



FIVE COUNTY NEWS FROM 'R' VIEW

VOLUME II NUMBER 2

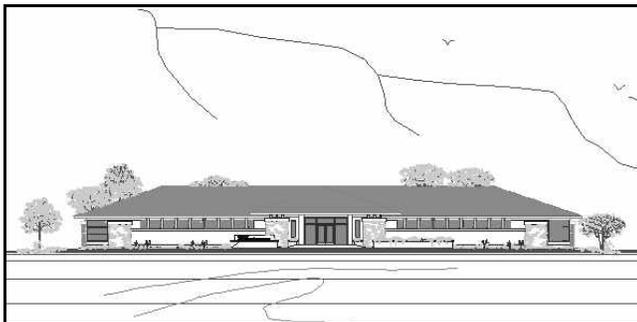
FEBRUARY, 2002

Director's Dialogue:

Following many months of evaluation, the Site Selection Committee has recommended and the Steering Committee has approved the preferred option for the location of the new AOG office building. The office building will be located in Phase 1 of the Ventana Business Park located at 289 North 1650 East, behind the Red Cliffs Mall in St. George. The AOG requested proposals for both build-to-suit as well as purchase of raw land. Seventeen bids were received; eleven build-to-suit and the four for purchase of raw land. The Site Selection Committee narrowed the proposals to three sites; two build-to-suit and one purchase of raw land. At that time, the committee authorized me to enter into negotiations with the builders to set prices. The Site Selection Committee met again in December to finalize the bid review and formally recommend one site to the Steering Committee. The new location will be more centrally located and convenient to program delivery, and provides more convenient freeway access for staff and local elected officials.

Contracts with the developer will be signed and architectural drawing submitted to the St. George Planning Commission in February. Construction will begin in March or April, with an anticipated completion date of September, 2002.

I wish to express my appreciation to the Site Selection



Architect's Conceptual Rendering

Committee who provided guidance and assistance in evaluating bid packages.

Site Selection Committee members included:

Mayor Howard Pryor, Minersville Town
Commissioner Maloy Dodds, Garfield County
Mayor Connie Robinson, Paragonah Town
Mayor Karen Alvey, Kanab City
Commissioner Gayle Aldred, Washington County

(John S. Williams)

Dixie Transportation Planning Office

An open house to kick off the long range transportation planning process was held at the Gardner Center on the campus of Dixie State College on December 5, 2001. There were 26 people who visited the open house.

Displays showing proposed plans and existing conditions, demographics, etc. were placed around the room where visitors could view and discuss plans with local staff. Developers, consulting engineers, local government elected officials and staff, state resource agencies representatives, district, regional and state staff from Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT), and a representative from the Federal Highway Administration were counted among the attendees. Advertisements of the open house were mailed to a significant list of partners, notices posted throughout the area at civic centers, box stores, and municipal offices. Coverage was also placed in The Spectrum, and other local newspapers, including some radio time.

Written comments received thanked local officials for providing the opportunity to learn about MPO development and its future role, and encouraged moving the western leg of the Southern Corridor up in priority. Verbal discussions and interaction during the evening, which were summarized after the open house closed, elicited several issues:

- ◆ Complaint that some developers are being left out of Southern Corridor Planning
- ◆ Southern Corridor impact dilemmas, avoiding springs or archaeological sites
- ◆ How projects will be funded through the MPO Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- ◆ How the Dixie TIP will relate to the Statewide TIP administered by UDOT
- ◆ Issues surrounding the proposed trail-head at Chuckawalla near State Route 18
- ◆ Widening of Telegraph through Washington City and Mill Creek Bridge
- ◆ Northern Beltway, roundabout at Main and Telegraph and the Dixie Drive Bridge
- ◆ Issues surrounding proposed improvements to Santa Clara Drive, upgrading the road, adding curb and gutter, historical lighting and other amenities
- ◆ Development of South Hills, south of Santa Clara River, and access plans

The results of the open house will be woven into future meeting planning, in an ongoing emphasis on public involvement in the planning process. (Lowell Elmer)

Staff Spotlights:



Stay C Litster accepted the position of coordinator for the Senior Companion Program in November, replacing Marni Pahl who will now serve as the director of the DOVE Center. At the Volunteer Center of Washington County, Stay C will have direct responsibility for the day-to-day operations of the Senior Companion Program in Washington and Kane Counties, including more than 55

companions to assist nearly 225 clients to help them remain independent and in their own homes. In exchange for their services, age and income qualified men and women over age 60 may earn up to \$200 in non-taxable / non-reportable income per month (plus limited meal and mileage reimbursement), which does not affect Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, housing, food stamps or other federal or state assistance programs.

Stay C coordinates Senior Companions from her Santa Clara home. She recently moved to southwestern Utah from the community of Price with her husband Deek, the couple's two children and a Black Labrador.

Ron Cardon joined the staff at Five County AOG in January



of 1999 as a volunteer coordinator for the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) in Iron, Beaver and Garfield Counties. Currently 350 volunteers, age 55 and better, are giving of their time in hospitals, senior centers, libraries, shelters, food pantries, a toy factory and with various community events (just to name a few).

Ron also helps coordinate a growing Senior Companion Program in the three-county area as well as activities at the Volunteer Center of Iron County - which have grown and expanded in the past three years. The Utah Summer Games occupies his time each spring as he serves as the Volunteer Services Manager.

A native of Cedar City, Ron graduated from Cedar High School and Southern Utah University with a degree in Public Relations/Advertising and Spanish. He is the youngest of six boys and still looking for "Miss Right." In his spare time he enjoys being with his family, experiencing the four seasons of Cedar City's mountains, golfing, running and whatever else sounds fun.

Kim Kitteridge is the Training Specialist for Child Care Resource and Referral, Western Region and has worked in this program for the past 3 years. She works out of the Cedar City office and coordinates training for child care providers in an eleven county area.



Kim began her career in early childhood in Washington State where she was a teacher with the Migrant Head Start program. Since then she has directed child care centers and worked in Head Start classrooms in several states. Of all the jobs Kim has had, working for Child Care

Resource and Referral is her favorite. She loves the contact she has with child care providers and likes to see the difference training makes in the quality of the child care programs in our area.

Kim is married to Brian, and they are the parents of seven children. In her spare time (she has no spare time) she loves to find treasures at the DI and put on her skates and pads and go to the skate park with her kids.

Sheila Peterson Retires

Sheila Peterson, Program Manager for the Utah Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, and a familiar face to many local officials in our region, retired on January 15, 2002.



Sheila Peterson

Sheila started working for the Utah Department of Community Affairs (eventually to become the Utah Department of Community and Economic Development) in 1972. She started with the CDBG program as a staff support person in 1981 when the program was first offered, and began working as a program specialist in 1983.

Sheila worked with the Five County AOG region's CDBG grantees from 1991 through 1997. She was promoted to CDBG Program Manager in 1999. Sheila has also been responsible for assisting local grantees in their required environmental assessments for CDBG funded projects.

The following, in Sheila's own words, reflects some experiences she had while working with CDBG grantees in our region:

"Being given this part of the state in which to oversee CDBG contracts gave me a wonderful opportunity to see and enjoy places that I had never seen, even though I am a born and bred Utah native. The farthest south I'd ever been from Salt Lake City at that time was probably Richfield. I had a wonderful time meeting new people, seeing new sites, and envying everyone in the southwestern part of the state for the absolutely drop-dead, gorgeous sites you get to see everyday. I had opportunities to see and do things that I'm sure I would never have had otherwise. Besides meeting and working with some truly dedicated public officials and helping them produce some very needed and much appreciated CDBG community-based projects, I had other wonderful experiences during my seven years working with this region that I will never forget. I remember driving into Springdale late one night in July, after dark, and checking in at some little motel. This must have been one of my first times being in the area. When I awoke in the morning I pulled the drapes on my window that, unbeknownst to me, faced right out on the cliffs on which the motel abutted. I couldn't believe my eyes at the sudden beauty and feeling of absolute happiness that I felt to see those red cliffs loom up toward me in that early morning sunshine! It was like my eyes couldn't take in what they were seeing, it was so

spectacular! Or the time I was driving home through Zion National Park in the early fall about 6:00 in the morning. There was no one out on the road that time of the morning. I had the entire park to myself. Just on a whim, I put on the Grand Canyon Suite in the tape deck. So here I am, enjoying the quiet and solitude against the background of music that seemed so appropriate for the occasion. The light in the park was just beginning to be pearly and pink. I was driving east, climbing slowly higher and higher toward the east entrance when I rounded a turn and saw this beautiful doe stepping calmly and daintily out onto the road. I stopped, and she turned slowly and looked at me while I sat, just watching and listening in the quiet of that lovely morning. My experiences with all the people in the Five County Region with whom I have worked have been nothing less than wonderful. I have found the most remarkable people heading up your cities and counties and have truly enjoyed meeting and working with all of you."

Sheila, the staff here at the Five County Association of Governments express our sincere appreciation to you for your assistance to the Association and to many of the local jurisdictions here in southwestern Utah. Residents of those jurisdictions have benefitted greatly from much needed CDBG funding of community development projects through the years.

In addition, we hope that in retirement the opportunity for personal travel avails itself to you and you are able to further explore our corner of the state. We look forward to hearing from you of your adventures. Keep in touch. Good luck and happy retirement to you! (Gary Zabriskie)

Millennial Records Preservation Project

The Utah State Archives has completed microfilming of Iron County records. This resulted in the completion of filming over 100 rolls of microfilm for the communities of Brian Head, Cedar City, Enoch, Kanarrville, Paragonah, Parowan and the Iron County School District. This represents a 100 percent participation of all eligible agencies. Each participating agency received a microfilm copy of their records and both Southern Utah University and the State Archives received research copies. The State Archives also stores the master roll. Southern Utah University is providing space and student support for the microfilming project.

Filming has now moved to Piute County. The amount is relatively small, and the county should be completed in January. The next scheduled county will be Beaver County. State archives staff has already inventoried their records and will soon complete all paperwork. Upon completion of Beaver County, the project will progress to other counties in our region. (Pat Scott, State Archives)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Senator Robert F. Bennett is convening the first annual **Rural Utah Business Technology Conference** at the *Hunter Conference Center at Southern Utah University on May 28-29, 2002*. Senator Bennett will bring civic, business, and education leaders together to discuss how rural Utah can compete and thrive in the digital age. Participants will also consider how they can overcome technological obstacles. Please plan on participating with Senator Bennett in May. Bruce Richeson, Senator Bennett's Southern Utah Area Director, will release additional conference details and registration materials later this spring. Call Bruce at (435) 628-5514 for information on attending or participating in the conference.

Please submit articles to Diane Lamoreaux via e-mail (dlamoreaux@fcaog.state.ut.us) or in writing to: P.O. Box 1550; St. George, Utah 84771-1550. For other information or services, please call (435) 673-3548 or visit our web site at: <http://www.fcaog.state.ut.us>

Steering Committee Meeting Schedule:

Wednesday, February 13, 2001, 1:00 p.m.
Kane County Courthouse, Commission Chambers
76 North Main Street, Kanab, Utah

Wednesday, March 13, 2002, 1:00 p.m.
Beaver County Admin. Bldg. Conf. Room
105 East Center Street, Beaver, Utah

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