



A New Year and a New Newsletter

The City has long produced a newsletter every two months. It has traditionally been mailed with the invoice for water and sewer charges and was limited to two pages. This new format will be direct mailed to all addresses within the City limits. The newsletter and additional information will still be produced digitally and available on the City's website.

City Manager's Message

2022 was both a challenge and a success for Nevada City. While our residents, businesses, and visitors remained profoundly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, those who live, work, play, and thrive in Nevada City reengaged in the community at record levels.

It was an honor for me and my family to return home in 2022 to serve our wonderful City. While some things have changed, many of our wonderful uniquely Nevada City people and places remain. From attending our wonderful special events, to opening businesses; from digging out from snowmageddon to preparing our properties for wildfire, it feels like we did a little bit of everything in 2022.

2023 is upon us and our future looks bright. Based upon the input from all of our stakeholders, your City Council has adopted a Strategic Plan to guide the next five years of change, growth and preservation in the City. Throughout the process I have come to find that the Nevada City I grew up in remains strong: a place where diverse ideas, opinions, shops, architecture, and people come together to make our 2 square mile City a magical, vibrant, and beautiful place.

I would like to thank the incredible staff of the City of Nevada City for their tireless efforts to serve our community. I would also like to thank our City Council for their leadership and perseverance. Most importantly I would like to thank all of you for your continued engagement in your community and your City!

Throughout this newsletter you will find information from all our City departments. I hope that you find the information helpful. As always, please reach out to us with comments, questions, or concerns. We want to hear from you!

Sean Grayson, *Your City Manager*

Inside This Newsletter

Strategic Plan.....	2
Finance	3
Business Licensing	3
Utility Billing	3
Human Resources.....	3
Planning.....	4
Engineering.....	4
Water / Wastewater.....	4
Parks and Recreation.....	5
Public Works.....	5
Fire	6
Police	7
A Facility in Focus	8

Important Dates

City Hall Closed

January 2: New Year's Celebrated

January 16: Martin Luther King Jr.
Day

February 20: President's Day

City Council Meetings

January 11th & 25th

February 8th & 22nd

Planning Commission Meetings

January 19th

February 16th

Permitted Events

February 16-20: Wild & Scenic Film
Festival

February 19: Mardi Gras Parade

Strategic Plan

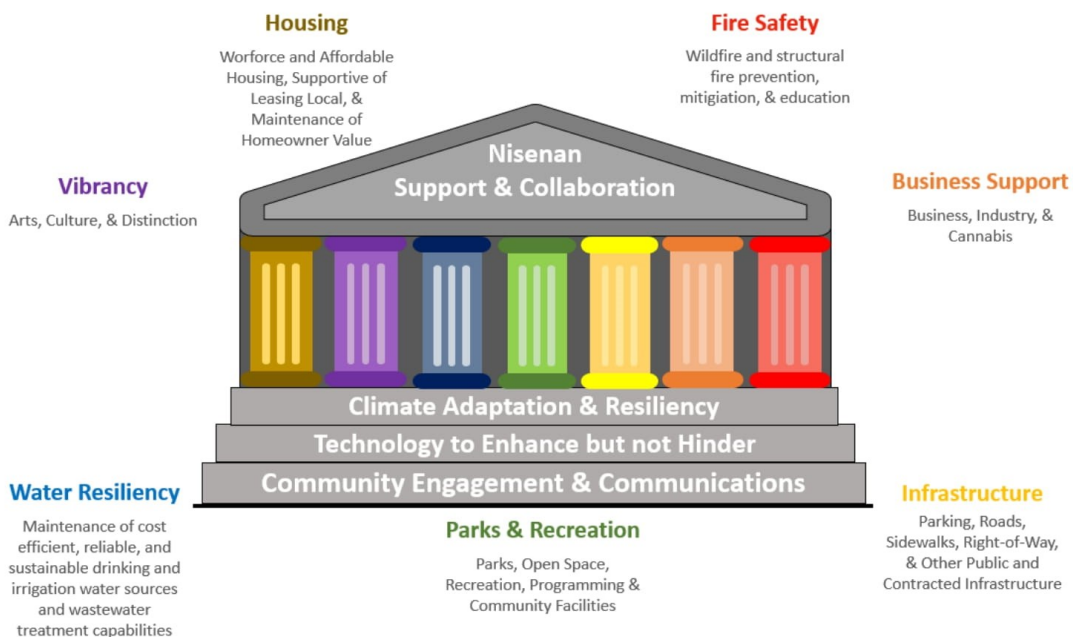
Through several stakeholder workshops, public meetings, and surveys, more than 400 people gave input to the creation of the City of Nevada City's first Community-Driven Strategic Plan. The City Council adopted the comprehensive 5-year plan and has created 7 public committees to address each of the Strategic Initiatives within the plan. Below is the Strategic Plan At-A-Glance. For a copy of the complete plan please visit the City Council page on the City of Nevada City website: www.nevadacityca.gov



City of Nevada City Strategic Plan 2022-2027 At-A-Glance

The City We Are Building Together

Strategic Initiatives



Why We Exist

Mission Statement

The City of Nevada City is dedicated to preserving and enhancing its small town character and historical architecture while providing quality public services for our

Where We Want To Be

Vision Statement

Nevada City, nestled in the Sierra foothills, will be a vibrant, uniquely beautiful small town that balances art and culture, historical preservation and progress.

The Values We Share

- Embracing and promoting diversity
- A commitment to public service
- Ethical and transparent behavior
- Fiscal responsibility
- Preserving and enhancing our community
- Excellent, responsive customer service
- A commitment to our community as a whole
- Support for and commitment to a safe, just, equitable, diverse and inclusive Nevada City

"The crossroads of history and progress"

Finance

Business Development and Sustainability Fee Waiver Program

Your City Council has established a Business Development and Sustainability Fee Waiver Program to assist Nevada City businesses as they emerge from the impacts of COVID-19 and seek to sustain and expand business as well as to incentivize new businesses within Nevada City. The program will allow businesses up to \$2,000 in waivers for specified fees including business license fees, sign review, and many more.

So far more than \$30,000 of fee credits have been issued and 26 businesses have used the credits to, among other things, open new businesses and develop parklet dining. The process to participate is easy, simply email City Manager Sean Grayson, sean.grayson@nevadacityca.gov with your interest and we can help get you on your way to the fee waiver for your business.

Business Licensing

Many business licenses are up for renewal in January and February. If your renewal is coming due or you are interested in starting a new business you can reach out to our Customer Service Representative at 530-265-2496 for assistance. Please consider enrolling in our Business Development and Sustainability Fee Waiver Program which may offset the entire cost except for the \$4 state fee.

As reminder, all hosted short-term rentals in the City require both an approved Hosted Short-Term Rental Registration and a City Business License.

Utility Billing

The November/December billing for water and wastewater (sewer) will be sent in January of 2023. If you have questions or concerns about your bill or your water or wastewater service, please contact us at 530-265-2496. If you are in the Nevada Irrigation District (NID) service area for water their customer service number is 530-273-6185.

Sewer rates in the City have two components, a base rate and a use charge. The use charge is based upon water usage in January and February of each year. Conserving water is a year round goal. In January and February water conservation is both good for the environment and good for keeping your sewer rate low.

Human Resources

The City is actively recruiting for:



⇒ **Police Officer** (Lateral, Academy Graduates, and Level 1 Reserves):
Police Department

⇒ **Plant Maintenance Mechanic:** Water and Wastewater Department

For information on available jobs, job descriptions, and employee compensation please visit the Human Resources Page under the Finance and Administration Department on our website www.nevadacityca.gov

Planning



Project Completion - Cashin's Field

Cashin's Field, located at 170 Ridge Road, is moving in residents beginning January 2023. This 51 unit apartment home community includes 11 one-bed, 26 two-bed, and 14 three bedroom floor plans. All of the units are rent restricted for income from 30-60% of the area medium income. This was the first project completed in Nevada City under SB35, a state law which required a streamlined approval process by the City for the project.

Engineering

Nevada Street Bridge Grant Award

The City was awarded a grant for the Nevada Street Bridge Replacement project. The project will be funded by 88.5% of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Highway Bridge program and the remaining 11.5% will be funded by City local funds for streets. The project is located at the south end of Nevada Street and spans Deer Creek. The existing two-span steel girder bridge is approximately 34-ft wide, 61-ft long, and was constructed in 1938. The new bridge will be 46-ft wide and almost 73-ft long for increased lane and sidewalk widths. The project will require utility relocations of sewer, water, electric and telephone. The new bridge will take from the truss design of 1860 bridge on the site. Project construction in 2023 will primarily consist of utility relocation work. The demolition and replacement of the bridge is scheduled for completion in November 2024.



Upcoming Projects - Upper Broad Paving Project

City staff has also submitted a request for funding for the Upper Broad Street "Y" project. If approved for funding, this project is scheduled for construction in 2024. The Broad Street "Y" project consists of roadway rehabilitation of Broad Street between the intersection of Broad/Commercial and the "Y" intersection of East and West Broad Streets. Sidewalks will be widened and enhanced at intersections to provide safe, convenient and efficient pedestrian access within the Downtown Historic District. Pavement improvements include replacement of deteriorated pavement and improvements to cross slope for drainage. Underground waterlines and drainage lines will also be replaced. Project construction is anticipated to be completed by September 2024.

Water / Wastewater

New Wastewater Treatment Plant Process

Your water / wastewater operations staff recently undertook a new chemical process at the wastewater treatment plant. Where a sulfur gas was previously used, the plant now uses a slurry (liquid) based process that is safer and more efficient. Staff designed, built, and implemented the new process using the in-house talent that operate one of the oldest water and wastewater systems in California.

Parks and Recreation

Winter Recreation

The City's trails, open space, parks, and facilities are open for recreation year round (except the swimming pool). Whether you are interested in a game of bocce ball, a quick swing across the monkey bars, a little nighttime tennis, a hike along the Nisenan Section of the Tribute Trail System or an opportunity to sit and read a book in Calanan Park, we have you covered. Seaman's Lodge is the only facility available to rent during the winter, but many people are already planning their summer picnics. If you would like to reserve a picnic area or any facility, visit the Parks & Recreation Department page on the City website www.nevadacityca.gov or call 530-265-2496 x129

Looking for Lifeguards

There is snow on the ground but the summer swim season will be upon us soon! Certification classes and hiring of lifeguards for summer programs will begin in early 2023. The City wants to encourage adults to consider a lifeguard position with the city. Ways that adult lifeguards can assist and improve programs at the Nevada City Swimming Pool include being able to offer programs at the beginning and end of the school year. Our traditional lifeguards (high school and college students) are also in school, so it is challenging to be able to offer programs for school groups at the swimming pool. Adults could also provide valuable programs such as swim lessons and water exercise during the summer and during times when our student lifeguards are in school. Another position that might interest the "non-traditional" lifeguard is to become a Red Cross Instructor to train and certify lifeguards. The City also generally hires Cashiers, Swim Instructors and Assistant Pool Managers each summer. For job descriptions and more information about working at the Nevada City Swimming Pool, contact the Parks & Recreation Manager at 530-265-2496 x129 or visit the city's website: www.nevadacityca.gov

Public Works

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

The City recently completed installation of its first set of Electric Vehicle (EV) chargers. Six parking stalls in the Commercial Street Parking Lot now have charging stations for public use. If you have an electric or plug-in hybrid vehicle charging will be free through June of 2023, but don't forget to feed the parking meter.

Winter Street Sweeping

The City will continue its winter street sweeping to keep up with the falling leaves and pine needles and avoid flooding. Please keep the streets clear of debris and avoid leaving piles of leaves from your yard or sidewalk in the street as the street sweeper cannot pick up piles.



New Street Signs

The City has begun the installation of new street signs. All signs will be replaced in the City over a three fiscal-year program. The first two signs were installed along with the new stop sign placement at the corner of Searls Avenue and Argall Way. The next wave of signs will go at new site installations and to replace damaged signs and the remaining signs throughout the City will be replaced in several phases each fiscal year.



Fire

Fire Safety During Winter Storms

Winter storms can happen almost anywhere. They can cause us problems. Know what to do before, during and after a storm. This will help keep you and your family safe from a winter fire.

- Test all smoke alarms. Do this at least once a month. This way you will know they are working. Install carbon monoxide alarms in your home. Test the alarms.
- Plan two ways out of your home in case of an emergency. Clear driveway and front walk of ice and snow. This will provide easy access to your home.
- Make sure your house number can be seen from the street. If you need help, firefighters need to be able to find you.
- Be ready in case the power goes out. Have flashlights on hand. Also have battery-powered lighting and fresh batteries. Never use candles.
- Stay aware of winter weather. Listen to the television or radio for updates. Watch for bulletins online.
- Check on neighbors. Check on others who may need help.
- Generators should be used outdoors. Keep them away from windows and doors. Do not run a generator inside your garage, even if the door is open.
- Stay away from downed wires. Report any downed wires to authorities.
- Be ready if the heat stops working. Use extra layers of clothes and blankets to stay warm. If you use an emergency heat source, keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away.
- Turn portable heaters off when you leave the room and when you go to bed.

January is Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month

Cancer is a leading cause of death among firefighters, and research suggests firefighters are at higher risk of certain types of cancers when compared to the general population. January is Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month. Learn more about firefighters' cancer risk and what can be done to reduce the risk. Many of the same activities that can reduce risk of cancer in firefighters can help you too:



- Avoid breathing smoke of any kind
- Avoid smoking and tobacco use
- Use sunscreen when in the sun
- Maintain a healthy weight and be physically active
- Get regular medical care including any cancer screening you are eligible for

Recent Fire Department Training

While the types of fires and rescues your Fire Department responds to can change dramatically from summer to winter, the need to train to respond to all manner of incidents is year-round. Two months ago your firefighters were prepared for the daily risk of wildfire while today they have to be prepared to put chains on the fire engine to get to an incident. Recently, Grass Valley / Nevada City Fire Department was fortunate to cross train with our law enforcement partners on Active Shooter Drills and responses to Mass Casualty Incidents (MCI). While these are skills that everyone hopes are never used, your public safety partners are trained and ready to help no matter the incident.



Police

Keeping Your Property and Your Deliveries Safe in 2023



The ease of ordering items straight to your door has provided unprecedented convenience, but it is not without its problems. This created a new form of criminal; the porch pirate (the attached photo is for reference only and is not an actual porch pirate). This, of course, refers to a person who steals recently delivered packages right from your porch or private property. This can lead to the victim feeling violated and unsafe in their home. The members of the Nevada City Police Department would like to share a few tips to help prevent you from being a victim of this theft.

Having a designated space for delivered packages is always a good idea. Use landscaping and foliage or some of the construction aspects of your home (pillars or other obstacles) to conceal the deliveries. Doorbell or home security cameras are excellent and low-cost deterrents for thieves or other criminal elements. And never forget, if you see something suspicious, it is always acceptable to contact the police and let us verify the situation. A thief generally acts on the opportunity, so do your best to ensure the prospect does not present itself.

Keeping Up With the Police Department

Are you interested in information about current and future activities by your Police Department. Follow the Nevada City Police Department @NCPDCA on Facebook for the latest.



Code Enforcement

An aesthetically pleasing neighborhood goes hand in hand with community safety. Keeping a community clean, vibrant, and within established guidelines falls on many people in your local government but is the primary task of code enforcement.

An issue that continues to come forward to code enforcement is abandoned vehicles. It is a violation of the California Vehicle Code and Nevada City Municipal Code to abandon or store a vehicle on any publicly owned street. If code enforcement is made aware of a potentially abandoned vehicle, either by their observations or a citizen complaint, the vehicle will be tagged with a notification of abandonment. If the vehicle is not moved within 72 hours of the notification, it can and likely will be removed. This removal is at the owner of the vehicle's expense and can be quite expensive. Nevada City Police Department and Code Enforcement personnel never enjoy towing a privately owned vehicle, help us help you avoid this potentially costly mistake by not abandoning or storing vehicles on City streets and not parking your vehicle on City streets for more than 72 hours.

Quick Parking Tip: parking meters in the downtown are 50¢ an hour payable with nickels, dimes, and quarters. Non-metered but time limited parking is available in the Spring Street and Nevada Street lots, both just a two-minute walk from Broad Street.

A Facility In Focus: Firehouse No. 2

FIREHOUSE NO. 2 (422 Broad Street)

The red brick building at 422 Broad Street is Firehouse No. 2. With fire repeatedly ravaging the town, the women jumped into action. In December 1859, as they pushed the men to start a fire department, they held a ball which netted \$923.50. That was followed a week later by a theatrical event netting an additional \$149.00 for a total of \$1,072.50 to be held in trust for a permanent firefighting company. Six months later Eureka Hose Company No. 2 was formed on June 13, 1860, one day after Nevada Hose Company No. 1. The "Broadstreeters," as they were known at the time, had an advantage over the "Mainstreeters." Thanks to the women in the town, they hit the ground running. Fundraising events provided them with over \$1,000.00 in their treasury and they immediately put it to use planning a permanent station house. A short four months later, on October 17, 1860, they laid the cornerstone for what would become Firehouse No. 2 and it was completed, new bell and all, three months later. On January 14, 1861, Eureka Hose Company No. 2 moved into their new station. Hence it became known as Firehouse No. 2 in honor of the second hose company formed in Nevada City and it became the first permanent Firehouse to be erected in town.



Earlier in 1860, the two companies realized they could protect Nevada City better as one fire fighting unit. They came together and formed the Nevada City Fire Department and elected a Board of Delegates. Each company remained separate, but they responded to fires and fought them as a team. With the invention of the automobile came the opportunity to replace horse-drawn wagons with motorized engines. In 1913, after pushing the town trustees for new equipment and being denied, members of the Nevada City Volunteer Fire Department individually signed a loan contract in the amount of \$1,650 to purchase a motorized engine. Soon, Firehouse No. 2 was home to a brand new, state-of-the-art Seagraves motor-driven fire engine, complete with solid rubber tires. In 1917 another motor-driven engine, a Brockway, again with solid rubber tires joined the fleet. Firehouse No. 2 became home to two of the most modern pieces of firefighting equipment in Nevada County.

Time, the elements and automobiles haven't always been kind to Firehouse No. 2. A fire destroyed part of the roof in the 1860's. Weather has required several facelifts over the decades and vehicle accidents have damaged the front columns. Firehouse No. 2 is listed as a contributing building on the National Register of Historic Places. Today, as in 1861, Firehouse No. 2 is a symbol of the fire department and the many thousands of hours given by so many to protect Nevada City from the ravages of fire.

This is a short version of the tremendous history of Firehouse No. 2 as written by Cathy Wilcox-Barnes of the Nevada County Historical Society with resources from: Searls Historical Library files, Sven Skarr, Bob Wyckoff and Wally Hagaman research, and Historian Steve Cottrell.