

Mayor's Monthly Message: September 2019

I want to begin by congratulating our Parks and Recreation Department as they received the 2019 Outstanding Program Award: Cultural Awareness Program from the Arizona Parks and Recreation Association for the Annual Historic Home Tour.

During the Arizona League of Cities and Towns, Florence, along with other municipalities partnered with the Progress Meters Arizona Achieves 360. Education is a vital component for every child and it ties into government and our community. Florence grows its future leaders through the Teen Council and Florence Youth Commission. Part of the main focus of the League Conference is how they will create a future for Arizona, and it ties back to having students that are ready for the workforce. One of the levels discussed is having a Leadership Academy Program. It is essential to have industry partners that are outside of the school system to bring back real-world experiences and expose them in an educational program. Every meter is tied together and in order to move the needle, creating economic development, growth and viability for the future it all starts and ends with education and ensuring we have a viable workforce for the future. Our goal is to work with "Arizona We Want" to be able to develop progress meters for Pinal County as well as each community within Pinal County. We are working with Pinal County to take a leadership role and this is something that will take time.

The Town will be hosted an Inaugural Patriot's Day Lunch for first responders on September 11, 2019. The sponsors include: EJ & C Heating and Cooling, Baca Studios, Total Concepts, Pinal County Mounted Posse, Mount Athos, Florence Café, American Legion Post 9, Old Pueblo and McDonalds. There were two 9/11 responders from New York City who attended the luncheon. I'd like to thank everyone for their hard work and efforts in planning and implementing the program.

Recently, the Town applied for a youth field grant with the Diamondbacks for up to \$275,000, to replace field lighting, bleachers, benches, shade structures, and make field improvements. The Town hopes to hear something back within the next few months.

The Produce on Wheels without Waste (POWWOW) Program is implemented by the Borderlands Produce Rescue in southern Arizona. We are appreciative and grateful for their participation in working with us on offering the program in Florence. The first distribution is planned for November 23, 2019. Many people have attending training and are still looking for volunteers.

As always, there are great things happening in Florence, AZ. We have the best community and people! Stay safe and enjoy. 😊

Sincerely,

Tara Walter
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