

**Carson City
Chamber**

IN FOCUS

**Chamber celebrates
80th Anniversary**

**Carson's uncommon
form of government**

Arts take center stage

**Celebrating our
long-time members**



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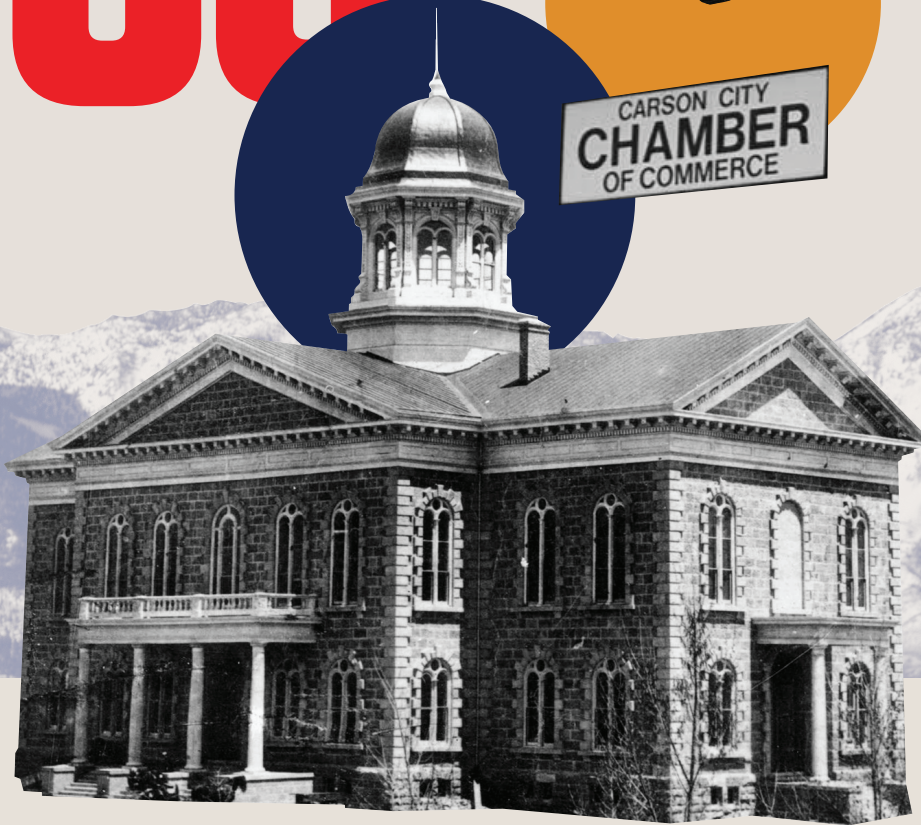
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1945-2025: A TIME OF GROWTH AND CHANGE



Chamber Office is located at:
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Phone: 775-882-1565
www.carsoncitychamber.com

Carson City Chamber of Commerce
 80 Years of Business is published in
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Photo credit: Carson City Chamber
 unless otherwise indicated

All stories by Ronni Hannaman

As I began my mental journey to review the events over my personal 20-year tenure as executive director, it struck me that I have had the privilege of serving in this position for a quarter of the 80 years since the Carson City Chamber was incorporated as a non-profit in June of 1945 to serve the business community.

The following pages will be but a brief retrospective of the Chamber's role in representing and growing the business community. In 1945, Carson City was part of Ormsby County with a total population of 2,900. No longer a city within a county since 1969, our consolidated municipality population today has grown to more than 58,000 residents and the role of the Chamber has grown with it. We've been privileged to have a front-row seat, meet some great movers and shakers, and be a part of the action.

Our city is rich in history. It is here the history of Nevada was made and continues to be made. It gives me great pleasure to acknowledge the people and events that continue to shape the Carson City of today and tomorrow in the various lists contained within this publication.

I am not one to look often in the rearview mirror, preferring to look ahead, but there are times when checking the rear view can be a reminder of how far we have come and how much we have seen.

As you turn the pages, you will see mostly a pictorial history, for as they say, "a picture is worth a thousand words."

Many of us have chosen to live here. There still are many who were born here or grew up here and have never left this community. Our Board of Supervisors is comprised of Carsonites, most of whom have graduated from Carson High. All have been a witness to and a part of the history. There are many residents yet to come to create a community that will continue to grow and prosper. Managed growth is important for a vibrant community.

This 80th Anniversary retrospective is dedicated to all those who have gone before us, those still making a difference, and those who will make a difference. I also dedicate this to the great members of the Chamber Board of Directors who have been so instrumental in paving the way and to my long-time assistant Beverly Eiswert who joined me in June 2009.

A Chamber reflects the community it represents, and we couldn't be more proud to represent Carson City where every day is "A Chamber of Commerce Day." ■

Ronni Hannaman

Ronni Hannaman
 Executive Director



ABOUT THE COVER:

Carson City sits in Eagle Valley

The eagle became a symbol of the region when settler Abraham Curry arrived to set up his trading post in 1851. Legend has it he declared the region be called Eagle Valley after shooting an eagle and placing it on his trading post.

Today, as you enter the city limit from the north, there is a symbolic eagle taking off and just before leaving the city, the eagle has landed. These are the north/south boundaries of the city.

One might think we would be called Carson Valley: that is the designation for Douglas County that begins at our southern border.

Along with Abraham Curry, Carson City was founded by John Musser, Benjamin Green, and Frank Proctor.

Whether this city was named for famous frontiersman Kit Carson is still unknown.

Kit Carson rode through Eagle Valley only once in 1853 on his way to Sacramento as part of a sheep and goat drive. The explorer John C. Fremont named the Carson River after Kit who served as his scout.

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For centuries, people have seen eagles as a symbol of beauty, bravery, courage, honour, pride, determination, and grace. This bird is important and symbolic to humanity because of its characteristics.

Happy 80th Anniversary Carson City Chamber!

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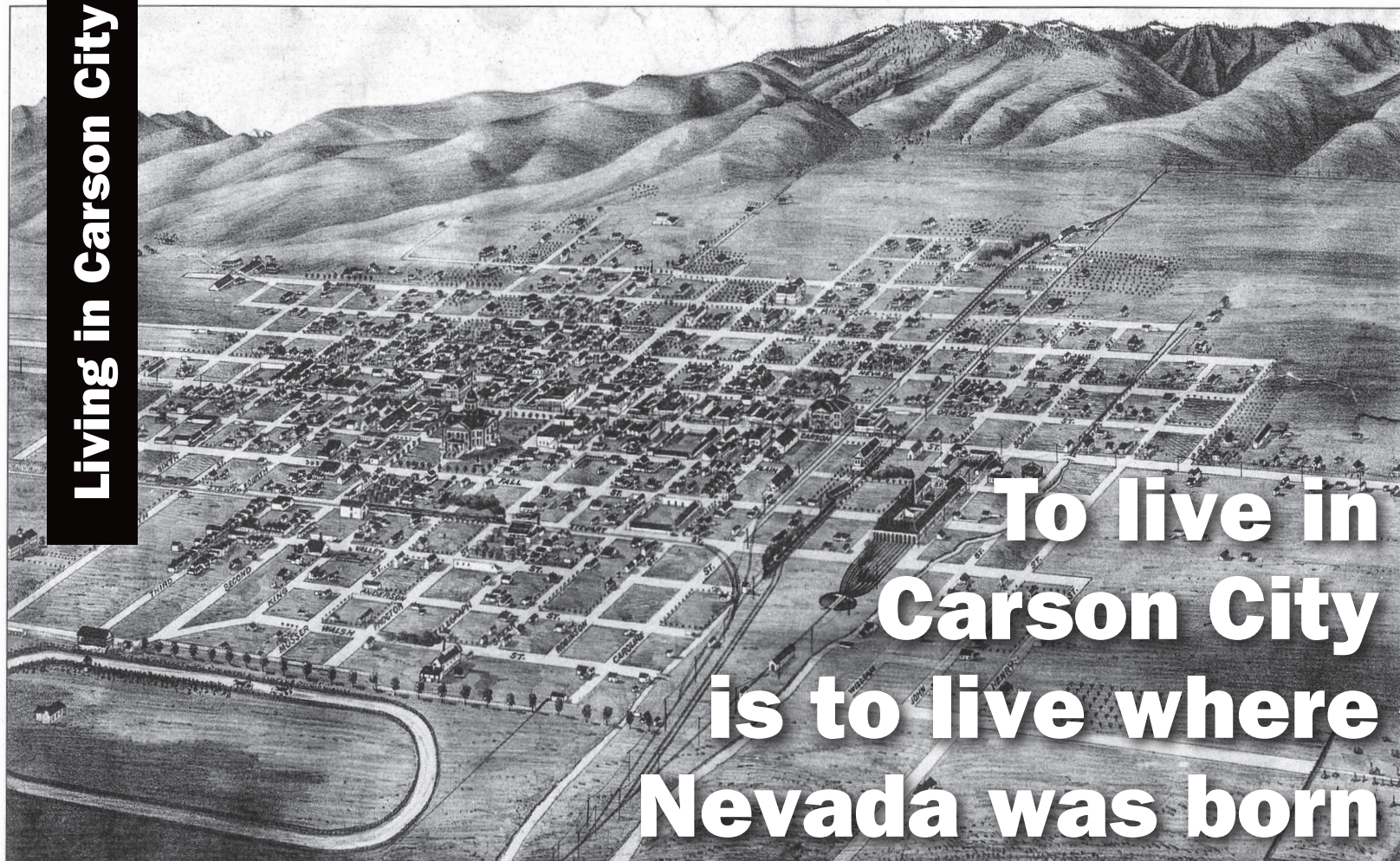


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To live in Carson City is to live where Nevada was born

In 1875, the city ran from John Street in the north to Fifth Street in the South. Walsh Street just by the racetrack to the east and Minnesota Street to the west comprised the major boundaries.

“At every corner of our historic downtown, there are many Nevada stories to be told, for this is truly where Nevada history was made over 174 years ago.”

There’s not another city within our state that can rival the history of Carson City. Yes, Dayton and Genoa continue to argue which was the first “settlement” in 1851, but there is no doubt Carson City is the oldest city in Nevada still making history to which these former settlements rely on today for employment, regional medical, shopping, and politics.

Our colorful history also began in 1851 when a group of entrepreneurs opened the Eagle Station trading post to become known as Eagle Valley. Seven years later, in 1858, city founder Abe Curry formally established Carson City, which was then to become the capital of the Nevada Territory in 1861. Thus, our role as the government seat of our state was born.

In the early 1860s, Carson City was the central location within the Nevada Territory, near major travel routes and growing. President Abraham Lincoln

recognized the role of Carson City as the then major hub, declaring it the capital of the newly established territory and sent Orion Clemens to become the first and only Secretary (akin to today’s lieutenant governor) of the newly established territory in 1861. Accompanying his brother was Samuel Clemens who rebranded himself as Mark Twain while residing in Carson City and who was very involved in the first territorial legislature and the Nevada Constitutional Convention in 1863.

Nevada became a state on Oct. 31, 1864, and Carson City has remained the capital to this day. The entire Nevada constitution was sent via morse code from downtown Carson City (at the corner of Telegraph and Carson Streets) to Washington, D.C., four days prior to statehood to allow President Lincoln the opportunity to read the document before granting statehood.

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Linda and daughter Stephanie share a special moment at Machu Picchu PERU

There were so many firsts here: The Carson City Mint (Nevada's only mint) and the Carson City Post Office were Nevada's first federal buildings. Both iconic buildings are still dominant in the historic downtown. On June 23, 1910, Nevada's first flight flew from Carson City making national news for reaching the altitude of 4,675 feet.

Once 36 V&T trains traveled through the city daily to Virginia City at the height of the mining boom, and the Pony Express dropped off mail at the historic St. Charles Hotel which is still standing.

That's the much-shortened version of a long and colorful history. In contrast, Reno was formally established in May 1868, 10 years after Carson City, and about seven months before Elko. The Johnny- come-lately-Las Vegas didn't even register on Nevada consciousness until May of 1905.

At every corner of our historic downtown, there are many Nevada stories to be told, for this is truly where Nevada history was made over 174 years ago. Nevada celebrated 160 years of statehood on October 31, 2024, and it is fitting that Carson City -where Nevada history truly began - annually hosts one of the most robust admission day parades in the United States. ■




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Congratulations to the Chamber on their 80th anniversary!

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1

Our Favorite Signature Events

Catch an experience

The entire family enjoys the annual Taste of Downtown.

Who doesn't love Taste of Downtown or the Silver & Snowflakes Festival of Lights? Car shows are always popular, and the monthly Downtown Business Association Wine Walks are a great way to connect with those you may not have seen for a while or make new local connections. These wonderful experiences showcase all aspects of our city and support non-profits and businesses while creating that important sense of community for which our city is known. Most events are family friendly. June kicks off the event season.

For a complete and up-to-date calendar of events, log on to the Chamber's community events calendar: carsoncitychamber.com/events/members

1. Food, Music & Fun attracts many to Taste of Downtown in June

Since 1995, downtown Carson City comes alive with the sound of music and laughter one night annually, thanks to the dedicated staff and volunteers of Advocates to End Domestic. The event attracts all ages and is the "go to" event of the summer benefitting a great cause.

"Since 1988, Carson's fifth graders have enchanted thousands each year as they sing traditional holiday songs on the steps of the state Capitol to herald the Christmas season the first Friday after Thanksgiving."



2. Stewart Father's Day Annual Pow Wow is a WOW annual June event

American Indian dancers, drummers, artists, and crafters from across the northwestern Nevada region have gathered at the historic Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum every June since 1990 to celebrate their tribal heritage while honoring their ancestors.



3. CC Airport Open House celebrates aviation history in mid-June

Carson City Airport was established in 1928. The airport open house is a family affair held in mid-June to honor those in the aviation field bringing in antique airplanes and more.



4. Summer evening concerts at the Brewery Arts Center

Brewery Arts Levitt Amp Summer Concert Series began in 2016 and has become a summer staple providing free music for the community every Saturday evening for 10 weeks starting in mid-June.

5. Downtown Revival Car Show attracts car buffs- Mid July

Carson City has always loved car shows. In the past, the Silver Dollar Car Show was a prelude to Reno's Hot August Nights. The Esther Chapter #3, Order of the Eastern Star has taken over the annual car show and is now in its eighth year of coordinating the show held in mid-June.



6. New Music & Murals Festival paints the town - Late September

Carson City has gained color since 2023 where formerly bland buildings and walls have been transported to colorful images painted by local and international artists. Held the end of September. Shown is the mural painted on the north side of the Chamber building. Artist Edwin "Esco" Martínez is flanked by former Carson City Chair Stacy Woodbury (left) and Mayor Lori Bagwell.

7. No other parade finer than Nevada Day Parade - late October

Billed as one of the largest celebrations of statehood in the United States, the Nevada Day parade caps off the fall season. Carson City has been home to the parade since 1938 and is celebrated on Oct. 31 if that date falls on a Saturday or on the Saturday before Oct. 31.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Gold Dust West Carson City is proud to celebrate the Chamber's 80th Anniversary with 30 years as part of this incredible community!

For three decades, we've been your **house full of friends**, bringing great service, exciting gaming, and a welcoming atmosphere to Carson City. We're honored to be part of this milestone and look forward to many more years of supporting the Chamber and the community we call home.

30th

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8. Halloween at the Governor's Mansion – Oct. 31

One of the truly scary events in Carson City takes place on Halloween Night at the very haunted Governor's Mansion where the sitting governor and first lady greet children to give them a treat. A tradition since 1959, started by Governor Grant Sawyer and First Lady Betty, today thousands show up to participate in this neighborhood event.

9. Carson's Fifth Graders create holiday memories

Since 1988, Carson's fifth graders have enchanted thousands each year as they sing traditional holiday songs on the steps of the state Capitol to herald the Christmas season the first Friday after Thanksgiving. More than 400 children's voices ring out loud and clear. This event cannot be duplicated elsewhere and has become a rite of passage for the fifth graders. The Chamber coordinated this event between 2015-24.



10. Monthly Downtown Walk since 2006

Mark Schmidt, owner of Carson Jewelry and Loan, has been pouring wine the first Saturday of every month since inception in November 2006 for locals and visitors. It's been one of the most popular ongoing events in our city to showcase the downtown and merchants and takes place, rain or shine. The first wine walk attracted more than 300. ■



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A formal gala was held on Feb. 12, 2019, to refresh the community center lobby. From left, Parks & Recreation Director Jennifer Budge accepted a check for \$20,200 from 2019 Chamber Chair Bob Fredlund as Mayor Robert Crowell looks on.



We just can't say no!

Please allow us to toot our own horn for a moment, for almost anywhere you look around our city, the Chamber had a role in making it happen when others said, “no can do.” We championed and coordinated some long-term improvements for which we did not receive a dime.

In 2016, we said yes when government stated they couldn’t afford to place the many benches you see today in our revitalized downtown. We sent out news releases announcing the availability to purchase a bench in remembrance of a loved one. The benches sold out immediately and more were ordered with the last one dedicated to the memory of Stan Jones installed in 2024.

Our community center needed to be updated – from the billboard to the inside lobby. Thus, we undertook these two major projects.

We reached out to community partners to collect matching dollars, and the old rickety billboard that you had to climb

up a ladder in all types of weather to put up letters was replaced by the current electronic computerized billboard.

The mid-century lobby need to be refreshed. The lighting was outdated and curtains were needed to give the lobby a more regal feel, so with the help of Western Nevada Musical Theater, we coordinated a black-tie performance and fundraiser on Feb. 12, 2019, collecting \$20,200 from our local businesses for the refurbishment.

We had a hand in turning the once-ugly Third Street into McFadden Plaza that immediately became an attractive gathering place.

The snowflake holiday lighting along Carson Street that could double as a runway for Santa and his reindeer was a result of us pouring over holiday lighting books and convincing the city to replace the dated lighting now that the downtown had been revitalized in 2016.

The Chamber took over the well-established Silver and Snowflakes

“As you look around the community, there is much evidence of the difference our great Carson City Leadership classes have made over the years. We say “yes” as much as we can to making our community a better place through volunteerism and coordination.”



The last of the benches that were a part of the 2016 project to place benches all over the downtown was installed July 12, 2024, to honor long-time community activist and former supervisor Stan Jones. Jones passed on Dec. 28, 2023.

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Festival of Lights in 2015, relinquishing the event to the Brewery Arts Center in 2024.

We made some changes in the overall experience by adding more lights, carriage rides, bringing in the Grinch to assist Santa, better sound, and a large screen so everyone could see the area fifth graders as they traditionally musically welcome in the holidays annually.

The artistic light show you see on the Capitol lawn during the month of December came to fruition because of our relationship with the

amazing Phil Nemanic and his Nevada State Public Works ground crew who took every suggestion we had and made each year more spectacular. You could see the pride they took in their annual creation.

As you look around the community, there is much evidence of the difference our great Carson City Leadership classes have made over the years.

We say “yes” as much as we can to making our community a better place through volunteerism and coordination. ■



We received a billboard shoutout for our role in championing a new sign for the community center.



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Adrienne Phenix & Kathy Tatro,
Team Tatro, RE/MAX Gold

Advocates To End Domestic Violence
Allison MacKenzie

Bob Fredlund, Nevada Style Real Estate
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Governor's Mansion Executive Coordinator Kristin Dillard introduces Carson to Krae Walker of Carson City. His personal "mansion" is in the background.

Carson City's first mascot

Gopherus agassizii calls Governor's Mansion his forever home

On June 23, 2016, 11-year-old Carson was adopted by Gov. Brian Sandoval and has been a permanent resident of the Governor's Mansion ever since.

Little Carson was born in Southern Nevada and spent his formative years in Las Vegas. The story goes that his caretakers could no longer care for him thus he was put up for adoption.

Carson has been a special favorite of the mansion staff, security personnel, and subsequent Governors Steve Sisolak and Joe Lombardo, both of whom solemnly swore to keep this youngster who can live up to 100 years if properly cared for.

Carson has his own little mansion in the backyard and even his own

burrowing hole should he wish to get away from crowds that often gather in the backyard. Many of the Chamber Leadership classes have had the opportunity to enjoy his company.

Carson is a vegetarian and daily the mansion chef prepares his fresh salad of clover, dandelion, grass, cacti, grape leaves, roses, and gazania.

In the winter when it is cold, Carson can be found snuggling in his special bed that is set up in the staff office. He happily brumates through the winter awaiting the spring.

Carson is probably the best cared for and most loved *Gopherus agassizii* or Desert Tortoise in Nevada and was named the official mascot of Carson City. ■

"Carson has his own little mansion in the backyard and even his own burrowing hole should he wish to get away from crowds that often gather in the backyard. Many of the Chamber Leadership classes have had the opportunity to enjoy his company."

CHEERS TO 80 YEARS!

GNCU proudly celebrates the
Carson City Chamber's 80th anniversary.

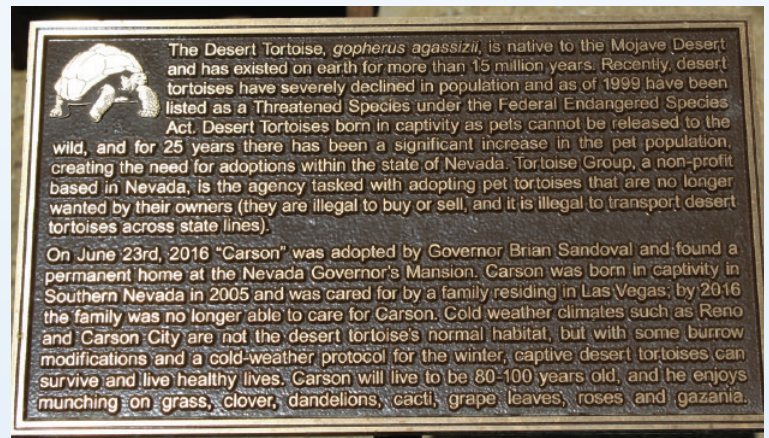
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This sign at the Governor's Mansion is dedicated to
Carson the turtle. On June 23, 2016, Carson was
adopted by Gov. Brian Sandoval and has been a
permanent resident of the Governor's Mansion ever since.



Cheers to 80 Years!

Proud to celebrate 80 years of connection, growth, and community with the Carson City
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Carson City circa 1969. Carson City continues to retain the facades of its early western history. The names of the businesses may have changed though the buildings are still standing. The streets were one way in each direction with diagonal parking. This was Carson City as it went from being a part of Ormsby County to being the state's only Consolidated Municipality under the guidance of then Mayor James Robertson.

Photo: Western Nevada Historic Photo Collection

Seat of Government

Carson City not a county or a city; it is a consolidated municipality

Nevada claims 17 counties; however technically, there are 16 counties and one consolidated municipality. Carson City is that municipality and considered a county equivalent as well as a standalone city, thus it can hold membership in both the Nevada League of Cities and the Nevada Association of Counties.

The City of Carson City merged with Ormsby County in 1969 after the Nevada Legislature amended Article 4 of the State Constitution following the passage of statewide Ballot Question 3 by almost 65% of voters on Nov. 5, 1968.

There's always someone looking to the future to streamline government. Forward thinking Mayor of Ormsby County, James Robertson, championed the merger creating one consolidated government officially formed on April 1, 1969.

Robertson resigned as county mayor and the first election for city mayor was held. Since 1969, there have been seven mayors of the City of Carson City with Eugene Scrivner as the first mayor of the new and improved consolidated government. Prior to 1969, the title for today's mayoral role was president. H.F. Rice was the first president of the Board of Trustees of Ormsby County elected in 1875. Those who have lived here a long time will recognize the historic names associated with historic homes and local streets.

Carson City was established in 1858 with the first official election in 1878. Lori Bagwell is the first female of the 40 elected mayors. She is now serving her second term, previously serving on the Board of Supervisors. Although Supervisors officially represent their wards, they are elected citywide as is the mayor.

Ormsby County was established in Nov. 25, 1861, and was one of the first nine counties in Nevada when we were still part of the Nevada Territory.

Our leaders since 1875 researched and compiled by then Carson City Clerk/Recorder Alan Glover, paved the not always so easy way for future generations:

41 mayors have shaped our city

Elected leaders in any community can leave their stamp on today and the future by making important decisions that can affect future generations as well as the current well-being and quality of life of citizens.

Carson City is a city manager form of government with the mayor and board of supervisors setting the policies carried out by the city manager who oversees staff and handles the day-to-day operation. The city manager is appointed by the board and reports to the board.

Since 1875, Carson City has had 41 elected or appointed leaders. With the exception of today's mayor, Lori Bagwell, the city has been male dominated.

“Once reliant on Reno, today Carson City is the regional retail hub attracting shoppers from Lake Tahoe, Lyon and Douglas County and even South Reno. The city also is the hub for employment and health care.”

CARSON CITY MAYORS
since 1875 - present

Lori Bagwell	2021-present
Robert Crowell	2009 - 2020
Ray Masayko	1997 - 2004
Marv Teixeira	1989 - 1996, 2005 - 2008
Dan Flammer	1985 - 1988
Harold Jacobsen	1977 - 1984
Eugene M. Scrivner	1969 - 1976
James Y. Robertson	1963 - 1968
Albert A. Autrand	1961, 1962
Harley Carter	1959, 1960
Turner Houston	1955 - 1958
Wilbur H. Stodieck	1951 - 1954
Caro M. Pendergraft	1949, 1950
Roy M. Elston	1947, 1948
George Lind	1945, 1946
Charles B. Auston	1941 - 1944
Michael Edgar Norton	1939, 1940
Arnold A. Millard	1931 - 1938
George Spradling	1929, 1930
Denis Hurley	1925, 1926

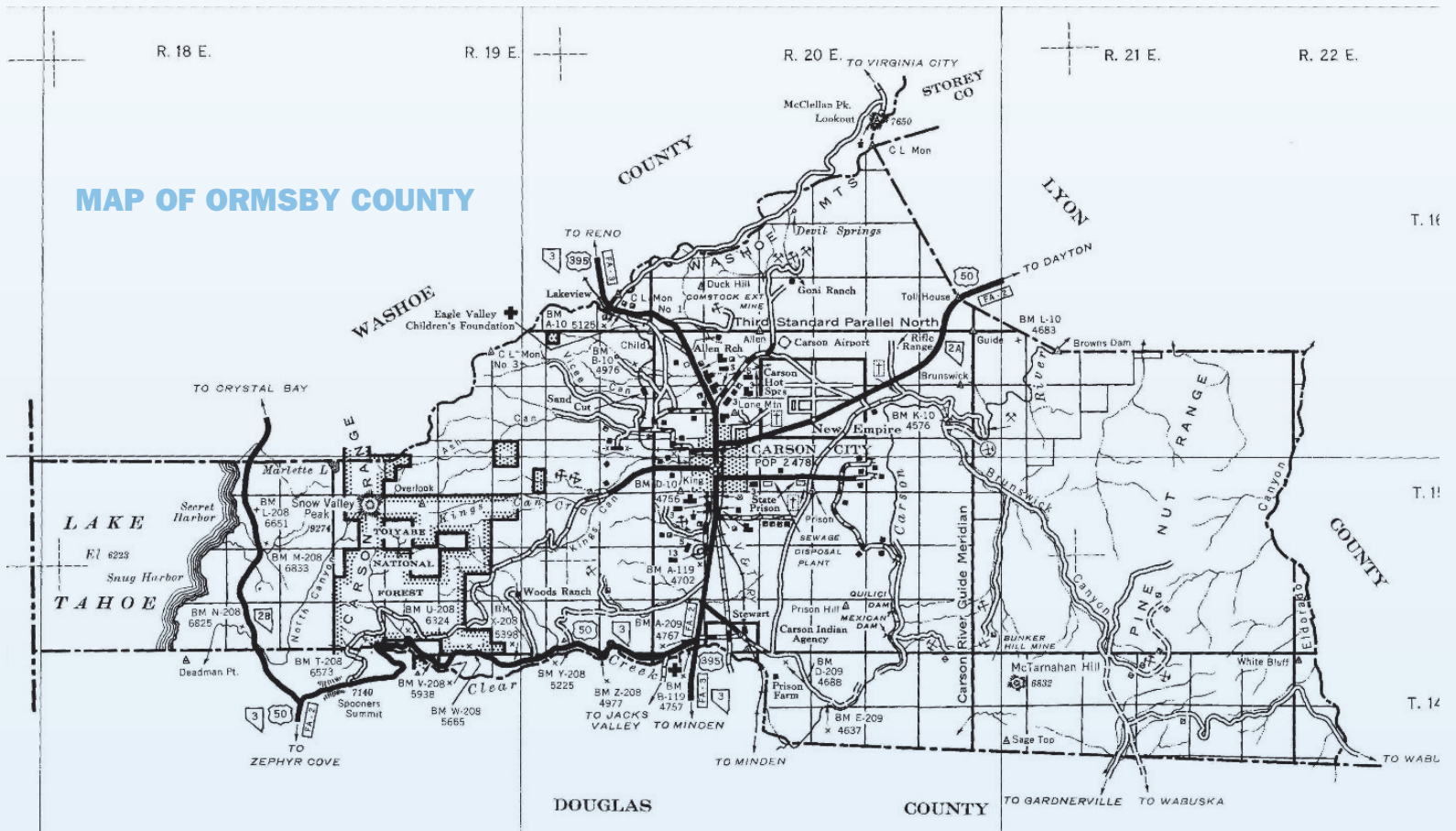
William Wallace	1923, 1924, 1927, 1928
Albert B. Gray	1921, 1922
Theodore L Hawkins	1920
George Gillson	1916 - 1919
Alexander Macdonald	1913 - 1916
J. Poujade	1911, 1912
H.B. Van Etten	1908 - 1910
James T. Davis	1905 - 1907
W.U. Mackey	1901 - 1904
George H. Meyers	1898 - 1900
Marvin Hume Yerington	1895 - 1897

John Kersey	1895
Dwight Edwards	1894
T.R. Hofer	1888 - 1893
George C. Bryson Jr.	1887
James A. Kennedy	1885
R.W. Bollen	1884
Jacob Muller	1882, 1883, 1886
David A. Bender	1877, 1880, 1881
Edwin F. Gibson	1878, 1879
Henry F. Rice	1875, 1876



James Y. Robertson was the last mayor of Ormsby County. He championed the consolidation of governments to eliminate waste and duplication. Though he died June 13, 2021, his legacy will live on forever.

MAP OF ORMSBY COUNTY



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Congratulations to the Chamber on their 80th anniversary!

Local - Chamber Member

Susie Messina, S.0200460
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Population through the years

In 1850, there were 714 recorded citizens. Today the population is just over 58,000 with the highest percentage of growth in 1870,1970, and 1980. There were periods when the population decreased.

The city surpassed the 50,000 population mark in 2000 attracting the major retailers to build in Carson City thus creating a regional retail hub allowing for more retail tax revenue to enhance the general fund. Once reliant on Reno, today Carson City is the regional retail hub attracting shoppers from Lake Tahoe, Lyon and Douglas County and even South Reno. The city also is the hub for employment and health care. ■

Historical population

Census	Population	% change
1850	714	--
1860	714	0%
1870	3,042	326.1%
1880	4,229	39%
1890	3,950	-6.6%
1900	2,100	-46.8%
1910	2,466	17.4%
1920	1,685	-31.7%
1930	1,596	-5.3%
1940	2,478	55.3%
1950	3,082	24.4%
1960	5,163	67.5%
1970	15,468	199.9%
1980	32,022	107%
1990	40,443	23.6%
2000	52,547	29.9%
2010	55,274	5.2%
2020	58,639	6.1%



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Through a generous grant from Southwest Gas, mural artist Edwin Martinez of Reno painted a stunning mural of wild horses on the south side of the Chamber building in September 2023.

Arts and culture take center stage

“Created in 1976, today within the BAC complex you’ll find the Nevada Artist Gallery, the 250-seat Performance Hall (formerly St Teresa’s Catholic Church), the 150-seat Maizie Theater, a small exhibition hall and a Grand Ballroom as well as an educational wing.”

The culture and arts of Nevada is deeply rooted in Carson City and is today retold in our five historic museums, the Brewery Arts Center, and through interpretive art found along the Interstate 580 Carson City bypass.

It is because of those deep roots that Carson City today has a rich and active artist community. There’s professional musical theater, a volunteer symphony, the irrepressible Mile High Jazz Band, a children’s theater troupe, artists creating one-of-a-kind works to hang, display or wear, authors, and talented local entertainers who perform at local eateries and bars.

So important have the arts become, two paid coordinators oversee the arts and culture scene introducing new opportunities. The hotel community contributes 1% room tax collected by Visit Carson City to fund their robust program to create artistic events with the goal of attracting visitors, and the Carson City Parks & Recreation Department arts coordinator oversees the community arts programs.

The center of the visual and performing arts is the Brewery Arts Center located in the historic downtown. Created in 1976, today within the BAC complex you’ll find the Nevada Artist Gallery, the 250-seat Performance Hall (formerly St Teresa’s Catholic Church), the 150-seat Maizie Theater, a small exhibition hall and a Grand Ballroom as well as an educational wing.

For those who love musical theater, the Western Nevada Musical Theater Co., produces two annual musical offerings rivaling any professional productions in major cities.

Outdoor art has taken center stage in recent years but has been around since 2012 when the first phase of the metal art project on the Carson bypass was installed. The end of December 2017, the beautiful eagle sculpture located at the intersection of Carson Street and I-580 in south Carson was installed. In early December 2024, “A Sense of Place” stunning metal art sculpture was installed in the roundabout in south Carson. The Music & Murals Festival was inaugurated in 2023 to attract local and

international artists to create murals on available “boring” buildings to showcase their unique talent and bring color to our community. The head of DaVinci sculpture can be seen in front of the community center. There’s more to come.

Culturally, our museums highlight the paths taken by our Native American and early settlers. The Nevada State Museum provides a timeline of the growth of Nevada in what was formerly the U.S. Mint where silver coins are still minted on special occasions. The Nevada State Railroad Museum presents the history of the Virginia & Truckee RR so prevalent during the silver boom and so important to the economy of Carson City during the boom years. The Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum traces the sad history of the children of the Great Basin tribes forced by the U.S. government to attend the school to assimilate into the white culture. The Nevada State Prison was Nevada’s first prison and is open on specified days during the summer. Check the prospective websites for full information.



Mary Fischer poses at the Arrowhead exit where Dwight D. Eisenhower brought his convoy through Carson City in July of 1919 on his way to San Francisco.



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Mary Fischer was impetus behind History in Motion Freeway Art Project

Carson City can proudly point to the city's first major public art project that was a part of the Carson bypass completed in 2012. Because of the success of the project and the commitment of local volunteers and the relationship between the Federal Highway Administration, NDOT, this first of its kind project in the state became the standard for freeway art in Nevada. Once again, Carson City led the way as this city has done in so many firsts since pre-statehood.

How did all this come to be? The short story is that instead of complaining about the proximity of the proposed freeway that would impact her mobile home park, local resident Mary Fischer took a positive

approach. She stated, "My husband and I knew the freeway project was going to leave a big barren swath beside our mobile home park, so we contacted NDOT to find out if we could personally finance and landscape this interchange."

NDOT was receptive to the idea and so was then Mayor Marv Teixeira who introduced her to his powerful friend, U.S. Sen. Harry Reid, who helped secure a \$1.7 million grant from the Federal Highway Administration that was matched by NDOT, Carson City government and local contributors. With this encouragement and money commitment, Fischer reached out to local master gardeners who formed the non-profit GROW (Gardeners Reclaiming Our Waysides) who tirelessly worked to bring our community the art project you

see today along the I-580 Carson bypass.

Today, Carsonites and visitors can enjoy and be reminded of a bit of our unique history as they exit the freeway or drive under the various bridges. The accompanying walking/bicycle path affords a closer view of the art. Those who walk or bike along the trail will find benches and historical narratives of the history that made those exits memorable.

We encourage all to go out and explore the Carson City I-580 corridor to learn more about our history. Make this a learning and discovery family experience whether on bike or on foot. A free ebook written by Mary Fischer is available to download: blurb.com/b/3850587-carson-city-s-history-in-motion?ebook=360767 ■



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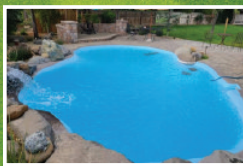
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The “Sense of Place” sculpture created by artist Karen Yank (center holding sign) at the South Carson Street roundabout was dedicated on Dec. 6, 2024. Community members joined the artist and Mayor Lori Bagwell in cutting the ribbon. Pictured from left: Chamber Chair Melanie Thomas, Yank, Bagwell, Supervisor Stacey Giomi and Supervisor Lisa Schuette.

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Honoring today's Women of Distinction

2025 WOMEN OF DISTINCTION

From Left: The Honorable Melanie Bruketta, Justice of the Peace; Ellen Jackson, founder & CEO, Spirit of Hope; Candi Robles, CTE and work-based learning coordinator, Carson High School; Lou Skaggs, volunteer Carson City Lions; Molly Walt, executive director RSVP Retired Senior Volunteer Program; Stacy Woodbury, manager, public affairs for Southwest Gas; Colleen Chapman, executive director for resource development, Boys and Girls Clubs of Western Nevada; Brook Sweeting, senior relationship manager, United Federal Credit Union; Brenda Sanquist, executive director Xquisite; Lupe Ramirez, president Carson City School Board.

“Carson City’s women have been an integral part of the fabric of this city since 1858. They came from all over to help tame the then desolate sagebrush land, make homes, raise and educate children, form businesses, assist in the Civil War effort, and bring arts and culture to soften what was then a male dominated environment.”

Carson City’s women have been an integral part of the fabric of this city since 1858. They came from all over to help tame the then desolate sagebrush land, make homes, raise and educate children, form businesses, assist in the Civil War effort, and bring arts and culture to soften what was then a male dominated environment. Theirs was not an easy task, but they prevailed and alongside their male counterparts, creating a city for future residents.

History has recorded some strong women who rose to the top in male dominated professions by not revealing their female identity by using gender-neutral initials attached to a last name. A perusal of our colorful history will shed light on these women of yesteryear who are getting deserved recognition.

Today, women remain the backbone of our society and can be found in many roles once closed to them. Even now, we still refer to those who now and then break the glass ceiling as “the first women” to do whatever. Since 2016, the Chamber has honored Carson City’s most influential women each March during Women’s History Month to showcase their considerable contributions giving our city a “sense of place,” and a community of which we can all be “Carson Proud.”

There have been women honored in the past as “Woman of the Year by the

Chamber though the research is skimpy. Entrepreneur and community activist Betty Block, mother of self-proclaimed Carson City Historian Jed Block, was so feted in 1966

Recent Women of Distinction honorees are listed below. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there were no honorees in 2021 and 2022.

Women of Distinction 2020

The pandemic shutdown all events by mid-March 2020, thus the inaugural luncheon planned to honor our first group of women was canceled. Most of these women were trailblazers and have since retired. Some today still hold the distinction of being “first.”

Dr. Carol Lucey -first and still the only woman to hold the title of President, Western Nevada College from 1999-2014

Linda Ritter – Carson City Manager from 2003-2008 was the city’s first female city manager chosen out of a field of eight applicants of which seven were male

Marilyn Lewis – Instrumental in founding the Silver/Snowflakes Festival of Lights in 1988 and volunteer for many non-profits including Soroptimist.

Collie Hutter – Co-Founder Click Bond serving as CFO and COO/President and

first awardee of the national award for Women in Excellence in Manufacturing.

Sheila Banister, former and first female Chief of Juvenile Services

Mary Fischer – Spearheaded the art and landscaping freeway project seen on I-580 through Carson City, Carson City's first large public art project. (Died 2/14/21)

Shelly Aldean – Carson City Supervisor 2003-2013, entrepreneur, chaired various high profile committee including that of Chairman of the Chamber between 1994-95.

Gwen Currie Pradere - Founder and Executive Director of the non-profit Friends to All bringing holiday cheer to low-income seniors since 1999, still continuing today.

Dr. Mary Pierczynski – Today still the first and only woman to hold the title of Carson City School District Superintendent from 2002-2008 and recognized three times as Nevada Superintendent of the Year.

Kay Bennett – Carson City Supervisor 1988-2000, first female to win in the race against four men. Previously served on almost every city committee. Co-founder of Silver Springs Airport. (Died 8/4/2022) ■

Congratulations to the Carson City Chamber of Commerce on 80 Years!

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2023 WOMEN OF DISTINCTION

First Row from left: Nancy Paulsen, first female Carson City manager; Carol Scott, executive director, Wild Horse Children's Theater; First female Justice of the Peace, the Honorable Kristin Luis; Elinor Bugli, president Carson City Symphony Association; Lori Bagwell, first female Carson City mayor; Kathi Gore, banquet supervisor, Gold Dust West; Stephanie Arrigotti, producer/director Western Nevada Musical Theater company. **Second Row, from left:** Courtney Warner, director, Carson City Senior Center; Joyce Buckingham, executive director Ron Wood Resource Center; Susan Sorenson, co-founder and executive director, Dream Center; Ali Banister, chief, Carson City Juvenile Services; Michelle Joy, first female president and CEO, Carson Tahoe Health; Lisa Lee, executive director, Advocates to End Domestic Violence.

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2024 WOMEN OF DISTINCTION

Flanked by Assemblyman PK O'Neil (left) and Cliff Sorensen (far right), the 2024 honorees are from left: Carson City Supervisor Lisa Schuette; Kitty McKay, administrator community & experience, Carson Tahoe Health; Kelly Brandon, Carson City supervising deputy district attorney; Niki Gladys, executive director of advancement, Western Nevada College; Sena Loyd, Carson City planning commissioner; Marlene Maffei, executive director, Food for Thought; Hope Sullivan, director Carson City Community Development; Jenny Lopiccolo, entrepreneur, realtor, restaurant owner; Tasha Fuson, associate superintendent of education services, Carson City School District; Elaine Barkdull Spencer, entrepreneur, owner of Plato's Closet.



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Chamber Travel Club formed in 2010

One of our earlier Collette Vacations trips took us to the Canadian Maritimes and Prince Edward Island in Nova Scotia to visit the home of Anne of Green Gables. Former Chamber travel writer Marilyn Foster in the blue pants is pictured on the left.

“Even those who have scoffed at group travel have grown to like the idea of having professionals tend to the details and taking them to places they would not have been able to experience on their own.”

A chamber cannot rely on dues income alone to operate and must rely on events and other non-dues income to operate as any business would.

In 2010, we received a visit from Collette Vacations and the long-term relationship began between us, Collette Vacations, and the many travelers we have since served in our region began.

We’ve enjoyed introducing our region to the world by booking them through the oldest tour operator in the United States. Collette Vacations operated its first tour in 1918 and has kept a pulse on where travelers want to roam.

They’ve endured economic downturns and each and every traveler affected by events such as the COVID-19 pandemic were refunded every dollar invested whereas other tour operators were forced

to file bankruptcy without refunds.

We’ve booked hundreds of intrepid travelers from Australia to Zimbabwe reaching every continent.

After experiencing one well-executed group trip, our travelers have seen how worry-free traveling with an experienced tour operator can be. Even those who have scoffed at group travel have grown to like the idea of having professionals tend to the details and taking them to places they would not have been able to experience on their own. A by-product of group travel is the friendships.

The Chamber staff acts as an agent for Collette Vacations and happily attends to the booking details from beginning to end. To learn more about the Chamber Travel Club and preview upcoming tours, log on to carsoncitychamber.com/spotlight/details/chamber_travel_club ■



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Chamber Leadership makes a lasting difference

The Leadership Class of 2024 created a gathering place in Mills Park repurposing the former firefighters memorial.

The Carson City Chamber established a leadership program in 1989 under the direction of then-Executive Director Larry Osborne. 584 students have graduated with many becoming community leaders.

Many classes have chosen to leave a lasting mark on our community with the financial help of the community for the betterment of all. Within most classes emerges a leader with a passion that is translated into a project of significance.

We do not have the history of all leadership class projects and can only trace back to the Class of '99. Some classes were not as passionate or creative as others. The classes with passionate leaders with a vision created a lasting legacy.

For a complete listing of Leadership graduates: https://carsoncitychamber.com/the_chamber/leadership

Class Projects of note:

1999 - Created the Mentor Center at WNC

2006 - Built a replica of the Governor's Office within the Children's Museum of Northern Nevada

2009- The Veterans Memorial at Lone Mountain Cemetery was replaced and today is a fitting monument to our veterans

2010 - Though the building where the former animal shelter was housed is now the headquarter of JAC, the class created an exercise yard and visitation center at the former shelter.

2012 - A media center was built for the seniors patronizing the Carson City Senior Center.

“Many classes have chosen to leave a lasting mark on our community with the financial help of the community for the betterment of all. Within most classes emerges a leader with a passion that is translated into a project of significance.”



2017 – Refreshed the FISH dining room and painted a mural.

2018 – The CC Senior Center lobby was refreshed with new furniture, paint, pictures

2019 – A bee habitat was created along the Serenity Trail behind Carson Tahoe Health

2020 – The class revamped the Serenity Trail adding plantings and art.

2013 – The Children’s Museum was the recipient of a STEM room to teach science.

2014 – As part of the state’s 150th Anniversary, historic figures in Carson City history received historic markers.

2015 – The Kennedy Children’s Corner was built and is still in use today.

2016 – The historic Nevada State Prison wanted to preserve their history. The class collected funds for display cases that can be seen on tours.



2022 – A sensory garden was created at the Eagle Valley Children’s Home

2023 -The Veterans Center at WNC received a complete facelift including new furniture

2024 – The former Firefighters Memorial at Mills Park was transformed into a community gathering place.

2025 – The ticket booth at Carson High School was completely rebuilt. ■



Congratulations Carson City Chamber Celebrating 80 Years!

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Opposite Top:

2015 – The Kennedy Children's Corner was built and is still in use today.

Opposite Center:

2013 – The Children's Museum was the recipient of a STEM room to teach science.

Opposite Bottom:

2019 – A bee habitat was created along the Serenity Trail behind Carson Tahoe Health

Right:

2014 – As part of the state's 150th Anniversary, historic figures in Carson City history received historic markers.



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If you lived in Carson City in the 1980s, you'll enjoy looking closely at this photo. There are some mighty familiar faces at the March 11, 1988, groundbreaking of the current Chamber headquarters including U.S. Sen. Harry Reid, Mayors-in-waiting - former mayors Marv Teixeira and Ray Masayko. Builder Dwight Millard is seen behind Miss Carson City.



106 Chamber Members have supported us since 1945

“Carson City is one of the communities where the word community includes the Chamber reaching beyond businesses to reach all citizens to create pride in our city, region, and state, but our primary focus is on our members.”

Every chamber of commerce is different. The basics are the same: networking, protecting its members by lobbying against anti-business issues, keeping the membership informed on matters affecting their business (as we did almost daily during COVID), and working closely with local government.

Chambers represent their communities and take on the local personality which is why we are all different. Carson City is one of the communities where the word community includes the Chamber reaching beyond businesses to reach all citizens to create pride in our city, region, and state, but our primary focus is on our members.

The reasons cited above were the impetus for incorporating our Chamber at the end of World War II and a few have been our valued members since almost day one and no doubt had a lot of say about what we were to do to advance the business of business. The early members laid the keystone to where we are today.

As with any membership organization, members come and go for a variety of reasons. As we did our research to determine who may still have retained membership all these years, we were pleasantly surprised to recognize the many businesses who have been with us through the economic ups and downs and various locations as we successfully struggled to survive.

Our very first recorded member was/is State Agent & Transfer Syndicate joining in February of 1946, six months after we incorporated. That's 79 years as a Chamber member! The agency is still going full-throttle today and is owned by Jed Block who inherited the business from his mother Betty (deceased). Jed has become the historian not only for the long-term business, but for the city as well. He could be referred to as our “institutional memory.” Ah, the stories he can tell about us all! The longevity of these businesses is a testament to their commitment to Carson City and their customers through good

and bad economic times. We appreciate their loyalty and financial support.

We also thank our growing community for supporting these fine businesses. Businesses that join their Chamber are committed to the community and their customers. Information on each business, including contact information, can be found under our Member Directory found on our homepage: carsoncitychamber.com

We humbly acknowledge the six members who joined the Chamber in the first 20 years and continue to thrive.

Year	# of Years	Company
1946	79	State Agent & Transfer Syndicate, Inc.
1964	61	AT&T.
1964	61	Kaempfer Crowell, Ltd
1964	61	Wells Fargo Bank-East Carson
1964	61	Waste Management.
1965	60	Nevada Appeal.

From 1965-1985, 37 members have remained faithful to us and we to them.

Year	# of Years	Company
1966	59	Southwest Gas Corporation.
1973	52	Cactus Jack's Casino
1973	52	FitzHenry's Funeral Home & Crematory
1974	51	Greenhouse Garden Center

Year	# of Years	Company
1974	51	Reno Gazette Journal.
1976	49	Sierra Veterinary Hospital
1976	49	Capital Glass, Inc.
1979	49	Snap-on Tools
1980	45	Allison, MacKenzie Law Firm
1980	45	State Farm Insurance-Bret Andreas
1981	44	Lumos & Associates, Inc.
1981	44	Resource Concepts, Inc.
1981	44	Michael Hohl Honda-Subaru
1982	43	Preferred Auto Body
1982	43	El Charro Avitia
1982	43	Capital Ford
1983	42	Coombs & Brewer Dentistry
1983	42	Millard Realty & Construction
1983	42	EmployNV (Formerly Nevada JobConnect)
1983	42	United Engine & Machine Company
1983	42	Eagle Valley Children's Home
1984	41	D G Hand Construction Company
1984	41	Manpower
1984	41	Michael Hohl Motor Company
1985	40	KBCA, LLC
1985	40	Nevada Day, Inc.
1985	40	Carson City Toyota
1985	40	Visit Carson City
1985	40	Carson Mall/The Carrington Company
1985	40	Nevada Insurance Agency Co.

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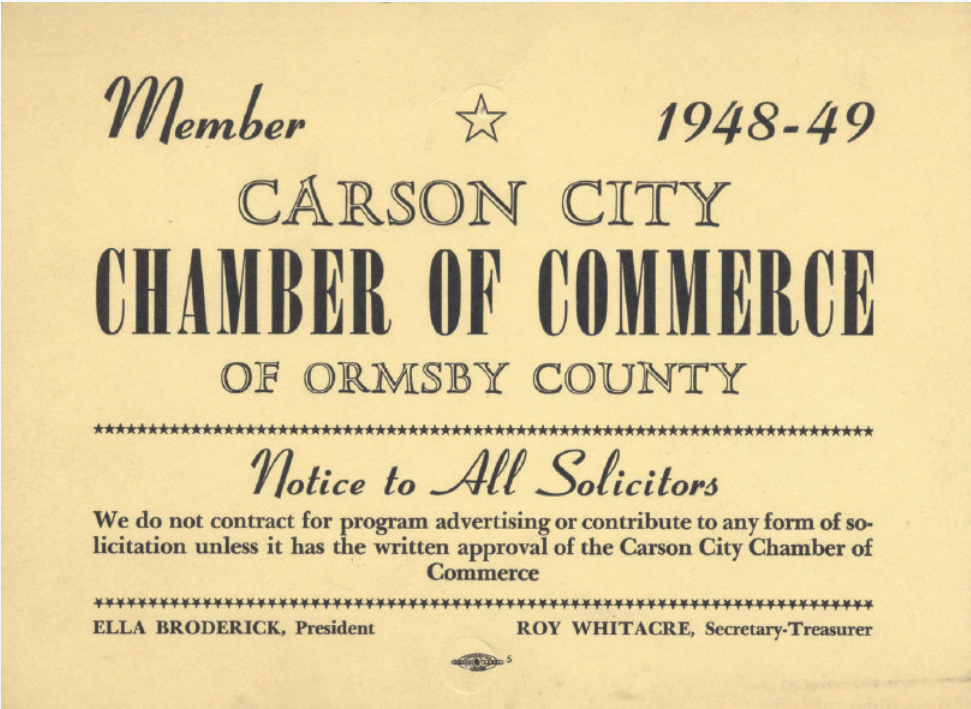
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Year	# of Years	Company
1985	40	Meeks Lumber & Hardware.
1985	40	First Centennial Title of Nevada
We so appreciate the 63 members who have been with us between 1986-2000		
Year	# of Years	Company
1986	39	Greater Nevada Credit Union-Eagle Station
1986	39	State Farm Insurance-Janet L. Staub
1987	38	Nevada Builders Alliance
1987	38	Camp-N-Town RV Park
1987	38	UNR Co-Op. Ext./CC/Storey
1988	37	Carson Masonry & Steel Supply
1988	37	Carson Plaza
1988	37	Fairview Bus. Park/Colorado Storage
1988	37	Basalite

Year	# of Years	Company
1988	37	Walton's Chapel of the Valley & Cemetery
1989	36	Dura-Bond Bearing Company
1989	36	Sunrise Automotive
1989	36	Cinderlite Trucking
1989	36	Western Nevada College
1989	36	Click Bond, Inc.
1989	36	Nevada Manufacturers Association
1990	35	Carson City Sheriff's Office
1990	35	Ticor Title Company
1991	34	Retail Association of Nevada
1991	34	Hone Company
1991	34	Nevada Rural Counties RSVP
1992	33	Paradise Salon~Spa~Wellness
1992	33	Advocates To End Domestic Violence
1992	33	Vitalant
1992	33	Cassinelli Landscaping & Construction
1994	31	Garibaldi's



Left:
A membership card from 1948-49 for the Carson City Chamber of Commerce.

Opposite:
The Carson City Chamber held a groundbreaking for the current Chamber offices on March 11, 1988.

Below:
Betty Block was the impetus behind the formation of the Brewery Arts Center and poses with Governor Robert List at the grand opening of the BAC on June 9,1979. Betty also owned State Agent & Transfer, the Chamber's oldest member.



1994	31	KOLO-TV Channel 8
1994	31	Charles Kitchen Realty
1995	30	Chromalloy Nevada
1995	30	Boys & Girls Clubs of Western Nevada
1995	30	High Sierra Business Systems, Inc.
1995	30	Miles Construction, Inc.

Year # of Years Company

1995	30	Nevada State Bank Business Center
1995	30	CGI, Inc.
1995	30	Carson Tahoe Emergency Physicians
1996	29	Lone Mountain Veterinary Hospital
1996	29	Office Depot #973
1997	28	Community Counseling Center
1997	28	Motel 6
1997	28	Carson City School District
1997	28	Eagle Valley Golf and Grill
1998	27	Eden Managements
1998	27	Granite Construction Company
1998	27	Partnership Carson City
1998	27	Sterling Air, Ltd.
1998	27	SB Builders

Year	# of Years	Company
1998	27	Southern Glazer's Wine, Spirits and Beer
1998	27	Les Schwab Tire Center
1998	27	Carson RV Resort
1998	27	Ormsby Post Acute Rehab
1999	26	Parkway Terraces
1999	26	Salvation Army, The
2000	25	Holiday Inn Club Vacations
2000	25	Tahoe Ridge Re
2000	25	Toiyabe Golf Club, LLC
2000	25	Red's Old 395 Grill
2000	25	Purple Avocado, The
2000	25	Funke, Mark D. Dental Practice
2000	25	Artistic Fence
2000	25	Industrial Logistics Services
2000	25	Nevada Center, Inc., The
2000	25	Parasec/Paracorp
2000	25	Universal Analyzers Inc.
2000	25	Carson City Airport Authority

That's 106 total loyal members who have been with us 25 plus years. Thank you! ■



Ground-breaking

The Carson City Chamber of Commerce held its ground-breaking ceremony on Friday for a new office and visitor's center. The site is located at the V&T railroad museum. U.S. Sen. Harry Reid, left, and Dwight Millard stand on a train to

AP photo speak to a crowd of more than 100 people. City and state officials also delivered speeches. Photo insert is a close up of Reid.

Congratulations to Carson City's Chamber of Commerce for their 80 years of service!

Steve Lewis, President

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Chamber chairs set tone over the years

As we looked through the history of our past chairpersons over the last three vicenniums, we are proud to have had quite the leadership since 1945. It is the chair and board of directors who set policies and give our Chamber its sense of community.

Long-term Carsonites will fondly recall many of the names and no doubt can tell many stories of the “early days.”

*1945 Bernard Artung
 1946-47 Ken Johnson
 1947-48 Don Armstrong
 1948-49 Ella Broderick
 1949-51 B.C. Honea (two terms)
 1951-52 Walter C. Wilson
 1952-53 E.H. Bud Miller
 1953-54 Phil Roventini
 1954-56 Neal Van Sooy *
 1956-57 Edwin Bullis
 1957-58 Roy V. Boswell (resigned) – Jack Conners
 1958-59 Charles Leonard
 1959-60 Jay Flint
 1960-61 Clyde Shook *
 1961-62 Robert Rigler
 1962-63 Bill Woerner
 1963-64 Charles (Chick) Moran
 1964-65 Stan Warren
 1965-66 Fred Musselman *
 1966-67 Jerry Stegall *
 1967-68 Gene Robinson
 1968-69 Unknown
 1969-70 Bill Dolan
 1970-71 Dan Flammer
 1971-72 Jim Lein *
 1972-73 Tony Corona *
 1973-74 Bud Lehmkuhl *
 1974-75 Ron Landes
 1975-76 Fred Daniels
 1976-77 June Peterson – Mary Seguin
 1977-78 John Kephart * (two terms)
 1978-80 John Nicosia
 1980-81 Frank Gentry *
 1981-82 Steve Bilyeu
 1982-83 Dave Osborn
 1983-84 Tom Baker
 1984-85 Bob Kennedy
 1985-86 Tim Morsani
 1986-87 Reid Belmont
 1987-88 Mary O. Knapp
 1988-89 Craig Swope
 1989-90 Bruce Robertson
 1990-91 Brent Holderman

1991-92 Doc Beaudette
 1992-93 Kevin Honkomp
 1993-94 Ray Masayko
 1994-95 Shelly Turner (Aldean)
 1995-96 John McKenna
 1996-97 Sandra Mae Pickens
 1997-98 Mark Coleman
 1998-99 Helaine Jesse
 2000-01 Pam Robinson
 2001-02 Wayne Pedlar
 2002-03 Steve Reynolds
 2003-04 Randall Long
 2004-05 Jeff Smeath
 2005-06 Ronni Hannaman
 2006-07 Robert Crowell
 2007-08 Joseph Lushina
 2008-09 Phillip Harrison
 2009-10 Jim Smolenski
 2010-11 Scott Dockery
 2011-12 Court Cardinal
 2012-13 Stan Jones
 2013-14 Lisa Stirgus (resigned) – Gil Yanuck
 2014-15 Terrie McNutt
 2015-16 Carol Swanson
 2016-17 Joyce Whitney-Silva
 2017-18 Peter Fishburn
 2018-19 Bob Fredlund
 2019-20 Lisa Lee
 2020-22 Rob Joiner (two terms)
 2022-23 Kris Wells
 2023-24 Stacy Woodbury
 2024-25 Melanie Thomas
 2025-26 Teresa "Teri" Preston

Shepherding the Chamber into the next vicennium:

Carson City Chamber Board of Directors 2025-26 Executive Committee

Chair: Theresa "Teri" Preston
 Coldwell Banker Select Commercial

1st Vice Chair: James Hardiman
 Finest Fence

2nd Vice Chair: Bob Roll
 Cinderlite Trucking Corporation

Treasurer/Secretary: Susie Messina
 Coldwell Banker Select

Past Chair: Melanie Thomas
 United Federal Credit Union

Executive Director: Ronni Hannaman,
 Carson City Chamber of Commerce

Directors:

Dr. Kyle Dalpe, Western Nevada College
 Julie Ann Evans, Jewels Benefits, Inc.
 Andrew J Feuling, Carson City School District
 Brenda Grace-Smith, Hometown Health
 Mike Jones, Gold Dust West
 Michelle Miller, Carson Tahoe Health
 Gerd Poppinga Jr., Vineburg Machining Inc.
 Cliff Sorensen, Campagni Auto Group
 Stacy Woodbury, Southwest Gas
 Brett Zunino,
 Boys & Girls Clubs of Western NV

Chamber assumes full ownership of 1900 S. Carson St. headquarters

On Sept. 15, 2014, three past Chamber chairs were present to sign sale documents giving full the Chamber full ownership of the current headquarters at 1900 South Carson Street. The Chamber and the Carson City Visitors Bureau had jointly built and occupied the building since 1989.



Pictured from left: Jonathan Boulware, 2015 Chair of the visitor's bureau, past Chamber chairs, Stan Jones (2012-13), Robert Crowell (2006-07) chair at the time, Terrie McNutt (2014-15). Bob Crowell served as the legal counsel and was Mayor of Carson City at this time.

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acquired the Nevada Appeal, The Record-Courier,
the Lahontan Valley News and Northern Nevada Business Weekly in January.

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* When compared to Hometown Health ACA offerings.

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