

TOWN OF GILA BEND

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

February 2013



SOLON Completes 459 kW Solar Project for Gila Bend Water Treatment Facility

Fixed-tilt system expected to offset facility's energy usage by 86 percent NEWS RELEASE

Tucson, AZ, February 13, 2013 - SOLON Corporation, one of the largest providers of turnkey solar power plants in the United States, announced it has completed construction of a 459 kilowatt (kW) PV system at the Reverse Osmosis Water Treatment Facility for the Town of Gila Bend, Arizona.

The system is expected to offset the energy usage of the water treatment facility by 86 percent, which will save money for the Town of Gila Bend through reduced utility bills.

"The incorporation of solar into this water treatment facility is another great example of solar's versatility at reducing power costs across the electric demand spectrum," said Jared Schoch, Vice President and General Manager of Power Plants at SOLON Corporation. "We are very excited to complete this PV project for the community of Gila Bend."

SOLON engineered, designed, constructed, and commissioned the fixed-tilt system. As a full service system provider, SOLON will continue to operate and maintain the system on behalf of Gila Bend.

"As part of our strategic focus on renewables and PV to drive down electric costs incurred by the Town of Gila Bend, our water treatment facility was selected because it had the largest electric draw of any Town-owned facility," said Frederick Buss, Town Manager for Gila Bend. "This system will mitigate those costs greatly. SOLON has done a tremendous job yet again."

The project development and system ownership was financed through a State of Arizona Water Infrastructure Finance Authority (WIFA) grant awarded to the Town of Gila Bend for drinking water infrastructure improvements. SOLON Corporation has installed nearly 65 MW of solar in Arizona, and 90 MW nationwide.

SOLON Corporation is a leading provider of utility-scale and large commercial photovoltaic (PV) system solutions to the North American market. They have headquarters in Tucson, AZ and offices in Phoenix and San Francisco. SOLON Corporation is a subsidiary of the SOLON Group, a leading international provider of solar solutions for residential, commercial and utility-scale applications. The SOLON Group was established in 1996 and operates subsidiaries in Germany, Italy and the U.S. with more than 600 employees worldwide.

Retrieved February 13, 2013 from *Industry News Electric Energy* website at http://www.electricenseyonline.com/?page=show_news&id=168979

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Utility Billing Delays

February 2013

Town staff has been experiencing problems with the utility billing for both residential and commercial accounts. This month's utility bills will reflect only the base rate amount as due. Manual reads of each meter continue to be done and any amount above the base rate will be placed on the next billing. The next billing will be going out on March 11th.

Please contact the Town office with any questions or issues you may have. Direct questions and concerns to Joanne Carpenter in our Utility Billing Department at 928-683-2255 anytime Monday through Thursday between 7:00am and 6:00pm.

We apologize for the inconvenience and thank you for your patience as we continue to resolve this problem.

Gila Bend 9/11 Memorial Park Update

February 2013

The dedication of the *Gila Bend 9/11 Memorial Park*, Gila Bend's newest park, was put on hold until further notice. A more completed and finished looking park was desired for the dedication. The final date for dedication should be available sometime next month. The new dedication date will be posted on the bulletin board at the Post Office, the Resource Center, the Multigenerational Center, Gila Bend Library, Ironwood Justice Court, on the board in the Town office and on the Town website at www.gilabendaz.org.



February/March Community Calendar



- 02/11 – Voter Registration closed for upcoming election
- 02/12 – Early Voting opens / Ends March 7th
- 02/16 & 17 – Butterfield Stage Days
- 02/18 – President's Day – Town Offices Closed
- 02/26 – Council Meeting (6:00pm)
- 03/07 & 08 – Farmer's Market – Resource Center
- 03/07 – Early voting closes
- **03/12 – Election Day - VOTE!**

Highlight on Social Services

February 1, 2013

Color Me Healthy, a new program for children ages three to five years old, will begin on Monday, February 4th at 10:00am. Parents are welcome to bring their children to this activity which is planned to be held two to four times a month. Contact Flor Olivas at 928-683-6502 for details.

The Gila Bend Senior Center Valentines Intergenerational Gathering is in its 13th year! This year the Seniors had the Paloma Kindergarteners as their guests. A Senior King and Queen and a kindergartener Prince and Princess were chosen.

March 12th Council Meeting Change

February 2013

The Town Council meeting regularly scheduled to be held on March 12th will not be held on that date as it would conflict with the March 12th Election. Whether the meeting is cancelled or postponed to a different date will be determined at the February 26th Council Meeting

Clerks Corner

February 2013

Upcoming Election

Voter registration for the upcoming election was closed on February 11th. Those choosing to participate in early voting can cast their votes until March 7th. **Election Day is March 12th.**

New Programs

Two new programs are in the process of being implemented in the Clerk's department: Laserfiche's Agenda Manager and Records Manager. The Agenda Manager program will facilitate the agenda process while the Records Manager program will assist in digitalizing the Town records and filling public information requests.

Farewell to the Pink House

February 1, 2013

The Senior Center held a large sale to reduce the inventory of clothing and accessories in what was affectionately known as "The Pink House", located at 118 N. Euclid.

In 1994, Winnie Henry, owner of the property, donated use of the building to the Town of Gila Bend's Community Action Program (CAP) for use as a clothing facility to benefit low income and indigent residents of our community. Bags and boxes of clothing and accessories could often be seen sitting by the front door of the building as residents dropped off donations that helped their neighbors in need. The building has been in service to the Gila Bend community since that time.

The property was recently sold and the new owners worked with the Seniors, providing them time to reduce the inventory and move the remaining items to the Multi-Gen facility, aka Senior Center.

For more information on where future donations should be dropped off and remaining inventory purchased, contact Social Services Director, Diane Dempsey at 928-683-6502 or the Multi-Gen facility at 928-683-2244.

Butterfield Stage Days Parade

February, 2013

Gila Bend's Annual Butterfield Stage Days was held this month on February 16th & 17th. The event kicked off with the annual parade on Saturday morning. This year the parade had 30 entries, including the famous Wells Fargo Stagecoach.

We would like to give special thanks to Thomas Hulen, Executive Director of the Friends of the Sonoran Desert National Monument, for his hard work and persistence for securing the Wells Fargo Stagecoach for this year's parade. Thanks also to Wells Fargo for their participation in this important celebration of Gila Bend's history and the Town's longest running event. Parade photos below. More on the rodeo coming in next months newsletter.

