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DISCOVER LOCAL FAVORITES



Welcome to Ahwatukee:

Ahwatukee is a fantastic place to live, work and play. The community has a wide range of everything you need and want. A wonderful family vibe, great sports for the kids, and miles of trails for hiking, biking and horseback riding. Sheltered on the other side of the mountain from downtown Phoenix, the community feels removed from the hustle and bustle of the city itself



Relocation

Phoenix is a great place for a fresh beginning! It is one of the fastest growing cities in the country, but still is able to maintain that small town atmosphere.



Working from Home

The rise in remote work is changing what many people want in their homes. Having a dedicated space is key in this new work dynamic



Market Numbers

2021 has been a remarkable year for Real Estate. While housing prices grew over 25% in the past year, Phoenix is still considered to be a very affordable place to live. Ahwatukee offers a wide variety of neighborhoods and price points for your housing needs



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about the COVER

Image by Bre Warren

Right in your own backyard, South Mountain is one of the best places in the Valley to watch a spectacular Arizona sunset or take in some panoramic city views. Within minutes of entering the park, you'll feel miles away from the city.

There are plenty of trailheads along the Ahwatukee border, but if you're looking to access a 2,000-foot vantage point when the sun is going down, especially if it's your first time on the mountain, we recommend a short road trip to the north side of the nature preserve. From Central Avenue, you can wind your way up to fabulous lookouts, like our cover shot from the Buena Vista Trail.

Established in 1924, South Mountain Park remains one of the largest municipal parks in the nation, so be sure to print out a map for your excursion of the twisting roads and many intersecting trails.

In addition to interesting rock formations, large boulders, and a variety of cacti, depending on your trail, you may also come across seasonal wildflowers, petroglyphs, abandoned mines, hang gliders, coyotes, chuckwalla, or even a Gila monster.

Find out more about South Mountain in our Hidden Gems section of *BeLocal Ahwatukee*.

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A digital flipbook with links to local businesses



Who's behind this BeLocal magazine



BeLOCAL

AHWATUKEE

FRONT COVER:

Buena Vista Trail, South Mountain

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N2 Design Team

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EVENTS

The best of the area's year-round activities and attractions. Fresh Arizona air and local insights included.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY

Fire, Police, and Ambulance.....9-1-1
 Phoenix Police Department / Non-emergency..... 602-262-6151
 Phoenix Fire Department / Non-emergency 602-495-5555
 Poison Control.....1-800-222-1222
 National Suicide Prevention Hotline..... 1-800-273-8255

UTILITIES

Southwest Gas 877-860-6020
 Electric / Salt River Project.....602-236-8888

CITY OF PHOENIX

Phoenix.gov | 602-262-3111



City of Phoenix

Bulk Trash/quarterly collectionPhoenix.gov/PublicWorks/BulkTrash
 Water, Sewer, and Trash 602-262-6011
 Planning and Development..... 602-262-7811
 Aquatics602-534-6587
 Parks 602-262-6862

SCHOOLS

Tempe Union High School District 480-839-0292
 Kyrene School District..... 480-541-1000
 Keystone Montessori480-460-7312
 Magical Journey Learning Center 480-699-6552

IDENTIFICATION AND REGISTRATION

Voter Registration..... ServiceArizona.com | 602-506-1511
 Vehicle Registration Renew at 888-713-3031
 Department of Motor Vehicles.....602-255-0072
 Arizona Travel ID.....AZDOT.gov/TravelID
 Dog Licensing/Maricopa County Animal Care & Control 602-506-7387
Dogs that are over 3 months of age are required to be licensed and vaccinated against rabies.

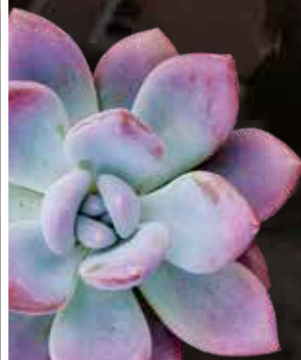
U.S. PASSPORT

Phoenix Ahwatukee Station480-893-1748

LOCAL TIP



Kyrene Schools allow open enrollment, and each school has their own focus: dual language, gifted, STEM, and more." – **Kristin S.**



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CONTRIBUTORS



ALLISON HUGHES

Allison has lived in the East Valley all of her life. As the owner of Elements Massage – Chandler West, she loves helping individuals find balance. Her contributions to *BeLocal Ahwatukee* can be found in the Beauty and Wellness section.



AZULA RAUN

Azula is a lifestyle photographer whose work can be found accompanying the Family Perspective story. She was born in one of the coldest places on earth, Magadan, Russia, but the East Valley is now her home.



BRE WARREN

Our cover artist, Bre, has lived in Arizona since 2003, and loves to hike and take nature photos of our beautiful state. On her days off from the golf course, she enjoys exploring all the different areas of Arizona. To her friends, she is known as the adventure queen.



CHRISTIN VALENTINI

Christin has lived in Ahwatukee since 1995. She is a Charter Member of the Ahwatukee Foothills Family YMCA and has served on the Board of Managers since 2012. She currently serves at the Chair of the Healthy Living Committee and writes *BeLocal Ahwatukee's* Healthy Living section.



ERIC KINNEMAN

Eric is an Ahwatukee resident, husband, and father of two. He's the founder of a Phoenix-based adventure group, an accomplished mountaineer, runner and local expert for our Hiking section.



JEN PETRUZZELLA

Jen moved from the Midwest to Arizona for a contract position in 1995. With all that Arizona offered, she never left. In addition to *BeLocal Ahwatukee*, she's the publisher of *BeLocal Chandler*, *Foothills Living*, and *Ocotillo Living*.



JULIE SORRICK

Julie has lived and worked in Ahwatukee since 2002. She is a mother to two boys, a speech-language pathologist, and the owner of Desert Valley Pediatric Therapy. Julie's interest and passion lies in helping all children meet their developmental milestones.



KATE GALLEGO

The mayor welcomes you to Phoenix, the fifth-largest city in the U.S. and the fastest-growing city in the country. Kate Gallego is the second elected female mayor in Phoenix and the youngest big-city mayor in the U.S.



KEVIN O'REILLY

Kevin moved from Chicago to Ahwatukee over 20 years ago with his wife, Rebecca. The couple are parents to triplets and work together at their local business, Foothills Financial Planning. Meet the O'Reillys in our Family Perspective section.



KIM STEEDMAN

Kim co-directs Music Maker Workshops with her sister, Shelley. She's married to her love, Sean, and they are blessed with three amazing children. Her family resides in Ahwatukee, where they are passionate about supporting the small businesses in the community.



LAURA HERTZLER

Laura is an Arizona native, resident of Ahwatukee, and Head of School at Keystone Montessori School. She is an advocate for Montessori education and proudly contributes in our Parent Resources section.



MARTY GIBSON

A native of Long Island, NY, Marty is a 34-year Arizona resident. He has authored two books on the history of the area, *Phoenix's Ahwatukee-Foothills* and *Historic Tales from Ahwatukee Foothills*.



MATT PERKINS

Matt is an ER/Trauma Nurse for a level 1 trauma center here in the Valley. His job can be a little stressful, so he finds that photography provides him with the opportunity to get out in nature and recharge his batteries.



RACHEL SCHURZ

A native of New York, Rachel's years as a journalist meant living in various parts of the country. Since happily settling in Ahwatukee nearly a decade ago, she is a mother of three, active in schools and community, and contributes to our Libraries and Veterans sections.



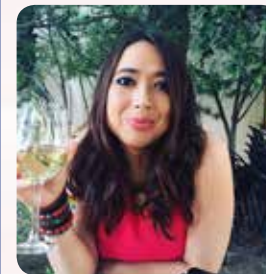
SAM MITCHELL

Sam has had a hobbyist interest in photography since his teen years. His primary subjects are landscapes. In his free time, Sam enjoys hiking the South Mountain area and exploring Ahwatukee.



SANDRA MARSHALL

Originally from New York, Ahwatukee resident and professional artist Sandra Marshall loves to share the joy of creating with as many people as possible. Her photography can be found with the Publisher's Note. She is also our expert contributor for The Art Scene.



SHANNON RUSH

A well-known wine enthusiast, Shannon began her career in the restaurant industry at Tempe's award-winning House of Tricks before following her passion for viticulture with her own wine bar and tapas joint, The Cellar. Let this local pro introduce you to Crushing the Wine Scene.



SHELLEY YAKUBOW

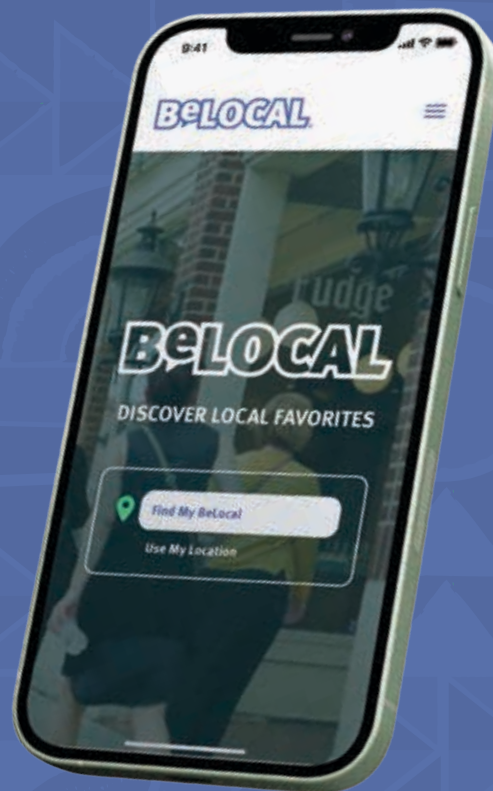
Hailing from British Columbia, Canada, Shelley has been a resident of Arizona for over 20 years and works alongside her sister, Kim, at Music Maker Workshops. She has a bachelor's degree in elementary education and loves teaching the *Music for Little Mozart Piano* program.



SYDNEY SCHURZ

Sydney is a resident of Ahwatukee, a sophomore at Seton Catholic Preparatory, and a member of the Ahwatukee Foothills Chapter of National Charity League. She shares her perspective on the community in The Teen Scene.

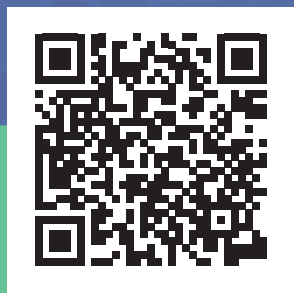
Your **BeLOCAL** Favorites



ON THE GO

This magazine is your source for authentic tips and favorite spots from locals – but no need to take it with you to explore!

Access the complete digital version (plus featured articles) online.



Snap for local favorites



WELCOME TO AHWATUKEE ▶▶



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Art.com

LIVE • LIKE • A • LOCAL

Welcome to Ahwatukee! When I moved to our village in 2008, I vividly remember feeling as though I was taking a short trip to the country. The welcoming neighbors, the winding streets, the hillside lots, the natural splendor, and the comfort of being tucked in the mountains all offered a strong sense of belonging, a sense that Ahwatukee was my home. No matter where I travel, Ahwatukee is a place I feel grateful to return to.

Whether you've moved from the next city over or from overseas, settling into a new area can be both exciting and overwhelming. Within your first few months, you will likely establish new routines, get to know local hotspots, and explore your new community's vast resources. With so many nuances and so much on your plate, it can be daunting to think about everything you need to do to get acclimated your new surroundings.

Enter *BeLocal Ahwatukee*. In your hands, you're holding tips and tidbits for the best of the best of everything Ahwatukee. From dining and shopping to city parks and attractions, this is your locals' guide to what you need to know – and what you want to know – about this Village you now call home.

BeLocal Ahwatukee was developed to give the locals' perspective into everything that Ahwatukee has to offer. Inside your specifically curated guide, you will find hidden gems, insider tips written by the experts, the best eateries in town, pet-friendly places for your four-legged friends, a little bit of history, some of the Valley's best annual events, and so much more.

So welcome to your new home. Enjoy exploring Ahwatukee, and we look forward to seeing you around town.

Sincerely,



JEN PETRUZZELLA
Publisher, *BeLocal Ahwatukee*
jen.petz@n2pub.com

LOCAL TIP



"Explore the area. Ahwatukee has many hidden treasures." – **Janet S.**

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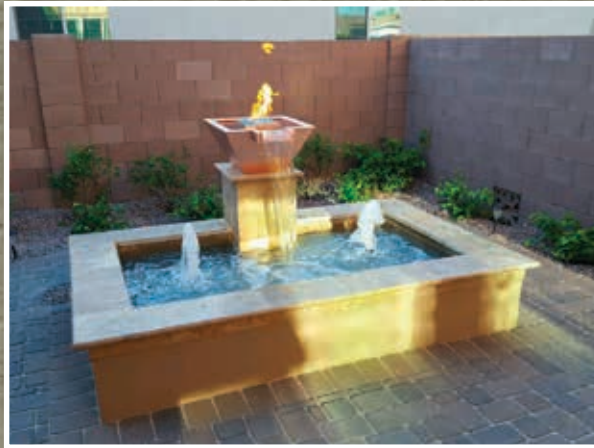
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WELCOME FROM MAYOR GALLEGO

LOCAL TIP



"Join 100+ Women Who Care Valley of the Sun to learn about local charities and meet great women."

- Kim T.



The mayor and her son, Michael.



By Mayor
Kate Gallego

Welcome! Thank you for choosing Phoenix as your new home. You will love our vibrant neighborhoods and diverse communities. I hope that, like me, you will find our unique, spectacular desert scenery and natural environment an absolute joy to explore. My 4-year-old son, Michael, loves to explore the trails with me in South Mountain Park. It's America's largest urban mountain preserve and practically in your backyard. We'd love to bump into you during an upcoming hike!

Arizona has been my home for more than 17 years. During that time, I've had the privilege of watching the truly amazing growth our city has experienced. Phoenix is now the fifth-largest city in the country and the fastest-growing. We are an emerging global leader in semiconductors, advanced medical manufacturing,

bioscience research and much more. Over the next decade, our community is projected to outpace the rest of the nation in employment growth. These investments ensure Phoenix will be a competitive market and booming innovation hub for years to come.

Phoenix is thriving! Your new neighborhood, Ahwatukee, has been an important part of the larger Phoenix community for more than 50 years.

My family and I love it here. We hope you will, too!

Sincerely,
KATE GALLEGO, Mayor

hiking the SONORAN DESERT



**TAKING THE
FIRST STEP**

LOCAL TIP



"We have amazing hiking right in our neighborhood. There are so many trails on South Mountain."
— Maryjo A.



By **Eric Kinneman**,
ekinneman@lendsmartmortgage.com,
602-757-2171

SOUTH MOUNTAIN IS THE BACKYARD FOR AHWATUKEE, AND IF YOU LIKE HIKING, BIKING, WALKING, OR RUNNING, YOU'RE IN THE RIGHT PLACE.

When it comes to choosing my favorite hiking trail in Ahwatukee, I have to go with what's known as the Elevator Ride. The Elevator Ride starts out at the Pyramid Trailhead. You take this trail out to the Lost Ranch Ruins Trail and hike right up into the actual ruins. You then drop through the back window. Believe it or not, this is still the Lost Ranch Ruins Trail, and it's steep from here. This will dump you out on the National Trail. I take this over to the Eliminator Trail, which is very steep going down. Once you come down off the mountain, you're back on the Lost Ranch Ruins Trail and then finally back to the Pyramid Trailhead. It is an amazing, difficult, and short hike, totaling about 5 miles.

When you go hiking, be prepared. Please remember to bring water. I recommend a backpack with a bladder. Wear a good pair of hiking shoes, a hat, hiking pants or shorts, and a synthetic shirt, not cotton. Bring snacks and a cellphone, and use sunscreen.

In addition to having hiked on every single trail that South Mountain has to offer, some of my other accomplishments include:

- ▶ **Hiking the 20 highest mountains in Arizona**
- ▶ **Hiking to the highest point in every county in Arizona.** *We have 15 counties.*
- ▶ **Reaching the highest point in every state, except for Alaska, better known as the 49er club.**

I love hiking, trail running, and mountain-eering. I am happy to help and answer questions for those who share the same passions. It all starts with the first step.

SOUTH MOUNTAIN TRAILS



With a total of 16,000 acres and over 50 miles of trails for hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking, South Mountain Park is one of the largest municipally managed parks in the U.S.

DESERT VISTA TRAILHEAD ▶ This is better known as Telegraph Pass, which is a very famous trail that's short but steep. This hike leads to incredible views once you make it to the top of the road. You can go a little further to the rock house and enjoy even better views. Amenities are abundant at this trailhead.



PIMA CANYON TRAILHEAD ▶ Probably the most popular of all trailhead systems in South Mountain, this trailhead gives you access to several trails and is heavily trafficked. The route will take you to Fat Man's Pass via the National Trail. The amenities are abundant at this trailhead.

PYRAMID TRAILHEAD ▶ Located in west Ahwatukee, this trail system gives you access to the less traveled trails, but they're still busy. The famous Pyramid Trail, Eliminator Trail, and the Lost Ruins are out here. The trailhead has a parking lot but no bathrooms.

WARPAINT TRAILHEAD ▶ This trailhead will give you access to a lot of flat hiking where you can easily access the Warpaint Trail Loop and Desert Classic Trail. You can gain access to Young Man Trail, which is very steep and rated as difficult. Located in a private, upscale neighborhood, there is not much parking here.

FUN FACT

Every Sunday from 5-10 am, the roads of South Mountain are closed to motor vehicles for Silent Sunday, reserving the roadways exclusively for walking, cycling, jogging, and hiking. On the fourth Sunday of each month, Silent Sunday hours are extended to 7 pm.

CONTINUED ›

LOCAL TIP



"As far as hidden gems, the **Sivlik Grill** at Whirlwind Golf Club at Wild Horse Pass has the very best view for dining. They serve breakfast and lunch daily and host private dinners for large groups. The menu selection is not huge, but offers just enough to keep it interesting. The food is good and reasonably priced, and the staff is friendly. It's never too crowded, and the peace and tranquility of the Estrella Mountains can't be beat." – Jen H.



OTHER TRAILS AROUND TOWN



CAMELBACK MOUNTAIN

This very famous hike is underestimated by many. It's steep, short, and difficult. It's in Scottsdale and is incredibly busy, so be prepared for crowds. All amenities available at this trailhead.

PIESTEWA PEAK

This very well-known hike is always super busy and is located in downtown Phoenix. It's a steep but short hike that's rated as difficult. All amenities are available at this trailhead.

PINNACLE PEAK

This famous hike, located in north Scottsdale, has amazing views and is not too difficult or long. It is certainly one to add to your bucket list. All amenities are located at the trailhead.



More than 200 hikers are rescued annually from City of Phoenix desert and mountain parks. Prepare for your hike by checking the weather before you head out, wearing proper attire, bringing water, using sunscreen, having a fully charged phone, and staying on the designated trails.

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Eric Kinneman

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THE MOST TALKED-ABOUT RESTAURANTS

There's no better way to get to know a city than through its unique dining options, and the Phoenix food scene is bursting with flavor.

There are so many foodie finds here, it can be challenging to narrow down a spot.

From the classic to the creative, we know you'll find some of your new favorites in our comprehensive guide.

Give these restaurants a try, and enjoy all our area has to offer.



LET'S

eat



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AHWATUKEE

STEAKHOUSE



FLEMING'S

FlemingsSteakhouse.com

Fleming's is Ahwatukee's answer to fine dining. Everything is elegant, from the Chilled Seafood Tower to the Lava Cake with its molten center of Belgian chocolate.

RUSTLER'S ROOSTE

RustlersRooste.com

It's great for the kids, a cool spot to take out-of-town guests, and one of the best places to catch a view of the Valley.

LOCAL TIP



"For seafood lovers, **Chesapeake Bay Bistro** is great for casual dining. It feels like an East Coast crab shack, and the food is delicious and fresh. I love their soft-shell crab sandwich." – **Dana B.**

SPORTS BAR

CK'S TAVERN & GRILL

CKgrill.com

A full menu, 35 TVs, and all the major sports packages, CK's is a great place to catch the game. The owner is often on site, welcoming kids and making you feel at home.

NATIVE GRILL & WINGS

NativeGrillandWings.com

Two Ahwatukee locations and three nights of wing specials. The walls of the Foothills location are lined with sports memorabilia from the local youth sports teams they support.

PHILLY'S SPORTS GRILL

PhillysSportsGrill.com

TVs are everywhere. They even have personal screens at the booths. The Sunday brunch menu is way above most guests' expectations for a sports bar.

CONTINUED >



THAI

TASTE OF THAI

TasteofThai.co

The heat level here is high, so if you order Thai hot, they will definitely bring on the chilis. Live like a local and go for the Pad See Ew.

THAI BASIL

OrderThaiBasilAhwatukee.com

Their curry is the talk of the town. The red Pineapple Curry in coconut milk with bell peppers and kaffir lime leaves is layers of flavor.

SUSHI

GINBAN SUSHI

GinbanSushi.com

Ginban is a great place to dine in and their to-go is precisely packaged. The miso soup and bento boxes are often applauded.

SAKANA SUSHI AND GRILL

SakanaSushiandGrill.com

Locals love the portion to price ratio, and the quality is consistent. In addition to the sushi and sashimi, they prepare tableside teppanyaki experiences with reservations.

SMOKIN FINS

SmokinFinsRestaurant.com

Smokin Fins offers ocean-fresh seafood and sushi along with house-smoked prime rib and pulled pork. Sunday brunch features Salmon Benedict and a Paleo Power Plate.

MEXICAN / SOUTHWESTERN

TACO CULTURE TACO SHOP

Taco-Culture.Business.Site

There are just a few tables at this shop, so it's more of a grab-and-go style. Crispy, baja, street, and rolled, they prepare authentic tacos of every variety.

Z'TEJAS

ZTejas.com

Handmade food, fresh ingredients, and Authentic Southwestern dishes, Z'Tejas is also Valley-famous for their Chambord Margaritas.



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PIZZA

FLORENCIA PIZZA BISTRO

FlorenziaPizzaBistro.com

Pizzas are customized with a marinara, olive oil, pesto, BBQ sauce, or ranch dressing base. Their classics, like the traditional Margherita, are on point for the pizza purists.

NELLO'S

NellosPizza.com

Nello's has an extensive selection of salads to go with their wood-fired pizza. The Seasoned Crust with Sauce appetizer may sound simple, but it's definitely not basic.

ROSATI'S

MyRosatis.com

It's not just the locals who love Rosati's: This restaurant is celebrated in the Pizza Hall of Fame as one of the oldest and most successful pizzerias in the U.S.

SPINATO'S

SpinatosPizzeria.com

If you like a sweeter sauce, this is your spot. Mama's Signature is a blend of spinach, spices, and garlic that's best eaten while dining in.

VERO CHICAGO PIZZA

VeroChicagoPizza.com

Vero serves authentic Chicago-style deep dish, thin, and butter crust pizza. Try the Millennium Park with Italian Beef and Hot Giardiniera.

CONTINUED >

LOCAL TIP



"Ahwatukee is the smallest big city you will ever live in, where your community will quickly become your friends. If you're looking for a great taco joint, shop small and head to **Taco Culture**. Enjoy an Al Pastor or Super Nachos." — **Amanda H.**

ITALIAN

BELL' ITALIA PIZZERIA

BellItaliaPizzeria.com

Family-owned and -operated, this local hotspot is known for East Coast Italian cuisine, NY-style pizza, and their oft-mentioned Fried Ravioli.

CAFFE BOA

CaffeBoa.com

Locals love the patio, and their house-made buttercake is the rave of the Ahwatukee dessert scene. The Voodoo Penne also comes highly recommended.

LA STALLA CUCINA RUSTICA

LaStallaCR.com

Paolo Vetrati's old-country recipes and Americanized entrées are best described as scratch done right. His made-in-house limoncello and nine-hour ragù are especially flavorful.

VA BENE

VaBeneAZ.com

With a formal dining room, charming patio, and lounge with live music on Friday and Saturday evenings, there's an ambiance for everyone.



VEGETARIAN

PITA JUNGLE

PitaJungle.com

Flavorful Mediterranean, Greek, Middle Eastern, and Lebanese dishes are served here. In addition to vegetarian and vegan, they offer a gluten-free menu.

POM MARKET & CAFE

PomegranateCafe.com

Many of the dishes are prepared with organic and seasonal ingredients from local farmers and artisans. Protein choices include walnut chorizo and jackfruit carnitas.



BREAKFAST

BAGEL MAN

[Visit the Bagel Man on Facebook.](#)

Their NY-style bagels and deli are super popular and only open Monday through Friday, 6am-11am, so come early for the best selection and be prepared for a line.

BISCUITS FOOTHILLS

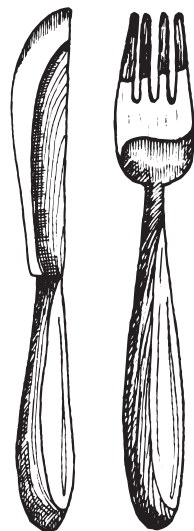
BiscuitsNdGravy.com

Biscuits nails the homestyle concept of the traditional American breakfast and brunch. Champion pancakes, Southern Grits, and the Denver Omelet are noteworthy.

HILLSIDE SPOT CAFE & MARKET

HillsideSpot.com

Using as many local vendors and farmers as possible, Hillside offers an expansive Sonoran-style menu that includes Chilaquiles Verdes and Huevos Rancheros.



LOCAL TIP



"The by-products of your overall metabolism are oxidants, which can be harmful to the body's DNA. Hence,

the need for ANTI-oxidants. Enjoy a variety of local plant-based foods." - Agnes O.

Z'TEJAS SOUTHWEST GRILL IS YOUR DINING DESTINATION!

Whether it's lunch, dinner, happy hour or brunch, **Z'TEJAS** is the place to enjoy amazing meals with friends or family. Using the freshest, seasonal ingredients - every sip and bite will be

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with flavor!



TEJAS SOUTHWEST GRILL

7221 W Ray Rd Chandler, AZ 85226

ztejas.com



What's better than one WOO? Two!



Woo Woo Burgers is a throwback concept serving classic burgers, chicken sandwiches and sides. Using fresh, never frozen, hormone-free beef and chicken complimented by the best available produce. Everything is scratch-made.

Available for curbside pickup or delivery to your home or office. For more information visit

woowoburgers.com



homegrown EATS

WHERE TO EXPERIENCE LOCALLY GROWN FOODS:

AHWATUKEE FARMERS' MARKET

Sunday mornings bring the Ahwatukee Farmers' Market to the northwest corner of Warner and 48th Street. Stop by for microgreens, tea, produce, fresh bread, grass-fed beef, sauces, eggs, cheese, granola, honey, candles, homemade soaps and lotions, and jewelry. ArizonaCommunityFarmersMarkets.com

AMADIO RANCH

A heritage farming venture in Laveen, Amadio Ranch is a return to the practice of small family farming that was common in the Phoenix area in the 1920s through the '50s. Every year since 2010, their business has grown organically, just like their produce. Visit their website for hours of the Ahwatukee Peach Truck Stop, subscribe to their Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) boxes, or take a short drive to the Amadio Ranch Heritage Farm Stand. AmadioRanch.com

LOCAL TIP



"When I moved here from Scottsdale, I was surprised by the small-town feel of Ahwatukee. From the friendly and supportive people to locally owned businesses, there's little reason to leave the bubble." — Angela B.



THE FARM AT SOUTH MOUNTAIN

The Farm Kitchen features a walk-up counter with seasonal foods and made-from-scratch baked goods. Lunches are packed in picnic baskets, perfect for exploring the grounds or taking to relax under the shade of the Pecan Grove. The chef at Quiescence at The Farm curates each week's menu using freshly harvested vegetables, edible flowers, eggs and herbs. TheFarmAtSouthMountain.com



PERFECT PEAR BISTRO

Owned by a local family, Perfect Pear offers a creative menu that changes to feature seasonal ingredients. From the beer and spirits to the breads and produce, they support local purveyors and suppliers every chance they get. PerfectPearBistro.com

SINGH MEADOWS

Open Friday, Saturday and Sunday in Tempe, this locally sourced farmers' market is famous for their raw honey selection and juice bar. Visitors can also expect fresh produce, healthy breakfast and lunch options, and organic compost. TempeFarmersMarket.com

SUN PRODUCE COOPERATIVE

This co-op distributes locally-produced fruits and vegetables to families, restaurants, wholesalers, neighborhood grocery stores, farmers' markets, food banks and more. You can become a farm bag subscriber to receive a seasonal mix of the finest local produce every week at your choice of pick-up site. SunProduceCoop.org

QUEEN CREEK OLIVE MILL

Using sustainable farming practices, the property boasts over 7,000 trees and a farm shed for producing extra virgin olive oil. Their retail space offers products beyond the kitchen with their spa line, and dine-in options are always an experience and often feature local musicians. QueenCreekOliveMill.com

VON HANSON'S MEAT MARKETS

This old-fashioned meat market and butcher shop carries Arizona wines by Kokopelli and Down Time Wines, Meat Dusters seasoning, salsas by Arizona Spice Company, Kettle Heroes popcorn and, of course, Arizona Gunslinger. VonHansonsMeats.net



A QUICK GUIDE TO PLANTING YOUR VEGGIES AND HERBS IN AHWATUKEE:

JANUARY: potatoes, asparagus transplants

FEBRUARY: sunflower seeds, artichoke transplants

MARCH: dill, watermelon, cantaloupe, sweet potato transplants, summer squash, tomato transplants, basil, lima beans, cucumber seeds, eggplant transplants, parsley, thyme

APRIL: okra, peanuts, black-eyed peas, oregano

MAY & JUNE: There are some seeds and transplants that you can begin in June, however, these months are the end of Chandler's first growing season.

JULY: winter squash seeds, pumpkin seeds, pepper transplants, shallots (sets of cloves), pinto beans

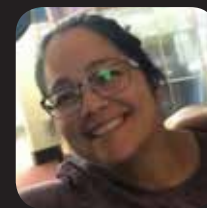
AUGUST: green onions, snap beans, carrots, corn, collard greens

SEPTEMBER: leeks, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, mustard, bok choy, parsnips, radishes, rutabaga, spinach, turnips, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, chard, endive, cilantro

OCTOBER: garlic, onions, peas, beets

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER: Spring and fall are the two optimal growing seasons in the Valley, however, there are still some seeds and transplants that can be successfully planted in the winter months.

LOCAL TIP



"I love the Ahwatukee Farmers' Market. There is fresh salsa, local honey and produce." — Shakira M.





PARENT TO PARENT

By Laura Hertzler

As a native of Arizona, a parent, and the Head of School at Keystone Montessori, it is my pleasure to welcome you and your family to Ahwatukee! The desert will amaze you with its beauty, and if you have moved here from out of state, rest assured, the hot summers are worth it to enjoy our mild winter weather.

This area of Phoenix is unique and offers a small-town feel while having the benefits of a larger city. Ahwatukee is a wonderful place to raise a family, and we have many excellent schools. The School Choice legislation allows parents to choose between tuition-free public, charter, or private schools for your children. This allows you to live outside the district of your desired school. While this provides a lot of options, some parents feel overwhelmed by their choices! I encourage you to visit many schools, ask questions, and find the best fit for your family.

Choosing a new school is just one element of exploring a new home. There are so many things to experience with your children in our area. Ahwatukee is

home to many parks, playgrounds, and family events. Our library is an excellent resource for new families and has many free programs for children. There are numerous hiking trails that are family-friendly and you may find a new hobby awaits your entire family!

As you explore your new home, ask your children about the things you experience together. Record their thoughts each time you explore somewhere new. It will be fun to look back on your adventures after you have lived here a while to see what each member of the family thought the first time you visited a new place. Children love when adults ask their opinion and they will amaze you with their observations of your new home.

LOCAL TIP



Keystone Montessori is a great school and community with excellent teachers and programs." – **Tricia F.**



PARKS

Ahwatukee certainly isn't short on outdoor recreation for the family. From trails and parks to outdoor events and dining al fresco, our village has it all. For the best of swings, slides, and spins, there are plenty of outdoor play options for all ages.

Desert Foothills Park • 15637 S. Marketplace NE, 85048
This city park is home to some of Ahwatukee's most popular annual events.

Foothills Club West Park • 16414 S. 14th Ave., 85048
VisionCommunityManagement.com
This private park is part of the Club West Community and features a reservable clubhouse. Events include seasonal festivals, paint parties, comedy shows, and even breakfast with Santa, which are often open to residents outside of Club West.

Lakewood Green Belt
A greenbelt with playgrounds and walking trails divides the two catch-and-release lakes in the Lakewood community, winding a path from Chandler Boulevard to Pecos, between 35th Way and 36th Street.

Mountain Vista Park • 13601 S. 50th St., 85044
If your kids play baseball, you will likely become a frequent visitor to this city park.

Pecos Park • 17010 S. 48th St., 85048
Pecos is a 66-acre park with something for the whole family, even your four-legged friends. May through October, kids love the playground's splash pad, and May to September, Pecos Pool is open, featuring diving boards, slides, and in-pool sprinklers. This park is also home to the Pecos Community Center with its 38,000 square feet of classes and programs.

Sun Ray Park • 4059 E. Ray Rd., 85044
This park includes many of your typical amenities. The surrounding walking path sets this recreation site apart.

Vista Canyon Park • 16020 S. 30th St., 85048
This city park is located adjacent to Desert Vista High School.

Western Star Park • 4425 E. Western Star Blvd., 85044
A quiet neighborhood park on the north end of Ahwatukee.

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FUN FACT

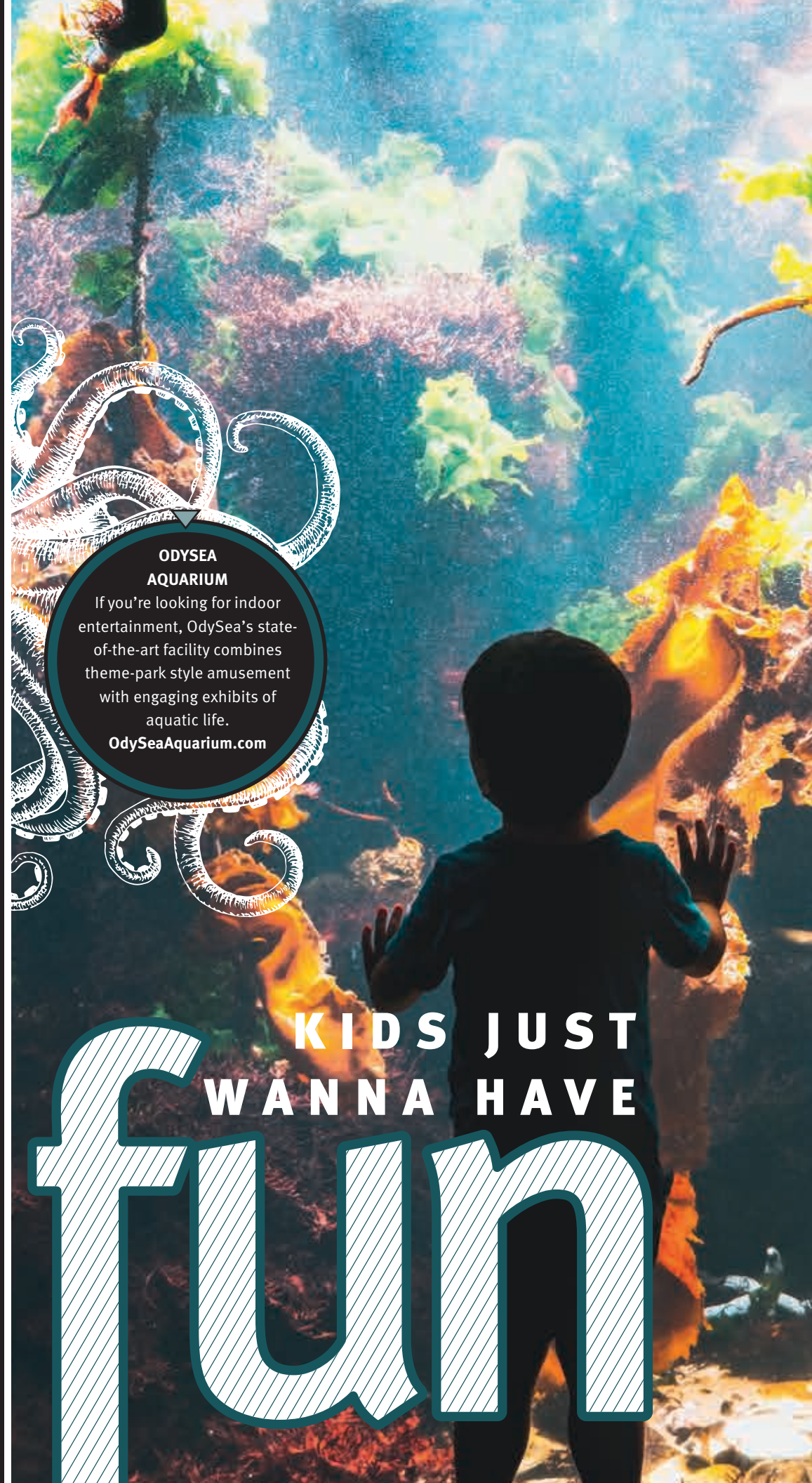
There are a few different school tax credits that an individual may be eligible to claim.

An individual may claim a credit for making contributions or paying fees to a public school for support of qualified activities or qualified programs.

An individual may also claim two separate credits for making donations to a qualified school tuition organization for scholarships to private schools.

Additionally, an individual who is a shareholder of an S corporation may claim two separate credits for contributions made to a qualified school tuition organization when the S corporation qualifies for a corporate credit and makes an election to pass that credit through to its individual shareholders.

The credits may only be used to the extent they reduce a tax liability to zero. Any unused amounts may be carried forward for not more than five consecutive taxable years.



ODYSEA AQUARIUM
 If you're looking for indoor entertainment, OdySea's state-of-the-art facility combines theme-park style amusement with engaging exhibits of aquatic life.
OdySeaAquarium.com

KIDS JUST WANNA HAVE

fun



ARIZONA SCIENCE CENTER
 More than 300 hands-on exhibits, a five-story screen with state-of-the-art sound, a planetarium, camps, and signature events make this museum a kid favorite.
AZscience.org



THE PHOENIX ZOO ▶ Did you know that the Phoenix Zoo is one of the largest nonprofit zoos in the U.S.? In addition to exploring the various trails, kids as young as 18 months old can participate in educational programs onsite. PhoenixZoo.org

URBAN AIR ADVENTURE PARK ▶ This indoor playground keeps kids active with trampolines, climbing walls, ropes courses, and a signature sky ride. UrbanAirTrampolinePark.com

▶ **DESERT BREEZE RAILROAD** ▶ Aboard a 1/3-scale GP-38 locomotive, open-air coaches and a little red caboose take riders on a scenic 3/4-mile trip around Desert Breeze Park. DesertBreezeRR.com

▶ **GOLFLAND SUNSPASH** ▶ Find waterslides, a wave pool, lazy river, splash pad, bumper cars, miniature golf, laser tag, go-carts, and an arcade all in one location. Kids under 12 need to be accompanied by someone 16 or older at all times. GolfLand.com

▶ **KOLI EQUESTRIAN CENTER** ▶ Located just south of Ahwatukee in the heart of the Gila River Indian Community Reservation, KOLI offers trails for all levels of riders. KOLIEquestrian.com

▶ **MAKUTU'S ISLAND** ▶ Floor to ceiling, Makutu's is an indoor play place with everything from a toddler zone to zip tracks. Originally the home of Club Disney, the interior is expertly designed. MakutusIsland.com

Magical Journey LEARNING CENTER **Indoor Movement Center**

PRESCHOOL FOR CHILDREN 1-YEARS-OLD THROUGH PRE-KINDERGARTEN

PROGRAM/ENRICHMENTS INCLUDE:

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- Computer Classes for Pre-Kindergarten students
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- Before & After School Care Available
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MagicalJourneyLC.org

Please call to schedule a tour 480-699-MJLC (6552)
1241 E Chandler Blvd., Ste. 115, Phoenix, AZ 85048

Educational & Special Needs

RESOURCES

By Julie Sorrick



Welcome to Ahwatukee! We are so happy to share our amazing community with new families and welcome the opportunity to help you navigate our friendly neighborhood. Ahwatukee is packed with amazing schools, great eats, and family-friendly activities. We're so glad you're here.

As a speech-language pathologist and owner of Desert Valley Pediatric Therapy, finding a family-focused community to live and work was a high priority for me. No matter where your child falls within the developmental domains, Ahwatukee has the resources you're looking for. At Desert Valley Pediatric Therapy, we help children in all the developmental domains.

Communication: This domain targets the words and language we use, the language we hear, and written language.

Gross Motor: This involves using all the "big" muscles in the body for crawling, walking, and jumping.

Fine Motor: This involves using the "small" muscles in our hands and wrists for coloring, cutting with scissors, and writing.

Cognition: This domain focuses on understanding cause and effect as well as reasoning skills.

Social-Emotional: Learning to play with others is an important skill to learn. This domain also involves making sure kids feel safe and nurtured.

Self Help/Adaptive/Feeding: This involves learning to do daily activities all by yourself, such as feeding, dressing, brushing teeth, and using the toilet.



If you're wondering if your child is progressing as expected in one or more of the developmental domains, ask yourself these questions. **Is your child:**

- ▶ babbling by 9 months?
- ▶ saying a first word by 15 months?
- ▶ using consistent words by 18 months?
- ▶ using word combinations by 24 months?
- ▶ seeming to understand and follow commands?
- ▶ rolling by 7 months?
- ▶ sitting independently by 10 months?
- ▶ crawling on hands and knees by 12 months?
- ▶ walking by 18 months?
- ▶ frequently walking on tip toes?
- ▶ frequently falling/tripping for no apparent reason?
- ▶ clapping by 12 months?
- ▶ able to hold a bottle by themselves by 12 months?
- ▶ using only one hand to complete tasks?
- ▶ drooling during tasks that require concentration?
- ▶ having trouble transitioning from one activity to another?
- ▶ moving ALL THE TIME?
- ▶ spinning or swinging excessively?
- ▶ coughing, choking, or gagging during or shortly after drinking or eating?
- ▶ having ongoing poor weight gain or loss of weight?
- ▶ having difficulty accepting baby purées by 10 months of age and solids by 12 months of age?
- ▶ eating less than 20 foods and/or omits an entire food group by age 2?
- ▶ needing distractions to eat (for example, TV or tablet)?

LOCAL TIP



"The good news is, you can't go wrong with schools in Ahwatukee. Each one is excellent, with strengths in different areas." – Alex V.



Here are a few resources available for all our Ahwatukee children and families:

Ahwatukee Foothills Family YMCA

1030 E. Liberty Ln., Phoenix, AZ 85048
valleymca.org/ahwatukee ▶ 480.759.6762

Arizona Autism Coalition

A nonprofit organization that brings valuable autism outreach and resources to members and communities.
azautism.org/support-groups

Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP)

AzEIP is Arizona's statewide interagency system of service and support for families of infants and toddlers, birth to 3 years of age, with disabilities or delays.
des.az.gov/services/disabilities/developmental-infant

Department of Developmental Disabilities (DDD)

Empowers individuals with developmental disabilities to lead self-directed, healthy and meaningful lives.
des.az.gov/services/disabilities/developmental-disabilities 844.770.9500

Desert Valley Pediatric Therapy

4350 E. Ray Rd., Suite 101A, Phoenix, AZ 85044
dvpediatrictherapy.com ▶ 480.704.5954

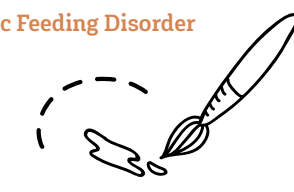


Feeding Matters – Serving Kids with Pediatric Feeding Disorder

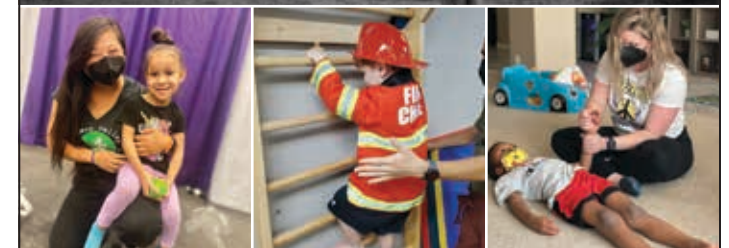
7227 N. 16th St. #110, Phoenix, AZ 85020
feedingmatters.org ▶ 623.242.5234

Pecos Community Center

17010 S. 48th St., Phoenix, AZ 85048
phoenix.gov/parks/recreation-and-community-centers/centers-p/pecos 602.495.5500



- PHYSICAL THERAPY
- OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
- SPEECH THERAPY
- FEEDING SOLUTIONS



Desert Valley Pediatric Therapy
(480) 704-5954
DVPediatricTherapy.com
4350 E Ray Rd, Building 1, Suite 101A
Phoenix, AZ 85044



JULIE SORRICK, OWNER

THE ART SCENE



GALLERIES,
MUSEUMS & GARDENS

By Sandra Marshall

Ahwatukee has been my home for the last 30 years. The beautiful scenery is an artist's dream. The sunsets over South Mountain are, so often, like a perfect painting in the sky. I love it here.

Ahwatukee is where artists come to get outside to create beautiful art. There might not be many galleries and show places in our village of over 87,000 people, but many of the paintings that grace gallery walls across the United States are from Ahwatukee. The sunsets over South Mountain are so grand and picturesque. It is one of the prettiest places to photograph and paint in the Valley of the Sun. Many artists call Ahwatukee a secret gem in Arizona.



MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

Arizona Museum of Natural History
ArizonaMuseumOfNaturalHistory.org
480-644-2230
53 N. Macdonald, 85201

Arizona Railway Museum
AZRyMuseum.org
480-821-1108
330 E. Ryan Rd., 85286

Cosanti
Cosanti.com
480-948-6145
6433 E. Doubletree Ranch Rd., 85253

Huhugam Heritage Center
GRICHHC.org | 520-796-3500
21359 S. Maricopa Rd., 85226

Musical Instrument Museum
MIM.org | 480-478-6000
4725 E. Mayo Blvd., 85050



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FREE DAYS AT MUSEUMS & GARDENS AROUND TOWN

Children's Museum of Phoenix
 ChildrensMuseumOfPhoenix.org
 602-253-0501
 Free of charge most first Fridays, 5-9 pm

Desert Botanical Garden ▶▶
 DBG.org ▶ 480-941-1225
 The Garden hosts Community Day the second Tuesday of every month.

The Eddie Basha Collection and Gallery
 EddieBashaCollection.com
 480-895-5230
 No admission fees when open, typically Monday-Friday



Ellie and Michael Ziegler Fiesta Bowl Museum
 FiestaBowl.org ▶ 480-350-0900
 Free admission when open, typically Monday-Friday

Heard Museum
 Heard.org ▶ 602-252-8840
 With the exception of March, the Heard offers free general evening admission the first Friday evening each month.

Japanese Friendship Garden of Phoenix
 JapaneseFriendshipGarden.org
 602-274-8700
 First Fridays include free evening admission from 5-8 pm.

Phoenix Art Museum
 PhxArt.org ▶ 602-257-1880
 Every first Friday, Phoenix Art Museum offers free general admission and discounted special exhibition admission from 6-10 pm. The museum also has Pay-What-You-Wish Wednesdays from 3-9 pm.

Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art
 SMoCA.org ▶ 480-874-4666
 Admission to the museum is free on Thursdays and second Saturdays.



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**Some restrictions may apply. Contact course for details.*



FOR MORE INFO ABOUT PURCHASING THE GOLD CARD PLEASE CONTACT YOUR COURSE



12432 S 48th St
 Phoenix, AZ 85044
 ahwatukeegolf.com
 480.893.1161



2201 E Clubhouse Dr
 Phoenix, AZ 85048
 thefoothillsgc.com
 480.460.4653



42660 W Rancho El Dorado Pkwy
 Maricopa, AZ 85239
 thedukegolf.com
 480.844.1100

FOR THE DOGS

LOCAL TIP



"If you're going to take your dog hiking, you'll want to look into snake-aversion training. It's incredibly effective and quickly teaches dogs to avoid venomous reptiles." – Robin R.



PET RESCUE

Lost Our Home

Your new best friend could be waiting for you at this top-rated charity. If you're looking to volunteer rather than adopt, you'll need to register for training before working with the pups at this no-kill, nonprofit shelter. Kids (8 and up) are welcome to help too.

LostOurHome.org

VETERINARIAN

Animal Medical Center of Chandler

Dogs and cats each have their own private wing and entrance at this veterinary hospital. The environment is clean, the staff are knowledgeable, their technology is top-tier, and their pet-parent education is second-to-none.

AMCofC.com

BOARDING AND GROOMING

Foothills Pet Resort

From daycare to overnight stays, Foothills Pet Resort works to keep our four-legged residents as comfortable as possible. On-site professional groomers are experienced with all breeds and personalities, and the pet supply section is the finishing touch to make this spot a one-stop doggy destination.

FoothillsPetResort.com

PUPUCCINO

Dutch Bros.

Take your dog on a coffee run through the Dutch Bros. drive-thru for a complimentary dog treat buried in a cup of whip cream, a "pupuccino." They're sure to learn that word fast.

DutchBros.com

DOG PARKS

The Barking Bodega at Singh Meadows

Build stronger relationships with your dogs and your neighbors. After all, dogs are the perfect ice-breaker to get those conversations started. Fifty-five thousand square feet of off-leash fun, farm-to-table food, and locally sourced beer and wine make this a favorite destination for enjoying the simple pleasures in life.

TheBarkingBodega.com

Cosmo Dog Park

If your dog loves the water, this park may be worth the 30-minute drive. This top-rated destination provides plenty of grassy areas, a sandy beach, and a small lake for your dog to swim with canine friends. They even have a doggy shower area to make the ride home more aromatic.

GilbertAZ.gov

RJ Dog Park at Pecos Park

It's big, it's close, and it gets the job done with separate grassy enclosures for small and large dogs. The adjacent skate park is a hit with local kids if you're looking to get the whole family moving.

Phoenix.gov



PET-FRIENDLY PATIO

Wicked Brew, Bites, and Spirits

Doggos are always welcome on the patio. Try their weekend brunch, happy hour, or reverse happy hour. Locals love the grilled avocado appetizer, WCKD brews, and live music.

Wicked-BBS.com

BOARDING
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PET SUPPLIES



1323 E CHANDLER BLVD
PHOENIX, AZ 85048
480-460-9126
FOOTHILLSPETRESORT.COM





Ahwatukee Foothills National Charity League, class of 2024

the TEEN SCENE

By Sydney Schurz

When my family and I moved from a small town to a big city, I appreciated the community we found in Ahwatukee.

Ahwatukee is a wonderful spot for families to live and is especially great for kids. With a small-town feel, you always run into people you know, and everything you need is right at your fingertips. Places like **Ahwatukee Children's Theatre**, **Pecos Park**, **Board and Brush**, and the local **YMCA** are places where local teens enjoy spending time. Plenty of my peers play for competitive and recreational sports clubs; participate in outdoor activities, such as hiking; and get part-time jobs at local businesses around town.

Now, since teenagers are always so busy, it's nice to have a spot to chill and cool off. Every Friday after middle school, my classmates and I would walk down to **Yoasis** and **Water & Ice**. These two spots serve frozen yogurt, ice cream, shaved ice, candy, and pretty much every treat you can imagine. Both places are great for kids looking to take a break from school (and the heat) and enjoy some quality sweets.



top picks FOR TEENS:

ARIZONA GOAT YOGA

Did you know that goat yoga started right here in Arizona? Classes fill up fast, so get your tickets online before heading over.

GoatYoga.com



CHANDLER FASHION CENTER

An indoor mall with a movie theatre, restaurants (The Cheesecake Factory and Wildflower Bread Company), and shopping (PacSun and Urban Outfitters).

ShopChandlerFashionCenter.com

ESCAPE:CHANDLER

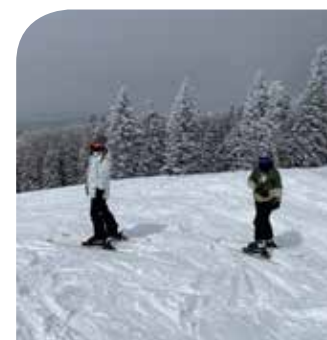
ESCAPE:chandler is an immersive experience where teams work together to solve puzzles and riddles. Please note that children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

ESCAPEchandler.com

ICE DEN CHANDLER

Learn to skate or try out for travel hockey. Public skating sessions are generally held on Friday and Saturday evenings.

IceDenChandler.com



Flagstaff, AZ



St. Mary's Food Bank



Hiking in the Sonoran Desert

If you're looking for a weekend getaway, **Sedona** and **Flagstaff** are the perfect places to go. Being only three hours away, wonderful hiking and skiing for all ages make for a fantastic, short trip.


I participate in charity work with an organization called **National Charity League (NCL)**, a program where mothers and daughters serve their community together. NCL is a great way to volunteer in your community, meet members of your peer group whom you might not know yet, and experience leadership opportunities.

Two of my favorite charities I volunteer for through NCL are **Saint Mary's Food Bank** and **Jared Boxes**. Saint Mary's Food Bank is a nonprofit where volunteers package food for people in need. My friends and I have a great time there, and it's fun to sing along to the music while preparing food boxes. My other favorite charity, Jared Boxes, is an effort to support children in the hospital. You create a shoebox-size container filled with toys and entertainment. This is an easy, at-home project that helps kids.



Whether you're looking to spend time outside, make a difference in the lives of others, or connect with people in your area, Ahwatukee is the perfect place to be.





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AHWATUKEE UPBEAT

FOSTERING AN APPRECIATION FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

By Kim Steedman and Shelley Yakubow



Performing arts are valuable for people of all ages. Both young and old can participate and enjoy theatre, dance, and music.

ATTEND LIVE PERFORMANCES

The Phoenix Metropolitan Area offers a great variety of musical productions. Our area is a hot spot for many entertainers, making live performances one of the best ways to be in the mix of the magic. From professional musicals to local children's productions, there are many options: ballets, opera, musicals, bands, and even local improv studios. A variety of experiences develops an appreciation for a journey to Broadway. Many live performances are now available virtually through live streaming.

PERFORMING ARTS

ASU Gammage

1200 S. Forest Ave., 85281
ASUGammage.com || 480-965-3434

Ballet Arizona

2835 E. Washington St., 85034
BalletAZ.org || 602-381-1096

Chandler Center for the Arts

250 N. Arizona Ave., 85225
ChandlerCenter.org || 480-782-2680

ImprovMANIA

250 S. Arizona Ave., 85225
improvMANIA.net || 480-699-4598

Music Maker Workshops

3233 E. Chandler Blvd. #2, 85048
MMWAZ.com || 480-706-1224

The Phoenix Symphony

1 N. First Street #200, 85004
PhoenixSymphony.org || 602-495-1999

LOCAL TIP



"Go see the **Desert Botanical Gardens**, the **Wildlife World Zoo**, and the **Musical Instrument Museum**. Go watch the **Diamondbacks** play and the **Desert Vista Choir** perform."
— Scott & Charly A.



TAKE A DANCE OR MUSICAL THEATRE CLASS

How about signing up for a class? The Valley has a lot to offer for seasonal camps, workshops, and weekly classes. With local programming, students can perform on stage in various recitals and shows for friends and family. Dance like no one is watching!

WEAVE MUSIC INTO YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE

Be spontaneous with chanting, rapping, and singing throughout the day. Set the atmosphere with background music, and explore different genres.

Get creative: Mix and produce your own music, and add it to your playlist. Many digital computer programs allow people to make studio-quality recordings, making music production accessible to beginners.

LEARN A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT

How about learning a new instrument? Whether you've never played an instrument before or want to take up a new one, learning a new instrument is a great way to lower stress and build confidence. Playing an instrument has social benefits, too, because it helps you connect with fellow music enthusiasts. Also, did you know that Arizona has some of the best D1 school band programs? Some of you might be preparing for school band programs, orchestra, and symphony. There are so many opportunities here to make music with others. Plus, private lessons are very convenient now with both in-studio and virtual options.

EMPOWERMENT SCHOLARSHIP

If you have a limited income but are interested in pursuing performing arts education for your child(ren), you may want to check out the Arizona Department of Education Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA). This scholarship program provides public funding for eligible parents to pursue flexible options for customizing their children's education. ESA offers dance and theatre classes, plus private music lessons, with accredited vendors. For more information and information on eligibility, please go directly to the ESA website: AzEd.gov/ESA/

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LIFELONG LEARNING AT THE LIBRARY

By Lee Franklin

As the Community Relations Manager for Phoenix Public Library, Lee is the official spokesperson for the library and responsible for managing public information, community and media relations as well as marketing.



Phoenix Public Library's Ironwood location has been serving the Ahwatukee area for 30 years after opening its doors on October 26, 1991.

As one of Phoenix Public Library's busiest locations, community members can check out books, laptops and WiFi hotspots, seeds to plant a garden, Culture Passes, and more. Ironwood Library is more than a place to check out items; it's also a hub for area residents, providing a space for people to come together as a community.

LOCAL TIP



"Hire the same pest control company as your next-door neighbor. It helps so much!" – Dori E.



One of the most popular community programs at the Ironwood branch is the seed library. A variety of fruit, vegetable and perennial seeds are available, such as sweet basil, California poppy and cherry tomato.

Patrons can check out up to three seed packets at one time per library card, every three weeks. Seeds are rotated depending on the season and only include those that will grow in a desert climate. The program also provides patrons the tools, information and programming to start a garden wherever they are able — whether it's in a backyard, a container or a community space.



With something for everyone, the library equalizes and empowers everyone to change or improve their lives. Kids, families and adults can find College Depot at Phoenix Public Library, a free, full-service college access center offering one-on-one financial and application appointments to assist those seeking an apprenticeship or planning to go to college.

Get your teen involved in our Virtual Teen Council, offering youth the opportunity to recommend books and design programs such as escape rooms and virtual murder mystery games. Families with young children can participate in a variety of StoryTimes to help kids develop early literacy skills. Those looking to expand a career, find a job, or start a new business can find entrepreneurial and job skills resources.

IRONWOOD LIBRARY

4333 E. Chandler Blvd., Phoenix, AZ 85048 • PhoenixPublicLibrary.org
Hours: Monday: 9am-5pm • Tuesday-Thursday: 9am-6pm
Friday-Saturday: 9am-5pm • Sunday: Closed

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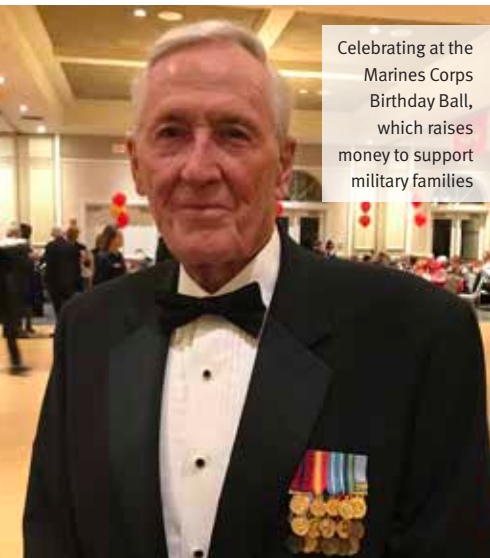
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Celebrating at the Marines Corps Birthday Ball, which raises money to support military families



Gary, a young Marine on the DMZ in Korea



LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR VETERANS

EAST VALLEY MARINES

Marine Corps League, Detachment 1296
EastValleyMarines.org

This nonprofit service organization is made up of honorably discharged United States Marines, FMF Corpsmen, FMF Chaplains and Associate members who band together in camaraderie and fellowship to promote the tradition of Marines helping Marines. The group aids and render assistance to Marines and former Marines as well as their caregivers, spouses, orphans and parents.

AHWATUKEE AMERICAN LEGION POST 64

AmericanLegionPost64.com

Meetings are held at the Ahwatukee Recreation Center each month. Veterans of all branches are cordially invited to attend. In Ahwatukee, Post 64 presents the Colors for the annual Easter Parade and many other events. Nationally, the American Legion provides life-changing assistance and guidance for veterans, military personnel and their families.

DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION (DAR)

GilaButte.ArizonaDAR.org

The Gila Butte Chapter in Sun Lakes, Arizona, focuses on history, education, and patriotism. DAR welcomes any woman 18 years or older who can prove lineal, bloodline descent from an ancestor who aided in achieving American independence. She must provide documentation for each statement of birth, marriage and death, as well as of the Revolutionary War service of her Patriot ancestor.

RESOURCES

Maricopa County offers a portal that provides access to veteran-specific programs, services and resources including housing, wellness, employment and education.
maricopa.gov/1283/Veterans-Resources

VA COMMUNITY RESOURCE & REFERRAL CENTER

Homeless services for veterans and their families
1500 E. Thomas Rd., Phoenix, AZ
602-248-6040

NATIONAL HOMELESS CALL CENTER

1-877-4AID-VET (1-877-424-3838)

VETERANS CRISIS LINE

VeteransCrisisLine.net // 1-800-273-8255
PRESS 1 // Or text: 838255

ADDITIONAL SERVICES & PROGRAMS

ELKS LODGE 2251

Elks.org // 480-967-3160

DOGS4VETS

Dogs4Vets.org // 480-802-9339

PHOENIX VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

Phoenix.VA.gov // 602-277-5551

HELPING HANDS FOR FREEDOM

HelpingHandsForFreedom.org
602-845-1390

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

VFWaz.com // 480-941-5258

WINGS FOR WARRIORS

WingsForWarriors.org // 888-598-4434



THANK YOU FOR YOUR

SERVICE & SACRIFICE

WELCOME HOME

By Rachel Schurz

Longtime Ahwatukee resident Gary Eyre was just 19 years old in 1953 when he walked away from a full athletic scholarship at the University of Wyoming to enlist in the Marines. "I'd lost a dear friend to the war and knew several others who were injured," says Eyre. He later completed college and earned a doctorate in education.

But in 1954 he found himself as gunnery sergeant for a machine gun platoon in the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). He describes the DMZ as the last line of defense in the war, and when night fell, he and his platoon walked patrols knowing there could be conflict at any time.

After being discharged in 1956, Eyre stayed connected to military service by getting involved. As a member of the East Valley Marine Detachment, he lends his support to military families through participation in and support of the group's Marine Corps Military Ball, Toys for Tots, an annual sponsored golf tournament, and other activities.

As it turns out, service runs in the family. Eyre's son, Trulan, was an Air Force fighter pilot and retired as a Major



Gary's home office is filled with mementos from his time in the Marines.

General. His grandson, Travis, was in the Marine Corps serving in an aviation division. Reflecting on being a Marine, Eyre thinks of those who have served with pride, honesty, and integrity in their lives.



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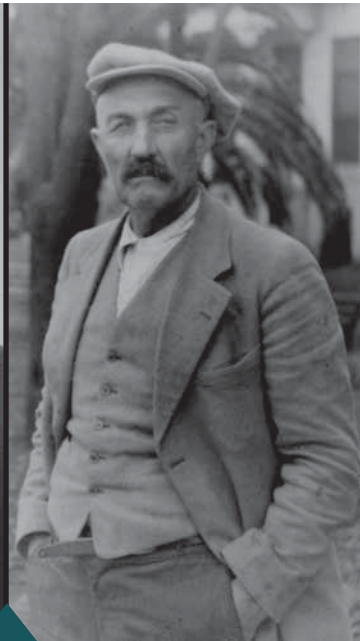
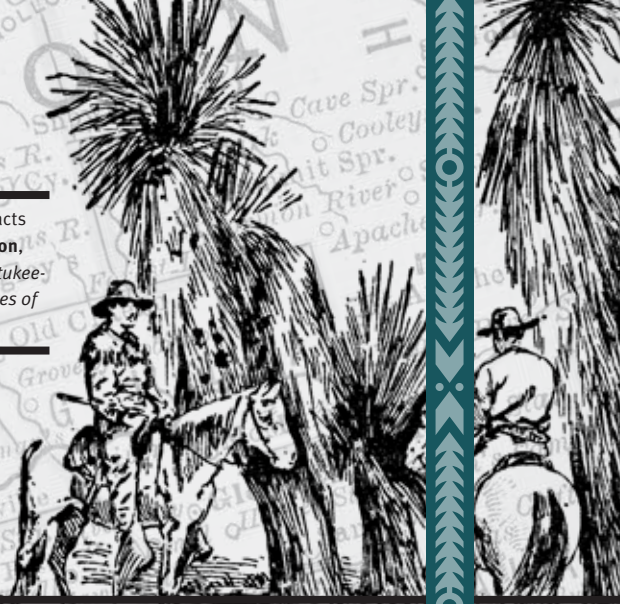
Let me help you get the most value out of your insurance coverage.



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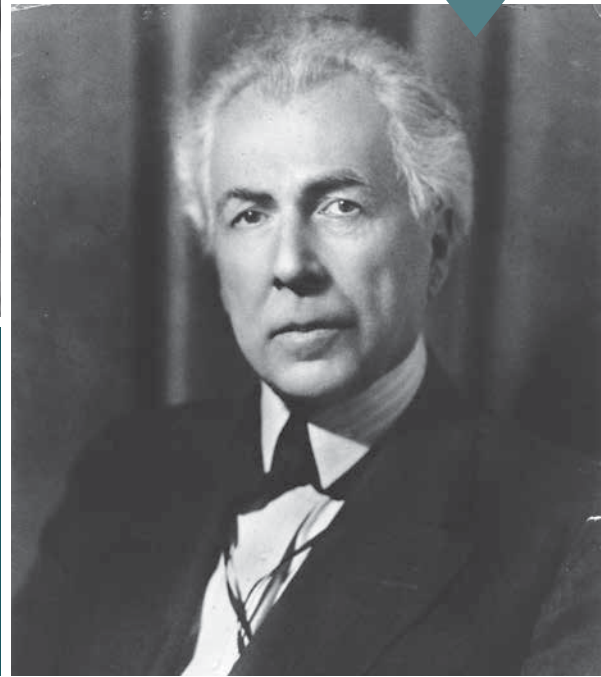
The Early Years OF AHWATUKEE

Photos and historical facts courtesy of Marty Gibson, author of *Phoenix's Ahwatukee Foothills* and *Historic Tales of Ahwatukee Foothills*



Frank Lloyd Wright

Recognized as America's preeminent architect, in 1928 Wright was hired by Dr. Alexander Chandler to design a grand resort in the South Mountain foothills on land holdings that eventually became western Mountain Park Ranch. It was never built, although it served as inspiration for Wright's Taliesin West in North Scottsdale.

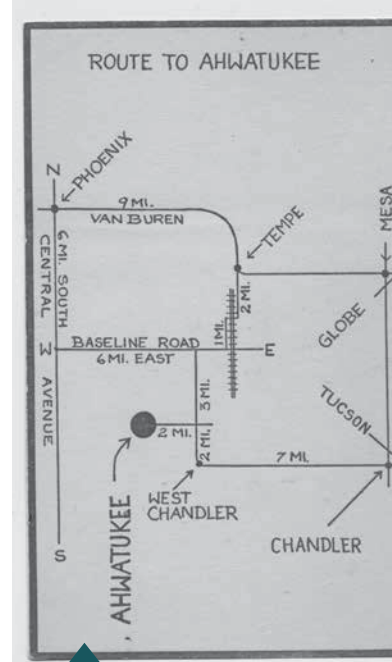


Kyrene Farming Community

Reginald Elliott and Samuel Warner both homesteaded in the Kyrene area in the early years of the 20th century. Elliott was born in California and came to the Arizona Territory in 1914. He homesteaded 160 acres on the southeast corner of today's Priest Drive and Elliot Road. An error in the naming of Elliot Road accounts for the different spelling of the family and roadway names. Warner, a Kansas native, arrived in 1908 to homestead 160 acres, currently home to Warner Business Park.

The Ahwatukee Ranch

The September 29, 1921, issue of the *Chandler Arizona* reported that a house unmatched in scope and size was being built in the foothills of South Mountain by a couple named Ames. A dentist and his wife wished to winter in Arizona and called their 12,000-square-foot home their Casa de Sueños, Spanish for "house of dreams." In the 1930s, the home's second owner, Helen Brinton, began referring to the house as Ahwatukee, purportedly a rough translation of the Spanish name into the language of the Crow Nation. The exact meaning of Ahwatukee remains unclear, but in time the word came to refer not only to the house but to the land surrounding it.

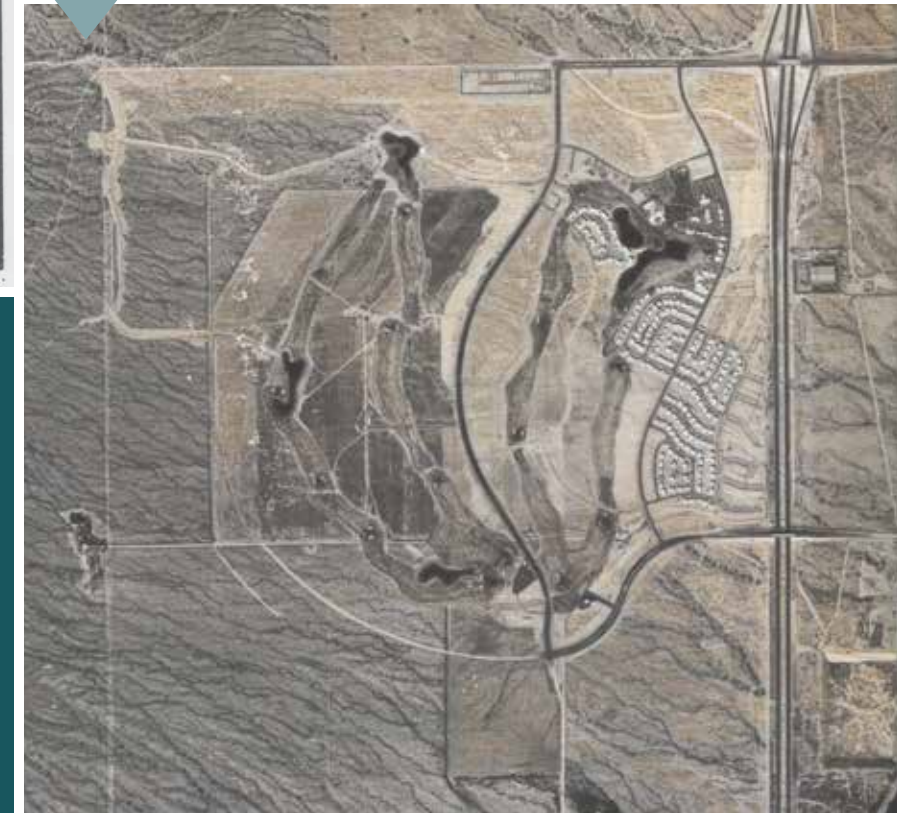


Route to Ahwatukee

While Brinton enjoyed a quiet and conservative lifestyle, she entertained winter guests from the Midwest at the ranch on a regular basis. This printed card served as a directional map for her visitors. The seven miles of West Chandler Road marked the distance between the San Marcos hotel in Chandler and 56th Street. The ranch was two miles straight west on Warner Road, which ended at the ranch's garage.

The Master-Planned Development of Ahwatukee

This captures the gradual transformation of an area with a solitary, isolated ranch, several hundred acres of farmland, and water supplied by a few wells, to the beginning of the residential community and its modern infrastructure of today. In this 1973 photograph, the Ahwatukee ranch remains undisturbed, but Warner Road is not on the straight road that it had been. Less than 200 houses dot the landscape in the newly constructed development with pavement on Warner and Elliot Roads ending at 48th Street at the loop configuration, barely an outline in the dirt. The rectangular Fort Ahwatukee stands guard at the top of the photograph with streetlights, street signs, and fire hydrants still a year away.



Putting Ahwatukee on the Map

Developers needed to be creative to attract people to the first master-planned community on the south side of South Mountain. They decided to hire a 29-year-old staff architect at the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation to design the House of the Future. It had to have three core marketing concepts: It must be different, have a unique visual impact, and serve as a demonstration home that could accommodate large numbers of people. Between 1980 and 1984, some 250,000 people toured the house and, in the process, got a look at the fledgling community of Ahwatukee.



CONTINUED ›

Lakewood

Today, Lakewood has its signature water, circular parkway, and central green-belt. But in 1951, it was the Collier-Evans Farming operations, encompassing 1,600 acres of leased farmland on the Gila River Indian Reservation between 48th and 32nd streets' alignments. Here, Dick Evans keeps the birds at bay in a cornfield on the ranch.



Paving the Way

International Harvester Company's Phoenix Proving Grounds were established in 1946 on a six-and-a-half-square-mile tract of isolated desert west of the Kyrene farming community, the heart of what would later become The Foothills and Club West. The communities' main roads were constructed over the proving ground's seven and a quarter-mile and four-mile test tracks, both unpaved in this 1953 photograph.



Picture Rock

A number of petroglyph sites were located within the proving grounds' six and a half square miles. The giant Picture Rock was found just inside the northeast portion of the large paved test track. Standing six feet, four inches tall, Harvester surveyor Dale Milner admires the rock in its natural setting in 1953.



An Ahwatukee Mystery

At the foot of South Mountain, the Lost Ranch stands guard over all that it surveys, miles southeast to the Gila River Indian Community. Easily accessed via A City of Phoenix trailhead and natural wash not far from 17th Avenue, the ruins sit about one mile northwest of the nearest neighborhood. No records exist that might explain the circumstances, background, or intent of the structure and whoever built it.



Highway to the Future

The I-10 Maricopa Freeway rush hour traffic approaching the Elliot Road overpass was a bit lighter in 1969, as an unobstructed Camelback Mountain beckoned in the distance. The freeway served as a major catalyst for the development of Ahwatukee-Foothills.

LOCAL TIP



"Ahwatukee is a small town in a big city. Neighbors love to help neighbors." – Christie E.



meet the

O'REILLY FAMILY

By Kevin O'Reilly | Images by Azula Raun Photography

Kevin and Rebecca are long-time residents of Ahwatukee, having moved here in 1999. Arriving from Chicago, where Kevin grew up and Rebecca lived after college, they came to the Phoenix area to be near Rebecca's family. Having friends from back home already living in Ahwatukee made the decision to settle nearby an easy one.

After moving to Ahwatukee, the O'Reillys wasted no time exploring the unique attractions in the area. "We were near the **Telegraph Pass** trailhead, so we'd hike before work or on the weekends. It seemed like there were new views to enjoy at every turn," Rebecca said.

Kevin and Rebecca expanded their family by having triplets, James, Daniel, and Caitlin. Currently juniors in high school, James attends **BASIS Ahwatukee** and enjoys participating in history competitions nationally, while Daniel and Caitlin attend **Desert Vista (DV)**. Daniel plays hockey at DV as

well as travel hockey, and Caitlin spins flags and tosses rifles in the Desert Vista Marching Band.

After many years in the tech world, with eight of those at nearby Intel, Kevin founded **Foothills Financial Planning (FFP)** to provide wealth management



to technology professionals. Rebecca left the tech world in 2014 to join Kevin at their family business.

Away from work, the couple enjoys travel, sports, and gathering with friends. Hiking remains a favorite pastime, locally in **South Mountain Park** and around the state. At home, the family looks forward to regular game nights and watching the fabulous Ahwatukee sunsets.

The O'Reillys satisfy their unending taste for deep dish pizza and Italian beef sandwiches as regulars at **Vero Chicago Pizza**. When it's time for more traditional Italian fare, they enjoy **Arrivederci**, and have been longtime fans of the menu offerings at **Va Bene. The Cellar** is Rebecca's favorite for a nice glass of wine and a cheese plate, and the triplets would cool off with some **Andy's Frozen Custard** every night of the week if that was an option.

Over the years, the O'Reillys have come to love the Christmas traditions that run through Ahwatukee. The **Festival of Lights** along Chandler Boulevard are definitely a family favorite. Together with **Angel Mountain** – across from **Altadeña Middle School** – and the various other light displays across the village, our community has a Christmas vibe that's hard to find elsewhere.

The entire O'Reilly clan loves calling Ahwatukee home. "It's easy to make friends here," says Daniel. "It definitely has a small-town feel, while still being part of a big city," concludes Rebecca.

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Principal Advisor

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IN AHWATUKEE

ACTIVE

A

By **Christin Valentini**

Waking up to Ahwatukee's gorgeous mountain landscape and radiant sunshine is a warm welcome to newcomers. It's also an opportune way to reignite or begin a healthy living regime. Here are some ways to awaken your mind, body, and spirit.

Start by taking five minutes each day to write down five things you are most grateful for. One of the best ways to bring more joy into your life is to take stock in the things, both big and little, that make you happy.

Mindfulness is also a powerful component to healthy living. When we are mindful, we are fully present and aware of where we are and what we are doing. Mindfulness helps relieve stress and anxiety by putting things into perspective, allowing us to make better decisions and cope with difficult situations.

Of course, exercise is key to living healthfully. Whether you join a group fitness class or head out for a walk, run, or bike ride on one of Ahwatukee's many pedestrian-friendly streets, 30 minutes of daily exercise has a multitude of benefits, including improved cardiovascular health, weight management, and increased muscle mass. Exercising with others has even more advantages. It allows you to socialize, meet new people, and develop a strong sense of community.

And don't forget the water. Water and is an important piece of desert living. Not only does it keep you hydrated, but it also helps improve your complexion, enhance brain function, and flush out toxins. Aim to drink half your body weight in water each day.

And finally, be sure to end each day with seven to eight hours of quality sleep to help bolster immunity and give you the energy to do it all again tomorrow.

TOP-RATED LOCAL SPORTS LEAGUES

MULTI-SPORTS LEAGUES

Ahwatukee Foothills Family YMCA
Basketball, volleyball, and swimming | ValleyYMCA.org

Arizona Sports League (Adults)
Soccer, basketball, volleyball, kickball, flag football, softball, lacrosse, bowling, pickleball, and dodgeball
AZSportsLeague.com

Aspire Kids Sports Center
Gymnastics, dance, martial arts, and swimming
AspireKidSports.com

i9 Sports
Flag football, soccer, basketball, baseball, cheerleading, and volleyball | i9Sports.com



VOLLEYBALL

East Valley Juniors Volleyball Club
EVJvolleyball.com
Spiral Volleyball
SpiralVolleyball.com



BASEBALL

Ahwatukee Foothills Pony Baseball Association
PonyBaseballAZ.com
Ahwatukee Little League
AhwatukeeLittleLeague.org
East Valley Baseball
EastValleyBaseball.net



SOCCER

Arizona Arsenal Soccer Club
AZArsenalSC.org
Phoenix Rising FC Youth Soccer
ScottsdaleSoccer.com
RSL (formerly Legacy)
RSL-AZ.com



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ValleyYMCA.org/Ahwatukee • (602) 404-9622 • 1030 E. Liberty Lane

taking care of

YOU

By Allison Hughes, owner,
Elements Massage, Chandler West

We often find ourselves taking care of others, but finding time to take care of YOU is just as important. A self-care routine is good for your health and for your overall well-being.

THERE ARE A MYRIAD OF OPTIONS FOR SELF-CARE.



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Explore our local gyms and workout options.



MENTAL ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS READING A BOOK

Have you been to the library lately?



SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Catch lunch with a friend. Ahwatukee has a great array of restaurants!



ENJOY NATURE

Find a local trail and walk with a friend, or just enjoy some quiet.



RELAXATION

Make plans for a relaxing massage or facial treatment. Find your favorite and make it a routine.

For us Arizonians, self-care can be as simple as ensuring we drink enough water throughout the day. Sunscreen is also a must in the desert sun.

Even when you feel like you don't have time to squeeze in one more thing, make self-care a priority. When you're caring for all aspects of yourself, you'll find that you are more efficient at taking care of others.

Let's be our best selves and enjoy all Ahwatukee has to offer to facilitate a self-care routine.



Ahwatukee's Top Picks for Beauty and Wellness



MED SPA / SKIN CARE

Ahwatukee Skin & Laser
480-704-7546
AhwatukeeSkinCare.com

J.L.O. Skin Care LLC
480-725-5636
JLOskincare.com

Bodiac Sculpting
480-770-6271
BodiacSculpting.com

Laser Skin Couture
602-721-7016
LaserSkinCouture.com

MASSAGE

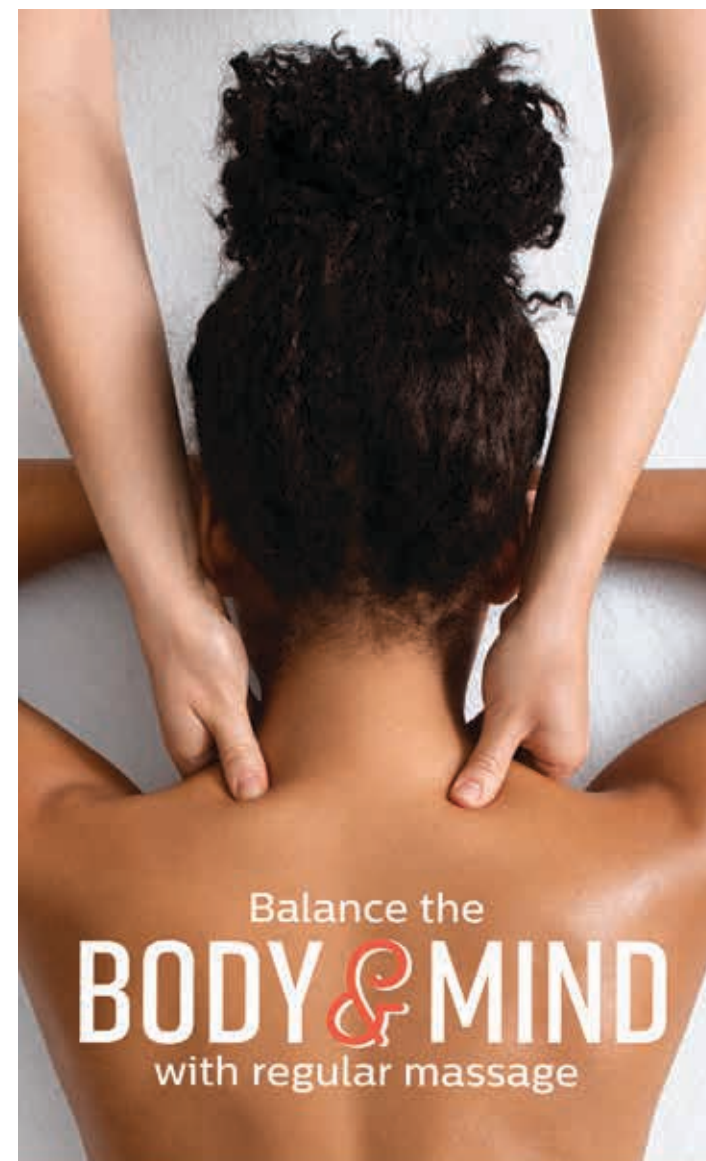
Aji Spa
602-385-5759
Marriott.com

Elements Massage – Chandler West
480-219-9931
ElementsMassage.com/Chandler-West

NAILS

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Facebook.com/DesertFoothillsNails

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480-284-7867
VeniceNailLoungeChandlerAZ.com



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FUN FACT

Arizona is home to the perfect climate, elevation, and weather to produce the very best wine-making fruit. To be exact, a University of Arizona soil scientist, Gordon Dutt, found that the soil in the area closely matches that of the Burgundy region of France. He planted his first grapes in 1979.

CRUSHING THE WINE SCENE



By Shannon Rush, owner, The Cellar

THE AHWATUKEE PALATE

Welcome! You've landed in The Cellar, a place that showcases the best of Ahwatukee! Our patio opens to the beauty of South Mountain, which we complement with some of the best wine and food in The Foothills. Ahwatukee has always supported this locally owned business, and we are here to support and sustain you in return with our bountiful charcuterie boards, famous fried chicken, wine selections, and live music.

At The Cellar, our customers are always buzzing about their favorite wines, sharing tales of their trips to Napa and Santa Barbara, or there's always that memorable "one time in Italy" story. While The Cellar provides an extensive variety of new-world, old-world, natural, and sparkling wines, we love to showcase the great options right here in our own backyard.

The Arizona viticulture scene has grown immensely over the past decade, and there are so many options to seek out for local wine. I suggest day trips to Wilcox and visiting the Pillsbury Wine tasting room or swinging by James Callahan in Sonoita at Rune Wines. One of my favorite grape getaways is to pack a picnic and head north, sit by the vines at Oak Creek, and sip on some Barrio Blanca. If you're in the neighborhood, we have a large selection of local wines for you to choose from and explore.

I will admit, I have spent the majority of my time in Arizona, exploring different vineyards, finding that extensive wine list, eating cheese at wine bars and completely loving it. With the support of the local community and



Ahwatukee's passion for wine, we have been able to sustain our little hidden gem and continue to grow and share our passion of wine and food. Swing by The Cellar any time to shop for a bottle to go, or kick back and dine in. We would love to say hello!



WINE WITH THE LOCALS:

THE CELLAR • TheCellarPHX.com

The Cellar is an intimate, buzz-worthy wine bar with an extensive bottle list and wine-centric tapas. Its candle-lit ambiance is eclectic and worldly, and their beautiful patio overlooks South Mountain. This Ahwatukee classic features over 30 wines by the glass, craft beers, and live music on the weekends.

THE LIVING ROOM • LivingRoomWineBar.com

A modern interior that opens to a wrap-around patio, The Living Room is a stylish wine bar with a menu that features shareables, salads, sandwiches, and sushi. Daily specials and DJ Fridays make this spot a hit with the locals.

LEVERAGE WINES • LeverageWines.com

Started by Ahwatukee resident Jason DiFrancesco, Leverage Wines offers hand-crafted, limited-production Rhône-style wines and pays a portion of its profits forward to causes such as brain cancer research. Check the website for wine club and local wine-tasting details.

POSTINO • PostinoWineCafe.com

In neighboring South Tempe, Postino is a mid-century modern space that provides a kicked-back experience. \$5 glasses of wine and pitchers of beer are served until 5 pm every day. Mix and match bruschetta or nosh on a top-rated Brussels sprouts salad.



THE CELLAR
WINE AND TAPAS

www.thecellarphx.com
480 598 9463
5030 E Warner Road



FUN FACT

Since the discovery of its rich terroir, Arizona has expanded to 83 licensed and bonded wineries within its three prominent grape-growing regions: Sonita Valley, Willcox, and Verde Valley. Whether you're in the mood for a Mourvèdre, Syrah, Malbec, or white Viognier, Arizona produces them all.



must-attend EVENTS

winter

SANTA TRAIN

December 2021 will mark 32 years of the Santa Train in Arizona. Originally started in Baltimore, MD, this spectacular display has seen 44 years in total. Located at the end of Mountain Sky Avenue at Fifth Street, the holiday show runs from Thanksgiving to January 1st and is open nightly until 11 pm. This home was featured on HGTV's *Outrageous Holiday Houses*, making it a local and national sensation.

SantaTrain.com



FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Thanksgiving through January, sparkling white lights cover the cacti and trees along the Chandler Boulevard median from 24th Street to Desert Foothills Park.

FOLAZ.org

AHWATUKEE CHILDREN'S THEATRE (ACT) A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Almost all of the cast members are children in this musical version of the Dickens tale. ACT provides education and performing arts opportunities in addition to offering family-friendly entertainment to the community.

AZACT.org



AHWATUKEE NUTCRACKER

Dance Studio 111 and The Ahwatukee Foothills Ballet annually present *The Nutcracker*, a professional production with a cast ages 3–21. Meet the dancers and Santa, and take photographs on Clara's throne, after select performances.

AFNutcracker.com

LOCAL TIP



"Visiting the **Santa Train** in The Foothills, with its synchronized Christmas tree, is one of our family's favorite holiday traditions. Everyone leaves with a smile, a candy cane, and a lot of Christmas joy." – **Christin V.**

spring

CONCERTS IN THE PARK

Every spring and fall, The Fitch Group brings Concerts in the Park to Desert Foothills Park. Local bands play live music from 5-8 pm on select Sunday evenings in April and October.

Follow **The Concerts in the Park** on Facebook for more information.

TEMPE FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

Usually held towards the end of March for spring and at the beginning of December for fall, this award-winning 3-day festival brings together independent artists from 17 different visual arts categories, ranging from woodwork and photography to ceramics and jewelry. As many as 350 artists' booths line Mill Avenue and downtown Tempe, offering a distinctive shopping experience.

TempeFestivaloftheArts.com



KIWANIS EASTER PARADE & SPRING FLING

The morning parade runs a route along 48th Street, from Warner to Elliot Road. The Spring Fling immediately follows at the Ahwatukee Community Park with rides, food, and lots of booths to browse.

AhwatukeeEasterParade.com

CONTINUED >





summer

DIAMONDBACKS FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR

Towards the beginning of July, in the air-conditioned cool of Chase Stadium, the D-backs host a post-game fireworks show to celebrate the Fourth of July. MLB.com/Dbacks

PHOENIX RISING FC

The new stadium is located just south of Ahwatukee at Gila River's Wild Horse Pass. With a capacity of 10,000, the venue has nearly doubled its former number of seats. PhxRisingFC.com

ARIZONA CARDINALS

The end of summer is the beginning of the Cardinals' preseason. State Farm Stadium is definitely a day trip, so plan accordingly. AZCardinals.com



LOCAL TIP



"We look forward to the **Festival of Lights** every November. It gets us in the holiday spirit. We enjoy purchasing gifts from the local vendors, catching up with friends, and watching our kids on the rides."

– Matt B.

fall

AHWATUKEE EATS

From 5-9 pm on select Fridays throughout the year, Ahwatukee Eats has been bringing food trucks to the village since 2015. Join the neighbors for food, live music, and family fun. Events are typically hosted on the corner of Chandler Blvd. and 32nd Street.

Follow Ahwatukee Eats on Facebook for all the details.



TRUNK OR TREAT

Local businesses come together to provide an evening of trunk or treat and fall fun in the Dutch Bros. lot on corner of Chandler Blvd. and 32nd Street.

Follow The Goodman Taylor Team on Facebook for more information.

AHWATUKEE RECREATION CENTER (ARC) ARTS AND CRAFTS FAIR

Every November, the ARC hosts a fair, selling many works of art created by their HOA residents, who are all 55+. In addition to quilts and paintings, their crafts building includes an impressive woodshop, lapidary, clay and ceramics studio, and stained glass studio, so there is a large variety of handmade items available for purchase.

ARCAz.net



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