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TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

SEPTEMBER 13, 2023

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MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN MANAGER



The League of Arizona Cities and Towns is a voluntary membership organization that exists to provide vital services and tools to its members, focusing principally on representing the interests of Arizona's 91 cities and towns before the Legislature; and secondarily on providing technical and legal assistance, coordinating shared services and producing high-quality conferences and trainings. Each year the League hosts an annual conference for all cities and towns elected officials. The 2023 League of Cities and Town's Conference was held in Tucson. There were 1400 attendees. The League Conference brings community leaders together to discuss current issues facing our communities and the State. Our municipal leaders learn from workshops and speakers and network with colleagues. The Mayor and Vice-Mayor proudly carried the Payson flag at the conference flag parade opening ceremony.

This year Payson and Star Valley hosted a booth together at the Conference Showcase of Cities and Towns to promote our communities.

-Troy Smith, Town Manager

MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN MANAGER



PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT



Capital Improvement Project Citizens Advisory Committee (CIPCAC) on the Road at the Senior Center.



Capital Improvement Project Citizens Advisory Committee (CIPCAC) Open House at the Payson Library.

CIPCAC presentations have been made at the Chamber of Commerce meeting, Payson Tea Party, Senior center, Democratic Party meeting, Rotary Club, and Veterans club meeting and a public open meeting at the library that had almost 100 people attend.

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Improvements in the fence and netting at Rumsey Field # 3.



PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT



Improvements made to the fence and netting at North Multipurpose Field at Rumsey.

Town of Payson Annual Senior Softball Classic started Thursday September 7th at Rumsey Park! Thank you to our sponsors, Pizza Factory, Mazatzal Casino, Dallin Haws Farmers Insurance and Axis Culture.



PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

There was a total of 10 senior teams from around the State that competed in Payson for a two-day tournament. Last year there were 7 teams.



60's
Division
Champs:
Sidewinders



70's
Division
champions:
Ranalls
Reality

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

SEPTEMBER EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS



FIDDLE & FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL

JOIN US ON
SEPTEMBER 22-24TH
 AT GREEN VALLEY PARK



-  **LIVE PERFORMANCES**
-  **FIDDLE CONTEST**
ARIZONA STATE FIDDLERS COMPETITION
-  **CELEBRITY JUDGES**
-  **OVER A DOZEN FOOD TRUCKS**
-  **KIWANIS CLUB HOSTED** *BEER Garden*



MUSTANG PARK



MUSTANG PARK
 (KNOWN AS THE BLUE PARK)

IS OPEN AND READY FOR THE COMMUNITY TO ENJOY AGAIN!

PARK HOURS: 6AM TO 10:30 PM
 LOCATED AT THE CORNER OF ROUNDUP RD AND MUSTANG CR.

LANTERNS ON THE LAKE **SEPT. 28TH**
 Green Valley Park



FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING EVENTS AND TO REGISTER FOR SPORTS AND PROGRAMS

TOWN OF PAYSON PARKS AND RECREATION
 CALL AT 928.472.5110
 STOP BY 1000 W. COUNTRY CLUB DR.

@PAYSONPARKANDREC   #PLAYPAYSON
WWW.PAYSONRIMCOUNTRY.COM

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

**KEEP PAYSON
CLEAN**



**9/11 Day of
Service**

**The U.S.
Forest Service**



**The Town of
Payson**

Community Gathering

September 16th, 2023

9am-Noon

**Bring family and friends to join us in cleaning up our
community's trails and beautifying our town!**

**Sign up to volunteer for one to three-hour shifts at
JustServe.org. Look for "9/11 Day of Service -
Keep Payson Clean"**

**Find more info @keppaysonclean on Facebook and
Instagram! Links to all resources are on our website**

keppaysonclean.org

Mission

**Make Payson the cleanest city in the U.S. through a community get-together to pick up
trash for just an hour a month.**

PAYSON LIBRARY

Payson Public Library

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

SEPTEMBER 2023

Join
Library
Friends
of
Payson!



Sun day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
Please Sign-Up for all Friday & Saturday Programs					Labor Day Cube Appreciate All Workers! 1:00 pm Sign-Up	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
LIBRARY CLOSED Labor Day 	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 	Spark Your Creativity-Paint a Stepping Stone for our Garden or Take it Home! Sign-up! 1:00 pm 		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
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 	Bubble-ology - How bubbles are made and why they pop? 12:00 Noon 	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Library Friends of Payson Meeting - Julie & Glen Bradley - Sailing the Great Loop 10:00 am Sit & Stitch 2:30 pm	Dental Hygiene Storytime with Toddlers 10:30 am  Line Dancing Beginners 1:15-2:15 Intermediate 2:15-4:00 pm 	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 3D model of Solar Eclipse in preparation for Annular Eclipse on October 14, 2023! 1:00 pm Sign-up! 	Solar Eclipse Glasses will be provided 	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
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 	Line Dancing at the Library! 2:15-4:00 pm	Learn Origami - Make Mobile Cranes and Stars! Entire Family - Sign-Up 1:00 pm 		

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Payson's Finance Department Facelift

If you have been by the Finance Department recently, you may have noticed it has undergone a bit of a personnel "Facelift" the past two months. Due to the attrition of several Finance staff, the Finance Department had needed to hire several new staff member. The new staff changes are more than cosmetic (pun intended), as they add extensive financial experience and technical skills to the department. The recent staff changes include the following.



Dana Ohanesian

In July, Dana Ohanesian was hired to fill the vacant Finance Director position. Dana has an undergraduate degree in Finance and a MBA in Leadership & Management. Previously Dana was the Director of Administration for several Agencies at the County of Orange in California. After a 30-year career with the County, Dana retired and moved from California to Payson to enjoy its small-town lifestyle. On the weekends, Dana can be seen at the Rumsey Park tennis courts, pickleball courts, or mountain biking trails.



Emily Shy

In August, the Town Hired Emily Shy as the Town's Finance Manager where she will oversee all the Town's accounting activities. Emily has an undergraduate degree in Accounting and extensive accounting and auditing experience. Previously, Emily was the Finance Director with a national sustainable container company where she coordinated their accounting and financial activities in 27 states. Emily recently moved from the Valley to Payson where she bought a house and plans to raise her daughter in Payson's small-town atmosphere. Emily will be a good fit in the Payson community with her horse and rodeo background.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT



Liz Runzo

Liz Runzo was hired in August as a Financial Services Specialist where she will coordinate the Town's Banking and Account Receivable responsibilities. Liz has an undergraduate degree in Business Administration and a Master's in Accounting. Liz is originally from the Phoenix area, however, her husband grew up in Payson. Currently, Liz and her husband live in Round Valley where they take advantage of the local trails, national forests and outdoor recreation.



Ann Owen

Ann Owen was hired in July in the Town Clerk's Department but recently moved to the Finance Department due to an unexpected vacancy. Ann has a Bachelors Degree in Accounting and MBA in Business Arts and will be responsible for miscellaneous accounting and batch processing activities. Previously Ann worked as the Senior Accountant at a non-profit organization for 17 years, and was the Chief Financial Officer for a company in Tempe for several years. Last year Ann and her husband moved to Payson with their four dogs. These days Ann enjoys gardening and nature photography.

The new staff members bring a varied mix of financial skills and experience to the Finance Department, which will be a good fit for the needs and duties of the Department. Together with the existing staff of Karen Stallings and Robin Adcock the department is now fully staffed.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Battery Fire

On Thursday August 3rd Payson Fire Department responded to a call for a garage fire on S. Butte Crest Lane. When fire crews arrived at scene, they found the owner had successfully extinguished most of the fire and contained it to a wall and shelf at the rear of the garage. If it hadn't been for the observations of the owner's wife – noticing the smoke when the fire was small - this could have been a very damaging fire. The fire started around the Li-Ion battery chargers where the homeowner was charging batteries for his power tools. Please remember charging batteries can be very dangerous – especially the Li-Poly and Li-Ion type batteries so prevalent in our lives. Always use a good quality charger designed for the specific battery you are charging. Don't leave batteries charging without supervision or at least checking on them consistently. If the battery or charger gets hot or arcs, discontinue charging immediately. Store batteries in a safe place.



FIRE DEPARTMENT

New Fire Fighter

We are proud to welcome our newest Fire Fighter Adam Lamaide. Adam brings great experience as a lateral fire fighter transfer from Verde Valle Fire Department. Adam has some great wildland firefighting experience and has already lived in Payson for 5 years. Adam says he is excited to be a part of the Payson Fire Department and serve the community he lives in.



Adam Lamaide

Oil Spill

On August 28, Engine 13 responded to a call for a hazardous material in the gutter on the 700 block of Colt Drive. When the engine got there, they found what may have been over 100 gallons of oil (possibly mixed with other hazardous materials) dumped in the drainage system. The cause of the oil spill is still under investigation for potential criminal charges. A hazardous material clean up company was contracted to remove the contamination. Costs for remediation, which may be as high as \$20,000, will be assessed to the responsible party/property owner.



POLICE DEPARTMENT

IMPROVING OUR FLEET:

As of August 1, 2023, we have increased our patrol fleet by five more new 2023 Chevrolet Tahoes, bringing our total to nine new vehicles received this year. These vehicles replaced older vehicles in the fleet from 2002, 2003, and 2007. This is also in addition to our new GOHS DUI Enforcement Command Center van which was put into use this 4th of July. This vehicle was purchased through funding provided by the Governor's of Highway Safety Grant specifically provided for this purpose.



POLICE DEPARTMENT

Community Generosity

On August 9, 2023, the Central Arizona Association of Realtors (CAAR) generously donated 48 CAAR Branded lockboxes to the Payson Police Department and the Payson Fire Department to assist with our PATH Welfare Program and Guardian Angel Program. Both of these programs assist our community's disabled and senior citizens. These new lockboxes will be provided to these residents to assist our first responders in accessing their residences in time of medical emergency or crisis where they are unable to unlock the residence on their own. Without these helpful boxes, a more forceful entry can at times be implemented due to life-threatening circumstances. The Payson Police Department would like to thank the Central Arizona Association of Realtors for providing us with this much-needed device. It is donations like this that allow our departments to continue to provide many of these services at no cost to our citizens.



POLICE DEPARTMENT

Payson Police Department Joins TAP to Promote Recruiting

The Military Transition Assistance Program (TAP) is a program provided to military service members as they begin to transition out of the military. They provide information to exiting military persons as to the different careers outside of the military such as law enforcement and other areas of public safety. The Payson Police Department is working with TAP to provide presentations about our community and our department to assist with boosting recruitments. It is at these information briefings that we can provide pamphlets about our agency as well as a presentation for what we can offer incoming personnel. These briefings are offered twice a month. Additionally, they provide a career fair where we can provide our information as well.



STREET DEPARTMENT



Streets is highlighting our Mechanics and their department in this report. Our Mechanic department is staffed with two full-time employees and an occasional third or fourth may fill in from time to time out of our staff in Streets. Chuck and Tucker are responsible for breadth and scope of the maintenance and repair for most of the Town's Fleet. On any given day, they could be changing tires on a Beeline Bus, or doing a regular lube, oil and filter for one of the Police cruisers, fabricating parts for machinery or simply keeping their floors clean.



Tucker and Chuck assemble a plow harness and assembly before the winter season kicks off.
(Shawn assists)

STREET DEPARTMENT



There are more than 250 varied pieces of equipment in the inventory of the Town spread out between 4 main departments and over the geography of the Town. While the majority of these pieces serviced by the mechanics come primarily from The Streets, Police and Beeline Bus, and are usually vehicles, they are responsible to be available to service any other internal department's equipment requests. This can extend from changing oil, rotating tires, rebuilding an engine, replacing air suspension in larger trucks to metal fabrication and complex welding. Without these two individuals in this department, the Town's complex Fleet of operations could literally grind to a halt.



Chuck pulls the air release line to remove condensation from a faulty air supply tank of the Street's ThermoLay paving truck.

STREET DEPARTMENT

In the winter our crews can be in as early as 1am to handle snowstorms and each time we have at least one of our mechanics staffed with the early shift to be ready for any equipment breaks or issues.



Chuck and Taker remove a transfer case for repair and re-installation all in the same day.

FABRICATION



Tuker welds hard tac to the face of a backhoe bucket. A tried and true farmer repair that extends the life of contact faces on heavy equipment.

There is a unique distinction to these Mechanics and the rest of the Street Department by extension. We are blessed to have so many employees willing to take on many different challenges to daily repairs in the department with a truly specialized skill set. We are speaking about fabrication. Almost all of our crew have some basic knowledge and skill in metal work and repair however, we are in the minority as a Town to have so many metal craftsman in our department.

From hard tac to tig welding, from oxy-acetylene to CNC precision. Our crews take on any new challenge with interest and excitement. This has been an immeasurable value to the Town in employee morale, job satisfaction, retention for the Street Department.

WATER DEPARTMENT

There have been several recent inquiries about the Town of Payson's plan of action regarding polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) detected in some of our ground water supply wells. On February 22, 2023 the Water Department presented information to the Town Council regarding the specter of new EPA legislation regarding PFAS otherwise known as "Forever Chemicals". In that presentation, we showed that these "Forever Chemicals" were manufactured since the 1950's and used in many products because they resist water and heat. Specifically, these chemicals were used in non-stick cookware, firefighting foams, cosmetics, food packaging, waterproof apparel, and textiles. Because these chemicals do not break down easily, they are ubiquitous in the environment and the human body has a difficult time processing and disposing of it which may cause adverse health effects.

The EPA has now issued Health Advisory Levels that they believe may be harmful to public health and proposed reducing the allowable limits in drinking water from 70 to 4 parts per trillion. While this proposed standard is not a current regulation, the Town of Payson is proactively working to address the situation.

Current situation: Our water system is currently running water from the CC Cragin reservoir and through the Town's treatment facility, which treats 100% of our water for these PFAS chemicals. In other words, all of our water is currently being effectively treated to eliminate the PFOS or forever chemicals.

Future Design Underway: The most recent sampling of our water system indicates that some of our ground water wells, which are only used as a water source when the CC Cragin Reservoir is not operational, have detected samples above the proposed 4 parts per trillion standard. Although this is not an adopted standard by ADEQ, who is the regulatory agency over the Town of Payson's water system, the Town is currently working with water experts and engineers to design site-based treatment alternatives. This alternative would include the design and construction of individual treatment solutions at each affected well site. This step would ensure that the Town of Payson's dual water system was completely protected from these forever chemicals. Staff are working to develop a comprehensive solution and plan to make a presentation to the Town Council and the community at the next regularly scheduled Town Council Meeting.

End of Report
Next Report: September 27, 2023

