

DATE: April 26, 2024
TO: Mayor and City Council Members
FROM: Tom Whitmer, Acting City Manager
SUBJECT: Acting City Manager's Report – Week Ending – 04/26/2024



The Wall Street Journal – The City is proud to announce that our community was mentioned in the Wall Street Journal article “Hippies, Hikers and Luxury Travelers All Agree, Sedona Is the Place to Be”. Due to our coordination efforts and with the assistance of Maynard James Keenan, owner of Merkin Vineyards Hilltop Winery & Trattoria, we are anticipating a welcome increase in attention to Cottonwood and its environs. https://www.wsj.com/lifestyle/travel/hippies-hikers-and-luxury-travelers-all-agree-sedona-is-the-place-to-be-5ae22241?mod=Searchresults_pos1&page=1 Please see attached article.

Public Works Roadway Striping – The City of Cottonwood Public Works Department is providing the following updates on our upcoming work schedule and associated traffic impacts. The City’s striping contractor will begin striping all roads within the City limits starting the evening of Sunday, April 28, 2024. Work is expected to be completed by May 17, 2024. The contractor will be working at night from 9:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. Any traffic impacts will be short duration and minimal. Please see attached flyer.

Community Development – The Cottonwood City Council will hold a public hearing on the General Plan update on Tuesday, May 7, 2024, at 6:00 pm at the City Council Chambers - Riverfront, 1083 E. Riverfront Road. If adopted by the City Council, the plan will be placed on the November 5, 2024 ballot for ratification by Cottonwood voters. As a reminder, the draft General Plan is available on the City’s website at <https://cottonwoodaz.gov/157/Community-Development>, and a paper copy is available for review at City Hall, 827 N. Main Street, the Cottonwood Public Library, 100 S. 6th Street, and the Community Development office, 111 N. Main Street. Comments on the plan can be sent to planning@cottonwoodaz.gov by noon on Monday, May 6, 2024. Please let me know if you have questions about the General Plan update.

Cottonwood Community Awareness Group – The City will be hosting a meeting on Wednesday May 8th at 5:30 PM at the City Council Chambers - Riverfront, 1083 E. Riverfront Road. The public is invited to attend. These meetings give members of our local community the opportunity to connect with their elected city council members, meet city staff, and learn about the government process. Please see attached flyer.

Library – Notary Services at Cottonwood Public Library – We are delighted to inform the community that the Cottonwood Public Library is once again offering notary services, available by appointment only, from Tuesday to Saturday. Best of all, there is no charge for this valuable service. We sincerely appreciate any donations to support the library through the Bookmarks - Friends of the Cottonwood Library group. To make an appointment or for more details, call the library at 928-634-7559. Please see attached flyer.

AAED Summit: Exploring Arizona – Join us on May 14 at the Cottonwood Community Club House for the AAED Summit: Exploring Arizona, which focuses on the power of tourism in economic development. The first session shares helpful tips on tracking tourism's ROI in Arizona with our distinguished panelists, including our own Tricia Lewis, Tourism and Economic Development Director. Please visit <https://members.aed.com/events/Details/aaed-summit-exploring-arizona-1048562> for more information and to register. Please see attached flyer

Home Repair Program – The City of Cottonwood, in partnership with Verde Valley Habitat for Humanity and Northern Arizona Council of Governments (NACOG), is currently accepting applications for its Owner-Occupied

Home Repair Program to address code, health, and safety repairs needed in the home. For an application and information about the program, contact NACOG at 928-444-8894 or homerepairs@nacog.org. Please see attached flyer.

Cottonwood's Vintage Run – The 2024 Cottonwood's Vintage Run was held on Saturday, April 20th and we are pleased to have had over 500 participants registered! This event includes timed ½ marathon, 10K, and 2-mile courses, as well as the untimed Half Corked 5K Fun Run. Participants enjoyed scenic views of Cottonwood and the Verde Valley and many more folks shared their love of our community by cheering on our runners! Race results can be found at <https://runcottonwood.com/>. Please see attached photos.

City Beautification Recognition Program – The City of Cottonwood Community Development Department is now accepting nominations for the 2024 Beautification Recognition Award Program. Local businesses that have been in operation for one year or more and exhibit landscaping that enhances the local beauty of the area are eligible to be nominated. Their landscaping will be judged on overall appearance, curb appeal, and use of native plants. Businesses can be self-nominated, or nominated by anyone in the community, by completing the online form at <https://cottonwoodaz.gov/798/Beautification-Recognition-Program-2024>. All interested persons are encouraged to nominate local businesses through our website until April 30, 2024. Please see attached flyer.

Old Town Music and the Market – The Parks & Recreation Department is pleased to announce the return of the Old Town Music and the Market! Starting May 10th, we will host the Market in Old Town Cottonwood every Friday in May, June, and September from 5 p.m. until dark. We have a great lineup of musical talent for the 2024 season and we look forward to hosting a large selection of vendors as well! Please visit oldtownmusicandthemarket.org to download a vendor application or for more information. Please see attached flyers.

TW/hr

Attachments:

Article – Wall Street Journal

Flyer – Roadway Striping

Flyer – CCAG

Flyer – Notary Services

Flyer – AAED

Flyer – Home Repair Program

Photos (4) – Vintage Run

Flyer – CBRP

Flyers (2) – OTMM

https://www.wsj.com/lifestyle/travel/hippies-hikers-and-luxury-travelers-all-agree-sedona-is-the-place-to-be-5ae22241?mod=Searchresults_pos1&page=1

Hippies, Hikers and Luxury Travelers All Agree Sedona Is the Place to Be

The city might have a reputation for out-there New Age thinking, but it also welcomes vacationers with world-class hiking and indulgent resorts.

By
David Weiss

April 18, 2024 5:46 pm ET

Resize
2

Gift unlocked article

Listen
(4 min)



ROCKS OF AGES Natural formations such as Merry-Go-Round Rock are popular with hikers visiting Sedona. PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK

YOU'D THINK the eye-popping topography of Sedona—the ancient roseate cliffs, the red-rock spires—would be its main draw. But the sparsely populated, high-desert Arizona city, located halfway between Phoenix and the Grand Canyon, has taken on a reputation as a hub for all things New Age. Believers say mystical energy “vortices” in the desert will cure what ails you.

And yes, state highway 89A running through town is lined with tchotchke shops selling crystals and votive candles, but I found it hard to notice anything but the stunning backdrop to such touristic honey pots. First-time visitors will scramble to find worthy superlatives to describe it.

Fewer than 10,000 people call Sedona home, but every year around 3 million visitors converge on this destination that can be some 20 degrees cooler than big sister Phoenix. As the hospitality industry works to keep up with that demand, new and renovated resorts are continuing to offer yogis what they've come for while highlighting the region's other attractions, most notably the 400 miles of hiking trails and wide-open wilderness to explore.

For day-hikers, checking into the 70-acre [Enchantment Resort](#) by the glorious Boynton Canyon yields both aesthetic and practical benefits. The hotel's Trail House offers guided tours and pro-level equipment rentals. “Adventure advisers” can steer you to trails matching your experience and ability. At the [Mii Amo spa](#), book post-hike treatments like “intentional” aromatherapy massages—which sound much more appealing than unintentional ones. The “Labyrinth Walk” promises to “clear the mind” of anyone willing to silently pace in circles.





Clockwise from top: The wine bar at Enchantment Resort; the restaurant Forty1 spills out onto Ambiente hotel's pool deck; a patio at the hotel Sky Rock Sedona, which offers views of the surrounding landscape. JEFF ZARUBA (FORTY1 BAR)

Unlike bucolic Enchantment, which feels like a summer camp with its tennis and pickleball courts, the adults-only [Ambiente hotel](#) caters to a more subdued clientele. The year-old hotel sits astride traffic-snarled 89A but feels like another planet. All the cube-shaped rooms have private rooftop terraces and floor-to-ceiling windows that frame the Coconino National Forest. The deservedly acclaimed in-house restaurant Forty1 abuts the pool area, as does the Drifter, an Airstream trailer turned into a fully-equipped kitchen. Hiking trails beckon just steps from the entrance, along with free bicycle repair stations.

Next door to Ambiente, and at less than half the daily tariff, sits a former Best Western transformed as of this spring into [Sky Rock Sedona](#), which is trying its level best to woo the mantra-muttering contingent. The hotel offers a daily moonrise ceremony and the earnest services of Maia Kincaid, a local pet psychic supposedly able to commune telepathically with the quadruped of your choice.







Clockwise from top: Swinging for the hills at Sedona Golf Resort; Merkin Vineyards Hilltop Winery and Trattoria is one of a number of new vineyards transforming the area around Sedona into a wine destination; elk chops from Cowboy Club Grille and Spirits. GREG BERNSTEIN (MERKIN VINEYARDS)

Meanwhile, [Sedona Golf Resort](#)—and the recently facelifted [Hilton](#) next door—attracts those who prefer golf sticks to incense ones. Be warned: It can be tough keeping your eye on the ball given the views of encircling rock formations. Just around the bend, [Tlaquepaque Arts & Shopping Village](#) packs in more than 50 galleries and boutiques, including a nicely curated vinyl shop called Alt Books and Records. Afterward, tuck into upscale Mexican fare at nearby [Elote Cafe](#), where smoked pork cheeks are served in a rich cascabel chile sauce, tastiest when paired with a guava-and-serrano margarita.

At least 10 wineries call the Verde River Valley, just 30 minutes from town, home, including the hulking [Merkin Vineyards Hilltop Winery & Trattoria](#), owned by Tool lead singer Maynard James Keenan. Eat handmade pasta and crisp wood-fired pizzas while looking out over the countryside from the open-air terrace.

Back in Sedona, visit the venerable [Cowboy Club Grille & Spirits](#) in a rustic saloon that reportedly once welcomed Duke Wayne and Nicholas Ray. Menu items like rattlesnake sausage offer a heady whiff of the city’s rugged spurs-and-saddles beginnings. Clearly

marked vegetarian options—including a delicious strawberry-and-spinach salad—signal its evolution, seeming to say, “Come one, come all.”



Contact: Jennifer Somit
Public Works Project Manager
928-340-2769
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cottonwoodaz.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TO ALL MEDIA
April 26, 2024

Public Works Updates

Upcoming Work and Traffic Impacts April 28 through May 17

COTTONWOOD, AZ – The City of Cottonwood Public Works Department is providing the following updates on our upcoming work schedule and associated traffic impacts.

The City's striping contractor will begin striping all roads within the City limits starting the evening of Sunday, April 28, 2024. Work is expected to be completed by May 17, 2024. The contractor will be working at night from 9:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. Any traffic impacts will be short duration and minimal.

On Wednesday, May 1, 2024 the Monte Tesoro Sidewalk Project contractor is scheduled to pave portions of southbound Monte Tesoro Dr. between Mesquite Dr. and Fir St. Southbound Monte Tesoro Dr. will be closed to traffic during paving operations. Detours will be available to route traffic around the work area using Viejo Dr. to the east, and Ochoa Dr. to the west. The City recommends using an alternate route.

Starting Wednesday, May 1, 2024 the City's pavement preservation contractor will be performing chip seal and fog seal work. Work will be performed within the neighborhoods between 4th St and Chuckawalla Dr. and Tierra Verde Dr. and Spur Dr. The City will also be chip sealing and fog sealing Monte Tesoro Dr. between Fir St. and Mesquite Dr. Northbound and southbound Monte Tesoro travel will be impacted. Detours will be available to route traffic around the work area using Viejo Dr. to the east, and Ochoa Dr. to the west. Pavement preservation work is scheduled to continue through May 15, 2024.

On Wednesday, May 1, 2024 City crews will be paving on Elm St. between 12th St. and 16th St. to complete work associated with installation of a new catch basin and culvert. City crews will also be performing asphalt patching work on Main St. between Kindra Heights Dr. and On The Greens Blvd. Drivers can expect one way lanes controlled by flaggers at both locations.

The Public Works Department would like to remind everyone to exercise caution when traveling through work zones. Please obey all temporary traffic control devices and flaggers. We appreciate your patience as we complete work on our public improvement projects.

THE CITY OF



COTTONWOOD

COTTONWOOD COMMUNITY AWARENESS GROUP

The public is invited to attend meetings of the Cottonwood Community Awareness Group. These meetings will help connect you, our citizens, to the government process.

Topic for May 8 Meeting:

A Look at Policing in Cottonwood

Learn about crime statistics & the role of the Cottonwood Police Department in our community!

Presentation by Chris Dowell, *Interim Chief of Police*

Event Details

Location: City Council Chambers-Riverfront
(1083 E. River Front Road)

Date: May 8, 2024

Time: 5:30 PM



Scan to join the
virtual meeting

To view the meeting virtually, please visit
<https://zoom.us/j/95851440311>



Contact: City of Cottonwood
928-634-5526
cottonwoodaz.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TO ALL MEDIA
April 26, 2024

Next Meeting of the Cottonwood Community Awareness Group Scheduled for May 8

COTTONWOOD, AZ – The City of Cottonwood invites the public to attend the next meeting of the Cottonwood Community Awareness Group (CCAG) on Wednesday, May 8 at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers-Riverfront (1083 E. River Front Road). These meetings give members of our local community the opportunity to connect with their elected city council members, meet city staff, and learn about the government process.

The topic for this meeting will be A Look at Policing in Cottonwood and Chris Dowell, Interim Chief of Police, will be sharing a presentation.

To view the meeting online via ZOOM, please go to <https://zoom.us/j/95851440311>.

No registration is required to attend the CCAG meetings. Light refreshments will be provided.

###

NOTARY

Services Available

- **Free**
- **By appointment only**



CONTACT US

**FOR MORE INFORMATION COME TO
THE FRONT DESK OR CALL US AT**

928-634-7559



AAED SUMMIT

Exploring Arizona

May 14, 2024
8:00 - 11:30 AM



Cottonwood Community Clubhouse
Cottonwood, Arizona

CITY OF COTTONWOOD HOME REPAIR PROGRAM

ROOFS & GUTTERS

*HEATING & AIR
CONDITIONING*

*RESIDENTIAL
ACCESSIBILITY*



PLUMBING

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

*FOUNDATION/
STEM WALL REPAIRS
ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS*

IF YOUR HOME NEEDS ESSENTIAL REPAIRS, BUT YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO MAKE THEM, WE MAY BE ABLE TO HELP.

The City of Cottonwood, in partnership with Verde Valley Habitat for Humanity and NACOG, is currently accepting applications for its Owner-Occupied Home Repair Program to address code, health & safety repairs needed in the home.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS MUST BE:

- ✓ Residents of the City of Cottonwood (in city limits) and legal residents of the United States.
- ✓ Homeowners who have occupied the residence full-time, year round for at least 12 months.
- ✓ Current on their homeowner's insurance, mortgages, and property taxes.
- ✓ Below 80% of the area median income according to household size.
- ✓ Homeowners with fee simple title to the property.

* Preference will be given to households applying for funding that meet one of the following criteria: 1) very low household income; 2) seniors (age 62 or older); 3) disabled (a legally recognized physical, mental, or emotional condition that limits the performance of daily living skills); 4) single head of household with minor child(ren) age 17 & under; 5) have resided in community for more than 10 years.



FOR AN APPLICATION AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROGRAM, CONTACT:

Northern Arizona Council of Governments (NACOG) at [928-444-8894](tel:928-444-8894); homerepairs@nacog.org

This program is funded through the



Community Development Block Grant Program









VVC
VERDE VALLEY
wine consortium

THE SUBBUSTERS

2024
HAWKOKED
SKIN ROLL



City of Cottonwood

"Inspiring a Vibrant Community"

Beautification Recognition Program

We'd love to recognize commercial property owners in the Cottonwood city limits for their beautiful & well-maintained properties!

**Have you recently made landscape improvements to your commercial property?
Have you seen beautiful commercial properties around Cottonwood? If yes, nominate your favorite local business!**

NOMINATIONS ACCEPTED APRIL 1-30, 2024

Nominees will be judged on overall appearance, curb appeal, and use of native plants!

Nomination form and official rules can be found online at cottonwoodaz.gov/798/Beautification-Recognition-Program

Contact

Clover Pinion

928-634-5505

928-340-3314

cpinion@cottonwoodaz.gov

111 N. Main Street

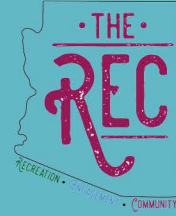
Cottonwood, AZ 86326



Scan Me



**OLD TOWN
MUSIC
and the
MARKET**



State Farm
Jennifer Griffin
State Farm Agent
547 S. Main Street
928-634-7680

VENDORS WANTED!

**SHOWCASE YOUR LOCALLY GROWN AND HANDMADE PRODUCTS
AT OUR MARKETS IN HISTORIC OLD TOWN COTTONWOOD**

**MARKETS ARE HELD AT THE OLD TOWN ACTIVITY PARK
ON FRIDAYS IN MAY, JUNE, AND SEPTEMBER
FROM 5 PM TIL DARK**



**DOWNLOAD AN APPLICATION AT
OLDTOWNMUSICANDTHEMARKET.ORG**

**HAVE QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT TRAVIS WILSON
TWILSON@COTTONWOODAZ.GOV
928-639-3200 EXT. 3210**



OLD TOWN MUSIC MARKET

FRIDAYS IN MAY, JUNE, AND SEPT.

5 PM TIL DARK

OLD TOWN ACTIVITY PARK

187 E PIMA ST, COTTONWOOD, AZ



Jennifer Griffin
State Farm Agent
547 S. Main Street
928-634-7680

2024 MUSICAL LINEUP

MAY 10 SWEET BABY RAY & S.E. WILLIS

MAY 17 WELL DRESSED WOLVES

MAY 24 TOUCAN EDDY

MAY 31 HIM & ME

JUNE 7 SUGAR MOON

**JUNE 14 SHAWN MICHAEL PERRY
FEAT. ONLY THE BRAVE**

JUNE 21 ROOM ZERO

JUNE 28 MENAGERIE

SEPT. 6 SISTER & THE SUN

SEPT. 13 LOCAL HONEY

SEPT. 27 THUNDER & LIGHTNIN'



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