

Gila County



SPRING 2017

Superior Courts Launch Victim Friendly Courts

Gila County Superior Court launched its “Victim Friendly Court Initiative” in February 2017. “In Arizona, victims have constitutional rights,” says The Honorable Timothy Wright. “The Court is committed to ensuring those rights are honored and will strive to minimize additional trauma and/or inconvenience to victims during their forced journey through the criminal court system.”

The initiative provides limited scope legal representation to minor victims, priority seating for victims in the courtroom, and an upgraded victim’s conference room. Gila County Superior Court Administrator Jonathan Bearup says that the program is unique among counties in Arizona. He’s proud that the program was developed internally by Gila County Superior Court judicial officers, staff, and others. “This was a local creation,” he says, “and we’re pleased that our stakeholders contributed input to round out the approach.”

The initiative meets its objectives in a few important ways. First, the Court offers enhanced services, including limited legal representation for minor victims. Bearup explains that with minor victims, in many cases the parent may be the defendant, as in the case of aggravated DUI with a child present. The limited legal representation provided by the initiative may include making sure the victim can have input on the plea agreement and sentencing.

Bearup explains that as the Court was working on this piece of the initiative, they made sure it coordinated with County Attorney Bradley Beauchamp’s successful Victim Services program. Working in a parallel but mutually complimentary manner with the existing Victim Services, the initiative helps ensure that minor victims receive the notice to which they are entitled and allows for the victims’ positions on key legal issues to be properly heard.



Designated Victims Seating in a Payson Courthouse (photo by: Lisa Modglin)

Another facet of the initiative is designated priority seating for victims in the courtroom. In Payson, signage is placed on the chairs to set aside a reserved area for victims just to the right of the bench. In Globe, the first row of gallery seating is reserved for victims. Bearup explains that when they were working on developing this piece of the initiative, someone raised the concern that victims may not want to be spotlighted with special seating. Bearup says that so far, victims have appreciated the opportunity to be assertive with their rights and the choice to utilize the special seating signage lies with the victim’s own preference.

The final piece of the initiative is upgrades to the victim’s conference room in Globe. In the event that there is a victim who is not comfortable in the presence of the defendant, he/she has the option of watching the proceedings in the courtroom via closed caption video in the conference room. Bearup explains that the recent improvements to the room are intended to give it a more therapeutic feel—comfortable seating, wall art, coloring books, and crayons.

In keeping with state statute, the Gila County Superior Court also displays the “Statement of Victim’s Rights” in every courtroom. At the courthouse in Globe, the statement also runs on the video monitors in the lobby.

New Payson Public Health Nurse's Passion for Community

Holiday Closures:

May 29: Memorial Day

“For a public health nurse, the most important thing is to know the community,” says Rachel Cliburn, Gila County’s new Public Health Nurse based in Payson. “Maybe there are kids in one of our communities who need eyeglasses that AHCCCS doesn’t cover. We have to know the need before we can meet the need.”

Gila County Public Health Nurses are out hearing from residents across the County—in schools, homes, community meetings, and nursing homes. Their job descriptions run the gamut, from seeing patients in the office to meeting with students in the schools.

Since she started with Gila County in December 2016, Cliburn has heard from members of the public that she has big shoes to fill. Cliburn replaced long-time Payson Public Health Nurse Lucinda Campbell, who recently retired from Gila County with 10 years of service. Most recently, Cliburn worked for 12 years as a labor and delivery nurse and was Scottsdale Health Care’s Nurse of the year in 2013. She specialized in high risk antepartum patients, which she explains are cases in which doctors are trying to keep a woman from delivering. Before that, she worked in both urgent care and endoscopy facilities.

Cliburn grew up in Page, Arizona, and after 15 years in Mesa, she and her husband were ready to move to a smaller town and raise their kids more like how they had grown up. The couple and their three children moved to Tonto Basin in May

2016 and absolutely love it.

Cliburn has been working hard to get out in the community, make introductions, and gather information about services that may be beneficial. She explains that a key piece of a public health nurse’s role is “interfacing with the public where they are.”



Rachel Cliburn

“Everyone has been inviting and welcoming,” says Cliburn. “That’s so exciting to me.” So far, it has been a passion of hers to focus on smaller communities like Tonto Basin and Young. “I’m making myself available to them to help get things done,” says Cliburn. She won’t shy away from traveling to make sure residents are getting the services they need or to help a school conduct screenings. She knows that connecting with residents, students, and other service providers face to face also helps build an important level of comfort. People feel more comfortable accessing services when they’re comfortable with the provider.



Sharon Winters

Winters Receives First Ever Globe-Miami Citizen of the Month Award

Gila County Public Works’ Sharon Winters was the inaugural recipient of the Citizen of the Month award from the Globe-Miami Chamber of Commerce.

Winters was recognized for her extensive service, especially in the area of recycling and the Clean and Beautiful program. She has been instrumental in Gila County’s Christmas Bike Program, partnering with the state prison program to repair, rebuild, and repaint discarded bikes which are then given away at Christmas to families in need countywide.

“Sharon is the one person who would not let go of the idea of recycling program in Globe,” her nominator noted. She has worked hard throughout her career to make sure that residents have access to recycling. Sharon is responsible for the large blue recycling containers that take plastic and paper products in Gila County.

“Sharon is a wonderful example of what is possible when someone cares about the people of these communities and takes action to do something positive. She is already a hero in my book. Sharon Winters’ efforts have and continue to make a positive impact on our community,” her nomination letter reads.

Contact us:

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General Information

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Gila County employees recognized with service awards in Globe

Gila County recognized 87 employees during its annual service awards presentation at the Board of Supervisors meeting Tuesday, Feb. 7.

Each year, the County recognizes employees with 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, and 40 years of service. The awards highlight employees in all departments.

Employees recognized for five years of service: Alfonso Alvarez, Candy Bell, Johnnie Brake, John Digman, Michelle Duarte, Lynn Durst, John Dzera, Gary Eggert, Donald Engler, Robert Henry, Melissa Kennedy, Laurie Kline, Shariisse Kubala, Helene Lopez, Christine Lovato, Karen Miller, Nicholas Montague, Jerry Moore, Michael O'Driscoll, Jessica Ortega, Nora Palmer, Erika Pisano, Karrie Powers, Kevin Roberts, Karrie Schaal, Steven Seaman, Emelle Silvers, Charles Turney, Jillian Velarde, Margaret Velasquez, Colten White, Joseph Williams, and Kenneth Wortman.

Employees recognized for 10 years of service: Jeffrey Baer, Jim Berry, Martina Burnam, Lucinda Campbell, Ray Carpenter, Stephen Cline, Angelo Cutter, Glinda Fabok, William Hanna, Patricia Henderson, Melanie Howell, Brandi Kriley, Christina Lopez, Adam Mancha, Gaylynn Quintana, Edward Reyes, Cindy Roberts, Karen Rubalcava, Kimberly Rust, Stephanie Szpotowski, Bruce Tanner, Shirley Taylor, Caroline Turner, Phillis Weaver, and Rhonda Wood.

Employees recognized for 15 years of service: Samson Arney, Bradley Bennett, Lorenzie Corvin, Byron Cotney, June Ava Florescue, Diana Jones, Leonard Kerszykowski, Thersea Mikeworth, Brenda Newton, and Keith Thompson

Employees recognized for 20 years of service: Rebecca Baeza, Heather Boyer, David Buffington, Patricia Campos, Gary Frantom, Linda Hom, Cassie Reyes, Steven Sanders, Dana True, Debra Williams, Sharon Winters, and Edward Wisdom.

Employees recognized for 25 years of service: Rebecca Barajas and Barney Branstetter.

Employees recognized for 30 years of service: Tiffany Poarch.

Employees recognized for 40 years of service: Anita Escobedo and Mike Golden.



Gila County employees recognized with service awards in Payson



April is National County Government Month

National County Government Month is April 2017. This year's theme is "Brilliant Ideas At Work." National County Government Month is a chance for counties to show their communities and county residents exactly why counties matter.

In honor of County Government Month, the Board of Supervisors will recognize community volunteers who give their time to Gila County to provide a direct service to residents and consider a proclamation for National County Government Month 2017. Recycling and Landfill Management will sponsor a poster contest for all Gila County schools with the focus on what individuals, schools, and communities can do to protect and enhance the environment. Entries will be displayed at the Gila County Courthouse.

Gila County by the Numbers

The Gila County Treasurer's Office sold **202 tax liens** at its annual Tax Lien sale on February 15 at the Gila County Courthouse in Globe.

Gila County Animal Control sold **87 animal licenses** at its low-cost rabies clinic and pet adoption event on February 25 in Miami.

At its free metal and appliance recycling day on March 11, Gila County Recycling and Landfill Management accepted 29,460 pounds of metal at Buckhead Mesa Landfill and 23,910 pounds of metal at Russell Gulch Landfill for a total of **53,370 pounds or 26.68 tons.**

Of the **40 Gila County Teachers** participating in the FAMUS (Force and Matter Unify Science), two are from Payson, two are from Pine/Strawberry, one is from Payson Christian, four are from Globe, three are from Miami, three are from Hayden Winkelman, one is from Tonto Basin, and 24 are from San Carlos.

The Gila County Public Health Department's Teen Maze, held March 22, is in its **20th year.** Teen Maze is a community wide tradition that gives students practice navigating tough, real-world decisions.

The Gila County Switchboard fields over **600 calls per week** and manages approximately 600 phone extensions.

Gila County Facilities completed **105 work orders** in the month of February.

Save the Date for Upcoming County Events

-March 25: Gila County Animal Control pet adoption fair at Tractor Supply in Globe-Miami, 10 am to 2 pm.

-April 27: Gila County Division of Health and Emergency Management Mock Crash at Miami High School

-April 8: Free Latex Paint Disposal at Buckhead Mesa Landfill, 8 am to noon.

-April 21: Gila County Animal Control will partner with Pet Club to provide pet adoptions at Pet Club's low-cost rabies clinic, 10 am to 2 pm at Pet Club in Payson.

-April 22: Free Greenwaste Event at Buckhead Mesa and Russell Gulch Landfills, 8:00 am to 3:30 pm.

-April 22: Globe-Miami STEMfest & Arbor Day Celebration held for the first time at Gila Community College in Globe, 10 am to 2 pm.



Gila County Animal Control's mobile adoption trailer