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Rooted in Home

As the new editor of *Tempe City Lifestyle Magazine*, it feels only fitting to start this new chapter with an issue dedicated to something so close to all of us—home. As a proud resident of Tempe, I feel deeply connected to the vibrant community that makes this place so special. Tempe isn't just a city—it's a place where stories unfold, connections thrive, and the meaning of "home" goes beyond four walls. It's about the people and shared experiences that bring this community together.



This month, we've partnered with local experts across various industries to bring you their most valuable advice for homeowners. From practical ways to plan renovations to creative ideas for personalizing your space, this issue is filled with inspiration. Inside, you'll find expert tips on everything from energy-saving solutions to the latest design trends, water treatment, and more. Each page is packed with thoughtful ideas and actionable insights to help you make the most of the place you call your own.

We wanted to focus on more than just bricks and mortar. Home is more than just a physical space—it's a feeling, a sense of belonging, and a reflection of who we are. It's where we find comfort, safety, and a grounding connection to the world around us. Home is the place where we can be our truest selves, surrounded by the people, memories, and objects that matter most.

For some, home is a sanctuary that offers warmth and familiarity; for others, it's a space of creativity, growth, and possibility. It evokes feelings of love, peace, and nostalgia—it's where we thrive, where we rest, and where life unfolds in its most personal and meaningful moments.

Here's to community, connections, and the place where we've planted our roots. Thank you for welcoming me into your homes—and into this incredible community.

Cheers!

JETT ARREDONDO, EDITOR
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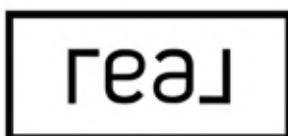
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MARCH 2025 | HOME



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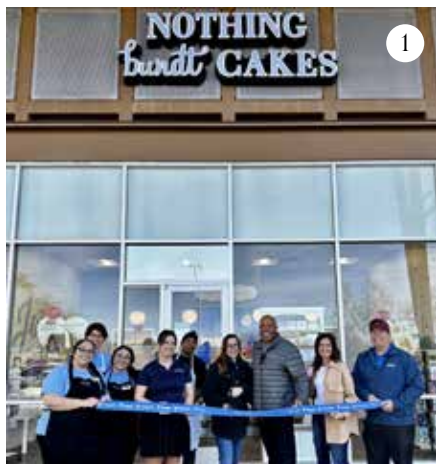
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MARCH 2025

city scene

WHERE NEIGHBORS CAN SEE AND BE SEEN



1: Owner, Suzanne Singer and her team celebrate the Nothing Bundt Cakes location at Tempe Marketplace. 2: Jeff Benck, CEO of Benchmark Electronics, Robin Arredondo-Savage, Mayor Corey Woods, and Paul Quinn. 3: Minuteman Press owners, Willie & Capri Price, celebrate the opening of their new Tempe location.



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MARCH 2025

business monthly

A ROUNDUP OF NEWS
FROM LOCAL BUSINESSES



Shamrock Roofing Now Offers Gutter Installation And Replacement

Shamrock Roofing has long served the valley, assisting homeowners with their roofing needs. To make the process easier and more streamlined, Shamrock Roofing Services now offers gutter cleaning, repairs and new gutter installation. A common misconception among homeowners is that gutters aren't needed in Arizona due to minimal rainfall. However, many don't realize that gutters help redirect water away from walkways and the home's foundation, preventing water from pooling.

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Flower Child Debuts In Tempe

Flower Child is a fast-casual restaurant designed to inspire and support healthy lifestyles. As part of Sam Fox's Fox Restaurant Concepts, the multi-location restaurant provides made-from-scratch meals cater to various dietary needs. Flower Child's menu offers customizable bowls, wraps, salads, a mix-and-match selection of veggies, grains, fruits, and healthy proteins. Flower Child Tempe (737 S. Novus Place) is open daily for lunch and dinner from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. For more, visit IAmaFlowerChild.com.



Fox Concepts Blanco Cocina + Cantina opens at Novus Place

Blanco Cocina + Cantina welcomes guests into a laid-back yet energetic space where bold Mexican flavors and creative cocktails take center stage. From house-made corn tortillas and fresh-squeezed margaritas to menu staples like Tiger Shrimp Fajitas with spicy garlic butter and a variety of tacos, including slow-cooked BBQ pork. Open daily from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. (Sunday - Thursday) and until 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. For more, visit blancococinacantina.com

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HOMEGROWN *Craftsmanship:* GENOVA DEVELOPMENT





Designing meaningful spaces that blend history, innovation, and community

ARTICLE BY JETT ARREDONDO
PHOTOGRAPHY PROVIDED

Aaron Genova, founder of Genova Development, has dedicated his career to creating highly personalized custom residences and inspired hospitality environments. Growing up in Massachusetts as the only child in a family that ran a small construction company specializing in historical preservation and renovation, he was immersed in the world of craftsmanship from an early age. By 12, Aaron spent his summers gaining hands-on experience, and his early exposure to high-quality practices and industry knowledge laid the foundation for his future success.

CONTINUED >



Aaron pursued his passion for construction and design at Arizona State University, graduating from the Del E. Webb School of Construction at the ASU College of Engineering. To enhance his expertise, he also completed numerous classes in The School of Architecture, beginning a lifelong study of implementing and refining good design. With a vision to create a company rooted in integrity, efficiency, and adherence to industry best practices—qualities often lacking in the industry—he spent a decade working for two of Arizona’s most exclusive custom builders before founding Genova Development in 2012.

Aaron initially launched the company as a partnership with another respected industry professional and the creative development team at venue projects. Together, they completed several adaptive reuse and redevelopment hospitality projects. In 2020, Aaron consolidated full ownership to sharpen the company’s focus on its work, culture,

and processes. Since its inception, Genova Development has completed over \$80 million in high-profile projects, including work at the Desert Botanical Garden and numerous well-published custom residences. Most recently, the company expanded its presence in Tempe with a pair of renovations that were very meaningful to the client families.

For over 17 years, Aaron Genova has lived in South Tempe’s Alisanos neighborhood with his wife, Natalie, and their three daughters—Madison, Hailey, and Siena. As an active community member, he has coached recreational and club soccer and continues to support local schools, including Tempe Preparatory Academy and Kyrene del Cielo Elementary.

“It’s an honor to have the opportunity to do the work that I love in the community that I love,” Aaron shares, reflecting on his deep-rooted commitment to Tempe.



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Accurate Air: A Legacy of Excellence Since 1965

ARTICLE PROVIDED | PHOTOGRAPHY BY BRAD HENDRON



“

“Our goal is to provide honest advice, fair pricing, and exceptional service every time.”

For nearly six decades, Accurate Air has been a trusted name in the Tempe community, providing high-quality HVAC services to residents and businesses alike. This family-run company, established in 1965, has built its reputation on reliability, customer service, and a commitment to excellence.

FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

Jim and Donna Wood, the founders of Accurate Air, weren't originally from Tempe. The couple moved to the area in the early 1960s, drawn by the promise of opportunity and the chance to raise their family in the growing Arizona community. Tempe's warm climate and vibrant neighborhoods made it the perfect place for them to settle down and build a business rooted in service and integrity. In the beginning, Donna worked from home answering the phones while Jim pulled calls and worked three jobs until Accurate grew its customer base. There were times when Donna would go on service calls with Jim just so they could be together while Jim worked many long hours. It didn't take long for that growth to happen.

COMPREHENSIVE HVAC SERVICES

Accurate Air specializes in a wide range of HVAC services, including installation, repair, and maintenance of heating and cooling systems. Whether it's ensuring your air conditioning runs efficiently during scorching summers or keeping your home warm on chilly desert nights, Accurate Air has you covered. Their team also offers indoor air quality assessments and solutions, helping customers breathe easier.

Additionally, Accurate Air offers a yearly maintenance plan, called a PSA, which includes semi-annual inspections, preferred no overtime service, extended parts warranties, and discounted repairs.

PREFERRED BRANDS AND EXPERTISE

Over the years, Accurate Air has developed strong partnerships with top HVAC brands. They often recommend systems from trusted manufacturers like Trane, Lennox, and Bosch, known for their reliability and energy efficiency. However, the team is experienced in working with all major brands, ensuring they can meet the unique needs of every customer.

“Our technicians are constantly in training to keep up with the changing HVAC industry. We have both NATE-certified and Master Heat Pump technicians on our team,” says Tom, president and co-owner.

THE SECRET TO LONGEVITY

What has kept Accurate Air thriving for nearly 60 years? According to the team, it's their unwavering dedication to customer satisfaction.

“We've always believed in treating our customers like family,” says Sandra Zurick, vice president and co-owner. “Our goal is to provide honest advice, fair pricing, and exceptional service every time.”

This commitment has earned Accurate Air a loyal customer base, with many families relying on their services for generations. They also have over 300 five-star ratings on Google.

WHAT SETS ACCURATE AIR APART

In addition to their decades of experience, Accurate Air's personalized approach makes them unique. As a family-owned business, they prioritize building lasting relationships with their customers. Their technicians are known for their professionalism, expertise, and friendly demeanor, ensuring every interaction is positive.

“Our customers are family. We share their joys, sorrows, birthdays—you name it. We have customers call all the time just to chat!” says Dolly Cutruzzula, accounts manager and co-owner.

CONTINUED >



MAINTENANCE TIPS FROM THE EXPERTS

Regular maintenance is key to keeping your HVAC system running efficiently. The Accurate Air team recommends the following tips:

- Change your air filters every 1-3 months to maintain proper airflow and improve indoor air quality.
- Schedule annual tune-ups for your heating and cooling systems to catch potential issues early.
- Keep the area around your outdoor unit clear of debris to ensure optimal performance.
- Invest in a programmable thermostat to save energy and reduce utility costs.

MORE THAN JUST A BUSINESS

For the family behind Accurate Air, the company is more than just a livelihood—it's a legacy.

Jim and Donna have since passed on, and the company is now owned and operated by their children—Tom, Sandra, and Dolly—who ensure it remains a cornerstone of the Tempe community for years to come.

"We're proud to be part of this community and to have earned the trust of so many families over the years. Their trust and loyalty mean the world to us," says Sandra.

Whether you need routine maintenance, emergency repairs, or a complete system replacement, Accurate Air is a name you can count on. Their commitment to quality and customer care continues to make them a local staple, serving Tempe and the surrounding areas with pride.

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Renovate Your Gate

THIS BUSINESS HELPS HOMEOWNERS
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ARTICLE BY MICHELLE TALSMAN EVERSON
PHOTOGRAPHY PROVIDED



*Photo by Hayley
Stall Photography*



When someone visits your home, the first thing they see is something we may not often consider—your gate. An updated gate, whether stylish, practical, or both, can be a unique way to make your residence stand out. Luckily, Renovate Your Gate, a locally owned gate contractor, transforms gates of all shapes and sizes from drab to fab.

James Lewis founded Renovate Your Gate in 2020 when he turned a long-time hobby into a full-time business.

“It started when my HOA asked me to clean up my gate, so I put new boards on it, added paint, and fixed it up,” Lewis shares. “I really liked it because I enjoy working with my hands and loved transforming my old gate into something new that stood out. When neighbors saw the gate, they asked me to do theirs, and my business grew from their referrals.”

Today, Lewis and his wife, Heather, renovate gates across the East Valley and beyond.

Lewis emphasizes the benefits of renovating a gate, including safety, security, and enhanced curb appeal.

“Whatever the customer’s vision is, we can likely make it come to life,” he says. “We have worked on a lot of unique projects—if the homeowner can draw it, we can likely make it happen.”

For homeowners dealing with HOA compliance issues, Renovate Your Gate provides a local solution.

“If you get dinged by your HOA, they often don’t offer gate renovation services or referrals,” Lewis explains. “We’re here to help homeowners meet HOA requirements while adding personalization and creativity, too.”

Renovate Your Gate offers a variety of gate options, from decorative and ornamental designs to practical RV gates. Their services include knocking down block walls to widen spaces for gates and integrating technology like electronic touchpads for secure entry.

The team has also renovated gates for side yards and dog runs, creating solutions for privacy in townhouses or smaller spaces—all while ensuring code compliance.

Lewis has lived in the East Valley for over a decade, and Heather was born and raised in Ahwatukee. Their business remains family-owned and operated, a choice they’ve made intentionally.

“We’re a small business, and demand is high, but we stay small on purpose so we can continue to emphasize quality gates and flawless customer service,” Lewis says. “It’s quality over quantity for us, and we work with customers across the Valley.”

He adds, “No job is too small, and we strive for excellence in every project. Whether it’s a residential or commercial gate, pride and innovation shape everything we do.”

What makes Renovate Your Gate stand out is not just their craftsmanship but also their approachable and fun sense of humor. Their small team makes the gate renovation process seamless and enjoyable.

“We had a wonderful experience with Renovate Your Gate, and we love our new gate,” local customer George Sant shares in a review. “The company was responsive from the initial inquiry to completion. We got to pick our design and our color; they even recommended and installed the keypad lock.”

Looking ahead, Lewis hopes to continue adding unique gates to the area, one home or business at a time.

“We have worked on a lot of unique projects; if the homeowner can draw it, we can likely make it come to life.”



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We asked: What's *one* helpful tip you can share with homeowners?

TEMPE HOME SERVICE EXPERTS SHARE THEIR TOP TIPS
FOR A FUNCTIONAL AND BEAUTIFUL HOME.

ARTICLE AND PHOTOGRAPHY PROVIDED



Michael Smith | *Owner of Gold Star Plumbing and Drain*

"Maintaining your home's water quality offers numerous benefits, from drinking water to your shower. One immediate effect of untreated water is scale buildup, especially in areas with hard water. Minerals like calcium and magnesium accumulate in pipes, water heaters, and appliances, such as dishwashers and washing machines. This buildup forces devices to work harder, reducing their efficiency and lifespan. As a result, energy bills rise, and appliances may need to be replaced sooner. Poor water quality can also affect your health, potentially leading to medical issues from harmful substances like chlorine, lead, and bacteria. Treating water protects both health and appliances."



Shaunna Cooper | *Owner & Interior Designer of Three & Me Designs*

"Window treatments are a powerful design element that can transform any space. They provide privacy, control light, and add texture, color, and personality to a room. Layering treatments, like pairing sheer shades with decorative drapery, creates depth and allows flexibility for both natural light and privacy. Opt for high-quality fabrics and proper installation to ensure a polished look. When selecting treatments, consider the room's function and overall style—neutral tones for a timeless feel or bold patterns to make a statement. Well-chosen custom window treatments are the finishing touch that ties a room together beautifully."



Will Hren | *Owner of Mr. Handyman of Mesa, Tempe, and Gilbert*

"For most of us, our home is our largest investment—and often the most taken for granted. It's where we live and relax. I suggest creating a routine to regularly inspect your home. When you change your air filters, take a moment to walk around and check both the interior and exterior. Keep an eye out for small issues that need attention, like a faucet that leaks slightly, peeling paint on fascia boards, or a loose cabinet hinge. Addressing these little problems early can save you a lot of money in the long run."

CONTINUED >



Joshua Farley | *President of Redline Electric & Solar*

“Check your GFCI outlets and breaker panel before calling an expert. If you’ve lost power to an outlet or appliance, check all GFCI outlets in your home. Look for “Test” and “Reset” buttons (commonly in kitchens, bathrooms, or garages) and press “Reset” to restore power. Sometimes these control other outlets too! If that doesn’t help, check your breaker panel. Look for a breaker that’s not fully in the “On” position—it might be halfway. Flip it to “Off” and then back to “On.” These simple steps may save you a service call. If the problem persists, call a professional.”



AZ Flooring and Finishes | *Jaiden, Karen, and Owner Michelle Hunt*

“Thinking about new flooring or finishes? Start by seeking out professionals and planning meticulously. First, define your vision and establish a realistic budget. Choose quality materials—while they may cost more upfront, they’ll save you headaches and money over time. Expect the unexpected: surprises are common during remodeling, and additional costs may arise. Be cautious with DIY: many products aren’t warranted unless installed by a licensed professional. Stay organized by keeping track of receipts, warranties, maintenance, and schedules. Communicate clearly with contractors and family members, ensuring everyone is on the same page and all questions are answered.”



Shawn McPeters | *Owner of Sunset Gates, LLC*

“If your gate is looking oxidated and sad, we recommend getting some WD40 along with a thick Micro-Fiber Rag. Dampen the rag with the WD40 and wipe down the frame. The dust, dirt and oxidation will stick to the Rag leaving the Oil to condition the paint and iron. While you’re at it, go ahead and squirt the hinges and latch too. If you do this twice a year, once before our crazy summer heat (May/June) and once after summer to re-condition your gate (October/November), your gate will love you for years to come.”



By the Yard | *Colleen, Annette, and Helena*

Colleen recommends “Consider the trends, but follow your heart with your selections of fabrics. Our goal is longevity in making your house feel like home.” Annette says “I strive to encourage clients out of their comfort zones and try something fun and fresh. Designing your home is a wonderful opportunity to express your lifestyle and creativity.” Helena’s tip “Fall in love with one fabric and we can build a whole room around it... Even if it ends up being one pillow, fabric should make you feel happy, at home.”



Gabby Trasser | *Owner of Kitchen Tune-Up Tempe and Awahtukee*

"Kitchen remodeling is exciting, but my biggest piece of advice is to plan with both function and longevity in mind. Trends like warm wood tones, mixed materials, and smart storage solutions are big in 2024-2025, but beyond aesthetics, a well-thought-out design prevents regret. One of the biggest mistakes homeowners make is rushing into decisions without considering workflow, durability, and daily use. Choose quality materials that fit your lifestyle, set a realistic budget with a cushion for unexpected costs, and work with a team that truly listens to your needs. A great kitchen isn't just beautiful—it makes life easier."



Brando Salazar | *Owner of LB Closets*

“Before you begin your closet project, take stock of everything you own. Pull it all out and sort through each item, discarding or donating anything that’s out-of-date, damaged, or no longer worn. Once you know exactly what you have, you can plan how best to store it—whether that’s on hangers, folded in drawers, or stacked on shelves. Starting with a clear count keeps things streamlined and helps ensure your closet remains both functional and clutter-free.”

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INNOVATION MEETS ARTISTRY

Kitchen design has entered a transformative era, where innovation meets artistry to create spaces that are not only functional but also personal and sustainable. With advancements in technology, materials and craftsmanship, today's kitchens are tailored to meet the evolving needs and tastes of homeowners.

According to interior designer Laura McCroskey, kitchens today are about more than just cooking—they're an expression of personal lifestyle.

"Kitchen design has entered an exciting time where the possibilities feel limitless," says McCroskey. "For me, the design process starts before lines are ever drawn on a construction document. I believe in creating spaces that enhance life, both functionally and aesthetically. The design process begins with a discussion about what a space needs to do, and what aesthetic will bring a spark to the homeowner. I also firmly believe that when

ARTICLE BY ALLISON SWAN
PHOTOGRAPHY BY NATE SHEETS



THE HEART OF THE HOME

designing a kitchen, one should walk out a recipe to make sure everything is in the right place to suit one's lifestyle. Cooking zones are imperative to a well-designed kitchen."

Modern kitchens emphasize zoning, or the creation of dedicated areas for preparation, cooking and storage, to enhance workflow and functionality. These zones not only improve efficiency but also contribute to a cohesive and visually appealing aesthetic.

Cutting-edge rendering software, utilizing technology similar to that used in gaming, allows homeowners to visualize their dream kitchens in hyper-realistic detail. While these tools inspire creativity, McCroskey advises balancing ambitious ideas with practical implementation to achieve the best results.

Technology, sustainability and customization are driving the revolution in kitchen design. Advanced appliances are at the forefront, enhancing convenience while aligning with a growing emphasis on eco-friendliness.

"From vacuum-sealing drawers that preserve food and reduce waste to smart appliances controlled by your phone, the emphasis is on efficiency and sustainability. Functional storage built seamlessly into marble countertops and oversized workstation sinks are making daily tasks easier and more enjoyable. Thoughtful features like composting

compartments and advanced food preservation methods reflect a broader effort to minimize waste and reduce environmental impact."

Custom cabinetry that maximizes every inch of space minimizes waste while optimizing functionality.

"Forget the limits of traditional cabinetry. Blind corners, tiny nooks and hidden areas are now designed to maximize storage. Automated drawers and pop-up outlets are becoming increasingly common, marrying convenience with sleek aesthetics."

Design trends have also evolved, becoming more flexible to reflect individual tastes.

"While white kitchens remain timeless and black adds drama, bleached woods continue to be popular. Style trends are no longer as rigid—whether you prefer modern, transitional, or traditional designs, you can create a kitchen tailored to your unique vision. There's no limit to what you can achieve with today's tools and technologies. The goal is to create spaces that resonate deeply with the people who live in them."

The kitchen is the heart of every home and represents a space of endless possibility. Whether your aesthetic leans modern, farmhouse or somewhere in between, the tools and technologies available today make it easier than ever to bring your vision to life.



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MARCH 2025

events

A SELECTION OF UPCOMING
LOCAL EVENTS

FEBRUARY 28TH - MARCH 1ST

Extra Innings Festival at Tempe Beach Park- Weekend Two

Tempe Town Lake & Tempe Beach Park

Attention all music lovers! The Innings Festival is offering fans a doubleheader with a second festival weekend on Feb. 28 & March 1! The Extra Innings Festival at Tempe Beach Park has added a line-up of top artists that includes The Lumineers, Megan Moroney, The Red Clay Strays, Wyatt Flores, O.A.R., Trampled By Turtles and more. Don't miss the chance to catch these amazing performances!

MARCH 7TH - 9TH

Tempe Spring Festival of the Arts

Downtown Tempe

Mill Ave and 5th St / 6:00 PM

The Tempe Spring Festival of the Arts returns to Downtown Tempe March 7-9, 2025. More than 350 artist booths line Mill Avenue and the surrounding streets, presenting unique and handmade artwork that offers visitors a distinctive shopping experience. Visit the Festival of Arts event website for additional details.

MARCH 8TH

Cafeteria Comedy Club at Mountain America Stadium

501 E Rio Salado Pkwy, Tempe / 6:00 PM

Mountain America Stadium, home of the ASU Sun Devils, transforms into an indoor comedy club. Experience a lineup of live comedy shows, dubbed the "Cafeteria Comedy Club." Zainab Johnson is a comedian, actress, and writer. Her comedy is based on her unique point of view, growing up in Harlem as one of thirteen siblings in a black Muslim family. asu365communityunion.com

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