

# 2014 Accomplishments

Jefferson County Board of Commissioners



*A sample of the many  
achievements in 2014 of the  
Jeffco Commissioners*

# Jefferson County Accomplishments 2014

The year 2014 was an exceptional one for Jefferson County. The Board of County Commissioners (BCC), made up of Faye Griffin, Casey Tighe and Donald Rosier, led the county to achieve major innovations, provide quality services for citizens, and kept the county on a sound financial footing. The BCC's direction and oversight provided the backbone for daily activities of the many departments and division. The following is a sample of the many achievements during the last 12 months.

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## Solid Financial Practices

### **Budget: Expenditures Must Not Exceed Revenues**

A countywide budget process to align expenditures with revenues was conducted, looking at every spending item in detail. This effort netted \$1.9 million in budget reductions.

The BCC adopted a budget of \$475.4 million for 2015. It reflects a 1.2 percent decrease from the previous year. For its budgetary practices, Jeffco again received a national distinguished budget award from the Government Finance Officers Association.

### **High Rating Gets Even Higher**

Standard & Poor's (S&P) Ratings Services raised its long-term rating to 'AA+' from 'AA' for the county's 2009A certificates of participation. According to S&P, the rating reflects the assessment that the county has a very strong local economy, budgetary flexibility and good management.



2014 Commissioners Donald Rosier, Faye Griffin and Casey Tighe

### **Purchasing Practices Save Millions**

The Purchasing Division saved the county more than \$3.73 million through competitive bidding, cost leveraging, negotiations, purchasing programs and other methods.

### **Auditors Applaud Financial Report**

In 2014, the county received an unmodified opinion on its 2013 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), which is the highest and best opinion that can be received. The CAFR is a thorough, detailed presentation of the county's financial activities during its fiscal year.



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## Transportation is a Priority

### **Improving Traffic Flow Throughout Jeffco**

The commissioners continued to support improvements in the transportation network. They have a leadership role in WestConnect, which seeks solutions to traffic congestion on C-470; they serve on the Jefferson Parkway Authority Board to improve mobility in the north; and they seek and receive federal grants to improve the county-owned Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport. They support the efforts of the divisions of Transportation & Engineering and Road & Bridge to continually improve county roads.

### **A Wider Quincy Avenue**

Improvements to West Quincy Avenue, between Kipling Parkway and Wadsworth Boulevard, are nearing completion. The two-lane road was upgraded and can now carry traffic in four

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*Quincy Avenue road widening project*

through-lanes. It has a raised concrete median plus curb, gutter and sidewalk on the south side. When finished, there will be bike lanes on both sides of the road, storm sewer culverts and street lights at the intersections of connecting residential roads.

### **Fuel System Monitoring**

During snowstorms and other emergencies, it is essential to keep county vehicles fueled and on the road. Fuel tank monitoring systems were installed at the county’s heavily used fuel pumping sites to provide timely and accurate readings on fuel availability. If one site is experiencing a higher than normal demand for fuel, the data can be used to quickly order additional fuel deliveries to meet demand. This keeps snowplows and emergency response vehicles in the areas of greatest need.

### **Web Controlled Traffic Signals**

The county’s outdated traffic signals are being modernized with a centralized software system. Each signal location will have internet communication devices and advanced controllers. The project is funded by a \$400,000 federal grant and \$400,000 from the Southeast Jeffco Sales Tax fund, with installation by late 2015.



### **Tracking Road Conditions Goes High Tech**

The Road & Bridge Division implemented an asset management program to provide a complete inventory of the maintained road network in unincorporated Jeffco. This inventory includes all paved roads that are

maintained as well as a detailed pavement condition index based on several industry standards for roadway distress.

The result is a score from zero (completely failed) to 100 (perfect condition). The software is able to track all improvements made to a road segment and update its condition index accordingly. This allows predictive modeling of future deterioration and provides guidance for applying available budget dollars most efficiently in upcoming years.

### **Airport Safety**

Jefferson County’s Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport (RMMA) completed a multi-year capital improvement project that expanded the airport’s runway safety area.

The design and total rehabilitation of the main runway was also completed.



*Snow removal in Jeffco*

### **Getting the Best Deals**

The Fleet Services Division continues to streamline the purchase of county vehicles and equipment for the greatest value and use. Staff replaced or acquired \$2.7 million worth of vehicles and equipment in 2014, a total that was \$281,213 less than was budgeted.

### **Cougar Road Bridge Widening Over Deer Creek**

The narrow bridge over Deer Creek near the Open Space South Valley Park along Deer Creek Canyon Road serves as a primary access for more than 150 homes. The bridge was originally constructed in the mid-1960s, and by today’s standards had ranked as “functionally obsolete.”

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*“The county’s outdated traffic signals are being modernized with a centralized software system.”*

*“More than 1,500 building, mechanical, and roofing contractors have obtained a contractor’s license in 2014.”*

Coal Creek Canyon recovery and mitigation efforts from the 2013 flood continued with drainage repairs and the resurfacing of many miles of roads.

The Road & Bridge Division achieved all of its maintenance goals related to resurfacing roads and concrete replacement in the unincorporated areas and many hours were spent designing large retaining walls that will be constructed.

### **Contractors Are Now Licensed**

To improve building code accountability and assist citizens who are hiring a contractor to work on their homes, the county’s Building Safety Division began awarding contractor’s licenses in January.

To acquire a license, a contractor must provide evidence of passing an appropriate exam or provide a copy of a valid license from a jurisdiction with equivalent standards. These requirements ensure that the person has appropriate contractor knowledge. More than 1,500 building, mechanical, and roofing contractors have obtained a contractor’s license in 2014.



*Cougar Road widening*

The Cougar Road bridge was widened to incorporate a shoulder area for use by pedestrians and bicyclists, as well as allow larger vehicles to cross at the same time. In addition, upgrades were made to the bridge rail and two wing walls were reconstructed to improve creek flows underneath. Work was completed using state “FASTER” Safety Improvements funds.

### **Continued Flood Repair**

Several heavy rains hit the Brook Forest area of Evergreen from July through October 2014. Road & Bridge made repeated repair efforts including replacing or flushing culverts, cleaning ditches, replacing asphalt and reseeding washed-out areas.



*Damage in Coal Creek Canyon from the 2013 floods*



*Henry Mifflin receives the first contractor license*

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## **Time and Labor**

### **Keeping Track of Time and Labor**

Jefferson County made a significant change to the timing and processing of employee payroll to increase accuracy, consistency and efficiency. This included developing a standardized pay cycle for the entire county to pay employees based on actual hours worked in that pay cycle versus forecasted time that may have to be corrected on a later paycheck.

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*Commissioners with award winning Public Information Office staff*

Additionally, a new electronic system for time tracking allows managers to better monitor staffing levels, leave requests, and overtime costs. This new Kronos system will reduce the risk of costly payroll errors and streamline timekeeping efforts throughout the county.

## Jeffco Gets More “Social”

Jefferson County’s use of social media continues to grow with a 40 percent increase in followers on Twitter and a 14 percent jump on Facebook.

The widely used, recently redesigned county website, Jeffco.us, garnered 6.7 million page views in the first nine months of 2014. Among the most popular pages were the job opportunities and the property records search.

The county won several national awards for communications with citizens. The National Association of County Information Officers applauded the efforts to communicate during the recovery from the Coal Creek Canyon and Evergreen floods. Special web pages were designed to coordinate all of the issues related to the flood recovery and help residents in the flooded areas learn how to access services.

The Jefferson County Insights video program, collaboration with the City of Arvada, again received national



recognition. One winning video demonstrated the importance of erosion control. Judges were impressed by how the county’s erosion control expert made the complex topic easy to understand and helpful to homeowners.

## Outstanding Open Space and Parks

### Open Space and Parks Meets the Highest Standards

Following an extensive assessment of best practice standards, Jeffco Open Space, Jeffco Fairgrounds, Colorado State University Extension-Jeffco and Boettcher Mansion received national accreditation from the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies in October 2014. Jeffco is the first Colorado county to become accredited. Through collaboration with other county departments and divisions, Jeffco Open Space and Parks earned top marks in planning and administration, human resources, financial management, programs and services, public safety and security.



*North Table Mountain  
photo credit - Sam McCarthy*

### Land Preservation Continues

With the goal of preserving at least 1,700 acres during the next five years, Jeffco Open Space acquired two long-desired properties from the Colorado State Land Board. Land acquisitions added 800 acres to

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*“Land acquisitions added 800 acres to Jeffco Open Space; bringing the total amount of land preserved since 1972 to 53,617 acres.”*

Jeffco Open Space; bringing the total amount of land preserved since 1972 to 53,617 acres. The properties included 640 acres at Blue Mountain adjacent to Golden Gate Canyon State Park and existing conservation easements held by Jefferson County. The second property of 160 acres in Deer Creek is bordered by Jefferson County’s Hildebrand Ranch Park.



*Blue Mountain*

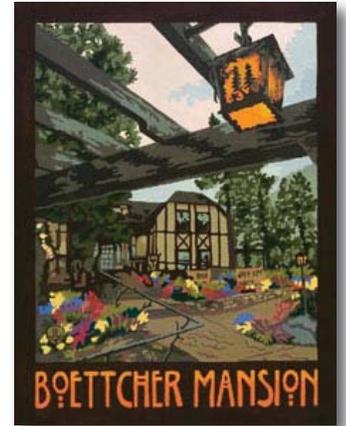
### **North Fork Trail Moved Up On The List**

As flood recovery efforts delayed repair activity in some Jeffco Open Space Parks, resources were shifted to complete a 9.3 mile natural surface, multiple-use trail from Reynolds Park to the South Platte River. This North Fork Trail regional connection provides visitors to Reynolds Park in the southern portion of Jeffco an extended outdoor experience through the Pike National Forest, Colorado Trail and a connection to Pine Valley Ranch Park.

### **Boettcher Mansion Revenues Up and Appeal Broadens**

Focusing intensely on enhanced customer care and operational efficiency, the Boettcher Mansion staff surpassed its revenue projections by hiring new event staff, offering creative booking options and promoting new vendors.

Not only did the improved economy result in a marked increase in meetings and conferences, but a single reservation from an international mining corporation more than doubled the mansion’s financial forecast.



Additionally, Boettcher Mansion, a 1917 National Register landmark, was a popular backdrop for several national film and photo shoots, including a folk knitting publication, an exercise and fitness commercial, and an upcoming episode for the Travel Channel’s “Castle Secrets and Legends” program.

### **CSU Extension**

A draft strategic plan for CSU Extension, completed with community input through focus groups and online surveys, will help guide CSU Extension efforts for the future.

Activities in Jeffco’s busy 4-H program included a 4-H Barn Dance that raised nearly \$16,000; summer camps operated near capacity with 682 campers; the Environmental Discovery Day Camps celebrated 40 years; and a 4-H mentoring program for 60 youth and their families in three elementary schools was started with a grant from the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency.



*Camper at the Environmental Discovery Day Camp*

Thirty Jeffco Master Gardeners received special training on the emerald ash borer to better assist the public with questions about this devastating pest. Although it hasn’t been detected in Jeffco yet, the exotic beetle is already destroying ash trees in Boulder County.

## From Truck Pulls to Powwows

Jeffco Fairgrounds continued to change and grow with more people attending more events, ranging from the Jeffco Education Powwow to the Diesels on the Mountain Truck-Pull. While many events keep coming back each year, a dozen first-time events pushed revenue totals past projections.



*Carnival at the Jeffco Fairgrounds*

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## Human Services Serves Thousands

Through early childhood education, adult and child protection, job training, food assistance, Medicaid, mediation and other programs, Human Services helps people build better, safer lives. With more than 700 employees, Human Services is the county's second largest department with numerous accomplishments during the last year. Here are just a few, by the numbers:

- \$32.4 million in child support payments was collected: 5,500 families with 23,250 children were served.
- 1,100 families received same-day Food Assistance and/or Medicaid benefits.
- 1,524 children were helped when their families received access to affordable childcare so their household was able to retain employment.
- 3,400 veterans and their dependents were served through the veterans' assistance program.
- 991 reports of abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation of adults at risk were investigated.

- 22,956 individuals needing in-home services, assisted living or nursing home places were served by the Long-Term Care program.
- 129,000 community service hours were completed with a value to the community of \$1.5 million.
- \$525,573 in fraud claims were established by Human Services Fraud & Investigations employee; and 70 individuals were disqualified from receiving assistance resulting in an annual savings of \$154,896.
- 600 law enforcement, school, mental health, faith-based, human services, judicial, justice services, and public health professionals attended a Human Trafficking Committee and Workgroup's two-day, free training event about human trafficking, an increasing criminal activity.



*Human Services' Fatherhood Program is a success*



*Head Start kids*

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*“\$32.4 million in child support payments was collected: 5,500 families with 23,250 children were served.”*

# Reaching Out

## Slash Program Expands

The BCC heard from citizens that more slash collection sites were needed, as clearing brush and hazardous trees from private property is essential to mitigate wildfire danger and protect property. Contracting with an outside vendor, temporary slash collection sites were established that accumulated nearly 1,400 cubic yards of slash in October and November. Additionally, the county ordered all of the necessary equipment, saving the slash site vendor nearly \$100,000 from the estimated equipment costs.



*Slash equipment*

## Human Resources Wins International Award

Jeffco's Human Resources Department won a major award from the International Public Management Association for Human Resources, which recognized Jeffco's overall HR quality, accomplishments, and contributions that exceed the normal operation of a "good government human resource program."

## Recycling Computers Helps Students and the Landfills

Information Technology Services staff worked with the Leadership Jefferson County Class of 2014 to donate more than 50 refurbished computers to community organizations that provided them to children who could not afford computers. The county was able to keep the retired machines out of the landfill and help children in need.



*Recipient of donated computer*

## Technical Energy Audit

The commissioners authorized a Technical Energy Audit to identify viable and cost effective projects for county facilities to reduce energy usage and operating costs. Recommended measures include HVAC and control improvements, lighting, and water conservation measures. Solar photovoltaic panels will be installed at the Road & Bridge South Shops and the South Service Center, resulting in net zero buildings at both locations.



*Solar Array in Jeffco*

## Stay Connected

More is to come in 2015, but in the meantime, stay connected with the county through social media, newsletters and videos.

Links to these can be found on [www.jeffco.us](http://www.jeffco.us) or our "Stay Connected" web page: [www.jeffco.us/community/stay-connected](http://www.jeffco.us/community/stay-connected).



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