

# City Manager's Report

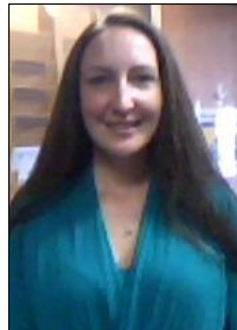
January 28, 2022

Council and Colleagues, greetings. These reports will be included in the City Council packet for regularly scheduled Council meetings. The reports are intended to be informational, covering miscellaneous events and topics involving the City organization. This report will include our December work anniversaries and we will hopefully be recognizing a couple of significant anniversaries during the Council meeting. We will honor the January anniversaries in two weeks. Also appended to this report is the monthly update from Economic Vitality (December Update) and the Yearly Report from Community Development.

## Work Anniversaries December 2021

### Five Years:

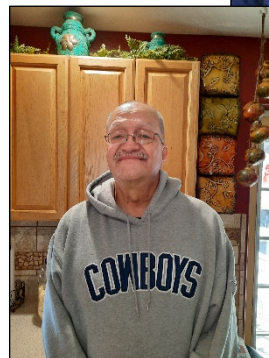
Emily Markel, Procurement Specialist  
(12/5/16)



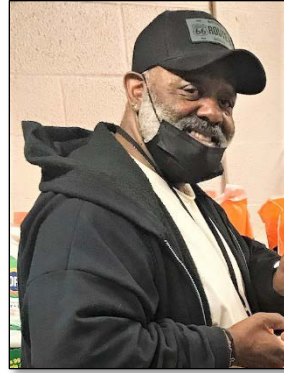
Craig Smith, Facilities Maintenance Supervisor  
(12/5/16)



Richard Hernandez, Recreation Assistant  
(12/18/16)



Carlton Johns, Recreation Assistant  
(12/19/16)



Twenty Years:

Vicki Baker, Exec Assistant I  
(12/26/01)



Twenty-five Years Plus (Ding, Ding, Ding):

**Richie Hearne** is the Streets Manager in Public Works. Richie has been serving the residents of Flagstaff for 36 years. He has served in various roles in the Public Works Division working at the Cemetery and in the Streets Section. He is a great source of institutional knowledge and is dedicated to the mission of delivering core services. This from Sam Beckett, Streets Director: "I have only been a part of the Public Works team a short time, but Richie has been tremendously supportive and helpful in my transition. Richie is a shining example of what you hope for in a team member and leader. His passion and support for his staff and all who work with him was the first thing I noticed. Richie is truly the glue that holds the Street Section together.

Richie, it is an honor to have you in the organization!





**John Schrade** works in Facilities Maintenance. John came to the City of Flagstaff as a temporary worker in 1986 supporting Facilities and Streets Operations, being hired on permanently and starting his 33 years of service within one year. A Vietnam Veteran (1965-68) as a US Navy Seabee (thank you for your service, John), which was the start of his construction career and skills training. During this time, he has provided services in all aspects of maintenance especially in construction carpentry, cabinetry, and locksmithing. When needed John even plows the roads with the Streets team as a CDL driver. He is a valued team member, mentor, and friend to all in the service of the City.

**Joe Almendarez** celebrated 26 years as a member of Team Flagstaff in December 2021. Hired in 1995, Joe quickly became an asset to the Water Services, obtaining all necessary certifications to serve the City's needs. Joe was promoted to Wastewater Collections Supervisor in 2019 and added the role of Stormwater Collections Supervisor in 2020. Joe oversees ten employees in Wastewater and Stormwater collections who operate the big Combo and Vacuum trucks, as well as crucial equipment in Water Services operations, from dump trucks and cranes to mini-dozers.



In his free time, Joe enjoys riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle, playing with his two dogs, riding quads in the dunes and the woods, and spending time with family and friends. We greatly appreciate the work Joe has done for the City of Flagstaff over the last 26 years! Stay upright, Joe!



**Mike Abeyta** is currently a Recreation Supervisor, and has been an incredible recreation team member for 33 years. He had his humble beginnings in the City's aquatics program, back when our only pools were in school buildings! Mike also knows ice. He has managed the Jay Lively Activity Center for as long as ... ever! In all seriousness, Mike is an incredible asset to the City of Flagstaff team, and his years of experience, mechanical know-how (a lot of behind-the-scenes machinery that to operate an ice rink or power a Zamboni), thoughtful approach, and incredible sense of humor are hard to beat. Many congratulations to Mike for his incredible dedication.

## Fire Department

- End of year statistics demonstrate the number of calls has remained fairly static between last year and this year. Calendar year 2020 brought 15,712 calls for service to the Flagstaff Fire Department and 2021 resulted in 15,585.
- Telestaff remains out of service which means Fire and Payroll personnel have reverted to the previous manual time entry. Thank you to all staff members for their patience and additional efforts until this system is back up and functioning!
- Every year FFD has the opportunity to provide Christmas gifts to kids as one of the many charity events the Local 1505 supports. Over the past 7 years more than 68 children and adults at the Hozhoni Foundation have had an extra special Christmas thanks to this program which is managed by FF Shane Spravzoff. We would like to thank Shane and the Gutierrez family for taking the time to organize this event each year, a lot of hard work and planning was involved.



## Human Resources

- The team has been busy working on draft policies surrounding telework, classification & compensation, and drug and alcohol testing.
- As of the end of 2021, there were 75 vacant positions that are were in the recruitment process. If you know someone who may be a great addition to Team Flagstaff, be sure to encourage them to check out the job openings at the City of Flagstaff website <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/flagstaff/>

## **Police Department**

- Staffing update: There are 70 sworn officers who are assigned to Patrol. Currently 17 of these positions are vacant, 8 are attending the Police Academy to become a certified Officer, and 3 are in field training. This means 28 of the 70 assigned are vacant or in training for a 40% vacancy rate. Dispatch now has 5 vacancies and 8 employees in training, 13 of the 30 Police Emergency Communication Specialist and Supervisor are vacant or in training, which is a 43% vacancy rate.
- A remarkable story here. On January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022, the United States Marshal Service (USMS) and the Flagstaff PD received information that a national double homicide warrant suspect was going to arrive in Flagstaff at the Greyhound Bus Station. The individual was wanted in connection with the brutal execution of his girlfriend and her grandmother in Georgia. The USMS had confirmed that the suspect was aboard the bus arriving in Flagstaff.

Officer Pat Condon and Sergeant Clint Hill were assigned to assist the USMS task force with the arrest of Sanders. Officer Condon assisted in the planning of the arrest operation, which was highly professional, tactical, and strategic. Officer Condon and Sergeant Hill were assigned as ground level surveillance outside of the bus station in the seating area near where the bus was going to park. Their job was to identify the suspect as he exited the bus and to initiate contact with him outside of the bus before he could access any weapons or endanger any other passengers or members of the public. Officer Condon and Sergeant Hill's role in this operation was vital and highly dangerous as they would be making the first contact in plain clothes.

After the bus arrived, the suspect exited the bus. Officer Condon and Sergeant Hill immediately apprehended him. During the ensuing altercation, both officers suffered minor injuries. However, they were able to successfully to place the suspect into custody. They quickly learned he had a firearm in his front pocket and two additional firearms in his backpack. The suspect admitted subsequently that he would have used his firearms if able to do so during the arrest.

Sergeant Hill and Officer Condon exposed themselves to extreme danger, risk, and hazard, and they performed heroically. Sergeant Hill and Officer Condon are commended for their courageous actions during the arrest of Sanders, as their efforts most likely prevented any officers and members of the public from being harmed. Well done!

- Community Champion Award presented to Mr. Skylar Penny for assisting the Flagstaff Police Department. On November 14<sup>th</sup>, officers responded to a report of a catalytic converter theft that occurred in the area of E Anita and S Lake Mary Road. Officer Jesse Schafer met with the reporting party, Skylar Penny.



Mr. Penny saw a vehicle and two individuals parked in front of two vehicles and observed what he believed to be a theft of a catalytic converter. He also reported he was able to obtain photographs of the vehicle prior to it rapidly leaving the area. Based upon this information, the vehicle was located and the suspects were interviewed and taken into custody. Several stolen catalytic converters were recovered.

Mr. Skylar Penny is hereby conferred the “Community Champion Award”, for his quick thinking and diligence in photographing the suspects and working in partnership with the Flagstaff Police Department to help protect and enhance our community.

## PROSE

- The FUTS crew has been working on a signage installation project in collaboration with Sustainability and Multi-Modal Transportation for the stewards that are a part of the Adopt-A- FUTS program.

The crew is installing 38 signs within the 59-mile system! Very cool. And if that’s not impressive, just check out the person dressed as Albert the squirrel ....

- At the Aquaplex, staff have started an electronic signup for participants to sign up to swim. No squirrels involved.
- Also regarding the Aquaplex, staff have been reviewing lifeguard training skills this week such as spinal injury management, rescue skills and CPR.
- There are currently about 30 people utilizing the composting site at Hal Jensen Recreation Center on a regular basis. That number will soon increase to 31, as I am amassing a large quantity of coffee grinds, several bags of pistachio shells, and a container of oatmeal that has gone the way of cement. Just saying ...
- In FY21-22 there were over 99,000 visitors at Picture Canyon, McMillan Mesa and Observatory Mesa. (Why, why, why can’t we just round that up and call it a hundred thousand). The Open Space program organized over 332 volunteers who contributed 1,792



hours to projects such as trash and abandoned camp clean-ups, graffiti removal, invasive weed removal, re-seeding, planting, watering native grasses and trees, talking with visitors, and reporting areas of concern. Very cool.

- Calendar year 2021 brought 258,455 users to five of the City's FUTS trails (47,826 Buffalo AZT; 114,432 Buffalo Park Loop; 21,398 Foxglenn FUTS; 13,386 JWPowell; 61,413 Mars Hill). Thorpe Annex public participation continues with partner, Southwest Decision Resources, wrapping up pre-assessment interviews. Team has begun working on a community survey and planning for social media and a website landing page for outreach efforts. As part of the partnership with the City of Flagstaff and the Southside Community Association, Recreation Coordinator Crystal Warden, is excited to serve as Chair of the Black Youth Perspectives and Concerns subcommittee created through the Black Lived Experience strategic plan. This all-inclusive group will focus on topics of interest and concerns in the community. Goals are to organize and conduct four youth-centered events and create a Black Youth Leadership Steering Committee. Thank you Crystal for your service!
- Restoration on the east boundary of Picture Canyon Preserve is taking place this week. Efforts include reseeding native grass to reduce invasive plant populations and seed spread. We expect the project to have positive results for the Preserve and neighboring private property.



### **Public Works**

- The Streets team has been working on hiring new Operations Technicians, maintenance blading on several dirt roads, patching potholes throughout the City, sweeping operations to pick up ice cinders, repairing numerous streetlight and signals, and replacing street signs.
- Streets continues to find more effective and efficient ways to support the separated bike lanes pilot. This pilot has thus far proven to be fairly maintenance-intensive, with:
  - 240 plus candlestick replacements or repairs
  - 10 heavily damaged curbs, and multiple vehicles strikes. Crews are continuously working to keep the pilot up to code.

- One (1) new skid steer sweeper attachment (went into service this week to start sweeping separated bike lanes)
- Airport parking lot contractor is working on 10-foot-wide concrete sidewalk from new parking lot to terminal.
- Killip stormwater improvement project is excavating the area where the fields will be located. Woohoo!
- Solid Waste is working on interviews and hiring to cover the nine equipment operator vacancies. Also on the subject of Solid Waste, staff continues to work with property owners and providing education to assist in a helping understand cart limits. It is a work-in-progress, as the image here may reveal. Please, folks, remember that bulk cardboard can always be dropped off at the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) during open hours.



### **Request for Use of Council Chambers**

The Arizona State Transportation Board has requested the use of the City Hall Council Chambers for their February 18, 2022 meeting. They would like to utilize the room from 7:00 a.m. through 12:00 noon. They are anticipating approximately 12-15 in person attendees along with virtual attendees. We have informed them that our public meetings have been closed to in-person attendance and have offered an alternative solution of the NACET facilities, however they prefer the Council Chambers. Given that the Council has suspended in-person attendance at City Council meetings for the foreseeable future, we felt that we should approach the Council for their input on this matter.

### **Videos ...**

Courtesy of Sarah Langley:

*I wanted to update you on a couple of videos that Samantha ("Sam") has help us produced recently:*

- *Neighborhood Liaison video to introduce Valeria, our Neighborhood Liaison, to the community and encourage students to get involved in their neighborhood (posted on social media this week)*

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IPOD52iPiBAZsaSlrGfMbfTXJ3vXhhXX/view?usp=sharing>

- *Prescribed fire video to educate the community about why prescribed fire is necessary (posted on social media)*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mURUfwyoKKE>

### **Citizen Bond Committee**

The Committee is meeting weekly and the meetings are rigorous and robust. We are grateful for the engagement and, of course, all of the dedicated time. To illustrate that, please take note of the timeline below. The meetings are recorded and posted on the City's Website under the City Manager Section. The Committee met three times in December to formulate its Charter and elect its Chair and Vice Chair. After the conclusion of the presentations in March, we will be endeavoring to pursue a survey through the assistance of our consultant.

#### **Citizen Bond Committee Presentation Schedule**

- January 6th: General Obligation Bond
- January 13th: 1) City debt and fiscal responsibility, 2) NuPoint Marketing insight and framework, 3) Public Infrastructure – Public Safety
- January 20th: Public Safety questions
- January 27th: Public Infrastructure – Wastewater
- February 3<sup>rd</sup> 4:00-5:30 pm: Public Infrastructure – Stormwater
- February 10<sup>th</sup> 4:00-5:30 pm: Housing
- February 17<sup>th</sup> 4:00-5:30 pm: Housing
- February 24<sup>th</sup> 4:00-5:30 pm: Climate Action
- March 3<sup>rd</sup> 4:00-5:30 pm: Climate Action

### **Letters of Support**

Appended hereto are a couple of letters of support that have gone out, related to potential projects involving broadband infrastructure (fiber placement). Very exciting stuff, and both of these projects, if successfully funded, will greatly assist the City in its localized efforts on this very important infrastructure need.

That's a wrap, Council. More later. Onward and upward!