



City Beat

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Community Newsletter • City of Casa Grande • 510 E. Florence Blvd. • May/June 2013

City Council

Robert Jackson, *Mayor*
Dick Powell, *Mayor Pro Tempore*
Mary Kortsen, *Councilmember*
Karl Montoya, *Councilmember*
Matt Herman, *Councilmember*
Lisa Fitzgibbons, *Councilmember*
Ralph Varela, *Councilmember*

City Contacts

City Hall 421-8600

Area Code is 520

Animal Control	426-9300
Building	421-8630
City Attorney	421-8600
City Clerk	421-8608
City Court	421-8675
City Manager	421-8600
Finance	421-8601
Fire Department	421-8777
Golf Course	836-9216
Housing	421-8670
Human Resources	421-8600
Landfill	421-8628
Library	421-8710
Parks & Recreation	421-8677
Police Department	421-8700
Planning/Zoning	421-8637
Public Works	421-8625
Senior Center	421-8760

Main Library & Former Police Building to be Renovated

Maintaining and renovating current city facilities for future growth is important. Two city facilities are scheduled to be renovated - the Main Library located at 449 N. Dry Lake Street and the former police department building on Marshal Street in downtown.

The Main Library will be reconfigured to improve the use of space and increase operational efficiency. Most of the building will be reprogrammed based on current library needs and demand in the future. Improvements will include a larger space for library programs, a larger computer lab, an outdoor patio area, and space to eventually house a small coffee & concessions shop. The entrance to the Main Library will be moved to the north side of the building, adjacent to Peart Park.

The former police department facility is 35 years old. The building currently houses staff that provides emergency dispatch calls for fire and police. To maximize the use of the building, the interior will be renovated to create a new dispatch console room, police substation and appropriate office and support spaces for a 24/7 facility. Although officers will not be at the station full time, citizens can walk in the front lobby and speak to a dispatcher via an intercom system. If needed, an officer can be dispatched to address the citizen's needs.

"This renovation will not only improve public safety operations but will also meet the future needs of the police department," says Public Safety Communications Manager Mike Brashier. The renovated facility will be called the Casa Grande Public Safety Communications Building.



Main Library 449 N. Dry Lake Street
(520) 421-8710

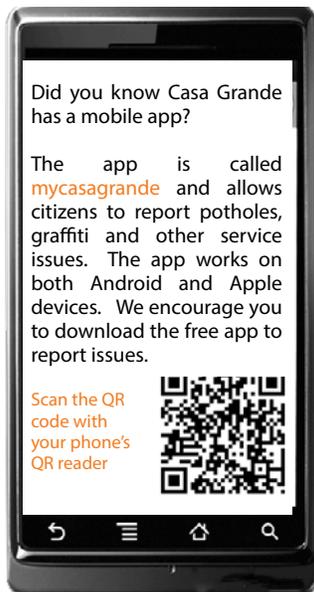
FAST FACT The Main Library building served as City Hall from 1971 to 1999.



Police Building 520 N. Marshal Street

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Report Issues Using Your Mobile Device



Did you know Casa Grande has a mobile app?

The app is called **mycasagrande** and allows citizens to report potholes, graffiti and other service issues. The app works on both Android and Apple devices. We encourage you to download the free app to report issues.

Scan the QR code with your phone's QR reader



Trekell Road, Others Scheduled for Improvement



Please slow down in construction zones.

As part of the City's pavement preservation program, crews will be out resurfacing Trekell Road from Jimmie Kerr Blvd. to McCartney Road beginning in May. Work will include mill and overlay along with new striping. Milling removes the old surface and creates a rough surface that allows the new asphalt to bond with the old pavement. Work will be divided on Trekell Road from Jimmie Kerr to Campbell, Cottonwood to Kortsen, and end of Rancho Grande to McCartney.

To ease traffic congestion and increase safety for pedestrians and bicyclists, Trekell Road south of Florence Blvd. will be made up of two through lanes, a center two-way left turn lane and bike lanes.

Other road work:

- Mill & overlay on Cottonwood Lane from Trekell Road to French Street
- Cape seal on Peart Road from Florence Blvd. to Cottonwood Lane
- Micro seal on Casa Grande Avenue from Melrose Drive to Cottonwood Lane
- Mill & overlay on Casa Grande Avenue from McMurray Blvd. to Melrose Drive
- Mill & overlay on McMurray Blvd. from Pinal Avenue to Schultz Street
- Double chip seal on Early Road from Peart Road to the I-10 overpass

Construction crews will be working from 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. While work is underway, there will be lane restrictions, but one lane will remain open in each direction at all times. Access to businesses will be maintained and advanced notification will be given. Motorists are advised to please obey all traffic signs and slow down in construction zones. All road work is expected to be completed by September.

To view a map and schedule of street projects, visit www.casagrandeaz.gov/web/guest/traffic.

Like us on [/cgazgov](https://www.facebook.com/cgazgov) or follow us on [/cgazgov](https://twitter.com/cgazgov) for updates.

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Johnny Cervantes Selected as New Chief of Police

Following a nationwide search and competitive hiring process, the City of Casa Grande is pleased to welcome Johnny Cervantes as the new Chief of Police. A total of 77 applicants from across the country applied for the highly sought-after position. Cervantes replaced Chief Bob Huddleston, who retired on March 31 after 33 years of service.

Cervantes most recently served as a patrol commander for the Scottsdale Police Department. As a commander, he managed the expansion and redistricting of the Downtown District, including personnel and equipment allocation, implemented a new deployment model and modified district boundaries. He also developed and implemented data driven crime reduction strategies and was involved in the department's strategic planning process. Before being promoted to commander in 2008, Cervantes served in various capacities for the Scottsdale Police Department for 22 years. He began his career in law enforcement for the Town of Miami, Arizona.



As Chief of Police, Cervantes will oversee all operations of the Casa Grande Police Department. The department currently has 78 sworn officers distributed among four divisions: patrol, special operations, criminal investigations and communications. He will be responsible for providing direction and evaluating programs, priorities, policies and procedures as well as compliance with state and federal laws. Cervantes will also continue to lead the department in implementing a 5 year strategic plan that was developed in 2012.

"Casa Grande is a growing city with a great vision for the future and a strong sense of community. That is exactly what I was looking for when exploring professional growth opportunities," said Cervantes. "I am honored to be a part of the organization and look forward to working with everyone to strengthen the relationship between the Casa Grande Police Department and the community."

Johnny Cervantes received his Bachelor of Arts in history from Arizona State University, a Master of Business Administration from the University of Arizona and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy police executive management training. Cervantes began his duties as Chief of Police in April.

For the latest information from the police department, Like them on [/cgpolice](#). Chief Cervantes can be reached at (520) 421-8711 ext. 6010 or johnny_cervantes@casagrandeaz.gov

Renovations

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The combined \$3.2 million dollar renovations are being funded primarily by city impact fees assessed on new construction in recent years. Work on both the former police building and the Main Library will be concurrent in order to save money on each project.

Construction will begin this summer and will be completed by mid-winter. The Main Library will remain open during construction.

To view floor plans for both facilities, visit www.casagrandeaz.gov/web/guest/news

Watch City Scene to learn more about the project:

Monday, Wednesday
Friday, Sunday
7:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.
7:30 p.m.
Cox Channel 11



Online: [/cgazgov](#)

Road - continued from page 1

All road maintenance work is funded through the Highway Users Revenue Fund (HURF). The source of funding is primarily gas tax with some coming from vehicle license fees. The gas tax is a flat rate and does not increase as the price of gas increases.

Casa Grande receives about \$2.8 million annually from HURF. With the advent of more fuel efficient vehicles and fewer miles being driven due to the price of gas, HURF revenues have remained about the same for the past ten years.

In addition to the normal types of things you expect from road maintenance, like replacement of sidewalks, patching potholes, and pavement rehabilitation, HURF dollars are also used to pay for street lights and traffic signals.

Since 2003 the number of road miles within the City's inventory grew from 307 to 414 miles, the number of streetlights increased from 1638 to 5350 and the number of signalized intersections increased from 27 to 42.



Solar-Covered Parking Underway at City Facilities



Photovoltaic System Estimated to Save City \$250,000 Annually

The City of Casa Grande is joining a handful of organizations that are leveraging solar energy to reduce utility costs. Five city facilities are being retrofitted with solar-covered parking structures: City Hall (510 E. Florence Blvd.), Grande Sports World (12684 W. Gila Bend Hwy.), the North Operations Center (3181 N. Lear Ave.), the Public Safety Facility (373 E. Val Vista Blvd.), and the Main Library (449 N. Drylake St.). The photovoltaic system, which will be owned by the City, will provide an annual savings of \$250,000.

The combined 1.0 megawatt project consists of over 3400 photovoltaic panels, which will help the City reduce its electricity usage by over one million kilowatt hours per year, which is roughly the amount required to power 114 homes. The resulting carbon dioxide offset of 1.9 million pounds is equivalent to preventing the annual emissions from 158 cars.

"The investment we're making here will definitely pay off in the future in the form of energy savings," says Mayor Bob Jackson. "We are proud and enthusiastic about this project that will provide a significant reduction in energy costs over the years."

The City is purchasing the photovoltaic system under a Guaranteed Energy Cost Savings contract with Ameresco. The \$3.3 million dollar project will be paid for directly from the savings generated and incentives provided by Arizona Public Service (APS). Casa Grande's contract with Ameresco is for 18 years.

According to Ameresco, Casa Grande is one of the first municipalities in the country to purchase a solar system under the Guaranteed Energy Cost Savings program. Under a Guaranteed Energy Cost Savings contract, when a consultant installs a measure to reduce energy usage, they must provide a written guarantee that the measure will reduce the entity's energy usage by a stated amount. If the cost savings measure does not reduce energy usage by the stated amount, the consultant is then required to reimburse the entity for any shortfall.

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Solar

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"Because the City of Casa Grande will own the system, any overproduction that may occur would result in a direct, positive cash flow to the City," explains Ben Bitter, senior management analyst for the City. "If the production exceeds the conservative expectations of the pro forma, the extra money saved could be used to pay down the project cost faster or be used to further reduce electricity costs within the City."

Through an established relationship with the contractor, the City was able to build the cost of extended warranty coverage for all components of the project into the project cost. These warranties will ensure that all vital parts of the system will function under manufacturer specifications for a length of time to **exceed** the length of financing. The first three years of maintenance and operation costs as well as training for staff to maintain the panels was also built into the project costs.

Construction at all five city facilities will be completed by the end of the summer.

City Seeks Input on Budget

Casa Grande is preparing its Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2013/2014 and wants residents to know their input is an important part of the process. The budget is an ongoing process combining citizen input, Council desires and direction, and staff recommendations to meet community needs.

Department directors have been analyzing all costs in their budgets and evaluating services and programs. As part of the budget process, the City Council reviews changes to the City's consolidated fee schedule, which includes rates for sewer and trash collection.

Public Meetings Scheduled

Tentative Budget & Property Tax Levy Adoption Public Hearing on Fees

Monday, May 20 @ 7 p.m.
Council Chambers (510 E. Florence Blvd.)

City Council Adoption of Fees

Monday, June 3 @ 7 p.m.
Council Chambers (510 E. Florence Blvd.)

Public Hearing on Budget & Property Tax Levy

Monday, June 17 @ 7 p.m.
Council Chambers (510 E. Florence Blvd.)

Residents can also write, call or email the Mayor and Council with their comments and suggestions. For contact information, visit www.casagrandeaz.gov and look under the City Council tab.

Casa Grande Firefighters Prepare for Wildfire Season



Casa Grande firefighters attended a wildland drill in Oracle, Arizona recently to prepare for this year's wildfire season. The drill was hosted by the US Forest Service, Arizona State Forestry Division, and several local fire agencies from Pima and Pinal Counties.

CGFD Captain Andy Miller was the Incident Commander for the drill, where he was responsible for leading a team of over 150 firefighters in hands-on-training. Crews practiced the deployment of emergency fire shelters, chainsaw use and safety, wildland/urban interface triage, and deployment of sprinkler systems. The training exercises were coordinated in the same way that emergency incidents across the nation are organized using the Incident Command System structure.

FAST FACT Casa Grande firefighters were deployed to wildfires in 5 states last year.

Casa Grande firefighters primarily respond to emergency medical service (EMS) and structure fires; however, the department has a certified wildland team who assists in wildfires and other natural disasters. This team of highly-trained individuals is deployed to emergencies in the state and other parts of the country. Last year, a team was deployed to wildfires in five different states.

Locally, there were 39 brush fires in and around Casa Grande last year. To protect your home from a brush fire, CGFD recommends keeping your yard free from debris/weeds and having 30 feet of defensible space around your home.



CGFD Captain Andy Miller

Watch the wildland drill on [/cgazgov](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

Senior Citizen Fire, Fall & Injury Prevention Classes

At age 65, older adults are twice as likely to be killed or injured by fires or a fall compared to the population at large. Approximately 35% of people age 65 or older in Casa Grande are involved in falls each year where injuries require emergency response. That is over the national average.

The Casa Grande Fire Department provides education for fire, fall and injury prevention for our older adults in the community that is centered on 16 key safety messages.

If you would like to schedule a presentation for your neighborhood/group, contact Fire Prevention Officer Isabel Vasquez at (520) 421-8777 ext. 5980 or ivasquez@casagrandeaz.gov. You can also watch a presentation on Cox Channel 11 on Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays at 8:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m. or online at [/cgazgov](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)



Casa Grande Creates Metropolitan Planning Organization

When a city reaches a population of over 50,000, the federal government requires the municipality to create a Metropolitan Planning Organization, or MPO for short. Casa Grande reached that milestone last year. The City Council approved a resolution in March to form the Sun Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization. The newly formed MPO combines the cities of Casa Grande, Eloy, Coolidge and Pinal County.

MPOs are formed to promote and enhance regional transportation planning. The organization consists of representatives from municipalities within a Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA), consisting of at least one urbanized area and other areas within the region that have strong transportation connections. The MPA was approved by the Department of Transportation and the Governor.

The Sun Corridor MPO will receive annual allocation of federal funds for the construction and improvement of major roads in the area based on population. The funding is estimated to be about \$7 per person within the MPO. While the actual amount is yet to be determined, the Sun Corridor MPO expects to receive approximately \$700,000 a year. Member cities are currently working to create a board, bylaws and a project list to use the new funds.



18 Citizens Graduate from Leadership Academy

Eighteen local citizens recently graduated from the 2013 Leadership Academy, joining 160 alumni from previous Academy sessions. This unique program is a focused, in-depth look at the city and its operations in eight sessions spread over approximately 13 weeks. The goal of the program is to connect citizens with their government and encourage participation in city-related activities.

Leadership Academy sessions are held once a year, from January through March. If you would like to participate in the 2014 Leadership Academy, contact Public Information Officer Agustin Avalos at (520) 421-8627 or aavalos@casagrandeaz.gov.



Gregg Bargo	Sean Goodrich	Roger Schelk
Colleen Bechtel	Boyd Johnson	Martin Schmidt
Amy Berglund	Cassandra Mitchell	Chuck Simonette
Sheila Chavez	Maggie Nagel	Valyrie Wright
Susan Courtright	Vaughn Nagel	
Mick Degn	Denise Orozco	
Brodrick Fisher	Susan Rooney	

Congrats!

Palm Island Family Aquatics Park



The Palm Island Family Aquatic Park opens on May 25 and has a variety of aquatic programs for all ages. To enroll your child in swimming lessons, call the Parks & Recreation Division at (520) 421-8677 ext. 4530.

OPEN SWIM

May 25 - August 4

Tuesday-Sunday, 12:30PM-4:30PM

August 10 - September 2

Weekends only, 12:30PM-4:30PM

ADMISSION

Children (Under 17).....\$1

Adults.....\$2

SEASON FAMILY PASS

(Immediate family only).....\$75

(up to 4 members, \$15 add'l)

SUMMER POOL PASS (20 VISITS)

Children (17 and under).....\$18

Adults.....\$28

National Weather Service Storm Spotter Class



The National Weather Service (NWS) is offering a free training class in Casa Grande to teach people how to properly identify and report significant weather phenomena and contribute to public safety. Participants will learn how thunderstorms work, visually estimate wind speeds, and how reports tie in to warnings and advisories issued by the NWS.

The session will be held on Wednesday, May 8 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Public Safety Facility, 373 E. Val Vista Blvd. To register, visit www.weather.gov/phoenix and click on the link for "Skywarn" on the left hand side of the homepage. If you have any questions, contact Ken Waters or Austin Jamison at the NWS Phoenix Forecast Office at (602) 275-0073 (option 5).

City Offices Closed on May 27 in Observance of Memorial Day

Trash & Recycling Schedule

Trash normally collected on Monday, May 27 will be collected on Tuesday, May 28. Trash collection normally made on Tuesday, May 28 will be collected on Wednesday, May 29.

Recycling collection normally made on Monday, May 27 will be collected on Tuesday, May 28 along with normal Tuesday pickup.

The Casa Grande Landfill will be closed on Monday, May 27. The landfill will return to normal operating hours (7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.) on Tuesday, May 28.



Questions? Call (520) 421-8625

CALENDAR OF EVENTS/MEETINGS For more events/meetings, visit www.casagrandeaz.gov

EVENT	DATE/TIME	LOCATION	CONTACT	Area Code 520
Summer Registration Begins	5/6, 8am	Parks & Recreation Office	Parks & Recreation, 421-8677	
City Council Meeting	5/6, 7pm	Council Chambers	City Clerk, 421-8608	
Art in the Alley - Feria Theme	5/7, 5:30pm	Downtown Casa Grande	Main Street, 836-8744	
Concert in the Park	5/17, 6pm	Peart Park	Parks & Recreation, 421-8677	
City Council Meeting	5/20, 7pm	Council Chambers	City Clerk, 421-8608	
Pool Opens for the Season	5/25, 12:30pm	Palm Island Aquatics Park	Parks & Recreation, 421-8677	\$
City Council Meeting	6/3, 7pm	Council Chambers	City Clerk, 421-8608	
Art in the Alley - Youth Theme	6/4, 5:30pm	Downtown Casa Grande	Main Street, 836-8744	
Planning/Zoning Commission	6/6, 6pm	Council Chambers	Planning, 421-8637	
City Council Meeting	6/17, 7pm	Council Chambers	City Clerk, 421-8608	
Fourth of July Celebration	7/4, 7pm	Paul Mason Sportsplex	Parks & Recreation, 421-8677	
Farmers Market	Tuesdays, 9am	Downtown Casa Grande	Main Street, 836-8744	

\$ Requires a Fee or Admission

Dave White Municipal Golf Course

2013 Summer Passes Now on Sale!

\$385

Golf, Cart & Taxes included plus 50% off range balls Valid May 1 - October 31

(520) 836-9216 2121 N. Thornton Road, Casa Grande