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# A Welcome Letter...



Anthem Community Magazine  
November 2021

Special Contributor  
Community Council  
Board Chairman  
Bob McKenzie

**I**n 1999, when Pulte/Del Webb masterfully planned out this community and broke ground WAY up north away from the hustle and bustle of the city, few people probably expected that urban sprawl would be knocking on our door.

**By Bob McKenzie**  
SPECIAL TO INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Yet here we are in 2021; growth is all around us, and now, somehow, Anthem is in the middle.

I-17 going north is expanding; the 303 didn't exist then, but now is home to new communities, businesses, and multi-national industry, bringing thousands of jobs to our area; businesses, housing developments, and entire cities have popped up between Bell Road and Anthem Way, where just two decades ago, there was only dirt.

Here in Anthem, our community also has grown and changed. Just since 2014, we've added more than \$14 million in recreational assets including the Anthem Civic Building, Opportunity Way Park, award-winning pickleball courts, a dog park that rivals any in the Valley, an expanded skate park (slated to open in January), and an ex-

panded Community Center. We've added a new neighborhood with 202 homes, two senior-living communities, and we partnered with EPCOR to provide a water-hauling station for our New River-Desert Hills neighbors. Around us in the next year or two, more than 1,000 homes of various sizes and price points are expected to break ground, with neighborhoods both east and west of I-17 on our borders. There is no doubt that Anthem is a place where people choose to be.

With more than 10,000 rooftops, three homeowners' associations, two golf courses and country clubs, a 63-acre community park and 32 neighborhood parks, water park, two splash pads, and the Daisy Mountain Railroad, it's easy to see why people choose to live in Anthem. We also are pleased to welcome non-residents to our community to enjoy our signature events

throughout the year – Anthem Days (March), Music in May (Fridays in May), our Independence Day Celebration (July 3), and Autumnfest (October). We are home to the world-renowned Anthem Veterans Memorial, which is the site of a Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremony each year. This year, the memorial celebrates 10 years in our community, and there will be added fanfare during the ceremony on Nov. 11 (10 a.m.). We hope that you'll join us for these special opportunities to visit Anthem and see for yourself just how special it is.

In 2019 when we celebrated Anthem's 20th anniversary, little did we know then about what the next couple of years would hold. It seems like yesterday, but somehow also light years ago. I'm very proud of how our residents, businesses, and the Anthem Community Council staff responded to the pandemic, the shutdowns, re-openings, and adjusting to the "new normal." We're thinking outside the box more than ever before, and continue to

See Letter — Page 26

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# A Brief History...

## *The Community of Anthem*

**By Brent Ruffner**  
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

**A** tract of barren, desolate land was all but a pile of dirt and rocks surrounded by desert landscape scattered with cacti and Palo Verde trees.

Then, developers had a vision for the land — 5,661 acres — just 20 some miles north from where Loop 101 sits in Phoenix today. In 1992, Del Webb purchased the property with the intent on building a master-planned community.

In 1999, Del Webb founded the community of Anthem.

Anthem's first west-side residents, the Sichrovsky family, remember anxiously awaiting as building crews slowly turned hills of dirt a plot ready to build their home. They said they drove to the lot every Sunday after church while the house was being built.

The community got its first shopping center — Anthem Marketplace — in 2000, a year after Anthem School was the first school to open in the community in 1999.

Now, the community has grown into about 10,300 homes with close to 27,000 residents with homes on either side of Interstate 17.

In 2019, community leaders celebrated Anthem's 20th anniversary with memories, flashbacks and prize giveaways to commemorate its continued progress.

Residents have seen plenty of positive changes over the short history of the community.

Some remember when they waited in long lines at the Del Webb Anthem Visitor's Center at the corner

at Anthem Way and Gavilan Peak to lay claim to a new home. The original building is still in use — now a MidFirst Bank at 3611 Anthem Way.

Anthem has accumulated plenty of amenities with such attractions as a 10-acre park that includes two playgrounds, multi-use sports fields and a walking trail to more than 30 neighborhood parks, which are maintained by the HOAs.

But some residents who were dubbed "Anthem Pioneers" remember why the area first captivated them.

Resident Bob Lehman said Anthem still had a "small town" feel 20 years after the community was founded.

"Do for the one that you would like to do for the many," Lehman said in 2019. "I think that's a really good mantra for Anthem. Anthem was a magnet for people who wanted to build relationships."

Anthem residents Fred and Sandy Struss moved to Anthem from Glendale in 1999.

Fred Struss, an Anthem Pioneer, told the Anthem Way and Activities Guide in 2019, he and his wife moved to Anthem for the tight-knit community feel. The Anthem featured original residents in several issues during 2019 to celebrate the community's 20th anniversary.

"Young families are coming in (to Anthem) just like we were 20 years ago," Struss told the magazine. "It seems like everything is coming around full circle. What better place is there to raise your family?"

The community has a wealth of neighborhood gatherings and events.

Each November, Anthem residents







get together and remember those who have fallen in the line of military duty. In 2011, the Anthem Veterans Memorial, filled with more than 1,800 veteran pavers, has been the site of ceremonies for Veterans Day and Memorial Day.

The memorial is made up of five pillars, which represent the five branches of the United States military.

At exactly 11:11 a.m. each Veterans Day, the sun's rays pass through the ellipses of the pillars to form a solar spotlight on the glass mosaic of The Great Seal of the United States.

In August 2021, the Anthem Community Council broke ground on a \$1.44 million renovation to expand the existing area skatepark on Gavilan Peak Parkway and Anthem Way which will allow a combined space for bicycles, scooters and skateboards.

In 2017, shade structures and benches were added to the recreation center. The expansion project was part of the 2016 Facilities

Master Plan, a five-year plan that included a dog park, which opened in 2019.

Early on, one Anthem advertisement read, "Live where you're a part of something bigger" to help entice people to move to the area.

That positive attitude seems to have

stuck around as long as the community has existed.

In July 2012, the community came together after more than five inches of rain fell in just 90 minutes on a particular day.

Reports said some homes and businesses were left with several damages. Still, Anthem residents were resilient and forged ahead.

Kristi Northcutt, Anthem Community Council spokeswoman, said there's "something uniquely special" about the community from "its pristine landscape" and family-friendly amenities, which include special events, activities and programs for every age.

She's lived in Anthem for eight years.

"I chose Anthem as my home when moving from Kansas," Northcutt said. "I'd never been to Arizona, but did a lot of research, and Anthem stood out as a place where I wanted to raise my family. I was lucky enough to also be chosen to serve the community on the staff of the Anthem Community Council. My job has grown over the years just as my children have – and it's been wonderful to be part of making this community a sought-after place for generations to come to call home."



# Musical Theatre of Anthem provides extensive offerings for artists and audiences



**T**he Musical Theatre of Anthem is an award-winning organization founded in 2008 by Jackie and Jeff Hammond.

Its mission is to develop youth and adults within the field of performing arts while enhancing their intrinsic creativity and brokering their vast talents. MTA trains and educates youth so they can become the artists, patrons, and leaders of tomorrow while providing opportunities to adults to empower them and foster their creativity.

All youth who audition are cats because the theater believes every child deserves a chance to shine on stage while learning and growing as a performing artist. Participants are trained in all aspects of the performing arts including vocal, dance, acting, improv, pantomime, props, sets and more.

The production staff members are experts in their respective fields and have years



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 "Disney Cinderella Kids"  
 Ages 6-10  
 Performances: Feb. 17-20, 2022  
  
 "Seussical"  
 Ages 11-adult, all youth ages 11-19 are cast  
 Performances: April 21-May 7, 2022  
  
 "Shrek Jr."  
 Ages 8-18  
 Performances: June 16-18, 2022

and growth opportunities while presenting high quality shows that everyone can enjoy. Productions are grouped by age (i.e., 6-9, 10-12, 13-19, etc.) and there is at least one combined age production including adults each year.

The tuition fee for participation in MTA Productions ranges depending on the show.

Optional costs are MTA merchandise, MTA messages in the program, the cast party and photographs.

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**Sunday, December 5 | 3:30 p.m.**  
American Lutheran Church, Sun City

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**Misa Azteca**

**Saturday, April 2 | 7:00 p.m.**  
Location to be announced

**Sunday, April 3 | 3:30 p.m.**  
American Lutheran Church, Sun City

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# Growing in Stature...

## An economic look at past, present and future of Anthem

Anthem Community Council offers consistent voice of advocacy

By Terrance Thornton  
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

**F**or more than 20 years, the Anthem Community Council has been a constant voice in support of its constituency at multiple levels of government here in Maricopa County with one idea in mind: Quality development.

“Anthem engages with Maricopa County and City of Phoenix to support or oppose nearby proposals --- economic, commercial or residential --- that impact our community,” said Community Council President Bob McKenzie when he sat down with Independent Newsmedia.

“We attend meetings and speak on behalf of our residents to ensure that our voices are heard regarding economic activity or nearby projects that will affect the area. Anthem seeks to support and shape — or oppose — nearby proposals that enhance (or deter) the economic and /or social well-being of Anthem residents. Our strategic goal is to ensure that, to the extent possible, that our community remains a highly sought after place to live, work, and play.”

For McKenzie, the No. 1 goal of the stewards of the community is to maintain, enhance and improve upon what has been established in Anthem over the past two decades.



**ANTHEM VIEWS:** The Anthem Community Park, which is a keystone community amenity unrivaled through the Phoenix metropolitan area.

“Anthem is a carefully planned community with first-class amenities that make it an ideal place to raise a family or for active retirement— great schools, convenient shopping, easy access to medical services/facilities, top-notch recreational opportunities, and safe, friendly neighborhoods,” he pointed out. “Its location in the Sonoran Desert makes it a real gem, and it stays a few degrees cooler than our neighbors further to the south!”

From an economic development perspective, McKenzie says he is most excited about what is just

around the corner that speaks to goal of the Community Council.

“I am personally most excited to see the next round of facilities master plan features Anthem will build,” he said. “Our last round of projects included a pickleball complex, a new west-side park, skate park expansion, Community Center expansion, and a dog park.”

### A regional view of economics

Anthem Community Council are active participants at every public hearing where the economic interests --- things like home values,

quality schools or new commercial development — of local residents ought to be heard by those making decisions outside purview of the local governing board.

“The Anthem Community Council participates in the City of Phoenix Rio Vista Village Planning Committee meetings and Phoenix City Council meetings when there are agenda items pertaining to development in the Anthem area,” said Communications Director at the Anthem Community Council Kristi Northcutt.

“We also engage with Maricopa County and its Board of Supervisors if there is development being considered on the east side of I-17 that has relevance or physical proximity/adjacency to Anthem. Our Board and executive staff work closely with the Anthem Area Chamber of Commerce, as well, to encourage businesses to move to Anthem, promote space opportunities, and work collaboratively to positively impact regional economic development.”

Northcutt outlines from a regional, even statewide perspectives, are sought to understand how the community of Anthem fits into the economic development picture.

“Additionally, we meet with the Arizona Bureau of Land Management regarding State Trust Land issues, which includes future development in the Anthem area surrounding our land-locked community, including the preservation of Daisy Mountain,” she said. “The development of both commercial

**A PERFORMING ARTS CENTER TO CALL ANTHEM’S OWN?**

Anthem Community Council President, Bob McKenzie, when asked what he thought was the No. 1 thing he wanted community members to know when it came to economic development, he replied:

*“The more we can do for our community, the better we all are. It is not only good for existing residents but it also helps attract new residents. We have somewhat of an aging population who will move on to smaller homes or facilities so we will have new residents coming in. One of the projects we would like to have is a performing arts center of our own as we are lacking a bit for live entertainment – just a bit though. It would be nice to have something to call our own.”*

and residential property seems to be trending northwards towards Anthem.”

A semiconductor plant could provide the beginning of the next chapter in commercial development at the doorstep of the community of Anthem.

“The semiconductor plant at the I-17 and 303 is one such example of a major development that will have an economic impact to our community,” Northcutt points out.

“Such projects with a high volume of employees mean more people looking for homes, which keeps our real estate market thriving. When the homes continue to sell, our enhancement fund stays strong, which gives us the ability to provide new & enhanced amenities and recreational opportunities to our residents. The developments in the North Valley also drive people into Anthem to shop and dine, as well as to attend our special events.”

Over the last 20 years the community of Anthem has grown into a community of more than 10,000 households, 28,000 residents and over 300 storefront businesses, Northcutt explains.

“We know that Del Webb would be proud of this project in the Sonoran Desert and what it became, and how it continues to be an award-winning and highly sought after community,” she said. “Developed in 1999, Anthem just passed its 20-year mark in 2019; we had a year-long celebration to mark the occasion.”

On the economic development horizon? Northcutt points to a 55-acre swath of land set for commercial development an arrows shot from the community of Anthem.

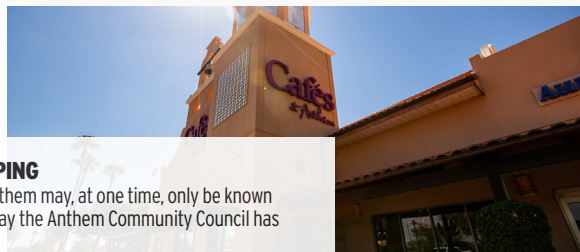
“The development of the 55 acres of land adjacent to I-17 on the east is tentatively scheduled to begin in the next few years,” she said.

“This is Anthem’s ‘front door,’ and we’re excited for its possibilities. Running from Daisy Mountain Drive to Anthem Way, this acreage will likely include mixed-use commercial and multi-family residential or senior living, though we don’t have those details yet. We will be working closely with the developer to ensure design standards and permitted/prohibited uses, so that the development easily weaves into the fabric of Anthem.”



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**Brian has a simple goal in mind....to treat his clients with respect and help them put together an estate plan that makes sense for them, or to help others when they are administrating estates for a loved one. From the moment Brian obtained his Arizona attorney license in 1994, he has engaged in representing all manner of clients, gaining a diverse legal background in estate planning, probate/trust administration, transactional and litigation matters. Throughout the years, he always focused on providing personal and ethical guidance to his clients.**

**As part of his well-rounded background, Brian has been the founding member of a law firm in Arizona whose practice initially focused on representation of small business owners and progressed to his true passion, estate planning and probate/trust administration. Prior to opening his own firm, Brian served as managing attorney for the AIG Arizona Staff Counsel office responsible for defending insured parties in motor vehicle accident and bodily injury claims and construction defect claim. Prior to managing the AIG Arizona Staff Counsel office, Brian was a named shareholder for a prominent insurance defense law firm based in Nevada and Arizona, representing both nationwide and local contractors in high exposure construction disputes.**



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**T**he MusicaNova Orchestra is a professional ensemble that features new music, unjustly neglected pieces and fresh interpretations of the classics.

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Five programs support MusicaNova's mission:

- **The Orchestra Concerts Series**, by the professional MusicaNova Orchestra (MNO), plays new and neglected music and presents the finest emerging talent.
- **The Young Artists Concerts Series** is devoted to exceptionally talented musicians younger than 18 years of age, hosted in a formal recital setting. Many MusicaNova young artists go on to solo appearances with the orchestra.

- **The Community Concerts Se-**

**ries** features free, family-friendly concerts presenting a wide variety of musical styles performed by accomplished artists in an informal setting, often with audience participation.

- **The Composition Fellows Program** finds fine young composers from around the world, gives them intense, hands-on mentoring and presents one of their works as a world premiere at each orchestra concert.

- **The Educational Outreach and Collaboration Program** is where MusicaNova Orchestra musicians visit partner schools and organizations around the greater Phoe-

nix area to play music from upcoming concerts and share their aspirations, inspirations and life as musicians. MNO may act as artist-in-residence at a partner school and give workshops to all student-musicians. Outstanding student-musicians may be invited to sit in with MNO professionals in an orchestra concert.

MusicaNova's Composition Fellows offer intensive, hands-on mentoring. After identifying exceptional works that resonate with MusicaNova's mission, Music Director Warren Cohen works with the composer to prepare their score for performance. The com-

poser is invited to attend orchestra rehearsals and work directly with the Maestro Cohen and the musicians to further refine the piece.

The Composition Fellows Program has welcomed composers from a variety of backgrounds and ethnicities. Fellows have come from the United States, Mexico, Indonesia, Singapore, China, and Canada, delivering works that tell stories and convey emotions from around the world.

MusicaNova also provides educational outreach and collaboration programs and orchestra musicians have created a series of videos to help Tempe High School students continue their musical studies when the school closed because of the pandemic. Because the videos are helpful for any young musician, the orchestra post them online for further use and study.

Musica Nova, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) charitable non-profit corporation. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.



**UPCOMING EVENT**  
**Scottsdazzle**  
 7-9 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7 at the Scottsdale Waterfront, 7135 E. Camelback Road  
 The MusicaNova Orchestra helps kick off the holiday season with a free evening of music leading up to the tree lighting. Local celebrities and politicians join the orchestra to entertain those gathered along the Scottsdale Waterfront with their renditions of popular holiday songs.





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# One on One...

## MCSO Anthem Substation Capt. Hank Brandimarte

By Terrance Thornton  
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

**T**here is no more function key to a local community than its local police force.

In the case of the community of Anthem, through regular contractual agreements, the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office serves as law enforcement for resident of the community.



**Hank Brandimarte**

To better understand the role of MCSO in and around the community of Anthem, Independent Newsmedia interviewed one-on-one with Capt. Hank Brandimarte, who is stationed at the Anthem Substation, 3701 W. Anthem Way.

**•How does the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office protect the community of Anthem?**

The community of Anthem is patrolled 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by a squad of deputies and a Sergeant. They also have access to detectives for follow up on major cases. As needed, there are a wealth of resources outside of Anthem that are available upon request by on duty supervisors such as Aviation resources, Search and Rescue resources, Vehicular Crimes and Special Victims units, intelligence resources and special event staffing.

**•Are there any programs residents should be aware of?**

• Coffee with a Cop. A meet

and great program with local deputies and commanders to discuss issues concerning the community and foster open lines of communication, (Currently suspended due to COVID).

• Neighborhood Watch Program. A community member led program designed to assist in maintaining a safe neighborhood.

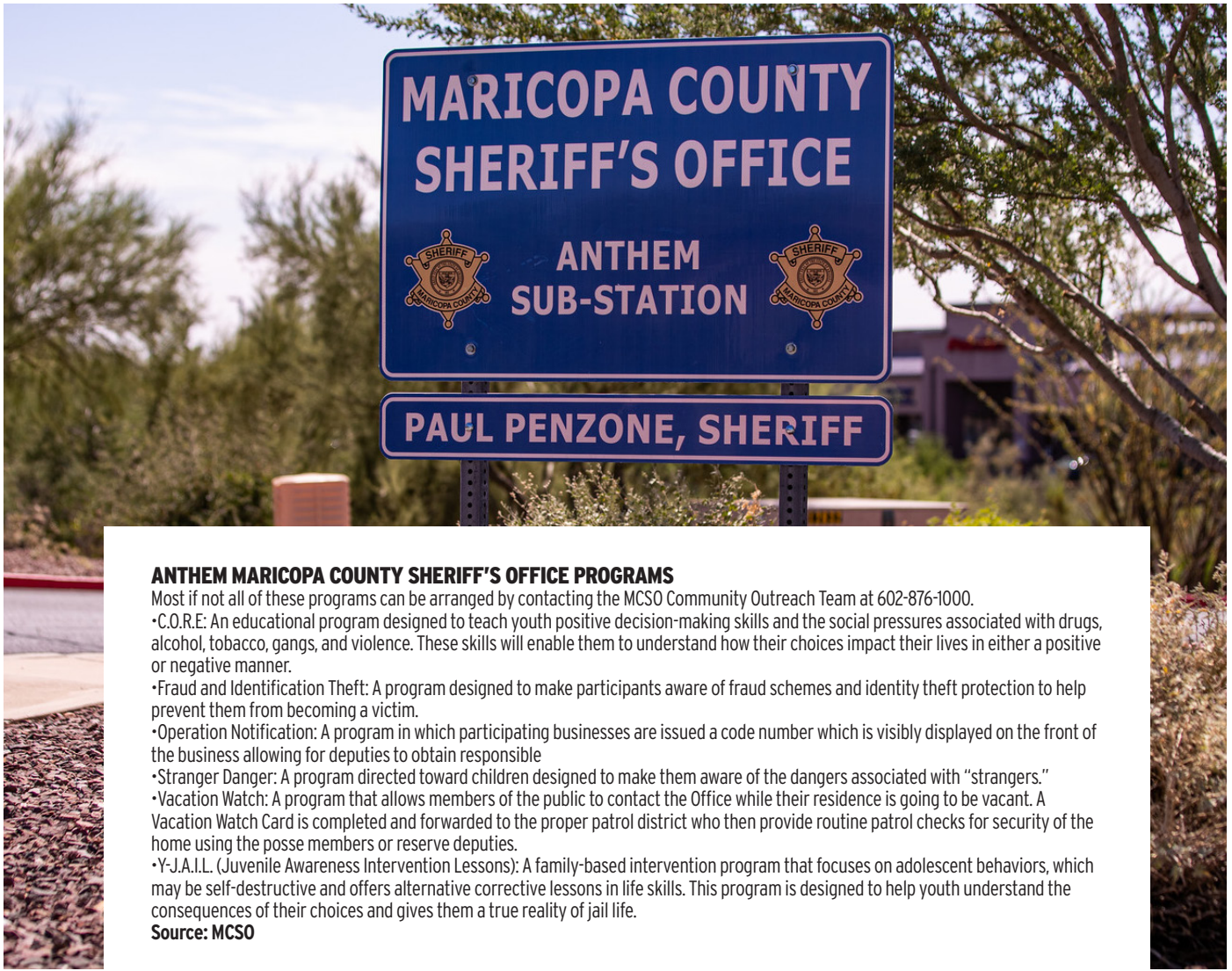
• Riding Along Program, Community members can schedule the opportunity to ride along with a deputy to see firsthand what an average day in the life of an MCSO deputy entails. (Currently suspended due to COVID)

• Community Academies. Community members attend classes, usually on the weekends, to learn more about the function of the MCSO and how it serves the community. It is designed to give a broad-spectrum view and is usually 6 weeks in length.

• Child Fingerprint Identification: A program that provides fingerprint packets which contain everything needed to fingerprint a child and/or provide fingerprint services at various events throughout Maricopa County.

**•What are deputies typically dealing with in the somewhat remote community?**

I would not consider Anthem a remote community. Most of the calls for service involve suspicious activities. This includes people, vehicles, and activity. This is followed by false burglar alarms, loud neighbors, and vehicle accidents. Deputies are proactive in these areas by enforcing traffic violations,



**ANTHEM MARICOPA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE PROGRAMS**

Most if not all of these programs can be arranged by contacting the MCSO Community Outreach Team at 602-876-1000.

- C.O.R.E: An educational program designed to teach youth positive decision-making skills and the social pressures associated with drugs, alcohol, tobacco, gangs, and violence. These skills will enable them to understand how their choices impact their lives in either a positive or negative manner.
- Fraud and Identification Theft: A program designed to make participants aware of fraud schemes and identity theft protection to help prevent them from becoming a victim.
- Operation Notification: A program in which participating businesses are issued a code number which is visibly displayed on the front of the business allowing for deputies to obtain responsible
- Stranger Danger: A program directed toward children designed to make them aware of the dangers associated with "strangers."
- Vacation Watch: A program that allows members of the public to contact the Office while their residence is going to be vacant. A Vacation Watch Card is completed and forwarded to the proper patrol district who then provide routine patrol checks for security of the home using the posse members or reserve deputies.
- Y-J.A.I.L. (Juvenile Awareness Intervention Lessons): A family-based intervention program that focuses on adolescent behaviors, which may be self-destructive and offers alternative corrective lessons in life skills. This program is designed to help youth understand the consequences of their choices and gives them a true reality of jail life.

**Source: MCSO**

conducting follow up on minor investigations not assigned to a detective, and working with the community council and schools on community policing issues. MCSO averages more than 22,000 calls for service a year in the patrol district.

**•With economic development on the horizon, what kind of preparations are being made to continue to serve the community of Anthem?**

Most of Anthem falls within the unincorporated area of Maricopa County, while a portion is within the jurisdiction of the city of Phoenix. We continually monitor population growth, calls for service, and response times

to adjust our staffing within the community based on need. We work with other Maricopa County agencies to forecast and improve resource allocation, as needed.

**• What is the total geography your substation covers?**

Approximately 688 square miles.

**• What is the No. 1 thing Anthem residents need to be aware of in terms of public safety?**

In short, I would ask the community to be aware of what is happening within their neighborhoods by getting to know their neighbors and

building relationships with each other. It is helpful when we all work to look out for each other. Unfortunately, law enforcement resources can't be everywhere, all the time. Simple things, such as locking car doors, securing garage doors, and paying attention to speed limits within the community go a long way to improving the safety and security of the resident of Anthem.

There are several scams conducted over the telephone during the holiday season. One of the more prevalent scams has the caller pretending to be a government official or law enforcement officer and indicates you have a warrant with a bond. The caller ID on

the phone may indicate that the caller is legitimate, as the caller ID has been "spoofed". The caller encourages you to pay your bond over the phone to eliminate the need for arrest. This is not at all how this process is done.

Do not provide any credit card or payment details over the phone, for any reason. Should you believe you have been contacted by one of these callers, please notify MCSO right away. When in doubt, call the MCSO non-emergency line 602-876-1011 and ask for a deputy to respond to investigate any unusual occurrences. In an emergency, please dial 911.



This year, the selected white fir, transported from the California/Oregon border on a 40-foot flatbed truck, measures 70-feet tall and 20-feet wide. [Submitted photo]

## Tallest Christmas tree in Arizona arrives Nov. 4

### Outlets at Anthem display 70-foot fresh-cut Christmas tree

**F**or the 20th consecutive year, Outlets at Anthem will be home to Arizona's tallest fresh-cut Christmas tree.

Santa Claus himself will lead the flatbed truck carrying the tree into the North Phoenix shopping destination 6:30 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 4. If winds are calm, the tree will then be lifted into place at 7:45 a.m. via an industrial crane.

"For 20 years, Outlets at Anthem has dependably provided this festive and cheery holiday attraction," said JoAnn Truax, director of real estate and marketing, Outlets at Anthem. "The tallest Christmas tree in Arizona is a sight to see, and we can't wait to welcome the community to our open-air space where they can carry on their holiday traditions and create new ones with the ones they love."

A 10-person team will spend two weeks – and more than 120 hours – using articulating boom lifts to shape and decorate the tree.

The tree will be topped with a three-foot tall copper star, which is a nod to the state's official metal. More than 1.5 miles of LED lights, approximately 10,000 bulbs, will illuminate the tree and roughly 5,000 ornaments and bows will finish off the breathtaking spectacle. The tree will weigh close to 4 tons when completely decorated.





## DAISY MOUNTAIN FIRE AND MEDICAL

The Daisy Mountain Fire District was formed in 1989 and serves the residents of New River, Desert Hills, Anthem, and Black Canyon City. In total, the district spans two counties --- Maricopa and Yavapai Counties --- and protects a population of about 55,000 residents under the direction of Fire Chief Brian Tobin. The district employs 118 personnel, staffs five fire stations, has a Special Operations Division, which includes a deployable Hazardous Materials Response Team, as well as a Wildland Response Team.

*Source: Daisy Mountain Fire & Medical District*



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# Skatepark Expansion... Community Council champions all additions



## A part of Facilities Master Plan blossoms this year

Paul Conley, finance manager for the Anthem Community Council, explains what the skatepark will look like when the project is expected to be complete in December or January. [Brent Ruffner/Independent Newsmedia]



**By Brent Ruffner**  
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Calling all bicyclists, scooter riders and skateboarders: Anthem will soon have an all-wheel outdoor area just for you. In August, Anthem Community Council officials officially broke ground on a \$1.44 million renovation to expand the existing area skatepark on Gavilan Peak Parkway and Anthem Way and allow a combined

space for bicycles, scooters and skateboards.

The renovation will add a new pump track for skaters and replace a 20-year-old area once used for an outdoor hockey area. Typically, pump tracks are a looping track with bumps and berms used for helping riders keep momentum. The expansion project's final budget was approved at a March 24 Community

Council meeting. The project is expected to be complete by December 2021. In 2017, shade structures and benches were added to the recreation center. The expansion project is part of the 2016 Facilities Master Plan, a five-year plan that includes several projects such as a dog park, a pickleball court complex and a renovation to the community center.

The expansion — part of the facilities master plan — ran from 2016 to 2021 with its last project being the expansion of the current skatepark.

“You’ll be able to ride from one area to another,” said Paul Conley, finance manager for the Anthem Community Council.

Conley said renovation funds won’t come out of the operational budget and instead come out of the enhancement fund, which officials receive from the sale of area homes.

The enhancement fund is based on 0.25% of the sale price of each resold property. These funds are used to build new recreation projects. Enhancement fees are paid as part of closing costs on home resales. Conley said the all-wheel park should be something all 27,000 Anthem residents should be proud to call their own.

In 1999, Del Webb founded the community of Anthem. Now, the community has about 10,300 homes on either side of Interstate 17.

Conley said the center should update the

aging recreation area. He said the area will no longer be for hockey. New classes — for both beginners and advanced riders — are also expected to be offered.

“It will certainly be an updated and enhanced facility,” he said.

Overall, Conley said the budget halfway through Anthem’s fiscal year is in good shape.

The budget, about \$11.1 million, primarily comes from assessments from businesses such as Walmart and Taco Bell as well as regular assessments to the homeowners in the area.

Businesses, which pay fees based on property size, usually pay annually or semi-annually, Conley said.

According to community documents, homeowner assessments range from a quarterly fees of \$253.95 at the Parkside Homeowner’s Association to a quarterly assessment of \$1,000.65 for those who live in the Village Condominiums. “That’s the basis for our income; is those assessments,” Conley said.

The finance manager said the operational budget — where the fiscal year runs January through December — is in good shape because money for preventative maintenance repairs comes from a different bucket.

Conley said maintenance such as replacing LED lights on softball fields

comes from the reserve fund, which officials have been saving since the community’s inception in 1999.

Now, officials have \$17 million to buy new lights, replace pool diving boards and fix pumps for the community ponds, for example.

In April, Conley said officials spent \$160,000 on new lights for one of the community’s four softball fields. Over time, new bulbs should save the community in electricity costs, he said.

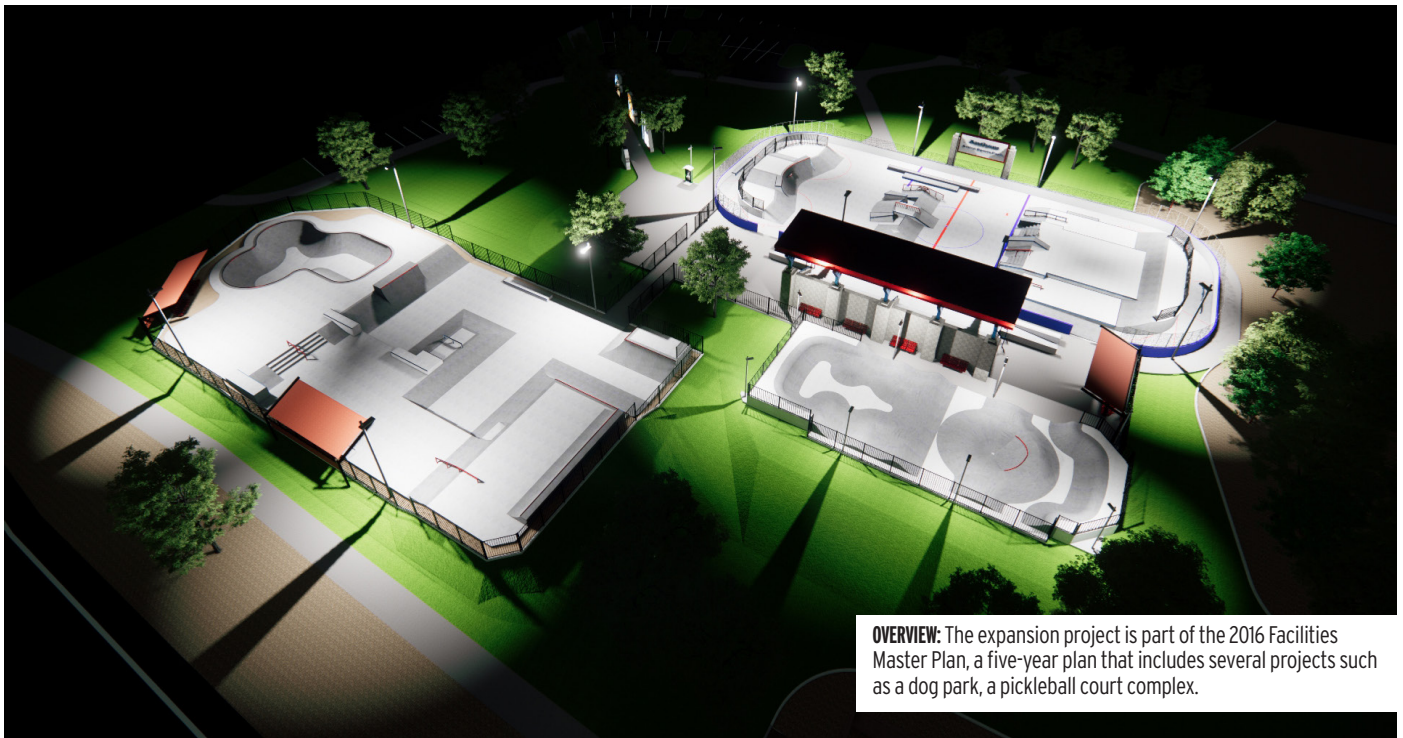
He said the Anthem Community Council uses a third-party company to help save money for specific expenditures.

The Anthem Community Council members own and maintain all the common grounds such as the parks outside the neighborhoods. Anthem has three homeowner associations — Parkside, the Village and Country Club. The community council features representatives from all three associations.

“You are putting this money away for future repairs,” Conley said.

The separation of the three funds — operating, reserve and enhancement has been helpful in keeping Anthem financially healthy, Conley said.

“We have three different buckets,” Conley said. “We don’t mingle those funds.”



**OVERVIEW:** The expansion project is part of the 2016 Facilities Master Plan, a five-year plan that includes several projects such as a dog park, a pickleball court complex.

# *A Profile in Service...*

## The Heroes of Daisy Mountain



**By Brent Ruffner**  
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

**A** helicopter landed near a New River home and emergency crews helped a New River family to safety after torrential flood waters nearly caused their mobile home to topple over.

The incident, which happened in July, is just one example of what crews from Daisy Mountain Fire Department see on a regular basis.

Brent Fenton, public information officer for the Daisy Mountain, said crews see incidents from as minor as a stubbed toe to as serious as a cardiac arrest in his line of work.

Fenton, an 18-year veteran of the department, has seen Anthem and the area around it grow up from a smaller

department with less capability.

Now, the department employs 120 paid firefighters and covers about 210 square miles. It serves about 55,000 people — Anthem, Desert Hills, New River and Black Canyon City.

He said the retired population swells in the winter time and calls tend to increase during those months.

In March 2004, when Fenton was hired, there was no ladder truck, no hazardous materials team and no wildland team — crews that help fight forest fires.

That has all changed.

Daisy Mountain advancements are multi-faceted instead of one-dimensional.

In fact, its Polaris utility terrain vehicle

can seat one medical paramedic and one paramedic EMT — which allows crews to treat the injuries of patients while driving away from the scene of a ATV crash.

In some cases, such as the New River example, helicopters from the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, the Phoenix Police Department or Department of Public Safety can deploy units, if necessary.

"We use those here in district a lot," Fenton said. "We get a lot of ATV accident (calls). (It allows us) to access more remote areas of the district."

Anthem is among the larger communities that get service. Del Webb founded the community of Anthem in 1999. Now, the community has about



10,300 homes and 27,000 residents on either side of Interstate 17.

Fenton said the level of service has “gone up tremendously” since he started with the department.

Part of that is adding more ambulances to cut down on response times. He said specific ambulances get dispatched depending on the needs of the specific patient.

“There’s been a dramatic improvement,” Fenton said. “There’s been a lot of things that have changed (for the better).”

Some of that improvement and growth has come from proper planning, Fenton said.

Over the years, officials have been aggressive at going after millions in grants from the federal, state and tribal levels to get much-needed equipment in the hands of experts. The 2016 bond election also helped garner tools for crews.

He said items such as battery-operated extrication equipment gives handy devices they can use on a weekly basis.

Still, the public information officer admits officials must keep on trends in the fire/medical industry that go through “constant” change.

Fenton said the department must get new, fresh people who are looking to serve the community for years to come.

“Our goal is just to take care of the citizens.”





## THE ANTHEM VETERANS MEMORIAL IS A SALUTE TO ALL WHO PROTECT AMERICAN FREEDOMS

The Anthem Veterans Memorial, which is found in the Anthem Community Park, is a monument dedicated to honor the service and sacrifice of our country’s armed forces. It is a place of honor and reflection for veterans, their family and friends, and also is a place to show respect to those service men and women who have and continue to courageously serve our country.

*Source: Anthem Community Council*



### Letter

Continued From Page 4

challenge our ways of thinking to make our programs, activities, and events even safer, wider-reaching, and accessible to as many as possible, amidst the ongoing challenges. The thing about shared obstacles is that we can all overcome them together.

I extend my gratitude to the

Anthem Community Council staff and my fellow Board members, who continue to daily model a core set of values, putting those we serve first. Anthem might be young as far as communities go, but in just two decades, we’ve shown that we have staying power and we only get better and better. Please accept our invitation to visit for a day, and then stay for a lifetime! To those who have already chosen to make

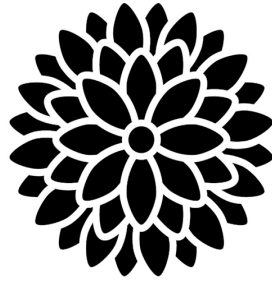
#### Anthem Community Council members

- Darrin Francom
- Carolynn Hiron
- Doug Sutherland
- Barb Patterson
- Gina Richard
- Chilesa Ready
- Maureen Strom
- Beth Wickstrom

Anthem home – thank you for trusting us to create a place for you that you can be proud of for generations to come.

Join us as we celebrate our short but vibrant history, and as we look forward to a bright future; one in which we all work together for the collective good not only in our own communities, but for our world. That is, after all, The Anthem Way.

*Editor’s note: The author, Bob McKenzie, is board chairman at the Anthem Community Council.*



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