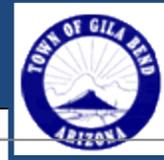


TOWN OF GILA BEND

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

October 2011



I.S.O. Rating

September 27, 2011



What is an ISO rating and how does it affect you? A community's ISO rating directly affects the amount that you, as a resident of the community, pay for insurance on your home or business. The lower the rating, the better your home or business insurance rates should be.

A rate is determined through reviewing a community's Fire Department, a town's water main and fire hydrant capabilities and the 9-1-1 dispatching services. Ten percent of the ISO Rate is determined through assessing how well a fire department receives fire alarms and responding to them. Communication systems, phone book listing and how firefighters are notified of the emergency location are all contributing issues.

Fifty percent of the rate is based on the number of engines available and the amount of water needed to fight a fire. Fire equipment testing and maintenance, training of personnel and the number of respondents to an emergency are all factored in.

The available water supply makes up forty percent of the ISO rate. A sufficient water supply, pumps, storage capacity and fire hydrants are part of this percentage.

The Fire Suppression Rating Schedule Manual is used for establishing the fire-fighting capabilities of a community. The Public Protection Classification (PPC) was developed from this schedule and is the numerical grading system used to determine the ISO rate. The grading system goes from 1 – 10 with one being the best.

One of the insurance industry's most important tools in determining premiums is the PPC as it provides current information on a community's fire protection services. Insurance providers believe that encouraging a community to improve its fire-protection services is good public policy.

The Community Report currently shows Gila Bend with a Class 10 rating resulting in the Gila Bend Fire Department as not recognized as a Fire Department. **This error in our rating has been addressed and on January 1, 2012 our rating will return to a 07/09, and could result in lower**

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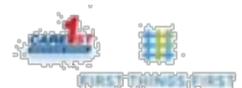
insurance premiums for Gila Bend residents and business owners. The Gila Bend Fire Department is a functioning Volunteer Fire Department operated by the Town.

Peggy Kreger, Vice President of Safeco's Commercial Lines, states that, "the PPC is an indication of the firefighting response we expect to have from a community" and that the, "PPC plays a very important role in our underwriting process." Working at maintaining or improving a fire departments services and PPC is beneficial to everyone.

Some fire facts from FEMA : More than 20,000 people are injured by fire each year; more than 3,000 Americans die each year in building fires, 87 on duty firefighters from 31 states lost their lives in 2010 during 83 fatal incidents; 52% of all child fire deaths occur to those 4 and younger; and the risk of individuals aged 65 and over dying in a fire is 2.6 times greater than that of the general population.

Retrieved September 27, 2011 from the worldwide web from www.iso.com
FEMA fire facts retrieved September 27, 2011 from the worldwide web from <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/statistics>

Gila Bend Resource Center



GRAND OPENING INVITATION

The public is invited to the Grand Opening of the Gila Bend Resource Center on Friday, October 7th from 3:00 – 6:00pm. The old Sheriff sub-station on Pima has been newly renovated and will be offering numerous programs and services to Gila Bend residents.

The Grand Opening is the result of the vision, hard work and dedication of the Town Council, Town Management, Town Staff and Care 1st/First Things First. The Resource Center will be a valuable asset to the community.

Community Calendar

- 10/06 – Planning Commission Meeting (7:00pm)
- 10/07 – Resource Center Grand Opening (3:00-6:00pm)
- 10/08 – Pitch-In for Gila Bend (8:00am)
- 10/10 – Columbus Day-Town Offices Closed
- 10/11 - Council Meeting – Regular Meeting(6:00pm)
- 10/25 – Council Meeting - Regular Meeting (6:00pm)
- 10/28 – Fright Night–Community Center Park (6pm)
- 10/31 – Halloween – Town Offices Close at 1:00pm
- 11/5 & 6 – 9th Annual Desert Shrimp Fest



Fright Night

September 27, 2011



The annual Fright Night will be held on Friday, October 28th beginning at 6:00pm in the Community Center Park.

Pitch In for Gila Bend

October 8, 2011

The 16th Annual Pitch-In for Gila Bend is scheduled for **Saturday, October 8th from 8am – 2pm**. All volunteers are welcome and encouraged to participate in making our community a better place to live in.



Clerk's Corner

Beverly Turner, Town Clerk, and Cyndi Eisenberger, Deputy Town Clerk, will be attending a seminar for new records and agenda management programs they hope to get underway. The program, when in place, will provide easier access to and retrieval of records, faster processing of public records requests and ensure all state statutes are observed. Agendas will also be more easily managed.

Kudo's to Deputy Town Clerk, Cyndi Eisenberger, for achieving her Certified Municipal Election Official designation. In order to receive the certification, Cyndi had to complete three years of training and pass the test which takes two to four hours to complete.

The Clerk's Office is putting together a 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Town's Incorporation which took place July 4, 1962. Local organizations will be invited to have a member participate as part of the planning committee for this event that will take place in 2012. Colby Turner, Parks & Recreation Director, will be working hand-in-hand with the Clerk's Office to put together a memorable event. Gila Bend's 50th Anniversary and Arizona's 100th Anniversary will be celebrated together .

*Town of Gila Bend - 644 West Pima Street - Gila Bend, AZ
85337 www.gilabendaz.org*



Route 685 Survives Service Cuts

ROUTE 685

Rural connector bus route is vital to communities it serves
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Susan Tierney, Public Information Officer
Phoenix, AZ (Sept. 22, 2011) The Valley Metro Regional Public Transportation Authority (RPTA) Board of Directors approved cuts in Valley Metro service today that would take effect on October 24, 2011. However, Route 685, the rural connector service that averages 60 passengers each weekday and operates between Ajo, Gila Bend, Buckeye, Avondale and Phoenix, will continue service as usual making five weekday and two Saturday roundtrips.

"We received overwhelming feedback on how important the Route 685 bus service is for the elderly and those who have no other means of reliable transportation," said David Boggs, Valley Metro RPTA executive director. "This bus service is a life line for getting people in rural areas to jobs, medical appointments, shopping, and school."

Funded by Proposition 400 funds, the county wide transportation half-cent sales tax approved by voters in 2004, and federal grants, the service will continue to be reviewed annually. Due to a weak economy, which has resulted in fewer sales tax revenues being generated for funding transit service in Maricopa County, service cuts are being made to local and Express routes, including the elimination of the rural connector bus Route 660 that serves Wickenburg.

9th Annual Desert Shrimp Fest

November 5th & 6th



The 9th Annual Desert Shrimp Fest will take place the 5th and 6th of November this year at the Community Center Park. Volunteers for the festival are still needed. The event is a collaborative effort between the Chamber of Commerce and Town of Gila Bend and benefits the entire community.

Town Office Closure Dates

Town offices will be closed Monday, October 10th for the Columbus Day holiday and for a half day on Halloween, Monday, October 31st, beginning at 1:00pm. Town offices will be open from 7:00am through 1:00pm on the 31st of October. Both closures will include the Town office and CAP office. Town offices will be open on Tuesday, October 11th and Tuesday, November 1st at their regularly scheduled times.

