



Town Manager's Report

August 2023



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New Employees Spotlight



Jennifer Busey
Office Assistant (Town Clerk)
Hire Date July 17, 2023



Esai Guerrero
Recreation Generalist
Hire Date July 31, 2023



Thomas Kennemer
Maintenance Worker (PRCS)
Hire Date July 31, 2023



Alyiah Branz
Assistant Planner
Hire Date July 31, 2023



Laurence Myers, Sr.
Sr. Permit Technician
Hire Date August 14, 2023



Ray Friedlander
Management Intern
Hire Date August 14, 2023



Employee 5th, 10th 15th & 20th + Service Milestones Recognitions



20th Year Anniversary
Hector Iglecias
Police Officer
Hire Date August 3, 2003



10th Year Anniversary
Victor Gonzalez
Economic Development and
Public Affairs Director
Hire Date August 5, 2013



10th Year Anniversary
Jorge Rodriguez
System Analyst
Hire Date August 5, 2013



5th Year Anniversary
Oscar Fruge
Corporal
Hire Date August 28, 2018



Employee Recognition



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:

Beth Abramovitz, Assistant Town Manager



The **American Public Works Association (APWA) - Arizona Chapter** honored **Beth Abramovitz** with the **Professional Manager of the Year** award on July 27, 2023. Beth's varied professional experiences in all facets of Public Works have given her the ideal balance of overall knowledge and hands-on experience, making her an invaluable asset to the Town.

Additionally, Beth was recently informed that she will be the recipient of the ICMA Annual Conference Assistance Scholarship, and will be using that scholarship to attend the 2023 ICMA conference in Austin, TX in late September.

Congratulations on both counts, Beth!



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:

Chief John Noland, Cmdr. Kaleb Allred, Lt. Michael Falquez, and Lt. Renee Carlson, Sahuarita Police Department



Cmdr. Allred, Lt. Falquez, and Lt. Carlson were selected as assessors for the **Arizona Law Enforcement Accreditation Program (ALEAP)**. This means that Cmdr. Allred, Lt. Falquez, and Lt. Carlson can help examine



partner agencies pursuing their ALEAP accreditation. The advantage of having our SPD staff in these positions is that it will help SPD comprehend ALEAP’s expectations and standards. SPD also benefits from seeing the policies, procedures, and best practices of other agencies.



ALEAP Program Manager Kevin Rhea also requested that **Chief John Noland** join the ALEAP Commission as an official commissioner. Chief Noland accepted the position and is expected to join the commission during a statewide meeting held in Laughlin, Nevada, September 12–14, 2023

Congratulations SPD Command Staff!



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:	Andrew Parkin, Plans Examiner/Building Inspector, Planning & Building Department
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Congratulations to **Andrew Parkin** on passing his ICC Plumbing Certification exam! ICC certifications demonstrate to our customers that our staff has a thorough understanding of code requirements and our dedication to continual staff improvement.



Department Highlights

Public Works Department

The Town was awarded the **APWA 2023 Project of the Year** for Small Cities/Rural Communities Transportation Category for the **Quail Crossing Boulevard Extension**. **Vice Mayor Kara Egbert** was in attendance to accept the award on behalf of the Town. The project included 1.2 miles of a two-lane paved road, a river crossing, a multi-use path, new traffic signals, and upgrades to the Union Pacific railroad facilities. The project commenced in October 2021 with a grand opening in December 2022.



[Click here](#) to view a video of the presented awards. Congratulations Public Works!



The Town, through the support of U.S. Congressman Juan Ciscomani, a member of the House Appropriations Committee, secured \$3 million towards the construction of the Town's portion of the **Campbell Avenue Extension Project**. The project is connected to a larger extension plan led by Pima County, per an intergovernmental agreement. Pima County has plans to complete the approximately 3,400 feet of road within its limits to provide additional access for the residents of this area. The Town's portion will connect White House Canyon Road with South Campbell Avenue.

On July 1, the Town accomplished a significant milestone by implementing the Asset Management System component of **CityWorks**. This transformative move has seen Streets and Fleet staff wholeheartedly embrace their roles in entering daily work orders into the database. This systematic approach is proving invaluable in comprehensively tracking activities within the Town's rights-of-way and diverse assets. Beyond a mere record-keeping exercise, it is a strategic endeavor that empowers data-driven decision-making.

Of paramount importance is the accurate classification of tasks—whether they stem from inter-departmental needs or citizen requests. This differentiation ensures streamlined workflow management, enabling the Town to effectively address various demands. By dedicating ourselves to this collective effort, we are not only enhancing operational efficiency but also enriching the town's responsiveness to its dynamic needs. As we stride forward, each keystroke propels us towards an interconnected, informed, and empowered future.

On July 1, 2023, the Town initiated its **Fleet Pilot Program**. The Fleet Division consist of two mechanics that maintain 28 town vehicles, and 76 pieces of heavy and small engine equipment. The Fleet Pilot Program is also run through City Works. City works tracks all fleet services, including all completed maintenance. The goal is to extend the usability of Town vehicles and equipment through preventative maintenance and daily vehicle inspections, while also quickly responding to emergency situations and sourcing professional, cost-effective services to repair Town-owned vehicles. This will ultimately providing reliable equipment to better serve the Town and its community.

Town Manager's Department



The Town continues to work with the Arizona State Land Department (ASLD) in the development of state land in and near the Town. The collaborative work between our two organizations was highlighted in a presentation made by ASLD. **Mayor Tom Murphy**, including staff members, **Anna Casadei, Planning & Building Director**, and **Nathan Barrett, Management Analyst**, attended the presentation hosted by the Tucson Association of Realtors on July 25 entitled **The Power of Real Estate – Realizing the Potential of State Trust Land**.



Karen Dada, Manager of the Planning and Engineering Section at ASLD, presented to the crowded room on several planning projects underway in the Tucson region. Her presentation included a brief discussion of SECAP, which she highlighted as an example of the type of planning that can give ASLD

confidence in the future development potential of their trust lands. She also included a slide on the proposed Quail Crossing re-zoning, which will begin in earnest this fiscal year. Although ASLD has limited staff time to devote to the many land development projects around the state, Town staff has worked hard this last year to ensure that our projects receive their share of the limited bandwidth that ASLD staff has to spare. This presentation is evidence that their efforts are bearing fruit.

Parks, Recreation & Community Services Department

CLUB S.P.☪.K.E.

Club SPIKE (Sahuarita Parks Inspires Kids Enrichment) our Pilot After School Program, starts Monday, August 28 at Anamax. The 12 month Pilot program will initially only be available to a small group consisting

of kids from current Town employees who have applied to participate. The Pilot approach will allow the PRCS team time to fully develop the program and curriculum, and to test the waters a bit to better know what will be needed should the program be successful, receive permanent funding, and be provided in the following years to the general public.

This program is designed to provide students with the tools they need to succeed and excel in their academic and personal lives. With Club SPIKE, students will have access to a wide range of activities and resources that will help them develop important skills and abilities.

We believe that Club SPIKE will be an amazing opportunity for students to explore their interests, discover new passions, and grow into confident and capable young adults. We can't wait to see what our students will accomplish with the help of Club SPIKE!



Lakeside Live and the **Sahuarita Sunset Market** took place on Friday, August 11th from 5pm-9pm. We had 10 vendors and live music by CC and the Groove. We will continue to have Sunset Markets every second Friday of the month through November and hope this event series will continue to grow!



Our dog-focused event, **Barkarama**, is coming up on Wednesday, September 13th at Quail Creek Veterans Municipal Park! Bring along your dog for a *paws-ively* fun morning with pet-centered vendors and organizations, free treats, and more, right by the Quail Creek Dog Park. Vendor registration for the event is currently open. Share this information with all pet-friendly goods and services in the area! We would love to have them join us!



STAC (Sahuarita Teen Advisory Council) will be attending Annual League Conference of Cities & Towns on Wednesday, August 30th at the Starr Pass Resort in Tucson to participate in team-building exercises, networking, and information-sharing opportunities! Sessions will also address youth leadership and how to become active and engaged members.

PRCS has started its transition to **SmartRec** by Amilia. We have a tentative go-live date of the first week in November. Over the next few months, PRCS staff will have regular meetings with SmartRec to cover the system, plan the transition, and schedule training for staff. PRCS is very excited for this transition and believe it will be a great benefit to the department and community.

The Notice of Intent to Award has gone out to Altitude Recreation (GameTime) for the **Anamax Playground**. Once the contract is finalized, PRCS will submit the order and the playground will begin production. We are

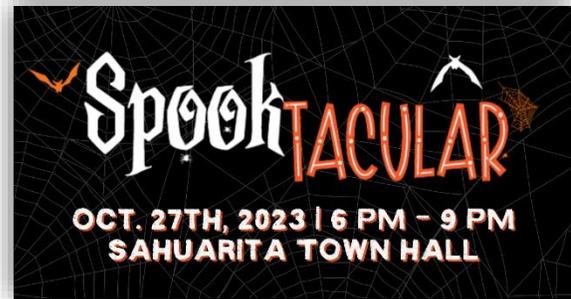


hoping to break ground sometime in September or October, as the playground must be finished by December per the APRA/GameTime grant requirements. We are also awaiting some final details from Altitude Recreation (GameTime) to finalize the Notice of Intent for the **Anamax Splashpad**. Once that contract is finalized, we will submit the order, and the Splashpad equipment will begin production. We are hoping to break ground for this project sometime in September or October.



PRCS staff have registered for the upcoming **APRA Conference** in Glendale and will be attending August 22 – 24th! We can't wait to learn from industry experts, network with peers, and gain valuable insights that will help me excel in our work. It is always a great opportunity to stay up to date with the latest trends and best practices in the field. We are looking forward to a productive and inspiring event! Congratulations to **Esai Guerrero** who was newly hired as a Recreation Generalist, and **Tom Kennemer** our new Maintenance Worker! Welcome Tom and Esai!

Our next signature event coming up is **Spooktacular** on Friday, October 27 from 6pm-9pm at Town Hall. Event planning is under way and Trunk-or-Treat registration has opened. Be sure to spread the word to friends and family!



Planning & Building Department

Building Safety inspectors had the opportunity to attend the Southern Arizona Chapter of the International Code Council and the City of Tucson



Building Inspector Training. The two-day training provided new residential inspectors with basic techniques and an understanding of conducting inspections of one and two dwelling and townhouse buildings. Commercial Accessibility was the second day's topic providing basic concepts of disabled-accessible design and construction. The class was intended for the inspector that was new to accessible design or as a refresher on the ever-changing requirements.



Several Planning & Building Department employees, along with employees from other departments (plus a few friends and family members), participated in the **PRCS's Co-Ed Softball League**.

The 17 athletes formed a team, Scared Hitless, that has been playing throughout July and August. Town staff participating on the team include Heather Diaz, Dylan Parry, Anna Casadei, Alex Avila, Tierra Denogean, Leah Rhodes, Jorge Rodriguez, Daniel Ortega, Becky Pollard, Galo Galovale, and Nathan Barrett. Good luck to the team as they play their final games of the season! A big thank you to Council Member Dr. Gillespie 😊 for coming out to support the team!



Great things are happening in the Planning & Building Department. In FY23, P&B employees received 19 customer comment cards, all of which contained positive feedback. We also gave each other 72 peer recognition cards. P&B started a **peer recognition program** for FY23 to allow employees to recognize each other for the good things that they do. Good deeds that were recognized through the peer-to-peer recognition program included things like helping to learn the code books, bringing snacks for the group, helping solve a difficult problem, and taking on tasks with a smile. Employees who receive a peer recognition card are recognized during departmental staff meetings and earn raffle tickets to be used during semi-annual team-building events. P&B is fortunate to have such a hard-working and positive team, and it is wonderful to see team members recognize each other for their contributions. Great work, P&B!

Economic Development & Public Affairs Department



EDPA Staff along with the team from **TIP Strategies** conducted a site visit to the City of Nogales (MX) to meet with Economic Development and Maquiladora Association officials. The purpose of the site visit was to gather information on the current state of economic activity in the Nogales bi-national region.

The information collected will be used to inform and shape the new Economic Development Master Plan

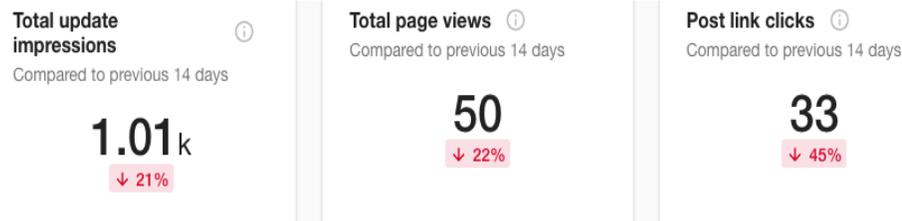


Media monitoring criteria contain mentions of “Sahuarita,” written and spoken in the English language, and published within 200 miles of Town Hall.

Channels eligible for monitoring are all web-based news and information platforms including public social media pages (private pages are hidden). See graphic with statistics.

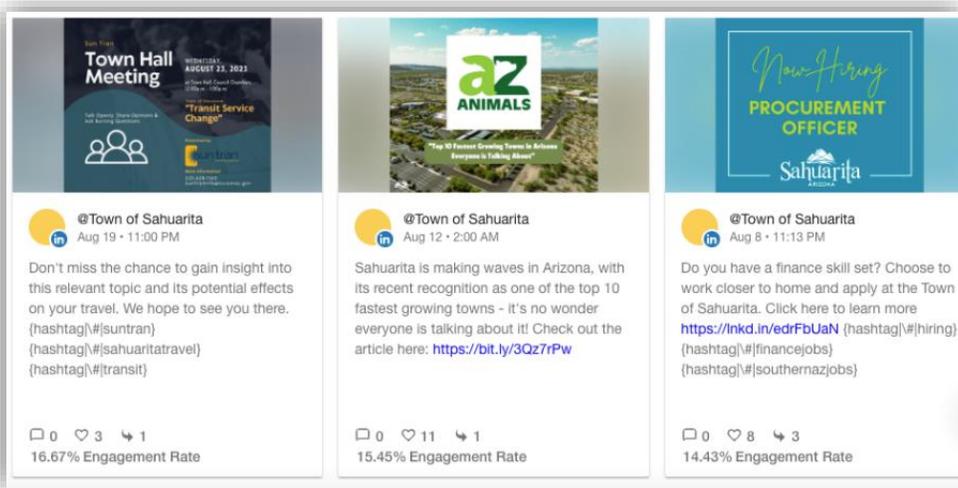


On LinkedIn last month, our posts garnered 1.01k impressions. The top posts pictured below contain upcoming transit meeting by Sun Tran, Sahuarita Top 10 Fastest Growing town in Arizona, and job recruitment.



Public Affairs continues to collaborate with Civic Plus, Gordley Group, and all 10 TOS departments to revise the Town’s website content and visual graphics to better serve the public and relevant information.

All department representatives completed web training this month and continue to evaluate the information that is necessary.



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](#).

Quail Crossing Blvd Extension and Traffic Signal Activation

Ashton Construction achieved a key milestone in the project, completing the milling and overlay work near the railroad tracks on August 14, followed by the striping on August 15. The project's primary focus will center on enhancing the railroad crossing, a task that falls under the purview of UPRR. The encouraging outcomes of the ACC meeting on August 7, have indicated that the anticipated railroad improvements are likely to materialize sooner than initially projected within the 6 to 9-month timeframe. This progress underscores our commitment to delivering timely and impactful enhancements to the community's infrastructure.

Sahuarita Water Reclamation Facility (SWRF) Re-rating Project

Significant headway has been achieved in the SWRF re-rating improvements project. Carollo Engineers are diligently finalizing the 100% design, incorporating strategies to enhance cost efficiency by eliminating areas where savings can be achieved. The anticipated completion of the final design by the end of August is a noteworthy milestone. As a Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) project, PCL Construction's receipt of the final design initiates an estimated 6–8-week timeline for the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) review.

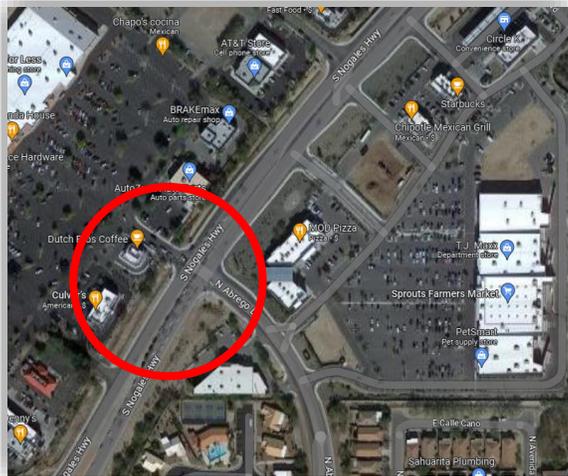
Furthermore, Carollo Engineering is actively engaged in collaboration with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) to facilitate an amendment to the Aquifer Protection Permit (APP) for the SWRF. This vital amendment ensures precise alignment between the planned improvements and stringent environmental regulations, underlining our commitment to responsible practices.

Anticipating a promising next phase, the project is well-positioned for the commencement of plant construction later this year, a testament to the substantial progress attained thus far.

Nogales Highway at Abrego Drive Improvements

The Town of Sahuarita asked Psomas, the Town's on-call traffic engineering consultant, to evaluate the intersection of Nogales Highway and Abrego Drive to investigate safety and operational concerns from the public.

The intersection was previously studied in 2016 and some safety improvements were implemented at that time. The safety improvements appear to have been working; the number of crashes decreased from 45 in a 5-year period before the analysis to 37 in a 5-year period after. In addition, the left turn crashes were reduced by half and northeast-bound rear-end crashes were reduced by nearly 60%.



Although there has been a reduction in total crashes and crash rate, there is still room for improvement, particularly in crash severity. Psomas made several safety and operational recommendations. Those recommendations include:

Short-Term:

- Reduce speed limit on Nogales Highway to 40 mph
- Add reflective tape to signal backplates
- Use wider stripe (24") for stop bars on Nogales Highway
- Restripe northwest leg to include exclusive left turn lane
- Update the signal timing and cycle length.

These improvements will be completed in the next 90 days.

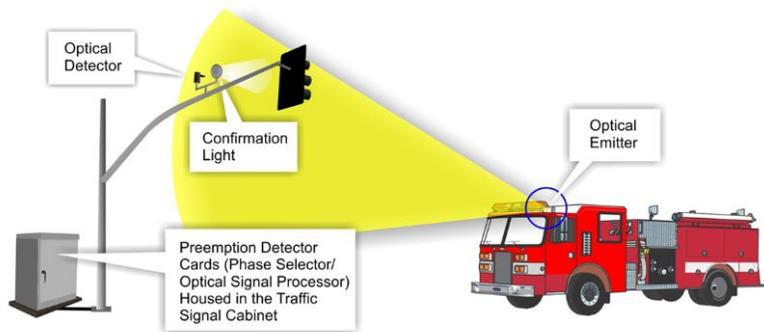
Long term:

- Add a northeast-bound right turn lane
- Add a second northeast-bound left turn lane on Nogales Highway
- Add a second northwest-bound left turn lane on Abrego Drive
- Construct a southeast-bound right turn lane on Abrego Drive
- Relocate left turn signal head on northwest corner to a new signal pole
- Replace the mast arms on Nogales Highway so the left turn signal is over the left turn lane
- Reconstruct the Nogales Highway approaches to provide positive-offset left turn lanes

The long-term improvements are capital projects and will be evaluated for future budget cycles.

Nogales Highway Emergency Vehicle Preemption

Public Works obtained a federal grant in March 2022 through the RTA to provide emergency vehicle preemption at eight intersections on Nogales Highway and Duval Mine Road between Pima Mine Road and La Cañada Boulevard.



Emergency vehicle preemption systems provide emergency vehicles a green light at signalized intersections to minimize response times while maximizing safety for emergency crews and the travelling public.

All phases of this project have been approved and programmed for federal funding in the amount of \$92,000 with a local contribution of \$0. The project is now in the procurement phase and an equipment vendor has been selected and approved. Installation of the emergency vehicle preemption equipment is expected to be completed in late November 2023.



Land Use and Zoning:

- **Vulcan Materials Conditional Use Permit:** The second submittal of the Type 3 Conditional Use Permit (CUP) application for a hot mix asphalt plant at the existing Vulcan sand and gravel site on Old Nogales Highway is still under review. A public hearing with the Planning and Zoning Commission is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, September 19, 2023, at the SUSD auditorium. The target date in September is dependent on staff completing its comprehensive review and analysis of Vulcan’s CUP.

Residents who have emailed us their comments will be notified when this date is either confirmed or canceled.

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.”

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



Map of Capital Improvement & Development Projects

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

