

# CityLine

July-September 2019: *City Updates*

## City Center Conceptual Plans

by Jason Sanks, *City Planning Consultant*

On Tuesday, April 16, 2019, the Litchfield Park City Council accepted the “Destination Litchfield Park” conceptual master plan and design guidelines for the predominantly vacant City-owned property in the downtown area of Litchfield Park. The plans were developed over the last 18 months through an extensive public outreach process and in collaboration with City Staff, key community constituents, and elected officials. The intent of this initiative was to develop a clear vision for the center of the community that would accomplish a number of objectives, including diversification of the City’s economic base, while creating a unique, walkable downtown that respects and builds upon the rich history of Litchfield Park. The plan includes multiple illustrations detailing potential development of a “mixed-use,” pedestrian-oriented downtown that complements the existing shops, restaurants, and the Wigwam Resort. The plan includes a centralized community open space that can host the City’s numerous popular festivals throughout the year. It is intended to be adaptable to the ongoing needs of the City, providing guiding principles that are not specifically regulatory, but rather visionary, as the City promotes development of the property. The plan includes measures to protect existing neighborhoods surrounding the downtown area by keeping traffic and parking concentrated within the development and proposing a new roadway extension that may link Village Parkway with the development and Old Litchfield Road. In addition to the plan itself, Destination LP also developed, in conjunction with City Staff, a set of draft design guidelines that focuses on elements of development such as landscaping, architecture, lighting, and other criteria that will help to create an attractive, comfortable environment for businesses and patrons alike that are in the future community center. Special care was taken to ensure compatibility with the existing businesses along Old Litchfield Road as well as the Wigwam Resort.



*City Center Concept*

A NEWSLETTER FOR LITCHFIELD PARK RESIDENTS

## A Message from Mayor Tom Schoaf



Sunday, June 30, 2019, marked the end of another successful fiscal year for the City. This has been a good year for the City in many, many ways. Our ability to meet the needs of our residents and other stakeholders depends upon our Staff. We responded to significant staffing changes this year with the hiring of several very talented individuals. While we will miss our departing Staff, I believe you will find that our ability to meet your needs has not diminished.

Our new Little League Baseball Stadium, courtesy of the Diamondbacks Foundation, has been completed. We are honored to have it dedicated to the memory of Jackie Robinson. It is a tremendous addition to our City which will provide a setting for many area kids to build lifelong memories.

Our City Center development is making progress with the completion of the planning phase. The next six months will see the necessary changes to our planning and zoning ordinances including adoption of needed amendments to our General Plan. We hope to see progress continue as we start the infrastructure needed to attract use and development of this special land.

New business development continues in the City with the groundbreaking for the Dignity Emergency Room at the corner of Camelback and Dysart. Along with this state-of-the-art emergency room will be other businesses including an auto parts store, an upscale mini-warehouse and a Taco Bell. We look forward to welcoming these new businesses to our community.

The Litchfield Park Historical Society is making significant progress on the Paul Litchfield Heritage Center at the La Loma hilltop. They have developed an exciting preliminary plan and are starting their capital campaign. This is a tremendous opportunity to define our City for generations to come.

Your City Council and Staff are here to serve you. You can reach me at [tschoaf@litchfield-park.org](mailto:tschoaf@litchfield-park.org) or 623-935-5033. I look forward to hearing from you.

## FREQUENTLY REQUESTED PHONE NUMBERS

<b>Animal Control</b>	602 506-7387	<b>Goodyear Fire Customer Service</b>	623 932-2300
<b>APS</b> (to report street light outages)	602 371-7171	<b>Library</b> (Litchfield Park)	602 652-3000
<b>Bus</b> (Valley Metro)	602 253-5000	<b>Liberty Utilities</b> (water & sewer)	623 935-9367
<b>Chamber of Commerce</b> (Southwest Valley)	623 932-2260	after 4:30pm call	623 935-3395
<b>City Hall</b>		<b>Luke Air Force Base Information</b>	623 856-1110
Administration/Clerk/City Manager	623 935-5033	<b>New Life Center</b> (women's shelter)	623 932-4404
Building Department	623 935-1066	<b>Police (MCSO)</b> Emergency	9-1-1
Building Permits & Property Maintenance	623 935-1066	Non-Emergency	602 876-1011
Court	623 935-7091	<b>Recreation Center</b>	623 935-9040
Finance	623 935-4364	<b>Southwest Gas Corporation</b>	877 860-6020
Human Resources	623 935-4364	<b>Waste Management</b>	888 964-9780
Public Works/Field Operations	623 935-4356	<b>West Valley Arts Council</b>	623 935-6384
<b>Cox Cable</b>	602 277-1000	<b>West Valley View</b>	623 535-8439
<b>Dust Control Violations</b>	602 372-2703		

## Mayor & City Council Members

**TOM SCHOAF**, Mayor | [tschoaf@litchfield-park.org](mailto:tschoaf@litchfield-park.org)  
**PAUL FAITH**, Vice Mayor | [pfaith@litchfield-park.org](mailto:pfaith@litchfield-park.org)  
**ANN DONAHUE**, Council Member | [adonahue@litchfield-park.org](mailto:adonahue@litchfield-park.org)  
**PETER MAHONEY**, Council Member | [pmahoney@litchfield-park.org](mailto:pmahoney@litchfield-park.org)

**TOM ROSZTOCZY**, Council Member | [trozstoczy@litchfield-park.org](mailto:trozstoczy@litchfield-park.org)  
**JOHN ROMACK**, Council Member | [jromack@litchfield-park.org](mailto:jromack@litchfield-park.org)  
**LISA BRAINARD WATSON**, Council Member | [lbrainardwatson@litchfield-park.org](mailto:lbrainardwatson@litchfield-park.org)

## Planning a Home Improvement Project?

by Mary Dickson, Chief Building Official

Maybe you've heard the saying, "It's easier to ask for forgiveness than permission." Where construction permits are concerned, the exact opposite is true. Many home improvement projects may seem minor but you should always check with the City before beginning any renovation. Permits protect you and your home!

Home improvements that **always** require a permit include:

- Additions, patios, ramadas, and some remodeling projects.
- Plumbing and electrical work.
- Structural changes.
- New fencing.
- New ductwork.
- Sheds or other assessor buildings (if over 120 sq. ft.).

Adopted building codes will dictate whether your intended remodeling project requires a permit. If you're doing any of the following, check with the City before you start work:

- Removal or addition of interior walls.
- Room conversions that change the use, like turning your garage into an office.
- Changes to the home's plumbing, mechanical or electrical systems.
- Re-roofing (other than shingle or tile replacement).
- Demolition of any part of the home.

Not all renovation projects need permits! Cosmetic improvements like painting, tile work, flooring, new countertops, new faucets, sinks and toilets, or adding more insulation in the attic do not require permits. Changing to energy efficient windows do not require permits if they are the same size and type. Landscaping work is also exempt from permits.

It can be tempting to try and skip the permitting process—some people think it is complicated and expensive. Neither is true. Permit fees are reasonable and cover the cost of documentation, review and inspections, and provide the assurance work was done properly and to code.

Check the City website at [www.litchfield-park.org/488/forms](http://www.litchfield-park.org/488/forms) for a series of brochures that outline the permit and inspection process and what documentation is needed to submit for a permit. Email us at [building@litchfield-park.org](mailto:building@litchfield-park.org) or call 623-935-1066 with any questions or concerns.

Congratulations to the winners of the **2019 Architectural Scavenger Hunt!** Lynn Betz, Chris Garcia and the Sowers Family were recipients of prizes donated by Ace Hardware, Old Pueblo Café, Park Café, Bell Fitness, Christian Brothers Automotive, Sun West Nails and Spa, and Starbucks. Please patronize and thank these businesses for their contributions!

## Litchfield Park Youth Council

by Daniel MacLeod, LPYC Member

Litchfield Park's Youth Council (LPYC) is in session! The LPYC is an opportunity for the youth of Litchfield Park to get involved in our beautiful City's affairs. Our current board of Youth Council members are chiefly interested in raising environmental awareness and making it easier for residents to take care of our community and planet. We, as a council, are excited to take the reins on such a task! Each member on the council is a zealous, diligent and dedicated member of society who decided that his/her attributes would be best leveraged in the Youth Council.

The Youth Council offers its members the opportunity to not only see how the local government functions, but to be a part of it as well. In truth, it is the local governing body that affects our lives most directly and the Youth Council intends to breed stewards of the community by educating them on how much power and influence they each possess.

Members of the Youth Council each have their own motivation for joining. Whether that reason be because they want to educate themselves on local government, address issues they are passionate about, or spend time with progress-driven, likeminded individuals, each has the shared goal of bettering and giving back to the very community that has given so much to them. Our Youth Council makes the most of our avid natured youth, providing a voice for all young Litchfield Park residents and equipping them with the tools needed to better understand our republic and how to act most effectively within it. The Litchfield Park Youth Council is excited by its newfound role in our community and will eagerly dedicate its time and service into our city.



### 2019 Flag Ceremonies

8:15 a.m. City Hall Front Lawn, Reception to Follow

**US Coast Guard 229th Birthday August 4**

Flag Raising Ceremony: Friday, August 2

**US Air Force 72nd Birthday September 18**

Flag Raising Ceremony: Wednesday, September 18

**US Navy Day 244th Birthday October 13**

Flag Raising Ceremony: Friday, October 11

**Marine Corps 244th Birthday November 10**

Flag Raising Ceremony: Friday, November 8

### HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURES

#### City Hall, Magistrate Court

**Labor Day** • Monday, September 2, 2019

#### Recreation Center Hours

**Labor Day** • Monday, September 2, 2019 • Open 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

The Litchfield Park Recreation Center (LPRC) pools will close to the public at 5 p.m. on Monday, September 2, 2019, and will reopen in April, 2020. Questions? Call 623-935-9040. The LPRC lobby and administrative offices remain open year round.

## What is Code Enforcement?

by Stacey Frederico, Code Enforcement

All you have to do is say “code enforcement” and people start grumbling about their past experiences! Code enforcement occurs when cities and towns enforce their local laws. Property maintenance and zoning codes deal with the exterior maintenance of structures, overgrown or dead vegetation, outdoor storage, and fencing, to name just a few. Aggressive, but sensible, approaches to bringing property owners into compliance with the law can be an important part of maintaining the appearance, functionality and property values of Litchfield Park.

There are laws in place that protect the property owners. In Arizona, a code enforcement officer cannot examine private property unless invited. With that being said, the City cannot become involved in issues or disputes between neighbors. Violations must be visible from the street or public property. Exceptions to that rule include green pools and open/vacant/dangerous yards and structures.

The most common complaints received by Code include:

- **‘My neighbors’ tree hangs over my yard and makes a mess.’** You have the right to trim the tree branches that hang over your property. Nothing can be done about wind-blown leaves and debris.
- **‘There are dogs running loose or barking.’** Code officers can only cite when the offense is happening. After hours, don’t wait! Call the Sheriff’s office at 602-876-1011 or Animal Control at 602-506-7387.
- **‘My neighbors’ trash cans are left out or stored in view.’** The City has an ordinance specifically about trash cans. Containers must be stored so they are not readily visible from the street.
- **‘There are too many cars parked on our street and in my neighbor’s driveway.’** If vehicles are blocking the street, sidewalk or driveways, contact us! However, the City does not have any restrictions about the number of vehicles parked at an address. But all vehicles must be parked on a hard surface.

Research and read ordinances online at <https://www.codepublishing.com/AZ/LitchfieldPark/>. Contact Code Enforcement at 623-935-1066, [codeenforcement@litchfield-park.org](mailto:codeenforcement@litchfield-park.org) or fill out an online complaint form on the City’s website, <http://www.litchfield-park.org/forms.aspx?fid=41>. Code Enforcement plays a large role in keeping Litchfield Park looking great but, most of all, your help is appreciated!!



## Plogging to Make A Difference

by Laila Amerman, Recycling Education & Communications Specialist

*“I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do something that I can do.” - Edward Everett Hale*

**What is plogging?** A mashup of the Swedish word plocka upp, for cleaning up, and jogging. Plogging is becoming a new exercise trend around the world. Whether you are a leisurely walker or an avid jogger, you can make a difference every time you step outside.

**Plogging is simple and fun.** At the bare minimum, you need comfortable shoes to go outside and jog/walk in and a bag for trash. To reach expert level, get some reusable gloves, cloth shopping bags (something that can be washed easily), and a litter grabbing tool. Bonus points if you take a second bag for recyclables. Remember, no plastic bags in the recycling bin. Find a retailer who accepts bags instead.

While plogging won’t stop people from littering, there are positive benefits. You’re getting outside and active to improve your own health, cleaning up your local community, and you’re taking plastic and other pollutants out of the environment that could be mistaken for food by the wildlife in your community or otherwise harm the environment.

When you see litter, remember that small choices make a big difference. To create less waste, think about the waste that will be created before you purchase something. If you can find a more sustainable option, like a reusable water bottle or shopping bag, get that instead. Finally, share with your neighbors so they can help too.

Look for inspiration on social media by searching #plogging and #trashtag. People all over the world are helping remove litter from our home. Every one of us makes a difference. Learn about what can be recycled and what cannot while you plog by visiting [RecycleOftenRecycleRight.com](http://RecycleOftenRecycleRight.com).



# Litchfield Elementary School is A+++++

by Shelly Smith Hornback, Director of Community Relations

As the birthplace of Litchfield Elementary School District 102 years ago, it is widely known that Litchfield Elementary School is a statewide leader when it comes to academic rigor in a caring environment. The Owl family has been retaining award-winning teachers and producing highly engaged students for decades. In light of this long-standing tradition of educational excellence, it is an absolute delight, but not exactly a surprise, that Litchfield Elementary School was recently named an Arizona Educational Foundation A+ School of Excellence—for the fifth time.

In many ways, the A+ School of Excellence designation is the highest honor an Arizona school can earn. Far more significant than standardized test scores, this is about a model elementary school thriving in every measurable category. Our Owl community demonstrates excellence in student achievement, caring relationships, community partnerships, campus beauty, parent leadership, and many other meaningful areas that help children succeed at school and in life. Only a handful of schools in the history of Arizona have earned this distinction five times.



Principal Sabine Hopper is passionate about empowering all students to reach their highest potential. She says, *“We are profoundly grateful to the diverse stakeholders who have been a crucial part of this special school for generations. We are humbled by the steadfast support of this charming community. Our Owl family works hard and achieves much, but we cannot do it alone. Thank you to the countless supporters who made this special award possible.”*



**SIP & SAVOR**  
AT THE WIGWAM

**WINE DINNER SERIES**  
August 24 | 7pm

Enjoy an exclusive four-course dinner from our award-winning culinary team expertly paired with selected wines. Featured wineries include Copper Cane and Austin Hope.

\$119++ per Adult.

  
**WIGWAM**  
ARIZONA

866.805.6171 | [wigwamarizona.com](http://wigwamarizona.com)



# Liberty Utilities

## Local and Responsive. We Care.

by Jenny Cross, Regional Program Manager

As your local water provider, we are committed to your safety around water as well.

### Water Safety Tips

- Keep children in a pool under supervision at all times. Two seconds is too long!
- Having a swim party? Consider hiring a certified lifeguard to keep an eye on the kids/people in the pool at all times.
- Never swim alone, even as an adult.
- Stay away from pool drains and be sure to keep a phone close by in case of emergency.
- Learn CPR.

### Stay Hydrated!

We would also like to remind you to stay hydrated! As the summer heats us up, stay cool by drinking plenty of water. Did you know the human brain is composed of 95% water, lungs are 90%, blood is 83%, muscles are 76% and bones are 22%? That is a lot of water! Stay hydrated this summer—your body will thank you later!

### Follow Us

Like us and/or follow us on social media for more tips and important updates about your services.

Facebook  
@LibertyUtilAZ

Twitter  
@LibertyUtil\_AZ

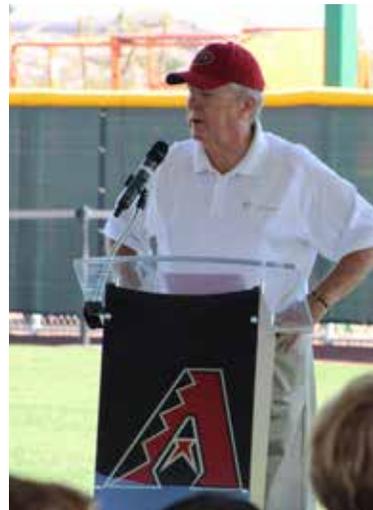
## Jackie Robinson Field Dedication

by John Mazza, Assistant City Manager

On Friday, June 21, 2019, Litchfield Park, in conjunction with the Diamondbacks and APS, hosted the dedication of a new Little League Baseball Field located on the corner of Camelback Road and Village Parkway. The field was donated by the Arizona Diamondbacks Foundation as part of their Diamonds Back Field Building Program. The dedication was very well attended by business leaders, elected officials, members of the Litchfield Park Little League, and countless Litchfield Park residents. Keynote speakers included Litchfield Park Mayor Thomas Schoaf; Derrick Hall, President and CEO of the Arizona Diamondbacks; Don Brandt, Chairman of the Board President and Chief Executive Officer of Pinnacle West and Arizona Public Service (APS); and Dr. Charles Williams, Jackie Robinson's nephew.

Derrick Hall emphasized *“This venue was more meaningful than most because it is the 42nd field and dedicated to Jackie Robinson – it’s Jackie Robinson’s field.”* This year Jackie Robinson would have been 100 years old and it’s a very fitting way to commemorate his 100th birthday. Don Brandt declared *“This field is important for the west valley and made even more special because the children of our country’s heroes (military) play on this field.”* Mayor Schoaf stated *“We are grateful to receive a gift of this magnitude—this field will serve over 500 kids from Litchfield Park, Goodyear, Avondale, Buckeye and Luke Air Force Base. This field will build great memories for generations.”* Long time valley resident and nephew to Jackie Robinson, Dr. Charles Williams, expressed gratitude to the Diamondbacks, APS and the City of Litchfield Park for honoring Jackie with this beautiful facility noting *“Millions have benefitted from the legacy of Jackie Robinson and I’d like to thank the Diamondbacks for this donation, continuing the legacy of Jackie Robinson.”*

The new field will be used by both Little League and the Litchfield Park Youth Sports Recreation Leagues for years to come.





## Making History – The P.W. Litchfield Heritage Center

by Nancy Schafer, LPHS President and LHC Building Project Chair

The Litchfield Park Historical Society (LPHS) is sizzling with excitement! A long-awaited dream is finally unfolding for our organization. In the fall of 2017, Pamela Denny Blackford (Paul and Florence Litchfield’s granddaughter) and her husband John, presented a one-million-dollar challenge grant to the LPHS. The goal is to re-purpose the historic Litchfield/Denny house on the top of the hill behind our current museum and make it our permanent home. It will be called the P.W. Litchfield Heritage Center and will house a museum, an archive, a research library, and community spaces. LPHS awarded Orcutt Winslow Architects the project.

We are making great progress! In mid-January 2019, Phase I, the Concept Design was approved by the City of Litchfield Park City Council. This was followed by a presentation to the City’s Design Review Board with the design unanimously approved on March 7, 2019. The project has now moved to Phase II

- Planning. Planning began in May, 2019. It includes the creation of blueprints, working drawings and permitting. The project contractor, Waltz Construction, is currently working with the project engineering firm to detail any issues with the site.



P.W. LITCHFIELD  
HERITAGE CENTER

While Phase II is developing, our Capital Campaign Committee has been raising the money to reach the 3.5 million dollar goal for the project. Assisted by a Donor Packet designed by Orcutt/Winslow and the LPHS, the team has already raised a half-million dollars to match the challenge grant. Eight of the Naming Opportunities have been taken with two more pending.

Our goal is to begin construction in the fall of 2020. *You can help us make this dream come true!* If you would like to contribute to this exciting project, please call the LPHS at 623-535-4414 or email [office@LPHSmuseum.org](mailto:office@LPHSmuseum.org) and we will contact you.

## Significant 2020 Election Law Changes

by Terri Roth, CPT, CMC, City Clerk

### Election Day

Eighty-two cities and towns hold their regular candidate elections in the fall of even-numbered years. While the November General Election date has remained fixed, the Primary Election date has fluctuated over the years and is once again being moved this Legislative Session in Senate Bill (SB) 1154. Beginning in 2020, the August date associated with the Primary Election moves from the tenth Tuesday prior to the General or Special Election to Tuesday, August 4, 2020. Additional information is available online <https://www.azleg.gov/legtext/54leg/1R/bills/SB1154H.htm>.

### Political Signs

Since the Primary Election date is moving up three weeks, other election statutes are impacted. Although the bill does not address political signs, A.R.S. §16-1019 prohibits cities and towns from removing signs 60 days before the Primary and ending 15 days after the General Election (or 15 days after the Primary if the candidate does not advance to the General Election). Due to the date change, signs can be posted three weeks earlier because the 60-day provision is based on the new date. Details on A.R.S. §16-1019: <https://www.azleg.gov/viewdocument?docName=https://www.azleg.gov/ars/16/01019.htm>.

### Candidate Nomination Filing Period

Pursuant to A.R.S. §16-311, current law requires candidates to file their nomination paper, nomination petitions and financial disclosure statement 90 to 120 days before the Primary Election. Beginning in 2020, SB1154 changes the candidate nomination filing period to 120 to 150 days prior to the election. Candidates are now required to file their nomination paperwork between Monday, March 9, 2020, and Monday, April 6, 2020.

### Important Dates to Remember

- **Voter registration.** The deadline moved from Monday, July 27, 2020, to Monday, July 6, 2020.
- **Early voting.** The beginning of early voting moved from Wednesday, July 29, 2020, to Wednesday, July 8, 2020.
- **Candidate Nomination Filing.** Beginning in 2020, SB1154 changed the candidate nomination filing period to 120 to 150 days prior to the election. With the three-week change in the primary date and this thirty-day change in the filing period, candidates for the 2020 fall election are required to file their nomination paperwork between Monday, March 9, 2020, and Monday, April 6, 2020.

SB1154 changes the Primary Election date and nomination filing period for next year's fall elections. It is important for all candidates and elected officials to be aware of these new dates and how they will impact our City.

## Residential Lock Box Program

Available to Litchfield Park residents, the City of Goodyear Fire Department voluntary Lock Box Program for residential properties served by the Goodyear Fire Department, is designed to allow access to homes during medical or other emergencies. The Lock Box Program reduces the likelihood of property damage caused by first responders forcing entry into a home in response to an emergency call. In this program, the building owner/occupant installs a residential lock box on their home to secure a key or keys for use by the Fire Department in an emergency where the occupant is unable to open the door. Homes having these boxes will be noted in the CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch) system at the 911 Call Center. This allows responders to know that the home or facility is equipped with a lock box. This information is immediately sent to computers in fire trucks and station printers as soon as an emergency call is dispatched. However, purchasing and installing a residential lock box does not entitle the homeowner to a "lock out service." Specifically, if a homeowner accidentally locks themselves out of their home, the Fire Department will not provide the homeowner access to their residence using the Lock Box Program.

For additional information about the program, access program details online at <http://www.goodyearaz.com/home/showdocument?id=846>. Questions may be directed to the Goodyear Fire Department Administration, Fire Prevention Division, 623-882-7304.



## Take A Bite Out of Crime!

Does your neighborhood have a Neighborhood Watch? Over 40 million crimes are committed every year and the number continues to grow. The Sheriff's Department cannot be on every corner; therefore, citizens need to become involved. It is essential to effectively combat crime.

The benefits of a Neighborhood Watch:

- builds strong neighborhoods;
- encourages communication;
- gets people involved and helps build partnerships to solve problems;
- becomes the eyes and ears of the Sheriff's Office; and,
- supplements county resources.

Most crimes are crimes of opportunity, and, therefore, can be prevented. Law enforcement experts state the battle against crime is half won when people take a few simple steps to lessen their chances of becoming victims. Some steps include: install a security alarm and proper door and window locks; avoid overgrown or large shrubbery next to your home; install motion outdoor lighting; park your vehicle in your garage; avoid leaving valuables in your vehicles that are in plain sight; and, lock your vehicle when it is not in use. If you are interested in learning how to initiate a Neighborhood Watch, contact John Mazza at [jmazza@litchfield-park.org](mailto:jmazza@litchfield-park.org) or 623-935-5033.

## Arts in the Park Outdoor Concert Series

Save the scheduled dates for the free 2019-20 Arts in the Park Outdoor Concerts held on the north lawn of The Wigwam:

**Sunday, October 6, 2019**

The 8 Tracks from 3 to 5 p.m.

**Sunday, November 24, 2019**

Arizona Swing Kings from 3 to 5 p.m.

**Sunday, January 26, 2020**

PebbleRock Band from 3 to 5 p.m.

**Sunday, February 9, 2020**

Come Back Buddy from 3 to 5 p.m.

**Sunday, March 15, 2020**

Desert Knights Band from 3 to 5 p.m.

**Friday, April 17, 2020**

Cold Shott & The Hurricane Horns from 7 to 9 p.m.



## Halt deine Lederhosen Fest!

*Saturday, October 5, 2019, 6-9 p.m.*

Hold onto your lederhosen! Oktoberfest is drawing near and it is sure to be a memorable one! The City of Litchfield Park and The Wigwam are partnering to host a fun-filled cultural event for the community. Litchfield Park's Oktoberfest will take place on Saturday, October 5, 2019, from 6 to 9 p.m. on the front lawn of The Wigwam.

German inspired entrees will be prepared by The Wigwam's chefs and, of course, German and domestic beers as well as wine will be served at the festival. Come dance and sing along as Nickelcity Express plays a variety of music, including Oktoberfest favorites. Wear your best German outfits for chances to win prizes for both adults and kids. There will be a children's area and plenty of entertainment for the entire family, including lawn games and a polka competition!

Festival admission is \$15 per person and includes a souvenir stein for all advance ticketholders and while supplies last at the gate. Children under 12 are admitted free. Tickets will be available beginning Thursday, August 1, 2019, at the Litchfield Park Recreation Center or online at [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com). Proceeds from sales of admission tickets benefit the Litchfield Park Recreation Department. Admission prices do not include food and beverages.

Please visit [litchfield-park.org](http://litchfield-park.org) or call 623-935-9040 for details regarding the menu and entertainment schedule.

## Beautification Committee Selects Yard of Quarter Winner

*Congratulations! April Jorgic, 351 South Moreno Circle*



## Why Isn't It a Goodyear Fire Truck?

*by Tanja Tanner, Community Education Coordinator, Goodyear Fire Department*

Did you know the Goodyear Fire Department is a member of The Central Arizona Life Safety Response System, otherwise known as the Automatic Aid Consortium? This system is comprised of more than 20 cities and fire districts that provide emergency services for an area of more than 2,000 square miles in the greater Phoenix Metroplex. The basic principle for Automatic Aid is that all jurisdictional boundaries are erased which allows for the closest most appropriate unit to respond to an incident. This seamless provision allows for a quicker response and more efficient use of resources by all partnering agencies. This system is why you may see a fire truck from another city or fire district arrive to your emergency.

The Automatic Aid system is a national recognized system for providing fire department based emergency services by using shared resources in a regionally coordinated effort. The Regional Dispatch Center (Alarm Room) utilizes both a Geographical Information System (GIS) based Automatic Vehicle Location system (AVL) and Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) technologies that allow for the system to dispatch the closest most appropriate unit based on type of incident and actual apparatus location(s). This technology also allows for the real time tracking of all CAD based units by the Alarm Room to ensure the closest unit to the emergency is confirmed and allows for tracking of the unit enroute to the incident. It further allows for the fire department dispatcher to relay the location and expected arrival time of the responding unit to the customer.



## Litchfield Elementary School District: From 11 to 11,000

by Lisa Hegarty, Litchfield Park Historical Society

Litchfield Elementary School District (LESD), which today serves over 11,000 students, had its humble beginnings in a portable shack with just 11 pupils on October 9, 1917. Three months later enrollment grew to 80 students, necessitating the construction of new classrooms. Four adobe buildings were built instead of a single building in hopes that separating groups of students would reduce the spread of the highly contagious Spanish flu of 1918.

Within seven years the community was looking to expand education beyond the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. This reflected a broader nationwide movement toward greater accessibility to secondary education. High schools were increasingly viewed as places to prepare youth for the workforce rather than only college. Once high school grades were gradually added, Paul Litchfield helped establish a new high school district in 1928. Classes were still held at the current Litchfield Elementary School site with the addition of new buildings. By 1957 high school students were sent to the newly-opened Agua Fria High School due to the influx of Goodyear Aircraft and Luke Field workers' families during and after WWII.

No new elementary schools were added until 1975 when Scott L. Libby, named for a local land owner, was built near the White Tank Mountains to help alleviate crowding from ballooning enrollment. The first middle school, Western Sky, was added in 1997. What followed after was a period of rapid expansion. Twelve schools were built over 18 years, with some years seeing the opening of two schools at a time.



Several of the schools have been named for community leaders: L. Thomas Heck Middle School was named after former LESD superintendent; Barbara Robey Elementary School was named after long-time school board member, LP mayor, and Arizona School Board Association president; Mabel Padgett was named for Litchfield Park's first teacher and wife of an engineer for Southwest Cotton Company.

LESD's newest school will honor another local figure. Set to open for the 2019/2020 school year, Belén Soto Elementary School's namesake was the first Mexican-American student from Litchfield High School to attend college because of the encouragement of a special teacher, Dr. Francis Amabisca. Belén herself later became an educator and administrator in the Avondale school system.



*Litchfield Elementary School District's first teacher, Mabel Padgett in front of an adobe school building with her class.*

### Adult Kickball and Fall Youth Sports Registration

Registration opens on Monday, July 15, 2019, for LPRC's new 8-team co-ed Adult Kickball League and fall youth sports including Youth Basketball, Flag Football and Tee Ball for children ages 3 to 14. All sports include a seven-game season and are played in Litchfield Park parks and school gymnasiums. Questions? Call 623-935-9040.

## ALERT! Your City Newsletter

*Sponsored by: Liberty Utilities, The Wigwam,  
Waste Management*



## Did you know?

You make a difference  
when you recycle in  
Litchfield Park.

Recycling just one aluminum can saves  
enough energy to run a laptop for  
three hours.

Make the promise to recycle at  
[RecycleOftenRecycleRight.com](http://RecycleOftenRecycleRight.com)