



PAYSONAZ.GOV



TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

MARCH 13, 2024

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MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN MANAGER



Sharing the history of Payson!

So much has happened in our wonderful hometown over the years. We want to begin sharing the history of our community through pictures each month! We are excited to share what we have, but we would love for you all to comment or message us with photos that you have that highlight the history of our town. We want to see everything from the beginning all the way into the 80s and 90s, including people, places, and events that have built our culture! Send your photos to Hannah at adminpr@paysonaz.gov. We can't wait to see what you share!

-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

March 2024

March 20th Mr. Rogers' Birthday!
Spread **Love** and **Kindness**
in his honor!



Total Solar Eclipse!
April 8, 2024
Free Glasses



Sun day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
	Join LIBRARY Friends of Payson	Please Sign-Up for all Friday & Saturday Programs		Chess is 2nd Fridays every month! 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm	Dr. Seuss Birthday Party with Cat in the Hat Parfait! 1:00 pm	
		Enjoy Libby program on 3/5/2024 1 st hour will be 1-on-1 questions/answers!				
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Sit & Stitch 2:00 – 5:00 	Ukulele Buddies 10:00 am Line Dancing Beginners 1:15-2:15 Intermediate 2:15-4:00 Enjoy Libby – Learn to read e-books, digital audiobooks etc. on your device! 2:00 – 4:00 pm	Storytime with Babies 10:30 am Practice Spanish 11:30 am 	Storytime with Toddlers 10:30 am Line Dancing at the Library! 2:15 – 4:00 pm	Calling all gardeners! Prepare Garden for Planting! Root the plants! 10:00 am Learn / Play, Chess 12:00 to 2:00	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Sit & Stitch 2:00 – 5:00 	Ukulele Buddies 10:00 am 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 10:30 am Line Dancing at the Library! 2:15 – 4:00 pm	St. Patrick's Day Celebration! 1:00 pm 	Whirly, Twirly, Flying Things 12:00 pm ARIZONA SCIENCE CENTER <small>"Never stop wondering. Master stop (re)imagining."</small>
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Library Friends Meeting Chris Jones-Firewise/Tree Care 10:00 am Sit & Stitch 2:00 – 5:00	Ukulele Buddies 10:00 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	Storytime with Toddlers 10:30 am Line Dancing at the Library! 2:15 – 4:00	Learn Origami! Make a Flower, Star or Bunny! 12:00 to 2:00 pm 	
24	25	26	27	29	29	30
	Sit & Stitch 2:00 – 5:00	Ukulele Buddies 10:00 am 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 10:30 am Line Dancing at the Library! 2:15 – 4:00	Tie-Dye Eggs Easter Baskets! 1:00 pm 	Sun, March 31

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Community Service Officers Get Expanded Duties With A Brand New Look!



CSO Jamie Gorman



CSO Siena Dominguez



CSO Zach Bacskay

Over the last few months, the Department has been working diligently to expand our Community Service Officer program! With the addition of two CSO's and a new look for their patrol vehicles, we are growing in our ability to serve and support our community. These individuals are not sworn personnel but are in a civilian capacity supporting our sworn officers in non-criminal and traffic offenses. This is one section of the Payson Police Department. The Community Service Officer's duties can vary greatly to include:

- Patrolling the parks
- Participating in Community Events
- Traffic control/road hazard removal
- Assisting with an accident scene/completing tow sheets
- Processing found and/or lost property and attempting to locate owners
- Animal control / barking dog complaints
- Investigating animal neglect
- Transporting court documents



POLICE DEPARTMENT

Performing these duties allows our Patrol Officers to be available to handle higher priority calls and enforce traffic laws keeping our community safe. The position of Community Service Officer presents a great opportunity for a civilian to begin or continue a career in public service. It can also provide hands-on experience within the Police Department to launch a future career in law enforcement. If you are interested in becoming a CSO, contact the Town's Human Resource Department at (928) 474-5242. To report an issue, please call our non-emergency line at 928-474-5177.

New Equipment for Payson Police Department

Our officers can be required to risk themselves in high-stress, dangerous situations. This last year, the Payson Police Department has been researching the best way to provide modern policing methods and tools for our officers. It is with great pleasure that we find ourselves able to provide better, more state-of-the-art equipment to protect our officers. This includes providing our officers with better safety equipment in addition to more tools to do their job more effectively and safely. As an example, we were recently able to purchase multiple tactical shields which provide additional coverage for officers from high-caliber firearms. In addition we have options for less lethal force and tactical cameras. The Payson Police Department strives to provide our officers with the best tools to respond, and protect you.



POLICE DEPARTMENT

Repurposing Property for the Town

The Property and Evidence Unit continues their efforts to dispose unclaimed property and court-adjudicated cases that were authorized for destruction. These actions reduced storage needs to such an extent that one of the storage trailers previously allocated to the police department was able to be reallocated to the Parks and Recreation Department which nicely met some of their storage needs. Pictured is the storage trailer being moved from its current location and readied for travel to its new location. As you can see, this was a large undertaking.



POLICE DEPARTMENT

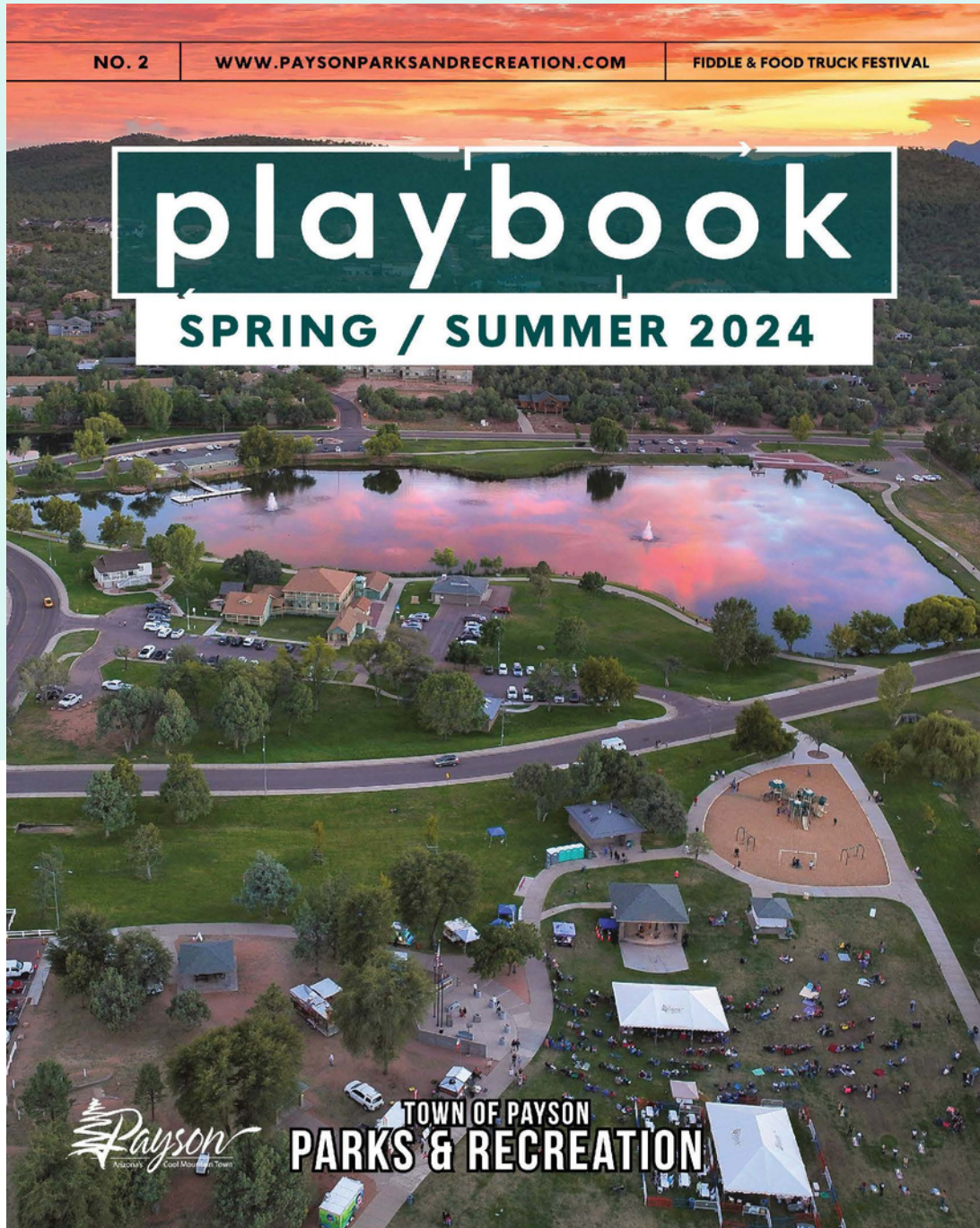


Dispatch Upgrades Continue Through State Funding

Last year we were able to do a complete restructuring of the Payson Dispatch Center to make it more functional. ADHB connections were upgraded for all four of the dispatch consoles allowing dispatchers to be able to increase their efficiency by allowing phones and radio to be able to be accessed through the same headset rather than relying on more traditional phone handsets. The Payson Dispatch Center strives to bring the best customer service to the residents of the Town of Payson, Star Valley, and northern Gila County and will continue to look.



PARKS AND RECREATION



Exciting news! Our upcoming Parks and Recreation Playbook for Spring and Summer is now available. It is filled with comprehensive information about our recreation programs and upcoming events. Don't miss out! Copies will be distributed within the Payson Roundup and Rim View papers the week of March 11th and are also available digitally at: www.paysonrimcountry.com/playbook.

PARKS AND RECREATION

We are excited to announce the Annual Easter Eggstravaganza event hosted by the Kiwanis Club, Edward Jones, Miller Autoworks, and the Town of Payson Parks and Recreation department!

Join us on March 30th, 2024 from 9am - 12pm at the Rumsey 1 Ballfield (Across from the Payson Public Library).

Schedule is listed below:

- Ages 0-3 @ 9am
- Ages 4-5 @ 9:30am
- Ages 6-7 @ 10am
- Ages 8-9 @ 10:30am
- Ages 10-12 @ 11 am
- Special Needs @ 11:30am

This event will also include Face Painting, Fun Inflatables and vendors.



For more details, please visit www.paysonrimcountry.com/easter

If you have any questions, please call the Payson Parks and Recreation Department at 928-472-5110.

2024 EGGSTRAVAGANZA

EASTER EGG HUNT
FACE PAINTING | INFLATABLES

MARCH 30TH, 2024 FROM 9AM - 12PM
@ RUMSEY PARK | RUMSEY 1 BALLFIELD*
*ACROSS FROM THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

EASTER EGG SCHEDULE

AGES 0-3 @ 9:00AM	AGES 6-7 @ 10:00AM	AGES 10-12 @ 11:00AM
AGES 4-5 @ 9:30AM	AGES 8-9 @ 10:30AM	SPECIAL NEEDS @ 11:30AM

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION

PARKS AND RECREATION

The most popular sport in Payson is back! The Town of Payson Parks and Recreation 2024 Spring Soccer season has a whopping 402 registered participants ranging from grades pre-K to 6th grade with a total of 26 teams and over 40 volunteer coaches! Soccer games will start on March 23rd and continue each Saturday until May 11th.



Payson United Methodist Church and their FREE Sport Shoe Program handed out over 100 pairs of sport shoes this season, soccer and baseball cleats combine.



BEELINE BUS

Beeline Bus Transit Service takes great pride in being recognized as the Best of the Rim in the category of Best Taxi/Transit Service. This esteemed accolade is a testament to our unwavering commitment to excellence, reliability, and customer satisfaction. We are truly honored by this recognition, which underscores our dedication to providing top-notch transportation services to our community. As we continue to strive for excellence, we express gratitude to our passengers and the community for their trust and support, inspiring us to maintain the highest standards in rural public transportation.



BEELINE BUS

The Town of Payson's successful submission for the 5311-grant marks a significant milestone in supporting the Beeline Bus transit system. This grant, operating on an 80/20 funding match, addresses the critical challenges rural transit agencies often face in maintaining their vehicle fleet. Specifically, the 5311-grant allows for the replacement of aging buses, ensuring that the Beeline Bus Public Transit system can continue to offer safe and reliable transportation services to the community.

Public transportation serves as a vital lifeline for many rural residents who may lack access to private transportation options. By utilizing the 5311-grant to improve and sustain the Beeline Bus services, the community benefits from enhanced connectivity, reduced isolation for residents relying on public transit for daily activities, and an overall improvement in the quality of life.

Furthermore, the positive impact of the 5311-grant extends beyond individual well-being. Supporting the Beeline Bus Public Transit system contributes to the economic vitality of the community. Improved transportation options play a key role in attracting businesses, supporting local economies, and fostering an environment conducive to a higher quality of life for all residents.

It is important to note that the specific impact of the 5311-grant program with Federal Transit Administration (FTA) facilitated by the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) on the Beeline Bus Public Transit system may vary depending on the unique circumstances and priorities of the transit agency and the community it serves. For the most current and accurate information, individuals are encouraged to verify details with the relevant transit authorities or consult the Federal Transit Administration.

The Town of Payson eagerly anticipates the review of this application and is optimistic about securing confirmed funding by the upcoming summer. The grant's financial support is slated to align with the ADOT fiscal budget, kicking off in October 2024 and spanning a budgeted period of two years.



STREET DEPARTMENT

The Street department sent 4 operators to the FleetPros equipment conference at the Avondale Conference Center on the first Friday of March. There were several-hundred participants and several-dozen vendors showing their wares and instructing classes.



The conference was put on by FleetPros which is a non-profit fleet management association made to support fleet professionals through education, networking, and resources. As members of the Arizona chapter, we were able to participate in this conference and meet several new vendors and employees of other municipal agencies statewide.



During the conference, there were several classes ranging from crash mitigation systems and D.O.T. emergency lighting requirements, to a fleet's role in their Town's electrification goals. It was a great time for our operators and we look forward to attending the show next year.

AIRPORT

The application for the Airport of the Year Award, submitted on behalf of the Town of Payson Municipal Airport, showcases notable strengths that underscore the town's unwavering commitment to excellence. One standout feature highlighted in this application was the substantial investment of time and resources dedicated by the Town to enhance the airport, aligning it with the rigorous ADA requirements. Airport Coordinator, Dennis Dueker, along with the skilled crews from Streets Department, demonstrated exceptional problem-solving skills, utilizing both ingenuity and physical prowess to swiftly address challenges and complete the project.

Additionally, the application for Airport of the Year highlights the extensive fire-wise initiatives undertaken by both Dennis Dueker and the Streets Department. Their collaborative efforts aimed not only to fortify the Payson Municipal Airport against potential fire hazards but also to safeguard its valuable resources and the aircraft housed within its premises. This proactive approach underscores the Town of Payson's commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of the airport community and its assets.

An especially noteworthy aspect is Dennis' indomitable spirit, shining through his unwavering dedication to providing unparalleled customer service. His commitment extends to both the local flying community and visitors to the Payson Municipal Airport. Dennis consistently goes above and beyond, embodying a commitment to excellence that elevates the overall experience for those based at the airport and those who choose to fly in, making the Payson Municipal Airport truly deserving of the Airport of the Year Award.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Payson Job Fair, free to employers, is a collaboration between Payson High School, the Town of Payson, Rim Country Chamber of Commerce, Arizona @ Work, and Local First Arizona.



When: **March 28, 2024**
2pm - 4pm: High School Students
4pm - 5:30pm: Open to Public

Location: Longhorn Gym
301 S McLane Rd.
Payson, AZ 85541

Employers Register Here:





WATER DEPARTMENT

Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Partners with the Town of Payson to Tackle Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances in Local Drinking Water Systems

PHOENIX (Mar. 13, 2024) — In response to concerns about per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) found in two public drinking water systems serving the Payson community, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) is collaborating with the Town of Payson on actions and solutions that will ensure community members in the area continue to receive healthy drinking water.

This collaboration is made possible by funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). The Water Infrastructure Finance Authority (Arizona's State Revolving Fund program) received the state's portion of the federal Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities Grant and passed the \$42 million to ADEQ to provide direct assistance to small or disadvantaged communities in Arizona. This assistance will result in local infrastructure for drinking water systems, such as a treatment facility or connection to a clean drinking water source, to address emerging contaminants. Projects whose primary purpose is to address the challenges of PFAS in drinking water will be the focus of these funds.

"The Town of Payson and Twin Lakes Mobile Home Park are among the first public water systems in the state to benefit from this important funding," said ADEQ Cabinet Executive Officer Karen Peters. "ADEQ is providing engineering and technical expertise and financial resources to address PFAS found in the Town's drinking water and then connect a neighboring small public water system to Payson's water system."

To assist Payson, ADEQ is contracting with a local engineering firm to develop a compliance options report to identify viable alternatives for mitigating PFAS in the Town's drinking water system.

WATER DEPARTMENT

The report will support the Town's decision-making processes and help determine the most appropriate and cost-effective solution. Additionally, the contractor will design a service connection for Twin Lakes Mobile Home Park to the Town of Payson's drinking water system to provide clean drinking water to the mobile home park. Future phases of these projects will include the construction of related infrastructure.

"The Town of Payson and ADEQ have successfully maintained a longstanding cooperative relationship in operating the groundwater remediation system for the Payson PCE Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund site since 1998," said Town of Payson Water Department Director Tanner Henry. "In concert with this partnership, we are excited that ADEQ has once again stepped up to the plate to help us with our PFAS issues. We are certainly blessed to have this opportunity to expand our groundwater treatment capabilities and continue our delivery of safe drinking water to the community."

Background and Resources

PFAS are a group of man-made chemicals with fire-retardant properties that have been used commercially in the United States to make products like stain and water-resistant carpet and textiles, food packaging, firefighting foam, as well as in other industrial processes. Some PFAS can accumulate in people, animals, and the environment over time. While consumer products and food are the largest source of exposure to these chemicals for most people, drinking water can be an additional source of exposure in communities where these chemicals are in water supplies. A lifetime of exposure to certain PFAS levels in drinking water is associated with negative health effects.

In anticipation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalizing its National Primary Drinking Water Regulation for certain PFAS compounds, which will apply to approximately 950 Arizona systems, both ADEQ and public water systems have been conducting PFAS testing to identify the extent of PFAS in

WATER DEPARTMENT

Arizona drinking water. While data for large systems is still being collected under EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) testing program, estimates from ADEQ's ongoing sampling, which is 90 percent complete, indicate that 70 or more small water systems (serving 3,300 or fewer customers) could require PFAS mitigation when EPA's regulation goes into effect.

To provide support to small water systems and disadvantaged communities that will need assistance to address PFAS, ADEQ developed and is implementing a statewide drinking water PFAS mitigation plan. ADEQ's plan leverages both \$42 million in federal BIL funding and an additional \$5 million in state funding and includes:

- Testing for public drinking water systems – Confirming PFAS contamination and testing for other contaminants that can interfere with PFAS treatment.
- Hydrogeologic evaluations—We are assessing several PFAS-impacted areas of the state where the hydrogeology is less studied. These evaluations will help drinking water providers make decisions such as removing wells from service, relocating wells, blending water, and connecting with another system.
- Treatment and infrastructure improvements—Providing funding for the design and construction of PFAS mitigation strategies, such as connecting to a clean water source, deepening existing wells or drilling new wells, or PFAS treatment.
- PFAS education for drinking water professionals – Hosting a forum to discuss industry perspectives on PFAS solutions, developing technical guidance documents for engineers designing PFAS treatment systems and conducting ongoing training webinars.



FIRE DEPARTMENT

Engine 13 Customer Service

E13 was dispatched to S. Pony Circle for a citizen assist. Upon arrival they found a citizen stuck and needing assistance getting out of her car and into the house. E13 assisted her from the car and into the house through the garage. While going through the garage, E13 noticed that the garage was pitch black because all the lights were burnt out. E13 assisted the customer into the house, left and bought new fluorescent light tubes for the garage lights with their own money, and returned to install them. They got the lights installed, verified they worked, and cleared the scene.

We ask Payson residents to understand, our fire crews can not be expected to buy new lights for everyone in Town, but this is an example of how the fire crews who serve this community care about our residents and truly want to help.

Main and 87 Wreck and Rollover

A wreck at Main Street and Highway 87. Fortunately, all occupants walked away from the accident. Payson P.D. and Gila Sherrif were on scene helping with patients and keeping the engine and ambulance crews safe by controlling traffic.



Blattner, Buckhead Mesa and Pine Brush Pits

Leland Baird and his family from "Chippin In" were able to complete the conversion of green waste/Firewise waste to chips used to fuel the Novo Power plant last month. Over 3,000 TONS of waste was chipped and hauled to the power plant now being converted into electricity for Arizona.

End of Report
Next Report: March 27, 2024

