

SEPTEMBER 2025

goodyearaz.gov/InFocus

InFocus



**GOODYEAR'S
NEXT
GEN**

From internship to career! Straight out of high school, Wesley Campbell is working with the water department after interning with the city. **Read his story on page 6.**

AT A GLANCE

In this issue of InFocus, we're shining a spotlight on Goodyear's next generation. From creative spaces and youth-focused programs to internships and volunteer

opportunities, this issue explores how the city is investing in its future leaders - helping them grow, learn and thrive.

WEST VALLEY'S BIGGEST CHARITY **FOOD TRUCK** FESTIVAL

YOUR TICKET = **COMMUNITY IMPACT**



SATURDAY 27 | **FREE** GENERAL ADMISSION | **4-10 PM**
GOODYEAR BALLPARK | WWW.WESTVALLEYMAVERICKSFUNDATION.ORG/ROUND-UP

@WestValleyMavericksFoundation

Pleasant Harbor
Living the Life!
(at Lake Pleasant)



GOODYEAR CITY COUNCIL CALENDAR

September 8	5 p.m.	Council Meeting
September 15	5 p.m.	Work Session
September 22	5 p.m.	Council Meeting
October 6	5 p.m.	Joint Community Facilities District & Council Meeting

Meeting dates are subject to change. For the latest meeting information, visit goodyearaz.gov. Council meetings and work sessions are held at Goodyear City Hall at GSQ, Council Chambers, 1900 N. Civic Square.

Catch all of the council meetings streaming live on the city's Facebook and X pages and YouTube channel.



GOODYEAR CITY COUNCIL

(front row; l to r): Vice Mayor Wally Campbell, Mayor Joe Pizzillo, Laura Kaino.
(back row; l to r): Trey Terry, Vicki Gillis, Benita Beckles, Brannon Hampton.



InFocus Magazine • Goodyear Digital Communications
Questions or comments, email: communications@goodyearaz.gov

FROM THE MAYOR



Mayor Joe Pizzillo joins Alice Cooper and other Goodyear City Councilmembers to cut the ribbon at the grand opening of Solid Rock in April.

As Mayor, I have always believed if we invest in our young people, we're investing in our future. That means giving our teens the tools, spaces and encouragement they need to grow into creative, confident and community-minded young adults. I have two teenage granddaughters in Goodyear, and I want to make sure they, and others their age, have opportunities close to home. Luckily, our city has places for teens to explore passions, learn new skills and connect with others.

One of my favorite spots in Goodyear is made just for 12 to 20-year-olds. Alice Cooper's Solid Rock Teen Center is one-of-a-kind. I was thrilled the center chose to open in Goodyear, and the grand opening event earlier this year was incredible. If you

missed it, Alice Cooper put on a concert in the parking lot! It was so great to see the community come together to welcome Solid Rock to Goodyear and to celebrate this new spot made just for the next generation.

The best part of Solid Rock is that it's free, and the kids are learning from mentors who are just as passionate as they are. I've been to open mic nights there, and honestly, I leave inspired every time. The talent our young people bring to the stage is nothing short of amazing. They have even given me a few drum lessons!

As our city grows, I'm reminded of how important it is to give our young people healthy, inspiring ways to spend their time. It's



Mayor
Joe Pizzillo

not about just keeping them busy. It's about helping them grow, giving them experiences and opportunities to figure out who they are and what they want to be.

With so much talent, passion and creativity already taking place, I have no doubt Goodyear's future is looking brighter than ever.

COUNCIL CORNER

I've seen Goodyear grow, not just in size, but in identity. It has become a place where families put down roots, where kids grow up with real opportunities, and where young people can imagine a future that keeps them close to home.

After graduating from Millennium High School, I served in the Army before returning to Goodyear to raise my own family. I later served on the Agua Fria Union High School District Governing Board, including two years as board president. Expanding career and technical education, growing work-based learning and building clearer career pathways for students were priorities I focused on. It was also important to me to bring a new high school to

Goodyear. I'm proud to say that Goodyear High School opened its doors last month.

Now, my wife and I are raising our three boys here. Like any parent, I want them to have more than just good schools. I want them to have real chances to grow, contribute and be part of a strong community.

Through the city, we are creating and attracting spaces and programs where teens can learn, connect and develop beyond the classroom. City internships and volunteer opportunities give students exposure to potential career paths, while showing how municipal government works. The Goodyear Recreation Campus and library provide safe, dynamic places to study, play and explore. And the new Alice Cooper Solid Rock Teen Center offers teens free access to music, dance, art and digital design all under one roof.

The Goodyear City Council is also focused on attracting more family-friendly options into the city. That includes businesses that offer



Councilmember
Trey Terry

experiences, in addition to shopping, giving residents more ways to enjoy their time close to home. It's part of a broader effort to make sure the city keeps up with the needs of a growing population and continues to be a place that works for families at every stage.

Scan the QR code to watch Councilmember Trey Terry and other Councilmembers share updates in our Council Corner video series.





ROCKIN' THE WEST VALLEY

The Goodyear Solid Rock Teen Center opened in spring 2025 and is the third location in Arizona.

When you hear the name Alice Cooper, your first thought might be rock legend with iconic heavy black eyeliner wearing black leather pants. In Goodyear, Alice Cooper's legacy is striking a new chord - one that's all about community, creativity and giving teens a place to shine.

Welcome to Alice Cooper's Solid Rock Teen Center, a free place for anyone

12-20 years old to explore their passions, find new ones and maybe even start their own rock band. 😊

"When I was a teen, I had dreams of being a rock and roll star as I grew up in the West Valley," said Alice Cooper. "Our Goodyear teen center is a safe space for ALL teens to pursue their dreams, meet new friends, dance, learn to play an instrument and more. Sheryl Cooper and I look forward to meeting many teens at the Goodyear teen center and seeing them thrive as they learn music, art, dance and perform at our open mics. Thank you to the city of Goodyear

for being ROCK STAR partners with Solid Rock to change the lives of teens!"

Inside the teen center, there's a recording studio, dance studio, art room and music rooms packed with instruments - and teens are encouraged to use them all. In addition to arts and music, the center offers mentorship programs, academic support and life skills workshops.



Maggie T.

Solid Rock is a place where I can go to do anything that I want to do. I've met a lot of friendly people here, and they've really brought me to better places than where I was. It has never failed to be the best part of my day.

I was teaching myself before (to play the guitar), but now I have people who play on stage with Alice Cooper teaching me personally every single day. There are so many people here that know a lot about the industry.



Matthew A.



WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Adults, this part's for you. Volunteers play a huge role in everything from mentoring young musicians to helping with events, greeting students at check-in or even teaching a class.

To learn more about Solid Rock Teen Center and volunteering, visit alicecoopersolidrock.com/the-rock-goodyear.



The Rec teen space at the Goodyear Recreation Center (GRC) is the spot to be for a friendly video game battle. It's free, open to anyone between 12 and 18 years old, has state-of-the-art gaming equipment, computers and board games. This fall it will also be home to arcade-style tournaments. No registration is required, simply stop in to join the competition. The GRC always has something fun for teens to do, including special events throughout the year created by teens for teens. There are planned swim nights, movie parties, e-sports challenges, gym competitions and more.

Teens can also get active on the basketball court and take advantage of the GRC's fitness floor. Passholders, ages 12-15 years old, can use the fitness equipment and attend classes after successfully completing an online Teen Wellness Orientation.

Goodyear Recreation Campus

420 S. Estrella Pkwy.
623-882-7525

the Rec - Teen Room Hours

Mon., Tues., Thur., Fri.:	3 - 9 p.m.
Wednesday:	12 - 9 p.m.
Saturday:	11 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sunday:	11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

More Than Books

At the Georgia T. Lord Library, you'll find an area just for teens on the second floor. It's a cool spot to play a video or board game, study and of course, read a book. A large collection of books for those ages 13-17 can be found here, along with fun, moveable furniture and a mural painted by a teen!

Georgia T. Lord Library

1900 N Civic Square | 602-652-3000

Teen Room Hours

Monday-Thursday:	9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Friday, Saturday:	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday:	1 p.m. - 5 p.m.



The library is also offering a variety of activities right now, including STEAM Labs where ages 8 and up can participate in fun science and technology projects, visit the Tween Board Game Hangout and attend crafting classes for tweens and teens. View the schedule of activities at mclidaz.org/goodyear.



Twice a year the city showcases the artistic talent of our youth through the Georgia T. Lord Mayor Select Art Awards. High school students in Goodyear can enter to have their art displayed and for a chance to win a scholarship award. Entries open Nov. 3. Get all the details at goodyearaz.gov/arts.





CREATING A CAREER PATH



Wesley Campbell
2025 High School graduate

The internship program was a great experience for me. As long as you're asking questions, you pick things up quickly. There's a wealth of knowledge here, especially from the people who've been around a long time, and you can really learn so much from their experience.



MEET JENNA OUR GEN Z INTERN!

Jenna is behind some of the city's viral TikTok videos. She's studying marketing at ASU and wants to do marketing in the beauty industry when she graduates, specifically within skincare and cosmetics. "My internship is helping me explore what I want to do and gives me real-world experience in a supportive setting. Having people to bounce ideas off and get advice from has made a big difference."

Landing that first job or internship can feel like a big leap for any high school student, but in Goodyear, that step just got a little easier and a lot closer to home. The city recently launched a new internship program designed to give local students hands-on, real-world experience in city government. Wesley Campbell, one of the program's first interns, is now a full-time employee with the city.

Stories like Wesley's are exactly what this program is all about - helping high school students discover new opportunities, gain valuable skills and build meaningful careers right here in their hometown.

The internship program is expanding to other departments. Keep an eye out for future opportunities!

Scan the QR code to
learn more about the
internship program and
its success.



I had no plans for what I was going to do after high school. I was accepted into the city's internship program and learned a lot working in the Water Services Department.



Adrian Hernandez
2025 High School graduate



JUMPSTART YOUR FUTURE WITH GRC UNIVERSITY

Another opportunity for teens to gain real-world experience and give back to their community is GRC University. GRC-U is a work readiness volunteer program designed to help high school students build valuable skills before jumping into the workforce or applying to college.

The teens volunteer in a variety of roles at the Goodyear Rec Campus, from helping with special events to supporting recreation programs and day-to-day operations. This rotating structure gives volunteers a well-rounded understanding of how things run behind the scenes while helping them develop teamwork, communication and leadership skills along the way.

The next GRC-U session begins in January, and applications will open later this fall. Get details on applying at recreation.goodyearaz.gov.

5 Tips for Your First Job Interview

1 Highlight Transferable Skills

Even if you haven't had a job before, think about your experience with school projects, volunteer work, clubs or sports to show skills like responsibility, teamwork, communication and time management.



2 Prepare



Be ready to answer common questions like: "Tell me about yourself" and "Why do you want to work here?"

3 Dress the Part

Choose appropriate, professional clothing.



4 Do Your Research



Before your interview, learn about the company or organization, including what they do, who they serve and what their values are. Come prepared with a couple of questions to ask, too.

5 Show Enthusiasm and a Willingness to Learn

You might not have much experience, but your attitude can set you apart. Smile, make eye contact and express excitement about the opportunity.





There's a new group of leaders in town. Meet the 2025-2026 Goodyear Youth Commission - and they are already breaking records. Maxed out at nearly 60 members, this is the largest youth commission in city history!

"This is a true testament of the youth in Goodyear," said Neighborhood Services Manager and Youth Commission Advisor Jeremy Dyck. "While some cities struggle to get teens interested, we are

trying to find solutions to increase the commission's capacity, so we don't have to turn students away."

The youth commission is made up of high school students from across the city and is a shining example of what happens when young people are given a seat at the table. Designed to build civic engagement, leadership skills and community pride, the commission gives students the chance to learn about local government, voice their ideas and get involved in city services and activities.



NOT A MEMBER OF THE YOUTH COMMISSION BUT STILL WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

No problem. Goodyear offers a wide range of volunteer opportunities that teens can be a part of, including the city's annual Make a Difference Day event.

Learn more about the event happening on Oct. 25 and other volunteer opportunities at goodyearaz.gov/volunteer.



Aariya S.

I joined the Goodyear Commission to take an active role in shaping my community and learning more about how the city works. Serving on the commission has been an incredible experience. I've met and collaborated with people of all ages, built lasting connections and gained valuable leadership skills. Through this role, my confidence has grown, and my sense of belonging in the city has deepened. I began as a freshman, and now, as Chair of the Commission, I'm grateful for the opportunity to lead and continue making a positive impact.



Aleena T.

What I enjoy the most about the Goodyear Youth Commission is the welcoming environment and the opportunities it gives me to make my city better.





For more than 50 years, a concrete giant stood quietly in the Goodyear desert, just off Cotton Lane and I-10. Locals knew it, road-trippers puzzled over it and generations of Valley residents swapped stories about it. It was the remnants of the Phoenix Trotting Park, which was torn down in 2017.

Fast forward to today, where that land is getting attention again and for a very different reason. Goodyear High School, home of the Mavericks, opened its doors last month on a portion of the former racetrack property, marking a bold new chapter in the city's story.

While the racetrack may be long gone, its spirit lives on across the Goodyear High School campus, in more ways than its mascot.



"The big, framed windows facing the front of the horse track were an iconic feature," said Goodyear High School Principal Jason Linn. "Our architects actually took the frame pattern of the old windows and incorporated that into our tile, so the tile in the restrooms are the same pattern as the horse track windows."

And it doesn't stop there. During construction, a crew member uncovered an unexpected surprise – an old horseshoe, likely a leftover from the track's racing days. Rather than stashing it away, the school gave it a second life. Today, it hangs proudly inside the building, where students can give it a tap for good luck.



Burrsville's Shoe

Phoenix Trotting Park • Est. January 11th, 1965

This horseshoe was discovered on the grounds of the historic Phoenix Trotting Park, where the horse Burrsville won the very first race in 1965. While we cannot say for certain it belonged to Burrsville, it stands as a lasting symbol of the strength, speed, and spirit that once defined this land.

Now, as it rests here at the heart of our school, Burrsville's Shoe becomes more than a relic — it is a symbol. A symbol of endurance, legacy, and the pursuit of competitive greatness that still echoes across these grounds.

"For those who have passed, for those to come, reach for excellence."

Dedicated to the memory of what once was, and the promise of all that lies ahead.

Goodyear High School
Established on the grounds of the historic Phoenix Trotting Park
2025



Scan the QR code to watch the full story of how the Phoenix Trotting Park site became home to Goodyear High School.



GOODYEAR POLICE DEPARTMENT UNVEILS NEW PATCH WITH A PURPOSE

Have you spotted the new look on the Goodyear Police Department's uniforms? The department has officially unveiled a brand-new patch, and it's more than just a fresh design.

This striking new symbol reflects the Goodyear Police Department's core values and its deep connection to the community. Designed with intention, the patch honors the department's history while embracing the promise of the future.

"This new patch is more than a design; it's a reflection of the past, while focusing on our bright future," said Goodyear Police Chief Brian Issitt. "It represents growth, progress and our continued commitment to serve with integrity, compassion and unity. As we proudly wear this new symbol, we move forward with renewed purpose, honoring our past, embracing our future and building stronger bonds with the community we're sworn to protect and serve."

COMMUNITAS PRIMUM:

Latin for "Community First," this phrase anchors the department's mission to serve with dignity, build trust and strengthen bonds between officers and residents.

THE THIN BLUE LINE:

A powerful symbol of duty, courage and protection. Framed by mountains, it reflects the city's strength and the unwavering commitment of those who wear the badge.



Goodyear Police Chief
Brian Issitt

SUN RAYS:

A symbol of clarity, enlightenment and growth. The rays represent both Goodyear's natural beauty and the department's guiding values, lighting the way toward progress.

THE BLIMP:

A symbol of Goodyear's proud aviation past. The blimp connects the department to the city's historic role in innovation, flight and forward momentum.



COLORS:

Blue and yellow reflect the city's brand. Blue symbolizes protection, service and strength. Yellow conveys optimism, hope and unity-core values of the Goodyear Police Department.

HONORING OUR HISTORY, SHAPING OUR FUTURE



POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

OCT. 11 | 5-8 PM
GOODYEAR REC CAMPUS
420 S. Estrella Pkwy



Free Admission • Food Trucks • Games • Inflatables • Prizes

JOIN US FOR NATIONAL NIGHT OUT IN GOODYEAR!

Come out for a night of fun, food and community at National Night Out in Goodyear! Meet your local police officers, check out police cars and equipment and enjoy family-friendly activities!

LEADING THE WAY IN TRASH TRUCK SAFETY

Scan the QR code to learn how Goodyear is preventing trash truck fires before they start.



You might have heard about a surprising and dangerous trend happening across the country: a rise in trash truck fires. These fires often start when lithium-ion or rechargeable batteries are thrown into household trash. When compacted in the truck, these batteries can spark and ignite, putting drivers and entire neighborhoods at risk.

Goodyear is taking action and leading the way. The city is the first in the nation to test a cutting-edge thermal camera system in its trash trucks. This innovative technology monitors the truck's temperature in real time, and if it detects heat beyond a safe threshold, it sounds an alarm to alert the driver. It's a



Goodyear firefighters work to put out a trash truck fire sparked by lithium-ion batteries placed in household trash.

proactive step to keep our community and crews safe.

Help keep Goodyear safe by never throwing lithium-ion or rechargeable batteries in your trash can. Instead, drop them off at safe disposal locations like Best Buy, Home Depot or Lowe's.



COUNCILMEMBERS SELECTED FOR STATEWIDE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM



VICE MAYOR
WALLY CAMPBELL



COUNCILMEMBER
LAURA KAINO

Goodyear Vice Mayor Wally Campbell and Councilmember Laura Kaino have been selected to participate in the newly established Civic Craft Leadership Program, launched by the Arizona League of Cities and Towns.

The year-long, nonpartisan program is designed exclusively for municipal elected officials in Arizona who have

completed the League's Newly Elected Officials Training and are currently serving in office. Only 50 leaders statewide are chosen for each cohort.

Scan the QR code to learn more about this new program and what it means for the city.



DO I NEED A PERMIT?



Planning a special event and not sure if you need a city permit? If you say yes to any of the questions below about your event, you might need one.

- ☐ Is it expected to attract more than 250 people?
- ☐ Will it disrupt the normal flow of traffic?
- ☐ Will it block or restrict access to other homes?
- ☐ Will it have food trucks, vendor booths or merchandise sales?

Make sure to apply for a permit at least 45 days before your event. Apply and learn more by clicking on the Special Events tab at goodyearaz.gov/cityclerk.



1900 N. Civic Square
Goodyear AZ 85395
goodyearaz.gov
623-932-3910

ECRWSS
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PRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
GOODYEAR, AZ
PERMIT #216

EVENINGS ELEVATED



Ballet
UNDER THE
STARS

SEPT. 26



ROCK
THE BBQ

OCT. 4



RITMOS Y RAICES
RHYTHM
& ROOTS

OCT. 10

goodyearaz.gov/EVENTS