

# City Snapshot



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“The hardest thing about learning to ride is the ground.” Cowboy saying

## It Costs How Much?



Casa Grande Municipal Court fees may surprise you. Were you aware that if you are an in state resident driving with out of state plates you can be fined up to \$622 if cited? How about going a “little” over the speed limit? It could cost you plenty, 1-10 mph over the posted limit can deplete your wallet by \$199, 11- 15 mph over can cost you \$219. Other hefty fines include no registration \$622 or school zone violations with signs posted \$297. No driver’s license? That could cost you \$171. There are a myriad of other violations that require significant payment on your part. It is up to the prosecutor and the court to decide how much you will pay not the officer who cited you. Best plan of defense is to avoid any of these infractions in the first place.

City fees are listed at the city webpage under the Finance Department tab. Here are a few that might be interesting. Be sure you live in the city to obtain your library card; otherwise it will cost you \$43. Overdue fines aren’t the 10 cents per day it used to be, it’s now 50 cents a day—these can add up to lots of dollars if not taken care of immediately. That’s probably why “Food for Fines” is so popular and the new Amnesty Event (fine forgiveness), Feb. 1 through Feb. 15, should be as popular.

Want to sell fireworks? That will cost you \$130 for a sales permit on top of site inspection and explosive storage, use and sale (including fireworks) which is another \$130 and other costs of doing business. If a large bar-b-que is in your future and you want to have a fire engine onsite, plan on paying \$125 per hour plus personnel costs (listed only as “costs”). Don’t let your home alarm go off 9 times without good reasons--that will cost you \$150.

Building permit fees, inspection fees, tie in fees, sanitation fees, are too numerous to list here. But just permit fees and impact fees alone can add roughly \$13,000 (depending on square footage) to the cost of building that home.

The fee schedule also lists fees that haven’t been used yet. This is because the City Council must list them for that “just-in-case” situation. Who knows, someday we may need to charge the Concierge Fee (\$5) at the airport for finding lunch for a pilot—you never know. More information can be found here [2013-2014 Fee Schedule](#).

## Cowboy & Indian Days Coming Up

Dust off your boots and hats and enjoy the Cowboy & Indian Days festivities, Feb. 14 - 23. Fun will kick-off with a parade on Saturday, February 15, 10 a.m. on Florence Blvd. The annual week-long event will host the Quad Nation Rodeo on Saturday and Sunday with the full array of



rodeo favorites including bronc riding, bull riding, roping and more. Money raised from the Quad Nation Rodeo help fund scholarships to Native American Community students. The rest of the week promises more action with a Canadian roping event on Monday. The Cervi Roping event hosts national champions from all over the nation. On Saturday and Sunday, February 22 and 23, a fun Ranch Rodeo closes out the festivities. In the meantime, the carnival will be open both weekends (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) for family fun and games. There will be food vendors and retail booths onsite as well. For a full schedule of events please visit [Cowboy and Indian Days](#).

## ICMA-Deferred Comp Rep to Visit

On Wednesday, Feb. 26, the ICMA-Deferred Comp representative Randall will be visiting. Please make an appointment with Admin. Services at 421-8607. Appointments will be available from 8:00-10:00 a.m. at the Public Safety Community Room (122) and at Administrative Services from 10:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. He will answer your questions about saving for your future, take new enrollments, and make changes to your current contributions.

## February Anniversaries

Name	Years	Name	Years
Gerald West	26	Wendy Lloyd	7
Brian Gragg	16	Laura Hinz	6
Laura Martinez	16	Michelle Mata	6
Rick Barnhart	15	Robert Price	6
Onishia Nolad	12	Joseph Regnell	6
Jacob Robinson	10	Agustin Avalos	3
James Murray	8	Cathy Zapata	3
Sonia Olveda	8	David Brown	1
Aaron Card	7	Christopher Fox	1
Eric Odell	7	David Tena	1
Jeffrey Thornton	7		

*February is Black History Month  
50 Year Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act*

## February Birthdays

Name	Date	Name	Date
Scott Brown	2	Kevin Booth	18
Frank Ricci	2	Michael Edwards	18
Karl Montoya	4	Jason Morales	20
James Gagliardi	6	Bill Tiegen	20
Linda Garcia	7	Jack Gearhart	21
Andre Mattis	8	Shaun Calvert	22
George Plumb	8	Mary Ann Gonzales	22
Dan Greenfield	9	Thomas Finucane	25
Matthew Farmer	10	Bill Schwind	25
Ryan Littrell	11	Marco Montoya	26
Jennifer Myers	12	Stephanie Adams	27
Arthur Hicks	13	Larry Petersen	28
Maria Gonzalez	15	Mark Lewis	29
Jeremy Bryant	17		

## Wacky Days in February

### Date

- 4 Create a Vacuum Day
- 5 National Weatherman's Day
- 6 Lame Duck Day
- 9 Toothache Day
- 11 Don't Cry Over Spilled Milk Day
- 14 Ferris Wheel Day
- 15 Singles Awareness Day
- 17 Random Acts of Kindness Day
- 19 National Chocolate Mint Day
- 22 Be Humble Day
- 26 Carnival Day
- 27 Polar Bear Day
- 28 Public Sleeping Day
- 28 National Tooth Fairy Day

## Exempt from Federal Taxes?

Employees who had no Federal income tax liability last year and expect none this year are eligible to claim exemption from Federal payroll tax withholding. The W-4 form claiming exemption is only valid for one calendar year; to continue to be exempt from withholding, an eligible employee must file a new W-4 form by February 15th. The form can be found on the Intranet under the Administrative Services tab in the forms list. Call Administrative Services at 421-8607 if you have any questions.

## Report City Issues Using Your Cell Phone

The City of Casa Grande has become one of a handful of communities around the country to leverage smartphone technology to encourage residents to report service needs or issues of concern. The app, called "mycasagrande" is available for download to Android and Apple devices. The app allows residents to report graffiti, code violations, illegal dumping, street repair/maintenance, sewer issues and parks maintenance. GPS technology is used to identify the location of the problem which allows city personnel to address the issue. It is hoped this new technology will expedite efficiency and reduce costs to the city. Download the free app [here](#).

## Free Income Tax Preparation



Yes, it's that time of year when we begin to think about filing our income taxes. There is a free service to prepare taxes, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, through the United Way. The program uses volunteer to prepare basic tax returns free of charges for low to middle income

families. The volunteers will help with tax filings until May 2014. VITA has played an important part in getting funds for filers who may not have received them due to unfamiliarity with current deductions. Qualifying households with dependents must have earned less than \$46,227 or less than \$57,587 which may qualify for Earned Income Tax Credit. Those without dependents earning less than \$14,340 are eligible for help with preparation of taxes. Two locations to obtain help are: the Goodwill Store on Florence Blvd. beginning Saturday, Feb. 1 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Thursday, evening appointments, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., are available at the Seeds of Hope Community Center, on N. Crane St. Please call Jonathan to schedule an appointment at either location at 520-222-7534.

## HOA Academy Comes to Casa Grande

Do you belong to an HOA? Want to learn more about how an HOA should function? Want to know before you go to an HOA meeting? Well, you're in luck! The City of Casa Grande is pleased to announce that The Leadership Centre is offering a six-session HOA Academy in Casa Grande beginning in February. This is a great opportunity to learn some basics about how HOAs operate in your community. Classes are free for Casa Grande residents, \$10 for non-residents. Sessions are planned from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Public Safety Facility located at 373 E. Val Vista Blvd. The first session is scheduled for Thursday, February 6, 2014 – Legal Aspects of HOAs. There will be five more sessions, each on a Thursday, to provide insight into an HOA. For more information, or to sign up, please contact [The Leadership Centre](#) or call them at (480) 420-8521.

## Glad You're My Co-Worker



Presenting this month's "Glad You're My Co-Worker" Balloon, is Erica Perez, Recreation Program Coordinator at the Dorothy Powell Senior Adult Center to David Blythe, IT Technician. Erica lauded David by commenting that "...he is always willing to lend a helping hand and always with a great attitude." Congratulations Dave!

## Staff Celebrates Year Without Injury

On Thursday, 90 employees in the Public Works and Community Services departments were recognized for working a year without injury. The celebration took place at the NOC during the Annual Mayor's Safety Awards Luncheon. Presenting the awards were Mayor Jackson and Community Services Director Bill Schwind and Deputy Public Works Director Greg Smith.

### Public Works Department

**Fleet Services:** Gary Cummings; Suzie Holmes; Michael Sciortino; Matt Soulligne; Bill Tiegen; and Conrad Zapata.

**Wastewater:** Kevin Crandall; Mark Lewis; Leticia Luse; John Parrish; Clifton Sanders; Curtis Voigt.

**Streets:** Pedro Apodaca; Robert Bartelson; Bobby Costales; Lauro Gomez; Dan Greenfield; Jerry Hankins; Chris Lawson; Alonzo Lopez; Todd Miller; Joseph Regnell; Pedro Reyna; Ruben Ruiz; Edward Velazquez; and Clyde Wilkinson.

**Sanitation:** Cepriano Gamez; Rachel Valencia; Michelle Wood; Tim Church; Gabriel Aguero; Greg Bigham; Ricky Bowen; Greg Cortez; Clarence Edwards; Edward Ford; Mel Perez; Gil Rios; Raymond Torres; Nick Torres; Norm Guminek; Greg Garcia; and Tonya Stager.

**Engineering:** Stan Chavez; Duane Eitel; Melissa Marcucci; Terry McKeon; Richard Ramirez; Abdul Rashid; David Rodriguez; and Lupe Vidal.

**Facilities Maintenance:** Nick Stalter

**Administration:** Jennifer Downs; Ted Hawkins; Rosa Mendoza; and Christine Perez.

### Community Services Department

**Golf Course:** Rick Berry; Ed Davis; Jimmie Medrano  
**Parks Maintenance:** Carol Bojorquez; Jerry Dasti; Mike Edwards; Claudio Garcia; Art Hicks; Raul Marquez; Shawn McCarville; Jason Morales; George Plumb; Miguel Rodriguez; Gilbert Ross; and Martha Spelbring.

**Main & Vista Grande Libraries:** Amber Kent; Julie Anderson; Charlotte Barr; Susan Bott; David Brown; Maria Chairez; Deanna Davis; Nancy Downing; Kevin Fahey; Sarah Hennessey; Laura Higgs; Julie Martinez; Sarah Sisco; Mary Ann Solano; Judith Vianna; and Shirley Ward.

## Safety Award Luncheon Honorees

