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CITIES AND TOWNS DELIVER INNOVATIVE SERVICES WHILE CUTTING COSTS

PHOENIX (June 12, 2013) – Arizona’s cities and towns are taking the lead on developing innovative services for residents while finding efficiencies that save taxpayer dollars.

The state’s municipalities have built energy- and water-efficient buildings, streamlined the construction-permit processes and even have transformed their libraries into customer-friendly public gathering spaces.

“People look to cities and towns for services that enhance their quality-of-life, so it’s our mission to make sure these services are constantly improved and delivered in the most cost-effective manner possible,” said Clarkdale Mayor Doug Von Gausig, president of the League of Arizona Cities and Towns. “Innovation and efficiency should go hand-in-hand.”

Highlights of cities’ and towns’ innovative efforts include:

• Cottonwood will begin construction this year on a state-of-the-art water reclamation plant that will treat effluent water used to irrigate parks and other public areas. The plant will be equipped with enough solar panels to ensure it is operated 100 percent by solar power. Some of the excess water treated to the highest standards will be recharged back into surrounding aquifers to replenish the area’s drinking-water supply.

• Tempe is transforming its public library into a gathering place that offers much more than a place to do research or check out books. Community surveys have shown that residents want more programming and classes, as well as personalized assistance. Tempe has responded: A concierge greets library users when they walk in, and a quaint café offers guests treats or coffee. People can attend computer training classes, watch plays, participate in family story time or do arts and crafts. Tempe has also started to bring in experts to speak on topics, such as genealogy or job searches.

• Surprise is launching a new program this month that will make the building-permit process less expensive and faster for new residential and commercial construction projects, as well as tenant improvements. The “Self-Certification Program for Building Permits” eliminates plan review for licensed design professionals who are certified in the City of Phoenix. That means customers are saving money on fees, and permits can be issued within five business days.

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• Goodyear’s Fire Station No. 181 was ranked this year as the best “green building” out of 74 fire and police facilities throughout the Valley. The Phoenix office of the Building Operators Managers’ Association recognized the fire station for its lighting and energy use, as well as its heating and cooling operations. The city used federal grants to put foam roofs on its fire stations, as well as make other city facilities more energy efficient.

• El Mirage consolidated its trash and recycling services last month, making the collection more efficient for residents. Now, residents will only have to remember to put out containers once a week.

**About the League:**

The League of Arizona Cities and Towns is a voluntary association of all the 91 incorporated cities and towns in the state of Arizona. It provides policy and legislative advocacy, information and inquiry services, along with publications and educational programs to strengthen the quality and efficiency of municipal government. It was founded in 1937 to serve the interests of cities and towns and to preserve the principles of home rule and local determination. For more information, visit [www.azleague.org](http://www.azleague.org)