

Some Applause, Please

By PRT Staff

We often take the operation of our town government for granted. With little money and limited staff, we need to be reminded of what it takes to make a small town such as ours function. For instance:

The Patagonia Town Council - It is easy to forget that not many years ago the Patagonia Town Council was deadlocked and could not even agree on who should be mayor. The current council in our opinion is the hardest working, most cooperative and effective town council we've had in the last ten years and deserves the full appreciation of the townspeople. Among other things, they have hired an extremely capable town manager, have taken on the huge job of revising the town code, and established Saturday morning work sessions. Their decisions may not always coincide with your views, but we are a town of differing views and that is to be expected. Kudos to Mayor Ike Isakson and the other council members.

The Town Marshall - Do you remember when the conflicts related to the marshal's office took up a good part of each Council meeting? Good riddance to the old contentious Marshal's office. Joe Patterson and his deputies, especially Ron Davis,

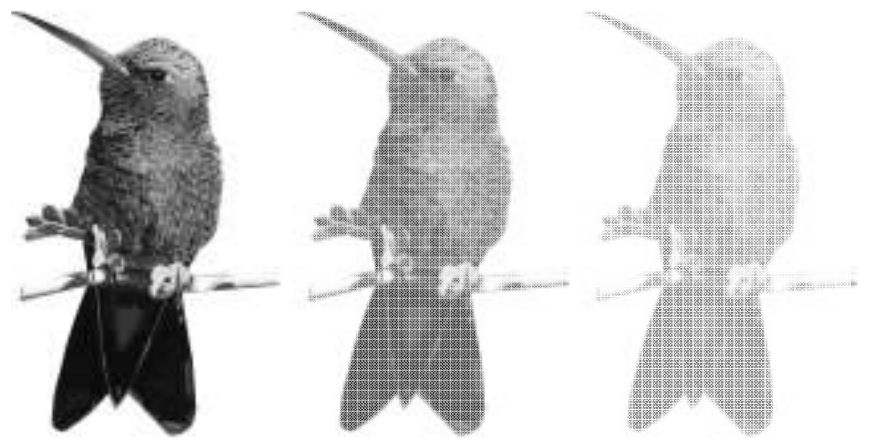
have done an excellent job of keeping the peace, seeing that the traffic laws on Route 82 are enforced and avoiding controversy. Kudos to Marshall Patterson and his deputies.

The Town Manager - Dave Teel has brought his extensive experience to this small town and has done a fantastic job of working with and advising the council so that the town runs smoothly. The position of the town Manager is not a beauty contest, and it is one where you are bound to step on some toes and upset some people. Dave's capability and patience have made a major difference in our town government. Kudos to Dave Teel.

Assistant Town Clerk - Everyone knows that if Isabel Van Ness decided to retire or leave the town it would be a catastrophe. She is the fount of all knowledge when it comes to all those tiny details that make our town function. And, she willingly shares them with all of us when we need them. If your water usage appears to indicate a leak, you get a call from her. If you want to know about a rule or regulation, she's there to help you. She HATES to be in the limelight, manages to avoid the political potholes and continues to be the longest serving member of the town staff. Kudos to Isabel.



Artwork from the County Fair, made by the 2nd Grade students at Patagonia Elgin Elementary School



October 16 Deadline for Saving the Paton's Legacy

By Ann Katzenbach

Marion and Wally Paton have both passed away, but their legacy of welcoming bird enthusiasts to their backyard has informally continued for a number of years now while the family looked for a way to protect the property as a birding mecca.

The good news is that the American Bird Conservancy (ABC) has contracted with the Paton heirs to purchase the property. With combined contributions from ABC, Tucson Audubon and Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, \$120,000 was initially raised towards the purchase price. These organizations, looking towards the future, are hoping to raise \$300,000 to pay for the property and start an endowment to keep the property maintained. Birders from around the world have come forward with contributions and the balance needed as of September 17 was \$50,000. The deadline for this purchase agreement is October 15, 2013.

Once purchased by the American Bird Conservancy, ownership will be transferred to Tucson Audubon to run Paton's Birders Haven for the birding community in perpetuity.

Birders who are familiar with Patons have been encouraging one another to donate. Here's a quote from a comment posted by a birder named Edge Wade: "Many a first-time Ari-

zona birder has been escorted into the Paton backyard to spend an hour or two enthralled by the action at 10 hummingbird feeders, the constantly changing visitors to the feeders at the far end, or the quiet skulkers on the perimeter or at the water feature. If you've been there and gotten one or more life birds, please acknowledge the joy you experienced with a donation."

For Patagonia, this sale is significant. More than 7,000 people visited Paton's last year. Their contribution to the local economy is not easy to assess, but it is significant. These people buy food, clothing, gas, and art. They eat in restaurants. They pay for lodging in town or out at Patagonia Lake. Without Paton's Birders Haven, birders from around the world would not be coming here in such numbers. It's rather miraculous to think that two generous and simple people could leave such a legacy to a small town.

If you would like to help make this purchase possible, go to <http://www.abcbirds.org/paton>. You can also look at the impressive number of people who have already donated to the effort.