



## City News For Your Information January 28, 2010

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### Gas Leak Causes Evacuation at Starbuck's

On Thursday, Jan. 27 at approximately 8:20 p.m., Boulder City Police were dispatched to 1048 Nevada Way regarding a report of a natural gas leak. Officers responded and evacuated four customers and two employees of Starbuck's. A perimeter was established and maintained until fire personnel were able to shut off the natural gas to the building. The gas leak was isolated to the gas line from the interior wall to the water heater. The brief evacuation of customers and employees lasted about 20 minutes.

### Discussion of Hemenway Valley Roadway Alternatives at the February 9, 2010 City Council Meeting

At the February 9, 2010 City Council Meeting, the Hemenway Valley roadway alternatives will be an item for discussion by the City Council. The Council will also give staff direction on how to proceed regarding the alternatives. The Council has discussed this item previously, and a meeting was held in October for further input from residents.

At that meeting, Public Works Director Scott Hansen presented various alternatives for an access road, which would give residents an option for ingress and egress without using US 93 in the steep reach of highway where speed limits are 45 miles per hour. A short presentation of these alternatives continues to air on BCTV.

Hansen explained that it is unlikely that a bypass would be built within the next 30 years, and building an overpass or a frontage road adjacent to US 93 is highly unlikely due to the expense involved and no funding source readily available.

Without a bypass in the near future, no overpass or frontage road, and no funding source readily available, one alternative is to construct a road near the animal shelter on Yucca Street that would follow the existing high voltage transmission lines to Marina Drive where an access road would tie in.

The Hoover Dam Bypass bridge will be open later this year. Whether or not a second access into Hemenway Valley is built will be discussed and direction will be given to staff by the City Council on Tuesday, February 9, 2010. The meeting begins at 7 p.m.



## Boulder City To Provide Residents with Easy-to-Use Program That Can Help Save Money on Prescription Drug Purchases

*In current economic climate, where people are watching their spending, prescription discount card can offer average savings of 20 percent off retail price*

Beginning February 1, 2010, Boulder City will introduce a program that will provide its residents with a new tool that can provide some relief from the high cost of prescription drugs. The city is making free prescription drug discount cards available to city residents through a program sponsored by the National League of Cities (NLC). The discount cards offer average savings of 20% off the retail price of commonly prescribed drugs.

The discount cards may be used by all residents of Boulder City and has no restrictions based on the resident's age, income level, or existing health coverage. The NLC card can be used when purchasing prescription drugs at pharmacies around the city, as well as at more than 60,000 participating retail pharmacies across the country.

"In the current economic climate, where many people are watching what they spend, the NLC prescription discount card will offer significant savings on the purchase of prescription medications for our residents," said Rose Ann Miele, the City Public Information Officer. "Whether or not an individual has prescription coverage, this program can make it easier for our residents to afford the drugs they need to deal with a short-term illness or stay healthy by managing a chronic condition."

NLC and Boulder City are able to make these money-saving cards available to city residents at no cost to the individual. A future announcement will provide information on how and when residents may obtain the cards.

"Not only does the NLC prescription discount card help residents save money on their medications, it is easy to use," said Miele. "Boulder City residents only have to show their card when purchasing medication at one of the many participating pharmacies. There is no enrollment form required to get a card, no membership fee of any kind and city residents and their family members can use the card any time their prescriptions are not covered by insurance." The discount card program is administered by CVS Caremark.

**About The National League of Cities** The National League of Cities (NLC) is the nation's oldest and largest organization devoted to strengthening and promoting cities as centers of opportunity, leadership and governance. NLC is a resource and advocate for 19,000 cities, towns and villages, representing more than 218 million Americans. To learn more about NLC, go to [www.nlc.org](http://www.nlc.org).

### Pet Licenses



Pet licenses may be purchased at the City Utility Office on the lower level of City Hall. One year license for a spayed or neutered pet is \$4.00. A two-year license is \$8.00. Please bring with you a current rabies certificate. **Late fees apply to all licenses purchased after January 28, 2010.**



## Free Tax Preparation Training

Volunteer tax preparers are wanted! Learn more about tax returns and help yourself while helping others. Join the Boulder City AARP Tax Team for this free tax prep training. Call Jack Edwards at 300-6187.

## Nevada State Contractors Board Asks Homeowners and Contractors For Help

The Nevada State Contractors Board (NSCB) is asking homeowners and contractors to become involved in helping to protect their neighborhoods from unlicensed contractors by volunteering their homes for one-day use by undercover NSCB investigators. To learn more on how you can help stop illegal unlicensed contractors from targeting your neighborhood, contact: Kenny Peppley, NSCB Supervisor of Criminal Investigations, at (702) 486-1144.

## Tax Tips From Social Security

Rita Meier, Nevada Public Affairs Specialist

The holidays are over, the gift-giving (and spending) is done, and you're almost finished returning all of the things you don't want or need. You've even jotted down your New Year's resolutions and plan to stick to them.

Time to relax? Maybe not right away — it's time to start thinking about your taxes.

Here are Social Security's top three tips for making tax time a lot easier.



**1) Don't forget the children.** Make sure the kids (and all the dependents) you list on your annual tax forms have Social Security numbers. Yes, children do need Social Security numbers. There once was a time when a child did not require a Social Security card until later in life, but in 2010, that day is long gone. If you want to claim your child as a dependent on your tax return, your child will need a Social Security number. For many families, it's not only the kids who will need a number. All dependents listed on your federal tax returns will need Social Security numbers, including a dependent parent who lives with you and receives support from you. If any of your dependents needs a Social Security number, you can get an application at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

**2) Check the names and numbers.** It's not enough for everyone on your tax return to have a Social Security number — they also must be the correct numbers, and they must match your names exactly. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) checks all the names and Social Security numbers on your tax return against Social Security's records. If the names and numbers do not match Social Security's records, you will receive a letter from IRS asking you to explain the discrepancy. You cannot receive a tax refund until the discrepancy is resolved — which could mean an unnecessarily long delay.

**3) Social Security tax on Social Security benefits.** If you receive Social Security benefits and your total income, including benefits and any other income such as wages, pensions, or investment income is high enough, you may have to pay taxes on a portion of your benefits. So plan accordingly as you work out your budget. You may have to pay taxes on your Social Security benefits if:

- you file as an individual and have a total annual income of \$25,000 or more; or
- you file a joint return and have a combined total annual income of \$32,000 or more.

These simple tips can move taxes from monumental to manageable when the time comes to file your tax return. Learn more about Social Security at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

## **Strategic Plan Status**

At the January 26, 2010 City Council meeting, the Council approved moving forward with a request for proposals (RFP) to solicit consultants who would work on a strategic plan for the City. The City has budgeted \$20,000 from the upcoming budget's general fund that could be spent on this consultant. There are also funds budgeted from the Redevelopment Agency to move forward with the Strategic Plan once direction is received from the Council. The City Manager envisioned the Strategic Planning Process to be a two-year effort.

In his presentation of this item, Community Development Director Brok Armantrout told the council that the most expensive portion of the Strategic Plan would be a questionnaire. The Council, staff and community would have to come together in setting reasonable goals that could be agreed upon. Mayor Tobler felt that "outside, unbiased help" would be needed to formulate a Strategic Plan, and an "in-house" survey would not be the way to go. City Manager Vicki Mayes said a Strategic Plan with detailed performance measures, combining financial goals and goals of the City is what the final outcome should be with the Strategic Plan. She also explained that the Council could set parameters regarding how much should or could be spent on the development of a Strategic Plan.

Sending out the RFP does not commit the Council in any way to hire a consultant, but would allow them to see examples of work from various respondents.

## **Electric Demand Charges**

At the January 26 City Council meeting, members discussed an item dealing with electric demand charges. A presentation on this matter was given by the City Electric Utility Administrator Rory Dwyer. He explained that the relationship between energy and demand cost is very complex and requires more data before any change is made to the current rate structure. Dwyer also said that if the Council wanted to adjust the demand rate, the City should commission a formal rate study to determine the optimum allocation of energy and demand charges among the various rate classes and look at residential and business rate payers. He went on to say that another approach may be to simply collect more data on demand charges at this time. This would involve lowering the threshold for installing demand meters, which is established by Council policy, from the current value of 4,000 kWh. If Council wished to do this, Dwyer suggested that a minimum value be established now, so that demand meters can be installed before demand rates are possibly changed.

It was the decision of the Council that a rate study be commissioned to identify demand charges, usage charges and services charges and their relationship between business and residential. A formal rate study allocates revenues to expenses and given the parameters by Council, it will show how much residents and businesses should pay.

## Notice to Permit Holders Regarding Scheduling Inspections

The Building Department has instituted a new policy for scheduling inspections for your project.

Effective Immediately, all inspections will be scheduled by one of the two following methods:

- 1) By sending an email to: [buildinginspections@bcnv.org](mailto:buildinginspections@bcnv.org) *OR*
- 2) By calling and leaving a voice message at: **(702) 293-9327**

Deadlines for Scheduling Inspections	
To schedule an inspection for:	Please <b>email or call by 3:30PM</b> on:
Monday →	Thursday of the previous week
Tuesday →	Monday
Wednesday →	Tuesday
Thursday →	Wednesday
To schedule a <i>special</i> inspection for:	Please email or call by <b>12PM</b> on:
Same-day* →	Same-day

*\*Note: Same-day inspections are available for an additional fee of \$85.00*

## What to Include in Your Inspection Request

- Address to which the permit was issued
- Permit number
- 3) Inspection type
- 4) Day you would like the inspection
- 5) Contact name and phone number



Send an email to:  
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*OR*  
Leave a voice message at:  
**(702) 293-9327**

## Upcoming Activities, Events and Meetings

- ◆ Mayor Roger Tobler delivers the State of the City Presentation on Thursday, January 28. A social hour begins at 5 p.m. and the Mayor's presentation begins at 6 p.m.
- ◆ The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Dam Short Film Festival takes place February 10-13 at the Boulder Theatre. Tickets are \$5 per program and may be purchased at the door. A 4-day pass will also be available for \$50. For further information, call 447-4747 or go to [www.damshortfilm.org](http://www.damshortfilm.org). This week on BCTV, a smattering of what the film festival is all about airs at 5:30 a.m., 11 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 11 p.m.
- ◆ Boulder City Circle presents a Valentine Concert on Saturday, February 13 at Grace Community Church. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. and the show begins at 7 p.m. Proceeds benefit Emergency Aid of Boulder City. Call Plaza Realty at 293-2440 for tickets.
- ◆ Donate your used holiday cards to St. Jude's Ranch for Children through February 28, 2010. For further information, contact Sarah Sheehan, Director of Communications and Events, St. Jude's Ranch for Children, 702-294-7102 or go to [www.stjudesranch.org](http://www.stjudesranch.org).

## Contact Information



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