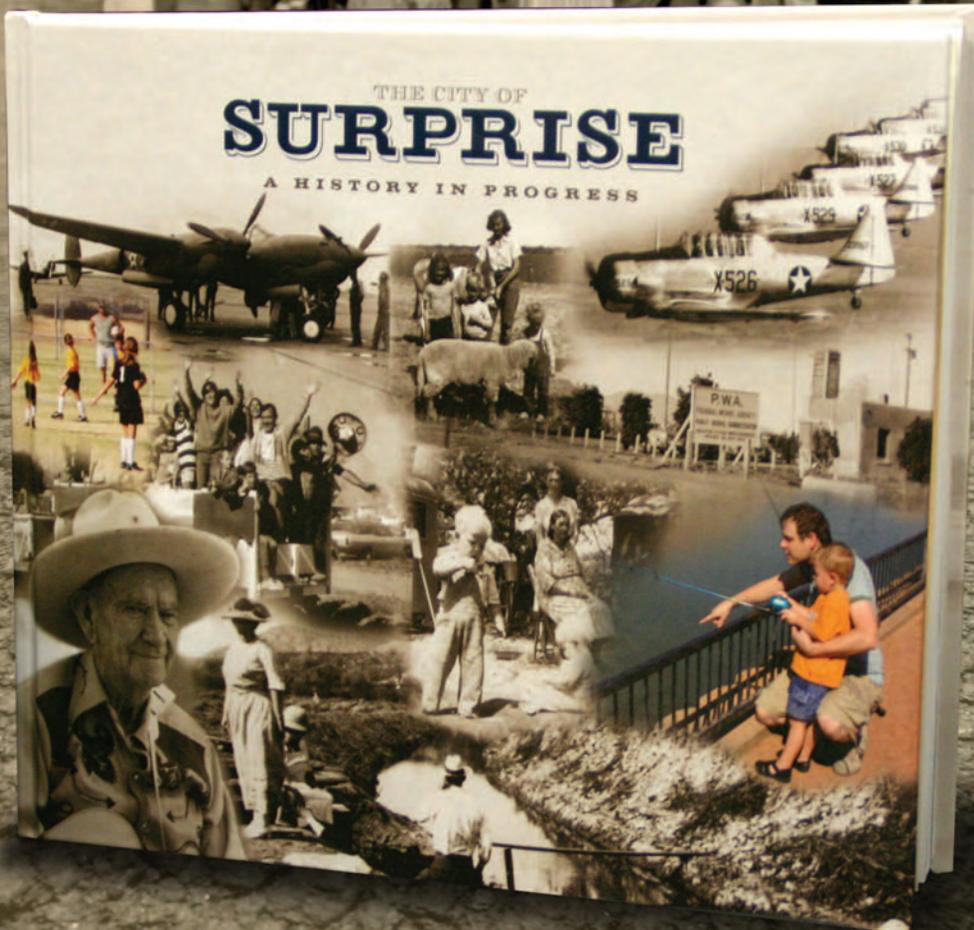


# SURPRISE Progress



**The story of  
Surprise  
revealed in  
History  
Book/DVD**

**Inside this issue:**

**Have your say regarding  
the city's budget**

**Transportation Update**

**Web site goes .gov**

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**3** Budget Input

**4** Luke's Mission



**6** Surprise History Book



**8** Transportation Update

**12** Surprise Web site goes .gov

**14** Senior Center Activities



## SURPRISE ARIZONA

**City Council 623.222.1300**

Lyn Truitt, Mayor

Richard Alton, Vice Mayor

Sharon Wolcott, District 1

John Williams, District 3

Roy Villanueva, District 4

Mike Woodard, District 5

Skip Hall, District 6

**City Manager 623.222.1100**

Randy Oliver

**Planning & Zoning Commission 623.222.3133**

Matthew Bieniek

John Hallin

Jan Blair

Robert Rein

Ken Chapman

Steve Somers

Dennis W. Smith

**TTY: 623.222.1002/VP: 623.222.3802**

**Arts & Cultural Advisory Board**

623.222.2205

**Transportation Committee**

623.222.3290

**Parks & Recreation Advisory Board**

623.222.2000

**Disability Advisory Commission**

623.222.3821

**TTY: 623.222.3802**

**Quality of Life Commission**

623.222.1551

# 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.lynych@surpriseaz.gov](mailto:ken.lynych@surpriseaz.gov) with your comments and suggestions.

**Ken Lynch**

Communications Director

**Diane Arthur**

Public Information Officer

**Doug Tolf**

Graphic Designer

## SURPRISE PROGRESS AWARDS

**APEX**

Award of Excellence  
2007-2009

**3CMA**

Silver Circle Award  
2003-2005, 2007

**3CMA**

Award of Excellence  
2002, 2008



**SURPRISE II**

## City Council meetings

**Surprise City Hall, 16000 N. Civic Center Plaza** Info: 623.222.1200  
6 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursday of the month, unless noted below

- April 1st Workshop (4 p.m.); April 8th and 22nd
- May 6th Workshop (4 p.m.); May 13th and 27th
- June 3th Workshop (4 p.m.); June 10th and 24th

## Planning & Zoning Commission meetings

**Surprise City Hall, 16000 N. Civic Center Plaza** Info: 623.222.3133  
6 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month, unless noted below

- April 6th
- May 4th
- June 1st

**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!



# Have Your Say!

## City wants to hear from you as budget preparation begins

**C**ity Manager Randy Oliver unveils the fiscal year 2011 budget April 9, including steps to handle the estimated \$3 Million shortfall in the fiscal year beginning July 1.

“Council will have some difficult decisions to make and it is important residents have their say,” Oliver says. “I encourage the community to attend our public meetings or go to our web site to let us know their thoughts.”

The city has already reduced staff and cut services in order to align the organization with declining revenues that did not meet projections, Oliver says.

“In the last 14 months, we’ve laid off about 10% of our workforce, including 24% of our management staff, reduced employee benefits and cut services by reducing library and pool hours, among other things,” he says. Those reductions have put Surprise in a better position than many cities as it prepares for FY2011, which begins July 1, he adds.

Oliver says the city anticipates FY2011 will be a slightly better year for revenue than FY2010. “Our General Fund will still be millions below where we were just two years ago, and council will have to look at enhancing revenues, reducing services or some combination of both.”

Residents are invited to any of three public meetings that will be held around the community. The meetings will feature direct contact with city staff, a budget video presentation, and the opportunity to give city leaders your thoughts on the proposals on written comment cards.

“We know many people can’t make it to meetings, so the web site becomes a critical tool in this effort,” Oliver says. “At [www.surpriseaz.gov](http://www.surpriseaz.gov), you can get a quick briefing on the budget and send your comments electronically 24/7.”

The convenience of the web site makes it easier for busy Surprise families or those with mobility or transportation issues to get up to date and have some input. “We really want to involve everyone,” Oliver says.

Staff will assemble resident comments and present them to the City Council at the Council Budget Retreat, scheduled for April 23 and 24.

To find meeting times and locations go to [www.surpriseaz.gov](http://www.surpriseaz.gov) and click the “FY2011 budget” item, or call 623.222.1400.

**More on the web!** 

For more info visit [www.surpriseaz.gov](http://www.surpriseaz.gov)

### Support Surprise Volunteers needed to serve on Boards & Commissions

Are you a community leader interested in recommending ideas to the City Council on ways to improve the quality of life for Surprise? If so you are encouraged to apply for one of the city’s Boards and Commissions.

The city is currently accepting applications for all Boards and Commissions. Applications are available online at [www.surpriseaz.gov](http://www.surpriseaz.gov) under Mayor/Council - Boards & Commissions. Or, you can pick up an application in person at the City Clerk’s Office, located in the east wing, first floor of City Hall, 16000 N. Civic Center Plaza.

The City Council recently updated the advertisement policy for city Boards and Commissions to one time per year in January in local newspapers. But applications can be submitted at anytime, regardless of whether openings exist.





# Supporting Luke's Mission

Thousands of people participated in the recent U.S. Air Force-sponsored meetings and online comment period regarding the future of Luke Air Force Base. The meetings, known as "scoping meetings," allowed input from the community as an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the effect of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter is developed. The Air Force is considering making Luke the training base for the F-35 as it succeeds the F-16. Training F-16 pilots has been Luke's main mission since the fighter was introduced more than 30 years ago.

The "Luke Forward" association of supporters said Arizona set attendance records at the meetings and submitted more than 1,400 online comments, more than any other community being considered for the F-35. The meetings were held in El Mirage, Sun City and Surprise. The tone of the comments was overwhelmingly positive and supportive of basing the F-35 at Luke, according to reports.

The draft EIS will be developed in the next few months and presented in a series of hearings around the Valley. This will present another opportunity to voice your thoughts. Dates and times have yet to be determined.



F-35 Fighter Jet

Luke Air Force base contributes an estimated \$2.2 billion to the Arizona economy each year and employs thousands of West Valley residents, including many Surprise residents. Landing the F-35 as its next mission is crucial to Luke's viability in Arizona's future. Surprise, Lichfield Park, Avondale, Peoria, Buckeye, Phoenix, Glendale, Gila Bend, Wickenburg, Goodyear, Youngtown and Tolleson are among the communities on record as supportive of bringing the F-35 to Luke.

To find out more and register your support for Luke Air Force base, visit [www.lukeforward.com](http://www.lukeforward.com).



Your Surprise City Council (from left to right): Sharon Wolcott, Dist. 1; Roy Villeneuve, Dist. 4; Mike Woodard, Dist. 5; Lyn Truitt, Mayor; Richard Alton, Vice Mayor, Dist. 2; Skip Hall, Dist. 6; John Williams, Dist. 3.

## Council Assures Surprise Voice is Heard

In February, the Surprise City Council named various members to committees that help Surprise have a regional voice.

The council determined that the appointments will expire June 30, 2011, at which time council will reappoint or make new assignments.

### The council made the following appointments:

Valley Metro Regional Public Transit Authority Board of Directors:  
**Mayor Lyn Truitt**

Maricopa Association of Governments Regional Council:  
**District 1 Councilmember Sharon Wolcott**

Westmarc Economic Development Committee:  
**Vice Mayor Richard Alton**

Westmarc Education Committee:  
**District 3 Councilmember John Williams**

Westmarc Public Affairs Committee:  
**District 1 Councilmember Sharon Wolcott**

Westmarc Health Care Committee:  
**District 5 Councilmember Mike Woodard**

Westmarc Transportation Committee:  
**District 1 Councilmember Sharon Wolcott**

Westmarc Water Committee:  
**District 6 Councilmember Skip Hall**

The new location for Surprise Regional Chamber of Commerce will open later this spring.

## Chamber plans move and improved member service



The Surprise Regional Chamber of Commerce is moving to new offices immediately adjacent to Surprise City Hall, highlighting the growing partnership between the city and small businesses.

“This is more than a symbolic move,” says Surprise Regional Chamber President David Moss. “We will present a more professional appearance to the community and really highlight our partnership with the city.”

The Chamber will move into city-owned space directly north of the City Hall building formerly occupied by the Heard Museum West. In December, the city council unanimously

approved a five-year lease agreement with the Chamber. The move is expected to be completed this spring.

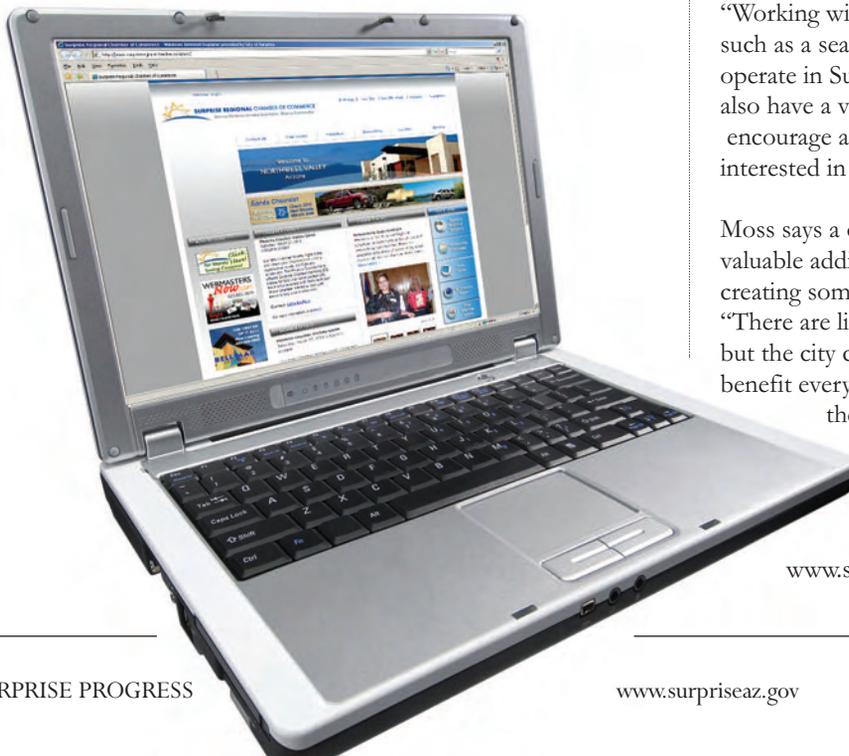
Moss says he is also excited about other joint initiatives that will improve the Surprise business climate and grow the local economy.

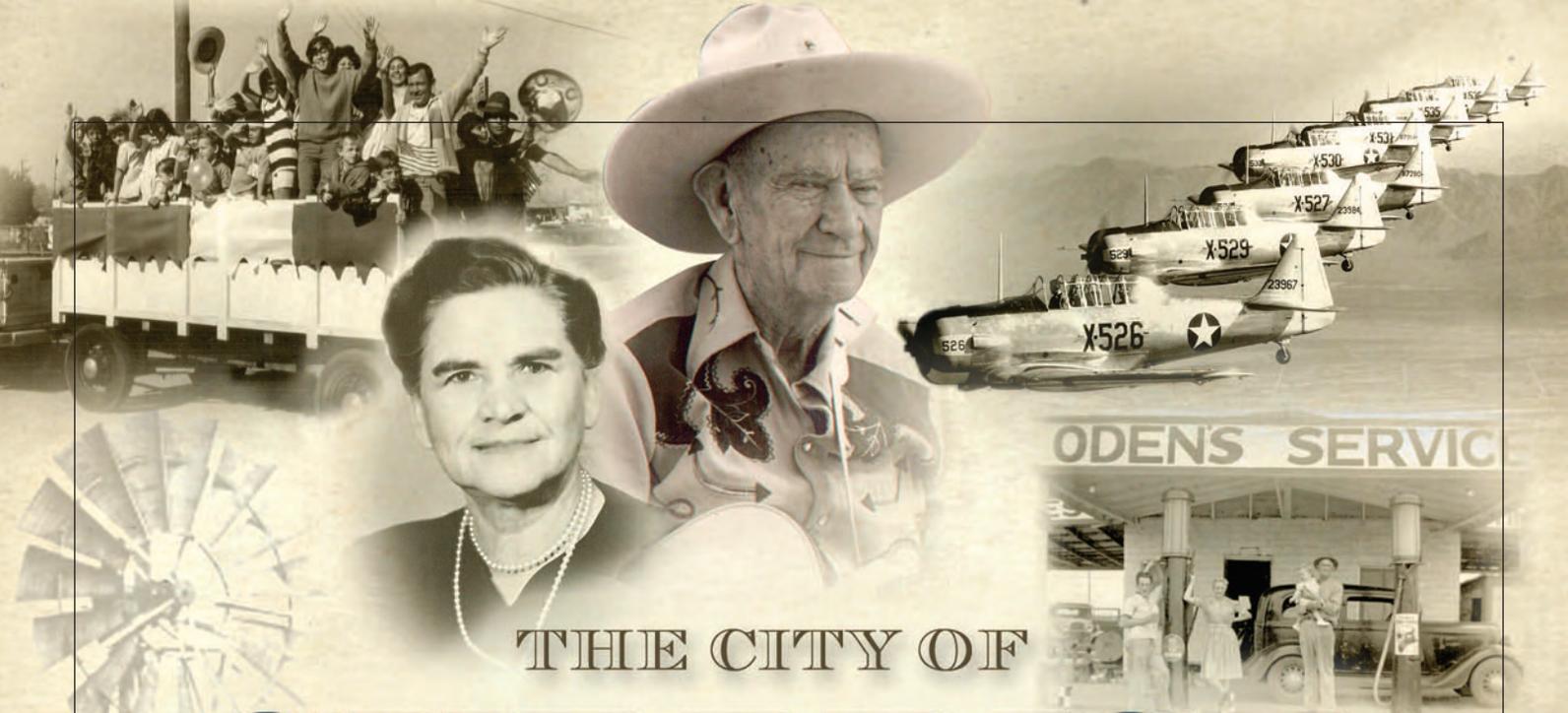
The Chamber and the Surprise Communications Department are producing monthly TV and internet video spots called “The Chamber Minute.” These spots update residents on chamber activities and spotlight membership benefits. Viewers are also urged to visit the Chamber’s newly redesigned web site, [www.surpriseregionalchamber.com](http://www.surpriseregionalchamber.com).

“The web site is now a great community asset,” says Moss. “Working with the city, we will be able to offer great services such as a searchable directory for all businesses licensed to operate in Surprise, even non-chamber members. We will also have a very inclusive Community Calendar and we encourage anyone with an event the community might be interested in to contact us.”

Moss says a community-minded Chamber web site will be a valuable addition to life in Surprise. “True partnership means creating something each partner can’t do on its own,” he says. “There are limitations to what is allowed on the city web site, but the city can help us add these valuable web tools that benefit everyone,” he says. Generating web traffic will make the Chamber more valuable to members and potential members, he adds.

For more information on the Surprise Regional Chamber of Commerce, call 623.583.0692 or visit [www.surpriseregionalchamber.com](http://www.surpriseregionalchamber.com).





THE CITY OF

# SURPRISE

A HISTORY IN PROGRESS

The story of Surprise is revealed in a beautiful new 104-page book and DVD that celebrate the 50th anniversary of the city's incorporation. Entitled "Surprise: A History in Progress," the book and video documentary were recently unveiled at a City Hall ceremony.

If you have ever wondered how the city came to be, or where our unique name originated, or who our first families were, this is the set for you. There is even a (fittingly) "surprise" twist: research reveals the true founder of Surprise was Glendale real estate developer Flora Statler, not Homer Ludden, often referred to as the town's founder.

"It is so appropriate and an amazing coincidence that one of the roads leading to our new City Hall complex is Statler Drive," says City Clerk Sherry Aguilar, a Surprise native who led the research and development of the book and video documentary. "I always heard her name when I was growing up, and I saw her real estate signs all over town, but I never thought I would one day be able to prove that she is the town founder."

The book and documentary capped a year-long project that also involved the Surprise Communications Department. "This was a labor of love for me," says Aguilar. "I was honored when the Mayor and Council asked me to lead the charge in bringing our history to life through this book and DVD."

The book and DVD chronicle the area's history beginning with the prehistoric Hohokam people, who populated many areas of



City Clerk Sherry Aguilar unveils the Surprise History book.

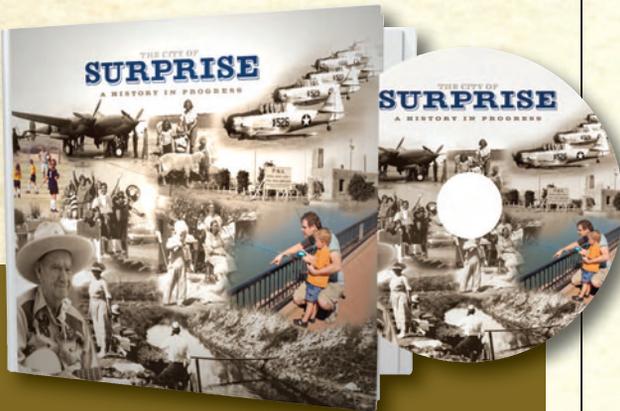
the valley for thousands of years before mysteriously vanishing more than 600 years ago. The first families of Surprise share firsthand accounts of the early days of the city and its evolution from a small farming community into one of the largest cities in Arizona.

"It will be wonderful for readers and viewers to encounter familiar names they see on street signs around the city, such as Lundberg and Statler and Jerry," says Aguilar. "Our community's agricultural past is closely examined, as it was the fertile soil that produced cotton, citrus and even roses that drew many of the earliest residents here."

“Of course the formation of Grand Avenue and a new railroad was key to growing Surprise. They connected us to the rest of the world,” adds Aguilar.

Aguilar worked very closely with ASU historian and author Carol Palmer and video producer Paul Ferrante in capturing the city’s story. Hundreds of hours of interviews and dozens of separate research projects went into this first comprehensive look at the community’s history. “Having lived in Surprise my entire life made this project even more special for me,” Aguilar says. “Carol and Paul did an outstanding job telling our story.”

The project also demonstrated the need for a Surprise Historical Society, recently formed and hard at work.



“The City of Surprise: A History in Progress” book and companion DVD is available at:

**Surprise City Store**

First floor of City Hall  
16000 N. Civic Center Plaza.  
It can also be ordered online at  
[www.surprisecitystore.com](http://www.surprisecitystore.com)

The DVD can be viewed at no cost at  
[www.surpriseaz.gov/surprise11](http://www.surpriseaz.gov/surprise11) or by  
checking the Surprise 11 broadcast  
schedule.

**More on  
the web!**

[www.surprisecitystore.com](http://www.surprisecitystore.com)  
[www.surpriseaz.gov/surprise11](http://www.surpriseaz.gov/surprise11)



## Creating a Surprising destination

The Surprise City Council is launching a visionary effort to attract tourism to Surprise with the development of a Surprise Tourism Strategic Plan.

Developed by the council appointed Tourism Committee, the final plan will go before council for final approval this month. The council saw a draft report in January. The plan calls for building on Surprise strengths such as outdoor recreation, while studying longer term tourism strategies.

For example, the Committee recommends studying whether to make a conference center a city priority over the next three years. “Conference centers attract professional meetings, which means we can introduce many high level visitors to Surprise, while having a positive impact on our hotels and restaurants,” says Tourism Committee Chair Charles Klar. He cited the recent Valley Fever conference at City Hall which attracted epidemiologist and other health professions to Surprise as an example.

In the longer term, the committee recommends the city lead the charge to create resources that attract visitors year round and encourage multi-night stays. “Creating an entertainment district at Surprise Center is something the committee thinks will build Surprise nightlife and create a reputation for excitement,” says Community and Recreation Services Director Mark Coronado, who worked closely with the committee.

Over the next five to ten years, the committee recommends partnering with other agencies to develop an amphitheater and resort at the White Tank Mountains. “A first class resort and spa, themed around good health and the beauty of the natural environment, would be a true year round attraction,” Coronado adds.

The council’s unanimous January approval of a funding mechanism for tourism was an important step, increasing the amount hotels guests pay by 1.52% to generate an estimated \$75,000 to \$125,000 for tourism development efforts.

“The Committee did a fabulous job setting the vision for what tourism in Surprise should look like,” says Coronado.

“Creating an entertainment district at Surprise Center is something the committee thinks will build Surprise nightlife and create a reputation for excitement,”  
Mark Coronado  
Community & Recreation Services Director



LED digital monument sign located on Bullard Ave.

## Transportation update

### Bullard Avenue

Bullard Avenue is now a complete four lane roadway from Bell Road to Greenway Road, following the recent widening work from Bell to Paradise Lane.

Visitors to the Surprise Recreation Campus are also now greeted by an LED digital monument sign brightly showcasing current and upcoming events at Surprise Stadium and the surrounding area.

Most of the roadway work was completed before Spring Training at Surprise Stadium. Landscaping, streetlights, and other touch up work will take place after Spring Training and will continue into May.

### Loop 303 widening

When complete by 2014, a six-lane 303 will connect I-10 to I-17, creating a major transportation improvement for Surprise, and a major economic corridor for our city and the West Valley. Most of the widening work through Surprise is expected to be complete by 2012.



Map showing the route of SR 303 once completed in 2014.

This project is under design and the first phase (Peoria Road to Waddell Road) will be complete this summer. Design of the second phase (Waddell Road to Mountain View Road) is scheduled for completion later this fall.

The bridge work is ongoing at Bell and the traffic pattern is anticipated to be switched

over to the new Bell Road overpass by the end of this summer. At this intersection the 303 will run underneath Bell. Road work continues on the north side of Waddell Road at the 303. Later this month, crews will shift traffic onto the north side of Waddell and begin working on the south side of Waddell throughout the summer months.

The first phase of construction improvements on Cactus Road at the 303 is scheduled to begin in July with the relocation of the Maricopa Water District underground pipes.

As part of the project, some sections of the present screen wall will be changed to a taller sound wall to reduce traffic noise in Northwest Ranch and Sun City Grand. The height of the wall will vary depending on the location..

ADOT's Communications and Community Partnership group will be contacting the Home Owners Associations of the subdivisions to inform them of the project and to seek comment.

For more information visit ADOT's Web site [www.ValleyFreeways.com](http://www.ValleyFreeways.com) (click on Loop 303).

## Grand Avenue widening

In February, the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) began widening work on US 60 (Grand Avenue) in Surprise that will expand Grand to six lanes from 99th Avenue to the Loop 303. Other improvements include additional turn lanes, new signage, improved traffic signals and crosswalks.

This \$18 million project is funded by federal Recovery Act dollars. The first phase of this project widened Grand Avenue between 83rd and 99th avenues, southeast of Surprise. The total widening work and other improvements are scheduled for completion in fall 2011.

For more information visit ADOT's Web site [www.ValleyFreeways.com](http://www.ValleyFreeways.com) (click on US 60 Grand Avenue). The project hotline is 480.890.3055.

## Bell Road improvements- Phases 4 & 5

Using \$2.9 million in federal Recovery Act dollars, contractors will reconstruct the three eastbound lanes from the Loop 303 to Parkview Place; and rehabilitate east and westbound Bell from just west of the 303 to the Beardsley Canal, as part of the final two phases of the five-phase Bell Road Reconstruction project. The work consists of replacing the current road surface of Bell Road with rubberized asphalt.

Construction is likely to begin in mid-May and is anticipated to be complete before Labor Day.

Crews will also install conduit to extend the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) west on Bell. 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. The ITS uses cameras and interconnected computerized signals to regulate traffic flow and electronic message boards to help alert motorists to traffic news.

Phase 1 of the five-phase Bell Road Reconstruction was completed in 2007, rebuilding westbound Bell, from Grand Avenue to Parkview Place, at a cost of \$2.5 million.

Phases 2 and 3 were complete in 2008. The project included reconstruction of the westbound lanes of Bell from Parkview to just east of the Loop 303, using rubberized asphalt. The eastbound lanes of Bell from Parkview to Grand were reconstructed using standard asphalt concrete. Various traffic signal, drainage and right/-left turn lane improvements were also part of this work.

For more information about Bell Road improvements, contact Suneel Garg at 623.222.6130 or by email at [suneel.garg@surpriseaz.gov](mailto:suneel.garg@surpriseaz.gov).

## Meet the man behind the numbers; Surprise welcomes new CFO

**T**wenty-year public-service veteran Scott McCarty joined Surprise in February, as the city's new Chief Financial Officer (CFO).

McCarty comes to Surprise from Scottsdale, where he served as Executive Director of the Financial Management Division.

McCarty's duties include overseeing the city's budget, capital-improvement plan, accounting, investing and purchasing responsibilities.

McCarty, a Certified Public Accountant, holds an Accounting degree from University of Redlands, in California.

"I am excited about the opportunity to serve as the City of Surprise CFO," says McCarty. "I look forward to working with City Council and staff to deliver the best services to the residents of Surprise."



## Enjoy free music and entertainment at Second Sundays in the Park

**C**ome out to Surprise Community Park on the second Sunday of April (11) and May (9) and enjoy Second Sundays in the Park! Second Sundays will feature roaming entertainment such as clowns, magicians, jugglers and live music performance by Walt Pitts. Families are encouraged to bring a picnic and enjoy free entertainment. Go to [www.surpriseaz.gov](http://www.surpriseaz.gov) for times and more information.



**More on  
the web!**

[www.surpriseaz.gov](http://www.surpriseaz.gov)



**“We have what solar companies need - an abundance of shovel-ready sites; an eager local workforce and a City Council committed to growing our business base.”**

*Mike Hoover  
Surprise Economic  
Development Coordinator*

## Surprise shining bright as a solar city

As one of only three Arizona cities deemed a “Greening Greater Phoenix Community” by the Greater Phoenix Economic Council, Surprise is a premiere location for solar companies interested in Arizona.

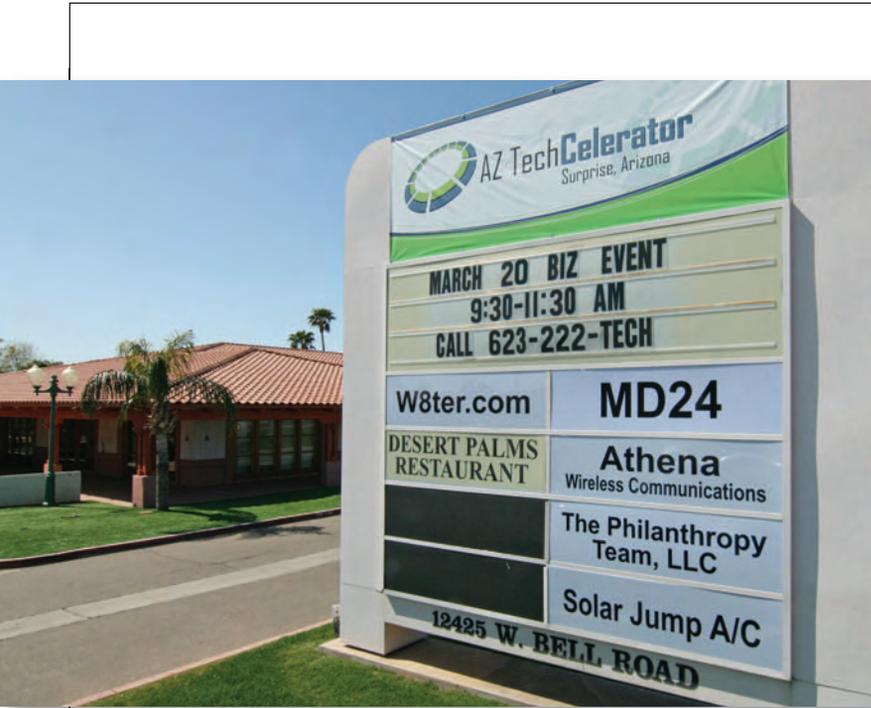
“We have what solar companies need - an abundance of shovel-ready sites; an eager local workforce and a City Council committed to growing our business base,” says Surprise Economic Development Coordinator Mike Hoover. Surprise meets with a variety of solar companies looking to relocate or open new facilities.

“The coordination at the local, regional, and state level is encouraging,” says Hoover. “Arizona Public Service’s Solana project near Gila Bend could become the largest utility scale solar farm in the world. Couple this with an aggressive, responsible state incentive package for manufacturers and the solar story in Arizona is taking form.”

Hoover, often quoted in solar stories in the Arizona Republic and Phoenix Business Journal, says Arizona must make a strong push to bring solar research and development (R&D) firms here.

“Arizona is well-positioned to capture thin film solar cell production out of California R&D facilities,” he says. “Our proximity and a workforce familiar with thin film systems makes greater Phoenix a natural fit for second line production. Next, we need a strong state incentive to get these companies to relocate here.”

Hoover says the area construction industry will gain from solar. “The construction workforce will be developing a skill-set that sets us apart. Bringing a solar power station like Solana online will breed confidence among other companies looking at Arizona,” he says. “Arizona will be recognized as an environment that can build large scale, complex projects.”



## AZ TechCelerator: Foundation for Future Job Growth

**H**ere's one sign that innovation is taking root in Surprise: the marquee sign on the former City Hall site along Bell Road was a vast, empty space after the new City Hall opened last June. But these days, there isn't much room left as company after company locates at the site, which has been reborn as the AZ TechCelerator.

In its first six months, the AZ TechCelerator has attracted eight new start-up technology companies, and more companies are negotiating with the city for space in the business incubator.

"The whole idea behind the AZ TechCelerator is to attract top-notch companies that are just starting out, help them develop their business plan, and in three to five years they will be ready to move into larger commercial space

in Surprise and keep those new jobs here," says Economic Development and AZ TechCelerator Manager Jeanine Jerkovic. "We are carefully vetting the companies and are confident in their business approach."

"With the continued support from the City Council we continue to grow the AZ TechCelerator," says Jerkovic. "These are all very energetic start-up companies with great ideas and solid growth plans."

Jerkovic adds that the AZ TechCelerator, 12425 West Bell Rd., has room to house about 20 companies, depending on space needs.

For more information about the AZ TechCelerator visit [www.aztechcelerator.com](http://www.aztechcelerator.com) or call manager Jeanine Jerkovic at 623.222.3300.

### Meet the tenants

**Kogi Technologies** designs and manufactures solar panel mounting systems and industrial-grade photovoltaic panels. They occupy 742 square feet for administrative purposes, but will seek additional manufacturing space within the City of Surprise over the next three years. Kogi expects to boost their employee base to 150 people during that time.

**MD24**, a medical services firm, has settled into 1,314 square feet of office space at the TechCelerator. The company delivers home-based health care and full comprehensive care on site at housing facilities with large elderly populations. This model ensures consistent levels of care, proper disease management, and diminishes the risks, stress, and uncertainty associated with transporting elderly or disabled patients to offsite clinics.

**Pocket Full of Knowledge**, a software firm, is leasing 432 square feet to sell a web-based video system to help inventors and entrepreneurs take their ideas from concept to the marketplace.

**Solar Jump A/C** offers an innovative solar-powered HVAC technology that provides greater energy efficiencies. Solar Jump anticipates growth to 50 employees within three years. They are using 2,549 square feet to house administrative offices, marketing, research and light assembly uses.

**The Philanthropy Team, LLC** is the first, and currently only, consulting company specializing in animal welfare that is made up of former animal welfare professionals. They utilizes 728 square feet of office space.

**Vehicle Reversing Systems** has developed a patented collision warning and obstacle detection system capable of warning a driver of an obstacle behind a reversing vehicle using ultrasonic echo location sonar technology. They occupy 487 square feet of space at the AZ TechCelerator.

The first two companies to move in last December were **Athena Wireless Communications, Inc.** and **w8ter.com LLC**, occupying almost 2,500 square feet of space.

**Athena Wireless Communications** provides solutions to applications requiring high capacity connections and transmissions of data.

**w8ter.com** has propriety communications software dedicated to managing customer wait times, appointments and reservations for businesses such as restaurants, salons and medical offices through low-cost service packages.

# What's new on the web

## The web goes ".GOV"

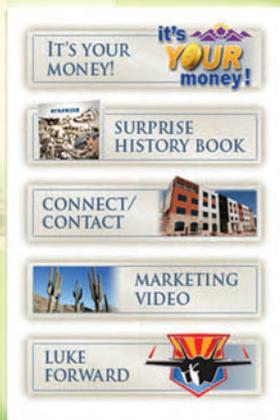
Beginning this month, the familiar [www.surpriseaz.com](http://www.surpriseaz.com) web address will change to [www.surpriseaz.gov](http://www.surpriseaz.gov), aligning the city more closely with the way government web sites are branded. "It makes sense," says Surprise Interim Assistant City Manager George Kolb, who noted that city e-mail addresses had change to ".gov" in March. "Most cities are ".dot gov" sites."

Internet search engines will have no problems finding our site, and anyone plugging "surpriseaz.com" into their URL box will automatically be redirected to "www.surpriseaz.gov" for the foreseeable future. "The change should be transparent to the user, with no disruption," Kolb says.



## New buttons make contact easier

Also coming in April, you will be able to check the right hand side of [surpriseaz.gov](http://surpriseaz.gov) for new navigation features that makes the site even easier to use. Prominent buttons highlight important current sites such as "Luke Forward." A new feature called "Contact/Connect" links you to a variety of ways to contact City Hall or connect to news updates via "Twitter" and "Notify Me."



## Valley Fever Q&A now playing on Surprise 11; internet

Valley Fever, a fungal respiratory disease, is most commonly found in Arizona and is a topic of public concern in the Northwest Valley.

In March, a conference of experts on the disease met at Surprise City Hall and held an informative, open to the public question-and-answer session. This was part of the Coccidioidomycosis Study Group's international annual meeting. The conference was organized by the Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGen) and Mayo Clinic Arizona.

If you were unable to attend, and would like to hear from the experts, you can catch the rebroadcast on Surprise 11 or watch the video any time online at [www.surpriseaz.gov/surprise11](http://www.surpriseaz.gov/surprise11).

The two-hour discussion featured a panel of health care professionals, epidemiologists and researchers. The discussion included Valley Fever symptoms, treatment and how the disease can affect pets.

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*. In most cases, the symptoms of Valley Fever are like a mild flu.



# Google™

## Google Search arrives

www.surpriseaz.gov has introduced Google as our web site search engine of choice. Now you can punch any city-related term you need into the search box, and Google will search our entire site to produce instant results. From "SLID" to Municipal Code", from "impact" to "council," from "planning" to "swimming pool," you'll get blazingly fast results.



(December 2009 - February 2010)

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

- Residence Inn by Marriott, 16418 N. Bullard Ave.
- Have Tools Will Travel, 16313 W. Bridal Veil Ln.
- Mind at Peace LLC, 17618 W. Eugene Ter.
- Accurate Financial Services, 16370 W. Rimrock St.
- Leonard Ventures, 16220 W. Ironwood St.
- Platt Custom Builders LLC, 16025 W. Morning Vista Dr.
- MC Mobile Repair Service LLC, 12154 N. 150th Dr.
- Cienna Group, 17972 W. Mauna Loa Ln.
- Hair 4 Real, 15142 W. Bell Rd.
- MPS-Martinez Property Services Clean Up, 15817 W. Mercer Lane
- Imagine Salon and Day Spa LLC, 11340 W. Bell Rd. #116
- Kennel Me Not Sun Cities Surprise LLC, 15920 W. Gelding Dr.
- MVP Nails and Spa, 15571 N. Litchfield Rd. #103
- Halo Electric Corporation Inc., 13811 N. 150th Ave.
- Julies Cleaning Service, 18122 W. Desert Lane
- T&J Express LLC, 16151 W. Redfield Rd.
- Navarro Property Services, 18203 W. Caribbean Lane
- Pilchuck Irrigation LLC, 13541 W. Cottonwood St.
- ZJ Gold Buyers LLC, 16551 N. Dysart Rd. #117B
- Stage Struck, 11242 N. 154th Lane
- Steven Linnemeyer Construction, 18531 N. Laguna Azul Ct.
- The Green Team Cleaning Service, 15547 W. Evans Dr.
- Kevin Hodge Dot Com Computer Consulting, 18050 W. Waddell Rd.
- Bella's Party Decorating Services, 15015 W. Hearn Rd.

## No waiting! Request a city service online

Getting in touch with the City of Surprise for service is not only easy, it is 24/7!



Now you can report a problem or order a city service when it is convenient for you. Visit the 222-CARE web site to tell us what the problem is and how we can get in touch with you if we need to follow up. That's it! Your request goes directly to our automated service center, where it is routed to the correct department for action. You even get a routing number that allows you to check back and see the status of your report.

Pot holes, barking dogs, tall weeds, abandoned vehicles, traffic signals out, missed trash pickup, the list goes on. No need to figure out which city department to call. Go to [www.surpriseaz.com](http://www.surpriseaz.com) and click on "Request a Service/222-CARE" under the "Living in Surprise" tab. Just follow the step-by-step process and then get back to your busy life.

If you are on the run, just call 623-222-CARE (2278) and talk to a live person about your concern. If they are helping others or it is after hours, you can leave a message that will be acted on promptly.

Just another way Surprise is building on our reputation for connection and opportunity!

### Restaurant/Bar

- #1 Brothers Pizza, 16995 W. Greenway #104
- Everyone's Favorite Hot Dog (mobile vendor), 15067 W. Heritage Oak Way

### Office/Medical/Dental

- The Little Clinic West Bell and Reems, 15510 W. Bell Rd.

### Adult Care

- Mila's Senior Care Home, 14221 N. 136th Ln.
- A Quality Home Care II, 15423 W. Statler Circle
- Statler Home Care LLC, 17766 W. Statler Drive
- Sacred Heart Divine Mercy Assisted Living LLC, 18475 W. Banff Lane

More on the web!



View Commercial Projects in progress:  
[www.surpriseaz.gov/currentprojects](http://www.surpriseaz.gov/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

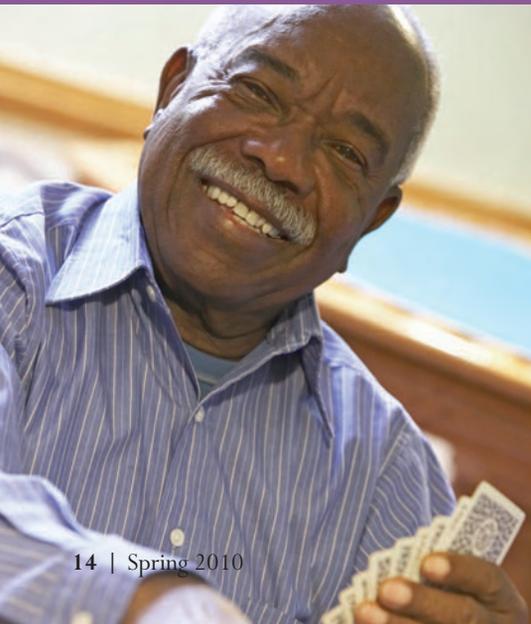
\*\* Non-resident rates apply for classes and trips

### 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](http://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+; please call ahead for a lunch reservation. You may also enjoy the mini Café, offering gourmet coffees and chai tea, plus light refreshments. Browse the Thrift Shop while you're there and pick up great gift bargains, greeting cards and candy bouquets.

### Social time

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

### For your health

Free Health Screenings at Surprise Senior Center, co-sponsored by the Area Agency on Aging. Call 623.222.1500 for details and registration information.

- **Bone Density** 4/23, 8:30-11:30 a.m.
- **Vision** 5/18, 8:30-11:30 a.m.
- **Cholesterol & Glucose** 5/25, 8:30-11:30 a.m. Fasting required.
- **Foot Screening** 6/9, 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Midwestern School of Podiatry exam tests circulation, nerves, skin, musculoskeletal, stance & gait.
- **Medication Review & Diabetes Education** 6/15, 8:30-11:30 a.m.

Blood Pressure screenings are also available twice per month, along with exercise classes, dance and benefits counseling.

### Upcoming Classes

Classes offered at the Senior Center include Learning to use computers, learning spanish, quilting, guitar & ukulele and crafts. For class information or to register, please call 623.222.1500 or visit [www.surpriseaz.com/recreation](http://www.surpriseaz.com/recreation).

### Compassionate Surprise - become a volunteer

Help your neighbor! Opportunities are available in several city departments including Senior Center, Senior Van Drivers, Clericals, Office Support and Data Entry, Fire, Police or Community & Recreation Services. Info: 623.222.1500, or visit [www.surpriseaz.com/volunteer](http://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 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.



## Surprise Senior Idol

Pick your favorite from all of the talented senior performers and see if they become the 2010 Surprise Senior Idol!

Date: Wednesday, July 7  
 Time: 1 p.m.  
 Location: Willow Canyon High School  
 17901 W. Lundberg St.  
 Fee: \$5



## Active Adult Day Trips

Call 623.222.1500 for more information.

Arizona Broadway Theatre:  
 Footloose (Course #: 8126)

Date: Wednesday, June 23  
 Times: 11 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
 Fee: Resident: \$55/ Non Resident: \$58  
 Limit: 24 participants



Cool off  
 in  
 Surprise!

## New 2010 summer pool times

### Surprise Aquatic Center

15831 N. Bullard Ave., 623.222.2500

May 29 – Aug. 8

Mon-Thu: 12:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Fri: Noon – 5 p.m.

Sat/Sun: Noon – 4 p.m.

### Hollyhock Pool

15808 N. Hollyhock St., 623.222.2530

May 29 – Aug. 29

Sat/Sun: Noon – 4 p.m.



# City Happenings

For more information visit [www.surpriseaz.com](http://www.surpriseaz.com)

## April

### APRIL 2010

- 1 **Census Day!** Mail your completed Census 2010 form today—each form is worth \$1,300 in federal funds for Surprise!
- 10 **Spring Swap Meet-** Shop for new/used bargains, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m., Surprise Aquatic Center Parking Lot- Free admission
- 14-17 **USTA Campus Championship Nationals, Tennis & Racquet Complex,** 623.222.2400
- 17 **Xeriscape Conversion class,** 9 a.m. -11 a.m. Call 222.7023 to register for this free class.
- 17 **Movie Night @ Surprise Stadium,** 7 p.m., “Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs,” rated PG.- Free, 623.222.2000
- 22 **“Landscape Watering by the Numbers” class.** 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. all 222.7023 to register for this free class.
- 23-25 **USTA Senior League Nationals, Tennis & Racquet Complex,** 623.222.2400
- 30-5/2 **USTA Super Senior Nationals, Tennis & Racquet Complex,** 623.222.2400

### MAY 2010

- 12 **Landscape Design class,** 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Call 222.7023 to register for this free class
- 15 **BINGO Night at Surprise Recreation Campus,** 5 p.m. Play for prizes, \$5 for 2 games.
- 19 **Dive In Movie,** 7:30 p.m., enjoy a family-friendly movie at Surprise Aquatic Center, \$3 resident/\$6 non-resident
- 15 **Presidents’ Day,** City Offices closed
- 22-26 **USTA National Open (Boys & Girls 18 and under),** Surprise Tennis & Racquet Complex, 623.222.2400
- 28 **Itty Bitty Beach Party,** 10 a.m., 6 & younger crowd, Surprise Aquatics Center, 623.222.2000 \$5 resident/\$10 non-resident
- 29 **Surprise Aquatics Center & Hollyhock Pool open for summer,** (see new pool hours on this page.)
- 29 **Memorial Day Parade,** Bullard Ave. at Recreation Campus
- 31 **Memorial Day (observed) City Offices Closed**

### JUNE 2010

- 1-6 **US Open national qualifying tournament** Surprise Tennis & Racquet Complex, 623.222.2400
- 11 & 25 **Teen Splash & Dance,** Surprise Aquatic Center, 6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m. For 13-17 year olds. \$4 residents, 623.222.2000

\*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

# What do you think?

## Council considers changing election cycle

Since September 2007, Surprise voters have cast their votes on a “September/November” election cycle. Prior to that year, elections were held on a “March/May” cycle.

Now, the Surprise City Council would like to know what residents think of returning to the “March/May” cycle.

Under the current September/November cycle, PRIMARY elections are held in September, and RUNOFF elections are held in November, often in conjunction with broader GENERAL elections, where other issues or offices are on the ballot.

A city PRIMARY election is usually among candidates for elected office, such as city council and mayor. If a candidate in a primary election receives more than 50% of the vote (known as “fifty percent plus one”), that candidate wins election outright.

If no candidate achieves “fifty percent plus one” in the September PRIMARY, a November RUNOFF election is held between the top two primary finishers, assuring that one of the candidates gets fifty percent plus one.

Winning candidates are sworn into office January 1, whether they win election in a primary or runoff.

Note: Some city elections are required to be on a November ballot by state law, such as general obligation bond elections.

Prior to September 2007, the city of Surprise operated under a “March/May” election cycle. Candidates for office ran in a



March PRIMARY election, and if a RUNOFF election was necessary, it was held in May.

Winning candidates were sworn into office on July 1, whether they won election in the primary or runoff.

City Council members have expressed various thoughts on the issue and would like to hear from Progress readers.

How can you be heard? Go to [www.surpriseaz.com](http://www.surpriseaz.com) and visit the pages of council members under the “Mayor and Council” tab. You can easily e-mail your thoughts to the council members from each member’s web site. If you are unsure who your council member is, you can review the District Map found on each members’ site.

Here is an opportunity to get engaged in the direction of our community! Visit [www.surpriseaz.gov](http://www.surpriseaz.gov) today.

### COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION

**MAYOR**  
Lyn Truitt  
623.222.1300  
[mayor@surpriseaz.gov](mailto:mayor@surpriseaz.gov)

**DISTRICT 1**  
Sharon Wolcott  
623.222.1321  
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**DISTRICT 2**  
Richard Alton, Vice Mayor  
623.222.1322  
[richard.alton@surpriseaz.gov](mailto:richard.alton@surpriseaz.gov)

**DISTRICT 3**  
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**DISTRICT 4**  
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**DISTRICT 5**  
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**DISTRICT 6**  
Skip Hall  
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