



City Beat

November/December 2013



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NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF CASA GRANDE

WWW.CASAGRANDEAZ.GOV

Let's Be Social!

Flower Planting Event Honors Victims of Abuse



The City Attorney's Office Victim Assistance Program, in partnership with the Casa Grande Elementary School District, hosted a flower planting event in October as part of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

The flower garden in front of City Hall is planted every year to remember children who have been victims of abuse. Victims' Rights Specialist and event organizer Terry Montijo says, "Children are a huge priority for us. We see an alarming trend in cases where children have been exposed to violence in their home. In those cases where children are traumatized or develop emotional and behavioral problems, we bring resources to parents to help alleviate the effects of violence on their children."



The schools that participated this year were Cactus Middle School, Cholla Elementary, Ironwood Elementary, Palo Verde Elementary, Saguaro Elementary, and the Villago Middle School Verde Club. This year's special event was sponsored by The Groundskeeper: Outside Solutions.

Against Abuse, Inc. also participated in the event by planting pinwheels to promote awareness of child abuse prevention.

FAST FACT Last year, the Victim Assistance Program helped 584 victims directly.



Terry Montijo

"It's important to educate our youth about the signs and types of abuse," says Montijo. "There are many types of abuse, including physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect and emotional maltreatment. We want parents and children to understand the different types of abuse and know that we're here to help."

To learn about the signs/types of abuse and how to prevent child abuse, visit www.childwelfare.gov If you or someone you know is a victim of abuse, contact Terry Montijo, victims' rights specialist at (520) 421-8600 or tmontijo@casagrandeaz.gov. The Victim Assistance Program provides assistance, support and protection to victims and their families.

Park Reservations & Fees

Fall weather is here, which means many residents will be taking advantage of the cooler temperatures to recreate with their family outside.

If you are planning a celebration at a City maintained park, please note that a fee is now required to reserve a ramada at some parks.

Reservable Parks \$25 fee for minimum of 4 hours (\$6.25 each additional hour)

Carr McNatt Park 1115 N. Brown Avenue	Ed Hooper Rodeo Park 2525 N. Pinal Avenue
Dave White Municipal Park 2121 N. Thornton Road	North Mountain Park 3900 N. Cox Road
O'Neil Park 490 E. Cottonwood Lane	Peart Park 350 E. 6th Street
Villago Community Park 3368 N. Pinal Avenue	Reservations, rules and fees: www.casagrandeaz.gov/rec/parks (520) 421-8677

Doug Sandstrom Named New Finance Director



Doug Sandstrom has been selected to be the City's next Finance Director.

He will provide leadership, direction and guidance of all financial and information technology activities for the City. He begins his duties on November 11.

Sandstrom comes to Casa Grande from Show Low, Arizona where he oversaw the day-to-day operations of the Administrative Services Department, which includes payroll, utility billing, customer service, performance management and overall financial administration of the City.

"What attracted me to Casa Grande is the City's reputation as a financially solid, progressive city with the potential to capitalize on growth through its position as the trade and employment center of the region," said Sandstrom. "I look forward to maintaining and building upon the solid financial foundation that has been put in place over the years."

Sandstrom holds a master's degree in public administration from the University of Wisconsin and a bachelor's degree in political science/economics from St. Cloud State University in Minnesota. He has two children who live and attend college in Tempe.

Shop Locally This Holiday Season



Local sales taxes make up nearly 50 percent of the City's General Fund, which is used to pay for services that keep our community alive and well. When you shop in Casa Grande your tax dollars help pay for city services like police and fire protection, parks & recreation, planning and community development. When purchases are made locally and sales tax is applied, the City of Casa Grande receives 2% of the taxable sale. When you shop in another community, your tax dollars pay for services that benefit residents in that community. So when you're making your list and checking it twice, please remember to shop in Casa Grande.

Report Issues Using Your Mobile Device



Download the mycasagrande mobile app to report potholes, graffiti and other service issues. The free app works on both Android and Apple devices.



Casa Grande Public Library Celebrates 100 Years



A hundred summers have passed since a small group of determined citizens banded together to create Casa Grande's first library. Much like the City, the library has moved and grown to support our expanding community. Now in honor of those pioneers, the Casa Grande Public Library is putting together the story of the organization through its impact on the community and lives of our residents.

If you have a library experience you'd like to share, we'd love to hear from you! All these personal histories will be collected in a bound volume and preserved for future generations to discover. We encourage you to share your story for posterity whether you are a winter visitor, year-round resident, new to the community or an old-timer. All are more than welcome to submit their story to either library branch or send an email to cglibrary@casagrandeaz.gov.

Food for Fines

The Casa Grande Public Libraries will be sponsoring their semi-annual "Food For Fines" program during November 1-30, 2013. Patrons may clear their Casa Grande/Vista Grande overdue fines by bringing in one non-perishable food item for every dollar owed in fines. (This does not apply to replacement or damaged item charges)



The library then donates all the food items to the local Casa Grande Food Bank. This is a great opportunity for our library patrons to get their accounts paid down, and a wonderful gift to the CG Food Bank at an important time of year.

Pinal Avenue Improvements Underway



The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) is making roadway and sidewalk improvements along a 2.6 mile section of State Route 387 (Pinal Avenue) between Florence Blvd. and Santa Cruz Wash Bridge. The project also includes the installation of a new pedestrian hybrid beacon at the San Carlos Trail school crossing. A pedestrian hybrid beacon is a pedestrian-activated warning device that assists pedestrians in crossing a street at a marked, but un signaled, crosswalk using a system of warning and flashing lights to notify and stop traffic.

For construction updates, visit www.azdot.gov/SR387.

Leadership Academy Offers Residents an Inside Look at City Operations

If you're a Casa Grande resident and have questions about why and how the City does what it does, the Leadership Academy is waiting for you! The free program is a great way for residents to learn about what happens behind the scenes at City Hall and other municipal facilities. Get your questions answered and discover things you never knew about Casa Grande.



Residents tour the wastewater plant

The next Leadership Academy runs from January 9 through February 27, 2014. During the 8-week program, which meets on Thursday evenings from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., hear from Mayor Bob Jackson, City Manager Jim Thompson, directors and other key city staff.

Find out what it takes to build roads and parks and to plan for Casa Grande's future growth. See the equipment police and firefighters use to protect and save lives. Learn about the City's budget process and how your tax dollars are spent.

Classes are open to Casa Grande residents 18 and older. Class size is limited. Registration is easy and available online at www.casagrandeaz.gov/leadershipacademy. The schedule for class topics and locations is also posted online. Please return the completed application by December 13, 2013. Participants will be notified by mid-December. For more information email Public Information Officer Agustin Avalos, aavalos@casagrandeaz.gov or call (520) 421-8627. Arizona Public Service has sponsored the event since its inception in 2003.

New Shade Structure at Albert Cruz Park



1491 N. Crane Street

Children who visit Albert Cruz Park on the west side of the city can now play under a shade structure, all thanks to Seeds of Hope and Cenpatico of Arizona. The non-profit organizations donated \$10,519 to build a shade structure over the existing playground equipment for children to recreate under.

The Seeds of Hope Mondo Anaya Community Center is located at Albert Cruz Park and provides a number of resources to the community, including English as a Second Language classes for adults, an after-school program for children, and a support group for parents raising their grandchildren. Seeds of Hope Executive Director Mark Vanderheyden says the Mondo Anaya Community Center serves an average of 200 people in the community. He says over 20 children visit the playground next to the facility daily.

"We had conversations with our neighbors surrounding the park and they expressed the need for a shade structure over the existing play area for their children to use throughout the year," says Vanderheyden. "As a display of appreciation to the City of Casa Grande and for the well-being of the children in the surrounding area, we applied and received a grant from Cenpatico for the shade structure." Watch a short video on YouTube/cgazgov.

Council Member Ralph Varela Receives Valle del Sol Award

Casa Grande City Council Member Ralph Varela was awarded a Special Recognition Award by the Valle del Sol organization. The Phoenix-based organization presented Varela with the award during their Profiles of Success Hispanic Leadership Awards Celebration. The awards program recognizes and honors individuals who have demonstrated outstanding leadership service to the community and achievements to the state.



Varela is chief executive officer of the Pinal Hispanic Council, a non-profit behavioral health organization. He was selected for the award because of his support for the community and his efforts chairing the annual dinner for the Cesar E. Chavez Memorial Committee of Pinal County.

The annual Cesar Chavez dinner commemorates the legacy and values of the civil rights leader and labor activist. A portion of the proceeds raised at the annual dinner fund the Hispanic Leadership Institute-Pinal scholarship program.

Police Partner with Union Pacific to Reduce Rail Road Crossing Accidents

Local police officers, along with special agents and police officers of Union Pacific are working together to educate the public and enforce the newest laws in regard to grade crossing safety.



In September, Governor Brewer signed a bill that allows law enforcement to cite drivers and pedestrians who proceed through, around, over or under a crossing gate or barrier at a railroad crossing while the gate or barrier is in use.

Train crews frequently report near misses of trains and vehicles or pedestrians. Although there has not been a grade crossing collision in Casa Grande since 2010, police caution drivers and pedestrians against making hasty decisions to try to "beat" the train.

Here are some safety tips for drivers and pedestrians:

- Follow all traffic laws
- Be patient
- Observe all warning signs at grade crossings, including signs, flashing lights and gates.
- Don't try to "beat" the train. A train takes a long time to slow down or stop and weighs much more than you or your vehicle. The consequences can be fatal.

Casa Grande Police Officer Saves Life of Injured Pedestrian



Brian McCloskey

Casa Grande police officer Brian McCloskey was recently recognized for his efforts in helping save the life of an injured pedestrian. The incident happened on September 29 just after midnight when a 33-year-old man was struck by a vehicle on North Pinal Avenue just south of Korstsen Road. Officer McCloskey was the first on the scene and quickly began to perform CPR on the man who was unresponsive and not breathing. Because of his quick response and action the pedestrian began to breathe and eventually gained consciousness. Shortly after, medical crews arrived and took over care of the man who was flown to Maricopa Medical Center in Phoenix for further examination.

Police Chief Johnny Cervantes said, "Officer McCloskey acted without hesitation and concern for his own safety to help the injured pedestrian. Due to his extraordinary efforts, we are proud to have him be part of our team and will honor him with a Life Saving Award."

Casa Grande Fire Department Reminds Residents to Prevent Kitchen Fires



According to the latest research from the National Fire Protection Association, cooking is the leading cause of home fires. Two of every five home fires begin in the kitchen - that's more than any other place in the home. Cooking fires are also the leading cause of home fire-related injuries.



Here are some safety tips to prevent fires in the kitchen:

- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, broiling, or boiling food.
- If you must leave the room, even for a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- When you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, stay in the home, and use a timer to remind you.
- If you have young children, use the stove's back burners whenever possible. Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the stove.
- When you cook, wear clothing with tight-fitting sleeves.
- Keep pot holders, oven mitts, wooden utensils, paper and plastic bags, towels, and anything else that can burn away from your stovetop.
- Clean up food and grease from burners and stovetops.

Saturday, December 7

Winter Wonderland

12:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Historic Downtown
Ice skating, crafts, music, and much more!

Tree Lighting Ceremony

5:45 p.m.
In front of City Hall
(510 E. Florence Blvd.)
Mayor Bob Jackson will throw the switch to light over 21,000 multi-colored lights on a 30-foot Christmas tree. Join the countdown!



19th Annual Electric Light Parade

Begins promptly at 5:45 p.m.
Florence Blvd. to Historic Downtown
Longer route this year; parade begins on Colorado Street!

Vote for your favorite parade float the day of the parade by texting (623) 295-9207 or online at www.elpvote.com

If you miss the parade, you can watch it on Cox Channel 11 on Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays at 12:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. or online at channel11.casagrandeaz.gov

Help Fight Sewer Backups

Sewer backups damage City infrastructure, create health hazards and threaten the natural environment.

You can avoid backups by following a few basic guidelines:

- Oil or grease residue should be poured, wiped, or scraped from plates, pots and pans and disposed of with household solid waste or garbage.
- Garbage disposals should be used wisely and sparingly, and never for the disposal of household generated oils, greases, or grease bearing food products.
- Remember that food such as gravies, frostings, and dressings can contain significant quantities of oils and fats.

Your cooperation is appreciated.



Questions should be directed to the Wastewater Division at (520) 421-8625.

Tree-Cycle Your Christmas Tree

The Sanitation Division will collect expired Christmas trees for recycling at nine (9) Tree-Cycle sites located throughout the city. Tree-Cycle containers will be made available to the public from December 23 through January 10. All collection containers will be marked with signs labeled "Christmas Tree Recycling."

Tree-Cycle Drop-Off Locations:

- Carr McNatt Park:** 1115 N. Casa Grande Ave. (South West parking lot of Casa Grande Ave. and 10th St).
- Cottonwood Ln. and Trezell Rd.** (South end corner of the Safeway parking lot).
- 6th St. and Trezell Rd.** (Center of property).
- Schultz St. and O'Neil Dr.** (South East corner).
- Pearl Rd. and Cottonwood Ln.** (North West corner).
- Villago Park:** 3368 N. Pinal Ave. (North East corner of parking lot).
- Rotary Park:** 2220 N. Trezell Rd. (South end of park parking lot).
- Ed Hooper Rodeo Park:** 2525 N. Pinal Ave. (South East corner of Pinal Ave. and Rodeo Rd.)
- City of Casa Grande Landfill:** 5200 S. Chui Chu Rd.



NOTE: Please remember to remove nails, tinsel, tree stands, lights and decorations before recycling. Wreaths (with décor left on them) and artificial trees cannot be recycled. These items need to be placed in the regular trash container for disposal.

Christmas trees will be chipped at the landfill and made available to the public to use as mulch for no fee. Residents requesting to receive the mulch must bring necessary tools to load and haul the tree chippings.

Questions? Call the Sanitation Division at (520) 421-8625.

Events @ Grande Sports World



Grande Sports World provides professional grade fields for local, regional, national and international leagues to play ball.

All games at Grande Sports World are free and open to the community. So bring your lawn chair and check out some of the best athletes play ball.



Game Schedule

12684 West Gila Bend Highway
(Next to Francisco Grande Hotel & Golf Resort)
(877) 909-9777

- November 9: Real Salt Lake vs. Arsenal**
- November 9: Arizona Youth Soccer Association (AYSA)**
- November 10: Arizona Youth Soccer Association (AYSA)**
- November 16: Real Salt Lake vs. Surf**
- November 16: National Premier League**
- November 23: Rush Pikes Peak**
- November 23: Real Salt Lake vs Pateadores**
- December 15-21: Real Salt Lake - AZ Camp**

For the most up to date information about events and activities at Grande Sports World, visit their Facebook page, www.facebook.com/gsw10. 

Holiday Trash & Recycling Schedule

All City offices, including the Landfill & Municipal Airport, will be closed Thursday, November 28, Friday, November 29, Wednesday, December 25 and Wednesday, January 1 in observance of Thanksgiving, Christmas & New Year's Day.

Please note the revised trash and recycling schedule:

All trash and recycling for Thursday and Friday, November 28 and 29 will be picked up on Friday, November 29. All trash collection for the Christmas and New Year's holidays will be delayed by one day.

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
City Council Meeting	11/4, 7pm	Council Chambers	City Clerk, 421-8608
CG Mainstreet - "Harvest Fair"	11/5, 5:30pm	Downtown Casa Grande	Main Street, 836-8744
Planning/Zoning Commission	11/7, 6pm	Council Chambers	Planning, 421-8637
Veterans Day Parade	11/9, 9am	Florence Blvd.	Palmer Miller, 431-3399
City Council Meeting	11/18, 7pm	Council Chambers	City Clerk, 421-8608
City Council Meeting	12/2, 7pm	Council Chambers	City Clerk, 421-8608
CG Main Street - "Winter Wonderland"	12/3, 5:30pm	Downtown Casa Grande	Main Street, 836-8744
Planning/Zoning Commission	12/5, 6pm	Council Chambers	Planning, 421-8637
Winter Wonderland Activities	12/7, 12:30pm	Downtown Casa Grande	Parks & Recreation, 421-8677
Christmas Tree Lighting	12/7, 5:45pm	Front of City Hall	Parks & Recreation, 421-8677
Electric Light Parade	12/7, 5:45pm	Florence Blvd. to Downtown	Parks & Recreation, 421-8677
City Council Meeting	12/16, 7pm	Council Chambers	City Clerk, 421-8608

City Contacts

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	421-8711
Planning/Zoning	421-8637
Public Works	421-8625
Senior Center	421-8760

City Council

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