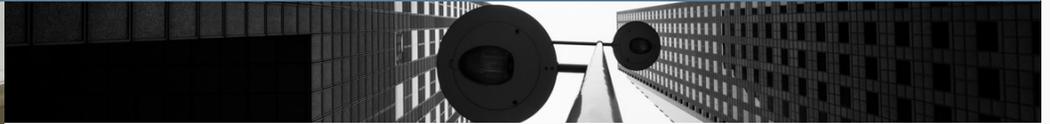


PUBLIC WORKS NEWSLETTER



POLICE DEPARTMENT PROJECT UPDATE

The Public Works Special Project Division and Facilities Division installed over 20,000 feet of data cable in the new building. Special Projects also worked on removing the front sidewalk, grading the front in preparation for new sidewalks to be poured. Facilities and Special Projects also laid conduit, ran electric and set new light pole foundations in the parking lot. The contractor has made progress in the interior of the new building. Framing is complete and drywall has been hung. The wet weather the White Mountains has received this month has delayed work on the remaining grade work and excavation of the drainage retention pond.



MMRC PROJECTS

NORTH PARKING LOT, ADA PATH, AND WATER STORAGE TANK

A lot of work has been happening at Mountain Meadow Recreation. The Parks Division with assistance from the Special Project Division has been working on a number of big projects at the park. Crews are currently working on two grant projects at Mountain Meadow. In January staff completed the Phase 1 of the North parking grant project. The parking lot will tie into the the 1.3 mile ADA pedestrian path around the park, that is an Arizona State Parks & Trails Grant. Additionally, the Town received funding for installation of a 100,000 gallon water storage tank from Arizona Water Infrastructure Finance Authority (WIFA). We began advertising the Invitation to Bid for the tank and expect to award the contact at the end of April. Parks staff has been filling in the irrigation pond that will be replaced by the tank. Not only was the pond a safety hazard at the park but the pond has begun to leak losing 3.2 million gallons of water annually. After a number of conversations with the Nature Center regarding access to the North side of MMRC through the existing Easement or a new Right of Way, it has been determined that neither are in the best interest of the Nature Center. The Public Works Director is working on an alternate access utilizing the main entrance to MMRC.



PORTER MOUNTAIN ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

Included in the State of Arizona 2024 Legislative Appropriation Transportation Projects, the Town was awarded \$2,242,200.00 for the Porter Mountain Road Improvements. Additionally, Blue Ridge Unified School District has committed \$611,000 in Adjacent Ways Funding to the project. The Town expects to award the construction contract to Perkins Cinders, Inc. at the April 18th, 2024 Town Council Meeting. The Public Works Director will be presenting at the April 9th, 2024 BRUSD Board Meeting. This project has been in the planning stages since 2018 to address safety concerns directly related to the Blue Ridge Elementary School and the pedestrian activity on the road. The improvements include lighting, addition of pedestrian crossings and pedestrian refuge islands. Construction is scheduled to begin May 18th, and work in the roadway completed prior to the start of the new school year.



WEATHER IMPACTS

The significant moisture that we have received this winter and spring has severely impacted the Public Works Department. There are currently 3 large projects that our Department is working on: Top of the Woods Drainage, Police Department Remodel and the projects at Mountain Meadow. While moisture is much needed for our ecosystem and to protect our forests from wildfire, it causes delays in construction specifically involving the use of heavy equipment. The Public Works Team will be extremely busy catching up on these projects as the ground dry's up. Just as we begin to work on a project we get more moisture and are delayed again. We are hoping for a dry, wind free spring!!

FEATURED EMPLOYEE

Lisa Mears is a corn-fed Husker girl who grew up in Nebraska and is one of seven girls, so she learned early how to be a team member and get along with others. Lisa has served in various administrative roles as her passion is public service and helping people. Three years ago, Lisa visited the mountain for the first time, and it was love at first sight. Lisa and her finance, Jeff own a cabin in Lakeside and Lisa made the move to the mountain, her forever home, in February. Lisa enjoys reading, quilting and the solitude of nature and wildlife. In the words of Patti Digh, Lisa desires to “Express her aliveness by giving – of herself, of her resources, of her heart.” Lisa has already proven to be a valuable, positive asset to Public Works.

