

serving
Northern Pinal County
ARIZONA
Superstition Mountain Country



**Bird Walk
At BTA**

see Page A-7



**All-Stars
Wrap Up**

see Sports, B-1

APACHE JUNCTION
Gold Canyon

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Inside The News

**Citizen
Leadership
Institute**



see page A-3

Saddle Up



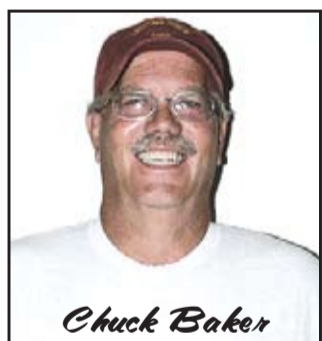
see page A-8

**July 4th
Successful**



see page A-10

Time Out



Chuck Baker

see Sports Page B-1

Public Meetings

**AJUSD Governing
Board (school board)
regular meeting**
11 a.m. Monday,
July 12, 2010
1575 W. Southern Ave.

**Apache Junction
Planning & Zoning
work session**
7 p.m. Tuesday,
July 13, 2010
300 E. Superstition Blvd.

Index

- Business Directory B-5
- Classifieds B-4,5
- Entertainment..... A-6,7
- For The Record A-2
- Kollenborn A-4
- Letters to Editor A-4, 5
- Local Happenings B-3
- Obituaries..... A-2
- Opinion Page..... A-4
- Saddle Up..... A-8
- Sports B-1,2,3
- Worship Directory..... B-3



Donations To Brighten Focal Point

Engraved bricks, lit trees will adorn Focal Point

By Christina Fuoco-Karasinski
The News

The Apache Junction Community Development Corporation (CDC), in cooperation with the City of Apache Junction, is accepting donations from citizens, groups and companies wishing to help refurbish the downtown business district and Focal Point.

Tax-deductible contributions can be made to the CDC to sponsor the lighting of a tree, installation of an inscribed paver, or the installation of a park bench at the Focal Point.

"This effort has been going on for a long time with citizens working together," said City Councilman Jeff Serdy. "Many have worked behind the scenes to help launch this start for downtown restoration. It'll keep going and watch as these improvements are realized. These improvements will come through donations there is no City funding involved."

For a donation of \$530, one of the trees at the Focal Point or along Phelps Drive can be lit. Trees can be lit to commemorate a loved one, celebrate an anniversary or other



The Focal Point will be refurbished each quarter thanks to donations from the public.

such significant event, or to pay tribute to a significant person in the donor's life. A commemorative plaque will be placed adjacent to the tree noting the person or event.

The project, formally known as the Focal Point Restoration Project, offers the following opportunities for donating:

- Park bench, \$1,500
- Lighting of a tree, \$530
- Inscribed paver, \$50
- Other monetary donations are also accepted.

Donors will receive the following types of recognition:

- Bench and tree lighting: An individual plaque to be permanently affixed in an adjacent concrete footing. A thank you letter from the mayor is provided. There are two park benches and 11 trees available.
- Paver: An inscribed paver placed in the ground on the front side of the Focal Point monument. Thank you letter from the mayor is provided. There are 21,000 bricks available but the City is starting small and selling only a chunk of that.
- Cash donation (More than \$50): Thank you letter from the mayor. Donor has the option of receiving an inscribed paver placed in the ground on the front side of the Focal Point monument.
- Cash donation (Less than \$50): Thank you letter from the mayor.

During a committee meeting

on Wednesday, July 7, Serdy maintained the City will make little money off of the project. It is mainly to add atmosphere to the area.

The improvements will be made every quarter, said Roger Hacker, the City's grants specialist.

Committeemember Christa Rizzi suggested making an event out of the installation every quarter to "excite people and get a buzz going."

The City of Apache Junction will maintain editorial control of inscriptions used on a plaque/paver. The City also will establish standards and specifications for items to be installed at the Focal Point.

A donor agreement is being developed which will specify the amount of the gift, type of recognition to be received, and any other details of the donation.

For more information or to make a donation contact Colleen Hill at (480) 233-1577,

see **Focal Point, A-3**

**Former Councilwoman
Carol Urich Dies**

She was part of the governing body for seven years

By Christina Fuoco-Karasinski
The News

Known for her colorful golf cart, former City Councilwoman Carol L. Urich died Monday, July 5.

Capt. Tom Kelly of the Apache Junction Police Department said Urich was found dead on Monday at her home by a neighbor. She was released from the medical examiner's office on Thursday, July 8, to At Season's End mortuary.

Kelly said it appears she died from cardiovascular disease.

Urich was first appointed to the City Council on July 2, 1996, upon Councilwoman Grace Hagner's death, according to Jan Mason, deputy city clerk. She was elected in the primary on March 9, 1999.

Urich lost in the general election May 20, 2003, and



Former City Councilwoman Carol Urich died Monday, July 5. Photo courtesy of Pat Brenner.

ran again and lost March 8, 2005. She never ran again, Mason said.

"Carol was a great lady," said Pat Brenner, the City's public information officer.

"She loved going to community and neighborhood meetings and was dedicated to helping the citizenry. She was also a real character—

see **Urich, A-2**

Fire District OKs Budget

House casts lone dissenting vote

By Betty Swanson
The News

Governing Board Chairman Todd House cast the only dissenting vote as the 2010-2011 budget of \$19,721,322 for the Apache Junction Fire District was approved on July 7 by a vote of three to one.

Board member Linda Shank was not present at the meeting.

Although he did not voice his reason for the "nay" vote at the time of the voting, House said after the meeting that couldn't vote for the proposed budget because he felt there should have been "more cuts made this year, so we wouldn't have to cut so much



Todd House

next year."

He also further explained a statement that he made during the meeting. He said he felt that talks with labor union representatives needed

to start "soon," citing "tough decision will have to be made next year." The reason being, he later said, is that next year "we may have to have pay cuts made."

The budget that was approved for 2010-2011 left employee wages at the same rate as last year, although employees gained ground, as noted by House, from having the district cover a 12 percent raise in the cost of medical benefits for employees (approximately one percent of employee salary).

When asked why the district was going forward with the plan to build and staff the new

**Council OKs
Senior Housing
Complex**

Zoning changed to allow for facility

By Christina Fuoco-Karasinski
The News

The Apache Junction City Council voted 5-1 Tuesday, July 6, with City Councilman Doug Coleman absent, to approve the rezoning of a property at Valley Drive and Greasewood Street which paves the way for a Community Christian Church-run, 43-unit senior housing facility.

More than 50 church members dressed in red shirts adorned with "Yes 1364" pins packed the council chambers. Others, who were opposed to the project because it would, in its original form, block the view of Superstition Mountain, donned "Save Our Neighborhood" T-shirts.

Despite the showing, most of the speakers during the public hearing were against the L-shaped project. As a result, architect Stephanie Rowe of Reece, Angel and Rowe Architects and the church agreed to move the building 50 feet to the east. It was originally on the west side of the parcel due to a natural wash on the southeastern portion of the

site. "If you're going to do this, flip the L," said resident Faye Rears, who lives on Greasewood Street near the project. She encouraged the council to do so to satisfy everyone.

Resident Pat Bybee agreed and expressed her concern about humming air conditioner units and the facility following the dark sky ordinance. Rowe explained dark sky ordinance requirements will be met.

Other complaints included increased traffic and crime and decreased property values. Assistant Planner Todd Kennedy said because of the age of the facility's clients, traffic would be less than another development of that size. Rowe explained it is hard to predict whether or not crime will increase and property values will decrease.

Resident Mike Weller explained the City does all it can to underground utility lines yet it will put a multi-story building near a residential area.

see **Council, A-3**

The News Kidcast

Possible thundershowers Saturday & Sunday.
Highs near 108 and lows near 90.

This week's
Weather
"Artoonist"

Summer
Hackney
Age 5

Gold Canyon
Elementary
School

