



For Immediate Release

FIRST THINGS FIRST FUNDS NEW FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER



Families of young children in Gila Bend to benefit from expanded family services

Gila Bend, Arizona (April 20, 2011) – Families will soon have an easy, one-stop connection to community resources at a new Gila Bend Family Resource Center to be created through a partnership between First Things First, Care1st Health Plan Arizona and the Town of Gila Bend.

The First Things First State Board approved a \$200,000 grant as recommended by the Southwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council to help renovate a building owned by the Town of Gila Bend. A check symbolizing First Things First's commitment to the project will be presented at the Town Council meeting on Tuesday, April 26, at 6 p.m.

The building, on the town's main thoroughfare at 303 E. Pima St., is now vacant but formerly was the site of a Maricopa County Sheriff's facility. It will take on a very different role as a centralized location for parents to find early childhood information and services and families to seek other programs. Care1st will contribute \$150,000 in funding with the Town contributing an in-kind contribution of \$50,000 in the form of property value and use of the facility.

After a complete renovation, the Family Resource Center is to open in July. Agencies and organizations providing programs and services to families will be recruited to the resource center in Gila Bend with its offer of much-needed satellite office space and equipment. The Town will own, maintain and operate the facility.

The future facility promises to be a center of the community and a hub for early childhood information and referrals.

"One of the major challenges families here face is the fact that they currently have to travel long distances to access early childhood services; they may not have transportation. This center puts those services right in the community, where families can access them more readily," said Eric Santiago, regional director of the First Things First Southwest Maricopa Regional Council. "This project lines up well with our mission to partner with families to help all

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kids start school healthy and ready to succeed."

The Family Resource Center is modeled after the Care1st Avondale Resource Center, which recently won a Best of the West 2010 award from WESTMARC. Services and programs offered at that one-stop resource center, which is also partly supported by the First Things First Southwest Maricopa Regional Council, include parenting education classes, emergency infant and toddler food boxes and health insurance outreach, grandparent raising grandchildren support groups and dozens of others.

"We expect many more service providers who had previously been unable to reach families here in the outlying Maricopa County area will finally have a place to locate and will be better able to provide services to our Gila Bend families," said Town Manager Frederick Buss. "This will complement our social sustainability efforts, our existing Social Services Department and really expand the number of people we are able to reach."

First Things First (FTF), approved by Arizona voters, works to ensure that our youngest children have access to quality early childhood experiences so they will start school healthy and ready to succeed. Across the state, FTF regional partnership councils – in collaboration with local leaders – identify the educational and health needs of children from birth to age 5 in their communities and fund strategies to address those needs.

Retrieved May 2, 2011 from Town of Gila Bend website at www.gilabendaz.org

Town of Gila Bend Presented With Checks

April 26, 2011



Care 1st and First Things First presented checks to the Town of Gila Bend at the April 26th Council meeting; one for \$150,000 (Care 1st) and one for \$200,000 (First Things First). Both checks were accepted by Mayor Ron Henry. Regional Director of First Things First Southwest Maricopa Regional Council, Eric Santiago, presented the check for \$200,000 to the Mayor.

May/June 2011 Community Calendar



May 2, 2011

- 05/10 – Council Meeting-Regular Meeting (6:00pm)
- 05/12 – On-site Early Voting Closes
- 05/17 – Election Day
- 05/20 – Little League Ends
- 05/24 - Council Meeting –Regular Meeting(6:00pm)
- 05/30 – Town Office Closed for Memorial Day
- 05/30 – Memorial Day Observance-Pioneer Cemetery
- 06/07 – 3 on 3 Youth Basketball League Begins
- 06/08 – 4 on 4 Basketball League Begins
- 06/14 - Council Meeting –Regular Meeting(6:00pm)
- 06/28 - Council Meeting –Regular Meeting(6:00pm)

Council Retreat

May 2, 2011



The annual Council Retreat was held on April 12th at the Southern Dunes Golf Club in Maricopa, AZ. The purpose of a Council Retreat is for Council, management and staff to discuss and align their priorities for the upcoming fiscal year in preparation of putting together the budget. Achievements of each department along with their goals and objectives for the coming year are also discussed.

Town Manager Rick Buss provided a PowerPoint presentation addressing the achievements and goals of each department.

Some of the achievements for this year include the Care 1st Resource Center, Implementation of Safety Program, Solar Field Overlay Zone, T-Shadow Construction at Airport, Implementation of Newsletter, Zero Control Deficiencies and Zero Material Deficiencies on the FY2009-2010 Audit Report, and EMT Training completion.

Clerk's Corner

May 2, 2011

Run-Off Election

May 17 is Election Day. On-site early voting closes May 12th. Our most recent election in March resulted in one Candidate Elect, Steve Holt, and three seats remaining to be filled. On May 17th Gila Bend residents can vote for three candidates.

Parks & Recreation Department Update

May 2, 2011

The Town of Gila Bend held an Easter Egg Hunt at McMahon Field on Saturday, April 23rd for children ages 1 through 9 years. Parks & Recreation Director Colby Turner reported on the success of the event. Director Turner estimated that 75 kids participated in the egg hunt.

Memorial Day will be observed on Monday, May 30th at the Pioneer Cemetery. The Memorial Day program will begin at 9:00am and include speakers, patriotic songs and the reading of the names of the deceased.

Youth 3 on 3 Basketball League for ages 8 through 13 and the 4 on 4 Basketball League for ages 14 and over will start the beginning of June. The cost will be \$20/person.

Buckeye Pharmacy To Make Deliveries To CAP

May 2, 2011

The Buckeye Pharmacy will deliver medications to the CAP office for their Gila Bend customers beginning May 3, 2011. Deliveries will be made to the CAP office on Tuesdays and Fridays, with a pharmacist on hand from 11:00am through 1:00pm.

Residents needing more information about this service should contact the CAP office at 928-683-2244 or the Buckeye Pharmacy at 623-386-4341. The Buckeye Pharmacy will also accept faxed information requests at 623-386-6653 or by email at buckeye@buckeyerx.com

Town Offices Closed for Memorial Day Observance

May 2, 2011

The Town of Gila Bend will be closed on Monday, May 30th in observance of Memorial Day. The Town office will reopen on Tuesday, May 31st at the regularly scheduled time of 7:00am.

Have a happy and safe holiday weekend.