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VISIONS

By

Vice Chairman David Reede

Greetings San Carlos! In an effort to provide the community with answers to questions regarding issues such as housing and land, I have launched community informational briefings titled, For Your Information (FYI). On April 23rd, my office hosted the first FYI session on the programs of the Tribal Housing Authority. At the briefing attendees heard about the differences between owning a home and renting a home. Housing Authority staff also shared information on the process involved with applying for the Indian Housing Loan Guarantee Program. Another topic of presentation included the Housing Authority's Emergency Housing Policy. I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to the community members who attended this event. I would also like to thank the staff of the San Carlos Housing Authority for their time and information. The next FYI briefing will address realty issues. This session will outline the process involved with acquiring a residential land lease. This session is tentatively scheduled for May 24 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the Tribal Council Hall.

Last Tuesday, San Carlos Apache Telecommunications Utility Inc. (SCATUI) hosted its annual meeting with the Tribal Council in Phoenix. SCATUI shared their upcoming projects such as their forward movement with providing high speed internet services for residential customers. I commend SCATUI for their work to bring San Carlos up to par with the technological advances that are occurring in other tribal communities.

Water is such an important part of our lives. Without running water we could not enjoy activities such as gardening or even routine actions such as taking a shower. It has been brought to my attention that our Tribal water wells, pump houses and Storage Tanks have been compromised by illegal dumping and vandalism. Just last week one of the tribal pump houses located in the Peridot district was vandalized and created a very dangerous situation. The electric meter located on the outside of that particular pump house was broken open causing a live wire to be exposed. Although the damage did not shut down water service, it did however cause low water pressure in the area. As vandals continue to make their way into water pump operations, there is a real threat for contamination of the water system through the wells. According to the San Carlos Utility Authority, a total of ten pump houses have been vandalized and trashed this year. The cost to repair a pump house operation could be well over \$5000.00. With that in mind, I urge you and your families to please be

respectful of the property and equipment that brings precious water into your homes.

This past week, my Chief of Staff, Beverly Russell was honored by the National Minority Quality Health Forum. Ms. Russell traveled to Washington, D.C. to accept the prestigious Eliza M. Mahoney Award. This award was presented to her for her work as a trailblazer in the area of access to quality health care for Indian people across the country. Former recipients of this award include Former Presidential Candidate and Virginia Governor Mark Warner. I am fortunate to have a young and up and coming leader on my staff. What is more empowering is that Beverly is a tribal member who is climbing with us to get out of the bucket. She is an example of what any Apache member is capable of doing.

Finally on May 7, I will convene the very first meeting of the Vice Chairman's Citizens' Advisory Committee on Public Policy. The purpose of this committee is to ensure public involvement in the policy initiatives of my office. I will be hosting a planning meeting to get this committee underway. The meeting will take place at 4:30 p.m. in the San Carlos Library conference room. The growth and direction of San Carlos is everyone's responsibility. I urge you to get involved.