

July 31 Issue of "Under the Dome" – a newsletter from Pima County Administrator Jan Leshner

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UNDER THE DOME

The Pima County Administrator's Newsletter 

From the Desk of Jan Leshner, Pima County Administrator

Vol. 2, No. 11 - July 31, 2023

My Under the Dome Newsletter arrives in your inbox twice a month. If you know of other people who might want to get this semi-monthly update from me, have them [CLICK HERE](#), add their email, and select "County Administrator Newsletter - Jan Leshner's Updates" from the list of subscriber topics.

If you have questions, concerns, or good news of your own to share, you can reach me at jan.lesher@pima.gov. If you've seen enough, you can click the unsubscribe link at the bottom of the page.

66 years is long enough, time for an update

The Board of Supervisors at its July 25 meeting approved the first phase of a new Classification and Compensation Plan for all employees. The revision significantly updates the existing system, which was created in 1957. The plan benefits employees in that it makes sure they are fairly and equitably paid based on the work they do, but it also benefits the public in that it will improve County recruiting and ensure top talent is not passing the County by due to ambiguous job descriptions or compensation below market. The Board fully funded the \$9 million cost for Phase 1 in this fiscal year's budget. Bringing employees to market salary rates in Phase 2 will cost less than the Board having approved an across-the-board 5% raise.

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More than 75% of unincorporated County roads now rated good or better

Pima County will repair and preserve 108 miles of its unincorporated-area roads over the next 12 months as part of its ongoing Road Repair and Preservation Program. The County has invested more than \$269 million in road repair over the past five years. At the end of this fiscal year, more than 1,000 miles of roads will have been fixed, which is well ahead of the 10-year repair plan schedule.

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Wastewater Department Best in the West

The Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department has received several awards this year. In June, the department was chosen by the Water Environment Federation to receive the Utility of the Future Today award for 2023. Green Valley and Mt. Lemmon treatment facilities have earned Platinum Peak Performance Awards, given by the National Association of Clean Water Agencies to honor facilities for 100% permit compliance for at least five years. And the department earned the American Public Works Association's 2023 Public Works Project of the Year Award for system improvements near the northern end of Tucson Boulevard.

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Awesome new DEQ director

Scott DiBiase took over as the director of Pima County's Department of Environmental Quality on July 17 after nearly 20 years of air quality experience in Pinal County. Mr. DiBiase, 53, had served as the interim director of Pinal County's Air Quality Control District since November 2022. Pima County conducted a national search to fill the position. Although many applications were received, Mr. DiBiase was by far the most qualified candidate for the position.

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