

■ OPINIONS

Letters

(From Page 6)

legitimate arguments, they resort to attacks or party talking point responses that don't make sense.

We have visited many countries on three round- the-world trips and I would like to suggest that anyone on the extreme left (like Charlie Sheen or Sean Penn) should spend a year or more, as an average citizen (not as an actor from the USA) under Castro in Cuba or Chavez in Venezuela. It would be interesting to hear what they learned!

Jorge Landa
Goodyear

Pizzillo serves city well

Editor:

With the upcoming elections looming for City of Goodyear City Council members, we would urge voters to vote for Joe Pizzillo, who has served our City very well during his first term. He served as interim Mayor for four months after Mayor Cavanaugh resigned, and during this time, Goodyear was facing some tough issues. Under his leadership and with the election of Mayor Georgia Lord, our outlook for our City has much improved.

This Administration has improved the City's financial condition immensely, and brought it back from the brink of disaster with careful planning and resourcefulness. City resources have been wisely managed during the recession in a financial responsible manner.

Citizens are pleased with the level of services they are receiving from the City, in terms of maintenance, garbage collection, public safety, and water and sewer services.

Goodyear has managed to grow jobs and maintain a core level of services during a very difficult recession. Mr. Pizzillo was a former City Budget Manager, and he understands complicated Municipal funding, and how to make government more efficient.

Re-elect Joe Pizzillo, to help make Goodyear a first class city

in which we all want to live. Please make an informed decision. Most important is you do vote.

Bob and Holly Carrier
Goodyear

Choose Pizzillo for re-election

Editor:

In the next few weeks, Goodyear voters will have the opportunity to again help shape the future of our city by voting on three council seats and the Mayors position. Our current council has done an outstanding job the past two years taking care of business and keeping our city on the right track. Council member Joe Pizzillo has been a dedicated member of the council ever since he was elected to his first term. Before that, Joe worked for our city as our budget manager during the time I served as Goodyear Mayor. I have always been impressed with Joe's knowledge of city finances and his ability to explain the workings of city budgets. After his retirement from the city, I was happy that Joe decided to run for a council seat. Being on both sides of city finances, Joe is able to contribute his knowledge in open discussion to both city staff and council members. I am proud to endorse Joe Pizzillo for Goodyear City Council and ask you to also support him with your vote.

Bill Arnold
Former Goodyear mayor

Consider who is best for city

Editor:

During my time on the Buckeye Town Council, I have had the honor of working with local leaders I respect and admire.

Goodyear Mayor Lord, Goodyear Council Person Joe Pizzillo, Goodyear Council Person Wally Campbell, and Southwest Valley Chamber of Commerce President/CEO Sharolyn Hohman are a few of those leaders.

I have witnessed Mayor Lord and Ms. Campbell spend

Access expanded for mentally ill

by Frank Scarpati and Kevin Kotsur
Community Bridges president/CEO and Avondale chief of police, respectively

Recent tragedies involving violence and mental health have many of us wondering what can be done to mitigate such terrible situations in the future. We believe access to care and a greater state of community readiness is essential. In Avondale, we took an important step in that direction two years ago.

As one of the fastest growing cities in Arizona, Avondale has experienced all the aches and pains that accompany such growth. From 2001 to 2010, the city saw its population soar 114 percent to 74,000 residents, and this rapid growth contributed to gaps in services, including in behavioral health care. With only one 24/7 behavioral health facility in the area, the options were limited.

People often sought help in our hospital emergency rooms, a costly, time-consuming and less efficient means of addressing urgent behavioral health issues. If there was an encounter with law enforcement, the individual would be transported to a facility in Central Phoenix, but that option would take an Avondale officer off the city's streets for hours.

Our goal and belief was that we needed to get people facing mental health challenges into services as quickly as possible, with minimal impact on the community, especially law enforcement. We knew we had to be creative to address the problem and that we had to build partnerships with other agencies to be successful.

With that in mind, the city of Avondale, the West Valley Police Chief's Association, Magellan Health Services of Arizona and Community Bridges



Frank Scarpati



Kevin Kotsur

■ GUEST COMMENTARY

worked together to open an access point and transition point facility in Avondale. The innovative facility provides two types of services essential to those in mental health crisis: an access point that provides 24-hour triage, assessment, brief intervention and transition to the next phase of care to anyone arriving at its doors, and a transition point, which provides stabilizing care

for individuals who need clinical and residential services for three to five days.

Since the opening of the facility two years ago, thousands of individuals in the West Valley have been cared for and their mental health needs addressed. And, our police officers and hospitals have seen the positive impact that the availability of those services has had on their organizations and operations.

With good communication, a willingness to partner, and a commitment to community-based intervention, any city can find innovative solutions to the challenges and gaps facing its growing population — and meet a critical need that can help mitigate terrible situations from occurring.

Frank Scarpati, is president/CEO of Community Bridges, a behavioral health and substance abuse treatment corporation that has been nationally recognized for its clinical innovation and community leadership. Scarpati is also a member of the Magellan Health Services Governance Board. Kevin Kotsur is Avondale's chief of police and a member and past president of the West Valley Police Chief's Association.

time and energy working with an organization to bring industry and jobs to the Phoenix Metropolitan Area. These efforts have benefitted the Southwest Valley in particular.

I have witnessed Mr. Pizzillo and Ms. Hohman volunteer for an organization which supplies medical equipment to persons in need; equipment which is desperately needed and expensive to buy.

During the past two decades, Ms. Hohman has been involved in many west valley community minded organizations; organizations requiring a large

commitment of time and energy by Ms. Hohman.

It is my personal belief that some, if not most, of these organizations would not be in existence without the participation of Ms. Hohman. These commitments come in addition to her work of making the Southwest Valley Chamber of Commerce a success.

I know each of these community leaders works hard for Goodyear. I have seen each spend countless hours to make the Southwest Valley a great place to work, live, and play. The efforts of these leaders

demonstrates their commitment to serving Goodyear residents and being a regional partner, working to better the lives of the entire Southwest Valley.

As election time draws near for Goodyear, I kindly ask my neighbors to the east to not only consider who works diligently for the betterment of Goodyear, but also consider those who put in the additional time and energy for the entire west valley.

Brian McAchran
Buckeye vice mayor

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How to sell high: Avoid these three mistakes when selling your West Valley home.

When you decide to sell your home, setting your asking price is one of the most important decisions you will ever make. Depending on how a buyer is made aware of your home, price is often the first thing he or she sees, and many homes are discarded by prospective buyers as not being in the appropriate price range before they're even given a chance of showing.

Your asking price is often your home's "first impression", and if you want to realize the most money you can for your home, it's imperative that you make a good impression.

This is not as easy as it sounds, and pricing strategy should not be taken lightly. Pricing too high can be as costly to a homeseller as pricing too low. Taking a look at what homes in your neighborhood have sold for is only a small part of the process, and on its own is not nearly enough to help you make the best decision. A recent study,

which compiles 10 years of industry research, has resulted in a new special report entitled "Homesellers: How to Get the Price You Want (and Need)". This report will help you understand pricing strategy from three different angles. When taken together, this information will help you price your home to not only sell, but sell for the price you want.

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