



**Wickenburg's "Jail Tree" was recently selected as one of Arizona's "Magnificent 7" Heritage Trees by Arizona State Forestry**

# Everything STILL Matters!!

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This publication's purpose is to update the participants of the 2015 Town Hall event where the goal was to generate new energy and leadership, in an inclusive way, that recaptures the collective spirit for leading Wickenburg's economic future.

## 2015 "Everything Matters!" Town Hall KEY RESULTS

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- ⇒ Embrace "Everything Matters!"
- ⇒ Improve attractiveness of Wickenburg area to young people who work here.
- ⇒ Protect existing strengths that make Wickenburg an attractive place to live, work, and have a business.
- ⇒ Strengthen Wickenburg as a vibrant arts, shopping and dining destination.
- ⇒ Shore up weaknesses (e.g., high-speed Internet, labor force and post-high school education, workforce housing, other services).
- ⇒ Sustain and build equine activities.
- ⇒ Sustain attractiveness to retirees/second homeowners.
- ⇒ Support local manufacturing that is consistent with our strengths.



Roping in Wickenburg

### Save the Date...

- \* We are planning our next Town Hall event in January 2017.
- \* More information will be available later this year.
- \* Contact Josh Wright, Town Manager with any questions or suggestions: [jwright@wickenburgaz.org](mailto:jwright@wickenburgaz.org)

## Spring 2016 UPDATE

The EDAC Commissioners and Town staff have spent the past six months gathering information from a variety of Wickenburg businesses and industries to produce a snapshot of our economic health. While there is no single way to capture how we are doing as a community, we cast our net widely and inter-

viewed leaders from the manufacturing, tourism, government, education, and healthcare sectors, and more. We are sharing that "snapshot" with you today. We plan to share an in-depth version at our next Town Hall.

Plus, the Town of Wickenburg, the Wickenburg

Chamber of Commerce, and many other local organizations are making significant strides to improve the quality of life for residents and tourists alike. The community IS embracing the idea that "Everything Matters!"

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LEARN MORE....*

## Protecting and Embracing Strengths

- ⇒ Opening of the Hassayampa River Walk and expanded downtown Christmas Celebrations.
- ⇒ Expansion of Wickenburg Community Hospital and Clinics.
- ⇒ Continued growth of activity at area treatment centers.
- ⇒ Additional downtown parking and other amenities.
- ⇒ Growth in retail sales and construction.
- ⇒ Heritage Events



Local sales tax collections for FY 2012-13 through FY 2015-16

## Addressing Weaknesses

- ⇒ The Town is working with COX to expand the reach of high-speed Internet and cable.
- ⇒ The Chamber and others are discussing workforce housing.
- ⇒ There will be a County Workforce Development Center at the Library.
- ⇒ Freedom Express now provides dial-a-ride transportation.
- ⇒ New Senior Center.
- ⇒ Health care providers and schools are discussing college training of nursing staff.

## Retirees & 2nd Homeowners

- ⇒ Hospital and clinic expansion increases community attractiveness for retirees.
- ⇒ The community is expanding services for seniors.
- ⇒ Wickenburg Ranch successfully opened.
- ⇒ To date, the community is integrating Wickenburg Ranch residents into the existing fabric of the Wickenburg Community.

## Attract Young People

- ⇒ The community is learning more about how many young employees in-commute and how to improve attractiveness of Wickenburg area to young people.
- ⇒ New housing geared to young families may be part of the answer (under discussion).

## Arts, Shopping & Dining

- ⇒ The Museum, Webb Center and other groups continue to expand art and cultural programming.
- ⇒ The newly-formed Downtown Wickenburg Revitalization Foundation is working to bring new businesses to downtown.
- ⇒ A number of groups are trying to address vacant retail space throughout the community.

## Equine Activities

- ⇒ Roping activity continues to grow, and different groups are working to maximize the economic benefit to the Wickenburg area.

## Manufacturing

- ⇒ The Wickenburg Regional Economic Development Partnership (WREDP) continues to make infrastructure improvements and pursue developers for the Forepaugh Industrial Rail Park.