

## Conversations With Jeffco

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## Fall Home Safety Tips

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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](#).

## Multi-generational Workforce

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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.

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

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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.

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

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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 (CACCS) 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, CACCS 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.

CACCS 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 CACCS 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](#).

## Jeffco is Expanding its Slash Collection Program for 2015

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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](http://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

## Hold the Holidays!

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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.

## Behind the Scenes of Planning and Preparing for Public Health Emergencies

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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.

## **Help Prevent the Spread of Germs at Work**

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Monday, September 22, 2014, 8:44:12 AM | Julie →

**by Jennifer Fairweather, Human Resources Director**  
**comments open from Sept. 22 until Oct. 11**



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. Take advantage of your organization's wellness programs and onsite flu shots.

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 1 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 Influenza web page](#).

## Heating Safety

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Monday, September 15, 2014, 10:15:32 AM | Julie →

**by Becky Baker, Building Safety Division Director**

**comments open from Sept. 15 until Oct. 4**



It's a cold winter night. You decide to use an electrical space heater, or perhaps light a fire in the fireplace, to save on the heating bill. Comfortable from its warmth as bedtime approaches you think, "What harm could it cause to leave it on overnight?"

Think again. While these heating devices may help you feel cozy and warm, they can become extremely dangerous if not used properly. Home heating equipment was involved in an estimated 62,000 home fires in 2005, according to the non-profit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). The cost of these fires is more than just property damage. The cost includes roughly 700 lives and roughly 1,500 injuries.

Home heating fires are largely preventable when you know the rules.

The majority of heating fire deaths are caused by space heaters! Most heating fires are caused by creosote build-up in the chimney.

**To help keep our community safe and warm this season, the following guidelines are recommended:**

- Space heaters need space. Keep all things that can burn, such as paper, bedding and furniture, at least 3 feet away from heating equipment.
- Turn portable heaters off when you go to bed or leave the room.
- Plug power cords only into outlets with sufficient capacity and never into an extension cord.
- Inspect for cracked, frayed or broken plugs or loose connections. Replace before using.
- Have your chimney inspected each year and cleaned if necessary.
- Use a sturdy fireplace screen.
- Allow ashes to cool before disposing. Dispose of ashes in a metal container.
- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. For the best protection, interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home - when one sounds, they all sound. Test smoke alarms at least once a month.
- Install and maintain a carbon monoxide alarm in a central location outside each sleeping area.
- Never use an oven to heat your home.

With simple precautions, you can decrease home-heating fires this winter.

## Help Your Child Stay at a Healthy Weight

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Tuesday, September 02, 2014, 4:13:38 PM | Julie →

**by Dr. Mark B. Johnson, Jefferson County Public Health Executive Director**  
**comments open from Sept. 2 until Sept. 21**



One in three children in the United States is overweight or obese. Childhood obesity puts kids at risk for health problems that were once seen only in adults, like type-2 diabetes, high blood pressure, and heart disease. September is National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month and Jefferson County Public Health encourages families to make healthy changes together. Childhood obesity can be prevented.

**Get active outside:** Walk around the neighborhood, go on a bike ride, or play at the park. [Jeffco Open Space and Parks](#) offers diverse trails and outdoor activities for everyone to enjoy.

**Limit screen time:** Keep screen time (time spent on the computer, watching TV, or playing video games) to 2 hours or less a day. [Check out these tips for helping your family limit screen time.](#)

**Make healthy meals:** Buy and serve more vegetables, fruits, and whole-grain foods. [Livewell Colorado offers healthy recipes](#) and tips for buying and eating healthy foods.

**Become a part of [WE CAN](#):** a national initiative to reduce childhood obesity.

[Jefferson County Public Health \(JCPH\)](#) is working with parents, schools, policymakers, communities, businesses and others to improve active living and healthy eating for everyone in Jefferson County.

JCPH has provided technical assistance to several municipalities in Jefferson County as they adopt policies that improve their communities' access to physical activity and healthy food. Learn more about the [Livewell Colorado HEAL \(Healthy Eating and Active Living\) Cities and Towns Campaign](#). You can also view our community health improvement plan at [www.healthypeoplehealthyplacesjeffco.com](http://www.healthypeoplehealthyplacesjeffco.com).

## August is National Child Support Month

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Thursday, August 28, 2014, 8:58:51 AM | Julie →

**by Lynn Johnson, Human Services Director**  
**comments open from August 28 until September 16**



***Jefferson County encourages and promotes both parents' involvement in their children's lives.***

Did you know it is estimated that one in every four American children participates in a child support program? The purpose of National Child Support Month is to raise awareness about the importance of parents involvement in their children's lives and the responsibility parents have to provide the resources their children need to succeed.

The goal of the Colorado Child Support Program is to ensure that all children receive financial, medical and emotional support from each parent. This is accomplished by locating each parent, establishing paternity and support obligations, enforcing those obligations, assisting with the establishment of parenting plans, and

providing parenting education services.

However, here in Jefferson County, it goes much further. [Child Support Services](#) is becoming a key player in helping families to become self-sufficient by leveraging wraparound services for the entire family, decreasing the effects of poverty. With the help of the following programs, dads (and moms) get assistance in identifying and overcoming barriers they face in maintaining a positive role in their children's lives, becoming and maintaining current on financial obligations to their children, and finding on-going support in the community:

- **Responsible Fatherhood Program** – Engages fathers and children to build healthy relationships. Emphasis is placed on the critical need for fathers to be active in parenting their children as well as serving as positive role models for other children in our communities.
- **Colorado Parent Employment Project (CO-PEP)** – The intent of the project is to reach out to parents who are able and willing, but are not able to pay their child support because they are unemployed or underemployed. Services include job readiness and life skills training so that parents can meet their child support obligations while also meeting their own needs.
- **Problem Solving Court** – The goal is to help parents find solutions to the barriers keeping them from meeting their child support obligations. This option provides alternative sanctions to jail and, by doing so, the program alleviates a cost burden to tax payers.
- **Early Intervention** – A responsive customer service best practice which seeks to develop a relationship with non-custodial parents during the beginning stages of the process and prior to taking any legal action.
- **Modification or “Right Sizing” Orders** – The ongoing process of assessing the income of both parents and the costs associated with raising the children to ensure the support amount is fair and equitable.

I am very proud of the Jefferson County Child Support Services Team for making significant improvements in addressing the needs of not only children, but the entire family.

We honor our staff of 60 dedicated child support professionals, who are receiving national recognition and achieving historic collection records. In 2013, Jefferson County collected over \$31.3 million and served over 15,722 families, impacting an estimated 23,583 children. From January through July 2014, over \$19.7 million dollars has been collected and distributed directly to families in our local community.

## Construction Season in Full Swing

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Wednesday, July 02, 2014, 2:40:09 PM | Julie →

**Larry Benshoof, Road & Bridge Director**  
**comments open from July 2 until July 21**



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 neighborhood. 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. The recycled asphalt basecourse comes from our paving projects that require rotomilling prior to the asphalt overlay. The use of recycled material saves upwards 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.

## [Agriculture in Jeffco Open Space](#)

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Thursday, June 05, 2014, 2:14:51 PM | Julie →

**by Alicia Doran, Jefferson County Open Space**  
**comments open from June 5 until June 19**

Jefferson County has a rich agricultural history starting in the 1800's when hay and cattle ranching became a way of life. In the 20th century, vegetable and greenhouse crops were grown until much of the land was developed for other uses. Open Space owns a number of properties that had been used for agriculture by previous owners. We have tried to embrace the historical use of those properties when developing the vision for the parks.

#### Parameters

While sensitive to the economics of agriculture, our goal is to preserve and enhance the natural resource values of our land. We try to balance agricultural use with recreational and wildlife needs.

#### Natural Resource Benefits

Grasslands represent a significant ecological type that supports many natural systems. Our grasslands historically have been grazed by wildlife and historically experienced fire events every 10 to 30 years. Removing vegetation by haying or grazing mimics those natural processes and allows grasslands to remain healthy.

#### How We Do It

**Agricultural Licenses** - We issue Agricultural Licenses for hay harvesting and grazing. The licensee must go through a bid process. The length of the license will vary and may be adjusted to meet current production and environmental conditions. If interested in upcoming bids, please email Alicia Doran at adoran-AT-jeffco-DOT-us.

**Grazing** - We have worked with NRCS to develop grazing plans for a number of sites. The plans provide a guide for stocking rates and timing. Our goal is to time the grazing so it has a positive effect on the vegetation, has little impact to wildlife, and has minimal effect to recreational uses of the property.

**Haying** - We allow one harvest per year and require that stubble be left. This helps prevent soil erosion, helps the plants stay healthy, and helps the site to hold moisture. We evaluate the benefit of harvesting each year. There may be some years that we would not let the licensee harvest if production or environmental conditions were unfavorable.

#### Sustainable Practices

We strive to manage our resources so that they will remain productive for both agriculture and natural resources. One benefit of our sustainable practices is the prevention of topsoil loss. If topsoil is lost, the grassland produces less biomass, species diversity is reduced, and non-native invasive plants may become established. Topsoil loss contributes to erosion that may cause silting. Silting affects water quality which negatively impacts aquatic plants, animals and invertebrates.

#### Water Resources

Agriculture in Jefferson County has always been limited by the availability of water. Open Space has limited seasonal water resources at some locations but the majority of our sites do not have developed agricultural water supplies.

#### Other Agricultural Uses

With the increased interest in urban farming, we may develop future agricultural opportunities. Water availability is our main limiting factor.

## Increase Your Daily Steps

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Thursday, May 22, 2014, 12:10:48 PM | Julie →

**by Jennifer Fairweather, Human Resources Director**  
**comments open from May 22 until June 10**



Many of us work in an office setting where we may be sitting for a long time. However, there are a few simple things you can do during your workday to increase the amount of steps and exercise you get.

1. Park farther away from your building requiring that you walk additional steps just to get into the office.
2. Take the stairs to your work area instead of the elevator.
3. Have a walking meeting with a coworker; instead of sitting at a table – go for a walk!
4. Use the restrooms that are farthest from your office to add more steps into your breaks.
5. For lunch, try to walk to a different location to purchase or eat your meal.
6. And don't forget the weekends! Try to increase steps while running errands by parking farther away in parking lots, walking instead of driving (where possible), and going out of your way to increase how much you walk around your home.

These are easy ways to increase your daily steps that once incorporated into your routine, become a daily habit!

## Time for Spring Cleaning!

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Wednesday, April 09, 2014, 9:59:08 AM | Julie →

**by Jennifer Fairweather, Human Resources Director**  
**comments open from April 9 until April 28**



Many of us may be embarking on spring cleaning in our homes and yards. But you should also take this time to clean out your office space. Why? Having an organized and tidy office area can increase your productivity, allow for enhanced time management and greatly improve your attitude. Here are a few areas to focus on:

- Try to store as much as you can on your computer verses in a paper format.
- Recycle or get rid of items you no longer need.
- Clean out drawers and cabinets -- especially looking for items that you no longer use or things that no longer work.
- Organize both your paper files and your computer files so you can find what you need easily.
- Try to maximize space on your desk with only the items you use frequently.
- Ensure you have a good "In and Out" system with a goal of only "touching" most items one time.
- Make sure electronic cords and cables are bundled and out of your way.
- Make sure your desk area is set up ergonomically to ensure you don't create unnecessary strain on your body.

Working in a clean and organized office space is a great way to start of your spring while boosting your attitude toward managing daily tasks.

## Help Fight Human Trafficking

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Monday, April 07, 2014, 10:14:09 AM | Julie →

**by Lynn Johnson, Human Services Director**  
**comments open from April 7 until April 26**



Human trafficking is a 32 billion-dollar-a-year industry. It is the fastest growing crime, now second only to drug trade and it is happening here, in our community, in Jefferson County.

The [Jefferson County Department of Human Services](#), through the Children and Youth Leadership Commission, has formed a network of collaboration with law enforcement, public safety, health care providers and the Jefferson County Public Health Department, legislators, educators, mental health professionals, and community outreach agencies as a coalition to best serve victims of human trafficking. U.S. Department of Justice reports that between 2008-2010, 83 percent of sex trafficking victims found within the United States have been involved at one time with the child welfare system, specifically foster care.

Human Services, including child and family services, are working to increase victim safety, support victims in protecting themselves and their children, identify and create appropriate referral options for each victim, and standardize procedures and resources for screening victims.

This year, the [Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners](#), issued a proclamation declaring zero tolerance for human trafficking in Jefferson County. All Colorado counties are now challenged to proclaim the same commitment to putting an end to human trafficking in the state of Colorado.

This is not an issue that can be solved by any one agency; it takes partnership and multiple resources to solve. You can do your part - if you suspect human trafficking, contact our Child Protection Hotline at 303-271-HELP (4357) and/or the Colorado Network to End Human Trafficking (CoNEHT) at 1-866-455-5075, toll-free, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

## Proposed Changes to Accessory Dwelling Units

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Wednesday, April 02, 2014, 8:46:18 AM | Julie →

**by John Wolforth, Planning and Zoning Director**  
**comments open from April 2 until April 21**



An Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) is an additional dwelling that can either be added to an existing single family detached dwelling, or built as a separate accessory structure on the same lot as the primary dwelling. These types of structures are often called "granny cottages." To be considered an ADU, the unit has provisions for an independent kitchen, and must be clearly subordinate to the main dwelling.

Currently, to qualify for an ADU, a property owner must prove at a Board of Adjustment hearing that the ADU will only be occupied by a family member, the property is a minimum of one acre, and adequate water and sanitation is provided. Currently, Planning and Zoning is processing updates to the Zoning Resolution in order to allow for a broader range of Accessory Dwelling Unit users. With a demographic shift in society, we need to

look ahead in order to accommodate those who might have aging parents, other family members, caretakers or renters wanting or needing to live on the same property.

The three major changes proposed are as follows:

**Process:** The process is proposed to be changed from a Board of Adjustment hearing to an administrative process where the decision is rendered based on specific criteria.

**Occupant:** The requirement that the ADU be occupied by a family member is proposed to be removed and replaced by a requirement that one of the units must be occupied by the property owner. The other unit could be occupied by a family member, a caretaker, a nanny or a renter.

**Lot and Unit size:** The minimum lot size has been reduced, but the maximum unit size is also reduced on a tiered scale; so as lot size is reduced, so is the size of the ADU.

Valid proof of water and sanitation will still be required.

The intent of these regulation changes is not to double the density allowed in an area, or to allow the ADU to be sold off as an independent unit. The intent is to create more housing options for Jefferson County citizens. This would allow some citizens to age in place by having a second unit for perhaps a caretaker or grown children.

Draft regulations will be placed on the [Planning and Zoning website](#) in the near future. The draft regulations will be presented to the Planning Commission and the Board of County Commissioners for consideration in late August 2014.

Planning and Zoning Staff will kick off the regulation amendment process with the ***upcoming public meetings:***

**Wednesday, April 23, 2014**

6:30-8:30 p.m.

Lookout Mountain Room

Jefferson County Administration and Courts Facility

100 Jefferson Parkway

Golden, CO

**Wednesday, April 30, 2014**

6:30-8:30 p.m.

Auditorium

Evergreen Fire Protection District

1802 Bergen Parkway

Evergreen, CO

## Jeffco Needs You! Volunteer Board Opportunities

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Wednesday, January 29, 2014, 11:54:02 AM | Julie →

**by Jeffco Public Information**

**comments open from January 29 until February 17**

Each year the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) appoints members of the community to volunteer boards and commissions. These boards are pivotal to the county's operations. They provide valuable feedback to the BCC on issues that range from planning and zoning cases to how grant funds should be allocated. The boards and commissions even make decisions and adopt policies on behalf of the commissioners.

If you think that this is something you would like to do, then the county needs you. There are some vacancies throughout the year, but the majority of terms expire soon and we are taking applications now through Feb. 14, 2014.

Take a look at the [Volunteer Board Vacancies page](#) for more information on the boards with upcoming vacancies and how you can apply.

## What Our Youth Need is You!

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Monday, January 06, 2014, 4:57:17 PM | Julie →

**by Jacki Paone, Jeffco's CSU Extension Director**

**comments open from January 6 until January 25**

Consider 2014 to be the year you get involved in 4-H as a mentor to area youth. In collaboration with three area elementary schools, Jefferson County CSU Extension is recruiting mentors to participate in afterschool programs that will teach life skills, encourage creativity in youngsters as well as enhance the personal development of the mentors.

Schools where the 4-H "Youth and Families with Promise" program will be employed are Pleasant View Elementary in Golden; Molholm Elementary in Lakewood; and Parr Elementary in the Arvada/Westminster area. Twenty students will be participating from each school and pairing one mentor to each child is ideal.

By committing one hour a week to meet with youth ages 8-13 in an after school setting, you will open doors to interests in science, technology, engineering and math, as well as help them develop life skills such as self-esteem, responsibility, problem solving, cooperation, sharing and teamwork. Modeled as a 4-H club, your leadership at meetings will include club business once a month and project work at the remaining meetings. The first projects that the youth will work on involve robotics and rocketry. Projects thereafter will be shaped by 4-H curriculum based on the youth's interests and suggestions. Training will be provided for the projects the youth are interested in.

Mentor candidates must be at least 19 years of age, may apply online and will be subject to a background check and interview. Consider partnering with a family member or colleague to share the experience and bring more value to the interaction with these youth. Initial training prior to leading the afterschool activities will be provided as well as follow-up training offered throughout the year. **Scheduled to begin January 14, applications will be taken until the mentor positions are filled.**

Being a mentor changes lives.

**COLLEGE STUDENTS:** Putting academics into practice, college level teaching candidates get valuable experience. Students enrolled in science, technology, engineering and math programs may find fulfillment in sharing their interest in these areas with young people. Additionally, volunteer activities, particularly with youth, are attractive to future employers.

**TEACHERS:** Build upon the relationships you have established with students and enrich their learning experiences by providing quality time under the 4-H program umbrella. Retired teachers also bring unmatched experience into the learning environment and make wonderful mentors.

**PROFESSIONALS:** Workplaces that encourage volunteer activity by their employees will see great value in allowing time away from business as a contribution to the future of our community. In tandem with the personal satisfaction of the employee in giving to others, mentorship from professionals helps youth dream about their future careers.

**NEIGHBORS and PARENTS:** Schools are a hub of activity in neighborhoods. Become a mentor at one of the participating schools and be more aware of activities, programs and events happening at the school. Connect with others in your neighborhood and build relationships with youth that may struggle in school and need adult support.

Apply today on the [4-H section of the CSU website](#). For additional information, contact Barbie Garnett or Claire Dixon at Jefferson County's CSU Extension office, 303-271-6620.

Participating Schools:

Parr Elementary, 5800 West 84th Avenue, Arvada, CO

Pleasant View Elementary, 15920 West 10th Avenue, Golden, CO

Molholm Elementary, 6000 West 9th Avenue, Lakewood, CO

*Jefferson County CSU Extension empowers county citizens and enhances their quality of life through education, innovation and excellence in service. 4-H is a national youth development program that has been in existence for more than 100 years. The primary goal of 4-H is to assist youth in developing life skills that help them live productive and satisfying lives.*

## Forest Wood Slash RFP

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Wednesday, December 18, 2013, 4:08:37 PM | Julie →

**by Mark Danner, Facilities and Construction Management Director**  
**comments open from December 18 until January 6**



Jefferson County has experienced many wildfires over the last several years. Unfortunately lives have been lost and property destroyed. In an effort to minimize these natural and human error caused fires, the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office has managed a Slash Collection Program for over two decades. County residents have taken advantage of several slash collection sites per year through this program.

In an effort to significantly increase the amount of forest slash collected and processed, Jefferson County will soon be releasing an open RFP to solicit proposals from commercial industry. We will be looking for creative ideas such as curtain burning, mulching, composting, generating bio-mass energy generation, using biochar, etc.

Proposals will include requested information for potential slash collection site identification, processing methods and possible collaboration with the existing Jefferson County Sheriff's Office slash collection program. Jefferson County will collect all RFP responses and determine which proposals if any, are acceptable to the county.

Follow our website ([jeffco.us](http://jeffco.us)), industry publications, social media feeds, etc. for the actual release date and details of this RFP.

## Information Meeting will Address Open Space Flood Recovery

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Wednesday, November 13, 2013, 8:37:06 AM | Julie →

**by Tom Hoby, CPRP, Open Space/Jeffco Parks Director**  
**comments open from November 13 until December 3**



The September storms that swept across the front range not only damaged homes, property and roads. The

historic flooding also caused severe trail damage and the subsequent closure of several trails, and two [Jeffco Open Space Parks](#) in their entirety. As extensive repair work has taken place and volunteer efforts have aided in the recovery, only one park (Apex Park) will remain closed into 2014. Additionally, specific trail segments will remain closed at White Ranch Park, North Table Mountain Park and Alderfer Three Sisters Park into 2014.

There's good news, too. Damage has been repaired at Matthews Winters, Mount Galbraith, South Valley Parks and popular Lair o' the Bear Park along Bear Creek was reopened on November 9 after extensive work to reroute and rebuild trails and picnic area were completed through staff diligence and volunteer support. One pedestrian bridge deemed unsafe will need to be repaired and the remainder of the Park is available for visitors to enjoy.

**To learn more about the status of flood recovery efforts by Jeffco Open Space, please attend a public information meeting on Tuesday, November 19, from 6-8pm, at American Mountaineering Center located at 710 10th Street, Golden, CO 80401, in the conference rooms.**

The presentation will include our plan and project strategy, as well as involvement with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Following the presentation, staff experts will be available for one-on-one questions regarding trails and repair work occurring in the three parks. Information on how individuals and groups can participate in flood recovery efforts will also be available.

Apex Park suffered the greatest flood damage and will require an in-depth recovery process. Apex trail, the main artery for the Park, has gullies up to 8 feet wide, mounds of boulders, and long stretches where all the soil has been washed away. [View photos of the flood damage at Apex Park.](#) The work to reopen portions and later, the entire park, will extend into 2014.

To sign up for Apex Park updates, please email: [apexpark@jeffco.us](mailto:apexpark@jeffco.us). To receive a monthly electronic newsletter with the latest information from Jeffco Open Space and Parks including features, programs and events, subscribe to Panorama, using either your smart phone QR scan application on the code below or use this link [Panorama Subscription](#).



## Going Back to School

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Tuesday, February 26, 2013, 11:06:44 AM | Julie →

**by Jennifer Fairweather, Human Resources Director**  
**comments open from February 26 until March 17**



We recently held an education fair and information forum for our employees at Jefferson County. During the fair we learned that going to school after you have been in the work world is not easy!

Here is some information on where to start if you are returning to school and how to find the right college or university:

- Decide if you are ready to go back to school. Going back to school sounds glamorous, but it's really a lot of hard work. Are you ready? Make sure you know what you want and have the support you'll need in place before you set out on your new adventure.
  
- Choose a degree. Once you're sure it's the right time to go back to school, make sure you know exactly what it is you want to do with your degree so you know which degree to get. That sounds obvious, but it's an important step. Some questions you may ask yourself are:
  - o What do you want to study?
  - o What will you do with your education?
  - o Are you getting the right degree for the job you want?
  
- Take a few career tests. There are assessments and quizzes available to help you figure out what you're good at and what you'd like to do.
  
- Make an appointment with a Career Counselor. Career counselors are available in almost every city and at almost every school. Search online directories or ask your local librarians for help.
  
- Choose between online or on-campus. Now that you know what you want to do and which degree you'll need to do it, it's time to decide what kind of campus is better for you, a physical classroom or a virtual one. There are benefits to each. Some examples are:
  - o Is cost an issue? Online courses may cost much less than traditional courses.
  - o Do you learn better in a social setting, or do you prefer to study on your own?
  - o Do you have a quiet place at home and the technology you need for online learning?
  - o Is there a local school that offers the degree you want, and is it convenient?
  - o Are you the kind of student who needs face-to-face time with our teacher?
  - o Do you have reliable transportation if you choose to learn on campus?

These are just some areas to explore if you are planning to return to school. It's important to give time to research these areas and take full advantage of the many resources available to assist you. Education, training and development is an investment in you!

## Strengthening the Jefferson County Community through Partnership

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Wednesday, January 02, 2013, 8:49:54 AM | Julie →

**by Lynn Johnson, Human Services Director**

**comments open from January 2 until January 22**



Partnership is powerful. Here at Jefferson County Human Services we know partnership is necessary in order to achieve the very best results. With the power of several minds working together new and creative ideas are born, various viewpoints are shared, and positive results take place. We do everything we can to collaborate with other government agencies, non-profit groups, businesses, and the faith based community. Using each other as resources makes us all more successful, and is ultimately in the best interest of the people we serve. We couldn't do it alone.

At this year's Power of Partnership Conference anyone can come discover the power of working together. The conference celebrates collaborations between Jefferson County and the faith community, brings practical ideas to make these collaborations more effective, and enlists new partners and partnerships to serve our community. Join us on Thursday, February 21, 2013 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Waterstone Community Church, 5890 South Alkire Street, Littleton.

We will focus on housing, education, family, building communities, hunger/poverty, and special populations. Anyone who has a desire to partner with others to make the community a better place to live is encouraged to attend. We all come with an open mind and a willingness to work together. Through this conference all are expected to discover the power of partnership.

For more information go to [the Power of Partnership website](#). To register to attend, go to [the the online event registration form](#).

## National Diversity Awareness Month

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Tuesday, October 23, 2012, 10:18:53 AM | Julie →

**by Jennifer Fairweather, Human Resources Director**

**comments open from October 23 until November 11**



October is National Diversity Awareness Month! National Diversity Month was created as a way to celebrate and build inclusiveness within the workplace. This month was established to provide a forum to embrace who we are, despite our many differences.

Besides the obvious differences people bring to the workplace, such as age, gender or race, it also a forum to recognize differences in the way people communicate, process information and solve problems. Through all of these differences, organizations facilitate a creative and well-rounded workforce.

## FasTracks, West Line September Update

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Wednesday, September 19, 2012, 10:34:15 AM | Julie →

**by Public Information**

**comments open from Sept. 19 until Oct. 8**



Fall on the West Rail Line concludes civil construction, and gets us one step closer to opening day. Other than a few crews working on punch list items, Denver Transit Construction Group has completed their work. Balfour Beatty Rail, Inc. will continue electrifying lines and installing devices through 2012 and Swinerton Builders will be working on the parking garages through spring of 2013.

### **Bike event a huge success**

More than 300 community members flocked to Oak Station bright and early on Saturday morning as Tour de FasTracks - West Rail Ride took over the streets and bike paths of the corridor. Tour de FasTracks - West Rail Ride was a monumental success thanks to the many local sponsors who provided gifts, monetary donations and in-kind support of the event. Also making the event a success was our community organizations and city representatives. The first Tour de FasTracks occasion will surely guide the way to upcoming Tour de FasTracks' on future lines.

### **From Construction to Operations**

As construction winds down on the West Rail Line, activities abound as we move toward opening day on April 26, 2013. The second light rail clearance test took place on Friday, September 14. This test focused on making sure that the train would clear items on the platforms and along the corridor that were still under construction during the original clearance test last March. Other RTD operations testing will resume in early November.

In early October, the Safety Road Shows roll out. RTD representatives will visit the four Lakewood elementary schools within four blocks of the alignment, including Eiber Elementary, Jeffco Open School, Mulholm Elementary and St. Bernadette's School. The Road Show will feature four stations geared to teaching kids to walk and bike to school safely. Among the four are a helmet fitting station, a hand signal station, a coloring station and a mock crossing demonstrating activated crossing arms.

Art-n-transit is near and dear to many of you and RTD will include artwork at key locations along the West Rail Line. With opening day only seven months away, art selection has begun. The first four calls for artists went out earlier this month with semi-finalists scheduled to be selected by September 24, 2012 and finalists named by early November. A second group of calls for artists will go out later this month.

### **Final West Rail Line Community Tour**

Three years later, seventeen tours completed, over 1,000 seats filled, we celebrate our final West Rail Line community tour this Friday, September 21. Wednesday and Thursday are your last chance to sign up and take part in our grand finale tour of the West Rail Line.

### **Construction Update: Area 1 (Jeffco Government Center to Federal Center)**

#### ***Current and Ongoing Activities***

- Final placement of furnishings and landscape work at the Jefferson County Government Center•Golden Station will continue through September.
- Work on the entrance to the Jefferson County Government Center will resume later this month, requiring traffic controlled operations in the round-about.
- Work on top of the Colfax Bridge will continue this month and next.
- Work on Union Boulevard between 6th Avenue and 4th Avenue is nearing completion. Minor landscape activities are scheduled for late September.
- Final irrigation and landscape work continues in Area 1.

*Information contained in this post adapted from the FasTracks newsletter.* To subscribe to the newsletter or get the latest information, see the [FasTracks West Corridor website](#).

## **A Lot Going On at Jefferson County Parks**

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Tuesday, August 21, 2012, 4:27:28 PM | Julie →

**by Tom Hoby, CPRP, Open Space/Jeffco Parks Director**  
**comments open from August 21 until September 10**



The summer has been a busy time for [Jefferson County Parks](#), with nature and history programs, spectacular special events, restoration and trail projects, plus youth development camps and clubs. Keep track of all the events and goings on with the new Parks Panorama e-newsletter delivered each month to your inbox.

Featuring news items, important updates from all of our facilities, as well as recurring sections on health, volunteering, partnerships, nature, history and more can be delivered to you by subscribing from the [Parks webpage](#). In the upcoming edition of Panorama, you'll find stories on a Presidential campaign stop at the Fairgrounds as well as highlights from the 2012 Jefferson County Fair held August 9-12:



### **2012 Campaign Event at the Jeffco Fairgrounds**

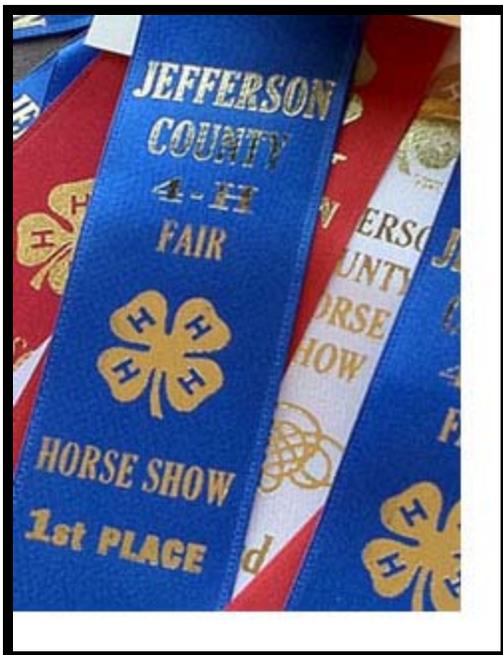
Presidential campaigns have made several stops at the Fairgrounds over the years and most recently, the Fairgrounds hosted a campaign event for the presumptive Republican candidate for the United States President, Mitt Romney. Thousands of supporters flooded to the Fairgrounds on August 2nd to hear the candidate energize the crowd.



### Jeffco Fair & 4-H Match Up

Rodeo, carnival, livestock, horse shows and projects...the Jefferson County Fair had them all and more. For 149 Jefferson County 4-H members, the Fair was the culmination of a year of planning, hard work and effort toward this opportunity to display their livestock, projects and other products.

The Fair had plenty of opportunity for 4-H members and others to enter an exhibit either in the Open Classes or in the 4-H projects. Projects in the 4-H competition and contests crossed into wide-ranging educational areas from shooting sports to sewing to rocketry and robotics. In all, these youngsters submitted 919 Fair entries!



Livestock in all shapes and sizes were exhibited and entered into competition. The State Fair is the next stop for some of the 4-H'ers whose entries met specific qualifications as well as being at the top of their class. Ribbons galore decked the entries as 4-H participants smiled over their successes.

With a new twist on the 4-H Junior Livestock Sale, it was followed by a 4-H Youth Market where members

marketed their livestock, sewing, photography, baking and other skills. Many a happy customer walked away with a quality purchase from a young rancher or craftsman.

The Fair had something for everyone who attended. Food vendors, chili cook-off and 4-H barbecues ensured that Fair-goers were well fed and supported worthwhile causes in the process. There was a rodeo and dance, a special horse show and carnival rides for the young or young at heart. If you missed it this year, you will want to put it on your calendar in 2013!

## Raising Awareness of and Preventing Child Abuse

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Tuesday, April 17, 2012, 11:21:07 AM | Julie →

**by Lynn Johnson, Human Services Director**  
**comments open from April 17 until May 6**



April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, a month committed to raising awareness and preventing child abuse; a task which we at [Jefferson County Department of Human Services](#) take very, very seriously. Jefferson County has always been a strong community and a great place to live and while we may not like to think child abuse and neglect can happen in this community, it does. In Jefferson County, 8,004 referrals of abuse were reported in 2011, a 5% increase from 2010. These numbers are devastating because even one child who is abused or neglected is one too many.

Children are our future and while they are our most valuable resource, they are also the most vulnerable. It will never be enough to intervene after child abuse has occurred. By educating the community and by directly supporting and strengthening Jefferson County families, we hope to both prevent child abuse and challenge community members to take a stand against violence.

Throughout the month of April, pinwheel gardens are on display at the Administration and Courts Facility, the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, the Human Services Building, and the Jefferson County Head Start in Arvada. [Pinwheels for Prevention](#) is a national awareness group that helps communities all across the U.S. plant similar gardens to support the child victims of abuse. In addition, blue ribbons are hanging in the Human Services building in honor of children who have faced such tragedy. Other events and fundraisers are planned for Jefferson County employees and money raised will go to [Ralston House](#), a child advocacy center located in Wheat Ridge that is a nationally-accredited nonprofit agency and helps children and teens who are suspected of being sexually or physically abused.

"National Child Abuse Prevention Month is a time to increase awareness of child abuse and neglect and

encourage the community to report any child abuse and become involved in keeping children in our community safe, not just this month but all year long," states Mary Berg, Children, Youth & Families Division Director.

All children have the right to be safe and 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. Please do your part in preventing child abuse and neglect every day. Together, we can make a difference.

If you witness child abuse or even suspect it may be happening please call and report it through the Child Abuse Hotline at 303-271-HELP. For more information call 303-271-4015 or visit our [website](#).

## First-of-its Kind Program Rewards People for Achieving and Maintaining a Healthy Weight

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Tuesday, February 21, 2012, 8:55:14 AM | Julie →

**by Jennifer Fairweather, Human Resources Director**  
**comments open from February 20 until March 10**



A Weigh and Win kiosk is coming to the Jefferson County's Administration and Courts Facility **the week of February 22 at Noon through March 1 at 3:00 pm**. The kiosk will be located in the Atrium of the building.

Kaiser Permanente in Colorado has partnered with icentaHealth, a local health technology company, on the Nation's First Community-Wide Program that offers rewards for positive health results.

Kaiser launched this new program in the metro-Denver area to reward people with a cash incentive for achieving healthier lifestyles. Weigh and Win is available for free to all Coloradans ages 18 and over. You may join no matter which medical insurance coverage you have or even if you're not covered through the county. Individuals who sign up for the program will participate in quarterly photographed weigh-ins at kiosks stationed throughout the Denver-metro area and receive cash incentives for positive results.

We have partnered with Kaiser Permanente to bring a mobile kiosk to the Administration and Courts facility several times in 2012 for your convenience. Participants will have access to a variety of online coaching tools to help them reach their goals.

### HOW IT WORKS

- Individuals can sign up online at [www.weighandwin.com](http://www.weighandwin.com).
- After filling out the enrollment information, participants must then visit one of six permanent Weigh and Win kiosks located throughout the Denver-metro area, or the mobile kiosk here at Jefferson County coming later this month, where they will have their initial weight recorded and a photo taken.
- An individual's progress is measured and tracked through quarterly weigh-ins at one of these kiosks, and success is rewarded quarterly through debit cards according to percentage of weight lost. Participants who maintain a healthy weight are eligible for a variety of prizes and coupons.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

[www.weighandwin.com](http://www.weighandwin.com)

### ADDITIONAL KIOSK LOCATIONS

Permanent Weigh and Win kiosks are stationed at the following locations:

- Kaiser Permanente East Denver Medical Office: 10400 E. Alameda Ave., Denver
- Kaiser Permanente Franklin Medical Office: 2045 Franklin St., Denver
- Carbon Valley Library: 7 Park Ave., Firestone
- Denver Health: 777 Bannock St., Denver
- Goodson Recreation Center: 6315 S. University Blvd., Centennial
- Commerce City Recreation Center: 6060 E Parkway Dr., Commerce City

Kaiser plans to add additional kiosks in the coming months in Colorado Springs, Glendale, Lakewood and Broomfield.

## Accomplishments of 2011

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Monday, January 30, 2012, 12:42:13 PM | Julie →

**by the Board of County Commissioners**  
**comments open from January 30 until February 18**

The year 2011 was a busy and productive one for the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners. Donald Rosier was sworn in as a County Commissioner on January 11, 2011 and Faye Griffin was elected 2011 chair of the BCC on that date. On March 2, John Odom was sworn in as a commissioner, filling the vacancy created when Commissioner McCasky resigned.

**To see the full list of highlights**, see the [Board of County Commissioners webpage](#).

## Rocky Mountain Air Show This Weekend

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Tuesday, August 23, 2011, 12:20:55 PM | Julie →

**by Kenneth Maenpa, Airport Director**  
**comments open from August 23 until September 11**



This year's show is shaping up to be one of the best shows at the [Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport](#). This is a great family event, with many of the proceeds going back into our community.

**Some of the MUST SEE events are:**

- >> B-2 Stealth Bomber Fly Over – Saturday
- >> Adventure Zone – Kids Space – Provides a wide variety of opportunities to experience the fun and excitement of aviation
- >> Rocky Mountain Regional Fly-In – See unique and historic aircraft from all over the county
- >> Static Displays – Including BAE – Gnat, F-16 Fighting Falcons from Buckley AFB, P-51 Mustang, T-6, TBM Avenger, C-130 Hercules, Yak-52, and more!

**Ticket Info:**

Tickets can be purchased online at <http://rmairshow.ticketbud.com/tickets> or at any local King Soopers. Tickets can also be purchased at the gate, however buying tickets in advance will save you money and time (by avoiding lines at the Front Gate Box Office).

[See the Airport's web page for all the details](#) on hours, performers, ticket info and notice notices. Additional information can be found at [www.rmairshow.com](http://www.rmairshow.com) or call 720-945-9167.