

AUGUST 9, 2024

WEEKLY UPDATE

Miranda Fisher, Town Manager



CAMP VERDE CELEBRATES HISTORIC WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT WITH YAVAPAI-APACHE NATION!

We are thrilled to announce the approval of a monumental Water Rights Settlement Agreement with the Yavapai-Apache Nation at the August 7th Town Council meeting. This historic agreement has been decades in the making, with negotiations spanning multiple generations of Town Council Members, Mayors, Tribal Chairs, and Tribal Council Members.

This landmark agreement, recommended for approval by the Town Staff and the Town's water rights attorney, represents a significant milestone in our shared history. It not only settles long-standing water rights claims between the Town of Camp Verde and the Yavapai-Apache Nation but also paves the way for a future of responsible growth, sustainable water usage, and cooperation in developing long-term water resources.

Once approved by Congress and other parties, the larger Settlement Agreement will bring a permanent resolution to the Nation's water rights claims in the Verde River Watershed. We are proud to stand alongside the Yavapai-Apache Nation in celebrating this historic achievement, which will ensure a brighter and more sustainable future for our community and the generations to come!



TOWN MANAGER'S OFFICE

Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Members Selected for the General Plan Update - Vision 2050!

Arizona State Law mandates that every city in Arizona must prepare and maintain a long-range "general plan" that provides a vision and policies for the growth and development of the city. We're thrilled to announce that the Town of Camp Verde has selected its Technical Advisory Group (TAG) members who will play a crucial role in shaping the future of our community!

The TAG consists of 9 dedicated community members and 7 town staff members:

- Marie Moore, Vice Mayor
- Bill Tippet, Planning & Zoning Commissioner
- Todd Scantlebury, Planning & Zoning Commissioner
- Dave Grondin, Parks & Recreation Commissioner
- Cris McPhail, Community Member-at-Large (also a Councilmember until November 2024)
- Wendy Escoffier, Community Member-at-Large (also a Councilmember until 2026)
- Tanner Bryson, Community Member-at-Large
- Tony Gioia, Community Member-at-Large
- Ed Mazulis, Community Member-at-Large

Staff Members:

- Miranda Fisher - Town Manager
- John Knight - Community Development
- Cory Mulcaire - Community Development
- Molly Davies - Economic Development
- Jeff Low - Utilities
- Ken Krebbs - Public Works
- Jason Sanks - General Plan Consultant

We want to thank the TAG for their participation in this process, which will help shape the future of our community.

To the community, we strongly encourage you to participate in the public engagement sessions that will be held throughout the development of the General Plan. These sessions will provide opportunities for you to share your insights and contribute to shaping the future of Camp Verde. We will keep you informed of the dates and details of these sessions and look forward to your active participation.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Livestock Ordinance

The Planning & Zoning Commission is set to hold a hearing on the livestock ordinance on September 5th. To ensure your input is considered, please submit written comments by Monday, August 26th, as they will be included in the packet for the Commission's review. We strongly encourage community members to share their thoughts in advance or join us in person or via Zoom to provide comments during the hearing.

You can access the ordinance here: <https://www.campverde.az.gov/departments/community-development/planning-zoning>

Please send your comments to AnimalOrdinance@CampVerde.AZ.Gov

Code Enforcement

There were four Code Hearing cases before the Hearing Officers last week.

Planning

We received an application for a rezone at the High View at Boulder Creek property. This application allows the developer to move forward with a residential subdivision as anticipated in the previously Development Agreement and Master Site Plan.

We also received an application for a small housing development located behind Jones Ford. The developer's intent is to create more workforce housing on the property. It's planned for a mix of manufactured homes and a few RVs. There is an existing well on the property and we have spoken to the developer about possibly adding it to the Town's public water system.

On August 7th, the Council held a hearing and approved a use permit for an RV Park at the end of Road Ranger Lane off Howard's Road with conditions. The Council also approved an ordinance to update the Town's Planned Area Development ordinance.

MARSHAL'S OFFICE

Traffic Stop Resulting in Large "Date Rape" Drug Bust

On August 6th, 2024, around 9:21 PM, a traffic stop on a Ford Pickup in Camp Verde led to the discovery of illegal substances. During the stop, the Deputy noticed the driver's nervous behavior and obtained consent to search the vehicle. The driver admitted to having something illegal inside, specifically Gamma-hydroxybutyrate (GHB), commonly known as the date rape drug. Deputies found 60 oz. of GHB in the vehicle and later discovered over 1 pound of methamphetamine, additional GHB, and drug paraphernalia in the driver's hotel room. The individual was booked into Yavapai County Jail on multiple felony charges, and Partners Against Narcotics Trafficking (PANT) were contacted to assist with the case.

Additional Updates

CVMO Deputy's assisted Scottsdale Police Department with a human trafficking and narcotics operation and were able to make 15 arrests.

Deputies observed an 18-year-old suspect who had multiple arrest warrants. When approached, probable cause was given to search the vehicle where 30 fentanyl pills were found. Suspect booked into Yavapai County Jail.

LIBRARY

Recap of Summer Reading Program (SRP) Supported by the Arizona State Library, Archives & Public Records, a division of the Secretary of State and funded by Friend of Camp Verde Library



In the Children's Library, Summer Reading services and programming provided new experiences and hands-on learning opportunities for children and families, helped children maintain their reading fluency throughout the summer, and built a sense of belonging and/or community where families know that the library is here for them. This year's SRP brought 6 weeks of special activities such as Zumba @ the library, a visit with Moonlight the Owl, Saturday movie matinees, Sonoran Reptiles, tie dye art projects, and of course, weekly Storytime activities - 39 programs/events in all, attended by 946. 326 children registered for SRP and read a total of 195,600 minutes!

One patron who brought her grandchildren to Zumba @ the Library expressed how excited she was to introduce an activity she enjoys to her grandchildren. The family attended every Zumba class, dancing and singing while exercising. What does Zumba have to do with reading? Aerobic exercise delivers oxygen to the brain enhancing the ability to focus and learn new skill needed for reading. The rhythmic activity of dancing and singing improves the child's ability to innately grasp the rhythms of language and reading.

In the Teen's Library tweens and teens had the opportunity to participate in a crafting hour, in disc golf at the park, Minecraft book club, and, of course, weekly Game Nite. Disc golf appeared to be bust, because even at 8am it was hot! The first three weeks no one attended but then, one of the kids who participated last year started showing up. It was basically one-on-one disc golf lessons, and in those three weeks, he noticeably improved. He enjoyed the program, and his parents were happy we offered it, a demonstration of quality over quantity.

Minecraft Book Club, funded by Friends of Camp Verde Library, was an online and reading adventure using Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief designed for kids 9-12 years old.

As they read through the book, they worked as a team week after week to create the world from the story in Minecraft, using both reading comprehension and coding skills. This year, the group worked together to make a 17-minute of video showing the results of their creative play and interpretation of the story. Remember, this world and its inhabitants did not exist in Minecraft until these kids created it.



LIBRARY (Cont.)

Access to Hotspots Ended July 31

For the past 4 years the library has been participating in a Community Connect: Digital Access at Home and Fostering Digital Access grants from the American Library Association and sponsored by Capital One to provide free hotspots for checkout to library patrons in good standing. Students and entrepreneurs have been using these Verizon hotspots with unlimited data to provide wifi access in areas of the community that have no access. Unfortunately, these grants have ended and the library does not have the funds to continue the monthly cell service without grant funds. We are currently looking for other grant and alternative funding opportunities to once again provide free hotspots to community members left behind by the digital divide.

Cyber Security

Our new library system, Koha, is serious about security. They recently instituted a new requirement to reset passwords to access Koha every 90 days. We currently have 4 user access levels that are used across the library. That means every 90 days 4 new passwords must be generated and securely communicated to 13 staff (not counting volunteers) using a total of 16 workstations who all use the same passwords to access various aspects of Koha. The passwords need to be locked down so that one person in the chain cannot change it if they forget it and create havoc for the rest of the team. Thanks to a great idea from Library Manager, Nicole Metz-Andrews, we contacted Sunstate looking for a solution. Sunstate Tech, Andrew Madrid recommended the password manager, Bitwarden. Between Andrew, Nicole, and Wendy Cook-Roberts, the groundwork has been laid to safely and securely store and update passwords for access to Koha.

UTILITIES

Stormwater Division

Last week, Patty Mancini, Stormwater Specialist, investigated four stormwater flooding complaints. With dry weather in place, our outfalls—Finnie Flat Channel/County Ditch, Parsons, Hopkins, Clear Creek, and Bull Pen Wash—were also inspected.

Progress on the Green Building remodel is well underway. The short wall and the middle wall toward the front of the building have been removed, along with the door between the offices. The framing for the new wall is now complete. The maintenance crew is scheduled to be on-site Tuesdays and Wednesdays until the building and painting are finished. As a result, the move-in date has been pushed back to the third week in August.

The first sample testing and training sessions are planned for September 2nd and 3rd. We are hopeful that the new equipment from ADEQ will be available for use, although delivery is pending as Patty awaits a confirmed completion date for the remodel from the Maintenance Department.

In other news, ADEQ has nominated the Town for an award in recognition of the educational opportunities provided through the Summer Camp Program, which benefited 70 children with a focus on sustainability, water conservation, and stewardship. We expect to learn in September whether we will receive this honor.

PARKS & RECREATION

Heritage Pool Closure

Unfortunately, we are still working to address the mechanical issues at Camp Verde Heritage Pool. Our team is working diligently with third party pool experts to determine exactly what repairs are needed to reopen. To ensure the health and safety of our community, the pool will remain closed until further notice. If you have additional questions, please contact us at parcs@campverde.az.gov or 928-554-0820 Opt. 3. Thank you for your patience and understanding.



Butler Park Scoreboard Installation

We are excited to announce that a new scoreboard has been installed at the Butler Park football/soccer field. This project was initiated by Camp Verde Youth Football and supported by the Parks & Recreation Commission. The Town Council approved the purchase of the scoreboard and materials on April 3th. Camp Verde Youth Football, along with TLL Electric, generously volunteered their time and expertise to install the scoreboard, handling all necessary permits. A big thank you to everyone involved! Your contributions make a significant impact, truly putting the "community" in our community parks.

Grasshopper Basketball Registration

Registration is now open for our 1st-4th grade Grasshopper Basketball program. Sign up by September 25th at [Camp Verde Sportsites](#). We are also recruiting coaches for the season, which kicks off in October. If you're interested in coaching, please contact our Parks & Recreation staff at 928-554-0820, Opt. 3.

Fort Verde Days Parade Registration

Join us for the 68th annual Fort Verde Days Parade! This year's theme is "Celebrating Our Pioneer Spirit," with former mayor and community leader Tony Gioia serving as Grand Marshal. Both the theme and Grand Marshal were selected by public vote with the assistance of the Parks & Recreation Commission. The full Schedule of Events for Fort Verde Days will be available in the Kiwanis booklet, which will be distributed at Town offices and local businesses closer to the event.

Little Britches/Little Petticoats Contest

Registration is now open for the Little Britches/Little Petticoats contest, taking place on Saturday, October 5th, at Fort Verde State Historic Park. This event is held in conjunction with the Colonel's Daughter contest. If you'd like to participate, please register by October 2nd at [Camp Verde Sportsites](#).



PARKS & RECREATION (Cont.)

Adult Co-Ed Softball Season

The Adult Co-Ed softball league is in full swing, with 16 teams competing twice a week. It's been an exciting season so far, with plenty of action on the field.

Community Engagement at Back to School Nights

Parks and Recreation staff recently attended Back to School Night at American Heritage Academy on August 1st and will be attending the event at Camp Verde Elementary School on August 6th. These events provide an excellent opportunity to engage with community members and share information about our programs and events, especially with those who may not be familiar with all that we offer.

Parks and Recreation Commission Update

During the August 5th meeting, the Commission reviewed updates on Corn Fest and Summer Day Camp, discussed the Sports Complex, and the recruitment for a new Parks & Recreation Manager. Several community members attended and voiced their support for the Heritage Pool, expressing their desire for it to be repaired and reopened.

Upcoming Meetings

- September 5th Work Session: Darla Deville of APS will be facilitating a work session focused on defining Commission roles, setting goals, and guiding future planning.
- September 9th Regular Meeting: Mark your calendars for the next regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

PUBLIC WORKS

Maintenance

- Pool Maintenance: The entire maintenance team, led by Mike Stockley, underwent comprehensive training on pool chemicals, system operations, and problem diagnosis. Despite ongoing chemical checks and cleaning, a malfunction required a temporary pool shutdown for repairs.
- Building and Grounds: We started the demolition and remodeling of the Green Building and tackled weed control at Finance and Butler Park. Additionally, we cleaned and organized the Lower Shop and yard area. A new schedule plan was developed for the grounds team to address the reduced workforce.
- Equipment and Repairs: We faced several equipment issues:
 - Kubota tractors required \$1,300 in new tops.
 - Ex-Mark mowers are in Phoenix for repairs due to electrical and hydraulic steering problems.
 - The Toro mower's belt pulley system is being repaired with \$550 in parts.
 - The dump trailer's hydraulic motor and the 16' trailer's braking system are in Prescott for repairs, costing \$930 and \$270, respectively.
 - The CVT 411 building utility truck has no engine power; repair costs estimated at \$5,720.
 - The manlift's glow plugs are awaiting a mobile mechanic for repair.
 - The janitorial washing machine is out of service, with a repair company scheduled to address the issue.

Special Recognition: The grounds crew, including Triston Laubinger, Juan Ochoa and Herbert Phelps, have been exceptional in managing a significantly increased workload due to staff absences. Their commitment and positive attitude are truly commendable.

PUBLIC WORKS (Cont.)

Streets

The Streets team has started chip sealing. They've also been managing weed control and thoroughly cleaning road surfaces using both kick and pickup brooms.

Engineering

The Engineering Department has been engaged in various project reviews/inspections, including La Quinta Offsite, FrameTec PRV, Reclaim GeoTech, and Lost River Waterline Inspection.

Capital Improvement Projects

- Court Addition: No bids were received by the August 1st deadline. Staff is now seeking bids through the JOC program.
- Wayfinding Signage: The consultant is developing concepts, which will be presented to the council on September 4th.
- Finnie Flats / MCH Roadway Improvements: ADOT is finalizing the contract, with a kickoff meeting scheduled for August 12th.
- 7th Street CDBG Sidewalk Project: Staff will recommend awarding the base bid to McDonald Bros. at the August 21st council meeting. APS relocation is expected to be completed by the end of August, and 10 of 14 easements have been acquired.
- Sports Complex Projects:
 - TVB: Multi-use field lighting does not meet specifications; staff is working with MUSCO to resolve the issue.
 - Waterline Installation: Construction is in its fourth week, with completion anticipated by September 19th.
 - Concession Stand/Restrooms: PO was approved which included a quote request pending for the building pad prep and concrete walkway bidding.
 - Electrical Service: A \$72K quote from Pur Solar is under review; the electrical requirements for the new building will be re-evaluated and will likely go out for bid.
 - Lift Station: Ordering of approved materials is underway; installation labor will be provided by Town forces.
 - Force Main: Ordering of materials is in progress; installation labor by Town forces, with excavation work to be bid out.
 - Irrigation Line Installation: Pumps ordered; installation labor by Town forces, with some excavation to be bid out.
 - Website: A dedicated page for sports complex updates is being developed.
- NACOG TIP Funding: Staff identified two potential projects for TIP funding and will prepare preliminary cost estimates.
- Main Street Reconstruction Project: Reviewing submitted 90% plans.
- Parson's Riverfront Preserve Parking Lot: Topographic survey and preliminary design are in progress.
- Community Center Park Rain Catchment: Placement concerns resolved; permit application will be updated.
- Pool Shade Structure: Design consultant will update wind load calculations; staff is seeking shade sail recommendations.
- NACOG Regional Priority Project List: \$5.7 million recommended for Montezuma Castle Highway Improvements; an additional \$2 million may be available, totaling \$7.7 million.
- FY25 Pavement Preservation: Scheduled to commence in mid-August.
- Engineering Design Standards: To be presented at the August 21st council meeting.