



A CENTURY OF SERVICE

# News Release

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For Immediate Release

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## ***Life in Death Festival Seeks Participants*** Celebration of El Dia de los Muertos Set for Nov. 1 and 2

Clark County is seeking participants to create memorial altars for the dead as part of the annual Life in Death Festival at Winchester Cultural Center. The festival is part of El Dia de los Muertos, or “the Day of the Dead,” celebrations, part of Mexican culture. The altars, or ofrendas, are decorated in honor of those who should be remembered and festooned with the foods and objects they loved in life so they will return and spend time with the living over the holiday. The festival is set for 4 to 9 p.m. Nov. 1 and 2 at Winchester Park, 3130 S. McLeod Drive.

Ofrendas are often created by friends and family as well as organizations and businesses. The altars, which are not to exceed 16 feet in height and 16 feet in width, will be located in the park and can be decorated with food, drinks and items (except weapons) cherished by the deceased. During the festival, a group representative must be present at the altar to answer questions and safeguard the ofrenda. Space reservations must be made by Oct. 16. Ofrendas will be judged in three categories including most traditional, most creative and best theme, and a \$500 award will be given in each category.

Emerging, amateur and professional writers and satirists are also encouraged to participate in the “calaveras,” or “skulls,” verse-writing competition. Witty epitaphs written for living friends, relatives or celebrities are created and delivered with humor as though the “honoree” has passed away. Calaveras must range between four and 40 lines in either English or Spanish. Calaveras winners will receive \$150 for first prize, \$125 for second place and \$100 for third place. The writer’s name, address and phone number should be included with the verses and mailed to the Winchester Cultural Center, 3130 S. McLeod Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89121.

Festival activities also include a sugar skull crafting workshop, children’s activities and indoor and outdoor dance and music performances. The event is free, but there are minimal charges for some activities. Food and craft vendors also will be on site.

Winchester Cultural Center is open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. weekdays and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekends. Those interested in additional information on the festival, or reserving a space for an ofrenda can call 455-7029 or visit the Web site at [www.accessclarkcounty.com/parks](http://www.accessclarkcounty.com/parks). For applications, click on “Events” and find the listing for the Life in Death Festival. Clark County Parks and Recreation news and events also can be found on social networking sites such as Twitter and Facebook by visiting <http://tinyurl.com/l87c4l>.

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Clark County is a dynamic and innovative organization dedicated to providing top-quality service with integrity, respect and accountability. With jurisdiction over the world-famous Las Vegas Strip and covering an area the size of New Jersey, Clark is the

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nation's 15<sup>th</sup>-largest county and provides extensive regional services to more than 2 million citizens and 44 million visitors a year. Included are the nation's 7<sup>th</sup>-busiest airport, air quality compliance, social services and the state's largest public hospital, University Medical Center. The county also provides municipal services that are traditionally provided by cities to almost 900,000 residents in the unincorporated area. Those include fire protection, roads and other public works, parks and recreation, and planning and development. In 2009, Clark County celebrates a "century of service."

*News release also available on the Internet at [www.accessclarkcounty.com](http://www.accessclarkcounty.com)*

**Clark County Board of Commissioners**

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