

March 20, 2009

Contact: Virginia City Visitors  
Center at (775) 847-4386 or  
Historic Fourth Ward School Museum  
at (775) 847-0975

For Immediate Release

## **23rd Annual Comstock Historic Preservation Weekend**

VIRGINIA CIT, NV - May 15-17. Comstock Historic Preservation Weekend  
Looking for the "rest of the story." Grab your curiosity and adventure up to the Comstock for the 23rd Annual Comstock Historic Preservation Weekend. Activities include historic tours, events and exhibits in celebration of Virginia City's authentic architecture and preservation achievements. The Historic Fourth Ward School is featuring the "More Precious Than Silver: 150 Years of Water on the Comstock" exhibit opening, Kick Off Party for the Parties of the Year, workshops, water system discussion, the 16th Annual Comstock Children's Chorus, Nevada State Preservation Awards, Victorian Fashion Show, and Carol Morgan Page Memorial Silver Tea. Piper's Corner Bar will be open (first time since the fire of 1883.) and guided tours of the opera house start on the half hour at 1:00 pm through 4:30 daily.

Detailed Schedule

23rd ANNUAL COMSTOCK HISTORIC PRESERVATION WEEKEND EVENT  
MAY 15-17, 2009 MORE PRECIOUS THAN SILVER

FRIDAY MAY 15th

10:00-5:00 Fourth Ward School Changing Galley Exhibit Openings: More Precious Than Silver: The Virginia City and Gold Hill Water System.

The importance of a water system as it relates to the social, economic, and political development of an industrial complex in the history of the American West, the state of the system today and plans for its future is examined and displayed in the exhibit. In order to present the water system in a relevant national and global context, the exhibit will include a general overview of the affect of water on our lives. Water is the world's most important resource today just as it was during the development of the Virginia City and Gold Hill Water System. Parallels to the water famine on the Comstock in the 1860s can be found in the development of areas such as Las Vegas, Los Angeles and Phoenix as well as regions across Africa, the Middle East, Australia, and Asia. Museum admission.

11:00-4:00 St. Mary's Art Center. Free Guided tours and exhibits. "Tapeworm Installation" featured in the Southside Gallery.

11:00-4:00 Comstock History Center. Free exhibits.

5:30-7:00 Kick Off Party for PARTIES OF THE YEAR at Fourth Ward

Your first opportunity to reserve your space at the most extraordinary adventures, outings, activities and feasts all packaged with themed cuisine in unique locations and individually hosted by community donors and friends. The Parties are offered throughout the Year and you cannot experience them anywhere else.

## SATURDAY MAY 16th

11:00-4:00 St. Mary's Art Center. Free Guided tours and exhibits. "Tapeworm Installation" featured in the Southside Gallery.

11:00-4:00 Comstock History Center. Free exhibits.

11:00-4:00 Silver Terrace Cemetery Tours.  
Meet at the cemetery gates at the north end of town. \$5 guided tour fee.

11:00-4:00 Letterpress Printing Workshop at Fourth Ward  
Letterpress Printing with Chic DiFrancia and Carol Clifford. Demonstration on Chandler Press used to print the Fourth Ward School newspapers and annuals. Take home a printed souvenir. Museum admission.

12:00-1:30 Brown Bag Lunch Conversation about the Virginia City and Gold Hill Water System. Ron and Susan James will discuss the history and historic context for the water company including the water famine. Bring a sack lunch. Beverages provided. Free with museum admission.

2:30-3:00 15th Annual Comstock Children's Chorus  
Squeek LaVake directs the acclaimed Comstock Children's Chorus in a medley of songs. Their performance is always one of the highlights of the weekend. Museum admission.

## SUNDAY MAY 17th

11:00-4:00 St. Mary's Art Center. Free Guided tours and exhibits. "Tapeworm Installation" featured in the Southside Gallery

1:00-1:30 Nevada Preservation Awards  
Nevada State Historic Preservation Awards presented by Ron James, State Historic Preservation Officer. The awards recognize individuals and organizations that have made a significant contribution to preservation in Nevada. Museum admission.

2:00-3:00 Victorian Fashion Show  
Enjoy an opportunity to see a promenade of authentic historic fashions and finery during the Victorian era. Paulette Grune commentating. Many of the costumed participants are members of the Nevada Civil War Volunteers. Museum admission.

3:00-4:00 Carol Morgan Page Memorial Silver Tea  
Carol Morgan Page, who was instrumental in Comstock preservation, started serving tea and locally-prepared treats at the Fourth Ward School Museum to bring people and history together during the national celebration of historic preservation. Museum admission.

The 23rd Annual Comstock Historic Preservation Weekend is funded in part by Nevada Humanities, Storey County and members of the Historic Fourth Ward School. Dedicated to preserving, protecting and promoting the Fourth Ward School and the Comstock through a diversity of quality programs and events.

All events are held at the Historic Fourth Ward School Museum at 537 South C Street, Virginia City, Nevada. For more information please call 775-847-0975 or visit [www.fourthwardschool.org](http://www.fourthwardschool.org).