



Washoe County, Nevada

**Many Communities.  
One County.**

Board: West Washoe Valley CAB

Date: May 2010

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**Hot News:**

Wildfire Awareness Week is May 1-8, 2010: There will be a kick-off community event for area residents to learn more about protecting their homes from wildfire. The event will take place of **Saturday, May 1 from 10am to 2pm at the UNR Redfield Campus, located at 18600 Wedge Parkway, Reno** and will feature activities for kids, including a chance to climb aboard firefighting helicopters and fire engines, practice safety in the Fire Safety House and watch water-drop exercises on the nearby hillsides. In addition, Moana Nursery is providing a coupon for one free shrub for each household that brings in junipers removed from their yard, which will be chipped. Up to 150 plants will be given away to those who “**Junk the Junipers.**” Coupons for plants may be redeemed at Moana Nursery locations at 11000 West Moana Lane and 11301 South Virginia Street from May 1 to May 8, 2010 only. Ornamental juniper shrubs have been rated one of the four most hazardous fire risk landscape plants in the Southeast United States. For more information, contact Mark Regan at 849-1108.

Annual Clean-up: The fifth annual Great Truckee Meadows Community Cleanup is on **Saturday, May 8, 2010 from 8:30am to Noon.** Last year over 300 volunteers cleaned up 85 tons of trash and debris from our open spaces. For more information, contact KTMB at: 851.5185 or visit: [www.ktmb.org](http://www.ktmb.org)

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

Budget Update: The Commissioners accepted recommendations from the County Manager to balance Washoe County’s budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2010, including more than \$7 million in operating budget reductions and \$1.1 million new revenues. The recommended budget represents the fourth consecutive year that the County has taken aggressive actions to cut budgets as revenues continue to decline. Consolidated taxes, which are primarily sales taxes, have fallen for 35 consecutive months, and even though the economy shows improvement, consolidated taxes are expected to continue to decline by 2.5%, though the declines will not be as dramatic as in previous years. Property tax revenues will also decline by an unprecedented 7%.

In total, when the reductions proposed for fiscal year 2010-2011 take effect, Washoe County will have reduced expenditures by more than \$125 million in recent years. The budget reduction plans for 2010-2011 include cuts averaging 3% for each of the County’s more than 30 operating departments. The reduction plans include the elimination of another 38 vacant positions and two lay-offs, following the elimination of more than 500

positions over the past three years. The operating budget reductions are one component of a three-part balanced plan that the Board of County Commissioners approved as a strategy for balancing the budget in these unprecedented times. The other components of the plan involved the use of \$5.75 million in reserves, which the Commissioners have already approved, and achieving approximately \$11.4 million in labor cost savings, which are currently being negotiated, as required by state law, with employee associations. If the needed labor cost savings are not achieved by July 1, the Commissioners approved a plan for requesting additional reduction plans from operating departments.

Other impacts will include approximately \$50,000 less in support to local non-profits, elimination of the County's financial support for the free Sierra Spirit bus downtown, closure of the residential program for juveniles at the McGee Center, reduction in the hours of the Marriage License office, changes to elections and sample ballot printing, extending the useful life of high-use vehicles such as those in the Sheriff's Office, reductions in technology infrastructure, and many other examples.

These departmental budget plans will be incorporated into the recommended Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2010-2011, which will be reviewed by the BCC on Monday, 17, 2010.

#### May 2010 Meeting Schedule:

- May 3, 8:30am: Joint Meeting with Reno City Council, Sparks City Council and Washoe County School District.
- May 11, 9am: Special Meeting with Department Heads regarding strategic planning.
- May 11, 1pm: Regular Meeting with public hearings at 6pm.
- May 17, 10am: Special Meeting for tentative & final Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Budget.
- May 25, 10am: Regular Meeting with public hearings at 6pm.

**Voter of Registrar:** [www.washoecounty.us/voters](http://www.washoecounty.us/voters)

**Early Voting** for the Tuesday, June 8, 2010 Primary Election **begins Saturday, May 22 and ends Friday, June 4** throughout Washoe County. The sample ballots will arrive in your mail starting May 17, 2010. For times and locations, visit: [www.washoecounty.us/voters](http://www.washoecounty.us/voters) or call 328-3670.

**Community Development:** [www.washoecounty.us/comdev](http://www.washoecounty.us/comdev)

**Annual CAB Recruitment:** The 2010 CAB Annual Recruitment continues. Applications are available by emailing Sheri Ingley at: [singley@washoecounty.us](mailto:singley@washoecounty.us) or calling: 328.3612 or visiting: [www.washoecounty.us/cab](http://www.washoecounty.us/cab)

**New Volunteer Opportunity:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) will be hosting its 75th annual conference in Reno. Over 3,000 county officials, representing over 80% of the nation's population will be in town for the 75th annual National Association of Counties (NACo) Conference Thursday, July 15-Tuesday, July 20, 2010. We need volunteers to help make the conference a success and a memorable experience for our visitors. For more information visit: [www.washoecounty.us/citizens](http://www.washoecounty.us/citizens)

**Washoe County Clerk's Office:** [www.washoecounty.us/clerks](http://www.washoecounty.us/clerks)

Beginning June 28, 2010, the Washoe County Clerk's Office will reduce its hours of operation for the issuance of Marriage Licenses. Assembly Bill 2, which passed during the 26th Special Session of the Nevada Legislature, authorized deviation from the Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) mandated hours during the current economic crisis, upon approval by the Board of County Commissioners. Washoe County Clerk, Amy Harvey, brought a proposal for the change in hours to the Board of County Commissioners at their April 13th meeting. The proposal, based on data collected over the past 30 years, allows the Clerk's Office to remain open during peak hours of operation and close during hours that are historically slow. The Board approved the change of hours which will assist Washoe County to realize a savings of over \$100,000 annually with limited impact to tourism in the Reno/Sparks area. The Marriage License Bureau will continue to be open every day of the year, excluding Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. Assembly Bill 2 became effective March 11, 2010 and expires by limitation on June 30, 2011.

New Hours for issuance of Marriage Licenses:

- Monday through Thursday: 8am to 8pm
- Friday and Saturday: 8am to Midnight
- Sunday: 10am to 6pm
- Valentine's Day: 8am to Midnight
- New Year's Eve Day: 8am to Midnight
- County Observed Holidays: 10am to 6pm (except Thanksgiving Day and Christmas)
- Thanksgiving Day and Christmas: Closed

**Regional Parks and Open Space (RPOS):** [www.washoecounty.us/parks](http://www.washoecounty.us/parks)

Budget Update: Over the past few years, Regional Parks and Open Space has reduced its budget by 50% due to continuing declining revenues. The Wilbur D. May Arboretum staff will not be eliminated, but will instead be asked to take on additional duties, including overseeing maintenance at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park. The Great Basin Adventure Park will remain open, with free admission (group rental areas will still have a charge), unfortunately, the Log Flume Ride will be closed for the summer of 2010.

Regional Parks and Open Space Commission (RPOSC): On May 4, 2010, the RPOSC may provide a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to approve a license agreement with Golden Valley Property Owners Association to construct an organic composting station at Golden Valley Park, and a lease agreement with Golden Valley Property Owners Association to operate and manage the compost station once built.

Visit: [www.washoecounty.us/parks](http://www.washoecounty.us/parks) for more information about these programs:

- Discovery Day program: Kids can find out just how cool it is to dig in the dirt
- Summer Day Camps: at the Galena Creek Regional
- Naturalist-lead hike at Davis Creek Nature Trail: enjoy an afternoon walk
- Dark Moon Astronomy: learn how early explorers used stars and constellations

**Washoe County Senior Services:** [www.washoecounty.us/seniorsrv](http://www.washoecounty.us/seniorsrv)

**Meet the Candidates Nights:** Washoe County Senior Services will host “Meet the Candidates” on the following dates, time and locations. These events are open to the public. For more information, call Laurie Altheide at 328-2486.

Friday, May 7 and 21, 2010

9am to 1pm

Reno Senior Center

1155 E Ninth St, Reno

Friday, May 14, 2010

10 to 11am

Sparks Senior Center

97 Richards Way, Sparks

**Library System:** [www.washoecounty.us/library](http://www.washoecounty.us/library)

**Summer Reading Program:** Runs from May 1-August 1, 2010 at Washoe County libraries. The 2010 reading program features the themes “Make a Splash. Read @ Your Library” for younger children and “Make Waves @ Your Library” for teens. For more information, visit: [www.washoecountylibrary.us](http://www.washoecountylibrary.us)

**Early Voting:** Three Washoe County libraries will offer the convenience of early voting again this year. You can avoid long lines on Election Day by **voting early at Incline Village, Northwest Reno or Sparks libraries.** Early voting for the Primary Election will take place from **May 22-June 4, 2010 on days the library is open.** For a complete early voting schedule, visit: [www.washoecounty.us/voters](http://www.washoecounty.us/voters) or call 328-3670.

Visit: [www.washoecountylibrary.us](http://www.washoecountylibrary.us) for more information about these programs:

- **Erika Paul Carlson Trio:** American jazz comes alive
- **Bruka’s Theatre for Children:** New adaptations of fairy tales by the Brothers Grimm
- **Tsurunokai:** A cultural adventure through Japanese history and customs
- **Sol’ Jibe:** Exploration of the world’s music and its fusion with American music
- **Spring, Swing, Fling:** A “Lifescapes” Senior Writing Program
- **KNPB Planned Giving Seminar:** Basics of estate planning

**Truckee River Flood Project:** [www.truckeeeflood.us](http://www.truckeeeflood.us)

The Washoe County Commissioners heard the first reading of a proposed ordinance to establish a financial assistance program to property owners in selected areas to make those properties resistant to flood damage. The ordinance is authorized by Assembly Bill 54 from the 2009 Legislature, and establishes a voluntary program through which property owners that live within established flood boundaries and meet requirements can elevate or relocate their homes and apply for reimbursement of the costs associated with that work. The first phase of the program has an initial budget of \$2 million, with the total cost for the program estimated at approximately \$10 million. The program is funded through the Flood Project’s 1/8 cent sales tax. By offering a voluntary program through which homeowners can work directly with contracting professionals, the Flood Project estimates it could save over \$40 million as compared to the construction of flood walls or levees to protect the same properties from flood damage. The second reading and possible adoption of this ordinance is currently set for May 25, 2010. For more information, visit: [www.truckeeeflood.us](http://www.truckeeeflood.us) or call 850-7460.

## **Community Relations:**

**Bike To Work and School Week is May 15-21, 2010:** Here are some tips for both drivers and bicyclists:

- Motorists need to respect the right of way of bicyclists in travel lanes.
- Motorists need to slow down in the presence of bicyclists, overtaking and passing them with caution when opposing traffic allows, and in accordance with traffic laws.
- Cyclists must obey the same traffic laws as Motorists, such as obeying traffic signs, following lane markings and using correct hand signals:
  - Left turn: left hand and arm extended horizontally beyond the side of the bicycle.
  - Right turn: left hand and arm extended upward beyond the side of the bicycle, or right hand and arm extended horizontally.
  - Stop or sudden decrease of speed: left hand and arm extended downward beyond the side of the bicycle.
- When cycling in the street, ride on the right side of the road in the same direction traffic is flowing. When cycling with friends, ride single file, not side by side.
- Cycle slowly on sidewalks and bike paths, and always yield to pedestrians. Use audible warning devices, such as horns or bells, when overtaking and passing pedestrians.
- Cyclists should not weave in and out between parked cars.
- Never use headphones from portable music or other recording devices, as you may not hear warning devices or the sound of approaching vehicles.
- Cyclists should wear a helmet and avoid wearing loose clothing.

### **Sheriff's Office:** [www.washoesheriff.com](http://www.washoesheriff.com)

As part of the Alcohol Awareness Month, the Washoe County Sheriff's Office conducted alcohol stings in hopes of curbing the availability of alcohol to minors. On April 16, 2010, deputies visited 26 establishments with an undercover minor, who was able to purchase alcohol at 5 of the businesses. Citations were issued to each of the clerks, who sold alcohol to the minor.

### **Reno Police Department:** [www.reno.gov](http://www.reno.gov)

Reno Police officers are conducting a two-week focused DUI enforcement campaign from April 28 to May 9, 2010, which will consist of saturation patrols, which are being supported by a grant from the Nevada Office of Traffic Safety's "Joining Forces" program. If you suspect a drunk driver, you can report the vehicle's license plate number and vehicle description by calling 334-COPS. Indications that someone may be driving under the influence include:

- Rapid acceleration or deceleration.
- Weaving, swerving, wide turns, straddling lanes.
- Sudden stops, delayed starts, driving too slowly.
- Drivers operating a vehicle with their face close to the windshield, or who appear to have a lack of peripheral vision.

### **Truckee Meadows Regional Planning:** [www.tmrpa.org](http://www.tmrpa.org)

**Regional Utility Corridor Report (RUCR) Update:** On May 6, 2010 the Regional Planning Commission (RPC) - Regional Utility Corridor Report (RUCR) Subcommittee will meet to discuss the feedback from the four workshops and provide further direction to staff

regarding the amendments. **In June 2010**, RPC and Regional Planning Governing Board (RPGGB) will each have a workshop on possible amendments to the Regional Plan regarding utility corridors and associated issues. **In July 2010**, the RPC will hold a public hearing to make recommendations to the RPGGB regarding possible adoption of the proposed amendments to the Regional Plan regarding utility corridors and associated issues. **In August 2010**, RPGGB will hold a public hearing to consider adoption of the proposed amendments to the Regional Plan regarding utility corridors and associated issues. For more information at the RUCR, contact Peter Gower at 321-8391.

**The City of Sparks:** [www.ci.sparks.nv.us](http://www.ci.sparks.nv.us)

Victorian Square Improvements: The City of Sparks Council voted to award a contract to Q&D Construction in the amount of \$1,224,144 to construct public infrastructure improvements to move forward on the Victorian Square Development Plan. The project will connect two one-way streets from the cinema fountain to Victorian Avenue and surrounding sidewalk, curb, gutter, and decorative improvements, as well as intersection improvements at 10th Street and C Street. Funding for this project comes from the City's Redevelopment Agency and is anticipated to be complete by July 4, 2010.

Storm Drain Project: The City of Sparks Council voted to award a contract to Gerhardt and Berry Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$192,214.75 for a storm drain replacement project at South Larkin Circle. The project will replace and increase the existing drainage system before the Regional Transportation Commission re-paves these streets. The project will also support the North Truckee Drain Realignment project, which will help alleviate flooding in the City's industrial area.

Budget Update: Sparks City Council took action to balance the City's Fiscal Year (FY) 2010-11 budget, which takes effect July 1, 2010. In order to address a \$4.9 million shortfall, the City's workforce will be reduced by about 56 full-time positions, includes approximately 48 employee layoffs. City revenues continue to fall below projected levels, almost 19 percent in a 12-month period. The City is in a stable fiscal position for the current fiscal year. If no agreement is reached with city bargaining groups to meet a balanced budget, most layoffs will occur no later than Friday, April 30. Since 2007, the Sparks has taken steps to streamline and in many cases eliminate programs and services. The budget reductions will have a significant impact on many public services. Residents can expect delays in city response times throughout departments and city services. The workforce reduction includes eleven firefighters and six police officers; however, six police officers will immediately be reinstated under a Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant of \$556,000. This is the first time the City has taken action on eliminating public safety personnel since the start of this recession. Other positions include public works and parks maintenance workers, as well as workers at the Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility. The City Council acknowledged those employee groups who have willingly agreed to permanent pay and benefit concessions, and have directed staff to continue to work toward a resolution with the city bargaining groups to achieve the desired outcomes. Final adoption of the FY 2010-2011 budget will take place on May 18, 2010 at Sparks City Hall.