

FIVE COUNTY NEWS FROM 'R' VIEW

VOLUME III NUMBER 3

MAY/JUNE, 2003

Special Recognition Award



Mayor Kim Lawson, Five County Steering Committee Chair, presenting award to John Williams, Executive Director, Five County AOG

The Five County Association of Governments recently received a special recognition award from the Utah Department of Community and Economic Development.

State staff were searching for a mechanism to provide some type of

recognition to jurisdictions participating in the Utah Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program.

As a tribute to Sheila G. Peterson, retired CDBG program manager, staff initiated the "Sheila G. Peterson Award of Excellence" to be presented annually in recognition of grant administration efforts to grantees on a statewide basis.

For the FY 2000-01 program year, the grand prize of \$1,000 was awarded to the Uintah Basin Medical Center project. Five County Association of Governments received the "Sheila G. Peterson Award of Excellence" for the grant administration of the Five County building project in St. George.

The Association of Governments would like to share this recognition with the communities, counties and special service districts who unselfishly put aside their projects for one year and allowed the use of the entire CDBG allocation for this project. We express our appreciation to the local elected officials for their continued support of the Association of Governments. (John S. Williams)

Corrections Dept. Honors Re-Entry Chairs

Deputy Lori Cannone and Linda Sappington, Director of the Volunteer Center of Washington County, have been recognized by the Utah Department of Corrections for their efforts as co-chairpersons of the Five County Re-entry Council "to spearhead a multi-agency task force to help inmates reintegrate successfully into the community."

The Public Service Award both received also recognizes the efforts of the Five County Re-entry Council to develop resources for the construction of a building at Purgatory Correctional Facility to "provide more educational space for spiritual, academic and vocational skills development to help resolve or minimize potential problems prior to release from incarceration."

The Five County Re-entry Council held its first meeting in May, 2002 in response to the need to reduce recidivism - which at PCF is currently 72% - and to find ways to address the needs of the 54% of PCF inmates being released into the Washington County community annually. According to Cannone, who conducted an inmate survey in the beginning of re-entry planning, Purgatory inmates have three things in common: (1) no ready access to resources available in the community; (2) inadequate education, vocational and/or life skills or marketable abilities to provide an income; and, (3) lack of transitional housing, employment, or treatment for drug and alcohol use. Making an impact in any of these three areas is expected to take many years to accomplish, and members of the committee realistically believe substantial changes may take a generation or more.

The obvious societal implications of reduced recidivism include lowering the amount of taxpayer dollars spent on housing inmates; improved public safety; and improved community image. Lowering the risk of re-offending will not erase the pain experienced by victims of crime, but knowing there is a less likely chance of re-offending can help reduce the community's sense of anxiety and fear.

Sappington notes recidivism is a problem which affects the community in numerous ways. She encourages local residents to get involved by sharing their time and talents as volunteers. Those interested in tutoring, mentoring or teaching their vocational skills to inmates are invited to call the Volunteer Center of Washington County.

Staff Spotlight:

Nola Durant: Foster Grandparent Coordinator



Not many people have a letter of recommendation from the current Vice President of the United States - especially one signed "Dick", but Nola Durant does! The new Foster Grandparent Program Coordinator at the Volunteer Center of Washington County comes to her assignment with amazing credentials, including eleven years as the Executive

Director of the Wyoming Information and Referral Service (a statewide program similar to 2-1-1); eight years in the position of Project Director for the NW Focal Point Senior Center in Florida; and Executive Director of the Association of Retarded Citizens in Wyoming. In addition, she has a running total of more than \$1 million from her fund raising efforts and published Wyoming's first statewide TDD Directory for the hearing impaired.

When Nola and her husband, Tom, moved to St. George in 2001, it was to relax, retire and enjoy the great weather, but it didn't take long for her to begin thinking about ways to share her impressive life experiences with the people and organizations in her new hometown.

Nola's application was the last to be reviewed by Linda Sappington, Director of the Five County Senior Service Corps, who admits she had already made a tentative decision on who to hire. Nola's interview - at least in the beginning - was simply a courtesy! It did not take long to see the "find" this lady turned out to be.

As the Foster Grandparent Program Coordinator for Washington and Kane Counties, Nola has day-to-day responsibility for recruiting, selecting, orienting and placing Foster Grandparents in schools and non-profit agencies which address the needs of children and youth; providing coordinated pre-service orientation, in-service instruction and overall supervision of volunteers; developing and maintaining close relationships with volunteer stations - including development of volunteer service plans; and appraising Foster Grandparent performance.

"A thoughtful mind, when it sees a Nation's flag, sees not the flag only, but the Nation itself; and whatever may be its symbols, its insignia, he reads chiefly in the flag the Government, the principles, the truths, the history which belongs to the Nation that sets it forth."
~ Henry Ward Beecher

St. George Senior Citizen Center Ground Breaking

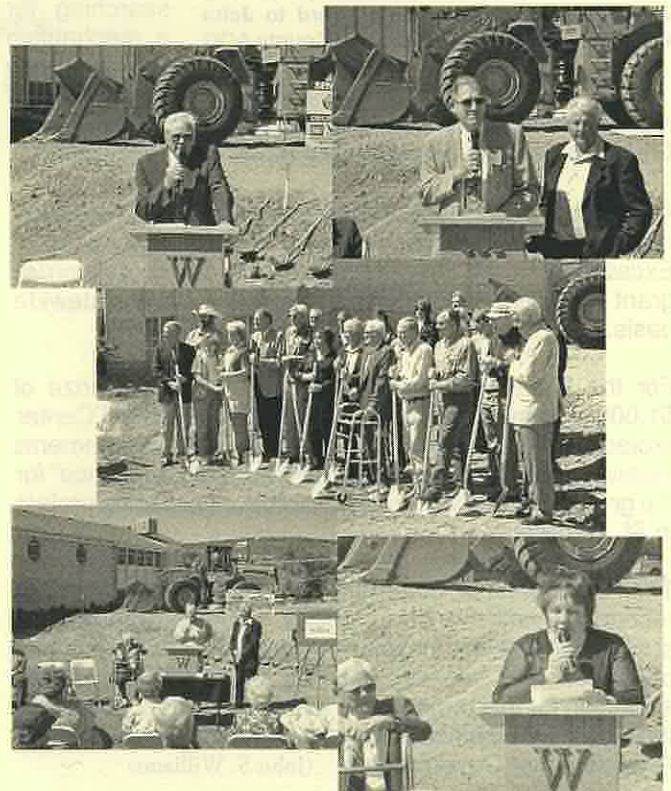


Conceptual Design Courtesy of MRW Design Associates

Washington County Commissioners and local citizens gathered at the site of the new St. George Senior Citizen Center, adjacent to the current facility, for a groundbreaking ceremony on Tuesday, April 29, 2003.

Commissioner Alan Gardner, Chairman, announced that the Washington County Commissioners have named the new center, designed by architect Randy Smith, MRW Design Associates, "The Mary O. and Gayle M. Aldred Senior Citizen Center."

Ms. Betty McCarty, County Coordinator, and Mr. John Willie, County Administrator, acknowledged the efforts of many individuals to bring construction of the center to reality. They extended a special thanks to former commissioner Gayle Aldred for his dedication and support of the senior citizens in Washington County.



Senior Companions Learn CPR



Senior Companions Pictured: left to right Alva Batty, Dottie Klockow, Dee Adair, Avon von Lentner and AmeriCorps VISTA Shelli Bowen.

Senior Companions in the Iron, Beaver and Garfield County area were recently introduced to the life saving techniques of CPR during their April In-Service Training.

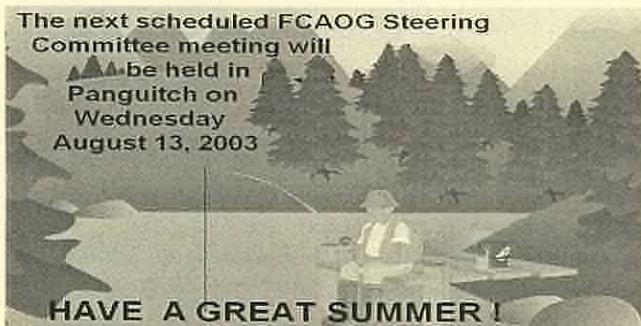
Iron County Paramedic April Peterson

and EMT Wendy Adams instructed the Senior Companions in proper techniques and procedures for ventilation and compressions - something that may prove very valuable as they visit and assist frail elderly in their communities.

Nearly 20 Senior Companions in Iron, Beaver and Garfield Counties now assist more than 55 frail seniors or disabled adults with grocery shopping, answering mail, driving to doctors' appointments, or other daily tasks that are essential to maintaining independence. Some Senior Companions even provide short periods of relief to primary caregivers such as family members.

Benefits received by Senior Companions are diverse and include: on-going training; supplemental insurance; help with meal and transportation costs; a modest stipend to help supplement their monthly incomes; and the joy of helping others live on their own.

The Senior Companion Program is one of three programs of the Senior Service Corps and is funded through a federal grant administered by Five County AOG. To learn more about the program in Iron, Beaver and Garfield Counties call 435-867-8384, and in Washington and Kane Counties call 435-674-5757. (Ron Cardon)

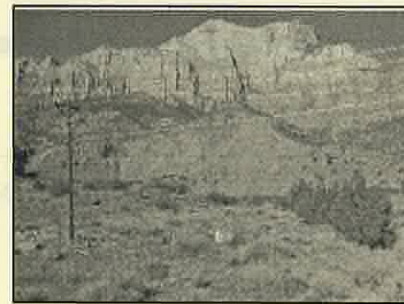


State of Utah Community Development Block Grant Policy Committee Retreat

This year's State of Utah Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Policy Committee Retreat was held at the Zion Park Inn in Springdale, Utah on Monday, June 2 and Tuesday, June 3, 2003. The CDBG Policy Committee, comprised of elected public officials representing units of local government, has the responsibility to set policy and guide the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant program for non-entitlement counties and communities in the state of Utah. Mayor Connie Robinson, Paragonah Town, serves as the representative of the Five County Association of Governments on this committee.

Events kicked off on Monday afternoon with a chartered Zion National Park Shuttle bus to transport participants for a tour of Zion Canyon and the Springdale Town affordable housing project site.

A Zion National Park employee accompanied the group to provide historical information about the park and answer participant's questions.



View from proposed housing development

Larry Phillips, Color Country Community Housing, Inc., provided a short presentation including conceptual design drawings for the Springdale Town affordable housing project,

which was prioritized for funding from the Utah Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program. The project will provide much needed low-income housing to the area.

The view from the site of the housing development project is breathtaking, with spectacular scenery as a backdrop. The Town of Springdale is very supportive of the development of this much needed affordable housing.

Springdale Mayor Bruce VanderWerff welcomed the group Tuesday morning during the continental breakfast in the Watchman Room in the Zion Park Inn. He thanked the committee for electing to hold their meetings in Springdale. (Diane Lamoreaux)

Notice

Community Development staff members are in the process of updating the Rating and Ranking Criteria for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

A mailer has been provided to county and community officials in the Five County region. We encourage local elected officials to review the criteria and provide input into this important process. The revised criteria will be presented to the Steering Committee during their August 13th meeting for adoption.

The upcoming issue of the Five County Newsletter will provide information announcing the CDBG program and "How-to-Apply" application workshops to be held in the Five County Region.

Please submit articles to Diane Lamoreaux via e-mail (newsletter@fcaog.state.ut.us) 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: www.fcaog.state.ut.us

The regularly scheduled June 11, 2003 meeting of the Five County Association of Governments Steering Committee has been cancelled.

The Executive Committee will meet during the months of June and July to discuss and address necessary action items.

The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, August 13, 2003 in the Panguitch City Office, Library Meeting Room, 25 South 200 East, at 1:00 p.m.

**FIVE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
1070 WEST 1600 SOUTH, BUILDING B
P.O. Box 1550
ST. GEORGE, UTAH 84771-1550**