

## **A Smaller Size: Old Apache Wells center demolished**

**New building set for October 2009**

**By Todd Hoover**

**Independent Newspapers**

A northeast Mesa country club is taking a different path than originally planned toward building - and paying for - a new community center. The old center at Apache Wells - a community restricted to ages 55 and older and bordered roughly by Higley, McDowell, Recker and McKellips roads - was demolished Nov. 6.

Apache Wells resident Bob Teague said the demolition occurred over three days and drew numerous spectators. "I really couldn't give you an exact figure, but I'm sure there were curious people from all over the park," he said.

Bing Miller, president of the Apache Wells Homeowners Association and a country club member, speculated the new building will be finished in October 2009. "I think they're probably about 30 days away from starting (construction)," he said in a Nov. 24 phone interview. "They're waiting on some city of Mesa permits." Bernie Connors, co-chair of the building's construction committee, declined to comment. "We're not doing any interviews about the project," he said.

Construction of the \$3 million building will be funded by 485 country club members, following the 2007 legal defeat of a \$6,020 assessment to all 1,412 residential unit owners in Apache Wells for an \$8.5 million building. "There were a number of people who didn't feel that all of the homeowners should participate in that particular project," said Mr. Teague, Website manager for Save Apache Wells.

Save Apache Wells is an organization of homeowners that formed in 2006 and filed a lawsuit in Maricopa County Superior Court to stop the \$ 8.5 million facility from being built and was able to halt the assessment.

"We got a majority vote, however the courts interpreted that we did not have a majority of the residential lot owners and so they stopped it," Mr. Miller explained. Mr. Miller said the building was originally planned to have a new exercise facility, a larger dining room and a larger hall.

"Now the building that the country club is building is considerably smaller, does not have an exercise facility, has a much smaller restaurant, a much smaller hall by about half the size," he said. "And of course, the restaurant that the country club is going to open and the bar will be open to the public."

"Hopefully there'll be a meeting hall that we can rent from them as we have done in the past for our homeowners' meetings," Mr. Teague said.

Mr. Miller and Mr. Teague said post-lawsuit tension between country club members and nonmembers has eased. "It's calmed down here considerably," Mr. Miller said.

"There are still some hard feelings, but I think it has lessened from the initial reaction," Mr. Teague said.

***Post your opinions in the Public Forums at [newszap.com](http://newszap.com). News Editor Todd Hoover can be reached at 480-982-7799 or [thoover@newszap.com](mailto:thoover@newszap.com).***