



Washoe County, Nevada

**Many Communities.
One County.**

Board: Sun Valley CAB

Date: July 2010

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

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

Magazine Subscriptions: Due to the ongoing budget cuts, the number of magazines ordered from operating funds next year will be again be lower than in previous years. The public can help by “adopting” a periodical by paying for a one-year subscription. The donations will allow the library to purchase popular magazines that would otherwise be eliminated. For further information please ask at your local library, call 827-1885 or email chillyard@washoecounty.us

Hours of Operation: Hours and days of operation are changing, effective July 12. The number of open hours systemwide remains nearly the same, but the hours have been realigned in response to comments and suggestions from patrons You can view library operating hours by visiting: www.washoecounty.us/library

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

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

Iron Rangers: RPOS just added seven new “Iron Rangers” to help meet the challenge of keeping parks open, clean and safe with a greatly reduced operating budget. Iron rangers are secure metal tubes that serve as stand alone donation collection sites. Four have been placed at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park, and one each at Bartley Ranch, Hidden Valley and Galena Creek Regional Parks. Iron ranger donations will remain within the park where the donations were made and will be used for projects ranging from general park maintenance and trail restoration to the purchase of doggie waste bags.

Volunteers sought fro Community Clean-up: Help keep Washoe County’s May Arboretum a beautiful place for everyone to enjoy by joining Rancho San Rafael Botanical Society and Arboretum volunteers for a Community Clean-up Day from 9am to Noon on July 10, 2010. For more information, call Stephanie D’Arcy at 823-6514.

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

Washoe County Department of Water Resources (DWR): www.washoecounty.us/water

Heppner Subdivision Waterline Extension: The construction of the last phase of the waterline extension began on June 17; the project is expected to be completed in October 2010. Juniper, Fir, Oklahoma, and portions of Lemmon and Matterhorn will be affected. DWR staff

has been working closely with homeowners to keep them up to date on the construction schedule and to ensure that meters are placed in the most convenient locations.

Heppner Subdivision Community Water System CDBG Grants: DWR received 16 CDBG applications from low-income residents who would like to connect to the Heppner Waterline extension free of charge. A lottery, conducted by Commissioner Weber, was held on June 24 to prioritize the residents who will receive the grant.

Spanish Springs Phased Sewering Project-Phase 1b: The Army Corps of Engineers sent an approved Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) for the 75% matching grant for the Spanish Springs Phased Sewering Project - Phase 1b. The PCA will be on the July 13 BCC agenda for approval. The grant provides funding to Washoe County for up to 75% of the eligible project costs, or an estimated \$2,527,725. The estimated total cost for Phase 1b is \$3,370,300.

Western Regional Water Commission (WRWC) and Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission (NNWPC) Websites: Over the past nine months, WRWC staff have been working closely with the Technical Services and Community Relations Departments to update the WRWC (www.wrwc.us) and NNWPC (www.nnwpc.us) websites. The newly expanded websites are active and will provide access to agendas, minutes, documents, and related links. WRWC staff will maintain and update the websites.

Washoe County Treasurer's Office: www.washoecounty.us/treas

Property Tax Bill: The Treasurer's Office is preparing the FY10/11 property tax billing and is anticipating that the bills will be in the mail the week of July 19, 2010.

Washoe County Community Development: www.washoecounty.us/comdev

Administrative Hearing Officers: Staff from Regional Animal Services, the Civil Division of the DA's Office and Community Development have developed a training and orientation program for the County's newly contracted Administrative Hearing Officers, who will oversee administrative hearings resulting from the recently adopted Administrative Enforcement Ordinance.

Truckee River Flood Project: www.truckeeflood.us

Fish Passage: The Fish Passage working group, consisting of Army Corps, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Paiute Tribal members, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Reclamation and other stakeholders, met June 2. The focus of the meeting was to look at the fish passage alternatives from the Corps and solicit feedback from all the stakeholders in order to reach consensus and address concerns. These meetings are a continuing effort towards a successful conclusion with this important element of the overall Flood Project.

Flood Warning System: On June 22, the BCC approved the transfer of the Flood Warning System from the Department of Water Resources to the Flood Project effective July 1, 2010. The transfer also included Senior Hydrogeologist, Ed Evans along with the responsibilities of funding, managing, operations and maintenance of the Flood Warning System. It is estimated that Washoe County will save approximately \$90,000 in general fund dollars due to the transfer with the cities of Reno and Sparks expected to save similar amounts.

Benefits Study: As reported in the Sparks Tribune June 20, 2010, the Flood Project is in discussion with Kim Rollins, University of Nevada, Reno professor of environmental and natural resource economics on a restoration and recreation benefits analysis study. The study is a tool that could aid federal funding efforts for the overall costs associated with the Flood Project and give taxpayers a clearer understanding of what their tax dollars are buying. Expectations are to have survey data collected by year end 2010 and information to the public shortly thereafter. Visit the "Newsroom" at www.truckeeflood.us to view the Sparks Tribune article in its entirety.

Sheriff's Office: www.washoesheriff.com

Satellite Office Closing: The Washoe County Sheriff's Office, Civil Section satellite offices located at Sparks Justice and Reno Justice Courts will be permanently closed on July 6th and July 7th respectively. The employees are relocating to the Sheriff's Office located at 911 Parr Boulevard in the main office at the front of the building. For more information, please contact Liz Stuchell at 328-3310.

Fraudulent Fundraising: On June 22, 2010, a Washoe County Deputy responded to a report of fraud at Saint Rose of Lima Catholic Church. Saint Rose of Lima sells Scrip, which is discount cards for various stores/merchants, for their fundraising program to assist in their day-to-day operational expenses. The Church received three separate checks totaling \$1,200 for the purchase of Retail Scrip. These checks were fraudulent and the case was assigned to the Detectives Division on July 1, 2010. Detectives want participants in Scrip Programs to be cognizant when receiving checks. Here are safe guards when dealing with unknown persons; don't accept checks that are not signed, request a photo ID, verify the person on the ID is the person presenting the check, and/or contact the financial institution for further information. If you've been a victim of fraud, please contact your local law enforcement agency. If you have any information regarding this crime contact the Sheriff's Detective Division at 328-3320 or Secret Witness at 322-4900.

Regional Transportation Commission (RTC): www.rtcwashoe.com

Meadowood Interchange Project Groundbreaking: A groundbreaking event for the \$21.8 million freeway interchange near Meadowood Mall that will serve to reduce traffic congestion on US 395, officially designated as Interstate 580 (I-580), was held on June 2. This project, which is slated to begin construction in late June 2010, is critical to improve traffic flow on I-580 and on these major arterials: South Virginia Street, South McCarran Boulevard and Kietzke Lane. Additionally, it will provide at least 100 much needed construction jobs that will benefit our local economy. The project was originally estimated to cost in excess of \$42 million, but given the poor economy bids received for the project were about half of the early estimates. The savings will help fund other important road projects. For more information, contact either NDOT Project Manager Shane Cocking at e-mail: scocking@dot.state.nv.us or by phone: 688-1864 or RTC Project Manager Michele Dennis at e-mail: mdennis@rtcwashoe.com or by phone: 335-1861.

RTC Introduces New Traffic Signal Hotline: 335-ROAD: The RTC Board approved implementation of a new traffic signal hotline for motorists to call and report traffic lights they believe are not working properly. The RTC is taking on a more active role in cooperation with Reno, Sparks and Washoe County, who currently handle signal operations for their respective jurisdictions. While the three entities will continue to maintain their own signals, operations and signal timing will now be managed by RTC staff. The hotline is part of a new

strategy to improve the efficiency of traffic signals around the Truckee Meadows. With more than 375 traffic signals throughout the Truckee Meadows, local governments do not have adequate staff to operate signals efficiently given today's economic conditions. Motorists calling the hotline can leave a recorded message and their complaint will be investigated by the RTC. Motorists are encouraged to use the hotline, but not while driving their cars. For more information, contact RTC Traffic Operations Engineer Jim Poston at e-mail: jposton@rtcwashoe.com or by phone: 332-2139.

Local Streets Receive "Road Diet" As part of the Complete Streets concept to incorporate improved bicycle and pedestrian facilities, as well as improved safety for all modes of travel throughout the region, the RTC is using a traffic management tool referred to as a road diet. The road diet reduces the number of lanes from four to two with a center turn lane, bike lanes and parking lanes. The new share lane markings are known as "sharrows." Green pavement will be used to emphasize the bikeway portion, an arrow and bicycle symbol also appears on the pavement. Road diets provide many benefits, some of which include reduced vehicle speeds and crash potential, improved sight distance, pedestrian and bicycle facilities and more on-street parking. The RTC will conduct its public outreach to educate the public at neighborhood/citizen advisory board meetings during the coming months. For more information about road diets and shared lanes, contact RTC Project Manager Scott Gibson at sgibson@rtcwashoe.com or by phone at 335-1874.

University of Nevada Cooperative Extension (UNRCE): www.unce.unr.edu

UNCE to advise National Guard agriculture mission to Afghanistan: The National Guard's Agribusiness Development Team is headed to the Logar Province southeast of Kabul, Afghanistan in July to help rejuvenate the area's crippled farming industry. Farming families in the relatively fertile valleys of the Logar River have been disrupted by 30 years of war and the Afghan government is eager to see the decimated agriculture industry there revitalized.

Teamwork and Collaboration: More than 220 teenagers from around the state participate in the "2010 Discover Your Future" program on June 27-30. Discover Your Future is an opportunity for youth ages 14-18 to live on campus and to get a sampling of the different courses of study available at the University of Nevada, Reno. The State 4-H Youth Development office put on the event and collaborated with various colleges on campus, including the colleges of agriculture, business, education, health sciences, science and journalism, on programs designed to help participants decide what to study when they come to UNR.

New Horticulture Specialist: Heidi Kratsch has joined the Western Area Washoe County office as Horticulture Specialist. Heidi, who is originally from Wisconsin, comes to Nevada from Utah State University Cooperative Extension, where she was an Ornamental Horticulture Specialist. Heidi's expertise is in low-water landscaping and has conducted research on using native plants in low-water landscapes. She recently edited and wrote several chapters in the soon to be published book, "Water Efficient Landscaping in the Intermountain West: A Professional And Do-It-Yourself Guide." Heidi is also nurturing a hybrid plant she created from Round-leaf Buffaloberry and Silver Buffaloberry and is eagerly waiting to see if it has ornamental qualities. Buffaloberry is a beautiful shrub that is endemic to northern Arizona and Utah and takes many forms, depending on the angle of sun and the soil.