



FREE—TAKE ONE

Volume 28 Issue 3  
Jan/Feb 2026

# AFDA NEWSLETTER

## Ash Fork Water Service News

2025 was one of those memorable years! Let's look at the system's many improvements.

- Ash Fork #3 Groundwater Well project is completed. New well drilled to 1445', connecting lines and electrical upgrades. Project was funded through the American Rescue Plan Act. Total project cost was approx. \$965,000.
- Arsenic Treatment Plant was installed at Ash Fork #1 ground water well site. ADEQ picked up the cost of this Treatment Plant installation. Ash Fork Water Service had to participate in the permitting costs. The installation went well. The Arsenic Treatment Plant was installed within the newly completed pump house.
- Ash Fork Water Service along with the Ash Fork Development Association group will be making plans to host an OPEN HOUSE in early Spring 2026. The Open House will allow customers and all those interested to see the well sites along with the treatment facilities within the pump house structures. We're looking forward to it. I hope to see you there.
- Work was completed on the modifications to the Park St. standpipe building. An order was placed for a new Water Salesman. The new unit will be the same as the south side. Bills and coins accepted. Everyone has been waiting on this upgrade.
- We're working on a more detailed Water Curtailment Plan. What we learned from the summer water emergency will be incorporated into the revised Curtailment Plan.
- One of the new projects on the list this year is the evaluation of our system's water storage capabilities. With the increase in water sales seen over the past year, it could be time to plan to add additional water storage facilities.

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Where is the best location for a new storage facility?

What amount of water would the new tank hold?

These are some of the questions the report would answer.

● We have a funding application pending with WIFA for system improvements. The funding application was approved by the AZ Corporation Commission. The proposed improvements include:

Backup Generator to run well pumps in an electrical emergency.

Exterior coatings on both water storage tanks.

New Standpipe system.

3 water-main installation projects. Bixler Trail south about 1200', Hillside RV, East to Bixler Trail. Replace about 1500', replace line in alleyway between 3<sup>rd</sup> St to 6<sup>th</sup> St., between Park Ave. and Pine St. (the oldest line in the system).

The first month's report on the on-line payment option (Pay Star) is all good. Many customers have utilized this option right off.

*WOW didn't the community look great for the Christmas Holiday Celebration! The parade!! Awesome.*

*A big THANK YOU to the AFDA Board for supporting the event and a second THANK YOU to the Atkinson Family and decorators, for ensuring everything was festive and bright!!*



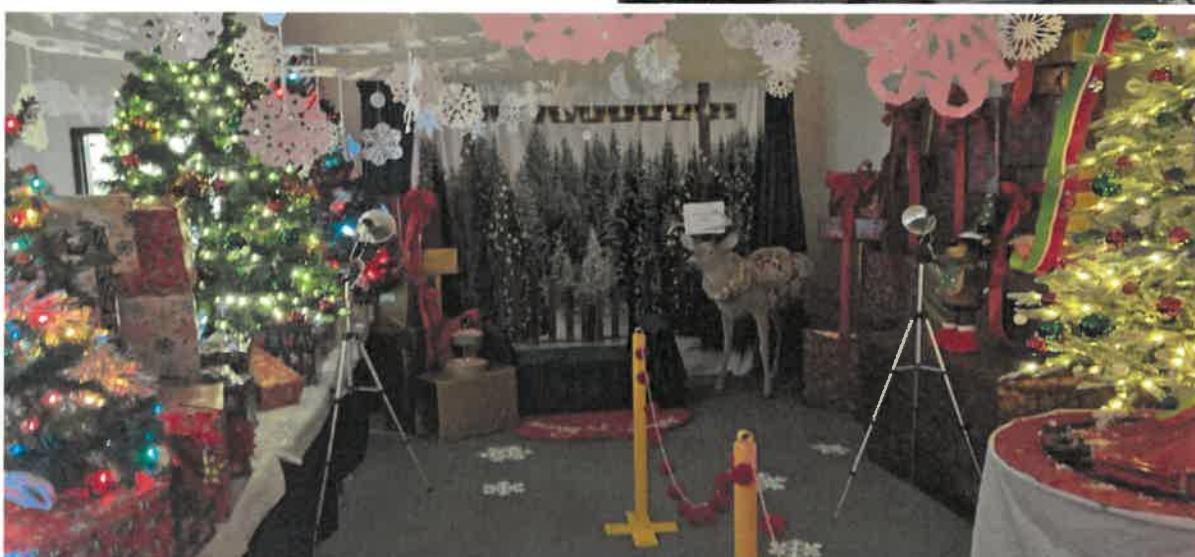
## AFDA News

We have had a busy time the last couple of months. We closed on the property for the sanitary plant and our future town recreation site just north of town. Just after Thanksgiving, the Atkinson family and other volunteers decorated the West median, the water office and the Library building. And then they tackled Santa Land.

On December 6th, we held the first Holiday Market with numerous vendors selling crafts and food in the Library parking lot before the parade. Our parade was very well attended, and the entries were fun to watch. After the parade made its way around town, Santa and Mrs. Claus greeted the children in his fantasy workshop. The elves guided the children and their parents through the line for hot chocolate and cookies. Thanks to Rosemary Hume, Debbie Hunt and Linda Cowing, there was a bountiful supply for all to be served. It was a memorable night!

We also had a grand opening for our clinic with lots of free produce and other items. We approved a remodel of the pharmacy area inside the clinic and sometime this Spring it should be completed. Our clinic is gaining new patients and has many benefits for our community. They are currently open on Fridays, and a doctor is seeing patients in person. As the usage of the clinic grows, the plan is to expand their schedule to more days per week.

Finally, the removal of the old Hi Line Motel on Lewis Ave is being completed, and the clean up of that lot is still in progress. We have wanted to see that taken down for a long time. Now, we will have to see what can take its place that will benefit our community.



Cara Eden  
 Library Coordinator  
 Yavapai County Free Library District  
 450 W. Lewis Avenue  
 Ash Fork, AZ 86320  
 928-637-2442

### ❖ Happy New Year, Ash Fork Community!

Our library is bringing in the New Year with fun and interesting programs for our patrons! We are completing our annual book sale this January and we encourage all to check out the selection of books and dvds.

### ❖ Weekly Yoga Class Mondays and Tuesdays 10:00

Our Yoga Class continues to meet weekly on Mondays and Tuesdays at 10:00 am. A relaxing and uplifting way to start the week!

*Interested in trying a session? Bring a mat or towel and come as you are!*

### ❖ Little Architects Program Second and Fourth Friday 10:00 -12:00

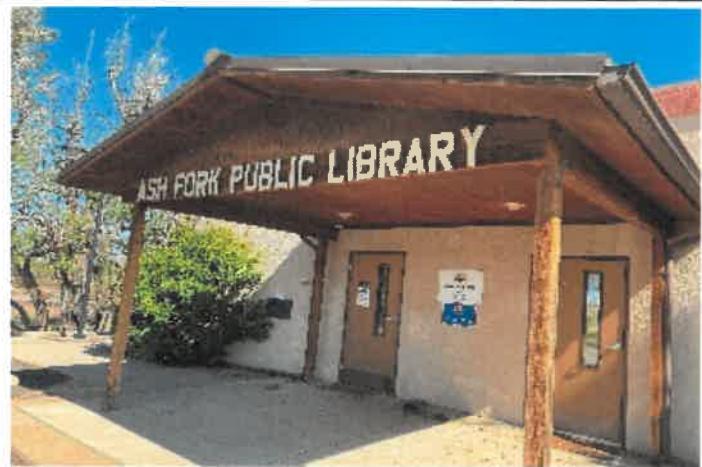
Young builders can explore their creativity and problem-solving skills through hands-on LEGO projects. This fun and engaging group that encourages imagination, teamwork, and early engineering skills.

*Each session offers new building challenges and plenty of time for free play, making it the perfect space for curious minds to design, build, and dream big!*

### ❖ Kids Club Friday 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Bring the kids for educational fun! New and interesting topics and projects are presented each week. Supplies provided.

*Always a fun and learning time for all!*



### ❖ New this year is our Wrap and Shine First and Third Friday 10:00 – 12:00

Beginner Wire-Wrap Jewelry Class

This hands-on workshop meets on the first and third Fridays. Led by Pat Nixon, a master craftsman with over 25 years of experience teaching handcrafted wire jewelry techniques.

*Learn the basics of working with wire, beads, and simple tools to design your own unique piece of jewelry!*

### ❖ Sewing Classes – First Friday and Third Friday of Every Month

This year's Sewing Class was a success! Our tables were full of fabric, laughter, and creativity as participants worked on both beginner and intermediate projects. From hand stitching to machine techniques, everyone walked away with new skills—and in some cases, finished pieces!

*If you missed it, don't worry! Our next class meets on the first Friday of next month. Supplies are provided, but feel free to bring your own projects!*

### ❖ Rambling Readers Book Club

Our Rambling Readers Book Club will be returning in January to continue their reading adventures. We'll choose from a variety of interesting titles to enjoy and discuss.

Join us for engaging discussions, friendly conversation, and the joy of sharing great books with fellow readers.

*Whether you've finished the book or are just getting started, everyone is welcome!*

## *Superintendent's Corner*

Seth Staples, Superintendent  
Ash Fork Schools

### Happy New Year!

We hope everyone had a restful, safe, and enjoyable Winter Break. As we open our doors for the 2026 Year, we are excited to see our students, families, and staff return—refreshed, motivated, and ready to get back to learning.

We are proud to share the completion of our new bus barn—a long-anticipated project that represents a significant investment in our district's future. In addition to safely housing our school buses, the new facility will play an important role in expanding our automotive class. New auto lifts are being delivered, and additional equipment will be added throughout the year to support hands-on learning. This expanded space will help students build a strong foundation for careers in the automotive field or simply gain valuable skills in maintaining and repairing their own vehicles.

The Ash Fork School District Governing Board has placed a strong emphasis on preparing students for a rapidly changing technological world, including the responsible use of artificial intelligence (AI). This year, students will learn not only how AI tools can be used to support learning and problem-solving, but also the potential risks, limitations, and ethical considerations involved. Classroom practices are evolving to allow appropriate use of AI as a learning aid, while maintaining clear expectations and safeguards to ensure students continue to produce original work, think critically, and develop essential skills.

We are excited to celebrate outstanding academic achievements across our district. Ash Fork School District has earned an **A rating from the State**, with both **Ash Fork High School and Ash Fork Elementary School receiving an A designation**. We are equally proud of **Ash Fork Middle School**, which earned a **B rating and continues to show strong growth and**



**progress.** These ratings reflect the dedication of our students, staff, and families, and our shared commitment to continuous improvement.

We also value the strong partnership we share with our families and community. Your involvement and support play a vital role in student success, and we encourage you to stay engaged through school events, communication updates, and ongoing collaboration throughout the year.

As we begin this journey together, let's make this school year one filled with curiosity, kindness, and achievement. We look forward to celebrating milestones, learning from challenges, and building another great year for the Ash Fork School District.

Here's to a successful and inspiring 2026 year ahead!



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## Small town, big hearts!

In November, local donors contributed a record 615 gift-filled shoeboxes to Operation Christmas Child, sending joy to needy children around the world—many of whom have never received a gift of any kind before.

Ash Fork has been serving as an official drop-off location for this project since 2015, and enthusiasm among our community members continues to grow with each passing year.

The simple items packed in these boxes—things like toothbrushes, school supplies, and small toys—seem like small gifts to us, but they have an enormous impact on the lives of the children who receive them, as well as their families and communities.

Whether you packed shoeboxes, donated gift items or shipping costs, volunteered during Collection Week, or helped spread the word about this project, many thanks to everyone who participated in Operation Christmas Child this year. Your generosity played a part in helping to bring joy into the lives of hundreds of children.

What a wonderful example of the things that can be accomplished by a community with generous, caring hearts!



**ASH FORK DEVELOPMENT  
ASSOCIATION, INC.**

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Editor: David Cox

THE ASH FORK DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION WAS INCORPORATED THE 4TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 1966. THE GENERAL NATURE OF BUSINESS IS THE TRANSPORTATION, DELIVERY AND SALE OF WATER. IN ADDITION, THE ASSOCIATION WILL RENDER CONSTRUCTIVE CIVIC SERVICES 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.

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We're On The Web:

[www.AshForkWaterService.com](http://www.AshForkWaterService.com)

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**ASH FORK DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**GENERAL MEETING DATES:**

**January 21 at 7:00 PM**

**February 18 at 7:00 PM**

**After the 5:00 Sanitary District Meeting**

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

**Ash Fork Tourist Center and Museum**  
**Open Monday-Saturday**  
**10am-4pm**  
**Operated by Volunteers**  
**Ash Fork Historical Society**

**Community Church Schedules:**

<b>Ash Fork Baptist Church</b>	<b>Lewis Ave. &amp; 1st St.</b>	<b>Sunday Services 11:15 AM</b>
<b>Pathway Chapel</b>	<b>Double A Ranch Rd.</b>	<b>Sunday Services 10:30 AM and 6:30 PM</b>
<b>St. Anne Catholic Church</b>	<b>7th St.</b>	<b>Wed. &amp; Sat.: Rosary 3:30 PM Mass 4:00 PM</b>
<b>Gospel of Faith Church</b>	<b>Bullock Rd, @Cattle Guard</b>	<b>Sunday Services 11:00 AM</b>
<b>Emmanuel Trinity Church</b>	<b>47423 N. 4th St.</b>	<b>Sunday (Bi-lingual) 10 AM Wed. Bible Study 6PM</b>
		<b>Information call Pastor Robert (928)853-1122</b>