



PAYSONAZ.GOV



TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

MAY 13, 2021

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MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

Digital Payson

As the Town of Payson has grown and evolved, the need for redundant and reliable Internet service with adequate bandwidth has risen. Like the changes over time to SR-87 between Payson and Phoenix, the Internet highway needs to evolve.

Over the years many have shared this vision within the community. We are grateful for those efforts and those who have contributed reaching to where we are today.

The end of May we will reach a major milestone in our journey with the completion of the fiber run from Show Low to Payson by Sparklight Business, and we welcome them to our community.

The initial deployment will be focused on business, education, and healthcare.

Mark your calendars for Friday, June 4th starting at 11 AM for the Sparklight Business ribbon cutting event. More details to follow later in the month.

There are additional efforts the newly formed Digital Payson Working Group (DPWG) are addressing, looking for ways to meet the needs and interests in our community for technologies to help better serve and inform residents, visitors, and businesses. You will be learning more about the group and their activities in future Town Manager Reports.

A reminder from the DPWG, starting May 12th the FCC Emergency Broadband Benefit Program will open allowing consumers to begin applying for and enrolling in the program. The program provides a temporary discount on monthly broadband bills for qualifying households. Details can be found at: <https://GetEmergencyBroadband.org>.

Fee Schedule

The proposed changes to the Fee Schedule have been posted on the [Town's website](#). These will go before Council on June 24th for action and would become effective August 1, 2021. Please contact town hall with any questions.

-Troy Smith, Town Manager

POLICE DEPARTMENT

What's new

- Started outfitting the new Police Interceptor
- A new health and wellness application, Lighthouse Health & Wellness, has been pushed out to all of our staff including significant others. This allows them to seek counseling services and/or support relating to our line of work. It also gives information relating to work-life balance, work-outs and so much more.

Notable Arrests

- A 58 year old woman was arrested for sexual misconduct with minor and contributing to a minor.
- Star Valley Enforcement – Bar fight with shots fired. No injuries. Charges are pending.

Training

Payson Police Department officers attended a multi-disciplinary protocol training on April 23rd, alongside other agencies such as Gila County Sheriff's Office, Department of Child Safety, and the Office of Child Welfare Investigations, to streamline the process on how to properly investigate from start to finish crimes such as child abuse, sexual abuse and molestation.

Community

Wrapping up vehicle wrap contest – All middle school and high school submissions have been turned in.

Prom

Officers were hired by PUSD to provide safe and comfortable environment to PHS students attending prom. Students behaved incredibly well, and we had a completely incident free night!



FIRE DEPARTMENT

Effective 8 am on Friday, May 14, 2021, the Fire chief has ordered the Town to enter Stage 1 Fire Restrictions. Any open burning will not be allowed. Smoking within 5 feet of combustible material is illegal. Wood or charcoal BBQs and grills and fires in portable outdoor fireplaces that either have a chimney or a wire grate over the top to restrict the spread of embers will still be allowed.

The Fire Department began the promotional opportunity of the two open Engineer positions within the department. Testing will occur the last week of May.

The Fire Department submitted a grant application with the Fort Mc Dowell Yavapai Nation for portable radios.

Vince Palandri attended a Fire Inspector 2 class. As part of the class, he tested for AZ Certified Inspector 2.

Fuels reduction has been completed on one of the properties under the 2020 WHFH grant. We are preparing an application for the new cycle of this grant.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Planning and Zoning

- Starview Estates subdivision final plat in review
- Tuscany Estates submitted civil improvement plans for review
- Planning & Zoning meeting on May 3, 2021 had items for discussion (no action) on Poultry, Temporary Signs, and Mobile Storage Units
- Working with Legal Counsel on a proposed amendment, for Council's consideration, to the Marijuana Ordinance to remove the stipulation on "dual license holder only" requirement.

Code Enforcement

We are working to improve the process for compliance and clean up of properties that are not in compliance with Town Code. We are hoping the new process will allow staff a streamlined method to actively cleaning up properties and improve the community image. Staff will be presenting a recommended process to Council in the near future.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Website

The www.paysonbusiness.com Economic Development website has been growing and we are seeing increased returning visitors to the Business Resources page.



ACA Working Meeting

Economic Development has been working with the Arizona Commerce Authority to grow their Small Business Digital Academy in Payson. This six-week program is designed to help Arizona small businesses scale their online presence and understand how to leverage digital efforts to grow their company. Each week's curriculum will feature live virtual learning sessions on Monday, self-paced content and assignments to work through Tuesday-Thursday, and open office hours with mentors on Friday.

T-Mobile Grant

We have also been working with Axis Culture Group to submit a video for the T-Mobile Hometown Techover grant opportunity: a \$3 Million grant that would improve wireless technology in Payson.

Aviation Program

Economic Development has teamed up with the Experimental Aircraft Association to organize an aviation day for students. Additional details are forthcoming.

Business Licenses

The new online business license applications are nearing completion and will go live within the next few weeks.

ZoomProspector

We're collaborating with local realtors to enhance the [ZoomProspector](#) tool, which helps businesses find suitable sites.

PARKS, RECREATION & TOURISM

Arbor Day

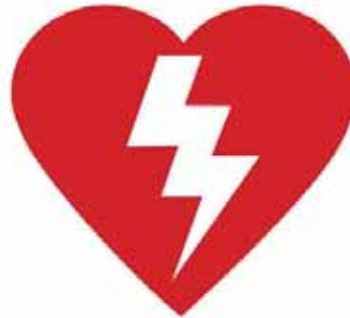
The Payson Lions Club donation to the Friends of Parks & Recreation allowed for the Town to plant two trees, one Red Oak and one Red Maple, in Rumsey Park by the Diamondback fields this past April 30th on Arbor Day. The Parks, Recreation, & Tourism Department, with assistance from the Lions Club & Friends of Parks & Recreation, hope to make this an annual tradition. The Town would like to thank the Lions Club for their generous, along with Town Council Members, Parks & Recreation Commission Members, and members of the Friends of Parks & Recreation who came out for the ceremonial tree planting.



PARKS, RECREATION & TOURISM

CPR/AED Training

Parks, Recreation, & Tourism received a donation of three AEDs earlier in the year, and as a result, on April 21, the team at Parks, Recreation, & Tourism became certified in CPR & AED through a class conducted by Jarrett Cline, member of the Payson Fire Department. This class provided training in the areas of first aid, CPR, and use of an AED for safe, effective, and timely use. The Parks, Recreation, & Tourism team would like to extend a big thank you Jarrett Cline for his time to conduct the class and for sharing his knowledge and expertise with us.



Cinco de Mayo Fun Run/Walk

The first in-person Cinco de Mayo Fun Run & Walk took place on Saturday, May 1. The race had a total of 65 participants, and featured a new race route. We look forward to making this an annual event!



Japanese Beetle Fly Trap

A Japanese Beetle Fly Trap was placed in Green Valley Park near the boat ramp at the end of April, along with the Golf Course and Payson Airport, by the Arizona Department of Agriculture Plant Services Division. This trap attracts the Japanese Beetle by pheromone scent and will be tracked on a monthly basis by the Arizona Department of Agriculture through the month of October.

PARKS, RECREATION & TOURISM

Open Registrations

Parent Tot T-Ball League & Coach Pitch League: Registration is open through May 26. Registration fee is \$35 per child. Parent Tot T-Ball is open to 4-5 year old, and Coach Pitch is open to 6-8 year olds. For more information or to register online, go to www.paysonrimcountry.com or stop by the Parks, Recreation, & Tourism Office.

Mogollon Monster Mudda & Kidz Mudda registration is open through May 31. Mogollon Monster Mudda open for ages 12+, with the option to compete in specialty divisions to qualify for the Gladiator Challenge, and Kidz Mudda for ages 6-11. For more information or to register online, go to www.paysonrimcountry.com or stop by the Parks, Recreation, & Tourism Office.



The poster features a central graphic of a large black footprint with a stylized monster face inside. To the left, a man and a woman smile. To the right, a person is sliding down a muddy ramp. Below the footprint, the text reads 'MOGOLLON MONSTER MUDDA & KIDZ'. A circular logo says 'ADVENTURE where we live. Payson'. The main text 'REGISTER TODAY' is in large, bold letters. Below it, '3 MILES OF MUD AND OBSTACLES' is written. Three icons are shown: a location pin for 'PAYSON EVENT CENTER', a calendar for 'JUNE 18-19', and a monster silhouette for 'KIDZ, GLADIATOR, HERO, AND REGULAR HEATS'. At the bottom, a black banner contains the website 'PAYSONRIMCOUNTRY.COM/MUDDA'.

REGISTER TODAY

3 MILES OF MUD AND OBSTACLES

PAYSON EVENT CENTER

JUNE 18-19

KIDZ, GLADIATOR, HERO, AND REGULAR HEATS

PAYSONRIMCOUNTRY.COM/MUDDA

PUBLIC WORKS

Streets Division

Streets Division removed and replaced asphalt paving on three cul de sacs the week of May 4th, including the 500 block of E. Jura Circle, 600 block of E. Fir Circle, and an eyebrow on the north side of the 500 block of E. Continental Dr.



PUBLIC WORKS

Airport

Payson Airport is a valuable resource for wildfire aviation because of its centralized location. The airport serves as a wildfire helicopter base during fire season: April through July.

Below are photos of some of the aircrafts currently at the Payson airport. The King Air is used for air attack; they lead the large jet air tankers down to the fires so they can drop slurry onto the fire. The other photo is of a KMAX helicopter. We also have two Bell Ranger helicopters that are used for helitack.

We greatly appreciate everyone involved in these fire fighting efforts.



WATER DEPARTMENT

C.C. Cragin Update

Due to this year's winter weather, we will be receiving a smaller amount of water on a delayed and abbreviated delivery schedule. SRP is now projecting the water delivery from the reservoir to begin the first week of June.

Hoover Program

The Water Department participates in a program with the Hoover Dam where we buy electricity from the dam and either use it or trade it with other communities. This program saved the Town \$427 in March and we are now seeing a projected annual set savings of \$15,814.

FAA Project

The FAA will be installing High Power Distance Measuring Equipment (DME) on the Falcon Crest Utility Site from May 19 to June 18. This project will help improve operations at the airport.



End of Report

Next Report: June 10, 2021

