



Firefighters battle solar plant fire in Gila Bend

By Steve Shadley
January 15, 2015



NEWS EXCERPT

A solar-thermal power generating station near Gila Bend is back online today after a fire started at the plant on Wednesday night. The blaze is under investigation.

It sparked in a pump room at the Solana power plant, the largest of its kind in the United States. General Manager of Solana's USA operations Fred Redell said it didn't do a lot of damage and nobody was hurt.

"Our procedures worked very well, everybody did exactly what they were supposed to do," Redell said. "The assistance from local authorities was perfect and we hope not to have any more incidents like this."

The plant has its own crew of firefighters, but the Buckeye and Gila Bend fire departments were called to help put out the flames.

The 3-square-mile plant is owned by Abengoa Solar of Spain and generates enough electricity for 90,000 Arizona Public Service Company residential customers.

Retrieved January 17, 2015 from the world-wide web at <http://kizz.org/content/89824/fire-causes-minor-damages-solar-power-plant-near-gila-bend> .

New Social Services Director Named

February 3, 2015



Gray Faupel has been named as the new Social Services Director for the Town of Gila Bend. He will begin his new position on Tuesday, February 3rd.

Gray has been an employee of the Town since August 2006 and currently serves as a Case Manager in the Social Services Department. He has worked as current Director Diane Dempsey's 'right hand' for quite some time and, as Town Manager Ernest Rubi put it, is the 'natural successor' to this position. Don't forget to congratulate Gray the next time you see him.

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Social Services Director Retires

February 2, 2015



Diane Dempsey, Town of Gila Bend Social Services Director is retiring after 26 years of Service to the residents of Gila Bend.



Diane said she began her career in the social services field with the Town in 1989, took a few months sabbatical in the late 1990's and returned as the Social Services Director. Once retired she will be available to the Town as a Consultant for at least a month, possibly a few months.

When asked what she plans to do after retirement, Diane commented that she was looking forward to doing some travelling with Belgium, England, Holland and Alaska making the top of her list. She also plans to utilize Pinterest to do some projects and crafting, which have been on the back burner for a while.

Diane spoke about the two most memorable things during her employment with the Town. The first was when she took Bud Conrad to the Heritage Rosen House in Phoenix, because of his emotional response to the trip because it reminded him of his childhood home, and the second most memorable time was when she took the seniors to Nashville and Graceland. What she will miss the most? "That's easy to answer", Diane remarked. "I'll miss seeing and talking with all of the residents every day". She said she will also miss being able to 'talk trash' to Colby (referring to Parks & Recreation Director Colby Turner).

When asked what words of wisdom she would give to her successor, Diane said, "listen to what the people have to say, always be fair and to really enjoy the people that you serve". Thanks, Diane. You will be missed and we wish you well!



February Community Calendar



- 02/05 & 06 – Farmer’s Market: Resource Center
- **02/10 – Town Council Meeting: 5:00pm – Media Center**
- 02/14– Valentine’s Day
- **02/14 & 15 – BUTTERFIELD STAGE DAYS: Rodeo Grounds**
- 02/16 – President’s Day
- **02/24 – Council Meeting: 5:00pm - Media Center**



Clerks Corner

February 2015



Town Manager Ernest Rubi, Town Clerk Beverly Turner and Deputy Clerk Cyndi Eisenberger and are the new website team. They are getting it ready to go live and will continue to populate it with new information and update information as needed.

Some new items residents will see on the website will include a link to forms that residents can print out, complete and bring to the office, which will expedite their business when coming to Town Hall. A calendar listing all Council Meetings, Parks & Recreation and Social Services activities and other known events will be available along with more contact information.

About Your Town Employees

February 2015



Happy Birthday to the following Town employees:

Joanne Carpenter, Accts Clerk: February 1st
Terry Weter, Public Works Director: February 19th

A big Thank You to Diane Dempsey for your 26 years of service to the residents and to the Town of Gila Bend. Her last day as Social Services Director is Monday, February 2nd. Don't forget to stop by and say good-bye and wish her well.

Congratulations to town employee, Gray Faupel, for his promotion to the position of Social Services Director. Gray will begin his new position on Tuesday, February 3rd.



Social Services Director Diane Dempsey (L to R) with Santa at the 2013 Seniors Christmas Party; accepting check with Mayor Ron Henry at Library Ribbon Cutting in August 2012, Pitch-In for Gila Bend event 2011, Resource Center Grand Opening October 2011, Senior Christmas Party 2013



Butterfield Stage Days

February 14 & 15, 2015



This year the Butterfield Stage Days Parade and Rodeo, put on by the Town of Gila Bend, is scheduled to be held on Saturday, February 14th and Sunday, February 15th at the Town of Gila Bend’s Rodeo Grounds. The Rodeo Grounds are located off Highway 85, just north of the Gila Bend Elks Lodge.

As they do every year, the Gila Bend Chamber of Commerce is an active sponsor of the annual event and will also be hosting the parade which takes place on Saturday, February 14th at 11:00am. If you or your group is interested in being a participant in the parade, contact the Gila Bend Chamber of Commerce at 928-420-1964 or go to their website at www.gilabendazchamber.com.

The rodeo, sanctioned by the Grand Canyon Pro Rodeo Association, will include calf roping, team roping, barrel racing, break away roping, tie down roping, steer wrestling and bull riding. The kids aren't forgotten as they can enter to participate in the Calf Scramble and Mutton Bustin.

For the most rewarding rodeo experience, spectators should plan to attend after 3:00pm as this is when rodeo activities begin. Prior to 3:00pm, rodeo participants are competing for points individually and in teams which may seem repetitious for non-participants.

New Website

February 2015



The Town of Gila Bend has a new website that is expected to be live by the 6th of February. The new website is more user friendly and will provide easily accessible information, forms/applications, calendar of events, contact information and more.

Users are encouraged to check back frequently as town staff now tasked with doing the website will continue to populate the site with more information and update information already in place on the site.



Diane at 100 years of Arizona Statehood Party, 2012.

Social Services Director Diane Dempsey waves good-bye as she shows her excitement and readiness to drive off to retirement.



With crew members, 2014 Pitch-In for Gila Bend

