



City Beat

March/April 2014



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NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF CASA GRANDE

WWW.CASAGRANDEAZ.GOV

Let's Be Social!



State of the City Address on March 6

Casa Grande Mayor Bob Jackson will present his State of the City Address on Thursday, March 6 at 12:15 p.m. at the Property Conference Center located at 1251 W. Gila Bend Highway.



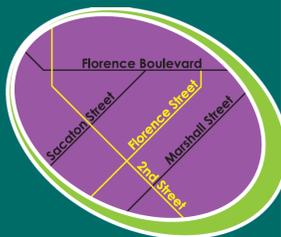
Mayor Bob Jackson

The Mayor will highlight major accomplishments in 2013 and share his thoughts about future projects, including PhoenixMart, downtown redevelopment and a community recreation center.

The event is free and open to the community. Attendees who would like to eat lunch must register and pay for lunch. Lunch tickets are \$25 each. To purchase lunch tickets and more information, contact the City Clerk's Office at (520) 421-8608.

The Mayor's State of the City Address will be broadcast on Cox Channel 11 through April every Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Sunday at 8:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. It will also air on Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday at 8:00 p.m. You can also watch it online anytime at YouTube/CGAZGOV.

WHAT'S UP DOWN TOWN



Downtown Street Scene
Florence Street and 2nd Street
First Tuesdays 5:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.

"Art and Jazz Fest" - March 4

"Feria" - April 1

"Summer Splash" - May 6

Live Entertainment, Food & More!

To learn more, visit www.cgmainstreet.org

New Pedestrian Crosswalk on Pinal Avenue

Children who live on the west side of Pinal Avenue and walk to school across the road now have a safer way of crossing the busy roadway. The Arizona Department of Transportation installed a pedestrian hybrid beacon on Pinal Avenue at the San Carlos Trail school crossing to help students and other pedestrians cross the busy street safely.

The crosswalk is a pedestrian-activated warning device that assists pedestrians in crossing a street at a marked, but unsignaled, crosswalk using a system of warning and flashing lights to notify and stop traffic.

Watch a short video on YouTube/cgazgov

Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon Operation				
	DRIVERS		PEDESTRIANS	
	Will See...	Will Do...	Will See...	Will Do...
1		Proceed with caution		Push the button to activate system
2		Slow Down Pedestrian has activated the system		Wait
3		Prepare to stop		Continue to wait
4		STOP Pedestrian in crosswalk		Start crossing when vehicles stopped
5		STOP Proceed with caution if clear		Continue crossing signal will count down
6		Proceed if clear		Push the button to activate system

Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon Steps for Activation

When there is no pedestrian waiting to cross, drivers will see that all indication lights are dark and the pedestrian will see a "DON'T WALK" symbol. A pedestrian who wants to cross the street will need to push the button to cross.

When a pedestrian pushes the button to cross, approaching drivers will see a **FLASHING YELLOW** for a few seconds indicating that they should reduce speed and be prepared to stop for a pedestrian in the crosswalk. Pedestrians will continue to see a "DON'T WALK" symbol

Drivers will see a **STEADY YELLOW**, warning drivers the indication will soon turn to **STEADY RED**. Pedestrians will continue to see the "DON'T WALK" symbol and should continue to wait.

Drivers will see a **STEADY RED** light which will require them to **STOP** at the stop line. At this point, the pedestrian receives a **WALK** indication to cross.

As the pedestrian crosses the street, drivers will see **ALTERNATING FLASHING RED** lights, indicating that they need to stop. During this period, motorists are required to **STOP** or remain stopped until pedestrians have finished crossing the street, and then may proceed with caution. Pedestrians will see a flashing countdown which indicates how much time they have to cross the street.

At the end of the flashing countdown indication, drivers will see that all indication lights are dark and the pedestrian will see a "DON'T WALK" symbol. Drivers may continue to proceed through the crosswalk if it is clear and pedestrians waiting to cross will have to push the button to cross.

To learn more about pedestrian hybrid beacons, visit www.azdot.gov/SR387

Funds Available to Help with Home Repairs

The City of Casa Grande has limited funds available in the form of low interest loans, interest free deferred payment loans, and/or grants to rehabilitate owner-occupied homes within the city limits. Income restrictions apply.

Household Size

1 person	2 persons	3 persons	4 persons
\$35,350	\$40,400	\$45,450	\$50,500

To learn more about housing assistance programs, visit www.casagrandeaz.gov/dept/planning/housing-division or call the Housing Office at (520) 421-8670. The Housing Office is located at 510 E. Florence Blvd. and is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Report Issues With Your Mobile Device



Did you know Casa Grande has a mobile app?



The app, called **mycasagrande**, 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.

“My home was in great need of a new main roof because it had been at least 20 years since it was redone and it was in poor condition. The patio roof had sections which were rotting and falling off and the patio floor made of uneven bricks, which caused me to fall on several occasions, were major safety concerns. A water faucet in the back yard next to the patio was leaking and the toilet in the front bathroom was in need of being replaced.

I was informed that I qualified for a grant which would cover the cost of all the repairs needed at my home. Thanks to this wonderful program provided by the City of Casa Grande, all of the repairs were done to my home and I no longer have to worry about anything falling on my head or myself falling down because of the uneven patio floor. I was given the opportunity to select the colors for the roof and the color of the paint for the trim around the house.



“Thanks to this wonderful program, all of the repairs were done to my home and I no longer have to worry about anything falling on my head.” - Mary Elizabeth Terrell

I am ever so grateful to everyone who made this possible and now I let as many people as I can know that these programs are there to help them in their time of need.”

Sincerely,
Mary Elizabeth Terrell

City of Casa Grande Maintains ‘AA’ Bond Rating

Fitch Ratings reviewed the City of Casa Grande’s financial information in January 2014 and concluded that the City’s overall financial outlook is stable. The credit agency affirmed the ‘AA’ rating based on existing general obligation bonds.

FitchRatings
‘AA’ Rated

This rating means that the City can secure financing at lower interest rates, as there is much less risk that the money will not be repaid. Similar to how individuals get lower interest rates based on their credit score, the City also has to prove its financial ability to repay any debt.

“While other cities in the state are being downgraded, we’ve been fortunate to keep our bond rating strong,” said City Manager Jim Thompson. “This rating demonstrates our commitment to being responsible with public funds to make the biggest impact for the community.”

Although still recovering from the economic downturn, the City has maintained a moderately paced economic recovery the last few years. In their summary of the City of Casa Grande’s obligations, Fitch Ratings noted that the City has increased levels of residential development activity, consumer spending and local commercial investment.

The agency also noted that City management “prudently accumulated a portion of the large excise tax revenue gains made in earlier growth years, particularly local construction sales tax revenues, and dedicated much of it towards future, one-time capital spending rather than expanding ongoing spending levels.”

Fitch Ratings is one of the three big rating agencies in the world. For a complete overview Casa Grande’s financial information, visit www.fitchratings.com

Receive City Text Messages on Your Cell Phone



Twitter offers a free, one-way texting service called Fast Follow which allows cell phone users to subscribe to City of Casa Grande tweets without having to sign up for a Twitter account.

This opt-in service can be enabled on any cell phone which can receive texts. Just text **“follow CGAZGOV”** to **40404**. Text charges, if any, apply to the receiver.

Note: This is a one-way texting service from Twitter. The city cannot receive texts at this number. To contact city staff or city council, visit the city website for a directory of office phone numbers and emails: www.casagrandeaz.gov

For more information on Twitter’s Fast Follow service, visit the Twitter Help Center online at www.twitter.com.



NEWS FROM THE CASA GRANDE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Help Prevent Domestic Violence

As of November 2013, an estimated 115 domestic violence-related fatalities were reported in Arizona, some occurring in the Casa Grande area. When the term "domestic violence" is used, oftentimes we think of physical abuse, but domestic violence is not just physical abuse. Arizona Revised Statute 13-3601 (statute that defines domestic violence) lists approximately 20 plus crimes that fall under the domestic violence umbrella. Several of these crimes can occur with no physical contact at all.

Domestic violence related crimes are preventable and the Casa Grande Police Department is committed to ensuring the safety of our citizens, but we need your help! If you know of a relative, friend, co-worker, etc. involved in a domestic violence relationship the best thing you can do is encourage that person to report the behavior or report the behavior yourself if they aren't willing.

Below are a few local resources:

- Casa Grande Police Department: (520) 421-8700, emergency 911.
- Against Abuse: (520) 836-0858.
- Horizon Human Services: (520) 836-1688, (866) 495-6735.
- Pinal County Domestic Violence Coalition: (520) 836-1239.
- Silent Witness: (520) 836-2100 or by texting "SW911 plus your message" to 274637 (crimes)



Learn How to Properly Use Alarms to Avoid False Alarms

Each year false alarms cost all of us millions of dollars and thousands of wasted man hours.

Properly installed, used, and maintained, security alarms are a real asset to homeowners because they help protect lives and property. In Casa Grande, all residents who operate a security alarm system are required to have a permit.

The Casa Grande Police Department offers FREE classes to residents interested in learning more about how to properly use their security alarm system. The instructor will explain how fees are assessed for false alarms, how police officers respond to false alarms, how to properly cancel false alarms, and how to avoid false alarms.



All who attend receive a \$50 waiver certificate toward their false alarm cost recovery fees. Waiver certificate expires one year from issue date. One per year allowed. One certificate per address. Non-transferable. Must have a valid permit at the time of registration. Only one class is required.

FAST FACT In Casa Grande, all residents who operate a security alarm system are required to have a permit.

Class Schedule

- Tuesday, March 18
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 1
5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 15
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Location

Public Safety Facility
373 E. Val Vista Blvd.
Casa Grande, AZ 85122

Classes are FREE
Space is limited

To register, contact Alarm Coordinator Sheila Chavez at (520) 421-8711 ext. 6570 or schavez@casagrandeaz.gov



Fall Prevention Tips For Older Adults

- Exercise regularly. Talk to your primary care physician and achieve approval regarding the best exercises for you. A healthy walk and appropriate stretching can often be the strongest fall prevention measures. Exercise does NOT have to involve weights or machines! Exercise does NOT have to cost money! Maintain your independence and quality of life!

- Take your time. Anticipate your movements fully before acting upon them. Sit up to the edge of your seat or bed for several moments. Allow your body to catch up with your plans. Stand and gain your balance before you walk. While standing still; look around at all of your surroundings. This is only a ten to fifteen second process and you should actively practice it so it becomes routine. It is a three phase process of getting up. Be sure and respect each phase individually. Our hearts and minds will always out run the rest of our body!

- Clear the way. Keep your frequently walked areas and pathways free of cords, shoes, clothing, books, magazines, and other clutter. Staying organized can prevent thousands of dollars in medical bills and months of stressful recovery!

- Look out for yourself. Make sure any corrective lenses have a current prescription. Use plug in night lights in high traffic areas. Light up the darkness! Make sure the trafficked areas outside your home are lit up as well. (i.e. Pathways to mailboxes, clubhouses, patios, and dumpsters.) Team up and make your neighborhood and community safer together!

- Put your best foot forward. Good footwear is paramount! Wear sturdy, well-fitted, low-heeled, non-slip soled shoes. Slippers, flip-flops, socks, and bare feet contribute heavily to fall injuries. Stand up and defend your way of life, starting with a good foothold!

Public Safety Awareness Day



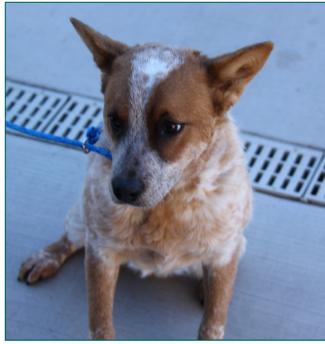
Saturday, March 15
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Target Parking Lot
951 N Promenade Pkwy

Mark your calendar for the annual Public Safety Awareness Day. Come join us for a fun-filled day of safety and security. Meet your local police officers, firefighters, volunteers and learn valuable public safety techniques.

- VIN Etching **FREE services!**
- Prescription Drug Turn-In
- Animal Care & Adoption Center
- Home Security Advice
- Neighborhood Watch Program
- S.W.A.T.

For more information call 421-8711 Ext. 6760.

Creature Feature



Hi. My name is Pony. I am a 9-month-old male Queenslander Heeler. I am red and merle in color. I am shy but sweet, and I walk well on a leash.

If you are interested in adopting me or any of my friends, call the City of Casa Grande Animal Care & Adoption Center at (520) 426-9300 and leave a message. Staff will call you back. The shelter is located at 202 E. First Ave. Most animals available for adoption can also be seen on Cox Cable Channel 11 and casagrandeaz.gov.



Get Your Plate Now!
AZPETPLATES.ORG
The "Driving Force" For Fighting Pet Overpopulation

Recycle Your E-Waste

The Sanitation Division will be hosting an E-Cycle event on Saturday, April 19 from 7:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Carr McNatt Park located at 1115 N. Brown Ave.

Electronic devices accepted during the event include flat screen monitors, keyboards, copiers, printers, televisions (flat screen only), surge protectors, electronic toys, VCRs, DVD players, cell phones and much more.

No light bulbs of any kind or refrigeration units with Freon accepted (without Freon is ok).

For more information about recycling e-waste, contact the Sanitation Division at (520) 421-8625.

E-Cycle Sponsors:



Supply 29 Batteries + Bulbs

Cox Channel 11 Programs

City Scene: Your Inside Look at Casa Grande

Monthly program that features different projects/events happening in Casa Grande. The show offers giveaways to lucky viewers. Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Sunday 7:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.



March Topics:

Housing assistance programs
Dave White Municipal Golf Course

Parade of Paws

Program that features pets available for adoption. Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Sunday 7:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Council Meetings

Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Sunday 12:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.

State of the City Address

Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Sunday 8:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday 8:00 p.m.



Did You Know?

Casa Grande residents can take their e-waste to the landfill for recycling during normal business hours (Monday - Saturday, 7am-4pm). The landfill is located at 5200 S. Chui Chu Rd.

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

EVENT	DATE/TIME	LOCATION	CONTACT	Area Code 520
City Council Meeting	3/3, 7pm	Council Chambers	City Clerk, 421-8608	
Downtown Street Scene	3/4, 5:30pm	2nd and Florence Streets	Main Street, 836-8744	
State of the City Address	3/6, 12:15pm	The Property	City Clerk, 421-8608	
Planning/Zoning Commission	3/6, 6pm	Council Chambers	Planning, 421-8637	
Cat Fish Rodeo	3/15, 6am	Dave White Park	Parks & Recreation, 421-8677 \$	
Public Safety Awareness Day	3/15, 10am	Target Parking Lot	Police, 421-8711 Ext. 6760	
City Council Meeting	3/17, 7pm	Council Chambers	City Clerk, 421-8608	
Downtown Street Scene	4/1, 5:30pm	2nd and Florence Streets	Main Street, 836-8744	
Planning/Zoning Commission	4/3, 6pm	Council Chambers	Planning, 421-8637	
City Council Meeting	4/7, 7pm	Council Chambers	City Clerk, 421-8608	
Spring City Wide Cleanup	4/19, 8am	City Wide	Parks & Recreation, 421-8677	
E-Cycle Event	4/19, 7:30am	Carr McNatt Park	Sanitation Division, 421-8625	
City Council Meeting	4/21, 7pm	Council Chambers	City Clerk, 421-8608	

\$ Requires a Fee or Admission

Dave White Municipal Golf Course

January through March Rates

	Before 1 pm:	After 1 pm:
18 holes with cart	\$41.00	\$34.00
18 holes walking	\$35.00	\$28.00
9 holes with cart	\$27.00	\$27.00
9 holes walking	\$21.00	\$21.00

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

*All rates are per person, tax not included. These rates are subject to change.

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