

## PINAL COUNTY LIFESTYLE – OCTOBER 2010

As we move into the fall months and welcome back our winter visitors (and the return of cool nights and cooler days), I want to take this opportunity to share with you some thoughts about the growth and future of our county.

During this time of slowdown in our economy, you all may be wondering just what Pinal County planners are doing: especially since hardly anyone is building anything. Despite the fact that the perception isn't totally true, your Board of Supervisors and county staffers are hard at work planning for our collective future growth and development. Let's take the issue of economic development and employment first.

I know you've heard me say this many times: if Pinal County is to be more than a bedroom community – if the cities, towns, and communities that we're building are to be sustainable – if we are to be contributors to tomorrow's Sun Corridor Megapolitan that stretches from Phoenix to Tucson and not just consumers, then Pinal County residents must be able to work where they live ... in Pinal County.

To that end, there's not a week that goes by without our collaborating with either the State of Arizona and/or one or more of our local economic development organizations in order to bring an industry and jobs into Pinal. That includes providing support for the recently announced new industrial arrivals: Cargill XXX and Pinal Power LLC. We also worked with Republic Plastics so that they remained an employer in Pinal County.

We have become a part of a new coalition, called the Joint Planning Advisory Council, which consists of representatives of Pinal, Pima, and Maricopa Counties and their respective Councils of Government. Among the issues being addressed by JPAC are: preserving open spaces and natural resources, enabling the development of multiuse activity centers, creating quality job centers near a range of housing options, and the development of multimodal transportation systems for mobility and economic opportunities.

Our planning efforts in the areas of rail and major roadways, including the exploration of the Interstate 11 project that will possibly connect Las Vegas to not only Phoenix but also Maricopa and Casa Grande are on-going. We also continue to work with our CAAG partners on a regional transportation plan (and the funding to go with it).

OK – onward to the calendar. On Friday, October 1<sup>st</sup> the area's law enforcement and public safety agencies will gather together to demonstrate their resources and programs during the annual Anti-Crime Night Out. There'll be helicopters, fire trucks, SWAT equipment, and give-away goodies for the entire family. This year's gets underway at 5:30 pm at Carr McNatt Park in Casa Grande.

The very next night, the Friends of the Casa Grande Library are putting on their 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner at The Property in Casa Grande. For more information, contact the Casa Grande Public Library at 520.421.8690. The Friends raise funds to enhance the facilities and collections of the public library.

The following weekend – all weekend – is a fabulous community celebration in Maricopa’s Pacana Park: the return of Stagecoach Days. Starting on Friday evening, October 8<sup>th</sup>, with a barn dance at The Duke, Saturday’s events include community groups, arts & crafts vendors, bands and food vendors playing host to several thousands of area residents who gather to honor their area’s history in Pacana Park. Sunday’s concluding event is a 5k Fun Run Carnival. For more information, go to <http://www.maricopa-az.gov>.

Start saving up your taste buds – on October 24<sup>th</sup>, the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Taste of Casa Grande will take place at the Clubhouse of Robson Ranch in Eloy. This yearly “Must-Go” event raises funds for the shelters and programs operated by Against Abuse in aid of victims of domestic and child abuse. Featuring the best dishes from more than 25 local restaurants, the feast starts at 1 p.m. For more information, contact me at 520.836.0003 or Against Abuse at 520.836.1239.

Finally – if you enjoy a parade, break out your American flags, sun screen, lawn chairs, and patriotism. Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup> is the date for Casa Grande’s very own Veterans Day Parade. Slated to get underway at 10 a.m., the parade route starts at Brown & Florence Boulevard and heads west following the same path as the annual Electric Light Parade (and **that** fabulous event takes place on Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup>). As always, the Veterans Day Parade is all about Honoring Our Veterans and so the parade will feature western Pinal County veterans from all eras, conflicts, and wars. I hope to see you all there as we say “Thank You for your service!”

***David Snider***

Supervisor, Pinal County District 3