

# St Johns News and Updates

Volume 5 - January 2019  
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St Johns, Arizona  
Town of Friendly Neighbors

## Calendar

January 9 - City Council Meeting  
January 21 - Martin Luther King Holiday  
January 24 - Fine Arts Program  
"Bar D Wranglers"  
January 31 - Crisis Reality Trng

## Christmas Deco Contest

Residential - Christ Centered

Grand Champion -  
Bruce & Terri Jackson  
Reserve Champion -  
Nic & Shelley Finch



Residential - Santa Centered

Grand Champion -  
Henry & Tanya Cohen  
Grand Champion -  
Timothy King  
Reserve Champion -  
Dana & Dalana Waite



Thank you families, in our community, for your Christmas decorating spirit. There were many homes, who were Champion worthy, to be rewarded next year.

Thank you Apache County and City of St Johns for making our town light up.

## City Department

As Chief of Police, I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of the police officers, civilian support staff and volunteers.

December 7, with a wonderful catered dinner, the Police department recognized all employees and volunteers, for the years of 2017 and 2018.

Nominations came from peers and community members, to an awards committee, and recommendations were forwarded to the Police Chief.

Officer of the Year 2018  
Corporal Trett Bishop  
Officer of the Year 2017  
Officer Wyatt Smith  
Civilian Employee 2018  
Tamara Poe  
Civilian Employee 2017  
Ramon Morales  
Volunteer of the Year 2018  
Ward Bunyan  
Volunteer of the Year 2017  
Maria Chavez

In addition, several employees and volunteers received Unit Citation Awards, Commendations and Service Ribbons, based on conduct, community service and tenure.

## Manager's Minute

### 2019 Projects

- \* New Decorative Street Lighting
- \* CDBG City Park Projects
- \* Upgrades to the Ballparks
- \* More Street Paving

### 2018 City Employee Service Awards

30 Year - Dana Waite & Gary Liston  
20 Year - Jimmy Booth  
15 Year - Jeff Carpenter, Ramon Morales, Paul Ramsey  
10 Year - Robert Vallejos, Trett Bishop, Tamara Poe, Karen Flora, Terri Rothlisberger  
5 Year - Timothy Hinton, Cindy Lee

My hope is, the City will have a Prosperous New Year.

## Book Signing

Our community has a wealth of talented Authors. This became evident, as a book signing was scheduled for Friday, December 21 at the Delightful Things Consignment Store

Author *Siobhan Lake Beachy*, St Johns Author of 3 books, chose the date and the event was set. She had two of her books available: *Knight and Dae* along with Early Judges.



"The Liberator Entheos" by *Lawson Nielsen*, who now resides in the valley, came for this day. His books are available on Amazon, this being the first of a trilogy, with the second, nearing completion.



Other local authors were invited, were unavailable that day and will participate at the next book signing event this summer.



# January



## Nielsen Well Drilling & Service LLC

<http://nielsenwelldrilling.com/>

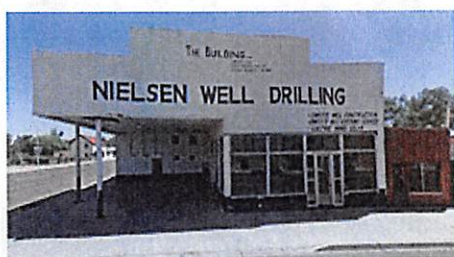
In business since 1913, this business has been the trusted name in NE Arizona and NW New Mexico for all residential water well needs, including well drilling and pump installation. We have been in business longer and know the land better than anyone else in the area.

Constructing a new well? We provide a variety of well services, from water testing to pump maintenance. We also restore windmills to bring back the look of the Old West.

This has been a family business for more than a century. Formerly known as Cowley Brothers, the company was founded three generations ago to put up windmills and drill wells for cattle ranches. Over time, we have earned the trust of the local residents by providing quality customer service, professionalism and years of experience.

Today, using an environmentally friendly drilling process, we work hard to make sure all customers receive the best solution to their needs.

Fred Nielsen, having served a term on the City Council, has been involved with the Downtown redevelopment and the Nielsen brothers have maintained a historic building, that has "turn of the Century" history.



## Counselor Corner

Tony Rakovitz grew up in West New York. As teenager his family moved to Gillette, Wyoming. I attended boot camp for the Army National Guard. I was working for Brown & Root at Springerville, TEP plant, and met my wife, Mary Jo Fuentes. In 1990, I was activated in the Persian Gulf War.

Our education interrupted, Mary and I graduated NAU together in 1996, in Education.

We raised 4 sons, Reece, Rayne, Riley, and Rio in St Johns, where we began our teaching careers. In 2007, I began as an operator at Salt River Project. Our family volunteered and have participated in Little League Baseball, AYSO, City Wrestling, Middle School sports, High School Wrestling, Cub & Boy Scouts.

I was elected to the City Council in 2012 and have learned about other agencies impact on city funds, grant monies, and just how small our tax base is in funding projects.

As I look forward to serving a second term, the main theme for our city is increasing business in our current businesses and to bring in new business. I have committed to make a Video (small commercials), to post, for every business in town. The first two videos have brought reports of increased business. I am promoting the theme "Buy St Johns, Build St Johns."

I have spent a great deal of time to bring in events. Events bring needed business and exposure into our town. I want St Johns to be a community, where local young families are able to return "home" to raise their children, with available jobs that provide a good living.

### City Officers & Staff:

Chief Lance Spivey  
Corporal - Trett Bishop  
Detective - Tyrell Bond  
Officer - Wyatt Smith  
Officer - Ty Blank  
Officer - Jaylen Richardson  
Compliance - Officer Ramon Morales  
Administrative Assistant - Tamara Poe  
Records Clerk - Makenzi Diaz



## A Bit of St Johns History

The conflict between cowboys and sheep men came to a battle on June 24, 1882. During the celebration of El Dia de San Juan, the day the Spanish/Catholic community honors their patron saint, San Juan Bautista. It began with a Procession and Mass, and a Fiesta with dancing, food and music. In 1882, the people had brought in a torrero from Mexico for a bullfight.

The Greers, cattlemen from Texas, and some of their cowboys decided to go to the bullfight, as they had never seen one. Sheriff Tomas Perez, sensing trouble, asked them to come unarmed. They ignored this and came well armed.

The fiesta erupted into a gunfight between the Spanish men and the Texans. Spanish shooters took cover in the Barth Hotel, and the Texans ran into the old Sherwood home, next to current day Nielsen Well Drilling Bldg, exchanging gunfire. Two of the Greer cowboys were wounded and one was killed.

After 15-20 minutes of gunfire, 70 year old Nathan Tenney walked up the street waving a white flag. When shooting halted, he went to the adobe house and talked the Greers into surrendering. They agreed, but when he walked out the door, he was shot in the head and died instantly.