



FIVE COUNTY NEWS FROM 'R' VIEW

VOLUME XII NUMBER 3

MAY/JUNE, 2012

Director's Dialogue

Two years ago I noted that *"There is much uncertainty about funding and the future of programs in their current state. This is creating a great challenge in crafting a budget for the fiscal year that begins in July. Changes are on the horizon, and not for the first time for our region. I am confident that our history of working cooperatively will allow us to weather the storm of uncertainty and emerge with a slate of programs that will continue to provide a means to benefit all who call southwestern Utah home."*

Uncertainty continues to rage across the nation in this election year. The House of Representatives recently voted to delay mandated federal spending cuts in defense by shifting more reductions to discretionary programs. The Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) is slated for elimination. Pundits give little chance for SSBG elimination in the Senate. In our region, SSBG funds a significant portion of county senior citizen transportation programs. Should the budget assume that SSBG survives or dies?

At the same time federal transportation programs are operating on the 9th extension of an authorization that expired in 2008. A conference committee is currently trying to craft an acceptable transportation program to avoid a 10th extension, the likely result in this election year.

Given this uncertainty, it is difficult to refine a budget that reflects more than a status quo approach, with the understanding that any dramatic changes will be reflected in budget amendments.

The draft FY 2013 budget will be reviewed and approved at the June Steering Committee meeting scheduled for **Wednesday, June 13, 2012, Kane Co. Emergency Services Training/Search & Rescue Facility, located at 30 West Airport Drive, Kanab, Utah.**

We will post the draft budget after June 1, 2012 on our web site at: www.fivecounty.utah.gov. Please take the opportunity to review the numbers.

I must also sadly bid farewell to **Darren Janes**, who is leaving the Association of Governments to pursue opportunities in the private sector along the Wasatch Front. Darren has devoted almost four years of effort in managing the district Revolving Loan Fund, administering the St. George Down Payment Assistance program, and providing senior planning support to many communities across the region. We will miss Darren's experience and hard work and wish him the best as he moves on with new challenges and opportunities. (Kenneth L. Sizemore)

Utah Lieutenant Governor Honors Lennie "Don" Porter



Lieutenant Governor Bell congratulating Lennie "Don" Porter

The Lieutenant Governor's Civic Volunteer of the Year Award honors an individual who has improved the quality of life in a community through BOTH political and non-political processes. Minimum qualifications are five years of continuous or near continuous service. How about 21 years? That's the qualifications of this year's recipient, Lennie "Don" Porter of Escalante. His long and distinguished career reflects his commitment to his community, family and the thousands of visitors to the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument that require emergency services each year.

Beginning in 1991, Don joined the all volunteer Escalante Fire Department and the Garfield County Search and Rescue. His hard work and dedication was recognized in 1995 when he was appointed Fire Chief for Escalante City. In 1997 he received his EMT-B certification and started volunteering with the Garfield County Ambulance Service which is still on his to-do list today.

In May of 1997, he was asked by then Mayor Howard Miller to fill a vacant position on City Council. After serving two four-year terms, Don was then elected to the position of Mayor for the 2006-2010 terms.

(continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)

During his term of office, he oversaw the replacement of the Escalante Health Clinic through the use of insurance funds, volunteer labor and donated materials.



Ivan W. Kazan Memorial Clinic - Escalante, Utah

His leadership resulted in a complicated funding package using federal, state, county and local monies for the long-awaited Escalante City Fire Station #1. Although his term of office was over, he has continued to retain his Fire Chief position and oversaw the completion and occupancy of the Fire Station in May of 2010.



Escalante Fire Station prior to Open House Event

Don has always been concerned about the Escalante Municipal Airport and was instrumental in getting the ball rolling for Utah Department of Transportation funds to resurface the entire runway during late 2010.

"The 2012 state volunteer award winners' showcase some of the inspiring volunteer work taking place in Utah", said Lieutenant Governor Greg Bell. "These award winners are a powerful force for good in the community and I am pleased to honor them."

We are pleased Don has finally been recognized for his commitments to the people of Escalante. The award banquet was held Wednesday, April 25th in Salt Lake City. He was accompanied by his wife, Gwen, of almost 30 years. Her constant support of providing dozens and dozens of cookies and cinnamon rolls, not to mention all the meals she has prepared for Don's men while they were attending training and meetings. Standing by his side to help with fund raisers and all the nights she spent at home with the kids while he was attending to his duties also deserves recognition. Don has been an example to his kids who are now involved with the fire department and are civic minded.

Richelle Irons Receives the Early Childhood Teacher of the Year Award

The Early Childhood Teacher Award is in honor of the exemplary early childhood teacher that acknowledges the whole child, brings best practices into the classroom on a daily basis, sees parents as partners, supports peers and delights in the magic of a child's discovery.



Richelle Irons, Cedar City

This year, the Early Childhood Teacher of the Year Award went to our very own, **Richelle Irons** from Cedar City. *Congratulations Richelle!*

Richelle loves children and the children in her care know it. Relationships are central in her program; she truly knows the children and is certain to share many one-on-one interactions with each child each day, while still addressing the needs of the group. Richelle recognizes the importance of the environment to quality care and has created a setting that is safe, appropriately stimulating, child friendly, warm and comfortable. She helps parents understand the value of play in early childhood and supports and encourages play in her program.

Richelle delights in the children's individual differences and encourages exploration and creativity in play as a way to express themselves. Richelle seems to truly enjoy children's expressions of spontaneity and exuberance and is not afraid to show her own wonderful personality to the children, parents, and peers.

Richelle has the ability to make you feel at home and comfortable in a short period of time. She is welcoming and friendly to adults and children alike. She fosters a feeling of team work in her program that elicits support from children as well as the parents. You feel welcomed from the sidewalk all the way into her home. She has dedicated a wall at the entrance to her child care area as a mural space for the children to paint and express themselves. Her outside play area is full of interesting and engaging places that beckon young minds to explore and participate in a variety of open ended play.

Richelle has a child-oriented routine that provides security while maintaining flexibility; she understands that to discipline means "to teach," she believes in the value of each child and strives to help them succeed now and in the future. Richelle is skilled at parent communication and is truly a child care *professional* in every way. (Kristen Clark)

Staff Spotlight

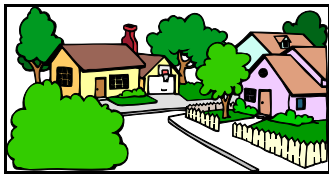


Caroline Slobig, Receptionist

Caroline is the new part-time Receptionist working in the Five County AOG St. George office. She will be answering the phones, greeting visitors as well as providing administrative assistance to the various FCAOG Programs.

Caroline was born in Northern Utah but moved to San Diego to escape the cold and snow! While in San Diego she worked for a cemetery company, a military non-profit as well as the San Diego Zoo and Wild Animal Park.

In 2004 she and husband 'retired' and moved to St. George. She likes to stay busy so she continues to work part-time. During the 2005-2007 seasons she worked as the data entry specialist for the H.E.A.T. program. She is looking forward to learning more about all of the Five County programs and providing assistance to help deliver those services to our communities.



Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) FY 2012 Fund Allocation

Each year the Five County region receives an allocation of CDBG funds based upon a statewide formula utilizing a base amount (\$300,000) and a per capita population distribution. Funding for the FY 2012 program year totals \$950,764.

The Five County Association of Governments Regional Review Committee (RRC) has reviewed and approved the rating and ranking of projects for allocation of FY 2012 CDBG funds. Because of reallocated funds from a housing project that was not able to move forward, all applicants received funding and some were fortunate to receive all or part of the second year of multi-year funding.

FY 2012 program funds have been allocated to projects as follows: **1) Minersville Town, \$193,764--** Library expansion; **2) Hatch Town, \$150,000--** Procurement of a new fire truck; **3) Iron County, on behalf of Beryl Fire SSD, \$300,000--** Expansion of the Beryl Fire Station; **4) Big Water Town, \$150,000--** Sewer laterals for LMI households; **5) Orderville Town, \$67,000--** Red Hollow Wells backup generator; and **6) Five County Association of Governments, \$90,000--** To provide program administration, Consolidated Plan Planning, rating & ranking, housing program delivery, and economic development technical assistance and planning.

Future Road Projects Receive Funding



St. GEORGE, UT – Three government agencies joined forces in May to program \$46 million toward future road projects intended to alleviate and prevent traffic congestion in the St. George area.

St. George City, the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT), and the Dixie Metropolitan Planning Organization (Dixie MPO) are interested in alleviating traffic congestion around the I-15 freeway exits at St. George Boulevard and at Green Springs along with the congestion on Bluff Street between St. George Boulevard and Sunset Ave.

Two Environmental Assessments nearing completion this summer have paved the way for road planners and engineers to soon begin design work on identified projects. The projects approved for funding include:

- **A new interchange at Bluff Street and Red Hills Parkway--** \$14.7 million
- **An I-15 interchange reconfiguration at MP 8--** \$16.2 million
- **Thru-Turn lanes at Bluff Street and St. George Boulevard--** \$12.8 million
- **I-15 Auxiliary Lanes and improvements to frontage road intersections at I-15 Exits 8 and 10 --** \$3.5 million.

By programming funds in Fiscal Years 2013 through 2016, St. George City, UDOT and the Dixie MPO are showing their collective ownership and commitment to the needs of Washington County motorists and the traveling public. The planning and design process for these projects is expected to take two to three years before construction can begin.

For more information, please contact Myron Lee at the Five County Association of Governments at mlee@fivecounty.utah.gov, or call 435-673-3548, Extension 124.

Iron County Volunteer Recognition Dinner

The Volunteer Center of Iron County held its first annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner on May 16th at Main Street Park in Cedar City. Over 200 Volunteers from the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, Foster Grandparent program, Senior Companion Program, Youth Volunteer Corps and the Community Volunteer Groups were invited to attend. More than 65 volunteers attended the event! The food was donated by Lin's, Smith's, Walmart, Costco, Hermies, Gandolfo's and Great Harvest, while many other local businesses donated door prizes for volunteers.

(continued on back page)

(continued from previous page)



Volunteers were encouraged to write a story about some of their memorable volunteer experiences and those who submitted a story were entered into the grand prize drawing for two tickets to the Neil Simon Festival.

In addition to a delicious meal and door prizes, volunteers enjoyed the musical talents of Peter Street Band, a group of 12 local fiddlers who provided about 30 minutes of music. At one point, they even took a request from the audience and encouraged the volunteers to get up and dance.

The Volunteer Center was excited to be able to recognize the volunteers of Iron County and look forward to having another similar event next spring!

Please submit articles to Diane Lamoreaux via e-mail to (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 website at: <http://fivecounty.utah.gov>

Five County Association of Governments is now on



Follow us: @FiveCountyAOG

You can also find the Five County Association of Governments on



Five County Association of Governments
1070 West 1600 South, Building B
P.O. Box 1550
St. George, Utah 84771-1550