



PAYSONAZ.GOV



# TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

MAY 10, 2023

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# MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN MANAGER



As Digital Payson enters its third year, improvements to our digital infrastructure and services to the Payson area continue to evolve.

A “tip of the hat” in appreciation to the hard work by the working group members, our various service providers and organizations, the Town Staff, and members of the community. All of which would not have been possible without the support of the Mayor and Council, and especially our sponsor, Troy Smith, the Town Manager.

Fiber backhaul providers remain both Lumen-CenturyLink and Sparklight. APS while receiving approval by the USFS to resume their fiber deployment from Phoenix and Joseph City to Payson, have been faced with additional USFS permit delays, which have pushed the estimated completion date to Q1 2024.

As an update to the backhaul redundancy agreement reached between Lumen and Sparklight during the Backbone Fire in the summer of 2021, the local fiber run between facilities was completed, Sparklight completed interconnects at their end. Lumen has not connected the fiber to their equipment, therefore the status of the automated switchover interconnection and when it will be completed is unknown.

Whisper[ST1] Ridge is an MHA Foundation project, creating an Internet Exchange Point (IXP), Point of Presence (POP), and Colocation facility is gaining support among providers. This centralized vendor-neutral facility will provide all service providers with a common framework and location for increased resilience, improved network performance, enhanced local connectivity, and improved network security.

DW Tower (a tower developer) has been working with Digital Payson and service providers regarding their plans for new towers from the Bush Highway to Payson, along SR-87, and throughout the Rim Country. New small cell sites have already been deployed in central Payson and Sunflower, with a full site at the Hells Gate Fire Department.

AT&T FirstNet has upgraded their existing Payson area towers to 5G with additional bands to improve coverage and performance. The Town of Payson Public Safety Departments are currently using the FirstNet infrastructure for data and cellular mobile communications.

Starlink recently expanded their coverage to include the greater Payson area after the launch of additional satellites to cover our area.

T-Mobile continues their infrastructure upgrades and optimization in the Payson area. They have faced challenges, especially keeping up with demand for their Home Internet. They, as with the other cellular providers, are constrained by the lack of available towers.

Verizon has started upgrading their Payson area towers and offering their 5G Home Internet solution. Currently the upgraded service area is primarily south central (below SR-260) and west-southwest Payson areas. Verizon met with Digital Payson recently to discuss their current state and future strategy, which was beneficial and well received on both sides.

Lumen-CenturyLink had an extended 12-hour outage impacting sections of Payson. The root cause was a failed card in their Pine location. This caused the loss of basic phone and Internet services to businesses and residents.

AireBeam, a fiber Internet Provider in Pinal County, recently met with Digital Payson and is planning to soon expand their service area to Payson, with fiber to the home service.

Optimum-Suddenlink is now 95% complete with their infrastructure upgrades involving new nodes, node splits, fiber runs, and multiple backhaul providers (Lumen and Starlink) in the Payson service area. Reports from those on the upgraded nodes show stable performance and reliability at purchased service plan levels. During the 12-hour Lumen outage their customers saw minimal to no impact.

Sparklight continues their regional fiber deployment within Payson and surrounding areas, providing services to business users. Plans to provide Fiber to the Home (FTTH) and related services are still planned.

With our IT Department we have collaborated on developing an As-Is/To-Be framework, which is used to analyze the current state of an organization's systems, processes, and infrastructure and define a future vision for how the organization should operate. Digital Payson provided consultative and architectural input to various IT and Departmental projects.

A joint meeting between the Town, MHA Foundation, and Digital Payson was held with the new Arizona State Broadband Director, Sandip Bhowmick, covering the Payson area issues and requirements, strategy, funding, and Public Safety needs. Going forward we will be actively working on new services, community events, community engagement, business updates, virtual education, safety, and security for our digital town.

In conclusion, we are proud of the progress and achievements of Digital Payson. We are dedicated to continuously improving our virtual community and providing a safe, engaging, and inclusive environment for our residents. We appreciate the support and partnership of the Mayor and Council in our efforts to make Digital Payson a thriving virtual community.

Isaac Blake, Chair – Digital Payson

**Check trailer chains.**



**Watch for sparks.**



**Drown  
your  
fire.**

**Avoid dry grass.**



***YOU CAN HELP!***



**ONE LESS  
SPARK**   
**ONE LESS WILDFIRE**

# PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The 17th annual Let's Talk Fishin -Kids Fishing Festival was on April 29th. This event allows participants to enjoy a free fishing experience that includes free bait and poles, a kid's raffle, and licenses to those that register. They had over 130 fish weighed in!



# PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

PAYSON PARKS & RECREATION'S

# Summer Camp

**2** sessions

*June* MONDAY 12TH - FRIDAY 30TH  
K-2ND GRADES & 3RD-5TH GRADES

*July* MONDAY 3RD - FRIDAY 21ST  
K-2ND GRADES & 3RD-5TH GRADES

WEEKDAYS FROM 8:30AM - 2:30PM

REGISTRATION COST PER CHILD IS \$50 / SESSION  
REGISTRATION BEGINS 5/1 & CLOSSES 6/1

FIELD TRIPS | FREE FOOD SERVICE

LIBRARY PARTNERSHIP | ANTI-DRUG COMPONENT

ENGAGING ACTIVITIES | SUMMER CAMP PARTICIPANT TEE



HOSTED AT  
JULIA RANDALL ELEMENTARY

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER, PLEASE VISIT  
[PAYSONRIMCOUNTRY.COM/YOUTH-PROGRAMS](http://PAYSONRIMCOUNTRY.COM/YOUTH-PROGRAMS) OR  
PAYSON PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT @ 928-472-5110



# PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Parks and Recreation maintenance updates:

- Dog Park will be closing 1st and 3rd Thurs of each month for 2 hours for general maintenance.
- Rumsey 1 and Rumsey 3 ballfields have been graded with new infield material.
- Completed electrical repairs to Rumsey Ramadas.
- Chamber of Commerce: Hung TV's and brochure racks, reassembled visitors center after paint and renovation.



# 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 20, 2023**

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

Time: **7 — 11 a.m.**

For more information,  
928-472-5136 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
- Helium balloon tanks
- Herbicides
- Inhalers
- 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



# VISITOR CENTER

Visitor Center at a Glance for April 2023:

765 total visitors that signed in

99 – Rim Country

188 - Other areas of Arizona

305 - other States

52 – out of the Country

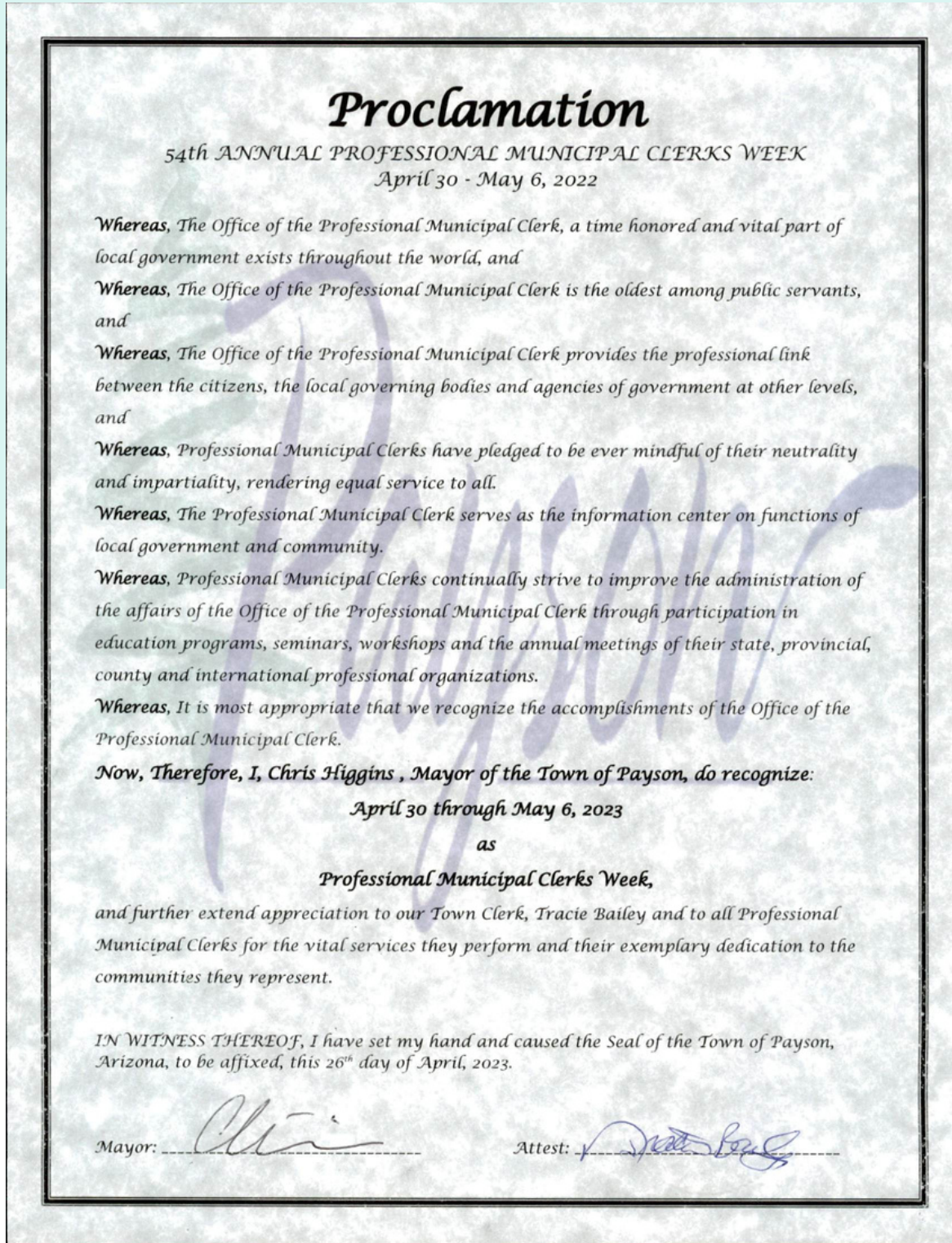
117 – Unregistered

Volunteer Hours – 93.5 hours



# TOWN CLERK'S DEPARTMENT

In honor of the 54th Annual Professional Municipal Clerks Week April 30th through May 6th 2023 the Mayor presented a proclamation to the Clerk's Department at the April 26th Council meeting.



# PAYSON LIBRARY

*Payson Public Library*

328 N McLane Rd, Payson, AZ 85541; 928-474-92  
[www.paysonaz.gov/departments/library.org](http://www.paysonaz.gov/departments/library.org)

*May 2023*



**Summer Reading Program: May 27 to July 15, 2023!** Reading, Foam Party, Prizes, Pizza, Hot Dogs, BBQ, Gaming, Roblox, Slime, Solar Energy & Eclipse, Rocks, STEAM, Garden, Chess, Coding, & More!

Sun day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Sit & Stitch 2:30 pm	Storytime with Toddlers 10:30 am Line Dancing! Beginners 1:15-2:15 Intermediate 2:15-4	Storytime with Babies 10:30 am Practice Spanish 11:30 am	Line Dancing at the Library! 2:15-4:00 pm	Learn Origami – Make Flowers and Animals! Entire Family – Sign-Up 1:00 pm	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	Sit & Stitch 2:30 pm	Storytime with Toddlers 10:30 am Line Dancing! Beginners 1:15-2:15 Intermediate 2:15-4	Storytime with Babies 10:30 am Practice Spanish 11:30 am	Line Dancing at the Library! 2:15-4:00 pm	Gingerbread House Competition! 1:00 pm	Solar Science Part 2- Make Bracelets & Solar Print Cyanotypes 12:00 noon
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Sit & Stitch 2:30 pm Library Friends of Payson Meeting 10:00 am	Storytime with Toddlers 10:30 am Line Dancing! Beginners 1:15-2:15 Intermediate 2:15-4	Rim Country Readers Book Club - 10:00 am Storytime with Babies 10:30 am Practice Spanish 11:30 am	Line Dancing at the Library! 2:15-4:00 pm	Make Mother's Day Decoupage Vase! 1:00 pm Entire Family Sign-Up	 Prepare to get WET!
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	Sit & Stitch 2:30 pm	Storytime with Toddlers 10:30 am Line Dancing! Beginners 1:15-2:15 Intermediate 2:15-4	Storytime with Babies 10:30 am Practice Spanish 11:30 am	Line Dancing at the Library! 2:15-4:00 pm	Call to Gardeners: Help prepare our Garden! Paint a Rock to Memorialize your Love Ones 1:00 pm	Summer Reading (May 27 to July 15, 2023) Kick-Off - Foam Party, Rim Country Enactors & BBQ 11:00 am to 2:00 Sign-Up
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
 Library Closed	Storytime with Toddlers 10:30 am Ukulele (8+) 10:00 am Line Dancing! Kids Welcome! Beginners 1:15-2:15 Intermediate 2:15-4 Plant the Veggies in our Garden! 2:00 pm	Storytime with Babies 10:30 am Practice Spanish 11:30 am Make Kindness Bird Feeder & place it around town! Sign-Up 2:00	Storytime with Babies 10:30 am Practice Spanish 11:30 am Make Kindness Bird Feeder & place it around town! Sign-Up 2:00	Line Dancing at the Library! 2:15-4:00 pm Town of Payson Community Coloring Project! 2:00 pm Sign-Up	Cursive Writing Camp! Learn or Practice Cursive! 11:00 am Sign-Up <i>"The most beautiful thing in life is to see a person you love smiling. And even more beautiful is that you are the reason behind it."</i>	Make a LOVE Bug and Clip it on someone you care about! 11:00 noon Sign-Up 

# 2023 EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION PICNIC

During National Employee Appreciation Week, the Employee Engagement Committee hosted the Town of Payson's 2023 Employee Appreciation Picnic. This year the event was held at the Town Hall Complex.



# BEELINE BUS

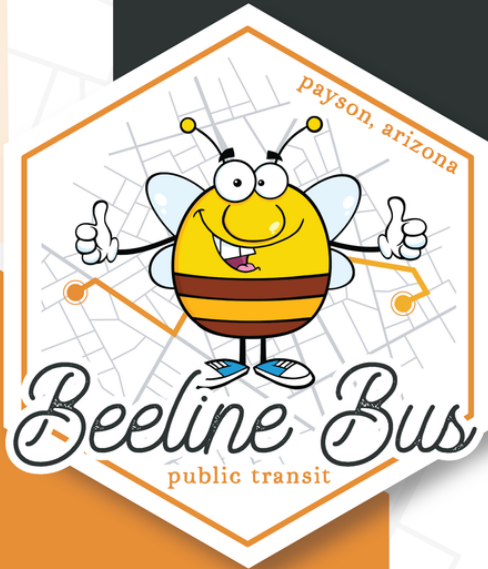
The Town of Payson Beeline Bus service is excited to offer a Free Ride Friday – on May 19th, 2023! The Beeline Bus sticker featured in the flyer will be handed out to all riders during the month of May, Adventure Payson Month, as a token of appreciation to all those individuals who are actively using the Beeline Bus transit system and create new interest in the Beeline Bus for first time users!

BEELINE BUS STICKER

*All Riders*

RIDE FREE - FRIDAY, MAY 19TH, 2023

There will be no fares charged to ride the Beeline Bus blue and red routes during the hours of 6am - 6pm.



*Free Sticker*

GIVEAWAY DURING ADVENTURE PAYSON MONTH  
During the Month of May.

FREE RIDE FRIDAY



End of Report  
Next Report: June 14, 2023

