



## Behavioral Health

**Bridgeport Community Social was a great success for February** - Over 50 people attended the event and Debra Stewart and Bertha Jimenez from the Behavioral Health Department continue to provide outstanding service to the Bridgeport community. They ensure there is a hot meal and plenty fun for the whole family.

Please feel free to join in—the next one is March 12th, 5-7PM. Dinner and fun for the kids is provided.

As part of the CalMHSA Stigma and Discrimination Grant, Behavioral Health will be providing Community Conversations in both Mono and Inyo Counties. On March 6<sup>th</sup>, Mono and Inyo Behavioral Health will be meeting with the spiritual and faith based communities to discuss how we can partner and provide information to anyone who is concerned about mental health issues. This is will be the second in a series and we would love for you to attend.

The event is March 6th, 5:30-7:00pm at the Methodist Church in Bishop, CA. Dinner will be provided.

CONTACT: Robin K. Roberts, (760) 924-1740

**A CONVERSATION ABOUT  
COMMUNITY:**

Welcoming, Engaging, and Responding to Persons with Mental  
Illness in our Communities

A Discussion for:  
Leaders, Volunteers, and Helpers in our Spiritual and Faith based organizations

Please feel free to invite other who may be interested.

**Thursday March 6th, 2014 5:30pm – 7:00pm**  
**205 N. Fowler St., Bishop – Methodist Church next to Bishop  
 Union High School**

Please RSVP to Mono County Behavioral Health at 760-924-1740

Dinner will be provided

A Conversation About Community program, is administered by CalMHSA, and funded by the voter approved Mental Health Services Act (Prop. 63).  
 Provided in collaboration with Mono and Inyo County Behavioral Health Departments

## Clerk-Recorder-Registrar

**Elections Division has new work space** - As a result of a location change of the Solid Waste office, the Elections Division gained a new work space when the Annex I conference room was relocated to the much better space across the hall. During election time, the Clerk's office is especially cramped so this additional, secure space will improve our ability to work more efficiently.

Thank you CAO Leddy for offering the space to us. We also appreciate everyone who made this happen in time for our current election season: **Don Nunn, Jami Peterson, and Kirk Hartstrom.**

CONTACT: Lynda Roberts, (760) 932-5538

## Community Development

**Local Transportation Commission** – At its Monday meeting the LTC approved a midyear budget adjustment to the current Overall Work Program, received its annual audit and considered the 2014-15 OWP provided by Megan Mahaffey. Gerry Le Francois presented an update of the recent favorable review of Mono County's \$15 million proposed transportation improvement program by the California Transportation Commission.

The LTC also reviewed its Yosemite policy, including Caltrans' wintertime closures of dry roads. The commission urged Caltrans to consider reopening Tioga Road up to the Yosemite gate for recreation during low-snow time. District 9 Director Tom Hallenbeck highlighted that Caltrans policy is based on safety and resource considerations that include rockfall on unstable slopes created by freeze-thaw conditions and no snow poles for delineation during snowfall. He reported that Caltrans intends to reopen Hwy 120E when crews complete maintenance, which would be welcomed by Tri-Valley residents. The Eastern Sierra Transit Authority reported ordering four Sprinter-type vehicles for improved efficiency on selected routes.

**Mono Basin RPAC** – With more than 30 people in attendance at its Wednesday meeting, County Counsel Marshall Rudolph presented an in-depth overview of Conway Ranch opportunities under current conservation easement efforts with the Eastern Sierra Land Trust. Supervisor Alpers also provided an update on Board matters, with a focus on the midyear budget review.

**Planning Commission** – At its Thursday meeting, the Planning Commission conducted a workshop on the draft Resource Efficiency Plan with Wendy Sugimura providing significant feedback for refining policies. Brent Calloway also led a workshop on a number of development standard adjustments under consideration as a part of the General Plan update. The commission also reviewed changes to bylaws with Commission Secretary C.D. Ritter and Assistant County Counsel Stacey Simon.

CONTACT: CD Ritter, 760-924-1804

**Reconstruction of Rock Creek Road Will Improve Access – Press release from Yosemite Gateway Partnership** – “Bishop, Calif., February 12, 2014 - Major reconstruction on the Rock Creek Road is planned for the duration of the 2014 and 2015 seasons.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has contracted and will oversee the project that will improve the road, widen it, and provide a bicycle lane.

The Rock Creek Road provides access to wilderness trailheads for the Little Lakes Valley, Mono Pass, and others. The area is noted for its exceptional scenery. Several campgrounds and resorts with cabins along the road are part of the recreational attraction as is fishing and horseback riding. The road itself is used by cyclists because of its challenge and its beauty.

"This project addresses a desire of the visiting public to have safer access up to the popular recreation areas along Rock Creek," said District Ranger Margaret Wood. "We request your patience in the short-term during this project that will dramatically improve the experience in the long-term."

Weather dependent, the work is anticipated to start the beginning of May. This year, re-building of utilities and culverts is planned. Additionally, the reconstruction will begin along the upper part of the Rock Creek Road.

While the road will remain open to traffic throughout the project, visitors may experience delays of up to 30 minutes. Additionally, at certain times, the road may need to be closed for longer periods of time, Monday through Friday. These closures will be planned approximately two weeks in advance so that recreationalists can plan their visit. Parking areas may be limited at times while construction work is completed.

Construction will be suspended for Memorial Day weekend, the Independence Day holiday, and Labor Day weekend in order to minimize delays.

Contact: Deb Schweizer, (760) 873-2427, U.S. Forest Service, Inyo National Forest

## **County Administrator's Office**

**Mono County needs you!** – As we review ongoing budget issues, it is critical we increase the opportunity for employees to generate new savings ideas. We are facing budget challenges and all ideas should be heard and tested.

In order for this to be a ground up effort which taps the insight and innovation of our workforce to re-invent better service models, we are launching **Mono Innovation Groups** where employees interested in developing potential cost savings and service improvement ideas can meet.

The groups will receive these ideas from anyone who submits them and verify their feasibility. Due to our County's geography, two volunteer employee groups (one north and one south) are being launched. They would meet to generate, accumulate and explore these ideas. Once these ideas were investigated, they will be presented as part of the budget development for FY 2014-2015 for consideration. As we know not everyone can attend, we will also be seeking out ideas from all employees through online or other possible venues people may suggest.

Ideas can be sent to: [InnovationIdeas@mono.ca.gov](mailto:InnovationIdeas@mono.ca.gov)

### **North County**

**On Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 to 1:00pm at Memorial Hall in Bridgeport**

### **South County**

**On Friday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 12:00pm to 1:00pm at the Mammoth Lakes Board of Supervisors Chambers at Suite 309, Sierra Center Mall**

**EVERYONE IS INVITED!** At the first meeting of both, which is open to all employees, the attendees will need to decide meeting schedule and develop additional ways to reach out to those employees who may not be able to attend.

Consider participating in this forum or sending someone from your department. We will share the proceedings with all employees through the Board Update and additional all employee communications. This effort is being launched to supplement the ongoing work of Strategic Planning as well as provide a needed place for idea sharing. Hope that you will consider joining the effort.

CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510





**Coffee with the CAO returns Reminder!** - Starting March 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> and continuing on the **first Thursday** of every month at Memorial Hall from 8:00 am to 9:00 am and the **first Friday** of every month in Mammoth at the Board of Supervisors Chambers from 8:00 am to 9:00am an informal round table to sit and talk about any issues will be started back up.

These meetings are **voluntary** and will be open forums where anyone can stop by and discuss any pressing issues.

I am also available to meet to discuss any issues facing our County, so if you cannot make the new monthly meeting or want to meet one on one, call, email, text or reach out by whatever

means possible. **Note: Telepathy tends not to work due to my thick skull!**

For those folks who can't make it due to duties, let me know and I will swing by your workplace. Increasing and improving our communication is an ongoing effort and I appreciate your willingness to participate.

CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510

**Strategic Planning Steering Committee has increasing turn out** – On Thursday February 13<sup>th</sup>, at the Lee Vining Community Center, 25 employees turned out to lend their efforts to helping design the kick off and planning process for the launch of the Strategic Plan. Again, virtually every departments had employees and management in the room.

We are starting to focus in on a facilitator which will be funded by outside (non-county) funds, and a location, format and date of the first big Kick off.

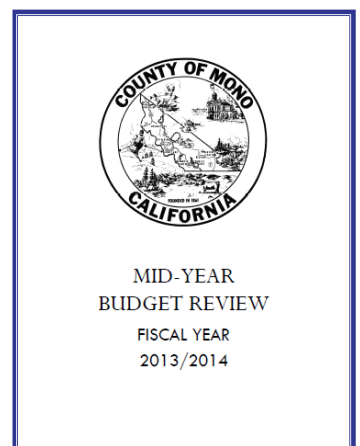
The next meeting will be February 20<sup>th</sup> from 4:00pm to 6:30 pm in **Bridgeport at the Board of Supervisors**. We will be there because the Lee Vining Community Center is booked. Please feel free to attend and encourage co-workers to attend if possible. Please keep spreading the word!

CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510

**Midyear Budget Presentation available** – Thank you to all of the employees, managers and members of the public who attended the February 11<sup>th</sup> Board meeting and were able to participate in the FY 2013-2014 Mid-Year Budget discussion. I want to extend my personal thanks to all of the employees who attended (over 60!) and for those that spoke at the meeting. Your insight and feedback are crucial ingredients to our organization moving forward.

The full FY Midyear 2013-2014 document is attached to the Board Update email and is available online at:

<http://monocounty.ca.gov/auditor/page/201314-mid-year-budget-review>



Also, attached to the email continuing the Board Update is a copy of the PowerPoint presentation as well as an analysis provided by the Assessor's Office on local real estate issues which impact our funding. **If anyone has any questions, Leslie Chapman, our awesome Finance Director, and I would be happy to sit down and discuss any aspects of our Budget.**

CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510

**Elections Activities Memo Attached** – Attached separately along with the Board Update is a memo to remind everyone of the election season's do's and don'ts. This memo reflects current policy and any changes which may occur will trigger an updated memo being sent out. If there are any questions or concerns, please contact the County Administrator's, County Counsel's Office or County Clerk's Office.

CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510

### Economic Development

- **Visit California Outlook Forum.** Staff attended Visit California's annual tourism conference last week in Los Angeles. Both domestic and international visitation to California as a whole is on the rise – here is some research that was shared at the conference:
  1. Tourism generated \$106.4 billion in spending in California in 2012, up 4.5 percent from 2011.
  2. During 2012, travel spending in California directly supported 917,000 jobs, up 2.8 percent from 2011, while earnings increased 4.9 percent to \$32.3 billion.
  3. Travel spending in 2012 generated \$6.6 billion in state and local tax revenue. Domestically, California had the largest market share of domestic travel among all 50 states with a mark of 10.49 percent in 2012, with primary out-of-state domestic markets being Arizona, Nevada, Texas, Washington, New York and Oregon.
  4. International travel continues to be the main focus of Visit California's marketing effort. In 2012, 6.4 million overseas travelers visited California and spent approximately \$12.9 billion in the state. In 2014, international visitation to California is forecasted to increase 4.9 percent, and spending is expected to increase 8.1 percent. California's top overseas visitor markets in 2012 were: China (717,000), U.K. (675,000), Japan (590,000), Australia (546,000), Germany (420,000), S. Korea (409,000), France (368,000), Scandinavia (211,000) and India (208,000).
  5. Our country's immediate neighbors continue to show increased visitation - - nearly 7 million visitors from Mexico to California in 2012 — up 1.9 percent from 2011 — and 1.54 million visitors from Canada in 2012, a 4.5 percent increase from 2011.

- 2 **Trade Shows.** Both the Bay Area Travel Show and the Los Angeles Travel Show were well-attended. Mono County obtained over 600 leads at the Bay Area and almost 1000 at the Los Angeles show, and approximately 2000 Mono County calendars and 1700 Visitor Guides were distributed at each show. While many attendees were familiar with Mono County, staff observed that there seemed to be a significantly larger number of folks who had never been to Mono County or who had not visited for many years – so 1:1 opportunities to educate and encourage potential travel were plentiful. March is extremely busy for trade shows with Mono County exhibiting at two Fred Hall Fishing shows (Long Beach and Del Mar) and the San Diego Travel show. In addition, Alicia Vennos will be representing the High Sierra Visitors Council (HSVC) at the Visit California New York Media show in March, (funded entirely by HSVC).



- 2 **Facebook Thumbs Up!** A record-breaking number of “likes” were posted on the Mono County tourism Facebook page for this gorgeous photo of Coleville submitted by Virginia Creek Settlement owner, Brinn Little, on Feb. 4. With 1,029 “Likes”, 64 comments, and 245 folks who shared it with their friends, this post was ultimately seen by 26,208 people!



- 2 **Good news for snowmobilers and skiers.** Sufficient snow at higher elevations has allowed the Bridgeport Winter Recreation Area at Sonora Pass to OPEN for advanced/expert snowmobiling enthusiasts! In addition, June Mountain has been able to re-open J7 for a total of 4 Lifts, 15 Trails, and over 160 acres of terrain in time for President’s Weekend, and Mammoth Mountain has almost 100% of its terrain open as well. Pass the word!
- 2 **June Lake Winter Festival cancelled.** Disappointed organizers of the June Lake Winter Festival and Snowmobile Rally have unfortunately had to cancel the event this year, scheduled for Feb. 28 – Mar. 1, due to lack of snow in the valley.
- 2 **Visitor E-News.** The February E-Newsletter was sent last week to our visitor database of almost 16,000:  
[https://ui.constantcontact.com/visualeditor/visual\\_editor\\_preview.jsp?agent.uid=1116424388471&archive=true&print=true](https://ui.constantcontact.com/visualeditor/visual_editor_preview.jsp?agent.uid=1116424388471&archive=true&print=true).
- 2 **Film Commission.** Interest in filming has picked up this month with a number of scouts seeking frozen lakes and snowy mountain landscapes for commercials, as well as a major television network searching for 35 acres of privately-owned remote land for a 6-month reality show, August through November 2014. Staff is sourcing potential properties – any ideas, please contact Jeff or Alicia. Due to California’s significant loss of film productions to other states (and countries) with more aggressive tax credit incentives, the California Film and Television Production Alliance has organized a series of meetings in Sacramento, beginning February 19, to educate legislators on the vital need for an enhanced version of the California Film & Television Tax Credit Program.

- ❑ **USFS Management Plan Revisions.** Staff attended the U.S. Forest Service's public workshop in Bishop on Jan. 30 to review the recently released preliminary *Need to Change* which will drive how the Forest Service revises its management plans. Community and Economic Development department's comments were jointly submitted by the deadline on the following day.
- ❑ **EIA Analysis.** Staff is also working with Community Development and County Counsel to identify areas of concern in the Frogs/Toads Economic Impact Analysis (EIA), in addition to participating in a lengthy conference call with the US Fish & Wildlife Service consulting firm currently working on the Sage Grouse Economic Impact Analysis.
- ❑ **CDBG Grant Update.** A Request for Proposal was sent out last week for consultant services to implement a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for an Economic Development Planning and Technical Assistance grant. The consultant will develop a business plan which addresses four required topics: Marketing, Underwriting, Loan Management and Program Administration. The business plan will serve the purpose of creating or expanding capacity for Bridgeport Development Corporation and/or Mono County to function as local business developer and lender under the CDBG microenterprise program and/or the business assistance loan program. The RFP can be found here:  
[http://bids.monocounty.ca.gov/sites/default/files/fileattachments/mono\\_county\\_-\\_cdbg\\_rfp\\_final.contract.pdf](http://bids.monocounty.ca.gov/sites/default/files/fileattachments/mono_county_-_cdbg_rfp_final.contract.pdf)
- ❑ **Other Grant Opportunities.** Staff is preparing a grant application for the National Park Service to develop and implement a program that will support RV/Camping-based travel in and around Yosemite and the East gateway communities. Additionally, research is underway into submitting a grant application for the state's Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation program.

CONTACT: Alicia Vennos, (760) 924-1743

**Webinar: Building & Maintaining Online Excellence** - Every business has an online existence these days whether they have invested in a website, engage social media or accessed customer review sites. These sites are crucial to the success of small businesses particularly in the hospitality industry that are dependent on repeat or tourism related customers. Join us for a special webinar that includes a panel of restaurant owners from Bishop, CA discussing the difference a favorable online existence has meant for their business.

**Wednesday February 19, 2014**

**12:05-1:00 pm**

**To Register for the Webinar go to:**

**[www.gotowebinar.com](http://www.gotowebinar.com)**

**Enter Webinar Code:**

**138-413-531**

**Rim Rife - USDA Emergency Loans available to Local Ranchers and Farmers** - On December 13, 2013, President Obama declared the Rim Fire a Federal Major Disaster. Pursuant to the declaration, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is offering an emergency loan program to assist local farmers and ranchers who conduct family sized farming operations and had physical or production losses caused by the fire that occurred from August 17 – October 24, 2013.

The deadline to submit a loan application is August 13, 2014. For more information about applying please see the attached letter from Cal OES or you may contact the Inyo and Mono Counties Agricultural Commissioner's Office at (760) 873-7860 or go to the following website:  
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=fmlp&topic=efl>

**California Drought - \$20 million available for agriculture conservation and enhancement - Feb. 4, 2014**  
– Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced USDA will make \$20 million available for agricultural water conservation efforts throughout California to combat the effects of drought. Interested landowners and managers have until March 3, 2014 to apply for available funds. Funds will be divided between two specific funding pools: cropland and grazing lands. Cropland with a reduced water allocation of at least 85 percent will receive the highest priority. In order to be considered eligible for Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the applicant must have a vested interest in agricultural production and meet other program eligibility requirements.

For additional information, eligible landowners are encouraged to contact their local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Service Center. Service center locations and more information on the drought initiative can be found at [www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov).

**Sign up for Booking.com – The world's #1 accommodation site** - If you're a lodging owner we encourage you to sign up for booking.com! Booking.com is the world's #1 accommodation site with over 41,000 global destinations in 41+ languages. This month we will be launching a booking.com widget right on our website at [www.monocounty.org](http://www.monocounty.org). Visitors can now make reservations to your lodging facilities right on our website. This service will only be available to businesses that have signed up with booking.com. For more information on how to sign up for booking.com contact Meghan Scallen at 415-633-4057 or email her at [Meghan.scallen@booking.com](mailto:Meghan.scallen@booking.com).

CONTACT: Jeff Simpson, (760) 924-4634

## **Information Technology**

**Sheriff Dispatch Upgrade** - The IT department, working closely with staff at the Sheriff's Department, Verizon, and other vendors completed the upgrade to Mono County dispatch last week.

This included new furniture, replacement of technology controlling the jail and communications, and an overall improvement of system functionality. A big thank you goes out to Kirk Hartstrom, Cameron Cary, Jami Peterson, and a variety of other staff from the IT department for their hard work on this.

**Town of Mammoth Lakes Email Retention policy in place** - The IT department conducted a training for staff at the Town of Mammoth Lakes last week on best practices for email record retention. The Town adopted a record retention policy last year stipulation that email older than two years shall not be kept, and IT has been





hard at work designing the technology rules to support the policy requirements. The policy is an important part of minimizing discovery times for Public Record Act requests, and ensuring appropriate use of technology systems such as email. IT is currently working with County Counsel to establish a similar policy for the County.

CONTACT: Nate Greenberg, (760) 932-5503

## **Public Health**

**Public Health seeks new funding to support immunization** - The Health Department applied to the California Department of Public Health through a program to distribute the pertussis/whooping cough vaccine, also known as Tdap. We will be outreaching to pregnant women and their household contacts. By vaccinating those closest to infants, who are the most susceptible to severe complications from whooping cough, we are able to protect the infants as parents and close contacts are then less likely to spread the disease (this is known as cocooning).



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

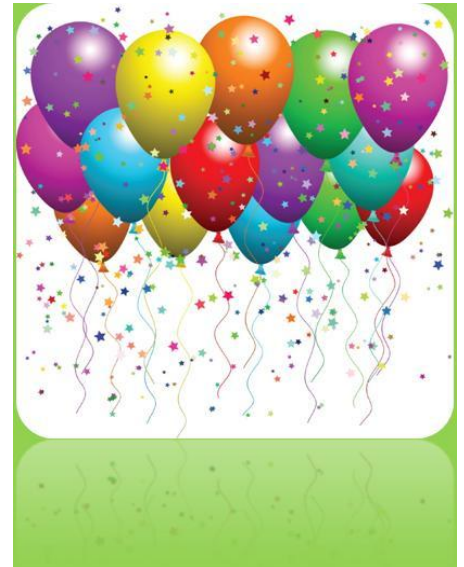
The vaccine will arrive next week and we are eager to start this outreach to keep our infants and families healthy!

CONTACT: Hillary Bayliss, (760) 924-1841

## **Social Services**

***Mono County has a new licensed foster care home!*** For the last five years or more, Mono County has had but one licensed foster family home. We have been so grateful for that home, but really need more than one home to provide for children who come into our care. We now have a home in north county as well as south county. This is great news indeed!

**Marlo Preis**, Staff Services Analyst II, has been our lead foster family recruiter. She has worked tirelessly with State agencies, DSS staff, community partners including the Child Abuse Prevention Council, local schools, Wild Iris, etc., to identify, train, support, and nurture county residents in becoming foster parents. The licensing process is an arduous process, but so important to our ability to provide stable, loving foster homes. Her hard work and dedication has paid off!!



**THANK YOU, MARLO!** A round of applause for your great work!!!

CONTACT: Kathy Peterson, 760/924-1763 or Gina Ellis, Inyo HHS (760) 873-3305

## Sheriff's Office

1. MONET conducted a search warrant in the Town of Mammoth Lakes last Friday. Several people were arrested or detained for possession of ecstasy pills, 5+ pounds of marijuana, etc. We also confiscated over \$2,100.
2. MONET conducted a search warrant in June Lake on Tuesday at two separate residences (simultaneously). Two individuals were arrested or cited at the scene, a small amount of cash and vehicle were seized. A thank you to the California Highway Patrol for helping us with manpower needs with this operation.
3. Deputy Niño Hernandez and his wife Dyanna welcomed a healthy baby girl this past Friday and Deputy Mark Wilson and his wife Katie welcomed a healthy baby boy this last Saturday.
4. The Orbacom replacement project is getting closer. We are now back dispatching within the dispatch area (and out of the adjacent room). We are still working out some computer bugs but we are steadily progressing. The end is within sight and it is a sight to behold. If any of the Supervisors would like to come visit the new and upgraded facility and equipment please stop on by. **A big thanks go out to the IT department** for their assistance as well as the CCP for allotting funds for the project itself.
5. Patrol personnel trained with Marine Warfare Training Center personnel in the Bridgeport area relating to building entries. A thank you to county Public Works for allowing us to use the old Bridgeport hospital for this, as well as, MWTC who participated with their staff.

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