

Gunnison County Bulletin

200 E. Virginia Avenue; Gunnison, CO 81230
www.GunnisonCounty.org

Courthouse Renovation Project Update

The general contractor, GE Johnson, has taken possession of the old Courthouse building as planned. Demolition is scheduled to begin on March 3, 2014 and the construction of the new Courthouse building is anticipated to begin April 7, 2014. Gunnison County was awarded a \$1,000,000 grant from the Colorado



Department of Local Affairs (DOLA). For details on the Courthouse project visit the Gunnison County website under the Courthouse project page at <http://www.gunnisoncounty.org/courthouse>.

2014 BOCC Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Agenda Posting Location Designations

At the January 7th Board of County Commissioner's meeting the Commissioners appointed themselves to serve as the following during 2014:

- Chairperson: Paula Swenson
- Vice-Chairperson: Phil Chamberland
- Personnel Board (one voting member): Phil Chamberland
- Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley Board (one voting member): Jonathan Houck
- Office for Resource Efficiency Board (one voting member): Jonathan Houck
- Gunnison Valley Rural Transportation Authority Board (two voting members): Paula Swenson and Jonathan Houck
- Region 10 Board (one voting member): Jonathan Houck
- Gunnison Basin Sage-grouse Strategic Committee (one voting member, one alternate): Jonathan Houck (voting) and Phil Chamberland (alternate)
- Gunnison-Crested Butte Tourism Association Advisory Board (one non-voting member): Paula Swenson
- Gunnison Country Chamber of Commerce (one voting member): Paula Swenson
- Early Childhood Council (one voting member): Phil Chamberland
- Club 20 (one voting member): Phil Chamberland

The posting location for agendas will be the glass display case in the Blackstock building. If you have any questions please contact the Administration Office at 641-0248.

Community Builders Leadership Institute

The Gunnison County Community Development Department, working with other participating partners in the County, applied to attend the Community Builders Leadership Institute conducted by the Sonoran Institute in January 2014. Gunnison County was one of seven communities selected and is the only participating County team. The goal of the Community Builders Leadership Institute is to help local leaders respond to the changing economic landscape, and build stronger, more successful communities. The Institute will be held for three days in January in Glenwood Springs. The Sonoran Institute pays for the entire cost of the training and associated travel expenses for all team participants.

The Gunnison County team will have the opportunity to work with experts in local finance, housing, land use, transportation and economic development. Teams will gain practical knowledge on the nuts and bolts of building stronger communities. This is an opportunity for team participants from both the public and private sectors to explore collaborative opportunities within the County.

Upcoming Events

Radon Awareness – 1/27/14

There are two upcoming educational events about radon being scheduled to take place in Crested Butte and Gunnison.

Gunnison County Public Health (division of the Dept. of Health and Human Services) in contract with Montrose County Environmental Health will be offering two free presentations on Monday, Jan 27th from 5:30 until 6:30 pm in the CB Town Hall and from 7:30 until 8:30 pm at the Gunnison County Fairgrounds. Free radon kits for homeowners will be available. Call 970-252-5067 for more info.

Radon is a colorless, odorless naturally occurring radioactive gas that threatens the health of our citizens. Radon is the second cause of lung cancer deaths in the US and the number one cause among non-smokers. Nearly half of all homes in Gunnison County have high radon levels. Any home may have elevated levels, even if neighboring homes do not. Testing is simple and inexpensive. Call 970-252-5067 for more information.

Open House – 2/14/14

The Administration Department (County Manager, Finance and Human Resources) and the County Attorney's Office have relocated to the Airport Terminal building at 711 Rio Grande, and will remain until the Courthouse construction project is complete. We will be hosting an Open House on February 14, 2014 from 3-5 pm. Come by and check out our new location and grab something to calm your sweet tooth on Valentine's Day.

The team members consist of Jonathan Houck, Gunnison County Commissioner; Russ Forrest, Assistant County Manager for Community and Economic Development; Cathie Pagano, Gunnison County Planner; Carolyn Riggs, City of Gunnison Council member; Todd Crossett, Town of Crested Butte Manager; Glenn Michel, Town of Crested Butte Council member; John Sale, Crested Butte Mountain Resort Planner; Julie Feier, Chief Operating Officer, Western State Colorado University; Bryan Wickenhauser, I Bar Ranch and Gunnison Chamber of Commerce Board member. For more information contact Cathie Pagano or Russ Forrest at Gunnison County Community Development, 970-641-0360.

Prescription Medication Disposal Information

Did you know that you can dispose of old prescription medications in a secured drop box, located at 910 W. Bidwell in the Gunnison Police Department Records Office? The drop box is open only during business hours from M-F, 9 am – 4 pm. For more information, contact the Gunnison Police Department Records Office at 970-641-8254.

2013 Weed District Report

The Gunnison County Weed Management Program has published its 2013 Annual Report. This program coordinates noxious weed control in the Gunnison Basin, provides educational and consultative services focused on land management, certifies weed-free hay and inspects reclamation projects. To access the full 2013 Annual Report, visit the Gunnison County website under the Public Works Weed Management page. You can also contact Weed District Coordinator Jon Mugglestone at 641-4393 or jmugglestone@gunnisoncounty.org.

Emergency Preparedness Tip

Ice safety is essential when living in a town like Gunnison, where many winter recreationalists inhabit. Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is reminding people that lakes, ponds and streams may not be ready for winter activity. The CPW recommends, "Always assume that unsafe ice conditions may exist and remember ice thickness will vary from place to place and day to day. Four inches of ice is generally considered safe for ice fishing and ice skating. However, OHVs need at least five inches of ice thickness. Whenever there is any question about thickness or conditions the best advice is to stay off the ice."

The CPW has some basic ice safety tips, which are to:

- Never go onto the ice alone.
- Remember Reach-Throw-Go.
- Avoid alcoholic beverages.
- Always wear a life jacket.
- Assemble a personal safety kit.
- Always keep your pets on a leash.
- Don't panic.
- Do not swim.
- Act slowly and deliberately to conserve heat.
- Keep your upper body above water.

Signs of unsafe conditions:

- Ice of different colors.
- Water on top of ice.
- Cracks.
- Pressure ridges.
- Open water.
- Bubbles in the ice.
- Ice covered with snow.

For more detail on safety tips, visit the Emergency Management Emergency Preparedness page on the County website, where there is a link to CPW's Ice Safety Tips Press Release. 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 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>. We are also in the process of creating Facebook (Gunnison County Emergency Management) and Twitter (@GunnisonOEM) pages that you can follow to receive updates, tips, emergency notifications and more!

Upcoming County Holidays (offices will be closed)

- Monday; February 17th
Washington's Birthday
- Monday; May 26th
Memorial Day
- Friday; July 4th
Independence Day
- Monday; September 1st
Labor Day
- Tuesday; November 11th
Veterans' Day
- Thursday; November 27th
Thanksgiving Day
- Friday; November 28th
Day after Thanksgiving
- Thursday; December 25th
Christmas
- Friday; December 26th
Day after Christmas

BOCC Meetings and Agendas

The Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners customarily meets on Tuesdays (1st and 3rd Tuesdays for Regular Meetings, and 2nd and 4th Tuesdays for Work Sessions). Public Hearings and Special Meetings may be scheduled at any time.

Meeting agendas and approved meeting minutes are posted on the County's website at www.gunnisoncounty.org/meetings.

For more information, contact Gunnison County Administration at (970) 641-7601 or by email to khaase@gunnisoncounty.org.

County Resolutions

To view adopted resolutions, please visit the County's website at www.gunnisoncounty.org/resolutions.

County Newsletter Changes

Beginning with this edition, you will see changes in the way that Gunnison County provides updates to the community and the organization with the creation of two separate publications (County and Employee Bulletins). The publication frequency will also change in that bulletins will be created as needed instead of waiting until the end of each quarter.

This change was made in an effort to ensure that the information released is both timely and pertinent to each audience. Please contact County Administration at khaase@gunnisoncounty.org or 970-641-7601 for more information or to provide suggestions for a future article or series that you would be interested in seeing in either of the bulletins. You can also sign up to receive notification of County bulletins online at www.gunnisoncounty.org/list.aspx.