

Show Low News



Monthly

September 2009

www.showlowaz.gov

City's conservative budget reflects economy

The City of Show Low, like every business or household, operates successfully by living within its means. A major tool is our annual budget, built on a foundation of fiscal responsibility to our taxpayers and residents. "We take a conservative approach to keep expenses down and our financial condition strong while providing the highest level of service to meet our citizens' needs," said city manager Ed Muder.

Our budget year runs July 1 through June 30. Because of the downturn in the economy, we made significant reductions in this year's budget to keep pace with anticipated shortfalls.

"Unlike some larger cities, Show Low has no primary property tax," said Muder. "We rely on construction and building activity and sales tax collections for revenue, so we appreciate it when citizens spend their money locally. It helps our businesses and helps our city. We also count on state-shared revenues, so any downturn in the state's economy affects us, too."

"These are tough times economically for most of us, includ-

ing the city," said Muder. "But hardships challenge us to reach into ourselves and face them with strength, determination and integrity."

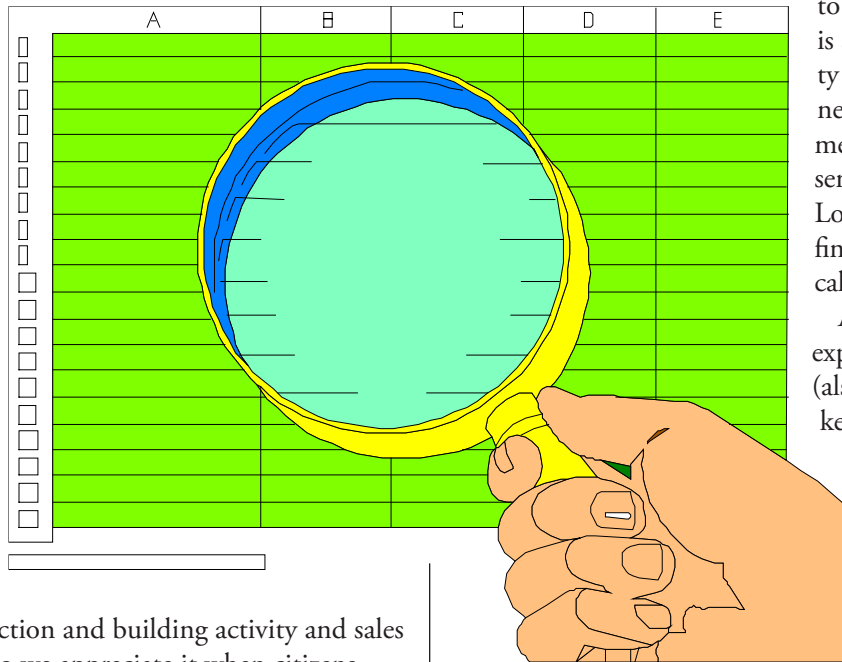
The budget estimates revenues and the expenditures we plan to make. The money we collect is spent on projects, community programs, public safety, partnerships for economic development, and the cost of providing services. In July 2009, the Show Low City Council approved the final budget for the current fiscal year ending June 30, 2010.

And, as part of the alternative expenditure limitation option (also known as "home rule"), we keep a solid reserve as a backup. It is available in times of extreme emergency, but we have never had to dip into these funds.

The Mayor, Council and city staff are committed to retaining Show Low's quality of life, while provid-

ing the amenities of a well-run community and ensuring the city remains fiscally sound. Our employees deliver services and

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Prescription drug discount cards still available

Prescription drug discount cards are still available to city residents, free of charge. The cards are provided at no cost to the city or our residents through a program sponsored by the National League of Cities. Find them at the Show Low Chamber of Commerce (81 East Deuce of Clubs) and Show Low city hall (550 North 9th Place), aquatic center (1100 West Deuce of Clubs) and library (180 North 9th Street).

There is no enrollment form required to get a card and no membership fee of any kind. City residents and their family members can use the card when their prescriptions are not covered by insurance. There are no restrictions based on age, income level or existing health coverage.

Show your card when purchasing prescription drugs at the Safeway, Kmart, Walgreen's or Walmart pharmacies. The

card can also be used at more than 59,000 participating retail pharmacies across the country. It offers an average savings of 20 percent off the retail price of commonly prescribed drugs.

"We're happy to partner with the National League of Cities on such a worthwhile program, especially in these tough economic times," said Mayor Rick Fernau. "Whether you have prescription coverage or not, the card makes it easier for you to afford the drugs you need to treat an illness or manage a chronic condition."

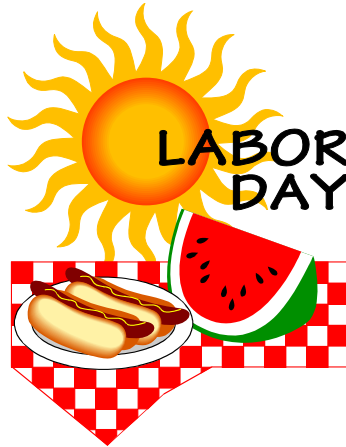
NLC is the oldest and largest national organization devoted to strengthening and promoting cities, representing more than 19,000 cities, towns and villages and 218 million Americans.

Call toll-free (888) 620-1749 or visit www.caremark.com/nlc for assistance with the program.

Calendar of Events

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

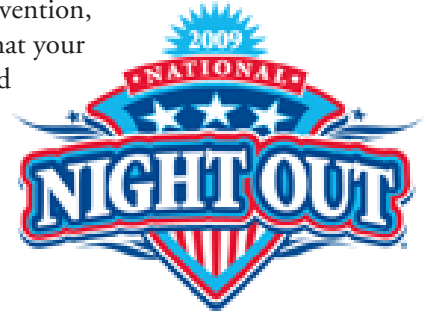
- 08/31 7 p.m., Council Chambers
City Council Special Meeting (in lieu of September 1 Regular Meeting)
- 09/07 **Labor Day** (City offices closed, except Aquatic Center with special holiday hours: 12–5 p.m., Open Swim)
- 09/07-09/10 **Excess refuse pickup week** (place excess next to polycart on regular pickup day)
- 09/08 **Show Low DEAL** registration begins
- 09/08 7 p.m., Council Chambers, **Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting**
- 09/10 10 a.m., Public Library (public welcome)
Show Low Library Friends meeting
- 09/12 10 a.m., Show Low High School
Punt, Pass & Kick (boys & girls, ages 8-15)
- 09/15 7 p.m., Council Chambers
City Council Regular Meeting
- 09/17 7 p.m., Show Low Historical Society Museum
Show Low Historical Society meeting (“Rodeo Chediski Fire Recovery,” Reginald Armstrong)
- 09/19 **Coed Volleyball** registration ends
- 09/22 7 p.m., Council Chambers
Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting
- 09/29 6 p.m., Council Chambers
City Council/P&Z Commission Joint Meeting
- 09/30 **Start Smart Basketball** registration ends



Check out City 4 TV & www.showlowaz.gov for more information

Show Low's National Night Out

The Show Low Police Department sponsored the 26th annual National Night Out on August 4. The National Night Out campaign is designed to raise awareness about crime and drug prevention, sending a clear message that your neighborhood is organized and fighting back against crime.



Five Show Low neighborhoods actively participated in the annual event, with police officers distributing coloring books, crayons, stickers, etc. to the kids and information regarding drug identification and other crime awareness materials to the adults. In addition, they provided child identification kits for parents and gun safety locks. Neighbors had a chance to meet one another and talk to our officers about public safety concerns and crime prevention tips.

The five participants were the Ponderosa Park Apartments at 981 West McNeil, Show Low Apartments at 1451 West McNeil, Timberline Trailer Park at 2800 South White Mountain Road, Cedar Ridge subdivision, and the neighborhood in the area of 5th and Stock. There was good attendance, one with as many as 40 people participating. The department's goal is to have ten groups participate next year.

One of the participants, Show Low Apartments, also held a safety social, the last required event to become fully certified in the Show Low Crime Free Multi-Housing Program. Show Low Apartments is the first property in the city to receive final certification.

Thanks to Sgt. Shawn Roby for coordinating the evening's events, assisted by Sgt. Joe Kohler, Ron Oberholtzer, Ofc. Steve Williams, Ofc. Brian LaRue, Ofc. Ryan Call, Ofc. Nick Arney and Ofc. Cory Fechtelkotter. Cmdr. Jeff McNeil also visited each site during the evening's festivities to lend his support.

Attorney General warns consumers of bogus property tax offer

Arizona Attorney General Terry Goddard is warning Arizona homeowners to be wary of official-looking advertisements claiming that a homeowner's property qualifies for a “property tax reduction review.” This solicitation appears to be an attempt to scam homeowners who are looking to reduce their property tax bill.

The solicitation, which requests a \$189 processing fee, is not affiliated with any government entity. The document attempts to appear official and contains a “notice number” and deadline for prompt processing.

Assessed valuations for 2009 cannot be changed since the appeals process for 2009 has ended. In addition, there is no fee required to file a property valuation appeal with county treasur-

ers' or assessors' offices in Arizona.

A sample of the solicitation is available on the City of Show Low's website at www.showlowaz.gov or the Attorney General's website at www.azag.gov.

If you believe you have been a victim of consumer fraud, please contact the Attorney General's Office in Phoenix at (602) 542-5763, in Tucson at (520) 628-6504 or outside the Phoenix and Tucson metro areas at toll-free (800) 352-8431. Consumers can also file complaints online by visiting the Attorney General's website. To file a complaint in person, the Attorney General's Office has satellite offices throughout the state with volunteers available to help. Locations and hours of operation are posted on the Attorney General's website.

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programs to our local citizens, residents from neighboring communities and tourists. Departments include public safety (law enforcement, dispatching, animal control), public works (road maintenance and improvements, sewer and water services, airport, engineering), community development (building, planning and zoning, code enforcement), community services (parks and recreation, aquatic center, library, City 4 Television, information systems), finance and budget, and administration.

Whether you live within the city limits or visit from afar, whenever you travel our roadways, swim in our pool, check out a library book, drink our water, seek police assistance or need a building permit, you are using city services. Our police officers respond to traffic accidents within the city whether the involved parties reside in Show Low or not. Many of our patrons holding library cards live in other communities. All are served equally.

Our employees take pride in ensuring that Show Low is a great place to live, work and play. Like our Council, we are committed to nurturing our community's livability and the safety, health and well-being of those who live and work here.

OVERVIEW

Because our Council and staff believe that maintaining our city's infrastructure is the highest priority, it continues to be the major focus of the current budget. Approximately \$4.5 million have been appropriated to maintain and repair roadways, water lines, sewer lines and the wastewater system.

REVENUES

We began the 2009-10 fiscal year with \$13.7 million in reserves. To that, we anticipate collecting \$34.6 million in revenue, of which over half comes from various taxes. Almost \$8.0 million is generated by sales taxes paid by everyone who shops at our local stores. Most residents in Show Low pay no city property tax, although we pay property taxes to Navajo County for schools, fire services, electricity for street lights, etc. The exception is the master-planned, 3,500-home Show Low Bluff development at

the east edge of town. The developer initiated a community facilities district, a special taxing district that allows the collection of property taxes to pay for infrastructure.

The rest of our revenue comes from state-shared funds, based on our population; development fees; utility payments and charges for airport and aquatic center programs (called Enterprise funds); special revenue funds (state and county money from gasoline and property taxes, lottery proceeds, etc.); fees for building permits, business permits and dog licenses; interest earned on our investments; and fines collected from violators cited in magistrate court and overdue library books.

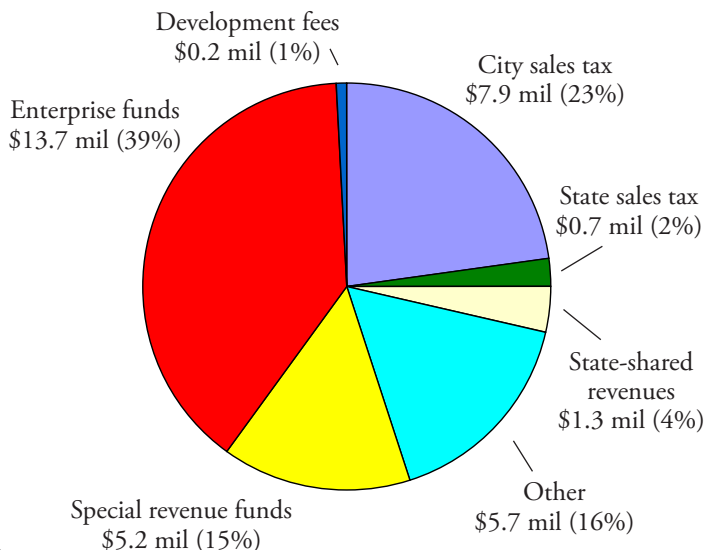
We regularly pursue federal and state grants to help pay for projects and improvements. Last year (fiscal year 2008-09), staff sought and received almost \$4.5 million. This money was spent on a range of eligible projects, including police equipment, upgrades to the Show Low Regional Airport, reimbursing private property owners for thinning their properties, a self-checkout machine at the library, operating the *Four Seasons Connection* rural transit system and expanding the transit system to Holbrook. Because it is impossible to predict what grants will be awarded when we prepare the budget, we estimate an amount we know will never be exceeded. This year we included \$8.5 million as our maximum.

Our employees also seek creative partnerships to further support our community. For example, contributions of volunteer labor and materials will lead to a new scoreboard at the Senior Field at City Park. We have a myriad volunteer programs, including our Senior Patrol that helps our police department, the Show Low Library Friends and the adopt-a-street program to keep our roadways clean and attractive.

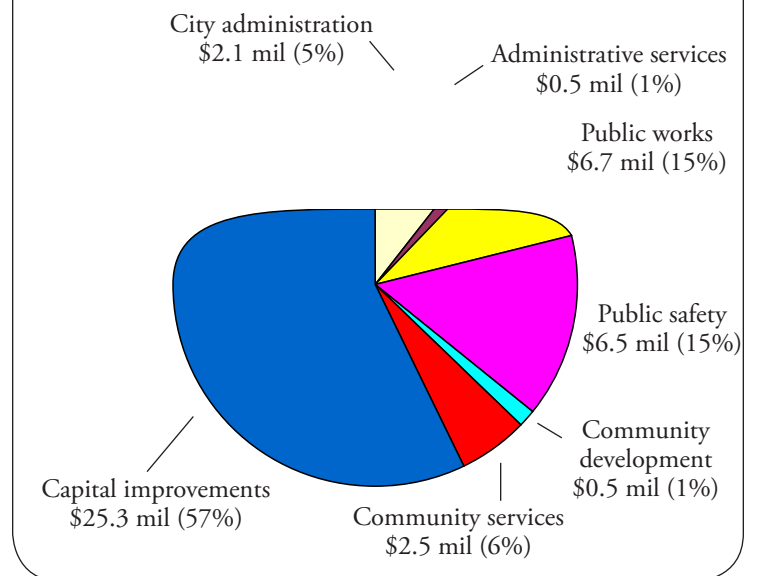
EXPENSES

On the other side of the ledger, we anticipate spending about \$44.2 million this year. The majority of it will pay for capital

2009-10 Projected Revenues



2009-10 Proposed Expenditures



Show your support for all our veterans

The City of Show Low is seeking donations to construct a memorial to recognize our Show Low area veterans. The memorial will honor all veterans of the five uniformed branches of service — Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, and Navy. The goal is to collect enough money to construct and dedicate it on November 11, 2009, Veterans Day. The monument will be built in front of the existing library on 9th Street, which will eventually be converted to a city hall. Councilman Jack Latham is spearheading the effort.

Make your check payable to the City of Show Low, noting that the funds are for the veterans memorial. Donations may be mailed to or dropped off at city hall, 550 North 9th Place, Show Low, AZ 85901.

Thank you for helping us honor the sacrifices our veterans have made for all Americans. Contact Councilman Latham at (928) 205-1787 for information.



(Above) An artist's rendering of the proposed veterans memorial.

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improvements, public works projects and equipment, public safety and community programs. This amount does not include a maximum \$8.5 million the city would spend on grant-funded projects to equally offset grant monies we anticipate receiving. In the chart, "city administration" includes budgets for the City Council, management and community promotions and "administrative services" includes the finance and budget divisions.

Every year, we include money to fund special events and community activities for the enjoyment of our families, friends and visitors. These community events are part of the reason people love living in Show Low. The spectacular annual Fourth of July fireworks display, with spectators from across the White Mountains, is financed by the city. The award-winning Show Low Shines for the Holidays, when our parks, businesses and homes are aglow with millions of sparkling lights, is financed through public-private partnerships. Other notable programs supported by the city include the award-winning Show Low DEAL after-school program, the popular summertime Concert in the Park series and library activities.

MAJOR PROJECTS (some were begun last fiscal year and completed this year, others were begun this year and are scheduled for completion by June 2010)

- ❖ Field improvements at Frontier Park on North 9th Place. The sports fields were graded, an irrigation system was installed, topsoil was added, and they were seeded for play in 2010.
- ❖ Reconstructing Old Linden Road from Clark Road to 8th Street comprised widening the roadway, adding bicycle lanes, building a sidewalk on the north side of the road and building a bridge across Fools Hollow Wash.
- ❖ Reconstructing Whipple from the Deuce of Clubs to Whipple Wash included widening the road and adding sidewalks and bicycle lanes.
- ❖ Reconstruction of McNeil from 16th Avenue to the Fox

Canyon subdivision, and Central Avenue from Old Linden Road to the Central Park Estates development, including water and sewer improvements.

- ❖ Constructing a state-of-the-art library facility in the historic downtown area is ongoing, with expected completion in late spring 2010.
- ❖ Slurry-sealing taxiways, new airfield lighting and sign installation, new pavement markings, and a safety zone for runway 6/24 at the airport.
- ❖ Expanding our city's trail system.
- ❖ Show Low Lake Park improvements, including a new sewer line and restroom upgrades.
- ❖ Overlays of 16th Avenue from McNeil to Old Linden Road and Central Avenue from McNeil to Whipple.
- ❖ Sewer line replacements on 6th Street from the wastewater treatment plant to Thornton and at the site of the former Pat's Place Pizza, from North 9th Place to Cooley and North 9th Place to the Deuce of Clubs.
- ❖ Designing an extension to Scott Ranch Road. This multi-phased project will extend Scott Ranch Road east to Penrod Road, enabling travelers living north and east of Show Low to access the hospital more quickly in an emergency.
- ❖ Improvements to Nikolaus Homestead Park, including adding restroom facilities, sports fields and walking paths.
- ❖ Streetscaping and beautifying Show Low's downtown.
- ❖ Water line replacement on 43rd Avenue in Fairway Park from Mogollon to Willis.
- ❖ Constructing a wall on Central Avenue adjacent to the Country Lane Trailer Park.
- ❖ Designing an expansion of the city cemetery.

A copy of the final budget is available online at the City's website. Direct questions to Administrative Services Director Mike Urie at (928) 532-4024.