

Show Low Monthly News

April 2002

www.ci.show-low.az.us

To: The Citizens of Show Low
From: Ed Muder and Rob Emmett
Interim Co-City Managers

The City of Show Low recently conducted a survey of citizens randomly selected from the voter registration list. Some were mailed the questionnaire while others were contacted by telephone. A total of 245 responses were received, with 75% of the respondents being over 45 years old, 54% having an annual income greater than \$40,000, and the average length of residency in Show Low was 17 years.

Here's a summary of the responses:

- 68% rated the quality of life in Show Low and in their neighborhoods as "good" to "very good."
- One-third felt City government met their expectations either "well" or "very well," another third said the City did an "average" job of meeting expectations, and the final third said their expectations were "not met."
- The majority believed Show Low's transportation system is "good," the quality of road maintenance is "fair," and pedestrian and bicycle travel quality is "poor."
- 75% rated the quality of police protection in Show Low as "good" to "very good" and 90% felt Show Low is a safe place to live and raise their children.
- 61% felt the quality of our parks, open space, recreation programs, aquatic center and library services is "good" to "very good."
- 61% rated public information efforts as "good" to "very good;" over 50% watch general programming on City 4 TV at least once a month and read the monthly newsletter.

...continued on page 2

Strong Cities Week

Join us in celebrating **Strong Cities and Towns Week** from April 8 through 12. The City of Show Low is participating in a variety of events that showcase local City services such as libraries, police, water, sewer and parks. These are important services that our City and its employees provide every day that may be taken for granted, yet are essential to the quality of life in our community.

The major event is **Sharing Show Low**, an open house of all major City facilities on Thursday, April 11, from 5 to 7 p.m. Come tour any or all of the following sites and visit with members of the City Council and staff:

- ★ City Hall/Council Chambers (200 W. Cooley)
- ★ Magistrate Court (200-B W. Cooley)
- ★ Aquatic Center/Recreation (1100 W. Deuce of Clubs)
- ★ Public Library (20 N. 6 Street)
- ★ Police Department (150 N. 6 Street)
- ★ Airport (3150 Airport Loop)
- ★ Public Works Yard (1281 E. Thornton)
- ★ Animal Adoption Center (1181 E. Thornton)
- ★ Well No. 5 (571 W. Whipple)

In addition, on April 10, Show Low Public Library is participating in a statewide reading relay sponsored by ONEBOOKAZ. Celebrities, business people, elected and government officials across Arizona will take turns reading children's books. And the monthly book discussion group will meet at the library from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. The ongoing Citizens Police Academy will dedicate its April 11 session to acknowledging local public safety efforts.

...continued on page 3

Voter turnout sets record in Primary Election

A record 1,746 Show Low voters cast their votes in the March 12 Primary Election. This first-ever mail ballot election followed the pattern already set by many other Arizona communities. Voter turnout—the main goal of using the ballot-by-mail system—went from the usual 14-16% to an astounding 37%.

Ten candidates vied for three Council seats. To win in the Primary Election, a candidate must receive more than one-half of the total number of valid votes cast. Candidates Virginia

Evans (currently Vice Chairman for the Planning and Zoning Commission) and Vice Mayor Gene Kelley both received enough votes to be elected outright. The third seat will be decided in a runoff General Election on May 21 between Anne Staffnik (a former Planning and Zoning Commissioner) and incumbent Mayor Gerry Whipple.



...continued on page 3

Calendar of Events

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

- 04/01 **Coed & Men's Softball** registration begins (ages 16+)
 - 04/01 **Swim Team** registration (ages 5-17) (begins 05/20)
 - 04/01 8 a.m., City Hall Conference Room
City Council Study Session
 - 04/02 Council Chambers
5:30 p.m., **City Council Special Policy Meeting**
7 p.m., **City Council Regular Meeting**
 - 04/05 7-9 p.m., Aquatic Center
Bring your inflatable toy and go swimming (all ages)
 - 04/06 12-1 p.m.
Dog Obedience Training begins (for dogs 4 months+)
 - 04/08 **Spring Fling Memorial Day Men's Softball Tournament**
registration begins (ages 16+)
 - 04/09 7 p.m., Council Chambers
Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting
-
- 04/8 to 04/12 — Celebrate **Strong Cities and Towns Week**
through the following public events (see story on cover)
 - 04/10 Public Library
ONEBOOKAZ Reading Relay
 - 04/10 1:30-3:30 p.m., Public Library
Book discussion group
 - 04/11 5-7 p.m., City facilities
Sharing Show Low open house
-
- 04/14 to 04/20 — Celebrate **National Library Week** (get a free bookmark at the library & enter your name in a drawing for a prize)
 - 04/15 **Swim Lessons** begin (register by 4/12), Aquatic Center
 - 04/15 8 a.m., City Hall Conference Room
City Council Study Session
 - 04/16 Council Chambers
5:30 p.m., **City Council Special Policy Meeting**
7 p.m., **City Council Regular Meeting**
 - 04/17 2:45-3:45 p.m., Recreation conference room
Grass Hair Planters craft class (grades 1-3)
 - 04/17 7:30 p.m., Northland Pioneer College, Symposium Room
September 11 Community Conversations
"The Balance Between National Security & Civil Liberties"
by Michael Rubinoff (last in 3-part series) – FREE
 - 04/20 8:30 a.m-noon, Council Chambers
City Council Budget Meeting
 - 04/20 2-4 p.m., Aquatic Center (all ages)
Tie-dye Day (bring your own t-shirt—we'll provide the dyes)
 - 04/22 **LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE** in General Election
 - 04/23 7 p.m., Council Chambers
Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting
 - 04/26 1:30 p.m., Show Low Intermediate School gymnasium
Arbor Day Celebration
 - 04/26 7:30-8 p.m., Aquatic Center
Sponge Relay Races (all ages)

Citizen survey...continued from cover page

- 44% "did not know" or were unaware of the quality of the cemetery and airport services, but 76% indicated that airline service and the airport facility were "important" or "very important."
- 95% indicated that basic City services were "very important" to the quality of life in Show Low. Other items considered important were tree preservation, quality of growth, affordable housing, parks and open space, and recycling.
- Public support for bond elections for funding purposes includes basic infrastructure and public safety.
- The things people liked most about living in Show Low—"the quality of life," "small town atmosphere," "climate and environment (including trees)," and "friendly people."
- The major issues respondents felt the City would be facing within the next five years are "growth," "maintaining the small town atmosphere," "jobs," "City government accountability and finances," "maintaining infrastructure and basic services," and "positive youth activities."

Thank you to everyone who participated in the survey. The City Council and City employees, too, appreciate our quality of life. We live, work and play in this beautiful location because of the climate, trees and friendly people. We want to maintain this lifestyle for all our citizens.

The great challenge before us is to manage quality growth while maintaining our small town character. Our residents want more choices in shopping, employment opportunities and other benefits larger cities offer. But the price of these choices includes increased population and the loss of undeveloped land. The answer cannot be to just close the door on all newcomers. Property owners have the right to use their land for their own gain, and development is a great economic incentive.

The City of Show Low is interested in your opinion. Do you have ideas on how to manage quality growth while keeping our small town flavor? Your comments will form the basis for future roundtable discussions. Use the form below or send a letter or e-mail. Your input will keep Show Low moving in the right direction.

Your opinion counts!

Share your ideas on how we can manage quality growth while maintaining our small town character. Return your completed form with your utility payment or mail it to the City of Show Low, Attn: Connie Kakavas, 200 W. Cooley, Show Low, AZ 85901. Or send an e-mail to ckakavas@ci.show-low.az.us.

Comments (please print): _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Show Low Monthly News is produced by the City of Show Low, 200 W. Cooley, Show Low, AZ 85901. Direct comments to the City Clerk's office at 532-4060. For general information, call 532-4000. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Development Update

The Planning and Zoning department provides monthly information on conditional use permits (CUPs), subdivisions, zoning requests and major projects within the City of Show Low.

Conditional Use Permits

- ✓ Arrowhead Mobile Health Care – This CUP to use existing buildings at 120 S. 11 Street for office space and ambulance crew quarters was approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission in February 2002.
- ✓ Lyon Crest Apartments and Nursery – This CUP to operate a landscaping and nursery business and apartments at 261 S. White Mountain Road was approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission in March 2002. Site preparation will begin shortly.

Major Projects

- ✓ Davis Building – Located on the Deuce of Clubs, a building permit was issued to remodel the front facade and cover the stairway.
- ✓ Horne Auto – A building permit was approved to construct a three-bay car wash rack in this auto dealership across from Kmart on the Deuce of Clubs.
- ✓ Jack in the Box – Remodeling will soon begin at this fast-foot restaurant located on White Mountain Road.
- ✓ Kentucky Fried Chicken – Construction will soon commence on facade treatments at 180 N. White Mountain Road.
- ✓ Mountain Design – This new home design center next to Licano's Restaurant opened in March 2002.

Strong Cities Week...continued from cover page

The events support the "Strong Cities Make a Strong State" program developed by the League of Arizona Cities and Towns in partnership with the City of Show Low.

"The key to the success of this vital program is continual involvement at a grass-roots level in our local community and beyond. Each and every citizen must be aware that they, too, have a responsibility for keeping our city services alive and well," said Mayor Gerry Whipple, who serves as League president.

City services are funded in part by state-shared revenues. The state returns tax dollars collected from Arizona citizens and visitors to our local community based on our population, promoting decision-making at the local level.

Election...continued from cover page

Official election results, showing votes cast, were as follows:

Breeden, James	162	McQuillan, Kent	430
Evans, Virginia M.	894	Skillin, Keith	258
Haltom, Bill	287	Staffnik, Anne	611
Kelley, Gene	951	Thomas, William	288
Koenig, Dennis	333	Whipple, Gerry	580

Also on the Primary Election ballot was the question of Direct Election of Mayor. Show Low voters indicated they very much want to directly elect their mayor, with 1,151 voting yes and 323 voting no. The first mayoral election will be held in 2004.

Ballots for the May election will again be sent through the mail. In addition to casting a vote for the one open Council seat, voters will be asked to cast their vote in a Special Recall, pitting Councilwoman Shirley Sanguigni against three other candidates, Rick Fernau and Gregory Kozakiewicz (both current Planning and Zoning Commissioners) and William Thomas.

Did you know...?

- ★ Register online at www.ci.show-low.az.us for any Aquatic Center program (how about swim lessons or the swim team?) and get a \$5 discount.
- ★ Two of the three-part "September 11 Community Conversations" (presentations about Muslims and their religion) have been videotaped and are available for checkout at Show Low Public Library. All three sessions will also be shown on City 4 Television, with the February session aired in April, the March session aired in May and the April session aired in June.
- ★ The Show Low City Code is now available on the City's Web site at www.ci.show-low.az.us under Public Information. Use the index to find what you're looking for and link to each chapter.
- ★ For the second year in a row, the City's Finance Department has been named to receive a prestigious award from GFOA (Government Finance Officers Association). The department is being recognized for achieving the highest governmental accounting standards in preparing the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2001. GFOA is the premier national organization for governmental accounting in the public sector throughout the U.S. and Canada.
- ★ Representatives from the Town of Prescott Valley (pop. 23,000+) visited Show Low City Hall recently to tour the City 4 Television station. Prescott Valley is starting its own cable television channel and wanted to learn about our TV operations and get programming ideas.

Keep your home safe from fire

The 2002 fire season has begun. There has already been a 30-acre fire in Flagstaff. Local homeowners need to know if their property is defensible. When the fire department conducts triage in a community, it classifies property as defensible, non-defensible or defensible under certain conditions. The same is true of neighborhoods and developments. There are many neighborhoods and developments in Show Low that are considered non-defensible. Priorities for emergency service personnel will be to get people out and set fire lines where vegetation and construction materials are conducive to fighting the fire. This may mean a non-defensible area will be sacrificed.

Individual homeowners and governing boards are responsible for making the area defensible, not fire district personnel who provide advice and coordination. Communities and property owners need to begin by reducing the density of the pine stands to roughly eight to 15 trees per quarter-acre homesite. All heavy fuels on the ground must be removed. Brush, junipers, spruce and other woody ornamentals can all provide fire ladders and heat sources that can lead to structural loss. These plants need to be kept away from any structures and isolated so that fire cannot spread from one group of plants to another. Wood fences, decks and steps need to have only bare soil adjacent to prevent ground fire from bridging into the home and destroying it. All structural materials used in the home must be consistent with fire department or fire prevention recommendations.

For more information, contact Jan Mathis at (928) 532-6139 or Steve Campbell at (928) 524-6271 of the University of Arizona, Cooperative Extension Service.

Outstanding employees and volunteers honored for their service to the community

Every year, the City of Show Low holds a banquet to thank all of its employees and volunteers for their public service. This year's event was held in early March.

Employees and volunteers are singled out for special recognition annually. A different nomination procedure was adopted this year. Instead of the awards being driven by department heads and managers, employees were asked to nominate their peers. The nominations were based on the vision statement and eight corresponding values adopted by City employees. Winners were chosen based on their adherence to each of the values, with one overall winner who best embraced the vision statement.

“Value the individual” **Mark Cobal**
 Mark Cobal (Public Works) received the most votes for taking the time to listen to other people's concerns. He is fair-minded and empathic, always taking a person's feelings into consideration.

“Risk, create, innovate and celebrate” **Elizabeth Burke**
 City Clerk Elizabeth Burke was chosen for her fortitude, creativity and risk-taking. Her innovative thinking led to the Kids ROCK program and establishing the Public Information Committee.

“Promotes pride, purpose and personal growth throughout our organization and community” **Ken Douglass**
 Police Officer Ken Douglass is well-liked and respected throughout the community. He displays his sincerity, caring and easy-going style whether he's dealing with young or old, rich or poor.

“Conduct ourselves with integrity, professionalism and fairness” **Dennis Higginbotham**
 In his position, Real Estate Administrator Dennis Higginbotham interacts with a wide variety of people. He is courteous, professional, impartial and always willing to listen to the other side.

“Adapt while maintaining quality of life” **Cari Bilbie**
 Cari Bilbie (Human Resources) has adapted to her position with enthusiasm and astonishing patience. She is dedicated to serving employees and the public in the best possible way.

“Encourage civil dialogue and open communication” **Mary Terracina**
 Management Analyst Mary Terracina goes out of her way to assist in solving problems and budgetary issues. She is always willing to step in and help whenever needed.

“Foster an enjoyable workplace environment” **Bobbie Angers**
 Receptionist Bobbie Angers always has a smile and positive comments for both employees and citizens. She is an excellent first impression for anyone who visits City Hall.

“Embraces teamwork and collaboration” **Cathy Solomon**
 Recreation Coordinator Cathy Solomon has forged outstanding working relationships and partnerships with other employees, community organizations and businesses.

Vision Statement **Justin Hart**
 Police Officer Justin Hart is a dedicated, humble, hard-working employee who personifies the employees' vision statement (“The City of Show Low is a values-based organization, respected for innovative leadership, sensitive to our mountain resources and dedicated to those we serve”). He lives all of the above eight values simply through his actions.

In addition, the following departments paid special tribute to the employees and volunteers whose services were exemplary.

- ★ Community Services Department
Volunteer of the Year **Steve Murphy**
Employee of the Year Software Specialist **Danny Milam**
- ★ Police Department
Rookie of the Year Police Officer **Cameron Peterson**
Officer of the Year Police Officer **Justin Hart**
- ★ Public Works/Engineering Department
Public Works Employee of the Year Public Works Technician **Brian Plumley**
Director's Award of the Year Airport Manager **Dennis Wiss**

- ★ Community Development Department
Planning and Zoning/ Building Department Employee of the Year Administrative Assistant **Liz Callihan**
- ★ Public Information Department
Volunteer of the Year **“Doc” Eaton**
- ★ Human Resources Department
Employee Relations Award of the Year City 4 TV Station Manager **Mel West**



Nine employees, chosen by their peers, were honored in March 2002 for their dedication to living the values and vision statement adopted by the City.

Congratulations to all the winners. Their special recognition, however, in no way diminishes the hard work, dedication and service of every City employee and volunteer to the citizens of Show Low.