

## NEWSLETTER



Commissioner Phil Chamberland

What a year it's shaping up to be. I'm proud of all the work the County has done so far in 2012, and we're only half way through it. There are a lot of important issues that we are dealing with that will have profound consequences on our future.

The work being done on Oil & Gas regulations for the County is progressing rapidly. We have been working with the industry, environmental groups and Community Development to find a middle ground that will protect the natural resources and allow the necessary extraction of the energy resources in the County. This balance is critical to the future of our community. By getting it right, we are doing our small part in helping the nation become more energy efficient. There is always room for improvement, but I believe that here in the US we are more environmentally sensitive, when it comes to the extraction industry, than just about any nation in the world. This is why I believe that energy extraction in our own Country and County is better for the environment than importing energy from countries that extract with less regard for environmental concerns,

not to mention distribution efficiency of home-grown energy lowers our CO<sub>2</sub> footprint. Gunnison County is in the forefront of balancing the environment and energy development. What we are doing here is being looked at as the example, by the State, in cooperative collaboration that may be duplicated elsewhere. Our approach has been pragmatic. The ground breaking Memorandum of Understanding and Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the Colorado Oil and Gas Commission is first of its kind. With these cooperative agreements the County will be able to have productive input at the State level when Oil & Gas permits are being sought by the industry. The landmark IGA with the State gives Gunnison County the authority to do inspection of oil and gas operations in our County, for the State. The lack of inspection has been a major criticism of the environmental community. Through the hard work of County staff we are finding a balance that is right for all concerned.

The work being done on sage grouse habitat protection is progressing rapidly as well. The Bureau of Land Management, with the input of the Gunnison Sage-grouse Strategic Committee, has been diligently working on a Candidate Conservation Agreement (CCA). This agreement will help guide future development on public lands in the County. The Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Department has done some ground breaking work on habitat inventory. The "habitat prioritization tool" that GIS developed is first of its kind. This tool allows the Community Development Department and other County staff to pinpoint precisely what habitat is critical to the survival of the Gunnison Sage Grouse. This will be a useful tool for the County if the bird is listed as threatened or endangered. (This decision is expected by September 30<sup>th</sup> of this year). We now have the ability to designate priority habitat for Gunnison Sage Grouse on public and private lands. The Candidate Conservation Agreement (CCA) will address development on public lands. Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances (CCAA)

are agreements between the Federal Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and private land owners. Currently some ranchers are working on individual CCAA's for their land. This will give them "assurances" that a listing will not affect their ranching operations. If this happens they will operate under the CCAA that they have entered into with FWS. If the bird gets listed, the County will look at the possibility of a countywide "habitat conservation agreement" which will eliminate the need, for some private land owners, of having to go through the major time and expense of an individual agreement when they want to develop their private property. The County has identified about 40,000 acres of private land that are designated as critical habitat for the bird. Thanks to the hard work of County staff, we will be able to "soften the blow" if a listing occurs.

The County is also working diligently with a local group of stakeholders to increase the community's access to broadband services. The priority of the group is to first provide redundancy, and then provide affordable access for all the residents and businesses of Gunnison County. You'll be hearing more on this in the future.

Road and Bridge is in full gear maintaining the hundreds of miles of roads that we all depend on daily. Their work helps to ensure that visitors to the valley have a pleasant experience as well. The work that was done last year on Cottonwood Pass played into the USA Pro Cycling tour decision to return to Gunnison County again this year.

The Community Development Department is hard at work creating an environment that will foster growth while balancing economic development with sustainable growth to meet the needs of the people of the county. It's hard work with little appreciation, so I'm glad we have a dedicated staff that is looking at how to improve their service to the community. The work that they are currently doing to identify Special Geographic Areas (SGAs) will help streamline the planning process and give developers better assurances when they are considering the best use of their private lands.

### INSIDE

### THIS ISSUE

2012 Holiday Schedule .....	2
County Scoop ....	2
Employee in the Spotlight.....	3
Gunnison County Resolutions .....	4
Board of Equalization .....	4
Green Team .....	5
Personnel Preparedness.....	6
County at Work ...	6
Stage 2 Fire Restrictions.....	7
Gunnison County Strategic Plan .....	8

### BECKY MILES' MEMORIAL SERVICE

Becky Miles, a Gunnison County employee for over 22 years, passed away on June 22, 2012. A memorial service to celebrate and remember the life of Becky Miles will be held on Saturday, June 30<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm in the multipurpose building at the Gunnison County Fairgrounds.

### RELAY FOR LIFE GUNNISON COUNTY EMPLOYEES RELAY FOR LIFE

Gunnison County employees participated this year in the American Cancer Society Relay for Life, held at Jorgensen Park on June 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. Our Gunnison County team raised an amazing \$1,975 for cancer research and survivor support!

Relay for Life is an event that requires at least one team member to be walking around the track throughout the night. Although the main objective of Relay is to raise money for cancer research and cancer patients, the event is held to spread cancer awareness, celebrate the lives of survivors, remember those who lost their lives to cancer, and unite a community in the fight against cancer. It is estimated that Relay for Life events have raised over \$3 billion to date. The Gunnison event, which included 144 participants on 18 teams, raised \$28,163 overall.



Team members included Linda Nienhueser, Paula Swenson, Jill Stallnecker, Ben Cowan, Karin Stewart, Teresa Brown, Karleigh Stewart, Geri Howard, Katherine Haase and Debbie Moore. Also pictured are Ashlyn Cowan, Jackson Cowan, Ethan Baird, and Nicole Haase. Not pictured are Kirstie Stallnecker, Jason Swenson, Tyler Swenson, Sally Wilcox, Jane Wyman and Frank Vader. Thanks to everyone who participated and/or supported our team this year!

### FLAG DEDICATION CEREMONY



American Legion & Sons of the American Legion #54 dedicated a flag of the United States to the Gunnison County Fairgrounds on April 10, 2012. The flag was dedicated in memory of all who served in the military from Gunnison County. Special thanks to Larry Dolezal, Ruth Dolezal and David Baumgarten for making this happen.

### EMERGENCY PHONE NOTIFICATIONS - IS YOUR CELL PHONE NUMBER REGISTERED?



~Submitted by: Emergency Management Program Director Scott Morrill

Emergency phone notification (EPN) systems (similar to Reverse 9-1-1™), when activated during emergencies, are programmed to call landline phones. Cell phones are not included in the pre-programming of these systems; however, citizens can register their cell phones with the EPN, so that their cell phones will receive emergency notifications. Cell phones can be registered to receive both voice and text emergency notifications. All citizens of and visitors to Gunnison County are encouraged to register their cell phone numbers for emergency phone notifications. You have the ability to opt-out at anytime.

To register your cell phone, visit the Gunnison County website at [www.gunnisoncounty.org](http://www.gunnisoncounty.org) and click on the yellow Emergency Notification button at the top of the page. Residents who do not have access to the internet at home can visit one of your local libraries. For questions, please contact Gunnison County Emergency Manager Scott Morrill at 970-641-2481, or by email at [smorrill@gunnisoncounty.org](mailto:smorrill@gunnisoncounty.org).

### COUNTY SCOOP



**Left:** Come by the Courthouse and take a look at the new sculpture carved into a 100+ year old cottonwood. The tree was carved by Sheldon Roberts of Canon City, CO

**Right:** DHHS Casework Laura Rascon gave birth to 7lb, 19" baby Sofia Guadalupe Nunez on 4/13/12.



### UPCOMING COUNTY HOLIDAYS

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



### "GOT IDEAS?"

It can be found on the Gunnison County HR webpage and on emails you receive from the HR Director Debbie Moore. If you have an innovative idea on how to make your department, another department or local government as a whole more efficient and/or more effective, click on the "got ideas?" button.



## EMPLOYEE IN THE SPOTLIGHT

~ Submitted by: Human Resources Director Debbie Moore & Gunnison County Sheriff Rick Besecker

Jill is our hero! In the past two years the Gunnison County Sheriff's Office has taken on changes at a supersonic pace. Some were planned, others imposed. Jill has endured dire health circumstance involving a supervisor and all the logistical demands associated with doing the supervisor's scheduled assignments, as well as taking over the charges related to managing the hub of all operations. Jill also embraced the psychological distress associated with moving from one business address to another. By her constant optimistic demeanor and positive influence, Jill created an atmosphere of high expectations and stern resolve. She has amplified professionalism from the simple point of answering the phone and anchoring a first impression, to deeply engaging in complex missions concerning high-liability issues. By example, Jill has courageously set the standard of excellence for the rest of us. Besides all that, she is a real kick to work with!



Administrative Assistant III Jill Young

## 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: [dmoore@gunnisoncounty.org](mailto: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.

## TIPS FOR PREPARING MELONS!

~ Submitted by: Public Health Director Carol Worrall

This information is particular to melons, but the same safe handling applies to any fruit or vegetable!

Melons may be handled extensively at retail or food service operations; therefore the FDA has made the following recommendations:

Decayed, cracked or damaged rinds: Avoid using these melons as they have an increased risk of containing human pathogens.

Uncut (whole) melons do not need to be refrigerated.

Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water before cutting any fruits or vegetables.

Wash your cutting board, countertop and knife (anything that comes into contact with the melon), with hot soapy water; rinse and air-dry before and after use, or put in the dishwasher.

Before cutting, wash the outer surface of the melon thoroughly under running cool tap water to remove surface dirt. Use a clean produce brush to scrub the melon. Make sure the brush is thoroughly washed and cleaned between uses as the brush can pick up any pathogens and pass it on to the next fruit/vegetable you use it on.

Using a contaminated knife when cutting through the rind will "drag" any pathogens through the rind to the flesh of the melon (even if you washed your melon).

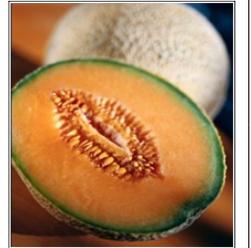
Cut away any bruised or damaged areas of the melon before serving.

Maintain the temperature of cut melons at 41°F or below.

Cut melons must be consumed or discarded within 7 days.

Unrefrigerated cut melons must be thrown away at the end of 4 hours.

**MOST OF ALL . . .** enjoy your summer picnics and eat lots of fresh fruits and veggies! Last year's listeria outbreak associated with cantaloupe was all from Jensen Farms, who has now filed for bankruptcy. Jensen Farms had eliminated essential handling processes that resulted in one of the largest food-borne outbreaks in 100 years.



## COMMISSIONER CHAMBERLAND'S COMMENTS

(continued from page 1)

The staff at Health & Human Services is doing a great job making sure that none of our citizens are falling through the cracks. Their job is made harder by the decreasing sources of revenues. At the same time, the need is increasing due to the economic times. Kudos to you for the great work you do.

Emergency Management is on high alert, this summer in particular. As I write this, there are at least 12 fires burning in the State of Colorado. Let's hope that we get moisture soon and often, but it is comforting to know that the County staff has worked hard throughout the years to prepare the County, and its citizens, for any emergency that may affect us in the times to come.

I'm proud of the work that all the County staff is doing for the citizens of Gunnison County. You guys are great. I can be reached easily on my cell phone at 209-3715 if there is anything I can do to help you in your mission, or just to shoot the breeze. Let us all remember that we are here to serve the citizens of the County. Thanks for doing such a great job.

## 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/commissioners\\_resolutions.html](http://www.gunnisoncounty.org/commissioners_resolutions.html) or contact Gunnison County Administration at (970) 641-0248.

4/17	13	A Resolution Authorizing the Issuance by Gunnison County, Colorado of its Gunnison County, Colorado Revenue Refunding Bond (Western State College Foundation Project) Series 2012A and Gunnison County, Colorado Revenue Refunding Bond (Western State College Foundation Project) Series 2012B in the Collective Aggregate Principal Amount of Not to Exceed \$8,000,000; Ratifying Certain Actions Heretofore Taken; Authorizing the Execution and Delivery by the County of an Indenture and a Loan Agreement, a Tax Regulatory Agreement, Closing Documents and Such Bonds in Connection Therewith; Approving the Form of Certain Ancillary Documents; and Repealing any Action Heretofore Taken in Conflict Herewith
5/15	14	A Resolution Implementing Stage 1 Fire Restrictions
6/5	15	A Resolution Adopting an Amended Schedule of Fees for the Community Development Department Permit Applications
6/19	16	A Resolution Confirming Availability of Funds to be Allocated for Colorado Department of Transportation Project STE C400-001 (17646) Gunnison- River Walk Trail
6/19	17	A Resolutions Encouraging Citizens to Register their Cellular Phones with the Twenty First Century Communications (TFCC) Alert System in Order to Receive Life Saving Emergency Notifications
6/26	18	A Resolution Implementing Stage 2 Fire Restrictions

## BOCC MEETING SCHEDULE AND AGENDAS

The Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners customarily meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of every month for Regular Meetings. Work Sessions are held every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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](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](mailto:khaase@gunnisoncounty.org).

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES' ELIGIBILITY TEAM

~Submitted by: Senior Resources Program Manager Karin Stewart

The Department of Health & Human Services' eligibility team is responsible for managing all public assistance programs for Gunnison and Hinsdale Counties such as Medical programs, food assistance, adult financial programs, fraud investigation, Colorado Works, energy assistance programs and long-term care. This amazing team, comprised of Nevada Stevenson, Selenia Rascon, Mary Smith Harland and Kendra Stuckey, carries significant case loads while meeting the high-performance standards set by the State of Colorado. Although caseloads have grown by 16% (with approximately 140 new applications each month, plus 1,450 ongoing cases), performance results show that 100% of food assistance applications are completed timely (11% higher than the State average), and 95% of medical assistance applications are completed on time (13% higher than the State average). Not only do these ladies manage to meet constant deadlines and balance heavy caseloads, but they provide great personalized customer service too! Thank you for your hard work and diligence to ensuring that those in need within our community are provided caring assistance.

## COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

The Gunnison County Board of Equalization will sit in the County Commissioners Meeting Room beginning on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012 to review the assessment roll of all taxable property located in the County, as prepared by the Assessor, and to hear appeals from determinations of the Assessor. The Gunnison County Board of Equalization shall continue its hearings from time to time until all petitions have been heard, but all such hearings shall be concluded and decisions rendered thereon by the close of business on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012.

Persons wishing to appear before the Gunnison County Board of Equalization must send the proper appeal forms to the County Administration Office, 200 East Virginia Avenue, Gunnison CO 81230 **postmarked or hand delivered no later than 5:00 p.m. on July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012 for real property and no later than 5:00 p.m. on July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012 for personal property.** The Gunnison County Board of Equalization will not hear appeals from persons who have failed to file a timely protest with the Assessor.

## GREEN TEAM



The Green Team has new “Green Machines” for County employees to use while performing errands between County buildings and throughout Gunnison. Bikes are located at the following locations:

- Courthouse
- Blackstock
- Family Services Center
- Public Safety Center

To check out a bike, County employees will need to complete a Bicycle Use Agreement so that Assistant Finance Director Ben Cowan can provide them with a combination to the locks. This is a great way to get some healthy benefits while completing your work, save on gas, and get some fresh air during the day. Please visit the County website for the Bicycle Use Agreement & more information: [http://www.gunnisoncounty.org/environmental\\_initiatives.html#bike](http://www.gunnisoncounty.org/environmental_initiatives.html#bike).

**Recycling Bins:** The Green Team has purchased new recycling bins for the Blackstock Government Center, the Family Services Center and the Courthouse. There is a set of bins in both kitchens at Blackstock and in the kitchen at the Family Services Center. There are sets of bins in the lobby and upstairs by the courts in the Courthouse. With the volume of office paper being recycled, there are additional office paper bins in each building. The Green Team will try to address racks for cardboard next year but, for now, the Courthouse employees can put their cardboard just inside the door of the boiler room and the Blackstock employees can put their recycled cardboard in the area outside the IT Department. The recycling employees make a trip at least once a week to each building to collect recyclable products. This over and above service is provided so that County employees do not need to deliver recyclables to the recycling center. If you see the recycling members in your building, please let them know how much we appreciate their extra effort on our behalf! Shown pictured: Derek Brake and Matt Dial, Gunnison County Recycle Center employees.



## BUDGET KICK-OFF

~Submitted by: Finance Director Linda Nienhueser

The big news in Finance is that the 2011 audit fieldwork is complete. The sight of the audit team leaving the building was cause for celebration. Now the focus turns to budgeting. The process of developing the 2013 budget will officially get underway with the annual kick-off meeting scheduled for July 27<sup>th</sup> with departmental budgets due to Finance by August 15<sup>th</sup>. The milestones along the way will be similar to last year’s process, culminating in adoption by the Board in mid-December. Let’s keep the focus on the results that we expect to deliver to our customers, and how we can provide services most efficiently. The Finance team welcomes suggestions on how we can be supportive throughout the process, and how we can best deliver what you need from us in order to make this the best Budgeting for Results process yet.

## HOUSE FOR RENT—ROCK CREEK VILLAGE

This 3-bed, 2-bath home will be available for rent in early August. It has an attached garage and a fenced yard. The rent includes water and sewer. Pets are negotiable. Smoking in the home is not allowed.

**\$965 / mo\***

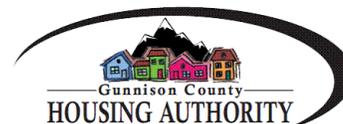
\*for qualified applicants only.



A qualified applicant is a person/family who:

- Maintains their primary and sole residence in Gunnison County.
- Earns their primary source of income in Gunnison County.
- Does not own any interest in other residential real property.
- Shall occupy the property as their primary residence.
- Does not exceed the established income limits per number of household members:

1 Person	2 Person	3 Person	4 Person	5 Person
\$36,650	\$41,850	\$47,100	\$52,300	\$56,500



For more info or to view, please call us at (970) 641-7983.

## HUMAN SERVICE EMPLOYEES OBTAIN DEGREES

~ Submitted by: Health & Human Services Child & Family Services Manager Gregory Meiers

Five case workers at the Gunnison County Department of Health and Human Services obtained college degrees this May. Betsy Holena and Dawn Delany both graduated on May 5 from Western State College; Betsy with a Bachelor degree in Psychology, and Dawn with a Bachelor degree in Sociology. Betsy completed her course work in December 2011, and Dawn finished her work with the spring semester. Laura Rascon, Selenia Rascon and Marilyn Cheever all graduated with Masters degrees in Community Counseling from Adams State College in Alamosa.

These ladies deserve a real shout out as they all accomplished this commendable feat while working full time jobs and taking care of family concerns, all while still getting their homework in on time. Congratulations to all of these hard working women! We are very proud of their achievement and we are fortunate to have them on the Gunnison County team.



## SHOWER ROOM BENCHES

~ Submitted by Fairgrounds Manager Melody Roper

The fairgrounds staff would like to thank the Gunnison High School Industrial Arts class and Mr. Phipps for making two redwood benches for the new shower rooms and two pine benches for the restrooms at the Gunnison County Fairgrounds. Pictured left to right: Wyatt Phipps, Chance Donahoe, Katlin Camp, Alan Navarette, Elugio Diaz, Alexis Cortez, Jeremery Townsley, Trevor McCallister and Connor Stallhnecker.



## PERSONAL PREPAREDNESS FOR EMERGENCIES

~Submitted by: Emergency Management Program Director Scott Morrill

Things to think about while living in potential wildfire areas:

- Have you and your family identified and practiced using evacuation routes from your property?
- If you only have two minutes to evacuate, what will you take?
- Have you removed combustible material and flammable items from around structures?

For more information on personal preparedness and how to be “Fire Wise” please visit the Emergency Management tab on the Gunnison County website at [http://www.gunnisoncounty.org/emergency\\_management\\_ready.html](http://www.gunnisoncounty.org/emergency_management_ready.html)

### Informational Websites for Wildfires:

- Statewide fire info for Colorado: [www.coemergency.com](http://www.coemergency.com)
- Incidental Information website: <http://inciweb.org/>
- Ready Colorado: [www.readycolorado.com](http://www.readycolorado.com)

# GUNNISON COUNTY @ WORK

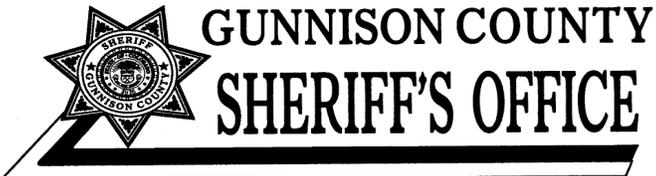
## Did you

Due to current dry conditions, Gunnison County encourages citizens to be extra vigilant about fire danger.

KNOW

- For timely alerts on fires and other County news, “LIKE” (Gunnison County, Colorado) or “Friend” (Gunnison Cnty Colorado) on Facebook or “FOLLOW” us on Twitter (@Gunnison\_County).
- Those signed up for alerts received information about road closures and evacuations due to the many recent fires in and around Gunnison County.
- To register your Voice over IP (VoIP) or Wireless Telephones for Regional Emergency Notifications, visit [www.GunnisonCounty.org/emergency\\_management.html#REM](http://www.GunnisonCounty.org/emergency_management.html#REM).
- Other alerts provide information on County Commissioner agendas, important meetings and other County news for residents.
- Stay CONNECTED, stay INFORMED, and stay SAFE!!





510 Bidwell, Gunnison, Colorado 81230

**Stage 2 Fire Ban in Gunnison County**  
**Per County Resolution 2012-18**  
**Effective 06.28.12 Until Further Notice**

## **FIRE BAN IN EFFECT - \$500.00 FINE**

The following is **PROHIBITED** on public and private lands:

- Open charcoal or wood fires, charcoal grills, the burning of trash or debris and agricultural burning. Trash may not be burned under any circumstances, even in barrels.
- Building, maintaining, attending or using a campfire of any type
- Smoking cigarettes, cigars etc outside
- The use of any type of fireworks, explosives or incendiary devices
- Operation of internal combustion engines without approved spark arrestor

The following is **PERMITTED**:

- Cooking on manufactured liquid fuel and propane grills
- Use of welding / torch equipment, **ONLY** in an area that has been cleared of all flammable materials at least 10 feet on all sides of the work area. This activity is prohibited during Red Flag Warnings
- Use of chainsaws **ONLY** with approved spark arrestor, and chainsaw operator must have a pressurized chemical fire extinguisher of at least eight ounce capacity, and a size 0 pointed shovel, at least 36 inches in length with them at all times. This activity is prohibited during Red Flag Warnings

**There are additional requirements for activities related to oil and gas exploration. Visit [www.gunnisoncounty.org](http://www.gunnisoncounty.org) for additional resolution information. As provided by Colorado Statutes and County Ordinances, persons responsible for starting a wildfire can face criminal and civil charges.** For further information, please contact any of the following: Recorded message 970-642-4686; Gunnison Sheriff's Office 970-641-1113; United States Forest Service Gunnison Ranger District 970-641-0471; Crested Butte Fire Protection District 970-349-5333; Gunnison Fire Marshal 970-641-8153; Gunnison County Emergency Management 970-641-2481; or Curecanti National Recreation Area 970-641-2337. **For statewide fire restriction information:** <http://www.coemergency.com/p/fire-bans-and-fire-danger-rating.html>

## **VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT FOR ASSISTANCE WITH FUTURE GUNNISON COUNTY EMERGENCY EVACUATIONS AND DISASTERS**

Due to the current threat of wildfires within Gunnison County and the generous outpouring of support from our communities, the Emergency Management office is collecting volunteer information relative to resources that may be volunteered during a local disaster. Having this information available before a disaster strikes will allow County staff to more efficiently serve those in need during an event. To volunteer any resources (below are some suggestions), please email your name, phone number, a description of the resources that you are willing to donate, and a location of those resources to [khaase@gunnisoncounty.org](mailto:khaase@gunnisoncounty.org), or call (970) 641-7601. Persons volunteering to provide resources may opt out at any time, and all specific requests will be honored.

- Animals – boarding, supplies, food, etc.
- People – lodging, food, water, supplies, money, etc.
- Medical – supplies, money, etc.
- Equipment – tractors, trailers, water tanks, etc.
- Transportation – evacuees, household items, food and water delivery, etc.
- Donation Storage & Management – locations to be used to store donations, security of donations, donation management, etc.

## ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS

~Submitted by: Senior Resources Program Manager Karin Stewart

June, 2012 was Elder Abuse Awareness Month. Abuse of the elderly and people with disabilities in domestic and institutional settings is a widespread problem, affecting hundreds of thousands of people across the country, including right here in Gunnison County. Elder abuse is grossly underreported because the elderly who are being abused find it difficult to tell anyone and are usually ashamed and, sometimes, afraid. Senior Resources Program Manager Karin Stewart leads the Adult Protection Services efforts for both Gunnison and Hinsdale Counties.

The current elder population (age 60+) in Gunnison County is about 2,300 people, and this is projected to reach 4,000 by the year 2040 (US Census). Gunnison County DHHS investigates over 25 reports of elder abuse or neglect concerns each year, ranging from physical abuse and neglect to financial exploitation. This population is vulnerable based on declining physical and mental capacity, and the increasing dependence on others for help. The potential for increased episodes of elder abuse as this demographic grows is significant, and the current economic climate only exacerbates the opportunities for victimizers. As a community, we are taking steps to address the issue; the Gunnison County Adult Protection Team works toward building stronger collaborative efforts to address and prevent the problem. For more information, please call Karin Stewart at 970-641-7984 or by email at [kstewart@gunnisoncounty.org](mailto:kstewart@gunnisoncounty.org).

## GUNNISON COUNTY STRATEGIC PLAN

The Gunnison County Strategic Plan was first adopted by the Board of County Commissioners on May 20, 2008. On May 24, 2011, the Board adopted the revised plan for 2011 through 2016. The plan is subdivided into four strategies. Below is a visual representation of the first of those four strategies, Ensure Sound Infrastructure. To view the entire Gunnison County Strategic Plan document, please visit [http://www.gunnisoncounty.org/commissioners\\_pdf/BOCC\\_Strategic\\_Plan.PDF](http://www.gunnisoncounty.org/commissioners_pdf/BOCC_Strategic_Plan.PDF). Additional status updates to this strategy along with the remaining strategies (Protect the Environment, Promote Healthy Communities, and Deliver High Quality Services) will appear in future newsletters.

