



Gila Bend Transmission Initiative

July 2013

The Gila Bend Transmission Initiative (GBTI) continues to move forward as more stakeholders provide support and resources to the project.

Recently, Arizona State University has committed to fund the Power Market analysis study for the GBTI. The funding allotment is not 100% defined but the cost range is \$10,000-\$15,000. This is also in addition to the funding associated with the Corridor analysis which is being funded almost fully by private funding from Wayzata, Entegra, Duke American Transmission Company and Power Engineers.

The Town of Buckeye has requested to formally join the Gila Bend Transmission Initiative (GBTI) and has placed the MOU on their Council Agenda.

On a similar note, Freeport-McMoRan will be looking to build a 230KV line between Gila Bend and Ajo. This powerline has an approved ACC permit but they are looking to lengthen the line to the Gila River Power Station so that the Ajo Utility could procure power from the facility. Also Freeport is conducting feasibility studies with regards to future mining in the Ajo area which will also necessitate the larger powerline.

Tribute to the 19 Firefighters

July 2013



Members of the GBFD held a small service on July 2nd at the Gila Bend 9/11 Memorial Park for the 19 firefighters that perished in the Yarnell fire. The 19 deceased firefighters were members of a 20-person Hot Shot crew out of Prescott. Several residents also attended the impromptu gathering.

Hometown Hardware donated and cut the wood for the 19 crosses. GBFD Chaplain Fred Hull and Firefighter Bobby Pirtle assembled the 19 crosses and placed them in the park. Flags for each of the crosses were also donated and placed by each cross.

Next, it is planned to paint the crosses white and put the initials of each firefighter on a cross.

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Projects Update

July 2013

DoubleTree Papermill has begun their 4,000 sq. ft. expansion and a secondary pauper. This is the first stage of the future expansion that includes a second machine.

Thanks to Jesus Baldenegro, Martin Vega and Stacy Perry for removing (and using) the millings that had been stored at the Pioneer Cemetery.

The Solar Express project (Public Transportation) continues to move forward. The first draft of the brochure is almost complete

APS is doing a video/story about utility scale solar and Gila Bend's success in this area.

Waste Management will be installing the newly arrived Solar Compactors at the Community and 9/11 Memorial Parks in the near future.

The new SCBA gear for better, up-to-code firefighter safety should be delivered within two (2) weeks.

The Town of Gila Bend Zoning Ordinance is getting an overhaul. Amendments and provisions that are in conflict will be the focus of the overhaul.

Two grants, the AZSTA Grant and a Good Sports Grant, have been submitted for funding projects.

August Community Calendar



- 08/01 – Farmers Market – Resource Center
- 08/01 - Movie Night: Call Town Office for details 928-683-2255
- 09/02 – Town Offices Closed – Labor Day Observance
- 09/10 – Council Meeting, 6:00pm

Town Offices Closed

July 29, 2013



Town Offices will be closed on Monday, September 2nd in observance of Labor Day. Town Offices will re-open on Tuesday, September 3rd at their regularly scheduled times.

Town Council News

July 2013



At the July 9th Council meeting, the Gila Bend Town Council approved a Council hiatus for the month of August. Both regularly scheduled Council meetings, August 13th and August 27th, have been cancelled. The next Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 10th at 6:00pm.

The Town Council approved the Fiscal Year 2013 – 2014 Final Budget at the July 22nd Council Meeting by six (6) yeas and Council Member Ron Henry voting nay. Town Manager Rick Buss met with Council Members individually throughout the past few weeks to answer any questions and provide clarification on budget issues that Council Members had prior to placing the FY 2013-2014 Budget on the Agenda for the second time.

Five Council Members, along with the Town Manager and Town Clerk, will be attending the League of Arizona Cities and Towns Annual Conference in Oro Valley from August 27th through August 30th. There are a variety of programs that Council Members can attend including: Strengthening Arizona's Economy, Civil Disclosure and Conflict Resolution, Public Service Ethics in Open Government, Rural Discussion and Building Effective Council-Manager Relationships.

Storm damage on Papago Street



New Certifications, Positions, and Awards

July 2013



Fire Department

Recently, eight (8) members of the GBFD passed their Firefighter I and II tests at the last Fire Academy. Congratulations to Cody Carpenter, David Franks, Arelia Henry, Andrew Jaworski, Sergio Quezada, Darren Sikes, Jr., Josh Turner and Felipe Villegas. The fire department now has 23 Certified Fire Fighters, eight (8) with EMT certifications and three (3) with Paramedic certifications.

Town Clerk's Office

Congratulations to Cyndi Eisenberger, Town of Gila Bend Deputy Clerk, for receiving her Certified Municipal Clerk designation. The Town Clerk's office now has both a Certified Municipal Clerk (Cyndi) and a Master Municipal Clerk, Beverly Turner. Both Beverly and Cyndi are Certified Municipal Election Officials.

New Facilities Maintenance Supervisor

Public Works employee, Brandon Espinoza, is now the Facilities Maintenance Supervisor for the Town of Gila Bend. Brandon has completed an evaluation of all the Town facilities and several small, but needed, projects so far.

Awards

On the same note, Mac McMillian, Senior Inspector, won the Building Official of the Year Award and Bob Schettler, Plans Examiner/Building Inspector, won the Building Inspector of the Year Award. Both are with Brown & Associates, the Certified Inspection Services used by the Town of Gila Bend and are familiar faces to those in Gila Bend needing building inspections, permitting and other areas of building safety.

Storm Clean-Up

July 2013



Storm damage on Papago Street

A big thanks to the entire Public Works crew and the inmate labor for cleaning up debris and doing needed repairs to roads after the storm last week.

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