

Gila County



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

FALL, 2013

NEWSLETTER

Sheriff Updates Community

Gila County Sheriff Adam Shepherd recently met with community members in Payson and discussed some of the challenges he faces in modern law enforcement and how changes in his department's organization will benefit taxpayers.

Shepherd, who took over the top spot in Gila County law enforcement in January after 28 years of service in the department, reorganized his administrative team which included the appointment of Johnny Sanchez as **Chief Deputy**. Sanchez has 40 years of experience in law enforcement, including 6 years as the Gila County Drug Task Force Commander and 34 years with the Department of Public Safety. His DPS career included SWAT Team Commander and the Governor's Security Detail. One of the first changes Sanchez made was to institute a physical fitness program, the success of which has led other agencies to request assistance for creating one for their departments.

Sanchez's promotion to Chief Deputy from **Drug Task Force Commander** created a vacancy which has been filled by Travis Baxley, who has been involved in some major drug busts and seizures in Gila County.

Ten-year department veteran Matt Solberg is Shepherd's new **Jail Commander**. He recently used his experience and training to head off a threatened riot in the jail.

Shepherd convinced Sarah White to assume the role of **Chief Administrative Officer**. After only a short time on the job, Ms. White has already tackled some important issues, such as putting policies in place that ensure calls are returned to constituents in a timely manner and revamping an outdated fee schedule to more closely conform to the County's, and other law enforcement agencies'

fees. She also assisted with the 2013-2014 departmental budget and Shepherd credits her with several budget-cutting suggestions.

In his meeting with the Payson constituents, the new Sheriff talked about his efforts to fight the war on drugs. He cited an incident early in his new position in which an employee, who was fired immediately, smuggled contraband to a relative in the jail. Surprise searches with K9's are now being conducted monthly and are revealing a startling amount of contraband inside the jail itself. Shepherd pointed to illegal drug use as the most prevalent crime in the County because so many other offenses "spin off" of illegal drug use – burglary, assault, vehicle accidents, etc. Tackling the drug problem has become more challenging than ever with a smaller drug task force, a tighter budget, and resurgence in the use of "traditional" drugs like heroin which is

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Gila County Issues Vital Records

Birth and death certificates can now be obtained from the Gila County Health Department.

The Gila County Office of Vital Records is responsible for maintaining and issuing certified copies of birth and death certificates, as well as fetal death certificates and

certificates of births which resulted in a stillbirth.

Requests for the certified copies may be made in person at the Health Department which is located in Central Heights at 5515 S. Apache Avenue, Globe, AZ 85501, or by mail at the same address. Applications

in both English and Spanish are available on the County website at www.gilacountyaz.gov on the Health & Emergency Services page. The fee for the certified copy is \$20.00. Identification and proof of eligibility is also required. For more information, see the website or call 425-3189.

**2013
GILA COUNTY
FAIRS
ANNOUNCED:**

Northern Gila
County Fair:
September 6-8
Payson Event
Center

Gila County Fair:
September 19-22
Gila County
Fairgrounds
Globe

Gila County
Fair—Young
September 28

Supervisor Tommie Martin Honored as Supervisor of the Year—2012

District I Supervisor Tommie Cline Martin was recently honored by the Coalition of Arizona-New Mexico Counties for Stable Economic Growth as Supervisor of the Year for 2012.

The Coalition does not make the presentation annually; rather, it is by nomination when an individual has made an outstanding contribution and provided leadership and tenacity in the pursuit of the Coalition's mission. The Coalition's focus is on the uniquely Western way of life and the issues and concerns of people who live in the Western states. Its Mission is, in part, to protect rural economies and private property rights and to pursue balanced and equitable management policies of federal land, wildlife and natural resources.

The Coalition's membership is made up of the Arizona Counties of Cochise, Gila, Graham, Greenlee and Navajo and the New Mexico Counties of Catron, Chaves, Eddy, Harding, Hidalgo, Lincoln, McKinley, Rio Arriba, and Sierra, as well as timber, farming, livestock, mining, small business, sportsman and outfitter industries — a representation which currently exceeds 606,564 in combined county populations.



District I Supervisor Tommie C. Martin is shown here with the Howard Hutchinson, Executive Director of the Coalition of Arizona-New Mexico Counties, at the July 27, 2013 meeting.

County Roads and Bridges

Houston Mesa and Control Roads to Get New Bridges

A Federal Highways project grant in the amount of \$6.9 million, which includes \$400,000 for matching funds from Gila County, will make it possible to replace the current low water crossings along two high volume roads with bridges — two to be erected on Houston Mesa Road and one additional bridge on Control Road. The design phase of the project is complete and Central Federal Lands Highway Division is reviewing the bids for a contract to be awarded with construction expected to begin in Fall of 2013.

Forest Service Road #55 in Southern Gila County

In 2011 the Eastern Arizona Resource Advisory Committee approved Gila County's application for \$230,700 in federal SRS Title II Special Projects funding for a double chip seal on 3.6 miles of Forest Road 55 (**Russell Road-Kellner Canyon**). When funding was delayed due to sequestration, the project was put on hold. The project was recently reauthorized but at a slightly reduced amount (\$227,022). Gila County Public Works has finished hauling the subsurface material, and the chip sealing will begin in late September, resulting in an improved driving surface and reduced future maintenance costs.

Young Road (FS #512) To be Resurfaced

The road to Young will also benefit from a federal SRS Title II grant in the amount of \$135,538 and an additional \$50,000 from the Forest Service. The grant calls for the purchase and hauling of new road bed materials to be placed on approximately 4 ½ miles of the existing dirt road, which will greatly improve travel and reduce maintenance for this busy road — one of only two access roads to the community of Young, AZ.

Dr. Durham Serves Gila County as Medical Examiner for 30 Years

Gila County officials will begin the search for a new County Medical Examiner after receiving notice from Dr. Michael R. Durham that he is resigning from that position after 30 years of service to Gila County and its residents.



Dr. Durham is a General Practice Physician who received his undergraduate degree from New London, Connecticut where he graduated with honors. He was a member of the Honor Society at the University of Hartford in Connecticut where he received his Master's degree. Dr. Durham attended medical school in Mexico at the Autonomous University of Guadalajara and completed his residency and internship at Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia. He also served in the United States Marine Corps and did two tours of combat duty in Viet Nam, as well as serving as Chief of Staff for Cobre Valley Regional Medical Center.

In their 33 years in Globe, Dr. Durham and Dotty have given back to the community in so many ways — from providing free sports physicals and uninsured OB patient care to causes such as American Cancer Society and Globe's Clean and Beautiful program — their love for and dedication to this community will always be evident. Dr. Durham has been married to Dotty for 45 years and they have two sons, David and Robert.

Sheriff Update (Cont'd)

an outdated and inefficiently designed jail makes it extremely difficult to monitor an overcrowded population of primarily drug offenders. In addition, shuttling prisoners back and forth between Payson and Globe is costly to taxpayers and dangerous for his deputies.

In response to questions from constituents:

- * Shepherd is troubled by the Medical Marijuana Act but vows to monitor dispensaries.
- * The jail facilities in both Globe and Payson have aged to the point of near obsolescence.
- * Salaries and working conditions make recruitment difficult.
- * More deputies are needed in outlying areas.
- * Training is being stepped up in such areas as active shooting and record management.

Shepherd and his Administrative Team are being creative in their approach to many issues. The department recently traded seized weapons for duty pistols for his deputies. In the face of budget cuts County-wide, he and his team are closely monitoring all expenditures in order to operate within the budget while still providing the law enforcement services needed.

County Attorney Names Officer of the Quarter



Deputy George Carillo (*center*) is shown here with Sheriff Adam Shepherd (*left*) and County Attorney Bradley D. Beauchamp (*right*). Deputy Carillo was recently named **Officer of the Quarter** at the August 6 Board of Supervisors meeting. Beauchamp expressed his gratitude for Deputy Carillo's service, his professional attitude and conscientiousness, and the assistance he has rendered to the Gila County Attorney's Office which has lead to successful prosecutions.

County Recycling Efforts

On Saturday July 27th the Household Hazardous Waste event was held at the Multi-Event Center in Payson. 324 vehicles dropped off products for recycling or proper disposal. Phoenix-based *Clean Harbors Environmental Services* collected all of the solvents, pesticides and other hazardous products, while the Gila County Recycling & Landfill Management Division (RLMD) filled one bin with 243 tires and another with 1664 containers of latex paint, all for recycling. These types of events allow for safe disposal of hazardous waste, as well as diversion of solid waste, all of which serves to extend the useful life of our landfills. Gila County hosts annual events to allow residents to clean up their properties by disposing of green waste on Earth Day Week, old appliances on a designated Saturday in the Spring, and a latex paint drop off once a year. Recycling is a primary objective of RLMD:

- *Latex paints are used in community clean up and rehabilitation projects.
- *Metal collected at landfills is sorted and sold, providing revenue for RLMD.
- *The paper recycling program has diverted tons of paper; blue bins are located from Hayden to Strawberry.
- *Cans and plastic beverage bottles discarded in the big green County bins are also bringing in revenues.
- *Old tires are collected and used for road surfaces. Highway workers use a mixture of tire shreds and sand in road construction projects. The tire shreds are a green alternative to more expensive materials, and they are more easily compacted, saving construction time, money and limited landfill space.

Advance notice of events are posted on the County website at www.gilacountyaz.gov and advertised in local newspapers and radio stations.



Payson Event Center, site of Household Hazardous Waste Collection and Recycling Event

GILA HOSTS COUNTY SUPERVISORS

The Gila County Board of Supervisors will host the 9th Annual County Supervisors Association (CSA) Legislative Summit in Payson on October 14-16. This three-day event will bring together county supervisors and top county management from all of Arizona's 15 counties to identify, discuss and prioritize the issues facing county governments. Through a facilitated process, the counties will develop their legislative agenda for the upcoming State Legislative Session, along with specific implementation strategies and direction to CSA Staff.

Gila County staff is busy making preparations and soliciting sponsors. Staff is particularly pleased to have secured the commitment of **Governor Janice K. Brewer** to speak at the Summit luncheon on Tuesday.

This is Arizona's largest gathering of elected county supervisors, county management, and government affairs professionals. Dedicated to the development and approval of CSA's legislative agenda, the Summit includes briefings and discussions of critical policy issues facing Arizona's counties, as well as social activities to foster stronger relationships between the state's county leaders.

The annual Summit has been held in a different county each year and allows the host to showcase local attractions and enterprises. The host county also benefits economically from the event with the associated lodging, meals and tourism.

What's *new* — *and Free!* — at your County Library District?

E-Books (*Axis 360; Project Gutenberg*)

Audio Books (*One-Click Digital*)

150 Magazines (*Zinio*)

Practice Tests for Jobs & College (*Learning Express*)

Foreign Language Courses (*Mango*)

Online Reference Resources:

History, Law, Science, Auto Repair,
NovelList Plus, *Referencia Latina*, Consumer
Reports, Small Business Reference Center,

Student Search:

"Searchasaurus" (Elementary)

"Kids Search" (Middle School)

"Student Research Center" (High School)

See all of this and **MORE!** at www.gclldaz.org.