



### Graffiti Problem Leads to Town Raising Reward to \$1,000

September 2013

Most everyone has noticed the graffiti popping up throughout Gila Bend, turning buildings, signs, etc. into eyesores with the bad “art” scribbled upon them. Graffiti is vandalism and, therefore, a crime. The Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO) is requesting the following relative to the pursuit and prosecution of the graffiti vandals:

1. Report Graffiti Immediately to MCSO
2. Do **NOT** paint over the Graffiti or disturb the crime scene in any way, until MCSO completes collection of evidence and gives the okay to paint over the graffiti.

The preserving of evidence is necessary for successful prosecution and it enables law enforcement to charge perpetrators with multiple crimes by linking several crimes to the responsible individual(s).

The Town of Gila Bend has raised the reward to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and prosecution of those responsible for the graffiti (vandalizing our community). MCSO has been distributing flyers to residents and business owners throughout town.

If you know or have any information regarding the person(s) responsible for vandalizing our community, please contact Detective Hess at 602-876-5110 or the Town Office at 928-683-2255. The identity of those providing any information will be kept strictly confidential.



Graffiti located throughout town include these examples of poor artwork. The first photo shows graffiti placed on a historic building.

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### Gila Bend Transit Service Starts

September 2013



The Town of Gila Bend is pleased to announce the launching of the Town’s new local transit service, called the Solar Express. Service begins on September 2, 2013 and will initially run twice per day on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The SolarExpress is operated through a continued partnership with the Town of Gila Bend, First Things First, and Care1st of Arizona, and is intended to assist persons with transportation to local businesses and services in our community. Some destinations include Care1st Resource Center, Adelante Health Clinic, Gila Bend Community Center and Library, Town Hall, Dollar General, Family Dollar, Loves, San Lucy District Office, etc.

Fares are \$1.00 for adults, \$0.50 for children, \$0.75 for seniors and \$0.75 for handicap riders. First Things First and Care 1st will be providing some fare vouchers (“free ride” tickets) which may be requested at the Care1st Resource Center.

“As part of our continued commitment to providing quality projects and services to the Gila Bend community, and as part of our FY13/14 work plan, we are excited to launch the SolarExpress. We know that transportation options are limited for some of our citizens, and we are to provide this transportation alternative, creating greater access to our local businesses and services. We anticipate making adjustments to the service based on feedback from riders, so please let us know what you think,” said Rick Buss, Town Manager.

For more information, contact Flor Olivas, Care1st Resource Center Coordinator at 928-683-6502

## September Community Calendar



- 09/02 – Labor Day Observed – Town Offices Closed
- 09/03 – Solar Express Transit Service Begins
- 09/03 – Adult Mush Ball Begins: 7:00pm- McMahan Field
- 09/05 – Farmer’s Market: Resource Center
- 09/10 – Council Meeting, 6:00pm
- 09/21 – Punt, Pass & Kick: 11:00am
- 09/24 – Council Meeting: 6:00pm
- 09/28 – Youth Tackle Football Begins: 10:00am – 3:00pm

## Parks & Recreation September Calendar

September 2013

Sign-up to participate in Adult Mush Ball beginning on Tuesday, September 3rd through Tuesday, October 8th. Games will be played at 7:00pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays at McMahan Field.

The popular Punt, Pass & Kick event will take place on Saturday, September 21st at 11:00am at McMahan Field.

Youth Tackle Football for kids 11 – 14 years of age will begin on Saturday, September 28th. Games begin at 10:00am at McMahan Field and last until 3:00pm. The program will run through Saturday, October 19th and is open to both boys and girls.

If you have questions or need more information on any of the programs, contact Parks & Recreation Director Colby Turner or Parks and Recreation Assistant Chuck Lowther at the Town Office at 928-683-2255.

## Town Offices Closed Labor Day



September 2, 2013

Town Offices were closed on Monday, September 2nd in observance of Labor Day. All offices re-opened at their usual times on Tuesday, September 3rd. Hope you enjoyed your Labor Day holiday.



More graffiti photos

## Town’s Planning & Economic Development Director Accepts Position With State



September 2013

Eric Fitzer will be putting in his last day as the Planning and Economic Development Director for the Town of Gila Bend on September 12th. Recruited by the State of Arizona, Eric accepted the position of Senior Energy Programs Manager with the State’s Department of Energy on August 15th.

Though it will be a truly significant loss to the Town, we wish Eric the very best in his new position. In his four (4) years with the Town, Eric has done a tremendous job for Gila Bend and its residents. With Gila Bend’s continued leadership in utility scale solar, and the efforts to get transmission lines to California, Eric will continue to work with the Town of Gila Bend on the Gila Bend Transmission Initiative (GBTI). The State of Arizona’s Energy Office, has agreed to support Eric’s efforts in the GBTI effort as one of his projects, and this will give the Town and its public and private sector partners support from the State of Arizona, something the Town has sought for approximately 2 years. We are pleased that Eric will continue his involvement in this major project which will be beneficial to the Town and its residents.

Upon notifying the Town of his resignation Eric noted, “It is with mixed emotions that I notified the Town of Gila Bend of my future departure. After almost four years of incredible work achieved, I have elected to take a new role as Senior Energy Programs Manager with the Arizona Governor’s Office of Energy Policy. It has been a privilege working with everyone here during my time with the Town of Gila Bend. Thanks for all of the support and friendship over the years and its truly been an honor working with all of you.” His last day with the Town will be Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013. He begins his new position on Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013. His shoes will be hard to fill and that is meant both professionally and literally! He will truly be missed by us all. Thank you, Eric, for a job well done!

Town of Gila Bend, 644 W. Pima St., Gila Bend AZ, 85337  
928-683-2255 / 928-683-6430 [www.gilabendaz.org/](http://www.gilabendaz.org/)