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Anthem Area Edition

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

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## Investigation into shooting ongoing

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO-KARASINSKI  
Foothills Focus Executive Editor

Detectives are investigating a shooting that left one dead on April 5 in New River. According to Sgt. Monica Bretado of

the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, the victim is 51-year-old Donald Taylor.

She said deputies were dispatched to a shooting call at 7:35 p.m. April 5 near 43rd Avenue and West New River Road. Preliminary information revealed the

shooting came during a fight between two men. The other adult male was taken into custody without incident, she said.

"This investigation is still in the early stage and all the information available for release at this time," Bretado said. **FF**

## Board discusses possible Veterans Memorial expansion

BY SUMMER AGUIRRE  
Foothills Focus Staff Writer

Possible plans to expand the Anthem Veterans Memorial were discussed during an Anthem Community Council Board of Directors meeting on March 22. Over 100 veterans were in attendance.

The memorial, located at 41703 N. Galivan Peak Parkway in Community Park, is a monument with five pillars representing the unity of the five branches of the United States military: Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Navy and Marines. It is surrounded by brick pavers inscribed with the names of servicemen and women.

According to the meeting's minutes, the Anthem Veterans Memorial's (AVM) tentative expansion has been spearheaded by a volunteer planning committee consisting of several parties who initially helped with it-



The Anthem Veterans Memorial was dedicated in 2011 and has since had thousands of visitors, including schoolchildren who have visited the monument to learn about military history. (File photo)

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## MEMORIAL FROM PAGE 1

design and construction.

One of these individuals is retired U.S. Navy Rear Admiral Ron Tucker, who was the founder and project manager of the AVM. He provided the background and presentation materials for the Anthem Community Council (ACC) Board of Directors' consideration during the meeting.

"What's been looked at is the concept that was presented and then the timeline that went along with it, as well, and what engineering would go along," said ACC Communications Director John Safin in an interview. "Everything from the design all the way out to when to start scheduling potential construction is still in the works right now. There haven't been any definitive decisions made by the board of directors."

The proposal presented at the meeting states that the Circle of Honor may be expanded by adding pavers to commemorate veterans. They will extend through current flower beds and up to the benches.

"We are running out of space and blank pavers," Tucker said in an interview. "The expansion will add 3,000 more pavers, sold at a cost of \$150 to veterans, their families and donors which supplies continuing revenue to the Anthem Way Foundation."

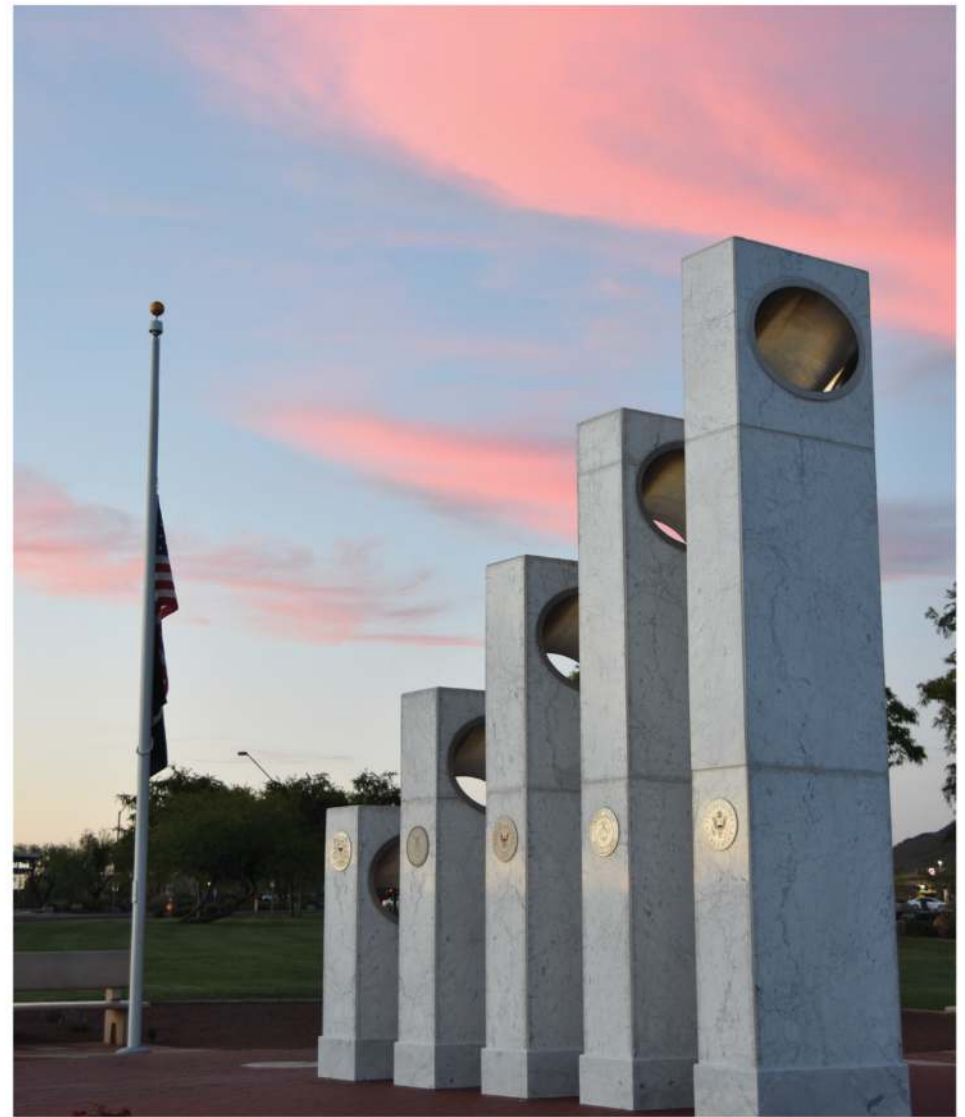
There will also be updates to the flowerbeds and perennial landscaping, as well as the addition of a new drainage system, seat wall with artificial turf, bench sponsor plates, behavior signage and revision to the lighting. Cracked pillars will be repaired.

The builders who constructed the AVM, Haydon Corps Inc., will head the project with their contractors. Haydon has taken on the project without fees and at minimal costs to the Foundation and Council.

Safin said that the tentative expansion cost is approximated at \$200,000.

The council has been tapped to pay for \$120,000 of the project, as well as \$12,000 to cover the cost for lost pavers.

"We also asked to take \$40,000 from the Anthem Way Foundation. Project fundraising efforts will take place to help reduce the cost to the council and reim-



The Anthem Community Council Board of Directors will come to a decision for the memorial project at a meeting on April 26. (File photo)

burse them," said Liz Turner, a former local resident who is on the committee. "The council gave \$100,000 and land to the original build and all that money was replaced through project fundraising."

The provisional timeline presented at the meeting projects that construction will begin in June, wrapping up by Aug. 30.

Throughout the presentation, Tucker said the AVM project is not "business as usual," and needs specialized attention and support given its presence in the community and certification as a State Historic Landmark.

Since the AVM's dedication on Nov. 11, 2011, thousands of tourists have visited the landmark, simultaneously boosting revenue at local businesses.

Over 5,000 schoolchildren have also visited the monument to learn about

military history, the AVM's significance, the meaning of the Great Seal, POW/MIA Day, Vietnam Veteran Commemoration and Pearl Harbor Day.

"We're very proud of our Anthem Veterans Memorial. We know that residents certainly approve of it and hundreds of people a week come to visit it all the time," Safin said. "So, knowing that it is such a notable landmark in the community, it's certainly something that everybody is proud of."

The council decision for this project will be announced at a 6:30 p.m. meeting on April 26 at the Anthem Civic Building. Community and veteran support and attendance is encouraged. **FF**

### Anthem Veterans Memorial

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