



## Clerk-Recorder-Registrar

**From the Elections Division:** The candidate filing period for the June 3, 2014, Statewide Primary Election has now ended. Linda Romero, Assistant Clerk-Recorder-Registrar and Elections Manager, did an outstanding job preparing for the filing period, assisting candidates, providing information, answering questions, maintaining the website, verifying nomination signatures, and processing the candidacy paperwork. Linda received several comments from candidates thanking her for her help. She also received a particularly nice email in which the person said, "I think that you have been one of the most professional people I have ever come across in Mono County." Most of the elections work is done behind the scenes, so people don't realize the effort involved to make Election Day run smoothly. Thank you Linda for all your hard work to make each and every election a success!

From the Recorder's Division: Best wishes to Sherrie Hale who is retiring after 25 years with Mono County! And welcome to Ruth Hansen who will be joining our team as Chief Recorder.

CONTACT: Lynda Roberts, MPA, (760) 932-5538

## Community Development

**Planning Commission** – As a part of the General Plan update, the commission conducted workshops Thursday with Wendy Sugimura on thermal energy generation from biomass (woody waste), Debra Schweizer & Leeann Murphy on the Inyo Forest Plan, Tony Dublino on the Integrated Waste Management Plan, and Brent Calloway on proposed refinements of development standards.

**Mono Basin RPAC** – At Wednesday's meeting, Jim Leddy & Leslie Chapman provided an overview of the County budget, John Helm from Eastern Sierra Transit Authority sought public comments on unmet transit needs, and Marshall Rudolph, Karen Ferrell-Ingram and Dan Lyster discussed the proposed conservation easement at Conway Ranch. Supervisor Alpers also participated in the Conway Ranch discussion and provided an update on BOS topics.

**Antelope Valley RPAC** – At last Thursday's meeting, Leslie Chapman updated the RPAC on midyear budget, and Vianey White reviewed status of the community building addition and Mountain Gate project. Gerry Le Francois sought public comments on unmet transit needs and provided updates on the Housing Element and Scenic Byway planning.

**Trails Coordination** – At last week's Mammoth Lakes Trails Committee meeting Courtney Weiche provided an overview of Mono County's trail planning efforts and discussed potential coordination opportunities with the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

**Frogs & Toads** – The Mono Supervisors approved a detailed comment letter on economic impacts of the proposed listing of yellow-legged frog and Yosemite toad prepared and presented by Wendy Sugimura and Stacey Simon. The letter highlighted a number of inadequacies and legal concerns related to the US Fish & Wildlife economic analysis.

CONTACT: CD Ritter, (760) 924-1804

## **County Administrator's Office**

**California State Association of Counties to video Mono County Award winning program for web** - David Liebler, the Deputy Director of Public Affairs & Member Services for the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) has requested time to come up to Mono County and interview those involved in developing/implementing Mono County's 2013 CSAC Challenge Award program. These interviews will be videotaped and put together a short (5 min) video on each program and would roll out in April during National County Government Month this year.

CSAC will interview the staff involved in the program and anyone else who is involved or may have benefited from the Behavioral Health program, including a client or two.

CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510

**Mono Basin RPAC meeting receives Budget Update** – Thank you to Supervisor Alpers for the invite and for Leslie Chapman in helping present the Mid Year County Budget to the Mono Basin RPAC on March 12<sup>th</sup>. The RPAC members appreciated the ongoing commitment to openness around budget issues and appreciated having the information.

Finance Director Chapman has previously presented budget information from Mid Year to the Bridgeport and Antelope Valley RPACs thanks to invitations from Supervisor Tim Fesko. The Chalfant Valley RPAC will be provided the same information on Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup>.

CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510

**Coffee with the CAO Returns** – Thank you to the attendees to the Coffee with the CAO which were held on Friday March 7<sup>th</sup> in Mammoth Lakes and Thursday March 13<sup>th</sup> in Bridgeport. Thank you to the ten employees who attended in Mammoth and to the 12 in Bridgeport. These are open sessions where questions can be answered or conversation and ideas exchanged. Any issue is welcome!

We had some great conversation about different issues facing the county and they will be forwarded into our efforts to improve services.

There was a welcome suggestion to move them both to Thursdays as to ensure people have a better opportunity to attend. So starting in April the schedule will be first Thursday of the month for the North County coffee and the second Thursday for the south county session. Due to a standing meeting in Mammoth we will start the south county one at 8:30 am.

Next meeting (with coffee and donuts!) will be:

### **North County Coffee with CAO**

Thursday April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 8:00am to 9:00 (we went extra last time and are able to if there is an interest!)  
Bridgeport Memorial Hall, Bridgeport.

### **South County Coffee with CAO**

Thursday April 10<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 am to 9:30am  
Board of Supervisors Chambers at the Sierra center Mall

CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510

**Strategic Planning Steering Committee March 13<sup>th</sup> at Lee Vining** – Thank you to the 20 employees who participated in the Strategic Planning Steering Committee last night. We had many new faces at the meeting and that is great to see and representatives from most departments. At this point, these meetings have drawn over 70 distinct employees (some able to make a few of the meetings and few who have made one or two) representing the organization. Everyone is encouraged to attend if interested.

For those who are unable, we will be bringing the road show to you.

Some of the action taken last night by consensus of the attendees include:

- Selecting date and location for the All Employee Strategic Planning Launch event
  - **April 30<sup>th</sup>/May 1<sup>st</sup> at the Lee Vining Community Center (Save the date! There will be much more to follow!)**
- Identifying ambassadors who will help us engage employee whose duties preclude them from attending the All Employee event
- Developing alternative ways for our employee led Ambassador team to meet and discuss planning with employees unable to attend the All Employee Launch event
- Identifying a number of documents to share to our facilitator, LaRee Keily;

***The next meeting will be on March 27<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm to 6:30pm at the Bridgeport Memorial Hall. Next meeting we are asking folks to attend and bring a fellow employee.***

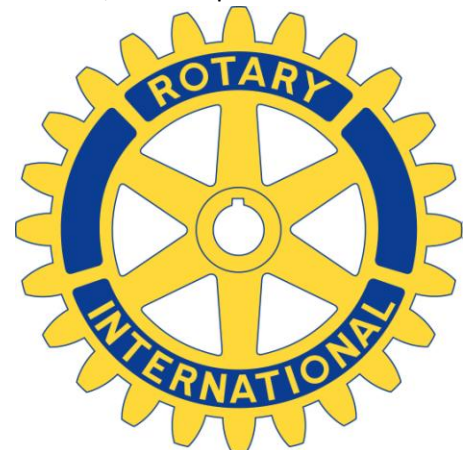
CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510

**Human Resources/Risk Management success in resolving liability claim** – HR, working with Trindel, County Counsel and the responsible manager, resolved a general liability claim by a contractor's insurance company that could have been in excess of \$100,000. As a result of meeting and communication with the contractor that included asserting our contractual provisions, the complaint was withdrawn. Good team work saved the County critical funding.

CONTACT: Bill Van Lente, (760) 932-5413

**CAO joins Mammoth noon time Rotary** – Thank you to the Mammoth Rotary for my recent induction on March 13<sup>th</sup>. Many county employees are involved with service clubs, including Rotary. These clubs provide a great opportunity to provide service to the community. Supervisor Hunt, County Counsel Marshall Rudolph and Deputy County Counsel John Vallejo are also members.

Attending the annual Winterfest was a tremendous opportunity to meet people committed to the community and helped raise over \$11,000 for



local youth and education programs

If anyone out there would like to share efforts happening in any service clubs they are members of, please send me an email with some details and we will highlight your participation in the Board Update!

**Thank you to Town Manager Dan Holler** – My thanks to Town of Mammoth Lakes Manager Dan Holler for letting me participate in the panel for their Public Works Director recruitment on March 14<sup>th</sup>. It is appreciated to work together and even better to see the caliber of candidates other jurisdictions are attracting in their recruitments.

CONTACT: Jim Leddy (707) 529-4510

## **Finance Department**

**IRS Audit – Mono County Prevails and saves \$150,000** - Back in May of 2013, Mono County received that notice from the IRS we all dread! The audit for tax years 2010 and 2011 would commence soon with the auditor visiting our Bridgeport office for a week. She combed through records, asked a lot of questions and left, but the work of resolving issues from a distance is just now concluding. They were mostly interested in making sure we applied the payroll tax law correctly, but they also looked at vendor payments and 1099s.

They scrutinized personal use of County cars, car allowances, cell phone allowances, education reimbursements, employee meals at the jail, tax withholdings on deferred compensation contributions (§401(a) and §457) and tax treatment of the employee portion of PERS contributions.

They left no stone unturned and at the end of the audit they agreed that we are withholding the proper taxes on commuting benefits, car allowances, cell phone allowances, employee meals and employee contributions to retirement programs. We got dinged because some education reimbursements were reported on 1099s instead of W-2s, but we reported the income, so that wasn't a big problem. The employee use of County vehicles was a difficult issue that took time and work to justify and we agreed that changes in our current polity need to be made and take-home cars need to be re-evaluated.

The big issue was whether employee contributions to PERS should be subject to Medicare tax, and that has taken almost a year to resolve. The IRS contended that these are part of gross income and therefore should be taxable and they requested payment of almost \$150,000 including penalties and interest. The County disagreed, and we have spent almost a year and great effort to prove our point. The dispute got very technical and tense, but with a good attorney and fingers crossed, we responded to request after request from the IRS, countered their argument and made some of our own, and the IRS finally conceded. Good job Auditor-Controller team, and thanks for the cooperation of other departments who participated!

CONTACT: Leslie Chapman, (760) 932-5494



## Information Technology

**Mono County featured in the GIS Guide for Elected Officials:** - Released just a few weeks ago, the GIS Guide for Elected Officials was compiled by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) with the intention of providing management and elected officials with a better understanding of how this technology can be effectively deployed in the public sector. The book spans a wide range of topics including disaster and emergency response, streamlined processing and workflow improvement, information access and improving service levels, and much more. Mono County GIS was written up for our efforts in utilizing GIS as a technology to integrate disparate systems that span many departments, and provide much needed data and resources quickly to staff for efficient decision making, and features the extensive work we have done with software provider BasicGov.

**Digital 395 coming online in more locations** - IT staff have been hard at work getting Digital 395 turned on at a number of County facilities. To date, County offices in Bridgeport and Mammoth, the Sheriff's Office, and Town of Mammoth Lakes main office have all been turned on with full internet circuits. Additionally, Annex 1, Sierra, Walker Road Shop, Walker Senior Center, Walker Career Services Center, Walker Medic 1, Walker Wellness Center, Bridgeport Road Shop, Bridgeport Health Department, and Lee Vining Road Shop are now up and running and connected to our network. Next up are the remaining medic stations and road shops, followed by the Community Centers. We hope to be through most of the installation by end of April.

CONTACT: Nate Greenberg, (760) 924-1819



## Public Health

**Healthy Stores for a Healthy Community** - Last Fall more than 7,000 California stores that sell tobacco were surveyed in all 58 counties. Public Health was looking at the marketing and availability of tobacco products, junk foods, sugary beverages and alcohol, as well as fresh fruit and vegetables and milk. 100% of stores in Inyo and Mono were surveyed (59) with the following findings:

- 1) The cheapest pack of name brand cigarettes - Mono \$6.50 & Inyo \$5.00 & CA average \$4.30;
- 2) Chewing tobacco was found in 83% of stores in Inyo, 72% in Mono, 56% in CA;
- 3) 20% of stores in Inyo & Mono and 57% in CA carried electronic cigarettes;
- 4) 48% of stores in Mono & 83% in Inyo and 80% in CA carried candy, mint and liquor flavored non-cigarette tobacco products like chew, cigarillos and cigars, many costing less than a candy bar; and
- 5) 93% of Inyo, 100% of Mono & 71% in CA sell alcohol - most also sold alcopops - sugar sweetened and flavored alcohol products popular among girls and kids. In partnership with the organizations of American Heart, Lung and Cancer, 13 press events, generating 195 reports, were held on March 5<sup>th</sup> including one in Mono/Inyo.

Health Officers from over 15 local health jurisdictions, including Dr. Rick Johnson, participated. The health officers tied the data to the 50th Anniversary of the Surgeon General's Report and social justice issues. Tobacco use is still the No. 1 cause of preventable death and disease in CA.

**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



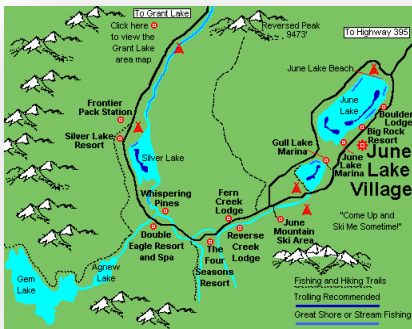
CONTACT: Nancy Mahannah, (760) 924-4621

**Public Works**

**Antelope Valley Community Center expansion progress under way!** -- Attached are several pictures of the progress on the AVCC addition taken on Thursday March 13<sup>th</sup> during lunch. The project is progressing quickly and a huge shout out to the volunteer crew as well as the Public Works staff who is coming together to make this expansion happen.

The floor is ready for sheeting and the community volunteers remain energetic.

CONTACT: Jeff Walters, (760) 932-5459



**Monitor Pass and June Lake Loop reopen –** from CHP: On Friday, March 14, 2014, at 3:30 hours, DOT advised State Route (SR) 120 East (from US 395 south of Lee Vining to US 6, Benton) has been reopened following the winter closure. In summary, SR 89 (Monitor Pass), SR 158 (June Lake Loop) and SR 120 East are all open. SR 108 (Sonora Pass) and SR 120 West to the East entrance of Yosemite National Park remain closed at this time.



CONTACT: Jeff Walters, (760) 932-5459

**Sheriff's Office**

**Sheriff's Office sends Kudos to County Public Works** -The Mono County Public Works Department staff has been instrumental over the past several months relating to the upgrading and remodel of our Dispatch center. I would like to extend a personal "Thank You" to you and your staff, Jessie Hale, Don Nunn, and others for their time, effort and hard work that was put forth towards this project.

The Public Works staff worked collaboratively with numerous vendors, other county departments, not to mention the work relating to the removal and installation of the old and new equipment along with any unforeseen issues related to this project. They spent long, and sometimes frustrating, hours ensuring the job was done right. In the end, the upgrade was well worth the effort and it is due in part to your staff and their professionalism and dedication to the Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office staff is grateful to be able to work together as we do.

**Deputy Mark Wilson was recently released from his training program** and is now serving the residents of Mono County on his own. Mark recently joined our agency coming to from San Bernardino County Sheriff. Mark, his wife and new born son currently reside in the Antelope Valley area.

CONTACT: Sheriff Ralph "OB" Obenberger, (760) 932-7549