

SEPTEMBER 2024

goodyearaz.gov/InFocus

InFocus



Celebrating the Residents Making a Difference

It's a
Great time
to be in Goodyear.



AT A GLANCE

Residents often say Goodyear has a small-town feel, even as it grows. Much of Goodyear's special charm comes from the residents who take pride in the city and strive to make

it better. In this issue of InFocus, we celebrate some of the residents making it a great time to be in Goodyear!

IMPORTANT GENERAL ELECTION DATES TO KNOW



OCT.
7

Last day to register to vote

OCT.
9

Ballots mailed

OCT.
25

Last day to request an early ballot

OCT.
29

Last day to mail back your ballot

NOV.
5

ELECTION DAY

Check your registration status and ballot information at
BeBallotReady.Vote

CITY OF
Goodyear

THE GOODYEAR POLICE DEPARTMENT

hosts



POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

GOODYEAR REC CENTER
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1
5-8 PM

Free Admission • Food Trucks • Games • Inflatables • Prizes



GOODYEAR CITY COUNCIL CALENDAR

September 9	5 p.m.	Council Meeting
September 16	5 p.m.	Council Meeting
September 23	5 p.m.	Council Meeting

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 our Facebook page @goodyearaz and YouTube channel.



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



GOODYEAR CITY COUNCIL

(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.

From the Mayor

I'm a big fan of those who make an effort to volunteer their time to serve in our community, and I'm inspired by their commitment to make a difference in Goodyear. When you give of your time, you are positively affecting not only the lives of those you connect with, but you are helping to make our city a better place for everyone.

Two of my favorite events each year are our Make a Difference Day and our Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, where we recognize the selfless individuals who work hard serving in our community. I am especially encouraged when I see hundreds of young people who come out early on a Saturday to take part in Make a Difference Day. They give me hope that our future is in good hands with the next generation.

Whenever I get a chance to spend time with children and teens in our community, I encourage them to be involved in city events and to become

familiar with our activities. The future well-being of our community depends on their willingness to step up and become the leaders of tomorrow by getting involved today.

But this doesn't just apply to our young people. We love to see all our residents take ownership of this community by finding a place to serve. There are many opportunities to help, such as connecting with a local non-profit to serve meals to seniors, packing boxes at food banks or coaching a youth sports team. There are also a myriad of other opportunities within the city—from volunteering in an office setting or assisting with recreation programs to helping out at Goodyear Ballpark during spring training.

I encourage you to seek out ways to serve, whether it be in an official capacity as a trained volunteer or by making a difference right where you live by connecting with your neighbors and



**Mayor
Joe Pizzillo**

looking for ways to help one another. Together, we can keep Goodyear a great place to live, work, raise a family and play.

Council Corner



Goodyear suffered a great loss with the passing of a valued member of our community. Norma Cunningham touched so many lives. She was well known for her extraordinary commitment to the arts. As one of the first residents appointed to the Goodyear Arts & Culture Commission in 2006, she played a significant role in shaping the city's cultural landscape. Through her efforts, the city's public art collection grew, and the quality of Goodyear's art exhibitions reached new heights.

Norma's passion for celebrating African American culture helped create the annual Vision and Sound event, a powerful testament to her dedication to diversity and inclusivity. Beyond her artistic pursuits, Norma was a beloved community member known for her warm hospitality and positive support of our youth.

Longtime Goodyear resident and Arts & Culture Commissioner Norma Cunningham recently passed away. Among many community contributions and accomplishments, she received the Goodyear Citizen of the Year Award in 2022. Scan the QR Code to view the video celebrating Norma's dedication and passion to the arts.



**Councilmember
Sheri Lauritano**

Norma will be greatly missed, and her contributions will continue to inspire and enrich the Goodyear community for generations to come. Let us honor her memory by embracing the arts, supporting our neighbors and striving for a world that reflects her compassion and vision.

A Letter from the New Police Chief, Brian Issitt

Prioritizing Public Safety and Stability for the Goodyear Police Department



"Every day you either get better or worse, but you never stay the same." That's one of my favorite quotes from legendary University of Michigan football coach, Bo Schembechler. Change is something I've always been familiar with, as it has given me so many opportunities for positive growth, and I could not be more excited for what's ahead for Goodyear.

It's the honor of a lifetime to be the new chief of police for the Goodyear Police Department. I'm sure you're curious about who I am, what my experience is and how I will keep you and your family safe especially during this time of tremendous growth for our city.

Law enforcement is in my blood. My father was a police officer for nearly 30 years, and I knew from an early age that I wanted to be part of something bigger than myself and became an officer, too. Putting on my badge each day is something I don't take lightly, especially on those really hard days when someone's life has changed in a tragic way. Being there has changed me in many ways, too, and has given me the understanding of what our community needs and the strength to lead its police force.

As a kid, I spent most of my days on a baseball or football field for many years. I earned a Division I scholarship to play football and baseball, while simultaneously being drafted by the Houston Astros in the 1995 Major League Baseball Amateur Draft. It was through sports that I first learned what leadership, teamwork and working hard was all about.

In 2001, I joined the Phoenix Police Department. I worked my way up through the ranks before retiring as a commander there after 22 years of service. I oversaw the operations for the Desert Horizon Precinct in northeast Phoenix and the Traffic Bureau as a commander. I also led the advanced training



Chief Issitt and his wife Autumn met in college and have four kids.



“ ”

Being the police chief in a city that's so vibrant and growing so rapidly is exciting, and it's incredibly important that we prioritize the safety of the public during this time of growth.

unit and spent most of my career assigned to the Department's SWAT team and the Homeland Defense Bureau, where I was attached to the Arizona Counter Terrorism Information Center. After leaving the Phoenix Police Department, I worked at the Department of Liquor Licenses and Control as Deputy Director.

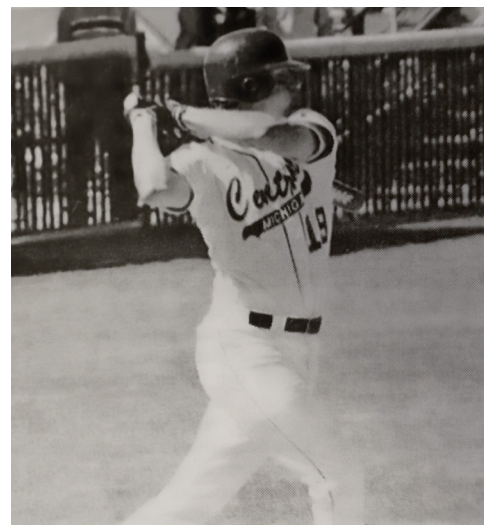
Being the police chief in a city that's so vibrant and growing so rapidly is exciting, and it's incredibly important that we prioritize the safety of the public during this time of growth. I will do that by looking at where and how the growth is happening to determine where we need to put additional resources, like police stations, and where we need to increase staffing in the department. Keeping the pulse of our community will be important while always keeping an eye on the end game by looking forward.

I'm positive that the Goodyear Police Department is going to go from being a great police department to an excellent police department. I believe that the experiences I've had over the past 23 years will be a great benefit to the city and the police department, which I'm now fortunate enough to lead.

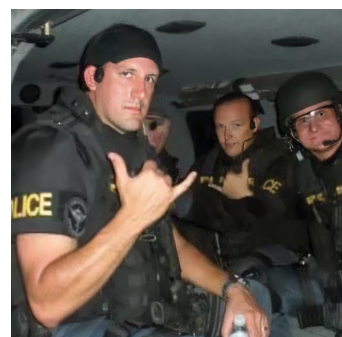
I look forward to building strong relationships within the community and working together to ensure Goodyear remains a safe and welcoming place for everyone. I will bring stability to the leadership of the department and immerse myself in the Goodyear community. I've already had the chance to speak with residents, community leaders and business owners, and I have this overwhelming feeling that this is where I'm meant to be. It feels like home.



Brian Issitt, Chief of Police



Chief Issitt played Division I football and baseball in college. He was drafted by the Houston Astros in the 1995 Major League Baseball Amateur Draft while in high school.



Volunteers by the Numbers

1K
CITY
VOLUNTEERS

18.1K
HOURS
DONATED*

\$575K
MONEY
SAVED*

* City of Goodyear volunteer program
from July 2023 – July 2024

DID YOU KNOW?

In addition to city employees, daily city services are supported and delivered to residents by a dedicated team of volunteers. They provide a wide range of support including setting up for big events, welcoming visitors at spring training games, coaching youth sports and assisting with administrative work.

It's fitting that a volunteer is one of those behind the success of the city's volunteer program! Goodyear resident Evelyn Howell has been

a volunteer in the city's Human Resources Department for 13 years. She works with volunteers and helps to coordinate volunteer opportunities.

While some volunteers, like Evelyn, find serving in this way gives them a new fulfillment after retirement, others are finding significant value in the experience they get. Jenna Ledbetter is a Goodyear resident and ASU student who volunteers in the Digital Communications Department.

Learn more about volunteering opportunities with the city at goodyearaz.gov/volunteer or call 623-882-7807.

"I love what I do. Volunteering is fun and rewarding. It has been a great way for me to meet people and is a small way I can help my community."

Evelyn Howell
Goodyear resident
and city volunteer



"It has been such a rewarding experience. As I navigate my career goals, I have been able to get hands on experience working in a professional, positive environment. Getting guidance to help me find the path I want to move towards has been priceless."

Jenna Ledbetter
Goodyear resident
and city volunteer



Make a Difference Day on Saturday, October 26

On Make a Difference Day, hundreds of Goodyear residents complete volunteer projects across the city. Projects include park and street cleanup, repainting fire hydrants and curbs and restriping parking spots at city facilities.

An impressive turnout at Make a Difference Day in 2023, resulted in a big citywide impact!

200+
Volunteers

800
Hours Donated

\$26K
Money Saved

Want to join this year's Make a Difference Day?
Visit goodyearaz.gov/volunteer.



New Youth Commissioners Gear Up for a Year of Serving

The city recently welcomed its largest youth commission ever! The city leadership program is offered to Goodyear high school students so they can learn how the city operates. It also provides a way for students to develop leadership skills through community involvement.

The commissioners volunteer at city events and various service projects throughout the year. They also represent the city at state and national conferences and discuss and provide feedback on youth-related issues that are important to them.



"This is my first year on the youth commission, and I'm really excited for what's to come. I want to help out and improve my already great community, and this is one of the best ways at my age to do that."

Wyatt Arnsbarger
Canyon View High School



2024-2025 YOUTH COMMISSION

Wyatt Arnsbarger
Mykah Atkinson
Kendall Bailey
Bri Blair
Sophie Cheatham
Kiley Colvin
Cristian Diaz
Bailey Elliot

Isabella Franco
Alexander Godbold
Kaleigh Guajardo
Lucas Hamblin
Adrian Hernandez
Dazlynn Hernandez
Katelyn Heuseveldt
Mariah Hewlett

Graham Holmes
Aida Hudson
Mia Ishay
Kadin Keller
Krislyn Lyons
Leylanie Manley
Mercedes Martinez
Mackenzie McEldowney

Mason McEldowney
Emily McGee
Logan McGee
Ethan Murillo
Jacob Murphy
Aleksander Piatek
Ania Piatek
Natalia Piatek

Sophia Pizzillo
Sofia Rodriguez
Aariya Singh
Ameera Singh
Maddelynn Smith
Kaydence Stephenson
Aleena Torres
Skylar Turner



BREAKING the MOLD

Nine-year-old William Miller loves baseball, swimming, kickboxing and making a difference in his city. Earlier this year, William became one of the youngest residents to ever walk up to the podium at a Goodyear City Council meeting to address the mayor and councilmembers. In his suit and tie, he asked council to find a way to make the intersection that he often walks across with his grandma safer.

"It's awesome. I'm only 9 years old, and they listened to me," said William. "I feel amazing. I really believe I can make a difference."

William's courage and leadership has grabbed local and nation attention, but those he's inspiring most are some of those closest to him.

"Kids on my baseball team are like, 'You're on world news!' A lot of kids my age think they are too young to do this or to do that. I tell them, 'You're never too young to make a difference.'"

William is passionate about making the world a better place, and he has a lot of plans in the works to do just that.

"I am still learning about things, but I know I want to do more," he said. "When I get older, I want to become president."



Softball Team Competes in Junior League World Series

Congratulations to the Goodyear Junior All-Stars Softball Team on their incredible season! They are the 2024 Arizona Junior League and West Regional champions. The girls, ages 12-14, recently represented Goodyear on the world stage at the Junior League World Series in Kirkland, Wash. They were fierce competitors, making it all the way to the quarterfinals! Thanks for inspiring other young athletes and for making Goodyear proud!



Scan the QR code to see William speaking at the city council meeting and his special one-on-one meeting with Mayor Pizzillo.



Shaping the City's Future

Ever thought of serving on a city citizen board? Members on the city's boards, commissions and ad hoc committees make recommendations to council regarding a range of topics, including projects and policy related to arts and culture, planning and zoning, parks and recreation and so much more! Applications are always accepted. Apply today at goodyearaz.gov/boardsrecruit.

Meeting Your Neighbors

Have you met your neighbors? If not, this month is a good one to introduce yourself! Sunday, Sept. 28 is Good Neighbor Day. It's a national day to celebrate community and the importance of building relationships with those who live nearby. Strong neighborhoods are part of what makes living in Goodyear great! If you need help in taking that first step to meet a neighbor or to say thank you, stop by Goodyear City Hall, 1900 N. Civic Square, to pick up a free Good Neighbor Day gift bag. Take a bag - or take a few - and fill them up with treats for your neighbor.



NATIONAL
good
neighbor
DAY
September 28th



Taking the LEAD

New to the city or ready to take the next step to connect with your community? The city's Leadership Enrichment and Development (LEAD) program is a great first step towards being more involved in the city. Goodyear LEAD is a free 12-week program for residents that provides an in-depth look at how the city operates, while building relationships and growing emerging community leaders.

Registration for the next LEAD class opens in November. Visit goodyearaz.gov/LEAD to be placed on an email list to be notified when it opens.

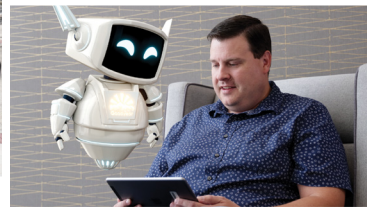
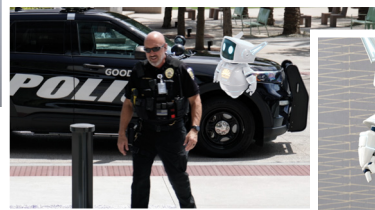
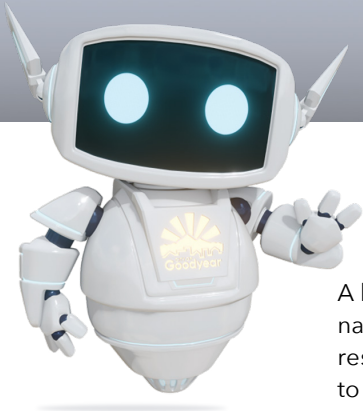


Angel Mariah joined LEAD shortly after moving to Goodyear.

"LEAD gave me a stronger sense of the Goodyear community by meeting fellow residents and learning from dedicated professionals who make up our city's government."

Angel Mariah
LEAD Alum

Ask GYzmo



A lot goes into keeping the ninth fastest growing city in the nation running and looking good! GYzmo is now here to give residents a behind-the-scenes look at daily city operations and to answer questions about how city services and programs work. There isn't much GYzmo doesn't know about Goodyear! View GYzmo's latest video at goodyearaz.gov/AskGYzmo.

Do you want to know how something works at the city? Scan the QR code to Ask GYzmo!



RHYTHM AND ROOTS
RITMOS Y RAICES
Celebrating
HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH
CITY OF Goodyear

Sept. 27 | 6-9 p.m.
Goodyear Civic Square

Ritmos y Raices | Rhythm and Roots will feature a variety of cultural performances, including Cumbia, Ballet Folklórico, Bachata and Mariachi music and dance. Attendees can enjoy food from 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.

TEEN VIOLENCE ISN'T ENTERTAINMENT.

REPORT, DON'T REPOST!

Learn more at maricopacountyattorney.org/RDR

WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE TEENS FIGHTING

1. Don't post videos of the fight on social media.
2. Don't try to break up the fight.
3. Report it to law enforcement.
4. Walk to a safer location.

Scan to learn more!



Report, Don't Repost!



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

BALLET * FOOD TRUCKS * CRAFTS * GIVEAWAYS

Ballet
UNDER THE STARS

September 21 from 5-9 p.m.

ESTRELLA LAKESIDE AMPHITHEATER
goodyearaz.gov/events