



District 5 Residents and Friends

January started this year busier than expected, and we are already in full force with big decisions and upcoming events for February. Check this edition's updates:

- City Council Selects West Phoenix Corridor Light Rail Extension - Jan. 27th
- Maryvale Mercado - Small Business Event - Feb. 7th
- Park Activation Events at West Phoenix Parks
- Free Smart Water Use Kits and Cash for Grass Incentive
- VITA Free Tax Help
- Resident Highlight: New Neighborhood Speed Humps
- Outstanding Youth Leader Scholarship Award

Council Approved Maryvale Light Rail Extension



On Tuesday, January 27th, the people of Maryvale and the West Valley were heard. I want to thank our neighbors, community leaders, labor leaders, students, and small business owners who completed their survey, showed up to comment at the council meeting, spoke up, and made their voices heard.

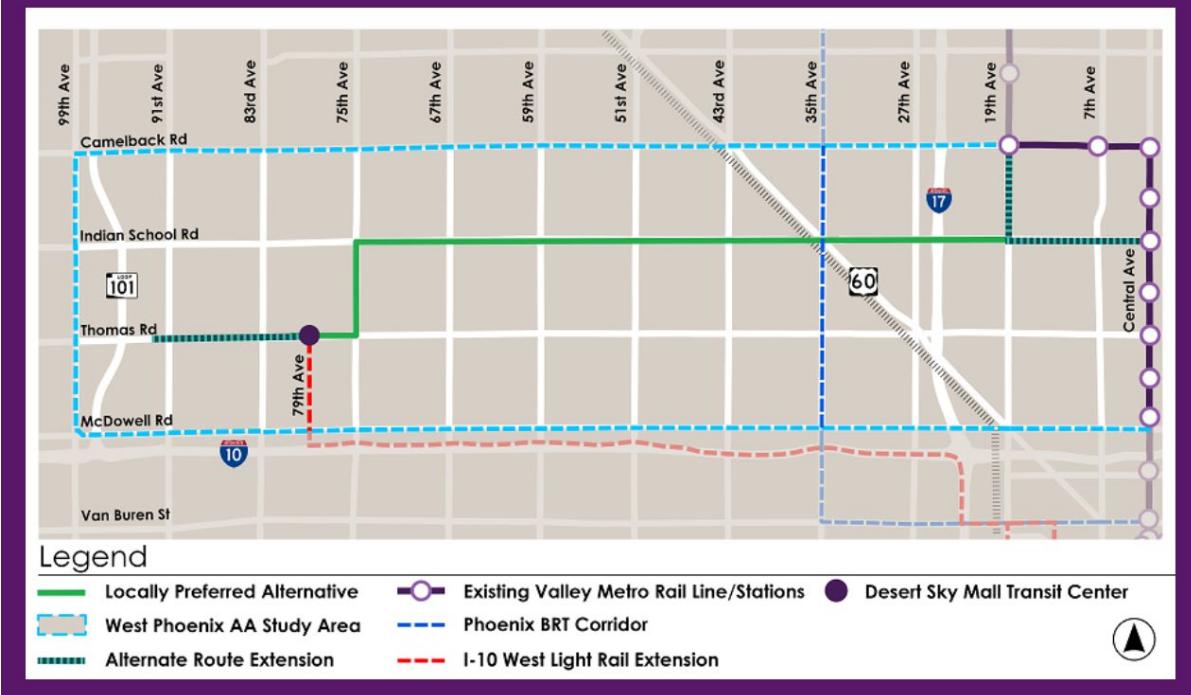
I also want to thank Mayor Kate Gallego for her steadfast commitment to the West Valley, and my colleagues on the City Council for standing with our community and voting for progress. The 7–2 vote sent a loud and clear message: Maryvale and West Phoenix deserve the same high-capacity, reliable light rail as every other part of the city.

This decision launches a major, city-shaping investment along Indian School Road — grounded in community engagement, strong workforce planning, and respect for the small businesses that are the backbone of this corridor.

Indian School Road is ready. The riders are there. And setting a goal of 2036 revenue service puts us on a path to deliver what this community has long earned: good union jobs, real opportunity for local small businesses, and safe, reliable access to schools, training, and opportunity for students and working families across Maryvale and the West Valley. [For more details, click here.](#)

West Phoenix High-Capacity Transit Alternatives

Analysis



Monthly Maryvale Mercado - Feb. 7th



Come be part of something special this Saturday, February 7th. Maryvale Mercado is back! Our monthly vibrant, family-friendly community event that brings people together to celebrate culture, support local businesses, and enjoy live entertainment.

Whether you're looking for delicious food, unique vendors, or engaging activities, we have something for everyone! Best of all, it's completely FREE to attend at the

Maryvale Community Center (4420 N. 51st Ave.) Learn more at
MaryvaleMercado.com.

Park Activation Activities in West Phoenix



Outdoor Parks Program

Enjoy free, fun-filled events for the whole family run by Parks and Recreation staff. Watch a movie under the stars, play games, or engage in kid fitness. Help activate your local parks!

Outdoor Parks Hours

Monday - Friday 3-6pm

Outdoor Parks Program sites

Monday - Homestead Park - 2602 W. Glendale Ave, Phoenix, Az 85051

Tuesday - Solano Park - 5625 N. 17th Ave, Phoenix, Az 85015

Wednesday - Starlight Park - 7810 W. Osborn Rd, Phoenix, AZ 85033

Thursday - Dust Devil - 10645 W. Camelback Rd, Phoenix, AZ 85307

Friday - Homestead Park - 2602 W. Glendale Ave, Phoenix, Az 85051



For more information, please contact:
Jaime.Arismendez@phoenix.gov or call 602-262-6575

Our parks are more than green spaces—they're community spaces where safety, connection, and neighborhoods thrive. By participating in park activation events, you're helping transform these spaces into vibrant, welcoming places for everyone. Your involvement matters—and these free activities are great to enjoy the beautiful weather close to home at:

- Homestead Park (26th Ave. and Glendale Ave.)

- Starlight Park (78th Ave. and Osborn Rd.)
- Dustdevil Park (107th Ave. and Camelback Rd.)

Free Water Saving Kit & Cash for Grass



Smart water use starts with small changes. The City of Phoenix Water Services Department invites residents to get a free, customizable AZ Water-Wise Kit to fit your needs in 2026. From efficient showerheads to leak detectors and hose timers, each item is designed to make water conservation easy. The kits are made possible through a partnership with Water-Use It Wisely (WUIW) and Salt River Project (SRP). To order, visit wuiw.com/kit and select “Not listed – Get your AZ Water-Wise Kit” from the drop-down menu.

PHXWATERSMART

RESIDENTIAL INCENTIVE: GRASS REMOVAL PROGRAM

PROGRAM INFORMATION AND ELIGIBILITY

ABOUT THE INCENTIVE PROGRAM

The City of Phoenix is providing an financial incentive to assist residential City of Phoenix water customers in removing their grass in favor of a low water-use landscape to reduce their water use and increase efficiency.

DETAILS

- The incentive is \$2 per square foot of grass removed.
- Applications are subject to approval and must meet the eligibility requirements.
- Funds will be issued on a first come, first served basis while available.
- All incentive guidelines and requirements are subject to change at any time.

TO QUALIFY FOR THE PROGRAM, YOU MUST MEET THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- Living grass must be currently growing and must fill a minimum of 75% of the total removal project area in order to be eligible. Areas of bare soil or weeds must be less than 25% of the total grass removal project area. Properties that have not received a Notice to Proceed (NTP) do not qualify.
- Applicants must be the current property owner (homeowner) and a Phoenix Water Services customer, receiving a water bill or city services bill from the City of Phoenix.
- A minimum of 250 square feet of grass must be removed.
- Water features and pools are prohibited from being installed in the area of grass removal.
- Bare soil after grass removal is prohibited in the area of grass removal.
- An estimate of the square footage of grass removal along with pre-project photos and map of the area of grass removal showing square footage must be submitted.
- Grass removed cannot be reinstalled while ownership of the property is maintained by the incentive recipient.
- Applicants must ensure their new landscape design and installation complies with their Homeowner's Association Covenants, Codes & Restrictions. Applicants who reside in a registered historic district must contact Phoenix's Historic Preservation Office prior to application for project approvals.

Convert grass to desert landscaping and save **55 GALLONS** of water each year per square foot.
Source: (Source: 2004)

Use native plants to add beauty and interest.

The City of Phoenix Water Services Department is offering financial incentives to homeowners who remove non-functional grass. Homeowners are eligible to receive \$2 per square foot of grass removed. This program helps residents save money on their bills and strengthens the City's commitment to sustainable urban living. [Click here for the Water Services Residential Grass Incentives.](#)

VITA Tax Prep

**FREE
TAX HELP**

phoenix.gov/taxhelp

VITA

VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE

DIY TAX HELP IN-PERSON ASSISTANCE ONLINE TAX HELP SELF PACED

The City needs volunteers to help residents with their 2025 taxes. Each year, the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program prepares free tax returns for low-to-moderate-income individuals and families, but we can't do it without YOU. FREE certified training is provided for basic tax prep assistance. We also need greeters, screeners, bilingual interpreters and site coordinators. Or if you need help with your taxes, learn more at Phoenix.gov/TaxHelp.

Residents Celebrate Speed Hump Installation



A long-time District 5 resident, Gary, led the way to collect the signatures for his speed hump near 75th Ave. and Flower St. He talked to all his neighbors multiple times to ensure he gathered the signatures in support. Although it was a long process, he did not give up. Gary called our office last week to say thank you. Our office staff was happy to support him in signature collection and helped them secure funding for speed humps.

If you want speed humps on your neighborhood street, contact the Street Transportation Department [to get more details here](#). If you need further assistance, please contact our office, and we can support you in the process.

Outstanding Youth Leader Award



YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP

Phoenix highschoolers can apply to win up to \$3000 in scholarships for overcoming adversity and giving back to the community. Apply for the Outstanding Phoenix Youth Leader Award by March 1.

Phoenix.gov/education



The Outstanding Phoenix Youth Leader of The Year award honors students in 9-12 grade who've overcome adversity and made positive contributions to their communities. Council district winners will receive \$1,000 each, and two overall winners will earn an additional \$2,000. Apply by March 1, and applicants must be available for in-person interviews on Saturday, April 11. [Click here and Apply now at Phoenix.gov/Education.](http://Phoenix.gov/Education)

Thank you for reading and sharing the January Neighborhood News with family, friends, and neighbors. As always, please contact our office for your comments, questions, and concerns, at (602) 262-7446 or council.district.5@phoenix.gov. For regular updates, follow us on our social media accounts by clicking on the icons below.



[**Visit the City of Phoenix City Council District 5 Website**](#)

[**Forward to a friend**](#)