



PAYSONAZ.GOV



# TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

JULY 12, 2023

# CONTENTS



**03**

MESSAGE FROM THE  
TOWN MANAGER

---

**05**

PARKS AND RECREATION

---

**09**

STREET DEPARTMENT

---

**15**

LIBRARY

---

**16**

HUMAN RESOURCES

---

# MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN MANAGER



On July 7, at about 550 pm the Payson 911 communications center received notification of a vehicle accident involving a car and a gasoline tanker. The accident occurred about 7 miles south of Payson, near mile post 244 on State Highway 87, in the northbound lanes. Payson Fire and Police were dispatched to the scene. When the first engine arrived, emergency personnel found a tanker with 8,600 gallons of unleaded gasoline on fire and one patient. Additional resources from the Town of Payson, Hellsgate, Water Wheel, Pine-Strawberry, Tonto Basin, National Forest Service, Lifeline Ambulance, Gila County Sheriff's Office, and AZ DPS were all part of the initial response.

The decision was quickly made to allow the gasoline to burn off and put all emergency resources into controlling the vegetation fire, which had been ignited by the hazardous material fire. Out of an abundance of caution, the Ox Bow area was placed on SET evacuation status. Additional resources were requested, as the fire spread in the vicinity of the accident; Prescott Fire, Sedona Fire, and Copper Canyon Fire all sent resources to cover our area while we dealt with this emergency. Ultimately aircraft were deployed on the fire and were able to help ground resources contain the spread of the fire.

On behalf of the Town of Payson, I would like to thank all the participating agencies who worked together to bring this complex incident to a safe resolution. Thankfully, there were injuries to any first responders and incredibly only minor injuries to one party involved in the crash.

# MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN MANAGER



You might be asking yourself why the Town of Payson Fire and Police responders were sent to an emergency outside of the Town. Unlike a metropolitan area where many jurisdictions have plentiful and often duplicative resources, in Rim Country that is not the case. Payson public safety resources routinely respond to emergencies in areas outside the community, as we work with regional partners to provide services to the entire region. It is common for Payson public safety personnel to be first on scene to emergencies outside of town, which is a prevailing condition in rural communities. In many emergency events, as was the case with the tanker fire, jurisdiction could become an issue, almost immediately. For example, in the accident that occurred on July 7th, the traffic accident and associated hazardous materials incident is most commonly handled by AZ DPS, the fire that started spread quickly to National Forest Service Land, all of which took place in Gila County. Fortunately, our area responders are well versed in establishing a unified command structure and managing emergencies seamlessly. They work collaboratively to resolve the incident, cooperatively and across public safety disciplines. This is not the case in all places in our Country, we are all very fortunate to have public safety leadership and responders who are committed to your safety as their top priority. Thanks to all of our Rim Country emergency response and medical providers, you are greatly appreciated.

-Troy Smith, Town Manager



# PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Thanks again to all of you that came out to enjoy the festivities at Green Valley Park on our Independence Day! We had a blast putting this event on and loved seeing all the families enjoying themselves out at the event.



# PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT



# PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Session #2 of Parks and Recreation Summer Camp began July 3rd and will run through July 21st.



# STREETS DEPARTMENT

With the summer season in full swing, our Town has seen an uptick in visitors and extra vehicular traffic. Our crews have tried to stay away from primary arterial collector routes and work on smaller residential concerns. In this report we will report on a series of tasks by the Town's Street crews.

With the heat of summer, it makes for an ideal temperature range for a series of larger paving projects.



Shawn Price and the rest of the crew remove a series of wooden forms from a recently poured concrete lateral spillway on Ponderosa and Bonita. This spillway will be given 3 weeks rest of coverage by steel plates to allow for proper curing and appropriate driving strength before paving resumes to complete the project. Our crews are careful to create graded dirt ramps and to keep up signage during this required “down time”.



# STREETS DEPARTMENT

When we have more than one project on the docket, our crews try to time our repairs to be staggered to allow for productivity while another project may be required to cure and strengthen concrete as well as to reevaluate the course of the project for any small changes to make.



Wyatt and Tukur Ranft wait to rake out fines on the asphalt as Shawn directs Shane in the backhoe as to the amount of asphalt needed in the hopper of the paver. Houston holds the control pad for the paver's fine tune functions. Vince is at the commands of the paving machine in the skid steer. The remaining 5 operators are driving asphalt to the project and controlling traffic from each side.

Just to the north across Highway 260, the crews are tackling another paving project on Malibu Drive, between the two roundabouts,

When we have larger projects such as these in the Street department, it can often times take the entirety of our 11 member crew. Currently we are looking to hire two additional technicians for the streets crew. We are hoping to have these staffed before Labor day.

# STREETS DEPARTMENT



Angie Lucchesi sweeps the southeast corner of 260 and 87 by McDonalds at around 05:00am on July 3rd.

In the early morning hours of the day before 4th of July and several mornings the week prior, our crews are out well before sunrise to make sure we have as little interference from traffic and to lessen our impact on commuting drivers. Although major highways such as Highways 87 and 260 in town do belong to ADOT, we have an agreement with them assist with routine areas of maintenance such as street sweeping and weed maintenance in the right of ways (ROWs).

# STREETS DEPARTMENT



Vince Beeler runs a string trimmer to mitigate weeds in the ROW.



Leroy and Wyatt trim weeds in the roundabout at Airport Rd and Hwy 87 at 05:30am on July 3rd.

# STREETS DEPARTMENT

Our crews also ran the water truck out to the Green Valley Park spillway to wet everything down the afternoon before and the following morning again at 05:00am. Vince and Houston assisted with this task.



It was a good Fourth of July and we were happy to be of assistance. Have a great summer everyone.

# STREETS DEPARTMENT



## **ADOT project updates traffic signal technology and timing in Payson Goal is improving traffic flow on SR 87 and SR 260 by reducing stops at red lights**

The Arizona Department of Transportation has upgraded traffic signal technology and timing on State Route 87 and State Route 260 in Payson to improve travel for residents, visitors and those passing through town.

Engineers with the Transportation System Management and Operations (TSMO) Division have added nine Payson traffic signals to ADOT's Statewide Traffic Signal System by installing radios and cell modems. This allows ADOT staff in Phoenix and Payson to monitor the signals remotely and adjust timing when there is a scheduled event or an incident such as a crash that blocks lanes.

Engineers also used this technology to create new signal timing plans for weekdays and for weekends, when Payson sees increased traffic heading to and through town. Separate signal timing plans for Saturdays and Sundays address the different traffic demands each day.

One advantage of this technology is having all signals on the same clock, getting rid of variability that develops when individual signals operate on their own clocks.

# STREETS DEPARTMENT

Combined with the signal timing plan, this reduces delays caused by red lights on SR 87 and SR 260. Payson joins several other rural communities using this combination of technology and the coordinated signal timing on state highways that are key arteries. In Bullhead City, for example, travel through town on State Route 95 now takes five minutes less on average thanks to recent ADOT upgrades.

Payson presented engineers with a greater challenge than some other communities because the speed limit drops as traffic nears downtown, traffic signals are close together and there is a busy intersection where SR 260 meets SR 87. ADOT will continue working closely with local officials and other stakeholders to enhance traffic flow.

One other benefit of upgraded technology is closed-circuit television cameras that allow for remote monitoring of traffic. Several of these cameras are already available on ADOT's Arizona Traveler Information website at [az511.gov](http://az511.gov).

ADOT's Transportation System Management and Operations (TSMO) Division focuses on operational and safety improvements that enhance the performance of the existing transportation system. To learn more about how TSMO helps Arizonans get where they need to be, please visit [azdot.gov/TSMO](http://azdot.gov/TSMO).



# PAYSON LIBRARY

## PAYSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

328 N McLane Rd, Payson, AZ 85541; 928-474-9260

[www.paysonaz.gov/departments/library.org](http://www.paysonaz.gov/departments/library.org)

### JULY 2023

Join Payson Public Library's **Tween & Teen Group** – Middle & High School!

### Summer Reading Program!!!

May 27 to July 15, 2023!

Reading, Foam Party, Pizza, BBQ, Hot Dogs, Treats, Gaming, Roblox, Slime, Solar Energy & Eclipse, Rocks, STEAM, Garden, Coding, Website, Chess & More!

Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Join Library Friends of Payson!</p> <p>HAPPY 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY!</p>		<p>Sign-Up for Solar Eclipse Glasses!!!</p>				<p>1</p> <p>Insectarium See Live Critters &amp; Build Terrarium 11:00 am</p>
<p>Take a Picture with our Photo-Op Summer Reading Sign &amp; Post on Facebook!</p>						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	<p>Sit &amp; Stitch Kids Welcome 1:30 pm</p> <p>Spread the Love – Write Positive Messages to place in Books! Tween/Teen 11:00 am</p>	<p>Library Closed Independence Day</p> 	<p>Storytime with Babies 10:30 am</p> <p>Practice Spanish 11:30 am</p> <p>Petrified Rock Show! Take 1 Home! 1:00 pm</p>	<p>Line Dancing at the Library! 2:15 – 4:00</p> <p>Learn Chess Basics 2 - 4 pm</p>	<p>Solar Eclipse Awareness- Make Pinhole Camera to see the sky's most awesome show! 11:00 am</p> 	<p>Colorful Chemistry – Make Rainbow Lava Lamp to take home! 11:00 am</p> 
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	<p>Sit &amp; Stitch Kids Welcome! 1:30 pm</p> <p>Drawing Competition - Winner's drawing will be posted in library 11:00 am</p>	<p>Storytime with Toddlers 10:30 am</p> <p>Line Dancing – Kids Welcome!</p> <p>Beginners 1:15-2:15 Intermediate 2:15-4</p>	<p>Storytime with Babies 10:30 am</p> <p>Practice Spanish 11:30 am</p> <p>Police Heroes &amp; Helpers 1:00 pm</p>	<p>Line Dancing at the Library! 2:15 – 4:00 pm</p> <p>Tie Dye – Bring your T-Shirt or Socks 2:00 pm</p>	<p>Rex Lace Part 2 – Learn how to make 5 strands or start a new Keychain! 11:00 am</p> <p>Sign-Up Teen/Tween Group Meeting 12:00 noon</p>	<p>Summer Reading Finale! Pizza, Pop &amp; Treats sponsored by Desert Financial! 11 – 12:30 Sign-Up</p> 
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	<p>Sit &amp; Stitch 1:30 pm</p> <p>Library Friends of Payson Meeting 10:00 am</p>	<p>Storytime with Toddlers 10:30 am</p> <p>Line Dancing – Kids Welcome!</p> <p>Beginners 1:15-2:15 Intermediate 2:15-4</p>	<p>Storytime with Babies 10:30 am</p> <p>Practice Spanish 11:30 am</p> <p>Rim Country Readers Book Club - 10:00 am</p>	<p>Line Dancing at the Library! 2:15 – 4:00 pm</p>	<p>Spruce/Weed Payson Public Library Garden! Join our Garden Club! 1:00 pm</p> <p>Sign-Up</p> 	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	<p>Sit &amp; Stitch 1:30 pm</p>	<p>Storytime with Toddlers 10:30 am</p> <p>Line Dancing – Kids Welcome!</p> <p>Beginners 1:15-2:15 Intermediate 2:15-4</p>	<p>Storytime with Babies 10:30 am</p> <p>Practice Spanish 11:30 am</p>	<p>Line Dancing at the Library! 2:15 – 4:00 pm</p>	<p>Learn Origami – Make Flowers and Animals! Entire Family – Sign-Up 1:00 pm</p> 	
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
	<p>Sit &amp; Stitch 1:30 pm</p>	<p>Storytime with Toddlers 10:30 am</p> <p>Line Dancing Beginners 1:15-2:15 Intermediate 2:15-4</p>	<p>Storytime with Babies 10:30 am</p> <p>Practice Spanish 11:30 am</p>	<p>Line Dancing at the Library! 2:15 – 4:00 pm</p>	<p>Make Kindness Bookmarks &amp; Give Away! 1:00pm</p> <p>Sign-Up</p> 	

# HUMAN RESOURCES

## Town of Payson Employee Service Awards

	Years of Service	Year Earned
Gordon Dimbat	5	2023
Kylea Donaldson	5	2022
Joshua Higgins	5	2023
Benjamin Keith	5	2022
Christopher Krohn	5	2022
Kenneth Murphy	5	2022
Barbara Potvin	5	2022
Prestina Preston-Lynch	5	2022
Becky Prock	5	2023
Krys Stevens	5	2022
Oscar Teran	5	2022
Jim Wise	5	2022
Phoenix Youngcourt	5	2023
Nicholas Bogatko	10	2023
Tanner Henry	10	2023
Travis Kilbourne	10	2023
Brandon LaBonte'	10	2022
Emily Linkey	10	2022
Thornton Smith	10	2022
Jesse Davies	15	2022
Michael Hansen	15	2022
Jared Meredith	15	2022
Celena West	15	2022
Chad Richey	20	2022
Monica Savage	20	2023
Bethany Beck	25	2023
Bernie Gilson	25	2023
Larry McNeeley	25	2023
Mark Keeney	35	2022
Todd Bramlet	40	2021



End of Report  
Next Report: July 26, 2023

