

City Snapshot



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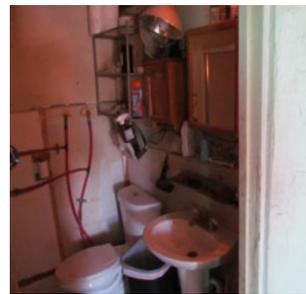
Making a House a Home

When you live in a home that is so old that the electrical wiring and plumbing is outdated and won't pass today's inspection, getting help may seem a long way off or even unattainable. The situation can even seem hopeless. This is how many of the city's applicants to the Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation Program feel before they become aware that help is available. The only object standing in the way is the potential of less funding than needed to help everyone. Leila DeMaree, Senior Planner/Housing Manager, Rose Roy, Housing Office Specialist, and Blaine Thomas, Housing Rehab Specialist (who took over after the recent retirement of Larry Waite), make it all happen. The city's Housing Rehabilitation Program is available to any and all homeowners within the corporate city limits who meet several eligibility requirements. They must own and occupy the unit as their sole and principal residence; they must meet an income level not to exceed 80% of the median income as established by the state and adopted by the county; and the housing unit must need repairs to meet current Building Health & Safety codes (upgrades for strictly aesthetic purposes are not eligible). Priority projects are homes owned/occupied by the disabled and elderly. Both these populations fall into the low to moderate income levels as it applies to the program. No matter who the applicant is, priority projects start with bringing the house up to code.

Funding comes from various sources. Grants from the Gila River Indian Community and the Tohono O'odham Nation are requested every year. The Community Development Block Grant fund, which can be spent on a variety of projects have been earmarked for the Housing Rehabilitation Program by our City Councils for the past 30 years. When the city passed a crucial 50,000 census population number, more funding sources have opened up. But that also means more competition for funds. All funding is strictly monitored and reports are required showing where the money has been spent. To date, all the city audits have shown the department's due diligence is impeccable.

During the fiscal year 2013-2014, the housing division exceeded its goal of helping rehab at least 12 homes. It beat that number by 2, helping 14 applicants. Since the program began in Casa Grande, over 600 homes have had some minor to major rehabilitation. Projects can range from putting in an ADA compliant bathroom to tearing down a residence and building it from the ground up. All contractors (hired through a bid process) are local. They also buy building supplies from local stores. This helps keep the money in Casa Grande and helps others at the same time.

Below are before and after photos of projects that were completed during the last fiscal year.



The transformation is obvious. Not only is this accommodation now up to City Building & Health codes, it brought pride of ownership back into the owner's life.



In this particular home, the ceiling was low due to a flat roof. Crews raised the roof-line to install duct work for a new heating and cooling system. Rose is getting things ready for the official presentation of the keys to the homeowner.



The new roof-line and garage (which had been an open carport) have not only added value to the newly renovated home, but to the neighborhood as well.

September Anniversaries

Name	Years	Name	Years
Christine Perez	30	Genaro Rodriguez	8
Mary Ann Gonzales	25	Blaine Thomas	8
Gilbert Celaya	19	Eugene Ward	8
Bobby Costales	18	Ted Hawkins	7
Jaime Barr	16	Amalia Parra-Valenzuela	7
Charlotte Barr	15	Jonathan Larson	6
Todd Miller	15	David Bauchamp	4
Caryl Chase	13	Jay Mull	4
Jeremy Ybarra	13	Duane Eitel	3
John Parrish	12	Matthew Perry	3
Efren Lujan	11	Michael Wilson	3
Michael Hannah	9	James Fults	2
Brian Walsh	9	Stanley Chavez	1
Robert Jackson	8	Jeffrey Little	1
David Jones	8	Conrad Zapata	1



September Birthdays

Name	Date	Name	Date
David Blythe	1	Derek Peters	13
Rose Roy	1	Doug Sandstrom	14
Terry Montijo	2	Deanna Davis	16
Daniel Allen	3	James Murray	17
Fernando Estrada	3	Drue Salazar	18
Don Lauderback	3	Matt Jankowski	19
Jeff Molner	5	Mary Ann Solano	22
Brian Flynn	6	Blaine Thomas	22
Michael Sciortino	6	Fidel Torres	22
Chelsea Cosillos	7	Kyle Wright	23
Andrew Leary	7	Dwight Amato	24
Joseph Kissinger	9	Linda Harris	25
Frank Alanis	10	Scott Sjerven	25
Eugene Ward	10	Cody Deuel	27
Mary Kortsen	11	Diane James	27
Ruben Ruiz	11	Stephen Knauber	28
Jason Andersen	12	Dawn Jett	29
Isabel Pinon	12	Norma Villiescas	29
Susan Blythe	13	Orlando Jimenez	30
George Davis	13	Laura Monchinski	30

Welcome to the City of Casa Grande



Newly sworn police officers joining the Police Department are from left to right: Jeffrey McKean, Anthony Clubb, and Curtis Kieser. Congratulations and welcome aboard!



Two others joining the city are Pedro Valencia, Fleet Maintenance, and Manuel Lonoria, joins the Sanitation Department. Welcome!

Don't forget Viva Grande! Festivities will be held at the Paul Mason Sportsplex on Saturday, September 27, 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. Be sure to visit [Viva Grande](#) for more information or contact Parks & Recreation 421-8760.



Wacky Days in September

Date

- 3 Skyscraper Day
- 6 Read a Book Day
- 10 Swap Ideas Day
- 13 Fortune Cookie Day
- 14 National Cream-Filled Donut Day
- 16 Collect Rocks Day
- 19 International Talk Like a Pirate Day
- 21 Miniature Golf Day
- 23 Dog in Politics Day
- 27 Crush a Can Day
- 28 Ask a Stupid Question Day
- 28 National Good Neighbor Day
- 30 National Mud Pack Day

Glad You're My Co-Worker



Antonio Castillos, Landfill Heavy Equipment Operator, presented the September, "Glad You're My Co-worker Balloon" to Rick Barnhart, Code Enforcement Officer. Antonio thanked Rick for his dedication to the city and for his work to help keep Casa Grande clean and beautiful." Congratulations Rick!

Night of Remembrance

"A Night of Remembrance"
Honoring the 13th Anniversary of
September 11, 2001.
Thursday, September 11, 2014
Peart Park
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Candlelight Ceremony
Featuring: Color Guard Presentation
Tribute to local Fire & Police Personnel
Remembering Our Troops

Hosted by the Casa Grande Youth Commission

7th Annual Doggie Dive-in

Saturday, September 13 will mark the "7th Annual Doggie Dive-in" at the Palm Island Aquatic Center. This has been the traditional end-of-summer event at the pool. Dogs are free to enter, but each human entry is \$2. Dogs can take part in several special contests: a photo contest, bathing suit contest, water retrieval (long jump), and best dressed (which includes humans). Don't let wet paws discourage you and the whole family from coming out for some fun.



Ballet Under the Stars

The City of Casa Grande is proud to offer the Ballet Under the Stars series once again. The professional performance will take place on Saturday, September 20 at the Paul Mason Sports Complex. The performance begins at 7:30 p.m. with gates opening at 6:00 p.m. Be sure to bring a chair or blanket and a picnic dinner if you'd like. The Ballet Arizona organization brings its own stage, music, and lights to present a highly professional experience. Ballet Under The Stars spans two weeks as they travel throughout Arizona with family-friendly performances presented free of charge in parks and public spaces. These performances are enjoyed by more than 15,000 children and adults each year — many of whom experience dance and Ballet Arizona for the first time. Click [here](#) for information on the current season of Ballet Under the Stars. You won't want to miss this unique event.



Smoke Alarm Installation Teams Needed



Saturday, October 11, will mark the 8th Annual Smoke Alarm Installation project in Casa Grande. As always, this event depends on the help of volunteers. This year the targeted area has over 500 homes! Each team will consist of three volunteers as well as one uniformed Team Captain. Each team will be assigned a number of homes to either install smoke alarms or provide new smoke alarm batteries. A continental breakfast and a lunch will be provided to all those who take on the challenge. Registration for teams ends Friday, September 26. Activities, begin at 7 a.m. with check-in. Volunteer applications can be found [here](#). If you need further information please contact Andrew at Ext. 5980.

CGPD Partners with Neighbors United



On Saturday, October 25, the Casa Grande Daybreak Rotary Club will be partnering with the Casa Grande Police Department for the Annual Neighbors United campaign. The goal is to eradicate as much graffiti as possible and spruce up those areas which have been spot painted during the year. The group is hoping to get at least 200-300 people to help with making our Casa Grande beautiful and bring pride back to our neighborhoods. An informational breakfast meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 17, 7:30 a.m. at the Pinal Avenue Holiday Inn, Copper Room. This is definitely a family-oriented event and there will be work for everyone to do. If you are interested in attending the breakfast to learn more about how you can help, please contact Sheila Chavez, Graffiti Abatement Coordinator, schavez@casagrandeaz.gov or give her a call at Ext. 6570.

Mandatory Staff Training

Just a reminder, if you haven't already, you must sign up for one of the mandatory all staff trainings that will be taking place in September. This quarter's topic is "Understanding Sexual Harassment and Discrimination in the Workplace." All training sessions will take place in the Council Chambers at City Hall. The following dates are for all non-supervisory personnel:

Monday, September 8, 9-11 a.m.
Tuesday, September 16, 2-4 p.m.
Thursday, September 25, 10 a.m. - Noon

Supervisory personnel will attend the training on Wednesday, September 3, 9-11 a.m.

Please register by contacting Martha Lewallen (mlewallen@casagrandeaz.gov) in HR via email with a copy to your supervisor. You will receive a confirmation email or be advised of another date/time. Please share this information with those who do not have regular email as they need to contact HR directly. Look for more quarterly trainings in the future.

Watch Your Dates for Deductibles

Even though the city just renewed its United Health Care medical and Principal dental insurances effective July 1, deductibles and out-of-pocket maximums are based on calendar year (January to December). Maximums start over every January.