

NEWSLETTER



**BOCC Chairperson
Paula Swenson**

Crisp frosty mornings, sunny, bluebird days and cool, cozy evenings...Yep, fall has finally arrived. After a record wet September, it is time to settle in and prep for our upcoming winter. Being prepared for what is coming up is always a good thing to remember.

Fortunately, we in the Gunnison Country are once again blessed and were missed by Mother Nature's recent wrath. Our prayers and well wishes continue to go to our friends, family and fellow Coloradoan's who were devastated by the recent floods. As usual, our own Emergency Services Manager, Scott Morrill, was immediately on task and made his way over to offer his assistance to the command center on the front range in organizing and rescuing all those in need. It is a continued reminder of how important it is to be prepared and trained for any and all unforeseen situations that can arise. We need to continue to understand that the training and preparedness that Scott does, and constantly reminds us to do, is so very important. Well laid plans are crucial in the survival of any kind of disaster. If you have not taken your latest training class or are uncertain if you need to, please contact Scott and make certain you are doing everything you can to be prepared in the event that we have devastation hit us here at home.

As I am prepping for the changing seasons and the upcoming winter months, harvesting and canning are once again the top of my activities. The rainy summer and early fall gave us an extended growing season here in the Gunnison Valley.....my records have us at 91 days frost free for the summer of 2013! Raspberries and tomatoes were the big winners in my gardens. I have so many varieties of raspberry jam in my cupboards for the winter, I don't know if I can make that many pancakes or biscuits to eat it up. As I can tomatoes, make sauces and fill my shelves with goods for the winter, I always think about Scott Morrill's words of preparation.....I need to stock up on drinking water too!!! Happy Fall to All!!!

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GUNNISON COUNTY'S 2013 HOLIDAY PARTY "HOLIDAY IN THE CITY"

WHEN: Friday, December, 13, 2013

WHERE: Gunnison County Multipurpose Building
(275 S. Spruce)

DETAILS:

- 6:00 pm: Social Hour
- 6:30 pm: Heavy Hors d'oeuvres
- 8:00 pm: Comedian, Chris Voth

RSVP TO: Bobbie Lucero in Administration by **11/27/13**; Phone: 641-7600 or Email: Blucero@gunnisoncounty.org

"Chris Voth has appeared on two seasons of Last Comic Standing and on Comedy Central and appeared prominently in the commercials for both. Nearly a 10 year comedy-veteran, Voth is a past winner of the Miller Lite Comedy Competition of Denver and has worked with everyone from Dave Chappell to Linda Ronstadt."



COORDINATED ELECTION ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2013

November 5, 2013 is the Coordinated Election. Ballots were mailed on October 15, 2013. If you did not received your ballot, this could be due to a change of address. Replacement ballots can be obtained at the Gunnison County Elections Office, Blackstock Government Center, 221 N. Wisconsin St. Suite C. Gunnison, CO.

Voted ballots can be returned by US Mail (one 46 cent stamp) or may be hand delivered to the Gunnison County Elections Office. Ballots must be received no later than November 5, 2013 7:00 p.m. in order to be counted. Postmarks do not count as a receive date. If anyone has any questions please contact Kathy Simillion or Diane Folowell at 641-7927 or email ksimillion@gunnisoncounty.org or dfollowell@gunnisoncounty.org. Be sure to exercise your right to VOTE!!!!

EXTENDED HOURS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- October 28-November 1 - 7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- November 2 - 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- November 4 - 7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- November 5 - 7:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m. (Election Day)

COUNTY SCOOP



ABOVE: Patrol Sergeant Travis Dooley and his wife welcomed daughter Bristol Dooley on 9/28/2013 at 7.12 pounds & 21 in.



LEFT: Finance Director Linda Nienhueser welcomed her granddaughter Gracelyn on 10/08/13. She was born in Williston, ND and weighed 7 lbs. 11 ozs. and was 21 inches long. Pictured is Linda's son, Seth with wife Vanissa and baby Gracelyn.

REMAINING 2013 GUNNISON COUNTY HOLIDAYS

For the complete list of 2013 holidays, visit the County website.

- 11/11 – Veteran's Day
- 11/28 – Thanksgiving Day
- 11/29 – Day after Thanksgiving
- 12/25 – Christmas

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TIP –

Halloween is near, the fog is rolling in, the chill is starting to bite and there are groans coming from the woods. In addition to your healthy supply of wooden stakes, silver bullets and garlic, it would be wise to put aside a few other items and create an emergency preparedness kit. You will be happy you prepared an emergency kit, just in case there is a zombie apocalypse, vampires attack or other natural disaster occurs. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) started a Zombie Preparedness campaign in May of 2011 and recommends setting aside a few items in your Zombie Preparedness kit, such as:

- Water (1 gallon per person per day)
- Food (stock up on non-perishable items that you eat regularly and a non-electric can opener)
- Medications (this includes prescription and non-prescription meds)
- Tools and Supplies (utility knife, duct tape, battery powered radio, etc.)
- Sanitation and Hygiene (toiletries, household bleach, soap, towels, etc.)
- Clothing and Bedding (a change of clothes for each family member and blankets)
- Important Documents (copies of your driver's license, passport, and birth certificate)
- First Aid Supplies
- Pet Supplies (food, water, medications, paperwork, carrier/crate and leash)

The CDC also recommends creating an emergency plan with your family, once you have created your kits. Your emergency plan should include what actions you would take and where you will go if a Zombie Apocalypse (or natural disaster) begins. For a full list of suggested emergency preparedness supplies, visit the Emergency Management Emergency Preparedness page on the County website, where there is a link to the CDC's recommended emergency supplies. This can be found at: <http://www.gunnisoncounty.org/Prepare>.

The office of Emergency Management will be providing a quarterly emergency preparedness tip. To receive the quarterly tip, watch for it in the quarterly newsletter, or subscribe for notifications (via email or texts) on our County website on the Notify Me page at: <http://www.gunnisoncounty.org/list.aspx>.

OPEN ENROLLMENT PACKETS FOR EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

There will be open enrollment in the month of December, for benefits that start 01/01/2014. Open enrollment packets will be emailed to each employee's County email address by November 30th. If anyone can't access their County email, contact Debbie Moore in HR for a paper open enrollment packet. Debbie can be reached at 970-641-7623 or Dmoore@gunnisoncounty.org

BUDGET PREPARATION SCHEDULE

The 2014 Gunnison County budget preparation season officially kicked off on July 30th! Important upcoming dates to remember:

- Tuesday, November 5th: Board of County Commissioners budget work session.
- Tuesday, December 10th: Public Hearing at 7:30 pm.
- Friday, December 13th: Board of County Commissioners adopts budget.
- Friday, December 20th: Board of County Commissioners sets County mill levy and certifies all taxing entities' mill levies to the County Assessor.

EMPLOYEE IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Crystal Lambert was hired as the Assistant Building/Environmental Health Inspector for Gunnison County in November of 2008. Her position was created to assist the Building Inspector and the Environmental Health Official with the daily demands of their respective positions.

With Rich Wojdakowski's retirement in March, Crystal felt that she could not only perform her regular duties, but assume all of the responsibilities that Rich Wojdakowski previously fulfilled until a Community Development Director had been hired and some decisions had been made for staffing the department into the future. She not only assumed all of that responsibility, she stepped up in a big way!

"She has worked relentlessly and tirelessly to complete building permit reviews and building inspections in a timely and efficient manner. She has worked many extra hours but is always friendly and approachable with the customers. The CD staff have enjoyed working with Crystal because of her great sense of humor and her willingness to solve problems and be part of the team. While she's been working all of the extra hours to complete everything, she also gained her final Building Official Certification and Plumbing Inspector Certification!" said Cathie Pagano when she nominated Crystal for the Spotlight honor. "I couldn't agree more!" was Beth Baker's comment, when she seconded the nomination.



Building/Environmental Health Official Crystal Lambert

When Frank Vader, as a Personnel Board member, was tasked with going through the nominations and picking the "Employee in the Spotlight" for the 3rd Quarter, he emailed HR this comment. "...I have been in my office a lot on weekends, and on multiple occasions in recent months I have seen Crystal coming and going; off to another test in Grand Junction for plumbing inspector or a higher level of building inspector, etc. I asked her one Sunday if she was going to become an electrical inspector also and she answered to the affirmative. She stated that her goal is to become a "one stop shop", to be able to do all rough-in inspections in one trip for framing, plumbing, and electrical and the same for final. This would save contractors a lot of time waiting on three inspectors and it would also save both the county and the state a lot of money. I remember the day when Walt Barron did both building and septic inspections, so Crystal's sights are set even higher. She is certainly ambitious and motivated, and worthy of recognition."

And worthy of recognition Crystal is. Her new boss, Russ Forrest, has just promoted her to a new hybrid position of Building and Environmental Health Official where she will continue to be responsible for enforcing the *Uniform Building Code*, the *Gunnison County Individual Sewage Disposal System Regulations*, and the *Gunnison County Land Use Resolution*. What goes around comes around, right? Your hard work and dedication paid off Crystal!

EMPLOYEE IN THE SPOTLIGHT NOMINATIONS

To nominate a Gunnison County employee for this honor, tell the Personnel Board in 100 words or less why you think the person you are nominating deserves for the spotlight to be on them. Email your nomination to: dmoore@gunnisoncounty.org or put it in the Courthouse mailbox for Human Resources. Along with an article in the next County newsletter, the employee chosen by the Personnel Board will receive \$50 in Gunnison Greenbacks.

EMPLOYEE HALLOWEEN POTLUCK LUNCHEON

- ☠ **WHEN:** Thursday, October 31st
- ☠ **WHERE:** Planning Commission meeting room. (Blackstock building)
- ☠ **TIME:** 12 pm - 1 pm
- ☠ **COSTUMES:** Costumes are optional, yet dress up for better chances of winning the costume contest!
- ☠ **PUMPKINS:** Bring your best already carved pumpkin for the pumpkin carving contest.



Emergency Manager Scott Morrill assisted the Boulder County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) during the tragic flooding that occurred in September.

Pictured above, is Scott Morrill having a discussion with representatives from the Boulder County Sheriff's Office and the Boulder County EOC relative to how a potentially stolen excavator was ordered through the State ordering system and showed up to work in Boulder Canyon.

GUNNISON COUNTY MASS FLU CLINIC—10/9/13

The Gunnison County Mass Flu Clinic was developed to provide seasonal flu immunizations to the public, quickly and efficiently, thus increasing capacity while making the process as easy as possible for the public. Influenza is a serious disease that can lead to hospitalization and sometimes even death. Every flu season is different, and influenza infection can affect people differently. Even healthy people can get very sick from the flu and spread it to others. Over a period of 31 seasons between 1976 and 2007, estimates of flu-associated deaths in the United States range from a low of about 3,000 to a high of about 49,000 people. During a regular flu season, about 90% of deaths occur in people 65 years and older. The “seasonal flu season” in the United States can begin as early as October and last as late as May.

The Gunnison County Health and Human Services Department (Public Health Program) seeks to positively impact the healthy growth and optimal development of young children. To accomplish this, Public Health is pursuing a goal to ensure that 80% of Gunnison County children are fully immunized by age two, as reported in the annual review.

There are several benefits of rapid public vaccination during an actual event. The drive-up capabilities allow for the public to get vaccinated without being exposed to other members of the public that may be sick. The Flu Clinic that was held on 10/09/13 was drive-up and walk-in capable.

Overall, the Mass Flu Clinic event was successful. A total of 411 seasonal flu vaccines were administered (313 adults and 98 children). During this event, Emergency Manager Scott Morrill served as the Liaison Officer, Assistant Emergency Manger Bobbie Lucero served as the Public Information Officer, Public Health Director Carol Worrall served as the Operations Section Chief, and Assistant Finance Director Ben Cowan served as the Incident Commander. The Flu Clinic event used the Incident Command Structure (ICS) to allow the Public Health department to practice their vaccination capabilities for a possible rapid response to mass vaccinations. The ICS also allowed Emergency Operation Center staff to practice their ICS skills during the event.



Pictured Above: Operations Section Chief Carol Worrall leads a nurses briefing, before the action begins.

Pictured Right: Volunteer nurses are ensuring paperwork is properly filled out, before giving vaccinations.



Pictured Left: The Flu Clinic drive-thru staff are providing paperwork to the public and collecting the flu shot fee.



Pictured Above: Nurse Sharon Dorzweiler is seen giving a member of the public a flu vaccination.



Pictured Above (Left to Right): Flu Clinic Incident Commander Ben Cowan, Liaison Officer Scott Morrill, and Public Information Officer Bobbie Lucero are discussing the status of the progression of the Flu Clinic.

BOCC ADOPTS GUNNISON COUNTY RESOLUTIONS

The following is a partial list of the County resolutions that have been passed by the Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners since the printing of the last newsletter. For information on these or any other adopted resolutions, please visit <http://www.gunnisoncounty.org/resolutions> or contact Gunnison County Administration at (970) 641-0248.

DATE	#	RESOLUTION TITLE
7/2	14	A Resolution Adopting the Gunnison County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan 2012
7/2	15	A Resolution Adopting 2013 Gunnison County Primary and Secondary Road Maps
7/2	16	Resolution; Vacating the Alley, Block and Lots within Block 37 and Those Portions of Smelter Street, Gothic Street and Cliff Street Adjacent to Block 37, within the Townsite of Gothic, County of Gunnison, State of Colora-
7/2	17	Resolution; Establishing the Schedule of Fees and Rates for Water Service within the Antelope Hills Division of the Gunnison County Water and Sewer District
7/23	18	A Resolution Repealing Resolution No: 2013-13, A Resolution Implementing Stage I Fire Restrictions
8/6	19	A Resolution Adjusting Ground Rent for Use of Premises at the Gold Basin Industrial Park
8/6	20	A Resolution Granting an Exemption for a Division of Land from the Definition of the Terms "Subdivision" and "Subdivided Land" for a Parcel of Land Located within Sections 2, 3, 4, 10 and 11, Township 50 North, Range 2
9/3	21	A Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of the Taxable Water Revenue Bond (Antelope Hills Water Division Project) Series 2013; Prescribing the Form of Said Bond; Providing other Details Concerning the Bond, and the System and Funds Appertaining Thereto.
10/15	22	A Resolution Endorsing the West Slope Principles for the Colorado Water Plan

COURTHOUSE RENOVATION PROJECT UPDATE

Departments located within the courthouse are preparing to move to their alternate locations during the courthouse renovation project, some already have. Departments will be or already have been relocated to the following locations. *Please continue to use the 200 E. Virginia Avenue address for all postal mail as arrangements have been made with the USPS to continue regular mail delivery during the course of the construction project (see below article for more information).* Stay informed on the progress of the Courthouse Renovation Project by visiting the Gunnison County website at <http://www.gunnisoncounty.org/courthouse>. Also, join the conversation for various County projects at www.YourGunnisonCounty.com.

DEPARTMENT	NEW LOCATION	NEW LOCATION ADDRESS
ADMINISTRATION (County Manager's Office, Finance and Human Resources)	Airport Terminal building	711 Rio Grande Ave.
ALTERNATIVE SERVICES	Public Safety Center	510 W. Bidwell
ATTORNEY'S OFFICE	Airport Terminal building	711 Rio Grande Ave.
DISPATCH	910 W. Bidwell	910 W. Bidwell
GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SERVICES	Blackstock Gov't. Center	221 N. Wisconsin Street
JUVENILE SERVICES	Family Services Center	225 N. Pine Street
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE	The Main Place	234 N. Main Street; Suite 3C
COURTS & PROBATION	108 E. Georgia Ave.	108 E. Georgia Ave.
STATE PATROL OFFICE	The Main Place	234 N. Main Street; Suite 3E #400

COURTHOUSE MAIL

Mail addressed to the courthouse (200 E. Virginia Ave.) will be on a firm hold at the post office during the courthouse renovation project, effective **12/01/2013**. Mail will be delivered to the Blackstock building's break room (first floor by Recording) by a County employee who will distribute the mail into the cubbies that have been created. If you have any questions, please contact Bobbie in the County Manager's office at 641-7600 or email blucero@gunnisoncounty.org.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES HEALTH CARE REFORM UPDATE; OCTOBER 1, 2013 *(see the Gunnison County intranet site for September's edition)*

September was the “training month” for Kelsey Vander Veen, Health Coverage Guide and for our Eligibility Technicians, April Sparks, Nevada Stevenson, and Christy Besecker. The Department of Health and Human Services is developing a business model to assist individuals in health insurance coverage to include new Medicaid eligible individuals, individuals interested in assistance with the Connect for Health Colorado marketplace as well as Medicare counseling services. Our intent is to provide a responsive “any door is the right door” approach.

We have a local designated email address and phone number for Connect for Health Colorado marketplace guide assistance. Kelsey can be reached by email at connectforhealthcolorado@gunnisoncounty.org and by phone at 970-642-7301.

Joyce Austin is a new staff member, joining the department October 1, 2013, in a customer support position for assisting individuals with the new Medicaid expansion and in a support roll for our technician staff members.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: As a Gunnison County Employee, what does this mean to me?

A: If you have any of the following, you ARE eligible for Gunnison County employee benefits, which includes medical insurance coverage:

- Work at least 30 hrs/wk as a regularly scheduled employee; or
- At least 1560 hrs/yr; or
- Are an elected official.

You may enroll in, or remain enrolled in, medical insurance coverage through the County’s employee benefit, which is considered affordable and meets the minimum value standard set by the Healthcare Reform Act. You can keep seeing your current providers, assuming they remain in the County’s provider networks. You may decline insurance coverage offered by the County and purchase your insurance coverage in the marketplace or from an individual insurance carrier. You will need to have available the form titled “New Health Insurance Marketplace Coverage Options and Your Health Coverage” that was distributed with the September 30th paystubs to access your employer information when requested in the Connect for Health Colorado website enrollment process.

If you are eligible for coverage through your employer and you choose to purchase insurance coverage through another source, you will not be eligible for the premium sharing that is offered by the County nor the tax credits being offered through the www.connectforhealthco.com website.

If you work less than 30 hrs/wk for the County, you are not eligible for the County’s medical insurance benefit. You are, however, required by law to have health insurance coverage. Beginning January 1, 2014, US residents must obtain minimum essential health insurance coverage or they will be subject to a tax penalty. There are limited exceptions for circumstances such as financial hardship and religious objection. The penalties for individuals without minimum essential health insurance coverage will be the greater of a flat dollar amount or a percentage of income. In 2014, an individual pays \$95 or 1% of income. In 2015, an individual pays \$325 or 2% of income. In 2016 and thereafter, an individual pays \$695 or 2.5% of income.

You can purchase your medical insurance coverage from the marketplace at www.connectforhealthco.com or from an individual insurance carrier. If you purchase from an individual insurance carrier, and you might qualify for premium tax credits in the marketplace, make sure that the insurance agent is certified with Connect for Health Colorado.

Q: People are inquiring about health coverage options, where do I direct them?

A: As a County employee you can also help direct people to the right resource for additional information.

- For the Connect for Health marketplace, individuals can call the new phone number at 642-7301 or by email connectforhealthcolorado@gunnisoncounty.org
- There is also a state wide customer support line at 1-855-PLANS-4-YOU (1-855-752-6749). The web site is: www.connectforhealthco.com
- For Medicaid or CHP+, individuals can call our main Department number at 641-3244 or go to the following web site: Medicaid and CHP+ at www.colorado.gov/PEAK

You can find more information about health care reform at the following resources:

- ◆ <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/HCPF/HCPF/1251573887522>
- ◆ www.connectforhealthco.com
- ◆ www.healthcare.gov
- ◆ www.cuidadodesalud.gov
- ◆ Contact Gunnison County Human Resources