



PAYSONAZ.GOV



TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

APRIL 10, 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

JOINT TRIBAL WORK SESSION

On April 2, 2024 the Payson Town Council had the honor of participating in a joint meeting hosted by the Tonto Apache Tribal Council, alongside our neighbors the Star Valley Town Council.

It was an incredible opportunity to collaborate with our partners and neighbors for the betterment of our entire region.

The meeting was intended to provide an opportunity for the Council's to share information, provide updates, and continue the relationship that exists between the three government policy boards.

A big thank you to Chairman Calvin Johnson for graciously hosting us and facilitating such productive discussions. The meeting was a testament to the power of unity and cooperation in tackling common challenges and pursuing shared goals.

As we look to the future, we are filled with hope and determination. Together, we are laying the groundwork for a stronger, more resilient community where everyone can thrive.





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

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

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

April 2024

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



Sun day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Join Library Friends of Payson 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 - Color Me Healthy! 10:30 am Practice Spanish 11:30 am	Storytime with Toddlers 10:30 am Line Dancing @ Library! 2:15 – 4:00 pm	Galaxy Jar! – Explore the Solar System in a Jar! 1:00 pm 	
7	Solar Eclipse Viewing Party 10:00 am – 12:00 noon Sit & Stitch 2:00 – 5:00 pm	Ukulele Buddies 10:00 am Line Dancing Beginners 1:15-2:15 Intermediate 2:15-4:00 Library Workers Day!	Storytime with Babies 10:30 am Practice Spanish 11:30 am	Storytime with Toddlers 10:30 am Line Dancing @ Library! 2:15 – 4:00 pm	Learn / Play Chess 12:00 to 2:00 pm 	
14	Library Friends Meeting- Author Sharon Langsdale 10:00 am Sit & Stitch 2:00 – 5:00	National Library Workers Day 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	Storytime with Toddlers 10:30 am Line Dancing @ Library! 2:15 – 4:00 pm	Earth Day Celebration! Make a Terrarium & Watch your Plant Grow! 1:00 pm 	Ocean Rescue! Learn about pH & Coral & Help our Water Systems! 12:00 noon
21	Sit & Stitch 2:00 – 5:00 EARTH DAY! 	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 @ Library! 2:15 – 4:00 pm	Plant Flowers and Vegetables in Payson Library's Gardens! 10:00 am Bubble Art! Make amazing Hydrangea Flowers with Bubbles! 1:00 pm 	
28	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 @ Library! 2:15 – 4:00 pm	Glitter/Alphabet Sensory Bottles 1:00 pm 	

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Dispatcher Receives Critical Response Award

On April 1, 2024, at their monthly dispatch meeting, Dispatcher Bessie Watson was presented the Critical Response Award. This award was through the Payson Police Department Awards Committee, a committee which is made up of civilian and sworn staff who evaluate nominations received by co-workers and the public for Payson Police Department employees who go above and beyond in their duties to their communities.

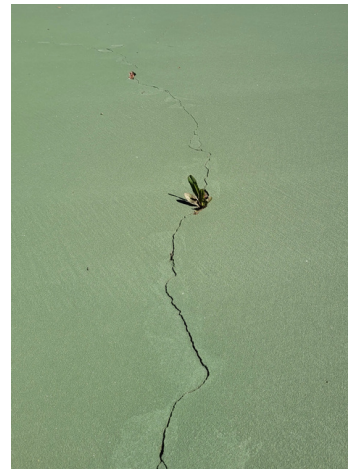
In this case, on November 4, 2023, Dispatcher Watson answered a 911 call where a male subject was having a heart attack on the Fossil Creek Road. During the call, the male could barely speak, and Dispatcher Watson stayed on the phone with him during this entire ordeal, over 40 minutes, to continue to get additional information including updating his status with responding emergency medical services (Pine Strawberry Fire Department) until they were able to arrive on scene and begin rendering aid. This type of dedication to the community often goes unnoticed but should be acknowledged. Congratulations Dispatcher Watson



PARKS AND RECREATION

Pickleball Court Resurfacing - scheduled to begin April 15

The 4 Pickleball courts and the Tennis court on the lower portion of the court area in Rumsey Park is scheduled for resurfacing starting April 15th. This process is slated to be a three-week process; however, weather may dictate the timeline as the temperature must be consistently above 50 degrees for the coating to properly seal. The courts will be scraped to bare concrete to repair the cracks and problem areas prior to recoating. Resurfacing will protect against wear from regular use, will provide a more attractive playing space, and most importantly, will be a much safer surface for players. We appreciate the community's patience as we work to improve these well-utilized courts.



PARKS AND RECREATION

Splash Pad Groundbreaking Ceremony

On Tuesday, April 2nd at 3pm, amidst the buzz of anticipation, the Town of Payson gathered at the Green Valley Park playground for the groundbreaking ceremony for the eagerly awaited Splash Pad project. Community members, local officials, and excited children listened as Mayor Higgins expressed gratitude for the collaborative effort and enthusiasm for the future recreational amenity. Town Council Members ceremoniously kicked off the construction of the project, breaking ground with golden shovels and tossing wood chips in the air with joy!



PARKS AND RECREATION

Thank you to everyone who came out to the Eggstravaganza!

The Parks and Recreation team is grateful to the Kiwanis club of Payson, Steve Miller Autoworks, and Edward Jones for partnering with us to provide over 7,000 eggs for our youth. The Easter Bunny made a guest appearance and was seen frolicking around Rumsey Park. We can't wait to have more eggs and more fun next year! 🐰🥚🌸 Remember to share photos with us using #playpayson



PARKS AND RECREATION

Join us for the 2024 NIRA College Rodeo at the Payson Event Center!

Experience the excitement of the Grand Canyon Regional Finals with top rodeo talent from the southwest. From bull riding to barrel racing, it's a weekend packed with thrills! Plus, enjoy delicious refreshments from our beer garden and browse through a variety of vendors on site.

NIRA College Rodeo

Dates: April 27th - 28th

Time: Gates open at 1:00pm

Admission: \$15 adults; \$5 ages 6-17; under 5 free

Don't miss out on the fun – grab your tickets at the gate and saddle up for a wild ride!

Important Notice: In compliance with Arizona state liquor laws, we're implementing a clear bag policy for this event. Small women's clutches will be permitted. Help us keep the fun rolling smoothly by adhering to this policy.

PAYSON PARKS AND RECREATION PROUDLY PRESENTS



NIRA COLLEGE RODEO
Grand Canyon Region Finals
@ THE PAYSON EVENT CENTER

SATURDAY, APRIL 27TH @ 2PM
SUNDAY, APRIL 28TH
SLACK @ 9 AM (FREE ADMISSION)
PERFORMANCE @ 2PM

TICKET SALES AT THE GATE
\$15 PER ADULT (18+) | \$5 PER CHILD (AGES 6-17) | 5 AND UNDER ARE FREE

BEER GARDEN ONSITE

FOR MORE DETAILS, PLEASE VISIT
WWW.PAYSONRIMCOUNTRY.COM/NIRA
OR CALL OUR OFFICE AT 928-472-5110



PARKS AND RECREATION

Registration is now open for Youth T-Ball & Coach Pitch! The season will begin on June 1st, 2024 and continue on Saturdays through July 20th.

T-Ball is open for 4-5 year olds and Coach Pitch is for 6-8 year olds. Registration closes on May 9th, so make sure you register now!

You can find more details and register online at:

<https://apps.daysmartrecreation.com/dash/x/#/online/payson/programs>

If you have any questions or want to register in person, please call Payson Parks and Recreation at 928-472-5110 or stop by our office at 1000 W. Country Club Dr., Payson, AZ.



REGISTER NOW!

**REGISTRATION CLOSES:
THURSDAY, MAY 9TH, 2024**



**SEASON DATES:
SATURDAYS 6/1/24 - 7/20/24**

**DIVISIONS:
T-BALL: 4-5 YRS | COACH PITCH: 6-8 YRS**

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

The building department issued 57 permits for the month of March and closed out 34 permits with a final inspection. Continuing with the building department, here are some more frequently asked questions.

1. When do I need a building permit?

You will need to obtain a building permit when you construct, add to, or alter a building. There are a few exceptions to this rule, however, we recommend that you first contact the building department before you trust the word of a friend or neighbor regarding when a permit is required. A simple phone call can save a lot of time as well as expense.

2. How long does it take to get a building permit?

The initial review for a single-family residential or duplex project is 10 business days. If corrections are required, there will be a five-day minimum backcheck period for subsequent reviews. Additional charges will be required for the third review. When plans are approved, the applicant will be notified with the amount of the permit fees.

Timeframes for commercial projects are longer as commercial projects are typically more complicated to review and the plan requirements are more stringent.

Turnaround timeframes for commercial projects initially are 20 days for new projects, and 10 days for interior remodels. Subsequent reviews are completed in ½ the time as the original review timeframes. There are exceptions for very large commercial projects, however, these are typically rare in Payson.

3. Will you call me when the plans have been reviewed and are ready to be picked up?

You will receive a phone call or an email when the plans have been reviewed stating that the permit is ready, or that corrections are needed, with the amount of the permit fees, if the project is ready to permit.



BUILDING DEPARTMENT

4. How much is a building permit?

A Building permit is determined by the valuation per square foot in addition to the plan review fees (cost of staff to conduct a plan review of the project for code compliance) for most projects. Some small projects are determined as a percentage of the construction value of the project being permitted. This is why it is helpful that the value is listed online located on the permit application for the project. Staff can provide a permit cost estimate upon request.

5. When do I call for inspections?

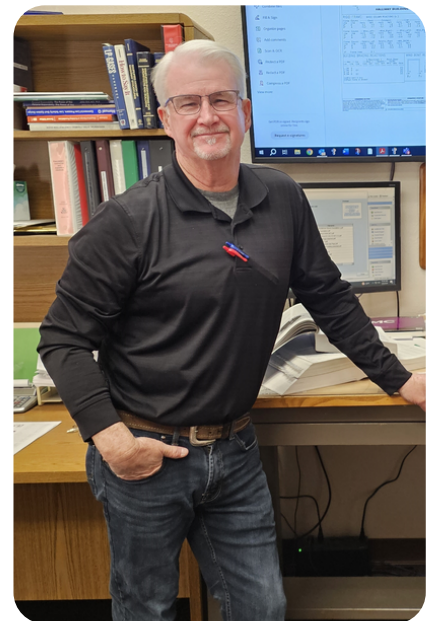
Inspections are typically required to be requested by the owner or contractor prior to concealing any type of construction process from view, or just prior to putting a piece of equipment into use, such as an electrical panel. To call for an inspection, please dial 928-472-5032, or 928-472-5030. If you are uncertain whether you are at a point where an inspection is needed, please call. Staff are here to assist.

6. What inspections do I need?

This depends on the type of project that you are permitting. This information will be provided on your permit card that you will receive when you permit your project. If you keep in mind that you need to call for inspection before covering or concealing anything, you should be fine. Again, if you have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to our staff at the numbers provided in the previous paragraph. Our helpful and knowledgeable staff will be happy to assist.

7. How long is a permit valid?

A building Permit is valid for 12 months. However, if no inspections are called for in the first 6 months, or if work ceases for any six-month period in that first 12 months, the permit will also expire. If substantial progress has been made, the original permit has not expired, and the project is not being lived in, the Building Official may extend a building permit upon written request for an additional six months, giving 18 months for the initial permit to be valid from the date that the permit was issued. If it is determined that a renewal fee is to be charged, it will be based on the amount of work that has been completed on the date that the renewal is requested.



RAY LAHAYE,
CHIEF BUILDING OFFICIAL

PUBLIC WORKS

Granite Dells Road Improvements

Utility work for the Granite Dells Road Improvements is scheduled to begin the week of April 22, 2024. Apache Underground has been hired by the Town to complete installation of all water mains, storm drains and manhole adjustments required for this project.

During the project, work will be occurring along various segments of Granite Dells Road between SR-260 and Mud Springs Road. The contractor will be required to provide access to local residences and businesses; however, there will be periods of time that the road will be closed to through traffic. Residents living south of SR-260 and east of Beeline Highway are encouraged to use alternate routes during construction. Mud Springs Road and the roundabout at Granite Dells Road and Mud Springs Road will remain open to through traffic during construction.

Access to the following businesses will be restricted as follows:

- Mt. Cross Lutheran Church: Access will be available from SR-260. During construction, access from Granite Dells Road will be intermittent.
- Speedway: Access will be available from SR-260. During construction, access from Granite Dells Road will be intermittent.
- Safeway and adjacent businesses in the 200 block of SR-260: Access will be available from S. Goodnow Road and SR-260. During construction, access from Granite Dells Road will be intermittent. Upon completion of construction, access from Granite Dells Road will be limited to right turns into and right turns out of the driveway on Granite Dells Road.

As additional information becomes available related to the Contractor's schedule it will be provide via the Town's website, social media, and the local press.



BEELINE BUS

Embark on an adventure with Beeline Bus during Adventure Payson Month this May! We're thrilled to announce that we'll be hosting two Free Ride Fridays, on May 17th and May 31st. It's an excellent opportunity to discover the wonders of our area while embracing eco-friendly transportation. By hopping aboard for free, you're not only reducing your carbon footprint but also making it simpler for both locals and tourists to immerse themselves in the myriad activities and events happening throughout the month. Don't miss out – mark your calendars and join us for a memorable journey on Free Ride Friday!

FREE RIDE FRIDAY

Celebrating Payson's 3rd Annual Adventure Payson Month!

MAY 17TH & MAY 31ST, 2024 ALL DAY FROM 6 AM TO 6 PM

Adventure
PAYSON

Payson
Arizona's Last Frontier Town

The graphic features a yellow background with a large blue star. On the left, a canoeist is shown in a red canoe on a river, with a forest and a sun in the background. On the right, a brown bus is shown with a 'BEELINE BUS' logo. Below the bus, a black silhouette of a person is standing on top of a black bus, with the word 'Payson' written on its side. A blue archway contains the text 'MAY 17TH & MAY 31ST, 2024 ALL DAY FROM 6 AM TO 6 PM'. The 'Adventure PAYSON' logo is in the bottom left, and the 'Payson Arizona's Last Frontier Town' logo is in the bottom right.

BEELINE BUS

Looking to breeze through your daily commute with ease? Look no further than Beeline Bus, your trusted transportation partner! With our commitment to reliability, comfort, and sustainability, we're here to make your journey smoother than ever.

Let's take a closer look at our ridership data:

2022: The Payson Senior Center proudly served hundreds of passengers each month, providing convenient transportation options to meet the Town of Payson and surrounding area's needs in Rim Country.

2023: Our ridership soared even higher, with more individuals choosing Beeline Bus as their preferred mode of travel. From bustling city streets to serene suburban routes, we're proud to connect communities across the region.

2024: While specific data for the full year isn't available, early indicators suggest that Beeline Bus continues to be a top choice for commuters seeking convenience and comfort.

At Beeline Bus, we're not just about getting you from point A to point B – we're about enhancing your entire journey. With our spacious seating, on-time arrivals, and commitment to cleanliness, you can sit back, relax, and enjoy the ride.

Ridership of Beeline Bus Transit System



BEELINE BUS

Why choose Beeline Bus?

Reliability: Count on us to get you where you need to go, when you need to be there. Our dependable service ensures that you never have to worry about missing an appointment or being late for work.

Comfort: Say goodbye to cramped cars and stressful traffic jams. With Beeline Bus, you'll enjoy a comfortable ride every time, complete with ample legroom and panoramic views of our beautiful rural mountain town we call home.

Sustainability: By choosing Beeline Bus, you're not just choosing convenience – you're choosing sustainability. Join us in reducing carbon emissions and preserving the planet for future generations.

Ready to experience the Beeline Bus difference for yourself? Hop aboard today and discover why we're the preferred choice for commuters everywhere!

For route information, schedules, and more, visit our website at <https://www.paysonaz.gov/community/beeline-bus>

or follow us on social media

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61557690315911&mibextid=LQQJ4d>



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 13th 2024
Class#2: Saturday May 18th 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
Office: 928-417-5171



WATER DEPARTMENT

New groundwater quality laws are prompting the Payson Water Dept. to take action to equip its water system to meet new federal guidelines for PFAS/PFOA chemicals. These chemicals are man-made, and have been termed “forever chemicals” for their resistance to chemically breaking down over time.

To address the new EPA-established, proposed maximum contaminant levels (MCL) for PFAS/PFOA, the Town of Payson Water Dept. has been busy devising a plan to equip wells with additional/increased pumping capacity at well sites that test below the proposed MCLs for PFAS/PFOA. On the week of March 4th the Water Dept converted one of its injection wells to an aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) well. This conversion allows the Water Dept. to not only inject CC Cragin water at this well site but also enables the production of groundwater at the same well site.

Additionally, in accordance with the Water Dept.’s partnership with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), on the week of March 11th the Water Dept. removed the pumping equipment from one of its aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) wells. This particular well was taken out of service last August after PFAS/PFOA contaminants were identified in groundwater at this ASR well site in exceedance of the US EPA’s proposed MCLs. This work is part of the ADEQ’s pilot testing program to assess and inform the construction of a PFAS/PFOA removal system at this particular ASR well site. ADEQ will install a sampling pump, to further characterize the groundwater at the site to inform the needs for the treatment system.

After the ASR valve and the pump were removed from the well, Water Dept. staff video-logged the well to inspect the condition of the casing. Through the video log footage, it was determined that the well casing is in good condition and is cased from surface to about 555 feet. Below 555 feet the well is open-borehole in the Payson granite

WATER DEPARTMENT



Removing column pipe from well



Submersible pump removal



Open casing slots (60-555 feet)



Open borehole (555-745 feet)

End of Report
Next Report: April 24, 2024

