



PAYSONAZ.GOV



TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

AUGUST 09, 2023

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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

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Thank you to all who participated in the various offerings we had in July as we celebrated National Parks and Recreation Month! July showcased a lot of different elements of our department. We were happy to share a lot of exciting new additions to our programs and events for the folks of the community. Here is a quick recap of our program areas:

Special Events:

On the heels of the Community Fourth of July celebration, we hosted the final concerts to our Summer Concert Series. We had record numbers for the series, including over 1,750 people at one show, and we averaged over 1,100 attendees per show for the eight-concert series! Look for more live music at the Fiddle and Food Truck Festival coming in September!



Pictured: Outside the Line 07/22/23

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

School Programs:

We wrapped up our inaugural youth Summer Camp program. The program maxed out at 100 participants for July, and we are looking forward to expanding the program in the future! Due to the overall success and positive feedback from the program, we are now going to collaborate with Payson Unified School District for a similar program on Fridays throughout the school year.



Pictured: Parks & Recreation
Summer Camp program 7/23

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Adult Sports:

Our adult softball leagues have been going strong. The summer league registration has the most teams for both leagues since 2014! We have 10 teams playing in the Men's League and 8 teams playing in the Co-Ed Softball League.

Outside Agency Sports Tournament:

The Town of Payson sports fields hosted a baseball tournament that had 29 teams from around Arizona competing in a two day tournament at Rumsey Park on July 29th and 30th. We want to thank our Parks Crew for doing an amazing job prepping the fields to tournament specifications as well as keeping our park clean with all of the weekend visitors for this tournament.



PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Youth Sports:

We wrapped up our Youth T-ball & Coach Pitch seasons with an end of the season Pizza Party! Following the final games of the season, we hosted a giant pizza party for the teams and would like to thank Friendly Pest Control for sponsoring the festivities! These leagues saw an increase in numbers as well with 65 local kids playing T-ball and 96 of their older counterparts playing in our Coach Pitch league!

Flag Football registration is up from the last few years and practices will begin the week of 8/7/2023. Regular game days are Saturday's beginning 8/12/2023 at Rumsey Park.



PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

DESIGNATION OF JULY AS PARKS & RECREATION MONTH - 2023

WHEREAS; our parks, trails, events and recreation programs are vitally important to establishing and maintaining the quality of life in our town, ensuring the health of all citizens, and creating a stronger, more vibrant and resilient community; and

WHEREAS; parks, trails, events and recreation programs increase the community's economic prosperity, increase tourism, aid in the attraction of business, and helps reduce crime; and

WHEREAS; parks, trails, events and recreation programs are fundamental to the environmental and social well-being of our community; and

WHEREAS; the U.S. House of Representatives has designated July as National Parks and Recreation Month; and

WHEREAS; Payson recognizes the benefits derived from parks and recreation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Chris Higgins, Mayor of the Town of Payson, Arizona, do hereby proclaim July 2023 as "PARKS AND RECREATION MONTH" in the Town of Payson, Arizona.

Signed and attested to this day of July 12th, 2023.



CHRIS HIGGINS, Mayor

ATTEST:



TRACIE BAILEY, Town Clerk

PAYSON LIBRARY

Payson Public Library

328 N McLane Rd, Payson, AZ 85541; 928-474-9260
www.paysonaz.gov/departments/library.org

AUGUST 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		Storytime with Toddlers 10:30 am Line Dancing Beginners 1:15-2:15 Intermediate 2:15-4:00 pm	Storytime with Babies 10:30 am Practice Spanish 11:30 am	Line Dancing at the Library! 2:15-4:00 pm		Color Changing Slime! Make Slime that changes COLOR 12:00 noon
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Sit & Stitch 2:30 pm	Storytime with Toddlers 10:30 am Line Dancing Beginners 1:15-2:15 Intermediate 2:15-4:00 pm	Storytime with Babies 10:30 am Practice Spanish 11:30 am	Line Dancing at the Library! 2:15-4:00 pm	Discover Spanish for Kids – Learn language, Food, Culture 11:30 am Sign-Up Blast-off - Soda Rockets Design, Build & Test your rocket (Bring Soda Bottles) 1:00 pm Sign-Up	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Sit & Stitch 2:30 pm	Storytime with Toddlers 10:30 am Line Dancing Beginners 1:15-2:15 Intermediate 2:15-4:00 pm	Storytime with Babies 10:30 am Practice Spanish 11:30 am	Line Dancing at the Library! 2:15-4:00 pm	Weed Payson Library Gardens – All are Welcome! 10:00 am Sign-Up Handwriting – Learn to Write Cursive 1:00 pm Sign-Up	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Sit & Stitch 2:30 pm	Storytime with Toddlers 10:30 am Line Dancing! Beginners 1:15-2:15 Intermediate 2:15-4:00 pm	Storytime with Babies 10:30 am Practice Spanish 11:30 am	Line Dancing at the Library! 2:15-4:00 pm	Discover Spanish for Kids – Learn language, Food, Culture 11:30 am Sign-Up Rex Lace Part 2 – Learn how to make 6 strands or start a new Keychain! 1:00 pm Sign-Up	Hello Hola
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
	Sit & Stitch 2:30 pm	Storytime with Toddlers 10:30 am Line Dancing Beginners 1:15-2:15 Intermediate 2:15-4:00 pm	Storytime with Babies 10:30 am Practice Spanish 11:30 am	Line Dancing at the Library! 2:15-4:00 pm	Labor Day Cube Appreciate All Workers 1:00 pm	COMMUNITY HELPERS

WATER DEPARTMENT

No More Green Carpet

Since Green Valley Park was constructed in 1996 the Water Department has used multiple approaches to manage the algae growth in the lakes. This work mostly included using a chemical algaecide and biological treatments and raking from the shore by hand. These methods generally keep the algae at bay until the hottest parts of summer in July and August until the summer rains come. This constant battle has had successes and failures over the years depending on the conditions of the water, sunlight, heat, etc. However, the Water Department has never had a good option for mechanical collection and removal of aquatic vegetation. That all changed with the purchase of a Weedoo Boat as shown in the photos below. The Weedoo Boat arrived in Payson on July 31, 2023 to the excitement of the staff. Now the Water Department has the ability to efficiently mechanically remove algae, cattails, and duckweed from the lakes and will be able to keep the unsightly “green carpet” from covering our lakes again next summer.



WATER DEPARTMENT



WATER DEPARTMENT

Ponderosa Cherry Waterline Project Begins

The Water Department publicly read bids for the South Ponderosa Street and East Cherry Street Waterline Project at 2:00 PM on July 6, 2023 at the Town Council Chambers. In total three bids were received.

After a qualifications review process, the Town of Payson has accepted and executed an agreement with Apache Underground to begin construction on September 1, 2023 and complete construction prior to June 14, 2024. This project will construct 455 feet of new 6" diameter and 1,200 feet of new 8" diameter potable water mains along S. Ponderosa Street, East Frontier Street, and East Cherry Street to connect existing watermains in the area. This work will also include new water services for properties adjacent to the watermains, isolation valves, air release valves, and two new fire hydrants. The new watermains will improve fire flow and water reliability for Banner Payson Medical Center, enable the Water Department to serve the properties along the new watermain, and abandon the old small diameter watermains in the area. Specially, the watermain within the rear alley between East Cherry Street and E. Mckamey Street from Sout Ponderosa Street to South Manzanita Drive will be abandoned as part of this project.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Department Report 8.4.2023

July 4th

July started with a bang – and celebration for Independence Day. Payson Fire requires all personnel to be on duty for the event. Staffing showed up ready to help make the day a safe. Payson Firefighters were able to staff three extra fire engines and two medic side by sides for the event as well as upstaff the three stations serving the rest of the Town. Fire Department Volunteers operated a booth passing out information on how to make residents property safer from wildfire. We are grateful for the cooperation and help of our other Rim Country fire service professionals. The USFS Payson Ranger District supplied two fully staffed fire engines, Chief Morris from Hellsgate Fire District participated as a safety officer and lent us a side by side. Chief Stattelmaier from Waterwheel Fire loaned a fire engine for the event staffed with paramedic personnel. Chief Brant from Pine-Strawberry Fire loaned a staffed fire engine as well. American Medical Response (AMR) loaned us a staffed medic cart, ambulance and staffed the aid center with Basic Life Support personnel. All together we had 7 fire engines, three medic mobile units, and the aid center staffed and ready to support the event along with 7 supervisory personnel to manage Fire and EMS response. The partnership with Parks and Recreation and the Payson Police Department worked like a well-oiled machine. Thank you to Kaitlin and the rest of the Parks and Rec. staff for a job well done.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

New Part Time Fire Inspector

Thanks to a grant put together by Vince Palandri and Bethany Beck, we hired a temporary part time Fire Inspector. Meet Greg Raymond. Greg is a retired Battalion Chief from Bull Head City and has been a resident of Payson for over 4 years. Greg comes with a wealth of experience and is a huge asset for the Department. Greg will be helping us catch up on business occupancy fire safety inspections.



FIRE DEPARTMENT

Tanker Fire

July 7th a little before 6:00 PM Payson Fire Department responded to a vehicle accident on HWY 87 near mile post 244 involving a passenger vehicle and a gasoline tanker truck. With help from the Tonto National Forest, Hellsgate Fire District, Water wheel Fire District, Pine Strawberry Fire District, Tonto Basin Fire District, Payson P.D. and Gila County Sheriffs Office the fire was quickly contained and the gasoline allowed to burn out to avert a bigger ecological problem.

Mold remediation

Last march, after the heavy rains we received, multiple water leaks were found at fire stations 11 and 12. Sunshine Restoration was called and performed a water damage assessment and mold evaluation. After the inspections of both fire stations significant water damage and some mold growth were discovered. Sunshine Restoration then performed interior mold remediation on both fire stations. This included taking out all the water damaged areas and removing the mold from the buildings. Currently, Sunshine Restoration has removed all the water damaged areas and mold. Sunshine Restoration has started the reconstruction phase for both stations and should be completed by September. This included replacing drywall, painting, floor install, and sealing previous water leaks. Also, Bow-Tie Roofing was called and performed roof maintenance on both stations. Benkert Quality Painting was called to seal the outside block at station 11 to prevent water coming through the walls. Mountain High Home Improvements was called to evaluate the second story patio and the front entrance ceiling. The patio area and front entrance ceiling are scheduled for repairs this month. Mountain Improvements is scheduled to complete repairs by the end of August.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Currently both fire stations have been cleared of mold by Sunshine Restoration. Payson Fire is now working with multiple vendors to complete reconstruction phase of the project. The anticipated timeline for project completion is September 2023.

Thanks to our Logistics Specialist Daniel Malloy for his dedicated work!



Station 11 electrical room



Station 11 upstairs bathroom ceiling mold removal

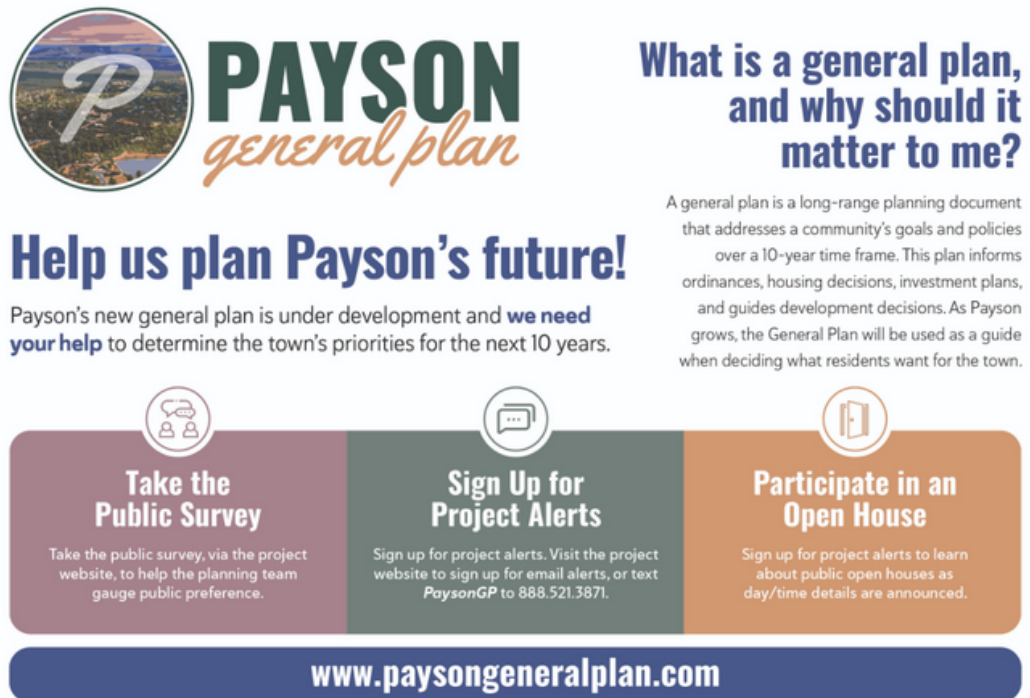


Station 12 kitchen mold removal

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

The next meeting will be an in-person discussion and visioning meeting with Council and the Planning Commission on the General Plan. The meeting will be an in-depth overview of the general plan and its elements, the importance of process, and a summary of the major milestones and an opportunity for council and committee member involvement. The meeting will serve as a project introduction, an overview of the Town profile, and include important visioning exercises for the General Plan. The public is invited to observe the meeting similar to any Council Work Session.

The General Plan Stakeholder Committee currently has over 30 participants and requests for participants will close 8/11. The Community Survey will launch tomorrow (8/10) live on the paysongenerlaplan.com website. Information will be going out to the public to advertise the public survey. A postcard (below) mailer will also be going out to all Payson residents.



The postcard mailer features the Payson General Plan logo on the left, which includes a circular image of a landscape with a large 'P' overlaid. To the right of the logo is the text 'PAYSON general plan'. Below the logo is the headline 'Help us plan Payson's future!' followed by the text 'Payson's new general plan is under development and we need your help to determine the town's priorities for the next 10 years.' On the right side, there is a section titled 'What is a general plan, and why should it matter to me?' with a sub-headline 'What is a general plan, and why should it matter to me?' and a paragraph explaining that a general plan is a long-range planning document that addresses a community's goals and policies over a 10-year time frame. At the bottom, there are three colored boxes with icons and text: a purple box for 'Take the Public Survey', a green box for 'Sign Up for Project Alerts', and an orange box for 'Participate in an Open House'. A dark blue bar at the very bottom contains the website address 'www.paysongeneralplan.com'.

PAYSON
general plan

Help us plan Payson's future!

Payson's new general plan is under development and **we need your help** to determine the town's priorities for the next 10 years.

What is a general plan, and why should it matter to me?

A general plan is a long-range planning document that addresses a community's goals and policies over a 10-year time frame. This plan informs ordinances, housing decisions, investment plans, and guides development decisions. As Payson grows, the General Plan will be used as a guide when deciding what residents want for the town.

- Take the Public Survey**
Take the public survey, via the project website, to help the planning team gauge public preference.
- Sign Up for Project Alerts**
Sign up for project alerts. Visit the project website to sign up for email alerts, or text *PaysonGP* to 888.521.3871.
- Participate in an Open House**
Sign up for project alerts to learn about public open houses as day/time details are announced.

www.paysongeneralplan.com

End of Report
Next Report: August 23, 2023

