

# Way to Go

## FOR SAFETY'S SAKE



Recent District 3 projects illustrate the high priority that all of NDOT puts on the safety of state roadways.

To the left, Gus Duncan of Crew 374 helps widen and enhance the safety of shoulders on U.S. 95 north of Winnemucca.

On the right, Crew 301's Nick Senrud is part of the team that oversaw installation of two new Interstate 80 Battle Mountain digital message signs to advise the public of important road and other alerts.

The improvements are just some of the safety and road preservation projects undertaken by District 3 and the entire Department throughout the year.

## PREPARATION

Preparation was the name of the game when NDOT staff gathered this spring for a mock emergency exercise. The mock Reno-area earthquake scenario was assisted by all those present, including **District 2 maintenance managers Tom Adams and Mike Fipps.**

*"Their expertise on the areas of District 2 affected by the 'earthquake' was extremely valuable in making the scenario more realistic," NDOT Security Manager James Walker said.*

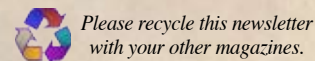
*"Thank you for teaching us about water," one student wrote in thanks. "I think it is cool that we learned more about our Earth."*

## Welcome

Amanda Bell, *Las Vegas*  
Michael Brown, *Carson City*  
Jason Larracuente, *Carson City*

## Thanks for Serving

Kenneth Date, *37 years, Reno*  
Sylvia Dominguez-Curry, *28 years, Carson City*  
Bill Hendrix, *16 years, Reno*  
James Marshall, *30 years, Carson City*  
Stanley Nicholes, *30 years, Ely*  
Jim Orsbern, *23 years, Carson City*  
Terry Rivero, *26 years, Las Vegas*  
Robert Scilacci, *36 years, Elko*  
Penny Silver, *30 years, Carson City*  
Dean Weitzel, *31 years, Carson City*  
Patrick Yeager, *29 years, Carson City*



### Centerline is published by The Nevada Department of Transportation

Meg Ragonese  
*Public Information Officer*  
1263 South Stewart Street  
Carson City, Nevada 89712  
(775) 888-7172  
mragonese@dot.state.nv.us

Governor Jim Gibbons  
*Transportation Board Chairman*

#### Members:

Brian K. Krolicki  
*Lieutenant Governor*  
Catherine Cortez Masto  
*Attorney General*  
Kim Wallin  
*State Controller*  
Tom Fransway  
Frank Martin  
Paul Morabito



Susan Martinovich, P.E.  
*Director*  
www.nevadadot.com



August 2008

A Monthly Newsletter for the Employees of NDOT

## EXPANDING THE I-15/ST. ROSE PARKWAY INTERCHANGE

*Traffic easily flows through the new St. Rose Parkway interchange. Inset: Government and transportation dignitaries gather at a recent ceremony celebrating completion of the project.*



In ever-growing southern Las Vegas, a recently-completed Nevada Department of Transportation project has improved the major thoroughfare of St. Rose Parkway.

Originally built in 1965 as a rural two-lane highway, State Route 146 was renamed St. Rose Parkway in July 2000. Projects soon began to widen the parkway, making it the primary east-west connection between Henderson and Interstate 15 south of Las Vegas. The busy thoroughfare also connects I-15 traffic to the community of Southern Highlands to the west and numerous Clark County and Henderson communities to the east.

The recent \$61 million NDOT project rebuilt the St. Rose Parkway bridge over I-15 and the St. Rose Parkway/Southern Highlands Parkway interchange to accommodate increased traffic and allow easier access to the interstate using a single point urban interchange (SPUI) that controls traffic from a single, signalized intersection.

"Because of the larger off ramps and bridge, it has eased traffic," NDOT Assistant Resident Engineer Mike Free said. Free oversaw the last six months of the project after Resident Engineer Tony Santos retired.

The project also reconstructed St. Rose Parkway from Gillespie Street to Southern Highlands Parkway.

Future enhancements are planned to widen St. Rose Parkway to eight lanes east of the current project area.



Congratulations to NDOT's safety contest winners! Brenda Hogarth, Gregg Thompson and Bill Ezell submitted winning suggestions to help improve employee safety. Check back here to see the final implementation of their safety suggestions.

## A TOAST TO IMPROVED COMMUNICATION SKILLS



*Jesse Oakley (above) and Mark Evans (to left) hold the gavel for new state employee Toastmasters clubs in Las Vegas and Reno.*

Communication and leadership are two traits NDOT employees utilize daily to advance Nevada's state transportation system. Department employees have established Toastmasters clubs to further hone the communication skills needed to lead Nevada transportation.

In Las Vegas, NDOT Materials Division Supervisor Jesse Oakley served as Toastmasters Division D Governor overseeing numerous clubs. He envisioned a Toastmasters club specifically for state employees.

"During my lunch break, I placed flyers in state buildings for one of the clubs I managed," Oakley explained. "Within months, state employees were involved in that club, and I asked those employees about creating a separate club."

Three months ago, his vision became reality when the Silver State Toastmasters began to meet, funded by some of Oakley's own seed money. The club is now a chance for state employees, including Nevada State Gaming Control Board, Colorado River Commission and NDOT team members, to hone

communication skills.

Meanwhile in Reno, former District 2 Administrative Officer Mark Evans established the Silver Tongue Toastmasters. Meeting weekly in NDOT District 2 offices, the club further enhances the communication skills of NDOT and other professional members, and is teleconferenced to NDOT Carson City headquarters.

"We realized it was more than public speaking," Evans said. "You also develop leadership skills."

Both clubs join the approximately 11,500 Toastmasters clubs across the world whose members come together in frequent meetings to give prepared and impromptu speeches and learn from the positive feedback of others.

"Whether I am speaking to a group or the media, it helps me formulate my thoughts so that what I say is clearer," Tom Lumpkin, NDOT District 2 Maintenance Supervisor and Silver Tongue Toastmasters member, said. "And for beginning supervisors, it gives them a chance to enhance speaking skills for oral job exams or interviews."

## NEW TECHNOLOGY

*NDOT employees, has your division recently used new technology to improve the work of the Department? Contact [mragonese@dot.state.nv.us](mailto:mragonese@dot.state.nv.us) to have your new technology featured in an upcoming newsletter.*

## PROTECTING THE WETLANDS



*Above, Crew 270 proudly stands in the Washoe Valley Wetlands.*

On the edge of Washoe Lake between Reno and Carson City lies a wetlands mitigation area that is a growing tribute to the work of some dedicated NDOT employees.

The Department had the 335-acre area built in the 1990s to mitigate 71 acres of wetlands impacted by Reno and Carson City-area freeway construction. From its start as home to just 25 bird species, the wetlands have grown into a mixed mosaic of ponds and marshes home to 75 bird species and numerous plants, amphibians and mammals.

Behind the wildlife sanctuary are an extraordinary group of NDOT professionals. NDOT Environmental Scientists Lori Bellis and James Murphy and former employee Chris Ennes have co-managed the important wildlife area in conjunction with Nevada Division of State Parks, Washoe Lake State Park. The dedicated group oversees bird and vegetation studies and helps control noxious non-native weeds.

Meanwhile, NDOT Maintenance Crew 270, with assistance from Crew 202, dedicates a cumulative total of nearly three weeks every year upkeeping the wetlands. The maintenance professionals mow and blade access roads and dredge irrigation channels to keep water flowing smoothly throughout the wetlands. The work is well worth it.

"The entire crew likes working out there in a different environment, away from the highway," Crew 270 Supervisor Mike Lampshire said.

"This is a first-of-a-kind wetlands project for NDOT," Bellis explained. "It is a true cooperation between numerous state agencies and resource agencies such as Audubon to help create an important wildlife habitat."

## IN MEMORY OF OUR OWN



*NDOT's own Dave Alfred recently passed away.*

*A retired U.S. Army and Nevada National Guard member, Dave served NDOT computer and information service needs for 10 years, starting as information*

*services specialist and moving up to manager.*

*The motorcycle and camping enthusiast will be dearly missed by all as a cherished friend, boss and colleague who cheered everyone around him with a wonderful sense of humor.*

*"We all really loved him," friend and NDOT coworker Tina Laubler said.*