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# TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

JANUARY 14, 2021



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# WELCOME

**BY TROY SMITH, TOWN MANAGER**

Welcome to the new Town Manager's Report. This document, which will be presented to Council at each regularly scheduled meeting and released to the public the following day, is part of an effort to increase and improve communication. This report will assist the Council and the citizens of Payson in staying well informed of the Town's projects and programs.

Since moving to Payson and beginning in this position, I have spent much time getting to know the community and this great organization. Payson is poised for a very bright future and there are many positive efforts in the works.

I have been working to help transition our new Council as we welcome two new Councilmembers. As part of this effort, I have organized and planned a Council Advance for January 30th where we will cover a detailed orientation agenda. Subsequent to this, we will conduct a Council Strategic Planning session, for which preparations have already begun.



This session will identify the Council's goals and priorities, which will help dictate our direction for the next fiscal budget. We have already begun preparing for the budget creation as it requires months of planning and hard work.

Additionally, the Town has been providing programs and services under our emergency operations for COVID-19. Our thoughts are with those who have been impacted by the virus.

Finally, I would like to extend a thank you for the warm welcome that I have received from the community, the Council, and the organization.



## COUNCILMEMBER INTRODUCTION: SCOTT NOSSEK

Scott grew up in Amherst, Ohio and came to Arizona in 1980 as a freshman at the University of Arizona. A member of the baseball team for 4 years, he graduated in 1985 and had a brief stint in professional baseball in the Chicago White Sox organization.



After graduating from the University of the Pacific with a Masters degree in Physical Therapy, he and his wife Janet moved back to her native Arizona to start a career and family. They moved to Payson with their two young children in 1992. After working at Lewis R. Pyle Memorial Hospital (now Banner Health) for 2 years, they purchased Payson Physical Therapy (PPT) in 1994. Two more children and two grandchildren later, Scott and Janet still own and manage PPT.

Scott has been very active in the Payson community serving on numerous committees, as well as youth and high school coaching, managing the high school sports medicine program, and volunteering in the schools. Various board service has included: Payson Parks and Rec., church leadership, and the Payson Christian Clinic. Scott enjoys spending time with his family, all sports, reading (especially American history), the ocean and hiking.

Contact Scott Nossek at [snossek@paysonaz.gov](mailto:snossek@paysonaz.gov)



## COUNCILMEMBER INTRODUCTION: JOLYNN SCHINSTOCK

Jolynn is happily married to Mike Schinstock and has 5 wonderful children of which 3 are currently enrolled in Payson schools and 2 are college graduates. In 2008 the family relocated to Payson from Sierra Vista, AZ so Mike could progress his career as the Superintendent of the Payson Hot Shots.



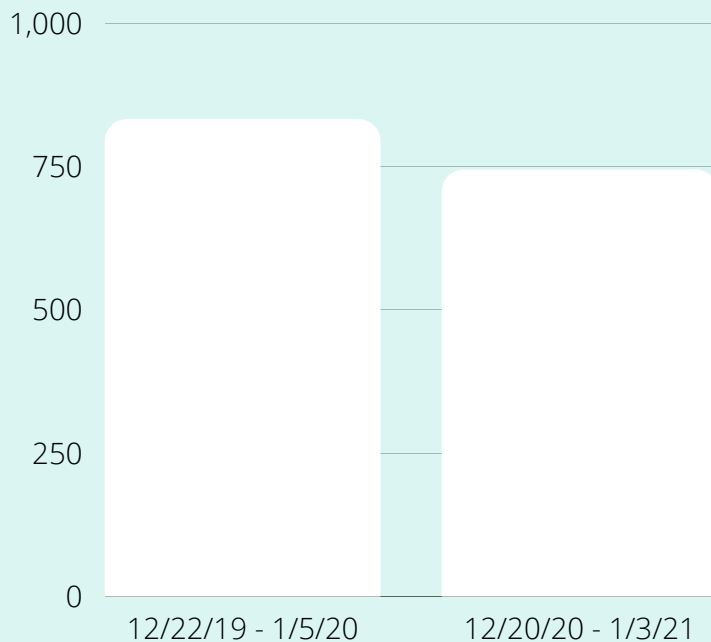
For the last 14 years Jolynn has been employed as a government contractor, as a Program Tester, and works remotely from home. Prior to that she worked, for 12 years, as a civilian with the Department of Army, as a Budget Analyst, on Ft. Huachuca, AZ.

With a servant's heart, Jolynn has faithfully served our community for over a decade. She's a dedicated volunteer with Payson schools, coached over 30 teams for the Parks and Recreation Youth Program, served as Co-President of the Julia Randall Elementary Parent Teacher Organization and currently serves as Vice-President of the Payson Unified School District Governing Board. Serving on the Town Council is the next step in her journey and one in which she is excited to undertake.

Jolynn looks forward to serving all town residents. She has an open-door policy and welcomes public input and feedback. Her goal is to move Payson forward and bring some unity to the community by researching and being prepared to discuss and vote on issues, remaining open minded, listening to understand, respecting all opinions (even those that oppose her own), and treating others with kindness.

Contact Jolynn Schinstock at [jschinstock@paysonaz.gov](mailto:jschinstock@paysonaz.gov)





## **CALLS FOR SERVICE**

From December 20th to January 3rd, the Police Department had 744 calls for service. This is down from 832 calls for service during the same time period last year.

# **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

There was an Officer Involved Shooting on January 4, 2021. The investigation is being handled by the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

Teryn Shaw, our new Dispatch Trainee, started training on January 4, 2021.

Police Officer Recruits Colten White and Zakary Buzzard will start the NARTA police academy in Prescott on Sunday, January 10, 2021. Their graduation is set for May 27, 2021.

The Police Department received a grant to acquire the remaining twenty 800mh radios needed for patrol.

Suspect Jason Randel, who rammed one of our officers back in June 2020, has taken a plea and will serve 6 years in prison.



# POLICE DEPARTMENT

## ***Welcome!***

Christina Weiss, our new  
Communication Manager

Christina started on December 28,  
2020 and took over supervision of the  
Communication Center.



## ***Welcome!***

New Officers Lucas Barr and Carson  
Frahm are starting their 4th week of  
field training.

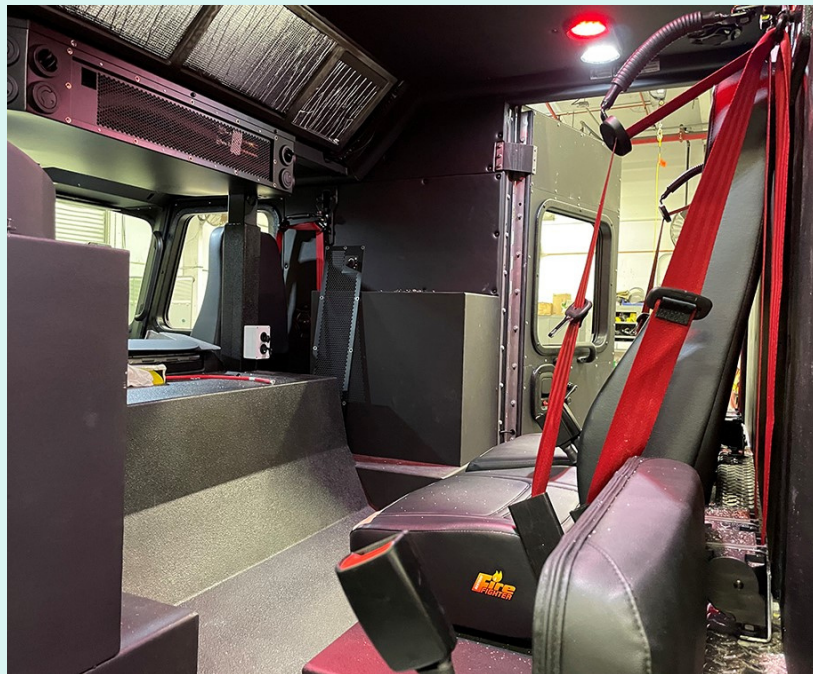
***During the latter part of January  
and early February, we will begin  
training and rolling out body worn  
cameras to all officers.***





# FIRE DEPARTMENT

We currently have 2 new fire trucks being assembled at the factory. Below are some photos of one of those trucks.



We are still on target for a delivery by the end of March 2021



# FIRE DEPARTMENT

On December 30, 2020, Payson Fire Department was dispatched as part of Automatic Aid to assist Pine-Strawberry Fire District with a reported chimney fire. Payson Fire Department, along with PSFD and Water Wheel Fire/Medical District responded to find a well involved house fire in a residence full of materials. For Firefighter Safety, the fire was declared defensive. Upon arrival, Chief Staub assumed Incident Command to ensure Firefighter safety and overall strategy development. The fire was confined to one house and PSFD treated the occupants and is conducting the investigation. We did have one minor firefighter injury. A total of four engines, four water tenders, two chief officers and 20 firefighters responded to this emergency.



The Rim Country Automatic Aid system is a step beyond mutual aid and is currently signed onto by all the area fire departments. Combined, the system brings eight staffed fire engines and seven water tenders, along with the command staff to address any emergency in the region more effectively. Total on duty firefighting force of all partners is 21 firefighters.



The system allows the area Fire Chiefs to preplan to bring a more effective firefighting force to bear on our combined hazards. This system is also used for wildfire responses. The NFPA standard is for 16 firefighters minimum to address a single family house fire. None of the partners alone could bring that size of a response to any emergency. Working together, we can more closely meet the standard to offer a safer working environment to our firefighters and a more effective response to our customers. Additionally, if any of the partners are out of resources and receives another call for service, another partner agency will respond. This means that when all three of our Payson units are committed to incidents and a fourth call comes in, Hellsgate is dispatched to cover that call. All of this is preplanned and built into our dispatching system.



# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

*Staff will be conducting interviews this week for a new Senior Planner to join the team*

We have received an application for a Minor Amendment to the General Plan, accompanied by a rezoning request. The proposed project is an expansion of mining operations on currently vacant commercial land just north of the event center.

A new online form for Development Services will be available online soon. This is part of an overall effort to streamline processes and improve customer service.

Staff continues to work on beautifying the Town Hall complex with landscaping, repairs, new signage, and general upkeep. New sign faces should be installed by January 22nd.

## **Economic Development**

A 6 question survey was distributed to businesses to find out how COVID-19 has impacted their business. The data collected helped Economic Development personnel compile the following action items:

- Work with AZ@Work to hold a Career Fair
- Work with Federal & State partners on PPP loans
- Continue to promote Payson on social media and "Shop like a Local"
- Work to update contact information for local business owners to improve communication



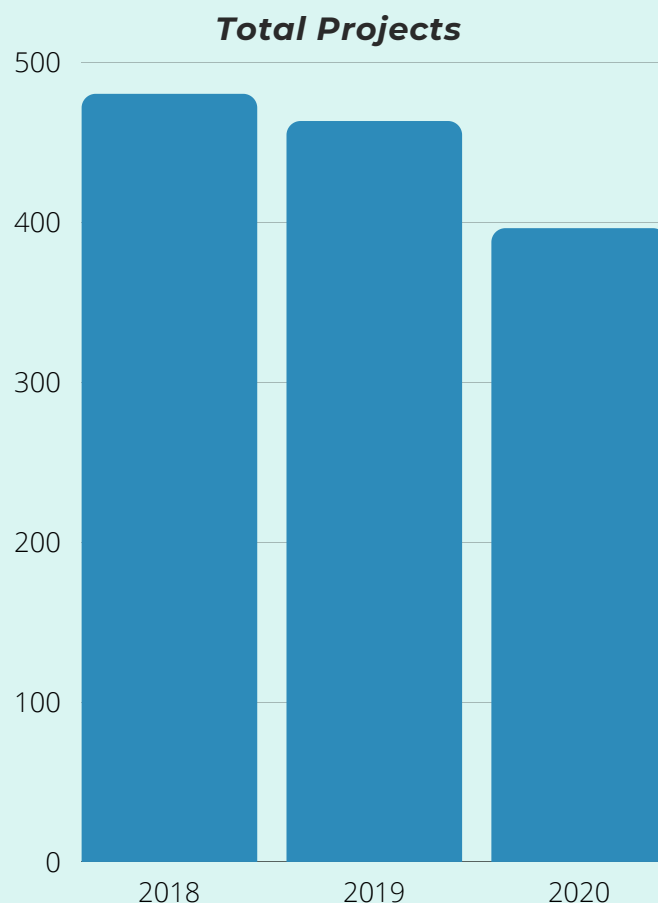
# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

## ***Subdivision Updates***

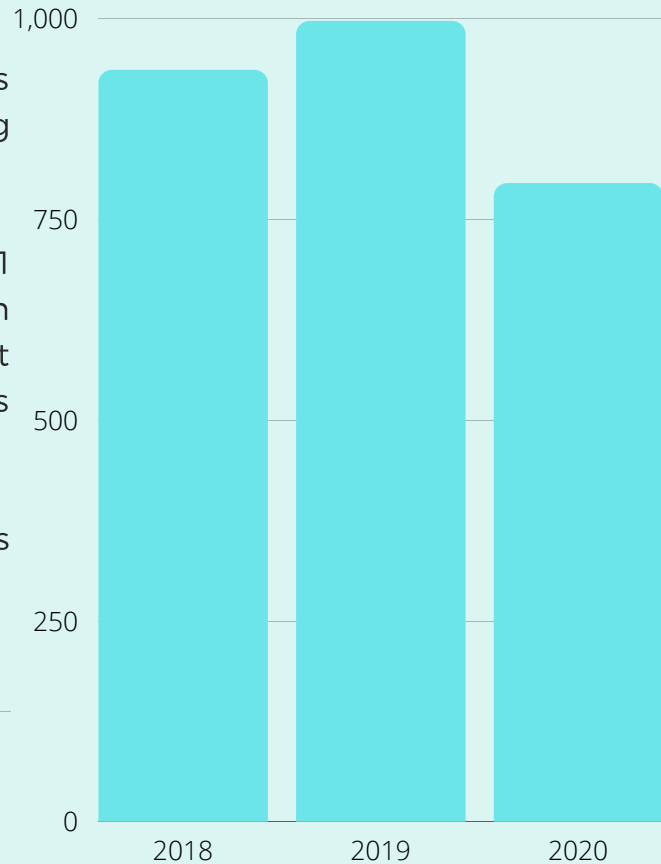
The Tuscany Estates Preplat was approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission on January 11, 2021

Also during the January 11, 2021 Planning and Zoning Commission meeting the Preplat Extension Request for the Pine Shadows subdivision was approved for 6 months

The Final Plat for North Peak Hills Phase 2 is currently in review



## ***Total Permits***



## ***Subdivision Updates***

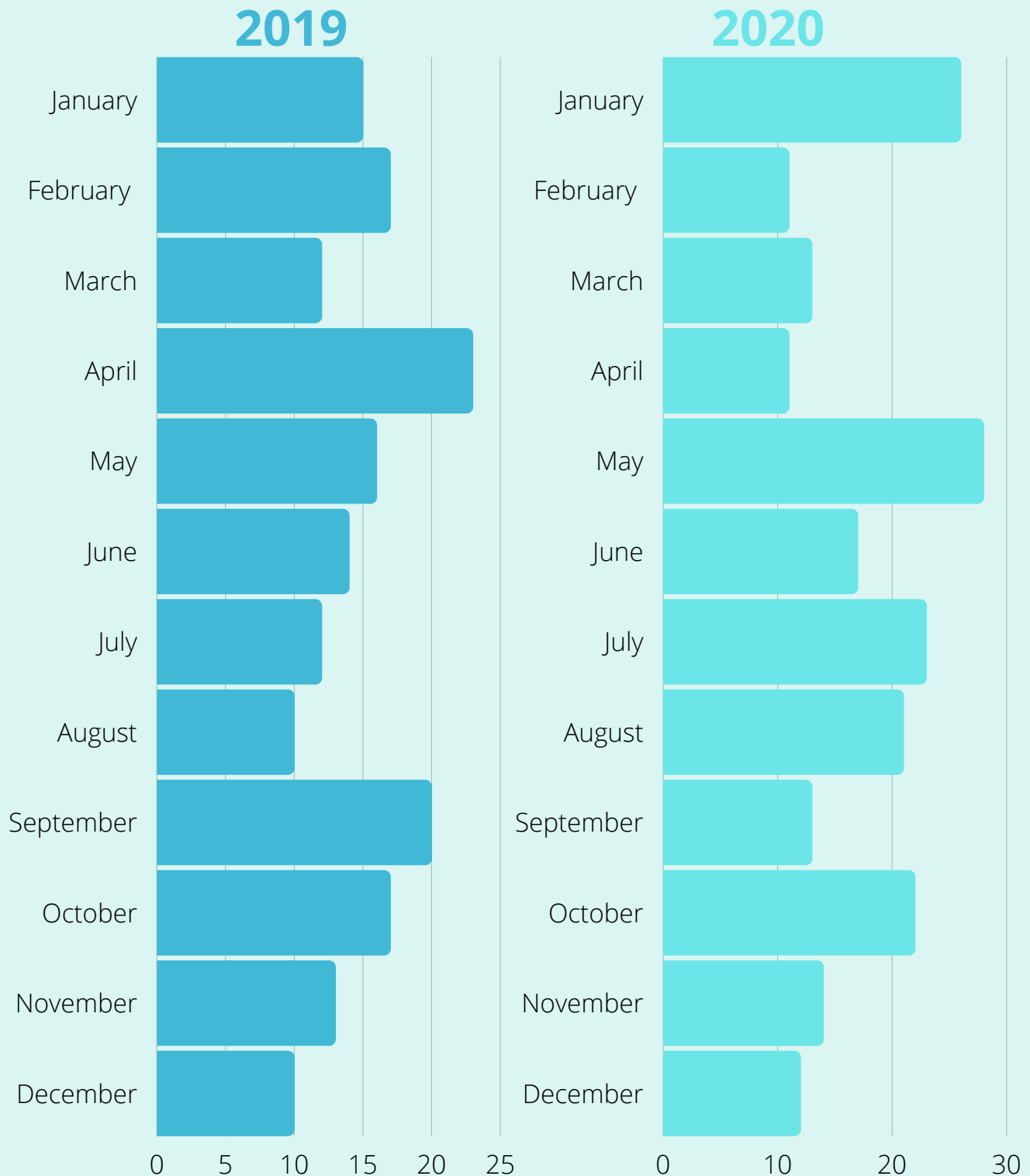
Green Valley Vista is under construction with Phase One improvements nearing completion. Construction on some model homes has begun.

There are 5 other subdivisions in the works: 4 Single Family Residential and one Townhome subdivision



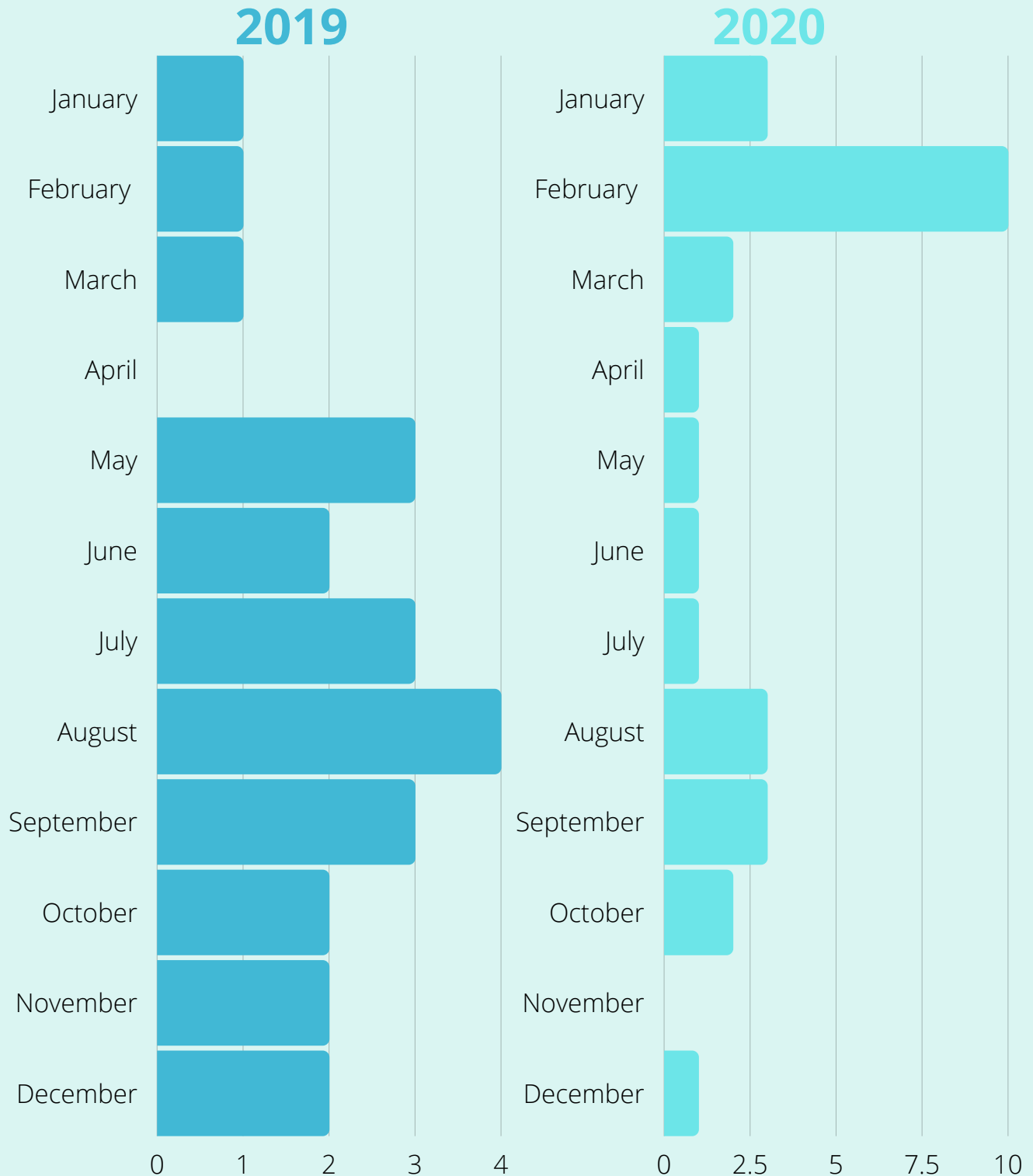
# RESIDENTIAL PERMITS

Total number of residential permits applied for per month



# COMMERCIAL PERMITS

Total number of commercial permits applied for per month





# PARKS, RECREATION & TOURISM



Parks, Recreation, & Tourism would like to extend the welcome of our newest team member, Scott VanOmmerman, who will serve as the Parks Supervisor. His background includes 20 years of Parks Management experience in regions of the US including Michigan, Montana, Indiana and Wisconsin. During his career in Parks and Recreation, he has overseen planning, maintenance and operations of Parks, Trails, Aquatic and Open Space recreation facilities and developing Urban Forestry programs. With 35 years as a trained landscape architect, practicing project manager and developer of private, commercial, or municipal

landscapes Scott was involved with parks, trails, playgrounds, and school campuses.

Scott attended the Park Professional Executive Development Program at Indiana University in 2015, earned a Bachelor's Degree in Landscape Architecture from Michigan State University in 1990 and attended Western Michigan University to study Natural Resource Management and Business Administration.

Scott regards the planning, development, and maintenance of balanced park systems through mindful, ethical prioritization of long-term economic and environmental sustainability. He has a steadfast commitment to the protection, conservation, and restoration of natural, cultural, or historical resources as vital recreation and educational systems. Scott looks forward to serving the residents and visitors of Payson and providing the community with a diversity of safe, inclusive, and equally accessible public spaces, parks and events.

# PARKS, RECREATION & TOURISM

## ***Diamondback Turf Installation Complete***

Acceptance of Completion has been issued for the turf installation at the Rumsey Park, Diamondback Fields. The Parks, Recreation, & Tourism staff will continue work on these fields within the infield and warning track areas to compliment the outfield installation. A post-install shock attenuation performance measure was also conducted on the outfield turf surface (GMAX testing). The test was performed per ASTM Standards, which measures the impact of the surface at a variety of locations to ensure a safe a playable field; with all resulting reporting positive.





# PARKS, RECREATION & TOURISM

## ***Splash Pad Update***

Staff has been diligently working on the development of the request for proposal (RFP) for the splash pad project, and has sent the draft out for legal review. Within the splash pad grant process, staff received additional forms, pre requirement, to be submitted to the National Park Service to accompany the grant application submitted in October 2020. This information was communicated to be submitted for review within this month's funding opportunity open window. It has also be confirmed that if the project and grant is approved, the approvals would come in late March 2021 with a project agreement.



## ***Great News!***

Parks, Recreation, & Tourism and the Payson Multi-Event Center has become a member of the League of Agricultural and Equine Centers (LAEC), which offers comprehensive educational and networking opportunities in the areas of facility design, management, and operational procedures, with and from others within comparable fields. This will serve as a resource for the Town and staff to continue attaining and exploring the highest level of standards in facility management for the Payson Multi-Event Center, and those in which the facility serves.

# PARKS, RECREATION & TOURISM



## ***Annual Christmas Tree Recycle Program***

The annual Christmas Tree Recycling Program began at the Payson Multi-Event Center on December 28, 2020, and will continue through January 17, 2021. Recycled trees will be chipped, and chips will be made available within the community on a first come, first serve basis. Those interested in receiving wood chips can contact Nicole Adams, Community Development, to complete an Excess Material Request Form, 928-474-5242 ext. 5042.

Interested parties will be contacted after the program completion date to schedule a delivery and/or pick up. Discarded trees are asked to be placed within the designated drop off area within the Payson Multi-Event Center Main Parking Lot.

**Note:** Please remember to remove all nails, tree stands, lights, and decorations, as these items damage the equipment. In addition, this is not a drop location for wreaths, snow flocked trees, or artificial trees.



# AIRPORT

The FAA grant funded improvements at PAN (Payson Airport) were completed at the end of December. The photos below are from the final inspection.



## ***Did You Know??***

Development of the present-day Payson Airport began in 1973, when Gila County obtained a Special Use Permit from the Tonto National Forest to construct and operate an airport on United States Forest Service land. With Gila County serving as the airport sponsor, the Town of Payson was able to seek federal funding to aid in the construction of an airport. In 1974, actual construction of a 4,900-foot by 60-foot wide runway, connecting taxiway, and aircraft apron began to take place, and by July 1975, the Payson Airport became operational. In December 2016, the Payson Airport added the tagline “Rich Henry Field” to its name in honor of the Payson resident who lovingly devoted countless hours to the success of the airport since its inception.



# WATER DEPARTMENT

We continue to strive to provide a high quality, reliable water supply to the citizens of Payson.

On November 12th, 2020 the Town Council directed staff to negotiate the possibility of extending Tower Well water credits to accommodate a proposed affordable housing project east of Town Hall. The Tower Well water credits were originally issued in 2005 in exchange for ownership of the Tower Well in Star Valley and are currently set to expire on April 17, 2024. Following the meeting, Town staff attempted to seek an equitable deal that would comply with the law. Discussions ensued but on January 6th, town staff received notice from the developer that they have chosen to put the project on hold.



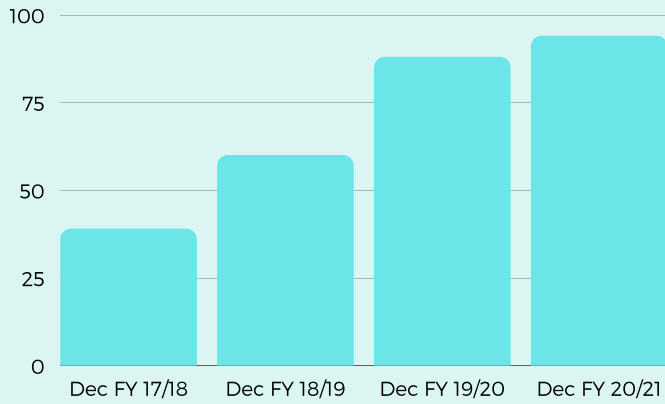
The Water Department participates in a program with the Hoover Dam where we buy electricity from the dam and either use it or trade it with other communities.

This program saved the Town \$682 in the month of November and we are on track for a net savings of nearly \$16,400.

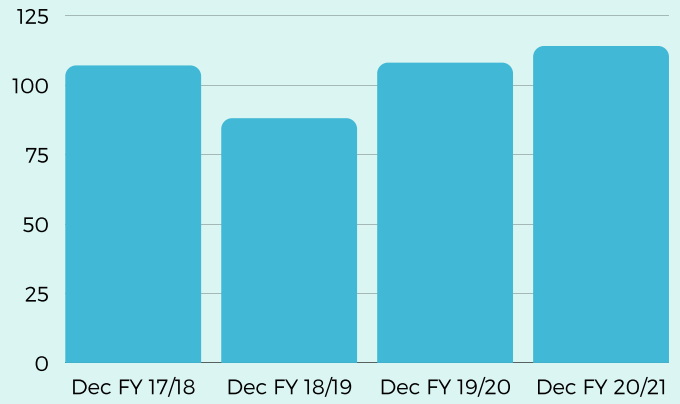


# WATER DEPARTMENT ACCOUNTING & COLLECTIONS

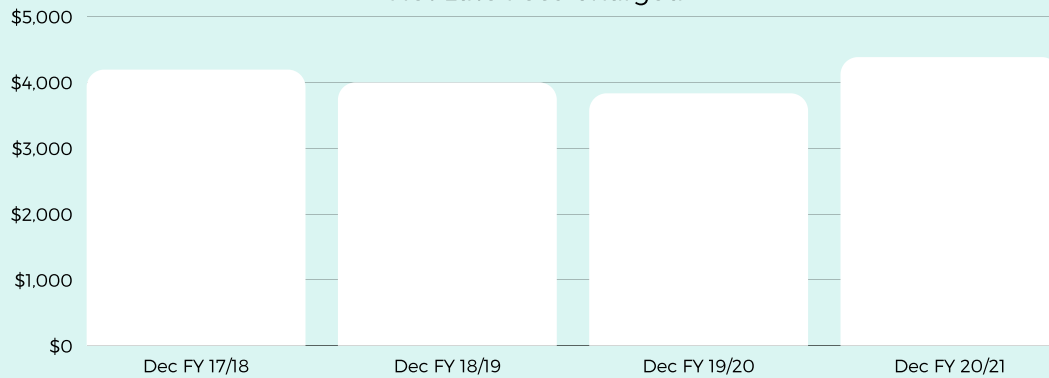
New Accounts



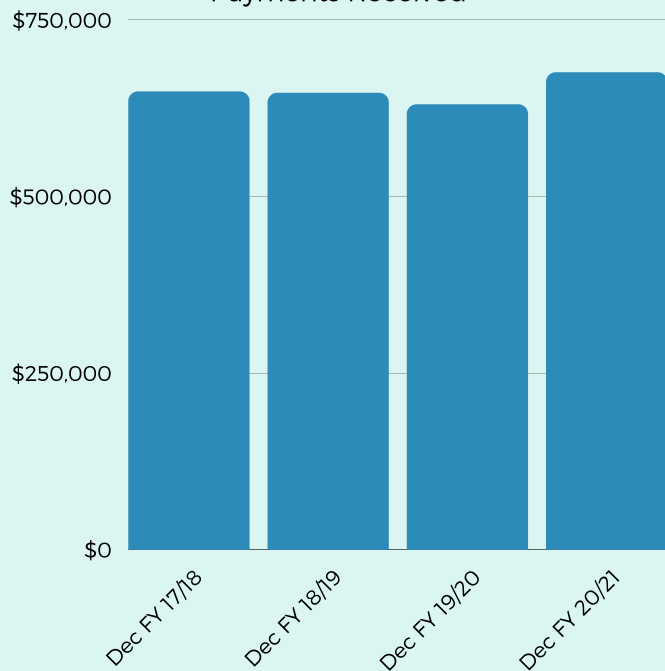
Closed Accounts



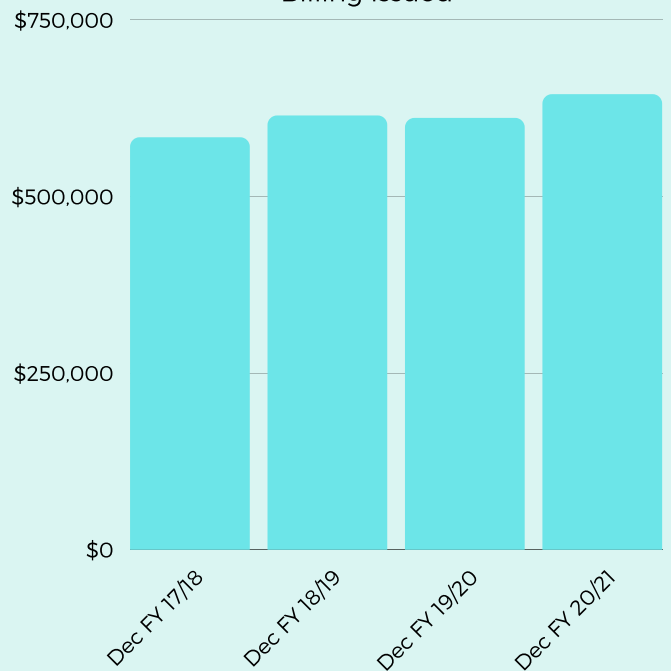
Net Late Fees Charged

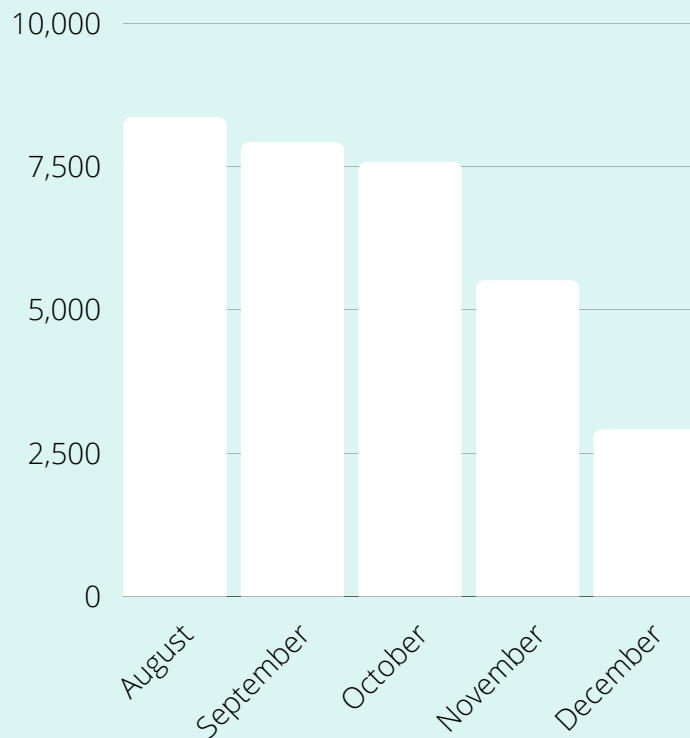


Payments Received



Billing Issued





## LIBRARY CIRCULATION

The total circulation of materials in December was 2,909 despite the alteration in services. December is typically the slowest month even in normal years.

## LIBRARY

The library continues to provide a valued service to the community, with alterations, and added 8 new patrons in the month of December. The library will continue to provide curbside delivery and allow computer use by appointment only. The altered hours of operation are as follows:

Monday - Thursday 10am - 5pm  
 Fridays & Saturdays from 10am - 3pm  
 Closed Sundays

The construction of the addition to the library building is wrapping up with minor finishing touches. Once complete, the Library Friends of Payson will purchase new chairs and media equipment to compliment the added space.



End of Report

Next Report: January 28, 2021

