

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK CELEBRATES DEDICATED EMPLOYEES**

**GLENDALE, Ariz.** – Do you ever think about how your garbage is disposed of once it leaves your curb? Who repairs traffic signals, or who is on call to ensure your water is delivered to your home twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week?

These are just a few of the many services carried out by Glendale's public works departments.

May 20-26 marks the national observance of Public Works Week. The theme for this year's recognition is "Public Works: Creating a Lasting Impression." The theme speaks to the never-ending effort of public works professionals to use sustainable solutions to bring their communities the highest possible quality of life within a framework of environmental, social and economic responsibility.

Some Public Works employees recently garnering recognition for the city are winners in the Solid Waste Association of America (SWANA) state ROAD-EO competition for skills in their field. The first-place winners will advance to the national competition in Louisville, Ky. later this year. Awards were presented to: *(see photo)*

**Steve Carrizoza - 1<sup>st</sup> place Mechanic and Top Gun winner**  
**Hershel Wright - 1<sup>st</sup> place Scraper and Top Gun winner**  
**Charles Margelot - 2<sup>nd</sup> place Compactor**

The city's Public Works Operations are encompassed in three areas:

Public Works includes street maintenance, sanitation services, building maintenance and cares for the city's 1,300 vehicles, which include everything from motorcycles to street sweepers. The Streets and Right-of-Way divisions oversee maintenance on 700 miles of roadways in the city, and the Facilities Management division is responsible for 1.8 million square feet of municipal buildings and properties.

(more)

**Public Works Week**  
**Add 1.1.1**

The Graffiti Removal Program gets rid of graffiti within 48 hours of notification via the Graffiti Hotline or the city's Web site. Glendale's Recycling program strives to increase the life of the landfill by diverting wastes to be reused or recycled. Also included in Public works is the Engineering Division, which is charged with following the city's major construction projects from start to finish, overseeing the design and construction of various city facilities including buildings, streets, sewer, water lines and drainage. Staff tracks the contract paperwork and manages good engineering practices in the city through design review, construction inspection and testing of materials on the jobsite to ensure they meet specifications.

The Water Services Department produces drinking water that meets or exceeds all state and federal standards, collects and treats wastewater and reads meters monthly to deliver timely and accurate bills. The city delivers more than 13 billion gallons of water a year. The Water Distribution division is responsible for more than 60,000 service connections that require more than 994 miles of water pipelines. The city's wastewater collection system is comprised of about 682 miles of pipes feeding into reclamation facilities where more than 2.8 billion gallons of wastewater were treated last year. The Environmental Resources Division ensures our city has sustainable water resources to meet current and future demand and develops water and energy conservation education programs. The Water Quality Laboratory collects thousands of samples annually to provide residents clean, safe drinking water.

The Water Services Department has won several awards this past year, including the WESTMARC Best of the West Excellence in Innovation Award for the Oasis Groundwater Treatment Plant. This esteemed award recognizes outstanding contributions to the image, lifestyle and economic development of the West Valley. The Conservation and Sustainable Living Office was also honored by the Valley Forward Association with the prestigious Crescordia Award for innovative education and public outreach programs.

(more)

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And just last week at the 2012 Annual Arizona Water Conference, the Water Services Department was honored with four prominent awards to include Large Distribution System of the Year, and Large Collection System of the Year. City staffers Dave Hutchinson and Anita Lutringer also won Plant Mechanic of the Year and the Water Treatment Plant Operator of the Year, respectively.

Finally, Glendale's Transportation Department is responsible for providing safe and efficient traffic flow on city streets, which includes vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle traffic. In addition, Transportation staff also ensures there is sufficient street lighting and administer transit and Dial-A-Ride services and provide transportation planning. The Transportation Department and staff also have garnered numerous awards recently, including being honored at the Valley Metro Clean Air Campaign Awards. Executive Director Jamsheed Mehta was given the Leadership Awards for outstanding accomplishments, and the department was given the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) Livable Communities Award.

For additional information on any and all of these public works departments, visit

[www.glendaleaz.com](http://www.glendaleaz.com).

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