



FREE—TAKE ONE

Volume 27 Issue 4
Mar/Apr 2025

AFDA NEWSLETTER

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Water News

By Lewis Hume
Water Manager

Service Line Material Identification

Ash Fork Water Service has been working to identify all the Service Line Material types in use in the water system. The Service Line is identified as the water piping from the water main to the meter.

This effort is to comply with the revisions to the Safe Drinking Water Act (1991) to further protect children and communities from lead exposure in our nation's drinking water systems.

An extensive effort has been made to identify all material types in use within the system. Meter change out reports, visual inspection of the lines and historical documents were used in the identification.

After our inventory process was complete, we still had 2 service lines that had not been identified. These 2 connections were mailed notices stating their service line material type was undetermined at this time.

Service lines were classified as Lead, Galvanized lines downstream of a lead service line, Non-Lead, or Unknown.

AT THIS TIME ASH FORK WATER SERVICE HAS NOT IDENTIFIED ANY LEAD SERVICE LINES IN USE WITHIN OUR SYSTEM.

Within the new pump house plans are currently being crafted to get an Arsenic treatment plant installed. ADEQ agreed to fund the project. We are getting a similar plant to the one located at Ash Fork #2. I look for that plant to be in service in 2025.

The contract has been signed and a good time to start is all that's holding back the work to connect our new well (Ash Fork #3) to the system. Approximately 950' of electrical line and water piping are needed to be installed. Grading and fencing at the well head. Modifying the existing pump house electrical and adding new well controls are all part of the project. I am looking for the project to start early in Spring and be complete sometime in 2025.

If you remember back in 2022, Ash Fork Water Service applied for financing approval from the Arizona Corporation Commission. Ash Fork Water Service intended to apply to WIFA (Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of AZ) for funding. This process is concluding.

Some preliminary numbers show Ash Fork Water Service has been authorized for funding in the amount of \$1,057,000. With that funding we intend to:

- Paint exterior of both storage tanks
- Purchase mobile generator (run well pumps in emergency)
- Water Main replacement projects
- Standpipe Facility (new or upgrade)
- Contingency

With the WIFA funding program, I anticipate a large percentage of the funds falling into the "Forgivable Principal" Category. A very favorable funding scenario!

**TA opening
is now scheduled for
March 11**


Ash Fork Sanitary District News


Be a Part of the Ash Fork Wastewater Solution

Join Us for an Important Community Meeting—Your Voice Matters!

The Ash Fork Sanitary District and partners from the EPA's Closing America's Wastewater Access Gap initiative invite you to a **community meeting** to discuss the future of wastewater management in our area. This is a valuable opportunity to **learn, ask questions, and help shape solutions** for addressing cesspools and improving our community's water quality. Childcare services will be available in the same building during the meeting time.

 **Date:** March 7, 2025

 **Location:** 450 W Lewis Ave, Ash Fork, AZ 86320

 **Time:** 5:30 – 7:30 PM | Open House from 5:00 – 5:30 PM

Why Attend?

- Gather a full perspective on the **current wastewater challenges** and how they impact our health, environment, and local economy.
- Explore **real solutions and several pathways** for transitioning away from cesspools, including **funding opportunities**.

Participate in community-centered discussion, **ask the questions**, and **share your thoughts** on the future of wastewater management in our district.

Your Input is Essential!

We want to hear from you. Whether you own property, rent, or simply care about the future of our community, **your participation is key to making informed, effective decisions**.

Let's work together to ensure clean water, a healthier environment, and a better future for all.


For more information, contact Ash Fork Sanitary District Chairman Kurtis Keele @ 801-864-1095.


We look forward to seeing you!


Sea parte de la solución de aguas residuales de Ash Fork

Únase a nosotros para una importante reunión de la comunidad: ¡su voz importa!

El Distrito Sanitario de Ash Fork y los socios de la iniciativa de la Agencia de Protección Ambiental, (EPA, siglos en inglés) Reducción de la Brecha en el Acceso a Sistemas de Aguas Residuales en Estados Unidos lo invitan a una reunión comunitaria para discutir el futuro de la gestión de aguas residuales en nuestra área. Esta es una valiosa oportunidad para aprender, hacer preguntas y ayudar a dar forma a soluciones para abordar los pozos negros y mejorar la calidad del agua de nuestra comunidad. Los servicios de cuidado de niños estarán disponibles en el mismo edificio durante el tiempo de la reunión.

 Fecha: 7 de marzo de 2025

 Ubicación: 450 W Lewis Ave, Ash Fork, AZ 86320

 Hora: 5:30 – 7:30 PM | Jornada de puertas abiertas: 5:00 – 5:30 PM

¿Por qué asistir?

Reúna una perspectiva completa sobre los **desafíos actuales de las aguas residuales** y cómo afectan nuestra salud, el medio ambiente y la economía local.

Explorar **soluciones reales y varias vías para la transición** lejos de los pozos negros, incluidas las **oportunidades de financiación**.

Participe en discusiones centradas en la comunidad, **haga preguntas y comparta sus pensamientos** sobre el futuro de la gestión de aguas residuales en nuestro distrito.

¡Tu aporte es esencial!

Queremos saber de ti. Ya sea que posea una propiedad, alquile o simplemente se preocupe por el futuro de nuestra comunidad, su participación es clave para tomar decisiones informadas y efectivas.

Trabajemos juntos para garantizar agua limpia, un medio ambiente más saludable y un futuro mejor para todos.

Para obtener más información, comuníquese con Ash Fork Sanitary District Chairman Kurtis Keele @ 801-864-1095.

¡Te esperamos!

ASH FORK COMMUNITY EARTH DAY

By Marie Czarniecki

As we live in a rural community, and many outside of town, we have different approaches and concerns to daily living than most Americans. We haul water, maintain septic tanks, install solar panels, harvest gardens, and trim trees. These are the most prevalent of our challenges of countryside living. We all have had a learning curve on successfully adapting to off-grid rural living, yet there are always questions and more to learn.

Earth Day has caught on nationwide as a day to show how we can move closer to daily green living with plantings, products, and learning more of the life cycles of Earth.

Introducing: The Ash Fork Community Earth Day, which is tailored to meet the needs of those who specifically live here. A one-day event on Saturday, April 26, 2025, will take place near the Ash Fork Museum/parking lot (next to the new Post Office) from 10:30 to 2:30pm.

Speakers are being scheduled at half-hour intervals to include these topics: tree biology, preservation, and care; composting tips and growing plants with improved natural soil; responsible septic use and maintenance; alternatives to plastics and recycling; solar usage as a household power source. There will also be a presentation on the pending waste water treatment plant that is proposed for the Ash Fork community.

The best part of these presentations is that each topic will have time scheduled for questions and answers and a public forum. The public forum allows anyone who has had successful experiences to share their information with attendees after each presentation. Any and all information is welcome as there may be another person having a problem that your advice solves.

Also, a posting is coming soon on AFDA and Ash Fork Community Facebook pages for local vendors to apply to set up a table with their wares. These spaces are for local vendors who have “green” products, such as their own produce, eggs, meat, or prepared foods from their own fruit trees and gardens. Other “green” products for vendors to sell include products that are biodegradable and nonpolluting to the environment. This is also an opportunity for those who sell their products year round to promote their business. The first 20 applicants that have wares to sell in this category will be accepted with payment.

SO COME ONE, COME ALL! It is an opportunity to share what you’ve learned and have some of the questions you’ve had answered or try new approaches to solving problems. Save the date, bring your own water and notebook for information you may want to jot down. Come to experience a few hours that will enhance our daily living that preserves our land and water.



Thank you, Ash Fork, for your continued support of Operation Christmas Child!

This was our tenth year of serving as an official drop-

off location for this project, and throughout the years, enthusiasm has continued to grow. In November, local donors contributed a record **586** shoeboxes to Operation Christmas Child, sending joy to children around the world. This year our boxes went to Mongolia and the Philippines.

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

Whether you packed a shoebox of your own, donated gift items, 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.

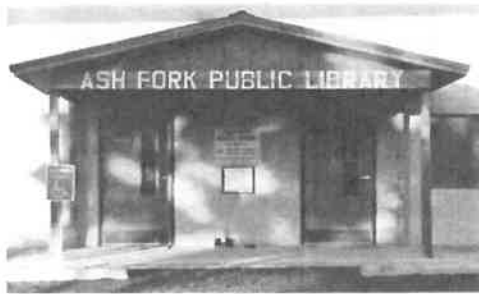
AFDA News

We have had a busy time in Ash Fork lately. Our new Post Office is open and operating well as we all get used to driving to the west end of town for our mail. The TA travel center is hiring staff in anticipation of opening in the next couple of weeks. The roadwork at the west end has been completed and is so smooth!

Our clinic is scheduled for remodeling to start this coming week. Once that is finished, they will need an inspection from the State Health Department to allow the clinic to open for appointments. The expected time is now around mid-April for that.

We missed getting out a newsletter in January due to illness. But we had a great Christmas Light Parade and Santa's workshop photo opportunity. Thanks, Sue Atkinson and family!





ASH FORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Andrew Tucker

Ash Fork Library Coordinator
Yavapai County Free Library District
450 W. Lewis Ave.
Ash Fork, AZ 86320
Direct: 480-232-6192
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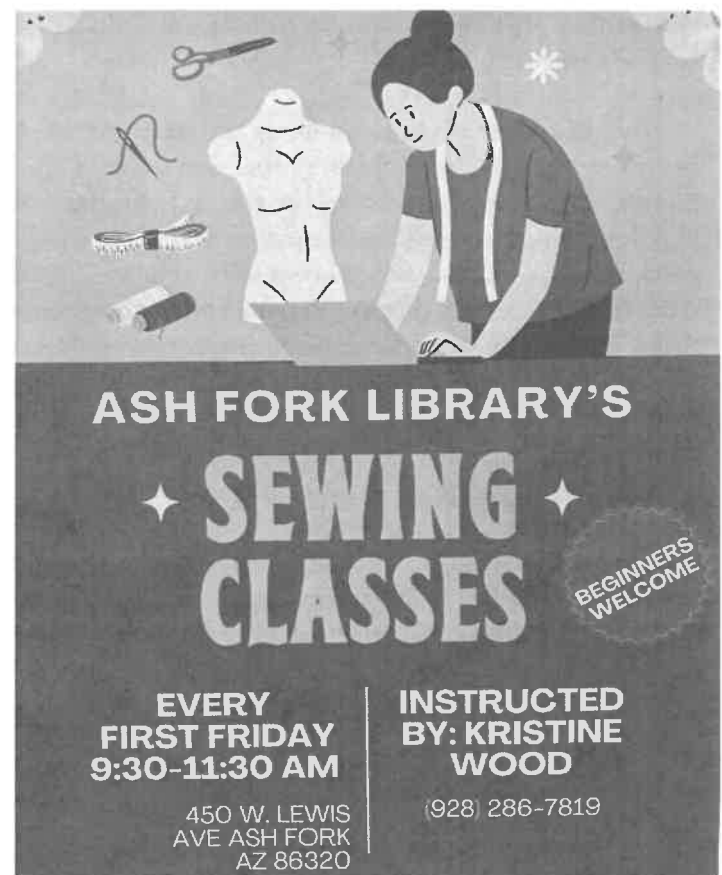
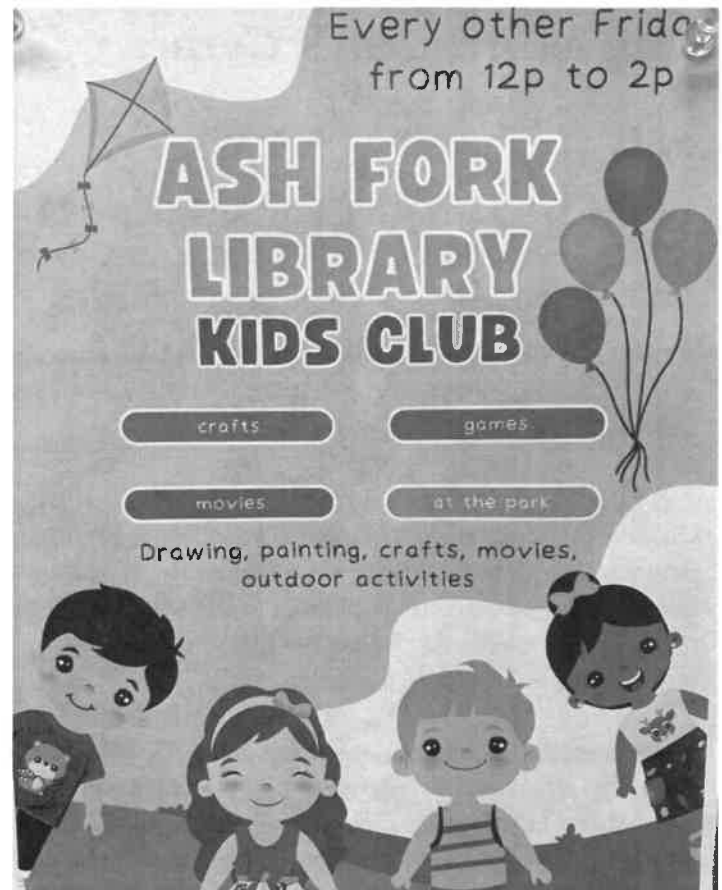
Exciting things are happening at the Ash Fork Library, and we can't wait for you to join us! Our Sewing Class is held on the 1st and 3rd Friday of every month from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM, offering a great opportunity to learn or improve your sewing skills. For the younger crowd, we have Kids Club and Kids Art on alternating Fridays from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM, giving kids a chance to get creative and have fun.

If you're looking for something relaxing and revitalizing, our Tai Chi classes take place every Tuesday at 11:00 AM and will continue until April 1st. These classes offer a peaceful way to improve flexibility and mindfulness. For those interested in brushing up on their computer skills, we have Digital Literacy Classes scheduled once a month on March 19th, April 23rd, and May 21st, all starting at 8:30 AM. These sessions are perfect for anyone wanting to enhance their digital know-how.

We're also offering a special presentation on Artificial Intelligence and platforms like ChatGPT, which will be held on March 19th at 10:30 AM. It's a fascinating topic and we'd love for you to be part of the conversation!

Don't forget to stop by the library and check out our new selection of books and DVDs—we have plenty of exciting titles available. Plus, we're working on bringing Virtual Reality Meta Glasses to the library for in-library use soon, so stay tuned for that exciting addition!

We look forward to seeing you at the library!



Superintendent's Corner

Seth Staples, Superintendent

Ash Fork Schools

Spring break is right around the corner, baseball and softball has already started, and the sun is coming up earlier every morning. These are all signs that the school year will soon be coming to an end.

Spring Testing will begin April and testing schedules will be sent home soon. All public schools are required to participate and we use the information to improve our instruction. We encourage parents to help their students do their best on the test by allowing for adequate sleep, a nutritious breakfast, and a good pep talk.

The new school year calendar has been approved for the 2025/2026 school year. You can find the calendar on our website (afjUSD.org). School will start for students on July 30 and end May 14. We hope getting the calendar out early will allow families to plan events that reduce absences at school. Just a reminder that school will end this current school year on May 1.

A big thanks to all of the students and parents that completed the high school survey that was sent out last month. The purpose of the survey was to help shape our high school into an institute of education that truly prepares students for life. Some key points were well emphasized from the survey results. Parents and students believe that a strong focus on college readiness, career exploration, and personal finance is what a high school should focus on most. The survey also wanted our lesson to be based on helping students with real world projects and more hands on learning. Both teaching staff and the school board are reviewing the survey results in order to make a plan for next year that addresses the information received. I'd like to thank the Ash Fork Schools PTO for providing the prizes and raffle for the parents that completed the survey.



In the next month you will be able to see some progress on our football, soon to be, soccer field. The school board has approved a contract to replace the fifteen year old turf on the upper field. The new field will be an official soccer field with new graphics and improved surfacing. We are hoping the process will be completed fairly quickly and well before the start of soccer season. The old turf will be available to individuals to take for their own use.

The bus barn project has been gaining some traction and we hope that this new improvement will be ready by mid-summer and finally ready for use.

Thank you for supporting our students and schools.

Seth Staples
Superintendent



**ASH FORK DEVELOPMENT
ASSOCIATION, INC.**

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We're On The Web:

www.AshForkWaterService.com

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.

ASH FORK DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.

GENERAL MEETING DATES:

March 19, April 16 at 7:00 PM

After the 5:30 Sanitary District Meeting

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

Ash Fork Tourist Center and Museum

Open Monday, Friday and Saturday

10am-4pm

Operated by Volunteers

Ash Fork Historical Society

Community Church Schedules:

Ash Fork Baptist Church	Lewis Ave. & 1st St.
Pathway Chapel	Double A Ranch Rd.
St. Anne Catholic Church	7th St.
Gospel of Faith Church	Bullock Rd, @Cattle Guard
Emmanuel Trinity Church	47423 N. 4th St.

Sunday Services 11:15 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

