

## **OCTOBER 2011 NEWSLETTER COLUMN**

Welcome to October – a month replete with notable events such as Name Your Car Day (the 2<sup>nd</sup>), Sweetest Day and National Grouch Day (both on the 15<sup>th</sup>), National Nut Day (the 22<sup>nd</sup>), and Halloween (the 31<sup>st</sup>). October is also known as National Dessert Month, Family History Month, and National Pizza Festival Month so enjoy! By the way, there are only approximately 90 shopping days left before Christmas.

Before I say too much more, western Pinal County said goodbye to a quiet giant last month. Colin “Bill” Scott passed on September 14<sup>th</sup> after decades of service and labor in the arenas of agriculture, power, water, and community. He will be missed.

As many of you know, when the 2010 U.S. Census counted our noses we found that there were some 375,770 people residing here. That determination, of course, triggered a new reapportionment process for Pinal County since we now must elect five (5) county supervisors instead of three. Earlier this year, the Board of Supervisors authorized our Elections Department to employ consultants skilled in the arts of demographic analysis and familiarity with the U.S. Department of Justice pre-clearance process.

With their assistance, Elections Director Steve Kizer and his staff created and considered a number of redistricting map proposals. In the meantime the City of Casa Grande, concerned about the prospect of being split into multiple supervisory districts, created its own map proposal and submitted it to the Elections Department. After due consideration, County staff brought three different supervisory district map proposals to the Board during its September 7<sup>th</sup> meeting and the Board chose to place all three of the proposals before the public for input and comment.

There were a number of special input sessions held in various locations around the county last month and after all of the comments and suggestions were compiled, the Board will meet this month to select one of those district map proposals for transmittal to the Department of Justice. The DoJ has 60 days to review our submittal and rule on whether or not our proposed redistricting map complies with the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the criteria used by the DoJ’s Civil Rights Division under the provisions of Section Five of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Although the DoJ process of review (also known as pre-clearance) is complex, essentially the Department can approve our proposal, put it on hold while asking for more information about certain aspects of the proposal, or simply return it to us with a note that it needs modification. It is, of course, our belief that whichever map proposal we submit will be pre-cleared without any further review by the DoJ. If we’re successful, then prospective candidates can begin to circulate nomination petitions with an eye to the Primary Election of August 28, 2012 and the General Election on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

CAHRA (Community Action Human Resources Agency) will be holding utility assistance application events for those needing help with their utilities. Scheduled sessions in various locations in western Pinal County will take place throughout the month. For more information, call CAHRA at 520.466.1112.

Before I get to your appointment book, it's time to brag about our own Frito Lay plant. Over the last three years, the visionary folks at Frito Lay worked hard on a Near Net Zero concept that aimed to reduce the resources needed to make its products. Led by the intrepid Jason Gray, they stalled a water recovery/reuse facility designed to recycle 75% of all process water used. Five separate and distinct photovoltaic solar fields were installed throughout the property to produce enough power to meet 50% of the plants annual electric load. A huge bio mass boiler was constructed sufficient to produce all of the steam needs for the plant's operations and reducing their use of natural gas by over 80%.

And in 2009, they became the first snack food manufacturing facility to be certified LEED 2.0 Existing Building in the company, Arizona, and the U.S. Frito Lay USA and its parent company PepsiCo will celebrate this monumental achievement on October 5<sup>th</sup>. Once again, wonderful things are happening in Pinal County!

And now for a list of interesting, tasty, fun, and educational things for your calendar:

\*The City of Casa Grande will be hosting its annual Anti-Crime Night event in Carr-McNatt Park on Friday, October 7 from 6 to 9 p.m. It's a fun, family time with a serious message.

\*"Hot Wings for History" features local amateur chefs and their favorite wing recipes prepared on site for the public. This fun event on October 9<sup>th</sup> runs from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Casa Grande Valley Historical Society Museum. Call 520.836.2223 for more information.

\*The 24<sup>th</sup> Pinal County Town Hall takes place at the Francisco Grande October 12 and 13 – the theme is "Reactivating the Regional Economy" with a host of excellent speakers. Check the County web site for registration information.

\*Against Abuse's 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Taste of Casa Grande (The Property, October 16<sup>th</sup> from 1-4 p.m.) will be THE place to be! Food to die for and prizes to compete for. Call 520.836.1239 for tickets.

\*F.O.R. Maricopa (Maricopa's food bank) is holding its annual Grape Escapes on the evening of October 21<sup>st</sup> in the confines of the Ak-Chin Southern Dunes Golf Resort. Tickets and information are available at <http://www.FORmaricopa.org/wine>.

\*The revitalized Maricopa Stagecoach Days are back! It's a three day festival (October 21-23) at Pacana Park with a street dance on Friday and a community fair the other two days. Go to <http://maricopachamber.org> for more information.

\*Don't forget to come out and honor our country's veterans as you watch the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Day Parade in downtown Casa Grande. Starting at 9 a.m. on November 5<sup>th</sup> and following the Electric Light Parade route, it's sure to be a red letter event for everyone.

**David Snider**, Supervisor  
Pinal County District 3