

PINAL COUNTY LIFESTYLES

NOVEMBER 2011

November's an exciting month: we all work on recovering from the sugar hangover from over-indulging all that Halloween candy, there's more football on television than there are hours in a day and days in a week, a great parade to watch (and another one's just around the corner), pies and cakes to bake, and – sigh – about 60 shopping days left.

Speaking of parades, Casa Grande's very own Veterans Day Parade will take place on Saturday, November 5th: this year the parade is moving to a "new" venue – Florence Boulevard. Mayor Bob Jackson will start the festivities with some welcoming remarks at 8:45 a.m. with the Arizona Antique Aircraft Association (led by the intrepid Terry Emig) performing a fly-over at 9 a.m. to get the parade underway. Floats and parade entries will enter Florence Boulevard at Brown and proceed west on the Boulevard until it turns into Old Town on Florence Street and ending at the intersection of 2nd Street and Florence Street.

This is a great parade and gives us all a chance to honor our veterans who have served and are currently serving our country. Bring your chairs, flags, and patriotism and let our veterans know we're grateful for their service and protection. Later that same day, at 2 p.m., members of the Pinal County Veterans Memorial Foundation will be dedicating the site of a future Pinal County Memorial near the entrance of the Paul Mason Sports Complex. The Foundation will then hold a fund-raiser at the Paramount Theatre on in downtown Casa Grande. Starting at 5 p.m., the event will feature jazz music and other entertainments. And, Pinal County will honor veterans during its annual ceremony in Florence on November 9th at 2 p.m.

In addition to parades and celebrations honoring veterans, I'd like to take a moment or two to share some things and people I'm thankful for. I'm thankful for my mother (still going strong at 90 and holding her own) and family; the love and friendship of my Companion for Life Marilyn Ridgeway; the dedication and professionalism of the Pinal County staff – especially my Executive Assistant Wanda Kartchner; the many friends in Casa Grande, Pinal County, and Arizona I've grown to cherish during my nearly 40 years of residence and service in this great place we call home; the incredible and incomparable natural beauty I've found in every corner of this, my adopted home state; the many men and women of this county and country who've stood up to serve and protect me and mine, us and ours whether in military or public safety uniform; and for the democratic process that makes the USA great.

OK – from my "Did You Know" file, here's some things for your resource tool chest. The cities of Coolidge and Casa Grande recently agreed to coordinate the speed limit on Signal Peak Road: it is now officially a 45 mph limit on Signal Peak from SR 87 to SR 287 and back again.

For District 3 men: prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer in men and it's treatable with early detection. If you're over the age of 50 and never been tested, you need to do so sooner than later. On November 19th, there will be a FREE prostate cancer screening 'clinic' at the Cancer Treatment Services Arizona office (1876 E. Sabine Drive, Suite 10 – just east of the hospital) in Casa Grande from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Appointments are required so call 520.252.2212 as soon as possible. Free services are for uninsured men, ages 40 or older who haven't been tested in the last 12 months.

Work is progressing to renovate the 1891 County courthouse so that a newly elected five member Board of Supervisors (and the offices of the County Manager and Clerk of the Board) can relocate into the historic structure by December of 2012. Pre-construction work has been completed and the asbestos abatement was successfully completed as well. The Call for Bids was issued in mid-September and a pre-bid meeting was held on October 20th with the Bid Opening scheduled for November 17th. If all goes well, the Board will consider awarding the construction bid in early December.

Every year the United Way of Pinal County brings together folks who want to help make a difference in their communities and trains them to participate in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. These dedicated volunteers assist seniors and low income families and individuals in completing their tax returns. For more information, call United Way at 520.836.0736 or go to <http://www.unitedwayofpc.org/vita>.

I hope to see y'all at some of these great November events!

David Snider

Pinal County Supervisor District 3