



# Community Connection

*News and events for citizens of Sedona*

June 2014

*SedonaAZ.gov*

## *An Update from Mayor Rob Adams*

Happy Summer everyone!

This will be the last Community Connection update that I will write as Mayor of Sedona. I will be completing my third term in November of this year, and have announced that I will not be running for another term. It has been an honor and pleasure to serve my community and I thank you for the opportunity to represent our beautiful city.

My top priority has been to work with City Council and staff to ensure that the City is fiscally responsible. To that end, I am pleased to announce that in the last six years, the city has reduced its total debt obligations 30.5%, from a \$72 million outstanding balance in 2008 to \$50 million in 2014. Additionally, we have significantly reduced our annual budget. In 2008, our total annual budget was \$60.5 million. Currently, it is \$36.1 million, which is a 40% overall reduction. The City has enjoyed surpluses in our operating reserve fund for the last five years. This year, overall expenses are below budget and we are on track to finish the fiscal year in June with revenues about 2% above budget forecast. These are fiscal achievements that we can be proud of, particularly considering the country has experienced a devastating economic downturn during the last six years!

Although we have had to "tighten our belt" during the economic downturn, we have worked diligently to provide for the health, safety and welfare of our citizens. The safety of SR 179 and SR 89A has been dramatically improved with dark sky compliant lighting. ADA compliant sidewalks have been constructed on both of these corridors. The City Council has accelerated the implementation of flood control improvements in large segments of the city. We have made substantial upgrades to our sewer treatment plant and infrastructure. The city helped to fund many vital community services, including an expansion of the kitchen at the Sedona Community Center, the Meals on Wheels program, and the operation of the Sedona Humane Society and the



*Mayor Rob Adams*

Sedona Public Library, just to name a few.

The city has also been very proactive in implementing environmental and sustainable projects. We are now producing an A+ quality effluent at our wastewater treatment plant. This high quality effluent can now be utilized for recharging our aquifer, growing produce and other sustainable oriented uses.

We have installed almost 20 miles of bicycle lanes and are an official Bicycle Friendly City. The Verde Lynx transit system was created to serve our citizens and provide a link to Cottonwood, Clarkdale, and Camp Verde. Most of the City lighting has been converted to dark sky compliancy and the city has been granted a provisional "Dark Sky Friendly" status.

Renovating and expanding our public parks has been another priority. All of our ball fields have been replanted and our tennis courts have been resurfaced. A new public swimming pool was constructed and a splash pad for kids will be completed this summer. The skate park was retrofitted to accommodate BMX bicycles. Five annual signature public events have been created along with numerous classes and programs. A new 27-acre public park at the Wetlands Preserve was dedicated in 2013, which has become one of Arizona's top birding destinations. The Barbara Antonsen outdoor performance venue at Posse Grounds Park is working its way through a design/build process and should be constructed sometime in early 2015. In March of this year, the city acquired 3.46 acres of property on Brewer Road. A public process will soon be initiated to "vision" the development of this property for a community gathering place.

I am honored to have been a part of the decision-making process for all of these projects. The "face" of Sedona has changed dramatically during the years that I have been the Mayor. It has always been my intention to support projects that are in alignment with, and reflect, our unique environment. I hope you are as proud of our accomplishments as I am.

***The mission of the City of Sedona government is to provide exemplary municipal services that are consistent with our values, history, culture and unique beauty.***

# City Clerk

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## ***Important Election Information***

This year marks a new era for the elections process in Sedona. In 2013, the Arizona State Legislature passed a new law consolidating some municipal elections with State and Federal elections. In the past, Sedona City Council elections were held in the spring of even numbered years with the Primary Election in March and the General Election in May. With the new law, Sedona's City Council elections will now be in the fall of even numbered years with the Primary Election in August and the General Election in November.

### **What does this mean to you as a voter?**

First and foremost, Sedona elections for City Council will no longer be all vote-by-mail elections. Since the State and Federal Primary and General Elections are polling place or vote center elections, Sedona's City Council election must be held in the same format. If you are on the Permanent Early Voter List, you can still vote by mail but may have to go through additional steps to receive a ballot by mail. This also means that Yavapai County will no longer handle Sedona elections for both Yavapai and Coconino Counties. Each county will handle their portion of Sedona separately. Please watch your mail for specific information and instructions to voters from your County Recorder.

Secondly, "Independents", or those not registered to the main parties listed below, can vote in the Primary; however, you will need to tell your County Recorder which ballot you want to vote. If you are an "Independent" and are on the Permanent Early Voter List (PEVL), you will receive a tear-off card to send back to your County Recorder with your ballot choice. The ballots available to choose from will be party ballots from the Americans Elect, Democratic, Libertarian and Republican Parties. These ballots will include all the party races and the City races/issues. There will also be a separate City only ballot with just the City races/issues. Independents will need to choose one ballot from the five choices shown. Please make sure that you return your tear-off card to your County Recorder in time for them to mail a ballot to you.

You can also vote in person on Election Day. Sedona voters residing in Yavapai County can vote at any vote center in the County. The Yavapai County Vote Center in Sedona is located at the Elks Lodge #2291, 110 Airport Road. There are 29 other vote centers throughout Yavapai County, which can be found by visiting their website, [www.yavapai.us](http://www.yavapai.us). Sedona voters residing in Coconino County can vote at their precinct polling place. Precinct 82, Sedona North, is located at Wayside Chapel Community Church, Jordan Hall, 401 North State Route 89A in Sedona. Precinct 83, Sedona South, is located at Christ Lutheran Church, Fellowship Hall, 25 Chapel Road in Sedona. Please refer to your voter registration card to determine your precinct number.

If you are going to be out of town during voting, please contact your County Recorder to ensure that a ballot is sent to an address where you can receive it. Please note that ballots cannot be forwarded by the United States Postal Service and will be returned to the county. For information on early or absentee voting, please contact your County Recorder's office.

During the August 26, 2014 Primary Election, Sedona voters will be voting for Mayor, for three Councilors, and on Proposition 429. Proposition 429 is for voter consideration of continued use of the Alternative Expenditure Limitation - Home Rule Option. With the voters' approval, the City shall be limited to the expenditure of estimated available revenues whether such expenditures are less than or exceed the State imposed limit. As an example, in 2015-2016, the state-imposed limitation plus applicable constitutional exclusions will allow expenditures of \$25,478,292. Under the proposed Alternative Expenditure Limitation, we estimate expenditures of \$34,483,147. If the voters approve, the additional expenditure authority will be used for all local budgetary purposes including General Government, Community Development, Public Safety, Public Works, Highway and Streets, Wastewater Utility, Capital Improvements, Grants, and Debt Service. Revenues received from federal, state, and local sources will be used to fund such expenditures.

A voter must be a qualified elector of the City of Sedona. A qualified elector of the City is defined as a person, eighteen years or older, whose name appears on the Coconino or Yavapai County voter registration rolls for the City of Sedona, twenty-nine (29) days prior to the date of the election. The deadline for voter registration for the August 26, 2014 Primary Election is July 28, 2014. For more information, please contact the Sedona City Clerk's Office at 928-282-3113.

**Remember that local races/issues are often determined in the Primary Election; so make sure you get your ballot and VOTE!**

## Citizen Engagement Program

It has been an exciting and busy 2014 for citizen engagement. The newly launched Citizen Engagement Program makes it easy for residents to get involved in decisions, issues, and concerns at the City. The easiest way to participate is through work groups that function as advisory boards or project teams and work side-by-side with City staff to work through an issue or concern. The following work groups are just a few that have either already occurred, are currently meeting, or are in the process of being formed:

- Work group to raise funding and provide input on the design of a new bike park
- Work group to review the process for identifying "community benefit" requirements in rezoning applications
- Developer review process work group to streamline the City's process for moving development through the design review and project approval process
- Service contract review committee work group to evaluate funding requests from certain non-profit organizations the City contracts with and give recommendations to the City Council
- Citizens Budget work group to give feedback on the City's Fiscal Year 2015 budget
- Cultural Park Community Focus Area work group to give input on future development and redevelopment of the Cultural Park area

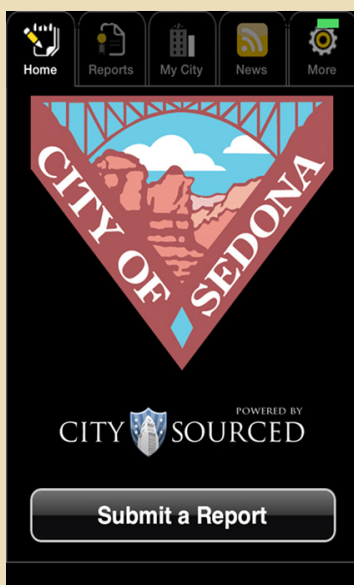
- Off Road Vehicles work group (noise and safety concerns)
- Soldiers Pass Community Focus Area work group to give input on future development and redevelopment at the 89A – Soldiers Pass Road intersection
- Roundabout art selection work group to help decide the art piece for the Schnebly Hill Roundabout

As you can see, there are many ways to get involved. We encourage you to participate in future work groups through the Citizen Engagement Program by signing up online. Go to the City's home page, click on the Citizen Engagement icon, and sign up through the Volunteer Questionnaire link.

Also, check out the new Engage Sedona online forum. A one-stop location for all of the City's online citizen input – whether it be your suggestions for how to improve our community or your feedback on a particular issue – is accessed from the Citizen Engagement website.

As always, follow Sedona's citizen engagement via the program's Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts. Access these through the Citizen Engagement website. For more information, contact Lauren Browne, Citizen Engagement Coordinator, at [LBrowne@SedonaAZ.gov](mailto:LBrowne@SedonaAZ.gov), or call 928-203-5068, or text 928-821-6958.

## Sedona Citizens Connect



Earlier this year, the City of Sedona launched a new smartphone application, Sedona Citizens Connect, which allows Sedona residents to help improve their neighborhoods and the City by reporting non-emergency civic issues, such as potholes, abandoned vehicles, and loose animals.

In addition, it supports the Reverse 311 push notifications, which notifies the community of emergency situations or critical alerts. For

example, Sedona Citizens Connect was utilized during the Slide Fire incident. In the future, it can be used for urgent updates such as flooding, road closures, and emergency community meetings. The City encourages you to be prepared and download the application now.

The mobile app is free for iPhone, Android, and Windows smartphone devices. To download the application, search for "Sedona Citizens Connect." For anyone who downloads the application, it does not have to be open to receive any Reverse 311 notifications.

For reporting issues, Sedona Citizens Connect allows a user to capture a photo, video, or audio of the problem. The user then uploads the media, and along with GPS location information pulled from the device, submits a report directly to the City. Feedback is provided to the user based on the action taken by the department handling the report.

In addition, if you do not have a smartphone, you can report an issue via the City's website at [www.SedonaAZ.gov](http://www.SedonaAZ.gov). On the homepage, click on the Citizens Connect button. A service request may also be tracked on the website.

Using Sedona Citizens Connect allows the City to use technology to save time and money while improving accountability as well as to notify citizens about emergencies.

## Police

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Sedona residents and visitors are invited to join thousands of other communities nationwide in celebrating the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual National Night Out with safety presentations and a free community picnic on Tuesday, August 5, 2014 from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. at the Posse Grounds Park, Posse Ground Road.

National Night Out is designed to increase community involvement and strengthen partnerships between the community and local public safety agencies.

Free hamburgers, hot dogs, vegetarian alternatives, chips and water donated by local merchants will be served throughout the evening along with live demonstrations, music, and a wide range of information on public safety topics. Those attending can have children fingerprinted for free, see the latest in law enforcement, fire fighting, safety and rescue equipment, learn ways to make their homes and streets safer as well as meet community public safety officials.

Sedona's celebration is hosted by the Sedona Police Department with participation from numerous other

public service agencies and private organizations such as DPS, Friends of the Forest, Sedona Fire District, Arizona Rangers, ADOT, Arizona Attorney General's Office, and Sedona Food Bank.

The Sedona Police Department officers, Animal Control Officer, K-9 Unit, and others will be presenting demonstrations.

This year's celebration is organized by the Sedona Community Police Alliance (CPA), the Police Department's citizen volunteer group. CPA volunteers will also be assisting Sedona Police Department officers with a number of the demonstration and informational sites and explaining police volunteer service opportunities.

For additional information, please contact the Sedona Police Department at 928-282-3100.



## Arts & Culture

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Sedona was chosen as one of the 10 most beautiful places in America by *USA Today*. We are all fortunate to live in a place that is not only scenically breathtaking, but happens to be home to an abundance of talented artists that are inspired by the rich color and ever changing hues of the majestic red rocks seen on a daily basis. Whether the artist's creative expression is visual, performing, music, literary, film, dance or culinary, each one shapes and enriches our community in its own unique way. Art is an integral and thought provoking part of our lives, given the diversity and subjectivity it offers. Art is something we can individually interpret, offers us something to share, and brings our community together. What better way to come together than to honor those that have made a creative and significant contribution to the success of the arts in Sedona.

Juried art shows and exhibits in local galleries that honor individual artists based on the quality of their work have been a presence in our cultural history for quite some time. In 2008, the former Arts & Culture Commission researched and launched a new way to honor artists that were outstanding in their field. This celebration was not based on the quality or quantity of work by an artist or group, but rather to recognize those that went beyond this and made a significant improvement to our community through the arts. The Mayor's Arts Awards program was created after the Santa Fe model and was shaped to fit the needs of

Sedona. The venue and format for this special event has evolved and grown over the years. We now look forward to offering the Sixth Annual Mayor's Arts Awards, which will be held on Thursday evening, November 6 at the Mary D. Fisher Theatre.

There are four nomination categories including Individual, Organization/Business, Lifetime Achievement, and Education. Residents are invited to think of an individual or an organization they feel stands out in their artistic service to our community. Remember this is not just visual artists, but can incorporate actors, musicians, poets, writers, filmmakers, dancers or chefs. More specifically, do you know someone or an organization who has contributed to the advancement or preservation of arts in Sedona? Does someone come to mind who has demonstrated leadership in advancing the arts through advocacy, promotion, creativity, and innovation? Is there a person who has developed outstanding creative programs or venues in the greater Sedona area? If the answer is yes to any of these possibilities, you are encouraged to submit a nomination.

There is now even more time to do so, as the nomination deadline is Friday, September 12. For an application packet, please contact Nancy Lattanzi, Arts & Culture Coordinator, at [NLattanzi@SedonaAZ.gov](mailto:NLattanzi@SedonaAZ.gov), or call 928-203-5078. For additional information, visit [www.SedonaAZ.gov/Arts](http://www.SedonaAZ.gov/Arts).

## Parks and Recreation

There is no need to leave the comfort and beauty of your home town this summer when there is so much to take part in and enjoy right here in Sedona! Let your local Parks and Recreation Department provide you with some of those great options.

One great option is to come celebrate the Fourth of July with a free laser show and live concert at the Sedona Red Rock High School. Bring a blanket to spread out on the cool green grass and enjoy a picnic, live music from David Parker & The Big Time, and a patriotic laser show choreographed to music. The concert will be filling the air from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. with the laser show beginning at dark (approximately 8:45 p.m.). Food vendors will be on site selling yummy treats, so plan on arriving early and enjoying the festivities for the evening. No alcohol or dogs are allowed into the event. Many thanks to Diamond Resorts International for sponsoring this event.

July is warm, but this department is hotter! We just keep cranking out the fun. Every Wednesday in July is a wet one when you participate in our free, two-hour water in the park event appropriately named Wet Wednesdays. From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the grass field of Sunset Park, participants can enjoy taking their turn on the duel lane 30 foot long inflatable slip and slide or playing on the brand new Splash Pad. Enjoy the sunshine, playground, and just lounging around with your neighbors at this relaxing community event. If that isn't enough water to satisfy you, take a trip to the Sedona Community Pool, open six days a week until the kids are back in school.

The Sedona Community Pool has a variety of programming and new special events to keep almost everyone satisfied. Swim laps, participate in an aerobics class, learn how to swim or just goof around during Open Swim, it's your choice. Heated to a comfortable 83 degrees, the pool offers eight lap lanes,



both deep and shallow water for play, lounge chairs on deck, and locker room facilities with showers and lockers. On Saturday, July 26, the pool will be host to Flick & Float, a dive-in movie experience. Bring the family and enjoy *Zookeeper* while floating in the cool of the pool. Admission is \$2 and is limited to the first 300 tickets sold. Snacks will also be available for purchase.

It's not just kids and adults that enjoy the park. On Saturday, July 19, your dogs will too. Bring your well-behaved four-legged friends to A Dog's Day Out in the Park and enjoy vendors set up to pamper your pooch for free. Nail trimming, discounted vaccinations, doggy baths, free dog licensing, and more are available. Your dogs will also love the off leash grass play area where they can run, jump, and splash in a kiddie pool. This event begins at 7:30 a.m. so arrive in the cool morning hours to enjoy and support this pet friendly event. Plus, the first 50 dogs through the gate get a commemorative dog bowl.



Summer is here and we hope you join us for our diverse recreation offerings in Sedona. In addition, look to us all year long for creative, outdoor activities. For details and pictures of all of these events and more, we invite you to check out the Parks and Recreation Photo/Video Galleries and event pages at [www.SedonaAZ.gov/Parks](http://www.SedonaAZ.gov/Parks).

# Sedona City Council

The Sedona City Council holds their regular meetings on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at 102 Roadrunner Drive. The meetings are broadcast live on the City's website at [www.SedonaAZ.gov](http://www.SedonaAZ.gov) and on Suddenlink cable Channel 4. In addition, the City Council holds numerous work sessions and special meetings. For more information on meeting dates and times, please refer to the above website.

## *Your City Council wants to hear from you.*

They can be contacted by mail at Sedona City Hall,  
102 Roadrunner Drive, Sedona, AZ 86336 or by email at:

Mayor Rob Adams	<a href="mailto:RAdams@SedonaAZ.gov">RAdams@SedonaAZ.gov</a>
Vice Mayor Mark DiNunzio	<a href="mailto:MDiNunzio@SedonaAZ.gov">MDiNunzio@SedonaAZ.gov</a>
Councilor Barbara Litrell	<a href="mailto:BLitrell@SedonaAZ.gov">BLitrell@SedonaAZ.gov</a>
Councilor John Martinez	<a href="mailto:JMartinez@SedonaAZ.gov">JMartinez@SedonaAZ.gov</a>
Councilor Dan McIlroy	<a href="mailto:DMcIlroy@SedonaAZ.gov">DMcIlroy@SedonaAZ.gov</a>
Councilor Mike Ward	<a href="mailto:MWard@SedonaAZ.gov">MWard@SedonaAZ.gov</a>
Councilor Jessica Williamson	<a href="mailto:JWilliamson@SedonaAZ.gov">JWilliamson@SedonaAZ.gov</a>

The City Council is here to listen and serve you!



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