

**MOHAVE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT JULY 2026**  
**AMERICAS 250<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY NEWSLETTER**  
**DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE**



Dear Mohave County,

As we celebrate Independence Day this July, we are reminded that the freedoms we enjoy are the foundation of innovation, entrepreneurship, and opportunity. The ability to start a business, invest in a community, and pursue new ideas is one of America's greatest strengths, and it is something we should never take for granted.

Here in Mohave County, we are deeply grateful for the businesses that choose to call our community's home. From family-owned shops and local manufacturers to growing technology firms and major employers, each organization contributes to our economy, creates jobs, and helps shape the character of our county. Your investment in Mohave County strengthens not only our local economy but also the quality of life for our residents.

Economic development is ultimately about people. It is about neighbors serving neighbors, employers creating opportunities, and partnerships that help communities thrive. We recognize that our success is built on the dedication, resilience, and vision of our business owners, employees, and community leaders, and we are thankful for the trust you place in our county.

July is also a time to reflect with humility and gratitude on the sacrifices made by our nation's veterans and active-duty service members. Their commitment to protecting our freedoms has made it possible for businesses to grow, families to prosper, and communities like ours to flourish. We honor those who have served and continue to serve with courage and selflessness.

As we look toward the second half of the year, the Mohave County Economic Development Office remains committed to supporting business growth, fostering opportunity, and building an environment where innovation and enterprise can succeed. Together, we can continue creating a strong and prosperous future for our county.

From all of us at the Economic Development Office, thank you for being part of the Mohave County community. We wish you and your families a safe, joyful, and meaningful Independence Day.

Best Regards,

Tami



**MOHAVE COUNTY**  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



## **INVESTING IN PEOPLE: BUILDING SKILLS TO SUPPORT BUSINESS GROWTH**

*From the Desk of Michelle Loeber*

Mohave County Economic Development recently concluded Phase III of the Northern Arizona Good Jobs Network (NAGJN) initiative, a regional effort designed to address workforce shortages and strengthen career pathways in manufacturing and the skilled trades. The program brought together employers, educators, and workforce partners to support both incumbent worker upskilling and career reskilling opportunities.

Throughout the program, Mohave County Economic Development coordinated monthly Manufacturing and Trades Workforce Roundtable meetings, fostered partnerships with Mohave Community College, Arizona@Work, and Arizona Vocational Rehabilitation, and conducted outreach efforts to better understand industry needs.

A key component of the initiative was the use of Interplay Learning, an innovative training platform featuring immersive, video-based instruction experiences designed specifically for manufacturing and trades occupations. The flexible training model enabled both current employees and individuals seeking new careers to gain valuable skills in a safe and accessible environment.

The results demonstrated the value of investing in workforce development. More than 175 participants enrolled in the program and completed over 500 courses. Eighty percent of participants were incumbent workers, while independent learners accounted for the remaining twenty percent.

Program outcomes highlighted meaningful career advancement opportunities. Survey responses showed that 30 percent of respondents received promotions, 6 percent received wage increases, and 43 percent of independent learners obtained employment after beginning their coursework.

Participants cited a variety of reasons for enrolling, including gaining skills for a new career, advancing in their current positions, increasing income opportunities, and exploring new interests.

The NAGJN program provided businesses with customized training opportunities at no cost to employers and enabled incumbent workers to receive both on-the-job and off-the-job instruction with minimal disruption to operations. By investing in employee development, participating businesses were able to enhance productivity, improve retention, and strengthen their operations. The success of Phase III demonstrated the value of collaboration among employers, educators, and community partners in helping meet the evolving needs of manufacturing and trades throughout Northern Arizona.



# MOHAVE COUNTY - JULY 4TH 2026 EVENTS

## 250<sup>TH</sup> USA CELEBRATIONS

### BULLHEAD CITY

Saturday July 4<sup>th</sup>

Event: [Freedom Festival at Rotary Park](#)

Details: 10:00AM-6:00PM Music, Food, Games, Activities

Event: [4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade](#)

Details: 10:00AM (Route Along Highway 95) Floats, Marching Bands, Local Organizations

Event: [36<sup>th</sup> Annal Rockets Over the River](#)

Details: 9:00PM PDT -10:00PM PDT Fireworks celebration above Colorado River between Laughlin, NV and Bullhead City, AZ. Synchronized to patriotic music broadcast live on KISS FM 104.9.

[More Bullhead City 4<sup>th</sup> of July Events Here](#)

### COLORADO CITY

Saturday July 4<sup>th</sup> 2026

Event: [Honoring the Past, Inspiring the Future](#)

Details: 6:00AM-10:00PM Mayor's Walk, Flag Raising, Breakfast, Parade, Music, Vendors, Food, Dance, Fireworks

### KINGMAN

Saturday July 4<sup>th</sup> 2026

Event: [Old Fashion 4th of July Celebration](#)

Details: 8:30AM-12:30PM Centennial Park  
Patriotic Kids Parade, Crafts, Games, Races, Water Slide,  
Living History Exhibit, America 250 Exhibit

Event: [Free Swim Day](#)

Details: 1:00PM-5:00PM Centennial Pool & Grandview Pool

Event: [Americas 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration](#)

Details: 12:00PM-End - 3036 E John L Ave, Kingman, AZ 86409  
Games, Raffles, Food, Music, Vendors,

### LAKE HAVASU CITY

Saturday July 4<sup>th</sup> 2026

Event: [4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks at the Beach](#)

Details: 9:00PM, Rotary Park 1400 S Smoketree, Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403  
Bring Chairs to Enjoy the Fireworks Show!



MOHAVE COUNTY  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

# WHY I BELIEVE GAS PRICES COULD BE FALLING SOON

*By Tami Ursebach*

Having spent years in Utah working around the oil, gas, and coal industries, I've had a front-row seat to the cyclical nature of energy markets. I've watched prices soar during periods of high demand and tight supply, only to retreat as production catches up and markets stabilize. The rollercoaster of commodity prices isn't new—it's part of an industry that has always been driven by cycles.

Based on that experience, I believe many consumers could see relief at the gas pump in the coming weeks.

One important factor that often goes unnoticed is the delay between changes in crude oil prices and the price motorists pay for gasoline. Refineries purchase crude oil, process it into fuel, and distribute it through a complex supply chain. That means the gasoline sold today may have been produced from oil purchased weeks earlier at much higher prices.

Many producers can remain profitable with crude oil prices around \$60 per barrel, though actual break-even points vary widely depending on the company, location, and production costs. When market prices fall toward more sustainable levels, refiners still have to work through inventories of higher-priced crude before the savings begin flowing through to wholesale and retail gasoline markets.

I've seen this pattern repeat itself time and again throughout my years observing Utah's energy sector. The market often reacts quickly when oil prices rise, but price decreases at the pump tend to take longer because of the costs already built into refinery inventories and distribution channels.

If crude oil prices remain relatively stable or continue to decline, refineries will eventually process more fuel made from lower-cost barrels. As that happens, the wholesale cost of gasoline may ease, and increased competition among retailers can help pass some of those savings on to consumers.

Of course, gasoline prices are influenced by more than just crude oil. Seasonal fuel requirements, refinery maintenance, transportation costs, taxes, geopolitical events, and regional supply issues can all affect what drivers ultimately pay. Those factors mean prices won't always fall as quickly as people hope.

Still, after watching the industry's ups and downs over many years, one lesson stands out: energy markets move in cycles. While no one can predict prices with certainty, history suggests that sustained declines in crude oil costs often lead to lower gasoline prices after refineries and distributors work through inventories purchased at higher prices.

For drivers keeping an eye on prices at the pump, that lag can be frustrating. But if current trends continue, the conditions are in place for gasoline prices to move lower as the supply chain catches up with the changing cost of crude.



**MOHAVE COUNTY**  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



# Thinking About a Business Loan?

## Start Here.

Taking on debt is one of the biggest financial decisions a business owner can make. The Local First Arizona Loan Readiness Boot Camp helps you approach that decision with clarity, confidence and practical insight.

In Partnership With:



## Loan Readiness BOOT CAMP

Many business owners pursue financing without fully understanding what lenders expect or how debt will impact their business long-term. Loan readiness isn't just about qualifying — it's about knowing whether borrowing actually supports your goals.

This free boot camp gives you the tools to make that call thoughtfully.

Offered by Local First Arizona in partnership with the Coalition of Arizona's Credit Unions, the Loan Readiness Boot Camp is designed to prepare business owners for the lending process — without pressure to borrow before they're ready

### WHAT YOU'LL Learn

- How business lending actually works
- What local lenders look for in strong loan applicants
- What taking on debt really means for your business
- How to evaluate whether a loan aligns with your goals
- How to use capital strategically
- Where capital is most likely to generate real return
- How to determine if a loan is the right move right now

In the Local First Arizona Loan Readiness Boot Camp, you'll learn as much about running a resilient business as you will about borrowing money. Whether you're actively considering a loan or simply want to be prepared for the future, this program equips you to make smart, informed decisions — on your own terms.

**[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR UPDATES ABOUT OUR NEXT CLASS](#)**

# Powering America's Future, One Employee at a Time

*From the Desk of Michelle Loeber,*

One of the things that has always made America strong is our willingness to roll up our sleeves, learn something new, and invest in the next generation of workers. That's exactly what happened right here in Mohave County with #1 Arizona Electric in Lake Havasu City.

When the team at Mohave County Economic Development visited the company and introduced them to the Northern Arizona Good Jobs Network (NAGJN) workforce initiative, #1 Arizona Electric saw an opportunity to invest in the people who help keep their business running every day.

Through grant-funded training, office staff were able to strengthen their technical knowledge while continuing to support customers and crews in the field. The online format made it easy to fit learning into the workday without missing a beat.

According to Office Manager Mattie Larson, the training helped employees better understand what was happening in the field and improved accuracy when ordering materials. The interactive simulations, including conduit bending and multimeter training, gave employees a chance to experience concepts they normally wouldn't encounter in a traditional classroom setting.

Looking back, Larson said the program actually exceeded expectations. Employees gained knowledge that benefited not only themselves, but the company as a whole. And when asked if they would participate in a similar program again, her answer was simple: "Most definitely."

Stories like this remind us that America's strength has always come from hardworking people and businesses willing to invest in one another. Whether it's in the office, on the job site, or in the classroom, every new skill learned helps build a stronger workforce and a stronger nation.

As we approach America's 250th birthday, we are reminded that the American spirit is alive and well in communities like ours. Here in Mohave County, local businesses are proving that when we invest in people, we invest in the future.



## THIS MONTH IN AMERICAN HISTORY 250 YEARS AGO: JULY 1776

July 1776 stands as one of the most important months in America's story. While Mohave County would not be founded for nearly a century, the events of this month set foundations that would eventually shape every corner of the nation, including the future communities of northwestern Arizona.

### July 2, 1776 – Independence Voted

After months of debate, the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence from Great Britain. This decision marked the true moment the colonies committed to forming a new nation.

### July 4, 1776 – Declaration Adopted

Delegates formally approved the Declaration of Independence. Though the signing and distribution took time, July 4 became the symbolic birthday of the United States.

### Early to Mid-July – News Spreads Across the Colonies

Printed broadsides traveled by horseback, wagon, and ship. In towns and city squares, people gathered to hear the Declaration read aloud, these were experiences that helped forge a sense of shared identity among the colonies.

### July 1776 in the West

Far from Philadelphia, the lands that would become northern Arizona remained home to Native peoples and wide-open desert landscapes. European-American settlement was still decades away, but the decisions made back East would set in motion the territorial expansions, explorations, and community-building efforts that would eventually lead to Mohave County's establishment in 1864.

As we observe America's 250th anniversary, July offers a moment to reflect on how the events of 1776 continue to shape our government, our freedoms, and the communities we call home today.



**MOHAVE COUNTY**  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

# HONORING OUR OWN

**WARMEST THANK YOU TO  
ALL MOHAVE COUNTY MEMBERS  
WHO HAVE SERVED**



## **SUPERVISOR TRAVIS LINGENFELTER**

Mohave County Supervisor for District 1

**U.S. Air Force**



## **SUPERVISOR SONNY BORRELLI**

Mohave County Supervisor for District 3

**Gunnery Sergeant, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret)  
1977-1999**



## **SUPERVISOR DON MARTIN**

Mohave County Supervisor for District 4

**Sergeant, U.S. Army Military Police  
1969-1972**

## **JUDGE STEVEN MOSS**

Presiding Judge of Mohave County Superior Court  
Division 3



**U.S. Marine Corps  
1984-1988**



## **REPRESENTATIVE JOHN GILLETTE**

Arizona House of Representatives,  
Representing District 30

**Command Sergeant Major, U.S. Army  
1984-2008**

**MAY OUR FREEDOM BE FREE FOREVER  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE**



★ **HAPPY 4TH OF JULY** ★

## SHOWING YOUR VALUE IN THE WORKPLACE: BEYOND BEING RELIABLE

By Tami Ursebach

Every employee wants to be seen as valuable, but there's an important distinction between being indispensable in your current role and positioning yourself for future opportunities.

Reliability matters. Employees who meet deadlines, support their teams, and consistently deliver quality work earn the trust of their colleagues and supervisors. They are often the first people called when problems arise because they can be counted on to get the job done.

However, simply saying "yes" to every request or answering emails late into the evening doesn't always lead to advancement. In fact, becoming the person who handles every urgent task can make it harder for leadership to imagine the organization without you in your current position.

The employees who grow into leadership roles often create value that extends beyond their daily responsibilities. They build systems that improve efficiency, develop expertise others rely on, mentor teammates, and drive initiatives that have a measurable impact on the organization. Their contributions continue to pay dividends long after the immediate task is complete.

When evaluating new responsibilities, it's helpful to ask:

- Does this contribute to meaningful business results?
- Does it reduce significant risk or improve operations?
- Will it save substantial time or resources?
- Does it showcase leadership and strategic thinking?

If the answer is no, it may be appropriate to delegate, redirect, or politely decline in order to focus on higher-value work.

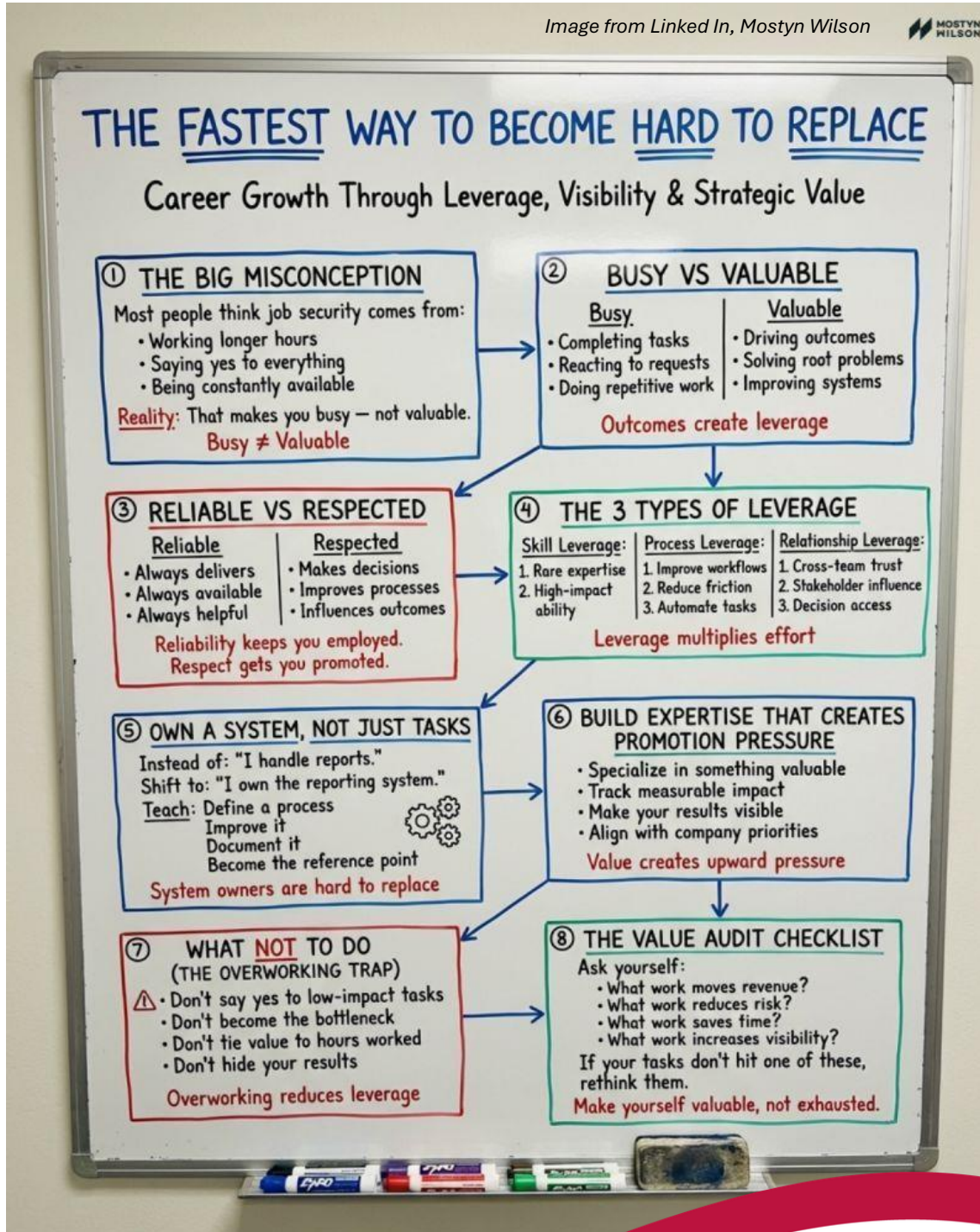
Being dependable is essential and helps ensure long-term employment. But building expertise, creating lasting improvements, and demonstrating leadership are what often open the door to the next opportunity. The goal is not just to be needed for today's tasks, but to become someone who helps shape tomorrow's success.

Please see the flowchart on the following page.

# SHOWING YOUR VALUE IN THE WORKPLACE: BEYOND BEING RELIABLE (FLOWCHART)

By Tami Ursebach

Image from Linked In, Mostyn Wilson





## ONLINE SEMINAR SCHEDULE



# SBDC/SBA BUSINESS SEMINARS

Find assistance and counseling in your area to start, run, or grow your business.



**MOHAVE COUNTY**  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Online SBDC Business Events, Click The Links Above to Find More Information & Register

July 9  
12PM-1PM  
EDT

### TRADEMARK 101: BASICS FOR ENTREPRENEURS & SMALL BUSINESSES

Join this session to gain insight into the concept of trademark protection, the process involved, and what aspects are trademarkable.

July 9  
5:30PM-7PM  
EDT

### GRANTS AND LOANS: FUNDING YOUR BUSINESS

Learn about available grants, traditional loans, and micro-loans to help small businesses thrive.

July 14  
11AM-12PM  
CDT

### BUSINESS PLAN BASICS

Receive quick and easy tips for writing your business plan and recommendations from an expert on how to use your plan to obtain financing, focus ideas, identify specific business objectives, and chart and manage growth.

July 15  
10:00-11:15AM  
EDT

### BUSINESS INSURANCE SHIELD YOUR SUCCESS: SMALL BUSINESS INSURANCE ESSENTIALS

Learn how to protect your business and reduce financial risk through the right insurance strategies

July 23  
9AM-12PM  
EDT

### FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS

This workshop covers the benefits of participating in these programs: Woman-Owned Small Business Set-Aside Program, SBA HUBZone Program, SBA's 8(a) Business Development Program

July 28  
3PM-6PM  
CDT

### SOCIAL MEDIA STRATEGIES

Led by award-winning content marketer Maggie Glenski, this session gives you clear direction, practical tools, and confidence to build a social media presence that supports your business goals.

Contact Us  
Mohave College  
Small Business Development Center



**Kathleen Byrne**  
SBDC Program Facilitator  
Office: Mohave College  
309 E. Beale St.  
Kingman, AZ 86401  
Phone: (928) 757-0858  
kbyrne@mohave.edu



# HOW INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS ARE SUPPORTING FUTURE GROWTH

*By Tami Ursenbach*

Communities that invest in infrastructure today are positioning themselves for stronger economic growth, increased business attraction, and improved quality of life in the decades ahead. Roads, utilities, broadband, water systems, industrial parks, and transportation networks provide the foundation that enables companies to expand, entrepreneurs to innovate, and residents to thrive.

Across Arizona, infrastructure has become a key factor in economic development strategies as communities compete for new industries and workforce opportunities. Reliable transportation corridors reduce shipping costs, expanded utility capacity supports manufacturing and data centers, and investments in broadband create opportunities for remote work and technology-driven businesses. At the same time, modern infrastructure enhances resilience and ensures communities can accommodate future population and business growth.

## **Opportunity Zones and Infrastructure**

One of the most significant tools for encouraging private investment has been the federal Opportunity Zone program. By pairing tax incentives with strategic local planning, communities can attract capital to areas with redevelopment potential while supporting long-term economic vitality.

Recognizing the importance of this approach, Mohave County has submitted five census tracts to the Arizona Commerce Authority for consideration under Opportunity Zone 2.0. Each proposed area includes existing infrastructure assets or planned infrastructure investments designed to make the locations more attractive for commercial, industrial, residential, and mixed-use development.

Infrastructure readiness is a critical competitive advantage. Sites that already have access to transportation networks, water and wastewater systems, electric service, broadband connectivity, or shovel-ready industrial facilities can significantly reduce project timelines and development costs for investors.

A special thanks to the Board of Supervisors for approving the five census tracks and to Chairman Lingenfelter for helping the Colorado City census track to be prepared and submitted.

*(Continued on Next Page)*



**MOHAVE COUNTY**  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT





# HOW INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS ARE SUPPORTING FUTURE GROWTH (CONTINUED)

*By Tami Ursebach*

## **Building the Foundation for Economic Success**

Infrastructure investments do more than improve physical assets—they create confidence among businesses considering expansion or relocation. Companies often evaluate factors such as:

- Access to highways and freight corridors.
- Availability of reliable water, sewer, and power infrastructure.
- Broadband and telecommunications capacity.
- Workforce accessibility and transportation options.
- Proximity to industrial parks and commercial centers.

When these elements are in place, communities become more competitive and better positioned to attract private-sector investment.

## **Mohave County's Strategic Position**

Mohave County's location along major transportation corridors, combined with ongoing infrastructure improvements, provides significant opportunities for future growth. The county's efforts to identify five census tracts for Opportunity Zone 2.0 reflect a proactive strategy to align infrastructure investments with economic development goals.

These designated areas have the potential to support new manufacturing operations, logistics facilities, housing developments, small businesses, and technology-related industries while encouraging reinvestment in existing communities. Public infrastructure serves as the catalyst that allows private capital to flow into projects that create jobs and expand the local tax base.

## **Looking Ahead**

As Arizona continues to experience population and business growth, infrastructure will remain one of the most important drivers of long-term prosperity. Investments made today help ensure communities are prepared for tomorrow's opportunities, creating environments where businesses can succeed and residents can enjoy improved services and economic stability.

By combining strategic infrastructure planning with initiatives such as Opportunity Zone 2.0, Mohave County is working to position itself for sustained investment and future growth. The submission of five census tracts to the Arizona Commerce Authority demonstrates a commitment to leveraging public assets to encourage private development, strengthen local economies, and build a resilient foundation for generations to come.



**MOHAVE COUNTY**  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT






# REGISTER NOW

## 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Rural Policy Forum

### Who's Invited?

Business Owners, Entrepreneurs, Individuals Looking To Make Connections

 **Location:** Lee Williams High School **August 5-7**  
400 Grandview Ave, Kingman, AZ 86401, USA

### Rural Policy Forum — Local First Arizona

In 2026, the Rural Policy Forum will celebrate the Route 66 Centennial by convening along the Mother Road in Kingman! Join rural and tribal economic development professionals, community leaders, business owners, nonprofits and other advocates there for this one-of-a-kind annual gathering.

At the forum, participants will explore strategies from experienced practitioners, hear success stories from across the state, strengthen professional skill sets and build relationships to expand opportunities in rural and tribal communities.

The forum includes capacity-building sessions, networking receptions and focused breakout discussions — including the Funders' Roundtable, where communities and nonprofits can connect visionary projects and local needs with grant providers who may become future partners.

### Additional Events with Rural Policy Forum Aug. 5-6

#### **Wednesday Night Launch Party**

##### Details:

Recognized as one of the best Visitor Centers in the state, Kingman's "Powerhouse" offers the perfect setting to get your bearings on the Mother Road. Catch up with and expand your network at the lively launch party in an interactive, historic space graced by all that makes Route 66 the living legend it is, including classic cars and neon signs galore.

#### **Thursday Night Celebration Dinner**

##### Details:

The celebration continues after Day 1 of the forum at **Rickety Cricket**—a popular local brewery and pizzeria in the heart of Kingman. Gather for the feast and fun, then spill into downtown for the after-dinner explorations of more local hot spots now part of Route 66's present and unfolding future.





# SPARKS IN THE SKY AND SAFETY ON THE GROUND

*By Brooke Barks*

Mohave County has entered a period of elevated wildfire danger, prompting officials to implement county wide fire restrictions to protect residents, property, and the surrounding desert landscape. These restrictions were enacted due to increased temperatures, dry vegetation, and a higher likelihood of human caused fires. Local officials emphasize that even small outdoor activities that once seemed routine can now pose an increased threat under the dry and windy conditions common throughout the county.

Under the current order, open fires are prohibited outside of designated and approved areas. This includes campfires, debris burning, and any outdoor flame that is not properly controlled. Residents and visitors are encouraged to use propane or gas-powered stoves instead of charcoal or wood. Fireworks and spark generating tools may also be restricted depending on local conditions, and officials urge the public to carefully consider each action that could introduce heat or sparks into the environment even if the action seems minor.

Fireworks are a favorite part of Fourth of July celebrations, but they can ignite dry brush and create serious fire hazards if they are not used responsibly. Even small fireworks that appear harmless can send out sparks that travel farther than expected, especially in areas with dry grass or strong winds. Residents should check local rules before using any fireworks because some forms may be restricted during periods of elevated fire risk. If fireworks are permitted in your area, they should only be used in open spaces that are clear of dry brush, trees, or anything that could burn. A bucket of water or a hose should be kept nearby so that any smoldering materials can be fully soaked before disposal. Children should not handle fireworks, and adults should remain alert throughout any celebration where fireworks are present. Public displays are the safest choice because they are conducted by trained professionals who follow strict safety standards. Attending a community show allows families to enjoy all the color and excitement of the holiday without increasing wildfire risk. One moment of distraction is enough for a spark to drift into dry fuel, so taking simple precautions helps everyone enjoy a fun and safe holiday.

Mohave County experiences long periods of dryness and strong winds, conditions where even a small spark can lead to a fast-moving wildfire. Dry brush builds up quickly during the warmer months, and gusty winds can spread embers over long distances. These fires threaten homes, public lands, and first responders, especially in rural and mountainous areas where access is limited. Many of the areas most at risk are used heavily for recreation, which increases the importance of public awareness and responsibility.

*(Continued on Next Page)*



## SPARKS IN THE SKY AND SAFETY ON THE GROUND

By Brooke Barks

*(CONTINUED)*

Residents can help reduce wildfire risk by avoiding outdoor activities that may produce sparks, following equipment safety guidelines, disposing of cigarettes responsibly, reporting smoke or fire immediately, and checking official updates before traveling or recreating. Simple actions such as keeping a water source or fire extinguisher nearby, clearing dry vegetation around the home, and ensuring that vehicle equipment is in good working condition can make a meaningful difference. Even dragging metal parts from a trailer or allowing a vehicle to overheat on dry grass can unintentionally start a fire.

Fire prevention is a community effort. By following restrictions and being mindful during outdoor activities and holiday celebrations, residents can significantly reduce the chance of accidental wildfires. County officials will continue monitoring conditions and adjusting restrictions as needed. They encourage residents to stay informed through local alerts and to share information with friends, family, and neighbors. A well-informed community is one of the strongest defenses against preventable emergencies.

For the latest updates on fire restrictions, emergency alerts, and safety information, residents are encouraged to follow Mohave County emergency services and local fire districts. Staying connected helps the public know when restrictions are lifted, when conditions worsen, and when new safety measures are introduced. This ongoing awareness helps everyone prepare for changing weather conditions and supports a safer wildfire season for the entire county.

**“AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION IS  
WORTH A POUND OF CURE.”**

*BENJAMIN FRANKLIN*

# FUN JULY HOLIDAYS

## **July 2 – World UFO Day**

A perfect excuse to look up at the sky and pretend you might spot something out of this world.

## **July 6 – International Kissing Day**

A sweet reminder to spread kindness with simple, friendly affection.

## **July 7 – World Chocolate Day**

The one day a year when having chocolate for breakfast feels completely justified.

## **July 10 – Teddy Bear Picnic Day**

Bring your fluffiest friend and enjoy a little whimsical outdoor fun.

## **July 11 – Cheer Up the Lonely Day**

A gentle nudge to reach out and brighten someone's day.

## **July 13 – Barbershop Music Appreciation Day**

Celebrate harmonies so smooth they feel like a warm musical hug.

## **July 17 – World Emoji Day**

The best day to communicate entirely through tiny smiling icons.

## **July 19 – National Ice Cream Day**

An excellent reason to try a new flavor (or three... no judgment).

## **July 20 – Moon Landing Day**

A celebration of that "giant leap" that still gives us all goosebumps.

## **July 24 – International Self-Care Day**

Take time to breathe, unwind, and treat yourself with extra gentleness.

## **July 30 – International Day of Friendship**

A lovely moment to celebrate the people who make life sweeter.

## **July 31 – Uncommon Instruments Awareness Day**

Break out the kazoo, washboard, or didgeridoo and make some joyful noise.



**MOHAVE COUNTY**  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



## Freedom Includes Well-Being: How Human Resources Can Support Employees During the Fourth of July

By Tami Ursebach

The Fourth of July is often associated with celebrations, fireworks, family gatherings, and expressions of patriotism. For many employees, it is a welcome opportunity to relax and reconnect with loved ones. For others, however, the holiday can present unique emotional or mental health challenges.

Human Resources can play an important role in ensuring that Independence Day is not only a celebration of freedom but also a reminder that every employee deserves a supportive, respectful, and inclusive workplace.

### Recognizing Mental Health Challenges

While fireworks are festive for many, they can be distressing for individuals living with anxiety, sensory sensitivities, or trauma-related conditions. Some veterans and others who have experienced traumatic events may find loud noises and unexpected explosions unsettling. In addition, holidays can intensify feelings of loneliness, grief, or depression for employees who are separated from family or facing personal hardships.

HR can support employees by:

- Reminding staff about Employee Assistance Programs (EAPs) or other mental health resources available through the organization.
- Encouraging managers to lead with empathy and check in with team members before and after holiday breaks.
- Promoting flexible scheduling when operationally feasible for employees who may benefit from adjusting their plans.
- Fostering a workplace culture where seeking help is viewed as a sign of strength rather than stigma.

### Encouraging Work-Life Balance

A long weekend offers an opportunity to rest and recharge. HR can encourage employees to use earned time off, unplug from work communications when possible, and return refreshed. Supporting healthy boundaries helps reduce burnout and reinforces the organization's commitment to employee well-being.

### Building an Inclusive Celebration

Not every employee celebrates Independence Day in the same way, and that's okay. HR can encourage inclusive events that focus on community, gratitude, and shared values while respecting diverse backgrounds and perspectives. Optional team lunches, family-friendly activities, or community service projects can help foster connection without requiring participation.

*(Continued on Next Page)*



## Freedom Includes Well-Being: How Human Resources Can Support Employees During the Fourth of July (Continued)

By Tami Ursebach

### Honoring Veterans with Respect and Appreciation

The Fourth of July can hold special meaning for employees who have served in the military or whose family members have served. HR can honor veterans in thoughtful and voluntary ways without placing individuals in the spotlight if they prefer privacy.

Meaningful ideas include:

- Sharing a message of gratitude recognizing the service and sacrifices of veterans and military families.
- Inviting veteran employees to participate in storytelling or recognition activities only if they choose to do so.
- Highlighting veteran support resources and employee resource groups, if available.
- Organizing a volunteer event or donation drive benefiting local veteran organizations.
- Reviewing workplace policies to ensure veterans are aware of available leave, benefits, and accommodations.
- Offer specific resources in the community for veterans.

The most meaningful recognition often comes from creating a workplace where veterans feel respected, supported, and empowered to succeed throughout the year—not just on a single holiday.

### Celebrating Freedom by Supporting One Another

Freedom is more than a historical concept—it also means creating workplaces where people have the opportunity to thrive, contribute, and seek support when needed. By promoting mental wellness, recognizing the experiences of veterans, and encouraging empathy and inclusion, Human Resources can help ensure that the spirit of Independence Day extends beyond the holiday itself.

This Fourth of July, let's celebrate not only our nation's history but also our commitment to caring for one another and building a workplace where every employee feels valued, respected, and supported.

In addition to the ideas in the article, HR departments can honor veterans year-round by recruiting through veteran hiring initiatives, offering mentorship or transition support for former service members, recognizing military service anniversaries (with the employee's consent), and training managers on the unique strengths and potential challenges veterans may bring to the workplace. These ongoing efforts often have a more lasting impact than a single-day recognition event.



# ARIZONA MEP WORKSHOPS

## AZ MEP MANUFACTURING EXCELLENCE: LEADERSHIP, PRODUCTIVITY, AND RESULTS

**July 7th, 2026**

**Location:** Arizona Commerce Authority, 100 North 7th Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85007  
(First Floor Conference Center)

**Time:** 8:00 am - 12:00 pm  
(all 6 sessions)

**Cost:** \$1,500.00 per person  
(for ALL 6 sessions)

**Description:**

This program will consist of 6 essential classes and will be delivered in 4-hour increments, every Tuesday, July 7 to August 11, 2026. The first sessions' key topics are listed below. Click the flyer [here](#) for complete course descriptions.

**Sessions:**

- Session 1 – Leadership in a Production Environment (July 7<sup>th</sup>)
- Session 2 – Managing for Daily Improvement (July 14<sup>th</sup>)
- Session 3 – Turning Problems into Solutions (July 21<sup>st</sup>)
- Session 4 – Continuous Improvement Tools and Techniques (July 28<sup>th</sup>)
- Session 5 – Management's Role in Production Planning (August 4<sup>th</sup>)
- Session 6 – Coaching for Performance (August 11<sup>th</sup>)

**Key Topics:**

**Session 1:** Leadership in a Production Environment (July 7th)

- Course Introduction
- Leadership vs Manager
- Effective Leadership Styles
- Factory of the Future
- Team Building

## AZ MEP LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

**July 8th, 2026**

**Location:** Arizona Commerce Authority, 100 North 7th Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85007  
(First Floor Conference Center)

**Time:** 8:00 am - 12:00 pm  
(all 6 sessions)

**Cost:** \$1,500.00 per person  
(for ALL 6 sessions)

**Description:**

This program will consist of 6 essential classes for new leaders and will be delivered in 4-hour increments, every Wednesday, July 8 to August 12, 2026. The first sessions' key topics are listed below. Click the flyer [here](#) for complete course descriptions.

**Sessions:**

- Session 1 – New Leader Essentials (July 8<sup>th</sup>)
- Session 2 – Effective Communication (July 15<sup>th</sup>)
- Session 3 – Conflict Resolution (July 22<sup>st</sup>)
- Session 4 – Employee Development (July 29<sup>th</sup>)
- Session 5 – Time Management (August 5<sup>th</sup>)
- Session 6 – Change Management (August 12<sup>th</sup>)

**Key Topics:**

**Session 1:** New Leader Essentials (July 8th)

- Leadership Challenges
- Leadership Styles
- Supervising Employees
- 21st Century Leadership



## 250 YEARS OF AMERICAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP & THE FREEDOM TO INNOVATE

*By Brooke Barks*

Innovation and entrepreneurship have shaped America since its earliest days, becoming part of the nation's identity and an essential driver of progress. As July celebrations highlight themes of independence and possibility, it's meaningful to reflect on how the freedom to innovate has influenced the country for 250 years, and how that same spirit continues to guide the business landscape here in Mohave County.

From the start, American growth has been powered by individuals who dared to think differently, build new ideas, and take chances. Early craftsmen, shopkeepers, farmers, and traders laid the groundwork for a culture that values imaginative solutions and practical problem-solving. Over generations, this mindset evolved into a broad belief that anyone with determination and creativity could shape their own future. That belief remains a key part of American entrepreneurship today.

Mohave County has long been a testament to this spirit. Its earliest development was driven by miners, ranchers, and explorers who built opportunity out of rugged landscapes. Mining towns like Oatman and Chloride emerged from bold ventures in gold and silver, attracting entrepreneurs who opened hotels, general stores, and small services to support growing communities. The arrival of the railroad transformed Kingman into a crucial transportation and supply point, while the creation of Route 66 brought a new wave of economic activity. Motels, diners, trading posts, and automotive services sprang up along the highway, turning Mohave County into an iconic stop for travelers experiencing America's open-road culture.

The construction of Hoover Dam and Davis Dam brought another surge of growth as workers and families moved into the area, encouraging the development of retail shops, construction companies, service businesses, and long-term industries. Later, Lake Havasu City became one of the region's best examples of visionary entrepreneurship, an entire community built from the desert. Even gaining international attention when the London Bridge was brought to its shores and turned into a thriving tourism centerpiece.

*(Continued on Next Page)*



**MOHAVE COUNTY**  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## 250 YEARS OF AMERICAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP & THE FREEDOM TO INNOVATE (CONTINUED)

*By Brooke Barks*

Today, the tradition of innovation and enterprise continues strongly throughout the county. In Kingman, expanding industrial corridors attract manufacturers, logistics companies, and other modern operations that bring new technologies and skilled jobs. Bullhead City thrives on river-based tourism, supporting restaurants, recreational businesses, hospitality services, and creative retail shops that adapt to changing visitor trends. Lake Havasu City maintains a reputation for fresh ideas, with entrepreneurs launching event-focused ventures, innovative service companies, and recreation-oriented businesses that draw visitors from across the world. And in smaller communities such as Colorado City, Dolan Springs, Golden Valley, Mohave Valley, and Meadview, locally rooted businesses contribute to the economy through resilience, resourcefulness, and strong community ties.

Innovation in Mohave County isn't limited to new inventions or large-scale projects. Much of it happens quietly within local workplaces: upgrading equipment, improving communication, adopting digital tools, or encouraging employees to share ideas for better workflow and customer service. These small changes strengthen operations, support employees, and help businesses stay competitive in a rapidly changing world.

As America marks its 250th year, the link between freedom and innovation remains clear. The ability to imagine new ideas, improve existing processes, and pursue entrepreneurial goals has always been a foundation of the nation's growth. Mohave County's history reflects this spirit at every stage, from early settlement to modern industries. Every local business, whether a small storefront or a large employer, is part of this long tradition of creativity and determination.

This July, as communities celebrate independence, it's a fitting time to recognize the individuals and businesses who keep that spirit alive. Their drive to innovate, adapt, and build new opportunities ensures that Mohave County continues to grow, thrive, and contribute meaningfully to America's ongoing story.

July 1, 2026

**10 Free Marketing Tools Every Small Business Should Be Using**

10 Free Marketing Tools Every Small Business Should Be Using: You don't need a big budget to market like a pro. (Duration 1.5 hours)

[Register Now](#)

July 8, 2026

**Instagram for Business: Setup & Strategy**

Learn how to set up and optimize an Instagram Business Account and use the platform to promote your business, connect with customers, and build your brand.

[Register Now](#)

July 8, 2026

**Polishing Your Business Idea**

**\*\*FREE Webinar\*\*** An idea is not a business concept. This webinar provides step-by-step guidance in researching your idea, your market, and your competition.

[Register Now](#)

July 9, 2026

**Marketing Strategy**

**\*\*FREE Webinar\*\*** Marketing is more than advertising. Marketing Strategy provides you with an introduction to marketing methods & tools to maximize your customer reach.

[Register Now](#)

July 15, 2026

**Credit Basics**

This presentation will cover the fundamental principles of credit, including how credit scores work, the factors that impact them, and strategies for building and maintaining good credit.

[Register Now](#)

July 16, 2026

**Accessing Capital for Small Business**

How Entrepreneurs get Money – do you really need an investor? Join Brande Stitt, Program Director for the Women's Business Center, as she walks us...

[Register Now](#)

July 16, 2026

**How Much Should I Charge? Setting Pricing When You Are Starting**

One of the most difficult questions is what to charge? How do you maximize income without jeopardizing the future of your business? We will cover...

[Register Now](#)

July 16, 2026

**How To Negotiate and Prepare Contracts**

Protect your business by learning the essentials of contract preparation, negotiation, and avoiding costly handshake deals.

[Register Now](#)

July 20, 2026

**Social Media 101**

Discover the power of social media to unlock new customer bases, expand your online presence, and drive unprecedented growth. Learn how to boost your follower count and enhance engagement with posts.

[Register Now](#)

July 21, 2026

**Demystifying Financial Foundations: Income, Assets & Cash Flow**

**\*\*FREE Webinar\*\*** Demonstrates the role of financial statements in running a business.

[Register Now](#)

July 21, 2026

**How to Navigate the New QuickBooks Online Layout**

This workshop will walk through the key areas of the redesigned QuickBooks Online experience, including company settings, lists, reports, search tools, bookmarks, apps, customization options, and more.

[Register Now](#)

July 22, 2026

**Revenue, Creativity, and Fun: Building a Business That Delivers All Three**

You'll discover how to: audit your current offerings through the lens of fulfillment, identify which money-making activities energize you and how to redesign your service delivery to incorporate elements of play and creative expression.

[Register Now](#)

July 27, 2026

**LinkedIn Content Made Simple: What to Post and Why**

In this webinar, you will get you a guided overview of LinkedIn's main content formats and how business owners typically use them. You'll learn what works well and what to be cautious of.

[Register Now](#)

July 27, 2026

**AI Marketing Techniques Using ChatGPT**

Immerse yourself in the latest advancements where AI becomes a powerful ally in amplifying your marketing strategies. Join us for an engaging introduction to harnessing the potential of ChatGPT to propel your business forward.

[Register Now](#)

July 29, 2026

**Social Media Rescue Clinic**

Join Kathleen Celmins, founder of Glow Social, for a practical, hands-on workshop designed for local business owners who want their online presence to look more active, current, and trustworthy.

[Register Now](#)

July 30, 2026

**Lunch and Learn: 5 Ways to Use ChatGPT (AI) for small business**

Comprehensive Webinar: AI (Artificial Intelligence) can make you a more efficient marketer. Learn to use ChatGPT (AI) for marketing your small business, starting with your own information.

[Register Now](#)



# Workplace Freedom: Creating Environments Where People Thrive

By Brooke Barke

Workplace freedom may not be as visible as fireworks or parades, but it's one of the most meaningful ways businesses can strengthen teams and support long-term success. As we celebrate July and the season of independence, this is a perfect time to highlight how workplace freedom positively shapes organizations across Mohave County.

Many local employers are embracing this idea in practical and impactful ways. Healthcare facilities in the county encourage cross-training and professional growth, allowing team members to build new skills and contribute to multiple areas. Schools, nonprofits, and service organizations promote collaborative problem-solving and empower staff to bring forward ideas that improve daily operations. Hospitality and tourism businesses, especially along the Colorado River and in Lake Havasu, often give employees the flexibility to adjust schedules during peak visitor seasons, helping balance work and personal responsibilities.

Manufacturing companies in Kingman's industrial corridors are implementing workflow improvements based on employee suggestions, giving team members a real voice in shaping safer and more efficient workplaces. And throughout the county, from small shops to large employers, managers are focusing on professional development, employee recognition programs, and open communication.

Workplace freedom in Mohave County isn't just philosophical, it's practical and measurable. It creates environments where people feel valued, trusted, and motivated. When employees have the freedom to contribute ideas, learn new skills, and manage their responsibilities, businesses benefit from stronger teamwork, increased retention, and better customer service.

As we celebrate the season of independence, it's a good moment for organizations to reflect on the freedoms they provide within their walls. Are staff encouraged to innovate? Are training opportunities accessible? Are ideas welcomed and heard? Are teams given room to grow?

By continuing to cultivate workplace freedom, Mohave County businesses help create environments where employees thrive and where our regional economy grows stronger, more resilient, and more connected.



**MOHAVE COUNTY**  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

# BUILDING MORE THAN HOUSES: SUPPORTING WORKFORCE, FAMILIES, AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

*By Tami Ursebach*

Workforce housing is about more than economic; it is about quality of life. When families can afford to live in the communities they serve, children can stay in the same schools, residents can participate in local organizations, and neighborhoods become more connected and resilient.

Shorter commutes also mean more time spent with family, volunteering, shopping locally, and supporting community events, all of which contribute to a stronger local economy.

## **Encouraging Business Investment**

Companies evaluating potential locations often consider housing availability alongside transportation, utilities, and workforce skills. A community with a balanced housing market signals long-term stability and a commitment to supporting growth.

By planning for a range of housing options, Mohave County can position itself to attract new employers while helping existing businesses expand with confidence.

## **Creating Opportunities Across the Region**

The need for workforce housing varies across Mohave County's diverse communities, but the underlying goal remains the same: providing housing choices that meet the needs of residents at different stages of life and income levels.

Solutions may include new residential developments, redevelopment of underutilized properties, partnerships between public and private sectors, and policies that encourage a mix of housing types. These efforts can help ensure that workers, young professionals, and families have opportunities to build their futures within the county.

## **Investing in Long-Term Prosperity**

Economic development is not just about creating jobs, it is about creating communities where people want to live, work, and invest. Workforce housing plays a vital role in that equation by helping employers attract talent, supporting local families, and fostering sustainable growth.

As Mohave County continues to evolve, thoughtful planning and collaboration around housing will help ensure that economic opportunity remains accessible and that the region continues to be an attractive place for businesses and residents alike.

*(Continued on Next Page)*



**MOHAVE COUNTY**  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



# BUILDING MORE THAN HOUSES: SUPPORTING WORKFORCE, FAMILIES, AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

*By Tami Ursebach*

## Solution to Housing Challenge

There isn't a single solution to the workforce housing challenge, it's usually addressed through a combination of strategies that reflect local market conditions, land availability, infrastructure, and community priorities. For a county as geographically diverse as Mohave County, different communities may benefit from different approaches.

Some practical solutions include:

- **Increasing the supply of housing:** Encouraging the construction of single-family homes, townhomes, duplexes, apartments, and other housing types can help meet demand across different income levels.
- **Streamlining development processes:** Reducing unnecessary delays in permitting and approvals can lower costs and make new projects more feasible.
- **Investing in infrastructure:** Roads, water, sewer, and utilities can open additional areas for residential development and reduce barriers to building.
- **Public-private partnerships:** Local governments, developers, employers, and nonprofit organizations can collaborate on projects that address workforce needs while remaining financially viable.
- **Adaptive reuse:** Converting underused commercial buildings or redeveloping vacant properties into housing can add units without expanding into undeveloped land.
- **Employer-assisted housing programs:** Some employers offer down payment assistance, rental support, or partnerships with housing providers to help attract and retain employees.
- **Regional planning:** Because workers often live in one community and work in another, coordinating housing and transportation planning across cities and towns can improve outcomes.

For Mohave County specifically, expanding housing options near employment centers in places like Kingman, Lake Havasu City, and Bullhead City could help reduce commuting burdens and support local employers. At the same time, preserving the character and needs of smaller communities remains an important consideration.

The most effective approach is typically a balanced one: increasing housing supply while ensuring infrastructure, services, and economic opportunities grow alongside it. That combination can support both residents and businesses and contribute to long-term economic resilience.



**MOHAVE COUNTY**  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT





# MANUFACTURING AND TRADES ROUNDTABLE



*JULY ROUNDTABLE  
TO BE COMBINED WITH*

## KAMMA

*Kingman and Mohave Manufacturing Association*

*More Info to  
Follow*

**TENATIVE DATE  
JULY 16TH AT 1PM**

*ADVANCED MANUFACTURING TRAINING CENTER  
(AMTC)*

4415 N. Windrose Ln.  
Kingman, AZ 86401

