

City Manager's Report

May 28, 2021

Council and Colleagues, greetings. I wish you all a great holiday weekend. This report will feature a few updates, and the very first monthly report from the Water Services Division. Woohoo!

June Work Anniversaries will be displayed in the next report, two weeks from now. Enjoy!

It has indeed been windy ...

And with it, some damage to report, but nothing significant. Many trees blown down around the community, of course, but specific to City facilities, we had a partial roof blown off from one of our Wildcat accessory facilities, which houses some electrical equipment. We are moving quickly to see the repairs completed accordingly. Remedial measures, including temporarily tarping the structure, have been performed by staff in the interim.



Water Services

On the subject of Water Services, we finished a four-hour retreat that was facilitated by Julie Lancaster, which spanned two different dates to accommodate the busy work schedules of our many employees. The central theme of the retreat was building cohesion, teamwork, and identifying some of the challenges that the Division now faces with considerable vacancy, and a lot of change in leadership. The retreat was a huge success, and well attended. The participation was excellent. We will likely be repeating these all-staff meetings two or three times per year.

A small working group within the Division is being formed for the purpose of monitoring the outcomes of the retreat and gauging progress as we move forward. Thanks to the many leaders within the Division for helping out, and big props to Erin Young for her efforts. Stay tuned on this.

We are also moving quickly to fill some vacancies in the Division, as a few people are covering for the shortfall in staffing. We are so appreciative of the extra efforts.

Community Development

And this from Tiffany Antol, relative to the *In N Out Burger* development progress, which appears to be of high interest to many ...

The applicant for the In N Out is revising their Traffic Impact Analysis and coming up with a design for a center median on Milton. They must submit these modifications to ADOT for their approval. While this is happening, City staff has been working with the applicant to continue moving the project forward. To that end, staff agreed to begin both civil plan review and building permit review prior to having a final approved site plan, since the ADOT Traffic Impact Analysis is the last thing necessary for site plan approval.

The ADOT approval is entirely in the applicant's hands at this point.

Please let me know if you require more information on this project. Alaxandra is the SPOC and can provide you with whatever you need.

Thank you, Tiffany, and the many others in CD and City Engineering, for these efforts.

Fire Department

- Busy as always. Crews responded to a reported school bus collision behind the mall. Crews arrived and found that there was only one patient (the driver) who ultimately refused medical attention. As absolutely frightening as the below image might be, there were no other injuries. Whew. The collision did block the roadway for some time, but all is good, and the matter is being investigated by our PD.
- The Regional Blue Card Instructor Cadre offered a blue card communication course to the Airport Rescue Fire Fighters (ARFF) personnel as well as regional acting officers this week. The class took place at the Airport (see picture below)





- Crews responded to the 1400 block of E Butler for a possible vehicle and pedestrian collision. Crews arrived and found a patient laying in the middle of the road with a head injury. Crews treated the patient on scene for injuries and rapidly transported him to FMC for further treatment. The collision is under investigation by FPD.
- As referenced at the beginning of this report, the wind last weekend took down a multitude of trees, prompting many fire responses. The FFD requested the Streets Section to shut down Linda Vista, as there were two trees that had been affected and leaning causing unsafe conditions. The very timely response from our Streets crews was much appreciated.
- “Recruit of the Week” was Rilee Rhees from Flagstaff Fire Dept. During this seventh week of the academy, recruits spent time on fire dynamics, building construction and had their first hot drill this past week.

Human Resources

The HR Team is joining forces with Flagstaff Police Department to get creative on recruiting needed personnel. It was noted in the previous CM Report that vacancy in our 9-1-1 Dispatch is greater than 50% and we are down significantly in terms of patrol officers. Stay tuned on this very important matter. We have a few things in play, and the compensation plan outcomes will certainly be working in our favor. Thank you HR folks for your great assistance.

Police Department

Last week we reported on Det. Casey Rucker’s 20th year work anniversary. We are also happy to report that Detective Rucker is pursuing a well-earned retirement. I was attendant at his ceremony last Friday and it was well attended. A little background:

Casey was hired By the Flagstaff Police Department in 2001 and began his career at the ALEA academy in Phoenix. He was assigned to patrol after field training, and immediately began to make his mark at the department. With several commendations, he was known for his teamwork and knowledge of his beat areas as well as his compassion for the Flagstaff Community. In 2003, Casey earned the Flagstaff Police Department Medal of Valor for jumping into a burning motor home and driving it away from the fuel pumps at a local service station. Throughout his career, he sought justice for victims of violent crimes, and he did it all with a smile and respect for everyone.

Casey earned a spot on the Metro Narcotics Task Force and then after a year was promoted back to patrol as a Corporal in 2005. Corporal Rucker became Detective Rucker when he was “voluntold” to report upstairs and joined the Criminal Investigations Division in 2006. Someone must have known where he would make the greatest impact because even when he tried to leave Detectives to follow his favorite Sergeant, Chief Cooper denied that transfer. After 16 years in Criminal Investigations, Det. Rucker is retiring as the longest tenured Detective at our department in a generation. His file is full of commendations and awards for his dedication to the people of Flagstaff as well his teamwork and service to the division.

Casey received the Fraternal Order of Police Officer of the year award in 2010. He also earned the Veteran of Foreign Wars Officer of the year award in 2015 for his dedicated work in several high-profile cases. He earned the Victim Witness Heart of Gold award in 2016 and 2017 for his outstanding work and dedication to victims of crime in Flagstaff. He received the City Manager’s award for excellence twice as well for teamwork on high profile cases. He travelled to New York to follow up on a “swatting” case that had terrorized our local schools. He closed the case with an arrest that the FBI Director said would never happen.

There is a good chance that any case involving a homicide or officer involved shooting over the past 16 years, Detective Rucker had a part in handling the investigation. Notably, he was a primary investigator on the Ofc. Tyler Stewart homicide and he worked just as hard to get the family answers as if the case was going to trial.

Casey served on the SWAT team for 16 years of service with distinction responding to the most dangerous and volatile calls that Flagstaff and Coconino County had to offer. Casey also served on the Flagstaff Police Department Honor Guard for five years and provided exemplary service during his time on the team. He retires with 20 years of dedicated service and will remain here in Flagstaff with his wonderful wife Antonia and his two daughters. He will be missed ... by all.

Thank you for your amazing service, Detective Casey Rucker.





Public Works

- Buffalo Park looks amazing with the 6-inch millings project that Streets took the lead on for Parks. A big thank you to every individual that lent a hand to this improvement for the community. There are wonderful examples of attention to detail including creating a ring around an existing tree and the perfect fan-out to Gemini Road



- This just in. Three goats and a well-dressed sheep were seen snacking Wednesday, May 19th, in the Thorpe Park Annex. They appeared to particularly enjoy the selections available at the leased Urban Farm Incubator site. The wooly ones were actually imported as part of a trial project by the Incubator. If successful, Parks, Recreation, and Open Space would love to bring this activity forward as a remedy to invasive weeds in the community in our parks and open spaces, and perhaps at the Clifton residence in Swiss Manor. Just 'kidding'.



- ADOT's contractor is manually watering the southern lawn at City Hall in an effort to keep the turf alive as the irrigation system is compromised beyond usage. Parks received many calls inquiring about the high-spray irrigation over the weekend. The contractor was again reminded that watering should only occur between 6:00 and 9:00 A.M.
- The Ice Arena is shut down for its annual cleaning and maintenance closure. Staff are focusing on ice maintenance, skate sharpening of rental skates, and deep cleaning and disinfecting of locker rooms.
- The State Historic Preservation Office approved a research permit to install and monitor blue bird nesting boxes at the Picture Canyon Preserve. The project is in partnership with the Northern Arizona Audubon Society, and implementation will begin at the end of this month.
- The Aspen Ave mid-block crossing has been repaved to provide better access to Heritage Square and a new surface for the upcoming decorative crosswalk markings installation.

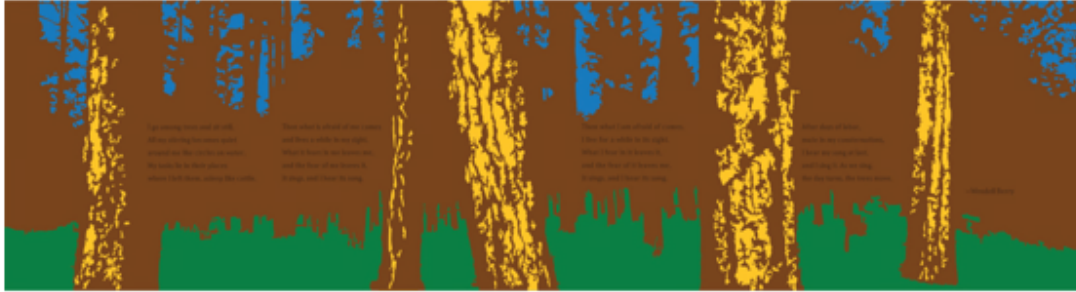
Economic Vitality

Please see the below Update, courtesy of Heidi Hansen and those in the Beautification Team ...

Courthouse Exterior Artwork Update

May 2021, City of Flagstaff, Beautification, Arts and Sciences Program, Economic Vitality Division

AMONG TREES, MARIE JONES



Currently in the lobby of the courthouse is a display explaining the project with a prototype of the artwork in Corten (rusted) and powder coated steel. Please stop in whenever the courthouse is open. Fabricated of layered steel panels, the artwork pays homage to the world's largest ponderosa pine forest surrounding Flagstaff. The top layer of Corten steel will age over time, turning from orange brown to a deep rust brown. The personal experience of walking among trees and the restorative perspective it brings is also the subject of the poem *I Go Among Trees* by Wendell Berry, inscribed on the surface.

Installation of the artwork is anticipated in early June with a public ribbon cutting later in the month. At the December 8, 2020 Council Work Session, several suggested a lighting component. Staff worked with artist while consulting with Planning on a proposal that would meet Dark Skies compliance. After securing additional funding, this lighting will be added later in the summer along with the first stage of an audio poetry project.

FABRICATION PHOTOS

The panel cutouts in Corten Steel are done with water jet cut with garnet grit. After the panels are put on pallets with a chemical coating to initiate the rusting process.



Meetings

The Alliance meeting occurred on Friday the 21st and was well attended. Thank you Mayor for your contributions, and also Vice Mayor Daggett. The agenda was posted in the last CM Report. There was a lot of good information shared, and a very heartfelt farewell to President Rita Cheng with NAU.

Thursday the 27th saw the first neighborhood 'meet in the street' meeting to better prepare our residents for the monsoon season and the threat of flooding from the Museum burn scar. The meeting occurred off of Main Street in Sunnyside with excellent representation by both the County and the City. It was very informative. Thank you Councilmembers Sweet and Shimoni for your contributions, as well as Mark Richardson from our Water Services Team.



That is all for now Council. The attached Monthly Report, courtesy of Lisa Deem and others at Water Services, should be a very good read. Onward and upward ...