

Conversations With Jeffco

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Finding Creative Ways to Make a Greater Impact

Monday, October 12, 2015, 8:37:14 AM | Julie 

by Lynn Johnson, Human Services Director
comments open from Oct. 12 until Oct. 31



Have you ever missed work for a doctor or dentist appointment? In today's world it's inevitable, and the challenges are compounded in families with children in school. For many people, the choice becomes: do I miss work and risk losing my job to run to Human Services and apply for assistance; or do I keep my job and not have enough money to eat at the end of the month?

This is a choice no person should have to make. Jefferson County Department of Human Services (JCDHS) is working to eliminate this impossible choice for our customers. On October 6, JCDHS began offering extended hours of operation at the Laramie Building in Golden. This will provide select services every Tuesday evening until 8:00 pm, an extension of the current hours of Monday to Friday, 7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

JCDHS is paving the way by increasing availability and accessibility to wraparound services to truly serve customers. Helping working customers meet the needs of their families is one of the key reasons for the change.

Services available during the extended hours will include job seeker workshops; open lab time including resume assistance, career planning, computer skills, and application assistance; Child Care Assistance Program services; eligibility specialist services including food, cash, and medical benefits; American Job Center youth activities; and Connect for Health Colorado navigation. Other services may be available based on customer need, demand, and available resources.

No longer is access to high quality services after 5:00 p.m. a luxury, today it's essential. This new option is

simple, yet it provides individuals freedom, a sense of dignity, and eliminates an impossible choice.

For more information on the new hours and services offered, see the [news item on the Human Services website](#).

Fall Home Safety Tips

Tuesday, September 29, 2015, 1:30:25 PM | Julie →

by Becky Baker, Building Safety Division Director
comments open from Sept. 29 until Oct. 18



Fall is a wonderful time of year. The leaves are changing, there's football to watch, pumpkins to carve and the weather is especially pleasant. With the seasonal reduction in daylight hours it is also a time to consider the safety of trick or treaters, as well as other visitors to your home.

Here are some tips to help be prepared for whatever challenges may come your way this season.

- Make sure access to your home is adequately lit.
- Inspect sidewalks to assure they are free from ice.
- Use caution when climbing ladders to install decorations or clean gutters.
- Channel ghosts and goblins around uneven walking surfaces. Keep in mind the elderly as well as the youngsters.
- Check stair handrails and guardrails to make sure they are sturdy.
- Consider installing a slip resistant product on the stairs leading to your front door.

Whether it is a gathering for a football game or a holiday, these few simple items can help your guests have a fun and safe visit.

For more safety tips and other information, visit the [Jefferson County Building Safety website](#).

Selecting Next Year's Health Plan

Wednesday, September 02, 2015, 1:49:10 PM | Julie →

by Jennifer Fairweather, Human Resources Director
comments open from Sept. 2 until Sept. 21



Fall is often the kick-off period for enrollment into health insurance plans for the following year. Some of the key mistakes that can be made are making assumptions about the coverage associated with a plan and paying for more insurance than what you and your family needs.

In order to ensure you obtain coverage at the required levels, it is critical to understand your plan. Key things you should pay attention to include the type of plans available (PPO, HMO or HSA for example), what services, treatments and procedures are covered (i.e. copayment vs. coinsurance), savings opportunities for medical expenses and any deductibles that must be met. Also, pay attention to whether you can use services outside of a particular network or if a referral is required to utilize certain types of physicians. Reviewing your past years usage and expenses can be a good start toward estimating future needs.

Remember, it's always better to ask questions. Carefully read all of your plan documents. And remember -- your benefits plan administrator is a great resource!

Local Pilots Make RMMA Air Show a Success

Thursday, August 27, 2015, 11:17:12 AM | Julie →

by Bryan Johnson, Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport Director
comments open from Aug. 26 until Sept. 14



Did you know...?

The [Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport](#) supports various aircraft owners, corporate flight departments, flight schools, government agencies and other aviation businesses that own and operate aircraft.

While this years' Rocky Mountain Air Show was a huge success, did you know that many of the pilots and

planes that flew in the air show are part of our local airport community? Not only did they participate in this year's air show, but many of them travel the country performing at other air shows throughout the year.

We are fortunate to have a very dedicated and talented pilot community that maintains the highest standards of training and safety while operating their aircraft.

The RMMA based group of pilots and planes that participated in this year's air show included:

- The Rocky Mountain Renegades; Jim Gray, Jim Sherry, Steve Bergevin and Steve Cox (G-202, RV4 and RV8 aircraft).
- Roy Holliday, North American T-33
- Mark Johnson, British Aerospace Jet Provost MKIII
- Carlo Gaines, T-34C

We also had several tenant aircraft on static display:

- Jack Wilhite (deceased), Mig-17
- Dave Callendar, Harlow
- Mike Bertz, BAE Gnat
- Carl Gilberg, Twin Beech
- Pilatus, PC-12
- Various flight training school aircraft (C172, etc.)

Thanks to the air show organizers, tenants, vendors, other local agencies, RMMA staff and volunteers that made this years' air show possible!

August is National Breastfeeding Month

Wednesday, August 19, 2015, 5:10:12 PM | Julie →

by Dr. Mark B. Johnson, Jefferson County Public Health Executive Director
comments open from Aug. 19 until Sept. 7



August is National Breastfeeding month and Jefferson County Public Health (JCPH) is committed to promoting and supporting optimal breastfeeding practices toward the ultimate goal of improving the public's health. This year's National Breastfeeding campaign is called "Breastfeeding and Work: Let's Make it Work."

Public Health and medical professionals recommend exclusive breastfeeding for the first year with the

introduction of complementary foods around 6 months of age, due to the health benefits it provides both mothers and infants. More Colorado women each year are choosing to give their babies a healthy start by breastfeeding for at least the first six months of their lives. State breastfeeding rates continue to climb and are higher than the national average on every indicator. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) 2015 breastfeeding report shows breastfeeding indicators for Colorado babies born in 2012 increased from those born in 2011:

- Ever breastfed: 81 to 86.3 percent (80 percent nationally)
- Breastfed at six months: 55.2 to 60 percent (51.4 percent nationally)
- Breastfed at one year: 29.3 to 36.2 percent (29.2 percent nationally)
- Exclusively breastfed at 3 months: 50.3 to 54.7 percent (43.3 percent nationally)
- Exclusively breastfed at 6 months: 25.8 to 30.3 percent (21.9 percent nationally)

In Jefferson County, both the Board of County Commission and the Board of Health declared resolutions which support Colorado's breastfeeding law and the numerous benefits to employees and employers to facilitate breastfeeding mothers. The Boards officially recognized August as National Breastfeeding Month, in furtherance of JCPH's role in community health improvement planning to advance breastfeeding on our county's agenda through partnering to enhance and promote health for all in Jefferson County.

In an effort to increase breastfeeding rates, JCPH encourages large and small businesses throughout the County to follow Colorado law and provide "reasonable break time for an employee to express breast milk for her nursing child for two years after the child's birth each time such employee has need to express milk." It's easy for employers to support breastfeeding and public health can help with information as needed.

Colorado's breastfeeding law passed in 2008 states, "A mother may breastfeed in any place she has a right to be." In addition, under the Affordable Care Act, Section 4207 requires employers to provide at a minimum: support from supervisors and colleagues, adequate break time (paid or unpaid) to express breast milk, and a private area to express her milk that is not a restroom. All employers, regardless of their size or number of employees, must comply with the ["Break Time for Nursing Mothers"](#) law.

Jefferson County has worked together with its various departments and facilities to provide Quiet Rooms where mothers can breastfeed in various locations within the Government Campus. Jefferson County employees are encouraged to ask their departments/divisions about accommodations. Mothers are one of the fastest growing segments of the U.S. labor force and several studies have indicated that support for lactation at work benefits not only families, but employers as well by improving productivity; enhancing the employer's public image; and decreasing absenteeism, health care costs, and employee turnover.

Jefferson County Public Health's WIC Program (Women, Infants and Children) provides breastfeeding consultations and education to eligible participants and County residents. For more information about breastfeeding or workplace accommodation and quiet rooms, please visit the [JCPH Breastfeeding Education and Support page](#).

Hands-on Learning at the Jefferson County Fair

Wednesday, August 05, 2015, 4:49:21 PM | Julie →

by Jeffco Open Space Communications

comments open from August 4 until August 23



Get involved with some hands-on learning at the Jefferson County Fair – August 7-9! 4-H youth will show their completed projects, like livestock, rocketry and others - and friendly competition, like the “Bunny costume contest,” takes place. 4-H livestock arrive on the Fairgrounds Thursday morning, August 6.

The Fair also boasts a Chili Cook-off, Evening of Horses, Rodeo and Kids Zone. For more about the Fair go to jeffcofairinc.org. You can get the "[confidential](#)" scoop on CSU Extension and some of its other programs; or go to the [CSU Extension website](#).

Multi-generational Workforce

Wednesday, July 22, 2015, 12:33:58 PM | Julie →

by Jennifer Fairweather, Human Resources Director
comments open from July 22 until August 10



One of the workplace dynamics people often hear about is the multigenerational workforce. In many organizations there are four or five generations of employees in the workplace. The five generations are often grouped and titled as followed:

- Traditionals: born between 1930 and 1945.
- Baby Boomers: born between 1946 and 1964.
- Generation Xers: born between 1965 and 1976.
- Millennials: born between 1977 and 1994.
- Generation Z's: born after 1994.

Members of each of these groups often share their own unique dynamics and characteristics around how they approach and view the workplace. The challenge for many workplaces is creating an environment that meets

the needs of each of these groups. The opportunities for the workplace include having a diverse group of employees with different perspectives, experiences and skills that collectively enhance the organization.

Jefferson County has employees across all of these generations who create a well rounded workplace dedicated to providing service to the community.

Construction and Winter Seasons in Road & Bridge

Tuesday, July 14, 2015, 1:50:23 PM | Julie →

Larry Benshoof, Road & Bridge Director

comments open from July 14 until August 2



The Road & Bridge Division construction season is in full swing. Patching of failed asphalt and full scale asphalt overlays of our roadways may already be affecting some of you in your neighborhoods. Please use caution in our work zones and try to keep the speed down for your safety and the safety of our employees.

We precede the asphalt work with the removal and replacement of failed concrete sidewalk, curb & gutter and crosspans that meet our damage criteria.

In the areas of the county with unpaved roads, we re-grade the gravel roads that have sufficiently good material on them. We haul in new roadbase, or recycled asphalt basecourse, on the roads lacking material. That recycled asphalt basecourse comes from our paving projects that require rotomilling prior to the asphalt overlay. The use of recycled material saves upward of \$200,000 per year as opposed to buying new roadbase and helps to reduce dust.

You may wonder how we decide where to spend the limited funds that we have available for repair work each year. We maintain nearly 3,000 lane miles of paved roads and 700 lane miles of gravel roads in the unincorporated portion of Jeffco. In order to manage that size road network, we use an asset management system to evaluate current conditions on each segment of road. This system consists of data collection on the roads via a specially equipped van and then the loading of that information into the asset management program. Each segment of road is then given an overall condition index (OCI) rating from 1 – completely failed to 100 – brand new.

All of the ratings can then be mapped, analyzed and then used to group roads into the most efficient use of repair dollars in particular neighborhoods. The final step prior to actually scheduling any repairs is for us to

drive each segment and verify that the information we have received is valid and that the road has been prioritized properly for the coming year's proposed repairs.

When performing the actual repair work, be it asphalt or concrete, I have found that a two pronged approach works best. We hire private contractors for larger projects where they can achieve high production rates and therefore give us the lowest prices. We use our own forces on the smaller jobs which would be very expensive to have done by a private contractor. This approach allows us to keep sufficient manpower productively employed during the 8-month construction season in order to provide an excellent snowplowing effort during the 4-month winter season.

Citizen surveys have indicated that a quick and efficient snow removal program is one of their highest priorities and the above approach allows Road & Bridge to deliver on those desires.

You can see the current schedule of projects for the Road & Bridge division on their [projects page](#).

Colorado Counties Collaborate, Move Toward Excellence

Monday, June 29, 2015, 1:23:03 PM | Julie →

by Lynn Johnson, Human Services Director
comments open from June 29 until July 18



Counties are working together. Counties are leveraging the power of creative collaboration, addressing root causes of social ills, and finding innovative ways to utilize local resources. Counties are, with the support of county commissioners and in collaboration with the state, moving toward excellence through partnerships that have impact.

Counties are moving toward generative business models by working in partnership and collaboratively moving toward excellence in the human services realm.

A generative business model allows multiple programs and institutions to build, share, and deploy information and services on an ongoing and evolving basis. The model focuses on bringing about healthy communities by co-creating solutions across the ecosystem of organizations, jurisdictions and communities, enabling co-creation of policy and modification of programs in response to real-time conditions. It addresses multi-dimensional family and socioeconomic influences.

A few of the numerous examples include:

- **Jefferson County's Jeffco Prosperity Project**, which is working to move low-income children from pre-school to high school diploma, and their families to full self-sufficiency with a two-generation approach. Businesses, non-profits, faith-based organizations, schools, and community are working together for the community.
- **Routt County's Routt to Work Initiative**, working to increase the economic stability of Routt County families by offering a personal economic mobility coaching series.
- **Arapahoe/Douglas Counties' Family Resource Pavilion** - Through a public-private partnership between Arapahoe/Douglas Counties and Shiloh House, the services for youth and their families are consolidated under one roof, known as the Family Resource Pavilion. The Family Resource Pavilion will eliminate the service gaps in several key areas. Working with partners across both counties has resulted in this efficient and innovative approach which will improve outcomes for youth and their families.
- **Northeastern Consortium** - Chaffee County's collaboration of probation, mental health, child welfare, and school districts on how to be more effective in working with adolescents and their parents – especially high risk families - to build skills that allow individuals to help themselves out of a crisis. All agencies support the process of skill building and holistically working with shared clients. The participating agencies train together and have brought in Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) experts to assist because research shows alignment between brain development, trauma informed care, and DBT. Building this “emotional intelligence” is especially important as the adolescent brain is in that stage of development, yet it can be a skill that benefits all age groups. All participating agencies benefit from the shared research and learning as they serve families in crisis.

Social challenges that once were thought to be the purview of governmental social services have spilled over to other organizational networks, such as law enforcement, schools, businesses and health care. Social challenges are no longer siloed, so counties cannot afford to use a siloed approach either. Counties recognize that to achieve healthy communities, they must collaborate and integrate with health care, mental health, schools, human services, businesses, non-profits, faith organizations, and others to best address the needs of their communities. Regardless of geographic size, population, location, or limited resources, counties are making a difference.

Jeffco's Wellness Program Promoting Employee Health and Well-Being

Thursday, June 11, 2015, 1:30:47 PM | Julie →

by Jennifer Fairweather, Human Resources Director
comments open from June 11 until June 30



Jeffco's Employee Wellness Program celebrated National Employee Health & Fitness Month this past May with a full calendar of wellness activities to promote employee health and well-being. An estimated 700 employees participated. Some activities included stair challenges where employees tracked their flights of stairs. We had several employees complete 100 or more flights during the month! This is an easy challenge to conduct on your own or with your co-workers. Taking the stairs instead of elevators, where possible, is a great way to add more movement into your daily routine.

Slash Program Underway

Tuesday, June 09, 2015, 3:54:00 PM | Julie →

by Casey Tighe, Board of County Commissioner Chair
comments open from June 9 until June 28



Have you finished spring cleaning of your property? If so, load up your tree debris and bring it to the Jefferson County's 2015 Slash Collection Program. The program kicked off May 30 and continues through Oct. 25.

In the past, the slash collections were quite popular but there were only a few collections each year. We decided to change things up this year and host slash collections just about every weekend this summer and into the fall. We are also hosting the collections in several locations throughout the county to make it more convenient to all residents.

The cost is \$20 per load, credit cards only. A load is considered a truck bed full to the truck cab height or a trailer up to 8' x 4'. Loads larger than this will be charged as more than one load. All processed material will be hauled to compost yards for further re-use of the material.

So what can you bring? Slash is considered tree debris such as limbs and pine needles. But please bag your

needles and bark; loose loads cannot be accepted. Keep your tree limbs under eight feet and less than six inches in diameter. Commercial refuse and construction materials will not be accepted. Also we cannot accept household trash, tree stumps, metal, rocks and grass clippings.

Slash is not only a great program for our citizens, but it protects our land. It is one of the ways to mitigate against wildfires. Clearing the debris cuts down on fire fuels and decreases the risk of fire. So get out, clean up and bring all your slash to us!

For dates, locations and more details, visit jeffco.us/slash.

Governor's Summer Job Hunt in Jefferson County

Friday, May 29, 2015, 4:10:12 PM | Julie →

by Lynn Johnson, Human Services Director
comments open from May 28 until June 12



Young adults are our future. They are just beginning to explore where their lives are headed and need mentorship, guidance, and advice to start the journey. The Governor's Summer Job Hunt (GSJH) is a place for young adults to start.

GSJH is a program designed to support youth, ages 14 to 21, with employment opportunities and services this summer. In Jefferson County, young adults can participate in job fairs, hiring events, job safari tips, and workshops. GSJH is hosting a job fair on Tuesday, June 2 from 2pm - 4pm at Peak Community and Wellness Center, 6612 South Ward Street in Littleton.

This event is a great opportunity for youth to connect directly with local employers hiring for the summer. Participating employers include restaurants, retail stores, Foothills Park and Recreation, Heritage Amusement Park, and many more! Youth can register for the fair online at surveymonkey.com/s/jobfairyouth.

GSJH will also be conducting a virtual job fair during the months of May and June. This virtual job fair takes place entirely online with over 50 participating employers including Elich Gardens, McDonald's, Old Navy, and King Soopers. This event is open to all young adults ages 14 to 21 in the Denver Metro Area, including Jefferson County. Youth can register for the virtual job fair and learn about other GSJH events and employment opportunities at connectingcolorado.com.

For more information contact American Job Center Youth Services at youthservices@jeffco.us or 303-271-4613.

JCPH's Built Environment Accomplishments

Tuesday, May 26, 2015, 3:23:18 PM | Julie →

by Dr. Mark B. Johnson, Jefferson County Public Health Executive Director
comments open from May 26 until June 14



“The built environment is social policy in concrete.” This pithy definition of human-designed settings comes from Dr. Richard Jackson, a leader in Environmental Health whose career path has included positions as State Health Officer for the state of California, Chair of Environmental Health Sciences at the University of California-Los Angeles, and Director of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) National Center for Environmental Health. The built environment is the environment which we as a society have consciously constructed to fit our needs, and those needs are defined through policies. This includes everything from the size and location of our buildings and roadways, to the location of our water fountains.

As chronic disease and obesity rates continue to rise, there has been a growing awareness of the impact of the built environment on health. A number of organizations, including the CDC, the National Environmental Health Association, the American Public Health Association, the American Planning Association, and the Urban Land Institute have begun to push for policies and built environment decisions that reflect a high value for health. Goals for this work are generally focused on increasing access to healthy food and settings that allow or encourage physical activity. This is often referred to as healthy eating and active living, or HEAL.

Jefferson County Public Health (JCPH) is working towards this across the west-Denver metropolitan area and Front Range mountain towns. The 2013 Community Health Assessment CHA identified a near-doubling of diabetes rates between 2001 and 2010, as well as large increases in obesity. Additionally, there are demographic shifts showing that in the near future, an increasing proportion of Jefferson County residents will be either be senior citizens or youth, both populations particularly vulnerable to health issues due to poor built environments. This gave clear direction to prioritize built environment changes in the 2014-17 Community Health Improvement Plan CHIP. As Colorado’s fourth most populous county, with a land area of over 700 square miles, this was a daunting endeavor.

Jefferson County’s first major foray into HEAL policy, environments, and systems change came through LiveWell Wheat Ridge (LWWR), beginning in 2005. This coalition focused on advancing support for a healthy food system and a pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly community. JCPH served as fiscal agent for LWWR, which

instilled in the department the technical expertise to work towards policy change, and to develop HEAL coalitions and the desire to scale up this work to the county level.

As a result, JCPH applied to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment for funding through the Cancer, Cardiovascular Disease, and Pulmonary Disease Prevention (CCPD) grant program in 2012, for a program called "Creating a Culture of Health and Wellness in Jefferson County Through Policy." Funding was awarded (FY 2012-2015), and was used initially to collect baseline data on existing policies and the climate of opinion towards policy change. This included five HEAL Policy Assessments of local government Comprehensive Plans, and a robust survey of 123 policymakers on their readiness to implement a host of land use, transportation and food policies in Jefferson County. JCPH also formed the countywide HEAL Policy Team, a coalition made of a variety of county departments (Open Space, Transportation and Engineering, Planning and Zoning, CSU-Extension), representation from local municipalities and the mountain communities, Jeffco Public Schools, Centura and Lutheran Health Services, and regional and statewide organizations like Bicycle Colorado, LiveWell Colorado, the Regional Institute for Health and Environmental Leadership, the Colorado Environmental Health Association, and the National Environmental Health Association. This group serves as a steering committee for the grant, creates a forum to share best practices and lessons-learned, aligns efforts to the JCPH Community Health Improvement Plan, and serves as the convening entity to leverage additional investment for HEAL work in Jeffco. It is also a valuable platform for local coalitions (e.g. LiveWell Wheat Ridge and Arvada Healthy Places Initiative) to connect local work into a regional dialogue.

In early 2014, with this solid base of a developed coalition and an understanding of the existing policy conditions across the county, JCPH was able to support a number of policy changes to support HEAL. The department provided technical assistance, community engagement, and informal education around a number of land use plan updates, and the five major cities in Jefferson County all passed resolutions to join the LiveWell Colorado HEAL Cities & Towns Campaign. JCPH helped draft a number of these resolutions, wrote letters of support, and engaged public comment from interested residents. Now that they have been passed, these resolutions have been a useful tool for keeping up momentum towards HEAL policy change. As an easily shared action plan, the resolutions serve as a reminder to staff and elected officials of the commitment the cities have made to address health.

Additional policy accomplishments for 2014 include:

- Jefferson County Open Space updated their Open Space Master Plan. This new plan includes numerous references to health, and the important role of green space in supporting wellbeing. Jeffco Open Space also initiated a monthly wellness update.
- The City of Arvada adopted an updated Comprehensive Plan. Through a robust community engagement process, and in partnership with the Arvada Healthy Places Initiative, this new plan includes a number of policies that support walking, bicycling and healthy food access.
- The City of Wheat Ridge, at the urging of the Active Transportation Advisory Team, budgeted \$100,000 for pedestrian and bicycle work in 2015.

Currently, JCPH is working on the following policy initiatives:

- Inclusion of health policies in the City of Arvada Parks & Recreation Plan
- Inclusion of health policies in the City of Golden Parks & Recreation Plan
- Inclusion of health policies in the City of Lakewood Comprehensive Plan and Sustainability Plan
- Inclusion of pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly policies in the Evergreen Trails Master Plan
- Inclusion of bicycle lanes and traffic calming elements in the Jefferson County Transportation Design and

Construction Manual

- Completion of a HEAL Policy Assessment of the Jefferson County Comprehensive Master Plan
- Recommendations for a health coalition, walking and biking assessments, and a healthy food access study in the DRCOG Sustainable Communities Initiative's Gold Line Corridor Blueprint
- Inclusion of health policies in DRCOG MetroVision 2040



Throughout this work, JCPH's Environmental Health Services Division has been a critical partner. Specialists and leadership in the division provide guidance on local government planning processes, insight on environmental quality concerns, and comments on potential policy changes. Information is also exchanged with environmental health partners across the region, in quarterly meetings and regular conversations.

In late 2014, JCPH applied for, and was recommended to receive, another three years of CCPD grant funding for FY 2016-2018. JCPH will receive a 333% increase in CCPD funds for this new grant period as compared to 2012-2015. The plan for this new program was developed with regular input from the HEAL Policy Team and other important partners. It seeks to scale up the work of the last three years through more proactive technical assistance, the development of a local HEAL coalition to include low-income residents, the broadening and deepening of the HEAL Policy Team, and the formation of a county-wide Food Policy Council. It will also increase the capacity of local and regional partners to leverage additional HEAL funds from foundations like Kaiser Permanente and The Colorado Health Foundation, and support more robust implementation of the Jeffco Community Health Improvement Plan.

Traffic Control Devices at Intersections

Thursday, May 21, 2015, 1:28:45 PM | Julie →

by Steve Durian, Transportation and Engineering Director
comments open from May 21 until June 9



Jefferson County's [Transportation and Engineering Division](#) is responsible for evaluating appropriate traffic control alternatives for intersections of roadways and driveways. Typical intersection traffic control used throughout the county includes stop signs, traffic signals, and roundabouts. The county's traffic engineers consider many factors including traffic volume, crash history, and pedestrian activity when determining the safest and most effective traffic control at intersections.

Stop Signs: Two-way stops are the most common traffic control used at intersections. Two-way stop sign controlled intersections occur where one intersecting roadway or driveway has significantly less traffic than the major street. Multi-way stop signs are used where moderate traffic volumes occur at an intersection and the volume of traffic at all approaches is more balanced.

- The advantages of stop signs is that they are the most efficient method of traffic control for traffic flow where lower traffic volumes are present and they are easier and less expensive to maintain.
- However, when the traffic volume is too great for a stop sign controlled intersection to operate efficiently or crash history indicates that a more controlled measure is needed, traffic engineers look to signalization or roundabouts.

Traffic Signals: Traffic signals become necessary when the delay to traffic would be too great for a stop sign controlled intersection or when a stop sign controlled intersection may cause a significant safety problem. Signalized intersections can vary in size from one travel lane in each direction to multiple lanes with two or more left-turn lanes.

- One advantage of signalizing intersections is that these intersections can operate more efficiently with larger volumes of traffic, especially where left-turning traffic volumes are heavy. Traffic signals can also decrease the incidences of major crashes and can assist pedestrians when crossing wide streets and busy intersections.
- There are several disadvantages to signalized intersections. One disadvantage is the higher operating cost. Another disadvantage is that minor rear-end crashes are more frequent at signalized intersections when compared to other types of intersections. A third disadvantage is that to achieve good traffic flow, signalized intersections cannot be spaced too closely to one another, thereby limiting the number of intersections that can be signalized along a roadway.

Roundabouts: Roundabouts are becoming more common throughout Jefferson County. Intersections

controlled by roundabouts can handle higher traffic volumes than stop sign controlled intersections without many of the disadvantages of signalized intersections. Both signalized and stop sign controlled intersections have many conflicting crossing movements which can affect both the safety and efficiency of these types of intersections.

- With a roundabout, there are no left-turns and fewer conflicting or crossing movements resulting in improved traffic flow and decreased potential for severe crashes. Other advantages to roundabouts are that they can help control speeding and they are less costly to operate than signalized intersections.
- A disadvantage to roundabouts is that they require more land area to construct and therefore can be difficult to implement in developed areas where existing improvements limit available space. Roundabouts can also be confusing to drivers who are not accustomed to them or in the case of multi-lane roundabouts with inadequate advanced directional signage.

For more information about traffic safety and operations in Jefferson County, [contact the Transportation and Engineering Division](#) at 303-271-8495.

Protect Your Pets from Rabies

Thursday, April 23, 2015, 3:58:43 PM | Julie →

by Dr. Mark B. Johnson, Jefferson County Public Health Executive Director
comments open from April 23 until May 12



One of the best ways to show your pets how much you love them is to make sure they are protected from rabies. Rabies is an infectious viral disease that affects the nervous system in animals and humans. If you do not vaccinate your pets, you are putting your entire family at risk. It is also important to keep your pets on leashes when they are out in the community. Livestock may also be exposed to rabies and owners should be vigilant in monitoring health issues in their animals, and discuss any animal health concerns with their local veterinarian.

Rabies in wild animals is on the rise, especially in bats and skunks in the state of Colorado. As of April 17, 2015, Colorado State University and CDPHE laboratories have confirmed rabies in 24 animals (two bats, 20 skunks, one raccoon and one cat) in Colorado. Of these, nine (38%) rabid animals were known or strongly suspected of exposing 20 domestic animals and 20 humans. Wild animals can infect your pets if they are not protected.

The [Foothills Animal Shelter](#) provides low cost vaccinations as well as links to other vaccination clinics throughout the county. For more information, visit the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Kids Page](#)

[on Rabies](#) or read our [JCPH Rabies brochure](#).

Residents and visitors are advised to avoid all stray or wild animals, keep pets (dogs, cats, ferrets, livestock) vaccinated against rabies and, don't allow pets to roam free. Everyone is advised not to handle wild animals. If bitten or scratched by a pet or wild animal, immediately wash any wounds with soap and water and contact your family doctor.

For additional information on rabies, contact Jefferson County Public Health Zoonosis Program at 303-232-6301.

In addition to rabies vaccinations for pets and livestock, here are some additional precautions to prevent possible exposure to rabies:

- Do not feed, touch, or handle wild animals.

- If you find a bat inside your home, do not let it out or discard of it. Call animal control so that the animal can be tested. Otherwise, exposure is assumed and quarantine and/or prophylaxis will be required.

- If you must remove a dead animal on your property, wear rubber gloves or lift the carcass with a shovel or other tool, and double-bag it for the trash. Do not directly touch the animal with bare hands.

- Call your local animal control office to remove stray animals from your neighborhood

- Teach children to leave wildlife alone.

- Do not leave pet food or livestock feed in areas accessible to wildlife.

- Maintain control of your pets by keeping cats indoors and keeping dogs under direct supervision.

- Spay or neuter your pets to reduce the number of unwanted or stray animals in your community.

- Rabies vaccination should be considered for horses and other equines, breeding livestock, dairy cattle or other livestock.

- Call the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife at (303) 297-1192 if you have problems with wild animals.

If you are concerned that you or one of your animals might have been exposed to rabies, seek medical or veterinary attention immediately.

Resources:

- [Wildlife Rabies and You](#) (brochure)

- For more information or to report a suspicious animal, please contact your local animal control agency or Jefferson County Animal Control: 303-271-5070

- For more information about rabies contact Environmental Health Services Animal Borne Disease Program at 303-232-6301 or visit the Jeffco Public Health site at www.jeffco.us/health.

- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Rabies Data on their website at <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/rabies-data>



I VACCINATE MY ANIMALS AGAINST RABIES

You Just Received a Zoning Violation ... Now What?

Monday, April 20, 2015, 1:26:56 PM | Julie →

by John Wolforth, Planning and Zoning Director
comments open from April 20 until May 9



Many people are confused, afraid and upset when they receive a zoning violation, and the penalty language on the violation form can be quite intimidating. If you have received a zoning violation, the most important step for you to take is to call or email the inspector whose name, email and telephone number are listed on the form. The inspector will be able to describe the best steps to take to correct the violation, or can refer you to the people within the Jeffco Planning & Zoning division that will best be able to assist you.

So what exactly is a zoning violation and why did you receive one in the mail? [The Jefferson County Zoning Resolution](#) is a permissive document, which means the various zone districts describe what uses are allowed, but does not tell you what isn't allowed. One of the zoning violations that is most frequently issued is for an inoperable/unlicensed vehicle being stored on residential property. As an example of the permissive nature of the Zoning Resolution, only heavy industrial zone districts allow the storage of inoperable/unlicensed vehicles,

residential zone districts do not.

I received a zoning violation, and there is no way I can correct the violation in 10 days.

That is exactly why it is so important to contact the inspector as soon as you receive the notice. By contacting the inspector you may well be able to make arrangements to have more time to correct the violation, and can possibly avoid the fines that can be assessed if the zoning violation is taken to county or district court.

Do county inspectors just drive around looking for violations?

No, they do not. The zoning violation program is a complaint-based system, unless an inspector witnesses a situation that poses an imminent threat to public safety. Planning & Zoning staff accept complaints of alleged violations via telephone at 303-271-8725, [via the internet](#) or in person at our counter. We do not accept anonymous complaints, and we collect the information from the caller should the inspector require additional information about the complaint. Although the information is collected, it is not shared with anyone and knowing "who" made the complaint doesn't aid in correcting the violation.

Why is there a zoning violation program anyway?

The intent and purpose of the Zoning Resolution is to promote public health, safety and welfare. By having a zoning enforcement program, we are meeting the purpose of Zoning Resolution by protecting property values and ensuring that all residents have the opportunity to enjoy a healthy and happy community.

Boettcher Mansion's 'Gathering of the Guilds' Celebrates Local Artisanry

Tuesday, April 14, 2015, 11:27:26 AM | Julie →

by Cynthia Shaw, Boettcher Mansion Director
comments open from April 14 until May 3



On Sunday, April 26, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., the Colorado Arts & Crafts Society (CACS) will co-host its annual "Gathering of the Guilds" at the Boettcher Mansion atop Lookout Mountain.

Founded in 1997 to enlighten others about the Arts and Crafts Movement (1895-1920) and its aesthetic of harmony, beauty and truth to materials, CACS is a non-profit, volunteer organization headquartered inside the Mansion. Built in 1917, the former Lorraine Lodge is a regional example of the Craftsman style that has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1984 and today serves as a highly successful example of adaptive re-use.

CACS traditionally holds two major events at the Mansion. The Winter Symposium combines the annual membership meeting with a catered dinner and lecture focusing on Arts & Crafts design philosophy. The Spring "Gathering of the Guilds" highlights local guilds and independent craftspeople dedicated to producing furniture, textiles, pottery, metalwork, jewelry, books, and other one-of-a-kind handcrafted items (such as knives and leather goods).

This year, while approximately 25 vendors are giving informal demos and talks about their respective trades in every nook and cranny in the Mansion, Arts & Crafts aficionado Robert Rust will be on-hand to appraise antiques brought in by the public. The former co-owner of the Roycroft Inn and Shops in East Aurora, NY, and owner of 2R Fine Arts Appraisals since 1988, Robert will evaluate your heirloom for a fee of \$5 per item (photos are acceptable).

General admission is \$5 per person (free to CACS and participating guild members). Most artisan works are for sale and refreshments will be available for purchase on site. For more information, please call Cynthia Shaw, Boettcher Mansion director, at 720-497-7632 or visit the [Boettcher Mansion website](#) and/or the [Colorado Arts and Crafts Society website](#).

Keeping Kids Safe in Every Way Possible

Thursday, April 09, 2015, 4:04:15 PM | Julie →

by Lynn Johnson, Human Services Director
comments open from April 9 until April 28



Jefferson County has always been a strong community and a great place to live. While we may not like to think child abuse and neglect can happen in this community, it does. Children are our future and while they are our most valuable resource, they are also the most vulnerable. With the ultimate goal of protecting children, Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) launched a new statewide child abuse and neglect hotline - 1-844-CO-4-KIDS. This new hotline provides an additional option while the Jefferson County Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline is still available at 303-271-HELP.

Both numbers provide more options for reporting and ultimately work to help children in every way possible. Governor Hickenlooper's Child Welfare Plan, "Keeping Kids Safe and Families Healthy," called for the creation of the hotline to promote greater safety for Colorado's children. Designed to provide one easy-to-remember phone number for individuals to use statewide to report suspected child abuse and neglect, the hotline serves as a direct, immediate, and efficient route to Colorado's 64 counties and two tribal nations, which are

responsible for accepting and responding to child abuse and neglect inquiries and reports. All callers will be able to speak with a call-taker 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

The new hotline system will capture critical information and ensure that calls across the state are handled quickly and appropriately with the ultimate goal of ensuring that no child is harmed. All children have the right to be safe and to be provided with opportunities to excel in life. When caring communities such as ours step up to support struggling children and families, the devastating effects of broken lives can be changed.

In addition, during the month of April, [Jefferson County Human Services](#) is providing a month of activities and fundraisers in honor of [National Child Abuse and Prevention Month](#). Prevention is the best hope to eliminate child abuse and neglect and to improve the lives of children and families. Prevention often comes in the form of resources and assistance. One positive resource for families is SafeCare. If you have a child between the ages of 0 to 5, take advantage of this no-cost voluntary program. SafeCare home visitors offer support. Parents learn to reduce challenging child behaviors, increase positive time with child, remove common household safety hazards, identify and respond to common child sicknesses or injuries, and engage children in simple activities. For more information call 303-225-4185 or email SafeCare@saviohouse.org.

Please do your part in preventing child abuse and neglect every day; if you witness child abuse or even suspect it may be happening please call and report it to the [Colorado Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline](#) at 1-844-CO-4-KIDS or the [Jefferson County Child Abuse Hotline](#) at 303-271-HELP. Together, we can make a difference.

[Love 'em, Leash 'em: Jeffco Open Space Campaign Focuses on Dog Owner Behavior](#)

Thursday, April 02, 2015, 12:09:43 PM | Julie →

by *Jeffco Open Space Communications*
comments open from April 2 until April 20



Jeffco Open Space Rangers cite dogs off leash as the No. 1 issue within our parks. So do our visitors. With that in mind, Open Space has launched a campaign — Love 'em, Leash 'em — that includes four videos to capture public attention and influence behavior.

The video series was launched on March 30 on the @jeffcoopenspace [Instagram account](#). Instagram is the world's fastest-growing social media network, with 300 million daily users and a young demographic. More than 90% of users are under the age of 35.

While primarily used for photo sharing, Instagram also allows for videos up to 15 seconds long. This challenged the Open Space communications staff to succinctly portray reasons to leash your dog, including: prevention of

snake bites and harassment of wildlife; reduced odds of a dog going missing; consideration for other visitors; and the leash law itself.

The series features photos from Instagram users of their leashed dogs in parks modeling good behavior.

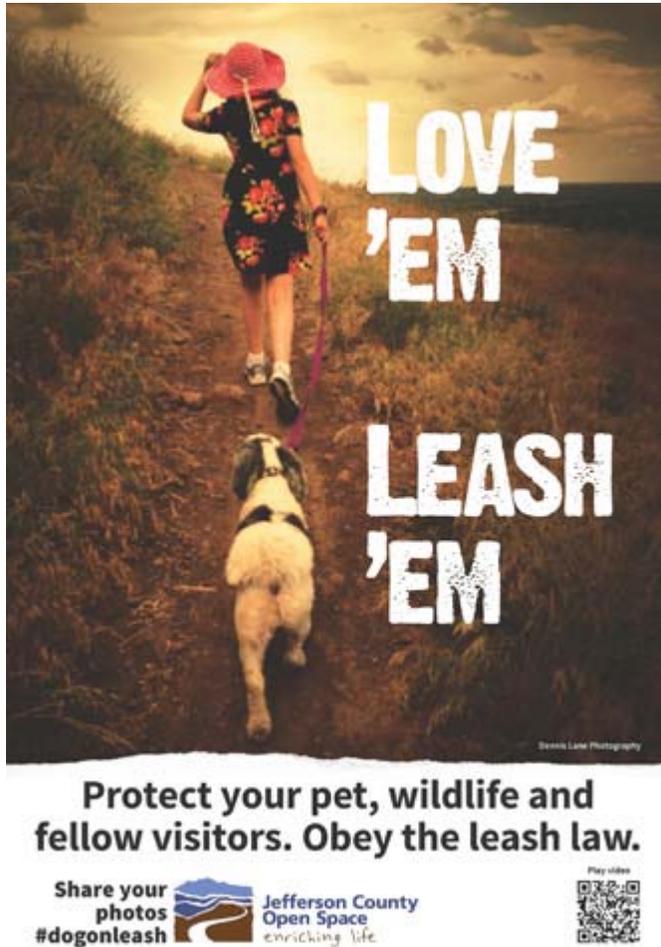
The Sheriff's Office has shared the series through its @jeffcosherriffco [Instagram account](#). User comments have been positive:

- "Awww I love this video, can't wait to see my Maddie in one!"
- "Thank you for doing this."
- "Wonderful video that's right on the mark!"

Increasing compliance with the leash law requires a cultural shift. As one Instagram user commented, "Love you guys Jeffco, and all [your] awesome open space parks -- but my doggy needs his freedom too. It's part of the culture here to let your well-behaved dog off leash."

With help from viewers who see and share the videos, perceptions may change. The entire series can also be seen on the [Jeffco Parks YouTube channel](#) and is being promoted through [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and the Jeffco Parks e-newsletter, [Panorama](#).

To accompany the videos, Open Space has produced large posters (2 by 3 feet), which visitors will encounter on sandwich boards at trailheads. For more information, contact Communications Manager Thea Rock, trock@jeffco.us or 303-271-5902.



Jeffco is Expanding its Slash Collection Program for 2015

Wednesday, April 01, 2015, 2:34:46 PM | Julie →

by Jefferson County Public Information
comments open from April 1 until April 19

Jefferson County is paving the way for an expanded slash program this year. It started last fall when the Board of County Commissioners announced four additional slash sites. This proved to be very successful, so the county decided to move forward with an expanded slash collection program beginning in 2015.

What is Slash?

Slash is debris, from nature, such as tree limbs, prunings and pine needles. If not removed, slash can add to potential fire hazards on your property. Wildfires have become more common, especially in dry years, and it is critical that homeowners clear debris from their properties to help prevent fire damage to their own and their neighbors' properties.

In past years, the Sheriff's Office operated the county slash collections; however, more sites were needed to accommodate the demand. This expanded program will provide a more robust long-term solution to assist in

fire mitigation throughout Jeffco.

The Importance of Mitigation

Removing slash and creating a defensible space around your home is the first line of defense against wildfires. You can create zones around your home, removing any fire fuels, such as tree debris, in the first zone, which is closest to your home. This is not only important for your property, but it means being a good neighbor too, reducing potential hazards for the entire area. Great tips on how to protect your home and property can be found on the [Jeffco Sheriff's wildfire mitigation page](#) and at www.firewise.org.

2015 Slash Collection Schedule

This year instead of having just a few dates and larger collections, there will be collections almost every weekend from the end of May through October. As these sites and dates are established, they will be posted on the [Jeffco Slash webpage](#). You can also find information here on cost, what is accepted, what is not accepted and other related information.

For more information about the slash program, the dates

Looking for a New Job or Know of Someone Who is?

Wednesday, March 18, 2015, 3:00:07 PM | Julie →

by Jennifer Fairweather, Human Resources Director
comments open from March 18 until April 6



Please check out our newly designed Jeffco Jobs page where you can view and apply for open positions here at Jefferson County.

If you don't see the job you are looking for, sign up for Job Interest Alerts to receive up-to-date notifications when selected positions become open. Job interest alerts allow you to select job categories for which you would like to receive email notifications. Once you do this, you will receive an email notification each time a position opens with Jefferson County in a category that matches one of the categories you've chosen. The process takes only a few minutes.

To view open positions or sign up for Job Interest Alerts, please visit our jobs page at www.jeffco.us/jobs where you will find instructions on how to do this as well as information on the current positions we have available.

Deck Safety Awareness

Friday, March 13, 2015, 8:30:50 AM | Julie →

by Becky Baker, Building Safety Division Director
comments open from March 11 until March 30



With spring just around the corner, deck safety comes to mind. Decks are popular structures used frequently as a gathering place for friends and family. They are designed to support the weight of people and objects on it as well as forces of Mother Nature. While decks look relatively simple to build, many do not realize these structures need to be designed to adequately resist certain stresses.

Life expectancy of a deck can be as short as 10 to 15 years. Decks are exposed to elements, which can cause damage. It is important that decks are regularly inspected and maintained. To prolong the life of your deck, check for things like loose boards or protruding nails. Over time metal connectors, screws and nails can corrode or become loose and weaken the structure of your deck.

Five Warning Signs

Missing Connections: A deck should be built using a series of wood members, nails, screws and metal connectors to create a continuous load path.

Loose Connections: Look for wobbly railings, loose stairs and ledgers that appear to be pulling away from the home.

Corrosion of Connectors and Fasteners: Look for red rust and other signs of corrosion that can weaken the deck.

Rot: Overtime wood can rot and degrade due to exposure to the elements.

Cracks: Large cracks or excessive cracking overall can weaken a deck.

To determine if repairing or replacing is in order, professionals such as structural engineers or contractors are an excellent resource. In some situations retrofitting your deck by applying new or additional hardware to existing framing members may extend the lifespan.

[The Building Safety Division](#) is available to answer questions you may have on repairing or replacing your deck.

Aging Well in a Healthy Community

Wednesday, February 25, 2015, 12:59:42 PM | Julie →

by Lynn Johnson, Human Services Director
comments open from Feb. 25 until Mar. 16



By now, many may be aware that Jefferson County has one of the largest aging populations in the state. This population is only increasing and Jefferson County Human Services is committed to continually providing the best services to aging adults. Jefferson County Human Services is also known for strong collaborative partnerships. We believe in working together in order to best serve customers. One way we see this excellence is through Jefferson County's Summit on Aging.

For the past seven years, Jefferson County's Strategic Plan for Aging Well has been exploring the aging population and will be holding its fifth **Jefferson County Summit on Aging** on Thursday, June 4 from 7:30am – 3:30pm at WaterStone Community Church, 5890 South Alkire Street in Littleton.

This year's summit is titled "Aging Well in a Healthy Community" and is a day for the Jefferson County community to come together to discuss plans and ideas for Aging Well in a Healthy Community. County and city officials have been asked to talk about how their community is preparing for an increased aging population. There will also be other workshops and presentations focused on Aging Well in Jefferson County.

The summit is open to the public, especially those working with seniors or have an interest in Jefferson County's aging population. [Register for the Summit on Aging 2015](#) now as seating is limited.

For more information, visit the [Jefferson County Aging Well Project website](#) or contact Susan Franklin at 303-271-4051.

Bull Riders Series at the Jeffco Fairgrounds

Wednesday, February 18, 2015, 2:22:41 PM | Julie →

Scott Gales, Director of Jeffco Fairgrounds
comments open from Feb. 18 until Mar. 9

Over the past several months, the staff at the Fairgrounds has worked closely with local promoters, Mike and Danny Newlon, to create a series of events around a new concept - indoor bull riding housed in an incredibly intimate and unique environment. The Livestock Arena at the Fairgrounds has provided that one-of-a-kind

venue. It has allowed the Bull Riders Underground Showdown Series to blossom while providing the Jeffco Fairgrounds with a unique entertainment offering in our state.

So far, hundreds of new guests and fans have been drawn to the Jeffco Fairgrounds for this series, and organizers expect hundreds more with dates booked into February, March and April.



New Runway ... Who Pays for That?

Wednesday, January 28, 2015, 4:14:44 PM | [Site](#)

Jeanie Rossillon, Development & Transportation Director
 comments open from Jan. 28 until Feb. 16



The Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport completed a runway improvement project of its primary 9,000 foot runway, 11L-29R. The runway was closed for 3 months while construction was completed. This project included runway mill and overlay, installation of a runway sub-drainage system, electrical, and new signage. Due to the change in magnetic azimuths the runway was re-designated to Runway 12L/30R and Runway 12R/30L. The total cost of the project is about \$9 Million Dollars.

Wow, a lot of money, right?! Let's break it down.... The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) will fund 90%, 5% funded by State, and other 5% is funded at the local level by the Airport. The FAA has a program called the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) where grant monies are awarded for eligible projects that include improvements related to enhancing airport safety, capacity, security, and environmental concerns. The funds obligated for AIP are drawn from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, which is financially supported by aviation passenger taxes, air cargo waybills, aviation fuel taxes, and other similar fees.

The State funds 5% of the project through the Colorado Discretionary Grant Program managed by the Colorado Division of Transportation – Aeronautics Division. 35% of Aviation fuel tax revenues collected in Colorado are used to serve the maintenance, capital equipment and development needs of Colorado's 74 public-use airports.

The last 5% is paid from the operational revenues received by the Airport Division of Jefferson County. The Airport is owned and operated by Jefferson County, Colorado but operates as a self-sustaining entity with its own enterprise fund. The Airport's enterprise fund is primarily supported by revenues from lease agreements on Airport property, fuel flowage fees and fuel taxes from local airport users, and U.S. Customs aircraft clearance fees. Other than a general fund loans, the Airport's fund does NOT rely or utilize the County's fund dollars or tax revenues for any purpose. Further, Airport revenues, whether operational or grant funded, are also not used to supplement the County's general fund. The Airport continues to grow and rehabilitate itself through our own internal operations while providing a self-sufficient asset to the County through property and possessory taxes.

If you would like more information please see the following links below:

[Colorado Department of Transportation, Discretionary Aviation Grant Program web page](#)

[Federal Aviation Administration AIP Overview web page](#)

Public Health and Protecting Our Communities from Ebola

Monday, January 26, 2015, 11:16:44 AM | Julie →

by Dr. Mark B. Johnson, Jefferson County Public Health Executive Director
comments open from Jan. 26 until Feb. 14



Public health agencies across the nation are working diligently to monitor travelers from Ebola-affected countries to protect the health of the public. In Colorado, the traveler monitoring program set up by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention began in August of 2014. Travelers from the three Ebola-affected countries (Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone) are closely monitored as soon as they arrive in the United States at one of five international airports (New York, Virginia, Atlanta, Chicago or Newark).

While Jefferson County Public Health, in conjunction with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), continues to monitor a small number of travelers who have returned from Ebola-affected countries, **there are currently no suspected or confirmed cases of Ebola in Jefferson County.**

[View the JCPH Active Traveler Monitoring Program Fact Sheet](#)

CDC/CDPHE and JCPH maintain efforts to ensure we have the most effective strategy possible to respond to a potential case of Ebola in Jefferson County. CDPHE and all of our county partners are strongly committed to protecting your health. Ongoing local public health activities include:

- Tracking and monitoring travelers returning to Jefferson County from affected West African countries;
- Supporting hospital preparedness efforts with education and information as they plan and prepare to medically support an individual with suspected or confirmed Ebola;
- Improving and refining county-wide protocols to effectively handle a suspected or confirmed case of Ebola in Jefferson County.

Download the [JCPH Ebola Disease Fact Sheet](#)

For more information about Ebola, please visit the [CDC website](#).
Information is also available on the [CDPHE web site](#).

For more information contact [Jefferson County Public Health's Emergency Preparedness Program](#) at 303-271-8394 or email Christine Billings at cbilling@jeffco.us.

Jefferson County Head Start Open for Enrollment

Tuesday, January 20, 2015, 7:34:26 AM | Julie →

by Lynn Johnson, Human Services Director

comments open from Jan. 20 until Feb. 8



All children should have the opportunity to reach their full potential. Jefferson County Head Start believes that quality, early education fundamentally transforms children and families and assists them in reaching their full potential. In 2014, Head Start provided no cost preschool and other family supportive services to more than 466 children and their families in Clear Creek, Park, Gilpin and Jefferson Counties. All parents can call Head Start today to get children enrolled for spring 2015 - we encourage everyone to call as soon as possible as there are only 9 spots still open.

Jefferson County Head Start is a no-cost, child-focused and family-centered preschool program committed to providing education, health, nutrition, and family services to children and families in need. Head Start is more than a preschool program; it provides a range of wrap-around, individualized services in several areas. Most importantly, it gives children who wouldn't usually have the opportunity to go to preschool the ability to learn, participate, and be active in a school setting at an early age.

Jefferson County Head Start teachers prepare children for kindergarten by implementing activities and assessing children in the social emotional, physical, cognitive, literacy, mathematics, and language developmental domains. These domains are aligned with Jefferson County Head Start's School Readiness Plan as the Head Start Early Learning Framework, Parent Family Community Engagement Framework, and the Colorado Academic Standards. Teachers plan lessons to provide daily opportunities for children to focus on the objectives for development and learning from Creative Curriculum. Teachers create individual lesson plans to meet the needs of all children, including those who are dual language learners and those who have disabilities.

Enrollment is now open for the fall 2015-2016 school year. Give your child a head start, call today to see if you qualify! Applications are available [on our website](#) or contact [Michelle Kalkwarf](#), 720-497-7908.

Hold the Holidays!

Friday, December 12, 2014, 11:02:16 AM | Julie →

by Jennifer Fairweather, Human Resources Director
comments open from Dec. 12 until Dec. 31



Here at Jeffco many of our employees are again participating in our annual Hold the Holidays event. This event is a TEAM weight maintenance challenge designed to keep teammates from packing on the pounds during the holiday season. Teams will choose a "CAPTAIN" and consist of 2-8 members. By participating, teammates help keep each other accountable and motivated to make healthy choices during the season. This enables everyone to enjoy the holidays without having to lose weight after they are over! This is an easy program to implement in your own workplace or even with your family. You will be less stressed, more rested and more active during the holiday season, all of which will make your season brighter.

Snow Removal Procedures of the Road & Bridge Division

Thursday, December 04, 2014, 9:32:41 AM | Julie →

Larry Benshoof, Road & Bridge Director
comments open from Dec. 4 until Dec. 23



The following snow removal procedures remind our customers how we prioritize the roads we plow so they know what to expect when the snow flies. Remember to slow down and give our plows a wide berth for everyone's safety!

Overview

The Road and Bridge Division is currently responsible for snow removal on 2,924 lane miles of paved roads and 695 lane miles of gravel roads in the unincorporated areas of the County. One lane mile is a 10 foot wide section of road one mile long. State highways, private roads and newly constructed roads that have not been accepted by formal resolution of the Board of County Commissioners are not included.

Forecasting and Preparations

The Road and Bridge Division is on a twenty-four hour, early-warning alert system. Supervisors utilize local, national, and customized weather forecasts and databases in order to anticipate and be prepared for the intensity of storm forecasted. Equipment is made ready for sanding and plowing during normal working hours for a forecasted storm.

Each equipment operator is assigned a specific route for snow removal and sanding. Assignment of roads to a route is determined by area supervisors based on priority of the road as defined below and for the most efficient utilization of equipment. There are currently 82 designated snow routes in unincorporated Jefferson County.

Snow Removal Procedures

Plowing and sanding operations will take place in four phases during a storm. The order in which streets are plowed in each phase is based on the following definitions of priority:

- >>**Priority 1** - Main arterial streets that provide for high traffic volumes.
- >>**Priority 2** - Major subdivision collectors, school zones and school bus routes.
- >>**Priority 3** - Residential or other local roads that carry moderate to low traffic volumes.
- >>**Priority 4** - Cul-de-sacs or other dead-end roads carrying very low traffic volumes.

Phase I: Initial opening of all Priority 1 through 3 streets in that order. Severity of the storm may delay response time for Priority 3 streets due to the fact that initial opening of major arterial streets requires that multiple lanes be plowed in each direction.

Phase II: Plowing and sanding of problem roads having steep inclines, curves, bridges or overpasses. Widening of any Priority 1 through 3 streets deemed necessary. Repeat plowing of all streets initially opened as snow continues to accumulate.

Phase III: Removal of packed snow and ice on all Priority 1 through 3 streets where possible and deemed necessary as snowfall accumulation stops. Plowing and sanding operations on Priority 4 streets will take place as resource availability allows. It could be several days after the snowstorm has ended before Priority 4 streets are initially plowed. Intermittent sanding as necessary by road priority.

Phase IV: Storm event is over. Continuation of widening operations to improve safe travel and prepare for additional accumulation during subsequent storms.

Application of Traction Materials: Sanding of most roads is limited during heavy snowfall because the sand is quickly covered and then removed as additional plowing occurs. When applying sand, special attention is given to sections of the road network posing specific safety concerns. These include, but are not limited to, areas such as: school and hospital zones, police and fire stations, bridges and overpasses, turn lanes, acceleration or deceleration lanes, approaches to intersections that are stop sign or signal controlled, curves, steep grades, heavy traffic areas, areas of ice accumulation, speed bumps, and areas with other known problems.

Snow Removal Clarifications

>> **Driveways:** Driveway approaches affected during Phases I, II, and III are the responsibility of the property owner or resident to clear. When snow removal or widening in Phase IV is being carried out, driveways that were previously opened by the homeowner will not have additional snow plowed into them.

>> **Mailboxes and Fences:** Mailboxes, newspaper delivery boxes or fences installed alongside the traveled roadway are at the risk of the owner. If an operator strikes a mailbox with a plow, the operator will report it and we will repair it as soon as possible. Mailboxes and fences damaged by snow load during normal plowing operations are not the responsibility of the County. If a mailbox is struck by a plow, it will be replaced with a standard rural mailbox. Postal regulations require residents to clear snow in front of mailboxes to allow for mail delivery.

>> **Snow Pushed onto County Street or Right-of Way:** The practice of pushing or throwing snow or ice onto or across Jefferson County streets endangers the traveling public as well as county snowplow operators. Jefferson County residents as well as private contractors may receive a warning and/or summons for snow or ice pushed onto County streets and rights-of-way from sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, etc. Example: When breaking up ice from driveway or flow line of curb, do not throw it out into the street where it can be struck by a vehicle; we encourage citizens to blow and shovel snow and ice onto their grass.

>> **Vehicles Parked or Abandoned:** Streets on which vehicles have been abandoned or otherwise parked so as to restrict the safe and continuous operation of snow removal equipment may not be plowed until those vehicles are removed.

>> **Requests for Emergency Snow Removal:** All requests for emergency snowplowing should go to the Jefferson County Sheriff's Dept. If the request is valid, they will notify the Road & Bridge Division and we will respond as soon as possible.

Behind the Scenes of Planning and Preparing for Public Health Emergencies

Monday, December 01, 2014, 8:38:40 AM | Julie →

by Dr. Mark B. Johnson, Jefferson County Public Health Executive Director
comments open from Dec. 1 until Dec. 19



Jefferson County Public Health's (JCPH) Emergency Preparedness and Response Program works year-round to help prepare the county for any public health threats, from a biological Anthrax attack, to a foodborne

outbreak of E. Coli, to a global pandemic. JCPH's epidemiologists, emergency response planners and health communications team work together to ensure we are prepared and ready to respond.

Disease Detectives

Commonly known as disease detectives, infectious disease epidemiologists investigate infectious disease outbreaks in the community. By investigating outbreaks, epidemiologists can contain the spread of the disease in the population and help prevent a similar outbreak from happening in the future. JCPH's epidemiologists investigate approximately 25 to 30 outbreaks from [Norovirus](#) to [E. Coli](#), and respond to over 150 disease complaints each year.

Every disease outbreak is unique, however most investigations follow the same process. JCPH works in coordination with health and medical systems across the county and throughout Colorado. Working together, they use robust surveillance systems to quickly identify potential outbreaks. Diseases that are particularly concerning are classified as [reportable conditions](#). This means that anytime someone is diagnosed with one of these diseases, it must be reported to the local health department. This helps health departments quickly identify potential outbreaks so they can be rapidly contained.

If there is an outbreak, the epidemiologist will start an investigation. The epidemiologist will interview the index case to determine what he or she has been doing, where they have been and who they've come into contact with. This helps to determine how the person may have become infected, and who else they may have infected while they were contagious. This is called [contact tracing](#). The epidemiologist will use the information they gather during contact tracing to develop a scientific hypothesis or explanation about the source of the outbreak. They will research their hypothesis and use their findings to help the health department determine how they will control the outbreak.

Public Health Emergency Response Planners

Public health emergency response planners plan for the worst public health disaster that they can possibly imagine. From a [biological anthrax attack](#) to a [fictional zombie apocalypse](#), public health planners work to ensure that the community is prepared for any type of public health disaster. Planners start their work by analyzing the threats to the community so that they know what the most likely potential threats are. They work alongside Emergency Management, Fire Departments, EMS, Law Enforcement Agencies, and Healthcare Agencies to find effective and efficient ways to prepare the community.

Public health planners focus on public health threats and provide expertise about the public health impact of any disaster, such as smoke inhalation during a wildfire. They write plans, train professionals and the public, and conduct drills and exercises to test their plans and their trainings. At the end of the day, emergency response planners create a more prepared community.