



***Town Manager's  
Report***

**September 2023**



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**New Employees Spotlight**



Alejandro (Alex) Magallanes  
Economic Development Specialist  
Hire Date 9/11/2023



Jesus Mejia  
Fleet Technician I  
Hire Date 9/11/2023



Caitlin Will  
Recreation Generalist-Seasonal  
Hire Date 9/11/2023

**Employee 5<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> + Service Milestones Recognitions**



**15th Year Anniversary**  
Christina Pelayo  
Police Officer  
Hire Date 9/2/2008



**5th Year Anniversary**  
Paul Burton  
Traffic Signal Operations Manager  
Hire Date 9/10/2018



**5th Year Anniversary**  
Jillian Gwaltney  
Police Officer  
Hire Date 9/26/2018



**5th Year Anniversary**  
Edward Valdez  
Police Officer  
Hire Date 9/20/2018



**5th Year Anniversary**  
Sean Mastropole  
Corporal  
Hire Date 9/26/2018



## Employee Recognition



<b>EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:</b>	<b>Ana Bustos, Administrative Specialist</b>
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For the past several years, Ana Bustos has worked diligently to schedule and promote blood drives at the Police Department through the American Red Cross. Since 2019, over 288 people have donated blood (29 of which were first-time donors) totaling 295 units of blood collected! This supply has the potential to save an estimated 725 lives.



Well done to all who have participated. Thank you, Ana for your work with this life-saving cause!

<b>Sahuarita Police Department</b>	
<small>Sponsor Group</small>	
<b>16 Blood drives /2019-June 2023</b>	
<small>Date of Drive</small>	
<b>288</b>	<b>29</b>
<small>Total Number of Donors</small>	<small>First Time Donors</small>
<b>295</b>	<b>725</b>
<small>Units Collected</small>	<small>Potential Number of Lives Saved</small>

When you made the decision to host a blood drive, you helped change lives.

© 2019 by American Red Cross 1001210

<b>EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:</b>	<b>David Urquides, Heavy Equipment Operator I</b>
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David Urquides successfully passed his Core Exam for Pesticide and Herbicide certification, including certification as an applicator for the Right-of-Way portion through the Arizona Department of Agriculture. Having certified pesticide and herbicide applicators on our staff not only minimizes the expenses associated with outsourcing these services but also offers greater flexibility in scheduling our work.



## Department Highlights

### Town Manager



Students and leadership staff from the Sahuarita Unified School District (SUSD), along with Town Council members and staff, and representatives from the Pima Association of Governments (PAG), celebrated a special ribbon cutting for the new S-A-H-U-A-R-I-T-A letters on the corner of Starlight View Lane and Sahuarita Road.



The project was made possible by the Transportation Art by Youth program in partnership with the Town, SUSD, and PAG.



### Department of Law

**Jocelynn Enriquez, Legal Assistant,** and **Barbara Jackson, Criminal Paralegal,** attended the National Association for Legal Support Professionals National Conference in Houston from August 21st through the 23rd. Multiple training sessions included Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Legal Technology, E-Discovery, a criminal case study of the steps in the prosecution of a mother who poisoned her young daughter, employment law topics, discussions of what the unauthorized practice of law looks like, as well as the City of Houston's Mayor's Office Human Trafficking Municipal Response. They toured Houston, made connections with legal support professionals from other jurisdictions and Jocelynn even won Cosmic Bowling for her table at the Foundation Event the second evening!



professionals from other jurisdictions and Jocelynn even won Cosmic Bowling for her table at the Foundation Event the second evening!



## Public Works Department

The Streets and Fleet departments have been utilizing **CityWorks** to track work orders and all relevant data such as hours worked, type of work order, materials, and equipment used, etc. The asset management function of CityWorks allows for a more organized process and minimizes the hassle of record-keeping.



**John Garcia, Senior Engineering Technician**, is one of the finalists for the 2023 Oonagh Award. The Oonagh



Award, named after the esteemed community leader and philanthropist Oonagh Boppart, pays tribute to those who have demonstrated exceptional prowess in fostering creative partnerships within the artistic community.

Through his involvement in the Transportation Art by Youth (TABY) program of the Pima Association of Governments, the Town has been enriched by breathtaking art projects year after year. John's collaborations with esteemed organizations, local schools, and community members have brought beauty and vitality to our public spaces. John's leadership in managing the TABY program has been exemplary. He effortlessly coordinates with contractors, other

departments, and our esteemed Mayor and Council to ensure the program's success. John's dedication to creating opportunities for our youth and fostering partnerships has created a lasting impression on our community.

Public Works welcomes **Jesus Mejia, Fleet Technician I**, who joined the **Public Works Fleet Division**, on September 11th. Jesus has over 2 years of experience in the field of mechanics and is excited to grow with the Town. He will be working on obtaining his Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) Certification in brakes. Jesus, along with Jaime Alarcon, Fleet Technician II, is looking forward to being part of a successful Fleet Program.

## Planning & Building Department



A **HUGE** shout out to our **Building Safety Division** for their efforts in the aftermath of the Walmart fire! Thanks in large part to the proactive efforts of Building Safety employees, Walmart was able to re-open its doors less than five days after a fire left the store smoke-damaged and flooded. **Heather Diaz, Plans Examiner/Building Inspector** was on-site the evening of the fire to help assess any structural or other damage. On

Monday morning, Heather and **Andrew Parkin, Plans Examiner/Building Inspector** headed back to the site to proactively assist Walmart management with the required permitting and inspection processes that would help them reopen to the public in as little time as possible. All Town requirements for re-opening were cleared by late Monday morning, and by Tuesday morning Walmart was back open for business. In Building Safety, we understand that a permit is not "just a permit." In this case, a permit meant our residents being able to procure food and other needed goods, Walmart employees being able to return to work, trickle-down economic effects of Walmart customers on the surrounding businesses, and the local tax revenues generated for the Town's operations by Walmart and surrounding businesses. Great work, Building Safety team!





**Alyiah Branz, Assistant Planner**, had the opportunity to attend the 2023 American Planning Association Arizona Chapter conference in Litchfield Park. This is the largest

planning conference in the state and typically draws over 300 planners from all over the state. As a new planner, Alyiah stated of the conference, “It was a really great stepping stone into the world of planning. I feel more confident in my role after returning. Thank you for sending me!” Alyiah attended sessions and discussions on mining in Arizona, the housing crisis, youth engagement, and build-for-rent communities among other topics.



**Finance Department**



The Multi-State Information Sharing & Analysis Center held its 20th annual joint meeting from August 6th through August 9th in Salt Lake City, Utah. More than 1,000 people from across the United States and U.S. territories attended including federal, state, and local government professionals and private-sector cybersecurity partners.

**Ron Bishop, Technology Manager**, attended representing the Town of Sahuarita, along with rural communities across the State of Arizona. The working meeting’s agenda was loaded with cyber defense topics, access to cyber security leaders from across the nation and tabletop exercises. There was a heavy focus on networking with peers from other government agencies, learning best practices from the Cybersecurity Infrastructure Agency (CISA), teamwork, grant opportunities, resources, and partnerships.



The Town has been a member of MS-ISAC since 2020. Ron is also a Cybersecurity Mentor in the MS-ISAC Leadership Mentoring program since 2021, pictured above with Jerry Keely (former CISO for Pinal County) and his current and former mentees.



## Parks, Recreation & Community Services Department

Our events team put on another successful event, **Barkarama**, on Wednesday, September 13 at the Quail Creek Veterans Municipal Park. Over the course of the morning, we had the community engaging with local, dog-friendly vendors, socializing with adoptable dogs from the Animal League of Green Valley, treating their furry friends to free pup cups from Dutch Bros, and taking home some free pet swag and dog treats!



PRCS is continuing to grow! We would like to welcome, **Caitlin Will**, our newest Recreation Generalist to the team!



We have set a transition date for **SmartRec** by Amilia. We plan to have our new SmartRec catalog live in time for our new program guide release set for November 1, 2023. Our new catalog through SmartRec will be integrated into our own website, which we hope will be an easier and more accessible interface for our users and staff. In the time between now and then, PRCS will conduct training on SmartRec and build the system for use. Nicole Serrine has been busy leading our efforts with Amilia SmartRec University, building our new facilities into CivicRec, and managing the billing build.



PRCS was successful in absorbing a portion of our historically contracted landscaping services. On August 28th, the Town Council approved our recommendations. The Parks Division is currently hiring an additional two Maintenance Worker positions to quickly transition and incorporate this work. We anticipate completing these hires by September 22nd. With the aforementioned approval, a new Parks maintenance team has been established through the Town Manager's office. **Juan Escobedo** will be leading the charge as the new **Grounds Maintenance Foreman**. The transition of oversight for grass and trees in our Parks occurred on September 4th. During this time of transition, the public may see a slight delay or interruption of general parks maintenance services until the new staff are successfully onboarded. We ask for your patience during this transition period. We hope this new division will enable a higher quality and more consistent product for our Parks users!



In September, Parks staff will also begin the process of renovating the **Restrooms at Sahuarita Lake Park**. In addition to minor exterior paint and stucco repairs, staff will recoat the roofs with sealant, including removing and replacing outdated, malfunctioning, and/or damaged interior fixtures, partitions, and lighting at both North and South bathrooms. They will also be installing new wall paneling in the South Lake Restroom. We will be

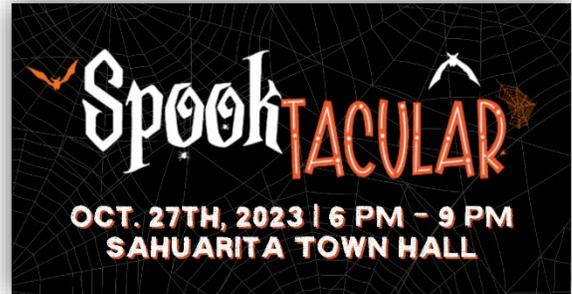


communicating any potential hazards and closures both to the public (via our website and social media pages, as well as local signage), as well as to Town Staff, as they arise, but we are planning on a phased approach to limit impacts to the public due to short-term inconvenience from facility closures.



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!



### Economic Development & Public Affairs Department



EDPA team welcomes **Alex Magallanes** as the new **Economic Development Specialist**.



Alex will be primarily responsible for leading the Grow In Sahuarita, which is designed to assist aspiring entrepreneurs, start-ups and existing businesses in the community. In addition, Alex will support the implementation of economic development initiatives, and business attraction activities and represent EDPA locally, regionally, and state-wide. Alex previously served as a Senior Advisor & Outreach Coordinator for Prestamos CDFI (Chicanos Por La Causa) and has worked with entrepreneurs, small businesses and non-profit lenders throughout his career. Alex and his family proudly call Sahuarita

home.



Economic Development, along with neighboring jurisdictions and Sun Corridor, took part in a site visit by **Arizona Commerce**

**Authority**. The visit provided Sahuarita the opportunity to highlight current economic activities, trends, and opportunities for business attractions. Discussion topics included Southern Arizona's competitiveness, industrial real estate development, and company expansion news. The Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA) is the state's leading economic development organization with a streamlined mission to grow and strengthen Arizona's economy.



The Town of Sahuarita was highlighted as a Community Partner at the **AZBIZCON 23 Small Business Expo**. The event provided the opportunity to showcase resources for small businesses. Exhibitors included ADOR, Better Business Bureau, SCORE, and Small Business Administration among others. The Mission of the Arizona Small Business Association is to foster and empower a thriving Arizona small business community by



offering relevant, dynamic, and innovative resources and the highest level of advocacy as THE VOICE of small business in Arizona.



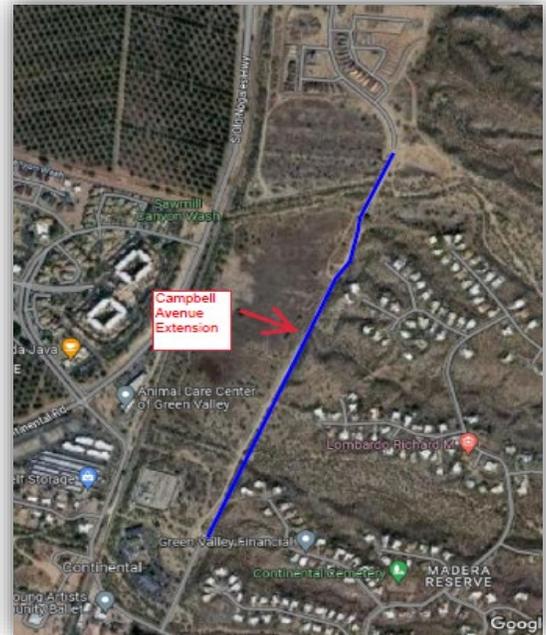
Community Well-being



Infrastructure

Rep. Juan Ciscomani visited the **Campbell Avenue Extension** site as a result of

prioritizing \$3 million for this project in the 2023 federal transportation funding package. Rep. Ciscomani met with Mayor Murphy and staff highlighting the importance of this project in addressing railroad crossing delays, emergency response and transportation access for the Continental School District and the United Community Health Care clinic at Continental.



The Town of Sahuarita was featured in a **Tucson.com** article about the origins of the name “Sahuarita”. The article highlights the history of what we know as our beloved Town of Sahuarita. [Read Street Smarts: Sahuarita’s Name May Be Misspelling.](#)

**Most Social Shares**  
Aug 15 - Sep 15

**Arizona Daily Star - Tucson**  
Editorial | US | Sep 5 · 11:26 AM

**Street Smarts: Sahuarita's name may be misspelling**

... known as the Sahuarito Ranch, not the **Sahuarita** Ranch. On Oct. 11, 1915, the post office was reestablished as **Sahuarita** with T.G. Dumon...

Social Echo 71 0 0  
879k Reach Neutral

The Town’s Facebook audience is growing steadily with quickly approaching 10,000 followers. Videos continue to perform well on the platform and our best engagement is content related to news events, jobs, and people.



Top posts this month were regarding the Walmart Fire and Sahuarita Letters project. Looking closely at the metrics you can see that our audiences are relying on us to provide town updates and show support for projects and people in good times and bad.



## 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***

Carollo Engineering has submitted the amendment to the Aquifer Protection Permit (APP) for the Sahuarita Water Reclamation Facility (SWRF) to the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. The amendment to the APP is for the planned upgrades at the SWRF to ensure that the improvements comply with the environmental standards.

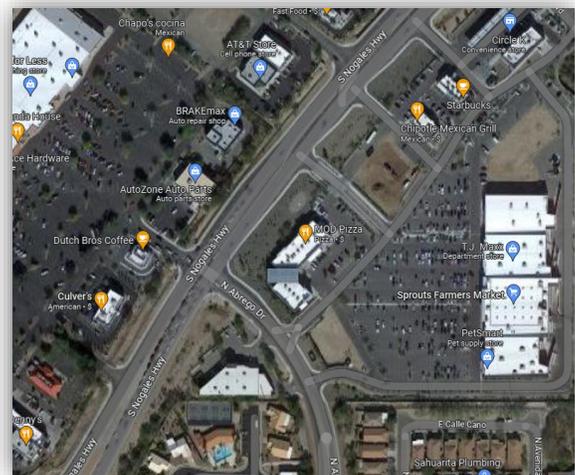
The 100% design has been completed, and PCL Construction is looking to submit the GMP to the CMAR around the first week of October 2023.

#### ***Nogales Highway at Abrego Drive Improvements***

On August 30th, a purchase order was issued for Psomas to commence the design process for safety improvements at the intersection of Nogales Highway and Abrego Drive.

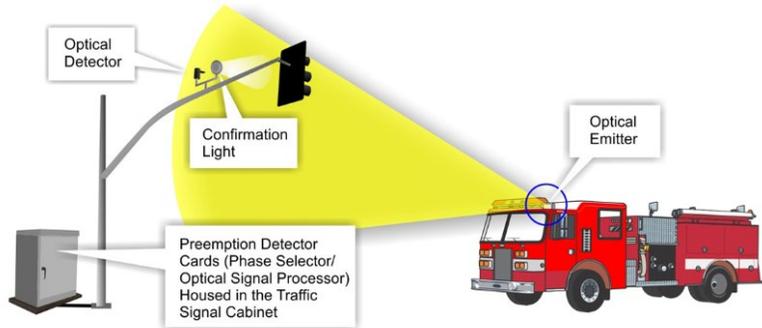
The design will focus on integrating the following safety and operational recommendations:

- 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



## 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.

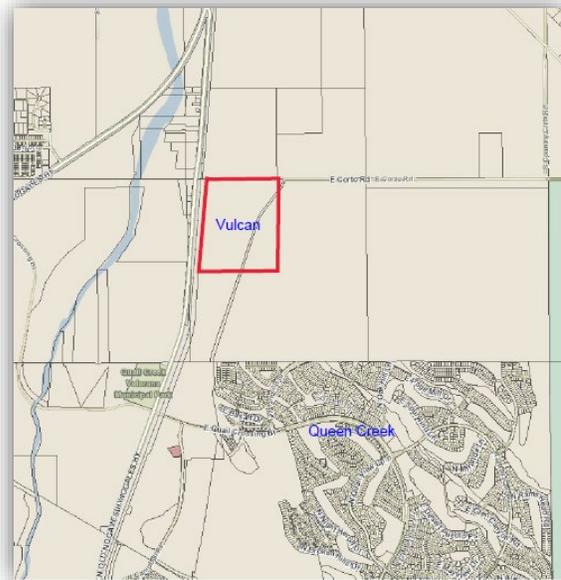
## Building & Development Projects

### Land Use and Zoning:

- **Vulcan Materials Conditional Use Permit:** 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. Public hearings will be scheduled once staff determines that all required information has been received and a thorough analysis has been completed. 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.](#)

