

# Show Low Quarterly



a quarterly publication of the City of Show Low, Arizona

January-March 2014

[www.showlowaz.gov](http://www.showlowaz.gov)

## The city's year in review and a look ahead to 2014

The City of Show Low ended 2013 with a rosier economic outlook than in recent years, with Show Low welcoming new businesses and seeing increased residential and commercial construction activity. Despite the gains, the Show Low City Council and staff continue to maintain a fiscally conservative approach to add an additional layer of protection in case of an emergency.

Maintaining a cautious stance has allowed us to continue delivering full public safety (police) and public works services, such as snow plowing, water and sewer maintenance, and road maintenance. We continue to provide community programs, even adding and expanding some, such as more sports tournaments, family activities and holiday-themed events. We also continue our efforts to ensure that Show Low is a leader in our region—in providing excellent service and resources to our citizens.

The following is a brief overview of major projects, business and construction activity, events and programs for the past year.

### Major Projects

❖ **Wastewater treatment plant upgrade.** Given new federal requirements, the city will be upgrading our existing sewer treatment plant to meet higher environmental standards. The

improvements also will allow us to handle additional capacity for future needs.

❖ **Water system upgrades.** After purchasing the privately-owned Park Valley and Fools Hollow water companies, the city began doing upgrades, which included connecting the systems to the city's system.

❖ **Aquatic center renovations.** Our family aquatic center reopened in January 2013 after an extensive renovation. The improvements began in 2012 and included a new dehumidification system; a new pool water heating system; a new pool surface treatment; a complete roof overhaul; improved, energy-efficient lighting; upgrades to the spa; and a facelift of the interior walls and ceiling.

❖ **New disc golf course.** With assistance from the TRACKS organization, volunteers helped build a new disc golf course at the Show Low Bluff trail. We then co-hosted the statewide championship tournament of the Arizona Disc Golf Association with the Town of Pinetop-Lakeside, and welcomed 72 professionals and amateurs to play on two courses in Show Low and one in Pinetop-Lakeside.

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## Join us January 20 for MLK Day of Service



Citizens are invited to join city employees and volunteers to participate in Show Low's King Day of Service on Monday, January 20. This year, a number of opportunities to serve our community are available, depending on weather conditions and the number of participants. Everyone will assemble at 9:00 a.m. in the Show Low city hall parking lot, 180 North 9th Street, for orientation and assignments. Following working at the assigned sites, everyone will reassemble at

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## Annual budget process begins in January

Like every business or household, the City of Show Low operates successfully by living within its means. A major tool is our annual budget which is built on a foundation of fiscal responsibility to our taxpayers, residents and customers.

Our fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30. The Show Low City Council and staff will begin preparing for the fiscal year 2015 (July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015) budget on January 21 with a 6:00 p.m. study session that is open to the public. At this budget meeting, which will be held in Council Chambers at 181 North 9th Street (across from city hall), the Council's goals and priorities will be reviewed, early revenue estimates will be presented and all major budget assumptions will be reviewed.

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# Calendar of Events (January – March 2014)

Family Aquatic Center: (928) 532-4130 Recreation: (928) 532-4140 Public Library: (928) 532-4070



- 01/01 **New Year's Day** (City offices CLOSED)
- 01/07 7 p.m., Council Chambers  
**City Council Regular Meeting**
- 01/10 10 a.m., Public Library  
**Show Low Library Friends meeting** (public welcome)
- 01/11 **Youth Basketball** registration ends (for grades 1 through 6); games begin 02/01
- 01/14 7 p.m., Council Chambers  
**Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting**
- 01/15 1:30 p.m., Public Library  
**Book Discussion**
- 01/20 **Martin Luther King Day** (City offices CLOSED); **MLK Day of Service** (see related article); **aquatic center holiday hours:** 9 a.m.–12 p.m., lap swim; 12–5 p.m., open swim
- 01/21 Council Chambers  
6 p.m., **City Council Budget Study Session**  
7 p.m., **City Council Regular Meeting**
- 01/23 6 p.m., Council Chambers  
**Town Hall Budget Meeting** (for citizen input)
- 01/25 **Time TBD**, Nikolaus Homestead Elem. gymnasium  
**Youth Basketball** skills clinic (for grades 1 through 6)
- 02/01 **Youth Basketball** games begin
- 02/04 7 p.m., Council Chambers  
**City Council Regular Meeting**
- 02/07 6–8 p.m., City Campus gym, 760 E. McNeil  
**Daddy Daughter Valentine's Day Dance** (532-4140 for info)
- 02/08 **Show Low Ice Bowl Disc Golf Tournament**; Show Low City Park; for more info, go to <http://www.whitemountaindiscgolf.com>
- 02/10 **Spring Swim Lessons** registration begins; lessons begin 03/10
- 02/11 7 p.m., Council Chambers  
**Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting**
- 02/14 10 a.m., Public Library  
**Show Low Library Friends** meeting (public welcome)
- 02/17 **Presidents' Day** (City offices CLOSED); **aquatic center holiday hours:** 9 a.m.–12 p.m., lap swim; 12–5 p.m., open swim
- 02/18 7 p.m., Council Chambers  
**City Council Regular Meeting**

- 02/19 1:30 p.m., Public Library  
**Book Discussion**
- 02/25 7 p.m., Council Chambers  
**Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting**
- 03/04 7 p.m., Council Chambers  
**City Council Regular Meeting**
- 03/10 **Spring Swim Lessons** begin (through 03/20)
- 03/11 7 p.m., Council Chambers  
**Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting**
- 03/14 10 a.m., Public Library  
**Show Low Library Friends meeting** (public welcome)
- 03/15 9 a.m., Nikolaus Homestead Park  
**St. Patrick's Day Family Fun Run** (532-4140 for info)
- 03/18 7 p.m., Council Chambers  
**City Council Regular Meeting**
- 03/19 1:30 p.m., Public Library  
**Book Discussion**
- 03/24 to 28 1–5 p.m., Aquatic Center  
**Spring Breaker** (open swim all week)
- 03/25 7 p.m., Council Chambers  
**Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting**

## 2014 excess trash dates

The city contracts with Waste Management to provide free excess trash pick-ups six times a year. Residents billed for garbage are eligible for this service. Pick-up dates through May are **January 6 through 9, March 3 through 6, and May 5 through 8**. Excess trash must be bagged, boxed or bundled. Each garbage bag can weigh no more than 50 pounds and items should be no longer than four feet long (bound if there is more than one item). Place excess trash next to your polycart in the public right-of-way on your regular trash pick-up day.

Calendars showing trash and recycling collection weeks are available at city hall and on the city's website. Direct questions to (928) 532-4005 during regular business hours (Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.).

**Annual dog tags now on sale...**

for dogs 4 months and older living in the city limits. Purchase at city hall, 180 North 9th Street. Tags are \$5 for a spayed/neutered dog or \$15 for a non-spayed/non-neutered dog. Dog owners 65 years and older get a senior discount of \$3 per tag. Present the dog's description, dates of vaccination and revaccination, and a current rabies vaccination certificate with a name and address when you purchase your dog's tag.

Year in review...continued from cover page

- ❖ **Downtown beautification.** We continued beautifying the North 9th Street corridor between Hall and Cooley. With assistance from a Community Development Block Grant awarded to Navajo County, we improved the intersection at 9th Street and Hall and added curbing.

## Community Events

- ❖ **Show Low's 60th anniversary/BBQ Throwdown.** We celebrated Show Low's 60th year of incorporation with a free barbecue on May 4, our anniversary date. The city was incorporated in 1953. In addition to the free lunch, attendees enjoyed live music and Western-themed games. A companion event was held the same day—the first-ever BBQ Throwdown, a sanctioned barbecue contest that drew contestants from across the United States. Master BBQ chefs competed for cash prizes and awards.
- ❖ **Holiday events.** We kicked off our annual signature event, Show Low Shines for the Holidays, the day after Thanksgiving when the holiday lights were turned on. This annual showcase event included the tree-lighting ceremony in front of city hall, the Electric Light Parade along the Deuce of Clubs, and Santa and the Shoppes on Gingerbread Lane. We ushered in the new year on December 31 with our award-winning Deuce of Clubs Drop at midnight.

## Business and Construction Activity

- ❖ **New businesses.** We welcomed several new nationally-recognized businesses, including C A L Ranch, Panda Express, and Tractor Supply. In addition, several businesses have relocated and expanded.
- ❖ **Summit Healthcare Regional Medical Center.** The hospital continues its phased renovations, and opened the new cardiovascular lab and a specialized wound care and hyperbaric center. The center houses two hyperbaric chambers, and Summit is the only rural hospital in northeastern Arizona to offer this service.

## Beautification and Recycling

- ❖ **Project Clean Sweep.** In 2013, we celebrated the 15th year of the annual Project Clean Sweep citywide beautification and cleanup program, free to residents. City staff helped citizens clean their properties and homes through Cash for Trash, bulky item pickup, free drop-offs at the Lone Pine transfer station and Dirty Deeds Green Waste, and towing away abandoned vehicles.
- ❖ **Electronic waste collection event.** We again were one of the sponsors of the annual, region-wide electronic waste collection event in August. Because of the new Panda Express building, the collection site was moved to the Navajo County building on Penrod Road.
- ❖ **Christmas tree recycling.** We took the lead for the fifth year, offering citizens a drop-off site next to Frontier Park on North 9th Place. The Christmas trees will be ground up and recycled as biomass fuel for NOVO Power, formerly Snowflake White Mountain Power.

## A Look Ahead to 2014

- ❖ **Personnel changes.** Both our police chief and administrative services director left in 2013 to take other positions. We are still recruiting a new chief but have hired an administrative services director, Tony Turley, who is joining the city in January.
- ❖ **Annual budget.** As is our practice, we will continue to budget conservatively in the upcoming year, while still completing some capital projects, such as the wastewater treatment plant upgrade, road improvements, new or upgraded water lines, and replacing sewer lines in need of repair. We begin our budget process in January, with a town hall specifically designed for citizen input on January 23. See the companion article on the cover page in this newsletter for other budget meeting dates. All meetings are open to the public.
- ❖ **City elections.** With a change in state election laws, we are required to move the city's elections to the fall of even-numbered years. Previously, when our elections were in the spring, we would have begun the process already. This change also means that we will no longer have ballot-by-mail elections. Voters will go back to casting their ballots in a polling place. However, the good news is that voters can sign up to receive early ballots, which are mailed about a month prior to election day. See the accompanying article on page 4 of this newsletter. We will be providing more information periodically to our citizens through our quarterly newsletter, periodic utility bill inserts, posted on our website, and on City 4 TV.

## Flood insurance rates to increase for some owners

In July 2012, the U.S. Congress passed the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 (BW-12), which calls on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and other agencies to make a number of changes to the way the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is run. Some of these changes already have occurred, and others will be implemented soon. The Act removes subsidies for properties in the floodplain, although only about 20% of policyholders have subsidized premiums. Other key provisions of the legislation will require the NFIP to raise rates to reflect true flood risk, make the program more financially stable and change how Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) updates impact policyholders.

The changes will mean premium rate increases for some—but not all—policyholders over time. For homes and businesses constructed before flood insurance programs arose in the 1980s, insurance rates will increase by 25% per year until the rates reach the unsubsidized level. This could have a significant financial impact on property owners. Homeowners and business owners are encouraged to learn their flood risk and talk to their insurance agent to determine if their policy will be affected by BW-12.

# Change in election laws: City elections move to fall 2014

The Arizona Legislature passed a new election law in 2012— House Bill 2826 (consolidated election dates; political subdivisions)—that requires all political subdivisions in Arizona to hold their candidate elections only in the fall of even-numbered years. Previously, the City of Show Low held its elections in the spring of even-numbered years.

We are notifying citizens that Show Low’s next primary election will be in August 2014. If a general election is needed, it will be held in November 2014. Furthermore, because the city’s elections are consolidated with the county and state, they will no longer be ballot-by-mail elections. Voters must either vote at their designated polling place or may sign up for an “early ballot” (which means the ballot will be mailed to you).

We will provide more information in future newsletters, periodic inserts in our utility bills, on our website and on City 4 TV.

*(Note: Federal laws require that all election-related material be provided in English and Spanish.)*

La legislatura de Arizona aprobó una nueva ley electoral en 2012 - Proyecto de la Cámara 2826 (fechas consolidadas electorales; subdivisiones políticas)-que requiere que todas las subdivisiones políticas de Arizona celebrar sus elecciones de candidatos sólo en el otoño de los años pares. Anteriormente, la ciudad de Show Low celebró sus elecciones en la primavera de los años pares.

Nosotros estamos notificando a los ciudadanos que la próxima elección primaria de Show Low será en agosto de 2014. Si se necesita una elección general, se celebrará en noviembre de 2014. Además, debido a las elecciones de la ciudad se consolidan con el condado y el estado, ya no serán las elecciones de votación-por-correo. Los votantes deben votar, ya sea en su lugar de votación designado o pueden registrarse para obtener una “boleta de votación anticipada” (que significa que la boleta se le enviará a usted).

Vamos a proporcionar más información en próximos boletines, inserciones periódicas en nuestras facturas de servicios públicos, en nuestra página web y en City 4 TV.

## MLK Day of Service...continued from cover page

city hall at noon for lunch. Please check the city’s website at [www.showlowaz.gov](http://www.showlowaz.gov) for updates. If you unable to join us in January, we plan to hold another service day later in the spring.

Initiated by Congress in 1994, King Day of Service transforms this federal holiday into a national day of community service. It honors civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr.’s legacy to strengthen communities and achieve common goals through volunteerism.

The annual city-sponsored event began in 2009 with city employees and volunteers cleaning up the areas around Show Low Lake. We invite any interested citizen to come join us in our continuing efforts to beautify Show Low.

## City’s budget process begins...continued from cover page

To ensure that the city’s budget meets the needs of our residents, the Council has asked for as much citizen participation as possible. A citizen request form is available online at [www.showlowaz.gov](http://www.showlowaz.gov) or by calling (928) 532-4024 that allows you to present an idea for consideration in the budget process. Ideas may include increased or decreased services, improvements, or anything you feel the city should address in the budget.

To meet our goal to obtain as much citizen input as possible, two budget town halls are scheduled for public comment. The first will be held January 23, early in the budget process to give

you a chance to voice your concerns, opinions and service desires. The second will be in April, at which staff will present the recommended budget for citizen feedback prior to presenting it to the Council for discussion.

Also, beginning in April, the Council will hold two or three study sessions to review the city manager’s recommended budget in detail.

This overview will focus on revenues and a department-by-

department review of all requested and recommended expenditures. The meetings are open to the public and questions by the public are always encouraged by the Council. It is anticipated that the Council will adopt the final fiscal year 2015 budget in June. The budget calendar is shown below and available online at [www.showlowaz.gov](http://www.showlowaz.gov) and is also shown below (meetings are held in Council Chambers, 181 N. 9th Street):

- ❖ Tuesday, January 21, 6:00 p.m., budget study session
- ❖ Thursday, January 23, 6:00 p.m., town hall budget meeting (specifically for citizen input)
- ❖ Tuesday, April 15, 6:00 p.m., presentation of recommended budget at budget study session
- ❖ Thursday, April 17, 6:00 p.m., town hall (specifically for citizen input) followed by budget study session
- ❖ Thursday, April 24, 6:00 p.m., budget study session
- ❖ Thursday, May 1, 6:00 p.m., budget study session
- ❖ Tuesday, May 20, 6:00 p.m., tentative budget overview at budget study session
- ❖ Tuesday, June 3, 7:00 p.m., public hearing and Council consideration and adoption of tentative budget
- ❖ Tuesday, June 17, 7:00 p.m., public hearing and Council consideration and adoption of final budget
- ❖ Tuesday, July 15, 7:00 p.m., Council consideration and adoption of secondary property tax levy

Let your voice be heard in our annual budget process through any of the means listed above or by contacting our Administrative Services Director at (928) 532-4024.

