



Washoe County, Nevada

**Many Communities.
One County.**

Board: East Washoe Valley CAB

Date: June 2010

From: Lorrie Adams, County Liaison, phone: 328.2720 and email: ladams@washcounty.us

Hot News:

Washoe County Health District: www.washoecounty.us/health

Annual Mosquito Abatement program: Health District began its annual aerial mosquito abatement applications on Thursday, May 20, continuing through September 2, 2010. For more information, visit www.washoecounty.us/health or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at www.CDC.gov

North Tahoe Preservation Alliance: www.ntpac.com

New Zealand Mudsnail discovered: A new, non-native aquatic invader, New Zealand mudsnail, was discovered on a boat at an off-ramp inspection station in Meyers on May 25. It has also been detected in the Owens River Valley, the Cosumnes River Valley and other wetland locations throughout the California Central Valley. The mudsnails, which prefer streams, rivers and creeks, are typically transferred from water body to water body via non-motorized boats like canoes, kayaks and other assorted paddle operated watercraft. For more information, contact North Tahoe Preservation Alliance at 775-831-0625 or visit: www.ntpac.com or email: Preserve@NTPAC.com

Board of County Commissioners (BCC): www.washoecounty.us/bcc/agendas.html

2010-11 Budget Approved: County Commissioners approved a general fund budget of nearly \$308 million which reflects almost a 10% reduction from the 2009-10 budget. With this new budget, Washoe County has reduced spending by \$123 million and eliminated about 600 positions in the last four years in response to declining sales tax and property tax revenues which comprise about 75% of the total general fund. The general fund is about 45% of the County's total budget of nearly \$700 million.

Voluntary Labor Cost Concessions: County Commissioners, Elected Officials, County Manager, senior management and division heads have all taken voluntary labor cost concessions equivalent to a 3.7% salary reduction plus contributing \$25 per pay period toward their health care costs to help meet the \$25 million budget deficit projected in the 2010-11 budget. Negotiations are current underway with the County's employee associations regarding concessions for represented employees. Employees have taken wage reductions and eliminated scheduled cost of living raises in the past couple years.

Public Works: www.washoecounty.us/pubworks

I-580 Interchange During High Winds: Eastlake Blvd is a secondary truck route which means when both 395 and 429 (Bowers Rd) cannot be used because of high winds, oversized vehicle, construction or some other restriction, trucks will be directed down Eastlake Blvd. Construction at the interchange of the new I- 580 with the existing US 395 and SR 429 will begin this summer with completion in approximately one year. Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) will be directing truck traffic from US 395 onto SR 429 during wind events.

Solar Photovoltaic Panels Installed: Washoe County has begun installing solar photovoltaic panels at the 9th and Wells County Administration Complex. The installation at the Complex is one of three solar photovoltaic projects currently underway at County facilities. The other two projects are located at the Northwest Library and Washoe County Senior Center. Funding for the entire \$722,460 project comes from a \$401,200 Department of Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant and \$600,000 in NV Energy SolarGenerations Rebates Program reimbursements. For more information, contact Dave Solaro at 328-3624 or email: dsolaro@washoecounty.us

Carbon Footprint: Interested in knowing what your carbon footprint is and ways to reduce it? Visit www.washoecounty.us to find out your earth's impact.

Washoe County Juvenile Services: www.washoecounty.us/juvenilesvs

Beginning on June 4, 2010, the Charles M. McGee Center, located at 2097 Longley Lane, Reno will cease its overnight operation of youth residential services. The suspension is the direct result of departmental reductions needed to meet the County's budget shortfall. The McGee Center will continue daytime operations Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm. Services will include the reception, processing and case management. For youth who may require overnight residential placement, Juvenile Services is currently negotiating respite care contracts with community providers. The McGee Center will also offer on-site services through a Day Program for female youth. Services will include a Washoe County School District site and afternoon programming through a referral and screening process. These efforts are in alignment with the County's goals of maintaining service levels, maximizing employment and achieving sustainable labor costs. For more information, contact Elizabeth Florez at 325-7871 or email: eflorez@washoecounty.us

Fire Services: www.washoecounty.us/mgrsoff/fire_services

New Fire Station Grant Accepted: County Commissioners accepted a \$2.5 million FEMA grant to build a new fire station to serve the Arrowcreek area. In the short-term, the existing Bowers fire station 4-person crew will be split into a 2-person crew for both the Bowers and Arrowcreek stations with seasonal fire crew stationed at Bowers during wildland fire season. Commissioners directed the Fire Chief to work with staff to develop a long-term staffing and funding proposal for the new station. Construction could begin within a year with a possible completion date of June 2011.

Getting Ready for Wildland Fire Season: In a coordinated effort to reduce hazardous fuel levels throughout the HIGH and EXTREME rated communities in Washoe County, the Nevada Fire Safe Council (NVFSC) has established four Biomass collections sites. Washoe County encourages our citizens to take advantage of this free dumping of eligible landscape waste such as trees, branches, weeds, and brush available through June 20th at four sites:

- Red Rock: Located on private land adjacent to the Silver Lake Volunteer Fire Station
- Spanish Springs: 470 Rockwell Blvd
- Virginia Foothills: East end of Kenneth Drive
- East Lake Blvd: 1240 East Lake Blvd. Adjacent to TM Fire Station

Community Relations:

Washoe County Needs You!: There is still time to register to volunteer for the 75th annual National Association of Counties (NACo) Conference Thursday, July 15 through Tuesday, July 20, 2010. We will provide everything you need to volunteer, including training and t-shirts. Training will be held on June 23 @10:00 am; 11:30 am and 6:00 pm. Once you register, specific training information will be emailed to you. For more information, contact Alice McQuone at 328-2699 or to sign-up, visit: www.washoecounty.us/citizens/volunteers.html

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

Tahoe Rim Trail: A Trail Like No Other: This 165-mile, -24 inch, single-track trail is open to hikers, equestrians and mountain bikers (in most areas). The trail follows the ridge tops of the Lake Tahoe Basin and crosses six counties and two states. In recent years the TRTA has expanded its mission to include education and fostering an appreciation of the natural wonders of the Rim Trail. For more information visit: www.tahoerimtrail.org

Chautauqua: In collaboration with Nevada Humanities, Washoe County libraries will present several programs during Nevada Humanities Chautauqua. Visit the library and enjoy an informative workshop in keeping with this year's theme, Public Legends, Private Lives. These are not Chautauqua performances in costume or in character. All programs are free and open to the public. For dates, times and locations, visit: www.washoecounty.us/library

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

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

Robert Z. Hawkins Amphitheater: A "pdf" version of the calendar of events scheduled for June and July is now available at www.washoecountyparks.com , www.hawkinsamphitheater.com and on the Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space Facebook page.

Native Plants: Learn how native plants help create healthy gardens and landscapes during a free native plant tour through the Wilbur D. May Arboretum on Wednesday, June 16 at 6pm. Wilbur D. May Arboretum is located in the Rancho San Rafael Regional Park at 1595 N. Sierra Street, Reno. Remember to bring a camera, note pad, and comfortable walking shoes. Refreshments sponsored by the Truckee Meadows Water Authority. For more information, call 785-4153.

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

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

Sewer and Water Utility Financial Assistance Program (Assembly Bill 54): In 2009, Washoe County sponsored Assembly Bill (AB) 54 to authorize the County to establish a mechanism to provide financial assistance to help owners of a private on-site well and/or septic system convert over to a community water or sewer system. The legislation does not force private well and/or septic owners to convert over to a community water or sewer system.

Regional Water Commission Act: This act was passed by the Nevada State Legislature in 2009 and requires that Truckee Meadows water management agencies to evaluate the possibility of consolidating public water providers in Washoe County and include the results of this evaluation in the 2011 update of the Regional Water Management Plan to the State Legislature. On December 10, 2009, the Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) and the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) met in a third joint meeting and unanimously approved the Interlocal Agreement (ILA). The ILA will govern and provide a framework for the merger process and allow the entities to develop and implement a plan to provide the most efficient operation of the combined water systems. A final closing date has not been determined and will depend on when market conditions are right for debt restructuring. With the ILA providing the framework for the merger process, the transition will continue through most of 2010, addressing due diligence and risk allocation issues. For more information, please contact Laura Magness at 954-4643.

Sheriff's Office: www.washoesherriff.com

The Sheriff's Office reminds citizens that drugs and/or alcohol usage plays a major factor in violent crime during graduation time. Detectives see that juveniles, both male and female, are using alcohol, illegal and prescription drugs at younger age, which increase the likelihood of placing themselves in dangerous situations. Alcohol is the foremost contributing factor in sexual assault cases being investigated by the Detective Division from May to July. The Sheriff's Office recommends under-aged persons celebrate graduation in an alcohol/drug free environment, stay close to people you trust, don't accept food or drinks in opened containers offered by unknown people, and avoid high-risk situations. The Sheriff's Office encourages victims and witnesses to report violent crimes immediately. Call 911 in case of an emergency, for non-emergencies call 334-COPS or Secret Witness at 322-4900.

Reno City Council: www.reno.gov

Starting in June, 2010, Reno City Council meetings will convene at Noon. Public comment will continue to be heard at Noon, and will now be the first substantive item on the City Council agenda. Public hearings will commence no sooner than 12:15 pm and controversial public hearings that draw more public participation will continue to be held at 6:00 pm. The regular public meetings will still be held in the Council Chambers, or other properly noticed location. They will still convene on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month except for July, November, and December when the Council shall meet on the first and third Wednesday of the month and the month of August when the Council shall meet on the third and fourth Wednesday of the month. The new schedule will create staffing efficiencies permitting cost savings, while continuing to encourage public participation in City Council meetings. The meeting schedules and agendas are available at www.reno.gov

Reno Justice Court: www.washoecounty.us/rjc

Due to budget constraints, the Justices of the Peace at Reno Justice Court have authorized the Court Administrator to close the filing office doors to the general public one hour early on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. This one hour of uninterrupted desk time will provide a reduced court staff the opportunity to accomplish their daily work assignments and complete other backlogged duties without incurring overtime pay or compensatory time. Effective July 1, 2010, Reno Justice Court's new hours of public operation will be: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8am to 4pm and Wednesday from 7:30am to 5pm. All court cases in process between the hours of 4 – 5pm on Monday, Tuesday,

Thursday and Friday will proceed and all defendants involved in those cases will have the ability to register for various programs and/or pay or establish payment plans for imposed fines and fees. A payment drop box has been installed for customers seeking to make payments to the court after hours of public operation. For more information, contact Steve Tuttle at 325-6500.

Reno Municipal Court: www.reno.gov

Beginning July 2, 2010, the Reno Municipal Court will be changing its court operation hours. Changing the hours of operation will provide budgetary savings for the Court. The Court's hours of operation will be 7:30 a.m. to 5pm, Monday through Thursday, and 7:30 a.m. to Noon on Friday. The Reno Municipal Court was successful in reducing its projected budget for the upcoming fiscal year by 21% through employee compensation reductions and a reduction in spending. Salaries were reduced by 5% rather than losing employees through a reduction in force. A 38-hour work will be instituted for employees as well. All Reno Municipal Court staff, from entry level positions to the judiciary, participated in this plan, without exception. Visitors to the court will notice the information desk at the entrance to the Reno Municipal Court has been removed. For those conducting business at the court please check in at Window 1 of the Clerk's office. Please remember to verify the court listed on citations or paperwork to help save time by not waiting in line for the wrong court. Individuals will still be able to make drop payments (check/money order only) for the Reno Municipal Court in the drop-box on the Court Street side of the Mills B. Lane Justice Center building.

The City of Sparks: www.ci.sparks.nv.us

Hometowne Farmer's Market: begins Thursday, June 10, on Victorian Square between Pyramid & 11th streets. Based on construction efforts between 11th Street and 14th Street, the portion of the market that typically was positioned in front of John Ascuaga's Nugget will now be located in the parking lot just east of the hotel/casino property. This year's market schedule features ten (10) different Thursday theme nights, which run from June 10 - August 19 from 4 to 9pm. The only off day during that stretch will be August 5th for Hot August Nights. As is customary, attendees are asked not to bring any glass containers, alcohol, or pets to the event. For more information, call 353-2291 or visit: www.sparksrec.com

Hershey's Track And Field Games: The Sparks Parks and Recreation Department will be hosting Hershey's Track and Field Games' state qualifying meet on Saturday, June 12 at the Northern Nevada Regional Track Facility at Reed High School. Boys and girls age 9-14 are invited to participate in the free program designed to encourage physical fitness and emphasize participation and sportsmanship. Events include the 50-meter dash, 100-meter dash, 200-meter dash, 400-meter dash, 800-meter run, 1600-meter run, 4 x 100-meter relay, standing long jump and softball throw. Certificates are given to every participant, and ribbons are awarded to the top eight male and female finishers in each event.