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PAYSONAZ.GOV



# TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

OCTOBER 28, 2021



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# MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

On October 15, 2021 the new minimum monthly charge for water went into effect. Resolution No. 3250 was passed unanimously by Town Council on June 10, 2021 to adopt the water rate increases. Based on current usage, the average customer will see an increase of \$3.70 a month.

The increase helps guarantee the Town of Payson has the ability to improve and update the current water utility infrastructure to guarantee healthy and clean water to all Payson citizens. As stated in the Town of Payson Water Rate Study and Financial Plan provided to the public and Town Council by the Willdan Group, the cost of new water resources and maintaining water systems has contributed to the need for a rate increase and adjustments.

Future capital improvement project costs will be funded by rate revenues and drawdown of the reserve fund to prevent new long-term debt from being issued. The increased monthly charge for water service will enable the Town of Payson to minimize rate adjustments by using the fund balance to pay for capital improvements without issuing debt.

Several capital improvement projects are already underway. Plans have been completed for two new Granulated Activated Carbon (GAC) vessels at the treatment plant. These plans have been submitted to Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) for approval and will soon go to public bidding. The construction cost is estimated to be approximately \$475,000.

Archeological surveys are ready to begin for the design and construction of a new 400,000 gallon water storage tank at the end of N. Hillcrest Drive. As soon as the site is cleared, a geotechnical investigation will be performed, followed by engineering design, bidding, and construction. The estimated cost for a new water tank is approximately \$600,000.

The Water Department has a current budget established of nearly 1.3 million dollars per year for replacement of aging water-mains. These projects require investigations, topographic surveys, geotechnical investigations, engineering design, ADEQ review and approvals, bidding, and construction to complete. Therefore, these projects take multiple years to accomplish.

# MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

The following are updates to the current projects in progress:

- Replacement water-mains in the E. Cherry and Ponderosa Street neighborhood are at 90% design and awaiting comments from stakeholders. This project is expected to be submitted to ADEQ for approval within the next two months and it is planned to begin construction in the spring. This project will replace old dilapidated water-mains, increase fire flows, and provide water supply redundancy to the hospital.
- As soon as that design is complete, the Water Department will begin plans for replacement of the undersized water-mains serving the neighborhood east of the new Circle K on the south side town near the intersection of Highway 87 and E. Phoenix Street to Ash Street. This will also include plans to bore under Highway 87 and connect water-mains between the east and west side of Town.
- The Water Department is also working with Green Valley Water for a joint design of sewer and a water-main replacements within N. Vista Road to replace an aging sewer line and an abandoned water-main. The new water-main will provide for better water circulation and new fire hydrants for fire protection needs.
- The Water Department is coordinating with Public Works Engineering to include water-main replacements within the roadway improvement plans for E. Granite Dells road from Highway 260 eastbound to S. Mudsprings Road. These plans are currently in progress and expected to go to bidding and construction next spring.

All of these projects are considerable investments that the Water Department is making to continue our high level of service for our customers into the future.



# MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

The water rate increase is a 4-year rate plan, which was previously posted and provided for publication on April 16, 2021 - with the following minimum monthly charge and the dates they become effective:

	Current	Effective October 15, 2021	Effective October 15, 2022	Effective October 15, 2023	Effective October 15, 2024
<b>Minimum Monthly Charge 0-2,000 gallons</b>	\$ 43.26	\$ 45.86	\$ 48.61	\$ 51.52	\$ 53.58
<b>Volume Rate per 1,000 gallons</b>					
<b>2,001-5,000</b>	\$ 5.84	\$ 6.19	\$ 6.56	\$ 6.96	\$ 7.23
<b>5,001 - 10,000</b>	\$ 7.70	\$ 8.16	\$ 8.65	\$ 9.17	\$ 9.54
<b>10,001 - 20,000</b>	\$ 8.81	\$ 9.34	\$ 9.90	\$ 10.49	\$ 10.91
<b>20,000 and above</b>	\$ 11.01	\$ 11.67	\$ 12.37	\$ 13.11	\$ 13.64

In summary, the water rate plan, which includes modest increases over time, will result in a financially-healthy utility that will safeguard infrastructure improvements over the next 10 years and that customers only pay what it costs to provide service.

-Troy Smith, Town Manager



# PAYSON AIRPORT

In anticipation of the upcoming Airport Master Plan Update slated to begin in 2022 the Town of Payson is currently accepting sealed Statements of Qualifications at the Payson Town Hall, 303 N. Beeline Highway, Payson, Arizona, 85541, no later than 10 a.m. (local time) November 10th, 2021, for the selection of a Principal Airport Consultant to provide Incidental Planning Services including project management services normally required for airport planning projects. Duties include, Special Services such as: soils investigations, land surveys, topographic maps, and photogrammetric; environmental studies, expert witness testimony, project feasibility studies, preparation of as-built plans; and miscellaneous plans, studies and assessment reports including environmental, noise, etc.

Interested parties may contact the Town Clerk or visit [www.paysonaz.gov](http://www.paysonaz.gov) for additional information.

The airport has seen an increase once again in Charter Flights and Jet Traffic.

Last week a Gulfstream 300 jet flew in with 10 passengers from Salt Lake City Utah, to play golf at the Rim Club and look around Payson. We also had three King Air Charter Flights and a Pilatus.

This week we have had several Army and Arizona National Guard Blackhawk Helicopters stop at Payson for fuel. We also have two Eurocopter AS 350 Helicopters operating from the Echo Ramp supporting Arizona Fish and Game. They are tagging Big Horn Sheep.

The airport had a survey crew in to start the engineering and design phase of the upcoming Americans with Disabilities Project, construction to start in the Spring of 2022.



# PARKS, RECREATION & TOURISM

## Meet the new Interim Parks, Rec & Tourism Director



Christine Smith has joined the Town of Payson as the Interim Director of Parks, Recreation & Tourism. Christine has over 30 years of local government experience including managing municipal capital programs and services. Christine was most recently employed by the City of Goodyear as their Deputy Director of Public Works. She previously held the positions of Assistant Director of Aviation and Public Works for the City of Phoenix. She has a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Public Administration from Grand Canyon University and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from ASU.



# PARKS, RECREATION & TOURISM



# TRUNK *or* TREAT

**SATURDAY, OCT 30  
4 PM - 7 PM**

**(OR UNTIL CANDY IS GONE)**

**EVENT CENTER**

**FREE ADMISSION  
FAMILY FUN  
TONS OF CANDY**

*be part of the fun!*  
**TRUCK REGISTRATION  
NOW OPEN!**

EVENT SPONSORED IN  
PARTNERSHIP WITH:



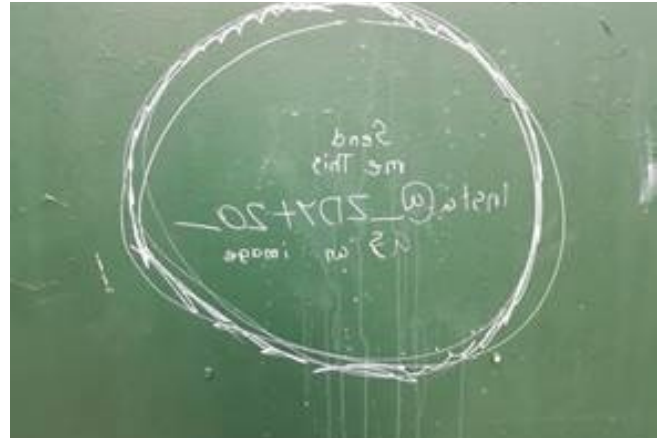
Matt Crespin-Agent  
(928) 474-2590

**PAYSONRIMCOUNTRY.COM/TREAT**



# PARKS, RECREATION & TOURISM

## Recent Vandalism at Rumsey Park



We regret to report that the restrooms at Rumsey Park have been damaged again. This incident has forced the closure of the restrooms for the second time in the past few months. Town staff have already placed temporary restrooms on site and we will make every effort to ensure they are maintained on a regular basis.



The long term solution to this problem will include the procurement and installation of damage resistant fixtures. These materials are scarce in supply, as a result of ongoing supply chain issues. We will continue to pursue this option as a long-term solution.



The Police Department is investigating this incident and any connections it may have to similar incidents that have occurred in our community. If you have any information related to this or any criminal incident please report it to the Payson Police Department or you can call the crime hotline at: (928) HOT-TIPS or (928) 468-8477

# POLICE DEPARTMENT

Detective Mike Varga has been promoted to Patrol Sergeant as of October 16, 2021. Sgt. Mike Varga has been a certified officer with the Payson Police Department for twenty years.



Officer Eric Dunston will begin working in conjunction with the Arizona Department of Public Safety on their Gang & Immigration Intelligence Team Enforcement Mission (GIITEM). GIITEM is a statewide multi-agency task force.

Payson PD Records Clerks are attending a three-day National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) training to stay up to speed on changes and updates.

We are doing Officer Recruit Testing on October 29th & 30th, 2021 to hopefully fill a few spots in the January Northern Arizona Regional Training Academy (NARTA).



# FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department joined the Police Department in visiting with residents along west Phoenix Street for National Night Out. The crews and the residents reported a great turnout and the crews were able to share some great safety messages.



The testing for the firefighter positions moved forward with interviews. The scores are being tabulated and a list created to fill the two vacancies we have in the Fire Department.

Every year almost all of our firefighting equipment must be tested to ensure that the equipment is safe to use in emergencies. This week, it was our ground ladders that were tested. The third party testing firm will provide us with a report of the results in a few days.



# LIBRARY

The Payson Library opened 66 new library cards in September, bringing total membership up to 14,249 patrons. There were 4,608 visits to the library in September and total circulation was 7,398. There are several upcoming events!



## Saturday Science Club November Schedule

Sat the 6<sup>th</sup> Apple Volcanos & Dancing Corn

Sat the 13<sup>th</sup> Fall Leave Preservation

Sat the 20<sup>th</sup> Butter Making

Sat the 27<sup>th</sup> Rainbow Spectroscopes

**Recommended ages 6-12 but everyone can join!  
Please sign up at the front desk!**



# LIBRARY



LeSit and Stitch  
Mondays – 2:30 PM  
Payson Public Library  
Small Meeting Room

Bring Whatever Handcraft You Are Working On.  
Join us for Good Company and Light Refreshments.

# LIBRARY

The Payson Public Library  
proudly presents musical guests

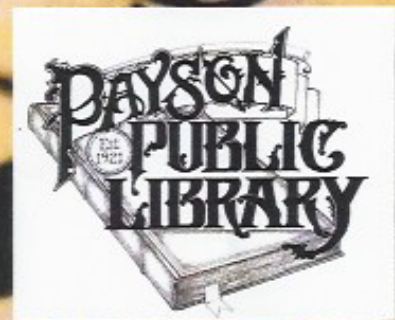
## *Bach-N-All*



Wednesday, November 19th

Starting at 2:00 p.m.

At the Payson Public Library





# LIBRARY

The Payson Public Library presents

## *An Evening with Roxy and Suzy Almblade*



**One  
Night  
Only**

**Come and  
Support  
these  
Talented  
Local Artists**



Saturday, November 20th, 2021

from 6:00 to 8:00 pm

Fine Art Reception and Exhibition

328 N. McLane Road. Payson, Arizona

End of Report

Next Report: November 18, 2021

