

# TOWN OF GILA BEND

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

October 2012



### PALOMA SOLAR PLANT WINS AWARD

EXCERPTS FROM VALLEY FORWARD PRESS RELEASE  
October 1, 2012

Valley Forward is a non-profit public interest organization that brings business and civic leaders together to convene thoughtful public dialogue on regional issues and to improve the environment and livability of Valley communities. The organization operates with the belief that businesses must take a leadership role in solving the complex and sometimes controversial problems that confront growing population centers."

Gila Bend's Paloma Solar Plant is the Winner of one of the 17 Crescordia Awards as the best public private partnership:

**"PALOMA SOLAR POWER PLANT** (*Arizona Public Service*)

A collaboration between APS, First Solar and the Town of Gila Bend, Paloma is a 17-megawatt solar power plant with 275,000 panels situated on a retired alfalfa farm. This zero water-use facility was built in record time and conserves more than 13.3 million gallons of water annually over traditional solar plants."

According to a Valley Forward Press Release, "More than 120 entries were received in Arizona's oldest and most prestigious awards competition focusing exclusively on sustainability initiatives. Winners were announced Sept. 29, at Valley Forward's awards gala attended by more than 600 community leaders at The Westin Kierland Resort in Scottsdale.

Valley Forward and SRP presented 17 first-place Crescordia winners and 29 Awards of Merit. The awards set standards for achieving a balance between the built and natural environment in the region's physical, technical, social and aesthetic development.

"There was a recurrent theme of collaboration and regional cooperation among this year's project winners," said Diane Brossart, president and CEO of Valley Forward. "Sustainability is clearly at the forefront in our community, and it's inspiring to preview such innovative programs directed at preserving natural resources – air, water, open space and our unique desert environment."

The awards competition has become especially competitive among Valley municipalities and government agencies. This year, the city of Phoenix fared especially well, earning six Crescordia awards and four Awards of Merit. Other Valley cities to earn awards include Tempe, Scottsdale, Mesa and the Town of Gila Bend, as well as the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community.

Retrieved October 1, 2012 from the worldwide web at:  
[http://www.valleyforward.org/pdf/9.30.12\\_EEA\\_Winners\\_Release\\_2012.pdf](http://www.valleyforward.org/pdf/9.30.12_EEA_Winners_Release_2012.pdf)

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### Gila Bend Sonoran Desert Fest

October 2012



On Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup> the Gila Bend Chamber of Commerce will put on the Gila Bend Sonoran Desert Fest at the Community Center Park from 10am – 10pm

Chamber Coordinator, Chris Hubbard stated that, " Due to the increased restrictions and regulations the Gila Bend Chamber has been forced to forego purchasing and cooking the shrimp at the annual Desert Shrimp Fest. In recent years the County Health Department has implemented many new restrictions and requirements, practically outlawing everything from cake walks to your children's lemonade stand. When it comes to holding a community event in which food is cooked and served" it has "become next to impossible for Chambers of Commerce and civic organizations throughout the County to put on food-based events such as Gila Bend's Annual Desert Shrimp Fest."

The Gila Bend Sonoran Desert Fest will be a one-day event that showcases Gila Bend as the Gateway to the beautiful Sonoran Desert National Monument. The festival is a fun, family event with contests for the kids, live music by Knucklebone from 6 – 10 pm, carnival, pony carousel rides, beer tent, door prizes and plenty of vendors selling food, merchandise, and providing free information.

For more information on the event or if you are interested in being a vendor or a sponsor, contact Chamber Coordinator Christina Hubbard. Ms. Hubbard's contact information: phone 928-420-1964, email [chris.gbcc@hotmail.com](mailto:chris.gbcc@hotmail.com) or visit the Chamber website at [www.gilabendazchamber.com](http://www.gilabendazchamber.com)



## October Community Calendar

- 10/04 – Farmers Market – Care 1<sup>st</sup> Resource Center
- 10/06 – Youth Football – Community Center Park
- 10/09 – Council Meeting – Regular Meeting (6:00pm)
- 10/10 – Senior Trip to HuHuGam Heritage Center
- 10/20 – Gillespie Dam Bridge Rededication – Gillespie Dam Bridge
- 10/20 – Youth Football – Community Center Park
- 10/23 – Council Meeting – Regular Meeting (6:00pm)
- 10/26 – Fright Night – Community Center Park
- 10/31 – Halloween Party – Senior Center



## 9/11 Memorial Park Ground Breaking

September 11, 2012



On Tuesday, September 11<sup>th</sup> the Town of Gila Bend had a ground-breaking ceremony for the new 9/11 Memorial Park where the towns artifact from the World Trade Center will be permanently displayed.

The well attended, hour and a half long program featured opening and closing remarks by Mayor Ron Henry, prayer by Father John Christenson of the Epiphany on the Desert Episcopal Church, reading of the timeline by Public Works Director Bill Menard and thoughts by Guest Speaker, Judge Joe Getzwiller. Local youth singer, Spencer Young, sang the National Anthem and GBFD Chaplain Fred Hull read the Fireman's Prayer. Highlights of the ceremony included the Raising of the Colors by the MCSO Honor Guard and the actual breaking of the ground by Mayor Ron Henry, Vice Mayor Chuck Turner, Council Members Armida Gonzalez, Fernando Fernandez and Donny Young, Fire Chief Fred Baldrige, GBFD Chaplain Fred Hull and MCSO's Captain Randy Brice. A poignant addition to the ceremony was Thomas "The Train" Moore of Buckeye Valley FD on his bagpipes.

Attendees to the ceremony included the Gila Bend Fire Department looking very professional in their dress blues, Gila Bend Sun Editors Dayle and Glen Birchfield, students from Primavera Online High School and Paloma Elementary, Representative Lynne Pancrazi, Town staff and a good showing of local residents.



## Clerks Corner

October 2012



A nationwide campaign to register voters took place on September 25<sup>th</sup>. Care 1<sup>st</sup> Resource Center staff and Town Clerk Beverly Turner signed up residents wanting to register to vote. Several Gila Bend residents showed up expressing an interest in exercising their right to vote!

**November 9<sup>th</sup> – Voter Registration Ends**  
**November 11<sup>th</sup> – Early Voting begins**

Have you seen Gila Bend Fire Department personnel in their pink T's? Members of the GBFD purchased the shirts themselves and are wearing them to show support for Breast Cancer Awareness. Way to go!

## Social Services Update

October 2012



**Gila Bend Care 1<sup>st</sup> Resource Center** (call for details 928-683-6502)

**Energy Assistance:** Due to a high volume of calls, there is now a dedicated phone line for those needing energy assistance. If you are in need of energy assistance, please call 928-683-6505 and leave a message. Calls are checked regularly and appointments are set on a first come, first serve basis.

**English Classes:** English classes are available on Thursdays from 6:30 – 7:30pm and Fridays 10:00 – 11:00am. Andrea Perez will be teaching the classes. A special feature that assists in learning the required material for citizenship classes will also be presented.

**Southwest Behavioral Health:** Staff will assist clients with referrals to the Call Center, where they will be screened. Intake will take from one to two hours and clients must be on AHCCCS.

**Medicare Benefits Review:** Clients wanting to review their current benefits and identify other programs that may be available to them may call for an appointment or stop by the Care 1<sup>st</sup> Resource Center. Reviews will take place on Mondays and Wednesdays starting at 9:00am and the last appointment taken at 3:00pm. Clients should bring as much information as possible (name, address, dob, income, phone number, etc) to your appointment and expect to spend one to two hours for the review. A big Thank You to Fred and Juanaysa for doing the required training, volunteering their time and for their dedication to the elderly and disabled residents.

**Farmer's Market:** Thursday, October 4<sup>th</sup> and Friday, October 5<sup>th</sup> (food permitting) at the Resource Center.

**Senior Center/CAP** (call for details 928-683-2244)  
**HuHuGam Heritage Center** - Trip on October 10<sup>th</sup>

**Gillespie Dam Bridge Celebration** – CAP will provide transportation to the Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup> event.

**Halloween Party:** October 31<sup>st</sup>

Working with Area Agency on Aging (AAA) on getting a part-time Arts & Crafts Coordinator.

## Fright Night

October 1, 2012



This year, due to popular request, Fright Night will be held on Friday, October 26<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 – 9:30pm at Community Center Park. Prizes will be awarded for costumes and pumpkin carving. Costume judging will be ages 0-5 years (scariest, cutest, most original), ages 6-12 years and 13 years and up (scariest, most original and most technical). Pumpkins will be judged according to the scariest, most technical and most festive.

Other booths will be on-site as will Fright Night's popular Haunted House. Get in the 'spirit' of things and bring the kids and grandkids to the annual Fright Night. **BOO!**

Town of Gila Bend - 644 West Pima Street - Gila Bend, AZ 85337  
[www.gilabendaz.org](http://www.gilabendaz.org)