



PAYSONAZ.GOV



TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

AUGUST 12, 2021

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MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN MANAGER



Article by Isaac Blake, Chair of DPWG

@DigitalPayson

The Digital Payson Working Group was created by the Town Manager in January of 2021, to address a number of critical community issues related to broadband, communication infrastructure, and internet services within the Town of Payson and the surrounding region. The Group is made up of community members, experts in the technology sector, and Town staff and chaired by Isaac Blake, who authored the below update on behalf of the Digital Payson Working Group.

Having a redundant fiber path for Payson has been a vision for many, the first part was achieved with the deployment of fiber between Show Low and Payson by Sparklight. This provides Payson two different physical fiber paths inclusive of the original CenturyLink fiber coming from the north.

The importance of this became more apparent with the recent Backbone fire, which threatened the CenturyLink-Lumen fiber. Thanks to a great team of people including Greg Friestad and Nick Robinson of the Digital Payson Working Group (DPWG), Jeff Mirasola of CenturyLink-Lumen, Steve Pozil of Sparklight Business, and their respective internal teams, the decision was made and implemented to bring the Sparklight fiber into the CenturyLink facility in Payson.

@DIGITALPAYSON

This would allow in case of disruption a physical onsite switch of the fiber at both ends. Rather than having an outage for days, the switch could happen within hours. While the physical fiber is present, work still needs to be done to interconnect the two fiber networks for remote switching and sharing. By doing so would allow an outage on either fiber network to be transparent or taking minutes to switch.

The “can do” attitude by this team in support of the community was greatly appreciated by all, especially dealing with it during the real-time emergency.

DPWG has been working with partners to improve the wireline and wireless Internet Service not only coming into and out of Payson, but within Payson. Reaching out to existing communities, new developments, builders, and others to digitally enable businesses and residents, address problem areas, and sharing best practices.

A good example has been the work done with T-Mobile, who is actively based on DPWG data been upgrading and improving their network. Work was recently completed on the north side of Payson above SR-87/260 allowing for network speeds in the 200-250 Mbps down, 40-50 Mbps up range. Work has been scheduled in October to address central and southern Payson, and engineering review is underway for the east (Tyler Parkway) and southeast sections of Payson.

While there are numerous Facebook groups covering Payson. Having a Digital Payson Facebook group focused on the digital community is appropriate with the changing landscape and to serve as a one-stop location to share experiences, best practices, answer questions, and collaborate.

You can request access to the group by going to: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/DigitalPayson>. If you need to post in other places, please consider using the #DigitalPayson hashtag.

PUBLIC WORKS: ENGINEERING/STREETS DIVISION

Did you know?

What do I do about all this water running/standing/washing across my yard?

In most areas it is the property owner's responsibility to maintain drainage systems across their private property.

As thankful as we are that we have received monsoon rains this year, the Town would like to remind residents that dumping yard waste and household refuse in local waterways, easements, and drains increases the risk of ponding water and even flooding. If drainage ways, easements, and detention basins on private properties are not properly and routinely maintained it can increase the cost of storm cleanup to neighbors. In an effort to reduce the risk of flooding and costs to individual home owners we ask for your help in keeping your property ready for runoff from storms. Remember, in most areas it is the property owner's responsibility to maintain drainage systems across their private property. DO NOT make assumptions. Please be mindful of your neighbors downstream.

Can I drive across that wash?

Don't become a statistic! Rim Country faces several extreme hazards, including wildfire, flooding, and winter storms/snowfall. Never cross a roadway if there is water flowing across it and you cannot tell how deep the water is. It only takes a small amount of swiftly moving storm water to move a vehicle from the roadway. There are several crossings within the Town of Payson that could become impassible in a storm. If you are concerned about flooding of your home or other structures on your property, sand bags are usually provided free to all residents in need. They may be picked up at Payson Fire Station #11 when precipitation is heavy and/or frequent and the ground becomes saturated or culverts and channels are over capacity with storm water.

PUBLIC WORKS: ENGINEERING/STREETS DIVISION

Yuck. Why is that water brown?

This is the vacuum truck the Street Maintenance Division uses to unclog storm pipes. The truck uses water to flush granite and mud from culverts or pipes under the roadways to ensure storm water can flow unobstructed. It is also used to pump water out of areas where repairs are needed. You may see this truck releasing muddy water back onto surrounding areas. Please do not be alarmed. It is only offloading storm water as crews continue to clean up from our very desirable monsoons that sometimes sends us an undesirably high volume of rain within an extremely short window of time.



PUBLIC WORKS: ENGINEERING/STREETS DIVISION

What does firewising have to do with water?

The Town encourages all residents to reduce wildfire fuels on their property. Please note that when you firewise your property it is important to take great care to preplan for storm water. Trees, shrubs, grasses, and their root systems help prevent erosion and hold soils in place. Removing large areas without a plan to prevent erosion could lead to costly cleanup. On hillsides, slopes, and within drainage areas it is advisable to consult with a civil engineer or other similar professional prior to treating the area. Leaving root structures intact, hand grubbing in lieu of mechanical clearing, and installing rip rap are great ways to avoid future headaches!

Who do I call if I need help?

If you have a question about storm water, need assistance with street maintenance/repair, or want additional information about how to prepare for these hazards please contact the Public Works Department Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm at (928) 472-5042.

To report an urgent matter after hours call the Payson Police Department at 928-474-5177. Street Maintenance personnel are available 24/7 to respond to hazard conditions.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Payson High School Private Pilot Ground School Course

The Economic Development Department along with the Airport Commission, The Ninety-Nines Club, and The Payson Aero Club, have been working with the High School to help establish an aviation private pilot ground school. This club helps students learn the history of aviation and obtain the knowledge to pass the written FAA exam for their private pilot's license. From an economic development view, this helps create interest and growth for careers in drone operations, fire support and other endeavors at the Airport.

Date: October 11 to December 8, 2021

Course Goals: Introduce aviation that covers all of the topics in the Federal Aviation Administration's Private Pilot written examination. Also provides introductory simulator flying lessons.



RUSS, JEFF, AND COURTNEY LAUNCH THE PAYSON HIGH SCHOOL COURSE.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The new fire engines have arrived in Payson, have largely been outfitted, and are ready to respond to emergencies within the community. The pictures below depict the training the department went through to put these units in service. The top left is the pump training the vendor provided. The top right picture is drivers training that all of our personnel completed to allow us to safely operate. The bottom picture is from August 5, when the trucks were placed in service and began serving the community.

These engines will be officially placed in service on August 12, 2021, at 8 AM. The Council and Town leadership are invited to participate in a “Push-In” ceremony.



FIRE DEPARTMENT

This month the Council adopted Fuels Reduction Ordinance becomes enforceable. Below are two pictures of an educational success story that we have seen as a result of the Ordinance. These two properties on Tyrolean were completely overgrown to the point that the house was almost not noticeable. The FD generated a letter to the property owners describing the condition and the need to comply with the Town Code. The property owners brought in a contractor who has done some good work to help reduce the threat to the community. While there is more work to be done this is a great example of how the newly adopted Code has allowed us to work to reduce our risk without having to be heavy handed.



PARKS, RECREATION & TOURISM

"Kudos to Park Maintenance Staff

Monsoons 2021

Recent monsoons brought much needed water but have had effects on Town parks. Flooding and heavy rainfalls washed vegetation, soil and debris through the drainage ditches and washes in Rumsey Park. The runoff and flooding covered the tennis and pickleball courts in fine silt and mud necessitating several days of washing off the courts. Wash outs undermined sidewalks and erosion along roadways and in gravel parking lots involved filling and grading. Mud and silt on Ramada floors needed removal and rinsed clean. Playgrounds were flooded, displacing playground mulch. Flooding of PEC parking lots will require grading once the standing water has dissipated and gravel is dry. At the Event Center, excessive moisture in arenas has not allowed for preparation of the grounds for equestrian use. Standing water has been drained from stock pens and horse stables. Mud, silt and debris has been removed from sidewalks, fences and gates.



PARKS, RECREATION & TOURISM

Green Valley Park Restrooms

The restrooms in Green Valley Park are necessary to accommodate large crowds during special events and daily use by parks visitors. For the past several years, this intensive use diminished the facilities capability for reliable restroom accommodations. Frequent drain clogs, sewer line obstructions and inadequate water flow combined into continual closures of the facilities for repairs. In June 2021, the Town with a local contractor investigated the problems by using a camera to view the plumbing and sewer lines. Using the images, lines and drains were able to be flushed and cleared. During the examination of the South restroom building next to Parks, Recreation, & Tourism Office, it was determined the problems were a result of improper installation of plumbing connections. By removing part of the concrete floor to expose the drain and sewer lines, plumbing was replaced correcting pipe connections. The restrooms have served our park users and visitors without delay or closing of services through Memorial Day and 4th of July holiday weekends.



PARKS, RECREATION & TOURISM

Register Today!

Open registration in office and online: Fly Fishing (August and October)
& Fall Youth Soccer.

Go online to paysonrimcountry.com or contract the Parks, Recreation, & Tourism Office at 928-472-5110.

A group of seven people are standing on a grassy bank next to a pond, engaged in fly fishing. They are wearing various outdoor attire, including hats and jackets. The background shows a paved area with parked cars and trees.

INTRO TO FLYFISHING

AUG 14 OR OCT 9 / AGES 16+ / \$15

ADVENTURE
where we live.
Payson

PAYSONRIMCOUNTRY.COM/ADULT-PROGRAMS

PARKS, RECREATION & TOURISM

Upcoming Events at the Payson Multi-Event Center

August 14th- Tonto Basin Wild Bunch Mounted Shooters – starts at 5 pm

August 19th- Women's Professional Rodeo Association- performance starts at 6 pm

August 20th- World's Oldest Continuous Rodeo – performance starts at 7 pm

August 21st- World's Oldest Continuous Rodeo- performances at 1pm and 7pm

August 28th- Double C Productions Team Roping- Northern Arizona Classic starts at 10am

August 30th- Monday Night Lights 6pm-8pm



PARKS, RECREATION & TOURISM

Parks, Recreation, & Tourism is Hiring!

Parks, Recreation, & Tourism is hiring for Field Maintenance and General Maintenance, seasonal and part-time staff. For more information contact Parks, Recreation, & Tourism Office at 928-472-5110, or stop by and pick up an application (1000 W. Country Club Dr.).

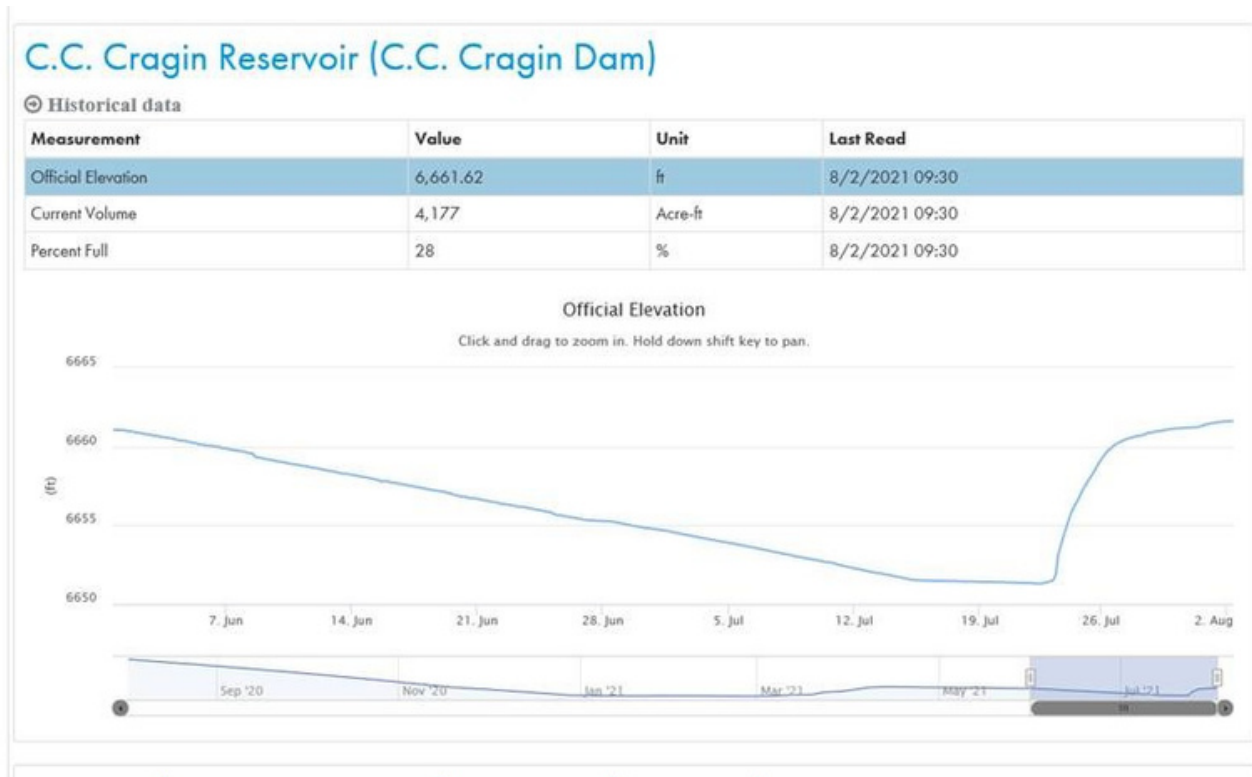


WE'RE HIRING

WATER DEPARTMENT

Hooray Hooray! The Monsoon has arrived! Or, as the old time Payson residents say, the Summer Rains have arrived!

According to the National Weather Service in Flagstaff, Payson received 6.98 inches of rain in July compared to an average of 2.81 inches. The Town of Payson Water Department utilizes a weather station at Green Valley Park which measured 6.04 inches of rain for the month of July which brings the total for the year up to 9.36 inches. This year began as a dry year with the operating season for the C.C. Cragin Project limited to 6 weeks of operation due to low lake levels in C.C. Cragin Reservoir. The operating season began June 1st and continued until July 13th when the minimum pool elevation was reached in the reservoir. During that time, the Town of Payson took 520 acre-feet of water and met customer needs while still injecting 150 acre-feet of water into the ground for long term storage and use from our groundwater wells. Since that time however, the Monsoon or “Summer Rains” have replenished all of the water that was pumped from the reservoir this year. As can be seen on the chart below, a steady decline of water level was represented during the pumping season, then a sharp incline when the precipitation began to fall. The C.C. Cragin Reservoir watershed is very robust and we are working diligently with partners to improve its performance. We will continue to monitor the precipitation in hopes that the reservoir will completely fill this winter and we will begin next season with a full 3,000 acre-foot allocation.



POLICE DEPARTMENT

The department rolled out the 800Mhz portable radios to all of the officers which has improved radio communication around town especially the dead spots with the previous radio system. While transporting a subject to Casa Grande, officers had clear two-way communications with dispatch the entire way. Previously, the communication system was semi-reliable to Tonto Basin.

New Records Clerk Krys Stevens began her duties on July 28, 2021.

We are currently working on two employment backgrounds: one for the position of police/fire/911 dispatcher and one for police officer.

Waste Watch Program - The Payson Police Department jumped on board a partnership with Waste Management to use trash truck drivers as an extra set of eyes to report emergencies or any suspicious activity. Waste Management drivers recently received training and met with Sgt. Deaton for a question and answer session.

July 30 & 31, 2021 officers completed a scenario based Simunitions training.

August 2, 2021 Back to School! Officers were at each school to welcome the students back.

August 3 & 4th, 2021 - Several officers attended Gang Related Information Program training at the Payson Police Department that was put on by Arizona Department of Public Safety

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Investigations to note:

July 22, 2021 - Officers conducted a traffic stop on a moped that attempted to flee. After a short foot pursuit, the suspect was taken into custody. The suspect refused to give his true identity. Officers were able to identify him as Robert Pearsall, of Prescott, Arizona. Mr. Pearsall was wanted by the U.S. Marshal's Office for attempted homicide and had two warrants for his arrest. He will be extradited back to Yavapai County for sentencing on the Attempted Homicide charges. Mr. Pearsall was in possession of two handguns, Methamphetamine and a large amount of cash. He was also charged with several new felony charges from the Payson Police Department.

July 25, 2021 - Fatal traffic accident at Bonita and Beeline Highway where a vehicle ran a red light and struck another vehicle. The driver of the vehicle that was struck succumbed to his injuries approximately 3.5 hours later.

July 25, 2021 - Overdose at Walmart- subject was transported and admitted into the hospital. Approximately 18.2 grams of heroin was located in the vehicle. Upon further investigation 400-500 fentanyl pills were located. Three subjects were arrested for possession of narcotic drug for sale, possession of a narcotic drug and possession of drug paraphernalia.

August 3, 2021 - detectives were called to the scene of a suspicious death. Investigation is ongoing.

August 5, 2021 - Drug Search Warrant was executed - one subject was arrested and methamphetamine and heroin were located.

End of Report

Next Report: August 26, 2021

