



TOWN OF KEARNY

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Office of the Town Manager

September Community Update

To Whom It May Concern,

The end of the Summer is nigh, but you wouldn't be able to tell by looking outside. August has been filled with wishes for rain that have mostly gone unanswered. While this is normally not a cause for concern, it does pique the interest of anyone watching the amount of water held behind Coolidge Dam. At the beginning of every year, the Town is appropriated a certain amount of water flowing in the Gila River based upon this water level.

As is the case every year, we are largely dependent upon precipitation in the previous year. This year, we have successfully remained far below our appropriation. Looking forward to 2026, this might be a bit more of a challenge. We will not know for sure until January 1st when the water level at Coolidge Dam will be officially measured. For this reason, we are hoping for a wet winter both here in southern Arizona and in all the mountains north and east of us. More rain and snow will alleviate any concerns of a reduced water appropriation. We will keep the community updated as this story unfolds.

As for water quality, we have begun the rehabilitation of one of two wells in the Gila River Basin. The life of the well is currently being assessed, with the possibility of starting over with a new well as an option. Once complete, the other well will receive the same assessment. The goal is to remove air infiltration from water distribution lines and to reduce the amount of minerals (manganese and iron) in the water supply. Additionally, two emergency wells across Highway 177 will be restored over the course of the next year.

This is all possible due to the increase in water rates over the last four years, along with much-needed grant funding from the USDA Rural Development Division. These increases and injections of capital have allowed us to deploy long overdue projects including the complete rehabilitation of the water storage tanks, the Griffin Road Booster Station, and the above-mentioned well projects. We are also preparing the Upton Road Filtration Plant and large portions of the main water distribution lines for repairs through the Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency, respectively.

Lastly, we need to touch on a practice that many may not realize violates Kearny Town Code, turning water supply lines on and off without Town involvement. Any attempt to disconnect or reconnect water lines on the Town's side of the service meter are against the law, and for good reason. Tampering with valves can result in high pressure leaks that can cause uncontrollable water loss, along with hazardous conditions. Most homes have valves between the service meter and the house that should be utilized to relieve water pressure for plumbing work or to stop leaks.


Although it is largely inconvenient for our crews and homeowners, Public Works is beginning to add locks to addresses with repeat offenses. We have a duty to protect the water system from infiltration, water loss, and unneeded damage. I realize many do not agree with paying a small fee for the disconnection and reconnection of their water supply, but these fees help to ensure a healthy water fund. Without that, we are back to where we started five years ago. That said, we will gladly work with you if there is a need to perform multiple disconnects and reconnects. Give us a call at Town Hall before touching any Town valves and we will gladly get you going in the right direction.

At the Library, internet has been restored to the building, and a small-scale opening will be possible in the coming months once our new technology package has been installed. It has been a long road, but I promise you, we can finally see the light at the end of the tunnel. We just have to keep moving towards it.

Next month, we will have specifics regarding our plans to consolidate operations into fewer buildings. Council has directed Staff to move forward with an interior remodeling of the Kelly Haddad Administration Building to accommodate Town Hall and the Police Department while maintaining all the current tenants and services. They also pressed forward with a plan to replace the old Town Hall building at Hubbard Park with a shaded amphitheater structure for arts, shows, movies, performances, and much more.

Thank you all for your support and understanding as we move forward. Change is never easy, but it is the only constant thing in life. It's how we prepare and adapt to change that really marks the resiliency of a community. Through reductions in state shared revenue, discussions over the right property tax rate, and balancing federal and state funding with our own resources, we have seen more than our fair share of rough waters.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:


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Tyler Bingham
Kearny Town Manager