



# FIVE COUNTY NEWS FROM 'R' VIEW

VOLUME X NUMBER 1

JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 2015

## Director's Dialogue



Each January signals the start of a new year, with new eager hopes and resolutions made (with some kept). One hope that each of us makes as individual families, as well as collectively, is that our personal and family, as well as our local, regional, and national economic condition all improve in the new year.

The Five County Association of Governments was designated as an Economic Development District by the Economic Development Administration (EDA) in April, 1979. The purpose of this designation was to promote a coordinated, region-wide approach to the economic development efforts of local governments in southwestern Utah. Local officials in this region have a long history of cooperation which started well before the creation of regional development organizations or economic development districts.

The Association develops and continues to annually update the EDA required Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) document which consolidates significant local economic development activities in our region as well as identifying regional economic development goals and strategies. The adopted CEDS document is found on the Five County AOG web site at [www.fivecounty.utah.gov](http://www.fivecounty.utah.gov)

Each of our five individual counties, through active economic development programs, continue to implement economic development in unique ways tailored to that county's individual challenges and needs, but do so complementary with regional goals. We applaud the efforts of economic development professionals and business people throughout southwestern Utah and look forward to working with them towards improvement of the economic conditions in this new year and beyond. Bryan Thiriot, Executive Director

## 2015 Transportation EXPO - Speak Up Dixie



Do you drive, walk, bike or use public transportation in Washington County? Do you have ideas or need more information regarding current or future road projects? Then the 2015 Dixie Regional Transportation

Expo is the place for you. Attend this year's Expo and be better informed on current and future transportation projects and have a voice in regional transportation planning.

This year the Expo will be held February 10, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Dixie Center Ballroom. Representatives from surrounding cities, the county and UDOT will be available to explain transportation projects and studies and take your comments on projects such as: Bluff St./Red Hills Parkway; Sunset/Bluff Interchange; Bluff Street/St. George Blvd. Improvements; I-15 Widening and Mall Drive Underpass; Southern Parkway; Old SR 91 Improvements; SR-9 Arch Bridge in LaVerkin; I-15 Interchange at MP11; Washington Fields Road widening; River Road/Fort Pierce Bridge Widening, and updated information on St. George Parks and Trail; SunTran Bus System, the Airport, and much, much more!!

You will be invited to comment on the Regional 2015-2040 Transportation Long-Range Plan, Ivins City Transportation Master Plan, and the future look of transit in the area.

The Southern Utah Bike Alliance will have a display of bicycles illustrating the range of cycling opportunities in Washington County.

In addition, golfing, hiking, and biking clinics will be presented as follows:

11:00 a.m. Golf - Improve Your Swing - (win free golf passes and cart rentals).

1:00 p.m. Hiking - Hiking the Trails on BLM Land.

3:00 p.m. We Bike Southern Utah! - Cycling Safety and Finding Epic Trails and Bike Routes.

**Admission is Free!**

## Staff Spotlights



Kayla Jensen has worked at Care About Childcare @ Five County for five months and has enjoyed her time fully. She is from Spanish Fork, Utah and now attends Southern Utah University. She is studying Elementary Education and Technical Theater. Kayla is passionate about theater arts and has devoted much of her time to stage managing productions both in high school and college. She is very excited for her future endeavors in

the elementary education field and is excited to teach and better the lives of children. Kayla loves photography, cats, pearls, and donuts.

Nathan Reeves has worked at Care About Childcare @ Five County for roughly five months and recently graduated from Southern Utah University with an MBA. He has lived in California and all over Utah, but he and his wife really love Southern Utah and all the beauties it has to offer. Nathan also loves to go hiking and boating whenever possible. One of his favorite things to do is visit Zion National Park. He has really enjoyed the Angel's Landing hike. Nathan has been married for roughly five years and they both love the outdoors, going to the movies and playing video games. Another interest of his is playing basketball with buddies and spending time with family. While growing up he loved to ride his bike everywhere and was a huge fan of the Ninja Turtles.



Chelsea Johnson grew up in Huntington/Newport Beach, CA and is the youngest of six siblings, four brothers and one sister. After graduating from High School she attended Orange Coast College (OCC) and competed on the Cross Country and Track team. After a year a half at OCC, Chelsea transferred to Southern Utah University with her husband and is

majoring in Elementary Education with a concentration in Mathematics. Chelsea has been working for Care About Childcare for almost a year. When she was younger she loved to play board games with her family and play sports with her brothers. Chelsea never really had a favorite toy because she preferred to do activities with her siblings, but she did enjoy playing with big Lego's.

## Early Childhood Collaboration Conference



"Love is the Invitation: Supporting Children with Challenging Behavior" was the theme for the Care About Childcare @ Five County Early Childhood Collaboration Conference! It was held in September at the Hunter Conference Center at Southern Utah

University. Over 200 early childhood educators and child care providers attended this day full of quality training experiences that bring together the many partners in our early childhood community. The day went wonderfully as the guests arrived to receive gift bags with educational materials and goodies from various associations.

Workshops featured some of the best presenters, coming from many areas of the state. Topics included, "Playful Yoga & Meditation," "Creating a Stress-Free Environment," and a variety of others. We also had the honor of having Tim Eicher, a recently retired educator at Dixie State University, as our keynote presenter. He spoke to the audience about "What Children Need and Why." The attendees shared a lunch that was accompanied by prizes, hands-on activities, and presentations. The entire day received great feedback and we look forward to next year!

## Consolidated Planning Process



Every five years, the Five County Association of Governments produces a Consolidated Plan as required by the U.S. Department of Housing and

Urban Development. The Plan details this region's community development and housing needs and priorities, as well as strategies to meet those needs and priorities. These plans emphasize serving the needs of low and moderate income and special-needs populations. The Five Year Consolidated Plan identifies proposed projects and actions which may be programmed to occur in the mid-term horizon. Additionally, each year between the five year plan rewrite, we are required to develop a One-Year Action Plan which identifies implementation of HUD funded projects and activities that should take place in the immediate or near future. While the Association writes these plans, we make specific effort to hear from elected officials and citizens of Southwestern Utah.

We undertake a planning process with the assistance of towns, cities and counties, and the public, to identify, prioritize and quantify the cost of capital improvement needs in each jurisdiction in the region. We also work closely with public housing agencies to identify gaps in affordable housing in our region and look for appropriate means to address those gaps. We hold public hearings in conjunction with our governing body (the Steering Committee) to solicit public involvement in the plan development process. In this light, we consider the following questions as we develop the annual One Year Action Plan and the Five Year Consolidated Plan:

1. What are the key priorities for housing and community development for each jurisdiction in the region, and the region as a whole?

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2. What opportunities exist for integration and coordination of federal, state and/or local programs?
3. How can the Five County Association of Governments and the Utah Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, which is administered through the Utah Division of Housing and Community Development help foster better coordination?
4. What data or other information would help us in developing and improving the housing and community development decision-making process as it relates to rating and ranking of projects proposed for HUD funding?

The plan development process is heavily influenced by the input of local jurisdiction leaders, service providers, and other community stakeholders. We would like to hear from and hereby solicit comments and suggestions from the general public. Anyone interested in providing input on housing and community development needs in our region may do so at any time during the year. We will consider input received as we develop the next One Year Action Plan and Five Year Consolidated Plan. You may provide comments and suggestions to Diane Lamoreaux, Community Development Program Specialist, at 435-673-3548 or via e-mail: [dlamoreaux@fivecounty.utah.gov](mailto:dlamoreaux@fivecounty.utah.gov)

### 2015 Steering Committee Schedule

Date / Time	Location / Address
<b>February 11, 2015</b> 1:30 p.m.	Beaver City Office Conference Room 30 W. 300 N., Beaver, UT
<b>March 11, 2015</b> 1:00 p.m.	Kane County Emergency Services Training Facility / Search & Rescue Building 30 W. Airport Dr., Kanab, UT
<b>April 8, 2015</b> 1:00 p.m.	Heritage Center 105 N. 100 E., Room #1 Cedar City, UT
<b>June 10, 2015</b> 1:00 p.m.	Kane County Courthouse Commission Chambers 76 North Main, Kanab, UT
<b>August 12, 2015</b> 1:00 p.m.	Garfield County Courthouse Conference Room (Upstairs) 55 S. Main; Panguitch, UT
<b>October 14, 2015</b> 1:00 p.m.	Heritage Center 105 N. 100 E., Room #1 Cedar City, UT
<b>November 18, 2015</b> 1:00 p.m.	Five County AOG Office Conference Room 1070 W. 1600 S., Building B St. George, UT

### Senior Day at the Legislature

A group of Seniors and Caregivers from the Five County Area of Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane and Washington counties will be attending Senior Day at the legislature on

Thursday, February 19, 2015. They are excited to watch our law makers in action and look forward to the opportunity to meet with them this year to discuss key issues which impact them and other seniors in our area of the State.

If you have any additional questions please feel free to contact myself and/or, Carrie A. Schonlaw, Director of Aging & Human Services at 435-673-6548 or [cschonlaw@fivecounty.utah.gov](mailto:cschonlaw@fivecounty.utah.gov) or Tracy HeavyRunner Program Director of Home and Community Based Services [theavyrunner@fivecounty.utah.gov](mailto:theavyrunner@fivecounty.utah.gov).

### Free Senior CONNECTION Expo

The Senior Corps Programs operated by Five County Association of Governments (AOG) will be participating in WestWind Productions third annual Senior Connection Show. The show will be held January 26, 2015 in the Courtyard Marriott's Rim Rock Convention Center, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. There is no admission charge. The Rim Rock Convention Center is located at 185 South 1470 East, St. George.

Senior Connection Expo features products and services that pertain to good health and health maintenance, recreational activities and hobbies, home improvement, travel, fashion, and just plain fun! There will be on stage performances and presentations starting on the hour.

Five County AOG will have representatives at the expo to publicize and endorse the Senior Corps programs. Sheryl Gardner will promote the Senior Companion and Foster Grandparent programs, while Bonnie Char Hallman will encourage attendees to join the volunteer ranks of the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). RSVP matches community volunteers with local non-profit organizations.

Additionally, the Senior Corps program coordinators will be promoting a state-wide initiative to "Give the Gift of Time" in 2015. The Holiday Pledge Drive, which continues through the end of January, encourages Utahans to sign up on the Userve website at ([www.usrve.utah.gov/pledge](http://www.usrve.utah.gov/pledge)) to pledge to serve the community by lending a helping hand. The online pledge sign-ups are part of the Utah Commission of Service and Volunteerism and will be shared with regional volunteer centers throughout the state. The Five County Association of Governments' Senior Corps Programs make up the Washington County Volunteer Center.

All are welcome to attend the free Senior Connection show on January 26, 2015 at the Courtyard Marriott from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and encouraged to visit the Volunteer Center of Washington County's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/volcenter>

For more information about: Senior Companion, Foster Grandparents or Retired and Senior Volunteer Programs, please call the Five County Association of Governments at (435) 673-3548.



## Volunteer Income Tax Assistance



It's tax time again; VITA has several sites in the Washington county area and can help you with free tax preparation if you've made \$54,000 or less.

VITA sites will be opening in February, so please check out [utahtaxhelp.org](http://utahtaxhelp.org) for a site near you with opening dates and times, or you can call 211 for appointments in the Five County area.

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

earn it. keep it. save it.  
utahtaxhelp.org

Please submit articles to Diane Lamoreaux via e-mail [dlamoreaux@fivecounty.utah.gov](mailto: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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