

ASH FORK DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.

JAN./FEB. 2023

Volume 25 Issue 3



# AFDA NEWSLETTER

## ASH FORK WATER SERVICE

## From the Water Desk

by: Lewis Hume, Water Manager



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Superintendent's Corner

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# Road Map to Steer Ash Fork—the next 10 years—2023—2033

Happy New Year to all the Newsletter readers in the Ash Fork and surrounding areas. I believe 2023 is going to see a lot of growth and changes coming to the area. I think all of us support some of the changes, but I know some of the commercial developments planned has others unsure or directly opposed.

Proposed Development 2023

- TA America Truck Stop/Travel Center—Exit 144 North side. Permits approved
- Murphy Towing—new Garage facilities—permits applied for.
- Murphy Shell expansion

(Continued on page 2)WATER



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- Pilot Travel Center Gas and Diesel Islands, C-store—Old Ted's Truck Stop location—permits being applied for
- New Post Office facility, 1-acre near Ash Fork Museum. Along Rt. 66, Break ground 2/23

# It is with these types of changing community dynamics that our Action Plan needs a revisit and or refreshing.

With that in mind, it's time to come together and develop an Action Team/Committee. The first step is to commit to being a part of the team.

- The Ash Fork Development Association (AFDA) group is taking the lead in getting an Action Team assembled.
- The Newsletter will act as our way of presenting information to you, the reader. In turn we hope you the reader will be part of the Action Team, encourage others to get involved and participate in worksheets and questionnaires.
- I'm confident an Action Team can be fielded from the area. I see 8-12 people representing Ash Fork, KEW and JW Ranch, some of those will have interest in various organizations active in the communities. A great Action Team member will be active in plan activities, ask others their thoughts or views, be courteous when communicating your ideas as well as listening to others' ideas. Promote the Action Plan idea.
- Prior to the Action Plan conclusion, a Public Meeting will take place for the Action Plan components to be voted
  upon by importance from YOU, interested community member. After that meeting a final Action Plan results will
  be prepared and distributed.

### **Timeline**

- 1. January and February 2023 Assemble Action Team. Review past accomplishments, identify things we would "Like to Keep" and "What We Would Change" in the community.
- 2. March-April 2023 Complete a SWOT analysis of the Community Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats.
- 3. May-June 2023 Develop strategies within several key areas. Identify specific projects or results of projects. Housing, Infrastructure, Economic Development, Public Safety, Community Image and Awareness, Youth Issues, Community Involvement/Communication, Preservation, Services, etc..

Ash Fork completed its first Economic Development Action Plan in 1997 with encouragement and funding from he US Forest Service. This was a requirement of federal community development funds.

An update was prepared in 2004 to the Action Plan with an award being received in 2003 for the "Best Plan Implementation" category. The 2004 Action Plan saw Partners for Strategic Action Inc. working with Ash Fork on the development of the Action Plan.

The two previous Community Action Plans have contributed significantly in the Centennial Park playground equipment and canopy, landscaped entry islands (Welcome To Ash Fork), Flood and Roadway project along Railroad Ave., New Library location and permanent Head Start location.

For those interested in being on the 2023 Ash Fork Economic Development/Action Team, please:

Email—lewishume60@gmail.com or Phone—928-606-3450

I'm looking forward to working with a good bunch of community minded individuals that have a good sense of community values and needs.

### ASH FORK SANITARY DISTRICT MEETINGS SCHEDULED...

The Ash Fork Sanitary District will be holding two meetings in January 2023. The main topic of discussion is the American Recovery Grant monies received and what details we want to see in a revised Preliminary Report (wastewater conditions of our community), solutions, options, strategies, and improvements.

### **MEETINGS:**

- 1. January 11th 6:00 pm in the Community Center, 526 Lewis Ave., General information, discussion, ideas for the Preliminary Engineering Report.
- 2. January 18th 6:00 pm Escalante Room, 450 W. Lewis Ave. Finalize Preliminary Engineering Report requirements. Prepare to announce project.

# **AFDA**—**From our President, Fayrene Hume....** AFDA can see a busy 2023.

- \* Water improvements coming soon through the Ash Fork Water Service.
- New businesses coming to town. Waiting for the announcements for ground breaking ceremonies for TA
   Travel Center and new Post Office location.
- \* Updating our Action Plan will also take priority. Take notice of how to be a part of this elsewhere in the Newsletter.
- We will also graciously receive property gifts that have been bestowed on us.
- \* Prepare to apply for grants where and when needed to benefit our community.
- \* Continue with Community Calendar project, which supports our youth with Little League baseball and softball as well as Centennial Park.
- \* Small Town Christmas Lighting and Stone Dam Family recreation, which both require your support with fundraisers as dates are chosen.

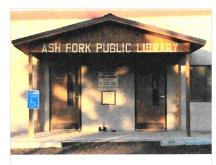
Monthly meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month, except for August and December. Meetings are open to the public with January 18th being our next meeting at 7:00 pm. in the Escalante Room in the LLC Building. Our bimonthly Newsletter and Community Calendar have those dates posted.

As we said goodbye to 2022 we hosted an Appreciation Dinner in partnership with the Ash Fork Fire Department, recognizing many volunteers for their day in and day out giving of time and talent. The Fire Department, ,Yavapai County Sheriff's Department, Medics and Nurses and those who care for needs of the community and strive for the betterment of the present and future of our community.

AFDA also said farewell to Board Member David Payne who has served eight years on the board. His insightful suggestions will be missed and we wish him all the best in his new venture.

Santa said, "What would you like for Christmas?"





ASH FORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Ash Fork Library had a wonderful holiday season with a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus on December 23rd. There was hot chocolate, candy canes, and a new movie shown for the patrons.



Librarian's Mary Rigby and Marilyn Wallace with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

We also have some new information for patrons provided by Yavapai College that details how to obtain a certificate or degree Come by and pick up some pamphlets and speak to Andrew for more details.

We are continuously adding new inventory of DVD's and books. Feel free to come in and give us some suggestions of what you would like to see in the library. We are also always looking for new programs to offer to patrons.

We currently have a "game club" for young patrons no older than 17 years old that meets on Friday's at 1 pm—3:30 pm.

We hope everyone had a great Christmas and we look forward to an amazing new year!

### **Andrew Tucker**

Library Coordinator 928-637-2442



### OFF THE GRID FIRST AID CLASSES

Off the grid first aid can mean the difference between life and death. A Red Cross survey showed a staggering 59% of deaths from injuries would have been preventable had first aid been given before the emergency services arrived.

## CLASSES ARE FREE, DONATIONS ACCEPTED

Ash Fork Community Center

Starting February 11<sup>th</sup> 9:00am to 1:00pm March 11<sup>th</sup> 9:00 to 1:00pm

April 8th 9:00am to 1:00pm May 13<sup>th</sup> 9:00am to 1:00pm

June 10<sup>th</sup> 9:00am to 1:00pm

**Instructor—Michael Sally** 

**Paramedic Training 1970** 

**National CPR Foundation Certification 2022** 

**American First Aid Certification 2022** 

For Information Call 602 568 7879

**Update—Post Office...** A site has been chosen and a contract has been signed for the long awaited new post office.

The community has known for a long time that it had outgrown the existing post office. Convincing the "powers that be" was a hurdle we have jumped. Ash Fork Development Association along with concerned residents convinced Supervisor Brown and Congressman Gosar to intervene and push for a new post office. To them we are

very grateful.

We are now awaiting for a date for the ground breaking, Stay tuned.

**Summer Little League..** Ash Fork is part of Williams Little League. Last year there were five teams from Ash Fork in the schedule. Sixty plus boys and girls had fun while having a learning experience for the summer season.

Volunteers stepped up to the tasks of

coaches, rides for players to games who's parents are working, umpires, refreshment stand help, etc.

Sponsors are a must to get started. Stacy Benavides is already attending meetings and announces they must get volunteers to umpire both in Ash Fork and Williams. The time you give will not go unrecognized. The kids will remember this good time in their life and so will you. Please step up now vou are needed!



Yavapai County Board of Supervisors Selects Dennis McGrane as the Yavapai County Attorney Effective January 1, 2023... On Wednesday, December 7, 2022, at the regular Yavapai County Board of Supervisors meeting, the board voted to appoint Dennis McGrane as the new Yavapai County Attorney to replace Yavapai County Attorney Sheila Polk, who is retiring on December 31, 2022.



#### ASH FORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS.....

The Ash Fork Historical Society hosted their annual Open House December 3rd with crafters sharing their beautiful hand crafted items, art work, baked goods, etc.

A special treat was the kindergarten class from Ash Fork School together with their teacher Jennifer Beckwith reading a story for the group and then the children singing "Jingle Bell Rock" for all and showing their excitement for going to the Polar Express train ride.





Lunch was served to all who came out for the event. For some it was their first time to visit as they are new to the area and some were our friends from Chino Valley Historical Society.



Volunteers will take a couple of weeks off for the holiday. From Dec, 29th to Jan. 2nd the Museum will be closed,

n November, local donors contributed a total of 430 gift-filled shoeboxes to Operation Christmas Child, sending joy and hope to needy children around the world—many of whom have never received a gift of any kind before.



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These simple items seem like so little to us, but they can make a life-changing impact on the lives of the children who receive them, along with their families and communities.

Many thanks to all who participated in Operation Christmas Child this year. If you packed a shoebox of your own, donated gift items and shipping costs, or helped spread the word about this project, your generosity played a part in helping to bring joy into the lives of hundreds of children.

Best wishes to all for joy in the coming year!

**Ash Fork Light Parade...**The Ash Fork Development Association, Inc. once again hosted the Small Town Christmas Light Parade November 18th at 6 pm. This annual parade is a community favorite to kick off the holiday season.

The festive parade started immediately after the Media lighting on the east end of town in front of the old LuLu Belle's Restaurant. The Association has paid a professional decorator to really make that shine with holiday spirit.

The parade line-up was again at old Ted's Truck stop parking. Our thanks to property owner Randy Aman for letting us use the site.

Entries were secretly judged and trophies awarded for the entries representing: Best Holiday Spirit—The Ash Fork Schools Transportation Dept., Best Decorated—Bob and Patty Reynolds, Most Original—It's a Jeep thing by Valerie Coman, Bianca

Sharp and Natalie Broehm. Thanks to all participants—you make the event successful.

The best viewing area for the lighting and parade was set up in the east side of the parade line up lot. the Ash Fork Historical Society provided lots of cookies and hot chocolate to keep everyone warm on a chilly November evening. An inflatable "Santa Village" delighted many young spectators. Superintendent, Seth Staples, with his humorous wit, entertained and announced each entry to the crowd.





This great community event is sponsored in part by: Thrivent, AZ Off-Grid Living, Ash Fork Quick Lube, David Reyes Construction, APS, and the Ash Fork Historical Society.

Many thanks to our Parade Committee Sue Akinson and Carrie Sotelo. Thanks also to Lewis and Renee at the Water Service for taking charge of the parade permit, contacting Kevin for signage, Yavapai County Sheriff's Department, Santa and Mrs. Claus.



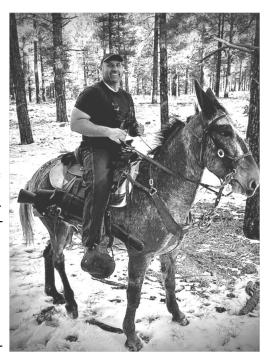


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### SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER....

I hope this letter finds you content after a great Holiday Season and a Happy New Year!

We are now beginning the Spring Semester here at Ash Fork Schools and are glad to that we've been able to keep the doors open this year and make some traction in the area of student progress. The biggest change happening at the school district is replacing our current intervention model in grades Kindergarten through eighth with a Reteach and Enrich Model that we've always wanted to implement, but have never been able to until now. The new schedule will return Ash Fork Middle and Elementary School to a school wide release time from 2:45 to 4:00, but the school day itself will be much different. One change is that all specials will be lengthened to a full hour and will be placed at the end of the day when students are looking forward to more nonacademic and physical activities like art and physical education. The new Reteach and Enrich portion of the day is located after lunch and will allow teachers to analyze weekly short standards based tests to see what each student knows or doesn't quite understand. If a student masters a standard then they are given more project based assignments that will help them to expand their knowledge of that standard. Conversely, students that need more instruction on a particular standard are helped in small groups by a teacher to ensure they are able to learn it. Schools that have implemented a viable Reteach and Enrich model (created by Vail Unified in Vail Arizona) have shown significant student growth and achieve-



ment in all areas. Ash Fork has worked with Vail's Curriculum program titled, "Beyond Textbooks" for nearly ten years and was the main contributor in Ash Fork School District turning around from a failing district to hitting the number one spot in the state for testing in 2014 and a host of other achievements since then that couldn't have been possible without a model district like Vail to follow. With more difficult state standards and changes in student demographics it's more important than ever to continue to up our game in order to give every student here at Ash Fork the best possible launch into their future.

If you see Ms. Lois Hume around, make sure you give her a big congratulation on a job well done at Ash Fork Schools and a happy retirement. Lois has been with Ash Fork School District for 16 years. I personally had the honor of working with Lois in the classroom when I began teaching second grade in Ash Fork many moons ago. I can attest to her commitment to students and being a great person that we all enjoyed being around and working with. Thank You Lois!

You may be noticing some new construction happening on the north west lot of campus. If weather permits ground work should begin for our new bus barn and automotive shop. The new building will begin as a simple shell to house and maintain buses, but we hope to make future improvements to make the building available to students to learn basic automotive skills if current budgets are sustained. The metal building itself is already on campus and waiting for a foundation to be built once contractors are available to do so.

Might be a little too soon to talk about, but the district is working on a grant that will bring internet to a large percentage of our students that live outside of town for a very low monthly cost. The program is titled Final Mile and has already helped other school districts bring affordable internet to families that have not been able to do so. There is a lot to be settled before we can get too excited, but the prospects of helping families in our area is looking good. We hope to have more information as it unfolds.

Have a Great Year! Seth Staples Superintendent Ash Fork Schools

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We're On The Web: www.AshForkWaterService.com THE ASH FORK DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION WAS IN-CORPORATED THE 4TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 1966. THE GENERAL NATURE OF BUSINESS IS THE TREANSPORTA-TION, DELIVERY AND SALE OF WATER. IN ADDITION THE ASSOCIATION WILL RENDER CONSTRUCTIVE CIVIC SER-VICES FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE WELFARE OF THE COMMUNITY AND OF THE CITIZENS OF ASH FORK, AZ, TO INCULCATE CIVIC CONSCIOUSNESS BY MEANS OF ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN CONSTRUCTIVE PROJECTS WHICH WILL IMPROVE THE COMMUNITY, STATE AND-NATION.

### ASH FORK DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.

**MEETING DATES:** 

**January 18, 2023** February 15, 2023 7:00 P.M.

ESCALANTE MEEETING ROOM @LLC BUILDING LEWIS AVE. & 5TH STREET (BY THE MARQUEE)

Ash Fork Tourist Center and Museum **Open Monday thru Friday** 9 am-3pm **Operated by Volunteers** Ash Fork Historical Society

"A good friend is a connection to life—a tie to the past, a road to the future"~ Lois **Wyse** 

"All mistakes teach us something, so there are, in reality, no mistakes."~ Nikki Giovanni

### **Community Church Schedules:**

Ash Fork Baptist Church Lewis Ave. & 1st St. **Pathway Chapel** 

St. Anne Catholic Church 7th St.

**Gospel of Faith Church** 

**Emmanuel Trinity Church** 

Double A Ranch Rd.

47423 N. 4th St.

Bullock Rd, @Cattle Guard

**Sunday Services 11:00 AM** 

Sunday Services 10:30 AM and 6:30 PM

Wed. & Sat.: Rosary 3:30 PM Mass 4:00 PM

**Sunday Services 11:00 AM** 

Sunday (Bi-lingual) 10 AM Wed. Bible Study 6PM

Information call Pastor Robert (928)853-1122