

TOWN OF GILA BEND

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

May 2012



Got Violations?

April 30, 2012



The Town of Gila Bend wants to help promote our civic pride. Code Enforcement is intended to ensure the acceptable quality of living in our neighborhoods. It helps to ensure the safety of our residents and their property. If you have received a violation notice and need assistance resolving it, please contact the Town office and we will be happy to work with you.

What is Code Compliance?

Code compliance is an effort to help keep Gila Bend safe and clean by investigating complaints and inspecting properties within the Town to enforce Town ordinances related to nuisances and zoning violations. The most common Code violations include high grass and weeds, trash and rubbish accumulation, inoperable vehicles, constructing without building permits and living or sleeping in recreational vehicles parked on residential lots.

Why is Code Enforcement Important?

Concerned citizens who take good care of their property help:

- Protect the safety and welfare of our citizenry,
- Maintain or increase property values,
- Reduce vandalism,
- Prevent fires, and
- Bolster maintenance and continued development in the Town.

The Town of Gila Bend asks that yards be kept in a neat and clean condition. Excessive weed growth can harbor rats, snakes and other vermin creating a potential health hazard for you, your family, and your neighbors. Even more so, weeds can create a fire hazard placing your home and property at risk. We would also like to remind all of those that enjoy working on "hobby vehicles" they need to be kept in a garage or back yard and be stored in a safe manner not to be a hazard to children or others. Recreational Vehicles (RV) may also be stored in a back yard but shall not be connected to any utilities including electricity, water or sewer and shall not be occupied unless in a designated RV park.

All the citizens of this great community need to do their part to keep Gila Bend beautiful!

New Grade 4 Operator

Congratulations to Public Works employee, Kevin Larson, for attaining his Grade 4 Operator certification. He now has Grade 4, the highest level possible in all 4 areas of operating the Town's water and wastewater systems; which include water distribution, water treatment, wastewater treatment and wastewater collection. It takes years of testing and commitment to obtain this level, Kevin is 1 of 234 Grade 4 Operators in the State. Congratulations, Kevin.

IN THIS ISSUE

- Got Violations: Gila Bend Code Compliance
- Ajo/Gila Bend transit line receives award
- What's Happening : Resource Center and Senior Center
- Achievements and Goals highlighted at the Council Retreat
- Community Calendar
- Clerk's Corner



Outstanding Rural/Small Urban Transit System

April 24, 2012

AzTa, Arizona Transit Association, and ADOT, Arizona Department of Transportation, recently issued the **"Showcasing Value in Transit" 2012 Excellence Awards.**

In the Outstanding Rural/Small Urban Transit System division the nominees were Ajo Transportation, NAIPTA, City of Show Low and YCIPTA. According to AzTa and ADOT this award, *'Recognizes the outstanding provider of public transportation in rural or small urbanized areas through improvements or innovations in operations efficiency and customer service.* The winner: Ajo Transportation.

From the press release, "Ajo Transportation as a vital lifeline to the residents of Ajo, Gila Bend, and Buckeye. Five trips a day into the Phoenix area assures families and individuals of a safe ride. Ajo staff develops lasting friendships. Services provided are for medical purposes including dialysis, workforce, education, shopping and a wide array of social services needs. Families are able to access this vital transportation resource in order to visit other family members and in many cases the Ajo Transportation system is the only means of transportation to the riders.

The staff at Ajo Transportation is genuinely concerned about their rider's safety and the ability to provide easy access to services. When the service was in jeopardy the people overwhelmingly came to the rescue to save this vital service. Ajo Transportation serves both Maricopa County and Pima County making it a unique service that provides a link to Phoenix and Tucson, serving the small villages in rural Arizona as well as Ajo, Gila Bend and surrounding rural areas, Buckeye, Avondale and Phoenix ." Cathy Hutton accepted the award for Ajo Transportation.

It was only last year that this public transportation line, Route 685, was high on the list of public transportation services to be cut. The residents of Gila Bend, Ajo, and other communities served by this line rallied around and showed their support by voicing their concerns at public meetings and through written communications. This Excellence Award reinforces the need to keep this line and the quality of service it provides.

Community Calendar



May 2012

- 05/03 & 04 – Farmers Market – Senior Center (10:00am)
- 05/08 – Council Meeting-Regular Meeting(6:00pm)
- 05/09 – National Weather Service Training (6:30pm)
Resource Center
- 05/22 - Council Meeting – Regular Meeting (6:00pm)
- 05/28 – Memorial Day Observance – Town offices closed

What's Happening: CAP, Senior Center and Resource Center

May, 2012

Resource Center

Daily assistance in applying for AHCCCS, Food Stamps and Cash Assistance 10:00am – 2:00pm

Daily Utility and Rental assistance to avoid disconnect and homelessness.

05/09 – National Weather Service Training-Resource Center 6:30-8:30pm

05/25 – Dining Etiquette for Girls ages 11-17-Resource Center 5:00-6:30pm

Tuesdays: 9am-Noon Kith & Kin provides parenting skills classes and support

11:00am – 1:00pm English Classes by AZ Learning Institute

Thursdays : 1:00 – 5:00pm Teen Pregnancy Outreach (TOPS) teaches parenting skills to young expectant mothers

Fridays: Basic Computer skills classes **Seniors: 1-1:45pm/Public 2-3pm**

Maricopa County DHS – Free Dental Sealants for 2nd and 6th grades (call Resource Center at 928-683-6502 for more information)

First Teeth First (by First Things First) is a Fluoride Varnish program for kids 0 – 5 years. (call Resource Center at 928-683-6502 for more information)

Senior Center

05/03 & /04– Farmers Market (every first Thursday and Friday of month) Senior distribution at 10:00am and general public at 11:00am.

Every Tuesday – Buckeye Pharmacy services

Exercise Class – Every Monday and Wednesday at 10:00am, AmeriCorps presents an exercise class at the Senior Center

Chair Volleyball – Every Friday you can participate in this fun activity at 10:00am. Health and laughter are what they offer!

For more information on programs or classes, contact the Senior Center at 928-683-2244 or the Resource Center at 928-683-6502.

Office Closure



All offices of the Town of Gila Bend will be closed on Monday, May in observance of Memorial Day. Offices will reopen at their regularly scheduled times on Tuesday, May . Have a Happy and Safe Holiday!

Council Retreat

April 19, 2012

This year's Council Retreat was held at the Gila Bend Resource Center on April 9th. Town Manager, Rick Buss, gave a presentation that highlighted some of the accomplishments of town management and staff for the current year along with goals for the new fiscal year.

Goals for the new fiscal year beginning July 1, 2012 include (but are not limited to):

Continued focus on economic development, continue policy of fiscal responsibility, affordable housing, increase of recreational programs, secure a 'P3' to promote development of industrial park, automate the R.O. plant, implement new records management and agenda management programs, upgrade and implement an accounting program, and work towards establishing a MID or EMID.

The Council thanked both management and staff for the good work.

First Annual Health Fair Held

The Care 1st Gila Bend Resource Center held their first annual Health Fair with great success. Eleven agencies participated. Turn-out was estimated at 300. Airport Manager, Corey Drury provided a wonderful cook-out with the assistance of Gray Faupel, CAP personnel, and musical entertainment by DJ Jeremiah Drury, Corey's son.

Participating agencies included First Teeth First, Adelante Health, Helping Families in Need (HFIN), Native Health, Southwest Fair Housing, MC Nutrition, Alzheimer's Association, Az Relay Services, Choices for Families, Community Action Program and Gila Bend Senior Center.

Corner



The Gila Bend Town Council received their new iPads at the April 24th Council meeting. Beginning May 8th Council members will have the meeting agendas and corresponding back-up available on the iPads. This will cut costs by reducing the amount of paper used and reduce time spent by staff copying, assembling and distributing. Agenda Packets. Staff attending the meetings will also be able to download and print a packet if a paper copy is needed.

Agendas will still be on hand to those attending Council meetings. Those wanting to purchase agendas with back-up will now be able to retrieve them from the website.

*Town of Gila Bend - 644 West Pima Street - Gila Bend, AZ 85337
www.gilabendaz.org*