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PAYSONAZ.GOV



# TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

JULY 8, 2021

# CONTENTS



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**03**

MESSAGE FROM THE  
TOWN MANAGER

---

**04**

PAYSON AIRPORT

---

**06**

POLICE DEPARTMENT

---

**07**

STREETS/ENGINEERING

---

**09**

PAYSON PUBLIC  
LIBRARY

---

**10**

PARKS, REC & TOURISM

---

**13**

COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT





## MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

This document is developed and provided to help inform residents about what is happening with Town operations, services and programs; to answer frequently asked questions; and to encourage citizen participation in our local government. We aim to provide high quality programs and services to our residents in an effort to create a high quality of life. We welcome public comment and participation in the governance of our town. Residents are encouraged to join a council appointed board, commission or committee, speak at a council meeting during the public comment period, or fill out an online comment form. Town staff and I are honored to serve the residents of our town; we are committed to excellence and welcome you all to join us in the spirit of service.

-Troy Smith, Town Manager

# PAYSON AIRPORT

April 15th, 2021, the Payson Helitack team landed at the Payson Airport to set up the Helitack Base on the east half of Echo Ramp.

During May the Echo Ramp was used by the forest service to stage helicopters for fires burning around Arizona.

On Friday June 11th the entire Echo Ramp was barricaded off for incoming wildfire helicopters to stage.

The Backbone Fire started at 11:09 pm Wednesday June 16th. The Airport had one type 1 and two type 3 helicopters staged on Echo Ramp that night.

Thursday Helicopters from Payson supported ground efforts against the Backbone Fire. Another type 1 helicopter arrived.

On Friday afternoon the Forest Service asked the airport for more ramp space to locate incoming wildfire air resources. A temporary control tower was ordered.

Saturday the airport began consolidating leased aircraft on Alpha Ramp and clearing aircraft from Bravo Ramp. Another type 3 helicopter arrived.

Sunday Alpha and Bravo Ramps were closed and barricaded. NOTAM was put in place for closed ramps.



# PAYSON AIRPORT

Monday morning at 1:00am the temporary control tower arrived at the airport. The control tower was up and running Monday morning, three type 1 helicopters arrived throughout the day. NOTAM for control tower was placed.



For the next week helicopters from the Payson Airport flew between 7:30am and 7:30pm in support of suppressing the fire.

The Helicopter Wildfire Base was disbanded on Wednesday June 30th. Payson Airport has one type 3 and one type 2 assigned to the Helitack Base at this time.

During the Backbone Fire Payson Airport had three of its four ramps closed to accommodate helicopter operations. The airport was home to eight helicopters and their support crews.



# POLICE DEPARTMENT

- 4th of July was a success with no significant issues at the park.
- We had officers work Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) details on 7/2/2021, 7/4/2021 & 7/5/2021, making 34 traffic stops for various violations. 22 citations were issued and one vehicle was impounded



# STREETS/ENGINEERING

Update on USFS Special Use Permit Application for future Green Valley Parkway extension

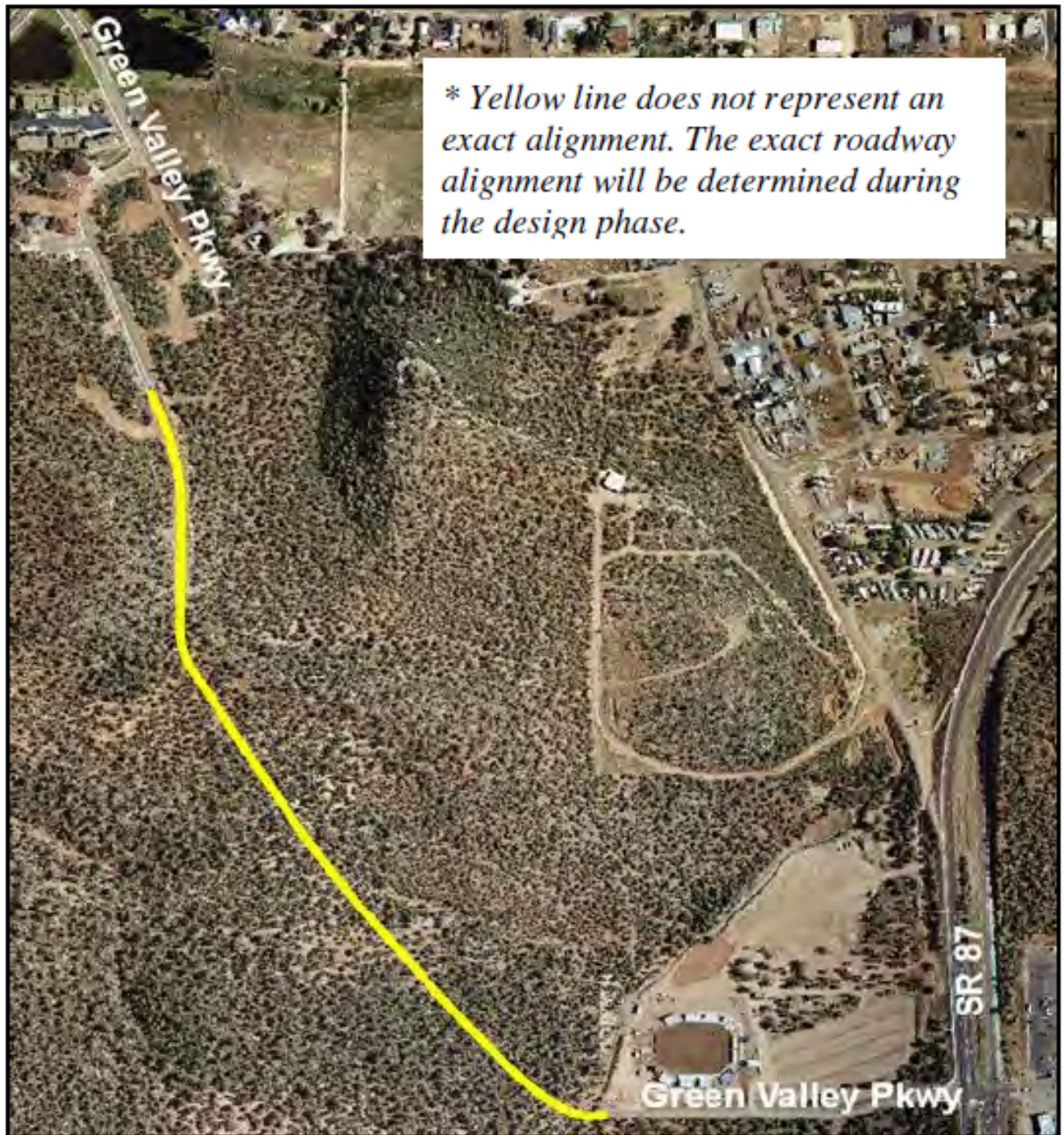
SWCA Environmental Consultants is the firm that was selected by the Town of Payson through a Request for Qualifications process to complete an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the purpose of applying for a Special Use Permit from the United States Forest Service. The permit, if approved, would allow the Town of Payson to extend South Green Valley Parkway from just south of Main Street to the Payson Event Center. The assessment is progressing, even during the very busy fire season.

The most recent milestones include:

- Section 404 Approved Jurisdictional Determination (AJD) permit was submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) by SWCA. The USACE evaluates applications under a public interest review, as well as the environmental criteria set forth in the CWA Section 404(b)(1) guidelines, regulations promulgated by the Environmental Protection Agency. Approval is pending.
- The Biological Evaluation was submitted to the United States Forest Service (USFS) biologist. The evaluation has been approved.
- Cultural Resources Survey and Report was submitted to the United States Forest Service. SWCA is awaiting comments.
- Environmental Assessment:
  - Chapters 1-2 of the EA are drafted and have been reviewed by the USFS. We have received comments.
  - Scoping occurred 4/23/21 through 5/24/21. SWCA has received two comments so far and requested any additional comments from the USFS.
  - Remaining EA chapters 3-5 will not be drafted until the USFS has conducted an internal interdisciplinary team meeting. This meeting allows the USFS to identify the resource issues that will be analyzed in detail in the EA.



# STREETS/ENGINEERING





# PAYSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

4,613 people visited the library in June. We opened 108 new library cards bringing total enrollment up to 14,059. Total circulation was 7,894.

Our new Youth Services Specialist, Madeline Miciotto, started in early June and has brought great experience and enthusiasm to her position. With the library running 16 youth & teen programs each week during Summer Reading, we are certainly keeping her busy.

Our big news is that the Payson Library's meeting room extension has passed all of its inspections and is ready for use. We already have local nonprofits making reservations.



# PARKS, RECREATION & TOURISM

## Firecracker Scramble

The Friends of Parks & Recreation partnered with the Payson Golf Club on June 3, 2021 to host the first Firecracker Scramble. The event hosted over 70 participants for a full 9-hole scramble event. With this event partnership, the Friends of Parks & Recreation received over \$2,500 to contribute towards youth scholarships, to ensure no child is unable to participant in Parks & Recreation programs due to financial constraints, and assists towards other Parks & Recreation needs.





# PARKS, RECREATION & TOURISM

## 4th of July Celebration

Green Valley Park once again serves as a successful site for the Town of Payson's 4th of July Hometown Celebration. The days schedule was full of entertainment, with the reading of the Declaration of Independence, a gospel performance by 6 Gal n' Hat, family games like the traditional water balloon toss, egg races, and the traditional tug of war. The kids and adult pie eating contest was popular with the contribution of pies from Crosswinds Restaurant. The band SPLASH! took the evening to the spectacular 30-minute firework show.

A big thank you to the Town of Payson Water Department and Green Valley Water for their continued sponsorship of the amazing fireworks show!



### Testimonials:

*"Loved the band!!  
Great evening"*

*"Great party at the park"*

*"What fun!"*

*"Fun day Payson.  
30 minutes of an awesome  
fireworks show!"*



# PARKS, RECREATION & TOURISM

## Junior Golf Academy

The Town of Payson and the Payson Golf Club are partnering to produce a Junior Golf Academy on July 26 & 27, 2021 for youth aged 12-17 years old. These lessons will be instructed by Head Pro, Sue Weiger. For more information and to register, go to [www.paysonrimcountry.com](http://www.paysonrimcountry.com).



## The Payson Multi-Event Center Evacuation Site

During the Backbone Fire, the Payson Multi-Event Center served as an evacuation site for campers and livestock. Over this period, the facility welcomed 47 dry campers and 35 animals. Contributions and generosity from local businesses and residents, along with valley businesses and residents was seen with donations of hay and feed for livestock, and water and Gatorade for campers.





# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

## Planning and Zoning

Design review applications for a new hotel and improvements to 100 E. Hwy 260 (NE corner of 87 and 260) for a Chipotle.

## Economic Development:

Economic Development has been working with the high school. A recent meeting with the high school principal finished with successfully bringing a teacher on board for the Aviation Club. The intention is to bring AOPA (Aircraft Owners Pilot Association) to the high school. AOPA brings focus on the aviation industry from flight, to operations, and to maintenance. This program is a four (4) year STEAM program that enters students into the aviation world from the basics of history all the way to how to take an aviation exam. The idea is to start with a club to spark awareness and grow interest, as the AOPA will cost money to implement at the high school. Economic Development has acted as facilitator between the high school and the local aviation community, which has brought additional connections outside of the community. The program could help to keep young adults in Payson, allow local pilots the opportunity to teach locally, support and grow the supply for a potential flight school, and shed light on aviation career opportunities outside of becoming a pilot, such as the use of drones with the Forest Service on fires.

**SizeUp training** had a training with 4 Chamber Board Members and discussed future training groups. This training was led by our Community Development intern. Please see photo below.





End of Report

Next Report: July 22, 2021