



PAYSONAZ.GOV



TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

JULY 10, 2024

CONTENTS



03

MESSAGE FROM THE
TOWN MANAGER

06

PAYSON LIBRARY

07

PARKS AND RECREATION

12

POLICE DEPARTMENT

15

STREET DEPARTMENT

MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN MANAGER



I am pleased to announce the adoption of our new General Plan, a comprehensive roadmap that will guide the future development and growth of our town over the next ten years. This plan, which is updated every decade, reflects the community's collective vision for a prosperous, sustainable, and vibrant future Payson.

The development of the General Plan was a community-wide effort, and I am immensely grateful for the active participation and valuable input from our residents. Your involvement ensured that the plan truly represents the aspirations and needs of our entire community.

Here are some key takeaways from the newly adopted General Plan.

MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

Payson's 10-Year Vision

A fundamental part of the planning process is defining a community's vision. During the development of this Plan, a tremendous effort to engage and involve the public and stakeholders was undertaken so that their voices could be heard and listened to, and subsequently reflected in this Plan. This Plan also reflects the direction in which these residents want their community to grow and what they have defined as the critical issues to address and define success in their own terms.

Diversity of thought and opinion means not everyone will agree on a singular direction. Further, not any one persons' opinions or ideas may be represented, even in a document as robust as this one. What is important in the development of this General Plan and its recommendations is that there were multiple avenues for community input and the development of resident consensus. This consensus building means agreeing on what is possible or what is the best way forward considering not a singular viewpoint, but many.

This is where the vision is born: from the voices of Payson.

Payson, Arizona's cool mountain town, is a welcoming community that is an exceptional place to live or visit for people of all ages. The tall pines, natural beauty of the rim country, western heritage, recreation opportunities, safety and personal freedom all contribute to the high quality of living in or visiting Payson. We will strive to preserve and continuously improve the things that create this quality living and visitation experience by encouraging well planned business, housing and infrastructure development and services that will benefit the region. We will do this through wise use of resources and adapting quickly to opportunities that promote our vision.

What is considered "Smart Growth?"

Smart growth looks different from place to place. The following smart growth principles are considered the foundation of the smart growth approach, and are to be used as high-level guidance for the redevelopment and/or build out of the identified growth areas:

- Mix land uses.
- Take advantage of compact design.
- Create a range of housing opportunities and choices.
- Create walkable neighborhoods.
- Foster distinctive, attractive communities with a strong sense of place.
- Preserve open space, farmland, and critical environmental areas.
- Direct development towards existing communities.
- Provide a variety of transportation choices.
- Make development decisions predictable, fair, and cost-effective.
- Encourage public/stakeholder collaboration in development decisions.

Sustainable Development: Emphasis on environmentally responsible growth that preserves our natural resources and promotes green building practices.

Economic Growth: Strategies to attract and retain businesses, support local entrepreneurship, and create job opportunities.

Community Health and Well-being: Initiatives to enhance public health services, recreational facilities, and promote a high quality of life for all residents.

Infrastructure Improvements: Plans to upgrade and expand our transportation network, water supply systems, and other critical infrastructure to meet future demands.

MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

Housing: Focus on providing diverse housing options that are affordable, accessible, and meet the needs of all demographic groups.

Public Safety: Continued commitment to maintaining a safe community through enhanced emergency services and disaster preparedness.

This plan could not have been accomplished without the hard work and dedication of our steering committee. The committee, comprised of community leaders, experts, and passionate residents, played a crucial role in shaping the plan. Their insights and recommendations were invaluable, and we owe them a debt of gratitude for their tireless effort.

The next step in the process is for the voters of Payson to ratify the General Plan in the upcoming general election. Then, we can begin to move forward with implementing the General Plan. I encourage everyone to stay engaged and participate in the various projects and initiatives that will emerge from this comprehensive strategy. Together, we can ensure that Payson continues to thrive and remains a wonderful place to live, work, and play.

Thank you once again for your continued support and active participation in this important process.

-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

JULY 2024

Chess is **2nd Fridays**
 every month!
 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Please Sign-Up for all
Friday & Saturday
 Programs

Summer Reading Program!!!
June 1 to July 20, 2024!
 Reading, Gaga-ball, Four Square
 Game, Pizza, BBQ, Hot Dogs,
 Treats, Yoyo, Magic, Gaming,
 Roblox, Slime, Rocks, STEAM,
 Garden, Coding, Chess, Balloon Art,
 Tie-Dye & More!


Sun day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

Join **LIBRARY Friends of Payson**

Discover **Astronomy!**
Families Welcome!
 12:00 Noon
 Sit & Stitch
Kids Welcome!
 2:00 – 5:00 pm
 Scrabble 3 pm

Ukulele Buddies
Kids Welcome!
 10:00 am
Teen Tuesday
 12:00 Noon
Line Dancing
Kids Welcome!
 Beginners 1:15-2:15
 Intermediate 2:15-4:00

Storytime with Babies
 10:30 am
Practice Spanish
 11:30 am
Juggling Adventures Yoyo & Hula Hoop!
 1:00 pm

LIBRARY CLOSED


Candy Bridges – Calling All Engineers
 Can your Bridge support the weight?
 1:00 pm



ARIZONA SCIENCE CENTER
 Discover the wonders of science!
 Have an idea?

Combustion! – Play with Fire in a Safe Environment!
 12:00 Noon
 Sit & Stitch
Kids Welcome!
 2:00 – 5:00 pm
 Scrabble Club 3:00 pm

Ukulele Buddies
Kids Welcome!
 10:00 am
Teen Tuesday
 12:00 Noon
Line Dancing
Kids Welcome!
 Beginners 1:15-2:15
 Intermediate 2:15-4:00

Storytime with Babies
 10:30 am
Practice Spanish
 11:30 am
Police Heroes & Helpers
 1:00 Noon

Storytime with Toddlers
 10:30 am
Line Dancing @ Library! Kids Welcome!
 2:15 – 4:00

Learn / Play Chess
 12:00 to 2:00



ARIZONA SCIENCE CENTER
 Discover the wonders of science!
 Have an idea?

Explore All About Arizona Family - Cactus, Copper, Desert Animals & more!
 12:00 Noon
 Sit & Stitch
 2:00 – 5:00 pm
 Scrabble Club All Ages 3:00 pm

Ukulele Buddies
Kids Welcome!
 10:00 am
Croquet, Gaga-ball & Outdoor Games! Everyone Welcome!
 10:00 am
Line Dancing
Kids Welcome!
 Beginners 1:15-2:15
 Intermediate 2:15-4:00

Book Club
 10:00 am
Storytime with Babies
 10:30 am
Practice Spanish
 11:30 am
Learn Balloon Art!
 1:00 pm

Storytime with Toddlers
 10:30 am
Line Dancing @ Library! Kids Welcome!
 2:15 – 4:00

Camping & Survival Tips & Tricks!
 12:00 Noon

Summer Reading Finale
 Pizza, Treats, Games, Gaga-Ball, Crafts sponsored by **Desert Financial & Slime Time** with Arizona Science Center!
11:00 am - 1:00

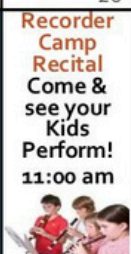
NO Library Friends Meeting
Recorder Camp
 11:00 am
 Sit & Stitch
 2:00 – 5:00 pm
 Scrabble Club All Ages 3:00 pm

Ukulele Buddies
Kids Welcome!
 10:00 am
Recorder Camp
 11:00 am
Line Dancing
Kids Welcome!
 Beginners 1:15-2:15
 Intermediate 2:15-4:00

Storytime with Babies
 10:30 am
Recorder Camp
 11:00 am
Practice Spanish
 11:30 am
Fluorescents-Rocks that Glow!
 1:00 pm

Storytime with Toddlers
 10:30 am
Recorder Camp
 11:00 am
Line Dancing @ Library! Kids Welcome!
 2:15 – 4:00

Recorder Camp Recital
 Come & see your Kids Perform!
 11:00 am



Sit & Stitch
 2:00 – 5:00 pm
 Scrabble Club All Ages 3:00 pm

Ukulele Buddies
Kids Welcome!
 10:00 am
Line Dancing
Kids Welcome!
 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! Kids Welcome!
 2:15 – 4:00

Decoupage Pet Rock - Friends or Monsters!
 12:00 pm



PARKS AND RECREATION

We want to take a moment to thank everyone for coming out to enjoy our 4th of July Celebration! We had a blast putting this event on and loved seeing all the families enjoying themselves at the event. We would like to take a moment to thank our Event Sponsors:

- Green Valley Water District & The Town of Payson Water Department
- Walmart for donating the free watermelon
- Crosswinds for the delicious pies

Without support from these amazing sponsors, we would not be able to host the events that we do!

A special shoutout to our fantastic musical acts: Moonshine Mafia, Donny Grub Band, and Melissa Stoll for singing the national anthem. We also want to extend our gratitude to all of our amazing vendors for their participation and contributions.

Highlights of the event included our exciting pie contest, family games, and inflatable areas that brought smiles to both kids and adults alike. Additionally, a huge thank you to our dedicated town staff for working so hard to make this event a success.

We are grateful for the community's enthusiastic participation and look forward to many more fun-filled events in the future.



PARKS AND RECREATION



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PARKS AND RECREATION



PARKS AND RECREATION

We are excited to share that our summer camp is in full swing at two locations! At our Rim Country Middle School (RCMS) site, campers had a fantastic time learning archery skills from Scott Davidson, an RCMS science teacher. The campers thoroughly enjoyed this unique experience, and we have attached some photos showcasing their enthusiasm and newfound skills. Our summer camp continues to provide diverse and engaging activities for our community's youth.



POLICE DEPARTMENT

Grant Funding Provides High-Visibility Rain Jackets for Public Safety Employees

Thanks to the generosity of a grant provided by the 100 Club of Arizona in the amount of \$9,098.45 the Payson Police Department was able to purchase 42 high visibility rain jackets for all of our police officers, community service officers, and for our volunteers to use during motor vehicle accidents, traffic control due to inclement weather, and more. Last year, Payson Police Department personnel responded to 341 traffic accidents. These jackets were provided at a most-opportune time as our monsoons are just beginning. Below are our officers modeling our recently acquired jackets.



POLICE DEPARTMENT

On July 2, 2024, Sergeant Joseph Oldeschulte was officially recognized for his promotion to sergeant from that of Detective. Sgt. Oldeschulte began his career with the Payson Police Department in 2016, with his most recent assignment being that of detective. Sgt. Oldeschulte has had vast experience with the department, acting also as armorer, range master, and FTO. Please join us in congratulating Sgt. Oldeschulte on this achievement.



Promotion of Leslie Zickefoose to Property Manager

Property Manager Leslie Zickefoose was promoted to this position from that of Property Technician. She has worked with the Property and Evidence Unit of the Payson Police Department since 2016. Ms. Zickefoose, along with the former property manager, has been part of a team of two who has the daunting task of managing and helping to process all the property and evidence taken into the police department on a daily basis. For example, in 2023 alone, she helped intake 243 items of found property, 1,384 items of drugs/drug paraphernalia, 21 vehicles, 72 firearms, 14 bikes, and 255 items for safekeeping. As all of these items take up a considerable amount of space, her team has worked diligently this last year to lawfully dispose of property from older, closed cases and incidents to further organize and better utilize the space in the unit, clearing out large storage containers, to be converted to other usages for the Town. Please join us in congratulating Ms. Zickefoose on this well-deserved promotion.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

NOW RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS

The volunteer program is being revitalized with the new supervision of Chief Hirokawa. We are looking to update current volunteer projects that we have sustained through the years and are looking to add some new aspects to the volunteer program, adding duties to our volunteers on patrol. We want to utilize the many years of experience of our current volunteers to better the program and add to our volunteer roster to expand that experience.

If you are over the age of 18 and are interested in applying for this opportunity, applications are available through the Town of Payson website at Paysonaz.gov. Simply click on the link for the police department then click on the link for Community Involvement. We will be reviewing all applications at the end of August.

VETERANS HELPING OFFICERS

During recent Coffee with Veterans and other like meetings, our veterans have informed us of their struggles and needs. With this, they have also provided us with resources that we as a police department can utilize to get them better assistance when they are in a time of need, such as transportation and other aids. During these conversations, our veterans have generously offered to share their experiences and train our officers in their areas of expertise, such as first aid in a combat situation, so our officers can benefit from their experience. We look forward to continuing this partnership with those in our community who have given so much already and who offer to continue to give their time for the betterment of their fellow veterans and their community.

COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS WITH THE GILA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

We will be working with the Gila County Sheriff's Office to join tactical resources and train together for situations where a tactical response is required, more than can be provided by one agency alone. Additionally, we want to work to share personnel resources that either agency may not have a large listing, such as utilizing each other's chaplains and other such specialized personnel. We want to continue to work to better develop our relationships with other law enforcement agencies, beginning with those in neighboring jurisdictions.



STREET DEPARTMENT

The Town of Payson can trace its roots back to 1882 in what was then called Green Valley by local ranching, mining and logging settlers. Over the last 142 years, many things have changed, but some things still stay the same. Namely, the Town's dependence on specialty and common supplies and materials from far away that uniquely fit our climate and geography. In the Settler's time, this was usually accomplished by hitching a team of mules up and planning to stay in the Valley for several days or weeks. This was an economic necessity then as it still is today...except for the mules and week-long stays.



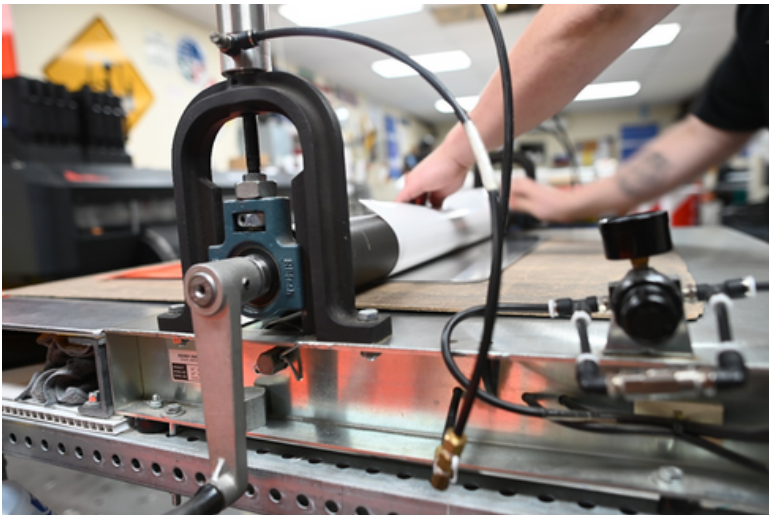
A typical Valley run occurs every two to four weeks depending on necessity and demand for specialty materials. Here, Angie picks up tack oil from Sam at one of our Valley vendors. This is an asphalt adhesive for use in our potholes and other small road patches.

STREET DEPARTMENT



Angie discusses signage needs and other products with Andy.

Other specialty items we will purchase from the Valley are navigational signs and signage products that are designed and made to Federal specifications by companies that stay up to date on these standards for uniformity, retro-reflectivity and lifespan. There are many products and circumstances that our department can manage, in a pinch, here in town or on our campus, however some circumstances, like these, require our dependence on specialty vendors in the Valley.



A non-regulatory construction sign is laminated and pressed, by Byron, before being finished and cut. Specialty products such as these are a federal requirement to meet DOT Highway and Street standards as well as construction zone standards.

STREET DEPARTMENT



Angie reviews the invoice with T.J. and Andy before the visit to the next vendor. Valley runs, like these, usually consist of three to four vendor visits and overall save the town about \$1,000.00 in combined shipping charges during each trip.



With fuel costs where they are and most vendors in the Valley charging a premium for out-of-range deliveries. Each visit like this one will usually cost the Town around \$100.00 in round trip fuel costs fueled locally here in town at co-op honoring fuel stations. Vendor delivery costs from the Valley range from \$100.00 to over \$1,000.00

Specialty products and goods will always be a necessity from outside of the Town. The Street Department will always be doing our part to pay attention to and keep costs low for the resources we are committed to steward on behalf of the taxpayers.

End of Report
Next Report: July 24, 2024

