

DOUG SELBY

Volume III, December 2006

NEW ARENA

At the City Council meeting earlier this month, the council was presented with an evaluation of a proposed special events center. The presentation was the culmination of many meetings of the Special Events Task Force, of which I am a member.

One of the key findings was that it is not practical to upgrade the Thomas and Mack Center. The consultants to the task force found that the Las Vegas market is capable of supporting a new 20,000 seat arena with and without a professional sports team, based on the current population, corporate base and anticipated future growth. A survey indicated strong interest among local corpo-

rations, local residents and non-local visitors in attending events at a new center.

The consultants also determined that there will be a significant positive economic impact of a new events center, with or without a major league franchise tenant.

The council directed me to meet with the county manager and evaluate the list of potential sites for an arena, and come back with a recommendation on the most suitable location and possible financing options. The list of potential sites includes two downtown locations and other sites outside of the city limits. 🌐



STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

The City Council held a strategic planning meeting on December 11 to, among other items, discuss how to enhance communication between the City Council and the City Manager's Office. Specifically the recent attorney general's report on the Royal Links golf course issue pointed to the need for better communication, better record keeping and more diligence in assessing public purpose in all of our private sector transactions.

The very productive discussion about communication issues was led by facilitator Ron Portaro who had surveyed

council members and key staff for their observations and thoughts prior to the workshop. It is a challenge to maintain effective communication in an organization as complex and dynamic as the city of Las Vegas and it was acknowledged that we generally do a good job, but we also recognize that we can do even better. As a result of the session we will be developing more formalized procedures to help ensure that the council, the city attorney and my office are communicating in a consistent, timely and veracious manner. 🌐



CALLING ALL SPORTS FANS

Tickets for the inaugural Vegas Grand Prix went on sale earlier this month.

Tickets are available at <http://www.vegasgrandprix.com/> or by calling toll free (877) 795-RACE (7223).

The Vegas Grand Prix is a three-day festival of racing, concerts and sporting activities. The event, which is scheduled for April 6 to 8, 2007, will kick off the 2007 Champ Car World Series. The festival will also feature a historic Grand Prix race, along with racing events, boxing matches, concerts, expos and a celebrity poker tournament. The April 8 Champ Car World Series race will feature open-wheel cars reaching speeds of up to 180 miles per hour around a 2.44-mile, 12-turn temporary street course in the heart of downtown Las Vegas.

While admission to the event site is free, tickets will be required to access the seating areas, view jumbotron video monitors of live race action and enjoy daytime concerts.

Also next year, some of the biggest names in tennis will converge on Las Vegas to compete in the [Tennis Channel Open](#). The ATP tournament, owned and operated by the Tennis Channel, will take place at the city's Darling Tennis Center from Sunday, Feb. 25, to Monday, March 5.

This is the second year

the event has taken place at the Darling Tennis Center. The tournament, which was dubbed "Tennispalooza" last year, will include the main event – the ATP men's pro tournament, along with a number of other events including the USTA Women's Pro Tournament and the paddle tennis championships. Tennispalooza will also feature a number of related events such as the USTA Member Appreciation Day and Cox Kids day. Tickets are now on sale and can be obtained by visiting the Tennis Channel's Web site

The events will feature tennis stars such as Lleyton Hewitt and James Blake, last year's champion, among others.

For more information on the events and tickets, visit <http://www.tennis-channelopen.com/>. 🌐

STATE OF THE CITY

Las Vegas Mayor Oscar B. Goodman will be presenting his annual State of the City address at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, January 10, in downtown Las Vegas. This year's theme is "Taking Us to a New Level." You can watch the mayor's speech live from the comfort of your own home by tuning into KCLV Channel 2. You can also watch it live on the internet at www.kclv.tv. 🌐

KUDOS

I am pleased to announce that December's Employee of the Month is **Cultural Leader II Christie Garness** of the Department of Leisure Services, Performing Arts Division. Christie has been a city employee since June 8, 2003, and has done some great work in the Special Events Unit. The unit has grown into a full service events power house, much to the work of Christie. Although Special Events' clients are internal, Christie is always aware that the public's opinion of an event will depend on the service, creativity and attention to detail that she brings to each function. Christie always goes above and beyond to work with each internal client to give them the event they envision whether a small meeting or a huge celebration.

Christie has saved the city more than \$38,000. This does not include the monies the city saves because of her talents in floral arrangement, catering talents, ability to cook hot dogs or throw an evening event. If we counted the entire savings it would be more than \$100,000. 🍷

Congratulation to our newest Team of the Quarter. The team includes **Keith Hedge, Tim Bowden, Art Seifert, Lou Mondschein, Tim Giblin, Mike Balthazor and Harvey Starrett** who work at the Department of Public Works' Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF). This team identified savings to the city of more than \$31,000 per year in maintenance labor costs by eliminating non-essential tasks.

In February 2006, the team also improved the effectiveness of planning and scheduling maintenance of mechanical equipment. This employee-led team developed work guidelines for maintaining millions of dollars in WPCF mechani-

cal equipment. They reviewed Preventive Maintenance tasks for more than 3,000 pieces of equipment, accounting for more than 36,000 labor hours annually. The new work guidelines, and the associated material requirements and task instructions, will enable the workforce to accurately plan and schedule maintenance work, and to boost their productivity. 🍷

Senior Plumbing Inspector Tom Gugino, of the Building and Safety Department, was recently elected to the board of directors of the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials. Through his position at the city, and now through his capacity on the board of directors, Tom shows his dedication to the orderly yet aggressive evolution of codes and product standards to address the needs of the public and the plumbing/mechanical trades. 🍷

This email for a job well done was received by the **Fire and Rescue Department** from a resident after a recent fire in the northwest part of the city:

I was driving down Jones Blvd. south of Lake Mead (not far from where I live) at about 8:15 p.m. on Tuesday, 11/28. I saw several flashing lights up ahead at the Vegas Dr. intersection, and as I got closer, I saw the LVFR fighting a several-alarm blaze at the Shell Gas Station/Convenience Store. I watched LVFR in action for a bit from across the street in the Rite Aid parking lot. You folks did a masterful job controlling a very volatile situation. There were fairly high winds, several homes, businesses, and trees close by, as well as gasoline pumps and storage tanks. However, your department quickly and professionally took care of the situation. I want

to give major compliments to Las Vegas Fire and Rescue for a job very well done.

- Nick Tortarolo

Rainbow Company Youth Theatre, a program of the Performing Arts Division of the city's Department of Leisure Services, was recently notified it will receive the prestigious Governor's Arts Award in the category of Leadership in Arts Education.

Rainbow Company Youth Theatre has provided young people a training ground in theatre arts for 30 years, during which time it has received several major awards.

Initiated in 1979 by the Nevada Arts Council and the Office of the Governor, the annual award recognizes outstanding and enduring contributions to Nevada through artistic achievement, commitment and service to the arts. An awards ceremony will be held in March 2007 at the University of Nevada, Reno. 🍷

For the first time ever, all Planning and Development supervisory staff have achieved AICP status. **Margo Wheeler, Doug Rankin, John Korkosz, Tom Perigo, Flinn Fagg and Adrienne Joly** have all successfully passed the AICP exam. Five other senior staff in the department are also certified, resulting in nearly one third of the department having achieved this prestigious professional accomplishment. AICP is the American Planning Association's professional institute, providing recognized leadership nationwide in the certification of professional planners, ethics, professional development, planning education, and the standards of planning practice. 🍷