



Commissioner
Chris
Giunchigliani

August
2009

District "E" Online Newsletter



Note from Chris

Dear Residents:

This summer, I hope you and your family take advantage of our county parks.

Our parks are also a more pleasant place to visit after the passage of an ordinance banning alcohol in our parks. Metro with assistance from Park Police have aggressively stepped up enforcement of the new ordinance and the number of citations and arrests have more than doubled since the ban went into effect.

The county's 102 parks total at least 1,600 acres, and if you are looking for things to do, there is a section in this newsletter that provides a link that lists all the various activities available to any age group.

Summer is winding down and giving way to cooler weather. Rainstorms that we have experienced lately can give us a breather but can also mean flash flooding. If you can, stay where you are and never try to cross or drive in a street with standing water.

Safety also applies to back to school as well. As a motorist, watch for flashing lights, obey the school speed limits and always watch for children crossing. Children may have forgotten some of the safety rules during the summer too. Make sure to remind them to [choose a safe route](#) to school and to never stop for strangers or get in the car with any strangers. This applies even to older children who also may be vulnerable as well.

Thank you and as always, stay safe.

A stylized, handwritten signature of the name "Chris" in black ink on a light yellow background.

Two District E Communities to Get Updated Land Use Plan

At the end of summer, the county will begin the process of updating the Winchester/Paradise Land Use Plan and beginning this fall, the Sunrise Manor Land Use Plan will also be updated.

Land use plan updates involve public input and shapes the way your community will look in the future.

Each land use designation will identify standards for population density and/or building density. During the update the current adopted land use plan will be evaluated to determine changes appropriate to carry out the goals and visions. Changes in land use will focus on comprehensive community planning, rather than site-specific development.

To understand the process that will take place, please [click here](#) for more information.

Parents Urged to Learn ABC&D's of Drowning Prevention

Article courtesy of the Southern Nevada Health District

The Southern Nevada Health District reminds everyone that constant adult supervision is the best protection against childhood drowning.

In 2009, there have been 30 non-fatal drowning incidents and five drownings, all of whom were children aged 4 years old or younger. In 2008, approximately 80 percent of drowning or near-drowning victims were children aged 4 years old or younger.

"It is very important that children are constantly supervised when they have access to any water source such as a pool, spa or bathtub," said Dr. Lawrence Sands, chief health officer of the Southern Nevada Health District.

"The physical capabilities of young children evolve on an almost daily basis, so it is especially important to ensure children enjoy summer recreational activities under the watchful eye of a parent or responsible adult," said Sands.

The health district urges parents and caregivers to practice the A, B, C & D's of drowning prevention:

Adult supervision, it is recommended that a parent is within arm's length

when children are in a pool, bathtub or other water sources

Barriers to the pool, such as fences or gate alarms;

Classes, such as swimming and CPR courses; and

Devices such as personal flotation devices, life jackets and rescue tools.

Drowning is a silent killer and a majority of deaths occur in a pool or spa; however, any amount of water can pose a hazard, including a bathtub. In just 10 seconds, or the time it takes to grab a towel, a small child can become submerged and in the two minutes it can take to answer the telephone, a child can lose consciousness.

Twenty percent of near-drowning accidents that require hospitalization result in severe and permanent disability. A majority of these accidents occur between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. when one or both parents are at home to supervise their children. Oftentimes, the victim was last seen in the house or away from the pool area.

In addition to supervision, experts recommend "layers of protection." A non-climbable, five-foot fence that separates a pool or spa from the residence should be installed and openings should not be more than four inches wide so children cannot squeeze through the spaces. Gates should be self-latching and never left unlocked. Other recommended precautions include power-operated pool safety covers, rescue equipment and CPR training. While these safeguards are important, the health district stresses that these precautions should not be used as a substitute for constant supervision.

For more information, contact the Southern Nevada Health District at (702) 759-1000 or visit www.SouthernNevadaHealthDistrict.org.

Nine Commissioners Will Sit On New Regional Housing Agency

For years, low-income residents seeking help with housing had to fight their way through a complex system that governed public housing.

That process will now be simplified by a large merger that will create a nine commissioner board to head up the new housing agency. Officials say the merger will form one of the largest such agencies in the country.

Clark County, the cities of Henderson, North Las Vegas, Las Vegas and one resident will form the new regional housing authority.

To read the Review-Journal article on the subject, [click here](#).

Cambridge Holds National Night Out Party on August 4

Courtesy of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department

Cambridge Recreation Center is holding a National Night Out Party on August 4 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at 3930 Cambridge St.

The party, titled, "Come Give Neighborhood Crime and Drugs a Going Away Party," is geared to recognize community efforts towards crime prevention and safe communities and neighborhoods.

Join us for this wonderful opportunity to get together and celebrate National Night Out 2009.

If you want to organize your own National Night Out party, the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department's Northeast Area Command encourage you to take part by planning a neighborhood event for your area. Typical gatherings usually include a block party, a neighborhood BBQ or potluck, family-based gatherings with activities for children, pool parties or other. If it is an event that will bring your community or neighborhood together for the purpose of learning more about the importance of staying safe, it achieves the goal of National Night Out.

For more information on this event and promotional items, please check out www.natw.org. In addition, Target Corporation is again the national corporate sponsor of National Night Out. Please keep the Northwest Area Command, Crime Prevention Office in the loop as you plan your event. We try to schedule as many police officer appearances as we can at these area events.

Addressing the Problem of Unwanted Cats



In 1831, the fireman on the very first commercially operating steam train locomotive grew tired of the hissing safety valve and tied it shut. A short time later, he became the first fatality of the first train boiler explosion.

What does this have to do with cats in Clark County? Our county animal shelter and animal rescue groups are receiving a record number of unwanted cats and kittens. These groups are the safety valve that attempts to deal with these unwanted cats. Attempts are made to find homes for them but there are simply too many. For most of us, the first real exposure to this is the meowing of kittens under a bush or somewhere else around our home. This is happening all over the valley more times than anybody is able to count. Since this has been a very productive kitten season, most calls to rescue groups receive the answer, “We cannot take any more kittens at this time”. This leaves the option of last resort, the county animal shelter or death. The answer to this growing problem is to reduce the number of unwanted cats roaming our streets and neighborhoods.

One of the more popular methods to address the problem used by many home owners associations and property managers is insisting that residents do not feed them and hope they go away. At best this simply makes no difference and at the worst it leads to cats raiding trash and becoming hungry and sick. I am not aware of homeless cats in any neighborhood that are chronically underfed.

The better choice is to humanely manage the cats and reduce the breeding population with a program of Trap, Neuter, and Return. This is supported by Clark County Ordinance 10.06 enacted last year and is being successfully implemented in a number of locations. The key to bringing these cats under control is first finding residents who want to manage them and then getting them the support they need to do it properly. In our efforts to expand the number of colonies under management, classes in the TNR process are being offered. In addition, existing colony caretakers are mentoring new

caretakers and assisting with the initial mass trapping of the colonies. As these new colonies are brought under control those caretakers can volunteer in turn to help with other new colonies. Through this process, we are slowly building our capacity.

The biggest need at this time is simply more people who are willing to help. In this economy and in the way the ordinance is written this is a volunteer-driven process. The Central Sponsor position I hold is a volunteer position. The rescue groups are volunteer and donation driven. Colony caretakers are volunteers. The more people who contact the rescue groups or me and ask, "What can I do to help?" the sooner we will be able to make things better for both the cats and ourselves.

We also need you to lobby your councilperson to establish TNR and caretakers in their policies. This would help immensely with the overpopulation.

Thank you,

Keith Williams, Clark County Feral Cat Colony Central Sponsor

<http://www.clarkcountyferalcats.org>

Tax Bills Due in August

Tax rates are set in June of each year. Tax bills are prepared and mailed out by **August 1st** of each year. Property taxes are due on the third Monday in August. However, the property owner may elect to pay in installments if the taxes on a parcel exceed \$100. [Click here](#) to find out the installments due dates for fiscal 2009-2010.

The Nevada legislature has established four tax installment due dates for each fiscal year (July 1 to June 30) as shown above. **Tax bills are mailed only once each year.**

If you purchase real property during the tax year, you are responsible for any taxes not paid as of the close of escrow. Please call the Treasurer's Office (702) 455-4323 to request a duplicate bill. As stated in NRS 361.480 failure to receive an individual tax bill does not excuse the taxpayer from the timely payment of his or her taxes.

There are 107 tax districts in Clark County. The tax rates for these districts are based on the amount of monies budgeted to them for the necessary maintenance and improvements for their facilities and services. The tax monies collected for the districts must pay for schools, roads, police and fire protection, along with all other services that a taxpayer demands and desires from local government. These tax rates vary depending on the type of services provided to each district.

County Applies for Stimulus Money to

Address Foreclosures

The Southern Nevada NSP2 Consortium comprised of Clark County and the cities of Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, and Henderson is applying for a total NSP2 allocation of \$367,298,000.

These funds as appropriated by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, will be used to combat the foreclosure crisis in proposed targeted census tracts through proposed activities designed to arrest the decline of home values, support affordable homeownership, and decrease the supply of foreclosed, abandoned and dilapidated housing in our community.

If awarded funding, NSP2 implementation would begin after the execution of grant agreements on February 17. Funds would then be expended over three years.

To find out more about the proposed use of these funds, [click here](#).

Neighborhood Pride Zones Making A Difference

We always enjoy hearing how government changes lives. John Fischer sent us a heartfelt letter about how one Neighborhood Pride Zone affected him. Here is an excerpt of the letter:

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to you and your staff for all the hard work you did in establishing the Vegas Manor II neighborhood Pride Zone. Your leadership and the dedication of your staff have contributed to a significant improvement in the appearance of this neighborhood.

You have certainly raised the awareness of the neighborhood residents as to the importance of a well kept community and their need to contribute their time and effort to maintain a good looking area where families can be proud to live. I believe that the scofflaws got the word, as always the 10 percent ruin it for the 90 percent.

Clearly your efforts in mobilizing the disparate departments of Clark County to address the run-down and ill-kept county property to include painting light poles, fire hydrants, curbs, graffiti, removal of street trash, and illegal vehicles and other items was very noticeable and due entirely to your dedication and urging. This is something that no individual in the neighborhood would be able to accomplish by themselves. Good for you.

Online List Helps Residents Find Resources

There are a host of community resources available for everything from child care and health care to transportation and home care. Finding those resources is a different story. A list of community resources is available online. Just [click here](#) for the list.

Residents Can Remove Graffiti

Contents of article courtesy of the Southern Nevada Graffiti Coalition

Many residents may not know it, but Clark County Code allows graffiti removal at non-residential properties and provides for due process and the ability for Clark County to recoup the costs. Here is the wording on Code 11.12.030:

- (a) In order to protect the public health, safety and welfare of the residents of the county and to prevent blight upon the community, an official may require the owner of nonresidential property to cover or remove graffiti that is placed on that property, which is visible from a public right of way, if:
- (1) The graffiti is inherently dangerous;
 - (2) The property is inadequately maintained; or
 - (3) The board, by resolution, directs enforcement under this chapter because the graffiti is otherwise harmful to the health, safety or welfare of the residents of the county.
- (b) The county shall provide notices, hearing, appeal, and recoup costs as addressed in this chapter.

State Ombudsman for Minorities a Valuable Resource

Two years ago, Governor Jim Gibbons and Director of the Department of Business and Industry Mendy Elliott appointed Leticia Bravo as the Ombudsman of Consumer Affairs for Minorities and Executive Secretary to the Nevada Commission on Minority Affairs.

The position can prove a valuable resource for minorities in business. The Minority Ombudsman's primary duties include the design and implementation of outreach education activities in minority community locations. The Ombudsman also serves to increase awareness of deceptive trade practices throughout Business and Industry and assist the Consumer Affairs Division with consumer program goals.

Prior to coming to the state, Leticia served as Environmental Health Program Manager

with the Area Health Education Center of Southern Nevada, where she oversaw a federal grant from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development that provided education regarding lead poisoning in low-income communities. Prior to her move to Las Vegas, Leticia spent three years as Public Information Officer and Latino Liaison for the Cook County Clerk's Office in Chicago, Illinois.

Leticia can be reached at (702) 486-9752.

Where Your Sewer Money Goes

Some of our new residents called last month when they received their first sewer service bill from the [Clark County Water Reclamation District](#). Depending upon where they lived prior to coming here, residents may have paid their sewer service through property taxes, a combined water/sewer bill or if they had a septic tank, not at all! The most frequently asked question is: What does the sewer service bill pay for?

The annual sewer service bill funds the daily operations of collecting and treating wastewater; millions of gallons each and every day are transported and treated. The collection system is made up of the pipes and pumps needed to deliver the wastewater from our homes and businesses to the treatment facilities. There are more than 2,000 miles of pipelines beneath our streets to carry the wastewater. When the wastewater arrives at the treatment facilities, it undergoes a series of physical, chemical and biological treatments before it is safe and clean to be returned to the environment.

The annual sewer service rates pay for the operations, maintenance and replacement of the facilities and equipment. New customers pay a one-time connection fee that funds any needed expansion of either the pipelines or treatment facilities. The District's billing system is based upon a system known as the "Equivalent Residential Unit" or ERU. While a single family residence is billed 1.0 ERU, a resort hotel may be billed several thousand, based upon the number of guest rooms, restaurants, rest rooms and kitchen fixtures. Several of the resort hotels pay annual sewer service bills in excess of a million dollars each year.

Because wastewater is an important part of our community's water cycle, our treatment facilities provide a high level of treatment each and every day. The District must meet treatment levels that are among the highest in the nation in order to protect Lake Mead and the Colorado River.

If you would like to learn more about the treatment facilities, you can visit the District facilities, either in person or online.

For additional information, you can contact District staff at (702) 668-8065.

RTC to Hold Public Information

Meeting August 6

The Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada intends to apply for Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to implement bus rapid transit and related improvement along Sahara Avenue. The proposed project includes the implementation of bus rapid transit in side-running bus lanes along Sahara Avenue between Joe W. Brown Drive and Boulder Highway, as well as related improvements along the entire route. The project would also extend transit service beyond Sahara Avenue in the eastern part of the valley along portions of Lamb Boulevard, Nellis Boulevard, Vegas Valley Drive, Desert Inn and Lake Mead Boulevard and Hollywood Drive.

The RTC will be holding a public information meeting regarding the amendments and the implementation of this bus rapid transit line.

Thursday, August 6, 2009
4:30 pm to 6:30 pm
Parkdale Community Center
3200 Ferndale St.

Tips for Senior Living

The Nevada Department of Health and Human Services Division of Aging Resources has published its quarterly publication, "New Directions."

The publication has several resources and articles relative to senior lifestyle. You can access the publication by [clicking here](#).

Go "Where Fun Happens"

Looking for something to do? [Click here](#) for a list of events going on in Clark County parks this week.

