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## Greenlee growth means housing need

### From the Copper Era

MORENCI — Population increases in 2017 have demonstrated a need for additional housing in Greenlee County.

During a meeting of the Greenlee County Board of Supervisors, Economic Development Coordinator Ákos Kovach said that “Lot sales and home sales are brisk,” while also noting that there’s a shortage of homes and land available for sale.

He estimated that there were roughly 20 homes for sale currently, and that most home buying activity had been in Clifton,

**Greenlee’s growth rate is fastest in AZ**

York Valley and Duncan.

The availability of homes is a growing problem in Greenlee County as recent developments have called for a rapid increase in population. The U.S. Census Bureau released its national and

state population estimates last week and lists Arizona among the states with the largest growth between 2016 and 2017.

Kovach reported that as of July 2017 Greenlee had 10,961 res-  
[Click here to read more](#)

## What does population boom mean?

### Ákos Kovach

If the term ‘state shared revenues’ means anything to you then you already know that the higher your population the more revenues the state shares with you from their coffers. So this is another important reason to track and report the changes in population.

Further, business and industry site selectors also look at popu-

lation numbers, growth patterns and similar demographics. When making a decision on whether to build or relocate a business or industry a lot of factors must be taken into account. But one of the key calculations is population. Will there be an adequate workforce, will they have a sufficient number of prospective customers and so forth.

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## What is the Greenlee Chamber all about?

A Chamber of Commerce is a professional affiliation of local businesses, a business network, plus local government entities and is often compatibly associated with organizations such as the Clifton Visitor Center, Duncan Visitor Center and the Greenlee County Tourism Council. Membership is voluntary, although most local businesses find ‘strength in numbers’.

The Chamber does not have

a ‘watchdog’ function over its membership, this is better suited for the Better Business Bureau. There are local, state, and national Chambers of Commerce, with members ranging from small “mom and pop” stores to major corporations.

As a non-governmental institution, a Chamber of Commerce has no direct role in the writing of laws or regulations that af-

fect businesses. It may, however, lobby in an attempt to get laws passed that are favorable to businesses.

The main function of a Chamber of Commerce is to promote local businesses, as well as serving in the role of gathering feedback from members and customers regarding ‘gaps in service’. Chambers

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# Highway 191 revisited

By Philip Ronnerud

Traveling to Phoenix or Tucson, and returning the same day is truly astonishing. Those who dominated the west in the 1800's were lucky to travel 10 to 15 miles per day by wagon or 50 miles by horse.

Recently as misreported regarding US 191, the growing needs of the transportation system were highlighted. The State has a completed a study on low volume roads including US 191. Major impacts are possible from decisions occurring at the highest level of the State.

Since 2008, ADOT has discussed ways to deal with lack of funding. Capital spending has all but stopped. Maintenance has been curtailed. The Legislature has redirected funding traditionally used to maintain and

“Be wary and involved as opportunities present themselves during the decision-making processes.

## Sheriff tells of need for Hwy 191

From the Copper Era

CLIFTON — The Arizona Department of Transportation's invitation for comment on the future of U.S. Highway 191, from Morenci to Alpine, has received feedback from the county's top law enforcement official.

Greenlee County Sheriff Tim Sumner issued a letter to ADOT District Engineer Bill Harmon last week on the concerns he sees with a potential closure in the road's future.

“The majority of the highway closure directly affects the safety and livelihood of my constituents, the citizens that I have been elected to protect and serve,- Sumner wrote.

“It also affects the many visitors and hunters that would still access the area and that I have a duty through Search and Rescue operations to provide lifesaving missions. This would prohibit my office and my Search and Rescue from access to perform our duties.”

Sumner shared these concerns and more during a meeting between Harmon and the Clifton Town Council last month. His letter cites a number of home and business owners who would be affected by the closure, and, further, the detriment closure would have upon firefighting efforts in the area.

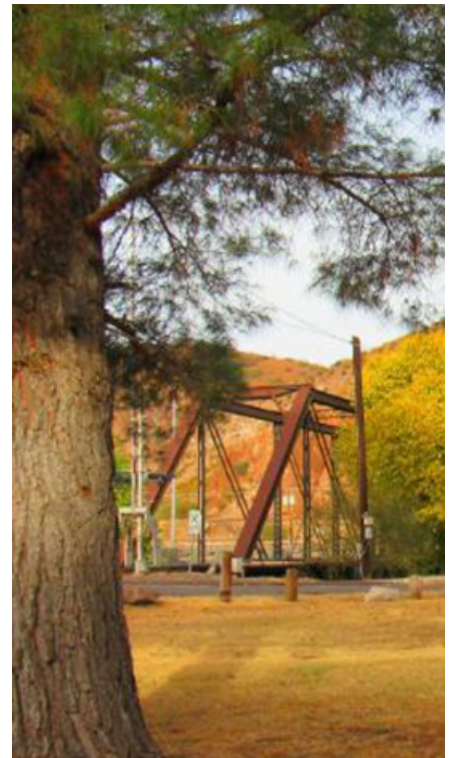
[Click here to read more](#)

to improve roads. The funds replace those that Public Safety used to receive from other sources. Very difficult choices have been made.

The balance between Public Health and Safety, Education, and Infrastructure is of critical importance to our nation. As the economics of size drive business, so economy drives decisions regarding transportation. Box stores thrive, starving smaller businesses. Yet some small stores prosper finding niches that large ones cannot serve.

The County's transportation system has many components, from trails to the Interstates. The State maintains the statewide road system. Both Maricopa County and Yavapai County elected to build freeway systems in their county with maintenance at Arizona's expense. Their systems continue to growth yearly (including its cost) as do their populations.

Greenlee County's industry provides major benefits to Arizona. The transportation system to the mine probably will not be impacted by the ADOT decisions. What is of concern is the recreational and land use. Be wary and involved as opportunities present themselves during the decision-making processes.



# What does boom mean? . . .

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But the fact that Greenlee County has demonstrated a steady pattern of population growth is both impressive and significant. Thanks to our number one employer expanding, our low utility rates, and pointing at the lowest tax rate base in the entire state paints a very favorable image of our county.

## Where from here?

So where do we go from here? At this mornings' Board of Supervisors meeting there was unanimous support to continue the Growing Greenlee focus on single family and multi-family housing. As the next few months unfold new housing starts will become the talk of the county, so stay tuned in. Follow us on Facebook, read the Greenlee Clarion and see how we grow our Instagram and twitter presence along with a more robust presentation

# Greenlee Chamber . . .

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often work closely with professional economic developers.

A Chamber of Commerce also works within the community as a leader of civic projects such as beautification, infill, rehabilitation and preservation.

Sponsorship of local beautification programs is often provided by a Chamber as a means to improve visual appeal of member towns and or the County.

Local and County governments often turn to a Chamber first when seeking the opinion of the business community.

Membership in a Chamber of Commerce is generally viewed as a powerful endorsement by

on YouTube.

Yes Greenlee County is Growing thanks to good leadership, an exceptionally healthy economic base and of course the outdoor features found so abundantly from north to south. As we have written before ~ come for a visit, spend a lifetime...!

## Start Up Smart!

Thinking about starting your own business?

Then start up smart!

The SBA has recognized 8 reasons why businesses fail in the first two years.

Learn how you can combat these causes of failure by learning...

□ What to think about ahead of time

□ Why businesses fail

□ How you can increase your chances of survival

□ Basics of starting a business

□ Available resources

To register online: <https://goo.gl/qViCGL>

For more information or to register for this event, contact the EAC Small Business Development Center at (928) 428-8590.

The class will be held Thursday, Jan. 18, from 6-8 p.m.

It will be held at the EAC High Tech Center, Room #124 (West of EAC Alumni Library on Church St.), in Thatcher.

Cost is free, but seating is limited, so registration is required.

## Chamber Mixer

The next Greenlee Chamber of Commerce Mixer will be in Virden, NM on Jan. 24 at 5:30 p.m. at the Old Virden Church. Sponsored by the Village of Virden and presented by the Javelina Chase.

prominent local business leaders.

Chamber goals are generally:

1. building or maintaining attractive communities,

2. ensuring the advancement of the business community by advancing a pro-business climate,

3. promoting member communities,

4. representing the voice of the business community,

5. and reducing transactional friction by maintaining a business network that works and recreates together.

## Mission statement

The mission of the Greenlee County Chamber of Commerce is to stimulate and expand the busi-

ness environment, promote a vibrant local economy and nurture a positive professional business network to enhance the overall quality of life in throughout Greenlee County.

## Summation

A Chamber of Commerce is a professional organization that is primarily concerned with the:

1. mechanics of fostering good business practices

2. assisting businesses to not only stay in business but prosper in their field.

3. a Chamber creates forums and other opportunities to showcase individual businesses while demonstrating a cooperate spirit



*The Greenlee County Board of Supervisors at a recent meeting. From left are: David Gomez, Richard Lunt, Ron Campbell, Yvonne Pearson, Kay Gale and Jeremy Ford.*

## County prepares for legislative session

I hope everyone had a VERRY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A VERRY HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We at the county board of supervisors are very busy preparing for the Legislative Session that is upon us.

Some people ask, ‘Why do you travel?’ My answer to that is: ‘The world is run by those who show up.’

I want to be there to make sure that Greenlee County has a voice. I want to make sure that we are heard and represented. I want to voice our concerns and ensure that we are receiving the most we can from the State and the Federal Government. By traveling we save the county hundreds of thousands

of dollars yearly.

Some counties pay lobbyists thousands upon thousands of dollars yearly to represent them. We save that money for the county and in most cases represent the county better because we have more buy in to the Legislature. They know we represent the people of our county and have their concerns at heart.

I hope this is helpful and answers any questions you may have. Be assured that we care and are working hard on your behalf.

May God’s greatest blessings be yours in 2018.

Richard Lunt  
Chairman



*Chairman of the Greenlee Tourism Council, Steve Ahmann, addresses the Board of Supervisors regarding the 2018 Calendar of events and the potential for a new park along the San Francisco River.*

## Clifton Council Corner

Mayor Felix Callicotte

### Festival of Lights winners

Each December, the Town of Clifton sponsors the Festival of Lights, a major holiday celebration that brings together residents to kick off the holiday season in Clifton and surrounding Greenlee County. Clifton's Festival of Lights is one of the largest electric light parades in small town Arizona.

Clifton's Festival of Lights is a family-focused event that people can make an entire day and night out for a community event and it worked again this year, the 21st year.

The real fun is seeing all the families out for the afternoon activities and then getting excited about the parade of lights floats.

For the past 20 years the only real complaint about the Festival of Lights celebration was that it didn't last long enough.

As a holiday and community celebration, the day-long event has become so popular and successful that revelers are reluctant to leave when it is over.

Our 21st year event was no different it had it all, food and entertainment along with the floats, emergency vehicles, and various other entries that were all brightly lit creating the awe-inspiringly beautiful "Classic Christmas Cinema" event theme.

The Festival of Lights provides the opportunity for us all to meet our neighbors, enjoy our community and just have a great time.

### Thanks for the support

The Town of Clifton would like to thank everyone – Festival of Lights Committee, the attendees, the businesses, the volunteers, and the sponsors that took part this year. It's great to see community involvement and participation.

We would also like to express our appreciation to all of the organizations that helped to make this a great yearly event. We hope to see all of you back for the "22nd Annual Festival of Lights" celebrations in 2018.

"The 2017 winners for the 21st Festival of Lights"

Judges Special Recognition: Greenlee County

[Please click here to read more](#)

## Morenci Lions Club helps with Christmas

### From the Copper Era

MORENCI — On a brisk Sunday morning, the Morenci Lions Club gathered in the parking lot at Fairbanks Middle School.

Lions President Frank Maldonado, along with other Lions, was tending to a grill filled with breakfast burritos. Several members of the club had been there since 5 a.m. helping to sort food and presents in preparation for delivery as part of the club's holiday program.

"The Morenci Lions holiday program has been going on for about 13 or 14 years," Mike Acosta said, speaking with the Copper Era. "We've done (more than) 550 kids in this community from north to south, and people have really jumped in every year. You know, we worry about donations and stuff, but people really come through; it's an amazing place here where we live."

This year, thanks to efforts from the community and donations from certain groups including the United Way of Graham and Greenlee Counties, the Lions Club was able to share its good fortune with members of local law enforcement who held their own charity programs.

"This year, Duncan High School jumped in on the can process and gave us between 750 and 1,000 cans. A construction company in Morenci donated

[Click here to read more](#)



## Tech Fridays Are Here at the Clifton Library!

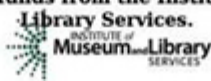


### Tech Talk: E-Reader and Tablet Roundup Friday, January 5th WALK-INS WELCOME

Just got a new iPad, Kindle or gadget for Christmas? Bring it down to the Clifton Library for this FREE Tech Talk! Learn how to work your E-Reader or tablet, check out or buy books on your device, listen to music, browse the Internet and more!

Join us for these friendly, open and jargon-free talks with our community to improve your technology skills and get warm and welcoming assistance.

This project is supported by the Arizona State Library, Archives & Public Records, a division of the Secretary of State, with federal funds from the Institute of Museum and



## Girl Scout cookies

Girl Scout cookie season has arrived, starting Jan. 13 and running until March. All the favorites are back, plus the new cookie: S'mores.

All proceeds stay in southern Arizona.

There are three troops in the county, in Morenci, Clifton and Duncan, and there will be more cookie booths. Get the app to find the nearest location.

## The Greenlee Clarion

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253 Fifth Street | Clifton, Arizona 85533  
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Ákos Kovach, Editor  
Gary Dillard, Graphics Editor  
[economicdevelopment@co.greenlee.az.us](mailto:economicdevelopment@co.greenlee.az.us)  
[www.growinggreenlee.org](http://www.growinggreenlee.org)  
[www.co.greenlee.az.us](http://www.co.greenlee.az.us)

## Reading Nook News

### Touring Library website 8

By Karen Soohy

There are a lot of internet resources that adults can use to help with many things. The Greenlee County Library webpage ([www.greenleelibraries.org](http://www.greenleelibraries.org)) has links to lots of helpful pages. Just click on the ADULTS tab to explore some of these awesome resources.

The Seasoned Times link is dedicated to encouraging wise and healthy aging. It is designed for baby boomers, seniors and anyone 55+.

Eldercare is a link sponsored by the Department of Health and Human Resources and helps locate lots of information through the Administration on Aging.

You can easily visit our Facebook page by using the link provided. Visit and LIKE us when you have time to browse.

The EDUCATIONAL section of links offers links to Driving Tests and DMV Practice Tests. GCF LEARN FREE offers free courses for adults in a variety of subjects including technology and basics such as reading and math.

Looking for information on an ancestor's burial site? Find A Grave might be able to help you get that information. Are you planning to travel internationally? Currency Converter helps you convert your money with the click of a button. Anyone who likes to print their own calendars can use WinCalendar to find a format that is easy to use. TimeTemperature links you to time zone and temperature information worldwide.

Looking for information about our world? Al-tapedia provides maps of countries as well as lots of statistics about every country in the world. CIA Factbook is a government site that lets you look up countries of the world and find out just about everything you could possibly want to know. Country

[Click here to read more](#)

## Take the tour



## Upcoming activities

**1/5** Tech Talk Fridays at Clifton Library

**1/13** Greenlee County Girl Scouts start selling cookies. Get phone app to find nearest location.

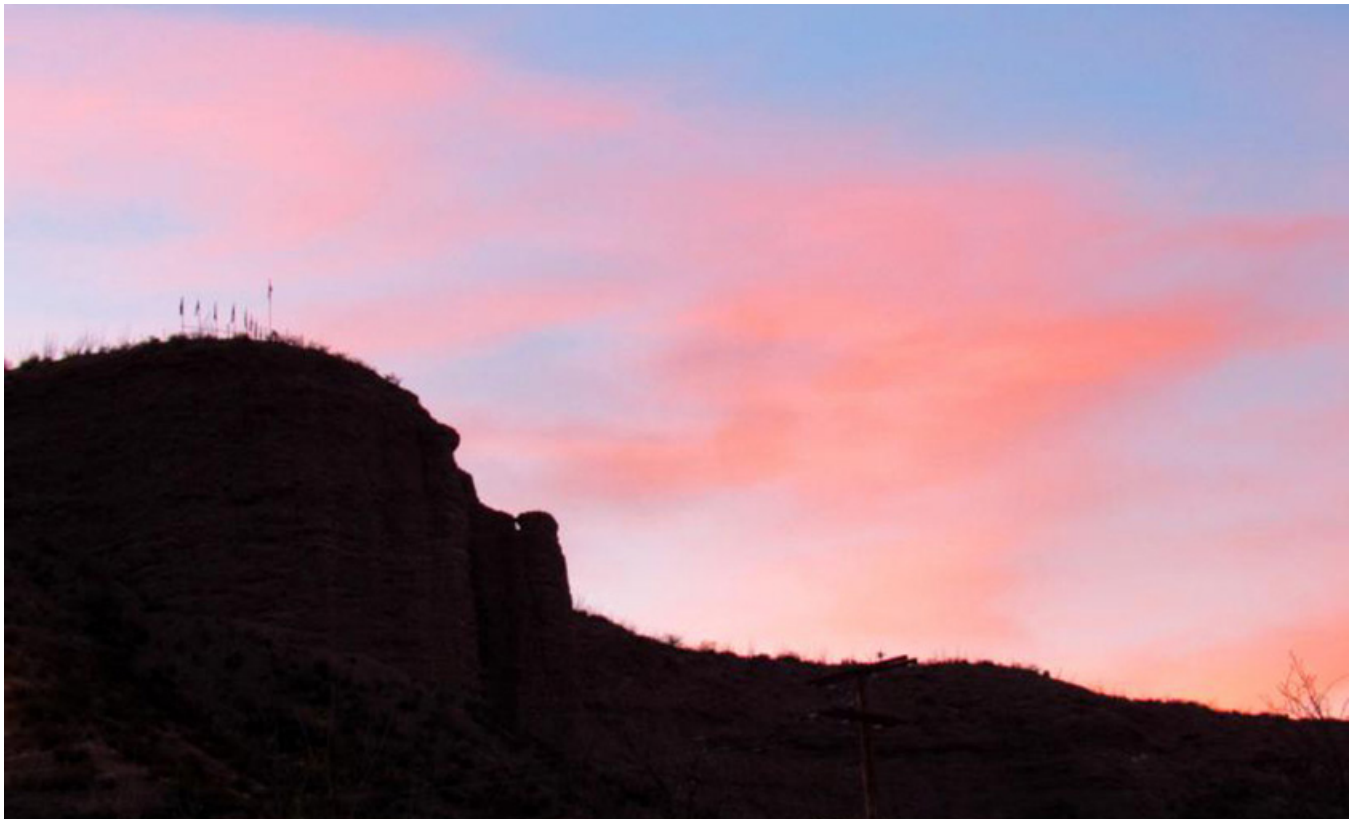
**1/13** Two sessions, 10-noon and 3-5, A Community Planning Session and Action-Planning-Day, Duncan High School Cafeteria.

**1/18** 6-8 p.m., business startup class, EAC High Tech Center, Room #124, Thatcher. For details see article on page 3.

**1/24** 5:30 p.m., Old Virden Church, Greenlee Chamber Mixer, sponsored by Village of Virden, presented by the Javelina Chase.

**1/26** 6:30 p.m. Virden Library presents free movie night: Frozen.

See Morenci School District calendar at [its website](#).



# Clifton looks at block-grant planning

## From the Copper Era

CLIFTON — The Town of Clifton made preparations for the future at this month's council meeting.

The December council meeting was pre-empted by a presentation from Bonnie Williams, with SEAGO, discussing uses of the Community Develop-

ment Block Grant Program. Among the possible future uses that came up were sidewalk replacement on Chase Creek Street and the possibility of moving town services to accommodate fire and police at the current Town Hall.

Williams advised the council to plan for all potential uses for funding ahead of time. Greenlee County Economic Development Coordinator Akos Kovach was in attendance at the meeting and praised Williams for her work as he encouraged the public to contact her to learn more about the CDBG funding process.

"As a citizen, I'm glad that the CDBG cycle has come to Clifton," he said.

Williams also received thanks for her work from town officials and employees as Town Manager Ian McGaughey and Clerk Espie Castaneda called her work "instrumental." This marks Williams' final presentation for Clifton pending her future retirement. For her work Mayor Felix Callicotte presented her with a key to the Town of Clifton.

Clifton is also moving forward with a request for proposal for a general plan consultant to help make

[Click here to read more](#)

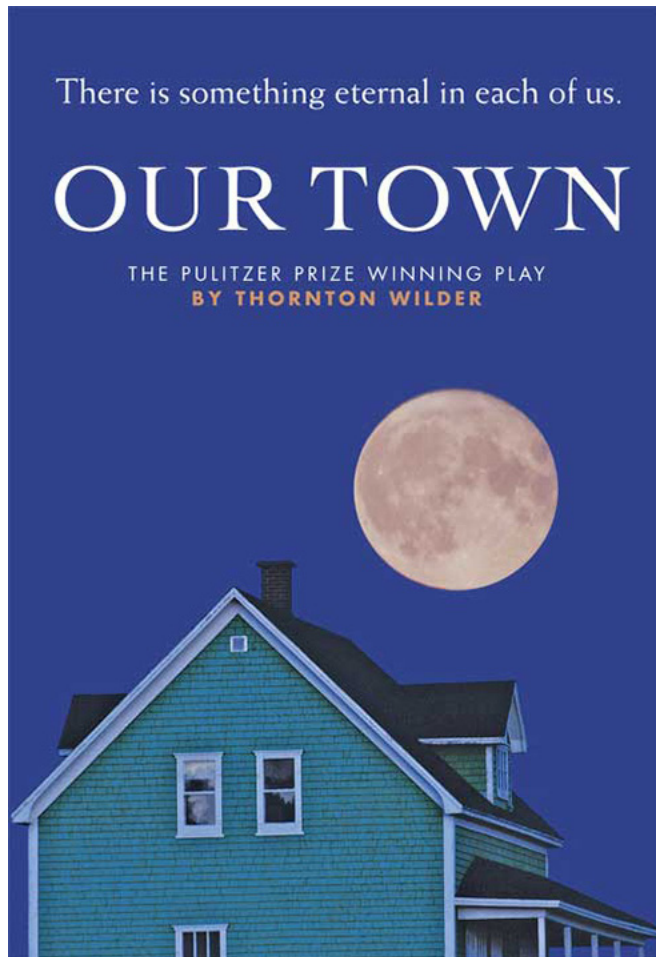
## JANUARY 26, 2018

## 6:30 PM

### The Virden Library Presents:



## FREE MOVIE NIGHT AT THE VIRDEN LIBRARY & EVENT CENTER



## Casting for Our Town

Calling Greenlee/Graham/Hildago thespians and wanna-bees.

Casting call is out for actors and actresses for a production of Thornton Wilder's "Our Town."

Need a minimum of 8 to fill primary character roles.

Must be willing to commit to memorizing script.

Read the play, then join up. No experience necessary.

As we gather the entire cast we will update the rehearsal schedule. Details, venue to follow.

Contact Richard Ward at <https://www.facebook.com/richard.ward.12979> via FaceBook.





# What's next for **DUNCAN?**

Duncan Town Council and Management Invite You to  
**A Community Conversation and Action-Planning Day**

Saturday, January 13, 2018 • Two sessions: 10 am to 12 noon, and 3 to 5 pm (you may attend either or both).

Both sessions will be held in the [Duncan High School Cafeteria](#). Residents of Duncan and adjacent areas are invited, along with various community partners.

**Areas we'll discuss:** What are Duncan's strengths and weaknesses? • What goals and opportunities should the town council and its partners focus on? • What is desired for growth of the town and what is not desired? Our youth—how can we serve them better now, and how can we retain them as they become adults? • Who are Duncan's key community partners; what are their targets and plans; what they can they contribute to Duncan's plans? • How can individuals in the town be involved in planning and implementation? • What are the most important next steps to pursue our agreed-upon goals and objectives?

With the support of Freeport McMoRan, the town has engaged consultant Bill Pupo to lead these meetings and to help the council and others follow through on the results. After a long career as a city and town manager, Mr. Pupo now guides towns like Duncan through the steps of understanding infrastructure, finance, legal/regulatory and other issues, and then designing and following through on a staged set of plans and solutions.

Questions? Call the town office at 928-359-2791. *We hope to see you on January 13.*