

Town of Pahrump, Nevada Community Assessment

October 2011
Final Report



Presented by
Nevada Rural Development Council
A 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation
“Assisting Communities to Achieve Success”

Collaborating Partners

Nevada Association of Counties



Western Nevada Development District

Nevada USDA Rural Development



United States Department of Agriculture
Rural Development
Committed to the future of rural communities



Mineral County Economic Development Authority

University of Nevada Cooperative Extension



University of Nevada
Cooperative Extension



Town of Pahrump

Nye County, Nevada



The People of Pahrump



Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment

October 2011

Table of Contents

Executive Summary.....	4
Introduction	5
Acknowledgements.....	6
Nevada Rural Development Council.....	7
Strategic Planning and Community Assessments.....	8
Process for the Development of this Report.....	9
Pahrump Steering Committee.....	10
Resource Team Members.....	11
Schedule of Listening Sessions.....	12
Major Themes.....	13
Priority Setting Results.....	15
Team Member Recommendations and Resources.....	16
Comments.....	57
Additional Resources.....	108
20 Clues to Rural Community Survival.....	110
Traits of Good Governance.....	111

Any recommendations contained herein are not mandatory. The Nevada Rural Development Council has not endorsed any recommendations and opinions contained herein. Neither the Nevada Rural Development Council, nor any of its employees, contract labor, committee chairs, and/or members make any warranty, express or implied, including warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose, or assumes any legal liability for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of this report or any information, recommendations, or opinions contained herein.

Executive Summary

The Pahrump Town Board requested the Nevada Rural Development Council (NRDC) to complete a Community Assessment for the Town of Pahrump. Funding was secured through Town resources and the Nye County Commission. The NRDC assembled a trained and certified resource team to assist in evaluating community challenges, assets and hopes. The team then developed suggestions for improving the quality of life, and the social and economic future for Pahrump. The four-day assessment began Monday, October 10, 2011 and concluded with a Town Hall Meeting in the Nye County Administrative Center on Thursday, October 13, 2011.

One of the quotes the Resource Team captured during the Listening Sessions was, “We have the ability to change.” Pahrump faces a number of problems that at times seem insurmountable. However, the recognition that change is possible turns all those problems into challenges, each of which represents an opportunity for forward movement as a community. The team also heard, “Pahrump citizens come together and help each other out when push comes to shove.” This ability to come together and make a positive difference is crucial to fulfilling the potential in those challenging opportunities. A third quote heard was, “People are our greatest asset but also our greatest challenge.” It will only be as the people of Pahrump focus on what they have in common and look beyond their differences that they will be able to seek a future together.

Over the four days the team was in Pahrump, they toured the community, participated in 19 listening sessions and received hundreds of citizen comments. Those comments led to the formulation of the six major themes identified in this report. On the final day the resource team compiled a Preliminary Report which included the identified themes and presented it to the community at the Town Hall Meeting. The six themes identified by the team are in alphabetical order: Economic Development, Education, Governance, Image & Communications, Infrastructure, Quality of Life.

There is considerable information in this report ranging from citizen comments to write-ups from the team which include potential resources to help community members carry out suggested recommendations. It is through the efforts of those citizens who participated in the process and their desire to build a better tomorrow for the Town of Pahrump that this assessment has any validity. Please take the time to read this report. If nothing else it should stimulate conversation and hopefully active engagement by each of you in your community.

The key to the success of this planning process will be its implementation. The assessment identifies the needs of the community as presented by its citizens. Only as citizens become engaged in the process of carrying out the actions identified through this process will these efforts have a lasting impact on the community. Anyone reading this document is encouraged to become part of the solutions to the problems and challenges identified within it.

The Nevada Rural Development Council (NRDC) is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization dedicated to the enhancement of rural communities in Nevada. Its mission is “Assisting Communities to Achieve Success.” For further information on NRDC activities, visit the NRDC website at www.ruralnevada.org.

Introduction

One of the quotes the Resource Team captured during the Listening Sessions was, “We have the ability to change.” Pahrump faces a number of problems that at times seem insurmountable. However, the recognition that change is possible turns all those problems into challenges, each of which represents an opportunity for forward movement as a community. The team also heard, “Pahrump citizens come together and help each other out when push comes to shove.” This ability to come together and make a positive difference is crucial to fulfilling the potential in those challenging opportunities. A third quote heard was, “People are our greatest asset but also our greatest challenge.” It will only be as the people of Pahrump focus on what they have in common and look beyond their differences that they will be able to seek a future together.

A final quote that represents a huge step toward a positive future was, “We need to raise the bar in the way we treat each other.” The team heard many legitimate differences of opinion expressed by the people who took the time to participate in this process. It is incumbent on those who seek to make the changes necessary to maximize the opportunities that exist for Pahrump that citizens respect each other and those opinions that seem at odds with their own. Respect for one another leads to the ability to listen to what people are saying and then discover options that can become acceptable to the majority of well meaning citizens. All of the potential for a great future for Pahrump and the people who live there is currently present within the residents of the community. Respect for one another is the key to unlocking that potential.

It was with the recognition of this potential that the Town of Pahrump approached the Nevada Rural Development Council to arrange a Resource Team Visit. The team consisted of six individuals who live and/or work in Rural Nevada and who are certified to be team members. The resource team spent four days in Pahrump where they learned a great deal of new information as they listened to residents share their thoughts and feelings about their town and its future. The team felt a genuine sense of commitment to this grass roots process from those who participated. The team was pleased and honored to be invited into your community, your businesses, and your friendship.

Funding for this project came from two sources. One source was the Pahrump Town Board and the other was the Nye County Commission. Elected officials on both of these bodies recognized the positive opportunity an assessment of this nature could bring to the community.

There is considerable information in this report ranging from citizen comments to write-ups from the team which include potential resources to help community members carry out suggested recommendations. This assessment could not have been possible without the great turnout by local residents and their willingness to share their thoughts about their community. It is through the efforts of those who participated in the process and their desire to build a better tomorrow for the Town of Pahrump that this assessment has any validity. Please take the time to read this report. If nothing else it should stimulate conversation and hopefully active engagement by each of you in your community.

Acknowledgements

For a Community Assessment to be successful many people need to be involved in the process to create that success. First was the willingness of the Pahrump Town Board to seek input from residents as to their thoughts about the future of their community. Second was the support of the Nye County Commission to help make this effort possible. Without the support of these two elected bodies, this assessment would not have taken place. Next was the work of the Pahrump Steering Committee in their pre-planning efforts and logistical support for the resource team visit. A list of those local citizens appears on page 10 of this report. Fourth are the many groups and individuals who helped bring together people for the listening sessions. Fifth are the businesses and organizations that provided lodging, meals and places for listening session meetings. Finally, participation by the citizens of Pahrump was essential to the success of this process. Not only did many of you participate, you also made the team feel warmly welcomed in your community.

Members of the team spent four days listening to and evaluating the many comments they received from those of you who participated in the 19 listening sessions or provided written comments during their visit. Each member of the team volunteered his or her time to be in your community and additional time to write up what was heard, make recommendations to address the themes that arose from the listening sessions and identify potential resources that may be used to carry out those recommendations. Each member brought his or her unique expertise and background to the process which gives this report a broad perspective.

Other generous contributions came from the Western Nevada Development District, the Nevada Association of Counties, the Mineral County Economic Development Authority, and the Nevada Office of USDA Rural Development by providing staff to be team members. Additionally, support for the assessment came through the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension. Extension's role in the success of this process is a demonstration to their commitment to rural Nevada.

The Nevada Rural Development Council

The Nevada Rural Development Council (NRDC) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the enhancement of rural communities in Nevada. It is a collaborative public/private partnership comprised of federal, state, local, tribal, university, non-profit organizations and private sector individuals dedicated to collaboration and partnership.

The NRDC mission is “Assisting Communities to Achieve Success”. The NRDC seeks to carry out its mission by:

- Providing rural communities with strategic planning assistance, including community assessments, asset mapping, and plan implementation
- Providing leadership development as a foundation of every community
- Providing access to resources
- Serving as a networking link between resources and needs
- Promoting the quality of life in the values, needs, and contributions of rural communities

The NRDC is governed by a board of directors and supervised by its executive committee. Through determination and tenacity, the NRDC has continued its presence in rural Nevada through growth and challenging times.

For more information on the Nevada Rural Development Council, please contact:

Carl Dahlen, Community Assessment Coordinator
Nevada Rural Development Council
P.O. Box 3926
Carson City, NV, 89702
(775) 230-0075
dahlenc@unce.unr.edu
www.ruralnevada.org

Strategic Planning & Community Assessments

Strategic planning is essential for every community to reach its goals and objectives. Without a plan, there is no roadmap to success. Residents of a community will follow community and elected leaders down any path if they believe in the plan presented to them. Community master plans may be the basis for strategic planning in rural communities; but often these plans are primarily land and water use plans. A “community plan” is an important compliment to a master plan; it does not replace it, rather it reinforces it.

Community assessments provide the first step, the visioning step, in the strategic planning process. It is a community based planning and assessment process consisting of interviewing a large number of people in the community, recording their suggestions, and having a team of experts write up implementation plans for community use. This is a very neutral, non-threatening process where citizens can give input without criticism or debate. Because it is citizen-based, it adds tremendous validation to master plans, strategic plans, community development plans, and the elected officials that use these plans for implementing strategies.

The benefits of a Community Assessment include providing an opportunity to hear from community members, offering an affordable process, opening of communication between citizens and government, bringing “outside ideas” into the community, identifying new resources for communities to use, and providing a source of in-kind contributions for grants. Additional results include leadership development, an increase in volunteerism, and an increase in civic engagement.

The key to the success of this planning process will be its implementation. The assessment identifies the needs of the community as presented by its citizens. Only as those citizens become engaged in the process of carrying out the actions resulting from this process will this plan or any plan have a lasting impact on the community. Each of you reading this document is encouraged to become part of the solutions to the problems and challenges identified in it.

The resource team and the Nevada Rural Development Council are honored to bring this great engagement process to your community. It is our hope that it will provide benefits short-term and long-term for the residents of the Town of Pahrump.

Process for the Development of this Report

The Pahrump Town Board requested the Nevada Rural Development Council (NRDC) to complete a Community Assessment for the Town of Pahrump. Funding was secured through Town resources and the Nye County Commission. The NRDC assembled a trained and certified resource team to assist in evaluating community challenges, assets and hopes. The team then developed suggestions for improving the quality of life, and the social and economic future for Pahrump. The four-day assessment began Monday, October 10, 2011 and concluded with a Town Hall Meeting in the Nye County Administrative Center on Thursday, October 13, 2011.

Before the resource team started the assessment they received an orientation to Pahrump and were given the listening session schedule. They also toured the community. The team participated in 19 listening sessions and received hundreds of citizen comments. Those comments led to the formulation of the six major themes identified in this report. Participants in the listening sessions were asked to respond to three questions. Their responses served as the basis for developing the final report and the ensuing action plan. The three questions were:

- **What are the major challenges or problems in your community?**
- **What are the major assets or strengths in your community?**
- **What projects or initiatives would you like to see completed in the short term (24 months) or in the long term (5, 10, or 50 years from now) in your community?**

At the end of each day, the resource team met to review the comments collected and to assemble the major themes that arose from what was heard. After the last listening session the resource team compiled a Preliminary Report which included the identified themes and presented it to the community at the Town Hall Meeting. The six themes identified by the team are in alphabetical order: Economic Development, Education, Governance, Image & Communications, Infrastructure, Quality of Life.

On Tuesday, January 17, 2012 citizens of Pahrump came together in a Priority Setting Meeting at the Pahrump Nugget Convention Center. At that meeting, those present prioritized the themes and begin the process of working together to address the issues and concerns identified through this assessment. The six themes in priority order are Infrastructure, Economic Development, Education, Governance, Quality of Life, and Image & Communications.

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

Pahrump Steering Committee

Al Parker, Business Consultant
Rural Nevada Development Corporation
1301 South Highway 160, Second Floor
Pahrump, NV 89048
775/751-1947
alparker@rmdcnv.org

Carolene Endersby, Pahrump Town Board
Member
Town of Pahrump
400 North Highway 160
Pahrump, NV 89060
775/764-8791
cendersby@pahrumprnv.org

Trish Rippie, Broker, President
Trish Rippie Realty, Inc
1190 East Highway 372 # 17
Pahrump, NV 89048
775/727-4343
trishrippie@sbcglobal.net

Tom Waters, Pahrump Town Board Member
Town of Pahrump
400 North Highway 160
Pahrump, NV 89060
775/764-0949
twaters@pahrumprnv.org

Stacy Smith, Executive Director
Nye Communities Coalition
1020 East Wilson Road
Pahrump, NV 89061
775/727-9970
stacy@nyecc.org

Butch Borasky, Nye County Commissioner
Nye Board of County Commissioners
2100 Walt Williams Drive
Pahrump, NV 89048
775/751-7073
butchborasky@yahoo.com

Rebecca Oscarson,
Valley Electric Association
800 East Highway 372
Pahrump, NV 89048
775/727-2116
rebecca@vea.coop

Mike Dreyer, President
Pahrump Valley Chamber of Commerce
1301 South Highway 160, Second Floor
Pahrump, NV 89048
775/209-4238
extremefinishinc@me.com

Bill Verbeck, CEO/Chief Academic Officer
Mount Charleston Corporation
1301 South Highway 160 # 203
Pahrump, NV 89048
775/751-1923
billverbeck@mcc-nv.org

Tim Wigchers, Communication Coordinator
Nye Communities Coalition
1020 East Wilson Road
Pahrump, NV 89061
775/727-9970
tim@nyecc.org

Mark Kimball, Ombudsman
Nye County Administration
2100 East Walt Williams Drive # 100
Pahrump, NV 89048
775/513-9119
mkimball@co.nye.nv.us

Michelle Withers, Executive Assistant
Mount Charleston Corporation
1301 South Highway 160 # 203
Pahrump, NV 89048
(775) 751-1923
michelle@mcc-nv.org

Resource Team Members

Wes Henderson, Deputy Director
Nevada Association of Counties
304 South Minnesota Street
Carson City, NV, 89703
775/883-7863
whenderson@nvnao.org

Shelley Hartmann, Executive Director
Mineral County Economic Development
Authority
PO Box 1635
Hawthorne, NV 89415
775/945-5896
shartmannmceda@sbcglobal.net

Carl Dahlen, Community Assessment
Coordinator
Nevada Rural Development Council
State Leadership Specialist
University of Nevada Cooperative Extension
PO Box 3926
Carson City, Nevada 89702
775/230-0075
dahlenc@unce.unr.edu

Michael Guss, Project Manager
Western Nevada Development District
704 West Winnie Lane, Suite 201
Carson City, NV 89703
775/883-7333
mguss@wndd.org

David Foster, Business & Cooperative
Program Specialist
USDA Rural Development, NV Office
5820 South Pecos Road, Bldg A, # 400
Las Vegas, NV 89120
702/262-9969
david.foster@nv.usda.gov

Tom Stephens, Area Director
USDA Rural Development, NV Office
5820 South Pecos Road, Bldg A, # 400
Las Vegas, NV 89120
702/262-9969
thomas.stephens@nv.usda.gov

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

Schedule of Listening Sessions

Monday – Thursday, October 10 – 14, 2011

Monday, October 10	Activity	Location
9:00-10:00 AM	Team Orientation	Pahrump Station
10:00-Noon	Tour of Pahrump	Senior Van
1:30-2:30 PM	Developmental Services	Nye County Admin
4:00-5:00 PM	First Responders	Fire Station
5:15-6:15 PM	Government Workers	Fire Station
6:30-7:30 PM	Healthcare Professionals	Chamber of Commerce
Tuesday, October 11	Activity	Location
7:00-9:00 AM	Tour of Pahrump	Senior Van
9:15-10:15 AM	Utilities	Valley Electric Assoc
10:45-11:45 AM	Senior Citizens	Senior Center
12:30-1:30 PM	General Public	Mountain Falls
2:00-3:00 PM	CCA	CCA
5:00-6:00 PM	Recreational Sports	Ian Deutsche Park
6:15-7:15 PM	Business	Chamber of Commerce
Wednesday, October 12	Activity	Location
9:00-10:00 AM	Realtors	Chamber of Commerce
10:30-11:30 AM	Community Outreach	Oasis
Noon-1:00 PM	Chamber Members	Chamber of Commerce
1:00-2:00 PM	Veterans	Chamber of Commerce
2:00-3:00 PM	Tourism/Hospitality	Chamber of Commerce
5:15-6:15 PM	General Public	Nugget
7:00-8:00 PM	Students	Great Basis College
Thursday, October 13	Activity	Location
8:20-9:20 AM	Students	High School
10:00-11:00 AM	Non-Profits	Community Coalition
1:00-6:00 PM	Prepare Report	Chamber of Commerce
6:00-8:00 PM	Preliminary Report	Nye County Admin

In addition the team received written comments from more than 50 individuals.

Major Themes

Economic Development

- Strategic Plan
- Business Recruitment & Retention
- Have Potential
- Available Land
- World Class Assets
- Lack of Infrastructure
- Lack of Defined Industrial Area
- Cost of Start Up
- Impact Fees – County/Utilities
- Red Tape
- Workforce
- Retention & Leakage
- Local Decent Paying Jobs
- Logistics
- Great Tourism Potential
- Lack of Hotel Rooms
- Convention Center

Education

- Four-Year College
- Stand Alone College Campus
- Vo-Tech Education
- Business Specific Training
- Expanded Class Offerings
 - Cultural Classes
 - Business Training Courses
 - Health Care Courses
- Quality of Education
- Quality of Teachers
- High Dropout Rate
- Afterschool Programs

Governance

- Town/County Relationships
- Incorporation
- Regulations/Permits
- Master Plan
- No Shared Vision Town & County
- Leadership
- Decorum
- Consistency
- Apathy
- Stalled Projects
- Code Enforcement

Image & Communications

- Proximity to Las Vegas
- Proximity to Death Valley
- Proximity to Outdoor Activities
- Billboards
- Trash
- Gateways
- Identifiable Downtown
- PR – Inside & Outside
- Community Bulletin Boards
- Accessibility to Elected Officials
- Interpersonal Relationships

Infrastructure

- Roads
- Utilities
- Sidewalks/Street Lights
- Stoplights/Traffic Control
- Broadband
- Quality of TV Providers
- Industrial Parks
- Inter-Basin Transportation
- Local Airport

Quality of Life

- Proximity to Airport
- Hospital
- Medical Care
- Specialty Care
- Parks

- Recreational Programs
- Beautiful Scenery
- See the Stars
- Weather
- Indoor Recreational Facility/Pool
- Theater
- Movie Theater
- Poverty/Homelessness/Food Kitchen
- Social Services
- Cultural Center
- Inner-Basin Transportation
- Youth/Family Activities
- Lack of Restaurants
- Liberty & Freedom
- Library
- Drug Abuse Treatment
- Rural/Quiet/Open Space

Priority Setting Results

A Town Hall Meeting was held **Tuesday, January 17, 2012 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM in the Nugget Convention Center**. At that time, members of the Resource Team presented the Draft Report for the Town of Pahrump Community Assessment. Residents then prioritized the six themes identified through the listening sessions and begin to develop action plans to address the issues and concerns raised in those themes. The six themes in priority order are:

- Infrastructure
- Economic Development
- Education
- Governance
- Quality of Life
- Image & Communications

From the results of the Priority Setting Meeting, community members started working groups for the seven follow issues:

- Public Transportation
- Broadband Service
- Homeless shelter
- Infrastructure re: water/sewer
- Image (in particular signage and clean-up)
- Economic Development
- Youth Services

Also, Carolene Endersby, Town Board Member, and Butch Borosky, County Commissioner, will convene a series of Community Forums to discuss the issues raised in the assessment and how the community might work to resolve those issues.

Team Member Recommendations and Resources

Theme: Economic Development – David J. Foster

Issues:

- Jobs, Jobs, and Jobs!
- Business Recruitment & Retention
- Costs of Start-Up, Red Tape & Infrastructure Needs
- Workforce Development
- Lack of Defined Industrial Area
- Lack of Hotel Space

The participants in the listening sessions were overwhelmingly supportive of expanded economic development in Pahrump. They expressed a desire to see additional opportunities for well paid employment be brought to town for the betterment of the community. However, they do perceive many roadblocks to make this happen.

In every listening session, participants voiced their concern over the lack of “good paying” jobs in the community. Along with that, they expressed their optimism over assets Pahrump offers to starting or growing companies such as an abundance of land, relatively inexpensive land, a willing workforce, a high quality of life and a diverse retirement community that is willing to offer their expertise. These attributes should position the town well for future growth.

Largely, the participants were optimistic regarding the potential for economic development and expansion for the area. Given the abundance of land they see plenty of space and opportunity. Many expressed the need to offer incentives to recruit larger light manufacturing type businesses into the area. One commented that the “town and county need to come together to provide something that says we want you here, [we’re] willing to work with you”.

Infrastructure will be addressed in another section of this report. However, the citizens felt that the current lack of certain infrastructure played a major role in the lack of economic development. In conjunction with this, they expressed their concern over permitting and licensing and overall “red tape” in starting or building a business. Several attendees stated “you have to jump through too many hoops”. Many stated that there is confusion between the town and county over what is needed to legally own and operate a business within Pahrump.

Many participants within the listening sessions expressed the need for the development of an industrial park to attract new business to Pahrump. They felt the pre-development of such a park could remove some of the obstacles (roads, infrastructure, etc.) that have hindered businesses in the past.

Most participants were aware of the thriving “high line” type businesses in the area such as the Front Sight Firearms Training Institute, Spring Mountain Motorsports Ranch and the Pahrump Valley Winery which bring in many tourists. They also spoke about the numerous tourists travelling through town on their way to Death Valley and other destinations. The combination of

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

these comments brought out two issues: 1) a lack of hotel/motel accommodations in Pahrump; and 2) there are not enough “destination” stops for tourists in town.

Recommendations:

Like most of Nevada, the Town of Pahrump experienced significant growth throughout the 1990’s through the 2000’s. The primary industry in the area was construction. Pahrump has felt the “bust” in this industry as has all of southern Nevada. However, Pahrump has many assets in which it can capitalize on to diversify its economy to spur economic development and provide a high quality of life for the people that live within the community. These assets include:

- A large land area and the availability of inexpensive land for development
- A great location – Approximately 1-hour from McCarran Airport and the population of a major metropolitan area in addition to proximity to tourist destination such as Death Valley
- A Willing Workforce
- Thriving “High Line” type businesses in existence that drive traffic into town
- A large retirement community with diverse backgrounds who are willing to volunteer and mentor
- A local radio and television station

These are assets that many communities do not have and Pahrump has an abundance of all. The key to capitalizing on these attributes will be to overcoming the challenges identified by the community (whether real or perceived). These primary challenges are:

- How do we attract quality businesses that will pay good wages?
- How can we be seen as a “business friendly” town?
- How do we make sure our workforce is ready for the jobs of the 21st century?
- How can we make sure it is easy for businesses to start, grow, thrive and survive in town?
- How can we get more tourists into town?
- How can we get those tourists to stop and spend money as they are driving through town?

Nye County’s appointment of an Ombudsman several months ago was a positive step in creating a more business friendly environment. This position, which serves as a liaison between developers and numerous county departments should facilitate better communication between potential development officials and businesses wishing to locate within the county. A further step could be to create some type of “business help center” which could further help businesses wanting to start, grow or relocate into the area with navigation through the various permitting and licensing departments of the town and county. This could easily be accomplished through existing town personnel or the Chamber of Commerce.

Workforce development was an issue raised by many of the participants in the listening sessions. They were concerned that while the populace of Pahrump is willing to work, they may not be ready for the types of jobs they would like to see created in the area. The town should review the Brookings Institute Report that was recently completed for the Nevada Governor’s Office and work with Great Basin College, the Nevada Department of Employment, Training & Rehabilitation (DETR) and the Governor’s Office of Economic Development for future training needs. The State of Nevada will only be focusing on spending workforce training dollars on the

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

industry clusters identified in the recently completed Brookings Institute Report. Some of the industries identified; such as tourism & hospitality, military & defense and alternative energy (including manufacturing) fit in with the types of industry voiced by the attendees in the listening sessions and the assets of the town.

There appears to be a significant amount of tourist traffic travelling though Pahrump on a daily basis. Whether they are the pink Jeeps taking European tourists to Death Valley or exotic car drivers taking laps at Spring Mountain or gun enthusiasts taking classes at Front Sight, tourists are coming to Pahrump. The questions that kept coming up in the listening sessions and our meetings with the organizers were: 1) how can we get those cars that are passing though to stop in Pahrump; 2) How can we build more hotel rooms to accommodate the Front Sight and Spring Mountain folks, and 3) how can we get these tourists to stay a little longer and spend more money in town. These are all good questions. The solutions are not easy. They will need to be solved by private investment with public cooperation.

Pahrump, if it chooses, can be poised for economic growth. The town possesses tremendous assets in an abundance of land, a wonderful quality of life and a willing workforce for existing and future employers.

Resources:

USDA – Rural Development – Various Business & Economic Development Assistance
State Office 139 South Curry Street Carson City, NV 89703
Southern Nevada Area Office 5820 South Pecos Road Building A, Suite 400 Las Vegas, NV
89120 David J. Foster (702)262-9047 x103 <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/NVHome.html>

Rural Nevada Development Corporation (RNDC) – Small Business Loans
Al Parker/Pahrump Office 1301 S. Highway 160 NSB Building, Second Floor Pahrump, Nevada
89041 alparker@rmdcnv.org (775) 751-1947 <http://www.rndcnv.org/>

UNR Small Business Development Center – Small Business Assistance
Pahrump Office 1301 South Highway 160 NSB Building, 2nd Floor Pahrump, NV 89048
(775) 751-1947 <http://nsbdc.org/>

Governor's Office of Economic Development
808 West Nye Lane Carson City, Nevada 89703 Phone: (775) 687-9900
<http://www.diversifynevada.com/>

Brookings Institute Report -
http://www.brookings.edu/papers/2011/1114_nevada_economy.aspx

Small Business Administration – Small Business Assistance
Nevada District Office 400 South 4th Street Suite 250 Las Vegas, NV 89101 702-388-6611
<http://www.sba.gov/sba-direct/89048>

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

Nevada Department of Employment, Training & Rehabilitation

2800 E. St. Louis Ave. Las Vegas, NV 89104 (775) 684-3849 <http://www.nvdetr.org/>

Nevada Microenterprise Initiative (NMI) – Small Business Micro Loans

1600 East Desert Inn Road Las Vegas, NV 89169 (702) 734-3555 <http://www.4microbiz.org/>

SCORE – Business Counseling

400 South 4th Street Suite 250A Las Vegas, NV 89101 (702) 388-6104 <http://www.score.org/>

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

Economic Development – Shelley Hartmann

Issues:

- Town/County Relationships
- Lack of Central Industrial Park
- Lack of Central Business District
- Lack of a town center
- Regulations/Permits
- Regional Business Plan
- No Shared Vision Town & County
- Utilities
- Community Perception Internal/External
- Consistency
- Stalled Projects
- Lack of Transportation and Logistics
- Community Quirks
- Broadband

Economic Development of the Town of Pahrump was a theme that appeared in nearly all of the listening sessions. The community is very diverse and populated by several factions who are very passionate about their particular viewpoints. It appeared as if there are few shared viewpoints, but on reviewing my notes and those of our other team members, the themes did seem similar even though residents don't seem to think they all have similar goals.

For instance everyone agreed that there is a bottle neck at the community/county level when it comes to developing any project. Also perceived as an obstruction to growth were:

- The expense of development permits
- Too many Utilities
- No clear central location to accomplish planning
- Permitting process is convoluted, expensive and political
- Community has a reputation as being difficult to work within

The community is addressing some of this with the working group at Valley Electric, a county ombudsman to coordinate projects and a temporary freezing of permit costs and impact fees.

The community has managed to attract three major anchors that are not being leveraged. Front Sight, Mountain Falls Golf Course and Spring Mountain Motor Sports Ranch which are high end developments that present opportunity for growth in the Pahrump Valley. The community also has attracted some big box stores and a private prison. All of these assets are important to the continued growth of the community and represent some opportunity for diversification.

All three were mentioned as assets to the region; however, an internet search does not always pick all of them up as local assets. The area has beautiful public schools located around the area, a nice library, recreation in many forms, casinos, great climate, lots of water and a host of other valuable assets not being leveraged to their fullest extent.

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

There are private airports, but no public airport which was also discussed as a future need. DHL, UPS and Federal Express serve the community but there doesn't seem to be a coordinated logistical plan.

As with every community there are challenges with homelessness, unemployment, lack of jobs for youth, retail sector growth, industrial attraction, and all of the supporting industry.

The perception of certain community members is that the 'outside' world has a negative image of them and therefore is hesitant to invest in the region. That subject/theme will be discussed elsewhere.

A great deal of concern was expressed about the contentious public meetings and fear that the atmosphere will scare off any serious investor. The lively meetings are perceived as being full of a vocal few and there is a lot of community concern that the contentiousness of county and town meetings is a severe constraint on future developments. There was the viewpoint expressed that the vocal few are delaying projects unnecessarily. There is a lot of frustration with the elected officials at every level for their handling of these contentious meetings. However, it was also stated in most meetings that they appreciated the approachability of their elected officials. While there was concern about the various groups that clash in the community, most sessions discussed the high quality of people moving into the town, the educated and energetic retirees and the fact that the community is 'there' for anyone in need or during an emergency.

The community is a mixture of residents who moved to the community for the space, lack of a lot of government intrusion and the low cost to live. There are those who moved there for the opportunity and those who have moved there for the freedom that is not available elsewhere.

Many voiced concern that the community does not yet have broadband and that was seen as a detriment to attracting investors and new industry.

The final concern was that the community has not got a stand-alone college or university and that the existing community college appears to be more of an extension of the high school rather than a college. Workforce training and skilled graduates were both sited as concerns for the community.

Recommendations:

The sooner Nye County residents accept that EVERYONE is on the economic development team and important to the success of the community the sooner the community will see positive results on job creation and development of the community. We now have a Governor who will make a personal call to your client to welcome them to the state. It is as important that a local elected official also make a welcoming call and make sure any questions asked are answered in a timely manner. This is coordinated by your state recognized economic development authority. The point of contact should be the economic development professional and all questions asked from the client and the community should go through the economic development office. This central Point Of Contact (POC) makes sure nothing is forgotten, it insure that all needs of the client are

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

addressed and it insures that lack of communication cannot cause a failure for any job creation project. A hatchet burying ceremony could go far towards repairing real and perceived opposition between the county and town.

Community Business Plan: Often a company that is considering a move to town will ask what is the local business plan, do I fit into what you want for the future? It is important for the community to have a community business plan. Like the planning master plan, it outlines what the community goals are, what industry they'd like to attract, what the process is for developing in Pahrump and what actions the community as a whole intends to undertake to grow.

Asset Map: The community is not aware of all of its assets; every asset has to be considered for a holistic growth plan. UNR's Buddy Borden and Tom Harris are excellent resources for this process.

Rapid Response Team: Communication is key. The economic development representative has state law that protects their clients from revelation of their project until the client is ready to go public. A nondisclosure agreement is signed by the economic development professional and every member of the rapid response team to give the company protection and assurance that their proprietary information will be protected by all people they meet with.

Community-County relationships when contentious, can present obstructions to the growth of the community. The length of meetings and the contentiousness of the public meeting process could indeed put an investor off. The new ombudsman may be the answer for this concern, however, the Economic Development professional that works in the area needs to brief every client about the process and prepare them for the way the community works through the decision making process and help them be aware of the way meetings are handled locally. Clients when prepared for the process feel more secure no matter what happens. A rapid response team that can be called in early on in the process could include:

- The Ombudsman
- Economic Development Professional
- Town Representative
- County Representative
- Planning Representative
- Utilities Representative for ALL proper utilities
- Fire Department
- Building Department
- Any state agency that may oversee licensing such as health department, gaming etc. if available.

Resources that should be taken to the initial rapid response meeting are zoning maps, applications for planning, business licenses, all county and town applications pertinent to the process. This group can develop in the first meeting a workable time line for the applicant to define what they need to do, how long it will take, what it will cost and when they can realistically break ground. Having someone briefed at every level of government is important to the successful development. Making sure the client gets NO surprises is very important.

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

Information Kiosks at very entrance to town: Often future clients make unannounced tours of a community; this experience can either help or ruin your chances. The easier the community makes it to find information, the more competitive the community can be. Never assume you are the only community the company is visiting, most companies shop several states before decision making. Often you won't meet the decision maker at all, but a site selector. The easier the community makes it for the site selector or potential developer, the more likely they will start going through their site selection process and real information gathering.

The town is so big and scattered out that information kiosks with as much information about the town such as who to talk to and how to contact them is helpful. The other important action here is a public education campaign, similar to tourism, the front line citizen needs to know who to talk to, who is the economic development professional, who will take their hand and help them bring their company to town, and how to contact them. Business cards in all hotels, restaurants and public places or brochures specifying who to contact are important. This packet needs to be the same no matter who has it to hand to the potential client.

Resource Kit For Rapid Response Team: Whether or not this is paper or electronic it must be updated constantly, it should include all planning applications, meeting times, office locations, who is economic development contact, who is responsible for planning coordination, a basic time line on how the local process works, and maps to where everything is.

The community needs maps done to show zoning, infrastructure locations, flood information, where other economic development projects are located, where any county land for sale is located,

- Valley Electric contact card
- What utilities operate where with a rate sheet attached
- Zoning and where industrial land is located
- Handout with all websites that describe the community, where to find planning documents, NRS online, Statues online,
- Every Realtor in town
- Any request the client makes should be answered in a timely manner.

Leveraging Existing Assets: Front Sight and the other world class developments in the community are not being leveraged to maximum benefit. The number of visitors that move through these facilities offer a great opportunity within the community.

There is a need in the community to develop 300 more rooms for visitors who now drive over the mountain to Las Vegas. The opportunity for further development is ripe as well. If there are people waiting for that 4 days in a motel room and not seeing the community a huge opportunity is being missed for bringing those visitors back for future events.

Art Shows and classes Craft Shows and classes, guided tours of the community's other assets are all business opportunities with great potential. There is a trend now for urban dwellers to come to rural areas to participate in immersion courses for farming, acting, arts, crafts, culinary arts and other self-improvement skills. Filling out the tourism offering is a ripe opportunity. Surveys

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

of existing visitors to the anchor facilities can help the community define in their business plan how to capture more of their investment dollars.

The quality of visitor behooves the community to identify what they want, and how to provide it whether it is more shopping, more classes and tours or different skills than what their spouse is developing in their visit. This could be coordinated with the companies.

Water is an enormous asset in Pahrump; it is a rare commodity in other rural communities and should be protected and used to its highest potential. There are communities who cannot attract certain industry because they are water intensive users and this would give Pahrump an edge against communities in the west where water is not so plentiful.

Eco-Tourism is another opportunity in Pahrump, the trend in tourism now is stay-cations, and traveling American locations because there is a lot of danger perceived in world travel. The nearby Ash Meadows area, the Spring Mountains and other places for hiking or camping are under developed and the local climate allows for the area to be a winter destination for snow birds and others who want to bask in the sun.

Public Airport: The visitors to the community could benefit greatly from a public airport facility. A new rural Nevada airline is developing; they have included Pahrump in their schedule because of the potential they see in the area. This would make accessing Pahrump's world class assets easier and more economical.

Broadband: Without high speed internet a new college, new industry or any new facilities can be difficult to develop. Fortunately Arizona Nevada Tower has been working on linking all rural broadband.

Defined entrances to town: NDOT has a grant program to put in town entrances, it would help define for visitors when town begins and be a potential local for information kiosks.

Resources:

The Governor's Office of Economic Development: <http://www.diversifynevada.com/>

Nevada League of Cities: <http://www.nvleague.org/>

Nevada Department of Transportation: <http://nevadadot.com>

Nevada Association of Counties: <http://nvnaco.org/>

Nevada Revised Statutes: <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/nrs/>

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

Theme: Education – Carl Dahlen

Issues:

- Four-Year College
- Stand Alone College Campus
- Vo-Tech Education
- Business Specific Training
- Expanded Class Offerings
 - Cultural Classes
 - Business Training Courses
 - Health Care Courses
- Quality of Education
- Quality of Teachers
- High Dropout Rate
- Afterschool Programs

When it comes to the issues surrounding education, there will not be much opportunity for change until the Nevada economy turns the corner and begins an upswing. Given the status of the state's financial condition, both k-12 and higher education are unable to make serious changes. One Middle School student put the problem succinctly, "There is not enough school budget." However, this situation gives the community the opportunity to plan for the future of education in Pahrump. Fortunately, the community was able to build new facilities during the time of economic growth. These facilities will allow for expansion of educational opportunities as the economy gets back on track.

One of the great assets in Pahrump is the presence of Great Basin College (GBC). One commenter noted, "We have a community college here – a lot of smaller cities don't have any type of colleges." However, there is a strong desire to separate the college campus from the high school campus. In the listening sessions, the team heard, "We have a great impetus to separate the college from the high school. Too many students think they are continuing on with high school. At the south end of town there are 230 acres planned for a college complex." The concern is that students will not remain in Pahrump unless there are greater post secondary educational opportunities. One person noted, "I was at the high school last night and they had a senior meeting and not one of the seniors that I talked to last night is going to stay in Pahrump." Expanding higher education in Pahrump is seen as one way to keep young people in the community. That expansion may include a greater presence by GBC or an effort to attract another college or university to the area. One commenter said, "GBC needs to offer more diverse programs and degree opportunities." Another said, "A major university here would provide skilled labor force and entice business here. It would also bring in money from students." In either event, people would like to see higher education expanded to include vocational education, cultural opportunities, business training and classes for health care workers. "We have a need for an academic college with two and four year degrees that includes vocational training, a business incubator program and a center for the performing arts."

Another issue noted during the listening sessions is the quality of k-12 education in Pahrump. The team heard mixed messages along this line. Where the public schools were seen as an asset by some, others noted the need for improvement. One commenter felt, "Students are not ready for college." Another said, "We need a better public education system." The new facilities were seen as assets in the community. It was noted, "We have pretty quality educational facilities, especially with the new high school going up." However one commenter was concerned that even with the new facilities, the schools

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

needed more attention. “The schools are too full with up to 45 kids in a class. There are no sports for kids until high school and no music program.”

Another issue identified during the listening sessions dealt with after school programs. It was noted that the Boys and Girls Club was disbanded. Even though there is a local program that is taking its place, some people were not aware of it. “We need a year-round after school program. We do have a summer program but it is tentative and depends on private funding.” This issue extends to the whole community. The team heard comments like, “There are not enough good quality programs for the youth to be involved in outside of the actual school setting.” And, “There is a need to develop programs so that kids have a safe place to go to after school or at night for teen dances or movies.”

The one very strong asset mentioned numerous times is the quality of the library in Pahrump. The team heard, “The library is awesome. It is a very impressive size for such a small community.” And, “I would like to reiterate that the library is absolutely phenomenal. I have lived in thirteen states and belonged to every single library. The Pahrump Library is Class A.” It was also noted that, “We have great kids in community, kids that step up and volunteer and help support other kids. Our kids help families through tough economic times.” Even with the challenges to the education system, there are positive attributes and outcomes in Pahrump.

Recommendations:

Pahrump is fortunate to have the presence of Great Basin College (GBC) in the community. According to the GBC website for the Pahrump Campus, there are plans for a new 14,000 square foot facility on the north side of the valley. A new campus for GBC would provide the separation from the high school that has been called for by some people during the listening sessions. It is not clear whether the proposed project is related to the proposed 230 acre site on the south end of the valley. Western Nevada College in Carson City is another school that has campuses in multiple communities. Each of those campuses has an Advisory Committee made up of local citizens that help the college administration plan for the needs of the community. If such an advisory committee is not in place for GBC in Pahrump, one should be established so that the college and community residents have a means of dialogue. Dialogue will be important not only to discuss the possible location of a future campus but also the number and types of courses available on the Pahrump campus. It is not clear whether or not a student can obtain a four-year degree in Pahrump or does a student need to transfer to Elko for that to happen.

In regard to attracting a four-year institution, one possible source of information may be the National Association of Private Colleges and Universities. With more than 900 members, the association may be aware of any of its members that might be looking for an expansion or relocation to a western site. Such a school might be willing to consider a community like Pahrump especially if there is land available for a campus. Sierra Nevada College in Incline Village has worked with some of the colleges in Nevada to offer four-year degrees in conjunction with their course work. Pahrump might be a consideration for a southern Nevada location if the college is interested in being closer to the Las Vegas market. Another possible consideration for expansion might be through Nevada State College in Henderson. As a new and growing institution, they may consider a branch campus in a more rural setting like Pahrump. All of this discussion is speculative, but these are possibilities worth exploring. A college or university will not consider Pahrump unless they are aware of what Pahrump has to offer. Again, a local planning committee should be established to help the community determine what kind of institution might be best suited for Pahrump.

For improvements to the current public education system, local citizens need to word closely with the Nye County School District Superintendent. Public funding will always be limited by the formula for the State School Distributive Account process. That process ensures that each district in the Nevada public

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

school system receives an equal distribution of all public funds, local and state. In order for a district to have additional funds, they must be raised locally through the efforts of the citizens of a community. There is already a Parent-Teacher Association in Pahrump that helps find new resources for the local schools. However, education of our children should not be limited to just parents and teachers. For our schools to be successful, the whole community needs to be part of the process of finding solutions. One possible alternative is to create a Pahrump School Booster Club. The club would help find resources to enhance school operations. With the number of retirees in the community, it may be possible to find people with skills they would be willing to pass on to kids. The Nye County Coalition has a number of programs for young people and might be able to direct willing volunteers to places they can help bring new learning opportunities to kids. Also, the Pahrump Valley High School has a number of clubs and organizations that might be able to use volunteers to help augment their programs. One sure way to show students community support is to attend school sports and other events. Just think of what it would mean to students if everyone in town was wearing a Trojan sweatshirt or hat. Community members should find out what their schools need for students and find ways other than public financing to fill those needs.

Resources:

Great Basin College – www.gbcnv.edu

National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities – www.naicu.edu

Sierra Nevada College – www.sierranevada.edu

Nevada State College – www.nsc.nevada.edu

Nye County School District – www.nyecounty.schoolinsites.com

Nye County Coalition – www.nyecc.org

Pahrump Valley High School – www.pvalley-hs.nye.k12.nv.us

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

Theme: Education – David J. Foster

Issues:

- Stand Alone College Campus
- Expanded Class Offerings at Great Basin
 - Vo-Tech Education
 - Business Specific Training
 - Healthcare Courses
 - Cultural Courses
- Quality of Education and Teachers
- After School Programs
- Four-Year College

Many participants in the listening sessions saw the current educational opportunities in Pahrump as both an asset and a challenge. Many comments were made regarding the fact that a higher learning institution was located within the community (Great Basin College) that provided educational opportunities beyond high school. Many communities the size of Pahrump do not have such an opportunity. However, frequent comments were made regarding the current location of the college and would like to see expanded course offerings.

Participants expressed their concerns that the current curriculum offering at Great Basin College was not adequate to meet the demands of the community. They would like course offerings expanded to include: 1) vocational courses such as plumbing, electrical, expanded computer certification courses, construction services; business training courses; additional healthcare courses; and, cultural courses.

Numerous comments were made by attendees about what an asset the Pahrump library is to the community. It was referred to as “Class A”.

Some in the business community stated that they need a better educated workforce. One business owner stated “I run a company and have no way to hire people that are qualified to do some of the jobs I need them to do”. His suggestion was some type of specific vocational training.

During our listening sessions at the high school and at Great Basin College we met some quality educators and students. The educators showed a passion for teaching while the students were fully engaged and expressed the desire to stay in Pahrump after high school if there were opportunities for them to do so. The students concern was that the educational system in Pahrump did not match the career opportunities in Pahrump.

In almost every listening session we participated in, attendees brought up the subject of the lack of after school programs for kids. From the middle schooler’s to the folks at the senior center, they all identified the need for additional activities for children in the after school hours.

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

Participants expressed their willingness to support a 4-year college in the community which would both keep the graduating Pahrump students in town to continue their education but could also bring kids in from other parts of the state and country to study and earn degrees.

Recommendations:

During our tour of the town, we were shown a proposed sight to relocate Great Basin College to property on the south end of town on SR 160. Expanding and augmenting an existing educational system can be difficult, particularly in today's tight budgetary environment. It would be in the town's best interest to continue pursuing their plans for the expansion of Great Basin College to the proposed new location.

Great Basin College should continue working with the town leaders and residents to determine a curriculum that best suits the needs of the citizens of Pahrump. It appears that many of the courses that the attendees of the listening sessions expressed a need for are already offered by Great Basin College at their other locations. Perhaps these courses could be added to the offerings at the Pahrump campus.

The state of Nevada offers numerous programs specific to job training. Both the Nevada Department of Training and Rehabilitation (DETR) and Nevada JobConnect can provide vocational type training. These programs can be utilized to train workers in specific types of industries that are located in Pahrump and those looking to relocate into town.

Overwhelmingly, attendees at the listening sessions expressed the desire for expanded after school programs for the children of Pahrump. Community leaders should contact the Nevada After School Network and the Nevada After School Alliance for additional resources and programs.

Resources:

Nevada Department of Education: <http://www.doe.nv.gov/>

Nevada System of Higher Education: <http://system.nevada.edu/Nshe/index.cfm>

Nevada Department of Training and Rehabilitation: <http://www.nvdetr.org/esd.htm>

Nevada JobConnect: http://www.nvdetr.org/worforce_investment_pages/jobconnect.htm

Nevada After School Network: <http://nevadaafterschoolnetwork.org/index.php>

Nevada After School Alliance:
http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/policystatefacts.cfm?state_abbr=NV

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

Theme: Governance – Carl Dahlen

Issues:

- Town/County Relationships
- No Shared Vision Town & County
- Incorporation
- Regulations/Permits
- Stalled Projects
- Code Enforcement
- Consistency
- Master Plan
- Leadership
- Decorum
- Apathy

One thing that became evident as we listened to citizens of Pahrump is that everyone the team heard from cared about Pahrump and its future. The team heard in one comment, “There are good people on the town board trying to do something.” Another person said, “Most leaders of our community want Pahrump to grow and be a great town to live in.” There are of course differences of opinion on what the future might look like and how the community should go forward to meet it. However it was clear that people cared. Also, people noted that they can come together and work out their differences and reach common goals. One comment was clear on that point, “Certainly, a lot of groups within the community pull together for a common good and give back to the community.” In addition, a commenter noted, “We have faith based organizations and a large number of churches in our valley. They are all active and very much concerned about the community.” This is the good news, there are groups and individuals working in the community to address issues and make a positive future for Pahrump. The main focus of these efforts is that Pahrump becomes a healthy, vibrant, productive community that is able to meet the needs of its citizens.

It was also clear to the team that there are challenges within the community as it moves forward. During the Listening Sessions, the team heard from many people that there is a lack of vision in Pahrump. One commenter identified this lack of a shared vision as a major issue, “A major challenge in our community of about 36,500 people is that we are a very diverse community and it is difficult to get different segments to agree on a common point.” Particularly there is concern that the Town Board and the County Commission do not share a common vision. One person put it this way, “There is a lack of the two entities working towards a common cause. The town and the county are unable to come together to have a shared vision. Too many people with egos are fighting one another.” Another person stated, “We need a pro-active government whose actions are not reactions and does not do management by crisis. We need a cohesive, shared vision for the long-term.”

Some people feel that government is too intrusive. “There is too much government--too much interference. It is chasing away people who would like to invest in this community,” is one comment heard by the team. As a result they feel that businesses cannot and will not come to Pahrump because of too many regulations and the process of obtaining permits is too complex. The County Economic Development and Business Retention Ombudsman helps businesses wanting to come to Pahrump find the way to work through the various processes necessary to locate in the community. But people feel that infighting among decision makers discourages people from bringing business to the community. One

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

commenter said, “I would like to be involved in the community and to go to the town meetings, but the meetings are not run correctly, and my clients get turned off by these meetings.” Another said, “There is too much infighting among our politicians. They need to focus more on objectives.”

A major problem is a lack of civility in how community issues are addressed. Putting it simply one commenter said, “We need to raise the bar of the way that we treat one another.” From a different person we heard, “We need to introduce some civility into the community. Animosity, directed personally to people on the board, is not a positive environment for anything. It only inhibits progress.” As a result, some people have withdrawn from civic activities altogether.

This lack of shared vision among local decision makers, the perception of “in-fighting” between the town and the county, and a lack of decorum at civic meetings, lead some residents to think that other forms of governance might be a better way for the community to move forward. One form might be to incorporate Pahrump as a city rather than a town. However, strong opinions on both sides of the issue were expressed. One person in a written comment said, “We are not and do not want to be incorporated! (No matter how many times you make us vote on it).” On the other hand another person commented, “Incorporation – I know this is a sensitive issue. I think we need to explore it on a rational, logical basis in terms of the advantages and disadvantages. I have been through this twice in other towns and it proved to be beneficial to the community in both cases. You control the negative aspects and reinforce the positive aspects. Incorporation gives the town control over its own destiny, and citizens actually have better access to government.” A major concern about incorporation is summed up in the following statement, “Incorporation may result in increased taxes. There may be possible increases in expenses for police and fire.”

Changing the form of governance will not, in it self, necessarily make a difference in how the community can move forward. Citizens of Pahrump must determine what their future can and should look like. One of the comments clearly stated, “We need a strategic development plan to guide us in how to develop our community the way we want it.” This assessment is a good first step in the creation of such a plan.

Recommendations:

Too often we think of Governance as elected or appointed officials who make decisions on behalf of the community. “Governance” becomes “Government” and residents tend to remove themselves from the decision making process. Community problems become “government problems” and government representatives are expected to fix their problems. On the last page of this report is a brief statement “Traits of Good Governance” that says in part:

Effective governance incorporates a variety of decision-making and implementation practices by a wide range of people, organizations, and institutions beyond government. These include non-profit groups, faith-based organizations, community foundations, citizen alliances, community colleges, business associations, and others.

This type of Governance does not just happen. It can only occur as citizens pull together around common goals. Their actions must be intentional and involve as many citizens as are willing to participate. Without a vision and commonly held goals, the community will lack a unified voice and will lose credibility with outside entities.

The results of this assessment should provide community members with the beginning of a strategic plan that can carry Pahrump into the future. Not everyone has embraced this process, but those who have can

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

begin to make a difference. There is already a strong beginning within the community. As has been noted, there are groups and individuals who are accomplishing many positive activities in Pahrump. One way to engage more people in the process is to invite people to join those efforts. Nothing succeeds like success. As people experience positive achievements, they will seek to become part of the success. But it is not enough to simply send out an open invitation. The community must develop a process to actively reach out to its residents and offer them opportunities to participate. These opportunities can come through civic organizations, service clubs, faith based groups, and the town itself.

Not everyone will be in a position to become engaged in community activities. This lack of engagement is particularly true since a large number of residents commute each day to Las Vegas. At least two hours on the road every day significantly reduces the time many people have to contribute beyond the demands of their families. However, there are a large number of retirees in Pahrump who might be available for volunteer activities. As one commenter pointed out, "Problem is a lot of the seniors are very gifted and could be involved. But they do not enter into the structure that we have." The community needs to build a structure that encourages people to become involved. Nevada Volunteers is one organization that focuses on matching peoples skills with volunteer opportunities. They also provide training in how to work with volunteers and networking between groups that use volunteers. Locally, the Nye County Coalition offers many opportunities for people to become involved in local volunteer efforts.

Another resource for the community is through the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension and their leadership programs. One program, Engaged Leadership for Nevada, is a skill based leadership development program focused on building local community capacity. It is focused on turning everyday residents into active and engaged citizens. The program is designed to build a network of civic, business, government, volunteer, and non-profit leaders in rural Nevada communities. Training in Engaged Leadership for Nevada is available through Cooperative Extension and the Nevada Rural Development Council.

In regard to the form of government that is best for Pahrump, the community needs to hold a series of community conversations to explore the pros and cons of various options. One forum that could provide the opportunity for these conversations is the Nevada Center for Public Policy Dialogue. However, for these conversations to be valid there needs to be an effort to bring various opinions to the table. Getting information on how different forms of government might work in Pahrump will be necessary for these conversations to take place. An example of the current form of government with both the county and towns in place is working effectively in Douglas County. Two relatively new incorporated cities include Fernley and Mesquite. Consideration of incorporation should include discussions with elected officials, staff and residents of these cities to determine what is working for them and what some of their challenges have been. Another option that could be explored would be to form a new County including either just the Town of Pahrump or the whole area from Beatty south. If just the area of the town were to become its own county, Carson City provides a model of a Consolidated Municipality that represents a combined city/county form of government. The Nevada Revised Statutes provide language that describes these various forms of government. Both the Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities and the Nevada Association of Counties may be able to provide assistance to the community in exploring the question of the most appropriate form of government for Pahrump.

No matter what form the government may take, local residents, elected officials and town/county staff need to create a vision for the future of Pahrump and develop a plan to carry out that vision. A series of workshops could take place to lead the community to its vision and set goals and objectives that will guide the community into a positive future. Both Cooperative Extension and the Nevada Rural Development Council have resources to help the community in this process. A shared vision provides direction for any activities undertaken by the community within the broader context of "governance." Various groups can then use the vision to form their own plans and strategies.

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

Within all these conversations, workshops, forums and public gatherings, citizens of Pahrump must learn to work together in a civil manner. It is important that people treat each other with respect, particularly when there are significant differences of opinion. Conversations should focus on issues and not on personalities. If some people persist in a lack of decorum, responding in kind will only escalate the situation. Community members can learn how to deal with conflicts in public settings. Because people relate to issues and concerns in different ways, civic leaders need to learn the skill of conflict management. Even people who disagree on specific points may find themselves in agreement on most issues. Helping people learn to listen to various opinions without sacrificing their own, to express their ideas without shouting or name calling, and to work together toward common goals, will provide the community with a stronger citizenry able to lead Pahrump into its future. These are not easy tasks and will require time, effort and patience from all concerned.

Resources:

Nevada Volunteers – www.nevadavolunteers.org

Nye County Coalition – www.nyecc.org

University of Nevada Cooperative Extension – www.unce.unr.edu

Nevada Rural Development Council – www.ruralnevada.org

Nevada Center for Public Policy Dialogue – Contact Carolene Endersby, Chair, 775/513-0709

Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities – www.nvleague.org

Nevada Association of Counties – www.nvnaco.org

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

Theme: Governance – Michael Guss

Issues:

- Town/County Relationships
- Incorporation
- Regulations/Permits
- Master Plan
- No Shared Vision Town & County
- Leadership
- Decorum
- Consistency
- Apathy
- Stalled Projects
- Code Enforcement

The governance of the Town of Pahrump was a theme that appeared in nearly all of the listening sessions.

For purposes of further discussion, it is useful to describe the powers enumerated to the Pahrump Town Board, an elected body serving the unincorporated Town of Pahrump, by the Nye County Commission. According to a feasibility study on incorporation of the Town of Pahrump done in 2008, the powers of the Pahrump Town Board are:

- “1) hold, manage, use and dispose of real and personal property belonging to the town;
- 2) grant franchises for the construction, maintenance and operation of television systems;
- 3) condemn property for town use;
- 4) institute and maintain actions in court;
- 5) enact ordinances, rules and regulations;
- 6) license and regulated professions, trades and businesses, and to suppress certain other businesses;
- 7) regulate vehicular traffic by ordinance;
- 8) regulate public health and safety by ordinances, including the abatement of nuisances’ regulation and storage of explosives and combustible materials, and control of animals running at large;
- 9) create a police department;
- 10) create fire companies and fire departments;
- 11) levy sewer, sidewalk, street light, and other types of similar assessments;
- 12) construct municipal buildings;
- 13) issue bonds for sewer systems”¹

Some residents of Pahrump feel that these powers do not adequately meet the demands of 21st Century governance; other residents of Pahrump feel that these powers are too much and that

¹ Murray, Laurayne, et al. *Pahrump Valley Incorporation Feasibility Study*. Pahrump Incorporation Advisory Board: June 24, 2008.

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

regulations and ordinances passed by the Town Board can infringe upon their liberty, which is what attracted them to Pahrump to begin with.

The fundamental issues on governance in Pahrump are:

- Whether the Town Board should be completely abolished, as several participants in listening sessions advocated?
- Whether Pahrump should be incorporated?
- Or whether Pahrump should keep its structure of an unincorporated Town Board with limited powers enumerated by the Nye County Commission?

This writing will not attempt to answer the question of which approach is better—that is a decision for locals to make. This report will consider all three options available to the Town of Pahrump equally and provide suggestions about how each option might be implemented by a majority of the community. The final decision on how to address governance issues within the Town of Pahrump is a decision for Pahrump residents to make.

Recommendations:

One of the more eloquent quotes we heard during our listening sessions was,

“I personally moved to Pahrump for the liberty and freedom. I liked having my animals and being able to keep my cars in my yard. Liberty is going away in Pahrump and that scares me.”

This quote, the wide open spaces, the liberty to do as one pleases with their own property, and the ability to be away from it all are why very *limited* government suits Pahrump. Not one of the people we heard from during our week in Pahrump wanted a government that tells people what to do with their own lives.

On one level, abolishing the Town Board form of government may work for Pahrump. If one believes, as most Pahrump residents do, that *less government is better government*, then reducing the number of governments operating within the town makes sense.

The elimination of the Town Board would have to be conducted according to NRS 269.022, which establishes the procedure for a County Commission to eliminate an elected Town Board:

“Discontinuance of elected town board: Procedure. If the board of county commissioners determines that the best interests of the town are no longer served by a town board form of government, it may order the question to be put on the ballot at the next general election. If the majority of persons voting favor discontinuance of the town board form of government, the town board shall cease to function at the end of the terms of office of the incumbent members of the town board, and the government of the town and all of its assets and liabilities shall revert to the board of county commissioners.”
(Source: Nevada Revised Statutes 269.022).

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

The abolishment of the Pahrump Town Board would take action by the Nye County Commission and a successful referendum by voters in an election. Though this result is possible, it is unlikely.

Additionally, even if the Town Board was eliminated, some of the features of government that Pahrump residents find irksome would simply be transferred from the Pahrump Town Board to the Nye County Commission, which would be solely responsible for the local governance of Pahrump after the abolishment of the Town Board.

County Commissions, under the Nevada Revised Statutes, have the power to regulate animal ownership (NRS 244.355), conduct nuisance abatements (NRS 244.360), and set standards of upkeep for property owners (NRS 244.265).

These factors should be considered by Pahrump residents when they debate and determine the future of governance in Pahrump over the coming years.

Many residents felt the need for more local control. Nye County is an extremely large geographic county, and because Pahrump is a three hour drive from the county seat of Tonopah, residents frequently felt that Pahrump's problems were not always immediately addressed by a county government responsible for such a vast territory. These residents, in general, felt that incorporation of the Town of Pahrump would provide residents with a more local, efficient, smaller, and effective form of government.

Nevada Revised Statutes generally allow some latitude to cities that are incorporated. Not all powers allowed by the NRS have to be exercised by an incorporated city. And if the residents of Pahrump chose to incorporate, there would be items that are allowed by NRS that could be specifically prohibited in a city charter.

Incorporated cities, among other powers, have the power to acquire, sell, or lease property for purposes of industrial development (NRS 268.048); operate a municipal utility (NRS 268.084); operate an emergency telephone number (NRS 268.765); establish a business improvement district (NRS 268.801); advertise the City's advantages to spur economic development (NRS 268.440); license businesses (NRS 268.0955); engage in planning and zoning activities (NRS 268.190); and discourage criminal gang activity through certain official City actions (NRS 268.4128).

Some of the powers of an incorporated City would address some of the problems we heard throughout our week in Pahrump. But incorporation means additional government in the minds of many Pahrump residents. The question of whether incorporation can solve some of Pahrump's problems while, at the same time, protect the "liberty and freedom" that so many moved to Pahrump for is a question for locals to decide as they debate and discuss the future of governance in Pahrump over the next few years.

The final option, as it always must be, is for governance in Pahrump to remain the same. The powers of Town Boards, as established by NRS Chapter 269, are limited. Many of the functions of local government—such as the levying of taxes (NRS 269.115), or the decision to establish a Board of Health within a town (NRS 269.190)—can only be done by the County Commission.

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

This additional level of government can be a hassle to individuals seeking a permit or wanting to conduct a small business development project. Though Nye County has an office in Pahrump and the consolidated “one-stop shop” was complimented by many residents, having to navigate two bureaucracies instead of one bureaucracy adds time to the process of obtaining a permit, paying a tax bill, or advocating on a particular issue. This frustration seemed to be the driving force behind the support for incorporation we heard in the community.

On the other hand, the existing Town Board structure of government acts as a natural check on government. The bifurcated nature of government within Pahrump is true to James Madison’s ideal of a government whose pace was controlled was a government that could not take sudden, rash actions to limit the freedoms of individual citizens.

Whether the existing structure of the Pahrump Town Board works for the town or not is something for residents to discuss and debate over the next few years as they decide the future of governance in Pahrump.

From our listening sessions *there is not an overwhelming majority that favors any of the options available to Pahrump*. There are some people who would like to see the Town Board abolished because they view it as an unneeded form of government; there are some people who would like to incorporate into the City of Pahrump because they believe incorporation would create a more efficient and responsive government; and there are some people that like the form of governance in Pahrump as it is.

My only recommendation for residents of Pahrump going forward is to treat each other with *respect* when discussing issues relevant to the future of the community. All three sides on the governance of Pahrump deeply care about the community, its freedom, and its meaning. There may be disagreements, even heated disagreements, between two neighbors who have different views on the means to take to a common goal, but those disagreements should not allow people to not do right by their neighbors and relatives.

Resources:

Nevada League of Cities: <http://www.nvleague.org/>

Nevada Association of Counties: <http://nvnaco.org/>

Fred Turnier, AICP, Interim City Manager of Fernley (Fernley incorporated within the past ten years and the mechanics of how that was done could be asked of Fred),
fturnier@cityoffernley.org

Nevada Revised Statutes: <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/nrs/>

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

Theme: Community Image – Shelley Hartmann

Issues:

- Low self-image
- Outside perceptions are bad
- Lack of Central Business District
- Community clean up
- Lack of code enforcement
- Lack of a brand

At all listening sessions the citizens had a concern about the perception of the community both internally and externally. There was a concern that only bad news is ever reported, that if the news media in Las Vegas are going to mention Pahrump it will always be in a negative manner.

The other great concern in the sessions were that areas of the community are not as well kept as other parts, and the many business centers give a very scattered and unkempt look to the community making it appear to not be a community serious about growth and attracting investment.

On the other hand, many expressed their concern that the freedom they moved to Pahrump for would be lost as the community grows and that the freedom they moved to Pahrump to enjoy will be lost through over reaching rules and regulations. The fear of being ‘bullied’ by new rules and regulation and driven from their community was expressed by people that came to some of the assessment meetings.

The community is known for its contentious meetings but the community is also growing weary of the contentious meetings. The meetings have a lot of participation which is a good way to make sure everyone is heard, however, it also is seen as a means to complicate and slow down the development process.

There were a lot of comments regarding the brothel signs and the way it makes the community looks. The signage community wide was very diverse and not always in good repair.

Community members that participated in the listening sessions could not point to a central brand or cohesive statement that defines the community in a positive manner.

Recommendations:

Vision: Pahrump should undergo a ‘visioning’ process with participation from ALL community sectors. This can be lead by NRDC, or the Governor’s office of Economic Development, CDBG can provide grant dollars to help the community with a visioning process and branding. There are various other resources through the university system.

Once this ‘vision’ is defined it should be put on every public bulletin board in a poster format and shared with the news media. It must be included in the community business plan and in any marketing plan. A media campaign could be run by the county, the chamber or all of the above

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

to tackle the bad image. Winnemucca did a great poster and billboard campaign years ago which asked 'what's a Winnemucca' and so on. It had a website to go to learn about the community and had definitions of the meaning of the name, and rebranded the community via a thoughtful yearlong campaign.

Active Community Marketing Plan: This community marketing plan can include professional marketing, or be driven by a community visioning process which identifies strengths and broadcasts them. The other important activity is to actively engage the press with tours of the community assets, any positive story and every news release should have a contact person versed on the facts for the press. Room Tax dollars can be used to do a positive campaign and the local anchor industries have a vested interest and may well partner with a positive campaign about the community.

Anyone who represents the county anywhere they go should be informed and should be a positive representative of the community. When anyone in the community hears a negative it needs to be given to the chamber to correct as quickly as possible.

The quiriness seems to bother some community members, but it is part of what the town is. A branding program can help to make the quirks a selling point.

Every Community member is responsible for the image of the community. What you say helps paint a picture of your town and so when you speak to strangers about your town, it is important for you to 'sell' your town, acknowledge your 'warts' but talk about what is great about your town. Again, this change in the 'community conversation' will take a strong effort at every level of the community to talk up the town, to talk up the assets, to talk up the potential rather than pointing to the negatives.

Any complete program now includes social media, it is a time consuming project and whoever is putting out information has to be official, have the community's future in mind and be consistent in the Facebook, blog or twitter feeds they use. The university system offers social media classes to the novice.

Community Brand: The community has yet to 'brand' what it stands for. The old 'over the hump to Pahrump' has a negative sound and needs to be countered with something positive that aggressively is promoted by every sector of the community. Any branding effort has to be embraced by local government, county government and the business community for it to work. The state of Nevada will help promote your articles. Work with the Governor's office to get positive information out about the Pahrump Valley to their news outlets. Again public education is so important with those on the front lines, waitresses, motel clerks, elected officials everyone who meets strangers or talks to the press should have the same information and back up materials.

Code Enforcement: Clean up of the community and control of signs could all be handled by the zone enforcement officer. An effort to remove outdated and weather worn signs could also be handled through code enforcement. A sign ordinance can help to begin cleaning up the eyesores in the community.

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

Code enforcement can be a double edged sword. It has to be equally enforced, carefully enforced and consistently enforced. If the community believes there is any inconsistency or any bias it will become a lightning rod instead of a development goal.

Most new companies especially ones coming from California are looking for places that don't over burden them with regulation to comply with. On the other hand after dealing with more intense community rules and regulations, some companies see whatever we do in Nevada as a big improvement over the states they come from.

Finally, all publicity has two sides, even negative publicity gives a resident the opportunity to talk about the community in a positive manner, shed light on what is being said and help to steer the conversation into a more positive vein. Nothing negative or positive should be left without discussion. The community or chamber must answer any comment and seek to change the minds of those that have the captive audience on TV, radio and newspapers.

Someone needs to make the positive image of Pahrump their business. They need a consistent message to take to morning talk shows, a positive picture can be painted in words, video and coffee table books about the community's positive assets. Inviting anyone with a negative image of the community to an organized tour of your assets and opportunities will help to redirect the negative stories. This is not an overnight process, but making sure that more positive stories are told than negative will help change the image.

Resources:

Nevada Rural Development Council: <http://www.ruralnevada.org/>

<http://strengtheningbrandamerica.com> and other companies do small community branding

Branding a Small Town <http://ezinearticles.com/?Engineering-a-Small-Towns-Image---Branding-a-Small-Town-Community&id=2997240>

The Governor's Office of Economic Development: <http://www.diversifynevada.com/>

Nevada League of Cities: <http://www.nvleague.org/>

Nevada Department of Transportation: <http://nevadadot.com>

Nevada Press Association: <http://web.mac.com/nevadapress/nevadapress.com/Welcome.html>

Nevada Broadcasters Association: www.nevadabroadcasters.org/

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

Theme: Image and Communications – Wes Henderson

The image that the Town of Pahrump has both within the town and in the way other people view it is a concern that was identified during the community assessment. Linked to this is concern about the effectiveness of the current communication infrastructure and messaging regarding events being held and the town as a whole. Several items were identified as being detrimental to the image the town portrays including the entrances to the town, visible trash, billboards, the lack of an identifiable downtown area and the number of vacant and unkempt properties. Respondents felt that communications about events being held in the area were insufficient to properly give notice and draw residents and visitors alike and that the benefits of the area were not being properly advertised to the outside world. Both of these concerns can be, at least partially, addressed without government action or resources.

Numerous respondents voiced displeasure that the only news from Pahrump that was published by newspapers or aired by television stations in Las Vegas was negative. The feeling was that when good things happen in Pahrump the Las Vegas media ignored them. Unfortunately, there is an old adage in the communication media that “if it bleeds, it leads” that is at play here. Bad news sells newspapers and drives viewership. However, effective communication with media personnel can improve the stories that are published or aired. This does not mean that the negative stories will not see the light of day but perhaps can be balanced by more positive stories. There are numerous television and radio stations as well as several daily, weekly or special purpose newspapers that serve southern Nevada. Information regarding these outlets is easily accessed on the internet.² There are also countless web-based sites that post content regarding the area. All of these media outlets need content to print, air or post. Individuals and local organizations can reach out to these media outlets and provide positive information about Pahrump or regarding upcoming special events. It may be beneficial for the chamber of commerce or other business related groups to initiate contact with the media outlets that report on economic activity. Likewise, event promoters should take the initiative to make their events known to media outlets that focus on activities. Pahrump residents proudly noted the ample outdoor recreational activities that are available in the area. There are various media companies that focus on recreational or nature activities. Efforts can be undertaken to make these types of media outlets aware of the opportunities Pahrump has for these leisure activities.

Billboards are another concern to the residents of Pahrump. Several complaints were voiced that the first thing visitors see when nearing Pahrump are billboards advertising brothels. Other respondents noted the disrepair of billboards advertising businesses that are no longer in operation. Residents also noted the lack of “gateways” welcoming visitors to Pahrump. Several respondents lamented the lack of community boards to provide residents and visitors information about community events. Chapter 12.04 of the Nye County Code regulates billboards and other highway signage.³ Brothels are a legal business in Nevada and, like any other businesses, need to attract customers. It should be noted that the brothels are not located within the town limits.

² Charleston Media, *Las Vegas Media*, <http://www.lvol.com/lvlc/media.html>

³ Sterling Codifiers, Inc. *Nye County Code, Chapter 12.04*, http://www.sterlingcodifiers.com/codebook/index.php?book_id=648

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

Brothels are highly regulated and pay special use fees in addition to paying all other applicable fees that other businesses pay. Concerned individuals, or perhaps the chamber of commerce, may be able to work with the brothel companies to suggest that their billboards may be more effective in enticing customers if they were located farther from the brothel. Likewise, citizens or groups can approach the owners of billboards that are in disrepair or advertise closed businesses to see if there is a way to use them to promote the area. There were several mentions of the billboard with the green elf-looking creature on it. Perhaps there is a way to utilize this billboard in a positive manner. Gateways to the community are another area that residents can work to develop.

Welcome signs that provide information about the area are common in many localities. What is on these signs should be determined by the residents. This is one area in which the town board may need to be involved. The board may want to form a “Gateway” committee to develop the gateway message and content. Volunteer groups can also address the problem of visible trash. Business or social groups may want to adopt sections of highway and remove the rubbish on a regular basis. Community clean-up days are another way of combating trash along the streets. The mission of the gateway committee could possibly be expanded to address the concern regarding unsightly trash. Many of the attendees at the listening sessions held as a part of the community assessment had justifiable pride in the community. Turning this pride into action could go a long way to addressing the sense of Pahrump having a negative image.

Communication regarding upcoming events was another topic that was heard repeatedly during the community assessment. Several people commented that there was no place to go to find out what was going on in the town. During the assessment team’s travels around Pahrump we noticed a roadside community information kiosk and a bulletin board in the senior center. Modern technology may be a method to address this concern. The Town of Pahrump webpage currently has an events calendar on it.⁴ There is also a Facebook page that Pahrump events are posted on.⁵ The *Pahrump Valley Times* also lists events under the A&E tab under Community on its website.⁶ Groups and organizations sponsoring events should utilize these resources to better spread the word regarding their events.

Many of the residents of Pahrump noted the areas proximity to Las Vegas and Death Valley and the varied outdoor recreational opportunities that are available to residents and visitors alike. The presence of world class facilities such as the Spring Mountain Motor Resort and Country Club and the Front Sight Firearms Training Institute was also mentioned as positives for the town. These are attributes that can be capitalized on and made a part of efforts to market Pahrump to potential visitors. Collaborative efforts between the government entities, the general business and economic development communities and the operators of Spring Mountain and Front Sight could help to resolve the perceived image problem regarding Pahrump that was expressed to the community assessment team. Pahrump offers many unique opportunities for residents and

⁴ Town of Pahrump, *Calendar*, <http://www.pahrumpnv.org/pahrump/pahrump-events-calendar/>

⁵ Facebook, *Pahrump Nv Calendar of Events*, <http://www.facebook.com/PahrumpCalendar>

⁶ Pahrump Valley Times, *A&E page*, <http://pvtimes.com/category/ae/>

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

visitors alike. A better, more cohesive marketing plan could make these opportunities better known.

Several times during the community assessment it was mentioned that one of the good things about Pahrump was the accessibility to elected officials the residents enjoy. Members of the town board and county commission are active in the community and easily approachable.

Interpersonal relations with the elected officials as well as other community and business leaders were mentioned repeatedly as attributes of Pahrump. Several elected officials and business leaders attended many of the listening sessions that were held. Nye County and the Town of Pahrump co-sponsored the community assessment. These facts taken together show that the leaders of the community are committed to working together to make Pahrump a desirable town in which to live and to meet as best they can the needs and wants of the residents. Of course it is impossible to fulfill every desire of every resident. Pahrump is a diverse town with residents from many different backgrounds and making everyone happy all time is just not possible. However, this is true of any other town, city or county in Nevada or throughout the country. The leaders and residents of Pahrump have shown the desire to identify issues facing the community and to make efforts to capitalize on the opportunities available in Pahrump.

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

Theme: Infrastructure – Michael Guss

Issues:

- Roads: Some of the roads in the community were not well maintained, though since our visit progress has been made on the repair of Blagg Road.
- Utilities: There was a patchwork of utility providers in the community, the systems were not necessarily interlinked and people with similar usage could pay drastically different rates depending on what utility provider they had.
- Sidewalks/Street Lights: Pahrump is largely free of sidewalks and street lights. Some felt that this made it difficult and dangerous to walk around Pahrump.
- Stoplights/Traffic Control: There was a lack of stoplights at major intersections. In some spots within the community, it was difficult to make a left turn. This was of particular concern to the individuals who worked at the CCA location on the north side of town.
- Broadband: Only a portion of the community has broadband. There are spots in Pahrump where access to the internet is still via dial-up providers.
- Quality of TV Providers: Cable did not go throughout the entire community and some people wanted access to it.
- Industrial Parks: Though there are Industrial Parks in Pahrump they are not always located in a spot that facilitates commerce.
- Inter-Basin Transportation: There was no public transit to and from Las Vegas. This made it very difficult for residents of Pahrump who do not drive to do things like get advanced medical care, go to a movie, or take a trip to the City.
- Local Airport: There was no local airport in the community, and this made it difficult to recruit new businesses, and appeal to high-end tourists who generally like to fly on private planes.

Recommendations:

The road going to the correctional facility needs a stop light. It is a safety hazard and causes traffic congestion at certain times of the day. However, when shifts are not letting out at the correctional facility, there isn't a need for a stop light at that location. Perhaps a four-way flashing red light would work, or a stop light that can be turned on and off as needed. Nye County should work with the Nevada Department of Transportation on this issue, as the stop light would be on Nevada Route 160.

In general, there is a lack of stop lights in Pahrump. Some residents felt that an increase in the number of stop lights would improve traffic flow and make for safer traveling within Pahrump. Residents who are concerned about dangerous intersections should gather comments and submit them to the Nye County Commission and the Nevada Department of Transportation, depending on who owns the road in question.

The condition of roads in Pahrump was a frequent topic during the listening sessions. The most frequently mentioned problem with roads in Pahrump was the closure of Blagg Road. Blagg Road had a sink hole open and a lift station collapse after heavy rains near the turn of the 2010-

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

2011 year.⁷ The cause of collapse is disputed and there is pending litigation as of the time of this writing⁸. Nye County has allocated \$4 million worth of Payment in Lieu of Taxes Funds paid to the County by the federal government for road repair.⁹ And the project is scheduled to go to bid in March 2012.¹⁰

My recommendation for citizens of Pahrump is to wait and watch as the road gets repaired. The bidding process and subsequent construction will take time. Blagg Road will be repaired and will be reopened. This doesn't minimize the inconvenience of its closure in the interim.

Inter-Basin transportation is needed. But getting the ridership numbers to the point where the service breaks even can be difficult. The Reno Regional Transit Commission runs a commuting shuttle between Reno and Carson City. The service only runs on weekdays; there are three buses that run in the morning and three buses that run in the afternoon.¹¹

This limited service model could make a bus between Pahrump and Las Vegas work. By limiting the number of buses and the number of trips, costs are inherently reduced and riders consolidate on one bus. This has the potential to enable a public transit service between Pahrump and Las Vegas to break even or turn a slight profit—but again, it is difficult for regularly scheduled bus service to break even serving outlying communities.

My final recommendation on the topic of bus service would be to do a good study of who would use bus service, why, how often would they take trips and how much would they be willing to pay for a bus ride to Las Vegas. This kind of data would enable transportation-industry professionals to determine if there was a business case for bus service between Pahrump and Las Vegas.

There was spotty broadband coverage in Pahrump. Many residents did not have access to any broadband and were still on dial-up connections. Others had access to 10 year-old, now out-dated broadband that was slow and inadequate for their needs. While some had access to top of the line broadband that met their needs. This is reflective of the “patchwork” nature of the infrastructure systems in Pahrump.

If they have not already done so since the Community Assessment, residents of Pahrump should begin working with Connect Nevada. Connect Nevada is an organization that is focused on

⁷ Waite, Mark. “Blagg Road Report Not Public.” *Pahrump Valley Times*. November 2 2011. Accessed December 27, 2011 at: <http://pvtimes.com/news/blagg-report-not-public/>

⁸ Hern, Vee. “County OKs Blagg Road Lawsuite.” *Pahrump Valley Times*. August 3, 2011 Accessed December 27, 2011 at: <http://pvtimes.com/news/county-oks-blagg-road-lawsuit/>

⁹ Waite, Mark. “Blagg Road Fix to Cost \$4 Million.” August 19, 2011. Accessed December 27, 2011 at: <http://pvtimes.com/news/blagg-fix-to-cost-4-million/>

¹⁰ Waite, Mark. “Blagg Road Repair Now Expected by March 1.” *Pahrump Valley Times*. December 21, 2011. Accessed December 27, 2011 at: <http://pvtimes.com/news/blagg-road-repair-contract-now-expected-by-march-1/>

¹¹ Source: Regional Transit Commission Schedule. Accessed December 27, 2011 at: http://www.rtcwashoe.com/PublicTransportation/documents/RTC%20INTERCITY%20added%20trip_R1%282%29.pdf

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

universal access to broadband technologies.¹² Connect Nevada is partially funded by a grant from the United States Department of Commerce, and provides technical assistance and planning support to rural counties in Nevada.¹³ Interaction with this group will give Pahrump the ability to address its weaknesses and expand upon its strengths in the area of broadband infrastructure.

Finally, many residents felt that Pahrump was not a walkable City. The lack of sidewalks, the high speed limits on main thoroughfares and the lack of connection in some areas of the community makes it difficult for Pahrump citizens to walk throughout their community. Residents voiced strong support for handicapped-accessible sidewalks.

In order to obtain funding to partially pay for the building sidewalks in Pahrump, Pahrump residents should determine if they are eligible for the Community Development Block Grant Program. An entire community is eligible for the Community Development Block Grant Program if 51% or more of its *households* are of low or moderate income.

If Pahrump is not eligible for the Community Development Block Grant Program, residents should conduct an income survey in the area of town where the sidewalks are to be installed. If the income survey area has definable boundaries that make logical sense, if an appropriate number of responses are received and if 51% or more of the responses to the survey indicate that their households are of low or moderate income, that sub-area of Pahrump becomes eligible for the Community Development Block Grant Program.

The Community Development Block Grant Program provides funding for projects in low-income areas. This funding could be use for sidewalk construction. However, this funding is highly competitive and it is likely too late in the year to start an application for the 2012 funding round. However, Pahrump Residents should begin the process of working with the Nye County Commission on funding sidewalk construction in Pahrump with Community Development Block Grant funding now, with the goal of obtaining funding in 2013.

Resources:

Washoe Regional Transit Commission: <http://www.rtcwashoe.com>

Des Craig, Director of Rural Community Development, Governor's Office of Economic Development: dcraig@diversifynevada.com, 775-687-9918.

Lindsey Niedzielski, Program Manager Connect Nevada lniedzielski@connectnv.org

¹² Source: <http://www.connectnv.org/about>

¹³ ID.

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

Theme: Infrastructure – Tom Stephens

Infrastructure was mentioned repeatedly in almost every listening session we conducted during the Pahrump Assessment. It appears that the community members are very well aware of the infrastructure issues that face the community and are eager for a plan to address them. The community of Pahrump encompasses a large land mass of approximately 365 square miles. Providing infrastructure to a community this size is a huge challenge that will require extensive planning, a consistent and concerted effort from the community and considerable amount of resources to fund infrastructure projects that the community is willing to support.

Issues:

- Lack of available Infrastructure is a deterrent to bringing new businesses to town that would create jobs and improve the economy and quality of life in Pahrump.
- There are three private water utilities in town and no municipal water district. Utility costs are high and pricing appears to be arbitrary with little or no regulation on rates. There is one electric utility in town, an electric cooperative.
- Utilities are not available in areas that would be the best locations throughout Pahrump for businesses to locate or expand.
- Previous land sales program allowed the creation of many residential lots that cannot be used because there is no street access to the lots and the utilities cannot be accessed from them.
- The cost to install utilities is determined by the three private utility companies and past quotes for expansion have been prohibitive to the point of driving businesses away.
- There is a lack of public transportation both within the community and between Pahrump and Las Vegas.
- Lack of good roads that are safe. Many streets are narrow with no sidewalks for pedestrian traffic. Some roads are badly in need of repair. Street lights are limited or non-existent. Traffic lights are desired in heavily traversed intersections. There is a lack of available trails/paths for bicycles.

Positive attributes:

- Pahrump is a large community with approximately 365 square miles of land. The amount of available space provides some flexibility in planning to address infrastructure issues.
- Pahrump has an abundance of water available that can be used for infrastructure development.
- The one electric utility in the community, Valley Electric, is a cooperative and not a “for profit” power company.
- There are regularly scheduled group meetings ongoing between the utility companies in Pahrump in an effort to work out issues related to the utility portions of the infrastructure question.
- One of the private utility companies in the area may be willing to sell its systems to a municipal entity.
- Widespread awareness of the infrastructure issues may motivate the community to take action.

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

- The community of Pahrump has an incredible array of talented people who can be enlisted in this effort. Your people were cited again and again in the listening sessions as a major asset of your community. It was further noted that they are largely an untapped resource that are awaiting a call to action.

Challenges:

- Lack of a comprehensive Master Plan for the community will continue to be a detriment to infrastructure development. Time is of the essence. Negative issues of the past will continue to limit future infrastructure development with their detrimental effects on business and community development. In the meantime, any current development that does occur without a Master Plan will add new issues that will make the formulation of that plan an even more complex and difficult process as time goes by.
- Governance issues will need to be addressed as access to funding is largely dependent upon governance and the ability to generate revenues in the community to pay for the development.
- Providing quality infrastructure systems to a community this large is a complex and expensive proposition. Community support for infrastructure development will be critical as extensive planning is involved, ordinances and codes will be required and extensive revenues will need to be raised to pay for the effort.
- Since infrastructure development is such an extensive undertaking inertia seems to have set in among members of the community. There appears to be a wide range of ideas and desirable projects under discussion; but no real action to implement these ideas.
- Regardless of the direction taken on infrastructure development some folks are going to be upset. Some people on each side of these issues are going to be unhappy with the course of action. However, with good planning and communication within the community; infrastructure development should provide significant benefit to the majority of residents. Those benefits should become the focus of the decisions being made.

Recommendations:

Infrastructure development for your community is a big task. When I look at making recommendation an old Chinese proverb comes to mind: “A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.” So the first thing that comes to mind for me is to get started.

- My first recommendation would be to utilize the considerable resources you have in your community to develop a Master Plan. Organize a panel of citizens to develop a plan to meet the infrastructure needs of your community now and for the foreseeable future. Publicize the efforts of this group and get input from the residents. Provide regular feedback to the community on the effort and commend the success of the effort. Remember probably no one will be totally happy with the plan that results; but everyone in the community should be able to respect the process used to develop it.
- Recognize that the Governance issue needs to be resolved in order to proceed with infrastructure development. This issue is addressed elsewhere in this Assessment and regardless of what course you take on that issue, at the very least, the government entities involved need to agree on a commitment to infrastructure development. That means you

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

have to plan for the revenue generation that will need to occur, you will have to research and adopt ordinances and codes to enable infrastructure to proceed, and you will undoubtedly have legal issues to face.

- Reach out to other resources that are available to help you in this effort. Funding may be obtained from variety of sources listed as references below. Legal issues will certainly be encountered and must be addressed. Infrastructure projects also involve considerable engineering to accomplish the most beneficial systems. Identify the appropriate people within your community, government or private, who can initiate this effort to bring in outside resources.
- Tackle the “low hanging fruit”. Your priority setting meeting is designed to help you do this. What projects can be done right now. Get going on them. Publicize the effort and its successes and note the benefits being realized in the community. Small successes will bring bigger successes. Progress will generate momentum and lead to more involvement, more support for the effort and greater success in your community.

Resources:

Governor’s Office of Economic Development – Community Development Block Grant 808
West Nye Lane Carson City, Nevada 89703 775/687-9918 <http://www.diversifynevada.com/>

Nevada Department of Transportation

Transportation/Multimodal Planning Division 1263 South Stewart St., Carson City, NV 89712
Telephone: 775-888-7000 Fax: 775-888-7115

http://www.nevadadot.com/About_NDOT/NDOT_Divisions/Planning/Statewide_Transportation_Planning.aspx.

Nevada Rural Water Association - Bob Foerster, Executive Director, (775) 721-7972,
nvrwa@pyramid.net NvRWA Office, 363 Fairview Drive, Carson City, NV 89701 (775) 841-4222, F: (775) 841-4243, frontdesk@nvrwa.org

USDA Rural Development - <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/nvcommunityprograms.html> Email: Cheryl.couch@nv.usda.gov or by calling 775-887-1222 ext 113

Nevada Water & Wastewater Review Committee - The USDA, CDBG, and NDEP are now working together to help future water and wastewater loan and grant applicants to determine the best approach to funding their projects. This pre-application process involves potential applicants filling out a pre-application form and sending it to the NWWRC for comment. The review committee comprising USDA, NDEP, and CDBG will consider the proposal and respond to your pre-application with comments and further guidance. To download an application package please access the website listed below: <http://ndep.nv.gov/bffwp/nwwpa.htm>

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

Theme: Quality of Life – Wes Henderson

Issues:

The citizens of Pahrump, through their responses at the various sessions held during the community assessment, identified “Quality of Life” as one of their areas of concern. Exactly what does “Quality of Life” mean? One definition explains that there are multiple aspects to consider in determining quality of life by stating:

In quality of life research one often distinguishes between the subjective and objective quality of life. Subjective quality of life is about feeling good and being satisfied with things in general. Objective quality of life is about fulfilling the societal and cultural demands for material wealth, social status and physical well-being.¹⁴

The people of Pahrump identified many aspects of life in the valley as positive but also noted shortcomings. The participants at the listening sessions also offered ideas as to what other types of facilities, recreational activities, amenities, medical and social services and infrastructure improvements would improve the quality of life they enjoy in Pahrump.

Some of the factors participants listed as enhancing their quality of life included the rural setting and feel of Pahrump, the availability of land and water, the outdoor recreational opportunities available, the beautiful scenery, the weather, the ability to see the stars at night, the town parks and the hospital. Other attributes that were mentioned included both the professional and volunteer social services available to seniors and the less fortunate, the willingness of people to get involved, youth programs, the library and the liberty and freedom enjoyed by citizens. The proximity to Las Vegas, and the international airport there, was also mentioned as contributing to the quality of life several times.

Respondents felt that, while there are many good things about Pahrump, there are amenities that are not present and other services and programs that need improving or expansion that lessens the quality of life they enjoy. The lack of a movie theater was cited as having a major negative impact on the quality of life of the residents of Pahrump. The sparsity of indoor recreational facilities, including the lack of an indoor pool, was another negative. The lack of a cultural Town center and cultural activities was another concern. Many residents would like to see more shopping outlets and restaurants in the valley. The unavailability of specialized medical care was also noted as a negative. While the residents are proud of the youth recreational programs that exist the need for more or expanded programs and facilities was seen as detrimental to the quality of life. Senior citizens noted the need for a new senior center and expanded services for the elderly that live in Pahrump. A need for additional services for the homeless and other less fortunate residents is also seen as necessary for improving the quality of life for those individuals. Public transportation within the valley and to outside destinations was also viewed as lacking or needing improvement.

¹⁴ Notes on “Quality of Life” *Quality-of-Life Research Center, Denmark* <http://www.gdrc.org/uem/qol-define.html>

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

The 2010 census reported that the population of Pahrump is 36,441. Other facts contained in the census report state that the population grew 47.9% from 2000, that there are 17,824 housing units, the median value of owner-occupied housing units (2005 – 2009) was \$176,900, the median household income is \$41,026, there are 2590 businesses and the land area is 301.73 square miles.¹⁵ Addressing the laundry list of perceived deficiencies negatively affecting the quality of life in Pahrump will require the efforts of the private sector, residents, businesses, volunteer groups and the governing bodies of the town and Nye County and the state and federal governments. Some of the issues residents have voiced concerns about can be improved or brought into fruition. Some of the wishes may not be able to be resolved at least during the current economic environment. Other desires may not be able to be met due to other factors such as the population and demographics of the valley that are listed above.

Recommendations:

Youth recreational activities are an issue that is considered both as contributing to the quality of life in the valley and as one that needs improving. Residents are proud of the recreational facilities and programs that are currently in place but see a need for more playing fields, indoor facilities and programs. It was noted that the limited indoor facilities makes it difficult to serve all the youth that wish to participate and has limited the types of programs that can be offered. Given the current economic climate it is unlikely that the town or county will be able to contribute additional resources to help expand youth recreational programs. These programs will be dependent on volunteers to identify ways to better serve the youth of the community. One avenue may be the formation of a youth recreation coalition to better plan the utilization of existing facilities to optimize the spaces that are currently available. There are several grants available from various organizations that are dedicated to promoting youth recreational activities. Grants are sponsored by organizations such as Major League Baseball, Heinz, Clorox and the National Institute of Health among others.¹⁶

The lack of a facility to host cultural affairs was also noted during the community assessment. Again this is an area where the citizens of Pahrump are going to have to take the lead to fulfill this desire. A “Friends of the Arts” type of organization could be formed to pursue bringing more cultural events to Pahrump. Grants may be available from a number of sources including the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Anheuser-Busch Foundation, Bank of America Foundation and J. P. Morgan & Co. Inc among others.¹⁷

Public transportation was another of the main concerns of the participants in the community assessment. Many individuals cited the lack of public transportation as harmful to the quality of life in the area. Residents noted that individuals that do not own a vehicle, senior citizens,

¹⁵ U.S. Census Bureau, *State and County Quick Facts*, <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/32/3253800.html>

¹⁶ Shaping America’s Youth, *Programs and Funding*, <http://www.shapingamericasyouth.org/programs.aspx?page=feature>

¹⁷ Fundsnet Services, *Arts and Culture Grants*, <http://www.fundsnetervices.com/searchresult/1/Arts-&-Culture-Grants/1.html>

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

teenagers and veterans find it difficult to get around town for recreation, medical appointments, employment and shopping due to no public transportation system. These same individuals cited their inability to travel to Las Vegas, especially the airport, or other destination as a major need that adversely affects their quality of life. One problem in resolving this issue is that the size of Pahrump may not be sufficient to support a private transportation company. The United States Federal Transit Administration oversees several grant programs that may help address this concern. Grants may be available under the Formula Grants for Other than Urbanized Areas (5311), Job Access and Reverse Commute Program (5316), New Freedom Program (5317), Rural Transit Assistance Program (5311(b)(3)) or the Transportation for Elderly Persons and Persons with Disabilities (5310) programs.¹⁸ Like all grants, however, funding must be applied for and awarded by the grantee and certain conditions must be met. Some grants require matching funds or in-kind contributions. The current federal budgetary challenges may affect the availability sustainability of grants from the federal government.

The provision of services to assist the senior citizen, low-income and homeless sectors of the population of Pahrump was also raised as concern regarding the quality of life. There are several organizations in Pahrump that endeavor to provide services to meet these needs. Efforts are ongoing to build a new senior center to replace the current aging facility. The homeless are provided with excess or donated recreational vehicles in which to live. More than one organization offers food or operates a soup kitchen to meet the nutritional needs of the less fortunate. There is a strong sense of commitment by various religious and civic organizations to address this need. Better coordination between the many groups offering aid to those in need may allow them to leverage what resources they have to better serve this segment of the residents of the valley. This is one area where the local governments, civic and religious organizations and various groups can work together to better provide services to improve the quality of life of these groups.

The desire for increased commercial growth, including a movie theatre, more shopping and restaurants may be the toughest nut to crack. The ultimate need for any commercial enterprise is the ability to make money. The population of Pahrump is sufficient to support a movie theater. The main obstacle to overcome is the cost required to get a theatre constructed and operational. In several towns smaller than Pahrump local citizens have grouped together to purchase and refurbish closed theaters.¹⁹ While there may not be a closed movie theater in Pahrump there are several closed commercial buildings that may be suitable to be repurposed for use as a theatre. Attracting additional retail concerns and restaurants depends largely on the economy and the companies' perception that the area can, and will, support the business once opened. As an example, Buffalo Wild Wings requires that potential franchisees have minimum of \$750,000 in liquid assets and a net worth of \$1.5million per restaurant. Minimum requirement is for two restaurants meaning that an individual must have \$1.5million in liquid assets and a net worth of

¹⁸ United States Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration, *Formula Grants*, <http://www.fta.dot.gov/grants/13093.html>

¹⁹ Theresa Schieffer, *Small-town movie theaters: Locally owned, locally loved*, State Journal-Register, Springfield, IL, February 18, 2011, <http://www.sj-r.com/top-stories/x2089517602/Small-town-movie-theaters-Locally-owned-locally-loved>

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

\$3million to become a Buffalo Wild Wings franchisee. Additional requirements include a freestanding pad-site location on which to construct a 4,000 to 7,000 square foot restaurant. The area must have a minimum population of 40,000 (80% or greater between the ages of 20 and 50 with \$30,000 or greater median household income. Traffic count in front of the site must total 25,000 vehicles.²⁰ Other national restaurant chains, whether company owned or franchises, have demographic requirements that must be met before they will locate to a particular area. Retail outlets have similar requirements. Can Pahrump attract more shopping and restaurants to the area? That remains to be seen, however the potential for growth in the population base certainly allows room for optimism. Pahrump has some attributes that may help to recruit new businesses to the area even if the demographics do not exactly match a company's requirements. The presence of world-class facilities like Front Sight and Spring Mountain Raceway, and the clientele they attract, may entice a company to relocate to the area. Additionally, the chamber of commerce and the economic development agencies are other resources that can help to recruit new businesses to the area.

In summary, there are many attributes in the Pahrump area that contribute to an enjoyable quality of life. Certainly the residents of the valley would like to see more and better opportunities for shopping, dining out, transportation, medical care and services for the elderly and less fortunate. The people of Pahrump can make many of the improvements they would like to see happen by better coordination of efforts. Other improvements may require outside resources in the form of grants or other donations. Some improvements, especially commercial venues, may take some time and an improvement in the national economy. However, aggressive recruitment of new businesses, including the active selling of all the good things about living and doing business in Pahrump, may help convince prospective companies to locate in the valley and expedite the economic growth in the area.

Resources:

Shaping America's Youth, *Programs and Funding*,
<http://www.shapingamericasyouth.org/programs.aspx?page=feature>

Fundsnet Services, *Arts and Culture Grants*,
<http://www.fundsnet.com/searchresult/1/Arts-&-Culture-Grants/1/.html>

United States Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration, *Formula Grants*,
<http://www.fta.dot.gov/grants/13093.html>

Theresa Schieffer, *Small-town movie theaters: Locally owned, locally loved*, State Journal-Register, Springfield, Il, February 18, 2011, <http://www.sj-r.com/top-stories/x2089517602/Small-town-movie-theaters-Locally-owned-locally-loved>

Buffalo Wild Wings, *Franchise Information*,
<http://franchiseinfo.buffalowildwings.com/www/index.php?page=requirements>

²⁰ Buffalo Wild Wings, *Franchise Information*,
<http://franchiseinfo.buffalowildwings.com/www/index.php?page=requirements>

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

Theme: Quality of Life – Tom Stephens

Quality of life is a very elusive theme because it encompasses virtually every aspect of what goes on in a community. It includes the mundane everyday items like having a local newspaper to read and extends to the more specialized areas such as having a quality hospital in the community. The major themes of this assessment are all key components of, and contributors to, the quality of life experienced by the residents of Pahrump. Economic Development, Education, Infrastructure and the rest became themes of this assessment because the residents here recognize that these areas have considerable impact on their ability to obtain the quality of life that they desire in this community.

Quality of life is also a very personal theme because it means something different to each of us. Each individual pursues those activities and supports those goals that to them will most likely result in what they consider a better quality of life for themselves and their families. It was apparent to me that when we asked for input from the town's residents during the assessment many responses reflected that personal pursuit for the quality of life that they believe Pahrump can offer to them. While this individual pursuit of a quality of life may seem to be a fractious effort that could potentially divide people, it was actually quite encouraging to see so many of the quality of life themes repeated over and over in the listening sessions. In other words as residents of Pahrump you have an awful lot in common and your individual pursuit of a quality of life is actually quite similar to that of your fellow citizens.

Issues:

- No movie theater.
- No homeless shelter.
- No community center.
- Not enough stores and restaurants.
- Not enough after school programs.
- Not enough sport activities.
- Need a new senior center.
- Need improved transportation.
- Need improved medical facilities.
- Need improved education opportunities.
- Combative attitude, lack of respect for one another.

Positive attributes:

- Rural atmosphere feels safe and everyone can know their neighbors. Lower crime rate than in big cities like Las Vegas. Not a lot of traffic, no traffic jams, easy to get around the community.
- Great weather. Beautiful sunrises and sunsets, see the stars at night.
- Low cost of living. Affordable housing with large lots. Lower taxes and regulations.
- Wide open spaces. Lots of land for development.
- Access to Las Vegas, Death Valley, and the mountains.
- Diversity in our people. People come here from all over the world to visit, to live and work. Great people that come together when a challenge arises. Volunteerism, seniors

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

who are well educated, experienced and ready to help make the community a better place. Young people with great ideas, enthusiasm and energy to work through a project.

- Personal freedoms, animal friendly community, less government regulation in lives.

Challenges:

- Diversity of opinion as to what quality of life is and what the community wants.
- Limited budget and major projects are very expensive.
- How to identify those quality of life issues that would provide the most benefit for the most people and that can have a reasonable expectation of accomplishment.
- Focus your leadership, resources and expertise on those areas that you want to accomplish.
- Generating community support for projects. A call to action for the community.
- Celebrating your successes.

Recommendations:

- Pahrump is a great place to live. Develop an appreciation for your community, your people, and the unique advantages that you have in Pahrump. The quality of life you already own in Pahrump is a tremendous asset and it continues to motivate people from all over to come to your community. Embrace the diversity of your community; not merely in the sense of racial or ethnic makeup but recognize the diversity of the motivations that brought each of you to this community. Learn to respect those motivations and look for ways to complement each other's lifestyles within your community. Engage in respectful dialogue. Disagreements are inevitable but disagree with respect toward each other and a desire to resolve issues to everyone's satisfaction and not just to win an argument.
- Create a task force of citizens, business persons and elected officials to identify and prioritize the Quality of Life issues that you as a community want to address. Volunteers for this task force should be those who are dedicated to the betterment of the community as a whole and not those who are interested in only a specific project. I would recommend that you look at the "projects" list from the community assessment as a starting point to identify potential targets.
- Prioritize the projects that you agree to undertake, focus on the prioritized list and get to work. Use project management software to establish tasks, make assignments, track milestones and accomplishment and provide feedback to the community on your progress.
- Publicize your progress and accomplishment. Let everyone know what is going on. Provide the good news as well as the bad. Enlist the communication resources in your community radio, TV, newspapers, town board meetings or whatever other media you have available to report back to the community.
- Do not hesitate to ask the community for help. We heard over and over in the listening sessions about the great people in Pahrump with a vast array of experiences and education and how they will volunteer, work together and come together as a community for a worthy effort. Money is not the solution to every problem. Many quality of life issues just require a large amount of time and effort by enough people in order to accomplish the goal.

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

Resources:

- <http://www.utoronto.ca/qol/manual.htm> **A Community Quality of Life Manual**
The purpose of this manual is to provide a guide for carrying out community quality of life projects. The approach emphasizes the perceptions of community members of what community factors support and inhibit quality of life. This information is supplemented with those of service providers and elected representatives. The manual is based upon the development and implementation of two Community Quality of Life Projects in the Toronto communities of Riverdale and Lawrence Heights from the Fall of 1996 through 1997.
- <http://www.gdrc.org/uem/qol-define.html> **Notes on Quality of Life.**
What is "Quality of Life"? What does it denote? What parameters/attributes can be used to measure QOL? QOL is increasingly referred to in evaluating urban and rural areas, and in several other situations. Some definitions, models and more ...
- <http://www.pikespeakqualityoflife.org/index.html> **2011 Quality of Life Indicators Report for the Pikes Peak Region**
The 5th annual report of the Pikes Peak Region in Colorado, See how it being done in Colorado, Contact: Susan Saksa, Executive Director, Leadership Pikes Peak susan@pikespeakqli.com

Comments

Monday, October 10 PM

Nye County Admin, First Responders, Government Workers, Health Care Workers

Challenges/Problems

- Infrastructure
- Ditto.
- Utility infrastructure.
- Utilities are our biggest problem.
- Infrastructure
- Jobs.
- Jobs, people have difficulty meeting regulations due to financial status.
- Financing.
- Infrastructure.
- Image.
- Business development.
- Image as well as community unity.
- Ditto and tag on to image, public transportation, community unity--there is none.
- Lack of a shared vision between the county and the town lack of vision that extends longer than their elected term.
- Lack of vision--lack of utility infrastructure.
- Jobs and employment, economic base.
- Jobs, image, infrastructure, relations between town and county.
- Infrastructure is a big piece of cost of development.
- Activities for our youth.
- Activities for adults.
- Chucky Cheese for kids and movie theaters for adults.
- Shopping.
- More family oriented businesses out here for family and kids to become more active in the community.
- Succinct way to communicate with businesses, residents and tourists.
- Lack of organization.
- Drug use,
- Not enough stuff for kids to do
- Homeless community
- Housing market
- Homeless community
- Radio communications, interagency communication
- Infrastructure, information, utilities
- Medical diversity, not a lot of choices
- Community dynamics
- Considered rural area we are a small urban area and do not have the infrastructure
- Quality of roads
- Need to take control of our own situation from other that live at a distance and do not understand our issues
- Town board meeting, tail wagging the dog, small groups have too much influence with Nye County officials

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

- More about personal belief than what is good for community
- More reactive than proactive
- GBC needs to offer more diverse programs and degree opportunities
- Drug problem is more prescription drug, meth use has declined
- Suicide calls have increased since economy tanked
- Diabetic episodes have increased because people have stopped buying their drugs
- Perception that others have of Pahrump.
- Drug abuse.
- Lack of jobs in this community. Unemployed cannot find work locally.
- Infrastructure remains a major concern.
- Medical care supplied to community to ensure that the services down to medical offices to the hospital. Organized to provide best health care to community.
- Major challenge in our community of about 36,500 people is that we are a very diverse community difficult to get different segments to agree on comment point.
- Very large senior population 55 and above--perhaps 40-45% of community. Retire, semi-retire, we have working families.
- You can put any issue on the table, growth--some want, some don't.
- Theme park under consideration as a new attraction. People support and don't support that. Go to one of our town board meetings. Diversity.
- Very difficult to get commonality amongst the citizens here.
- Divided is the word I would've used--divided community.
- Community needs more things simply for the locals to do. Family oriented type things. No movie theater in town of 36,500 people.
- One stop shopping place for planning--highly significant.
- Pahrump as a community draws a negative image within the greater Las Vegas area. By evening news three major networks in Vegas have a story on it.
- Never ever have positive news on Las Vegas stations and papers. Negative PR image in Las Vegas.
- Difficult to grow when you have a negative image.
- Showed sign of Pahrump, showed their trailer, and showed their dog. Even the name conjures up a mocking kind of attitude in people. There in national press.
- Lack of confidence in local government.
- Nefarious people who have come from Pahrump, prostitution started here, how whole thing has evolved. Fictitious, truth to them.
- Very interesting history that Nye County has that sets itself apart from other places, rather than capitalizing on that, the negative is portrayed as much as anything.
- Lack of positive Pahrump has had its effect and continued to have its effect.
- Need better program to keep equipment replacement on schedule

Assets/Strengths

- Acreage and location
- Climate and weather.
- Climate and space.
- Location and the acreage available.
- Acreage available.
- Potential--lots of thing lacking but in void there is potential.
- Very strong families and volunteers in this community.
- We have a lot of good connection and resources as far as communication and wanting to assist people in the community.

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

- Need to focus potential.
- Potential.
- Openness for growth.
- Scenery, great retirement scorecard.
- Scenic beauty.
- Small town atmosphere with plenty of things that are part of the big city that we have as well.
- Climate, openness.
- Location potential.
- Land values--get a lot of land here cheap.
- Water.
- Outdoor recreation.
- Proximity to the mountain and to the forest.
- Proximity to Death Valley.
- Potential for tourism.
- You have the Spring Mountains over here, got the opposite side pretty well developed but there is no development here.
- Las Vegas airport is within an hour.
- Small town mentality, resources, relationships, working together
- Groups that work together (fire dept, NHP) come together, community does not so much
- Land use, Vegas all compact, able to do more out here
- Chief Lewis
- Options, huge potential for things to happen
- Fire department, fairly small group that accomplishes a very large task
- Because it is still rural it is still quiet and traffic is not bad
- Potential of valley, lots in a lot of different ways
- Can't put my finger on one major asset that would draw people here
- Public service agencies have done tremendous work with few resources
- Highway has improved, travel to LV much easier, paved shoulders, four-lane highway
- Having the hospital--it is a real asset to this community.
- Asset to Pahrump on the evaluation treatment for drug issues, small community that is isolated that can be managed ourselves.
- Opportunity to control aspects of where drugs may be coming from if it is locally. Difficult to institute in place like Vegas.
- Rural western community. 367 contiguous square miles, so you don't feel crowded in. Las Vegas hustle and bustle times in traffic.
- There is a deep reservoir of talent untapped in this town. Even if you only stay with the seniors. Large body of retired people of great experience and leadership and wisdom.
- Could be called upon in volunteer situations.
- There is a diverse group of people here, but it is a good group of people here--giving, kind, care about their neighbors, and the children of the community.
- Deep seated appreciation for people here from other people.
- There is a desire from many different interests--law enforcement, abusers, medical side, hospital side to decrease drug abuse in this community.
- Cooperation that decreases the potential jail time, success for treatment, education, interest in educating the school children about problems with prescription drugs will have a positive outcome in the long-run.
- Affordable land and housing.

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

- Friendly community for the most part people who come here often come up to the chamber and talk about how nice everybody has been.
- Segment of people that is very community oriented and volunteers a lot. Very giving community. A lot of helping hands.
- A beautiful place and strategically located--close to Las Vegas and Death Valley. Increased tourism and development potential.

Projects/Initiatives

- Hotels rooms.
- Ditto.
- Get Blagg Road Open.
- Theme Parks, Airport.
- Better transportation. You can't get big industries in without supplies in and out.
- Community airport with the access that is needed to come in. Hotels, more commercial development.
- Parcel count is too high, water resources too low, infrastructure too low and behind. In favor of a zero growth initiative.
- Community transportation--more youth oriented recreational activities.
- Hotels.
- Community transportation system.
- Strategic economic development plan with more focus on where we want to put things and where we want our image to be. Where do we want our Summerlin, and our Palm Springs?
- Plan more about what is going to happen to us rather than letting things happen to us.
- Development of marketing plan for things Pahrump has to offer for tourists and locals.
- Community Center--YMCA where kids or families could go after school.
- More large employers.
- Better public education system.
- Program of development incentives started to help attract and keep potential businesses and developers.
- Some community oriented facility--YMCA spring, incorporate public transit as well. Too spread out, people from the outskirts have a hard time getting in if they do not have a car.
- True a meaningful one stop shop planning center.
- More employment opportunities, road signal opportunities.
- Strategic development plan. How develop our community the way we want it.
- Sports facilities for kids, we only have one park and it is woefully overused. Not enough fields and kids have to go to Vegas to play sports.
- Gateway into town and the fairgrounds project.
- Model that Clark County did with their high school drop outs and find volunteers to go around door to door and encourage them to go back into school.
- Utilities under one infrastructure rather than a patchwork of small ones. Flood control because of problems in the Valley.
- Restaurant you can go to without having to walk to through a Casino.
- Promote infill development. Use existing infrastructure. Look at existing infrastructure instead of looking outside.
- Resource manual or book that can define existing resources here including infrastructure and anything else that will help development for counties.
- Initiative of respect of one and other. Public meetings between County and town between departments. Even if we disagree not going to scream at board.
- Raise the bar of the way that we treat one and other.

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

- Improving self-image of the community. Other communities won't have a good image of Pahrump if it doesn't have a good image of itself.
- Different departments being able to grow
- Communications ability improve (short)
- New station on south end of town , maybe a college(long)
- More personnel and resources, junior college to keep kids here after high school graduation
- Staffing issues and facilities (short) infrastructure and education
- Crew chief and instructor
- Better retirement community and senior services
- More senior services and healthier eating establishments, all fast food restaurants, solar power on public structures
- All public officials on notice to accomplish or leave, continue with plans if unable to accomplish, more stuff
- Better baseball facility for youth, possible softball field, exercise facilities. Ability to enjoy weather
- Transportation improvement
- Develop downtown area, sidewalk shopping, community events
- Movie Theatre and other facilities for kids to do
- GBC needs to offer more diverse programs and degree opportunities
- No incentive to major in teaching.
- Would like to suggest initiative to investigate cooperation between different factors--educators, law enforcement, medical personnel to coordinate all efforts to present legal medication drug diversion and illegal drug diversion.
- By getting people who may not be organized to get together.
- Absolutely echo that. Got to happen. We have to address that.
- There was funding to bring a four lane road all the way from Las Vegas to Pahrump. Sen. Reid appropriated then taken away, appropriated, then taken away.
- Make that drive a little easier and less treacherous.
- Worry about my family going up and down there. Road needs to be improved and thought about.
- Strategic planning--we are in the middle of redoing the master plan. Not just colored map with right zonings, concerted effort to identify what we really want.
- 20 million to build an industrial park, businesses ready to fill it. Hard to accommodate you. Cannot put light industrial or even industrial.
- More careful strategic thinking to where we want high level residents.
- Ditto.
- Great Basin College located in front of high school. Long-range plan at the South End of town to open campus on 230 acre piece of BLM land.
- Great impetus to separate the college from the high school. Think they are continuing on with high school. South end of town. 230 acres complex
- For academic college with two and four year degrees. Vocational training and business incubator program. Center for the performing arts.
- I would like to see a movie theater here.
- Ditto.
- We need a new community center, the one that is there closed for a better part of year, asbestos and mold. Group of people opened.
- Civic center, not a community center, multipurpose center house town board meetings. Teen center. A multipurpose community facility.

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

- Increased availability of services for seniors. Large senior population. Continue to increase. Increasing widows. Desperate need of fellowship.
- Quite proud of the level of medical service through hospital and clinic, as a patient what many patients would like to see is more of the specialized medical procedures being available in the community itself.
- We don't have a lot of facilities that have high square footage availability. 60-80K square feet, don't have facilities like that. Want something they move into.
- If we could find wherewithal and situated it properly we could have a large industrial park that could be a lure for people to come here.

Q&A

- What planning looks like today?
- Planning process is difficult. Address the public perception that this process is complicated and difficult. Working to upgrade planning building.
- So if person comes in off the street and want to have a project, pre-development questions answered and obligations are clear.
- Housed in the same building with planning is HHS and health nurse. Diverse destinations together under the same roof.
- What type of incentives for infill are you thinking about?
- Impact fees could be reduced or negotiated if the project is more of an infill type project. Right now everybody's penalized more for impact on infrastructure.
- Such as incentives for business?
- We offer nothing right now. Developers moved on to Henderson, north Clark County and out of state where higher price offset by development incentives.
- Quite often stated it was the impact fees. Planning senior center. Get approved by the regional planning commission.
- Been a number of companies that have attempted a shuttle service between Pahrump and Las Vegas, unsuccessful for a couple different reasons. Economics.
- Unless it's a government-subsidized system, it is just not cost-effective for somebody to do that. There are quit a few people, elderly that have to go and
- They don't have transportation. Difficult in the more rural areas.
- Senior center has a shuttle--there are vehicles that can take to town and back and Vegas and back but it is just not a regular shuttle or service, it is as required.
- Vast expanses of undeveloped property between developed properties. Half acre, quarter acre lots where there are not utilities in there.
- People who own properties won't be able to live there until utilities are brought in there.
- Potential brought in by truck. Don't have water and sewer going to where we have to build these things. Mercy of private utility companies to expand it.
- Three utilities companies.
- Three water and sewer utilities plus a co-op.
- FD - twenty-seven personnel, eight thousand runs per year
- Three NHP troopers
- homeless scattered plus camps, hard to respond/locate in emergency
- Begging on Monday
- Major drug abuse is prescription; agree with that or other illegal drugs as well?
- Avoiding diversion or illegal usage of prescription medication. Self-care partners owns majority of clinics. Once policy is made reach most MDs.
- Remaining physicians should be interested in this program.
- Anything that the community does agree on?
- If there is a tragedy or something serious going on people pull together.

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

- Events that are very popular in town. Nobody disagree with them, fair, fall festival, Wild West, family events, ride the rides, eat the food.
- Any effort to deal with that negative image?
- A couple of attempts. Local people involved in marketing in PR. Positively Pahrump. Beautify the area.
- Positive Pahrump, over 3,500 people on her facebook list--local individual.
- Both because you track the history of development of the town. Line around 2005. Most people who came here from 70-2000 retire quietly left alone.
- I came for the beauty, cheap land, and proximity to Vegas.
- If the economic decline had not hit us, we would already have 10,000 more people here. We have approved 25,000 houses if it turns around people will come again.
- My fear is that it would take a major PR campaign at the highest professional level outside of town to change things. \$500,000 to mount campaign.
- Medical services are missing requires a specialist to resolve those things and recruiting efforts doing?
- Health care groups going to town. Gastroenterology to ophthalmology. Concerted effort by some of health care groups. Both major groups in town to ensure that those services are provided. Last thing you want to do is send it over for services. Hospital never going to do open heart surgery.
- Health care evolved 100% in 5 or 6 years since hospital has been here. Sicker group, need more help.
- Telemedicine interesting meetings from telemedicine from people in northern Nevada.
- People willing to live here.

Tuesday, October 11 AM Utilities, Senior Center

Challenges/Problems

- Easier for businesses to start up in Pahrump with all the costs they want to throw on. Never expand or develop. Need light manufacturing.
- Pahrump has an image problem--a lot of negative PR that goes on out there and not a lot of positive.
- Antiquated land divisions.
- 1974 finally went bankrupt in 2001, subdivided majority of valley into quarter/half acre lots. Divided thirty, forty years ago. Miles away from Water sewer.
- Older housing stock. Energy inefficient, people don't have the money to replace it. Older mobile homes, nothing you can do, energy inefficient.
- Unemployment--also see that huge issue is the average high school kid that graduates; there is no programs that help them out to keep educating themselves.
- LA City helped the youth to continue education or learn a trade. Young people just wander and have nothing to do.
- Town is pretty large. Area is large. Population and growth is low. Cost to distribute is high.
- Reaction wanting something, pay the funds to get it, funds so expensive not economically feasible.
- Lack of manufacturing and industrial business.
- Image problem--brothel signs, cannot advertise the brothels, brothel museum.
- Radicals take too much attention--citizens against virtually everything, give the town board a negative image.
- Lack of assistance from the government. Ombudsman position is from the usage.
- Suspended the impact fees; that is huge.
- Co-ops and private utilities in the valley and a lot of times things get dropped.

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

- All the signs they have along the highway are cheesy, you don't need five straight signs in a row to advertise a Casino.
- County government and town government--why cannot one government handle the whole community.
- Town takes care of the Parks and Fire Department. County takes care of the roads and everything else. Doesn't make sense.
- Impact fees
- Some people do not live in community.
- Potential business leaders in town don't have a vested interest in town.
- We don't have a movie theater.
- People getting into the community--people putting money into things, like building new school.
- Drugs.
- Drugs.
- Roads.
- Not enough stores.
- No stores.
- Ditto all.
- Not enough good restaurants out here.
- Jobs. Lack of jobs.
- Nothing to do.
- Lack of a movie theater.
- Everything.
- Ditto everything.
- Jobs, lack of.
- Nothing to do.
- Drugs.
- Nothing to do.
- No Mall.
- Nothing to do.
- No jobs.
- Not enough to keep people entertained so people are going around doing dumb stuff.
- Nobody wants to hire teenagers.
- Landscaping, lot of trash.
- Jobs. Lack of jobs.
- Roads are bad.
- Not enough programs for kids.
- No sidewalks.
- Unemployment.
- Budget cuts.
- Violence.
- Job loss.
- Medical care.
- Not enough good quality programs for the youth to be involved in outside of the actual school setting.
- General infrastructure, roads, sidewalks, fire protection, Blagg Road.
- Blagg closed for almost a year now.
- We don't have enough stop lights.
- We should take them down and just zoom down the street.

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

- Inability for small businesses in this community to actually stay in business.

Assets/Strengths

- Place a business in town; you would have services available in the core of town. Good place to start development.
- Potential for development to create jobs for the community.
- Open land.,
- Good people who live in town who are hungry for the opportunity to work where they can pursue a career.
- Nonprofit cooperative runs electric--business model is different, look at the community differentially. Lights on, pay bills.
- Not regulated by the PUC, not mandated that aren't cost-effective.
- Geographic location, close to Las Vegas, close to Death Valley, and have the potential to be a resort destination, vacation, get on a tour bus.
- Agree. We are a hub to Death Valley, Beatty, Tonopah, Armargosa, nice wineries here, world class race track, dirt race track, golf course, front site, fall festival
- RV Parks--Terrible's Lakeside is always ranked in the top ten in the nation.
- Everything is here, just have to promote it.
- Growth in this valley, coming from California, can't do a lot anymore. Potential to grow and do things like that is pretty huge.
- Community is a huge asset here, always have the outspoken people don't agree with everything or anything, everybody cares about the direction it goes.
- Very large snowbird population in town--asset during our winter months when everybody comes back into town, fills the RV Parks. Challenge is we don't cater to snowbirds enough.
- Sunbelt climate better than Vegas. Here it is under 90 degrees at night, still 110 in Vegas.
- Strong sense of community and a lot of great people here.
- Cheaper land, but lower cost of living in comparison to Vegas.
- Close proximity to Las Vegas.
- Las Vegas is running out of land because they are surrounded by BLM.
- Still a rural living with a small town atmosphere.
- Community life--everyone really knows each other, not like Vegas where you don't know anyone.
- School sports and things like that.
- Involved in clubs or sports, you get a lot of support.
- Quiet, very few houses next to highways.
- Close hunting locations.
- Pahrump given my family a lot of opportunity--it gave my Mom a job.
- Everything is close together.
- Not house to house, more open space between houses.
- Riding quads.
- More room.
- Never left out of the circle--something happens, everybody knows it.
- Not all crammed together.
- Small community.
- Open.
- A lot of space.
- Small and know each other.
- Not as much crime as there is in Las Vegas and other areas.
- You can do things here you can't do in the big city.
- Movies in the park in the summer.

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

- Good retirement.
- Easy to get around.
- Small.
- No traffic.
- Something happens as a community we pull together
- Football.
- Lot of space.
- Quiet.
- Well populated.
- The space.
- They are starting to build more stuff.
- Not crowded.
- The weather.
- Pretty quality educational facilities, especially with the new high school going up.
- Beautiful sunsets.
- Actually see the stars.
- Core group of people here in the community that are willing to volunteer and step up.
- Not a lot of pollution.
- Close enough to Vegas, where you can go work there and come out here and be quiet and stuff.

Projects/Initiatives

- Infrastructure game plan for the 15 and 20 year problem.
- Spent two and a half years putting general plan together--6,000 people to 35,000 people. General plan for infrastructure, roads, water, sewer.
- Movie Theater--twice we had people who are going to build them but they fall through. Home buildings sooner or later it will have to pick up.
- Good strong local government that gets along. Disband one of them and just have one. Two groups working against each other, doesn't quite work.
- Positive advertising campaign. Go out and advertise to the people in Vegas and let them know about the wonderful things that are out in Pahrump.
- People in Vegas, they only know about the Brothels and the brothels aren't even in the town limits, they are in the county.
- Need hotel rooms beyond a shadow of a doubt.
- Expand more on recreation destination type activities.
- Pro-active government actions not reactions, not management by crisis. Cohesive vision, shared vision for the long-term.
- Not just stuff that spans the length of elected terms.
- Parks we do have need to be cleaned up and better maintained so we have places for kids to go.
- Some of the programs and projects that we have if they happen will be huge. Cal-ISO, lower rates. Transmission lines trying to get built.
- Construction is going to happen.
- Governments have long-term plans, perhaps joint plan.
- Good economic development people in the community who really go out and search for the best fit for the community.
- Sharing utilities master plans with each other. Future improvements to water infrastructure.
- Bring water and sewer costs them an arm and a leg and they do not come in.
- Infill development.
- Tear crappy buildings down and start over to clean up town.

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

- We aren't contacted until they already bought the property--placed in a residential area, virtually no services.
- Moved here when the population was 7,000. Theater going up when the town was pretty prosperous, but cannot get the kids there due to lack of public transit.
- Transportation problems being solved and build where the needs are needed that would really be a boost.
- We don't have a municipal golf course and kids cannot afford to golf at Mountain Falls with \$65 a round fee.
- Movie theaters, bowling alleys, skate parks.
- Education--we need to get a junior college in here. Nothing like Great Basin, but full blown junior college, tech trades.
- California has small junior colleges.
- Have to have a campus-like setting for junior colleges.
- High school needs to educate kids instead of high drop out rate. Building a new school. Shut down the campus, couldn't leave campus for lunch.
- Not going to help Nevada or this area if we cannot supply educated kids for the jobs.
- Different colleges provide you water classes, educate yourself; get degree in water and wastewater. Operators we have here in town have hard
- Time advancing in certifications because there are no schools in Nevada that provides that education to them.
- Nevada is considered a Dillion's Rule rather than a Home Rule state; all decisions go to State and filter down.
- Legislature handles the distribution of tax revenues--distribute it on a formula, make decisions, who is deciding for you what you can and cannot do?
- Local has the challenge we do have a town board and town governance for a good sized community, needs to work in a large county.
- County is the third largest in the country and the largest in the state. And population base is centered in the southern tip of the community.
- Some of the older buildings that aren't being used; tear them down and make it cleaner.
- Same as her.
- Create more jobs, more businesses. More people can go to work.
- Mall or Movie Theater.
- Whole town needs to get bigger.
- A mall.
- Pass.
- Fix the roads.
- More activities for kids to do.
- Jobs.
- More activities.
- I want to move to Vegas because this town is never going to get anything better.
- Roads.
- More entertainment--build stuff so we can do stuff.
- See businesses thrive and more businesses come into town.
- Bigger college, more kids might come here for college.
- Build a sports complex, we don't have enough.
- Fix the Blagg Road.
- Make the town bigger, expand it more.
- Youth activities for people in the town.

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

- All that empty space--they need to make a Disneyland or In-and-Out Burger.
- Open more establishments some place where families can go and hang out, not gambling but family focused.
- Have a mall so we teens could have jobs and hang out there too.
- Houses sinking on the clay, so we need to find a better way to build houses here, better foundations.
- More nonprofit volunteer programs for kids. During the summer, kids aren't in school anymore. Wander around town, don't have things to do.
- Bigger hospital.
- We need a university out here. Movie Theater.
- University.
- Water park
- Would like to have a mall with theaters.
- I would like to see the community work together better--we fight each other. Groups of people, school district, town, and community work together.
- Groups of people are negative that advance improvement or change is a challenge to getting people to work together.
- Maybe an ordinance where people are required to keep their property in a manner that makes our town look a little nicer or clean it up.
- Better medical services.
- More greens--trees and grass.
- We need to lower our prices a bit, gas is more expensive makes it hard to do things.
- More sidewalks and streetlights out there.
- I would like to see kind of a strategic plan, or a plan where we want to be in 5 or 10 years and set some goals to get there.
- Make a homeless shelter for people who have lost their houses.

Q&A

- Any effort to address image?
- Leaders--the CEO's, general managers of big box stores, utilities, hospitals, meeting monthly. 160 cleaned up, signs taken down in the right-of-way.
- We need an active campaign--Pahrump hits the news, Heidi Fliess hits here, pot busts.
- Losing small businesses, why?
- Certain few groups of people or families that control everything that goes on here. Allow more expansion for small businesses or chain restaurants and stores.
- Too many red flags and fences.
- What about entrepreneurship, can school system teach that?
- We used to have FBLA, two years ago put in program based on your GPA, amount of money you could make. Had some value. Wide eyed experience.
- Struggle to find advisors because it is a lot of work.
- Interest in opening a business?
- Half the room is.
- They would volunteer to do things.
- Where is the center of town?
- Wal-Mart
- Highway 160 and 372.
- How do you feel about seniors and elderly population?
- Some don't contribute.
- Health care is just horrible for them.

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

- Basically take away from us--they don't allow stuff to come in for us. We wanted a feeder and they got rid of it because they didn't want it.

Tuesday, October 11 PM

Mountain Falls General Public, CCA, Recreational Sports, Business,

Challenges/Problems

- Apathy, 36000 people and 8 here
- Don't know what is happening in Pahrump
- So many changes that we have lost our identity
- Lack of transportation, need dial up ride or bus service
- Lack of incorporation
- Public transportation, incorporation, not being able to move commerce in and out of town hinders ability to attract businesses
- Roads are terrible, entryways are not appealing
- Impact fees, county and utility impact ability to draw businesses
- Town board and county commissions have too many workshops and committees = failure to make decision
- Large billboards are eyesore, advertisements for brothels first thing seen
- Sending money over hill, incorporation not necessarily the answer
- Incorporation may result in increased taxes, possible increase in expenses for police and fire
- Corrupt leaders, nothing done in eight years, bus service meeting, commissioner said too poor for bus service, people not treated fairly
- Drug addicts as a result of nothing to do, need bus service to get kids around so that they can do things
- Seniors do not have transportation
- Lack of coverage of how people conduct themselves in public meetings and business,
- Occupancy permit issued without water and sewer
- Lack of engineering, buildings have mold, Rudd Center has mold that could have been prevented with proper maintenance
- Two different administrations, county and town have separate governing boards, bad decisions that have been made by prior boards
- Need individual to be in charge of everything done in this town
- Hostage to federal government, they say how what when we can do things
- Need more information of community events
- Lack of getting people involved
- Dusty roads on BLM lands
- Lot of people of people here would get involved but turned off by goings on
- Community seems to be indecisive, would like to see group therapy and dynamics taught
- Garbage in neighborhoods, junk cars
- Lack of planning
- Lack of revenue base other than property and sales tax
- Jobs are most critical, lack of ability to transport goods
- Ability to have multiple sports activities at same time
- Not a way to do variety of things on athletic fields, lack of parks, activities, multi-use facilities
- Agree that soccer is big here but no facilities for basketball, etc.
- Need dedicated soccer and baseball fields, larger facilities so we can get tournaments
- Have to share facilities with other interests for year round activities
- Need community fishing hole

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

- Agree with all that has been said
- Have to share fields with other events
- Shortage of park space, need to work together to get more fields
- Lack of stuff for kids to do
- Skate park is not safe
- Need a lot more people that care
- Employment
- Need more dependable people out here but there is a lack of small businesses or manufacturing
- Need to get businesses out here, have plenty of housing here now
- Need more economic development, railroad track would be helpful
- Lack of facilities to host large athletic tournaments to bring visitors to the community
- Roadways, homestead, Blagg is insane, road has been closed for too long, homestead is terrible, used up shocks on new car in three years
- No bicycle paths or sidewalks, unsafe
- Lack of stoplights at major intersections
- Not enough for kids to do, sports are not all year round, no indoor sports facilities, nothing else for kids to do
- Area attracts more for adults to do, see a lot of bars and houses of ill repute, only one bowling and no theatre
- Infighting among politicians, focus more on objectives
- Lack of industry type of jobs and amenities that you might expect in a town of this size
- Dysfunctional political leadership between county and town
- Lack of infrastructure, deters businesses from coming to town, utilities, water, electricity, sewer
- Health care with emphasis on hospice, too many factors working on issue
- Lack of economic development, a lot of which stems from lack of infrastructure, cannot build in zoned areas because of no utilities
- Abundance of low cost housing which will lead to future social service needs
- Difficulties to bring businesses here because of red tape
- Government structure, two entities not being able to come together on a vision and make it happen
- Roads are in bad condition, ugly signs, garbage along the way, condition of roads are hard on vehicles
- Lack of primary industry, have lost construction industry

Assets/Strengths

- Feeling of safety
- Detention center (w/agreement from others)
- Great weather
- Close proximity to Las Vegas
- Scenic beauty of valley, something about valley that draws people here, great place to live
- Lot of variety of talented people here from all walks of life
- Close proximity to Las Vegas
- Came here for beauty, no shoveling of snow, low taxes
- Weather
- Mountain Falls Golf Course
- Natural beauty, caring people, Pahrump is a really nice place
- Golf course, Front Sight, speedway are assets, bring people in to community
- Speedway is second largest private speedway in the world, just closed on additional land, will make largest in world

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

- Tight knit community, come together to have sports
- Good programs, new soccer program
- People, scenery and beauty in valley
- Availability of land, people are great
- Youth sports programs, AYSO does tremendous job
- Small town, very personable,
- The people, everyone is very giving when there is a need
- Generosity
- Is a great community, has a lot to offer the youth and people, has a lot of land, ability to explore rocks and mountains
- Weather, we can play sports year around
- Large lot size, small community, family atmosphere, don't have the hustle and bustle of larger cities
- Size of town, have opportunity to have these kind of meetings and get to know your neighbors
- Sense of community, we are not lacking, wealth of knowledge, people are here to do things given the opportunity, strong core of folks
- Echo what has been said, a lot of groups that try to pull together for common good
- Pahrump is growing, good businesses, nice town that is quiet but you can go to Vegas if you want action
- Location, proximity to Las Vegas and international airport
- Citizens, a lot of people who volunteer, things would not get done without them
- Rural atmosphere, quite, no big airplane noise, but airport only 50 minute drive, lot of people moving here with talent
- Lot of private land available and available water
- Affordable land

Projects/Initiatives

- More diplomacy between governments particularly between BLM and county (blend, mend and bend)
- Finish roads to Mount Charleston and make winter recreation opportunities available
- Bring in theme park or new fairgrounds or cultural center
- Need something to draw people in to from Las Vegas and California spend their money here
- Place to take classes for free or small fee for adult recreational / educational / craft courses
- Roads need to safer and wider
- Neighborhood cleanups - monthly? Private sector
- Design plan for the community
- Community master plan (doesn't have to come from government)
- Reach out with goals as a result of the assessment
- Encourage businesses to come here so people don't have to drive 60 miles to spend their money
- Plan to bring businesses here
- Develop public transportation to allow people to better access the businesses here
- More businesses on south side of town
- Harvest festival has been popular, we need do finish fairground or plant trees at park
- Fix pond (pooled a hole in it and now we have no water)
- Need to figure out a way to use signage to pull people off of 95 that quickest way to LV is through Pahrump
- Solar and wind projects in this town
- Natural gas is needed, electric only is ridicules
- Need commercial transportation, rail, truck etc. to move goods in and out of community

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

- Plan to grow tourism
- Need a way to open door to mid-size businesses to come to Pahrump
- Expand transportation capabilities, air, freight, rail
- Winery road watershed issue needs resolved
- Another park in next five years, more sports custom to kids ages to get kids involved earlier, have Programs running smoothly
- More sports complexes that can be used year round, better schooling
- Need more teachers to decrease class size
- Better schools, better development, bigger businesses
- Nicer parks, Vegas has water features at their parks, need movie theatre, need to keep active
- Providing services for youth, senior population seems to be dominant, there is action to develop a youth activities program
- Project that parents can take advantage of for after school and summer programs
- Get stakeholders involved in making these projects happen
- Working on getting proposals passed through proper channels
- Program that is reciprocal that gets seniors helping at-risk kids, high school students get credit for helping (Henderson has project like this)
- Like to see a YMCA type facility that both youth and senior can use similar to Sunset Park in Las Vegas, fishing, Frisbee golf, etc
- Major university here to provide skilled labor force and entice business here, brings in money from students
- Agree with YMCA idea because it applies to everyone from infants to seniors, allows people to offer something to others
- Agree with YMCA ideas
- Elementary schools need to offer after school programs,
- End to war on drugs, stop paying for cops, jails, for what people are doing anyway, we could be medical marijuana capital of world
- More economic development in short and long term, job creation and business retention
- Need to get something going on with senior center and long term for hospice
- Infrastructure, need county and town to work on initiatives to bring in businesses
- Need to work on roads, infrastructure, access to Calvada eye is terrible, need to complete it, need some kind of town center
- To do things that other communities do,
- Do something to attract industry type jobs, higher paying with better benefits
- Fix up senior center, lot of seniors plus snow birds, would like to bring better shopping here
- Industrial park would bring jobs, need infrastructure in place to achieve
- Need to develop place to attract industry, have land but no water, power and electric
- Able to offer big business land they may be willing to put in infrastructure which may bring in other businesses
- Look outside the box at what needs are not being met, we are a senior community so we need to look at medical facilities including
- Medical marijuana centers, stop thinking the people are our enemies and start working with them

Q&A

- What brought you to Pahrump? Proximity to Vegas, weather, ability to ride horses, no snow
- You said we need to attract businesses, what are your ideas? Go right over the hill and we have every store you need, why can't we build a shopping
- Center instead of a theme park, you can't get a decent slice of pizza in Pahrump. Said to one of managers to pizza place 60 miles away why don't you

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

- Come to Pahrump, business owners say no way due to fees.
- Lack of things for kids to do but scared to go there, why? No parents, no lights, this area surrounded by low income houses so used by kids from
- One parent family is home to juvenile misbehavior and arrests by authorities.
- Talk about community being generous, has any fund-raising projects been undertaken? Yes, football field put in with funds, uniforms, food baskets
- There are projects that go on county wide for them, we have state, counties, schools, cutting back programs that affect kids
- If you are not making a lot of money it is hard to donate to even worthy causes, comes down to economic development first and then other things will follow.

Wednesday, October 12 AM

Realtors, Community Outreach, Business

Challenges/Problems

- Lack of primary industry and jobs.
- Infrastructure could've had more businesses here when it was good times.
- Infrastructure as well.
- Ditto infrastructure.
- Very difficult to go show beautiful home when there is a lot next door with 32 cars on it.
- Jobs.
- Too much government--too much interference, chasing away people who would like to invest in this community.
- 1990s we were deemed by the Wall Street Journal top communities in country--need it back.
- Been here for 16 years--single Mom, business that brings some activities for kids to do.
- Employment.
- Our infrastructure and tie that into government interference when people are trying to do development.
- Perception of what people outside of Nye County and outside of Pahrump have in our area. Speak with someone about it, winery.
- Used to just be the brothels.
- Well that is a step up.
- Perception that we are all a bunch of hillbilly rednecks out here.
- Like to be involved in the community, like to go to the town meetings, but the meetings are not run correctly, and clients get turned off by meeting.
- People in audience and sometimes the town board let it go too far.
- Nothing here for kids after they reach a certain age.
- Jobs, we need more jobs.
- There seems to be a lack of infrastructure development because of losing jobs. Valley Electric, Utilities Inc, those types of things appear to be road blocks.
- I drive by Blagg Road every frigging day and I wonder if we are a laughing stock if we don't address that.
- Major challenge is preferred equities--heritage of preferred equities, more than 1/3 of all the lots in this valley because of a state sponsored land scam that lasted for over 30 years.
- Pahrump Valley Boulevard, Free, cannot give it away today. That is a situation--longest running land scam in the history of the US.
- Infrastructure--wet dry, all of it.
- Impact fees. Utilities Inc, not having a municipal water company that is governed by the PUC.

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

- Short-term, because we are tied to Las Vegas normal growth as far as building--tied to San Diego, small light industry businesses. 10-15 employees.
- Industrial park is fairly close to being shovel ready, but impact fees are the problem. We should be able to lease out an industrial park.
- Housing is right for them here, inviting little town for that kind of thing.
- Major challenges and problems in the community. Lack of jobs--preferred equities.
- Right about the impact fees and electric and water situation--just too expensive.
- Abundance of very low-cost homes, selling them to low income retirees and a whole bunch of disabled people. Headed for social welfare needs.
- Welcome to Detroit West.
- Communication--especially with our seniors, being a counselor for seniors, help them with Medicare, communication is difficult. Articles don't get into paper.
- Not allowed to put flyers out at different doctor's offices.
- Public transportation--lack of.
- No movie theater--not a lot to do. Signs on road.
- Areas of infrastructure--driving on Pahrump Valley Boulevard at 372, need traffic lights at strategic locations.
- Small business capabilities to get started in here. Capacity to get started. This town does not seem to promote a small business getting started.
- We have a good group of citizens that care, there is still a lot of apathy in Pahrump, don't bother me, I won't bother you.
- Transportation also--no cost or low cost. Lack of it.
- Low paying jobs out there--compare what people make here to Las Vegas. Comparing what people make to Casino. Series on poverty.
- Start it up on Thanksgiving and run it until Christmas, what do people actually get paid here.
- Underemployment. Some employers in town could use more workers--need to hire them.
- Transportation is a major issue, particularly with medical needs, getting to the doctors, no way to get to Vegas without a car or reliable car.
- Temporary shelter--there are none.
- Lack of businesses and need more city support for businesses. NxLevel training again.
- Meeting the needs of people who call you and say, I am being evicted because I cannot completely meet my electric bill.
- We need to have more things in place to be able to meet emergency needs.
- Lack of infrastructure in the town not meeting the needs of the citizens who live here.
- Homeless and jobless.
- Transportation--basis of people's needs. Infrastructure is the basis of growth and economic development.
- Public transit and infrastructure--businesses should have buildings they can move into. Not available.
- Housing for special needs adults-whole community not being served by people in this town. People get shipped to Mesquite or Vegas.
- Moving to Vegas.
- Constant controversy is one of our problems.
- Afterschool activities--lack of.
- Drug abuse is a big problem.
- Lack of funding for our police department and fire department.
- Really no support group other than us to try to help people who fall into the traps of having their power turned off.

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

- Utility companies not willing to put a fund or cushion to help them bridge a small period in time. Ministers and pastors lobby everybody and get temporary relief.
- Built in thousand dollar cushion--don't want to do anything other than what they already have in place.
- Green Valley Electric monthly meeting, donating power to Valley Electric. Putting donation into charity they have. Might be a possibility.
- Self-image. Low self-esteem. Hear people Pahrumpians talk about Pahrump; it's poor Pahrump.
- Over the hump to the dump is a bad representation of the town. If you can't respect where you are living, how can you expect anyone else to.
- Support for families with special needs.
- Ditto controversy. Agree with the poor self image. All I have heard since I got here in March, everybody here seems like they hate it. Common but more so.
- Difficulty with businesses to get started. People come here want to go into businesses, red tape and complications so difficult they just leave.
- Housing issue for special needs--went to Las Vegas, got housing built in Las Vegas. Town needs to work with our community to have things provided.
- Lack of medical facilities that can deal with cancer and those types of things.
- There isn't money for us to do what we need to do--we need to be able to get utilities on for people and get different things. Can barely get food.
- Commodities do USDA commodities. Everybody just blessed me. Two connex boxes. Butch ran a fork life one time for us.
- Huge food--216 to 300 families a week are serviced by food organizations.
- Lack of industry type jobs--basic amenities you would expect in a small town of this size.
- Dysfunctional political group between the county and the town, continually surfaces.
- Lack of utilities, lack of sewer and water to commercial properties. They have to pay for all of that to come to them.
- Health care--emphasis on the hospice, we're trying to build a care center here in Pahrump. Too many different facets and need to work together.
- Not meeting seniors needs. Palliative care.
- Lack of economic development--lack of infrastructure. Commercial area is behind a dump no infrastructure; can't build up there.
- Challenge coming up because we have too many low priced homes, selling to retired people and disabled people who don't have incomes. Huge community service need coming up.
- Economics--garden didn't get voted or got kicked out or something. Businesses get booted out; we don't have a lot of jobs. Don't know reason behind it.
- Lack of two entities working towards a cause. Town and county are unable to come together to have a shared vision. Too many people with egos fighting on and other.
- Roads--the condition of our roads, as you come into Pahrump, starting to look better. Ugly signs. Garbage. Horrible on vehicles.
- Jobs, we are getting jobs here with service industries, we need primary industry--something productive, lost major industry which was construction.

Assets/Strengths

- Weather--we are a retirement community because we have decent weather and taxes.
- Geographic location.
- Taxes.
- Lots of land and location.
- Location, weather.
- Somebody mentioned rednecks, we're laid back and the major crimes are. We might smoke a little too much grass but it is basically a safe place to live.

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

- Plenty of land and opportunity for commercial growth.
- Rural atmosphere.
- We don't have any smog.
- Ditto all.
- Everybody said same thing--really nice people here, good people here. A lot more good people than there are bad people.
- Abundance of low-cost housing is also an asset. We have a lot of available housing.
- Population--it's the perfect size, not too big or too small.
- We have some brilliant people, just not asked to talk to or not asked to step forward.
- Proximity of Las Vegas--whatever they got, location.
- Willing volunteers are abundant here.
- Ditto willing volunteers.
- Strong holiday task force. 18 members, planning a free Thanksgiving dinner here in our new Nye County Community Campus.
- 600 dinners pulled together.
- Volunteers are awesome, people coming together as a community. We are a hugely great community.
- Save soda can tabs for people that need them.
- Willing volunteers--raising money, getting backpacks for kids, goes on radio, newspaper, TV, volunteers to support each other.
- Certainly the people in the community--major asset. My day would not be a good day without the people.
- People are the positive and the negative. People are positive and the negative. How do you get the positives to join the negatives?
- Smaller population wants to go negative--move here and complain about.
- Excellent library.
- Nye Communities Collation positive force.
- Large population of seniors--retired people. Regulations here for living here are simple.
- People moved here for stuff all over property.
- We have a community college here--a lot of smaller cities don't have any type of colleges here.
- New high school will be positive.
- People in general--especially people who want to help working poor, homeless, people who wanting help those in need.
- Volunteerism and willingness to work. Collaboration. Good collaboration. Untapped resources.
- Can live fairly economically in Pahrump if you have to. Can get fairly cheap housing here.
- Small town feel is very nice.
- Proximity to Vegas--for special medical needs, it's good. No way to get there, but it is only an hour away.
- Major population is good.
- Some of what they've been saying--good collaboration. Next group is community outreach meeting. Good collaboration between churches and commissioner and town board support. Need business entity to come in because most of us in service organizations run on grants or whatever. To change Pahrump we have to have businesses to bring in the money also.
- Enjoy the rural lifestyle--living in Las Vegas for 10 years and moving out here for six years, nice to have land, nice to have space.
- Location is really great--just far enough away from Vegas and need something there we can go. Open deserts and petroglyphs and everything. Good businesses here. Friendly businesses.

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

- Ruralness of the community. Really nice. Southern California can go all day and never run into anyone you know.
- Seniors--if they need help, no problem, and positive feed back from welfare office.
- Love the open space, heard several people--wonderful organizations that help the homeless and provide food.
- Small enough that everybody cares and when there is a need everybody jumps in.
- Log house, love it--changes I have seen in community, have been largely uplifting.
- Safelink.com provides free cell phone service to anyone who qualifies. Done by private company. List the states that are covered.
- Accessibility to elected officials--at the end of your finger. Go to Vegas to try and talk to Commissioner or Council person, forget it.
- At night when I step outside of my house, I can see the stars are what I like.
- Businesses have been really consistent over the years. Been out here 15-16 years. Small businesses have been here for community. Haven't had big box anything.
- Small businesses have been able to stay and survive big box.
- Open to anything--we can create almost anything that you can think of.
- Major asset is the size of the town, been here for 15 years. What appeals to me is that Pahrump you have opportunity to have these kinds of meetings, know these people.
- There is a huge sense of community here, there is a lot of new building, there are people who have a wealth of knowledge.
- People who can do things given the right opportunity and infrastructure.
- Certainly a lot of groups within the community that try to pull together for a common good and give back to the community.
- Pahrump is growing--people are moving out but still people coming in.
- Good businesses around here.
- Nice town, quiet, but if you want action you can always go to Vegas.
- Location is the primary thing--reason Pahrump moved so fast. Within an hour of major international airport--if Pahrump was where Beatty is, Pahrump would be like Beatty.
- Strength of Pahrump is in its citizens--we have a lot of people who volunteer to do a lot of things. We are not a wealthy community, wouldn't get stuff done without volunteers.
- Rural atmosphere, peaceful, quiet, need that it is a 50 minute drive.
- As a community, a lot of retired people are living here.
- We do have land available--we do have adequate water.
- Where else in the United States can you actually afford to buy an acre and a quarter to buy a piece of land.

Projects/Initiatives

- Get a light industrial park in here--bring people, jobs income, sell houses.
- We need more jobs--all there are service low paying jobs.
- End the war on drugs--it's killing everybody, building new jails so they can lock up people for what people want to do, why is it illegal, why are they fighting it?
- Drugs are bad, the war on drugs is worse. We could be a community with hospitals, group homes, and assisted livings.
- Valley Electric got of group of people and cleaned up the Calvada Interest, I would like to see a group of people clean up the frontage roads we have.
- Empty land that has weeds, we have community people and the county doesn't own it--owned by one person who got it at a sell.
- Beautification--I have lived in a lot of small towns, this is the ugliest one I have ever been in. I don't want to see it anymore.

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

- One ugly billboard after another after another--come into the town. Take people from out of town--tell me, thank you this just isn't right.
- Bigger and better hospital with the specialists in the hospital.
- Beautification--green giant billboard, thing half way busted, junk signed, junk sign, junk sign, could put up a sign anywhere and get away with it.
- Some kind of a master plan--something that we can all be part of and focus on and a way to communicate with the residents.
- I don't believe the founding fathers wanted us to be able to tell our neighbors how to live their lives.
- Dissolve the Pahrump Regional Planning District; they imposed all the impact fees, impact done by the county.
- Ten years after they built the building, code enforcement decides to go through property prior to code and bring it to current standards.
- Insist that we don't have anything for teenagers to do, and without something for them to do, we will have all kids doing meth on the street. They have nothing to do.
- Some sort of a website that shows what is going on to short and long-term problems. Long-term projects--wash, airport. Finest golf courses around existed in town.
- One reason I came to Pahrump nine years ago was the golf course. Making that another show place. 30 acre lake on the foothills and have some bass in it.
- Only way you find out information is who you know on that town board. Contact with one of those people, you can contact something else.
- Town is fun on weekend--fills up pretty good, motorcycle clubs, car clubs, sometime short of rooms here. Front Sight has 200 room nights can't be filled here.
- We could use another nice hotel. Could entice that if we packaged ourselves and merchants encouraged that. Fun little town to come to.
- Doctor commutes from Vegas--gentleman's club on Main Street could go away
- Legalize the drugs, end the drug cartel, and bring the troops back from Germany and Japan.
- Flood zones and USDA--can people buy a house in a flood zone?
- Army corps of engineers designed with the flood control.
- Highway 160--that kind of is a dyke, yellow and black stripes. That is a culvert. Doesn't flow like a sheet. Culverts pointed toward street.
- Don't we have to pay flood insurance so people in Mississippi can get a claim paid.
- We need a convention center here, all of Nevada, small towns have a convention center, and some of them have a highway going through them.
- We are working on RV'ers who come out here. Good Sam's have a contest on their Fourth day. Added them up, had a drawing--\$6,000 in community.
- Need a big building to present their dinners and stuff. Convention center with little rooms off the side.
- Fair grounds--talk about it, talk about it, nothing ever comes of it. Instead of developing big communities for big projects, taking them in smaller increments.
- If somebody asks me to be on the committee because of the time, I am not enthused. Like to sit with us for a specific amount of time to work on specific project.
- Might be more people willing to do that rather than commit themselves to unrealistic things.
- Infrastructure is improved--follow the steps here. No place for them to shop. Got Wal-Mart that is it.
- Advisory boards and 501c3 boards. Get more accomplished with projects with a timeline.
- Think they ought to stop spending money--county spending too much on buyout programs for employees, start spending money on roads.
- Roads here are horrible.

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

- Get rid of the planning commission, immediately get rid of the town board.
- They want to do this fairground on our money; Harrisburg Pennsylvania wanted to spend money on a green energy plant, is that where we're headed.
- Yucca Mountain--one of the biggest impacts on the county is the funds that come out of that. If one lead casket doesn't work, put it on two.
- Tonopah, is air travel, bring that stuff in, make it happen.
- After two trips out there, both times told me the whole thing is a joke in trying to encase it for 10,000 years. Processing plant right next door to the thing.
- Reprocessing plant for nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain.
- Our population is poorly educated population--we have a college, would like to see that grow, 24 months college facility. Regular university.
- Technical college would be great here as well, teach kids how to nail.
- Anything but Job Corps.
- We need an absolute emergency shelter, so when we have an emergency we can go one-two-three. Overnight or a week.
- Liaison--some type of administrator who helps businesses get into Pahrump--come to person and help them streamline them getting set up in town.
- Helping people get in business--liaison or a group that would help people when they have cancer. Friend three and a half months trying to get treatment she needs.
- Coordinating the doctors, specialists and all that stuff.
- Medical--starting to be some medical growth and things happening. Older population, definite need for more services here.
- Definitely transportation. Had some that has tried to come in. Can't succeed because valley is so spread out here.
- Pretty hard to spread things out here.
- Bus stops here. 15 miles long, 27 miles wide. But don't know how we can have transit.
- Agree with transportation.
- Homeless shelter.
- More group discussions would be nice--with the controversy and everything. Town board meetings just seem to make people mad. Can't talk back and forth.
- Separate venue for open discussion--open dialogue.
- Transportation--homeless shelter, after school program, community food bank.
- Projects--several projects started here in town. One of them I am involved with is the senior center.
- Transportation--emergency shelter and services. We need services and housing for people in emergency in central base where we can call.
- All of them they are saying is good--really figure out how to get medical care, are a depressed economy, large population of people who don't have insurance.
- Hospital gets inundated with debt that is just never going to be paid.
- Need a free clinic.
- Need more meetings like this one where everyone can participate without animosity
- Better dentist.
- Low income housing here--centrally located, then transportation could happen. Special needs adults, no insurance, people have to do something.
- Center of town--downtown area where we can go and be together.
- Higher paying jobs--initiatives going on in the town--town get behind initiatives to bring the higher paying jobs into town instead of saying we don't want anything here.
- Businesses do not step forward is because they would be boycotted by the naysayers. Naysayers are a problem.

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

- Ongoing dialogue that goes on in the community from a number of years ago.
- Community conversations--continuing that will address so many of issues.
- Need to move conversation into a project.
- Transportation and temporary shelter. And the roads need to be fixed too--not enough state money on gas or diesel tax.
- Roundtable is a great idea as long as you can keep it going.
- Five projects like to see done:
- Public transit, road development, sidewalks, bike paths. Mobility.
- Homeless shelter--emergency needs and soup kitchen where working poor and homeless can get services done.
- Better higher education--GBC doesn't offer enough currently.
- Town center. Love to see that we actually had a community center--part of Pahrump, 160 is not our downtown area. Pahrump downtown. Cultural center.
- Industry--we do have businesses that come in--it's all commercial based.
- Need place for factories.
- Industry--talk about company coming in that is going to build solar panels--build solar panels, make a few jobs, not going to be minimum wage jobs.
- Museums--museum that is here is growing and ramping up and building stuff. Bigger museum would be better, especially with art.
- Vocational training--if these jobs come here, who is going to work with them. Our workers are not qualified to teach or fill these jobs.
- Emergency temporary shelter would be wonderful--a lot of homeless people. Released from the jail--no where to go, nothing.
- Rehabilitation for those that have addiction problems. Go through that locally instead of staying in Vegas.
- Reason for young people to stay here after they get out of high school.
- Boys & Girls Club died.
- Still there, but not called that.
- Industrial Park.
- Youth activities--after school program things.
- Initiative for the community asset that we have that we can use what is in this valley. Work with town and county for people that we do help.
- Work in community for needs that we have.
- Helping the same people every week.
- Tourists coming through--we need some reason for them to stop and stay here and spend money. Might come back with their businesses and increase tax base.
- Need reason for some reason to come to Pahrump to stay.
- It would be good if the public here and the county spending money here--when people to Las Vegas to buy things, it is not supporting the community.
- We need a community center.
- Chamber of commerce, don't know where it is at--unless you know to go to Nevada bank, you don't know.
- State welcome center here from all the people coming in from Death Valley.
- Developing growth industry, growing pot, looking at medical marijuana fields, could have hospitals treating people with medical marijuana.
- More economic development in both the short term and long-term to grow more jobs.
- Business retention.

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

- Something going on quickly with our senior center. We need a place for our seniors to be long-term.
- Infrastructure once again, would like to see in short-term town and county to generate a plan to entice people to come to this community.
- Need a town center--we have nothing. Calvada eye, but if you drive down Calvada the road is a piece of craps.
- Fix the Calvada eye project. Develop a town center, some place where we can gather and not have cars in the middle of the street.
- Do something to attract industry type jobs--those above basic service level jobs. Bring in higher paying jobs with better benefits to diversify the economic base here.
- Fix up the senior center--there is a lot of seniors, especially snowbirds.
- Target or Costco, or some sort of larger shopping.
- Industrial Park--small manufacturing companies that would come over here that would come over here.
- No place to put anybody. Warehouse, x-number of square feet, we don't have these things.
- Little power, water, and electric is available.
- Long-term if you were able to offer a big business a huge amount of property and deed it to them might be able to offset some of the costs.

Q&A

- Why did you come to Pahrump?
- Quiet
- Weather
- Cheap houses
- Sizes of the property.
- Acreage available.
- Want to live in a small community, benefits of a large community with a small community. Close to airport.
- Snowbird population here in the winter time.
- How much swells up?
- Swells up 20,000 in the winter.
- Only have 1,500 RV spaces.
- Proximity of the airport--when I moved to Nye County in 1980, Tonopah had 3,800 and Pahrump had 2,200.
- Community Bulletin Board?
- Nothing on the internet--events calendar.
- Chamber of commerce, do an events calendar of what goes on.
- Integrated into three groups and working on that very output.
- Climate.
- Family.
- Low cost of living.
- Church access,
- Escape from the big cities.
- Wanted to play golf every day.
- Retirement community from Las Vegas--originally were a huge senior population.
- Many people commute from here to Vegas every day.
- Bed and breakfast town. Live here but work in Vegas or retire out here.
- Retirement base pretty well established--children falling on hard times moving to Pahrump to get support.

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

- Where is the center of town?
- Calvada Eye
- 00 streets are Blagg and Basin.
- 372 and 160.
- We have no real center of town.
- Area behind Walgreens, sold as tiny lots for park models and small manufactured homes, impossible to assemble lots to do enough with it.
- Pahrump was never a town, a bunch of ranches, preferred equities sold 4,500 lots.
- Master plan from preferred equities was overruled.
- Calvada and Pahrump Valley Boulevard were going to be commercial center.

Wednesday, October 12 PM

Veterans, Tourism, Nugget General Public, Great Basin College

Challenges/Problems

- Permits in getting new businesses to our town. Too much politics in it.
- We don't have enough larger businesses in our community which provide decent wages with benefits with publicity here in Pahrump.
- Publicity--bad publicity.
- Development of political leadership in community is lacking.
- Lack of veteran care in our community. For most of the veteran care we have to go to Las Vegas. Most of the appointments, you have to be in Las Vegas.
- Combative attitude in general of Pahrump.
- We have no Main Street per se with store fronts that are pedestrian friendly and invites pedestrian traffic.
- There is a lack of support services for the senior community--example being only one day a month for the senior social security office being operational up here, forces us to travel long distances without any public transportation.
- Public transportation--getting around.
- Big challenge that Pahrump has is the ugliness when you seen through visitors eyes--it's ugly, got trash, abandoned things, don't know when you're really there.
- Not having enough available, affordable, handicapped accessible individual housing units. Assisted--housing you can get your services you need, ADLs, wheel chair accessible. Multiple people live in one unit.
- Some of the road conditions are very poor, a lot of them are still very crowded, and need leveling.
- Basically, there is nothing here, to do anything you have to go to Vegas, price of gas.
- Transportation is a challenge.
- Transportation corridors for goods and services.
- High speed, high quality internet access, broadband.
- Aging population like a lot of small towns. Population under 40 below the national level over 60 higher.
- Need to retain the people under 40 to survive.
- Small rural communities suffer from challenges--Pahrump does not have an infrastructure system developed to attract industrial or light industrial businesses.
- Governmental structure has to look at a plan whereby they can purchase public/private utility companies, then hopefully require to incorporate so they can float adequately priced bonds, float a bond issue for that and expand the services to the areas that have been zoned for light industrial and industrial.

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

- Having a small business, there are too many regulations, and taxations to make a business go here.
- Communications--bedroom community, not everybody takes the local paper, hard to reach out and get information to everybody. No major source of information.
- We have no jobs.
- Foreclosure homes that are sitting here and are getting trashed and vandalized, nobody wants to be held accountable for it. Doing nothing but polluting the entire town.
- Doesn't look real pretty when you drive into Pahrump and see trashed lots.
- Jobs and infrastructure.
- Why don't we finish a road--when we start, it we only go half way. Five houses, they stop at the fifth house instead of connecting to another artery.
- When you drive into town, respectfully it's ugly. Businesses--no incentives to draw businesses to the community.
- Tag on the jobs and the economy and what everyone said. Real unemployment at 20% or higher in this valley, lost working population.
- Equally concern about increased number of folks living in poverty today.
- Transit needed for special needs individual. If you are not a senior, you can't use the senior services. Only thing probably use disability in a wheel chair in a cab.
- Having things centrally located and sidewalks and curbs.
- Talked to people who don't want their roads paved.
- Kids want to go outside, there is nothing to do. Have to go to Vegas to do something.
- Lack of public's awareness of environmental issues--so much signage, billboards and trash and lack of respect for the absolute natural beauty that surrounds us.
- Introduce some civility to the community--animosity, directed personally to people on the board. Not a positive environment for anything. Inhibits progress.
- Southern Nevada rural transportation group. Come to town over and over, 50% sharing of money and leverage town's or county's money to have a system.
- Political structure that we have in this town that inhibits the participation of the retired individuals who could help the town.
- The town board is only advisory. Problem is a lot of the seniors are very gifted and could be involved do not enter into the structure that we have.
- We need a strong Mayor incorporated town; you would bring out all of the good talent that you have here.
- I was at the high school last night and they had the gear up senior meeting and not one of the seniors that I talked to last night is going to stay in Pahrump.
- We need to do economic development for 40 and under crowd. Keep these people here. Nothing here for people.
- When a plea was made for a volunteer program to help clean up graffiti, received two phone calls.
- Why not use the inmates to go out and do that stuff.
- Public education system and education in the valley. Technical skills and what we can bring to that.
- Somebody willing to come do these things. Do get some of the sources from other entities other than the federal government. 25% does it.
- Afterschool programming--lack of.
- County has control over zoning and there is no continuity to it. Going to put this over here, why, because the planning board says it is a good idea.
- Major challenge is starting a small business here. Government makes you jump through too many hoops.

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

- Health care--lack of.
- Drugs, people are coming and growing marijuana or cooking meth
- Lack of education at the technical levels, have no way of hiring qualified people
- Too many people that are running the town that do not want to see it grow
- Students are not ready for college
- Students are not coming to college prepared
- need more four year degrees, need to be a full four year college
- Lack of communication between town and county, need leaders to operate from same page or be committed to what they say they are
- Math taught in this town at high school is inadequate, we teach seventh grade math to adults
- Need bus service or other forms of transportation in town and to Las Vegas
- Lack of cultural facilities, events
- Lack of parking at college, need separate college facility
- Need to regulate outlandish utility fees
- Need to improve education system

Assets/Strengths

- Location--being so close to Las Vegas and so close to Death Valley, prime location. '
- Organizations and people that live in this town. New people come in and are very friendly.
- We have several businesses here that are unique to the community. Front Sight, Spring Mountain Driving Range.
- Undeveloped land here, potential to expand and grow new businesses.
- People coming together to help each other. Anything that is needed help pours out.
- Majority of the people in Pahrump are very positive, like Pahrump which is why they are here.
- Diversity here with the Death Valley, being close to the minds and the ghost towns, hiking, off road and bike trails.
- Rural setting--in Las Vegas, run into traffic jams all the time. Only time there is a traffic jam in Pahrump is when they have the parade.
- Wide open spaces.
- Good thing is actually the weather. Major assets, we have zero. Strength of the community, we don't have anything. Stayed here because of the rural area.
- We have potential, talk to the city officials they all want something big and then they get fooled, and they all fall through. Start small and show the world we can handle something small.
- I moved here from Los Angeles almost a year ago. Took me a while to warm up to Pahrump because of the way the community looks.
- Paper, support groups, community activities, stuff largely done on a volunteer basis which is remarkable for a town of this size.
- Tragedies. People coalesce around the people who support them.
- Natural beauty of the valley with the surrounding mountains.
- Faith based organizations and a large number of churches in our valley. All active and very much concerned about the community.
- The weather.
- The library is awesome. Very impressive size for such a small community. Community pool, the kids love it.
- The community center when it was open, they did a lot of things with the community when it was open. Come from Vegas to do things here in Pahrump.
- Lot of times I do. Volunteerism is stuff to do. Free things go on in this community.
- Used to have outdoor concerts at Terrible's Lakeside. Person can come in here and sit down and listen to the music.

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

- Movies in the park in the summer that you can go to. Does not cost you a thing.
- Son lives in Las Vegas at 45, he cannot drive, and nobody can drive him.
- Greatest Fourth of July program that you have here. Our jaw dropped when we saw the length of it and the beauty of it.
- We are blessed with a lot of retirees that are very gifted and very well educated and ready to get into a political process that works. Generation that lived through struggles.
- Housing, just surviving. Change political process we currently have in place, open it up to a strong mayor board.
- Open access to the desert. We have a lot of clubs that go out and do things. Pahrump Valley Rock Hounds--use the public land that they have here.
- Fall Festival and Harvest Festival.
- My granddaughter cries every week when she has to go home in Vegas. Doesn't miss the movies. Would rather be here where she can see the stars
- I personally moved to Pahrump for the liberty and the freedom to have my animals and cars. Liberty is going away in Pahrump and that scares me.
- Also a group of seniors very vocal about no change; don't do this, that make our town look hostile to businesses and investors coming in.
- Positive thing--don't know I can really come up with one except I like the wide open spaces and that is so general.
- You can have wide open spaces with some sense of respect and responsibility--a lot of people in this town that don't have respect.
- Getting some people to volunteer to actually help improve the situation. Other cities doing with little or no budget. Adopt a planter box.
- Up to the citizens, not on the back of the government, or taking the taxpayers money, get more people to volunteer to help clean up the town.
- Sunrise, sunsets, shadows and beautiful mountain ranges that we are surrounded with. Proximity to international attractions.
- Death Valley, what you cannot find in this Valley, you can go find it.
- I would like to reiterate that the library is absolutely phenomenal. Lived in 13 states, belong to every single library. The Pahrump Library is Class A.
- Large population of young people, older people are negative, younger people are more positive and willing to try new things
- The police force
- We have a lot of younger people that are go-getters that want to do things and do not have the opportunities to do them
- Lot of available land that is currently not being used
- There are good people on the town board trying to do something
- The wisdom of our senior population but it is good that we have young people that bring energy to get things done
- Some of the retired people don't attend town board meetings because of the attitudes but work behind the scene
- Our climate, natural beauty, proximity to Las Vegas and California, opportunity for outdoor recreation, horses, ATV's
- We have a college
- Animal friendly, you can have pets and take them around
- We have a hospital
- Blessed with a lot of volunteers, more people that will volunteer per capita than most communities

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

- Proximity to Las Vegas but we are not Vegas, can visit when we want, think it is a perfect place to be for someone that wants to start a family

Projects/Initiatives

- We need to find out what is going on with the community center--several people donated land for that and we can't get it straightened out. Problems with the quilters in town, they don't have a place to meet that is free. Let's get rid of what we need to. All things corrected, somebody needs to get it done.
- We need a central area for carnivals and things that we have with a building like a barb root. Old type fair that I used to go to when I was a kid.
- Beautification project--short term--welcoming people to the town on the north and the south side, let people know that you have arrived this is Pahrump.
- About a year ago--talking about buying the right castle which is an eyesore for our town. Welcome to Pahrump, entrance to Death Valley.
- Town branding name--gateway to adventure is perfect. We need something like that just about that location.
- When you're in Mesquite all the beautiful entrances the whole bit. Pahrump--something to say "ahh," instead of "oh."
- We love Pahrump but there is some things we need to do to fix things.
- A visitors center--we need a visitors center, we need a central place.
- We cannot move forward on any project or initiative until we get a more cohesive working local government between the town and county.
- In order for community to grow in time frame--infrastructure and quality of life. Struggle with what we define as quality of life here.
- Quality of life issue needs to be addressed at some point in time--whatever we put at the entrances of the community. Generic, welcoming thing.
- Water sewer, quality of life piece decides curbed gutter, quality of life types of things.
- Been stated already--we need downtown Pahrump where people would like to go and spend some time.
- We need infrastructure because people like to grow and have families raised and stay in the community.
- Entertainment is part of your life--no movie theater, nothing to do in off hours that are family oriented. Not related to gaming or alpha man, there is not a lot to do off hours in Pahrump.
- If it is not related to gaming or alpha man type activities there is not a lot to do after hours in Pahrump.
- Create a trade school--open up a company and call it trade school for kids after they graduate high school.
- Learned mathematics and reading a book. Only thing they can do. Other thing from the town--what I see is. 12 years still see this town.
- We don't have a tourist trap here--nobody gets out, just get apple and go to death valley.
- Same thing they have in Springs--old western town, no paved roads on a 10 acre property, little shops in there, make rent.
- I want to have a brothel--not really a brothel but a brothel-themed bed and breakfast in that town.
- Here in Pahrump everybody is focused on big business, Harley proposed theme park. Not possible because Pahrump support something like that.
- Start small and show the world that we can do it.
- Supportive housing in the long and short term.
- Better pavement, fix the roads.
- Something for the kids who love skateboarding--skate board rink. Mountain biking, biking trails.
- Nothing.

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

- Be able to start a project that would expand parks.
- Transportation to those focal points that are already here, mass transit.
- I'd like to see a vast improvement in the educational system and the focus on education in the short term, so in the long term we defeat the cycle of poverty rampant in this town.
- We need to change the political structure. Been through two incorporations, they made the town a much better place because taxes did not go up.
- We need to establish a small--emphasize small--industrial park in this town, high speed internet, water, sewer, access to roads.
- Very short term, like committee or group to come in with a strong recommendation intercity transportation system.
- Real concern--touches not only in getting the general population, not just the seniors. Get their people to the jobs.
- Middle of the winter picked up people lugging groceries home. Town of this size and population needs to get people where they need to go.
- If you get drunk, you can't go home.
- Dichotomy government process, town is advisory, have no budget, make a recommendation that your comments to them would reference and refer to the commissioners should take it seriously and address it once and for all by forming a citizens advisory committee to work with other governmental agencies such as the town. Look at how to bring transportation.
- Paid \$150,000 to have tank driving in Pahrump for \$125,000 we can have a bus.
- Home owners, prices are down, appraiser looks at. Increases the value of your home if it is close or near to public transportation.
- Enterprise or business zone. No impact fees or startup fees, either from the county town, Utilities Inc, and valley electric.
- Indoor shooting range--we have lots of places to shoot outdoors, when it gets dark at 4:30 no where to go.
- Town board does operate under a budget--fire department and parks and recreation, ambulance service.
- Incentives or whatever--would like to see the town become self-sustaining without federal government involvement.
- Short-term: improvements for the town, something like a movie theater, or an indoor pool. Shut it down before it is even cold.
- During adult time, I was using that pool.
- Politics needs to get corrected in this town--town versus county I am sick of it. Pahrump is turning into a big joke nationwide.
- Advisory groups are good, spent more than 1,000 hours on an advisory group. Town loved it county didn't, so it got shelved.
- All these studies that we keep paying money for, and short-term project, town, county, decide what roads are commercial and what roads taken.
- Get roads designated so everybody is on the same plane.
- All our roads belong to the county and it is them. Main street project is--stick with branding part of the new old west.
- Community--comprehensive community master plan, no intervention from government, no government money. Infrastructure to tourism, downtown, education.
- We have senior populations of people that have done these things as part of their jobs and roles. Community master plan, private sector funded.
- Think the community on the whole would come together for something like that if they didn't have to deal with the town board and the county board.
- The nitpicking and name calling and disjointed it doesn't work.

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

- People who like to play games, a GameStop.
- Once it gets its land and its funding, over and done for any other thing needed from the community.
- Medical transcription, take externships and would train people. Regulations such nitpicking and business regulation. Don't want to get an office somewhere.
- We have a term around here, how the hell did we end up in Pahrump.
- Year-round after school program, we do have a summer program but it is tentative and depends on private funding
- Need to develop program that kids have a safe place to go to after school or at night for teen dances or movies
- Relocation of college, need to develop jobs, technical jobs mini-silicon valley, farming
- Different hospital, cancer center
- College that is not co-located with high school
- More youth activities, movie theatre, not enough to do here, need more arts or cultural activities, need recreation center
- Need bigger college campus, need tech classes, possible solar, need to train students in green technology, develop solar fields
- Town needs to incorporate, hospital was delayed due to lack of infrastructure, need more medical care and personnel
- Need to expand college courses for medical students
- Need a SWAT team to deal with the drugs
- Need dedicated economic development authority, our county uses one company for economic development which is scientifically based
- They are a great company but are not meeting our needs, our town has one person that is responsible for economic development but it is not working
- IKEA, Trader Joes, Whole Foods or something huge to draw people here
- Something that brings businesses here and helps them to get through the process
- Need to develop programs for youth to do, softball leagues, movie theatre

Q&A

- People come from all over the world here, really amazing the diversity.
- Long-time people born here still here.
- Couple things brought me here to Pahrump, the rural lifestyle and natural beauty of the place. Blood pressure down.
- Four wheeling saw that people had multiple cars in our yard, saw wow, fewer regulations, we could have our cars and animals and guns here.
- We came from the Northwest, so we wanted property when we retired, mountains are spectacular.
- We moved out here from the east coast, originally health reasons, transferred out here for a job out here. Weather, condition, climate.
- Domestic partnership law that is out here is another factor.
- Affordability. Community is very affordable. Compare it to neighboring states, much more affordable here.
- How do you see a Master plan being successful without the government being involved in it without the county and town?
- Not the 800 pound gorillas being part of it. Need s to be part of the comprehensive master plan. Power and influence.
- Some credibility and clout to county commissioners and town board members we don't have today. Presentations will be the key.
- Let them know that we're moving forward, this is our plan and our community. In my career, economic development was always from the private sector.

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

- Not under five county commissioners that have different interests, economic development under control of county commissioners simply cannot work.
- Taking things a certain direction is not a master plan.
- No need to rely on federal or state monies. But part of the plan can be state monies.
- CEO club in town--called the CEO group. Looked at signage and never got wheels underneath them. Didn't lock into a mission.
- Scared to death of desert view
- Horror stories about the care they received. Everybody gets turned to Vegas; want to see a specialist, anything major sent over to Vegas, not well equipped for trauma, air lifted.
- Other side heard a lot of good about desert view. Hospitals been there for ever and ever. Some doctors are new to here, so they don't have reputation and rapport and trust in people.
- No proper care as a big city. Doctors come in and then they come out. Turnover and doctors here. More established now with some of the new medical companies.
- CON process--certificate of need for rural hospitals, many hospitals that CON process is hospital wants to move into rural areas in Nevada.
- Many, many good hospitals wanting to build here, if it weren't for the CON process, they kept getting turned down. CON process to go away.
- Some people who know how to run a hospital. Standard of care is way too long and the wait time is way too long.

Thursday, October 13 AM High School, Coalition

Challenges/Problems

- We don't have a movie theater.
- People getting into the community--people putting money into things, like building new school.
- Drugs.
- Drugs.
- Roads.
- Not enough stores.
- No stores.
- Ditto all.
- Not enough good restaurants out here.
- Jobs. Lack of jobs.
- Nothing to do.
- Lack of a movie theater.
- Everything.
- Ditto everything.
- Jobs, lack of.
- Nothing to do.
- Drugs.
- Nothing to do.
- No Mall.
- Nothing to do.
- No jobs.
- Not enough to keep people entertained so people are going around doing dumb stuff.
- Nobody wants to hire teenagers.
- Landscaping, lot of trash.
- Jobs. Lack of jobs.

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

- Roads are bad.
- Not enough programs for kids.
- No sidewalks.
- Unemployment.
- Budget cuts.
- Violence.
- Job loss.
- Medical care.
- Not enough good quality programs for the youth to be involved in outside of the actual school setting.
- General infrastructure, roads, sidewalks, fire protection, Blagg Road.
- Blagg closed for almost a year now.
- We don't have enough stop lights.
- We should take them down and just zoom down the street.
- Inability for small businesses in this community to actually stay in business.
- Pahrump is a fairly young town and we don't have a lot of systems in place, such as girl scout troops don't have continuity or history
- Even in government leadership there is a disjointedness in the way we go about things and we struggle with everyone having their own vision
- Sometimes we have people in office for their own issues and may not have the skills to do the job
- Agree with earlier, we have a problem with consistency
- Community doesn't meet needs of our community due to a lack of resources
- Lack of resources
- Large geographic area, there is no center of town, lack of plan
- Very few communities with sidewalks, none with street lights, no public transportation
- Transportation concern, and lack of resource identification and collaboration, professional employee database is minimal
- Lack of emergency response, resources, consistency with decision making and rules
- Transportation is ongoing overriding concern both in town and to Las Vegas
- Our political arena has become so negative that anyone with any sense isn't getting in to it, it is so ugly, discourages people who want to help
- Lack of recreational activities that youth and families can do here
- No bike paths

Assets/Strengths

- Community life--everyone really knows each other, not like Vegas where you don't know anyone.
- School sports and things like that.
- Involved in clubs or sports, you get a lot of support.
- Quiet, very few houses next to highways.
- Close hunting locations.
- Pahrump given my family a lot of opportunity--it gave my Mom a job.
- Everything is close together.
- Not house to house, more open space between houses.
- Riding quads.
- More room.
- Never left out of the circle--something happens, everybody knows it.
- Not all crammed together.
- Small community.
- Open.

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

- A lot of space.
- Small and know each other.
- Not as much crime as there is in Las Vegas and other areas.
- You can do things here you can't do in the big city.
- Movies in the park in the summer.
- Good retirement.
- Easy to get around.
- Small.
- No traffic.
- Something happens as a community we pull together
- Football.
- Lot of space.
- Quiet.
- Well populated.
- The space.
- They are starting to build more stuff.
- Not crowded.
- The weather.
- Pretty quality educational facilities, especially with the new high school going up.
- Beautiful sunsets.
- Actually see the stars.
- Core group of people here in the community that are willing to volunteer and step up.
- Not a lot of pollution.
- Close enough to Vegas, where you can go work there and come out here and be quiet and stuff.
- No bugs
- Lot of parks
- When there is collaborative effort there is a sincere desire to get things done
- Lot size, not cheek to cheek housing
- Weather
- Small town feel, feeling of safety
- Close knit community, we are fortunate because of coalition, everyone knows each other, resources know each other
- Collaboration, churches work together and people willing to work together
- A lot of hope
- Have a pool of unique people, amazing talented people that live here, pool of artistic people, when you need something done there is someone that has done that
- Weather
- Space
- If you are innovative person that wants to do something you can despite restrictive building and safety regulations
- You could come here and start small businesses
- Proximity to Las Vegas, can go anywhere but don't have to lock door here
- Good educators, educational facilities, that care about the kids
- Churches work together well
- Great kids in community, kids that step up and volunteer and help support kids, kids help families through tough economic times
- Town's quirkiness gives it charm, approachable leaders, being able to do things in shorts and tee-shirts

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

- Proximity to Las Vegas, nothing wrong with Pahrump being a bedroom community

Projects/Initiatives

- Some of the older buildings that aren't being used; tear them down and make it cleaner.
- Same as her.
- Create more jobs, more businesses. More people can go to work.
- Mall or Movie Theater.
- Whole town needs to get bigger.
- A mall.
- Fix the roads.
- More activities for kids to do.
- Jobs.
- More activities.
- I want to move to Vegas because this town is never going to get anything better.
- Roads.
- More entertainment--build stuff so we can do stuff.
- See businesses thrive and more businesses come into town.
- Bigger college, more kids might come here for college.
- Build a sports complex, we don't have enough.
- Fix the Blagg Road.
- Make the town bigger, expand it more.
- Youth activities for people in the town.
- All that empty space--they need to make a Disneyland or In-and-Out Burger.
- Open more establishments some place where families can go and hang out, not gambling but family focused.
- Have a mall so we teens could have jobs and hang out there too.
- Houses sinking on the clay, so we need to find a better way to build houses here, better foundations.
- More nonprofit volunteer programs for kids. During the summer, kids aren't in school anymore. Wander around town, don't have things to do.
- Bigger hospital.
- We need a university out here. Movie Theater.
- University.
- Water Park.
- Would like to have a mall with theaters.
- I would like to see the community work together better--we fight each other. Groups of people, school district, town, and community work together.
- Groups of people are negative that advance improvement or change is a challenge to getting people to work together.
- Maybe an ordinance where people are required to keep their property in a manner that makes our town look a little nicer or clean it up.
- Better medical services.
- More greens--trees and grass.
- We need to lower our prices a bit, gas is more expensive makes it hard to do things.
- More sidewalks and streetlights out there.
- I would like to see kind of a strategic plan, or a plan where we want to be in 5 or 10 years and set some goals to get there.
- Make a homeless shelter for people who have lost their houses.

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

- More places for kids to go do, all teens hang out at Wal-Mart or Burger King, need mall and movie theatre
- Public transportation, infrastructure, sidewalks, bike paths,
- Homeless shelter, soup kitchen, services for our working poor
- Higher education, more opportunities, actual campus with dorms
- Industry, we have commercial, more small businesses, would like to see more mom and pop businesses, big box stores take money out
- Cultural center, we need a downtown area, we need a community center with museum, community center, tourists can stop there
- Need to develop our public services, police, fire, medical we need specialists here
- More different kinds of music at events like harvest fest, more music teens like that could bring kids together
- Ditto on transportation and cultural and theatre, need a community center, Olympic size pool so we can have competitive swimming
- I like everything said
- Putting a couple of campaigns together for Pahrump, work and live in Pahrump, campaign to bring different businesses here
- We have speedway that continues to grow and we need things to attract people here
- Training for people so that they can get jobs here, people and families are great here
- Mesquite is a city because it is in Clark County, government is a town board, would like to see it become a theatre, bringing one in
- Would employ kids, 182 - 262 kids registered in school that are homeless
- Cultural center, Pahrump arts council has been trying to create a cultural center but lack of funds
- Businesses that are succeeding here are real high end so if that is our niche we need to expand that sector, attract similar businesses
- Like campaign idea like live and work in Pahrump
- Things open and people are excited and then six months they are closed, indoor skate ring, laser tag, indoor swap meet, why
- Need more public works, need more choices for utilities because they charge so much, businesses find it hard to survive because of utility costs and impact fees
- Limited with high speed internet, no cable here, inadequate TV and cell phone service
- Create an economic development zone

Q&A

- Losing small businesses, why?
- Certain few groups of people or families that control everything that goes on here. Allow more expansion for small businesses or chain restaurants and stores.
- Too many red flags and fences.
- What about entrepreneurship, can school system teach that?
- We used to have FBLA, two years ago put in program based on your GPA, amount of money you could make. Had some value. Wide eyed experience.
- Struggle to find advisors because it is a lot of work.
- Interest in opening a business?
- Half the room is.
- They would volunteer to do things.
- Where is the center of town?
- Wal-Mart
- Highway 160 and 372.
- How do you feel about seniors and elderly population?

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

- Some don't contribute.
- Health care is just horrible for them.
- Basically take away from us--they don't allow stuff to come in for us. We wanted and feeder and they got rid of it because they didn't want it.
- Not many members of Front Sight and race track are locals

Written Comments

Challenges/ Problems

- Getting technical businesses to move to Pahrump
- Lack of mass transit, transportation system so that people who need to travel to Las Vegas can
- Communication to town officials and commissioners on issues in a clear and calm atmosphere
- Improving infrastructure, roads, water and sewage systems
- Allow volunteers to help on smaller projects and paid staff to work on bigger issues
- Stop in fighting and the need to be the one in charge work as a team for the good of all
- Aging population like many small towns; Our population under 40 is significantly below the national and Nevada average, and our population over 60 is significantly higher; People are leaving for jobs and better opportunities elsewhere; We need to find ways to retain the under 40 population and families; It's those people who generally support the retired population; All across the Midwest towns are disappearing because of the migration away from small towns; I don't want to see Pahrump fall victim to that trend; (example – school population numbers in the county are down, suggesting the migration of families out of the county)
- We need to create an environment that encourages businesses to locate in Pahrump; I don't know how aggressive the town is about economic development, and I am not being critical of their efforts; I just don't know the level of their activity; Pahrump is a hard sell for businesses – don't have a rail line for shipping of goods and products, not near an interstate, pay a premium to ship from Pahrump due to rural status, don't have good high speed internet access or fiber optic, and we have high impact and access fees; need to find a way to sell Pahrump
- At the same time, government needs to be more business friendly; Guy on 160 who closed his pool business; Changed the rules midstream; Business closing due to some silly requirement; Not anti-government, but let's be practical and reasonable; Let's learn to cooperate and support each other
- Roads – we need to improve our roads. I am not talking about paving all town streets. That would be nice, but not in the budget. Those streets that are paved need to be better maintained. For example, the road next to NAPA auto parts going south is terrible. Patched so many times it is worse than a gravel road.
- Infrastructure – using Blagg road as an example. How long does it take to repair a problem? Let's fix it and then recover the cost from the appropriate people. Water – west end of town water pressure varies all the time. Lines not adequate to support usage.
- Rudd Community Center – another example of needing to repair, get back in use, and then recover the cost.
- Animosity within the community of a personal nature – some of it is vitriolic and it turns people off. I may disagree with a decision or a plan, but I don't personalize it. This activity stops progress.
- Need to improve the appearance of the community – I know this is a sensitive issue. But this is critical to growth. Neighborhood example – weeds.
- Noise abatement, and dust abatement issues need to improve.
- One of the major problems in Pahrump is the drug problem. Whether the criminals are meth heads or prescription junkies or are strung out on some other illicit drug, the fact remains they are rampant. Their illegal drug activity leads to multiple crimes which is another one of our major problems. The crime rate in this town is out of control and despite the efforts of the Sheriff and

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

his department; the majority of the crimes go unpunished. The Sheriff and his staff do their job by arresting an unbelievable amount of criminals, only to have the court system here in Pahrump and Nye County let them go. The criminals know they will not be sentenced which is why so many of them are repeat offenders. A high percentage of them are let out on OR and end up committing more crimes while they are awaiting sentencing on their original offences. Our judicial system is severely lacking and they enable the law breakers to continue breaking the law. Those breaking the law view our system as a joke and they know their stay in jail will be brief and many of them let their friends from out of town know that Pahrump has a revolving door at the court house and that you can pretty much get away with anything.

- Another serious problem we have here is the homeless population. They live like animals, most of them by choice. They have ruined all of our parks by urinating and defecating on the trees and the grass. The parks reek of human waste and alcohol. If the stench isn't enough to discourage a family from visiting our parks, the used hypodermic needles and broken bottles and bodies sleeping all over in sleeping bags is. Not to mention the fact that they are belligerent and act like they own the place. If they don't live in the parks, they live in one of the many camps located all over town. There is also major drug and alcohol use at their campsites. Not to mention the litter problem and the unsanitary conditions. To make matters worse, there are groups who feed them regularly. They are enabling the m to continue to live like animals. They don't have any desire to help themselves because groups give them tents and food. A majority of the homeless get quite a healthy chunk of money every month because they are on disability or welfare and a high majority of them get food stamps.
- Those who panhandle are also a big problem. They approach people all over town. You can't go grocery shopping or to the gas station or to many of our restaurants without having a least one of them get up in your face. They are quite bold and make locals as well as out of town visitors to the area feel very uncomfortable. And most of the panhandlers have homes and drive pretty nice vehicles. But they have figured out that they can easily intimidate females and the elderly in Pahrump and they make a living at it.
- Another problem is the large volume of welfare recipients in Pahrump. We make it very easy to collect a lot of money each month as well as give free Section 8 housing, food stamps and medical care to just about anyone who has a child. And those who ride that gravy train know the more kids they have, the more money they get. A lot of people on welfare here are also criminals or are on drugs or both. The system is not helping these people to be good parents or to be decent humans. It does however make it very easy to continue to rude the system at taxpayer's expense.
- We also have an illegal immigrant problem here in Pahrump, although many choose to minimize or ignore it because they know that the legal citizens will not do the jobs that illegal people will. It is easier to pay many illegal immigrants from the same family a below minimum wage than it is to pay legal people a legal wage for the same job.
- The challenges Pahrump faces can be accomplished if we take the town back! We need to complete the new jail, and revamp the judicial system, and prosecute all of the criminals and drug dealers and users to the fullest extent of the law. We need to shut down the revolving door we have given them and lock them up so they can do their time for each crime they commit. We need to quit rewarding them for their bad behavior and let them know that if you break the law in Pahrump, you "will" do time.
- We need to quit enabling the homeless population. If we continue to enable them, they will continue to bring all of their homeless friends from Las Vegas and other communities to Pahrump.
- Pahrump needs to clean itself up. We need to quit ignoring the serious problems that exist here and do something about them, rather than pretending they don't exist.
- We need a traffic light at Hwy 160 and Mesquite.
- Roads need repair

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

- No activities for kids
- Need more funding for roads to include maintenance and additional stop lights
- Need to make it easier for businesses to be established in Pahrump. Small town life is great but we need more convenient amenities.
- Traffic light – Hwy 160 & Mesquite
- Speed limit on Hwy 160 from Golden Nugget heading south 35 MPH? 45 MPH more reasonable
- We need good paying jobs, new businesses!
- Lack of effective leadership – still too much a good ole boy system. Need to be incorporated to establish credibility & effectiveness.
- Too much in-fighting
- Need to become “own” town and not an annex to Las Vegas – So, need services that would mean we could survive on our own – more shopping options, etc. Encourage & grow medical services
- Petty Political Posturing!
- No “Business District” – spread out all over valley
- Many roads in desperate need of repair/upkeep
- Adequate cell coverage & internet availability throughout the entire valley
- Trying to get jobs for county is impossible, if you not a friend or relative you don’t even get an interview for those high paying jobs. Should be investigated –
- Taxes are higher here than in Los Angeles & we had garbage pick up & strong police protection included in them
- The roads are terrible
- Need 24/7 daycares for medical/law enforcement/casino employees
- The high schools are too full, 45 kids in a class – no sports for kids until high school – no music program
- No movie theater, need a mall
- Too many people in town not wanting progress or new companies. They need to realize new company means more jobs.
- We need more things for teenagers to do in town, arcade, Movie Theater, etc.
- Some people do not want Pahrump to grow
- Encouraging new businesses would allow for more job opportunities & economic growth
- There is little to do, especially for youth
- There are limited shopping options
- I feel we don’t have enough entertainment for our children to do to stay out of trouble and want to stay in town
- Pahrump needs a transit system
- It does not compare to Las Vegas
- Poor layout of the town – the 160 needs to be 45 MPH the entire way through town
- There needs to be activities and places to go for teens, you just see them wandering through town on Fri. & Sat. nights
- Education
- Community unity – too much pettiness (i.e. Harvest Parade)
- Need a traffic light at Hwy 160 and Mesquite
- Lack of good paying jobs
- Eliminate high cost to new businesses to build & start-up
- Lack of activities & functions for teenagers & young kids
- Over coming the mindset that this is a retirement community
- Lots of old abandoned run down buildings needing to be cleaned up and or torn down

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

- We need ways to keep people here instead of going to LV to spend money on clothing, food, & entertainment
- Permission to build – impossible
- Need Board that promotes growth
- Lack of pride in Community
- Too long response from (Police) Sheriff's Dept.
- Need Movie Theater
- Too much crime
- Need something for kids and seniors to do
- Too much crime
- Nothing for teenagers to do
- Dysfunctional elected officials
- County & Village Board
- Anti-business
- People in the area seem to be afraid of progress and growth
- Commissioners & City Fathers
- County & Community Boards/Commission
- Lack of Business
- Theater
- Lack of aggressive business marketing/environment
- Roads
- Keeping dues reasonable, pools & spa open & heated
- They do not estimate the cost of a project before proceeding
- Short sale – getting approval on houses
- The Town Board and its Manager's lack of effectiveness and knowledge
- Not listening to what the Pahrumpians want. It's all their way or none, not good for Pahrump
- They seem to think the monies are the Town Board and theirs to do what they want regardless the public comment is, it is Pahrump money
- Town Board and Manager needs to go
- The Town Board not allowing growth, and always fighting with each other
- Jobs
- Drugs
- Things for young people to do
- Law Enforcement
- New businesses coming to Pahrump are discouraged by all the "red tape" and the costs imposed by the town
- No good venues for performing arts
- Grow houses, meth labs
- Elderly driver population
- Nothing for the young population to do
- We have too many people here on welfare and who are on drugs. We need a better program to help these people move away from the system.
- We need more things for children to do here
- Our Town Board is awful and we need to incorporate! They chase so many businesses away
- Homeless people
- More things for kids to do
- Bad roads
- No mall

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

- Public transportation
- Gas prices are too high
- Need a water park
- I don't like Pahrump
- Weather too cold in the morning, too hot in afternoon
- Bad roads
- Not as good school system
- More cool things for kids (Movie Theater, mall, water park)
- Public Transportation
- Sidewalks
- Gas prices too high
- Bus routes
- Home secure from animals and heat
- More schools
- Lockers
- Bicycle lanes
- Sidewalks
- Movie Theater
- Prices
- Bad Roads
- Homeless
- No Movie Theater
- Sidewalks
- Bike lane
- Not enough schools
- Not enough school budget
- No Movie Theater, need mall
- Bad Roads
- Homeless
- More things for kids to do
- Bus route for School
- Bad roads
- No Movie Theater
- No bus for the town
- Gas prices
- No rain
- Bad roads
- Homeless
- More youth activities
- No Movie Theater
- No public transportation
- Mall, sidewalks, bicycle lanes
- Gas prices, Homes aren't secure
- More campus space, lockers, water park
- More activities
- Bumpy roads
- No Movie Theater
- No public transportation

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

- No mall
- More stores
- Lower gas prices
- No sidewalks
- More schools
- Lockers
- Jobs
- Roads
- Public transportation
- Homeless
- The roads
- No Movie Theater!
- No public transportation
- Malls
- Lower gas prices
- Bad roads
- Homeless
- Mall
- Sidewalks
- Bad route
- Gas prices
- Gas
- Bus route
- Need more stores
- Movie
- Homeless

Assets/Strengths

- Living near Las Vegas allows you to shop in the larger retail but not live within the community
- Rural communities allow you to do what you want on your property with less restrictions
- Smaller schools better education
- Solar business opportunities
- The sense of community – when you look at the community calendar for example, there is a lot for people to do here. Same with support meetings. When someone suffers a tragedy, here, people actually help out. There is a great sense of helping one another here. Something not seen in the city. Something I think unique to rural America.
- Rural Lifestyle – pleasant, not stressful, easy going. Since I moved here my blood pressure has gone down, and my enjoyment of everyday living has increased. I'm sure my longevity has increased by moving to Pahrump.
- People are friendly, despite some animosity. They go out of their way to help and they are eager to help. People talk to one another. People accept you for who you are.
- Scenery is spectacular. The views of the mountains are amazing. I enjoy sitting on the back patio watching the sunset over the mountains. In the morning, it is the reverse.
- Proximity to Las Vegas – if you need something not available in town, or want to take in a show, etc., Las Vegas is an easy drive.
- One of our major assets is CCA. They are one of the first non-gaming corporations that has come to our town and provided many local residents with quality jobs as a fair wage. It is quite refreshing to know that good hardworking law abiding citizens were given the opportunity to be rewarded for their good behavior. Not only did CCA give many locals good jobs, they have also

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

contributed a substantial amount of revenue to Pahrump's taxes, as well as many other monetary contributions. And even though all of the jobs at CCA could not be filled by locals, a majority of the employees who came from other places are now living in Pahrump. So again, local businesses are experiencing more customers, some homes were purchased, and others are being rented. In the year they have been in operation, they have run a safe facility and most of the fears that a lot of the public initially had have been laid to rest. We can only hope other companies will follow the example CCA has set and come to Pahrump as well.

- Another one of our assets is Pahrump's geography. Due to the lay of the land, and our relatively small population, most people who would like to live on a few acres can do so here, which is pretty rare in a lot of other communities.
- There are quite a few artistic types living here and they have the freedom to express themselves through their art without infringing on their neighbor's space. Pahrump has a lot of colorful people and each one of them gives Pahrump character.
- Plenty of land to do a lot of good & different things
- Lower taxes
- Lower crime due to open carry & concealed carry of weapons
- Not incorporated
- Having an employer like CCA, providing great jobs and revenue
- Parks
- Pahrump has a great library, its quiet, its clean and not a lot of traffic, it is close to work
- One of our major assets is having CCA moving to our town, and by giving us jobs and putting people to work
- And it also helped when Denny's moved in. More money means more assets to the community
- Plenty of land to expand and build more businesses on
- None
- We have an animal rich town with lots of caring people
- Large number of people available for work for any new industry/business
- We are not & do not want to be incorporated! (No matter how many times you make us vote on it)
- We are not & do not want to be like Vegas or California or wherever "they" just came from. Why did "they" leave and come here?
- Community involvement = willing to help
- Small town atmosphere
- Most leaders of community want Pahrump to grow and be a great town to live in
- Our people
- Community Services
- Small town life...not much traffic and you know people wherever you go
- Close to big town life (Las Vegas) when needed
- Not incorporated
- CCA
- We have a lot of veterans in the area & most of them are law abiding, gun carrying and not afraid to stand-up for what is right. This helps keep the crime rate down
- Great golf course, clubhouse, Grille
- Small town community living
- Mountain Falls Golf Course – it needs new management!
- Geography, weather, rural setting
- No Assets
- Housing availability

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

- No Assets
- Are there any? There is a nice golf course & nice people, nothing else
- Not much
- Not sure
- Golf course, good weather
- Beautiful facility at Mtn. Falls
- No strengths
- Strong Senior presence
- Numerous charities and a concerned community
- Pahrump citizens come together and help each other out when push comes to shove
- The beautiful areas that surround Pahrump just can't be beat
- With all the land here, we have so much to offer for business opportunities, i.e. Amusement parks, retreats, etc.
- Small town atmosphere
- Friendly People
- Medical services are expanding & improving, making it easier for senior citizens & general public, so that they don't always have to go to Las Vegas for medical needs
- Friendly People
- Community pulls together in time of need
- Education
- School
- Wal-Mart
- Park
- Nugget Casino
- The park
- Bowling
- Wal-Mart
- Denny's
- Albertsons
- Lil Caesar
- Smiths
- Sports
- The park
- Fast food places
- Schools
- Restaurants
- Wal-Mart
- Parks
- Wal-Mart
- Food places
- Traffic
- Weather
- The park
- Bowling
- Grocery Stores
- Organization
- Bowling, parks, Denny's Wal-Mart
- Little Caesars, Fast food

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

- Schools, Organizations, sports
- Wal-Mart
- Fast Food
- Wal-Mart
- Bowling Alley, parks, school
- Little Caesars
- Scenery
- School
- Parks
- Skate Park
- Stores (we have them)
- Animals (lizards, roadrunners, etc.)
- Parks
- Bowling Alley
- Wal-Mart
- Schools
- Organizations

Projects/ Initiatives

- Within a year – Improving infrastructure, roads, water and sewage; Improve technical and higher education; Bring the boys and girls club back in operation encourage other national organization to develop so kids have things to do after school and in the summer; Advertise our community with land and work force opportunities; and Work with the state to place traffic lights at dangerous intersections (on 372 and Pahrump Valley)
- Within two years – Provide a mass transit system; Rebuild the community center where meetings can be accomplished; and Continue with improvements listed above
- Within five years – Increase town staff and allow them to take over more responsibility on services; Manage budget so that town can work within it; and Continue improvements identified above
- Within ten years – Pahrump should work toward becoming a city if all the above has been completed and working for at least two years; and Development of technical businesses incentives for clean industry and provide a work force to support industry;
- Within twenty years – Prepare the town of Pahrump to become a city
- Like to see a small industrial park created to stimulate business growth. An area that has all the infrastructure and resources necessary to support light manufacturing. Adequate water, power, internet access, transportation access. Should be done without impacting community or rural environment.
- Incorporation – know this is a sensitive issue. Think we need to explore it on a rational, logical basis in terms of the advantages and disadvantages. Have been through this twice in cities and towns. Proved beneficial to community in both cases. You control the negative aspects and reinforce the positive aspects. Give the town control over its own destiny, and citizens actually have better access to government.
- Like to see a movie theater. Know this has been an issue. From what I understand, the failure was insistence by county/town of road access to back of the Nugget and landscaping. This a tough issue, due to the population. Town I grew up in has 25,000 people, has a theater that is open Friday, Saturday and Sunday only. One screen. Show a current movie weekly.
- Like to see more stores of a department store nature. Something other than Wal-Mart to by clothes.
- Things for kids to do. Not sure what we mean by this. Does this mean amusement park, arcades, or strong after school programs. This is a tough issue. It's an investment issue. This is coupled

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

with the problem of families migrating to larger cities with better opportunities. How much do you invest in “things” for kids when they leave in a few years? Kid’s interests change dramatically.

- In the next year or two I would like to see this town start cleaning up its crime and drug problem for starters. We need to support the arrests that the Sheriff’s Department makes and send criminals a REAL message. I am hoping the new jail will be completed by then, and that it fills up quickly.
- I would also like to see the homeless problem addressed
- If we start cleaning up our town, perhaps we would be more appealing to businesses that might have an interest in coming here.
- In the next five years I would like to see new businesses here that the town desperately needs. We could use a few alternatives to Wal-Mart (like a Target, or a Ross and perhaps a Costco).
- It would also be nice to see a few decent places to eat that are not fast food, pizza or coffee shop types.
- I would also like to see at least one more hotel. It would be fantastic if it wasn’t attached to a casino. When we have an event in town, many people from out of state do not attend because rooms fill up so quickly. If we provide more lodging, more people will attend and more revenue will be brought in.
- Pahrump is not a desirable destination for many people, whether they are just visiting or are contemplating a move here. I think that Pahrump has the potential to become a place we can all be proud of if we start dealing with our issues rather than pretending they don’t exist!
- In the next ten or twenty years? Your guess is as good as mine. If we stay on the path we are on, there really isn’t much hope for anything other than what we have right now. Pahrump cannot thrive or grow in its current condition.
- Movie Theater
- Olive Garden restaurant
- Chili’s restaurant
- Water park & fair grounds
- Movie Theater
- Solar Plants
- Wind Mill Farms
- Movie Theater and some kid-friendly places: arcade, ice-skating rink, horseback riding, etc.
- Kid-friendly events: more carnivals & recreation center
- Build more parks which include running paths. Become more art friendly & healthy by promoting exercise equipment around the park perimeters with art pieces throughout park
- Public transportation within town and to Vegas
- Target
- Movie Theater
- Target Store – or something other than Wal-Mart
- Golden Corral Rest.
- Best Buy Store
- Game Stop Store
- Sam’s Club
- Dunkin Donuts
- Fuddruckers Restaurant
- Skate Boarding ring
- More Major Businesses
- More Businesses!!
- Paving of side streets

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

- Better shopping – clothes, office supplies, discount, etc.
- Incorporation
- Increased leisure & recreational activities
- Diversify economic base so tourism is not the biggest part
- Traffic light @ 160 & Mesquite, turning lane @ Irene & 160 – 2 or sooner not 20
- More new businesses to open – realize that Denny's just opened – bravo! Now how about Olive Garden, Red Lobster & the like, we need the variety & people need jobs
- Recycle center – sooner than later (plastic, paper, oil etc.)
- Wind farm(s) & solar collectors
- Adequate cell/internet coverage throughout the valley – again sooner rather than later
- Movie Theater
- Big name department stores & mall (Target, Kohl's, Office Depot, Petco, etc.)
- Mall
- Movie Theater
- Good restaurants
- Better schools
- 24/7 Day care
- Fix the roads
- More stop lights to you can make a left turn onto 160 without waiting 15 minutes for traffic
- Movie Theater
- Office Supply Store
- Movie Theater
- More childcare options with more hours available
- Staffing and physical facilities – School improvements, hospital & medical facility improvements
- More activities for children/youth/teens
- I would like to see a movie theater and or a theme park. And put in an amusement park. I feel with these two improvements the town would take one big step forward. And this would make more jobs. And they could open up the mines again and keep the work here.
- Bring a Target Store, a Movie Theater, a Starbucks (actual store not just in Albertsons), and some family oriented attractions here in the next 1 to 2 years.
- Blagg road repaired
- Movie Theater
- Water Park
- Fun center for kid/teens
- More businesses like Target, Office Supply Store, Costco, Restaurants
- Want a Movie Theater
- Want a Red Lobster
- Want an Olive Garden
- Want an Outback
- In & Out
- Incorporation as a city
- Raise the speed limit to 45 on 160 all the way through town
- Need traffic light at Pahrump Valley and SR 372
- Four lanes of road all the way through town on SR 160
- Movie Theater complex
- More chain restaurants
- Repave Homestead & Manse Roads
- Strip mall of outlet stores

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

- A major amusement park
- County seat moved to Pahrump from Tonopah
- Movie Theater and entertainment for youth
- Working clock easily displayed in pool area
- Continued development of Mt. Falls
- Roads
- Improvements to infrastructure
- Movie Theater
- 4 lane Hwy 160 thruout
- Stop lights at f intersections
- Incorporation – the pro’s greatly out weight the cons
- Keep the tax revenue in Pahrump, not Tonopah
- Use that money to fix roads and create a parks & Rec. Dept.
- Take a look at towns like Henderson & Cedar City. Both were similar to Pahrump and both thrive due to good planning and a strong tax base.
- Need pro growth town board
- Streets & roads paved
- Clean up neighborhood yards, look like junk yards and auto wrecking yards
- Clean up all over
- Improve Manse Road
- Retail Mall
- New Town Board & pro growth
- Mall – Theater
- More building of houses
- Make it easier to get things done
- Clean up Pahrump
- Senior Center
- No theme park or Harleyland
- More business friendly
- And more jobs that are sustainable
- I would like to see a Movie Theater
- A stop light at 372 & PV Blvd & one at 372 & Blagg
- Wendy’s, Olive Garden, Arby’s, Costco, Kohl’s,
- Indoor Rec-center with gym and indoor walking track
- Indoor pool like the one in Thornton Colorado
- Just more things to do besides drink & gamble
- A place for teenagers to go and hang out
- A Movie Theater
- More stores – Target, Kmart, etc.
- ASAP – traffic lights at 372 & Pahrump Valley Blvd, Blagg, Charleston Park (these are already planned)
- Repave Charleston Park all the way to end. Thousands of vehicles use it daily and it is often in bad repair. Widening to 3 lanes would also help
- Need a performing arts complex to accommodate community concerts, plays, etc. Should seat minimum of 500 people
- Stop light at 372 & Blagg, 372 & Pahrump Valley
- City of Pahrump
- Incorporation

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

- More business developments
- More social opportunities
- Movie Theater
- Water park
- Mall
- Fix roads
- 4 day school week
- More jobs
- Movie Theater
- Lower Prices
- Fix roads
- Better school system (cleaner bathrooms, shorter school day, make school PM instead of AM)
- Homeless people shelter
- More jobs
- More places for kids to go
- Movie Theater
- Water Park
- Fix Roads
- Public transportation
- Build closer together instead of building far away from everyone
- Movie Theater, Mall
- Mall
- Movie Theater
- Place for Off Road Vehicles
- Water park
- Mall, Movie Theater, water park
- Places for families
- Fix roads
- Shorter week of school (4 days)
- Mall
- Movie Theater
- Water park
- Family places
- Fix roads
- Four day school week
- Movie Theater!
- Water park
- Mall
- Movie Theater
- Water park
- Fix the roads
- 4 day week to help save the school district more money
- Mall
- Movie Theater
- Water park
- Roads
- Water park
- Mall

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

- Bigger/more schools
- Fix roads
- Homeless

Additional Resources

Heartland Center for Leadership
Development
650 "J" Street, Suite 305-C
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508
402/474-7667

www.heartlandcenter.info

Nevada Association of Counties
304 S. Minnesota Street
Carson City, NV 89703
(775) 883-7863

www.nvnaco.org

Nevada Department of Conservation and
Natural Resources

901 S. Stewart St., Ste. 5001
Carson City, NV 89701
775/684-2700

www.dcnr.nv.gov

Nevada Department of Public Safety

555 Wright Way
Carson City, NV 89711
(775) 684-4808

www.dps.nv.gov

Nevada Fire Safe Council

440 West Spear Street
P.O. Box 2724
Carson City, Nevada 89702
Phone: (775) 884-4455

www.nvfsc.org

Nevada Microenterprise Initiative

113 W. Plumb Lane
Reno, NV 89509
775/ 324-1812

www.4microbiz.org

Nevada Rural Housing Authority

3695 Desatoya Drive
Carson City, Nevada 89701
775/887-1795

www.nvrural.org

Nevada Arts Council

716 N. Carson Street, Suite A
Carson City, NV 89701
775/687-6680

www.nevadaculture.org/nac

Governor's Office of Economic
Development

808 West Nye Lane
Carson City, Nevada 89703
775/687-9918

www.diversifynevada.com

Nevada Department of Health and Human
Service

4126 Technology Way, Suite 100
Carson City, Nevada 89706-2009
775/684-4000

www.dhhs.nv.gov

Nevada Department of Transportation

1263 S. Stewart Street
Carson City, Nevada 89712
775/888-7000

www.nevadadot.com

Nevada League of Cities & Municipalities

310 S. Curry Street
Carson City, NV 89703
775/882-2121

www.nvleague.org

Nevada Rural Development Council

PO Box 3926
Carson City, NV
775/230-0075

www.ruralnevada.org

NV Small Business Development Center

University of Nevada, Reno
Ansari Business Building, Room 411
Reno, NV 89557-0100
775/784-1717

www.nsbdc.org

Town of Pahrump Community Assessment 2011

Nevada State Development Corporation
6572 South McCarran Boulevard
Reno, Nevada 89509
775/770-1240
800/726-2494
www.nsdclloans.com

Nevadaworks
6490 S McCarran BLVD
Building A, Suite 1
Reno, Nevada 89509
775/377-8600
www.Nevadaworks.com

Public Utilities Commission of Nevada
1150 E. William Street
Carson City, NV 89701-3109
(775) 684-6101
[http://pucweb1.state.nv.us/PUCN/\(X\(1\)S\(px\)xtqp155jbsqcp55h0ly4o23\)\)/PUCHome.aspx](http://pucweb1.state.nv.us/PUCN/(X(1)S(px)xtqp155jbsqcp55h0ly4o23))/PUCHome.aspx)

Rural Community Assistance Corporation
3120 Freeboard Dr, # 201 - 2nd Floor
West Sacramento, CA 95691
916/447-2854 or
775/323-8882 – Reno
www.rcac.org

Rural Nevada Development Corporation
1320 East Aultman Street
Ely, Nevada 89301
775/289-8519
www.rndcnv.org

University of Nevada Cooperative
Extension
University of Nevada, Reno
Mail Stop 404
Reno, NV 89557-0404
775/784-7070
www.unce.unr.edu

USDA Rural Development
1390 South Curry Street
Carson City, Nevada 89703
775/887-1222
www.rurdev.usda.gov/nv

US Bureau of Land Management
Carson City District Office
5665 Morgan Mill Road
Carson City, NV, 89701
775/885-6000

US Forest Service
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
1200 Franklin Way
Sparks, NV 89431
775/331-6444
www.fs.fed.us/r4/htnf/

US Small Business Administration
Nevada District Office
400 South 4th Street, Suite 250.
Las Vegas, NV 89101
702/388-6611
www.sba.gov

Western States Arts Federation
1743 Wazee Street, Suite 300
Denver, CO 80202
888/562-7232
303/629-1166
www.westaf.org

20 Clues to Rural Community Survival*

1. **Evidence of Community Pride:** Successful communities are often showplaces of care, attention, history and heritage.
2. **Emphasis on Quality in Business and Community Life:** People believe that something worth doing is worth doing right.
3. **Willingness to Invest in the Future:** In addition to the brick-and-mortar investments, all decisions are made with an outlook on the future.
4. **Participatory Approach to Community Decision Making:** Even the most powerful of opinion leaders seem to work toward building consensus.
5. **Cooperative Community Spirit:** The stress is on working together toward a common goal, and the focus is on positive results.
6. **Realistic Appraisal of Future Opportunities:** Successful communities have learned how to build on strengths and minimize weaknesses.
7. **Awareness of Competitive Positioning:** Local loyalty is emphasized, but thriving communities know who their competitors are and position themselves accordingly.
8. **Knowledge of the Physical Environment:** Relative location and available natural resources underscore decision making.
9. **Active Economic Development Program:** There is an organized, public/private approach to economic development.
10. **Deliberate Transition of Power to a Younger Generation of Leaders:** People under 40 regularly hold key positions in civic and business affairs.
11. **Acceptance of Women in Leadership Roles:** Women are elected officials, plant managers, and entrepreneurial developers.
12. **Strong belief in and Support for Education:** Good schools are the norm and centers of community activity.
13. **Problem-Solving Approach to Providing Health Care:** Health care is considered essential, and smart strategies are in place for diverse methods of delivery.
14. **Strong Multi-Generational Family Orientation:** The definition of family is broad, and activities include younger as well as older generations.
15. **Strong Presence of Traditional Institutions that are Integral to Community Life:** Churches, schools and service clubs are strong influences on community development and social activities.
16. **Sounds and Well-Maintained Infrastructure:** Leaders work hard to maintain and improve streets, sidewalks, water systems, and sewage facilities.
17. **Careful Use of Fiscal Resources:** Frugality is a way of life and expenditures are considered investments in the future.
18. **Sophisticated Use of Information Resources:** Leaders access the information that is beyond the knowledge base available in the community.
19. **Willingness to Seek Help from the Outside:** People seek outside help for community needs, and many compete for government grants and contracts for economic and social programs.
20. **Conviction that, in the Long Run, You Have to Do It Yourself:** Thriving rural communities believe their destiny is in their own hands. Making their communities good places is a pro-active assignment, and they willingly accept it.

*Reprinted from Heartland Center Leadership Development, Spring 2002 *Visions Newsletter*

