



PAYSONAZ.GOV



TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

SEPTEMBER 27, 2023

CONTENTS



03

MESSAGE FROM THE
TOWN MANAGER

04

PARKS AND RECREATION

07

LIBRARY

08

FIRE DEPARTMENT

11

POLICE DEPARTMENT

13

WATER DEPARTMENT

14

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

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



Steve Richardson
Parks and Recreation Director

Steve is a native of Arizona, growing up in Mesa, where he spent his childhood exploring the outdoors, playing sports, and traveling with his family. He began working in recreation as a youth sports referee at age 15 and continued his journey, graduating with a degree in Parks & Recreation Management from Northern Arizona University in 2004. He has been in the recreation field for nearly two decades, most recently as the Community Services Director for the mining town of Bagdad, Arizona. Previously, he opened and ran operations at the Goodyear Recreation Center, and prior to that, he was the Sedona Parks & Recreation Manager. Steve has been involved with the Arizona Parks and Recreation Association for many years and hosts the annual awards banquet.

Steve enjoys spending time with his wife, cheering on his two daughters in sports, trail running, surfing, hunting, creating art, and being outdoors as much as possible.

"I feel so blessed to be a part of the Town of Payson and lead the charge for the Parks and Recreation department! We have an excellent team here, and I am excited for the future of this community." – Steve Richardson

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Fiddle and Food Festival:

We had a great turnout at the Fiddle and Food Truck Festival as fiddlers celebrated 53 continuous years of the Arizona State Championship. We were delighted to see local talent and participants from all over the state. Arizona natives will proudly represent us at the Nationals in Weiser, ID. Several of the food trucks sold out, and we want to express our sincere gratitude for your support. We take pride in offering exceptional events to our community.



PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT



Sports:

- The Town of Payson Flag Football season finished up on Saturday, September 16th. The end of season pizza party was sponsored by Dallin Haws and Farmers Insurance.
- Youth Fall Soccer 2023 first games will be starting this Saturday, September 30th. We have 313 registered participants and 20 total teams.
- Flex Friday program is in full swing! We currently have 57 kids registered for this program with a max of 100. Sign your kids up! Visit: www.paysonparks.com
- Adult Fall Softball League - 6 co-ed teams - 7 men's teams.
- 2023 Summer Men's Champs. (Quality Movers)

PAYSON LIBRARY



The Payson Public Library has recently benefited from some long-needed TLC. It started with an effort by the High Country Garden Club, Children's Librarian, Sianee Hawkins, and a group of eager young gardeners-in-training to put in a series of gardens at the library's entrance this summer. Then the Library Friends of Payson hired a local contractor, Ratliff Stonework, to fix the much-abused rock work columns and façade outside, repairing years of vandalism and weather damage. The Town of Payson which owns the library grounds and building added landscaping and tree service for the Payson Library grounds to a new annual landscaping contract that will keep it and many other town properties looking neat and welcoming in the coming years. When the contract came in a bit higher than expected, they turned to the Library Friends of Payson who generously agreed to contribute to the effort. This year, Library Friends of Payson will contribute \$10,700.00 towards the cost of maintaining the Payson Public Library's grounds and vegetation, estimated to cost more than \$35,000 in total. The Payson Public Library has always prided itself on the fact that it survives as a joint venture between municipalities, the Library Friends of Payson (the 501-C3 non-profit group dedicated to supporting our library), and the citizens of the community it serves. If you haven't stopped by the library in a while, make a point to do so, we are looking better than ever.

Please see the attached photograph of the Library Friends of Payson presenting Town staff with a check for \$10,700.00.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

BUSINESS FIRE SAFETY INSPECTIONS

Through the diligent work of Vince Palandri and Bethany Beck, Payson Fire Department was awarded a grant which will allow the Fire Department to resume annual business inspections in Town.

From 2015 to 2019 fires caused over \$834,000,000 in property loss to businesses in the United States. There were 17 civilians who lost their lives in those fires.

60% of businesses who experience a fire never re-open. Of the businesses who do reopen 25% fail within the first year. Imagine the “ripple effect” of losing a small business in our community. Goods and services no longer available, unemployed workers, friends and families who must leave our community to find work elsewhere.

A good fire prevention and inspection program has been proven to reduce fire losses. Fire prevention programs also affect the Insurance Services Organization (ISO) rating of the Fire Department in a positive way, which can reflect in better insurance rates.

Our firefighters are looking forward to meeting the business owners and employees of our community in non-emergency situations. They will provide fire safety information which could potentially save a business or even a life.

The Engine Company inspection program is one-part of the effort to keep our community fire safe. The Risk Reduction department (Prevention) will be conducting inspections in the more complex buildings in our Town.

PAYSON FIRE DEPARTMENT NEW MALTESE

Did you know the Payson Fire Department began in 1946? What started as a group of residents coming together to protect the community from fire in 1946 has become the full-time professional fire department serving our community today.

The volunteers formed a fire district to support the operations in the '50s which ultimately was absorbed into the Town in 1973. Prior to 1969, the Payson Volunteer Fire Department, as it was known, was the only fire department in Rim Country and responded to emergencies throughout the region.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Recently the firefighters of the Fire Department wanted to update our old 1980's era Maltese on our uniforms and at the same time pay homage to the roots of the department. Several options were developed, and a vote was held to select the new Maltese.

The picture on the left is our "old" shirt design and the one on the right is the new design.



FIRE DEPARTMENT

SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS

A semi-fire just south of Deer Creek on AZ-87, the Payson Fire Department and Tonto Basin Fire Water Tender 91 were dispatched along with Tonto National Forest to the truck fire at 10:40 Wednesday morning (September 20th). The fire extended to the brush but was quickly extinguished. The semi-trailer was a total loss. Payson Fire Department crews remained at the incident late into the afternoon to be sure the fire was completely out.

At about 1:15 Wednesday afternoon (September 20th) the Payson Fire Department and Lifeline ambulance responded to MP 259.5 on AZ-87 (approximately six miles north of Town) for a major 2 vehicle accident requiring extrication (jaws of life). Two patients were flown to valley hospitals, and one was transported to Banner Payson.

Mitigating emergency incidents successfully takes a team effort.

Thanks to Payson PD for their help controlling traffic.

Thanks to all our partners who helped with both incidents:

Hellsgate Fire Department, Tonto Basin Fire Department, Pine-Strawberry Fire Department, Lifeline Ambulance, Banner Air Ambulance, Native Air Ambulance, AZ DPS, AZ DOT, Tonto National Forest and AZ Department of Forestry and Fire Management.



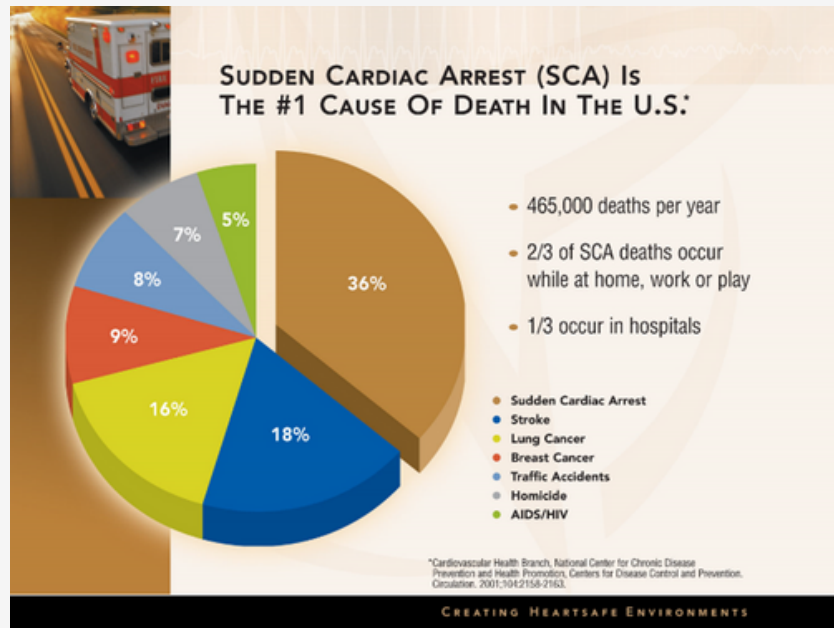
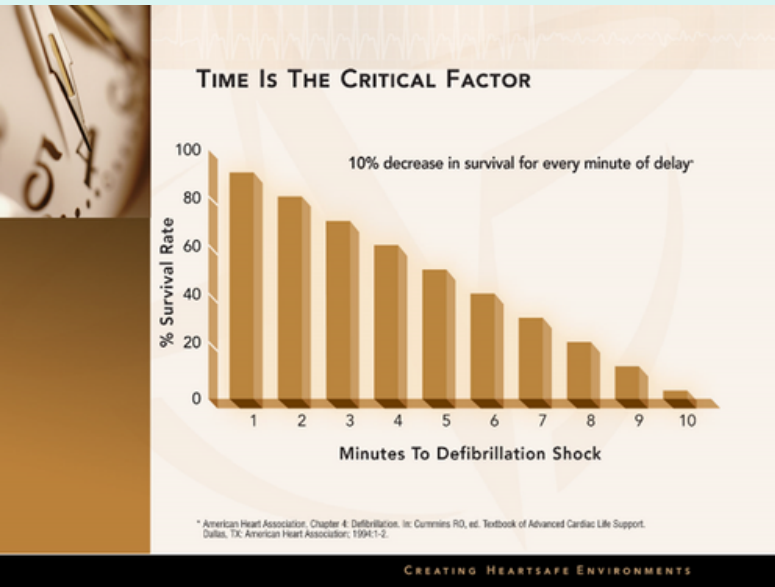
POLICE DEPARTMENT

AEDS for All Patrol Officers

This last year we were able to purchase 15 additional AED's through the Community Risk Reduction grant. This allowed us to equip all patrol officers and sergeants with an AED. We believe that an AED is one of the most important tools we can have out on the road. Our officers are out and about throughout the community 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. As you can see from the below charts, AED application is paramount in saving lives.

A few months ago, one of our sergeants was able to utilize his new AED on a patient. He administered one "shock" before the paramedics took over.

Our officers have performed CPR/CCS (CCS is continuous chest compressions) on several occasions throughout the year; however, AED can help increase survival rates. AED's are all about having them in the right place at the right time. We're fortunate to have the working relationship we have with the FD allows us to keep our officers trained and provide equipment that is and has saved lives in the community.



POLICE DEPARTMENT

Payson Police Department Places 1st for Squad Car Design

The Arizona Chiefs of Police held their first ever squad car design contest during their conference in Laughlin, NV, during the week of September 11, 2023. While many submissions were made from various agencies throughout the state, we are excited to announce that our squad car design took 1st Place. We would like to thank everyone that provided input on design, equipment, interior and exterior layout of this award-winning design. A special thanks to Sgt. M. Hansen for providing the amazing photo which was submitted to the contest. Below is the photo with which we won the contest.



WATER DEPARTMENT

Jeremy Muldoon Water Operator I



Meet Jeremy Muldoon (pictured left), the newest Water Operator I working with our Billing and Service division! He is currently training with Pedro Sias-Orozco as a field technician and they are working together to serve our citizens as Jeremy learns the ropes. In addition to repair, installation, and maintenance of various water system hardware, he will be responsible for helping us read over 8,800 meters in a single workweek, every month!

Jeremy is originally from Riverside, California. Although this is his first position with a water utility, he comes to us with a strong background in machining and design, combined with operational maintenance. He left a position as a mechanical engineer for a medical device testing facility in Temecula to make the move from Southern California to Payson. His commitment to a new career in the water industry shows in the fact that he brings with him a “Water Distribution Operator Grade D1” certification from the State of California. The AZ Department of Environmental Quality recognizes his certification as equivalent to a “Grade 1 Water Distribution System Operator” here in Arizona so we are in the process of reciprocity review with ADEQ.

An avid outdoorsman, Jeremy is enthusiastic about his new hometown. “I am looking forward to living in a small town. I love hunting and fishing!” He has regularly hunted in areas throughout the Southwest, including Arizona, and he has shared a number of hunting stories... but not GPS coordinates, mind you! A hunter’s favorite grounds are always a secret. It has been a treat for him to see elk and other local wildlife in the regular course of his duties as Pedro helps him to get acquainted with our service area.

Welcome to Payson, Jeremy!

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The Public Works Department is pleased to announce that pavement preservation activities will begin during the first week of October and extend through the end of the month. The activities to be performed include crack sealing, application of a slurry seal, and restoration of pavement markings. The purpose of these treatments is to ensure that roads that are in good condition remain that way. Most of the roadways selected to receive this treatment were constructed in the last 10-15 years. These treatments will extend the lifespan of the existing pavements and prevent the need for more expensive rehabilitation that would be needed in the near future if this work were not being performed.

Pavement preservation will be occurring on the following segments of roadway:

- Phoenix Street from Mud Springs Road east to the road end.
- Frontier Street between St Philips Street and Mud Springs Road
- St Philips Street between Frontier Street and Bonita Street
- Bonita Street between Bentley Road and St Philips Street
- Manzanita Street from the Tractor Supply Entrance to Malibu Drive
- Malibu Drive from Easy Street to Manzanita Street
- Easy Street from Malibu Drive to Evergreen Street
- Payson Parkway from Longhorn Road to McLane Road
- Rumsey Drive from WalMart to Beeline Highway

Construction will be staged to provide one traffic lane in each direction or a minimum of a single lane for one way traffic. There will be intermittent bicycle lane closures during construction operations. In addition, the roundabouts at Easy Street/Malibu Drive and Manzanita Street/Malibu Drive will require a single day, full closure.

Additional scheduling information will be provided on facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/TownofPaysonGovernment> as it becomes available.

Additional pavement rehabilitation and replacement projects are being planned for the spring.



End of Report
Next Report: October 11, 2023

