

Town of Minden

One Man's Vision—A Town's Commitment



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"H. F. Dangberg, Jr., the principal promoter of the town, had not only a vision, but also a definite plan to establish Minden and make it the terminus of the railroad."

— WYNNE M. MAULE,
MINDEN, NEVADA:
THE STORY OF A UNIQUE TOWN



Carson Valley residents gathered at Minden Park in July 2006 to enjoy festivities and commemorative events at Minden's Sunday in the Park centennial celebration. H.F. Dangberg, Jr. founded the town in 1906.



The Vision

PICTURESQUE, PASTORAL, green with lush grasses: these were the kinds of adjectives the early settlers might have used when they wrote about their new home. Today the Town of Minden, located in the Carson Valley, holds the same attraction for residents and visitors that it did when it was founded over a hundred years ago.

The Minden setting is majestic! The Sierra Nevada guards its western flank and the piñon-covered Pine Nut Mountain Range stretches along its eastern boundary. Ranch lands are carpeted in green with tall grasses. Water flows abundantly in the streams of the Carson River. The skies are big and blue—painted daily with spectacular cloud formations and colorful sunrises and sunsets.

A Town is Born

H. F. (Heinrich Friedrich) Dangberg, Sr. arrived in the Carson Valley in the 1850s and before long had staked a claim to fertile meadow lands. Over the next half century he built a ranching empire that grew to encompass nearly half the valley. Dangberg, Sr., nicknamed Dutch Fred, founded the H. F. Dangberg Land and Livestock Company. His sons continued operating the company after his death in 1904.

By the early 1900s, more and more settlers were discovering this agricultural paradise in the high desert. Dangberg's eldest son, H. F. (Henry Fred) Dangberg, Jr., known as Fred, decided the time had come to create a town that could accommodate the influx of workers seeking ranching or farming employment.



Douglas County Commissioners in 1908, wearing their Sunday best: Commissioners Fred Klotz, Hans Jepsen, Frank Brockliss, Ely Eyatt, Fritz Schacht, Papa Starke, and J.C. Thompson.

The idea for a town germinated in 1905 and was tied directly to the extension of the V&T Railway to the Carson Valley. Wiley businessman that he was, Fred donated the right-of-way for the railway through the Carson Valley—but the granted right-of-way extended only as far as Dangberg's land holdings, located north of the established town of Gardnerville.

While negotiations for the right-of-way continued, Fred was busy midwifing the Town of Minden. He mapped a carefully designed

community that reflected the influence of his family's European heritage, including a town square that would be the center of the community. The design plan called for neatly ordered streets and separate residential and commercial areas.

In July 1906 the Douglas County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the town plan submitted by the Dangberg Company. Minden was born. The infant town was named after Minden, Germany, a community near the birthplace of H. F. Dangberg, Sr.

A Foundation for Prosperity

As Fred Dangberg had planned, the V&T Railway built its branch line to the Carson Valley (completed in June 1906), with its terminus in Minden. Spurred by the advent of the railroad, growth came quickly. The new town was soon on its way to becoming a center of commerce.

In 1906 construction of the Minden Flour Milling Company began. The next year saw the opening of the town's first general store. By 1908 Minden had a creamery (the Minden Butter Manufacturing Company) that within a few short years would have a world market. Several new businesses opened

"The Dangberg Company built the town. They constructed the streets, sold the lots, developed the water and sewer system, were responsible for many of the commercial buildings being established and later created the Minden Improvement Company to oversee the development of the town."

— WYNNE M. MAULE, MINDEN, NEVADA: THE STORY OF A UNIQUE TOWN
Wynne Maule (1925-2006) was a noted local historian and author.

their doors in 1909, including the first Farmer's Bank of Carson Valley building and the first Heidelberg saloon. A second Heidelberg saloon was built in 1910. For nearly a hundred years, the building has housed food and drink establishments. A livery stable (soon made obsolete by the coming of the motor truck), a blacksmith shop, and a hay and produce company were also established in 1909.

By the end of 1916 Minden had its first automobile service and repair business, and construction of the historic Minden Inn had begun. Ranching and agriculture were thriving. Award-winning agricultural products from the valley even found their way to the tables of sophisticates in San Francisco. Mining activity in the Pine Nut Mountains also contributed to the local economy with the demand it generated for supplies and materials to support the mining operations.

Minden continued to grow in importance as an agricultural and commercial center. In 1916 the Douglas County Board of Commissioners voted to relocate the county seat from Genoa, the oldest settlement in Nevada, to the new town. As county seat, Minden needed a courthouse. Renowned Nevada architect Frederic J. DeLongchamps was contracted to design the new building, which was to be located near the town square (Minden Park).

The foundation for a prosperous future was in place.

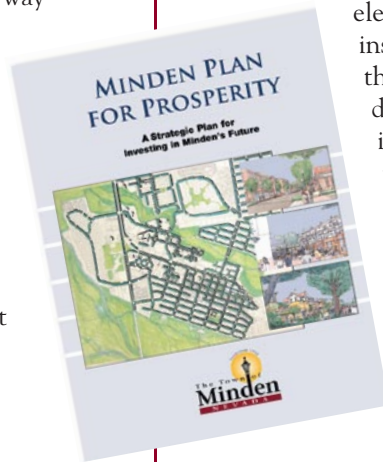
FROM ITS INCEPTION in 1906, the Town of Minden has been a desirable place to raise a family and build a business.

The new town developed steadily until about 1930 when growth leveled off. In the late 1950s the sleepy town was stirred in its slumber when several small subdivisions were built and new commercial ventures sprang up along US Highway 395.

In 1961 a significant event in the economic development of Minden took place: engineer Donald E. Bently moved his fledgling company, which

manufactured electronic instrumentation that monitors displacement in rotating machinery, to Minden from California. That move paved the way for other companies seeking to relocate or start

new operations in Nevada's business-friendly environment. With the expansion of Bently's company over the next 15 years, the stage was set for what followed in the next decade.



"A more ideal spot for a town cannot be imagined. Located on high ground with a natural drainage in every direction, it is a beautiful townsite... There is not a shack or cheap building in the entire place and those in charge are trying to keep it that way."

— THE RECORD-COURIER
SPECIAL EDITION, 1909

A Framework for Growth

Growth exploded in Minden and Carson Valley in the mid-1970s and has continued apace ever since. With the change in the growth pattern came the need for careful planning to preserve the unique character of the town as it grew.

Developing a master plan that would guide growth in Douglas County became a top priority and frequent agenda item for the county commissioners and local government officials in the 1980s and early 1990s. In April 1996 the Douglas County Board of Commissioners approved the comprehensive master plan. The plan provides the framework for orderly development of the county and its communities, including the Town of Minden.

"We want to be a neighborhood community you can walk, with businesses close to the core. As the town grows, consideration must be given for residential neighborhood business spaces, with businesses that cater to the buying habits of our residents."

— BOB HADFIELD, TOWN OF MINDEN BOARD MEMBER

Planning for Prosperity

Minden's Plan for Prosperity

The residents and businesses of Minden felt they needed to complement the county's master plan with specific direction for growth in their town. Over a two-year period (2000–01), a citizens advisory committee conducted town hall meetings and workshops that resulted in the Town of Minden's master plan, *Minden Plan for Prosperity: A Strategic Framework Plan for Investing in Minden's Future*. This land-use plan embraces the scenic beauty and historic architecture of Minden and the entrepreneurial spirit of H. F. Dangberg, Jr.

Throughout the *Plan for Prosperity* workshops, Minden residents, business owners, and elected officials insisted that their quality of life be preserved in the process of planning for a healthy economic future.

The European ambience and historical appeal of the Town of Minden continue to top the list of amenities that residents hold dear. New businesses and developments in the historic areas of Minden, which form the nucleus of the town, must conform to the established architectural style and must not detract from the town's walkability.

"When Nevada State Bank came to us, they had an architectural plan of what they build in Las Vegas. They took one look at our Plan for Prosperity and pulled it off the agenda. They then worked with us to blend the architectural style in with the rest of the town, and now that it is built, it looks like it has been here forever."

—RAY WILSON, TOWN OF MINDEN BOARD MEMBER

The ecological health and viability of the community and the natural attributes of the surrounding countryside must also be preserved.

When the Town of Minden is approached for approval of a new development, the *Minden Plan for Prosperity* framework is instrumental in molding the proposal into a development that will integrate with the town's vision. The plan also governs when it comes to improving existing structures. Renovations to Minden's century-old Carson Valley Improvement Club building (the C.V.I.C. Hall) and a facelift to the downtown historic district were made in accordance with the plan's architectural guidelines.

Maintaining the Vision with Planning

"Aesthetically pleasing." The phrase has real meaning with implementation of the *Plan for Prosperity*, which is designed to maintain the image and identity of the Town of Minden. Architecture will reflect a traditional character. Streetscaping will ensure the European flavor of tree-draped streets and attractive store and residential fronts. Future residential areas will have wide sidewalks and parks to help promote an intimate-neighborhood feeling.

The *Plan for Prosperity* affirms the Town of Minden's commitment to Fred Dangberg's vision of a self-sufficient community designed to grow with grace.



Since 1912 the C.V.I.C. Hall in Minden has been central to the civic and social lives of residents. It has served various functions at various times, from movie theatre to wedding hall to temporary morgue, and has been the venue for thousands of community events.

Town and Community Assets

“Minden has the water and ability to deliver; to be the water purveyors to the entire Carson Valley. Our water has been judged among the best; it is good, clean drinking water.”

— DAVID SHEETS,
TOWN OF MINDEN BOARD MEMBER



A watchful bald eagle gazes from its perch on a Minden cattle ranch's fencepost. Eagles and other raptors descend on valley ranch lands during the calving season to feast on the nutrient-rich afterbirth.



Spectacular mountain views make outdoor swimming at the Carson Valley Swim Center even more enjoyable. The outdoor pool is one of several, including an Olympic-size indoor pool.

Natural Resources

Abundant and Excellent Water

Minden is reputed to have the best-tasting water in Nevada. Chemical constituents, hardness, and totally dissolved solids are low, reflecting the high quality of the groundwater reservoir beneath the town. The Town of Minden operates eight municipal wells and maintains the distribution system that supplies town residents and businesses, as well as adjacent properties, with quality water.

Spectacular Views

With the Sierra Nevada's Carson Range to the west and the Pine Nut Mountains to the east, Minden offers breathtaking mountain views year-round. The colorful skies at sunrise and sunset are another reason why people who enjoy beautiful scenery are attracted to this area.

Four Seasons, Mild Climate

Minden has the best of all worlds when it comes to the weather and climate: four distinct seasons, with the scenic diversity and recreational opportunities that each offers, and a mild climate with an average of 266 days of sunshine a year.

Recreation Facilities

The Martin Slough

Through careful planning, natural ecosystems and wetlands that form some of the boundaries for the town have become recreational areas complete with walking trails and wildlife viewing areas.

The Town of Minden has planned the Martin Slough, which flows through Minden on its course to the East Fork of the Carson River, to become a walking and biking path and a water quality enhancement

project. When completed it will provide accessible links to schools and parks and will be part of a regional path system for the entire community. The slough will also form part of a critical greenbelt and water quality system that will mitigate pollution from roadway runoff.

Carson Valley Swim Center

Minden's swimming facility features indoor water slides, a play pool, a warm-water therapy pool, an Olympic-sized pool and diving area, and outdoor pools.

Neighborhood Parks

The Town of Minden incorporates parks and open spaces in each phase of growth. Minden Park, located in the heart of town, and neighborhood parks offer residents opportunities to attend special events, have picnics, swing and slide, or just enjoy a peaceful moment with family and friends.



Youths of all ages enjoy a variety of sporting and recreational activities in the well-maintained local parks.

Championship Golfing

The four golf courses that dot the Carson Valley panorama are open year-round.

Outdoor Activities

Outdoor recreation doesn't get any better! Throughout the year, outdoor activities abound in both the high desert and the mountain terrains. In the valley, multi-colored



hot air balloons rise with the sun. Gliders ride high and silent on mountain thermals that attract soaring enthusiasts from around the world. Minden is known as the “Mecca of mountain wave soaring.”

Carson Range of the Sierra Nevada

It is in everyone’s backyard—the magnificent Sierra Nevada. Just look out a window facing west and see the wealth of outdoor recreation that beckons: world-class snow skiing and boarding, mountain bicycling, backcountry hiking and camping, and Lake Tahoe adventure.

Pine Nut Mountains

The scenic Pine Nut Mountains to the east of Minden are rugged and offer unique opportunities for recreation and adventure. On weekends, families enjoy riding in the sagebrush on their ATVs and dirt bikes. They might come across horseback riders, hikers, or rock collectors—or maybe mountain bikers tackling the challenging terrain.

Education

A community is judged on the strength and depth of its workforce. In Minden and Douglas County, education is a prime indicator of the community’s willingness to invest in its present and future workforce.

K-12 Schools

The Douglas County School District serves Minden, Gardnerville, Genoa, South Lake Tahoe, and Topaz Lake. The school district is committed to ensuring that all students are competent in basic skill areas, demonstrate continuous achievement toward educational excellence, and reach their highest potential as productive, responsible citizens. Douglas High School,

Minden Elementary School, and the administrative offices for the school district are located in Minden.

Higher Education

The Douglas Campus of Western Nevada Community College (WNCC) is fast becoming one of Nevada’s most diverse community college programs, offering 50 academic degrees and certificates. In many of the baccalaureate degree programs, students may complete up to two years of the program at the community college and then transfer to a university.

The University of Nevada, Reno, through its College of Business Administration, has developed an MBA program at the Douglas County WNCC campus. The mission of the university’s MBA program is to prepare men and women to be general managers, executives, and leaders in our changing business environment.



Situated in east Minden, the Douglas Campus of Western Nevada Community College offers 50 academic degrees and certificates. It also hosts a University of Nevada, Reno MBA program.

Healthcare

Private Medical Centers

Two medical centers serve Minden. Both facilities are linked to Care Flight services.

North Minden is served by the Minden Medical Center. Owned by Carson Tahoe Regional Healthcare, this facility provides urgent care, laboratory, rehabilitation, physician, and healthcare specialist services.

Carson Valley Medical Center, a partnership between Barton HealthCare System and Washoe Health System, is located south of Minden. This facility offers a 15-bed acute-care hospital, a 24-hour emergency room, state-of-the-art medical imaging, rehabilitation, hospice, and physician services.

Public Healthcare Services

Public Nurse

Community Health Nursing Services offers a variety of free or low-cost health clinics and nursing services to people of all ages and income levels in Douglas County. Available services include family planning, health education, cancer and tuberculosis screenings, immunizations, well-child exams and screenings, and other programs.

Mental Health

In line with its goal of helping community residents achieve and maintain optimum mental health, including emotional, psychological, and spiritual well-being, the Douglas Mental Health Center offers counseling and treatment services to persons of all ages and for a variety of problems.

Senior Health

Numerous health-related services and programs for senior citizens are available at the Douglas County Senior Center. Seniors can congregate at the center for meals and fellowship; for the homebound, there is a Meals on Wheels program. The senior center offers homemaker services to incapacitated individuals. Hearing and blood pressure checks are administered monthly at the center. Other services include yoga classes and caregiver support group meetings.

Cultural Amenities

Historic Town of Minden

Minden's community center, the C.V.I.C. Hall, was built in 1912. It featured a gym, a stage, reading rooms, and clubrooms. Over the years, restrooms, kitchens, and other amenities have been added. Today, the facility is used for weddings, meetings, art shows, and music concerts.

Several times a year the streets of Minden's downtown historic district host popular arts and crafts fairs and other community events. Carson Valley Days in June is a big event in Minden and elsewhere in the valley, complete with a parade and marching bands.

Music concerts held in Minden Park on balmy summer evenings offer residents and visitors the opportunity to enjoy live performances by popular musicians and bands while picnicking and socializing. During the holiday season, the Christmas tree lighting at the park attracts locals and visitors alike. The celebration of the country's birthday every Fourth of July is another popular event in this community and at Minden Park.



Excitement fills the air during the 2006 Spirit of Americana National Guard Great Race. Many events and celebrations are held in historic downtown Minden.

Spiritual Life and Civic Involvement

Several churches of different faiths and denominations make their home in Minden and the Carson Valley. Residents are served as well by a number of civic organizations that are actively involved in community life and town activities.

Housing

From historic homes to townhouses to single-family homes in planned neighborhoods, the housing in Minden is attractive and adheres to the architectural guidelines of the *Plan for Prosperity*.

Services

Town Services

Road Maintenance

An aggressive plan for maintaining the streets in the Town of Minden has resulted in good neighborhood streets and smooth roads in the community. A complex formula based on factors that affect surface deterioration ensures that all streets are resurfaced before problems occur.

Street Sweeping

Streets are swept on a rotating schedule to ensure clean streets and to help eliminate particulates in the air caused by automotive traffic.

Snow Removal

Although snowfall that lasts more than a day is rare, the Town of Minden's snow removal equipment is at the ready when snow accumulation exceeds six inches.

Street Lights

Antique-replica street lamps add to the historical ambience of the downtown area. The lamps were purchased by the Town of Minden, which maintains them and also pays the lighting costs for the US Highway 395 corridor lights.

"Where else does a community go the extra effort to landscape median strips?"

— BOB HADFIELD

During the holiday season, the Town of Minden provides an artistic display of festive lights on the main thoroughfares for the benefit of residents, neighbors, and tourists.

Water

The Town of Minden supplies water to all residential and commercial properties within its boundaries and to properties in outlying areas. Water service is billed on a flat-rate basis for residential customers. Commercial customers are on a metered system.

Garbage

The Town of Minden uses a fully automated system for trash pickup and provides special curbside containers for customers to use for trash and green waste disposal.

County Services

Sheriff and Fire Protection

Low crime rates are a hallmark of life in the Carson Valley in general and Minden in particular. This can be attributed in part to the quick response times of the Douglas County Sheriff's Office. The sheriff's office is headquartered in the Douglas County Judicial and Law Enforcement Center, which is located in Minden.

The community's fire rating is excellent because the East Fork Fire and Paramedic Districts in Minden have state-of-the-art equipment, highly trained personnel, and an abundance of water.

Douglas County Senior Center

The Carson Valley and Minden can expect to experience continued growth in their populations of retired persons attracted by the quality of life and favorable housing market in the area, and the lack of a state income tax. The senior center plays an important role in senior lives as a social, information, and support center.

Economic Development Opportunities



Douglas County Public Library offers patrons of all ages a wide variety of reading, listening, and viewing materials as well as access to the Internet from computer kiosks, and wireless Internet.

Douglas County Public Library

Knowledge never goes out of style, and the Minden branch of the Douglas County Public Library continues to perform the traditional library functions of informing, educating, and entertaining. Fiction, nonfiction, and reference books, research materials, and periodicals blend with a computer kiosk that has Internet access, for the best of the print and cyberspace worlds. The children's library actively entices children into the world of reading through story-time programs, Chautauqua presentations, and "crafty" projects.

Transportation

Although primarily a driving, biking, and walking community, Minden enjoys the added option of the County-operated Douglas Area Rural Transit (DART) system. DART provides service between Minden and Gardnerville, to the north county commercial area, and to south county businesses and towns.

For travelers, a shuttle between Minden and the Reno/Tahoe International Airport operates daily.

The Minden-Tahoe Airport provides charter service, auto rental, airplane rental, tie-downs, aviation fuels, and glider services. Carson Valley is known as one of the finest areas in the United States for glider high-altitude flights.

Manufacturing and Industrial

Minden-Tahoe Airport

Located on 990 acres north of town and east of US Highway 395, the Minden-Tahoe Airport is a general aviation non-towered airport. It offers full aviation services and is home to numerous businesses that serve the needs of the flying community, from aircraft repair facilities to soaring enterprises. The Carson Valley's superb soaring conditions attract sailplane enthusiasts from around the world.

Minden-Tahoe Airport provides easy access for personal and general aviation. The airport accommodates business, recreational, and sport flying.

Science Park

Bently Science Park in east Minden is the site of several manufacturing businesses. It is situated a short distance from the Douglas Campus of Western Nevada Community College.

Business/Industrial Parks

The business/industrial parks north of Minden proper are home to numerous manufacturing, warehousing, and industrial operations, among them a Starbucks coffee roasting plant. Other facilities and operations include a research and development complex, an electrical firm, a Denmark-based fire hydrant manufacturing company, a motor scooter and go-cart manufacturing plant, construction trade companies, and office space.

Situated between Johnson Lane and Airport Road, the business/industrial parks are in close proximity to the Minden-Tahoe Airport and US Highway 395.



Visitors enjoying the ambience and hospitality of old-town Minden. Now a food and beverage establishment and at one time the site of the Minden Post Office (1919-1974), this building in the historic district was constructed in 1909 to house the Farmer's Bank of Carson Valley.

Retail and Commercial

The Minden Historic District

is home to a variety of businesses, including an art gallery and frame shop, a general merchandise store, and several restaurants. Just as H. F. Dangberg, Jr. planned, this commercial center continues to be the town's business hub.

Minden Village, built in the best tradition of H. F. Dangberg, Jr. and meeting the requirements of the Town of Minden's *Plan for Prosperity*, features eclectic shops and restaurants, banks and financial institutions, and residential areas. Located on the east side of US Highway 395 near the northern edge of town, Minden Village also boasts a specialty food market.

Ironwood Center is north of town on the west side of US Highway 395. The Ironwood



The developers of Minden Village took their cue from the *Minden Plan for Prosperity* when they designed this commercial center to complement the traditional character and European ambience of the town.

complex complements the historic district with specialty stores, a movie theater, family restaurants, and fast-food restaurants. This commercial center is situated adjacent to the high school and the Westwood residential development. Businesses at the center attract customers from throughout the valley.

Shopping centers in the northern reaches of Douglas County are anchored by a number of major retail stores and have a variety of small to medium-size stores and specialty shops as well as banks and restaurants.

Other businesses, such as real estate offices and restaurants, enjoy the benefits of location along Minden's main artery of travel, US Highway 395.

Tourism

Lodging and Entertainment

Accommodations are available at any of several hotels, motels, and RV parks serving visitors to the area. A casino resort offers lodging as well as four restaurants, convention facilities, and a wedding chapel. Local venues feature live entertainment and dancing. Summer concerts in Minden Park provide the perfect setting for family and friends to share a picnic dinner and good music.

Museums and Visitors Authority

Visitors and residents can learn about the local history and early culture of the area with a trip to the Douglas County Historical Society

or the Douglas County Museum and Cultural Center. Both are located in the old Douglas County High School building on US Highway 395. The facility also houses the Carson Valley Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Authority.

Location, Location, Location

Minden and the Carson Valley are blessed with an enviable location that provides easy access to other tourist destinations—beautiful Lake Tahoe to the west, Reno and its many attractions to the north, and popular Topaz Lake to the south. Minden is a short drive away from historic, scenic Genoa and from Carson City, the state capital.



Esmeralda Avenue is one of the oldest streets in Minden. The historic Douglas County Courthouse stands at the end of this street. Built in 1916 by noted architect Frederic J. DeLongchamps, the old courthouse now houses county government offices.

A Bright Future

The Town of Minden took a giant leap into the future with implementation of its *Plan for Prosperity*. The design for Minden's future is in place. The town will grow with grace, maintaining the quality of life enjoyed by residents and visitors—because of one man's vision and the town's commitment to that vision.



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MINDEN, NEVADA

