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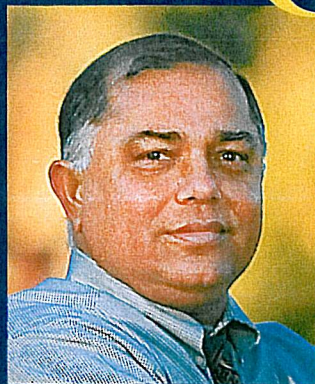
FEBRUARY/MARCH 2005

Chandler Life

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD'S PREMIER SOURCE FOR NEWS & EVENTS

Our Dining Guide offers
98 PLACES TO EAT

CHAMPIONS FOR CHANGE



Inspiring You
to Make Your City
A Better Place

You Speak Out!

Wal-Mart Growth
Sparks Heated
Debate

Turn Up the Heat

Swaddee Thai Cuisine
Caters to Those
Who Like It Hot

Exclusive! Family Ties

Stellar Pilot Reunites
with Beloved Plane

PLUS! 24 LOCAL EVENTS YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS

• Local Teen Launches "Operation Noah" • It's That Time Again: Ostrich Festival News

CHAMPIONS for Change

Neighbors take on
the challenge
of helping make
Chandler a
better place



Enamul Hoque, Wanda Manuel (center) and Joan Barron answer the call when the city needs help deciding on Chandler's future.



As a member of the Housing and Redevelopment Committee, Enamul Hoque has decided on funding for such places as this low-income housing.

Look behind the scenes at City Hall and you'll find the roots of Chandler's success in ordinary citizens doing extraordinary things. These are civic-minded residents who care enough to raise their hands, step forward and take responsibility for the sake of their community.

Although Mayor Boyd Dunn officially is at the helm, he credits a couple dozen city commissions featuring citizen volunteers who help guide the ship. "What we have in these committees is a group of well over 200 concerned citizens who are bringing their unique talents and experience to the task of helping manage our city," he says. "It's amazing to see how they blossom under these circumstances."

A former member of the Planning and Zoning Commission himself, Boyd adds, "I put a great deal of trust and offer a lot of responsibility to their members... They're a vital part of the process in Chandler."

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—Mayor Boyd Dunn

So who are these dedicated residents? We offer a look at several of these selfless volunteers who are helping guide Chandler's growth responsibly and compassionately with their recommendations to city fathers.

ENAMUL HOQUE: Sheltering the Less Fortunate

Enamul Hoque has the gift of laughter—hardy, deep-from-the-belly laughter—that

puts a visitor to his Tempe-based civil engineering firm immediately at ease. The amiable 53-year-old Bangladesh native admits that his growing business is demanding more of his time and energy, but he still manages to contribute to the Mayor's Housing and Redevelopment Committee, where he has been an active member since the early 1990s.

Hoque clearly is no stranger to helping his fellow citizens. His role model in this regard was an impressive one: He volunteered as a young man on behalf of Nobel Peace Prize recipient Mother Teresa, whom he met several times while helping with her mission to build hospitals and training centers in his war- and famine-ravaged native country.

"I started working for (Mother Teresa's organization) for a salary," he recalls. "But when I began to understand their plan and operations and the nature of it all I went and told the person who hired me that I would be honored just to do the work, that

BY BRUCE FARR • PHOTOGRAPHY BY N. SCOTT TRIMBLE

I did not want to be paid. So I did this for four years," Hoque adds, "To do these kinds of things comes naturally to me," citing his parents' examples of kindness and generosity in helping those less fortunate.

With humility, Hoque reveals that during his first few years on the committee, he felt unworthy to offer his opinion on matters. "The committee was making decisions to help distribute large sums of money from the government and give it to social agencies," he explains. "At first, I was afraid to say something because deciding where this money should go is a huge responsibility. I thought to myself 'What if I am wrong?'"

A Record of Involvement

His work on the Housing and Redevelopment Committee isn't Hoque's only contribution to the city. At various times, he also has served on the Transportation Task Force, the Committee for the General Plan Amendment, and a committee that was organized to recommend a plan for downtown redevelopment.

The Housing and Redevelopment

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—Enamul Hoque

Committee's work has aided some very worthy causes, a major reason that Hoque devotes so much time to it. Hoque points out that Community Services of Arizona received an allocation that directly assists low-income youth groups in downtown. "They participate in changing the lives of young people, and they've received pretty good support from this committee," he says.

Hoque's unwavering commitment to community service is rooted as much in his

colorful past as it is his present-day activities. "Citizenship is not different from one country to another. No matter where you live, I feel that, as a citizen you have certain rights and also certain responsibilities. If you take on the responsibilities and not think too much about the rights, it's better that way."

WANDA MANUEL: Celebrating The Cultures

Sometimes, a single event can be so deeply affecting or illuminating that it can change the course of a person's life. That is what happened to Wanda Manuel when she was 18 and nominated to participate in the annual Miss Indian Arizona pageant. Her experience with the young members of other Arizona tribes led to her deep appreciation for the diverse range of Indian cultures in our state, and many years later inspired her to seek a seat on Chandler's Human Relations Commission.

A member of the Gila River Indian Community and an Arizona native, Manuel,



Wanda Manuel is glad to have helped the Miss Indian Arizona pageant secure the Chandler Center for the Arts as its venue.



Joan Barron works to ensure that accessibility is not a problem at the city's buildings and special events.

53, was steeped in her native culture growing up. "My parents, who spoke Pima first, made sure that I spent a lot of time with my grandparents so I could learn my culture—the foods, everything," she says. She later attended Haskell Indian Nations University, in Lawrence, Kan., where she earned a degree in nursing. She worked on the reservation for the Indian Health Service for many years before ultimately moving to Chandler with her husband and children.

In April 2003 she became a member of the commission, which makes decisions on support for a variety of cultural and ethnic functions. "What appealed to me about the commission is that it involves all cultures—something I am extremely interested in," she says. "I felt there were so many things lacking for the Native American community in the city that needed to be recognized."

A Way To Give Back

Because of her own experience with the event, she has been deeply involved in

promoting the Miss Indian Arizona pageant and its scholarship program. "Because I was a participant and a tribal queen so many years ago, I knew that the pageant wasn't a 'beauty event' per se, but it was a way for Native American women to express themselves culturally, intellectually and as individuals."

One of the commission's major accomplishments was finding a permanent home for the pageant in Chandler. "They had been going from school gym to school gym year after year since it was started in the early 1960s," Manuel says, "so I was excited that we have brought it here to Chandler." The October 2004 pageant was at the Chandler Center for the Arts.

Manuel says her spirited ambition to volunteer stems from a sense of dislocation that many members of ethnic minorities feel. "There are so many places you can go where you might feel that you don't belong, that you're not a part of the community. So being involved at the level that I am, I feel

“ I wanted to get involved because of my own disability. It's my way of giving what the community's given me over the 30 years that I've lived here.”

—Wanda Manuel

a true sense of belonging. I can give and take and share on a level with anyone else.”

JOAN BARRON: Advocate for the Handicapped

In 1996, when the multiple sclerosis she had been diagnosed with several years earlier began affecting her balance and mobility, longtime Chandler High School

biology teacher Joan Barron reluctantly retired. "It was tough," she says of her decision to leave a profession she had devoted her life to, "but I just felt that I wasn't doing the kids any justice; I was not the teacher I formerly had been."

Shortly after retiring, Barron heard about the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities, a group she's been a member of for the past eight years. "I wanted to get involved because of my own disability," she explains. "It's my way of giving what the community's given me over the past 30 years that I've lived here."

With the progress of her illness, Barron, 53, says she began to understand firsthand the problems that the disabled face in their efforts to remain independent. She was particularly struck by what she says are the minimal standards of handicap accommodations imposed on

public buildings by the Americans with Disabilities Act. The committee seemed like a perfect outlet for her concerns.

So did another Chandler group that Barron serves on: the Special Events Committee. "I like to make sure that special events the city's holding are 'handicap-aware,'" she explains. "Something as simple as ordering Port-a-Johns can become a major problem for handicapped attendees if the planning for the event forgets to include some handicap-accessible Port-a-Johns."

Equal Access For All

As a part of the committee's regular work, Barron says that she and other members review plans for public buildings as well as those that are being renovated. "The new City Court building, the new police building, the city's swimming pool plans... We take a good look at all of

them to make sure that they're acceptable to us from a handicapped standpoint."

Barron and members of other Chandler civic groups wield quite a bit of power and influence over the projects and issues with which they're involved. One event in particular stands out in Barron's mind. "We were instrumental in getting automatic door openers for the Boyer Building, where the Mayor's offices are," she says.

The committee also has a scholarship and stipend program designed for special needs students that Barron is particularly proud of helping to initiate. Overall, she says the work she's doing through the committee has raised her own awareness of handicap issues out in the public domain. "Committee work and giving back to the city is a wonderful feeling for yourself. It's not a crown I wear by any means, but it's very personally rewarding." +

Want to get involved?

You can help steer Chandler's growth and development by lending your talents to one of the panels that consider a wide spectrum of issues. Participants must be a qualified voter and a resident for at least a year by the time the appointment begins unless otherwise specified. Here is a list of current vacancies in these groups:

Chandler Citizens' Panel for Review of Police Complaints and Use of Force

Two vacancies

Cultural Foundation

Five vacancies

Human Relations Commission

One vacancy

Mayor's Committee for the Aging

One vacancy

Parks and Recreation Board

One vacancy

Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities

Two vacancies

Merit System Board

Two vacancies (alternates)

Chandler Municipal Property Corporation

One vacancy

Neighborhood Advisory Committee

One vacancy

Transportation Commission

One vacancy

For additional information, contact the Chandler City Clerk's office at (480) 782-2180.

