



Town Manager's Report

November 2022

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Employee Recognitions

1 – 4 Years of Serving the Town of Sahuarita



Manuel Amado
Police Commander
1 Year (11/8/21)



Blanca Espino
Permit Compliance Coordinator
1 Year (11/15/21)



Brenda Garcia
Police Records Clerk
3 Years (11/18/19)



Alejandro Roman
Parks Foreman
2 years (11/26/20)



Ricci Romero
Human Resources Analyst
4 Years (11/18/18)



Brandon Searle
Crime Scene Specialist
1 Year (11/2/21)

5 – 9 Years of Serving the Town of Sahuarita



Ana Bustos
Police Records Clerk
5 Years (11/20/17)



Amor Felix
Police Records Clerk
5 Years (11/27/17)



Douglas Higgins
Police Sergeant
5 Years (11/19/17)



Sheila Nylund
Public Works Business Manager
7 Years (11/30/15)



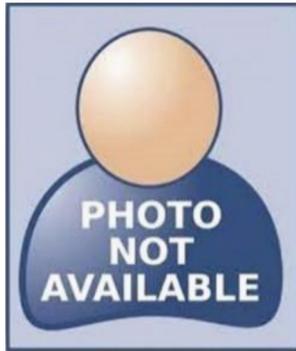
Charlene Schwickrath
Plans Examiner/Building Inspector
8 Years (11/12/14)



Michael Washburn
Senior Plans Examiner
9 Years (11/18/13)

Thank you
for being
AWESOME!

10 – 14 Years of Serving the Town of Sahuarita



James Oviedo
Police Sergeant
10 Years (11/19/12)

Police Sergeant 10/2/16 – Present
Police Officer 11/19/12 – 10/1/16



Daniel Ortega
Systems Administrator
13 Years (11/16/09)

Systems Administrator 6/17/13 – Present
Systems Technician 11/16/09 – 6/16/13

Congratulations

15 – 20 Years of Serving the Town of Sahuarita



**Orlanthia Henderson
Planning & Zoning Manager
18 Years (11/15/04)**

Interim Planning & Zoning Manager
12/19/20 to 6/19/21
Senior Planner
7/9/17 to 12/18/20
Planner
6/25/07 to 7/18/17
Assistant Planner
11/15/04 to 6/24/07

Orlanthia married her husband Delano in 2004 and has one son, Devin. She was a soccer mom for over 12 years, traveling to neighboring states with half-time snacks always packed in the ice chest along with her trusty first aid kit.



Orlanthia Henderson, Planning & Zoning Manager arrived in Tucson in the summer of 1994 to attend the NewStart summer program at the University of Arizona. She recalls it being one of the hottest summers and asked herself (several times) “do I really want to live here?”. After growing up in a much smaller community that had different distinct seasons, Tucson was a difficult transition. Orlanthia grew up in Kayenta, Arizona; a small community of approximately 3,000 people. It is located 26 miles southwest of the famous Monument Valley Tribal Park.

Before starting the job with the Town of Sahuarita, she previously worked for three years in the Development Services Department with the Pascua Yaqui Tribe (PYT) and attended the University of Arizona Planning grad school program full-time. Orlanthia joined the Town as the new Assistant Planner in the Planning & Zoning Department in 2004.

In 2008, the current Town hall was completely built, and staff eagerly moved into the new space. Shortly after, the Planning department was restructured, and building and planning departments were combined to create the new Planning & Building Department.

Fast forward to 2022, her current duties include development review (a favorite), rezoning, text/code amendments, management of Planning staff, Accela permit software configuration, subdivision assurance inspections, and a whole lot of answering emails.



When asked what do you like most about her job, Orlanthia answered; “The variety is what keeps me with the Town; that and the Town staff. It is rare to see a town grow from infancy into one of the fastest-growing communities in the state. It helps to have a good group of people to grow with; I’ve been extremely fortunate to have great coworkers. I’ve seen coworkers start as single individuals, get married and have children. And those children have come into the department to volunteer. I enjoy working for the town because it has managed to keep the ‘small town feel and still grow at the same time.”

Orlanthia enjoys spending time with family, especially her nieces and nephew and traveling. After all these years, she has grown to love Tucson; she cannot imagine living in any other place (aside from home on the Navajo Nation reservation with her parents).

“When Orlanthia started working for the Town of Sahuarita, the Planning and Zoning Department was located in a modular building and shared a very small, noisy space with Building Safety. The town’s population was under 9,000 people, and Sahuarita Road was two lanes without sidewalks. Orlanthia’s work has had a huge impact on Sahuarita’s growth, having participated in General Plan updates, code changes, and process improvements. She has helped Sahuarita grow from a small town in its infancy to a vibrant community in which to live, work, shop, and play. Her institutional knowledge is invaluable, and the care with which she treats every project or citizen inquiry that crosses her desk is an example to be followed.” Anna Casadei, Planning & Building Director, Town of Sahuarita

Congratulations Orlanthia!



15 – 20 Years of Serving the Town of Sahuarita



Donnell Rogers
Wastewater Operations Supervisor
16 Years (11/3/06)

Wastewater Operations Supervisor
3/9/14 to Present
Principal Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator

In April 2008, I performed initial start-up operation of the Town's package treatment plants. As the acting superintendent, I was given the challenge of meeting the requirements of the ADEQ Consent Order after the resignation of my supervisors. In 2009, I supervised start-up and initial operation of the Town's newly constructed 1.5 mgd WWTP. From that time to current, I supervise the Town's operations and maintenance staff. I oversee the



the best for continued success! Thank you for your contributions to the Town of Sahuarita!" Heidi Lasham, Assistant Town Engineer

This month, **Donnell Rogers, Wastewater Operations Supervisor**, celebrates his 16th Anniversary!

After completing my AAS degree in Environmental Technology from Pima Community College and working as an operator at the Pima County Roger Road Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), I was hired as a Wastewater Operator for the Town in November of 2006. I performed typical Wastewater operator duties such as daily rounds, process control labs, collecting samples and routine maintenance.

In 2008, both of my supervisors resigned, and I was then promoted to Principal Operator and Acting Superintendent of the WWTP. I was tasked with hiring and training new WW operators as I was the only operator now on staff.



operation and maintenance of the Town's Wastewater treatment plant. My job is to maintain and ensure the treatment plant is in compliance with our ADEQ Aquifer Protection Permit requirements and ensure the plant produces A+ effluent. My time at the Town has been both rewarding and challenging. I was recognized for my efforts in 2017 by receiving the Town's *Above and Beyond Award*. I plan and hope to continue my employment with the Town as Operations Supervisor until I retire.

"Congratulations on your 16 years of dedicated service to the Town of Sahuarita. You have been a significant part of our Wastewater team. Wishing you

Major Department Highlights

Economic Development & Public Affairs Department

The Town of Sahuarita has issued the **2022 Citizen Survey** that seeks input from residents on the overall satisfaction of Town services and community sentiment. The 2022 Survey will provide the opportunity for residents to provide feedback as to which issues are most pressing and what requires the attention of the Town Council and their local government. The 2022 Survey will also help inform the revision of the Town's Strategic Plan, which focuses on Economic Development and Place Making, Outreach and Communication, Infrastructure, Community Well-Being, and Highly Performing Organization. Responses will be collected throughout the month of November.



ED Staff presented at the **Valle Verde Rotary Club**. The presentation provided an opportunity for an economic development update to Club members. Newsworthy items were current and future residential growth and commercial development, road improvements and new businesses.

ED Staff attended the **2022 Southern Arizona Tech and Business Expo**, presented by the Arizona Tech Council and the Arizona Commerce Authority. The event provided the opportunity to network with 400 business and tech leaders across Southern Arizona's tech industry.



Planning & Building Department

The Department continues to keep a close watch on permit numbers. For October, we received a total of 120 building permit applications. We issued 21 single-family home permits in October, bringing us to a total of 119 for the fiscal year (an average of 29.8 per month). This number is below the predicted monthly average of 40.1 single-family permits.

Parks, Recreation & Community Services Department

Recreation:

On Friday Oct 28th, the Recreation department put on another successful **Spooktacular**! We had 30 Trunk-or-Treat vendors, 14 Food Trucks, several activities, and more! Our estimated attendance was 8,000.



Planning for **Winterfest** is underway, and we are looking forward to another great signature event. Winterfest is scheduled for Saturday, December 17th!



In November, we will have a couple partnered events including with the Sahuarita Food Bank and El Tour De Tucson. The **Sahuarita Food Bank's Open House** is on Friday, November 18 from 3 – 7 pm and is a free event for the community. Take a tour of the new facility, see what programs they have to offer to the community, collect stamps along the way, and grab a free dinner for the whole family from a local food truck!

El Tour de Tucson will take place on November 19th and the ED department will man an aide station on the event's route.



Additionally, the **Community Clean-Up Challenge** with Saguaro Solar will run for the duration of November.

Post a photo to social media with the hashtag [#CLEANSAHUARITA](#) and tag Sahuarita Parks, Recreation and Community Services for a chance to win \$500 prize.

Join us in keeping our community clean!

Parks:

KE&G is nearing the end of the **Anamax Sewer Extension** project, and substantial completion is expected to be given on November 4th. All that will remain are final punchlist items and area cleanup.

A5Des+Con has begun trenching for the power supply for the new scoreboards located at Anamax Park (Fields 1 and 3 respectively). When the trenching is completed, they will be installing the Steel I-beams to support the scoreboards. Once installed, we should have operational scoreboards at all 3 baseball/softball fields at Anamax Park. Completion of A5's portion is anticipated by the end of November, and the Scoreboards should be in and hung by the middle of December.

The installers for the new playground will be at Parque Los Arroyos beginning Monday, November 7th, to start by removing the existing playground, expanding the footprint, and installing the new playground. The area will be under heavy construction for at least a week or two, with full completion by the end of November.

Parks staff will be installing crushed oyster shell in the Bocce Ball Court at Quail Creek Veteran's Municipal Park during the first week of November. Once completed, we will be installing artificial turf around the Game Zone to finish dressing up that area of the park (anticipated 11/14-11/18).

During the week of November 7th, Brightly Software's partner Alpha will be conducting the Parks Walkthrough/Coding/GIS locating all our Parks' Assets for our new work order/inventory management software.

Finance Department



The Town of Sahuarita will be representing Rural Townships and Locations in the State as a participating member of the **Arizona Cyber Readiness Grant Task Force**. A rural location is any area outside a Census Place with a population less than or equal to 49,999. The Task Force meets once a week to work on planning for Arizona's application to the State and Local Cyber Security Grant Program administered by the federal government.

Legal Department

The Department of Law welcomed **Barbara Jackson** as the new Criminal Paralegal. Barb joins the Town after serving as a paralegal with the Pima County Attorney's Office for over 28 years. Barb lives in Green Valley and co-owns the business, Geeky G's, with Malena Acosta, a Sahuarita resident and current Chief Prosecutor for the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. Outside of the office, you can see Barb at ComicCons, crafting and enjoying science fiction and superhero shows and movies.

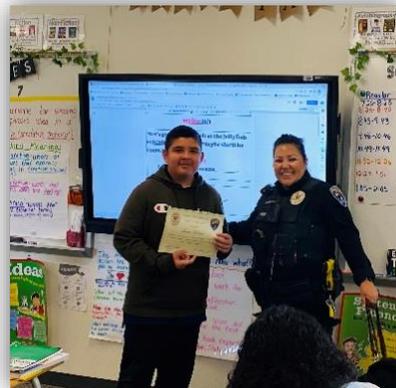


Police Department

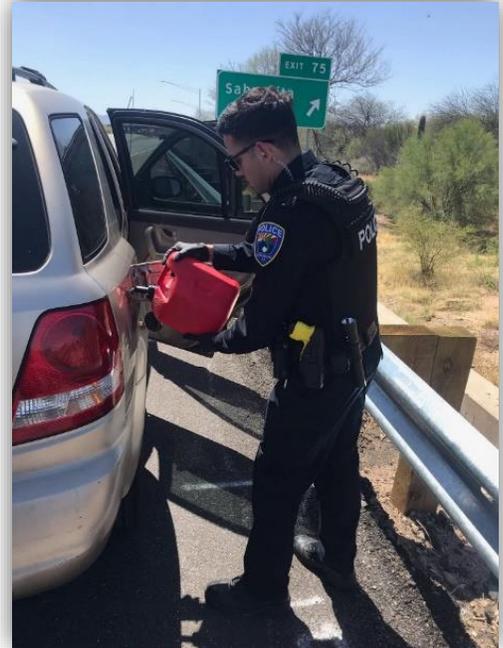
On Saturday, October 29th, Det. Borkman and Det. Bustamante participated in the **DEA's National Takeback Event**. The goal of this event is to bring in used/old medications to help dispose of them properly. Over the course of 4 hours, over 140 pounds of used/old medications were brought in!



SPD recently held a contest with two of our local schools to name our two robo dogs. The winning name for our **"Girl" Robo Dog** was **Katana**, named by Liam Molina, a 6th grader who attends Wrightson Ridge. SPD presented Liam with a certificate and small bag of swag to thank him for his contribution! Stay tuned for the winning name of our "Boy" Robo Dog!



This year the SPD participated in the **2023 Community Policing in Action** photo contest! The submitted entry was from Officer Emerald Martinez's actions earlier this year. He provided 5-star customer service for a family of 4 who ran out of fuel and became stranded on SB 119 at the Sahuarita Road exit. Officer Martinez took a fuel can, several bottles of water, the mobile jump starter, and SPD promotional items (badge, cup, and stickers for the children). Unfortunately, the vehicle didn't start after adding the fuel, but luckily it did with a jump start (plan B). The family was thankful for the tremendous amount of help!



SOS (Sahuarita Optimistic Squad)

SOS had a great turnout for its Halloween event. SOS had two contests – one for **BEST COSTUME** and another one for **BEST PUMPKIN**. We received over 90 votes on each contest! Thank you to everyone who participated!

Best Pumpkin – 1st Place
Galo Galovale



Best Pumpkin – 2nd Place
Tierra Denogean



Best Pumpkin – 3rd Place
Nikki Hammond



Best Costume - 1st Place
Ricci Romero



Best Costume – 2nd Place
Eri Coronado



Best Costume – 3rd Place
David Urquides



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 Quail Crossing Boulevard Extension project is approximately 90% complete. A grand opening ceremony will be taking place before Christmas this year. Work on this project began in 2019 with an anticipated budget of \$7,775,400. We are anticipating that this project will be completed for approximately \$7,200,000.

Building & Development Projects

Subdivision Plats

- **Quail Creek II Unit 27:** Tentative Plat for 126 lots approved under review 10/19.
- **Rancho Resort Tract 1:** Scheduled for Town Council decision 11/14.

Development Plans

- **Crosspoint Lutheran Church:** Development Plan for a church building located on the north side of Sahuarita Road east of Nogales Highway approved 10/24.

Land Use and Zoning

- **Grading Standards Code Amendment:** Scheduled for Town Council public hearing 11/14.
- **Residential Zones Code Amendment:** We are bringing project information to where the people are! Pop-up meetings offer community members an informal setting in which to learn about the changes taking place and to share their thoughts in a one-on-one setting with staff. Pop-up meetings are scheduled for the following dates:
 - November 8 - 3:00 to 4:30pm at Anamax Park
 - November 14 - 3:00 to 4:30pm at Parque Los Arroyos
 - November 17 - 3:00 to 4:30pm at Anamax Park

Depending on attendance, additional meetings may be scheduled and will be posted on the project website. More project information can be found online by [clicking here](#).

Commercial Buildings

- **Planet Fitness:** Building permit issued.

Capital Improvement & Development Projects

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

