

CITY PROGRESS REPORT

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1 AUGUST, 2004



Message from the Mayor:

It's a great summer here in Ruidoso Downs. Our friends from other towns and states have returned to escape the heat of Texas and deserts surrounding our mountain gateway. Probably the most important thing that has come back to Ruidoso Downs, however, is the summer rain. As you have no doubt heard in the press, our spring continues to show a declining flow. The spring flow is being watched on a daily basis and has leveled off over the past three weeks. The big problem that caused our current water emergency situation, however, occurred when our Denton Well stopped producing water for more than three hours per day. This small well is used by the City to supplement the spring flow to get through the busy summer months. Over the past years, the well remained a stable source of water that easily and reliably provided that extra "push" to get through the heavy usage summer months. In July, that extra push was no longer available. City Hydrologists tell us that the prolonged drought and heavier pumping is having a negative effect on the aquifer that provides water for the spring and Denton Well. Due to the sudden failure of the Denton well, City reservoirs at the spring and the west side of town became dangerously low over that weekend. On the following Monday, City crews started trying to fill the reservoirs back up, but due to the Denton Well's failure, could not produce and store enough water at a rate needed to prepare for the next weekend. Upon learning of the well failure that Monday morning, I immediately declared a Water Emergency and enacted our most strict Phase III water rationing restrictions to hasten the filling of our reservoirs. The City was also offered up to one million gallons of water (to buy at cost) from our neighbor, the Village of Ruidoso. I instructed staff to quickly fill our reservoirs for the upcoming week with the purchased water, and approved the plan to drill two new emergency wells to provide additional, and if necessary, replacement water for the spring. The Governor's office was kept apprised of the situation, and by that Thursday, had declared a state water emergency for the City of Ruidoso Downs. This executive order from the state frees up to \$750,000 to use towards the emergency. As of today, drilling operations on the first of those wells is almost complete and the new well should be online very soon. Both City and contract workers have been spending long hours to assist drilling operations and maintain an adequate water storage level. During this drilling period, I am happy to report that your water use has dropped significantly and we have been able to maintain and refill our reservoirs throughout the weeks following the emergency declaration. Taking shorter showers, fixing leaky toilets, asking for a glass of water at local restaurants and other changes in our water use can seem like inconveniences, but these changes are helping us get through the drought with water for all. Keep up the good work!

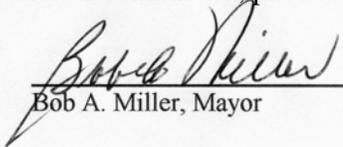
Other than the emergency well drilling operation, this year is a busy one and we have had plenty going on in Ruidoso Downs. As most of you probably know, there is a lot of work going in our City. Contract crews are installing water lines, pressure reducing stations, and fire hydrants throughout town. The line replacement is necessary to reduce and/or eliminate our substantial water loss that leaks out of our system. The new skate park pad has been completed in All-American Park and the park equipment is on order. Turkey Canyon Lane Phase II will be completed this year and a new storage tank is being designed to be installed later this year. Sewer line extensions are also planned this year for Wood Lane.

During our construction periods, I am again asking you to please be patient, as temporary outages of service may occur as the various parts of the system are replaced and upgraded. Many neighborhoods, such as the areas of town around Wright Lane and South Parnell, South Central, and West Drives, have received fire hydrants for the first time. In addition to fire hydrants, pressure reducing valves have been installed, which will control pressure spikes in the lower elevations of our system. Please drive slowly and be courteous to the construction crews, as they are here to help improve our City.

If you get the time to run by City Hall, stop in and say "Hi" to the City staff. Of course, you are welcome anytime to stop by my office at City Hall. If you hear something about City government that you disagree with or want to know more about, come on in and talk about it. The staff and I are here to serve you, please feel free to contact City Hall, and we will do our best to help you.

Over the next several years, the City will be working hard to improve your City. If you are interested in serving on any City boards or committees, please stop by my office. Your City government needs its citizens.

Yours truly,



Bob A. Miller, Mayor

Current Issues:

GRANT TOTAL REACHES \$3.1 MILLION IN STATE & FEDERAL GRANTS SINCE SEPTEMBER 2001

by City Staff

Over the past two and a half years, things have been looking up for the City of Ruidoso Downs. Not only has the City hired a new City Administrator, City Clerk, Chief of Public Safety and Public Works Director during this period, it has acquired over \$3.1 million in competitive state and federal grants for public infrastructure projects and the water emergency, and thousands more in special programs relating to fire protection and public safety. City Administrator John Waters credits the staff for the hard work necessary to complete and produce applications and the Mayor and Council for providing the support and guidance necessary to submit the applications. "Some of the applications are several inches in thickness and require many work-hours to complete, copy, and submit to the granting agency," Waters said. Following submission, administration then must pitch the project to the agency in hearings, complete the NEPA process and, in some cases, aggressively lobby for the project application. Recent awards have included \$700,000 in state funding from the legislature (supported heavily by local State Representative Dub Williams) and Governor Richardson, \$85,000 from the US Forest Service for economic development and tree thinning, and most recently, up to \$750,000 in drought emergency funding from the governor's office.

CITY'S DEPLETED DENTON WELL COMBINED WITH DECREASED FLOW FROM SPRING FORCES CITY INTO PHASE III WATER RATIONING RESTRICTIONS

by City Staff

City administration and water department staff have been closely watching the Griffith Spring flow since observing the rate drop from a regular historical monthly average of around 400 gallons per minute (or gpm) to a monthly average of **224** gpm at the end of June of 2004. This four-year steady decrease in flow caused the City Council to implement a water conservation ordinance in the summer of 2002 and placed the city on water restrictions for the first time in the City's 54-year history. Due to the diminished flow of the spring and the sudden failure of the Denton Well, the Mayor & City Council enacted Phase III Water Rationing restrictions. The Mayor and council continue to ask for the public's help to get through this crisis together. Please help us conserve our precious water. According to the ordinance, restrictions are as follows:

- I. "Wasting water" is prohibited. The following practices are considered wasting water:
 - (a). Using potable City water for any purpose in such a way that it flows, sprays, or is otherwise excessively discharged upon any street, alley or other public right-of-way, ditch or drain;
 - (b). Failing to repair a leak in a system which delivers water within five working days of the discovery of same;

- II. All swimming pools, which are constructed after the effective date of this ordinance (June 11, 2002), must be equipped with filtration, pumping and recirculation systems. For purposes of this ordinance, a swimming pool is any structure more than twenty-four inches in depth and containing more than one thousand, one hundred twenty-two gallons (1,122 gals.) of water and intended primarily for recreational use.
- III. New or replacement bleeder lines from evaporative coolers shall not be larger than one-eighth-inch inside diameter. Bleeder lines shall not be routed into the sewer system where the air conditioner runoff can be used to water landscaping or other outdoor vegetation, except where this would be impractical or unfeasible.
- IV. Washing sidewalks, driveways, parking areas, tennis courts, patios or other impervious surface areas with a hose (except in emergencies to remove spills of hazardous materials or to eliminate dangerous conditions which threaten the public health, safety, or welfare) is prohibited.
- V. Restaurants shall provide drinking water to customers only upon request.
- VI. For the public's information, the following **Phase III** additional restrictions apply to all customers or persons who use or receive potable water from the City of Ruidoso Downs.
 - (a) Use of water through a sprinkler system or use of water through a hose to water any grass, trees, plants or other vegetation shall be determined as follows:
 - (1). Users with odd numbered addresses shall be permitted to use water in the above manner on each Friday.
 - (2). Users with even numbered addresses shall be permitted to use water in the above manner on each Tuesday.
 - (3). Watering in the above manner shall be **prohibited** between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
 - (4). Plants which cannot be kept alive without daily watering may be permitted to be watered from a bucket, but not from the use of a hose on the days when watering is prohibited.
 - (b) All watering of grass, trees, plants or other vegetation at all parks and public buildings owned by the City of Ruidoso Downs which are watered using potable water shall be prohibited. Areas watered with legally treated effluent or well water are exempt from these restrictions; however frugal water use is strongly encourage.
 - (c) No water shall be used to wash any vehicle (including fund raising car washes at commercial businesses), except at places of business where autos are washed on every business day either with attendants, with automatic equipment or by self-service. The hours of operation of such businesses shall be limited to ten (10) hours per day.
 - (d) No swimming pools will be filled and no water shall be added to any swimming pool.
 - (e) It shall be the policy of the City of Ruidoso Downs to keep Stage 3 in effect for no longer than absolutely necessary. The City Administrator, may and the City Council shall take steps to lift the Stage 3 restrictions as soon as lifting the restrictions will not endanger the water supply by reducing amounts of water in storage.

As reported in the last issue of *The City Progress Report*, the City is pursuing projects to address three emergency water supply priorities. These are the reduction of water loss due to leaking pipes, the development of an

alternate source of water to supplement (and, if it ever becomes necessary, replace) Griffith Spring, and the increase of water storage capacity which will hold more water during low demand periods in order to handle increasing population and peak demands during the summer and provide additional fire fighting reserves. The total for the planned projects amounts to approximately \$6.6 million over the next five to seven years. As mentioned above, the City received a \$500,000 *colonias* grant from the Community Development Block Grant program and will complete water line replacements and pressure reduction valve installations late this summer.

Current and Completed City Projects:

by John Waters

Listed below are current City projects, brief descriptions, status, costs, and source fund:



1. **Highway 70 Water Main Improvements;** reinstallation of almost 5,000 linear feet of 6” water pipeline along Highway 70, most of which was destroyed during the highway construction project three years ago; project was COMPLETED IN JUNE OF 2002; Final Cost \$164,260; Water & Sewer Improvement Fund, General Fund (GRT), & State Special Appropriations Grant.



2. **East Circle Sewer Extension;** extension of sewer system to 41 homes on East Circle Drive and asphalt overlay; COMPLETED IN MAY OF 2003; Projected Cost \$300,000; Funding Sources: Water & Sewer Improvement Fund (\$100,000), General Fund (GRT) (\$150,000) & State Special Appropriations Grant (\$50,000).



3. **Heights Park Construction;** construction of small neighborhood park on Heights Drive; CONSTRUCTION COMPLETED IN AUGUST, 2002 and planting will begin in spring of 2003; Projected Cost \$24,000; Funding Source: State Cigarette Tax Recreation Fund (\$24,000).



4. **Redman Reservoir Renovation;** inspection and interior coating of reservoir to stop leaks; Design Phase Complete, renovation work scheduled to start in 2004; Projected Cost: \$58,000. Funding Sources: Water & Sewer Improvement Fund (\$13,000) & State Special Appropriations Grant (\$35,000).



5. **Emergency Water System Improvements- Phase B;** Replacement of 29,000 linear feet of leaking, undersized water lines and installation of new pressure reducing stations and fire hydrants; Construction 80% complete on project and will continue until fall of 2004; This first half of project costs \$742,000; Funding Sources: Local Water & Sewer Improvement Fund (\$175,000), State Special Appropriations Grant (\$75,000), and CDBG (\$500,000). City staff is currently submitting FY2005-6 grant requests for second half of Phase B (\$500,000).



6. **Emergency Water System Improvements- Phase C;** Construction of New 1-2 Million Gallon water storage reservoir (tank). Funding Sources: Local Water & Sewer Improvement Fund (\$267,000), State

Special Appropriations Grant (\$350,000). Design services underway and construction to start in late 2004.



7. **Drainage System Improvements- Phase 1 River Park Addition;** construction of drainage and street improvements in River Park Subdivision; **Final design complete** for project, easement negotiations are ongoing, construction now scheduled to begin in 2004; Projected cost \$590,000; Funding Sources: Local General Fund (\$90,000) & CDBG (\$500,000).



8. **All-American Park Pedestrian Walkway;** construction of approximately 2,500 feet of walkway around the All-American Park and Senior Recreation Center; **Asphalt portion (75% of total trail length) Complete**, Concrete portion construction will start in early Fall, 2004. Projected Cost: \$81,000; Proposed Funding Sources: Local Non-Promotional Lodger's Tax Proceeds (\$81,000).



9. **Allison Lane Reconstruction;** reconstruction and widening of Allison Lane from Reservoir Drive to Spring Drive- will include curb and gutters, asphalt overlay, and proper drainage; **CONSTRUCTION COMPLETED, DECEMBER, 2003**. Funding Sources: Local Gas Tax Proceeds & General Fund (\$63,000) and New Mexico State Highway & Transportation Department Cooperative Grant (\$48,705).



10. **Turkey Canyon Lane Reconstruction Phase I;** reconstruction and widening of 500 linear feet of Turkey Canyon Lane from Reservoir Drive to Second Drive- includes curb and gutters, asphalt overlay, and proper drainage; **COMPLETED IN DECEMBER, 2003**. Funding Sources: Local Gas Tax Proceeds & General Fund (\$60,000) and New Mexico State Highway & Transportation Department Cooperative Grant (\$55,000).



11. **Turkey Canyon Lane Reconstruction Phase II;** reconstruction and widening of 1200 linear feet of Turkey Canyon Lane from Hill Drive to end of completed Phase I- will include curb and gutters, asphalt overlay, and proper drainage; **Final Design Phase Underway** and construction will occur in late 2004. Projected Funding Sources: Local Gas Tax Proceeds & General Fund (\$65,000) and New Mexico State Highway & Transportation Department Cooperative Grant (\$49,000).



12. **Wright Lane Reconstruction Phase I;** reconstruction and widening of 1200 linear feet of Wright Lane- will include curb and gutters, asphalt overlay, and proper drainage; **Design Phase Underway** and will continue until spring of 2004. Projected Funding Sources: Local Gas Tax Proceeds & General Fund (\$45,000) and New Mexico State Highway & Transportation Department Cooperative Grant (\$25,000).



- 13. East Highway 70 Sewer Line Extension;** extension of sewer system to homes and businesses on East Highway 70; **Construction Started;** Projected Funding Sources: Water & Sewer Improvement Fund (\$200,000)



- 14. All-American Park Skateboard Facility;** construction of approximately 5,000 sq. feet skateboard facility; **Concrete Pad is Complete, Skateboard Equipment ordered,** Completion scheduled in early Fall, 2004. Projected Cost: \$65,000; Proposed Funding Sources: Local Non-Promotional Lodger's Tax Proceeds.



- 15. Emergency Water System Improvements- Phase A;** Construction of New Denton Well and Riverside Well to supplement and if necessary, replace spring. Projected Cost: \$1.2 Million. Funding Sources: Local Water & Sewer Improvement Fund (\$200,000), Applied for State Emergency Grant (\$1,000,000). Construction of New Denton Well Complete. Design services underway and construction to start in late 2004 of Riverside Well.

New Denton Well being drilled August 2, 2004



Upcoming Events & Notices

PRIDE IN SERVING- VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED FOR NEW "RUIDOSO DOWNS RESERVE POLICE OFFICER" PROGRAM

In June of 2004, The City of Ruidoso Downs DPS proudly graduated their first class of reserve officers. The program started with approximately twenty-five original students, and of those, only five made it through graduation. Graduates of the academy successfully passed 160 hours of police training. This training included domestic violence, liability and ethics, criminal law, juvenile justice, criminal procedures, communications, report writing, motor vehicle law, tazer-gun, pepper ball, and firearms training. Since graduation, reserve officers have volunteered 189 hours of patrol time with the Ruidoso Downs Police Department. Current Reserve Officers for the City of Ruidoso Downs are Sabrina Lundquist, Andrew Friberg, Brady Chambers, Judy Miller, Cheyenne Hightower, and Jeremiah Pillow.

The City of Ruidoso Downs is currently taking applications for the next reserve class, which is scheduled to start in Fall of 2004. Each applicant must be able to donate time each month to regular patrol duties, be available during local emergencies, and be of service on a regular basis. Each successful applicant graduating from his or her training program will need to be weight and height proportionate and capable of performing the demands of law enforcement. Also, each Reserve Officer will need to supply departmentally approved portions of their uniform requirements. Upon completion of training each Reserve Officer will serve as a patrol officer, working along side a regular Officer enforcing laws and serving citizens in need of law enforcement assistance. Bilingual applicants especially desired to apply for this new program. Be a proud and successful part of your city and community. Serve where your service would be most appreciated. Applications can be picked up at the Ruidoso Downs Police Department. For information, contact Andrew Friberg or Chief Robert Logan at the Police Department (378-4001)

"KEEP RUIDOSO DOWNS BEAUTIFUL"

Anyone interested in volunteering their time to work with a new Ruidoso Downs Beautification committee should contact Judy Miller at 378-4823 or City Hall at 378-4422. This program's goal is to beautify our City by organizing Clean-up Day Events and making recommendations to the City for future beautification projects. On a related note, there will be a "Trek for Trash" clean-up along US Highway 70 on September 25, 2004. Meet at the

All-American Park at 7:30 A.M. and help remove trash that has recently appeared along the highway and city streets.

Meet Your City Government:
CITY OF RUIDOSO DOWNS ELECTED OFFICIALS:

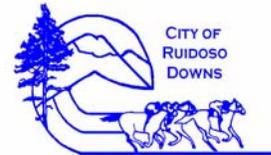
Bob A. Miller, Mayor
107 Heights Drive
PO Box 1860
Ruidoso Downs, NM 88346
378-8143 or 937-3150
cityclerk@ruidosodowns.us

Judy Miller, Councilor & Mayor Pro-Tem
225 E. Circle Drive
PO Box 540
Ruidoso Downs, NM 88346
378-4823

Susan Garrett, Councilor
510 Colorado Lane
PO Box 2388
Ruidoso Downs, NM 88346
378-8099
bemot@zianet.com

Margie Morales, Councilor
425 West Dr
PO Box 1674
Ruidoso Downs, NM 88346
257-9090 or 378-4069
margie@junderwood@zianet.com

Rene Olivo, Councilor
638 B Turkey Canyon Rd.
PO Box 564
Ruidoso Downs, NM 88346
378-4646
renego50@hotmail.com



CITY STAFF:

John Waters, City Administrator
PO Box 348
Ruidoso Downs, NM 88346
378-4422
jwaters@zianet.com

Carol Virden, Clerk/Treasurer (Director over Finance, Personnel, & Procurement)
PO Box 348
Ruidoso Downs, NM 88346
378-4422
cityclerk@ruidosodowns.us

Robert Logan, Public Safety Director, (includes Police, Fire, Animal Control and Code Enforcement)
PO Box 348
Ruidoso Downs, NM 88346
378-4001
chiefofpolice88346@yahoo.com

Kenneth Mosley, Public Works Director (includes Streets, Water, Wastewater Collection, Garage, Parks, and Building Maintenance)
PO Box 348
Ruidoso Downs, NM 88346
378-6162

Daniel P. Bryant, P.A., City Attorney
1096 Mechem, Suite 230
P.O. Box 2300
Ruidoso, NM 88355
258-2202
ruiatty@zianet.com

Tom Armstrong, Supervisor Licensing, Planning & Permits Department and Volunteer Fire Chief
PO Box 348
Ruidoso Downs, NM 88346
378-4422
tomvord@zianet.com

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE:

Meets at City Hall on 1st Thursday of every month at 5:30 p.m.

Bonnie Richardson(Chairperson) 378-4661

Don Coleman 378-8316

Carl Efurd 378-8072

Jackie Branum 378-4364

Tomas Chavez 378-1718

LODGERS' TAX COMMITTEE:

Meets semi-annually t.b.a.

Barbara Green (Chairperson)	378-8217
Beth Miller	378-4484
Vipal Patel	378-8100
C.E. "Pappy" Bell	378-8514
Nayana Sharma	378-4706

PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE:

Meets at City Hall on 1st Tuesday of every month at 1:30 p.m.

Paul Van Gulick (Chairperson)	378-5249
Barbara Green	378-8217
Ron Ritter	378-8191
Bonnie Richardson	378-4661
Shane Garner	378-4488
2 Vacant Seats	

ETZ COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Susan Garrett (Chairperson)	378-8099
Dean Holman	378-4588
Sue Davis	378-8152
Joe Blaney	378-9176
Judi VanWinkle	378-4990
Lawrence (Larry) Mulligan	378-5363
Leonard McCutcheon	378-4793

RUIDOSO DOWNS REPRESENTATIVE - LINCOLN COUNTY SOLID WASTE

AUTHORITY:

Don Coleman	378-8316
Sue Garrett (Alternate)	378-8099

RUIDOSO DOWNS REPRESENTATIVES- REGIONAL WASTEWATER JOINT USE

ADVISORY BOARD:

Mayor Bob A. Miller	378-8143
John P. Waters	378-4422

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD:

Mercedes Fernandez-Wells (Chair)	378-4277
Tomas Chavez	378-1718
C.E. "Pappy" Bell	378-8514
Dean Holman	378-4588
Sue Garrett	378-8099
Barbara Green	378-8217
Paul Van Gulick	378-5249

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE:

Judy Miller (Chairperson)	378-4823
Ursula Eckersley	378-1985
Sally Turner	378-4918
Cynthia Trujillo-Garner	378-5417
1 Vacant Seat	

Lincoln County Solid Waste Authority News:

Yard Waste Pick up

The LCSWA wants to remind all Ruidoso Downs Residents that curbside pickup of yard waste will occur throughout town on the week of August 23-28 and then again on the week of October 4-9 of this year. If you have a pile of limbs (limbs can be no longer than 6" diameter and 6 feet in length) or pine needles lying around, place your pile in front of your house (away from overhead power lines) on the Sunday before each week and they will pick it up with their new grappler truck.

New Facility News

The permit to move the existing LCSWA solid waste transfer station from the residential area Second Drive to US Highway 70 East has been submitted to the New Mexico Environment Department. State staff has indicated that the approval of the permit could come in January of 2005. Design, however, is underway and the construction of the new facility could begin in early September.

New Poly-cart Truck to Arrive Soon

The LCSWA has ordered a new collection vehicle which should arrive in mid-September. Please help the LCSWA by following a few simple rules to help facilitate trash pickup. All household trash must be bagged and must be in the poly-carts or it can not be picked up. All poly-carts must be at the road or the truck can not pick it up. Household trash that is outside the poly-cart can not be picked up. Please place household waste only in the green poly-cart containers. If you have more trash than one (1) poly-cart will hold, please contact LCSWA to request an additional poly-cart. Additionally, please do not place yard waste, wood products, dirt, rocks, toxic or hazardous waste, in the poly-cart. Contact LCSWA if you have of this type of waste for disposal. Please call LCSWA Director, Debra Ingle (378-4697), for more information or to schedule a FREE removal of inoperative vehicles from your city residence.

Planning for the Future:

The City of Ruidoso Downs completed its Water Resource and Distribution Master Plans, and a Drainage System Master Plan. These plans are available for review at City Hall, 122 Downs Drive or call 378-4422 for more information. The City is currently undergoing a Sewer and Comprehensive City Master Plan. If your neighborhood or house does not have access to sewer, please notify City Hall. Agua Fria Subdivision, Wood Lane Area, and North Parker Road currently do not have sanitary sewer service. Plans are being made to ensure that all *residents* have access to City Sanitary Sewer. The areas which are to be placed on the waiting list for infrastructure improvements such as sanitary sewer and street improvements must be within the City Limits. Look for upcoming public meeting notices if you are interested or wish to comment on these items.

City Meeting Schedule:

(Times and Dates of meetings are Subject to Change. Please Contact the City Clerk's office for up-to-date information at 378-4422)

- Planning & Zoning Committee meets on 1st Tuesdays of each month at 1:30 p.m. (122 Downs Drive)
- Parks & Recreation Committee meets on 1st Thursdays of each month at 5:00 p.m. (122 Downs Drive)
- City Council Regular Meetings 2nd & 4th Mondays of each month at 5:30 P.M. at City Hall (122 Downs Drive)
- Economic Development Board meets on 2nd & 4th Thursdays of each month at 5:30 P.M. at City Hall (122 Downs Drive)
- September 6, 2004: Labor Day Holiday. City Offices Closed.
- October 11, 2004: Columbus Day Holiday. City Offices Closed.
- November 2, 2004: Gen. National, State, and County Election...Come to City Hall & VOTE!!
- November 12, 2004: Veteran's Day Holiday. City Offices Closed.
- November 25-26, 2004: Thanksgiving Holiday. City Offices Closed.

Water Conservation Status Indicator

Water Conservation Phase I

Water Rationing Phase I

Water Rationing Phase II

Water Rationing Phase III

FIRE RESTRICTIONS HAVE BEEN LIFTED. BE CAREFUL WITH YOUR BARBEQUE GRILLS AND CAMPFIRES.

BE SURE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.RUIDOSODOWNS.US. WE ARE ONLINE AND GROWING! YOU CAN GET AGENDA INFORMATION, MINUTES, JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MORE!!!

