

DATE: September 19, 2025
TO: Mayor and City Council Members
FROM: Mario Cifuentes II, City Manager
SUBJECT: Bi-Weekly Management Report

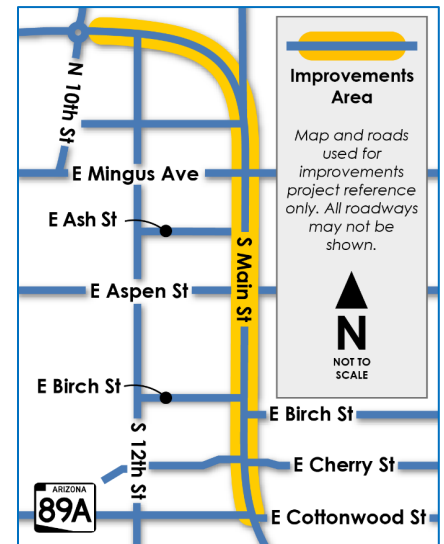


Public Works

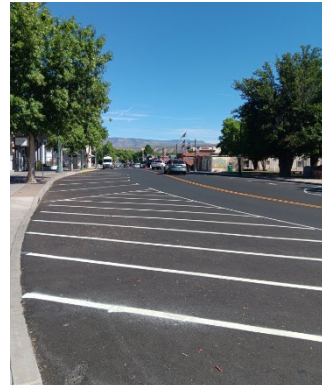
Next Phase of the Main Street Improvements Project began on September 15

The phase of the Main Street Improvements Project through Old Town has reached completion over a month ahead of schedule! Crews have completed asphalt paving operations and concrete work along Main Street, from the City limits to the new 10th Street roundabout.

On Monday, September 15, 2025, crews began constructing the next phase of the Main Street Improvements Project. This phase includes reconstructing select concrete curb, gutter, and driveway entrances before removing and replacing the existing asphalt pavement along Main Street between the 10th Street Roundabout and SR89A/East Cottonwood Street. Work will occur Monday through Thursday, from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. During asphalt pavement reconstruction, crews will leave one lane open to travel in each direction; however, delays and temporary closures will be necessary. Access to properties will be maintained except for short durations when work occurs directly in front of a driveway. Access will be coordinated individually as we move throughout the project. Residents, businesses, and motorists can expect lane closures and extensive traffic control measures throughout the construction. Please follow the marked signage to get to your destination.



For more information about this project, visit <http://www.cottonwoodroadconstruction.com/> or call the project hotline at (928) 405-0111. To stay informed with weekly construction updates, subscribe to the eNewsletter by emailing info@cottonwoodroadconstruction.com.



Mingus Avenue and Main Street Intersection Improvements

The City's signal contractor has completed the planned upgrades to the traffic signal at Main Street and Mingus Avenue. Protected/permissive left-turn phasing (left-turn arrows) was added to both Mingus Avenue legs of the intersection, and the installation of new ADA-compliant pedestrian push buttons. Updated signal timing was also installed to accommodate the phasing changes. Special thanks are due to the Police Department for their assistance with traffic control while the signal was dark.

Cottonwood Public Library Stormwater Project

Combs Construction started work on the third and final phase of the Cottonwood Library Stormwater Project on August 21, 2025. Work completed on the first two phases included installing a new sidewalk extension, a new rain basin on the library's west side, water-efficient landscaping, and two new scuppers on the east side of the building. The City obtained a grant from the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona (WIFA) to complete the remaining low-impact development upgrades to the library. The WIFA grant provided 80% of the funding to complete the project's third phase.

The project's primary objective is to collect stormwater runoff from the library site and building through the installation of low-impact development features. Project elements will filter pollutants contained in stormwater runoff and improve drainage around the library. Work on the project's third phase included installing three new rain basins, upgrading the existing drainage basin on the library's north side, installing a new rain barrel to collect water from the roof drains, and planting water-efficient landscaping. Work on the drainage basins is complete, and the contractor completed planting on Thursday, September 11, 2025.



Police Department

Alternative Sentencing Program - Partnership

This week, Chief Freudenthal and staff met with Cottonwood City Prosecutor Josh Butner and local defense attorney Mike Shaw to reaffirm partnerships and goals of the alternative sentencing program. The Cottonwood City Prosecutor's Alternative Sentencing Program provides favorable plea or deferral agreements to local chronic low-level offenders who are homeless and/or mentally ill if they agree to, and complete, a Spectrum-developed assessment and treatment plan and other significant conditions.

Eligibility Criteria for Entry into Program:

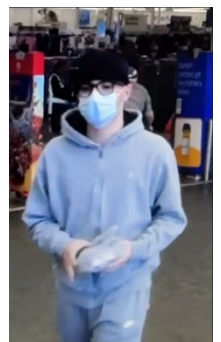
Note: These criteria are intended to be flexible. Some may, or may not, apply.

- Local roots
- Multiple misdemeanor offenses
- Suspected mental illness or personality disorder
- Eligible for AHCCCS, SMI, or other benefits
- History of homelessness
- Motivation to engage in treatment and a reasonable likelihood of program success
- No use of a dangerous weapon in the charged offense
- First and only time in the Alternative Sentencing Program

The City Prosecutor has discretion in offering any defendant entry into the Alternative Sentencing Program. The City Prosecutor will consult with any defense counsel and the court regarding the program.

Cottonwood Detectives Arrest Robbery Suspect with Assistance from Phoenix Police

On Thursday, August 21, 2025, at approximately 10:20 a.m., officers and detectives from the Cottonwood Police Department responded to a report of a robbery at the First Convenience Bank inside Walmart in Cottonwood, Arizona. During the incident, the suspect presented a note to a bank teller demanding money. The suspect obtained a substantial amount of cash and fled the bank on foot. In the weeks that followed, Cottonwood detectives conducted an extensive investigation. A suspect was identified through diligent investigative work, community cooperation, and the use of advanced technology.



On September 16, 2025, in collaboration with the Phoenix Police Department, Cottonwood detectives arrested 19-year-old Johnathan Pirvulescu in Phoenix. Following the arrest, detectives served a search warrant at Pirvulescu's Phoenix residence, where additional evidence related to the crime was recovered. Pirvulescu was booked into the Yavapai County Detention Facility on charges of Robbery and Theft, both felonies. He is being held on a \$25,000 bond.

This arrest reflects a coordinated, multi-agency effort and highlights the dedication, persistence, and teamwork of all officers and detectives involved in successfully resolving this case.

National Night Out

The Cottonwood Police Department will host its annual National Night Out on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Cottonwood Kids Park at 350 S. 12th Street. This free, family-friendly event is part of a nationwide initiative that fosters community engagement and strengthens partnerships between law enforcement and residents. Attendees can enjoy activities, meet local officers, and celebrate neighborhood unity in a safe, welcoming environment.



Fire Department

Cottonwood Fire Department Presents: Trailblazer Academy

The Cottonwood Fire Department is excited to launch its first-ever Trailblazer Academy—a unique two-day, hands-on experience exclusively for high school girls (ages 14–18) interested in exploring the fire service. This academy offers a rare opportunity to train alongside female firefighters from across Northern Arizona and gain insight into a rewarding and challenging career.

Program Highlights:

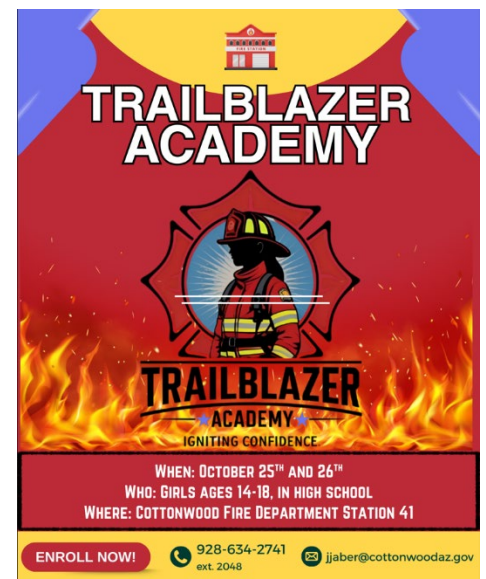
- Explore the role and responsibilities of a firefighter
- Develop teamwork and leadership skills
- Build confidence through hands-on activities and mentorship

Event Details:

- Dates: Saturday, October 25 & Sunday, October 26, 2025
- Time: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Location: Cottonwood Fire Department – Station 41
- Cost: \$75 (includes T-shirt and meals)

Registration Information:

- Enrollment Period: September 15 – September 30, 2025
- Spots are limited – early registration is encouraged!



To register or for questions, Contact Firefighter Janine Jaber, jjaber@cottonwoodaz.gov | (928) 634-2741, ext. 2048. Be Unstoppable. Be a Trailblazer. Join us for this empowering experience and discover what it takes to serve and lead.

Community Development

Cottonwood Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting

The Cottonwood Historic Preservation Commission will meet on Wednesday, September 24, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will take place at the City Council Chambers – Riverfront, located at 1083 E. Riverfront Road, Cottonwood, AZ.

The following items are scheduled for the New Business:

- CA-25-004 – Four Eight Wine Works: Certificate of Appropriateness to allow exterior modifications of a landmarked and contributing property located in the Cottonwood Commercial Historic District

The following items are scheduled for Discussion only:

- Historic Preservation Commission Logo
- 2025 Legislative Updates
- Archaeological Brochure

All interested persons are encouraged to send comments to the Community Development Planner by noon on Tuesday, September 23, 2025. A verbal comment period will be provided during each hearing item.

DR-25-012 & CUP-25-004

On Monday, September 15, 2025, the Planning and Zoning Commission concurrently approved Design Review DR-25-012 and a Conditional Use Permit CUP-25-004 to allow site development of a helicopter hangar project and to allow accessory living quarters in an I-2 (Heavy Industrial) zone.

CUP-25-005

On Monday, September 15, 2025, the Planning and Zoning Commission approved a Conditional Use Permit to allow a 5.5-foot-tall fence in the front-yard setback within the AR-43 Zone.

Ordinance 764

On Tuesday, September 16, 2025, the City Council adopted Ordinance Number 764, which approves Municipal Code 2.110: Historic Preservation Commission changes, reducing its size and revising its powers and duties. Ordinance Number 764 will be in effect on October 16, 2025.

Community Development - Planning Department Receives Award

On Thursday, September 4, 2025, the Arizona Chapter of the American Planning Association presented the City of Cottonwood with an award for "Best Regional or General or Comprehensive Plan for a Jurisdiction of Population 49,999 or Less."

Parks, Recreation, Library

Cottonwood Public Library - Tummy Time Playgroup Recap

On Thursday, August 28, 2025, the Cottonwood Public Library hosted a special Tummy Time Playgroup designed for babies working on their core development. It was a hit! Rosemarie Strout of Sunrise Therapy facilitated the group. Parents and caregivers discovered how vital tummy time is for their little one's growth and learned practical ways to incorporate it into daily routines. We shared fun, engaging tips to help make tummy time a positive and enjoyable experience for babies and adults.

Beyond the developmental benefits, the playgroup offered an excellent opportunity for families to connect, share, and support one another while the babies bonded through play. Thanks to everyone who joined us. We loved seeing those tiny milestones in action!



Old Town Music and the Market

Join us at the Old Town Activity Park for the last Old Town Music and the Market on Friday, September 26, 2025, from 5:00 p.m. until dark. Enjoy shopping for local goods, delicious food, and live music by Local Honey. Bring the whole family for a fun time in Old Town!



Cottonwood Area Transit

New Testing Site Receives Tentative Approval

We are pleased to announce a positive development regarding our request to establish a new testing site at Cottonwood Area Transit, located at 340 Happy Jack Way, Cottonwood, AZ 86326. The Motor Vehicle Division (MVD), Professional Driver Services, has granted tentative approval for this location.

Key Details:

- Location: 340 Happy Jack Way, Cottonwood, AZ 86326
- Status: Tentative approval granted by MVD, Professional Driver Services
- Significance: This milestone supports our ongoing efforts to enhance accessibility to testing services in the Cottonwood region. The new site is expected to help reduce wait times and improve client service delivery.

The tentative approval of this new site marks a significant step forward in expanding our testing network and better serving the community's needs.

FY2025 Notice of Funding Availability

The Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for FY2025 under the Section 5307/5339 Small Urban and Bus and Bus Facilities competitive grant program is now open. This funding opportunity presents a strategic chance to secure critical resources that would support expanding our capacity and enhancing service quality. Pursuing this grant aligns with our long-term operational goals and commitment to improved transit services.

Administration

Oak Wash Homes – Housing Solutions of Northern Arizona

Oak Wash Homes was awarded the Rural Development of the Year at the 2025 Brian Mickelsen Housing Hero Awards, presented by the Arizona Department of Housing. Operated by Housing Solutions of Northern Arizona and located in Cottonwood, Oak Wash Homes features 32 permanent, affordable apartment units designed for households experiencing homelessness in the Verde Valley.

This award recognizes Oak Wash Homes as a leading example of rural housing development in Arizona, highlighting its crucial role in addressing homelessness and providing stable, affordable housing. It reflects the organization's commitment to delivering quality housing solutions that are accessible and sustainable, aligning with broader goals of equity, community welfare, and long-term positive impact. Please click on the link to view the video <https://youtu.be/FyZH0IDKHM0?si=7EFiPmjjuukDDhkl>.

Appreciation Team

Upcoming Events

- Halloween/Fall Decorating Contest: On Friday, October 31, 2025, Departments are encouraged to decorate their offices for Halloween/Autumn. The department voted to have the best decor will win a prize!
- Surveys & Feedback: From November 1 to 30, 2025, The A Team will collect feedback on all the monthly events organized in 2025. Share your opinions and ideas with us!
- Appreciation Dinner & Awards: On Friday, December 12, 2025, join us at the Verde Valley Fairgrounds for a celebration including a catered dinner, door prizes, and the 2025 service awards!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you.

Mario Cifuentez II
City Manager