

City Snapshot



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And the Wheels Keep on Turning

Fleet Maintenance is one of the city's divisions that is a silent cog in the wheel of literally keeping things running—our city vehicles. Vehicles from fire trucks to pick-up trucks are on the menu daily. Records show that over 3,800 vehicles pass through the maintenance doors each year with an average of 320 per month. This includes light weight as well as the heavy weights. Conrad Zapata, Fleet Maintenance Supervisor, notes there is a process for determining which vehicle gets repaired by a priority system—basically the department that needs it the quickest. A police vehicle would be repaired before a car pool vehicle if that were the situation. The length of time a vehicle is in the shop depends of course on the type of repairs/services needed. The larger the vehicle, fire trucks, sanitation trucks, etc., have more moving parts and sub-systems that are technical and labor intensive. These vehicles may take a week depending on parts availability.



Although staff does bumper-to-bumper repairs, they don't do many engine or transmission rebuilds as it is more cost effective to out source those. Some other work used to be done outside of the city shop such as oil changes or tire repair, but that work is starting to come back to the city shop. Tire repair is a combination of vendor/city depending on the case. Public Works operators are helping tremendously by changing out brooms (street sweepers), changing tires, and performing light maintenance. According to Conrad, this has really helped. The most common repairs include air conditioning and coolant issues due to our excessive heat which is hard on equipment. The vehicles that see shop time the most are side-loader refuse trucks due to the number of moving parts and the use they get on a daily basis. It's not uncommon for a side-loader to lift 249,000 cans per year!



The mechanics themselves have impressive credentials and most have been doing this type of work for years. Two are Master Mechanics Certified in both diesel and auto. The Emergency Vehicle Technician has over 15 certifications and three other mechanics have graduated from Auto/Diesel educational schools such as Universal Technical Institute or its equivalent. All are capable of trouble shooting, repairing, servicing, skilled in the use of scan tool, welding, and fabricating. With a group

"The difference between school and life? In school, you're taught a lesson and then given a test. In life, you're given a test that teaches you a lesson." -- Tom Bodett

like this there is no vehicle they don't work on. Dwight Amato is the shop's Lead Mechanic who works with Michael Sciortino, Mechanic; Bill Teigen, Mechanic; Gary Cummings, Mechanic; and Scott Ludwig, Assistant Mechanic. Another important component of this team is the parts department which is handled full time by Matt Soulligne (Assistant Mechanic), who is constantly on the vigil to get the best parts at the best price for the city. Suzie Holmes who runs the office has had previous experience in the auto industry as a former manager of the Fleet Maintenance Department for an auto dealer.



Keeping city vehicles moving down the road is a big job and one that's handled daily by this dedicated group of individuals. Conrad noted the best way to keep our vehicles in top condition is preventative maintenance. Taking ownership and treating a city car or truck as your own helps too. Take a minute to do a pre/post trip inspection each time the vehicle is taken out and notify this top-notch team when something just isn't right.

Glad You're My Co-Worker



Bill Tiegen, Fleet Maintenance, presented the August "I'm Glad You're my Co-worker" balloon to Antonio Castillos, Landfill. Bill noted that Antonio, "...is always willing to help and assist to get the equipment fixed. Antonio helps get the job done!" Congratulations Antonio!

August Anniversaries

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Years</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>Years</u> |
|---------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|
| William Lebbs | 34 | Leila DeMaree | 9 |
| Josea Cobb | 23 | Caren Rausis | 9 |
| Shaun Calvert | 21 | James Stout | 9 |
| Lydia Cordova | 21 | Michael Turley | 9 |
| Jeffery Nowak | 21 | Susan Bott | 7 |
| Robert Bartleson | 19 | Fernando Estrada | 7 |
| Charlie Bojorquez | 19 | Jack Gearhart | 7 |
| Christopher Western | 18 | Mark McCabe | 7 |
| Reginal Winston | 18 | Brian McCloskey | 7 |
| Alonzo Lopez | 16 | Erik Moe | 7 |
| Shayla Gunn | 15 | Jeffrey Palmer | 7 |
| Richardo Carranza | 14 | Felicia Rodriguez | 7 |
| George Davis | 14 | Ruben Ruiz | 7 |
| Erin Turner | 14 | Denis Thomas | 7 |
| Edward Velazquez | 14 | Barbara Zeck | 7 |
| Bryan Martinez | 13 | Matthew Herman | 6 |
| Jerry Dasti | 11 | Kassandra Johnson | 2 |
| Christine Hazen | 11 | Maria Gonzalez | 1 |
| Gracie Mojica | 11 | Andrew Hensley | 1 |
| Curtis Meccia | 10 | Yvette Rodriguez | 1 |
| Scott Benzing | 9 | | |

*Drive with Caution
School Starts Aug. 6*



August Birthdays

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

Welcome to the City of Casa Grande



Joining the city as new employees are on the left, Luis Flores, Maintenance Worker at the Wastewater facility and Steven Garcia, Maintenance worker in Sanitation. Welcome!

Get Ready for Viva Grande'



It may seem like a long way off, but the 2nd Annual Viva Grande will be here before you know it! This September event is destined to grow into one of the biggest city-sponsored events along side the 4th of July and the Cowboy & Indian Days! Grab some friends and sign up for the horseshoe tournament or if you prefer being seated, join in the Jalapeño eating contest! Dress up that Chihuahua and win a prize in several categories. Festivities will be held at the Paul Mason Sportsplex on Saturday, September 27, 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required to enter any of the contests listed. Be sure to visit [Viva Grande](#) for more information or contact Erica Perez, via email at eperez@casagrandeaz.gov or call her at 421-8760.



Wacky Days in August

Date

- 2 National Mustard Day
- 3 National Watermelon Day
- 5 Work Like a Dog Day
- 9 Book Lover's Day
- 10 National S'mores Day
- 13 Left Hander's Day
- 18 Bad Poetry Day
- 19 Aviation Day
- 23 Ride the Wind Day
- 26 National Dog Day
- 30 Frankenstein Day
- 31 National Trail Mix Day

Communications Center Ribbon Cutting

After 10 months of renovation, the Old Police Station at 520 N Marshall Street was transformed into a state-of-the-art Public Safety Communications Center. Complete with meeting rooms, breakroom, interview rooms, and processing room, this facility will be a welcome addition to our city buildings. The new console room for our dispatchers is a large and bright space. Though there will not be a full-time police officer on duty at the facility, there is the capacity for an officer to meet with residents on an as-needed basis. The public will have access to the front area between the hours of 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. After 5 p.m. a phone outside can be used to call dispatch to request assistance. The ribbon cutting took place on Monday, July 28 with those in attendance experiencing guided tours by Center personnel. The basement of the building is currently used for storage. Perhaps at some point in the future, it can also be renovated.



Participating in the official ribbon-cutting for the Public Safety Communications Center are L-R: Council Member Montoya, Council Member Varela, Council Member Fitzgibbons, Mayor Jackson, Police Chief Cervantes, Cmdr. Parrow, Cmdr. Hanley, Fire Chief Miller, and Communications Supervisor Mike Brashier.

Readers Wanted by K-3 Children



The Mayor's Reading Club is a great way to see the awe in children as they watch you read. Sound scary? It's not. They enjoy having an adult from outside the classroom read them a story or two. The purpose of the program is to instill the wonders of reading to our youngest residents. They also like hearing about what you do everyday and why you like to read.

Reading takes place on the 3rd Wednesday of the month (except during testing week or breaks). Generally, there are 3-4 classes to read to for 15 minutes each. The first reading will take place on Wednesday, September 17. Applications are available [online](#). Also, a Volunteer Form for the school district is required as well as a current finger print card (except Public Safety personnel). You don't have to read all year, just whenever you are available. For more information or help signing up, please contact Caren Rausis at Ext. 1080 or email, causis@casagrandeaz.gov. Be a reading super star!

UHC Letter in Simple Terms

This week many of you received a lengthy letter from United Health Care outlining a rebate sent to the city pertaining to premiums. Margaret Pieper, HR Analyst, has broken that letter down into something we can all understand:

The City received a small insurance premium rebate check last week. As in the past two years, a refund will be issued and we are currently in the process of calculating that refund. Please note the following important information:

1. Employees must be active in the payroll system when the refund is issued.
2. Employees who carried employee only coverage last year will not receive a refund because those employees did not pay any premiums. The City pays 100% of insurance premiums for employee coverage.
3. Employees who paid for dependent coverage will receive a small refund prorated on the number of months the employee paid the dependent coverage premiums.
4. The refund will show up on a future check as a separate flex plan credit.

If you still have questions, please contact the Human Resources Department at 421-8607.

Mark Your Calendar for Wellness Event



The annual "Know your Numbers" event and Flu Shot Clinic will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Sept. 17 in the Parks and Recreation Building. Flu shots are available to all United Healthcare members and their covered dependents (over age 7). The Know your Numbers event is open to all employees covered by UHC. The health screenings include blood pressure, cholesterol, and glucose. No fasting required. You must RSVP for both to Human Resources (421-8607) no later than Friday, August 29. Don't forget to bring your UHC Health Insurance Card.

It's How Hot?

It's so hot in Arizona that...

- the birds have to use potholders to pull worms out of the ground.
- the potatoes cook underground, and all you have to do to have lunch is to pull one out and add butter, salt and pepper.
- farmers are feeding their chickens crushed ice to keep them from laying hard-boiled eggs.
- the cows are giving evaporated milk.
- you can say 113 degrees without fainting.
- you eat hot chiles to cool your mouth off.
- you can make instant sun tea.
- you learn that a seat belt makes a pretty good branding iron.
- the temperature drops below 95, you feel a bit chilly.
- you can attend any function wearing shorts and a tank top.
- you discover that in July, it takes only 2 fingers to drive your car.
- you discover that you can get a sunburn through your car window.
- you notice the best parking place is determined by shade instead of distance.
- hot water now comes out of both taps.
- you break a sweat the instant you step outside at 7:30 a.m. before work.
- your biggest bicycle wreck fear is, "What if I get knocked out and end up lying on the pavement and cook to death?"
- you realize that asphalt has a liquid state.