

## PINAL COUNTY LIFESTYLE – OCTOBER 2009

Welcome to October. I won't tell you how many shopping days before Christmas, but y'all can do the math. For those of you Gentle Readers who are less concerned about the on-coming holidays and their commercial content, there is some good news and any number of good, interesting, and entertaining things to do this month. So buckle your seatbelt and away we go.

As some of you may have seen elsewhere Congresswoman Kirkpatrick was able to successfully champion an award of Drug Free Community grant funds to both the Coolidge Youth Coalition and the MASH Coalition. The grants are for \$125,000 each for the first year and potentially renewable for up to an additional four to nine years. These dedicated community groups have been working hard to bring anti-substance abuse (drugs and alcohol) education campaigns as well as other anti-self destructive youth programs to their areas. Well done and congratulations to all involved!

By now we all know that it's the flu season. The Pinal County Public Health Services District is providing flu shots – for the regular (non-H1N1) or seasonal flu – for adults by appointment until October 17<sup>th</sup>. After the 17<sup>th</sup>, walk-in appointments for shots will be accepted. The cost of the adult flu shot is \$15 and can be scheduled by calling 1.888.431.1311. Why haven't I said anything about regular flu shots for kids? Although the vaccine for children wasn't available to the District until early September, shots for kids don't require appointments. In the meantime, health care professionals recommend frequent and thorough hand washing habits to protect yourself and others. For a location of a County Health Services District clinic near you, visit the Pinal County website at <http://pinalcountiaz.gov>.

For some time, the County has been quietly working with the City of Casa Grande and the Arizona Water Company to make improvements in the water, sewer, and fire protection infrastructure in the Colonia del Sol. Some time ago, the County and City jointly submitted a grant application to cover the costs of extending the City's sewer throughout the Colonia – Arizona Water Company agreed to replace its 4 inch water mains (most of the system is 6 inch mains) in the area – and Pinal County agreed to acquire some 50 plus fire hydrants for the Colonia. Regrettably, that grant application was denied; however, the County was recently able to secure enough CDBG funding to purchase 18 hydrants for the area. Installation will take place over the next several months and should be complete by the end of 2009. Fire protection in the Colonia should be greatly improved when the project's complete!

OK – onward to the calendar: start your day planner. On Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> the area's law enforcement and public safety agencies will gather together to demonstrate some of 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 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner at The Property in Casa Grande. The theme is a diner theater mystery entitled Die-Nasty in Dallas. 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 will see a fabulous community celebration in Maricopa's Pacana Park: the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Founders' Day event. Starting at 2 pm on October 10<sup>th</sup>, community groups, arts & crafts vendors, bands and food vendors play host to several thousands of area residents who gather to honor their area's history. For more information, go to <http://www.maricopa-az.gov>.

Eight days after that blockbuster event, the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Taste of Casa Grande will take place at Eva's Restaurant in Casa Grande. 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 pm on Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. For more information, contact me at 520.836.0003 or Against Abuse at 520.836.1239.

Not to be outdone, the F.O.R. Maricopa Food Bank is sponsoring its second Grape Escapes wine tasting fund-raiser event at The Duke Restaurant in Maricopa on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Maricopa Food Bank provides non-perishable foodstuffs for countless families who are truly suffering in these times of economic distress. For more information, contact Wendy Webb at [info@formaricopa.org](mailto:info@formaricopa.org).

Whew – I don't know about you, but I think I'll need a nap come October 31<sup>st</sup>! See you 'round the community.

***David Snider***

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