



Washoe County, Nevada

**Many Communities.
One County.**

Board: Sun Valley Meadows CAB

Date: March 2010

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

Washoe County Commission:

Joint Press Conference: In preparation for the special legislative session, Washoe County, City of Reno and City Sparks held a joint press conference on Monday, February 22. During the press conference, local elected officials stated that since 2007, all three governments have reduced their combined budgets by more than \$250 million, frozen or eliminated a total of 816 positions, and have had to unfortunately lay off 195 employees, adding to Nevada's already high unemployment rate. All three governments have successfully negotiated voluntary wage concessions from its employees and tapped into its "rainy day" reserves. Local governments have re-prioritized their budgets to ensure public safety, health and human services, and court services continue to operate, thereby impacting other services, such as libraries, parks and road maintenance. Local governments rely on property tax and sales tax revenues to operate and provide services to citizens. It is expected that these revenues will continue to be down, as the new fiscal year begins. All governments must adapt to operating differently and reset public expectations. Shifting costs to local governments or taking more revenues from local governments will not solve the State's long-term financial problems. Washoe County, City of Reno and City of Sparks elected officials have pledged to work with the Legislature to find ways to restructure and redefine State government, just as they have struggled to do the same with their own governments. To view the joint press conference, visit: www.washoecounty.us/mgrsoff/wctv_online.html

Manager's Office:

Stimulus Funds: Washoe County American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Report is now available online at:

<https://www.washoecounty.us/repository/files/1/ARRA%20Web%20Report%202-3-10.pdf>

Budget Survey: Washoe County is currently asking for public input to help with its budget priorities for the coming fiscal year, starting July 1, 2010. To take the survey, visit:

<http://washoecounty.us/index/surveys.html~sid=5>

Community Development:

One-map to Two-map Conversion: In responding to community concerns, the Board of County Commissioners has identified the conversion from a one-map to a two-map land use planning system as a 2010 goal. The two-map system addresses citizen concerns about the stability and implementation of the long-term community vision, while allowing land owners

to better react to changing market demands. For more information, visit:
www.washoecounty.us/comdev/1map2map.htm

Annual CAB Recruitment: The 2010 CAB Annual Recruitment will be getting underway within the next few weeks. Now that most of the CABs are meeting every other odd month, after the March meetings, most of you will not meet again until May. Deadline for applications is Friday, April 30, 2010. Applications are available by emailing Sheri Ingley at: singley@washoecounty.us or calling: 328.3612 or visit: www.washoecounty.us/cab

Regional Parks and Open Space:

Gardening in Nevada programs: The Gardening in Nevada programs will be held from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. every Tuesday in March at the Western Heritage Interpretive Center in Bartley Ranch Regional Park to provide information and answer general horticulture questions for northern Nevada gardeners. On Tuesday, March 2, the series features a program on selecting and caring for fruit trees. The programs are presented by Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space, and University of Nevada Cooperative Extension to help you to become a better gardener. For a complete listing, visit www.washoecountyparks.com

Washoe County Library System:

6 million meals served: This year, Washoe County Senior Services reached a major milestone as we celebrate serving over six million meals to seniors in our community. The Department provides more than 220,000 nutritious meals each year through our Congregate and Home Delivered Meal services. Please join us at 11:30am on Thursday, March 11 at the Reno Senior Center, 9th and Sutro Streets, as we commemorate this important achievement. The Washoe County Senior Services Nutrition program is a critical service that keeps seniors independent and active. For more information, contact Bob Harmon at: 823-6519 and email: bharmon@washoecounty.us

Assessor's Office:

Senior citizens property tax/rent assistance program: The Assessor's Office reminds citizens, who are 62 years of age or older (or will be by June 30, 2010), that the Senior Citizens Property Tax/Rent Assistance program is accepting applications until April 30, 2010. Citizens, who meet the age requirement and have a yearly household income of \$28,677 or less, may be eligible to apply for a refund of a portion of the rent paid during 2009 and/or property tax paid during 2009/2010. The refunds vary from \$5 to \$500. Refunds are calculated by the State of Nevada and should be mailed to qualified applicants by December 31, 2010. For more information, contact Sue Sufva at: 328-2202 and email: sdufva@washoecounty.us

Water Resources:

Water Rate Increase: All 17,000 of Washoe County Department of Water Resource's (DWR) residential and commercial customers will see an average 6% increase in their water bills effective next month. This is the year 2 rate increase that was approved by the Washoe County Commission last summer, as part of a 5-year water rate increase plan that was developed by the DWR, a citizens' workgroup and a consultant to address the solvency of DWR. The increase will be effective with customers' February billings. Note: the 5-year plan is still valid, even with the economic changes and plans to merge with Truckee Meadows

Water Authority (TMWA). For more information, contact Laura Magness at: 954-4643 and email: lmagness@washoecounty.us

Senior Services:

6 millions meals served: This year, Washoe County Senior Services reached a major milestone as we celebrate serving over six million meals to seniors in our community. The Department provides more than 220,000 nutritious meals each year through our Congregate and Home Delivered Meal services. Please join us at 11:30am on Thursday, March 11 at the Reno Senior Center, 9th and Sutro Streets, as we commemorate this important achievement. The Washoe County Senior Services Nutrition program is a critical service that keeps seniors independent and active.

Social Services:

Washoe County's Department of Social Services finalized 158 adoptions in 2009 providing permanent, loving families to abused or neglected children who were unable to be reunified with their biological parents. This is the highest number ever recorded since Washoe County's Department of Social Services took over adoptions from the State of Nevada in 2002. For more information about foster care and adoption opportunities, visit: <http://www.washoecounty.us/socsv> or call 337-4400.

Truckee Meadows Regional Planning:

Fish Springs Solar Project: The Regional Planning Commission approved the Fish Springs Solar Project, as a Project of Regional Significance. The project was previously approved by the Washoe County Planning Commission and will provide an initial 20 MW of power, phasing up to 100 MW at build-out. The project will be tied to the grid through the existing Alturas transmission line. For more information, contact Sandra Monsalve, at: 328.3608 and email: smonsalve@washoecounty.us

Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW):

Coyote Awareness: Like many communities across the West, recent residential and commercial developments have reach into Nevadan wild lands. Ironically, while some species suffer from the impacts of urban development, coyotes are thriving. The Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) is educating the public about coyotes. Coyotes have been here, they've adapted to our urban areas, and they prefer to avoid humans. Locations that are popular to coyotes include: golf courses, lush water-based landscape design and life on the edge of natural surroundings. Though coyotes have been known to hunt and eat domestic pets, simply seeing one is not necessarily cause for alarm. Nor is it necessary to call NDOW. However, a call may be warranted anytime a coyote is showing threatening behavior towards people, especially children. The key to preventing possible conflicts with coyotes or other wildlife is to eliminate those things that attract them, beginning with possible food sources. Never feed coyotes. Wild animals quickly become habituated to humans, as a food source. Store and feed pets indoors, if possible. If a pet must be fed outside clean up any uneaten food. Be sure to cover garbage containers with a well-fitting lid. Pets, especially small ones, should not be left outside unattended, especially at dawn or dusk when coyotes are most active. If it is necessary to leave a small pet outside unattended consider keeping it in a sturdy enclosure with a roof. It's also a good idea to trim or remove any ground-level shrubs and branches that could provide coyotes with a hiding

place. Should you encounter a coyote make loud noises, wave your hands or objects like a stick or broom, or spray the coyote with water from a garden hose. Don't turn away or run because that may trigger the animal's predator instinct, but don't corner a coyote either. Give the animal room to escape. More information about living with coyotes visit: www.ndow.org or contact Lynne Foster at 688-1997.

University of Nevada-Reno, Cooperative Extension (UNRCE):

Successful Agribusiness Management Strategies: Nevada agricultural producers can learn how to increase revenue, lower costs and deal with credit shortages in a free, four-part course being offered around the state by University of Nevada Cooperative Extension and the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources. The program will be divided into half-day workshops and presented at eight locations simultaneously through Extension's interactive video network. The workshops will examine: (1) alternative enterprise feasibility and risk analysis; (2) dealing with credit issues and bankruptcy; (3) retirement strategies, along with estate and farm transition planning and (4) crop diversification and growing techniques for arid Nevada. For more information or to register, contact Kynda Curtis at: 784-1682 and email: kcurtis@cabnr.unr.edu

New online course: "Investing in Farm Families:" The 8-lesson course, offered through www.eXtension.org helps farm families plan for a financially stable future that meets their long-term needs. Developed by a team of Extension educators from several states, farm families can work at their own pace while taking the course. For more information or to enroll in the course, visit: www.extension.org/pages/InvestingforFarmFamilies

Free and fast help on tax questions: It's tax preparation season, and Nevadans with questions about deductions, Social Security benefits, 401(K) accounts and other personal finance issues can get thorough, reliable answers through University of Nevada Cooperative Extension and www.eXtension.org This website is an interactive learning environment delivering information from Cooperative Extension experts from all over Nevada and the United States and provides prompt, research-based answers to a wide range of questions, from tax, retirement and personal finance issues.

Reno Fire Department and Sierra Fire Protection District:

Open Burn Permits: Permits for open burning of vegetative materials only are being issued by the Reno Fire Department and the Sierra Fire Protection District for the burn period that will begin at midnight March 1, 2010. The length of the open burn period will depend on weather and other conditions. Open burning is not allowed on windy days, and is subject to local air quality controls by the Washoe County Health Department. Open burning hours begin at 6:00 a.m. but all burning is required to be extinguished no later than 2:00 p.m. or earlier depending, on wind conditions.

For Reno Fire: New permits can be obtained by calling the Reno Fire Department's Burn Permit Hotline at: 328-3659. Existing permits do not need to be renewed. An online applications is available at: <http://www.reno.gov/index.aspx?page=189>

For Sierra Fire: Permits for open burning in the Sierra Fire Protection District can be obtained by calling 849-1108, ext. 5 from 8am to 5pm, Monday through Saturday, or by email: SierraFireBurnPermit@washoecounty.us

Note: A site inspection by fire personnel may be required for new permits before open burning can take place to make sure burn areas are at least 25 feet from all structures; that burn piles are no larger than three feet in diameter by three feet high, with a cleared space of 10-15 feet wide around the burn area; and that both running water and hand tools are at the burn site.

Burning of household refuse, trash, cardboard, rubber products, tires, plastic, petroleum, construction debris and other non-vegetative materials is prohibited. The Reno Fire Department and the Sierra Fire Protection District recommend the following safety procedures for open burning:

- Keep open burns at least 25 feet from structures or brush.
- Create a “firebreak” removing all combustible materials for at least 10-15-feet around the perimeter of the burn area.
- Burn only leaves, limbs, pine needles and other vegetative materials.
- Keep fires small and controllable.
- Maintain a rake, shovel and a connected and charged garden hose at the burn site.
- Never leave an open burn unattended.
- Do not use accelerants such as gasoline or lighter fluid to start burning.
- Keep children away from the burn area.
- Re-check the fire site for smoldering materials that could rekindle 30-60 minutes after extinguishing the burn pile.

The Reno Fire Department and the Sierra Fire Protection District also suggest property owners consider non-burning techniques for vegetation management, including composting and chipping vegetation.

City of Sparks:

Solar Panels installed on Fire Stations: The Sparks City Council awarded two contracts to Steve C. Hamilton, Inc. in the combined amount of \$349,152 for the construction and installation of ground mounted photovoltaic systems (solar panels) at the City's Fire Station #4 and Station #5. The cost will be reimbursed by NV Energy's SolarGenerations rebate program.

Sidewalks and curbing project: The Sparks City Council approved a contract with Granite Construction in the amount of \$475,475 to replace the entire sidewalk and curbing, and to install new street paving on Plymouth Way, Dodson Way, and a section of 14th Street and Gault Way. The funds come from a federally funded Community Development Block Grant.

Stimulus Funds: The Sparks City Council approved a federal stimulus grant of \$80,000 for the purpose of Urban Forestry Revitalization which will allow the City to invest in replenishing the city's tree stock and other related expenses.