

# Youngtown Village Reporter

August 2022  
youngtownaz.org

In the *Heart* of the Northwest Valley



**ELECTION DAY IS  
AROUND THE  
CORNER...**

**BeBallotReady.Vote**

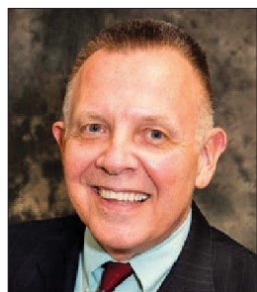


**EL DÍA DE LA  
ELECCIÓN ESTÁ A LA  
VUELTA DE LA  
ESQUINA...**

**TengaBoletaLista.Voto**







# From the Mayor... The Time to Act Is Now!

*This is a lightly edited article which first ran in August 2021*



**Michael LaVault**  
Mayor

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 the 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 decriminalized.

The very 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 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 deviancy: constantly lowering-the-bar for 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 ever-worsening 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 rolled out a three-pronged plan of action to fight back against 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 of ingress/egress in 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/license-plate or Amber Alert vehicle is detected.

2) We have begun 'flooding the zone' with additional law enforcement and security resources 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 is working with residents and business owners, throughout the community, to establish neighborhood watch cells and citizen patrols. We will provide resources including signage, t-shirts and organizational assistance as we 'rise-up' as a community to push back against these unsavory elements.

The time to act is now: I urge all local jurisdictions and the state of Arizona and Maricopa County to take immediate, aggressive and appropriate action to push back on these problems. Let's not make the same mistakes other cities have made in politicizing the problem. We can, and should, adopt honest and common-sense-based public policies and deploy resources in ways which will have a positive impact on an ever-growing problem.



**Charles Vickers**  
Vice Mayor



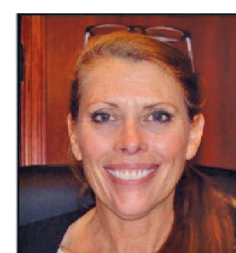
**Margaret Chittenden**  
Councilmember



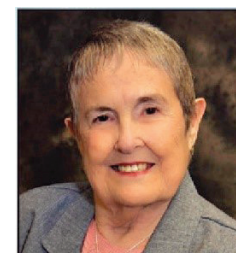
**Karen Haney Duncan**  
Councilmember



**Michael Francis**  
Councilmember



**Susan Hout**  
Councilmember



**June Miller**  
Councilmember

## NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITY

Email your article to Jeanne Blackman: [jblackman@youngtownaz.org](mailto:jblackman@youngtownaz.org)

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



## TOWN OF YOUNGTOWN

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](http://www.youngtownaz.org)



# Monsoon Time is Upon Us – Watch Out For Lightning!



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

**T**hunder and lightning storms happen all the time. But did you know that lightning strikes and lightning fires occur most often in the summer?

Approximately 10% of thunderstorms are considered severe, which means they may produce hail up to three-quarters of an inch in diameter, have winds of at least 58 miles per hour, or produce a tornado (spinning wind) or micro-burst (sudden downburst of wind). Most lightning deaths and injuries occur when people are caught outdoors in the summer months during the evening or afternoon. The chances of being struck by lightning are about 1 in 600,000.

\* Lightning often strikes outside of heavy rain and may occur as far as 10 miles from any rainfall.

\* Outside and other fires accounted for 78% of the lightning fires reported to local fire departments.

## Before a Storm:

\* Stay informed - listen



to a weather radio to check local forecasts and news reports regularly. Keep a battery-powered or hand-cranked radio along with extra batteries.

\* Buy ground fault protectors for key electrical equipment.

\* Remove dead or rotting trees and branches that could fall.

\* If a thunderstorm is likely in your area, postpone outdoor activities.

\* Secure outside doors and objects. Secure outdoor objects that

could blow away.

\* Unplug appliances and other electrical items, such as computers, TV's, and if possible - turn off air conditioners. If you are unable to unplug them, turn them off.

## During a Storm:

\* Follow the 30-30 rule: When you see lightning, count the seconds until you hear thunder. If that time is 30 seconds or less, the thunderstorm is within 6 miles and is dangerous. Seek shelter immediately. The threat of lightning continues longer than most people

think. Wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder before leaving your shelter.

\* If you can hear thunder, you are within striking distance for lightning. Seek safe shelter immediately.

\* Stop outdoor activities at the first clap of thunder and get inside a large building or an enclosed vehicle. Wait 30 minutes after the thunder to go back outside.

\* When inside, stay off corded phones, computers, and other

electronic equipment that put you in direct contact with electricity or plumbing. Cordless phones and cell phones are safe to use. Avoid showering or bathing.

\* If you are in open water, go to land and seek shelter immediately.

\* If you feel your hair stand on end, indicating that lightning is about to strike, squat low to the ground on the balls of your feet. Place your hands over your ears and your head between your knees. Make yourself the smallest target

possible and minimize your contact with the ground. Do not lie flat on the ground. This is a last resort when a building or hard-topped vehicle is not available.

## After a Storm:

\* If a person is struck by lightning, call 9-1-1 and get medical care immediately.

\* Lightning strike victims carry no electrical charge; attend to them immediately. Check their breathing, heartbeat, and pulse.

(Contributing information: NFPA)





# Youngtown Public Library

## August 2022

The newest service for our patrons becomes available this month, Chromebooks and WIFI hotspots! The Library has 5 Chromebooks and accompanying hotspots. Each Chromebook/WIFI Hotspot combo pack is available for a 2 week check out with your library card. It can be renewed up to 2 times (as long as other patrons aren't waiting!). Library cards are available for all residents of Maricopa County. Come in and get yours today.

### AUGUST OBSERVATIONS

August 3: First day of school for Dysart Unified  
August 10: First day of school for Peoria Unified

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**STORYTIME \*\*\*NEW TIME\*\*\*** – Storytime has changed! It is every Wednesday at 10:30 AM. Join Miss Mary for an energetic storytime filled with songs, stories, and fun!

**THE OCEAN OF POSSIBILITIES SUMMER READING PROGRAM** is ending. The last day to register your

minutes is August 1. Final prize books must be ordered by August 15 and the last day to pick up prizes is September 1. Come to the Library and get yours today!

### CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS (UPDATED INFORMATION)

**BOOK DISCUSSION CLUB** – We are on Summer Break! We will be meeting again soon. For more information contact Mary Vass, Library Manager 623-974-3401

**FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY** – We are on Summer Break! We will see you in September! Contact Teresa Felton for more information at 760-415-5446.

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

**LOCATION:** Both the library and historical museum are located in Town Square, between Alabama and

### The Youngtown Public Library offers many services, including:

- **FREE WI-FI**
- **FREE use of 6 Public Computers**
- **FREE DVD rental – over 1,100 to choose from**
- **FREE Resume' Assistance**
- **FREE Tax Forms**
- **FREE Legal Forms**
- **Copies \$ .15 each**
- **FREE faxes (with our library card)**

Youngtown Avenue, just west of 112th Avenue. For additional information about the Library or the history of Youngtown, call (623) 974-3401 and speak with Mary Vass, Library/Museum Manager.

### LIBRARY HOURS

Monday – Thursday: 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM  
Friday – Sunday: Closed

## 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  
Mary Vass – 623-974-3401

### CRAFT CORNER

MEET: Every Monday 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
Betty Trolen – 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 CITIZENS' DOG PARK

MEET: 3rd Saturday of the month 10:30 p.m. to noon  
OFF: June, July and August  
Margaret Chittenden – 480-861-1576

### 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

## AARP Historic Chapter #1

Calling all National AARP members (and local members) to attend our monthly meeting on August 5th. The meeting starts at 5:30 p.m. with a Potluck Dinner so bring your favorite dish to share. Please arrive between 5-5:30 p.m. for social time. We meet in the Youngtown Clubhouse/Council Chambers located at 12030 N Alabama in Youngtown.

We always have pertinent information to advise our age group of national happenings. We are a non-political group and focus on important changes that impact our lives. Please join us for a great meeting and meet some of your neighbors. You must be a national AARP member to join our chapter. Hope to see you there!

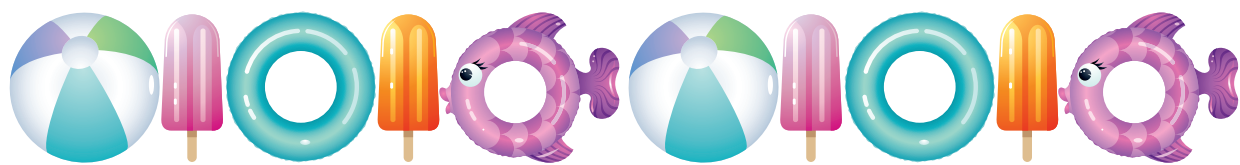
## Remembering Priscilla Penner

Priscilla Atwood Fenner, 90, of Sun City, Arizona, passed away on June 14, 2022. Priscilla was born on April 4, 1932, in Wisconsin. She received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Drama from the Art Institute of Chicago and a Master's Degree

in Secondary Education from Arizona State University. As a teacher, she taught English on the Navajo Indian Reservation in Tuba City, and later retired from teaching high school

French, English, Speech, Drama and Journalism. She was a volunteer at the Youngtown Public Library for many years, a member of Questers, recently served on the board of the Sun Cities Area

Historical Society and was a past docent for the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum. Her volunteer services have been greatly appreciated. A Memorial Service will be held this fall.





# News You Can Use...

## Canine Happenings at the Dog Park!

Welcome to the dog days of summer. Hopefully all our pets survived the trauma of fireworks, and are now coping (as well as can be expected) with the dreaded monsoon. Hang in there, Fido, October is coming!!! Until then, stay as cool as you can. Wading pools are a source of cool entertainment for pooches, so is binge watching just about anything. This is a rough time of year, especially for those left outdoors. If you see any chained dogs languishing away under the hot sun, no shade or water, please don't hesitate to report to animal services. 602-506-7387.

A hot topic around the dog park is our monthly meeting. Though we are on hiatus until our September 17 start date, we are planning some updates, clarification, fun and safe events on which to report.

1. Sod VS Turf: We hope to have a definitive answer from the Town in regards to the Dog Park Board's unanimous decision to keep it real...grass that is.

2. Shade: Evergreen ash and fan tax ash trees (2) have been purchased and are being housed at the nursery until the fall, at which time they will be planted.

3. Fundraising Event: Mural: Look for information about our new endeavor to further beautify the dog park wall with art! We hope to allow dog lovers to submit a photo of their dog to be painted using a patchwork (or other) type design. We will also offer designated wall space for those pets that have crossed the Rainbow Bridge as a memorial.



Specifics of this endeavor are not set in stone. Most mornings you can find Irene and her dog Pickles on the small dog side, she welcomes your ideas.

4. Fundraising Event: Annual Halloween Costume Parade around Maricopa Lake will be held Saturday, October

29 from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.. This year we meet on the shady east side of the park, where restrooms and seating are available. Judges will present winners of contest in the following categories: Most Unique; Best Group; and Best Overall Costume.

5. GAIN Event: We will

have a table at the GAIN Event held on Sunday, October 30 from 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. at Clubhouse Square and Greer Park. Citizens' Dog Park will have pet safety items to offer for donations. Please stop by and say hello!

6. Annual Pet Blessings and Photos with Santa at

Greer Park Saturday December 3 from 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.. You know the drill, bring your pets for blessings and take a photo with Santa (pets only, please!) with your camera. We will also have a raffle and present more goodies to be determined for your amazing donations.

7. We are also planning a Valentine's event entitled Love is in The Air. We are hoping to make this a community wide endeavor to attain low-cost spay/ neuter for all pets. We also want to include vaccinations and other veterinary help. Event to be discussed at our next meeting

In the meantime, call 602-265-7729; it's the Spay/Neuter Hotline.

On a personal note, I have been trying to establish a trap and release group. This reporter has taken 3+ litters and feral cats to have 'the procedure', and I'm looking for help!

Please reach out to me at our next meeting September 17, if interested.

8. Lastly, Citizens' Dog Park Committee has purchased another dog litter receptacle with bags to be placed on the far side of the large dog area. The purpose is to encourage people to USE IT for their dogs waste! Please?

Well, keep cool and have a great summer, Youngtown. There won't be much on which to report as we take our hiatus; however our fearless leader, Board Chair Margaret Chittenden invites you to share your pet vacation photos! We are hoping to use your photos and short explanation of who, where, when (etc.) to post in our summer articles. Please text photos and descriptions to 480-861-1576.

I would like to extend a huge thank you to Board Chair Chittenden. She has been the driving force in her vision to create and sustain our dog park! Many thanks

Written by Susan Hout





# Home Security Checklist

By Maricopa County  
Sheriff's Office

**W**e all want the feeling of security when we are in our homes. Here is a checklist of things you can do to help ensure your home is secure:

## Exterior Doors

- All doors are locked at night and every time you leave the house, even if it is just for a few minutes.
- Doors are solid hardwood or metal clad.
- Doors feature wide-angle peepholes at heights everyone can use.
- If there are glass panels in or near doors, ensure they are reinforced in some way so that they cannot be shattered.
- The entryways have a keyed lock and sturdy deadbolt installed into the frame of the door.

- Spare keys are kept with a trusted neighbor, not under the doormat or planter or in the mailbox or even a nearby ledge.

## Garage Doors/Sliding Doors

- The door from the attached garage is solid wood or metal clad and protected with a quality keyed door lock.
- Garage doors are all locked when leaving the house.
- The sliding glass door has a strong, working key lock.
- The sliding door is locked every night and each time you leave the home.

- A dowel or pin is used to secure the door from being shoved aside or lifted off the track.

## Windows

- Every window in the home has a working lock or is securely pinned.
- Windows are always locked; even when they are open a few inches for ventilation.



## Outdoor Security

- Shrubs and bushes are trimmed so there is no place to hide.
- There are no dark areas around the home or yard at night to hide prowlers.
- Every outside door has a bright, working light to illuminate visitors.
- Outdoor lights are on in the evening, whether someone is home or not. A motion sensor light also works well.
- House numbers are clearly displayed so emergency personnel can find the house quickly.


## When Away from Home for an Extended Time

- The motion detector or other alarm system has been activated.
- Mail and newspaper deliveries have been stopped or arrangements for a friend or neighbor to pick them up daily.
- A neighbor has been asked to tend to yard duties.


- One or two timers are set to turn on the lights in a random pattern or logical order.

## Personal Property

- Gate latches and shed doors are locked after every use.
- Bicycles are secured when not in use with a high-quality padlock or U bar.
- Firearms are stored unloaded and secured with trigger locks.
- Grills, lawn mowers and other valuables are stored in a locked garage or shed or if unavailable are hidden from view and securely locked.
- Valuable items such as TV's, computers, and stereos are inscribed with an ID number and recorded for recall if needed.
- The home inventory is up to date including pictures and ID numbers. A copy needs to be kept somewhere outside the home.




## PUBLIC SAFETY



The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office:

- **Will NOT** request payment over the phone.
- **Will NOT** request that you make a payment in the form of "Gift Cards".


If you receive a call similar to this, contact MCSO at 602-876-1000 or your local District.



## VEHICLE SAFETY

- Take your vehicle's key; do not leave it in your vehicle.
- Close and lock all windows and doors when you park.
- If possible, park in well-lit areas.
- Never leave valuables in your vehicle, especially if they can be seen from outside the vehicle.

## HOME SAFETY



- Secure your doors
- Lock your windows
- Light up your landscape
- Double check the garage
- Set up a security system
- Add security cameras
- Secure your WIFI network



# In The Works

## August 2022



**Marty Mosbrucker**  
Public Works Manager

The Town of Youngtown budgeting process is presented with improvements that will enhance the quality of life for the residents. Residents are encouraged to attend council meetings to contribute to the budget process. The budget process is completely transparent with the residents' best interest in mind, adding valuable improvements while being fiscally conservative always looking forward. The first question that

we address when a new project/spending request is presented is; how does the new project/spending request affect the residents/customers quality of life? The next question is; does the project/issue relate to the council/department priorities? The additional questions are; are there environmental implications? What is the cost and what are the funding sources? What is the justification and risk analysis? What happens if the project is not approved? If applicable, provide a contingency analysis. Show examples of best practices from other cities. What departments will be involved? What are the in-house staff requirements? Are outside consultants needed? Are special equipment resources needed? Are there on-going maintenance and operations costs involved?

As you can see, quite a bit of work goes into the budgeting process.

The uncertainty of economic conditions caused by the pandemic of 2020 and 2021 necessitated a fiscally conservative approach to the Town's budget process. The Town maintained this conservative approach for fiscal year 2021/22, which began on July 1st, 2021 and ended June 30, 2022. With the conservative budget, Public Works provided a "business as usual" approach concerning the Town infrastructure. Basic services continued with street resurfacing, park maintenance, building maintenance, stormwater management, fleet management and the Town staff safety program. Now that the pandemic seems to be in the rear-view mirror, the Town is able to resume to budget for capital

improvement projects that address the questions posed in the beginning of this article. In the year prior to the pandemic, actually up until March 2020, numerous capital improvement projects were completed.

In the Town buildings, security surveillance cameras were installed. The flooring in several Town buildings was upgraded. A remote video conferencing system was added to the council chambers. Street resurfacing continued and will continue as planned; additional storm water mitigation was installed. New street and traffic control signs were installed in the section of Town north of Peoria Ave. In the Parks, new tables were added, the benches around the lake were replaced. Concrete borders were added around Maricopa Lake. A new aeration system was

installed in the lake. Two decorative water features were installed in the lake. Professional arbor work was completed on the park trees. Citizens' Dog Park received new sod. Shade structures were installed in Citizens' Dog Park. The basketball court at David C. Uribe Park was resurfaced. Right of way weed spraying was conducted and will continue to be conducted. Alley weed spraying is conducted twice a year; once in the spring and once in the late fall. The remainder of the year, weed eradication in the alleys, is the responsibility of the resident whose property is adjacent to that section of alley. Right of way utility work was performed and inspected. The Town offered hazardous waste collection at no cost to residents.

For FY 2022/23 which began July 1, the Town was, once again, able to budget

some capital improvement projects: Potential improvements for the Town parks are: a restroom for the Community Garden, artificial grass in one half of the Citizens' Dog Park, park benches and tables throughout the parks and professional arbor tree trimming. Potential improvements in the Town buildings are: two new HVAC units and some office improvements. The street resurfacing project for this fiscal year will be the Agua Fria Ranch section of Town, along with Agua Fria Ranch Parkway and Peoria Avenue. The Town will resume the Hazardous Waste collection service at no cost to the residents. If you have any questions or comments concerning the budget process or the FY 2022/23 budget, feel free to call Town Hall at 623-933-8286.



## Youngtown Community Fund

### Medical Lending Center

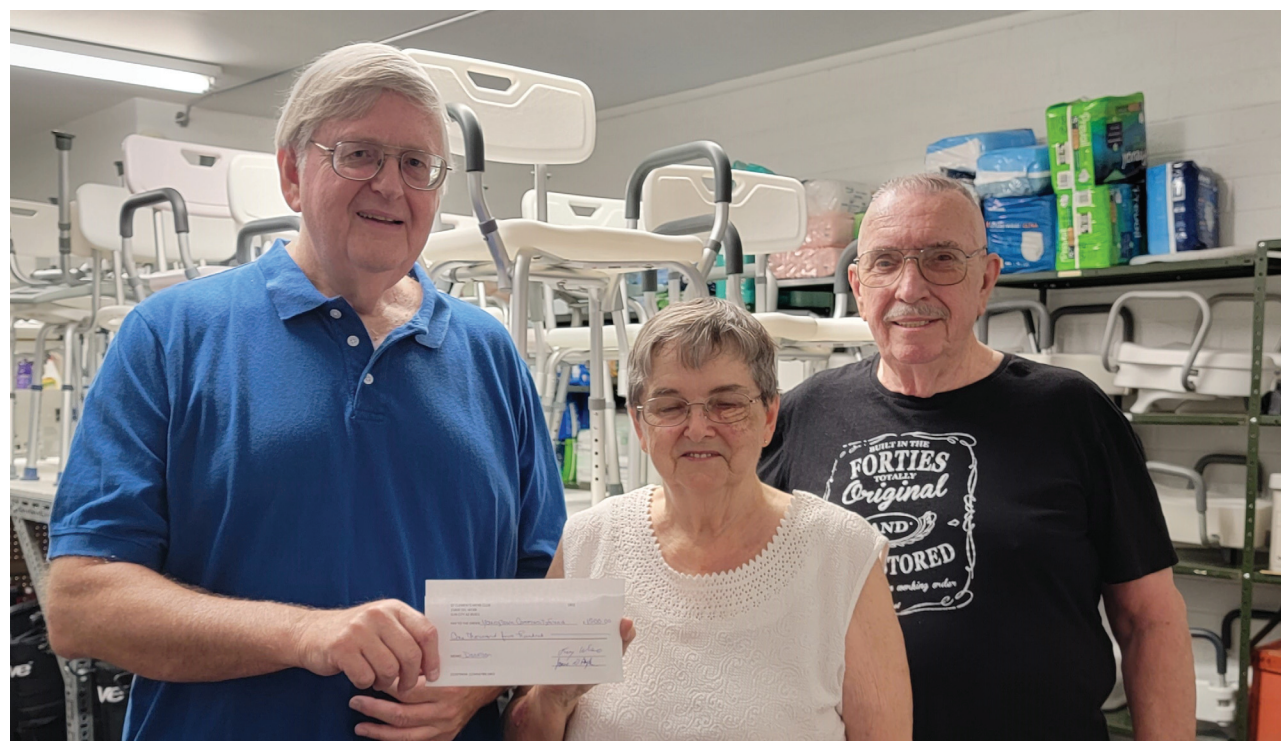
We have been in Youngtown for over 60 years and provide medical equipment to residents of Youngtown, El Mirage, Peoria, and Surprise. We loan equipment for 4 months at NO CHARGE! We accept gently used medical equipment and cash donations. We are open Monday-Saturday from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. each day for your borrowing needs. We have wheelchairs, 3 in 1 commodes, bedside tables, walkers, companion chairs and so much more.

If you are in need of rehabilitation equipment, please stop in and see us,



no appointment needed, and no prescription is required. We offer sanitized equipment for your recovery purposes.

You can also name the Community Fund as your charity of choice on the Fry's app and Fry's will send us a quarterly check based on purchases made. No cost to you and no loss of gas points! Thanks for your support!



"Thanks to ST. Clements Men's Club for their generous \$1500 donation to the Medical Lending Center!"  
Pictured Is Jim Boyle (St Clements), Madelon Jeffreys (President of YTCF) & Larry Wise (St Clements)



# June 15th Event with Wildman Phil

On June 15th, Wildman Phil brought his “Guardian of the Planet” show, which included a tarantula, lizard, Gila monster, desert tortoise, hedgehog, snakes, and an alligator.

