

Show Low Quarterly



a quarterly publication of the City of Show Low, Arizona

July-September 2012

www.showlowaz.gov

FreedomFest celebrates American road trips

Come celebrate American road trips at this year's annual Fourth of July FreedomFest. Bring the entire family and enjoy the events planned to honor our nation's birthday. Call (928) 532-4140 for information.

❖ Friday, June 29:
Deuces Wild Rodeo – 7 p.m. rodeo, gates open at 3 p.m. with kids' activities, White Mountain Vacation Village Arena, 4481 S. White Mountain Road; for information, call (928) 537-3883 or log on to www.deuceswildrodeo.us

❖ WEDNESDAY, JULY 4:
Annual Biscuits and Gravy Breakfast – 7 to 9 a.m., Festival Marketplace, 1034 E. Deuce of Clubs (call the Show Low museum at 532-7115 for tickets to this annual fundraiser)

Annual FreedomFest Parade along the Deuce of Clubs, 9 a.m. start from City Park (parade theme: *American Road Trip*)

FreedomFest Events at Show Low football stadium complex, 500 W. Old Linden Road (FREE admission), gates open at 4 p.m.; enjoy arm wrestling tournament (Duel on the Deuce begin at 4 p.m.), vendor booths, concerts (begin at 4 p.m. with headliner "Apache Spirit"), food and entertainment until 10 p.m., **fireworks** at dark if weather conditions permit



Rodeo-Chediski Fire 10-year commemoration

Anyone who was here in 2002 will remember the devastating Rodeo-Chediski Fire. We invite you to help us commemorate and pay tribute to those who helped fight what was then the largest wildfire in Arizona history on Sunday, July 1, at 7 p.m. at the Show Low School District auditorium. This tenth anniversary event is free and open to the public. We will have a retrospective presentation, speeches from a number of dignitaries and entertainment. Join us as we remember what was a frightening and life-changing event for many.

City launches recycling rewards program

Earn rewards for recycling beginning July 2. The free program, called **Recyclebank**, entitles you to earn points that you can redeem for gift cards, coupons and discounts. If you recycle, register online or call a toll-free number to earn reward points. You choose how you want to report your recycling activity—the Internet, mobile phone (iPhone or Android) application or telephone. You can earn extra points by participating in surveys, quizzes or making purchases, but your participation is 100% voluntary.

Every registered customer receives a minimum number of points, based on the total pounds recycled citywide. The more we recycle, the more everyone earns.

You earn approximately 100 points a month just for reporting. Report your recycling each time you put out your container. The program is a partnership between the city, Waste Management and Recyclebank.

One additional component is the **SC Johnson Green Choices Challenge**, a nationwide six-month contest (July through December 2012) to encourage waste reduction and increase household recycling participation. Show Low represents Arizona as one of 50 communities across the U.S. The goal is to generate the highest recycling participation rate, calculated as a percentage of our population. At the end of the six months, the winning community will receive a \$100,000 grant. Even after the challenge is over, you will continue to earn Recyclebank points. This contest is offered by SC Johnson.

Details about this exciting new rewards program should have been mailed to you on or about June 22. Also check the city website at www.showlowaz.gov.

Citizens Academy begins July 11

Learn about law enforcement, including police traffic and criminal enforcement, crime scene investigations, drugs, gangs and much more at the free 11-week Citizens Academy, beginning Wednesday, July 11. Each week's session runs 6 to 10 p.m. at the police department training room, 620 E. McNeil (across the street from the police facility). Applications are available at the Show Low Police Department and must be returned no later than July 9. For more information, contact Sgt. Kohler at (928) 537-5091, ext. 254, or jkohler@showlow.az.gov.



City's conservative budget reflects economy

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 2013 (July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013) budget in June. Due to the significant operational and long-term adjustments made over the last three years, our fiscal position remains strong in this slowly stabilizing, yet still tenuous, economic environment. 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. 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 seeing an increase in sales and income tax collections, which are only slightly offset by small decreases in gas tax collections. State-shared revenues are allocated to the city based on our 2010 census population of 10,660.

The money that is received by the city is spent on projects, community programs, providing services, public safety and economic development partnerships. The adopted fiscal year 2013 budget totals nearly \$63 million. It includes healthy reserve balances and continues to show built-up savings that will be used to complete planned large-scale capital projects in the future.

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 (streets, water, sewer and project management), 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.

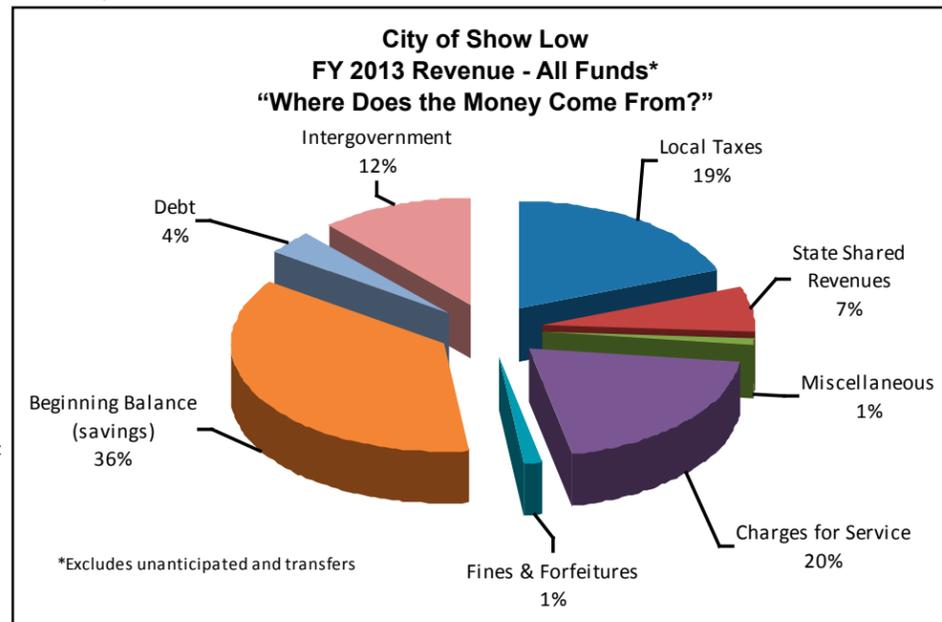
Overview

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 \$7.8 million has been appropriated to maintain, improve and repair roadways, sidewalks, water lines, sewer lines and the airport. Overall, \$14.8 million has been appropriated for capital projects (\$5.3 million of which is grant funded), \$9.3 million has been set aside for future capital projects and \$2.7 million is being held in reserve as a "rainy day" fund. The adopted budget of \$62.8 million reflects a 10% increase over last year's adopted budget, reflecting a stabilizing economy and the city's commitment to saving, building reserves and completing necessary capital projects.

Revenues

Each fiscal year the city starts the year with funds in the bank. This year, the beginning fund balance is approximately \$19.5 million. Through the course of the year we are projecting that an additional \$31.9 million will be collected through taxes, fees, grants and other income sources. Of this amount, about \$8.3 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, 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 \$2.0 million in grants for a wide range of projects and activities, in-

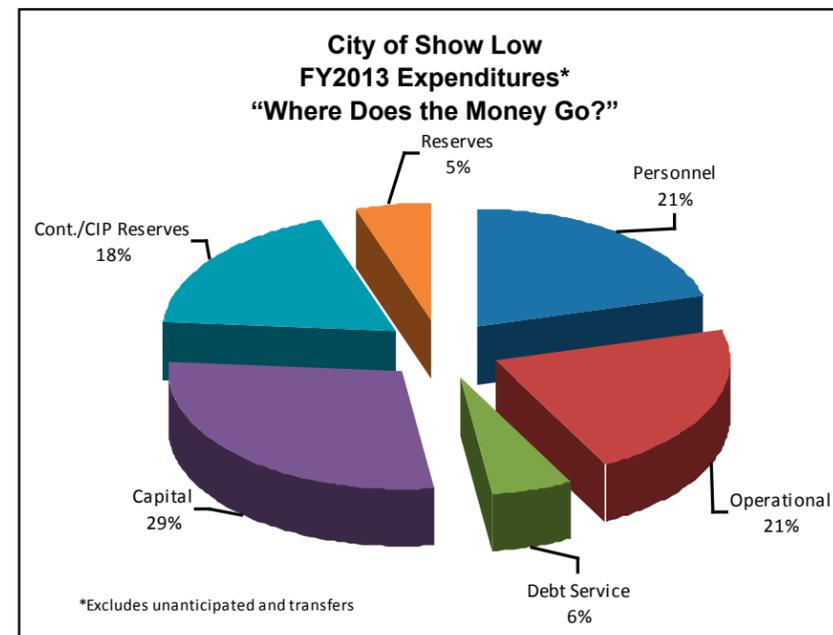
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cluding upgrades to the Show Low Regional Airport, 9th Street improvements, police equipment, police officers, the design and construction of Scott Ranch Road improvements and operating the transit system (Four Seasons Connection and White Mountain Connection). For fiscal year 2013, we have included known grants and contributions totaling \$6.2 million. An additional \$8.5 million has been included as an estimated amount to be programmed by the Mayor and Council as grants are received.

Expenses

Although the adopted budget totals \$62.8 million, we anticipate spending approximately \$35 million this fiscal year. The variation is due to 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 the city spends its money on are capital projects and personnel. Consistent with the budget as a whole, these areas are relatively consistent with last fiscal year. Following several years of downsizing by eliminating approximately 27 positions through attrition, voluntary separations and layoffs, we are adding posi-



tions that are necessary and will ensure long-term provision of services.

High-priority programs have generally been maintained over the last couple of years and, in some cases, new priority programs, such as recycling, have been added. This budget continues these 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 reoccurring 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 \$6.0 million in fiscal year 2013 on public safety activities.

The city plans to complete several major projects in fiscal year 2013. 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.

- ❖ **Acquisition of Fools Hollow and Park Valley water companies** – With this pending acquisition, the city will be the water provider for nearly all residents of the City of Show Low. Long-term system improvements will benefit all customers, current and new. This acquisition is anticipated to have no impact on our current water rates.
- ❖ **Aquatic Center dehumidification and rehabilitation** – In order to maintain our aquatic center as an amenity well into the future, a dehumidification system will be added to the facility. Additionally, the pool is to be replastered, the roof repaired and the spa and pool area upgraded to ensure compliance with state and federal laws.
- ❖ **Show Low Heights water line replacement** – Following several years of work, the final phase of replacing some of the oldest water lines in the city will be completed this fiscal year.

- ❖ **Cemetery restroom** – A permanent restroom will be added to the city cemetery for use by all visitors and during services.

- ❖ **Scott Ranch Road** – With the construction of phase I of the Scott Ranch Road extension project well under way, it is anticipated that the Arizona Department of Transportation will complete this project prior to the end of summer. This multi-phased project is funded with city, county and federal funds.

- ❖ **City 4 studio upgrades** – Our City 4 Television station will be upgraded to allow filming in high definition.

- ❖ **Road repair and maintenance program** – Several roads throughout the city are being overlaid with a slurry seal as part of our commitment to ongoing maintenance of our infrastructure.

- ❖ **Street reconstruction** – Several streets, including Adams, 43rd Avenue, Show Low Lake Road and Whipple will be reconstructed.

- ❖ **Roadway improvements** – Grant-funded projects downtown and along US60 near our aquatic center will add sidewalks and multi-use pathways.

- ❖ **Signal light** – In cooperation with the Arizona Department of Transportation and Navajo County, a traffic signal will be installed at 9th and the Deuce of Clubs.

- ❖ **Airport improvements** – Utilizing mainly federal and state funds, both the runway and runway safety area are being improved, a deicing containment facility will be built and the design for relocating power lines along SR77 will begin.

A copy of the final budget will be available online by the end of July at showlowaz.gov. Please direct questions to Doug Sandstrom, Administrative Services Director, at (928) 532-4024.

Calendar of Events

Family Aquatic Center: 532-4136 Recreation: 532-4140 Public Library: 532-4070

Special ongoing events:

BMX races every Saturday at Nikolaus Homestead Park; registration at 10 a.m., racing at 11 a.m. (ends in October)

Tye Dye Tuesday in July at 2 p.m., Aquatic Center (4 Tuesdays in July – 07/10, 07/17, 07/24, 07/31)

Show Low Main Street farmers' market & art walk every Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Festival Marketplace (ends 09/29)

First Fridays every first Friday (07/06, 08/03, 09/07), 5 to 8 p.m. at Festival Marketplace and in downtown Show Low (shopping, food, entertainment, activities)

07/02- 8 a.m., Summer Play Days (ages 5-12); weekly drop-in/drop-out program with activities (Monday–Thursday)

07/02 Women's Volleyball registration begins

07/04 Fourth of July events:

7–9 a.m., Festival Marketplace, Show Low Historical Society's **Biscuits & Gravy Breakfast**

9 a.m., along the Deuce of Clubs, **Annual Fourth of July Parade** (theme: "American Road Trip")

4–10 p.m., Show Low High School campus, 400 W. Old Linden Road, **FreedomFest** events (arm wrestling tournament, vendors, food); gates open at 4 p.m.; concert featuring headliner **Apache Spirit**; **fireworks** at dark (may be canceled)

07/04 Fourth of July holiday (City offices closed)

07/05 10 a.m.–3 p.m., Public Library lobby; **Local Authors Book-signing & Sale**

07/06 8 a.m., meet at Aquatic Center; **Geocache** (high-tech treasure hunting)

07/09 Swimming Lessons (Session 3), Aquatic Center

07/16 Swimming Lessons (Session 4) registration begins

07/10 7 p.m., Council Chambers; **Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting**

07/11 Start Smart Soccer begins (ages 3-5)

07/11 10 & 10:45 a.m., Public Library; **Western Breezes Windsock** (ages 2-6); make your own yard art

07/11 6–10 p.m., Police Department training room (11 weeks) **Citizens Academy** (learn about law enforcement)

07/12 10 a.m., Public Library; **Show Low Library Friends** meeting (public welcome)

07/12 1 & 2 p.m., Public Library; **Wild West Bandanna** (ages 5-17)

07/13 8 a.m., meet at Show Low City Hall; **NAU High Rope Course** (personal development/team building at NAU in Flagstaff)

07/14 7 a.m., meet at Buena Vista Trail Head off US60; **GPS Adventure Race** (4-hour team race)

07/14 8 p.m., Aquatic Center lawn; **Movies in the Park** (free) (*Dolphin Tale*)

07/17 11 a.m., Public Library; **Arizona Birthday Celebration** (music, guessing games, puppets)

07/17 7 p.m., Council Chambers; **City Council Regular Meeting**

07/18 1:30 p.m., Public Library; **Adult Book Discussion**

07/19 1 & 2 p.m., Public Library; **Tie-Dye Extravaganza** (ages 8-17)

07/20 8 a.m., Location TBA; **Fly Fishing**

07/23 Swimming Lessons (Session 4), Aquatic Center

07/24 7 p.m., Council Chambers; **Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting**

07/25 9:15 & 10:15 a.m., Public Library; **Bubble Mania**

07/26 1 & 2 p.m., Public Library; **Rock Your World** (rock craft)

07/27 7 a.m., meet at Show Low City Hall; **Mt. Baldy Hike**

07/28 8 p.m., Aquatic Center lawn; **Movies in the Park** (free) (*Winnie the Pooh*)

07/28 9:30 a.m., City Park, Senior Field **Itty Bitty Olympics** (ages 0-6), registration at 9 a.m.

08/04 8 p.m., Aquatic Center lawn; **Movies in the Park** (free) (*Gnomeo & Juliet*)

08/09 10 a.m., Public Library; **Show Low Library Friends** meeting (public welcome)

08/11 17th Annual Tri in the Pines (ages 14+) & **Youth Tri in the Pines** (ages 14 & under)

08/15 1:30 p.m., Public Library; **Adult Book Discussion**

08/18 7:30 a.m., Show Low High School; **Run & Wag 3K** (3K fun run/walk with 4-legged friend)

08/18 8 a.m., Frontier Park; **Dog Days of Summer**; frisbee dog demos, agility fun runs, dancing dogs, contests

08/18 8 p.m., Aquatic Center lawn; **Movies in the Park** (free) (*The Adventures of Tintin*)

08/20 Registration begins for **Coed Volleyball**

09/01 Registration begins for **Start Smart Basketball** (ages 3-5)

09/13 10 a.m., Public Library; **Show Low Library Friends** meeting (public welcome)

09/18 1:30 p.m., Public Library; **Adult Book Discussion**

09/22 6–10 p.m., Show Low City Gym; **It's Gotta Go Party** (bring a dish to share & any food items for donation to United Food Bank; with dancing)

