

Gila County



VOLUME II, ISSUE I

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2014 General Election - Nov. 4th



Let the Gila County website be your first source for important Election information!

Get the facts on your current voter registration, your precinct, your polling place, the deadlines to register to vote or to request an Early Ballot and vote by mail, or view the results of the Primary Election. Go to:

www.gilacountyaz.gov

You will find helpful information on both the Gila County Recorder's and the Gila County Elections' pages. The Arizona Secretary of State's website has quick links to your current personal registration information at:

<https://voter.azsos.gov/VoterView/Home.do>

The Gila County home page also has links to relevant information regarding

***Proposition 404 ***

(This Proposition only affects Gila County)

NEWSLETTER



HOLIDAY CLOSURES:

November 11:
VETERANS' DAY



November 27- 28:
THANKSGIVING



December 25:
CHRISTMAS



New Security Measures Implemented at Globe Courthouse



At left: Pictured is the new entrance to the Gila County Courthouse in Globe which opened on September 16. The new entrance is located on the left side of the Highway 60-side of the building and replaces the double glass doors. This entrance is open from 8-5 weekdays and is manned by two Security Guards. County officials hope that the public supports the new security measures being implemented for their safety and peace of mind, as well as that of its employees, and appreciates everyone's understanding and patience.

At right: Visitors must place their belongings in a tray which will pass through the scanner. The Security Guards will then direct the visitor to walk through the metal detector. If the metal detector alerts the Security Guards, the visitor will then be screened with a hand held wand to determine the source of the alert. Visitors will be offered the opportunity to store their personal property in secure lockers while tending to business inside the Courthouse. However, everyone is encouraged to leave any prohibited items at home or in their car to avoid delays in entering the building.



Prohibited items include: guns, knives, expandable batons, brass knuckles, or anything the Security Guards determine could be used as a weapon, i.e., baseball bats, large nail files, screw drivers, hammers, and the like. All items carried by visitors will be placed into trays and then subjected to screening, including purses, laptops and tablets, wallets, keys, etc. The new Security Entrance is the only publicly accessible entrance at the Courthouse during business hours [M—F; 8:00 am.— 5:00 pm.] Persons attending meetings scheduled in the Board of Supervisors Hearing Room after hours will have access through that meetings room's doors.

**** WORK TO BEGIN ON THE FIRST OF TWO BRIDGES IN TONTO BASIN ****

In March, 2009, the Gila County Board of Supervisors entered into an agreement with the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) for the design of a permanent, all weather crossing system for Tonto Creek in Tonto Basin. The agreement includes \$2,960,000 in federal funds with matching funds from Gila County of \$178,918. *Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.* was selected to design bridges and roadway approaches.

The project includes two bridges, the larger of which will be constructed over Tonto Creek itself and another smaller bridge to be located on Oak Creek, a tributary of the Tonto. When Tonto Creek, which runs north/south, is at flood levels, residents on the east side of the creek are unable to cross but still have access to emergency resources; however, residents living on Ewing Drive in the vicinity of the Oak Creek east/west crossing, become isolated in all directions with no access to emergency resources

When the combined cost of the two bridges and roadway approaches reached \$17.5 million, the County recognized that additional funding would be needed from outside sources. To make the project more financially manageable, it was decided to divide the project into phases and seek funding opportunities for each phase. The first phase is to build the bridge over Oak Creek. The estimated cost of this bridge is \$2,000,000. Gila County has applied to Central Arizona Governments (CAG) for federal transportation funds and has been awarded \$1,350,979 to apply towards the Oak Creek Bridge. The remaining \$649,021 will come from the **Gila County ½-cent Transportation Excise Tax**. After conducting the call for bids, ADOT awarded a contract on September 12, 2014, to *Meadow Valley Contractors, Inc.*, in the amount of \$1,866,300.90. ADOT will now administer the project on Gila County’s behalf, with construction expected to begin 60 days from award of the contract.

Fire Chief Lauds Improvements to Pine Creek Canyon Drive

The following is a portion of a report from Fire Chief Gary Morris at the Pine-Strawberry Fire Department in which he highlights the life and property saving improvements made on Pine Creek Canyon Drive through the addition of fire hydrants and upgrades to existing water lines. The Gila County Public Works Division was able to coordinate its roadway project on Pine Creek Canyon Drive to correct some hazardous driving conditions with Pine-Strawberry Water Improvement District’s (PSWID) plan to upgrade existing water lines and add fire hydrants to protect homes and property in the nearby subdivisions. By scheduling the two projects simultaneously, travelers were only subjected to construction once instead of twice. The roadway improvements were made possible by the **Gila County ½-cent Transportation Excise Tax** and the water line upgrades and fire hydrants were funded by PSWID.

“Residential Fire in Pine: At 12:32 AM, Friday morning, September 26, the Pine-Strawberry Fire Department was dispatched to check a report of dense smoke in the Portals. Engine-411 from the Pine fire station routed through the Portals searching for smoke while Engine 421 from the Strawberry station traveled Pine Creek Canyon Drive. Almost simultaneously, both units arrived at 4750 North Portal Drive to find fire emitting from the roof and some windows of an unoccupied two story house. The five firefighters began attacking the fire with two separate fire attack hose lines from two different locations. *Fortunately, one of the new fire hydrants installed during the upgrades on Pine Creek Canyon Drive was located less than 100 feet from the house. As a result fire crews had a continuous, uninterrupted water supply and did not have to resort to a time consuming water shuttle operation using tanker trucks. As a result, the fire was brought under control quicker.* [Emphasis added] ... Fire crews were able to save about 30 percent of the house and prevented the fire from extending into the attached garage.”

Are there some bright, shiny new yellow and white road stripes in your neighborhood? Gila County applied to ADOT through CAG for funds to stripe various roads in the County and was awarded over \$400K in federal funds with a local match of only \$11,400. The roads were striped with a hot applied thermoplastic stripe which has a longer life than paint and provides improved reflectivity resulting in a safer road. As part of the agreement, ADOT designed, bid, and administered the project for the County. *Sunline Contracting* was the low bidder and striping began September 8th.



Roads that received new striping were Fairgrounds Road, San Carlos Drive, Ice House Canyon Road, Kellner Canyon Road, Six Shooter Canyon Road, Main Street, Golden Hill Road, Russell Road, Ragus Road, Railroad Avenue, Wheatfields Road, Gisela Road, Houston Mesa Road, Colcord Road, Control Road, Fossil Creek Road, and Forest Road 512 (Young Road). — a total of 44 miles.

GILA COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES RECEIVE STATEWIDE RECOGNITION AT ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

By Kendall Rhyne, Chief Probation Officer/Superior Court Administrator

Amber Dean - Employee of the Year: Amber has worked for Probation as an Administrative Clerk Senior since October 22, 2012. Amber is always willing to assist staff and management with any task given to her and still keep up with her daily duties. She has become knowledgeable of the court process and language used to conduct court business. She always demonstrates professionalism in her decision making and always has a positive attitude. She comes to work daily with a smile on her face and seems to enjoy working with her fellow co-workers and learning all about her job at Probation. Additionally, Amber's high energy and positive attitude has rubbed off with other members of the Judiciary such as the Clerk of the Superior Court. There have been countless occasions where members of that office have passed along how impressed they are with her work product and knowledge.

Adam Mancha - Detention Officer of the Year: Adam has worked at the Gila County Juvenile Detention Center since May 15, 2006. During this time, Adam has worn many hats at the facility and is not afraid to try on a new one! Adam is a *Handle with Care* instructor at the detention center. He has also taken on the additional responsibilities of training staff on verbal de-escalation and proper techniques of restraining youth in the event it becomes necessary.

Adam works very hard explaining the facility expectations to the youth. He helps youth succeed while they are housed at the facility and is always willing to lend an ear to them. At the same time, Adam sets boundaries that youth must abide by; this provides youth structure and consistency. The youth respect Adam, and enjoy his sense of humor (as does all the staff). Adam is an excellent role model for the youth to emulate during their time in the facility. He is also a shining example for his co-workers to follow in their day-to-day lives.

Eddie Reyes - Probation Officer of the Year: Eddie is a tenured probation officer that has been flexible in his work assignments. This was never more evident than in 2013 when Eddie moved from a standard caseload to the sex offender caseload. There is a very distinct difference on how these two populations must be supervised. He holds them accountable for their actions and works with them in treatment. Eddie incorporates motivational interviewing as a technique to engage his clients in pro-social activities and to identify needs.

Eddie has contributed to the department in many positive ways. He treats his co-workers, community and probationers with respect and dignity. Officer Reyes consistently offers to assist his co-workers without hesitation. Eddie is also a departmental firearms instructor; where he has proven to be effective in teaching probation officers the basics of firearms and safety.

He not only is an asset to probation, but he is an asset to community. This was demonstrated when Officer Reyes assisted a woman who was in an automobile accident. He used his first aide skills to stop the bleeding until paramedics arrived. His actions clearly demonstrate that he is not only an agent for positive change, but also a hero in the community.

Dede Bondurant - Supervisor Officer of the Year: Dede Bondurant has worked for the Gila County Probation Department for 24 years and has been the Chief Financial Officer for the last 14 years. In addition to controlling the purse strings, Ms. Bondurant manages an indirect caseload, she is in charge of DTEF funding, and takes on additional duties to assist line staff. She has also taken on the additional responsibility of the department's lead investigator.

In 2013, Dede managed the adult unit in the Payson office until a new manager was hired. This was a remarkable endeavor because she continued her day-to-day work responsibilities in Globe without fail. Ms. Bondurant is a resourceful, creative, and solution-oriented person who is frequently able to come up with new and innovative approaches. Ms. Bondurant is able to make a decision without hesitation and she will never sugarcoat her opinion or belief. Dede is high functioning and results driven; has proven to be a great steward of taxpayer dollars; and, is truly a leader — not only in Probation, but the County as a whole.

DEBORAH HUGHES, Gila County Assessor

.....recently recognized one of her employees, CAROL BRANCH, for outstanding performance and cited CAROL'S initiative for learning on her own how to canvas property in the field. The result of CAROL'S efforts was to bring current the appraised value of various properties in the County. *Great job, CAROL!*

