Youngtown Village Reporter

March 2022 youngtownaz.org

In the Heart of the Northwest Valley

West Valley Genealogical Society Annual Seminar

February 19, 2022 West Valley Genealogical Society Annual Seminar "Unmasking Your Genealogy with Michael L. Strauss"

he West Valley Genealogical Society 2022
Seminar with Michael L. Strauss will be held February 19, 2022 from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm at Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church, 13658 W. Meeker Blvd., Sun City West.

Michael L. Strauss, AG is a professional accredited genealogist and nationally recognized speaker. Strauss has a BA in History and is a U.S. Coast Guard veteran. He is a qualified expert witness in the courts in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Virginia and is a



Michael L. Strauss

faculty member of the genealogical institutes of SLIG, GRIP, and IGHR where he is the military course coordinator.

Topics are:

Introduction to Military Genealogy Research

Hidden Clues Found Inside the U.S. Federal Census, 1790-1840

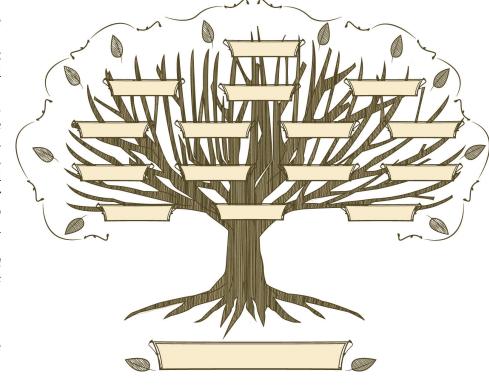
The Draft and the Selective Service System

More than just Obituaries: Genealogical Newspaper Research

Registration open. Registration includes the program, continental breakfast, box lunch, beverages. For additional information or to register for the Seminar go to www.azwvgs.org or call 623-933-4945.

The West Valley Genealogical Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Thank you, Barbara Shroyer WVGS Seminar Committee





NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITY

Email your article to Jeanne Blackman: jblackman@youngtownaz.org

The right to accept or reject rests with the publication editor.

Weed Season Page 6



Park News Page 7



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From the Mayor...

The Time to Act Is Now!

A lightly edited reprint of my article from last summer...



The state of Arizona and Maricopa County now have the dubious distinction of having the fastest growing homeless population in the nation. What should we do, from a public policy standpoint, in response to this problem?

To a large degree, we are fundamentally misdiagnosing problem itself and reacting in ways which actually exacerbate it. We have only to look to our great urban centers on the west coast to understand how not to react to this problem. These cities, from Seattle to LA, have largely created an environment which caters to and attracts 'prolific offenders'; places where street camping, drug abuse and petty crime have been legalized or radically

word homelessness itself exhibits a fundamental misunderstanding of the problem. Homelessness is largely a 'human' problem not a 'housing' problem. Some 80% of people living on the street suffer from substance abuse/addiction or mental illness, or both. They have decided to live in areas where they are made most 'comfortable' in their chosen lifestyle. They habitually commit crimes against property

decriminalized.

which render enough cash to enable their next drug purchase and, so, on-and-on the cycle goes. They can be found at shopping centers or busy intersections aggressively pan-handling for enough cash to feed their chosen lifestyle.

In 1993, Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D, NY) labeled it 'defining deviancy down' where we, as a society, re-define constantly deviancy: lowering-the-bar what we consider to be normal behavior. That is exactly what most urban centers are doing in response to the homeless problem.

We, here in Arizona, had better take a radically different approach or, I fear, we shall doom ourselves to an everworsening problem which will dramatically lessen quality of life for us all without making an appreciable, positive impact on our homeless population.

Here, in Youngtown, we recognized the growing homelessness problem early on and began going into the camps offering help to those willing to accept it while enforcing no-trespass statutes and ordinances. We have now rolled out a three-pronged plan of action to lessen crime, homelessness, malicious loitering and the drug problem.



1) We have already deployed some three dozen LPR (License-Plate Reader) cameras at virtually every point ingress/egress Town. These cameras are synchronized with the NCIC (National Crime Information Center) data base. They capture, and save, an image of virtually every vehicle entering/ leaving Town. LLEOs are notified instantly when a stolen vehicle/licenseplate or Amber Alert vehicle is detected.

2) Several months ago, we began 'flooding the zone' with additional law enforcement and security resources, around the clock, to help aggressively push-back against public drug abuse, street camping, malicious loitering and petty crime while simultaneously continuing to offer legitimate help to those who will accept it.

3) The Town continues to work with residents and business owners, throughout community, to establish neighborhood watch cells and citizen patrols. We provide resources including signage, t-shirts organizational assistance as we 'riseup' as a community to

push back against these unsavory elements.

The time to act is now: I urge all local jurisdictions and state of Arizona and Maricopa County to take immediate, aggressive and appropriate action to push back on these problems. Let's make the same mistakes other cities have made politicizing problem. We can, and should, adopt honest common-senseand based public policies and deploy resources in ways which will have a positive impact on an ever-growing problem.



Michael LaVault Mayor



Charles Vickers Vice Mayor



Margaret Chittenden Councilmember



Karen Haney Duncan Councilmember



Michael Francis Councilmember



Susan Hout



June Miller Councilmember



12030 North Clubhouse Square, Youngtown, AZ 85363

Mayor and Council: 623-933-8286 • Town Administration: 623-933-8286 Building Inspector: 623-933-8286 • Library: 623-974-3401 • Municipal Court: 623-972-8226 Maricopa County Sheriff's Office Non-emergency: 602-876-1011 • Emergency: 9-1-1 Town Administrative Office hours Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. • www.youngtownaz.org

Basic Fire Escape Planning



By: **Jim Fox** Fire Marshal Sun City Fire District

he Fire Marshal's office ensures that fire drills are held on a frequent basis in specific commercial occupancies each year. Required emergency evacuation drills are verified that they are Performed, Recorded Accounted for in commercial occupancies. Why don't we require emergency evacuation drills be done in our homes? The Fire Code only addresses commercial and multi-family buildings for fire drills.

Here are some basic procedures for formulating your own emergency escape plan in your home:

Your ability to get out depends on advance warning from smoke alarms and advance planning.

- Pull together everyone in your household and make a plan. Walk through your home and inspect all possible exits and escape routes. Households with children should consider drawing a floor plan of your home, marking two ways out of each room, including windows and doors. Also, mark the location of each smoke alarm. This is a great way to get children involved in fire safety in a non-threatening way.
- Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room and outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home.
 New Construction codes require smoke alarms to be interconnected throughout the home, so when one sounds, they all sound.
- Everyone in the household must understand the escape plan. When you walk through your plan, check to make sure the escape routes are clear and



doors and windows can be opened easily.

- Choose an outside meeting place (i.e. neighbor's house, a light post, mailbox, or stop sign) a safe distance in front of your home where everyone can meet after they've escaped. Make sure to mark the location of the meeting place on your escape plan.
- Go outside to see if your street number is clearly visible from the road. If not, paint it on the curb or install house numbers to ensure that responding emergency personnel can find your home.
- Have everyone memorize the emergency phone number of the fire department - 911. That way any member of the household can call from a neighbor's home or a cellular phone once safely outside.
- •If there are infants, older adults, or family members with mobility limitations, make sure that someone is assigned to assist them in the fire drill and

in the event of an emergency.
Assign a backup person too, in
case the designee is not home
during the emergency.

- If windows or doors in your home have security bars, make sure that the bars have emergency release devices inside the home so that they can be opened immediately in an emergency. Emergency release devices won't compromise your security but they will increase your chances of safely escaping a home fire.
- Tell guests or visitors in your home about your family's fire escape plan. When staying overnight at other people's homes, ask about their escape plan. If they don't have a plan in place, offer to help them make one. This is especially important when children are permitted to attend "sleepovers" at friends' homes. See NFPA's "Sleepover fire safety for kids" fact sheet.
- Be fully prepared for a real fire: when a smoke alarm sounds, get out immediately.

• Once you're out, stay out! Under no circumstances should you ever go back into a burning building. If someone is missing, inform the fire department dispatcher when you call. Firefighters have the skills and equipment to perform rescues.

Put your plan to the test

- Practice your home fire escape plan twice a year, making the drill as realistic as possible.
- Make arrangements in your plan for anyone in your home who has a disability.
- Allow children to master fire escape planning and practice before holding a fire drill at night when they are sleeping. The objective is to practice, not to frighten, so telling children there will be a drill before they go to bed can be as effective as a surprise drill.
- It's important to determine during the drill whether children and others can readily waken to the sound of the smoke alarm. If they fail

to awaken, make sure that someone is assigned to wake them up as part of the drill and in a real emergency situation.

- If your home has two floors, every family member (including children) must be able to escape from the second floor rooms. Escape ladders can be placed in or near windows to provide an additional escape route. Review the manufacturer's instructions carefully so you'll be able to use a safety ladder in an emergency. Practice setting up the ladder from a first floor window to make sure you can do it correctly and quickly. Children should only practice with a grown-up, and only from a first-story window. Store the ladder near the window, in an easily accessible location. You don't want to have to search for it during a fire.
- Always choose the escape route that is safest the one with the least amount of smoke and heat but be prepared to escape under toxic smoke if necessary. When you do your fire drill, everyone in the family should practice getting low and going under the smoke to your exit.
- Closing doors on your way out slows the spread of fire, giving you more time to safely escape
- In some cases, smoke or fire may prevent you from exiting your home or apartment building. To prepare for an emergency like this, practice "sealing yourself in for safety" as part of your home fire escape plan. Close all doors between you and the fire. Use duct tape or towels to seal the door cracks and cover air vents to keep smoke from coming in. If possible, open your windows at the top and bottom so fresh air can get in. Call the fire department to report your exact location. Wave a flashlight or light-colored cloth at the window to let the fire department know where you are located.

Some Information provided by NFPA $\,$

Youngtown Public Library March 2022

Due to the high numbers of COVID cases and to keep the staff and community protected, the Library is CLOSED to the public temporarily. We are, however, offering curbside service, copies, faxes, and answering the phone for reference questions.

Some March celebrations include: March 10th - Popcorn Lover's Day March 17th - St. Patrick's Day March 23rd - National Puppy Day

BOOK CLUB

once we re-open, the Book Club will meet the third Thursday of every month at 10:00 AM.

STORY TIME

once we re-open, Story Time will be every Wednesday at 11:00 AM.

SAVE THE DATE

The Summer Reading Program registration will begin May 1st, and the program will start June 1st. This year's theme is Oceans of Possibilities!

CRAFT CLUB

Meetings will be on Mondays from 5:00 - 7:00 PM in the Clubhouse. For more information contact Betty Trollen, (623) 974-9130.

LOCATION

Both the Library and Historical Museum are located in Town Square, between Alabama and Youngtown Avenue, just west of 112th Avenue. For additional information about the Library or the history of Youngtown, please call (623) 974-3401.

The Library offers a large selection of books, movies, and the following FREE resources:

- FREE WI-FI
- FREE use of 6 Public Computers
- FREE DVD rental
- FREE Practice Tests for: ACT, SAT, GED, Real Estate, etc.
- FREE Tax Forms and Legal Forms
- FREE Online Chilton Auto Repair Manuals
- FREE Career Information
- FREE Inter-Library Loan
- FREE Resume' Assistance

Clubs and Organizations

AARP Board

MEET: 3rd Tuesday of the month 4:30 p.m. Jay Lickus – 623-734-5438

AARP CHAPTER 1

MEET: 1st Friday of the month 5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Jay Lickus – 623-734-5438

AGUA FRIA RANCH HOA

MEET: 2nd Wednesday of the month 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. OFF: August

Ogden & Company/Jackie Monty 623-628-4708

BOOK DISCUSSION CLUB

MEET: 3rd Friday of the month 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Meets in the Youngtown Library Heidi Speed - 623-974-3401

CRAFT CORNER

MEET: Every Monday 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Betty Trollen – 623-974-9130

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

MEET: Every Other Month on the 3rd Friday 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

OFF: June, July and August • Teresa Felton – 760-415-5446

YOUNGTOWN ART COMMISSION

MEET: 4th Wednesday of the month 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. OFF: June, July and August • Val Wilson - 623-810-3137

YOUNGTOWN COMMUNITY FUND

MEET: 4th Wednesday of the month 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Madelon Jeffreys – 623-977-4661

All clubs meet in the Clubhouse unless otherwise noted. If you are interested please contact the board members.





Resources and Information

- Rental Assistance Collaborative through Vitalyst Health Foundation and Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust Visit https://azevictionhelp.org/ for eviction help Visit https://azfoundation.sharefile.com for social media toolkit.
- Call 2-1-1 or visit the website https://211arizona.org/
- Coverage in Arizona Republic or see additional coverage. HANDUP Tool (Email MAG for password) https://geo.azmag.gov/maps/jandup/#/login

News You Can Use... Canine Happenings at the Dog Park!

greetings from Lyour dog park committee. My January article prompted many comments regarding public spaces and safety, so let's address them. First and foremost, our town rules are legislated with safety in mind, for all citizens, including our furry friends. To expand, our town has established the dog park as our off leash area to exercise your dogs. As more dogs and their humans gather there, let's allow common sense to prevail!

It's spring, and love is in the air. Most wild animals are in mating season, so please be aware, the coyotes, javelinas, raccoons and hawks have been seen out and about. Please monitor your pets; the wild ones are loose, and hungry! Speaking of mating season, please, no unaltered (not fixed) dogs are allowed in our dog park. The obvious problem this activity presents is mitigated by humans not bringing them. There are low cost spay and neuter clinics who offer vaccinations as well, something to be considered. On this point, owners of both male and female dogs are expected to adhere to this rule.

Aggressive dogs at the dog park are another point of interest. It should go without saying; you are responsible to keep your dog safe. If an aggressive dog has an altercation, please report the matter to town hall. To clarify, a growl and minor scuffle (general pack rules) are normal at dog parks. Well socialized dogs usually work out their own order, with no dogs bitten or pinned

down **Aggressive dogs**

that attack others will not be tolerated, nor is our dog park a training ground for this lesson. If you know your dog is not 100% cool and calm, do not bring them. General signs of unfriendly and unmannered dogs include the head going up, their back gets straight, and their tail does not wag, even before the first sniff. Please closely monitor, some of them will try to trick you by acting friend-

If your dog has ever bitten anyone, pinned a dog down, drawn blood or worse, DO NOT BRING THEM

Guidelines to de-escalate excitement and fervor upon arrival are another point of concern. PLEASE, keep your pets ON LEASH when you exit your car or approach the dog park on foot. Disciplined dogs are calm and that's the name of the game. Do not unleash your dog until AFTER you enter the sally port. I will stress how important it is to unleash in the small area, before entering small or large sides. Unleash your dog only after they **remain calm** in the sally port, then open the entrance gate, allowing them access. Same rules apply when leaving, open sally port, get the dog calm, then leashed. Now you are free to open the outer gate and walk on leash to the car.

The last item is a reminder to humans; let's stay sociable and friendly, but not overly friendly. We are there to socialize by keeping an eye on, and within distance of our dogs...

I'll close this article by thanking the fine folks who are dog park watchers and those who report



both the positive and challenging aspects of our day-to-day operations. Thank you also, to Town Manager Blackman, who shared the dog park rules, here they are:

Any person may use, at their own risk, any dog park provided that such use is consistent with the use restrictions and prohibitions set forth in the Town Code §6.04.190.

The following rules apply to the Citizens' Dog

- 1. Owners of dogs or persons who bring any dogs to a park, facility, or open space are required to clean up after such dogs.
- 2. Children under thirteen (13) years of age must be accompanied by a person at least eighteen (18) years old in order to bring a dog to a park, facility or open space.
- 3. All dogs older than 4 months must be licensed, vaccinated, and must wear their identification and permit tags to use the park. Dogs younger than 4 months may be

permitted to use the park if they are under the owner's control and do not cause any disruption to other dogs, park patrons, or park facilities.

- 4. Dogs are required to be under voice control and within the owner's sight at all times when using a dog park.
- 5. Owners are required to immediately remove any dog exhibiting aggressive behavior toward another dog or any person including the owner in a dog park.
- 6. Eating or bringing any food into a dog park is prohibited.
- 7. Bringing more than three (3) dogs per person into a dog park is prohibited
- 8. Dogs showing signs of illness are not allowed in the dog park. Dogs must be spayed and neutered to use the dog park.
- 9. All special uses and competitive events must be reviewed and approved by the Town Manager prior to any event.
- ager prior to any event.

 10. Users may not enter

a dog park at any time other than posted operational hours.

11. The Town Manager or the Town Public Works Manager may close the park for performance of routine maintenance or preparation for a reserved use, or when deemed necessary to protect public safety, dog safety, or property. Notice shall be posted when closed. The notice shall reasonably describe the time and period of closure for the

12. No person who has custody of an animal shall cause or permit the animal to cause damage to any Town property including but not limited to trees, shrubs, plants, turf and landscaping. No person shall cause the lighting facilities or electrical appliances to be turned on or used without written permission of the Town Manager.

13. It is unlawful for a person or animal to remain in or return to the dog park after a reason-

able request to leave by the Town Manager, Public Works Manager, a Town code enforcement officer, or a law enforcement officer.

Remember, you as the owner as responsible for your dog. That includes any property damage or personal injuries your dog may cause. Arizona state law holds the owner of a dog who bites a person in a public place liable for damages suffered by the person bitten, regardless of the former viciousness of the dog or the owner's knowledge of its viciousness. A.R.S. § 11-1025. These common-sense laws are an important reminder that dog parks must be used responsibly. The Town encourages you to let your dog run free, exercise, and have fun in the Town's designated off-leash area. But while enjoying our facilities and relaxing with your animal, stay attentive to your surroundings and immediately leash your dog and leave the area if there are any signs of aggressive behavior.

Thanks for reading, and please consider joining us at our next meeting, even though we are not sure when that may be (Covid).

Submitted by: Susan Hout

CITIZENS' DOG PARK

Hours of Operation 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

NW Corner of Alabama & 113th Avenues

For Information & Donations 623-974-9756

Spring is High Weed Season for Enforcement

Spring is here, which means the town's two code enforcement officers are out in full force to address seasonal violations.

The code enforcement division has opened numerous cases in the past couple of weeks for high grass and weeds. This is typical for this time of the year and you'll see that increase rapidly if we get any rain. The Town of Youngtown considers any grass over 6 inches or any weeds to be within violation according to Chapter 8 of the Code.

In addition to getting the noxious weeds and grass issues dealt with, code enforcement is responsible for investigating who is responsible for the vacant property in hopes of obtaining voluntary compliance. If voluntary compliance is not obtained the town could ultimately have

the property abated and a lien assessment applied.

Although most violations are addressed without further action here in Youngtown, some cases call for a fine to be issued.

There are many reasons for controlling the height of grass and having weeds removed. It preserves the value of the home and beautifies the Town; it also contributes greatly to the health and safety of you and your neighbors. This can cut down on the problems for allergy sufferers too.

Please contact the Code Enforcement Division at 623.933.8286 if you are aware of a vacant home in your neighborhood.

Please continue to correct possible violations on your property. Code Enforcement is actively leaving educational information and will issue notices where violations exist.



Graffiti

Graffiti can appear virtually anywhere, especially schools, parks and other areas where individuals feel they will not be caught. Graffiti is a destructive crime that victimizes communities by creating blight and inviting additional criminal activity. When graffiti is identified in your area contact the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office to file a report at 602-876-1011 or call 9-1-1- if the graffiti is in process. Once the deputy can initiate a report including a comprehensive description on the graffiti, paint color(s), names, numbers or symbols. Photographs of the graffiti are taken to be used as evidence in the event the responsible person is apprehended. Once the Sheriff's report has been filed, please call Code Enforcement at 623-933-8286. It is the responsibility of the owner to remove the graffiti from their property within 48 hours. Removing the graffiti as quickly as possible makes it less rewarding for the perpetrators. Please contact Code Enforcement for additional information at 623.933.8286.

Thank you in advance for your support



and cooperation in protecting your neighborhood and community from blighting and deteriorating conditions that have a negative impact on area property values and quality-of-life considerations.

Youngtown Community Fund Medical Lending Center

We are pleased to announce that we have added an extra hour for your convenience!! We are now open 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Monday-Saturday. We are here to assist in your recovery process after accidents or surgeries. We have many items to help you such as companion chairs, shower chairs,



bedside commodes, and so much more.

We accept good quality mobility equipment

and as always accept cash donations to help us to continue our FREE services. We look forward to helping you soon.

We are located at 11215-A W Nevada Ave in Youngtown. Call us at 623-977-4661 for more information.



National
Vietnam War
Veteran's Day
March 29th

In The Works

March 2022



Marty Mosbrucker Public Works Manager

Spring is in full bloom!

Get out and enjoy the weather if you are able, because before too long, the summer heat will arrive. One thing that we can most definitely count on in the Sonoran Desert is the summer heat. Think it will be a hot summer? Most definitely!

Agua Fria River

The Town will be removing all the trees in the Agua Fria River bottom. The area has become very overgrown over the past few decades. Intentional built fires have been observed in the river bottom. Removal of the trees, will remove the

ability to build camps or

shelters under trees, as has been observed, and the subsequent practice of building fires. Removal of the trees reduces the risk of fires spreading to nearby homes.

Storm Water Pollution Prevention

The Town has several storm drains that drain storm water into the Agua Fria River. In order to prevent contamination to downstream rivers, the Town has in place a Storm water Management Program. Residents need

to be aware that it is illegal to dump pollutants down a storm drain. A pollutant is any solid, liquid, gas or other substance that can alter the physical or chemical properties of water including, but not limited to fertilizers, solvents, sludge, petroleum and petroleum products, solid waste, garbage, biological materials, radioactive materials, sand, dirt, animal waste, acids and bases. Civil and criminal penalties can be assessed to any person who willfully

or negligently violates the laws and regulations pertaining to storm water drainage. Our goal is to allow only rain water to flow down the storm water drains. Storm water runoff will pick up pollutants and flow these pollutants into the storm drains. Residents and businesses can help to prevent storm water pollution runoff by using fertilizers sparingly and sweeping up driveways and sidewalks. Never dump anything down a storm drain. Vegetate bare spots

in your yard. Compost your yard waste. Follow the label information on pesticides. Take your car to the carwash instead of washing it in the driveway. Check your car for leaks and recycle your motor oil. Pick up after your pet. Remember, only rain down the storm drain. Brochures and informational resources are available on the Town website, in the library and the lobby in Town Hall for residents to learn more about how to prevent storm water pollution.

NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITY

Email your article to Jeanne Blackman: jblackman@youngtownaz.org

The right to accept or reject rests with the publication editor.

Youngtown moves forward with Phase I of its Parks and Recreation Master Plan-Regional Park

In the fall of 2019, the Youngtown Council approved the "Youngtown 2025 Parks, Open Space, Trails and Recreation Master Plan". The Master takes into consideration existing parks, park facilities, regional park and future park planning areas for recreational development in the community.

The first Phase of the Regional Park plan is the Hike and Bike Trail system that will run from W. Peoria Ave. to W. Grand Ave.

The Community Development department will be seeking assistance for the trail design and its location from a design professional. Once the design

is completed and submitted to Town Council for approval, construction should start in the fall of next year.

Please contact the staff person(s) listed below if you have any questions on this very exciting project!

Your participation is crucial to our success.

Contacts:

Nicole Smart at (623) 933-8286 or e-mail:

nsmart@youngtownaz.org Gregory Arrington at (623) 933-8286 or e-mail:

garringtont@young town az.org







CALL OF ELECTION

Public Notice of the Town of Youngtown, Arizona.

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Youngtown, Arizona will hold elections as follows:

Primary Election: Tuesday, August 2, 2022

General Election: Tuesday, November 8, 2022 (If Applicable)

Offices to be filled: Three Council Seats (4-year term)

One Council Seat (2-year term)
One Mayoral Seat (4-year term)

Candidate Packets with Petitions are Available Now.

Candidate Packet Filing Deadline: Nomination papers, financial disclosure statements, affidavit of qualifications and nomination petitions are due no later than Monday, April 4, 2022 5:00 p.m. Candidate packets need to be filed at the Town Clerk's Office — 12030 North Clubhouse Square, Youngtown, AZ 85363.

Voter Registration Deadline for the Primary Election: Tuesday, July 5, 2022

For further information or to set up an appointment for a Candidate's Packet, please call the **Town Clerk Nicole Smart at (623) 933-828**6.

*A candidate receiving a majority of all votes cast at the Primary Election will be declared elected without running at the General Election if requirements are met under A.R.S. § 9-821.01 and A.R.S. § 16-645.