



Town Manager's Report

February 2023

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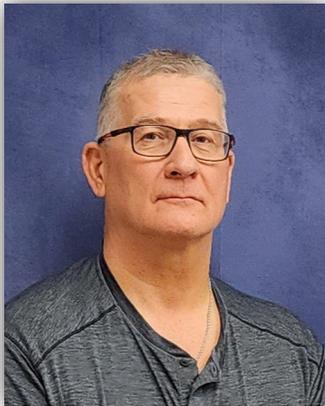
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New Employees Spotlight

NEW EMPLOYEE



Richard Balmes, Jr.
WW Treatment Plant Mechanic
Started 1/17/23



Omar Duarte
Police Officer
Started 1/24/23



Melissa Mata
Economic Development Specialist
Started 1/9/23

Employee Service Milestones



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

5-Year Service Milestone	Vicente Ramirez, Police Seargent (Hire Date 2/20/18)
10-Year Service Milestone	None
15-Year Service Milestone	None
20-Year Service Milestone	Hon. Maria Montaña Avilez, Town Magistrate (Hire Date 1/1/03)

Congrats

Employee Recognition

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:

Rona Kreamer, Town Prosecutor/Prosecution Services Manager



Rona was selected to present at the *Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys' Advisory Council* (APAAC) Annual Conference in June! The Annual Conference serves as the largest training opportunity for all prosecutors in the State of Arizona.

Rona created a presentation entitled "*Lessons From Lasso: Ethics, Emotional Intelligence & Leadership.*" The presentation is for participants to learn how the Rules of Professional Conduct are prevalent throughout the *Ted Lasso* television series, as well as an emphasis on Emotional Intelligence and Leadership the Lasso Way-which is sometimes good and sometimes the way Ted describes tea: "Garbage Water."

Congratulations Rona!

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:

Heather Diaz, Plans Examiner/Building Inspector, Alex Avila, Senior Permit Technician, and Vanessa Tena, Senior Permit Technician



Heather earned certification as an ICC Residential Building Inspector, and Alex and Vanessa both earned certification as ICC Permit Technicians administered by the International Code Council. The certifications demonstrate an individual's knowledge of the international building codes and their application to permitting, plan review, and building construction inspection.

Congratulations, Heather, Vanessa, and Alex!

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:

Beth Abramovitz, Assistant Town Manager



Beth was the lucky recipient of a scholarship to attend the ACMA Winter Conference in Sedona in 2023. The scholarship paid for all of her expenses, including her registration, her accommodation, and meals.

Congratulations Beth!

Employee Recognition *continued*

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:	Alejandro Roman, Parks Foreman
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Al has earned certification as a Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) administered by the National Recreation and Park Association. The CPSI certification program provides the most comprehensive and up-to-date training on playground safety issues, including hazard identification, equipment specifications, surfacing requirements and risk management methods.

Congratulations Al!

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:	Sergio Burgos, Senior Traffic Technician
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Sergio Burgos has earned certification as a Traffic Signal Senior Field Technician Level III through the International Municipal Signal Association (IMSA). Sergio was also selected to present on traffic signal preventative maintenance practices at the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) and International Municipal Signal Association (IMSA) Annual Spring Conference in April 2023.

Congratulations Sergio!

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:	Paul Burton, Traffic Signal Operations Manager
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Paul Burton has been selected to be a reviewer of the Traffic Signal Maintenance Handbook 2nd Edition, jointly published by ITE and IMSA. Additionally, Paul is volunteering as a subject matter expert in the development of updated IMSA traffic signal technician certification examinations and is the ITE/IMSA Annual Spring Conference Programming Co-chair.

Paul also completed a course entitled *Older Driver Safety* presented by National Center for Rural Road Safety.

Congratulations Paul!

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:	Heriberto "Eri" Coronado, Project Manager
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Heriberto Coronado has recently completed the Supervisor/Manager Academy through Regional Government Services (RGS).

The program focuses on the supervisor or manager's leadership role, communication, and performance management, and assists new or established supervisors and managers build trust, accountability, and effective work teams.

Congratulations Eri!

Department Highlights

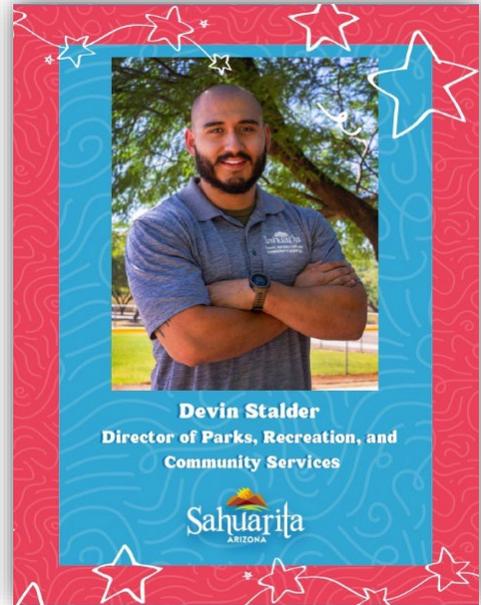
Parks, Recreation & Community Services

Devin Stalder has taken on the role of the new **Director of Parks, Recreation, and Community Services**.

Devin began his career in Parks & Recreation as a seasonal employee in Laramie, Wyoming in the fall of 2013. It was there that Devin quickly learned that community matters and began shifting his gears toward a career in the field.

In 2021, Devin, and his wife Amanda, relocated to Sahuarita to continue his pursuit in Parks and Recreation as the Recreation Coordinator. In his short tenure, he has moved from Recreation Coordinator to Recreation Manager, and has now been appointed to Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services.

Devin is excited to continue his commitment to Sahuarita, delivering high-quality service within the department. He believes Parks and Recreation should be accessible to everyone and will continue to work towards that goal. This however would not be successful without the help of his incredible, hardworking, team in Parks, Recreation and Community Services. A team ready for the next chapter of success and service!



Police Department



Last year, **The Arizona Association of Chiefs of Police (AACOP)** initiated an accreditation program for individual police command staff members and Police Chiefs. In recognition of the value of this program, SPD command staff members, **Kaleb Allred, Renee Carlson, Michael Falquez, Manuel Amado, and Chief John Noland**, applied to participate. The accreditation program is called the A.C.E. Program and offers accreditation as an **Accredited Chief Executive** and **Accredited Command Executive**.

Each of these has several elements to fulfill associated with formal education (bachelor's/master's degree), several advanced officer training courses, and participation in collaborative meetings, quarterly training, and groups to address current and forecasted law enforcement challenges. SPD had 5 such command staff level officers attain the A.C.E. Program in January and were recognized at an AACOP meeting on January 27. The five SPD staff who received A.C.E. accreditations was the largest number among any law enforcement agency in the state! The others will have to catch up!

Public Works

Public Works held a grand opening of the Wastewater Lab on Monday, January 23, 2023. This new facility replaced an old modular structure that was well beyond its usefulness. This new lab facility building is approximately 1,320 square feet.



One Stop Recycle Drop TOWN OF Sahuarita

Recycle your:
 Electronics & Appliances,
 Cooking Oil & Grease, and
 Christmas Trees (live trees only, all decorations removed).

Our Sahuarita residents break the record for grease collection every year. Let's do it again by collecting fats, oils and grease (FOG). * Prevent clogged sewer lines. Cooking oils only • NO motor oil accepted.

Sahuarita Food Bank volunteers will be on site accepting non-perishable bagged or boxed food and clean cardboard. Clean out your pantry and help a family in need!

Saturday, Jan. 14, 2023
 9am to 1pm
 Sahuarita Town Hall
 375 W. Sahuarita Center Way

On January 14, 2023, Public Works held its annual One Stop Recycle Drop. The event is to collect grease, electronics, and Christmas tree for recycling.



The Town of Sahuarita was a silver sponsor at the **International Economic Development Council Leadership Summit**, held January 29-31 in Tucson. The Leadership Summit brought together over 500 economic development professionals from across the country to explore and learn best practices in advancing the economic development profession. Session topics included leadership development, diversifying, and growing the local economy, enhancing community for investment, capital and talent, and economic development innovation.



Staff presented to the **Green Valley Sahuarita Chamber of Commerce 3rd Thursday Breakfast Business Mixer**. The presentation provided an overview of economic development activities to chamber members. The Grow IN Sahuarita small business assistance program was highlighted to attendees. The Grow IN Sahuarita program focuses on providing wrap-around services to help local entrepreneurs and small businesses grow and thrive in Sahuarita. The program will be administered by Melissa Mata, Economic Development Specialist with the support of program partners and external resources.

What is Grow IN Sahuarita? ([Video Link](#))

Not all businesses are on the same stage of this journey. **Grow IN Sahuarita** will support entrepreneurs and businesses in four key business stages:

- **Ideation:** How do you turn an idea into a potential business?
- **Incubation:** Take the idea and turn it into a real start-up business.
- **Acceleration:** A business has survived the start-up phase, now it's time to create growth.
- **Transition:** What is the succession plan for the business?



Public Affairs staff providing public service announcements and social media posts on Quail Crossing; Rural Metro, and Public Works/Streets. Social media is an ever-growing communication platform and the primary form of communication for the Town of Sahuarita to its residents. Over 30% of residents access social media for Town information (2022 Residential Survey). Social media posts are focused on Public Service Announcements & Happenings, Special Events, and Programs & Campaigns.



Our very own **Blanca Espino, Permit Compliance Coordinator**, is pictured here representing the Town of Sahuarita in ANTARCTICA!



Due to the efforts of **Heriberto "Eri" Coronado, Jonathan Leon, Sergio Macias, and John Lucio**, the Human Resources and Law Departments have been moved.

It was a massive undertaking moving both departments, and they all played an important part in bringing the project to a successful conclusion.

In addition, the whole shipment of cardboard boxes that the new furniture was delivered in was dismantled and donated to the Sahuarita Food Bank. An amazing job!

A SUPER THANK YOU to Eri, John, Jonathan, and Sergio are in order !!!

Finance

Ron Bishop, Technology Manager and **Daniel Ortega, Systems Administrator**, traveled to Phoenix and participated in a tabletop ransomware exercise sponsored by the Arizona Department of Homeland Security and Rubrik, a company specializing in IT disaster recovery. The Town was a member of four teams comprised of state and local agencies engaged in re-enacting an actual ransomware event that transpired in the past. Team members were assigned roles and went through the process of what a ransomware event comprises. Team members were able to offer their own insights into the process and compare that to what occurred. Events were scripted and split into different 'acts', such as in a play. After each "act", a video was presented guiding the teams through how the ransomware event was responded to by both the criminals and the victim.



Sahuarita Optimistic Squad (SOS)

SOS PRESENTS

Valentine's Date Night Contest

Guess the correct (or closet) number of kisses in the jar to win a dinner, movie and the candy jar!

Submit your entry to sallred@sahuaritaaz.gov by 5pm, Monday, February 13. Stop by the Town Clerk Dept. if you would like to view the jar.

The lucky winner will be announced on Tuesday, February 14.

One Entry per Employee. Good Luck!

For Valentine's Day, SOS held a Valentine's Date Night Contest. Employees were asked to guess the number of candies in a jar. It was a great turnout with over 76 guesses! The number of kisses in the jar was 204. Heidi Lasham was the closest with a guess of 214. Heidi won a \$50 gift card for dinner at Manuel's Restaurant, a \$20 Redbox movie gift card, and the candy jar.

Additionally, on Valentine's Day, SOS provided delicious treats to all departments.



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](#).

Twin Buttes Public Works Building

The contract with TSG Constructors in the amount of \$3.997M will be put on hold by staff until the Mayor and Council have the larger CIP discussion on March 6, 2023. Realizing that there are more demands on the CIP than there are resources to address them, staff is looking for clear direction on the priorities for spending these CIP dollars. GLHN Architects & Engineers is currently working on the well site design to provide water and fire suppression services to the site. SOLON Corporation will be involved with the installation of solar canopies for the site.

Quail Crossing Blvd Extension Phase 2 and Traffic Signal Activation

The project is about 96% complete. Ashton's striping subcontractor will be laying thermoplastic striping along Phase 2 starting Monday, February 27, 2023, after a rain delay on February 13, 2023. Ashton will be seal coating Phase 1, from Nogales Highway to the Trailhead Parking Lot, in May 2023.

On Tuesday, February 21, 2023, the traffic signal at the intersection of Old Nogales Highway at Quail Crossing Boulevard was activated in flashing operation. The traffic signal now displays flashing yellow lights for traffic on Old Nogales Highway and flashing red lights for traffic on Quail Crossing Boulevard.

Flashing red lights or red arrows mean that drivers must come to a full stop and yield to all cross traffic before entering the intersection. The right to proceed is the same as at a STOP sign.

Flashing yellow lights or arrows means that drivers may cautiously proceed through the intersection without stopping. Drivers intending to turn must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and other vehicles approaching from the opposite direction so closely as to constitute an immediate hazard.

All traffic is required to yield to pedestrians.

The existing "Stop" and "Cross Traffic Does Not Stop" signs will remain in place to emphasize that traffic on Quail Crossing Boulevard must stop and traffic on Old Nogales Highway does not stop.

Abrego Culvert Design

The project design is approximately 70% complete; the survey has been completed; and the hydraulics analysis is about 80% complete. CMG has discussed with the Town their recommendation for adding an additional 4' x 10' barrel box culvert on Abrego Drive, and their preliminary cost breakdown of the needed improvements will include options for the Town to consider.

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.
- **Residential Zones Code Amendment:** A Town Council study session is scheduled for February 27, 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.](#)

