



TOWN OF GILA BEND

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

December 2015



Holiday Lights/Starry Nights

December 1, 2015



On Tuesday, December 1st, the Town of Gila Bend opened the holiday season with the lighting of the trees in Community Center Park. The evening kicked off with the All Aglow on Papago 2nd Annual Electric Light Parade.

The parade left the Fire Station at 7:00pm and headed down Papago Street to Euclid, then circled the park twice. Leading the parade was a brightly lit Town of Gila Bend truck and trailer carrying Christmas themed inflatables. The parade included three (3) new additions this year, a mini-car and an all-terrain Ranger entered by Buddy and Beverly Turner and family, and the AAA Seniors van entered by the town. APS entered two (2) vehicles and had three (3) APS personnel dressed in brightly lit holiday costumes walking in the parade tossing peppermint candies and light sticks to those watching. The final entry was a firetruck, courtesy of the Gila Bend Fire Department, travelling the parade route with all of its lights flashing, the siren sounding every few minutes and Santa Claus riding on it and waving to the children.

Santa Claus wished everyone a Merry Christmas, let the kids know that he is checking his *List* regularly for those who are *Naughty or Nice* and reminded all that he will be back on December 18th for the annual Santa in the Park event.

APS representatives were also on hand providing everyone with a free, energy saver lightbulb and a small flashlight that generates its power from self-winding it.

The Community Center Park is beautifully lit for another holiday season and will remain so until removed on January 3, 2016.



All Aglow on Papago parade
Top L to R: Town truck; AAA Seniors van, Turner Ranger, Town trailer
Bottom L to R: Turner mini-car; APS truck; APS personnel; Santa Claus
Bottom Left: APS 1915 electric car

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Santa in the Park

December 18, 2015



Get ready because it is that time of year again when the 'big man' comes to Gila Bend. Yep! I'm talking about Santa Claus. This year, Santa will make his annual appearance in the **Community Center Park** for the **Santa in the Park** event on **Friday, December 18th from 6:00 – 9:00pm**.

Beginning at **6:00pm**, young and old alike at the park can enjoy sledding, building snowmen and other fun snow activities usually not available in Gila Bend. Bonfires will be lit in several places to warm up cold fingers and toes and hot chocolate will be available to warm you from the inside out. Kids can make a craft in Santa's Workshop while moms, dads and grandparents enjoy listening to and singing along to Christmas Carols.

Santa will arrive in style, riding in on a Gila Bend Fire Engine. Children attending the event will each receive a stocking stuffed with goodies from Santa.

Children attending the event must be accompanied by an adult. Parents/guardians will have a photo op, using their personal camera, to photograph their child while he/she sits on Santa's lap. **Santa will visit Gila Bend on Friday, December 18th from 6:00 – 9:00pm at Community Center Park.** Please contact the **Town Office** with any questions or for more information at **928-683-2255**.

Youth Soccer Team Certificates

December 2015



The Town of Gila Bend recently provided certificates for all team members participating in the Youth Soccer program. The certificate for each player was provided to the Coach of each team for distribution to the team members. If your child did not receive their certificate, please contact his/her Coach. Great job to all who participated in the Youth Soccer Program.

December Community Calendar



- 12/03 – Farmer's Market – Resource Center
- 12/08 – Council Meeting: 5:00 PM – Media Center
- 12/12 & 13 – No Fly Zone Arizona: No Fly Zone Arizona
- 12/18 – Santa in the Park: 6:00 PM – Community Park
- 12/22 – Council Meeting: 5:00 PM – Media Center
- 12/24 – Christmas Eve – Town Offices Closed
- 12/25 – Christmas Day – Town Offices Closed
- 01/01 – New Year's Day – Town Offices Closed



A Big Thank You

December 2015

Parks & Recreation Director Colby Turner gives a big **THANK YOU** to Mike Quackenbush, local Owner/Operator of Black Diamond Materials, who continuously volunteers his time, equipment and materials to the Town of Gila Bend events and projects.

Most recently, he donated his time and personal equipment to assist Town personnel water and prepare the racetrack for the Gila Bend Grand Prix. He hauled and distributed eight (8) loads of water with his water truck and used other equipment for racetrack work where needed.

Other instances of past volunteerism include donation of red sand for use on the park ball field and the donation and delivery of the sand used for the Sand Castle Building Contest during the annual Desert Shrimp Fest that was held in Gila Bend for nine (9) years.

Residential House Numbers Needed

December 2015

When responding to an emergency or a utility service call, those responding rely on the physical address. There have been instances of delayed response times when the emergency vehicle is unable to locate the home due to no visible house numbers. Water/sewer utilities have been shut off or not turned on as scheduled due to the same problem. Residents should make sure that house numbers are attached or painted so that they are easily visible and legible. It may save your life, or the life of someone you love.

Some of the beautifully lit trees in Community Center Park



No Fly Zone-Arizona/ Gila Bend Grand Prix Recap



October/November 2015

Omega MotorSports is back in Gila Bend presenting the **No Fly Zone – Arizona** at the Gila Bend Municipal Airport on December 12th & 13th with ½ mile, side-by-side roll racing of fast, beautiful, high-end cars. Limited spots are still available for those wanting to show/race their vehicles. Cost to those wanting to participate is \$200.⁰⁰ per entry. Entries must sign up and pre-pay on line at <http://www.omegamotorsport.com/#!noflyzone-arizona/cnmm> . Gates will open at 9:00am both days and will end at 6:00pm. Spectators can expect a gate entry fee of \$10.⁰⁰ per person and the same rules apply as before. This is primarily a participant event though spectators are welcome. To view more on the event, go to <http://www.omegamotorsport.com/> .

The **Gila Bend Grand Prix** was also a well-attended event that attendees, sponsors and racers all enjoyed. The race was reminiscent of the annual races held here years ago that many remember with fond memories. This event is being planned as an annual event that will grow more each year and with more local participants hoped for. This year Mike Villegas, Jr. placed first in the ProBike class, Richard Birchfield and his cousin, Lance Marlatt, took 3rd Place in the UTV category. All are graduates of Gila Bend High School. Congratulations, guys!

Questions and comments regarding events should be directed to **theTown of Gila Bend Parks & Recreation Department at 928-683-2255.**

December/January Town Office Closures

December 2015/January 2016

Town offices will be closed for the Christmas holiday on **Thursday, December 24th and Friday, December 25th.** Town Offices will also be closed on New Year's Day, **Friday, January 1st.** The Town of Gila Bend management and staff wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year!



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