

VISTAS

Revitalizing the West End

Put Your Money
Where Your House Is

Tell Stress to Take a Hike

Chip Seal Extends Life
of City Streets

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Earns Heritage Award

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Summer Reading

CITY OF SIERRA VISTA | Summer 2020

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Revitalizing the West End

Learn how the City and local property owners moved forward with efforts to breath new life into Sierra Vista's historic business district, even amid the state's stay home order for the coronavirus pandemic. *And get the latest news on the City's Fry Boulevard Improvement Project.*



Put Your Money Where Your House Is

When you choose to buy local, you invest in your community and support the businesses that make it unique. *Share your buy local stories with the hashtag #BuySierraVista.*



Tell Stress to Take a Hike

Taking care of physical and mental health is especially important during these uncertain times. Hiking is a great way to boost both and Sierra Vista boasts extraordinary local trails! *Also learn how to recreate responsibly and safely.*



Chip Seal Extends Life of City Streets

Learn about street work going on right now and how it factors into the City's long-term street maintenance strategy. *And remember to flush smart by sending just toilet paper down the drain!*



Be Safe This Fire Season

Even as we remain vigilant against the spread of the coronavirus, residents must also remember that fire danger is especially high this time of year. *Remember to forgo private fireworks!*



Cemetery Restoration Earns Heritage Award

Efforts to restore and remember the Fry Pioneer Cemetery have garnered a 2020 Governor's Heritage Preservations Honor Award. *Also find updates on Leisure facilities to include The Cove.*



Library Reimagines Summer Reading

The Sierra Vista Public Library is offering a Summer Reading Program via virtual programming and take-home kits you can pick up. *Also find info on the library's curbside pickup program.*

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Inside City Hall

Reopening Responsibly

by Chuck Potucek, City Manager

WHEN GOVERNOR DOUG DUCEY provided guidance to begin reopening Arizona in mid-May, he said we must proceed with caution and that this is not the time to move full speed ahead.

That can be frustrating to those ready to head straight for the fast lane, especially when businesses and livelihoods are threatened by the coronavirus pandemic. Navigating these unusual times calls for sharing the road with both those who may feel more cautious, and those who are anxious to speed ahead. We must be patient with each other and respect one another even when our opinions differ, so we can get through this challenge together.

Doing so requires kindness, courage, and persistence. Fortunately, those are characteristics that came to define our community during the Monument Fire in 2011 and they are still serving us well now. The community has acted responsibly and carefully, with a balance of care for each other and care for ourselves. That's why the City is reopening its facilities gradually, with outdoor amenities and programs starting even before those buildings open and programs that encourage people to congregate indoors begin again.

The City is doing its part by ensuring sanitation supplies can be sustained and safe procedures can be established before facilities reopen. We ask residents to do their part too by understanding and following these procedures, continuing to be vigilant with personal hygiene, and practicing social distancing whenever possible.

And the City is stepping up for local businesses

by launching a buy local campaign to educate citizens about the extraordinary impact dollars have when spent locally and urging them to support local businesses. The City also pursued federal funds as quickly as possible to launch a Small Business Emergency Relief Grant to get businesses help retaining employees and staying open in tough times. Supporting local business is vital all of the time, but especially in this uncertain environment.

It's also budget season and, despite COVID-19's impact on local tax revenues, the City's budget proposal is balanced without tax increases, without drawing on our strong reserves, and without significant cuts to the services our residents enjoy and rely on. A conservative approach to the budget in good times will help us weather the current tough times, just as the City navigated the great recession after 2008.

Remember, the COVID-19 pandemic is a dynamic situation. New state or federal guidance and new trends in local cases can prompt rapid changes to City facilities, services, and procedures. Please follow us on social media, sign up for our email newsletter, and bookmark the "combating coronavirus" webpage available at www.SierraVistaAZ.gov to get the latest news.

We cannot control or predict what lies on the road ahead. But by proceeding with caution, being kind to one another, and acting responsibly, we will get through it together.



Get the Latest City News Every Week!

Sign up for our email newsletter at www.SierraVistaAZ.gov under the "I want to" tab or click the sign up button on the City of Sierra Vista Facebook page.

Revitalizing the West End



Picking Each Other Up

Craving tacos, burritos, and sonoran dogs, customers filled the parking lot outside of 143 Street Tacos on Memorial Day to celebrate the local eatery's reopening in a larger, newly-improved space next door to the Sierra Vista Food Co-op.

The business found its home in the old site of the Peacock Restaurant where Eric Thu, director of property management for 4-D Properties, had decided it was time to reinvest. Thu's grandfather built this shopping center on the corner of Carmichael Avenue and Fry Boulevard in the 1950s and it had seen better days.

Thu had already used matching grant funds through the City's West Sierra Vista Partnership Program to improve the exterior of the Circle K located at the corner of the shopping center. Now, with a well-established tenant in 143 Street Tacos, Thu felt comfortable making the significant renovations needed at the old Peacock site and was again able to do so with support of matching grant funds. The City allocates \$50,000 to the West Sierra Vista Partnership Program each fiscal year, which is divvied up between applicants completing eligible projects in the redevelopment area.

"I'm hoping we can be a bellwether project," Thu says. "If the property next to you looks better, there's more incentive for you to improve as well. Then we can help pick each other up. That's the idea."

While he had already decided to go down the path of reinvesting in the property, Thu says the City's grant program and the assistance of its staff has been very helpful. He is also excited about the prospects of the City's project to improve West Fry Boulevard and make the area more suited for pedestrians.

"It's encouraging to see there's a concerted plan to redevelop the area," Thu says. "We're excited to be one of the property owners at the front of the curve."

EVEN AS LIFE AS WE KNEW IT CAME TO A halt this spring, the City and local property owners made tangible progress toward a long-sought vision of revitalizing Sierra Vista's historic business district.

Completed in April, a mural on the water tower located at the corner of Denman Avenue and Canyon Drive depicts two larger-than-life hummingbirds. It provided a sense of hope as the community and state remained under a stay home order and grappled with the early impacts of COVID-19.

A product of a partnership between the City of Sierra Vista and Liberty Utilities, the mural was designed and completed by local artist Carrie Olaje. While it is the most eye-catching sign of better things to come in the West End, the mural

is representative of broader restorative efforts that are breathing new life into the area.

With a grant program spurring improvements, a project moving forward to make west Fry Boulevard and North Garden Avenue more suited to a downtown environment, and a team working closely with businesses and property owners, the City is fostering a sense of optimism in a dream long sought by local residents. And private investment is demonstrating that the plan for a better West End is something property owners are buying into.

"We're seeing a lot of positive momentum in the area, with new public and private investment spurring the type of progress our residents have been seeking for many years," Community Development Director Matt McLachlan says.



Fry Boulevard Improvement Project Marries Two Concepts

After receiving input from the public at open houses in November and March, the Sierra Vista City Council reached a consensus to blend two concepts in the final design for improvements to Fry Boulevard and North Garden Avenue in the West End.

The project will use a “complete streets” approach to meet the needs of drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians, while creating an environment suitable for a downtown. With about 100 people attending each open house, public input informed the ultimate design choice that married two concepts called “parkway” and “boardwalk” into the final “boardway” concept.

“Comments collected at the second open house showed that the public wanted the larger pedestrian area that included off-street bicycle lanes proposed in the boardwalk concept but were passionate about the rainwater collection system portrayed in the parkway concept,” Sierra Vista Mayor Rick Mueller says. “Blending the two concepts gives Sierra Vista the best of both designs that will result in a downtown environment that serves all modes of transportation.”

With the nod from council, final project design is now underway. While it’s not yet known how much COVID-19 will delay the project, City staff is currently working a six-month extension through the Arizona Department of Transportation, which would push completion of construction into mid-2021.

For more information on this project, go to www.SierraVistaAZ.gov/FryForward.

Here To Help

Anyone in need of business assistance or information is welcome to contact Sierra Vista Economic Development Manager Tony Boone at (520) 439-2184 or Tony.Boone@SierraVistaAZ.gov or Business Ombudsman Mike Cline at (520) 439-2212 or Michael.Cline@SierraVistaAZ.gov.

An Opportunity for Change

Just across Carmichael Avenue at the northeast corner with Willcox Drive, the Southwest Business Center is also on the redevelopment path.

With his telecommunications business slowing due to COVID-19, Nicholas Politi has turned his focus to the shopping center that houses several businesses including Lights Out and Events 161. After working with City economic development and community development staff, Politi decided to invest in large desert-themed murals on the backside of the buildings.

Politi is leveraging matching grant dollars from the City’s West Sierra Vista Partnership Program to complete the murals and some improvements to the front side of the building. Carrie Olaje is currently creating the murals, which face Fry Boulevard.



He is also working on improvements to the old Blues Café building, on the corner of Willcox Drive and 1st Street, where a new restaurant called the Copper Oven will offer wood-fired pizza, pasta, and more. There is much still to be done to the site, but residents will see exterior work starting up in the next three to four months. In addition, he has plans to construct a new building for another future restaurant within the shopping center.

Politi says City staff have been proactive in helping him find cost-effective solutions to any issues he encounters, instead of simply enforcing codes. “We’ve noticed a big difference in the City helping business owners, being willing to work with us a little more,” he says.

He is also seeing a clearer vision from the City, with more concrete progress in carrying it out. The establishment of an entertainment district in the area and plans to make Fry Boulevard more pedestrian friendly have given Politi guidance on how to move forward with the development. It’s also provided some confidence that now is a good time to invest.

“Five or six years ago, we didn’t know what to expect,” Politi says. “Before when you thought of the West End, it wasn’t a good thing. Now we have an opportunity to change that.”

Moving Forward

Put Your Money Where Your House Is



Buy from Sierra Vista's merchants and help the local businesses come roaring back! Through the COVID-19 crisis, they stayed open, changed their business models to safely serve you, and kept employees working to make necessary goods and services available.

And when things are back to normal, remember that buying locally helps make Sierra Vista's economy vibrant. It creates a healthier, happier place to live, and keeps your friends and neighbors working.



#BuySierraVista

Help others discover the great things Sierra Vista has to offer! When you buy locally, post a photo of your success on Instagram or Facebook along with the hashtag #BuySierraVista and where you bought the items. There's nothing better than sharing an amazing shopping find—or scoring something you need or want—right in your hometown!

THIS SPRING, WE LEARNED SOME NEW habits, like 20-second handwashing, how to engage from 6 feet away, how to make sanitizing wipes, and how to search for and buy products online and have them delivered to our doorsteps.

Some of the lessons learned will serve us well in the future. But buying online won't. It might be convenient, but our community loses with every mouse click. The loss isn't about tax revenue. It's about jobs, families, local character, and a vital economy.

Sierra Vista's small businesses employ more people for each dollar they earn. Those dollars trickle into other small, local businesses like printers, accountants, attorneys, and bankers. So not only do small businesses have more employees, they create more local jobs by purchasing local services! All of this means a more vibrant Sierra Vista.

Sierra Vista's locally owned businesses are more likely to make donations to things that matter here, like youth sports teams, and they are more

likely to support local events and local non-profits. In fact, independent businesses donate more than twice as much per sales dollar as big corporations with headquarters in other places.

Buying choices matter, too. Favorite restaurants might open a second location. Boutique stores with unique items thrive. And local pop-ups shape their offerings to match customer demand. In short, consumer choice drives local selection, which adds to Sierra Vista's unique—and extraordinary—character.

Every dollar spent at a local business is as valuable to the local economy as three dollars, thanks to the way each dollar circulates through the economy. When you spend locally, some dollars pay local employees, who use some dollars to buy local goods. The merchant (who also pays their employees), pays for some local services. On average, 48 percent of each purchase at a local independent business is recirculated locally, compared to 14 percent of purchases at chain stores. When you buy out of town or online, your dollar has zero impact on Sierra Vista.

Extraordinary Outings

Tell Stress to Take a Hike



Recreate Safely

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, fire season, and Arizona's spring and summer heat, it is important to practice responsible and safe recreation. Access to certain trails, facilities, and amenities may also be limited at times, so planning ahead is more important than ever. Here are 10 tips to enjoy our great outdoors responsibly and safely.

- Practice safe distancing outdoors by staying at least 6 feet apart.
- Avoid crowded locations where distancing may be difficult.
- Do not gather in large groups.
- Stay home if you're sick.
- Bring your own toilet paper and hand sanitizer.
- Plan ahead, as services and facilities may be limited.
- Drink before you are thirsty and bring plenty of water.
- Head out early or late in the day to avoid heat.
- Be respectful of public lands and heed all fire restrictions.
- Use broad-spectrum sunscreen.

IN THESE UNUSUAL TIMES, MANY PEOPLE ARE feeling stressed, overwhelmed, and uncertain about the future.

Getting exercise and spending time in nature can help by improving both physical and mental health. Offering the chance to do both, hiking provides a reprieve from the stress of day-to-day life and gives your mind and body a boost.

Fortunately, in Sierra Vista we enjoy access to extraordinary hiking trails located just outside of town. And maintaining 6 feet of distance is easy in the great outdoors! Here are two favorite local hiking areas with numerous trails and 10 tips for safe recreation for those seeking an extraordinary outing close to their own backyard.

Hit the Trails

SAN PEDRO RIPARIAN NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

Encompassing 40 miles of the upper San Pedro River, the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA) is a vital migratory route for birds and other animals. It's also a popular hiking

destination with several trailheads to start your relaxing outing along flat, often shaded terrain. Popular sites in the SPRNCA include the Murry Springs Clovis Site, the Spanish Presidio de Terranate, and the San Pedro House. Trailheads located at the San Pedro House, at Charleston Road, and at Herford Road are popular spots to start hiking. Learn more at www.BLM.gov/visit/san-pedro or by calling (520) 508-4445.

HUACHUCA MOUNTAINS

More than a dozen local trails wind their way up into the Huachuca Mountains, where the Coronado National Forest offers a cool reprieve from the summer heat and some steep climbs for those seeking a more vigorous workout. Brown Canyon Trail is a particular favorite among hikers and mountain bikers alike. Stop by the historic Brown Canyon Ranch for a scenic and historic treat!

Learn more at FS.USDA.gov/activity/coronado/recreation/hiking and focus on trails within the Sierra Vista Ranger District. For assistance, contact the Sierra Vista Ranger Station at (520) 378-0311.

Public Works

Chip Seal Extends Life of City Streets



AS THE WEATHER HEATS UP, CITY STREETS crews are hard at work in several neighborhoods throughout the community.

The City conducts much of its planned street maintenance between April and the end of June each year when the pavement temperatures are warm enough but before the summer monsoon rains arrive. This year crews are applying chip seals to the same areas that received crack seals last year, completing a cost-effective maintenance strategy that extends the life of a road for five to 10 years.

This is all part of an annual street maintenance program that is informed by a Pavement Condition Index Survey completed two years ago. The data from this survey enables City staff to plan projects for the next several years so that they use available resources in the most cost-effective manner to get the most bang for the buck in maintaining the City's streets.

"The pavement condition index is an invaluable tool to ensure we can coordinate and plan street maintenance efforts to maximize the use of our available resources," Public Works Director Sharon Flissar says.

What is a chip seal and why do you use it?

The City uses crack seals and chip seals to extend the life of local streets before they deteriorate to the point when a thin overlay or even a full rebuild of the street is required.

By completing a crack seal last year and following it up with a chip seal this year, the City is able to extend the life of these streets significantly at a relatively low cost.

My street is in worse shape than the ones you're working on, why are you not fixing it?

When a street's condition gets too bad for a crack seal and chip seal, a thin overlay or even a full reconstruction is required.

These types of projects are significantly more costly, so the City makes every effort to prevent streets from reaching that point as long as possible.

To be cost effective, the City packages together a variety of similar projects into its street maintenance effort each year. So in certain years, the City will do crack seals or chip seals and in others the City will tackle multiple overlays or rebuilds.

Just because your street is not getting attention this year, does not mean it's not part of the longer term plan.



How do I report a pothole or other streets issue?

The City of Sierra Vista's streets crews conduct small emergency spot repairs as needed year-round.

If you observe a hazard that needs urgent attention, please contact the Public Works Department by calling (520) 458-5775.

How do I report an issue on a state highway?

Not all local roadways are maintained by the City, with the Highway 90 Bypass and Highway 92 being prime examples.

Issues on state highways can be reported to the Arizona Department of Transportation by using an online form at apps.azdot.gov/contact_azdot/ or by calling (602) 712-7355.

If an issue is on a private street, the City's Community Development Department can work with the property owner to ensure the issue is addressed. Issues on private streets may be reported to the City's Code Enforcement staff by calling (520) 417-4413.

Where is the chip sealing being done?

Chip sealing work is being completed on neighborhood streets in the following areas:

- On about 16 streets located off of 7th Street north of Tacoma Street and south of the Highway 90 Bypass.
- On Highland Drive and Prairie Street.
- On St. Andrews Drive between Buffalo Soldier Trail And Player Avenue, and on about a dozen small streets in that neighborhood.

Maps showing where the street work is occurring are available at www.SierraVistaAZ.gov by searching for "2020 chip seal."

FLUSH SMART!

Diapers, hair and flushable wipes are clogging the sewer system and pipes. Be kind to the Earth and do her a favor—Remember Flo says, "Flush just toilet paper."



Make a big problem small and a small habit routine; Flush just toilet paper to keep the pipes clean.

Be Safe This Fire Season



Forgo Private Fireworks

Thanks to the Sierra Vista Rotary Club, our community enjoys an extraordinary public fireworks show on the Fourth of July. Organizers are working on plans so the community may enjoy this display safely, as festivities may need to be changed to minimize group gatherings due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The use of fireworks in the City limits is strictly regulated and only certain types of consumer fireworks are legal in Arizona. Bottle rockets, sky rockets, roman candles, helicopters, and jumping jacks are common examples of fireworks that remain illegal statewide. Permitted fireworks include cylindrical and cone fountains, ground spinners, illuminating torches, and other types designed to be handheld or to remain on the ground.

In Sierra Vista fireworks can only be used on private property, with the permission of the property owner. That means any public areas, to include parks, schools, streets, and public rights-of-way, are off limits for fireworks. It's also illegal for anyone under 16 to purchase fireworks and for anyone under 18 to use them unless supervised by an adult.

Apply for Citizen Police Academy

Area adults can now apply for the Sierra Vista Police Department Citizen Police Academy, which is planned to start in the late summer or early fall.

Applications are due by June 26 and the class size is capped at the first 25 students that qualify. There is no charge to participate.

Learn more by searching for "Citizen Police Academy Application" at www.SierraVistaAZ.gov or by calling SVPD Resource Specialist Lilly Perry at (520) 452-7500.

LATE SPRING AND EARLY SUMMER IS AN extraordinary season to enjoy the great outdoors in Sierra Vista. It's also peak season for wildfires.

Sierra Vista Fire & Medical Services has already suspended the issuance of open burn permits and urges area residents to be mindful of the extreme fire danger often present before the summer rains arrive. As anyone who remembers the Monument Fire in 2011 can attest to, wildfires pose a significant risk to our community and it's everyone's responsibility to keep it safe.

Follow these tips to help protect our community this fire season.

Protect Your Home

Create a defensible area around your home by clearing away any vegetation and flammable materials, cleaning out gutters, and pruning low-hanging tree branches. Learn more at www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/By-topic/Wildfire.

Use Green Waste Pickups, Not Burns

The City offers free curbside pickup of green waste for residential sanitation customers each Wednesday. This is an eco-friendly alternative to

open burns, which are currently suspended, as the yard waste is turned into high quality compost.

Just bag, bundle, box, or place your green waste in a barrel and set it by the curb before 7:00 a.m. on your pickup date. Pickups must be scheduled by 5:00 p.m. the Monday prior. They can be scheduled online at www.SierraVistaAZ.gov or by calling (520) 458-7530.

Watch the Weather

The National Weather Service will issue Red Flag Warnings on days that pose particularly high fire danger due to high winds and dry conditions. Residents are urged to use extreme caution on these days and consider postponing any outdoor activities that could spark a fire like barbecuing, target shooting, discarding cigarette butts, and using heavy equipment.

Heed Camping Restrictions

Camping without a campfire may dampen the fun but starting one is not worth risking the consequences. Violating fire restrictions can result in steep fines, possible imprisonment, and personal responsibility to reimburse fire suppression costs.

Always heed any camping restrictions in National Parks and other public lands.

Leisure Updates

City Parks, Fields, and Outdoor Amenities are Open



FOLLOWING THE EXPIRATION OF GOVERNOR Doug Ducey's stay home order on May 15, the City reopened many of its outdoor amenities.

These include the skate park in Veterans Memorial Park, the dog park in Tompkins Park and sports facilities like ballfields and basketball, pickleball, volleyball, and tennis courts. The Sports Division can be reached by phone or email for customer service including field reservations. City parks remained open during the stay home order, although some amenities like restrooms are still closed due to health and safety concerns tied to COVID-19.

"We're encouraged by the guidance provided by Governor Ducey that allows us to start opening back up and we thank our residents for being patient during this tough time," Sierra Vista Mayor Rick Mueller said in May. "However, please understand that this is not the moment to move full speed ahead. We must still practice common sense hygiene, adhere to social distancing as much as possible, and respect safety measures to ensure we do not lose the extraordinary progress we've made in fighting COVID-19."

For more information about sports facilities or programs, call the Sports division at (520) 515-4999 or email Sports@SierraVistaAZ.gov.



Cove Offers Lap Swim and Lessons by Reservation

The Cove is set to reopen on Monday, June 15, only for lap swim and private lessons available by reservation.

Offerings at The Cove may be adjusted based on updated guidance from Governor Doug Ducey regarding the state's reopening progress and the status of COVID-19 cases locally. As the state moves forward beyond phase 1 of reopening, staff hopes to be able to expand offerings as it is safe and feasible to do so.

Learn more at www.SierraVistaAZ.gov/city-departments/leisure/cove-aquatic-center.

Latest Updates on Facilities

The status of City facilities and programs is subject to change based on the latest state and federal guidance associated with COVID-19, and on the number of active cases in the area.

For the latest updates on City facilities, programs, and announcements concerning COVID-19, head to www.SierraVistaAZ.gov and click the link to the "Combating Coronavirus" webpage.

Upcoming Events

Due to the uncertainty of the pandemic situation, which can change daily, upcoming events are not included in this issue of Vistas. To see planned upcoming events and programs, including some community events, please visit www.SierraVistaAZ.gov and click on the Calendar link in the main menu.



Fry Cemetery Restoration Earns Heritage Award

The Fry Pioneer Cemetery has earned a 2020 Governor's Heritage Preservation Honor Award and is among 10 honorees eligible for the state's James W. Garrison Heritage Award that will be announced in a virtual awards ceremony on June 18. Learn more about the ceremony at www.azpreservation.org/preservation-in-place.

The award recognizes extensive work conducted by the Sierra Vista Historical Society and City of Sierra Vista, with the assistance of dedicated volunteers, to restore and improve this National Historic Landmark. It also celebrates the efforts made to expand awareness of this key piece of local history via the Henry F. Hauser Museum exhibit celebrating the cemetery's 100th anniversary and additional events and educational programming conducted in conjunction with that exhibit.

As part of the final phase of the cemetery restoration project, custom iron gates were recently installed and iron fencing is being erected around the 100-year-old old cemetery. This is the last step in the restoration after volunteers invested many hours locating and marking about 200 previously unmarked graves, erecting gabion walls, and creating a memorial for about 50 infants who were also laid to rest there.

The historical society's Fry Pioneer Cemetery Preservation Committee is seeking individuals, groups, or businesses that would like to make a tax deductible donation to purchase a fence panel, making a permanent contribution to this vital piece of local history. Donors will be honored in a permanent plaque to be erected by the cemetery's new gate.

For more information, please call historical society members and project coordinators Tim Doyle at (520) 227-2241, Marta Messmer at (520) 249-5419, or Marty Jones at (520) 249-1079.

Library Reimagines Summer Reading with Virtual Programs



Pick Up Materials While Library is Closed

While the Sierra Vista Public Library is currently preparing to reopen safely, no date has been set as of the press deadline for this newsletter.

In the meantime patrons may reserve materials to be picked up curbside at the library. The curbside pickup program is available from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Friday. Patrons may place up to 10 items on hold via the library's digital catalog or by calling the library (520) 458-4225. Then they must call the library to schedule a time to pick up their items from the front of the library.

The pickup program is contactless, meaning staff will not be available to handle returns or any other services at that time. The items will be labeled with the patron's last name and the last four digits of their library card number.

Patrons may now make returns anytime via the library's drive-thru drop box located in the library parking lot. Book drops by the library entrance are open from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

For the latest updates regarding the status of library facilities and programs (and any City changes due to COVID-19), check the City's website at www.SierraVistaAZ.gov and click the link to the "combatting coronavirus" webpage. Updates are also shared on the Sierra Vista Public Library Facebook page.

WITH AN EMPHASIS ON VIRTUAL programming and grab-and-go activities, the Sierra Vista Public Library will offer residents of all ages the opportunity to participate in its Summer Reading Program starting on Saturday, May 30.

Celebrating the national theme of "Imagine Your Story," library staff members have put their own imaginations to work planning how residents can enjoy programs, activities, and even performances without groups congregating at the library in-person. As the City works to gradually reopen its facilities safely, the library currently remains closed, while patrons can now schedule pickups for materials they place on hold.

The Summer Reading Program will follow a similar model when registration launches on Saturday, May 30. From May 30 through July 25, residents of all ages will be able to participate in a summer reading challenge online by logging their minutes, accruing points, and earning prizes. Participants will also be able to enjoy presentations and programs virtually via videos hosted on the Summer Reading Program website.

The library will offer grab-and-go packs for children, teens, and adults with age-appropriate activities like crafts, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) projects, and much more. Some virtual programs will include take-home supplies so participants can follow along at home.

"The Summer Reading Program helps students keep their brains engaged on educational activities over summer break, while also offering patrons of all ages opportunities to learn and have fun," says Emily Duchon, library manager. This can prevent the so-called "summer slide" sometimes seen in reading test scores following summer vacation. The program is offered with the support of the Friends of the Sierra Vista Public Library and the Little Library Bookstore.

To register for the Summer Reading Program, head to SierraVista.AZSummerReading.org starting Saturday, May 30. For more information, call the library at (520) 458-4225 and follow the "Sierra Vista Public Library" Facebook page for the latest updates.

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Census 2020 ★ BE COUNTED!



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