

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: June 6, 6 pm, 700 Jeffco Parkway, Suite 100
Board of County Commissioners Every Tuesday at 8:00 am
Foothills: June 25, 6 pm, The Peak.
Board of Adjustment: 1st & 3rd Wednesday at 9 am, Hearing Room One, 100 Jefferson County Parkway
DRCOG: July 17, 6:30 pm, 1001 17th Street, Aspen/Birch conf room
Planning Commission: 1st, 2nd, 4th, and 5th Wed. 6:15 pm, Hearing Room One, 100 Jefferson County Parkway

**Calendar for upcoming meetings: June 5 Altitude Law
July 3 County Coroner ? Aug 7 BOCC Dahlkemper
Sept 4 Oct 2**

**In This Issue: Information and Minutes 1-2, 5-6, 8 Back-
yard 3-5 DRCOG 7**

Draft Minutes for May 1 Meeting Attendance: Diane Suchomel / At Large, Cheri Paavola / At Large, Judy Aliprandine / Columbine Knolls, Ray Moore / At Large, Al Hintz / Kipling Hills, Maureen Sielaff / At Large, Tom Majcen / Columbine Knolls South Estates, Ralph Miller & Randy Montgomery / Columbine Hills Civic Assoc., Brian Kellogg / Lakehurst West, Bob Ham / At Large, Logan MacMillan / At Large, Hal Doiron, Captain Scott Happ / Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, Erica Duplan / Jefferson County Sheriff's Department Animal Control.
The meeting started at 7:02 p.m.

Diane Suchomel, Vice President, welcomed everyone.

Captain Scott Happ, Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, discussed pending budget issues.

Trespass to motor vehicles dropped last month. A couple of people were put in jail recently. This may be the explanation. Burglaries also went down a little. Criminal trespass is increasing at trail heads.

Someone has seen transient vandalism. This is criminal mischief which is on a slight uptick.

Are there any homeless shelters in Jefferson County? No.

Jefferson County Sheriff's Department at the South Precinct has a drug drop off box. You do not need to black out your name on the label. They would prefer to put all of the medicines in a zip lock bag and recycle the bottle separately.

There was a tent camper at WalMart, but they left before the deputy arrived.

When they contact homeless campers, they have a week to clear out. If the officers go back, they will bring resource information that may be a help to the homeless campers.

Sometimes when they arrest people, the person just wants to go to jail. This is more common in winter.

Captain Happ can be contacted at 303-271-5609 or shapp@jeffco.us.

No one from Jefferson County Public Schools was present.

Tonight's speaker is **Erica Duplan** with **Animal Control**. Erica has been in the job for 2 years. She had hand outs on Problem Barking, Your Guide to Avoiding Human-Coyote Conflicts, Too Close for Comfort, Don't Feed the Wildlife, Plan for Pets, Animal Control Info, Seasonal Pet Care, and Foothills Animal Shelter.

They took 9733 service calls last year. That is about 30 per day. That included 634 bites. Rabies is prevalent in this area. They had 814 impounds which includes raccoons, skunks, and dogs. They issued 570 summons and 837 warning notices.

A lot of coyotes and foxes have mange. This disease causes them to lose their hair. If an animal is really sick, they have to euthanize it. Usually when you see a coyote, it is far off or you see the poop. Is mange cyclical? It depends on the health of the animal. It can kill the animal, but sometimes the animal can recover.

Rabies is starting early this year. They have had a skunk at Red Rocks and a bat. Also 2 dogs that were not in our county.

If a dog bites a human, you can press charges if it is on a leash and bites your hand. The Health Dept. must report.

They investigate the circumstances. They do not necessarily take the dog. But they have to check it for illnesses. Most issues are off leash or on a trail.

Are woodpeckers a protected species? Yes.

If you call them about rattlesnakes, they can relocate them.

If a swarm of bees form a nest in a wall, you cannot kill them. Contact a bee keeper who will smoke them out, remove them, and take them to a new home.

If your neighbor has a small yard with overwhelming dog poop odor, what can be done. They will issue a summons. The first will cost the owner \$50. The second is \$100. It keeps going up.

What if a neighbor has a barking dog? Describe the sound - is it a big dog or small dog. They need 2 complaints from different people at different addresses before they can issue a summons.

What about animal cruelty issues? For example people shooting rabbits with a nail gun or dogs in a hot car when the temperature is above 70 degrees or people abusing their animals. It helps if you have a picture or video. If people have animal cruelty issues, they can be referred to mental health people or officers. If you have a dog, you must have water, shelter, and some type of blanket or cover.

Someone saw a Lynx that had a tracking collar on it. It was gone in a flash.

A dog license costs \$25 per year. The first license comes with a coupon for a free microchip.

The county has a limit of 3 dogs / cats per household.

They have 8 officers with 1 opening. They are open until 10:00 in the summer from June to Aug.

They can be contacted at 303-271-0211.

Reports from Officers We do not have a President.

Roll Call was taken. We had 13 members present and had a quorum.

Ray Moore, Treasurer, said that we have \$2,080.55.

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

Diane Suchomel, Vice President, was present.

The following are **Community Meetings**. CMT 19-105656 is for 8603 S. Wadsworth Ct. It is a rezone for special use to increase the number of residents from 8 to 12. They intend to convert a 3 car garage to bedroom(s) / Bathroom(s). This was PA 19-04342. The meeting was 4/11 at 6:00 p.m. at the Columbine. The neighborhood is concerned that it does not fit the character of the Meadow Brook neighborhood.

CMT 19-108096 is for 8800 W. Jefferson Ave. It is to create 2 single family residences. The meeting will be at the West Metro Fire Training Center at 3535 Kipling. It will be a 6:00 p.m. on May 14.

The following are **Pre-applications**. PA 19-106419 is for 8501 W. Bowles. It is for a 252 unit apartment 4 story building. It is on the northwest parking lot at Southwest Plaza. They want to rezone and an exemption from platting.

PA 19-106724 is for 7500 S. Pierce St. It is part of the old Safeway parking lot. It is a SDP for Kiddie Academy Child Care Center. It is on the southeast corner of Ken Caryl and Pierce.

PA 19-107555 is for 8056 S. Platte Canyon Rd. They want to rezone to amend ODP to allow light manufacturing and assembly for a sign fabrication shop.

PA 19-108546 is for 8246 S. Wadsworth Blvd. It is for a SDP to remodel and expand the car wash, etc. at the gas station.

PA 19-106658 is for C470 and W. Quincy Ave. It is 9.37 acres south of Home Depot. It is southeast corner of C470 and W. Quincy Ave They want to rezone, plat, SDP. It is for a gas station, convenience store, multi-tenant retail, hotel, hospitality office / industrial, flex use.

The following are **Planning Commission Hearings**: PF 19-115288 is for the property near northeast corner of S. Simms St. and W. Belleview Ave. They want to subdivide into 93 lots with single family homes. May 8 is the Planning Commission hearing. May 21 is the Board of County Commissioners hearing.

The Board of County Commissioners will discuss the First Quarter LEA Report on April 23. It is for the patrol section of the Sheriff's Office.

Information for the Jefferson County Budget situation is on the county website. It is under 2020 budget. There is a Town Hall Phone call on May 8 at 6:30. You can sign up in advance at vekeo.com/jeffco.colorado. More information is at www.jeffco.us/townhall. 67% of their budget goes to safety for the Sheriff's Office, District Attorney, Coroner, Transportation and engineering. 8% of their budget goes to health and well being for public health and human services. 25% of their budget goes to stewardship goes to Assessor, Treasurer, and Clerk and Recorder.

The following is a **House Bill**. HB 19-1177 is a result of the red flag bill. It is Extreme Risk Protection Order. The state said the court won't process any until next year.

There is a Free Shred Day on Saturday, May 4 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon at the Colorado Credit Union at 8331 S. Continental Divide Rd. It is for personal documents. Diane has a flyer.

The Polly Deane Dam at Hine Lake has a leak.

There is a new Kids Play Gym on the northwest corner of Bowles and Kipling at 10251 W. Bowles. It is JoJo's Playground with limited food service.

Foothills Parks and Recreation District information is on their catalog. They will discuss the projects at the 4/23 6:00 p.m. Board of Director's meeting at 4600 S. Kipling St.

Does anything know what is going on at Bowles Crossing? They are digging up the pavement. It looks like a water pipe repair.

There will be intermittent shutdowns at Quincy and Simms from May 8 through June 17 due to construction. No one knew why but suspected they were improving the traffic circle.

Diane asked Ralph about his CDOT issue. There have been no changes. Cell Phone Towers are being put up near town homes. Can they do anything? Height issues were being discussed at FHPRD. Diane is watching this issue. There is a 150 ft. tower on the hill north of D'Evelyn. There have been no notices put up yet. They had to remove the tower next to the prison. It was a property control access issue.

The speaker for June has not been set up yet.

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

New Business An HOA needs to change their By Laws and wanted recommendations. According to Diane's experience it will take 2 years and lawyers. She suggested Hindman Sanchez which is now Attitude Law.

Announcements None.

We adjourned at 8:23 p.m. — *Cheri Paavola, Secretary*

COHOPE Treasury Activity: May 2019	W. R. Moore, Treasurer
Beginning Balance April 3, 2019	\$ 2040.55
Deposits	\$ 40.00
Columbine Knolls—\$40	
Withdrawals	\$ 37.92
Website (3 months) 32.97	
June newsletter \$4.95	
Ending Balance May 1, 2019	\$ 2042.63

THE BACKYARD

Columbine Hills News

President's Corner — What do you think folks? Can we avoid the May snow storm that wreaks havoc on our gardens? You know the adage here – don't set out your plants until after Mother's Day. I need to be creative and figure out a way to cover my raised boxes to protect young plants from that turn in the weather – any good ideas on how to do that? I know some use plexi-glass covers; would just plain old clear plastic do the trick?

Due to a lack of numbers, we were not able to have our yearly election last month, so we plan to elect CHCA officers this time around. Positions open include President, secretary and treasurer. If you have a desire to get involved and make a difference, please come to the next meeting and throw your hat into the ring.

We will be taking up the yard of the month again here soon. Get that plant food down and trim up those bushes to be in the running. The CHCA officers will once again be driving through the neighborhood looking for exceptional yards and I get the privilege to hand out \$25 certificates from Summer Blooms in our own neighborhood. We will award two yards each for the months of June, July and August.

Take note the dumpster day is only a few weeks away. We will be having two rollofs delivered to the normal spot on the morning of June first and taken away by noon. I'm sure you know, if your yearly dues are paid you get one free dump.

I look at newsletters from other neighborhoods and one I recently saw had a "recipe of the month". I thought that was clever! I'm willing to try it for us. So, if you have a tested and true winner please type it up and send it to our PO Box or make a digital record and send it to my e-mail and we'll get it posted and give you the recognition.

Be watching elsewhere in the newsletter for announcements of special happenings.

As always if you wish to inform us of a very special event send it via mail or e-mail and we'll do our best to get it printed. Be the kind of neighbor you wish you had..— *Randy Montgomery, CHCA president, rmontgomery@frcs.org*

Columbine Knolls Voice

From Columbine Knolls Survey Summary The Columbine Knolls survey results have been compiled. The survey's purpose means we as a neighborhood now have a concrete list of "dreams" we would like to have. CKHA's purpose will be to offer coordination for any volunteer who would like to take on a project. The following illustrates the best two or three suggestions for each category:

BEAUTIFICATION: Over and over, people wanted our entrances to look nice, with planters and new signage and up lighting. In addition, people wanted either brick pillars around the neighborhood perimeter or brick walls.

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT: The idea of renting space to host game nights, meet potential babysitters, piano instructors, etc. seemed to be of great interest. People kept mentioning more "events" such as block parties, summer chili cook off in the park, and dessert pot lucks in the park. A suggestion was to have an event 6 times a year. For example, February: Sweet-heart Dance; April: game night; 4th of July: parade and pot luck picnic at Marker Park; September: Parent/ child crafts; October: Halloween party; December: celebrate the holidays (not sure what that would be).

DREAMS: Doing things for the community that would be fun, such as a large red Christmas mail box where kids could send letters to Santa. Or, the Little Free Libraries. Or, a book exchange when kids outgrow their books. One possibility might be to build basketball courts on the drainage area at Depew and Ken Caryl. Those would not interfere with flood control.

FUNDRAISING: The silent auction, volunteer host dinner and raffle were all encouraged, especially the silent auction. **OTHER IDEAS:** This list contained many ideas to get involved, whether bike rides, trail runs, road running, donations to food banks, or street sweeping.

What powerful ideas for making our neighborhood an even better place to live! Now, we need volunteers who will step up and take on one project. For example, since the area entrances seemed important, we would need a person or persons to coordinate this project. That would include measuring the outside perimeter of Pierce, Ken Caryl, or Coal Mine and figuring out how many pillars we would need just for that one side. Check with Jeffco about setbacks. What does the individual homeowner need to do? Then, ask for bids for someone to construct those pillars or wall, and create a fund raiser to do so. If we do a side at a time, we could accomplish this within four years! Or, would someone be willing to organize the Little Free Library structures, setting a date for everyone interested to meet and hammer and glue them? If someone thinks that a chili contest would be fun, would that person set a date, notify CKRD, and figure out how to advertise the event? If basketball courts interest you, how about volunteering to get it done? CKHA will offer you other interested individuals who could help.

If you are interested in volunteering and helping with any of these ideas you can fill out the "Volunteer Form" at <http://www.ckha.org> by clicking on the menu "Volunteer" or you can call 1-877-737-4220 and leave a message.

The complete list of survey responses will be available later at www.ckha.org.

Columbine Knolls South II Review

From President's Corner— Spring has come and a lot of yard work and planting will be taking place. Our community should be looking great soon. With that said, the CKSII Landscape Committee has plans to start grooming the corner entrance of Yukon Way and Chatfield Ave. in the very near future. There is always a need for more volunteers for this effort which usually takes about an hour and a half. Please contact me through our website or call me for this and other volunteer events happening this year. It is actually very rewarding to meet other neighbors.

The Bike Parade and Car and Motorcycle Show will be from 4 to 7 p.m. on Sunday June 9th. Please plan on participating or dropping by for this event. The Car and Motorcycle Show will be in the Coronado Elementary Parking Lot (no entry fee). The Bike Decorating and Parade, led by a golf cart with music, will be in the park. There will be awards for both events, games, and two bounce houses. We will have two food trucks Maui Shaved Ice and the Hipster Wagon which we had last year. I would like to thank Amy Kowalski and all her committee for planning and working this event.

I would like to introduce our new Editor Renee Cunningham: Hello. My name is Renee Cunningham. I am originally from Michigan and a graduate of Michigan State University. I moved to Colorado 19 years ago and haven't looked back. I was a General Manager for Marriott hotels before moving on and having our family. Currently I work for Shipt where I get to shop for others in our community and deliver groceries to their homes. I have two children who both attend Coronado. We moved to CSKII 5 years ago and love the neighborhood. I am also a member of a masters rowing team. I train either in my basement or out on the water at Chatfield. My teammates and I meet up all over the country and world to compete. I also enjoy camping, hiking, standup paddle boarding, skiing, cooking, drinking wine and coffee. I hope to see you in the neighborhood. I would like to add that Renee competed with an eight female rowing team and coxswain and did very well in their age group against world competition in Amsterdam just recently.

As you have probably noticed, we are delivering the newsletter on the door in a plastic film bag. The idea was to increase our readership which is our goal. Feedback is always appreciated through our website for changes such as this. These are recyclable bags that King Soopers and Target will accept so please help our environment and recycle. Thanks to Mary Kalney for gathering this recycling information. I would also like to introduce our new Newsletter Carrier Ian Turner by way of his application: I believe I could do a great job as a newsletter carrier because I am responsible for what I do and finish the job all the way through. This is one of my core beliefs. I always say do it right the first time or do it over. I would like the newsletter carrier position because I could deliver the newsletters while walking my new border collie dog. We both like to be outside and enjoy the exercise. I know the Columbine Knolls II neighborhood really well because I walk my dog every day. This summer I will be playing lacrosse for the South Jeffco Coyotes and will begin training with the Columbine High School football team. The newsletter carrier job would give me the ability to help pay for my sports equipment and team fees. I always strive to better myself in what I do, so I will try to do things right 100% of the time. People like to have things done with quality and I can deliver that! Please consider me for the 2019 newsletter carrier position.

— Bob Haberkorn, President CKSII HOA

Columbine West Civic Association Newsletter

From A Moment With The Board The April 9th meeting was held at Dutch Creek Elementary with about 20 residents in attendance. A big 'shout out' to one of our newest volunteers, Steve Gubbins. Steve has offered up his time to help install banners at our entrances. The banners are another way, besides the newsletter, in announcing upcoming events. The Membership Drive started on March 1st and currently there are 186 residents that have registered. We thank each and everyone of you for supporting the efforts of CWCA. The current Budget is based on 242 households registering. The current Officers updated on their volunteer duties along with discussion on how to facilitate some added layers of communication. Plans are underway for the Easter Egg Hunt and we would like to thank our neighbors, Irene Shick and her family for offering to Sponsor the event. Irene has (2) sons who are eager to stuff eggs and hide them at the park. You will see new signs posted around the park area on the event day. Our new Dumpster Day Chairperson, Craig

Brown, was able to update on the current state of the event planning. Unfortunately our best plans on having Dumpster Day on June 15th may need to get moved. The new date and time and those involved will be posted in the May newsletter. Thanks again Craig for sweeping up and getting us rescheduled. There was some discussion on an Entrance Clean Up date and plans are still coming together. If you have questions or any suggestion of ideas feel free to email CWCAtalk@gmail.com. Look forward to hearing from the community. Residents are encouraged to attend any monthly meeting. This month we would like to encourage anyone interested in volunteering to join us.

The Leawood Reporter

From Leawood Civic Association Minutes of April 2, 2019— Board Members Present: Paul O'Connor, Mike Karbach, Rhonda Eveleth, Debby Baker, Nancy Bock, Laurie Selander, and residents Gina Severino and Richard and Rene' White.

Treasurer's Report: Mike presented the Treasurer's Report, which included LCA current balances, payments received, and bills paid. 2019 membership dues are being received providing some much-needed funds within the LCA account.

Board Members: The annual election of the LCA board members took place and members were voted as noted below. Thank you and welcome to our new members – Laurie and Gina! President: Paul O'Connor Vice-President: Chip Langowski Secretary: Laurie Selander

UPCOMING EVENTS: Scholarship interviews will be held the week of April 8th

Easter egg hunt is scheduled for April 13th – annual stuffing of the eggs will be Thursday, April 11th – signs will be posted the Sunday prior to the event

Front yard parties will begin in June; there are already lots of volunteers on the schedule. D. Baker will provide the schedule to the board and for the Reporter by April 15th.

Neighborhood Garage Sale – Scheduled for Friday, June 7th and Saturday, June 8th

Neighborhood Clean-up Day – Scheduled for Sat., June 15th. Will determine how many dumpsters for this event during the May LCA meeting; also considering renting a wood chipper for large branches. The Park Board will provide monetary support for this event. Need to reiterate that electronics, paint, lithium batteries, old computers etc. are items that are not allowed and must be recycled elsewhere. Board discussed timing of dumpster delivery due to popularity of the event as well as issue with residents dumping unauthorized items overnight – these items included old computers that the Board must pay to recycle Leawood Annual Picnic – Scheduled for August 24th

LCA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE: Activity Banners: The Board will place the three (3) banners for the membership drive in the higher traffic areas of the neighborhood. The Board will look to replace the remaining activity banners when budget becomes available.

Membership Drive: Due to low membership, the LCA Board continues to discuss methods of increasing membership; currently 60 out of 850 households are members. The Board discussed ways to increase membership, including:

Spreading the word with yard signs in each Board members yard; Having each Board member talk with 5 to 10 people to help spread the word; Advertise at the neighborhood events such as the Easter egg hunt (such as a banner, passing out membership forms, etc.); Another email blast to be sent out after 4/15.

JAY COURT ENTRANCE: Mowing: Will need someone to mow the entrance to the neighborhood; considering hiring someone. R. Eveleth will contact local companies for quotes. Landscaping: Further discussions and decisions will be made regarding the landscaping of the Jay Court entrance during the meeting held on May 7th

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

From Leawood Metropolitan Recreation and Park District Minutes April 10, 2019 The Board meeting was called to order at 6:11 p.m. at Leawood Elementary School, by President Kyle Sargent. Members present were: Donna Snyder / Treasurer, Debby Baker/ Director and Linda Smith/Vice President.

Public Comment/Correspondence – Some residents have expressed that Leawood Park is too busy. Another resident requested a new bench be placed in Weaver Park.

Treasurer's Report – Donna presented the Treasurer's report. Property tax revenue started to come in. Board members discussed that there will likely be another decrease in personal property tax rate for next year unless changed by the governor and legislator. Invoices for the month include Denver Water, Weston, United Site Services, Rich Alarcon, Waste Management, Xcel, doggie bag vendor, LCA and reimbursement to petty cash. Debby moved the Treasurer's report be received and bills paid, Linda seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Parks Manager Report – Snow removal was done in all the parks with sand applied when and where needed. Fallen trees were removed.

New Business – Open Board Position – The Board discussed the current open Board position with resident Lindsey Reese and asked that she let us know if she is interested in the position.

Old Business – Weaver Park Survey – Discussed that pursuing grant funds for renovations will be required, and that the competition for these funds is stiff. Also, Kyle noted that the majority of these grants require some sort of match by the district, as well as demonstration of community engagement in the planning and design process.

The meeting was adjourned 8:15 p.m.—*Deborah Baker, Acting Secretary*

Posting location: District Board's agendas are posted by the Clerk to the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners board.

Woodbourne

From Notes From the Annual Board Meeting The Annual Homeowners meeting and the April Board meeting were both held on April 17, 2019. There were several issues discussed at the Annual Homeowners' Meeting and additional topics were discussed at the April meeting that followed.

First, I would like to thank everyone who either attended or submitted a proxy for the Woodbourne Annual Homeowners meeting. Between proxies and attendees, we had representation from over the 102 households needed for a quorum. The Board would like to thank retiring Board members John Edmonds, Sommer Wall, and Scott Moeller for their service on the Board. Their input and dedication will be missed. We would also like to welcome Alex Crosby, Drew Tooley, and Dave Stromberg to the Board. In addition, Tom Estes was elected to serve out a term ending in 2020. This will bring our Woodbourne HOA Board to a total of eight members. The quorum for all Board activities will be five members.

The Easter Egg hunt was well attended by our neighborhood children. We would like to put forth a huge thank you to John and Marsha Smith for stuffing almost 3,000 eggs and having coffee, prizes, and other supplies on hand. A number of volunteers showed up on the morning of the egg hunt to help set everything up and put out the eggs. All of these volunteers were greatly appreciated.

One of the major items that came out of the Annual Meeting was the need to update the Architectural Control Committee documents to reflect more current trends. The HOA Board will be working on this as one of the projects throughout the next year. We had intended to discuss the potential projects of renovating the clubhouse bathrooms, updating the Frost Street entrance, and renewing the landscaping around the clubhouse, but we simply didn't have enough time. We will revisit those conversations at some point in the future. In the meantime, if you have any thoughts or suggestions on those topics, feel free to contact any Board member.

May means pool season is beginning and the pool will be opening on May 25, 2019. We look forward to seeing everyone then...—*James Meyer, President*



Ran out of room last month—Trash pickup on Bowles went well. Was not as cold as it looks!

phone meeting. The focus was the county's financial challenges, and other questions were also taken. To learn more, read the report or listen to the audio recording. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WsivVKSh5ZA&feature=youtu.be> Telephone town halls have helped the commissioners stay in touch with thousands of Jefferson County residents; provide a platform for asking questions of the board; and, provide feedback to the commissioners on issues facing the county.

West Metro Recognized for Outstanding Financial Management—Prestigious Award Acknowledges Innovative Program—Lakewood, CO— May 22, 2019 -The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) has named West Metro Fire Rescue as a winner of the Association's most prestigious award for 2019. West Metro is a recipient of the Excellence in Government Finance-Exceptionally Well Implemented Best Practices Award, one of just eight government agencies to be recognized, and the only fire district. "Part of our commitment to our community is sound financial management that guarantees we will have the resources we need to keep our firefighters well trained and well equipped, said West Metro Fire Chief Don Lombardi. "We're honored to be recognized by the GFOA for our dedication to the people we serve." The GFOA Awards for Excellence in Government Finance recognize innovative programs that contribute to the practice of government finance that exemplify outstanding financial management. The awards stress practical, documented work that offers leadership to the profession and promotes improved public finance. West Metro's Finance

Passport Appointments Now Available Online Need to apply for, or renew your passport? Did you know that the Jefferson County Clerk and Recorder's Clerk to the Board Division is a passport acceptance facility? Our staff are certified by the U.S. Department of State to assist customers with applying for, or renewing a passport book or card. Photos are available for just \$5. The application process can take as little as 10 minutes to complete, and appointments can now be made online, often on the same day as your visit.

You don't have to be a Jefferson County resident to use our services. For more information, or to make an appointment, visit <https://www.jeffco.us/3862/Passport-Appointments>.

Telephone Town Hall Audio Recording and Report Available on our Website The Board of County Commissioners hosted a live Telephone Town Hall May 8 at 6:30 p.m. Approximately 100,000 randomly selected phone numbers were called to participate in this one-hour over the

From DRCOG website: **Area Agency on Aging**—With more than 40 years' experience as the designated Area Agency on Aging (AAA) for the eight-county region, the Denver Regional Council of Government plans and provides comprehensive services to address the needs of the region's population of older adults and people living with disabilities. We are responsible for the establishment of a comprehensive, coordinated system of community-based supportive and nutrition services for the Denver region's older adults.

As required by the OAA, the Denver region's Area Plan on Aging is carried out through programs provided directly by the AAA and through contracts with community-based agencies to provide a continuum of services. The AAA has many options to help older adults 60+, their families, and caregivers remain independent in the community, including information and referral services, case management, transportation, home-delivered meals, senior centers, legal services and more through our network of funded providers. Click here for a full list of programs funded by the DRCOG-AAA.

We are also an Aging and Disability Resource Center for Colorado (ADRC), and provide information and assistance as well as options counseling for both older adults and adults 18+ living with a disability. This program helps streamline access to long-term services and supports in the community. Options counselors are available to offer personalized education and decision support around local resources for individuals and their caregivers.

Contact phone numbers for all services are available below.

AreaAgencyonAging@drcog.org, Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Information and Assistance, Options Counseling 303-480-6700 Toll-free outside Denver 1(866) 959-3017, Long-term Care Ombudsman 303-480-6734, State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) 303-480-6835, Choice Transitions Options Counseling 303-480-6838, Veteran Directed Care Program 303-480-6755, Elder Refugee Program 303-480-6786, DRCOG Main Office 303-455-1000

Programs: Data and Surveys, Accountable Health Communities, Advocacy, Aging and Disability Resource Center, Elder Refugee Program, Information and Assistance, Options Counseling, Colorado Choice Transitions, State Health Insurance Assistance Program, Ombudsman Programs, Case Management, Veteran Directed Care Program, Elder Abuse Prevention, No Co-pay Radio, Transportation Planning, Citizens' Academy, Regional Planning, Baghdad-Denver Region Partnership.

Aging and Disability Resource Center—The DRCOG Aging and Disability Resources Center for Colorado (ADRC) is the place where older adults (60+) and people with disabilities (18+) can get help accessing long-term services and supports to remain independent in the community. The ADRC helps people make informed choices about their care. DRCOG's ADRC serves Adams, Arapahoe, Clear Creek, Douglas, Gilpin and Jefferson counties, the City and County of Broomfield, and the City and County of Denver. DRCOG is one of 14 ADRC sites in Colorado.

Through the ADRC, DRCOG offers: Information and Assistance, State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), Options Counseling, Elder Refugee Program, Case Management

Family members, caregivers, friends, and professionals are welcome to contact the DRCOG ADRC, and anyone may make a referral. ADRC services are provided at no cost by calling 303-480-6700.

Ombudsman Programs—People living in nursing homes and assisted living facilities need support, protection and advocacy more than ever. Improvements in and access to community services mean care facility residents are often more frail, suffer from cognitive issues like Alzheimer's and dementia, and are very ill. The Denver Regional Council of Governments' (DRCOG) Ombudsman Program, here to make sure the rights of nursing home and assisted living facility residents are being respected and met, serves thousands of residents living in more than 400 facilities across the region. This federally-mandated advocacy service is free for nursing home and assisted living facility residents in the Denver metro area.

DRCOG also houses the PACE Ombudsman. PACE stands for Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly. The role of the PACE Ombudsman is to act as an advocate for participants in programs outside of a long-term care facility situation, and assist participants in resolving issues related to care, health, safety, or the participant's rights. PACE Ombudsmen strive to resolve complaints that range from simple quality of care issues, such as a participant's preferred time to receive care, to very serious, sometimes life threatening concerns involving abuse and neglect.

AAA staff visit facilities regularly to see and talk to residents and monitor conditions. Working as advocates for residents, ombudsmen investigate complaints, assist facility staff in solving or mediating problems, and provide education about long-term care communities and residents' rights. Ombudsmen also provide advocacy for system improvements in the long-term care industry. An ombudsman is assigned to every long-term care facility in the region and can help individuals and families in choosing a long-term care facility or resolving any concerns facility residents, family members, facility staff or administrators may have. For information, please call 303-480-6734.

Accountable Health Communities—The Denver Regional Council of Governments received a five-year award from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid in the amount of \$4.51 million in May 2017 to implement the Accountable Health Communities (AHC) (link is external) model. The model seeks data to show connecting people with community-based services improves health outcomes and decreases health care costs. The AHC will work with Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries in Denver, Arapahoe, Adams, Douglas, Jefferson, and Broomfield counties.

The AHC program collaborates with five clinical partners who assess their clients' health-related social needs in the areas of living situation, transportation, food, utilities, and safety. Clients are eligible for navigation services through the DRCOG AHC if they have at least one of these needs and have had at least two emergency room visits in the past 12 months. If they have needs in four or more areas they are referred to the DRCOG's community resource navigators for more extensive assistance. Resource navigators connect people with community based-services to address their needs in the manner they prefer.

Over the course of the grant, DRCOG will collect data and engage in a quality improvement plan to streamline and improve the process for screening and referring people from clinical settings to community settings, integrate and align clinical and community health providers, and improve understanding of the value and impact of community services on healthcare costs and health outcomes. This data will also be used to identify areas where gaps exist that create barriers to efficient access to community-based services. The AHC will continue its work beyond the initial grant period to increase funding for community-based services and foster healthy communities in the Denver region.



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The scheduled June 5th meeting speaker will be Kelly McQueeney, an attorney with Altitude Law (used to be Hindman-Sanchez). The meeting will be at Sheriff's South Service Center (11139 Bradford Rd) at 7 pm.

Division researched, developed and implemented an innovative plan to ensure the district's financial sustainability, by revising the comprehensive fund balance policy and the approach to analyzing reserves, based on risk factors that are specific to the district's economic and financial situation. Through the process, the district gained a new knowledge base and established a strong foundation for future obligations. West Metro's Finance Division has also been honored by the GFOA the past three years with the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, and West Metro has earned 18 Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Awards. The GFOA is a non-profit professional association serving more than 20,000 government financial professionals in the United States and Canada. Contact: Ronda Scholting Public Information Officer West Metro Fire Rescue 303-941-8317 rscholting@westmetrofire.org

Jefferson County's Slash Program Helps Reduce Wildfire Danger—Take advantage of the Jefferson County slash program to reduce wildfire danger and protect your property! Jefferson County is once again hosting a summer-long slash collection program at which you can drop off all of your slash. The 2019 slash collection program will be each weekend at different locations throughout Jefferson County from June 1 until Oct. 27.

What Can be Brought to a Jeffco Collection Slash includes tree debris and limbs with a maximum length of eight feet and a maximum diameter of six inches. You can also bring loose pine needles, tree bark and pine cones and they no longer have to be bagged.

What is Not Accepted What can you not bring? We cannot accept items such as household trash, tree stumps, metal of any kind, rocks, yard waste/grass clippings, construction materials and lumber.

Fees A single load will cost \$20 and only credit cards will be accepted. A single load is a truck bed full to the truck cab height or a trailer up to 8'x5'x4'. If your load exceeds these parameters, you will be charged additional fees accordingly. The fees help offset the costs for the processing equipment, staffing and to help keep the program sustainable so it can continue into future years.

Why Participate and Bring Us Your Slash? Keeping debris cleared and thinning out trees is vital to forest health. Our forests evolved with fire. Fire cleared out dead, diseased or dying trees to make way for younger healthier trees. However, with humans moving into forested areas, we must now help Mother Nature and thin out our forests to decrease the spread of disease, beetles and other pests – and most importantly, reduce the potential for devastating wildfires.

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 hazard mitigation page and at Fire Wise website.

This spring and summer, make a point to clean up and clear out your tree debris. Then make sure to take your slash to one of the collection sites. Visit the slash web page to find the nearest location to you.

<https://www.jeffco.us/2493/Slash-Collection>

From Jeffco.us website