



# ~ Happy 98th Birthday, Arizona ~

By Helen Neuharth, President/CEO

Aah - the month of February – most of us think about Valentine’s Day on February 14. Did you know that is also the State of Arizona’s ‘birthday’? Yes indeed; this year our state will celebrate its 98<sup>th</sup> year since becoming a state!

Thirteen years after Arizona became a state, a handful of businesses in Casa Grande were serving nearly 1,000 residents. Five business men in Casa Grande sat down, discussed and decided it was time to form a chamber of commerce. That day, in 1925, the Greater Casa Grande Chamber of Commerce was formed. The Chamber was ‘officially’ recognized when we incorporated in 1931.

The Greater Casa Grande Chamber of Commerce is now the leading business organization, as the voice of business, with just over 590 business-members. The basic foundation of the chamber is as a private, voluntary, non-profit (501-C6) business organization dedicated to improving the economic environment of a community and fostering the development of business growth and prosperity. Today, we face many of the same issues that businesses faced many years ago: a drop in the economy, workforce development, quality of life and growth for our community. It is interesting to see how history plays such an important role in how we plan our future.



Photo by David Bridger, City of Casa Grande

KEEPING IT LIGHT- 2009 Chamber Chair Dr. Frank Davidson, Casa Grande Elementary School District, passes the leadership torch to 2010 Chamber Chair Sandi Hennessey, The Handyman at the 2010 Annual Dinner and 2009 Awards Presentation.



### Why Shop Local?

- ~ *Sustain local economy*
- ~ *Create and maintain local jobs*
- ~ *Make your taxes work for you*
- ~ *Support local charities*
- ~ *Invest in your own community*

## Arizona Project W.E.T. water conservation tip

Join Arizona Project WET, the Pinal County Cooperative Extension, and the Abbott Fund in helping Casa Grande’s business community conserve water by following our monthly water saving tips! Try this and see the water AND money savings add up:

**Check your sprinkler system frequently and adjust the sprinklers so that only the turf is watered and not the sidewalk or street.**

For more information about water conservation for your business, contact Tasha, Project WET, 520.836.5221. [tasha@cals.arizona.edu](mailto:tasha@cals.arizona.edu)



### THANK YOU to the following Business Ambassadors for meeting and greeting at the December 2009 Business After Hours:

- Pat Cote  
Cote Investigations & Associates, LLC
- Shirley Fairfield  
Avon Products, Inc. - Rep. Shirley Fairfield
- David Krippner  
Sweetwater Promotions, LLC
- Kate Schmidbauer  
L.S. Aztec Remodeling, LLC
- Melissa Wright,  
American Family Insurance - Jan L. Hobbs

### Coming Soon!

- Business Social Media Workshop - March**
- Biz Outlook Luncheon - Friday, April 16**
- Customer Service Workshop Luncheon - Wednesday, May 5, 2010**