

Project first of its kind in the nation

City Council approves funding for assisted living center

Special to Sentinel-Voice

The Las Vegas City Council recently approved the award of \$1 million in Housing and Urban Department HOME funds to the non-profit developer Affordable Housing Resource Council. The money will be used to build an assisted living facility that will be home to more than 100 seniors who rely on fixed incomes in the city of Las Vegas. The first project of its kind in the country, the assisted living center is a pilot program created through

the Clark County Public Lands and Natural Resources Act of 2002, which authorized the BLM to transfer land to the city solely to create additional affordable housing.

"We have been working for years to provide this assisted living facility for our seniors," said Nevada Sen. Harry Reid, who helped provide federal land for the facility. "This project is a good example of what can be accomplished by working together on all levels of gov-

ernment and with the private sector. I am very excited that each day we move closer to opening the doors of a facility that will offer affordable housing and a full range of services, especially health care, for seniors."

The Model Assisted Living Advisory Committee (MALAC), chaired by Assemblywoman Barbara Buckley, has determined the assisted living facility will be located in Ward 2, at Roland Wiley Road and Silver Sky Drive.

Assisted living is defined as a special combination of housing, supportive services, personalized assistance and access to health care. It is designed to respond to the individual needs of seniors who require help with activities of daily life.

"We are one step closer to having a state-of-the-art facility where seniors can live the rest of their lives in dignity," Assemblywoman Barbara Buckley said. Her support resulted in a \$600,000 state allocation for the project.

Institution secures \$20 million in federal funds

UMC cuts \$10.3 million via layoffs, personnel reductions

Special to Sentinel-Voice

University Medical Center will save \$10.3 million annually by streamlining the hospital's workforce in areas that will not affect the delivery of quality patient care, county and hospital officials announced today.

They also announced that UMC would receive \$20.5 million in federal funds this fiscal year to reimburse the institution for underpayment of Medicaid costs.

The personnel reductions — which affect administration, mid-management, employed physicians and other categories — were made as part of an ongoing effort to reduce the hospital's losses

and eliminate its reliance on subsidies.

"It's difficult whenever anyone has to lose a job," said County Manager Thom Reilly. "But the economics are such that we were forced to take this step. Taxpayers can't be expected to subsidize losses of more than \$2 million a month. I think it's important to note that we took great pains to ensure that these cuts did not affect our core services and patient care. We also attempted to minimize the impact on front-line employees." The hospital reported losses of \$3.7 million in November and \$2.5 million in December.

UMC's streamlining ef-

forts mean 37 people are being laid off, 14 management employees are having their positions downgraded, 128 vacant positions are being eliminated entirely and two vacant positions are being downgraded.

Here's how the savings are being realized:

Three senior managers (two medical clinic directors and one member of the senior management team) are being laid off.

Five Quick Care medical directors are being downgraded with a commensurate loss in salary. Each Quick Care medical director will now oversee two Quick Cares instead of one. These

changes, along with the reduction of hours at the McCarran Quick Care, are comparable to the elimination of 3-1/2 full-time equivalent (FTE) doctors.

The McCarran Quick Care at 1769 E. Russell Rd. will no longer operate around the clock. Its hours of operations will be altered starting next month so that it will be open from 8 a.m. to midnight daily. Other Quick Care hours are not affected.

Church profiles members for Black History Month

By John T. Stephens III

Las Vegas Sentinel Voice

Imani Cathedral United Methodist Church, 2727 North Civic Center Drive, presents "Profiles Of Courage" on Sun., Feb. 23, at 3:00 p.m. Church members of Imani will re-enact historical moments in U.S. history and what impact they had on their lives.

"A celebration of Black History Month will unfold, revealing outstanding events in the lives of Imani members," Rev. Dr. Charles Hemphill, Pastor of Imani Cathedral, said in a released statement. "Often, we are not aware of the contributions made by those we know and share friendships with; for we too often think of history being somewhere else, and not in our own environments."

The lives and personal experiences of Imani members Helen Greer-Gordon, Cranford Crawford and Dr. Deborah Davis will be profiled by other church members in an afternoon of courage.

"Young people have a hard time relating to their past because it's not taught properly in the schools," said Lorene Hutchinson, chairperson for the Black History Committee. "Real life people who have made an accomplishment and have made a significant contribution to the history of this country" is what Hutchinson feels makes this program special and unique. Education, entertainment, ministry, and law enforcement are the four subjects to be profiled at the celebration. The Imani Mass Choir will perform old spirituals such as "Wade in the Water," "Go Down Moses," and "We Shall Overcome."

"We ignore the fact that Black History is American History," Hemphill said, "forged out of everyday challenges that intermingle the lives, loves, struggles, failures and successes that black Americans endure."

For more information, call 647-7467, or visit the website: www.imanicathedral.org. The program is free and open to the public, with refreshments being served.

CCSN hosts annual wine tasting fundraiser

By John T. Stephens III
Sentinel-Voice

It's Black History month, and the wine, music, and good times will be bubbling over at the eighth Annual Wine Tasting, Spirits, and Jazz Scholarship Fundraiser at the Community College of Southern Nevada Cheyenne Campus, 3200 E. Cheyenne Ave. In the heart of the June Whitley Student Center, from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 22, the night of elegant culture will be emceed by longtime media and community celebrity Lillian McMorris.

"An evening of ambiance and understated elegance, the wine tasting itself gives people the opportunity to sample wine from various vineyards," said Dr. Joni Flowers, founder and coordinator of the scholarship fundraiser.

Cultural enthusiasts will be delighted by all the food, wine, jazz, and fanfair, with all the proceeds going to fund scholarships for students. The names of the scholarships,

valued from \$1,500 to \$2,500, are: Rhonda Jefferson Single Parent, Dorothy Dickerson, John Glenn, President's, Caesar Chavez, and Mary Ruth Marshall. Scholarship recipients will be acknowledged at the event.

"My favorite highlight is the scholarship recipient recognition," Dr. Flowers said. "It's really about the students. This is why you are here."

The fundraiser was founded in 1996 and began with four \$500 scholarships for community college students. After eight years of cheers, more than \$80,000 has been raised for approximately 50 scholarship recipi-

ents.

"As the revenue has increased, our scholarships increased," Flowers said.

Wines and non-alcoholic specialty drinks will be sipped in special souvenir glasses, with the soothing sounds of live music being performed by the Woody Woods Quartet. A silent auction for great prizes, like round-trip airline tickets for two, shows, dinners, golfing at major golf courses in the local area, and vacation packages. Ticket prices are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. No one under 21 will be admitted. For more information, call 651-4440.

Fairs

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2010 initiative. REACH stands for Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health, and its purpose is to help all minorities; Hispanics, Asians, Pacific Islanders, and others.

According to Dr. Gamell, Clark County is one of only 39 REACH grants recipients throughout the nation. His group has partnered itself with churches and health organizations to better disseminate resources and knowledge to the community in order to stop preventable diseases.

For more information on the block party, call 222-3130; and for the summit, call 596-2115.

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