



PAYSONAZ.GOV



TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

JANUARY 10 2024

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BEELINE BUS

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

PAYSON LIBRARY

It is pretty clear that the Payson Public Library (along with most public libraries in the Country) is continuing to evolve from traditional book & reference based services towards a more vibrant community hub where people meet, interact, enrich their lives through varied educational and/or entertaining programs, and make use of our connectivity.

The increased program attendance numbers at the Payson Public Library can be chalked up to a few things. The library had a full-time and fully qualified children's librarian for the entire fiscal year (Sianee really is a dynamo)! The library has partnered with local groups to offer additional adult programs to the public (Line Dancing, for instance) and find that some of our most heavily attended programs are those that welcome seniors. As COVID fears ebb, people are no longer as concerned about congregating in larger groups. I think the days of quiet and studious public libraries are behind us!



Payson Library State statistical report for the 2022/2023 Fiscal Year

- The door counter clocked 74,140 visits to the library (up from 55,465)
- Staff answered 10,389 questions at the reference desk (up from 8,591). This includes computer help/assistance with job applications & government forms, reference, and reader's advisory.
- Members of the public logged onto library computers 8,125 times (up from 7,181).
- The library wireless was accessed by the public 27,650 times (up from 23,400).
- Total Circulation was 103,910 (up from 99,608).
- Use of eBooks and eAudio by Payson patrons was 10,179 (a number that has more than doubled over 2 years).
- Staff ran 436 programs with a total attendance/audience of 7,116! (Last year we ran 433 programs, but total attendance was only 3,121).

PAYSON LIBRARY

Payson Public Library

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

www.paysonaz.gov/departments/library.org

www.facebook.com/PaysonArizonaUSA

JANUARY 2024



- Join **Library Friends of Payson Chess** is **2nd Fridays** every month 12:00 pm to 2:00
- **Toddler Storytime** will change from Tuesdays to **Thursdays @ 10:00 am** in **FEBRUARY 2024**
- Please Sign-Up for all Friday & Saturday Programs



PLEASE ADOPT our latest Animal Friend **Ball Python Snake!**

Sun day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	LIBRARY CLOSED New Year's Day HAPPY NEW YEAR 2024	Storytime with Toddlers 10:30 am Line Dancing Beginners 1:15-2:15 Intermediate 2:15-4:00	Storytime with Babies 10:30 am Practice Spanish 11:30 am	Line Dancing at the Library! 2:15-4:00 HAPPY NEW YEAR!	Make your own New Year Buttons & Resolution Bookmarks 1:00 pm	Incredible Inventions - Machines, Forces & Engineering Build Ramp to slow down Bouncy Ball 12:00 noon
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	Sit & Stitch 2:00 - 5:00 pm	Storytime with Toddlers 10:30 am Line Dancing Beginners 1:15-2:15 Intermediate 2:15-4:00	Storytime with Babies 10:30 am Practice Spanish 11:30 am	Line Dancing at the Library! 2:15-4:00	Learn / Play Chess 12:00 to 2:00 pm	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	LIBRARY CLOSED Martin Luther King Jr. Day "I have a dream."	Storytime with Toddlers 10:30 am Line Dancing Beginners 1:15-2:15 Intermediate 2:15-4:00	Rim 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	Create Fake Snow and Make Your Winter Wonderland with Snow Man to Take Home! 1:00 pm	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	Sit & Stitch 2:00 - 5:00 pm Library Friends Meeting - Author Gail Kittleson 10:00 am	Storytime with Toddlers 10:30 am Line Dancing Beginners 1:15-2:15 Intermediate 2:15-4:00	Storytime with Babies 10:30 am	Line Dancing at the Library! 2:15-4:00	Button Tower Challenge - How High can you Build your Button Tower? - Winner gets a Prize! 1:00 pm	Button Stairclimber
28	29	30	31	1	2	
	Sit & Stitch 2:00 - 5:00 pm	Storytime with Toddlers changed to Thursdays @ 10:00 Line Dancing Beginners 1:15-2:15 Intermediate 2:15-4:00	Storytime with Babies 10:30 am Practice Spanish 11:30 am	Storytime with Toddlers 10:00 am Line Dancing at the Library! 2:15-4:00	Make a Heart & Put on our "Express your LOVE" Book! Celebrate your VALENTINE! 1:00 pm	EXPRESS YOUR LOVE BOOK

PARKS AND RECREATION

A HUGE thank you to Green Valley Water and Hunter Contracting Co. for generously donating money to the Friends of Payson Parks and Recreation's Scholarship Fund, earmarked for youth sports.

These donations will be used specifically for Youth Scholarships to ensure ALL youth of Payson have the opportunity to play sports and participate in programs.

To apply for a youth sports scholarship, please contact the Parks and Recreation office at 928-472-5110.

If you would like more information, are interested in becoming a member of Friends of Payson Parks and Recreation, or would like to donate, visit: www.friendsofpayson.org



PARKS AND RECREATION



CHRISTMAS TREE

Drop Off

DECEMBER 26TH - JANUARY 14TH

@ Payson Event Center

* MUST BE NON-DECORATED, NATURAL TREE.
ALL DECORATIONS, STANDS, LIGHTS OR OTHER ITEMS MUST BE
REMOVED PRIOR TO DROP OFF.

NOT A DUMP. NO OTHER BRUSH OR TRASH.

FOR ANY QUESTIONS, CALL 928-472-5110

PARKS AND RECREATION

Our Flex Friday program is back for the Spring Session!

Registration is now open to get your child involved in an educational and engaging program. A free school lunch and snack will be included each Friday. Registration is only \$50 for the entire spring session.

Program will begin January 12th and run every Friday through May 10th at Julie Randall Elementary School for Grades K through 5th. There will be no programs set for March 15th & 22nd, 2024.

To register, please visit www.paysonparks.com or call the Parks and Recreation office at 928-472-2705.

PAYSON PARKS AND RECREATION & PAYSON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

FLEX FRIDAY PROGRAM

GRADES: **K - 5TH**

LOCATED AT JULIA RANDALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GYM

JAN 12TH - MAY 10TH, 2024

FRIDAY'S • 8AM - 1 PM

NO PROGRAM 3/15 & 3/22

Enjoy planned activities and presentations from local organizations. A free school lunch and a snack will be included each Friday for all registered participants. This program will be loosely structured after the Parks and Recreation 2023 Summer Camp Program.

REGISTRATION OPENS: WEDNESDAY, DEC. 13TH

ONLY \$50 FOR THE SPRING SESSION!

FOR ANY QUESTIONS OR TO REGISTER FOR THE PROGRAM
www.paysonparks.com | 928.472.5110

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Remodeled Public Safety Communications Center at the Payson Police Department

Thanks to funding provided by the State, we were able to restructure the floorplan of our Public Safety Communications Center. Our Communication Center is currently allotted for four workstations. This new floor plan project creates space for an additional workstation for a dispatch trainer or supervisor. This reorganization also allows for better workflow between the dispatchers on the floor, making it easier for them to communicate with each other, while also communicating with first responders and the public. We are currently staffed with 14 dispatchers, with up to four dispatchers working at one time.

Below are pictures of the remodel in progress. As you can see, there was significant amount of electrical rewiring necessary and very limited space. A big thank you to our IT Department for their hard work along with Commander Jason Hazelo who oversaw this enormous undertaking.



POLICE DEPARTMENT

Payson Police Department K9 Update

Officer Carson Frahm is the new K9 handler of our Payson Police Department K9, Corso. He and Corso have been working diligently to continue with their training. Corso just recertified in drug detection, which is required annually. Featured is a picture of Officer Frahm with Corso after the successful completion of the narcotics certification course.



Payson Police Department New Officer

The Payson Police Department would like to congratulate Officer Oscar Teran who just graduated from the NARTA Police Academy on December 7, 2023. Officer Teran is one of just 27 graduates from this program. He is beginning his Field Training Program with the Payson Police Department. This in-depth training program consists of working with various Field Training Officers over a course of approximately 16 weeks. While Officer Teran is new to the Payson Police Department, he has been an employee of the Town of Payson for 7 years.



POLICE DEPARTMENT

No Shave November

Many Payson Police Department officers participated in this year's No Shave November. The fundraiser is for a local Payson community member currently enduring medical hardship. The month of November begins with officers shaving off any facial hair; then they then do not shave through the whole month of November. Local business and community members donate to this worthy cause. Thanks to the generous donations, we were able to raise \$8,000 for this year's recipient, Irene Neal. Irene has been a resident of Payson for many years. She graduated from Payson High School then later volunteered as a firefighter for 10 years in addition to participating in many local events including acting as chairman for Loggers Sawdust Festival for 19 years, volunteering with Fiddlers Festival, and acting as a senior caregiver for 13 years. She also contributes to the community by being a local business owner of AA Chimney Sweeps. Irene is a spouse, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and good friend to many. She has been battling cancer for the past two and a half years. We are grateful for this opportunity to support Irene and her family in this difficult time.

We want to thank Sgt. McAnerny for organizing this event through the Payson Police Department. We also want to thank local community members and businesses for their generous donations. The show of support from our town was amazing, and we want to thank all our contributors for their help in making this year's fundraiser so successful.

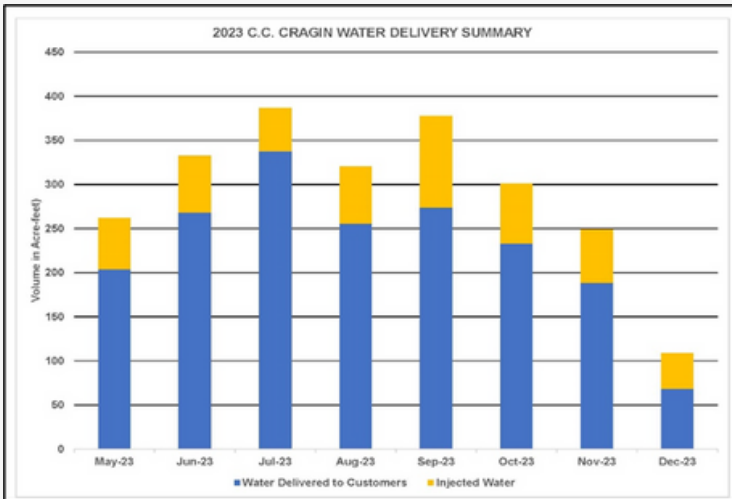


WATER DEPARTMENT

On the week of December 11th the Water Dept. began the work of shutting down the C.C. Cragin project for the 2023 operating year. Through diligent planning and a lot of team effort, the Water Dept. switched from Cragin water back to groundwater on December 15, 2023. Groundwater will continue being delivered to customers through April 2024. Once again the Water Dept. staff did a great job managing and delivering the Cragin water from May to mid December this year. Hats off to the staff who work hard to make sure high quality water is available to the the Town of Payson residents.

This was the 5th operational year running the Cragin project. The Town treated and delivered a total of 1,830 acre-feet (606 million gallons) of Cragin water this year. Of this volume, about 500 acre-feet (163 million gallons) of Cragin water was injected back into the aquifer to replenish groundwater levels in Payson.

The Cragin project has enabled Payson to be one of the only communities in Arizona to have a surplus of water resources. Groundwater levels throughout town are rising to their historic, pre-development levels, which is a rare accomplishment in the desert southwest. This groundwater replenishment effort will help offset water demands in future years when drought effects water storage levels at the C.C. Cragin reservoir.



Pump rig removing two joints of 3-inch column pipe on December 14, 2023. Each column joint had developed holes along the siding of the pipe, causing a loss of groundwater production.



TOWN CLERK'S DEPARTMENT

Town Council Elections

August 6, 2024 is the date for the Town of Payson Election for the following purposes:

- To elect a Mayor to serve a two year term
-
- To elect one Council Member to serve a two-year term and to elect three Council Members to serve four-year terms
-
- Adopt the 2024 General Plan update
-
- To vote on any other legally qualified ballot measures

Any Town of Payson resident interested in running for any office must file a Statement of Interest form with the Town Clerk, prior to obtaining signatures on nomination petitions. You may pick the form up from the Town Clerk's Office, located at Town Hall, 303 N. Beeline Highway, and file it with the Town Clerk.

The Town provides interested candidates with a packet, which contains information describing the requirements to become a candidate for the election. Candidate packets were available in the Town Clerk's Office beginning January 5, 2024. The filing deadline for nomination petitions is 5:00 p.m. on April 8, 2024.

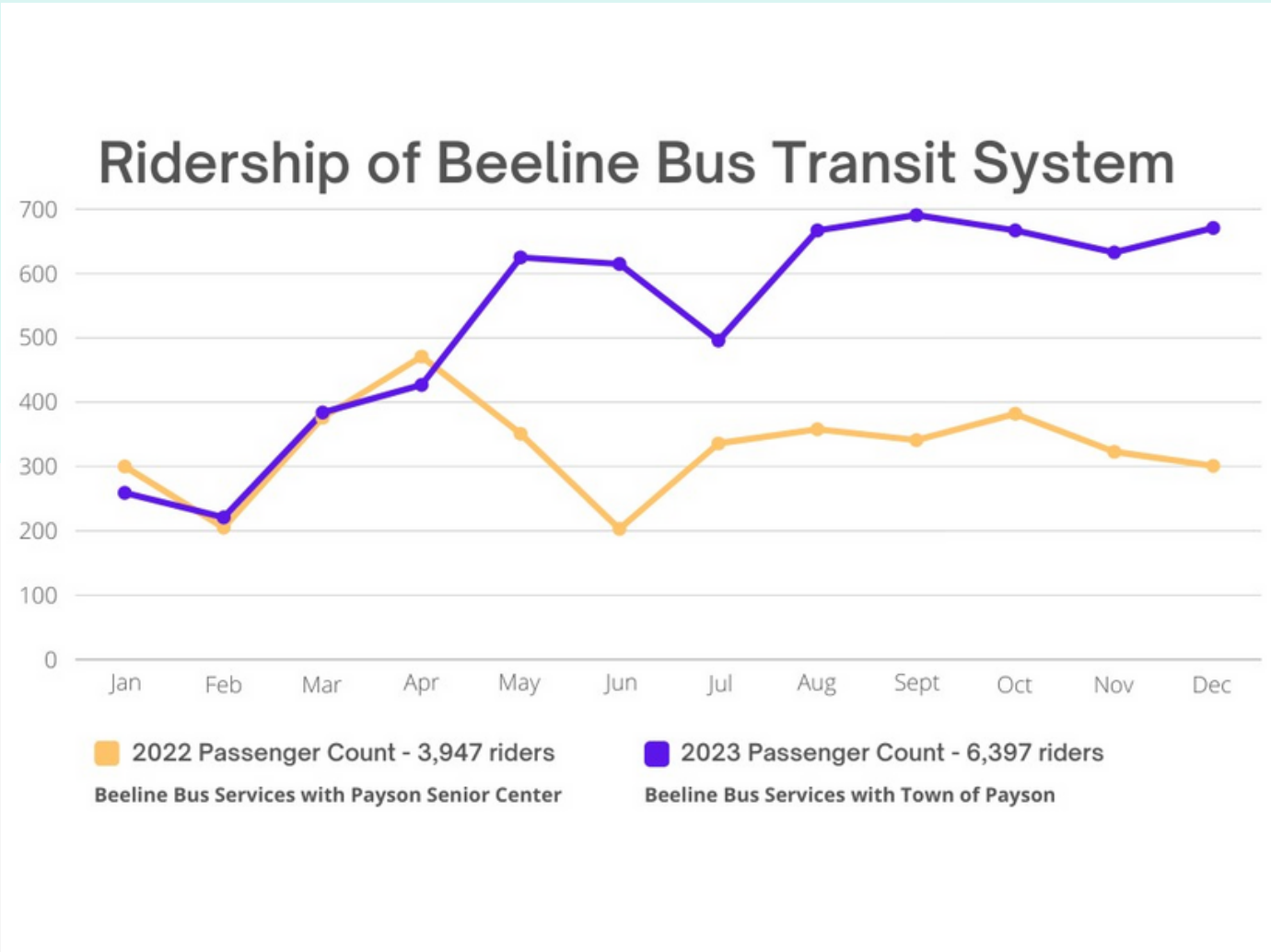
The Town of Payson Election will be conducted by the Gila County Election Department, per the Consolidated Elections law passed in 2012, by the Arizona State Legislature, which require all National, State, County, School, Special District and Local Elections to be placed on one ballot.

If you have moved or to verify your address is correct on your voter registration, contact the County Recorder's office at 928-474-7139 or 1-800-291-4452.

If you will not be in Payson during the time the ballots are mailed, contact the Gila County Recorder's Office at 1-800-291-4452 or 928-474-7139 to have your ballot mailed to a different location.

BEELINE BUS

The Beeline Bus experienced a remarkable 62% ridership increase (2,450 more riders) in 2023, elevating awareness of its appeal across all age groups. The success of Free Ride Fridays in 2023, combined with effective marketing, is set to drive ongoing growth and community engagement in 2024.



End of Report
Next Report: January 24, 2024

