

Record Times

Vol. 12 No. 7

July 2006

A monthly newsletter for employees of the Clerk of the Superior Court's Office

County approves \$2.128 billion budget

The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors recently approved a \$2.128 billion budget for Fiscal Year 2006 - 2007 and an overall property tax rate cut of 2.63 cents per assessed valuation. This is the lowest overall county-controlled combined property tax for Maricopa County in 27 years.



This year's combined property tax rate will mean a reduction of \$6.57 on a typical \$250,000 home. The county-controlled combined tax rate makes up about 15% of an individual's tax bill. Other factors, including tax levees by cities, community colleges, schools, and others affect a property owner's tax bill.

Maricopa County is the fastest growing county in the nation and is now the third largest county, increasing in population by 300 people per day.

Election year "Do's" and "Don'ts"

This is an election year in Arizona. The Primary Election will be held Sept. 12 and the General Election on Nov. 7. The following is a list of proper and improper political activity for employees during the political season:

EMPLOYEES MAY...

- Cast a vote;
- Express opinions about candidates and issues;
- Attend meetings to acquire information concerning the candidates for public office and the political issues;
- Sign nomination or recall petitions;
- Make contributions to candidates, political parties, or campaign committees contributing to candidates or advocating the election or defeat of candidates;
- Campaign for or against ballot issues, referendum questions, constitutional amendments, municipal ordinances;
- Engage in activities to advocate the election or defeat of any candidates or campaign committee contributing to candidates or advocating the election or defeat of candidates;
- Campaign for themselves and hold unpaid, nonpartisan, public office; and
- Circulate candidate nomination petitions or recall petitions.

EMPLOYEES MAY NOT...

- Make political endorsements in which they identify themselves as county employees;
- Use any official authority to affect the vote or political action of any person or for any consideration;
- Be a member of any national, state, or local committee of a political party, or an officer or chairman of a committee of a partisan political club;
- Offer themselves as a candidate for nomination or election to any public office which is either paid or partisan by filing nomination papers or making a formal public declaration of candidacy;
- Take part in the management/affairs of a political party, or a partisan campaign or recall efforts; and
- Engage in any political activity while on duty, while in uniform, or at public expense.



Brown reaches 30 years

On July 12, Courtroom Clerk **Mary Brown** was honored for her 30 years of service to Maricopa County by the County Supervisors. Following is a brief interview with her about her service accomplishment:



When did you begin working for the County? I started in 1976 in Personnel and after a few years transferred to the Public Fiduciary's Office. In 1982, I then came to the Clerk's Office as a courtroom clerk. I currently work as a court clerk in criminal court assigned to Judge Sanders.

Did you think you would be here as long as you have when you started? When I started, I was a single mom looking for a job with benefits, security, and chance for advancement. I had no idea I would be here 30 years later.

What do you like best about your job? We have some interesting cases in criminal and there is always something different and something new to learn. I enjoy the people I work with and have made some lasting friendships.

What are you most proud of during your tenure? Working with different judges and calendars and adapting to the Office's continuing changes.

How much longer would you like to work? There are times when I would like to quit that very minute, but I'll be around for another few years.

OnBase Information

The following is a list of the agencies who have been granted access to the Clerk's Electronic Court Record, saving them trips to the CSC, and saving staff from having to pull hard copy files for them. They are: Adult Probation, Attorney General, Contract Counsel, Correctional Health, County Attorney, County Treasurer, Department of Corrections, Justice Courts, Legal Advocate, Legal Defender, Pima County Attorney's Office, Public Defender, Sheriff, STAR Call Center, and Superior Court.

Take a trip to the Commute Options website

Maricopa County has been selected as one of the "Best Workplaces for Commuters" by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Transportation. The county offers a number of commute benefits for employees including a new on-line ridematching system. For more details about the Commute Options Program visit: ebc.maricopa.gov/hr/employee_wellness/commute_options/

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Michael K. Jeanes
Clerk of the Court

Teamwork example from the birds

Teamwork might seem like a complicated subject, but to some creatures it comes naturally as a way to survive and conserve energy, according to a BBCNews Online story. For instance, in France at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique in Villiers en Bois, scientists taped heart monitors to great white pelicans. These birds had been trained to fly behind a light aircraft and boat while a team observed them during their flight. It is known that pelicans fly in "squadron" formation, or in a "V," and they flap in time with their leader. Scientists, now able to observe and gather data from the heart monitors, found that the birds' heartbeats were lower when they flew in formation than when they flew solo. This was because they were able to benefit from each other's air streams. They were also able to glide longer. Animals of all types evolve certain behaviors because it helps them to migrate, feed, or survive more easily. The entire group benefits because less energy is required to perform the great task at hand. Working together, the birds were able to accomplish their migratory goals by expending less energy and being able to fly farther than when they were alone. It seems that there is a lesson here, and it's not for the birds.

Thank you for working together as a team so that we reach our many goals of implementing a completely Electronic Court Record (ECR). Your spirit of teamwork has helped us go further and faster. I appreciate all of your efforts.

The need for MEEDS



More law firms are feeling the need for MEEDS. Currently there are 4,989 attorney's enrolled in the Clerk's Minute Entry Electronic Distribution System (MEEDS), which automates the entire court minute entry process for adult cases by sorting and electronically sending the minute entries from the courtroom clerk to the docket, website, and law firms.

The five largest law firms enrolled in MEEDS are: Snell and Wilmer (220 attorneys); Fenemore and Craig (149); Quarles & Brady Streich Lang (139); Lewis & Roca (131); and Gallagher & Kennedy (109).

The five largest agencies are: County Attorney (406); Attorney General (310); Public Defender (242); Phoenix City Attorney (98); and Legal Defender (53).

Your First Choice to look up ideas for the summer



Looking for things to do and/or places to go this summer? The answer may be right here at the workplace. First Choice, the gift shop located in the Downtown Court Complex, has discount tickets for many destinations including: Harkins Movie Theaters; Castles-N-Coasters; local waterparks; the San Diego Zoo and Wild Animal Park; Legoland; Six Flags (Magic Mountain), and to local events as well. For employees in outlying areas, First Choice can mail the tickets to the employee.

For ticket prices and more details, call the gift shop at 602-262-2321.

A transition you can Bank on

After 20 years with the same banking institution, Maricopa County switched banking services on June 30. The County transitioned from Chase Bank to the Bank of America. For the Clerk's Office, this single change created numerous other changes, which required four months of planning and preparation to make a successful transition. Among the changes were:

- Establishing new accounts;
- Establishing new electronic connections between the bank and office; and
- Getting new checks, deposit books, deposit slips, and lock boxes.

The change had the greatest impact on the Accounting Unit. It did not affect customers and had minimal impact on filing counter staff.

General Accounting Manager GeorgeAnn Smith said ITG was critical to making this switch in banking services successful.

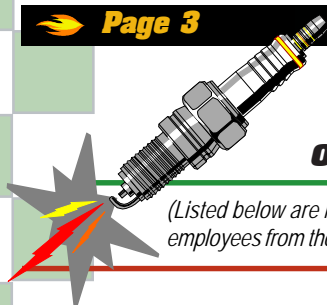
Newsletter goes from King County to King's Palace

Each month, employees are invited to submit a photo of themselves reading the *Record Times* while they are on vacation. Last month, the newsletter was seen with two Clerk of the Court employees at a technology conference in King County (Seattle, Washington). This month, it is seen at a palace for a King.

Pictured here is Mail Services' **Mary Davis** (right) and her friend Annette, who posed with the newsletter in front of Buckingham Palace in England.

Employees may submit photos of themselves reading the *Record Times* at any time. **TO SUBMIT** a photo, you may print a newsletter page(s), take your photo with the page(s), and send it to Len Keso with your name and a photo description.





Recordsetters of the Clerk of the Court' Office

(Listed below are recent letters, email messages, and phone calls about Clerk of the Court employees from those who appreciate their recordsetting efforts to provide excellent service.)

CUSTOMER SURVEY CARD COMPLIMENTS

Southeast Juvenile

- “**Sheila Sailer** was most helpful and knowledgeable.”
- “**Dave Steinmetz** is just delightful. You are lucky to have him as an employee. He is always helpful and courteous and goes out of his way to get things right.”
- “A copy of the case file was made while I waited, which saved another four-hour drive to get it. Very helpful staff.”

CO-WORKER COMPLIMENTS

“I would like to give a special ‘Thank You’ to **Betty Finney**, who worked especially hard to add new classes for the Full Court Press. Especially here at Southeast, it seems like we are often times offered the same things, but this year was different and several interesting classes were added. A tour of the Medical Examiner’s Office was included and I was one of the lucky ones who was able to attend. It was not the class for everyone as it was quite graphic and a challenge to the senses (and emotions), but I am so glad I had the opportunity – an opportunity that would not have been possible without Betty’s efforts.” – **Julie Carlson**

“I want to thank **Gloria Kuder, Tina Gatz, Ellen Campo** and **Lana Mitchell** for the excellent training they provided me. They were all very helpful and very available during my initial probation period. Thanks ladies!” – **Donnielle Chavarria**

“I would like to extend a special thank you to **Mark Leong** from the Civil Filing Counter. Mark helped us cover Window #9 in the Family Court Filing area when we were short-handed. He did so willingly and with minimal training.” – **Fred Mohr**

“I want to thank Training’s **Joe Legander** and **Tina Meadows** for converting a lengthy exhibit worksheet (created in Word) to an Excel Spreadsheet that can actually be managed. This was a little out of their normal everyday activities and without their help, especially Joe, I could not have finished the worksheet, which was needed not only by our Exhibit Department, but also by an attorney’s office. Thank you Joe and Tina for helping me meet our customers’ needs.” – **Kathy Ballard**

“I want to thank **Rick Bennett** for always having a pleasant attitude when helping me with all my docket questions.” – **Molly Alcala**

“I want to thank the staff who provide relief at both the Customer Information Desk and the Administration Reception Desk. I also appreciate their supervisors, who are willing to let their staff help out when needed.” – **Nancy Killian**

“My sincere appreciation goes out to **Jared Rutledge, Monica Crowely, Sheri Jaffe**, and **Gerri-Lynn Longbein** for helping me when my car wouldn’t start. It was hot outside and it was after 5 p.m., but they all helped get my car jump started so I could get home. You guys are great. Thank you SO much!” – **Michelle Wetherell**

EMAIL COMPLIMENTS

Following are emails that Courtroom Services Administrator Laura Eng received about Courtroom Clerk Training Coordinator **Betty Finney** concerning the work she did for the Full Court Press training sessions.

- **From Kathy Wendroff** - “I haven’t heard so many positive comments about COJETs since I’ve been with the County. There were so many good classes, unfortunately we didn’t have time to take all of them. Some of the classes that were mentioned included the K9 demo, the Atlanta shooting class, and all of the meth lab classes. My personal favorite was the Forensic Art class. It was the best COJET I’ve taken so far. I hope that we can get these classes back again so that those of us who missed them can have another opportunity.”

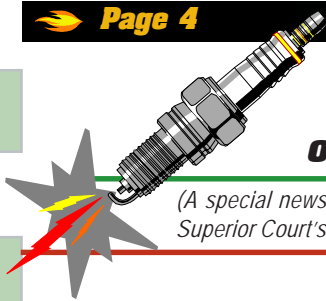
- **From Mike Kay** - “I just wanted to thank you for the new classes that you worked so hard on making available to us this year for the COJET Blowout. I appreciate all of your efforts. The classes were amazing and extremely interesting.”

WEBSITE COMPLIMENTS

Following are comments website users wrote about the new website design through the on-line survey:

- “Your new website is simply awesome! The new design makes finding information so much easier.”
- “Wow, this site is definitely user-friendly. I was able to find a lot of things that the old site had buried. The new public site will without a doubt assist customers much better.”





Employee News of the Clerk of the Court' Office

(A special newsletter section devoted to news about employees of the Clerk of the Superior Court's Office.)

BIRTHS

- Congratulations to Support Finance Supervisor **Don Vert**, who became the proud grandfather to a 6 lb. 8 oz. baby girl on June 1. His new granddaughter's name is Kimberly Ann. She is his third grandchild.
- Congratulations to Training and Staff Development's **Stephen Weston** on the birth of his 6 lb. 13 oz. grandson on June 21. His new grandchild's name is Eric Orion and he is Stephen's third grandson.
- Congratulations to SEA Appeals **Jayme Taormina**, who gave birth to a 7 lb. 5 oz. baby girl on May 20. Her new daughter's name is Rihanna Maria. Rihanna has three big sisters.



NEW EMPLOYEES

- **Civil Docket** - Yolanda James
- **Courtroom Clerk** - Eileen Rosel and Nicole Taylor
- **Family Court EDM** - Tawanda Johnson-Gray
- **Fileroom** - Jenna Harvey, Ken Lindler, and Sally Valdez
- **Juvenile Courtroom Clerk** - Kiera Molina
- **SE Fileroom** - Eric Smith



OFFICE ANNIVERSARIES

The following employees are celebrating milestone Office anniversaries in July:



15 YEARS

Rebecca Miller

10 YEARS

Reta Sneddon

5 YEARS

Diane Berkland, Olivia Cardenas, Judith Flowers, David Lett, Veronique McClelland, Veronica Olivas, and David Steinmetz

AWARDS/HONORS



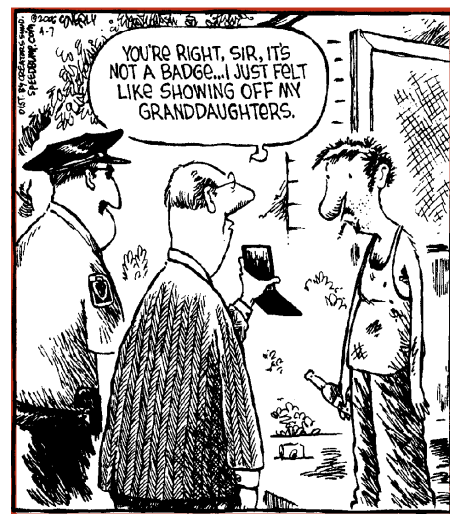
Appeals' **Denise Nelson** is a recipient of the Clerk of the Court's "Downtown Excellence Award" in the CASE Employee Recognition Program. She was mistakenly left off the list of award winners that was printed in the June issue of *Record Times*. She is pictured here receiving the award from Michael Jeanes.

ON THE MOVE

- **Diane Jamison** was promoted and permanently assigned as the Northwest Court Facility Operations Manager. She was serving as the Downtown Civil Courtroom Services Manager.
- **Erika Morgenstern** was promoted from Courtroom Clerk to become the new Downtown Civil/Probate/Tax Courtroom Services Manager.

SPOTLIGHT

Name: Feliz Gorny
Department: CSC Public Records Counter
Hometown: Pearsall, Texas
Family: *Husband* - Leo / **5 sons** - Roger, Joseph, Victor, Henry, and Abraham
Birthday: May 1
Years With Clerk's Office: 5 years
Favorite Activity: Camping and Traveling
Least Favorite Activity: Cleaning windows
Something That I'm Proud Of Is: Climbing Mt. Humphrey's, which is the tallest peak in Arizona
The Hardest Thing That You've Done: Raising five sons while working two jobs
My Favorite Meal: Tacos
A Dream I Have Is To: travel around the world
A Pet Peeve: When people do not use their turn signals when driving
Two People You Would Like To Have Dinner With: Nicholas Cage and Richard Gere
What Was Your First Job: I was a seamstress
Nobody Would Believe It If They Knew... that I have five sons, 22 grandchildren (13 biological), and 2 great granddaughters. I also used to do my own mechanic work on my car.



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