

NSCB celebrates diamond anniversary

The Nevada State Contractors Board marks 75 years of service to the state's homeowners and construction industry in 2016. The Board was established by act of the Nevada State Legislature in 1941.

To celebrate, the Board will unveil an innovative marketing campaign and will host several issue-oriented forums throughout the state, including protecting seniors from various forms of elder abuse; highlighting various efforts being undertaken to protect the public and directing consumers to available resources in the community; demonstrating the integrity of the construction industry through its contributions to the State of Nevada over the years; and assisting homeowners with disaster preparedness and recovery.

The campaign is expected to launch in March 2016 and will run through October 2016. It is NSCB's goal to host a minimum of one event each month, alternating between the northern and southern Nevada.



The Board is pleased to bring together its many partners, both at the local and state level, to join in the delivery of key consumer messages. Also participating will be a variety of community organizations, construction industry associations, and other non-profit entities.

It is the Board's intent to reach as many Nevadans as possible during the long-term campaign. Each event will offer consumers a wide array of valuable information, and we encourage anyone who can make it to attend.

Dates on the events will be made available on the Board's website, shared with all media outlets, and included in various publications throughout the state.

Elder Abuse Prevention Forums:

March 14 at the Doolittle Senior Center in North Las Vegas from 10:00 a.m. to noon

March 17 from noon to 2:00 p.m. at the Boulder City Library in Boulder City.

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Attorney General warns of phone scam

Nevada Attorney General Adam Paul Laxalt warns consumers to be aware of a new scam making rounds where callers pose as representatives of the “state” attorney general or U.S. Department of Treasury. Similar to the Internal Revenue Service fraudulent calls, scammers threaten arrest or suit in an attempt to collect personal information and money from their victims.

“This new phone scam seeks to collect personal, identifying information as well as money from its victims,” said Laxalt. “My office will never contact Nevadans asking for money, and I encourage consumers to take the necessary steps to verify a caller’s authenticity before answering any sensitive questions.”

These calls are sophisticated, and scammers often have detailed information about their victims. Callers initiate the conversation by notifying the receiver that he or she was instructed by the attorney general to discuss an important legal matter. The caller then verifies the receiver’s first and last name, as well as their home or mobile phone number. Callers may also pose as officers working for the U.S. Department of Treasury. The scammer then informs the victim that due to

multiple notices from the IRS, a warrant is being prepared for his or her arrest, and that the arrest will be conducted within an hour at the victim’s verified home address. During the conversation, the fraudulent caller may attempt to gather more personal information by asking for information on the victim’s lawyer, and requiring the caller to make a payment in order to avoid arrest.

Callers may also leave voice-mail messages for their victims, urging them to call immediately because the attorney general has an important legal matter to discuss with them. To listen to an audio voicemail of this scam, [click here](#).

The Attorney General’s Office offers the following tips for recognizing these fraudulent calls:

- The Nevada Attorney General’s Office will never ask for or require consumers to make payments by phone.
- If you are contacted by a member of the Attorney General’s Office by phone, you may confirm the call’s authenticity by hanging up and calling the Office directly at 775-684-1100 or 702-486-3420.
- Scammers may know your

name, phone number, address and last four digits of your social security number. This information does not guarantee a caller’s authenticity.

- The IRS will not contact you by phone and will not ask for payment via a prepaid debit card or wire transfer. Scammers typically prefer these forms of payments because they cannot be tracked.
- If you suspect you have been contacted by a fraudulent IRS scam or one of its variants, it is important to take the following steps to protect your information and report the incident:

If you owe taxes or you think you might owe taxes, call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040. IRS employees can assist you with legitimate payment issues.

If believe you do not owe the IRS or have not been sent a bill, call and report the incident to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration at 1-800-366-4484.

If you believe you have fallen victim to this scam, file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission [here](#). Please add "IRS Telephone Scam" to the comments of your complaint.

Non-profit battles homelessness

A non-profit organization in the Las Vegas area offers contractors, their employees and other concerned citizens the opportunity to make a difference in solving the region's homeless problem. HomeAid America estimates that of the 3.4 million Americans who experience homelessness each year, more than 80 percent are women, children and families who experience an economic trauma such as job loss, natural disaster, divorce health issue that drives them to homelessness.

HomeAid targets this transient homeless population, providing them shelter and assistance as they work their way back to self-sufficiency. The southern Nevada chapter was founded in 2004. HomeAid Southern Nevada went dark in 2012 and was formally adopted as the Southern Nevada Home Builders' charity of choice in 2014. It has been working under SNHBA since that time..

Over the past dozen years, HomeAid Southern Nevada has built or renovated more than 100,000 square feet of living space and helped more than 2,000 homeless children and adults. This work would not have been possible without the cash, material and equipment donations and labor contributed by builders, tradespeople, sponsors and volunteers.



HomeAid Southern Nevada keeps 100 percent of the donations it collects through shelter build projects, major donations, fundraising and outreach programs in the local community. In 2015, donors contributed more than \$500,000 in time, labor, materials, food, clothing and hygiene items. Those donations benefitted homeless provider partners, including the Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth, the Women's Development Center, West Care Women's and Children's Campus, Project 150, the Las Vegas Rescue Mission, Family Promise of Las Vegas and Downtown Calvary Outreach Food Pantry.

The organization completed the William Fry drop-in center in 2014 and donated it to the Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth. The year-long construction project increases NPHY's service capacity by 40 percent. As is the case in all HomeAid projects, donations of time, material and labor helped HomeAid complete 71 percent of the project in kind.

The need for continued support of non-profit organizations that serve the homeless population continues to grow, according to HomeAid.

"Oftentimes, this is a forgotten population, so with the help of HomeAid Southern Nevada, many organizations are able to expand their operations, continue to provide beds and ultimately serve more homeless men, women and children in our community," said Caitlin Shea, the organization's executive director. "We recognize that the financial burden of building can become overwhelming and we want to help. In order to allow these great organizations to serve the homeless, we essentially take away the burden that the cost of building can present and make the process a lot more accessible and easy for the provider."

Every HomeAid project includes support services and case management that help clients move toward self-sufficiency — education, job training and physical and emotional support.

Don't become a victim of fraud!

CHOOSE A CAREGIVER WITH CAUTION – Do not assume that by hiring a caregiver through a bonded agency you are guaranteed to get someone who has been checked.

KEEP AN INVENTORY OF ALL JEWELRY – Jewelry is the number one item that is stolen from homes occupied by elders. Keep it in a locked drawer and photograph valuable or sentimental items

SHRED SENSITIVE DOCUMENTS – Every piece of mail containing your name, address and any other identifying information should be shredded before being discarded: Paid bills, used check-books credit card application forms, etc. . Cross-cut shredders are the most effective.

PROTECT YOUR INCOMING AND OUTGOING MAIL – Never allow mail to sit in an unsecured mailbox where the public has access. Consider either purchasing a locked mailbox or renting a post office box.

YOU WILL NEVER WIN THE CANADIAN LOTTERY – Anyone who calls and tells you that you have, is a liar. Similarly, if you get an email from Nigeria or letter from Madrid indicating that you could receive a substantial amount of money, you are being scammed.

DON'T ASSUME THE FRIENDLY HANDYMAN IS LICENSED – Always obtain at least three estimates in writing and check on the name of the contractor with both the Better Business bureau and the Nevada State Contractors Board. Also, never pay more than 10% of the contract price up front.

ALWAYS HAVE A SECOND LINE OF DEFENSE AT YOUR FRONT DOOR – A locked screen door or security chain will allow you to communicate without exposing yourself to the possibility of a forced entry. Never allow any stranger into your home even if they claim an emergency, or display uniforms and badges, which could be fake. Instead, tell the stranger that you will call 911.

Adapted from tips developed by Paul Greenwood, Deputy District Attorney San Diego District Attorney's Office, Head of Elder Abuse Prosecution.

Contact The Contractors Board!

RENO

9670 Gateway Drive
Suite 100
Reno, NV 89521
775-688-1141

HENDERSON

2310 Corporate Circle
Suite 200
Henderson, NV 89074
702-486-1100

Unlicensed Contractor Hotline 702-486-1160 or 775-850-7838