

City Manager's Report

July 2, 2020

Council and Colleagues, Greetings.

These reports will be included in the City Council packet for regularly scheduled Council meetings, excluding Work Session meetings. The reports are intended to be informational, covering miscellaneous events and topics involving the City organization. In no particular order...

Police

The Flagstaff Police Department completed a total of 24,862 training hours in 2019. 5,366 of these hours were outside of the police academy setting. Given the 118 officers in the Flagstaff Police Department this averages out to over 45 hours of training per officer. In 2020, the City funded the ability of each officer to complete 8 hours of training in Fair & Impartial Policing which addresses implicit bias in addition to the state mandated proficiency training. Specific to the Council amendments to the new Budget, in FY2020-2021 the City will fund an additional \$25,000 to fund de-escalation and/or more implicit bias training.

Police Chief Treadway (during his last week with the City) and Deputy Chief Musselman met with a member of the young democrats of NAU who had questions about the police budget. The two also attended a conference call with the Navajo Human Rights Commission who wanted information from Chiefs of Border Towns on protests and activities in our communities.

Fire Season is Upon Us

On Saturday June 16th, our B shift crews responded to a large, wind-driven fire on Dodge Ave. This was a multi-agency response that included 9 fire units and 3 BC's from Summit Fire and Medical District (SFMD), Flagstaff Fire Department (FFD) and Highlands Fire District (HFD) who all worked this fire. There was a red flag warning with wind speeds up to 50 mph which caused it to spread through spot fires at the head of the fire. Crews were able to stop the spread and control it after several hours. There were many exposures that crews were able to save including a large propane storage facility. This was a successful averting of a catastrophic event.

Another issue with this fire was that there was a large trash truck with a full load that burned for an extended period of time. City Streets personnel were called to assist with opening the trash truck and getting the load out with a backhoe. Crew 1 who was on severity patrol due to the red flag alert also responded and assisted in extinguishing hot spots for the fire. FPD was on scene to assist with traffic and Guardian Medical Transport (GMT) was staged in case there were injuries. A full recall for FFD and HFD needed to occur to cover calls in the region during this fire. There were no injuries and the cause of the fire is still under investigation. (See photo).





The B shift crews from FFD assisted USFS with a wildfire near the airport runway. Crews were able to rapidly dig a line around the fire and stop the spread at less than one acre. The fire was near a USFS station and crews were on scene quicker than normal. This was a red flag day and the fire was spreading rapidly prior to crews being able to put a line around it (see picture).

Public Works

Parks and Recreation Staff entered a sweepstakes for a free pole-mounted hand sanitizing station offered by Gametime, a nationwide playground equipment manufacturer. Much to our delight, we were awarded a fixture which will be installed at Bushmaster Park (see image).

HVAC unit #3 was replaced at the Aquaplex by Pueblo Mechanical. Facilities staff spearheaded the project with a new unit being purchased with the Facilities Catastrophic Fund from TRANE. The unit arrived on a truck and Marco crane hoisted the old unit off the roof and the new unit on. Pueblo Mechanical was onsite to facilitate the install of the unit and will be working the next few days to get the unit online. The contractors anticipate full operation by Friday.

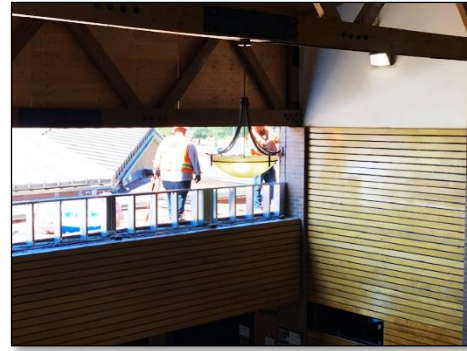


On the subject of facilities upgrades, weight room benches at the Hal Jensen Recreation Center were taken to Northland Upholstery to be reupholstered. The benches had the foam padding exposed which would be very difficult to sanitize upon reopening the weight room.

A Streets vegetation crew has been addressing shrub and tree growth that creates visual sight line issues. The chip seal project has been completed. The restriping of the roadway segments has also begun. The concrete replacements programed through the overlay portion of the project continues. Living in the neighborhood where the chip seal has occurred, a personal testimonial is that the work was performed quite thoroughly and timely. Related, a long-awaited patch truck was received this week, preparations and training is now underway to get the unit into service and available.

The Lions Club public auction, which includes City surplus equipment along with lots of other items was held on Saturday, June 27th.

The City Hall lobby window replacement and roof repairs are scheduled for completion on or near July 2nd, with roofing installation to follow. Completion of the window replacement is ahead of schedule with Loven Construction providing the contracting services, and Progressive Roofing and Twin Peaks Glass serving as subcontractors.



Parks & Recreation Staff are researching opportunities through the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The grant program provides matching grants to local governments for the acquisition and development of public outdoor areas and recreation facilities. Past Flagstaff projects funded with LWCF grants include playgrounds and outdoor lighting at Thorpe Park, and the development of parks and amenities at Bushmaster, Foxglenn, Ponderosa and Continental Parks.

The Mayor’s Monarch Pledge pollinator space was installed at City Hall including signage provided by our partners in Community Investment. The existing planter was cleaned out, new drip lines installed, and staff were able to salvage a few existing pollinator plants on top of planting 90 new plants including milkweed. Emry Pensinger led the way on this project and continues to identify new spaces (see picture).

Individual picnic tables not associated with group ramadas in park grounds were opened by staff this week. The tables that are underneath the ramada locations remain closed while the City is aligned with Phase 2 of the Re-entry Plan.



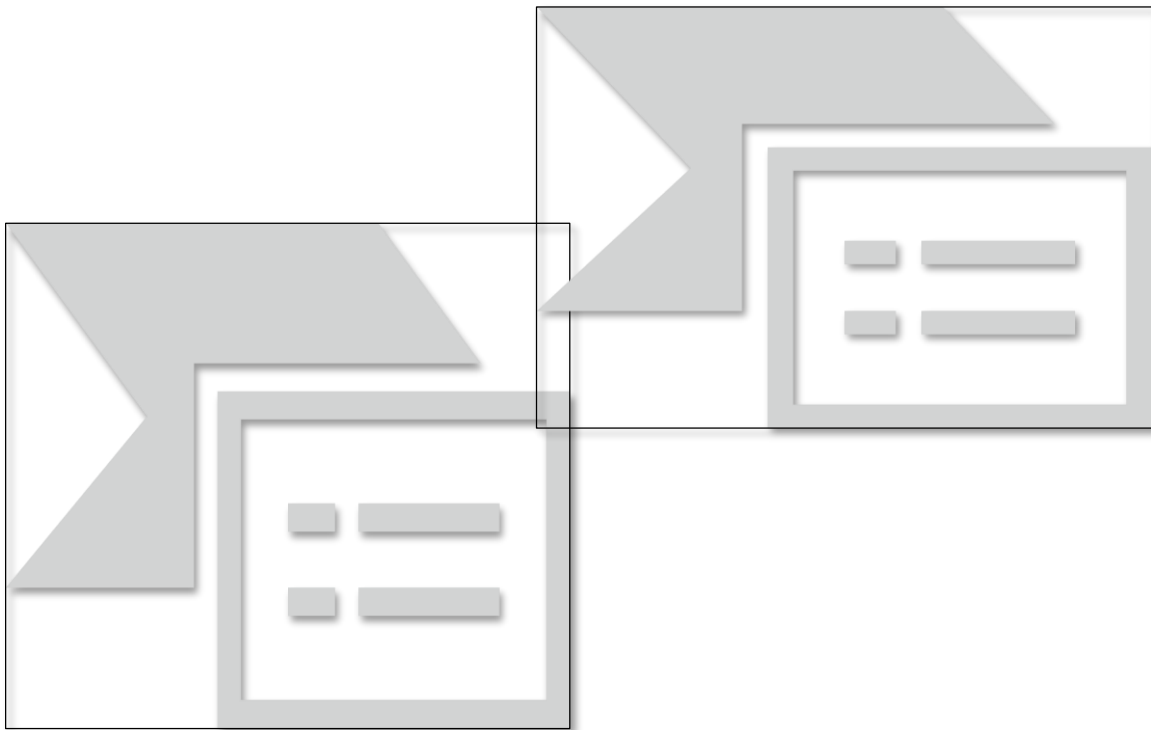
Blitz Testing for COVID-19

With the recent surge of COVID cases statewide, the County’s blitz testing has been inundated, with daily numbers at times reaching over 400 persons. Coupled with the call-back services and contact tracing, the County is significantly short-staffed for what is likely to be a continued high volume in these services. City staff is currently evaluating possible ways to lend human resources to the County to help meet these needs. Stay tuned on this.

Sustainability

City Hall EV charging stations update:

- Construction has been completed! The stations are available for use for a brief initial testing period.
- During the final walkthrough shortly after the station was turned on, a visitor from Phoenix came to use the stations, remarking he was excited to go downtown while charging for his trip home.



- Jillian Goulet, the Community Resilience VISTA, was awarded the GEMS National Service Volunteer of the Year Award by NAU's Civic Service Institute, recognizing volunteers across the entire City. You can watch the [entire award ceremony](#), or fast forward to Jillian's award – directly and virtually from Rita Cheng! – at the 37:00 mark.
- The Open Space Program would like to welcome Sylvia Struss as the new NAU AmeriCorps Open Space VISTA (Volunteer in Service to America), for the 2020-2021 program year.
- In anticipation of the Climate Emergency discussion at Council, staff overhauled the greenhouse gas [emissions webpage](#), audited and modified the 2018 emissions inventory – our annual measurement of community greenhouse gas emissions, and published the new [2016 & 2018 Emissions Report](#).
- Energy Rebates Program awarded an additional \$1,350 to residents. To date, \$28,874 has been distributed in FY19-20 (82% of the budget).
- Staff finalized the City permit allowing the Arboretum to treat City property for invasive plants as part of the Arboretum Plant Grant, in which Open Space is a key partner. This work is valued at \$80,000.

- The Flagstaff Trail Initiative (FTI), in which the City is a key partner, was awarded a \$2,000 grant from REI that Flagstaff Open Space assisted with. This \$2,000 will go towards coordination efforts as well as supplies for FTI etiquette campaign.
- Staff submitted an application to the Southwest Intervention Fund to partially fund a cultural survey for the McMillan Mesa Natural Area. The survey is a requirement for the rezoning process.

Misc. Updates

The City will host its second Alliance Meeting of the year and our next meeting will on Friday, July 10th.

I attended a webinar update by Northern Arizona Healthcare this week, which was quite informative. The hospital is doing OK with its patient load and is well prepared for any increased demands that may come about through the COVID surge that we are now experiencing statewide. Related, I also attended the NAU Town Hall this past week. Fall semester will start two weeks early and end early at Thanksgiving. The University is taking huge strides to respect CDC guidelines as well as the Governor’s Executive Order regarding crowd size. The Mayor and I attended the quarterly meeting with President Cheng and Joshua Maher on July 2nd.

With respect to the Pension Financing, we are ready to provide the Preliminary Offer of the Certificates of Participation. The City received excellent ratings from both bond companies (Fitch and S&P).

We have met onsite at the Wildwood RV Park and discussed the pending improvements to address stormwater infrastructure. A neighborhood meeting will be had on July 9th to better inform the residents there of what will be happening both prior to monsoon season and subsequently. The Mayor attended and her input was greatly appreciated. Much appreciation is extended to Community Development, Stormwater (Water Services) and Deputy Dille for their assistance in seeing this project moving. It has been a good partnership with Vintage. Stay tuned.



Manager’s Budget Message

This document, still being prepared at this time, will be provided to Council prior to the July 7th meeting. It will be called out for discussion. Thank you.

Council, you will be on a well-deserved recess. Enjoy it! Rest assured that the City will be in good hands during your break. Onward and upward.