

## NEWS BRIEFS

## Disability panel to meet June 13 at City Hall

The city of Surprise Disability Advisory Commission will meet 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, June 13 in Council Chambers at City Hall, 16000 N. Civic Center Plaza.

The commission focuses on community-wide advocacy to address the needs of those with disabilities, as well as raising public awareness. Public attendance is encouraged.

Call 623-222-3545 or email [michelle.boyer@surpriseaz.gov](mailto:michelle.boyer@surpriseaz.gov).

## TRANSIT STUDY Wikimap online, transit meeting set for June 13

City officials last week issued an appeal to residents to participate in the ongoing transit feasibility study through online wikimap hosted at [www.surpriseaz.gov/transitstudy](http://www.surpriseaz.gov/transitstudy).

Participants may share information on their most frequented shopping, dining, education, medical and recreation destinations in Surprise to help officials complete the study.

Through the wikimap, officials will capture residents' travel start and end points within city boundaries and use the collected data to determine where routes are most needed, potential ridership levels and transit frequency.

The wikimap will be available until 5 p.m., Friday, June 29.

For those needing assistance with the wikimap, or who may have questions about the study, a public workshop is scheduled for 5:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 13 in the Community Room at Surprise City Hall, 16000 N. Civic Center Plaza.

At the workshop, the project team will share more information about public transit and provide a preview of potential routes.

The goal of the study is to understand how transit can best serve Surprise residents and visitors, including what type of services will be needed, where transit will be most successful and potential

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# Community

To report news or suggest story ideas, email [WVnews@newszap.com](mailto:WVnews@newszap.com)

## CULINARY

## Surprise chefs win 'best in show'

Three chefs from The Park at Surprise bested 45 other competitors to capture "best in show" for their culinary entries at the fifth annual Taste of Surprise at Surprise Stadium.

The Park at Surprise is a new, resort-style independent living community and stepped up as lead co-sponsor of the event this year.

The Park at Surprise chefs, Jose Bojorquez, Chuck Baxter and Joel August, also decided to showcase The Park's culinary poise and crafted delectable mango pineapple pork canopies for the event.

The chefs can be found at The Victory Bistro and Wine Bar, located at The Park at Surprise, and opening soon. The bistro will serve homemade cuisine, such as gourmet soups, hand-crafted sandwiches, wood-fired pizzas, homemade desserts, plus coffee, wine, beer and special daily items.

The Rotary Club of Surprise hosted the Taste of Surprise and showcased 46 restaurants which served 1,600 mouth-watering attendees. The event also featured 12 beer, wine and spirit



Three chefs from The Park at Surprise bested 45 other competitors to capture "best in show" for their culinary entries at the fifth annual Taste of Surprise at Surprise Stadium.

vendors as well as eight entertainment groups, with the help of 25 sponsors and more than 150 volunteers.

The Taste of Surprise raised \$30,000 that was spread among nine local charities.

"It was so fun to give the people of Surprise a 'taste'

of all the wonderful things they will be able to enjoy at The Park at Surprise," said Rhonda Thiel, executive director at The Park at Surprise. "We hope our Victory Bistro becomes a 'go-to' place for friends, co-workers and family members in Surprise. See you soon."



## Municipal munchies

From left, Surprise Councilman Todd Tande, Buckeye Councilman Craig Huestis, Youngtown Mayor Michael LeVault, Peoria Mayor Pro Tem Vicki Hunt, Tolleson Mayor Anna Tovar, Avondale Mayor Kenn Weise, Goodyear Vice Mayor Wally Campbell and Litchfield Park Mayor Tom Schoaf attend the 10th Annual Meet the Mayors Lunch hosted by West Valley Women June 7 at Arizona Broadway Theatre, 7701 W. Paradise Lane, Peoria. The group will host its 13th anniversary celebration at a luncheon in July. Visit [westvalleywomen.org](http://westvalleywomen.org). [Submitted photo]



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## HEALTH CARE

## Cognitive Neurologist joins Banner Research team

### Dr. Alireza Atri named Banner Sun Health Research Institute medical director

Banner Health has announced Dr. Alireza Atri, MD, PhD, is the new medical director of their Sun Health Research Institute. Dr. Atri, a leading clinician, researcher and educator in the area of Alzheimer's disease and related disorders, started May 31.

In his role Dr. Atri will oversee research, clinical care, and education and training programs on the BSHRI campus, work closely with colleagues at both BSHRI and Banner Alzheimer's Institute to further develop clinical and research programs on the Sun City campus, and continue to advance the understanding, treatment and prevention of Alzheimer's disease and other age-related disorders. In addition, he will help to grow Banner's leadership role in the effort to find effective Alzheimer's disease prevention therapies, and work closely with partners at Banner, Sun Health Foundation, and other stakeholders in the Sun Cities community.

"We are extremely excited about the chance to benefit from Dr. Atri's leadership role at BSHRI and in the Sun Cities community," said Eric Reiman, MD, Banner Research CEO. "We look forward to helping him and our

BSHRI colleagues to advance the fight against Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and related disorders, leverage their existing strengths, and have the greatest possible impact on patients, caregivers and their families."

Dr. Atri is a cognitive and behavioral neurologist who earned his undergraduate, masters and doctoral degrees (Biomathematics) at UCLA and Harvard Medical School, and his medical degree at UC San Francisco. He served as a longstanding clinician-researcher

and educator at Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard; moved to San Francisco to become The Ray Dolby Endowed Chair in Brain Health Research at California Pacific Medical Center; and continues to teach at Harvard Medical School as a Lecturer in Neurology.

"It is a great honor, privilege and opportunity to join the Banner Sun Health Research Institute, and the Banner Health research teams, to support a vision of paving the path to successful brain aging now, and to finding an end to Alzheimer's disease and related neurodegenerative disorders for the next generations," said Dr. Atri. "I am very energized to join like-minded and committed colleagues to foster partnerships with the community to support and expand current programs."

Dr. Atri sees BSHRI as a regional and national hub for dementia educa-

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Dr. Alireza Atri