



BOCC Chairperson
Hap Channell

BEYOND NEW YEARS

Hopefully everyone has kept all of the New Year’s resolutions that we made; I’m still working on mine, finishing a journal of questions for one of our daughters that records my life at various stages, an interesting activity to say the least. But it’s occurred to me that with Spring here, as we anticipate another renewal of Earth’s greenery, we have a second opportunity for resolutions, and I challenge all of us to resolve to volunteer our time and expertise to our community.

Recently the commissioners interviewed and appointed nearly 50 volunteer applicants to Gunnison County’s various boards and commissions, citizens who have resolved to give back to the community in which they live. Most of you know about this annual ritual of appointing folks to the Trails Commission, the Gunnison Valley Health Board of Trustees, the Historical Preservation Commission, the Environmental Health Board and the Planning Commission to name a few, and every year I’m reminded that

without the willingness and commitment on the part of citizens to volunteer, these boards and commissions wouldn’t function and important county tasks would screech to a halt. Just as our outstanding staff keeps the vital day-to-day operations of the county moving forward, volunteers fill our meaningful needs beyond these.

As we look around our community, volunteer opportunities for worthwhile organizations, individuals and causes abound. Habitat for Humanity, Six Points, an elderly couple on your block, Gunnison Arts Center and Crested Butte’s Center for the Arts, all of our churches, Paws and the Gunnison Valley Animal Welfare League, many of our Human Services programs, Cattleman’s Days and 4-H, the Senior Care Center, Partners . . . the list that calls us to action goes on and on.

We’re aware that many of our county family volunteer on a regular basis, and we honor that. But as Spring brings renewal to the Earth, let’s make new resolutions to give of our time and energies as much as we can. Volunteerism in many ways keeps our greater community compassionate, engaged and healthy. See you on the volunteer lists!

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BOCC ADOPTS FEE SCHEDULE FOR PUBLIC USE OF COUNTY FACILITIES

On 4/3/12, due to increased staffing and building maintenance costs, the Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners adopted Resolution #2012-12, a Resolution Concerning the Setting of Hours and Charging of Nominal Fees for Public Use of Meeting Rooms in the Gunnison County Courthouse, Blackstock Government Center, and the (O’Leary) Family Services Center. The resolution discontinues after-hours public use of these three facilities, and assigns nominal fees of \$20 per hour or \$100 per day to help offset the associated costs of building maintenance and increased staffing demands that result from public use of the facilities. Fees may be paid in the form of check, cash or debit/credit card.

The resolution does not affect evening or weekend public use of facilities at the Gunnison County Fairgrounds. For more information about this resolution, please visit http://www.gunnisoncounty.org/commissioners_resolutions.html, or contact County Administration at (970) 641-0248.

To reserve meeting or event space in a Gunnison County facility, please use the following contact information:

- Gunnison County Fairgrounds (275 S. Spruce St.): Contact Fairgrounds Manager Melody Roper at (970) 641-8561. This facility has four separate spaces, ranging in size and seating between approximately 35 and 400 persons.
- Planning Commission Meeting Room (221 N. Wisconsin St.): Contact the Community Development Department at (970) 641-0360. This room seats approximately 50 persons.
- Board of County Commissioners Boardroom (200 E. Virginia Ave.): Contact the Administration Department at (970) 641-0248. This room seats approximately 75 persons.
- Administration Meeting Room (200 E. Virginia Ave.): Contact the Administration Department at (970) 641-0248. This room seats approximately 25 persons.
- Family Services Center Meeting Rooms (225 N. Pine St.): Contact the Health & Human Services Department at (970) 641-3244. Each room seats 24 persons and, when the middle wall is removed, the entire room will seat 48 persons.

COMPLIMENTS TO GUNNISON COUNTY

~Submitted by: Finance Director Linda Nienhueser

During a recent Administration Department staff meeting, one comment about a nice compliment received from a service provider lead to another being mentioned and we realized that, among us, we have been individually receiving many praises that others had not heard. It was good to share those comments among the Admin staff, and now we'd love to share some comments with all of you.

Marv Weidner of Weidner, Inc., our Managing For Results consultant, shared that "after working in over 60 jurisdictions over the past 13+ years, Marty and I agree that we would rather work with Gunnison County than any place else. The people are so good, so smart, so straight forward and, with very little cynicism, the culture here is a healthy one."

Ted Lindtveit, Loss Prevention Team Leader for County Technical Services, Inc., works with 52 counties across the State of Colorado. He said the staff at Gunnison County has a strong ability to work together, which is in stark contrast to other counties that he works with. He said that everyone generally assumes that their county behaves the same as every other county, but that we don't realize how lucky we really are. He said there is a good, respectful relationship between elected officials and staff, and that the culture and environment at Gunnison County are more conducive to productivity and good morale than most other counties.

HR Director Debbie Moore shared this from Chris Moffet of Moffet Consulting Group in Vail, Colorado. "During the Leadership Academies, every few sessions Chris would comment about how much she liked working with Gunnison County employees. I always teased her and said, 'You say that to all of your clients!' She always denied that she did. This year I asked her to come back for a Leadership Academy review and she was so excited! She told me that when she told her husband that she was coming back to Gunnison he said, 'You really like working with Gunnison County, don't you?' I guess that, if even he noticed, it must be true."

And this from Shelly O'Grady, NGS CoreSource in Mt. Clemens, MI. When Shelly O'Grady and Marianne Farley, both employees of NGS CoreSource, were here doing employee meetings for our health insurance plan, they commented on how happy our employees seem to be to work for Gunnison County. They thought we all seemed to really get along well and enjoy being around each other.

Additionally, these anonymous comments came from County employees via responses to the 2011 Gunnison County Survey:

- I feel that the County is striving for greatness and that is something I want to be a part of. Please continue to push for this because I see it making a wonderful difference.
- I think we're on the right track. Receiving the awards for our budget and our manager make us proud. It says that knowledgeable people outside of our community recognize our accomplishments. We're being compared to larger counties and we're holding our own. We do have some internal issues that could be improved, but it's uplifting that the county as a whole unit sends the message that we're qualified, forward thinking, and willing to go toe-to-toe with larger organizations.
- I am very proud to work for this progressive, customer-oriented employer.
- I appreciate the training opportunities and the team-approach culture we are developing.

For me, comments like these reaffirm my high opinion of the dedicated and hard-working people I'm fortunate to work with. Nice job, everyone!

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES WELCOMES A NEW STAFF MEMBER

~Submitted by: Randy Morgan, Admin Services Supervisor

The Health and Human Services Department would like to welcome Karen Musgrove to our team. Karen is an Administrative Assistant II, and she began her work with us in October. She is usually the person working at the front desk to greet and assist the public with various requests or answer the multitude of phone calls that come to her.

Karen also wears the hat of Child Care Assistance Program Coordinator. In this role she assists families in need of child care assistance, thereby enabling the parent(s) to return to work or school. If you haven't met Karen yet, please stop by to introduce yourself and to welcome her to the Gunnison County team.

UPCOMING COUNTY HOLIDAYS

- Monday, May 28th – Memorial Day
- Wednesday, July 4th – Independents Day
- Monday, September 3rd – Labor Day
- Monday, October 8th – Columbus Day
- Monday, November 12th – Veterans' Day
- Thursday, November 22nd – Thanksgiving Day
- Friday, November 23rd – Day after Thanksgiving
- Monday, December 24th – Christmas (business day prior)
- Tuesday, December 25th - Christmas



EMPLOYEE IN THE SPOTLIGHT

~Submitted by: Debbie Moore, Human Resources Director

William Spicer has been selected by the Gunnison County Personnel Board as this quarter's Employee in the Spotlight. William came to us in March, 2009, now three years ago. Already having experience in a County Assessor's Office, William was able to start making a difference right away. Beginning as a Property Transfer Technician, he has now assumed the position of Assessment Analyst and is a big contributor to the Assessor's team. When asked about his work, Kristy McFarland said, "We are so lucky to have someone of William's caliber working in our office(s). He does it all while adding whip-quick hilarious remarks...he can find the funny side in any situation (or person)."

Just recently, William volunteered to do some trouble shooting of the Treasurer's new software and single-handedly saved pretty much every Treasurer in the state that purchased the same software. He figured out why the software was not producing the tax roll and gave his information to the software company for free, so they could fix other customers' problems too. County Treasurer Melody Marks commented, "He has been amazing help for the Treasurer's Office this past year, and he is a delight to work with."

The HR office received an email recounting a phone call from a customer that William assisted. A vacation rental company had requested some data from the Assessor's Office. The CEO of the company called to say, "William Spicer was fantastic and he couldn't have been more helpful. The data format was exactly what we needed, - very well organized - and the price was reasonable." He went

on to say, "I request the same data from all mountain communities and Gunnison County is the only county that has provided me exactly what I requested in a legible format." He said, "I am really impressed with the caliber of Gunnison County's employees and their helpfulness."

Ruth Dukeman nominated William for the Employee in the Spotlight honor. She was so eloquent in her argument that I am going to let her tell you the rest in her words. "Knowledge, understanding and a caring touch sets this Gunnison County employee apart from the rest. On top of his already strenuous position as an Assessment Analyst in the Assessor's Office, he is using his superior computer programming skills, combined with a deep understanding of the taxation process in Colorado, to assist with the transition of both the Assessor's and Treasurer's Offices to new software applications. He has spent countless hours working with data and identifying realistic solutions to complex issues all while maintaining a cheery attitude! He deserves a million thanks (and a lengthy vacation). William has been absolutely key in ensuring data integrity in the abstract, certification and tax roll process in the Assessor's Office, and was the person who is responsible for tax bills being balanced and going out (don't hold that against him!). He has spent countless hours creating complex reports that have allowed both offices meet their statutory deadlines. We are only half joking when we tell the software company that they should pay him a salary, because he finds not only the errors in these key processes, he also drills down into the software to find out exactly which piece is not working and why. William's diplomatic approach to any situation, intelligence, infinite patience and humor make him an absolute joy to work with."

EMPLOYEE IN THE SPOTLIGHT NOMINATIONS

If you would like 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 HR Director Debbie Moore 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.



Assessment Analyst
William Spicer

2ND ANNUAL GUNNISON SAGE-GROUSE FESTIVAL – APRIL 15TH @ WSC

Festival Activities: Bring your family to a morning and afternoon of fun with interactive exhibits from agencies and conservation organizations, live music, chili lunch, art, nature slideshow, onstage dog training seminar, Gunnison Sage-grouse and conservation videos, field volunteer signup opportunities & more! **Kids:** Enjoy kids' craft stations and giveaways, face painting, photo opportunities with Smokey Bear and Elbert Ram, and a 'Let's Go Outside' Kids 1500 race that is free for kids 14 & under (and their parents), with kids' prizes for top placeholders. **Athletic Events:** Don't miss three great athletic events including a 5k run/walk on a jogger- stroller-friendly mixed-surface course, a 10k run single lap around Gunnison, and a multi-lap mountain bike race on trails behind Mountaineer Bowl (weather and conditions permitting) with points counting towards the 2012 Growler Series. The cost for these three events, including an event t-shirt and lunch, is \$25. Kids 12 & under are free with a guardian waiver. Proceeds benefit Gunnison Sage-grouse conservation education and conservation efforts on local and private lands. **Live Raptors:** Meet live Colorado native birds of prey visiting from the Nature Raptor Center of Pueblo. **Nature Photo Workshop:** Half-day workshop with acclaimed conservation photographer Dave Showalter. **Dog Owners:** Learn how obedient your dogs really are to your voice commands by bringing them to our dog agility and distraction courses with Waggin' Tails & K-9 Training. Later, join Drew onstage for a dog-training and equipment demo. **When & Where:** The 2012 Gunnison Sage-grouse Festival will be held Saturday April 14th from 9am-3pm at the Western State College Center. **For More Information:** Look for detailed four-page event programs with course maps, schedules and registration information inserted into the April 4th Gunnison Country Shopper and the April 5th Gunnison Country Times.

BOCC ADOPTS GUNNISON COUNTY RESOLUTIONS

The following is a list of the County resolutions that were recently adopted by the BOCC. For information, please visit http://www.gunnisoncounty.org/commissioners_resolutions.html or contact Gunnison County Administration at (970) 641-0248.

1/10	01	A Resolution Clarifying and Modifying Certain Precinct Boundaries for Partisan Elections in Gunnison County, Colorado
1/17	02	A Resolution Rescinding Resolution No: 2012-01 and Modifying and Reestablishing Certain Election Precincts in Gunnison County, Colorado
1/17	03	A Resolution Approving Land Use Change Permit No. 2008-10, a Land Use Change Permit for Richard and Constance Elze for the Subdivision of a 5-Acre Lot from a 179.85-Acre Parcel
1/24	04	A Resolution Supporting the Creation of Gunnison County as a Creative District Recognized by the State of Colorado
1/24	05	A Resolution Directing the Gunnison County Treasurer to Distribute Specific Ownership Tax Monies Among Various County Funds
1/24	06	A Resolution Authorizing the Treasurer to Segregate Interests from Investments of Certain Monies and Revoking Certain Previous Resolutions
2/7	07	A Resolution Authorizing Submission of the Application to the Department of Transportation's State Infrastructure Bank to Borrow the Necessary Funds to Finance the Purchase of a Rapid Response ARFF Vehicle
2/21	08	A Resolution Approving the June 26, 2012 Primary Election be by Mail Ballot
2/21	09	A Resolution Amending the Structure for the Workforce Housing Fee
3/20	10	A Resolution Cancelling Erroneous Tax Sale
3/20	11	A Resolution Imposing a Temporary Weight Restriction for a Portion of CR 38, also known as Gold Basin Road
4/3	12	Resolution Concerning the Setting of Hours and Charging of Nominal Fees for Public Use of Meeting Rooms in the Gunnison County Courthouse, Blackstock Government Center, and the (O'Leary) Family Services Center

BOCC MEETING SCHEDULE AND AGENDAS

The Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners customarily meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of every month for Regular Meetings. Work Sessions are held every 2nd and 4th Tuesday. 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 http://www.gunnisoncounty.org/commissioners_meetings.html. For more information, contact Gunnison County Administration at (970) 641-7601 or by email to khaase@gunnisoncounty.org.

COUNTY OIL & GAS REGULATION AMENDMENTS UPDATE

On 5/8/12, the Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners will continue discussions related to the draft amendments to the Gunnison County Temporary Regulations for Oil and Gas Operations. These discussions will include information relative to timelines, process, impact classifications, and the protection of water quality.

GUNNISONCOUNTY @ WORK

Did you

KNOW

In 2006, Gunnison County worked with community partners to create the Gunnison County Substance Abuse Prevention Project to address issues of youth substance abuse.

Since 2006, there have been significant reductions in youth substance abuse and increases in positive behaviors.

- 8% REDUCTION in 6th through 12th graders who say that they have consumed alcohol in the last 30 days.
- 11% REDUCTION in 6th through 12th graders who say that they have participated in binge+ drinking.
- 98% of Gunnison County parents say that they have talked to their kids about drugs and alcohol (up from 60% in 2008).

Gunnison County is @ work for our youth. Visit www.gcsapp.net to learn more.



GREEN TEAM WORKS ON BUILDING EFFICIENCY

In the most recent iteration of the Gunnison County Strategic Plan, the Board of County Commissioners included the following strategic priority: **By 2014, 75% of eligible County buildings (as measured per sq. ft.) are rated as Energy Star Top Performer.**



To help work toward accomplishment of this priority, the Green Team is working with County departments to get the County's energy-consuming systems - namely lighting and heating systems - to work in the best possible way.

LIGHTING: Lighting typically accounts for up to 40% of the energy used in commercial buildings, and the cost of that energy is creeping upward year-by-year. One of the easiest ways to reduce energy use and cut costs (and emissions) is to turn off lights when they are not required. The County's new occupancy sensors turn lights on and off based on whether or not an area is occupied.



BUT...the sensors are installed at their default settings, which may or may not work effectively depending on the use and physical environment in which they are located. **Contact the Green Team to adjust your sensor for sensitivity, time delay and walkthrough modes to make your sensors work more efficiently and conveniently for you!**

HEATING: During the most recent phase of the performance contract, most county offices were provided with newly installed thermostats. These thermostats should maintain a reasonable room temperature in most county offices.

During evenings and weekends, the thermostats are setback to a lower temperature in order to save 10% - 15% in energy costs when buildings are not occupied.

A goal of the county is to save on energy costs by refraining from using inefficient personal space heaters. Please work with Facilities and Grounds to see if thermostat settings, window draft stoppers (provided by the Green Team), redirection of blowing vents, or other options could address your needs to make a more comfortable work environment.



If other measures cannot maintain a comfortable temperature, you will be provided a county-owned space heater. This will allow the heaters to be kept in good operating order without frayed wires and with functioning tip-over shut-offs to prevent fire hazards. County-owned heaters will also have automatic shut-off timer functions to ensure that they are not accidentally left on overnight and on weekends, which would have a heater working against the setback temperature and more than counteracting the possible savings.

For more information about this article, please contact the Green Team GTeam@GunnisonCounty.org.

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION-WHAT WE DO!

~Submitted by: CSU Extension Director Eric McPhail

It's a New World: Gunnison County, from its irrigated and cattle-filled pastures, to its high-end mountain resort, is as diversified as the people who live in it. With the diversity of our county comes the essential need for Extension. Information is everywhere and available 24 hours a day. The problem lies in that this knowledge can be just as diversified as the people giving it. Here at the Gunnison County CSU Extension office, we are dedicated to offering our residents accurate, research-based information on a variety of topics. Quality staffed, our office is tackling the needs of the youth, agricultural producers, gardeners, businesses, homeowners, parents, caregivers, and the elderly of Gunnison County. Rest assured that the programs and knowledge our staff delivers are backed by some of the best minds in the state at Colorado State University.

Programs: Programs are just one way that the CSU Extension office delivers the goods. We also work with you one-to-one as a resource center - a place where you can get instant access to information relevant to your problems, no matter where you live or what you do. Questions on healthy living, food safety, radon, well water or money matters? What about farming, ranching or local food issues? Are those bed bugs or carpet bugs? What plants grow well here, or how often do you water your lawn? The CSU Extension office has the latest facts waiting for you by phone, website (www.gunnison.colostate.edu), educational workshops, webinars, or old-fashioned face-to-face discussion. Simply call our office at 970-641-1260.

Our 4-H and K-12 programs help to educate the youth of Gunnison County and teach them life skills. The 4-H program, with its 180+ members and 50+ volunteers, is a program that every child can enjoy. 4-H is not just a livestock and home economics organization. Today's 4-H includes programs on government, rockets, gardening, leadership, public speaking and robots. The sky is the limit with what 4-H can offer children 5-18 years old.

Accurate and Unbiased Information: Finally, in this age of electronic media, propaganda and advertisements everywhere you turn, the CSU Extension office offers a rare commodity - information you can trust.

Funded by County, State and Federal tax dollars, our research-based knowledge is provided by specialists, experts and researchers with no products to sell or agendas to push. Our only concern is the accuracy of the information and the welfare of the citizens of Gunnison County.

So if you are looking for straight-forward, research-based, usable information on agriculture and natural resources, 4-H youth programs, home and family issues, or community development, then your first stop should be the CSU Extension office located at the Gunnison County Fairgrounds in the Fred R. Field Western Heritage Center multipurpose building.

Contacts: Eric McPhail-Director/Agriculture & Youth Agent; Nadine Henry-4-H/Youth Agent; Sylvia Bonham-Outreach Family Consumer Coordinator; and Lori Wilcox-Administrative Assistant.

GUNNISON COUNTY PERSONNEL BOARD

~ Submitted by: Human Resource Director Debbie Moore

The Personnel Board is comprised of a County Commissioner, the County Assessor, the County Clerk & Recorder, the County Sheriff, the County Treasurer and the County Coroner. The Commissioner Representative position rotates, and is currently filled by Commissioner Phil Chamberland. All other elected officials serve on this board for the full length of time in office. In addition, County employees elect five Employee Representatives on a staggered election schedule, with each person serving a two-year term. The County Manager appoints someone to the Department Head Representative position every two years to round out the Personnel Board.

Personal Property Appraisal Technician Leanne Lee currently serves as the Chairperson of the Personnel Board, Public Health Director Carol Worrall serves as the Vice Chairperson, and Public Works Shop Foreman Kurt Biesemeyer serves as the Employee Representative on the Review Panel that is responsible for reviewing possible demotions or terminations of County employees. Finance Accountant Kelly Weak is responsible for taking minutes at the meetings. Assistant County Manager Marlene Crosby serves in the Department Head Representative position, while Community Development Department Services Manager Beth Baker and Motor Vehicle Licensing Technician Diana Purnell serve in the remaining Employee Representative positions.

The Personnel Board meets at least once per quarter to assist in the administration of personnel policies. This includes providing recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners regarding changes to formal policies. As well, the Personnel Board discusses issues such as a policy to ban dogs from County buildings, or an employee request to deduct charitable donations from employee paychecks. The Personnel Board reviews the employee benefit package from time to time, and it makes recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners on changes. Responsibilities also include determining the use of the Sick Leave Bank.

Notice of Personnel Board meetings is posted by email and meetings are open to attendance by employees and any other interested individuals. Due to the private nature of Sick Leave Transfer requests, the Personnel Board will go into executive session to discuss those issues.

If you are a County employee and you have an issue or a suggestion regarding personnel issues within the organization, you are encouraged to speak to one of the members of the Personnel Board, send a suggestion through the "got ideas?" button, or attend a Personnel Board meeting.



Back Row: Kurt Biesemeyer, Marlene Crosby, Beth Baker, Phil Chamberland, Rick Besecker, Frank Vader. Front Row: Diana Purnell, Melody Marks, Leanne Lee, Carol Worrall, Debbie Moore (advisor) Kristy McFarland. Not pictured: Stella Dominguez

GUNNISON COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY UPDATE

As of 4/3/12, governing officials from the City of Gunnison, Town of Crested Butte and Town of Mt. Crested Butte have all stated support, via three-year financial commitments, for the continuation of the Gunnison County Housing Authority. Soon, representatives from each jurisdiction and the County will begin discussions related to funding a governance structure that would provide for equal voting privileges for each of the four entities. The search for a new Housing Authority director will also begin very soon.

The mission of the Housing Authority is to provide affordable housing, support and advocacy services to low- and moderate-income residents so they can live in safe, quality and energy-efficient affordable housing. By preservation of the current inventory and addition of future housing units, construction is encouraged, employment opportunities are created, housing for the workforce and necessary shelter for those in need is provided.

- There are currently 279 deed-restricted properties in Gunnison County (26 in Gunnison, 155 in Crested Butte, and 98 in Mt. Crested Butte), many of which are managed by the Housing Authority and/or were created with the assistance of the Housing Authority.
- There are currently 42 Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers which provide rent and utility subsidies being administered by the Housing Authority for utilization in our communities (32 in Gunnison, and 10 in the Upper East River Valley).
- The Housing Authority facilitates rental subsidies to seniors who live independently in the 28 units at the Mountain View Apartments facility. Of these tenants, six have either lived in or currently have family living in the Upper East River Valley.
- The Housing Authority facilitates Medicaid payments to support our elderly in the Willows Assisted Living Facility who can no longer live independently.

The Housing Authority is able to receive loans, grants and other contributions from any other source, public or private, without obligating the general taxpayer for its debts. A Housing Authority is necessary in order to participate in federal and state housing programs which provide additional loans, grants and contributions. Through local Housing Authority administration, federal funding has been obtained as used as follows:

- Nearly \$660,000 of investment by USDA Rural Development in the creation of 30 low-income homes throughout the county (18 in Gunnison, 10 in Crested Butte and 2 in Mt. Crested Butte).

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GUNNISON COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY UPDATE (Continued from page 6)

- In 2011, \$127,458 was provided to Mountain View Apartments in subsidies for the low-income senior apartment complex so that those apartments are affordable to our seniors. By comparison, residents contributed \$85,183 in rental payments.
- In 2011, \$260,124 in rent and utility payments were provided to landlords and tenants utilizing Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers throughout our community.

Another purpose of the Housing Authority is to assist jurisdictions in the development, implementation and administration of housing policies and programs. In order to provide informed and research-based guidance, the Housing Authority prepares, publishes, and participates in research studies and surveys pertaining to the provision of affordable housing. Recent examples include:

- The 2009 Housing Needs Study, paid for by a grant to the Housing Authority from the State of Colorado at a cost of approximately \$72,000.
- The two market studies (one for Gunnison and one for Crested Butte / Mt. Crested Butte), performed by Prior and Associates and paid for by private developers at an approximate cost of \$12,000.

The Housing Authority, in partnership with the newly created non-profit, also exists to provide information, education and leadership to residents. These critical services serve as mechanisms for foreclosure prevention, down-payment assistance, credit repair and financial literacy. For more information about the Housing Authority, please contact County Administration at (970) 641-0248.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH – APRIL 2012

Every April child welfare advocates across the nation take time to remind communities that although child abuse and neglect happens in all places; large and small, rural and urban it is something that communities can come together to address. In Gunnison County there are numerous collaborations and efforts taking place to protect kids from abuse and neglect and provide support to all families.

“Raising children can be a daunting challenge under the best of circumstances, but for families that face the various struggles that place children at risk for abuse or neglect it can be especially difficult. Every strong and successful community comes together to insure that their most vulnerable members are supported. I have found that this is certainly the case in Gunnison County,” says Gunnison County Department of Health and Human Services Child and Family Manager Greg Meier.

Research shows that six important “protective factors” are present in healthy families: *nurturing and attachment, knowledge of parenting and of child and youth development, parental resilience, social connections, concrete supports for parents, and social and emotional competence for children*. Promoting these factors is among the most effective ways to reduce the risk of child abuse and neglect, and they are what drive the work of all County agencies tasked with promoting healthy families.

Meier reports that in 2011 in Gunnison County there were 188 families referred and there was an average of 36 open child welfare cases per month. The majority of families referred are linked to community support services or other resources to help them in an immediate crisis and provide long term support. Some families also elect to enter into a voluntary case with the department in order to access specific services with case worker oversight and assistance.

Meier says his department wants people to realize that child abuse does happen in our community. He also wants people to know that many agencies and individuals in the community are working hard and in a collaborative way to address child abuse and neglect. “Our community places a high priority on working together effectively for kids and families. We have county programs, nonprofits and many committed individuals including volunteers and foster parents working to make sure kids are safe and healthy and that parents have the resources they need to be successful.”

To show their continued support of child abuse prevention the Gunnison County Commissioners signed a proclamation on 4/3/12 declaring that all children have a right to be safe and to be provided an opportunity to thrive, learn, and grow. The proclamation states among other things that “we must come together as partners so that the voices of our children are heard by all and we are as a community extending a helping hand to children and families in need.” This reinforces the mission of the Department and the County to protect the health and wellbeing of children in Gunnison County. “We must focus as many resources as it takes to protect the most vulnerable members of our society, children who cannot fend for themselves. It is a moral imperative now and the most compassionate investment we can make for the future,” says Hap Channell, Board of County Commissioners Chairperson.

Gunnison County works to provide quality services to every client incorporating accountability and outcome based performance into every aspect of service. The Managing for Results outcome measures related to the Department of Health and Human Services Child and Family Services program area demonstrates Gunnison County is achieving positive outcome results:

- 90.2%: Percentage of the children/families with a confirmed abuse/neglect finding that do not have another confirmed incident of abuse/neglect within six months of initial contact.
- 100%: Percentage of children (0 to 18 years of age) and youth with an open case who achieve permanency (living situation) within 12 months.

For more information regarding child abuse prevention, please contact the Gunnison County Health & Human Services Department at (970) 641-3244. To report (anonymously or otherwise) suspected abuse of a child, adult or animal, please contact the Gunnison County Sheriff’s Office at (970) 641-1113. This phone number may be used to report abuse day or night, 24 hours a day, and seven days a week.

TIPS TO HELP GUNNISON COUNTY EMPLOYEES SAVE MONEY ON PRESCRIPTIONS

~ Submitted by: Human Resource Director Debbie Moore

- **Ask for generics first.** Generic drugs can cost up to 80% less than brand-name drugs, and they have the same active ingredients.
- **Order 90-day supplies of long-term medications to save money.** Choose to receive your long-term prescriptions at the CVS Caremark Mail Service Pharmacy, or a CVS Caremark retail-90 pharmacy.
- **Fill short-term prescriptions at a network pharmacy.** You will generally pay more for short-term (30 days or fewer) prescriptions that are not filled at a CVS Caremark retail network pharmacy. Both City Market and Wal-Mart pharmacies are in the CVS network.

Gunnison County Prescription Benefit Plan	CVS Caremark Retail Pharmacy Network	CVS Caremark Retail-90 Pharmacy	CVS Caremark Mail Service Pharmacy
Generic Medications. Save money by asking for a generic first.	\$5 for a 30-day supply	\$5 for a 1-30 day supply \$10 for a 31-60 day supply \$15 for a 61-90 day supply	\$10 for a 90-day supply
Brand-Name Medications-DAW= Dispense as written. You will generally pay more for a brand-name medication.	25% (\$20 min) for a 30-day supply	25% (\$20 min) For a 30-day supply	\$40 for a 90-day supply
Brand-Name Medications for any other reason other than "Dispense as Written: when Generic is available".	Brand Co-pay plus any cost differential between the Brand name and the Generic	Brand Co-pay plus any cost differential between the Brand name and the Generic	Brand Co-pay plus any cost differential between the Brand name and the Generic
Annual Deductible	\$100 per individual	\$100 per individual	\$100 per individual

Where to fill your prescription. Choosing where to fill your prescription depends on whether you are filling a short-term or long-term medication:

- **Short-term medications** are generally taken for a limited amount of time and have a limited amount of refills, such as an antibiotic. You can fill prescriptions for these medications at any pharmacy in the CVS Caremark retail network (includes City Market and Wal-Mart pharmacies). Choose from more than 64,000 network pharmacies nationwide, including independent pharmacies, chain pharmacies and 7,100 CVS/pharmacy locations. Find a participating pharmacy at www.caremark.com. **Tip:** To avoid filling out claims paperwork, bring your NGS Card with you when you pick up your prescription, and use a pharmacy in the CVS Caremark retail network.
- **Long-term medications** are taken regularly for chronic conditions, such as high blood pressure, asthma, diabetes or high cholesterol. You will generally save money by using mail service for these prescriptions. Choose **one** of five easy ways to start using the CVS Caremark 90-day Program: Fill out and send in a mail service order form with a doctor's prescription(s) for 90 days plus 3 refills – Print a CVS Caremark order form online at www.gunnisoncounty.org or www.caremark.com; Use the FastStart tool found on www.caremark.com. With FastStart, you can save a trip to the doctor's office for a new prescription. You can just ask your doctor to call in your prescription toll-free to 1-800-378-5697. Call FastStart toll-free at 1-800-863-5488. Bring your generic prescription to a CVS Caremark Retail-90 Pharmacy (City Market and Wal-Mart are both Retail-90 pharmacies).

Call Human Resources if you need help with any of the above. If you have questions about your prescriptions or benefits, you can contact Customer Care 24 hours a day, seven days a week. You can either e-mail customerservice@caremark.com or call 1-866-818-6911.



COUNTY SCOOP

Left: Public Works Administrative Assistant Debbie Ferchau is the recipient of the 2011 Robert R. Williams Firefighter of the Year award. Debbie has been a member of the Gunnison Volunteer Fire Department for 16 years.

Right: Gunnison County Treasurer Melody Marks became grandmother to Tayo Neill Tullius, born Dec 23rd, 7.5 lbs.

