

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](#).

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](#).

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.

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.



Protect your pet, wildlife and fellow visitors. Obey the leash law.

Share your photos
#dogonleash



Jefferson County
Open Space
enriching life



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.

Help Others This Holiday Season

Monday, January 26, 2015, 11:18:18 AM | Julie →

by Lynn Johnson, Human Services Director
comments open from Nov. 19 until Dec. 8



Here at Jefferson County Human Services, we work every day to help citizens build better, safer lives. We work tirelessly to assist those in crisis or struggling. We do this work daily. The holiday season is a special opportunity to go above and beyond, to support others in a way that reminds everyone the true spirit of the season is giving.

Through the Holiday Giving Sponsor-A-Family Program community members and businesses are asked to sponsor a family and make the season a little brighter for everyone. The program serves children and families who are dealing with issues of child abuse and neglect and may not receive any gifts this holiday season. For details and more information, please visit the [Human Services website](#).

Another opportunity for giving this season is through fostering a teen. Fostering a teen could be one of the greatest gifts of all. You could truly positively impact a teen's life in a way you might not even realize until years later. Your presence, your wisdom, your guidance: it could be the greatest gift of all. For more information call us at 303-636-1KID or [email us!](#)

This holiday season take a minute to think about how you can give. For even more volunteer opportunities visit the [Volunteers page on the website.](#)

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.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

Tuesday, June 24, 2014, 9:24:49 AM | Julie →

by Lynn Johnson, Human Services Director

comments open from June 10 until June 30



World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is June 15. This year's theme is **One person. One action. One Nation. United against elder abuse.**

Did you know that every day 10,000 people turn 65 in the U.S. alone? That trend is going to continue for the next 20 years. Our demographics are shifting, and we will soon have more elder people in the U.S. than ever before. In Colorado, persons age 70 and over will increase by 143 percent by 2032. At the same time the population is growing, we know that a startling number of elders face abusive conditions. Every year an estimated 5 million, or 1 in 10, older Americans are victims of elder abuse, neglect, or exploitation. And that's only part of the picture: Experts believe that for every case of elder abuse or neglect reported, as many as 23.5 cases go unreported.

Colorado recently passed Senate Bill 111 and beginning July 1, 2014, certain professionals are required by law to report abuse, caretaker neglect and exploitation of at-risk elders. An at-risk elder is any person age 70 and older and reports must be made to law enforcement within 24 hours. Professionals include medical and mental health professionals, social workers, law enforcement, court appointed guardians and conservators, fire protection, pharmacists, bank personnel, care facility personnel, clergy, and more. This will ensure more people are watching for signs of abuse and neglect.

Elder Abuse Awareness Day serves as a call-to-action for individuals, organizations and communities to raise awareness about abuse, neglect and exploitation of elders. The International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse and the World Health Organization at the United Nations (UN) launched the first World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15, 2006, in an effort to unite communities around the world in raising awareness about elder abuse. World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is in support of the UN's International Plan of Action acknowledging the significance of elder abuse as a public health and human rights issue.

If you suspect elder abuse, please contact the Jefferson County Adult Protection HOTLINE at 303-271-4673. For

more information about this topic, visit the [Adult Protection website](#) or contact Rena Kuberski at 303-271-4251.

If you'd like more information on this topic there are additional resources:

[Colorado Department of Human Services Adult Protection](#)

[U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Aging.](#)

'Gladius the Show' at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds

Thursday, March 27, 2014, 9:15:33 AM | Julie →

by Scott Gales, Jefferson County Fairgrounds Director
comments open from March 26 until April 14

Spectacular acrobatics and aerial work plus giant Belgian draft horses make up an extraordinary equestrian show titled "Gladius The Show." This show is now performing each Friday, Saturday and Sunday through April 20 at the [Jefferson County Fairgrounds](#) in Golden.

"Gladius The Show" was created by Erik Martonovich, national and international equestrian vaulting champion who grew up in Golden. Martonovich was a featured performer in the Cirque du Soleil equestrian show, "Cavalria." The 14 performers in "Gladius The Show" hold 24 national titles in two countries. The 20 horses that are part of the show include Belgians, Andalusians, Percherons, Palominos, Paints and one miniature.

Additional show information and tickets can be found at www.gladiustheshow.com. General Admission tickets start at just \$15 for children, 12 and under, and \$26 for adults. VIP and Xiphos Passes are also available.

If you haven't visited the Jefferson County Fairgrounds, this is the perfect opportunity to see amazing entertainment for the whole family and check out our event facilities. We're located at 15200 W. 6th Avenue, in Golden. Exit 6th Avenue at Indiana and take the south frontage road to our complex.

Get Involved in Making Jefferson County the Best Place to Age

Thursday, March 20, 2014, 9:01:50 AM | Julie →

by Lynn Johnson, Human Services Director
comments open from March 5 until March 24



Did you know that Jefferson County has the largest number of adults age 60 and over in Colorado, and that number is expected to double by the year 2030? Six years ago, Jefferson County's Strategic Plan for Aging Well was created and I am excited to see the community joining together to support this initiative.

Last summer, Jefferson County's Aging Well Project held its 4th Annual Summit. Over 175 participants from all different aspects of aging attended the Summit from caregivers to businesses, to faith based people and elected officials, transportation and housing experts, financial and medical professionals. The Summit was a call to action to unite and create communities that are senior friendly including funding for assisted transportation, greater options in senior housing, greater awareness of care giving issues amongst businesses, a more structured approach to volunteerism as well as many more topics. [Read more about the summit in the '2013 Aging Well Summit Results' from the various breakout groups.](#)

A Summit will not be held this year in order to give members of the community time to implement some of their ideas that they pledged at the Summit. Instead, a spring meeting is being planned for elected officials, community representatives, and economic advisory persons to discuss the economic benefits and implications resulting from the aging population and what steps government and others may want to consider when addressing opportunities and challenges associated with this population growth.

We are inviting everyone in our community to get involved. There are many opportunities to volunteer. Up and coming projects include creating a series of pre-retirement workshops, educating employers on better understanding their caregiving employees, and encouraging neighborhood restaurants to cater more to the senior crowd.

This work is elevating the conversation around seniors and our community is starting to take notice. We all need to embrace the knowledge, skills and abilities seniors bring to their communities. This will lead to better collaboration and resources in the coming decade as the number of seniors continue to grow at exponential rates.

To get involved with the [Aging Well Project](#), contact Susan Franklin, Project Manager at Jefferson County Human Services, at sfrankli@jeffco.us or 303-271-4051.

Severe Weather Resources for Jefferson County's Homeless

Monday, January 13, 2014, 9:33:59 AM | Julie 

by Lynn Johnson, Human Services Director

comments open from November 20 until December 9



We are well into severe weather season for Jefferson County's homeless and many of the providers who try to keep them warm and safe. Severe weather is defined as when the temperature is below 32 degrees and wet or below 20 degrees and dry. Last year, on a very cold night in January, 1,435 people were counted as homeless in Jefferson County; 72 percent of those households were families with children (2012 Point in Time count, [Metro Denver Homeless Initiative](#), MDHI). Homeless residents end up sleeping in cars, living on the street or staying in shelters when they are available. Other options for the homeless are limited.

The Severe Weather Network, a program of Plan to End Homelessness in Jefferson County, is a collaboration of non-profits, churches, government organizations and others, finding more options for homeless residents. Finding the financial resources for cold weather shelters are often challenging. However, thanks to the faith community, three churches have recently opened their doors through April 30, 2014, with many more congregations providing supportive services and financial help. We are sincerely appreciative for all of their efforts.

The Plan to End Homelessness in Jefferson County was created by Heading Home, a collaboration of individuals and public service organizations from the community determined to end homelessness in Jefferson County, and endorsed by the Jefferson County Child and Youth Leadership Commission in April of 2013. Jefferson County has had, and continues to have, one of the larger homeless populations of the suburban areas surrounding Denver. The Plan shifts our paradigm from one that reacts to homelessness to one that prevents and ends homelessness.

Communities with plans have seen significant savings in the areas of public systems including reduced use of emergency medical systems, homeless shelters, correctional facilities and acute psychiatric services. The community is invited to join this partnership to end homelessness. Contact Heading Home c/o Linda Barringer (lbarringer@thefamilytree.org) or 303-467-2604.

Holidays Are a Time for Giving

Wednesday, November 20, 2013, 10:31:07 AM | Julie →

by Lynn Johnson, Human Services Director

comments open from November 20 until December 9



You Can Help Jefferson County Families in Need Through The Holiday Giving Sponsor-A-Family Program

Holidays are a special time of year, especially for children. But the holidays can be hard for many people for many different reasons. Jefferson County Human Services is looking for generous donors to join in making the 2013 holiday season a little brighter for some of our families in need.

The Holiday Giving Sponsor-A-Family Program serves children and families who are dealing with issues of child abuse and neglect and may not receive any gifts this holiday season. There are still over 100 families in need. **The deadline to sign up is November 27 and gift drop off takes place December 2 - December 4.**

There are two ways you can help:

- [Sign up using the online form](#) to sponsor a child or family
- Donate items especially needed at this time: gifts for teens, non-perishable food items, diapers, and children's books.

The Holiday Giving Sponsor-A-Family Program matches community members and businesses with children and families that are involved in the child welfare program at Jefferson County Human Services. Each individual is asked to provide needs and a wish list. Even though a child may need winter boots, he/she may also desire the latest toy or gadget. It is up to the giver what they wish to buy.

The program is also accepting any general toys and gifts, especially gifts and gift cards for teens, as there are many children and families that won't be matched with a donor. Simply fill out the [Holiday Program Donor Form](#) and an email will be sent with further instructions and a list of requested items. You may bring gifts wrapped, but please label them CLEARLY with the family members name and family number.

General gift donations, food and diapers will be accepted until December 20.

Gift drop off will take place December 2 - December 4 from 8am - 5pm at the Jefferson County Human Services Building Cafeteria, located at 900 Jefferson County Pkwy Golden, CO 80401 near the north building entrance. There will be assistance in unloading your vehicle if needed. Donors are welcome to join in the cafeteria for refreshments during gift drop off week.

For more information and to see a list of frequently asked questions, [visit our web page](#) or contact the [program coordinator](#).

Help Prevent the Spread of Germs at Work

Thursday, January 10, 2013, 3:23:21 PM | Julie →

by Jennifer Fairweather, Human Resources Director
comments open from January 10 until January 29



Cold and flu season is here!

You have probably heard that this season is off to an early start and many workplaces will start to see an increase of people with colds or flu-like symptoms.

If you haven't done so already, you may want to think about getting your annual flu shot. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the best way to prevent the seasonal flu is to get vaccinated.

The CDC also suggests additional ways to help prevent the spread of germs at work such as:

- Try avoiding contact with those who are sick.
- If you can, stay home when you are sick.
- Use a tissue to cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.
- Wash your hands frequently with warm water and soap for at least one minute.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.

By following these tips, hopefully we can all help minimize the impact of these ailments on our workplaces this season. More information can be found on the [Jefferson County Public Health website](#) and the [Centers for Disease Control website](#).

Hold the Holidays

Monday, December 03, 2012, 1:10:50 PM | Julie →

by Jennifer Fairweather, Human Resources Director
comments open from December 3 until December 22



Did you know that Americans tend to gain 3-5 lbs. between Thanksgiving and New Year's? Here at Jeffco, many of our employees are 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 two-eight members.

By participating, teammates help keep each other accountable and motivated to make healthy choices during the program. This enables everyone to enjoy the holidays without having to lose weight after they are over!

This is an easy challenge to implement in your own workplace or even with your family. If you can't skip the pumpkin pie, have a small piece and pass on the whipped cream. You will be less stressed, more rested and more active during the holiday season, all of which will make your season brighter.

Jefferson County, Chickens and "Your Backyard"

Tuesday, November 20, 2012, 9:15:26 AM | Julie →

by John Wolforth, Planning and Zoning Director
comments open from Nov. 20 until Dec. 9



Jefferson County is about to embark on drafting regulations to allow chickens in residential zone districts. As we move through the regulation review process and public hearings, here are some things to think about!

Most citizens have become painfully aware of our nation's economic crisis. Experts warn that the crisis will likely get worse before it gets better. While gas prices have gone up and down, the cost of food, utilities, property taxes, and other services continue to rise. Many local citizens are having a difficult time making ends meet.

A readily available source of eggs saves money, gas, and time. A chicken coop takes less space than a garden

tool shed and hens cost very little to feed. In addition, fuel costs and emissions from transporting eggs to the store by semi-trucks and from the store by cars are reduced.

Chickens in Backyard Coops Are Attractive and Clean

Unlike commercial poultry operations or rural farms, people in the city who keep chickens as pets tend to keep them in very attractive enclosures. They take great pride in their pets and backyard coops that they often hold annual tours to show them off. In cities like Denver, Portland, Seattle and Madison, chicken enthusiasts participate in tours, classes, and clubs, adding fabric and educational opportunities to their communities.

Chickens themselves do not smell. Any possible odor would be from feces, but five small hens generate less manure than one medium-sized dog. The manure is not likely to accumulate because it's a source of free fertilizer for the garden. Once tilled into the soil, manure no longer causes objectionable odors. Dog and cat feces cannot be used as fertilizer or composted because they contain pathogens that can infect humans. Therefore, dog and cat waste is more likely to accumulate and smell.

Not only do chickens produce less waste, most people who keep chickens in the city also have a garden and therefore compost their chicken manure. If composted and added to the garden, the water quality impact would be virtually nothing. Chickens also reduce the need for pesticides because they eat bugs and weeds, further reducing the potential for water pollution.

Chickens Play an Important Role in Sustainable Living

More and more people are interested in living a sustainable life style. Government, utilities, and non-governmental organizations are encouraging citizens to reduce their consumption of resources. A small number of backyard chickens allow us the opportunity to reduce our carbon footprint and support the local food movement.

People who have backyard hens are less likely to use harmful chemicals and pesticides in their gardens. Instead, they desire their yard to be healthy and environmentally-friendly. They consider chickens a natural extension of their garden because they eat weeds and bugs and provide fertilizer.

Organic gardeners seek natural fertilizer to enhance their garden soil as they grow fresh fruits and vegetables. Chicken manure is one of the most efficient natural fertilizers providing essential nutrients to build the soil. Backyard hens provide the most local source of fertilizer available. It is easily composted, without any transportation costs. Chicken manure is a great addition to sustainable urban gardens. Backyard chickens eat grass clippings and food scraps, thus keeping these products out of the local landfill by reusing them on site.

We are encouraged to eat locally, reducing the need to transport food long distances. What better place to start than the availability of food right in the back yard. National and local news media have given the 100 mile diet (eating only food grown within a 100 mile radius of your home) substantial coverage over the last year.

Backyard hens can help promote a 100 yard or even a 100 foot diet. Imagine the lowered gas consumption as trips to the store are made less frequently. Becoming a more sustainable community becomes easier with the availability of eggs from backyard hens.

The Urban Chicken Movement

According to the Worldwatch Institute, "... an Urban Chicken Movement has swept across the United States in

recent years.” Some people want organic eggs and garden compost, others are concerned about food security, others want to “eat local” to save resources, and others wish to enjoy the entertaining, fun pets hens can be. There have been lots of news articles written about this growing trend, which is increasing primarily in upscale neighborhoods.

The ordinance amendment is not unreasonable or unusual. Cities like Denver, Portland, Boise, Madison, Seattle, and Fort Collins (just to name a few) have relaxed their zoning laws to allow for a few backyard hens. In fact, according to Newsweek Magazine, more than 65% of major U.S. cities now allow backyard hens.

It’s also important to remember that during the Great Depression, families with chickens fared much better than those without. Given our current socio-economic situation, keeping a few backyard hens has never been more practical.

Get a Jump Start on Holiday Giving

Thursday, November 08, 2012, 11:42:30 AM | Julie →

by Lynn Johnson, Human Services Director

comments open from November 9 until November 28



Believe it or not the holiday season is upon us. All of a sudden stores are full of seasonal decorations, sunny days turn colder and people start thinking about giving. Whether giving to family, friends or others, the holidays are a time of sharing what we have with one another. Many people are in need and there is no better experience than lifting up someone’s spirits during the holidays. If you are so blessed as to be able to give back to the community and to those in need during this time, Jefferson County Human Services has opportunities.

The Adopt-A-Family program allows you to give to children and families dealing with issues of child abuse and neglect who may not receive gifts this holiday season. The program matches you (community members or businesses) with children and families that are involved in the child welfare program at human services. **You can Adopt-A-Family by registering online from our [holiday program page](#).** The program is also be collecting items especially needed at this time: gifts for teens, non-perishable food items, diapers and children's books.

For more information on the Adopt-A-Family program, see the [Adopt-A-Family flyer](#) or contact the holiday coordinator at kkeating@jeffco.us.

Another way to contribute is to **give to those needing an extra boost of holiday spirit during the trying times of the economy and unemployment.** The Holiday Giving Program at Jefferson County Workforce Center gives to job seekers at the center during certain weeks in November and December. Last year, a customer shared that the turkey they won at Jefferson County Workforce Center was the only food they had for the holiday. Kids, youth, elderly, boomers, and any customer in the Workforce Center can participate if present at the center during certain giving times. Suggested donations include:

- Un-used travel shampoos and conditioners
- Lotions
- Soaps
- Toothpaste and tooth brushes
- Small food baskets and turkeys or hams
- Pies or cakes
- Gift cards
- Kid items
- White elephant gifts in good condition

For more information on the Holiday Giving Program at Jefferson County Workforce Center contact Cheryl Korkos at ckorkos@jeffco.us.

Holiday seasons are always a special time, but when people come together during the hard times, it is truly special. Thanks to all those who give to others during the holidays and year round - we couldn't make a difference in the lives of so many of our customers without your generosity.

CSU Extension Summer Camps Begin in June

Thursday, May 31, 2012, 4:32:21 PM | Julie →

by Public Information

comments open from May 31 until June 19

The Jr. Science Explorers Club will take **children entering the third grade** on an incredible journey, with destinations that include Lookout Mountain Nature Center and Meyer Ranch Park. Explorers will study insects, plant trees, track wild animals, learn the basics of nature photography, take hikes, complete a scavenger hunt, play animal-themed games and much more.

The 4-H program will offer two sessions of the Jr. Science Explorers Club this summer, June 11-15 and June 25-29. The sessions run from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and begin and end at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds, 15200 W. 6th Ave. in Golden.

Owl's Roost is for children entering fourth grade. Participants will visit Chatfield Reservoir, White Ranch Park, Elk Meadow Park and Alderfer/Three Sisters Park to learn survival skills, animal and insect habitats, solar energy and ecosystems.

Kids entering fifth-grade can enroll in Eagle's Nest, a similar program that includes visits to Golden Gate State Park, Reynolds Park, Nevadaville, Red Rocks and St. Mary's Glacier. Eagle's Nest campers will study glaciers, plant identification, predator-prey relationships, geology and Colorado's mining history.

Owl's Roost and Eagle's Nest camps are scheduled for June 11-15, June 18-22, June 25-29, July 9-13 and July 16-20. Drop-off and pick-up locations vary between the Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Mortensen Elementary School and Apex Recreation Center.

The cost of \$155 for each program covers all the week's project materials, field trips and insurance. Registration will remain open until all spots are filled. Parents are asked to provide their children with sack lunches and drinks.

Registration is easy through www.jeffcoextension.org. For more information, please call the 4-H Club at 303-271-6620.

Information for Those Impacted by the Lower North Fork Fire

Wednesday, April 11, 2012, 3:24:16 PM | Julie →

by Public Information

comments open from April 9 until April 28

For the latest information for those members of our community that have been impacted by the Lower North Fork Fire, please visit the county's [Lower North Fork Fire web page](#).

You'll find information there on the disaster recovery center, debris removal, land rehabilitation and how to avoid fraud.

Cops Fighting Cancer Benefit

Wednesday, April 11, 2012, 3:17:13 PM | Julie →

by Public Information

comments open from April 11 until April 30

The Northwestern School of Police Staff and Command #325 will be hosting a spaghetti dinner and silent auction tonight at 6:00 p.m. at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds to benefit the great work of Cops Fighting Cancer. For their Legacy Project, Class #325 is asking for your support in reaching their goal of \$10,000. Jefferson County Sheriff's Office members of Class #325 are Shellie DeNuzzi, Mark Gutke, Chris Loptien, Steve Wygant, and Carla Zinanti.

How can you help?

Purchase a \$10 ticket and join us on April 11th. The menu includes spaghetti with meat sauce or marinara, salad, and a drink. Enjoy good company, good food, and shop our silent auction items.

Don't like spaghetti?

Consider making a monetary donation by purchasing a ticket anyway to support this great cause.

Donate a silent auction item

Class #325 is seeking items for the silent auction. Cops Fighting Cancer is a 501(c)(3) organization and donation receipts will be provided for tax purposes.

Cash or checks payable to: Northwestern SPSC #325

Tickets can be purchased or donations made at the following locations:

Animal Control, Open Space Building

Headquarters, Pat Tomko, Judy Searle, Carolyn Haberkorn or Joyce Nelson

Detentions, Jennifer Van Dorn

South Precinct, Ann Smith

Mountain Precinct, Deb Nelson

Dakota Building, Kelly Shultz

Or directly to any of the five SPSC #325 class members listed above

For more information or to donate a silent auction item, please call:

Carla Zinanti – 303-271-5074 / 303-435-1150 or Shellie DeNuzzi – 720-497-7207 / 303-435-4040.

All proceeds from the dinner and silent auction will be presented to the Cops Fighting Cancer organization during the Northwestern SPSC #325 graduation ceremony on May 11, 2012.

For more information on the great work of Cops Fighting Cancer, please visit the [Cops Fighting Cancer website](#) or view a video at Long Blue Line.

Thank you for your support!

Donated Food Items Available for Lower North Fork Fire Evacuees

Monday, April 02, 2012, 11:52:19 AM | Julie →

by Public Information

comments open from April 2 until April 21

With the power out in some areas of the Lower North Fork fire for a week, residents evacuated from their homes will be without most of the food staples when they return. Their neighbors, Conifer area residents, have made many donations that those residents can pick up at the Mountain Resource Center.

These items, including milk, eggs, fruit, cheese, bread and other nonperishable items, are available to those residents only. Please bring some form of identification. Clothing is also available.

The Mountain Resource Center, located at 11030 Kitty Drive in Conifer, will be open from Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. If residents need a special appointments, please contact the MRC at 303-838-8031.

The Disaster Recovery Center will also be moving to the Mountain Resource location beginning tomorrow, April 3.

Follow the Latest on the Fires in Jeffco

Tuesday, March 27, 2012, 8:02:26 AM | Julie →

by Public Information

comments open from March 26 until April 14

For the latest on the Lower North Fork fire near Conifer and the Sawmill Gulch fire in the Genesee area, you can follow the updates on the [Jefferson County Sheriff's Office emergency blog](#) and its official twitter site, [@JeffcoSheriffCo](#).

You can also follow the [@JeffcoColorado](#), the official Jefferson County twitter site.

Once there, you can also follow the hashtags #LowerNorthForkFire and #SawmillFire.

2012 Classes for the CSU Extension Native Plant Master Program

Thursday, February 02, 2012, 12:44:43 PM | Julie →

by Public Information

comments open from February 2 until February 21

The Native Plant Master® Program has announced a newly expanded 2012 schedule of offerings. Explore a new park by taking an award-winning Native Plant Master course. Sample one of the exciting classes taught by CSU faculty and other experts. Topics include basic botany, native plant landscaping, native lawns, invasive weeds, poisonous plants, alpine/subalpine plants and more.

Register early as many of these popular offerings will have waiting lists later in the season. See our [EventBrite registration page](#) for more details and to register.

For more information or questions on the program, please contact:

Yinyan Huang

[Colorado State University Extension](#)

Native Plant Master Program

(303) 271-6620

yhuang@jeffco.us

Tips for a Safe Holiday Shopping Season

Tuesday, November 29, 2011, 3:01:39 PM | Julie →

by District Attorney Scott Storey

comments open from November 29 until December 18



The holiday season has arrived. Malls and retail stores are already crowded with shoppers. This retail hustle and bustle provides fertile ground for identity thieves and other crooks. While it is easy to get caught up in the excitement of the holiday season, District Attorney Scott Storey warns, "Do not be distracted. Weary shoppers may let their guard down by the time they get to the cashier to pay for their purchases. Savvy ID thieves need just that moment to capture your credit card information on their cell phone, grab your purse or pick your pocket and destroy your holiday cheer."

Shoppers are often rushed and distracted. It is not unusual to lay checks, credit cards, and drivers' licenses on cashiers' counters amidst a bevy of onlookers. Most cell phones today are also cameras, making it easy for a crook to take a quick picture of your credit card number.

Here's a manageable list of suggestions that can help you stay safe this holiday season:

- >> Plan your trip and go with a friend - there is safety in numbers.

- >> Park near an entry door, under lights if it is the evening. Note where your car is parked so that you can walk directly back to your car, without wandering, when you return.

- >> Don't get overloaded with lots of packages. If you are focused on your packages, you're more vulnerable to purse or wallet theft. When you have a few packages it's a good idea to bring them back to your car, put them in the trunk, and then drive to another part of the mall to continue shopping.

- >> Be particularly aware in the busier areas of a store or mall. Crowded aisles, food courts and restrooms create great opportunity and quick getaway plans for thieves.

- >> Don't leave your packages or purses unattended in the food court and don't set packages or purses on the floor when in a bathroom stall. Crooks can easily reach under, grab and run.

- >> Travel light in terms of your personal and financial information. Bring a little cash with you and keep it in a front pocket. Bring only one credit card. Avoid using checks as it is easy to become distracted while writing a check and drop your guard, leaving packages or purse vulnerable long enough for a crook to make you their next victim. Carry credit cards and ID in a neck wallet, bi-fold wallet in a front pocket, or a fanny pack worn in the front.

- >> Don't let your credit card out of your sight. Thieves can use a device called a "palm skimmer" to capture your credit card information without stealing your card. Check your credit card/bank account statements carefully at the end of the month and report fraudulent charges to your bank or credit card company

immediately.

The [Jefferson County District Attorney's Office](#) offers free Power Against Fraud presentations for groups of all sizes. If you have questions, or need assistance, call the Jefferson County District Attorney's Fraud Line 303-271-6980.

Celebrating Veterans Month in Jefferson County

Wednesday, November 09, 2011, 12:59:26 PM | Julie →

by Lynn Johnson, Human Services Director

comments open from Nov. 9 until Nov. 28



November 11 is Veterans Day, a time when Jefferson County focuses on celebrating the veterans in our community with a great deal of respect and gratitude for their service and sacrifice. Here at [Jefferson County Department of Human Services](#), we will be honoring local veterans and their families during November, as we do all year, through highlighting two of our programs that serve veterans, the [Veterans Services Office](#) and the Workforce Center Veterans Team.

In honor of Veterans Month, Veterans Services Officer, Henry Mondragón will be out in the community sharing information on the wonderful services that we provide veterans. Being a veteran himself, Henry goes out into the community to spread the truth about VA benefits. He is amazing at being available and accessible to all veterans because with an economy like we've had, it's important for veterans to know what benefits and services are available to them. **Henry will be at the Apex Center, 13150 West 72nd Avenue in Arvada on Monday, November 14th from 9am to 12Noon. No appointment is necessary, simply come by to learn more about our services.**

Our mission is to help veterans in any way possible. We assist veterans and their dependents in applying for benefits and services including compensation, dependent and survivor benefits, home loan guarantees, vocational rehabilitation, health care, burial, pension and life insurance. We also have workforce center resources available for veterans. It's not always easy to find a job after military service, but at the Jefferson County Workforce Center, we work with veterans to utilize, promote and expand upon training, work ethic and skill sets to find a great career -- post military service. Services include counseling, supportive services referrals, job opening referrals, job development, education and training.

During this time, we also want to honor those among us, right here at Human Services. Anyone whose family

has been impacted by a veteran has been invited to share their story. Later this month, the stories will be shared online. Veterans posters including the names of employee veterans will also be posted at each elevator in the Human Services building and a potluck honoring veterans will be held later this month. We hope you too are honoring the veterans among you, whether they are family, friends or co-workers who you can honor in small ways during November.

If you appreciate the freedom we, as Americans, enjoy today, then you realize why it's important to honor those who sacrificed for that freedom. All the services we provide for veterans are simple ways we give back to these brave men and women as well as our community.

If you are a veteran who can benefit from these services or knows of someone who can, please contact us. We are standing by, at your service.

>> For more information regarding veteran job services and Jefferson County Workforce Center contact John Koontz at 303-271-4769, jkoontz-AT-jeffco.us or visit www.jeffcoworkforce.org.

>> If you are a veteran who can benefit from these services or knows of someone who can, please contact Henry Mondragón at 303-271-4205, contact vs-AT-jeffco.us or visit the [Human Services' Veterans web page](#).

Open Space Survey and Department Name Change

Wednesday, November 02, 2011, 12:07:38 PM | Julie →

by Tom Hoby, CPRP, Open Space/Jeffco Parks Director
comments open from Oct. 28 until Nov. 16



Check your mail boxes, Jefferson County Residents. Were you selected to participate in the first ever, **random sample survey dedicated solely to Jefferson County Open Space**? If you were one of the lucky 10,000, have completed and returned the survey, THANK YOU! If you received a questionnaire in the mail and you haven't had the opportunity to respond, please do so now. We're anxious to hear your opinions and thoughts.

This survey is being conducted to gain a better understanding of our County residents' preferences and values as they relate to the outdoors and Open Space. Each response is extremely valuable in helping Open Space plan for the future. Once the surveys have been returned and data compiled, a report on the survey will appear on the Open Space website in January of 2012.

Don't miss this opportunity to voice your opinion about Open Space. We appreciate you taking time to share your thoughts.

Earlier this year, the former Community Resources Department changed its name to JEFFERSON COUNTY PARKS. Why? The old name was too general and it didn't provide our customers with information about what services they could find in such a department.

One of the unifying themes that each of the divisions within Jefferson County Parks provides is an opportunity to enhance our quality of life. Taking the services and facilities provided by the Boettcher Mansion, Colorado State University Extension, Fairgrounds and Open Space; the name Jefferson County Parks was a better fit and the Board of County Commissioners agreed.

Whether through conservation, recreation, education or event services, Jefferson County Parks is enriching life. In tandem with the name change, staff from the divisions contributed to establishing core values and are pleased to make these commitments to you:

Jefferson County Parks...enriching life. We commit to:

- Practice Responsible Management of our human, natural, historic, park and financial resources.
- Provide Quality Experiences to our customers, visitors, participants, staff and volunteers.
- Exchange Information and Foster Collaboration to produce the best possible results.

Help Prevent the Spread of Germs at Work

Thursday, October 13, 2011, 1:53:49 PM | Julie →

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



Cold and flu season is upon us! Now that fall is here, many workplaces start to see an increase of people with colds or flu-like symptoms.

Now is the time to think about getting your annual flu shot. According to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), the best way to prevent the seasonal flu is to get vaccinated.

The CDC also suggests additional ways to help prevent the spread of germs at work such as:

- Try avoiding contact with those who are sick.
- If you can, stay home when you are sick.
- Use a tissue to cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.

- Wash your hands frequently with warm water and soap for at least one minute.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.

By following these tips, hopefully we can all help minimize the impact of these ailments on our workplaces this season. More information can be found on our [Jefferson County Public Health website](#) on Influenza and where you can get a vaccination.

Central Plains Plan Approved, Now Part of Comprehensive Master Plan

Tuesday, September 27, 2011, 10:23:40 AM | Julie →

by John Wolforth, Planning and Zoning Director
comments open from Sept. 27 until Oct. 16



The Central Plains Plan has been “rolled-in” to the [Jefferson County Comprehensive Master Plan](#).

On September 14, the Central Plains Area Plan was approved, with revisions, by the Planning Commission. This was another major accomplishment toward having all of the existing Community Plans “absorbed” into Jefferson County’s newly-adopted Comprehensive Master Plan which is used by staff, the [Planning Commission](#) and the [Board of County Commissioners](#) to make land use recommendations and decisions.

The Planning Commission hearing was well attended. The majority of those who testified in front of the Planning Commission gave detailed historical accounts of initiatives led by the public, Jefferson County Open Space and the Board of County Commissioners to preserve roughly 1,476 acres (to date) on South Table Mountain, with plans to preserve another 410 acres.

The Planning Commission, staff and many members of the public had an evening filled with history that really gave a clear perspective of how South Table Mountain has come to be what it is today.

Stay tuned as the Planning Commission will hold their hearing on the North Plains Community Plan on Wednesday, November 9, at 6:15 p.m. If the Planning Commission adopts this plan that evening, Jefferson County will have completed this phase of plan “roll-ins” for the year. The next phase will start with the Conifer/285 Corridor Plan, the Evergreen Community Plan and the Indian Hills Community Plan.