

News & Views

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Reminder!

Open House & Ribbon Cutting
First National Bank of Nevada
February 22nd - Thursday
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

For more information visit:
www.SparksChamber.org

Dear Chamber Members

January 2007 – what a great launch of the New Year!

First was the annual Board of Directors retreat. Let me clarify the Sparks Chamber's definition of "retreat." We were in a windowless room all day and lunch was a build-your-own-sandwich buffet eaten during the meeting. Still, each of your Board members, a wonderful assembly I must say, displayed their commitment, cooperation and, thank goodness, humor. By the end of the day we'd identified & prioritized our 2007 goals and objectives. More about that next issue.

Next we had two really exceptional mixers. The first, held at PR Picasso's, the newest restaurant on Victorian Square, was unbelievable – really - who serves escargot at a mixer??? If you have a minute, pop in for a peek at their collection of Picasso artwork.

The very next night we were back at Victorian Square at The District and I was so proud of the members who again came out in force. The District had a great spread of food and my wish for them is "Godspeed and bring on the retail!"

Finally, our annual Recognition Dinner. My thanks to each member, every corporate sponsor and every community partner for your help, support and counsel. Special thanks to First Independent Bank for sponsoring the dinner, to the Chefs & staff at Red Hawk Resort and to Kalin and Jinger, for confusing us all....and making us laugh.

Til next month.....

Elaine Alexander



Limited Advertising Spots Available



The Sparks Chamber of Commerce is offering a limited discount on Electronic Sign advertising. Our 25' foot electronic sign is located on Victorian Ave.

This high traffic corridor has over 1.4 million visitors each year, and is the home to the Best in the West Nugget Rib Cook Off, the Sparks Hot August Nights Parade, and the Cinco De Mayo Festival.

Advertising contracts are still available, however there are limited spots left. If you are interested in advertising in this area, contact the Sparks Chamber of Commerce to hear about our advertising packages. Need to get a message out? We would be glad to help. Tel: 775-358-1976

Visit the Sparks Chamber of Commerce on the web at www.sparkschamber.org

**Member of the Month for February
Linda Nicoll**

Linda Nicoll with Keller Williams Realty, Group One - Reno, has been selected as the Sparks Chamber Member of the Month for February 2007.



Linda was on the Chamber's Board of Directors for 2004-2006 and former Membership Chair, and is currently Co-Chair for the Best Kids Committee. Linda has been very active at the mixers, luncheons, golf tournaments and welcoming new and existing Chamber members. Linda believes her participation in the Chamber has developed herself personally and professionally. She loves meeting new people and developing lasting relationships with clients and associates.

Linda has been with Keller Williams as a Realtor/Owner since changing careers in 2003 and hasn't looked back since. She has been in the top 10 with the company and been selected as a member of the Agent Leadership Counsel for KW every year. She has recently been selected to participate with the Nevada Association of Realtors Leadership team for 2007 and is on the 2007 Marketing Committee for RSAR.

In addition to her activities with the Chamber Linda is also a member of CRS (Certified Residential Specialists), WCR (Women's Council of Realtors), Professional Saleswomen of Nevada, Wolf Run Ladies Golf Club, Rosewood Lakes Ladies Golf Club, and Senior Women's Golf Club, to name a few. She is also a volunteer for the Girl Scouts, Reno Philharmonic Guild and Habitat for Humanity.

Linda is originally from Winnipeg, Canada and relocated to the United States in 1986 and "Loves This Place". "It is definitely home."

Email: nicoll44@kw.com
www.LindaSellsReno.com
cell: 775-691-2999



**New services on-line at:
<http://www.SparksChamber.org>**

Stay informed and up to date!

**Business of the Month for February
Northern Nevada Business Weekly**



The Northern Nevada Business Weekly is about serious business news - news that can make you more money, make your company more successful and bring you greater fulfillment in your career. It is read by the smart money in town, the people who know that reliable, in-depth, timely information is the first step toward good decisions.

The Northern Nevada Business Weekly isn't just about information - although its readers find it packed with information they can use today. It's about knowledge. It's about understanding how things work today - and how they'll work tomorrow. It's a weekly newspaper for a community of like-minded people. It's for people who believe in working hard, people who believe in the free-enterprise system, people who believe in making a better life for themselves at the same time that they build a better community.

And even though the Northern Nevada Business Weekly is about serious business, its pages sparkle with fun and bubble with the sheer exuberance of doing business in a great place.

Northern Nevada Business Weekly

780 Smithridge, Suite 200

Reno, NV 89502

Phone: (775) 770-1173

Fax: (775) 770-1171

For Classified Advertising call (775) 881-7653

Hours: Mon - Fri, 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Did you know?

Our website has over 14,000 unique visitors per month? We average 2,600 page views per day.

Sparks Chamber of Commerce

831 Victorian Ave.

Sparks, NV 89431

Phone: (775) 358-1976

Fax: (775) 358-1992

www.SparksChamber.org

Hours: Mon - Fri, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Shaun Carey, Sparks City Manager



New City Publications

The City of Sparks is proud to announce two new publications to keep residents informed of current programs, events and projects taking place in the city. The 2007 Community and Relocation Guide and the Public Works Annual Report serve to provide Sparks residents with up-to-date information during a time of development and change.

The 2007 Community and Relocation Guide is a comprehensive tool offering current and prospective residents the latest information about the City of Sparks. The guide includes information on available services, upcoming projects, and exciting changes in Sparks. Background information, important facts, and information on unlimited opportunities in Sparks are included. The City of Sparks worked closely with the Reno Gazette Journal's Custom Publishing Group to produce the guide.

The 40-page guide provides information on city officials, local businesses, and current and upcoming development projects. Information about shopping and dining, school listings and health care facilities are also included. In addition, a complete list of city resources can be found on the last page of the guide.

Copies of the 2007 Community and Relocation guide are available at several area locations including: Sparks City Hall, City Works, Reno/Tahoe International Airport at the Baggage Claim Information Booth as well as the Visitor Center located next to baggage claim, Reno/Sparks Chamber of Commerce, Sparks Chamber of Commerce, and the Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada (EDAWN). For more information log onto www.cityofsparks.us or call 775-353-2310.

The Public Works Annual Report, distributed by the City of Sparks Public Works Department, will reach 50,000 households and businesses within the next week. The report is being used as a tool to inform the citizens of Sparks where some of their taxpayer dollars are being spent. The report highlights City projects that are underway, or completed as well as other initiatives and programs performed or implemented by the Sparks Public Works Department.

The 12-page, easy-to-read report outlines projects including the construction of the Larry D. Johnson Community Center, improvements at the Alf Sorensen Community Center, and recent roadway upgrades. Sewer utilities, traffic signal programs, flood planning, and the City's snow plan are also outlined. Important contact information is also included. Additionally, the report recognizes the hard-working and dedicated employees who work around the clock to ensure the City of Sparks maintains the quality of life its citizens deserve.

For more information or copies on the Public Works Annual Report, call 775-353-2271. In fact, every department in the City creates an annual report illustrating the accomplishments and programs that are implemented by dedicated and professional City employees. Annual reports are available to the public. For additional details and information, call 353-7894.

Katy Singlaub, Washoe County Manager



Better Public Service Through Communication

One of the County Commission's strategic priorities is to Provide Excellent Public Service and one of the ways we can do that is through two-way communication with our citizens. Here are just three ways that you can find out more about your county government and have your voice heard:

2007 Guide to Services. This award-winning annual publication is a resource for our citizens about the programs and services Washoe County provides to them. It contains valuable information such as contact numbers and email addresses for county commissioners, other elected officials and county departments as well as locations and hours of operations for county services such as parks, libraries, courts, registrar of voters, social services and senior services just to name a few.

There is also a special section on ways citizens can become involved in their county government and make a difference in their community. The Guide also gives programming times for various County shows and public meetings played on The Washoe Channel, TV-17. Detailed budget information and the County's strategic priorities are also included.

The publication was distributed last month through the Reno Gazette Journal, the Sparks Tribune and the North Lake Tahoe Bonanza. Copies are also available at various county offices, and an on-line copy can be seen at www.washoecounty.us -- just click on the "guide to services" link under CITIZENS.

Citizen Involvement Webpage. Just this month we launched new webpages on our county website that provides "one-stop" shopping for citizens looking for ways to make a difference in their community.

By going to www.washoecounty.us/citizens, people can access a comprehensive website that profiles every citizen board and commission, with a separate listing of current vacancies. The new site is streamlined for easy access to volunteer opportunities with Washoe County and it provides links to agendas and minutes of County Commission meetings and information about how to participate in a public meeting. The "What's Happening in My Community" link gives information by specific District, including upcoming Citizen Advisory Board meeting times, agenda items and biography information on each County Commissioner.

Citizens can also find out about the free Washoe County Leadership Academy which is offered twice a year. Applications are now being accepted through March 23 for the 12-week session beginning in April. An interactive on-line application is available at the new site.

Citizen Nuisance Ordinance and Code Enforcement Committee. This newly formed citizen task force was charged by the County Commission to review the current ordinance and accompanying regulations that govern nuisances in the unincorporated part of Washoe County where 100,000 reside. The 25-member committee's first meeting earlier this month saw nearly 100 people turnout to give their input. The committee is expected to continue for the next several months culminating in recommendations to the County Commission.

To find out more about this effort, log on to www.washoecounty.us/nuisances or email your thoughts to nuisances@washoecounty.us

Business Briefs



The Sparks Chamber of Commerce honored community members for their volunteerism at its recognition dinner.

By Angela Mann
amann@sparkstribune.net



In its 26th Annual Recognition Dinner, the Sparks Chamber of Commerce acknowledged the many volunteers and sponsors who made 2006 a success for the organization.

"Our corporate sponsors have donated more than \$180,000 to make this all happen," said Len Stevens, executive director. "This all started four years ago, and not one has left the program.

"Model Dairy is our lead corporate sponsor," Stevens continued as he also recognized The Resort at Red Hawk, Wells Fargo, Kiley Ranch, Charter Communications, Northern Nevada Medical Center, Fleet Heating and Air Conditioning, Sierra Pacific Power Co., and Greater Nevada Credit Union.

Wells Fargo continues to sponsor the annual Business Forum that started out as "Salads and Solutions" and is now an all-day session featuring motivational speakers.

Kiley Ranch has made it possible for the chamber to increase its number of Tony Armstrong Memorial Scholarships from 6 to 24.

Charter is sponsoring breakfasts and luncheons put together by the chamber.

Northern Nevada Medical Center was singled out as being the reason so many events got started. NNMCC was the first sponsor and continues to support Sparks activities.

Recognized for their volunteer and sponsor efforts are:

- Co-Conductors of the Year are Dee Goff and Roxy Vaughn
- President's Award went to Susie Johnson, chairwoman of the Welcoming Committee
- Gary Weinheimer was named Sparks Chamber Member of the Year
- First Independent Bank of Nevada was named Sparks Chamber Business Member of the Year
- Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows received the Community Service Award
- Lifetime Achievement Award went to Lotus Communications' Roy Robinson
- Sparks Citizen of the Year honored Manny Martinez of Charter Communications

Business Briefs



Outgoing President Beth Cooney presented highlights of 2006 and all of the events and progress made by the chamber. She pointed out the BEST Kids Committee, Business Forum, Golf Tournament, mixers, scholarships and Star Spangled Sparks.

In 2007, officers are:

- Elaine Alexander, President
- Pete Copeland, President-Elect
- Phil Zive, Vice President, Business Council
- Carole Mathisen, Vice President, Community Affairs Council
- Mike Wurm, Vice President, Marketing Council
- Mike Hix, Secretary
- Frank Lawrence, Treasurer
- Beth Cooney, Past President
- Jim Breslin, Tom Burrous, Kathy Carrico, Manny Martinez, Cheryl Moss, and Grant Sims

Picture & article are courtesy of the Sparks Tribune

Young Professionals Committee

Be part of something Big and cutting edge
The founding Young Professionals Committee for Big Brothers Big Sisters is forming and is looking for:

- Smart, energetic young professionals ages 20-40
- Who want to connect with other like minded young professionals
- Grow their professional network
- Feel connected to the community
- Have fun in cool places
- Be part of cutting edge philanthropy in Northern Nevada
- Make a difference in the lives of kids
- Create buzz

For more information contact

Pat Fling, Big Brothers Big Sisters CEO
775.352.3202; PFling@BBBSNN.org

Robin Andrews, Outreach Coordinator
775.352.3202; RAndrews@BBBSNN.org

The Big Brothers Big Sisters Vision is a successful mentoring relationship for all children who need and want one, contributing to brighter futures, better schools, and stronger communities for all.

Donate your clothing and household items by calling: (775) 826-2122. All donations are tax deductible.



We would like to thank First Independent Bank of Nevada for sponsoring the 2007 Annual Community Recognition Dinner.



Security Detail J & S Security Doors By Marian Bond - Reno Gazette Journal

When J&S Security Doors was offered to Gene and Kathy Martin six years ago, the couple realized that they had an opportunity to fulfill a longtime desire to own the company.

"We had operated another business in the same complex, and had often said that we would like to get into the security door business," Kathy Martin said.

"The owner came to our place and said he was selling. We said, 'We'll buy it.'"

The Martins were well suited to take over the company. Gene Martin was an experienced welder and had once run a saw mill. Kathy is a businesswoman who handles the sales, estimating, and other duties. They recently hired a salesman to help meet the demands of their business.

All of the manufacturing is handled in their 6,000 square-foot facility, where they also make steel security doors, gates, rails and window guards using ornamental iron. The security door is also a storm door and a screen door. Gene Martin has started making some wrought iron furniture, and they recently opened a showroom.

The couple has expanded by including their own powder-coating business because they were not getting the quality they wanted when shipping out that part of the operation.

Equipment they added to perform all aspects of their work included an oven (for powder coating), a forge, a paint booth and a sandblaster that Gene Martin developed.

Kathy said their doors are custom made. "We don't purchase any doors or other product from anybody. We do custom designs. People love them.

"One customer wanted a Mickey Mouse design on the door, and they were thrilled with the final product," she said.

"I want to make sure that my customers are happy. This is the fun thing. People always say to me that they love their door."

Residential work

The company does primarily residential work, but also some commercial as well. Marty Piccinini, owner of Mark Fore and Strike Sporting Goods, has run his business for 40 years on Kietzke Lane. The large inventory of guns makes security an important issue Piccinini said.



Kathy Martin, J & S Security Doors

"I always said that if I ever had to put up window guards, I will shut the place down," he said. "When it came to shutting down or putting up window guards, I went with window guards."

Piccinini was very satisfied with the security window guards designed and produced by J & S.

"They did them in a grid, they look like window panes, and not a barred window," he said. "They were very fast. My insurance company and I were very concerned about that."

Piccinini said that they have used J & S for projects at private homes in the family.

"They did the doors for my swimming pool, and the security doors for my son's home and my mother's home," he said. "They are fast and efficient, and their designs for my windows came out good."

Gordon Allen, owner of Gordon's Photo Service in the Smithridge Plaza said that after two hooded men came through and smashed the front door, stealing \$30,000 worth of product, he knew it was time to do something about security.

"I had done business with the Martins in their other business, and I knew they would do a good job. Their work is impeccable," he said.

The best news is that there have not been any break-ins.

"The thieves know what they are up against now," he said. "And I sleep more comfortably at night."

J & S Security Doors
1040 Matley Lane, Ste. B.
Reno, 89502
(775) 329-9811

Did you know?

The City of Carson has a population of 56,062 estimated by the 2005 US Census Bureau

Business Briefs



Take Your Business to the Next Level

by Kathy Carrico, State Training Director, NV Small Business Development Center

According to the U.S. Small Business Administration, there were 671,800 small businesses started in our nation in 2005, while 544,800 closed their doors in the same year; over 39,000 declared bankruptcy. By reducing the number of business closures, we could certainly improve Nevada's economy if in fact small businesses do represent 99.7% of our nation's employer firms.

The opportunities in Nevada to own your own business have never been better. So, what's the first step? Or, if you already own the business, but find yourself overwhelmed because "you don't know what you don't know", what can you do?

Planning is a part of any success – just ask an entrepreneur! Differences between an average business owner and an entrepreneur include a higher level of vision and planning. Entrepreneurs will seek out opportunities to excel so that efficiency leads to managed growth and higher revenue.

The nation's leading entrepreneurial training program, NxLevel, has been hugely successful in Nevada for over seven years, with over 1,100 participants to date. It is a curriculum taught nationally to over 10,000 people each year and is offered through educational agencies like the Nevada Small Business Development Center. NxLevel continues in Reno for its 8th year 13 consecutive Thursday evenings beginning February 15th.

NxLevel demands planning on part of the business owner, and provides the tools to write a comprehensive business plan. You wouldn't take a road trip without a map, or build a house without a blueprint. Without a basic business plan that includes solid groundwork and familiarity with small business issues, failure in one's business is only a matter of time. Bottom line, you will lose a lot of money.

NxLevel is a 13-week program that provides guidance in writing a business plan and addresses critical topics such as market research, cash flow, financial projections, legal issues, marketing and more. Each week a guest speaker from the local business community will provide expertise in their area.

The cost of NxLevel nationally runs from \$600 - \$1,100 per student. Due to \$25,000 annually from Citibank, the course fee is reduced to \$395 per student in Las Vegas and Reno. Sparks chamber members will receive a \$100 discount, for a total of \$295 for this 42-hour training course!

NxLevel will be taught 13 consecutive Thursday evenings from 5:45 – 9:00 pm at the Redfield campus on Mt. Rose Highway, beginning February 15 and ending May 10. Registration information on how to sign up for the NxLevel course can be found at www.nsbdc.org and clicking "Education and Training". A 5-page course syllabus, list of topics, and content information are also available on the website or can be obtained by calling the Nevada Small Business Development Center at 1-800-240-7094.

The familiar cliché says it all...failure to plan is planning to fail!

Business Briefs



New Member J&A Development



J&A DEVELOPMENT
P.O. BOX 50040
SPARKS, NV 89435
775-358-6838

J & A Development, LLC was established in January of 2003 by two local contractors who have been doing business in the Reno, Sparks area for over 20 years. They are committed to developing unique communities and building quality, up scaled custom homes.

Their first development "Town & Country Estates" is in Sparks, and was completed in 2005. It has seven beautiful homes spread out along a private road and cul-de-sac. This first project drew enthusiastic buyers, and sold out very quickly.

Currently J & A Development is working on their second community, "Quail Landing", right here in Sparks as well. Just take Baring Blvd. to Goldy, go north on Goldy, turn left on Spanish Springs Rd., turn right on Quail Landing Court.

Here you will find a secluded neighborhood with room to breathe. All home sites are 1/3+ acre. J&A Development is building 14 homes ranging from 2,280sf to 2,652sf, in this community, and RV's are allowed on most lots, eliminating the need for offsite storage fees.

J & A Development strive to create a feeling of comfort in your home with the convenience of having everything you need close by. This community is minutes from downtown Sparks, Alf Sorenson Community Center, shopping, restaurants, etc. Schools: Lena Juniper, Mendive, and Reed

Thank you to the Sparks Chamber Membership

I would like to thank everyone for their support, you've all been incredibly generous over the last two years. The Member of the Year came as a total surprise to me as I feel it's just part of my duty as a member to help out the organization the best I can. To show my appreciation I would like to offer a 20% discount to all chamber members on any photographic project they may have until April 1st. This could be anything you've been thinking about doing but haven't gotten to it yet. This is my gift to all of you for your incredible support.



Thank you all,
Gary Weinheimer,
Weinheimer Photography

Business Briefs



New Member 1st National Bank of Nevada



1st National Bank of Nevada, the largest privately held, family owned community bank in the southwest is owned by Chairman Raymond A. Lamb. It is the only state-wide bank headquartered in Northern Nevada. First National Bank prides itself as a "heritage" organization with a strategic mission to serve generations of customers and provide long-term career opportunities for employees. Our organization has over 100 employees who have family members working within the bank. Despite our size and remarkable growth, we are pleased to say that we are not for sale, and that there is a second generation of leaders ready to step in.

With the strength of a large financial institution and flexibility of a privately held company, First National Bank has the unique advantage of being able to provide customized financial solutions for its clients. Innovative products such as imageDEPOSIT, a revolutionary new tool that allows businesses to deposit checks into their accounts straight from their desktop, is just one example of our bank's commitment to providing state of the art products to its customers.

President Denny Williams and his leadership team are dedicated to the continued value and support to every one of their customers as well as the communities in which they serve. We are excited to be joining the growing community of Sparks with Rick Abend as our leader in our new market.

1st National Bank of Nevada
780 Vista Boulevard, Suite 500
Sparks, NV 89434

775.321.5400
www.fnbnonline.com

New Member AdviseTech



Breaking into the 21st Century

Information Technology is the new defender of free enterprise!

We have always locked the door to the house when we leave for the day! We lock the car when we go shopping!

But, is your information locked up & safe? And . . . Do you have the only key? Chances are . . . No!

Business Briefs



One of the biggest challenges of the 21st Century is the security of personal & corporate information! With the preventative technology that has recently been available in Northern Nevada, the bad guys have had a head start!

Now, an IT company out of Southern California by the name of AdviseTech has expanded to the Reno-Sparks area. AdviseTech, which is being spearheaded by longtime Reno/Tahoe resident Ronald Smith, brings the latest technology to the table with well chosen partners dedicated to putting the secure back into security!

AdviseTech is an IT solutions provider dedicated to providing the highest standards of service to clients in all industry segments. Whether you have existing computer infrastructure in place or are starting from scratch, and whether you have IT personnel on staff or not, we analyze your operations to recommend and install the optimal, most cost-effective solution to meet current and future needs. For existing IT personnel we provide additional tools for increased efficiency. Following installation, we provide training to your staff, or you can outsource staffing requirements to us.

Some of the principles by which we operate include:

- Flexibility – We can work with you no matter how big or small the job or your company. When you call us in, we will tailor a completely personalized solution unique to your needs. We are willing to try to salvage solutions you have been provided by other vendors that have not met your needs.
- Reliability – We back up every solution we recommend and implement. We will work with you until you are completely satisfied.
- Value – Given equivalent solutions in terms of quality and functionality, we will always recommend the service that is most cost-effective for you, the client. Although we are happy to procure equipment for you, we will always tell you if it would be more cost-effective for you to acquire it directly from the manufacturer or reseller. We work with all brands and are hardware and software neutral.
- Innovation – We specialize in solutions on the cutting edge of labor force productivity and business automation including telecommuting solutions and web-based order-entry.

AdviseTech is dedicated to adding value to every customer situation. We will help you optimize your technology investment and operate in a more efficient and profitable way.

And, as much as AdviseTech is concerned about the virtual world . . . We are equally concerned about the youth of today who will one day become our leaders! So, when we learned of the book drive we had three boxes of children's books sent up from the home office! And, that is only the beginning! We hope to be an asset to the entire community for a long time!

AdviseTech

Toll free: 866.766.3353
Fax: 866.766.1214
Mobile: 775.443.5516
www.advisetech.com
ronaldsmith@advisetech.com

Business Briefs



Gift of Love Blood Drive

Have you ever considered the wonderful feeling and personal pride from having donated a pint of blood thereby saving up to three people's lives? Donations decline during the cold winter months due to harsh weather, colds and flu outbreaks. This is during a time when the need for blood remains strong by our community's hospital patients who rely on volunteer blood donors like you for their life saving blood transfusions. For these reasons, United Blood Services of Reno asks all eligible people over 17 years of age to give the gift of life for our hospital patients' blood needs by donating a pint of blood.

And, when you do present to donate from February 1st through February 14th you will automatically be entered into our Gift of Love promotion for a chance to win one of two dazzling waterfall style, heart shaped, 1 carat diamond pendants that will be awarded to two lucky donors on February 15th. Both of these exquisite pendants were generously donated courtesy of Hart's Fine Jewelry. Also- join us for a fabulous Valentine's Day Celebration on Wednesday, February 14th. Enjoy food, fun, and prizes.

The name Valentine comes from the Latin word valor meaning worthy, and what could be more worthy than taking 45 minutes out of your busy schedule to help save up to 3 lives! Please take a moment and call us to schedule your convenient appointment during this Valentine Season. To schedule your appointment to donate please call (775) 324-6454 for our Reno fixed site or (775) 887-9111 for our Carson City fixed site.

When you give blood, you are giving the gift of life! Now you can also win a beautiful gift of love. Please Call United Blood Services to make an appointment to give lifesaving blood today and walk-ins are always welcome at 1125 Terminal Way, Reno or 256 E. Winnie Lane, Carson City. Be a Hero for Life and call us Today!

United Blood Services has been this area's non-profit community blood provider since 1953, and serves patients in 22 hospitals in 12 counties. The United Blood Services network is one of the nation's oldest and largest non-profit blood service organizations, and is a founding member of America's Blood Centers and the American Association of Blood Banks.

SPRING CLEANING ALREADY? - SPARKS KICKS OFF ANNUAL CLEAN SWEEP

Look for voucher in March water bill

Sparks, NV – It's hard to believe, but spring is just around the corner! The City of Sparks annual "Clean Sweep" kicks off March 15 through April 30. Residents in Sparks will receive a voucher in their Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) bill during the month of March for a free dump of trash and garbage courtesy of Waste Management and the City of Sparks. Other sponsors include the Sparks Tribune, Sparks Chamber of Commerce, and Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful.

"The first official day of spring is just over a month away, an ideal time to clean up or clear out our yards and garages and get rid of any junk and debris," said City Manager Shaun Carey. "We sponsor the annual clean sweep to help keep our neighborhoods and community clean and beautiful for all of our citizens and

Business Briefs



visitors to enjoy, and we hope folks will keep an eye out for those vouchers and put them to good use," he said.

The voucher is good for one free dump of household items and other waste from March 15 through April 30. Residents can take trash, garbage or other items for disposal to either Waste Management's Reno Transfer Station (1390 E. Commercial Row) or the Lockwood Landfill (I-80 East to the Mustang Exit).

OPERATION GET OUT SAFE

Sparks Fire Department
Smoke Alarm Education & Installation Program

The Sparks Fire Department is embarking on a Fire & Life Safety program for the City of Sparks that will make a measurable difference in the general knowledge of smoke alarms in the home, thus reducing the chance of deaths and injuries in residential fires.

National statistics prove that each year, roughly 70 percent of home fire deaths in the United States result from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms. In one-quarter of the reported fires in homes equipped with smoke alarms in 2004, the devices did not work, and households with non-working smoke alarms now outnumber those with no smoke alarms. These statistics are disturbing and unnecessary says Sparks Fire Marshal Robert King.

The program stems from a guideline called, "Planning & Implementing a Successful Smoke Alarm Installation Program", through the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). This comprehensive guide covers a 9-step process starting with Organizing a Planning Committee and ending with Evaluating the Program. There are two parts to the 9-step process, (1) Implementing an Educational Campaign; (2) Implementing an Installation Campaign.

The Educational Campaign will entail articles in the local newspaper, discussions on local radio stations, interviews on local T.V. morning news shows, informational flyers for homeowners, and information on the City's Web site. Education will cover fire safety aspects such as, types of smoke alarms and how they work; proper testing of smoke alarms; proper placement of smoke alarms; when to replace smoke alarms; facts, figures, and myths of smoke alarms; creating and implementing a family fire drill plan; and fire reporting procedures. This part of the program will commence in February and continue through the end of the year. Smoke alarm education will continue on a year to year basis as part of the Fire Department Public Education Program.

The Installation Campaign will entail conducting inspections and installing smoke detectors in various homes throughout the community. The Target Population will start with families of low-income, elderly, and homes in older neighborhoods.

In order to conduct such a big fire and life safety program, the Sparks Fire Department is looking for businesses, organizations, civic groups, and corporations to be a partner in fire-safety education. There are many ways to support this life-saving program, including donating smoke alarms and batteries, making a financial contribution, promoting the program through literature, or becoming involved in the Installation Campaign.

For more information or to become one of our partners in fire-safety education, please contact Fire Marshal Robert King at 353-2261.



You are invited to attend
Open House & Ribbon Cutting for:



Come visit the newest branch location on Vista Blvd.

When:

Thursday, February 22nd 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM

Where:

780 Vista Blvd. Ste 500

Hors d'oeuvres will be catered by Grand Sierra. Refreshments and a heated tent will be provided for guests.

Come meet the staff, and learn about the wide array of services this community bank provides



You are invited to a Membership
Mixer

Realty & Construction Management Inc.

Date:

Tuesday, February 27, 2007

Location:

5580 Mill St., Ste. 600

Reno, Nevada 89502

Come meet the people behind Realty & Construction Management Inc.
Refreshments will be available and staff will be on hand to answer your questions.

**Focused and efficient, RCM goes beyond the ordinary.
We work hard for your peace of mind.**

Business Briefs



A Sparks Housing Rehabilitation Program

Your home is often your biggest investment. Improving living conditions and extending the life of your home is extremely important. The City of Sparks' Housing Rehabilitation Program is here to assist qualifying, low income individuals and families with their homes.

Questions & Answers about the Housing Rehabilitation Program:

What is the Housing Rehabilitation Program?

This is a federally funded loan program from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to help low income individuals. It is administered through the City of Sparks. The program is funded through the HUD Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funds.

Who is Eligible?

Individuals and families who meet program guidelines and live in the Sparks city limits. All applicants must:

- Own and have occupied the home for at least one year.
- Meet income requirements.

What Types of Homes Qualify Under This Program?

Owner-occupied single family residences. Condominiums, townhouses & mobile homes may also qualify.

What Type of Loans or Grants are Available?

Emergency Repair Grant

The maximum amount allowable under this program is \$2,500 per household. The applicant must meet the income requirement of 60% or less of area median income. These grants may only be obtained in the event of an emergency that can affect health and safety. No payment is required and no lien is placed against your home. Emergency grants are administered on the basis of need.

Deferred Payment Loan

The loan can be written for an amount up to \$20,000 to make needed repairs. The applicant must meet the income requirement of 80% or less of area median income. The loan is secured by a Deed of Trust on the home. The loan is to be repaid, in full, when the property is sold or the title is transferred to another person or if you no longer live in the home. There are no interest charges. There are no monthly payments.

What Type of Repairs are Covered by a Deferred Payment Loan?

House repairs such as roofing, hazardous electrical wiring, plumbing, doors, windows, insulation (minimum code requirement), foundation, wall repair, floor covering, ADA issues and reduction of lead-based paint hazards (during general rehabilitation activities).

How Do I Apply?

This program is administered by the city's housing specialist. Please call 775.353.7895 if you have any questions or would like an application.

Business Briefs



New Member Stained Glass Overlay



Custom Windows and Doors
Transom Windows
Sidelight Windows
Shower and Tub Enclosures
Room Dividers
Cabinet Doors
Skylights

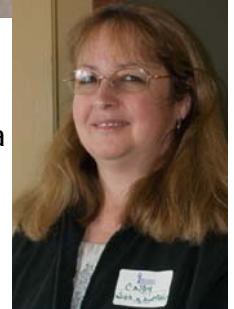
New Construction
Remodel or Existing
Installs over Existing Glass units

Residential
Commercial
Religious



Stained Glass Overlay of Northern Nevada

1350 Freeport Blvd. Suite #104
Sparks, Nevada 89431
775-355-8877
sgonn@sbcglobal.net
www.stainedglassoverlay.com



Cindy Lehr, Stained Glass Overlay

Have News? Beat the rush

If your company or organization has news you think benefits the Chamber Membership please send your press releases to info@sparkschamber.org or drop it by our offices at 831 Victorian Ave. in Sparks, Nevada.

We strive to bring you a quality publication with up to date information on the local business community and this means bringing the news to us!

Please note materials submitted for release must arrive before the 15th of the previous month to meet our printing deadline. So if you are interested in publishing a Business Brief, feel free to contact us. All new members are allowed one article in the monthly newsletter. It's an awesome way to make your fellow members aware of your products and/or services.

If you have any questions or comments please contact the Sparks Chamber of Commerce: (775) 358-1976

Chamber Member To Member Discounts

The Chamber of Commerce has implemented a program for Chamber members to offer discounts on their products or services to other Chamber members. The following businesses are participating:

ADT Fire & Security	1 Month Free Monitoring and \$50.00 OFF any Residential Security System Installation
ACE Janitorial Supply Inc.	10% OFF
Amy's Flowers	10% OFF (excluding wire orders)
Armstrong Inspection Services	10% OFF
at&t	10% Discount on New Telephone Systems
Bemus Systems of Nevada	10% OFF on Full House System
CMS	\$50.00 OFF TTC Marketing Program
Cingular Wireless	25% OFF all cell phone accessories to all active Sparks Chamber Members
Clear Vision Window & Blind Clean	Mini Blinds 5% OFF, Window Cleaning 10% OFF
Commercial Bookkeeping Services	15% OFF Hourly Rate
Craig Chagnon, Realtor	Free Home Warranty Coverage for Sellers & Buyers
Cruise Planners	7-day or longer cruise: \$25 PP on inside cabin, \$35 PP on outside cabin, or \$50 PP on balcony cabin
Cut-N-Loose Hair Designs	10% OFF
CTX Mortgage Co. – Susie Johnson –	FREE loan analysis and discounted fees for members
Dickson Realty/Judy Southard	Free 1 year warranty to chamber members who buy or sell their home through me
Disability Services	10% OFF
Electrserve	15% OFF Labor
Eschelon Telecom	4% Additional Discount to Chamber Members
First Horizon Home Loan - Mary Seidel	\$200.00 OFF closing costs
Greater Nevada Credit Union	Free Credit Union benefits to employees of Chamber of Commerce Members
HAWC Community Health Center	Based on a sliding fee scale - come in to apply - up to 50% OFF
Keller Williams - Linda Nicholl	Will provide a cruise for 2 on a successful completion of home escrow
Marina Hand Car Wash	50% OFF Car Washes
Morrison Univeristy	10% discount for Professional Development workshops
Mr. Electric	10% OFF
Nevada Association of Employers	10% Off Employee Opinion Survey/20% if NAE member
Nevada Small Business Development Center	Various Discounts on Training
Novus Auto Glass	10% off all non-insurance work
OutSource It, LLC Computer & Network Services	20% OFF Labor
Dr. Kevin Andrews DDS Personalized Orthodontics	\$300.00 Discount for all Sparks Chamber Members
Paper Plus	10% off every purchase
Platinum 1st Mortgage, L.P.	Chamber Members receive \$500.00 Discount OFF fees to purchase or refinance with us
Reich's Concrete Solutions	10% discount on cleaning, sealing, and concrete repairs to Sparks Chamber Members
Rock Computer Technology, LLC	Free consultations and 25% OFF labor
Romeo Sierra Aviation	30 Minute Free "Discovery of Flight" Lesson
Sierra Car Care 76	10% Off of all Automobile Service
Sierra Spine Specialists/Chiropractic	25% off all Services
Sparks Tribune	Home or Office Delivery, 1/3 OFF
Sport & Safety Optics, Inc.	20% Discount on all Frames & Lenses
Sterling Business Systems	10% OFF Machine Purchase
SGO/Stained Glass Overlay of Northern Nevada	15% off any decorative glass
Sweep Easy Chimney Sweep	Stove 5% OFF, Service 10% OFF
Truckee River Traders	50% Discount on all new order setup fees

If your business, as a Chamber Member, would like to offer a discount to other Chamber Members, please let us know and we will update this list each month in the Chamber Newsletter. Contact our office at: (775) 358-1976

Membership Re-Investments
We Thank You!!

Renewals for February 2007

American Ready Mix
Bank of America - Bob Grubic
BJ's Barbeque
Bookeeping Services - Wendy M. Terry
Cantina Los Tres Hombres
Charles Schawb Bank
CM IT Solutions
Coldwell Banker - Jason Kaspar
Coldwell Banker Village Realty - Walt Illgen
Community Services Agency
CTX Mortgage - Susie Johnson
Dickson Realty - Dan Armolea
Dickson Realty-Sparks - Judy Southard
Eyetech Visioncare Ltd.
Femco Inc.
Frontier Financial Credit Union
Goodwin Enterprises
Greater Nevada Credit Union
Gurr's Roofing & Building
In-N-Out Burger

IQ Systems
Kahl Commercial
Keller Williams Group One Sparks Realty - Joey Clark
Keller Williams Group One Sparks Realty - Lyndi K. Newbry
Keller Williams Group One Sparks Realty - Maria Sarile
Maggie Miller
Meadows Apartments (The)
Mr. Electric
Nevada State Development
Payroll Systems of Nevada
RHP Mechanical Systems
Scraps Dog Bakery At Sparks Marina
Sierra Nevada Baseball
Sierra Pacific Employees Federal Credit Union
Sparks Branch Library
Stefani & Associates
Tax Prep & Bookkeeping Services, Inc.
Truckee River Traders
Washoe Building Supply, Inc.
Washoe County Comm Concerts

SPECIAL THANKS

We would like to thank everyone who renewed membership with the Sparks Chamber of Commerce. It's our members who make us successful and we would like to thank each and every member who has made a commitment to this community and for supporting the Chamber. Thank you for your continued support and remember your success is our success.

The Sparks Chamber of Commerce would like to extend a special thanks to Gary Weinheimer of Weinheimer Photography for providing his services at event functions and providing photographs for our archive. Congratulations to Gary for being selected as our member of the year.

We would also like to thank Digiprint for providing print services for our monthly newsletter.

And a special thanks to all the committee members and volunteers who have helped the Sparks Chamber of Commerce

SPARKS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEW MEMBERS

<p>Barnard, Vogler & Co., CPA Accounting John Logar 100 W. Liberty St. Reno, NV 89501-1959 775-786-6141 Fax: 775-323-6211 jlogar@barnardvoglerco.com www.barnardvoglerco.com</p>	<p>Coldwell Banker Village Realty-Sparks Alan & Roxie Bancroft 3080 Vista Blvd. #100 Sparks, NV 89436-6705 775-313-7129 775-313-7128 Fax: 775-356-8881 alanroxieb@msn.com</p>	<p>Home Mortgage Direct Lenders Real Estate Loans Theresa Tacner & Joyce Lockhart 601 W. Moana Ln. Reno, NV 89506-4955 (775) 823-3700 jlockhart@myhsm.com or ttacner@myhsm.com</p>
<p>Home Mortgage Direct Lenders Real Estate Loans Theresa Tacner & Joyce Lockhart 2321 Pyramid Way #B Sparks, NV 89431-8715 (775) 331-7998 jlockhart@myhsm.com or ttacner@myhsm.com</p>	<p>I.B.E.W. Local 401 Electrical Union Tim McGough 2713 E. 4th St. Reno, NV 89512-3801 (775) 329-7174 Fax: (775) 329-5101 lbew401@gbis.com</p>	<p>J&A Development Home Builder Keith & Ellen Shelton P.O. Box 50040 Sparks, NV 89435-0040 (775)-355-8696 Fax: (775)-358-6820 jaddevelopment@sbcglobal.net</p>

SPARKS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEW MEMBERS

<p>Jag Wire Electric, Inc Electrical Contractor Garry Gromes 9736 S. Virginia St. Ste.C Reno, NV 89511-5902 775-473-1195 Fax: 702-403-1302 michelle@jagwirehosting.com www.jagwireonline.com</p>	<p>J.R. Romero, Architect Architect J.R. Romero 245 E. Liberty #110 Reno, NV 89501-2277 775-786-1552 Fax: 775-786-1553 jrrarch@msn.com</p>	<p>Keith Shelton Construction, Inc. General Building contractor Keith Shelton P.O. Box 50925 Sparks, NV 89435-0925 (775) 359-6776 Fax: (775) 358-6820 Ks49rs@aol.com</p>
<p>Keller Williams Group One Realty Real Estate Residential Brokerage Leslie Henderson 690 Sierra Rose Dr Reno, NV 89511-2072 (775) 815-9511 Fax: (775) 823-8786 lesliehenderson@kw.com www.leslie4homes.biz</p>	<p>Miller Water Water Purification Harold Miller 2875F Northtowne LN. #302 Reno, NV 89512-2062 (775) 673-2152 hmiller@millerwrite.com www.millerwrite.com</p>	<p>1-800-Radiator/Reno, LLC Automobile Repair Jon & Donna King 1410 Greg St. #408 Sparks, NV 89431-5947 (775) 358-7333 jonking@1800radiator.com</p>
<p>Personnel Services, Inc. Employment Robin Kline 360 Lillard Dr. Sparks, NV 89434-8909 (775) 356-7664 Fax: (775) 356-7687 rkline@ohlogistics.com</p>	<p>Prudential Nevada Realty Residential Brokerage Sylvia T. Aufiero 1324 Disc Dr. Sparks, NV 89436-0684 (775) 830-8888 Fax: (775) 685-2320 Sylvia.aufiero@prurealty.com www.prunevada.com</p>	<p>Prudential Nevada Realty Residential Brokerage Valerie Conners 1324 Disc Dr. Sparks, NV 89436-0684 (775) 750-2282 Fax: (775) 685-2320 valerie.conners@prurealty.com www.prunevada.com</p>
<p>Prudential Nevada Realty Residential Brokerage Valerie Conners 1324 Disc Dr. Sparks, NV 89436-0684 (775) 750-2282 Fax: (775) 685-2320 valerie.conners@prurealty.com www.prunevada.com</p>	<p>Prudential Nevada Realty Residential Brokerage Kevin Caple 1324 Disc Dr. Sparks, NV 89436-0684 (775) 544-7648 Fax: (775) 685-2320 Kevin.caple@prurealty.com www.prunevada.com</p>	<p>Prudential Nevada Realty Residential Brokerage Ron Rehn 1324 Disc Dr. Sparks, NV 89436-0684 (775) 813-7008 Fax: (775) 685-2320 ron.rehn@prurealty.com rdrehn@charter.net www.prunevada.com</p>
<p>Prudential Nevada Realty Residential Brokerage Christy Clark 1324 Disc Dr. Sparks, NV 89436-0684 (775) 772-8777 Fax: (775) 685-2320 Christy.clark@prurealty.com www.prunevada.com</p>	<p>Topaz Construction Inc. General Engineering Contractor Ellen Shelton P.O. Box 50040 Sparks, NV 89435-0040 (775) 358-6838 Fax: (775) 358-6820 topazconsti@sbcglobal.net alwyzblest@sbcglobal.net</p>	<p>Triad Investments Real Estate Investing Stephanie Stewart P.O. Box 3607 Truckee, CA 96160-3607 (530) 550-8248 Fax: (530) 550-8248 stephstewart@sbcglobal.net</p>
<p>24 Hour Fitness Sparks Health Club John Dieter 1264 Disc Dr. Sparks, NV 89436-0693 (775) 354-2411 Fax: (775) 354-2566 jdieter@24hourfit.com www.24hourfitness.com</p>	<p>Wal-Mart Vision Center DM Optical Ronald T. Panida 155 Damonte Ranch Pkwy Reno, NV 89511-2990 (702) 505-1291 Fax: (775) 853-6421 rtpanida@wal-mart.com</p>	<p>Wal-Mart Vision Center #3254 Optical Oliver Owen 5260 W. 7th St. Reno, NV 89523-2332 (775) 624-2085 Fax: (775) 624-2087</p>

Making Changes? Need a correction? Contact the Sparks Chamber to keep your membership info accurate. 775-358-1976



SPARKS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE/TIME	EVENT	PLACE
February 22nd - Thursday 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Open House & Ribbon Cutting	First National Bank of Nevada 780 Vista Blvd., Sparks
February 27th - Tuesday 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Membership Mixer	RCM 5580 Mill Street Ste. 600 Reno
March 1st - Thursday 7:30 a.m.	Government Relations Committee Meeting	Silver Club Sparks
March 1st - Thursday 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Open House & Ribbon Cutting	Heritage Bank – Spanish Springs 320 Los Altos Parkway, Sparks
March 8th - Thursday 7:30 a.m.	Board of Directors Meeting	Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows Reno
March 14th -Wednesday 7:30 a.m.	B.E.S.T. Kids Committee Meeting	Black Bear Diner Sparks
March 14th -Wednesday 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 P.M.	Open House & Ribbon Cutting	Cost Plus World Market 185 Los Altos Parkway Sparks
March 21st - Wednesday 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 P.M.	Membership Mixer	Nevada JobConnect 1675 E. Prater Way Ste. 103 Sparks
March 28th - Wednesday 11:30 – 11:45 registration 11:45 – 12:00 networking Noon – 5 minute sponsor 12:05 - PROGRAM	Sparks Chamber Function Luncheon	SCORE (presenter) Sponsor: Greater Nevada Credit Union Atlantis Casino/Resort Reno
March 28th - Wednesday 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 P.M.	Membership Mixer	The Cellar Wine Co. 4820 Vista Blvd., Ste. 3 Sparks
March 31st - Saturday TBA	Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting	24 Hour Fitness To Be Announced

If your interested in advertising a business opening or event you are encouraged to contact the Sparks Chamber of Commerce. We provide advertising through our monthly newsletter, our quarterly publication, our website and our new 25 foot electronic sign.

Grand openings, celebrations, and membership mixers must be scheduled in advance through the Chamber office. Please call 775-358-1976 or E-mail: Info@sparkschamber.org for additional information.

