

**DATE:** January 10, 2025  
**TO:** Mayor and City Council Members  
**FROM:** Tom Whitmer, Acting City Manager  
**SUBJECT:** Acting City Manager's Bi-Weekly Management Report



## Cottonwood Police Department

### Coffee with a Cop

Join us for Coffee with a Cop! The Cottonwood Police Department is excited to host its first Coffee with a Cop event. This is an excellent opportunity to meet local officers, ask questions, share your thoughts, and enjoy delicious coffee in a casual and friendly environment.

The event will occur on Thursday, January 30, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. at Firecreek Coffee Co., 677 East Mingus Avenue in Cottonwood. It will be recurring every few months, so don't miss the chance to connect with the Cottonwood Police Department.



### Verde Valley DUI Task Force – Holiday Detail Results

Cottonwood Police Department proudly hosted the Verde Valley DUI Saturation Patrol during the holidays, with the support of our partners from the Yavapai County Sheriff's Office, Arizona Department of Public Safety, Sedona Police Department, Clarkdale Police Department, and Camp Verde Marshal's Office. This operation was funded by the Arizona Governor's Office of Highway Safety (AZGOHS); it focused on ensuring the safety of our community by addressing impaired driving during the holiday season.

We were honored to have GOHS Director J.M. "Jesse" Torrez stop by to show his support for this important enforcement effort.

Results from the Saturation Patrols:

- Traffic Stops: 94
- Citations Issued: 27
- Misdemeanor DUI Arrests: 6
- Felony DUI Arrests: 1



## Utilities

### North Main Gravity Sewer Improvement Project

Beginning Monday, January 20, 2025, Tiffany Construction CO will begin installing the new gravity sewer improvements to replace the existing gravity sewer behind Pizzeria Bocce. The sewer improvement will go through the Yuma Street Corridor, continuing through the Main Street and Cactus Street intersections and up to Kindra Heights Road. During construction, there will be temporary traffic lanes or road closures on North Main Street and Cactus Street, as well as Yuma Street and Kindra Heights Road, to complete the new sewer improvements.

Tiffany Construction will maintain and move traffic control devices as required for the new sewer improvements and open the respective road when that segment of the sewer is completed.



## Parks, Recreation, Library

### New Year's Eve Celebration

The Parks and Recreation Department hosted its annual New Year's Eve Celebration on December 31, 2024, at the Cottonwood Recreation Center. We are thrilled to report that this year's event was the largest we have ever held, featuring the highest attendance and vendor participation for a New Year's Eve celebration. We would like to extend our gratitude to all the vendors, sponsors, volunteers, and staff who made this event possible.



## Winter Break Camp

The Cottonwood Youth Center held a two-week winter camp. The kids had a lot of fun making crafts, playing games, visiting bearded dragons, and hiking with Robert Gonzalez, the City's Parks, Trails, and Community Enrichment Coordinator.



## Parents Night Off

Hey parents! Are you ready for a romantic night out? Look no further! Let us take care of your little ones while you enjoy a night on the town this Valentine's Day, Friday, February 14, 2025, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Your child will have a wonderful time playing games and making new friends. Our experienced staff will lead them in fun arts and crafts activities, and they'll enjoy pizza and a movie. Don't miss out on this opportunity to give yourself the break you deserve while your child has a blast with us. Pre-registration is required. You can sign up online at <https://secure.rec1.com/AZ/cottonwood-az/catalog> today.



## Cottonwood's Vintage Run

Registration is now open for the 2025 Cottonwood's Vintage Run to be held on Saturday, April 12, 2025. We encourage everyone who would like to participate to please register by February 28, 2025, for the lowest registration fees. Please visit <https://runcottonwood.com/> for more information and to sign up.



## Garden Plots Available

Garden plots at the Community Garden are now available for lease for the 2025 season. If you are interested in applying for a plot, please email Robert at [rgonzales@cottonwoodaz.gov](mailto:rgonzales@cottonwoodaz.gov) or call 938-639-3200. Information regarding the Community Garden may be found online at <https://cottonwoodaz.gov/800/Community-Garden>.



## 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Verde Valley Comic Expo

Mark your calendars for the 8th Annual Verde Valley Comic Expo on Saturday, March 29, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Cottonwood Recreation Center, 150 S. 6th Street in Cottonwood.

This fun-filled, family-friendly event features:

- Comics, Cosplay, and Panels
- Vendors and Food Trucks
- Free activities for kids aged 10 and under

Special guests include Chris Giarrusso, Joseph Culp, Michael Gallagher, and Steve Rude.

Admission is \$5 or \$3 with two canned food donations. Kids aged 10 and under get in for FREE.

Don't miss this exciting day of creativity, community, and comics in the Verde Valley! The event is brought to you by the Cottonwood Public Library. Thank you to our sponsors: Pinnacle Bank, Pines Inn & Suites, GameOn, Yavapai Broadcasting, The Old Town Mission, DJ Dbear, Cottonwood Bookmarks, and The Cottonwood Recreation Center.



Visit <https://secure.recl.com/AZ/cottonwood-az/catalog> to secure your table today. Limited vendor spots are available, so act fast to secure your space!

## Plant to Plate Gardening Series at the Library

The Cottonwood Public Library is welcoming the New Year with exciting new offerings and familiar favorites. Starting on Mondays, January 13, 27, February 3, 10, 24, and March 3, at 2:00 p.m., we will kick off a six-class series called "Plant to Plate," presented by the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension. This series will teach you how to plan and care for your garden, as well as how to preserve and enjoy its bounty. No registration is required. Please bring note-taking materials and a willingness to learn.

University of Arizona Cooperative Extension  
**YAVAPAI COUNTY MASTER GARDENER**

**PLANT TO PLATE GARDENING SERIES**

*The job of a gardener is simple - to understand what your plants need and to give it to them. This series will give you the tools you need to get the best possible results from your garden.*

This six-part series includes information on:

- Planning your Garden
- Starting with Healthy Soil
- Planting your Garden
- Caring for your Garden
- Weeds and Pests
- Harvesting your Bounty

**WHEN & WHERE**

Free Gardening Class Coming in 2025  
Mondays at 2-3:30 pm January 13, 27,  
February 3, 10, 24 and March 3  
Cottonwood Library in the Dede Ewald Room

No registration is required. Please bring note taking materials. Digital curriculum materials are available for participants.  
Course taught by Yavapai Master Gardeners

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For class presentations:  
extension.arizona.edu/yavapai-  
gardeners  
COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICES &  
HELP DESKS

Yavapai County - Phoenix  
4801 N. 19th St., 4th Fl.  
Phoenix, AZ 85016  
PH: 602.462.0700

Yavapai County - Camp Verde  
2550 N. Commercial Dr., Suite 1020  
Camp Verde, AZ 85922  
PH: 928.534.0950

The University of Arizona Cooperative Extension  
Department of Agricultural Sciences  
1011 S. Agri Center Dr., Tucson, AZ  
85724-0001

Cooperative Extension

## Tourism & Economic Development

### SHOP Cottonwood Newsletter

The first issue of the SHOP Cottonwood Newsletter 2025 was distributed on January 9, 2025, by the Tourism & Economic Development Department. We look forward to continuing to provide informative material for our local businesses and the community at large. To read this week's issue or to subscribe to receive future issues, please visit the [SHOP Cottonwood Newsletter](#).

### In the News

Verde Independent: [Fire Chief Ron Sauntman takes a stand for servant leadership](#)

Verde Independent: [What 2025 may bring to the Verde Valley](#)

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Thank you.

**Tom Whitmer**  
**Acting City Manager**