

Show Low News



Monthly

January 2008

www.ci.show-low.az.us

City budget targets infrastructure

At the City of Show Low, we are halfway through our fiscal year, which runs July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008. Like any household, business or organization, the City operates successfully by living within our means. A major tool is the annual budget, built around the concept of fiscal responsibility to our taxpayers and citizens.

Every year, 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 June 2007, the Show Low City Council approved the final budget for the current fiscal year ending June 30, 2008.

The mayor and City Council, elected to staggered four-year terms, set policies and enact laws to appropriately guide growth and development. They firmly believe in retaining Show Low's charm and quality of life, while providing the amenities of a well-run community and ensuring the City remains fiscally sound.

These policies are carried out by over 165 employees who provide the City's many services and programs, including public safety (law enforcement, dispatching, animal control), public works (road maintenance and improvements, sewer and water services, airport), community development (building, planning and zoning, code enforcement) and community services (parks and recreation, aquatic center, library, City 4 Television).

Whether you live within the city limits or are visiting from afar, whenever you travel our roadways, swim in our pool, read a book in our library, drink our water, seek police assistance or need a building permit, you are using City services. For example,

our police officers respond to traffic accidents within the City whether the involved parties reside in Show Low or not. Likewise, many of our patrons holding library cards live in other communities. All are served equally.

Our employees take great pride in ensuring that Show Low is a great place to live, work, play, shop and visit. We are committed to nurturing and supporting our community's livability and the safety, health and well-being of everyone using our services.

OVERVIEW

Because our Council and staff recognize the absolute importance of maintaining our City's infrastructure, it is the major focus of our budget.

Approximately \$11.2 million has been appropriated to maintain, repair, improve and construct roadways, water lines, sewer lines and the wastewater treatment plant.

REVENUES

We began the 2007-08 fiscal year with \$12 million in reserves. To that, we anticipate collecting \$34 million in revenue,

of which over half comes from various taxes. Almost \$11.6 million is generated by sales taxes paid by everyone who shops at our local stores. There is no property tax in Show Low, although owners living in Show Low pay property taxes to Navajo County for schools, fire services, etc. The rest of our revenue comes from state-shared funds, based on our population; develop-

...continued on page 2

also in this issue:

election news.....page 3
tree-thinning grant fundspage 4





Calendar of Events January

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

- 12/31-01/04** **Excess Trash Pickup Week** (place items in right-of-way next to polycart on regular trash pickup day)
- 01/01** **New Year's Day** (City offices closed)
- 01/01** **Coed Spring Volleyball** registration begins (ages 15+)
- 01/02** **Men's Basketball League** registration ends
- 01/02** **7 p.m., City Council Special Meeting**
- 01/08** **7 p.m., Council Chambers Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting**
- 01/10** **10 a.m., Public Library (public welcome) Show Low Library Friends meeting**
- 01/15** **6 p.m., Council Chambers City Council Budget Study Session**
- 01/15** **7 p.m., Council Chambers City Council Regular Meeting**
- 01/19** **Youth Basketball League** registration ends (play begins 02/10)
- 01/16** **1:30 p.m., Public Library Book Discussion Group** (book: Dine)
- 01/21** **Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday** (City offices closed)
- 01/21** **12-5 p.m., Aquatic Center Open Swim** (for Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday)
- 01/22** **7 p.m., Council Chambers Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting**
- 01/24** **6 p.m., Council Chambers Town Hall Budget Meeting** (for citizen input)
- 01/26** **Coed Spring Volleyball** registration ends
- 01/28** **9-11 a.m., Aquatic Center Water Wee Play** (ages 5 and under with parent)
- 01/29** **6 p.m., Council Chambers City Council/P&Z Commission Joint Meeting**

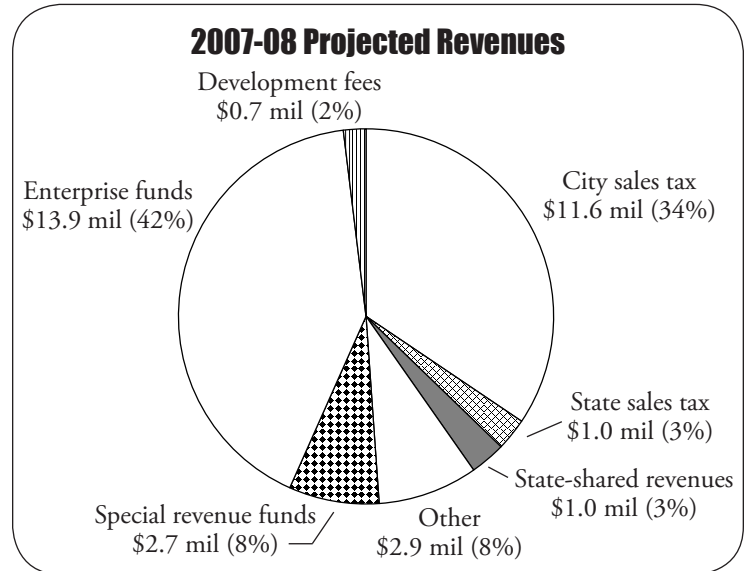
Check out City 4 TV & www.ci.show-low.az.us for more information

Show Low Monthly News is produced by the City of Show Low, 550 North 9th Place, Show Low, AZ 85901. Direct comments to the City Clerk's office at 532-4061. For general information, call 532-4000. Office hours are Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

City's annual budget...continued from cover page

ment 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.

Our employees regularly pursue federal and state grants to help pay for projects and improvements. Last year (fiscal year 2006-07), staff sought and received approximately \$2.3 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 and operating the *Four Seasons Connection* rural transit system. 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 \$10.3 million as our maximum.



In addition, our employees seek creative partnerships to supplement City revenues. For example, the City entered into an agreement with a developer to beautify the entryway at SR260 (Clark Road) and US60 (Deuce of Clubs). Primarily using the developer's funds, the City's partial contribution and help from volunteers created this attractive entry into Show Low.

EXPENSES

On the other side of the ledger, we anticipate spending about \$29 million this year. The majority of it will pay for capital improvements, public works projects and equipment, public safety and community programs. This amount does not include a maximum \$10.3 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

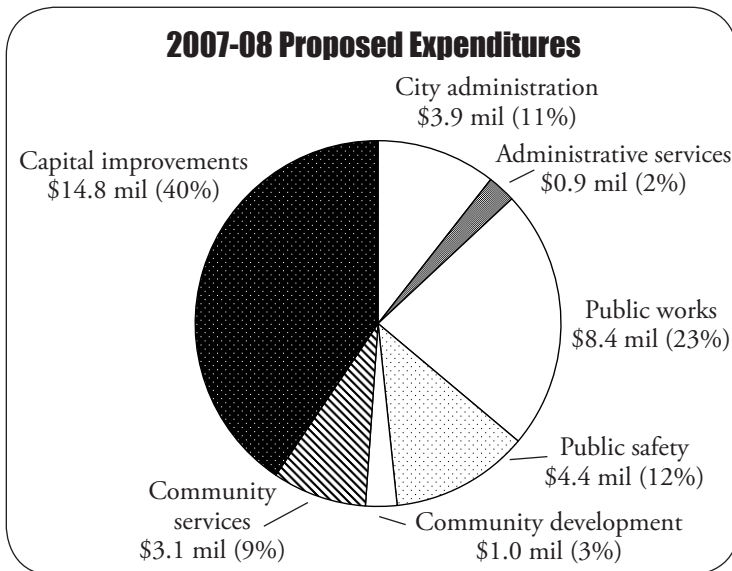
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City's annual budget...continued from page 2

visitors. These community events are part of the reason people love living in Show Low. The spectacular Show Low Shines, when our parks and City facilities are aglow with sparkling lights, is financed by the City. So is the annual Fourth of July fireworks display, with spectators from all over the White Mountains. Other notable programs include the award-winning Show Low DEAL afterschool program, the popular summertime Concert in the Park series, library activities and recreation programs.

In addition, we are funding the following major projects:

- ❖ New lights at Frontier Park on North 9th Place. The sports fields will boast state-of-the-art lights for after-dark play.
- ❖ A major waterline on Whipple from 6th Drive to the Deuce of Clubs was replaced.



- ❖ As mentioned earlier, the SR260 (Clark Road) and US60 (Deuce of Clubs) entryway into Show Low was beautified, with the addition of a sidewalk, trees, decorative rock and shrubbery.
- ❖ A new sewer line is being constructed on 24th Drive.
- ❖ An amendment of the General Plan, which guides Show Low's future, addressing elements such as land use, housing, economic development, transportation needs, water resources, trails and environmental planning, which voters will consider at the Primary Election in March 2008.
- ❖ Major traffic and pedestrian improvements for Old Linden Road and Whipple Road.
- ❖ A City-owned hangar at the airport, leased to commercial tenants. About 30,000 square feet, the hangar will be divided into thirds, with each bay having a separate entrance.
- ❖ A waterline on Meadow View Place from SR260 (South White Mountain Road) to 11th Street is being replaced.
- ❖ Expansion of our City's trail system.
- ❖ Show Low Lake Park improvements, including new sewer line and restroom upgrades.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Installing new street lights.

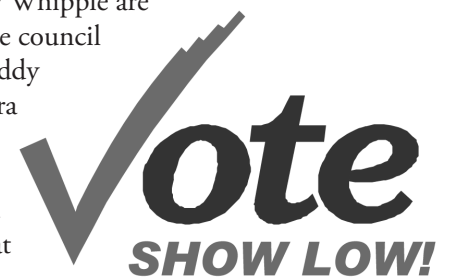
- ❖ Water line replacements.
- ❖ Road improvements that include pavement restoration and surface treatments. City streets are maintained continually through a staggered annual cycle.
- ❖ An expansion of the Show Low Cemetery.
- ❖ Streetscaping and beautification of Show Low's downtown.
- ❖ Airport water line improvements.

Planning for next fiscal year's budget has begun. Our first meeting is scheduled for January 15 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers to kick off the year. A town hall meeting for citizen input is set for January 24 at 6:00 p.m., also in Council Chambers. Direct questions about the budget to Administrative Services Director Mike Urie at 532-4024.

City's spring elections are ballot-by-mail

The City of Show Low will conduct ballot-by-mail elections for the March 11 Primary Election and May 20 General Election, if one is needed. All active registered voters will receive a ballot in the mail and not go to the polls to vote. A ballot box will be available at city hall, 550 N. 9th Place, for voters wishing to drop off their ballots in person. If you moved since registering or your mailing address has changed, per state law, the ballot will not be forwarded. To check your address, call 532-4060 or 532-4061.

The mayor's seat, three council seats and two propositions will be on the March 11 Primary Election ballot. Ten candidates wishing to serve on the council submitted their nomination papers by the December 12, 2007 deadline. Running for the mayor's seat are Rick Fernau, the current mayor, and Gordon Kearn, the current vice mayor. Incumbent council members Daryl Seymore and Gerry Whipple are joined in the race for three council seats by Theo Halsall, Freddy Lara, Jack Latham, Barbara Provost, Keith Skillin, and William Thomas. Any candidate receiving a majority of all votes cast at the Primary Election will be declared elected without running in the General Election.



Regarding the ballot questions, one proposition will ask voters to consider a new general plan. The other will ask voters to extend the alternative expenditure limitation - home rule option for another four years, from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2012.

The general plan, as recognized by state law, guides planning, growth and zoning decisions for the entire city. The current plan was adopted in 1999. State law requires municipalities to reconsider their plans every ten years and voters must approve the plan before it can be implemented. The general plan is available at www.ci.show-low.az.us.

Election news...*continued from page 2*

The voters of the City of Show Low in 1996 adopted an alternative expenditure limitation - home rule option, pursuant to the Arizona State Constitution. The second proposition is for the reauthorized use of the alternative expenditure limitation for the next four years. The home rule option allows the city to use the expenditure authority for all local budgetary purposes including general operating expenses, capital expenditures and debt service versus using the state-imposed limitation. The home rule option is adopted as part of the annual budget process, requires a \$1,000,000 cash reserve fund and requires all tax increases to be approved by a 75% majority vote of the council.

Remember, voting is a privilege we Americans enjoy and an opportunity for you to exercise your freedom of choice. Get involved and participate in the democratic process. The individuals you elect will make decisions that affect you, your family and your future.

La Ciudad de Show Low conducirá las elecciones de balota-por-correo para la elección Primaria del 11 de Marzo y la elección General del 20 de Mayo, si una es necesaria. Todos los votantes registrados y activos recibirán una balota en el correo y no tendrán que ir a las encuestas a votar. Una urna estará disponible en las oficinas del 550 N. 9th Place, para los votantes que deseen depositar su papeleta en persona. Si se movió desde el pasado registro o su dirección de correo ha cambiado, por la ley del estado las boletas no serán transferidas. Para comprobar si su dirección esta correcta, por favor de llamar al 532-4060 o 532-4061.

La posición de un alcalde nuevo junto con tres puestos de consejeros y dos propuestas estarán en la papeleta electoral el 11 de Marzo de 2007. Diez candidatos deseando prestar sus servicios de consejeros presentaron sus documentos de nominación el 12 de Diciembre de 2007 que fue la fecha final de sumisión. Corriendo por el asiento del alcalde son Rick Fernau, el alcalde actual y Gordon Kearl, el vicepresidente actual. Los consejeros actuales Daryl Seymore y Gerry Whipple son unidos en la carrera con tres puestos de consejeros de Theo Halsall, Freddy Lara, Jack Latham, Barbara Provots, Keith Skillin y William Thomas. Cualquier candidato que reciba una mayoría de todos los votos emitidos en las Elecciones Primarias serán declarados electos sin correr en la Elección General.

En cuanto a las preguntas, una propuesta pedirá que los votantes aprueben el plan general. La otra pedirá a los votantes que extiendan la alternativa de limitación de los gastos de opción de la regla de origen para otros cuatro años más del 1 de Julio del 2008 hasta el 30 de Junio del 2012.

El plan general, como se reconoce por la ley del estado, hace guías de planificación, el crecimiento y las decisiones de uso para toda la ciudad. El plan actual fue aprobado en el año 1999. La ley estatal requiere que los municipios reconviden sus planes cada diez años y que los votantes aprueben el plan nuevo antes de llevarse a la práctica. El plan general se encuentra disponible al www.ci.show-low.az.us.

Los votantes de la Ciudad de Show Low en el 1996 aprobaron

una alternativa de limitación de los gastos - de opción de la regla de origen, de conformidad con la Constitución del Estado de Arizona. La segunda propuesta se refiere a la reautorización de uso de la alternativa de limitación de los gastos para los próximos cuatro años. La regla de origen opción permite que la ciudad para utilice la autorización de gastos para todos los locales a efectos presupuestarios incluidos los gastos generales de funcionamiento, gastos de capital, y el servicio de la deuda contra la limitación impuesto por el Estado. La regla de origen opción es aprobado como parte del presupuesto anual del proceso, requiere un \$ 1,000,000 efectivo el fondo de la reserva y exige que todos los aumentos de impuestos deben ser aprobados por un 75% voto de la mayoría del consejo.

Recordar, la votación es un privilegio que nosotros los americanos gozamos y es una oportunidad para que ejercitar nuestra libertad y opinión. Continúe su involucramiento y participe en el proceso democrático. Los individuos que usted elige harán las decisiones que nos afectarán a nuestra familia y nuestro futuro.

Funds for thinning property

If you live within the city limits, grant funds are still available to help you thin your private property. Funds are reimbursed based on the lot's size and the area thinned. The property must be thinned to between 50 to 100 trees per acre, depending on their type and age, across the treatment area. Property owners will be reimbursed for 50% of their costs up to \$500 per parcel or, on larger tracts, at a rate of 50% of their costs, not to exceed \$500 per acre. Grant administration and reimbursement are handled through the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, Navajo County office.

Since the program began in late 2003, over 1,900 acres of an estimated 5,700 acres of forested private property in Show Low have been thinned. Each grant has an expiration date so it is important to do the work soon to ensure reimbursement. Here are the steps to follow:

- 1) It is the property owner's responsibility to make the initial contact with the Cooperative Extension office at 367-4588. No contacts through the contractor will be recognized.
- 2) A property assessment by Cooperative Extension personnel must be completed prior to commencing fuel reduction work. You will be given a list of forest health contractors, a checklist of suggestions when hiring a contractor and a copy of the thinning standards.
- 3) The property owner must secure three bids and submit them with the completed cost-share form, prior to accepting a contractor's bid.
- 4) After hiring a contractor, keep all receipts. It is the responsibility of the property owner to submit all necessary receipts to verify that the work has been completed.
- 5) Upon successful final inspection by Cooperative Extension personnel, a submittal will be made to the State Forester's office for appropriate reimbursement to the property owner. Fund disbursement will require at least 90 to 120 days following the project's completion and receipt of paperwork.