

Gila County



WINTER 2016

New Supervisors, Elected Officials Sworn in Jan. 4



District Two Supervisor-Elect Tim Humphrey



District Three Supervisor-Elect Woody Cline

New Supervisors Tim Humphrey (District Two), Woody Cline (District Three), and other elected officials will be sworn in Jan. 4 at 9 a.m. The swearing in will take place at both the Board of Supervisors Hearing Room in Globe and the Board of Supervisors Meeting Room in Payson. Supervisor-Elect Cline thanks County staff for helping him get settled in. Cline is looking forward to serving as District Three Supervisor and wishes Gila County Residents a Happy New Year. Supervisor-Elect Humphrey thanks the public for their support and confidence. He's anxious to get started.

Supervisors Marcanti and Pastor Recognized for Their Years of Service

Outgoing Gila County Supervisors Mike Pastor and John Marcanti were recognized for their years of service to the County at the Board of Supervisors Meeting Dec. 20 in Globe. It was also the last meeting for County Manager Don McDaniel, who will retire at the end of December.

McDaniel praised the board for always putting Gila County first. "You make decisions. You get along. You have differences of opinion, but you don't let that get in the way of doing the right thing for the County." McDaniel added that former chairman Mike Pastor is the best chairperson he has ever worked with.

Supervisor Pastor said, "It has been a great eight years. Staff, you represent Gila County. You make us look good." Pastor put special emphasis on the work of his Executive Assistant Sherry Grice. "Probably one of the most important people I need to recognize--and this is going to be very difficult--is my assistant, Ms. Grice. Without her leadership, her direction, and her loyalty I don't think I would be the supervisor I am," said Pastor. Pastor shared that the next step for him will be a part-time position with Gila Community College at the Industrial



Training Center in Claypool.

Marcanti joked that he was "back in business," saying, "I just wanted to notify Public Works and Finance that I'm back in business and if they have any bids available, I'd sure like to see them." Marcanti thanked staff, his fellow board members, and his Executive Assistant Marilyn Brewer, who is also retiring. "Marilyn always reminded me she was a taxpayer first and with any issue that came up, she always reminded me to make sure taxpayers were first on my list," said Marcanti.

*Holiday Closures:***Dec. 26th: Christmas
Observance****Jan. 2nd: New Year's
Observance****Jan. 16th: Martin
Luther King Jr. Day****February 20th:
President's Day
Observance***Contact us:***(928) 425-3231
General Information**www.gilacountyaz.gov

County Welcomes Finance Director James Menlove



Gila County Finance
Director James Menlove

Gila County welcomed its new Finance Director James Menlove on Oct. 31. Menlove earned a stellar reputation statewide long before he arrived at Gila County.

Menlove comes to Gila County with over 12 years of experience as finance director at neighboring Navajo County. When he took the reins at Navajo County, it was widely considered to be "unauditable." Under his leadership it became an award-winning model for government finance.

For seven consecutive years Menlove received the Government Finance Officers Association's (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award. He took home the GFOA's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for five consecutive years. He also has valuable experience on the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS) Reform Task Force that developed the "yardstick" tool, which was used by the state legislature to develop PSPRS reforms that were approved statewide in May 2016. Menlove served two terms as president of the Government Finance Officers Association of Arizona.

Before his time at Navajo County, Menlove served as the comptroller for Mohave County Community College District, an accountant for the City of Phoenix, and a Senior Auditor at the Arizona Office of the Auditor General. Menlove holds a BS in Accounting and a Certificate of Public Management, both from ASU.

"I'm just so thrilled to be here," says Menlove. "There are so many good people at Gila County."



Chery Ehrhardt, of Payson, and her award-winning quilt "Color Me Gray"

Ehrhardt Wins Gila County Heritage Quilt Award

Chery Ehrhardt of Payson took home the Gila County Heritage Award at the 12th Annual Rim Country Quilt Roundup on Oct. 14 in Payson.

District One Supervisor Tommie Martin, who was a presenting sponsor of the event, explains that generally the Heritage Award goes to a hand-quilted or treadle machine quilted entry that reflects Gila County heritage.

A panel of judges from Globe, Payson, Tonto Basin, and Young came together and selected Ehrhardt's quilt, "Color Me Gray," which was pieced and quilted on a Singer 99 from 1933.

"I love sewing with my vintage Singer Hand Crank," says Ehrhardt describing her process in making the quilt. "It sews a wonderful stitch and is so easy to operate. I did realize however that it is very difficult to quilt on, thus my quilt is handstitched with big quilt stitching."

Ehrhardt took home a \$100 prize for her award winning quilt.

The event, held annually at Mazatzal Casino in Payson, features special exhibits, classes, appraisals, and more.

Christmas Bike Program in its 13th Year



Each December, Gila County Recycling & Landfill Management presents the community with nearly 150 better-than-new, refurbished bikes, which get distributed to families in need throughout the County. A 13-year-long tradition, each bike giveaway represents a year's worth of work by County staff, community members, and inmate laborers. The bikes are re-painted and given new seats, tires, tubes, handgrips, and more. As soon as the bikes are gone each year, the work starts again.

Sharon Winters, Recycling and Landfill Manager for Gila County, has a long list of favorite moments related to the bike program, but one that sticks out is one year when a last minute request came in for a bike for a young boy. Winters remembers that because of the boy's circumstances at the time, he did not expect to get a bike. The inmate bike experts went above and beyond for this child's bike. They even painted his name on it. "It was something

just for him," remembers Winters. "I just felt like he was one child who was going to believe in the magic of Christmas."

Winters and Gila County Public Works extend their thanks to the following donors and community partners, without whom the bike program would not be possible: Capstone, Mick Wolf at Certified Bicycle in Payson, Almost New Thrift Store, the Nurses Auxiliary, Todd Bramlet, Gila County's Injury Prevention Program, Peter Lesch at NAPA, Gila County Signs Department, Department of Corrections, the Gila County Board of Supervisors, and the many public safety departments throughout Gila County.

"We remember every community in Gila County. Every single community is given an opportunity for the bikes," she says.



Supervisor Martin and outgoing CSA president Mandy Metzger

Supervisor Martin Elected CSA President

District One Supervisor Tommie Martin was unanimously elected by her colleagues to serve as President of the County Supervisors Association (CSA) at the Nov. 17, 2016, meeting of the CSA Board of Directors.

Outgoing CSA President Mandy Metzger of Coconino County declared, "I have had the honor of knowing and working with Supervisor Martin for more than 20 years. She is a dedicated public servant whose experience and commitment to local government make her an exceptional representative of Arizona counties. Supervisor Martin's selection as President reflects the trust and confidence that all of us, her fellow supervisors, have in her."

As President of CSA, Supervisor Martin will lead CSA's 2017 Executive Committee, helping to develop plans and engage state and federal policymakers to help promote efficient, responsive government in Arizona.

Gila County by the Numbers

Gila County Roads bladed about **567 miles of road** in September, October, and November.

473 people used the Gila County Community Services resource room in the months of September, October, and November.

In 2016, the Gila County Assessor's Office signed up **101 new property tax exemption applicants, for a total of 1,340.** The exemptions, for widows/widowers and disabled people, can save individuals as much as \$500 or more in property taxes.

In September, October, and November, the Gila County Clerk of the Court **issued 80 marriage certificates.**

The Gila County mailroom processed **41,882 pieces** of mail in the months of September, October, and November.

In Fall 2016, Gila County completed the 21,000 square foot Copper Building, which will **save about \$180,000 per year** in rent.



Superintendent's Office Secures 412k Science Grant



"Our bottom line goal is always impacting student achievement," says Gail Gorry, Education Specialist with Gila County's Education Service Agency (ESA). The ESA, the branch of the Superintendent's Office that works to help Gila County educators continually improve, recently secured a grant

for \$412,000 that will support raising student achievement in physical science county wide.

"As we retool our office to be grant-oriented, our hope is that this is just the beginning of providing top-notch support for our students and educators in Gila County," says Gila County Superintendent Roy Sandoval.

"Gila County has been good at doing what we say we're going to do," explains Gorry. The office's proven track record with a similar science grant in past years helped bring the funding to Gila County again. The grant's focus area—physical science in grades three through eight—was selected to target where Gila County students'

scores could use a boost. The grant will help move the needle on teachers' knowledge of the subject area and give them more tools to teach science even better.

The funding will be used to pay for 40 teachers to participate in an intensive training program. Gorry says they had nearly 60 teachers express interest and were happy to be able to accommodate 40. "The enthusiasm from teachers shows us we chose the right subject area," she says. The grant will pay for the teachers' training, compensate them for the time they spend learning, and provide learning materials that they can take back and use in their classrooms.

The grant award also includes a partnership with Northern Arizona University, which will give participating teachers access to experts in the subject area as well as the craft of teaching.

Gorry explains that this teacher-centered approach helps amplify the impact of an 18-month grant for many years to come. "Teachers who participate continue their wonderful teaching practices year after year," says Gorry.