

Park County Third Quarter Report

Board of County Commissioners

Presented by:
The Board of County
Commissioners

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With the cool morning chill in the air, the aspen leaves quickly falling from the trees, and the dusting of snow on the mountains, we are reminded once again that winter is on its way. While those of us who choose to live in the Colorado mountains love the beauty it provides, and often smile at the first scent of snow, we also know that with the chill comes certain challenges, such as shoveling, plowing, power outages, snow drifts, and as we saw last year, winter storms that can cripple the community.



After the blizzards of 2006 and 2007, all citizens of Park County should be thinking about personal preparedness, especially with the winter season quickly approaching. Have you checked the generator you bought for when the power goes out to your home? How about your winter preparedness kit? Is it complete and well maintained? Do you know what needs to go into an emergency preparedness kit? These are the questions we would like every citizen to consider as we enter into our coldest season.

September has been designated as Emergency Preparedness Month by both the Department of Homeland Security and the Colorado Division of Emergency Management. Therefore, with the approach of winter and reminders of last year's storms, the Board of Commissioners has declared the last week of September as Emergency Preparedness Week in Park County.

September 23-30, 2007
Park County Emergency Preparedness Week
Involving home and family preparedness, including pets, older Americans, and individuals with disabilities and special needs

Please take time to visit the new emergency management webpage, as part of the Park County website, which gives all citizens valuable information to better prepare their homes and their families in times of emergency or crisis. On this webpage, you can find the ingredients for a 72-hour personal preparedness kit, links to emergency preparedness websites, emergency plans and manuals, and updates on any incidents currently happening within the county. Additionally, the new Park County Emergency Preparedness Guide is now available online to assist citizens year round. If you would like a hard copy of this guide, you can also contact our emergency manager at (719) 836-4372 or send an email to lhodges@parkco.us.

The Board of County Commissioners lends its full support to the efforts of the Park County Office of Emergency Management as well as all our emergency services, and urge citizens of Park County to visit the Emergency Management Website and to participate in the exercises whenever possible.

3rd Quarter 2007

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Search and Rescue

Our Open House was a big success in July with over 150 people stopping by for brats and a good time. Many thanks to everyone for all your support and donations! The building continues to grow, with the climbing wall approaching completion and our state-of-the-art electronics evolving to empower meetings and seminars.

It's time for the 2nd Annual PCSAR Golf Tournament! Come join the fun at the Homestead Golf Course in Lakewood on October 6th! Support a great cause and win some exciting prizes at the same time. There will be plenty of door prizes, as well as some rockin' toys like the Snowmobile, ATV, Jetski and Motorcycle as hole-in-one prizes. Please visit our website for a brochure, application, and more information!

In other news, this has been a busy summer

of searching for PCSAR. In June, we assisted Jefferson/Como Fire Department with a search for some injured parties on ATVs. We also assisted the Park Co. Sheriff's Department on a search for a missing woman in Pony Park. Immediately following that search, we spent the night carrying an injured hiker out of Lost Park. Also that month, one dog team responded to a two day search in Rio Blanco County.

In July and August, we helped with a search for a missing boy near Meridian Campground; we located some missing mountain bikers late at night near Georgia Pass; one dog team assisted El Paso County with a search for a possible homicide subject; and we responded to a request for an area search near Guanella Pass by the Park County Sheriff's department. We also assisted Alpine on two separate searches for missing

hikers on the backside of Mt. Bierstadt.

Several people completed our first new member class and have spent the summer successfully integrating into the team. The next new member class will begin October 10th and continue for the following four weeks. In the meantime, anyone is welcome to attend our in-building Tuesday evening meetings. We meet the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 7:30 at the Fairbarn in Fairplay, and at the SAR Barn in Bailey, respectively.

Marcia McMahan
Park County Search and Rescue
Pcsar.org



Canine Rescue worker Koert and other members of the Park County Search and Rescue Team engaged in water rescue training

Sheriff's Department

The Park County Sheriff's Office has been busy this past quarter. We have been working with Park County Mapping to correct road names and addresses and thus improve emergency response time for our citizens. I have continued to work with the Emergency Services Council and prepared agreements between our departments for mutual aid in case of wild land fire. I appreciate the good working relationships that we have developed.

The Communications staff have updated their mapping programs and can now apply coordinates to a specific location. We now have the ability to receive coordinates from a cell phone call in Park County. With the increase in volume from cell phones this is a significant im-

provement.

The Jail Division continues to house contract inmates from other agencies. We are also housing Robert Amos who is accused of murder, and considered a high-risk inmate.

Patrol Operations continue to keep us busy with an ever-increasing workload.

Animal Control has been kept busy as well.

I have decided not to move forward with the Law Enforcement Authority Tax. Instead I will be supporting the Platte Canyon School District in their efforts to improve school security.

As your Sheriff, please feel free to contact me at anytime my phone number is 719-836-4101 and my email address is fwegener@parkco.us.

Or you may contact Undersheriff Gore at: 719-836-4102, or at his email address at: mgore@parkco.us. We encourage you to contact us regarding concerns that you may have.

Please join us at our County Auction. We look forward to seeing you there.

Fred Wegener, SHERIFF

Public Health

As summer comes to an end, Public Health looks back at a season rife with many cases of infectious disease in Colorado. The state has had 167 reported cases of West Nile virus so far this season, and mosquito season has not ended yet. No West Nile cases have been reported in Park County this year. The state also had 6 cases of Hantavirus, with 4 fatal cases. Two cases were in Park County. Plague activity in animals was increased in the Denver metro area this summer. Plague is frequently seen in animals in rural areas, but the plague activity in Denver was unusual this year. This serves as a reminder that everyone needs to take precautions to prevent exposure to these diseases. Often, after the disease numbers decline we forget to continue to take preventative measures, however it is important that we continue these measures all of the time.

It is important to observe the “Four Ds” to protect against West Nile Virus:

- ◆ Dawn/dusk- Be sure to use protection or avoid being outside at those times of day when mosquitoes are most active.
- ◆ Dress- Wear loose fitting clothes, long sleeves, and pants when you are outside. For extra protection, spray thin clothing with mosquito repellent.
- ◆ DEET- Use an insect repellent with DEET whenever you're outdoors. Follow the label directions and use products with a lower concentration of DEET on children. Higher concentrations don't provide better protection; they just provide longer protection.
- ◆ Drain- Get rid of standing water in your backyard or neighborhood. Drain any old tires, flowerpots and gutters. These are mosquito-breeding sites. Change the water in birdbaths at least weekly.

Hantavirus is spread through the inhalation of dust that has been contaminated with the urine or feces of deer mice and possibly other rodents. Deer mice are the most common carrier. It is important that Coloradans, particularly in the rural areas, avoid exposure when working in and around buildings such as cabins, sheds or barns where deer mice have left droppings, especially if the building has been closed up for a while. Once the dust in these buildings has been stirred up, people can become infected with the virus by inhaling the infected dust.

Most of the cases occur in May, June and July, so it is particularly important to remember these precautions in the summer months but to be careful all year long:

- ◆ Open doors or windows to provide good ventilation for 30-60 minutes before cleaning out structures or old vehicles. Avoid stirring up dust by watering down areas of mouse infestation with a mixture of bleach and water.
- ◆ Rodent- proof buildings by plugging holes or other mouse entryways.
- ◆ Practice year round rodent control by using traps, poisons, or exterminators.
- ◆ Keep homes or work areas unattractive to rodents by keeping indoor areas clean, especially kitchens. Store food in rodent-proof containers, including pet, livestock and bird food. Dispose of garbage in sealed containers.

Store firewood at least 100 yards from the house.

Keep vegetation around the house short and well-trimmed. Tall weeds and grasses conceal mice from predators, so there is an increase in the population.

Park County Public Health continues to work on emergency preparedness planning and pandemic preparedness with our state, regional and local partners. As mandated by the CDC (Center for Disease Control) and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, plans have been drafted to address a public health emergency in our county. Training our staff and volunteers is an important part of the planning process.

Our agency can use many volunteers, both medical and non- medical, in exercises to be prepared for real events. An exercise is planned for November, 2007 in Bailey to practice our mass-dispensing plan. The agency will be dispensing flu vaccines in a 4-hour exercise. For more details or to volunteer please contact Lynn Ramey at lramey@parkco.us or 303-816-5970. Watch for more information about this exercise on the Park County website and in the *Flume*.

Flu season is just around the corner and we urge everyone to get a flu vaccine this year. Seasonal flu can be a very dangerous illness, especially for the very old or young. The best time to get a flu shot is in November.

As you are preparing for cold and flu season we also urge you to think about personal preparedness for pandemic flu, and other disasters such as blizzards, floods or fires. Keep a preparedness kit with food and other essential supplies that will last for three days to two weeks in an emergency.

For more information about personal preparedness kits go to www.readycolorado.org or www.whatifcolorado.com.

Lynn Ramey
Public Health Director

Coroner's Office

The Coroners Office has compiled statistics and comparisons on the cause and manner of death in Park County for the years 2001 through 2006. This report is available upon request by calling 719-836-4340.

Statistics to expand the data to include a ten-year span of 1996 through 2006 are currently being compiled.

Sharon Morris, Park County Coroner

TERMS: Cash or good check.



**AUCTION AUCTION
AUCTION**

On behalf of the Park County Sheriff's Office and Park County Government,
we would like to invite all of you to our County Auction.

October 6, 2007

PARK COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, FAIRPLAY, CO
9:30 a.m. • Preview will begin at 8:00 a.m.

All proceeds from this auction will be utilized as a bonus for all Park County employees. Meals will be provided to the public at a reasonable cost. We would encourage you to bring your family for this FUN AND EXCITING EVENT and support your hard working county employees.

This auction will include a large selection of **firearms, knives, camping equipment, police evidence, jewelry, and vehicles**. Many of the items have been in storage for years. We are compiling a list of items at this time. The list will be available soon at the Park County web site; www.parkco.us. Please visit the site for the latest updates.

SPECIAL NOTE: Individuals who purchase firearms must pass a background check. All firearm buyers must be 21 years of age, have a valid drivers license and will be required to pass a background check. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** A licensed firearms dealer will be available in both South Park and Bailey for paperwork requirements. There is a small fee for the background check.

For further information please contact,
Undersheriff Monte Gore at 719-836-4102 or mgore@parkco.us

We will also be accepting
DONATIONS
for this auction.
If you have anything you would like to donate please contact Undersheriff Monte Gore at 719-836-4102 or mgore@parkco.us

Park County Public Budget Meeting
Thursday, October 25
1:30PM
Commissioners Board Room

Mountain Peace Shelter

Say "YES" to PEACE
Say "NO" to Violence

Happy Autumn, Park County Residents!

As the aspen leaves glow their gold on the mountainsides amongst the deep green pines, slowly floating their way to the earth below, we remember.

We remember autumn's past. We remember good times—dancing and rolling among the leaves. We remember challenging times—past traumas that we have endured and survived. Fleeing dangerous situations with our children and animals so that they could be safe. We remember children fleeing Platte Canyon High School with their teachers and staff so that they could be safe. Fleeing. Safety. Safe.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and, in our community, we can just call it Violence Awareness Month. The statistics are chilling: One in three women will be a victim of domestic violence at some point in their life. Men can also be victims of domestic violence and have a hard time seeking help due to social stigma. In rural areas it can be even harder to seek help or leave. Isolation. Great distances from neighbors.

No public transportation and maybe just one vehicle in the family.

Animals that are like family and fear that they would be injured or killed if left behind. Barriers are physical and emotional. What to do?

Mountain Peace Shelter is here for our entire

mountain community. We are the only 24/7 crisis hotline and emergency women and children shelter in a 50-100 mile radius, as well as one of the only shelters with a SafePets programs in the state, if not the nation. We are excited to have the Mountain Area Peacejam Alliance adopt our SafePets program to make our furry family members warm, comfortable and safe. Thanks to our FACTS grant, we were able to bring a "Compassionate Communication" workshop to teens to help them become Peace Leaders in our community.

What to do if you or someone you know is in an abusive relationship?

Safety first. If someone is in imminent danger, call 911. Otherwise, from a safe location, call our 24/7 crisis hotline at 303-838-8181 and speak to one of our trained advocates for information on safety planning and resources available to help out. Seeking help for or leaving a relationship is more than just walking out the door. There are emotional issues. People need housing, employment/income, transportation, child care, counseling, and many things unique to their particular situation.

Mountain Peace Shelter is here to help.

Last year on 9/27/06 and ever since, Mountain Peace has been actively involved in the crisis support and healing of the schools and our entire community. The resilient Keyes family continues to be an inspiration to us all: Turn acts of violence into countless acts of kindness. This powerful message is something we all should strive for. It has been an honor to

be working with the caring and dynamic people at Platte Canyon High School, our amazing Victim Services department through the Sheriff's Office, Pike's Peak Mental Health, and Park County Human Services.

Mountain Peace will continue to work toward our vision of: Sheltering Hope for PEACE in our communities since 1986.

In October - and in every month - please Say "YES" to Peace and "NO" to violence. Change starts with ourselves and then can spread out to the world. When we notice and take responsibility for our actions, inactions and reactions, we can begin to make positive choices for peace. If you want to learn how you can be involved in creating a community of peace through supporting our shelter and services, please call our office at 303-838-7176 or check out our web site at:

www.mountainpeace.org.

Thank you for your caring and support.

In Peace,
Kathy Mastroianni
Executive Director

Kathy@mountainpeace.org



Park County Road and Bridge equipment fits right in with the fall colors as workers prepare roads for the long winter.

Park County Libraries

The Park County Public Libraries have contacted the Colorado Center for Community Development (CCCD) to discuss using their services for several library building projects.

Colorado Center for Community Development (CCCD) is a joint outreach center of the University of Colorado at Denver, and technical assistance program of the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA). Their *Rural Assistance Program* "is committed to offering affordable, professional design, planning and technical assistance through the principles and practices for community development". The CCCD proposal is for them to provide conceptual designs for a new library in Fairplay. They will provide three concept plans and general cost estimates for the site design and new library building. Also CCCD has proposed to provide conceptual designs for renovating-reconfiguring the existing library in Lake George.

The Friends of the Lake George Library have agreed to enter into contract with the CCCD. The first public meeting will be held on September 17 at 2 p.m. in the Lake George Library. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. The CCCD will present three possible plans for the renovation of the library. After this discussion, the design team will refine the ideas into two plans followed by another public meeting. After this second public meeting, the design team will go "back to the drawing board" one more time to prepare a final design for renovation of the Lake George Public Library. This final plan will be presented to the public in an open meeting.

The BOCC has agreed to the use of county land for the Fairplay branch of the Park County Public Libraries. This land is located at the corner of Castillo Avenue and 3rd Street in Fairplay, next to the District Attorney's office and on the same block as

the new county courthouse. This parcel of land is approximately 11,000 square feet.

The plan for the building is a 5,000 square foot footprint. The BOCC is considering adding a second story to the library for County offices. These offices would be for county departments often visited by the public, such as public health or human services. Because of their interest in possibly using this building for county offices, the BOCC has entered into the contract with the CCCD for their design services. Of the three designs for the new Fairplay Library, at least one will include a second floor for county offices.

The CCCD design team will meet with the public on October 1 at 4:30 pm at the Fairbarn, 880 Bogue Street, Fairplay to present their first three designs for the James B. Gardner Memorial Library and County Offices.

Funds for all renovations and the new library in Fairplay will come from grants and donations only.

Other Library News:

The Fairplay Library has new hours. We are now open later on Tuesday and Thursdays.

Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 9:30 am to 4:30 pm

Tuesday and Thursday 11:00 am to 6 pm

Fall activities will begin in October.

Fall Fun Days:

Pumpkin Patch

Join us for lots of pumpkin fun!

October 6

Lake George – 10 am

Guffey – 1 pm

October 20

Bailey – 10 am

Fairplay – 1 pm

Gobbler Day

Get ready for Turkey Day!

November 3

Lake George – 10 am

Guffey – 1 pm

November 17

Bailey – 10 am

Fairplay – 1 pm

Candy Houses

Make a holiday Candy House.

December 1

Lake George – 10 am

Guffey – 1 pm

December 15

Bailey – 10 am

Fairplay – 1 pm

Pre-registration is requested. Please call your local Park County Public Library to sign up or for more information.

Storytimes Are Popular

Story times will be held the first Friday of the month at 10 am in Fairplay and the second Tuesday of the month at 10 am and 1:15 pm in Lake George.

Don't forget.

September is Library Card Sign-Up Month.

Use your library card at any Park County Public Library and enter to win a \$25 Amazon gift certificate. If you don't have a library card and sign up for one, you will get an additional chance to win.

Patty Chapman,

Director, Park County Libraries

For the last few years, the County Newsletter has been a quarterly publication, sent to the residences and businesses in Park County to help inform the public about important services in the county, and with matters relating to your county government.

While continued communication with our constituents is still a priority, due to increasing budget constraints,

the Board of County Commissioners must cut back the publication of the County Newsletter to only two issues in 2008. We are sorry for any inconvenience, but encourage you to call the departments listed on the back of this publication or to access our website with any questions, concerns or comments you may have.

- *The Park County Board of County Commissioners*

Historic Preservation

Are you the owner of a historic piece of Park County?



Historic Fairplay Hotel

Just a drive along any of the roadways in Park County brings with it a sense of history as wide open historic ranches, odd shaped mining structures and rustic cabins come into view.

When I talk with people connected with his-

toric preservation in other places, they are often amazed at the enthusiastic support that is given to preserving and re-using the historic buildings and sites in Park County not only by the county commissioners, but also the people who live and own property here.

Last year, Park County was honored by a White House designation as a Preserve America Community for preserving, interpreting and educating both adults and school children about our rich legacy.

After many studies and research about the large number of historic properties and sites in the county, we are now beginning to see an increase in the number of landowners who are interested in having their properties honored by listing as a Park County Historic Landmark. Along with that honor, can come help in selecting the right materials and techniques for

preserving the property while making it a viable place to live or do business. There are tax advantages for proper rehabilitation of historic properties and sometimes grants are also available to help with the work.

Keeping and re-using the buildings that have been left to us by generations past just makes good economical sense, and makes Park County a unique and beautiful place to live. If you own an old building or property, it's likely that its age and history are part of the reason you purchased it. To find out more about the history of your property or to learn more about listing or preserving the buildings or structures on your land, contact the Park County Office of Historic Preservation at 719 836-4298 or by email at lbalough@parkco.us

*Linda Balough,
Director
Park County Office of Historic Preservation*

Emergency Management

Over the last several months, emergency services personnel have been participating in a series of emergency response exercises with other counties within the South Central All-Hazards Region. This five-county region works together to develop common procedures, equipment, and response activities for large-scale events such as fires, floods, hazardous material spills, etc.

The first exercise was a tabletop exercise focusing on an intentional hazardous materials spill at the Buena Vista Correctional Facility. This type of exercise is discussion-based to identify risks, vulnerabilities and plans for the future. The second exercise was a hazardous materials drill. During this exercise, we were able to work with our partners and learn how to use new decontamination equipment funded through the Homeland Security Grant. This exercise was a huge success, with representation from all five counties. Many lessons were learned that will ultimately improve emergency response in our region.

The third exercise was a functional exercise tying all county and city Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) together to test various communications capabilities. The EOC concept is new to some members of our region, so it is beneficial to have the assistance of neighboring counties during the development process. This was the first time Park County has activated our EOC, which allowed us to try new ideas and develop the framework for

EOC management in future events.

Finally, Park County participated in a regional full-scale exercise. All five counties brought regional resources and lessons learned from the first three exercises, and used them to manage a large-scale incident staged in Chaffee County. Once again, this was an excellent opportunity to learn from each other and to strengthen systems within the region.

*Lori R. Hodges
Director of Emergency Management
Park County*

Emergency Operation Center exercises help emergency crews prepare for the real thing.



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PRESORT STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BAILEY, CO
PERMIT # 18

Park County Government
501 Main Street
P.O. Box 1373
Fairplay, Colorado 80440

Main Phone: 719-836-2771
Fax: 719-836-3273
Email: padmin@parkco.us



**We're on the web!
www.parkco.us**

**POSTAL PATRON
ECRWSS**

Helpful Phone Numbers

Here's a list of the direct dial numbers for most of the commonly called departments and offices. Please post this in a handy location and use it whenever you have a question for us!

Park County Government Main Line (719) 836-2771	Commissioners (719) 836-4201	Library/Bailey (303) 838-5539
Administration (719) 836-4201	County Court (719) 836-2940	Motor Vehicle (719) 836-4333
Animal Control (719) 836-4125	CSU Extension (719) 836-4289	Public Health (719) 836-4161
Assessor's Office (719) 836-4331	Development Services/Planning (719) 836-4254	Road and Bridge (719) 836-4282 Comment Line (719) 836-4291
Building Dept. (719) 836-4256	District Attorney (719) 836-2080	Sheriff's Office Emergency 911
Clerk & Recorder (719) 836-4333	Environmental Health (719) 836-4267	Non-Emergency (719) 836-2494
Community Development & Tourism (719) 836-4279	Finance (719) 836-4218	Treasurer (719) 836-4240
Coroner (719) 836-4340	G.I.S./Mapping (719) 836-4288	Veterans' Affairs (719) 836-4168
County Attorney (719) 836-2771	Historical Preservation (719) 836-4298	Other Numbers:
	Human Resources (719) 836-4217	Crisis Center (303) 838-7176
	Human Services (719) 836-4139	CO Div/Wildlife (719) 836-2207
	Library/Fairplay (719) 836-4297	Road Conditions (719) 836-4134
		U.S. Forest Svc. (719) 836-2031