



Town Manager's Report

March 2023

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New Employees Spotlight



No New Employees for the Period of February 15 - March 15

Employee Service Milestones



The Town recognizes employees who are celebrating their 5th, 10th, 15th, or 20th year anniversary.

5-Year Service Milestone	None
10-Year Service Milestone	None
15-Year Service Milestone	<i>Suzette Stotts, Sr. Accounting Specialist (Hire Date 3/24/2008)</i>
20-Year Service Milestone	None

Employee Recognition



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:

Luis Araiza, Court Security Officer



Luis “Louie” Araiza recently passed his Supreme Court required Court Security Training. The training consisted of six computer-based courses online and attendance at a 5-day in person Academy held in Phoenix.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:

Heidi Lasham, Deputy Public Works Director/Utility Division Manager



Heidi Lasham, represented the Town at the 9th Annual Sahuarita Water Festival. The event had 22 teachers from 7 schools bringing 552 students to the festival on March 3rd, 2023. It was a collaborative day between Arizona Project Wet, Sahuarita Unified School District, the Town of Sahuarita, and Freeport McMoRan. More than 20 volunteers delivered lessons and assisted with the festival for Sahuarita 4th graders.

On another note, The Public Works Department is sad to announce that Heidi, who serves as the Town’s Deputy Public Work Director/Utility Operations Manager, will be leaving to pursue other employment opportunities. Heidi started with the Town in 2017 as a Senior Civil Engineer. She has provided invaluable support, expertise, and guidance to many of the Town’s capital projects over the years. Heidi has taken the position of CIP Division Manager with the Town of Marana where she can put her extensive construction background to work. We wish her all the best in this endeavor.

Department Highlights

Parks, Recreation & Community Services

PRCS staff attended the **28th Annual International Business Expo and Taste of the Valley** at Desert Diamond Casino on February 4. The event was sponsored by the Green Valley/Sahuarita Chamber of Commerce.

At the request of the Chamber, PRCS supplied kids' activities in the courtyard where we had our "Park & Play" event, including outside games, activities, and a paper airplane contest.



Our Events team is hard at work planning for our next signature event: **Fiesta Sahuarita**. Sponsorships for Fiesta are open and are gaining registrations fast! Sponsorship registration will close on April 1, 2023, for marketing material printing needs. We have already surpassed \$30,000 in committed cash sponsorships for the event!

Vendor and food truck registration are also up and running for Fiesta! Currently, we have 64 vendors and



Events staff have several exciting ideas in the works for our next Fiesta and are looking forward to seeing them come to life on April 15, 2023! We are also excited to be collaborating with Economic Development and Suburban Real Estate to create a series of videos highlighting Fiesta Sahuarita 2023.

The Events team has also been working hard at planning **Bunny Bonanza**. We will have an egg hunt, games, crafts, photos with the Bunny, and fun for the whole family!



The new inclusive playground at **Parque Los Arroyos** is now open to the public! We are really delighted that this playground, which was designed to be accessible to a wider range of ages and abilities, is now ready for the community to enjoy using it.

PRCS Maintenance staff are preparing for upcoming overseeding operations. This process is scheduled to begin on March 6 and will include all sports fields, dog parks, and the lake turf.

Staff is also planning to start work on the site preparations for the new Maintenance Building as soon as possible, subject to staff availability.

Rodeo Break Camp was a hit with 27 kids registered. The Recreation team is now hard at work preparing for Spring Break Camp with our maximum of 30 kids registered.

Camp Sahuarita planning has also begun, and Field Trips have been identified. Recreation is working with contacts for scheduling and is pursuing sponsorships to assist the program.



The Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department would like to thank Town Manager Shane Dille and his group of young men from the LDS Church for their volunteer time spent collecting trash at Anamax Park.

After a lengthy hiring process to fill our **Recreation Manager** position, we are excited to announce that we have selected and hired **Austin Campbell** effective March 12, 2023. Austin was chosen based on his expertise in the field of Recreation and the passion that he has demonstrated while operating as the Recreation Coordinator. We are thrilled to have Austin move into this role!

Austin earned his degree in Recreation Management from Lock Haven University in 2014 and has been working his way up the Parks and Recreation ladder since. Austin came to Arizona in the winter of 2021, with stops in Pennsylvania and New Mexico along the way. Austin is eager to get to work and establish the Town of Sahuarita as the place to be for recreation. He is excited about the opportunity to learn and grow all while enhancing the quality of life for residents of Sahuarita. He is excited for this next chapter in his career.

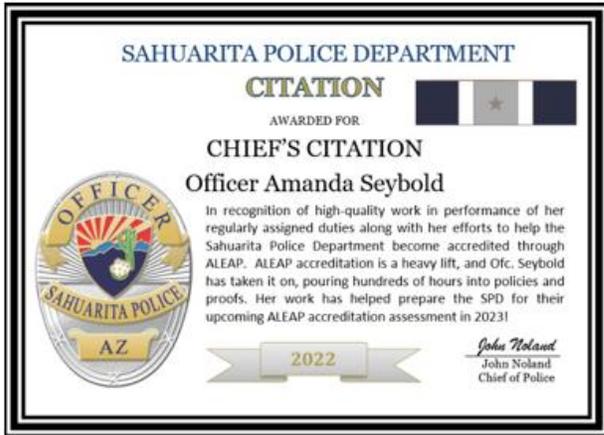


Police Department

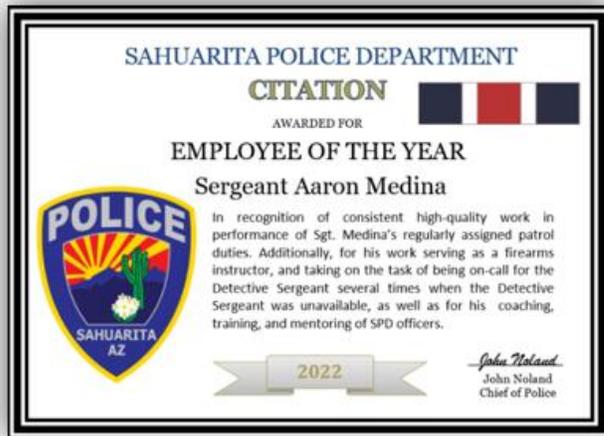
Even though the Police Department was unable to host its SPD Annual Awards Dinner last month, SPD would still like to recognize all of the award winners. On March 10, SPD announced its annual award winners and shared a video highlighting some of the department's accomplishments in 2022.

The top awards (Employee of the Year and Chief's Citation) were awarded to **Sgt. Aaron Medina** and **Ofc. Amanda Seybold**, respectively. A new award program was implemented this year, a Peer Recognition Award (PRA). Those who won this award were chosen by their peers. All of the 2023 winners are as follows:

Corporal Oscar Fruge	Leadership
Officer Hector Iglecias	Leadership
Sergeant Carlos Navarrete	Leadership
Officer Matthew Dixon	Lifesaving
Grant Coordinator Jennifer Elias	Meritorious
Officer Jillian Gwaltney	Meritorious
Sergeant Douglas Higgins	Meritorious
Ofc. Robert Mohr	Meritorious
Officer Vincente Ramirez	Meritorious
VIPS Danny Taylor	Meritorious
Quality Assurance Specialist Debbie Sutton	Civilian Peer Recognition Award
Sergeant Aaron Medina	Sworn Peer Recognition Award



Amanda Seybold – Chief’s Citation



Aaron Medina – Employee of the Year

Department of Law

On March 8, 2023, the Department of Law, consisting of **Rona Kreamer (Town Prosecutor)**, **Barbara Jackson (Paralegal)**, and **Jocelynn Enriquez (Legal Assistant)**, participated in Career Day at Anza Trail School. The Department of Law answered thoughtful questions posed to them by the middle school students and spent the morning sharing their career experiences with the students.



Planning & Building

On March 15, Planning & Building Director Anna Casadei, together with Economic Development and Public Affairs Director Victor Gonzales, presented at the Metropolitan Pima Alliance’s monthly breakfast. The theme of the presentation was **“Town of Sahuarita: What You Need to Know.”** Sahuarita was honored to be the first jurisdiction invited to present in a series of presentations that will be given to the group by each regional jurisdiction. The presentation was well-received and was just one of the ways in which our departments work together to build and strengthen relationships with the development community.

Planning & Building staff received comment card recognition from three separate customers for their excellent customer service. The sign contractor for Planet Fitness states, *“I want to thank each of you for helping us out with this project on such short notice. You guys have been a pleasure to work with and you made a stressful situation a whole lot less stressful. I look forward to working with you guys in the near future.”*

This is just one example of the high level of customer service Planning & Building strives to provide.

Economic Development & Public Affairs

The **Grow In Sahuarita** program kicked off with great success! Since going live in mid-February, the ED team has received 43 calls from local businesses and have met with 11 business to date. A recent social media post on the Town’s Facebook page reached over 11,000 views, with 378 reactions and 95 comments. Grow in Sahuarita is off to a great start!



AAED LEGISLATIVE LUNCH ON THE LAWN



The Town of Sahuarita was a sponsor at the **2023 AAED Legislative Lunch on the Lawn**. **Nathan Barrett, Management Analyst**, attended on behalf of the Town. AAED’s Policy Priorities are focused on Broadband access, expanding economic development programs for increased competitiveness, workforce development, and water conservation and reuse. Nathan also joined the Green Valley Sahuarita Chamber of Commerce at the Arizona Chamber Executives Day at the Legislature.



Happenings down south, what’s new at the Town of Sahuarita

Join us for our first in person, but second breakfast presentation of 2023. Over the course of the year, MPA will be hosting 6 breakfast presentations to provide you with updates from each of the 5 local Jurisdictions in Southern Arizona, along with a state legislative preview. The goal of these breakfast presentations is to provide you the most recent development and economic development information along with connecting you to the jurisdictions senior staff.

We are excited to partner with the Town of Sahuarita as our first Jurisdictional update of 2023. Victor Gonzales, Economic Development and Public Affairs Director, and Anna Casadei, Planning and Building Director, will be our presenters. If you or your company has done work in Sahuarita, there is a good chance these two were involved. Both very knowledgeable and helpful, it is always a pleasure to hear them present.

Learn more about both Victor and Anna below:



Victor Gonzalez, Economic Development and Public Affairs Director, and **Anna Casadei, Planning and Building Director**, presented at the **Metropolitan Pima Alliance (MPA) Membership Breakfast** event featuring the Town of Sahuarita. The jurisdictional update provided the opportunity to share current and planned activities including residential development activity, commercial projects, and Town initiatives.

Victor Gonzalez, Economic Development Public Affairs Director, was a panelist speaker at the **Pima County Workforce Summit** hosted by the Pima County Workforce Investment Board and the Pima County Community and Workforce Development. The panel included Barbra Coffee, Economic Initiative Director, City of Tucson, and Heath Vescovi-Chiordi, Pima County Economic Development Director. The panel discussed the future of Economic Development and the Workforce.



Economic Development Staff conducted a site visit with **Auxilium Technology Group**, a BizLaunch Tech Start-Up sponsored company by the Town of Sahuarita Economic Development. The site visit provided an activity update to staff and the opportunity to further support efforts by ATG in the deployment of a pilot program for the extraction of metals and minerals from mine tailings. A tour of the San Xavier Laboratory Mine will be scheduled soon.



In anticipation of **Fiesta Sahuarita** (April 15, 2023), EDPA and PRCS worked with Suburban Real Estate Group to develop four-part video series, **'Behind the Scenes: Fiesta Sahuarita'**. The video series highlights Town Staff and shares the significance of Fiesta Sahuarita for the community. The first video reached over 900 views. To view the video, click [HERE](#). Additional videos will be posted on the Town's social media in the weeks leading up to Fiesta Sahuarita.

Pub 22, a Sahuarita-based restaurant was featured by YouTube foodie content creator, Jay Silverman. Silverman is a West Virginia local who came to visit Sahuarita in early March and posted his 'Sahuarita Dog' eating experience. Consequently, Silverman gave his experience a 4-thumbs up!! To view the video, click [HERE](#)



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 online here](#).

Planning & Building and Other Areas at Town Hall Interior Painting

On April 3, 2023, R&C Quality Painting will start the interior painting of the Planning & Building area as well as a few other areas at Town Hall that are in need of touch-up.

Quail Crossing Blvd Extension Phase 2 and Traffic Signal Activation

The project is approximately 97% complete. Town staff has been coordinating with Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR), Psomas, and Arizona Corporate Commission (ACC) to get the approval to proceed with the planned improvements at the railroad crossing. Ashton Construction Company's striping subcontractor was out onsite on March 7, 2023, to lay thermoplastic striping along Phase 2. The Town's Legal Department is scheduled to file a formal application with the ACC for a hearing on this intersection. This hearing application will replace the formal complaint the Town filed with the ACC months prior on our inability to settle an ongoing contract dispute between the Town and UPRR.

The seal coating on Phase 1 of Quail Crossing Blvd, from Nogales Highway to the Trailhead Parking Lot, is scheduled for May 2023.

Abrego Culvert Design

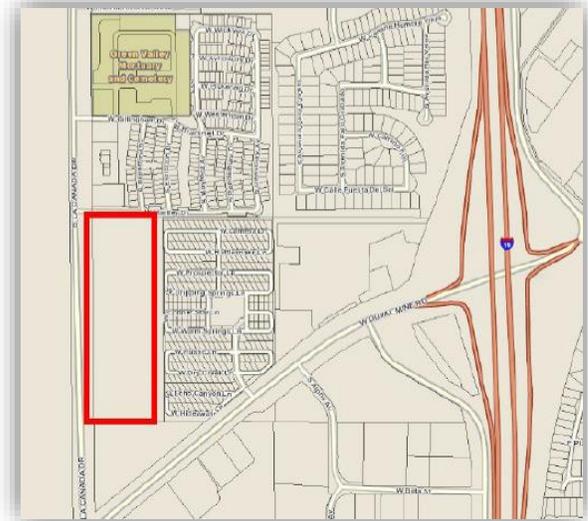
The Abrego Culvert Design project is approximately 88% complete. The survey for elevations and existing utilities around the culvert has been completed, and the hydraulics analysis is complete. CMG Drainage Engineering has completed the 15% preliminary design for the needed improvements to the Abrego Culvert, and a final conceptual cost estimate of the needed improvements is in the process of being submitted to the Town.

Water Reclamation Facility Pump Repair

On Saturday, February 11, 2023 (Superbowl Weekend), one of the two pumps in the wet well at the Sahuarita Water Reclamation Facility stopped working. When staff went to replace the pump, they were unable to do so due to either debris blocking the spare pump from seating or a damaged discharge elbow. After numerous attempts were made to reseal the pump in the 29-foot deep wet well and other actions, staff contracted with KE&G Contractors to complete the work. KE&G began work on March 7, 2023, removing the old pump, removing/installing new guiderails, and reseating the new pumps. All work was completed on Friday, March 10, 2023.

Land Use and Zoning:

- **La Canada Rezoning:** Park Corporation submitted an application to rezone approximately 15 acres of land from GR-1 (Rural Residential) to B-1 (Local Business). The site is located on the east side of La Canada north of Duval Mine Road. The concept drawing for the site includes an apartment complex and possibly commercial uses. The site is located within an area planned for commercial land use and growth as designated by the General Plan. The public hearing process began with the Planning and Zoning Commission on February 6, 2023. The Commission voted 3:1 to recommend approval of the rezoning. The next step in the process will be a public hearing before the Town Council, which is tentatively scheduled for March 27.



- **Vulcan Materials Conditional Use Permit:** Staff is reviewing a Type 3 Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for a hot mix asphalt plant at the existing Vulcan sand and gravel site on Old Nogales Highway.

A Type 3 CUP requires public hearings before the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Town Council. More project information can be found online at <https://sahuaritaaz.gov/799/Planning-Projects>. Click on “Other.”

- **Residential Zones Code Amendment:** A second joint study session with the Town Council and the Planning and Zoning Commission is scheduled for April 10, 2023. More project information can be found [online](#).



- Did you know that **Planning & Zoning project information** can be found [online](#)? Click on the link to go directly to the information page.

Capital Improvement & Development Projects

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

