



Washoe County, Nevada

**Many Communities.
One County.**

Board: Sun Valley CAB

Date: August 2010

From: Lorrie Adams, phone: 328.2720 and email: ladams@washoecounty.us

Hot News: Washoe County Health District: Testing of mosquitoes trapped at Damonte Ranch, has shown that West Nile Virus (WNV) has found its way to Washoe County this summer. Starting tonight, Health District Vector Borne Disease and Prevention staff will begin spraying for adult mosquitoes in that area. Helicopter applications of mosquito larvicide have also been scheduled for this Thursday. Staff will continue nighttime spraying as well as capturing and testing adult mosquitoes until that area no longer tests positive for the West Nile Virus. Other locations in Nevada have also seen the appearance of the virus, and the Washoe County Health District is urging residents of our county to take precautions against being bitten by mosquitoes. West Nile Virus most often is spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes are WNV carriers, also known as vectors. Infected mosquitoes can then spread WNV to birds, horses, humans and other animals when they bite. West Nile Virus is NOT spread through casual contact such as touching or kissing a person with the virus. For more information, visit: www.washoecounty.us/health or call Tracie Douglas at: 328-6140.

First Western Equine Encephalitis Positives Found In Washoe County Sentinel Chicken Flock Western Equine Encephalitis (WEE) has been detected in the Lemmon Valley sentinel chicken flocks kept by the Washoe County Health District. It is one of several mosquito-borne virus diseases that can affect the central nervous system, causing severe complications, including death. Just as with West Nile activity, the Health District will continue to trap and test mosquitoes and apply control measures for human disease intervention. Western Equine Encephalitis is found mainly in the plains regions of the western and central United States. While there is no specific treatment for western equine encephalitis, prevention centers on controlling mosquitoes and avoiding mosquito bites.

Washoe County Sees Increase in Salmonella Cases: Between June and August 2010, the Washoe County Health District identified 16 cases of the specific type of Salmonella Enteritidis, which has made recent national news, according to District Health Officer Dr. Mary Anderson. This is more than six times the number of cases normally reported during these months in previous years. This type of Salmonella Enteritidis is typically associated with eggs and poultry; however, other sources of infection – raw milk, meat, tomato, and bean sprouts – have been identified in the past as potential sources. Because of the association with eggs and the recent recall of eggs from an Iowa egg producer whose products are distributed nationwide and in Nevada, the Washoe County Health District is

collaborating with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the US Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service to investigate this increase of Salmonella Enteritidis cases. A person infected with Salmonella Enteritidis usually has fever, abdominal cramps, and diarrhea beginning 12 to 72 hours after consuming a contaminated food or beverage. The illness usually lasts 4 to 7 days, and most persons recover without antibiotic treatment. However, the diarrhea can be severe, and hospitalization may be required. The elderly, infants, and those with impaired immune systems may have a more serious illness. In these patients, the infection may spread from the intestines to the blood stream, and then to other body sites and can cause death unless the person is treated promptly with antibiotics. For more information, www.washoecounty.us/health or call Phil Ulibarri at: 328.2483.

Washoe County Commission: www.washoecounty.us/bcc

Approved more than \$250,000 of funding to community organizations. Washoe County provides special purpose grants to private, non-profit and governmental organizations to address special community needs. Due to the County's current economic situation, these grants have been reduced significantly (41% reduction in 2009-10; additional 3% reduction in 2010-11) and are only granted now to those efforts that meet a health or human service need, were mandated by compact or regulatory requirement, or contributed to community economic well-being. Today, the County Commission approved \$252,452 in special purpose grants to: Access to Healthcare Network (\$34,560), Nevada Health Centers Gerlach Clinic (\$64,328), Nevada Health Centers Incline Village Clinic (\$27,648), Incline Village Clinic Leased Space (\$22,867), Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada (\$23,328), Incline Village GID (\$72,000) and Silver State Fair Housing (\$7,721).

Accepted a lease concession for North Valleys Library. The Board accepted a lease concession from Mercey Springs 152 Partners, landlord of the building where the North Valleys Library is located. This generous concession for the 2010-11 fiscal year will save the Library \$116,628 in lease costs, and the same amount again in 2011-12.

Approved agreement with Burning Man LLC for law enforcement services. The Commissioners approved a funding agreement between the Washoe County Sheriff and Burning Man LLC for \$52,906 to provide heightened law enforcement services during the annual Burning Man Festival. Although the actual event occurs in Pershing County, the main roads into the event are in Washoe County's jurisdiction with approximately 50,000 people traveling through Gerlach and Empire to get to the event.

County Manager's annual contract renewed. Washoe County Commissioners unanimously renewed County Manager Katy Simon's annual contract at a base salary of \$192,733 with a PDA (cell phone) allowance of \$600 for a total of \$193,333. Their decision was based, in part, on input received from internal and external customers. Since 2007, Ms. Simon has declined wage increases, car allowances, performance bonuses and taken wage decreases in recognition of the County's budget situation. Her current salary is approximately 15% less than it was prior to 2007, and less than last year. Though she is the longest serving local government CEO in the same position in the State and oversees the second largest operation in the region in terms of budget and full-time employees, Simon's 2010-2011 compensation is one of the lowest of all public managers in the region.

The Board complimented Ms. Simon on the County's many accomplishments of the past year, citing her ability to lead the organization during very challenging times. The many accomplishments noted in the evaluation packet and/or cited by the Board included receiving a bond rating upgrade to AA+ during a very difficult economy; achieving a balanced budget despite a \$25 million shortfall by reducing operating expenditures, strategically using reserves, and working with employee labor groups to gain agreement on voluntary wage and benefit reductions; winning the national EnergyStar Conservation competition; managing \$13 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act projects; successfully completing the 2010 Primary Election with record turn-out for early voting; completing the preparations for implementing the two-map land-use planning system, and other achievements. The Board also agreed that a debrief of how the evaluation process is accomplished will be scheduled, with the goal of continuous improvement of this process, as all our business practices should be routinely reviewed.

Senior Services: www.washoecounty.us/seniorsrv

Free Home Preservation Seminars: Washoe County's Senior Law Project is offering FREE seminars to help homeowners, who may be having problems paying their mortgage or even facing possible foreclosure. Basic information will be provided with a question and answer session at the end of each seminar. Attendees are asked to bring their latest mortgage statement and a simple budget to the workshop(s) they choose to attend. For more information, call: 328-2656.

Regional Parks and Open Space (RPOS): www.washoecounty.us/parks

Shooting Range Hours are Changed: Beginning Friday, July 30, operating hours at Washoe County's Regional Shooting Facility will change to include a half hour break from 12:00 – 12:30 p.m. during days of operation. During that half hour break, the firing line will be cleared for safety purposes. New Regional Shooting Range hours (effective July 30, 2010) are Friday through Monday: 8am to 12p and 12:30pm to 4pm. The Regional Shooting Facility is located north of Spanish Springs at 21555 Pyramid Lake Highway. The facility has six ranges for use by the public, law enforcement and regional military units. Scopes, ear protection and targets are available for nominal fees. For more information, contact the range master at: 475-2991.

For information on other programs and events, visit: www.washoecounty.us/parks

Washoe County Library System: www.washoecounty.us/library

Fall Reading Program: This year's event will run from September 1-December 31, 2010. "Books with Beat @ Your Library" encourages children of all ages to read for fun, knowledge and the opportunity to win prizes. This year's theme focuses on books about music, poetry, audiobooks...anything with a beat. For more information, visit: www.washoecountylibrary.us

eBooks Expanded: Library cardholders can now browse, check out and download eBooks and audiobooks any time, anywhere, by visiting: www.washoecountylibrary.ushttp://library2go.lib.overdrive.com eBooks can be read on a PC or Mac using free reader software called Adobe Digital Editions.

New Citizens' Advisory Committee on the Future of the Washoe County Library System: The Washoe County Library Board of Trustees is seeking a diverse, representative committee to make recommendations regarding future locations of branches or other outlets, types of services and possible funding sources. Committee members should have a strong interest in the role and value of public libraries. Approximately 15 individuals will be selected for the committee, which is expected to meet monthly or on some other regular basis for up to 18 months. All age groups, from teens on up, are encouraged to apply. Applications will be accepted until Tuesday, September 7, 2010. You can obtain an application at any Washoe County library or at www.washoecounty.us/library The completed form can be turned in at the library or can be mailed to:

Washoe County Library System Board of Trustees
P.O. Box 2151
Reno, NV 89505

Note: Applications sent through U.S. mail must be received by September 7 (postmark is not sufficient.) If you have questions or would like further information, contact Library Director, Arnie Maurins at 327-8341 or amaurins@washoecounty.us

For information on other programs and events, visit: www.washoecounty.us/library

Sheriff's Office: www.washoesheriff.com

K-9 Program gets grant: The Washoe County Sheriff's Office will be able to purchase, train, and equip two new dogs for their K-9 program thanks to a \$40,000 Justice Department grant administered by Nevada's Office of Criminal Justice Assistance. One of the dogs will be trained in explosive detection. The explosive detection canine will be used in clearing bomb threats to public buildings such as courthouses and government administration offices. Use of the dog increases public and officer safety by locating and identifying threats before Explosive Ordinance Team members enter an area. For more information, contact Deputy Armando Avina at Office 328-6370, Cell 771-8252, After Hours Pager 861-7208

Nevada Attorney General's Office: <http://ag.state.nv.us>

Uniform food labeling program: Nevada has joined 11 states to urge the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), as it considers adopting a uniform labeling program for the front of food packages, to provide unbiased nutritional information and encourage food manufacturers to offer healthier products. The FDA has proposed developing a national voluntary front-of-package food labeling program. States are urging the FDA's proposed program provide complete nutritional information – both good and bad – to empower consumers to make informed choices about the foods that they buy for themselves and their families. A recent multistate investigation of the Smart Choices Program – which deemed nutritionally questionable foods smart choices – demonstrated a clear need for the FDA to formulate a national program to fight deceptive advertising, and to provide meaningful, easy-to-understand information to consumers. For more information, contact Edie Cartwright at 684.1189.