



February 2014 E-Update

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Greater Yuma EDC

Greater Yuma EDC Mission Statement:

To expand economic activity within Yuma County by attracting commerce and industry to the region, and by assisting in developing the region's existing industry to its fullest potential.

Greater Yuma EDC Vision Statement:

Greater Yuma will be recognized as a globally competitive region— one that embraces advancing technology, attracts and retains human capital and continues to develop & foster the amenities that make the Yuma Region a great place to live and work.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



There has been much talk regarding the MSN article ranking Yuma AZ as the third worst economy in the U.S. That is a very bold statement. Equally as bold is naming the 10 best economies. Using a small sample of statistics to label anything is an injustice to all the communities who are mentioned in these types of articles. I have asked reporters repeatedly to do an investigative story surrounding Yuma County's unemployment rate. It would take work and time and there doesn't seem to be an appetite to get to the bottom of the story and yet it continues to make the front page and TV headlines. If numbers actually told the story of this region, we would not be growing in population and tax revenues. New housing starts would not be up along with permitting. Would an organization the size of the hospital continue to invest in a region that is as poverty stricken as these stories would have us believe?

I personally have lost faith in these types of articles whether the ranking is good or bad. The investigation that has gone into these is done from a desk using a sample of statistics that might be 3-5 years old. It's a lazy way to write a story and it certainly doesn't build consumer confidence or positive attitudes.

I normally refuse to respond to these types of stories due to the fact there is very little fact finding to respond to. I do however want to reiterate that this region continues to recover and there is a positive story to tell. If you read the Greater Yuma EDC 2nd Quarter Report, you will find positive increases in our economic drivers. WE have to tell the real story. It is up to all of us in this region to carry the strong message that we are not shrinking, we are not losing businesses and we are **thriving**.

There are several articles in this newsletter that will demonstrate the assets we do have in this region. Our education revolution will garner the greatest results we could ever imagine. The JTED that was unanimously approved by both School Boards will offer our youth career opportunities and provide our major employers with a skilled workforce. We all know Yuma County is a fabulous place to live, work and raise a family. Let's make that the story.

Julie Engel
President/CEO

ARIZONA AND NEVADA ANNOUNCE OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON THE INTERSTATE 11 AND INTERMOUNTAIN WEST CORRIDOR STUDY

We strongly encourage all of you to complete this survey from ADOT regarding transportation infrastructure for the I-11 Corridor. Before a new Interstate is considered the work that was started but not funded to be finished for US95; to a four lane, all weather route from I-8 to I-10, needs to be completed. Please help carry the voice for Yuma County. Thank you for your participation in this important survey.

Public can comment online in February about Level 2 Analysis

The Arizona and Nevada departments of transportation are hosting an online opportunity through the month of February for anyone interested in providing feedback on the latest Interstate 11 and Intermountain West Corridor Study results.

Today a public feedback period is being launched at www.i11study.com to provide an opportunity to comment on the Level 2 Analysis, which was recently completed by the study team. Those interested in providing input will be able to view a narrated presentation about the current status of the study and then submit comments online.

The two transportation departments have been working together since the summer of 2012 on the Interstate 11 and Intermountain West Corridor Study, which includes detailed corridor planning of a possible interstate link between the Phoenix and Las Vegas metropolitan areas, along with high-level visioning for potentially extending the corridor north to Canada and south to Mexico. Congress designated the future I-11 corridor between Phoenix and Las Vegas as part of the latest surface transportation bill, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21).

Since last fall, the study team has explored the universe of alternatives for potential routes from Mexico to northern Nevada. That broad range of possible corridor alternatives underwent an initial evaluation and screening process by the study team in October. An additional level of analysis — the Level 2 Analysis — was recently conducted for the congressionally designated portion of the corridor that would connect Phoenix and Las Vegas. This month's online feedback opportunity will allow the public to view the results of this recent analysis and provide feedback prior to the study moving forward. Those interested in participating should visit the project website at www.i11study.com

Online feedback for this phase of the study is being accepted through the end of February. However, comments about the I-11 study can be submitted at any time via the project website on the "Get Involved" page.

The Interstate 11 and Intermountain West Corridor Study is a two-year, multiphase, high-level study examining the feasibility, benefits, opportunities and constraints of a proposed new interstate highway corridor. This initial study is expected to be completed later this year. Funding to construct a potential corridor has not been identified. In addition to the Arizona and Nevada departments of transportation, the Maricopa Association of Governments, Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada, Federal Highway Administration and Federal Railroad Administration are partners in this study.

For more information about the I-11 and Intermountain West Corridor Study and to sign up for updates, visit www.i11study.com



Greater Yuma EDC participated in one of the nation's largest aerospace and defense instrumentation shows in February. AEROCON is one of the leading trade shows for aviation manufacturing and attracts some of the most prominent companies from around the world to Anaheim, California. GYEDC has defined Aviation and Defense testing as one of our three target sectors for attraction and we have committed to be present at the foremost events within the industry. Our attendance affords us the chance to meet decision makers and C-Level personnel whom have interest in expansions or relocations that align with our regional assets.

In the upcoming months we will be working in tandem with our state commerce authority to bring further attention to Yuma's burgeoning private aviation industry through local, national and international events.



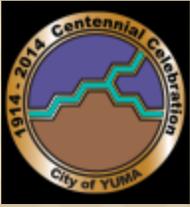
YUMA MANUFACTURER'S ASSOCIATION

The 2nd meeting of the YMA was hosted by AWC, NAU, and UA at the AWC campus. We were able to tour the new facilities and equipment at the Industrial Technology Building that houses welding and automotive classes, as well as the Phase I building of the new Engineering Technology Building housing the UA STEM Futures Grant Program. Presentations were made by all three Colleges/Universities in regard to the updated curriculum, certifications and Bachelor of Applied Sciences Degrees, of which there are now 5 choices at UA, and 3 at NAU. There was also a presentation made by the Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA) in regard to the RevAZ program start-up that will be a resource for manufacturers across the state. (RevAZ is the "new" Manufacturing Extension Partnership division at the state level). We are very grateful to AWC, NAU and UofA for hosting and extending the partnership and time to enable the group to appreciate the amazing progress of the facilities and curriculum available to our community. These enhanced programs, certifications, and degrees will create a pipeline of human capital for the manufacturers and agribusiness employers to hire in the very near future.

Member discussion after tours and presentations discussed continued, highlighting the need for Industrial Engineers, and collaborating on sharing equipment and human capital resources. Networking partnerships are starting to emerge within the group, aligning with the need for machining equipment, metrology equipment, and specified skills/training such as Lean Processing, Six Sigma and Industrial Engineering. GYEDCs ability to gather this information has been invaluable the past 4 months, as it will enable us to specifically match the needs of this industry sector to our strategic plan in regard to Business Attraction and Retention.



1914-2014 YUMA, ARIZONA CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION



The City of Yuma is celebrating a **BIG** birthday. Join them during the month of April for the festivities.

Main Street Centennial Celebration Monday April 7, 2014

Join the City of Yuma for the official kick-off to their Centennial Celebration! You won't want to miss the proclamation by Mayor Doug Nicholls and the lighting of the new Main Street signs by Arizona Governor, Jan Brewer. The talented Ms. Arizona will sing the National Anthem and they will seal the Centennial time capsule which will be reopened in 2114.

Bring the whole family out for this momentous occasion and enjoy a free Community Ice Cream Social!

Free to all. Fun for the whole family! All ages welcome.

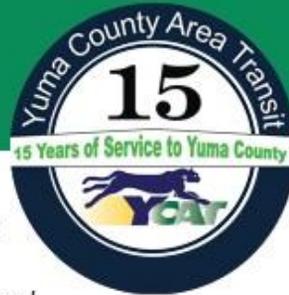
For More Information

The City of Yuma has partnered with the Yuma Visitor's Bureau to create a web site solely for the upcoming Centennial events. For more information visit:

www.Yuma100.com



Leprechaun Luncheon & Rideshare Knowledge Share – THE WAY TO WORK



I would like to personally invite you to join other Yuma Business Leaders for a Leprechaun Luncheon & Rideshare Knowledge-Share to engage in lively dialogue about new ways to get your employees' to work...

Regards,
John Andoh,
Transit Director
Yuma County Area Transit

Mark Your Calendars!

Thursday, March 6th
Meet & Greet 11:15 a.m.
Program 11:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.
Open Forum 12:45 - 1:15 p.m.

**Hilton Garden Inn – Pivot Point
Conference Center
310 N. Madison, Yuma**



FEATURED SPEAKERS

JOHN ANDOH
Transit Director
Yuma County Area Transit

☘
TOM HARRIS
Director of Logistics
Yuma Proving Grounds

☘
TED ABEYTA
National Account Manager
vRide, Inc.

Topics:

- Transit Options in Yuma County
- Implementing a World Class Vanpool Program
- Reinventing the Way to Work

Sponsored by

vRide

For more information contact
audrey.shuffield@vride.com

NEW INVESTORS WITH GREATER YUMA EDC

Silver Investor

San Luis Industrial Park

"Expedited and Reliable Service You Can Trust"

Our expedited service has long been recognized as an industry leader. We have designed our services taking into account all the complexities and intricacies of international logistics. Our team of experts will tailor a service packet that will meet your very own specific needs. Through our network of customs brokers , freight forwarders, and support staff, we will receive, ship and streamline the movement of your perishable goods in and or out of the country in the most efficient, cost effective, and reliable manner.

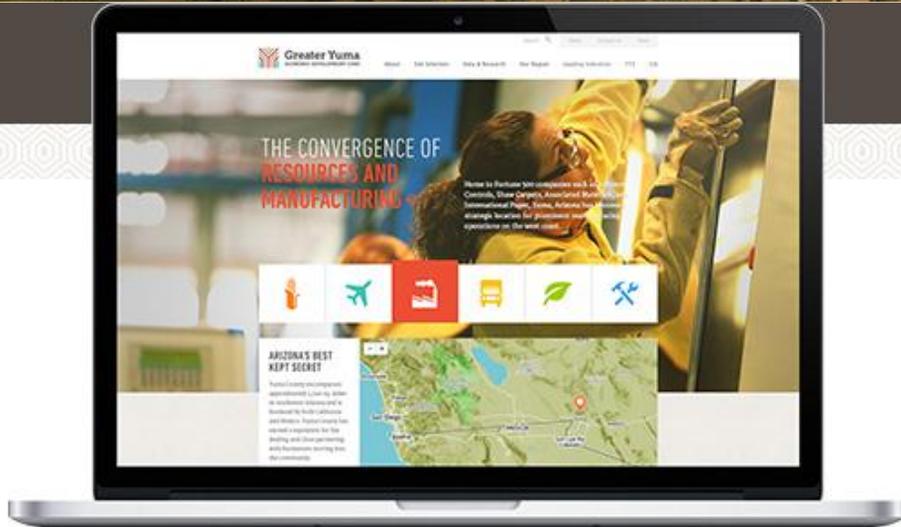
We take great pride in what we do, and what we do is backed by over 20 years of experience!

**THANK YOU FOR INVESTING IN
GREATER YUMA EDC**

GREATER YUMA EDC WEBSITE



A NEW GREATER YUMA



Visit our website at
www.greateryuma.org

GREATER YUMA EDC STAFF MEMBERS

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PRESIDENT/CEO

GREG LAVANN
SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER

ALISON MOREY
PROJECT MANAGER

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[HTTPS://TWITTER.COM/GYEDC](https://twitter.com/GYEDC)

GREATER YUMA EDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS & OFFICERS

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Dennis Booth
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Terry Frydenlund
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Doug Nicholls
Past Chair

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James Deermer, Town of Wellton

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Stacy Gutierrez, Nicklaus Engineering

Bobbi Lewis, City of Yuma

Leslie McClendon, City of Yuma

Russell McCloud, Yuma County

Robert Pickels, Yuma, County

Martin Porchas, City of Somerton

Victor Smith, Skyview Cooling

Mathias Rosales, City of San Luis

Greg Wilkinson, City of Yuma

Frank West, General Motors