



### NEWS EXCERPT: **APS opens new solar plant near Gila Bend**

Mark Olalde, *The Republic* | [azcentral.com](http://azcentral.com)  
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Arizona Public Service Co. recently opened a solar power plant near Gila Bend that brings the state's largest utility closer to its renewable-energy goals.

The Gila Bend Solar Power Plant is the newest in APS' AZ Sun program, which now includes seven solar-energy plants around the state. Two more solar plants are in the permitting and planning stages.



"It's a good, solid producer of generation for APS. It's a really critical part of our portfolio," APS solar generation manager Jim Piotrowski said. "The solar is very good for APS and our customers."

The Gila Bend plant became fully operational on Oct. 31 after seven months of construction and another two months of testing. It cost roughly \$100 million and has an expected lifespan of 30 years.

Built on 400 acres, the plant is expected to generate 32 megawatts, enough energy to power 8,000 homes, all while operating more efficiently than APS' older solar sites.



The new plant uses trackers to follow the sun across the sky, which are more expensive to build but allow the plant to generate more power throughout the day.

"Obviously, we learn as we've gone forward," Piotrowski said, explaining that the site's design criteria "are better suited for the hot desert out in the sun. So, we get more energy out of these newer plants."

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The Gila Bend area now houses four plants producing solar energy for APS. The plants have a combined output of 316 megawatts, or the equivalent of powering between 70,000 and 90,000 homes.

"Gila Bend is a great area to build solar. They've done a lot to expedite the permitting process," Piotrowski said.

Three of the plants, including Gila Bend, are owned by APS. The other two APS installations are the Paloma Solar Power Plant and the Cotton Center Solar Power Plant. Both came online in late 2011 and produce 17 megawatts each.



To read the full article, go to:

<http://www.azcentral.com/story/money/business/2014/11/15/aps-opens-solar-plant-gila-bend/19119355/>

### About Your Town Employees

December 2014



Congratulations to Ruben Ferrero for receiving his Grade 3 Certification for Water Treatment. Ruben has been employed with the Town in the Public Works Department since 2012.

### Social Services

December 2014



#### **Senior Christmas Party**

The **Senior's Christmas Party will be held on Friday, December 19th** at the Community Center. All seniors planning to attend this annual party are asked to **please sign up ahead of time.**

#### **Salvation Army Distribution**

The Salvation Army distribution will take place at the Community Center on Monday, December 22nd and Tuesday, December 23rd.



## December Community Calendar



- 12/01 – Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony Held
- 12/01 – 01/03 Holiday Lights @ Community Park
- 12/03 – Hoop Shoot: 9am Gila Bend/3pm Paloma
- 12/04 – 12/05 – Farmers Market: Care 1st Resource Center
- **12/09 – Town Council Meeting: 6:00 – Media Center**
- 12/13 – 12/14 – No Fly Zone Arizona: Gila Bend Airport
- 12/19 – Santa in the Park: Community Park – 6pm – 9pm
- 12/22 – 12/23- Salvation Army Distribution: Community Ctr.
- **12/23 – Council Meeting: 6:00 - Media Center**
- **12/25-12/26 – Christmas Holiday: Town Office Closed**
- **01/01/2015 – New Year's Day: Town Office Closed**



## Clerks Corner

December 2014



### Holiday Office Closures

Town offices will be closed for the Christmas holiday on Thursday, December 25th and Friday, December 26th and on New Year's Day, Thursday, January 1st.

### Consumer Confidence Reports

Beginning this month, Consumer Confidence Reports will no longer be included with the utility billing. Instead, residents can read the report in the Gila Bend Sun or pick up a copy at the Town Office.

## More December Activities

December 2014



### Hoop Shoot

On **Wednesday, December 3rd**, the annual Hoop Shoot will take place in Gila Bend and Paloma. The Hoop Shoot will start at **9:00am in Gila Bend** and at **3:00pm at Paloma**. Contact the **Parks & Rec Department at 928-683-2255** for more information.



### No Fly Zone Arizona

On **Saturday, December 13th** and **Sunday, December 14th** the **No Fly Zone Arizona** will take place at the **Gila Bend Airport**. This is ½ mile side-by-side roll racing of some the fastest cars you may ever see! There is a **\$10 entry fee at the gate** for spectators. The event is put on by Omega Motorsports. Cars that will be participating include Audi, BMW, Bugatti, Lamborghini, Porsche, Mercedes, Viper, Camaro, Mustang, Shelby, Corvette and more! Love fast cars? Don't miss this all day event (both days). For more information, go to [www.omegamotorsports.com](http://www.omegamotorsports.com) and you can also look at their Facebook site

## Parks & Recreation Activities

December 2014



The **Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony with Santa** took place on Monday, December 1st at 7:00pm in the Community Center Park. It was well attended. You can experience the beauty of the park alive with Christmas lights through January 3rd.

The annual Santa in the Park event is planned for Friday, December 19th from 6:00pm – 9:00pm. Bring your kids to the Community Center Park in time to watch Santa as he arrives at the park in one of Gila Bend's fire trucks. Kids can sit on Santa's lap and tell him what they would like for Christmas and whether or not they have been good this year! This years activities will include snow for playing in, hot chocolate, Santa's workshop and caroling. Come out and enjoy some fun!



Contact Parks & Recreation Director Colby Turner or Chuck Lowther at **928-683-2255** for more information on Parks & Recreation planned events and scheduled programs.

## New Addition to the Gila Bend 9/11 Memorial Park



November 20, 2014

On Thursday, November 19th, the 9/11 Memorial Park received a new addition to its landscape, thanks to Ron and Suzie Martin, of Gila Bend, who donated the large saguaro to the Town. Under the direction of Colby Turner, Parks & Recreation Director, a large saguaro was planted just west of the flags.

Roadrunner Cactus, out of Phoenix, used a hydraulic truck to safely load, transport and place the huge cactus in its new home in the park.



L-R: Cactus Transport with saguaro; Town Manager Ernie Rubi and Parks & Rec Director Colby Turner



L-R: Employees of Cactus Transport prepare ground at transplanting site; two of the Town employees that assisted with the transplant - Billy Taylor and Jesus (Toro) Lopez. Large photo (far right): transplanting completed

*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year  
Mayor, Council, Management & Staff*