

I always look forward to revisiting the month's activity. This past month has been a roller coaster of great accomplishment and sorrow; maybe reflection is more accurate...

Let's start with the good stuff. We (Board of Supervisors) adopted the 2011-2012 budget. The new budget captures both the reality of the current fiscal situation and the continued need for public services.

Next year's budget is \$357M; a 17% decrease from last year's \$429M budget! In spite of a 12% decrease in assessed values throughout the county, in addition to cost shifts from the State, we were able to hold the millage rate at \$3.99 (for every \$100,000 of assessed value of your home, you'll pay \$399 to the county). If your house was worth \$250k last year and now it is assessed at \$200k, your county property tax will go down almost \$200.

I believe this budget represents government as it should be; encouraged public input, responsive staff work, deliberate debate and ultimately, a pragmatic vote of the Board. I want to personally thank my fellow Supervisors for working together to make the cuts we need to work towards a fiscally conservative model of government.

On a side note, I want to pass along my respects to Mr. Kenny Baker. Mr. Baker passed away this past month after a lengthy battle with cancer. Kenny pushed hard to reduce our budget. Although we didn't agree on everything, we shared conservative values and a sincere desire to make Pinal County the best it can be. Irene (Mrs. Baker), you are in our thoughts and prayers.

The budget process has already begun for the 2012-2013 budget. We are far from out of the woods. Our revenues are still uncertain over the next few years. We remain at the mercy of our State Legislature as far as cost shifts. I humbly ask that all parties remain engaged as we work from day-to-day to ensure that the county provides necessary services within our means.

The county continues to move forward on a number of fronts. There are a few exciting business announcements coming in the next few weeks and months. The world is starting to notice this once sleepy little county.

The Congressional Land Swap proposal affecting the Resolution Copper Mine in Superior makes its way to the full House this next month in Washington, D.C. This legislation, drafted by Representative Dr. Paul Gosar, represents thousands of jobs and billions of dollars for Arizona. Keep your fingers crossed...

The 4th of July, although a bust on the fireworks, still allowed us to celebrate the fact that we live in the greatest nation on the planet. It is good to be an American!

The monthly 'Breakfast with Bryan' meetings continue to be a big success. It is a great time to bring your issues or to just sit and talk. Show up anytime between 8-9am. "I'll buy the coffee."

2nd Tuesday - Florence (Old Pueblo)

3rd Tuesday - Apache Junction (Village Inn)

3rd Thursday - Gold Canyon (Red Sage)

4th Tuesday - San Tan Valley (Terrace)

Also tune in to the weekly radio show, Thursdays from 6-8pm on <http://www.santanradio.com>.

Finally, this past month provided unforeseen opportunity to reflect. We had two deaths in the extended family; one expected, one unexpected. Although I have buried more than a handful of my military friends, these losses really hit home. Spend time with your kids and try to keep things in perspective. So much of what we think is important, really isn't.

Feel free to pass this along to your friends and HOAs. Don't hesitate to call or write with your questions or comments. Thanks!

Bryan