



### Annual Butterfield Stage Days

February 15 & 16



The Town of Gila Bend will be holding their Annual Butterfield Stage Days event this year on Saturday, February 15th and Sunday, February 16th. The kick-off of this much looked forward to event will begin with a parade at 11:00am on Saturday. After the parade, this family friendly, fun-filled event will head out to the Town of Gila Bend's Rodeo Grounds for plenty of rodeo activities that will begin at 2:00pm.

The Town of Gila Bend is collaborating with the Gila Bend Chamber of Commerce for this annual event. The Chamber of Commerce is working hard on putting together the parade and is encouraging all businesses, local groups and any/all others to participate in the parade by entering a float. For information or questions related to parade entries, contact Chamber Coordinator, Chris Hubbard by telephone at 928-420-1964. You can visit the Chamber website at [www.gilabendazchamber.com](http://www.gilabendazchamber.com) to download entry forms for the parade and rodeo and to view more information.

The rodeo is sanctioned by the Grand Canyon Professional Rodeo Association and will include timed events where participants compete in calf-roping, steer wrestling, barrel racing and team roping. Everyone will enjoy the exhilaration of watching the wild horse races and this year a much anticipated bull-riding competition has been added to the event. Little cowboys and cowgirls can participate in rodeo activities geared towards the younger ones, such as the Calf Scramble, Calf & Steer Riding and Mutton Bustin'.

This annual event celebrates the long history of Gila Bend and it's importance and contributions to the settling of the west. Come out and enjoy the festivities!



Photos from the 2013 Annual Butterfield Stage Days: Wells Fargo Butterfield Stagecoach, roping competition participant, Miss Butterfield Stage Rodeo Queen and runner-up

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### New Planning Director Hired

January 2014

The Town of Gila Bend now has a new Planning Director, Mr. Ernest Rubi. Mr. Rubi and his wife have relocated from Henderson, NV.

Mr. Rubi has a Bachelor of Arts in Urban and Regional Planning, as well as a Master's in Business Administration. He also has approximately 23 years of experience in Planning, working in several cities, including Turlock, CA, Las Vegas, NV, Page, AZ, and Phoenix, AZ. His experience includes planning, economic development, building safety, infill development, redevelopment, historic preservation, GIS, construction project management, etc.

In addition to becoming acclimated to the multiple activities, projects and initiatives currently underway in Gila Bend, Ernie is working on an a toolbox of incentives to help attract housing development, working on a strategy for the general plan update, over the counter permit processing, cemetery road legal access project, and more.

Please help us in welcoming Mr. Rubi to our team and our community.



### Ruben Ferrero Recieves New Certification

January 2014

Congratulations to Ruben Ferrero, Public Works department, for attaining his Waste Water II Treatment Operator certification. Ruben is now certified for Water treatment II, Water Distribution I and Waste Water Collection I. Way to go, Ruben!

## February Community Calendar

- 02/06 & 02/07 – Farmers Market: Care 1st Resource Center
- 02/11 – Council Meeting: 6:00pm
- 02/14 – **Happy Valentine's Day** 
- 02/14 – Senior Valentine's Day Party with Paloma
- 02/15 & 02/16 – Butterfield Stage Days Parade & Rodeo
- 02/17 – President's Day – Town Offices Closed 
- 02/25 – Council Meeting: 6:00pm



## Senior's Annual Valentine Day Party

February 14, 2014



The Senior's will be hosting their annual intergenerational Valentine's Day Party with the Paloma Kindergartners on Friday, February 14th. Both young and old alike enjoy this annual get together.

## Town Office Holiday Closure

February 17, 2014



All Town Offices will also be closed on Monday, February 17th in observance of President's Day. Town offices will reopen at their regularly scheduled times on Tuesday, February 18th.

## Town of Gila Bend Update

February 2014



Bid openings for the following projects: Quiet Zone (on Martin Avenue), Main Street Chip Seal and Papago Waterline (for both the CDBG and Town portions) are complete.

The Solar Express will have schedule changes as soon as an early morning route and a dial-a-ride type of service are added. These changes will be coming soon.

The Phase 1 improvements to the Community Center are now complete. This included roof repairs, new ceiling tiles, painting and new flooring.

Town Manager Rick Buss was appointed to the Arizona Energy Consortium Board and attended his first meeting on Friday, January 17th. *Way to go, Rick!*

## Pima Street Update

February 10, 2014



According to ADOT, temporary traffic signals will be used on State Route 85 (Pima Street) near the Interstate 8 interchange beginning Monday, February 10th for about six weeks while crews complete bridge work.

Once they are installed, the temporary signals will alternate traffic through the work zone, which currently does not have traffic control. Message boards will be in place to inform motorists of the new traffic control changes. Drivers are advised to be prepared to stop and some minor delays are likely.

Access to Gila Blvd. from SR 85 (Pima Street) will also be temporarily restricted during this time to ensure safety. Residents are advised to use Harrington Avenue to Williams Street to access Gila Blvd.

## Town of Gila Bend Update (continued)

Under the direction of the Town Manager, Parks & Recreation Director Colby Turner, Social Services Director Diane Dempsey and Town Clerk Beverly Turner are in the beginning process of creating a preliminary plan for youth engagement and involvement in the community. Preliminary ideas include the return of Midnight Madness, sports clinics with professional athletes and game nights.

Town Manager Rick Buss was interviewed by two media outlets – one a paper out of Ohio and the other being Greenwire, the leader in energy and environmental policy news. They are doing stories on Gila Bend and its leadership in renewable energy and the positive economic impacts.

A General Plan Update and a Development Impact Fee Study/Update are planned soon.

  
**Happy Valentine's Day**