

CITY OF IONE NEWS

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Balancing the City Budget During Challenging Economic Times

In these economic times, cities and counties throughout the state are challenged with providing public services with reduced income. The City of Ione is no exception. Issues impacting the City's budget for FY 2009-10 are reduced revenues estimated at \$276,857. This total includes property taxes decreased by approximately \$90,000 due to a reduction in assessed value. The State of California is taking 8% of the property taxes at the 2008-09 assessed value resulting in an estimated \$54,904. Sales taxes are volatile and a projection of lower tax receipts for FY 2009-10 are expected to be \$65,000. The State will also take 8% of the vehicle license fees for approximately \$66,952. The City will be re-paid \$121,857 of the property and vehicle taxes within three years.

The General Fund is projected to have a \$614,157 deficit due to expense exceeding revenue. To balance the budget, the City will transfer funds (considered loans) from internal accounts to the general fund. Additional steps to reduce expenses are being identified and further costs savings negotiated with employee bargaining groups. During the past year, the following steps were taken to reduce expense:

- Replaced Finance Director with Finance Manager
- Eliminated contract accountant
- Replaced Accountant II with Accountant I
- Replaced paid reserve police officer positions
- Office Assistant position remains vacant
- Total savings - \$176,229
- Eliminating requests for funding from outside agencies has resulted in a savings of \$24,630
- Key staff members have taken a reduction in pay

A public hearing was held on September 29, to review the FY2009-10 budget. City Council approved budget changes, adopted Resolution No. 1748 and approved the FY 2009-10 Operating and Capital Budget. A full report is available at City Hall and on the City website at www.ione-ca.com

Key goals for the City continue to be:

- Economic Development
- Downtown Rehabilitation
- Sewer Improvement
- Maintain a Positive Fiscal Outlook

"Bulldog Byte Bash" Huge Success

Over 300 people attended the "Bulldog Byte Bash" raising funds for a computer lab for Ione Elementary School. The Big Red Barn at Rancho Arroyo Seco was full of activities including a "Creepy Cave", bounce house, jail 'n bail, cotton candy, s'mores, silent auction and raffle. And---when it was all over, this community and its supporters along with a \$10,000 match from Rancho Arroyo Seco, raised over \$20,000 for a new high tech computer lab. Principal Laurie Amick summed up when she said this is a "community with heart."

The Amador County School District will fund the electrical, data lines and furniture for the lab and new Dell desktops computers will be purchased with funds from the "Bulldog Byte Bash." Many people behind the scenes made this possible. Thank you to individuals, corporations, local businesses, and service organizations who generously donated. This fundraising effort will allow for the purchase of a minimum of 20 workstations. The long range plan is to have 32 computers in the lab. An HP laser printer will also be purchased. The goal is to have the lab fully functional in Q1'2010.

For three months, the planning by eight community members volunteering countless hours made this event possible. Thank you, Michelle Hansen, Melissa Johnson, Pattie Fisher-Misuraca, Lori Haney, Shari Speers, Laurie Lord, Sharon Long, and all the volunteers at the "Bash." Congratulations Ione for a job well done!

"It's Christmas Carol!"

The Ione Elementary School Red Ribbon Choir opens the holiday season with a performance to warm your heart. "It's Christmas Carol!" is about Carol, an elf who learns about the true meaning of Christmas. Five original musical numbers will be introduced along with several traditional holiday songs. Under the direction of Cindy Harris, children from 1st through 5th make up the Red Ribbon Choir. Support this outstanding group of young performers in the Multi-purpose room on:

December 4th @ 7 PM or December 5th @ 2 PM

*Program is funded through donations.
Refreshments will be served at the end of the show.*

Around Town

Story time for pre-school children will be held at Clark's Corners each Tuesday morning at 9:00 AM beginning on October 6th. Children will enjoy stories read by local volunteers. Each session will be 30 minutes in length. If you are interested in being a reader, contact Andrea Bonham at Clarks Corner, 209-274-2233.

IBCA Annual Dinner will be held at Caddy's Restaurant at the Castle Oaks Golf Club on December 10th. Cocktails will be served at 5:30 and dinner at 6:30. IBCA board member elections will be held that evening. You must be a member to vote, however, anyone can attend the dinner. Cost is \$20 pp. For more information, call Dominic Atlan at 209-274-0167.

Annual Christmas Parade sponsored by IBCA will be held in downtown Lone on Saturday, December 12th. For entry information, contact Lynette at 209-304-9821.

Help our Schools by clipping Box Tops for Education coupons worth 10 cents each. They are found on rolls of biscuits, baby diapers, tissue boxes, cold cereals, Ziploc bags and more. It takes very little effort, so clip and mail your coupons to Gaylene Adair. PO Box 1627, Lone, CA 95640, or call 209-304-2242. This is an easy way to support the students of Lone.

6th Grade Science Camp Family Fun Night will be held on November 6th from 6 to 9 PM at the Lone Junior High School. This fundraiser will go toward the annual 6th Grade Science Camp trip. Games at \$5 per child, bingo, hotdogs, BBQ chicken sandwiches, chips and sodas will be available. One hundred cow chip bingo tickets will be pre-sold at \$10 per ticket with a cash prize of \$100 for the winner. Child care will be provided for children age 3 to 7 years for \$5 per child.

Tuesday is Family Night at the Pizza Factory in downtown Lone. Fun activities for the kids are free and include bounce house, crafts and contests. So, bring the family from 6:30 to 7:30 PM on Tuesdays. If you eat at the restaurant, 10% of your sale will be donated to Lone Elementary School.

A Telephone Scam from Canada is active in Amador County. Lone residents have received calls from a scam artist claiming to be a cousin who rented a car in Canada, got in an accident and needed \$3700 through a MoneyGram to pay his bill and get out of Canada. MoneyGram, located in Wal-Mart, quickly alerted the victim that this could very well be a scam. After calling the "real cousin" it was clear that he was not in Canada and this was a "clever" scam to get quick money. If you receive a similar call, immediately report it to the Lone Police Department. These people are not easily tracked down, but the public can be made aware.

Happy Thanksgiving

City Meetings – November

City Council

Nov 3 & 17 6:00 PM City Hall

Planning Commission

Nov 10 6:00 PM City Hall

Parks & Recreation

Nov 24 6:00 PM City Hall

Organization Meetings

Castle Oaks Women's Club Luncheon

3rd Monday – 11:30 AM Check-in

Reservations – 209-274-0893 or 274-4512

Castle Oaks Women's Bible Study Group

Wed, Sept 9 10-11:30 AM. Call 274-0600

Grange & Jr. Grange Meetings & Potluck

2nd Thurs – 6:00 PM – VFW Hall – Info 209-610-9415

IBCA Board Meeting

3rd Thursday – 8:30 AM – Castle Oaks Golf Club

Mixer – November 19 – 5:30 PM – New Firehouse on Preston

Ione Homecoming Picnic Association

1st Wed – 6:30 PM – VFW Hall

Eastern Star Meeting – 274-2340

3rd Thursday – 7:30 PM – Ione Masonic Hall

Methodist Church Soup Supper – 274-2852

4th Wednesday each month – 5:00 - 6:30 PM

Native Sons Parlor 33

1st & 3rd Wednesday – 7:00 PM – Native Sons' Bldg Ione

Preston Castle Foundation Meetings

1st Wed - 6:30 PM – Cornerstone Church

Rainbow Assembly – 274-0354

2nd and 4th Tuesday – 7:00 PM – Ione Masonic Hall

Rotary Club Meeting

Thursdays – 12:00 Noon – Cravings Restaurant

Veterans of Foreign War Meeting – Ione Memorial Hall

2nd Friday – Family dinner 6:00 PM – Meeting 7:00 PM

Upcoming Activities

E-Waste Collection

Sponsored by Preston Castle Foundation & Ione Rotary

1st Saturday 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM - Preston Castle

Preston Castle Tours – Regular tours will resume in March 2010. For special tours call 209-256-3623.

Important Numbers

City Hall

209-274-2412

Emergency

911

Non-emergency

209-223-6513 (*Sheriff's dispatch*)

City Web Site

www.ione-ca.com

City of Ione NEWS

The deadline for input is the 20th of each month. Input forms are available at City Hall, on the City website or email Sharon Long, at ionecitynews@ione-ca.com.

Holiday Bazaar

Preston Castle Foundation

Saturday, November 14

9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Preston Castle Visitor's Center

Castle Tours Available