

The

NSC FOGHORN™



Volume 3, issue 7

July 8, 2004

Special points of interest:

Property Tax as percentage of total personal income.

- Highest — New Hampshire 4.9, Maine 4.8
- Lowest — Alabama 1.3
- United States median 3.0
- Number of States greater than or equal to median — 22
- Number of States less than median — 28
- Nevada ranks 38th with 2.3
- Some states give breaks to seniors; for instance in Alabama seniors 65 and over pay no county property tax.

For more information go to:

www.retirementliving.com

by Vern Perry

LET'S STOP THE VOLCANIC PROPERTY TAX INCREASES DUE IN 2005.

By Ken Mahal, NSC President

At our Nevada Seniors Coalition meeting on June 10th a hundred of us rolled up our sleeves to take on the issue of capping our real estate taxes before we are driven out of our homes in the 2005 tax year. As Mark Schofield the Clark County Assessor stated unless we do something to change the law in the next legislature we are going to see taxes jump 20 to 40% and in some cases double. The 2005 legislature is the drop dead time for the change. The bill should be introduced at the beginning of the session in February not at the end of the session in April.

Not a week goes by that there isn't something in the news about the home building and buying business and it is all about going up and we mean straight up. The June 25th issue of the RJ page D-1 said it all "LV new-home prices continue rapid ascent". It goes on; 2,137 new home sales in May, \$239,145 Median price of a new home, 6123 existing homes in May an increase of 40.7% since May of 2003. It is predicted home prices will continue to go up with land selling in the \$300,000 dollar per acre range and in the \$500,000 range per acre when developed. This may make us feel good in case we might sell our home. Recall that from the mid eighties to the early 2000's resale of homes had about an eight-tenth percent per year increase; not even keeping up with our low inflation rate.

One would have to think the present rate cannot continue because people will soon be priced out of the market, a real shortage of water (in spite of Pat Mulroy's fairy tales), mass traffic chaos, air pollution, increasing crime, etc. making this a Californi-vada. So what state do we invade after we sell out here? That's another story for another day. Right now we need to do something to lock in a sensible real-estate tax base or all of us will be taxed out of existence while the Fat-Cat government politicians and bureaucrats go on a **self serving** spending frenzy like we have never seen before. (Continued on page 2)

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(Continued from page 1) The petition by Sharon Angle, will take much shoe leather, time and money, plus two years of waiting, politicking and voting before we know what happens. That would also mean two years of volcanic tax increases, that would have to be paid even if there is a roll back feature included in the bill (we should live so long). The Mark Scholfield proposal, which we agree to in principal, would be simply to amend *NRS 361.260 Method of assessing property for taxation: appraisals and reappraisals*. There would be one paragraph added limiting any assessment to no more than a 6% increase (or less if it works out OK). This can be done by sponsorship in the Assembly and Senate. There should be a will to do it all by itself with nothing else encumbering the bill. Senator Ann O'Connell has already said she will sponsor this bill and would be interested in looking at a smaller cap (this needs to be worked on). There were other legislatures at the meeting including some who answered our mailer (see June *NSC Foghorn* – Ed.) saying they favor such an effort. Any of you who agree, including candidates or incumbents, let us know of your willingness to help us. At our monthly meetings we will take time to discuss the tax issue regardless of who our main speaker is. Our meetings are on the second Thursday of each month at 10:00am at Boulder Station. Knight Allen, our Director of Legislature will be collaborating this effort.

HITS AND MISSES OF THE MONTH

WATER, WATER, WATER AND NONE TO BE FOUND

Pat Mulroy the DIRECTOR magician at The Southern Nevada Water Authority seems to have lost her water wand and after 15 plus years maybe there just is no more magic in her bag of tricks. Now she intends to spend a few billions of our hard earned money by going north into other counties thinking she will take their water. Well we got news for you Babe you ain't going to succeed. That's their water and you should have learned that lesson 10 years ago when they chased you out of their counties. We notice that the desalination of California water is not such a pressing idea now and maybe that is because she has finally gotten the message that the environmentalists still own that state and they just won't allow her wacky idea along their coast. Of course everyone else knew that years ago. And thinking farmers will quit raising fruit and vegetables as well as alfalfa to feed the milk cows may be a worthy reason why she won't be able to invade the farmer's water rights. There may be just one sensible solution left Ms. Mulroy and your political bosses. That is a quarantine on growth until things calm down. Besides that who said we have the responsibilities of providing jobs for people from south of the boarder as well as profits for the home building and shopping center developers?

THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS HAS A COUNCIL MAN WHO WANTS TO WORK.












We are pleased to hear that Steve Wolfson the new attorney councilman wants to clean up the pollution. That is wonderful and we invite him to just do it. Any number of times I have mentioned to His Honor the Mayor while in his office looking at the brown c--- in the air that he should clean it up so that beautiful view would once again be appreciated. So far nothing has happened. We look forward to working with Mr. Wolfson. I think he just might be the right person to do it. And just maybe I will ask my board to change our Foghorn news letter to the SMOG-HORN until Clark County cleans up their stinking diesel and dust brown cloud.



HOW SAD THE SOUTHERN NEVADA TRIAGE PROGRAM TO SHUT DOWN.

This is a program to help alleviate the load on the emergency room services for many who are mentally ill or have no other alternative for some quick health care. This program will shut down unless our governor and the state interim finance committee can find the keys to the \$833 millions vault plus the double digit cash flow from existing taxes to do their share to fund this program. It is reported that we have 135 people a day moving into Southern Nevada with 5 to 7% of them mentally ill. So the alternatives are, we leave them on the street or get the Scrooges at the state to do their job. So Governor Kenny get with it, this so called great growth is killing us.












“Please Don’t Quote Me”












 If there must be trouble let it be in my
 day, that my child may have peace.














– Thomas Paine (1737-1809)

























T. Paine




































 Liberty lies in the hearts of
 men and women; when it dies
 there, no constitution, no law,
 no court can save it.
 – Judge Learned Hand


























































 A patriot must always be ready to defend his country against his government.
 – Edward Abbey (1927-1989) US author

 America will never be destroyed
 from the outside. If we falter and
 lose our freedoms, it will be be-
 cause we destroyed ourselves.
 – Abraham Lincoln

 Democracy is two wolves and a
 lamb voting on what to have for
 lunch. Liberty is a well-armed
 lamb contesting the vote!
 – Benjamin Franklin, 1759

 A politician will do anything to keep his job even become a patriot.
 – William Randolph Hearst (1863-1951) US newspaper publisher






















THE LIBERTY BELL RINGS: July 8, 1776

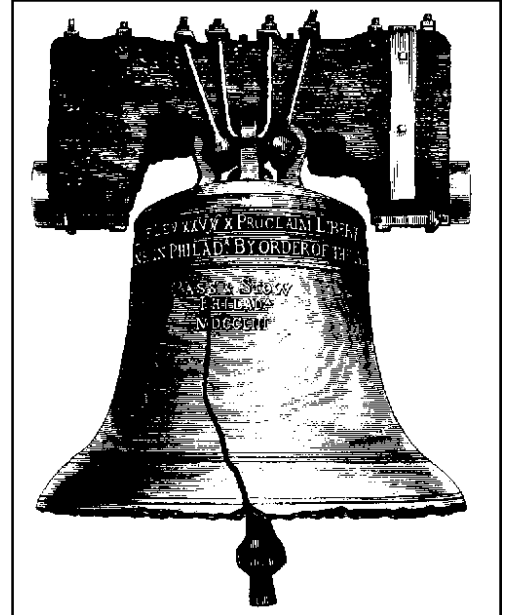
In Philadelphia, the Liberty Bell rings out from the tower of the Pennsylvania State House (now known as Independence Hall), summoning citizens to the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence, by Colonel John Nixon. On July 4, the historic document was adopted by delegates to the Continental Congress meeting in the State House. However, the Liberty Bell, which bore the apt biblical quotation, "Proclaim Liberty Throughout All the Land unto All the Inhabitants Thereof," was not rung until the Declaration of Independence returned from the printer on July 8.

In 1751, to commemorate the 50-year anniversary of Pennsylvania's original constitution, the Pennsylvania Provincial Assembly ordered the 2,000-pound copper and tin bell constructed. After being cracked during a test, and then recast twice, the bell was hung from the State House steeple in June 1753. Rung to call the Pennsylvania Assembly together and to summon people for special announcements and events, it was also rung on important occasions, such as when King George III ascended to the throne in 1761 and to call the people together to discuss Parliament's controversial Stamp Act of 1765. With the outbreak of the American Revolution in April 1775, the bell was rung to announce the battles of Lexington and Concord. Its most famous tolling was on July 8, 1776, when it summoned Philadelphia citizens for the first reading of the Declaration of Independence.

As the British advanced toward Philadelphia in the fall of 1777, the bell was removed from the city and hidden in Allentown to save it from being melted down by the British and used for cannons. After the British defeat in 1781, the bell was returned to Philadelphia, which was the nation's capital from 1790 to 1800. In addition to marking important events, the bell tolled annually to celebrate George Washington's birthday on February 22, and Independence Day on July 4. In 1839, the name "Liberty Bell" was first coined in a poem in an abolitionist pamphlet.

The question of when the Liberty Bell acquired its famous fracture has been the subject of a good deal of historical dispute. In the most commonly accepted account, the bell suffered a major break while tolling for the funeral of the chief justice of the United States, John Marshall, in 1835, and in 1846 the crack expanded to its present size while in use to mark Washington's birthday. After that date, it was regarded as unsuitable for ringing, but it was still ceremoniously tapped on occasion to commemorate important events. On June 6, 1944, when Allied forces invaded France, the sound of the bell's dulled ring was broadcast by radio across the United States.

In 1976, the Liberty Bell was moved to a new pavilion about 100 yards from Independence Hall in preparation for America's bicentennial celebrations.



Rocketing Drug Prices Outstrip Possible Cost Savings with New Discount Card

Soaring prices for brand-name medicines are outpacing inflation by a wide margin and eroding possible savings for seniors using new Medicare-sponsored drug discount cards, according to separate studies released recently by two nonpartisan consumer advocacy groups.

Prices for 197 drugs most commonly prescribed for older Americans rose on average by 27.6 percent over the past four years -- almost triple the overall rate of inflation in the period, an AARP Public Policy Institute report revealed.

Using a different measure, Families USA found that prices of the top 30 medicines used by seniors grew by more than four times the rate of inflation in the past year alone. And prices for the popular cholesterol-lowering medication Lipitor and the anti-blood-clotting agent Plavix rose more than five times the inflation rate. "These are two studies that have a single message: The prices are going up -- a lot," said economist David J. Gross, a co-author of the AARP report.

Ron Pollack, executive director of Families USA, said the hefty price increases translate into distress for seniors relying on the Medicare drug card program, which began this month. — Retirement Living

As a schoolboy, one of Red Skelton's teachers explained the words and meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance to his class. Skelton later wrote down, and eventually recorded, his recollection of this lecture. It is followed by an observation of his own.

I — Me; an individual; a committee of one.

Pledge — Dedicate all of my worldly goods to give without self-pity.

Allegiance — My love and my devotion.

To the Flag — Our standard; Old Glory; a symbol of Freedom; wherever she waves there is respect, because loyalty has given her a dignity that shouts, Freedom is everybody's job.

United — That means that we have all come together.

States of America — Individual communities that have united into forty-eight great states. Forty-eight individual communities with pride and dignity and purpose. All divided with imaginary boundaries, yet united to a common purpose, and that is love for country.

And to the Republic — a state in which sovereign power is invested in representatives chosen by the people to govern. And government is the people; and it's from the people to the leaders, not from the leaders to the people. For which it stands

One Nation — meaning, so blessed by God.

Indivisible — Incapable of being divided.

With Liberty — Which is Freedom; the right of power to live one's own life, without threats, fear, or some sort of retaliation.

And Justice — The principle, or qualities, of dealing fairly with others.

For All — which means, boys and girls, it's as much your country as it is mine.

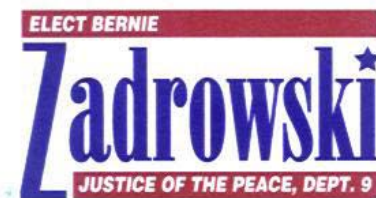
And now, boys and girls, let me hear you recite the Pledge of Allegiance:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America,
and to the Republic, for which it stands;
one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Since I was a small boy, two states have
been added to our country,
and two words have been added to the Pledge of
Allegiance: Under God.

Wouldn't it be a pity if someone said that is a prayer,
and that would be eliminated from schools, too?

— Red Skelton



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AT THE JUNE MEETING



Clark County Assessor
Mark Schofield

The featured speaker was Clark County Assessor Mark Schofield who discussed his plan that would cap real estate taxes at 6 percent each year. He claims this would provide enough money to provide necessary government services but would not force people to sell their homes. He hopes the bill will be passed before property tax bills are issued in July of 2005. Property values have increased so much that taxes would increase by 20 to 50 percent. The cap would apply to all properties.

Carole Vilardo, president of the Nevada Taxpayers Association (NTA) said that this proposal is the most "sane" tax proposal she has seen so far. NTA is against the Angle-Gustavson initiative to amend the Nevada constitution which they believe would expose the state to lawsuits.

NSC supports Schofield's proposal which will go into effect much sooner than the initiative.



Ms Carole Vilardo and
NV Senator Ann O'Connell



MEMBERSHIP

New members:

Revelle Bacon	Alma McGraham
Mark Schofield	Lou Toomin

Welcome to you all.

Renewing members include:

Juanita Clark	Anna Longhofer
Barbara O'Dell	Elaine F. Siegel

Thank you all for your continued support.

N.B. You are given 90 days after your membership expires to renew before your name is removed from the membership list. Your membership anniversary date is on the **Foghorn** mailing label. If the date is in red please renew, either by mail or at the next meeting.

Vern Perry



A video tape of this meeting is available. For further information: Contact Vern Perry

They're Looking For Trouble

There is a service offered by the Clark County Social Service Neighborhood Justice Center (NJC) that you probably are not aware of. It is called:

MEDIATION

If you are having a problem with a friend, neighbor, business person or just about anyone and you think you have to go to court to resolve it first try mediation to resolve your dispute confidentially, effectively, quickly, and at no cost.

Approximately 76% of mediated disputes result in a written agreement and mediated agreements are more likely to be fulfilled than court orders.

Mediations are scheduled at a safe convenient location and conducted privately and confidentially.

To get started:

1. Call 455-3898 between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
2. Give the person who answers following information:
 - Name
 - Address
 - Phone number
 - A brief description of the situation
3. You will receive a call from a case manager who will ask you:
 - To explain your situation
 - What you have tried
 - What you would like to do
 - If you would like to try mediation
 - For information on the other party
4. The case manager will contact the other party to offer mediation
5. A mediation session will be scheduled
6. A mediation will be held that will last from 2-4 hours.

Clark County Neighborhood Justice Center
1600 Pinto Lane,
Las Vegas, NV 89106 Phone: 455-3898, Fax: 455-3642

From The Editor

It was astounding to hear what the arbitrators decided in the McClain and Atkinson cases (especially the Atkinson case). I didn't realize the area arbitrators are also corrupt.

It is unbelievable that not only did Atkinson get his job back, but that we taxpayers have to pay him for eight months when he did not work. Of course, now that I think of it, we taxpayers have probably paid him and other government employees for much more time than that during the course of their careers.

Good luck to County Manager Thom Reilly in his pursuit of justice in this case.

The Summerlin North Community Association has decided not to allow the common members to attend certain of their executive board meetings because they might be disruptive. Unbelievably no homeowner has protested this decision before the Common-Interest Communities Board. I guess people who live in these communities think it appropriate that some flea brained Napoleons decided their every move and action. I for one would never live in such an environment. I think the Legislature should add a provision to require all association meetings to be open to all of the homeowners.

Vern Perry

Next Meeting

Thursday, August 12, 2004

At 10:00 am at >>>>>>



After the meeting
 why don't you eat
 and play, and stay all
 day?



Featured speaker will be:

Clark County District Attorney
David Roger

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Today In History— July 08, 1853

Commodore Perry sails into Tokyo Bay

Commodore Matthew Calbraith Perry, representing the U.S. government, sails into Tokyo Bay, Japan, with a squadron of four vessels. For a time, Japanese officials refused to speak with Perry, but under threat of attack by the superior American ships they accepted letters from President Millard Fillmore, making the United States the first Western nation to establish relations with Japan since it had been declared closed to foreigners two centuries before. Only the Dutch and the Chinese were allowed to continue trade with Japan after 1639, but this trade was restricted and confined to the island of Dejima at Nagasaki.

After giving Japan time to consider the establishment of external relations, Commodore Perry returned to Tokyo with nine ships in March 1854. On March 31, he signed the Treaty of Kanagawa with the Japanese government, opening the ports of Shimoda and Hakodate to American trade and permitting the establishment of a U.S. consulate in Japan. In April 1860, the first Japanese diplomats to visit a foreign power in over 200 years reached Washington, D.C., and remained in the U.S. capital for several weeks, discussing expansion of trade with the United States. Treaties with other Western powers followed soon after, contributing to the collapse of the shogunate and ultimately the modernization of Japan. — From www.historychannel.com



The Nevada Seniors Coalition, Inc (NSC) is a nonprofit, non-partisan organization. No person is excluded on the basis of race, sex, religion or national origin.

The organization's purpose is to promote the physical and social welfare of senior citizens, their children and grandchildren.

The organizations' goals and objectives are:

- Improvement of political and governmental institutions and processes on local, state and federal levels.
- Identify legislative trends at all levels and set NSC priorities.
- Support domestic policies responsive to the needs and will of the Nevada senior population.
- Work to involve more seniors in government. to assure government is open, responsive and accountable.
- Keep members and the general public informed on current issues affecting them. Encourage them to make their voices heard at all government levels.
- Work with other organizations in a common endeavor when their issues and programs coincide with those of NSC.



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WWW.NEVADASENIORS.COM

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