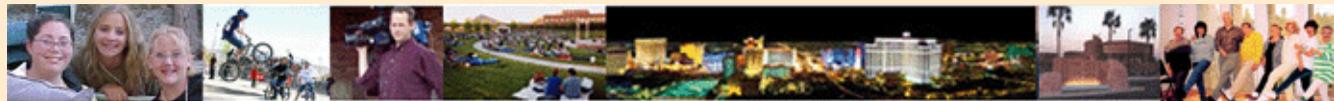




Public Communications

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NEWS RELEASE

Public Communications - 500 S. Grand Central Parkway, 6th floor - Las Vegas, Nevada 89155

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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County Turns 100 July 1, Dubbed 'Centennial Day'

Occasion Marked at 5 PM with Opening of Touring History Exhibit

Clark County officially turns 100 years old July 1, which officials are calling, "Centennial Day."

To mark the occasion, County Commission Vice-Chair Susan Brager, Commissioner Larry Brown and others will open a touring exhibit on Clark County history with a 5 p.m. event at the Clark County Government Center rotunda, 500 S. Grand Central Parkway.

A book on local street names authored by Clark County Museum Director Mark Hall-Patton also will be unveiled and copies will be available free of charge. A panel discussion about the history of the Las Vegas Strip from the Howard Hughes era onward will kick off at 6 p.m. The public is invited to attend and participate in this free event. The history panel discussion will be carried live on Clark County Television (CCTV) Channel 4.

The exhibit covers 10 main subject areas throughout the history of Clark County. These

range from the native people who inhabited the county before the Spanish and Mexican periods, early exploration and development of the area, mining and the many mining booms in Clark County history, water, ranching, farming, transportation, gaming and entertainment.

Artifacts include such items as original Paiute basketry from around 1900 and arrows from the Kiel-George collection, a Civil War-period canteen, an 1831 Bible, railroad artifacts and souvenirs from the Las Vegas Strip. The artifacts will showcase many of the significant items in the collections of the Clark County museums, some of which have never before been on display.

The exhibit will continue at the Government Center through August 28. It will then move to the lobby of Hollywood Community Center for two months with a touring schedule to be announced later.

“This community’s history is a unique one and I think people will really appreciate this exhibit,” said Commissioner Brager. “I’d encourage the public to come down and see it and celebrate the county centennial with us.”

Hall-Patton’s book is called “Asphalt Memories” and the author will discuss the research that went into its writing. Attendees will be able to get a free copy with a limit of two per person. The book is a dictionary of street names and their origins – the who, what and why. It is a view of local history as it is remembered in our streets and roads. If you ever wondered who Gass, Gilmory, Colanthe, Colleen, Saylor or Stephanie were, this book may interest you.

The history panel discussion will focus on the history of the Las Vegas Strip from the Howard Hughes era and later. The Strip is in unincorporated Clark County and not in any city. The discussion begins at 6 p.m. in the Government Center Commission Chambers. Participants include Burton Cohen, head of the Desert Inn during the Howard Hughes era; Las Vegas Review-Journal columnist Geoff Schumacher, author of a book on Howard Hughes titled, “Power, Paranoia and Palace Intrigue;” Peg Crockett, who with her husband owned the forerunner to McCarran International Airport and a friend of Hughes; and Paul Winn, who worked for Howard Hughes starting in 1957 and who retired from the Howard Hughes Corporation in 1989.

Roundtable discussions slated for later in the year are August 7, “The Mob and Las Vegas;” Sept. 4, “Hispanics in Clark County;” Oct. 2, “Entertainers on the Las Vegas Strip;” Nov. 6, “Military History in Clark County;” and Dec. 4, “Marketing Las Vegas.” The discussions kicked off in February with a discussion of the history of segregation in Las Vegas. In March and April, the subjects were the history of women in Clark County and mining, respectively. In June, the discussion covered Las Vegas Strip architecture and neon.

“I would hope that listeners will leave with a better understanding and greater appreciation of their community, by learning from those who were there,” said Hall-Patton. “Hearing people tell their own stories, in their own words, is a wonderful and fun way to learn, and affirm, our history.”

Other county centennial events include the grand opening at the Clark County Museum of the Candlelight Wedding Chapel and a 1910 railroad cottage; monthly history roundtable discussions; the placement of historical markers; a Web-based history of Clark County; brochures; historical programming on Channel 4 and partnerships with the Clark County School District and the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District.

Clark County also secured the naming of the famous “Welcome to Las Vegas” sign to the National Historic Register. The Centennial Web site also features historical information, events listing, trivia contest, link to a geocaching project and a section where residents can share their historical stories.

Clark County was officially formed on July 1, 1909, out of what had been Lincoln County and is named for railroad baron William Andrews Clark. The city of Las Vegas, which includes

downtown and the area north of the Strip, was incorporated two years later in 1911. Those interested in additional information on Clark County's centennial celebrations can visit the Web site at www.accessclarkcounty.com/100 or call 455-8200.

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Clark County is a dynamic and innovative organization dedicated to providing top-quality service with integrity, respect and accountability. With jurisdiction over the world-famous Las Vegas Strip and covering an area the size of New Jersey, Clark is the nation's 15th-largest county and provides extensive regional services to more than 2 million citizens and 44 million visitors a year. Included are the nation's 7th-busiest airport, air quality compliance, social services and the state's largest public hospital, University Medical Center. The county also provides municipal services that are traditionally provided by cities to almost 900,000 residents in the unincorporated area. Those include fire protection, roads and other public works, parks and recreation, and planning and development. In 2009, Clark County celebrates a "century of service."

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