



City News For Your Information January 7, 2010

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NDOT Projects Update

US 93 Phase 1 Improvements - One week ago, Public Works Director Scott Hansen corresponded with NDOT District Engineer, Mary Martini, to discuss safety improvements that remain outstanding on Phase 1 of the US 93 Safety Improvements Project. The improvements are to be completed by mid-January, 2010. Some of the improvements include:

- ◆ Removing the one-way sign at Lake Mountain Drive and installing a double arrow sign in that location
- ◆ Adding delineators on new curb medians and painting
- ◆ Adding more 45 mph signage along US 93 in Hemenway Valley
- ◆ Removing some of the raised pavement markers (RPMS) that are on the merge lanes to give motorists a clear area to merge; include merge signage and right-turn only signage and striping/merge arrows as needed.
- ◆ Repair street lights and place in operation the lights on the southbound access to US 93 on Nevada Way in the NDOT right-of-way
- ◆ Freshen up striping changes and make additional striping changes at the intersections of Pacifica Drive, Ville Drive and Lake Mountain Drive where they intersect with US 93.

Bypass – City staff has spent a considerable amount of time working with the Washington, DC lobbyist to obtain earmarked funds in the Omnibus Bill for the Bypass. Boulder City is far short of the \$450 million requested, the lobbyist has made it clear that an amount of \$1 million is the figure that could be supported. City staff believes this \$1 million would be best spent preparing legal descriptions and other survey documents that could be used to secure all of the right-of-way in the name of the City of Boulder City. Some of this right-of-way would include National Park Service land, which would take an act of the US Congress to deed to the City for this bypass project.

Social Security Serves Those Who Serve America

Rita Meier, Nevada Public Affairs Specialist

Each and every day of the year, Americans in the armed forces serve our nation. At Social Security, we honor our nation's military personnel and all of America's veterans not only on Veterans Day, but every day of the year.

In fact, military service members receive expedited processing of their disability applications from Social Security. Under an agreement initiated by Social Security, the Department of Defense transmits information that allows us to quickly identify military personnel injured in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

The expedited process is available for any military service member who becomes disabled during active duty on or after October 1, 2001, regardless of where the disability occurs. Depending on the situation, some family members of military personnel also may be able to receive benefits, including dependent children and spouses.

If you, or someone you know, were wounded while on active duty in the military, find out more about what Social Security can do for you by visiting our website designed specifically for our wounded veterans: www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors. There, you will find answers to a number of commonly asked questions, as well as other useful information about disability benefits and Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Please pay special attention to the fact sheets available on that website, *Disability Benefits for Wounded Warriors* and *Expediting Disability Applications for Wounded Warriors*.

You'll also find links to useful Veterans Affairs websites. There are links to information about the "Operation Enduring Freedom / Operation Iraqi Freedom Home," information on Survivors Benefits, the Task Force on Returning Global War on Terror Heroes, a fact sheet on Veterans benefits, and the Veterans On-Line Application, known as VONAPP.

Although the expedited service is relatively new, military personnel have been covered under Social Security since 1957. Even people in the service before 1957 may receive special credit for some of their service. People in the military are covered for the same Social Security survivors, disability and retirement benefits as everyone else.

A person's Social Security benefit depends on earnings, averaged over a lifetime. Generally, the higher your earnings, the higher your Social Security benefit. Under certain circumstances, special earnings can be credited from your military pay record for Social Security purposes. The extra earnings are for periods of active duty or active duty for training. These extra earnings may help you qualify for Social Security or increase the amount of your Social Security benefit and are added to your earnings record when you apply for Social Security benefits.

To learn more about Social Security for people who have served in the military, read a copy of our publication, *Military Service and Social Security*. You can find it online at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10017.html, or call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) to ask us to mail a free copy to you.

Boulder City Municipal Airport

From Community Development Director, Brok Armantrout

History – The airport was originally constructed in 1933 to provide air service for the Six Companies group that was building Hoover Dam. The airport was owned and operated by the federal government and was the first airport in Southern Nevada that provided commercial air service beginning in 1935.

Two airlines, Trans World Airlines (TWA) and Grand Canyon Airlines (GCA) operated from the field. TWA provided flights to Arizona, Utah and California, while GCA provided air tours to the Grand Canyon and other areas of interest. TWA's general passenger service was phased out in the late 1950's as commercial jet travel became more popular and Las Vegas became a national tourist destination.

As the City grew around the airport, it became necessary to relocate the airport in 1990 to its present location. At that time, the airport had approximately 20 based aircraft, half of which were privately owned airplanes, and the commercial air service consisted of flying small Cessnas to the Grand Canyon for tourists.

Today, the airport has over 200 based aircraft, with 35 being commercial aircraft that range from five-passenger helicopters to 19-passenger twin engine airplanes.

In calendar year 2008, the Boulder City Municipal Airport ranked 149 out of over 2,000 airports that process passengers with more than 130,000 passengers passing through the terminals.

Airport Enterprise Fund – The Boulder City Municipal Airport operates as an Enterprise Fund, meaning that all revenue generated at the airport stays at the airport. Boulder City does not provide any general fund monies for the airport operation. The airport fund pays the salaries of the full-time, professional Airport Manager and Airport Operations Coordinator as well as paying a small portion of the Community Development Director salary. The remaining funds are used for airport maintenance, utilities and airport construction projects. With regard to construction projects, airport dollars are used as matching funds to federal grants. Annually, the airport generates approximately \$400,000 in lease revenues to pay for these activities, with the larger portion being dedicated to pay the City's required local match for the federal grants.

Jobs Generated at the Airport – A little known fact about the airport is that there are more than 600 persons who are employed to work at the airport. Positions range from general custodial work to aircraft mechanic to pilot, in both part-time and full-time capacities. The airport is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. At any given time, there are people hard at work in the aviation industry. Most of the employees live in Boulder City and provide a much needed boost to our local economy.

The airport is home to five air tour operators – Scenic Airlines, Grand Canyon Airlines, Papillon Grand Canyon Helicopters, Stars and Stripes Air Tours and Serenity Air Tours, three flight schools, a full-service twin engine service center for King Air Aircraft, two smaller full-service mechanic shops for general aviation needs and an aircraft paint shop. Papillon's new terminal building contains a large gift shop and small sandwich shop.

Airport Safety Improvements – In 2009, the airport was busy with safety improvements to the main runway, east/west. The improvements included resurfacing the runway, grading out the safety areas on either side and the removal of obstacles. The airport was successful in obtaining \$1.4 million in stimulus money for the runway work and coupled that with an entitlement grant for the work. In 2010, there will be similar improvements to the north/south runway with the addition of some drainage improvements.

Utility Rate Increase in Effect as of January 1, 2010

As of January 1, 2010, utility rates increased 35% across all tiers for residential and commercial users. If you have any questions regarding the impact this increase will have on your utility bill, please feel free to contact Jim Petrie at 293-9240 in the Utility Office. He will be able to show you how much your bill will increase on a monthly and yearly basis.

Requests For Extensions on Past Due Utility Bills

Beginning January 1, 2010, all extension requests for past due utility bills need to be made in person at the City of Boulder City Utility Office, located on the lower level of City Hall, 401 California Avenue. Requests over the phone or items sent or e-mailed can no longer be accepted. By coming into the Utility Office, staff may be able to help you make a payment arrangement to avoid utilities being shut off. If you have questions, please call the Utility Office at 293-9244.

Upcoming Activities, Events and Meetings

- ◆ A 50th Anniversary Celebration of the incorporation of Boulder City will be held on Saturday, January 9, 2010 at 6 p.m. at the Boulder Dam Hotel. There will be 1960's music and dancing and 1960's attire is suggested. Tickets are \$10 and are available at the Boulder Dam Hotel, the Chamber, BCTV and in the City Manager's office.
- ◆ A Special City Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 13 at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Discussion and evaluation of the City Attorney and the Acting City Clerk is the topic of this meeting.
- ◆ On Thursday, January 14 from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m., the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) will host a forum on jobs and economic growth in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Members of the business community and government economic development organizations focused on business development are invited to attend. The purpose of the forum is to provide input on policy and program actions that can be taken at the federal level that will assist in fueling job creation and economic growth, as well as to glean information from participants regarding these issues. Three audience input sessions will be interspersed through the forum. Expert content will be provided by speakers. Boulder City was chosen as one of only two locations in rural Nevada to conduct this forum. Your participation is encouraged. For further information, please contact Rose Ann Miele, PIO, at 293-9358 or pio@bcnv.org.
- ◆ 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.



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