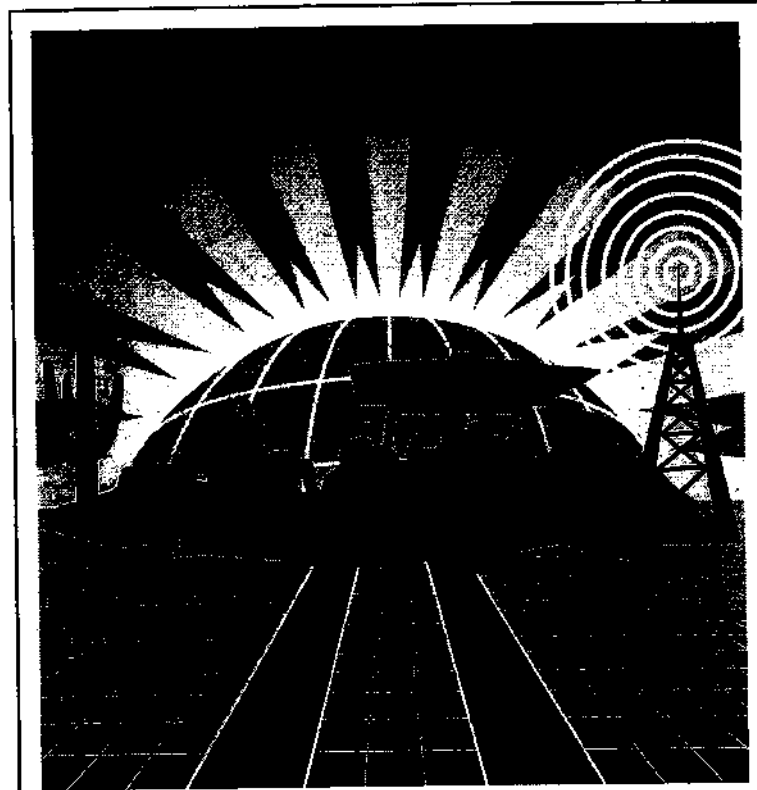


17th Annual PINAL COUNTY TOWN HALL



**The Changing Face of
PINAL COUNTY**

2004 OFFICIAL REPORT

April 28-30, 2004

**Francisco Grande Hotel
and Golf Resort**

Summary Report

PINAL COUNTY TOWN HALL

**“THE CHANGING FACE OF
PINAL COUNTY”**

**OFFICIAL
REPORT
2004**

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE 17TH ANNUAL PINAL COUNTY TOWN HALL

April 28-30, 2004

I. Introduction and Overview

The Pinal County Town Hall convened April 28-30th at the Francisco Grande Hotel and Golf Resort to focus on the topic “**The Changing Face of Pinal County**”. A total of one hundred fifty eight (158) delegates attended with a pre-registration of one hundred sixty-five. These totals made the 2004 Town Hall the largest in 17 years and necessitated a waiting list for the second time in its history.

In keeping with the theme of change, the Town Hall process was also modified from previous years. Rather than rely on informational panels and forums as in the past, each of the discussion groups heard five different speakers address key issues facing Pinal County. The subjects were related to the letters in the word Pinal and are as follows.

- Planning:** Ms. Cynthia Seelhammer, Town Manager
Queen Creek
- Involvement:** Dr. Terry Calaway, President
Central Arizona College
- Natural Resources:** Mr. Ken Buchanan, Assistant County Manager for
Development Services, Pinal County
- Access:** Mr. Bill Leister, Transportation Director,
Central Arizona Association of Governments
- Mr. Don Gabrielson, Air Quality Director
Pinal County
- Living:** Mr. Terry Doolittle, Deputy County Manager
Pinal County

The stage was set for the above speakers and overall theme, by Mr. Ken Buchanan, who addressed the delegates at Wednesday nights opening banquet. Mr. Buchanan provided an informative overview on the history and future of “change” in Pinal County.

Delegates also heard an update on the 2003 topic, Rural Health Care, Today’s Challenge from a number of health providers and/or related organizations. Speakers included;

*Ms. Donna Robb, Assistant County Manager, Pinal County Health & Human
Services*

Mr. Kai Gerky, Vice President of Business Development, Casa Grande Regional Medical Center
Ms Olivia Guerrero, Executive Director, Pinal-Gila Council for Senior Citizens

Mr. Jack Beveridge, CEO, Pinal Gila Behavioral Health Association

Ms. Cheryl Foster, Vice President of College Development
Central Arizona College

The sixth annual **Pinal County Outstanding Youth of the Year** program, recognized five outstanding youth nominated by their respective high schools. The students recognized from the participating high schools as their local Youth of the Year included:

Ashlea Manuel, Maricopa High School

Naomi Miguel, Casa Grande Union High School

Natasha Morrow, Coolidge High School

Aaron Pacheco, San Manuel High School

Maria Elena Valencia, Apache Junction High School

Ashlea Manuel was named **Pinal County's Outstanding Youth of the Year** for 2004. Ashlea received a \$500.00 scholarship to be applied to her future education and training. All five nominees received medallions, engraved pens, and a scholarship from Central Arizona College. Assisting Lacy Gамbee, Town Hall Advisory Committee member in the presentation of the awards, was Megan Smith, 2003 "Pinal County Co-outstanding Youth of the Year" from Apache Junction High School.

Constellation Awards were presented to two non-profit organizations and a nominee in the category of volunteerism. The awards were presented by Tom Cook, Senior Vice President and CEO of Harrah's Ak-Chin Resort and Terry Enos, Chairman, Ak-Chin Indian Community. Each award winner received a limited edition crystal star and a check for \$2500.00 in charitable donations made in their honor. **The winners and categories included:**

- **The Community Alliance Against Family Abuse** from Apache Junction and the **Community Action Human Resources Agency (CAHRA)** from Eloy were winners in the non-profit organization category. This category recognizes the organizations for having made a "significant contribution to improving the quality of life in their community".

• **Marge and Carl Schonberg** received the award in the category of **volunteerism**. Marge volunteers for the **Court Appointed Special Advocate (CACA)** and Carl volunteers in the **Restorative Justice Panel**. The Schonbergs designated the **ACCI-CASA** program to receive their **\$2500.00** award.

The constellation Awards are sponsored by Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino Resort, Casa Grande Valley Newspapers Inc. and Pinal County Town Hall.

II. Program Focus – “The Changing Face of Pinal County”

The face of Pinal County is changing, and changing rapidly! From Apache Junction to Maricopa, San Manuel to Stanfield, even the casual observer is awed by the dynamics of the many changes taking place.

With a population soon to surpass 200,00, Pinal County is faced with challenges and opportunities. How will these be identified, prioritized and addressed proactively? That was the task for delegates attending the 2004 Town Hall.

Specifically, delegates heard focused presentations in five categories. Then as discussion groups, delegates focused on one primary and one secondary category for in-depth discussion and action planning. The five areas included”

P PLANNING (retaining our uniqueness while managing growth proactively)

I INVOLVEMENT (educating each citizen to the challenges ahead)

N NATURE (preserving our environment, natural resources)

A ACCESS (providing convenient transportation county-wide)

L LIVING (delivering cost-effective public and human services)

Following discussion and action planning of the individual groups, recommendations were prepared and taken to the Consensus Group for compilation and formulation of final recommendations. The Consensus Group which was made up of the facilitators and recorders of each of the groups is listed at the close of this report. The Consensus Group met privately Friday morning to formulate its recommendations and outcomes, which were then presented in dramatic fashion at the concluding general session. The recommendations and outcomes are presented in written form in the section that follows.

III. Recommendations and Outcomes

The recommendations and outcomes that follow are presented in a format that identifies what, by whom, and by when. Some of the recommendations are on going while others need to be considered for action by organizations and/or individuals. The **Summary Report** is mailed to all delegates and partners and copies are made available to libraries, chambers of commerce and other interested entities.

Discussion Group Reports

Planning Involvement Natural Resources Access Living

Planning (Primary Recommendations)

	<u>By Whom</u>	<u>By When</u>
1. Create more economic development		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revisit and amend the Pinal County comprehensive plan to identify economic development areas based on current information (with public hearing). • Partner with CAC for development of distance learning program as incentive to business and citizens. • Create a proactive economic development office at the county level. 	<p style="margin: 0;">County</p> <p style="margin: 0;">City/CAC</p> <p style="margin: 0;">County</p>	<p style="margin: 0;">6/30/05</p> <p style="margin: 0;">7/1/05</p> <p style="margin: 0;">7/1/05</p>
2. Improve intergovernmental collaboration		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop improved communication between cities/county/CAAG/Economic Development. • Promote joint retreats, training to enhance collaboration. • Sponsor joint city/county planning and zoning study/collaboration sessions. 	<p style="margin: 0;">All Leadership Directors</p>	<p style="margin: 0;">ASAP</p> <p style="margin: 0;">ASAP</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Immediate</p>

3. Address county infrastructure needs (sewers/roads/schools, etc.)

- Improve existing highways (I-10, 6 lanes)
 - Construct 3 new east/west routes (Park Link, Kelvin, AZ 60 East); (with passing lanes of 79)
 - Construct North/South freeway AJ to Picacho
 - Develop countywide IGA for county impact fees (schools, libraries, parks, etc.)
- | | |
|-----------------------|------|
| ADOT | 2009 |
| Pinal County/ADOT | 2006 |
| ADOT | 2008 |
| County/Municipalities | 2005 |

Planning (Secondary Recommendations)

1. Develop a forum for sharing information (county-wide) concerning growth, planning

- Increase number of articles, press releases, website information concerning growth and planning.
- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------|
| County Public Information Officer | ASAP |
|-----------------------------------|------|

2. Create a statement of what we value as a county

- Provide mechanism/forum for creation of values statement (vis-à-vis growth vs. uniqueness)
 - 2005 Pinal County Town Hall: "What We Value As A County"
- | | |
|---------------------|---------|
| County | 7/1/05 |
| Town Hall Committee | 11/1/04 |

3. Develop comprehensive countywide plan for growth

- County, in concert with cities, develops plan, targets areas for residential, commercial, industrial, respecting community wishes/input
- | | |
|------------|--------|
| County P&Z | 5/1/05 |
|------------|--------|

4. Develop the county economy over the next ten years

- Conduct assessment of all transpiration needs
 - Collaborate to enhance workforce development
 - Identify, build on community assets (e.g. SEARCH Institute, Minneapolis)
 - Generate higher paying employment opportunities
 - County study of impact fees
- | | |
|------------------------|------|
| All County Communities | 2006 |
| CAC/Business/Industry | 2007 |
| Each Community | 2009 |
| Private/Public Sector | 2010 |
| County | 2006 |

5. Promote awareness of human service needs throughout the county

- Ensure residents' access to transportation to jobs, education, recreation, medical, shopping, etc.
- Create means of bi-lingual communication (newspaper, brochures, ads, flyers, email)
- Identify stakeholders in the social, health and education delivery systems to assure partnerships

CAAG
Educators/Entrepreneurs
Community/County Network

2007
2005
2005

6. Maintain and enhance quality of life through adoption of legislation

- Protect mountains and view sheds from buildings, sand, gravel operations
- Identify, then protect wildlife corridors, washes, natural paths
- Increase code enforcement (e.g. illegal dumping, wildcat, zoning)
- Articulate planning with neighboring cities, counties
- Develop countywide impact fees
- Develop policy concerning state land in our county

Board of Supervisors (Policy Adoption) 12/31/05
Pinal County/B.O.S. 12/31/05
County Enforcement Officers 12/31/05
County/Cities ASAP
Special County Commission 2005
Full Time County Lobbyist 2004

Involvement (Primary Recommendations)

1. Create a sense of community

- Hire a "Director of Building Communities" or "Citizens' Liaison Coordinator"
- Organize and implement the building sense of community initiative
- Identify, catalogue community needs/assets
- Establish community connections, networking processes

County/Cities Partnership 2005
Hired Person 2006
Hired Person 2006
Hired Person 2006

2. Create a community advancement committee

- Serve as liaison between communities and "Director of Building Communities"
- Identify funding sources to support growth (grants, corporate)
- Broaden base to include more potential leaders' involvement

Advancement Committee
Advancement Committee
Advancement Committee

3. Hire an advocacy/lobbyist to represent the county at state and federal levels

- Research existing and available resources
 - Form countywide task force
 - Apply for transportation funding
 - Hire a full time lobbyist
 - Community Campaign to contact elected officials
- United Way
 Three participants from each supervisory district
 County Grant Writer/CAAG
 County
 Task Force
- 2004
 2004
 2004
 2004
 2004

Living (Primary Recommendations)

1. Implement a comprehensive economic development plan for Pinal County

- Develop strategic comprehensive countywide economic development plan
 - Research and obtain resources
 - Implement the plan
 - Draft business/industry
 - Develop workforce training, education opportunities
- Pinal County/Cities/Towns/Tribal Governments
 Each of the Above
 Countywide Economic Development Board
 Marketing Experts
 CAC/LEAs/Universities/Trade Schools
- 2005
 2006
 2007
 2007
 2007

2. Improve the quality of life through attraction of quality jobs and workforce development

- Increase graduation rate through early years intervention and role modeling
 - Study successful programs/models, and implement. Ensure tracking rates are accurate.
 - Review past Town Hall educational recommendations and results
 - Youth employment programs (e.g. Queen Creek)
 - Workforce development – after formal education (forge relationships, internships)
 - Develop scholarships for local schools through local industry
 - Promote industry sponsors educational opportunities (e.g. Ford)
 - Make opportunities available locally for tech/vocational schooling
 - Bring in private/proprietary career/technical schools, opportunities
- School Districts
 School Districts
 School Districts
 Cities/Schools
 CAC/Universities with Business/Industry
 Local Industries
 Local Industry
 Partnerships w/CAC, CTE Districts
 Marketing
- On-going
 On-going
 On-going
 On-going
 On-going
 On-going
 On-going
 On-going

3. Provide adequate roadway infrastructure to facilitate business and economic development

- Develop a comprehensive regional plan
 - Adopt plan to get buy-in from all entities
 - Encourage county/city development impact fee structure
 - Extend the ½ cent sales tax
 - County bonds
- Countywide Committee/Supervisors 2004
Board of Supervisors/Local Governments 2005
Local Governments On-going
Board of Supervisors 2006
Board of Supervisors

Living (Secondary Recommendations)

1. Identify existing economic development board efforts and entities; create a clearing house, informational website
 - Identify existing economic development boards, efforts and entities
 - Collect all available information
 - Create a clearing house for all collected material; make it available to all
 - Create interactive website for conversation/dialogue between all parties
 - Make this concept the topic of the 2005 Pinal County Town Hall

Planning Committee 2005
2. Reauthorize the ½ cent transportation sales tax
 - Create a countywide task force to develop strategies to ensure reauthorization

Pinal County 2004
3. Create a countywide communication strategy to promote graduation
 - Create a task force of county/city/town/tribal representatives

Pinal County School Superintendents 2004

CONSENSUS GROUP

The Pinal County Town Hall Advisory Committee extends its appreciation and thanks to the following individuals who served in the capacity of discussion group facilitator or recorder.

Group 1

Facilitator: *Dr. Bonnie Palmer*, Council Member
City of Coolidge

Recorder: *Mila Besich Lira*, Management Assistant, CAAG

Group 2

Facilitator: *George Hoffman*, City Manager, Apache Junction

Recorder: *Yvonne Kube*, Finance Director, CAAG

Group 3

Facilitator: *Dr. Joan Warren*, Dean of Aravapai Campus
Central Arizona College

Recorder: *Dolores Freeman*, Branch Manager
Pinal County Federal Credit Union, Florence

Group 4

Facilitator: *Bill Ludeke*, Executive Director,
United Way of Pinal County

Recorder: *Christy Johnson*, Executive Director
Community Alliance Against Family Abuse, Apache Junction

Group 5

Facilitator: *Jackie Guthrie*, Planner, Jackie Guthrie & Associate
Casa Grande

Recorder: *Bennett Curry*, Director, SBDC
Central Arizona College

Consensus Group Leaders

Facilitator: *Karl Peterson*, Summit Professional Leadership

Recorder: *Rick Miller*, Planning Director, City of Casa Grande

Partners in Economic Progress

DOOR PRIZES

Appreciation is extended to the following organizations and individuals for providing this year's delegate door prizes.

**Abbott Laboratories, Ross Products Division
Central Arizona College
Dirtwater Springs Restaurant
Mrs. Karl Foster
Francisco Grande Hotel and Golf Resort
Goldfield Ghost Town
Greater Casa Grande 125th Celebration Committee
Dr. Stan Griffis
Harrah's Ak - Chin Casino Resort
Lost Gringos Mexican Grill
Phoenix Greyhound Park
Skydive Arizona
Southwest Gas
the Dolly Steamboat
Yolanda's Steakhouse**

PARTNERS IN ECONOMIC PROGRESS

It is through the collective efforts of both the public sector and the private sector that the Pinal County Town Hall has been made possible. The Town Hall Advisory Committee expresses appreciation to the following organizations for their financial support of the 17th Annual Pinal County Town Hall as well as their participation and interest in this county-wide endeavor.

PINAL COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Special appreciation is extended to the Pinal County Board of Supervisors** for its continuing commitment to and financial support for the Pinal County Town Hall.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

MAJOR:

Central Arizona College
City of Apache Junction*
City of Casa Grande*
City of Coolidge*
Town of Florence*
Town of Queen Creek
The RTA Hospice Charitable Foundation

SUPPORTING:

SUSTAINING:

Apache Junction Chamber of Commerce*
City of Eloy*
Eloy Chamber of Commerce*
Greater Casa Grande Chamber of Commerce* ✓
Pinal/Gila Behavioral Health Association, Inc.
SMOR Tri-Community Chamber of Commerce**
Town of Kearny**
Town of Superior*

CORPORATE AND BUSINESS PARTNERS

MAJOR:

Abbott Laboratories, Ross Products Division**
Arizona Public Service**
Casa Grande Regional Medical Center**
Comcast
El Dorado Holdings, Inc
Gold Canyon Business Association.
Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino Resort
Pinal County Federal Credit Union
Rural Metro Fire Department
Sonoran Vista Partners, LLC
The Remington Group
U.S. Home Land Development

SUPPORTING:

Sharp's Welding and Mechanical Works
SunWest Educational Associates, Inc.**

SUSTAINING:

Arizona Water Company**
DBK, Inc.
the Dolly Steamboat
Fast Stop Convenience Stores **
First American Title Insurance Agency
Fitzgibbons Law Offices, P.L.C.
Goldfield Ghost Town & Mine Tours, Inc.
Mining Camp Restaurant and Trading Pos
Shope's IGA
Southwest Gas Corporation**
Summit Professional Leadership
Sunstate Bank**
The Mahoney Group**
Tortilla Flat
TRICO Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Western Fire

** Partners for fifteen years

* Partners for ten or more years

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Pinal County Town Hall

The Pinal County Town Hall began in 1988 due to the interest of a number of individuals and organizations to bring together a cross-section of Pinal County leaders in a town hall framework to study and discuss issues of importance to Pinal County and its citizens. From the beginning, the Town Hall has focused on issues relating to economic development. The annual Town Hall is planned by a county-wide advisory committee which meets monthly throughout the year. The Town Hall receives financial support from the Pinal County Board of Supervisors along with delegate fees and corporate/community support. **The supporters in this public-private partnership are identified as "Partners In Economic Progress".**

Each spring, approximately 130-150 delegates come together for two days to deal with a specific topic that impacts the county as a whole and its respective communities and citizens. Topics over the seventeen years include:

- 1988 A Symposium on Economic Development
- 1989 Pinal County Futures: Tomorrow's Vision - Today's Plan
- 1990 Horizon 2000: Strategies For Action
- 1991 An Inside Look at Pinal County Government: Taxes Vs. Services - A Delicate Balance
- 1992 The Year For Action: Implementing a County-wide Economic Development Plan
- 1993 The Changing Workplace: Education's Challenge
- 1994 Today's Crisis: Confronting Juvenile Crime In Our Communities
- 1995 Pinal Tomorrow: Building Healthier Communities
- 1996 Volunteers in Service to Communities: People Making A Difference
- 1997 Environment and Growth: The Delicate Balance
- 1998 Aging of the Population: A Public and Private Challenge
- 1999 Pinal's Commitment To The Future: Meeting The Needs Of Our Youth
- 2000 Charting Our Future
- 2001 Intellectual Capital - Tomorrow's Dividend: Education for the 21st Century
- 2002 Being Vigilant, Being Normal - A Call to Service
- 2003 Rural Health Care: Today's Challenge
- 2004 The Changing Face of Pinal County

An annual report, which includes recommendations and/or suggestions, is prepared after each Town Hall, and distributed to delegates and partners and is monitored during the year for progress and action by members of the advisory committee. While the Town Hall possesses no official power or authority, it is significant to note that many of the delegate recommendations and/or ideas have been implemented over the seventeen year history of Town Hall.

SunWest Educational Associates, Inc. has served as the "administrative arm" in working with the advisory committee to plan, organize, and implement the Pinal County Town Hall. **For more information contact, Wayne G. Gerken, SunWest Educational Assoc. Inc, 1182 E. Bonita Pl., Casa Grande, AZ 85222 - or (520-836-2065).**

Special Acknowledgement

The Pinal County Town Hall Advisory Committee wishes to express special appreciation to all those individuals that helped in the planning of this years Town Hall. Appreciation is also extended to all speakers, facilitators, recorders, and round table participants ↗

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PINAL COUNTY TOWN HALL
Mission Statement

Pinal County Town Hall is an assembly of annually convened delegates that identifies critical issues facing Pinal County, creates the forum for education and exploration of the topic, and fosters networking and collaboration among its participants. By drawing upon Pinal County's diversity of citizens, the Town Hall process promotes public consideration of these issues, builds consensus, and supports implementation of the resulting outcomes.