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Message from the President

Here’s an interesting bit of trivia from Marshall Trimble, Arizona’s Official State Historian: In 1912, President William Howard Taft was ready to sign the statehood bill on February 12, but it was Lincoln’s birthday. The next day, the 13th, was considered bad luck, so they waited until the following day.

And that’s why we celebrate Arizona’s birthday each Valentine’s Day.

Nearing Arizona’s Centennial celebration, we have a wonderful opportunity to commemorate all of the rich history our respective cities and towns possess. While we may not enjoy the ancient treasures of say, Beijing’s Forbidden City, or the striking remains of the Roman Empire, Arizona does enjoy a truly distinctive historical tapestry within its moderately short time of existence.

We have the San Xavier Mission in Tucson and the El Tovar Lodge at the Grand Canyon. There is the Orpheum Theater in downtown Phoenix and the Tombstone Historic District. And places like Hoover Dam and the Tumacacori Mission and Museum near the Mexican border in Santa Cruz County attract visitors who want to learn more about the taming of the west and its vast resources.

This issue of Arizona City & Town focuses on historical Arizona, and as importantly, its historical preservation. Our state has an amazing story to tell. And we’re not just educating and entertaining visitors. Many of our residents are recent transplants from throughout the country if not the world. We must be mindful that preserving our history and relaying it to the public remains a vital part of our community vision.

While that is more difficult than ever given present economic times, it is critical that we do all we can to preserve the past for present and future generations of Arizonans to discover and enjoy.

Boyd W. Dunn
League President
Mayor, City of Chandler
Message from the Executive Director

“Where do we come from?” and “Where are we going?” These are two fundamental questions often asked by individuals, organizations and communities as they seek to understand their past and successfully chart their future. In this issue of Arizona City & Town, we will explore those questions specifically in relation to our state.

I enjoy reading and learning about history. And, as we plan for our upcoming State Centennial, it is important to remember and celebrate Arizona’s rich history. Especially in these dire economic times, the past can provide a map of the challenges we’ve faced and the obstacles we have already overcome, as well as offer context for the present.

A review of Arizona’s story reveals a common theme: resilience. Our municipalities have seen industries rise and fall, housing booms and slumps, inflation and recession, extraordinary changes in technology, and increasingly complex social and environmental issues. Yet, the past shows us that all of these challenges have been effectively met and overcome by our local and state leaders with consistent optimism and creativity.

The difficulties we face today are significant. Among other issues, Arizona’s municipalities are grappling with severely decreased revenues and increased demand for services. However, history allows us to be confident that, like in times past, we will find solutions to these problems—solutions that will reinforce our mission to provide the best, most efficient services to our citizens and build quality communities.

Particularly encouraging as cities and towns deal with fiscal challenges is the local reinvestment that is occurring across the state. Local leaders are finding ways to engage our past and connect it to our future through State Centennial Legacy Projects and Department of Commerce Main Street Program projects, like those you will find in the pages that follow.

While we may be one of the youngest states in the nation and the last of the “lower 48,” we enjoy a diverse and colorful history. The League invites you to explore historical Arizona and join in the celebration as the state prepares for its 100th birthday.

Ken Strobeck
Executive Director

A review of Arizona’s story reveals a common theme: resilience.
Arizona’s Capitals: A Tale of Three Cities

BY ALICE DUCKWORTH
OUTREACH COORDINATOR
ARIZONA CAPITOL MUSEUM

The story of Arizona’s capitals bouncing around among Prescott, Tucson and Phoenix is a favorite of Arizona Capitol Museum visitors. In 1864, John Goodwin, Arizona’s first Territorial Governor, built Prescott on the banks of Granite Creek as Arizona’s first capital.

How did Tucson become the capital? Some say Tucson promised Gov. Richard McCormick support for his campaign to become Arizona’s delegate to Congress in exchange for it. The move occurred in 1867. In 1869, McCormick became the delegate to Congress. Ten years later, the capital returned to Prescott.

The 13th Territorial Legislature liked to spend money. In 1885, it earned the nickname “The Thieving Thirteenth” for excessive spending. Some of what they did still affects us today: Tucson received $25,000 for the University of Arizona in lieu of getting the capital back; $100,000 went to Phoenix for an insane asylum, which is now the Arizona State Hospital; and Arizona State University was established with a $5,000 allocation for Tempe to start a school for teachers.

As for the capital, Prescott was too far north and Tucson too far south. Accordingly, Gov. Conrad “Connie” Zulick and the 15th Territorial Legislature chose a new centrally located site. Legislative Act No. 1, Jan. 26, 1889, states that “the permanent seat of Government and Capital of this Territory shall be, and the same is, hereby located and established at the City of Phoenix, in the County of Maricopa.”

The Legislature moved into the Phoenix City Hall and formed a commission to locate and purchase a site for the Capitol. Arizona would finally build a Capitol to house all three branches of government in style. The address for that Capitol: 1700 W. Washington in Phoenix.
James Riely Gordon, a Texas architect, submitted the winning plans for Arizona's Capitol. Using native stone saved money: gray granite from South Mountain in Phoenix and tuff stone, a porous volcanic rock, from Kirkland near Prescott. The builder had never worked with tuff and didn't trust it. He tested the strength of the tuff against the granite. Stressed, the granite eventually shattered, but the tuff survived.

After gaining statehood on Feb. 14, 1912, Arizona's population growth pushed government expansion. A couple of proposals were submitted in the 1950s to provide more office space. Neither was built. Noted architect Frank Lloyd Wright disliked these proposals and submitted his own plan.

Wright thought the Capitol was located too near an industrial area. A better location would be Papago Park, and his "Arizona Oasis" would be a better design.

The Capitol Complex grew from one building to more than 50 dedicated to the service of the people of Arizona from 1901 to the present. The centerpiece is still the historic Capitol, topped with a shiny copper dome and the figure of Winged Victory. In 1981, it became the Arizona Capitol Museum. The museum tells the stories of Arizona through a mix of permanent and changing exhibits. Visitors from all over the world walk through the chamber where the Arizona Constitution was written, see the Silver Service from the USS Arizona and hear stories that connect Arizona's past to her future.

To learn more about Arizona's history, we invite you to visit the Arizona Capitol Museum, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free.
On Feb. 14, 1912, after nearly 49 years as a U.S. territory and thousands of years as a sacred home to indigenous peoples, Arizona became the 48th state and the last of the contiguous states to enter the Union of the United States of America. In 2012, Arizona will celebrate its 100th year of statehood.

Established by Executive Order, the Arizona Centennial Commission was formed to plan a commemoration for this momentous occasion. Working in collaboration with the Arizona Historical Advisory Commission (AHAC) and communities throughout the state, our centennial is an opportunity to create a greater awareness among residents and visitors of the vibrant culture, rich heritage and majestic beauty that define the great state of Arizona.
The state of Arizona, through its Office of Tourism, has dedicated a full-time assistant deputy director, Karen Churchard, to serve as director of the Arizona Centennial Commission and its 501(c)(3) non-profit Arizona Centennial 2012 Foundation. After researching many other state centennials, sesquicentennials and bicentennials, Churchard drew from Oklahoma, Oregon and Minnesota for ideas that will be implemented by the Arizona commission.

Arizona’s centennial celebration will officially kick off in September 2011 and continue through Statehood Day — Feb. 14, 2012 — with premier events planned for Phoenix, Prescott and Tucson. Plans include performances by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, a “Best of Arizona” festival, breakfasts honoring our centenarians, and perhaps some collaborative events with New Mexico, which also celebrates its first hundred years in 2012. In addition, it is anticipated that many officially sanctioned festivals, events, exhibits, etc., will continue through 2012.

The Arizona Centennial Commission will bring these projects to life through a master plan with a signature project for the Arizona Capitol Mall District. The commission’s goal is to have all 22 tribes, 15 counties and 90 incorporated cities and towns represented with at least one official Arizona Centennial Legacy Project and/or event that is unique and meaningful to its citizens.

Each city and town is important to the centennial celebration. Community involvement is vital to planning Legacy Projects, events and activities that will showcase the diverse nature of the state with respect to its people, entrepreneurial spirit, unique destinations and educational opportunities. For the best possible celebration, every one of us should be involved.

A community toolkit will be available online with several event ideas to use as templates for planning your city or town’s part of the celebration. As your community begins to look for unique and meaningful ways to participate, here are some suggestions:

First, know that sometimes the simplest things are the best. Every municipality, no matter how small, can participate in the statewide birthday party on Feb. 14, 2012, by gathering with cake, balloons and music.

Second, there is no limit to the theme of 100. Children can list the 100 best things about Arizona, draw 100 pictures as a group, raise money to purchase 100 trees for a community park or bring together 100 patterns to make a centennial quilt.

Third, you may be closer than you think to a centennial project. If you are already planning to build a gazebo or pave a walkway, that can be a “shovel-ready” centennial project. Any new street can become Centennial Way; any new community center can be a “centennial” center. Look at what your town might be already considering, and it’s probably tailor-made for a centennial project.

Fourth, become as involved as possible with the official Arizona Centennial Commission. There are several ways to do this:

1. Create a City/Town Arizona Centennial Committee to link to our Community Outreach Committee. Two counties and several cities have already organized committees with great progress, using little, if any, appropriated funds.

2. Utilize an existing event, or create one and apply for official centennial event designation by the Arizona Centennial Commission. All official events will be publicized in a special state events guide and on the centennial Web site.

3. Consider a-lasting Legacy Project. Implemented through the Arizona Historical Advisory Commission, Legacy Projects are already a large part of the centennial commemoration. To date, 50 statewide Legacy Projects ranging from ambitious multi-million-dollar structures to lovely parks and memorials are underway.

**Sampling of Municipal Legacy Projects**

**Patagonia** has made great progress creating two Legacy Projects. The first is the Cady Hall Courtyard Garden, a community park located at the Patagonia Library and Cady Hall. A registered historic site, the courtyard garden will showcase original homestead plants and tell their stories. The second project is the restoration of the 1906 train order semaphore, located outside of the historic Southern Pacific Depot. It will preserve one of less than two dozen remaining semaphores of its kind.

The Town of **Clarkdale**, which shares Arizona’s 1912 founding year, began as housing for workers from a nearby copper smelter. To honor those hardworking men in one of the state’s original industries, the town is raising money for a Copper State Monument to be built in 2010-11 that will be in the center of the historic district downtown.

In **Florence**, the Adamsville Historical Cemeteries are the framework for a Legacy Project. The Florence Preservation Foundation has plans that include wrought iron fencing, trails and xeriscape plantings, with a day-use picnic area to combine nature and history in an appealing park-like environment.

One of the larger Legacy Projects is in **Williams**, where a 16-acre park containing the Arizona State Railroad Museum is being planned. The more than 100,000-square-foot museum will include railroad engine houses, shops, exhibits, an art gallery, a 500-seat auditorium and an outdoor amphitheater. To date, the museum foundation has acquired a $2.4 million collection of artifacts.

**Resources**

For more information on Legacy Projects, go to AHAC’s Web site at www.azcentennial.gov. For information on the Arizona Centennial and official centennial event designations, visit www.arizona100.org.
In Phoenix, several organizations have formed a partnership to restore the Tovrea Castle and Carraro Cactus Gardens, as well as the 44 surrounding acres, to their original elegance. Once completed, the mansion and cactus gardens will be open to the public with exhibits, guided tours and the opportunity to conduct social events there.

These Legacy Projects are merely the beginning. We anticipate hundreds of such efforts spanning the state in celebration of our first hundred years, giving future Arizonans a deeper appreciation of our roots.

Arizona’s Centennial can truly be the celebration of the century. Both commissions collaborating on the centennial planning are available to assist your community with plans, as well as offer advice and expertise for making those plans a reality. So, whatever your town’s budget or vision, join us in this exciting opportunity to commemorate Arizona’s history as we look toward our treasured future.

Contact Karen Churchard at (602) 364-4158 or kchurchard@azot.gov; or Lisa Schnebly Heidinger at (602) 788-6558 or arizlady@cox.net.
Main Street, Arizona — New Urbanism or Old Ruralism

BY LISA HENDERSON
ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

In Arizona cities and towns today, the keystone for flourishing commerce, economic health and old town style is emerging as communities move forward by looking back. Refurbishing the main streets of Arizona not only honors the integrity of the period’s architecture, but also promotes the history of these communities.

Adopted in 1986, the Arizona Main Street Program is carried out at a state level by the Arizona Department of Commerce through the revitalization of rural downtowns across Arizona. Born out of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the National Main Street Four Point Approach™ is a community-driven, comprehensive methodology with proven results used to revitalize older, traditional business districts throughout the United States. Main Street business owners and local governments learn to promote their downtown business districts, retain and enhance their authentic character, attract new customers and better serve the ones they have. By working together, they strive for diversity and economic sustainability. Experience has shown the Main Street™ goals of design, organization and promotion lead to economic vitality. Since it began, Arizona’s Main Street communities have accomplished more than 4,000 building projects and 800 public improvements, creating more than 10,000 jobs and a total reinvestment in Arizona downtowns of $2.3 billion.

The Arizona Main Street Program receives $130,000 annually from proceeds of the Arizona Lottery. These funds provide technical assistance, training and small grants to accredited communities. While these funds may seem small, independent business owners and citizens in rural communities typically see large results in relatively short periods of time.

Town of Florence
True Value Hardware Store

As larger, regional retailers looked to open stores near the Town of Florence, the owners of the local True Value Hardware began an extensive renovation project. Over time, the building had been split into four storefronts using various construction materials and floor elevations. The rehabilitation included removing interior walls, restoring historic building elements and updating the structure to accommodate the growing business. True Value Hardware in Florence is a shining example that success can happen with determination and creativity.

City of Nogales
Morley Avenue Little Mercado

As one of the newest Main Street districts, the City of Nogales saw its first enduring results in 2008 with the completion of the Morley Avenue Little Mercado. Once a dirt parking lot vacant for more than 100 years, a 2007 market study identified the need for more food establishments, and the Little Mercado was formed. By creating places and events of interest, communities like Nogales continue to attract residents and visitors downtown.

City of Casa Grande
“Art in the Alley”

Refurbishing buildings, signs and public areas has a dramatic impact on revitalization efforts. They can aid in reversing negative images of areas that have been ingrained over many years. For example, Casa Grande’s “Art in the Alley,” which replicates Main Street Casa Grande at the turn of the century, has grown from a monthly event to a community gathering place.

These projects bring to life the meaning of the slogan: “Main Street Arizona is a proud street; without it, Arizona could not be the great state it is today!” For additional information on Arizona’s Main Street communities, visit the Department of Commerce Web site at www.azcommerce.com/mainstreet.

Engineering solutions for growing communities...
What began as a cattle ranch a few decades ago has blossomed into a vibrant community celebrating 20 years as a town this year. Over the last two decades, Fountain Hills has focused on providing culture, quality of life and a hometown feel for residents and visitors alike. Nestled between Scottsdale and Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, the town sits in the heart of Arizona’s richest history.

Cache of Culture

While many may see this town as a bedroom community to Scottsdale, it is quickly establishing its own identity, as nearly 25,000 citizens call Fountain Hills “home.” Many tourists around the state, country and world attend its famous fairs. The town also offers guided tours of nearly 70 pieces of public art, which have been primarily donated by gracious residents, on display throughout the town.

In addition, the town hosts numerous events each year, including Ballet Under the Stars; movies on a large screen at Fountain Park; concerts in Fountain Park; a 5K “Turkey Trot” every Thanksgiving; a Homecoming parade; and a St. Patrick’s Day celebration.

Bevy of Businesses

Despite the current economy, Fountain Hills is helping new businesses open their doors and existing ones survive and even thrive. The town is home to nearly 60 restaurants and numerous boutiques and galleries.

In addition, the town is focused on breathing new life into the downtown area, called Town Center. As part of this effort, Fountain Hills recently spent six months working to develop a comprehensive downtown vision plan. This plan is already serving as a critical tool in luring both developers and business owners to Town Center.

Ambiance Abounds

Nestled in the midst of the McDowell Mountains, the Town of Fountain Hills paid nearly $13 million to buy the surrounding mountaintops. Just a few months ago, the town obtained permission to open this natural playground to the public in an effort to promote ecotourism.

Hoards of History

Long before Arizona became a state, Native American tribes called the land Fountain Hills sits on “home,” thanks to the Salt and Verde Rivers, which coming a few miles south of town. Nearly 10,000 Hohokam Indians are believed to have lived in the area hundreds of years ago. Eventually, the land evolved into the P-Bar ranch, which thrived throughout much of the 1900s. However, the 1960s brought yet another change as a developer had the idea of creating a model city, and 10 days before Christmas in 1970, the world-famous fountain was turned on for the first time.

Famous Fountain

Built in Switzerland, the fountain was carefully brought to the United States to serve as the fountain in the hills. The 7-foot nozzle weighs nearly a ton. In order to propel the water nearly 560 feet into the air, three pumps force it through the cement-coated line on special occasions. However, two of the nozzles launch the effluent water from the Fountain Lake 330 feet high for 15 minutes every hour, putting on quite the show for its residents and visitors.

Abundant Awards

As the town celebrates its 20-year anniversary, it has done much along the way to ensure success. Phoenix Magazine named it as the best place to live in the Phoenix Metropolitan area in 2006. This year, Business Week ranked Fountain Hills the “Best Affordable Suburb” in Arizona.

As can be seen, Fountain Hills has reason to celebrate 20 years. It is one of Arizona’s gems, and we invite you to spend a day or week enjoying all we have to offer.
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