

## Mayor's Monthly Message:

Prior to the close of 2017, I participated in a Synchronicity show with several municipal and education leaders from the Town of Florence and Pinal County in Arizona. We joined a selection of Colorado counterparts to reflect on a critical component of a city's future, hosted by Mayor Mike Waid of Parker, CO. The roundtable was focused on "STEM Education and Entrepreneurship in Suburban Communities." The discussion was a reflection of the importance of STEM education and entrepreneurship to SMART cities, as well as an exploration of the best practices to foster such initiatives. The premise of the conversation was that today's needs are far different from the past and technological transformation compels the workforce of tomorrow to be skilled drastically differently. We have attempted to anticipate the external forces that shape our towns future.

Recently, I've had several engaging discussions where residents are pleased with our direction. The conversation always tends to go back to our strategic plan and our positive direction. The strategic plan is the product of reflection, consideration, and anticipation. We have reflected on not only what our Town government did right in the past, but also what could have been done differently. We have carefully considered the Town of Florence's existing challenges. In this context, we rededicate ourselves to building a future that will further advance the public health, safety, and well-being of all town of Florence residents – as well as the generation of residents yet to come.

This past weekend, Copper Basin had partnered with the Pinal Sheriff's Office and Pinal County District Attorney's office to host a Women's Conference for 30 - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade girls. The idea of this event was to bring young girls and their moms together to talk about empowerment and relationship building. Overall, this was a great event, hosted by multiple sponsors, to help guide and support our future female leaders. I met a lot of girls who aspire to become doctors, entomologists, teachers...even President of the U.S.A. It was a pleasure to attend and speak at this event, spreading the message of: 'Be true, Lift others up, and Work hard'.

Looking forward, the month of February brings many activities and events to the Town of Florence. To list some of the highlights: 3<sup>rd</sup> – Arts in the Park, 10<sup>th</sup> – 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Florence Historic Home Tour, 11<sup>th</sup> – Prison Run, 17<sup>th</sup> – Classic Car Show, 18<sup>th</sup> – Pinal County Historical Museum – AZ Goes to the Movies, and on the 24<sup>th</sup> – Pooch Party. For additional events and details, please visit: <http://www.florenceaz.gov/calendar>.

My personal favorite tradition is the Home Tour. Visitors to the 33rd Annual Historic Florence Home Tour on Saturday, February 10, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. will view diverse architectural styles in over 20 homes and buildings. Visitors may walk the tour route, which begins in downtown Florence. Transportation is provided to outlying historical structures on the tour. All visitors are welcome to celebrate Florence's rich territorial history. Tickets are only \$15 for adults the day of the event or \$10 in advance. Advance tickets are available anytime, at the Pinal County Historical Society and Museum, Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce, Florence Visitor's Center and the new Florence Library and Community Center. This is a wonderful event coordinated and facilitated in conjunction with many caring and involved volunteers.

Speaking of volunteers, The Town of Florence Council seeks qualified applicants to serve on the following Boards and Commissions:

- Industrial Development Authority (1 position)
- Library Advisory Board (2 position)
- Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (1 positions)

Applicants must be a qualified elector and at least eighteen years of age. Applications are available at Town Hall, located at 775 N. Main Street or download the [Board Application here](#). Applications must be returned

to the Town Clerk at 775 North Main Street. If you would like more information, please call (520) 868-7552.