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December 2009 Supervisor's Update

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Supervisor-District 2

December is behind us and was a great month to reflect and spend time with friends and family. I hope most took some time to let your friends and family know how important they are.

The most encouraging event for me in December was a new radio show I've been given the honor to host. There were three shows, Dec 2nd, 16th and 30th. The first show had about 13,000 listeners. The second bumped up to about 28,000. This past Wednesday night there were over 100,000 listeners! I'm so pleased to have a vehicle to communicate with the area to see what's going on. As a mostly rural county, communication is always a challenge. The format for the show is an informal, call-in-and-ask-questions-type format. Look for special guests like local elected officials, community activists and local celebrities. Tune in to www.kqcklive.com every other Wednesday night from 6-8pm.

Early in the month there was an important AZ Department of Transportation meeting to discuss the future east-west freeway running north of San Tan Valley (SR-802). About 100 citizens came together at Simonton Elementary to listen to ADOT talk about the new alignments and proposed timelines. I had the opportunity to speak briefly and thank ADOT for listening to the citizens of the community. You'll be happy to know that not a single home is within any of the newly proposed paths. Speaking up works!

On a historic front, there was a meeting in Casa Grande this month that brought together CAAG (Central Arizona Association of Governments - Pinal and Gila Counties), PAG (Pima Association of Governments - Pima County) and MAG (Maricopa Association of Governments - Maricopa County). This meeting was the first time all three entities have come together to discuss the combined futures of the agencies and the area. For years and years CAAG has received little or no attention relating to the growth of Arizona. Leaders at every level are starting to recognize that Pinal County plays a critical role in the growth and future of Arizona. We will work closely with these agencies to look out for the interests of Pinal/Gila County citizens while planning for Arizona's future.

Our Pinal County Sheriff's Office had a Sheriff's Posse graduation this month. What a great honor to speak and congratulate the 17 newest members of the PCSO/Pinal County family. Thank you for your sacrifice, commitment and volunteerism to your community.

The citizens of San Tan Valley received an early Christmas present from Arizona State Trust Land with the announcement of the removal of the dead orange trees. These trees, over 50,000, will be removed and hauled to Arizona's only biomass energy plant. The best part; no taxpayer dollars are used as the energy plant will trade the cost of transport for the energy and the removal costs will be reimbursed at the future sale of the property. A great victory for all! No more bugs or fire hazard...

Holiday festivities took up a big part of my time this month. I'd like to showcase just a few to recognize the community's commitment to working together and stepping up to help those less fortunate.

PCSO collected and distributed literally thousands of toys while San Tan Valley's annual Polar Fest was the backdrop to thousands of local citizens coming together for carnival rides, free food, fun, car shows, and even helicopter rides.

The neighbors in Magma Ranch had a great community event complete with hay rides throughout the lighted neighborhood. It was great to ride around, drink hot chocolate and sing Christmas songs. These are the kinds of events that last a long time in a kid's memory.

Finally, I want to thank all the organizations that invited me and my wife to their holiday events; ADOBE, Gold Canyon Lion's, Hope Women's Center, AJ Chamber of Commerce, The Lincoln Institute and others.

Selecting the employee of the month was tough this month. December had some big air quality issues. New standards are going to have a major impact. Pinal County is blessed to have a "no kidding" expert working through all the issues. December's employee of the month is Mr. Don Garbielson, Director, Pinal County Air Quality. Thanks, Don!

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