



2013 Annual Report



Mayor's Message

Thank you for taking the time to review our 2013 Annual Report. The City Council and staff strive to assure we give good service, at a reasonable price. This year we saw some growth in the tax revenues we receive from sales and property taxes - a good sign that we are starting to see the local economy improve.

New home permits are back to pre-2005 levels with over 150 starts this year. We have seen new industries come to town with the opening of Ehrmann Dairy, a manufacturer of Greek yogurt, and Franklin Foods, a Florida-based company that will make cream cheese. These two new businesses will initially employ over 125 people and should grow in the next few years to over 300. Both companies will use local dairies to supply their raw materials.

- Founded in 1879
- Incorporated in 1915
- Named after the Hohokam Indian Ruins
- Population 49,804 (2010)
- Between Phoenix & Tucson
- Largest city in Pinal County
- Retail center for western Pinal County's 91,000 consumers
- Median Household Income: \$41,214
- Full Time City Employees: 417?

Casa Grande Facts

2013 also saw the start of construction of a new Sam's Club that should be open in early 2014. The biggest news on the Economic Development front is the groundbreaking for the Phoenix Mart project. This two million square foot building will house almost 2000 mid and small businesses in an environment to encourage selling their products internationally. Construction is expected to be complete in mid 2015 and is estimated to employ over 7000.

The City has nearly completed the renovation of the downtown Library and the conversion of the old Police Station into a dispatch center. Both projects will be completed in early 2014.

We have navigated through one of the worst economic downturns in history and maintained service levels with little increase in our tax collections. Looking forward Casa Grande has a bright future.

I hope you enjoy reading our 2013 Annual Report.

Casa Grande City Council



Lisa Fitzgibbons
Mayor Pro Tem

Dick Powell
Council Member

Mary Kortsen
Council Member

Karl Montoya
Council Member

Matt Herman
Council Member

Ralph Varela
Council Member

INSIDE

- Page 2-4 Major Accomplishments
- Page 5 Revenues & Expenses
- Page 6 How are we doing?
Property Taxes
Budget Process & Timeline

2013 Major Accomplishments

Please note that accomplishments include fiscal and calendar year 2013. More accomplishments are included in the FY2013/14 Budget available at www.casagrandeaz.gov

Created Sun Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization (SCMPO)

The City of Casa Grande created a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to promote and enhance regional transportation planning. The newly formed SCMPO combines the cities of Casa Grande, Eloy, Coolidge and Pinal County. The SCMPO will receive annual allocation of federal funds for the construction and improvement of major roads in the area.

Installed Solar-Covered Parking at City Facilities

The City of Casa Grande joined a handful of other organizations that are leveraging solar energy to reduce utility costs. Five city facilities were retrofitted with solar-covered parking structures:

- City Hall, 510 E. Florence Blvd.
- Grande Sports World, 12684 W. Gila Bend Hwy.
- Public Works North Operations Center, 3181 N. Lear Ave.
- Public Safety Facility, 373 E. Val Vista Blvd.
- Main Library, 449 N. Dry Lake Street



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, which is roughly the amount required to power 114 homes.

City Council Approved Life On Main Master Plan

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

Maintained "AA" Credit Rating by Fitch Ratings, one of the big three rating agencies

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. **Fitch Ratings "AA" Grade**

Police Department

The mission of the Casa Grande Police Department is to protect, serve and sustain supporting partnerships with the community. The Department continues to move forward to strengthen its relationship with the community. Some examples of those partnerships include:

- Enhancement of our social media tools such as Facebook, Twitter and the Department website allow us to quickly and effectively communicate with our community, at times reaching over 35,000 people in one month.
- Initiated Neighborhoods First, with police staff and residents conducting a "clean-up" of a westside neighborhood collecting more than 4.5 tons of trash and scrap metal.



- Initiated Neighbors United, with police staff, civic organizations, local businesses, and volunteers who painted 11 houses and 3 non-profit buildings, cleaned 2 empty residential lots and painted over 12 alleys containing graffiti.

- Implemented OffenderWatch program to manage registered sex offenders in the community and make effective community notifications. As part of the program, residents can search for the presence of registered sex offenders in proximity to their home, 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 their present address. To access the OffenderWatch website, visit www.casagrandeaz.gov/dept/police. Just click on the "Sex Offender Search" button located on the right side of the page under "Quick Links."

- Citizen volunteers donated more than 18,000 hours of service time, an estimated savings of nearly \$400,000 if the work had been done by paid staff.

- Continued using grant funding from the Dept. of Justice COPS program to maintain school resource officers at Casa Grande Union High School, Vista Grande High School, Villago Middle School and Casa Grande Middle School.

- Organized and maintained 122 active Neighborhood Watch & 15 active Crime-Free Multi-Housing programs. These programs organize and educate neighborhood residents and apartment management to reduce crime in neighborhoods and apartment complexes.
- Held two Citizen Academies, with 54 citizen volunteers graduating.

Casa Grande Animal Care & Adoption Center

The Casa Grande Animal Care & Adoption Center promotes and protects public safety and animal care through sheltering, pet adoptions and animal law enforcement. The animal shelter is



located at 202 E. 1st Avenue and is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 12 Noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The shelter organizes two low cost rabies clinics a year and provides low cost spay and neuter programs for pets in the city limits. Last year, staff spayed and neutered 156 animals, most of them thanks to a grant from AZPetPlates.org

The Casa Grande Animal Care & Adoption Center also opened a new after-hours drop-off location for dogs and cats, all thanks to the Daybreak Rotary Club. The Rotary Club donated construction materials and labor for the new area, which is located on Main Avenue just north of the animal shelter. The new area provides pets with shade, water, a misting system and motion sensor lights for night drop-off. It is open Monday through Friday from 4 p.m. to 7 a.m. and all day on weekends. For more information, call (520) 426-9300 and please leave a message.

Fire Department

The City of Casa Grande Fire Department provides professional fire protection and life safety services to Casa Grande residents. Last year, the fire department responded to 6,685 emergencies, of which 5,155 (77.11%) involved emergency medical services, averaging a response time for all incidents of 5 minutes, 41 seconds.

- The fire department, with the help of 168 volunteers, installed more than 417 smoke detectors and replaced 214 batteries in homes as part of the 6th annual Smoke Detector Installation Program held every year in October. In the last six years the fire department has installed 5,759 smoke detectors, replaced 2,017 batteries, through 1,265 volunteers.
- Members of the Casa Grande Fire Department Explorers Post 911 attended the National Fire/Emergency Services & Law Enforcement Exploring Conference in Colorado and competed against more than 1700 participants in several fire and life safety exercises. Fire Explorer Ryan Brashier received a Silver Medal for the written examination competition.

- 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. Additionally, a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) assisted CG Fire in obtaining a trailer for training sessions and a computerized Drivers Simulator. 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.

- Initiated the Pinal County Fire Investigation Task Force to combat arson in the community. The task force includes partnerships with more than 30 law enforcement and fire personnel from Casa Grande, Gila River, Ak-Chin, Maricopa, Apache Junction, Pinal County Sheriff's Office, Pinal County Attorney's Office, Eloy, Casa Grande Regional, Rural Metro and a Globe K-9 unit trained to detect arson.

Public Information

The Public Information Office provides residents with timely information regarding city policies, programs and events via print, web and video formats.

- Produced a new show called Parade of Paws to increase pet adoptions at the Casa Grande Animal Care & Adoption Center. The show is broadcast on Cox Channel 11 and streamed online.
- Graduated 18 citizens from the City's Leadership Academy. Held every year, this unique program connects citizens with their city government and encourages participation in city-related activities.
- Launched a new city website, offering visitors an easier way of accessing information. Frequently searched items are now just a click or two away.
- Implemented video streaming of City Council meetings, both live and on-demand. Residents who can't attend City Council meetings and don't have Cox cable can now watch them anywhere, anytime.



- Continued to produce City Scene talk show to inform residents about city projects, programs and services. City Scene is broadcast on Cox Channel 11 and streamed online.
- Published the City's first City Services Guide. The guide is meant to help newcomers and long-time residents get acquainted with the City's services, programs and events. Free copies are available at any City facility.

Casa Grande Municipal Airport

Located on the north end of Pinal Avenue, the Casa Grande Municipal Airport serves an important role in economic development. New LED lights were added to the runway, along with new taxiway signs, new taxiway markings, a new electrical vault to power the lights, new

supplemental wind cones and a backup power generator. The Casa Grande Municipal Airport was one of the first in the country and the first in Arizona to have LED lights installed on the runway.

Public Works

The Public Works Department provides commercial and residential trash/recycling collection, wastewater service, and road maintenance in Casa Grande. Last year, crews resurfaced Trezell Road from Jimmie Kerr Blvd. to McCartney Road and paved Early Road from I-10 to Peart Road. Crews also resurfaced portions of other city streets in the community.

Florence Street in Historic Downtown was also revamped to make it more attractive for residents and visitors. New trees were planted, new sidewalks were installed, new asphalt was overlaid on the street, and a new plaza design was completed on Second and Florence Streets. New benches were also put in for people to sit and visit with friends and enjoy a friendly conversation.

More than 200 residents toured the Water Reclamation Facility in February 2013 as part of an open house to learn more about how wastewater is processed and treated. The Water Reclamation Facility is located at 1194 W. Kortsen Road and has the capacity to process 12 million gallons a day. Modern processing technologies have enabled us to discharge class A+ quality effluent - that's the highest class rating given by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality.

Community Services

The Community Services Department provides recreational opportunities for the entire family. The department is comprised of four divisions: parks, recreation, library and golf.

- Last year, the Teen Summer Reading Program saw a 67% increase in the number of participants and the Adult Summer Reading Program saw an increase of 66%.
- New exercise equipment was installed at the Dorothy Powell Senior Adult Center located at 405 E. 6th Street. Equipment includes two treadmills, two ellipticals, two bikes, free weights and medicine balls. The fitness equipment is free to use for all Casa Grande residents age 50 and over.
- The City of Casa Grande was awarded a \$65,700 grant from the Gila River Indian Community to fund the construction of a pavilion at the Ed Hooper Rodeo Grounds. Placed south of the bleachers

near the concession area, the pavilion is a covered structure built on a concrete platform. Grant money was also used to make improvements and upgrades to the six aging bucking chutes originally built in the 1970s.

- Little League Complex was renovated 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 facility is a popular recreation venue for hundreds of children in the community.

Housing

Last year, the City's housing division completed 33 self-help housing rehabilitation projects, which provided a safe home for families in Casa Grande. The City's Housing Division administers housing rehabilitation programs with federal grants. To learn more about housing assistance programs, call (520) 421-8670 or visit www.casagrandeaz.gov/dept/planning/housing-division.

Boards, Commissions, Committees

The City of Casa Grande has several boards, commissions and committees. These groups assist the City with information-gathering and provide important feedback on a variety of issues of interest to the community.

Last year, the Arts & Humanities Commission partnered with Casa Grande Schools and provided \$10,000 Mini Grant awards to 18 teachers for art related projects.

The Historic Preservation Commission installed a pedestal and plaque on the southwest corner of 3rd and Florence Streets. The purpose of the plaque is to highlight Casa Grande's history in a public setting for everyone to enjoy.

The Casa Grande Youth Commission dedicated the Garden of Sunshine Youth Memorial in honor of members of the community who have died as children or teenagers. The memorial garden, open to youth 0-19 who have a Casa Grande connection, is located next to the Palm Island Family Aquatics Park at 1115 N. Brown Avenue. If you are interested in having your child's name placed on the memorial wall, email cgyc@live.com



Revenues & Expenses

The total budget for the City of Casa Grande including transfers for FY 2013 was \$?. Of that total, ?% or \$? was for General Fund use. Other governmental funds are created to account for specific activities.

General Fund Expenditures - \$37,796,283 FY 13 \$36,673,334 FY 12 \$37,603,955 FY 11

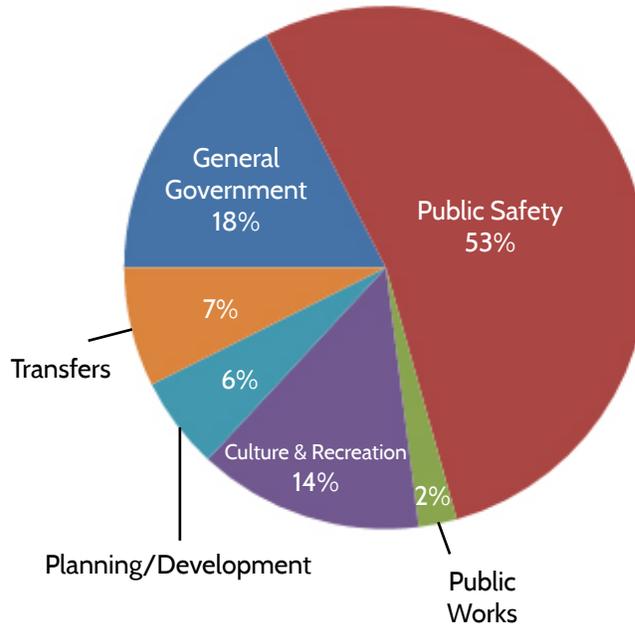
The General Fund is the primary operating fund of the City. It exists to account for the resources used to pay for the services traditionally associated with local government, such as police and fire protection, parks & recreation, planning and community development and general administration of the City. The increase from last year is attributed to Public Safety.

Where Did the Money Come From? (General Fund FY 2013)

Local Sales Taxes	\$16,807,168
Intergovernmental	\$11,129,900
Property Taxes	\$3,624,008
Franchise Taxes	\$2,248,227
Fees & Fines	\$1,431,941
Transfers	\$1,678,076
Licenses & Permits	\$1,267,968
Sales/Rentals	\$233,274
Misc. Income	\$97,466
Interest/Contribution	\$168,446
GRAND TOTAL	\$38,686,475

The \$890,192 difference between expenses & revenues reflects ?

How was the Money Spent? (General Fund FY 2013)



- General Government Includes:**
- Information Systems
 - Mayor/Council
 - Finance
 - City Manager
 - City Attorney
 - Administrative Services
 - City Clerk
 - Public Works Administration
 - Public Information
 - Elections

Other Governmental Funds

Special Revenue Funds - \$15,897,722 FY 13 \$24,931,428 FY 12

These funds are used to account for revenues derived from specific taxes, grants or other restricted revenue sources. The uses and limitations of each special revenue fund are specified by City ordinance, federal or state statutes. The decrease from last year is due to moving impact fee funds to new accounting structures in FY12. Transfers out of a fund are treated as expenditures and the offsetting transfers in are treated as revenues.

Debt Service Funds - \$3,333,210 FY 13 \$4,882,076 FY 12

These funds are used to account for the accumulation of resources for and the payment of general obligation long-term debt principal, interest and related costs. The decrease from FY12 is associated with savings from refinancing.

Capital Project Funds - \$5,308,432 FY 13 \$6,908,887 FY 12

These funds are used to account for financial resources used for the acquisition or construction of major capital facilities. These funds also included budgeted expenditures for construction sales tax, capital replacement and recreation construction. There were no major capital projects in FY 13. Variances in capital project funds are due to the one-time nature of large capital projects. One year could include a large street or building project and the next year may or may not.

Enterprise Funds - \$23,154,294 FY 13 \$22,552,523 FY 12

These funds are used to account for operations that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises. The costs of providing services to the public are financed or recovered primarily through user charges. Casa Grande has separate enterprise funds for Water, Wastewater, Wastewater Development Fees, Sanitation and Golf Course. The increase from FY12 is due to various increase and decreases across all the enterprise funds including one-time capital projects.

Sanitation Services

Trash collection is funded solely by user fees collected from residents and commercial customers. The City's sanitation division is operated as an enterprise fund, which means that all fee revenue is deposited in a designated fund that serves as the sole source of funding for collection operations. The total cost for all residential and commercial trash and recycle collection in FY 2013 was \$?

All homeowners, regardless of occupancy, pay for the service because trash collection costs are fixed costs which would have to be subsidized by other residents if not paid by all homeowners. The residential trash collection fee was \$20 a month in FY 2013.



A Performance Report on Key Services

SERVICE	FY 2010/11	FY 2011/12	FY 2012/13
Number of participants in recreation activities	335,517	316,146	316,275
Number of library visits (Main & Vista)	364,760	374,693	346,373
Number of public nuisance violations abated	677	1,035	1,082
Responses by the Fire Department to calls for emergency services	6,397	6,515	4,871
Homes serviced by residential refuse collection	14,122	14,300	14,400
Total crimes per thousand (Casa Grande Uniform Crime Report, Part 1)	66	59	53
Average response time by the Police Department to emergency calls (in minutes)	5.2	5.4	5.3
Business licenses issued (new & renewals)	2,627	2,440	2,680
Number of animals adopted	263	284	250
Building permits issued (new construction)	175	143	163

Additional performance measures are available in the FY 2013/14 Budget and the FY 2012/13 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

2013 Awards & Recognitions

Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Awards:

- Distinguished Budget Presentation Award - 16 Years
- Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting - 22 Years
- Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting - 2nd Year

National Arbor Day Foundation Award: Tree City USA (5th Year)

Playful City USA Designation by Kaboom! (3rd Year)

Arizona Parks & Recreation Association Awards:

- Parks Professional of the Year - Rod Woods, Parks Superintendent
- Adaptive Program Award - STARS, programs for physically and developmentally disabled
- Natural Resources Award - Casa Grande Mountain Trails Project

Casa Grande Police K-9 Unit competed in the Desert Dog Police K-9 Trials:

- Corporal Scott Tracy and K9 Bono placed second in building search and fifth in tactical challenge.
- Corporal Tracy and K9 Bono placed third overall in narcotics search and patrol as a team with Officer Scott Reed and K9 Wyatt.

National League of Cities and Towns:

Four medals were awarded to Casa Grande for action taken to improve access to healthy, affordable food and increase opportunities as part of Michelle Obama's Let's Move! initiative.

Local Sales Taxes

In 2013, sales tax collections totaled \$19,488,568, slightly above the \$19,163,329 in 2012. The top five industries generating sales tax for the City are retail, utilities/telecommunications, rental/leasing properties, construction, and food service.

Property Taxes

The primary property tax rate increased in FY 2013 to \$0.9489 per \$100 of assessed valuation from \$0.8988. The increase was required to maintain the existing revenue based on valuation decreases.

The secondary property tax, approved by voters in 2007 as a General Obligation Debt, remained unchanged at \$0.6308 based on \$100 of assessed valuation.

Primary Property Tax Breakdown



For every \$1 that a resident pays in primary property tax the city only receives 12 cents.

Water Infrastructure Finance Authority (WIFA):

Best Clean Water Project of the Year - Casa Grande Water Reclamation Facility Expansion

Arizona Water Association:

Wastewater Treatment Plant of the Year - Small System Category
Operator of the Year - Wastewater Collection System - Small System Category - Danny Allen

International Code Council:

All building division staff earned professional certifications from the International Code Council (ICC). The ICC certification program is the oldest, largest and most prestigious credential program for construction code administration and enforcement professionals in the country. Only seven other municipalities in Arizona have staff that is 100% certified by ICC.



Please note that awards & recognitions include fiscal and calendar year 2013.

Contact Us

If you have comments or suggestions on how we can lower costs or improve services, please let us know. Also, let us know if you like this report or if there is any other information you would like to see included next year.

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Budget Process & Timeline

The City's budget is an ongoing process combining citizen input, Council desires and direction, and staff recommendations to meet community needs.

Citizens are always encouraged to participate.

If you would like more information on the budget process or a copy of the budget document contact the Finance Department at (520) 421-8601.



- November** Capital project requests are prepared and reviewed.
- December** Budget Guidelines & Instructions issued to each Department. Departments prepare budget requests.
- January** City Manager reviews budget requests.
- February** Finance Department prepares preliminary budget.
- March** Budget work sessions are held.
- April** Proposed budget presented to City Council.
- May** Public Hearing on Tentative Budget is held. City Council adopts Tentative Budget.
- June** Public Hearing on budget and property tax levy is held. City Council adopts Final Budget.
- July** Final Budget & new fees take immediate effect on July 1.