

SURPRISE Progress



United States
**Census
2010**



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SURPRISE ARIZONA

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Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

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SURPRISE Progress

Surprise Progress is published by the city of Surprise Communications Department and distributed to all city residents via mail. We hope you like our format and content. We'd like to hear from you about our magazine. Please call 623.222.1400 or email ken.lynch@surpriseaz.com with your comments and suggestions.

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SURPRISE PROGRESS AWARDS

APEX

Award of Excellence
2007-2009

3CMA

Silver Circle Award
2003-2005, 2007

3CMA

Award of Excellence
2002, 2008



City Council and Planning and Zoning Commission meetings are broadcast live on Surprise 11, available to Cox Cable subscribers in Surprise, Sun City and Sun City West. Council meetings are rebroadcast several times during the week following the meeting. Broadcast times are: 8 a.m. Tuesday, 4:30 p.m. Thursday, 8 a.m. Friday, 3 p.m. Sunday, NOW STREAMING LIVE ON THE WEB!

Surprise welcomes two new council members

Sharon Wolcott and Mike Woodard take office in January

District 1 (Acacia)

Sharon Wolcott



City Councilmember Sharon Wolcott represents District 1 (Acacia). District 1 encompasses the northwest portion of Surprise, including Sun City Grand, Happy Trails, and Arizona Traditions.

Sharon and her husband Jim discovered Surprise in 2003. Sharon received her B.A. in Communications and Education from Indiana University. She became active in community issues while

living in Minnesota, and in 1991 was elected to the Newport, Minnesota, City Council, and later served as Deputy Mayor.

Sharon later represented District 57 in the Minnesota state House and Senate. Her legislative work ranged from oversight of a biennial budget of more than \$33 billion to policy decisions on energy, transportation, health and education. Sharon found individual constituency work to be the most rewarding part of the job.

Sharon advocated successfully for a new interstate bridge across the Mississippi River, a complex transportation issue that had plagued the region for over 40 years. This experience in building coalitions will help Sharon address the challenges facing Surprise.

In 2008, she was appointed to the Surprise Transportation Commission, serving as Vice Chair, and becoming a strong advocate for a comprehensive multi-modal transportation system.

Sharon will focus on quality of life issues such as traffic congestion, public transportation, land use, air and water quality. She is excited about the future and the promise of Surprise, and is committed to working hard for District 1 and the entire city of Surprise.

Contact Sharon at sharon.wolcott@surpriseaz.com or 623.222.1321.

District 5 (Palm)

Mike Woodard



City Councilmember Mike Woodard represents District 5 (Palm). District Five includes the northern half of West Point, Kingswood Parke, The Orchards, Sierra Verde, a portion of the Original Townsite, the Stadium Village complex and the Civic Center/Recreational campuses.

Mike, a Surprise resident since 1998, is a retired widower and resident of West Point Town Center. He has been an active citizen in the community since 2001 as co-founder of the group Citizen's for a Better Surprise, a member of the Planning & Zoning Commission, a Sundancer volunteer, an at-large member of the Citizen Bond Committee and as a Senior Center Volunteer Driver. He also volunteers his time and efforts to West Valley Cancer Connections and the H.O.P.E. Team at Cancer Treatment Centers of America.

His involvement in the city combined with over 40 years of accounting and managerial experience in a broad range of industries will be valuable in the city's budgeting and planning processes. He is committed to bringing commuter rail and improving transportation corridors, major factors impacting the city's economic development strategies. Mike believes communication between the citizens and council is of paramount importance and will be a top personal endeavor for him.

Mike has helped raise 4 children, numerous foster children and is a grandfather to 6.

Contact Mike at mike.woodard@surpriseaz.com or 623.222.1325.



www.surprisespringtraining.com

Take me out to the ballgame...

Surprise is gearing up for the 8th annual Spring Training season at award-winning Surprise Stadium, as the Texas Rangers and Kansas City Royals' first pitch is set for March 4!

Spring Training 2010 in Surprise features a 29 game schedule that includes multiple visits by the Arizona Diamondbacks, Chicago Cubs, Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim and the Los Angeles Dodgers.

The March 4 season opener is the annual "Charity Game" benefiting the Surprise Sundancers and their efforts in supporting youth programs in the West Valley.

Individual game tickets go on sale January 9, beginning at 7 a.m. at the Surprise Recreation Campus Box Office, 15960 N. Bullard Avenue. Fans will be happy to know that individual ticket prices remain at last year's prices, ranging from \$23 for lower dugout seats to \$7 lawn seating. Group ticket packages are also available for groups of 20 or more as well as a variety of season-ticket packages. For the cost-conscious fans several 2-for-1 ticket promotions are available throughout the month of March and there are 6 games set for half-price group ticket sales.

Parking is free at Surprise Stadium and season ticket holders enjoy reserved VIP spaces, along with a private meet-and-greet reception.

The Homerun Party Deck is back, too. Located in right center-field, this party tent is the place to be to view the game and enjoy food and drink. Ticket packages for the Homerun Party Deck include an all-you-can-eat buffet and a drink voucher.

The ever popular Bring your Dog to the Park promotion is set for March 6. Pre-registration is required by February 29, and the applications and ticket prices will be available online at www.surprisespringtraining.com. Cal Ripken League youth athletes will parade the field on March 27 in an impressive showing of our local kids.

Before the season begins, fans will have a chance to meet members of the Rangers, Royals and Arizona Major League Alumni Legends of the Game during Fan Fest, February 28. Admission is free to this fun-filled day-long event, including a card show, youth baseball clinic, celebrity home run derby and the Legend's Baseball Game beginning at 2 p.m.

The Mayor's Welcome Back Lunch is set for February 26 at 11:30 a.m. This is a great opportunity to network with business and political leaders, hear from both teams' personnel and enjoy a

**Individual
game tickets
go on sale at
7 a.m. January
9th at the
Surprise
Recreation
Campus
Box Office**

great meal. Individual tickets are \$30, while a table of eight is \$240. The Community and Recreation Services Department will help facilitate your ticket request to this great event by calling 623.222.2222.

College baseball fans will not want to miss the Coca-Cola Classic, hosted by the Arizona State Sun Devils, at the Surprise Recreation Campus. Joining the Devils in this year's popular event are teams



from Oregon State University, University of California Riverside, Florida International University, Cal Poly SLO, and Utah Valley University. The Coca-Cola Classic runs from March 4 – 7. Tournament passes run \$30 for adults, \$20 for seniors 55-plus and students under 18. General admission tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for seniors 55-plus and students under 18. Tickets for the college games are also available at the stadium box office, or through Ticketmaster outlets and online at www.ticketmaster.com, starting January 9.

For additional information about Surprise Spring Training, including tickets, promotions and schedules, call 623.222.2222 or visit www.surprisespringtraining.com.



Surprise Stadium 2010 Ticket Prices

- \$7 for Lawn Seats
- \$13 for Plaza Seats
- \$17 for Infield Seats
- \$20 for Upper Dugout Seats
- \$23 for Lower Dugout Seats

Texas Rangers key games:

DATE	TIME	VISITING TEAM
3/6	1:05pm	Royals
3/8	1:05pm	LA Angels
3/14	1:05pm	D'backs
3/15	6:05pm	Giants
3/18	6:05pm	Brewers
3/19	1:05pm	Indians
3/20	1:05pm	Dodgers
3/24	1:05pm	Cubs

*charity game

Kansas City Royals key games:

DATE	TIME	VISITING TEAM
3/4	1:05pm	Rangers*
3/11	1:05pm	Dodgers
3/13	1:05pm	LA Angels
3/22	1:05pm	White Sox
3/23	6:05pm	Cubs
3/27	6:05pm	Oakland A's
3/30	6:05pm	Indians
4/1	12:05pm	D'backs

More on the web!



For the full Surprise spring training schedule and more information go to: www.surprisespringtraining.com



Pro tennis returns to Surprise

If you're still kicking yourself for missing last year's United States Tennis Association (USTA) Women's Pro Circuit Tournament at the Surprise Tennis and Racquet Complex, you have a chance to redeem yourself as the \$25,000 event is back in town February 14-21.

"These are some tough ladies competing, a real treat for fans to come out and watch the future stars of tennis," says Tennis Manager John Austin. "Last year's winner Yania Wickmayer reached the semi-finals of the U.S. Open, so this competition is heavy."

Players from nearly 20 countries compete in the women's pro circuit. Up to 64 players kick off play to qualify for 32 spots in the main draw.

In addition to watching the pro athletes compete, tour pros will join Complex staff in hosting a Kid's Day tennis clinic on February 15, for kids 6 – 18 years old. In addition to the clinic, the kids also receive a free ticket to watch that day's matches.

On February 17, the adult tennis clinic and lunch event is planned. Senior Day on February 18, will offer seniors aged 50 and better a chance to watch the competition for only \$1.

If you haven't made it out to the award-winning Surprise Tennis and Racquet Complex you are in for a treat. In addition to hosting professional events like the Fed Cup, Outback Champions Series and Women's Pro Circuit, the complex is open year-round for public play. It is because of the ongoing commitment to growing the sport of tennis to the public-at-large that the complex was selected the 2009 USTA Southwest Member Organization of the Year.

For additional information about the Surprise Tennis and Racquet Complex please visit www.surpriseaz.com/tennis or call 623.222.2400.

More on the web!



United States® Census 2010



Here's a startling fact: More than \$400 billion in federal dollars are distributed every year to cities nationwide based on their population. That's roughly \$1,300 per person nationwide!

We don't want to miss out in Surprise, and that is than the top reason it is more important ever that every resident be counted as Census 2010 gets underway this spring. By returning your census form, you assure that Surprise gets its fair share to support programs from

safety and roads to parks and recreation facilities, programs that improve our well known quality of life. In these difficult economic times, an accurate census count for Surprise matters more than ever.

Currently, the federal government uses 2005 mid-decade census figures when referencing our population. Our city has clearly grown tremendously since then. We surpassed 100,000 in 2006, and our current population is estimated to be 118,000. Working together, we can be sure the U.S. Census Bureau has an accurate picture of our population.

The Census Bureau says the Census 2010 form will be mailed to your home address in March or early April. It contains just ten questions, and its return is considered important enough that follow up census takers will visit each address which does not return a census form.

The person who fills out the form will provide the household information, including whether the home is rented or owned, and will answer just seven questions about every household member, including himself or herself:

- Name
- Gender
- Age/birth date
- Hispanic ethnicity
- Race
- Relationship to the person filling out the form.
- Other residence, if they sometimes live at another address.

Please fill out your form promptly and return it in the mail.

Each question—how it is worded, how many and which categories are included—is carefully considered and pretested. Much of the information is required by law to provide for the apportioning of congressional seats, or for drawing new legislative district boundaries. An accurate count will help all Arizona communities have the legislative and congressional clout we deserve! Census information is also used to distribute federal funds, administer federal programs, or to help ensure the accuracy and completeness of the census. Although the name of each household member is also collected, it remains confidential for 72 years.

You can get a look at the 2010 Census form and find more information at www.2010.Census.gov.



COUNT ME IN!



City joins other Valley cities, state in collecting use tax

Residents and businesses who make purchases or rentals in locales where sales tax is not collected may have to pay a city Use Tax of 2.2%, following a change in the City Municipal Code, effective the first of this year.

The city use tax will have no impact on the record keeping or tax paperwork required of business operators in the city. All individuals and businesses are already required to pay the state use tax of 5.6% on purchases over \$200, in which sales tax was not paid. The same form is utilized for the Surprise Use Tax by adding the 2.2% to the calculation.

Here are a few more examples of when Use Tax must be paid:

- A retailer buys a product to resell. He later takes it off the shelf and uses it for his own store. He must report use tax based on the cost of the product.
- A contractor buys heavy equipment from a dealer who fails to charge a city tax. The contractor must report use tax based on the cost of the heavy equipment.
- An individual buys a car from a dealer for more than \$1,000 in a location where the dealer does not collect or pay sales tax. The buyer must pay use tax on the total purchase price when he returns to Surprise.
- A restaurant provides free meals to its employees from food purchased for resale. Use tax must be paid by the restaurant on the cost of food given to employees.

Use tax is reported on the Arizona Department of Revenue Transaction Privilege, Use, and Severance Tax Return (TPT-1) in the month of purchase. Surprise Finance Department officials say records of all the tangible personal property purchased or rented should be retained for at least four years to comply with the use tax. Copies of invoices must be kept that show the cost of purchases and the amount of sales tax paid.

For more information about the city of Surprise Use Tax visit www.surpriseaz.com/usetax or call Pamela Pieri at 623.222.1840.

More on the web! 



Surprise City Store shines in new spotlight

A new high profile location makes it even easier to get top quality Surprise branded merchandise at the Surprise City Store. The store, previously situated in a small space at the former City Hall at 12425 W. Bell, now enjoys a prominent first floor location at the new City Hall at 16000 N. Civic Center Plaza.



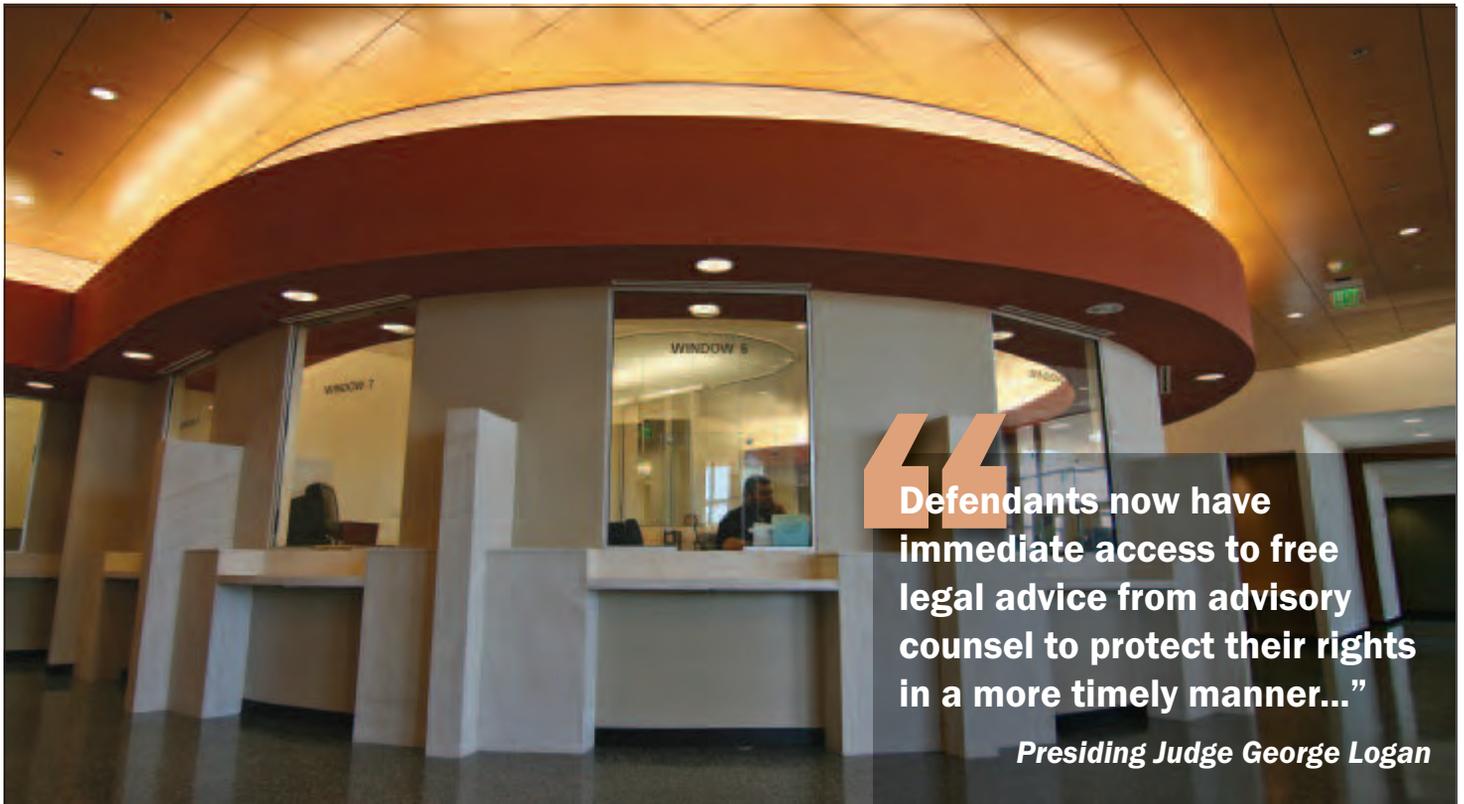
“It gives our residents and visitors much easier access to the merchandise, which is very popular,” says Sharla Sanders of the Surprise Communications Department. “People enjoy goods branded with our unique city name. The store is very popular with winter visitors, who enjoy buying gifts or mementos of their stay in Surprise,” she adds.

The store features brand names like IZOD, Ping and Colorado Timberline in a full array of polo shirts, caps, t-shirts, jackets, golf shirts and sweatshirts. The store also carries popular collectibles such as coffee mugs and stuffed animals. “Sales have approximately doubled over the same period last year,” Sanders says.

“We are changing all the time,” says Sanders. “Last year we added tie dye t-shirts and people loved them. We make sure we still carry those.”

The City Store is a self supporting marketing arm for the city, helping spread the Surprise brand around the country. “We have visitors from across the USA, of course,” Sanders says. “And because of our Web site, we get orders throughout the year from around the country and sometimes from beyond our nation’s borders.”

The store’s interactive Web site boosts sales too. At www.surpriseaz.com/citystore, you can surf the merchandise, order up home delivery and pay with a credit card. Check it out for yourself - see 10% off coupon in this magazine.



“Defendants now have immediate access to free legal advice from advisory counsel to protect their rights in a more timely manner...”
Presiding Judge George Logan

New processes improve city court efficiencies and save money

Improving efficiency and saving scarce dollars is a priority at the city of Surprise in today’s tough economy. The Surprise City Court is accomplishing both with two innovative programs: Early Case Disposition (ECD) and Home Detention sentences.

Presiding Judge George Logan says ECD brings prosecutors and defendants together at the arraignment. “The prosecutor is able to meet with defendants and advisory counsel early on in the process, increasing the chances for making a plea arrangement on the spot and eliminating expensive multiple court appearances and even a trial,” says Judge Logan.

Previously, prosecutors did not attend arraignments, where the court advises defendants of the nature of the charges and their constitutional rights. In most cases as much as a month would pass before defendant and prosecutor would attend a second hearing, (pre-trial conference) to discuss the case.

Judge Logan says ECD is available for all defendants facing misdemeanor offenses, such as DUI’s, shoplifting, assault and/or domestic violence cases, and driving while suspended.

“It has significantly improved the administration of justice at the Surprise City Court,” says Judge Logan. “Defendants now have immediate access to free legal advice from advisory counsel to

protect their rights in a more timely manner and may reach a plea agreement with a prosecutor, should they choose to do so, and get on with their lives.”

Since many cases are now settled at the arraignment, Judge Logan says the process also saves money on the cost of public defenders and by reducing the number of hearings needed to resolve a case.

The ECD program was launched in May 2009. The City Court recorded 2,842 pre-trial conferences between May 2008 and Oct. 2008. In that same time frame a year later, after ECD was adopted, the number fell by more than 50% to 1,204.

The Surprise City Court is also using home detention instead of jail time in some DUI cases, Judge Logan says, after the city council adopted a home detention ordinance last year.

“This is a great negotiating tool for prosecutors to get some DUI cases settled without the expense of a trial,” says Judge Logan. “From the city’s perspective, home detention sentences are far less expensive than paying county jail fees.”

The city pays \$72 per day, plus a \$192 booking fee, to house a DUI offender in the county jail. Judge Logan adds, “The cost of home detention which the defendant pays in most cases is \$15 per day. In cases where the person is indigent, the city will pay \$9 a day.”

State law mandates a 30 day jail sentence for a first time Extreme DUI offense. However, after serving the first 15 days in jail, the defendant is eligible to serve the remaining 15 days under the home detention program saving the city over \$1,000 per case.



Presiding Judge George Logan

Persons must qualify for home detention, wear an ankle bracelet, and be tested by a breathalyzer installed on their home telephone line. "Over the phone, it is possible to measure the blood alcohol concentration through a special phone device, Judge Logan says. "Defendant's are also required to have an ignition interlock device on their vehicle for one year. The technology really is remarkable."



AZ TechCelerator welcomes tenants, room for more

Two start-up information technology companies are settling into their new home at the new AZ TechCelerator, the former site of Surprise City Hall on Bell Road that's been reborn as an incubator for innovative, sustainable private enterprise.

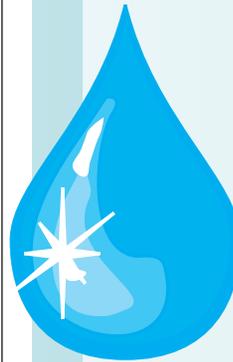
Athena Wireless Communications, Inc. and w8ter.com LLC, moved in late last year, occupying almost 2,500 square feet of space at the AZ TechCelerator, which is managed by the city's Economic Development Department.

"Both Athena Wireless and w8ter.com are energetic start-up companies with great ideas and solid growth plans," says Economic Development's Jeanine Jerkovic, who manages the AZ TechCelerator. "The city of Surprise needs jobs, so these companies can be certain the community is rooting for them and will work to help them succeed."

Athena Wireless Communications provides solutions to applications requiring high capacity connections and transmissions of data. The company currently has four patents pending. W8ter.com has proprietary communications software dedicated to managing customer wait times, appointments and reservations for restaurants, salons and medical offices through low-cost service packages.

"We are committed to helping these companies grow and want them to spend their resources on getting to the next stage in their business plans," says Jerkovic.

For more information about leasing space or volunteering at the AZ TechCelerator, visit www.aztechcelerator.com or contact Jeanine Jerkovic at 623.222.3322, or jeanine.jerkovic@surpriseaz.com.



New water rates for 2010

The utility rate schedule adopted in November 2008 called for a two-year phased-in fee increase in water, wastewater (sewer) and sanitation, to take effect January 1, 2009 and January 1, 2010 for customers served by the City.

Why are rates going up?

1. Operational and fuel costs have increased
2. The growth that funds necessary improvements such as wastewater treatment has slowed
3. Regulatory changes, such as stricter arsenic standards, have increased costs in providing water/sewer/sanitation services
4. Groundwater replenishment and water storage costs have increased

How much will my rates go up?

It depends, but here are some typical examples:

Residential: (9,000 gallons per month, 3/4" meter) Using city water, sewer and sanitation services, the bill would increase 4.13% from 2009 rates, or \$2.98 per month.

Residential/Multi-family: (11,000 gallons usage/3 units, 1.5" meter) Using city water and sewer only, the bill would increase 3.82% from 2009 rates, or \$5.46 per month.

Non-Residential/Business: (56,000 gallons usage, 2" meter) Using city water and sewer only, the bill would increase 3.76% from 2009 rates, or \$16.45 per month.

Non-Residential HOA/Irrigation: (244,000 gallons usage, 2" meter) Using city water only, the bill would increase 3.36% from 2009 rates, or \$31.61 per month.

The increases are as follows:

Water: 3.25% (2010)
Wastewater (Sewer): 4.6% (2010)
Sanitation: 5.3% (2010)

For more information visit the Finance Department page at www.surpriseaz.com and click on New Utility Rates, or call 623.222.1837.



For more information on how you can cut water usage or create a water budget plan, contact London Lacy, Surprise Utilities Analyst, at 623.222.7023.



What's new on the web

Follow Surprise! Visit www.surpriseaz.com and get the latest city of Surprise news sent directly to your e-mail inbox by clicking the "Notify Me" link. You can even choose which categories of news you would like to receive. You'll also see a link to our Twitter site, so you can stay up to the minute, 140 characters at a time. Hundreds have already joined.

MORE surveys We're always interested in what you're thinking! In addition to the surveys you will find in this edition of Progress, you will find more chances to be heard by clicking on the "Surveys" link right next to the Notify Me and Twitter links on our home page, www.surpriseaz.com.

H1N1 Information Your One-Stop web shop for what you need to know about the H1N1 virus. You will find a handy lists of symptoms, and tips for caring for those with the flu virus. Links to the Centers for Disease Control and the Maricopa County Public Health H1N1 are also included. Go to the "City Departments" tab, then mouse over "Fire Department" to find the H1N1 site.

Interactive Teen site Young people should definitely check out this site! Connect with youth activities going on around the city, check out what other teens are thinking on the latest survey questions, view videos uploaded by other teens or upload your own. You can even design your own survey for others to take www.surpriseaz.com.



Beat the Heat Meet Surprise Police officers at Speed World and check out the modified cruiser officers use in Speed World races. You can even sign up to legally race Surprise Police officers in friendly competition at the Speed World race track. It's a great way for young people to get to know police officers and learn about law enforcement in a fun and competitive atmosphere. www.surpriseaz.com/beattheheat.



Luke Forward Click on the easy to find link and show your support for keeping Luke Air Force base alive and well in the west valley. Already thousands of people have registered at this site, which is operated by a partnership of governments and organizations that support the mission of Luke and back the effort to bring the F-35 fighter jet to Arizona and Luke. It takes just a minute to register; it is a simple and effective way to support Luke!

It's Your Money This site is also linked from the city's main page; you will find searchable databases that show up-to-date city revenues, expenditures and other financial information.



Stimulus in Surprise On this site you can learn how American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA or the "Stimulus") funds are being used in Surprise. The site includes links to the federal and state stimulus sites, a breakdown of stimulus grants received and which ones we have applied for, plus an FAQ page on what the ARRA is all about. Find it under "About Surprise" at www.surpriseaz.com.

Transportation News Visit this site for updates on construction projects, road closures, and to sign up for live Traffic Alerts texted to your cell. The best way to stay on top of what's up with Grand Avenue, the 303 and other important projects. Click "Transportation and Traffic" under the "Living in Surprise" tab at www.surpriseaz.com.

Surprise Road Improvements



Thanks to federal stimulus dollars, 2010 will bring about some major transportation improvements in Surprise on Grand Avenue, Loop 303, and Bell Road.

The “Grand” daddy of state roads gets a makeover

This month, the major expansion project along Grand Avenue officially enters Surprise. Arizona Department of Transportation contractors will begin expanding Grand Avenue to six lanes from 99th Avenue to the Loop 303. This work is in the wake of expansion on Grand that began last fall from 83rd to 99th avenues.

“This is what our residents have been waiting for,” says Public Works Director Bob Beckley. “It is very welcome news for people commuting back and forth to work.”

ADOT says a good portion of the expansion work in Surprise will occur in the median, meaning traffic restrictions will be less disruptive than might otherwise be the case.

“We know this is a major route for people in Surprise and the Northwest Valley, so we will work hard to minimize lane restrictions whenever possible,” says ADOT spokesman Doug Nintzel. “But, we want people to be aware that lane restrictions will vary throughout the 18 month project.”

Business access will be maintained along Grand Avenue during the expansion work.

The Grand Avenue Widening Project was accelerated on ADOT’s work schedule due to the infusion of \$45 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (AARA).

303 pre-expansion work underway

Before the Loop 303 is transformed into a six-lane freeway, ADOT crews must complete an ambitious prep schedule. That includes intersection improvement work at Bell, Waddell and Cactus roads in Surprise. Drivers will now notice that the Bell Road alignment has been shifted to the south at the 303 to allow for the Bell Road bridge to be built. At this intersection, the 303 will run underneath Bell Road.

At Cactus and Waddell, the 303 will be built over the intersections. “By working on the intersection improvements now, significant future delays are prevented when the ultimate widening work begins,” says Beckley.

Crews began the intersection improvements at Bell, Waddell and Cactus in anticipation of development in the area, including Westcor’s future mixed-use Prasada development.

When complete by 2014, a six-lane 303 will connect I-10 to I-17. “This is not only a major transportation improvement for Surprise, but creates the possibility of a major economic corridor for our city



Bell Rd. east of SR 303

and the West Valley as a whole,” says Beckley. Most of the widening work through Surprise is expected to be complete by 2012.

Bell Road Reconstruction in the final phases

Phases 4 and 5 of the Bell Road Reconstruction Project received \$2.93 million from the federal stimulus program. The work, which is anticipated to begin shortly, will include reconstruction of the three eastbound lanes from Parkview Place to the 303 and the rehabilitation of east and westbound Bell from just west of the 303 to Beardsley Canal. The project is set to be completed by the time Spring Training begins in March, with the exception of the Parkview to Loop 303 segment, which will begin after Spring Training.

Crews will also install conduit to extend the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) west along Bell Road. Surprise, working in partnership with Maricopa County Department of Transportation and neighboring Peoria, will use ITS to improve traffic flows on Bell Road from the Loop 303 to the Loop 101.

El Mirage Road widening, north of Bell, about to begin

The Maricopa County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) has moved up the construction of a new four-mile stretch of El Mirage Road between Bell Road and the newly completed segment of El Mirage Road at Deer Valley Drive.

The project was originally planned to begin in February, but will now begin in early January.

Improvements include construction of a new four-lane divided roadway (two travel lanes in each direction with bike lanes and a center median) between the existing roadway alignment and the Agua Fria River channel. The project will also construct two “all-weather” crossings of the McMicken Dam Outlet channel and include the installation of additional turn lanes at the northern half of the Bell Road intersection.

When complete by late summer 2010, El Mirage Road will provide a continuous connection between Bell Road and Loop 303.

MCDOT’s Construction Hotline is 480.350.9288.

For updated information about Transportation in Surprise visit www.surpriseaz.com/transportation.



More on the web!

2010 Holiday Refuse/Recycle Collection Schedule

(City of Surprise customers only)

For more information contact Public Works at 623.222.6000
or visit www.surpriseaz.com.

MONDAY/THURSDAY COLLECTION SERVICE

New Years Day, Friday, Jan. 1st

Monday, Dec. 28th, 2009
Thursday, Dec. 31st, 2010

MLK Day, Monday, Jan. 18th

Tuesday, Jan. 19th
Thursday, Jan. 21st

President's Day, Monday, Feb. 15th

Tuesday, Feb. 16th
Thursday, Feb. 18th

Memorial Day, Monday, May 31st

Tuesday, June 1st
Thursday, June 3rd

Independence Day, Sunday, July 4th

Normal pickup

Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 6th

Tuesday, Sept. 7th
Thursday, Sept. 9th

Columbus Day, Monday, Oct. 11th

Normal pickup

Veterans Day, Thursday, Nov. 11th

Monday, Nov. 8th
Friday, Nov. 12th

Thanksgiving, Thursday and Friday

Nov. 25th & Nov. 26th

Monday, Nov. 22nd
Friday, Nov. 26th

Christmas Day, Saturday, Dec. 25th

Normal pickup

TUESDAY/FRIDAY COLLECTION SERVICE

New Years Day, Friday, Jan. 1st

Tuesday, Dec. 29th, 2009
Saturday, Jan. 2nd, 2010

MLK Day, Monday, Jan. 18th

Wednesday, Jan. 20th
Friday, Jan. 22nd

President's Day, Monday, Feb. 15th

Wednesday, Feb. 17th
Friday, Feb. 19th

Memorial Day, Monday, May 31st

Wednesday, June 2nd
Friday, June 4th

Independence Day, Saturday, July 4th

Normal pickup

Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 6th

Wednesday, Sept. 8th
Friday, Sept. 10th

Columbus Day Monday, Oct. 11th

Normal pickup

Veterans Day, Thursday, Nov. 11th

Tuesday, Nov. 9th
Saturday, Nov. 13th

Thanksgiving, Thursday and Friday

Nov. 25th & Nov. 26th

Tuesday, Nov. 23th
Saturday, Nov. 27th

Christmas Day, Saturday, Dec. 25th

Normal Pickup

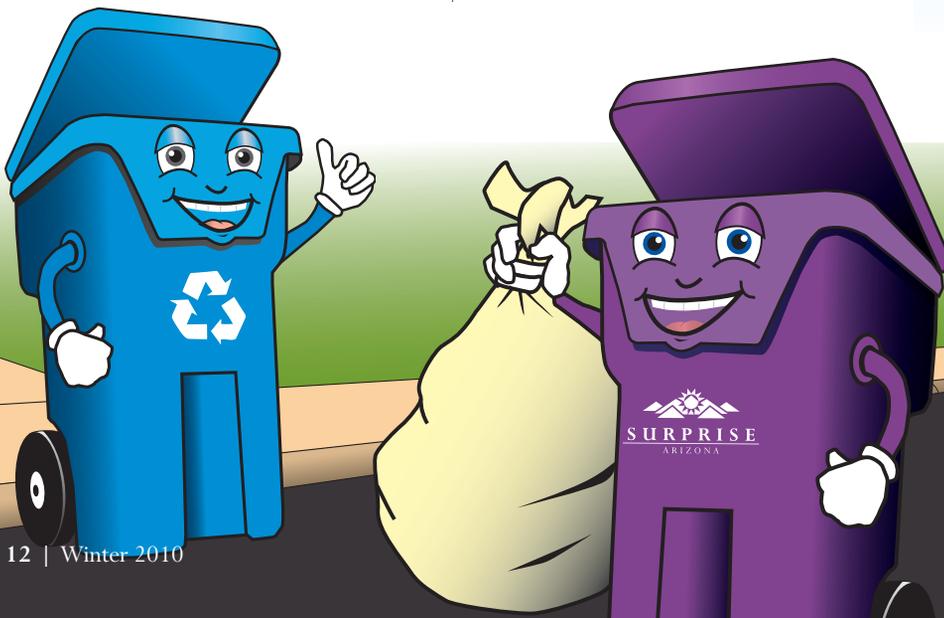


“It’s an effective way to measure the satisfaction level with our services and identify what people are most concerned about.”

*Randy Oliver,
Surprise City Manager*

Help cut the dust

Controlling dust in the desert is a never-ending battle. In the first two years since the Surprise City Council approved the PM-10 Dust Control Ordinance, we are seeing some improvement, but we need your help. PM-10 describes very fine airborne dust particles that are a health concern for the very young, old and people with respiratory disease. This type of dust pollution comes from off-road riding, driving on unpaved roads, agriculture and mining activities. The city continues to pave or stabilize roadways and alleys to help control the dust. Residents can help by observing the city’s PM-10 Ordinance, which bans off-road vehicle use in high activity areas and on unpaved surfaces that are not public/private roads. For other ways on how you can help cut the dust visit the Air Quality section of surpriseaz.com/greensurprise.



City seeks residents' perspective through National Citizen Survey

For the first time, a nationally recognized survey agency will be sampling Surprise residents about your attitudes and thoughts on living in Surprise, in an effort to help city leaders respond more precisely to community needs and desires.

The National Citizens Survey will sample 1,200 Surprise households on attitudes on everything from the appearance of Surprise to the state of our trash collection, from the services offered by city employees to the way the city handles street sweeping. It is the latest in a series of moves to engage Surprise residents, such as the tear out survey in this edition of Progress and additional online polls and surveys at www.surpriseaz.com.

"It is a statistically valid survey that should give all residents of Surprise a comfort level that the information is accurate, whether they receive a survey or not," says Surprise City Manager Randy Oliver. "It's an effective way to measure the satisfaction level with our services and identify what people are most concerned about."

The National Citizen Survey is a Boulder, Colorado based company that provides survey services for municipalities around the country, including several in Arizona. It has an affiliation with the

International City Manager's Association (ICMA), and the survey will help Surprise city departments meet ICMA performance measurement guidelines.

"The survey will statistically sample all households eligible for the survey," Oliver says, "and 1200 households will receive the survey." The NCS has a margin of error of +/- 5%, according to survey literature.

Households included in the survey will receive a post card in mid-January informing them of their selection. They will receive the survey itself shortly thereafter.

"Just select your answers and return it in the postage paid envelope," Oliver says. Results will be tabulated and reported to the city by late spring.



Surprise Party



Al DeAngelis of the **Surprise Small Business Assistance Program** helped Mark Bertignoli get **BoardWest** rolling and John O'Connell and Hugh O'Mahony get the **Irish Wolfhound** serving up authentic Irish cuisine.

Looking to start your own business? The **Surprise Small Business Assistance Program** can help! Call 623.222.3300 today!

(September 2009 - December 2009) NOTE: The following addresses are from business permit licenses, listing Surprise mailing addresses, and do not necessarily indicate the businesses store-front address.

Retail/Auto/Service

Gifts to Go, 17434 W. Gelding Dr. • **Pursue A Do**, 15142 W. Bell Rd. #120 • **Nicks Chem Dry**, 17567 W. Tasha Dr. • **Surprise Serve**, 16363 W. Post Dr. • **Nationwide Insurance**, 15170 W. Bell Rd. #100 • **Top Line Gifts**, 17329 Coyote Lakes Pkwy. • **Hair's My Paradise**, 15142 W. Bell Rd. #103-112 • **Moda Salon**, 15142 W. Bell Rd. • **Unity Studio**, 15142 W. Bell Rd. • **Belle Amis**, 15142 W. Bell Rd. #103 • **Art and Design by Petty**, 17871 W. Ivy Ln. • **Helping Hands First**, 17151 W. Statler St. • **CJ Designs**, 17220 W. Imperial Ln. • **Fields Consulting Group**, 14239 W. Bell Rd. • **Hunt Amplification**, 15184 N. 138th Dr. • **AZ Party Poles**, 15421 W. Hope Dr. • **Kathy's Cottage**, 13340 W. Ocotillo Ln. • **Estes Renovations**, 15728 W. Paradise Ln. • **Marantha Tennis**, 18320 N. 147th Dr. • **Dive-In Pool Service**, 15465 W. Mercer Ln. • **Drive Safe AZ Traffic School**, 17402 N. Elko Dr. • **Surprise Therapies**, 15315 W. Pershing St. • **Great Eagle Golf Club**, 17200 W. Bell Rd. • **Tritan Security Systems**, 14759 W. Banff Ln. • **Style**, 14455 W. Grand Ave. #112 • **Vastago Epicentro**, 15522 W. Paradise Ln. • **Native Plumbing**, 15966 W. Statler St. • **Az FACT**, 15396 W. Charter Oak Rd. • **Metro Maintenance**, 14990 W. Desert Hills Dr. • **Orange Lotus**, 15944 W. Central St. • **Jewels 4 U AZ**, 16905 W. Bristol Ln. • **Green Penny Landscape Services**, 15170 W. Bell Rd. #102 • **A Cut Above Vinyl & Screen Printing**, 15915 W. Smokey Dr. • **Site Stuff Consultants**, 26952 N. 175th Ln. • **CG Martial Arts Academy**, 15164 N. 140th Dr. #1176 • **Smitty the Handyman**, 20433 N. Sojourner Dr. • **BleachBright Sonoran LLC**, 11142 N. 165th Dr. #225 • **Junsui Bath Body & Home**, 15231 W. Alexandria Way • **XRS Innovations**, 16417 W. Mescal St.

Restaurant/Bar

Yogurtz Inc., 16995 W. Greenway Rd. #112 • **Hurricane Wings & Grill**, 11340 W. Bell Rd. #104 • **5 & Diner Delux**, 11340 W. Bell Rd. #125 • **Picazzo's of Surprise**, 11340 W. Bell Rd. #118 • **Zef's Taco Grill**, 15643 N. Reems Dr. #106

Office/Medical/Dental

Specialty Clinic & Spa, 15021 W. Bell Rd. • **Greg A. Peetoom PHD PLLC**, 15270 W. Brookside Ln. #121 • **Active RX Physical Therapy 1**, 14780 W. Mountain View Blvd #109

Adult Care

Litchfield Joy Senior Living, 13576 W. Banff Ln.
A Great Place for Mom and Dad, 15341 N. 183rd Dr.

More on the web!  View Commercial Projects in progress:
www.surpriseaz.com/currentprojects



What's Going On?

City of Surprise Senior Center



15832 N. Hollyhock St. 623.222.1500
Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
For ages 50 and better
Cost: \$12 Annual membership
 ** Non-resident rates apply for classes and trips

Are you new to Surprise?

Stop by the Senior Center for a tour and you will receive an introductory copy of the menu, activities calendar, and newsletter. We can also mail these introductory items to those who call 623.222.1500 and provide their name and address. You can also request a map of how to get to the Senior Center.

We're Online!

Visit www.surpriseaz.com – then click on Living in Surprise, then on Senior Services. From there, you can print the calendar and newsletter at home. You can also sign up to receive email notifications when the Senior Center menu, activities calendar, and newsletter have been updated on the city Web site.

Fitness Center

8:15 a.m. – 4:45 p.m. weekdays. Annual membership fee \$30 (\$35 non-residents) Winter only, \$20 (\$25 non-residents)

Enjoy a hot lunch...

Hot lunches are available weekdays for a \$3.25 contribution for patrons age 60+; those under 60 years of age, the lunch fee is \$6.50. Please call ahead for a lunch reservation.

Social time

At the Senior Center you can enjoy a variety of card and board games, BINGO, dance, crafts, exercise, movies, Mahjonn, etc.

For your health

Blood Pressure Screenings are available twice per month! Take part in an exercise or dance class, benefits counseling, or work out at the Fitness Center.

Compassionate Surprise - become a volunteer

Help your neighbor! Opportunities are available across the city including Senior Center, Senior

Van Drivers, Clericals, Office Support and Data Entry, Fire, Police and Community and Recreation Services. Call 623.222-1500, or visit www.surpriseaz.com/volunteer.

Work Training program for age 55+

Surprise partners with the Senior Community Service Employment Program under Title V of the Older Americans Act. The program is designed to assist income-eligible older adults to transition into competitive employment once they have completed their paid training program of one year.

Title V Participants must be at least 55 years old, an Arizona resident and qualify as low income. Income guidelines currently are \$13,538 annual income for one person household and \$18,213 for two person household. Info: 623.222.1500.

Recycle cell phones & small electronics

You can support Senior Center programs and protect the environment! The Senior Center, in partnership with the National Council on Aging and Cellular Recycler, is accepting

ACTIVE ADULT DAY TRIPS

Call 623.222.1500 for more information.

SwapSmart & Baker Wee Deli

Browse for bargains at the newest indoor swap meet and enjoy lunch (on your own) at Baker-Wee Deli & Bakery.

Date: January 22

Fee: Resident: \$5/Non Resident: \$8

Organ Stop Pizza

Enjoy delicious pizza while listening to the amazing pipe organ. Price of lunch not included.

Date: February 16

**Fee: Resident: \$9/
Non Resident: \$12**

Chinese Cultural Center

Trip includes a 30 minute tour of the serene Chinese Gardens and time to shop. Then savor authentic Chinese lunch on your own at the Szechwan Palace.

Date: March 15

Fee: Resident: \$7/Non Resident: \$10

Scottsdale Community College Culinary Arts Restaurant

Join us for an upscale lunch and elegant service from the dedicated students studying the Culinary Arts.

Date: April 13

Fee: Resident: \$20/Non Resident: \$23



Join the fun!

A variety of monthly trips are offered throughout the year. All trips leave and return from the Surprise Senior Center.

and recycling cell phones and small electronics like game systems (such as Playstation), iPods and mp3 players, laptop computers, digital cameras.

The Senior Center receives a small rebate to support programs. Drop boxes are located in the lobby of the Senior Center, the City Store and at the city's fire stations. **NO LARGE ITEMS PLEASE!** 623.222.1500 for more information.

In a dispute- call a mediator!

Are you in a dispute with a neighbor, employer, HOA board, business owner, school, etc? Then, mediation may be the key to solving the problem. Mediation is a process whereby disputing parties voluntarily agree to try to resolve their issues through an impartial third party, or mediator.

Mediation assistance is available free of charge from the city Of Surprise to residents of all ages! For more information call the Community Mediation Coordinator at 623.222.3242, or visit the Neighborhood Services link under the Community Development pages of www.surpriseaz.com.

Jimmy Chapel's Vegas Valentines Show



Vegas Valentines Show at Sierra Montana Recreation Center with Jimmy Chapel

Rarely does a performer come along who possesses the talent, energy and charm of RCA recording artist, Jimmy Chapel. This versatile world class entertainer combines a smooth, powerful voice with an ability to capture all styles of music and a flair for comedy that has his audiences laughing, crying and participating as Chapel wins their hearts with every performance. Chapel has performed throughout the U.S. and Europe in his one man show and has shared the stage in the lounges and main rooms in Las Vegas and Atlantic City with Don Rickles, Jay Leno, Joan Rivers, Rita Moreno and many others. Tickets are available at the Surprise Senior Center or the Community & Recreation Services office on Bullard.

Date: Saturday, February 13
Time: 7:30 – 10:30 pm
Location: Sierra Montana Recreation Center
 14861 N. Spring Lane
Fee: \$8

This event is hosted by the Community & Recreation Services Department and Surprise Senior Center as part of the Active Adult Events Program.



City Happenings

For more information visit www.surpriseaz.com

JANUARY 2010

- 1 New Year's Day, City Offices closed
- 9 Spring Training Box Office opens at Surprise Stadium
- 18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day, City Offices closed
- 23 Proper Tree Care Class, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. Public Safety Building Auditorium, register at 623.222.7023

FEBRUARY 2010

- 7 USA 50K Race Walk Championships, Surprise Rec Campus, 623.222.2000
- 10 Irrigation Basics, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m., Public Safety Building Auditorium, register at 623.222.7023
- 14-21 USTA Women's \$25K Pro Circuit Tournament, Surprise Tennis and Racquet Complex
- 15 Presidents' Day, City Offices closed
- 26 Mayor's Welcome Back Luncheon, a great way to celebrate the return of Spring Training. 623.222.2222
- 28 Fan Fest, meet pro baseball players, card show, youth baseball clinic & more at Surprise Stadium, 623.222.2222

MARCH 2010

- 1-4/1 Spring Training at Surprise Stadium 623.222.2222 (schedule at www.surprisespringtraining.com)
- 4-7 Coca-Cola Classic at Surprise Stadium, 623.222.2222 www.surprisespringtraining.com)
- 20 Landscape Watering by the Numbers, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m., Public Safety Building Auditorium, register at 623.222.7023
- 26 Valley Fever Forum Public Q&A event, Surprise City Hall Council Chambers, 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. Registration info at 623.222.3300



*Surprise City Council meets second and fourth Thursdays of every month, 6 p.m., Surprise City Hall, 16000 N. Civic Center Plaza

*Surprise City Council Special Work Sessions, every first Thursday of the month, 4 p.m., Surprise City Hall, 16000 N. Civic Center Plaza

*Surprise Planning & Zoning Commission meets on the first Tuesday of every month, 6 p.m., Surprise City Hall, 16000 N. Civic Center Plaza

Surprise selected as host site for national Valley Fever conference

Event includes public ask-the-experts forum

Top medical researchers will gather in Surprise in March as the city of Surprise hosts an international conference of scientists studying Valley Fever. The conference is being organized by the Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGen) and Mayo Clinic Arizona.

Health care professionals, epidemiologists and scientists interested in Valley Fever will meet March 27 at the Surprise City Hall Council Chambers for the 54th annual meeting of the Coccidioidomycosis Study Group.

You can get your chance with the scientists at a “Meet the Expert” session on March 26, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m., at City Hall Council Chambers.

This session will allow the public to ask questions and hear short presentations from Valley Fever experts on topics ranging from symptoms and treatment to how Valley Fever can affect pets, especially dogs.

The conference is an important step in the emergence of Surprise in the bio tech arena, according to Economic Development Manager Jeanine Jerkovic. “Hosting such a prestigious gathering is a feather in

our cap,” she says. “The Northwest Valley has a high incidence of Valley Fever, so it is natural for us to build a reputation in the medical community as a center for research and conferences on the disease.”

Registered clinicians and researchers will encounter scientific papers on the disease and expert discussions. The program will include a session about “The Most Unusual Cases of Cocci,” which has been a part of the annual conference for 21 years.

Valley Fever gets its name from its discovery in the San Joaquin Valley of California. The medical name for Valley Fever is coccidioidomycosis, which often is shortened to cocci

(pronounced KOK-SEE), meaning a fungal infection (mycosis) caused by the fungus *Coccidioides*. The fungus lives in the soil of hot, arid regions and is spread through the air when the soil is disturbed. Humans contract the disease by inhaling the spores.

The Valley Fever Center for Excellence reports that an estimated two-thirds of U.S. Valley Fever cases are in Maricopa, Pinal and Pima counties.

Valley Fever Conference

“Meet the Expert” session

March 26, 2010

4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Surprise City Hall
Council Chambers
16000 N. Civic Center Plaza

Symptoms of Valley Fever



In most cases, the symptoms of Valley Fever are like a mild flu. Most people who contract the disease do not see a doctor.

Symptoms include fatigue, cough, fever, profuse sweating at night, loss of appetite, chest pain, and generalized muscle and joint aches particularly of the ankles and knees.

The CSG Program Chair is Dr. Janis Blair, M.D., an Infectious Disease Specialist at Mayo Clinic Scottsdale.

For more information about the public Q&A event, please contact Surprise Economic Development staff at 623.222.3300.



16000 N. Civic Center Plaza
Surprise, AZ 85374

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