

## PINAL COUNTY LIFESTYLES FEBRUARY 2011

One month down and eleven (months) to go – no, there'll be no count-down of Christmas shopping days in this column! I don't know about you, but even though it's only February, 2011 seems to have been around a long time. Sigh – I guess it is all in your perspective.

Before I share a list of some things for your calendar, I'd like to spend some ink talking about our way of doing business with the business of county government. It's called performance-based budgeting – the name we've used for the last three years is Managing for Results. Essentially MFR consists of creating a business plan or a strategic agenda that enunciates a series of high priority goals for the organization.

Those goals are then further extended by identifying several performance measures. For example, one of our high priority goals is increase the public's access to county information. One of the performance measures might be (and is) then increase the number of forms (*i.e.* building permits, burn permits, etc.) available on-line via the County's website by 10% in calendar 2011.

Once those strategic goals and performance measures are established and agreed to by everyone, then all departmental budgets are tied to those key result areas. When Pinal County started down this path some 36 months ago and created our first Strategic Agenda document, we did so as the result of a day-long planning session involving the Board of supervisors, all of our constitutional officers (*e.g.* the County Treasurer, Attorney, Sheriff, etc.), and senior management staff. Once our first MFR plan was finalized, the plan became the Pinal County plan – and all 13 elected officials signed the document. This collaborative goal-setting has been followed every year since then as we begin the budget process.

Budgets for offices (of elected officials) and departments now are tied to the Strategic Plan – we have a roadmap and landmarks against which we can measure our progress. In late December of 2010, the MFR document was reviewed, revised, and reworked using the performance data generated from previous calendar and fiscal year's operations. This month, as we assess revenue and expenditure projections, and measure performance of our budgetary units, in preparation for the difficult budget and policy decisions that lie ahead of the Board, we have a much clearer picture of what and how we're doing and, more importantly, what needs to be done in the coming fiscal year to advance our Strategic Agenda. And yes, that newly revised Agenda can be found on our website.

OK – onward to events and dates of note this month. Up first is the annual Give Kids A Smile event, sponsored by Sun Life Family Health Center and Casa Grande Daybreak Rotary Club, on Saturday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at Sun Life's Family Dentistry & Orthodontics office at 865 N. Arizola Road in Casa Grande. The event will focus on dental health awareness and providing dental screens and services to local uninsured children from low income families.

On Thursday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, the Central Arizona Regional Economic Development Foundation (CAREDF) will hold its annual luncheon and celebrate their accomplishments this past year while looking forward into the new year. For more information, call CAREDF at 520.836.6868 or go online at <http://www.caredf.org>.

A far more sobering event takes place on February 15<sup>th</sup> in Casa Grande as Mayor Bob Jackson heads up a group of prominent residents (including elected officials) who commit themselves to spending a “normal” day in a wheelchair as part of the City’s annual Mayor’s Disability Day. The observance is designed to build awareness of the barriers that regularly confront those of us with disabilities. I’ll be participating and I invite you all to take some time to put yourself in the place of someone physically challenged. It’s not always easy getting around this world of ours.

February 19<sup>th</sup> has got to be one of the busiest days in the month: it starts with the 66<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Iwo Jima Flag Raising – a truly wonderful military parade (and B-17 flyover) at 9:00 a.m. kicks off a day’s worth of ceremonies in Sacaton. It’s sponsored by the Ira H. Hayes American Legion Post #84 & Auxiliary Unit # 84.

Then there’s the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Antique Appraisal Event, sponsored by P.E.O. Sisterhood’s Chapter BP, in Casa Grande’s United Methodist Church. There will be two sessions (one at 9 a.m. and one at 1 p.m.) and tickets are limited – call 520.233.0889 for more information. Profits from the event go to college scholarships.

Finally, the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Seeds of Change Gala, arranged around a Mardi Gras theme, is an Against Abuse, Inc. fundraising event in Maricopa. The fun begins at 5:30 p.m. in the special events tent at Harrah’s Ak-Chin Casino & Conference Center in Maricopa.

I hope to see you around the County this month,

*David Snider*

Pinal County Supervisor, District 3