LAS SENDAS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Hosts Garage Sale

**Submitted by Las Sendas Elementary School**

If you have ever wanted to have your own garage sale in Las Sendas, this is the year you can.

On Nov. 3, Las Sendas Elementary School will once again host a garage sale in the school parking lot.

Las Sendas Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) will sell reserved parking spaces for \$25 each. You can set up your own garage sale, and keep your profits.

Set-up time begins at 4 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 3, and must be complete by 5:30 a.m.

Reservations for these spaces will be accepted until Oct. 28. Space is limited. So, don't delay. ■

To reserve your space, or for more information, call Krystal Schmier at (602) 448-9732, or send an e-mail to liaison@lspto.org. Please make checks payable to Las Sendas PTO.





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- Before and After School Program
- Low Staff turn over
- Integrated thematic curriculum
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- Ages 6-12 years (before and afterschool programs)



**Enrolling Now**

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POLITICS

# THERE IS A PANDEMIC OF NON-VOTING

By Michael Cozzi

The media labels a myriad of people, groups, nations, ideologies and actions as un-American. Many of these labels are partisan and generally unfair, but whether you are Republican or Democrat, there is one group of people, which embodies what it means to be un-American—the non-voter.

A Suffolk University/USA Today poll of 800 Americans nationwide indicates as many as 90 million Americans will refuse to vote. That is, 40 percent of the eligible voter population from 2008, or 29 percent of the current population of the United States. There are approximately 230 million eligible voters out of roughly 314 million Americans.

Among un-registered, unlikely voters, 26 percent said they don't have the time, and 12 percent feel their vote doesn't matter. For registered, unlikely voters, 17 percent didn't know why they wouldn't vote, and 13 percent are exercising their right not to vote. Another 12 percent don't think their vote matters, and 12 percent dislike the candidates. The worst part is 58 percent of these unlikely voters admit the fact politics makes a difference in their lives, and 79 percent feel the role of government is important to their lives.

Based on the numbers, it is clear apathy is the greatest factor keeping unlikely voters from the polls. These apathetic Americans are a disgrace to our nation, as well as to the precepts of American Republicanism, painstakingly developed by our Founding Fathers, in particular James

Madison and Alexander Hamilton. These men resisted British Monarchy through the Revolutionary War, revealing a more evolved form of representative democracy for the newly developing nation of America. Madison and Hamilton were charged with defining our new government—the ideals and principles it would stand for and protect, how the seat of government would be structured and managed, and how power would be derived legitimately and enacted upon the people.

Their answers, my fellow Americans, were found in the people. The idea the American government derives its power from the voting populace came to be because the extent of our nation allows for proper vetting of candidates for office. The magnitude of our voting population can stifle the ability of any corruptive force to overwhelm the will of the people and carry the vote.

That may seem like a lot to process, but think. Is it easier for one man to secure five in 10 votes or 50 million out of 100 million? Madison postulates, the greater number of people involved, the more divergent the personal interests, which contributes to the difficulty of faction to capture a majority vote. What Madison and Hamilton laid down for us was awe-inspiring in its complexity. Yet the practical mechanism to carry out this new platform of Democracy is so simple.

Next month, I shall venture into the specifics of the individual vote. ■



EDUCATION

## Benefits are Many for New Frontiers

Submitted by New Frontiers for Lifelong Learning

While the September open house for New Frontiers for Lifelong Learning was successful, complete with information regarding member classes and registration, enrollment still can take place.

New Frontiers for Lifelong Learning is a peer-led, self-directed organization of more than 400 members, sponsored by Mesa Community College (MCC). Types of classes include history, art, music, health and well-being, nature, current news topics, and book discussions. Social activities include luncheons, concerts, plays, tours and travel. Members enjoy intellectual and cultural growth, an array of topics to stimulate

interests, pleasant social atmospheres, and volunteer opportunities at MCC and in the community. In addition, members receive discounts at MCC events.

At \$70 a year, or \$50 a semester, a person can take as many classes as their personal schedule will allow. Classes meet at MCC at Southern Avenue and Dobson Road; MCC at Red Mountain, at McKellips and Power roads; MCC Downtown Campus, at 165 N. Centennial Way; and the East Valley Adult Resource Center, one located at 247 N. Macdonald St. and another at 7550 E. Adobe Road, as well as various other locations. ■

For information about New Frontiers for Lifelong Learning, visit the Web site at [newfrontiers.mesacc.edu](http://newfrontiers.mesacc.edu), or call (480) 461-7497. Send all correspondence to New Frontiers, 165 N. Centennial Way, Room 208, Mesa, AZ 85201.



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## EDUCATION

## Donations Help Students Study OCEAN EXPLORATION

Submitted by Red Mountain Ranch Elementary School

The Red Mountain Ranch Elementary School (RMRE) parent fund-raising committee needs your help.

Financial support is needed to help families pay for this year's oceanography trip, as well as lowering the cost for all. Everyone can help through the school's extracurricular donations program.

The sixth-grade students will be going on an educational oceanography trip to California next April. The cost is \$320 per child. This is an opportunity of a lifetime for some of these children. What a great way for them to see the ocean, and learn about it at the same time.

Donations are accepted by going to the Mesa Public

Schools Extracurricular Activity (ECA) State Tax Credit site. You also can donate funds directly to our RMRE sixth-grade account. The deadline to donate this year is Dec. 31.

A tax credit is different from a deduction, because you may subtract the whole contribution from your Arizona State tax bill. An individual may contribute as much as \$200, and a couple filing jointly may contribute as much as \$400. Contributors receive the money back in the form of a tax credit.

To learn more about the ECA, go to <http://mpsaz.org/community/eca/?ref=fnav-com>.

Write yourself a lower tax bill. It's good for you, and it's good for the kids. ■

For more information, contact Fund-raising Chairperson Laurie Havird at [lhavird@cox.net](mailto:lhavird@cox.net), or call (480) 239-7534.



## BUSINESS

## Up Close Advertising PROVES SUCCESSFUL

By Angie Sterling

Since the initial ad was published in *Up Close* about three years ago, business for Sterling Pools has increased an amazing 200 percent.

During the first year in business, *Up Close* was the only source of advertising for Sterling Pools. The wide range of exposure, in Las Sendas, Red Mountain Ranch, and Mesa Uplands communities, proved to be very beneficial to the business.

"About 60 percent of new clients have been the result of advertising in *Up Close*," Angie said. Her tracking efforts indicate similar advertising in other community publications netted no new business for Sterling Pools.

"This year, when it came time to renew the advertising contract, the representative for *Up Close* contacted me, and followed through with true efficiency and excellent service. The other community newspaper failed to contact us for future advertising."

Angie and Mike Sterling appreciate the quality of service afforded their business by *Up Close* Publications. "Thank you for the great exposure and continued

customer follow-up," Angie said. "Your team is truly professional!" ■

For more information about Sterling Pools, call (480) 241-4206.



## COMMUNITY

## RIDGEVIEW to host yard sale

The Ridgeview community in Northeast Mesa will be hosting a neighborhood yard sale on Friday, Oct. 19 and Saturday, Oct. 20 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day.

"Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to clean house and get to know your neighbors better," said Aaron Charlton, a Realtor with Coldwell Banker Trails and Paths Premier Properties. "All you have to do is sign up and put your stuff out on the day of the event. We will be taking care of the advertising and signage," he continued.

Aaron is asking homeowners to RSVP by Oct. 6 in order to get updates and be included on the map, which will be handed out to people as they enter the neighborhood.

"Please tell your friends!" Aaron emphasized. "If we can get a lot of positive response, we hope to make this a yearly event." ■

For more information, or to participate, contact Aaron Charlton at (480) 269-0625, or e-mail [aaronbcharlton@gmail.com](mailto:aaronbcharlton@gmail.com). To RSVP, visit the Web at [www.ridgeview.eventbrite.com](http://www.ridgeview.eventbrite.com).





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SPORTS

The i9 Sports Experience Redefines Youth Sports

Submitted by i9 Sports

i9 Sports is redefining youth sports across the nation, and right here in Northeast Mesa. The youth sports program has been in Northeast Mesa for four years, experiencing tremendous growth, including a 35 percent increase every season since inception.

i9 Sports provides youth sports for ages 3 to 14, including flag football, basketball, T-ball (3-6), soccer (3-10), and cheerleading. Participants can enroll in fall, winter, spring, and summer programs. Athletes of all skill levels can also enroll in camps and skill enhancement clinics throughout the year.

"We believe that participation in an organized youth sport activity is about more than just the sport... it's about the entire experience for the parent and the child. It's what we call the i9 Sports Experience," said James Smith, program director.

"i9 Sports is a fun league," explained James. "We are very organized, and focused on a positive experience for all," he continued. "We have the fields set up, site coordinators, experienced refs, and practice only once a week."

Usually, practice is an hour before the game, held on Saturdays at Fremont Junior High School. Basketball has practice on Friday evenings and games on Saturday afternoon.

The winter program starts Jan. 12, 2013, and registration is currently underway. Early bird discounts are available if you register before Nov.12. The deadline to register for the winter sports program is Dec. 31. To register, visit the Web site at i9Sports.com, or call (480) 726-1613.

James encourages everyone to learn about the variety of programs i9 Sports offers. "We are about the kids playing, having fun, and teaching the sport right the first time," he emphasized. James said the league is perfect for the parent who has more than one child in sports. "This program fits into the family schedule... and is good for the parent and good for the child."

Here are some facts about i9 Sports:

FOR THE CHILD

We believe that sports should be a fun, safe experience where children can learn basic athletic skills and sportsman-

ship, build friendships, and increase their self-esteem. With our emphasis on fun, positive instruction, and inclusiveness, everyone plays and is made to feel like a winner, regardless of their talent level.

FOR THE PARENT

We understand that their busy schedule requires a program that is well organized, convenient and fits evenly within their family's plans so that their child's sport activity doesn't consume their life. The philosophy of practice on the same day of competition creates stability and organization to maintain a family household. In addition, we pride ourselves on outstanding communication so they'll always know what to expect and how to plan for it.

THE i9 SPORTS DIFFERENCE:

1. Complete Organization and Communication

- Professional management of program details, team rosters and schedules.
- Flexibility to accommodate team assignment with friends, siblings, etc.
- Easy access to the i9 program director for quick response to questions or needs.
- 24/7 access to the latest schedules, standings and statistics online.
- Proactive communication so parents are always informed about important details.

2. Absolute Convenience

- Quick and easy registration process online or by phone.
- Minimal practices, usually on game day.

3. A Safe, Supportive Environment

- Certified coaches who have been carefully screened (criminal background check).
- Trained referees/officials at each game.
- Individualized attention and encouragement provided to each player.
- i9 Sports Parental Pledge agreement which prohibits sideline negativity and disruption.

4. Quality Instruction in Skills and Good Sportsmanship

- Instruction in the game fundamentals.
- Priority on core values, such as sportsmanship, teaming, and fair play over competition.
- Belief that everyone is a winner.

5. Focus on Fun



- No player tryouts or drafts.
- Everyone plays regardless of talent level.
- Free team jersey for each player.
- Game photos posted on the i9 Web site.
- Post season celebration and award for all players. ■

For more information, or to register, visit the Web site at i9Sports.com, or call (480) 726-1613.



  
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## COMMUNITY

# City of Mesa Offers Solutions FOR TRASH AND RECYCLING NEEDS

Submitted by City of Mesa

In addition to providing blue recycle and black trash barrel collection service, the City of Mesa Solid Waste Management Department offers a variety of other services and programs to assist its customers with their disposal needs.

**GREEN BARREL PROGRAM**—For an additional monthly fee of \$5.51, residents can obtain a green barrel to recycle their grass, leaves, plant trimmings and other green yard waste material. The container is serviced weekly on the same day as your blue recycle barrel. Collected material is kept out of the landfill, and, instead, is turned into mulch.

**BUSINESS RECYCLING**—Mesa businesses with City of Mesa trash service are eligible to receive recycling service at little to no additional cost.

**ACE EXPRESS EVENT**—Mesa residents looking for a way to properly dispose of their appliances, computers and electronics are invited to attend a City of Mesa ACE

Express event. The next event will be held from 8 a.m. to noon, on Saturday, Oct. 20, at the East Mesa Service Center, 6935 E. Decatur St.

**HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENT**—Mesa residents looking for a way to dispose of paint, oil, batteries, fluorescent light bulbs, pesticides, prescription medication, tires and other household hazardous waste are invited to attend a City of Mesa collection event. The next event will be held from 8 a.m. to noon, on Saturday, Oct. 27, at the East Mesa Service Center, 6935 E. Decatur St. ■

For more information about Mesa's recycling programs, please visit [www.mesarecycles.org](http://www.mesarecycles.org), or call City of Mesa Customer Service at (480) 644-2221.



## WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO RECYCLE?

- It extends the life of our landfills. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, Americans generated about 250 million tons of trash in 2010. Of this total, we recycled or composted more than 85 million tons, equivalent to a 34.1 percent national recycling rate. This means, on average, our country recycled and composted 1.51 pounds out of our individual waste generation of 4.43 pounds per person per day.
- It helps your community. The City of Mesa does not own its own landfill. Therefore, a disposal fee is paid for every ton of material Mesa residents throw away. However, the City of Mesa receives revenue for every ton of material recycled in the blue barrel, and, in 2011, generated \$1.6 million. This revenue goes into the City's general fund, and helps support many of the programs and services provided to Mesa residents.

## COMMUNITY

## IT'S TIME FOR THE ANNUAL Red Mountain Ranch Garage Sale

Submitted by Red Mountain Ranch Social Club

Time is quickly approaching for the 2012 Red Mountain Ranch Community Garage Sale, which will take place on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 9 and 10, so mark your calendars.

Would you like to buy items you need for 75 percent to 90 percent off? Are retail store prices too high for your budget? Are you looking for Christmas gifts and don't have much money? Do you love to find bargains?

We have a solution for you! Come to our annual Red Mountain Ranch Community Garage Sale, and find what you need at great prices. Come early to get the best bargains.

This is one of the largest community garage sales held in the Phoenix area, and the Red Mountain Ranch Social Club is again sponsoring the event. This sale has been held for a number of years as a service to our community.

Red Mountain Ranch is a community of more than 1,600 homes in Northeast Mesa, at Power and Thomas roads. Homes participating in the garage sale exceed 100. It is your chance for one-stop shopping, since participating homes are close by.

Hope to see you at the garage sale. Happy shopping! ■



## Be Seen Being Green!

Last year, Mesa residents recycled 32,653 tons of material and sent 108,747 tons of material to the landfill. Please do your part by recycling the following items in your blue barrel:



**Cardboard & Paperboard**  
Includes cereal, soda & other paperboard boxes; remove liners/wrappers



**Glass Bottles & Jars**  
Food & beverage containers only



**Plastic Cups & Containers** ♻️ 1-7  
Includes margarine tubs & yogurt containers



**Milk & Juice Cartons**  
Includes ice cream containers & juice boxes



**Metal Cans**  
Food & beverage cans only



**Paper**  
Includes office paper, junk mail, phone books, newspaper, paper bags & magazines

Items should be relatively clean, dry and loose when placed in the blue barrel.  
Styrofoam and plastic bags are currently not accepted.

Do you have a recycling question? Call City of Mesa Customer Service at the number below or visit our website. You can also email your questions to [waste.info@mesaaz.gov](mailto:waste.info@mesaaz.gov).



480-644-2221 • [mesarecycles.org](http://mesarecycles.org)





## EDUCATION

# EXCHANGE STUDENTS EXPLORE FUTURE COLLABORATIONS

By AnnElise Makin

Two young ambassadors were taking their task quite seriously. Eyyub Israfilov and Ali Damirzade, both 15 years old, and both 10th-grade students, from Azerbaijan's capital Baku, had traveled to Arizona with a group of 16 fellow students through the Youth Leadership Program (YLP) of the American Councils for International Education.



Eyyub & Ali with their Mesa family

Eyyub and Ali were hosted by the Uppaluri family of East Mesa, whose oldest son, Karthik, had visited Azerbaijan in July with YLP. For the Azerbaijani youth, this was their first trip to the United States. They were eager to explore American culture, economy and educational possibilities, through an intensely enriching encounter.

Eyyub inquired, "Why are we in this program, you ask?" His response was, "It teaches us responsibility. From this, I get so much knowledge I need to have to help my country."

The young republic of Azerbaijan (population 9.2 million, on a 33,500-square-mile area), bordering on Russia and Iran, has been independent for only 20 years. Its culturally diverse population—a "melting pot," Eyyub said—has embraced the values of self-government, liberalism, environmental responsibility and economic opportunity.

## U.S. LEARNING EXPERIENCES

A gold mine of learning experiences lay ahead for these exchange students. They would soon experience American society in action, meet people from all walks of life, and access places tourists would never seek.

"My interests are in human rights, history and geography," Eyyub stated. In his world history class, he had learned much about the United States—Union of Soviet Socialist Republics arms race, the Vietnam War, the Korean War and Perestroika, as well as the decline of communism.

Ali was similarly motivated. "I want to be a diplomat in the economic realm," he said. "I want to improve the economy in my country, the income from oil, but also focus on manufacturing and renewable energies."

Both Azerbaijani students attend totally different school systems. Eyyub goes to the British School in Baku, a private institute, which follows the Cambridge model with the familiar A-B-C grading categories.

Ali is enrolled in a public high school, where Russian or Azeri is the teaching language. Each class, of six to nine subjects, is 45 minutes long. School also is held on Saturday. And the scores range from 2 (least) to 5 (best).

Next year, Ali and Eyyub would have to prepare for the university entrance exams, different ones for each institution. High school in Azerbaijan ends with the 11th grade.

## AMERICAN STUDENTS IN AZERBAIJAN

Their Arizona YLP equivalents, Karthik Uppaluri and Tendai Mabingani, both in the Westwood International Baccalaureate program, had learned these and other facts on their trip to Azerbaijan earlier this year.

"Students applying for colleges in Azerbaijan have to worry a lot less about the extraneous factors, the extracurricular activities and volunteerism," Tendai observed. "Yes," Karthik agreed. "Their training in high school is strictly academic. Whereas, American students are evaluated on the whole scope as a person."

Nevertheless, young people in

Azerbaijan get involved in various civic causes, such as anti-smoking campaigns (Eyyub) or neighborhood cleanups (Ali). Karthik and Tendai observed and participated in such activities, as well.

"One of my favorite memories was the Peace Corps leadership camp outside of Ganja," Tendai recalled. "We experienced many exercises on how to be a leader."

Karthik was mostly impressed by a visit to the ancient mountain town of Lahij. In this famous mountain town of copper crafts, the American kids got all the attention.

## COMMON GROUNDS IN EDUCATION

Ideas of future collaborations in education were bound to take root among these exchange students. Foremost, Karthik, an alumnus of the

NASA INSPIRE program, sought to get his Azeri friends interested in educational programs, such as those in which he was involved.

Together with some passionate teammates, Karthik presented the Azerbaijani visitors with a robotics demonstration at Red Mountain High School. The visitors had a ball trying to score some baskets with the *Team Plasma* robot.

Ali and Eyyub, on their part, seemed well versed in American culture. They rejoiced about finally seeing a real Western town and an authentic football game up close. Until then, they had known these things only from the movies. But now, the excitement, cheerleaders, fireworks and hot dogs were real.

"The most important aspect is that American people share with us every day a program full of training," Ali

observed. "We are here as tourists, as well as students, and, at the same time, ambassadors."

## VALUES OF A COUNTRY

"My outlook changed completely when we visited Washington, D.C.," Eyyub stated. "I talked with our

guide about *e pluribus unum*.

It changed the way I look at this country completely. Now, I see what liberty, glory and equality means."

"This trip will help to improve us," Ali said. "Each one of us gained a lot of information that is different from each other. If we implement this experience, we can grow a very beautiful tree from it."

Both Arizona and Azerbaijani students discovered a lot more



Robotics Demonstration at Red Mountain High School

common ground than differences. They shared interests in YouTube, Facebook and iTunes as a start. Language was not an obstacle. In addition, they all had ambition, idealism and empathy.

Now, just you wait until they make a difference. ■

To find out more, read Karthik Uppaluri's post, *Adventurer in Azerbaijan*, at the American Council's Web site. Go to <http://americancouncilsforinternational-education.wordpress.com/>. Enjoy his flipbook presentation at <http://snack.to/fupfw9h>



Karthik in Azerbaijan



Azerbaijani Cityscape

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Azerbaijani exchange students to Arizona experienced the full range of cultural and academic exposure programs. Their busy schedule included the following highlights:

- Grant writing seminar with Courtney Klein, from New Global Citizens
- Maricopa leadership program, with Assistant County Manager Dr. Silva
- Volunteer work, at St. Vincent de Paul and the CASS homeless shelter
- Grand Canyon and Tuba City tours
- Mock Teen Court, at South Mountain High School
- Lesson on civic engagement and the judiciary, with Justice Sandra Day O'Connor
- Many other engagements



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### HOME SERVICES

#### ANNABEL'S CLEANING SERVICE LLC

A licensed and fully insured house cleaning company. Serving the East Valley since 2002. There are no long term contracts and you can schedule your cleaning service on a weekly, bi-weekly, every three weeks, monthly or just one time basis. Move-in and Move-out's are our specialty.



We hire employees only and will never subcontract to other cleaning crews. Your home is protected by our General Liability Insurance and our employees are protected by our Worker's Compensation coverage. Please call us for a free quote at 480-326-3885.  
E-mail: annabelcleaningservice@gmail.com

**Integrity Pools LLC, Cleaning Service and Repairs.** Professional, Personal and Affordable pool maintenance and pool repairs; including filter clean-outs, acid washes, salt cells, etc. **480-818-3832.**

#### MK Remodeling & Design

Specializing in Custom Kitchen & Baths. Any Large Additions to Small Projects & Repairs. Licensed & Bonded ROC237798. Member BBB. Contact Mike for a free estimate. **(480) 285-6443**  
Web site: **www.mkremodeling.com** Email: **mike@mkremodeling.com**

**"Just Call Mike" Home Maintenance & Repair.** Plumbing, electrical, water heaters, disposals, RO systems, fans, lights, switches, sockets, irrigation, timers & valves, etc.  
Mesa, **(480) 628-2757.**

#### Mesa Home Maintenance and Repair.

Plumbing, electric, irrigation, garage doors, water heaters, tile and drywall repairs, carpentry, handyman lists, and other services. All work guaranteed. Sean Sornberger **(480) 699-7990.**

#### ALL PRO TREE SERVICE and LANDSCAPE SERVICE.

Tree Trimming, Removals, Stump Grinding, Bushes, Shrubs, Yard Clean Ups, Landscaping, and Deep Root Fertilization, Etc. **FREE ESTIMATES.** Very Professional, INSURED & BONDED. Mention this ad and receive **15% OFF!** We accept credit cards. Please call **(480) 354-5802**



### ANIMAL SERVICES

#### CYNTHIA HANNAH PROFESSIONAL PET SITTER

Overnights in Home/Walks/Day-Play Visits/Pet Errands/House Sitting. Insured. CPR, 1st Aid Certified. Member Of: Pet Sitters International, Pet Sitters Association, NAPPA, ABKA. Previously Certified Vet Tech Assistant, Pet Care Tech. with ABKA, TTouch Therapy, Delta Society (pet partners). References. Home: 480-988-2755 Cell: 480-529-3869

### SPECIALTY SERVICES

**PROFESSIONAL TUTORING.** Multiple K-12 subjects including Math, Reading, Writing. Individualized, at-home instruction. AIMS preparation help. Assistance for home-schooling, behavioral, special education concerns. Philip N. Swanson, Ph.D., **480-677-9459.**

#### ARIZONA GOLF CART REPAIR, LLC

Has All of your Golf and Utility Cart needs. Quality, Care, and Low Prices.  
1922 N. Rosemont, Mesa AZ 85205  
480-861-1436 **www.azgolfcartsales.com**

### BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

#### Has the recession hit you hard?

Don't change your lifestyle; change your thinking! Partner w/ Vemma and create residual wealth from home! Vemma is growing fast. Don't miss out! **mccozzi.vemma.com**

### CHILD CARE SERVICES

**IN HOME CHILD CARE.** Full or part time. Excellent references, over 11 years experience. Educational activities, large daycare room, full industrial playground in backyard. CPR certified, fun and safe environment! Please call Sue **(480) 209-5865**

**LAS SENDAS MOM,** newborn & up; 16 years experience. CPR certified. Homemade meals and healthy snacks; loving, safe environment; no pool; flexible schedule. Early childhood development activities offered. Many references! Call Lina **(480) 324-8466**







**Debbie & Ron Brown**  
Owner/Broker  
602.618.9512



TRAILS AND PATHS

# Trails And Paths

Office: 480.355.4700  
www.TrailsAndPaths.com



TRAILS AND PATHS



**John Karadsheh**  
ABR, CRS  
Associate Broker  
602.615.0843



**Christina Ovando**  
CRS  
REALTOR®  
602.684.5737



**Bobbi Palmer**  
ABR  
Associate Broker  
480.720.5208



**Linda Sims**  
REALTOR®  
602.376.8920



**Barbra Baukus**  
ABR, CRS, CIAS,  
CSSPE  
Associate Broker  
480.205.6532



**Lyn Glenn**  
ABR  
Associate Broker  
602.769.1089



**Judy Smee**  
480.797.5307  
**Lynn King**  
480.235.0223  
REALTOR®



**Kris Miller**  
CDPE, GRI,  
RDCPRO, AHS  
REALTOR®  
480.236.6181



**Pat Palmer**  
ABR, GRI  
REALTOR®  
480.363.4563



**Ann Griffin**  
REALTOR®  
480.789.9584



**Aaron Charlton**  
REALTOR®  
480.626.3885



**Kate Ward**  
REALTOR®  
602.481.5577



**Rhonda Dehnert**  
REALTOR®  
480.437.4084



**Diane Pistillo**  
REALTOR®  
602.481.9212



**Cathy Ebert**  
REALTOR®  
480.682.7378



**Sharon Madison**  
REALTOR®  
480.540.7413



**Betty Bullock**  
REALTOR®  
480.216.6301



**Lorraine Ryall**  
REALTOR®  
602.571.6799



**Terry Hughes**  
REALTOR®  
602.882.1866



**Laurie Burleson**  
REALTOR®  
480.682.7253



**Charles Porter**  
REALTOR®  
602.525.4066



**Sharon Liuzzo**  
Associate Broker  
602.999.1468



**\$1,250,000**  
4,026 sq. ft. 3BR, 3.5BA, 4G. Panoramic city light & Mtn. views, gourmet kitchen & negative edge pool.



**\$3,300,000**  
7,179 sq. ft. 5BR, 5.5BA, 6G, 1.85 acre lot. City light & Mtn. views, granite counters, canterra columns.



**UNDER CONTRACT**  
2,883 sq. ft. 3BR, 3.5BA, 2G. Cul-de-sac lot, 2nd master suite, granite counters, Pebble Tec® pool & BBQ.



**\$489,700**  
3,462 sq. ft. 5BR, 4BA, 3G. Golf course lot w/city light & Mtn. views. Hardwood floors & Pebble Tec pool.



**\$525,000**  
4,006 sq. ft. 6BR, 4.5BA, 3G. Stainless steel appliances, granite counters, wet bar & custom diving pool.



**\$325,000**  
2,370 sq. ft. 4BR, 2BA, 3G. New paint, laminate wood flooring, large grass play area & built in BBQ.



**UNDER CONTRACT**  
1,441 sq. ft. 3BR, 2BA, 3G. 2 way FP. Wood floors. Granite counters & stainless steel appliances.



**\$950,000**  
3,428 sq. ft. 4BR, 4BA, 3G. Golf course lot, travertine & walnut flooring, pool, city light & Mtn. views.



**\$1,400,000**  
7,346 sq. ft. 5BR, 4.5BA, 4G. Chiseled edge stone flooring, home theatre, pool & city light views.



**SOLD**  
3,036 sq. ft. 4BR plus a den/office, 2.5BA, 3G. Solar energy reduces cost by 50% & a salt water pool.



**UNDER CONTRACT**  
2,445 sq. ft. 3BR, 2.5BA, 2G. Stainless steel appliances, granite counters, wine cooler, hardwood flooring.



**\$225,000**  
1,959 sq. ft. 2BR plus a den, 2BA, 2G. Golf course views, spacious floor plan & no HOA fees.



**\$649,999**  
4,358 sq. ft. 5BR, 4BA, 4G. Granite counters, crown molding, double ovens, alder cabinetry & travertine.



**\$525,000**  
3,658 sq. ft. 4BR, 3.5BA, 3G. Golf course lot, alderwood cabinetry, stainless GE Monogram® appliances.



**UNDER CONTRACT**  
2,226 sq. ft. 4BR, 2BA, 2.5G. Plantation shutters, tile flooring, fenced pool, grass play area & built in BBQ.



**SOLD**  
2,201 sq. ft. 4BR, 2.5BA, 2G. Turkish travertine flooring, pool w/custom water feature, grass area & gazebo.



**SOLD**  
1,673 sq. ft. 5BR plus a den/office, 3BA, 3G. Cul-de-sac lot, oversized lot w/a play swimming pool.



**\$389,000**  
2,731 sq. ft. 5BR, 3BA, 3G. Completely remodeled semi-custom home, granite, travertine & more.



**\$429,000**  
2,827 sq. ft. 4BR, 2.5BA, 3G. Cul-de-sac lot, granite counters, stainless steel appliances & crown molding.



**\$929,000**  
5,056sq. ft. 6BR, 4.5BA, 3G. Viking® and SubZero® appliances, citrus & pecan trees, game room w/wet bar.