

**Letters to the Editor**  
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Brian's character drives him to serve our community as he has served our country for over 20 years. He knows Pinal County issues because he has made himself a part of community committees, focus groups and community events. If there is a meeting involving Pinal County issues, count on Bryan being in one of the seats at the table. Ask anyone you know on a committee, I'll bet they know Bryan Martyn.

Brian has been chastised in the paper for speaking to the business community and to developers. Thank goodness someone is speaking to them. We need economic growth in Pinal County...we are talking jobs here folks. Pinal County must have "head of household jobs".

Currently Pinal County has no economic development staff or plan. I am thankful to see the future Supervisor of District 2 talking to business people who can create jobs in our County.

Build office parks, build retail centers, build hospitals and build industrial parks, create jobs.

If you are looking for zero job growth in Pinal County and if you enjoy commuting Johnson Ranch to Phoenix then vote for the other candidate.

J.L. Burden, Gold Canyon

**Fire District taxes**

I have been reading with interest the series of articles in your paper regarding the Apache Junction Fire District. I became more interested when I received my Pinal County Real Property Tax bill for 2008. In reviewing the bill, I noted that my Fire District tax increased 30 percent, or \$170, from 2007, even taking into account that "B" bonds are no longer listed separately as they were in 2007. This increase was in contrast to my Pinal County and Apache Junction Unified School District tax which remained basically flat from 2007, and Central Arizona College which actually declined about 10 percent. Those four taxing agencies represent over 90 percent of my total tax bill. Why is the Fire District so far out of line with these other three entities?

Perhaps in your series on the Fire District, you could elicit some explanation from the current board why such an increase was necessary and how all the candidates for the board intend to roll taxes back to the 2007 level, which the other taxing entities have maintained. I would also hope the Fire Board is not planning to use the newly established Reserve Fund (*AJ News* April 21, 2008) to circumvent the need for voter approval of Fire District capital expenditures by avoiding bond elections for capital projects.

As an employee of the Apache Junction School District, I paid close attention to the recent school budget override elections which asked voters to maintain (not increase or initiate) a 10 percent budget override which was put into effect in 1999. The voters turned down the request, forcing the district this year to initiate transportation service cuts and impose fees for extra curricular activities. More cuts are coming.

One vocal opponent to maintaining the override was Todd House, a member of the AJ Fire District Board. Prior to the May 2007 election on the override, he posted a letter on the Gold Canyon Web site which states, "I believe the school district already has enough money and should be held to their budget, and not bleed the tax payers to add more money. Based on the escalating county taxes, we are already over taxed."

On the azcentral Web site, when he was running for county supervisor this summer, Mr. House stated that he wanted to "lower the tax burden on the citizens and companies and new companies will come." How do these sentiments square with the large increase the Fire District imposed on us and where is the record of him speaking out against it?

As Mr. House, along with several others in a letter expressing opposition to the override posted on the Gold Canyon Web site prior to the November election, quoted a question posed to the Superintendent of the AJUSD; "How do you expect taxpayers on fixed incomes to continue to pay these costs?"

I wonder what Mr. House's answer is to that question?

James Coffey, Gold Canyon

**Likes Martyn for supervisor**

I keep reading about Bryan Martyn and developers. Taking a few hundred dollars as a campaign contribution from a builder does not mean that you are a kept man. Our taxes are way too high, our roads are bad, and we don't have enough businesses in our community. The Signal Butte shopping center is killing our businesses in Apache Junction and Gold Canyon. The only way we are going to improve is to get with the builders and investors to convince them that Pinal County wants their business. Bryan Martyn wants to cooperatively work with the private sector to bring in business.

I've watched Bryan over the past few years. He follows the development of our community more than anybody I've seen. I don't know how many boards he currently sits on, but there have been many, and will continue to be many. And contrary to the belief of some individuals, he doesn't want growth for growth's sake. He's an environmentalist and has pushed for responsible growth as long as I've known him. He's been on the SALT board for years and he's an avid hiker, motorcycle rider, and horse enthusiast. The people who think he's going to allow developers to build whatever they want, wherever they want, don't know Bryan very well.

All the naysayers need to talk to Bryan. I've never seen him turn down a meeting or a phone call. My vote goes to Bryan Martyn because his past performance in our community, and throughout his entire life, is outstanding. I have no reason to expect anything other than this level of commitment and accomplishment as our Supervisor.

Ron Wade, Apache Junction

**Ed Barker and the Carpetbagger News**

Since 1900 the term has been used more widely in the U.S. to describe outsiders' attempting to gain political office or economic advantage, especially in areas (the matically or geographically) to which they previously had no connection. (Wikipedia Definition)

After 30 years of a cancer that has finally grown into full-blown corruption in our state, county and town, lets look at who held our ankles and crammed these folks into our lives at election time. These agenda driven "propaganda rags" passing themselves off as our hometown newspaper is where it all started. In the old cowboy/carpetbagger movies the local newspaperman was the kindly old town drunk that had lost his courage.

Arlin Trout, Apache Junction  
Editor's note: Ed Barker is not all that kindly.

# Spots Open for Leadership Institute

## Classes start November 6

Spots are still available for the City of Apache Junction's 2008-2009 Citizen Leadership Institute, with the first session starting Thursday, November 6.

The Citizen Leadership Institute is designed to promote citizen understanding of local government. Elected officials, city employees, and guest speakers from around the area contribute valuable knowledge and insight into the workings of municipal government.

A key goal of the institute is to give interested citizens an orientation for serving as possible future members of a city board or commission. The city believes there's a need to have a training ground or class for community members so that when we have positions available on our boards and commissions we have people, a new pool from which to draw. It is important for citizens to know the city's responsibilities and limitations.

A special feature of this year's institute is the reservation of two seats for youth in the community. It is important that young people get involved in the community and contribute their insight and energy into the governing process.

Of the 200 Citizen Leadership Institute graduates, many have spent time serving on a city board or commission. The percentage of current board and commission members having graduated from one of the first 10 Citizen Leadership Institutes is more than two thirds or 70 percent.

The Apache Junction Citizen Leadership Institute was one of only two nationwide

honored by the International City Manager's Association (ICMA), in 2004 for Excellence in Government—Citizen Involvement.

The institute's program is comprised of nine sessions held two weeks apart. Each session deals with topics of interest to the community related to local government and city services, as well as county government and community issues. The sessions focus on a different area of government such as planning and zoning, economic development, and popular and demand-driven city services. The program is designed to help people understand the role of municipal government, and how it interacts with other governments.

Some topics covered in previous Institute sessions include:

- The Structure and Role of Municipal Government
- Creating Community and Working Together
- Preserving Open Space
- Planning and Zoning Case Study/Role Playing
- City Codes and Ordinances
- Project S.O.A.R (Service Over and Above the Rest)
- How Service Departments such as Police and Parks and Recreation operate

There is no charge to attend the Citizen Leadership Institute, but attendees must live within the city limits of the City of Apache Junction unless they are serving as members of a city board or commission and are required to attend seven of the nine sessions, a City Council meeting and a planning and zoning meeting to be eligible to graduate.

City staff and other experts in their field including the

school district, Fire District and Pinal County and non-profit organizations will conduct the sessions. Each class session will be held 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the city's Multi-Generational Recreation Center, 1035 N. Idaho Road, classrooms A and B.

Sessions are all on Thursday evening. Dates for the 2008-2009 Institute are as follows:

November 6— Getting to Know the City of Apache Junction

November 20— Local Government: How We Work Together

December 4— Planning, Zoning and Development: Building A City

December 18— Economic and Community Development: Paying Our Way

January 8— Other City Ser-

vices: City Attorney's Office & the City Budget

January 22— The Bottom Line - Delivering Services

February 5— Infrastructure and More Demand Driven Services

February 19— Serving and Growing with the Community: Many Options

March 5— Odds and the End

Interested citizens should call Patrick Brenner at (480) 474-5080 or email pbrenner@ajcity.net to register or for additional information. The city's Web site www.ajcity.net also has information on the Citizen Leadership Institute at this link www.ajcity.net/index.asp?nid=135 found by visiting www.ajcity.net - resident/community relations.

☆ **Kollenborn's Chronicles**  
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photograph appeared in Barnard's book, giving credit for the photograph to him. The person who actually took that photograph was Robert L. Garman, one of Hermann old friends.

The awful irony of the Petrasch-Thomas episode is that their journey into the Superstitions in the blistering hot days of August 1892 led them directly over the Black Queen and Mammoth mines that were discovered later that year. Julia Thomas and the Petrasch brothers were not

successful in finding gold, however, they began a legend that will live forever.

It was in April of 1893 that four men discovered the famous Mammoth mine. This mine produced two million dollars in gold bullion when gold was worth only twenty dollars a troy ounce. Some historians believe the Bull Dog or Mammoth mine was the source of Waltz's bonanza gold ore.

But that is another story of the Superstition Mountain Wilderness.

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF HEARINGS**

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Apache Junction, Arizona will hold two public hearings on the extension of the proposed alternative expenditure limitation (home rule option) as follows:

Tuesday, October 7, 2008, 7:00 p.m.  
City Council Chambers  
300 E. Superstition Boulevard  
Apache Junction, AZ 85219

Tuesday, October 21, 2008, 7:00 p.m.  
City Council Chambers  
300 E. Superstition Boulevard  
Apache Junction, AZ 85219

For additional information, contact the City Clerk's office at (480) 982-8002, option 5, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., excluding holidays.

Kathleen Connelly  
City Clerk

*Kathleen Connelly*

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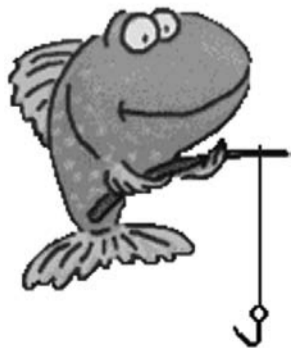
# Final Voters Registration

Tuesday, Sept. 30, at the VFW 7968

VFW 7968 will be holding one last voters registration for Pinal and Maricopa county residents. The voters registration will be held Tuesday, September 30, at the VFW 7968 Hall, 725 W. Apache Trail, Apache Junction.

You do not have to be a VFW member to come in and register. Be sure to register for this very important election.

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