



Commissioner  
**Steve**  
**Sisolak**

August  
2009

District "A" Online Newsletter



## Note from Steve

Greetings District A,

It seems like just yesterday that summer began, but now that thousands of kids are set to return to school this month, it is never too late to take a refresher course on safety.

In this issue we have provided a link to a resource book that will cover everything you and your child need to know about school safety, health and academics.

Being prepared applies to so many other things aside from school. Flash flood season is upon us and it is important that if a warning is issued, stay where you are. If you are in a flood area, move to higher ground. Remember to never drive through a flooded road or around barricades. It can be difficult to determine how deep floodwaters are and floodwaters can rise dramatically in minutes.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and as always, stay safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Sisolak".

## Monthly News Roundup:

Clark County commissioners had a full agenda to deal with in July. In case you missed it, Commissioner Steve Sisolak weighed in on several issues. Here's what you missed in the news:

**Item 1** -- A 15-person citizens' panel will be appointed to discuss priorities for the budget shortfall. The panel is being spearheaded by Commission Chair Rory Reid.

Sisolak supported the move and is asking to see appointees who are well versed on the issues confronting the county. [Read more about it here.](#)

**Item 2** -- Commissioners have asked for an alternative plan to shave money from the budget besides cutting senior services. The debate over where the money will come from continues. [Read more about it here.](#)

**Item 3** -- The Clark County Commission recently approved a transportation safety study that will take a second look at the dangers of hauling high-level nuclear waste to Yucca Mountain. [Read more about it here.](#)

## Sisolak Honors 'Driver of the Year' Recipient



*Commissioner Sisolak Presents a Proclamation to John Thomas, winner of "Driver of the Year" for Republic Services*

A garbage truck driver's clean record received national accolades when he was awarded Driver of the Year.

John Thomas, a Republic Services driver for 22 years, was honored as the waste industry's Driver of the Year in the Industrial Category -- an honor that is awarded by the Environmental Industry Association and is based on both customer service and safety.

That good deed did not go unnoticed by Commissioner Steve Sisolak, who also honored him at a July commission meeting with a proclamation that touted his achievements.

After 22 years as a sanitation driver, each day Thomas hauls approximately 25 tons of refuse over 150 miles of road and has never had an accident.

Thomas is a roll-off truck driver responsible for navigating one of the most difficult trucks there is to master. He backs in and out of close quarters, collecting and delivering large roll-off dumpsters, using just mirrors to guide him. His customers appreciate his efforts and have sung his praises.

Thomas says he loves his job and it shows in his commitment to public safety.

## Commission Approves Parks for Use by Fitness Groups

Fee-based fitness groups working out in Clark County parks got the nod of approval from the County Commission last month to operate their classes in exchange for a fee.

Under the new plan, commercial groups must pay \$1,000 for an annual use permit for each park they hold fitness classes in. Community groups will be charged \$500.

The new agreement was struck to align with current park policies, which charge soccer and baseball groups for park use.

## 10-Year Anniversary of Flood Should Serve as Warning



It is an ominous reminder of what could happen, the 10-year anniversary of a flood that deluged the Las Vegas Valley and caused an estimated \$20 million in damages.

The flood that poured over Clark County on July 8, 1999, dropped 1.5 to 3 inches of rain over 90 minutes. The torrent of water was too much to handle for some neighborhoods and by the next day the County Commission declared a state of emergency.

During the flood, there were reports of dozens of people trapped in cars overcome by flood waters. The damage could have been far worse if the county had not built flood control basins throughout Southern Nevada. It was later determined that this event exceeded a 100-year flood event.

It is important to remember that flash flood season is upon us. Please follow these tips from the Regional Flood Control District to stay safe.

- A **Flash Flood Warning** means that a flood is already occurring or will occur very soon. Only the National Weather Service can declare a watch or a warning.
- In the event of a major storm that may cause isolated flooding, it is safer for you to stay where you are and wait for the storm to end, rather than attempting to drive anywhere.
- If you are driving and are caught in a major storm, consider pulling over to a location higher than the street and wait out the storm. Intense summer storms in Southern Nevada are usually over in a couple of hours.
- Never drive through a flooded roadway or around barricades. Roads underneath may be damaged and impassable.
- If your car stalls, it may be safer to stay with the vehicle. Swift moving water only inches deep can sweep you off your feet and result in drowning. Only you can make the decision about which option is safer.
- The majority of flood-related deaths are caused by people attempting to drive through moving water. Swift moving floodwater can sweep away cars. Larger vehicles, such as trucks and SUVs, may be more likely to float because large air-filled tires increase the buoyancy of the vehicle.
- Be especially cautious at night when it is harder to recognize the dangers of flash floods, such as the depth and speed of the water.
- Do not let children or pets play in or near floodwater. Flood water can move up to 30 mph and is filled with hazardous materials such as chemicals, oil and pet waste. Stay out of flood channels and detention basins, which can rise as quickly as one foot a minute.
- Stay out of standing water as well. The dirty water can disguise hazards below the surface, such as deep holes and dangerous debris.
- Do not camp or park your vehicle near washes or channels. Flash floods occur very quickly and can be deadly.
- Listen to the radio or television for additional information as weather conditions change and new reports are received.
- Even if your home is not located in a designated flood zone, severe flooding can still occur.
- Talk to your insurance agent about obtaining flood insurance, which is available to everyone regardless of whether you live in a flood zone or not.
- Remember, **more** deaths occur in floods than any other weather-related disaster!

- Check the Regional Flood Control District's website at [www.regionalflood.org](http://www.regionalflood.org) for current rainfall and weather information at approximately 150 locations around the valley. The site also includes current information about flood zones and flood insurance.

## Nine Commissioners Will Make Up New Housing Agency

For years, low-income residents seeking help with housing had to wend their way through a complex system that governed public housing.

The 2009 state Legislature consolidated several local housing authorities into the new Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority, requiring the need for a new regional board of commissioners.

That process will now be simplified by a large merger that will create a nine commissioner board to head up the new housing agency. Officials say the merger will form the one of the largest such agencies in the country.

A ninth member will represent tenants and must be selected from a list of at least five eligible nominees submitted by an organization representing housing project tenants.

The terms of all nine will be determined by lot at the board's first meeting. Two persons will serve one year, two will serve two years, two will serve three years and three persons will serve four years. It is possible that persons may be reappointed by the County Commission and city councils.

To read more about it, [click here](#).

## Angler Snags Alligator in Sunset Park



A man trying to catch fish in the lake at Sunset Park last month got more than he bargained for when he snagged an alligator instead.

The fisherman was fishing for trout the morning of July 6 when the 3 1/2-foot gator grabbed his line. When the reptile was reeled in, the man wrapped his jaws in wire and waited for Park Police and Animal Control to arrive.

The alligator was promptly turned over to the Nevada Department of Wildlife. No one knows who placed the non-native specie in the park lake but importing and owning one in Nevada can result in fines of up to \$1,000 and six months in jail.

## Back to School Tips

*Article courtesy of the Clark County School District*

A 16-page publication packed with back-to-school information about everything from health and immunizations to support services is available online.

The Back to School Reporter newsletter is published annually by the Clark County School District Communications Office as a service to local families. It features information about elementary and secondary schools, dress code, school lunches, student testing, district policies, health services, graduation requirements and more. It also includes safety and homework tips, information about the Safekey program and numerous required notices.

The Reporter may be viewed online at [www.ccsd.net](http://www.ccsd.net) under "News" and then clicking on "publications," or by [clicking here](#).

Parents with questions about the new school year may call their child's school, region office or the Communications Office. To find out which school their child is to attend,

parents should check online at [www.zoning.ccsd.net](http://www.zoning.ccsd.net) or call the district's zoning office at (702) 799-6430. Registration is being held at individual schools.

## Health District Offers Back-to- School Shots



Summer is an excellent opportunity to get school children caught up on immunizations at the Southern Nevada Health District. Immunizations are available Monday to Friday between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at all of its public health centers. Parents must bring immunization records. Children with no records will have to begin the immunization sequence from the beginning. Non-custodial adults may accompany a child; however, written consent must be provided to the health district from the parent or guardian at the time of service. An administrative fee of \$16 per patient for one immunization or \$25 per patient for two or more immunizations will be collected. Some vaccines might require an additional fee. For more information, contact the Southern Nevada Health District's immunization office at (702) 759-0850 or visit [www.SouthernNevadaHealthDistrict.org](http://www.SouthernNevadaHealthDistrict.org).

The health district's public health centers are located at:

- Ravenholt Public Health Center, 625 Shadow Lane, Las Vegas
- East Las Vegas Public Health Center, 560 N. Nellis Blvd., Suite E12, Las Vegas
- Henderson Public Health Center, 520 E. Lake Mead Parkway, Henderson
- North Las Vegas Public Health Center, 1820 E. Lake Mead Blvd., Suite F, North Las Vegas

The Clark County School District requires the following vaccinations for students enrolling in public or private school: chickenpox (varicella); hepatitis A; hepatitis B; polio; tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis (Tdap); and measles-mumps-rubella (MMR). Parents who have recently moved to Nevada should note the chickenpox and hepatitis A vaccinations are not required in all states, so immunizations that were up-to-date in other states might not be current in Nevada. The health district also suggests a second dose of the chickenpox vaccine for school-age children as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

In addition, children entering seventh grade must be immunized against Bordetella pertussis. The health district provides the Tdap (tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis) vaccine to meet the mandate. College freshmen younger than 24 years old who will live in on-campus housing at a Nevada college or university are required to receive the Neisseria meningitidis (Meningococcus) vaccine.

The Southern Nevada Health District will offer extended hours for back-to-school immunizations between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. at its Shadow Lane location Monday through Friday, Aug. 17-21, and Monday through Friday, Aug. 24-28. The health district's Shadow Lane location will also offer Saturday back-to-school immunization clinics: Aug. 8, 15 and 22 between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. **No other health district services will be offered after 4:30 p.m. or during Saturday clinics.**

The health district will hold immunization clinics at several local malls in August between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. The Meadows Mall, 4300 Meadows Lane, Saturday, Aug. 8; The Boulevard Mall, 3528 S. Maryland Parkway, Saturday, Aug. 15; and The Galleria Mall, 1300 W. Sunset Rd. in Henderson, Saturday, Aug. 22.

## Find Out If Sex Offenders Are Living Near You

*Article courtesy of Las Vegas Metropolitan Police*

The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police now offer residents a way to be more informed about who is living near their home. The police department has partnered with **OffenderWatch®**, the nation's leading registered sex offender management and community notification tool.

With hundreds of leading agencies in dozens of states utilizing this valuable tool the status of the registered offenders in Las Vegas can be easily tracked. The program provides the most accurate and timely information available and now this information is available to you!

**OffenderWatch®** is updated instantaneously throughout the day as offender addresses and other offender information is updated by Metro. You may enter any address to see real-time information on the publishable offenders within the specified radius of the address you enter.

Offenders move frequently, so instead of having to check the maps on a weekly basis, the best way to stay informed is to take advantage of Metro's free email alert system. You may confidentially register as many addresses as you wish, and Metro will continuously monitor the addresses and send you an email alert if a new offender registers an address within the specified radius of any address you register. There is no cost for this service and no limit to the number of addresses you can register - your email address and physical addresses are all confidential. Tell your friends and neighbors and be sure to register your home, school, work, gym, day care, park, soccer field, parents or children's homes - any address of interest to you!

[Click here](#) for more information.

## Plan a Neighborhood Event for National Night Out August 4

*Courtesy of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department*

The annual National Night Out celebration is taking place in communities all across America on August 4. This date is set aside to recognize community crime prevention efforts.

The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department encourages you to take part by planning a neighborhood event for your area. Typical gatherings usually include a block party, a neighborhood BBQ / potluck, family -based gatherings with kid activities, pool parties, etc. Anything that brings your community / neighborhood together for interaction and recognition of the importance of staying safe.

This is a wonderful opportunity to get together and celebrate National Night Out 2009.

For more information on this event and promotional items, please check out [www.natw.org](http://www.natw.org). In addition, Target Corporation is again the national corporate sponsor of National Night Out. Please keep your neighborhood area command in the loop as you plan your event.

## UMC Earns Top Awards for Cardiac Care

The American Heart Association (AHA) has awarded University Medical Center with double Gold Awards for Cardiac Care. UMC is the only hospital in Nevada to achieve such a high distinction.

The AHA presented UMC with the Gold Award for Coronary Artery Disease along with the Gold Award for Heart Failure. This caliber of recognition proves UMC's commitment to providing the best quality of cardiovascular care for our patients.

The awards are based on overall patient outcomes, rapid assessment and quick delivery of treatment and medication, education about heart health and smoking cessation programs, and an unsurpassed commitment to cardiac care for our patients.

"This acknowledgement of our efforts by the AHA is a tribute to the skilled team we have here at UMC who have dedicated themselves to the care of heart patients, and made a commitment to providing evidence-based treatment to ensure the best outcomes for our patients," said UMC Cardiologist Dr. Robert Wesley.

For more information on the prestigious designation and Cardiac Care at UMC, please

call Danita Cohen, Public Relations Coordinator at (702) 383-3987 or email her at [danita.cohen@umcsn.com](mailto:danita.cohen@umcsn.com).

## Watch Commission Meetings From Your Computer

Wonder what's going on in the Clark County Commission meeting? Get a [live stream](#) while you sit at your computer.

## Clark County Park Events

Clark County's Department of Parks and Recreation has plenty of things going on around town. To find out what is happening in your area, [click here](#).