



### Town Manager Speaks Before Members of Congress in Washington, D.C.

June 27, 2013



Rick Buss, Gila Bend Town Manager, was one three representatives for Arizona invited to speak to members of both the House and Senate on renewable energy and the use of public lands. Rick, along with Ian Dowdy, Conservation Outreach Associate with the AZ Wilderness Coalition, and Bob Vahle, NWF Representative on the Executive Committee of the AZ Wildlife Federation, were in Washington, D.C. on June 26 and 27, as spokespersons on this issue.

During his two-day stay, Mr. Buss attended 11 meetings addressing the bipartisan legislation known as *The Public Lands Renewable Energy Development Act* (Senate Bill 279/House Bill 596) that was introduced by Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ).

The bill is legislation that will: 1) streamline the permitting process for projects on public lands, 2) ensure the taxpayer gets a fair return for the use of their public lands for commercial purposes, 3) solar and wind projects are placed in suitable locations to minimize the impacts to the habitat of wildlife/fish, 4) establish a distribution for formula for rent and royalties derived from using public lands for renewable energy projects, 5) require all developers of renewable energy projects to comply with all environmental laws, and 6) help reduce our dependency on foreign oil while providing jobs and growing the economy.

Supporters of the bill include such diverse entities as NACo (National Association of Counties), Western Governors' Association, The Wilderness Society, Outdoor Alliance, Union of Concerned Scientists, Wild Earth Guardians, Tucson Electric Power, Colorado Audubon Society, and many more.

According to the Wilderness Society Fact Sheet, they believe that, *"this legislation will help reduce costly delays in project review and development and accelerate the transition to a renewable energy future"*.

Mr. Buss noted that many of the Senators, Representatives, and others within the federal government knew of Gila Bend and the innovative permitting process that we have had in place for over a year. He noted that the speed of Gila Bend's permitting process in place for solar projects and other renewable energy projects is well known and there were many positive comments made about our community. This

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### Town Managers Speaks continued

legislation, with its remarkable support base, is also good news for our Gila Bend Transmission Initiative. Representatives from the states of Washington, Oregon and California also had representatives attending the meetings and providing input into this new bill.

Unfortunately for our Town Manager, with so many meetings on Capitol Hill within the two days he was in Washington, D.C., there was no time to enjoy the beauty or history that our capitol has to offer.



### Fire Department to Get New Equipment

June 2013

The Gila Bend Town Council approved new SCBA's (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) for members of the Fire Department. Current SCBA's in use by the department are out-dated (1992) and not up to standard.

The new equipment will help keep our fire fighters safer in several ways. Some of the benefits of the new SCBA packs include: more oxygen available, ability to share oxygen with another firefighter, system alarm that alerts when air is running low and a better ability to hear each other when trying to communicate during a fire-related emergency. One other benefit to the new packs is their ability to adjust with the movement of the firefighter.

Members of the Fire Department attended the Council meeting in a show of support and to answer questions regarding the need for the new safety equipment. Fireman LD Young wore the current, in-use equipment and then put on one of the new packs to give Council Members an opportunity to see the differences between the two packs. The Fire Department thanked the Council for approving the new SCBA purchase before leaving.

## July Community Calendar



- 07/01 – Fishing Clinic: ages 9-14: 10:00am
- 07/04 – Independence Day – Town Offices Closed
- - Fireworks: 9:00- pm
- 07/08 – Yuma Territorial Prison: ages 9-13: 8:00am
- 07/09 – Council Meeting: 6:00pm
- 07/15 – Archery Clinic: ages 9-14 – Community Center 10:00am
- 07/17 – Public Hearing: Budget & Property Tax Levy: 6:00pm
- 07/22 – Desert Hike: ages 12-14 – Community Center 9:00am
- 07/23 – Council Meeting: 6:00pm

## Town Offices Closed

July 4, 2013



All Town Offices will be closed on Thursday, July 4<sup>th</sup> to celebrate Independence Day. Town Offices will open on their regularly scheduled days at their usual times.

## Energy Assistance Requests on Hold

July 1, 2013



According to Social Services Director, Diane Dempsey, there is no energy assistance available until further notice. Every year at this time, requests for energy assistance are denied due to funding issues as the funding agencies end the current fiscal year and go into the new fiscal year and the new budget.

Director Dempsey commented that as soon as funds become available, there will be notices posted informing residents that funds are once again available and they can request assistance.

## Budget Time

June 2013



The 2012-2013 Fiscal Year ended on June 30th and the new 2013-2014 Fiscal Year began on July 1st. Town staff have all been busy working on their departments budget for the new fiscal year in order to get the Final FY2013-2014 Budget approved by the Town Council within the timeframe set by Arizona state statutes.

Each year, cities and towns in Arizona are provided with the Budget Calendar that sets the deadline dates for publishing budgets, Truth in Taxation and other budget related matters. The budget calendar also sets the date when cities/towns must have their annual budget approved by the Council.

## Summer Activities Update

July 2013



### AZ Game & Fish Fishing Clinic

On July 1<sup>st</sup> the AZ Game & Fish will host a Fishing Clinic for kids between the ages of 9 through 14. The clinic will be held at the Community Center/McMahon Field and will begin at 10:00am. Those wanting to participate should register at the Library.

### 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration



This year the annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration will Don't miss out on the wonderful fireworks display that will take place at Fuentes Field beginning at pm. The Gila Bend Fire Department will once again do the honors of lighting up Gila Bend's night sky with bursts of color

### Yuma Territorial Prison & Quartermaster Depot State Park Trip

Kids between the ages of 9 through 13 years can take part in the Arizona Adventure Education field trip to the Yuma Territorial Prison & Quartermaster Depot State Park on **Monday, July 8th**. Transportation space is limited, so those first registered, first served. To participate, you need to register at the Gila Bend Library. **A PERMISSION LETTER IS REQUIRED** (from parent/guardian). Those participating will be leaving from the Community Center at 8:00am.

### AZ Game & Fish Archery Clinic

The AZ Game & Fish will be hosting an Archery Clinic on **Monday, July 15th** at the Community Center/McMahon Field. The clinic will begin at **10:00am for kids between the ages of 9 through 14**. **A PERMISSION LETTER IS REQUIRED** (from parent/guardian) for each child participating. Register at the Gila Bend Library.

### Friends of the Sonoran Desert Hike

Kids between the **ages of 12 through 14** can participate in this hike on **Monday, July 22nd** hosted by the Friends of the Sonoran Desert. Transportation space is limited so those **first registered are first served!** Register for this hike at the Gila Bend Library. Hikers will be leaving from the **Community Center at 9:00am**. **A PERMISSION LETTER IS REQUIRED (from parent/guardian) TO PARTICIPATE.**

### Last Day to Play Ball

**Little League's** last game will be played on Thursday, July 18<sup>th</sup>. The last **T-ball** game will be played on Friday, July 19<sup>th</sup> and the last **Adult Softball** game will be played on Wednesday, July 17<sup>th</sup>. Contact Parks & Recreation Director Colby Turner at 928-683-2255 if more information is needed.

**Have a Happy & Safe 4th of July  
From Council, Management & Staff**