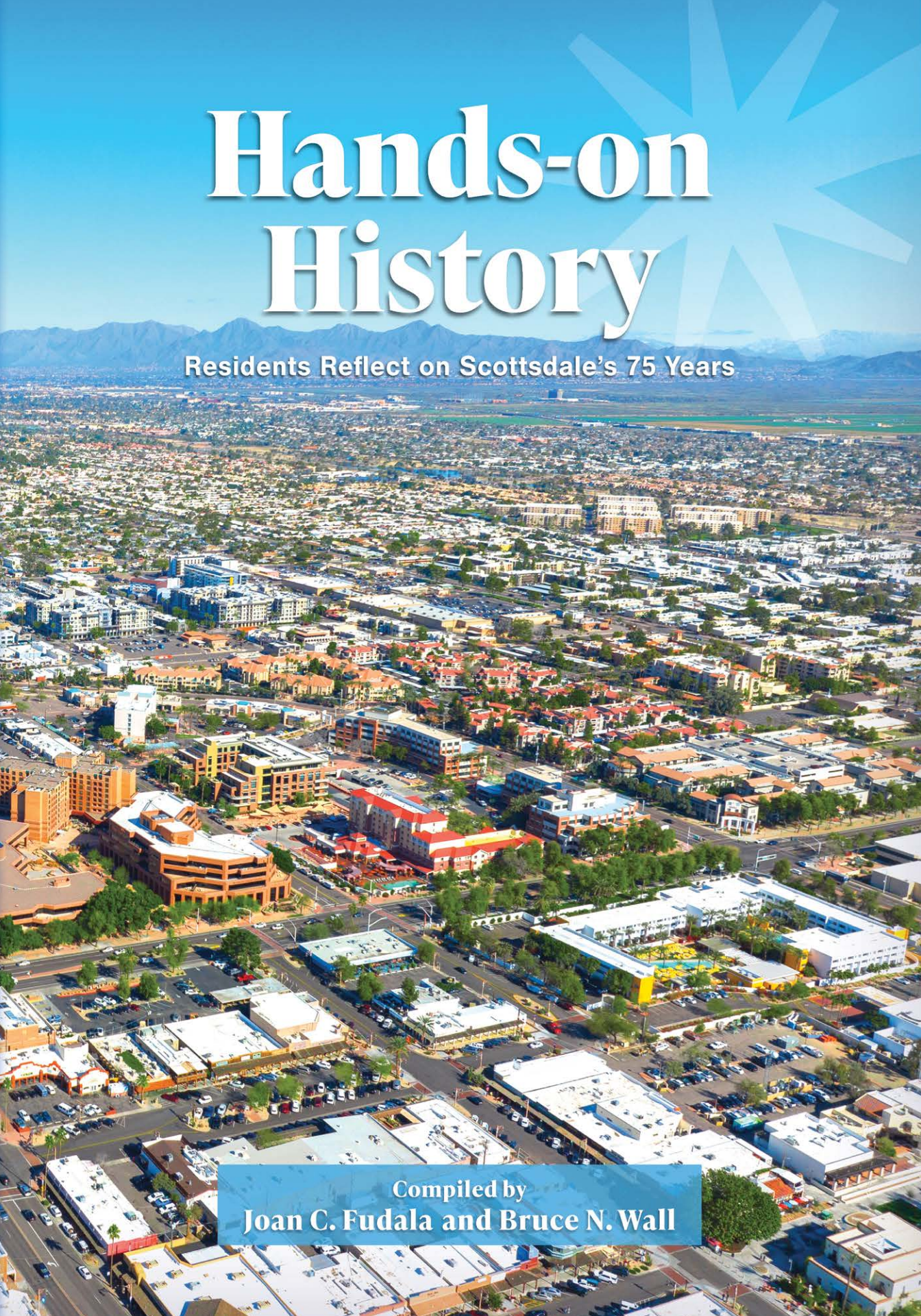




Hands-on History

Residents Reflect on Scottsdale's 75 Years

Compiled by
Joan C. Fudala and Bruce N. Wall

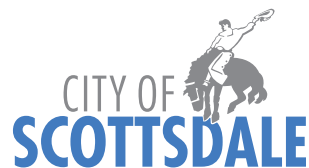
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Compiled by Joan C. Fudala and Bruce N. Wall

Published by the City of Scottsdale, Arizona

In commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of Scottsdale's Incorporation,
June 25, 1951



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Design: Veronica Olivares

Additional Photography: Greer Albaugh

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Library of Congress Control Number: 2026919315

ISBN: 9798189963773

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**The McCormick's Arabian Ranch
along Scottsdale Road - late 1940s**
Scottsdale Historical Society photo



McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park - 2025
Jake DeBruyckere photo



Scottsdale Grammar School - 1910
Scottsdale Historical Society photo



Scottsdale Historical Museum - 2023
Joan Fudala photo



Scottsdale Airport - 1968
Scottsdale Historical Society photo



Scottsdale Airport - 2019
Tim Roberts Photography/Shutterstock.com



Taliesin West - 1960s
Scottsdale Historical Society photo



Taliesin West - 2026
Joan Fudala photo



Civic Center - 1972
Scottsdale Historical Society photo



Civic Center - 2024
Aero Drone Visions photo



WestWorld - 1980s
Diana Smith photo



WestWorld - 2015
City of Scottsdale photo

Introduction

75 Years of Hands-on History: Celebrating, commemorating Scottsdale, its residents; its past, present & future

“Only 75?” As Scottsdale celebrates its diamond anniversary as The West’s Most Western Town, we’re often asked, “Hasn’t Scottsdale been around longer than 75 years?” Yep, it sure has, but it was incorporated as a municipality in 1951.

Humans have been around the Scottsdale area for at least 8,000 years – the Archaic and Hohokam people were the first to discover the delights and challenges of living in the Sonoran Desert. What most consider the modern era didn’t start until after the Civil War ended in 1865. Homesteaders – protected by the U.S. Army at Fort McDowell – began to claim this land for farming and ranching, aided by access to water from the new Arizona Canal.

Army Chaplain/Major Winfield Scott and his wife, Helen, homesteaded what became the initial settlement of Scottsdale in 1888. They were followed by others who migrated here for the warm, dry climate, cheap land, and abundant opportunities to start new lives or careers. Slow to grow on the outskirts of a faster-growing City of Phoenix, Scottsdale maintained a laid-back, rural lifestyle for its first six decades. A hallmark of Scottsdale’s early residents was their hands-on involvement in creating and maintaining a tight-knit, modest, hard-working community. If it needed doing, they pitched in and did it together.

Thousands of military trainees and war industry workers were introduced to the “Valley of the Sun” and Scottsdale during World War II. At war’s end in 1945, many chose to relocate or return to the Scottsdale area, aided this time by the advent of air conditioning.

Scottsdale’s fledgling, pre-war tourism and arts/crafts/fashion industries expanded, and farmland was sold to create Mid-century Modern neighborhoods, schools, and shopping centers. Lack of modern infrastructure – paved streets, zoning and business regulations, police and fire protection, and a municipal roadmap for the future – drove the need to incorporate. The Scottsdale Chamber of Commerce, formed in 1947, held public hearings to debate incorporation and circulated petitions among residents and property owners in early 1951.

The chamber’s petition drive results were overwhelmingly in favor of incorporation; the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors declared the Town of Scottsdale incorporated as of June 25, 1951, with a population of 2,032 on about a half square mile (now the heart of Old Town Scottsdale). The county appointed five Town Councilmembers, who, in turn, selected Malcolm White as Scottsdale’s first Mayor. Although Scottsdale now had a town government to enact basic laws and implement infrastructure projects, residents and civic organizations continued – as they had since the founding – to provide much of Scottsdale’s lifestyle needs, from recreation to culture, youth activities, and welfare programs.

To keep Scottsdale's special cache and its Sonoran Desert surroundings within city limits and control, Scottsdale began annexing land in all directions. With a final large annexation north toward the Continental Mountains and Tonto National Forest in 1984, Scottsdale grew to 184.5 square miles.

As Scottsdale grew in size and population, residents got involved in planning their community. The citizen-volunteers who served on the 1964-65 Scottsdale Town Enrichment Program committees, the 1991 Visioning Process, CityShape 2020, and the dozens of City of Scottsdale boards and commissions have been hands-on, hearts-in-it leaders who have ensured Scottsdale's present and future are bright with possibilities.



Citizens have worked together with the professional staff of the City of Scottsdale to innovate, initiate, and invigorate programs and projects that serve all generations and have been copied by other cities throughout the U.S. and overseas. From water reclamation to flood control, to preserving the McDowell Mountains and Sonoran Desert, we choose to do things “the Scottsdale way.”

In the spirit of the historic, hands-on style of stewarding our city, we sought the memories and insights of 75 ‘movers and shakers’ who have had their fingers on the pulse of Scottsdale over the past 75 years. They represent the thousands of past and present residents, business executives, elected officials, city staff, civic leaders, voters, parents, educators, and youth mentors who have made Scottsdale the Most Livable City and the best place to work, raise a family, make friends, learn and have fun.

We – Joan and Bruce – are the luckiest people in Scottsdale! We’ve made it our mission to get to know Scottsdale’s history and its history-makers, then share our community’s traditions, legends, and lore through talks, articles, programs, and exhibits. Thanks to the iconic folks who contributed to this 75th anniversary book, and for all they’ve done for Scottsdale. We hope this brings back fond memories of your time in Scottsdale and inspires you to get involved with shaping your city -- now and into the future.

Joan Fudala
*Honored as Scottsdale’s
Official Historian in 2024*

Bruce Wall
*Community Involvement Advisor,
City of Scottsdale*

John V. Berry

Change is a challenge

When, as a toddler, I boarded a cross-country train in 1960, along with my parents and four siblings, traveling from a small town in Michigan to then small town Scottsdale, I had no idea how propitious this change would be for me. Throughout my adult life I thanked my parents with great regularity and enthusiasm for their foresight in moving to Scottsdale. Without that change I would not have fallen in love with what I consider my hometown, nor chosen a profession as a land use and zoning attorney. The relocation would also bless me with a front row seat to decades of change in Scottsdale.



After graduating from Stanford Law School in 1981, I joined the largest law firm in Arizona as a corporate lawyer and in 1984 was asked by that firm to become a zoning attorney. This was a challenging career change for me. Moreover, my first zoning case was representing Mayo Clinic in their quest to open their Scottsdale medical campus.

Thankfully, Mayor Herb Drinkwater took me under his wing in what was the beginning of years of friendship and mentorship. With the Mayo Clinic case I quickly learned how little I knew about zoning and why Mayor Drinkwater was, and remains, a legend. I was fortunate to witness his mastery firsthand. In public and private meetings. In strategy sessions. In community outreach and one-on-ones with residents. In rooms filled with scores of anxious, excited, angry, passionate, and committed stakeholders who feared, or embraced, the challenge of change.

Approval of Mayo Clinic's campus was a generational change for Scottsdale and the Valley. Its presence helped accelerate Scottsdale's reputation as an international destination for medical excellence, enhancing the quality of life for so many.

"Mayor Herb" forever imprinted meaningful keys to meeting the challenges of change: listening, collaboration not confrontation, and quality over quantity. As he would often remind me, change is challenging, but change is necessary...whether for individuals or for our beloved city.

Since 1984, **John V. Berry** has practiced land use and zoning law in Scottsdale after graduating from Stanford Law School in 1981. He has served the city of Scottsdale and its residents on a multitude of city and non-profit boards, commissions, task forces, and committees. He has been involved in hundreds of zoning cases including the majority of Scottsdale's most note-worthy real estate developments.



The groundbreaking for the Mayo Clinic in November 1985. L-R: Dr. Richard Hill, chairman of the Scottsdale Mayo Clinic, Mayor Herb Drinkwater, Dr. W. Eugene Mayberry, president and chief executive officer of the Mayo Foundation, and Samuel C. Johnson, chairman of the Mayo Foundation board of trustees. The Zina Kuhn collection photo



The Mayo Clinic Scottsdale in 1987. Scottsdale Historical Society photo

Susan Bitter Smith

Scottsdale has had a long and successful history of encouraging and providing opportunities for citizens to engage in providing direction and suggestions on how their city should serve its residents. From the Scottsdale Town Enrichment Program committees, to the Citizens Charter Review Committee, to standing citizen boards and commissions that range from the Airport Commission to the Library Board, Scottsdale has been a community driven by citizen input.

One particular board, however, had unique beginnings and continues to prompt ongoing community involvement. In 1971, Scottsdale City Council Member Bill Jenkins, who just happened to be a history teacher at Scottsdale High School (which sadly was closed in 1983) persuaded his fellow council members that there should be input from younger residents in the city on city policy and programs. The council created the Scottsdale Youth Action Board, which ultimately became the Mayor's Youth Advisory Board.

As a young sophomore student at Scottsdale High, I was honored to be selected as one of the initial members of this panel, along with a number of other students in the city (including a longtime city supporter Dan Harkins). Councilman Jenkins created the opportunity for the board to attend city council meetings, meet with city staff, work with the city's Parks and Recreation team on creating more youth oriented activities, and to interact with the other boards and commissions. For those of us on the board from Scottsdale High, getting to these meetings was easy, as our school was literally



Pictured in the Scottsdale High School Beaver newspaper are members of the Scottsdale Youth Action Board. L-R: Dan Harkins, Susan Bitter, Jen Opengart, Rich Warden, and an uncredited male. Susan Bitter Smith photo

across the street from City Hall! Often, we would bike over, along with Councilman Jenkins, since he too, frequently rode his bike to school!

This early involvement in the city most certainly helped create my interest in public policy, citizen engagement and public service. How wonderful and unique it was to have your history teacher as a great example of leadership as a city councilman and then ultimately as mayor! I was so honored to have him in the council chambers when I was sworn in as a member of the city council that I had learned so much about as a student.

The Mayor's Youth Advisory Board (now known as the Mayor's Youth Council) still serves as a great opportunity for up and coming young leaders to learn about and engage in a city that truly values citizen input. Scottsdale continues to be a place that creates an environment for citizen engagement and participation. Bill Jenkins would be proud!

Susan Bitter Smith was raised in Scottsdale and is a proud graduate of the Scottsdale Unified School District. She has served on a number of city commissions, as a member of the Scottsdale City Council, and in numerous other county and statewide elected offices.



The 1992 Scottsdale City Council, L-R: Sam Campana, Bill Walton, Ross Dean, Greg Bielli, Bill Soderquist, and Susan Bitter Smith. Missing: Mayor Herb Drinkwater. Scottsdale Historical Society photo

Lisa Borowsky

Growing up in Scottsdale, the majority of my memories center on riding horses. My sister and I fell in love with the idea of getting a horse from the time we were 7 and 8. We lived on five acres and one of our neighbors owned racehorses and the other had a big barn where people could board their horses. We'd stay up late at night thinking of names for our fantasy horses, we were smitten! Being the great dad he was, our father "ordered" us a jet-black Quarter Horse named Malakai – he was a retired race horse. One day, a huge commercial horse hauler pulled up in front of the house and dropped him off. We were over the moon excited; he was gorgeous and, as you can imagine, quite "spirited!" That was the beginning of a lifelong, passionate journey as equestrians.



When my parents realized we'd better get some education before we got too much further down the road experimenting with horses, they found the best "kids" trainer in Scottsdale – Siminoff Stables. We started riding with Yale and Fern Siminoff when I was 9 years old and the rest is history. That was the beginning of a lifetime of owning, riding, showing and raising Quarter Horses. When we joined the Siminoff team, their barn was on Scottsdale Road and Paradise Lane. It was our love and our passion, riding three to four times a week no matter how hot it was, and sunscreen was not a "thing" back then! The barn was always alive and abuzz, lots of kids, cats, dogs and, of course, horses.

Yale and Fern were all business and were quite the disciplinarians: "Shoulders back, chest out," Fern would instruct, as she tapped my back with a riding crop! And, you could always count on Yale to yell loudly across the arena, "No, not like that, dummy!"



Mayor Lisa Borowsky as a young girl on her horse. Mayor Lisa Borowsky photo

One of my favorite memories is the competitions they'd have with all the kids from the barn, especially the spoon and egg contest. We'd have to ride bareback, carrying an egg on a spoon and the last one with the egg still intact won. They had a Christmas party at their house every year and it was the highlight for us all. We'd have barn parties at Rawhide or Handlebar J's, and our go-to after riding lessons was La Fonda – the good ole days! Some of my best friends to this day were made at that barn.

Throughout our many years showing, we traveled all over the city, the state and sometimes across the county to compete. Weekends were spent polishing silver on saddles and prepping for the show. Rise and shine was 5:30 a.m. most show days, it was a full-time job for us as kids, and a big responsibility builder! The city's showground back then was Paradise Park, which has since been developed and replaced by our beautiful WestWorld campus, where I am proud to still show.

Scottsdale's history is rich with stories just like mine. There is a special and significant community full of horse lovers – recreational, competitive and professionals. If there was one thing I'd change about the past 30 years in Scottsdale, it would be to preserve the ranches that once defined our city so all the little girls in Scottsdale had a place to ride a horse. Luckily, most can still be found in Rio Verde today.

Lisa Borowsky, an attorney and life-long equestrian, grew up in Scottsdale and attended Scottsdale area schools. She served one term on the Scottsdale City Council 2008-2012, then began her first term as Mayor of Scottsdale in January 2025. She has served on The Charro Foundation and Experience Scottsdale boards of directors.



Mayor Lisa Borowsky (left) and her sister (right) on horseback at Paradise Park at McCormick Ranch. Mayor Lisa Borowsky photo

Eleanor Brierley

My maternal grandfather, Walter Donn, came to this area in the 1890s from Seattle, WA, and my paternal grandfather Joe Mowry came here in the 1914-15 era from Texas. Joe died before I was born from diabetes – they called it “the sugars.”

My father, Lester Mowry, was an electrician, and he was Scottsdale’s first electrical inspector. I loved standing at our dining room table with plans spread out before us while he did a “take-off” to determine if the plan met code. But this was before incorporation. He taught me how to read a plan, and to this day, I remember that time together.



I graduated from Scottsdale High School in 1953, then spent a year in San Francisco at a trade school. I got married in 1955, and we moved to the West Valley. I moved my family back to Scottsdale in 1960 to a new development called Highview, located at 64th and the Cross Cut Canal. At that time, 64th Street was one mile long - McDowell to Thomas. This is where I raised my children.

The only interesting anecdote that I remember concerns the start-up of electronic devices. My recollection of Scottsdale at the time was a lot of scattered storefronts. This was in the middle 60s. Scottsdale did not have that “finished” look as it does today. An early start-up company called Dickson Electronics moved into 3 storefronts as its business developed rapidly. I started working for them in their mailroom, where we packed up and shipped the electronic devices that were being manufactured. This company built its own standalone building at the northeast corner of Thomas and Pima. “Our” Charlie Smith was a manager in that company. They were just a little earlier than Motorola.

The biggest thing I remember about Scottsdale at the time was how quickly it changed from my home with lots of open spaces and farming to a clutter of random shops without a lot of thought being put into how this development looked. When my youngest child was 18, my husband and I moved to Mesa and lived there for 15 years. We moved back to Scottsdale when my father’s health began to fail. That is when I began to be more interested in the Scottsdale Historical Society and service there.

Eleanor Brierley is a third-generation Scottsdale resident who grew up with her three sisters in a home in Old Town which is a restaurant today. She has been a Scottsdale Historical Society volunteer leader for decades – serving as a museum docent, gift shop manager, and treasurer of the board of directors.



The Board and Advisory Board of the Scottsdale Historical Society with three members of the City Council at the Pancake Breakfast to benefit the Scottsdale Historical Society on Nov. 22, 2025. Eleanor is the last person on the right.



*The Mowry sisters in front of their home in the 1950s
L-R: Eleanor, Diana, JoAnn, and Becky*

Kurt Brueckner

Forty years ago, I received a call from Phil Carlson, CEO of the Scottsdale Area Chamber of Commerce, advising me that the Chamber needed a “cheap attorney” to form an entity. As a young attorney, I was eager to take a call for any work, even if it was pro bono. When I inquired as to the name of the entity, Phil told me to call it “Scottsdale Leadership.” When I asked what Scottsdale Leadership is and what it intends to do, the response was that “we’ll figure that out later, just file the corporate documents and get us nonprofit status from the IRS.” Through an extraordinary use of word salad, I was able to convince the IRS that Scottsdale Leadership was a legitimate entity and that it deserved nonprofit status. Thus, Scottsdale Leadership was formed.



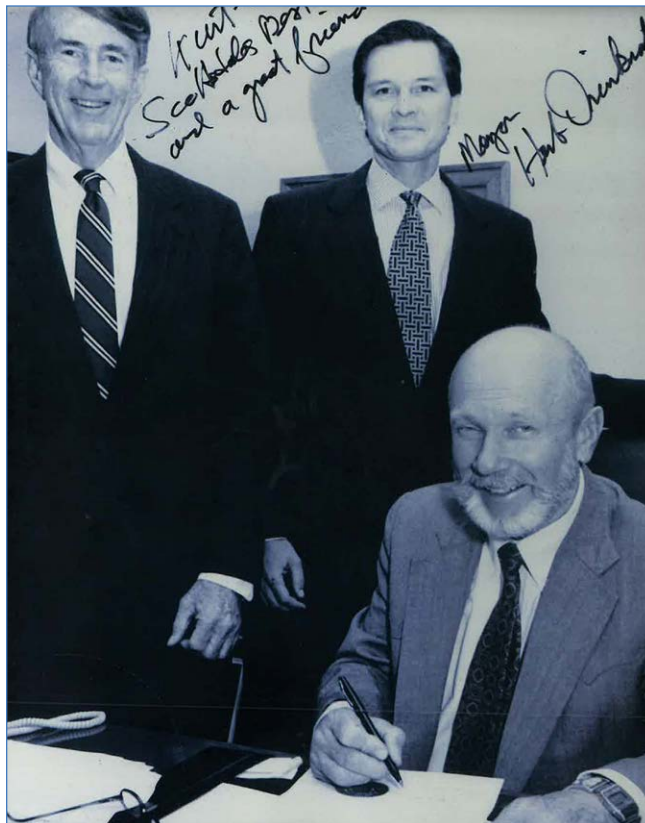
I had the honor and privilege of serving in Class 2 of Scottsdale Leadership with Jamie Drinkwater. After our graduation from Class 2, Jamie asked if I was interested in having lunch with her father, Mayor Herb Drinkwater. Of course, I accepted the gracious invitation. When Mayor Drinkwater asked me what I was interested in, my response was transportation, since I had spent summers working on a curb and gutter crew. The mayor’s response was “Great, I’m forming a Transportation Commission and you will be our new chairman.”

It was certainly a kinder and gentler time when you could have an hour lunch with the Mayor and walk away being named as the chairman of a commission in the city of Scottsdale.

Kurt Brueckner, is a Scottsdale-based attorney specializing in corporate and business law for over 40 years and an inductee in the Scottsdale History Hall of Fame. Kurt has chaired the Scottsdale Area Chamber of Commerce, the Scottsdale Bar Association, Scottsdale Paradise Valley YMCA, Scottsdale’s Transportation Commission and is a director of the Scottsdale Charros Foundation. He is a graduate of Scottsdale Leadership Class 2.



Kurt Brueckner was a member of Scottsdale Leadership Class 2 in 1988. Scottsdale Leadership photo



Attorneys Ed Lowry and Kurt Brueckner watch as Mayor Herb Drinkwater signs a proclamation for Law Day in Scottsdale. Ed Lowry would go on to be elected Mayor of Paradise Valley from 1998 to 2004. Kurt Brueckner photo

Jim Bruner

In 1969, Sandy and I moved to Arizona. Next to getting married this was the best decision we ever made.

Why? Scottsdale is a special place. Great weather, beautiful scenery and friendly and welcoming people. We, moving to a new area, starting life in a new community, felt accepted from day one.

During our 55+ years in Scottsdale we have seen this city grow and prosper, with a lifestyle the envy of many communities.

We have been fortunate to be involved in some of the activities of Scottsdale. Let me mention two.

I served on the Scottsdale City Council from 1980-1988, serving with our wonderful mayor, Herb Drinkwater. During this time the council worked on a number of issues. Here are just a few we worked with during this 8-year period.

- Moving the Phoenix Open to Scottsdale and building the TPC of Scottsdale;
- Annexing the land north of Bell Road to Carefree, to preclude trailer parks being developed in what was then under county jurisdiction;
- Bringing back to Scottsdale the Scottsdale All Arabian horse show which had moved to Phoenix;
- Creating the Scottsdale Civic Center Mall, covering a two lane road with a people oriented Mall;
- Changing restrictions allowing Fashion Square Mall to connect with the Camelview Mall, creating what few other American cities have, a major retail shopping center in their downtown;
- Adopting a residential fire sprinkler ordinance, considered the “gold standard” in the industry, and adopted by many jurisdictions around the world.

All of these issues, and others, at the time generated controversy, and differences of opinions by the seven members of the city council. However, all of us worked together to reach unanimous decisions. No egos, no voting blocks, no partisan voting; frankly we didn't know or care about the political membership of council members. We were all dedicated to make Scottsdale a great place to work, to live and raise a family. Hopefully we succeeded.

Another issue of importance to our community: arts. Today the arts and related cultural activities contribute to our quality of life. Long before Scottsdale was incorporated in 1951 various art groups began gathering and working here in the 1930s and 40s. The arts are truly part of Scottsdale's DNA.



In 2010 the city's voters approved an increase in the city's bed tax, paid for by visitors who stay in a Scottsdale hotel or resort. This citizen approved measure included a provision that 50% of these funds are to be used to build new and provide upkeep for existing tourist oriented attractions.

The first new tourist attraction supported by this tourist fund was Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West located in Old Town Scottsdale. This museum opened in January 2015, became a Smithsonian affiliate in 2016, and has been named by True West Magazine the Best Western Museum in the country, with approximately 50% of visitors from outside Arizona.

This museum, without one dime of general public funding, has become a major factor in attracting visitors to our downtown area, and a wonderful asset for our local residents including the thousands of school age children who visit every year.

My wife and I have been involved and part of this museum from the beginning. I have been fortunate to serve as founding and continuing chairman for 16 years.

Let me close with a comment I often make: "Today we are enjoying the shade of those "civic trees" planted 20-30 years ago. Hopefully we are planting "civic trees" today that will be enjoyed by those who follow us."

Jim Bruner, a retired banker and lawyer, served as founding chair of Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West. He was elected to two terms on the Scottsdale City Council and chaired the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors; is a Trustee of the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust; and has served on the boards of the Scottsdale Cultural Council, Fiesta Bowl, Scottsdale Railroad & Mechanical Society and Scottsdale Boys Clubs, just to name a few highlights from his resume of civic leadership. While serving as chairman of the Maricopa County Sports District he was instrumental in developing a plan to stabilize and expand the Cactus League and in obtaining a Major League Baseball franchise and stadium for Arizona.



Mayor Herb Drinkwater and Council Member Jim Bruner work at Herb's desk in the 1980s. Jim Bruner photo



Jim and Sandy Bruner with the plaque for the Jim and Sandy Bruner Scholars program at the Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West from March 2, 2023. Joan Fudala photo

Richard V. Campana

Midnight Train Heists and Million-Dollar Laborers: How McCormick Railroad Park Got Built

McCormick Railroad Park didn't just happen—it was built by a millionaire who worked like a common laborer, fueled by city council meetings where I had to beg for more money, and launched with what can only be described as a midnight train heist in the town of Aguila.

Back in the 1970s, when I was on city council, Guy Stillman became both my client and my partner in one of Scottsdale's most ambitious projects. His mother had donated about 100 acres to the city—60 on one side of Scottsdale Road, 40 on the other—to create McCormick Railroad Park. The city took the land but was strapped for cash to actually build anything meaningful.

Guy had a solution that was part generous donation, part passionate obsession. He owned an incredible collection of narrow-gauge railroad equipment and had been running trains on his own McCormick Ranch property. "I want to give it all to the city," he told me, "but under my total control."

That's how Guy Stillman became Scottsdale's most unusual unofficial employee—a millionaire who showed up every day with a pickax and shovel, laying track and building the railroad that kids ride around today. And when I say every day, I mean every day, even in brutal Arizona summers. Here's a man worth millions, working alongside city employees like he was paid by the hour.

My uncle, a true renaissance man and recent immigrant from Italy, Romano Biasatti worked for Parks and Recreation as their fix-everything guy, and Parks Director Bill Ensign agreed to loan him to Guy "just a little bit"—maybe half a day a week. Within a month, Romano was working full-time at the railroad park. As Bill told me, "We lost an employee, Campana. He works for Guy now, but he's still on our payroll."



The Dec. 5, 1973 Scottsdale Progress shows Dick Campana in Gabe Brooks' machine shop at the McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park. Times Local Media/Scottsdale Progress photo

The building process was methodical and relentless. Guy would come to me regularly: "Campana, we need more money for this. We need more money for that." I'd trudge back to city council meetings: "Guys, we need more budget. Guy's building more stuff at the railroad park." Somehow, the council always found the money. Guy's enthusiasm was infectious, and his results were undeniable.

Then came the midnight acquisition that became railroad park legend. Guy needed an authentic station building and had his eye on the old depot in Aguila. Rather than get bogged down in bureaucratic negotiations, Guy and his crew simply showed up in

the middle of the night and relocated the entire structure to Scottsdale. By morning, Aguila's train station had become McCormick's centerpiece.

As word spread about what we were building, railroad hobbyists throughout the Valley started approaching us. These were serious collectors with beautiful home layouts and expensive equipment, but they faced a common problem: when they died, their families had nowhere to put elaborate train collections.

That's when I drafted the articles of incorporation for the Scottsdale Railroad and Mechanical Society in the early 1970s. Guy got stock certificate number one, I got number two, and we created a nonprofit structure that allowed hobbyists to donate equipment while retaining some control over how it was displayed. They started with one small building and have grown into a major attraction that showcases dozens of different railroad organizations.

What amazed me most was Guy's daily commitment. Here's a man who could have written checks and hired contractors, instead choosing to work alongside Romano and other city employees, building track, constructing buildings and restoring engines. The Truman presidential car, the various depot buildings, miles of track—Guy had his hands on all of it.

The park kept expanding, the budget kept growing, and our Parks Department deserves enormous credit for supporting Guy's vision. What started as a millionaire's hobby became one of Scottsdale's premier family destinations.

Guy Stillman was an honorable man who genuinely loved this city. His mother donated the land, but Guy donated something more valuable—years of his life, building something that brings joy to thousands of visitors. It's a shame more people don't know his story.

After Guy passed, his wife Patty stayed in Scottsdale for years before returning to Canada. Both were wonderful people and my valued clients, but more importantly, they were true community builders who left Scottsdale better than they found it.

The park has become a four-generation experience for my family. From my uncle, to me, my kids and now my grandkids. My son even served on the board for a time. It's a place of joy and a place to make memories, whether it be celebrating birthdays, holidays, concerts, or just a day of play. To this day, one of my favorite things to do has been to take my grandchildren there at Christmas, when it's all festive and lit up, riding the train together and visiting the model trains.



The Aguila train depot purchased for the McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park was moved from Aguila to Scottsdale in October 1977. Scottsdale Public Library photo

After 64 years of practicing law, **Richard Campana** recently retired. Over the ten years of being on the Scottsdale City Council he was vice mayor three times. As a Scottsdale Jaycee, he was the Rodeo Chairman and also the Parada del Sol Chairman. He was also the chairman of the Scottsdale Housing Board and Board of Adjustment.

Sam Campana

“Your city is a resort! Everywhere I look there’s another piece of beautiful art!” happy tourists on my Walk ‘N About Scottsdale Tour exclaim. The ambiance, the subtle charms and the overall look of our city are a carefully curated overlay on a town with a deep, rich history.

When Scottsdale incorporated in 1951, it already had the makings of an arts colony. Seventy-five years ago, Native American artists still drove horse-drawn carts downtown, laden with their beautiful turquoise and silver jewelry. Eleanor Roosevelt exclaimed over them and Scottsdale in her nationally-syndicated newspaper column. Craftspeople soon followed, Frank Lloyd Wright established Taliesin West in our McDowell Mountains, and women artists flourished, leading to the evolution of Cattle Track Arts Colony, the Main Street galleries, Fifth Avenue boutiques and Marshall Way jewelers.

Within a few years of incorporation, city officials codified their interest in the arts and culture, anchoring the new civic center with City Hall, our library, and a splendid Center for the Arts. But the most forward-thinking, sophisticated step was adopting

the Percent for Art Ordinance which required every city capital project (even including sewers, roads, or fire stations) to set aside one percent of the cost for public art!

Some artists were inspired by the building/project that generated the money (*Passing the Legacy* – city’s Nordstrom public garage), some of the funds enhanced architecture (Appaloosa Library), extended Canal Convergence (ephemeral art on the Waterfront in November), neighborhood art (bridge over the AZ Canal, *Rippling Waters*, *Watermark* galloping horses), efficient roundabouts (Ed Mell’s *Jack Knife*), walls



L-R: Cattle Track owner Janie Ellis, artist Phil Curtis, and Mayor Sam Campana in the 1990s. Mayor Sam Campana photo

(*Tributary*), infrastructure (bus stop bays, flower pots, curb cuts, noise walls, signage, light poles on FLW Boulevard). Our Fine Arts Commission/Public Arts oversaw the funds generated, donated art, private citizen commissions and IGAs (Salt River Project canal bank enhancements).

The ordinance required the Arizona Department of Transportation to beautify the 7-mile route of the Pima Freeway through Scottsdale (*The Path Most Traveled*). The geckos, snakes, cacti and lizards that inhabit the walls are beloved – although a prominent architect stormed my mayor’s office worried about the too bright colors! All Arizona shades, I assured him. The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community joins the Loop 101 with *Handshake*.

As the Executive Director of Arizonans for Cultural Development in the 1980s and ‘90s, I convinced dozens of communities in Arizona to pass these Percent for Art ordinances. Later, serving as a Scottsdale city council member and mayor, I was an enthusiastic supporter of establishing the not-for-profit (now Scottsdale Arts) to administer our theatre, galleries, education programs and public art. I made the call and helped raise the dollar match to transform the modest five-screen movie theater into the exciting and compelling Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art (SMoCA).

Scottsdale has grown from 2,032 people to nearly 245,000, but our soul has never shrunk. We didn’t just build a city; we built an open-air gallery, ensuring that for the next 75 years, civic excellence and inspiration will remain inseparable. Public art is so creatively and strategically embedded in Scottsdale. it’s everywhere!

Kathryn “Sam” Campana served two terms on the Scottsdale City Council and as Mayor of Scottsdale 1996-2000. She is a long-time advocate for the arts, the McDowell Sonoran Preserve and women’s issues. She co-founded Scottsdale Leadership in 1986, and has served on the boards of the Scottsdale Library, Cattle Track Arts & Preservation, Scottsdale Arts Center Association and Scottsdale Public Art.



Tammi Lynch-Forrest’s “The Desert Garden” mosaic in the Scottsdale Civic Center. Scottsdale Public Art photo

Dylan Capshaw

Scottsdale has been the backdrop to every chapter of my life, first as a child with a big imagination and now as a young entrepreneur working every day to contribute to the city that raised me. Growing up here taught me that this is a place where ideas are encouraged, where community is valued, and where opportunities are within reach if you are willing to work for them.

I launched my first small business in Scottsdale when I was eight years old. I didn't fully understand the complexities of entrepreneurship then. I simply wanted to create something that mattered. Yet even at that young age, I felt supported. Neighbors became customers, local business owners shared advice, and the community as a whole encouraged me to continue. Scottsdale has always made space for ambition, even when it comes from someone young.

At 12, I had the opportunity to adopt a segment of roadway through the city of Scottsdale's Adopt-a-Road Program. That experience changed the way I understood my place in this community. Cleaning that road wasn't just about picking up litter. It was about stewardship and belonging. The fact that a program like that was accessible to someone my age reinforced something I still believe today: Scottsdale empowers its residents to take ownership, to contribute and to lead.



Dylan Capshaw (second from the right in the back row) was part of the Mayor's Youth Council during the term of Mayor David Ortega, 2021-2025 (center in the back row). City of Scottsdale photo

A few years later, I joined the Scottsdale Mayor's Youth Council at 15 and had the privilege of serving under the mayor for two years. I helped plan city events, worked with local leaders and shared ideas for our shared future. It is rare for a teenager to have direct civic involvement at that level, and it strengthened my sense of responsibility to the community.

Today, I am 19 years old and I own and operate three brick-and-mortar companies throughout the city. I am not sure I could name anywhere else in the world where achieving that would feel as possible as it does here. Whether I am working with health inspectors, speaking with business licensing staff, or partnering with local organizations, the experience is always collaborative, supportive and genuinely human. I've never been judged or turned away because of my age.

Looking ahead, as I continue to grow my businesses, I hope one day to serve Scottsdale in an even deeper capacity, possibly through local public service. My dream is to give back to the place that gave me every chance to grow.

Scottsdale is more than where I live. It is my foundation, my launchpad and my home. I could not imagine building my life or my work anywhere else.

Raised in Scottsdale, **Dylan Capshaw** is a young entrepreneur whose work centers on contributing to the community that helped him grow. He aims to continue supporting Scottsdale's culture, people and shared future.



Grand opening of the Phoenix Stemistry location. Dylan Capshaw is on the left, holding the scissors. Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego is in the middle, wearing a bright pink dress. Dylan Capshaw photo

Carla

“Confessions of a South Scottsdale Desert Rat”

Born environmentalists and fighters for just causes, my brother Greg Woodall and I were raised by a scientist mom who abhorred television, instead kicking us outside to explore and learn. It was a good day when we caught a ride up north to the McDowell Mountains. At Coronado High School, we founded the Ecology Club and created Scottsdale’s first recycling center at Eldorado Park.

In the 70s my first brush with city politics was at an Old Town diner where Scottsdale’s movers and shakers – known as the “Mags Ham Bun Bunch”- gathered every morning. I was the waitress pouring their coffee. They really did end breakfast negotiations saying, “Let’s go over to City Hall and make it official!”

One member, future Mayor Herb Drinkwater, encouraged me to get involved with the city. However my twenties were a time to be wild and yes, that’s when, while getting divorced, I legally took one name as my personal “Declaration of Independence.”

As development approached our beloved mountains it was time to wake up and in 1990 join forces with fellow conservationists, like Jane Rau, to form the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy. I knew that this cause was going to be a lifetime commitment. Thirty-five years later, I’ve helped lead nine successful public votes to create, fund and protect our McDowell Sonoran Preserve. My only regret is that we didn’t start sooner so we could have saved the foothills too.



Colleen Katz photo



The first Preserve Steward class of the McDowell Sonoran Land Trust graduated in November 1998. Art DeCabooter, president of Scottsdale Community College, is kneeling and holding a walking stick; second from the right are Carla and Chet Andrews, co-founders of the Preserve Steward program. McDowell Sonoran Conservancy photo

Greg (who became an archeologist) drew the boundary and sited the access areas for our 30,500+ acre natural treasure. The largest urban preserve in our nation! I'm credited with enforcing the lines he drew, some even call me "the Mother of Our Preserve." But the reality is it took many dedicated individuals; community leaders like Art DeCabooter; talented city staff; visionary mayors Drinkwater, Sam Campana and especially Mary Manross; plus a citizenry that taxed themselves three times to make our "crazy dream" come true.



Carla is standing below the Carla Way sign at the McDowell Sonoran Preserve's Gateway Trailhead on June 8, 2010. Joan Fudala photo

I hope our Preserve has become such an integral part of Scottsdale, much like the Indian Bend Wash Greenbelt, that it will never be threatened. Unfortunately not every new crop of politicians seems to understand its importance and true meaning. So the challenge now is to protect it and mentor the next generations of advocates who will do the same. In 1998 one of my fellow "Preserve Pioneers," the late great Chet Andrews, and I created the Preserve Stewards Program. These volunteers help the city care for our Preserve. But we need more. More students of every age who will learn about and fight for our precious land.

I still live downtown in my 1955 one-story, family-oriented neighborhood called Peaceful Valley. Sadly we are now threatened by developers turning our little haven into short term rentals and too tall mini-mansions. But I love my city and hope to stay here and keep giving back. A city that no matter how big she has grown at 75, is still a small town at heart.

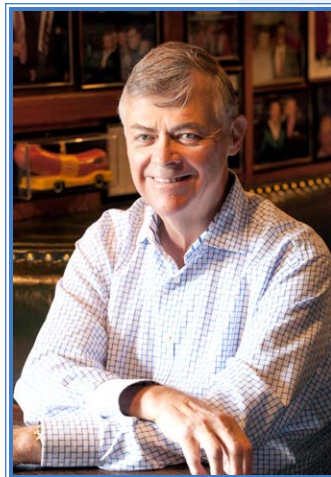
Carla, a resident of South Scottsdale since 1965, is known as "The Mother of Our Preserve" and is an official "McDowell Sonoran Preserve Pioneer." In addition to helping establish this incredible community asset, she co-founded the Preserve Stewards Program and has helped lead every successful Preserve related vote since 1995. Carla - her legal name, as her personal declaration of independence after divorce - was inducted into the Scottsdale History Hall of Fame in 2005.

Don Carson

My father moved to Scottsdale in 1960 and opened a restaurant. The population of Scottsdale at that time was miniscule. Scottsdale had a tad over 10,000 residents. Camelback Road ended at Miller Road. There was no bridge over the canal at Scottsdale and Camelback roads. One more nugget -Main Street east of Brown was a dirt road. We were a small town!

I graduated from Scottsdale High School in 1963. I left Scottsdale and moved back to Chicago to further my restaurant ambitions. I moved back to Scottsdale in 1981, and opened a restaurant in the same location as my father had in 1961. The restaurant was named Carson's Ribs after a restaurant I had opened in Skokie, Illinois with my family. The name was changed to Don and Charlie's after eight months.

I became a partner in an independent restaurant group called Lettuce Entertain You, with an old friend by the name of Rich Mecman. Don and Charlie's enjoyed a 38-year run. The population of Scottsdale had grown to more than 88,000 residents.



Don Carson is shown with his remarkable collection of sports and entertainment memorabilia. Don Carson photo

The Cactus League was gathering steam, and Don and Charlie's became a baseball hangout. In 1960 there were three teams; in 1981 the Cactus League had grown to 10 teams; the number of Cactus League teams in 2025 grew to 15 teams playing in 10 stadiums.

In my 38 years at Don and Charlie's - an exhilarating time in my restaurant career - I met many from all walks of life. This is a short story about one of my many baseball experiences that I enjoyed.

I did the press box food at Scottsdale Stadium for the San Francisco Giants; the beautiful stadium you visit in 2026 is the best in the Valley; in 1960 the stadium was made of wood and box seats had folding picnic chairs. I would mosey down to the dugout a couple of hours before the game started. There were three gentlemen I loved to listen

to, icons in the game of baseball, real legends. I would sit on the dugout steps and listen to Willie Mays, Joe Garagiola and Herman Franks share story after story. I never said a word, not a peep: I had nothing to offer. Many years ago, Larry King and I were talking about interviewing personalities, Larry told me, "I always found out more by listening."

My fellow citizens, you are the future. Scottsdale has always been a city striving to be the best. There will always be ups and downs. That's life. Scottsdale always moves forward. My sincere suggestion is to get involved. You don't have to run for office to make a difference. My best recollections are of 30 years of community service in various organizations.

For **Don Carson**, community service is an honor and privilege. I did my best to say "yes" to whatever was asked of me. I never kept score; not my style. I am very proud of two accomplishments. I was one of the thousands who labored tirelessly to restore the MLK holiday to Arizona. On a more personal level, I was a lunch monitor at my daughter's school for 13 years. That's all folks; get involved!



Restaurateur Don Carson is shown at Don & Charlie's Restaurant. Don Carson photo

Alison Cavalliere

At the corner of Brown Avenue and Second Street in Old Town Scottsdale stands one of the city's most treasured historic sites, Cavalliere's Blacksmith Shop. Quiet, humble and built of sun-baked adobe, the shop looks much as it did a century ago, and for good reason. This small building, constructed in 1910, is the oldest continuously operated blacksmith shop in Scottsdale and one of the last of its kind in Arizona.

The story of Cavalliere's began in 1909, when blacksmith George Sydney Cavalliere, known as "Cavy" the original founder, opened his first shop on Scottsdale and Main. Back then, Scottsdale was little more than a frontier farming town. Dusty streets, cotton fields and horse-drawn wagons set the rhythm of daily life. Because town leaders didn't want the noise and smoke of a working forge on Main Street, Cavy was asked if he would like to move to what we know today as Pima and Shea, the offer was 100 acres, or the town block where it sits today on the corner of 2nd street and Brown.



George "Doc" Cavalliere working in the blacksmith's shop. Scottsdale Historical Society photo

The original building was a makeshift tin structure, but as Scottsdale grew, so did the need for a sturdier shop. The adobe building is still standing today and was completed around 1920, giving the shop its iconic thick walls, wooden beams and Western character. In those early decades, George Sydney shod horses, sharpened plow blades, repaired wagon wheels and fixed just about any metal tool a rancher could break. A blacksmith wasn't just a tradesman, he was a lifeline.

As time passed, Scottsdale shifted from an agricultural outpost to a thriving Western arts community, and the shop evolved along with it. Heavy farm repair gave way to ornamental ironwork, and Cavalliere's became known for handcrafted gates, decorative railings, branding irons and custom metal pieces that blended function with artistry. Our iron work is all over the Valley, including Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin. Tourists walking the streets of Old Town could peek inside and watch sparks dance as hot steel met the anvil.



The Cavalliere Blacksmith Shop at 3805 N. Brown Ave in 2006. Joan Fudala photo

The next chapter of the family’s legacy belonged to George Rodger Cavalliere, better known as “Doc.” “Doc” grew up around the forge and carried the Cavalliere spirit of craftsmanship into Scottsdale’s modern era. A respected figure in the community, and once a city council member, he helped maintain the shop’s reputation for quality, tradition and Western authenticity. Under Doc’s watch, Cavalliere’s became a bridge between old Scottsdale and the city it was becoming, a place where heritage was preserved even as progress marched on.

Today, the legacy continues through George Allen Cavalliere, my father, who carries forward the family craft into its third generation at the forge. George’s wife Elizabeth, my mother, works beside him telling the history of the shop and the family. While the city has grown into a bustling destination, the blacksmith shop remains a quiet, living reminder of Scottsdale’s roots. George works the forge himself, forging, bending and shaping steel the old-fashioned way, by hand, with the same tools and techniques his grandfather and great-grandfather once relied on.

Unlike its busier days decades ago, Cavalliere’s Blacksmith Shop is now open by appointment only. The constant foot traffic of tourists has eased, and the shop operates at a slower, more deliberate pace. But when the forge is lit and the hammer rings, the spirit of Old Scottsdale comes alive again. Visitors who schedule a time to step inside can still feel the heat of the coal fire, see the worn anvil that has absorbed generations of blows, and breathe in the faint scent of metal and smoke.

In a district known for its galleries, boutiques and modern restaurants, Cavalliere’s Blacksmith Shop stands as a rare piece of authentic Scottsdale history. A place where time hasn’t rushed forward, where craftsmanship is preserved with pride, and where one family continues a 115-year legacy with fire, steel and skill.

Alison Cavalliere is the youngest daughter of blacksmith George Cavalliere and a proud member of one of Scottsdale’s oldest family legacies. Born and raised in Old Town Scottsdale, Alison grew up surrounded by the glow of the forge and the history of her family’s craft. She writes to preserve the stories and traditions that shaped her childhood and continue to define the Cavalliere legacy today.

Jack Crews

We have great memories of growing up in Scottsdale. Our family (great grandparents) Stanley and Sara Thomas came to Scottsdale in 1898. Our father Jack H. Crews was born and raised in Scottsdale and graduated from Scottsdale High School. Jack H. Crews graduated from Arizona State College and went on to teach at Scottsdale Elementary School. He taught 8th grade for 2 years and then went on to teach at Scottsdale High School from 1956 until 1981 when he retired from teaching.

Our parents built a house in 1950 that was the first house in a subdivision southeast of Scottsdale Road and Thomas Road. This home is where they raised four boys, Stan, Jack, Gary and Mark. Gary and Mark have passed away. Stan and I can remember when we came back on summer vacation in 1956 from California and all of the alfalfa and cotton fields has been plowed under and the land was being leveled and prepared for hundreds of new Hallcraft homes to be built. The reason for this new development was to accommodate the expectant growth due to new industry like Motorola and increases in tourism, substantially adding to the population of our town. We no longer could walk through fields to school, we were now walking through new neighborhoods being established. We believed this was the beginning of the growth spurt that has continued to climb.

Stan and I graduated from Coronado High School in 1964 and 1967 respectively. There were fights that took place off campus at the Mesquites which is now Eldorado Park and then everyone would go back to class. We also remember going to the A & W Root Beer stand after the ball games, and later on it was Bob's Big Boy on McDowell and Scottsdale Road. that we frequented. When we got to the driving age we would drive to the Round Up drive in theater, roll down our window and hook the speaker on it and get ready to enjoy the movie with a number of other cars.

When Frontier Town shopping center was built on the corner of Scottsdale Road. and Thomas, Stan became a barber in that complex right next to the Spudnut Donuts. It was worth getting a haircut just to smell the donuts being made. On many weekends we would hang out at the full service gas station on the southwest corner of Scottsdale Road and Thomas with our Dad and Ivy Avery the owner of the station. It was fun to watch cars getting their oil checked and gassed up by the service station attendant after he washed their windshields.

We appreciate the city of Scottsdale respecting, recognizing and reserving the history of Scottsdale and keeping a watchful eye on its future growth. Our grandmother Grace Thomas Crews was recognized by the city of Scottsdale and inducted as one of the first 15 to the Scottsdale Hall of Fame. They cited her work as a teacher at the Little Red School House, teaching Yaqui and Pima children English so they would be included in



the changing community. Her legacy of teaching has led to five generations of Crewses undertaking teaching as their profession. Our Uncle Stanley was also recognized by the city of Scottsdale for his ultimate sacrifice in WWII and in his memory of being the first man from Scottsdale to die in this war, the VFW named it's post Stanley A. Crews.

Thank you Scottsdale for not ignoring the past, but celebrating the history and accomplishments of our citizens, past and present.

Jack and Stan Crews are third generation Scottsdale residents. Their great-grandparents were Stanley and Sara Coldwell Thomas, who came to Scottsdale in 1898. Their grandparents were teacher Grace and rancher Arthur Crews. Their father, Jack Crews, lost his brother Stanley in the Philippines during World War II. Jack is a retired educator; Stan is a retired pastor.



The Crews brothers attended Coronado High School that opened in 1960. The architect was Ralph Haver & Associates. Scottsdale Historical Society



Jack (left) and Stan (right) Crews proudly point out the name of the uncle they never met – Stanley Arthur Crews – whose name is among those Scottsdale area residents who died during military service and are listed on the Scottsdale Memorial to the Fallen. The privately-funded memorial, on the east side of Scottsdale City Hall, was dedicated March 18, 2023. Crews family photo

Stanley Crews

Memories of my Grandmother Grace Crews

Grace Thomas Crews came to Scottsdale in 1898 with her parents Stanley and Sara Thomas. Four years later in 1902 her father Stanley died of tuberculosis. With the insurance money from the death, her mother Sara bought the general store on Main and Brown in Scottsdale. After a couple of years of trying to raise three children as a single mom and running a general store as the post mistress she wrote her sister Jane Brown. She asked her sister if she and her family would come out to Scottsdale and help her with the kids and store. Jane Brown with her husband E.O. and three children moved out to Scottsdale in 1905. A couple of years after her sister came to Scottsdale, Sara and her youngest brother both died of tuberculosis.



Photo of Grace Thomas Crews, Stanley's grandmother. Scottsdale Historical Society photo

When Grace graduated from 8th grade she did not go on to high school but rather went to Tempe Normal School to get a teaching certificate. After she finished these classes she went back to Scottsdale and began teaching at the school she had graduated from. Grace spoke English, Spanish and Yaqui and was able to communicate with those children who could not speak English. When the new school (called Scottsdale Elementary) opened in 1928 Grace stayed at the Little Red School House on Main Street and continued teaching English to those who did not speak English. This program was ended in 1950 so Grace moved on to teach first grade at Scottsdale Elementary School.

Grace began teaching school after receiving her certificate of teaching in 1918. Since that time until the present, five generations of Crews's have gone into education. Her son Jack Crews taught at Scottsdale Elementary and then at Scottsdale High School, her grandson Jack Crews taught in Lake Havasu City and was an administrator. Her great grandson David also taught in Havasu City and was in administration in Colorado. Her great great granddaughter Ashlyn Crews just graduated from the University of Arizona and is teaching 6th grade in Marana, Arizona.

Grace went on with her education and graduated from ASU the same year as her son, Jack Crews. Grace had a real passion for children and especially for those who could not speak English. In April of 1994 Grace was inducted into the Scottsdale History Hall of Fame along with 14 other Scottsdale pioneers.

Stan Crews, a retired pastor, describes his pioneer grandmother in this essay. He and his brother Jack, a retired educator, are Coronado High School graduates. One of the homes in which Grace Thomas Crews lived in during her lifetime in Scottsdale was converted into the Grapevine restaurant on Brown Avenue.



Students at the Scottsdale Grammar School. Scottsdale Heritage Connection and Scottsdale Public Library photo



1946 school photo from the Little Red Schoolhouse. Grace Crews is the grey-haired woman in the center of the second row. Scottsdale Historical Society photo

Herb Drinkwater

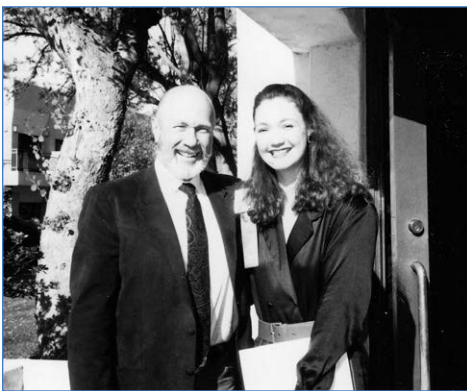
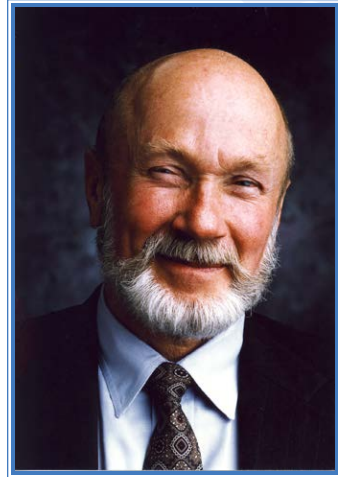
In 1992, Mayor Herb Drinkwater wrote this introduction to the City of Scottsdale's Annual Report to citizens, emphasizing the importance of partnerships:

"During its 41-year history, Scottsdale has defined the word "partnership" better than any dictionary ever could. Our past is filled with inspiring stories of citizens working in partnership with their community to build a city that is clearly second to none.

Having served this community for over 20 years (nearly 13 as mayor and eight as a councilman) I've been fortunate to play a role in many of these partnerships. I remember the countless hours citizens donated to build the Indian Bend Wash; develop the Downtown Plan and construct the Scottsdale Civic Center Mall. As a result, Scottsdale now boasts a 7-mile greenbelt where a concrete channel might have been. Our downtown now generates more than 25 percent of Scottsdale's total city sales tax. And this year nearly 300,000 people visited the Civic Center mall making it one of the city's most popular gathering places.

In 1992, citizens were again called to join the city in creating a vision for the future. Thousands of citizens answered this call by participating in the Scottsdale Visioning process. From this partnership emerged a clear road map - one that will guide us in the years ahead.

In order to turn our new vision into reality we will need every citizen to become involved... every citizen to share his or her ideas... every citizen to know he or she can make a difference. What better way to make a mark on history.. And on **your** city!"



Herb and Jamie Drinkwater in 1990. Scottsdale Chamber of Commerce photo

In 2026, his daughter Jamie Drinkwater Stockton added a few comments:

Our family would love to have Dad's comments in the 75th Anniversary book, but the 1992 annual report reads a little dry, like a routine resume, and doesn't adequately reflect his great enthusiasm for Scottsdale, his personal integrity and charisma, and the many accomplishments achieved by the city and its residents, businesses and non-profit groups during his tenure on city council and as mayor.

For instance, he got 50 percent of the votes the first time he ran for city council in the 1970s on the platform that the city should be more responsive to the business community. He wanted to run for Mayor down the road, so he announced early that he was going to run, and did not run for a third term on the City Council because he didn't feel it was fair to run for office only to quit halfway through to run for another office.



Herb rides a horse in the 1990 Parada del Sol Parade. Zina Kuhn collection photo

He was, at the time, Scottsdale longest term Mayor, serving 4 terms. He had a 94 percent approval rating with his constituents. He was a man of the people, and his office door at City Hall was always OPEN because he wanted Scottsdale's citizens to have access to him at all times.

Also, when asked why didn't run for higher office, he would remark that "Serving the citizens of Scottsdale was the best job anyone could have!"

There were so many accomplishments during Dad's tenure....Mayo Clinic opening here, establishing the McDowell Sonoran Preserve and WestWorld, bringing Barrett Jackson Auto Auction and the Arabian Horse Show to WestWorld, moving the Phoenix Open to Scottsdale...all huge milestones. Also, in the 1990s - at a time when most cities were trying to get projects supported by bond elections but were failing, Scottsdale prevailed! Voters passed bonds for the renovation of Scottsdale Stadium and for more libraries, parks and recreation amenities, and also supported a modest sales tax increase to buy land for the McDowell Sonoran Preserve - now over 30,000 acres saved in perpetuity.

Herb Drinkwater, owner/operator of a Scottsdale-based retail store, began his civic leadership with the Scottsdale Jaycees, serving as Parada Boss and president, and served on numerous other community boards. He was elected to Scottsdale City Council for two terms, and served four terms as Mayor of Scottsdale, 1980-1996. While Mayor, he served as president of the League of Arizona Cities and Towns and the Arizona Municipal Water Users Association. Scottsdale Leadership's annual Community Leadership Award is named in his honor.

Jamie Drinkwater Stockton grew up with her brother Mark in Scottsdale, nurtured by Herb and Jackie Drinkwater, Scottsdale's long-time 'first family.' She graduated with Class 2 of Scottsdale Leadership, got involved with local non-profits, and was proud to see her son Brice graduate from Scottsdale Leadership Class 38.

Jan Dubauskas

Scottsdale is an incredible city! We host the largest sporting event in the United States, we have the largest urban preserve in the United States, and we have the most advanced water treatment plant in the United States. We bring nearly 12,000,000 visitors to Scottsdale every year benefiting residents with low property and sales taxes. After 75 years, Scottsdale shines! In 2025, we are rated the #1 across several categories:

- #1 Public employer in the state of Arizona,
- #1 city for millionaires to move to in the U.S.,
- #1 Scottsdazzle named Best Statewide Community Event,
- #1 Digital Cities with population of 125,000 – 249,999,
- #1 Place for Retirement for tax-friendliness, healthcare, and pristine weather, and
- #1 city for families in America.

We have received so many accolades for our outstanding city, we are top rated in every category – public safety, parks, recreation, arts, human services, waste management, libraries, roads, events, information systems and more.

Scottsdale's spark of Western spirit combined with our unique charm has created a very special community and our residents are so proud to live here. It is an honor and a privilege to serve this incredible community.

Looking forward to the next 75 years with tremendous hope and optimism, it is our challenge and our opportunity to maintain Scottsdale's high quality of life, pursue excellence in all areas of city management, and deliver an outstanding city to our residents.



Jan Dubauskas, an attorney and corporate executive, began her first term on the Scottsdale Council in January 2025. She is a graduate of ASU's Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, as well as the Scottsdale Government 101 Citizens Academy, Scottsdale's Citizen's Water Academy, Scottsdale's Prosecution Academy and the Scottsdale Police Department Citizen's Academy.



L-R: City Council and staff at the groundbreaking of Fire Station 618 in April 2026. Council members Jan Dubauskas, Barry Graham, Fire Chief Tom Shannon, Mayor Lisa Borowsky, Council members Maryann McAllen, Solange Whitehead, and City Manager Greg Caton. City of Scottsdale photo



Donation of refrigerator trucks to the McKellips Food Bank from Blue Zones, Honor Health, and Scottsdale Firefighters Association on Nov. 7, 2025. Councilwoman Dubauskas was fourth from the left. City of Scottsdale photo

Kathy Duley

Memories of Scottsdale

Some of my fondest memories of Scottsdale revolve around the vibrant art scene of the 1980s & 1990s & the early 2000s. With over 100 galleries in the downtown areas, featuring a wide variety of art, the arts district attracted an equally diverse variety of visitors, especially on the weekly Thursday Night ArtWalks. ArtWalks featured a relaxed, often festive, opportunity for visitors to the Arts District to explore the galleries and meet the featured artists and learn about the artwork. It was always interesting and fun to experience the energy and reactions of visitors to the artwork.

The streets—especially Main Street west of Scottsdale Road and Marshall Way north of Indian School—were vibrant, often with live music and street performances. The area restaurants were lively and often featured specials on Thursday evenings. I enjoyed the arts district first as a visitor and later as a gallery worker and then a gallery owner. The uniqueness, charm and beauty of the art scene in downtown Scottsdale provoke fond memories.



Kathy Duley is a long-time arts leader in Scottsdale. She has managed and owned galleries in Old Town Scottsdale, and was president of the Scottsdale Gallery Association. She has also served on the boards of the Scottsdale Convention & Visitors Bureau/Experience Scottsdale, Scottsdale Public Art and several Old Town Scottsdale groups. She has been a docent at Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West since it opened in 2015.



On Sept. 22, 2022, Scottsdale Arts' "Pinball Wizard" public art installation was dedicated along the Arizona Canal. L-R: President of Scottsdale Arts Gerd Wuestemann, Councilmember Linda Milhaven, artist Annette Coleman, and chair of Scottsdale Public Art Kathy Duley. Scottsdale Public Library photo

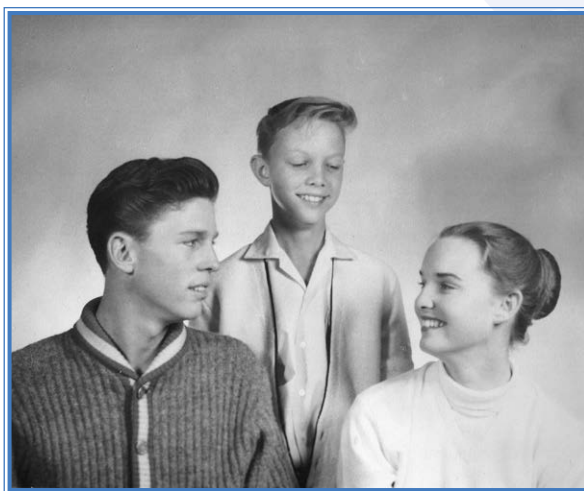


December 28, 1996, Fiesta Bowl Art Walk in Scottsdale's gallery district. Scottsdale Public Library photo

Ellis Family

As remembered by Michael G. Ellis: In the spring of 1960, my father George Ellis took over the debts of a fiberglass boat company. From our home there on Cattle Track, this was our introduction to fast boats and Indianapolis race cars, as we produced the aerodynamic parts of both. Watching the Vietnam War accelerate, my brother David and I joined a U.S. Air Force reserve unit out at Luke AFB, the 302nd Air Rescue Squadron that flew airsea rescue birds. The pilots there were a mixture of active duty and former military types with a variety of aviation experiences. Among them was a friend, Cal Blackledge, who had flown the exotic Lockheed F-104 Starfighter and who now flew for Hughes AirWest.

Cal owned a small cabin cruiser boat that needed fiberglass repair. Such work wasn't the least bit glamorous. It required us to flip the boat over while hanging from a metal lift structure (that still stands to this day), spend what felt to me like endless hours in the hot sun sanding the existing fiberglass covering, then recovering it with new fiberglass and painting it. It was a long process.



L-R: David, Michael and Janie Ellis



L-R: Michael Ellis, Wilson Jones, Rachael Ellis, Janie Ellis-Jones, George Ellis, and Peggy Ogara at a wash on a Thanksgiving celebration in the 1970s. Ellis family photo

One day while I was sanding on the bottom of his overturned cruiser, I heard a strange noise overhead. I turned to see, barely 2000 feet above me, a bright yellow McDonnell Douglas DC-9 airliner. It was one of the new Hughes AirWest birds that I knew Cal flew. It was banked up in a preposterously steep right turn, at least 60 degrees of bank, directly overhead. Cal was flying the left seat, looking across his startled copilot and out the right side window, to check on our progress on his boat! He then leveled the wings and proceeded south toward the Salt River, where he would turn westbound and land at Sky Harbor. It became sort of a routine process. We came to know what his flight schedule was and when he would pay us a visit “overhead.”

Today, airliners descend from the north and turn left over our place there on Cattle Track, head east to be sequenced into Sky Harbor landing traffic. They stay higher of course, don’t bank as abruptly and probably are flown by fewer ex-Starfighter pilots. Scottsdale is a different place today.

George and Rachael Murdock Ellis settled an area north of Scottsdale’s town center in the 1930s, calling it Cattle Track. Over the decades, the Ellis family – which expanded to include their children David, Janie and Michael – created an enclave that attracted artists and other creative people to live and work in a collegial atmosphere. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Cattle Track continues to be a center for arts, crafts, fashion, music, architecture and fun. Janie Ellis currently runs Cattle Track and its non-profit Cattle Track Arts & Preservation; her brother Michael is a professor emeritus at New Mexico State University



Mario Andretti driving car #2, designed at Cattle Track by David Ellis, at the 1969 Indianapolis 500 race. David Ellis was in the pit crew and handed Mario Andretti a towel. Andretti would go on to win the race. The Ellis family photo

First Baptist Church of Scottsdale

A Living Part of Our City's Story

As Scottsdale celebrates its 75th anniversary of incorporation, I am reminded that the story of our city and the story of First Baptist Church of Scottsdale (FBC Scottsdale) have been intertwined for well over a century. My name is Shawn Crosier, and I have had the privilege of calling Scottsdale home for most of my 51 years. My grandparents moved here in 1952, and today I serve as FBC

Scottsdale's Moderator and Church Historian, a role I recently inherited from longtime member and dear friend Stan Crews. Stan's family were among Scottsdale's early residents, and his dedication to preserving our church's history has been invaluable.



Reverend V.A. Vanderhoof baptized Violet Norton-Sullivan in a water retention basin on Indian School Road in the early days of the First Baptist Church. First Baptist Church of Scottsdale photo

The roots of FBC Scottsdale reach back to 1912, decades before Scottsdale became an incorporated town. The church's beginnings are tied to two remarkable men—Rev. V.A. Vanderhoof and Scottsdale's founder, Winfield Scott. On his deathbed in 1910, Scott entrusted Vanderhoof with land on the south side of Indian School Road, asking only that it be used for a church. By 1918, after years of fundraising and even hand-making the church's cement blocks from Salt River sand, the congregation moved from the Little Red Schoolhouse into its first permanent home at Brown Avenue and Indian School Road.

In those early days, baptisms were held in the irrigation canal at Scottsdale and Indian School Road—a vivid reminder of the community's rural roots. Photographs from the 1920s show congregants gathered along the canal banks, celebrating faith in the open desert air. Over the decades, the

church grew alongside the city, adding new buildings, expanding ministries, and in 1957 relocating to our current home at Osborn and 70th Street.

As Scottsdale transformed from a small agricultural town into a vibrant city known for its arts, tourism and innovation, FBC Scottsdale remained a constant presence—offering worship, fellowship and service to the community. We have celebrated milestones, weathered challenges and embraced change, always seeking to reflect the love of Christ in a growing and diverse city.

Looking ahead, we see Scottsdale continuing to evolve, and our church is committed to evolving with it—meeting new needs while honoring the legacy entrusted to us by those who came before. From baptisms in a dusty canal to worship in a modern sanctuary, our story is part of Scottsdale’s story. And as the city steps into its next 75 years, we are grateful to still be here, serving, growing and celebrating together.

Shawn Crosier is moderator and church historian for Scottsdale’s longest-tenured faith congregation, First Baptist Church of Scottsdale. Established in 1912, the congregation built the first stand-alone house of worship in 1918 at the southwest corner of Indian School Road and Brown Avenue. First Baptist moved to a new campus on Osborn Road in the 1970s, where it is today.



The First Baptist Church, Scottsdale first house of worship, was dedicated on March 3, 1918. It was located at the southwest corner of North Brown Avenue and East Indian School Road. Scottsdale Historical Society photo

Jim Ford

In 1975, the city of Scottsdale was a bedroom community with a population of approx. 75,000, only three fire stations, and a contract with Lou Witzeman and the Rural Metro Fire Department for emergency fire and medical services. Since then, Scottsdale has grown from a small, sometimes sleepy residential community into the vibrant and internationally recognized city that it is today. This dramatic growth has seen incredible challenges and changes when it comes to providing extraordinary emergency services to the residents, visitors and business community.



What made Scottsdale truly different was the ability of local leadership to not only look at what was currently in place, but to understand and project what was possible for the future of this community. Just a few of the challenges and innovations addressed were:

- As the community grew, computer generated mapping was used to increase from three fire stations in 1975, to the current 16 stations in 2025.
- In 1975, new commercial construction brought with it additional risk, which would require additional emergency resources. It was initially addressed with a local fire code that required any three-story structure or more than 7,500 sq. ft. to have automatic sprinklers.
- Worked with our community partners to successfully address the significant safety items associated with over 40 years of major signature events like the Arabian Horse Show, Barrett Jackson Auctions, Spring Training, Parada Del Sol and Thunderbirds Phoenix Open.
- In 1982, tested the concept of residential sprinklers and in 1985, passed the Scottsdale Ordinance which required automatic sprinklers in all structures, including single-family homes. This truly unprecedented action took tremendous political courage and served as a template for communities nationwide.
- In 2003, had a community vote to determine if Scottsdale should change Fire/EMS providers and after the residents voting not to change, then having Rural Metro notice the city they would not extend future contracts. This led to the city having to establish the Scottsdale Fire Department within a timeline of only 18 months.
- Successfully initiated the All-Hazard, Scottsdale Municipal Fire Department on July 1, 2005, which resulted in additional staffing and entry into larger regional Automatic Aid Dispatch and Response System. This allows for significant additional resources to assist with larger local emergency incidents.

- Worked closely with local leaders to establish defensible space safety programs to help protect the community and the McDowell Sonoran Preserve from significant wildland fires.
- In 2024, the city and Scottsdale Fire took internal control of the local ambulance transport services by obtaining a State Certificate of Necessity. Emergency medical calls now make up approximately 70% of service requests. This action will result in better continuity of treatment with all the advanced/paramedic medical services now being provided by fire department personnel.

What has been clear throughout the years is that both the fire and police personnel have communicated well, relied on each other, and are a devoted group of special individuals. As opposite sides of the same coin, our local public safety personnel are committed to providing the highest level of community services. It has been both a blessing and honor to have been a small part of these efforts.

Jim Ford was hired as a full-time firefighter for Rural/Metro – Scottsdale in 1975 and worked in the city of Scottsdale for 47 years until his retirement in late 2021. Currently, Jim still serves as the Executive Director for the Arizona Fire Chiefs Association, has been inducted into both the Scottsdale History and the Arizona Fire Services Hall of Fame, has received several national awards and has been asked to speak to political and fire leaders from around the world, specifically as it relates to Scottsdale’s amazing community initiatives and safety record. In his various roles in helping to provide emergency fire & medical services to this community, he has witnessed incredible changes and had the opportunity to interact with an amazing cadre of leaders that have helped this great City grow, prosper, and develop into one of the safest and most desirable communities in the country.



Rural Fire Company employees pose with their equipment around 1950. Scottsdale Historical Society photo



The Command Staff of the Scottsdale Fire Department in 2018. On the far right is Jim Ford. Jim Ford photo

Joan Fudala

Scottsdale has a history of honoring veterans. We salute not only their military service, but also their post-military contributions to the community and its residents.

Since the town's founding in 1888 by Civil War veteran Major/Chaplain Winfield Scott, veterans have provided countless hours of leadership and community service to build and better our city. Thousands of Scottsdale men and women have served their nation in uniform, including at least 66 who sacrificed their lives for our freedom and unparalleled American lifestyle. Many members of the armed forces from other parts of the U.S. and world, who came to the Scottsdale area for training or military service, have adopted Scottsdale as their hometown. They have continued lives of service, making Scottsdale a great place to live, work, raise a family, get an education and have fun.

Although it would be impossible to list all of the ways in which veterans have ensured the success of Scottsdale, here are several examples of their leadership and teamwork. World War I veterans established Post 44 of the American Legion here in 1935; it is our oldest civic organization. World War II veterans were the catalyst that changed Scottsdale from a modest farming community to a world-renowned tourism and entrepreneurial destination. In the post-war years, they started the Scottsdale Chamber of Commerce, re-vitalized our arts, crafts and fashion industry, founded a myriad of Scottsdale organizations and signature events that thrive today, and were among the first elected officials after Scottsdale incorporated in 1951. Veterans have



Mayor Ortega shows replica of street banners honoring veterans or their survivors during the 2023 Scottsdale Salutes program. City of Scottsdale photo

been at the forefront of our best innovations – the Indian Bend Wash Greenbelt Flood Control Project, the McDowell Sonoran Preserve, the McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park, Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West and more. Veterans have started or led our business community at companies like Motorola/General Dynamics, Prestige Cleaners, HonorHealth, YAM, Discount Tire, and many more, past and present.

As a U.S. Air Force veteran and Scottsdale community historian, I am particularly attuned to the impact veterans have made, and continue to make. I am also humbled to see how the community respects, supports and celebrates its veterans. During the Vietnam War, over a dozen civic groups planted trees in an Honor Grove at Eldorado Park as a tribute to those serving in the military. The City of Scottsdale, partnering with veterans' groups and other non-profits, has held Veterans' Day and Memorial Day ceremonies for decades. The Scottsdale Salutes program recognizes Scottsdale veterans every November with photo banners throughout Old Town. Scottsdale's Memorial for the Fallen, a privately funded memorial to Scottsdale's 66 known war dead, is a solemn monument on the grounds of Scottsdale City Hall. A privately-funded memorial to the World War II Thunderbird Airfield No. 2 pilots, and all veterans, was incorporated into the design of the Scottsdale Airport terminal/business center. The city council appoints residents to serve on the Veterans' Advisory Commission to ensure that Scottsdale has programs to support and honor military veterans and encourage their community engagement. Scottsdale loves its veterans!

Joan Fudala was honored as Scottsdale's Official Historian in 2024, is the author of seven books about Scottsdale history and has served on numerous city and non-profit boards and commissions spanning 35 years. She served in the U.S. Air Force for 21 years (active and reserve), including assignments at Luke AFB and The Pentagon.



Scottsdale historian and U.S. Air Force veteran Joan Fudala reads the 66 names engraved on Scottsdale's Memorial to the Fallen at its dedication March 18, 2023. Located on the east lawn of City Hall, the monument was privately funded as a tribute to Scottsdale area residents who died while in military service since World War One. Bruce Wall photo

Helen Gandara

My arrival in Scottsdale in 1998 was to join the Scottsdale Police Department as the Assistant Chief for Operational Services. My family relocated with my two children, and I later added a Scottsdale born child; all of them graduated from Saguaro High School.

Scottsdale of the past includes many fond memories of growing my family in a new community. I appreciated the plentiful activities and opportunities as a family, such as the beautiful city parks, little league, the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Scottsdale, softball and of course high school sports to name a few.

My experience of Scottsdale also reflects my interest in learning and growing. As a new city employee from out of state I was beyond impressed and grateful for the opportunity to continue to serve in local government after 10 years with the city of El Paso. I was excited to be part of a progressive organization, a city known for its innovation and best practices. I also became part of Scottsdale Leadership class 16.



Scottsdale Police Chief Alan Rodbell posed in 2011 with Assistant Police Chief Helen Gandara, who received the Community Celebrating MLK Diversity Champion Award. Helen Gandara photo

My commitment to community service and diversity is rooted in my Scottsdale past, present and future. Living in Scottsdale was very different from my life on the border, especially my upbringing in a rural primarily Latino community. This framed my diversity as my experience with Scottsdale was initially very isolating and difficult.

I sought and grew my involvement in community through my church life with Our Lady of Perpetual Help, the Old Adobe Mission where I serve on the executive board, and with my involvement with Centro de la Familia at the Paiute community center. I sought to increase access for Spanish speaking community members, one of my greatest joys was being the Chairperson of Conexiones communitive collective. This was rewarding and successful due to true collaboration between community partners interested in increasing resources to community, improving the quality of life and promoting community leadership.

Rooted in the past, present and future is my celebration of diversity. As a founding member of the City's Diversity Advisory Committee and Scottsdale Hispanic Network we impacted our organization and our community. I was the chairperson of the city's celebration for Hispanic Heritage formed for city employees then grew to a large community event, the first of its kind. I also served on the Board of Community Celebrating Diversity and was chairperson for many years of the Martin Luther King Jr. annual celebration. In my Scottsdale present and future, I am now the co-founder and co-chair of Scottsdale Día de los Muertos heading into its 10th year of success.



L-R: Assistant Chief Helen Gandara, Jacqueline Del Valle in costume, and Robert Ramirez, president of LORE Media & Arts, at the 2024 Día De Los Muertos celebration. Helen Gandara photo

My perspective related to Scottsdale past, present and future is commitment to community. My personal passion remains to share my culture and richness of my heritage and continue to serve community. Scottsdale has opportunities to demonstrate a welcoming embrace for all communities, to celebrate the richness of many cultures and grow in diverse perspectives. Scottsdale can grow to be a host to many celebrations that lead to learning and growing as community.

As a Scottsdale resident of 28 years, **Helen Gandara** values serving her community as a city employee and through community involvement. She demonstrates service through her faith and by promoting opportunities to celebrate her Latino culture.

Barry Graham

Growing up in the Cactus–Shea Corridor during the 1980s and '90s, to me, was the perfect blend of neighborhood warmth and the distinctive spirit of the American West.

I attended SUSD schools, graduating from Chaparral High School, where I ran track under the guidance of Ed and Lois Drinkwater-Thompson—sister of Mayor Herb Drinkwater. Those years formed my earliest appreciation of what makes Scottsdale exceptional: a sense of community, world-class schools and a culture that embraces tradition and innovation.

Over the decades, I've watched Scottsdale evolve from a well-kept gem into one of the country's most desirable cities. The growth has been remarkable—expanding from quiet neighborhoods and horse properties into a dynamic city with a top-tier job market, elite schools and an enviable quality of life. Our city remains a place where culture thrives, from our celebrated resorts and equestrian heritage to our art galleries, public events and architectural landmarks. Significant open spaces, including our award-winning parks system, the lush greenbelt and the 30,000-acre McDowell Sonoran Preserve, stand as testaments to the vision of city leaders past and present.

My journey has kept me closely tied to Scottsdale's civic life. For more than a decade before being elected to City Council in 2022, I served on city boards and commissions

and graduated from Scottsdale Leadership. These roles opened doors to experiences that deepened my connection to my hometown: visiting Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin West, exploring the McDowell Sonoran Preserve, browsing the shops and galleries of Old Town, engaging with the creative community at the Cattle Track Arts Compound and enjoying our iconic Civic Center. Along the way, I was privileged to share many breakfasts with Paul Messinger, learning firsthand about the city's expansion through annexation, its proactive water planning and the creation of Scottsdale Community College.



Councilman Graham attended Chaparral High School and was a Junior running track representing the school. Barry Graham photo



L-R: Family photo of Barron, Barry, Monroe and Farrah Graham. Barry Graham photo

Today, my wife and I are raising our sons here, instilling in them the same appreciation for Scottsdale's beauty and gracious spirit that shaped my own childhood. Our residents are among the city's greatest strengths—knowledgeable, engaged and generous with their time.

As Scottsdale celebrates its 75th anniversary, I am proud and humbled to have witnessed and participated in its evolution.

Our city's success is not accidental; it's been guided by deliberate vision and a shared commitment to quality of life. The more I learn about the icons who came before us, the more I understand our responsibility to protect and build upon their legacy. Scottsdale must remain vigilant—balancing progress with preservation—to ensure that 75 years from now, future generations will inherit a city as exceptional as the one we know today.

Barry Graham, a CPA, is a graduate of Scottsdale's Chaparral High School and a graduate of Scottsdale Leadership Class 28. He chaired the 2015 "Yes to Bonds" campaign, the Scottsdale Transportation Commission and the Building Advisory Board of Appeals. He was a member of Scottsdale's Planning Commission and graduated from the inaugural class of Scottsdale Fire Department Citizen Fire Academy. He was elected to the Scottsdale City Council in 2022.

Don Hadder

When my family came to Scottsdale in late 1958, Scottsdale was still predominantly a farm town. The land across the street from our new house was a turkey farm. The site of the future Los Arcos Mall would be a cotton field for most of the next decade. There was no McDowell Road through the Papago Buttes and Scottsdale Road was paved only a short way beyond the Arizona Canal. There was only one high school in town -- Scottsdale High School.

We thought we were really becoming someplace great when three shopping centers opened in the next three years: Papago Plaza (anchored by an A J Bayless grocery), Frontier Plaza (anchored by a Safeway store) and Fashion Square (anchored by Goldwater's and another A J Bayless).

But still, there were no parks, the main shopping area was downtown Phoenix with Sears, Penney's and Korrick's and only one third of the local gas stations were open on Sundays. Some nicknames given to Scottsdale at the time were "Stops-Dale" because most businesses were closed on Sundays and no alcoholic beverages were sold on Sundays as well.



Don Hadder conducts the 2009 Scottsdale Leadership trolley tour. Joan Fudala photo

The first shift toward the future modern city of Scottsdale was started in the mid-1960s when the "old timer" civic leadership was replaced by the "new guard" of younger leaders who had moved here in the previous five to seven years. As part of this change was the creation of the Scottsdale Town Enrichment Program (S.T.E.P.), which brought together a few hundred leaders to chart the future direction of the community.

With this new initiative, many important changes came to Scottsdale, including: the Indian Bend Wash greenbelt, a complete parks system, a regional sewer treatment system, the Scottsdale Airport and surrounding Airpark, design review for all non-single family buildings, mechanized trash collection, a municipal water delivery system,

undergrounding of local power lines, major streets with landscaped medians, a Civic Center with a performing arts facility, senior centers and the requirement of developers to install major infrastructure and dedicate park and school sites.

This effort was continued from the late 1970s through the 1980s with additional major initiatives such as a bicycling system, a trails system, outdoor lighting controls, mountain and desert preservation, scenic corridors along major streets, protected major wash corridors, the WestWorld facilities, water recycling systems and many more civic improvements.

None of these were easy to achieve and controversy was common, but all of these improved the future lifestyles of residents and often inspired developers and businesses to make strides for better quality and more amenities that benefit Scottsdale residents. Few of those around when Scottsdale was incorporated in 1951 could imagine what was to come.

Don Hadder graduated from Coronado High School and ASU. He began a 38-year career in 1975 with the City of Scottsdale Planning Department in Long Range Planning, Project Coordination and Special Projects, and continues to work as a planning consultant. A graduate of Scottsdale Leadership Class 13, he has been on the Scottsdale Historical Society Board of Directors since 1999, having also served as the society's president and as the Scottsdale Historical Museum exhibit coordinator.



The 2023 Scottsdale Historical Society Board of Directors. Don Hadder is in the last row on the far left. Scottsdale Historical Society photo

George Hartz

Although city ‘twinning’ had been occurring for many years, it was not until 1956 that President Dwight Eisenhower established Sister Cities International to promote city-to-city and citizen-to-citizen partnerships as the best route to friendship and peace. In Scottsdale it all began in early 1968 when City Manager Bill Donaldson attended the annual Arizona City Manager conference being held that year in Hermosillo, Mexico. The U.S. Consul General in Hermosillo encouraged Arizona cities to develop sister city relationships in Sonora, Mexico, and suggested that Scottsdale should partner with the city of Alamos.



Our local newspaper, in a burst of very premature enthusiasm, on January 22, 1968, ran a front-page banner headline reading “Scottsdale gains ‘sister city.’” Of course, at that point, no one from either city had discussed this idea at all. But Scottsdale has never lacked confidence. Unfortunately, by the end of the first quarter of 1968, the Mayor of Alamos reported that they already had a sister city and were not interested.

The next step did not occur until February 1969 when a large delegation of officials (our City Manager, General Services Director, six members of our City Council and a *Scottsdale Progress* reporter) traveled to Sonora to meet with officials from three potential partners – Hermosillo, Cuernavaca and Alamos. They were warmly received in both Hermosillo and Alamos (which was now receptive to a partnership), but the visit to



Scottsdale Sister Cities marches in the 2023 Parada del Sol parade in Scottsdale. Scottsdale Sister Cities Association photo

Cuernavaca was awkward – as no one from there had any idea that Scottsdale officials were coming.

Eventually, Alamos was recognized as the best candidate. It had a beautiful setting, a fascinating history, was an easy day's drive from Scottsdale, had a large U.S. ex-pat community and could benefit from support we could provide. It was popular with tourists and a place where the average Scottsdale family could and would want to spend a week's vacation.

Discussions continued between the cities and it was agreed that Alamos officials would visit Scottsdale during the December 21, 1969, Las Posadas celebration. The Alamos Mayor and City Council members joined the opening procession and later that evening met with the Scottsdale City Council at a private dinner to formalize the sister city partnership. Scottsdale City Council decided that the sister city relationship would be managed by a citizen's committee which met for the first time on January 29, 1970, and immediately began planning their first visit to Alamos. More than 55 years later we can appreciate the wise decisions that were made as the Alamos partnership is still going strong.

The city and the community recognized the value of sister city friendships and over the years more sister cities were added – Cairns Australia in 1987, Kingston Ontario Canada in 1994, Interlaken Switzerland in 1999, Haikou China in 2010, Marrakech Morocco in 2011, Uasin Gishu Kenya in 2013, and Killarney Ireland in 2020. Scottsdale Sister Cities Association is the successor of the original citizens committee, and many dozens of varied exchanges continue to celebrate these special relationships while building international friendships.



George and Donna Hartz met with officials in Uasin Gishu, Kenya, one of Scottsdale's Sister Cities. George Hartz photo

George Hartz, a retired insurance executive, is a past president of the Scottsdale Sister Cities Association, as is his wife, Donna Hartz. They have traveled to seven of the eight Scottsdale sister cities. George has chaired the Friends of the Scottsdale Public Library and served on Scottsdale's Historic Preservation Commission, Library Board and on the Arizona Historical Society board. He and Donna are McDowell Sonoran Conservancy Stewards.

Sonnie Hayes-Kirtley

Our home was in “northern” Scottsdale in 1967. Today we live in “downtown.” It is the same Caballo Ranchos horse property next to the former Goettl ranch house (now gone).

Our neighbor, Bill Goettl, had one mule, two horses and chickens where homes are now.

Mr. Schrader was still farming the future Indian Bend Wash Greenbelt Flood Control Project south of Indian School Road.

Without bridges over the flooding Greenbelt, we had no firetruck on our eastern side. Neighborhood kids would float 86th Street in inner tubes during storms – no drains.

I drove the neighborhood boys to Scottsdale Road and Shea to shoot off rockets.

Northbound Hayden Road ended at Indian School Road and the Villa Monterey Golf Course.

Navajo Grade School was kindergarten to 8th grade and the 8th graders read to the younger.

My daughter rode her horse on the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Reservation – no wall and no freeway.



Sonnie Hayes-Kirtley pioneered the Adopt A Road, Downtown Ambassadors and COGS-Coalition of Greater Scottsdale organizations in Scottsdale. She has served on multiple city council-appointed task forces, and has been honored with the Frances Young Community Hero and Scottsdale Realtor of the Year awards. She has a doctorate in science.



A lone bicycle rider tries to cross a flooded Scottsdale street in the 1970s before the Indian Bend Wash Greenbelt Flood Control Project was completed. Scottsdale Historical Society photo



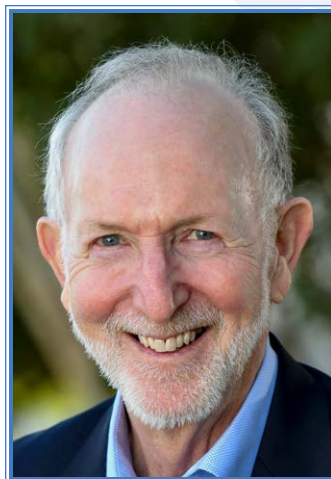
The Downtown Scottsdale Ambassadors in their original uniform in the early 2000s. L-R: Lois Fitch, Patty Badenoch, Sonnie Hayes-Kirtley and Downtown Director John Little. City of Scottsdale photo

Frank Jacobson

1993 – Circus Flora

Just prior to my move to Scottsdale in 1987, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community (SRPMIC) blockaded the northbound lane of Pima Road, angered by the proposed freeway that was planned to cut across their land. The history and conflicts between Scottsdale and the SRPMIC span decades, but I vividly remember a pivotal moment in 1993 when then City Councilman Richard Thomas visited me in my office at the Scottsdale Cultural Council (now Scottsdale Arts). He wanted to understand how we had managed to negotiate a partnership with the Indian Community that brought school children from both communities together for the first time in over 40 years.

I credit this groundbreaking program, called *Cultural Connections Through the Arts*, to then-Director of Performing Arts Programs, Kathy Hotchner. Kathy believed deeply that the arts could serve as a powerful tool to bridge divides created by racism and hatred by fostering understanding through shared experiences. She orchestrated extended visits from dance companies, actors, musicians and even a circus— called “artist residencies,” where performers would stay in Scottsdale for a few days up to several weeks. These residencies included evening performances for the general public and daytime workshops for students to learn and experience the art forms firsthand.



Flora the elephant with children from the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community and Pima and Chesnutt Parks at the Circus Flora Circus Arts School in 1993 held at Friendship Park on the SRPMIC. Scottsdale Public Library and Parks & Recreation photo

Kathy and her team made sure that children from the mostly white schools in north Scottsdale had meaningful interactions with Hispanic and Black students from South Scottsdale and South Phoenix. In 1993, Kathy contracted Circus Flora, a one-ring circus from St. Louis, to be in Scottsdale for three to four weeks during winter break. In exchange for allowing the performers, staff, crew and animals—including Flora the Elephant—to set up on SRPMIC land, the circus provided workshops for students from both communities. The classes

included clowning, juggling, gymnastics, and trapeze basics—activities that encouraged students to see past their ethnic differences and connect through shared learning and enjoyment. On opening night of the first Circus Flora performance, we invited the Tribal Council and the Scottsdale City Council to join us and to attend a reception in the tent after the show. This was the first time they met in many years!

I could not be more proud of Kathy Hotchner and her staff for creating programs like *Cultural Connections Through the Arts*. Their efforts exemplify how community-based art programs can foster unity, understanding and mutual respect, even in the face of longstanding conflicts.

Frank Jacobson served as founding president & CEO of the Scottsdale Cultural Council (now Scottsdale Arts) from 1987 until 2006, a tenure that ushered in the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Arts, expanded the public art program and hosted a wide variety of cultural and entertainment programs. He achieved great success as a fund-raiser for Jewish Family & Community Services and the Hilton Family Holocaust Education Center. He is a Grande member of the Scottsdale Charros and past president of Congregation Or Tzion.



Frank Jacobson's executive team at a Scottsdale Cultural Council reunion in 2016. L-R: Robert Knight, Kathy Hotchner, Randy Schilling, Frank Jacobson, and Matt Lehrman. Frank Jacobson photo

Bill Jenkins

The following is a community column by Bill Jenkins published in the Dec. 12, 2002 Scottsdale Republic. It is reprinted with permission from Bill Jenkins' daughter Deborah Jenkins Pirong.

Billboard war that wasn't

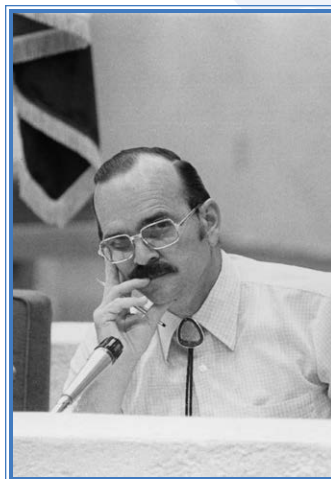
It's possible the late poet Ogden Nash had Scottsdale in mind when penning a small verse that went "I think that I shall never see/A billboard lovely as a tree/Perhaps unless that billboard falls/I'll never see a tree at all."

40 years ago [1962] billboards could be spotted in about 50 locations around Scottsdale. While those billboards had a legitimate purpose for being in existence at the time, their mere appearance did nothing to enhance the aesthetic appearance of a community, particularly one economically thriving on visitors from other parts of the nation or world.

During the 1960s and 70s, the City Council under the leadership of Mayor B.L. Tims – interestingly enough, an optometrist by profession – launched a campaign to rid the city of what many considered to be the visual blight of billboards.

A daunting task, it would be met by staunch opposition from the outdoor advertising industry. Banning billboards naturally involved property rights of commercial interests, either owned by or benefiting from billboard advertising.

As expected, the issue ended up in the courts, where private property rights protect us against unreasonable government action. Nationally, the passage of the Highway Beautification Act of 1965, directed primarily at the national interstate system, was the culmination of the struggle at that level.



During the 1950s and 1960s, there were billboards all over Scottsdale, blocking scenic views and creating what many called 'visual blight.' City of Scottsdale photo

The campaign was sided by Jonathan Marshall, editor and publisher of the *Scottsdale Daily Progress*. Marshall had coined the phrase the "uglification" of Phoenix in referring to the proliferation of billboards in our neighboring city. With a background in urban planning, he had experienced billboard regulations in suburban areas around New York City.

A major step to eliminate billboards occurred in 1973 when Tims and the City Council successfully placed before the electorate of approximately 70,000 citizens a simply worded charter amendment giving the city the power to regulate billboards. A contentious term in the simply worded amendment was “amortization,” which allowed business interests to amortize their investments in signs on their property over a specified period of time. The following year, the citizens approved legislation to put the charter amendment into effect, following the recommendation of the citizen-driven STEP (Scottsdale Town Enrichment Program) committee.



Bill Jenkins was a government and economics teacher in the Scottsdale Unified School District for 29 years, mostly at Scottsdale High School. Scottsdale Public Library photo

A 1978 Arizona Supreme Court ruling rejected the concept of amortization and forced Scottsdale to either purchase billboards or condemn them with compensation. However, time was playing into the hands of the city.

As property used for billboards came under development, the city required removal of the sign as a condition of development, with but little or no developer objection.

Today [2002], there are less than a half-dozen billboards left in Scottsdale, and they are “non-conforming,” being “grandfathered” in.

In some respects, it might appear that all sides were victorious. The outdoor advertising industry carried the day in court, while at the same time, the city was virtually freed of what was perceived by many to be the blight of billboards. At long last, the spirit of Mr. Nash couldn't be happier.

Bill Jenkins is a former council member and former mayor of Scottsdale. The views expressed are those of the author.

William C. “Bill” Jenkins was Mayor of Scottsdale, 1974-1980, and served on the Scottsdale City Council, 1966-1974. He taught high school government and economics in the Scottsdale Unified School District for 29 years. He initiated Scottsdale's Fine Arts Commission, championed the publication of founder Winfield Scott's biography and was a proponent of creating the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. He served as president of the Scottsdale Historical Society, McCormick Kiwanis Club and the Grand Canyon Chapter of the Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, and served on the board of the Helios Education Foundation. Bill was a retired U.S. Navy captain and long-time volunteer at the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Center in Phoenix.

Sarah Kearney

I have been involved in the Scottsdale community for the last 20 years. One guiding belief that has shaped every role I have taken on is that service is the most meaningful legacy any of us can leave behind. My work with organizations such as Experience Scottsdale, Scottsdale Leadership, Community Celebrating Diversity, GiGi's Playhouse, Scottsdale Sister Cities and the Blue Zones Project Scottsdale has deepened that belief and shown me, time and again, that our city thrives because its people choose to lead with heart.



Through Experience Scottsdale, I had the opportunity to help share the story of a city that has always valued well-being, both for those who live here and those who visit. Scottsdale's commitment to health, community vibrancy and active living isn't a slogan; it's woven into our parks, our public spaces, our cultural experiences and the way our residents and businesses show up for one another.

Scottsdale Leadership expanded my perspective even further. Immersing myself in the strengths and challenges of our community across all sectors taught me how much intentionality goes into shaping a city that prioritizes connection, vitality and opportunity. It also reinforced that leadership is service and service is legacy.

My work with Community Celebrating Diversity has grounded me in the understanding that a healthy community is an inclusive one. Well-being flourishes when every voice is valued, every culture is honored and every person feels they belong. GiGi's Playhouse carries that same spirit, reminding me that supporting individuals with Down syndrome and their families builds a stronger, kinder and more compassionate Scottsdale.



The Community Celebrating Diversity board at the 2025 Martin Luther King dinner at Scottsdale Stadium. Sarah Kearney is central in the first row, wearing blue. City of Scottsdale photo

Scottsdale Sister Cities has shown me the power of global connection and cultural exchange, proof that when we learn from each other, our own community grows healthier and more resilient. And through Blue Zones Project Scottsdale, I have been able to fully align my passion for community well-being with action. Helping inspire healthier choices, supportive environments and a culture of longevity feels like a natural continuation of the values Scottsdale has upheld for decades.

All of these experiences have shaped how I think about legacy. I hope to leave behind more than accomplishments. I hope to leave behind a heart of service. I want future generations to inherit a Scottsdale that continues to prioritize well-being, celebrates diversity, cares for its people and embraces a shared responsibility for the vitality of our city. I also want to show gratitude for those who have paved the way over the last 75 years. If they didn't plant the seeds we wouldn't be enjoying the shade.

Scottsdale has always been at the forefront of health, connectedness and intentional community building. Contributing to that story is one of the greatest honors of my life and I am committed to carrying that legacy forward for years to come.

Sarah Kearney is the Executive Director Blue Zones Project Scottsdale. She previously served on the staff of Experience Scottsdale. She is a past chair of the Scottsdale Leadership and Community Celebrating Diversity boards of directors and is active with the Scottsdale Sister Cities Association.



The staff of Blue Zones in 2025. Sarah Kearney is fifth from the left. Blue Zones photo

Roger Klingler

Water is Life

Scottsdale is in the desert, and in the desert, water is life.

Like much of Arizona, we once depended heavily on pumping groundwater. That changed in 1980, when the Arizona Legislature passed the Groundwater Management Act (GMA), the strictest groundwater law in the nation.

The GMA required water providers to achieve “Safe Yield,” meaning groundwater use could not exceed natural or artificial recharge.

Water providers were given until 2025 to reach this goal. Scottsdale reached it in 2006. These are some stories about how we did it.

Prodded by the GMA requirements, we started limiting groundwater use. We began:

- Securing Colorado River water rights through the Central Arizona Project (CAP).
- Building treatment plants to fully use Salt River Project (SRP) surface water.
- Promoting conservation with rebates, limits on ornamental turf and Xeriscape landscaping.

Reclaimed Water Distribution System (RWDS)

Our biggest success was getting 23 golf courses in North Scottsdale to stop-or never start-using groundwater.

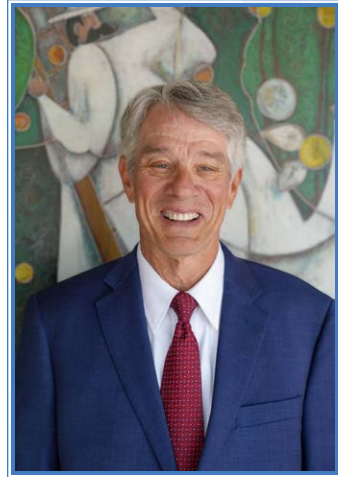
We did this by building the RWDS to recycle wastewater: our wastewater was pumped back to a northern plant where it was treated and used for irrigating golf courses in summer and then further purified and recharged into the ground in winter.

Golf courses paid for their share of the system and voters approved bonds for the city’s portion. Desert Mountain golf courses quickly signed on after public protests over groundwater use for golf were shown during a televised PGA event.

One developer originally resisted joining, claiming it would be cheaper to buy his own water company. When he discovered that cost was prohibitive, he not only paid us in full, but later wanted to pay us extra for another course.

We also faced pushback from Paradise Valley over a pump-back station on their border. When they denied us permits, our council threatened to stop treating their wastewater-- leaving them with far costlier alternatives.

After this standoff, no incumbent PV Councilmember won in the next election. The newly elected councilmembers came to us immediately after the election and asked how much they could pay us to address the problem.



Chaparral Water Treatment Plant

Another big success was building a new treatment plant at Hayden and McDonald to use more SRP surface water.

We won support for building this plant in a residential neighborhood by solving multiple issues: closing a noisy nightclub and driving range, building dog parks, soccer and ballfields and landscaping the facility with a beautiful Xeriscape garden.

The council meeting on this issue drew the largest public turnout I have ever seen in 30 years working for the city. There were dog lovers, nightclub haters, soccer moms and dads and residents united in support of both the community amenities and the plant.



Roger Klingler (right) at the Scottsdale Water Campus. Diana Smith photo



At the construction of the Scottsdale Water Campus in the mid 1990s. Scottsdale Public Library photo

Conclusion

We went through a lot of challenges in the past to meet the goal of limiting our groundwater overdrafts, but we found solutions that had multiple beneficiaries, while securing our water future.

Today, we face new challenges—ongoing drought and reduced Colorado River supplies. But just as before, I'm confident our Scottsdale Water staff will find innovative solutions.

We live in a desert, but we will endure.

Roger Klingler worked for the City of Scottsdale from 1979 to 2009, serving as the Intergovernmental Relations Director, Water Resources General Manager and Assistant City Manager. He was a member of Class 1 Scottsdale Leadership and currently is the President of the Scottsdale Historical Society.

Virginia L. Korte

One of the most memorable initiatives that still resonates was revitalizing the McDowell Road corridor and christening it “Motor Mile.” It was late in the 1990s and car sales were declining in the area. It was clear that something audacious needed to be done to inject life into the area, thus ensuring the future success of the 32 car brands sold along the roughly one-mile stretch of McDowell Road.

Los Arcos was extinct and it was unclear what might fill the vacant acreage. Ray Korte Chevrolet, led by Ray Korte Jr. (CEO), Ray Korte III, President, and me, Virginia Korte, General Manager, was one of the anchor dealerships on McDowell. Bruce Wallace, owner of Scott Toyota, and I joined forces to brainstorm ways to engage other dealerships in uniting for the sake of all of us on McDowell. Motor Mile was the work of many dealerships coming together as Scottsdale business owners in partnership with the city of Scottsdale. They worked collaboratively and tirelessly to enhance the area through unified advertising efforts, coordinated events and consistent messaging, which galvanized the businesses and succeeded in making Motor Mile a destination for those in search of vehicles.

The McDowell Sonoran Preserve is an incredible asset to our city and I am proud to have been a part of its formation in the early 1990s. As the Chair of the McDowell Mountain Task Force, we established the important foundation of the Preserve and its uses. I am honored to be named a Preserve Pioneer.

Finally, for 25 years, the Center for Native & Urban Wildlife (CNUW) at Scottsdale Community College proved what happens when an idea is championed by motivated people who see what is needed, dream the possibilities and secure people and support from the academic, scientific and civic communities. At first, CNUW was a small, grass-roots effort connected to SCC’s biology department and it grew into a respected and popular voice in urban landscape ecology, restoration of lost habitat and environmental education for all ages. The engagement, tenacity, patience and creativity of students, faculty, community members and volunteers have solidified CNUW’s vital role in ensuring the sustainability of our desert’s treasures.



Virginia L. Korte has worn many hats during her decades in Scottsdale – co-owner of a car dealership, SCC professor, non-profit executive director and civic leader. She served two terms on the Scottsdale City Council. 2013-2021, chaired the McDowell Mountain Task Force and served on the McDowell Sonoran Preserve and Transportation Commission and Redevelopment Board. In 2024 she became the Chairman of the Valleywise Health Board of Directors.



Madison Chevrolet in the 1960s at 7224 E. McDowell. Ray Korte moved his Phoenix Dealership there in 1970. Scottsdale Historical Society photo



Preserve Pioneer Virginia Korte at the dedication of the Fraesfield Trailhead in 2019. Scottsdale Public Library photo

Christine Kovach

Volunteering in Scottsdale isn't exactly a leisure activity—it's more like signing up for a marathon you didn't train for. The hours are long, the debates are heated and the pay is nonexistent. Yet somehow, the city runs on the energy of people who "just spoke up once" and found themselves volunteering forever.

That's how it happened to me. I didn't wake up one morning and declare, "Today I shall dedicate myself to endless meetings, emotional overload and the occasional personal attack." No, like many Scottsdale volunteers, I simply voiced an opinion and suddenly had a name tag, a seat at the table and a permanent place on someone's "favorites" or "least favorites" list.



L-R: Christine Kovach, Mayor Mary Manross, and Scottsdale Community College President Art DeCabooter at the opening of the Sunrise Trailhead in the McDowell Sonoran Preserve on April 20, 2004. City of Scottsdale photo

The funny thing is how much impact this unpaid gig can have. Take the Indian Bend Wash. At one point, the idea of turning it into a concrete flood channel nearly won the day. But thanks to volunteers and some stubborn residents, we ended up with a greenbelt of lakes and parks instead. It's hard to imagine Scottsdale without it. Or the McDowell Sonoran Preserve—another product of volunteers saying, "Yes, let's tax ourselves to save the mountains." Turns out, "yes" and "no" are the two most powerful words in local politics.

Over the years, I've said "no" to commercial sprawl, library closures and oversized developments. I've said "yes" to art, healthy choices, trails, desert preservation, an education center and even the occasional zoning compromise (a true test of patience). Sometimes we get it right, sometimes not—but what matters is showing up, again and again.

Scottsdale has always been shaped by its volunteers: people who cared enough to endure the late nights, the cranky neighbors and frustrating roadblocks. They're the reason we have art, history, open space, services for seniors and families and a scenic Shea Boulevard instead of a strip mall superhighway. I've made some great friends and a few frenemies along the way.

So why do we keep doing it? Because, in its own exhausting, exasperating and occasionally exhilarating way, volunteering builds a city worth living in. And besides—where else can you get this much drama, sunshine and civic pride without an admission fee?

Christine Kovach started her volunteer journey in Scottsdale in 1991 serving on the board of The Northeast Scottsdale Property Owners Association (NESPOA), the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy, the City's McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission, the Public Art Board, the Scottsdale Arts board, the Desert Discovery Center board, the Cattle Tracks Arts board, the Blue Zones steering committee. She is recognized as a Preserve Pioneer, Scottsdale History Hall of Fame inductee, Scottsdale Leadership Hodges award winner, Library Spirit of Literacy award recipient and is the donor of two ADA trails in the McDowell Sonoran Preserve and supported Canal Convergence, Family Promise and other Scottsdale non-profit organizations. Christine is also a proud Char Woman and member of Charter 100.



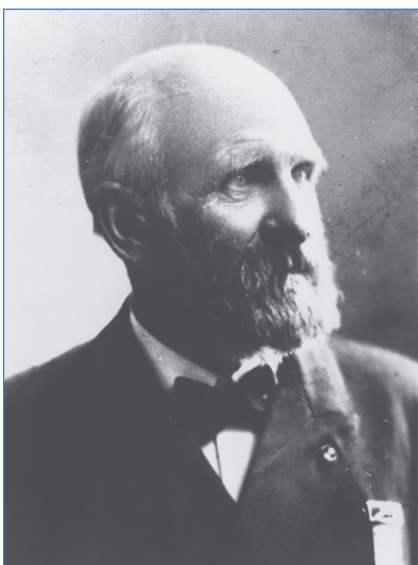
Rick (blue shirt) and Christine Kovach (pink top) and Mayor Jim Lane (baseball cap) dedicate the Kovach Family Trail at the Lost Dog Wash Trailhead, March 28, 2015. Joan Fudala photo

Rabbi Dr. Robert L. Kravitz

Many know that Scottsdale was founded by a Baptist minister and military officer, Chaplain Winfield Scott. At the start of the Civil War, Scott was commissioned as captain of Company C, 126th New York Volunteers. He was known as the “fighting parson” and was wounded in the battles of Harpers Ferry, Gettysburg, and Spotsylvania Court House. He was medically discharged in 1864. After the Civil War, he returned to his work as a Baptist Minister. He served as a pastor in Kansas, Colorado and California.

In 1882, Scott was commissioned as a U.S. Army Chaplain. He was assigned to Fort Canby, Fort Stevens, Angel Island, and Fort Huachuca. His advanced years and upcoming retirement led to the purchase of 640 acres of land in the Salt River Valley that today is in Old Town Scottsdale. After completing military service in 1893, he moved to his land and began his service in this community.

Following that tradition, our City of Scottsdale Police Department maintains a Chaplain Corps comprised of trained police chaplains today.



Chaplain Winfield Scott was a Civil War veteran, Baptist minister, and US Army Chaplain from 1882 to 1893, when he retired and moved to the Salt River Valley. The unincorporated village of Scottsdale was named to honor him. Scottsdale Historical Society photo

After decades of chaplaincy service with Phoenix PD and DPS/Highway Patrol, I began as an SPD chaplain in 2002. I have volunteered with several police chiefs here. First was Chief Doug Bartosh. When he retired to become the City Manager of Cottonwood, we were led by Chief Alan Rodbell. After several years, Rodbell went from public safety into the private sector. Next, the Chaplains were under the direction of Chief Jeff Walther, who returned here from his earlier retirement from the SPD. A few years later, Walther was selected for the position of Scottsdale Assistant City Manager, and he went to City Hall.

Our current Police Chief is Joe Leduc, who moved through the SPD ranks into this leadership position. With the positive support of each of these Police Chiefs, the chaplains engaged with the sworn staff (officers) and professional staff (non-sworn) of the department, and their families.

Like Chaplain Scott, Police Chaplains do serve in a chain-of-command, but uniquely, we offer opportunities to police department staff to speak with us in confidence and off-the-record. Chaplains provide a calming influence in high-pressure situations, a listening ear for family members, and a significant presence at community events. We are available 24/7/365.

The training our Police Chaplains receive is far beyond that which military Chaplain Scott was given. We are all members of the International Conference of Police Chaplains – the world’s largest intra-religious police chaplain training organization. To maintain our academic credentials and continue to be associated with the ICPC, we must regularly attend training either regionally or nationally.

The Chaplain Corps of the Scottsdale Police Department proudly serves the hundreds of members of the department and connects with other Police Chaplains across Arizona and around the world, especially in times of weather crisis and community turmoil.

Thank you Chaplain Winfield Scott, for setting an example of community service for the Police Chaplains who follow you in Scottsdale.



A gift from Scottsdale area veterans organizations, "The Chaplain" statue by artist Austin Deuel was placed near City Hall in 2009. Joan Fudala photo

Chaplain Rabbi Dr. Robert Kravitz has served Valley police departments (City of Phoenix, AZ Department of Public Safety/Highway Patrol) for decades, including City of Scottsdale PD since 2002. The rabbi holds two Bachelors and a Master's Degree and an Honorary Doctorate of Divinity. He is CISM trained and has earned the prestigious "Diplomat" certification from the International Conference of Police Chaplains.

W.J. “Jim” Lane

My 52 years of living, working and thriving in Scottsdale positively impacted my personal growth and development and still does.

Scottsdale had great beginnings rooted in the wonderfully smart people who had a strong work ethic and a clear understanding of how the political and economic system works and how best it can produce and sustain a high quality of life for its population.

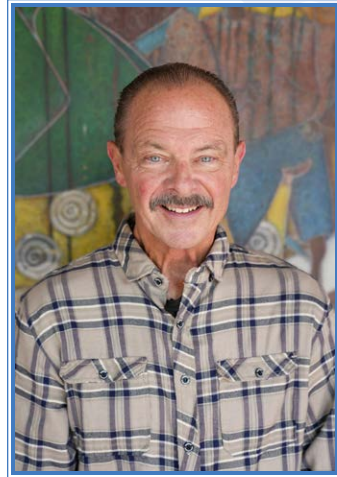
In 1951, the town’s leaders realized that Scottsdale and Arizona had grown by the presence of the US Military during WWII, and that they would need to up their game to play in this new post-war economy.

This new economy would bring challenges. They needed to expand their thinking and capabilities. Incorporation of the city was an important part of that planned future development. The city’s economy was ranches, farms, merchants and tourism. Incorporation gave them the tools to have greater control of their destiny.

Those years after Scottsdale’s incorporation, between 1951-2001 Scottsdale’s economy ran and grew on that post-WWII momentum. This is the period when I was introduced to and moved to Scottsdale, freshly graduated from Saint Joseph’s University, Philadelphia and a budding CPA.

Tourism’s attractions grew for a larger audience. Scottsdale’s development of the Tournament Players Course (TPC) and contracts with the PGA and the Phoenix Thunderbirds, the initiation of the purchase of land for Scottsdale’s McDowell Sonoran Preserve, and the Charros’ management with Scottsdale for Major League Baseball spring training all added substantially to tourism’s economic impact.

The 21st Century brought new challenges and opportunities. The two largest setbacks in the city’s history were the 2008 “Great Recession” (2008-2012) and the Covid-19 Global Pandemic (2019-2023), which were the worst national financial downturn since the 1930s and the worst global pandemic since 1918. Scottsdale was able to weather the recession because of its diverse and coordinated economy, the strategic and analytical skills



On January 20, 2014, Mayor Jim Lane presided at the groundbreaking for Western Spirit: Scottsdale’s Museum of the West. Joan Fudala photo

to reduce budget costs with the least damage to its citizens and by strategically recovering the 35 percent tax revenue loss through an aggressive plan to grow taxable activity. The pandemic was managed well at the local level, but a loss of scientific and political trust has been a lasting loss.

With the establishment of a charter review task force appointed by the Scottsdale Mayor and City Council, the council voted to accept the recommendations of the task force and put them on the ballot.

Scottsdale voters approved the most significant charter amendments in the city's history (in 2009-2010), which then went to the Arizona Governor for signature. This fulfilled one of my major campaign reform promises to Scottsdale residents.

Several times in that same period, Scottsdale was dubbed one of the best managed cities in the country by Wallet Hub, a business advertising consulting firm. It was a time when the city council, citizens and private sector businesses worked together to get things done. We were able to complete and finance Scottsdale's McDowell Sonoran Preserve of 47 sq. miles, the Museum of the West, the Scottsdale Airport Veterans' Memorial Museum and the ASU Foundation's investment in "Skysong" in Scottsdale.

I'm reflecting on Scottsdale folks and how they shared and communicated their thoughts with an innate respect for people. On behalf of people like Herb Drinkwater, Paul and Cora Messinger, Billie Gentry, Bill Schrader, Steve Twist and untold others, I hoped that I will have passed on their favored ways with others.

I ran and was elected to council in 2004, and then followed with my election to three, four-year terms as Mayor through to 2021. My prospective grew in scope and view. I am blessed to have been able to live, work and thrive in Scottsdale and I am grateful to our citizens for giving me the opportunity to serve them. It's a good life.



February 8, 2020, Mayor Lane rides in the Parada del Sol Parade on his trusty steed. City of Scottsdale photo

W.J. “Jim” Lane, a CPA and Scottsdale resident since 1973, has owned and operated several Scottsdale-based businesses and served on the boards of the Scottsdale Paradise Valley YMCA and the Scottsdale Charros Foundation. He was elected to a term on the Scottsdale City Council, followed by 12 years as Mayor of Scottsdale and also served four years as president of the Municipal Water Users Association of Arizona.

Todd LaPorte

Scottsdale friends and neighbors,

75 years ago, when Scottsdale first became a city, just 2,032 people called it home. From the very beginning, this has been a place built on health and healing – and we’ve been honored to grow right alongside you.

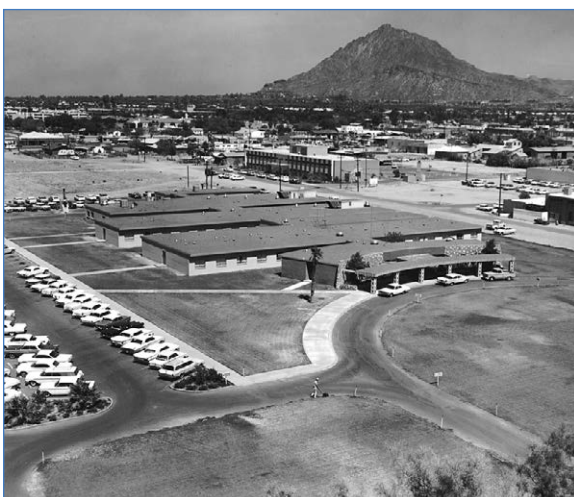
Through the decades, you may have known us as Scottsdale Baptist, Scottsdale Memorial, Scottsdale Healthcare, or now as HonorHealth. No matter the name, our mission has always stayed the same: to improve the health and well-being of the community we’re proud to call home.



Hospitals That Shaped Our Story

It started in 1962, when neighbors came together to build the City Hospital of Scottsdale, Scottsdale’s very first hospital now known as HonorHealth Scottsdale Osborn Medical Center.

Two decades later, Scottsdale Shea Medical Center opened its doors with First Lady Nancy Reagan cutting the ribbon – a moment of national spotlight for our growing city. And in 2007, Scottsdale Thompson Peak Medical Center rose to serve our expanding north Scottsdale neighborhoods, bringing care even closer to where families live, work and play.



The City Hospital of Scottsdale was built in 1962. This photo is looking northwest towards Camelback Mountain. The two-story medical building in the center is on 4th Street. The image is circa 1962. Scottsdale Historical Society photo

Each hospital opening wasn’t just about bricks and mortar. It was about creating a place of comfort and healing for generations of parents, children and grandparents.

Our Shared Journey

Along the way, leaders like Tom Sadvary, Max Poll and Dr. Jim Schamadan helped guide us through times of change and growth.

Their commitment reminds us of something simple but powerful: at its best, healthcare is neighbors caring for neighbors.

Looking Ahead Together

Today, Scottsdale is home to nearly 245,000 people, and HonorHealth has grown into a system of nine hospitals and hundreds of care locations across the Valley. But through all that change, what has never shifted is the spirit of compassion and connection you feel when you walk through our doors.

As we celebrate Scottsdale's 75th anniversary, we also celebrate you – the people who make this community what it is. Thank you for trusting us with your care yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Here's to the next 75 years, Scottsdale – together, we'll keep building a future of health and healing.

With gratitude and commitment,
Todd LaPorte (and the entire HonorHealth family)

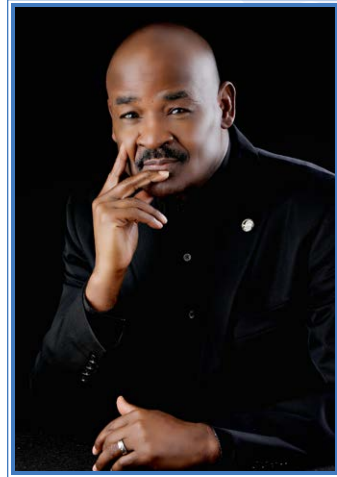
Todd LaPorte is Chief Executive Officer of HonorHealth, one of Arizona's largest employers and nonprofit health systems, headquartered in Scottsdale. As CEO since 2017, he oversees an integrated health system that includes nine acute-care hospitals, hundreds of outpatient facilities, a research institute, a behavioral health hospital, a rehabilitation hospital, and community services addressing social determinants of health and military preparedness. Todd joined the organization in 2001 as chief financial officer and held senior financial and strategic leadership roles for nearly two decades before becoming its 10th CEO. He is also a member of Greater Phoenix Leadership and serves on the board of Experience Scottsdale.



A helicopter brings a patient to the Level One Trauma Center at HonorHealth Osborn in March 2018. Joan Fudala photo

Don Logan

I initially saw Scottsdale as a community that was predominantly White, homogeneous and affluent. As a Black man from an inner-city background, I felt some apprehension about joining the Scottsdale team. Looking back, I'm grateful for how warmly I was welcomed by almost everyone I encountered—co-workers, elected officials, business owners and residents alike. I'm especially proud of the strong connections I built with numerous community organizations. It's been an honor to lead Scottsdale Leadership, Community Celebrating Diversity and various subcommittees within the Scottsdale Chamber of Commerce and Scottsdale Unified School District.



In 1998, Scottsdale found itself in the spotlight for the wrong reasons when the organization was accused of practicing institutional racism. As a nationally recognized tourist destination, these allegations were troubling for both the organization and the community. With years of leadership experience in the city and community, I was chosen to lead the newly created Office of Diversity & Dialogue—the first position of its kind in any municipal organization in Arizona. I served in this role until my retirement, though it wasn't without challenges. During my tenure, the office became the target of a hate crime—a horrific and cowardly attack that my colleagues and I were fortunate to survive. Despite this, the office earned national recognition as one of the best diversity programs in the country. I believe we wouldn't have been targeted if we weren't making an impact. It was a stark reminder of the work still ahead, and in today's climate of divisiveness, the need for such an office is greater than ever.

Recently, the Scottsdale City Council dissolved the Office of Diversity & Dialogue. While that decision was troubling, what concerned me more was the mayor and council's choice to limit communication engagement with residents before making it. Scottsdale is known for being innovative, inclusive and welcoming—qualities that drew me to work here to grow professionally. Though the current political climate raises concerns, I'm confident the community's core leadership will turn things around. Bad times never last forever.

Don Logan served the city of Scottsdale organization for 28 years, in many different positions prior to his retirement in November 2007. He was the city's first Diversity & Dialogue Director and was the target of a mail bomb attack which garnered national media attention.



Doreen Reinke and Don Logan received Diversity Champion awards at the Martin Luther King dinner presented by Community Celebrating Diversity on January 9, 2006. Community Celebrating Diversity photo



In 2007, Don Logan addressed the Martin Luther King dinner at the Chaparral Suites Resort, 5001 N. Scottsdale Road. Community Celebrating Diversity photo

Mary Manross

It was my very first City Council Retreat in early 1992. As city staff were presenting background, historical and operational information to the new city council, I asked the question “What is your estimate for Scottsdale population at build-out?” We were told it could possibly reach about 475,000! A bit stunned, I then asked “why?”

The answer came back, “Because everyone wants to come to Scottsdale.” Having arrived in 1972 from Santa Monica, I knew that to be true. Scottsdale is a beautiful and unique community. I also knew, from experience, what unplanned, unlimited population growth could do the quality of life of our city. I then asked everyone at the retreat, “Why can’t we decide what we want our community to look like in the future and then devise a plan to get there, instead of letting growth just happen to us?” Today, in 2025, our population stands at approximately 245,000.

Larry and I have been blessed to be able to raise our four children in a safe, beautiful, welcoming community. There is just one reason for that. From the beginning, Scottsdale leaders had tremendous foresight about how to create a livable city. I have been very fortunate to have known many of these folks over the decades, and I’ve learned a great deal from them. Their vision created the environment in which Scottsdale could grow and thrive over the past 75 years. One example of that vision is how our city has preserved one third of its land mass in perpetuity. It includes our McDowell Sonoran Preserve, terrific park system and our amazing Greenbelt. Having been honored as a Preserve Pioneer and Arizona Culture Keeper, I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to have been a part of those efforts.



At an outdoor Scottsdale City Council meeting Oct. 3, 1994 at WestWorld, the Council voted to establish the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. Three parcels of about 2,800 acres comprised the Preserve on Day One; by 2026 the Preserve included over 30,000 acres. Carla photo

I have traveled to many cities and towns across America and worked with a great number of municipal, state, regional and federal officials. They all agreed that Scottsdale is unique among cities. As a volunteer and elected leader since 1972, my priority was always to maintain a high level of community safety and preserve our awesome open spaces. That required us to create a carefully thought-out General Plan for how and where to develop. Scottsdale was the first city in the State of Arizona to accomplish that.

Representing this community has been a terrific honor. I am proud of the many initiatives I have led and participated in over the decades with so many caring and dedicated individuals who have also contributed so much to our community's vision and success. At the foundation of that vision has been our relentless pursuit to always maintaining a safe, secure community for our families and protecting our extraordinary Sonoran Desert and McDowell Mountains for present and future generations.



Mayor Mary Manross dedicated the distinctive, conical landmark Pinnacle Peak mountain as Pinnacle Peak Park on April 20, 2002. Joan Fudala photo

Mary Manross arrived in Scottsdale in 1972. She served as Scottsdale's Mayor from 2000 to 2009 and as Councilwoman from 1992 to 2000. She has also worked on several National public policy committees, along with serving on many city commissions, regional committees, non-profit boards and foundations since 1972.

Maryann McAllen

Walking to Papago Plaza was always a treat-filled trip whether it was to TG&Y for a toy or Baskin Robbins for an ice cream cone, watching the building of Los Arcos Mall from the corner of Bellview or my first trip to Roy Rogers & Dale Evans Restaurant; a day in Scottsdale was always an adventure for this Moreland Street kid.

As the youngest child of a large family from South Scottsdale, the streets were our playground. Riding our bikes to Papago Park or along the canal banks the days were filled with endless adventures and games. We played Red Rover Red Rover in the Willis's front yard, swam in the Biollot's pool and ate Christmas Tamales at the Murrieta's.

Getting gussied up for Easter Mass at St. Daniel's – my Mom hand sewed every matching outfit – or Christmas caroling with the CYO.

As I reflect on Scottsdale and its growth, beauty and character, it's the people & memories that bring me home to Moreland St.

There is no place like home- Scottsdale!



Maryann McAllen was raised in Scottsdale, attended Supai Elementary School and graduated from Coronado High, where she was student body president. While attending ASU she began a 14-year career with the City of Scottsdale, starting as a recreation leader and moving into the Human Services Department to work at the Civic Center and Via Linda Senior Centers. She is a graduate of Scottsdale Leadership Class 12, a founding member of the Women's Collective, past chair of Scottsdale's Parks and Recreation Commission and serves on many non-profit boards. She began her first term on the Scottsdale City Council in January 2025.



Maryann McAllen savors her childhood memories, growing up in the southern part of Scottsdale. She rode her bike to shop, eat or browse at Papago Plaza on the southwest corner of Scottsdale and McDowell Roads (shown here after opening in 1959). Scottsdale Historical Society photo



Spending an active childhood in what was then called the Los Arcos area, Maryann McAllen remembers watching Los Arcos shopping mall being built in 1969. Today the site on the southeast corner of Scottsdale and McDowell Roads is home to SkySong, The ASU Scottsdale Innovation Center. Scottsdale Historical Society photo

Scott Menzel

Long before Scottsdale was a city, it was a community built around its schools. Founded in 1896 by Winfield Scott, the Scottsdale Unified School District laid the foundation for what would one day become a destination city.

As Scottsdale marks 75 years since its incorporation, we celebrate a partnership that has grown in lock step... a city that has championed its schools, and a district that has helped shape the heart, spirit and success of Scottsdale itself.

With 20,000 students across 29 physical campuses and one online high school, the Scottsdale Unified School District (SUSD) has been a premier choice for Pre-K through grade 12 public education for 130 years.



Facilities

Since the founding of the city, Scottsdale Unified School District saw significant growth, particularly north of Shea Blvd. All the current buildings in operation were initially opened after the founding of the city. As the population shifted, some schools were shuttered, the most significant of which was Scottsdale High at the end of the 1982-83 school year. Many remember with fondness the historic senior prank that resulted in a VW bug being put together on the roof of the building. During the Parada del Sol each year, proud alum of Scottsdale High celebrate that moment and show off their Beaver pride.

Historically, Scottsdale voters have supported bonds and overrides in a show of commitment to high quality public education, supported by state-of-the-art facilities. This support has resulted in opportunities for students to thrive academically, athletically, and in the performing arts.



Scottsdale School District No. 48 was established July 23, 1896. Residents built the first, one-room schoolhouse in September 1896 on a site that is now adjacent to the Scottsdale Historical Museum (opened in 1910 as Scottsdale Grammar School). Scottsdale Historical Society photo

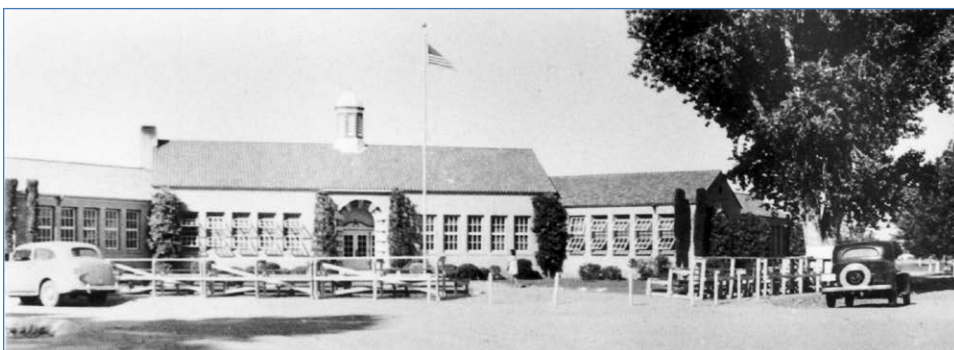
Graduates of Distinction

SUSD is most proud of its students who have gone on to make monumental contributions and continue to shape society and the economy. From astronauts and Olympians to artists, actors, scientists, engineers, lawmakers and a US ambassador, our graduates are making their mark on the world, building on the strong foundation of learning they received in Scottsdale Unified School District.

SUSD also honors the brave students who paid the ultimate price in service to our nation. From World War I through Iraq and Afghanistan, more than 60 former SUSD students gave their lives while serving in the Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force and even the Royal Canadian Air Force. Their sacrifice is forever remembered through Scottsdale's Memorial for the Fallen, a lasting tribute that ensures their names and legacies live on for generations.

The district and the city have found ways to leverage resources, facilities and expertise to ensure residents receive the highest value for their tax dollars. Through Intergovernmental Agreements, the city and the district make joint use of school facilities to support the Parks and Rec. department, as well as the provision of School Resource Officers through the Scottsdale Police Department. It is a recognition that the success of the city is tied to the success of the district and vice versa. The past 75 years have been filled with periods of growth and decline, challenges and opportunities, but through it all, the "western spirit" and commitment to excellence have endured.

Dr. Scott Menzel became the 27th Superintendent of the Scottsdale Unified School District in July 2020, following 18 years of leadership with public school districts in Michigan. He serves on the board of directors of the Scottsdale Area Chamber of Commerce and Community Celebrating Diversity (as immediate past- president) and on the Scottsdale Blue Zones Steering Committee and the Scottsdale Community College President's Advisory Board and Action Team. He was honored as the Arizona School Administrator's 2024-25 National Superintendent of the Year.



Scottsdale School District opened the Spanish Colonial Revival-style Scottsdale Grammar School #2 on Marshall Way at Second Street in 1928. Later renamed the Loloma Elementary School, the building became home to the nonprofit Scottsdale Artists School in the 1990s. Scottsdale Historical Society photo

Paul Messenger

The following is a “Scottsdale Memories” column by Paul Messenger published in the March 4, 2005 Scottsdale Republic. It is reprinted with permission of the Messenger family

Despite humble origin, Scottsdale kept eye on the future

When Scottsdale petitioned for incorporation in 1951, it wasn't fully prepared to operate as an actual city, which is normal when most cities initially incorporate. The members of the Maricopa County Board [of Supervisors] accepted the petitions, oversaw the incorporation process [effective June 25, 1951] and appointed Scottsdale's first City Council.

The five council members they appointed were Malcolm White (who later became mayor), Bill Miller, Mort Kimsey, Jack Sweeney and E.G. Scott. Miller resigned shortly after his appointment, and George Cavalliere took his place. The City Council was expanded to seven members in 1952, when John Shoeman and Jim Frederick took their seats alongside the rest.

Among their first tasks was the selection of a town clerk, a city attorney and a treasurer. They also contracted Lou Witzeman, the founder of Rural/Metro Fire Department. Through Lou, they arranged for citywide fire protection for \$4,260 for the first year.

Lou also made the break room at the fire station available for City Council meetings. It was 300 to 400 square feet in size and functioned as Scottsdale's first City Council chambers.

Virgie Lutes Brown became the first city clerk. She was followed by Dorothy Cavalliere Ketchum (Roberts) who held the post for many years. Don Baumann was Scottsdale's first city attorney, followed by my brother, Phillip “William” Messenger, in 1958. George Song followed Phil.

In 1954, the “Old Red School House” was closed. The vacant building became Scottsdale's second City Hall. The building was roughly 2,000 square feet. The Police Department headquarters was in the basement.

Public hearings regarding my family's petition to annex 10 acres of our farm into Scottsdale, and our subsequent zoning application to build our first mortuary, were held in that building in the summer of 1958.



Scottsdale Town Council and staff in 1954, left to right: Councilmen George Cavalliere and Joe Willmoth, Town Attorney Phil Messenger, Councilman John Shoeman, Town Clerk Dorothy Cavalliere Roberts, Mayor Malcolm White, and Councilmen E.G. Scott, Mort Kimsey and Lute Wasbotten. Scottsdale Historical Society photo

Not long afterward, an addition was built on the west side of the schoolhouse. This enabled most of the Police Department to move out of the basement. A small jail was added, along with some general city office space. The new addition also included Scottsdale's first "real" City Council chambers.

By the early 1960s, Scottsdale's burgeoning city staff had outgrown both the school building and the addition. In order to provide much-needed office and workspace, a deal was struck with an outfit called Butler Homes. They agreed to rent to the city the lion's share of a new, two-story retail office building. This became Scottsdale's third City Hall, and remained so until 1968, when the city began construction of its current City Hall complex.

Its design was called contemporary Sonoran, a concept pioneered by Bennie Gonzales. The exterior was massive in appearance, with deeply set windows and doors. Inside, the building was open, with differing departments seamlessly blending into one another. There were few doors or walls. The ceiling contained several stained-glass windows.

The focal point of the building was, and remains, its "Kiva" or main City Council chamber. Unfortunately, in recent years (and for security reasons), much of the building's original openness has given way to doors, walls and other barriers, the effect of which has been to eliminate a lot of open space to the public. The original design concept was both unique and citizen friendly. Those, of course, were different times.

Submerging Civic Center Boulevard (now Drinkwater Boulevard) and building the beautiful civic center mall adjacent to it that we enjoy today was begun in the mid-1970s. It took an entire decade to complete the project.

Despite all of the moves from one set of temporary offices to another over the better part of 20 years, council members and city staffers kept their eyes focused on Scottsdale's future. And, when you consider all that's happened to Scottsdale during these past 54 years, thank goodness they did.



Scottsdale City Council in 1973 in front of City Hall (dedicated in 1968), left to right: Richard Campana, Billie Axline Gentry, Mayor Bud Tims, Herb Drinkwater, Paul Messinger, Bill Jenkins and Heinz Hink. City of Scottsdale photo

Raised on a local dairy farm, former Scottsdale city councilman (1971-76), state legislator (1979-85) and honored oral historian Paul Messinger founded Messinger Mortuaries in 1959. The views expressed are those of the author. [Paul Messinger died in May 2025]

Linda Milhaven

The old saying “everything old is new again” is certainly true in Scottsdale. In 1971, *The Arizona Republic* reported that the rezoning that created McCormick Ranch would increase Scottsdale’s population by 35,000, more than 50 percent. The article went on to say that “Scottsdale’s land is presently peopled by residents who resent too much crowding...” That statement is as true today as it was in 1971.

In 1970, Scottsdale’s population was 68,000. Today, the population is more than 240,000. It seems that every new wave of residents includes many people who like the city just as it is and don’t want to see any changes, even though change is what created our quality of life and a place for them.

Scottsdale has a legacy of leaders, initially at the Chamber of Commerce, who worked to create a vibrant local economy. In the 1940’s they began promoting tourism, recognizing that tourists would pay taxes that would fund city services while keeping our tax rates low.

Over time, Scottsdale’s economy was reliant on tourism and real estate, two segments prone to economic cycles with extreme highs and lows. The car dealers that once lined McDowell Road and provided significant tax revenues moved out of the city. So... leaders worked to diversify our economy to balance the impact of economic cycles and replace lost revenues.



In 1973 – six years after Scottsdale Municipal Airport and the surrounding Thunderbird Industrial Airpark were established – acres of nearby land were largely undeveloped. This view is to the northeast toward the McDowell Mountains; at the center right is the campus of the Seventh Day Adventists’ Thunderbird Academy, the former site of a World War II pilot training base, Thunderbird Field No. 2. Scottsdale Public Library photo

The city's efforts included long range planning, today called the General Plan, where the city identified where the new businesses may locate. These land-use designations protect neighborhoods. Only 12 percent of Scottsdale's land is designated non-residential, mostly around the Airpark and Old Town.

Land was annexed into the city and rezoned to allow for new single-family neighborhoods that provided housing for employees.

As a result of all these efforts, our local economy is more robust and more diverse than ever with clean industries, like medical and high tech, thriving and providing high quality jobs.

As we look to the future, we need to recognize that communities are organic and dynamic, constantly changing. The older parts of our community age and need reinvestment. Demand for housing types change over time. Resisting change is dangerous. We need to be thoughtful, protect the special places in our community and be willing to reimagine what else we may be.

We are 30 miles north to south. We have the space to be all things. Imagine the possibilities!

Linda Milhaven is a former community bank president, community and business leader, Scottsdale City Council member from 2011 to 2023 and a Scottsdale History Hall of Fame inductee.



This 2023 aerial of Scottsdale Airport and Airpark looking southeast over Scottsdale and west Phoenix shows the concentration of businesses that have located in the Scottsdale Airpark, now one of the top three employment centers in Arizona. Scottsdale Airport photo

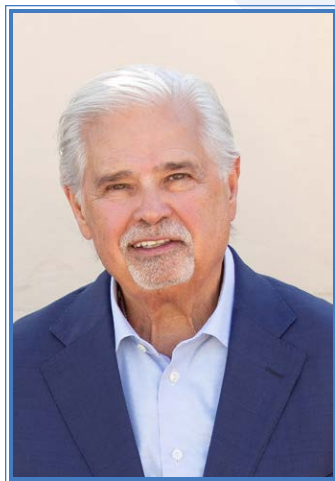
Jack Miller

My young family and I fell in love with Scottsdale when we first came to visit. I was asked to come evaluate the Fairmont Scottsdale Princess to see if I was interested in taking over as the hotel's general manager. The Princess was struggling at that time, but I had faith in the property and felt that Scottsdale would be a flourishing and beautiful place to raise my family. I was right on both accounts.

As I learned more about Scottsdale, it became clear to me that Scottsdale was only missing one thing – a vibrant town square. A place for families to gather and celebrate, to make memories and strengthen their bonds – both among themselves and their neighbors. With that in mind, we launched Christmas at the Princess – which became the catalyst to the Princess returning to the special place it has since become in the Valley. Christmas at the Princess helped to make Scottsdale a destination for the holidays, and has gained national attention – and that's all because the community showed up, showed support and were engaged in our vision of a town square in Scottsdale for everyone to enjoy.

Herb Drinkwater had a vision for Scottsdale that included urban and cultural development, amongst other goals. Under his leadership, we got TPC Scottsdale – eventually moving the WM Phoenix Open there and the Princess became the host hotel for the event. What my team and I have worked so hard to do is to deliver on his vision. Since we started Christmas at the Princess in 2010, we have added more legacy events: Summer at the Princess, Freedom Fest at the Princess and Pumpkin Fest – all serving as a place for the community to gather and enjoy some of what Scottsdale has to offer. We are also the host hotel for important events in the city: the aforementioned WM Phoenix Open, Barrett-Jackson Auto Auction and the Fiesta Bowl. “If it's happening in Scottsdale, it's happening at the Princess.”

Scottsdale has been a wonderful place for me, both personally and professionally. My family has grown along with the city, and we are all proud to call Scottsdale home and enjoy all that the city has to offer.



Jack Miller has been the Regional Vice President and General Manager of the Fairmont Scottsdale Princess and a Scottsdale resident since 2009. He has chaired the board of directors of Experience Scottsdale and received Scottsdale's Herb Drinkwater Community Leadership Award.



The Scottsdale Princess Resort celebrated its 'topping off' on March 3, 1987 as a crown was lowered onto its roof. Left to right: Manfred Gerling, Scottsdale Princess General Manager; Mayor Herb Drinkwater; John Price, President of Princess Hotels International, Inc. Scottsdale Area Chamber of Commerce collection



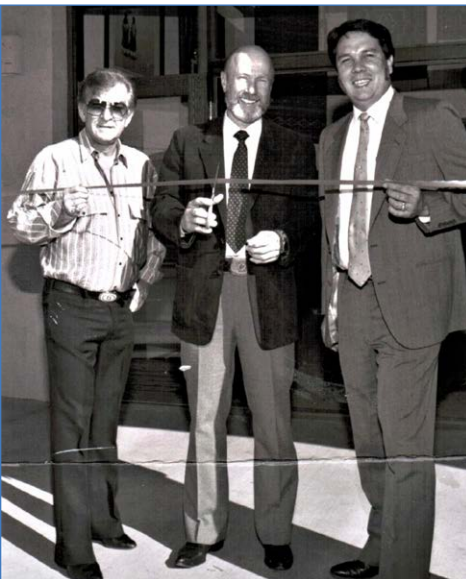
Today the Fairmont Princess Resort, under the leadership of Regional Vice President and General Manager Jack Miller, hosts Christmas at the Princess, Summer at the Princess, Freedom Fest and Pumpkin Fest in addition to events and guests associated with WM Phoenix Open and Fiesta Bowl events. Fairmont Princess Resort photo

David Ortega

On a sunny day in January 1978, I drove for the first time into Old Town. I felt the buzz of crowded sidewalks, saw a line of patrons waiting to get into the Pink Pony and followed persistent traffic seeking scarce parking.

With my Architecture degree from the University of Arizona, I was eager to start my apprenticeship working for Bennie Gonzales, FAIA, the renowned award -winning Arizona architect of international fame. Bennie had designed City Hall, Civic Center Library, Scottsdale Center for the Arts and the Civic Center campus. Over the next five years, I was fortunate to work with Bennie on projects such as the Navajo Chinle Hospital, American Embassy in Mexico City and hospitality developments.

One evening I got a surprise call from the office asking me to present a project at City Hall, since I had drawn the site plan. I said “Sure, when?” and was told “Go immediately!” since the council meeting had started. I arrived just in time, made the presentation and stood nervously, anticipating questions. Mayor Herb gave me a smile, there were no questions, and the motion carried unanimously, approving condominiums at McDonald and Scottsdale Road.



Architect David Ortega (right) helps Mayor Herb Drinkwater (center) cut the ribbon at a Gilbert Ortega gift shop in Scottsdale (one of David's clients). David Ortega, as a Scottsdale architect for five decades, has designed or redesigned numerous buildings in Old Town Scottsdale. David Ortega photo

Little did I know then that I would be elected Councilman (2000-2004) during the turmoil of the September 11th terrorist attack, the acquisition of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve and annexation of Desert Mountain, 8000 acres in far north Scottsdale. When I held office, General Plan 2000 was crafted and approved by voters. It recognized Historic Preservation and council subsequently declared numerous properties as Historic Landmarks including the Old Adobe Mission Church, Farmers Bank (Rusty Spur), Sugar Bowl, Titus House, and Cattle Track Arts Compound-- to preserve their legacy.

For five decades working as an architect in Old Town, I became familiar with the founders, personalities and pursuits

of the families behind the arts, culture, buildings and prosperity of Scottsdale. I was fortunate to rejuvenate landmark corners which echo the Western character of Scottsdale at Main Street, 2nd Avenue, Fifth Avenue and Craftsman Court. My clients included Lorraine White, wife of Mayor Malcom White, and other founding family heirs, too numerous to mention.

My Scottsdale architect experiences and service at County and Arizona commissions led me to return to public service as Mayor of Scottsdale (2020-24). The term began as the COVID-19 pandemic was peaking, as Arizona faced the mega drought and as the city and Scottsdale economy pivoted to rebound successfully. As mayor I led the successful outreach and approval of General Plan 2025, which affirms Historic Preservation, vibrant hospitality, economic vitality, family-centered neighborhoods and our Western “Sense of Place.” As mayor

I oversaw the revitalization of the Civic Center Park, and led the council action to designate Historic City Hall, designed by my mentor.

How to best summarize my life in Scottsdale? During my architect career, frequently I stood with my client at the grand opening. Standing between us, sporting a big grin, Mayor Herb Drinkwater would celebrate success as he cut the ribbon. As mayor I never passed up the honor of pitching the first dirt at groundbreaking or cutting a ribbon with cheer. I have been blessed to have learned from Herb how to be, the mayor in the middle.

Also, I should mention in 1980, I married Rosemary Gannon, the daughter of Scottsdale Police Chief Michael Gannon and we raised our two children in Park Scottsdale.



As Scottsdale's Mayor (2020-2024), David Ortega participated in numerous ribbon-cuttings, like the one shown here at The Italiano Restaurant on Shea Boulevard in 2024. David Ortega photo

David Ortega, a Scottsdale-based architect, served on the Scottsdale City Council 2000-2004 and as Mayor of Scottsdale 2020-2024. He is a graduate of Scottsdale Leadership Class 3 and has served on the boards of the Scottsdale Symphony, Friends of the Scottsdale Public Library and Coronado High School Foundation for the Future, Inc. He is a past president of the Papago and Sunrise Rotary Clubs.

Mike Phillips

Scottsdale's legacy is forged through a rare confluence of natural beauty, visionaries and gritty optimism.

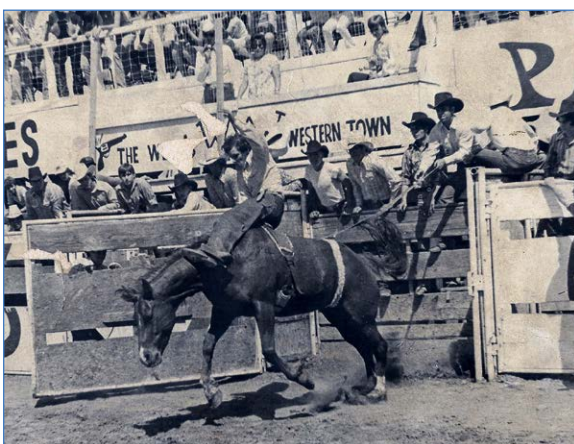
It goes back to our first resident, Winfield Scott. Who, after all, at the age of 56 buys a square mile of raw desert in hopes of starting a farm? And who are the folks who join him trusting there will someday be a town?

Former state Sen. Alfredo Gutierrez was once asked what made Scottsdale special. It wasn't mountains, he said. Other Valley cities have mountains. It wasn't access to transportation. Most Valley cities have that.

It was the people, Gutierrez said. In Scottsdale they are just different.

Oldtimers spoke fondly of the stew of influences percolating in Scottsdale after World War II. You had Frank Lloyd Wright disciples studying at Taliesin West. Entrepreneurs trying to build a "fly-in" business park at the old Army airfield. Designer Lloyd Kiva New opening his artist-fueled Arizona Craftsman Center in Old Town. And a dust-bitten bunch of farmers, cowboys, mechanics and other blue-collar types just scraping to get by.

At night they would all congregate at the few watering holes in post-war Scottsdale drinking hard, swapping stories and debating the future of their quirky town. One old timer (a 1940s student at Taliesin) told me he remembered few fights in those days, just mostly an aura of respect among folks curious to learn more about their neighbors packing such dramatically different backgrounds.



Mike Phillips grew up in Scottsdale, enjoying Parada del Sol activities – including as a participant during the Parada rodeo's years at Rawhide Western Town at Pinnacle Peak and Scottsdale Roads. Mike Phillips photo

Out of that enchanted mix would come the formula to Scottsdale's success – tolerance of others, a desire to dream big, the discipline to work hard and the stubbornness to persevere against long odds.

Today, we enjoy the fruits of that ethos.

Scottsdale was one of the first communities to restrict public billboards and create a long-range general planning document. Small business

owners saw the potential of spring training in the 1950s, pooled their cash and carved a stadium out of farm fields along Osborn Road.

In the 1960s, Scottsdale said no to a seven-mile concrete ditch proposed by the feds and instead pioneered the Indian Bend Wash Greenbelt. In the 1990s a grassroots group of activists convinced their local government and fellow citizens to tax themselves to save the mountains and create the McDowell Sonoran Preserve.

And of course, Scottsdale was the first Arizona city to solve a tangle of red tape and integrate development with canals – creating the Waterfront urban oasis and a nascent tourist attraction.

The list of Scottsdale innovations extends toward our impressive horizons. None of it was by accident. None of it was easy. And there have been some spectacular flops, like the Galleria shopping mall.

Still, communities – like people – grow through pain. Scottsdale’s commitment to innovation, investment and quality of life have created one of the most desirable places in the country.

As Sen. Gutierrez said, people made the difference.

So, where do we go from here? Is Scottsdale still ripe for audacious ideas? Do we still have the courage and vision to dream big and roll the dice? Or is that phase of the Scottsdale experience over?

We’re going to find out. Winfield Scott knew the future was coming for his dusty patch of desert. And it still is.



A life-long baseball fan, Mike Phillips is president of ABLE, Arizona Baseball Legacy and Experience, a nonprofit that celebrates and educates about the history, culture and benefits of baseball. In spring 2026 Mike led a panel discussion at the ABLE exhibit at Frasher’s Tavern in Old Town Scottsdale about the historic Pink Pony sports bar. Left to right: former Pink Pony owner Tim Smith, Mike Phillips, baseball historian Charlie Vascellaro and Camille Briley Hall (daughter of original Pink Pony owner Charlie Briley). Joan Fudala photo

Mike Phillips grew up in Scottsdale and has spent time here working as a horse wrangler, journalist and communications professional. Today he volunteers for several organizations and is president on the nonprofit group Arizona Baseball Legacy and Experience.

Don Prior

My wife Barbara and I came to Scottsdale in 1970 from California because of a job I was offered at an engineering company in land use planning and civil engineering. I thought we would return to California, but Scottsdale soon became our permanent home.

Gradually I became involved in the community -- Scottsdale Jaycees, Friends of the Library, the Scottsdale Historical Society, Scottsdale Community Cable, Scottsdale Town Enrichment Program (STEP) among others.

I first became involved with the Scottsdale Historical Society when the museum occupied one small room at the Little Red Schoolhouse. At that time the rest of the building housed the offices of the Scottsdale Chamber of Commerce. The museum needed a larger area and I helped in relocating the museum to the old Loloma Elementary School. After that the Scottsdale Historical Museum moved to an office space at Indian School and Scottsdale Road. In 1992 the museum moved again! The Scottsdale Chamber of Commerce had moved out of the Little Red Schoolhouse, and the Scottsdale City Council “gave” the Little Red Schoolhouse to the Historical Society for a museum and office space. The museum has had a permanent home since then.

I have had the pleasure of working with so many wonderful people in Scottsdale --Herb Drinkwater, Bill Jenkins, Thelma Holveck, Dick Lynch, JoAnn Handley, Lois McFarland, Darlene Peterson, Dexter Leland, Bill Walton and Paul Messinger just to name a few.



Don Prior served as president and long-time board member of the Scottsdale Historical Society (SHS). Shown at the dedication of the Scottsdale Historical Museum in the 1909-vintage Little Red Schoolhouse on March 1, 1992 are left to right SHS President Darlene Peterson, Councilman Bill Walton, Mayor Herb Drinkwater and SHS board member/past president Don Prior. Scottsdale Historical Society photo

I fondly recall working with Bill Walton. We had similar backgrounds and we were both enthusiastic about Scottsdale's future growth. Our city can be proud of Bill Walton's vision -- the Indian Bend Wash. Instead of a drainage ditch through the middle of Scottsdale, Bill envisioned a community asset, a park running from our southern border to the northern part of Scottsdale. Today, the Indian Bend Wash is an asset enjoyed by everyone.

I am proud to have served on the City of Scottsdale Planning Commission. And at the encouragement of Herb Drinkwater, I ran for Scottsdale City Council. During my four year tenure I met many wonderful Scottsdale residents. My term was busy, productive and fulfilling.

Scottsdale's growth has been the result of the many men and women who have had the vision to make Scottsdale what it is today. And I am proud to have been a part of Scottsdale's growth.

Don Prior served one term on the Scottsdale City Council from April 1994 to June 1998. He chaired the Scottsdale Planning Commission, was president of the Scottsdale Historical Society and was a long-time leader of the Papago Trackers, commemorating the history of the World War II POW Camp in Papago Park. He served in the Seabees, and was honored during the 2024 Scottsdale Salutes program.



Don Prior served on the Scottsdale City Council April 1994 to June 1998. Standing: Mayor Herb Drinkwater, Councilmembers Greg Bielli, Jim Burke, Robert Pettycrew and Richard Thomas; seated: Councilmembers Mary Manross and Don Prior. Scottsdale Public Library collection

Lisa Randall

Growing Up in Scottsdale

I always knew that I was blessed with a wonderful childhood, but it wasn't till I was an adult that I realized that part of the reason why was because I grew up in Scottsdale. Born a month short of the opening of the City Hospital of Scottsdale in 1962, I grew up on Crestwood Way, living there for the first 21 years of my life.

Looking back, it is amazing to see how my involvement in the community today was formed by my experiences of growing up here. I remember when I was about nine accompanying my father as he played in a softball league that played on a field in south Scottsdale. My job was to climb up on the scoreboard and change the numbers as runs were scored. After each game my father treated me to a scoop of Thrifty Store ice cream.

My childhood was filled with drive-in movies at the Round-Up, birthdays at Farrell's, Saturdays at the Girl's Club on Rose Lane, summers at Big Surf and shopping at Los Arcos Mall where no trip was complete without raising that flag at Pancho's!



Lisa Randall grew up in Scottsdale with her sisters, shown here in 1966, and married her Saguaro High School sweetheart Steve Randall. Lisa Randall photo



Lisa with her husband Steve Randall

One of my fondest memories is the Parada Del Sol Parade! Who knew that marching in the parade in my youth, would evolve into me becoming a parade announcer. It is one of my favorite days of the year!

My life was forever changed in 1976 when I met a boy! We were freshman at Saguaro High School and spent the next four years involved in student leadership and a wide variety of activities. Steve, now my husband since 1983, would go on to serve our city for 39 years in the fire department, retiring as a Deputy Fire Chief in 2019.

My first job was as a bus boy at Paul Shank's Fine Dining Restaurant, serving a myriad

of celebrities who knew just how special our town was. It was never a thought to leave my hometown, ever. Steve and I married and built a house right in the same area where we may or may not have attended several boon dockers in high school. It was also where Steve went quail hunting with his dad. The landscape may have changed, but not the feeling of living in a small caring town.

We went on to raise our children here and have spent the last 30 years being honored to serve with our fellow neighbors on several boards and committees.

Remember that baseball field...it is now the site of the Scottsdale Stadium and home of the San Francisco Giants. My husband and his fellow Charros have the privilege and responsibility of hosting spring training and raising money for local non-profits. Our life today in the community is a reflection of all the experiences we had growing up. Scottsdale gave us a wonderful childhood...and we will continue to pay it back by continuing to give back.

Lisa Randall is a Scottsdale native whose professional career has been in the non-profit arena with her current position as the Executive Director of Lexie's Voice. Lisa and Steve currently serve on the Board of the Scottsdale Historical Society and were inducted into the Scottsdale History Hall of Fame in 2025.



Lisa and Steve Randall have been active in numerous Scottsdale civic and nonprofit organizations, such as the Partners for Paiute (shown here), the Scottsdale Historical Society and Parada del Sol. Lisa Randall photo

Doreen Reinke

Reflections on Scottsdale in the 1970s

I first arrived in Scottsdale from New Jersey in June 1972, stepping off the plane with my mother and younger brother and getting hit by a wall of desert heat – my official welcome to Arizona. It felt like stepping into a whole new world, and little did I know, this place would shape my life and sense of community for years to come.

One of my favorite memories from those early days was Scottsdale's Parada del Sol, proudly billed as the "World's Largest Horse-Drawn Parade." As a young high school girl, getting to march in the Parada was an unforgettable experience – the kind that made your heart beat faster as the crowd lined Scottsdale Road, cheering and waving. I can still remember the sound of horses' hooves on the pavement, the floats representing the community and businesses, and yes, even the unmistakable smell of horse manure along the route. After the parade, my family would head straight to the Scottsdale Rodeo, turning it into a full day of celebration. The pageantry, Western pride and sense of community made those events feel like the very soul of Scottsdale.

School was its own adventure. While Chaparral High School was still under construction, we attended split sessions at Saguaro High – definitely not your typical start to high school! When Chaparral finally opened, it was shiny and new, with its modern design.



Insurance executive Doreen Reinke credits her Scottsdale upbringing to launching her successful career and civic life. As a Chaparral High School Firebird, she marched in the 1974 Parada del Sol Parade. Doreen Reinke photo

There was something special about being among the first students – first graduating classes, first proms all while defining what it meant to be a “Firebird.” Chaparral was seen as innovative, forward-thinking, and an important part of Scottsdale’s growth during the 1970s. And who could forget “flood days”? Heavy rainstorms overwhelmed the city’s young flood control systems, giving us a desert version of snow days.

Of course, the 1970s in Scottsdale wouldn’t have been complete without our favorite hangouts. Village Inn Pizza Parlor, Mag’s Ham Bun, and the Sugar Bowl were where friendships grew and teenage romances blossomed. And Farrell’s Ice Cream Parlor – with its bells ringing, drums clanging and waiters shouting birthday announcements – was unforgettable. I still laugh remembering when my brother’s friends told staff it was my birthday just get a free “Zoo” and make me the target of the gigantic, siren-blaring 12 scoop sundae carried on a stretcher throughout the restaurant while I sat there, completely embarrassed.

And then there was Rawhide – way out on Scottsdale Road north of Bell. At the time, it felt like driving to the edge of the world. But once you got there, it was worth every mile: dirt streets, staged gunfights and desert wagon rides. It was our go-to spot to show out-of-town guests a taste of “The West’s Most Western Town.”

Looking back, the 1970s were a time of growth, adventure and community in Scottsdale. My memories of the Parada, high school experiences, flood days and local hangouts are more than nostalgia – they helped shape the Scottsdale we know today. As the city celebrates 75 years, I’m grateful for the place I love and proud of all it has achieved. It truly remains one of the best places to live, work, and play. I credit growing up in this environment with launching my business career and inspiring my lifetime of civic involvement.



Doreen Reinke served as Chair of the Scottsdale Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors 2019-2021, helping the business community navigate the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. She is shown here with 2021-23 Chamber Chair Matthew Benson. Scottsdale Area Chamber of Commerce photo

Doreen Reinke worked for Nationwide Insurance from 1991-2020 as Vice President of Operations. She has served on the Board of Directors for the Scottsdale/Paradise Valley YMCA, Scottsdale Leadership, currently serves on the Scottsdale Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Scottsdale Community College Community Advisory Team, Scottsdale Historical Society Board of Directors and the Advisory Board at Gainey Business Bank.

Jinger Richardson

I am Jinger Richardson owner of Legacy Gallery for the past 38 years. My husband Brad and I were raised in Phoenix and Scottsdale. My family Troy and Marilyn Murray started Troy's Western Store in 1962 in the middle of Main Street, where Malee's is now. The Murray's moved to the eastside of Main Street in 1965. I was raised in the back room of a western clothing store and during those years many famous people came in to buy Justin boots, custom suits and saddles and tack. We saw Sonnie and Cher, Dick Van Dyke, many astronauts, hockey players and easterners wanting to look like a cowboy. My father Troy started trading paintings for cowboy hats,

boots and western tack from the most famous of the living western artists in the 60's. He hung the paintings on the wall and they started to sell easily. Well-known artists such as Olaf Weighorst, George Phippen, Fred Fellows and Joe Beeler to name a few. With the success of selling western art, they opened a gallery on West Main in 1970 named Troy's Cowboy Art Gallery. It is where Marshal Gallery is now.



Jinger Murray Richardson grew up with the family's Western wear and Western art businesses, and often participated in Parada del Sol events. Jinger and her husband Brad started Legacy Gallery in 1988 on the northwest corner of Scottsdale Road and Main Street. Jinger Richardson photo



Jinger became the director in the 1980's and Brad and Jinger started Legacy Gallery in 1988. In 1991, they moved to the present location on the corner of Scottsdale Road and Main Street. They began representing well known western artists such as John Coleman, Martin Grelle, G. Harvey and Frank McCarthy. Over the 38 years many artists have passed away, and the gallery wanted to be known for representing their clients' art collections - "A Legacy."

By 2008, Legacy Gallery started a One Man Show Campaign for a number of their most famous and collectible artists. They have a special weekend in Scottsdale with the artist speaking and educating the collector about their style and what inspired them to paint the way they do. This has been very successful, bringing hundreds of new people to Scottsdale every year.

In 2005, Brad Richardson, along with two other art dealers, started Scottsdale Art Auction. Remolding the upstairs above the gallery enabled them to build a large auction room that can seat 400 people. Every April a major art auction takes place in the upstairs location. Many world records have taken place here in Scottsdale, selling some of the most famous artists of our time: Thomas Moran, Albert Bierstadt, Norman Rockwell, Maynard Dixon, Frederick Remington and Charles Russell, just to name a few. Scottsdale Art Auction has sold many collections by well-known art collectors and museum as well as starting new collectors loving American and western art. The auction is responsible for selling 800-900 works every year.

Jinger Richardson is active in the Scottsdale Gallery Association, and Childhelp USA, fighting Child Abuse. Brad Richardson is on the board of trustees of Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West. The Richardson's also attend Scottsdale Bible Church.



Jinger's parents Troy and Marilyn Murray opened Troy's Western Store in Old Town in 1962 on Main Street. They later turned the shop into Troy's Cowboy Art Gallery. Among the famous artists whose work they carried was Olaf Weighorst (right), shown here with Troy Murray. Jinger Richardson photo

Dennis Robbins

Scottsdale has always been a bit different. We celebrate the 75th anniversary of Scottsdale's incorporation in 1951. However, many important institutions were established years before incorporation. In 1896, as a small farming town, residents understood the value of education and worked to build a school, which eventually led to the creation of the Scottsdale Unified School District. The local business community knew teamwork was essential for success, so they established the Scottsdale Chamber of Commerce in 1947 to advocate for their businesses. The Sunshine Festival also began in the same year as incorporation, later becoming the Parada del Sol Parade. Spring training baseball started in 1956 with the first game played in Scottsdale Stadium between the Baltimore Orioles and the Chicago Cubs. The residents of Scottsdale have always prioritized education, business and tourism long before becoming an official city.

Scottsdale is also unique in how it collaborates with its residents, businesses, schools and nonprofits to develop meaningful services and infrastructure. Providing fire services to a newly incorporated city was essential when Scottsdale began. Instead of establishing a municipal fire department, Scottsdale partnered with Rural Fire Protection Company, which later became Rural Metro. This alliance lasted more than 50 years until the city formed its own municipal fire department in 2005.



The Scottsdale Baseball Club raised funds in 1955 to build Scottsdale's Cactus League ballpark on Osborn Road. The Baltimore Orioles were the first to hold spring training here, 1956-58. After the Scottsdale Charros formed in 1961, they assumed spring training hosting duties from the Scottsdale Baseball Club, and have worked with the Boston Red Sox (1959-65), Chicago Cubs (1967-78), Oakland A's (1979-81) and the San Francisco Giants since 1982. Scottsdale Charros photo

Scottsdale residents aimed to promote their newly incorporated city to tourists across the country. In 1955, the owner of the Baltimore Orioles was in town playing golf and ran into some residents at the Pink Pony restaurant. One resident asked the baseball team owner if he would consider moving his team to Scottsdale for spring training games. He responded, "Sure ... build me a stadium, and I will." And that is exactly what they did. The Scottsdale Baseball Club was formed to raise funds and build Scottsdale Stadium.

In spring 1956, the Baltimore Orioles played in Scottsdale. Five years later, the city took ownership of the field, and the Scottsdale Charros were established to manage spring training baseball in Scottsdale.

This type of partnership is evident throughout Scottsdale. Experience Scottsdale (formerly the Scottsdale Convention and Visitors Bureau) was founded in 1987 to promote and market Scottsdale globally. Scottsdale Arts (previously the Scottsdale Cultural Council) was established to oversee the city's arts and culture initiatives. The McDowell Sonoran Conservancy, made up of citizen volunteers, was created to support and preserve the recently established McDowell Sonoran Preserve. A citizen-led nonprofit was formed to operate Scottsdale's Museum of the West, serving residents and visitors. Finally, in the 1980s, the golf industry partnered with the city of Scottsdale in a rare collaboration. Scottsdale golf courses invested in shares of a reclaimed water distribution system (RWDS) to supply non-potable water (not suitable for drinking) to their facilities. Water not used by the golf courses is pumped back into the city's aquifer for future use.

Scottsdale believes in its citizens. Residents and businesses have a seat at the table, making Scottsdale a fantastic place to live, work and play. It may not always be easy, and people will undoubtedly disagree, but Scottsdale is what it is because of incredible partnerships.

Dennis Robbins is a lifelong resident of Scottsdale. Dennis served two terms on the Scottsdale City Council and is the Executive Director of the Scottsdale Charros.



The Scottsdale Charros, or “gentlemen riders,” have participated in the Parada del Sol since the group formed in 1961. The Charros now are lead sponsors of the annual Parada del Sol parade and Trails End party, ensuring this beloved signature event continues. Scottsdale Charros photo

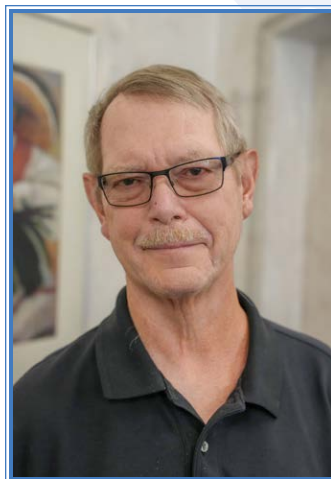
Gary Roe and Martha West

Reflection on the Transformation of Old Town Scottsdale (1951 to 2026)

Old Town in 1951 was a vibrant agricultural service hub for the Scottsdale area farms and ranches, but also included a thriving arts/tourism component. Today, Old Town is truly the commercial, cultural, civic and symbolic center of our community.

This is an improbable and momentous achievement against the backdrop of the slow and insidious erosion of downtown everywhere, beginning in the 1950s and extending well into the early 2000s. Cheap land outside of historic downtowns, the population explosion that started in the 1950s and continues to this day, and the advent of freeways that could carry people quickly over long distances, meant that developers were building new suburban homes outside of downtown and commercial development to support new homes followed in short order.

By the early 1970s, Old Town Scottsdale was no exception. The old ranches and farms were disappearing in the wake of new planned communities like McCormick Ranch. We were lucky, though, to have a dynamic arts/tourism industry in Downtown to counterbalance what Old Town was losing in the way of grocery and retail stores, pharmacies, and the commercial businesses that the former agricultural hub needed. The historic Old Town of the early 1950s had become a charming western town that our visitors loved. Visitors bought treasures and fun trinkets to remember their visits to the Sonoran Desert. Craftsman Court was an incubator for the emerging artists and craftsmen who put Old Town on the map as a cultural destination. But we saw no new offices or hotels being built. Retail businesses supporting Scottsdale's families, that formerly flourished in Old Town, relocated to new suburban shopping malls.



For over 100 years, the Arizona Canal provided water to Scottsdale, but was a 'behind the scenes' utility. As the canal began its second decade in the mid-1980s, city planners and citizens, along with Salt River Project, began envisioning the canal banks as a possible event, retail and restaurant destination. Scottsdale Public Library photo

Today, Old Town Scottsdale is flourishing. We have a regional shopping mall (Fashion Square) that not only stayed here but also expanded and brought new high-end shopping to our community, like the valley's first Nordstrom store, for example. We pioneered a new roadway system (the couplet) that preserved Scottsdale Road as our signature street and created new ways to access Old Town on its east and west sides. In partnership with Salt River Project, we transformed the Arizona Canal in Old Town from an electrical and irrigation corridor that was a physical barrier to getting around Old Town into a cultural and community amenity. Most of us have visited the holiday ScottsDazzle and Canal Convergence spectacles, along with untold community festivals on the banks of the Old Town



Arizona Canal. Old town property owners supported the creation of distinct streetscape features and street trees for the unique districts of Old Town, like 5th Avenue/Marshall Way, Main Street west of Scottsdale Road, the historic Old Town, and Craftsmans Court. It was a way to emphasize unique destinations but also to create a connected and walkable environment for our residents and visitors. We created shared public parking on city properties throughout Old Town. We supported the creation of the Scottsdale Museum of the West. We have seen new hotels and residences spring up throughout Old Town. We pioneered a performance-based zoning ordinance that provides flexibility to developers for building what Old Town Scottsdale needs and wants. We have sent up urban design and architectural guidelines to ensure that Old Town maintains a unique aesthetic.

The credit for the transformation of Old Town into our community center for the 21st century begins and ends with Scottsdale’s “secret weapon” – community engagement. We built a “community vision” for what Old Town Scottsdale could and has become. In 1984, we had the first City Council-approved Downtown Plan. It has stood the test of time and has seen many updates and clarifications over the years.

Who are the “parents” and “stewards” of the new Old Town Scottsdale? The answer is “US”, over the many years – the mayor and city councils, the property owners and business owners, the Scottsdale Chamber of Commerce, community leaders and philanthropists, boards and commissions, community-minded developers, city staff members and ordinary citizens. We hesitate to name names – we would inadvertently miss someone and rob them of their well-founded pride in what has been accomplished together.

Here’s to the next 75 years!!!



In 2006 and 2007 the Arizona Canal was transformed into Scottsdale’s newest destination – with the Scottsdale Waterfront on the north bank and Southbridge on the south bank. In addition to retail and dining options, the waterfront area now hosts the annual Canal Convergence in the fall and other weekend events. The Fiesta Bowl Museum is also located on the north bank. Joan Fudala photo

Gary Roe is the former Planning Director for the City of Scottsdale, having also served as Downtown Planning Manager and Redevelopment Director. He retired from the city in 2004, and continued working as a planning consultant.

In her many years with the City of Scottsdale, before retiring in 2021, **Martha West** served as the Downtown Planning Manager, Special Projects Manager and Senior Redevelopment Manager, as well as Real Estate Asset Manager. She serves as a volunteer on Scottsdale’s Board of Adjustment.

Don Ruff

During my 37 years as a bank officer with Valley National Bank (now J.P. Morgan Chase) I had the opportunity to be involved in a wide range of nonprofit organizations, e.g. Scottsdale Rotary, Scottsdale Charros, Scottsdale Chamber of Commerce, Scottsdale Leadership, Paradise Valley Kiwanis, to name a few. Overall, I had the opportunity to serve on the board of 25 such organizations, and ended up board chairman or president of 13 of them.

Providing the leadership in the establishment of the Scottsdale History Hall of Fame proved to be a high point of my community service career. I got the idea for the Scottsdale History Hall of Fame when I was invited to sit at the Valley National Bank corporate table at the first Arizona Historymakers event honoring individuals known for providing leadership on a statewide basis. I was very impressed with the event, and thought we should have a similar event honoring individuals for service to Scottsdale.

The Past Presidents Council of the Scottsdale Chamber had been meeting socially once annually for years. Oftentimes members would comment on the desire to have a project to continue service to Scottsdale rather than just meeting for dinner. At the next annual meeting of the Past Presidents Council, I presented the idea of a Scottsdale History Hall of Fame, to be sponsored by the Past Presidents Council and with an annual dinner to



Business and civic leader Don Ruff suggested that the Past Presidents Council of the Scottsdale Area Chamber of Commerce begin hosting a Scottsdale History Hall of Fame program, and the first annual induction dinner was held April 27, 1994. Shown planning the first event are left to right David Hallstrom, Don Ruff and Art DeCabooter. Joan Fudala photo

recognize individuals and organizations who have made significant contributions to Scottsdale's rich heritage. The proposed event was approved, and Phil Carlson, the executive director of the Scottsdale Chamber of Commerce, agreed to provide administrative support for the event.

Since I was the one who proposed the idea, I was asked to chair the event and to act as the emcee at the induction dinner. Assisting me in planning for the event were Bill Arthur, Don Chambers, Art DeCabooter, David Hallstrom, Bob Karatz, Paul Messinger, Tom Lennon and Phil Carlson, all of whom, sadly, are now deceased. After three months of research, the planning committee identified 15 individuals to be honored for their impact on Scottsdale history. The 1st Annual Scottsdale History Hall of Fame dinner was held April 27, 1994, and proved to be a huge success, with 500-plus in attendance. Eight of the honorees were deceased, and were represented by family members.

The Scottsdale History Hall of Fame is still going strong. To date in 2026, 162 individuals, 28 non-profit organizations and eight for-profit businesses have been inducted. The 31st annual dinner - May 15, 2026 - added four individuals, one for-profit business and one non-profit to the impressive list of past honorees.



Since inception in 1994, the Scottsdale History Hall of Fame has inducted hundreds of residents as well as dozens of nonprofit organizations and for-profit businesses that have had significant impact on Scottsdale's development. Proceeds from the first, and subsequent, induction dinners have benefitted the Scottsdale Historical Society. Shown here in September 1994 are left to right Don Ruff, SHS President Tom Lennon and Art DeCabooter. Diana Smith photo

Don Ruff has provided leadership to over 25 local non-profits, ranging from sports organizations to youth and business groups. As co-founder of Scottsdale Leadership in 1986, he has ensured that Scottsdale trains leaders for the future roles. At the 25th annual Scottsdale History Hall of Fame in 2018, Don Ruff was surprised with a special award for his idea and leadership in creating the Scottsdale History Hall of Fame.

Marion Saba

When I moved to Scottsdale in 1961 as a new bride from Superior, Arizona, a small mining town, the change was dramatic. Scottsdale was still a quiet community, yet full of character. Looking back now, the incredible growth and transformation that has taken place over the decades is nothing short of remarkable.

Soon after settling here, I began working at my husband's family business, Saba's Western Store, located on the corner of Main Street and Brown Avenue. The store first opened in 1947 when Scottsdale's population was fewer than 10,000. At that time, the town was unique—there were no stoplights and no high-rise buildings. On Saturdays it was common for local Native Americans from the Pima tribe to come into town with their horses and wagons to shop at J. Chew's Market. Horses were a common sight even on Scottsdale Road. Main Street and Brown Avenue were alive with family-owned businesses: The Basket House, The Song Family Market, Cavalliere's Blacksmith Shop, and even a French restaurant called Chez Louis. Businesses in Old Town also included Lulu Belle's Restaurant and Bar, The Sugar Bowl and The Goldwater Family Boutique.

Tourists traveled from all over the world, eager to experience Scottsdale's western spirit, wide-open spaces and breathtaking views of the surrounding mountains and desert. North of Shea Boulevard was considered the outskirts of Scottsdale and consisted



of dirt roads and family-owned ranches. There was even a ranch located on Indian School Road and what is currently Goldwater Boulevard.

Two highlights of the year were the Parada del Sol Parade and the rodeo. During the parade, horses, wagons, and school bands filled Scottsdale Road as crowds lined either side of Scottsdale Road to celebrate. One of the most memorable sights during the parade was Chief Shatka Bear-Step, who would climb on top of Lulu Belle's or Saba's to recite the Lord's Prayer in sign language—



Saba's Western Wear operated at the northwest corner of Brown Avenue and Main Street from the late 1940s to 2019. Principals in the three family-owned stores were Dick, Marion and Roger Saba. Diana Smith photo

an image still preserved in photographs at The Rodeo Museum on Brown Avenue. The rodeo was held on the grounds that is now Scottsdale Stadium. The Scottsdale Jaycees, an organization made up of young, local business owners, organized these two events. Many of their members went on to participate in city government, like longtime Mayor, Herb Drinkwater. Today the Scottsdale Charros carry on these traditions.

Scottsdale drew many celebrities. Amanda Blake and Festus from Gunsmoke, Rex Allen, James Caan, Barry Goldwater, and even Sonny and Cher in their free-spirited hippy days, all of whom shopped at Saba's. Liberace himself once had his chauffeur stop in the middle of Main Street while he collected his jeweled suits from the Master Tailor next to The Rusty Spur.

These memories are priceless, not only for me personally but also for the history of Scottsdale. From its small-town beginnings to the thriving city it has become—Scottsdale's journey has been extraordinary. As I reflect on the past, I can only imagine what the future will bring, and I hope and pray it will be every bit as wonderful as the last 75 years.

Marion Saba has lived in Scottsdale for 65 years and has been involved in many civic and charitable organizations -- The Lazy Jays, Scottsdale Foundation for the Handicapped (now called STARS), Scottsdale Historical Society, Human Services Commission and Housing Board, and Scottsdale Prevention Institute founding member as well as many years working at Saba's Western Store in Old Town.



Marion Saba has been a champion of human services and organizations that support youth, including Scottsdale Foundation for the Handicapped (STARS), Scottsdale's Human Services Commission and Scottsdale Prevention Institute. Scottsdale Leadership honored her in 2001 with the Drinkwater Community Leadership Award. Shown left to right: Linda Milhaven, Marion Saba, Jackie Drinkwater and Jamie Drinkwater. Scottsdale Leadership photo

Rachel Sacco

Scottsdale is my home. It's where I raised my three children and it's where I have served for 40 years in a role that has become my life's work — showcasing and guiding our ever-important tourism industry.

I first came to the city as a child in 1958. I was just two years old when my parents moved to Old Town Scottsdale and I still have fond memories (and photos!) of visiting the newly opened Sugar Bowl with my mother. It's a place I still frequent today with my own children and grandchildren. Though my family moved away, I was drawn back to Scottsdale when I returned to attend Arizona State University. This time, Scottsdale became a place of discovery and friendship. I discovered restaurants, hiking trails, cool shops and art galleries. I met my husband at ASU, and we later laid our roots down at our home on Granite Reef.

Scottsdale is where I truly blossomed in my career. I had one of the best teachers in David Hallstrom, who hired me in 1986 to oversee the tourism division of the Scottsdale Chamber of Commerce. David instilled in me that the Chamber was more than a workplace. It was a home and the entire community was our family.

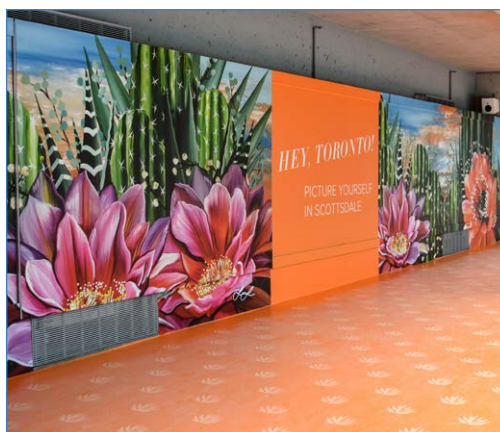


Rachel Sacco began her more than 40-year leadership role of Scottsdale's visitors' bureau in 1986 when it was a branch of the Scottsdale Chamber of Commerce. Renamed the Scottsdale Convention and Visitors Bureau in 2001, the SCVB became a stand-alone organization. Named Experience Scottsdale in 2016, Sacco and her staff market Scottsdale to a global audience. Experience Scottsdale photo

During this time, I met Mayor Herb Drinkwater, who shared David's conviction. Mayor Drinkwater was the ultimate servant leader and he treated all in our city with the utmost respect and love. That extended to our visitors, whom he vowed to wow so much that they would tell the world about his beloved city. I became his accomplice in this quest, one that I continue to this day with Experience Scottsdale. We were joined in celebrating the "West's Most Western Town" by our fellow citizens and we collectively nurtured this community with care while planting visions for a bright future.

Over the years, our resorts, golf courses, spas, restaurants, museums and retail stores were born. Our beautiful desert, with its numerous hiking trails, became our treasured McDowell Sonoran Preserve. And as Scottsdale developed, so too did our destination brand – a brand that has endured for decades. I truly believe Scottsdale is one of the sweet spots of the universe. I am proud that my children, now making their way in other cities and countries, had the opportunity to grow and thrive in a place that offered them a sense of safety and community.

Five hundred words isn't sufficient to express all my gratitude for this welcoming and generous community that has been so willing to share our natural scenic beauty, luxury spaces, art and culture and proud heritage with visitors traveling here from around the globe. My hope is that we will keep nurturing these seeds, so long ago planted not just by leaders but by ordinary folk, who worked, played, celebrated and worshipped together as they built this wonderful community. I am forever grateful and humbled to have had a small part in tending and caring for this vibrant city.



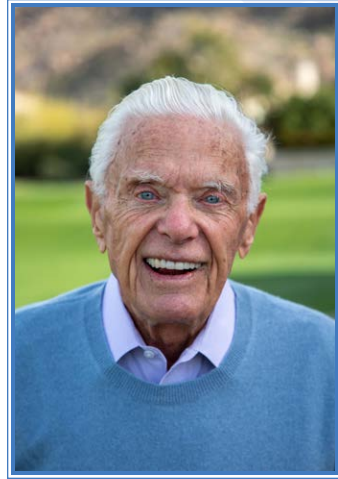
Among the innovative marketing campaigns orchestrated by Experience Scottsdale are displays at New York City's Penn Station and in Toronto, Canada. The Experience Scottsdale staff and Scottsdale hospitality industry members also travel to travel trade shows throughout the U.S. and overseas. Experience Scottsdale photos

Rachel Sacco is the president and CEO of Experience Scottsdale, which has positioned Scottsdale as a luxury destination for meetings, events and leisure travel since 1987, and she volunteers to serve on several boards and committees, including the Scottsdale Charro Foundation, Scottsdale Community College, Scottsdale Area Chamber of Commerce, Fiesta Sports Foundation, Scottsdale Leadership, Blue Zones Project Scottsdale, Arizona Lodging & Tourism Association and U.S. Travel Association.

James Schamadan, M.D.

Back in the 50s Scottsdale was a sleepy western town with a generous and hospitable attitude toward visitors. But with the growth of its population, Scottsdale needed to provide some basic services, not only to its resident population but also to its visitors. The county sheriff and a subscription fire department provided those services. A small city hospital and an ambulance run by a funeral home were the original medical and emergency services offered by the city.

Our adjacent neighboring city, Phoenix, had two full service hospitals and several smaller 'sanitariums' for the treatment of TB and mental disorders. Phoenix also had a cadre of physicians – some very talented, with excellent skills, who liked living in the wide open spaces – and a few of these physicians were also medical pioneers who were attracted to the lifestyle offered by Scottsdale. By some stroke of 'luck' the small cadre of Phoenix doctors who decided to move their practices to Scottsdale were among the most talented (and restless) of the bunch. And also some of the most charismatic! They were welcomed by the business and political community with open arms, pocket books and steak dinners. Real estate was cheap, the local banks were gracious to physicians, and some of the doctor's wives were nurses.



Doctor Jim Schamadan was an innovator and champion of emergency medicine, and ensured City Hospital of Scottsdale-Scottsdale Baptist Hospital-Scottsdale Memorial Hospital's Emergency Room became a significant Level One Trauma Center in the Phoenix metro area. Scottsdale Historical Society photo

This new medical community was talented – and that talent attracted some of the most self-sufficient and skilled new doctors as well as former classmates and professors of this new band of talented physicians currently pushing the frontiers of medicine in the warm and friendly west. The thought of practicing in year-round warm weather was very appealing to medical students in Michigan, Minnesota and Ohio – states that were home to at least seven medical schools and over 100 snow plows!

The old City Hospital of Scottsdale was taken over by the Baptist [church] Convention and it was administered by Dr. A.E. Carpenter, a former Army Chaplain and a combat veteran. The original hospital on Osborn Road has now grown to three hospitals, governed by a community board, and managed by credentialed administrators. The Scottsdale system has recently acquired and merged with the John C. Lincoln Hospital System, making the combined system a regional rather than a local hospital system. This new system is named HonorHealth.

Scottsdale still attracts the best and brightest medical talent. The Mayo Clinic selected Scottsdale as the next city to which they planned to expand. [They built a nine-story hospital in Scottsdale which is now a joint use medical research facility and their hospital is just across the Scottsdale border in Phoenix.]



In 1989, Scottsdale Memorial Health Systems, Inc. President and CEO Dr. Jim Schamadan (right) hosted U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop (left) as honored guest at the expansion dedication at the Scottsdale Memorial Health System Inc.-Shea campus. Diana Smith photo

James Schamadan, M.D. is the former President and CEO Scottsdale Memorial Health Systems, Inc. He received his MD *cum laude* from The Ohio State University, his Management degree from U.C. Berkeley and served in the U.S. Navy and Air Force. He served on Scottsdale's Human Services Commission, promoted city-wide fitness programs and was appointed by the Arizona Governor to be the state Director of Health Services and the Arizona Director of Homeland Security. Doctor Schamadan passed away in April 2026 at age 98.

Randy Schilling

I was fortunate to be part of a team that turned a defunct movie theater into Scottsdale's iconic Museum of Contemporary Art.

Here is how it happened.

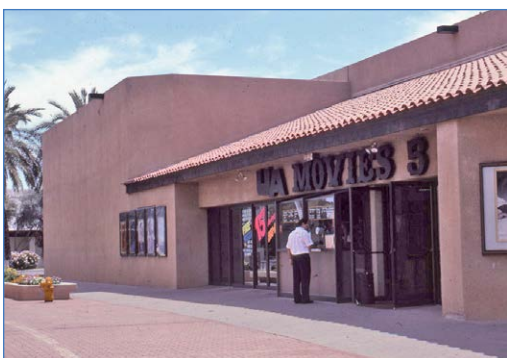
From 1995 to 2005 I was the vice president of development for the Scottsdale Cultural Council. During that time Sam Campana was the Mayor, who was known as the arts mayor. We had an excellent team with Frank Jacobson as the CEO, Robert Knight as museum director, Kathy Hotchner as director of performing arts, Matt Lerhman, as director of public relations, Ric Alling as director of operations, and Valerie Vadala-Homer as director of public art.

My charge was to double operating fund-raising in five years while raising \$9.6 million to build SMOCA. It was a big task but our crew was dedicated to accomplishing our goal. We also had a terrific board of directors that not only provided leadership but also were good donors to the cause. Many of those board members also were instrumental in putting on special events for the campaign. When we started the process of picking an architect for the museum, Will Bruder blew the competition away with his plans to build SMOCA and he was a stellar designer and planner.

While Will was designing the museum, Frank, Robert and I were busy cultivating the community for funding for SMOCA. Our first big break was to convince Gerald Cafesjian to donate \$1.5 million to kickoff major funding for the project. Not only did he contribute the first major gift, but he also loaned us his incredible glass collection, which was the

highlight of the first exhibition for the grand opening of the museum. We also received million dollar contributions from Ellie Ziegler and Virginia Ullman.

There was a great excitement in the community about the plans to build the museum and the first measure of business was to determine where the museum should be built. It was obvious to some that the AMC theater across the walkway from the Scottsdale Center for the Arts made a lot of sense. Mayor Campana contacted AMC to see if they might be interested in selling the theater,



A United Artists cinema opened on Second Street on the southwest side Scottsdale Civic Center Mall in 1976. The Scottsdale Cultural Council (now Scottsdale Arts) acquired the theater in the late 1990s, hired architect Will Bruder to repurpose the building, and it opened as the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art in February 1999. Scottsdale Public Library photo

but they could not find it on their inventory list, since so few people ever visited the theater. But once they found out Scottsdale was interested it became one of their most valued properties. Eventually the city of Scottsdale purchased the facility for over \$1 million.

Will Bruder did an amazing job of transforming the five theaters into five galleries. He also created a very creative glass wall at the entry which listed all the donors to the campaign in a random and colorful way. The size of the gift determined the size of the lettering and the coloring of the taped names. Another brilliant idea was to create a James Turrell sky space in the courtyard. We took a donor group up to Northern Arizona to the Turrell art compound where we toured the grounds looking at a number of Turrell sky spaces. Then Bruder worked with Turrell to create Knight Rise as another special feature of SMoCA.



Known as SMoCA, the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art features the permanent installation of James Turrell's "Knight Rise," as well as temporary exhibits of local and global art and artists. Joan Fudala photo

Every Wednesday we would host donors for a luncheon and a presentation from Robert Knight to inform our friends what the museum future looked like. We had a visit from some generous friends who told Robert that they did not like contemporary art, but when they learned that the glass collection we would show was included in the first exhibition they made a \$100,000 gift on the spot.

One of the best things our management team did is put on a special gala called "Artrageous" which took place on Valentine's Day in 2001. We invited the Art Guys as special guests to promote their exhibit. They wore suits decorated with the names of their sponsors and to mock them I wore a tuxedo decorated with name tags of all our top donors to the campaign. I received calls in advance from companies who wanted to add their names to my tuxedo a few days before the event. We even had valet drivers dressed as ballerinas in tutus.

In the end we were able to double operating fund-raising within five years and we did accomplish our goal of raising \$9.6 million to create the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art. It was a great community accomplishment.

Randy Schilling has been a highly successful development director for several Scottsdale area organizations for over 40 years. He's raised funds for the Scottsdale Cultural Council/Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, the Nina Mason Pulliam Rio Salado Audubon Center, Desert Discovery Center, Thunderbird American Graduate School of Business, Ballet Arizona and Cattle Track Arts & Preservation. He is a graduate of Scottsdale Leadership Class 14 and a co-founder of Five Arts Circle.

Phil Schneider

Our family has had the great good fortune, for five generations, of enjoying life in the Scottsdale area.

My parents, Dr. Phil and Katy Schneider, moved our family here from Illinois in the late 1940s, shortly before incorporation and built a home just off Scottsdale Road on the eastern slopes of Mummy Mountain.

At the time, the Scottsdale area had less than 2,000 people. The public schools consisted of one grammar school and one small high school. There was one grocery store, no hospital and no traffic lights.

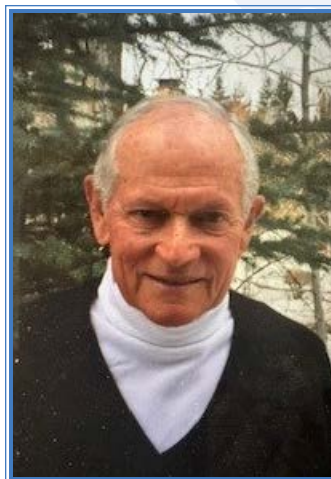
Mail delivery was at post office boxes in the town's small post office. Our phone service was a party line serving nine other customers.

Scottsdale Road was two lanes, paved to the north only to what would become Shea Boulevard. On occasion, flocks of sheep were driven down Scottsdale Road.

On many weekends, Native American residents to the east would arrive in horse drawn wagons at the Scottsdale Road and Main Street intersection where they stayed for a day or two of shopping.

On Saturday mornings, students from the grammar school could bring a can of food for those in need and get free admission to the Kiva Theatre to watch the weekly newsreel of world events, cartoons and serials such as Tom Mix and Flash Gordon.

There was a fenced arena for horse events where Scottsdale Fashion Square is now located. It was not unusual to see residents on horseback on the many horse trails through the nearby desert.



Phil Schneider, Sr., M.D. and his wife Katy moved their family from Illinois to Scottsdale in the late 1940s. In addition to developing prime real estate in Scottsdale's business district – like the first location of Goldwater's on the northeast corner of Scottsdale Road and First Avenue (shown here circa 1950) – Dr. Schneider led the petition signature-gathering committee in 1951 that led to Scottsdale's incorporation. Schneider family photo

There was little development on Scottsdale Road north of Indian School Road—no Fifth Avenue. The desert, beginning north of Camelback Road, all the way north to the Tonto National Forest, was populated by jackrabbits, small lizards, desert tortoises, horned toads, coyotes and occasional snakes. There were only a handful of houses, an orange grove, a cotton field where Hilton Village is now located, two or three small guest ranches and not even one golf course.

Cattle Track Road served the homes of several artists and a well-known rodeo performer, Dick Griffith, famous for standing on two horses, one foot on each and jumping the horses over a full-sized convertible. My sister Ann took trick riding lessons from him.

High school students occasionally water skied on the canal east of town, pulled by pick-up trucks on the bank.

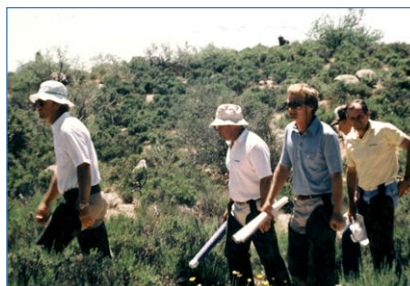
A neighbor of the Los Olivos restaurant was the local cotton gin servicing the nearby cotton fields, including the fields where the HonorHealth Osborn Hospital is now located.

Few homes in the area had swimming pools. Televisions were only beginning to be widespread.

Looking up at night from our home, the sky was spectacularly full of stars. Across the valley east and north, all the way to the McDowell Mountains and Pinnacle Peak, there were less than a dozen visible lights-- from the McCormick family's ranch house; Taliesin across the valley; The 19th Hole, a small café and bar at Scottsdale Road and Shea; and a few other houses. The McCormick and Gainey Ranch developments were still years away.

My parents became involved in the growth of Scottsdale. They built the first shopping center in town at Scottsdale Road and First Street with Goldwater's as the lead tenant, raised the money to pave the roads around the grammar school and to purchase the area's first ambulance and were leaders in the petition drive for incorporation of the city. They were early supporters of the healthcare system that has become HonorHealth and among the organizers of the Sunshine Festival, forerunner of the Parada del Sol. My wife to be, Nancy, was princess of one of the parades while at Scottsdale High School.

Scottsdale was a wonderful place to live at the time of incorporation and, with remarkably dramatic growth, remains so today.



Phil Schneider, Jr., a lawyer and a top executive with the Lyle Anderson Companies, was a principal in developing Scottsdale's Desert Highlands and Desert Mountain golf communities. Shown left to right are golf great and course designer Jack Nicklaus, Dick Frye, Scott Miller and Phil Schneider (fifth man unidentified) as they survey an area that became one of Desert Mountain's seven golf courses. Chaps helped protect against cacti and rattlers. Lyle Anderson Companies photo

Phil Schneider grew up on the eastern slopes of Mummy Mountain in the area that is now Scottsdale/Paradise Valley. He attended the Scottsdale public schools and Judson School. Following graduation from Stanford, and receiving a law degree, he joined the Fennemore law firm in Phoenix. After 19 years with the firm, he left the practice of law to join the Lyle Anderson Companies in the development of golf/recreational communities including Desert Highlands and Desert Mountain in Scottsdale. He served for twenty years on both the Board of Scottsdale Memorial Health System, now HonorHealth, and the Board of the Paradise Valley Mountain Preserve Trust. Phil and his wife Nancy have four children all of whom grew up in this area.

Gary Shapiro

As I reflect back on my six decades in Scottsdale, I see a community with a reputation as the “Most Livable City” that benefitted from generations of selfless leaders who made it into a world class destination to live, work, learn and play.

Along the way, there were challenges, assorted nay-sayers, and typical problems with getting things done. For the most part, the builders and champions emerged victorious and accomplished our strategic, shared goals, and the tear down artists were unsuccessful.

Our heroes were neighbors, friends, elected officials and Dudley-Do-Rights associated with community institutions and not-for-profits.

Everyone’s best friend was former Mayor Herb Drinkwater. We all celebrated the accomplishments of Chet Andrews, Jim Bruner, Carla, Arthur DeCabooter, Paul Messinger, Frances Young, Bill Walton, Lou Witzeman and numerous others.

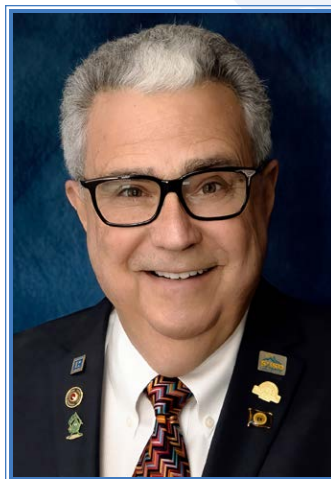
That generation of leaders began to die off or their future runways became limited. New blood was replacing the old guard thanks to organizations like Scottsdale Leadership, the Scottsdale Charros and The Saguaros.

Public education remained an important asset to our community. Scottsdale Unified School District and Scottsdale Community College equipped our students with the knowledge, skills and motivation to make the most of their futures.

SUSD Superintendent Scott Menzel and SCC President Eric Leshinskie brought new levels of collaborative and innovative leadership to Scottsdale.

As I look forward to the next 75 years, I hope Scottsdale will continue to embrace our historic culture of western hospitality. I hope Scottsdale will continue to serve as a model community.

I want our future version of Scottsdale to celebrate diversity and for all of our citizens to play well together in our community



Real estate professional Gary Shapiro was a co-founder of the Scottsdale Leadership program in 1986-87. Shown here at the organization's 2015 awards luncheon are left to right co-founders Art DeCabooter, Sam Kathryn Campana and Don Ruff; initial Scottsdale Leadership Executive Director Martha Green and co-founder Gary Shapiro. Scottsdale Leadership photo

sandbox. We need to be sensitive to each other's opinions and understand what neighbors may be dealing with, and why they matter.

I'm not sure who's going to lead the parade or be in charge. People will step up and accept leadership roles. Hopefully, they will share a broad vision and the courage to do things right.

We've learned that it is much easier to campaign for election than to govern effectively after election. Too many candidates for leadership positions sell voters on the concept that our city is broken and needs fixing.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

Their narrow vision does not serve the long term needs of our community. Fortunately, their temporary leadership is but a small blip on Scottsdale's long-term radar. However, it often takes years to recover from some of their decisions. Decisions that should not have been made.

All in all, I am optimistic for the future of Scottsdale. We've stood on the shoulders of some awesome past leaders. We've done our best and we're living up to the ancient Athenian Law of leaving things better than how we received them.

I wish I could be here to celebrate the 150th anniversary. I'll have to watch from the heavens above.

Hall of Fame REALTOR and Legacy of Impact Honoree **Gary A. Shapiro** is a co-founder of Scottsdale Leadership, a co-founder of the Scottsdale Unified School District Foundation, and a life member of the Scottsdale Charros.



A long-time champion of the Scottsdale Unified School District, Gary Shapiro was a board member of the Scottsdale Education Foundation in the 1990s. Diana Smith photo

Tom Silverman

My family came to Scottsdale in 1953. I grew up in a very small town.

I remember the northern city limit was Camelback Road. There were 2,000 people in the town. In the center of town was Lute's Pharmacy and Earl's Market where everyone shopped.

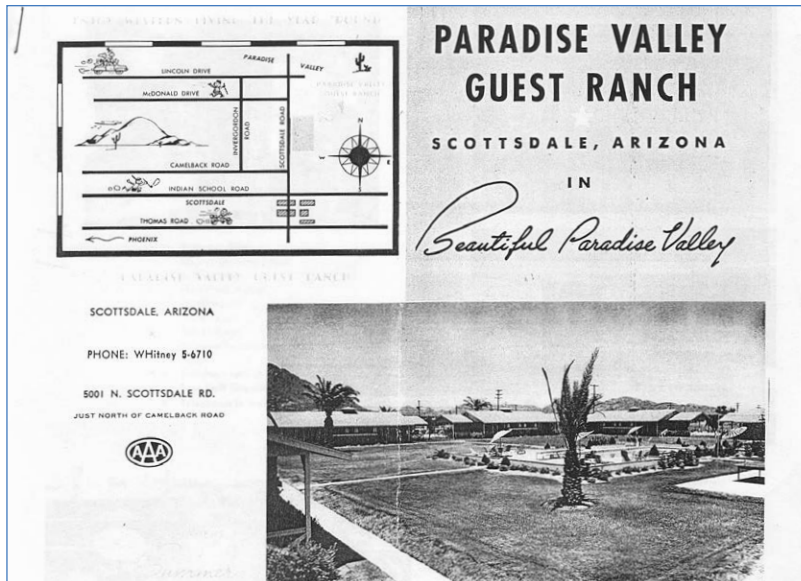
I attended Loloma Elementary School and Kiva Elementary School when it opened. Then I went to Scottsdale High School.

My father bought 20 acres on Scottsdale Road just north of Camelback Road. We started with six duplex apartments with a swimming pool. Eventually we added 25 one-room apartments. We donated the land for Chaparral Road. Then we took down the Paradise Valley Guest Ranch, and built a franchise of Granada Royale Hometels. After a few years we went independent as Chaparral Suites. We owned it until 2014 when we sold it. With the new owners, it became an Embassy Suites.

To say the least Scottsdale has been wonderful to my family.



Tom Silverman and his family were long-time Scottsdale hoteliers. A graduate of Scottsdale High and Arizona State University, Tom has been chair of the Scottsdale Chamber of Commerce and Scottsdale Foundation for the Handicapped/STARS boards of directors and chair of the Governor's Tourism Advisory Council. He served on the boards of the Scottsdale Memorial Hospital Foundation and Scottsdale Historical Society. He graduated in the first class of Scottsdale Leadership in 1987 and was the first recipient of the Frank Hodges Alumni Achievement Award. He was elected to a term on the Scottsdale City Council in March 2000.



The Silverman family moved to Scottsdale in the early 1950s and opened the Paradise Valley Guest Ranch on the northeast corner of Scottsdale and Chaparral Roads. They razed the guest ranch and built a Granada Royale suite hotel on the site, and rebranded it the Chaparral Suites. Silverman Family collection



The Scottsdale Area Chamber of Commerce honored the Silvermans (left to right: Ray, Carole and Tom) in 1996 with an Excellence in Business Award for their decades of contributions to Scottsdale's economy, tourism and lifestyle. Tom served on the Scottsdale City Council, 2000-2004. Scottsdale Chamber of Commerce photo

Cindy Slick

My family moved to Scottsdale, sight unseen in 1959. To say that it was a world away (at least in my young mind) from Kansas City, where we had come from, would be an understatement.

Like so many longtime residents of our beautiful city, I have some wonderful memories of growing up in a Scottsdale that looks a lot different than the one today.

We lived ‘out in the desert’ (as everyone said) back then, however, today it is near the geographic center of the city. Memories of trying to ride your bicycle more than a few hundred yards without getting your tires full of “bullheads” come to mind. Or, exploring the desert on horseback, avoiding rattlesnakes and gopher holes. Riding to town was also a treat where, in Scottsdale, there were signs that “Horses have the right of way” and there were plenty of hitching posts to tie up your steed.

To go into town was always special for me, even if it was just a trip to our closest grocer, A J Bayless, located at Scottsdale Fashion Square in its infancy. Along with Ryan Evans Drug Store, Goldwater’s department store, Guggy’s restaurant and a few other establishments, this open-air destination served as my first ‘mall’ experience.

Old Town area memories include trips to the public library which for a while was in the Little Red Schoolhouse. If you had fifteen cents for admission, a sweltering summer reprieve was the long-gone Civic Center public pool. It was especially exciting for those brave enough to jump off the (very) high dive into the ‘tank’, as we called it. The Main



Cindy Slick fondly remembers Scottsdale of her childhood in the 1960s, including shopping trips to Woolworth’s on the northwest corner of Scottsdale Road and Main Street (now the Legacy Gallery). Scottsdale Historical Society photo



Street area included stops at F W Woolworths, getting a soda at Lute’s Pharmacy counter or grabbing a “slaw burger” at the Ranch House. In the early ‘60s, my mother owned a restaurant on Main Street (Patio Tea Room), where a delicious lunch including her homemade side dishes could be had for 75 cents. To finish off this tasty meal, a slice of pie made fresh that morning would cost another 25 cents, according to the menu hanging proudly today on my kitchen wall.

Saturday might include going to matinees at the Kiva Theater (yes, originally it was kid-friendly), and in later years, seeing nearly every parent-approved movie that came out in the magical Kachina Theater. Also, many high school weekends were spent at the Round-up Drive-in on Thomas Road, where most teenagers in town could be found.

Scottsdale Unified School District provided a wonderful learning experience. In the days prior to the current plethora of private and charter schools and open enrollment was unheard of, most of us went all through school with the same group of classmates. A favorite time was Parada Week where we all got to wear our best western gear. This was an especially big deal to the girls as it was the only day that we didn't have to wear dresses and could come to school in blue jeans. A bonus was that we got out early on Friday to attend the rodeo.

Nowadays, I sometimes hear folks longing for the bygone days of Scottsdale and can see how it might be easy to be stuck there. It is human nature to embrace the memories that shape our lives. Nostalgia is a strong magnet of the mind. It is your sense of identity. However, I would suggest a better outcome would be to embrace the past while looking to the future with hope and being grateful for our strong foundation built growing up here.

The Scottsdale of today offers so many exciting opportunities to get involved. Volunteer at your local school, the library or any of the dozens of worthy non-profits that are based here. Take a shift at the local food bank or deliver meals to the underserved are just a few suggestions. As Ghandi said, "Be the Change." Take strength and be grounded by your past while working together believing in the future of this gorgeous city that we call home.

I read a sentiment once that stated: "With one hand I hold the memories that shaped me, warm and worn like pages in an old book. With the other, I reach toward the unknown, heart open, ready to write the next chapter."



Many 'baby boomers,' including Cindy Slick, remember going to Scottsdale's only public library, housed in the 1909-vintage "Little Red Schoolhouse" from 1963 to 1968. In retirement, Cindy began serving as a docent at the Scottsdale Historical Museum, now housed in the former schoolhouse. Scottsdale Public Library photo

Cindy Slick, 60-plus year Scottsdale resident is a retired APS Community Relations manager and has served on numerous boards, including Scottsdale Leadership and is a founding member of Community Celebrating Diversity, longtime Parada del Sol judge and currently is a docent at the Scottsdale Historical Museum.

Charlie Smith

The purpose and mission of the U S JAYCEES was to empower young active men, aged 18-40, through leadership training and community service to create positive change.

The Scottsdale JAYCEES were organized in 1953 and were soon asked to take over the existing Sunshine Festival, renaming it Parada del Sol and added a rodeo in 1956 to the existing parade, barbeque and street dance.

It has often been assumed that the Parada del Sol was the only project the Jaycees had (not true).

As an example of them fulfilling the Jaycee Mission statement – in 1969 the Jaycees had 40 chairmen, working in 50 different areas of responsibility including hosting political debates, Golden Gloves Boxing, Scottsdale's Junior Miss, Cystic Foundation Tele auction, Toys for Tots, Junior College Bond Issue, Junior Rodeo, 4-H horse show, Bowling for Blind Children, Boys Club camp cleanup, Tots for the Children's Colony, Teenage Safe, Driving Road-E-O and Clothing for Mexico. -All and more in addition to the Parada del Sol events.

Now for the Parada del Sol history part – in 1956 they hand built rodeo grounds on leased land on the NWC of Camelback & Scottsdale Road—by 1959 the owner terminated the lease to build what is now known as Scottsdale Fashion Square.



The Scottsdale Jaycees, founded in 1953, assumed responsibility for the Sunshine Festival, and renamed it the Parada del Sol. Charlie Smith served as the Jaycees Parada Boss in 1968, shown here with previous Parada Bosses. During this tenure as boss, Parada included the parade, after-parade party and a PRCA-sanctioned rodeo. Charlie Smith photo

The Jaycees then got a long-term lease for land on the east side of Hinton Street (75th Street alignment) between Indian School and Osborn Road, from the Civic Coordinating Council and again they built a PRCA competitive Rodeo Arena, east of the ballpark and north of the Boys Club. The home of the Parada del Sol Rodeo for the next 26 years. Traffic and parking concerns were hard to overcome. (This site now absorbed by the expansion of the Scottsdale Baseball Stadium complex)

Rawhide added a rodeo arena and hosted the Parada Rodeo in 1985. In 2006, WestWorld “picked up the reins.” The Parada Rodeo is now an independent event, and wears the name but with no ties to the Scottsdale Jaycees or the Scottsdale Charros.

The Parada del Sol Parade was picked up by a non-profit group of volunteers that kept the parade alive for some time and in the early 2020s Scottsdale Charros began managing the event.

I had the honor of serving in the Scottsdale Jaycees throughout its tenure in Scottsdale, including as Parada Boss in 1968 and Jaycees president in 1969. I made great friends in the Jaycees, and honed my leadership skills for future civic involvement.

What happened to the Jaycees–Scottsdale and National? The Scottsdale Jaycees were formally disbanded in 2009.



During the 1950s through 1970s, the Scottsdale Jaycees gave up-and-coming members valuable leadership experience. This circa 1970 photo of former Parada Bosses includes, left to right: Bill Mack, Herb Drinkwater, Dave Hawkins, Charlie Smith and Bob Hoddy. Charlie Smith photo

Before 1984, the Jaycees’ policy of only admitting men as full members led to internal and external conflict. Following a Supreme Court ruling that found the all-male policy unconstitutional, women were admitted as full members, but the conflict and subsequent integration likely contributed to membership shifts. The affiliated Jaycee Women’s Groups even dissolved, with many members joining the main organization.

Scottsdale Jaycees did have an affiliated women’s group, very active, known as the Lazy Js, and they were *not lazy* and had their own organization and officers.

National Jaycee membership peaked in 1975 at 359,000 down to 12,000 today.

Charlie Smith served on the Scottsdale City Council 1974-84. He was president of the Scottsdale Jaycees in 1968-69 and Patron of the Scottsdale Charros 1985-86. He served on the Scottsdale Planning Commission in 1974, the Foundation for Blind Children board 1967-68, on the city’s Charter Review Board and the Industrial Development Authority. He has been a Bible Study Leader and has been honored with induction into the Scottsdale History Hall of Fame in 2003, with the Scottsdale Charros’ Hallstrom Lifetime Achievement in 2010 and Scottsdale Leadership’s Drinkwater Leadership Award in 2017.

David Smith

Scottsdale citizens are justifiably proud of our city's long-held reputation as a tourist destination. We crave the approval of visitors, because we benefit so greatly from the dollars they spend at our hotels, restaurants, retail stores and galleries. The local sales taxes paid by tourists help fund vital city services like water, streets, police and fire protection, allowing Scottsdale to enjoy the *lowest sales tax rate of any city in Arizona*.

Citizens and businesses have long realized we cannot take our tourists for granted. We must nurture our relationship with them by continually refreshing and upgrading their visitor experience. Hoteliers and tourism-dependent businesses promote themselves by reinvesting a portion of their tourism revenues into marketing, as well as upgrading and expanding the visitor experience they offer.

Scottsdale consciously appeals to tourists with a diversified portfolio of lodging, indoor and outdoor recreation, fine dining, sophisticated shopping and diverse offerings from a vibrant arts and culture community – *something for everyone!* Coincidentally, the same portfolio of attractions we develop for tourists contributes to the high quality of life for Scottsdale citizens.

In 1988, voters agreed to increase the city's "bed tax" surcharge on hotel lodging from 2% to 3% "bed tax," using two-thirds of the revenue (2%) for "hospitality development" – destination marketing programs to attract future tourists.



David Smith, as City Treasurer and member of Scottsdale City Council, championed the importance of Scottsdale's tourism industry and expanded use of the voter-approved occupancy/bed tax to benefit tourism and events. David is shown here (behind group in sunglasses) with Mayor Jim Lane (center), Experience Scottsdale President Rachel Sacco and Councilmember Linda Milhaven (and two other woman at left) at the 2015 Super Bowl FanFest at Scottsdale Fashion Square. Scottsdale Public Library photo

But marketing alone was not enough!

So, almost 25 years later, in March 2010, the city asked voters to increase the “bed tax” from 3% to 5%, promising half the revenue (2.5%) would be spent on destination marketing and half (2.5%) would be spent (directly as cash or indirectly as debt service) for tourism-related initiatives to refresh and renew Scottsdale’s tourism experience. Importantly, each tourism event and venue promised to be an attraction for residents, further improving each citizen’s quality of life.

Arguments favoring the 5% tax uniformly advocated for the need to invest more in WestWorld, build a Museum of the West and underwrite a Desert Discovery Center.

Within months of voter approval, plans were approved to develop a major, air-conditioned event venue christened as the *Tony Nelssen Equestrian Center* today’s host for signature events such as the *World’s Greatest Collector Auto Auction*.

Soon after, tourism bed tax revenues were pledged to build and operate, *Western Spirit: Scottsdale’s Museum of the West*, promising to give visitors an appreciation for the art and culture of the west.

In other instances, bed tax revenues have improved already existing tourism venues like the spring training baseball stadium and the McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park.

Hopefully, in years to come, Scottsdale citizens will witness a renewed commitment to even more transformative and visionary investments, further enhancing the valuable partnership with tourism.

David N. Smith, a retired CPA and corporate chief financial officer, served on two of Scottsdale’s Citizen Budget Review Committees, and as Scottsdale Treasurer (a charter officer position) and was elected to the Scottsdale City Council in 2014. He currently serves as trustee and treasurer of Western Spirit: Scottsdale’s Museum of the West and is a board member of the city’s Municipal Property Corporation.



A patron of the arts who is also interested in history, David Smith (third from left) serves as the treasurer on board of trustees of Western Spirit: Scottsdale’s Museum of the West. The photo of David, other museum trustees and Louis “Buzz” Sands (center) was taken Jan. 10, 2024, at the groundbreaking of the Louis Sands Center expansion wing of the museum. Western Spirit photo

Diana Smith

What story to tell – the fun stories. The ones relished -- imprinted so strongly that every time we drive by a place, we recall the friends that joined us, the laughter we shared.

- The Little Yellow Duck Races in the canal east of Hayden Road.
- The balloons that floated over the Scottsdale Airport – during the Air Fairs with the runway closed for a morning.
- Canal Convergence that continues to appeal.
- Zina Kuhn moving the Merci Train from Pioneer Park (off I-17) to the Stillman Railroad Park and the National Guard who helped her.
- Our Public Art dedications – from Barry Goldwater’s dedication at the Airport of One with The Eagle, horses in the Indian Bend Wash and an Inkwell & Quill at Civic Center Library. Freeway walls embellished with lizards and cacti. A rabbit standing guard on Indian School Road.
- The endless greens on winter golf courses during tournaments with celebrity competitions.
- Western dances at Reata Pass, Pinnacle Peak Patio and Brett’s Barn; Arabian horses where Fashion Square is today, and more horses in Parada del Sol.
- Concerts on hard concrete seats in an amphitheater outside our performing arts center where water lilies grew in the ponds.
- Skateboarding on the airport taxiways.
- Climbing to Tom’s Thumb and sitting atop a peak with a sack lunch.
- Flying out of Scottsdale Airport and doing touch and goes when Frank Lloyd Wright Boulevard was a two-lane dirt road called Bell.
- Driving 100 miles per hour up Pima Road to Ho Hum and Easy, never meeting another car.
- The progressive dinners on and off a trolley dressed in black tie for a Culinary Week celebration.



Sen. Barry Goldwater, artist Pat Mathiesen and Mayor Herb Drinkwater at the November 1989 dedication of Mathiesen's One with the Eagle sculpture at the Scottsdale Airport/Airpark. Diana Smith photo

- Walking from gallery to art gallery every Thursday night.
- Favorite restaurants like Don & Charlie's, Quilted Bear, Anderson's, Arizona Club atop the corner building at Camelback and Scottsdale, Buster's and dinner and jazz at Remington's.
- Sitting for hours and listening to Mayor Drinkwater tell his stories of racing horses up Scottsdale Road at midnight with a friend.
- Paul Messinger reminiscing about sleeping outside on a cot under wet sheets on hot summer nights and swimming in the canal.
- Walking downtown streets with Mayor Bill Jenkins during his history tours.
- Attending the Scottsdale Symphony with Irv Fleming.
- Climbing buildings to watch the Dial Corporation sponsored Greyhound Marathon Races – around Airpark streets.
- Bidding (or not bidding) on cars at the auctions and watching the best get away.
- Watching WestWorld polo matches while everyone else is watching other people.
- Taking friends to Rawhide one day and grandsons to Rawhide the next.
- The choices for shopping like Hanny's, Saba's and Goldwater's, the Borgata.
- Riding the trains at the Railroad Park and biking the Indian Bend Wash.
- Scottsdale – a mosaic of layered stories that echo with faces who made them happen.



As owner/publisher of the Scottsdale Airpark News magazine during the 1980s and 1990s, Diana Smith attended countless Scottsdale events, from dedication of the Merci Boxcar at the McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park, to the Greyhound Corporate Challenge marathon in the Scottsdale Airpark. Diana Smith photo

Diana M. Smith previously owned/published the *Scottsdale Airpark News* magazine for 10 years. She has chaired the Scottsdale Chamber of Commerce and Scottsdale Leadership; has served on the boards of the Scottsdale Cultural Council, Scottsdale Education Foundation, Arizona Musicfest, Scottsdale Historical Society, both the city and county Transportation Commissions and the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation.

Jason Song

John “Johnny” Rose bought property in Scottsdale from The Valley Lumber Company on May 5, 1917. On it, he built John Rose – Fancy Grocery. He also advertised shoe repair, barber shop, pool room, ice cream and candies. Most people just called it Johnny Rose’s Pool Hall. The Johnny Rose store was foreclosed on in 1927 and became the property of Intermountain Building and Loan.

My family’s story in Scottsdale begins with my grandfather, Jew She Song. In 1929, as the Great Depression was about to begin, he leased the property in Scottsdale from Intermountain Building and Loan and moved the family business there. At first, however, the family continued living in Chandler until 1932, when they finally relocated to Scottsdale to be closer to the store. For about six years, Jew She Song operated the store under the lease. Then, on June 8, 1935, he became the successful bidder at a court-ordered sale for the property. Intermountain Building and Loan had gone under—like many financial institutions during the Depression—and the property went into receivership. My grandfather purchased it for just \$3,000, slightly more than half of what the bank originally owed when they had taken it over.



The Jew She Song family came to Scottsdale in the late 1920s, converting the former Johnny Rose Pool Hall into J. Chew Market on the northeast corner of Brown Avenue and Main Street. Scottsdale Public Library photo

This purchase was especially remarkable considering the legal barriers of the time. In 1921, Arizona had passed an Alien Land Law prohibiting “aliens ineligible for citizenship” from owning land. Though not explicitly aimed at Chinese or other Asian immigrants, federal naturalization laws barred Asians from becoming U.S. citizens, effectively shutting them out of property ownership. Despite this, Jew She Song managed to put his name on the deed—a significant achievement.

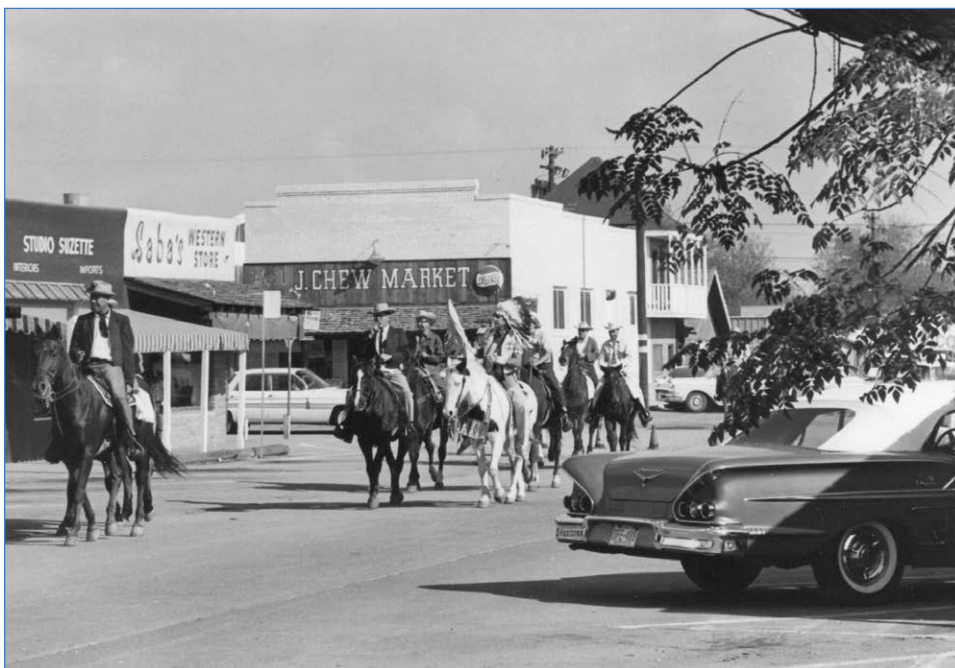
The store became more than just a business; it was a vital

resource for Scottsdale's community of color. My grandfather spoke several languages, including **English, Spanish, Yaqui, and Apache**, which allowed him to connect with a diverse customer base. The store often sold staples such as beans and rice and was known for extending credit to customers who couldn't always pay on time, something many other stores would not do.

As Scottsdale grew—from about 2,700 people in 1930 to more than 27,000 by 1960—the neighborhood around the store began to change. The Valley Ho Hotel was booming, the garage next door was replaced by the Basket House, and the laundromat two doors down became a gift shop. Scottsdale was transforming into a tourist destination, and the family adapted. The store shifted its focus to items appealing to visitors, and in 1965, it was renamed from J. Chew Market to Mexican Imports.

Today, the store is still in the family, run by my cousins Jayne and Roseann, descendants of Jew She Song. If you're ever in Old Town Scottsdale, be sure to stop by and say hello!

Jason Song grew up in Scottsdale, worked for the city of Scottsdale for 27 years, and recently served as president of the Scottsdale Historical Society.



After decades of operating J. Chew Market, the Song family still operates the Brown Avenue site as Mexican Imports. This circa 1962 photo shows the Scottsdale Charros riding up Main Street with J. Chew's in the background. Scottsdale Historical Society photo

Mark Stanton

Scottsdale at 75: From Small Town Charm to Global Destination

In 75 years, “The West’s Most Western Town” has grown into a vibrant, world-renowned community – one with a thriving economy, a diverse business base, and an enduring sense of hometown pride.

Having grown up in Paradise Valley (neighboring municipalities), I spent lots of time in the Scottsdale area and I have had the privilege of witnessing this remarkable transformation firsthand. I attended Kiva Elementary and Saguaro High School – at the onset of Saguaro’s continuing football dominance – and like many longtime residents, I have countless memories woven into the fabric of this city. From getting a day off school to celebrate the Parada del Sol Parade and Rodeo, to selling hot dogs with my scout troop during Spring Training at Scottsdale Stadium, meeting friends for ice cream at the Sugar Bowl, and landing my first job as a busboy at the Scottsdale Hilton (then owned by Hollywood legend Merv Griffin), Scottsdale has always felt like a hometown.

Those early days also included stints at Kwik Kopy, Goldwater’s department store, and even driving the Scottsdale Trolley to help visitors explore Scottsdale and Paradise Valley. Each experience deepened my appreciation for the community spirit that continues to define the Scottsdale area today.



A graduate of Saguaro High School, Mark Stanton has held numerous volunteer leadership positions in Scottsdale, including Patron of the Scottsdale Charros in its 50th anniversary year 2011. Here, he rides with the Scottsdale Charros in the 2005 Parada del Sol parade. Scottsdale Charros photo

Over the decades, Scottsdale’s economy has evolved from its early tourism and hospitality roots to become a dynamic center for innovation and industry. What began with small gift shops along 5th Avenue has expanded to include major corporations like General Dynamics, Nationwide Insurance, and HonorHealth – currently the city’s largest employer. Today, Scottsdale is home to companies in sectors ranging from semiconductors and aerospace to finance, defense, biotechnology and of course, tourism!

As the city has flourished, so too has its role as an economic driver for the State of Arizona. The Scottsdale Airport and Airpark are now recognized as key economic engines statewide, while

Scottsdale Fashion Square has grown from a modest open-air mall with a grocery store, drive-thru liquor store and a diner into one of the most successful luxury shopping destinations in the country.

In my role as president and CEO of the Scottsdale Area Chamber of Commerce, I take great pride in the Chamber's role in shaping our community's legacy. The Chamber predates the city's incorporation and helps lay the foundation for Scottsdale's growth — from planning major intersections to supporting the creation of city government itself.

Over the years, the Chamber has also been home to organizations such as the Scottsdale Convention & Visitors Bureau (now Experience Scottsdale), Scottsdale Leadership, and the Scottsdale Charros — all of which continue to enrich our community, strengthen our economy, and enhance quality of life.

While Scottsdale's growth and prosperity are undeniable, what remains unchanged is its small-town spirit and welcoming community feel. The Parada del Sol Parade and Rodeo, Spring Training, Scottsdale Arts and the WM Phoenix Open continue to bring people together year after year — and yes, the Sugar Bowl still serves up sweet nostalgia along with ice cream sundaes.

In my role with the Chamber and my concurrent position as mayor of Paradise Valley, I salute Scottsdale's amazing history and look forward to all the great milestones ahead. At 75, Scottsdale stands as a shining example of how a community can evolve while holding fast to its roots. The city's story is still being written — and the best is yet to come.

Happy 75th birthday, Scottsdale!



Mark Stanton has served as the president and CEO of the Scottsdale Area Chamber of Commerce since 2018. In this 2023 photo he (second from left) is presenting a check from the proceeds of the Scottsdale History Hall of Fame to Scottsdale Historical Society board members Don Hadder, Eleanor Brierley, Randy Nussbaum, Bob Fowler and Lisa Randall. Scottsdale Historical Society photo

Mark Stanton is the ultimate booster for the Scottsdale/PV area. He graduated from Saguaro High and has served in numerous public relations, marketing, tourism and business executive positions. He is the president & CEO of the Scottsdale Area Chamber of Commerce as well as the mayor of the Town of Paradise Valley (following three terms on the PV Town Council). Mark is a past patron/president of the Scottsdale Charros, graduate of Scottsdale Leadership Class 17 and former Deputy Director of the Arizona Office of Tourism.

Doug Sydnor

Evolving Scottsdale Architecture

The small farming community of Scottsdale was underway in the 1890s with its first school, post office, bank and mercantile stores. Growth was then interrupted by World War II, and following the war the community leadership wished to attract visitors. During the 1951 incorporation, they mandated that the 'Old Town' area have the existing buildings transformed into a Hollywood version of 'Western Revival' architecture; and was influenced by the popular western movies, television programs, novels and fashion of that time. This new character proved to be effective and provides symmetrical facades, wood board & batten walls, display windows; and covered walkways that provide precious shade and make downtown one of the most walkable urban environments in the valley.



The population exploded after the mid-1950s with ranch-styled subdivisions, 1956 Hotel Valley Ho and Safari Inn, 1957 Motorola Governmental Electronics, and the 1946 Arizona Craftsman and the 1955 Kiva Craft Centers. Through the 1960s over a dozen mid-century modern schools were constructed and exploited daylighting, ventilation, outdoor views and natural materials.

Starting in the 1960s, the city leadership focused on ordinances that would upgrade Scottsdale; and many became national models. They included the 1969 Signage, 1973 Architectural Design Review, 1986 Downtown Urban Design Guidelines, 1992 Landscape, 1998 & 2001 Green Building Programs for Residential & Commercial and 2005 LEED Certification for Public Facilities as examples. Such ordinances have created our pleasant built environment we experience every day.



Three generations of the Sydnor family have been architects in the Scottsdale/Phoenix area, starting with Reginald Sydnor. Douglas Sydnor has not only designed numerous buildings in the greater Scottsdale area, but is an architectural historian and has published numerous articles about significant local designs and their architects. Shown here is the Gateway to the McDowell Sonoran Preserve, designed by architects Weddle Gilmore. Bill Timmerman photo

Grassroot visions have included the 1964 Indian Bend Wash Green Belt as an 11-mile flood control and recreational amenity that transformed this special place. The 1994 McDowell Sonoran Preserve came to fruition and thanks to the citizenry voting to fund the land acquisition of this natural resource. The preserve has grown to an astounding 25% of Scottsdale's land area in a brief period of time.

Master plans have also set a high quality standard in planning, design guidelines, mixed-uses, public open space, community amenities and housing options. Some examples include the 1972 McCormick Ranch, 1983 Desert Highlands, 1984 Scottsdale Ranch, 1986 Desert Mountain and 1998 DC Ranch. Scottsdale citizens and its' leadership should be very proud of these past accomplishments.

What might be the next grand vision for Scottsdale to consider?

1. Transform Scottsdale Road into a landscaped boulevard that provides stimulating experiences along its path; including shaded pull-outs that celebrate Scottsdale's historic events that occurred at those locations.
2. Promote Scottsdale as an 'Architectural Living Museum' where we already have a phenomenal inventory of fine architecture by architects Frank Lloyd Wright, Paolo Soleri, Ralph Haver, and more.
3. Most construction will be adaptive reuse of the existing building inventory, which injects a new life into such structures, reduces waste, and avoids new construction.
4. Focus on sustainable strategies such as using resources more wisely, integrating technologies including AI, water conservation, and accepting driverless and electric vehicles.
5. More attainable housing, as over 80% of those that work in Scottsdale commute. Our teaching, public safety, and hospitality personnel should have access to housing within the community where they work.
6. Avoid isolation by creating public spaces that encourage socialization and connections for people; and with community gardens and gathering places.
7. Provide more shade strategies to reduce Scottsdale's heat island effect as an urban forestry program, natural vegetation, shading devices, and maybe bringing back hats – labeled with 'Celebrating Scottsdale's 75th Anniversary'!



Among the Scottsdale buildings Douglas Sydnor has designed is the Appaloosa Library at Silverstone, former location of Rawhide Western Town on the southeast corner of Scottsdale and Pinnacle Peak Roads. Appaloosa opened in 2009. Joan Fudala photo

Douglas B. Sydnor, FAIA, has been a Scottsdale area resident for 60 years, and an architect for almost 50 years. His award-winning architecture includes the Appaloosa Branch Library, Loloma Transportation Center, Scottsdale Community College Applied Sciences, Scottsdale Artists School, and Stearns Bank. Community involvement has been extensive including the City Development Review Board, Library Board, and the Historic Preservation Commission.

Marshall Trimble

The folk music revival began in February 1958. Music stations around the nation turned on their favorite music stations and heard the voice of Nick Reynolds from an unknown singing group calling themselves the Kingston Trio, and playing two acoustic guitars and a banjo was reciting a sad lament about a man named Tom Dooley who was hanged for murdering his lover. Eight months later, the song hit the top of the charts, and it marked the beginning of a new era in music was born.

Acoustic guitars were selling off the racks. I traded my five-dollar Gibson for a thirty-dollar Martin and thirty dollars. (because that's what the Kingston Trio played). I was making starving wages as a teacher. I hooked up with two other guitar pickers, and we called ourselves the "Gin Mill Three" and took a gig at a local Scottsdale bar three nights a week. I was making \$75 a week, the same amount I was making as a schoolteacher with a master's degree. There was an additional bonus – pretty girls love guitar pickers.

The Gin Mill Three played at a variety of venues in Scottsdale including the Cross Keys, one of the busiest bistros in Scottsdale.

The Red Dog, with its classic painting of the beautiful Red Dog Lil hanging above the bar wearing nothing but a smile. I dated a waitress a couple of times who claimed she had been the model for the painting but several other waitresses made the same claims.



Best known as Arizona's Official Historian, Marshall Trimble is also a talented musician. In the 1960s, as a teacher at Coronado High School, he performed in local pubs and coffee houses with the Gin Mill Three. Here Marshall (center) performs at Cross Keys in Scottsdale. Marshall Trimble photo

The other side of Folk Revival in Scottsdale was the coffeehouse. The "West's Most Western Town" was the leader in popular coffee houses. The three most popular ones were the Mews on Miller Road. The most popular duo, Henry Thome and Ron Ryan packed them in with their humor and music until Henry got drafted and Ron moved to California. Portafino's, on Main, located in a mall within a mall. They bought in acts like Bud and Travis but their main talent was Dolan Ellis, who left to become one of the original

members of the New Christy Minstrels. He returned in 1963 to open his own place called “Dolans” on the southeast corner of Scottsdale and Camelback. In 1966 the governor appointed him State Balladeer. Loy Clingman’s Baboquivari was another popular coffeehouse located where the Scottsdale Center for the Arts is today. Ted Newman was another great singer-songwriter. He also wrote popular songs about Scottsdale founder Winfield Scott and beloved mayor Herb Drinkwater.

“Dolans” held an open mike every Monday night where the bar and coffeehouse folkies shared the microphones. Waylon Jennings recorded a couple of folksongs he heard on the open mike. John Denver was a frequent visitor when he was in town.

Dolan, Henry, Ted and I still get together for lunch. To paraphrase an old cowboy proverb, “We Never Sold Our Guitars!”



In this 1979 photo, Marshall Trimble – state historian and director of the Southwest Studies Department at Scottsdale Community College – performs at his friend Dolan Ellis’ Tuba City Truck Stop in Old Town Scottsdale. Marshall Trimble photo

Marshall Trimble, a life-long educator, storyteller and author of 20 books, has been the Arizona Official State Historian since 1997, as appointed by each governor. He served on the faculty of Coronado High School, and was director of Southwest Studies at Scottsdale Community College for 40 years before his retirement. He has been honored with induction into Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame, the Arizona Music and Entertainment Hall of Fame and the Scottsdale History Hall of Fame.

The Unger Family

For the Unger family, Scottsdale has always been a place where vision and community come together.

Our story begins with Fred Unger, a developer who looked at the stretch of canal in downtown Scottsdale in the 1990s and saw more than muddy water and run-down buildings. He envisioned something grander – a place where people could gather, dine, and celebrate Scottsdale’s unique character. Fred spent years acquiring properties and working hand in hand with the city to bring that vision to life. The result was SouthBridge, which transformed a forgotten corridor into one of Scottsdale’s most vibrant and photographed destinations.



Fred Unger

What had once been a dusty utility canal became a place of beauty and energy – with walkways, restaurants, shops and events that attracted both residents and visitors. SouthBridge and the Waterfront went on to host major happenings, from Canal Convergence to national broadcasts. When ESPN set up its Super Bowl coverage along the canal, it was a proud moment that showed how far Fred’s vision had carried Scottsdale onto the national stage.

That same spirit of civic involvement continues with Fred’s sons, Carter and Austin Unger, who together have spent more than a decade at WestWorld of Scottsdale. Over the past 12 years, they have worked with the city of Scottsdale team and event partners to ensure that WestWorld fulfills its role as one of the city’s most versatile and iconic venues. From the Barrett-Jackson Collector Car Auction to international equestrian competitions,



Fred Unger was a visionary, turning unappreciated sites into spectacular destinations with his wife Jennifer. After successful renovations of the Hermosa Inn and Royal Palms Resort, he turned his attention to the south bank of the Arizona Canal in Old Town Scottsdale. He debuted SouthBridge in 2007 with a blend of one-of-a-kind restaurants, retail and office space. Unger family photo

WestWorld has become a year-round stage where Scottsdale welcomes the world.

One of our favorite family memories is from an early morning during the Arabian Horse Show. Fred came out to WestWorld and watched as city staff prepared the grounds while horses entered the arenas with the McDowell Mountains in the background. He smiled and said, “This is why I always believed in Scottsdale – it’s a place where the West and the world come together.” That moment has stayed with us, because it summed up not only Fred’s vision but also the role WestWorld continues to play in carrying Scottsdale’s western heritage forward into the future.

As Scottsdale looks ahead to its next 75 years, our family believes the city will continue to thrive when visionaries invest in both the place and the people. From Fred’s transformation of the canal into SouthBridge to the next generation’s stewardship at WestWorld, we are proud to have played a part in Scottsdale’s remarkable story.

The Unger Family - Fred and Jennifer and their four children - arrived in Scottsdale in 1987. Fred and Jennifer started Scottsdale-based Spring Creek Development, renovating the Hermosa and Royal Palms Inns. They transformed the south bank of the Arizona Canal in Old Town Scottsdale into the Southbridge mixed-use development in 2007. Fred passed away in 2018; Jennifer, Carter and Austin continue to be involved in Scottsdale area projects.



A year after Unger’s Southbridge development opened on the south bank of the Arizona Canal, ESPN chose the location for its week of broadcasts leading up to Super Bowl 2008. Fred and Jennifer Unger’s sons Austin and Carter carry on the family tradition of civic involvement and envisioning great things for Scottsdale. Unger family photo

Bruce Wall

Meeting Scottsdale's Movers & Shakers

I first began working for Scottsdale in 2002. In October 2016, I accepted a new role with the Office of Citizen Service as a citizen advisor. One of the programs I took on in 2017 was Neighborhood College. The previous program coordinator, Joy Racine, challenged me to develop a new series of classes that was as successful as the HOA/Condominium board series.

I approached my supervisor and asked if I could give a presentation on Scottsdale's history. I was told that "we've tried that and no one is interested in local history." Not willing to give up, I pressed with a question. What number of people would have to sign up for a history presentation that you would consider a success? I was told that if I could get more than 20 people to attend, that would be a success.



Bruce Wall, Community Involvement advisor for the City Manager's Office for the city of Scottsdale, is also an avid historian and storyteller. He is shown here with (sitting) civic leader Jim Bruner, author of the memoir, Behind the Scenes. Bruce Wall photo

I wish I could say that I was an immediate success, but I did have an ace up my sleeve. There was a relatively new app called NextDoor that hit a tipping point in popularity in 2017. We posted on our department's NextDoor account, and registration took off! No one knew me or my presentation style. They just heard the title "From Scott to Drinkwater: The History of Scottsdale" and signed up!

Our first class exceeded the number of people that we could accommodate in the Scottsdale Community Design Studio (80), so we started a second presentation at the Civic Center Library auditorium. In that first session, 68 attended the first presentation and 191 attended the second! It turned out that local history was hot!

As I continued to discover new topics and ideas, I received many suggestions from the people who attended the classes. This led to interviews with several people who made history in Scottsdale, Arizona, and the world.

One of the first was my interview with Linda Pauling, a co-founder of Make-A-Wish and the first Wish Mom who lived in Scottsdale with her son, Chris. Linda was able to share her story. She also attended the first presentation to take questions from the audience. Instead, the audience told her how much they appreciated her work and Make-A-Wish. It was a tear-jerker!

I was able to interview many more movers and shakers from Scottsdale. Janie Ellis from Cattle Track, Tracey Mason from the ASU Kerr Cultural Center, Carroll Huntress from the Sugar Bowl and Scottsdale's Singing Cowboy, Gary Sprague.

Recently, I met with former City Councilmember Jim Bruner and learned all the things he did to help grow Scottsdale, the Cactus League and the Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West. I was particularly pleased to have Jim sign a copy of his book, "Behind the Scenes," for me and to include it in my Scottsdale history book collection.

Becoming Scottsdale's unofficial "historical storyteller" has been one of the greatest joys of my career. Residents come up to me after the presentations and tell me that they have a new appreciation and pride in Scottsdale.

I often tell people that I have the best job in the city of Scottsdale!

Bruce Wall has worked for the city of Scottsdale since 2002 in the Citizen & Neighborhood Resource Department, Scottsdale Police Department, Office of Communications and the City Manager's Office. He is a Community Involvement advisor in the Community Involvement Office. He was in Scottsdale Leadership Class 40.



Fascinated with the stories behind the Cattle Track Art Colony and the Ellis family, Bruce Wall has researched and presented the Cattle Track story with the help of Janie Ellis, his friend and inspiration. City of Scottsdale photo

Jeff Walther

Growing with Scottsdale

In 1994 when I first pinned on the badge as a patrol officer, Scottsdale was a different place. The loop-101 freeway didn't exist and was simply phantom overpasses stretching across Reservation farmland like skeletal promises of a future yet to arrive. Back then, our department was lean, with just 175 officers strong. We knew each other by name, and the city still felt like a small town with big dreams.

I fondly remember escorting a young Tiger Woods around the Phoenix Open. It was a Scottsdale Police Department-only operation and was tight-knit, focused, and proud. Today, that same event draws over a million people during the weeklong festivities, and it takes our Valley-wide law enforcement partnerships to keep both golfers and patrons safe. The scale has changed, but the mission remains.

The entertainment district was once a modest cluster of bars and nightclubs. Now, it pulses with energy, drawing partygoers from across the country and often from around



The Scottsdale Police Department evolved from its origins as having one Town Marshal after incorporation in 1951 to become a professional police force housed at Town Hall in the historic Little Red Schoolhouse from 1955 to 1961. The SPD is now headquartered in the Lou Witzeman Public Safety Building on Indian School Road. L-R: Jerry Davich, Jerry Kok #22, Wicky Kay #5, Dan Morton, Robert Zeider, Lillian Shaheen #7, Marshall Bill Downing, Ken Pepper #3, Dick Williams, Dick Kaar, Harry Walker #6, Dick Seider #2 Scottsdale Historical Society/Scottsdale Public Library photo

the world. North Scottsdale, once quiet and sparse, has blossomed into a vibrant hub that rivals the south in energy and outpaces it in population. That vibrancy now stretches from boundary to boundary, a living testament to its growth and popularity as a destination hotspot.

Police technology has transformed our work in ways I could never have imagined. From handwritten reports and radio calls to real-time data, body-worn cameras, and drones patrolling our skies, our tools have evolved and so have we. What once took hours now takes minutes. What once seemed impossible is now routine.

Through it all, I grew up with this city. From a young patrol officer navigating the occasional dirt roads up north and phantom freeways down south to the Chief of Police overseeing a department of 410 officers and 300 professional staff, my journey mirrored Scottsdale's own. We've both grown, matured, adapted, and risen to meet the challenges of each new era proudly and confidently knowing exactly where we are going.

Scottsdale isn't just where I served, it's where I became who I am today and as I look back on three decades of change, I see not just the growth of a city, but the story of a life lived well in service to it. What a great and wonderful ride in an amazing city!! I wouldn't change a thing!

Jeff Walther began his service to the city of Scottsdale as a police officer in 1994 and rose through the ranks to serve as police chief from 2020 to 2025. He was named Arizona's Police Chief of the Year in 2022 and, in 2024, received the Bill Donaldson Award for vision, innovation, team building, and community service. In January 2025, City Manager Greg Caton asked Jeff to serve as assistant city manager. Jeff retired in April 2026.



Jeff Walther's retirement party in April 2026. L-R: Helen Gandara, Jeff Walther, Joe LeDuc and Chris Watson

William “Bill” Walton

The following is an editorial written by Bill Walton, published in the February 8, 1964 Scottsdale Daily Progress. It is reprinted with permission of Times Media, current owners of the Scottsdale Progress, and his daughter Terri Walton Calderon.

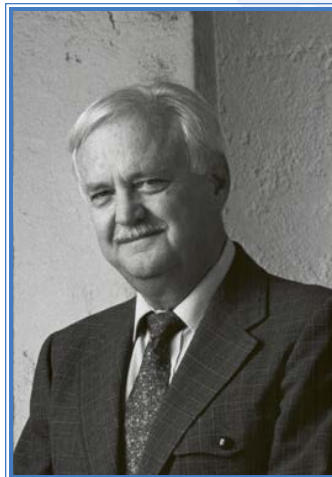
To this day the creation of New York’s Central Park in the 1850s remains an outstanding example of foresight in acquisition and planning. During the years when Manhattan was a countryside north of 23rd Street, William Cullen Bryant, editor of the *Evening Post*, began urging the purchase of open spaces. The idea of inhabiting the entire island in the future was considered far-fetched by most people, but to Bryant and his associates it was inevitable. Bryant urged that land be bought immediately: the idea took hold; and the purchase was made. The rest is history.

Couldn’t we have the opportunity for a parallel of that story right here in the “West’s Most Western Town”? Foresight is a wonderful trait, and we either develop it in order to aid our town or we don’t. Foresight requires imagination, inspiration, dedication and determination. If we have foresight and boldness why couldn’t we create in Scottsdale a park similar to the one in New York?

I would urge city and civic leaders to buy land and begin planning now for recreational purposes, and, to be specific, to consider buying the complete five miles or so of the Indian Bend Wash in which the flood control project is to be placed and to make it into a unique and outstanding park area for Scottsdale.

It could be designed so as not to interfere with flood control and could include bridle paths, quiet areas, flower beds, active areas of almost every conceivable recreational use from museums to feeding pigeons.

While lack of space may mean little to the average citizen in Scottsdale when he can look in many directions and see much open space, the time is coming when Scottsdale may very likely be a highly congested area. If Scottsdale is to become a community with its own identity and pride, the people must first feel a vibrant relationship with the community. This might be gained by providing the citizens with a beautiful and practical recreational center that would also help make Scottsdale stand out to all those who come to the Valley as a town with foresight and imagination and a town to be envied by all.



When Bill Walton and his family arrived in Scottsdale in the early 1960s, the growing city was plagued by floods of the Indian Bend Wash, which several times a year stranded residents from getting to work, school, shopping and errands. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers proposed building a miles-long concrete channel to tame the flood waters, which would have been effective but an eye-sore in the beautiful city of Scottsdale. Scottsdale Public Library/Scottsdale Historical Society photo

Planning and foresight could make the Indian Bend Wash flood control project more than just a concrete channel which would divide the city. A turfed channel can be designed so as to serve a variety of purposes including bridle paths and underpasses under the main thoroughfares for park traffic. The entire open space area could stagger the imagination with all of the possibilities and good uses to which it could be put.

In time the Indian Bend Wash could become a beautifully landscaped open space which would help to tie the town's residential areas together and would be a buffer to the central business district. A city golf course, fine arts center, basketball and tennis courts, picnicking areas and shelters could all eventually be part of this area.

Based on the standards of the National Recreation Association, Scottsdale should have one acre of playgrounds playfields and tot lots for every 100 people, or approximately 440 acres for a town our size today and this is not figuring on our projected size in the years to come. Can anyone doubt the need for park and recreational areas in this town?

Undoubtedly the purchase and creation of such an elongated parkway through our town would cost money. Government help is available, however, in purchasing property for recreational purposes and this might make the Indian Bend Wash park more feasible and practical. I believe that the benefits and returns from such a park would be great.

In addition to our fine recreational facilities, land values would be increased and there would be a greater desire for people to live in Scottsdale. I think that it would give us another community interest that would increase business from merchants and tradesmen.

Culturally and aesthetically we would be taking a giant step forward and probably the most important value would be the enhancement and enrichment of our community, making it a better place in which to live, work and relax.

I urge the citizens of Scottsdale to have foresight and to start now before we are so far behind that we can never catch up. Let's get bold; let's plan ahead; let's decide to make Scottsdale a beautiful and enjoyable community and make it admired all over the country as an ideal community.



Bill Walton, a landscape architect, wrote an Op-Ed in the Feb. 8, 1964 Scottsdale Daily Progress, suggesting that a series of parks and golf courses built in the Indian Bend Wash could be an effective alternative to the unsightly concrete ditch. After years of advocacy, the Indian Bend Wash Greenbelt Flood Control Project was dedicated in 1985, and continues to be a point of pride for Scottsdale. Scottsdale Historical Society photo

William “Bill” Walton, a landscape architect, moved his family to Scottsdale in 1963. He advocated the greenbelt concept for Indian Bend Wash flood control, and served on the city's Parks and Recreation Commission in the 1960s. He joined the city staff as assistant planning director in 1967, and as planning director until 1973. After returning to private practice, Bill served on the Scottsdale Airport Advisory Commission and Planning Commission. He was elected to Scottsdale City Council in 1984 and served until 1992. Bill Walton passed away in November 2025.

Solange Whitehead

Scottsdale is my home.

As a kid, my family moved so often I never had a hometown. In college, I studied electrical engineering, happily moved to San Diego after graduation and planned to stay put. Then I discovered Scottsdale.

My husband and I brought our family here for just ‘six months’, fell in love with Scottsdale and everything Arizona and never went back. That was 30 years ago.

Of course, we were drawn in by the beauty and Scottsdale’s small-town charm. I still remember biking with our son when a police officer stopped us—just to give him a coupon for wearing his helmet!

But there was something magical here. Scottsdale radiated an aura of effortless elegance and Arizona felt like a place where people could get big things done. Both proved true. A year or so into our ‘six months’ stay, I met Carla (with no last name). She matter-of-factly explained her plan to preserve 30,000 of the most expensive acres in all of Arizona. Acres owned by the State government and slated for development. I got involved immediately.

Today, Scottsdale is home to the largest urban preserve in the nation: The McDowell Sonoran Preserve.

Over my years, I have learned that Scottsdale’s elegance is real but was never truly effortless. It was made possible by visionary residents and leaders who delivered for our community. And by Scottsdale voters who repeatedly taxed themselves to protect our environment.

I’ve now served on the Scottsdale City Council for eight years. It’s been the honor of my life, and I’m proud of what we’ve accomplished together. But here is the thing: my successes on Council are built on the successes of my predecessors and their continued commitment to our city. In Scottsdale, people don’t retire and ride off into the sunset. Nope, they stay involved. That’s Scottsdale’s formula for success: we work together and we win together.

I love Scottsdale, and I’m so grateful to finally have a hometown!



Councilwoman **Solange Whitehead** is serving her second four-year term on the Scottsdale City Council in 2026. She is an electrical engineer, conservationist and city volunteer, and served two terms on the McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission. She and her husband raised their three children in Scottsdale and spend a lot of time outdoors.



Solange Whitehead is an avid cyclist and advocate/hiker of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. She served two terms on the McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission before being elected to the Scottsdale City Council. Solange Whitehead photo



Scottsdale was named a Golden Rule city circa 2017; shown here are Councilmember Solange Whitehead and Mayor David Ortega planting a tree in honor of Golden Rule Day in January 2021. In 1982 Scottsdale became the first municipality in Arizona to be designated a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation, and has continued to earn that honor every year since. City of Scottsdale photo

Lee Ann Witt

Scottsdale at 75: Leading with Heart, Humor, and Little Desert Dust

Seventy-five years ago, Scottsdale wasn't the bustling city of sleek galleries, sparkling resorts and traffic circles we know today. It was a small desert town where everyone knew your name – and probably your horse, too. Since 1951, Scottsdale has grown from a few sandy streets into a thriving community known for creativity, innovation and doing things the Scottsdale way: with vision, style and plenty of sunshine.

Through it all, one thing hasn't changed – Scottsdale gets things done because its people show up. The city's story is built on a foundation of volunteers, dreamers and the occasional stubborn visionary who believed civic pride and bold ideas could peacefully coexist (with air conditioning, of course).

Since 1986, Scottsdale Leadership has been helping those visionaries find their footing – and their voice. Over the years, more than 1,400 alumni have graduated from our program, going on to serve as mayors, city council members, commissioners, nonprofit board members and leaders in every sector of Scottsdale life. If there's a committee, cause or civic challenge in town, chances are one of our alumni is in the room – and probably running the meeting.



Scottsdale Leadership graduated its first class in June 1987, launching the civic careers of its members and those of subsequent Leadership classes. Scottsdale Leadership photo

Our graduates have touched hundreds of civic, business, philanthropic, nonprofit and cultural organizations. They've launched projects that beautify neighborhoods, strengthen schools and spark collaboration. They've built bridges – sometimes literally and sometimes between people who didn't know they shared the same goals.

Scottsdale has always balanced opposites: cowboys and CEOs, golf courses and galleries, preservation and progress. That same mix of grit and grace fuels our leaders. Whether shaping water policy, championing shade (we love shade), or navigating the delicate art of roundabout etiquette, Scottsdale's leaders find a way forward with integrity, creativity and just enough humor to survive summer.

As a longtime Scottsdale resident, I've had the privilege of watching this community grow – and of helping prepare those who will guide its next chapter. Every day, I witness transformation – people entering curious and inspired, and leaving as confident, connected changemakers. Scottsdale's heartbeat has always been community and we're proud to help keep that pulse strong – with heart, humor and just a touch of desert grit.

Lee Ann Witt has served as executive director of Scottsdale Leadership since 2019 and a member of Scottsdale Leadership's Class 33. She is a long-time resident of Scottsdale since 1989.



In 2026, Class 40 ("born to XL") of Scottsdale Leadership posed for a drone shot (a technology unheard of in 1987!). Lee Ann Witt, Scottsdale Leadership executive director since 2019, was a member of Scottsdale Leadership Class 33. Scottsdale Leadership photo

Gerd Wuestemann

At 75, Scottsdale is a young city with a short history of rapid growth, change and....culture! Even before there was a city of Scottsdale – there was a desert destination of creatives, slightly offbeat artists and seekers, intrigued by the land, the light and its history. This concept is perhaps most directly realized at Taliesin West, Frank Lloyd Wright’s desert winter home and studio, built in 1937 - at the time far outside of town. Today Taliesin West is a landmark structure and key piece of Scottsdale’s cultural appeal.

Another prime example of the many creative seekers making Scottsdale their home is the story of Cattle Track Arts Compound. Homesteaded by the Ellis family in 1933, Cattle Track remains an irreverent cauldron of multi-disciplinary creativity – everything from modern dancers to iconic artists like Philip Curtis and Fritz Scholder created work here, alongside caution-to-the-wind tinkerers designing Indy 500-winning race cars. Still today, the indomitable Ms. Janie Ellis runs her artist compound with devil-may-care swagger and a new partnership with Scottsdale Arts will help propel this unique campus into the future.

Art & Culture have been important drivers in the development of Scottsdale from the beginning. In 1970, the city of Scottsdale was the first U.S. city awarded a \$20,000 matching grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to commission a monumental work of public art by “an outstanding American sculptor.” After raising \$20,000 in private contributions, the Scottsdale Fine Arts Commission (later Scottsdale Cultural Council and today Scottsdale Arts) selected abstract sculptor Louise Nevelson to create her first large scale work in the Southwest. The piece - formally titled *Atmosphere and*



Environments XIII, but more affectionately called *Windows to the West* – started what has become one of the nation’s finest public art programs with 165 (and counting) monumental works across Scottsdale.

Windows was joined by another iconic work at the now united Civic Center: *LOVE* by Robert Indiana, which has since become one of the most photographed images in all of Scottsdale.



Designed by Bennie Gonzales – who also designed Scottsdale City Hall, Civic Center Library and Civic Center Mall – the Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts opened in October 1975. The center is operated by the nonprofit Scottsdale Arts (formerly the Scottsdale Cultural Council). Scottsdale Historical Society photo

Opening its doors in 1975, the Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts has long been recognized as a key cultural institution in Arizona. Architect Bennie Gonzales designed the structure, which features an iconic geometric design inspired by the architecture of the American Southwest. In 2008, the renovation of the Virginia G. Piper Theater, an 853-seat hall known for its excellent acoustics and intimate setting, brought the venue into a new era. The Piper Theater has hosted many world-renowned performers and continues to be the centerpiece of the Center's offerings.



During a major renovation of Scottsdale's Civic Center, two outdoor amphitheaters were added, including the East Bowl, shown here at its debut concert in September 2023. The amphitheaters and other spaces on Civic Center are the responsibility of Scottsdale Arts. Joan Fudala photo

In 1999, a former movie house at Civic Center was converted by local architect Will Bruder into the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art (SMoCA). And in 2015, a long-held vision for a fitting western museum in the *West's Most Western Town* was realized through a private-public partnership with the opening of *Western Spirit, Scottsdale Museum of the West*, a Smithsonian affiliate and award-winning facility.

Most recently, an expansive re-imagining of Civic Center with three beautiful new outdoor stages and event spaces has brought the arts under desert skies. Complementing the original architecture by Bennie Gonzales, Civic Center is now a holistic arts and events campus, anchoring a cultural corridor across Old Town Scottsdale.

Destination events, such as Canal Convergence, lighting up the Scottsdale Waterfront, truly permeate the civic heart of Scottsdale.

Emerging events like Scottsdale Art Week and Dreamy Draw Music Festival join established series like the immensely successful Arizona Music Fest, which brings outstanding shows and workshops to North Scottsdale residents and beyond.

Scottsdale is a unique place: a jewel in the desert, an economic powerhouse, a luxury destination and a western town. Art and culture have long defined this place we call home. The spirit of creativity and innovation that first brought seekers here still provides the same spark for us all. It will be amazing to see where it leads us next.

Dr. Gerd Wuestemann has been president & CEO of Scottsdale Arts since 2018, with responsibilities that include the Scottsdale Center for Performing Arts, Museum of Contemporary Art, Civic Center, Scottsdale Public Art, Learning & Innovation and Canal Convergence. He has been instrumental in forging a partnership with the historic Cattle Track Arts Compound. In a former life he was an award-winning touring and recording artist.

Steve Ziomek

I moved to Scottsdale from Chicago in 1982 to find what seemed to be a sleepy ol western town, except for downtown Scottsdale. Large portions of Scottsdale Road headed north were one narrow lane in each direction; Hayden Road heading north, ended at Shea and Shea eastbound to Hwy 87 was also only one lane in each direction.

The tiny Scottsdale general aviation airport was surrounded primarily by a barbwire fence and dirt perimeter road. It was fun jogging and bicycling around.

Now the Scottsdale Airport and surrounding area have become a self-sufficient bustling community.

Over 3,000 businesses and 60,000 employees contribute over \$10 billion in economic activity and benefit to the area.

My have we grown. The airport itself has become one of the busiest single runway non-commercial airports in the country.

I am now privileged to have an office at the airport and thoroughly enjoy looking out my window to watch multiple take-offs and landings each day.

Additionally I'm honored to be part of the Thunderbird Field II (the original name of the Scottsdale Airport) Veterans Memorial, which commemorates the rich history of the airport, honors all veterans, provides scholarships to Arizona students going to Arizona colleges and enrolled in any type of aviation curriculum and the organization supports disabled veterans live a more productive life via the help of service dogs.



Steve Ziomek is a Scottsdale Airpark area business owner, former U.S. Coast Guard rescue pilot and former command pilot in the Civil Air Patrol. He is founder and chairman of the board of Thunderbird Field II Veterans Memorial Inc., chaired Scottsdale Airport Advisory Commission and served on the inaugural Scottsdale Veterans' Advisory Commission.



Pilot and Thunderbird Field II Veterans Memorial President Steve Ziomek gave a nostalgic flight to Jerry Yellin in a vintage PT-17 Stearman aircraft at Scottsdale Airport. Yellin had trained in the Stearman in 1943 at Thunderbird Field No. 2 before his service in World War II. After Ziomek gave several nostalgic flights to retired aviators, the historic aircraft became the centerpiece of a memorial display at the Scottsdale Aviation Business Center. Scottsdale Public Library photo



A special display honoring Scottsdale Airport's origins as Thunderbird Airfield No. 2 was part of the design of the new Scottsdale Aviation Business Center – which replaced the 1968-vintage Scottsdale Airport terminal building in 2018. The nonprofit Thunderbird Field II Veterans Memorial Inc., led by Steve Ziomek, located and refurbished a PT-17 Stearman aircraft like those flown during World War II pilot training at Thunderbird II for display. Scottsdale Airport photo

Raoul Zubia

Growing up in Scottsdale in the 1960s and '70s felt ordinary back then, but looking back, it was a wide-open playground. The desert set the stage. Camelback and the McDowell Mountains framed my horizon; saguaros stood like old guards. Summers stretched endlessly, and freedom was stitched into daily life. We turned streets into ballfields and rode bikes until porch lights told us the day was over.

Then came Los Arcos Mall in '69, our adventure hub. We would thumb through records at Wallich's Music Room, have a slice of pie at Hobo Joe's, or dive into plates at Pancho's that felt bigger than we were. Orange Julius was our cool-down station and Chess King was where you went to imagine yourself a little flashier than reality allowed. The mall was not just a place to shop; it was the core of our culture.

But Scottsdale was not only malls and storefronts. Old Town carried a creative pulse of its own. It was not unusual to see horses being ridden up Scottsdale Road or tied up to hitching posts in front of the shops. The art galleries that dotted the streets made the neighborhood feel alive, rooms filled with bold canvases, western landscapes and experimental pieces that made kids like me wonder what else was out there. Between the galleries, the Parada del Sol parade and the Arabian Horse Show, Scottsdale managed to feel both rooted in the West and reaching for something bigger.



Raoul Zubia is a perennial announcer and script writer for the annual Parada del Sol Parade. Here, he and Karen Shaw announce along the 2026 parade route in Old Town. Joan Fudala photo

Back home, the neighborhood felt like one big family. Walking into a friend's kitchen and raiding their fridge was not bold, it was normal. Parents looked after all of us and summers meant swimming until our eyes stung with chlorine or escaping the heat in the underground Harkins Theater at Los Arcos. Safety was not something we thought about, it was just built into the air we breathed.

School echoed the same momentum. Fresh buildings, teachers who cared, after-school fields alive with Little

League and pickup games that blurred into night. Opportunity was not some far-off dream; it was already in the room with us.

Only in hindsight do I realize how rare it was to grow up with such freedom, safety and opportunity. At the time, it felt normal to watch fireworks at Eldorado Park on the 4th of July or to pile into the family station wagon for trips up “north” for a picnic in the desert. Scottsdale gave me more than a childhood. It gave me community, pride and a foundation strong enough to carry me forward. That is a privilege I will always treasure.

Raoul Zubia is a lifelong Scottsdale resident and dedicated community activist. He has served in numerous leadership roles, including chair of the Scottsdale Human Services Commission, vice chair of the Protect and Preserve Scottsdale Task Force, and president of Partners for Paiute. He is active with the EVIT Foundation, Charro Foundation, SUSD Foundation and Parada del Sol Committee and his contributions have been recognized with Scottsdale Leadership's Hodges Award in 2021 and induction into the Scottsdale History Hall of Fame in 2024.



Coronado High graduate Raoul Zubia has been involved in fun and philanthropic projects throughout his life in Scottsdale. He served on the Human Services Advisory Commission and the Partners for the Paiute Neighborhood Center. Here he is shown in 2022 with Scottsdale Leadership alumni at the Vista Del Camino Food Bank. Raoul Zubia photo

City of Scottsdale Employees Remember

Some of my fondest childhood memories were made right here in Scottsdale, even though I grew up in Iowa. From 1998 to 2020, my grandparents owned a home on the McCormick Ranch Golf Course, and I visited them 1-2 times per year throughout my childhood.

I'm submitting a photo from one of those visits, taken on January 4, 2004, when I was 13-years-old. It features my sister Kate Bocken and me. This snapshot captures the joy we felt whenever we were in Scottsdale.

Our visits were always packed with adventure and sunshine. I have vivid memories of riding the train and carousel at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park, picking citrus in the backyard, hiking Camelback Mountain, and taking an all-day family "Desert Hummer Tour" through the Sonoran Desert. Of course, no visit was complete without hours in the pool soaking up the Arizona sun.

I especially loved shopping for souvenirs in Old Town. My favorite stops were Bischoff's Shades of the West and Mexican Imports. Cracker Jax was always a highlight, and I loved browsing the shops at Kierland too. My absolute favorite restaurant was Don & Charlie's, and I'll never forget the time as a teenager when I got a photo with Brian Urlacher of the Chicago Bears at Don & Charlie's.

Each time I visited, I'd say out loud, "I'm going to live here someday." After graduating from the University of Iowa, I made that dream a reality, moving to the Valley in 2012. Since then, I've spent a full decade (inconsecutively) living in the Valley. I'm proud to work for the city of Scottsdale and be part of a community that helped shape so many of my happiest childhood memories.

Kelsey Lamper

Adaptive Recreation Operations Supervisor



Kelsey is on the left and her younger sister is on the right.

I moved here in October 1979 from Minneapolis, by way of San Diego. My first immediate reaction was: "Are these people crazy...why are they wearing winter clothes!" I moved into Old Town; walking my pup in the evenings through the Civic Center Mall, Valley Ho or Fifth Avenue was the highlight of my early years. Lutes Pharmacy still had a soda fountain, and I frequented it often after becoming an avid roller skater, thanks to the iconic Sidewalk Surfer located in the mall. You could enjoy mostly quiet and safe streets, day or night. The Civic Center Library was my favorite getaway, and later the library that my children lived in (giving the youth staff full credit for instilling in them their love of reading and later success in life!). How perfect that I would someday be employed there. Ahhh, the good ol' days.

Lori Goldberg

Civic Center Library Monitor

I have fond memories of Farrell's Ice Cream Parlor and Restaurant, as well as Rawhide. Growing up in Scottsdale, it was a family tradition to take our out-of-town guests to Rawhide whenever they visited. Scottsdale was a wonderful place to grow up. Thank you for letting me share!

Lisa Wyckoff

Code Enforcement Inspector

Scottsdale has always felt like home--for me and for generations of my family. In 1948, my great-grandparents, Zelda and James Brewer, bought a 7-acre farm in Scottsdale where they raised their five children. In the early 1960s, they sold off a portion of the land to a developer, who in turn built them a new home on the remaining property at 8315 E. Highland Ave. Over time, more homes were built by and for extended family, including my grandparents, Jon and Barbara Lavold, who built their home next door at 8321 E. Highland Ave. in 1967. At one point, six family homes stood side-by-side on what we lovingly referred to as "the Brewer compound."

I was born and lived at 8317 E Highland Ave., attended Navajo Elementary, and spent my early childhood in Scottsdale. Although my family moved out of state in the early '90s, I visited often and returned in 2002 to live again with my grandparents while finishing high school, attending college, and beginning my career with the city of Scottsdale. I eventually bought a home of my own--just a few blocks away, where I now live with my husband and our two children.

I've proudly worked for the city of Scottsdale for over 20 years, serving in a variety of roles from recreation to technology. My husband also works for the city, and together we're raising our children in the very community that shaped our lives.

One of my earliest memories of that connection was through Scottsdale Parks and Recreation. In the late 1980s, I was part of a youth leisure class and performed as a "Scottsdale Sizzler" cheerleader at the Civic Center Senior Center and the annual Halloween Carnival. I still remember the pride I felt in those red and white pom-poms and how exciting it was to be part of something so community-driven.



Here is a photo from my Sizzler days. Thank you for the opportunity to share my family's story and celebrate the legacy of community, service, and connection that Scottsdale has given me.

Jessica Watkins-Miller

City Treasurer Systems Analyst/Programmer III

Moving to the barren, wide-open desert was no joke, and we were going to build a house on that desert floor full of caliche and who knows what other critters. To an 11-year-old, this sounded more like a nightmare than an adventure. The only life around was two neighbors. One lived in a homemade rock house and the other said he came to Arizona as a kid in a covered wagon. Wow, welcome to the neighborhood!

Other than the two humans, there were plenty of coyotes, rattlesnakes, and a few Gila Monsters roaming day and night and they would run after you. There were no roads and lots of dust, not to mention the nearest airport was tiny and I held my breath every time we took off from that short runway. There were only a few planes that were housed at the airport along with ours in the late '60s, as the City of Scottsdale had just acquired the airport in 1966. The best part of the airport was learning to fly the Mooney Super 21 and taking my brother for a ride. LOL (laughing out loud)!

I adventured out in this vast desert on my dirt bike, exploring the dikes, the power lines and the Fort McDowell ruins. I met Mr. Tweed, who owned the beautiful Brusally Ranch named after his kids, Bruce and Sally. These were signs of civilization, as they were to an 11-year-old. To me, his ranch represented a period in Scottsdale's history when the city was developing its unique western-character lifestyle. My brother and I got a summer job picking oranges for Mr. Tweed and ate as many as we could. He would let us ride the Arabians on the grounds and even occasionally ride in his golf cart. Those were the days: ranches, horses and lots of western sunshine.

The summer brought new adventures; I was off to model historic clothes at the famous Safari Hotel, finally fun for a young girl growing up in the desert. I explored Los Arcos Mall and the movie theatre in the basement and met new friends.

The days marched on and we brushed off the dust like a cowboy after a long day on the range. We watched as our home developed and I can tell you living in a garage was not fun, believe me, for a young kid, but honestly, life was full of adventure. As we continued to forge forward with our building, pouring a lot of blood, sweat and tears into each day as we awaited the city inspector. My brother and I could spot the shiny reflection of the city vehicles as they got closer, anticipating which colored tag we would receive that day. Later, I learned the true meaning of green, yellow and red tags, only to find myself out in the yard the next day correcting a footer or moving a pipe.

As time rolled on like an old tumbleweed, my brother and I would occasionally ride the horse up to Mags Ham Bun to have a bite to eat (best in town) and witness the cowboys brawling at Larry's, the local pub. Then there was the Crystal Pistol, where I met a nice man called Roy Calhoun sitting on a stool, and as we enjoyed a cold beverage, we became friends. I would listen to his neat stories. Then there was the glitter in the night at Handlebar J's, with great music, as I remember watching Waylon Jennings strum his guitar, and later learning about Wild Bill Byrd and the bullet hole in the ground caused by his .45 going off. Not to mention Reata Pass and Pinnacle Peak Patio, where my grandpa heard one, two, three, Yee-haw right before they cut his tie off and hung it from the rafters. That was unique.

This town was different and full of adventures as it grew on me. As I watched this town develop, I have many memories of some of the best times shared with the Drinkwater and Campana kids, having an occasional root beer at A&W or meeting for a bite to eat at Hobo Joe's and then watching a movie at Los Arcos Mall while enjoying the most western town in my town to this day, Scottsdale.

Victoria Gill

Tax & License Specialist I



Employee selfie submissions for City Hall Selfie Day. City of Scottsdale photos

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Scottsdale Aerial - 1955

Phil Schneider, Jr. photo



Scottsdale Aerial - 2023

Wangkun Jia/Shutterstock.com

Post Office To Get First Class Rating

Scottsdale Progress

Published Every Thursday at Scottsdale, Arizona

\$2.50 Yearly—5c Copy

SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA, JUNE 28, 1951

Volume 15, No. 9

SCOTTSDALE IS INCORPORATED

P O Receipts \$40,000; Boosts Class

710% 10-Year Increase Greatest In Arizona

Sunday, July 1, marks a new milestone in the progress of Scottsdale when the Scottsdale Post Office officially becomes a First Class Office and begins its first fiscal year with that rating.

A. H. Adams, postmaster, said today that he has been notified that the change will become effective on that date and forms and procedures are now being changed to meet the requirement of a First Class office.

Although the new rating will mean a complete change of forms and a change in many procedures within the post office, patrons will notice little difference.

Only change affecting them will be a slight increase in box rent. Rental rates for boxes is based on total receipts.

The local post office moved into the First Class bracket at the end of the 1950 year. Receipts for that period were \$40,551.68. Receipts must total \$40,000 before an office can move into the highest bracket.

Showing a phenomenal gain, receipts in the local office jumped from \$5,000 in 1940 to the present figure—a percentage gain of 710 per cent. This represented the largest gain of any post office in the state. Chandler followed with 410 per cent.

Adams, who has been postmaster here for 17 years, said that receipts in 1935 were approximately \$5,000. The office was rated Second Class in 1944.

At the present time the office employs five clerks, a rural carrier, and a star route carrier. No increase in staff is anticipated, Adams said.



TODAY:

2:00-4:00 p.m.—P-TA Library, Thunderbird Housing Project.

MONDAY, JULY 2:

7:00 p.m.—Kiwanis club, Outpost.

TUESDAY, July 3:

2:00-4:00 p.m.—P-TA Library, Thunderbird Housing Project.

WEDNESDAY, July 4th:

Independence Day.
5:30 p.m.—Softball game, picnic, fireworks display, High school athletic field.

Construction Of 87 Homes Started In Paradise Valley

Construction started Monday, June 25, on an 87-house subdivision in Paradise Valley, just north of Scottsdale.

Paul Construction company of Phoenix will build the two-bedroom houses, reportedly in the \$10,000 to \$12,000 price class. The subdivision is located on a 25-acre tract on the west side

of North Scottsdale road, one-half mile north of Camelback road.

Orange Blossom land, drive and way, and Coronado drive have been laid out for street designations.

The entire investment, based on the building permits issued by the county zoning office, will be more than \$500,000.

Community July Fourth Program Set Wednesday

Plans for a gala family Fourth of July celebration, which would include a softball game, picnic, and fireworks display, are now nearly complete and the event will be held Wednesday evening on the Scottsdale High school athletic field.

Sponsored by Sipe - Peterson

Jr. Baseball League Needs An Umpire

An appeal for men to umpire American Legion Junior Baseball League games in Scottsdale on Thursday nights was made today by Johnny Maas and W. W. (Skipper) Dick, coaches of the two local teams.

Games are played at the Scottsdale High school diamond at 5:30 p. m. Persons who will assist in the needed capacity are urged to contact Maas, Dick or report directly to the field at game time.

Tonight O'Malley's meets Selah's at 5:30 and the Tee Bar Tee nine meets the KP aggregation on the local diamond.

In Tuesday night's games at Tempe, O'Malley's swamped the Clarks, 17 to 1, and Tee Bar Tee downed the House of Toys, 18 to 3, on the Tempe Beach diamond. Adrian Rangel, pitcher, and Hugh Massey, catcher, were the O'Malley battery. Jerry McDaniel caught the slants of David Medina on the Tee Bar Tee team.

Bob Garvey Wins Bareback Contest

Bob Garvey, Scottsdale, Sunday took first place honors in the bareback bronc riding division of the annual Dewey Rodeo in Dewey, Ariz.

Recently Garvey was named grand champion bronc rider of the Boomtown Rodeo, held at Burkburnett, Texas.

Post No. 44, the American Legion, the event has been made possible by generous contributions by merchants, organizations, and individuals.

Everything will be free—except the picnic. Families are urged to come early for the softball game at 5:30 and then enjoy a picnic supper while waiting for dark and fireworks. Each family will bring their own lunch but cold drinks will be furnished by the Legion Auxiliary.

The softball game, which opens the program, will be played between a Legion team and a team made up of local merchants.

Archie Dillon, Legion vice commander in charge of the affair, reported today that more than \$250 will be spent on the fireworks display. Included will be rockets and aerial bombs, fountains, Niagara Falls, the American flag, a welcome, and numerous pinwheels.

The display will last approximately 30 minutes, Dillon said. Remember it's all free and everyone is invited.

Scottsdalians Help Welcome FHA Head

Miss Dorothy Lee of Yuma, newly elected national president of the Future Homemakers of America, arrived in Phoenix on Monday, June 25, from the F.H.A. leadership training conference in Estes Park, Colorado. She was accompanied by 13 girls from Arizona, who had campaigned for her.

They were met at the train by members of the Future Farmers of America and escorted her to the Hotel Adams, where introductions were made and refreshments were served.

John Reddall, vice president, John Thomas, reporter, and Shelby Copeland, represented the Scottsdale F.F.A. chapter.

Supervisors Declare Town Incorporated By Petition

Two metal signs, originally black-on-white but long-since almost obliterated by rust, were made obsolete Monday morning by action of the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors.

The signs read, "Scottsdale, Unincorporated."

Scottsdale is now incorporated. By a unanimous 3-0 vote, the Supervisors Monday declared the town incorporated by petition.

An election on the matter will not be necessary. More than two-thirds of the tax-paying property owners signed petitions for incorporation.

About 1,200 to 1,300 people reside in the area of the proposed corporate limits, it was estimated. The property taxpayers number around 400.

The incorporation has been a long fight and, at the time of the ruling Monday morning, a second petition attempting to take the matter to a vote had been pending. The petition of the property owners, filed first, had priority.

Meantime, appointment of council members will be delayed for a week or 10 days. Supervisors said the petition method of incorporation was the first they had encountered in many, many years and that they would have to wait

Notice

Due to the fact that Independence Day falls on Wednesday, July 4, the July 5th issue of the Scottsdale Progress will be printed on Tuesday and placed in the mail Wednesday morning.

Deadline for news items and advertising for this issue will be 5 p. m. Monday, July 3. We will appreciate your cooperation.

"30" For Committee

Incorporation

Editor, Scottsdale Progress:

The committee of incorporation of the Scottsdale Chamber of Commerce wishes to express its gratitude to all those persons who helped it to reach its goal. Our incorporation will date from the 25th day of June, 1951. It is the express desire of this committee that everyone—whether or not they were for incorporation—now get behind our town and make it a really fine place to live.

Phil Schneider deserves a vote of thanks from this community for his unselfish leadership and fine organizational work. Through his untiring efforts the petitions submitted were of such a nature that

winning from the county attorney on the matter.

Incorporation procedures were started several months ago by the Scottsdale Chamber of Commerce, following more than two years of discussion, both pro and con, on the issue.

Dr. Philip H. Schneider headed a special Chamber Committee which conducted the petition drive.

Child Of The Year Winners Are Named

Winners in the 1951 Gene Autry Child of the Year contest in the Scottsdale area were announced today by Malcolm White, owner of the Tee Bar Tee theater.

Four place winners in the contest, sponsored by the local theater and Color Laboratories, Inc., will be awarded their prizes at a special program, scheduled for about three weeks from now.

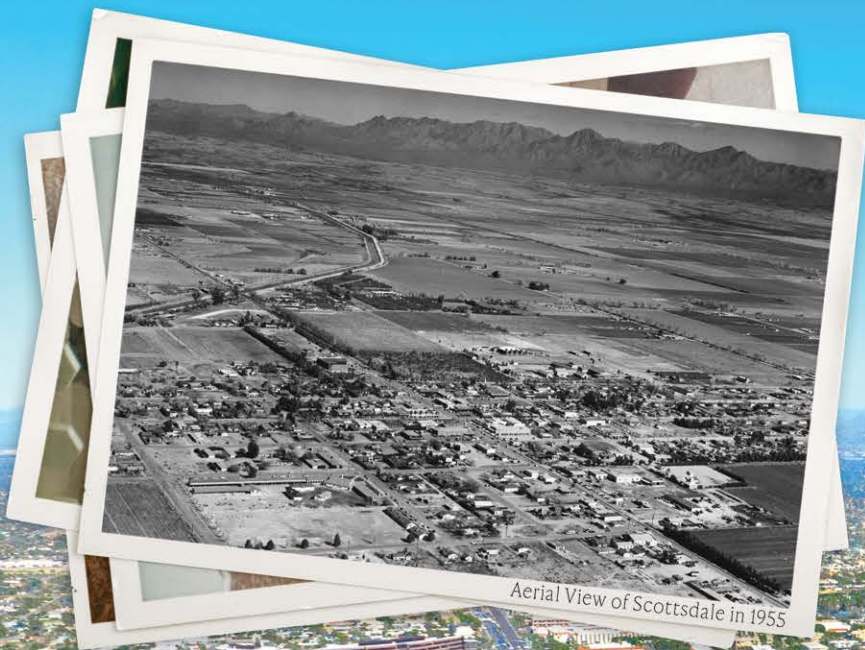
Little Dean Rabourn, three-year-old son of Mrs. Carol Rabourn, will receive a Gene Autry Official Ranch outfit, or the equivalent in War Bonds, as first place winner.

Wanda Peacock, 5, daughter of Mrs. Pauline Peacock, took second place honors.

Third place went to Mary Lucas, five-year-old daughter of Mrs. Charlotte Lucas, and Eddie Taylor, 2, son of Mrs. Elva Taylor of Florence, were named fourth place winners.

Each will receive a 5x7 two-way full-color camera study.

Pictures of winners will be shown on the screen at the Tee Bar Tee on the night awards are made. Date of the event will be announced later.



Aerial View of Scottsdale in 1955

This book tells the remarkable story of Scottsdale, from its ancient roots in the Sonoran Desert and humble beginnings as a small farming community to its rise as one of America's most admired cities after its incorporation in 1951. Through the memories of 75 influential residents and leaders, the book celebrates the vision, volunteer spirit and community pride that shaped Scottsdale's history and continue to inspire its future.