

From Bystander to Stand By Her: Domestic Violence Survival Means Friends, Family Who Don't Give Up

Celeste Plumlee was a 19-year old college student majoring in dance and psychology when she met an engaging man at a coffee shop.

“He seemed interesting and adventurous, and I was immediately taken with his charm. I had no idea that he would soon manipulate, control, smother, and transform me into a shell of the person I had known myself to be,” Plumlee shared during a press conference by the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) to launch October’s Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

“Abusers permeate their victims’ lives and find multiple ways to control, belittle, negate, and obliterate those who love them most,” said Plumlee, who spent nine years with her abuser. “For me, the abuse was verbal, emotional, financial, physical, and sexual. I was threatened, I was strangled, he punched me in the stomach during my second pregnancy, he accused me, he undermined me, he raped me, and essentially he hated me throughout the relationship. But he said he loved me, and while I was submersed in this living nightmare that he had created for me, I believed that his love was real.”

The press conference, titled *From Bystander to Stand By Her*, focused on the need for friends and family to remain supportive, even if the victim returns to the situation after they have tried to help her break away.* Statistics show that on average, a woman experiencing abuse will attempt to leave approximately seven times before fleeing successfully.

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**It is important to note that 15 percent of domestic violence victims are men.*



Speaking at the event were (left to right) Youngtown Mayor Michael LeVault, Phoenix Councilmember Thelda Williams, Celeste Plumlee, and MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council Chair Barbara Marshall.

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Message From the Chair



Mayor Scott Smith
City of Mesa

In addition to my role as MAG chair, I am honored to serve as the president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. Both roles have provided me with opportunities to observe and participate in discussions regarding the global competitiveness of our region and of the Intermountain West. I have learned how important it is for each region to do its part to facilitate that competitiveness, such as working together to develop a freight corridor from Mexico to Canada.

Out of the 381 largest metropolitan areas in the U.S., the greater Phoenix region is the 14th most populous and has the 15th largest economy in terms of gross domestic product. According to Moody's Analytics, Arizona is ranked as the No. 1 best state for future job growth. Providing economic development opportunities through well-developed transportation corridors is critical to our continued growth and prosperity.

We are at the precipice of developing a freight corridor from Mexico to Canada, through the Interstate 11 study efforts. I-11 would be the backbone of a transportation network that serves not only border-to-border traffic, but would catapult the Intermountain West into a thriving region that would provide opportunities for economic commerce, tourism and international trade in the western United States.

I-11 would also provide relief to the overburdened I-5 corridor in California that carries and distributes

freight from the West Coast ports. Keeping the Americas in global competition with Asia will require greater cooperation with Canada, Mexico, and neighboring western states and require a solid working relationship with the Western Governors Association. Cities, counties and states working alone cannot achieve these goals.

There are several key factors in accommodating a successful transportation corridor through the Intermountain West. One is to support the Arizona State Land Department to efficiently bring to market parcels that are in the path of development. Since a portion of I-11 is likely to be built through federal land, it is also necessary to work with the Bureau of Land Management to allow more efficient transfers and disposals of land within the right-of-way. Finally, while we have made improvements to our border crossing infrastructure, inadequate staffing results in long wait times that harm economic productivity. Each additional minute spent waiting translates to a lost opportunity for businesses and tourists.

We are fortunate to live within one of the most dynamic and vibrant areas of the Intermountain West. We are in a top 10 market location and we are well positioned as a key national market along the north-south CANAMEX trade route. By coordinating our freight economic development efforts, the region can speak with a unified voice and a uniform plan to become the global logistics hub of the Southwest. 



MAGAZine is a quarterly newsletter of the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG). It focuses on the issues and concerns of the cities, towns and tribal communities of the MAG region. If you know of a friend or colleague who would like to receive MAGAZine, please call the MAG office, (602) 254-6300.

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Visit www.azmag.gov and click on Regional Council.



Chandler was proud to once again host the annual Family Self-Sufficiency graduation ceremony for the cities of Chandler, Scottsdale, Tempe and Mesa. This program clearly shows—in human terms—how access to Public Housing and Housing Voucher programs can change lives. Congratulations to this year’s graduates, along with the staff from the four city programs.

—Mayor Jay Tibshraeny, City of Chandler



I was among several mayors and other Economic Development Committee (EDC) members who recently attended the Arizona Board of Regents meeting in Flagstaff for the signing of the memorandum of understanding (MOU) between our state’s universities and MAG. The MOU provides a mechanism to support future research grant applications. Supporting our universities’ research efforts is a positive step by our region to encourage quality economic development. It holds the promise of future high wage jobs and the creation of new economic drivers for our region. (See story, page 7.)

—Mayor Thomas L. Schoaf, City of Litchfield Park



Saint Xavier University’s decision to open a Gilbert campus offers a higher education opportunity consistent with the region’s efforts to attract and retain high-value organizations with an emphasis on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). With a focus on nursing, education and business programs, Saint Xavier University will have a significant impact in ensuring that tomorrow’s workforce has the skills needed to fulfill these vital occupations.

—Mayor John Lewis, Town of Gilbert



When the City of Goodyear rings in the Year 2014, not only will we see the opening of our new Maricopa County Branch of the Goodyear Library, but we are excited to announce the library will have an “Incubator” space for entrepreneurs and those wishing to create, research, and discuss ideas for businesses. The Incubator is expected to be a 1,000-square-foot space inside the 9,600-square-foot library at the newly purchased Venida municipal complex and will be a partnership between the city, the county and Arizona State University’s SkySong business incubator program. We are excited to provide opportunities for the next generation of successful businesses to develop their brand and grow with our community.

—Mayor Georgia Lord, City of Goodyear



When Athena Wireless received a \$250,000 grant during the Arizona Commerce Authority’s “Innovation Challenge” in a statewide competition earlier this year, it showed how far our region has come in maturing our business incubator models and building stronger partnerships with the state.

By providing crucial space, tools and resources to help Athena get going, we encouraged a new, innovative company here at home, and added to our growing base of high end jobs.

The Commerce Authority’s Innovation Challenge is a good example of the state’s recognition of the need to invest in private innovation.

Evidence of our growing regional unity came in June with the visit of a delegation from Mexico organized by the Greater Phoenix Economic Council and MAG, which toured several municipal incubator sites around the Valley, including the AZTechCelerator in Surprise. The support we see for incubators is a great example of what regionalism really means.

—Mayor Sharon Wolcott, City of Surprise



Vice Mayor Robin Barker, Town of Apache Junction



Community, Regionalism Important to Apache Junction Vice Mayor

As an English and Journalism high school teacher for 21 years, Apache Junction Vice Mayor Robin Barker learned a lot about how to deliver messages—even to the most discerning audiences.

“If you can stand in front of a group of ninth-graders, you can stand in front of anybody,” says Barker, who has represented the city of Apache Junction on the MAG Regional Council since 2007.

Despite her communication skills, Barker notes that she doesn’t speak out much at Regional Council meetings. “I’ve found that listening is probably my best asset. I listen and work things through,” says Barker. “I’m looking for the big picture and then I can break it down and see how it all fits,” she added.

Barker says for her, the bigger picture must include an emphasis on infrastructure.

“Roads, roads, roads and roads. The need to improve, maintain and build new ones. Without solid infrastructure, economic development—including tourism, business development and residential growth—is doomed to slow down, if not come to a screeching halt.”

Barker began her public service in 1989, first serving two terms on the City Council and then returning to the council in 2007, where she is now on her third term. She says her initial interest in politics focused on three key areas of interest: sidewalks, bicycle paths, and neighborhood parks—and she has made significant progress in all three. The current MAG Transportation Improvement Program includes nearly \$275,000 in funding for two sidewalk projects in Apache Junction. Today, when a new road is constructed or an older one widened, it must include a bike lane. Barker is also working with the city’s parks and recreation and animal control departments to establish the city’s first dog park.

In addition to her service on the City Council and MAG, Vice Mayor Barker represents the city on the Joint Planning Advisory Council, and serves as a board member for Pinal Partnership, as vice president



Vice Mayor Barker in Prospect Park, with a view of the Superstition Mountains in the background.

of the Pinal County Governmental Alliance, and at the mayors’ meetings for the Greater Phoenix Economic Council.

Barker is also a strong advocate for domestic violence victims. “I am proud to say that our community was the first in the state to pass the *Start by Believing* proclamation promoting an awareness of domestic violence victims,” she said. “We have shared the proclamation with many other cities across our state and they also are passing it.” *Start By Believing* is an international awareness campaign focusing on improving the way communities respond to sexual assault, which is a common component of domestic violence.

Barker is proud of the work she and her fellow council members have done in improving their nearly 37,000 member community.

“We have managed to do so many good things for this community to improve the quality of life and health and safety here. We have spent the past couple of years planning and creating a true downtown area. We have a solid start and the council has worked as a unit to accomplish it. I’m very proud to be a member of this council,” says Barker.

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Vice Mayor Barker and Dilly on one of their many walks.

Vice Mayor Barker (continued)

In her spare time, Barker is an avid walker—along with her dog, Dilly. “We walk all over the city and the federal land nearby,” she states. She also loves to travel and she, her husband, Ed, and Dilly recently toured 13 states in just over five weeks. “We like to get in the car and just go. We stop at every beach and park along the way,” she says.

Barker says she requested the appointment to the MAG Regional Council six years ago because she believes strongly in regionalism. “We are on the tip of Maricopa County and on the tip of Pinal County, and we need to reach in both directions and ensure a partnership going both ways,” she says, adding that she believes that partnership will be even better with Pinal County’s recent decision to join MAG.

“I’m glad to be a part of MAG—it’s an important organization and does important work that a single community can’t accomplish by itself. Working together gives us all an advantage.”

Barker says she would like to remain in office as long as she can keep making a difference.

“I feel like my work isn’t done here. We’ve still got a ways to go. Apache Junction is surrounded by state and federal land. We need to find ways to get industry here, to create more jobs for our folks. We are really close to Gateway (airport) now, so that is a good thing, but finding the land and getting the state and feds to let loose of it is another problem. There are things to be done and I would love to be part of them.”

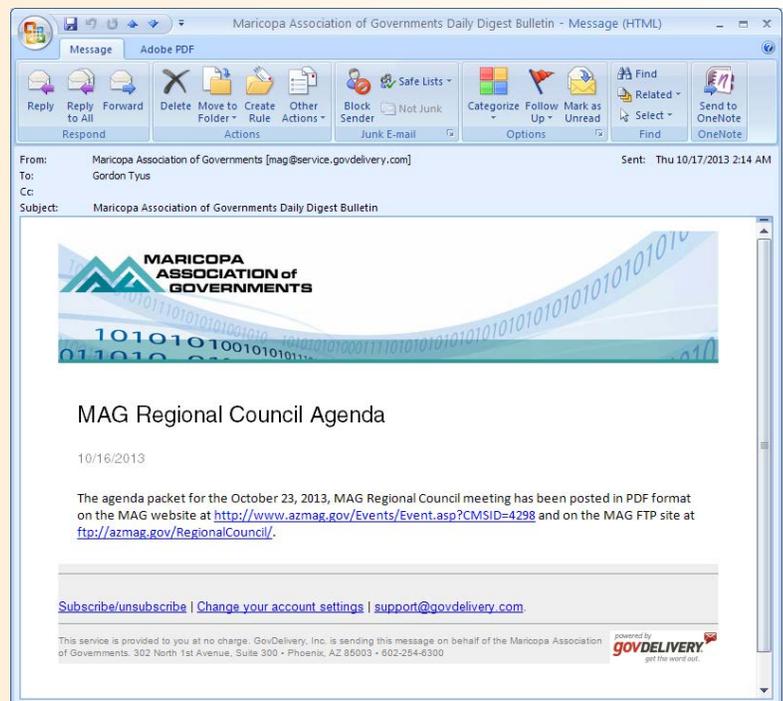
Electronic Delivery Assists in Public Outreach

Getting information about MAG’s plans and programs to Valley residents in a timely fashion is important for successful public involvement. As part of its efforts to provide greater transparency to its various stakeholders, MAG utilizes the GovDelivery e-mail notification system to keep the public and MAG members up to date on all information posted to the MAG website, such as new and ongoing transportation projects, public meetings, air quality efforts, socioeconomic projections, human services programs, informational videos, progress in meeting goals through performance measurement platforms, and more. GovDelivery is a free subscription program and allows MAG to reach more people through digital communication channels, such as e-mail and social media, while streamlining communications and reducing costs.

The GovDelivery service monitors specific website pages for changes, and when a change is detected, e-mail subscribers are notified. Users can choose to subscribe to as many pages as they wish. There are 156 monitored pages on the MAG website.

For example, MAG sends out this quarterly MAGAZine newsletter through GovDelivery. A user can click on the little red envelope  on the MAGAZine page and receive an e-mail notifying the subscriber when the MAGAZine is posted to the website for electronic review.

The GovDelivery platform allows MAG to measure the engagement of its communication efforts, with comprehensive reporting on e-mail opens and click-throughs for each topic, so MAG can better understand its stakeholders’ interests. For more information about the GovDelivery subscription service, please contact Audrey Skidmore at (602) 254-6300. 



MAG, Universities Work to Enhance Economic Development Opportunities

Memorandum of Understanding Seeks to Improve Grant Prospects

With repeated sweeps of the pen, representatives of Arizona State University, the Maricopa Association of Governments, Maricopa Community Colleges, Northern Arizona University, the Thunderbird School of Global Management, and the University of Arizona all came together in Flagstaff to sign a joint agreement intended to improve the process for securing competitive grant funding.

The “Memorandum of Understanding: Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurial Agreement” is a means of showing local government support for the universities and

colleges as they globally compete for grant funding and to expedite the process for demonstrating that support.

“There have been occasions where we have come close to securing an award in Arizona, only to learn that another university outside of our state was selected because of what was perceived to be better support coming from its local governments,” said Angela Creedon, assistant vice president of public affairs for Arizona State University (ASU). “It is not because we didn’t have the same support, but because we were unable to get the appropriate partnerships in place in time to submit them as part of our proposal. This agreement lays out a plan for streamlining that process so that we can more nimbly

respond with information about the type of support the community is lending to enhance the proposal and increase our chances of winning the grant,” she said. In fact, ASU President Michael Crow later noted that Arizona came in second on a \$122 million grant, primarily for the reasons cited by Creedon.

“There is no prize for second place,” stated Litchfield Park Mayor Thomas Schoaf, former chair of the MAG Economic Development Committee (EDC), who presented the proposal to the Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) in September. “We got together and decided that we would try to bring the MAG EDC into this problem—to see if we could help solve it by forming an MOU that would allow the universities a pathway to get into local governments early and to allow enough time so that local governments could decide on what they could do to support these research efforts.”

Under the agreement, educational institutions that need support from MAG or its local government members will present an outline of the grant proposal early in the process to allow sufficient time for local governments and businesses to work directly with the educational organizations regarding the needed support. The educational institutions also agree to let supporting partners know when opportunities exist for publicly supporting the grants. In turn, MAG and the EDC will help spread the word about the grant proposal and provide a written letter of support when appropriate.



Three public and two private universities signed the agreement. Pictured are (front row, left to right): Michael Crow, President, Arizona State University; Avondale Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers, Chair, Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) Economic Development Committee; Samuel Dosumu, Associate Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs at Maricopa Community Colleges (signing on behalf of Dr. Rufus Glasper, Chancellor); John Haeger, President, Northern Arizona University; Joe Cavinato, Professor of Supply Chain Management at Thunderbird School of Global Management (signing on behalf of Dr. Larry Penley, President); and Ann Hart, President, University of Arizona; (back row left to right) Dennis Smith, MAG Executive Director; Angela Creedon, Assistant Vice President of Public Affairs, Arizona State University; Youngtown Mayor Michael LeVault, MAG Vice Chair; Buckeye Mayor Jackie Meck, MAG Transportation Policy Committee Chair.

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Economic Development Opportunities

(continued)

“Speed is important in forming grant partnerships, and MAG includes all of the local governments in the region, which represent more than 60 percent of the population of Arizona,” said current EDC Chair Marie Lopez Rogers, mayor of Avondale. “The EDC membership includes not only local governments, but also regional business organizations, including the East Valley Partnership, the Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Phoenix Economic Council, WESTMARC, and the Arizona Commerce Authority,” she said. “We believe this agreement will enhance Arizona’s competitiveness and improve Arizona’s economy.”



Avondale Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers

Following the presentation, Arizona Regent and former U.S. Senator Dennis DeConcini told the delegation of mayors and EDC members how much the efforts were appreciated.

“Thank you for the leadership you are putting forward toward our universities,” said Senator DeConcini. “This is so vital. We talk about it a lot: what we need to do to communicate more with the communities, with the local governments, with the organizations. And here you are, coming forward with a helpful hand—and more than that, with the background that you have—to help our universities, which is so good for the whole state, and I appreciate it very, very much.”

Website Featuring Performance Dashboard Has “MAGnitude” of Data

Want to know how the streets, freeways, or transit systems serving your neighborhood are performing? MAG has developed a new interactive web platform that displays information about how well transportation facilities and services in the region are meeting the needs of the traveling public.

Called “MAGnitude,” the website contains maps, charts and infographics to provide easy to understand snapshots of detailed performance information. For example, in the “Freeways” section you can find annual averages for daily traffic volumes, daily congestion, traffic speeds at different times of the day for general purpose and HOV lanes in either direction—even how changes in the cost of gasoline relate to the vehicle miles traveled every year.

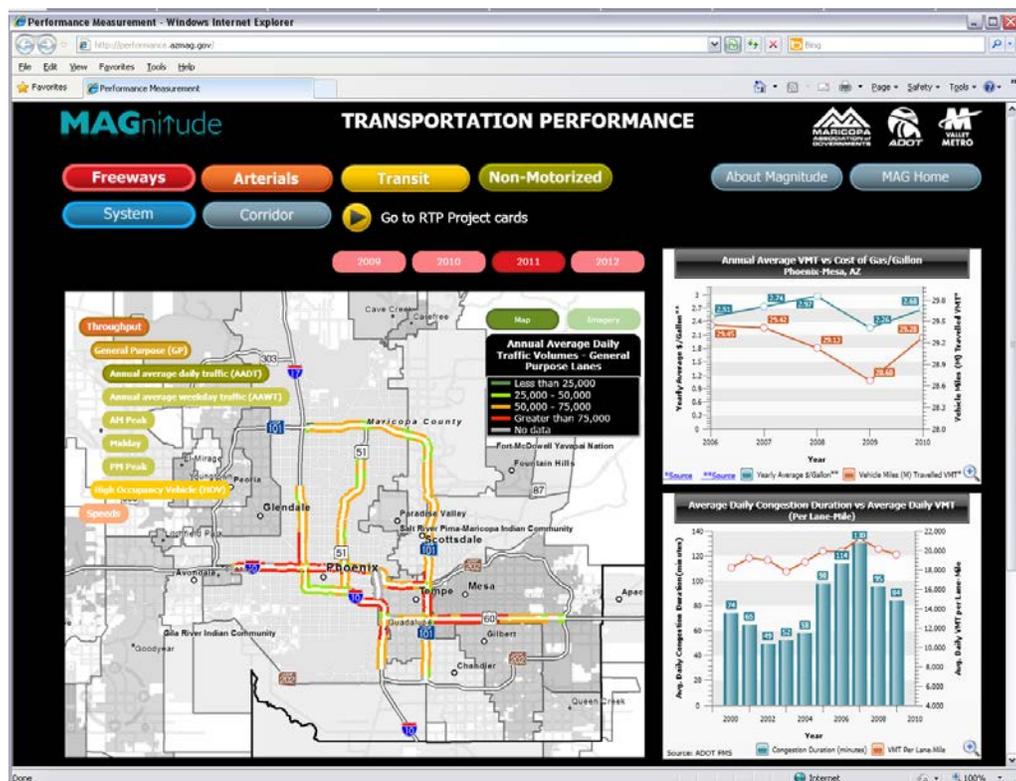
“One of the greatest features of this site is that you can select whether you want data on the whole system or in a specific corridor, and zoom in to the area of interest,” said MAG Transportation Policy Committee Chair Jackie Meck, mayor of Buckeye. “You can compare how the system is performing

to prior years, and see how trends are forming over time.”

The site includes expandable menus that allow users to use a mouse to “hover” over some main categories for definitions or additional information. Currently, the site has been populated with freeway and arterial data, and includes performance and ridership reports for transit. It also includes a map for nonmotorized modes such as bike and pedestrian paths. The transit and nonmotorized sections of the site will be enhanced with additional data as the project moves forward.

In addition, the site includes links to project cards for specific projects in the Regional Transportation Plan, including both completed and underway projects in the freeway and transit life cycle programs. The cards include information ranging from a description of each project to benefits to the users, as well as a schedule for construction and the cost of the project.

To access the “MAGnitude” performance dashboard, please visit the following link: <http://performance.azmag.gov/>.



New Resources Support People Aged 60-Plus

Living where you have friends, connections and associations can make for a great quality of life. That's why the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) and its partners are working on a number of initiatives to help Valley residents "age in place." Efforts include the launch of a new website, a newly-released outreach video, and the development of three pilot projects designed to support people aged 60 years and older.

Local research suggests a significant number of people aged 60 and over are seeking more meaningful connections with others. These studies also reveal that many older adults of all ages want to find the information they want online.

In order to project the needs of older adults now and in the future, the survey was conducted of Maricopa County residents aged 55 and older. More than one third of respondents reported social isolation as a significant concern, and only half of those surveyed were satisfied with opportunities to meet people their age. The highest rate of dissatisfaction—more than one out of four—was found among people aged 55 to 59 years.

A rich website, compelling video

The new website, www.Connect60Plus.com, was developed using feedback from local older adults. Nine focus groups throughout the region provided specific ideas about the features most important to include. On this interactive site, which was officially launched in August, visitors can use a map to find points of interest, participate in discussion forums hosted by local experts on a range of topics, and submit their own stories about the connections that are important to them.

To ensure that older adults don't become isolated as they age, resources targeted by the website include connecting individuals with transportation information, social opportunities, health care, and more. The website also includes a list of calendar events that are free and open to the public.

The video, "Connections to Community; Empowered Choices for Older Adults," features local leaders offering insight on the importance of community connections, and it tells the stories of several 60-plus Valley residents who are creating vibrant lives by giving back to others. The video is found on the Connect60Plus.com website.

The website and the video were made possible through Community AGenda, a national pilot project of Grantmakers in Aging, a group of philanthropies, with funding from the Pfizer Foundation and Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust. Funding for the project was also provided by the Area Agency on Aging, Benevilla, Duet, and the Tempe Community Council.

"Together, we are redefining what the years after 60 look like," said Carol Kratz, program director at

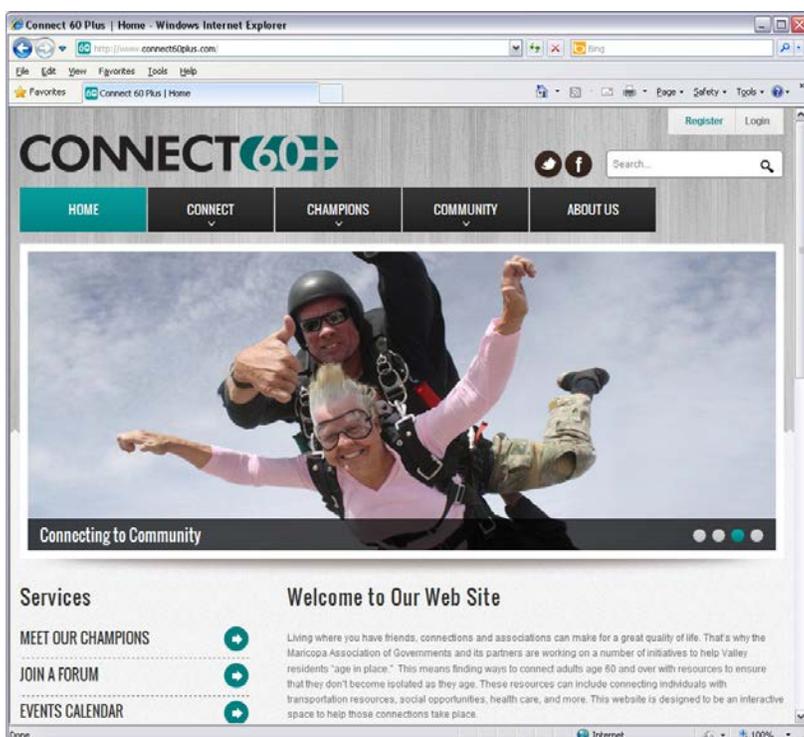
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Mayor Greg Stanton, City of Phoenix

"The older adults in our lives have tremendous gifts to share if they have the opportunity to do so," said Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton, a longtime champion of MAG's efforts. "These new tools, which were designed by and for older adults, can help create active connections and recognize older adults as one of our community's vibrant and incredible resources."

A survey commissioned by MAG in 2012 of older adults in this region reveals that social isolation is a



Aging Resources (continued)

Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust. “We need to redesign how the region responds to aging. The conversation is changing from growing old to growing well.”

New demographics, new models

The Pew Research Center estimates 10,000 people in the U.S. will turn 65 every day for the next 19 years. The increasing numbers of older adults represents a monumental shift for society. That means new models for providing services to seniors are needed. The city of Phoenix, Tempe Community Council, and Benevella and Sun Health in the Northwest Valley have been working closely with older adults and community partners to determine the most effective and responsive new models.

The city of Phoenix, for example, is working with All Saints Episcopal Church and Day School to open one of the first two villages in Arizona. The Central Village model will promote neighbor-to-neighbor exchanges as people sign up for time banks to donate their time to help their neighbors and receive assistance in return. The Tempe Community Council is working with Tempe Neighbors Helping Neighbors to evolve



into a village and expand the range of services they provide throughout the city of Tempe.

Benevella and Sun Health are known for providing care and services for people living in the Northwest Valley. They are taking the work to a new level by embarking on a joint partnership to meet the transportation needs of older adults, building on a significant volunteer base. Northwest Connections will become an affiliate within the only national nonprofit agency providing transportation to older adults, the Independent Transportation Network, or ITN.

“In all three areas, business plans have been developed to ensure the long-term sustainability of the modes,” said Goodyear Councilmember Joanne Osborne, who chairs the MAG Human Services Coordinating Committee. “Each plan lays out financial resources and strategies to ensure the models have the capacity to be successful.”

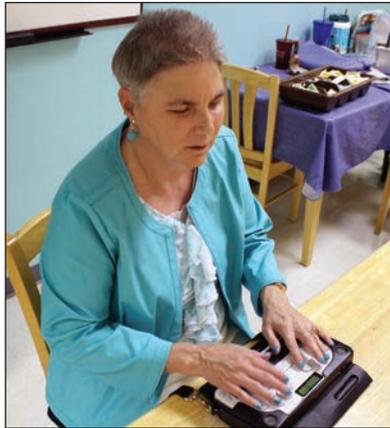
MAG Moment



MAG staff supports Domestic Violence Awareness Month “Arizona Wear Purple Day” on Friday, October 18, 2013.

Disability Outreach a Key Component of MAG's Public Participation Plan

When it comes to transportation planning, there is no more important step than that of public involvement. When it comes to public involvement, there may be no more active community than the disability community. That is one reason that a key component of the MAG Public Participation Plan is providing targeted outreach to people with disabilities.



Hartle Smith takes notes on her braille machine at a recent outreach meeting.

MAG Disability Outreach Associate Mary Hartle Smith spends hours each month talking about transportation issues on behalf of MAG, whether it is one-on-one conversations, presenting to small or large groups, or staffing information booths at special events. As a blind woman herself, Hartle Smith knows the importance of an effective and efficient transportation system.

“I hear it all the time from the groups with whom I meet—and I also know through experience—

that without a good transportation system, it is really hard for people with disabilities to get around and live a quality life,” she said.

MAG's disability outreach program was born in 2001 as part of the public involvement process that propelled the passage of Proposition 400 in 2004. The disability community played an integral part in



Hartle Smith (far left) was asked to be included in the photo with then-Governor Janet Napolitano (seated) following the signing of Proposition 400.

the public input process, and the personal experiences shared by its members during planning and programming discussions helped convince decision makers that transit programs needed a larger share of funding. During this time, Hartle Smith was a constant voice and presence at the legislature and at MAG meetings. Her enthusiasm was rewarded when she was asked to be photographed with the Governor and other elected officials after Proposition 400 was signed into state statute.



“That really meant something to me. It showed that people can affect the process if they are persistent,” Hartle Smith said.

Mesa Mayor Scott Smith, chair of the MAG Regional Council, says the role Hartle Smith plays is an important one.

“For many people with disabilities, transit is their only means of transportation, so these efforts are extremely important to the disability community,” says Mayor Smith. “However, the value of these efforts extends to all riders. Strengthening the transit system by improving accessibility and making it easier to navigate results in a better experience for everyone.”

Hartle Smith has spent her working life in public service. Now, with her work as a MAG associate, she believes she can ensure that no segment of the community is left behind when it comes to planning a great transportation system.

“It is what I'm most passionate about. I grew up in a time before there were improvements such as curb cuts and accessible transportation for wheelchair access. To have all these things and services such as Dial-a-Ride improves the lives of people with disabilities. The voices were heard back then and they should continue to be heard when transportation plans and programs are being created. It's what good public involvement can do.”

From Bystander to Stand By Her (continued from page 1)

“Trying to help a woman on one of those first few times can be exhausting and disheartening,” said Plumlee. “To see her get out and know that she is better off, then see her go back again can be devastating. If you see her leave and go back again and then she calls you later to say that she’s unhappy, please find a way to still be there for her. It can be a difficult thing to understand.”

MAG Chair Scott Smith, mayor of Mesa, said friends and family don’t have to go it alone.

“We want those who are close to victims, the bystanders, to know that there are resources available for them to help victims leave a bad situation sooner,” said Mayor Smith. “The MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council has been working collaboratively with law enforcement, victim services providers, faith-based groups and others to strengthen the regional response to domestic violence and ensure that these resources are widely known and available.”

For example, MAG developed an online map that provides locations and contact information for victim advocates who can help victims find shelter, financial, social, legal or health services. The website, www.FindDVServices.com, is designed as an interactive map to easily locate the nearest services. It is user-friendly and can be used by family or loved ones.

“This technology makes it easy for those in need of help to find the closest services by simply clicking on a ‘pin’ on a map,” said Youngtown Mayor Michael LeVault, vice chair of MAG. “As a region, we want to be more than bystanders. We want to stand by her, and by those who care about her.”

Last year, 139 people in Arizona lost their lives in domestic violence related deaths. A survey commissioned by MAG found that 40 percent of respondents personally knew someone who had been through domestic violence.

“As a community and a region, we must set the bar high,” said Phoenix Councilmember Thelda Williams during the press conference. “We must be an example of what is possible when dedicated people from different sectors come together with a common goal—the goal of ending domestic violence. We can do this in every city and town. If every community does even more to ‘stand by her,’ just imagine the possibilities.”

MAG Regional Domestic Violence Committee Council Chair Barbara Marshall has spent much of her career specializing in the prosecution of felony domestic violence cases.

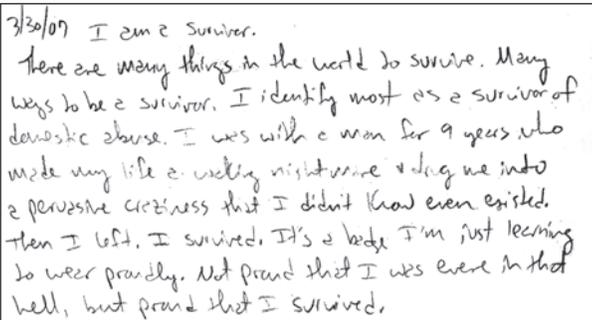
“Domestic violence destroys lives. Research indicates that 80 percent of domestic violence crimes are charged as misdemeanors. This gives us ample opportunity to intervene before the control and abuse escalates, resulting in lives lost,” said Marshall. “This means helping to connect victims with the help they need sooner. This is part of the work being done by the Protocol Evaluation Project at MAG, with support from the Governor’s office and our community partners.”

The Protocol Evaluation Project is a regional model developed based on national best practices in arresting and prosecuting domestic violence offenders. Today, 95 percent of law enforcement agencies across the region report using this model.

During the press conference, Plumlee read excerpts from the journal she kept during her nine years of abuse.

“I didn’t know what I was waiting for, but I was waiting for something. When the time came that I was ready to leave and I finally did, I knew what that magical element was. I ran out of hope.”

That lack of hope was the final key that set Plumlee free, and led to this journal entry:



3/30/07 I am a survivor.
There are many things in the world to survive. Many ways to be a survivor. I identify most as a survivor of domestic abuse. I was with a man for 9 years who made my life a waking nightmare & drug me into a pervasive craziness that I didn't know even existed. Then I left. I survived. It's a badge I'm just learning to wear proudly. Not proud that I was ever in that hell, but proud that I survived.

“I am a survivor. There are many things in the world to survive. Many ways to be a survivor. I identify most as being a survivor of domestic abuse. I was with a man for nine years who made my life a waking nightmare and drug me into a pervasive craziness that I didn’t even know existed. Then I left. I survived. It’s a badge I’m just learning to wear proudly. Not proud that I was ever in that hell, but proud that I survived.”

Domestic Violence Awareness Month partners include the Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Governor’s Office for Children, Youth, and Families; and the O’Connor House’s Avon Program for Women and Justice. 

A video of the press conference can be viewed online on the communications page of the MAG website, www.azmag.gov



Domestic abuse survivor Celeste Plumlee reads excerpts from her journal during the news conference.





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MAGAZine

A Quarterly Newsletter Focusing on Regional Excellence
November 2013—January 2014  Vol. 18: No. 4

Winter 2013-2014 Calendar

November 2013

- 5th 10:00 a.m. Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee (Ironwood)
- 5th 11:30 a.m. Economic Development Committee (Saguaro)
- 6th 8:45 a.m. Regional Community Network Working Group (Ironwood)
- 6th 12:00 p.m. Management Committee (Saguaro)
- 6th 1:30 p.m. Solid Waste Advisory Committee (Ironwood)
- 11th Office Closed—Veterans Day
- 12th 12:00 p.m. Street Committee (Chaparral)
- 14th 10:00 a.m. Transit Committee (Ironwood)
- 14th 1:30 p.m. Human Services Technical Committee (Chaparral)
- 18th 12:00 p.m. Regional Council Executive Committee (Ironwood)
- 18th 2:00 p.m. Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness (Saguaro)
- 19th 10:00 a.m. Population Technical Advisory Committee (Chaparral)
- 19th 10:00 a.m. Transportation Safety Committee (Ironwood)
- 19th 12:30 p.m. Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee (Ironwood)
- 20th 12:00 p.m. Transportation Policy Committee (Saguaro)
- 20th 2:00 p.m. Building Codes Committee (Ironwood)
- 21st 10:00 a.m. Technology Advisory Group (Chaparral)
- 25th 5:00 p.m. Transportation Final Phase Public Hearing (Saguaro)
- 28-29 Office Closed—Thanksgiving Holiday

December 2013

- 3rd 11:30 a.m. Economic Development Committee (Saguaro)
- 3rd 1:30 p.m. Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee (Saguaro)
- 4th 8:45 a.m. Regional Community Network Working Group (Ironwood)
- 4th 10:00 a.m. Elderly and Persons with Disabilities Transportation Committee (Chaparral)
- 4th 10:00 a.m. Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee (Ironwood)
- 4th 11:30 a.m. Regional Council
- 5th 2:00 p.m. Regional Domestic Violence Council (Saguaro)
- 10th 12:00 p.m. Street Committee (Chaparral)
- 12th 10:00 a.m. Transportation Review Committee (Saguaro)
- 12th 10:00 a.m. Transit Committee (Ironwood)
- 12th 1:30 p.m. Human Services Technical Committee (Chaparral)
- 16th 2:00 p.m. Continuum of Care Planning Subcommittee (Saguaro)
- 17th 1:30 p.m. Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee (Ironwood)
- 18th 2:00 p.m. Building Codes Committee (Ironwood)
- 19th 10:00 a.m. Technology Advisory Group (Chaparral)
- 24th Christmas Eve—Office Closed (Half-Day)
- 25th Christmas Day—Office Closed

The newsletter is available in electronic format at www.azmag.gov. Click on the MAG Publications link and then MAGAZine Newsletter link.

January 2014

- 1st New Year's Day—Office Closed
- 7th 11:30 a.m. Economic Development Committee (Saguaro)
- 8th 10:00 a.m. Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee (Ironwood)
- 8th 12:00 p.m. Management Committee (Saguaro)
- 8th 1:30 p.m. Standard Specifications and Details Committee (Ironwood)
- 9th 1:30 p.m. Human Services Technical Committee (Chaparral)
- 15th 12:00 p.m. Transportation Policy Committee (Saguaro)
- 20th Martin Luther King Day—Office Closed
- 21st 12:00 p.m. Regional Council Executive Committee (Ironwood)
- 27th 2:00 p.m. Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness (Saguaro)
- 29th 11:30 a.m. Regional Council (Saguaro)

The dates, times and locations of all meetings may change. Other committees not listed here may meet during these months. For confirmation, call (602) 254-6300, or visit the website: www.azmag.gov/Events/

Parking is available under the building. Please ask for parking validation at the meeting. A transit ticket will be provided for anyone who purchased a transit ticket to attend a meeting. Bike racks are available at the entrance to the parking garage.

All meetings, unless indicated otherwise, will be held in the conference rooms located in the MAG office on the 2nd floor of the building, 302 N. 1st Ave., Phoenix.