

TOWN MANAGER'S

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Town of Oro Valley | March 2021

TO COUNCIL

TOWN MANAGER'S MESSAGE

On the heels of Council's two-day strategic planning sessions, the Executive Leadership Team has been working to bring Council's vision and direction to life in an updated Strategic Leadership Plan (SLP). The team met on February 25 to discuss Council's input and go through the SLP goals one by one, updating and/or rewriting them to align with your vision for the next two years, and this week, the team has been fine-tuning each objective. I plan to present you with a draft of the new Strategic Plan the week of March 8, and is scheduled for discussion and input on March 17 so we can once again hear from Council and continue refining this guiding document. Staff has already begun implementing some of the suggestions expressed by Council during those sessions, such as including in the monthly Executive Report a Constituent Inquiry Summary of the most frequent topics of discussion. This addition can be now be found in the Administration section.

In other matters:

- Last month I had the privilege of giving a presentation on town government and budget during a virtual Community Academy held via Zoom. I also held another video Town Hall for employees on Feb. 17, updating them on the COVID vaccine, CDC safety updates, the virtual employee health fair and budget priorities for FY 21/22. Approximately 150 employees participated in the meeting.
- We have two new faces at the Town of Oro Valley. Judge James Hazel, as you know, was officially approved by Council at the March 3 meeting, and a new management analyst in the Town Manger's Office will start next week. The management analyst position is a conversion of an administrative vacancy to a professional position to provide the kind of bench depth needed to support my office, Finance, Human Resources and Innovation and Technology with complex projects, analysis and the like.
- The Town has engaged an independent firm to perform calculations and present options for permanently dealing with its PSPRS unfunded liability. The firm will be presenting various options to the Budget and Finance Commission (BFC) at a special study session on March 9, and we expect the BFC to further discuss and make a recommendation to Council on March 16. Options to be presented include: 1) paying the Annual Required Contribution (ARC), 2) paying the ARC plus an additional contribution, 3) making a significant contribution out of available reserves, 4) issuing pension obligation debt, or 5) a combination of the options. Council will have an opportunity to review the options at your April 3 meeting.
- Construction on Council Chambers is underway, with substantial completion anticipated for mid-May. This project has been value-engineered by the architect and Town Engineer Paul Keesler to bring the project to a funding level the Town can support: \$548K. We look forward to resuming in-person meetings in this updated facility which will soon be able to support meetings with dual Zoom capabilities.
- We continue to monitor proposed legislation for potential impacts to the Town. Some of the key issues we'll be keeping an eye on include SB2861 building permits and fees; SB1687 governmental entities and social media prohibitions; and the potential impact of the governor's proposed tax cuts.
- Pima County is looking to move its vaccination clinics indoors by the end of April, and they are exploring options to provide more access across the region. The Town has provided contact information for Sun City, and we will be sharing other vacant storefront suggestions for their consideration.

As always, please contact me if you have any questions regarding any of the content in this month's report.

Mary Jacobs, Town Manager



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POLICE DEPARTMENT

Cases, Incidents and Stats

HIVE Traffic Stop Leads to Arrest of Burglary Suspect

During a High Visibility Enforcement (HiVE) deployment a traffic officer conducted a stop on a motorcycle for failing to display a visible license plate. Upon contact it was discovered that the driver, who has a history of armed robbery, had an outstanding, no bond, felony warrant reference burglary. He was also found in possession of a firearm that had the serial number filed off, despite being a prohibited possessor. The suspect was taken into custody for his warrant and charged with weapons related charges.

Organized Retail Theft/Trafficking on Stolen Property

Within a weeks' time, there were three separate incidents in which the same suspects stole high end tool sets from an Oro Valley retail establishment. Through a collaborative effort between the Oro Valley Criminal Investigations Unit (CIU), Marana CIU, TPD CIU and the business's loss prevention, the suspects were identified. Oro Valley's Community Action Team (CAT) began a proactive investigation. Patrol officers were also provided the suspects' information. While investigating a call for service at a retail plaza in a different area of town, a diligent patrol officer spotted the suspect vehicle related to these cases, unoccupied. Proactive work was completed, and a traffic stop was conducted when the vehicle departed. CIU developed probable cause reference the manner the stolen property was being trafficked. They worked with regional partners, connecting the suspects to their respective cases. The two suspects were charged with multiple felony counts of organized retail theft and trafficking in stolen property. In all, it is estimated that the value of the stolen property being trafficked from the region was approximately \$17,000.00.

Recognitions

Commendation

Sgt. Dean Nesbit received a commendation for his actions during an incident involving a potentially suicidal 11-year-old female. The incident was highlighted in a previous executive report, and involved the child threatening her own life with a knife. Sgt. Nesbitt was one of the first officers to engage in crisis communication with the child. While engaged in conversation, coordination of a loose perimeter and the closure of the nearby roadway were also completed. The commendation highlighted that Sgt. Nesbitt spoke to the girl as if she was his own child. He utilized dialog that was calm, reassuring, caring and conveyed a sense of hope. After negotiating for the female to drop the knife and approach him, Sgt. Nesbitt embraced her with a reassuring and comforting hug. Bringing a peaceful resolution to the incident was a team effort however as quoted from the commendation, "Sgt. Nesbitt's interaction with the child was directly responsible for the outcome and, more than likely, saved her life."

New Officers

Officers Justin Birch and William Honomichl joined the Oro Valley family.



Sgt. Nesbit



Officer Birch



Officer Honomichl

Special Events & Regional Support

Tucson Night to Shine

Oro Valley officers joined members of the Tucson Police Department, Pima County Sheriff's Department and Tucson Fire Department to participate in the "Shine-Thru" during the Night to Shine virtual streaming event. First responders were just a small part of the event, sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation, that celebrates persons with special needs. The Shine-Thru portion of the event is a drive through parade experience for the participants.



Regional Color Guards

Members of the Oro Valley Color Guard joined with members of the Golder Ranch Fire District Color Guard to post the Colors at the Reception and Blessing Breakfast for Elected Officials and First Responders. Members of the Oro Valley Color Guard were also requested to assist the Tucson Airport Authority during the memorial service for a retired Chief of Police. Members were responsible for an Honor Watch and participated in a flag presentation graveside.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Trends

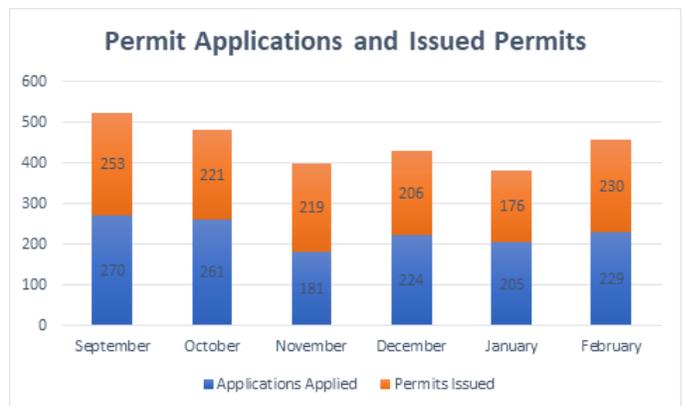
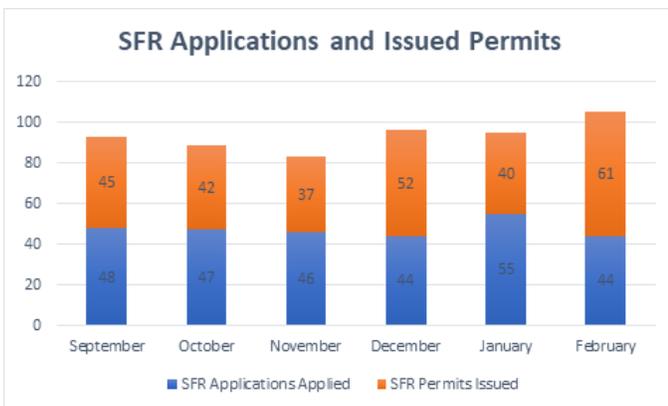
Single Family Residential Activity

61 new Single Family Residential Permits were issued for the month of February compared to 40 SFR permits issued in January. Year to date, 101 SFR permits have been issued since the beginning of the year, compared to 44 issued during the same period in 2020.

Permitting Activity

230 total permits were issued during the month of February compared to 175 permits issued in January. Year to date, 406 total permits have been issued since the beginning of the year compared to 431 issued during the same period in 2020.

Below are charts showing overall activity for the last 12 months. February's monthly SFR total (i.e., 61) represents the highest number issued in a single month since August of 2001.



Meetings/Other News

Planning & Zoning Commission

On February 2, 2021, the Planning and Zoning Commission held the second of two required public hearings for the three development applications (Translational Zoning, General Plan Amendment, Rezoning) related to the proposed annexation of the Westward Look Resort property. The site is located on the northwest and northeast corners of the Ina Road and Westward Look Drive intersection, extending north to the Town's existing southern boundary. The meeting was well attended by neighbors and other interested parties. The Commission voted 7-0 to recommend approval of the Translational Zoning, General Plan Amendment and conditional approval of the rezoning. The applications will be presented to Town Council at the same hearing as the formal annexation proposal.



CONCEPT A



CONCEPT B



CONCEPT C

Meetings/Other News (Cont.)

Town Council

On January 6, the Town Council considered the proposed General Plan Amendment and rezoning near the southeast corner On February 3, 2021, Town Council reconsidered the proposed General Plan Amendment and rezoning for the vacant commercial parcel located near the southeast corner of the 1st Avenue and Tangerine Road intersection. The proposal would have allowed for a multi-family rental development. The proposal did not receive enough votes to pass and was denied. As such, no vote could be taken for the proposed rezoning. (Image at right.)



The Town Council will consider the final plat for the Linda Vista Luxury Rentals and Office Space development on March 17, 2021. Primarily an administrative function, the plat conforms to the previously approved design. It divides the 9.6 acre property, located on the northwest corner of Linda Vista and Oracle Road, into 3 lots to accommodate residential and commercial/office space. (Image at left).

Community Academy

On March 3, the 2021 Community Academy graduates will be acknowledged. This was the 23rd annual Community Academy, but the first time provided online. (Zoom photo below.) The online platform maintained the high level of engagement expected with Community Academy and resulted in a higher retention rate than in-person classes, with 94% of participants graduating. This year, 35 residents attended Community Academy, of which, 33 graduated. A majority of the graduates attended all seven classes. Class topics included:



- An overview of Town government and budget
- The history of Oro Valley
- Town growth trends and annexations
- Roads and transportation
- An integrated Parks and Recreation strategy
- Water resource planning
- Zoning 101 and Development Review
- Neighborhood Meetings

Board of Adjustment

On February 23, 2021, the Board of Adjustment approved a variance allowing an 8 foot side-yard wall at 1582 N. Copper Ridge Way. This variance will restore the parity of privacy between two neighbors back yards, providing an equivalent 6 feet of vertical view protection.

Meetings/Other News (Cont.)

Neighborhood Meetings

On February 18, 2021, a neighborhood meeting was held regarding a proposed **seven lot single family residential subdivision south of W. Tortolita Mountain Circle and Rocky Highlands Drive**. Key issues included resolution of a zoning violation onsite and use of Stone Canyon design standards. Residents were encouraged to contact the Stone Canyon HOA regarding what HOA design standards and CC&Rs that will be applicable to the project. (Image at right.)

On February 10, 2021, a fully interactive Zoom neighborhood meeting was held for the proposed **Oro Vista Apartment expansion**, southeast of the Lambert Lane and La Cañada Drive intersection adjacent to Noble Hops. Approximately 19 residents and interested parties attended the meeting. The proposal is for a 16unit apartment expansion and is tentatively scheduled for Planning and Zoning Commission consideration April 6, 2021. (Photo below and image at right)



Permitting Major Activity

New Businesses

- **Ashley Furniture Home Store at OV Marketplace** – 11935 N Oracle Road (*Building TI Permit issued for space previously occupied by Dick's Sporting Goods*)
- **Poolwerx at Escondido Plaza** – 7918 N Oracle Road (*Building TI Permit applied*)

Other Permits

- **A Wise Move Physical Therapy at Ridgeview Plaza** – 180 W Magee Road, #164 (*Building TI Permit issued*)
- **Saguaros Viejos East, Phase 2** – West of La Cholla Boulevard between Naranja Drive and Glover Road (*Type II Grading Permit issued for Building TI Permit issued to Meritage for SFR Lots 98 thru 173*)
- **TOV Council Chambers Renovation** (*Building TI Permit issued*)

Economic Development and New Projects

- Participation in the Oro Valley Chamber of Commerce Virtual Economic Outlook March 4, 2021
- Year to date, the department has received five Requests for Information (RIF) from the Arizona Commerce Authority, providing responses to two of them. The confidential nature of the RIFs prevents the Department from providing specific information related to the types of uses and proposed sites included in the department responses. The RIFs were associated with the following industry sectors: Business support technology (1 RIF); Food Manufacturing (1 RIF); Light Manufacturing (3 RIFs).

Planning Project Highlights

Staff recently updated the Town’s **vacant land inventory**. The information was presented to the 2021 Community Academy class and has been posted on the Planning Division’s webpage. Key points include:

- Build-out increased from 85% to 94% (this includes land with approved plats or development plans).
- Majority of built land is residential (90%) with roughly 1% as Tech Park and as Commercial.
- The majority of remaining land is large-lot residential. Based on existing zoning, staff estimates roughly 3,097 units can be built on the remaining residential land (includes single-family and multi-family zoning districts).

In addition to updating the vacant lands inventory, Town staff updated the **Rancho Vistoso Planned Area Development** land use tables (Section 1.1). The focus of the exercise was to identify the amount of approved and projected residential lots in relation to the amount of units planned for in 1987. Key findings include:

- To date, 8,692 residential units have been approved of the 13,968 maximum units stated in Section 1.3.A. The original PAD tables reflect the planned distribution of 12,548 units through distinct “Neighborhood” areas.
- Relative to the absolute maximum units originally allowed (13,968), the current difference of 5,276 units equates to approximately 12,135 people less than expected (5,276 X 2.3 average number of people per dwelling unit).
- Of the remaining 5,276 units originally enabled in 1987, an estimated 130 total lots on four vacant areas within Rancho Vistoso are projected. This will require new subdivision plats.
- Commercial land designations, recreation areas and infrastructure (roads etc.) were originally designed to accommodate 13,968 units. A total of 8,822 units are anticipated at build out (8,692 approved + 130 future).

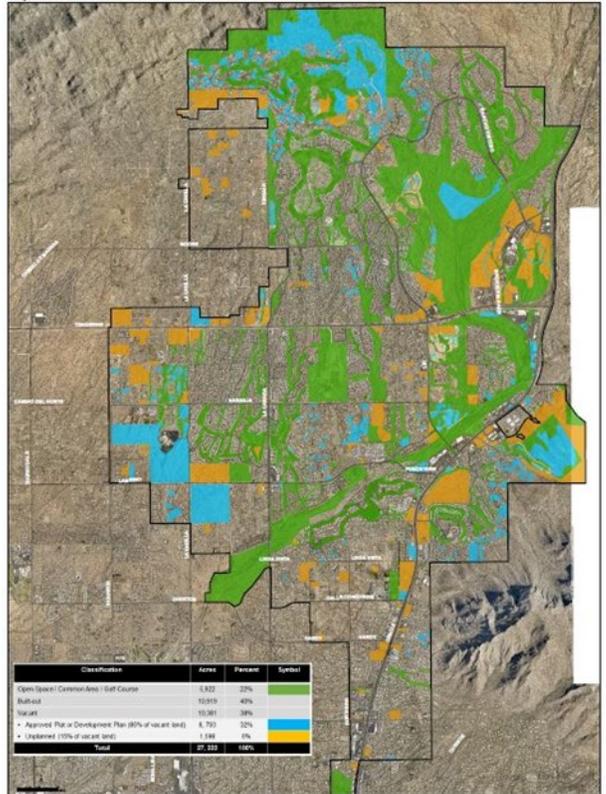
The residential development known as **Saguaro Viejos**, located near the northwest corner of La Cholla Boulevard and Naranja Drive, began their final phase of construction. Protection of significant Saguaros was a key focus during review and Town Council approval. Similar to the other phases of development, chain-link fencing is required around each significant Saguaro preserved in place (see photo at right). Staff will inspect the fencing throughout construction to ensure this requirement is met.

Town staff issued second review comments for the **Oro Valley Village (Marketplace) Center** in January. Staff has no further updates on this project but will continue to work with the consultants to address comments in a revised submittal. Once comments are addressed, a neighborhood meeting will be conducted to update the general public.

Town staff met with the consultants of **La Posada (previously known as Nakoma Sky)** regarding steps to move the project forward. A formal submittal has not been provided yet; however, staff will continue to meet with the consultants to discuss the applicable process and standards for the project.

Meritage Homes is funding additional construction of a public trail at **Sanctuary at Silverhawke** with construction overseen by the Town’s Parks and Recreation Department. This segment will run from Palisades Road to the La Posada (previously known as Nakoma Sky) property and will connect to a public trails system to the north at Villages at Silverhawke.

Vacant Lands Map
Updated 2/2021



Business Retention/Expansion and Attraction/Marketing

Seven store fronts (five are independent operators doing business in Luxspace Studios and one is in the Artists & Makers Studios); six intelligent businesses; and two home-based businesses were licensed in January. Intelligent businesses are physical locations that a business owner can use for package delivery, meetings, and other office related functions.

- **Cost Cutters**, 10420 La Canada Dr #100; (reopened)

Completed Projects (Certificate of Occupancy Issued)

- **Alchemy Plastics**, 10940 N Stallard Pl (new location)
- **Arizona Blood and Cancer Specialists** at OV Shopping Center, 10390 N. La Canada Drive #150
- **Dentistry in Oro Valley**, 10371 N. Oracle Road #101 (new owner)
- **DJ Nail & Spa**, 10785 N. Oracle Road #183
- **Net Media Inc.**, 10940 N Stallard Pl. (new location)
- **Next Step Advisors**, 550 W. Ina Rd., #201
- **Salted Pig BBQ**, 11835 N. Oracle Rd., #101
- **The Oncology Institute of Hope and Innovation**, inside Oro Valley Hospital Medical Building

Business Closures

- **Chase Bank**, 10661 N. Oracle Road (inside Fry's Food Store)
- **May Himmer CPA**, 7493 N. Oracle Road #223
- **Mr. A+ Academy**, 10132 N Oracle Rd #180 (closed location and is now working remotely)

Ribbon Cutting

- **Spenga Fitness**, 7621 N. Oracle Road, Ste. 150 cut a ribbon on February 24. Mayor Winfield, CM Greene, Town and Chamber staff attended.



OVSafesteps Update

As of March 1, 2021, 183 Oro Valley businesses have been approved as being eligible to receive assistance through OVSafesteps. The amounts dispersed are as follows:

PPE: \$154,487

Marketing: \$145,596

Professional and Technical consultations or services: \$85,565

Hardship Grant: \$140,000

Total reimbursements: \$525,648



The Hardship Grant of \$2,500 is available for business who may have experienced significant hardship during 2020/21 due to the impacts of COVID-19. Businesses eligible for the Hardship Grant include:

- Non-drive thru restaurants
- Gym/fitness
- Beauty salon/barber shops
- Hospitality
- Businesses solely located in the Town of Oro Valley providing taxable sales of goods or services (this means there are no locations of this business outside of Oro Valley)

PUBLIC WORKS

Major Projects

Golf Irrigation Project

The Public Works Department is managing the design and installation of the Town's Golf Course Irrigation Project. The project design commenced on December 14, 2020, for the Conquistador 18 holes and was substantially complete February 26, 2021. The project is within final checking and once signed and sealed, will be opened to the contracting industry for public bid. The intent is to receive bids back by the end of March 2021, to choose a contractor and begin construction in time to finish before overseeding the course in September/October later this year.

An important note about this project: There is cautious anticipation that we will be able to start construction this year given the volatility of the contracting market. Just over the past week, material prices for resin to manufacture pipe increased by 15% due to the natural disaster in Texas. We hope to get bids that are within reach of the project budget but are planning for the possibility that the project may come in too expensive to currently build.

Council Chambers Remodel

The Council Chambers remodel is underway. The original contractor bids came in over budget, so staff and the architect value engineered (VE) the project to get within the allowable budget. The plans were revised and resent out to bid. The contractors rebid the project with alternatives, and the costs are now down to an acceptable level. This reworking of the project as described above was completed in just two weeks. Some of the elements that were removed during the value engineering process were the outside patio structure and some of the finishes. However, we were able to retain the orientation shown to Council as well as the squaring off the room, adding an exterior storage and including all the IT, AV and theater lighting elements.

The schedule for the project is from March 1 through May 20. This is, of course, based on current availability of materials.

New Programs

Town of Oro Valley Beautification Program

Staff has been working with the Mayor in the creation of a right-of-way volunteer trash collection program. This is the organization of volunteer groups to address the litter buildup along the shoulders of Town streets. The maiden voyage of the program was last October, where members of a church youth group collected two large truck loads of trash on Oracle Road.

We are formalizing the program and are intending this to become a regular reoccurring event that will allow citizen groups the ability and resources to take an active hand in beautifying the community they are proud to call home. The Town will provide both safety vests as well as pick-up tools and trash bags. The Town will also collect and dispose of all the gathered trash the next business day.

We are currently scheduling another pick-up on Oracle Road for some time in March. Look in the near future to have more formalized program on the Town's website, that will include pick-up dates and the ability for organizations to pre-register their group to participate in upcoming pick-ups.

Street Operations

Bridge Deck Repairs

Crews completed various bridge deck repairs to the northbound lanes of the La Cañada bridge.

Crack Sealing

Street Crews have also completed hot applied (winter) crack sealing surface treatment within the Copper Ridge I (1-49) and Mira Vista (1-60) Subdivisions and have now moved into Sun City Units 5 & 6.

Street Landscaping

Streets ADC crews continue to be suspended due to the COVID-19 situation; however, the Streets ADC crew leader along with support from Streets Operations continues to perform various vegetation work town-wide. The ADC crew leader has also wrapped up ROW work with the Town's landscape vendor (BrightView Landscape Services) until approximately late spring and is now currently working with another Town vendor (AAA Landscape) to identify and apply herbicide to various areas due to the recent rains.

Sidewalk Repairs

Street Maintenance Operations have completed multiple sidewalk repairs on Desert Fairways Drive as well as on Rancho Vistoso Blvd between Moore Road and Samaniego Ridge. (Photos at right.)



Fleet/Facilities Maintenance

OVAC Painting

This project will be completed February 19, and staff conducted an acceptance inspection with the contractor on Monday, February 22.

Town Hall Painting

The painting of the Administrative building is scheduled to begin the third week of April, pending completion of the council chamber remodel exterior improvements.

680 Restrooms

Tile work will be completed this week. With the fixtures and millwork being installed next week, we anticipate project completion during the first week of March. (Photo at right.)



Tangerine Generator

JMAC Elec. is working with TEP to schedule a power shutdown so that they can make connections to the utility. Shipment of the new generator has been updated by the manufacturer to March 8th.

OVPD Security Wall

Construction of the wall is largely completed. The contractor will install the cap blocks after the wall is inspected. Work on the vehicle and pedestrian gates will continue into March.

Stormwater

Minor Drainage Repairs (3)

Town Council approved consent agenda item at the February 3, 2021 Council Meeting. SWU has packaged the projects and worked with Procurement to complete a construction bid package. Bids are expected back in March 2021, and construction anticipated to follow shortly thereafter. Construction to be completed before end of fiscal year.

Projects include

- Logan's Crossing Erosion Remediation
- Camino Bajio and Paseo Corona Swale Remediation
- Drainage Repair at Tangerine and Market Place MUP

Revisions to Town Code Chapter 17 – Floodplain Management

SWU met with Arizona Department of Water Resources this past summer for our Community Assistance Contact (CAC) conference. ADWR suggested some edits to Chapter 17 to clarify some of our positions and simplify the ordinance. These were not considered required changes, but merely recommended suggestions.

In addition to these edits, SWU is proposing to modify our regulatory flow from the current 50cfs threshold and increasing this to 100cfs. The justification for this stems from the updates to the Drainage Criteria Manual guiding our customers and their consultants to better understand the hydrology and hydraulic principles we experience in town thereby resulting in more expedient reviews and results for the community. The increase in regulatory thresholds is proposed to further focus our efforts on the larger, more complex issues rather than smaller, minor flows that often do not pose a concern.

Canada Del Oro Wash – Levee Augmentation

Pima County has been ranked number one by the Arizona Department of Military and Emergency Affairs for a Hazard Mitigation Grant Program fund for the CDO Levee Augmentation project. As part of the Big Horn Fire watershed impact exercise, the County identified locations along the CDO levee within the Town of Oro Valley that do not meet the required freeboard elevation. The County intends to augment the existing bank protection levee with structures to increase the height. Pima County submitted their application January 15, 2021.

Pusch Ridge 9-Hole Golf Course Drainage Repair

The Oro Valley Stormwater Utility has put together a set of construction documents for Job Order Contractor bid after being alerted to pathway and bank erosion failures along Fairway #1. Further site assessments revealed the problem to be uncontrolled flow across the fairway and cart path to unstabilized bank areas. SWU proposes to shore up the pathway to prevent future undermining and stabilize the slope to prevent surface erosion. Work to be completed this fiscal year.

ADEQ Small MS4S General Permit Update

ADEQ is in the process of updating their 2016 Small MS4 General Permit. If passed, this will go into effect in October 2021.

Major changes to the permit being discussed by ADEQ are

- Incorporation of MyDEQ electronic submittals and reviews
- Revising the program from a 2-step process to a comprehensive process

The comprehensive process, in theory, reduces necessary forms and submittals for annual report audits. Again, in theory this will expedite the submittal and approval of the annual report audit. SWU is proposing to utilize our current Best Management Practices we are currently performing and transition it to the comprehensive plan and should see little change outside of reduced time spent putting the annual report together.

PARKS & RECREATION

Administration

Meetings

- Historic Preservation Commission meeting, March 1 at 5 p.m.
- Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting, March 23 at 6 p.m.
- Community Meeting (Master Plan), March 30 at 6 p.m.

Master Plan Update

The consultant team will be presenting an update to Council on March 3. The presentation will provide a thorough background and culminate with CIP. The PRAB meeting on March 23 will continue to focus on priority implementation. The March 30 meeting will be a final check-in from the community. The final draft will be presented to PRAB at their April 20 meeting.

Accolades

- The Town has just received word that **Naranja Park** is one of the top three finalists for “Best Park” in the Tucson Local Media Best of the Northwest reader voting. Final results will be published on March 17.
- The **Chuck Huckleberry Loop** has been voted “Best Recreational Trail” nationwide in USA Today’s Readers’ Choice Awards. This accolade is significant to Oro Valley since the Town is connected to the Loop system, and Steam Pump Ranch is one of the access points.

Aquatics

During the week of Spring Break the Oro Valley Aquatic Center will be offering both a Red Cross Lifeguarding Course and a Recertification Course. This program will give participants all they need to become effective Lifeguards. Both of these programs are fully booked.

March 22 marks the start of the long course season for the Oro Valley Aquatic Center. This year the Aquatic Center will be offering Long course lanes on Wednesday and Saturday mornings.

Community & Recreation Center

The Community and Recreation Center continues to identify efficiencies in its processes with expanded online registration for activities at the center. Along with lap lanes, fitness classes and gym usage, facility users can now reserve pickleball and racquetball courts. Online registration allows the center to control the amount of people using the facility and ensure that everyone coming to the facility will have access, which prevents lines and unnecessary gathering.

Lights for the newest pickleball courts were installed March 4-5. This improvement means all six pickleball courts will have lights. It also means that we will have to close all six courts for the duration of the project. The addition of the lights will provide an increase of 40-50 hours per week for pickleball play in the evening.

The Community and Recreation Center is bringing back Camp Cloud for spring break! The web-based camp will be streamed on Facebook at 1 p.m. on Mon./Wed./Fri. March 15-19. It will include singing, dancing, crafts, experiments and more. This is a free virtual camp that includes supplies for pickup, so participants can follow along with the crafts and fun projects.

El Conquistador Tennis will be hosting a United States Tennis Association National Level 3 Tournament March 20-22 at the Community & Recreation Center and Pusch Ridge Tennis Facility. The tournament will feature 128 players from all over the country, ages 16-18. The event will be limited to single play only to ensure the safety of the participants.

Recreation and Culture

Local Registry of Historic Places

The Recreation and Cultural Services staff are working with U of A Capstone project students to create a local registry of historic places. The project is on pace to have one house placed on the registry by the end of their Capstone project (April 28). A home owner from the Historic Suffolk Hills neighborhood has agreed to complete all forms and go through the hearing process during the April 5 HPC meeting. The goal is to have a plaque ready to present to the family on or before April 28 so that the students can be present when it is presented.

Special Events

Although the virtual Celebrate Oro Valley event will not go live until April, many of the videos and preliminary project details will be completed during March. Much of the virtual content created for this event will aide the Town with other projects and goals. Staff and volunteers are very excited to watch the process unfold.

Steam Pump Ranch

On March 5, the Town held its first of three spring concerts at Steam Pump Ranch. The concert will be held drive-in style with a blow up screen available so attendees can watch from their cars. The sound will also be available through their car radio's. SAACA is partnering on this event and will show it via live stream if Wi-Fi is available or record for showing the next day.

Steam Pump Ranch has been identified as a location for a volunteer project that will help to reverse the dangerous decrees in the number of Monarch Butterflies. This project will provide milkweed for community members to plant in the garden. Milkweed is necessary to assist Monarch's in the migration process. This has become a national effort and Steam Pump Ranch is excited to be a part of it. A video will be release via the departments Facebook page to alert the community of how they can get involved.

Camps and programs

The Recreation and Culture Division will again provide a hiking program at Catalina State Park for kids during spring beak (March 15-19). Several hikes on Tuesday using the Romero Ruin Trail will be assisted by an archaeologist from Archaeology Southwest. Staff will also provide a prehistoric pendent art project for participants. On Thursday, several hikes on the Nature Trail will focus on the flora and fauna of the area as well as the geology. This hike will end with a fun nature art project. (See photos below.)

Additionally, due to the popularity of the archery classes, staff will be providing a Spring Break Archery Camp at the Naranja Archery Range on the Monday, Wednesday and Friday.



Park Management

- The aging ADA swing set at the James D. Kriegh Park Playground was removed and replaced with a new up to date model. The new swings were tested and given a "thumbs up" by a group of expert users. (Photo 1 at right)
- The Riverfront Park softball fields received new fence fabric on all outfield fences, dugouts, and backstops. Backstop boards were replaced. Next month a protective fence topper will be added to the outfield fences. Fences for the tennis and basketball court were repaired and straightened.
- At the request of the Sonoran Flyers, the Park Management staff leveled and compacted the airfield at Naranja Park. (Photo 2 at right)



Indigo Golf

Month-end rounds count and golf members

Month	ROUNDS					Total	\$'s from NM Rds		Total	MEMBERS									
	Member Rounds	Non-Mem Rounds	Comp Rounds	Outing Rounds	Outing Rounds		Non-Mem Rds On Member Course	on Mem Course		Members	Res Afternoon	Res Individual	Res Junior	Res Family	Res Warrior	Weekend 30/60/90	International	Corporate	Medical Leave
7/31/2020	1554	4070	179	139	5942	1362	\$28,287.26	257	22	108	16	64	37	0	0	1	3	2	7
8/31/2020	1967	3641	328	91	6027	1114	\$28,515.62	257	22	107	16	65	37	0	0	1	3	2	7
9/30/2020	2039	3285	301	304	5929	1360	\$44,001.62	261	22	109	16	66	37	0	0	1	2	2	6
10/31/2020	2335	2325	192	275	5127	1114	\$42,368.48	261	25	104	16	68	38	0	0	1	2	2	7
11/30/2020	2921	3891	354	379	7545	1377	\$51,492.57	279	26	114	19	73	37	2	0	2	3	2	6
12/31/2020	2807	3688	227	287	7009	976	\$34,540.71	287	27	118	20	73	37	11	1	2	4	2	7
1/31/2021	3139	3266	279	272	6956	717	\$27,348.23	304	28	115	20	73	35	17	1	3	2	2	10
2/28/2021	3561	3983	283	569	8396	1077	\$45,631.42	314	29	115	21	73	34	23	1	4	0	2	12
Total Round	20323	28149	2143	2316	52931	9097	\$302,185.91												

Golf Rounds for March are forecasted at 7900 total rounds. Reviews remain favorable via online comments.

Events

The Ladies Member-Guest is scheduled for March 8 and 9 with an anticipated attendance of 90 players each day. El Conquistador Golf will be hosting Saturday morning Youth Clinics from 8:30 to 9:30 am, and Adult Get Golf Ready Programs from 10:30 to 11:30 am. First Tee Programs will be held on March 1st, 8th and 15th from 4 to 5:15 pm. El Conquistador Golf will also be holding a “March Madness Event” for the golf membership on Saturday, March 27. Two vendor demo days are planned for March – Callaway and Cleveland Golf on March 7, and PXG Golf on March 23.

Food and Beverage

The Overlook Restaurant will expand its hours of operation to 10 am to 4 pm, Monday through Thursday, and 10 am to 6 pm Friday through Sunday. Seating will be limited to less than 50% capacity. We will continue the weekly “To Go” Dinner Special on Thursdays in March. Food and Beverage will be partnering with golf in March to offer a “Birdies, Burgers, and Beers” special throughout the month. Planned themed dinners for March include Friday Night Fish Fry on March 5, Surf N Turf Night on March 19 and a Burger Night on March 24.

Membership and Marketing

Membership is currently at 288 full memberships and 23 of the 30-60-90 day seasonal memberships. We currently have 4 Corporate Memberships. We anticipate gaining 3 new memberships in March. We will be reaching out to the Oro Valley Chamber to gage the overall comfort level of us hosting a 9-hole event in March with a social hour to give us the opportunity to promote our Corporate Membership packages. In March the Troon Rewards program and Card will be re-introduced as additional marketing tools to increase public rounds of golf.

Golf Course Maintenance

March maintenance projects include tree root pruning behind the practice chipping green and Conquistador #17, bunker edging and weeding, herbicide applications for weeds, verti-cutting of the Cañada greens in preparation for Spring Bermuda grass growth, sand top dressing of the Conquistador greens, tree pruning and bunker liner removal.

The focus at the Pusch Ridge 9-hole course will be on tree trimming along the cart paths, weeding along perimeters and watering of pine trees on the course. Clean up of the parcel of land on the southeast corner of Oracle and El Conquistador Way will continue. A gopher relocation program is being investigated to alleviate rodent problems along the course.



Pictured above: Tree Root Pruning on Conquistador #2 green, desert tee box clean up and yardage maker edging and painting.

WATER UTILITY

Meter Operations

As of January 30th, the Utility had a total of 20,745 service connections which includes 34 new water meters installed by meter operations staff in the month of January.

Capital Improvement Program

Nakoma Sky Well Site Construction

Construction of the Nakoma Sky well site continues. The contractor is nearly complete with the construction of the site's concrete retaining wall. The contractor will next begin construction of the masonry portion of the perimeter wall, install the security fencing, and complete this site construction by performing site grading and drainage work.



PHOTO: Ashton Contractors near completion of the work associated with the site's retaining wall. This and other related site work are slated to be completed by the end of the current fiscal year.

Well Equipping

The Utility recently completed the rehabilitation of three wells. The next step is to equip the wells with new pumping units and reconditioned motors. Water Utility staff completed the well equipping designs and contracted with Smyth Industries to perform the well equipping work.

PHOTO: Smyth Industries installs the pump in one of three wells slated for equipping this fiscal year. All three wells will be recommissioned by May 1st to ensure the Utility can reliably meet the increased water resource needs of the community during the warmer summer months.



Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) gives Oro Valley Water a passing grade

Water loss is a particularly important issue in Arizona, where approximately 97 percent of Arizonans are served by public water supplies. Large municipal providers like the Oro Valley Water Utility are required by the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) to maintain their system to not exceed 10 percent lost and unaccounted for water. Lost and unaccounted for water is the difference between the volume of water pumped and the volume of water delivered.

Every year, the Water Utility is required to provide this information to the ADWR. The State reviews and certifies the data provided by the Utility to ensure compliance with the Water Code. For those providers out of compliance, the Code authorizes a civil penalty of up to \$10,000/day.

In 2021, the State certified that the Utility's lost and unaccounted for water was below 1 percent. This extremely low percentage is due to a robust and modern distribution system, diligent water accounting practices performed by the Utility staff as well as the Utility's implementation of the most up to date and accurate water meter reading technology.



PHOTO: Buried distribution main leaks are a common contributor to lost and unaccounted for water.

ADMINISTRATION

Public Records Requests

Time Period	Number of Requests	Staff Time To Process (Hours)
February 2020	31	19
February 2021	34	9

Communications Division Productions

- **PODCAST:** [This is Oro Valley: Water Utility](#)
- **PUBLICATION:** [March Vista](#)
- **PRESS RELEASE:** [Oro Valley Stormwater Utility Commission is seeking applicants](#)
- **VIDEO:** [This is Oro Valley – Water Utility Overview](#)
- **VIDEO:** [Proposed 7 lot subdivision meeting video](#)
- **VIDEO:** [3/3/21 Town Council Art Show Presentation Edits](#)
- **VIDEO:** [Wildlife Linkages Fencing Construction Neighborhood Meeting](#)



Constituent Inquiry Summary

During the month of February, constituents submitted the most inquiries/comments on the following topics. The Pusch Ridge Golf Course and the Westward Look Resort Rezoning made up approximately 50% of the over 100 constituent concerns. For more details, please see the weekly Constituent Services Report.

1. **Pusch Ridge 9-hole Golf Course:** Neighboring homeowners want the course to remain open and well maintained
2. **Romspen Property (Vistoso Golf):** Neighboring homeowners want the Town to purchase and maintain the land as a open space/ natural trails park.
3. **Westward Look Resort Annexation & Rezoning:** Neighboring homeowners are concerned about traffic, noise and views
4. **Church of the Nazarene Rezoning:** Neighboring homeowners are concerned about traffic and building height
5. **Compliance inspection requests:** General requests such as backyard wood burning fire pits, RV blocking views, outdoor lighting, basketball hoops, unkept yards, overgrown trees

Youth Advisory Council

With the COVID-19 Pandemic suspending most of the Youth Advisory Council's (YAC) yearly events, members have had to reexamine their purpose and goals for the year. YAC has showcased their motivation and abilities by creating multiple charitable events to benefit our community. Since August, YAC has hosted a mask and hand sanitizer drop-off event to benefit the Gospel Rescue Mission's Women's Recovery Center, a pet supply drive with Pima Animal Care Center, collected toys for Casa del los Niños, made sandwiches for Casa Maria's Soup Kitchen, hosted a family of nine with gifts for the holidays and raised money through MOD Pizza for Interfaith Community Services.

Oro Valley Peak Performance

Last month, the Oro Valley Peak Performance Team selected the Paperless Purchase Cards as the process improvement that had the most impact to the organizations Highlights: To save time, movement and wasted paper processing purchase cards statements moved to 100% paperless and realized a cost savings of \$7,290 (staff time, paper, etc.)

Senior Planning Technician Patty Hayes obtained Lean Six Sigma Green Belt Certification and is the first employee in the Community and Economic Development Department to obtain this certification.

Special Events

Due to the impacts of COVID-19, it has been a year since there have been any physical events in Oro Valley. There is an internal, cross-departmental team evaluating ways to bring events back in a safe environment, while also meeting the requirements outlined by the Governor's Executive Order 2020-59, as well as Pima County Health Department Guidelines. Below are approved events for the month of March:

- Drive-In Concert at Steam Pump Ranch, Friday, March 5
- North Tucson Firefighter Charity/Archery Event at Naranja Park, Saturday, March 6
- USTA National Tennis Event at the Community Center, March 20 – 21
- SAACA Oro Valley Artisan Market at Oro Valley Marketplace, March 28 – 29

The Town of Oro Valley, in partnership with U.S.A. Artistic Swimming, made the decision to cancel the 2021 U.S. National Synchro Championship scheduled from April 7 – 11, 2021. The decision was based on Pima County Health Department Guidelines and over 90% of the participants would be traveling from all over the United States to visit Oro Valley. The Town is working with U.S.A. Artistic Swimming and Visit Tucson to try to attract another national synchronized event in 2022.

Regional Partnerships

Children's Museum Tucson | Oro Valley

The Children's Museum annual report is now available. [Please click here to view.](#)

Southern Arizona Arts and Cultural Alliance (SAACA)

The Town and SAACA made the decision to cancel the annual Cruise, BBQ and Blues Festival, as well as the annual Spring Arts Festival, because proper social distancing could not be achieved. However, SAACA will be hosting the first Artisan Market in Oro Valley on March 28 – 29 at Oro Valley Marketplace. The free event will be held meeting all COVID-19 safety and mitigation protocols.

SAACA is working on a Placemaking Project/Photography Competition as part of the Town's Operating Agreement. The Photography Competition will capitalize on the It's in our Nature brand by capturing the essence of Oro Valley life, animals, outdoor spaces, urban and residential life, and experience of life within the community. The competition aims to reveal the essence of Oro Valley through the lens of a camera, transporting us to unique landmarks, introduce us to new friends and neighbors, and help us rediscover the beauty in our own backyards. Most importantly, the competition will promote the rich history and beauty of Oro Valley.

The Oro Valley Photography Competition judges will award cash prizes in multiple categories, as well as the winning photograph that will be featured on the January 2022 cover of the SAACA Southern Arizona Undercover Arts Magazine, as well as showcasing the winner in a series of media outreach and social media promotions. Winners will be officially announced on April 7.

Tohono Chul Park

The Admissions window is now open for members making it easier to visit this spring. The Spring Plant Sale is open to the General Public on March 20 – 21 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Tourism Update

2020 Metro Tucson Travel Impacts from COVID-19; provided by Visit Tucson

- Direct travel spending: \$2.6 billion in 2019; *\$1.56 billion estimate in 2020.
- State and local tax revenue: \$219.7 million in 2019; *\$131.8 million estimate in 2020.
- Jobs: 24,770 in 2019; *14,862 in 2020.
- Lodging occupancy and revenue per available room: 47% (-30%) and \$49 (-36%), respectively. Both are the lowest numbers dating back to the 1990s.
- Lodging room revenue: \$433 million in 2019; \$275 million in 2020 (-37%).
- Tucson International Airport passengers: 3.8 million in 2019; 1.7 million in 2020 (-55%).

2019 Source: Dean Runyan Associates, July 2020; Tucson Airport Authority, 2019-21

*Estimated 40% drop from 2019 figures, 2020 data will be available in July 2021

Reopening restaurants, revitalizing what was a thriving downtown a year ago, aiding attractions, many of which were closed for months, and getting the lodging industry back on its feet will be key to delivering the same robust experience that Tucson visitors enjoyed before the pandemic.

Inoculating people against COVID-19 provides the fastest road to recovery for domestic and international travel. Industry research indicates that consumers must be confident in traveling safely before they will do so en masse, and that travel will begin to grow in the latter half of 2021, but that the industry will not recover to 2019 levels until 2024.

Destination Analysts' Jan. 22-24, 2021 Survey of American Travelers

- 66% said they will take one of the available COVID-19 vaccines. 30% expect to be vaccinated by March 31, 2021.
- 60% said the vaccines make them more optimistic they can travel safely in the next 6 months.
- 52% said they will not travel until they are vaccinated.
- 43% said they will not travel if they have been vaccinated, but if their children have not.

GOLDER RANCH FIRE DISTRICT

Wildfire season is upon us

In preparation for wildfire season, Chief Karrer and Battalion Chief Lunde will be meeting with Ian Moran who is the Catalina-Rincon Fire Management Officer for the Santa Catalina Ranger District. The relationship with our federal partners was strengthened during last summer's Bighorn Fire so the pre-planning will begin this month with early conversations with our forest service counterparts and our GRFD Wildland management team. We are taking a pro-active approach to fuels management in the state land area, Catalina State park and other areas of our jurisdiction.

An important reminder for our residents is to sign up for local emergency alert systems as well as to understand the state's "Ready, Set, Go" program. Golder Ranch Fire District has plenty of "Ready, Set, Go" materials to share so if there is a homeowner's association, rotary club, church group or other community group that would like to have materials on hand to distribute, please contact our Community Relations Manager (abraswell@grfdaz.gov/ 268-2307) to get them.