

RECOM

Retired Employees City of Mesa

Volume 3 Issue 4
April, 2009

RECOMAZ.org



RECOM Executive Board

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Message From the Board

Earth Day is Coming Are You Prepared?

Earth Day is coming! Yes April 22nd is almost upon us, how are you planning to celebrate Earth Day? How about a neighborhood cleanup, block party, or just sorting your own recycle bin for qualified recyclable materials.

Have you ever seen the chasing arrow symbol before? You know, the internationally recognized symbol used to designate recyclable materials. It is composed of three chasing arrows which form an unending loop. The now famous loop was the winning entry in a sponsored contest in the early 1970's to raise awareness of environmental issues. Adapted and identified as the worldwide symbol for recycling it remains in the public domain and not treated as a trademark.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), approximately 35 percent of the municipal solid waste stream is made up of paper and paperboard products. The recycling process limits the recycling life of these paper materials to approximately 5 to 7 times. The recycling life of a qualifying glass container is unlimited. It takes about 30 days to return a recycled glass container back to the store shelf while in a land fill it could take up to one million

years to break down. The recycling life of plastics is limited to one or two times. Most products manufactured from recycled plastics cannot be recycled a second time. In the case of plastic, you will [find a number inside](#) the recycling symbol. This is used during collection, because the number designates the type of plastic. Plastic bottles can't be recycled with Styrofoam as the molecules don't mix. The number lets you know if different plastics are molecule-compatible.

The overall winning material for recycling is the most abundant metal on earth. There is no limit on the amount of times this material can be recycled and over 50 percent of all containers produced by this material are recycled. Did you guess aluminum cans? When an aluminum can is recycled it can be back in stores within 60 days.

There are many reasons to recycle. A well run recycling program cost less to operate than waste collection, landfills, and incineration. Recycling creates 1.1 million U.S. jobs, \$236 billion in gross annual sales and \$37 billion in annual payrolls. Recycling creates 4 jobs for every 1 job created in the waste management and disposal industries. For every ton of paper we recycle 17 trees are saved.

While you are sorting through those plastic and glass recyclable materials before taking the blue barrel to the curb, remember that each pound of material helps the City of Mesa Library through the City of Mesa, Recycle for Reading Program. For every additional pound of material Mesa residents recycle during the year long program ending June 30, 2009, a direct contribution of up to \$25,000 will be made to the library for the purchase of new material.

Now that you have a fresh new approach to the benefits of recycling let's focus on closing the loop. Renew-Reuse-Recycle, now close the loop, buy recycled! Buying recycled products is an equally important step in the recycling process - it closes the recycling loop. Much energy and landfill space can be conserved when we buy recycled materials.

Earth Day 2009, April 22nd, will mark the beginning of the Green Generation. This two-year initiative will culminate with the 40th anniversary of Earth Day in 2010.

<http://www.earthday.net/earthday2009>

This helpful link let's you know what you can and cannot recycle in Mesa.

<http://www.mesaaz.gov/waste/pdf/Flyer2008.pdf>.

Additional information is available online at the City of Mesa Solid Waste Management Department,

[http://mesaaz.gov/waste/Services and Programs.aspx](http://mesaaz.gov/waste/Services_and_Programs.aspx).

Chuck Wennerlund

SPEAKER

Saved not by the bell, but by Harold and Tom! Due to a family emergency, the scheduled speaker Bill Jabjiniak, Economic Development Director, City of Mesa was unable to attend our meeting, but RECOM got another glimpse into the world of economic development by our very own Harold Decker and Tom Reyes who graciously stepped up to

the plate and shared some of their experiences while working with the City of Mesa.



Harold Decker

Harold was with the City for 22 years and with Megacorp for 7 years prior to that. During his time with the City his main responsibility was real estate and development, while Tom's main responsibility was job opportunities and business retention. Economic Development is a term much used today, but back when Harold and Tom had the job – it was just called creating new jobs and bringing investments to our fair City.



Tom Reyes

One way Tom did that was to focus on an entire industry (called a cluster) to locate in your fair city -- similar businesses support each other and draw similar companies, and the focus was healthcare— hospitals, rehab centers, therapy centers, ambulance companies and such. Other clusters included aerospace and “back office” operations.

And today, we have not only numerous hospitals but also the Arizona School of Health Sciences, and Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health, the first dental school in Arizona. Amazing how those overnight successes are preceded by years of hard work!

Tom gave credit to Harold for what Falcon Field is today, as well as bringing TRW and Cessna to Mesa. In all, over their working time, they brought in about \$3.69 billion of business. And that's hard to do because businesses are looking for incentives when deciding where to locate.

Mesa lacked incentives so it was very difficult to entice new businesses to locate here. We were competing not only with other places in the state, but also with other states. They had ready-to-occupy office and manufacturing buildings, and high tech infrastructure. The only things Mesa had to offer were expediting the permit process, good will, and no property taxes. But often that didn't make a big difference. Executives looking for sites stayed in lavish Scottsdale hotels, with amenities and a variety of good restaurants.



Other challenges Tom and Herald faced in Economic Development, were that when the City finally did give incentives, they went to large corporations. But 70% of the jobs are with small businesses. The smaller businesses complained about unfair treatment! And it's hard to retain smaller companies when they feel unfairly treated. And the weather – yes the weather. Imagine someone not being just delighted with our June, July and August!? For example, only 60% of Cessna's employees moved with the company after experiencing our summer.

While both Harold and Tom were very good not to complain about the support they had from individuals in the City, they did both agree that Phoenix had a more successful approach.

The Phoenix Mayor met with the executives of the top 5 companies in Phoenix every month. This kept communication open and increased awareness of needs. And they did agree that today Mesa has a coordinated effort within the entire City to accomplish the tasks of getting and retaining businesses in Mesa.

When asked what they thought about the Gaylord project, they said it would be a good thing not only as a job generator – but as an amenity – for all those executives who used to stay in Scottsdale, who could now stay in Mesa and think of it as a more viable place to locate their businesses.

All in all, they agreed that every project was different and it was never boring. And neither was their very impromptu peek into their jobs!



Thank you Tom and Harold!

Reports

Issues Committee

Jo reported she is tracking 11 legislative bills, but there is nothing new at this time which affects retirees. The pending legislation impacts current employees.

Membership Committee

The membership/renewal drive will be held in May. Paypal will be available for use. But, Kathy says she just wants you to stay with us, and we'll take your money in check or even in cash! But you know, it's so nice to have that cancelled check when you can't remember if you renewed or not. What? That never happens to you? Are you sure?

Program Committee

Bill is hard at work planning our future meetings –and the April speaker will be Dan Taylor from the East Valley Senior Services. Who knows, we may even try to get Bill Jabjiniak again. But he'll have big shoes to fill!

Employee Benefits Task Force

The March meeting was cancelled because it would be hard to conduct a meeting while also moving file cabinets down the stairs. The Benefits Office moved to the ground floor of the Plaza Building and with the change to a 4-10 workweek, will be closed on Fridays.

Nominating Committee

Bill reported that the Nominations Committee has received the following nominations:

President – Kathy Barrett
Vice President – John Gendron
Secretary – Lin Adams
Treasurer – Don Miller
Director 1 year term – Jo Ferguson
Director 2 year term – Peggy Haney

There being no nominations from the floor, Bill deemed the nominations to be closed. The election will take place at the April membership meeting by acclamation. Why go to the work of printing ballots if there is only one person for each open slot?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you still have your deferred comp money with the city, this may interest you. **Don Miller, RECOM's representative to the City of Mesa's Deferred Compensation Committee** reports that there will be an **investment fund change effective April 24, 2009**. The Committee has worked with Innovest Portfolio and Great-West Retirement Services to make this change.

To implement this change, there will be a "quiet period" that will happen in April. The system will not be available from April 24, 2009 (after market close) through April 25, 2009 till approximately mid-morning. No transactions will be permitted in the plan during this time.

"The BlackRock High Yield Fund (BHYIX) will be added to the investment menu and asset mix of the profile funds. As of December 31, 2008, BlackRock's assets under management total \$1.31 trillion across equity, fixed income, cash management, alternative investment and real estate strategies. It is one of the world's largest publicly traded investment management firms with employees in 22 countries throughout the U.S., Europe and Asia Pacific." For more information please see their flyer on the site at the end of this newsletter.

Future Meetings:

Meetings are held at 9:00AM at the fire station at the corner of 1st Street and Mesa Dr. on the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

April 15, 2009 –

Speaker: Dan Taylor – East Valley Senior Services

SEE ATTACHMENT



INVESTMENT FUND CHANGE EFFECTIVE APRIL 24, 2009

In a continual effort to improve the probability of meeting your investment goals, The City of Mesa Deferred Compensation Committee has worked with Innovest Portfolio Solutions LLC and Great-West Retirement Services to make a change in the investment menu of the City of Mesa Deferred Compensation Plan. The BlackRock High Yield Fund (BHYIX) will be added to the investment menu and the asset mix of the profile funds.

BlackRock is a premier provider of global investment management to institutional and retail clients around the world. As of December 31, 2008, BlackRock's assets under management total \$1.31 trillion across equity, fixed income, cash management, alternative investment and real estate strategies. BlackRock is one of the world's largest publicly traded investment management firms with employees in 22 countries throughout the U.S., Europe and Asia Pacific.

The BlackRock High Yield Bond Fund invests in companies operating across diversified sectors. It primarily invests in high yield bonds, including convertible and preferred securities. The fund typically makes its investments in securities which are rated BB or lower by rating agencies such as Standard and Poor's. A high yield bond is a bond that is rated below investment grade at the time of purchase. These bonds have a higher risk of default or other adverse credit events, but typically pay higher yields than better quality bonds in order to make them attractive to investors.

The fund will be added to the profile funds on April 24, 2009. The new allocation for the profile funds will be as follows:

		Conservative Profile	Moderate Profile	Aggressive Profile
Stock Funds				
Rainier Large Cap	RIMEX	4%	12%	22%
Davis NY Venture	NYVTX	4%	11%	22%
Artisan Mid Cap Growth	ARTMX	1%	4%	8%
Keeley Small Cap Value	KSCVX	1%	4%	7%
Dodge and Cox International	DODFX	3%	7%	13%
Artisan International	ARTIX	3%	7%	12%
Income Funds				
PIMCO Total Return	PTRAX	37%	23%	9%
Great-West Stable Value	N/A	40%	25%	0%
BlackRock High Yield	BHYIX	7%	7%	7%

Investment Performance through December 31, 2008*

	5 Yrs	7 Yrs	10 Yrs
BlackRock High Yield Fund	-0.80%	2.90%	2.17%
Barclays Capital High Yield Index	-0.69%	3.25%	3.05%
% rank within category (1 = Best 100 = Worst)	55	18	10

Investment Questions???

Call Scott Taylor at Great-West Retirement Services (480) 921-2885
To Change Your Investments Call (800) 701-8255 or use web site: www.mesadcp.com

*Past performance may not be indicative of future results.
Great-West Retirement Services and Innovest Portfolios Solutions LLC are not affiliated.
Great-West Retirement Services is not responsible for the content of this announcement.



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