

Show Low working to combat recession

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Rick Fernau - Special to The Independent |

I want to take a moment to thank you, our citizens, for the trust you have placed in the Show Low City Council to make the fiscally responsible decisions to help us weather this historic recession and keep our local and state economies moving in the right direction.

We have taken many difficult but necessary steps over the past few years in response to severe revenue declines. We have learned to be more efficient and to do more with less. As a result, our goals and long-term vision for Show Low have not been sacrificed. With money we had put aside, we are beautifying our downtown with the Deuce of Clubs landscape project and a new civic complex on 9th Street, amenities that will bring more activity to our city.

Like the other 90 Arizona cities and towns, Show Low is an engine for economic growth and job creation. We have always worked hard to recruit and retain businesses and employers that provide employment for our citizens and contribute to our economic health. A strong economy makes it possible to provide essential services such as public safety, clean water, parks, libraries and public transportation systems.

These vital services and amenities are all important to our overall quality of life, which make us attractive to other businesses seeking to expand or locate. Our latest businesses are the nationally known CVS pharmacy, set to open in the summer, at the corner of the Deuce and Central Avenue, and Discount Tire on White Mountain Road.

In a recent statewide poll, Arizona citizens overwhelmingly affirmed their trust in local governments. The poll, commissioned by the League of Arizona Cities and Towns, confirmed that Arizonans believe that Show Low's services are vital, something we as elected leaders already know. More importantly, the poll showed strong statewide support for maintaining and protecting Arizona's long-standing policy of shared state revenues, which provide much of the funding for these important services.

Studies also show that more than 90 percent of the state tax revenue is generated from economic activity in cities and towns. Consequently, for the state to recover economically, cities and towns need to be strong and attractive to businesses and families. Let's all support each other to rise out of this economic quagmire together.

Once again, thank you for your trust. With your help and your voice, we will continue to make our community thrive now and into the future.

Rick Fernau is mayor of Show Low.

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