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Upcoming Meetings:

Open Space: Dec. 10 7pm, 700 Jeffco Parkway, Suite 100
Board of County Commissioners Every Tuesday at 8:00 am
Foothills: Dec 10 6 pm, The Peak.
Board of Adjustment: 1st & 3rd Wednesday at 9 am, Hearing Room One, 100 Jefferson County Parkway
DRCOG: Dec. 18, 6:30pm, 1290 Broadway, first floor conference rm.
Planning Commission: 1st, 2nd, 4th, and 5th Wed. 6:15 pm, Hearing Room One, 100 Jefferson County Parkway

Calendar for upcoming meetings: **Dec. 4 Christmas Pot Luck Jan –NO MEETING Feb 5 Mar 5**

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Draft Minutes for November 6 Meeting—Attendance: Winnie Burdan / Williamsburg II, Diane Suchomel / At Large, Ray & Shujin Moore & Al Hintz / Kipling Hills, Cheri Paavola / At Large, Bob & Pat Ham / At Large, Mary Parker / At Large, Ralph & Pat Miller, & Alicia Combes / Columbine Hills Civic Assoc., Larry Major / Columbine Knolls South Estates, Burke & Betty Steinke / Lakehurst West HOA, Shirley Jervis / Columbine Knolls, Jemal Touba / Trappers View, Greg Kottcamp / Lakehurst West Filing #5, Capt. Al Simmons, Sheriff Jeff Schrader / Jefferson County Sheriff's Dept., Bernie McDowell, Carl Neu, Ray Goodheart / Jeffco5, Logan MacMillan.

The meeting was convened at 6:55 p.m.

Winnie Burdan, President, welcomed everyone.

Special Reports – Sheriff Jeff Schrader, Jefferson County Sheriff's Department was present. He wanted to address concerns on staffing. Patrol is down by 21 positions from the authorized staffing. To compensate, they reduced crime prevention deputies, Direct Operations staffing, and the traffic unit. The turnover rate in 2011 was just less than 3%. It is 5% in their industry. The turnover rate in 2012 was 6%. In 2013 it looks like it will be 8%. Turnover in Civilian Staff is higher across the county.

They have 9-10 people in training. They will go to the Detention Center. The people they replace will go to Patrol. They graduate in Dec. 2013. They are answering crime calls first.

Captain Al Simmons is in charge of the South District. If you have questions, you can ask him or Ann Smith. Al Simmons can be contacted at asimmons@jeffco.us or 720-497-7260. Ann Smith can be contacted at asmith@jeffco.us or 720-497-7200.

The average response time has stayed the same even with the layoffs. Emergency calls are given High Priority. The response time has also stayed the same for Priority 2 calls. It has decreased for lower priorities.

Next year's budget is set by the Jefferson County Commissioners by Nov. 25. It should be approved in December. However we are supported by Property Taxes and they haven't changed much.

A lawsuit has been filed by several deputies and sheriffs. Due to the reductions, the Sheriff's Department has not been able to administer their steps in grade. They hope to correct this over 2-3 years.

Someone was trying to look up a crime in their neighborhood. The Crime Map wanted an ID. The person only had a Report Number. The crime map posting listed an ID# for the crime, but to get a copy of the JCSO report he was told he needed the report number assigned by the Sheriff's office. That report number isn't included in the Crime map posting. People can contact Capt. Simmons or Ann Smith if they want additional information on a crime posted on the crime map in their neighborhood

Does the Jeffco Sheriff's Dept. get help from the State Patrol? They have different responsibilities, but they do back us up.

On the Attrition Rate, where are the people going to? If they are not retiring or quitting the business, they are mostly going to the Denver Metro area.

Do the Commissioners decide how to spend the money or just give the Dept. a chunk of money? It is a little of both.

Captain Al Simmons, Jefferson County Sheriff's Department was also present. He said to feel free to call him any time. Burglary has increased, mostly unlocked vehicles and residences. There have also been calls preying on Seniors. Acting like family and asking for money. They are encouraging seniors to ask questions. They are also working with stores to be on the look out for their customers. Check that they are sure that it is not a scam. The Captain will try to attend our meeting every month.

Are Neighborhood Watches still in place? They are being replaced with new technology. The deputies had to be re-assigned.

There is a pine tree obstructing a slow sign at Columbine Hills School at the east entrance. The tree belongs to a residence. Al said that he would look into it. Road and Bridges notified the owner and he cut a few branches. Also you can contact the liaison at the school. Each Elementary School has a liaison.

There are also a lot of people running stop signs. Send Al an email.

Do they still loan out the speed limit trailers? Yes.

No one from **Foothills Parks and Recreation District** was present.

No one from **Jefferson County Public Schools** was present.

Tonight's speakers were **Carl Neu, Bernie McDowell, and Ray Goodheart**. They are from the **Jeffco5**. They are championing increasing the number of Jeffco Commissioners from 3 to 5. There was a hand-out.

There are several possible options. 5 Commissioners resident in 5 Districts (with redrawn Districts) or 3 Commissioners resident in 3 Districts plus 2 Commissioners At Large. If approved in 2014, they would have to redraw the district lines (if needed) in 2015. The new Commissioners would be elected in 2016 and take office in 2017. Currently our Commissioners are all At Large.

Many years ago Colorado State required 3 Commissioners for each County. There was an option to increase to 5 Commissioners when the population of the County reached 70,000. Jefferson County currently has a population of 545,000. In 1861 Jefferson County was rural. Now we have 6 municipalities. This is not a partisan issue. It is a Procedural change. It will result in better communication, transparency, and responsibility. They believe it should be on the ballot so that the people of Jefferson County can decide the issue.

Some people think that it will cost too much. The county budget is \$476M. 2 more Commissioners will cost \$325K per year plus a one time capital expense of \$425K for offices.

The easy way for this to happen would be for the Commissioners to put it on the ballot with no cost to taxpayers. The hard way for this to happen would be by petition, which would entail the cost to get 18,500 valid signatures. A survey in 2010 showed that 66% of the people feel that they are not listened to.

You can put comments at www.jeffco5.com. A list was passed around to be added to an Email List.

The Ballot will include a 2 part question. The first part is Should the number of Commissioners be increased from 3 to 5. The second part is if the answer is Yes, then should it be 5 Commissioners from 5 Districts or 3 Commissioners from the 3 existing District plus 2 At Large Commissioners.

Why can't we just become the City and County of Jefferson? This would require an amendment to the State Constitution. So all of the voters in Colorado would have to approve it. Also if done, then it would have to eradicate the existing municipalities and special districts.

The County is short of money. How can you justify this? The amount would be very small part of the budget. And it would not take effect until 2017 when we will hopefully have more money.

It is an issue of representation! Lookout Mountain fought a Church and lost. They felt that they had no representation.

A similar proposition was on the ballot in 1994 and lost.

Reports from Officers Roll Call was taken. We had 14 members present and we have a quorum.

Winnie Burdan, President, was present.

Ray Moore, Treasurer, was present. We have \$1,827.61.

Cheri Paavola, Secretary, was present. The Minutes for October were approved.

Diane Suchomel, Vice President, was present.

There is a Liquor Board Hearing tomorrow requesting a license for a new business at Woodmar Plaza,, called Marino's Pizzeria.

A Community Meeting on 13-116024PA for the rezoning to mixed use at northwest corner of Kipling and Bowles will be on Nov. 12 at 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. at The Peak. This is where they want to build apartments over the existing stores on the west side of the property. They will build an access bridge from S. Lewis St. The address is 10251 W. Bowles Ave.

A Community Meeting on the Jared's Nursery rezoning has not occurred yet. They want to build an Event Center on the 23 acres. *(update—several Cohope members attended that meeting. During the meeting the property owner said he is no longer planning on building an access bridge to it from S Lewis St. If he submits a formal application to the County for rezoning, then property owners within 500 ft of that property will receive notification of the hearing.)*

4 people showed up at our Adobe-a-Highway Fall Cleanup Day on Oct. 5.

On the evening of Nov. 13 RTD will have a TV/Phone Town Hall meeting. The dial in number is 1-877-229-8493 with pin

112070. The topic is the latest about the Bus and Light Rail Service.

Old Business None.

New Business Colorado Health Exchange is having a Town Hall on Nov. 16 from 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. at the Sheriff's community room. There will be a second Town Hall on Dec. 14 at the same time and place.

Announcements Our next meeting on Dec. 4th will be our Christmas or Holiday Pot Luck. It will be at the normal place in the Sheriff's South District. It will start at 6:30 p.m. (30 minutes early).

We adjourned at 8:20 p.m.—*Cheri Paavola*

COHOPE Treasury Activity: October-November 2013 W. R. Moore, Treasurer

Beginning Balance Oct 3, 2013	\$ 1827.61
Deposits	\$ 40.00
Lakehurst West filing 5 \$40	
Withdrawals	\$ 41.37
Nov Newsletter \$ 7.82	
Internet fee Nov 15-Feb15 \$ 26.19	
Dec Newsletter \$ 7.36	
Ending Balance Dec 4, 2013	\$ 1826.24

Open Space Master Plan Draft 2013 Jeffco Open Space Master Plan—In 2013, we are updating the Jeffco Open Space Master Plan. Our purposes are: to set our compass by establishing standards and best practices for services, management and programs; and to lead, share and create opportunities to provide life-enriching experiences. Please see the Draft Master Plan Maps #1 to #10 listed as resources below.

Fifteen public meetings have been held to gather input, and comments related to this draft plan will be accepted through Friday, December 20, 2013. Please send comments to trock@jeffco.us using the subject: JCOS Master Plan

Website: <http://jeffco.us/parks/about/open-space-master-plan/>

.Documents and maps are available on the website.

Open House on Bicycle Lane Study Jefferson County is hosting a public open house on the Bowles Avenue Bicycle Facility Study on Wednesday, Dec. 4 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. The meeting will be at Dakota Ridge High School, 13399 West Coal Mine Avenue. It will be an opportunity for citizens to provide feedback and for staff to gauge the level of support for the study before proceeding with any further design. Jeffco recently adopted a bicycle plan which identified the Bowles Avenue corridor as having potential bicycle lanes. The bicycle lanes could connect the C-470 regional trail, Kipling Parkway regional trail and trails at Clement Park as well as numerous schools, churches, shopping areas, parks, etc. Staff recently conducted a study on the feasibility of implementing bicycle lanes on Bowles Avenue from C-470 to Grant Ranch Boulevard. The potential project would require the removal of one through lane in each direction for a significant portion of the corridor.

To learn more about the county's bicycle and pedestrian plans or to view the Bowles Avenue Bicycle Facility Study, visit the Jeffco Transportation & Engineering web page. Derek Schuler, P.E., PTOE Traffic/Transportation Engineer 303-271-8457 dschuler@jeffco.us

DRCOG has a new sharing site—<http://drcog.mindmixer.com>

OUR Shared Vision. For those of you who live, work and play in the Denver metro area, you know there are a lot of great things about this region. You also know there are ways to make things better and ensure a good quality of life here in the future. That's where you come in. DRCOG has created this site as a place for the community to give feedback, make suggestions and have their voices heard in a way that may be more convenient than attending a public meeting.

For nearly 60 years, the cities and counties of the Denver region have worked together as the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) to further a shared vision of the future of the metro area and to make life better for residents. Metro Vision, the region's long-range plan for growth and development, supports an ongoing discussion about how best to protect and improve the region's quality of life. For nearly 20 years DRCOG has updated Metro Vision to reflect current challenges and opportunities while building on the strong foundation of the Metro Vision Guiding Vision originally adopted in 1992. DRCOG is now working with the region's residents to update Metro Vision for 2040. Your input helps us ensure all perspectives are heard as we move forward, and this feedback will complement other ongoing outreach efforts.

The Sustainable Communities Initiative (SCI), a three-year project funded by a \$4.5-million Sustainable Communities grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, will inform and support the update to Metro Vision, looking out to the year 2040. The SCI supports additional efforts to enhance housing and economic (See page 5)

THE BACKYARD

Columbine Knolls Voice

Columbine Knolls 50th Anniversary Almost Here Did you know that the first plot in Columbine Knolls was recorded on March 10, 1964? That means that 2014 will be the 50th anniversary of Columbine Knolls! We on the Board of Directors would love to hear from any original owners (or second owners). We'd like to have a series of special articles in the Voice throughout 2014.

If you are interested in sharing any stories or pictures, please contact the board either through the website (ckha.org) or call the phone number: 1-877-737-4220.

Columbine Knolls South II REVIEW

From President's Corner The CKSII Board of Directors did not meet in October but Board members and committees were still at work enforcing the covenants, reviewing ACC requests, preparing annual renewal notices, paying association bills and planning the Holiday Hayride. The Social Committee met and welcomed four new members, Steve Kalney, Dean Fitches, Jenny Blake and Christine Sheffield, who along with Bob Haberkorn, Jon Brouilet and Tom and Donna Tellchow, planned the CKSII Annual Holiday Hayride. Mark your calendar for Sunday, December 1st for this fun filled event to kick off the holiday season.

They discussed some new and exciting ideas to engage more families in our community.

In addition to the Holiday Hayride, they are planning a cookie exchange and holiday caroling for this December. They also discussed ways to encourage more homeowners to decorate for the holidays. The Social Committee is full of enthusiasm and energy so stay tuned for upcoming events!

The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office has noted a wave of community questions, concerns, and confusion as electric and gas-powered scooters have increased in popularity. Often called, 'go-peds' or 'razor scooters,' these vehicles look more like small motorcycles than simple scooters. The basic question is, "My child has a small gas-powered scooter. Can that be ridden on neighborhood streets and sidewalks?" Here's the short answer from the Sheriff. "No, if you stand up on it, and it has a motor, it is NEVER legal to ride it on a public street or sidewalk. Stand-up motorized scooters are only legal to ride on private property." The Sheriff's Office has put together some very good information about these scooters and I had that information placed on the "Jeffco Sheriff" page of the community web site, www.cksii.org. Take a look!

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we hope that your Halloween is happy, safe and full of fun!— *Stephanie Haberkorn, President*

Williamsburg II News

From President's Message With Halloween already a distant memory, we can now focus on that most gluttonous holiday we know and love as Thanksgiving, stuffing ourselves silly just short of a food coma because we need to be alert enough to get in line early at the retailers to perform some monetary gluttony next!! Here's hoping you're first in line and get everything on your Christmas list before everyone else. Yet at the end of the day, my wish is we find a sense of balance. Let's practice some portion control on Turkey day and give the chef permission that it's okay to not have to make a dozen side dishes and desserts. Give your arteries a breather, take a brisk walk and allow blood to flow again. Whatever we do, be sure to celebrate with friends, neighbors and family and be thankful for all you're blessed with. Happy Thanksgiving! As you emerge from that food coma and realize the holiday season has pounced upon you, remember to mark your calendars for the December community events sponsored by the Williamsburg II HOA, which include the annual Christmas Hayride scheduled for Saturday December 14th as well as the annual home Christmas Lighting Event on Wednesday evening, December 18th.



WEST METRO FIRE RESCUE

Turkey Fryer Safety Thinking about using a Turkey Fryer this year? Do you know the real risks involved with using a Turkey Fryer? Watch a short, informative yet humorous

video from William Shatner and State Farm about Turkey Fryers and their hazards.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ETBD0EqQGoU>

Here are some safety tips when using a Turkey Fryer:

1: Avoid oil spillover--don't overfill the pot. 2: Turn off flame when lowering the turkey into oil. 3: Fry outside, away from the house. 4: Properly thaw the turkey before frying. 5: Keep a grease-fire-approved extinguisher nearby.

Foothills Park & Recreation District Kate Dragoo Communications & Marketing Specialist (303) 409-2525; kate@fhprd.org

Skate with Santa Sunday, December 15 or 22, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Edge Ice Arena, 6623 S. Ward St., Littleton
Fee: Public skate admission applies, free skate rental with new toy item in original package (to be donated to the Jeffco Sheriff's Office Toy Drive.) Bring your camera for photos with Santa on the Zamboni. 303-409-2222

December Special – Free ID Our gift to you – a District ID for FREE! Has your District Resident ID Card expired, need to renew or never had one? Why should you get a District Resident ID Card? ID cards are required for ages 9 and up to receive District Rates for daily facility and golf admissions. ID cards are valid for 3 years; proof of residency is required to obtain your free ID. For more information, call 303-409-2100, or ask a Front Desk Staff Member. Valid December 1-31, 2013. www.ifoohills.org/offers

School's out, visitors in town – what to do? Stay active, entertained and connected with family and out-of-town guests during the holidays. Foothills provides extended hours and offerings for: \$3 Thursday - every Thursday, all day - valid for facility use at:

Peak Community & Wellness Center, Lilley Gulch Recreation Center and Ridge Recreation Center (not valid for land or aqua fitness classes and drop-in gymnastics.)

Public Skate at Edge Ice Arena from December 23-31, times vary

Drop-in Gymnastics at Lilley Gulch Recreation Center from December 23 – January 3, times vary

Open Swim at Ridge Recreation Center Activity Pool from December 23 – January 7: M-F 10:30 a.m. – 9 p.m., SAT Noon-5:30 p.m., SUN 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

For more information, call 303-409-2100 or visit: www.ifoohills.org/events

2013 Telephone Town Hall meetings reach thousands as RTD Directors connect with constituents

DENVER, Nov. 15, 2013—A total of 48,625 residents from the eight-county Regional Transportation District (RTD) participated in RTD's 2013 Telephone Town Hall meetings, which allowed them to pose questions to district directors and RTD staff, submit comments and suggestions and use their telephone keypads to respond to instant polls.

All 15 members of the RTD Board of Directors hosted the live telephone forums between Oct. 24 and Nov. 13, connecting with constituents on a one-on-one basis. The meetings are part of RTD's strategy to keep the public informed about current bus and light rail operations and the progress being made on the agency's FasTracks transit expansion program. Residents across the district received random calls through a telephone system that invited them to take part in the live forums. The innovative phone system automatically connected participants to the discussion and gave them the options of listening in or waiting in a queue to pose a question. Additional residents participated by calling in directly on a toll-free number. Callers expressed a wide variety of interests in RTD and its FasTracks program and asked their district directors questions about bus and light rail operations as well as new rail lines RTD is adding to its system across the Denver area. RTD leadership and FasTracks project managers assisted directors in responding to questions with detailed information. "It was gratifying to hear the level of interest our constituents have in our current services, and to be able to clarify information, address concerns and provide updates about our new rail lines, bus rapid transit and Park-n-Rides," said RTD Board Chair and District L Director Lorraine Anderson, who kicked off this year's series with an Oct. 24 Telephone Town Hall meeting.

"We have found that our Telephone Town Halls are an effective way to connect effectively with many people at one time and to provide them with relevant information about RTD and the FasTracks program," Anderson said.

Over the course of this year's Telephone Town Hall meetings, RTD directors and staff fielded questions from callers about accessibility to trains and buses via wheelchair ramps, system safety, bus route changes, lost bus passes and smoking on light rail train platforms.

Some constituents asked about RTD's criteria for building out rail projects under the FasTracks program. Others weighed in with positive comments about current RTD services and made suggestions on how the agency can improve its bus routes and light rail service in the future.

Learn more about this year's RTD Telephone Town Hall meetings, read meeting transcripts, and listen to audio files by visiting http://www.rtd-fastracks.com/main_338.

FasTracks is RTD's voter-approved transit expansion program to build 122 miles of commuter rail and light rail, 18 miles of bus rapid transit service, add 21,000 new parking spaces, redevelop Denver Union Station and redirect bus service to connect the eight-county district better. For more information, visit www.rtd-denver.com.

(DRCOG Cont)

development opportunities, and leverage the benefits of the region's investment in FasTracks through outreach, collaborative planning, and identifying best practices. The SCI includes planning and implementation activities for the East, Gold and Northwest FasTracks corridors.

Grants for Sheriff's Office Approved The BCC approved three grants that will help fund programs in the Sheriff's Office.

The first, which was approved at the Oct. 22 hearing, is for \$69,227. The grant comes from the Colorado Department of Public Safety and will help fund two Sheriff's Office Victim Advocates. One is a full-time employee and the second is part-time. Victim Advocates are trained professionals that assist victims and witnesses of crimes and trauma in obtaining the support necessary to overcome their victimizations. The advocates help to ensure victim rights are provided as required by law.

The second grant, which was approved at the Oct. 29 BCC hearing, is from the Bureau of Justice Program. The \$114,527 will reimburse the costs related to housing foreign-born state criminal in the Jefferson County Detention Facility. The State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) provides reimbursement to counties for foreign-born inmates beyond the four days supported by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

The third grant, also approved at the Oct. 29 hearing, is for \$21,500 and is from the Colorado Department of Transportation's (CDOT), Office of Transportation Safety. This grant will help fund the Highway 93 High Speed Mitigation Project. It will cover overtime specific to patrolling with the goal of mitigation and reducing speeding traffic on Highway 93. It will also support the purchase of six new Lidar Radar Units with holsters for motorcycle deputies.

From BCC Actions Newsletter

Jeffco Public Schools news – Jeffco teacher wins prestigious Milken Educator Award In a surprise announcement at an all-school assembly on Tuesday, Nov. 12, Bear Creek High School social studies teacher Jose Martinez was presented with a \$25,000 check from the Milken Family Foundation in recognition of his exceptional work as a model teacher for the state and nation.

The award was presented in collaboration with the Colorado Department of Education. Commissioner of Education Robert Hammond and Milken Family Foundation Chairman and Co-Founder Lowell Milken were on hand in Lakewood for the announcement and celebration of Martinez's talent and dedication.

"Mr. Martinez is a leader and mentor to his students and a supportive and collaborative peer to other educators," said Hammond. "His work challenges his students and extends beyond the classroom. He is a positive force in the classroom and in his community."

Martinez, a six-year teacher, teaches civics, economics and senate in grades nine through 12. He brings citizenship, politics and financial literacy to life with interactive community-focused experiences. He believes that his students need to understand how they, their community and nation influence and are influenced by people, business, alliances, global organizations and events from around the world.

SPARE CHANGE HELPS FLOODED SCHOOL REBUILD Sierra Elementary School students raised more than \$1,800 in spare change over three days to help a Colorado community in need. The school partnered with the All for Books/Scholastic Book Fair to raise money for library books for Crestview Elementary School in Boulder County. Crestview was one of the schools devastated by the floods this fall. Their library was flooded not once, but several times, and many books were destroyed. Because of the Sierra students' generosity and partnership, Crestview can begin to rebuild its library.

JEFFCO TEACHERS ARE HEROES AT HEART The Jeffco Schools Foundation works to celebrate teacher heroes in our classrooms every day. This year's My Teacher, My Hero honorees are Bear Creek High School (BCHS) social studies and civics teacher Jose Martinez III and Governor's Ranch Elementary School instructional coach Kathy Pyc. BCHS Principal Kevin Carroll said Martinez is a teacher who can change the world for the better. "He uses his trust to inspire his students to work hard and plan towards making their future hopes and desires a reality," said Carroll. Governor's Ranch Principal Mary Rose Keyes said Pyc is an everyday hero. "She knows our students' names and connects with them in the hallways and classrooms," she said. "She perseveres through the toughest of tasks and does so with integrity and grace." My Student, My Hero and My Teacher, My Hero awards honor graduating seniors and teachers who have demonstrated leadership, service and perseverance, professionalism, commitment and passion for education. Join the foundation to celebrate these heroes on Wed., Jan. 15 from 5 – 7 p.m. at the Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities. For more information, call 303-982-2210.

HEALTHY CHOICES LEAD TO HEALTH CAREERS Babies, ambulances and heart monitors were just a few things experienced by students from 12 Jeffco high schools during the Youth Leadership Jefferson County Health Day. Students enrolled in the year-long West Chamber Foundation program learned about health care careers, leadership and healthy choices while at Exempla Lutheran Medical Center. One hands-on session, hosted by Jeffco Public Health, generated innovative ideas for reducing obesity among K-12 youth. "Students were engaging and respectful – their voices were valued," said vice president Carol Salzman. "For more than a decade, Lutheran has provided students the opportunity to visit behind-the-scenes areas of the hospital and interact with healthcare professionals. The future of healthcare looks bright given the caliber of these students."

Holiday Fire Safety —By Sheriff Ted Mink—Decorating homes and businesses is a long-standing tradition around the holiday season. Unfortunately, these same decorations may increase your chances of fire. Based on data from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), an estimated 240 home fires involving Christmas trees and another 150 home fires involving holiday lights and other decorative lighting occur each year. Together, these fires result in 21 deaths and \$25.2 million in direct property damage. Following a few simple fire safety tips can keep electric lights, candles, and the ever popular Christmas tree and yuletide logs from creating a tragedy. Learn how to prevent a fire and make sure all exits are accessible and not blocked by decorations or trees. Remember: Celebrating with alcoholic beverages may impair judgment for proper control and extinguishment. The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office asks for your help to ensure that you have a fire safe holiday season.



Sheriff Ted Mink

Holiday Lights

Maintain Your Holiday Lights Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up. Use only lighting listed by an approved testing laboratory.

Do Not Overload Electrical Outlets Do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet. Make sure to periodically check the wires - they should not be warm to the touch.

Be Mindful of Exterior Decorations Trees are dormant in the winter and live on much less moisture. Even if snow is on the ground, holiday lights on trees beyond the home can provide an ignition source.

Holiday Decorations

Use Only Non-flammable Decorations All decorations should be non-flammable or flame resistant and placed away from heat vents. If you are using a metallic or artificial tree, make sure it is flame resistant.

Don't Block Exits Ensure that trees and other holiday decorations do not block an exit way. In the event of a fire, time is of the essence. A blocked entry/exit way puts you and your family at risk.

Never Put Wrapping Paper in the Fireplace Wrapping paper in the fireplace can result in a very large fire, throwing off dangerous sparks and embers that may result in a chimney fire.

Candle Care

Never Leave a Burning Candle Unattended Consider using battery-operated flameless candles, which can look, smell and feel like real candles.

If You Do Use Lit Candles Make sure candles are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be easily knocked down. Keep candles at least 12 inches from anything that can burn. Avoid using candles in bedrooms and sleeping areas.

Never Put Lit Candles on a Tree Do not go near a Christmas tree with an open flame - candles, lighters, or matches.

Christmas Trees What's a traditional Christmas morning scene without a beautifully decorated tree? If your household includes a natural tree in its festivities, take to heart the sales person's suggestion - "Keep the tree watered." Christmas trees account for hundreds of fires annually. Typically, shorts in electrical lights or open flames from candles, lighters, or matches start tree fires. Well-watered trees are not a problem. A dry and neglected tree can be.

Selecting a Tree for the Holidays Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needles should not break if the tree has been freshly cut. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree has been cut too long and, has probably dried out, and is a fire hazard.

Caring for Your Tree Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks. Be careful not to drop or flick cigarette ashes near a tree. Do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks. Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.

Disposing of Your Tree Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood-burning stove. When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly. The best way to dispose of your tree is by taking it to a recycling center or having it hauled away by a community pick-up service.

Fireplace Safety More than one-third of Americans use fireplaces, wood stoves and other fuel-fired appliances as the primary heat sources in their homes. Unfortunately, 36% of residential home fires occur each year. Many of these fires can be prevented. You can prevent the loss of life and property resulting from heating fires by being able to identify potential hazards and follow safety tips. Remember, fire safety is your personal responsibility...Fire Stops With You!

Keep it Clean Have your chimney or wood stove inspected and cleaned annually. Clear the area around the hearth of debris, decorations and flammable materials. Keep air inlets on wood stoves open, and never restrict air supply to fireplaces. Otherwise you may cause creosote buildup that could lead to a chimney fire.

Safely Burn Fuels Never use flammable liquids to start a fire. Never burn cardboard boxes, trash, or debris in your fireplace or wood stove. Use only seasoned hardwood. Soft, moist wood accelerates creosote buildup. In pellet



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The December meeting will be Wednesday, December 4, at 6:30 pm at the Jeffco Sheriff's South station— 11139 Bradford Road. This is the annual Christmas pot luck. There will be no scheduled speaker.

stoves, burn only dry, seasoned wood pellets.

Protect the Outside of Your Home Stack firewood outdoors at least 30 feet away from your home. Keep your roof clear of leaves, pine needles, and other debris. Cover the chimney with a mesh screen spark arrester. And don't forget to remove branches hanging above the chimney, flues or vents.

Protect the Inside of Your Home Install smoke alarms on every level of your home to include the inside and outside of sleeping areas. Test them monthly and change the batteries at least once a year. Provide proper venting systems for all heating equipment. Extend all vent pipes at least three feet above the roof. Never leave a fire unattended. Extinguish the fire before going to bed or leaving the house.

Dispose Properly Allow ashes to cool before disposing of them. Place ashes in a tightly covered metal container and keep the ash container at least ten feet away from your home and any other nearby buildings. Never empty the ash directly into a trash can. Douse and saturate the ashes with water.

Car windows shattered on both C-470 and Hwy 285 Jefferson County Sheriff's Office E-mail Alert

Three incidents reported since July Since July 24, 2013, the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office has received three separate reports from citizens' whose windows were shattered as they drove on either C-470 near Alameda Pkwy., or on Hwy. 285 near Hwy. 8.

On July 24th, a man was driving east on C-470 at Alameda Pkwy. when the passenger window of his truck shattered. No one was injured and no projectile was found.

On November 14th, a man was driving south on Hwy. 285 near Hwy. 8 when he heard a gunshot and the driver's side window shattered. No one was injured and no projectile was found.

On November 19th, a woman was driving west on C-470 near the Alameda Pkwy. when she heard a "loud boom" and the rear driver's side window shattered. No one was injured and no projectile was found.

In mid-November the Sheriff's Office responded to the area of S. Turkey Creek Rd. and Hwy. 8 after a woman reported seeing a man firing a gun across the highway from a brown or gold colored 4-door Honda sedan. No one was contacted or identified.

It is unclear whether any of these incidents are related to one another.

The Sheriff's Office has increased patrol along these roadways, and is asking for the public's help in reporting any suspicious activity in these areas. If anyone has information regarding these crimes, they are asked to call the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office tip line at 303-271-5612.