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Friday Memo for 3/17/2017

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New Agricultural Commissioner Appointed

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Chris de Nijs as the new Agricultural Commissioner who will be coming to the Board to be ratified on March 28th. I extend my appreciation to Terry Jochim, Chair of the Nevada County Agricultural Advisory Commission, for assisting us in the selection process and to Daniel Chatigny as the acting Interim

Agricultural Commissioner.

Nevada County takes pride in our agricultural community and ensuring the protection of environmental resources. Agricultural Commissioners have a unique role in the promotion of agriculture and the assurance of a fair marketplace.

Chris de Nijs graduated from CSU, Chico with a degree in Agricultural Business. He has over ten years of experience with Northern California agricultural programs such as Pesticide Use Enforcement, Certified Farmer's Markets, Organics, and Nursery. Over the past ten years Chris has worked with Solano County, Contra Costa County, and Stanislaus County. He is scheduled to start as Nevada County's Agricultural Commissioner on April 3rd.



Chris is an avid outdoorsman with plans to relocate to the area with his wife and two young children.

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Nevada County Road Update

With dry weather the past two weeks, County road crews have been able to make good progress addressing the January and February storm damage and other issues on Nevada County roads. In addition to numerous storm damage repairs and customer service requests, the following road work and activity is underway throughout the county.

Near Nevada City:

- Cracking of the pavement on Mountain View Road as a result of movement due to a slide on nearby properties has stabilized with some cracks actually closing up a bit. Monitoring devices are still in place as we continue to monitor the roadway.
- Cooper Road has limited accessibility north of Arbogast Ranch Road. Permanent repairs will not be possible until soil conditions dry out.

South of Grass Valley:

- Construction of the Retrac Way Bridge Project at Wolf Creek will begin on March 29th, weather permitting. Affected residents will be notified. The road will remain open throughout construction, although traffic through the area will be delayed.

Near Grass Valley:

- The significant slide on the southbound side of Brunswick Road south of East Bennett / Greenhorn remains stable. County staff is currently working to remove excess groundwater, which should improve conditions and allow the county to schedule the permanent repairs when weather conditions are favorable.
- C&D Construction is placing a water line in Allison Ranch Road for Newmont Mine. The pipeline will transport untreated water south to a new treatment facility along Allison Ranch Road. Construction is scheduled to continue for another 2-3 weeks. Expect traffic delays of up to 10 minutes.
- Teichert construction is starting placement of a water line in Combie Road close to the Darkhorse subdivision. Expect traffic delays of up to 10 minutes for the next 2-3 weeks.

Near Penn Valley:

- The Penn Valley Pipeline construction project will continue near Pleasant Valley Roads intersection with Gate 1 of Lake Wildwood and the adjacent shopping center. Two-way traffic will be kept open when possible to reduce impacts, but prepare for delays. Next week, controlled traffic will continue down Pleasant Valley Road until the in-road portion of the pipeline construction reaches the Lake Wildwood Wastewater Treatment Plant. Pavement restoration of Penn Valley Drive and Pleasant Valley Road is scheduled for the end of April, weather permitting.

Near the town of Washington:

- Maybert Road is open to traffic.
- The Maybert Road bridge deck is poured and construction work is expected to be completed next week.
- Washington Road, where the shoulder sloughed several inches, is continuing to be monitored but repairs will have to wait until soil conditions dry out.

Near Truckee:

- Jackson Meadows Road shows evidence of a slide west of the dam. We will have to wait until the snow melts to get a better idea of the scope of damage.

Road crews also continue to respond to local service requests. Over the past 30 days, staff has received 110 service requests while prioritizing critical safety and accessibility issues. For more information on this or other County road maintenance activity, please contact the County's Department of Public Works at (530)265-1411 or [visit our Facebook page](#).

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2017 Building Fair

The Nevada County Community Development Agency (CDA) has partnered with the Nevada County Association of Realtors (NCAOR), Nevada County Contractors' Association (NCCA) and many more



2nd Annual **BUILDING FAIR**

Concept to Creation
"Success from Start to Finish"

businesses and agencies to hold the 2nd annual Building Fair this summer to kick off the building season. The Building Fair will have over 40 vendors including; licensed contractors in multiple fields, architects, utility companies, building material suppliers, industry representatives, construction lenders, multiple city/county agencies and many more. There will be several special presentations throughout the day regarding how to find a perfect property for you, construction, finding a contractor, construction lending, micro-housing and solar basics. This is a must attend event if you are planning a construction/development project, wanting to purchase property, currently working on a construction project or anything else related to development in Nevada County.

The Building Fair will be held on Friday, June 2, 2017, from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at the Rood Government Center located at 950 Maidu Avenue in Nevada City and is a FREE event. If you have any questions about the upcoming fair please do not hesitate to contact the Nevada County Building Department at (530) 265-1222 or the Nevada County Contractors' Association (NCCA) at (530) 274-1919.

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PG&E Electric Tower Maintenance Program Update

PG&E is embarking on a County-wide effort to remove lead-based paint from a limited number of their electric transmission towers. Nevada County Environmental Health will be working with PG&E closely on the remediation plan and is actively engaged with PG&E already.

PG&E is not required to do this work from a regulatory standpoint. This is a proactive initiative to phase out the use and presence of lead-based paint in their inventory. According to PG&E, lead-based is still used in some industrial and commercial applications. PG&E is initiating this project to be more environmentally friendly and improve safety.

An [informational flier](#) and [maps of the tower work locations](#) are provided, with work occurring along the southern boundary of Nevada County. PG&E is initiating contact with customers now and plans to advance this work incrementally over the next couple years in two phases.

PG&E wants the public to be informed of this work every step of the way. Anyone with questions or concerns regarding this work is encouraged to contact PG&E who will respond within one business day.

The public can phone PG&E at 1-888-208-6010 or by email at towers@pge.com.

Nevada County Environmental Health can be reached at (530) 265-1222 or at env.health@co.nevada.ca.us

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MISSION: MARS and writing contest

The Nevada County Reads & Writes planning committee, in collaboration with the Nevada County Library, is pleased to announce MISSION: MARS, a presentation and book signing by Dr. Pascal Lee, planetary scientist at the Mars Institute, the SETI Institute and NASA Ames Research Center in

Mountain View, California. He is internationally recognized for his work on the history of water on Mars, on the origin of Mars' moons, and on planning the future human exploration of Mars. On April 7th at the Nevada Theatre, Dr. Lee will discuss progress made around the world, from the Arctic to Antarctica, from basement labs to the International Space Station, to achieve the first human voyage to Mars. He will examine in turn the what, why, how, when, and who of the first human mission to Mars. Copies of Dr. Lee's children's book, MISSION: MARS will be available immediately following his presentation during a book signing. Doors open at 6:00pm, presentation begins at 6:30 and book signing at 8:00pm. The Nevada Theatre is located in downtown Nevada City at 401 Broad Street. This event is free and open to all ages.

The committee is also supporting a writing contest open to Nevada County high school students using prompts based on this year's book selection: *The Martian* by Andy Weir. Submissions must be original works of fiction, not exceeding 2000 words, and received no later than midnight on April 5th. Details can be found at www.nevadacountyreads.com under Writing Guidelines. The writing competition will culminate with an awards ceremony taking place in the Off Center Stage at the Center for the Arts, from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. on May 2nd. The program will highlight an awards presentation and the reading of winning stories. Additionally, winners may be requested to do on-air readings on either KNCO or KVMR radio stations during the first week of May. The winners will be awarded \$75 for 3rd place, \$100 for 2nd place, and \$200 for first place.

Nevada County Reads & Writes is a collaboration between the Nevada County Community Library, the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools, and community members who are passionate about reading and literacy. Since 2005, Nevada County Reads & Writes has invited the community to read a specific book and has organized events and discussions related to that book, as well as a writing contest for high school students. The 2017 Nevada County Reads & Writes book selection is *The Martian* by Andy Weir. For more information about events or the writing contest, go to <http://www.mynevadacounty.com/nc/library/Pages/Nevada-County-Reads-and-Writes.aspx> or call Crystal Miles, Grass Valley Librarian, at (530) 470-2692.

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Fake News Event at the Library

Join a squad of librarians—Josie Andrews of Bear River High School, Lisa Nowlain of the Nevada County Community Library, and Jill Sonnenberg of Nevada Union High School—to learn about media literacy. Get tips on how to form your own opinions in a shifting media landscape.

Wednesday, March 29 from 6-7 pm at the Madelyn Helling Library Community Room

530-265-1541

Register online at <http://bit.ly/2IR9xLR>

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Advance Your Social Work Career Online While You Work

Nevada County Behavioral Health has invited Dr. Seema Schrawat (Distance Learning Coordinator) from California State University. Dr. Schrawat will be visiting Nevada County on March 23rd at the Brighton Greens Resource Center, 988 Mc Courtney Road, Grass Valley, CA 95945 at 11:00 a.m. to provide information about their Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) and Master of Social Work (MSW) Online Programs. The Public is invited to attend. [Event Flyer](#)

Distance Learning BSW and MSW Programs were created out of a need for those unable to participate in traditional social work degree programs. Many students live in rural and remote regions of Northern California, work full-time and/or have family obligations and need education delivered in an alternative format. Distance learning also provides education opportunities for hard to fill social work positions in the public mental health workforce. [Program Brochure](#)

For more information on the Distance Learning Program call Chico State (530) 898-5235.

For more information about Nevada County Behavioral Health call Rebecca Slade (530) 470-2784.

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2016 Employee Recognition Awards

The nominees and recipients of the 2016 Employee Recognition Awards were announced at the Board of Supervisor's meeting on Tuesday, March 14th.

The Employee Recognition Program was established in 1995 to give county employees the opportunity to recognize and highlight the contributions of their co-workers, supervisors and managers. For the 2016 calendar year, 45 nominations were submitted recognizing over 100 individuals. A review committee of employees, managers, elected officials and a community representative selected the category winners.

The following employees were awarded plaques and certificates for their efforts in the categories listed:



Employee of the Year: Shannon Moon, Sheriff's Office - Corrections

Creative Employee of the Year: Mark Heine, Children's Behavioral Health

Dedicated Employee of the Year: Teri Collins, Assessor's Office

Enthusiastic Employee of the Year: Hayley Elrod, Children's Behavioral Health

Supervisor of the Year: Stacey Zachary, Sheriff's Office - Corrections

Safety Champions: ID Badge Safety Team, Human

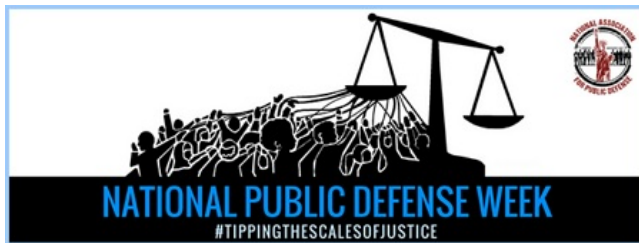
Resources and Information and General Services

Team of the Year: Truckee Family Planning Clinic Team, HHSa and Public Health and Immunization Clinic Quality Improvement Team, Public Health

Congratulations to you all!

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National Public Defense Day



March 18, 2017 marks the second annual Public Defense Day and the 54th Anniversary of the decision in Gideon v. Wainright that gave people throughout the nation the right to have an attorney represent them if they were charged with a criminal offense. This year, the public

defense community has celebrated by spending this week learning about a variety of hot topics in criminal defense. The [attached](#) statement is from Nevada County's Public Defender Keri Klein and her staff.

If you'd like more information about the Nevada County Public Defender's Office or National Public Defense Day, please contact Keri Klein at (530) 265-1400

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