

Newsletter



“Success is not given; it’s earned”. The staff at the Collection Center have overcome the challenges.

It is important to take a step back and remember the reasons why the Town created the Collection Center and what they have accomplished. The picture above is from June of 2018. This was a typical Monday for public works staff. The day was spent picking up and hauling recyclables/trash.

In 2019, The Collection Center opened with one major goal, to reduce illegal dumping! As with most new businesses, it was a slow start with significant hurdles to overcome. Recycling at that time was not in a good place. China had stopped taking plastic and it was difficult to find places to sell recyclables.

Since opening the Center, our mission has always been to provide the town and neighboring communities with a safe, clean, and cost-effective place to dispose of recycling and trash. While providing all the proper measures to ensure the recyclable materials truly get recycled, and do not end up in a landfill. When taking on this task, we understood there may be some challenges to overcome; namely, the cost to run and operate the Recycling Center. We have made great strides in creating relationships in the industry and building a reputation that our product was clean. This allowed Damien Zachman the Collection Center Manager to market our material.

We have eight different commodities at the Center, five of which must be hauled to the valley to be recycled. With Damien’s expertise and background, he was able to contact and negotiate with closer, trusted companies, to take our material to. Once the locations were set, he began negotiating rates on aluminum, plastic, scrap metal, tin, and even local trash tipping fees. For instance, we were taking our Plastic to the City of Phoenix, on the outskirts of North Phoenix, which was a free disposal site. With cooperation from our cardboard distributor in Tempe, we are now able to dispose our plastic at the same site, which not only saves us fuel with the 3-hours of drive time, and they pay the Town. Additionally, for us to stay competitive locally, the Town Council slightly raised our rates in November 2023.

Because of the continued dedication of our Collection Center Staff and their focus to succeed we are currently on track for the best year since opening. We have never been able to break even, the general fund has covered the Collection Center shortage for 3 years. As of November 2023, the Collection Center revenues were \$38,677.36 more than last years.

- Last fiscal year, June 2022 to November 2022, the center collected \$70,645.81 in tipping fees.
- This fiscal year, June 2023 to November 2023, the center collected \$109,323.17 in tipping fees.

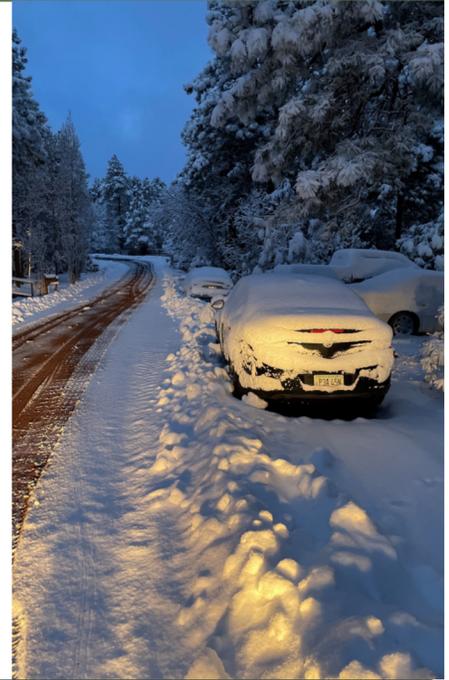
Finally, we are thankful for the continued support and partnerships of the Council and patrons that help us keep this great service available for everyone to enjoy and utilizes. We continue to look for ways to make the Collection Center better for all. Don’t forget to check out the Collection Center’s Facebook page.

Newsletter



Frustration Continues

We continue to deal with violators, this picture doesn't give justice to this issue. This is located on Walnut Creek Loop, one of most dangerous roads in Town. Its grade and curve make it difficult to navigate when its is iced over... These cars are just past a corner on a steep hill. You can't see this until it was too late. This caused one of our drivers to wreck and thankfully no one was hurt.



Police Department Construction

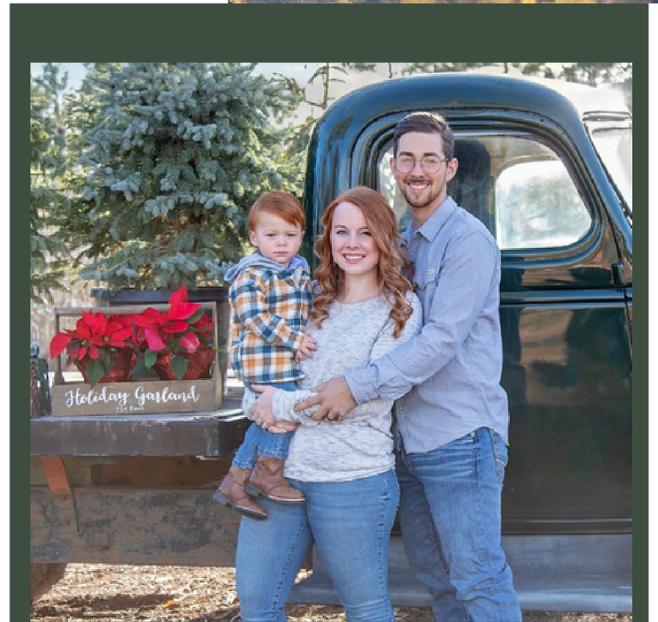
January was a good month for the Police Department project. The whole project started with an unusually slow start. However, things have taken a turn and progress has picked up. Insulation is 90% complete and drywall installation has begun. The frustration was getting the best out of everyone involved. We have two new project Managers that have been assigned to the project by the Architect. This has improved the timeline on getting answers on issues that arise. Both the Architect and the General Contractor are working hard to get the project back on schedule. As of right now, they anticipate being finished 12/5/2024 with both phases. The original date of completion was in November 2024.

Youth Basketball League

The Town partnered again this year with the Blue Ridge High School Basketball teams to run the Pinetop-Lakeside Youth Basketball League. Malaina Spillman worked with the coaching staff at Blue Ridge to open registration and order jersey's. This year we had 291 kids register ranging from 1st grade to 6th grade. The season began on January 21st and will conclude on March 2nd.

ADOT NEWS

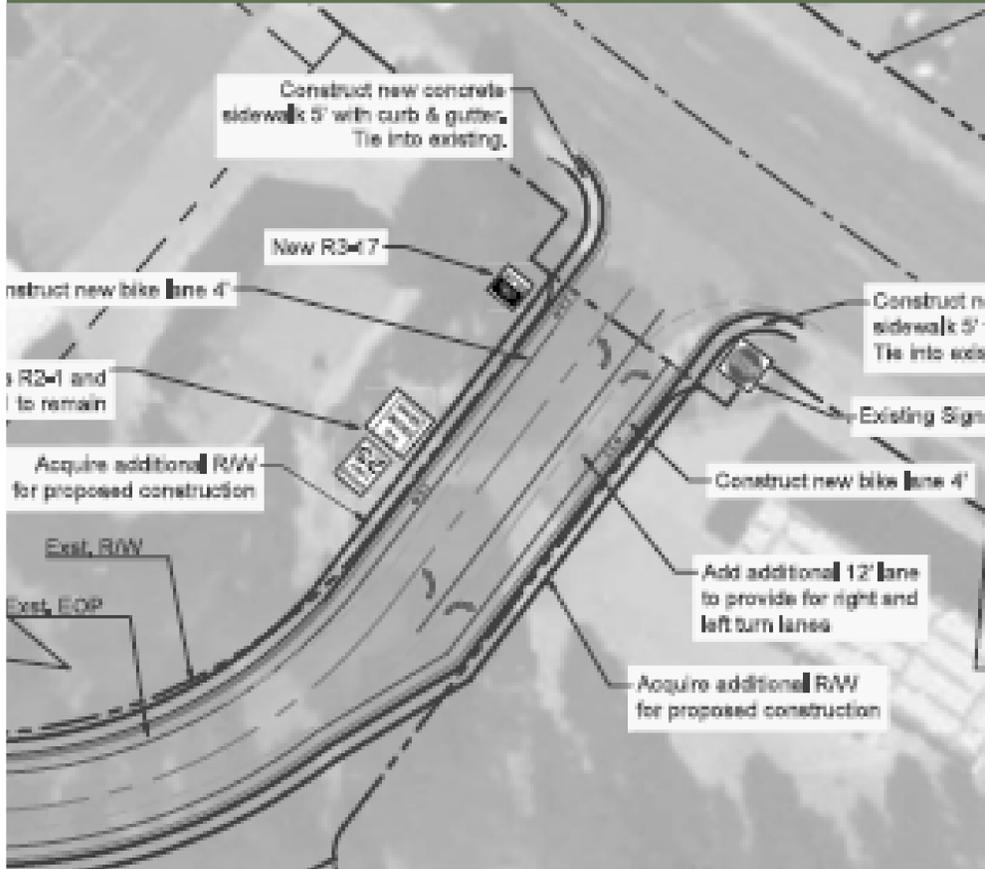
Arizona experienced some other good transportation news last week when it was announced that ADOT was awarded a \$95 million federal INFRA grant which completes the remaining needed funding balance to fully expand I-10 to three lanes in both directions for the entire length between Phoenix and Tucson! Job well done by ADOT and all involved - Congratulations!



Ryan, Natalie, and Jax Church

Ryan joined our team as Fleet Mechanic in January. He Graduated from Show low High School he went on to graduate from UTI where he received many honors such as Excellent Attendance and UTI Directors Honors list. He brings a great deal of knowledge to the Town and lives within the Town limits we are extremally thankful to have his expertise on our team.

Director Updates



Talking Trash

We met with Scott Pasternak from Burns & McDonnell. Burns & McDonnell focuses on advising local governments with their solid waste planning, operational, financial and contractual issues. In Arizona, they have advised Buckeye, Scottsdale, Sahuarita, Queen Creek and Sedona. We will work with Scott on producing options for the Council to determine the future of Solid Waste in the Town.



Tank project at MMRC

We received permission to start the bidding process for the Tank project at MMRC after being awarded \$250,000 from WIFA!

Current projects on Weather delay:

- Drainage Project in Woods
- MMRC North Parking lot
- Police Department civil work
- Crack seal
- Penrod Road Shoulder

White Mountain BLVD SR 260

Good news, in January I attended two important meetings on SR 260. The first being the Kickoff Meeting for Pavement Rehab from Knottingham LN (Atrium) to MP357 (Just Before the Light at Honda Casino). Design is \$1.8M and construction in FY27 \$35.8M. It was a great start, and we will work with ADOT on all public information and issues that need attention. For example, the Intersection at Woodland Lake Rd., we need to clean up the Right of way. We intend to expand that intersection in FY28 with NACOG funds. However, I'm working with ADOT to add the Curb and Sidewalk returns to the Pavement Rehab project see picture above.

The second was the Kickoff meeting for the State Route 260 Corridor Study. The purpose is to Study will develop recommendations to improve:

- Pedestrian Connectivity and Safety
- Continuous, Safe, and Comfortable Bicycle Facilities
- Access to Public Transportation Services
- Congestion at Major Intersections

Use the Link or QR code to provide input on existing issues or improvements on the corridor
PLEASE TAKE A FEW MINUTES AND PROVIDE INPUT ALSO TELL EVERYONE PLEASE!!

If you need help call me!!

<https://app.publiccoordinate.com/#/projects/sr260plan/map>

