



2020 CENSUS: WE ALL COUNT IN SOMERTON, AZ

by Shanen L. Aranmór, COVID-19 Historian

For the month of August, Arizona@Work-Yuma County teamed up with the City of Somerton to provide census takers to ensure everyone is counted. As of August 1, only 22% of households in Somerton responded to the national census. Ten people were hired to canvas local streets to knock on doors (safely, with masks on, of course) to count residents so they are included in the 2020 results. (The pandemic-adjusted deadline for nonresponses is September 30.)

The US Census is mailed out every 10 years between the dates of March 12-20 to collect information about the number of people who live and sleep in every American home beginning April 1st (Census Day). Per the Constitution of the United States of America, census information is required to provide an overview of our nation: who we are, where we live and what resources we require. Results of this once-a-decade data collection determine the number of seats each state has in the House of Representatives. Numbers

are also used to draw congressional and state legislative districts, ultimately determining federal funding for each state/region for 100+ programs including school lunches, education and highway construction. Obviously, an accurate count of every single person matters.

As one might expect, the global pandemic has affected census reporting rates across the country. Although the census may be completed on-line as well as on paper through the US Postal Service, many people have not yet been counted.

By March 31, 2021, the Census Bureau will send redistricting counts to the states. This information is used to redraw legislative districts based on population changes. Everything done this year affects the next decade for our county.

COMING SOON!

- **SEPTEMBER 1ST: Some administrative offices will move to the nearby Business Annex: 3850 W 16th Street**
- **MID-SEPTEMBER: Participants & vendors will gain access to Direct Deposit (details to come)**

YPIC CHARTER SCHOOL REOPENING: ON-LINE & HYBRID OPTIONS

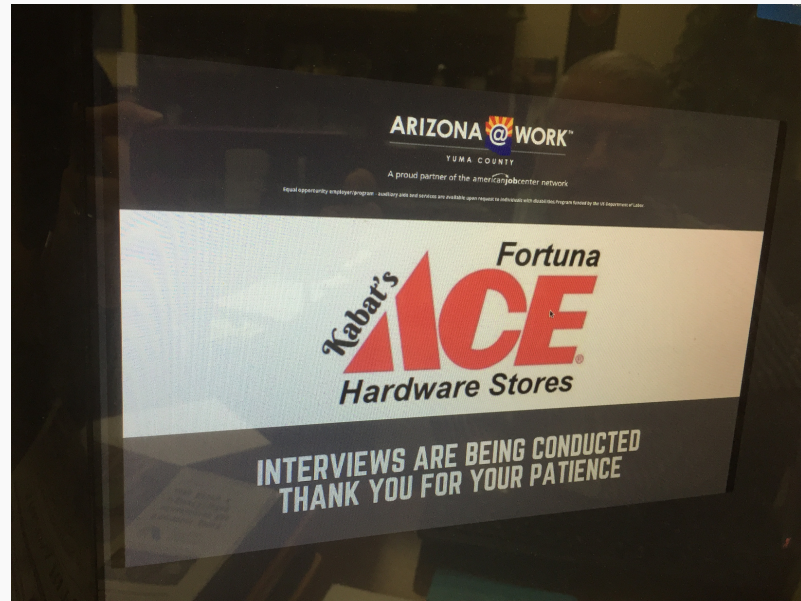
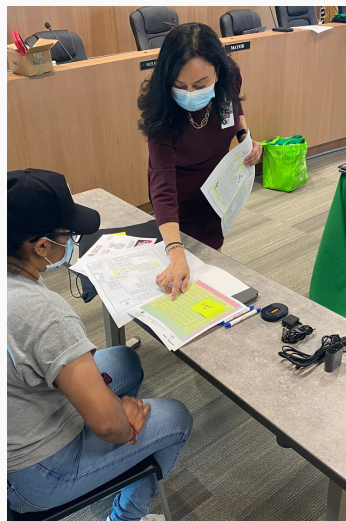
School is back in session! The YPIC Charter High School primarily serves Yuma County students that are between the ages of 16 and 21 seeking to recuperate high school credit at a quicker pace.

The Charter High School is required to provide in-person instruction at school to students that do not have access to technology, are under the age of 18 and without a place to go during the day due to lack of home guidance or who experience significant difficulties with distance learning platforms, provided everyone abides by the protocols established to re-enter into a hybrid learning setting. Depending upon the circumstances and board approval, the plan provides guidelines indicating the school could potentially open to 45 students, approximately 40% of the current student population.

Full details of the YPIC Charter High School re-entry and mitigation plan can be found at:

http://chs.ypic.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2020/08/Re-entry_Mitigation-Plan-Adopted-8-12-20.pdf

Please call (928) 329-0990 x. 4001 if you have further questions.



YOU'RE HIRED!!!

Arizona@Work-Yuma County hosted two sessions of a virtual job fair on August 19 for ACE Hardware, a national hardware chain building a new facility on Fortuna Avenue in the Yuma Foothills. This virtual event wasn't simply an infomercial about job prospects to come... both sessions were complete with interviews held in private break-out sessions. Six participants were hired directly from this live event.

Initial new-hires will help set up, organize and stock the new hardware store after building completion sometime in September. ACE hopes to open it's brand new doors in the Fall of 2020. There may be another round of virtual interviews as the Grand Opening approaches! Stay tuned to

<https://www.facebook.com/ArizonaatWorkYumaCounty> or visit <https://events.ypic.com/> for future hiring events.

FAST FACTS

- 22** percentage of Somerton population having completed 2020 Census by August 1
- 41** percentage of Somerton population having completed Census by August 31 (after neighborhood canvassing)