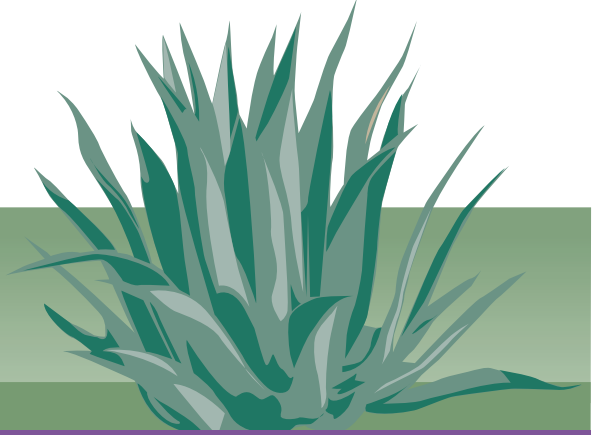


# Northeast Mesa Up Close



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## The NAR Settlement

### How Coming Changes May Affect Buyers and Sellers

By Lorraine Ryall  
Associate Broker, CDPE, CSSN,  
CNE, KOR Properties

There has been a lot of talk and speculation in the media about what the National Association of Realtors (NAR) Settlement is and its impact on real estate. With so much misinformation and confusion about what it is and how it will impact buyers and sellers, I wanted to clarify some of the key issues.



Lorraine Ryall



#### WHAT IS THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS (NAR)?

NAR is a trade association for the real estate industry and is one of the largest trade associations in the country, with over 1.5 million members. NAR has a professional code of ethics to which its members are required to adhere, and the organization works to protect private property rights, promote home ownership, and lobbies to maintain reasonable credit and other standards at the federal level.

#### WHAT IS THE NAR SETTLEMENT?

The proposed settlement would have the offer of cooperative compensation to a buyer broker completely removed from the MLS system. There will no longer be a forward-facing offer of cooperative compensation. Buyer's brokers will need to separately negotiate their commissions with buyers prior to showing property.

This suit was settled for \$418 million and after the attorney's fees are paid will equate to approximately \$10 per seller.

#### WHEN WILL THE NEW RULES GO INTO EFFECT?

Currently, the settlement is expected to go into effect mid-July 2024, but nothing is definite as the courts still need to approve the settlement. In the meantime, the Department of Justice has reopened their investigation, which may postpone the implementation date and bring additional changes to the settlement.

#### THERE ARE TWO MAIN CHANGES IN THE SETTLEMENT:

**1. COOPERATING BROKER COMPENSATION WILL NO LONGER BE SHOWN IN THE MLS**  
Sellers will no longer be permitted to list any buyer's agent commission in the MLS (Multiple Listing Service). Currently, the MLS requires the buyer's agent compensation to be posted in the listing. The seller pays the buyer's agent commission from their proceeds at the time of closing, ensuring a clear process for all parties.



While the buyer broker's compensation will no longer be in the MLS, seller's will still be permitted to offer compensation through other channels. Sellers can offer concessions to incentivize buyers. These concessions could be used to buy down the interest rate, cover closing costs, or compensate a buyer's agent.

#### 2. BUYERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO SIGN A BUYER BROKER AGREEMENT

Under the proposed settlement, buyers will be required to sign a buyer broker agreement prior to viewing any home. The buyer broker agreement will outline the terms and responsibilities between the buyer and their representative and will specify the commission to be paid and the length of time the agreement will be in place. A buyer broker could be entitled to a commission during the entire course of the agreement even if the buyer decided to work with another agent. Under this agreement, the responsibility for the buyer broker's compensation will be on the buyer, making it imperative for the buyer to ensure they have it covered by the seller or have the funds available at closing.

#### WILL SELLERS STOP PAYING THE BUYER'S AGENT COMMISSION?

Whether to pay a buyer's agent commission or not has always been the seller's decision. The determining factors have always been dictated by the market. Buyers may also instruct their agents to not show them any properties that are not offering compensation, so not offering a buyer's agent commission could have a negative impact on how many buyers view a home and the price and speed at which it sells. At the end of the day, the strength of the market will continue to drive the compensation structure.

#### HOW WILL BUYERS PAY THEIR BUYER AGENTS COMMISSION?

Most buyers are not going to have the funds available to pay the buyer's agent commission themselves. It's hard enough for them now to save the down payment and all the closing costs.

#### HERE ARE A COUPLE OF POTENTIAL CHOICES FOR BUYERS TO CONSIDER:

- Only look at homes where the seller is paying the buyer's agent commission (outside of the MLS) or offering concessions.

- Have the buyer's agent negotiate concessions during the offer stage.
- Move forward completely unrepresented or work directly with the listing agent in a dual agency representation. Most listing agents will not want to take on this additional liability without additional compensation, so the buyer will still have a buyer broker fee.

#### CONCLUSION

Buyers still need and deserve representation by a trusted buyer's agent. These lawsuits were submitted when the real estate market was incredibly hot, and we were in the best seller's market in decades. The doubling of interest rates has led to a significant decrease in demand, increased days on the market, and a softening of the real estate market. We are currently in a balanced market but, for homes that are less than perfect, it is a buyer's market.

The reality is that sellers need buyers and incentivizing buyers has always been in play. Ultimately, the market will continue to dictate pricing and incentives, but it will just be done in a different way than before. ■

For more information on this and other real estate topics, please visit my website [Homes2SellAZ.com](http://Homes2SellAZ.com). Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or would like help buying or selling a home.

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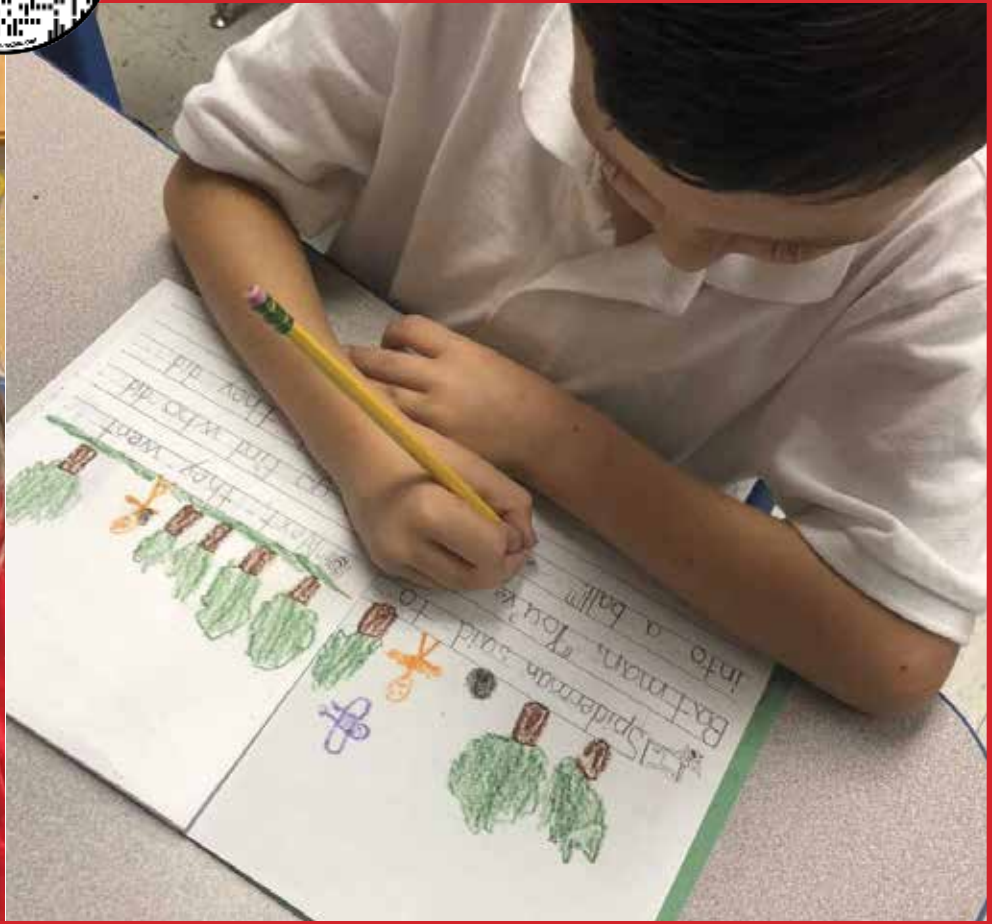
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EDUCATION

# A Village of Enlightened Educators

By Sami Majeed, Chief of Schools  
Self Development Academy

The No. 1 factor placing Self Development Academy-Mesa among the top schools is not what you think. It has nothing to do with our advanced academics, diverse programs, or veteran teachers.

One fundamental principle that has set us apart from other schools: At Self Development Academy-Mesa, we believe that attention to children's learning and well-being is the most valuable gift a child can receive. When we value children, they, in turn, value their education.

"We do have one of the most rigorous curriculum and an amazing support program," says Dr. Anjum Majeed, founder of Self Development Academy and Preschool, "but if we ignore our fundamental role as caregivers, children will ignore us."

With decades of experience as an educator, Dr. Majeed walks the talk. She teaches the majority of her week and uses her weekends to personally review student work and look for patterns in student writing, assessments, and quizzes. She focuses on their strengths and inspires them to achieve their best.

Educators at SDA use statistical analyses and formulas to identify areas of concern, predict performance,



and provide suggestions for direction. A lifelong lover of mathematics, Dr. Majeed and her son, Sami Majeed, who oversees the sustainability of Dr. Majeed's unique hyper-individualized approach, have built a data-driven analytical system to locate how they can help every student. "We look for patterns and trends. We assign students into appropriate small groups when they have similar learning paths and styles."

We are referring to a truly unique program that Dr. Majeed initiated. This program enables SDA to teach multiple grades above the state average. It's *child-centered learning* in its most rigorous application. While data analysis plays a critical part in educational design, Dr. Majeed carefully notes the proper role of an educator in a classroom: "I don't just look at scores. I make personal connections with each child," Dr. Majeed emphasizes.

"Each child's genius is unknown, possibly limitless," a common phrase both Mr. Majeed and Dr. Majeed fervently use. "The only way to connect each child to her future success is to find out what they like." Dr. Majeed continues, "If I can determine a child's interests, I can help transform the child's engagement with his learning."

She then relates what seems to be a typical story: She saw potential in a student in one of the five groups to whom she taught math. "He had fair scores. But any student's scores are always, always incomplete data. I see the potential," she says, looking, her gaze now deep and beyond as if she imagines the abstract bridge connecting



current performance and a place called *potential*.

He liked art, and after a few conversations connecting math and art, she gave him an encyclopedia of art to take home. What happened next is typical yet extraordinary: His scores went up dramatically. While once *fair*, he received perfect scores on every test.

The story is typical because she has many of these stories where children become inspired to learn and perform well academically. The story is extraordinary because of the dramatic and the positive change. An indifferent student who loved poetry received a book of poetry from Dr. Majeed, and now the student is immersed in her coursework. Class clowns turn into leaders. Emergent readers turn into ravenous ones.

Small groups and personal connections with students are the Self Development Academy model. Dr. Majeed's teaching style has been analyzed and incorporated into professional development sessions. It's not a mere feature. It is the system.

Attention to each child, "is a core part of working here," says Dr. Majeed. "A school may provide the most rigorous curriculum, but without genuine care and attention, school is like a broken pencil; it is pointless," Sami hurried to respond. They both chuckled. Clearly, Dr. Majeed made a personal connection to at least one of her former students, her son.

At Self Development Academy, education is at the core of the community and is passed on from generation to generation. It's a village. Student success requires intentional effort by all. The founder, chief of schools, the principals at each campus, teachers, and parents make connections with our students. ■



To learn more about Self Development Preschool, please contact (480) 396-3522, and for the accelerated K-8 program, Self Development Academy, call Self Development Academy at (480) 641-2640.

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**EVENT**

# Beat the Heat with Music and Mimosas **ABOARD THE DESERT BELLE**

*Submitted by John Waldron, Desert Belle*

The Desert Belle proudly announces the return of their *Music and Mimosas* cruises departing every Sunday morning in May at 10 a.m. at Saguaro Lake Marina.

Located a quick 20 minutes from Las Sendas, the Desert Belle has been providing passengers with a one-of-a-kind experience with stunning views of Saguaro Lake since 1964.



Eric Miller

This month's featured musician is recording artist Eric Miller, a regular performer at The Patio and Grille at Las Sendas. Eric brings his passion for Brazilian Bossa Nova and Samba to the cool waters of Saguaro Lake for a memorable morning of music and mimosas.

Las Sendas resident and Director of Operations John Waldron says he's surprised by the number of first-time passengers who live so close to the lake. "We get passengers every day from Las Sendas, Mountain Bridge, and Red Mountain Ranch who tell us they've never been aboard the Belle. But once they come, they're hooked. It's the perfect backyard getaway."

Visitors can also enjoy a variety of different cruises, including an 80-minute narrated nature cruise, wine cruise,



craft beer cruise, afternoon music cruise, or even a private charter for a party or celebration — all in the comfort of the large boat, which features an air-conditioned lower deck and open-air upper deck. Beer, wine, cocktails, and snacks are also available. The Desert Belle is handicap accessible with restrooms on board. Free parking is available at the Marina.

The Desert Belle operates around 700 cruises a year, many of which sell out, so John recommends booking a couple of days in advance, especially for weekends in the spring, which are popular due to the great weather.

This month, guests can even look forward to seeing saguaro cactus blooms in addition to impressive wildlife, such as the bald eagle, golden eagle, and bighorn sheep, all of which can be spotted year-round.

While at the lake, visitors can also stop by the Saguaro Dockside, a docked boat that features a gift shop, complete with local, one-of-a-kind items like amethyst directly from Four Peaks and unique Arizona souvenirs. There is also an upper view deck serving local beers and wine. ■

*For more information on the Desert Belle or to purchase tickets, visit [DesertBelle.com](http://DesertBelle.com). For more information on Saguaro Dockside, visit [SaguaroDockside.com](http://SaguaroDockside.com).*

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**(480) 748-1127**

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

Kim Phillips

**ADVERTISING**

Monica Adair (480) 772-1949

Kim Phillips (480) 748-1127

**STAFF WRITERS**

Kimberly Alvarado,  
Jamie Killin

**DESIGN**

LuckyYou! Creative  
Erin Suwwan, Jaclyn Threadgill  
[www.luckyyoucreative.com](http://www.luckyyoucreative.com)

**VIDEO PRODUCER**

Chase Balsley

**CONTRIBUTORS**

John and Natascha Karadsheh, Lorraine Ryall

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LOCAL BUSINESS

# Pacino's Italian Grill and Bar CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY

OWNER FRANK SPACCARELLI REFLECTS ON LESSONS FROM HIS FATHER

By Kimberly Alvarado

The restaurant industry presents a blend of challenges, stress, and rewards.

For example, as Frank Spaccarelli, owner of Pacino's Italian Grill and Bar, planned for his restaurant's recent anniversary celebration, he experienced both pleasure and gratitude. The live music was secured, the menu planned, and raffle tickets and prizes were in place.

It was a time for expressing thanks for all patrons — new and old. Celebrations like these bring smiles to his face and to those who frequent his establishment. And, what a perfect reason to throw a party! However, amidst the anticipation of celebration, the reality of life and death cast its shadow.

Recently, Frank lost his 95-year-old father, Angelo Spaccarelli, prompting him to reflect on a more somber time and some of the valuable lessons he learned from his dad.

Frank's father, Angelo, had an upbringing marked by poverty — a family of six boys and one girl sharing a tiny home in the Bronx, New York. Italian immigrants, looking to find their way in our country, depended on each other for support.

Angelo's parents raised their children without luxuries: no heat, no hot water, with just a single bath in the tiny New York home. Survival meant boiling water for warmth of the steam, raising chickens for nourishment, utilizing every part of the bird, even turning the chicken's features into hand-sewn pillows. It was an era of modest resilience.



Frank Spaccarelli



Angelo Spaccarelli

A generation later, Angelo instilled values of a simple upbringing in his own children through nightly conversations around the dinner table. Frank and his siblings gained respect for their simple father, appreciating his provider role and their humble lifestyle. They were taught old-school principles — taking care of things, encouragement, and maintaining a solid mindset, especially during uncertain times.

Today, Frank carries forward his father's legacy and the lessons learned during his years as a young boy, a teen, and a man. His journey from New York to California in 1985, diving into the restaurant business, was no easy feat. Perhaps the encouragement he received from his father sustained him during the early days at a pizzeria and guided his steps toward becoming the owner of a popular establishment here in Northeast Mesa.

Currently, Frank recalls, "Life is significantly different now. Our instant gratification and fast-paced society have really diminished the memory of lessons learned in a simpler time."

In the meantime, Frank had the opportunity to reflect on some of those simple lessons from his past. His father's legacy can be seen in Frank's smile, when he shares conversations with those seated, enjoying meals and celebrations, at the tables at Pacino's Italian Grill and Bar. ■

For more information, call (480) 985-0114, or visit the website [pacinositalian.com](http://pacinositalian.com). Follow them on Facebook.com/MesaPacinos. The restaurant is located in The Village at Las Sendas, 2831 N. Power Road, Suite 104, in Mesa.

LOCAL BUSINESS

# Spoil Mom this Mother's Day

By Jenn Franco, Sweet Repeats Clothing Consignment

Mother's Day arrives on Sunday, May 12 and across the country, people are gearing up to celebrate the amazing women in their lives.

It's a day to shower moms with love and appreciation, but many are recognizing the motherly figures beyond just moms. Grandmas, aunts, sisters, and mentors — all the women who nurture and guide us — deserve a special shout out on this day too. From heartfelt cards and delicious brunches to spa days and weekend getaways, families are finding unique ways to express their gratitude.



One of the best things you can do is simply make time to spend with these special ladies. If you are still unsure how to celebrate this year, consider gathering the special women in your life together for a fun shopping day at Sweet Repeats Clothing Consignment in Mesa.

This year we have decided to combine our spring quarterly clearance sale with Mother's Day weekend. Stop in on Friday, May 10 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. or Saturday, May 11 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and get incredible deals with our \$1 sidewalk sale, extra 50 percent off yellow tags and an additional 10 percent off almost everything else in the store.

This Mother's Day let's celebrate the village that raises us! ■

Sweet Repeats Clothing Consignment is located at 6039 E. University Drive, in Mesa, at the corner of University Drive and Recker Road. The store hours are Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed on Sundays.

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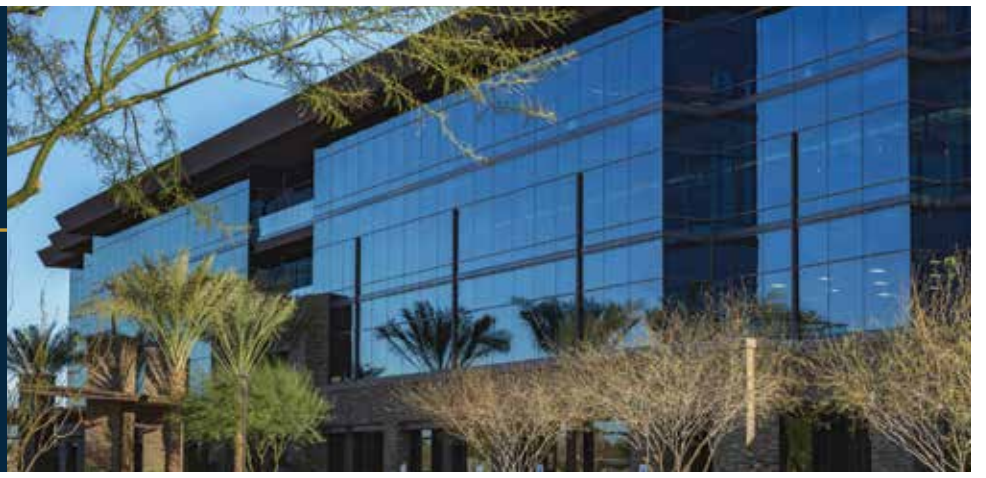
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A message from Jose Martinez, food and beverage director at Las Sendas Golf Club:

“We continue to work on improvements to be able to deliver the highest level of service and quality to all our guests. In the upcoming months we will be rolling out our summer menus and will bring back a revamped happy hour menu. We will also roll out a new summer craft cocktail menu.

In addition, we are looking to partner with Door Dash to provide a delivery service to the nearby areas so you will be able to enjoy a great meal in the comfort of your home.

If you haven't secured a spot for our Mother's Day brunch, please do so now before all the spots are taken! We will offer an incredible selection of items in our Vistas Pavilion as well as great features at The Patio & Grille so you can celebrate the special day with your loved ones.

Lastly, our own Las Sendas exclusive tequila should arrive soon and for those of you that enjoy the spirit, it's a must for you to try!”

**THE PRO SHOP**

Come in and celebrate Cinco de Mayo with a special **25 percent off apparel discount**. What better incentive to dress in style this season on the greens?

After a successful Alice Cooper fundraising concert, 180 participants joined the golf tournament at the Las Sendas Golf Club in April. Another year of raising money for a great cause brought lots of fun to the Las Sendas community!

The rates at Las Sendas Golf Club will be dropping in May. Schedule a tee-time online to take advantage of more affordable greens fees.



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Carla Shaw, events and catering director at Las Sendas Golf Club, is excited to help you plan your next memorable event. Give her a call at (480) 396-4000, ext. 222 to see how she can help make your spring and summer event plans a breeze. ■



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LOCAL BUSINESS

# AT YOUR AGE?

By Tim Beaubien, Hava Java Mesa

Ok I've had to come to terms with a few truths: It takes a little longer to get up from picking something up that fell on the floor. I may have to increase the waist size on my next pair of Wrangler jeans (may I said). Do I look as good as I think I do in that sports car?

So, I turned 67 in 24. But I never thought of myself as old. When I was 18, 55 was old. When I turned 60 a friend got me a bottle of wine wrapped in a Depends.

But when I told my friends in Michigan that my wife Barb and I bought a coffee shop in Arizona, there it was. The one phrase that stopped me in my tracks. "Are you sure you want to do that? At your age?" Because at my age you are ready to retire to a golf course. Not that there is anything wrong with that. I just don't play golf. However, most normal people *my age* are getting ready to slow down, downsize, and talk baby talk to their tiny dogs.

It seems they weren't listening the last several years, that whenever we talked about our jobs, careers, or businesses, I was nowhere close to slowing down like they were. I told them over and over, "I'm just getting started."



Barb and Tim Beaubien

Fast forward to today and here we are in Arizona running our coffee house Hava Java in beautiful Las Sendas, and while many of our customers and new friends are retired, it's the younger customers who when I tell them our story and that I'm no way slowing down and just getting started, that they really get it! After all, they still have that drive and heart for adventure. They glow with it.

My only point is, you're never too old to follow a dream or start a new adventure. Yes, at my age! ■

Hava Java Mesa is located at the northeast corner of Power and McDowell roads in The Village at Las Sendas, 2849 N. Power Road, Suite 103, in Mesa.



SPIRITUALITY



## Amazing Transformation

By Judy A. Knox, Charis Christian Church

The transformation of a caterpillar into a butterfly (metamorphosis) is one of nature's most fascinating processes. Buckminster Fuller, the famous 20th Century architect, inventor, and philosopher, said, "There is nothing in a caterpillar that tells you it's going to be a butterfly."

The word *metamorphosis* comes from two Greek words: *meta* (change) and *morphoo* (form). This process is only part of the amazing life cycle of a butterfly.

I remember watching this astonishing change take place in a terrarium our third-grade teacher brought into the classroom. She gave us no clue what to expect, but just told us to watch. Every day we checked to see what would happen. When the fat, ugly, worm-like creatures had entered their cocoons, we wondered what they were doing in there. When the butterflies finally emerged, it was hard to believe these gorgeous, delicate creatures with beautifully colored wings could possibly have once been those fat, ugly brown munching machines. But we had seen enough to believe the rest of what our teacher told us as she explained the repeated cycle from egg to caterpillar, to butterfly, and then starting all over again.

This phenomenon of transformation is often used to illustrate our new lives in Christ. When we are first born again, our hearts are like that yucky caterpillar, not so beautiful to look at. In Romans 12:2 we are told not to be conformed to the world, but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. As we renew our minds with the Word of God, He transforms us to the image of His Son (Romans 8:29). But there is a difference. Our caterpillar lives don't repeat over and over. Our transformation is permanent. It continues day by day. We never have to go through another caterpillar stage again.

As for renewing our minds, as we fix our minds upon Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:2), He will continue working in us to make us more like Himself. It's our responsibility to renew our minds, and He promises to do the transforming. I don't know about you, but to me that's way more exciting than the transformation of a caterpillar to a butterfly! ■

If you would like to learn more about this transforming power we can experience by renewing our minds in the Word of God, come visit us at Charis Christian Church, 4811 E. Julep St., Suite 101, in Mesa.

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**HEALTH**

# Medicare Supplemental INSURANCE EXPLAINED

By *Lynne Jones, Tapestry Insurance*

I have worked with several people this past month who are turning 65 or are older than 65 but just now retiring.

It is a busy time and a lot of process concerning leaving employer health insurance, signing up for Medicare and then the big process of picking an Advantage plan or a Supplemental plan. I thought it might help to review what is supplemental insurance.



Medicare Supplemental insurance is different from Medicare Advantage plans. Supplemental insurance is something you purchase through a monthly premium. It does not have networks or many of the restrictions that some of the Advantage plans have.

Something to be aware of is that to enroll in a supplement, generally you will need to go through the underwriting process and the companies have the right to rate you based on your health or to deny coverage.

However, when you first enroll in Medicare part B (either at 65 or when you choose to leave employee insurance), you have a six-month *guarantee issue*.

This means that you can enroll in any Supplement plan, with any company at the lowest rate.

This makes your choice even more important. I always recommend speaking with an agent who can guide you through this significant time.

Please remember, you can make an appointment if you are about to enter the Medicare world or have questions about your situation. I would love to be your guide. ■

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**FINANCES**

# Financial Freedom A gift to your family

Submitted by *Linda Drake, Edward Jones*

Here's a sobering statistic: 72 percent of retirees say one of their biggest fears is becoming a burden on their families, according to a study by Edward Jones and the consulting firm Age Wave. If you're nearing retirement, how can you boost your financial independence?



For starters, contribute as much as you can afford to your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan. Since you may be in your peak earning years, you might be able to put in substantial sums.

And once you do retire, establish a reasonable withdrawal rate from your investments, and budget for expenses carefully, so you don't risk outliving your money.

One more suggestion: Think about downsizing. If you are open to changing your living arrangements, you could save money and boost your liquidity.

Finally, think about the costs of long-term care, such as an extended nursing home stay. You might want to discuss strategies for meeting these costs with a financial professional.

These moves could help you maintain your financial freedom and reduce your potential dependence on your family. Give them some thought. ■

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Member SIPC



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- Forrest



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LOCAL BUSINESS

# Unlock Hidden Potential

Why AZ Summer Off-Season Vacation Rentals are a Smart Move

*Submitted by*  
**Brandon Balsley,**  
*Grand Welcome,*  
*East Valley of the Sun*



Brandon Balsley

summer rates translate to *significant savings*. They get the same cozy retreat but at a fraction of the high-season price. Imagine evenings by the pool or lazy mornings on the patio—all without the winter crowds.

- 1. EMBRACE THE DESERT OASIS**  
While summer in Arizona might evoke images of sizzling heat, it's also a time when savvy homeowners can turn their properties into desert oases. The off-season isn't just about avoiding the crowds; it's about tapping into a unique market. Here's why:
- 2. THE SHOULDER SEASON: A GOLDEN 'STAYCATION' OPPORTUNITY**  
The summer months—May through September—are Arizona's shoulder season. Tourists flock to cooler destinations, leaving behind a quieter landscape. By offering your home as a vacation rental during this period, you cater to travelers seeking respite from the hustle and bustle.
- 3. ATTRACTIVE PRICING FOR SUN-SEEKERS**  
Entice potential guests with *sun-soaked deals*:

  - ◆ **Extended Stay Discounts:** Longer bookings mean steady income.
  - ◆ **Last-Minute Escapes:** Spontaneous travelers love a bargain.
  - ◆ **Midweek Retreats:** Position your rental as a cool haven away from the weekday grind.
- 4. COST SAVINGS UNDER THE SUN**  
Guests appreciate value. Remind them that
- 5. RECONNECT WITH RETURNING GUESTS**  
The summer off-season is your chance to rekindle relationships. Reach out to past guests, welcome them back, and show appreciation. A heartfelt email or a small discount for loyal visitors can go a long way.
- 6. DIVERSIFY YOUR AUDIENCE**  
Think beyond vacationers. Corporate retreats, wellness weekends, or artists' workshops thrive during the Arizona summer. Your home becomes a canvas for creativity or a sanctuary for stressed professionals. Understand local demand patterns—perhaps smaller properties appeal more to couples or solo travelers.
- 7. KNOW YOUR LOW SEASON**  
Define your low season within the summer months. Is it the scorching days of July or the monsoons in August? Research local trends and adapt. Be flexible and responsive to guest needs.

**WHERE THE SUN SETS, YOUR BOOKINGS RISE**  
As the desert sun blazes, your vacation rental business can flourish. So, dust off those poolside loungers, set up the barbecue, and welcome the summer with open doors. When the saguaros cast long shadows, your guests will find solace—and you'll find success. ■

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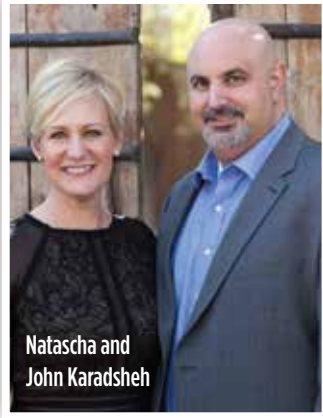
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REAL ESTATE

# Growth Drives Stability in our Regional Market

By John and Natascha Karadsheh, Designated Broker, Associate Broker, and Owners, KOR Properties



Mortgage rates jumped to a national average of 7.33% on April 17 on the news that inflation was stickier than expected and that the Fed would not be cutting rates anytime soon (or even at all in 2024).

But even before this news, real estate buyer demand was 5% lower in the first quarter than during the same quarter of 2023 and down approximately 26% from the first quarter of 2020 (pre-COVID). Despite softer demand, according to data prepared by the Arizona Regional MLS, the median sales price is 5.65% higher year-over-year. So even though demand has softened and homes are sitting on the market longer – prices are stable.

The stability can definitely be attributed to limited housing inventory, but it is also reflective of the strength of our growing and diverse regional economy. We have believed for years that our population growth and robust economic development will ultimately insulate us from a national downturn. Here are some positive indicators that will help you better understand what is at the root of our growth and why we can continue to feel good about living and investing in Greater Phoenix.

Since September 2023, Greater Phoenix has reported lower unemployment rates compared to Arizona as a whole and the United States. In February the Greater Phoenix rate of unemployment was 3.3% compared to Arizona at 3.6% and the United States at 3.9%. Year-over-year, Greater Phoenix added 52,700 jobs and was ranked No. 1 in the country for manufacturing growth.

For the third month in a row, inflation in Greater Phoenix has stayed below the national average. In February, inflation in Greater Phoenix was at 2.2%

compared to the United States inflation rate of 3.2%.

The CHIPS and Science Act funding continues to stimulate growth in Greater Phoenix with \$6.6 billion in funding awarded to TSMC along with an announcement that the Taiwanese chipmaker will build a third fab in North Phoenix. Intel was awarded \$8.5 billion in CHIPS and Science Act funding, which will help the company build two semiconductor plants and grow their employment base from 13,000 jobs to 16,000 jobs. The growth of TSMC and Intel have also resulted in 20 semiconductor or supplier related companies locating to Greater Phoenix in the past two-and-a-half years. Many of those companies are just beginning to set up shop and have not yet started hiring.

Mesa is growing rapidly and is on pace to surpass Tucson as the second largest city in Arizona within the decade. On top of growth, the zip code surrounding Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport, 85212, is the number one zip code for spec industrial space under construction in the entire United States according to a report by the CoStar Group.

Montreal-based Xnrgy Climate Systems broke ground on their \$300 million United States headquarters in Mesa at Gateway Airport this week. They will be building a 1 million square-foot production space and are expecting to create 2,000 jobs. Pentagon Technologies also announced last month that they will be making a \$50 million investment in Mesa to build a semiconductor equipment cleaning facility that will create hundreds of new jobs. These are just two of many businesses locating



or expanding in Mesa and the region.

What about water? The two worst years of national water press have ironically brought us two incredibly wet winters. In 2023, the Salt River Project (SRP) had such a surplus that they had to release an excess of water down the Salt River from the dams. By contrast, 2024 provided the perfect amount of winter precipitation. The reservoirs are between 92% to 96% full (depending on the lake), leaving plenty of room for the snow melt. Arizona has spent decades planning water usage and additionally each individual city in the region has formulated its own water portfolios.

Mesa has worked for generations to create a very robust water portfolio that is a combination of Salt River Project water, Colorado River water, and groundwater. Mesa even pumps 5 million gallons a day of extra water into an underground storage aquifer. SRP is working on a long-term expansion of the Bartlett Dam and Reservoir, which would allow for the storage of an additional year's worth of water for 1 million homes. This will help to support continued growth in the region.

There is a lot of flux nationally and internationally that may have unforeseen impacts on our economy, however, the foundation of our local economy in Greater Phoenix is solid and will insulate us from bigger storms. We are growing organically as the result of over a decade of regional advocacy, business favorable policies, and market opportunities. Our next chapter of growth is just getting started! ■



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### Northeast Mesa Area Market Report

Sales over \$540,000 for the Month of March 2024



Address	Square Feet	Community	Sold Price
2830 E Presidio St	1,798	Lehi Crossing	\$545,000
6451 E Palm St	2,222	Ridgeview	\$548,068
5951 E Tinto St	1,553	Red Mountain Ranch	\$549,000
1021 N Alba	2,146	Mountain View Highlands	\$550,000
8941 E Hannibal St	2,248	Sierra Heights	\$562,000
5917 E Fox Cir, Unit 5a	2,265	Alta Mesa	\$574,000
2306 N Floyd Dr, Unit 4	1,801	Apache Wells Mobile Park	\$585,000
2944 N Ricardo	2,504	Regency at Ridgeview Estates	\$595,000
5925 E Ivy St	2,447	Alta Mesa	\$600,000
2823 N 64th St	2,649	McDowell Ridge	\$610,000
2247 N Linda	2,370	Rancho De Arboleda	\$615,000
1516 N Calle Noventa	1,891	Sierra Heights	\$630,000
2256 N Ashbrook Cir	2,699	Southwest Groves	\$640,000
1631 N Gaylord Cir	3,056	Russell Manor	\$650,000
1251 N Gilbert Rd	2,341	Citrus Cove	\$655,000
2503 E Hope St	2,319	Chateau D'arnett	\$686,000
1838 N Avery Cir	2,827	Falcon Hill	\$688,000
2512 E Leonora St	2,850	Citrus Highlands	\$690,000
8331 E Ingramst	1,987	Mountain Bridge	\$705,000
2237 E Lynwood St	3,398	Citrus Del Ray	\$720,000
2646 N 22nd St	3,105	Village View Estates	\$720,000
8128 E Jasmine St	2,279	Monteluna	\$725,797
2052 N Red Cliff	1,898	Mountain Bridge	\$730,000
2514 N Via Serena Cir	2,542	Boulder Mountain	\$740,000
8732 E Jacaranda St	2,200	Mountain Bridge	\$740,000
1749 N Harper	1,938	Mountain Bridge	\$745,000
6241 E Saddleback St	2,862	Red Mountain Ranch	\$765,000
9832 E Glencove St	2,977	Saguaro Mountain	\$765,800
1652 N Atwood Cir	2,375	Mountain Bridge	\$785,000

Address	Square Feet	Community	Sold Price
1501 N Bernard Cir	3,906	Sierra Estates	\$799,000
6138 E Redmont Dr	2,735	Red Mountain Ranch	\$800,000
1851 N Shelby	2,680	Mountain Bridge	\$800,000
8543 E Princess Cir	3,586	Signal Heights	\$810,000
8532 E Kael St	2,108	Mountain Bridge	\$820,000
3062 E Norwood St	2,680	Vista Mesa	\$820,000
8708 E Jacaranda St	2,200	Mountain Bridge	\$825,000
5820 E Scaffell Cir	2,462	Reserve At Red Rock	\$875,000
2831 E Odessa St	2,713	Lehi Crossing	\$875,000
3180 N 82nd St	2,932	County Island	\$875,000
2864 N Kashmir	3,341	Mesa Desert Heights	\$900,000
2119 N Bridlewood	4,057	Estates at Desert Shadows	\$905,000
1915 N Lynch	2,788	Mountain Bridge	\$940,000
1806 N Waverly	2,321	Valencia at Mountain Bridge	\$955,000
1045 N Norwalk Cir	3,740	Mahogany	\$1,012,500
2337 N Trowbridge St	2,690	Summit at Mountain Bridge	\$1,018,000
2823 N 90th St	3,336	Canyon View Vistas	\$1,100,000
2351 N Estates Cir	2,690	Mountain Bridge	\$1,100,000
2662 N Chestnut Cir	5,747	Groves of Hermosa Vista	\$1,115,000
8127 E June St	3,177	Monteluna	\$1,234,995
7113 E Ingram St	3,666	Annecy	\$1,265,000
3818 E Ivy Cir	5,019	Groves North	\$1,300,000
1916 N 95th Pl	4,831	County Island	\$1,357,500
2341 N 87th Pl	4,555	Mountain Bridge	\$1,385,000
2255 N Val Vista Dr	3,934	County Island	\$2,100,000
3228 N 89th Pl	4,168	County Island	\$2,100,000
2325 N Channing	5,347	Hermosa Estates	\$2,300,000
3622 E Mallory Cir	5,500	Deroche Estates	\$2,500,000

Information gathered from the Arizona Regional Multiple Listing Service is deemed reliable, but not guaranteed. Sales Information Provided By John Karadsheh, ABR, CRS, DESIGNATED BROKER • KOR Properties www.KORproperties.com

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LOCAL BUSINESS

## May Flowers Bring Sinus Powers

By Gina Van Luven, Owner, Prime IV Hydration & Wellness – Red Mountain Gateway

It's that time of year again where your sinuses may realize everything is in bloom. Allergies are the body's reaction to a foreign protein it sees as an enemy. The result is your immune system sending out histamine.

Before you go grab an *antihistamine*, keep in mind that histamine is responsible for several necessary bodily functions like body temperature, digestion, blood pressure, emotions, memory, sleep-wake cycles, and even neurotransmitter regulation.

Essentially, the body is misfiring... performing the act it is supposed to, but at the wrong time.

So why do we get allergies in the first place? There are many theories, including intestinal worms, parasites, medications, and toxins like pesticides, dioxins, BPAs, and many others. We can also inherit defective gene snips responsible for mediating enemy versus non-enemy. Lack of nutrition may also play a role in the immune system's ability to function optimally.



If you suffer from allergies, you may benefit from nutrition therapy, as well as detoxification. Your liver does much of the detoxifying. Unfortunately, with the overload of toxins in our modern society, it can get severely overloaded. If your body can't effectively clear toxins, they get stored and built up in your body and can cause health issues, like allergies.

What can help? Glutathione is a powerful antioxidant that supports your liver in the breakdown of toxins and free radicals, reduces inflammation, helps repair DNA, and even supports digestion, all of which can help alleviate allergic symptoms. Specific to allergies, glutathione has been shown to decrease congestion and mucous build-up. Foods highest in glutathione are spinach, avocado, asparagus, and okra.

Unfortunately, with much of society having impaired digestion and the lack of nutrients in our food, it is difficult to get enough glutathione through diet alone. Oral supplementation is helpful; but you may only uptake 10 to 20 percent of what is in the supplement. Injectable and intravenous glutathione is delivered to your bloodstream, bypassing digestion, so you receive the full benefits of the nutrient.

At Prime IV Hydration & Wellness, we provide glutathione in both intravenous and injectable forms to help you optimize your immune system and help your body overcome allergy symptoms. We offer a variety of other nutrients, as well, to support you with your wellness goals. ■

Call us at (480) 992-4202 or go to [primeivestmesa.com](http://primeivestmesa.com) for more information. Prime IV Hydration & Wellness – Red Mountain Gateway is located at 2025 N. Power Road in Suite 106.

LOCAL BUSINESS

## Guerin Swim School Offers Private Swim Lessons for All Ages, Abilities

By Jamie Killin

Trent Guerin is applying his decades of swim instruction experience to Guerin Swim School, offering private swim lessons for all ages to swimmers across East Mesa.

The longtime Las Sendas resident first discovered his love of teaching swim lessons when he and his brother, who were both competitive swimmers, would help their mom with her summer swim lesson business. Trent continued his love of swimming by swimming competitively at Northern Arizona University.

Later in life he would continue to teach on and off, and now wants to use his expertise and love of swimming to teach swimmers of all levels – from beginners to advanced swimmers as well as those with specific goals, like triathlon swimming. His extensive experience also includes teaching children who are neurodivergent or have special needs.

He also helps promote water safety by teaching children as young as six months old, helping to build water awareness and instilling water skills like floating and climbing out of the pool.

"Teaching children to respect the water while also instilling the importance of swimming skills is crucial for their safety," he said. "I use gradual learning techniques through fun activities to keep my students engaged. This approach helps to build their confidence and competence in the water over time."

Trent teaches lessons at his home pool or can travel to the student's home. For more advanced students, he can teach them at the Las Sendas pool to focus on



Trent Guerin and student

laps, or for those who want to focus on open water swimming he can travel with the student to an appropriate location for specialized instruction.

All Guerin Swim School lessons are private to ensure students get the most benefit from their time with Trent.

"I find people learn faster if the lessons are one-on-one," he said. "It makes a huge difference if it's a half hour class and they're getting my devoted attention – we can make a lot of progress in our time together that way."

Trent offers competitive pricing, much lower than larger swim school rates, which helps to make private lessons affordable. He can also work with swimmers to determine exactly how many classes they'll need, but typically recommends five to 10. ■

For more information, call or text Trent at (480) 330-7053 so he can answer questions on any specific swim instruction needs you or your family might have.

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**HEALTH**

**Pain can be managed with natural therapies**

By Dr. Jordan Trapp, Naturopathic Medical Centers



Naturopathic doctors approach pain management with a comprehensive perspective, seeking to understand and address the root causes of pain rather than just masking the symptoms.

This involves conducting thorough assessments, including diagnostic tests like X-rays or MRIs, to accurately identify the source of pain. Once the underlying issues are identified, I advocate for natural therapies that not only alleviate pain but also promote healing and long-term relief.

One such therapy is prolotherapy, which involves injecting a solution, typically containing dextrose, into the affected area, such as a joint or tendon. This injection induces a localized inflammatory response, triggering the body's natural healing mechanisms. Over time, this process strengthens ligaments and tendons, addressing the underlying cause of pain in conditions like chronic musculoskeletal pain, osteoarthritis, and sports injuries.

Another effective therapy is platelet-rich plasma (PRP) therapy. This involves extracting a small amount of the patient's own blood, processing it to concentrate the platelets, and then injecting the concentrated platelet-rich plasma into the site of injury or pain, such as a tendon or joint. The growth factors and proteins found in platelets promote tissue repair and regeneration, reducing inflammation and promoting healing. PRP therapy is commonly used for conditions like tendon injuries, ligament sprains, osteoarthritis, and chronic pain.

Perineural therapy is another valuable tool in the naturopathic approach to pain management. This therapy involves injecting a solution, often containing dextrose or a local anesthetic, into the tissue surrounding nerves. The aim is to modulate nerve function, interrupt pain signals, and promote healing and regeneration of damaged nerve tissue. Perineural therapy is particularly beneficial for conditions involving nerve pain, such as neuropathy, neuralgia, and chronic pain syndromes.

In addition to these targeted therapies, I emphasize the importance of incorporating complementary modalities like acupuncture, cupping, turmeric, and CBD oil into pain management plans. Acupuncture helps rebalance the body's energy flow, alleviating pain and promoting overall well-being. Cupping therapy improves blood circulation, reduces muscle tension, and provides gentle relief, particularly in areas like the back and neck. CBD oil, derived from the cannabis plant, offers anti-inflammatory properties and pain relief without the adverse effects associated with traditional medications.

By addressing the root causes of pain and utilizing natural therapies, our goal is to provide individuals with sustainable relief and empower them to take an active role in managing their pain while optimizing their overall health and well-being. If you are dealing with chronic pain, or a recent injury, we hope to see you soon!

We wanted to extend our thanks and gratitude to everyone who came out to celebrate our ribbon cutting ceremony and open house with us. Your presence made the event even more special, and we're so grateful for your support. We look forward to continuing to build strong connections and partnerships within our community. ■

Naturopathic Medical Centers is now accepting new patients at our Mesa location at 3654 N. Power Road. Call (480) 590-0272 now to schedule a complimentary meet and greet with one of our doctors to better understand how we can help you on your journey of health and wellness. To learn more, visit [wvncaz.com](http://wvncaz.com).



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EDUCATION

# MESA'S FUTURE LEADERS

Four Seniors Awarded for Outstanding Community Service and Commitment to Lifelong Engagement



Natalie Pacheco, Westwood High



Camryn Long, Red Mountain



Ava Rodrigues, Mountain View



Kassandra Macias, Westwood High

Story by Laurie Struna  
Photos by Tim Hacker/MPS

Four outstanding seniors from Mesa Public Schools have been awarded Student Community Service Awards by the Mesa Citizen of the Year Association. Ava Rodrigues (Mountain View), Camryn Long (Red Mountain), Kassandra Macias (Westwood High), and Natalie Pacheco (Westwood High) each received a \$2,500 scholarship in recognition of their exceptional dedication to community service.

To qualify, students must complete a minimum of 150 service hours during high school and demonstrate a strong commitment to ongoing community involvement. The Mesa Citizen of the Year Association underscores the significance of honoring the impactful volunteer efforts of Mesa Public Schools students, who actively contribute to city programs, nonprofits, and other vital community initiatives.

A spokesperson for the association shares, "These students are not only making a meaningful impact through their volunteer efforts, but they are also developing into the community leaders of tomorrow. By celebrating their achievements, we hope to inspire more youth to engage in volunteerism and foster a culture of service in our city."

Ava will finish her Behavioral Health Technician certification at EVIT this year. She intends to study deaf studies at the W.A. Franke Honors College, University of Arizona, aiming to become an American Sign Language interpreter.

Reflecting on her community involvement, Ava shares, "Forming deep connections with diverse groups has been immensely rewarding. It's enriched my life and imparted

valuable skills I'll carry into my career."

Camryn plans to major in English at the University of Alabama, fast-tracking her studies for a master's degree within four years. Following this, she intends to apply to Georgetown Law, aspiring to become a constitutional attorney.

"In my Girls State service projects, my interest in constitutional law was solidified," shares Camryn. "I gained insight into upholding our liberties through direct engagement with government. My dream is to argue before the Supreme Court, impacting our rights nationally."

Kassandra intends to major in neuroscience at an out-of-state college, aiming for medical school afterward.

"Through community service, I've grown personally and discovered myself. Witnessing the passion for helping others has been inspiring," shares Kassandra. "Collaboration and effective communication have been crucial. These experiences have profoundly impacted me, leading to lasting positive changes."

Natalie plans to attend an out-of-state liberal arts college and pursue studies in global and local policy, as well as sociology. Her goal is to work in the legislative field as a congressional aide or even a congresswoman, allowing her to contribute to policy making and public service.

"I was surprised to see how many people love to donate! Sharing my journey with Crutches for Africa, many people are astounded to learn that a student could directly influence the lives of so many," expresses Natalie. "Through service, I've cultivated invaluable leadership skills and found courage within myself." ■



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REAL ESTATE

# THE BASEMENT BONUS

## Why the Basement Home is Still One of the Most Coveted on the Block

By Jennifer Sturgeon, Russ Lyon Sotheby's International Realty



Basement homes have never been more popular, and no longer is the room underground just a Midwest or East Coast amenity, as basement homes are back bigger than ever and booming across the Valley.

Just ask Lindsay Cullum-Colwell, managing principal for family and locally owned Cullum Homes. The luxury builder offers a basement option on almost every home they build and that's because she says a basement can be built in any portion of the Valley.

"Homeowners, architects, and builders looking to add basements should work with a geotechnical engineer to best understand the soil conditions on the site. If the dirt is soft, a basement is easier to dig and a homeowner can expect to see minimal added costs beyond the dirt export," Lindsay said.

But she says many areas of the Valley do have *hard dig* conditions, where excavation can be more challenging and costly. An evaluation of the area conditions during early design will help the homeowner fully consider the overall costs (in time and dollars) of the added living space.

Getting the exact cost per square foot will vary depending on the soil conditions and the micro-market where the home is being built.

"Homeowners should plan on adding that subterranean square footage at the same rate as the balance of the home and then prepare for a cost on the linear footage of a retaining wall," she said.

But the benefits can be tremendous, especially in the summer months when temperatures in the basement can run 5 to 10 degrees cooler than the rest of the house, and

while it certainly can be more cost-effective to cool the space, most of the basement designs are done to expand the living footprint on a tighter site or add a lifestyle feature to the home – like Cullum's famous *Car Bar*, which features a car display garage. The most common usage for the basement is often to add additional entertainment spaces like a home theatre or additional guest suites.

Russ Lyon Sotheby's International Realty Agent Christine Anthony is currently representing two unique properties in Northeast Mesa that feature a fully finished basement. Both custom homes offer a large entertainment space, with a kitchenette area, plus storage and two to three bedrooms with adjoining bathrooms.

One of the homes offers a playful slide that will take guests on a spiral ride from the first floor to the basement. Both homes feature home theatres, sizeable guest suites, wet bars, and refrigeration as well as ample storage space.

Christine says prospective buyers are often impressed by the grand space and the idea that you can still find basement homes in several of Northeast Mesa's neighborhoods.

"It's a huge bonus and a tremendous value add to offer the basement amenity," Christine said. "Buyers love basement homes and rightfully so. They offer families another

wonderful level in the home where they can entertain and spread out, especially when there are additional bedrooms in the basement. Additionally, housing a home theatre in the basement space can keep the sound more contained than if it were on the main level. Overall, it's just a win-win."

Builders like Cullum Homes have also gotten creative when it comes to adding more light. "We often utilize window wells to drop natural light into the basement to bring that Arizona sunshine into the living spaces as these are not your typical Midwestern style basement," said Lindsay.

A partial and full basement both refer to underground living surrounded by dirt on all sides. The differential is how much of the home's ground-level footprint has occupiable space beneath it. A walkout basement is usually found on a site where the topography allows for at least one side of the subterranean area to open to a ground level – usually found in hillside homes.

But the rarity of basements in the Valley comes down to cost, Lindsay said. In the Valley, the footers of new construction are much shallower than those necessary in colder climates, so the added cost of the dig at the site and constructing retaining walls make basements a more costly endeavor, especially if the homeowner desires a ceiling height that echoes the grandness of the rest of the home – often 10 feet or taller. The added ceiling height found in Arizona basements allows for more design options, taller windows to let in more natural light, and a seamless flow from the rest of the home.

"While basement homes are not as common here in the Valley, we can help identify neighborhoods that offer basement options," Christine said. "As we are soon approaching summer temperatures, you may find the basement becomes your favorite part of the home." ■



'Car Bar' by Cullum Homes

Christine Anthony and Jennifer Sturgeon are licensed real estate agents with Russ Lyon Sotheby's International Realty. Combined, the duo has more than 25 years helping clients buy and sell homes in The Valley of the Sun. They are both longtime residents of Northeast Mesa, where they have raised families and become an integral part of the community. For more information, please call (480) 200-0972 or email [canthonyre@gmail.com](mailto:canthonyre@gmail.com).



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LOCAL BUSINESS

# Fat Loss Facts versus Fiction

Submitted by The Exercise Coach®

With type 2 diabetes, heart disease, and America's waistline bulging to frightening highs, it is clear that what we think we know, and what we've been led to believe about fat loss, is not only wrong, but completely backward.

That's right. Your difficulty losing weight is truly not your fault. You have been misinformed for years about healthy eating (i.e., fat makes you fat; replace fat with carbs). You have been misinformed about exercise's role in reducing body fat. And, you have been bombarded by celebrity messages that claim, "This worked for me, so it will work for you."

At The Exercise Coach® we make it our policy not to cave in to popular fitness trends, but rather to go wherever the science of fat loss and exercise leads us. It is our hope that you take the time to read, understand, and pass along this information to as many people as you can. Share it with others so together you can maximize your fitness and fat-loss efforts while enjoying total freedom from time-consuming and defeating conventional approaches.

You can enjoy maximum fitness and fat loss results with just 20 to 40 minutes of exercise per week – and I will tell you how. First, let's start tearing down the myths.

### MYTH #3 CORE EXERCISES ARE TUMMY TONERS

When I look at this one, I think, "C'mon, nobody really believes that." However, my experience working with thousands of people confirms it has a firm hold on its position as one of the most propagated fat-loss myths. Every year, around the holidays, a news article will be published that goes something like this: "Achieving a toned, sexy tummy might seem like a pipe dream this time of year. Baggy sweaters



abound, eggnog is served, and Frosty the Snowman doesn't offer much in the way of flat-belly inspiration. But getting a sleek, sexy stomach is easier than you think. Spend just five minutes a day on toning your abs and you'll get an amazing middle."

Wrong! Today people refer to strengthening exercises for the mid-section as *core* exercises. Now, there is a lot of confusion surrounding the term *core*, but before I get to that, I'd like to focus on the word *toning*. Look at that excerpt again. It says a *toned* tummy can be achieved by *toning* exercises. This is simply not true.

The term *tone*, scientifically speaking, refers to the residual tension in a muscle at rest. By strengthening a

muscle, you do tend to improve its tone or make it firmer. However, this is not what most people mean when they use the term *tone* or *toning*.

Instead, they believe that performing exercises for the muscles in a specific area of the body makes that area leaner. So, they believe that exercising the abdominals will flatten their tummy. This myth has been described by exercise scientists as the *spot-reduction* myth. It's biologically impossible. Strengthening the muscles in your mid-section has no impact on the fat that lies on top of them. Your fat cells don't even know that you are exercising.

Imagine if this myth were reality. You could literally exercise the fat off one side of your body. But we know intuitively and from science that it doesn't work that way. Researchers once looked at the dominant arm of pro tennis players to see if it was leaner than their non-dominant arm. The results: While it was a little more muscular, it was not less fat. This demonstrates that when fat cells are tapped by your body for energy, they are accessed from all over, not just from the area being exercised.

Your body actually has a preference for the order in which it will burn fat from your body. Unfortunately for all of us, the fat cells on the stomach come off last. You can do crunches until you can't move, but you will lose fat from your arms, legs, and earlobes before your body decides to take it from the midsection. Unfortunately, you can't change your body's mind on this one. That tummy can be flattened though. You just have to work your way through the fat cells in the rest of your body before you get there.

Coming next month – Myth No. 4. In the meantime, the choice is yours to make and at The Exercise Coach® we can help. ■

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DISCOVER ARIZONA

# Queen Creek Olive Mill

## An Arizona Agritourism Destination

By Kimberly Alvarado

Discover an exceptional Arizona experience just beyond the city limits at the Queen Creek Olive Mill. This family-owned farm seamlessly blends agriculture and tourism to provide you with an impressive experience.

Did you know the Queen Creek Olive Mill is the only family-owned olive mill and farm in Arizona?

The Rae family's dream of owning Arizona's only family-owned olive mill and farm began with a simple farm shed, situated beneath the backdrop of the Superstition Mountains. Today the space and property has grown into the Queen Creek Olive Mill. Now, open to the public, the farm includes spaces to celebrate family, sustainability, good health, and well-being.



Founders Perry and Brenda Rae are accomplished olive oil sommeliers who proudly present their award-winning extra virgin olive oils at the mill. Peek at the website for tasteful

family recipes, which incorporate the extra virgin olive oils available onsite.

The Queen Creek Olive Mill is situated at 25062 S. Meridian Road in Queen Creek, Ariz., and it's a unique agritourism destination where you can dip, taste, and drizzle into the world of olive oil.

During your visit you can attend an educational tour, called Olive Oil 101, where you will learn the fascinating process of olive oil production, its culinary uses, and its health benefits. Perry and Brenda refer to the process *from blossom to bottle*.

The concept is their guideline, starting with our environment, continues through production processes and, finally, enhances a tasteful experience for customers and guests at the farm.

After your tour, step into the marketplace, where you will find an array of flavorful oil, vinegars, sauces, and other culinary essentials.

Spa products are also available at the olive spa in the form of all-natural skincare, lotions, and soaps. Whether you're shopping for yourself or seeking unique gift items to fill a basket for Mom this Mother's Day, you'll find plenty of options.

Don't miss the Italian-inspired menu choices at the indoor eatery. It's a great place to grab a snack, a meal, or a craft beer. The Queen Creek Olive Mill is a place where

family, sustainability, good food, and a sense of well-being come together.



The Rae family extends their hospitality to you by allowing you to immerse yourself in the tranquility of nature within the property. Bring the family to sit beneath the shade of the olive trees, enjoy the farm-to-table menu options, and listen to the soft sounds of live music.

This month, the event calendar at the farm includes a pizza date night, and a Memorial Day Grill at the Mill from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., with free admission, grill-inspired menus, games in the grove, and live entertainment.

Whether you're a food enthusiast or simply curious, the Queen Creek Olive Mill promises an enjoyable experience. ■

Visit [queencreekolivemill.com](http://queencreekolivemill.com) for more information, or call (480) 888-9290. The olive mill is located at 25062 S. Meridian Road, in Queen Creek.

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