



Official Opening of the Gila Bend 9/11 Memorial Park /Memorial Day Observed

May 27, 2013

The Town of Gila Bend officially opened Gila Bend’s newest park, the Gila Bend 9/11 Memorial Park on Monday, May 27, 2013 (Memorial Day). The park opening ceremony was held in conjunction with the Town’s observance of Memorial Day and both took place at the new park located on the southeast corner of Pima Street and Capitol Avenue.

Close to 75 people attended the joint celebration that began at 10:00am with Opening Remarks from Mayor Ron Henry. The program included Reverend John Christopher of the Epiphany on the Desert Episcopal Church delivering the opening prayer and filling in as the Speaker for Representative Juan Escamilla who had to cancel at the last minute. Two Deputies participated on behalf of the Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office to represent Law Enforcement. The flag was presented by GBVFD Chaplain Fred Hull to the Gila Bend Volunteer Fire Department, which did an excellent job of the raising of the colors. GBVFD Chaplain Fred Hull read the Fire Men’s Prayer and assisted Fire Chief Fred Baldrige in the unveiling of the 9/11 World Trade Center artifact. Gila Bend resident Lisa Harris was the Veteran Speaker and reading of the deceased veteran names was provided by Marshall Hipp and Kim Turner. Tristan Stuhr played a fine rendition of Taps and Karla Cervantes sang God Bless America beautifully. Vice Mayor Chuck Turner closed the program with the reading of the poem, “Last Call”.

The artifact, now permanently on display at the park, was viewed and touched by almost all those attending the ceremony. Programs and plenty of refreshments were provided by Town Staff and a photo board of the park progression was on display for all to view.



Getting ready to unveil the 9/11 artifact



A great turn-out with standing room only



The Gila Bend Volunteer Fire Department raises the colors.



The Gila Bend Volunteer Fire Department stand in front of the 9/11 World Trade Center artifact.

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Gila Bend Town Council News

May 29, 2013

The recently re-elected Council Members Fernando Fernandez and Ron Henry, along with newly elected Council Member, James ‘Bud’ Turner, were sworn in at the May 28th Council Meeting by Town Clerk, Beverly Turner. Immediately following the swearing in, the Council Members were seated and nomination and election of Mayor and Vice Mayor by Council Members was done.

Council Member Steve Holt was nominated for Mayor with all Council Members voting yes and the newly elected Mayor Steve Holt accepting the nomination. Council Member Chuck Turner was nominated for Vice Mayor with all Council Members voting yes and Vice Mayor Chuck Turner accepting the nomination.

Council Member Tommy Lee Sikes was nominated to continue as the Town’s representative for the Community Development Advisory Council (CDAC). Council Member Fernandez was nominated to fulfill the role of Alternate. Both Council Members Sikes and Fernandez accepted their nominations to serve as the Town’s Representative and Alternate with CDAC.

.More 9/11 Memorial Park Dedication & Memorial Day Observance photos.



L to R: Representatives from MCSO, Speaker Rev. John Christopher; Veteran Speaker Lisa Harris, and Taps being played by Tristan Stuhr



L to R: Singer Karla Cervantes, reading of Veteran’s names by Marshall Hipp and Kim Turner, Fred Hull reads Firemen’s Prayer, and Chuck Turner reads Last Call

June Community Calendar



- 06/06 – Farmer’s Market: Resource Center
- 06/11 – Council Meeting: 6:00pm
- 06/25 – Council Meeting: 6:00pm

Town Manager to Receive Coveted Credentialed Manager Designation

June 2013

Gila Bend Town Manager Rick Buss will be awarded the Credentialed Manager designation by the International City/County Management Association sometime in July. This is the highest level of credentialing offered by the ICMA.

Arizona has only 37 City/Town Managers that have been designated as Credentialed Managers and seven are now retired. This year only 22 Credentialed Manager designations will be awarded nationwide.

The Mayor, Council and Staff congratulate our Town Manager for achieving this coveted designation. Congratulations Rick!

Clerks Corner

June 2013

Congratulations to Council Members Fernando Fernandez, Ron Henry and James ‘Bud’ Turner for winning the three available seats on the Town Council. Congratulations also to Mayor Steve Holt and Vice Mayor Chuck Turner for their appointments.

Total voter turnout was at 38.2% with quite a bit more early voters coming in to the Town Office to cast their votes.

Arrangements for the annual League of Arizona Cities and Town Conference are being made for those members of the Town Council planning to attend. This year the Conference will be held in Oro Valley, AZ from August 27th through August 30th.

It is that time of year again when those doing business within the Town of Gila Bend must renew their Business License for another year. Invoices to renew business licenses have been mailed out to all of those currently holding a Town of Gila Bend Business License. If you are conducting business without a license, please come to the Town office and fill out the application to avoid receiving a Notice of Violation and/or other penalties. A Business License costs only \$100 annually and could save you from having to pay more costly penalty fees in the future.

Summer Activities

June 2013

The Gila Bend Pool is officially open Monday through Saturday. **Pool hours are 12:00 noon to 7:00pm, Monday through Saturday and closed Sundays.**

Little League, T-ball and Adult Softball Schedules

Little League will run through July 18th. Games will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays from **6:00pm – 10:00pm at McMahan Field.**

Kids, ages 5 years through 8 years, can participate in **T-ball** through July 19th. T-ball games will be held **Fridays at McMahan Field** beginning at 7:00pm

Adult Recreational Softball games will be played every Wednesday through July 17th at **McMahan Field from 7:00pm – 10:00pm.**

The annual **4th of July Celebration** is coming up soon. Information on the event will be published in the local paper and informational flyers will be posted and will be available soon.

Contact Parks & Recreation Director Colby Turner for more information. Colby can be reached at the Gila Bend Town Office at 928-683-2255.

Community Center Update

June 2013

Work continues to move forward toward the remodel of the Community Center to be used as a multi-generational facility. Calls for bids are being issued, and once the remodel is complete, Social Services Director Diane Dempsey and Parks & Recreational Director Colby Turner will work together to create and locate and bring programs to the facility. Ideas being looked at are Boys & Girls Club(s), more multigenerational programs and offering different classes such as sewing, cooking, etc. to the general public of all ages.

If you have an interest in providing a class, please contact Social Services Director Diane Dempsey at 928-683-6502.

Thanks to the Gila Bend Elks Lodge

The Mayor, Town Council and Staff would like to give a big thanks to the Gila Bend Elks Lodge for the placing of Maltese Crosses and American Flags on the graves of all Veteran’s buried in the Pioneer Cemetery.

If you know of a veteran that was not mentioned during the reading of the names, please contact Beverly Turner, Town Clerk with the information for inclusion in future programs.