



PAYSONAZ.GOV



TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

APRIL 8, 2021

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MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

The Digital Payson Working Group has hit the ground running in its efforts to set the stage for the digital future in Payson. To date, the group has met three times and has already made important progress. Key stakeholders have been identified and we have started a dialogue with an Internet Service Provider (ISP). Other discussions have included building redundancy for our 911 services, fiber conduit systems, regulations, funding sources, and more. The group will continue to meet and expand its collaborative effort to incentivize private development of digital services throughout the region.

-Troy Smith, Town Manager

BRUSH COLLECTION

In January 2021 the Town of Payson experienced a snow event that resulted in more than 28 inches of snow accumulation, over a three day period. The storm brought some much needed moisture to our region and it also caused severe damage to trees, as a result of the drought conditions that have plagued our region. The Town of Payson opened a collection site at the Payson Multi-Event Center to assist the community in dealing with tree and shrub debris caused by the storm.

The brush collection site opened on February 4, 2021 and operated through February 28, 2021. During the operational period, Gibson & Son Environmental offered their services to chip and haul over 400 tons of material, in 14 truckloads, away from the site to make room for additional drop offs from residents. This initial removal was provided free of charge to the town; Thank you Gibson & Sons Environmental!

At the conclusion of the operation of the temporary brush pit, the town obtained quotes from several service providers to remove the debris from the event center. Gibson & Son Environmental was selected, as the lowest quote obtained, to return to the site a second time. On March 22, 2021 an additional 1,000 tons of material, in 33 truckloads, were removed from the event center. A total of 1,400 tons of brush, tree limbs, and landscape debris were dropped off at the temporary brush pit and ultimately removed from the community. While it is unlikely that all of the debris dropped off were storm related, the community has benefited from the removal of potentially hazardous wildfire fuels from the community.

The Town's Parks Division staffed the site 12.5 hours a day, seven days a week, operating equipment and ensuring a safe environment for all; about 370 staff hours were dedicated to this community service. Thank you to all Town Employees for your dedicated service to the community. The total cost for the operation, including staff time, equipment, fuel and contract services was about at \$19,500.

Blattner Brush Pit

The Blattner Brush Pit, located on Hwy 260 at Mile Post 259.7, will be open again for the season starting on April 10th from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays only.

Contact information if needed is Frank Aspeslagh at 928-978-8765

POLICE DEPARTMENT

March 26 & 27, 2021: Officers completed defensive tactics refresher training.

March 31, 2021: Police officers participated in a lockdown drill at Julia Randall Elementary as well as a fire drill at Rim Country Middle School.

March 31, 2021: During the early morning hours, officers responded to a commercial burglary alarm at Payson Property Management, 512 S. Beeline Highway. During the initial investigation there were signs of forced entry and the on call detective was contacted to respond to process the scene. On April 1, 2021 the suspect was located and arrested for the burglary.

March 31, 2021: Police K9 Loki was run through multiple evaluations and scenarios. He is now drug certified and will be put to work and available for calls.

Payson Police Department employees attended NARCAN training on April 2, 2021 and April 3, 2021. NARCAN is a medication to counteract Fentanyl overdose.

We are having a hiring process for Police Officer Recruit on April 2nd and 3rd, 2021.

Senior Dispatcher Alison Murphy retired on April 2nd, 2021 after 32 years of service with the Payson Police Department.

Staff continue to work on the record retention project; another 1000 police reports were reviewed and logged for destruction.

PARKS, RECREATION & TOURISM

Featured Story

Parks, Recreation, & Tourism will be highlighted as the showcase story in the April Community Health & Wellness section in the Payson Roundup. This article highlights the importance of Parks & Recreation in communities and the direct correlation this service has on the physical and mental health within our community.

Diamondback Fields

Early this year, the two Diamondback fields at Rumsey Park received an overlay replacement of artificial turf on the outfields. The new overlay extends the turf along the outfield foul territory to include permanent foul lines. With the new turf installed, the infield and warning track required new material to match the elevation of the new turf and provided the opportunity to make repairs to the playing surface on the infield. Grading of both infields were completed with the blending of the additional material. Bases were also adjusted and aligned. The fields officially re-opened for play on March 22.



Upcoming Race: Cinco de Mayo Fun Run/Walk Registration

The first annual Cinco de Mayo Fun Run/Walk will take place May 1, 2021 at Rumsey Park. Registration is open now through April 25. 5K run is \$35 and includes a finishers medal and signature race bib, 1 mile walk is \$15 which includes party beads and race bib. For more information and to register, go to paysonrimcountry.com/fiesta.

PARKS, RECREATION & TOURISM

Mustang Park

In Fall 2020, damage to one of the slides at Mustang Park was reported. Due to the damage to the slide, and the age of playground elements resulting in the slide model being obsolete for replacement sections, the slide was removed. As of March 25, 2021, another slide was removed due to unrepairable damage and safety concerns.



PARKS, RECREATION & TOURISM

Easter Egg Hunt Recap

The Town of Payson Easter Egg Hunt was held at Rumsey Park on Saturday, April 3. Ages divisions from 0-12 years old, plus a special needs division, gathered 6,000 eggs and were able to meet and take pictures with the Easter Bunny. A big thank you to the contributing sponsor Zane Grey Kiwanis, who contributed the eggs and allowed the Town of Payson to host the event this year. Photos credit to Keith Morris/ Payson Roundup.



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Roundup



PARKS, RECREATION & TOURISM

National Intercollegiate Rodeo Event Recap

The National Intercollegiate Rodeo took place at the Payson Multi-Event Center March 27-28, 2021. This was the first time the event was hosted in Payson, and the first time Payson has hosted a collegiate level rodeo. The event hosted 150 cowgirls and cowboys representing nine schools from across the state of Arizona and New Mexico. Saturday and Sunday night performance showcased over 700+ spectators. Events included barrel racing, goat tying, steer wrestling, breakaway, bull riding, team roping, tie down, bareback riding, and saddle broncs.



Hashknife Pony Express

The 63rd Hashknife Pony Express ride will arrive in Payson on April 14, 2021 at 4:45pm at the Payson Post Office, where the public is invited to attend and welcome the riders. The riders and mail will depart from the Payson Post Office at 9:00am on April 15, 2021, and will also be open for public attendance. Yellow Hashknife barrels are at the inside lobby of the Payson Post Office where the public can submit their letters to be delivered via the Pony Express. Merchandise for this year's ride is available at Bob Western's Wear at 605 S Beeline Hwy.



PARKS, RECREATION & TOURISM



Upcoming Event: Paintball at the Payson Multi-Event Center

The American Paintball Coliseum (APC) will be at the Payson Multi-Event Center this Saturday, April 10 from 8am-1pm for ages 10+. APC will have over 10 obstacles set up for 10v10 paintball games, to be assigned onsite for the public to participate. Registration is \$35 per player to that includes an all-day field pass and equipment rental; purchase options for paintballs will be an additional cost and must be purchased onsite. For more information and to register, go to paysonrimcountry.com/paintball.

Upcoming Event: Pop-up Food Truck Food Court at Rumsey Park

New this year, the Town of Payson will host a Pop-Up Food Truck Food Court at Rumsey Park, Friday, April 16 from 4:00pm-8:00pm and Saturday, April 17 from 11:00am-7:00pm. This pop-up food court will feature a variety of eight food trucks. Go to paysonrimcountry.com/food-court for more details.



Participating Food Trucks:

- Philly Up - Cheesesteaks & Gyros
- Super Farm Super Truck - various burgers and more from fresh, local ingredients
- Udder Delights - Ice Cream & Desserts
- Red Ginger - Flavors of the Pacific
- Patty Wagon - hand-made smashed burgers
- Soda Rush - fancy fountain drinks
- Ni De Aqui, Ni De Alla - Mexican cuisine
- King Pin BBQ - BBQ and soul food

STREETS DIVISION

In March, the Town of Payson received ADOT Bridge Inspection Reports for two structures that were inspected by the Arizona Department of Transportation Bridge Inspection Section personnel. These routine inspection reports are provided to the Town of Payson in accordance with FHWA requirements for documenting repairs. The reports are recorded by the Arizona Department of Transportation and are also transmitted to the Federal Highway Administration. The National Bridge Inspection Standards require that each structure be inspected at regular intervals not to exceed two years or four years for culverts. **Both of the improvements that were inspected were found to be in proper working condition. No issues were noted and no repairs are required.**

South Vista Road, spanning the American Gulch at Payson Golf Course



STREETS DIVISION

Green Valley Park



STREETS DIVISION

The Streets Division Welcomes New Employees!

Shane Cooper - Street Maintenance Worker

Hi my name is Shane Cooper. I live in Payson with my wife and 2 daughters. I grew up on the Hayhook Ranch in Roosevelt. I have worked in several trades including fence construction and I was a wildland firefighter for the past 6 years for the Department of Forestry and Fire Management. I am happy to be home more often and look forward to spending my summers with my family instead of fighting fires. In my time off I like to hunt and fish and help my daughters with their horses and sports.



Jeff Vollbracht - Mechanic

I have been a mechanic for 20 years. I've worked on a variety of different vehicles over the years, from school busses to top fuel dragsters. I now build classic Oldsmobile muscle cars in my free time and compete in endurance street drag car events like drag week and Rocky Mountain race week with my 1970 Oldsmobile 442.

WATER DEPARTMENT

FREE ELECTRONIC & HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE RECYCLING EVENT

Event is limited to Gila County households only. No commercial hazardous waste will be accepted.

When: **Saturday, May 22, 2021**

Where: **Payson Public Library**
328 N McLane Road
Payson, AZ 85541
(In the Parking Lot)

Time: **8 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

For more information,
928-472-5103 or 928-472-5106

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED

- Biohazardous or Infectious Waste
- Compressed Gas Cylinders (Propane OK)
- CRT (box-style) Televisions/Monitors
- Explosives
- Home Appliances (Big or Small)
- Radioactive Waste
- Smoke Alarms

HAZARDOUS HOUSEHOLD ITEMS ACCEPTED:

- Acids
- Adhesives
- Aerosol Cans
- Ammunition
- Auto Batteries
- Batteries
- Fire Extinguishers
- Fluorescent Lights
- Fuel & Other Fluids
- Herbicides
- Household Cleaners
- Lawn & Garden Products
- Medical Sharps
- Medication/Pharmaceuticals
- Mercury-Containing Items
- Motor Oil
- Paints
- Passenger Tires Without Rims
- Pesticides
- Propane Tanks
- Solvents

Household Products Labeled:

- Caution
- Combustible
- Corrosive
- Danger
- Flammable
- Poison
- Toxic
- Warning

ELECTRONIC ITEMS ACCEPTED:

- Amplifiers
- Audio Equipment
- Cables & Connections
- Cameras
- Computer Equipment & Accessories
- DVD Blu-Ray Players
- DVRs - Direct TV, Tivo
- LCD Flat Screen TV's
- Monitors
- Phones
- Satellite Receivers
- Speakers & Microphones
- Tablets
- VCRs
- Video Cameras
- Video Gaming Equipment



End of Report

Next Report: April 22, 2021

