

DECEMBER 2024

goodyearaz.gov/InFocus

InFocus



***Celebrating
the New***

THAT'S HELPING TO SHAPE GOODYEAR

AT A GLANCE

2024 was a great time to be in Goodyear! There were many accomplishments and milestones that made it a successful year, and there were also a lot of new and exciting developments to

celebrate! This InFocus looks back at some of the *New* that made 2024 a standout year and that will continue to help shape and strengthen our community in the years to come.



(front row; l to r): Vice Mayor Laura Kaino, Mayor Joe Pizzillo, Wally Campbell
(back row; l to r): Bill Stipp, Vicki Gillis, Sheri Lauritano, Brannon Hampton.

Season's Greetings

FROM THE GOODYEAR CITY COUNCIL

With gratitude and warm wishes, have a wonderful holiday season. Thank you for being a part of our vibrant community, and may the new year bring you happiness and success.

GOODYEAR CITY COUNCIL CALENDAR

December 9	5 p.m.	Council Meeting
December 16	5 p.m.	Council Meeting
January 6	5 p.m.	Special Induction Ceremony
January 13	5 p.m.	Work Session

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.



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

FROM THE MAYOR

The holidays are upon us, and there is much to celebrate in Goodyear. Our city is thriving, our beautiful downtown district is growing, and soon, we will have even more dining and shopping options for our residents.

Holiday activities will be happening all month long, and everyone is encouraged to enjoy the festive atmosphere at Civic Square Park at GSQ. From the skating rink and stage performances to food trucks and craft activities, there is something for everyone. It truly is the most wonderful time of the year.

As Councilmembers Sheri Lauritano and Bill Stipp end their terms of service to the city, I want to thank them for their incredible contributions to our community and the entire West Valley. Sheri will be terming out as the longest serving councilmember in our city's history, having served since March 2010.

Bill is not far behind, having started as an elected official in June 2011.

Among her many local, regional, statewide and national committee and board memberships, Sheri has been a key voice in planning our water future as a member of the Arizona Municipal Water Users Association (AMWUA), where she has served this past year as the chair of the Board of Directors.

Bill has had a vital role in all things related to transportation as he served on the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) and on the Board of Directors for Valley Metro as the chair this past year.

These important roles that Sheri and Bill took on ensured that Goodyear's interests in broader Valleywide issues were represented, and we are grateful for the wisdom and knowledge they exercised in those capacities on behalf



**Mayor
Joe Pizzillo**

of our city. We wish Sheri and Bill well as they move on to their next adventures, and we are grateful for their dedication and thoughtful decision-making on issues impacting our residents daily.

COUNCIL CORNER

2024 was a year of significant growth and community development for Goodyear. The city saw continued expansion in both residential and commercial sectors, attracting new businesses and families to the area. Goodyear hosted a variety of community events, including festivals, concerts and farmers markets, fostering the strong sense of togetherness among residents that makes this city special. These events are important as they help maintain the small-town feel despite the growth we continue to experience.

This year, we introduced Ritmos y Raíces | Rhythm and Roots, a celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. To no surprise, it was warmly embraced by both residents and visitors. Given its success, it will now become a yearly event hosted by our Parks and Recreation Department.

Goodyear's strategic location and business-friendly environment attracted new businesses, creating job opportunities and boosting the

local economy. GSQ has become more vibrant with the addition of several restaurants, including Copper and Sage and The Stillery. The time invested in carefully planning our vision for downtown Goodyear is truly paying off. More announcements are coming in 2025, and we're confident our residents will be just as excited as we are.

The local small businesses are just as important to our community. As Goodyear continues to flourish, it's essential to support local businesses and organizations just as we support the larger ones. Remember them during your holiday shopping and plan to visit one of over 80 local restaurants unique to the area. By choosing local, we contribute to the vitality of our community and ensure its continued success. Together, we can all make Goodyear an even better place to live, work and play.

As we reflect on this year and anticipate the great year ahead, let us be grateful



**Councilmember
Brannon Hampton**

for all that Goodyear is and continues to become. I want to wish you a great holiday season and remind you that I am available to help you with any questions or concerns you may have.



COUNCILMEMBER

SHERI LAURITANO

Farewell MESSAGE

As my time on the Goodyear City Council comes to an end, I want to take a moment to express my gratitude and appreciation to the residents of Goodyear who have allowed me the honor to represent them for the past 14 years.

I want to thank my husband, Steve, and our children, Christopher and Victoria, for always being there for me during this journey, as well as my parents for their support and help during this time. Also thank you to my law partner, Amy, who was always willing to cover what was needed at the office so I could attend to my council responsibilities.

Thank you to Mayor Pizzillo, a wonderful city council, our great city manager Wynette and the fantastic Goodyear family.

Over the last 14 years, I have seen the city of Goodyear grow and prosper, and I have been happy and excited to be part of the team working to make



this such a great place to live, work and play. We have maintained a focus on a safe community with increased fire and police services, as well as new fire and police stations. We have ensured water security for Goodyear with our surface water treatment plant. We have increased our parks and amenities to make Goodyear a place where residents of all ages can enjoy our great outdoors and a variety of fun events. We have increased our commercial and retail footprint as well over the past 14 years

with the opening of businesses like Harkins, The Stillery and WinCo Foods.

I was especially proud to be the part of the team that brought forward our new city hall and library at GSQ. The Georgia T. Lord Library is a place to study, read and enjoy fun community events. As a mom, I love the reading steps and the children's area.

I promise, I won't go far and will continue to support our great city. Thank you, Goodyear. It's been an honor.





COUNCILMEMBER

BILL STIPP

Farewell MESSAGE

I am filled with great pride and sorrow as I write my final council corner after 13.5 years as one of your city councilmembers. It has been a great honor and privilege to serve this wonderful city. In 2011, Goodyear's population was about 52,000 residents; today, we are near 115,000. I have worked for this city in some capacity since 2001, and it is the capstone to my 40+ year career in local government. I will miss it dearly. Thank you for trusting in me to move our city forward.

I always sought to do what I believed was best for us as residents. I looked at our challenges and opportunities from all perspectives, not just the impact today but for the future, as well. Everyone does not always agree with what we've done; all of us are impacted by these decisions.

I know that growth of this magnitude comes with frustrations; however, our property values have always increased, Goodyear has one of the lowest crime



rates in the Phoenix Metropolitan Area, and we invested more than \$500M in public projects without a change in our property tax rates for more than a decade.

I stayed true to my promises when I first ran - be fiscally conservative, be a leader and don't be a politician. I asked Goodyear residents to "Stipp into the Future" in every campaign, and I hope

you agree that I did what I said I would do. I have met great people on this journey and learned every step of the way. The list of people to thank is far too long, but I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for the support of my kids and, most especially, my wife, Lisa. Sheri Lauritano and I ran together in 2011 and 2015, and she convinced me to run again in 2019. Thank you, Sheri, for what has been an exciting final term in office.





BUSINESSES OPEN AT



This past year brought a new gathering spot in Goodyear! Goodyear's downtown is coming to life with the recent opening of several new businesses, including The Stillery, Copper & Sage, Spitz Mediterranean Street Food, F45 Training GSO and Classic & Fancy Nails Spa. The area that stretches from I-10 north to Encanto Boulevard and 150th Drive to Bullard Avenue is owned and being developed by Globe Corp., a family-owned investment company, and is set to be a regional destination - the heart of Goodyear - that residents have long desired.



Read more about the development of Goodyear's downtown, including a list of businesses coming soon at goodyearaz.gov/downtown.

BUC-EE'S BREAKS THE INTERNET

The entire state was talking about Buc-ee's earlier this year when it announced it was opening its first Arizona location right here in Goodyear. Media outlets across the state and the entire Southwest region reported the news, and longtime Buc-ee's fans were quick to share their excitement and love for the famous travel center on social media.

Construction on Buc-ee's is underway on Bullard Ave, just south of the I-10 freeway. Along with 120 fueling stations, it will offer homemade barbecue and fudge, a wide selection of its wildly popular Beaver Nuggets and its famous "wall of beef jerky." Buc-ee's is expected to open at the end of 2025.



Scan the QR code
to see the work
being done on the
Goodyear Buc-ee's.



SOCIAL MEDIA EXCITEMENT



Stephanie G.

I can't wait for the endless beef jerky, wall of fountain drinks, the beaver nuggets, but most importantly the brisket.



Kim G.

Love Buc-ee's can't wait!!



Dusty E.

This is going to be amazing! I can't wait to go to Buc-ee's!!



Thomas B.

We moved here from Texas just over a year ago and we can tell you Buc-ee's will be awesome. It's going to be a big draw of visitors from Goodyear and the whole State of Arizona.



Dori L.

I will be driving up from Tucson!!! Cannot wait!

New CELEBRATIONS IN CIVIC SQUARE PARK AT GSQ



Learn about these events and more at goodyearaz.gov/events.

There might not be anything better than gathering with friends and family at a fun event, and we love to bring the community together in Goodyear. This year, the city rolled out a new event at Civic Square Park. *Ritmos y Raíces* | Rhythm and Roots is a celebration of Hispanic Heritage and included a variety of performances, including Cumbia, Mariachi, Hispanic-owned vendors, a beer and cocktail garden, artisan vendors, interactive activities making traditional Hispanic crafts and a flag garden showcasing the flags of each Hispanic country with educational information.

DECEMBER EVENTS IN THE PARK

- Holidays on the Square
- The Rinq ice skating
- Smile Spots in the park

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON

New SCHOOLS

As our city grows, so do options for educating our kids. Two school districts in Goodyear are expanding. Construction is underway on a new high school and elementary school. Both broke ground earlier this year.

The Agua Fria High School District is building Goodyear High School on the northwest corner of Cotton Lane and Van



Loretta Zumbro Elementary

Buren Street. It will be the district's sixth high school and is slated to open next fall to initially welcome freshman students.

Liberty Elementary School District is also opening a new school next fall. Loretta Zumbro Elementary will be Pre-K through eighth grade and is located on Lower Buckeye Road between Perryville and Citrus roads.



Goodyear High School

New

MEMBERS ELECTED TO GOODYEAR CITY COUNCIL

After more than a decade each on the Goodyear City Council, councilmembers Sheri Lauritano and Bill Stipp are stepping down. Both have served the maximum number of terms on council. They have been critical to the success of the city and region, and we are grateful for their dedication and leadership!

With their departure, voters elected Benita Beckles and Trey Terry to fill the two vacant seats in January. Vice Mayor Laura Kaino was also re-elected. She has served on council since 2018.

There will be a special meeting on Jan. 6 to officially welcome our two newest members and to swear in all three of our electeds into their new role. If you're unable to join in person, you can catch it live on the city's social media pages.



JANUARY 6, 2025 • 5 P.M.

Goodyear City Hall • Council Chambers
1900 N. Civic Square • Goodyear, Arizona

Watch in-person or stream the meeting live or on replay



VICE MAYOR

LAURA KAINO

Vice Mayor Laura Kaino serves on Goodyear's Public Safety Retirement Boards, the City Council Community Funding Subcommittee and the Boards and Commissions Selection Subcommittee. She also represents the city on committees with WESTMARC and the Arizona League of Cities and Towns.



COUNCILMEMBER-ELECT

BENITA BECKLES

Councilmember-elect Benita Beckles achieved the rank of colonel in the Air Force, serving 30 years as a commissioned officer. She is the former Vice Chair of the Goodyear Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission and spent 20 years working in city government in Detroit and Phoenix.



COUNCILMEMBER-ELECT

TREY TERRY

Councilmember-elect Trey Terry grew up in Goodyear. He's a U.S. Army combat veteran and school board president. He works for a nonprofit organization and has previously worked for the United States House of Representatives and in media relations and communications.

New

CHIEF JOINS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Halfway through 2024, Goodyear welcomed a new police chief. Chief Brian Issitt has been busy learning more about the city and the department. He's continuing to evaluate where and how the growth in the city is happening to determine where to put additional resources, like police stations, and where he needs to increase staffing in the department. Keeping a pulse of the community is important to him as he looks forward to the future and ensures the highest level of policing services in Goodyear.



"I will bring stability to the leadership of the department and immerse myself in the Goodyear community. I've already had the chance to speak with residents, community leaders and business owners, and I have this overwhelming feeling that this is where I'm meant to be," said Chief Issitt.



New

FIRE STATION OPENS

2024 kicked off with the opening of a new fire station. Goodyear Fire Station 188, on the northeast corner of Harrison Street and Citrus Road, serves one of the fastest growing parts of the city. The station is the third in the city designed with enhanced cancer-preventing safety measures to ensure our firefighters' long-term health. It includes a decontamination washer that thoroughly cleans gear, minimizing exposure to potential contaminants and an air system that removes hazardous exhaust and provides a healthier working environment.

CELEBRATING THE

New

IN 2024

The list of exciting, new things that happened in Goodyear this past year is long! Here are a few more:

- ▶ Goodyear voters approved **A NEW, UPDATED GENERAL PLAN**. It's the plan of all plans for the city and acts as the foundational policy document that guides the future vision of Goodyear for the next 10 years.
- ▶ **40+ NEW RESTAURANTS AND BUSINESSES** ... and counting!
* Based on businesses that worked with Goodyear Economic Development.
- ▶ **A NEW WEST VALLEY TRAFFIC TASK FORCE** designed to address speed and aggressive driving in Goodyear and the West Valley was created.
- ▶ **A NEW EMERGENCY ALERT NOTIFICATION SYSTEM**, GY Alerts, was introduced and allows residents to receive vital, potentially lifesaving information directly on their phone when emergencies happen.



EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS

goodyearaz.gov/GYalerts

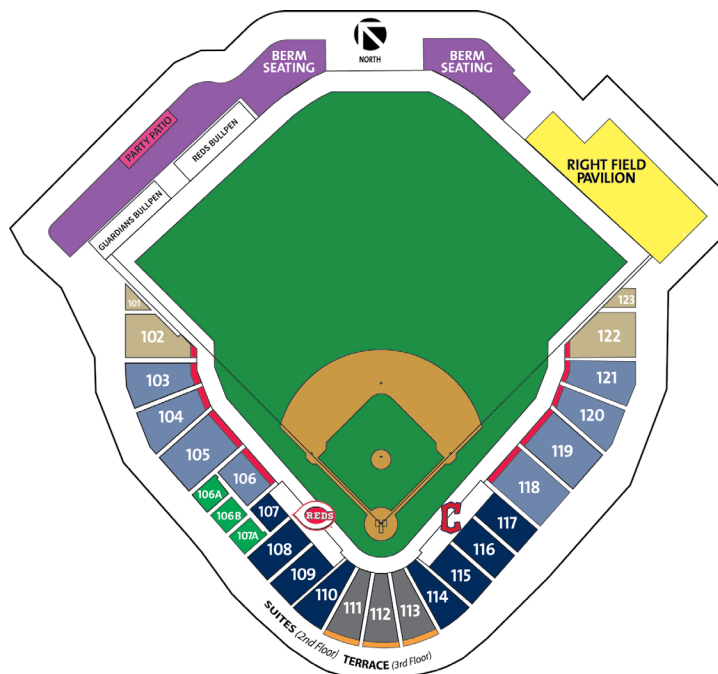
WHAT'S NEW FOR 2025 SPRING TRAINING?

Premium Home Plate Box is a new, exclusive seating area located in the top three rows behind home plate in sections 111, 112 and 113, including the

concourse level. This section includes countertops, so no more balancing food on your lap! Seats are mesh and moveable and are standard table height. Tickets will be available on a single-game basis for this new area.

Also, for your protection and enjoyment of the game, protective netting will be in place from foul pole to foul pole.

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY							
 GOODYEAR BALLPARK							22  1:05 PM
23  1:05 PM	24  1:05 PM	25  1:05 PM	26  1:05 PM	27  1:05 PM	28  1:05 PM	March 1  1:05 PM	
2  1:05 PM	3  6:05 PM	4  1:05 PM	5  1:05 PM	6  6:05 PM	7  1:05 PM	8  1:05 PM	
9  1:05 PM	10  1:05 PM	11  1:05 PM	12  1:05 PM	13  1:05 PM	14  1:05 PM	15  1:05 PM	
16  1:05 PM	17  6:05 PM	18  1:05 PM	19  1:05 PM	20  1:05 PM	21  1:05 PM	22  1:05 PM	
23  1:05 PM	SPRING BREAKOUT 2025 March 14 • Mariners @ Guardians • 4:05 PM					 Home	 Home



SEATING AREAS

	Prem. Home Plate Box
	Premium Field Box
	Club
	Home Plate Box
	Infield Box
	Outfield Box
	Outfield Reserved
	Berm
	Right Field Pavilion
	Party Patio
	Suites
	Terrace

Single game tickets and mini plans (3+ games) go on sale
– ONLINE ONLY –

Friday, Dec. 13 at 10 a.m.

For the best pricing available,
buy direct from

goodyearbp.com

**Goodyear Ballpark Ticket Office and Team Shop
will open for in-person sales Saturday, Feb. 1 at 10 a.m.**



HOLIDAY TIPS FROM THE CITY'S CODE COMPLIANCE TEAM

- 1** Place boxes that don't fit in the recycle bin on the curb on your bulk pickup day. Boxes and other bulk trash items shouldn't be viewable from the street, except on your pickup day.
- 2** Have visitors park along the street, facing the flow of traffic. Vehicles should not block the sidewalk or be parked on gravel.
- 3** With visitors and the possibility of people coming and going more frequently, be extra cautious with pets to avoid them from unknowingly getting out.

Code Compliance helps keep the city clean and safe! To report code violations, visit goodyearaz.gov/reportproblem.

GROWING GOODYEAR PODCAST

LEARN MORE ABOUT WHAT MADE 2024 SUCH A GREAT YEAR IN GOODYEAR!

Listen to the newest episode of the Growing Goodyear podcast on these platforms.

CHECK IT OUT ON THESE PLATFORMS

Listen on [amazon music](#) | Listen on [Apple Podcasts](#) | Listen on [Google Podcasts](#)

LISTEN ON [Spotify](#) | LISTEN ON [STITCHER](#)

HOLIDAY TRASH SERVICE

Trash, recycling and bulk pickup will move to the day after your regularly scheduled pickup on the following holidays:

CHRISTMAS DAY

Wednesday, Dec. 25

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Wednesday, Jan. 1

Check your service day at goodyearaz.gov/trash.





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

ECRWSS
Postal Customer

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

the RINOQ

HOLIDAYS ON THE
 *Square*

December 6-29

Friday- Sunday from 5-9 p.m.

goodyearaz.gov/therinq