



# City Beat

July/August 2013



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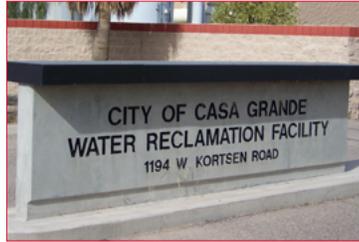
NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF CASA GRANDE

WWW.CASAGRANDEAZ.US

Let's Be Social!

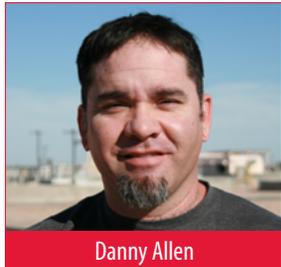
## Casa Grande Recognized for Excellence by Arizona Water Association City Employee Named "AZ Operator of the Year"

Casa Grande once again received statewide recognition for its wastewater plant expansion project, this time from the Arizona Water Association. The City's Water Reclamation Facility was selected as the 2013 "Wastewater Treatment Plant of the Year - Small System" category. City employee Danny Allen was also recognized as the 2013 "Arizona Operator of the Year - Wastewater Collection-Small System" category. The awards were presented during the 86th Annual Arizona Water Association Conference in Glendale.



Last year the City completed an expansion project at the Water Reclamation Facility, which implemented several new stations and processing technologies that doubled wastewater capacity from 6 million gallons a day to 12 million gallons a day. The project, which cost \$58 million dollars, was financed by the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority (WIFA). WIFA previously awarded the expansion project the 2012 "Clean Water Project of the Year" in February.

"We're honored to receive this award and thank everyone who was involved in the expansion project," said Public Works Director Kevin Louis. "We especially thank our wastewater staff for their hard work in coordinating the expansion while still providing service to our residents."



Danny Allen

Award recipient Danny Allen has worked for the City for over 4 years as a wastewater treatment plant operator. He is responsible for overseeing all wastewater collection operations, including regulating and maintaining the system flow of the collection systems and lift stations. He also inspects and cleans the collection system and collects water samples for tests, as well as manages the City's small water company on the west side of the city limits.

Allen is professionally certified in wastewater and water treatment, collections, and water distribution. He was born and raised in Casa Grande.

The AZ Water Association awards are presented to individuals and facilities that have sustained notable outstanding service in the categories pertaining to water, wastewater, collections and distribution in small and large communities. Award recipients are selected based on their involvement and knowledge in operations, new technology and positive attitude.

## Casa Grande Launches New Website



The City of Casa Grande is pleased to announce the launch of its new website. Located at [www.casagrandeaz.us](http://www.casagrandeaz.us), the new site offers visitors an easier way of accessing information. Frequently searched items are now just a click or two away. Some of the new features include live video streaming of council meetings and a "How do I" tab to take visitors directly to job openings, pay city utility bill, report graffiti and much more. The new website was designed entirely in-house by the City's webmaster using WordPress, an open-source content management system.

The biggest addition to the new website is the inclusion of the City's government access channel 11. Until recently, it was only available to Cox cable subscribers in Casa Grande, but now anyone inside or outside of Casa Grande can watch it on a computer with Internet access through streaming video. City Council meetings are now streamed live and available on demand.

If you would like to provide feedback or suggestions on how to further enhance the website, please contact Public Information Officer Agustin Avalos at [aavalos@casagrandeaz.gov](mailto:aavalos@casagrandeaz.gov) or (520) 421-8627.

## Report Issues Using Your Mobile Device

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

## Utility Fees & Tax Rates

Did you know that Casa Grande charges less than neighboring cities to provide the same services? Compared to residents in 5 nearby cities, Casa Grande residents have the lowest combined utility fees and primary property tax rate. Utility fees include sewer and trash collection. Property tax is calculated per \$100 of net assessed valuation on a home. All figures reflect FY 13 rates, except Casa Grande's which is current.\*\*\*

City	Primary Tax	Wastewater	Sanitation
Coolidge	\$1.5851	\$15.23*	\$20.00
Arizona City	\$4.9756	\$32.00	\$20.00
Florence	\$1.0517	\$48.47**	\$30.42
Eloy	\$3.4540	\$26.40	\$20.67
Maricopa	\$4.8753	\$62.91	n/a
Casa Grande	\$0.9999***	\$28.70	\$20.00
WIFA state avg.	n/a	\$36.52**	n/a



Fire District is included in Primary Tax if applicable.  
\*Base only - variable over 8,700 gallons  
\*\*7,500 gallons  
\*\*\*Primary tax proposed for FY 14.

## Youth Commission Dedicates Memorial Garden



The Casa Grande Youth Commission recently dedicated the Garden of Sunshine Youth Memorial Garden in honor of members of the community who have died as children or teenagers. The memorial garden is located around the Palm Island Family Aquatics Park, 1115 N. Brown Avenue.



The youth commission worked to raise funds the last couple of years to make this garden reflective of personal memories as well as a celebration of life. Many community members have stepped up to help with the project by volunteering their time and/or donating building materials.

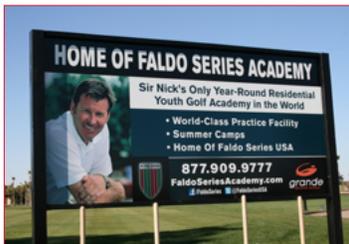
Phase I of the project includes the completion of pathways, gravel, basic landscaping and memorial wall. The wrought iron memorial wall includes 12" metal sun rays that display the name of the person along with their date of birth and the date they passed away. The memorial wall is open to any family who has lost a child between the ages of 0-18 years who has a Casa Grande connection. To have your child's name on the wall, contact Donna McBride at [donnamcbrideaz@aol.com](mailto:donnamcbrideaz@aol.com). There is no fee to participate.

### ARE YOU A SCULPTURE ARTIST?

The Casa Grande Youth Commission is currently seeking artists interested in designing, constructing, and installing an outdoor sculpture for the Garden of Sunshine Youth Memorial Garden. For more information about this project, visit [www.casagrandeaz.us](http://www.casagrandeaz.us) or call the City Clerk's Office at (520) 421-8608.

## Faldo Golf Academy at Grande Sports World

Now Accepting Applications



Former PGA golfer and six-time major champion Sir Nick Faldo is bringing his prestigious Faldo Series Academy (FSA) to Grande Sports World in the Fall of 2013. This full-time residential program for academic studies and elite golf training is geared towards securing college scholarships, careers in the golf industry and professional opportunities for its students. A groundbreaking ceremony for the FSA was held in late February.

Students who enroll in the program will continue to attend their high school in Casa Grande to maintain their academics but will reside at the dormitories at Grande Sports World. Scholarships are available for those who qualify.

"My main reason for starting the Faldo Series was to try and give something back to the game that has given me so much," said Sir Nick Faldo.



Nick Faldo in Casa Grande

All golf coaches at the new Faldo Series Academy will be certified by Sir Nick Faldo and schooled in The Faldo Method – a program of teaching philosophies and fundamentals created by Sir Nick. Nick Faldo will also be on campus working with coaches and students during the academic year.

**FAST  
FACT**

The Faldo Golf Academy @ Grande Sports World is the only full-time residential golf academy west of the Mississippi.

"This new golf academy is a great opportunity for Casa Grande and the region," said Casa Grande Mayor Bob Jackson. "This is another endeavor by Grande Sports World that will put Casa Grande on the map, both within the U.S. and the world."

The Faldo Series of Golf was founded in 1996 and hosts more than 7000 golfers annually at 40 tournaments in 30 countries. The Faldo Golf Academy at Grande Sports World is the only full-time residential golf academy west of the Mississippi, everything else is in Florida.

Enrollment applications are now being accepted for the 2013-14 academic year. To learn more, visit [www.faldoseriesacademy.com](http://www.faldoseriesacademy.com) or call 1-877-909-9777. Grande Sports World is located at 12684 W Gila Bend Hwy.

## City Manager Receives ASU Faculty Award

Casa Grande City Manager Jim Thompson received the faculty associate award from the School of Public Affairs at Arizona State University this year. Thompson teaches in the Marvin Andrews Graduate Program in Urban Management at ASU.



According to ASU, the faculty associate award recognizes the many professional people who are working in the public affairs area who contribute to the master's program. Thompson was hired as the Casa Grande city manager in March 2004 and began teaching classes at ASU in the Fall of 2011.

"What an incredible award for a guy who has a full-time job," said Casa Grande Mayor Bob Jackson. "Jim's a really smart guy and he loves to impart his experience to graduate students. We congratulate him for his award."

## Lisa Fitzgibbons Appointed Mayor Pro Tempore



Members of the Casa Grande City Council unanimously voted to name Lisa Fitzgibbons the new Mayor Pro Tempore at a regular meeting on June 3, 2013.

Fitzgibbons replaces Dick Powell, who served as Mayor Pro Tempore for a year. By City ordinance, a Mayor Pro Tempore is selected by the Council every year to serve a one year term.

The duties of the Mayor Pro Tempore are similar to those of a Vice Mayor, in that he/she conducts official city business in the absence of the Mayor. Fitzgibbons has been a member of the Casa Grande City Council since 2010. This is her first year serving as Mayor Pro Tempore.

Contact Mayor Pro Tempore Lisa Fitzgibbons: (520) 421-8600, [lfitzgibbons@casagrandeaz.gov](mailto:lfitzgibbons@casagrandeaz.gov)

## Farmers Market



Casa Grande Farmers Market, now called the Downtown Bazaar and Farmers Market, is now indoors and has new hours for the summer. The market will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesdays inside In A Pear Tree, 412 N. Florence St.

## Casa Grande Recognized as Tree City USA & Playful City USA



Pictured, left to right: Bill Schwind (Community Services Director), Scott Hunt (State Forester), Alix Rogstad (State Forestry Division), Anita Avila (Management Analyst) and Rod Wood (Parks Superintendent).

Casa Grande was named a 2012 Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation in honor of its commitment to effective urban management. This is the 6th year Casa Grande has earned the national designation. Arizona State Forester Scott Hunt presented the City with the award at the state capitol in Phoenix.

In order to be considered a Tree City USA community, cities must have a tree care ordinance, a comprehensive community forestry program, a tree board/department and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

The Casa Grande Parks Division partners with many community groups in order to maintain the 2,300 trees

located in parks and rights of way. Volunteer groups include the Casa Grande Valley Daughters of the American Revolution and youth who assist in tree maintenance as part of their Eagle Scout project.

**FAST FACT** City staff trimmed over 650 trees last year.

The City of Casa Grande was also recognized by national non-profit KaBOOM! as a 2013 Playful City USA community for its efforts to give children the childhood they deserve by providing ample opportunities for play. Casa Grande was one of only 217 communities across the country to earn this honor. This is the fifth year Casa Grande has earned the national recognition.

Casa Grande has 11 neighborhood parks, 5 community parks and 3 regional parks. All of the parks are open to residents and visitors. Most neighborhood parks offer an array of amenities, including a children's play area and basketball courts. Community parks offer similar amenities and are used regularly to host city-wide events. Casa Grande Mountain Park has 20 miles of hiking trails, providing families with an opportunity to recreate in an outdoor setting surrounded by beautiful short and long range views, plus spectacular desert vegetation. The trails were constructed entirely by volunteers and offer varying levels of difficulty.

The City of Casa Grande also offers many recreation programs for youth and adults of all ages. From swimming lessons to youth sports and special interest classes, there is something for everyone to enjoy. The Len Colla Recreation Center is a multi-purpose recreation center that features a full size gymnasium that provides indoor play opportunities year round.

To learn more about recreational opportunities in Casa Grande, sign up for a class or find a park near you, visit [www.casagrandeaz.us/rec](http://www.casagrandeaz.us/rec)



### OPEN SWIM

Now - 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

### POOL SAFETY TIPS

If you plan to swim elsewhere, always supervise children, create barriers & know CPR.

- Assign an adult to supervise children in and around the swimming pool and spa.
- Have a fence enclosure that isolates your swimming pool and spa from the home, play areas, front and side yards and the neighbor's yard.
- Learn how to perform Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). The Casa Grande Fire Department offers 1st Aid and CPR classes once a month for the public. To register for classes, visit [www.casagrandeaz.us/cprclasses](http://www.casagrandeaz.us/cprclasses) or call the Fire Department, (520) 421-8777 ext. 5980.

## A Look Back in Time: History Exhibits at City Hall



Visitors to the Finance & Administrative Services building at City Hall can now enjoy learning about Casa Grande's history. The City of Casa Grande has teamed up with the Casa Grande Valley Historical Society to promote the city's rich history in a public setting. The exhibit, which will be changed quarterly, is located in the lobby at 510 E. Florence Blvd. Building B.

The current exhibit is called "Summer in the City" and features recreational activities of settlers and mid-century residents, including one of the early public recreation areas at the Templeton property on Cottonwood Lane, golf at the Francisco Grande, and local baseball teams like the Cotton Kings and the Tigers.

"As a museum we are stewards of history for the public and work year round to collect, preserve and exhibit the history of Casa Grande," says Museum Director Berlin Loa. "We wanted to give back to the City, as well as to the residents of Casa Grande, by bringing exhibits to a community location for all to enjoy. Now visitors and staff can enjoy exhibits and learn a little about our heritage during a regular business or family errand."

Residents typically visit the Finance/Administrative Services building to pay their city utility bill, obtain a business/animal license or apply for a city job. The building is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The Casa Grande Valley Historical Society is located at 110 West Florence Blvd. For more information, visit [www.cgvhs.org](http://www.cgvhs.org) and [www.facebook.com/cgvhs](http://www.facebook.com/cgvhs)

**History Exhibits @ City Hall, Bldg. B  
510 E. Florence Blvd.**



## License & Rabies Clinic



In Casa Grande, dogs and cats must have current rabies vaccinations and must be licensed if over 3 months old. This clinic is a convenient, affordable way to comply with the law and keep your pets healthy and safe.

**Saturday, July 20**  
**8 a.m. - 10 a.m.**  
**Gilbert Park**  
**1140 E. Trinity Place**

Get Your Plate Now!

### Rabies Vaccinations \$10

License Fee	Dog	Cat
Unaltered	\$30	\$20
Altered (spay/neuter)	\$15	\$10

Discounts available for senior citizens. For more information, call the Finance Office at (520) 421-8600 or the Animal Care & Adoption Center at (520) 426-9300.

## New Exercise Equipment @ Senior Center

Senior citizens looking for a cool place to work out this summer should visit the Dorothy Powell Senior Adult Center. The facility recently installed new exercise equipment, including two new treadmills, two recumbent bikes, one strength trainer and two racks with dumbbells ranging from 2 1/2 to 50 pounds.



All the new equipment is senior-friendly. The bikes are easy entry, the treadmills low-step and most machines consist of touch-button operation for easy use. The equipment can be adjusted to each user's fitness level. Training on how to use the equipment is available upon request. The fitness area is open Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon and is free to all Casa Grande residents 50 and older.

The Dorothy Powell Senior Adult Center is located at 405 E. 6th Street. It is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, call (520) 421-8760.

## Don't Flush Your Old Medications

Unused medications improperly disposed of can harm you and the environment. When drugs are flushed, they are not removed by the sewage system and can enter the soil, surface water and groundwater. Drugs can be scavenged and illegally sold. Children and animals could be poisoned if they find and swallow drugs.



Help fight prescription drug abuse by properly disposing of expired or unused medications. Drop the pills off at an approved disposal site. The Casa Grande Police Department has a drop-off location in the lobby at 373 E. Val Vista Blvd. (Open M-F, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.)

To learn more about how to prevent prescription drug abuse, visit [www.casagrandealliance.org](http://www.casagrandealliance.org)

## 4TH OF JULY BASH

Fireworks present a serious risk of causing accidental fire, injuries, and even death. To avoid the risks of fire and injury that are associated with the use of consumer fireworks, citizens are encouraged to enjoy the City sponsored and permitted annual fireworks display, **4th of July Bash**. The event is free to attend and will be held at the Paul Mason Sportsplex (2525 N. Pinal Ave.) from 7 p.m. until 10 p.m. on Thursday, July 4.



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

EVENT	DATE/TIME	LOCATION	CONTACT	Area Code 520
Fourth of July Celebration	7/4, 7pm	Paul Mason Sportsplex	Parks & Recreation, 421-8677	
Planning/Zoning Meeting	7/10, 6pm	Council Chambers	Planning, 421-8637	
Back to School Fashion Show	7/13, 2pm	Teen Center	Parks & Recreation, 421-8677	
City Council Meeting	7/15, 7pm	Council Chambers	City Clerk, 421-8608	
Monsoon Mash Dance	7/19, 6pm	Teen Center	Parks & Recreation, 421-8677	
Kid's Park & Shop	7/27, 7am	Pearl Park	Parks & Recreation, 421-8677 \$	
Water Day Fun (Ages 3-6)	8/1, 9am	Len Colla Recreation Center	Parks & Recreation, 421-8677 \$	
City Council Meeting	8/5, 7pm	Council Chambers	City Clerk, 421-8608	
Planning/Zoning Commission	8/1, 6pm	Council Chambers	Planning, 421-8637	
City Council Meeting	8/19, 7pm	Council Chambers	City Clerk, 421-8608	
Downtown Bazaar & Farmers Market	Tuesdays, 10am	Downtown Casa Grande	Main Street, 836-8744	

\$ Requires a Fee or Admission

## Bag & Tie to Reduce Odors, Mosquito Breeding

Please assist in maintaining a clean and healthy environment by bagging and tying all garbage and grass clippings in plastic bags before placing inside your trash container for collection.



## City Offices Closed on July 4 Trash & Recycling Schedule

Trash normally collected on Thursday, July 4 will be collected on Friday, July 5. Trash collection normally made on Friday, July 5 will be collected on Saturday, July 6.



Recycling collection normally made on Thursday, July 4 will be collected on Friday, July 5 along with normal Friday pickup.

The Casa Grande Landfill will be closed on Thursday, July 4. The landfill will return to normal operating hours (7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.) on Friday, July 5.

Questions? Call (520) 421-8625

## 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	421-8700
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*