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PAYSONAZ.GOV



# TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

MARCH 27, 2024

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TOWN MANAGER

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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](mailto: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](http://www.paysonaz.gov/departments/library.org)  
[www.facebook.com/PaysonArizonaUSA](https://www.facebook.com/PaysonArizonaUSA)

**Chess is 2nd Friday  
Every Month!  
12:00 pm to 2:00**

**Total Solar Eclipse  
April 8, 2024  
Free Glasses!**

**Please Sign-Up for all  
Friday & Saturday  
Programs**



## April 2024

Sun day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	<b>Join Library Friends of Payson</b> <b>Sit &amp; Stitch</b> 2:00 – 5:00	<b>Ukulele Buddies</b> 10:00 am <b>Line Dancing</b> Beginners 1:15-2:15 Intermediate 2:15-4:00	<b>Storytime with Babies - Color Me Healthy!</b> 10:30 am <b>Practice Spanish</b> 11:30 am	<b>Storytime with Toddlers</b> 10:30 am <b>Line Dancing @ Library!</b> 2:15 – 4:00 pm	<b>Galaxy Jar! – Explore the Solar System in a Jar!</b> 1:00 pm	
7	 <b>Solar Eclipse Viewing Party</b> 10:00 am – 12:00 noon <b>Sit &amp; Stitch</b> 2:00 – 5:00 pm	<b>Ukulele Buddies</b> 10:00 am <b>Line Dancing</b> Beginners 1:15-2:15 Intermediate 2:15-4:00 <b>Library Workers Day!</b>	<b>Storytime with Babies</b> 10:30 am <b>Practice Spanish</b> 11:30 am	<b>Storytime with Toddlers</b> 10:30 am <b>Line Dancing @ Library!</b> 2:15 – 4:00 pm	<b>Learn / Play Chess</b> 12:00 to 2:00 pm 	13
14	<b>Library Friends Meeting- Author Sharon Langsdale</b> 10:00 am <b>Sit &amp; Stitch</b> 2:00 – 5:00	<b>Ukulele Buddies</b> 10:00 am <b>Line Dancing</b> Beginners 1:15-2:15 Intermediate 2:15-4:00 <b>National Library Workers Day</b>	<b>Rim Readers Book Club</b> 10:00 am <b>Storytime with Babies</b> 10:30 am	<b>Storytime with Toddlers</b> 10:30 am <b>Line Dancing @ Library!</b> 2:15 – 4:00 pm	<b>Earth Day Celebration!</b> Make a Terrarium & Watch your Plant Grow! 1:00 pm  <small>Never stop wondering. Better stop inquiring.</small>	 <b>Ocean Rescue!</b> Learn about pH & Coral & Help our Water Systems! 12:00 noon
21	<b>Sit &amp; Stitch</b> 2:00 – 5:00 <b>EARTH DAY!</b> 	<b>Ukulele Buddies</b> 10:00 am <b>Line Dancing</b> Beginners 1:15-2:15 Intermediate 2:15-4:00 	<b>Storytime with Babies</b> 10:30 am  <b>Practice Spanish</b> 11:30 am	<b>Storytime with Toddlers</b> 10:30 am  <b>Line Dancing @ Library!</b> 2:15 – 4:00 pm	<b>Plant Flowers and Vegetables in Payson Library's Gardens!</b> 10:00 am <b>Bubble Art!</b> Make amazing Hydrangea Flowers with Bubbles! 1:00 pm	 
28	<b>Sit &amp; Stitch</b> 2:00 – 5:00 	<b>Ukulele Buddies</b> 10:00 am <b>Line Dancing</b> Beginners 1:15-2:15 Intermediate 2:15-4:00	<b>Storytime with Babies</b> 10:30 am <b>Practice Spanish</b> 11:30 am	<b>Storytime with Toddlers</b> 10:30 am <b>Line Dancing @ Library!</b> 2:15 – 4:00 pm	<b>Glitter/Alphabet Sensory Bottles</b> 1:00 pm 	4



# POLICE DEPARTMENT

## 25th Annual Rim Country Rotary Club Public Service Awards Banquet

On March 20th, 2024, the Rim Country Rotary Club held its annual public service awards banquet where men and women in public safety are recognized for their service to their community throughout the year. During this banquet, a specific member of public service, specifically fire, police, and support, is selected by their peers to be recognized for their outstanding service. This year, Sgt. Jesse Davies was recognized as Officer of the Year. Leslie Zickefoose, the Payson Police Department's Property and Evidence Technician, received the Support Services Personnel of the Year Award.

We would like to give a special thank you to the Rim Country Rotary Club for continuing to make this night a fun and memorable night for all the hardworking men and women of our community.



Leslie Zickefoose,  
Payson Police  
Department's Property  
and Evidence  
Technician, Commander  
Jason Hazlo and Sgt.  
Jesse Davies

## CPR Training for All

During the month of March, the Payson Police Department was able to offer CPR training for all its personnel, including its civilian staff, thanks to the participation of certified instructor CSO Zach Bacskay. This enabled all staff to undergo hands-on training with the new Zoll AED defibrillators which were purchased through the generous grants provided last year.

# PARKS AND RECREATION



Congratulations to our Recreation Coordinator Justin Hewitt for obtaining his CPRP (Certified Park & Recreation Professional) certification from the National Recreation and Park Association! Justin is now the third member of our team to obtain the designation. He joins Director, Steve Richardson and Recreation Manager, Jeff Kopp as Certified Parks & Recreation Professionals. The CPRP certification is the national standard for all parks and recreation professionals who want to be at the forefront of their profession. Attaining the CPRP designation shows that you have met education and experience qualifications, that you possess extensive knowledge of the field, and illustrates your commitment to the profession. Great job, Justin!



# PARKS AND RECREATION

We want to thank the organizations that came out to volunteer their time working on the Payson Apple Orchard. Below is an update from the groups and pictures showcasing the recent improvements!

"At the start of our 5th year of working on the Payson Apple Orchard, the local master gardener group with the help of the High Country Garden Club, set out to improve the irrigation system and water retention in the orchard. To that end, volunteers gathered to prune the trees, rake away debris around the trees and begin laying in 3-4 layers of cardboard in a 3' radius around each tree. Wood chips were then piled on top of the cardboard to a depth of 6". The cardboard will act as a temporary weed barrier and fertilize the soil while the chips hold in irrigation and rain water.

Once all trees have been thus improved, we will install a 1/ 2" irrigation dripper ring around the perimeter of the 6' water well and connect it to the existing water supply near the base of each tree. This will encourage root growth to spread well away from the currently limited watered area.

Next, wood chips will be spread on the whole orchard to a depth of 6-8" for added water retention.

Here are a few pictures of our efforts this year followed by a sample of last year's yield.



# PARKS AND RECREATION

## Parks Operations Report

Project Location :1400 S. Beeline Hwy, Payson Event Center

Scope of Work: Clean up trash, debris and abandoned homeless camps, biohazard, and drug paraphernalia

Contractor: Environmental Response, Inc.

Contract Amount: Not to Exceed \$ 25,000 Actual Amount Spent: \$ 17,472.44

- ERI provided personnel, supplies and equipment to clean up the area in and surrounding the Payson Rodeo grounds which was heavily impacted by homeless camps, trash, and biohazards.
- 41 acres with concentrated efforts on 8 acres along north side or property. This area was fire wised in 2022.
- Field personnel hours 220 work hours
- Drug paraphernalia, burn sites and glass smash sites were excavated and mitigated.
- Sharps were put into an appropriate sharps container and labeled.
- 5.3 tons of trash and debris were placed into roll-off bins.
- Remove soil with excessive broken glass, fire pits and other burned debris and trash.





# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

We are delighted to provide an update on the activities within the Community Development Department, encompassing Building, Planning and Zoning, Economic Development, Code Enforcement, and Tourism. This integral part of our local government actively engages with our community, addressing numerous inquiries and concerns daily.

## **Building Department Advancements:** Going Paperless

We are proud to announce that our Building Department has made significant strides toward sustainability and efficiency by transitioning to an almost entirely paperless system. This initiative not only aligns with our commitment to environmental responsibility but also streamlines the permit process for our residents.

During the month of February, the Town of Payson issued a total of 70 permits, showcasing the vibrant growth and development within our community. To clarify when a permit is required, residents are encouraged to consult the Town Code or reach out to our knowledgeable staff, either by calling or visiting our offices in person. We provide assistance to ensure a smooth process for all your project needs.

## **Tree Removal Permits:** A Necessary Step

One noteworthy aspect that may come as a surprise to some residents is the requirement for a permit for tree removal. This process is designed to balance the preservation of our town's greenery with the safety of our community. Notably, there is no fee for this permit, and it can be conveniently obtained over the counter.

To ensure the removal is in line with our standards, the Town must approve requests. The guidelines specify that the tree must be 6 inches in diameter at 4.5 feet tall and must be dead, dying, or pose a safety hazard. This measure helps us maintain the beauty of our surroundings while prioritizing the safety of our residents. As the Town works to protect the natural environment and preserve strong healthy trees for a beautiful landscape, we also work closely with the Fire Department and their fuel mitigation efforts to reduce the risks of wildfires to effectively remove dangerous trees or brush while maintaining healthy landscapes and properties.

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

## Frequently Asked Questions About Building Permits

The Building and Planning & Zoning Departments exist within the Town of Payson to help make sure buildings and properties are safe and to help maintain the quality of life for all residents and visitors to Payson. The departments' purpose is to prevent public nuisance, assure public safety, provide adequate light and air, prevent overcrowding, preserve community character, conserve existing landscape and native vegetation and minimize scarring of hillsides, facilitate adequate transportation, water, sewage, drainage, parks, air quality, and other public services and maintain stable property values. These departments conduct review and issue permits based on codes and ordinances.

Speaking of rules, we know getting reviews and permits for construction projects can sometimes feel like navigating a maze. That's why we're here to help! We've put together some FAQs to tackle the most common questions, but if you need the full scoop, dive into our Town Code or reach out to our awesome Community Development team. We're here to make things easier for you!

One of the most common inquiries we receive is about when a permit is required for various construction activities. Here, we address some of the frequently asked questions. Stay tuned, for more frequently asked questions.

### **1. Do I need a demolition (“demo”) permit to remodel?**

If you're replacing elements like for like, you generally won't need a demolition permit. However, if your remodeling involves significant changes such as adding electrical outlets, relocating plumbing and drains, or moving walls, then a demo permit is required. You can find the residential permit application on the Town of Payson website, or for more information, contact our helpful staff at Community Development.

### **2. Do I need a demo permit to remove a mobile home?**

Yes, a permit is necessary for the removal of a mobile home. You'll need to submit an application with a dismantled title from the AZ Department of Motor Vehicles, which will undergo review, and a permit fee will be applicable. Additionally, if there are other structures on the property, they may have to be removed simultaneously. If you need clarification, please contact the Community Development department.



# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

## 3. Do I need a permit to build a fence?

No, a permit is not required for building a fence. However, there are specific regulations to adhere to:

- Fences in front yards or areas with minimum front yard setback are limited to a maximum height of four feet above finished grade.
- In interior side and rear yards, the maximum allowable height for fences is seven feet above finished grade.
- For corner lots, the property line with the smallest distance of street frontage is considered the front of the lot.
- Fences must not obstruct visibility on roads or pedestrian ways.
- In cases of uncertainty, the determination of the Zoning Administrator or their designee shall prevail.

For any further clarifications or guidance on fence construction regulations, feel free to contact our Community Development team.



Here, you can see our dedicated staff at the counter, exemplifying the commitment and expertise they bring to assisting our valued residents with their inquiries and projects.

We encourage everyone to explore the various services provided by our Community Development department. Your engagement and cooperation contribute to the continued growth and success of our community.

# BEELINE BUS

From one of our valued passengers that completed a Beeline Bus Public Transit rider survey: "First, I am visually impaired. Every time I ride the bus the drivers are helpful, polite, and genuinely friendly. This has been a blessing to me. I find the quality of service from the drivers to be excellent. The bus is very clean, and the drivers are courteous, very informative and prompt on time."

It's wonderful to hear such positive feedback from a customer, especially regarding the excellent service provided by Beeline Bus drivers. The fact that the customer, despite being visually impaired, feels supported, respected, and well-served speaks volumes about the dedication and professionalism of the drivers and the overall quality of service provided by Beeline Bus. The drivers' helpfulness, politeness, friendliness, and promptness are commendable qualities that contribute to a positive experience for all passengers. Additionally, maintaining cleanliness on the bus enhances the comfort and satisfaction of passengers. This feedback reflects positively on Beeline Bus and underscores the Town of Payson's commitment to providing exceptional service to all customers, regardless of their abilities or circumstances.

Your satisfaction and comfort are important to us, and we look forward to continuing to serve you in the future. We encourage you to complete one of our new rider survey forms on your next ride. Thank you for choosing Beeline Bus Public Transit Service here in Payson, Arizona!



# 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:*







# FIRE DEPARTMENT

## **FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR**

For 25 years, Payson Rotarians have hosted an annual dinner showing appreciation for Payson Fire and Police Departments. This dinner is a chance for us to recognize a firefighter and volunteers who go above and beyond during the year in their support for the community and the Department.

This year we are pleased to announce Doug Eckhardt as the Firefighter of the year 2023. Doug was hired at the Payson Fire Department as a reserve in December 2012 and full time July 2016. He was a teacher at PHS before he changed careers. Doug took on the critical project of obtaining a side by side and equipping it for the Department. The side by side allows us to get to difficult areas for emergency services and is an important resource for Payson and Rim Country.

A record number of votes were received this year and a record number in favor of selecting Doug as firefighter of the year.



Chief Staub and firefighter Doug Eckhardt

# FIRE DEPARTMENT

Four Payson Fire Department Volunteers have done an excellent job of representing the Fire Department and getting the “Firewise” word out to the community. Of the 9 volunteers, we couldn’t narrow it down to only one. Congratulations to Jim and Jan McGarvie, and to Claudia Broere. Jim is a retired Naval Aviator (fighter pilot) Airline Captain, father, and grandfather, Jan is a mother, grandmother and retired Teacher, Claudia has an amazing life of experiences from teaching to working with hi tech industry to serving at the Community College. All the Volunteers spend a great deal of their own time and effort to serve the community. Great work and very much appreciated.

We are very grateful to the Payson Rotarians for their support of our community. We appreciate the opportunity to get together with our fire and police department brothers and sisters for a wonderful dinner and celebration. Thank you.



Chief Staub, Claudia Broere, Battalion Chief Kevin McCully and Jim and Jan McGarvie

# FIRE DEPARTMENT



**FIREWISE USA**  
Residents reducing wildfire risks

## Home Ignition Zone Course Announcement

### Reducing Wildfire Risk in the Home Ignition Zone

Arizona Department  
of Forestry and Fire  
Management

State Fire Prevention  
Officer

Aaron Casem  
1110 W. Washington  
Suite 500  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007  
Office: 602-771-1403  
acasem@dffm.az.gov

DFFM A4S  
Northwest District  
AFMO

Burrell Teague  
bteague@dffm.az.gov  
(602) 663-2015

For additional  
training  
opportunities,  
follow us on  
Social Media.



#### DESCRIPTION:

This 1 day course is designed for community members and fire professionals interested in wildfire risk reduction actions property owners can implement to improve home survivability due to a wildland fire threat.

The course will include information on the fundamentals of wildland fire behavior; potential types of ignition sources; the Home Ignition Zone; recommendations for wildfire risk reduction actions; case studies of Wildland Urban Interface fires; National Fire Protection Association Firewise® and the Firewise USA™ recognition program.

There will be a mix of classroom based presentations and field practice with property site visits. Please dress appropriately for weather conditions with pants and closed toe shoes for the property walk-throughs.

Participants will be required to come eager to learn and must attend the full course to receive a Certificate of Course Completion.

**DATE:** (1 Day Course)  
Class#1: Saturday April 13<sup>th</sup> 2024  
Class#2: Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup> 2024

**TIME:**  
8:00 – 4:00

**LOCATION:**  
Payson Public Library  
328 N. McLane Rd  
Payson, AZ 85541

**COST:** Free  
25 Seats Available

**TO REGISTER CONTACT:**  
Kevin McCully  
Fuels Manager  
Payson Fire District  
[kmccully@paysonaz.gov](mailto:kmccully@paysonaz.gov)  
Office: 928-417-5171







# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

## Employee Spotlights for March 2024:

I would like to take a moment to recognize Lisa Lipinski for her exceptional contributions to our team. Lisa's positivity and willingness to assist in every facet of our work make her an invaluable asset. Her depth of knowledge is truly impressive, and she consistently brings fresh, creative ideas to the table, always eager to enhance our projects. Lisa is always reliable, and she approaches every task with enthusiasm and determination. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated and capable team member like Lisa among us. Thank you for all that you do!

From Nicole Adams

The Parks and Recreation team would like to recognize Justin Hewitt for obtaining his CPRP certification (Certified Parks and Recreation Professional). This was a very in depth exam that takes a lot of dedication to pass.

We are proud of you! Congratulations!

*Congratulations!*

End of Report  
Next Report: April 10, 2024

