

Show Low News



Monthly

January 2009

www.showlowaz.gov

Upcoming opportunities for citizen comments

Greetings for the new year! You already know about and are probably feeling the effects of our nation's and state's economic woes. Every family is tightening its budget belt. The City of Show Low is no exception.

With input from department heads, city management and budget staff have reviewed and reduced every department's operating expenses to conserve and protect our taxpayers' dollars. We have made cuts to the current fiscal year's (2008-09) budget, which began July 1, 2008 and runs through June 30, 2009. These moves partially offset the downturn in construction and building activity and sales tax revenues we are experiencing.

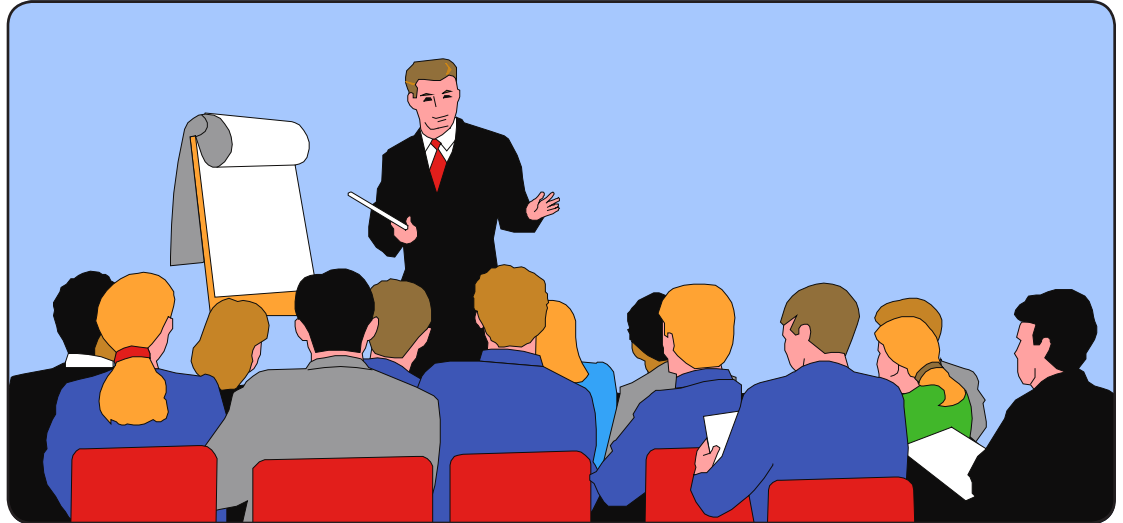
In addition, we are delaying the start of some capital projects. Other projects are funded by federal or state grants or bonds (loans). These projects will move forward because the funds are strictly earmarked and cannot be used for other purposes. Examples are the improvements to Nikolaus Homestead Park and Show Low Lake, the new library construction, and airport projects. Some projects have had money set aside for them over a period of years and these, too, are moving forward, probably in phases as funds allow.

We will continue to provide full public safety and public works services, such as snow plowing, water and sewer maintenance, road patching, etc. We will also continue our community programs, including the Show Low DEAL (after-school) program, teen center and library activities, aquatics programs, City 4 Television broadcasts, recreational events and sports leagues.

2009-10 budget

Our annual budget estimates revenues and expenses and funds city services. As we begin looking at funding for projects, programs, activities and events, we welcome your input. We will continue to take a proactive and conservative approach to keep expenses down as we begin preparing the 2009-10 budget.

Attend any or all of the proposed budget meetings, held in council chambers at 180 N. 9th Street unless otherwise noted. Two town hall-style meetings are geared specifically for public comments, with an opportunity to submit suggestions for



council consideration and possible inclusion in the budget. The last meeting in April and first meeting in May may be canceled if budget discussions are completed. Check meeting dates online at showlowaz.gov under "public information."

- ❖ Tues., Jan. 13, 6 p.m., budget study session
- ❖ Thurs., Jan. 22, 6 p.m., town hall budget meeting for citizen input
- ❖ Tues., Apr. 7, 6 p.m., budget review at study session
- ❖ Thurs., Apr. 9, 5:30 p.m., town hall for citizen input followed by budget study session (held in library's conference room B)
- ❖ Thurs., Apr. 16, 5:30 p.m., budget study session
- ❖ Thurs., Apr. 23, 5:30 p.m., budget study session
- ❖ Thurs., April 30, 5:30 p.m., budget study session
- ❖ Thurs., May 7, 5:30 p.m., budget study session
- ❖ Tues., May 19, 7 p.m., council consideration of tentative budget
- ❖ Tues., June 16, 7 p.m., council consideration of final budget

Citizen survey

The city is planning to conduct a survey of our citizens in January and February to gather your responses on a variety of issues. You will receive a written survey in the mail or a telephone call. We look forward to your comments as we set our priorities for the coming year. It will help us answer questions such as, Which projects, programs and activities are the most important to you? What should the city be spending money on?

Helping our businesses

We are looking to help our businesses, too. We and the Show

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Calendar of Events

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

- 12/29-01/02** **Excess trash pickup week** (except New Year's Day)
- 01/01** **New Year's Day** (City offices CLOSED)
- 01/06** **7 p.m.**, Council Chambers
City Council Regular Meeting
- 01/08** **10 a.m.**, Public Library (public welcome)
Show Low Library Friends meeting
- 01/09** **Time TBA**, City Campus gym
Game Night (teen event for junior high students)
- 01/10** **Youth Basketball** registration ends
- 01/12** **Men's 3 on 3 Tournament** registration begins (ages 15+)
- 01/13** **7 p.m.**, Council Chambers,
Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting
- 01/15** **3:30-4:30 p.m.**, Public Library, (ages 8+), **Cool Kids Book Discussion Group** (bring book about favorite real/imaginary hero)
- 01/19** **Martin Luther King Day** (City offices CLOSED)
- 01/19** **Noon to 5 p.m.**, Aquatic Center (holiday hours)
- 01/20** **7 p.m.**, Council Chambers
City Council Regular Meeting
- 01/21** **Spring Coed Volleyball** registration ends
- 01/21** **1:30 p.m.**, Public Library
Book Discussion Group (book: The Chosen)
- 01/27** **7 p.m.**, Council Chambers
Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting
- 01/31** **Time TBA**, Junior High School gym
Youth basketball league skills clinic



Pay utility bills online

Check your utility account and pay online. Go to www.showlowaz.gov and click the "Utility Payment" link. Set up your account by entering your customer number and name as it appears on the utility bill. Make a one-time payment or automatically charge the balance to a credit card every billing cycle a balance is due. Select which day of the month your account should be charged, but make sure it is at least three days prior to your bill's due date or you may incur a late fee. Billing will occur on or shortly after the date selected.

You can also find a utility service application, utility rates, and maps showing water districts, electric districts and trash pickup routes. From the home page, select "Departments," "Administrative Services," "Finance" and "Utilities."

Check out CrimeReports.com

The Show Low Police Department and CrimeReports.com announce a new online crime alerting and mapping service with easy-to-read incident crime maps and automated alerts to Show Low citizens. The service at www.crimereports.com or www.showlowaz.gov provides neighborhood crime data in near real-time.

The service, free to the public, allows citizens to receive automatic daily, weekly or monthly e-mail alerts if/when crimes occur near their home, office, local school, etc. Citizens can also view reported crime activity on a map for any location within Show Low's boundaries. Crime incident data is updated nightly with incident type, date, approximate location, distance from citizen's address, event identification/case number and a brief crime incident description.

"CrimeReports.com will prove particularly valuable to those who want to stay informed about what is going on in their neighborhoods. It will empower citizens to work with the police department to address neighborhood crime issues," said Chief Smythe. "We are thrilled to add this service completely free to the public."

"By participating in CrimeReports.com, the Show Low Police Department is demonstrating its commitment to service and safety by making crime information available to Show Low's citizens," said Greg Whisenant, co-founder and CEO of Public Engines, which makes the CrimeReports.com application.

Dog tags available

Dogs four months and older living within the city limits must be registered annually. Dog tags, valid January through December 2009, are available at the administrative services department, 180 N. 9th Street. Tags are \$5 for a spayed/neutered dog or \$15 for a non-spayed/non-neutered dog. Dog owners 65 years+ pay \$3 a tag. Present the dog's description, dates of vaccination and revaccination, and a current rabies vaccination certificate with a name and address.

Citizen input...continued from front page

Low Chamber of Commerce are implementing a business retention and enhancement program called Team Show Low. The program identifies specific concerns and seeks ways to help. Team Show Low members visit Show Low businesses for input on the current business climate, identify companies that are expanding or potentially relocating or downsizing, and identify specific concerns. Need financing or tax assistance? Having difficulty attracting and hiring competent workers? How can city services better meet your needs? Team members will work with individual businesses to resolve identified issues and share the data to find ways to improve city services, enhance the business climate and encourage continued business investment in Show Low.

National and state leaders and economists are saying this is a global crisis and one that will recover slowly. The City of Show Low is in sound financial shape, but we are taking steps now to reduce our expenses to weather this economic storm. We still have much to be thankful for—beautiful surroundings, an enviable climate, friendly neighbors, our small-town atmosphere and dedicated employees.