

City of Casa Grande

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Issue 1

City Council

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City Beat is a quarterly citizen newsletter of the City of Casa Grande, Arizona.
Jim Thompson, City Manager
Betsy Rice, City Beat Editor

Winter 2008

Inside

City's New Website

Tree-cycling

Rodeo Park Master Plan

Spring Activities

Dog park to celebrate grand opening with annual Mutt Show

If your pooch seems to be wagging his or her tail more often than usual these days, it could be a sign that they've heard the City of Casa Grande is just about ready to open the gate on the City's first-ever dog park.

Located at the Paul Mason Sportsplex, the dog park will feature active grass areas for dogs to run and play, a passive area for pooches who are a little more laid-back, and even a fire hydrant. Other amenities include watering stations, waste pick-up and disposal stations, benches and a ramada.

"This has been a fun project to put together for our four-legged friends," said Community Services Director Mary Johnson. "It will be open just in time for our residents, furry and not-so-furry, to enjoy our beautiful weather."

The grand opening of the park will take place on Saturday, January 26, in conjunction with the annual Mutt Show. The show, sponsored by the Kiwanis/Key Clubs, Casa Grande Animal Control, Kukawski's Pick-A-Pet and Powell's Feed and Supply, is free to enter and categories include: Biggest Dog, Smallest Dog, Cutest Puppy, Fluffiest Dog, Longest Ears, Shortest Tail, Best Dancer, Most Unusual, Most Beautiful, Most Handsome, Curliest Tail, Best Dressed, and the Grand Prize – Mutt of the Year.

This year's show promises to be bigger and better than ever with demonstrations, licenses and vaccinations, vendor displays, and hot dogs and refreshments for sale. Winners of the Name the Dog Park contest, as well as the coloring contest will be announced and the Mayor will share his thoughts on the landmark opening.

"We invite everyone to come out and bring the family dog for a tail-waggin' good time," Johnson said. "This is a great event for us each year and with the move to the new dog park at the Paul Mason Sportsplex, we will have more parking and room for all the pets to play."

For more information, contact the Parks and Recreation office at (520)421-8677.



DOG PARK OPENS JAN. 26

THE CITY OF CASA GRANDE PRESENTS THE ANNUAL **MUTT SHOW**

Dogs, cats and their owners - join us for a tail waggin' time at the annual mutt show

TONS OF CONTESTS, FOOD, DEMONSTRATIONS AND MORE!

FREE TO ENTER!

SATURDAY, JAN. 26, 2008 * 10 A.M. - 1 P.M.**
*****PAUL MASON SPORTSPLEX DOG PARK*****



Jim Thompson
City Manager

City Manager: **Teen Center reflects community spirit**

I'd like to take a moment to express, on behalf of the City, our gratitude for the many businesses and citizens who have come forward to help with construction of the Casa Grande Teen Center. The City recently acquired a 4,000-square foot space for the center thanks to a generous partnership with Central Arizona College. However, the space, located at the Palm Center at Florence Blvd. and I-10, was an abandoned retail store that required comprehensive renovation before we could open its doors as a Teen Center.

The funds appropriated for this project in the City budget were minimal, and as a result, we turned to you, the community, for assistance. Almost immediately, calls from citizens came pouring in, offering donations of time, money, materials and expertise. We also received a substantial grant from the Gila River Indian Community. As a result, we were able to begin renovations in November and by mid-March we should have a new place for our teens to socialize in a safe and fun atmosphere - all thanks to the generous support of our community.

This 'barn-raising' effort is just another example of why I am so glad to call Casa Grande home. It's amazing to see the way this community pulls together in times of need and in times of celebration. We really have a community spirit here like no other, and we should all be thankful to be surrounded by such wonderful folks.

Coming soon: www.casagrandeaz.gov

With the new year comes exciting news for those who use the City's website - a new name, new look, new features and more. The site will go live during a special session prior to the January 7 City Council meeting.

After typing in the new site name - www.casagrandeaz.gov - users will immediately notice the modern, vibrant look of the site. Visitors to the site should also have an easier time finding information, thanks to a new navigation structure as well as the addition of a search option powered by Google. In addition, the City has implemented several new customer service features, including a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page and a Live Chat option during regular business hours.

"Clicking on the Live Chat option allows visitors to our site to be instantly connected to a City employee who can help them with any questions," explained Webmaster Richard Rosales. "We've seen this technology utilized in the private sector, but Casa Grande is probably one of the first, if not *the* first city in the country to implement this program. We hope our citizens will utilize it to find quick answers to their questions."

The City has also increased the website's content, including more photos of special events, interactive features and a user-friendly calendar of events. Content will be updated daily, providing visitors with the most up-to-date information about what's going on in Casa Grande. Citizens can also subscribe to RSS feeds to receive all the latest content.

"We are so excited to present this new site with all of its wonderful features to our citizens," said Public Information Officer Betsy Rice. "While the previous site had plenty of information, it was difficult to navigate and the look was fairly sterile. We've changed all that with a total redesign and hope users will take advantage of all that www.casagrandeaz.gov has to offer."

www.casagrandeaz.gov

Citizens asked to provide input on rodeo park

The City of Casa Grande Community Services Department is hosting an Open House regarding the Master Plan and future expansion of Ed Hooper Rodeo Park.

The Open House is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 31 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Parks & Recreation office, 404 E. Florence Blvd. Citizens are encouraged to attend and provide input on this very important project for our community.

The City has engaged with J2 on the Ed Hooper Rodeo Park Master Plan, to be followed by design and construction. The Master Plan process will involve developing a conceptual plan for the entire undeveloped 60-80-acre parcel.

"The City has a significant need for additional youth sports fields for soccer, baseball and softball, football and multi-use fields," explained Community Services Director Mary Johnson. "In addition, we would also like to consider expansion of the rodeo grounds to accommodate an indoor arena and other amenities."

For further information, contact Mary Johnson at (520)421-8677.



**Webmaster
Richard Rosales
works on the
City's new site.**

Stay safe while staying warm

Many home fires are caused by home heating mistakes and with this year's chilly winter even people who usually avoid using heaters are turning them on to break the early morning chill.

Home heating is one of the top three causes of fires most years, along with electrical fires and cooking fires. The Casa Grande Fire Department would like to remind you of a few winter fire safety tips:

- It's important to have your furnace checked out and cleaned regularly. Leave furnace work to the experts—don't attempt repairs yourself unless you are qualified.

- In addition to the fire risk, natural or propane gas heaters have been known to produce and leak carbon monoxide into the home. Having a professional check the furnace out will reduce this risk. A carbon monoxide detector provides another measure of safety.

- If you are using a portable space heater for heat, remember that they need a minimum of three feet of clearance between the heater and any combustibles. Avoid using them in bathrooms and never touch one when you are wet! Turn off the heater at bedtime and use another blanket. Many fires have been caused through the years when bedding is tossed off onto a space heater.

- Make sure your space heater is UL (Underwriter's Laboratory) approved. Space heaters consume a lot of electricity (they use 10 to 12.5 amperes), so make sure your electrical wiring is adequate. If an extension cord is needed, use a power strip instead. If the wiring becomes overloaded the circuit will be shut off and overheated wiring can cause a fire. Even better, plug directly into an outlet.

- Don't use your fireplace as an incinerator. Sending paper, trash, etc. up the chimney sends dangerous sparks or even flame up into the chimney. There is a risk that the sticky coating (creosote) inside the chimney could ignite. Avoid burning green wood, as it will also form more creosote.

- Make sure a screen or glass enclosure covers the entire front surface of your fireplace. A gap could allow sparks to fly out from your fireplace.

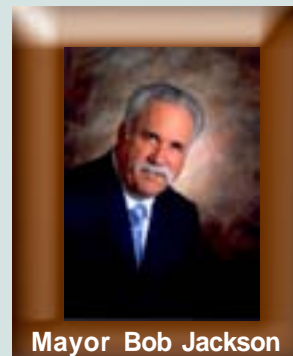
- Check your chimney for loose bricks and cracks. Properly seal any unused flue openings.

Contact the Casa Grande Fire Department at 421-8777 for more information regarding this or other safety subjects.



'Tree-cycling'
The presents have all been unwrapped.
The decorations put away.
Now you're wondering what to do
with your Christmas tree?
The City of Casa Grande is offering 'tree-cycling'
drop-off containers at the following corners from
Dec. 27 through Jan. 20:
Pinal Ave. and Cholla St.
Cottonwood Ln. and Trekeil Rd.
Trekeil Rd. and Rodeo Rd.
Kortsen Rd. and Peart Rd.
6th St. and Trekeil Rd.
McMurray and Monument Plaza Circle
Peart Rd. and Cottonwood Lane
Val Vista Rd. and Pinal Ave.
Schultz St. and O'Neil Dr.
Arizola and Florence Blvd.
(Wal-Mart parking lot)

From the Mayor:



Mayor Bob Jackson

With the new year upon us, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on just a few of the City's accomplishments in 2007, as well as some of our goals for the year ahead.

This past year was an exciting one for Casa Grande. We continued to see residential growth, as well as commercial and industrial growth. We welcomed many new corporate residents, including several upscale retailers at The Promenade at Casa Grande and a multi-national manufacturing organization, ACO Polymer, with their new facility at the Airport Business Park. We also continued to preserve and promote our vibrant downtown core with substantial improvements to roadways, pedestrian paths and lighting in the area.

The City also continued our commitment to improving the quality of life for our citizens. Many of our employees actively volunteer with local organizations, including United Way, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Casa Grande Food Bank, and the Mayor's Reading Club, as well as helping with numerous youth sports programs. Each year, the City sponsors a community-wide 'Make A Difference Day.' In 2006, the City received the Governor's Rural Development Award for Community Service for this event, and I'm pleased to report that the turnout of volunteers continued to grow in 2007.

As for the year ahead, the City has many exciting projects planned. The City's new website - www.casagrandeaz.gov - will be unveiled this month. Along with a new look and feel, the City has improved site navigation and added many customer-friendly features, including a Live Chat tool that allows citizens to receive answers to their questions from a City employee in real-time. I recently had an opportunity to tour the new website and I am really excited about all it has to offer our citizens.

We also plan to open the doors of the City's first Teen Center this spring. The Center, located at the Palm Center near Florence Blvd. and I-10, provides teens with a place to socialize in a fun, supervised environment. This Center would not have been a reality without the support of many community members who donated time, materials and knowledge to turn an empty storefront into a place where teens can do homework, play games or just 'hang out' with friends.

We anticipate breaking ground on our new public safety facility, as well as a new fire station, in the months ahead. Improvements to the downtown area will continue as well.

All in all, it is an exciting time to call Casa Grande home. I'm looking forward to all 2008 has in store for our wonderful community.

Mayor Jackson can be contacted by calling
(520)421-8600
or by email at
bjackson@ci.casa-grande.az.us.

Plenty to do this spring in Casa Grande

From fishing to fashions, photography to pooches, Community Services has something fun for everyone to do this spring. Here's a sampling of the activities taking place around Casa Grande in the months ahead - a full listing can be found in the City's Community Services Spring 2008 brochure, available now at the Parks and Recreation office, 404 E. Florence Blvd.

Ice Cream Social and Senior Expo

The Dorothy Powell Senior Adult Center and Casa Grande Police Department are co-hosting an Ice Cream Social and Senior Expo on Saturday, January 26. The Pinal County Supervisor's Office and the Pinal County Attorney's Office, along with other agencies, will be on hand to provide a variety of resources and information from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Dorothy Powell Senior Adult Center. The Ice Cream Social will take place at Peart Park from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. with entertainment. Both events are free of charge.



Downtown Party

Bring the family and join in on the fun at the Downtown Party on Saturday, February 9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The streets around the Casa Grande Historical Center will be closed to allow for the many entertainment and craft booths for kids and their parents to enjoy. This is a free event where children and adults alike can explore their creative side.

Photography Contest

If photography is more your thing, how about entering your best snapshots in the 2008 Amateur Photography Contest, co-sponsored by Casa Grande Valley Newspapers Inc. Entries will be accepted February 11-22 and forms are available at the Casa Grande Dispatch and Parks and Recreation office. Categories include color or black and white with subject matter being People, Animals, Landscapes, Scenes of Casa Grande, Miscellaneous and Special Effects. Prizes and ribbons will be awarded to winners in each category. Entries will be on display at the Dorothy Powell Senior Adult Center from Monday, March 3 - Friday, March 21.

Lil' Sweethearts Fashion Show

Casa Grande's youngest residents will take their turn in the spotlight on Tuesday, February 12, for the 'Lil' Sweethearts of Casa Grande Fashion Show. Children ages 2-6 years old will model clothes from various department stores at the Dorothy Powell Senior Adult Center beginning at 10:30 a.m. If you would like your child to participate in this free event, please call Shayla at (520)421-8760, ext. 4420.



Catfish Rodeo

Make your big catch at the 27th Annual Catfish Rodeo, co-sponsored by the Optimist Club of Casa Grande. Scheduled for Saturday, March 8 from 6 a.m. to noon, participants ages 15 and under will compete for prizes in seven different categories. Food and beverage will be sold during the event, along with worm bait. Admission is \$2 per child. Location to be announced at a later date.

RALLY FOR THE CURE
Supporting the Mission of Susan G. Komen for the Cure
Presented by Golf For Women Magazine

The Dave White Municipal Golf Course is hosting Rally for the Cure, a ladies-only golf tournament to raise funds for the Susan G. Komen foundation. Play is set for Saturday, Feb. 9 and is sponsored by the Swingers 9-hole League and Casa Grande Women's Golf Association. To learn more or to register, contact the golf course at (520)836-9216.

NY Times
bestseller
J.A. Jance
appearing at
CG Library



New York Times best-selling author J.A. Jance is coming to the Casa Grande Public Library!

Acclaimed author of the Ali Reynolds series, Joanna Brady series, J.P. Beaumont series and more, Jance will appear at the Library on Monday, January 14 at 6:30 p.m.

Stop by and meet the author, hear about the inspirations for her work and have your favorite J.A. Jance book signed.

This event is free, but be sure to arrive early as Jance's appearances usually bring standing-room only crowds.

The Library is located at 449 N. Dry Lake St. For more information, visit www.cglibrary.org.