

Now that I'm a county supervisor, a common response is: *That's great, but what does county government actually do?* It can be confusing. For many of you, the County is not an obvious part of your life in the same way a city is. We don't collect your water bill or pick up your trash. We do manage roads that provide critical connections, but if you're stuck in traffic on your morning or evening commute, you're probably on a highway or road maintained and patrolled by a city or the State of Arizona. Clearing up that confusion is part of the reason Governor Ducey and the Board of Supervisors recognized April as [National County Government Month](#).

So what does the county do? The list is long, but here are three of the ways Maricopa County is improving lives in District 1:

East Valley Animal Shelter

We're building a new animal shelter in the East Valley to replace the current facility near Loop 101 and Rio Salado. The new shelter will offer all the services available at the current location. Making this change will improve the quality of care animals receive countywide as well as the experience of those who would like to adopt.

Not only are we working to improve the experience inside the shelters, we are also improving outcomes for animals who leave our shelters. Animal Care and Control had a 95% save rate in 2018, a number that has increased steadily over the past two years. You can learn more by visiting maricopa.gov/shelterplans.

San Tan Park

Maricopa County manages 12 regional parks covering more than 120,000 acres of open space. These parks are a unique and distinguishing feature of our growing region. Even when life gets busy, a good trail is never far away. Did you know the fastest-growing park in the nation's fastest-growing county is right here in District 1? San Tan Mountain Regional Park has seen a huge spike in visitors in recent years. That's why the Board of Supervisors approved funding to improve the popular Goldmine Trailhead. The project will mean more parking and a new entry facility. The goal is to better serve the needs of park visitors while respecting the privacy of those in surrounding neighborhoods. If you haven't visited San Tan yet, the park's [program guide](#) is a good starting point for information.

Libraries

Maricopa County operates 19 libraries across the region. In 2018, our libraries offered nearly 4,000 youth programs and 2,700 adult programs to educate, entertain, and connect community members with their world and each other. Residents in the East Valley have access to several libraries including Ed Robson Library in Sun Lakes; Queen Creek Library; and the Southeast Regional and Perry libraries in Gilbert. One popular program at Southeast Regional Library is the "Dogs With Jobs" series that allows people to learn about the many ways dogs are protecting and serving our community. I'd encourage you to visit mclidaz.org to learn what's available in your neighborhood. And remember, if you're a Maricopa County or Queen Creek resident, you can get a library card for free.

I believe county government plays a critical role in the quality of life for our community. You may not always see us, but from cleaning up the air and managing water to helping homeless pets and preserving open space, Maricopa County is working for you. Most importantly, I represent you. If you have questions or comments about our county, I want to hear from you!

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