



FIVE COUNTY NEWS FROM 'R' VIEW

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Director's Dialogue

Last month I spoke of change, and it is certainly a constant in the Five County Association of Governments. For example, there have been several new Mayors and City Council members elected to public office in southern Utah. We certainly look forward as staff to providing all of these newly elected public officials and their constituents with information and excellent services with the various programs administered in Five County.

I also want to welcome our newest members to the Steering Committee. Mayor Tracy Dutson of Rockville, who brings a wealth of knowledge in Housing programs, and Mayor Robert Houston of Kanab who will certainly bring a business perspective to the programs administered by Five County. We also welcome the return of Washington County Commissioner Jim Eardley –a seasoned veteran of Five County, who replaces Commissioner Denny Drake. The Steering Committee is represented by County Commissioners, a Mayor's Representative from each county, and a School Board member from Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane, and Washington counties.

One noticeable change will be the consolidated public meeting schedules of Southwest Public Health, Southwest Behavior Health and the Five County AOG meetings. The goal is to have the assigned board members attend their meetings one day in the month to conduct business and reduce travel. This will reduce the Five County Steering Committee meetings from ten to eight a year. The Five County 2014 meeting schedule is included in the newsletter.

In the late 1990's, former Governor Leavitt initiated a state partnership called, "Envision Utah" to deal with growth, infrastructure, planning, etc. Today, many of the population and growth patterns were close to the projections at the time.

Today, Governor Gary Herbert initiated another statewide visioning process called, "Your Utah, Your Future". The gist of the initiative is this, "Our state's population has doubled in the last thirty years, and we're projected to add another 2.5 million people by 2050. We all love our high quality of life, our beautiful natural surroundings, and our strong economy. To protect those things that we value about living here, we need to establish a vision together for our Utah and our future." I believe that southern Utah will play a significant role in

this growth, and I plan to write more about this initiative, especially since 2050 is 36 years away. Bryan Thiriot, Executive Director

Senior Day at the Legislature

This year's Senior Day at the Legislature, sponsored by the Utah Association of Area Agencies on Aging (U4A), will be held on Wednesday, February 13, 2014. Seniors from across the State will have the opportunity to come together at the State Capitol to discuss key legislative issues and will be provided the opportunity to meet as a group and/or individually with their local Senators and Representatives. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. followed by a short welcome and introductions. Attendees will then be given the opportunity to either: attend a forum in the auditorium to discuss legislative issues impacting seniors, take a guided tour of the Capitol, or visit the Senate and House galleries. At 11:30 a.m. everyone will meet in the Rotunda for visits from Legislators followed by lunch. The day will wrap up with a keynote speaker, hopefully the Governor or Lieutenant Governor! We encourage seniors from our area to attend and have their voices heard by advocating for the resources and services needed in their local communities.

In addition to sponsoring Senior Day at the Legislature, U4A establishes funding priorities which are presented to: the Division of Aging and Adult Services, The Director of the Department of Human Services, the Governor's office and the Utah State Legislature. These priorities are also presented to the Utah Association of Counties (UAC) for their support at their annual conference in November. This year's priorities focus on two key areas: nutrition and caregiver support. The first priority is for \$400,000 in ongoing funding for the Area Agencies on Aging to use in providing Nutrition services: Meals-on-Wheels and congregate meals at Senior Centers! Good nutrition is a basic building block for seniors and assists them in remaining healthy, independent and at home. Helping seniors by providing healthy meals continues to remain a high priority for the Area Agencies on Aging and local Counties. Secondly, U4A is requesting \$200,000 in ongoing funds for the 12 Area Agencies on Aging to provide respite, information, and other support activities to caregivers. By providing minimal support and services to un-paid, family caregivers in helping meet the long term care needs of their loved ones, we can prevent more costly forms of care, significantly reducing taxpayer expenses now and in the future.

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We would ask for your support in helping U4A, Five County and your local Senior Centers advocate on behalf of seniors by attending Senior Day at the Legislature and/or contacting your local legislators and advocating for services which support seniors and their caregivers! We would also like to express our sincere appreciation to our local Counties (Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane, and Washington) who administer and operate the 13 Senior Centers in our local communities and who provide a significant amount of financial support for not only nutrition services but a variety of other supportive services.

If you would like additional information regarding advocacy efforts or to attend Senior Day at the Legislature, please contact Carrie A. Schonlaw, AAA Director at the Five County Association of Governments, 435-673-3548 or cschonlaw@fivecounty.utah.gov.

Staff Spotlights



Wendy Phillips, Heat Program

Wendy began working in the H.E.A.T. Program of Five County Association of Governments in October 2013. Wendy was born and raised in Southern California and received her Associates Degree in Home Economics from El Camino Community College. She soon married Girard (Jerry) Phillips (Dearborn, Michigan) who made his career in the United States Air Force, retiring after

20 years. Due to his many transfers, she has been able to call Las Vegas, North Dakota, Germany and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan her home. While in Germany, they saw the Berlin Wall come down. They were also able to camp and travel throughout Europe, visiting castles and museums in France, Belgium, Denmark, The Netherlands and Switzerland.

They have raised 4 children, two who graduated and worked their own way through college and two who served their country in the Army and the Marines during the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. Wendy went back to college as an adult and received her Bachelors of Art degree in Graphic Communication/Design from Northern Michigan University in 2003.

Wendy and Jerry made St George their home about 4 years ago, making their escape from the frigid 9 months of winter on the southern shoreline of Lake Superior and the massive snowfall Jerry had to shovel every year. Enjoying the warmth and sunshine of the desert, they delight in the beauty of the area.

"I find that the staff at the St George H.E.A.T. office is professional, caring and work with a healthy sense of humor, all of which I find most important. I look forward to working with these wonderful women this season."

Nancy Morrill Spotlight



Nancy Morrill, New Case Manager at Five County

Nancy joins Five County Association of Governments to serve as a Case Manager for the Aging Services Programs. She has been in case management services for many different populations for over 30 years, most recently serving as the Social Services Director at Kolob Care Center for the past six and

one-half years. Other career highlights include the Workers Compensation Fund as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor for 10 years, covering Richfield to Las Vegas, and Experience Works Program Administrator, managing the service area from Provo to Phoenix, Arizona. She enjoys getting out and meeting with the people, assessing their needs, and helping them move on to the next level, whatever that means for them.

Nancy was born and raised in New Jersey, in a small town outside of Princeton, so living in Hurricane is a bit of home, with the orange and black tigers of Hurricane High. She is happily married to Dean Morrill who is an RN at Kolob Care Center. In her spare time she enjoys creating glass mosaic pieces. Nancy has her BS in Psychology from University of Utah, SSW, and two national certifications: Certified Disability Management Specialist and Dementia Practitioner. "(Yes, I know crazy!)" She has worked alongside the Case Managers of Five County AOG for the past six years and has enjoyed working with all of these fabulous women. She is very grateful to be one of them now!

Earn it. Keep it. Save it.

Tax Season is upon us again, the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program season will officially begin the first part of February. If you have an income of \$52,000 or less, would you like to have your taxes done for free by IRS certified volunteers? To find a site near you contact 211, or www.utahtaxhelp.org for times and dates.

If you have other questions, please contact: Tom Everett at 435-673-3548, Ext. 104 or e-mail to teverett@fivecounty.utah.gov

Southern Parkway Open



Mayor Kenneth Neilson, Washington City and Mayor John Bramall, Hurricane City, Cutting Ribbon on Additional Section of the Southern Parkway

The Utah Department of Transportation and local elected officials celebrated the opening of two more sections of the Southern Parkway on Wednesday January 8, 2014. The completion of sections 3a and 4a significantly cuts the commute time for motorists traveling between Hurricane and the St. George Municipal Airport. The road now extends from Sand Hollow Reservoir west to Washington Dam Road and from Washington Fields Road to the St. George airport.

Leaders from Hurricane, St. George, Washington and the State of Utah recognized the importance of the Southern Parkway by citing early experiences of the area, noting that Washington County's population has doubled every decade since 1970. The Southern Parkway will handle motorist demands well into the future.

Utah Transportation Commissioner Naghi Zeenati lauded the beauty and geographical features of southwestern Utah at the January 8th opening of the Southern Parkway and reminded attendees that planning and building facilities for future generations often pays great dividends. This facility will allow area residents to reduce the time they spend stuck in traffic, improve the air quality of the region, and accommodate future population growth.



Area Cyclists Attend Southern Parkway Ribbon Cutting

The Southern Parkway is expected to carry thousands of cars daily when all six segments are completed to connect State Route 9 in Hurricane with Interstate Highway 15 just north of the Utah/Arizona border. Myron Lee, MPO Planning Manager

2014 Steering Committee Schedule

Date / Time	Location / Address
February 12, 2014 1:30 p.m.	Five County AOG Office Conference Room 1070 W. 1600 S., Building B, St. George, UT
March 12, 2014 1:00 p.m.	Beaver City Office Conference Room 30 W. 300 N., Beaver, UT
April 9, 2014 1:00 p.m.	Heritage Center 105 North 100 East, Room #1 Cedar City, UT
June 11, 2014 1:00 p.m.	Kane County Emergency Services Training Facility / Search & Rescue Building 30 W. Airport Dr., Kanab, UT
August 13, 2014 1:00 p.m.	Garfield County Courthouse Conference Room (Upstairs) 55 South Main; Panguitch, UT
October 8, 2014 1:00 p.m.	Heritage Center 105 North 100 East, Room #1 Cedar City, UT
November 12, 2014 1:00 p.m.	Five County AOG Office Conference Room 1070 W. 1600 S., Building B St. George, UT

Ground Breaking for New Fire Station



On January 4th the Winchester Hills Fire Department held a well-attended groundbreaking for a new fire station. The department currently uses part of the water company's building as a station. Just off SR-18, the new 6,300 sq. ft. facility will greatly improve response time.

The \$610,000 station is funded by the Southwestern Special Service District through a loan from the Utah Permanent Community Impact Fund Board. The all-volunteer department provides fire protection to about 500 residences and businesses over 50 square miles and is funded through property taxes collected in Winchester Hills and Diamond Valley by the Southwestern SSD. Gary Zabriskie, CIB Regional Planner

2014 Dixie Transportation Expo



Do you drive, walk, bike or use public transportation in Washington County? Do you have ideas or concerns regarding current or future road projects? Then the 2014 Dixie Regional Transportation Expo is the

place for you. The Expo is designed to aid citizens in becoming better informed on current and future transportation projects and give them a voice in regional transportation planning.

This year the Expo will be held February 11, 2014 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Dixie Center Ballroom. Staff members from regional cities, Washington County, the Dixie Metropolitan Planning Organization and Utah Department of Transportation will be available to explain transportation projects and studies and take your comments.

You can also register to win door prizes or take a ride on the Utah Highway Patrol's "Seat Belt Convincer". Admission is Free.

Please submit articles to Diane Lamoreaux via e-mail dlamoreaux@fivecounty.utah.gov 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://fivecounty.utah.gov>

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