

This biannual report provides an overview of the Town of Sahuarita’s strategic initiatives and performance measures for the first half of Fiscal Year 2026. It is organized around the five strategic focus areas the Town uses to achieve its 2023-2028 Strategic Plan Update.



ECONOMIC EXPANSION & PLACEMAKING

Facilitate strategic public and private investment in targeted areas that drive economic prosperity and growth, and create a sense of place

Highlighted Accomplishments:

- For the second half of 2025, new businesses in Sahuarita include Burlington and Boot Barn.
- Roadhouse Cinemas will open a new luxury theater location in the community, transforming the former Desert Sky Cinema site. The Arizona-based company plans a significant investment to remodel the 18,000-square-foot facility to its signature standard of luxury recliners, chef-driven food, full bar, gelato, and state-of-the-art laser projection and digital sound.
- ULI Arizona’s Technical Assistance Panel (AZTap) convened in Sahuarita on Wednesday, December 3, to begin evaluating planning and development opportunities for Parcel 30.
- Onboarded 22 new clients to the Grow In Sahuarita Program.



OUTREACH & COMMUNICATION

Create ways for Town Council and staff to communicate and create effective partnerships. Engage with residents and businesses, fostering a greater perception of transparency while creating ways to enhance community and bring various neighborhoods together.

Highlighted Accomplishments:

- The Public Affairs team collaborated with Public Works and Waste Connections on a plan to keep the public engaged and informed about the transition plan for the centralized waste collection program. This robust content calendar includes print and digital ads with the Sahuarita Sun, Robson Quail Crossing, The Valley Magazine, KGVY Community Quarterly.
- Prosecution Services Manager/Town Prosecutor Rona Kreamer was a guest on October 3rd, at Walden Grove High School for their annual College and Career Fair. Rona spent the morning speaking to four separate full classrooms about her career, the education required to become a prosecutor, answered questions about why she chose her career and shared some stories from her almost twenty years of experience in prosecution.

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- The Solid Waste team is intensely focused on resident engagement and education to ensure a smooth transition and promote effective recycling habits across the community. Educational materials are being distributed to reinforce proper cart usage and recycling habits.
- The public outreach phase of the 10-year General Plan Update concluded with the 60-day public review of the draft plan in October and November. Comments received during the outreach phase will be incorporated into the draft General Plan prior to the public hearing phase, which will begin in February 2026.
- Building Safety launched the EZ Permit program in July, allowing homeowners a streamlined application process for several common permit types. This program was launched in response to feedback from a previous customer service survey.
- Through December 2025, P&R & PA have captured the following analytics:

- Number of new Facebook followers: 900
- Number of new Instagram followers: 372
- Number of new X followers: 25
- Number of new LinkedIn Followers: 158
- Number of visits to town website: 75,000
- Number of visits to the Parks & Rec Website: 31,982
- Total Number of Parks & Rec Email Newsletters Sent: 6
- Number of public service announcements: 46

2024



2025





INFRASTRUCTURE & FACILITIES

Building and maintaining public infrastructure (such as roads, parks, facilities, etc.) that serves the basic needs of our community and brings various neighborhoods together.

Highlighted Accomplishments:

- During October, the Parks team proceeded with the demolition of the old Parks maintenance office building at Anamax Park. This will make room for the planned Rec Center Parking Lot Expansion CIP project. The expansion will add an estimated 80 parking spaces, bringing the total from approximately 40 to over 120.
- The Wastewater Odor Control System project is progressing through the design phase. Wilson Engineers delivered 90% plans and specifications on December 8th and are preparing the ADEQ permit application submittal. This milestone moves the project closer to construction readiness.
- The Police Department's Property & Evidence Expansion project continues to advance with weekly CMAR coordination meetings.
- The Courts Parking Expansion project is underway with ongoing coordination through weekly OAC meetings.



COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

Enhancing the quality of life in our community through services and amenities

Highlighted Accomplishments:

- On July 12th, Southern Arizona Adaptive Sports hosted an open house at LVCC, where participants tried out wheelchair basketball and pickleball.
- This year's Camp Sahuarita wrapped up with 480 total registrations and an additional 145 on waitlists. Weekly themes, field trips, guest speakers, and splash pad days made it a huge hit. Staff are already looking into expanding capacity for next year.
- In July, a new weekly mosquito trapping program was initiated to monitor potential public health risks. The mosquitoes that were caught were delivered to the Pima County Health Department for identification and, if necessary, further testing. The program specifically targets the *Culex* type mosquito, which is a known vector for West Nile Virus.
- On September 24th, 100 fifth graders had the opportunity to visit the Courthouse, they rotated from the mock trial at the courthouse to a mock Town Council meeting at the TC chambers with Mayor Murphy.

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE 2023-2028

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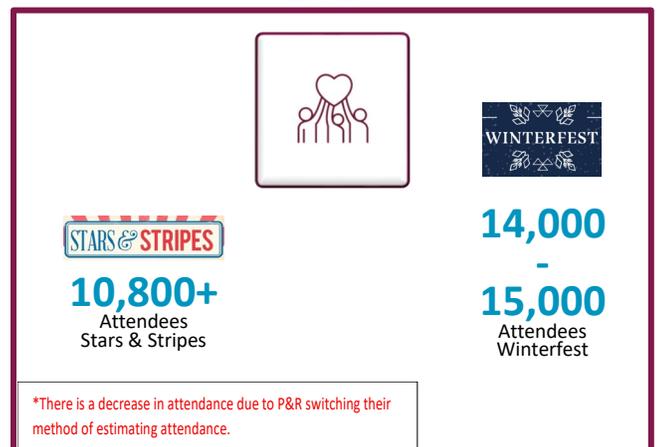
- Inaugural Oktoberfest: Hosted in partnership with ASA (formerly SAACA) at Sahuarita Lake Park, the event was an outstanding success for its first year.
- Zombie Color Crawl was held on October 4th, which brought families and runners out for a festive and spirited evening. Participants enjoyed colorful race elements along the route, including staff and volunteer “zombies” who helped create an engaging and memorable experience.
- At the end of October, SPD participated in two Trunk or Treat events (The Villas at Green Valley and Continental Elementary School).

2024



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- On November 22nd, the Town of Sahuarita supported El Tour de Tucson, hosting an official aid station at Quail Creek Veterans Municipal Park. The event was a tremendous success and drew positive feedback from riders, volunteers, and event organizers.

2025



- On December 11th, Sahuarita PD hosted our annual Cops and Kids event. About 50 students were given a \$200.00 gift card to use at our local Walmart. Students shopped with officers as well as Councilmember Morales, Councilmember Lytle and Vice Mayor Egbert!
- Winterfest (December 13th) was a vibrant celebration of the holiday season at Sahuarita Town Hall, with a great turnout and enthusiastic participation from community members of all ages. Attendees enjoyed a lively marketplace of local vendors and food trucks, live music and entertainment, a festive light parade, tree lighting ceremony, Santa meet-and-greet, and a memorable finale with fireworks and a drone show.



HIGHLY PERFORMING ORGANIZATION

Cultivate a service-first culture by recruiting and retaining a highly skilled Town workforce that provides superior service.

Highlighted Accomplishment

- Mark Felix, Deputy Town Clerk, completed the six-week Effective Supervisory Practices Training Series offered by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA).
- In early July, SPD’s Accreditation Training Manager (ATM) Kathy Zanin attended an ATM training in Scottsdale, AZ. This training shared updates to ALEAP standards as well as introduced a new method of organizing, communicating and documenting standards through a new software system – Smartsheet. This will help SPD continue to be up to date with our ALEAP accreditation!
- In mid-July, several SPD members (Chief Noland, Cmdr. R. Carlson, Lt. Heath, Lt. J. Carlson, Sgt. Seybold and Sgt. Mastropole) attended a yearly AACOP conference held in Flagstaff, AZ. During this conference, members were able to join several classes, some of which included understanding Town/City Manager’s view, ALEAP accreditation, threat assessments for those committing criminal and non-criminal acts, etc.
- Members of the Building Safety Team accompanied Santa Rita Fire Department on their annual fire inspection of La Posada. During the visit, team members learned more about how SFRD conducts inspections, what they look for during these inspections, and how they operate in and communicate with our community.

- Alex Magallanes, Economic Development Specialist, was awarded a scholarship from the Arizona Association for Economic Development to pursue the AZED Pro certification, a program designed to strengthen professional expertise in economic development.

- Judge Avilez attended the Limited Jurisdiction Judges Association Annual Conference from September 2-5th, 2025. The conference covered sessions on Law & Film, High -Conflict Cases, updates & best practices and featured a town hall with Chief Justice Ann A. Timmer.

- Elijah Lopez, Esai Guerrero, and Mike Garcia attended APRA Conference (Aug. 25–27), bringing back tools for safety and program innovation.



- On August 25th, the Events Team received an award for Winterfest 2024. They were honored with the APRA Outstanding Program Award for Community or Neighborhood Special Event (Pop. 25,001-100,000).
- Larry Myers, Assistant Planner, had the opportunity to attend the 2025 Arizona Planning Conference, which explored how communities are tackling big issues like housing, water, and growth
- On September 17th, the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the Town of Sahuarita for its annual comprehensive financial report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. This is the 23rd consecutive year that the Town has received this award.
- Dina Troutwine, Court Administrator, attended the 2025 Court Interpreter Coordinator Summit in Phoenix on September 26th. The one-day summit theme was *Language Access: Reinforcing Solutions & Consistency for the Future* and covered language access developments around Arizona with updates provided by Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)
- Lisa Cole, MMC of Town of Sahuarita, has earned the EPP Bronze achievement, which is awarded by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC), Inc. IIMC grants this achievement only to municipal clerks who complete demanding education requirements; and have a record of significant contributions to their local government, community and state.
- Town Magistrate, María Avilez attended the American Judges Association 2025 Annual Conference from October 11-16th. The American Judges Association (AJA) is one of the largest, most diverse, independent organizations in North America made up exclusively of judges.
- On October 16th, Anna Casadei, Community Development Director, received the 2025 Next Generation Mentorship Award.
- Beth, Anna, and Doris attended the 2025 ICMA conference in Tampa. At the conference, Beth received the ICMA Local Government Excellence Award for Career Development.
- Deputy Town Clerk, Mark Felix, recently completed the Arizona Secretary of State's Election Officer Certification Program, as required under A.R.S. § 16-407. The program includes a week-long training on the legal, technical, and administrative responsibilities of election administration, followed by a 100-question exam—Mark earned a score of 90%.
- Sergio Valenzuela successfully passed his Grade 1 wastewater operator treatment certification on October 2nd.

- Town Public Information Officer Hailee Tavoian attended the national ICON conference for Public Relations Professionals in October.
- On December 4th, Officers' Andreas Flores, Reynaldo Galo, Connor Malozsak, Bryan Vargas, and Robert Villegas graduated from the SEALATA Police Academy.
- Diana Hamburger, Sr Permit Technician/Plans Examiner, earned the International Code Council Residential Plans Examiner Certification.
- Andrew Parkin, Acting Building Safety Manager, earned International Code Council certifications in Commercial Plumbing Inspection and Disaster Response.
- Town of Sahuarita staff attended the annual Arizona Mining Association (AMA) conference in Tucson to strengthen relationships with mining operators, suppliers, and regional partners and to stay current on industry trends shaping southern Arizona.