

By Christina Fuoco-Karasinski

Anthem business leaders visit their Gilbert counterparts

Anthem-area business leaders have come together for 2019 to learn how they can advocate for themselves and their peers.

The Anthem Area Chamber of Commerce launched the Anthem Area Leadership Academy to empower aspiring leaders with the tools, experiences and networks necessary to address local and regional challenges.

The class came together for a seventh time this year and met with Gilbert's Redevelopment Program Manager Amanda Elliot with the Office of Economic Development to learn how Gilbert has transformed its city center and the results of a 30-year vision to create a strong business community.

During the 10-month program, participants—all members of the Anthem Area Chamber of Commerce—hope to develop skills and knowledge in policy areas relevant to economic and community development.

As participants complete the AALA program, they develop a Legacy Project to demonstrate opportunities for economic development in the Anthem and North Valley areas.

Info: Sawana Grimmert, 480-370-6349, or Heather Maxwell, 623-322-9127.

Rusty's Angels expands its reach

Rusty's Resale Boutique recently opened at 42407 N. Vision Way, Suite 107, Anthem, to support Rusty's Angels Sanctuary, a New River nonprofit organization dedicated to providing a safe and caring environment for senior and special needs canines.

All proceeds from the resale boutique directly provides care for senior dogs that are either looking for their new forever homes or retiring at the sanctuary. The Resale Boutique will also:

- Support the mission of Rusty's Angels
- Provide a place for volunteers to help their community
- Raise awareness and find forever homes for their senior dogs
- Raise much needed funds for the sanctuary

The grand opening is 9 a.m. Saturday, October 5, with shopping, raffles, snacks, drinks



AALA participants pose in Gilbert during a tour by Gilbert Redevelopment Program Manager Amanda Elliot with the Office of Economic Development. From left, Heather Maxwell, executive director of Anthem Area Chamber of Commerce; Tracy Van Ravensway of Collective Concepts Real Estate; Chris Gonzalez of All Western Mortgage; Martha Copeland of Merrill Gardens; Sawana Grimmert of The Salt Spa & AALA program director; and Amanda Elliot and Tyler Estes of ProSkill Services. (Photo courtesy Anthem Area Chamber of Commerce)

and senior dogs looking for homes.

Anything that is donated, but Rusty's Resale Boutique cannot use, is donated to Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Prospective volunteers should email rustysresaleb@gmail.com or visit rustysanctuary.org/rustysresale.

Anthem honored multiple times this summer for various programs

The summer season was more "nonsoon" than "monsoon," but Anthem has been showered with good news.

The community capped off its 20th year with numerous local, regional and national awards and accolades, represented by the Anthem Community Council.

- The American Sports Builders Association awarded "Best Outdoor Facility" to the new Anthem Pickleball Courts, which opened in January. This makes the courts a contender for the "Best Facility" award, which will be announced in Washington, D.C. in December.

- StarGuard Elite honored the Anthem Community Center Lifeguard Team with a "Five-Star Rating" this summer, making it the sixth year in a row for this distinction.

- The ACC Communications & Public Affairs Department was honored with two

National City-County Communications and Marketing Association Silver Circle Savvy Awards in "Best New Logo Design" (for the 20th anniversary logo) and "Best Use of Photography" (photo credit Nate Decker) at the organization's national conference in Denver.

- The 2018 Veterans Day Ceremony is a finalist for "Best Event" from the Arizona Talent in Event Concepts Association. The ACC is a finalist in categories for marketing and promotion of special events, as well. The awards ceremony is October 24 in Avondale.

"Being a great place to live, work, and play is the tagline of many communities," says Kristi Northcutt, Anthem Community Council's director of communications and public affairs. "The awards and accolades we've earned as we wrap up our 20th year as a community prove that we truly are one of those places—a safe, thriving place for our residents to call home and where they enjoy a plethora of beautiful amenities, and where our employees take great pride in providing high-quality programs and services."

Anthem Realtor Maxwell-Ellison joins Platinum Living Realty

Carrie Maxwell-Ellison joined Platinum Living Realty, an independent luxury real estate brokerage with four offices across Arizona.

"We are thrilled to have Carrie join Platinum Living Realty," says Michelle Macklin, co-owner of Platinum Living Realty. "Carrie is passionate about helping others make the most of their opportunities in this market and is always in touch with what's happening in the Anthem community."

Maxwell-Ellison spent much of her childhood moving across the country for her father's employment, and when the time came

Briefs continued on pg. 17