

## PINAL COUNTY LIFESTYLES

JUNE 2010

Is it really? Can it truly be? Yes, Virginia – it is really and truly June! Warm and crispy June: home of Flag Day (hug and cherish your flag on the 14<sup>th</sup>), the first day of Summer (June 21 – OK, you can officially sweat now!), Father's Day (the 20<sup>th</sup> – a month later than Mother's Day but that's the way of the world), and don't forget to look up on June 3<sup>rd</sup> as we celebrate the anniversary of the first spacewalk as performed by the redoubtable astronaut Ed White in 1965.

This month is also the time of glorious summer vacations. Generally speaking, summer vacation is a concept for our kids who get a break from school (unless you're in summer school but that's a whole other set of memories) classrooms. In recognition of this youthful respite, I encourage you to be extra careful as you drive around, in, and/or out of residential neighborhoods: children at play tend not to pay attention to vehicular traffic and they're not always mindful of where the yard ends and the street begins. Please slow down and pay attention. And, be extra vigilant if you have really young ones and pools, ponds, or bathtubs full of water. Even two seconds of inattention is too long and could cost a child his or her life.

Meanwhile, back at the level of county government, we are working on several hot topics (pun intended). There's the FY 2011 budget. Following the May 18<sup>th</sup> election results for Proposition 100, the Board of Supervisors, the county's constitutional officers, and management staff have been working diligently to produce a tentative budget. At this point in time, the final budget – which I anticipate will be adopted by the end of the month – can only decrease in size. We will continue to work on it throughout the month with the goal of adopting a final budget by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

As many of you Gentle Readers may know, County Manager Terry Doolittle announced his intention to retire from Pinal County in October, 2010. Mr. Doolittle came to the county in 1986 after a six year stint in Arizona's Office of the Auditor General. While working for Pinal County he served in various capacities on the budget and finance side and rose to the post of Deputy County Manager. In 2005, Mr. Doolittle graduated from the Senior Executives in State and Local Government program at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School.

He came into his own in 2006 when his predecessor was discovered to have been defrauding taxpayers and County employees and he was appointed to be the County Manager. His was the unenviable task of righting the ship of Pinal County, restoring public confidence in Pinal County government, rebuilding employee morale and taking swift and measured steps to ensure that Pinal County would never have to endure the ignominy of another such catastrophe. Terry accomplished his mission and with the County back on the straight and narrow, he's going out at the top of his game.

He enjoys the confidence of this Board of Supervisors: this decision is his alone – the Board was as surprised as anyone when he made his announcement. I've known Terry for nearly 30 years and have the utmost respect and appreciation for his professionalism and skills as a county manager. He's also a personal friend and I wish him all the best of a well-deserved retirement.

However, in the five short months between now and his retirement, the Board will be orchestrating a national recruitment for a new County Manager. This Board and I are committed

to finding the best possible person to aid in our county's continued transition into the West's premiere county where everyone would like to live, work, and rear a family.

In these kinds of circumstances, the question always arises: "don't we have someone already on board or locally available who can do the job?" My answer has consistently been: "we may have someone like that in our immediate area – but by looking at the larger market and including our local candidates in that search, we will have validated our final choice against that larger market and done the best we can to find, recruit, and hire the best."

In closing, here's some proverbial Swedish wisdom: "Fear less, hope more; eat less, chew more; whine less, breathe more; talk less, say more; hate less, love more, and all good things are yours."

***David Snider***

Pinal County Supervisor District 3