

Gila County



VOLUME II, ISSUE IV

SPRING 2015

NEWSLETTER



Copper Basin Coalition Represents Gila County in Washington D.C.



Paula Horn (*l*) and Chuck Turney (*r*) from the Gila County Division of Health and Emergency Services headed to the Washington, D.C. area to join more than 2,500 substance abuse prevention specialists and

advocates from throughout the country for Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America's (CADCA) 25th Annual National Leadership Forum, held Feb. 2-5, 2015 at the Gaylord National Hotel.

"We were so excited to be able to spend several days with other similar organizations from across the country, learning and honing our prevention skills so our community can be a better place, one that doesn't suffer from the harms of drug and alcohol abuse," says Chuck. "We came back reenergized with new strategies under our belt to tackle drug use in Gila County."

CADCA's Forum covered a wide range of topics – everything from how to prevent prescription drug abuse and heroin use to how to create tobacco-free environments and develop policies to reduce underage and excessive drinking.

Copper Basin Coalition, Safe Kids Chapter, is grant funded through Cenpatico. The Coalition has impacted the community by not only hosting bi-annual National Drug Take Back Events, but recently spearheaded the placement of a prescription drug drop box in the lobby of the Globe Police Department. The Coalition has also worked with various community agencies to bring mock crash exercises to area high schools emphasizing the dangers of underage drinking and drugged/distracted driving.

Paula and Chuck also met with our U.S. Representatives and Senators during Capitol Hill Day, which took place on Wednesday, February 4th during the CADCA Forum.

CADCA's National Leadership Forum is the premier and largest training event for community-based substance abuse prevention professionals, coalition leaders and prevention and addiction researchers. The Forum is a four-day event packed with opportunities to learn the latest strategies to fight substance abuse and hear from nationally-known prevention experts, federal administrators and concerned policymakers.

For information about the Copper Basin Coalition, please contact Chuck Turney at (928) 402-8868.

Health Department - Globe
5515 S. Apache Ave., Ste 100
Globe, AZ 85501
(928) 402-8811
(800) 304-4452 Ext. 8811

Emergency Management
5515 S. Apache Ave., Ste 100
Globe, AZ 85501
(928) 402-8764
(800) 304-4452 Ext. 8764

Health Department - Payson
107 W. Frontier Rd., Ste A
Payson, AZ 85541
(928) 474-1210
(800) 304-4452 Ext. 7180

**HOLIDAY
CLOSURE:**

Monday
May 25
MEMORIAL DAY

Contact us:

(928) 425-3231
General Information

www.gilacountyaz.gov

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COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH

Celebrate National County Government Month (NCGM) with us! NCGM is an annual celebration of county government that offers residents and visitors an opportunity to learn about County government, programs, services and responsibilities. This year's theme is *"Counties Moving America Forward: The Keys Are Transportation and Infrastructure."*

Calendar of Events

To kickoff NCGM, the Gila County Board of Supervisors will approve Proclamation No. 2015-03 proclaiming the month of April 2015 as National County Government Month at the April 7th Board of Supervisors' meeting.

The Gila County Health Department's Injury Prevention, WIC, HIV Prevention, and Tobacco Free Environment services will have a booth at the **Cobre Valley Regional Medical Center Health Fair** on Saturday, April 11th. (*See more information about the Health Fair on Page 4.*)

A county-wide Open House will be held on Monday, April 13th. Residents and visitors are encouraged to visit County offices to obtain information, view demonstrations and listen to presentations, as well as ask questions about services and programs.

An art contest will be held for all Gila County schools in conjunction with Earth Day. This year's theme is *"Recycling and Our Environment."* Art contest entries will focus on what individuals, schools and communities can do to protect and enhance the environment. All entries will be displayed at the Gila County Courthouse throughout the month of April. Entries must be submitted no later than Friday, April 17th. Contact Sharon Winters at (928) 402-8531 for more information about the art contest or the County's recycling programs.

On Saturday, April 18th there will be a **FREE** Green Waste Day at both the Russell Gulch Landfill in Globe and the Buckhead Mesa Landfill in Payson. Green waste includes lawn cuttings, clippings from bushes or shrubs, leaves, and other similar garden waste.

There will be a display in the main lobby of the Gila County Courthouse with information about National County Government Month throughout April.

There will also be a large display in the Board of Supervisors Hearing Room showcasing current Transportation & Infrastructure Projects taking place in Gila County.

For more information about NCGM, visit the National Association of Counties website at:

<http://www.naco.org/Counties/countiesdo/Pages/ncgm>



Did you know....?

- In the United States, there are 3,069 counties, which vary greatly in size and population. They range in area from 26 square miles (Arlington County, Va.) to 87,860 square miles (North Slope Borough, Alaska). The population of counties varies from Loving County, Texas, with 71 residents, to Los Angeles County, California, which is home to 9.2 million people.
- Forty-eight of the 50 states have operational county governments. Connecticut and Rhode Island are divided into geographic regions called counties, but they do not have functioning governments. Alaska calls its counties boroughs and Louisiana calls them parishes.
- Counties trace their roots to the English of a thousand years ago. Serving a dual function, the shire acted as the administrative arm of the national government as well as the citizens' local government. The structural form of the shire was adopted along the eastern seaboard of North America by the colonists and adapted to suit the diverse economic and geographic needs of each of the colonies.
- When our national government was formed, the framers of the Constitution did not provide for local governments. Rather, they left the matter to the states. Subsequently, early state constitutions generally conceptualized county government as an arm of the state.
- After World War I, population growth, and suburban development, the government reform movement strengthened the role of local governments. Those developments set the stage for post World War II urbanization. Changes in structure, greater autonomy from the states, rising revenues, and stronger political accountability ushered in a new era for county government. The counties began providing an ever widening range of services. These trends continue at a rapid pace today.
- County resources are the core building blocks for healthy, vibrant and safe communities. Nationwide, we invest more than \$100 billion each year in transportation, broadband services, water systems and public facilities. Counties run most of our nation's local jails and courthouses, own the largest share of America's road miles and operate more than 900 public hospitals and countless parks, libraries, firehouses and 911 call centers. County transportation and infrastructure are vital to boosting economic competitiveness, moving our food efficiently and maintaining a strong national defense..

An online interactive game and curriculum teaches students about county government

The National Association of Counties, in partnership with **iCivics**, created an online game, "**Counties Work**," to teach students, grades 6 through 12, about the important roles and functions of county government by letting them run their own county. A curriculum, County Solutions, and a web quest have also been developed to assist teachers with preparing lesson plans to enable them to educate their students about county government. See: <http://www.naco.org/Counties/learn/Pages/CountiesWork.aspx>.

Supervisor Martin Appointed to W.I.R. Board of Directors

On March 19, the County Supervisors Association (CSA) Board of Directors elected Gila County Supervisor Tommie Cline Martin (District 1) and Coconino County Supervisor Liz Archuleta (District 2) as Arizona's representatives to the Western Interstate Region (WIR), an affiliate of the National Association of Counties (NACo). NACo is a national organization representing counties before the United States Congress and federal agencies. WIR is a coalition of 15 western states dedicated to the promotion of the region's interests within NACo, including public land issues, community stability and economic development. The WIR appointment serves a vital role in advancing Arizona's interests in NACo and before the U.S. Congress.



Archuleta Hickman Martin

Supervisor Martin accepted the appointment as the designated voting member stating, **"I greatly value my colleagues' confidence in my ability to serve our state on important natural resources issues. These issues are important to all counties, both rural and urban. WIR ensures that the needs of western counties are heard at the national level."**

CSA President and Maricopa County Supervisor Clint Hickman expressed his enthusiasm about the appointments, stating, **"I am very pleased Supervisor Martin and Supervisor Archuleta will serve in these roles. They both bring years of valuable experience and strong personal awareness of the issues facing rural communities. Just as importantly, they have the determination to get things done."**

CSA is a non-partisan, non-profit research and advocacy organization representing the 61 county supervisors leading Arizona's 15 counties. For more than 30 years, CSA has served as a forum for county leaders to address important issues facing local constituents and develop a proactive state and federal policy agenda.

Critical Federal Funding Related to Public Lands Restored to Counties



Two programs which compensate counties for federally managed lands within their boundaries were re-authorized by Congress in near 11th hour fashion. Counties are subject to a variety of negative impacts when large tracts of federal lands are unavailable for economic development and taxation. In addition, counties must provide services on these federal lands, such as law enforcement, search and rescue, emergency medical response, fire management and solid waste disposal. When all of these additional responsibilities are added to the traditional services provided by counties to their residents, the financial burden created by these federal lands is readily apparent.

PILT: The 1976 *Payment in Lieu of Taxes* Act provides payments directly to counties and other local governments to offset losses in tax revenues due to the presence of tax-exempt federal lands in their jurisdictions. PILT was amended in 2008 by changing it from a discretionary program (subject to annual appropriations) to a fully funded mandatory program — but only for a period of 5 years: FY2008—FY2012.

The uncertainty of PILT funding for FY 2013 and 2014 had leaders from counties such as ours — with only 3% of private land upon which to generate tax revenue and fund essential county services — scrambling to communicate to lawmakers in Washington the dire consequences which could result from the loss of PILT. The impact to Gila County alone would have been \$3.2M for FY2013. Fortunately last minute amendments to other unrelated bills restored funding for 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 (*impacting Gila County in the amount of \$3,426,420*), but the fight begins anew for FY2015/2016 and beyond. This exhausting year-by-year approach places counties in an untenable situation – perpetuating major uncertainty as counties attempt to craft a budget to meet critical needs. County officials across the US believe it is imperative that Congress find a sustainable, long-term solution for the PILT program.

SRS: The National Forest Service was established in 1907 and has grown to nearly 192,000,000 acres. Recognizing the loss of revenue to counties which would have otherwise been realized under private ownership, as well as the amount of services counties were required to provide on the federally held lands, Congress enacted in 1908 a law that required 25% of the revenues derived from National Forest System lands be paid to States for use by the counties in which the lands are situated for the benefit of public schools and roads.

For several decades, primarily due to the growth of the Federal timber sale program, counties dependent on and supportive of these Federal lands received and relied on increasing shares of these revenues to provide funding for schools and road maintenance. In recent years, the principal source of these revenues, Federal timber sales, has been sharply curtailed and, as the volume of timber sold annually from most of the Federal lands has decreased precipitously, so too have the revenues shared with the affected counties. This decline in shared revenues has affected educational funding and road maintenance for many counties.

The purpose of the *Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act* of 2000 was to stabilize the funding for schools and roads in counties with a high percentage of national forests. But, like PILT, SRS is subject to annual appropriations and uncertainty. Long time congressional proponents of SRS found themselves forced to support an unrelated \$141B Medicare reform bill in order to get the SRS attachment reauthorized for two years, although reduced 5% from the 2014 payment. The House passed the bill on a strong bipartisan vote of 392-37 on March 26, 2015 that will provide hundreds of millions of dollars to US counties—an impact in Gila County of approximately \$1.7M and a total of \$12.8M across Arizona.



2015 Health Fair

www.cvrmc.org

- * Free Health Screenings
- * Health & Wellness Booths
- * Children's Activities
- * Craft Booths
- * And much more

For questions please call:
(928) 402-1277 or (928) 402-1141



**March for Babies /
CVRMC Annual Get Fit Run**

To register: www.cvrmc.org