



What is the Gila Bend Transmission Initiative (GBTI)?

March 2013

If you attend Council meetings, you have heard the Gila Bend Transmission Initiative mentioned. You may have asked yourself, just what is the initiative, what is the purpose of it and how will it benefit Gila Bend?

The Gila Bend Transmission Initiative (GBTI) is a regional effort, focused on vastly expanding utility scale solar in the Gila Bend region building the solar corridor, creating an export industry for Arizona, and bringing more jobs to the region. The Town of Gila Bend, can site, permit, and build utility scale solar faster than anywhere in the nation.

The GBTI will bring thousands of jobs to Gila Bend and will bring in millions of dollars every year to our community.

To realize the potential of utility scale solar in the Gila Bend Solar Corridor, transmission lines will need to be built to California and even potentially Mexico. Such infrastructure improvements support not only the creation of an export industry to California, but they also drastically improve reliability and redundancy to the grid for both renewables and non-renewables. Moreover, we believe such an initiative will ultimately result in significantly lower rates to California residents and businesses. In this context, we believe the entire southwest region will benefit economically, socially, and environmentally.

Some of these benefits would include:

- Creation of an EXPORT Industry for Arizona
- Jobs, Jobs, Jobs
- Millions of dollars from industry
- Opportunity to Own the Technology through Transmission and Supply Chain Companies
- A balanced portfolio of renewable and non-renewable energy

If you would like to learn more, contact the Town Manager Rick Buss or Planning & Economic Development Director Eric Fitzer at 928-683-2255.

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Raymond Duran Retires After 17 Years

March 28, 2013

After 17 years of dedicated service employee Raymond Duran retired from the Town of Gila Bend's Public Works Department on March 28, 2013. At the March 26th Council Meeting Raymond was presented with a plaque thanking him for his service which began in 1996. Public Works Director Bill Menard presented the plaque to Raymond and each Town Council Member, Vice Mayor, Mayor, Town Attorney and Town Manager personally thanked Raymond. Staff and employees had a small, in-house lunch in his honor on his last day, March 28th. He will be missed and all of us give him best wishes in his retirement. Have fun Raymond!



L to R: Raymond Duran receives plaque from Public Works Director Bill Menard; Raymond with plaque, Raymond – holds the cake at luncheon held in his honor.

Easter Egg Hunt

March 30, 2013

The Easter Egg Hunt held on Saturday, March 30th was a success with approximately 60 – 70 children participating. There were 12 winners in all; a top boy and girl from each age group and the top over-all boy and girl. Everyone enjoyed themselves and the nice weather which proved perfect for all the young egg hunters.

April Community Calendar



- 04/09 – Council Meeting: 6:00pm
- 04/20 – 4th Annual Fly-In: Airport – 7:00am to 5:00pm
- 04/22 – Voter Registration Closes
- 04/23 – Council Meeting: 6:00pm
- 04/25 – Early Voting Begins
- 05/10 – Last Day to Request Early Ballot
- 05/16 – On-Site Early Voting Ends

Social Services Programs

March 2013

The Gila Bend Care 1st Resource Center offers the following programs and services to Gila Bend residents. Here is a sampling of some of those available:

AHCCCS, Medicaid, Medicare, Food Stamps applications and renewals; **Veteran** referral services; **Teen Outreach & Pregnancy**; employment services; **Jobs for Arizona Graduates (JAG)**; services for sexually exploited children, early childhood education and development services, English and literacy tutoring, and many more.

To get a full listing of services and programs offered, contact Social Services Director Diane Dempsey at 928-683-6502.

Clerks Corner

March 2013



Election Results and Upcoming Election

The recent Primary Election resulted in seating one person in one of the three open seats on the Town Council. Council Member Fernando Fernandez received the required number of votes to be seated and will be serving another term as Council Member.

The final vote count: Fernando Fernandez, 139 votes; Donny Young, 108 votes; Daniel Birchfield, 100 votes; Ron Henry, 111 votes; and James 'Bud' Turner, 106 votes. A run-off election will be held on May 21st to fill the other two open Council seats.

Only 224 votes were cast out of the 716 registered voters in the Gila Bend area resulting in a voter turn-out of 31.28%. Out of the 224 ballots cast, 106 of those were under-votes, meaning that 106 voters did not vote for three of the five candidates.

Important dates to remember for the upcoming election:

April 22nd – Voter Registration Closes

April 25th – Early Voting Begins

May 10th – Last day to request an Early Ballot

May 16th – On-site Early Voting Ends

May 21st – Election Day

EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE!

4th Annual Fly-In



March 2013

The 4th Annual Fly-In will take place on **Saturday, April 20th** at the Gila Bend Municipal Airport. The event kicks off with a Friday night BBQ, music and s'mores with dinner starting at 5:30pm. Pilots that fly in will get complimentary transportation to their hotel/motel or they can choose the option of under-the-wing tent camping.

Saturday begins with a 7:00am pancake breakfast for a small \$3.⁰⁰ donation. The low \$1.⁰⁰ Admission fee, gets event-goers access to the children's area, a look at the participating planes and novelty and food vendors. The Children's Shooting Range opens at 9:00am and at 12:00 noon the Adult Shooting Range shuttle begins. The children's area will have bouncers, slides, climbers and an obstacle course.

For those who need transportation to the Fly-In, a shuttle service will be available from the Gila Bend Care 1st Resource Center. Raffle prizes will be given out throughout the day. Raffle tickets will be available for \$1.⁰⁰. A DJ will be on hand to provide music all day. The event ends at 5:00pm.

New Employees at the Town

March 2013

The Town hired two new employees and promoted a part-time employee to a full-time position, with all three coming on deck during the last week of March.

Part-timer Chuck Lowther, a local, was promoted into a full-time position in the Parks & Recreation Department, where he has worked since first hired .as a part-time employee.

Another local gentleman, Stacy Perry, joins the ranks in the Public Works Department, where he will be working within the Streets division of that department.

Ruben Forero is newly employed in the Water/WasteWater division of the Public Works Department. Ruben is a native of Colombia, South America. and looks forward to working in Gila Bend.

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