



Commissioner Hap Channell

**COMMISSIONER HAP CHANNELL SAYS GOODBYE**

Whew! Finally the long election process is over and a new Board of County Commissioners will be sworn-in on January 8<sup>th</sup>. Although I have plenty of projects and issues that still occupy my full attention, I have begun to reflect on my eight years as a commissioner and what lies ahead for Narcissa and me.

There are many aspects of commissioning that stand out in my mind: the honor of serving the citizens of our county, the ever-changing and always interesting face of public policy work, and the good fortune to have worked with hard working, honorable commissioners on well-functioning boards to name a few. But undoubtedly the most important component of my experience has been the pleasure of working with you, our outstanding Gunnison County staff. Elected officials

come and elected officials go, and of course it's naïve to think we have no effect on the direction and policies of our county, but you, the people who provide our citizens with day to day services and who give us value for our hard-earned tax dollars, are our real foundation. I'd like to think that commissioner decisions and policies have contributed to the outstanding stability and reliability of our county, but I know for sure that the dependability and trustworthiness of our staff are the real factors responsible for, as one constituent recently put it, ours being the "best run county in the country"!

After a few winter months in the south, Narcissa and I will continue to be involved in certain community issues in this place we love and call home, but it's with mixed emotions that I leave behind the pleasure of working with you. You are the best, and I've been fortunate to have had your support and to have been a part of your team. Thank you for your hard work for Gunnison County! ~ Hap

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**NATIONAL SEARCH YIELDS NEW HOUSING AUTHORITY DIRECTOR**

The newly organized multijurisdictional Gunnison Valley Regional Housing Authority has hired a full time Executive Director. Karl Fulmer began his employment on November 7<sup>th</sup> and is excited to make the move to the Gunnison Valley from Northern Michigan. He brings over 12 years of leadership experience in housing, land use and development in both the public/non-profit and private sectors. "While I will miss life on the farm in Northern Michigan, I am truly excited about the opportunities that lay ahead for me and my family in the Gunnison Valley. Upon meeting many of the board members of the Housing Authority in August I understand the level of commitment to produce quality, affordable housing throughout the valley is high."



Executive Director Karl Fulmer

**NOVEMBER 6, 2012 GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS**

On Election Day, Gunnison County voters elected Jonathan Houck (Dem, right) to the District 2 County Commissioner seat and re-elected Paula Swenson (Dem, left) to the District 1 County Commissioner seat. Both will be sworn in at 8:00 am on January 8, 2013 in the Board of County Commissioners meeting room in the County Courthouse. Commissioner-Elect Houck currently serves as the Mayor for the City of Gunnison, and the Project Coordinator for the Gunnison County Substance Abuse Prevention Project (GCSAPP). He will soon transition out of both of these positions as he intends to dedicate himself to being a full-time commissioner.



Commissioner Paula Swenson

By a wide margin, Gunnison County voters also passed Ballot Issue 1A to renew the Gunnison Valley Land Preservation Fund for another 20 years.

For the complete list of Gunnison County election results, please visit <http://results.enr.clarityelections.com/CO/Gunnison/43060/111000/en/summary.html>. From there, it is possible to navigate to the individual results for any Colorado county as well as the statewide results.



Commissioner-Elect Jonathan Houck

## COUNTY SCOOP

Gunnison County staff recently welcomed newborns into the world:

**A:** Margaret Wacker welcomed 8lbs, 3oz and 21.25” long Fredrick Matthew Ventura on 7/3/2012.

**B:** Cathie Pagano welcomed 7 lbs, 13 oz and 21.5” long Evan Jackson Crean on 9/1/12.

**C:** Bobbie & Joe Lucero welcomed 7lbs, 11oz and 21” long Roman Lucero on 9/20/12

**D:** Alexandra Tayrien welcomed 6lbs, 4oz and 19” long Alia Elyn Cohen on 9/25/12.

**E:** Meghan Dougherty welcomed 3 lbs, 9 oz and 17.5” long Zoe Dougherty on 9/27/12.



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**COUNTY HOLIDAY PARTY**  
 (FOR EMPLOYEES & INVITED GUESTS)

**When:** December 7, 2012; 6:00 pm  
**Where:** Fairgrounds, 275 S. Spruce St.  
**Theme:** 1950's Jingle Bell Rock  
**Watch your County email for updates!**

**UPCOMING HOLIDAYS**

- Thursday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> - Thanksgiving Day
- Friday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> - Day after Thanksgiving
- Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup> - Christmas (day prior)
- Tuesday, December 25<sup>th</sup> - Christmas
- Tuesday, January 1<sup>st</sup> - New Year's Day
- Monday, January 21<sup>st</sup> - Martin Luther King Jr.
- Monday, February 18<sup>th</sup> - Washington's Birthday

For the complete list of 2013 holidays, visit the County website at [http://www.gunnisoncounty.org/personnel\\_employee\\_benefits.html](http://www.gunnisoncounty.org/personnel_employee_benefits.html).

## WEST CENTRAL PUBLIC HEALTH PARTNERSHIP RECEIVES THE COLORADO TRUST'S ANNUAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

~Submitted by Public Health Director Carol Worrall and Health and Human Services Director Renee Brown

The Colorado Trust announced today the West Central Public Health Partnership (WCPHP) as the recipient of its 2012 Grantee Leadership Award. The annual award of \$25,000 is made in recognition of exemplary leadership by a current grantee of The Colorado Trust and will be used by the partnership to support its ongoing work.

Formed in 2006 to represent the counties of Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, San Miguel and Ouray counties, WCPHP pooled the public health services of each county and created a regional public health collaboration, offering comprehensive public and environmental health services in each of the rural communities they serve.

“WCPHP is a trailblazer in conceptualizing and operationalizing a collaborative approach to streamline and strengthen the delivery of public health in rural communities,” said Ned Calonge, MD, President and CEO of The Colorado Trust. “Working across local boards of health, county commissions and public health agencies, this innovative partnership has served to increase access to public health services not previously available in these six counties.

“West Central Public Health Partnership’s completion of Colorado’s first-ever regional Public Health Improvement Plan this year will serve as a model to others in how to effectively improve the local public health infrastructure, as required under the Public Health Reorganization Act of 2008,” said Calonge.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has identified WCPHP as a pilot site to aid other local public health departments in learning how to implement the regional model, particularly in rural and low-resource communities.

The leadership award was created in recognition of John R. Moran, Jr., former long-time President and CEO of The Colorado Trust, for his devotion to improving the health and well-being of people across the state. Moran retired from The Colorado Trust in 2006, following 21 years of service with the grantmaking foundation.

This is the fifth year The Colorado Trust has made this award. Earlier recipients are Northside Child Health Center (2011), The Rocky Mountain Youth Clinics (2010), Colorado Children’s Healthcare Access Program (2009), Denver Indian Family Resource Center (2008) and Safe2Tell (2007).



## EMPLOYEE IN THE SPOTLIGHT

~ Submitted by: Human Resources Director Debbie Moore

This quarter our honored employee is Jen Wilcox, Property Transfer Technician for the Assessor’s Office. “She is a super employee that not only extends herself with the public, but honestly cares about those people that she comes in contact with,” said Leanne Lee, who nominated Jen to have the noteworthy honor of the Employee in the Spotlight. “She is dedicated, hard working, is willing to learn and advance her knowledge and take on whatever is thrown at her. Jennifer is very helpful and has a wonderful attitude with the thought of serving the public. Her patience and care always comes out.”

The County Assessor agrees. “She’s a terrific employee. She has the ability to grasp complex issues; so bright and eager to learn. She’ll take any project at hand, and refine the process so it is more efficient and accurate. I appreciate her initiative and willingness to take on extra work. Plus she’s fun and has a great attitude toward fellow workers and diplomacy in handling the public.”

Jen applied for the Property Transfer Technician position in March of 2009 and earned the nod to become one of the Assessor’s team. Her job entailed providing administration and communication of property records, including transfer, ownership, location, valuation and taxation through deeds and other recorded documentation. She was responsible for title transfers as well as the processing of subdivisions, property splits and property combines. She also provided information and assistance to the public. She quickly became a favorite of not only the Assessor’s Office, but in the County organization as a whole.

In February of 2011, Jen and her family decided to move to Arizona, where Jen went to work in the Maricopa County Assessor’s Office. There she broadened her knowledge base and perfected her skills.

When it was learned, in October of 2011, that she wished to return to Gunnison with her family, the Assessor’s Office rushed to rehire her. “Jennifer was an excellent employee, and we would be thrilled to have her back!” Kristy McFarland said. “I mentioned it to the staff and they were all very excited.”

Leanne Lee, Personal Property Tech and Jen’s co-worker, finished her letter of nomination by saying of Jennifer, “She loves her job. I can tell this by the time I’ve spent working with her. She is a keeper!!!!”



Property Transfer Tech.  
Jen Wilcox

## IN CASE OF VEHICLE ACCIDENT, PLEASE FOLLOW THESE STEPS:

~Submitted by Assistant Finance Director Ben Cowan

- STOP IMMEDIATELY – do not obstruct traffic and make sure the scene is safe.
- TURN IGNITION OFF – remove the fire extinguisher and guard against fire.
- CALL POLICE.
- DO NOT admit or deny fault.
- OBTAIN LICENSE NUMBERS – makes/models of all vehicle involved and insurance information.
- OBTAIN NAMES AND ADDRESSES of other drivers, witnesses and injured persons.
- INFORM YOUR SUPERVISOR and Finance.
- FILE WRITEN REPORTS required by police and County policy.

Remember, it is important to keep calm. Don’t argue, accuse or admit guilt.

## EMPLOYEE IN THE SPOTLIGHT NOMINATIONS

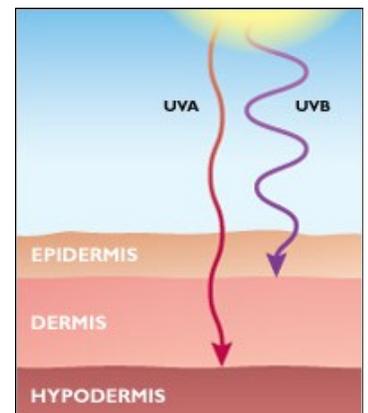
If you would like to nominate a Gunnison County employee for this honor, tell the Personnel Board in 100 words or less why you think the person you are nominating deserves for the spotlight to be on them. Email your nomination to: [dmoore@gunnisoncounty.org](mailto:dmoore@gunnisoncounty.org) or put it 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.

## SUN PROTECTION AND DRIVING

This sun protection news is for employees that spend a portion of their work day in a vehicle. The sun’s UV rays can reach the skin through materials such as auto glass. Windows and windshields (unless they have UV-tinting) block the sun’s UVB rays but still let damaging UVA rays pass through to the skin. UVA rays can penetrate through clouds, and an open window lets FIVE TIMES MORE ultraviolet radiation in than a closed window.

In addition, studies in the U.S. have found that melanoma occurs more frequently on the left side of the body. The left arm is affected more than the right arm – perhaps because the left arm is close to or sticking out of the vehicle window?! The opposite effect was found in Australia where they drive on the opposite side of the road. (No kidding!)

Remember, just because you’re in a vehicle doesn’t mean you’re safe from the sun’s harmful UV rays. To be sun safe, cover up with long sleeves, pants, sunscreen, sunglasses and a hat!



## 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. 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 information contact Gunnison County Administration at (970) 641-0248.

7/3	19	A Resolution Creating a Courthouse Renovations and Construction Fund
8/7	23	A Resolution Accepting for Maintenance & Snowplowing the Roads in Spring Creek Estates
8/21	24	A Resolution Designating the Original Clark Ranch House Located at 47068 Hwy 50, Gunnison, Colorado, to be a Gunnison County Historic Landmark
8/28	25	A Resolution Amending the Gunnison County, Colorado Temporary Regulations for Oil and Gas Operations
8/28	26	A Resolution Amending Resolution No: 2012-20 to Extend the Period of Time for Imposing a Temporary Over-sized Vehicle Restriction on a Certain Portion of County Road 742 also known as Taylor River Road
10/16	31	A Resolution Amending Resolution No: 2012-09 to Add Notation Regarding Crawl Spaces for Calculation of the Workforce Housing Fee

## GUNNISON COUNTY STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATES

	Accomplished!
	Making Progress
	Step Pending

### Strategy A: ENSURE SOUND INFRASTRUCTURE.

 **By 2013, 50% of County roads will be maintained as defined by the service level established for each road.**

\$724,840 for various roads and bridges improvements for Taylor River Road, the South Parlin Flats Bridge, among others have been included in the 2013 budget to work toward accomplishment of this result. Of the \$956,573 budgeted for improvements in 2012, \$600,413 is planned to be spent toward accomplishment of this goal.

 **By 2013, customer experience in the airport terminal will be improved by providing food and restrooms in both secured and non-secured areas.**

In addition, the customer experience is being enhanced with the inclusion of new counters for rental car row and more comfortable seating.

 **By 2016, replace the functionally obsolete Gothic Road bridge over the Slate River.**

The hydrology study needs to be done in the spring when there is water from both Slate Creek and Coal Creek hitting the bridge. There was not enough run-off this spring to provide the needed information. The 2013 budget includes \$95,000 for necessary hydrology and engineering.

 **By 2016, Gunnison County will begin courthouse remodel, securing funding not derived from new taxes, in order to address access, safety and judicial needs.**

A space needs assessment is underway. Design work is slated for 2013 and a transfer from Sales Tax of \$1,300,000 is planned for the Renovation Reserve. The estimated balance available for construction at the end of 2013 is \$1,240,346.

### Strategy B: PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT.

 **Identify by 2012 and designate by 2013 appropriate areas for habitat protection, agricultural production, and industrial, commercial and residential development.**

County staff have developed a draft document and are currently incorporating the results of the Sage Grouse Steering Committee's priority habitat model. This will be presented to the Commissioners and Planning Commission in early March.

 **By 2013, Gunnison County will work with the ranching community to expand the conserved private ranch land in the County by 8,500 acres.**

Acres conserved: 2009 Actual – 4,093; 2010 Actual – 1,054; 2011 Projected – 923; 2012 Estimated – 1,215; Total 2009-2012 Estimated = 7,285.

 **By 2014, 75% of eligible County buildings (as measured per sq. ft.) are rated as Energy Star Top Performer.**

\$1,168,919 in energy improvements have been installed in County buildings in 2010 and 2011. The new Public Safety Center and Public Works Facility construction included numerous energy saving factors such as use of integrated daylight and passive solar gain, native plant and low water usage plants used in landscape, roof insulation that is significantly higher than required to lower heating energy, use of low-emitting materials for interior finishes and insulation, condensed boilers to lower natural gas consumption and energy use, and use of energy efficient lighting and electrical.

 **By 2014, 90% of new vehicles and equipment purchased are at least 10% more fuel efficient than the unit that is replaced.**

Vehicle and equipment replacements totaling \$596,000 have been included in the 2012 budget.

# GUNNISON COUNTY STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATES

(Continued from page 4)



**✓ Gunnison County shall work with its partners to protect water quality and quantity for in-basin purposes in a manner that is socially, environmentally and economically sound.**

Gunnison County is participating in the Colorado Oil & Gas Conservation Commission's stakeholder processes regarding water protection (i.e. pits and pit liners). Gunnison County is maintaining a dialogue with the northwest Council of Governments Quality and Quantity regarding pending and anticipated legislation.

## Strategy C: PROMOTE HEALTHY COMMUNITIES.

**✓ By 2012, update the triennial Housing Needs Assessment based on 2010 census and market data to facilitate the provision of housing to meet a specified percentage of the need.**

The Needs Assessment was updated with 2010 census data and a market study was conducted by a private investor.

**🏠 By 2012, Gunnison County will participate in the development and implementation of the 2011 Community Economic Development Plan.**

\$30,000 has been included in the 2013 budget to support economic development projects, in addition to the county's ongoing support of the chambers of commerce and Western State Colorado University's counselor visit days. In 2011, Gunnison County participated in the development of the community economic development plan.

**🏠 By January 2016, the Board will work with local municipalities to strengthen the governance, structure, and funding of the Gunnison County Housing Authority to achieve greater transparency, efficiency and regional support.**

The newly created Gunnison Valley Regional Housing Authority will begin operation January 1, 2013. A new director has been hired, supported by the County and local municipalities with at least a three year commitment.

**🏠 Strengthen the continuum of care while sustaining essential health and human services, as evidenced by:**

**✓ The capacity to deliver essential services including prevention and protection being maintained at or above 2010 levels.**

There has been an overall increase in the number of individuals assisted by DHHS. Program Support reflects 15,194 individuals were assisted in 2010 and 18,768 individuals were assisted in 2012, this measure includes in-person and telephone assistance. In the Public Assistance activity area there were 1036 new cases in 2010 and 1269 in 2012. Ongoing public assistance cases grew from an average of 1143 cases per month to 1409 from 2010 to 2012. The most significant increase in services occurred in the Senior Resources program area with 6154 contacts in 2010 to 9134 in 2012 (over 30% increase). Adult protection cases grew from 12 in 2010 to 42 in 2012. Other program area services remained fairly stable with a slight decrease in children who are fully immunized although there has been a 7 fold increase in the number of pertussis cases in the State, and a decrease in food inspections, the latter related to the move to a "risk based" inspection process.

**🏠 Ensuring that 75% of eligible children in Gunnison and Hinsdale Counties will be enrolled in public insurance.**

73% of the children eligible for Medicaid or CHP+ are enrolled (716 enrollees out of 983 eligible based on the 2010 CHI data source).

**🏠 85% of individuals entering HHS departments will receive a needs screening and appropriate referrals.**

The majority of the activity areas have screening and assessment tools specific to their service area. Training to promote internal referrals to the various DHHS activity areas is ongoing.

**✓ Reducing out of county placements by increasing in-county alternatives such as local foster homes, intensive family interventions, parenting classes, etc (as measured by number of bed days in out of county placements).**

Total paid days in 2010 were 4,066 and reduced to 2,834 in 2011; 2012 data are pending.

**✓ Maximize available State and Federal funds through involvement in allocation committees and by making position statements pertinent to proposed legislation that affects local service provision.**

The Director participated in the Health and Human Services subcommittee of Colorado Counties incorporated and the Child Welfare CORE allocation subcommittee with a resulting increase in CORE funding of \$14,000 for Gunnison County and a new \$25,000 allocation for Hinsdale County.

## Strategy D: DELIVER HIGH QUALITY SERVICES.

**✓ By 2012, Gunnison County will develop and launch a communications plan.**

A communications plan has been created and launched with many strategies already being implemented, including contracting with a communications consultant, reporting on web traffic, crafting press releases, idea surveys, etc.

**🏠 By 2013, Managing for Results will result in performance-informed decision making.**

Measures are being tracked and reported. Data is being used to inform decisions. Gunnison County has contracted with Managing Results, LLC (formerly known as Weidner, Inc.) to prepare quarterly performance reports based on data reported from departments. Employee performance reviews will begin to align employees' progress toward stated strategic results.

**🕒 By 2014, the perception of at least 50% of respondents to the biennial Citizen Survey and the Community Development Department Satisfaction Survey will be that planning and permitting processes are efficient, fair, and proactive and that land use and planning services are good or excellent.**

(Continued on page 6)

## NURTURING PARENTING PROGRAM (NPP) UPDATE

~Submitted by NPP Coordinator Lealyn Poponi

The Nurturing Parenting Program (NPP) of Gunnison County has been making great strides in educating the parents of our valley and would love an opportunity to share with everyone what we've been up to lately!

Last October, our coordinator Lealyn Poponi began offering free NPP parenting workshops at various locations throughout the county. These 90 minute classes touch on various NPP teachings such as "Establishing Family Rules", "Building Self Worth in Children" and "Communicating with Respect". The cost of this new offering has been very low since the organization that hosts the workshop takes care of childcare, refreshments and marketing. Since October 2011, six workshops have been offered and hosts have been child care centers and other organizations that serve children and families in our county. The return has been really high since local parents are getting useful parent training opportunities and NPP is getting more exposure in the community. Many parents who take the workshop decide to sign up for one of our more extensive courses. Dolly Schaub took a workshop at Little Red School house in Crested Butte South this spring and said, "The NPP class was incredibly insightful. It taught me the basic building blocks of creating self esteem in my children, which is so important!"

Another endeavor that we took on recently was the Parents with Adolescents program. Since 2007 when our NPP was implemented, we've only served parents with children birth to 11. Limited funds have kept us from expanding our offerings, but we really wanted an opportunity to tackle what many parents see as the most challenging time period -- the teen years. So this summer, with WSCU interns, donations from the community and one brave coordinator we delivered a 12 week program to 3 families with adolescent children. This was another win-win for everyone since parents and teens improved their relationship by learning to communicate more effectively and four very passionate college students got to experience working directly with people in a counseling type work environment. Nikki Fabrikant, a recent WSCU grad who interned as a facilitator in the teen classroom said, "I wasn't sure exactly what kind of career I wanted until I worked for this program and now I know that my passion is working with teens. NPP gave me the skills and showed me where my strengths lie."

We also couldn't be more pleased about our new staff person Matthew Kuehlhorn who was hired to co-facilitate with Lealyn in the parent class rooms for our Infant, Toddlers and Preschoolers program that is currently in session and our School Aged Children program that will begin this winter. Matthew is a father of two children and has been an educator for many years since studying experiential education at WSCU. He has worked with all age groups, including parents, in his work with Gunnison Country Partners and he is passionate about helping to create strong families in our community.

Currently in our 12th session we have graduated over 100 parents and children from our 12-16 week programs and 45 parents have taken our workshops. The response we have gotten from the community and parents (and kids too!) has been excellent and we look forward to reaching more and more parents with the nurturing philosophies and practices of NPP every year!



*The Stratton family enjoys a home cooked meal and showing their silly side at a NPP function.*

## GUNNISON COUNTY STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATES

(Continued from page 5)

Current Data: 2011 National Citizen Survey - 37%. Department Satisfaction Surveys - 67% for Planning and Permitting Processes and 44.4% for Planning and Zoning Services.

✓ **Through 2016, the retention rate of existing full-time employees shall remain above 90%.**

2010 Actual - 97.1%. 2011 Actual - 92.2%. 2012 Projected - 94.9%. 2013 Estimated - 90%.

✓ **Gunnison County will conduct a biennial survey of residents measuring their satisfaction with County services and implementing strategies to improve services where indicated.**

2009 and 2011 survey data is available. Review is underway to identify areas that have room for improvement. The next survey will be conducted in 2013.

	Accomplished!
	Making Progress
	Step Pending

## PUBLIC HEARING, 2013 GUNNISON COUNTY BUDGET

The annual budget Public Hearing will take place on Tuesday, December 4, 2012 at 7:30 pm in the Board of County Commissioners meeting room in the County Courthouse. The proposed budget is available for inspection in the Gunnison County Finance Office located at 200 E. Virginia, Gunnison, CO 81230. The proposed budget is also available on the Gunnison County website at: [http://www.gunnisoncounty.org/finance\\_budget.html](http://www.gunnisoncounty.org/finance_budget.html). Any elector may inspect the budget and file objections at any time prior to the final adoption of the budget scheduled to take place on Friday, December 14, 2012.