

City Snapshot



neighborhoods first

His enthusiasm is obvious as Sgt. Frank Alanis talks about the Community Outreach that has been proposed by Chief Johnny Cervantes. Chief Cervantes asked each Patrol Sergeant to focus on an area within his/her patrol boundaries to help those who live there. There were 8 different "hotspots" as determined by the Compstat program within the neighborhoods. Sgt. Alanis is the first to have completed his task. He decided to address quality of life concerns. He and his officers decided that getting to the root of some of these neighborhood issues was the best approach. Statistics indicated a high degree of vandalism in the form of graffiti, unkempt yards and alleys, dilapidated homes, trespassing, and more. He developed a goal to "...act as a partner with the community over a 60-day period to address quality of life issues, target street level crimes, educate citizens in crime prevention, and participation in Police Department sponsored programs (multi-housing crime prevention, Neighborhood Watch, etc.)." Sgt. Alanis then set into motion his 11 point program by enlisting the help of his patrol unit to gather needed information pertinent to his list. His list consists of (not necessarily in priority level):

1. Graffiti Abatement Program: The units took the time to locate graffiti, log in where it was, photograph it, and report it to Sheila Chavez, Graffiti Abatement Coordinator who then rallied her volunteers to take care of it. By addressing it immediately, it has virtually stopped.
2. Street Light Outage: Patrol officers looked for outages and reported the pole numbers and locations to the responsible electric company. Streets are now properly lit.
3. Blight: Identified 47 properties deemed to be blight. These were then reported to Code Enforcement for follow-up (most were already on their radar), but it did find a few others.
4. General Clean-up: Over 40 volunteers helped during the neighborhood clean-up that took place on Saturday, July 20. All in all, over 4.5 tons of materials was collected for disposal.
5. Removal of bulk trash: With the help of Public Works, the alleys were cleaned of bulk trash.



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Education is what remains after one has forgotten what one has learned in school. ~ Albert Einstein

6. Crime Free Multi-housing Program/Neighborhood Watch: With the help of other departments flyers were taken to various apartment buildings and trailer parks to let these residents know of crime prevention programs available to them.

7. Speed Enforcement: Responding to speeding complaints, a Mepro Count (the box with the hose that vehicles travel over) was placed to record traffic speed. As a result, patrol was intensified to curb speeding during peak hours.

8. Bike Patrol: Bike Patrol stepped up its presence in the area and met a lot of residents face-to-face.

9. Trespass Letters: Property and business owners were provided with an updated letter in which they give their permission for police to arrest any unauthorized person on their property. Old letters were discarded and new ones giving permission in perpetuity are being turned in.

10. Warrant List: Working with the City Court, a list of outstanding warrants was distributed for the designated area. Patrol will continue to work on apprehending these offenders.

11. Special Details: There was one SWAT incident which resulted in the arrest of a convicted felon who is now serving jail time.

As Sgt. Grijalva explained, what he wanted to do was improve the quality of life for those in his area. A follow-up will be done sometime in the fall to see if more needs to be done and to check on the impact of what was done.

Other projects are in the planning stages by the other Patrol Sergeants. We'll keep you posted.



Volunteer detail on July 20 after a massive Neighborhood Clean-up

comedy night



Robby Wagner is known not only for his professional presence in the comedy club arena but also for his commitment, dedication and passion for using positive humor and entertainment within the community. With more than 300 charitable, nonprofit and fund raising shows - it's no wonder why he is known throughout the southwest as a voice in the

community! It was this dedication that landed his previous role as the head of Wonderama Theater, located inside the original World Famous Tempe Improv. Some of the organizations that he's been able to help include: Phoenix Youth At Risk, NATN, Soul Sanctuary in the Desert, Phoenix Children's Hospital, Hope 2 Liberia, and many many more...

When: Friday, August 16, 2013

Where: Casa Grande Women's Club, 407 N Sacaton St.

Presented By: Employee Excellence Committee

RSVP: Jamie White, Ext. 2350

Hurry to reserve your seat as seating is limited to 100. Employees may bring one guest.

viva grande! ole'

What's all the fuss about you ask? Well, Viva Grande will be here sooner than you think. A day filled with fun activities for the whole family, from Salsa contests to fancy Chihuahua Fashion Shows. There's still time to whip up a salsa for the Salsa Challenge or to enter the Horseshoe Tournament. Enter the Jalapeno Eating Contest and feel the heat! All this will take place on Saturday, September 28 from 5:00 -9:00 p.m. at the Paul Mason Sportsplex. For more information, be sure to check out the flyers in your department or call Parks & Recreation at 421-8760. Deadline for entering the contests is Monday, August 19. Viva Grande looks to be a great community event that everyone can enjoy.



Mayor's Reading Club needs volunteer readers. If you have one hour a month to read to CGESD kids, grade K-3, from 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. please think about joining in on the fun. Please contact Caren Rausis, Ext. 1080 for more information or [click here](#).

glad you're my co-worker



August's Glad You're My Co-worker Balloon recipient was Deborah Jewell, City Court. Presenter George Plumb, Parks Maintenance, noted how much he appreciated her cheerfulness and help whenever he used to visit the court during his paper deliveries. Congratulations Deborah!

august new hires

Bill Caldwell
Maintenance
Waste Water
Treatment Plant



Steven Turner
City Manager's office
Management Analyst

Christopher J. O'Neil
City Judge
City Court



August Anniversaries

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Years</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>Years</u> |
|---------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Bill Lebbs | 33 | Gracie Mojica | 10 |
| Josea Cobb | 22 | Scott Benzing | 8 |
| Shaun Calvert | 20 | Leila DeMaree | 8 |
| Lydia Cordova | 20 | Caren Rausis | 8 |
| Jeffery Nowak | 20 | James Stout | 8 |
| Kathy Sandsness | 20 | Michael Turley | 8 |
| Robert Bartleson | 18 | Susan Bott | 6 |
| Charles Bojorquez | 18 | Fernando Estrada | 6 |
| Christopher Western | 17 | Jack Gearhart | 6 |
| Reginald Winston | 17 | Mark McCabe | 6 |
| Alonzo Lopez | 15 | Brian McCloskey | 6 |
| Shayla Gunn | 14 | Erik Moe | 6 |
| Ricardo Carranza | 13 | Jeffrey Palmer | 6 |
| George Davis | 13 | Felicia Rodriguez | 6 |
| Erin Turner | 13 | Ruben Ruiz | 6 |
| Edward Velazquez | 13 | Denis Thomas | 6 |
| Bryan Martinez | 12 | Virginia Thompson | 6 |
| Jerry Dasti | 10 | Barbara Zeck | 6 |
| Christine Hazen | 10 | Matt Herman | 5 |



August Birthdays

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>Date</u> |
|--------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|
| Christopher Palmer | 1 | Kevin Madden | 17 |
| Phillip Emmett | 2 | Laura Martinez | 17 |
| Michael Bejarano | 3 | Gay Barnhart | 18 |
| Brian Berry | 3 | Jesus Espino | 18 |
| David Brown | 3 | Remy Miller | 18 |
| Ted Hawkins | 3 | Jay Mull | 20 |
| David Tena | 3 | Richard Cardenas | 22 |
| Carol Beauchamp | 4 | Eleanor Stoor | 22 |
| Corina Espinoza | 4 | Robert Jackson | 24 |
| Michelle Mata | 8 | Denis Thomas | 24 |
| Jeffery Nowak | 9 | Larry Rains | 27 |
| Shayla Gunn | 10 | David Rodriguez | 28 |
| Christine Hazen | 11 | Kim Schmitz | 28 |
| Gabriel Sifuentes | 12 | Sarah Hennessey | 29 |
| Margaret Pieper | 14 | Gracia Mojica | 29 |
| Lupe Reyes | 14 | Michael Beers | 30 |
| Charles Bojorquez | 17 | Rosa Mendoza | 31 |

100% certified -- congrats!



The City of Casa Grande is pleased to announce that 100% of the Building Division staff has 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. ICC Certifications also demonstrate expert knowledge by staff and can assist in the department's future efforts to become accredited by the International Accreditation Service. In addition, individuals have earned credentials in specific trade or inspections areas, enhancing staff versatility. "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 six other municipalities in Arizona have staff that is 100 percent certified by ICC. Staff who have earned professional certifications include: Dwight Williams, Building Official; Martin P. Encinas, Plans Examiner; Josea Cobb, Permit Technician; John Minard, Building Inspector; Jeff Douglas, Building Inspector; Blaine Thomas, Building Inspector.

valley fever

Valley Fever can affect a few people very seriously while many people don't even know they have it. According to About.com/Phoenix there were about 6,000 confirmed cases in 2011. Valley Fever is a lung infection derived from a fungus spore that survives in the top layer of desert dust. These spores are distributed by winds, working heavy equipment, or even four-wheeling in the dry desert. Health officials suggest when working in dusty conditions to wear a face mask. Stay inside during dust storms whenever possible. Symptoms of Valley Fever range from none to fatigue, cough, chest pain, fever, rash, headache and joint aches. Sometimes people develop red bumps on their skin. In about 5% of Valley Fever cases the lungs develop a module that mimics cancer on chest X-ray. Most people are able to fight off Valley Fever on their own. However, for those who require treatment, an antifungal drug is used which dries up the spore. If a nodule has formed and ruptures, surgery may be required. Valley Fever isn't just a threat to humans, animals can contract the disease. Dogs, horses, cattle, sheep, and others can be affected. They are treated with an antifungal which they may take for an extended period of time. If you notice your dog or cat with a dry hacking cough that won't go away and/or has become lethargic and off its food, take it to the vet for a simple blood test. Valley Fever is not contagious.