

COHOPE

council of homeowners organization for planned environment

The Facts—President / Public Relations / Development: Open

Vice President / Environmental Advocate: Diane Suchomel E-mail: diane@cohopejeffco.com
Secretary: Cheri Paavola 303-972-8080
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Treasurer/Newsletter/Membership: Ray Moore
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Upcoming Meetings:

Open Space: Nov 5, 7 pm, 700 Jeffco Parkway, Suite 100
Board of County Commissioners Every Tuesday at 8:00 am
Foothills: October 27, 6 pm, The Peak.
Board of Adjustment: 1st & 3rd Wednesday at 9 am, Hearing Room One, 100 Jefferson County Parkway
DRCOG: Oct. 21, 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: **Oct 7 Jeffco Library**,
Nov 4 Habitat for Humanity, **Dec Christmas Party**

**In This Issue: Information and Minutes 1, 2, 6-8 Back-
yard 3-6 Foothills 6 Sheriff 7**

Draft Minutes for Sept. 2 Meeting Attendance: Diane Suchomel / At Large, Cheri Paavola / At Large, Bob & Pat Ham / At Large, Winnie Burdan / At Large, Ralph Miller / Columbine Hills Civic Assoc., Judy Alliprandine / Columbine Knolls, Larry Major / Columbine South Estates, Cindy Coats / Columbine West Civic Assoc., Al Hintz / Kipling Hills, Burke & Betty Steinke / Lakehurst West HOA, Sharon Hilderbrant / Westbury HOA, Sheriff M J Martin / Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, Casey Tighe & Libby Szabo, Jefferson County Commissioners, Logan MacMillan & Kim Johnson, guests.

The meeting was convened at 7:00 p.m. **Diane Suchomel, Vice President**, welcomed everyone.

Special Reports – Sheriff Lieutenant Mark Martin, Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, said that last month there were 32 vehicle trespass (26 were unlocked vehicles), 27 residential burglaries which includes a few mailbox break ins and 9 open garage doors, 1 commercial burglaries, and 9 domestic violence with 2 arrests. There are seeing a lot of bicycles showing up in Thrift Stores.

Does the Sheriff's Department check for serial numbers? Yes.

What is the parameters for issuing an Amber Alert? If the person is 4 or 5, then they very aggressive. They are also aggressive if the person is younger than 16 and handicapped. If the person is 9 or 10, then they look at the details.

No one from Foothills Parks and Recreation District was present.

No one from Jefferson County Public Schools was present.

Tonight's speakers were **Jefferson County Commissioners Casey Tighe and Libby Szabo**. Commissioner Don Rosier could not attend.

Commissioner Casey Tighe represents District 2 which is from about I-70 to Jewel. Commissioner Libby Szabo represents District 1 which is north of I-70. They both stood at the front of the room and spoke.

Commissioner Libby Szabo has lived in Jefferson County since she was 10 years old. Before she became a commissioner, she was in the State Legislature. She started the first week of February.

As a legislator, her first bill was about trash. It took 4 months. There was a lot of lobbying around it. Any change would require a vote by the community.

The Road and Bridge Projects are S. Kendall Blvd Sidewalk and Culvert Repair, Quincy Ave between Kipling and Wadsworth, Wadsworth and Waterton Intersection, South Owens Street Re-alignment and Shoulders, Kipling between Coal Mine and Bowles, Chatfield Avenue between Pierce and Kendall, and Quincy Avenue between Eldridge and Simms.

Who will maintain the landscaping on Quincy between Kipling and Wadsworth? The Commissioners were not sure. The county can only maintain it if the County owns the land.

How can one determine who owns a parcel of land? It would be either Roads and Bridges, the County Assessor, or Planning and Zoning. Who maintains the islands on S. Kendall Road near Columbine Hills? They will find out.

Transportation projects are as follows. They will be adding a toll lane on C-470 between I-25 and Wadsworth. They will be completing the Beltway with cooperation with Boulder, Lafayette, and Golden. The funding will be from tolls and from Regional Transportation Authority.

There has been a lot of controversy around the Beltway. They are making progress. They have agreements in place.

They are still debating the funding.

Amendment 64 is about marijuana. The ordinance passed 1st reading. It bans retail sales and grow operations in Jefferson County. It would allow Testing facilities. It includes unincorporated Jefferson County.

They are currently working on Budget Projections. They expect a 20% increase in revenue, but it may be limited by Tabor. Most of the money comes from Property Taxes. They expect taxes to increase 3.5 - 4%. They are still working on bringing pay up to competitive levels. There are also increases in health insurance and benefits.

When will the County decide whether they will ask for a Mil Levy increase for next year? The decision will be made in October or November.

They are a Comprehensive Master Plan for Land Use. People say that they don't like density or they don't like sprawl. Commercial Zones make more money for the County.

The Master Plan for the acreage on the southwestern corner of S Pierce St/ W Coal Mine Ave includes a neighborhood center. A lot of people attended the hearings. They think the roads are not in place to support the center and there are no buses in that area. Residents are mad about zoning for a parcel of land. If there is a Formal Filing, they cannot talk about it.

Does the County approve Conservation Easements? They didn't know.

On the economic front, they are promoting the county to businesses all over the world. They are targeting medical, apparel, and aerospace businesses.

What is the status for Southwest Plaza? Bow Mar did not have the infrastructure. Jefferson County was not in favor of it. Bow Mar seemed to want the taxes but wanted the county to maintain the mall. We need to keep the mall vibrant.

The jails houses about 1,000 people. It is very expensive.

There is a library issue on the ballot where they want to divest themselves from control by the Jefferson County Commissioners. They also don't like the Tabor limits. If this happens and the libraries collect too much money, then they get to keep it but the County still has to return the overage. Our COHOPE speakers next month are from the Library.

Kim Johnson, Jefferson County School Board candidate, asked to speak for a few minutes. She is running for the open seat. The election is on November 3rd. She is the mom of 2, a 5th and a 6th grader. She volunteer at the school, Girl Scouts, and Stay at Home Moms. Both of her parents are teachers. She wants teachers to be allowed flexibility in dealing with their students. Her job is commercial property Manager. The issues that she is concerned about are what the school board can do for our schools and a return to rich conversation. What is her position on Charter schools versus Public schools. They replied that they are all public schools and supports equal funding for both. She asked for our support and vote.

Reports from Officers Roll Call was taken. We had 9 members present and we have a quorum.

We do not have a President.

Ray Moore, Treasurer, was not present.

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

Diane Suchomel, Vice President, was present.

She attended the Community Meeting for West Metro. 69% of their calls are for medical issues. They are applying for grants.

On the southwest corner of Coal Mine and Pierce, there is an 18 acre property. There is a Proposal for 320 apartments and 4 acres of commercial properties.

The proposed amendment changes for Jefferson County are in section 11. The are mostly due to court cases in another state. Section 10 has a lot of changes regarding signs. Section 10 has changes regarding open occupation.

There is a proposed Storage facility on Ute Ave, north of C-470.

Jared's Nursery requested, and was granted, a 1 day special event liquor permit for 3.2 beer during their Giant Pumpkin weigh off/Fall Festival to be held there on Sept 26th.

There is no new information about the CVS Pharmacy at Kipling and Bowles.

A property was sold and the HOA charged a transfer fee for the Facility Operation and Management. Is this normal? No one knew.

COHOPE has been asked to get involved in a fireworks issue. They want to reduce noise and put up a banner asking that fireworks be confined to only certain days. They want everyone to approach neighbors and explain issues such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and scared animals. They flyer would include statistics and good reasons for limiting fireworks for only 1 day. COHOPE does n'o support or condone any use of illegal fireworks.

An HOA needs to repave but doesn't have the money. They are asking for the name of a Bank that will give them an unsecured loan. No one knew of such a bank.

Foothills Parks and Recreation District has a survey on their website. They are asking what you use at their facilities, what needs to be improved, what is working well, and comments. It is at www.ifoohills.org/survey. They are working on their 15 year plan. They need volunteers for a Steering Committee.

Is Foothills approaching out of area HOAs with offers of discounts for their residents? No one knew.

Why are their so many school fees? Mr. Mickminimee is willing to investigate.

Why are they changing the bus fees? Buses are a huge expense. They don't get funds from the State. If you use it, you need to pay for it.

THE BACKYARD

Columbine Hills News

From President's Corner August 2015— I've been back in school for several weeks now and enjoy the saddle again. Fall is only a couple weeks away. This has to be one of the best summers I've ever enjoyed; my daughter was home from overseas for 6 weeks and my third grandchild was recently born; hard to ask for much more than that.

The last news-letter had a document in it presenting policies for the City of Littleton. I know many of you were confused about that. I did not ask that to be included to cause confusion but to inform you. I wish I could find a similar document from Jefferson County but I haven't yet.

What I was able to get was very long and complicated, hopefully, by next month we can present regulations for Jeff Co. If anyone can find a concise statement of Jeff Co regs please let me know.

For the time that I've been in this office I've been asking you to be good neighbors and help each other. I'm sure that has happened informally, but I am very excited to announce a program that we've been working on for a while. I've been in contact with a couple of churches that are in our community about working with us in these endeavors – and they have replied that- yes - they would like to be of assistance to our community. We are still putting together the pieces and I hope to be able to explain that all to you by next month. Basically if you – for reasons of health or injury – need temporary assistance in yard maintenance we will be able to match you up with a handful of people eager to help you.

The next thing I am excited about is some activities we have planned. We are trying to have an event for the community each quarter of the calendar year. This fall CHICA would like to host a kickball tournament. Our thoughts are to form one team from each quadrant and make an afternoon of it. The quadrants are divided North and South by the green belt and East and West by Kendall Blvd. We will have a round robin tournament and then a grill out to enjoy the rest of the time together at the shelter on Elmhurst. Keep an eye on the newsletter for dates and times.

Lastly, let me say thanks to you who become members of CHICA. We have well over 1300 homes and just over 300 of you are willing to volunteer the dues and become members, shoot, some of you even donate extra. That is so awesome. Would it be helpful to have more of you join – YES!! We could do so much more for you if more of you would join. Be the kind of neighbor you wish you had.—*Randy Montgomery - rmontgomery@frcs.org CHICA President*

2015 August Board Meeting Meeting attended by Board Members: Randy Montgomery, Don Hochhalter, Michaelle Otto, Pat and Ralph Miller, Jennifer Gerdes

Treasurer's Report: Presented by Pat Miller and 2nd by Michaelle Otto

Old Business: Weeding of the medians on Kendall – Needs to happen but we need help!

Signage for neighborhood and activities was discussed.

Jennifer is getting a quote from various local sign companies.

New sign put up at entrance to the neighborhood at Ken Caryl and Kendall the day of the meeting. Sign installed by Randy, Don and Ralph at Entrance to neighborhood at Ken Caryl and Kendall

Entrance sign on Kendall Blvd - waiting on Brett.

Membership Status – 27 new members added

New Business: Suggestion was made by Randy Montgomery, President, to change the CHCA meetings to the 2nd Saturday of Month – Ralph 1st motion and Dan 2nd motion

Hay Ride Date agreed by all – Dec 6th from 5-7pm

Fall "kick off" – Kickball tournament & Pie contest

Date for chili cook off – Jan 23

Community Assistance Program with St Philips and St Gregor's was discussed – Randy will mention in PC – Still work in progress.

Discussion around Meeting for road work and round about.

Columbine Knolls South II REVIEW

From President's Corner I would like to thank the HOA board members and interested community members who attended our August 11th HOA board meeting. It was a beautiful evening and was nice to see community members interested in our neighborhood and provide us feedback to help make our neighborhood a pleasant place to live for everyone. Debbie Opperman (HOA Treasurer) reported that we now have 316 members! I believe this is an all-time record!

The Architectural Control Committee (ACC) approved several applications for improvements. Thanks to Bob Pellegrini (ACC Chair), Steve Kalney and John Schutt for their continued due diligence! Welcome Committee members Jennifer Blake, Susan Brouillet and I delivered welcome baskets to 8 new neighbors. It was great to meet some of these folks and we are very excited to have them join our community. A special "shout out" to our Landscape Committee of Bob Pellegrini, Jay Seifert, Mary Kalney, Joan Weyhmler, Tom and Donna Telschow and Stephanie Haberkorn for keeping

the Chatfield entrance looking great!

Please take a minute to read the minutes included in this newsletter for more details of the meeting. I encourage anyone interested in becoming involved in the HOA to attend the next meeting and experience the positive force that is working hard to deal with issues that impact this community. The Board will be looking to fill four 4 vacancies at the beginning of next year so again please feel free to contact me if you are interested.

Please keep in mind that as fall approaches and the mornings become a little crisper and the days slowly grow a little shorter, the school children are starting back to school. Please be extra cautious as you drive through the neighborhood and watch out for children making their way to and from school. — *Jon Brouillet, President CKSII HOA*

From Board Meeting Minutes – August 11, 2015 President, Jon Brouillet, called to order the meeting at 7:00 pm. Board members Jon Brouillet, Jennifer Blake, Debbie Opperman, John Schutt, Bob Pellegrini, and Robert Sudar were in attendance along with Roger Borcharding of DARCO Property Management.

Treasurer's Report: Debbie reported a cash the HOA currently has 316 members.

ACC Committee: Bob Pelligrini reported 15 requests and 13 approved with 2 in pending status. Applications were as follows: 6 for paint, 2 for roofs, 1 for porch, 1 for a shed, 1 for windows, 1 for doors, 1 for a tree house, 1 for siding, and 1 for general landscaping.

Landscape Committee: Bob Pelligrini reported that the front gardens needed to be weeded and sprayed. Some members of the neighborhood have already done much of the weeding.

Welcome Committee: Jennifer Blake reported that they have done 5 more welcomes since the last meeting. They started using gift boxes instead of baskets to keep things better organized. Most of the times they visit a house they get to meet the people face to face.

Management Report: Four inspections were conducted since the end of June. Sixty violations were processed by mail and/or personal contact. This included 21 visible RVs; 18 visible trash containers; 2 visible piles of trash; 1 pile of rocks in the street; 8 weeds in grass, flower bed, or rocks; 4 lawns with dry grass; 4 dead trees; 1 overgrown bush blocking sidewalk; and 1 political sign. Two violations were sent to the HOA attorney for handling. Both RVs were moved but were returned and are still in violation.

Several homeowners came to the meeting to discuss the RVs on their properties and other various situations stemming from what they describe as excessive contact from the property management company. The Board will discuss this situation and contact homeowners if and when a decision is made. In the meantime, it was recommended to the homeowners to make sure contact with the property management company occurred using emails and that the board members were copied on those emails to ensure documentation and appropriate paper trail for all correspondence.

Old Business: Covenant Renewal: Greg Steward reported that he is finishing authoring the ballot and cover letter for Section 1 voting and will provide that to the Board and the HOA attorney for review.

New Business: Barbara Steward announced that she has gathered information from five different trash companies and will begin contacting them in October as the renewal deadline approaches.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Columbine West Civic Association Newsletter

From A Moment With The Board The August 11th CWCA meeting was at the pool pavilion, the Board conducted business as usual and welcomed a visitor to the meeting. Kathryn Kinney is a resident on S. Webster St and wanted to inform the Board/Officers about a postcard she received from the County addressing the proposed rezoning and development of Coal Mine Ave/ Pierce. Her home's backyard is adjacent to the property.

Presently we have 383 paid members, that is 100% of the CWCA 2015 goal, plus extra donations from generous households. National Night Out was a huge success. There was approx. 100+ people in attendance. Lucky 13 Fire Truck and Jeffco Sheriff office had vehicles and staff on site. Lots of food was supplied by Target & Shiloh House. Newsletters are now available for pick up at 7860 W. Portland Ave.

The Fall Festival is being planned for October 3rd, 2-6 p.m., offering a chili cook-off (with prizes), potential neighborhood car show, hayride from 3-5 p.m. by Blue Moon Stables, entertainment at 2:30, plus more items. The September Headliner will be addressing the Fall Festival.

Watch the newsletter for more details. Come join the neighborhood.

Remember if you have any suggestion of ideas, call the voicemail,

drop an email, just contact us. Look forward to hearing from the community. Residents are encouraged to attend any monthly meeting the next one is September 8th, 7:00 p.m. at Dutch Creek Elementary, second Tuesday of the Month.

The Leawood Reporter

From Leawood Civic Association Minutes: August 4, 2015 The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. In attendance were Rhonda Eveleth, Heather Hanley, Richard White, Debby Baker, Paul O'Connor and Nancy Bock.

The board spent the majority of the meeting discussing details of the annual Picnic, scheduled for Sat., August 22nd. Heather will create an itemized list for the board members. Paul O'Connor will provide his sound system for the event. Rhonda Eveleth motioned to compensate Paul O'Connor, for the use of his PA system, with a check for fifty dollars. Richard White seconded. All in favor.

Heather will provide Rhonda with 5 welcome baskets needed for new Leawood homeowners.

Lori will post upcoming LCA meetings, FYP's and events to the Leawood Facebook page. Paul will post the Picnic's Parade route.

Rhonda briefly discussed Front Yard Parties (FYP).

As of this meeting, all FYP dates are full! However, if interested, the 1st & 3rd Friday nights are always available.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m. These August minutes were finalized and approved, via email, on August 13, 2015.

From Leawood Metropolitan Recreation and Park District Minutes August 12, 2015 The Leawood Metropolitan Recreation and Park District Board meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. at Raccoon Park xeriscape area by President Kyle Sargent. Members present were: Donna Snyder, Mibby Luedecke, Linda Smith, and Dave Padilla, Parks Manager. Raccoon Park, Tract T and most of Weaver Park were walked before the 6:30 meeting started.

Public Comment - No comments.

Treasurer's Report – Donna submitted the Treasurer's Report and bills to be paid. Property tax revenue, ownership tax revenue funds were reported. Donna reported on an email from Lottery saying they just installed a new computer system and our lottery funds would be a little late in September. Money was transferred from savings to checking. Invoices for the month include: United Site Services, Waste Management, Denver Water, Excel, L&M for grass cutting and tree spraying, DBC Irrigation, Jenkins Custom Painting for painting the Leawood pavilion, Silver Sage Landscaping for trees at new potty area, doggie bags vendor, Dave's invoice and reimbursement to petty cash. Mibby moved the Treasurer's report be received and bills paid. Linda seconded and the motion passed.

Parks Manager Report – The new potty at the volleyball area has been installed and landscaping around the area completed. Dave is still working with the C-line contractor on the spraying of the weeds in the grass they planted for their repair of tracks made in the Leawood Park. They have not been very cooperative with timely repairs for the work on the C-line.

Jenkins Custom Painting painted the Leawood Pavilion, potty structure and stucco sign at Fair and Pierce. Dave repaired the solenoid on the sprinkler system that was torn out the night of the fireworks at Clement Park. Other irrigation was repaired as need in various parts of the park. L&M sprayed the green ash trees that had mites and whose leaves were curling. Dave cleared sediment from the small crossover bridge at Raccoon Park. The area is very low and the sediment builds and clogs the drainage. Low hanging branches were trimmed in various parts of the park, including a large branch that fell in Raccoon Park. Doggie bag replacements were made as needed.

Grass cutting and trimming was done in all parks. Urban Drainage's contractor removed two trees in Raccoon Park on the park side behind a resident's home. Dave also met with Urban Drainage in regard to a tree on the east side of Weaver Park that needs to come down. Weston was called in to remove the tree.

As a result of our walk through in Raccoon Park, Tract T and part of Weaver Park, Dave will be adding additional mulching in the xeriscape area at Raccoon Park, a small area on Tract T, the planter box at Leawood Park. New items have been added to the ongoing project list.

Old Business –Girl Scout Monarch Butterfly Station – Kyle shared the certificate of appreciation to the Girl Scout Troop 2017 for their project. An official sign was given to Dave to place in the planter.

Projects – The meeting started early to walk through the parks. Items were added to the project list.

Open Board positions – Discussion on open board positions will take place in September.

New Business – Meeting space – Mibby reported she had requested meeting dates at Leawood Elementary School for September through May from Jeffco. Kyle acknowledged he had received their contract and will sign and send in our insurance information.

Ball field request – We had a request from a resident for his 11 year old team to practice two days a week at the Leawood ball field. Kyle is checking with Jeffco Sports to see when they plan to use the field.

The meeting was adjourned 7:30 p.m.

Meeting Dates Day/Time: 2nd Wednesday of each month (unless noted), 6:30 p.m. Location: January to May – Leawood Elementary School June, July and August - Park pavilions or Board member's homes (school is closed) September to December – Leawood Elementary School— *Linda T. Smith, Vice President and Secretary*

Woodbourne

From Notes From the Board The August Board meeting was held on August 18, 2015. The meeting was moved up one day for everyone's convenience. The 2015 Woodbourne Pitmaster Challenge was a much bigger event than last year with twelve barbeque submissions. The West Metro Firefighters (who judged the competition) had their work cut out as they tasted and ranked all the entries. Congratulations go out to repeat Pitmaster Grand Champion, Dylan Hansen, for his unbelievable pork ribs. They were very impressive for a high school senior. The difference between first and third place was a mere two points on a 125-point scale. We hope everyone will come back for the event next year. Thank you to all the cooks and to our sponsor, Tom Walker of American Family Insurance. There were some new challenges with the pool this year. The pool went to reduced hours before the start of the school year. We will address how to cover the hours when guards are not on duty before the start of pool season next year. Kids are back in school so please watch your speed in the neighborhood. Our next Board meeting will be held on September 16, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. at the Clubhouse. Please contact Kim Herman with Management Specialists at 720-974-4234 with any questions. — *Jay Hansen, President*

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

Foothills October Events

Annual Senior Adult Open House FRI October 2, 9:00am-1:00pm Join us at the Peak Community & Wellness Center for a fun-filled day! There will be a variety of resources for seniors - balance & blood pressure testing, entertainment - plus FREE lunch! MUST REGISTER for the FREE lunch Entertainment provide by Chatfield High School Jazz Band! Benefit from this fun-filled day with a wealth of resources at your fingertips! Benefit from this fun-filled day with a wealth of resources at your fingertips!

October 23: Boo-rific Bash & Splash, 6-8:30 p.m. - at Ridge Recreation Center. \$5 per child, Adults free.

October 26: Winter/Spring 2016 Class Registration begins online

October: Kids' Nite Out - Saturdays, 7-10:30 p.m. - at Ridge Recreation Center

November 6-14: Foothills Theatre Company presents All in the Timing at the Ridge Recreation Center
 FRI, NOV 6 & SAT, NOV 7 (7 p.m.) SUN, NOV 8 (2 p.m.) FRI, NOV 13 (7 p.m.) SAT, NOV 14 (2 p.m.) Tickets \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door.

November 13: Mind-Body Open House - FREE at Peak Community & Wellness Center

November 25: Thanksgiving Eve Skate - at Edge Ice Arena Adults \$7, Youth 6 to 17 \$5, Youth below 6 \$3.

November 27-28: Turkey Bowl Flag Football Tournament - at Foothills Sports Arena

November 27-29: Gobbler Classic, Adult Hockey Tournament - at Edge Ice Arena Registration Fee \$650 per team

November: Kids' Nite Out - Saturdays, 7-10:30 p.m. - at Ridge Recreation Center

The speaker for our October meeting will be Rebecca Winning, Jefferson County Public Library Communications Director . Our October and November meetings will be at Lilley Gulch. The November speaker will be from Habitat for Humanity.

Old Business The position of President for COHOPE is still open.

New Business/ Announcements—None.

We adjourned at 9:00 p.m.—*Cheri Paavola*

COHOPE's Fall Adopt-a-Hwy trash pick up on our section of W Bowles Ave between S Simms St and C470 will be on Saturday Oct. 17 . We will meet at 8:30 a.m. in the parking lot of W Bowles Community Church. If you have already signed the County's required waiver form, then you don't need to resign it. Thank you for helping COHOPE continue our cleanup work along W Bowles Ave.

COHOPE Treasury Activity: September 2015 Beginning Balance September 2, 2015	\$ 1727.69
Deposits	\$ 0.00
Withdrawals	\$ 0.00
Ending Balance October 7, 2015	\$ 1727.69
W R Moore, Treasurer	

Behind the badge—Preparing for Power Outages by Sheriff Jeff Shrader If disaster struck today would you be prepared? In the spirit of September being National Preparedness Month the Sheriff's Office would like to encourage you and your family to create a plan, specifically for power outages. The loss of electrical power for an extended period of time can cause serious hardships — particularly for those who have special medical needs or disabilities. Additionally, gaps in communication, information, or service networks may have an effect well beyond the actual area that lacks electrical power.

Here are some things to keep in mind when preparing for a power outage:

* Maintain a supply of water and flashlights with extra batteries. More powerful battery-powered lanterns are also a wise investment. Fire officials strongly discourage the use of candles during a power outage because of the risk of fire.

* Portable generators are increasingly popular and invaluable during a power outage, but they emit deadly carbon monoxide gas and must be used properly. Never use generators indoors. Always place them at least 15 feet from doors and windows.

* Family members who have power-dependent health needs (i.e. oxygen, dialysis) should have an emergency plan in place at all times. Some families use dry ice for refrigeration following an outage.

During a power outage follow these food and electrical safety tips:

* Food safety—Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible. An unopened refrigerator will keep food cold for about four hours. A full freezer will keep the temperature for about 48 hours (24 hours if it is half full) if the door remains closed. Use non-perishable foods and staples after using perishable food from the refrigerator and freezer.

If it looks like the power outage will continue beyond a day, prepare a cooler with ice for your freezer items.

Keep food in a dry, cool spot and keep it covered at all times.

Never taste food or rely on appearance or odor to determine its safety. Some foods may look and smell fine, but if they have been at room temperature too long, bacteria causing food borne illnesses can start growing quickly. Some types of bacteria produce toxins that cannot be destroyed by cooking.

If food in the freezer is colder than 40° F and has ice crystals on it, you can refreeze it.

If you are not sure if food is cold enough, take its temperature with the food thermometer.

Throw out any foods (meat, poultry, fish, eggs and leftovers) that have been exposed to temperatures higher than 40° F (4° C) for 2 hours or more, and any food that has an unusual odor, color or texture, or feels warm to the touch.

* Electrical safety—Turn off and unplug all unnecessary electrical equipment, including sensitive electronics.

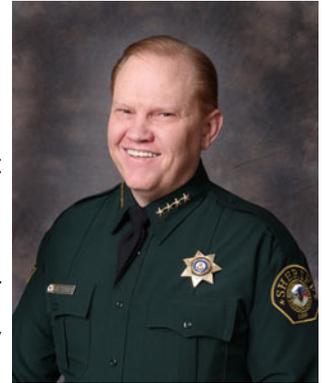
Do not touch any electrical power lines and keep your family away from them. Report downed power lines to the appropriate officials in your area. Turn off or disconnect any appliances (like stoves), equipment or electronics you were using when the power went out. When power comes back on, surges or spikes can damage equipment.

Leave one light turned on so you'll know when the power comes back on.

Eliminate unnecessary travel, especially by car. Traffic lights will be out and roads may be congested.

When using a portable generator, connect the equipment you want to power directly to the outlets on the generator. Do not connect a portable generator to a home's electrical system. If you are considering getting a generator, get advice from a professional, such as an electrician. Make sure that the generator you purchase is rated for the power that you think you will need.

For more information and access to emergency resources visit www.jeffco.us/sheriff/emergencies



From Jeffco Website: Jeffco School Board Recall Election Combined with Coordinated Election—The Jefferson County Clerk and Recorder and her elections staff, after many meetings and planning sessions, made the decision to move forward with placing the Jeffco School Board recall election on the ballot in the upcoming coordinated election on November 3, 2015.

When choosing the election date, Jefferson County considered all of the options and scenarios and had many conflicting requirements and timeline challenges to consider. No option was ideal and without challenges. However, with everything considered, the Clerk and Recorder's Office felt that combining the coordinated election and the recall election on the same ballot minimized voter confusion, best utilized the available resources and provided the best chance for a successful election.

More information on the recall process so far:

Origination of the Recall—The recall was originated by Jeffco United for Action to recall three of the current Jeffco Public School Board members: Julie Williams; John Newkirk; and Ken Witt.

Jeffco United for Action contact information: Email: info@jeffcounitedforaction.org Phone: 720-507-5981

Website: jeffcounitedforaction.org

Timeline—Jeffco United for Action filed its petition templates on June 26, 2015

The Clerk and Recorder looks only at whether or not the petition form has all required elements and does not take into account the content of the petition.

Based on state law, the petition was approved on July 7, 2015

State law requires 40 percent of voters that voted (or no more than 15,000) valid signatures must be collected.



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The October 7th meeting speaker will be Rebecca Winning, Communications Director, Jefferson County Public Library. The meeting will be held at Lilley Gulch (6147 S. Holland Way) at 7 pm.

The November 4th meeting will also be at Lilley Gulch at 7 pm. The speaker will be Steve Snyder of Habitat for Humanity.

The signatures collected were turned in to the Clerk and Recorder's Office on Aug. 18, 2015

Those signatures were deemed sufficient on Sept. 18, 2015

Number of approved signatures collected:

District One – Julie Williams: 33,900

District Two – John Newkirk: 34,188

District Three – Ken Witt: 33,942

No protests were filed against the petitions

Three successor candidates have met the requirements as of Sept. 18, 2015, to be placed on the ballot; two potential candidates still in process.

Brad Rupert, Susan Harmon, Ron Mitchell

Ballot Information—Ballots will be mailed the week of Oct. 12, 2015, to all eligible voters to the address on their voter registration file. Voter information can be verified at GoVoteColorado.com.

Your ballot will contain both the coordinated election and the recall election. There will be a recall question for each of the directors; each will require a vote. For more information on what the recall question will look like on the ballot, see the recalls FAQs.

All military and Jefferson County residents living overseas will be issued absentee ballots according to statutory guidelines. See the recalls FAQs for specific dates.

The Secretary of State voiced a concern about conducting the recall and its potential impact of its timing on that coordinated election. Jefferson County residents have asked this and other questions about this recall election, including the qualifications for successor candidates and if there will be any cost to this recall election. Please see the recall FAQs on the elections website for answers to these questions and more.

The Clerk and Recorder's office filed a recall mail ballot election plan with the Secretary of State, which includes a contingency plan in case any issues arise. This plan was approved by the Secretary of State on September 15, 2015. The county will conduct the election according to all relevant provisions of Title 1, C.R.S. and the Secretary of State's election rules.

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