

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Mayor's Message

Our highest goal as members of the Town Council is to maintain and enhance the quality of life for all Gila Bend residents. As elected officials, we are public servants, responsible for making decisions of policy and law, implemented by Gila Bend's highly professional staff.

It is our goal to keep our citizens and visitors informed and up to date through a variety of sources. **Visit Gila Bend** website is just one of those ways we try to stay in communication with the public we serve.



We invite you to check out some of the wonderful things that are happening here and visit some of the notable attractions and events within the greater Gila Bend community. To learn more visit www.visitgilabend.org.

Over the next several months we will be increasing the content on the **Visit Gila Bend** website to include more information and programs that the Town provides, so please stop by on a regular basis!

Thank you,

Mayor Tommy L. Sikes

Community Calendar

2018

- **02/13** – Town Council Meeting
6:00 pm – Media Center
- **02/16** – Butterfield Stage Days Rodeo Royalty Competition – Gila Bend Rodeo Grounds
- **02/17 & 18** – Butterfield Stage Days and Parade
- **02/19** – Presidents Day – Town Offices Closed
- **02/20** – Town Council Meeting
6:00 pm – Media Center
- **3/13** – Town Council Meeting
6:00 pm- Media Center
- **3/27** – Town Council Meeting
6:00 pm- Media Center
- **03/31** - The Great Easter Eggsperience & Firemen's Pancake Breakfast - Community Center Park

From the Park Bench

Butterfield Stage Days Parade and Rodeo Saturday February 17th and Sunday February 18th

This years theme for the parade and rodeo is the "Wild West" and will spotlight the youth from the Arizona Junior Rodeo Association!

In the early days, the Butterfield Overland Stagecoach delivered mail through the hazardous desert terrain of southwest Arizona along what is known as The Butterfield Mail Route. Strategically positioned on this route in Gila Bend, lies one of the official stage stops aptly named the Gila Desert Station, which runs north of and parallel to what is presently SR238.

To commemorate these early western roots along the trail in Gila Bend and in celebration of the long-standing cultures and traditions of the Town, the weekend known as Butterfield Stage Days was formed.

As a family-focused event, Butterfield Stage Days is a regionally advertised event and offers a wide variety of activities and experiences for all ages. The traditional Butterfield Stage Days Parade kicks off two days of merriment with both mounted and marching entries, followed by a carnival, rodeo, cultural entertainment, bed and outhouse races, locally curated art and more.

The residents of Gila Bend invite the valley and nearby towns and cities to join us as we celebrate our deep traditions with the 2018 Butterfield Stage Days held February 17-18, 2018.



Gila Bend Business Spotlight

Space Age Lodge

The year is 1965. The Space Age is in full swing in the United States following President John F. Kennedy's promise three years earlier to land on the moon within the decade. While Buzz and Neil wouldn't take their first steps on lunar soil for four more years, space exploration was in full force in Gila Bend. Al Stovall's Best Western Space Age Lodge opened in the town, a natural stopping point for travelers on the way to or from California and Rocky Point. The retro hotel was one of five special "space age" destinations the late Stovall designed in the early to mid-'60s.



Outer space was what "everyone was talking about" in the '60s, and the Space Age Lodge remains committed to the theme. In 1998, a fire sparked by a malfunctioning neon light destroyed parts of the lobby and restaurant; the owners took it in stride, stretching a banner outside the burned building that read, "Attacked by Aliens!" A UFO on the lobby roof, and murals of shuttles, satellites and spacemen were added throughout the lobby and restaurant in the remodel.

The hotel is still doing good business and standing strong after 50+ years. This recently renovated hotel features a restaurant, an outdoor pool, and a spa tub. Free full breakfast, free WiFi in public areas, and free self parking are also provided. Additionally, a business center, a meeting room, and a 24-hour front desk are onsite.



Social Services Happenings

As many of you know, the Community Center is bursting at the seams on busy days. Thanks to funding provided by the Community Development Block Grant program, the Community Center will begin renovations in late January/early February. The kitchen, dining room, and bathrooms will all be remodeled and expanded to better accommodate residents. We look forward to community members enjoying a more functional, spacious, and accessible building. We can't wait!

The Brown Bag program continues every 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Thursday of each month. You must sign up by 8 a.m. and be present when your name is called at 10 a.m. Food is distributed on a first come first served basis.

The Town of Gila Bend Social Services Department provides a wide range of services designed to promote a better quality of life for all community members. We strive to deliver services in a respectful and encouraging manner that helps our clients achieve their desired goals. From making referrals and locating appropriate resources to providing direct services, our focus is on helping individuals and families attain stability and thrive.

The Social Services Department is comprised of the following areas:

The Community Action Program (C.A.P.) - This program provides direct financial assistance for utility payments and utility deposits. C.A.P. also works with Clients who need assistance for rent or mortgage payments to prevent homelessness.

The Gila Bend Family Resource Center (FRC) - Providing programs, tools and resources focused on early childhood development and the support of parents and caregivers. Programs are available at no or low-cost.

Gila Bend Senior Center (AAA) - Facilitates activities, programs and events that meet the health and wellness needs of our community members who are at least 60 years of age or any adult with a documented disability.