

Show Low Quarterly



a quarterly publication of the City of Show Low, Arizona

July-September 2015

www.showlowaz.gov

Celebrate the Fourth!

Come celebrate our nation's birthday and enjoy Show Low's family-friendly events during the Fourth of July holiday weekend. The festivities kick off Friday, July 3, with the popular *Deuce's Wild Rodeo* at Village Arena rodeo grounds, 4555 S. White Mountain Road. Kids' activities start at 3 p.m., followed by the rodeo, sanctioned by the GCPRA (Grand Canyon Pro Rodeo Association), at 7 p.m. Local, non-GCPRA contestants may also participate in the rodeo. Tickets available at Show Low Chamber of Commerce and Boot Barn. Call 537-3883 or visit www.deuceswildrodeo.us for information.

Saturday, July 4, brings more patriotic celebrations, beginning with the annual *Biscuits and Gravy Breakfast* from 7 to 9 a.m. at Festival Marketplace, 1033 E. Deuce of Clubs. Proceeds benefit the Show Low Historical Society Museum. Call 532-7115 for tickets and information.

Then find your spot for the annual *Fourth of July Parade*, which begins at 9 a.m. from City Park and runs east along the Deuce of Clubs. This year's parade theme is *Home of the Brave*, led by Show Low's hometown hero, David Foil, as grand marshal (*see story below*). A "wet zone" will be designated for spectators who don't mind getting wet. Call 532-4140 for information.

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City welcomes new Administrative Services Director

Justin Johnson joined the City of Show Low in June as the new Administrative Services Director. Johnson, a native Arizonan, brings with him 10 years of experience in municipal government and 12 years in the private sector, where he worked in the semiconductor industry. He has a bachelor's degree in accounting and a master's in human resources.

"We are excited that Justin chose to come to Show Low, bringing with him a wealth of experience in both the public and private sectors," said City Manager Ed Muder. "We know he will be an exceptional addition to our city leadership team."

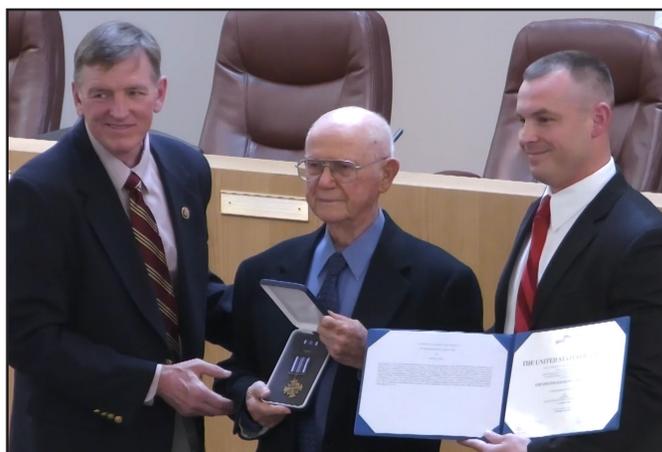
As Administrative Services Director, Johnson oversees the finance, budgeting and human resources divisions. He supervises a staff of 11 who handle a broad range of duties, including budget planning and administration, personnel management,



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Foil honored for his valor in World War II

In June, in front of a standing room-only crowd in the Show Low Council Chambers, former Mayor David A. Foil, Jr. was presented with the prestigious Distinguished Flying Cross (one of the highest medals bestowed by the United States Air Force) by U.S. Congressman Paul Gosar and Sean Johnson of the Wounded Warriors program for Foil's heroism in World War II. As a flight engineer and gunner on a B-26 bombing mission in January 1945, Foil proved his bravery after removing the fuse from a live bomb and disarming and dislodging two bombs—with little thought for his safety—after the aircraft was hit by enemy fire. He waited 70 years for this recognition, but Foil remains humble in accepting a medal commemorating his act of selfless courage.



David Foil (center) is presented with the Distinguished Flying Cross by Congressman Gosar (left) and Sean Johnson of the Wounded Warriors (right) for his valor in WWII.

Foil was further honored at a subsequent City Council meeting and a proclamation was read aloud to pay homage to him. Foil was one of the original members who served on the City Council after Show Low was incorporated in 1953. He began

his official term with the other six Council members in May 1953, and served in this capacity until his term ended in June 1956. Foil later rejoined the City Council in 1972 after being elected by the voters of Show Low, and was further elected by his peers to serve as Mayor from July 1972 through July 1976.

As a fitting tribute to the theme of "Home of the Brave," Foil will be the grand marshal in Show Low's Fourth of July parade (*see related story above*) on Saturday, July 4.

City's budget reflects continuing all current levels of service

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 adopted the fiscal year 2016 (July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016) budget in June. Due to the significant operational and long-term adjustments made over the last few years, our fiscal position continues to strengthen along with the economy. Unlike many cities, the City of Show Low does not have a general property tax. Instead, we rely on sales tax revenues, state-shared revenues and user fees to fund the city's operations and programs.

With our heavy emphasis on local sales taxes, it is imperative that residents and businesses shop locally whenever it is prudent. By doing so, your tax dollars stay within our community and support local jobs. Because a large portion of our operational revenues comes from state-shared revenues, the fiscal position of the state has a direct impact on us, as well. Like our own city collections, the state is continuing to see an increase in sales, gas and income tax collections. State-shared revenues are allocated to the city based on our 2010 census population of 10,660.

All money that is received by the city is spent on projects, community programs, providing services and public safety. The adopted fiscal year 2016 budget totals nearly \$59.2 million. It includes healthy reserve balances and continues to show built-up savings that will be used to complete planned large-scale capital projects over the next couple of years, including a portion of the \$10 million upgrade and expansion of our wastewater treatment plant.

The Mayor, Council and staff are committed to retaining Show Low's quality of life, while providing the amenities offered by well-run communities, within prudent fiscal constraints. Our employees deliver services and programs to local citizens, residents from neighboring communities and tourists. Departments include police, public works (engineering, streets, water, sewer and airport), community development, community services and administration.

Whether you are a resident or a visitor, be assured that you are receiving high-quality city services. Our employees take pride in ensuring that Show Low is a great place to live, work and play. We are committed to nurturing our community's livability and the safety, health and well-being of those who live, work or visit our community.

Overview

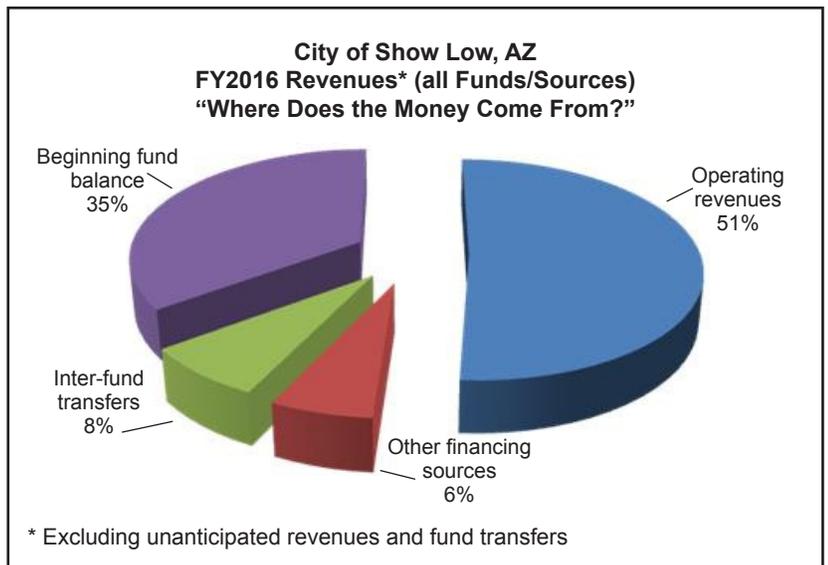
The Mayor and Council strongly believe that maintaining our city's infrastructure continues to be the city's highest priority, and we do not want to move backwards. With this in mind, approximately \$16.4 million has been appropriated to maintain, improve and repair roadways, sidewalks, water lines, sewer lines and the airport. Overall, \$22.0 million has been appropriated for capital projects (approximately \$5.6 million of which is

grant-funded), \$1.0 million has been set aside for future capital projects and \$3.5 million is being held in reserve as a "rainy day" fund. The adopted budget of \$59.2 million reflects a \$900,000 decrease from last year's adopted budget, reflecting a stabilizing economy and the city's commitment to saving, building reserves, completing capital projects, and providing necessary and desired services.

Revenues

Each fiscal year the city starts the year with funds in the bank. This year, the beginning fund balance is approximately \$22.9 million. Through the course of the year, we are projecting that an additional \$36.3 million will be collected through taxes, utility fees, grants and other income sources. Of this amount, about \$9.75 million is raised from the local city sales tax generated by everyone who shops at our local businesses. Although the City of Show Low does not have a general property tax, residents do pay a small amount of property taxes for street and park lights, and residents in the Show Low Bluff development pay property taxes to the special taxing district that is administered by the city on its behalf.

The remainder of our revenue comes from state-shared revenues, building permit fees, utility (water, sewer, sanitation) payments and fees, debt, service charges and court fines. We regularly pursue federal and state grants as well as partnerships with other governments and agencies to help pay for programs and improvements. Last year, the city received approximately \$3.7 million in grants for a wide range of projects and activities,



including upgrades to the Show Low Regional Airport, energy-efficiency improvements, police equipment, police officers and operations of the transit system (Four Seasons Connection and White Mountain Connection). For fiscal year 2016, we have included known grants and contributions totaling \$5.6 million. An additional \$4.0 million has been included as an estimated amount to be allocated by the Mayor and Council as grants are received.

Expenses

Although the adopted budget totals \$59.2 million, we anticipate spending approximately \$45 million this fiscal year. The variation comes from including our reserves, savings and the estimated grant amount in the adopted budget total. In reality, we do not expect to expend these funds. The two main areas that

citizens, including 43rd Loop in Fairway Park, 4th Avenue from Cooley to Old Linden Road and general water system improvements.

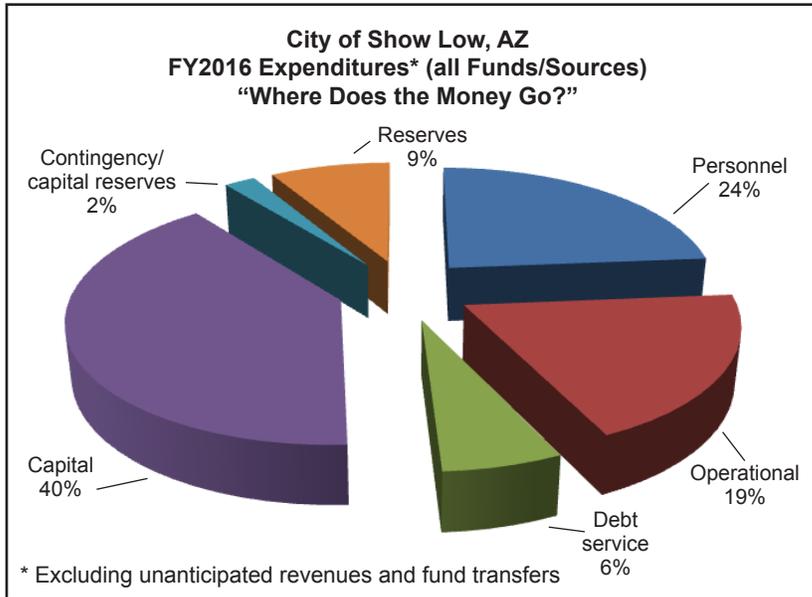
- ❖ **Scott Ranch Road** – With the construction of phase I of the Scott Ranch Road extension project complete, remaining funds are set aside to address future needs of this multi-phased project, which is funded with city, county and federal funds.

- ❖ **Road repair and maintenance program** – Several roads citywide will be overlaid with a slurry seal as part of our commitment to ongoing maintenance of our infrastructure.

- ❖ **Road improvements** – The roads in Show Low Heights will be reconstructed and improved. Grant-funded projects downtown and along US60 near our aquatic center will add sidewalks and multi-use pathways.

- ❖ **Airport improvements** – The pavement on runway 6/24 will be rehabilitated, contingent on federal and state funding.

- ❖ **Public safety building** – A vacant building on the Deuce of Clubs was purchased for remodeling into a new public safety facility. An architectural firm is designing a plan for renovating the building, with construction proposed to begin late this year.



the city spends its money on are capital projects and personnel. Consistent with the budget as a whole, these areas are relatively the same as last fiscal year. Following several years of downsizing, our personnel base has stabilized at a level that will ensure the continued provision of services, with an adjustment for the cessation of the photo (traffic) enforcement program.

This budget continues various programs with no reductions of current service levels. Overall, the city's expenditure levels by service area reflect the city's commitment to provide services directly to our residents. Operational expenditures are the annual recurring costs borne by the city. These normally exclude capital projects and other one-time purchases. On an operational basis, public safety is our largest expense, and it is estimated that the city will spend nearly \$6.1 million in fiscal year 2016 on public safety activities.

The city has funded a number of major projects in fiscal year 2016. Some of these are newly funded projects, while others have been ongoing for some time and will be finalized this year. The following summarizes the key projects.

- ❖ **Upgrade/expansion of wastewater treatment plant** – With ever-changing federal requirements the city is in the process of upgrading its existing wastewater treatment plant to meet higher environmental standards and be prepared for additional capacity as the economy improves. Included in the budget is \$6.5 million to complete this project, which has been in process for the past three years, and is expected to be finished later this fiscal year.

- ❖ **Water system improvements** – We have budgeted \$1.6 million for water-related projects that will benefit Show Low's

A copy of the final budget is available online at the city's website at showlowaz.gov. Direct questions to Justin Johnson, Administrative Services Director, at (928) 532-4024.

Fourth of July events...continued from cover page

Then at 3 p.m., head over to the Show Low football stadium complex at 500 W. Old Linden Road, for the annual **Freedom-Fest**. FREE admission, with food vendors, a kids' zone and live music, featuring headliner *The Walkens*, as well as Fools Hollow Band, Big Finish and JG Bongoman Project. The spectacular **fireworks** show begins at 9 p.m. (if weather conditions permit), followed by more music. For more information, call 532-4140.

City's Administrative Services Director...continued from cover page

utility billing, safety and loss control, website management, accounts payable and receivable, cemetery management, information technology and customer service.

Johnson and his wife, Cari, have three children—two daughters and a son. After living in Utah for the last 10 years, Johnson said, "It was our long-term plan to return to Arizona to raise our kids in a small town. We are close enough to our families to visit them (in Phoenix and Pima), but we like the climate, the 'small-town feel' and the beauty of the White Mountains."

Show Low is an ideal location as Johnson enjoys hunting and camping. He also loves spending time with his family. An avid baseball and football fan, Johnson looks forward to watching his son play baseball.

Calendar of Events

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

Special ongoing events or event series:

Tye Dye Tuesday – 3 Tuesdays (07/07, 07/14, 07/21), 2 p.m., Aquatic Center (bring your own t-shirt)

Healthy Hikes – 07/06, 07/20, 08/03, 08/17 & 09/14; meet at 7:30 a.m. at Show Low Senior Center, 301 E. McNeil, or trailhead at 7:45; call 532-4140 for information

Show Low Main Street farmers' market & art walk – Every Saturday, 9 a.m.–1 p.m., Festival Marketplace (ends 09/26)

Adult Book Discussions – 07/15, 08/19, 09/16, 1:30 p.m., Public Library

Itsy Bitsy Storytime – Every Wednesday, 9:15–9:45 a.m., Public Library, and **Family Storytime** – Every Thursday, 10–10:25 a.m., Public Library

06/29–8 a.m., Summer Play Days (ages 5-12); weekly drop-
07/23 in/drop-out program with activities (Monday–Thursday)

07/01 Men's Labor Day Softball Tournament (ages 15+) registration until 08/07; call 532-4140 to register

07/01 Women's Volleyball registration begins (until 07/31)

07/03 7 p.m., Deuce's Wild Rodeo, Village Arena, 4555 S. White Mountain Rd. (gates open at 3 p.m. with kids' activities); call 537-3883 or visit deuceswildrodeo.us

07/04 Fourth of July events (City offices closed):
7–9 a.m., Show Low Historical Society's **Biscuits & Gravy Breakfast**, Festival Marketplace

9 a.m., Annual Fourth of July Parade (theme: "Home of the Brave") along the Deuce of Clubs

3–10 p.m., FreedomFest (food vendors, fun zone, music), Show Low football stadium, 500 W. Old Linden Rd. (gates open at 3 p.m.); live music with headliner **The Walkens**; fireworks at 9 p.m. (if conditions permit)

07/06 Swimming Lessons (Session 4) registration begins

07/10 10 a.m., Show Low Library Friends meeting (public welcome), Public Library

07/13 Swimming Lessons (Session 4), Aquatic Center

07/14 7 p.m., Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting, Council Chambers

07/17 7–10 p.m., Teen Night Float & Flick (ages 11-17), Aquatic Center (\$2.50 per person; bring your own tube, rentals are limited)

07/18 10 a.m., Mini Mudder (ages 2–10), City Park (register in advance until 07/10)

07/21 7 p.m., City Council Regular Meeting, Council Chambers

07/24 20th Annual Tri in the Pines registration ends

07/28 7 p.m., Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting, Council Chambers

08/04 7 p.m., City Council Regular Meeting, Council Chambers

08/07 Men's Labor Day Softball Tournament registration ends

08/08 20th Annual Tri in the Pines (ages 14+) & **Youth Tri in the Pines** (ages 5–14)

08/10 Women's Volleyball games begin

08/11 7 p.m., Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting, Council Chambers

08/14 10 a.m., Show Low Library Friends meeting (public welcome), Public Library

08/17 Coed Volleyball registration begins (until 09/16)

08/17 7 p.m., City Council Special Meeting, Council Chambers (due to scheduling conflict on 08/18)

08/22 9:30 a.m., Itty Bitty Olympics (ages 0–6), City Park, Senior Field (9 a.m. registration)

08/25 7 p.m., Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting, Council Chambers

09/01 7 p.m., City Council Regular Meeting, Council Chambers

09/05 Men's Labor Day Softball Tournament (for ages
& **09/07** 15+) at Senior, Ponderosa & Church fields; call 532-4140 to register

09/08 7 p.m., Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting, Council Chambers

09/11 10 a.m., Show Low Library Friends meeting (public welcome), Public Library

09/12 8 a.m. to noon, Community Yard Sale (10 x 10 spaces available for \$10), City Park

09/15 7 p.m., City Council Regular Meeting, Council Chambers

09/19 6 p.m., Mountain Music Jubilee (3 hours of free live music by Fools Hollow Band), City Park, Senior Field (bring a blanket or camping chair)

09/22 7 p.m., Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting, Council Chambers

The 7th annual FREE region-wide **ELECTRONIC WASTE RECYCLING EVENT** is Saturday, August 29, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Navajo County Penrod Facility, 251 N. Penrod Road in Show Low. Drop off unwanted TVs (limit 5 per vehicle), computers, monitors, printers, cell phones, small appliances, etc. No large appliances (washers, dryers, refrigerators, etc.) will be accepted. Call 532-4124 for information.

Quarterly newsletters (Jan-March, April-June, July-Sept and Oct-Dec) are produced by the City of Show Low, 180 N. 9th Street, Show Low, AZ 85901 and mailed with the utility bills. Available online at showlowaz.gov. Call 532-4061 with questions or comments.