



How It Benefits Your Community

The 2010 Census is your community's voice in government.

"Just like we can't survive without roads and bridges, the country doesn't function well without an updated Census to distribute funds to areas that most need them and to support community decisions about their own future."

-- Robert M. Groves, Director of the United States Census Bureau

Important for the Community

When you fill out the census form, you're making a statement about what resources your community needs to go forward. Accurate data reflecting changes in your community is crucial in apportioning seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and deciding how more than \$400 billion per year is allocated for projects like new hospitals and schools. That's more than \$4 trillion over a 10-year period for things like new roads and schools, and services like job training centers.

The census effect in action

In addition, residents themselves have used census data to support community initiatives involving environmental legislation, quality-of-life issues and consumer advocacy.

- **"Low-income families have clearly been targeted in this study."** The Organic Consumers Association used census data to lobby the Environmental Protection Agency to halt testing dangerous chemicals on low-income children in Florida. The testing was eventually stopped due to the petition.
- **"This data shows that Phillips has a higher number of both elderly and children under the age of 5 within its boundaries."** A neighborhood in Minneapolis used census data to push for further examination of the environmental and physiological impact of a proposed energy facility.
- **"Florida is rapidly being developed, increasing the threats to wildlife"** Save the Manatee Club petitioned Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to step up protection of Florida's at-risk species using census data.

Redistricting 101: What is redistricting and why do states redistrict?

- Redistricting is the process of changing electoral district and constituency boundaries, usually in response to periodic census results.
- The U.S. Constitution requires that electoral districts be periodically adjusted or redrawn to account for population shifts.
- While the census does provide information to the U.S. states on population in order for the states to redistrict appropriately, the census is not actually responsible for the act of redistricting. State legislatures or independent bipartisan commissions (depending on the state) are the bodies that actually redraw district lines.

NATURE DISCOVERY PROGRAMS

Saturdays at 10:00 AM, at the White Mountain Nature Center, 425 S. Woodland Road

The White Mountain Nature Center, in cooperation with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, Town of Pinetop-Lakeside and other partners, offers hands-on, outdoor presentations, hikes and workshops. Programs provide family-oriented fun with a discovery focus on increasing awareness, understanding and responsible action towards nature.

- April 17 LORDS OF NATURE: Life in a Land of Great Predators**
at the Show Low Library 180 N. 19th St. Film and Discussion 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- June 5 Save Our Park! Hike for Woodland Lake Park on National Trails Day – 8:00 a.m.**
Woodland Lake Park acquisition workshop
- June 12 "Getting to Know Your Nature Center" – Aldo Leopold impressionist, 5:00 p.m.**
bat mist-netting, and bonfire (fire conditions permitting)
- June 19 Making Our Communities Safe from Wildfire – Forest health, wildlife, and FIREWISE principles, with Jim Paxon and other experts**
- June 26 Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary and Mexican Wolf Recovery Workshop –**
live wolves and agency and organization recovery experts

WATCH FOR MORE EVENTS IN THE SUMMER EDITION.



Town Happenings

Due to the hard work of Navopache Electric Co-op, the People's Vision Committee (PVC), the Alliance for Sensible Advancement and Progress (ASAP), Main Street, TRACKS, the Pinetop-Lakeside Chamber of Commerce, and Town Council and staff, Christmas lights lit the Town of Pinetop-Lakeside for the first time in many years. It was a beautiful sight. Business people and private donors, including the White Mountain Summer Homes residents, donated the funds for this venture. Realty Executives donated the wreaths that lined White Mountain Blvd., while Connie Boggs of Main Street kept it all organized. The Pinetop-Lakeside Senior Citizens enjoyed a tour of the lights in a Blue Ridge School District bus, with refreshments provided by McDonalds of Pinetop.

During the past summer and fall, White Mountain Blvd. was cleaned three times through efforts of TRACKS, the Pinetop-Lakeside Chamber, PVC, ASAP and local business people.

Blue Ridge High School recently held the Academic Decathlon event. This was a great opportunity for both the school and the Town. Restaurants and hotels were full and voiced their appreciation to the school district. We hope to have many more of these types of events in Pinetop-Lakeside. Many thanks to individuals who volunteered their time to assist with judging at the competition.



The Flower Trail Competition Blooms across the White Mountains

Flowers! Who doesn't love them? "Who has the best garden?" is always a great question which the White Mountains of Arizona Flower Trail hopes to answer. From May 1 through September 1, 2010, communities throughout the region will vie for Best Community Spirit, Best Home, Best Business and Best Public Place awards. Each category of competition will offer a \$500 award along with a framed certificate. Voting for the best floral displays along the White Mountains Flower Trail will be held online with support from *The White Mountain Independent* newspaper.

The first organized region-wide flower competition will involve Pinetop-Lakeside, Show Low, Snowflake, Taylor, St. Johns, Navajo County and the White Mountain Apache Tribe. Mayors throughout the region will be invited to join in this friendly competition which promotes pride of ownership, increased property awareness and boasting rights.

Watch for more information about the White Mountains of Arizona Flower Trail in late spring and start thinking about how your garden grows!

"Celebrate Service" to our Community

In 2009, Mayor Luke Smith initiated a challenge to the community to perform 25,000 hours of community service. Not only did the community meet the challenge, they far exceeded it and by the end of 2009, the total recorded community service hours donated by the citizens equaled 43,854 hours.

To further that initiative, the Town has instituted "Celebrate Service" to our Community, a community service program for the Town employees, where they can donate time to their favorite charitable organization. The objective of this program is to allow the public to see another side of the people who work for them. Town Manager, Kelly Udall, stated, "Volunteering is a way to serve the community in a more personal way, and by giving of the employee's time and effort outside of the workplace, it shows the community it's more than just a job."

The employees may utilize a maximum of one hour per week or five hours per month of flex time to engage in volunteer service to the community. This would allow an employee to alter their typical work schedule to accommodate activities outside of work. They may combine the flex time with their lunch hour or at the end of their work day in order to maximize the time spent volunteering. An employee may also contribute their personal time, and any volunteer hours outside of this program may be included in a quarterly recognition program. The employees are allowed to choose the organization(s) they would like to assist, and are encouraged to participate.

SPRING AHEAD WITH PARKS & RECREATION!

- The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 3 at the Woodland Lake Park ball fields. Children ages 11 years and under will be participating. The Easter Bunny will be on hand to give out big hugs and have pictures taken. Don't forget to bring your camera! We will also have a raffle with special prizes, plus an egg decorating contest.
- Spring brings the start of Blue Ridge Little League baseball. Over 400 youth will take to Town and school fields to practice and play our national pastime. This youth sport is supported by a large base of volunteers and sponsors. Your support or assistance will be appreciated. For more information, please visit their website at www.pinetoplakesidelittleleague.com.
- On April 30th, the Town, along with Blue Ridge students, will celebrate Arbor Day with an educational planting at the Middle School and Junior High School site on Porter Mountain Road. The Town has been recognized by the National Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree City U.S.A. community for the 25th year.
- On June 5th we celebrate National Trails Day. The Town has once again teamed up with TRACKS to celebrate the day. TRACKS has built trails and continues to improve the White Mountain Trail System. For details on the National Trails Day celebration events, visit the TRACKS website (or join TRACKS for free!) at www.tracks-pinetop-lakeside.org, or check the local newspaper. We live in a special community, with nature as our neighbor. All people, young and old alike, benefit from interacting with the great outdoors.

For information on events and programs, visit the Town of Pinetop-Lakeside's website at www.ci.pinetop-lakeside.az.us, or call Parks & Recreation at 368-6700 Extension 3.

- Distance traveled:** 4,600+ miles from Arizona to Washington, D.C.
- Companion trees:** 80 additional trees displayed throughout Capitol Complex offices
- Companion tree ornaments:** 4,000 handcrafted from groups throughout AZ
- Christmas tree ornaments:** 6,000 handcrafted from AZ school children
- Tour stops:** 28 stops in Arizona with community events in 10 days
- Social media:** First Capitol Christmas Tree project to use Twitter/Facebook
- Green initiative:** First Capitol Christmas Tree project to use bio-fuel and a hybrid vehicle
- Media attention:** Nielsen audience of 42 million people viewed tree coverage
- Media value:** \$2.1 million in estimated media value
- Tv time:** 14 hours, 28 minutes
- International media attention:** Europe, China, Taiwan, Russia, Poland and Mexico
- Harvested from:** Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests, Alpine District



GENERAL PLAN UPDATES

The Town of Pinetop-Lakeside relies heavily on the General Plan (2001) to make policy decisions regarding land use, circulation, economic development, community facilities and services, environmental planning, housing, open space and recreation, cost of development, growth areas, water resources, and strategies for the use of renewable energy sources. State law requires the General Plan to be updated or readopted every ten years, and will be on the ballot in March of 2011.

Over the past few months, Community Development staff, in cooperation with Counts Planning, has worked hard to identify important planning issues facing our community. To accomplish this task, the Town established a General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) to help guide the General Plan Update process. The GPAC is intended to represent a cross-section of the community and includes various agencies involved with planning related decisions. The GPAC will be used throughout the process to review planning documents and provide feedback to the consultant and Town staff. The summary of important issues can be viewed on the Town's website.

The Town of Pinetop-Lakeside held the first community meeting on March 11, 2010. Details from the meeting will be posted to the Town's website including the presentation. For more information on the General Plan Update process, please contact Brian McCabe, Town Planner, at bmccabe@ci.pinetop-lakeside.az.us.

General Plan Update Milestones:

- March 11, 2010 First Community Meeting
- March 11, 2010 Second GPAC Meeting
- November 17, 2009 First GPAC Meeting
- October 7, 2009 GPAC Kick-off Meeting
- September 17, 2009 Planning Consultant approved by Council

The Capitol Christmas Tree 2009 – By the Numbers

- Species:** Blue spruce (*Picea pungens*)
- Age:** 70 years old
- Weight:** approximately 9,000 lbs at harvest
- Diameter of trunk at base:** 27 inches
- Width of tree at base of crown:** 30-feet
- Honorary name:** Aldo Leopold Centennial Tree

VISIONS OF GREEN by Rich Crockett, Vice Mayor

Over the past couple of months I've heard many people comment about how they are tired of the snow. I for one enjoy the snow. I enjoy the beauty it brings, the crispness in the air, the sense of freshness and renewal we feel after a wonderful snow storm. I also enjoy the look of cleanliness that a fresh fallen white snow brings. I especially enjoy the fact that this wonderful snow brings tourists to our beautiful mountain home. To all of them we should be extremely thankful.

Now, don't get me wrong, I too have done my share of murmuring this winter as it has felt like a very long winter indeed and I am really looking forward to the upcoming spring. But for all this snow we should be very thankful today and even more grateful when the summer months come upon us and we are protected from the devastating fires that so many are familiar with.

There is something else that comes with all that beauty and freshness the snow brings and we will begin seeing this in the very near future. We will begin seeing green! The green I'm talking about is in the form of new growth; new leaves, flowers, grass and of course what seems like the never ending supply of weeds. We will have an opportunity to spend some time this spring cleaning our yards and storefronts; sprucing up and doing our part to make our community beautiful, in a green way. Let's be proactive and take the initiative this spring and do a little more to make our community green.

By working together we can help Mother Nature make things especially green this spring. When we do our part to make our community green and beautiful, others will want to come visit and hopefully spend a little green.

This Spring let's:

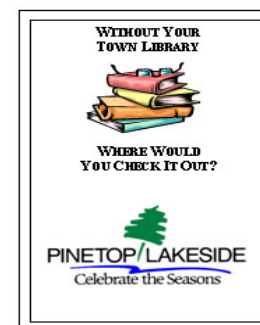
- Plant a few more flowers than last year.
- Keep the grass trimmed a little better.
- Plant a tree in the backyard where you always wanted one.
- Put on a fresh coat of paint.
- Clean the debris and trash around our homes and businesses.
- Clear the weeds.
- Trim a tree.
- Sweep a sidewalk.
- And when you're finished with yours, help a neighbor!

VISTA VOLUNTEER

Hello, Town of Pinetop-Lakeside! My name is Rhette (pronounced "ret") Rogozinski (don't worry about that one) and I have just moved to your beautiful Town. Originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, I am going to be here for the next year as I serve with AmeriCorps VISTA, or Volunteers in Service to America. Through this government program, people like me volunteer to help communities in need.

As a recent graduate from the University of Pittsburgh, I will use my educational background in communications and writing to assist the Town's Grant Coordinator, Mary French-Jones, with her many projects over the coming months. I hope to gain experience and knowledge in the field of grant writing, as well as learn about the hidden treasures of the Town of Pinetop-Lakeside during my time here.

A little about myself: I consider myself from a close-knit family and am working to stay in contact with them over the difference in time zones. I enjoy watching sports, especially football and hockey, and have been very tuned in to the Olympics this winter. I like spending time in the outdoors and am excited to explore the vast trail system, as well as attempt skiing and snowboarding for the first time! I hope this year brings me everlasting memories and the opportunity to help where I can.



Larson Library is once again encouraging the community to read their way to the Arizona Centennial in 2012 by offering this year's OnebookAZ choices.

The adult book is *The Trunk Murderess: Winnie Ruth Judd* by Jana Bommersbach. Revisiting a true crime that happened in Phoenix in 1931, two stories are told; the one history records, and what really happened. With the conflicting evidence and stories, the case was never as "open and shut" as law enforcement at the time insisted. There was however, a well-oiled political machine in Phoenix working behind the scenes.

In contrast, the children's book is *Los Tres Pequeños Jabalies* by Susan Lowell, a bi-lingual, light-hearted Southwest version of *The Three Little Pigs* with charming illustrations by Jim Harris.

Both books are available for check out. The Larson Bookies will be discussing *The Trunk Murderess* on April 1, 2010. Join us as we try to straighten out who did what to whom and who covered up for whom.

The Story Time Easter Egg Hunt will take place at the Library on March 30th and 31st starting at 10:00 a.m. both days. All ages and abilities are encouraged to participate and every one will find an egg.