



How County Funds Are Spent

Maricopa County's FY 2006/07 budget of \$2.1 billion is categorized by the following six areas as depicted in the chart.



- .27% education
- .35% culture & recreation
- 8.43% highways & streets
- 32.56% general government
- 35.89% public safety

The majority of expense is in the area of **public safety** at nearly 36%, which is mostly comprised of the budgets from:

- Judicial Branch
- Sheriff's Office
- County Attorney's Office
- Indigent Representation
- Probation

CONTACT US

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Welcome from Supervisor Wilcox

Dear Maricopa County Residents,

The New Year has started and before we forget about 2006, I thought you might like to see what Maricopa County had accomplished last year. I've put together this newsletter to keep you updated and share with you what has been happening in District 5, as well as the whole County.

Some of the highlights for me this year are:

- What the County has done to continue preparing the western area of Maricopa County for the growth that is occurring with no end in sight.
- This year we have also embarked on a Criminal Justice Strategy to help curb and prevent crime particular among our youth, and first time offenders.
- We have also invested thousands of dollars in our planning and zoning areas to streamline procedures for residents and create a one stop shop for businesses.
- Our Air Quality Program is trying to involve the public in an effort to bring back Blue Skies and get rid of the brown cloud that is the cause of so many health problems.

I have continued with our special Youth Programs and Community Events and we are very excited to have two new libraries opening this year. Maricopa County will be partners with in the cities of Avondale and Goodyear. Our Estrella Park got special face lifting attention and our trail system got extended to Guadalupe. Animal and Control is reaching out to families to make it easier to take care of their pets and our Public Health Department is continuing with their special school immunization programs.

Through all these accomplishments Maricopa County has continued to operate in a sound fiscal manner with Triple A Bonding Standing to bring our citizens a fiscally sound, efficient, well run, fine tuned county government.

Hope you enjoy our news. Any questions or ideas contact me. Thank You.

Sincerely,

Mary Rose Wilcox
Supervisor, District 5
Maricopa County, Arizona



Community Development

Supervisor Wilcox presented a check to Neighborhood Housing Services of the Southwest (NHS) and Jesus Ramirez, representing the County's first payment under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) American Dream Downpayment Initiative (ADDI). Jesus Ramirez is the first resident of Maricopa County to receive assistance through the ADDI. He received \$9,995 from Maricopa County to help him realize his dream of homeownership.

ADDI aims to increase the home ownership rate, especially among lower income and minority households. The program was created to assist low-income first-time homebuyers in purchasing single-family homes by providing funds for a downpayment and closing costs. The amount of ADDI assistance provided may not exceed \$10,000 or six percent of the purchase price of the home, whichever is greater. This year, ADDI had funds remaining for more applicants, so those eligible are encouraged to apply. To be eligible for ADDI assistance, individuals must be first-time homebuyers. Additionally, individuals must have incomes not exceeding 80% of area median income. This money has to be spent in the communities of Buck-



eye, El Mirage, Gila Bend, Goodyear, Guadalupe, Queen Creek, Tolleson, Wickenburg, Youngtown, and the unincorporated areas of the County. Maricopa Urban County contracts with Neighborhood Housing Services of the Southwest for our ADDI program. For more information, our contact is Aurora Gonzales at 623-932-9077.

Youth Activities

Arizona-Mexico Friendship Games



100 boys and girls from Arizona, ages 11 – 16, from various disciplines of sports including, boxing, soccer, basketball and baseball, traveled by bus to Rocky Point, Sonora, Mexico to compete with youth teams

from Mexico for this first ever Arizona Mexico Commission (AMC) Friendship Sports Games tournament. Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox, Chair of the AMC Sports Committee, organized the games as a cultural exchange to coincide with the AMF fall plenary session in Rocky Point. Governor Napolitano and Supervisor Wilcox gave the youth a send-off as they wore their official Team Napolitano T-shirts.

The Arizona-Mexico Commission is Arizona's premiere cross-border organization. It is a mission-driven non-profit organization chaired by Governor Napolitano. The mission is to improve the economic well being and quality of life for residents of Arizona by promoting a strong, cooperative relationship with Mexico and Latin America through advocacy, trade, networking and information. Supervisor Wilcox developed the cultural and educational exchange for children on both sides of the border to promote healthy competition and friendship between the youth of the states of Arizona and Sonora.

Late Night Basketball



The Wilcox Late Night Basketball Program aims to provide creative alternatives for youths through cultural and recreational activities to reduce gang violence and criminal activity.

This past August was the tip off for the 16th annual Late Night Basketball tournament which took place at Harmon Park in downtown Phoenix, 1239 S. 5th Ave. 30 boys teams and girls teams participated this year. Earl and Mary Rose Wilcox launched the youth tournament for boys and girls to provide a positive alternative to drugs, violence and gang involvement.

According to City of Phoenix crime statistics, the juvenile crime rate had been reduced by about 17% in the inner city neighborhood where the tournament program is run. Supervisor Wilcox says, "Youth can get caught up in gangs, violence and drugs, but we believe we can show them a better path. Through participation in this esteem-building program, we encourage kids to turn away from bad influences, to carry on in school and to contribute to their communities."

The series culminated in a banquet and championship games. At the banquet, Stevie Colter, NBA star who grew up in inner city Phoenix, spoke to the youth. After the championship games, Governor Napolitano handed out the trophies.

D'Backs Jam

For the ninth year in a row, Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox led a crowd of 700 excited 5th and 6th grade Diamondbacks fans into Chase Field to see the D' Backs take on the Pittsburgh Pirates. The children live in the shadow of Chase Field, yet cannot afford to attend games. Wilcox calls it the Inner City D-Back Jam.

The children have come to look forward to entering fifth grade when they are eligible to attend the D-Backs Jam. They must earn their tickets by donating five hours of community service. "These kids have given three thousand hours to our community," says Supervisor Wilcox. "In addition to earning tickets, they're learning about giving back."

Participating schools so far have been Academia del Pueblo, Bethune, Dunbar, Herrera, Lowell and Capitol Elementary Schools. The program will be expanded this year.



Parks and Recreation

The Parks Department has committed to developing a strategic master plan to outline a roadmap for the future. The plan will address the projected need for regional parks and park amenities into the next 50 years, as well as include strategies that can immediately be implemented. The plan will solidify the Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department as a national leader in regional park systems. The ultimate goal is to enhance the benefits we provide to our visitors.

A few highlights of this past year...

* Estrella Mountain Regional Park experienced a record number of vehicles, 2,400, over Easter Sunday thanks to the race at Phoenix International Raceway.

* Irrigation construction started at Estrella Mountain Regional Park and the new restrooms and ramada were unveiled to the public.

* The shade structure for the Super playground at Estrella was installed.

Planning and Zoning

At our Planning and Development facility on 44th Street, South of the 202 Freeway, we have implemented new procedures that will expedite acquiring building permits.

The number of building permits issued annually by Maricopa County has grown 66 percent since 2001. Customer wait times increased dramatically, creating an expensive bottleneck for residents and the development community. In response, the Maricopa County Department of Planning and Development has employed new procedures.

Process improvement: A "Short Track" permit process has been implemented allowing customers to quickly receive simpler permits. Barcoding is being used to streamline data entry. These process changes, along with a firm commitment to staffing by the Board of Supervisors, have dramatically reduced permit processing times by several weeks.

One-stop shop: Staff members from related agencies (floodplain, transportation, environmental and air quality) are now located onsite at our 44th Street facility every Wednesday to provide immediate assistance and information, creating a true one-stop shop for the customer.

Technology: With the participation of two builders ready to submit "mock" digital blueprints, the County has been piloting an electronic plans submission system which will render bulky rolls of plans unnecessary and allow the plan correction process to occur electronically, eliminating the need for multiple generations of printed blueprints.



Environmental Services/Air Quality

The over three and a half million people in Maricopa County are breathing air that contains unhealthy levels of particle pollution. The air we breathe affects our health and longevity, so we have taken a fresh look at air quality issues and have come up with solutions to our problem.

Particle pollution is a mixture of microscopic solids and aerosols that can take months--even years off a person's life. Children are some of the most vulnerable, but so are the elderly and people with asthma or other lung diseases.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has told Maricopa County that we have to decrease levels of particle pollution by 5 percent every year until we meet clean-air health standards. We are working with the Maricopa Association of Governments, the State, and the Cities to develop a plan to get those particulate reductions.

In the meantime, Maricopa County has launched Bring Back Blue, a public information and awareness campaign to bring back the blue skies. As part of that effort we're offering the Dirty Dozen--12 things we all can do to reduce particulate pollution in Maricopa County.

Every month, new ideas will be posted on www.BringBackBlue.org, so please check back often. I invite you to join me, my family and Maricopa County employees in heeding the Dirty Dozen. Each of us, collectively, can make a difference. Together, let's **Bring Back Blue**.

The Dirty Dozen

1. Drive less, particularly on pollution advisory days. Carpool or ride the bus.
2. Don't drive in the dirt.
3. Drive slowly on unpaved roads.
4. Don't use leaf blowers and other equipment that raise a lot of dust.
5. Avoid using gas-powered lawn and garden equipment.
6. Maintain your landscape. Cover loose dirt with vegetation or gravel.
7. Reduce fireplace and woodstove use, and don't use your wood-burning fireplace or stove on no-burn days.
8. Consider using gas instead of wood. If you use a wood-burning stove, or fireplace insert, make sure it meets EPA design specifications and burn only dry, seasoned wood.
9. Conserve electricity.
10. Don't burn leaves, trash or other materials.
11. Report serious offenders to the Maricopa County Air Quality Department at 602-372-2703.
12. Support laws, rules and efforts to make our air healthier, and visit www.BringBackBlue.org to learn more.



Law Enforcement and Justice Issues

Maricopa County Lease Agreement with New Maryvale YMCA to Benefit Community Youth

The Board of Supervisors approved a 15-year Lease Agreement with a new Maryvale YMCA at 67th Avenue and Clarendon in Maryvale for office space and memberships. Per this agreement, the Maricopa County Juvenile Probation Department will have the right to exclusive use of areas within the facility; i.e., gymnasium, multi-purpose room, teen and tech center and conference room, for a minimum of 11 ½ hours per week.

With Maricopa County Juvenile Probation having a presence in the YMCA facility, the probation officers will be able to more fully interface with juveniles in the Maryvale area, which is one of the highest zip codes for referrals to Juvenile Probation. (It is also in the top 20 highest referrals to Adult Probation.) The expectation is that interaction with the community youth will provide long term benefits in terms of developing stronger community ties, therefore resulting in fewer referrals to the criminal justice system.

This partnership is a way for Maricopa County to assist in a way that will benefit Maryvale's children in our community. The \$350,000 amount of the lease will be put to excellent use. The cost for the County will be covered by Crime Prevention Funds.

New Downtown Justice Center

In November, we celebrated the completion of the five-story, \$38 million Downtown Justice Center at 620 W. Jackson Street. This Justice Center is the latest example of the Board of Supervisors' commitment to operating county government at all levels, in the most responsible and cost effective manner possible. We have provided the community with a new center that provides convenient access to numerous court and county services.



The Downtown Justice Center is the new home of five Justices of the Peace and offices of the Justice Courts' management team. Also located in the new facility are offices for the Clerk of the Superior Court, conveniently located directly across the street from the Clerk's Customer Service Facility. The remaining major departments located in the center include Adult Probation, Pre-Trial Services, the Public Defenders Office, Office of Contract Counsel, the Judicial Branch Education and Career Development Services, Court Technology Services and Integrated Criminal Information Services.

Flood Control



Laveen Area Conveyance Channel: This is a joint project among the Flood Control District, the City of Phoenix, MCDOT and SRP. The project consists of a six-mile long conveyance channel and a detention basin that will provide 100-year protection to the Laveen area along the Maricopa Drain. The channel and basin will also function as park facilities for the City.

Bethany Home Outfall Channel Phase 2B: This is a joint project among the cities of Glendale and Phoenix and the Flood Control District. The 100-year channel and linear basin is along the northern bank of the Grand Canal from 64th Avenue to the Agua Fria Freeway outfall channel at approximately 97th Avenue.

El Rio Watercourse Master Plan: The El Rio is a 17-mile watercourse master plan along the Gila River that stretches from the confluence of the Agua Fria River to MC85. The El Rio stakeholders have created a Memorandum of Understanding to formalize and coordinate the implementation process. The MOU will be presented to City Councils and County Board of Supervisors/Directors for consideration in early 2007.



Lower Hassayampa Watercourse Master Plan Phase I: The Lower Hassayampa WCMP covered 21 miles of the Hassayampa River from the Gila River to the CAP siphon, including a reach of Jackrabbit Wash. The Town of Buckeye was a project partner. Phase II provides a recommended alternative for necessary flood control features and is scheduled to start in late 2007.

Rainbow Valley Mapping: This project developed the required topographic mapping required for future planning and/or floodplain delineation studies.

Library District

The New Goodyear Library

The Maricopa County Library District and the City of Goodyear are joining into an agreement to share the cost of providing library services to Goodyear residents. The Library District will operate the library and fund its operations for five years with option to renew for an additional five-year term. The City will fund the cost for facilities. The City is considering building a \$7.8-million 30,000-sq. ft. library in its new City Center with completion in 2008-2009. The Library District's contribution is reduced during the second five-year term based on the City's population at that time. It is a policy of the Library District to support 100% of library operations to cities and towns with populations of 50,000 or less. Once a City's population exceeds 50,000 the District funds a reduced

portion of operations over the five-year period, with the town or city absorbing 100% of the operational cost by the fifth year.

Avondale Civic Center Library

The residents of Avondale can look forward to a new state-of-the-art library with a sophisticated library catalog automation system and the latest in library technology. The project came about as a joint agreement between the Maricopa County Library District and the City of Avondale. The new \$8 million library, built by the City, is to be operated by the Library District for first five years. The Library District will pay the first year's operating costs



which tapers to partial funding over the next four years. After that, the City's assumes all operating costs with the Library District providing its automation services. The Library District is pleased to provide the support Avondale needs to take this giant technology step forward and to offer its residents high-quality library services. The 31,000-sq. ft. facility is scheduled to open in Spring 2007.

Transportation

Completed Projects

Projects completed this past year in District 5 include

- the **Sun Valley Parkway Corridor Study (I-10 to Bell Road)**
- the **El Mirage Road Corridor Study (Bell Road to Northern Avenue)**
- the **MC-85 Corridor Study (75th Avenue to Turner Road)**

Each of these studies established guidelines for these important corridors and identified future Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) candidate projects.

In Progress

The \$63 million **Cotton Lane Bridge at Gila River** project is lead by Maricopa County. Goodyear and a private developer are partners on this project, which will extend the Cotton Lane roadway from existing MC 85 generally south to Estrella Mountain Parkway.

The Board of Supervisors has approved an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Phoenix in which the Maricopa



County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) will improve a two-mile stretch of **MC85 (Buckeye Road) between 91st and 107th Avenues**. This \$8.5 million project will make a roadway with six lanes, raised center medians, curbs, bike lanes, drainage system and sidewalks. This major step forward by Maricopa County will provide much needed relief on I-10. It is our hope to extend the expansion from 107 Avenue to MC85 in the very near future.

Future Projects

There are several studies tentatively planned for FY 08 in District 5

The **Hassayampa Study** is being led by the Maricopa Association of Governments, with Maricopa County being one of five funding partners. This study will establish the future roadway network for the area west of the Hassayampa River. It is of major importance since it will be the first study to identify new freeway corridors since the 1960's.

Other studies include:

- a **corridor study along Old US-80**
- a **SR 85 extension along the Turner Road alignment between I-10 and SR-74.**