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GLENDALE CELEBRATES DEDICATED EMPLOYEES DURING NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK

GLENDALE, Ariz. – Do you ever think about how your garbage is disposed of once it leaves your curb? 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.

The American Public Works Association is designating May 19 through May 25 as National Public Works Week. The theme for this year’s celebration is “Because of Public Works...” and it speaks to the quality of life brought to communities around the world. The community is able to have clean water, safe streets and neighborhoods, efficient traffic and safe clean communities “Because of Public Works...”

In 2013, the public works departments collectively enhanced the community with major improvement projects, including: the Northern Avenue Parkway and Grand Avenue Roadway Improvements; the Vieste Waste-To-Energy Facility; the Pavement Management Program & Slurry Seal Project; the Arrowhead Water Reclamation Facility Upgrades; and the 55th Avenue & Sweetwater Sewage Lift Station Improvements.

The city’s Public Works Operation is made up of the following departments:

Field Operations oversees street maintenance, sanitation services, building maintenance and cares for the city’s 1300 vehicles, which include everything from motorcycles to street sweepers. The Facilities Management division is responsible for 1.8 million square feet of municipal buildings and properties. The Graffiti Removal Program eliminates 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.

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From where to push the dirt to how to bury the wires and pipes, the **Engineering Department** is charged with following the city’s major construction projects from start to finish. Their responsibilities include the design and construction of various city facilities including buildings, streets, sewer, water lines and drainage. This department tracks the contract paperwork and functions as the project manager. It also functions as the custodian of good engineering practice in the city through design review, construction inspection and testing of materials on the jobsite to ensure they meet specifications.

Getting you there—no matter where “there” is. That’s the role of the **Glendale Transportation Services Department**. In addition to being responsible for providing safe and efficient traffic flow on city streets, which includes vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle traffic, they also ensure there is sufficient street lighting and administer transit and Dial-A-Ride services and provide transportation planning.

The **Water Services Department** produces 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 16 billion gallons of water a year. The Water Distribution division is responsible for more than 60,000 service connections that require more than 1,300 miles of water and sewer pipelines. The average household contributes approximately 250 gallons of waste water to our treatment plants each day.

The Water Services Department also includes the Environmental Resources Division, which ensures our city has sustainable water resources to meet current and future demand and develops water conservation programs. The Water Quality Laboratory collects thousands of samples annually to provide residents clean, safe drinking water. The Water Conservation office works to educate water customers on how to do the same with less, often reducing consumption in the home by 40 percent or more.

To highlight the many services that public works employees provide, Glendale 11 produced a brief video, available on YouTube at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_UmIvY1SH-I, and on-air during Glendale 11 programming. For more information about these departments and any of the projects referenced, visit www.glendaleaz.com.

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