



# City Beat

September/October 2013



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NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF CASA GRANDE

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## Christopher O'Neil Selected as New City Judge

Christopher O'Neil was sworn-in as Casa Grande's new city judge in July. He replaced Judy Ferguson, who had been city judge since 1989.



As city judge, O'Neil is responsible for the administration of all affairs of the city court, including exercising all powers and duties set forth under the provisions of the Arizona Constitution and Statutes, the city charter, the city code and the ordinance and resolutions of the city.

Located at 375 E. 9th Street, the Casa Grande Municipal Court is the judicial branch of Casa Grande City government. The Court is of limited jurisdiction and deals with misdemeanors, petty offenses, and civil violations, including traffic and City ordinances. The court also issues orders of protection and injunctions against harassment.

"I love the City of Casa Grande, and I can think of no better opportunity than to serve my home community as an energetic, innovative, and knowledgeable city judge," said O'Neil. "I make a commitment to be transparent and accountable by implementing tools to measure the court's success."

A Casa Grande native, O'Neil holds a Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law and was admitted to the Arizona bar in 2009. He lives in Casa Grande with his family.

## Casa Grande Firefighters Receive Confined Space Rescue Training

Salt River Project (SRP) awarded the Casa Grande Fire Department a \$66,000 grant to provide Confined Space Rescue Training and equipment to local firefighters. The training, which is meant to prepare firefighters to respond to emergencies at the SRP Desert Basin Generating Station in Casa Grande and other confined areas in the community, was held in August at Fire Station 503.



Captain Jason Andersen

Watch the training on /cgazgov

Additionally, a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) assisted CG Fire in obtaining a trailer for the sessions. The trailer was used to teach crews about air management as it relates to the use of self-contained breathing apparatus in confined spaces. Teams were formed to set up and use the equipment necessary to perform a rescue and follow Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) practices during the training exercises.

"Emergencies can strike at any moment and that is why it is crucial that our firefighters are properly trained to react to any type of emergency in a moment's notice," said Casa Grande Fire Battalion Chief Frank Ricci. "Confined space rescue training will give our local firefighters the skills and knowledge they need to effectively manage emergencies in areas that are confined and difficult to reach. We appreciate SRP for stepping up as a funding partner to provide this type of training that will benefit the entire community."

**FAST FACT** There are at least 26 locations in the city that have a potential need for confined space rescue.

Twelve (12) Casa Grande firefighters now form part of the department's confined space technical rescue team, which will be ready to respond to emergencies in confined spaces throughout the community.

"The closest fire department capable of assisting us in a confined space environment was in Chandler, so we are glad to have this type of rescue capability in close proximity to the plant," said Dennis Gerlach, Manager of the Desert Basin Generating Station. "We are pleased to work with the Casa Grande Fire Department on training that will benefit not only the plant and our employees but the surrounding communities as well."



## Volunteers Needed to Install Smoke Detectors

The Casa Grande Fire Department is looking for volunteers to install smoke detectors as part of the annual Smoke Detector Installation Program, to be held on **Saturday, October 12 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon.** Groups of volunteers will install smoke detectors/batteries in neighborhoods in Rancho Grande, Rancho del Sol and Desert Valley subdivisions. Volunteers will be trained on how to properly install smoke detectors. If you would like to volunteer for this event, please fill out an application form by visiting [www.casagrandeaz.us/smoke-detector-install](http://www.casagrandeaz.us/smoke-detector-install). Questions? Contact Fire Marshal Barbara Rice at (520) 421-8777 Ext. 5989 or [brice@casagrandeaz.gov](mailto:brice@casagrandeaz.gov)

## Report Issues Using Your Mobile Device



Download the [mycasagrande](http://mycasagrande) mobile app to report potholes, graffiti and other service issues. The free app works on both Android and Apple devices.



## Silent Witness Anti-Crime Night

Friday, October 4 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
Carr McNatt Park 1115 N. Brown Ave.  
FREE Admission

Mark your calendar for this favorite family annual event dedicated to all things safety. Enjoy displays by local public safety organizations and fun games, including the Titanic tilt, All-American joust, soccer game, obstacle course and more!



Photo courtesy of Harold Kitching

## Construction Underway on Sam's Club

Construction has begun for a new Sam's Club store in Casa Grande. The 136,000-square-foot, warehouse-styled club store is expected to open in the spring of 2014. The store is being built on an 18-acre lot on Florence Boulevard just east of Interstate 10. The new store is expected to create about 175 new jobs. The Casa Grande store will be the 16th Sam's Club in Arizona.



## C-A-L Ranch Stores Coming to Casa Grande

The former Albertsons store at Florence Blvd. and Trell Road will soon be home to a new C-A-L Ranch Stores retail location. Sometime this fall, the Idaho-based regional retailer specializing in horse, pet and ranch supplies plans to open in the 50,000-square-foot building at 1116 E. Florence Blvd.



## PhoenixMart Moves Forward with EB-5 Approvals

The developers of PhoenixMart announced in June that they received approval of their EB-5 investments, a federal economic stimulant program that is necessary to move the project forward. This official approval now allows PhoenixMart to break ground and begin construction, which is expected to happen this fall with a scheduled grand opening in the latter part of 2014. To learn more about this project, visit [www.phoenixmart.com](http://www.phoenixmart.com)

## Looking For A Job?

The Greater Casa Grande Chamber of Commerce, Goodwill Industries of Southern Arizona and LINKAGES will be holding a Job Fair in Casa Grande on Thursday, September 5 from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Woman's Club, 401 N. Sacaton Street. Free and open to the public.



## Get Involved! Serve on a Board/Commission

The City of Casa Grande is accepting applications to serve on the Police Advisory Board and Board of Appeals. To learn more, visit [www.casagrandeaz.us/dept/clerk/boards/serving](http://www.casagrandeaz.us/dept/clerk/boards/serving).

Application deadline is Monday, September 16.

## Building Staff Certified by International Code Council

All building division staff recently earned professional certifications from the International Code Council (ICC). Through rigorous testing, ICC certifications ensure that staff have demonstrated competency in the requirements of the International Codes, a complete set of comprehensive, coordinated codes used in most U.S. communities and many global markets for the design, build and compliance process to construct safe, sustainable, affordable and resilient structures.

The Code Council's certification program is the oldest, largest, and most prestigious credentialed program for construction code administration and enforcement professionals in the United States.



Staff who have earned professional certifications Pictured, left to right: Martin P. Encinas, John Minard, Jeff Douglas, Josea Cobb, Blaine Thomas, Dwight Williams.

"ICC certifications demonstrate a professional commitment to public safety, diverse knowledge of construction safety codes and a high level of self-initiative," said Planning & Development Director Paul Tice. "Being professionally certified by the Code Council provides a nationally recognized credential that will only enhance the services provided to Casa Grande residents."

Only seven other municipalities in Arizona have staff that is 100 percent certified by ICC. Casa Grande staff who have earned professional certifications include: Martin P. Encinas (Plans Examiner), John Minard (Building Inspector), Jeff Douglas (Building Inspector), Josea Cobb (Permit Technician), and Blaine Thomas (Building Official). To view a list of all certifications received by Casa Grande staff, visit the city website: [www.casagrandeaz.us/news](http://www.casagrandeaz.us/news)

## "Life On Main" Master Plan Approved by City Council



After a year of research and gathering public input, the "Life On Main" Master Plan was approved by the Casa Grande City Council in August.

The City owns approximately 15 acres of vacant land adjacent to the Union Pacific Railroad, which it hopes will develop to attract more businesses, residents and an overall sense of a vibrant downtown community. The City hired Matrix Design Group to conduct research and provide a blueprint for what the area should look like. The Master Plan is the result of a year-long planning process that included input from several meetings with the public, community stakeholders and city officials.

The Master Plan includes a detailed Implementation Program which will help guide the development of the area in the future. The Plan also provides a list of potential funding sources which the City may pursue in order to accomplish these strategies.

To download the Life on Main Master Plan, visit [www.life-on-main.com](http://www.life-on-main.com). To learn more about the project, contact Senior Management Analyst Ben Bitter at (520) 421-8662 or [bbitter@casagrandeaz.gov](mailto:bbitter@casagrandeaz.gov)

## Back to School Drive a Huge Success

The City of Casa Grande hosted a Back to School Drive from July 1 through July 30 and collected over 500 backpacks and 17,000 other school-related supplies for children in Casa Grande. The donations were presented to the Casa Grande Elementary School District and Child Protective Services (CPS) in August.



Representatives from Sam's Club and Aaron's Inc. also presented a check in the amount of \$1,000 each to the school district and CPS.

Thank you to all who participated in making this year's Back to School Drive a success! To view a list of contributors, visit the city website: [www.casagrandeaz.us/news](http://www.casagrandeaz.us/news) Watch the presentation on [/cgazgov](http://cgazgov)

## Police Partner with Community to Keep Casa Grande Clean

Over 40 volunteers came out on a Saturday morning in July to paint over graffiti, pick up trash and clean up streets and alleys in Casa Grande. The event, called "Neighborhoods First," was organized by the Casa Grande Police Department.

The goal of this new program is to bring the community together to help improve the appearance of Casa Grande neighborhoods, reduce the opportunity for criminal activity and improve the overall quality of life for everyone.



Watch a video on /cgazgov

Many different groups of all ages came out to participate, including probationers from Pinal County Adult Probation. Over 4.5 tons of materials were collected for disposal at the event. Chief of Police Johnny Cervantes says he appreciates the help from the community and believes that community support is crucial in reducing crime in the city. Bags used for collection were provided courtesy of APS. Thank you to everyone who helped!

To volunteer for the next project, contact Sheila Chavez at (520) 421-8711 Ext. 6570 or [schavez@casagrandeaz.gov](mailto:schavez@casagrandeaz.gov)

**FAST FACT** Volunteers collected over 4.5 tons of materials for disposal.

## OffenderWatch® Allows Residents to Track Registered Sex Offenders

The Casa Grande Police Department is the newest Arizona law enforcement agency to implement OffenderWatch® to manage registered sex offenders in the Casa Grande community and make effective community notifications. OffenderWatch® enables Arizona law enforcement agencies to collaborate and share information with law enforcement partners statewide, including sheriff's offices, police departments, and others. This information sharing provides all law enforcement agencies all the information concerning sex offender movements, history and activities anywhere in the county, state or country.

The Casa Grande Police Department is also making available on their website a citizen-friendly, very easy to use, sex offender registry, enabling citizens to search for the presence of registered sex offenders in proximity to their homes, place of work, schools and day cares.

Citizens may also confidentially register to be notified if a specific offender, who they wish to track, moves from his present address. Citizens may register as many addresses as they like at no cost.

You can access the Casa Grande Police Department OffenderWatch® webpage 24 hrs. a day at [www.casagrandeaz.us/dept/police](http://www.casagrandeaz.us/dept/police) Just click on the "Sex Offender Search" button located on the right side of the page under "Quick Links."

## Downtown Police Station Closed During Renovation



Renovations are underway on the downtown police facility located at 510 N. Marshall Street and will continue for the next six months. The interior of the building is being renovated to create a new dispatch console room, police substation and appropriate office and support spaces for a 24/7 facility. The renovated facility will be called the Public Safety Communications Center. The renovations are being made to improve public safety operations and meet the future needs of the police department.

Please note that during the renovations there will be no access to the front lobby of the building; however, there will be a call box in front of the building for citizens to use if they need police assistance.

Citizens who visit the downtown police facility to drop-off expired or unused prescriptions are asked to visit police headquarters at 373 E. Val Vista Blvd. A drop-off box is available in the lobby, which is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



## Rod Wood Named Parks Professional of the Year

Rod Wood has been named the 2013 Parks Professional of the Year by the Arizona Parks and Recreation Association (APRA). He was presented with the award during APRA's annual conference on August 29.

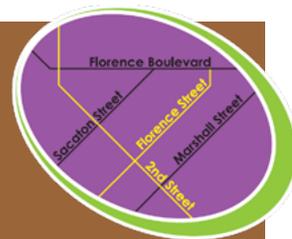


Wood is currently the Parks Superintendent for the City of Casa Grande, a position he's held since 1986. He is responsible for the overall maintenance and improvement of all city parks, facilities and equipment.

He was nominated for the award for his involvement in planning and leading the trails project at Casa Grande Mountain Park. Under his leadership, volunteers have constructed over 20 miles of natural surface trails for hiking, biking and equestrian use. The trails project was previously awarded the 2012 Natural Resources Award by APRA.

Community Services Director William Schwind said, "Not only did Rod plan and supervise the trails project, he also physically marked and constructed the project. Under his direction, the trail system has evolved into one of the finer park assets within the city."

Wood is professionally certified as a playground safety inspector by the National Recreation and Park Association. A native of Michigan, he started his career with the City of Casa Grande in 1979 as a pool caretaker and has worked his way up through the ranks. Congratulations Rod!



**Downtown Street Scene**  
First Tuesdays 5:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.  
"Oktoberfest" - October 1  
"Harvest Fair" - November 5  
Live Entertainment, Food & More!

To learn more, visit [www.cgmainstreet.org](http://www.cgmainstreet.org)

## City Services Guide Now Available

The Public Information Office recently produced a publication to help newcomers and long-time residents get acquainted with the city's services, programs and events. The guide also provides a quick overview of each city department.



Pick up a free copy of the City Services Guide at any of the following locations:

- City Hall, 510 E. Florence Blvd.
- Main & Vista Grande Libraries, 449 N. Dry Lake St. & 1556 N. Arizola Rd.
- Dorothy Powell Senior Adult Center, 405 E. 6th Street
- Len Colla Recreation Center, 1105 E. 4th Street
- Finance/Administrative Services Building, 510 E. Florence Blvd.
- Parks & Recreation Office, 404 E. Florence Blvd.
- Police & Fire Headquarters, 373 E. & 377 E. Val Vista Blvd.

## Little League Complex Renovations



The Casa Grande Little League Complex will be renovated beginning in September to include a new irrigation system, new fencing and improvements to two of the diamonds for softball to accommodate the growing number of softball teams in Casa Grande. Located at 900 N. Amarillo Street, the 30-plus-year-old facility is a popular recreation venue for hundreds of children in the community. The \$400,000 renovations are scheduled to be completed by January.

## Council Meetings Now Available Online

Attending City Council meetings is a great way to stay informed about what's going on in Casa Grande. Regular Council meetings are held at City Hall, 510 E. Florence Blvd., on the first and third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. The meetings are open to the public.

If you are not able to attend, you can watch City Council meetings streamed live or on-demand. The agenda for Council meetings is integrated with the video, so you can see the agenda next to the video and click on an agenda item to watch what you want. You don't have to watch the entire meeting. You watch what is important to you.



To watch City Council meetings online, just go the city website ([www.casagrandeaz.us](http://www.casagrandeaz.us)) and click on the "Watch Channel 11" logo on the bottom right side.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS/MEETINGS For more events/meetings, visit [www.casagrandeaz.us](http://www.casagrandeaz.us)

EVENT	DATE/TIME	LOCATION	CONTACT	Area Code 520
Planning/Zoning Commission	9/5, 6pm	Council Chambers	Planning, 421-8637	
A Night of Remembrance	9/11, 6:30pm	Peart Park	Parks & Recreation, 421-8677	
City Council Meeting	9/16, 7pm	Council Chambers	City Clerk, 421-8608	
Get Up & Get Out - Day of Playtopia	9/20, 6pm	Carr McNatt Park	Parks & Recreation, 421-8677	
Concert in the Park- Power Drive	9/20, 6pm	Peart Park	Parks & Recreation, 421-8677	
Ballet Under the Stars	9/21, 7pm	Paul Mason Sportsplex	Parks & Recreation, 421-8677	
Viva Grande	9/28, 5pm	Paul Mason Sportsplex	Parks & Recreation, 421-8677	
Downtown Street Scene - Oktoberfest	10/1, 5:30pm	Downtown Casa Grande	Main Street, 836-8744	
Planning/Zoning Commission	10/3, 6pm	Council Chambers	Planning, 421-8637	
Silent Witness Anti-Crime Night	10/4, 6pm	Carr McNatt Park	Police, 421-8711	
City Council Meeting	10/7, 7pm	Council Chambers	City Clerk, 421-8608	
Halloween Carnival	10/31, 6pm	Carr McNatt Park	Parks & Recreation, 421-8677	

## 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

# VIVA GRANDE

CELEBRATE...GRANDE STYLE!

## Saturday, September 28

### 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM

#### Paul Mason Sportsplex

#### 2525 N. Pinal Avenue

LOS NINOS FUN ZONE/PINATA BUSTING

AY, CHIHUAHUA! FASHION SHOW

JALAPENO EATING CONTEST

HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT

SALSA CHALLENGE

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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Questions? Call (520) 421-8760