



***Town Manager's
Report***

July 2023



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New Employees Spotlight



Christopher Cook
Maintenance Worker
(PRCS)
Started 6/26/23



Nestor Tapia
Maintenance Worker
(PRCS)
Started 6/19/23



Abigail Nelson
Recreation Services Leader-PT
Started 6/19/23



Roselaine Kern
Recreation Generalist-PT
Started 6/19/23

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



15th Year Anniversary
Carlos Suarez
GIS/Construction Manager
Hire Date July 28, 2008



Employee Recognition



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:	Eric Heath – Sahuarita Police Department
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In March 2023, **Ofc. Eric Heath** took on an Acting-Sergeant position in the patrol bureau. After receiving a briefing from multiple command staff members on his performance, Acting-Sergeant Heath has been promoted to Police Sergeant. The promotion will be effective July 16, 2023.

Congratulations Sgt. Heath!

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:	Jessica Silva – Human Resources Department Ricci Romero – Human Resources Department
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In July, two members of the Human Resources Department achieved their professional certifications through the Society for Human Resources Management (SHRM).

Jessica Silva, Human Resources Director, is now an SHRM Senior Certified Professional (SHRM-SCP), and **Ricci Romero, Human Resources Analyst**, is now an SHRM Certified Professional (SHRM-CP).

By obtaining SHRM certifications, Jessica and Ricci have demonstrated their knowledge and expertise in HR practices and principles. SHRM certification is the only HR certification offered by the world's largest HR membership organization. It is the only competency-based certification available and focuses on the knowledge and behaviors needed to be proficient as an HR professional. As the industry leader in HR professional development, SHRM has supported more than 100,000 employers representing 140 million employees worldwide.

Congratulations to Jessica and Ricci for achieving this significant accomplishment!



Department Highlights

Public Works Department



The Town's summer **2023 Transportation Art By Youth (TABY)** project, sponsored by PAG, is complete. This year's project is made up of letters that spell the word "Sahuarita." The letters are mounted on a single concrete base with a mural painted. The letters have four sides and are about 6 feet tall, 3 feet wide, and 1 foot deep. They are thick gauge steel and set on a concrete base. The project was a collaboration between the Town, the SUSD, nine Sahuarita High School students and an art teacher, and the local businesses T&R Ironworks and Mikey's Concrete. TABY is a Pima Association of Governments grant-funded program using Highway User Revenue Funds designated for the placement of artwork along major roadways. The project received \$67,000 of TABY funding from PAG. The funding was used to pay for the students and teacher's time, outside contractors, and project materials. The Town's Streets Department helped keep costs down by completing the finish welding and grinding on all the



lettering. The project is located along the south side of Sahuarita Road at the southeast corner of the intersection of Starlight View Lane. A formal ribbon-cutting ceremony will be scheduled for later this summer.





Sahuarita Stars & Stripes was held on July 4th, 2023 and was a huge success! The event would not have been possible without our entire team.

Thank you to PRCS Staff, and the Police Department, Public Works, Communications, and everyone else who contributed to the

event!

We are currently in the process of calculating attendance and will share our estimate soon. Our Stars & Stripes giveaways were very popular! All of our branded water bottles, squirt guns, stickers, glow sticks, and more were given away within hours of the start of the event. We received 100 responses to our event feedback survey and a winner of the survey raffle has been selected!



Lakeside Live and **Sahuarita Sunset Market** will be coming up on August 11th. We are in the process of booking a pop band to perform. The market will be from 5pm to 8 pm, and the concert will be from 6pm to 9 pm at Sahuarita Lake Park in partnership with Rancho Sahuarita.



Camp Sahuarita is in full swing! Just a few more weeks before the end of Camp Sahuarita 2023



Parks Staff will be moving forward this month on the new Splashpad and playground replacement at Anamax Park. We are excited for these new, much needed additions to our Parks system!



Austin Campbell and **Joe Ornelas**, our Recreation Manager and Recreation Coordinator, respectively, recently attended **REC Camp**. Austin and Joe were able to tour recreation centers and see their inner workings as well as network with other parks and recreation professionals who are interested in bringing a recreation center to their community.

Austin has also been working on creating an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) for staff operating out of Anamax Recreation Center.

Recently, PRCS welcomes **Rose Kern** as our new Recreation Generalist-PTB. We are excited to have her on board! We have one more Seasonal Recreation Generalist position that needs to be filled.

Parks Staff will also be prepping the pad and trenching for the utility connections in preparation for our new Modular Parks Maintenance Office Building to arrive.

Additionally, Parks Staff will begin the process of remodeling/renovating the bathrooms at Sahuarita Lake Park. We will be making a public announcement to the press and social media, reminding people that during this time, portions of the bathrooms will be closed to the public.



PRCS is pleased to report that Parks has filled two new Maintenance Worker positions: **Nestor Tapia** and **Chris Cook**. We have one remaining Maintenance Worker position and are hopeful to have that position filled by July 10.

Department of Law



Rona Kreamer, Town Prosecutor/Prosecution Services Manager, presented at **APAAC Annual Conference** with her “Lessons from Lasso: Ethics, Emotional Intelligence & Leadership.” Rona presented twice during the conference, with high attendance at both sessions. Due to her successful presentation, Rona was invited to present her seminar at the annual Arizona Identification Council Conference in October 2023 in Gilbert, AZ. Rona will be presenting to state, local, and federal entities involved in forensic investigations. Great job Rona!

Police Department

On Tuesday, July 11, during the **ALEAP Summit** in Flagstaff, it was unanimously voted by the ALEAP Board of Commissioners for the SPD to be fully accredited! Becoming accredited has been a lengthy two-year process

in which over a thousand hours were poured into ensuring the SPD’s policies are in full compliance, providing proof, as well as an on-site assessment. The last step in this process was during the ALEAP summit.

Commissioners asked Chief Noland several questions during a 30-to-45-minute interview before the official vote. Congratulations Sahuarita PD!!



On Saturday, July 15, long-time **SPD VIP Norma Jordan**, lost her battle with cancer.

Norma volunteered thousands of hours as an administrative VIP. She not only had a positive impact through her work but also in her relationships with many SPD members.

Norma was a large part of the SPD, and she will be missed!



On Friday, June 23, three **SPD Explorers** (Post 693) graduated from a 2-week academy. This academy went over different elements of law enforcement, including officer safety, building clearing, first aid, crime scene investigations, search and seizure (officer and public), and drill and ceremony. Our Explorer Program helps to prepare local students for a possible future career in law enforcement.



Planning & Building Department

In Fiscal Year 2023, 301 single-family residential permits were issued. This is below our initial projection but above the revised projection of 275 homes.

Building Safety staff are making full use of their new **iPlan Table**. Using the new iPlan Table, the Plan Reviewers can gather around a project and share knowledge of code compliance while simultaneously having different document submittals on three separate monitors, which in turn maximizes productivity and efficiency. The iPlan Table also allows staff to bring up tasks, view multiple documents and apps simultaneously, and manage more projects with less effort.

Dylan Parry, Senior Planner recently returned from attending the annual **Esri User Conference** in San Diego. The conference is penned as the “world’s largest GIS conference.” Dylan spent a week expanding his knowledge of GIS, mapping, and data tables. He is one of the key staff members responsible for creating maps and extracting Pima County GIS data layers for Town departments.

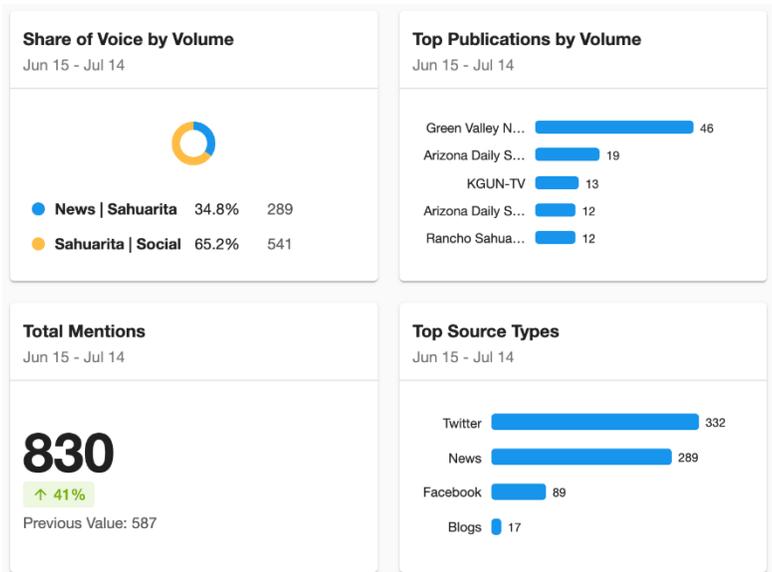
Economic Development & Public Affairs Department



The Economic Development is a co-applicant with University of Arizona Tech Parks for a 2023 USDA Rural Cooperative Development Grant to USDA. The request aims to establish the **San Xavier Underground Mining Cooperative Laboratory** as the leading first-class facility in the United States for mining technology, corporate innovation, and workforce development. To be modeled off the NORCAT Underground Centre in Ontario, Canada, the San Xavier Underground Mining Laboratory will be the only mine in the United States serving as both an innovation and training center. The San Xavier Mine Laboratory is located 7 miles west of Town Hall on Helmet Peak Rd. and Mission Rd.

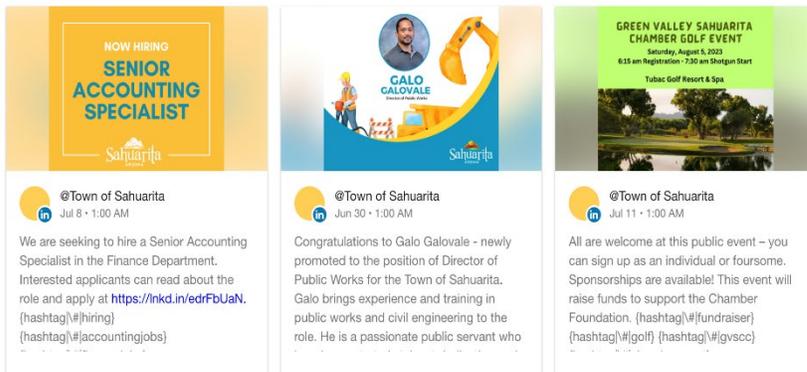


Staff is actively working with two prospective tenants considering operating at **SAMTEC**. Prospect A is an Arizona based company and would lease 8,000 SF for the expansion of its water management and technology operations in southern Arizona. Prospect A would generate 20 jobs. Prospect B is a Southern California-based company that provides adaptive manufacturing services for the defense sector and the consumer apparel industry. Prospect B would lease 5,000 SF and generate 10 jobs. The ED team has hosted site visits by representatives of both companies and has provided further information on SAMTEC and the cost of doing business.



Media monitoring criteria contain mentions of “Sahuarita”, written/spoken in English, 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 the graphic with statistics.

On LinkedIn last month, our posts garnered 1.39k impressions. The top posts pictured below contain a finance position posting, kudos to Galo Galovale for his promotion to Director of Public Works, and a Chamber event promotion.



Public Affairs is collaborating with Civic Plus, Gordley Group, and 10 TOS department reps to revise the Town’s website organization, visual graphics, and content to better serve the public. This month, PA collected department communication self-assessments and listings of online tools currently connected to the website and reviewed initial creative concepts from Gordley Group.

[KGVY Interview with Economic Development](#) in the Valley Magazine article about **Grow IN Sahuarita** and how TOS supports small business, and Vail Voice opinion editorial to advocate for Vail to incorporate as a town are recent article and media placements.



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

The Construction & Maintenance (C&M) Agreement for the railroad crossing improvements has been received from Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR), enabling Ashton Construction to schedule their work within the UPRR's right-of-way. The planned work includes milling and paving, electrical work for signal integration, and final striping of the project.

Coordination efforts are currently underway with Psomas and the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) to obtain necessary approvals for the planned railroad crossing improvements. With the C&M Agreement in place, Ashton Construction is expected to complete its portion of the work by late October 2023. A hearing before the ACC is scheduled for August 7, 2023. As of July 19, UPRR has indicated that they expect to have materials begin arriving on-site at the end of September with installation starting in October. UPRR was able to expedite the purchase of materials as there appears little danger that the plans/requirements proposed will be changed at the ACC hearing.

Sahuarita Water Reclamation Facility (SWRF) Re-rating Project

Regarding the SWRF re-rating improvements project, significant progress has been made. On June 30, 2023, PCL Construction provided the 90% cost model, representing a crucial step in the project's cost evaluation. The Public Works Department staff and Carollo Engineers are currently reviewing the cost model to identify areas where cost savings can be achieved. Among the major items included in the re-rating project are the additions to the continuous backwash filters and the additional UV systems.

Carollo Engineering is also coordinating with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) to process the amendment to the Aquifer Protection Permit (APP) for the SWRF. This amendment aims to accurately reflect the planned improvements and ensure compliance with environmental regulations.

As the project moves forward, the team is diligently finalizing the project's design. Construction on the plant is anticipated to commence later this year, reflecting the progress made thus far.



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 **WAS tentatively** scheduled for August 15, 2023, at the SUSD auditorium, but has been pushed back at this point. The new target date will be in September but determined by the auditorium’s availability and by 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.



Capital Improvement & Development Projects

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

