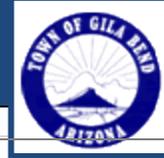


TOWN OF GILA BEND

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

December 2011



an Arizona Town Become the Solar Capital of the World?

NEWS EXCERPT November 15, 2011



This is the title of the article posted on the White House and Department of Energy websites by Ginny Simmons, Managing Editor for Energy.gov, on November 15, 2011. The full article can be found at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2011/11/15/could-arizona-town-become-solar-capital-world-0> but here are some excerpts:

"...with a firm background in both technology companies and sustainable management, Mr. Buss had a vision: "There's no reason why Gila Bend, Arizona, can't be the solar capitol of the world."

So he got to work. He brought over a young talent from Maricopa, Eric Fitzer, to serve as his right hand man. Fitzer, Buss tells me, is particularly skilled with zoning and economic development, and working together they crafted a "Solar Field Overlay Zone" (SFOZ), which greatly reduced the complications for solar companies to develop the sun-soaked fields located within the town.

In addition, Rick worked with the town government to expedite the speed at which solar companies' construction plans could get approved. Processes that usually take at least a year, and often several years, can now go through public hearings, citizen review sessions, planning and zoning commissions hearings, publication in a newspaper, and council approval in as little as four weeks.

"We aren't even seeing that kind of consistent speed for permitting approvals in the residential sector," said Energy Department's Solar Market Transformation Lead Jennifer DeCesaro. "Whether we're talking about a small 5 kilowatt residential system or a large several hundred megawatt industrial system, lack of consistency and transparency in solar permitting is a challenge for every market sector in this country."

First Solar Vice President Jim Woodruff, whose company built the Paloma solar plant in town in 2011, comments, "Gila Bend has set a world record in utility scale solar plant construction....Right now, we can't build solar power faster anywhere in the world."

Among the town's next goals, like attracting manufacturing companies to their town, Mr. Buss and the solar companies are interested in serving up power to utility companies in California

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and Mexico, with possible interconnections to their grids less than 60 miles away.

The town, with the help of donations from the solar companies, has set up career development center, to give people advice on how to interview and resources to help workers turn their new jobs into careers. They're even discussing creating a "Solar Express" transit system, which would transport workers back and forth from Maricopa County to Gila Bend each day.

When told by Jennifer DeCesaro what he was doing in Gila Bend was innovative, Fredrick Buss responded simply, "It's common sense."

"Well, either way," she said, "it's amazing."

Retrieved November 20, 2011 from the world-wide web at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2011/11/15/could-arizona-town-become-solar-capital-world-0>

Congratulations to Beverly Turner, MMC

November 1, 2011

Congratulations to Gila Bend Town Clerk, Beverly Turner, who earned her Master Municipal Clerk designation on Thursday, December 1, 2011.

After earning her Certified Municipal Clerk designation in 2004, Beverly then set her sights on achieving her MMC. A Master Municipal Clerk designation is achieved through a point system based on education and experience and perseverance.

In Arizona there are 155 Municipal Clerks with only 40 having earned their MMC. Nationwide there are approximately 9,000 Clerks with only 1,100 having earned the Master Municipal Clerk designation.

Residential Holiday Trash Collection

November 28, 2011

will be no change to the trash collection schedule over the Christmas holiday.



Community Calendar



November 28, 2011

- 12/03 – Hoop Shoot
- 12/13– Council Work Session (5:00pm) Regular Meeting (6:00pm)
- 12/15 – Cotton Center 1 Dedication Ceremony (SOLON)
- 12/17 – Santa in the Park
- 12/25 – Merry Christmas
- 12/26 – Town Offices Closed for Holiday
- 12/27 -Council Meeting – Regular Meeting(6:00pm)

Santa in the Park



December 1, 2011

It's that time of year again! Santa will be arriving in Gila Bend on December to wish local children a Merry Christmas and hand out gifts to children under 12-years of age. The event will take place from 1- 5:00pm at the Community Center Park.

Tour of Solar Plants Set for December 9th

November 28, 2011

As part of the Supply Chain Working Group's effort to identify supply chain elements relating to the solar industry, the group will tour solar plants in the Gila Bend area most of the day.

Members of the group include Bud Annan, Science Foundation of Arizona, APS representatives, ASU officials, Mayor Ron Henry, Town Manager Rick Buss and several other developers. Identifying, targeting and recruiting companies that support the solar industry will create more opportunities for long-term employment for residents of the area.

Clerk's Corner



Town Clerk, Beverly Turner, and Deputy Town Clerk, Cyndi Eisenberger, will be representing Gila Bend at the West Valley Clerks Quarterly Meeting on December 15th. This quarter the meeting will be hosted by the City of Litchfield Park.

Some of the projects the Clerk's office has been working on include updating Ordinances, APS and SW Gas franchise election, records management, Loss Control Audit, and working with the Parks & Recreation Department to put together a celebration for the 50th Anniversary of the Town of Gila Bend's incorporation.

Gila Bend was incorporated on July 2, 1962 and held their first Council meeting on July 4, 1962.

Bioscience and Personalized Medicine Summit

November 21, 2011



Town Manager Rick Buss attended a GPEC organized Bioscience/Personalized Medicine Summit on November 17th in an effort to identify any areas where Gila Bend can take advantage of opportunities in this field. The Bioscience/Personalized Medicine field is one of three areas that GPEC is focusing on. The two other areas of GPEC focus include Renewable Energy and Aviation/Defense.

According to Mr. Buss, Gila Bend is geographically positioned in between Phoenix and San Diego, both highly involved in this field, and opportunities may arise that could be beneficial to Gila Bend. Having sat on the Arizona State Bioscience Steering Committee in the past, Town Manager Buss hopes that the revolutionary medical technology being developed in Phoenix, specifically at AZ Bio and TGEN, can bring opportunities through Gila Bend.

Town of Gila Bend Project Updates

December 1, 2011



The Town received the Arizona Sports and Tourism Authority grant in the amount of \$132,334.00 for Youth Facilities Improvement Project.

Our Christmas decorations are up on Pima St. and looking good.

Street Evaluation Project will begin December 15th.

Profiles with Terry Bradshaw segment on Gila Bend should be providing the video to "proof" within two weeks.

Butterfield Stage Days to be held on February 18 & 19th.

Town Office Closure



Town offices will be closed on Monday December 26, 2011 for Christmas and will reopen at their regularly scheduled times on Tuesday, December 27th. The Mayor, Town Council, management and staff wish all of you a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

*Merry
Christmas*

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