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#### on the cover

A view of one of the courtyards at the home of Susan and Paul Stander, site of many gatherings involving family, friends and community members.

Check out their story on page 32.

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## community contributors

**Mayor** Mark Stanton

#### Town of Paradise Valley Council members

Ellen Andeen-Keller Christine Labelle Karen Liepmann Scott Moore Julie Pace Anna Thomasson

#### Independent Newsmedia team

#### advertising sales

Brett Beckwith Jim Bounds Michelle Gavagan

#### advertising design

Erik Maurer Chris Pitts Chris Williams

#### news content & editing

Ryan Winslett Cyrus Guccione Phil Haldiman J. Graber Janet Perez Linda McThrall

#### **president & CEO**Charlene Bisson

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he Town of Paradise Valley Independent has been serving the community for 40 years. We are blessed to have the long-term support of advertisers to provide weekly news coverage on town happenings.

We have also had generous donations through the years from our readers, from voluntary pay support to grants for local charities. We will always be thankful for community members like you.

The annual TPV Community
Magazine has been a favorite to
produce because stories are not only
provided by Independent Newsmedia's
newsroom, but also the town council

and residents.

Mayor Mark Stanton grew up in the town, which you can read about in his welcome.

Council member Julie Pace shares snippets from residents about why they love living in the town while Council member Christine Labelle shares information about historic architecture finds.

Independent Newsmedia journalist J. Graber profiles Cherokee and Kiva elementary schools, covering their top education goals, to mention a few articles in this publication.

Of course, although he has passed away, I always loved the fact that Bil Keane lived in the town. He made the logos for the 40th and 50th anniversary celebrations of the town.

I read his comics as a child in The Arizona Republic, and today, we continue to purchase and publish the Family Circus for our Phoenix Independent subscribers.

Please let me know how you think we can improve the Town of Paradise Valley Independent. Email me at cbisson@iniusa.org.

We hope you enjoy this year's community magazine.

Happy perusing!



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## Our own little slice of paradise



ear fellow Paradise Valley residents,

Since its incorporation in 1961, the Town of Paradise Valley has created a remarkable community. Today, our residents enjoy a very high quality of life, including a low-density residential setting surrounded by beautiful natural scenery. And Paradise Valley has become the home to some of the most remarkable luxury resorts in the country.

I am so proud to serve as the mayor of Paradise Valley. This position has provided me with the opportunity to work daily with my fellow residents and council members to protect our town's priorities; specifically, a limited government model with an emphasis on public safety, financial stability and high

customer service accomplished through our professional staff.

Paradise Valley residents enjoy a low-density residential lifestyle that is intertwined with genuine small-town character and charm. From the beautiful open spaces on our mountains to our valued partnerships with our amazing resorts, Paradise Valley offers residents and visitors an unparalleled lifestyle experience.

I feel privileged to have grown up in Paradise Valley and now to raise my family in the same beautiful town.

Our amazing and involved residents are the most outstanding features about Paradise Valley. Our town is one of a kind, from its incredible community volunteers to its luxurious home designs and engaged residents.

We are so fortunate to have such wonderful residents that truly appreciate and work to support the lifestyle and character of our town.

As I continue my longstanding volunteer service to our town, I am grateful to our residents and professional staff that commit themselves to maintaining a town that is world-renowned as well as a world-class destination.

This annual Community
Magazine, presented by Paradise
Valley Independent newspaper
publisher Independent Newsmedia
Inc., provides a wonderful
overview of our town and its great
amenities.

I hope you enjoy learning more about the Town of Paradise Valley while reading this Community Magazine.



## Welcome from Stone Canyon Neighbors!

Town with its scenic vistas, iconic mountains, open space, and dark skies. We are the Stone Canyon neighbors who live on the northside of Camelback Mountain. We are strong advocates for our Town's quality of life and have worked with others to stop developments, projects, and policies that do not support our Town values.

## Our neighborhood has:

- Been instrumental in conserving open space high on Camelback Mountain by encouraging and supporting donations of private property
- **2.** Opposed variances and applications for developments that would result in scarring Town mountains
- **3.** Supported restricting dynamiting on the mountains
- **4.** Worked to ensure safety in hillside construction
- **5.** Addressed drainage and infrastructure issues that affect our hillsides and valley
- **6.** Opposed reducing setbacks in front yards
- 7. Advocated for the landscaped medians on McDonald Drive
- 8. Initiated and worked to underground utilities

In addition, a group of Stone Canyon neighbors developed and published a children's book, The Story of Camelback Mountain by Estelle Cohen and Pam Hait and illustrated by Sebastien Millon to teach children the value of conservation. Because of generous PV donors, 100% of the proceeds from book sales benefit the Paradise Valley Mountain Preservation Trust (PVMPT). To date we have sold approximately 2000 copies.

We invite you to join us in our mission to keep the paradise in Paradise Valley. It's an important job and we welcome your help.

#### With Warmest Regards,

**Stone Canyon Residents** 

Terry and David Appel Joan and Charles Clancy Vita Rowe and David Borneman Kathy and Ron Brown Dr. Marilyn Gianetti Pam Hait Ingrid and Al Harrison Kate and Joe Hogan

Jane and Mal Jozoff

Theresa Mao
Roscoe Nichols and Ryan Wooddy
Susan and Jeff Scoon
Julie Pace and David Selden
Tracy and Scott Tonn
Rita and Jay Varty
Drs. Teresa and Joe Zachariah
Sheila and Michael Zuieback

and many others...



# Special places make Paradise Valley feel like home



Paradise Valley is unique, with its iconic mountains, open space, hybrid dark sky, underground utilities and world-class resorts. What are some of the special places that residents believe make Paradise Valley feel like "home sweet home?"

Town Hall, for folks like Pam Georgelos, chair of the town's Planning Commission, is the heartbeat of the community.

"I have the opportunity and privilege to regularly visit Town Hall and the post office," she said. "I choose Town Hall as one of my favorite places, as it is the hub of the town that is open to all."

Amy Carney said she loves Paradise Valley, all the kids and relationships with parents and neighbors.

"Years ago, we chose to make Paradise Valley our home so our children could attend the town's highly acclaimed Cherokee Elementary School," Carney said. "I'm honored to now help kids and serve as one of your elected Governing Board members for the Scottsdale Unified School District alongside Arizona Senator Carine Werner, a mom I first met when our children were at Cherokee together."

For others, it's less about a specific place and more about the feeling

they get while walking through the community. Colleen Lomax and Dayna Kully said they are inspired while walking their dogs amid the gorgeous mountains.

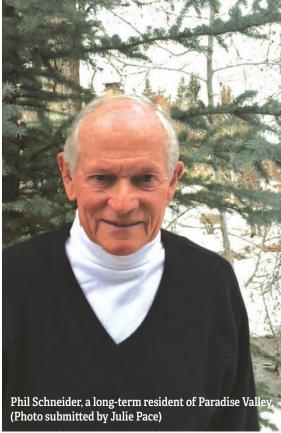
Lomax said she enjoys "spending time with my neighbors, the views, the size and community desire to keep the town calmly residential with one-acre lots and wide-open vistas, and the Paradise Valley police who keep us safe."

Kully said she agreed wholeheartedly with Lomax.

"I also like that there are no commercial businesses in the town and that there are volunteers who know their compass to protect the town and share their time to provide checks and balances to preserve our quality of life," Kully added.

Long-term resident Phil Schneider has done much to preserve Paradise Valley and offers a unique perspective.

"Our family moved to Arizona from Illinois in 1949, and built a home on the eastern slopes of Mummy Mountain, near the Mockingbird and Cheney Roads intersection," Schneider said. "Both roads were unpaved. There were almost no other houses in the area. It was more than 10 years before the Town was incorporated. I grew up



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Julie Pace and David Selden applaud the many Paradise Valley residents who support non-profits in the Valley. Non-profits are critical to our quality of life and to the economic vitality of our community. Paradise Valley residents are respected and appreciated for their generosity.

We are both proud to have donated more than \$2 million of pro bono legal services to the Phoenix Symphony during the past 40 years, and David is the longest running Board Member of the Phoenix Symphony. Learn more or buy tickets at phoenixsymphony.org

Julie also was one of the co-founding board members of the Southwest Shakespeare Company. <a href="mailto:swshakespeare.org">swshakespeare.org</a>



Please enjoy and consider the organizations we support, including the Phoenix Symphony, Desert Botanical Garden, the Musical Instrument Museum, the Phoenix Art Museum, the Heard Museum, Liberty Wildlife, the Arizona Humane Society, Nature Conservancy, Save the Family, Paradise Valley Mountain Preserve Trust, Mesa Arts Center, the Scottsdale Cultural Council, and more. <a href="https://www.phoenixsymphony.org/">https://www.phoenixsymphony.org/</a>





he Town of Paradise Valley has been gifted with the work of many significant architects, including Bennie Gonzales, Frank Lloyd Wright protege William Wesley Peters, Blaine Drake and others from Taliesin; Michael Goodwin, Will Bruder, Al Beadle and more.

These properties celebrate the lasting legacy of Arizona architects as well as the enduring and unique Arizona connection and legacy of Frank Lloyd Wright.

"The history of design and architecture in our town is cemented in the very fabric of our community since its beginnings," said long-term resident and town volunteer Scot Jarson. "The significance of these structures, designed by Wright, his protégés like Peter Montooth, as well as Gonzales, reflects the rich interaction of these significant architects, many of whom were town residents as well. Their history is our history."

This history is put in the spotlight, in part, by the Historic Advisory Committee, which has had a trailblazing and busy year. With Catherine Kauffman at the helm as chairperson since 1996, the committee has been busy preserving oral, written and physical history. Members Beth Wickstrom, Jenny Nagel, Jennifer Gustafson, Jennifer Garrison, Susan Schultz, along with retired and honorary members Kathryn Gasser and Maureen Strom, have found creative ways to incentivize restoration and celebrate Paradise Valley's heritage. This year two new members, Whitney Hunchack and Kathy Hanke, join the team.

The committee honored the town by organizing a Heritage Celebration in early 2025 for residents whose homes have been recognized as historic, and for those whose rich histories were preserved by their interviews. Former mayors and significant town contributors were in attendance. According to organizers, it was originally conceived as a way to bring the elder generations back together, some of whom may not have seen each other in decades.

Homes recognized by the Historic Advisory Committee are presented with a plaque acknowledging their status. (Independent Newsmedia/Ryan Winslett)

The celebration included upwards of 75 people whose lives helped shape Paradise Valley. The site of the event was hosted by one of the owners of recognized properties, John Pappas.

The committee continues to work toward educating residents on the benefits and importance of preserving the community's history by public outreach, organic communication and continuing their oral interviews.

"In the '50s and '60s, Paradise Valley was an open desert," Chairperson Catherine Kauffman explained. "(You) could ride your horse everywhere, on a trail around Mummy Mountain, and then stop for a drink at the old iconic El Chorro, or to downtown Scottsdale for groceries. If you were more adventurous, you could ride to Reata Pass or go on a jackrabbit hunt through the reservations.

"For those who loved to dance, there was Ride 'n Rock ranch for a night of square-dancing. Back then, you didn't

Continue on Page 23





In a gated 18-home enclave, this single level home offers unparalleled luxury and sophistication. Impressive entryway opens to soaring ceilings and an expansive living room with walls of glass, Chef's kitchen with top-of-the-line appliances, Family room with wet bar, expansive primary suite with updated bath and large walk in closet, resort-style backyard featuring a spool, BBQ station, fire pit, and covered patio. 3 car oversized garage. 7150 E BALFOUR ROAD PARADISE VALLEY, AZ 85253 / 4 BED / 4 BATH 3791 SF / \$2,780,000



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# Auto enthusiasts are at home in Paradise Valley

#### Revved up for Veterans' Appreciation Vintage Car Show

This Nov. 8, Paradise Valley will celebrate its 20th year of hosting its largest annual event, the Veterans' Appreciation Vintage Car Show.

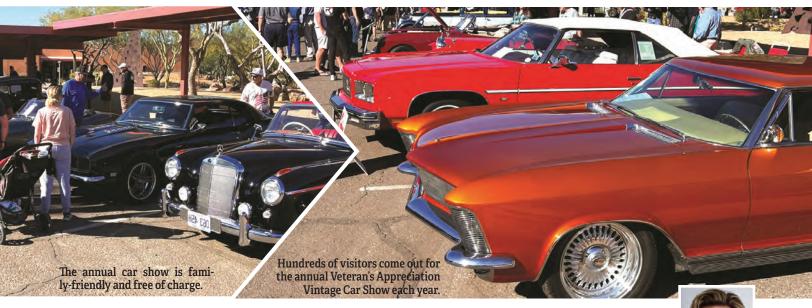
Every year the mayor and town council and all committee members and volunteers invite residents and friends to take those amazing collector cars out of their garages and drive them to Town Hall to celebrate and show support for veterans. It couldn't be done without resident volunteers, professional staff, several former mayors, council members, committee members, police department and public works personnel.

Almost 20 years ago, Paradise Valley resident and car enthusiast, Bob Lavina, was driving through the community and noticed town employees and volunteers raising money by offering car washes to any car traveling by. Bob pulled in and, after having his car washed, suggested a car show might be a better way to raise funds. And so, the annual event was born.

From those humble beginnings, Lavina spoke to Diane Wayland, legal support specialist for the Town Attorney's office, who brought the idea forward to then-Vice Mayor Ed Winkler. Winkler presented the idea to Mayor Ron Clark. Both being huge car enthusiasts, discussed the possibilities and loved the idea.

A few years later, with the help of Lavina, and those individuals listed above, the first show took place, welcoming upwards of 80 cars. The event is still led by former mayor Ed Winkler and continues to sell out its display spots every year, bringing in over 150 classic cars today. The volunteers work together all year planning the event, and it shows a true reflection of the town's values. Last year's event alone raised over \$13,700 for military veterans.

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TOPRIGHT: Taylor Hunter, Diane Wayland, Christopher Downey, Chris Martinez, Scott Moore, Warren Kosters, Jimmy Phan, Erik Marsh, Issac Chavira, Ed Winkler and, not photographed, Andrew Chang, Rick Mahrle, Robert Backie and Rick Adams invite everyone out to the upcoming Veterans' Appreciation Vintage Car Show. (Photos courtesy Town of Paradise Valley)

By Scott Moore, Town of Paradise Valley Council member



The Paradise Valley Mountain Preserve Trust's mission is the preservation of the natural landscape, desert plants, wildlife, and scenic beauty of the mountain areas within and surrounding the Town of Paradise Valley.

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John Graham, Chair George Getz, Vice-Chair Christa Berlanti Steve Evans Scott LeMarr Fred Pakis, Past Chair Rene Romero Joan Levinson, Emeritus Phil Schneider, Emeritus



Learn How You Can Help www.pvmpt.org

## A community dedicated to safety

Paradise Valley has one of the safest communities in the state of Arizona. The Paradise Valley Police Department (PVPD) is well-respected and supported in Paradise Valley, and department members work hard to ensure the community is safe.

PVPD is also committed to engaging with the community and does so in a variety of ways.

First, the PVPD holds a monthly "Coffee with a Cop," where residents are invited to the police station to learn and have a cup of coffee with Chief Freeman Carney.

PVPD also hosts "Blue Wednesday" events, where officers have lunch with children at the various Town of Paradise Valley schools. It is a fun and interactive experience, and the police officers say they love it as much as the kids.

The Police Department offers a "Vacation Watch" program that checks in on homes while residents are away. Residents can register online at paradisevalleyaz.gov/141/Vacation-Watch.

You Are a Not Alone, or "YANA," is another signature program from PVPD. Police volunteers, in conjunction with the officers, check on older residents and help ensure they are safe and have everything they need. Those interested in the program can sign up online at paradisevalleyaz. gov/674/You-Are-Not-Alone-YA-NA.

One way to get involved in the community is through the Police Volunteer Program. The community has volunteers who are collegial and serve the town and support the Police Department's activities. To learn more or get involved, go to paradisevalleyaz.gov/626/Police-Volunteers.

Another way to get involved is to either attend or apply to volunteer for the Advisory Committee on Public Safety (ACOPS). Resident volunteers address timely topics to educate residents and conduct outreach to residents. For more information or to

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attend a meeting, go to the calendar at paradisevalleyaz.gov. This committee is always looking to spread awareness about areas of concern with outreach projects such as Opioid Epidemic Week.

The global philanthropy for law enforcement is Special Olympics, and that's true for the PVPD. Residents can join in the annual torch run that comes through Paradise Valley or volunteer to go "Over the Edge." In November, volunteers who have raised \$1,000 (the cost of one athlete in Special Olympics) rappel a 27-story building in Phoenix.

Finally, the town offers a text or call system called "Alert PV" that keeps residents aware of timely public safety and town-related items. To sign up, visit paradisevalleyaz.gov/AlertPV.

Speaking personally, I am a third generation Paradise Valley resident and have enjoyed the safety our police department provides my whole life. In fact, the reason I got involved as a police volunteer was because of the positive experience I had with PVPD when I was a child growing up in this town. The police were a part of our family. I encourage the people of Paradise Valley to get to know the officers who patrol our community. They enjoy meeting and knowing our residents.

Members of the Paradise Valley Police
Department took
part in Over the Edge
in November 2024,
a fundraising event
sponsored by Special Olympics Arizona
and, with the help of
a supportive community, raised more than
\$26,000 for the program. (Photo provided
by Jimmy Phan)





Officer Jimmy Phan meets with youngsters for one of PVPD's Blue Wednesday events. (Photo provided by Jimmy Phan)



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# HOME VALUES TELL THE STORY OF A TOWN WELL LOVED

By Greg Hague

Before Paradise Valley became a town, residents used to gather at the old Jokake Inn for informal town hall meetings under the stars where they also held discussions as to whether the area should incorporate. The only law enforcement back then was a single town marshal who patrolled mostly dirt roads. The area was mostly citrus groves and open desert, dotted with a few ranch-style homes and isolated luxury getaways. Fast forward to 2025, and this once-quiet patch of Sonoran desert is now one of the most desirable (and valuable) places to live in the country.

I've had the joy of calling Paradise Valley home for many years. Teresa and I have watched this special community grow and flourish while still holding onto its soul. It's a wonder to see how far PV has come, including skyrocketing home values. Let's face it: many of us who live here today can't help but smile and say, "Thank goodness we bought when we did."

#### **Home Values Then and Now**

Back in the 1960s, the average home in Paradise Valley sold for around \$35,000. Today? That same home (adjusted, upgraded, and sitting on the same precious land) would fetch \$3.5–\$5 million. That's not just inflation; that's transformation. It's the story of a town that's been meticulously nurtured by visionary leaders and engaged residents who care deeply about quality of life.

Here's a decade by decade look at the average entry level price to buy a home in

our little town of Paradise Valley:

1960s: \$35,000+
1970s: \$75,000+
1980s: \$175,000+
1990s: \$450,000+

2000s: \$1 million+2010s: \$1.8 million+

2020s (2025): \$3.5 million+

It's not luck. Paradise Valley's incredible appreciation is a testament to decades of thoughtful governance by mayors and town councils who have insisted on low-density zoning, preserved natural beauty, and upheld a strong sense of community. Add in our volunteer committees and civic groups, and we have a town that truly stands apart from most others.

#### **Curiosities Along the Way**

Did you know the iconic Camelback Inn opened in 1936, before Paradise Valley was even a town? Or that our town has tried to regulate "fugitive particulate matter"...what most of us might refer to as "dust." That kind of selective quality control is rare and has made all the difference.

Here are a few more curiosities you might not know:

- In the early years, many of our roads were unpaved and named after ranches and local families.
- Paradise Valley is one of the only towns in Arizona without a property tax.

- The town has more swimming pools per capita than most anywhere in the country.
- There are more cacti than streetlights in town...in fact, there are no streetlights!
   Our dark-sky ordinances are meant to keep the night skies clear and stargazing spectacular.

We've preserved open spaces, limited commercial creep, and focused on quality over quantity. These endearing oddities have helped shape the unique charm—and rising values—of our town.

#### **Why This Matters**

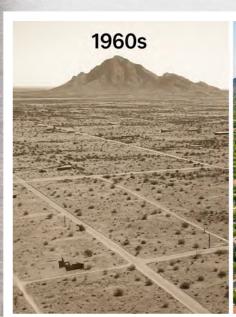
Our fast rising home values can be a double-edged sword. For those of us fortunate enough to have settled in years ago, it's a blessing and a reminder of how wise that decision was. If we had to buy our homes today, I daresay we would all feel a lot more pain in our pocketbook! But that's part of what makes our community so special: we're stewards of something that's grown more valuable with time, not just in dollars, but in lifestyle, safety, and neighborly connection.

Communities where home values rise this rapidly are those where everything comes together...the people, the planning, and the pride. From the stringent enforcement of building codes to the countless hours residents spend on beautification committees and neighborhood watches, it adds up to something greater than the sum of its parts. A lifestyle. A legacy. An investment.

#### **Coming Home**

Every evening, when I wrap up at my Scottsdale office and head south on Scottsdale Road, I look forward to one particular moment...the turn onto Cheney. There's just something about it. It's like a warm blanket of tranquility settles over me. The desert air feels gentler, the pace slows, and the quiet elegance of Paradise Valley reminds me that *this* is home.

Teresa and I often talk about how blessed we are to live here. The friends we've made, the memories we've built, the sunsets that never get old. Paradise Valley isn't just a place on the map. It's a way of life. And it's been our honor to live it alongside all of you.









# Home is where the Art is

Paradise Valley Arts
Board celebrates the arts
and those who create it

Beth Ames Swartz entertains during Studio Tours 2025.

Art has always had a home in Paradise Valley and, in April, another land-mark day was observed as the Arts Board hosted its Studio Tours 2025, visiting three artist studios in their Paradise Valley homes.

Susan Silver Brown's Balinese-inspired compound, featuring two art studios and a museum-level ethnographic art collection, offered an immersive art experience. Her career encompasses primitive art history, jewelry design, cast glass sculpture and, more recently, encaustic painting.

Jana Peterson's landscapes, abstractions and sculpture are described as dramatic, vivid and bold, merging art and technology in a way that delighted visitors during the tour. Her architecturally significant studio/home also displays artwork of her late father, Jack Peterson. This former Paradise Valley Featured Artist creates to inspire and evoke emotion, encouraging new and broader perspectives.

Another former Paradise Valley Featured Artist, Beth Ames Swartz's multimedia work reflects cultural and spiritual themes. She told those on the tour her art and life changed when she moved from New York City to Arizona in 1959.



Jana Peterson discusses her work with tour participants. (Photos submitted by Anna Thomasson)

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MIDDLE: Barbara Lacy is the 2025 featured artist, and her work can be found on display in Town Hall.

By Anna Thomasson, Paradise Valley Town Council member

#### Continued from Page 20



Each year, Paradise Valley welcomes students to display their artwork in Town Hall.

"The desert became my mentor after two rafting trips down the Colorado River in the early 70's," she said.

Through her art, Swartz aims to promote reconciliation, transformation and beauty.

This exciting new event was orchestrated thanks to the hard work of Paradise Valley Arts Board chair, Colleen Steinberg, and 12 dedicated volunteer members, and is in addition to the two signature events sponsored by the PV Arts Board each year.

In February they welcome a local grade school, their art teacher, and dozens of joyful students and their families for a special show. In 2025, Cherokee Elementary graced Paradise Valley Town Hall with works from all first, second, third and fourth grade emerging artists. The Community Room was abuzz with hundreds of their individual pieces featuring bright colors, textures and even little figurines.

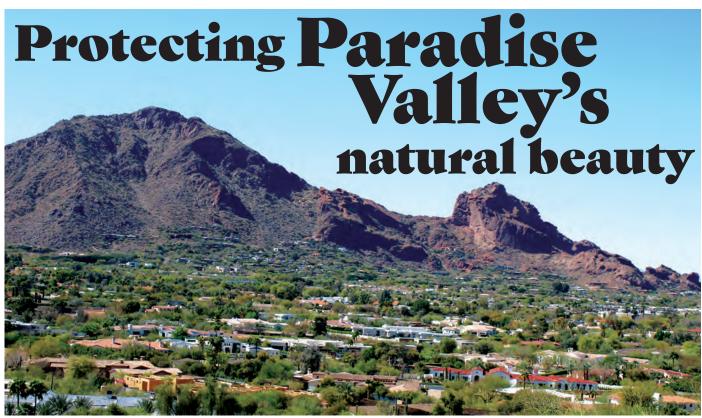
And continuing a decades-long tradition, last fall Paradise Valley welcomed Feature Artist Barbara Lacy and her dramatic, joyful and colorful landscapes, which are on display until the next featured artist is installed.

Describing her work, Lacy said, "I look for an interesting trading post, an unexpected rock formation or an ancient ruin to paint in my style, which is colorful and untraditional. I love clean, rich colors and you will see them in my red trees, orange skies, yellow hills and blue mountains. My collectors say my work 'makes them happy."

Leadership hopes the Paradise Valley Arts Board reminds everyone that "Home is here the art is." For those who haven't stopped by Town hall to see the featured artist's work this year, it's waiting there to be enjoyed and continue the celebration of art in Paradise Valley.







The Paradise Valley Mountain Preserve Trust protects the community's awe-inspiring views. (Independent Newsmedia/Ryan Winslett)

he Town of Paradise Valley was incorporated in 1961 in response to concerns that the growth in Phoenix and Scottsdale was threatening the area's low-population desert lifestyle. Since its founding, Paradise Valley has strategically worked to preserve its

unique mountain views, desert landscape and open spaces. Due to the visionary leadership of the town's early citizens, today's Paradise Valley is an oasis of natural desert beauty.

OUNTAIN PRESERV The town's inspiring

display puts the Paradise Valley Mountain Preserve Trust front and center, just inside the entrance of Town Hall. (Independent Newsmedia/Ryan Winslett)

mountain views, natural landscape and undeveloped mountain areas are the result of early actions by the town's founders. Chief among these actions are the enactment of the town's Hillside Building Code in 1984 and the establishment of the Paradise Valley Mountain Preserve Trust in 1997. Other preservations efforts include the adoption of environmentally thoughtful General Plans, a Visually Significant Corridors Master Plan, as well as early decisions to limit commercial activity, encourage low density residential development, restrict outdoor lighting, require utilities to be undergrounded, and encourage drought tolerant native plantings on hillside and municipal properties.

Residents actively engage in the town's ongoing preservation efforts. Resident volunteers hold all positions on both the Hillside Building Committee, which implements the Hillside Building Code, and the Board of Trustees of the Paradise Valley Mountain Preserve Trust.

Maps of property under the stewardship of the trust, as well as land the trust is interested in adding, are available from the town. Residents may contact the trust through Duncan Miller, at dmiller@paradisevalleyaz.gov. The town website includes a map of land designated as hillside, and thus subject to the Hillside Building Code, at paradisevalleyaz.gov/hillside.

The Town Council adopted the Hillside Building Code in 1984 with the following proclamation: "As valuable scenic resources, Camelback Mountain, Mummy Mountain and the Phoenix Mountains provide a permanent visual presence that exemplifies what is unique about

Continue on Page 27



#### Continued from Page 10

in that home on the slopes of Mummy."

Schneider recalled fun times in the town.

"For recreation in those pre-screen days, my main activity was climbing all over Mummy Mountain," Schneider said. "For more than 50 years, my wife Nancy and I raised our four children on the southern slopes of Mummy, looking directly at Camelback Mountain. I believe I know of no one who has lived on Mummy Mountain longer nor spent more time climbing all over it than I have."

He spent many years serving as a board member on the Paradise Valley Mountain Preserve Trust.

"Mummy and Camelback Mountains really are Paradise Valley and make me feel like home more than anything else."

#### Continued from Page 12 -

know if your partner was a wrangler from next door or the president of the Chicago Stock Exchange. The Town residents had a spirit of adventure and independence. Through our saved oral histories we have collected, I hope that our past will never disappear."

Historic recognition of properties is one tool the committee uses to achieve its goals, with others including archiving, conducting interviews and exploring new ways to recognize Paradise Valley's heritage.

For more information, an application for historic property recognition, historical archives and more, visit paradisevalleyaz.gov/89/Historical-Advisory-Committee.

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# Town of Paradise Valley TOWN FRANCE TOWN OF PARADISE VALLEY TOWN OF PARADISE VALLEY COMPLEX

The Town of Paradise Valley Town Hall Complex is the community's one-stop shop for municipal operations.

Located at 6401 E. Lincoln Dr., the campus is home to the Town of Paradise Valley Town Hall building, Public Works and Paradise Valley Police Department. Right next door, visitors will find the Municipal Court building and Paradise Valley Fire Department.

In Town Hall are staff offices, helpful attendants to answer questions and meeting areas for Town Council, the Planning Commission and more.

The Post Office is also located within Town Hall and is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 to 4 p.m., excluding federal holidays.

For additional information on town services and more, visit paradisevalleyaz.gov.

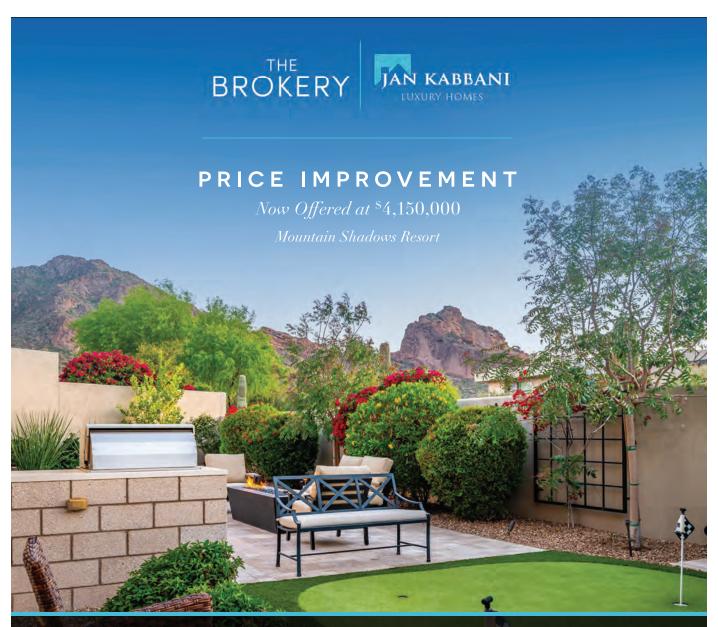


The Town of Paradise Valley Town Hall building is where you'll find the various departments that make the town run and the post office.

At the heart of the municipal complex is a small space perfect for meeting with friends or taking a moment to enjoy a little nature before heading to Town Hall, Public Works or the Paradise Valley Police Stations. (Photos by Ryan Winslett)

Town Hall is where the community gathers each month for council meetings and more.





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# A drive for top-tier education

# in Paradise Valley | Cherokee and Kiva elementary schools are learning communities

"She was the best nurse ever," Gar-

By J. Graber

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

ikki Kaiser has some dear memories of going to Cherokee Elementary School as a student: the teachers, the friends, the monkey.

Kaisier, who loves Cherokee so much that she returned in 2016 to teach kindergarten, swears there was a monkey at Cherokee when she was a student.

She couldn't find it in a yearbook, but she is adamant a science lab teacher brought a monkey in a diaper to school every day.

"That's one of my most vivid memories," Kaiser said. But even more than a mystery monkey, what warms her most about Cherokee is the tradition and community. She remembers the carnivals like Trunk or Treat and how all of her friends were in Scouts. In fact, she still stays in touch with some of her friends from elementary school and is even the godmother to one's

And if that's not enough, Kaiser's mom, Peggy Kaiser, has been employed by Cherokee since 2004, working her way up from the lunch room to the principal's

Kaiser's love for Cherokee is not unlike how Alison Meyer feels about Kiva Elementary School.

Meyer went to Kiva all the way from kindergarten through eighth grade and came back as a third grade teacher herself for the past 28 years.

She remembers the little things, like her kindergarten teacher Mrs. Moore had a plastic purse that looked like a jar of peanut butter and another that looked like a jar of jelly.

Meyer and Elizabeth Gardemann, who also went to Kiva and has taught kindergarten there for the last 26 years, also remembers Nurse Umble. She was more than just famous at the school, she was, as Meyer and Gardemann said in unison, "infamous!"



Elizabeth Gardemann is a Kiva Elementary School alum and a kindergarten teacher there for the last 26 years. (Independent Newsmedia/J. Graber)

teman said. No matter what you had, or didn't have (because, let's face it, kids sometimes pretend they are sick), Nurse Umble was always going to something to cure what ailed you. And she always did

it with a smile. Because of people like these. Cherokee and Kiva are uniquely part of Paradise Valley.

The schools' roots go way back. Kiva is celebrating its 50th year this school year, and Cherokee is much older than that, dating back to 1957.

In fact, Cherokee goes so far back that some of its original playground equipment was made from lead pipes, principal Walter Chantler said.

That's all gone by the wayside over the years. In fact, both schools were completely rebuilt with money from the Scottsdale Unified School District 2016 bond. Cherokee reopened in August 2021 and cost \$24.8 million to build. Kiva cost \$25 million and was reopened in August 2023.

That kind of funding support shows that the two schools are part of the community, but the community is also part of the schools.

Likewise, by all accounts, the parent-teachers' organizations at both schools are phenomenal.

"I have never gone without something in my classroom," said Cherokee fifth grade teacher Dana Bair, who drives 20 miles to get to and from school because of the school's sense of community.

The same holds for Kiva.

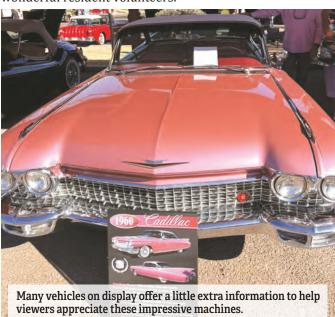
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ABOVE: Cherokee Elementary School library has a real school bus in it as a nod to the school's role of the creation of Barbara Park's Junie B. Jones children's book series. It was at Cherokee that Park met the student that inspired the first book in the series, "Juni. B Jones and the stupid smelly bus." (Independent Newsmedia/J. Graber)

#### Continued from Page 14

The objective of the show today is for Paradise Valley residents, young and old, to visit Town Hall and meet their neighbors and enjoy these vintage automobiles, trucks and motorcycles, plus meet some outstanding military veterans. It's a wonderful way to bring the community and professional staff together to celebrate the excitement and love for the Town of Paradise Valley.

If you have never attended, come by this year and meet some neighbors and help celebrate veterans. It's more than just a car show. It's a great place to connect with the mayor and council, staff, police officials and many of the town's wonderful resident volunteers.



#### Continued from Page 22

Paradise Valley. They define the location and character of the Town, shape our sense of place and contribute to the Town's identity."

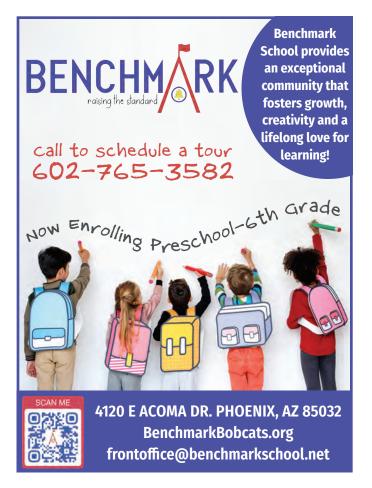
In addition to houses, the code regulates pools, driveways, solar panels, firepits, landscaping, retention walls, and auxiliary buildings.

Paradise Valley also took a significant step toward preserving the town's open spaces when, in 1997, it formed the Paradise Valley Mountain Preserve Trust (originally named the Mummy Mountain Preserve Trust) as a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Although the trust is a separate, nonprofit entity, it is administered through the town.

The purpose of the trust is to acquire, maintain, preserve and protect in perpetuity undeveloped real property and developed real property that can be returned to its natural state in Paradise Valley. The goal of the trust is to preserve the natural landscape, desert plants, wildlife and scenic beauty of mountain areas within and surrounding the town.

Today the trust oversees over 255 acres of undeveloped land along the upper slopes of the town's mountain areas. This land has been donated through conservation easements or direct ownership transfers.





# Cosanti Originals: A little piece of paradise

Local artisans' work can be found in homes all over the world

Chris Hardy stands alongside a Cosanti chandelier, a newer offering that already hangs in one Paradise Valley home. Hardy said these pieces are "quintessentially Paradise Valley, being made right here," and are available to be commissioned. (Photos by Ryan Winslett)

Artisans can be seen throughout the day at Cosanti Originals working on their latest projects.

By Ryan Winslett INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Cosanti Originals stands as a peaceful island amidst the hustle and bustle of the metropolis surrounding it. Here, artisans make the establishment's iconic bells, which have found their way into countless homes across the Town of Paradise Valley and beyond.

bronze bells have Located at 6433 E. Doublebecome synonymous tree Ranch Rd. in Paradise Valley. Cosanti is a cluster of buildings boasting distinct architecture where the sound of brass bells can be heard gently tinkling if the wind is up. Artisans can be

seen practicing their craft each day as both shoppers and those taking tours of the facility quietly make their way through the unique structures.

Cosanti's

with Paradise Valley.

Chris Hardy, on the Cosanti Foundry team, has been involved since 2007. He said, while Paradise Valley is an affluent community known for big homes and big views, Cosanti offers something a little different thanks to its founder, Paolo Soleri.

"Paradise Valley also gave birth to a radical thinker who

imagined a very different reality," Hardy said. "Soleri imagined cities, whose buildings echoed and blended with the natural environment. Perhaps he was an unrealistic Utopian thinker. But the small world he built, focused on centuries-old artisan works, remains today. And so, thanks to Paolo Soleri, there is a small bit of Paradise Valley sprinkled like seeds through the entire world. Thanks to Soleri, the works of hundreds of artisans reside in places like Egypt, Japan, Germany and Australia. Through Cosanti, Paradise Valley reaches the world."

And that's not an exaggeration. While Cosanti artisans create everything from tiles to various types of vessels and jewelry, the site has become known for its ceramic and bronze bells. Their bells can be found in various public locations around Paradise Valley, cementing their place as something of a signature piece for the community.

Located on four acres of land, Soleri purchased what

Continue on Page 30

Trey Chappell started at Kiva in the third grade and the school has been in his blood ever since. His three boys went to Kiva before they graduated. During that time he served on the PTO and still serves on the site committee and his business has created a scholarship for Kiva alum who want to continue on to college after high school.

Here are some highlights from each school.

#### Kiva:

- It is home of one of the district's three elementary school Comprehensive Gifted programs, with its own gifted specialist.
- It offers targeted academics and supports that include specialists in reading and math, interventions and small group support for learners.
- It offers accelerated and enrichment learning: robotics, art and drama clubs.
- It offers multiple, after-school enrichment clubs like chess, Spanish, cooking, tennis and golf.
- In the spring 2024 Arizona Academic Standards Assessment testing, Kiva 4th grade class had the highest reading and math scores in the district while 5th grade was first in the state on the state science exam.

#### Cherokee:

• It was a 2022 National Blue Ribbon School (also in 1988).



Cherokee Elementary School Principal Walt Chantler with a plaque commemorating Cherokee as Arizona's only literary landmark for inspiring Barbara Park to write her famous Juni B. Jones series. (Independent Newsmedia/J. Graber)

- It is a current and repeat Arizona Educational Foundation A+ School (1988, 2013, 2017, 2021).
- Cherokee is Arizona's only Literary Landmark (as recognized by the American Library Association) for its role in late Paradise Valley author Barbara Parks' Junie B. Jones children's book series. The first book is called "Junie B. Jones and the Stupid Smelly Bus."
  - And then there's the Cherokee mystery monkey.



would become Cosanti following World War II. Honing his craft in Italy, Soleri and his wife moved to the location before Paradise Valley was established as a town.

"He was out here in the late '50s and early '60s doing exactly this," Hardy said.

He explained Soleri initially started making crafts to fund his projects and, pretty soon, they realized they would make more money if they sold them on the property rather than at nearby stores and galleries.

"A lot of it he learned while working in Italy at a ceramics factory," Hardy continued. "They started with ceramic bells here, then they expanded to working with bronze and doing everything from smaller pieces up to large installations."

There's a "make yourself at home" vibe for those walking through Cosanti, and that's something Hardy said is by design.

"(Soleri) wanted people on the property to see the buildings," Hardy said. "He thought it was important for visitors to see the artisans crafting things. That was an important part of his overall philosophy, that the architecture should meld with the industry or craftsmanship, and that it should be a unified whole. I think he was interested in sharing that with ... visitors from all over the world.

Hardy pointed out a bell he contributed to a large chandelier piece sporting dozens of other bells. He noted the embellishments each artisan works into the bells, noting how that makes each Cosanti Original a true "original."

"Mastering a craft is a rarity in today's world," Hardy continued. "The way we make the bells originates in the Bronze Age, with the same type of sandcasting. I enjoy the fact you could take someone from ancient Mesopotamia, bring them here, and they would understand what we're doing.

"The bells existed long before me, and they'll exist long after me. Another generation will come along and make bells. I love that."

Hardy said he likes the fact Cosanti brings something unusual to the town, an "undiscovered little nugget of Arizona history amidst all these single-family, large homes."

And for those who choose to make a Cosanti original part of their home, he said he hopes the years of craftsmanship and effort that went into their works is recognized and appreciated.

"It's not just an object of art, it's sort of a statement of a philosophy of a way to live a life," Hardy said. "Simple, frugal, devoted to the arts and existing in an environment that enhances all of that.

"And not many people get to make something artistic and have that celebrated not just in Arizona, but beyond. It lets us be a part of something a lot larger and offer a little piece of Paradise Valley all over the world." For more information, visit cosanti.com or call 480-948-6145. TOP RIGHT: Cosanti's bronze bells have become synonymous with

Paradise Valley. (Photos by Ryan Winslett)

MIDDLE LEFT: Visitors peruse some of the many bells on display and for sale at Cosanti.

A view from below of one of the larger, more intricate bronze bells.

MIDDLE RIGHT: A sign welcomes visitors and shoppers to Cosanti Originals.

BOTTOM LEFT: Cosanti offers unique architecture and crafts for all visitors to enjoy.



According to the latest census figures, nearly 5,000 households have been built in the Town of Paradise Valley. (Independent Newsmedia/Ryan Winslett)

#### **Paradise Valley by the numbers**

- 1961 was the year of incorporation
- 12,658 people call Paradise Valley home
- 4.972 total households
- 72.9% of Paradise Valley residents have a bachelor's degree or higher
- \$236,250 is the median household income

(Statistics based on findings from census.gov)

#### Mayors of the past

May 1961-Oct. 1962: Patrick G. Downey Oct. 1962-April 1972: Jack B. Huntress April 1972-Aug. 1975: E. Roberts Tribken April 1975-April 1980: Barbara vonAmmon April 1980-April 1984: J. Duncan Brock April 1984-April 1986: Joan R. Lincoln April 1986-April 1990: Robert W. Plenge April 1990-April 1992: Kent D. Wick April 1992-April 1994: David Hann April 1994-April 1996: Joan Horne April 1996-June 1998: Marvin Davis June 1998-June 2004: Eward F. Lowry June 2004-June 2006: Ron Clarke June 2006-June 2008: Ed Winkler June 2008-June 2010: Vernon Parker June 2010-Dec. 2014: Scott LeMarr\* June 2015-June 2018: Michael Collins Jan. 2019-Dec. 2024: Jerry Bien-Willner Jan. 2025-Present: Mark Stanton

\*2012-2014 First direct election of mayor

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Susan Stander, center, last Thanksgiving at her 15-foot dining table that seats 20. (Photos provided by Susan Stander)

# 'We're definitely the hub'

Susan and Paul Stander created a home for family and friends



From left, great niece Maaerav Duchovnay, daughter Karli Stander and Susan Stander present the Thanksgiving turkey.

#### By Janet Perez INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

When Susan Stander and her husband, Paul, decided to move from their Paradise Valley home of 28 years, they wanted to stay put in the town but perhaps downsize a bit.

"We first moved to Paradise Valley 38 years ago. We used to live on Mockingbird Lane, and we moved here specifically so that our kids could go to Cherokee (Elementary), Cocopah (Middle School) and Chaparral (High School). That was the reason we stayed in our first home for 28 years. It was our plan for it to be our forever home," Susan said. "Then I retired, and I needed a project, so I suggested to my husband that maybe we should downsize a

little and look for another house in Paradise Valley."

Susan said they found a "little home" on Royal Palm Road that suited her plans for a remodeling project. But when those plans didn't pan out, the Standers rethought their view of downsizing.

"It turned out it was not really suitable for remodeling, so we had to knock it down. We built a house with a guest house with the notion that when we got too old to take care of ourselves one of our daughters could move in with her family to the main house and look after us in the guest house," Susan said. "So, when you talk about making it a legacy, we definitely have that in mind."

The guest house has two ensuite

bedrooms, a living room, a kitchen with a full-size refrigerator and a small laundry room — just the right fit for the Standers' two daughters, Karli and Kelsey, and their husbands.

In the main house itself, there are three bedrooms, one of which is the main suite, the second has been converted into a "man cave" and the third is a guest room.

The new house, built in a Spanish-hacienda style, was also outfitted with amenities that make aging-in-place possible as the couple grows older.

"We really were projecting for long term in this house, and it turned out so well that I don't even

Continue on Page 34

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care if I ever go on vacation," Susan said. "I'm just so happy in this house and in this neighborhood. We have the most amazing community in our little neighborhood."

Susan also took the opportunity to create a home that catered to her specific desires to entertain family and friends.

"I wanted a separate dining room because I like to entertain but I don't like to see the preparation while I'm dining," she said. "We built the dining room, and we took the rafters from the garage that we tore down and had a 15-foot table made so we can seat 20 people. All of my holidays are designed around this giant table with family plus friends."

In her old home on Mockingbird Lane, Susan recalled that she had to push two tables together to accommodate all of her guests.

"When we were building this one, I said, 'No, I want a dining room and I want a table that seats at least 20 people," she said.

Thanks to the new home with its special touches, Susan continues to fulfill the role her mother once had as the hostess of the "go-to-place" in Chicago where Susan grew up.

"As my family spread out and my husband's family spread out, there wasn't any one person who lived in the same city as all the rest of the family," she said. "Eventually my brother moved to Arizona, and we had kids, my husband's aunt and uncle lived here, so I guess



From left, Jack McCambridge, Karli Stander, Kelsey Stander and Michael Grossman stand in the back courtyard of the elder Standers' home. McCambridge is Karli's partner and Grossman is Kelsey's husband. (Photos provided by Susan Stander)

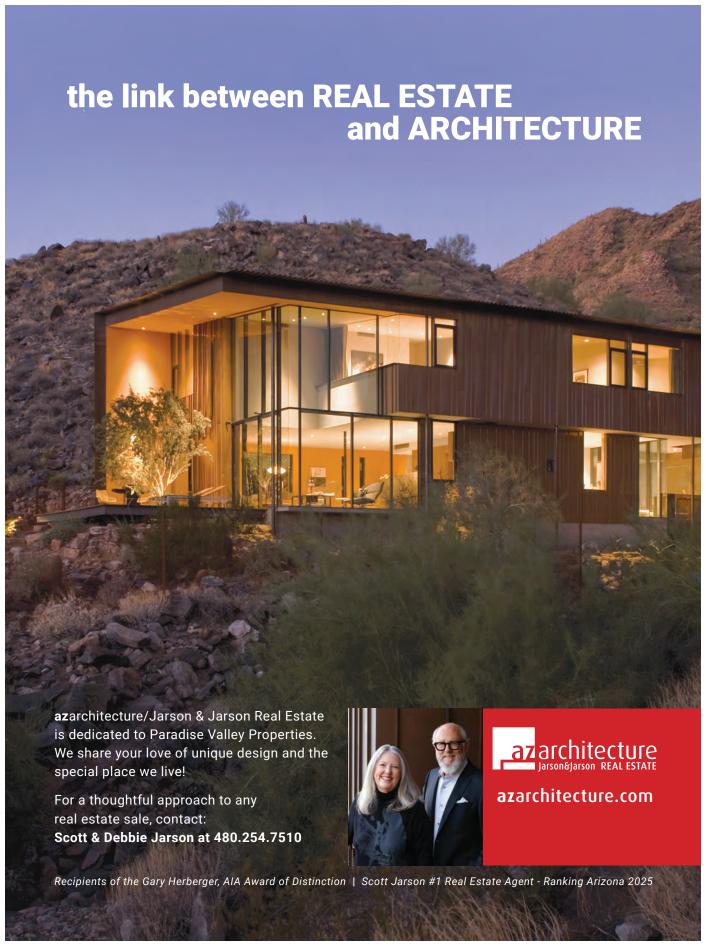
it just kind of evolved pretty naturally that I would be the — there's a word in Yiddish, *balabusta*, which means the hostess. So, it became fairly apparent that it would be me to take on the role."

Newly minted grandparents, the Standers also designed and decorated their current home not just with an eye toward family gatherings, but also for the future generations of Standers that may one day live there.

"When we built this, I put everything in it that I wanted and I feel like when my kids are here, they appreciate all those little nuances and they appreciate the design of my house," Susan said. "Whereas a lot of people I hear say, 'You know, I'm going to have to really get rid of a lot of my stuff because my kids aren't going to want any of this,' I think my kids appreciate the style, they appreciate the amenities, and I think they appreciate the town."



The Standers hosted a baby shower in their backyard for their daughter, Kelsey, who recently made them first-time grandparents.





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