

Show Low Quarterly



a quarterly publication of the City of Show Low, Arizona

January-March 2016

www.showlowaz.gov

The city's year in review and a look ahead to 2016

The City of Show Low continues recovering economically and ended the year with optimism. Year-end results, although not robust, show that the city saw slightly increased sales tax revenues and increased residential and commercial activity. Nevertheless, given the financial market's continuing volatility, the Show Low City Council and staff maintain a fiscally conservative approach to add an additional layer of protection in case of an emergency.

Sticking to a conservative approach 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, such as family activities, holiday-themed events and sports tournaments. We 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 in 2015.

Notable Highlights

- ❖ **New public safety facility.** After purchasing a former auto dealership building and surrounding property on the Deuce of Clubs in 2014, we moved forward with plans to remodel it into a new police facility. Along with a larger building, there will be more parking and a more accessible access along Show Low's main street. Staff is working with an architectural firm to design a new facility, and we anticipate construction to begin this year.
- ❖ **New commuter airline service.** Beginning August 1, Boutique Airlines replaced Great Lakes Airlines as Show Low's commuter air service carrier, with daily flights between Show Low Regional Airport and Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport. Boutique has been consistent in its service and passenger use has been steady.
- ❖ **New city director.** In 2015, we welcomed a new department director, Administrative Services Director Justin Johnson, who oversees finance and budgeting, human resources, safety, information systems and grants. The Arizona-born Johnson brings with him 10 years of experience in municipal government and 12 years in the semiconductor industry.
- ❖ **Citizen survey.** As directed by the Council, staff conducted a citizen survey in June seeking opinions about city services and programs. Participants were randomly selected from the voter registration list to receive the survey through the mail or to participate via phone call. Results show that 85% of the respondents rate the overall quality of life in Show Low as high,



72% rate the quality of their neighborhood as high, 76% feel Show Low is a safe place to raise their children, 72% believe city government meets their expectations and 92% feel Show Low is a safe place to live. The top six reasons they like about living in Show Low include our friendly, small-town atmosphere, the climate and air quality, the trees and open spaces, the safety and quiet of our rural community, the ease of travel and the amenities we have at our disposal. We appreciate all of you who took the time to respond and share your thoughts with us. Additional comments or questions may be submitted through our city website under the "Contact Us" feature, available under "Residents" or "Visitors."

Major Projects

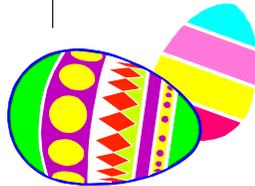
- ❖ **Show Low Heights.** After upgrading the water lines in Show Low Heights, one of the older subdivisions in town, we did major road improvements including repairing concrete curbs and sidewalks and repaving all streets. Originally scheduled to be done in phases, we were able to secure the necessary funding to complete the entire project at one time.
- ❖ **Wastewater treatment plant upgrade.** The city is nearing completion on a project to upgrade our existing sewer treatment plant to meet higher federal environmental standards. The improvements will provide additional capacity to meet future needs.
- ❖ **Fairway Park.** We did the second phase of major water line improvements in Fairway Park, which included replacing water lines and fire hydrants in about half the subdivision.
- ❖ **Water and wastewater system upgrades.** We continued upgrading water lines in various areas of the city and worked on a number of sewer projects throughout the city.

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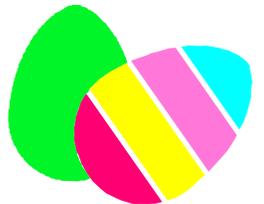
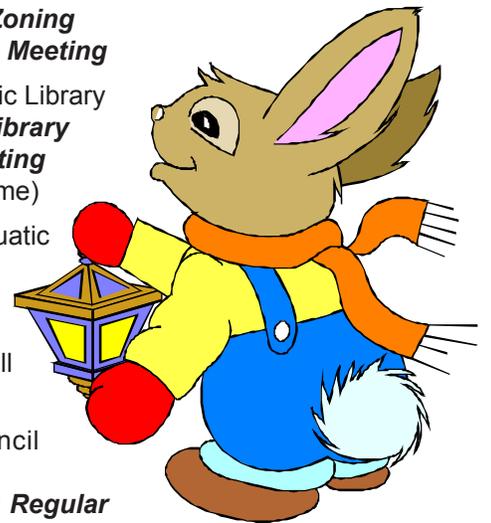
Calendar of Events (January – March 2016)

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

- 01/01 **New Year's Day** (City offices CLOSED)
- 01/05 7 p.m., Council Chambers
City Council Regular Meeting
- 01/08 10 a.m., Public Library
Show Low Library Friends meeting (public welcome)
- 01/09 **Youth Basketball** registration ends (grades 1-6); games begin 01/30
- 01/12 7 p.m., Council Chambers
Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting
- 01/16 **Spring Coed Volleyball** registration ends; games begin 02/02
- 01/18 **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day** (City offices CLOSED); **MLK Day of Service** (see related article); **aquatic center holiday hours**: 9 a.m.–noon, lap swim; noon–5 p.m., open swim
- 01/19 Council Chambers
6 p.m., **City Council Budget Study Session**
7 p.m., **City Council Regular Meeting**
- 01/20 1:30 p.m., Public Library
Book Discussion
- 01/21 6 p.m., Council Chambers
Town Hall Budget Meeting (for citizen input)
- 01/26 7 p.m., Council Chambers
Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting
- 01/30 **Youth Basketball** games begin
- 02/01 **Spring One-Pitch Coed Softball** registration begins; games begin 03/07
- 02/02 **Spring Coed Volleyball** games begin
- 02/02 7 p.m., Council Chambers
City Council Regular Meeting
- 02/05 6–8 p.m., City Campus gym, 760 E. McNeil
Daddy Daughter Valentine's Day Dance; call (928) 532-4141 for more information
- 02/08 **Spring Swim Lessons** registration begins; lessons begin 02/29
- 02/09 7 p.m., Council Chambers
Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting
- 02/12 10 a.m., Public Library
Show Low Library Friends meeting (public welcome)
- 02/15 **Presidents' Day** (City offices CLOSED); **aquatic center holiday hours**: 9 a.m.–noon, lap swim; noon–5 p.m., open swim
- 02/16 7 p.m., Council Chambers
City Council Regular Meeting



- 02/17 1:30 p.m., Public Library
Book Discussion
- 02/23 7 p.m., Council Chambers
Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting
- 02/29 **Spring Swim Lessons** begin
- 03/01 **Spring Coed Softball** registration begins; games begin 05/04
- 03/01 7 p.m., Council Chambers
City Council Regular Meeting
- 03/07 **Spring One-Pitch Coed Softball** games begin
- 03/08 7 p.m., Council Chambers
Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting
- 03/11 10 a.m., Public Library
Show Low Library Friends meeting (public welcome)
- 03/14 1–5 p.m., Aquatic Center to
03/18 **Spring Breaker** (open swim all week)
- 03/15 7 p.m., Council Chambers
City Council Regular Meeting
- 03/16 1:30 p.m., Public Library
Book Discussion
- 03/17 7–9 p.m., Aquatic Center
Underwater Easter Egg Hunt (ages 11 and older); \$3 fee
- 03/19 8:30 a.m., City Park, Old Pavilion
Bunny Dash 2K (check in at 8 a.m.); followed by Hare Raising Candy Scramble
- 03/19 10 a.m., City Park, Senior Field
Hare Raising Candy Scramble (check in at 9:30 a.m.; set up by age groups); call (928) 532-4140 for more information
- 03/22 7 p.m., Council Chambers
Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting



The city's quarterly newsletters (January-March, April-June, July-September, October-December) are produced by the City of Show Low, 180 N. 9th Street, Show Low, AZ 85901 and distributed with the utility statements. Direct comments to the City Clerk's office at (928) 532-4061.

Year in review...continued from cover page

- ❖ **Road projects.** A multi-use path with sidewalk and an asphalt surface was constructed on US60 from Clark Road to Summit Trail, the entrance to Torreon.
- ❖ **Government transparency.** We took a number of steps in an effort to provide more transparency to our citizens. In early 2015, we rolled out an upgraded city website at showlowaz.gov to make it more attractive, user-friendly and easier to negotiate. We added several new features, especially to the mapping system, including a search element on the cemetery map showing photos of headstones to help people find where their loved ones are buried and a page that shows the locations of and provides details about ongoing or recently completed public works projects. We also rebranded our television station to Show Low TV, following its move from cable channel 4 to channel 56. The channel provides the same programming, but has updated its look. And we contracted with an online vendor called OpenGov that will allow website visitors to view our financial information and create customized reports. We hope you will find that accessing city services are more convenient and allow you additional opportunities for community input and interaction.

Community Events

- ❖ **Community Fast.** We participated in the third annual Community Fast to help our fellow community members in need during the holidays. The proceeds from residents who fasted and donated the cost of the meals were distributed to local organizations who help individuals and families. We sincerely thank everyone who contributed so generously to help others.
- ❖ **Show Low's 62nd anniversary and BBQ Throwdown.** This combined event, created in May 2013 when Show Low celebrated its 60th year of incorporation, has turned into a popular annual daylong event with a sanctioned barbecue competition, food tastings, entertainment and kids' activities.
- ❖ **Show Low Public Library.** Our new library services manager, who joined the city in late 2014, and his staff were busy this year upgrading the library, including remodeling the teen center, adding new signage and a map showing the library's collections, and adding new services and programs for patrons of all ages. They also created the first StoryWalk at Show Low Bluff Trail, which is a book that is literally torn apart and placed along a trail to foster literacy and a love of the outdoors. The story begins at the trailhead at 701 S. White Mountain Road and covers the first quarter-mile of the 1.5-mile trail, which is rated easy to moderate for hikers and mountain bikers.
- ❖ **Holiday events.** As we do every year, we kicked off our annual signature event, Show Low Shines for the Holidays, the day after Thanksgiving. The holiday lights were turned on at city hall, the public library, City Park and Festival Marketplace. This event included the Christmas Light Parade along the Deuce of Clubs, tree-lighting ceremony in front of city hall 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

- ❖ **Business upgrades and expansions.** Many businesses did major improvements to their facilities, with some expanding their premises including Summit Healthcare Regional Medical Center, which completed its oncology (cancer) center directly east of the main hospital. Summit also began upgrading its surgical facility in late 2015. A commercial building that will house Supercuts and other businesses began construction in front of The Home Depot, with an expected completion in early 2016.

Beautification and Recycling

- ❖ **Project Clean Sweep.** In 2015, we sponsored the 17th annual Project Clean Sweep citywide beautification and cleanup program, free to residents. Citizens cleaned their properties and homes and took advantage of our bulky item pickup and free drop-offs at the Lone Pine transfer station and Dirty Deeds Green Waste.
- ❖ **Electronic waste collection event.** We again were one of the sponsors of the annual, region-wide electronic waste collection event in August. As we have done previously, we broke records, with 402 vehicles from across northeastern Arizona dropping off over 50,000 pounds of electronic waste. Over the past seven years, this event has proven to be the most popular of its kind statewide with a cumulative total of almost 525,000 pounds of electronic waste collected from almost 2,500 vehicles.
- ❖ **Christmas tree recycling.** We took the lead again and offered a drop-off site next to Frontier Park on North 9th Place to recycle their Christmas trees. The trees will be ground up and recycled as biomass fuel for Novo Power in Snowflake.

A Look Ahead to 2016

- ❖ **Annual budget.** We will continue to budget conservatively in the upcoming year, while still completing some capital projects, such as the wastewater treatment plant upgrade, the public safety facility, road improvements, new or upgraded water lines, and replacing sewer lines in need of repair. We begin our budget process in January. See the companion article on page 4 of this newsletter for budget meeting dates. All meetings are open to the public.
- ❖ **Major projects.** Additional major projects we will pursue in 2016 are the third phase in Fairway Park to replace water lines and fire hydrants in the remaining half of the subdivision and to continue beautifying downtown Show Low (dubbed the North 9th Street corridor project). This next phase of the grant-funded project will add parking and landscaping on 9th from E. Huning south to McNeil and on the south side of Hall between 8th and 9th Streets.
- ❖ **Community clean-up.** The mayor will issue an annual proclamation for January 18's Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, an annual holiday that has been designated as a day for community projects all across the United States. Because of our unpredictable winter weather, we moved the program in 2015 to May. This year, we'll hold our annual community clean-up on Saturday, May 14 (see page 4 for information).

Annual budget process begins in January

Like every successful business or household, the City of Show Low operates 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 discussing the fiscal year 2016 (July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016) budget on January 19 with a 6:00 p.m. study session that is open to the public.

At this budget meeting (held in Council Chambers at 181 N. 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.

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, at city hall and the library, or by calling (928) 532-4024. Via the form, a citizen can 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 21, 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 several study sessions to review the city manager's recommended budget in

2016 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. 2015 dates are **January 4 through 7, March 7 through 10, May 2 through 5, July 4 through 7, September 5 through 8 and November 7 through 10.** 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.).

detail. This overview will focus on revenues and a department-by-department review of all requested and recommended expenditures. The meetings, held in Council Chambers at 181 N. 9th Street, are open to the public and public input is always encouraged by the Council. It is anticipated that the Council will adopt the final fiscal year 2016 budget in June. The budget calendar (below) also is available online at www.showlowaz.gov:

- ❖ Tuesday, January 19, 6:00 p.m., budget study session
- ❖ Thursday, January 21, 6:00 p.m., town hall budget meeting (specifically for citizen input)
- ❖ Tuesday, April 5, 6:00 p.m., presentation of recommended budget at budget study session
- ❖ Thursday, April 7, 6:00 p.m., town hall (specifically for citizen input) followed by budget study session
- ❖ Thursday, April 21, 6:00 p.m., budget study session
- ❖ Thursday, April 28, 6:00 p.m., budget study session (if needed)
- ❖ Tuesday, May 17, 7:00 p.m., tentative budget overview
- ❖ Tuesday, June 7, 7:00 p.m., Council consideration and adoption of tentative budget
- ❖ Tuesday, June 21, 7:00 p.m., public hearing and Council consideration and adoption of final budget
- ❖ Tuesday, July 19, 7:00 p.m., Council consideration and adoption of secondary property tax levy

Let your voice be heard in our annual budget process. Questions may be directed to Administrative Services Director Justin Johnson at (928) 532-4024.

MLK Day of Service in May

The City of Show Low typically sets aside the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday as a day of community service. 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. City employees and volunteers have donated their time and efforts annually since 2009.

Given our inability to predict winter weather conditions, the city reschedules its MLK Day of Service project to a Saturday in May. This year's date is May 14. As we have done in the past, we will meet about 9 a.m., work until noon and then share in a city-provided lunch. More information about the project will be posted to the city website as May approaches.

