



TOWN OF KEARNY

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Office of the Town Manager

October Community Update

To Whom It May Concern,

“It’s not about the destination, it’s the journey.” – Ralph Waldo Emerson

The first days of Fall have been bittersweet for the Copper Triangle. Although we have been receiving much needed rain and cooler temperatures, it has come in the form of intense monsoonal storms. Lucky as we are, our stormwater infrastructure has held up well. It was designed to move all water from our surface streets into the surrounding washes. Even during high rainfall events, these washes are quick to drain our roadways directly into the Gila River. We are fortunate that the original design for our Town considered these natural waterways and incorporated them into the long-term sustainability of our homes.

Unfortunately, some of our older, neighboring communities do not have that same luxury. During the last weekend of September, the Town of Miami and the City of Globe both endured some of the worst flooding events in their histories. The rainfall that powered these floods originated from the same systems that passed through Kearny as they moved north and intensified.

Unlike the flooding we are used to seeing from the controlled Gila River, the flash floods that hit our neighbors came with almost no warning. Historic districts, commercial centers, and other low-lying areas were completely submerged as record precipitation fell faster than the infrastructure and natural waterways could drain it. In the end, many, many lives have been affected. Some were lost. Cleanup is ongoing at the time of writing, but a general sense of optimism in rebuilding has been felt after the initial shock of the event.

With the circumstances in Globe and Miami, many of the contractors utilized by our Town have their hands full. The largest impact will be to immediate cleanup of our surface streets. The heavy rainfall has pushed dirt and rock into lower-lying streets, especially along Tilbury and Upton Roads, as they serve as drain mains during larger storms. We realize this is an inconvenience and are using the equipment we have on-hand to remove the larger pieces of debris. The finer dirt and sand material will be removed once our contractors have had ample opportunity to ensure the safety and livability of their own communities.

On the positive side, more rain means more water stored behind Coolidge Dam. This directly affects the amount of water that will be available for us to use next calendar year. Even with recent events, the drought persists. A pattern of sustained precipitation will be needed in the coming months to ensure a healthy water supply when appropriations are designated on January 1st, 2026.

To supplement our water resources, two wells northeast of Town will be rehabilitated in 2026. We are on track to have these wells pumping by mid-summer, right at the time we will be experiencing peak water demand. The catch is that the water from these wells will be more costly to produce, and it is much more limited in supply than the Gila River Basin, so it will need to be preserved as much as possible outside of drought contingencies.

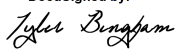
On a much more light-hearted note, the Kearny Library has reopened in a limited capacity. Library Staff, with the help of Public Works, have done an amazing job of creating a space for the whole community to enjoy. Although it is a limited reopening, the original scope remains. Feel free to inquire about any reading material you may be seeking, utilize the computers for public internet access, and take advantage of the air-conditioned space on hot days. Our Library Staff is small but growing. Grab an application on your next visit!

Lastly, as we enter cooler weather, we jump right into the event and holiday season. This month, we have three events for the community to enjoy. To kick it off, the Kearny Volunteer Fire Department will hold their annual Open House on Tuesday, October 7th at 6:00pm. The Fire Crew will be giving tours of the firehouse and demonstrating the use of their equipment. Our newest annual tradition, the Kearny Golf Course Pumpkin Patch, is scheduled for October 18th at 9:00am. To end the month, everyone's favorite Great Punkin' Costume Contest & Trunk or Treat returns to Alden Road on October 25th at 3pm. If interested in volunteering or participating in any events, please contact Town Hall.

Next month, we will have updates regarding the status of Kearny Lake and the long-term plans that are beginning to take shape. The original floating islands concept is still in the works, but we are thinking even further ahead to transform the space into a destination location. A few community partners are involved, but I will leave it at that until we have official details to share.

Thank you for continuing to support our Town while we work to improve our community. We have a long road ahead of us and there are many obstacles in the way, but we are building a foundation that will support the long-term growth and vibrancy we all crave.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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Tyler Bingham
Kearny Town Manager