



SOLON Completes 459 kW Solar Project for Gila Bend Water Treatment Facility

Fixed-tilt system expected to offset facility's energy usage by 86 percent NEWS RELEASE

Tucson, AZ, February 13, 2013 - SOLON Corporation, one of the largest providers of turnkey solar power plants in the United States, announced it has completed construction of a 459 kilowatt (kW) PV system at the Reverse Osmosis Water Treatment Facility for the Town of Gila Bend, Arizona.

The system is expected to offset the energy usage of the water treatment facility by 86 percent, which will save money for the Town of Gila Bend through reduced utility bills.

"The incorporation of solar into this water treatment facility is another great example of solar's versatility at reducing power costs across the electric demand spectrum," said Jared Schoch, Vice President and General Manager of Power Plants at SOLON Corporation. "We are very excited to complete this PV project for the community of Gila Bend."

SOLON engineered, designed, constructed, and commissioned the fixed-tilt system. As a full service system provider, SOLON will continue to operate and maintain the system on behalf of Gila Bend.

"As part of our strategic focus on renewables and PV to drive down electric costs incurred by the Town of Gila Bend, our water treatment facility was selected because it had the largest electric draw of any Town-owned facility," said Frederick Buss, Town Manager for Gila Bend. "This system will mitigate those costs greatly. SOLON has done a tremendous job yet again."

The project development and system ownership was financed through a State of Arizona Water Infrastructure Finance Authority (WIFA) grant awarded to the Town of Gila Bend for drinking water infrastructure improvements. SOLON Corporation has installed nearly 65 MW of solar in Arizona, and 90 MW nationwide.

SOLON Corporation is a leading provider of utility-scale and large commercial photovoltaic (PV) system solutions to the North American market. They have headquarters in Tucson, AZ and offices in Phoenix and San Francisco. SOLON Corporation is a subsidiary of the SOLON Group, a leading international provider of solar solutions for residential, commercial and utility-scale applications. The SOLON Group was established in 1996 and operates subsidiaries in Germany, Italy and the U.S. with more than 600 employees worldwide.

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Easter Egg Hunt

March 2013



The Town of Gila Bend will host its annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 30th at McMahon Field at 11:00am. The egg hunt is for children ages 1 year through 10 years old. Prizes will be given for the top girl and boy egg hunters and mystery egg hunters. There will be candy, toys, piñatas and lots of eggs. Mark your calendars, gather up the kids and head for McMahon Park to enjoy the fun. For more information please contact Parks & Recreation Director Colby Turner at 928-683-2255

Gila Bend 9/11 Memorial Park Update

February 2013

The dedication of the *Gila Bend 9/11 Memorial Park*, Gila Bend's newest park, was put on hold until further notice. A more completed and finished looking park was desired for the dedication. The final date for dedication should be available sometime next month. The new dedication date will be posted on the bulletin board at the Post Office, the Resource Center, the Multigenerational Center, Gila Bend Library, Ironwood Justice Court, on the board in the Town office and on the Town website at www.gilabendaz.org.



March Community Calendar

- 03/07 – Early voting closes
- 03/07 & 08 – Farmer’s Market – Resource Center
- 03/12 – Council Meeting Cancelled
- 03/12 – Election Day – VOTE!!!
- 03/13 – Beading Class/ 11-14 yrs/Senior Center: 1:45-3pm
- 03/15 – Senior’s Easter Sale – Community Center Park, 10am
- 03/17 – **St. Patrick’s Day**
- 03/26 – Council Meeting (6:00pm)
- 03/30 – Easter Egg Hunt – McMahon Field: 11:00am
- 03/31 - **Easter**



Highlight on Social Services

February 27, 2013

Adult Financial Education Workshop is a new program that teaches participants how to make better choices and implement smarter spending habits by learning the importance of financial goal setting, how to track spending, developing and using a spending plan and tips on managing your money. Plan for economic stability today and tomorrow by attending this class on March 22nd at the Care 1st Resource Center from 9:00 – 10:00am. Contact Flor Olivas or Gray Faupel at 928-683-6502 to register.

Health Fair coming on April 13th at the Gila Bend Care 1st Resource Center from 10:00 to 4:00pm. Several service providers will be on hand including *Duet*, a program on grandparents raising their grandchildren.

Two new bus stops have been constructed for everyone using the shuttle. One stop is located at the Senior Center and the second is located at the Care 1st Resource Center.



Care 1st Stop



Senior Center Stop

Clerks Corner

March 2013

New Programs

Two new programs are in the process of being implemented in the Clerk’s department: Laserfiche’s Agenda Manager and Records Manager. The Agenda Manager program will facilitate the agenda process while the Records Manager program will assist in digitalizing the Town records and filling public information requests.



More parade and rodeo photos.



Farewell to the Pink House

February 27, 2013



The Senior Center held a large sale to reduce the inventory of clothing and accessories in what was affectionately known as “The Pink House”, located at 118 N. Euclid.

In 1994, Winnie Henry, owner of the property, donated use of the building to the Town of Gila Bend’s Community Action Program (CAP) for use as a clothing facility to benefit low income and indigent residents of our community. Bags and boxes of clothing and accessories could often be seen sitting by the front door of the building as residents dropped off donations that helped their neighbors in need. The building has been in service to the Gila Bend community since that time.

The property was recently sold and the new owners worked with the Seniors, providing them time to reduce the inventory and move the remaining items to the Multi-Gen facility, aka Senior Center.

For more information on where future donations should be dropped off and remaining inventory purchased, contact Social Services Director, Diane Dempsey at 928-683-6502 or Community Center at 928-683-2244.

Butterfield Stage Days Parade & Rodeo

February, 2013

Gila Bend’s Annual Butterfield Stage Days was held on February 16th & 17th. The event kicked off with the annual parade on Saturday morning. This year the parade had 30 entries, including the famous Wells Fargo Stagecoach.

We would like to give special thanks to Thomas Hulén, Executive Director of the Friends of the Sonoran Desert National Monument, for his hard work and persistence to secure the Wells Fargo Stagecoach for this year’s parade. Thanks also to Wells Fargo for their participation in this important celebration of Gila Bend’s history and the Town’s longest running event.

