



PAYSONAZ.GOV



TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

JANUARY 24 2024

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MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN MANAGER



Join us on January 25th to collaborate with our Town Staff and LPA Architects in exploring and contributing to the planning of the future Aquatics & Recreation Center for our community. This gathering promises a warm and welcoming atmosphere for discussing this much-anticipated project, set to propel our community forward for generations to come (community meeting details on the next page).

MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN MANAGER



HELP PLAN THE **NEW PAYSON AQUATICS & RECREATION CENTER** FOR THE TOWN OF PAYSON!

Come learn about the new concept design being developed for Payson and share your ideas with us! Your valuable input will help shape the future of your community! This is a drop-in event for your family's convenience. Children are welcome and you may stay as long as you like; please budget to be with us for a minimum of about one hour.

COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE WORKSHOP #1

JANUARY 25, 2024

drop in any time between 3:30p.m. to 7:30p.m.

PAYSON PUBLIC LIBRARY
328 N. MCLANE ROAD



Changing Lives by Design™



MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

Mark your calendars: It's almost time for the Hashknife Pony Express to make its annual visit through town! On January 31st at 4:45pm the mail will be delivered to Payson Post Office. As always, let's make sure that they receive a warm welcome!

Learn more here! <https://paysonrimcountry.com/hashknife-pony-express/>



PHOTO CREDIT: THE PAYSON ROUNDUP

-Troy Smith, Town Manager

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	
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	

PARKS AND RECREATION

Spring 2024 Flex Friday is a HIT!

The Town of Payson Parks and Recreation has partnered with the Payson Unified School District to provide an engaging structured recreation program in a safe and supervised atmosphere. Participants have the opportunity to enjoy planned activities such as science experiments, art projects, sport games, team building, field trips and presentations from local organizations. A free school lunch and a snack will be included each Friday for all registered participants.

We had 59 registered participants in our first session during the 2023 Fall semester. We currently have 80 registered participants and counting this session!

Start Date: Friday January 12th

End Date: Friday, May 10th

Grades: Kindergarten – 5th Grade

Program Time: 8:00am – 1:00pm

Fee: \$50 per child (16 total Fridays) Includes 16 FREE school lunches

Location: Julia Randal Elementary School Gym

Max Participants: 100



A poster for the Flex Friday Program. The background is black with various school supplies like a pencil, a backpack, a pencil sharpener, and a beaker. The text is white and yellow. At the top, it says 'PAYSON PARKS AND RECREATION & PAYSON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT'. Below that, 'FLEX FRIDAY PROGRAM' in large letters. To the right, 'GRADES: K-5TH' in a blue circle. Below that, 'LOCATED AT JULIA RANDALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GYM' and 'JAN 12TH - MAY 10TH, 2024' in large letters. Underneath, 'FRIDAY'S • 8AM - 1 PM'. Then, 'NO PROGRAM 3/15 & 3/22'. Below that, a paragraph: '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.' Then, 'REGISTRATION OPENS: WEDNESDAY, DEC. 13TH' and 'ONLY \$50 FOR THE SPRING SESSION!'. At the bottom, 'FOR ANY QUESTIONS OR TO REGISTER FOR THE PROGRAM' and 'www.paysonparks.com | 928.472.5110'.

PARKS AND RECREATION

23-24 Youth Basketball Season

Basketball season is in full swing! The regular season concludes this Saturday, January 20th and the season ending tournament will be held on Saturday, January 27th at JRE Elementary. This year we had a total of 110 registered participants.

I want to highlight how awesome the recreation part time/ variable employees have been! Our programs have been growing exponentially thanks in part to our staff pictured below (thank you to all staff not pictured)! Thank you for all you do for our community youth!



FINANCE DEPARTMENT



GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

12/8/2023

For more information contact:
Michele Mark Levine, Director/TSC
Phone: (312) 977-9700
Fax: (312) 977-4806
Email: mlevine@gfoa.org

(Chicago, Illinois)—Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to **Town of Payson** for its annual comprehensive financial report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022. The report has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, which includes demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the report.

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) advances excellence in government finance by providing best practices, professional development, resources, and practical research for more than 21,000 members and the communities they serve.

203 NORTH LASALLE STREET, SUITE 2700, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60601-1210

FINANCE DEPARTMENT



Government Finance Officers Association
203 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2700
Chicago, Illinois 60601-1210
312.977.9700 fax: 312.977.4806

12/8/2023

Chris Higgins
Mayor
Town of Payson, Arizona

Dear Chris:

We are pleased to notify you that your annual comprehensive financial report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022 qualifies for GFOA's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

When a Certificate of Achievement is awarded to a government, an Award of Financial Reporting Achievement (AFRA) is also presented to the individual(s) or department designated by the government as primarily responsible for its having earned the Certificate. This award has been sent to the submitter as designated on the application.

We hope that you will arrange for a formal presentation of the Certificate and Award of Financial Reporting Achievement, and give appropriate publicity to this notable achievement. A sample news release is included to assist with this effort.

We hope that your example will encourage other government officials in their efforts to achieve and maintain an appropriate standard of excellence in financial reporting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michele Mark Levine". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

Michele Mark Levine
Director, Technical Services

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Department of Homeland Security Provides Additional Funding

The Payson Police Department is excited to announce that the Department of Homeland Security has allotted us an additional \$25,000 of grant funding to our department. Commander Hazelo had requested the additional funding during a recent Homeland Security meeting. These additional funds will help with the reconstruction of the Payson Police Department Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Due to the generosity of the Department of Homeland Security, we will be able to continue configuring our center with state-of-the-art equipment. Our EOC has already been utilized for local large-scale emergencies includes the Backbone Fire in 2021, snow related emergencies, and preparing and planning with our local, state, and federal partners.

Hyundai Provides Steering Wheel Locks for Local Residents

The vehicle manufacturer, Hyundai, became aware of a vulnerability in their vehicles with a steel key ignition, vehicle years 2011 through 2022. This issue had a large media push after a social media video was published showing how to steal those vehicles. In response, Hyundai provided law enforcement agencies across the country with steering wheel locks for both Hyundai vehicles and Kia vehicles made in that period, free of charge. The Payson Police Department reached out to Hyundai and was able to secure 120 steering wheel locks for our community. The wheel locks are available for pickup at the Payson Police Department during normal business hours. Since the wheel locks were received, we have already given away more than a dozen to residents of our community.



POLICE DEPARTMENT

New Community Service Officer

In January, the Payson Police Department hired an additional full-time Community Service Officer. CSO Zach Bacskay recently moved to the Town of Payson, residing here with his family. CSO Bacskay has experience as a first responder, previously working in Maricopa County as an EMT. In addition, he is a trained CPR instructor and owns his own CPR company. CSO Bacskay is a welcome addition to the Payson Police Department, and we look forward to working with him.



STREET'S DEPARTMENT

The Street's Department as only had two real snow accumulations this season. December 1, of 2023 gave the Town its first dusting of snow, which melted by the following afternoon. We had just finished mounting all the decorative lighting for the Town the week prior.



Our crews' thoughtfully prepared all the horses and put them in the barn the night before each threat of a storm. Unfortunately, we only say the need for them that first night in December.

A lot of people ask what we do in the winter and the answer usually comes as a surprise to most because we are usually busier with pruning, ditch clearing, and many other chores. But the main chore that the crew REALLY wants is the hoped for night in the snow keeping roads clean, clear, and drivable-able to the best of our abilities. We are able to stow up to 11 plow vehicles in our barn to have them dry and prepped before each storm.

STREET'S DEPARTMENT



Crews mount blades and get the rigs parked in advance of an oncoming storm. When the storms finally do hit, it's all-hands-on-deck to keep the roads in safe, passable condition.



Leroy demonstrates his plowing prowess to the boss the night before.

Once a storm is over, unless the forecast calls for a dramatic shift in temperatures the next days to warmth, we will usually repark all the rigs in the barn the next night and come in several hours early to hit any slick spots on hills and intersections that are known for trouble.

STREET'S DEPARTMENT



Shane pulls a temporary ice mask souvenir from his headlights.

STREET'S DEPARTMENT

Our next round of storms was about 6 weeks later in January. This one produced more snow than the last and was accompanied by several extended nights of freezing temperatures, but the roadways seemed to be safe and melted within a day or two and we still saw some accumulation hang around until our evening temps got above freezing.



A major benefit of our climate and randomized weather is of course our dramatic sunrises (seen here) and our very calm and tranquil sunsets.

WATER DEPARTMENT

As winter continues, the Payson Water Department emphasizes the importance of preparing your pipes for the cold weather to prevent freezing and potential damage.

One local resident just suffered a 16,000 gallon leak due to the recent cold weather conditions. Taking these preventive measures will help you avoid costly repairs and ensure a consistent water supply throughout the season.

To protect your pipes, consider the following recommendations:

Shut Off Your Outdoor Faucets: Turn off outdoor pipes at the shutoff valves and open the bleed cap at your faucet to drain any remaining water. If not needed, consider turning off faucets for the entire season.

Insulate Any Exposed Fixtures: Keep exposed faucets, spigots, and pipes warm by using faucet covers, foam pipe covers, or pipe wrap tape.

Monitor Temperature With Heat Tape: Wrap heating tape around exposed pipes, which you can find at hardware stores. This simple method helps keep your pipes warm when the temperature drops.

Keep A Steady Indoor Temperature: Maintain a thermostat setting of 60°F or above throughout the winter. While it may increase your heating bill, it will save you money by avoiding expensive plumbing repairs.

Update Your Weather Sealing: Check and replace weather sealing around windows and doors. Enhancing home insulation will not only keep you warm but also save on utility costs.

Keep Cabinets Warm: Leave cabinet doors open to allow warm air from the rest of your house to protect exposed pipes hiding inside.

Heat & Insulate Exposed Parts Of The Home: Make a plan to keep exposed pipes in un-insulated areas warm. Add insulation directly to the pipes and, if safe, use a small space heater.

Let Faucets Drip: During freezing temperatures, allow faucets to drip slowly. This maintains a safe water pressure and prevents water from freezing inside pipes.

Run Appliances Overnight: Utilize major appliances like the dishwasher, washing machine, and ice maker overnight to keep water moving through your pipes.

WATER DEPARTMENT

Use Frost-Free Sill Cocks: Install frost-free sill cocks for outdoor faucets. The working parts are stored inside your home, protecting them from the cold.

Disconnect Your Hoses: Remove hoses from faucets, drain pipes, and cover faucets for winter to prevent freezing and potential ice backup.

Track Your Home Temperature: Install smart Wi-Fi thermostats to monitor your house's temperature. Set notifications for dangerously low temperatures and adjust accordingly.

Seal Your Rim Joists: Use expandable foam and insulation to seal gaps between floor joists. Additionally, insulate and seal exterior holes where wires, pipes, or cables pass through.

Turn Off The Water When You Take A Trip: Before leaving town, turn off the water at the primary shutoff valve to prevent potential damage if pipes freeze or crack.

Insulate Your Garage: If water lines run through your garage, insulate the garage door and consider insulating the entire garage. Add heat cables to exposed pipes and set up a space heater ahead of serious winter storms.

Taking these steps will go a long way in preventing frozen pipes and ensuring a smooth winter season for everyone. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact the Payson Water Department.

Stay warm and safe!



End of Report
Next Report: February 14, 2024

