



# ***Town Manager's Report***

***October 2022***

## Contents

<b>Employee Recognitions.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Major Department Highlights.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Capital Improvement Projects.....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Capital Improvement &amp; Development Projects.....</b>	<b>18</b>



**Employee Recognitions**

**1 – 4 Years of Serving the Town of Sahuarita**

---



**Devin Stalder**  
1 Year  
Recreation Manager  
October 1, 2021



**John "Colby" Nylund**  
1 Year  
WW Treatment Plant Mechanic  
October 11, 2021



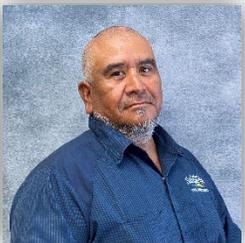
**Eder Mendoza**  
1 Year  
Fleet Coordinator  
October 19, 2021



**Johnathan DeLeon**  
2 Years  
Facilities Technician  
October 26, 2020



**Galovale Galovale**  
3 Years  
Engineering Division Manager  
October 14, 2019



**Refugio "Cookie" Gallegos**  
4 Years  
Streets Superintendent  
October 15, 2018



**Jennifer Elias**  
4 Years  
Grants Coordinator  
October 1, 2018

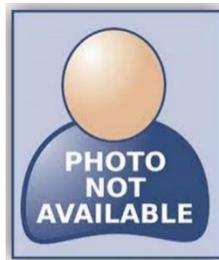


### 5 - 9 Years of Serving the Town of Sahuarita

---



**Mario Troutwine**  
5 Years  
Senior Maintenance Worker  
October 16, 2017



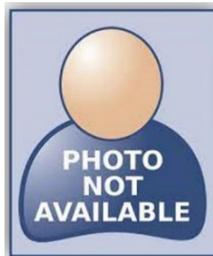
**Scott Nied**  
6 Years  
Police Lieutenant  
October 17, 2016



**Cesar Romero**  
7 Years  
WW Treatment Plant Operator  
October 15, 2015



**Cheri Odeski**  
8 Years  
Procurement Officer  
October 20, 2014



**Amanda Seybold**  
8 Years  
Police Officer  
October 17, 2014



**Lisa Cole**  
9 Years  
Town Clerk  
October 7, 2013

## 10 - 14 Years of Serving the Town of Sahuarita

---



**Debbie Sutton**

10 Years

Quality Assurance Specialist

February 27, 2022 to Present

Legal Assistant

October 29, 2012 to February 26, 2022

October 29, 2012

*Congrats*



**Dan Hatfield**

13 Years

Public Works Foreman

June 11, 2017 to Present

Engineering Aide

April 7, 2014 to June 10, 2017

Senior Maintenance Worker

October 23, 2009 to April 6, 2014

October 23, 2009

## 15 - 20 Years of Serving the Town of Sahuarita



**20-year Anniversary**  
**Thomas "Tommy" Garcia**  
**Grants & Contracts Officer**  
July 1, 2022 to Present

**Previous Positions:**

- Project Administrator  
October 11, 2021 to June 30, 2022
- Permit Compliance Coordinator  
January 17, 2021 to October 10, 2021
- Senior Engineering Technician  
August 25, 2013 to January 16, 2021
- Engineering Technician  
July 12, 2004 to August 24, 2013
- O&M Administrator  
October 14, 2002. to July 11, 2004



***Tommy Garcia, Grants & Contracts Officer,***

Thomas "Tom/Tommy" Garcia celebrates his 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the Town this month. He grew up in Texas, New Mexico, and Colorado before landing in Arizona. He completed both an associate degree at Pima Community College and undergraduate degree at Western New Mexico University. He was able to attend both Pima and Western New Mexico University on athletic scholarships. Tom met his wife Rachel in Silver City, NM while attending WNMU

In 2002, when Tom was hired, the Town Hall modular buildings resided next to the I-19 northbound on-ramp at Sahuarita Road. He started with the Public Works Department during the tenure of the Town's first Public Works Director. Sahuarita road was a two-lane roadway that could fit in the current road's median. Nogales

Highway had not been re-aligned or widened. La Canada Drive was also only a two-lane road without medians, turn lanes, sidewalks, or drainage improvements. Wal-Mart was in the current Ross building and Basha's was in the Joann/Petco location. Rancho Sahuarita Blvd went only a few hundred yards around the Sahuarita Lake before turning into a dirt road. Madera Highlands had not been constructed. Pima Mine Road bridge, Quail Crossing Blvd bridge, Los Arroyos and Santo Tomas Villas subdivisions had yet to be built. The population of Sahuarita was around 4,000 or so. Now it's over 35k. The Town operated two traffic signals, one at Nogales Hwy and Sahuarita Road and the other at La Canada Dr and Duval Mine Road. The La Canada Dr/Duval Mine Rd location was one of the first LED retrofit traffic signals and the first with a yellow LED signal head in Arizona. This was Tom's first grant project for the Town.

Tom has worked for all nine Public Works Directors and served under three (3) Town Managers and two (2) Interim Town Managers. For over 19 years he worked in Public Works before recently moving to Finance.



Tom and his wife moved to Sahuarita a couple of days before he started work in October 2002. They started a family and now have three boys, Joshua, Noah and Zac. Joshua “Cookie” graduated from Sahuarita High School and works part time for the Parks and Recreation Department. Noah “Noey” is a Senior at Sahuarita High and member of the National Society of High School Scholars. Zac “Speedy Z” is in

the 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Wrightson Ridge School, honor student and athlete extraordinaire.

For the past 20 years Tom and Rachel have watched their family and Sahuarita grow. Tom enjoys playing, watching, and coaching baseball and softball, spending time with family and friends and a cup of coffee, or sweet tea, in the company of his wife. He appreciates that working for the Town of Sahuarita has allowed him the chance to learn, grow and still be available as a husband and dad. Tom truly appreciates the opportunity to work, play, grow, and live in Sahuarita!

“Tom Garcia has been a Town employee longer than any other current employee. Tom has worked with every Public Works Director the Town has ever employed. When Tom joined the Town, the population

was approximately 3,500 people! Tom was instrumental in the creation of many of the Town policies and guidelines used by Public Works today. His historical knowledge of the Town has been an invaluable asset to many of us. He is a huge proponent and advocate for the Town having worked for the Town while living here, participating in youth and adult sporting events, and raising his family here.”, Beth Abramovitz, Assistant Town Manager/Public Works Director.



## Major Department Highlights

### POLICE DEPARTMENT

The **Sahuarita Police Department** was audited two times this year. The first audit focused on NIBRS (National Incident-Based Reporting System) and the second audit focused on CJIS, specifically, criminal dispositions, criminal history checks, and non-criminal justice processes.

NIBRS is the new crime statistic reporting system designed to provide more detailed crime-related information to LE and the public. It was officially implemented in January 2021. Participating agencies have access to federal grant funding.

CJIS compliance is an important standard for LE at the local, state, and federal levels. Access and input to the CJIS database are important to provide accurate, timely, and comprehensive criminal history and analysis data to all agencies nationwide.



The PD successfully passed both audits! These audits require preparation, focus, and teamwork throughout the department

**Police Cpl. Oscar Fruge**, was presented a Commendation on October 4th for his willingness to serve as acting-sergeant. The commendation stated, "Cpl. Fruge is commended for his willingness to step up and take on the acting-sergeant role during which he performed very well as a patrol sergeant!" Thank you, Cpl. Fruge!

**Sahuarita Police Department** attended a Legal Updates session. SPD regularly holds two Legal Update training sessions each year for its officers.

On Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, all officers from



## TOWN MANAGER



**Nathan Barrett** joins the Town as a Management Analyst in the Town Manager's Office. His first day will be October 17<sup>th</sup>. Nathan, a resident of Sahuarita, previously worked at the Pima Association of Governments for the last eleven years, where he was immersed in transportation policy and finance. Before that, he worked as a planner for the San Xavier District. He has a BS in Geography from Brigham Young University, and a Master's in Planning from the University of Arizona. He moved to the Tucson area in 2003 to attend grad school, intending to stay only long enough to get his degree. Nineteen years later, he's still here. Welcome, Nathan!

## PROSECUTION DEPARTMENT

**Rona Kreamer, Prosecution Services Manager/Town Prosecutor**, attended the Eller Government Leadership Program on September 19-22, 2022. The program is designed for local, state, and national leaders with a curriculum designed by faculty at the Eller College of Management. The program includes a variety of topics including The Leader Within, Leading Effective Decision Making, and Negotiating for Government Leaders. Congratulations, Rona!



## FINANCE DEPARTMENT



The Technology Division of the Town is continuing its membership in the Strategic Planning Taskforce for Digital Access, Equity, and Adoption after partnering with Pima County, the City of Tucson, the Town of Marana, and the Town of Oro Valley in applying for a federal middle-mile infrastructure grant. The grant is targeted toward getting high-speed Internet service to underserved communities within Pima County. The task force also aims to provide digital services and training to communities of people who need assistance such as the elderly and those who are economically disadvantaged.

## PLANNING & BUILDING DEPARTMENT

The Department continues to keep a close watch on **permit numbers**. For September, we issued a total of 179 permits. This is the highest number thus far this fiscal year and is also above the average monthly number for FY22. The number of single-family permits in September was 29, bringing us to a total of 98 for the fiscal year (an average of 32.7 per month). This number is below the predicted monthly average of 40.1 single-family permits.

Several Building Safety employees partook in the **Arizona Building Officials (AZBO) 2022 Fall Institute**, held in Mesa the week of October 11. Attendees choose from a variety of day-long programs to enhance their code knowledge and better serve our customers. **Senior Permit Technicians Alex Avila** and **Vanessa Tena** attended “The Complete Permit Technician,” a 2-day course designed to help permit techs learn as much as possible about permitting in a short period of time.



**Bill Lahr, Building Official**, attended the Eller Government Leadership Program September 19-22, 2022. The

program is designed for local, state, and national leaders with a curriculum designed by faculty at the Eller College of Management. The program includes a variety of topics such as The Leader Within, Leading Effective Decision Making, and Negotiating for Government Leaders. Bill says, “Arizona Building Officials provided me with a scholarship opportunity to attend the program. It was educational, and enlightening, and provided network opportunities. I highly recommend the program.”



October is **National Community Planning Month!** Community planning offers an opportunity for all residents to be meaningfully involved in making choices that determine the future of their community. It is also an opportunity to publicly recognize the dedication of our Planning and Zoning Commission, citizen planners, and professional planners who have contributed their time and expertise to the improvement of the Town of Sahuarita.



The Planning & Zoning Division would like to extend a huge **“THANK YOU!”** to outgoing Planning and Zoning Commission member **Nathan Barrett**, who has served on the Commission since 2010. Thank you, Nathan, for your dedication to the Town of Sahuarita and for helping guide its growth and development over the past twelve years.

## **PARKS, RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**



**Spooktacular** is creeping back to Town Hall on Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 9pm! This spooky Town celebration is sure to excite with our annual Trunk or Treat, DJ, Food Trucks, Activities, Crafts, and a lot of SCARY! Come prepared with buckets to load up on candy and be sure to wear your costume! This event is FREE and for all ages!

### **Anamax Sewer**

**Project:** The project is a precursor to the newly proposed Splash Pad in FY 24 as well as supporting a number of existing facilities at the Park, and is cruising along and is slightly ahead of schedule. All the mainlines and HCS lines are in, and testing will take place the week of October 3rd. After that, construction will move forward with sewer connections to buildings, as well as decommissioning the septic systems. Some restroom disruption will occur at the time of connection but will hopefully be minimal.

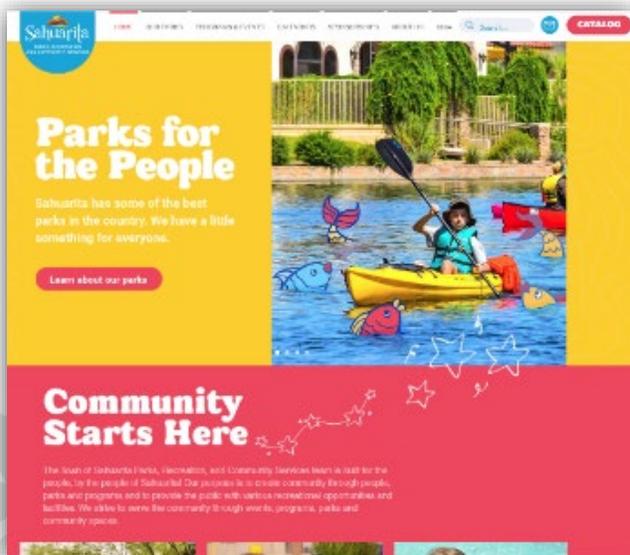




**Turf Overseeding:** Parks staff will be conducting Overseeding Operations on our turf facilities beginning on October 10th. Actual overseeding operations should conclude by October 27th.

**Dog Park Closures:** During Overseeding, the Dog Parks will each be closed for a 2-week-duration. The closure of Quail Creek Dog Parks will be from October 10th through October 24th. The Anamax Park Dog Parks will be closed from October 24 through November 7. Heads up for complaints during this time.

**Anamax Scoreboard Project:** Dylan Pruitt is meeting with A5 Design and Construction on October 5th to review the project and conduct a walkthrough of Anamax. Parks will then select a start date and move forward. This project will be adding two new scoreboards to Anamax - one at Field 1 and one at Field 3. Some disruption of the facilities is anticipated but should be minimal.



**New Website:** Our new website is online and running! Visit [www.SahuaritaParksAndRec.org](http://www.SahuaritaParksAndRec.org) to check out all things parks, recreation, and community services! The old website has been taken offline.

The **Activities & Events Guide** has been completed for Winter/Spring 22-23! These will be available to the public soon!

Stop by the information booth at Spooktacular to pick up your copy!



## PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

**Heidi Lasham** was nominated and won the WLG Leading in Excellence award by the Arizona Women Leading Government (AZWLG). Heidi will be presented with the award at the WLG Lunch and Annual Business Meeting on Thursday, October 20, 2022. Way to go, Heidi! Congratulations!



**Sergio Burgos, Senior Traffic Technician**, has earned the International Municipal Signal Association's *Traffic Signal Senior Field Technician* certification by passing a 3-hour comprehensive examination. A passing score on this exam demonstrates Sergio's expertise and knowledge of applied traffic signal technologies.

Sergio's understanding of electronics and electrical systems; State and Federal regulations; National Electrical Manufacturer's Association specifications, and traffic engineering and operations principles makes him a great asset to the Town. Well done, Sergio!

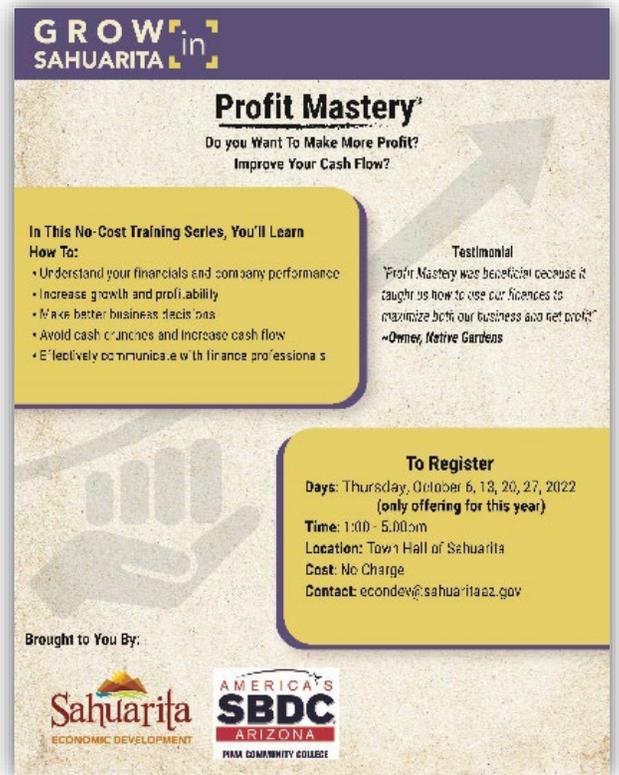
### Pima Mine Multi-Use Path

The Town of Sahuarita has been awarded a \$495,000 Regional Transportation Alternatives Grant (RTAG) grant to complete the Pima Mine Road 10ft wide, all-weather multi-use path connecting Rancho Sahuarita to the Desert Diamond Casino. Matching federal funds will be paid by the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) virtually eliminating any cost to the town.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PUBLIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

In the month of October, the **Economic Development and Public Affairs Department** in partnership with the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) will present the Profit Mastery course to local businesses. This 4-day course (at no cost for participants) will provide in-depth teachings on how business can better understand financial statements, measure growth and profitability and make sound business decisions based on a company's financial position.

**Precision Epigenomics**, a Sahuarita Economic Development BizLaunch sponsored tech start-up, was awarded a \$397,000 SBIR Phase I grant from the National Cancer Institute for lung cancer research. EDPA Director, Victor Gonzalez, Chief John Noland, and Council Member Davis met with Mark Nelson (CEO) for an overview of the Sentinel-10 Multi Center Early Detection



**GROW in SAHUARITA**

### Profit Mastery<sup>SM</sup>

Do you Want To Make More Profit?  
Improve Your Cash Flow?

**In This No-Cost Training Series, You'll Learn How To:**

- Understand your financials and company performance
- Increase growth and profitability
- Make better business decisions
- Avoid cash crunches and increase cash flow
- Effectively communicate with finance professionals

**Testimonial**  
"Profit Mastery was beneficial because it taught us how to use our finances to maximize both our business and net profit."  
-Ormer, Native Gardens

**To Register**  
Days: Thursday, October 6, 13, 20, 27, 2022  
(only offering for this year)  
Time: 1:00 - 5:00pm  
Location: Town Hall of Sahuarita  
Cost: No Charge  
Contact: econdev@sahuaritaaz.gov

Brought to You By:

**Sahuarita ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** | **AMERICA'S SBDC ARIZONA**  
PIMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Test, a non-invasive alternative to surgical biopsies that provides physicians information about a tumor through a simple blood draw.

Economic Development and Public Affairs Director, Victor Gonzalez participated as a judge for the **IdeaFunding 2022** down-select business competition. IdeaFunding's annual pitch competition provides an opportunity for Arizona companies to share their ideas for a chance to win several cash prizes including a \$25,000 grand prize.



The logo for Startup Tucson features the words 'STARTUP TUCSON' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

The **Sahuarita Food Bank & Community Resource Center** held a Job Fair in collaboration with local and county agencies and employers. Participating businesses include La Posada, United Community Health Center, Freeport McMoran, and Desert Diamond Casino to name a few. The Pima County One Stop was also on hand to assist individuals with employment services. The job fair event is one of many activities the SFB-CRC is providing in support of developing the local workforce.



**TOWN OF Sahuarita**

# NOW HIRING

- Public Works Director
- Police Officer - Recruits & Laterals
- Senior Accounting Specialist
- Court Security Officer
- System Technician
- Public Affairs Manager
- Economic Development Specialist
- WWTP Operator
- Recreation Service Aide - PTB

For more information about the lifestyle here at Sahuarita or the jobs listed above scan the QR codes below.

Headquarters Be! Sahuarita Job Opportunities

The Department has recently assisted in the following social media campaigns, graphic design, and marketing projects in support of the organization’s needs:

- Parks and Rec “Keep Clean Sahuarita” Video Campaign.
- Cybersecurity social media Graphic Design and Campaign.
- **“Now Hiring”** social media Graphic Design.
- “Coffee with a Cop” social media Graphic Design.
- Town of Sahuarita boundary map Graphic Design for Town Hall.
- Recession Chart Graphic Design for Finance Department.

## Capital Improvement Projects

### **PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS:**



The interactive Construction Updates page on the Public Works webpage has been updated. This page is typically updated quarterly to provide information on all active construction projects in the Town (CIP and developer projects). The Construction Update can be found at <https://arcg.is/1rC05b>.

### **Quail Crossing Blvd Extension Phase 2**

The project is about 80% complete. The railings have been installed on both sides of the new bridge. The only remaining items on the bridge are the approaching guardrails on both the east and west sides of the bridge and the vertical curb to separate the multi-use path and vehicular traffic. Ashton will be paving the multi-use path in October. The mill and overlay work at the Old Nogales and Quail Crossing intersection is tentatively scheduled for early to mid-November. Still tracking for a Grand Opening in late December. Pima County Flood Control District has installed the standpipe and rain gauge at the Sawmill Wash location for the ALERT system.



### **Twin Buttes PW Building**

The bid opening for the Twin Buttes Phase 1 Well Drilling was on September 12, 2022. BJ Drilling was the low bid at \$112,337.96, which is an average cost for this kind of work in our region. Next step will be to bid out the construction of the building itself, which staff hopes to do over the next several weeks.

### **SWRF Lab**

The Certificate of Occupancy for the SWRF Lab was issued on September 23, 2022. Building Excellence still needs to remove its site office and the old lab building. Building Excellence has obtained a salvaged title through ADOT for the old lab and will refurbish it prior to donating it to a family in need.

### **Bridge Maintenance/Repair**

Requests were made to Granite, Ashton, and Southern Arizona Paving for cost proposals to repair a total of 15 bridges as recommended by the Psomas study. Ashton was the apparent low bidder with a cost proposal in the amount of \$224,918.00 which is within budget.

## Abrego Culvert Design

CMG is working with On Point Surveying to get better data on the existing Abrego Culvert and wash area. The survey should be complete by mid-October.

## BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

### Subdivision Plats

**Quail Creek II Unit 34B:** Final Plat for 51 lots approved on September 12.

**Rancho Resort Tract 1:** Final Plat for 101 lots under a second review.

### Development Plans

**Sahuarita Water Company:** Development Plan for a 600k gallon water reservoir located on the east side of La Canada north of El Toro approved October 3.

### Land Use and Zoning

**San Martin de Porres Catholic Church:** A request for a Temporary Off-Site Sign Plan was approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission on Oct 3 to allow up to 15 roadside signs advertising the upcoming Fiesta special event.

**Grading Standards Code Amendment:** The Planning and Zoning Commission voted to forward a positive recommendation to the Town Council for the proposed grading standards amendment. The Town Council meeting date is tentatively scheduled for November 14.

**Residential Zones Code Amendment:** Industry feedback has been largely positive. Community outreach kicked off on September 26. Upcoming opportunities for the public to learn more and provide feedback are:

- October 11: Virtual public meeting 5:30pm-6:30pm
- October 19: In-person public open house 4-6pm, Town Hall Council Chambers

More project information can be found online at the project website by [clicking here](#).

### Commercial Buildings

**Planet Fitness:** Building plans under review.

**Rancho Sahuarita Self Storage:** Lighting plan revisions are under review.

# Capital Improvement & Development Projects

Please visit our [interactive map to view town projects progress.](#)

