

Absentee Ballots and Voter Registration

Numerous Boulder City residents are planning their summer vacations, so now is the time to make sure your vote can be cast while you are away. All you need to do is complete an **Absentee Mail Ballot Request Form**, which can be obtained at the City Clerk's office on the second floor of City Hall.



Also, if you are unable to physically visit the various voting locations during any election and want to vote, you are required to

complete an **Absentee Mail Ballot Request Form** annually. If you would like a form mailed to you, call the City Clerk's office at 293-9208 or send an e-mail to pmalmstrom@bcnv.org to request one. You may then complete the form and send it directly to the Registrar of Voters.

Are you registered to vote? If not, go to the City Clerk's office, Monday through Thursday, between the hours of 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. If you have moved, changed your name or wish to change your party affiliation, you must complete a Voter Registration Application.

Voter registration deadlines are July 12, 2008 for the August 12, 2008 Primary Election; and October 4, 2008 for the November 4, 2008 General Election. Congressional, state and county offices will be voted upon in the Primary Election. For further information on these races, go to <http://www.co.clark.nv.us/ELECTION/home.asp>.

Mail Ballot Request deadlines are August 5, 2008 for the Primary Election and October 28, 2008 for

the General Election.

If you have any questions, please contact the City Clerk's office at 293-9208. Staff will be happy to assist you to ensure you are properly registered and ready to vote in 2008!

Temporary Signs

As the political season is upon us, questions arise regarding campaign signage. The City no longer issues permits for temporary signs if they are for non-commercial messages, such as those on political signs. In residential zones, you are allowed to have non-commercial message signs on your property at **ANY TIME OF THE YEAR**, per the current sign code restrictions for number and size.

An extra sign area for non-commercial message signs is permitted during the 60 days before a primary, special or general election. For the 2008 elections, here are the dates prior to elections: **Friday, June 13, 2008 is 60 days before the August 12 primary election; and Friday, September 5, 2008 is 60 days before the November 4, 2008 general election.**



A brochure on temporary signage is available on the City's website, www.bcnv.org. To print the brochure, simply type in the words temporary signs in the search feature on the left-hand side of the home page and the document will be brought up for you. If you have any questions locating this brochure, send me a message through the Public Information page listed under departments, or call me at 293-9358.

Community Report

Coming July 1, 2008, the Boulder City Police Department will publish a quarterly newsletter called the "Community Report." This new quarterly will appear in July, October, January and April. Each edition will be posted on the City's website, www.bcnv.org and issues will be archived for your ready reference. You will also be able to subscribe, via the website, to receive a link to the latest Community Report.

Editor of The Community Report is Boulder City Police Officer Robert Woolsey who joined the department in November of 2007. Officer Woolsey had nearly a decade of experience in law enforcement when he joined the Boulder City force. His last assignment in 2007 was with the City of Henderson's Marshal Division.

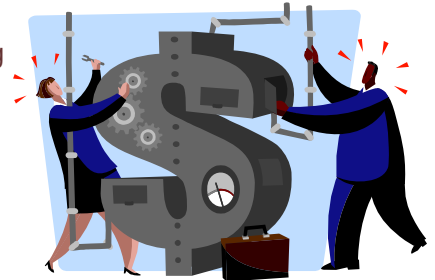
Each quarter Police Chief Tom Finn, Officer Woolsey and other members of the Boulder City Police Department will contribute articles to this newsletter on the status of the Police Department in general and the department's policing strategies in particular. If you have questions, you can e-mail them to Officer Woolsey at rwoolsey@bcnv.org and he will include them in the next issue of The Community Report.

Chief Finn has said on a number of occasions that the Boulder City Police Department is YOUR POLICE DEPARTMENT. If you have comments, questions or suggestions and need to call the Chief, his cell phone number is 994-9355.

Budget Approved for 2008-2009

The City Council approved the budget for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 at their May 20 meeting. Challenges to this year's general fund were balancing increases in expenses with leveling revenues. New revenues are needed in this budget to simply cover increased expenses and maintain the existing level of service to which residents have come to expect. Approximately \$277,000 from the ending balance must be allocated to balance the budget. With no new revenues planned and moderate increases in expenses, the fund balance will be depleted by 2012. How does the City proceed?

In order to maintain existing levels of service, there needs to be a focus on improving the way the City does business through enhanced employee training and the utilization of personnel to the utmost degree with the addition of technological enhancements. There needs to be careful monitoring and "holding the line" on overtime. The Change Leadership Team monetary goals will continue to be assigned to budget items, and new, continuing costs must be held at a minimum.



More than \$2.7 million in property tax increases have been lost over the past eight years. These funds were those allowed by law to make up for the shortfall in taxes that would have come to Boulder City through the Consolidated Tax. An incremental increase in the property tax rates is needed to help cover the costs of providing only existing levels of service. This fiscal year's budget contains a .015 cent increase per \$100 of assessed valuation, bringing the total tax assessment to \$2.515 per \$100, which is only slightly higher than last year's rate of \$2.50 per \$100. Boulder City's tax rate is .50 lower than Henderson's rate and .56 cents lower than the Las Vegas rate. Boulder City property owners pay a lower tax rate for a higher quality of life!

General fund expenses are projected to increase by 7.78%, due primarily to the labor cost increase negotiated this year. The addition of new police officers, paid for through the More Cops Initiative, resulted in more demand for court services, thus another court employee. The other increased costs to the general fund expenses come from the higher costs the City pays for fuel, fertilizers, chemicals and other products. The City's Change Leadership Team was well aware of rising costs of supplies and this year, they brought to the City Manager a more efficient and less expensive way to buy office products.

Prior to the City Manager presenting the tentative budget to the City Council, she made \$2.7 million in cuts made from City department requests. During the May 20 meeting, the City Manager recommended adding \$200,000 in expenses to prepare for retirement payouts. The City Council recommended and approved \$176,000 in additional cuts from the City Manager's recommended tentative budget, which included a 10% reduction in travel and training, the elimination of paying Rotary dues for the City Attorney and a split in funding for the strategic plan, where an equal amount of funds will come from the Redevelopment Agency fund and the General Fund over a two-year period.

In the Utility Fund, revenues are estimated to be \$21,463,884 and total expenses are \$20,596,041. The fund balance is budgeted at \$38,844,772. The Utility Fund transfer to the General fund is \$2.2 million. An amount of \$200,000 was added to Utility Fund expense between the tentative budget and this final budget. This amount is for utility upgrades, part of the street reconstruction program.

Fund balances in the Utility Fund reflect the Finance Advisory Committee's recommendation to charge all City departments the wholesale rate for water and electric. Street light electric costs have not yet been quantified for this budget.

More than \$5 million in capital projects is needed, and a financial plan anticipates water and sewer increases and a future utility rate increase.