

NEWSLETTER



Commissioner Phil Chamberland

SEASONS

As I sit here and look out at the beautiful fall colors that have finally come to our mountain paradise, I can't help but think that our lives revolve around "seasons" as well. We are currently in the budget season. We also have election season, property assessment season, and Board of Equalization season. In Community Development there is the "building season" and the off-season. Road and Bridge has the maintenance and repair season as well as the snow-plowing season. I'm sure they are looking forward to future seasons in a great new facility, as is the Sheriff's Office. The Airport, Human Services, Public Health, Human Resources, Finance, Housing, Attorney, Emergency Management, GIS, IT, all operate in cycles much like seasons. Some seasons seem to come to fast, others seem to take too long to get here, but they come and go like clockwork.

As a newly elected county commissioner, I find myself in a new "season" of life. It is a season that is filled with excitement and apprehension at the same time. It is a season that I am feeling more comfortable in every day. This comfort level comes from knowledge of the people who make up our County government. From the front lines to upper management, the more I interact with our county employees, the better I feel about our ability to meet the needs of the people we serve during this tough economic downturn. Your dedication, knowledge and work ethic are an inspiration to me. For this I thank you.

I look forward to working with all of you to make Gunnison County a place that we can all be proud of. I can always be reached at (970) 209-3715 if ever you feel the need to discuss anything with me. Oh, and be sure to take some time to enjoy the season.

~Phil Chamberland

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OPEN HOUSE - NEW PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING

The public is invited to come down and see the new Public Works building on October 20th from 3:30-6:00 pm. There will be refreshments and tours of the new facility located at 195 Basin Park Drive. The ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for 4:30 pm.

MANDATORY SEXUAL HARASSMENT TRAINING

There will be training on "**Sexual Harassment; What it is and what it is not**" on the following dates and times at the Gunnison County Fairgrounds.

- October 19th at 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- October 20th at 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

This training is **mandatory** for all employees who have not had this training at Gunnison County. Please mark your calendars and contact Debbie Moore in Human Resources if you have an employee who is not sure if they have had the training. If you have an employee who cannot attend, Debbie will email them an online training and test in November to complete.

SAVE THE DATE – COUNTY HOLIDAY PARTY

- * When: Friday, December 9th
- * Where: Fairgrounds, Esty Room (275 S. Spruce St.)
- * Time and theme details will be coming soon - please check your County email.



COUNTY STAFF BULLETIN BOARD

Check out the new County Staff bulletin board located in the mailroom of the Courthouse. Please feel free to post items such as pictures with co-workers at County events. Please post only appropriate items of mutual interest and upcoming events. (Examples: Yard Sales, Girl Scout Cookies, Something for Sale.) Also put your name on anything you post so that it can be returned to you when the board needs to be cleaned off. Enjoy!



REMAINING 2011 COUNTY HOLIDAYS



- Friday, November 11th – Veterans’ Day
- Thursday, November 24th – Thanksgiving
- Friday, November 25th – Day after Thanksgiving
- Monday, December 26th – Christmas (next business day after)

FLU CLINIC

By: Carol Worrall, Public Health Director

It is time to think about flu vaccination again. Public Health will be doing a mass flu clinic in Gunnison on October 20th from 2pm to 6pm at the Public Health building. There will also be a Flu Clinic in Crested Butte on October 27th from 3pm to 6pm at the Crested Butte Town Hall. No appointment is necessary. It is recommended by the Centers for Disease Control that all persons over six months of age get immunized each year. While it is not 100% effective, it can greatly diminish your risk of severe illness. It is a false sense of security to think that a healthy child or adult will not have severe illness or even death. Based on last year’s flu season statistics, half of the pediatric deaths were in normal, healthy children with no risk factors or pre-existing conditions. Seventy-five percent of the pediatric deaths occurred in children that had not been vaccinated. Public Health has preservative-free (mercury-free) vaccines for children. Any child over two years of age, with no pre-existing health conditions or history of wheezing may be eligible for flu-mist. The flu vaccine costs \$10 for children and \$20 for adults. Public Health accepts Medicaid and CHP+. Call Public Health with any questions or concerns at (970) 641-0209.

HALLOWEEN POTLUCK LUNCHEON

Ghosts, Goblins and creatures of fright, this is your Halloween Potluck Luncheon invite...

- **WHEN:** Monday, October 31st
- **WHERE:** Planning Commission Meeting room in the Blackstock building
- **TIME:** 12pm -1pm
- **DETAILS:** Costumes are optional, yet dress up for better chances of winning the costume contest. Also, bring your best already carved pumpkin for the pumpkin carving contest. Please RSVP with your dish to Bobbie @ blucero@gunnisoncounty.org.



🎃 **Worms and eye ball soup are more than welcome at this potluck!!!** 🎃

“GOT IDEAS?”



It can be found on the Gunnison County HR webpage and on emails you receive from 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.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



Are you interested in getting to know your co-workers outside of work? Are you interested in learning new activities? Are you interested in spending time with others who also enjoy your hobbies? Below are a few ideas for some after work hours activities to get to know your fellow co-workers. Please email Bobbie at Blucero@gunnisoncounty.org if you would be interested in participating in any of the following activities. New ideas are always welcome!

- Snow day (sled, ski, snowman contest)
- Knitting/crocheting club
- Ornament decorating
- Basketball recreation league
- Poker night
- Movie night
- Book club
- Chili cook off
- Scrapbooking club
- Cooking and/or baking club
- Dog days (walking, washing, playing)
- County community garden
- Camp-out and/or bonfire
- Summer Picnic
- Fishing
- Hiking
- Biking
- Softball

EMPLOYEE IN THE SPOTLIGHT

By: *Renee Brown, Health & Human Services Department Director*

“Karin Stewart’s primary interests include what’s in the best interest of Gunnison County,” says Joyce Price, Area Coordinator for RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program). She demonstrates this in her personal and professional life through her involvement in various community groups, boards and coalitions and in her work with the adult and aging residents of Gunnison. Joyce describes Karin as, “innovative, creative, an outstanding listener (hearing what is and isn’t being said)”. People trust Karin’s knowledge, skill and her openness. She never makes assumptions. She talks directly with people, holds people accountable with skill and empathy.

Karin began her work with Gunnison County in 2002 providing Home and Community Based case management services. She did grant writing to support expansion of the Senior Resources office to include Geri Howard as a provider of case management services and to provide services through the Healthy Aging Initiative. Karin’s work recently expanded by her assuming leadership within the DHHS program eligibility service area. Additionally, she provides adult protection services to vulnerable adults. This past year, Karin was recognized as one of only five other county providers who had 100% timely response to adult protection cases. She is a “sponge” for new information, “I want to share this information with you”, “how can we use this in the organization”.

Her coworker, Geri added, “I have worked with Karin the past three years, but have known her for over 18 and can tell you her heart is gold. She is a master at multi-tasking, is innovative in programming and communicates with *all* populations with dignity and respect. She is compassionate and cares deeply about our community and the improvement of information and services for seniors. Karin is cheerful, witty, trustworthy, extremely thoughtful and dependable. These qualities make her stand out in her daily work ethic as well as her example of what it truly means to be a good person.” Those who know Karin recognize her leadership, optimism and good humor.



Senior Resources Program Manager - Karin Stewart

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 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.

CONNECTING FAMILIES WITH HEALTH INSURANCE

By: *Randy Morgan, Public Health Administrative Services Supervisor*

The Health and Human Services Department is committed to assisting families in obtaining affordable health insurance. One of the Managing for Results® (MFR) strategic performance measures for 2012 states that 75% of Gunnison County and Hinsdale County children that are eligible for public insurance programs will be enrolled in the appropriate program. According to the most recent data, 81% of our eligible children are currently enrolled. This is a number we would like to see increase even further.

Medicaid and CHP+ are Colorado’s public insurance programs for families. Medicaid encompasses several different programs with varying eligibility requirements. CHP+ is specifically for children and pregnant women who do not qualify for Medicaid and do not have private insurance. A family of four can earn up to \$4,657 per month and qualify for CHP+ benefits. CHP+ has very low enrollment fees of no more than \$35 annually and co-pays of no more than \$10 per office visit. CHP+ covers all medical needs and limited dental, vision and mental health needs. Gunnison County is very fortunate to have multiple healthcare providers that accept CHP+ insurance. The Public Health office is currently in the process of becoming a CHP+ provider for immunizations and family planning services.

Please keep these programs in mind as you come in contact with county residents struggling with the high costs of insurance. We are happy to take referrals from any department and applications are available on line at www.colorado.gov/PEAK or through the Health and Human Services Department. Please call (970) 641-3244 for further information.

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 or contact Administration at (970) 641-0248.

7/12	25	A Resolution Approving Hotchkiss Water Storage Facility Major Impact Oil and Gas Operations Permit No. 2011-05, NE1/4 Section 18, Township 12 South, Range 89 West, 6 th P.M., Gunnison Energy Corporation
7/12	26	A Resolution Approving the McIntyre Flowback Pits #1 and #2, Major Impact Oil and Gas Operations Permit No. 2011-06, Sections 23 and 24, Township 11 South, Range 90 West, 6 th P.M., and the McIntyre Flowback Pits #3 and #4, Major Impact Oil and Gas Operations Permit No. 2011-07, Section 26, Township 11 South, Range 90 West, 6 th P.M., SG Interests I, Ltd.
7/26	27	A Resolution Establishing the Boundaries of the Commissioners' Districts of Gunnison County in Accordance with Colorado Revised Statutes § 30-10-306
8/2	28	A Resolution Regarding Provision of a Permanent, Safe and Reliable Source of Water to Antelope Hills
8/16	30	A Resolution Authorizing a Question to be Submitted to the Registered Electors of the Gunnison County Library
8/23	31	A Resolution Establishing the Antelope Hills Sewer Division of the Gunnison County Water and Sewer District and the Antelope Hills Water Division of the Gunnison County Water and Sewer District
8/23	32	A Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of a Bond Anticipation Note (Antelope Hills Water Division Project), Series 2011, in the Principal Amount Not to Exceed \$1,288,000
9/6	33	A Resolution Designating the Robert A. Watters American Legion Post #54 – Legion Hut to be a Gunnison County Historic Landmark
9/6	34	A Resolution Amending Resolution No. 2011-32 Authorizing the Issuance of a Bond Anticipation Note (Antelope Hills Water Division Project), Series 2011
9/6	35	A Resolution Supporting the Gunnison County Library District's November 2011 Ballot Measures
9/20	36	A Resolution Authorizing the Acceptance of Ownership of Unit 101, Apache Building, and Units 102, 201 and 202, Estonian Building, Stallion Park Condominiums, Crested Butte, Colorado
9/20	37	A Resolution Amending Resolution No. 22, Series 2004, a Resolution Approving the Final Plan for Filing 2B of Buckhorn Ranch (Formerly Avion)

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.

FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS' INSPECTIONS AVAILABLE ON-LINE

By: Carol Worrall, Public Health Director

You can view inspections of food establishments within Gunnison County on the Gunnison County website. The inspections have been done through an agreement with Gunnison and Montrose County Department of Health & Human Services Environment Health. Locally, the primary responsibility of the Gunnison County Environmental Health Office is to protect the public's health and the environment by preventing the contamination of ground and surface waters through inspections, monitoring, consultation on septic systems and by issuing permits for the proper construction and installation of septic systems. Food establishment inspections are a part of Consumer Protection services, and there have been no recent concerns regarding food establishments. Food establishment inspections are public record, and by making this available on-line, the records are more accessible. You may access these reports by going to the Gunnison County website, under Health & Human Services and then under Public Health. There will be a link that will take you to the Montrose County website. For a limited time, the link will run in the recurring calendar on the Gunnison County Home page. This effort as well as food handlers' food safety classes are part of Public Health's mission to assure just that—"the public's health". For questions, please contact the Environmental Health office in Montrose at (970) 252-5040.

WEST REGION WILDFIRE COUNCIL RECEIVES AWARD TO REDUCE WILDFIRE RISK IN THE REGION

The West Region Wildfire Council (WRWC) was recently awarded \$171,000 from the Bureau of Land Management to assist communities on the western slope in reducing wildfire risk. The award is part of the BLM's Community Assistance program to reduce the risk and impact of wildfire on communities within Colorado through planning, hazardous fuels reduction, mitigation, and education activities.

The West Region Wildfire Council supports interagency efforts to develop and implement plans to mitigate the threat of catastrophic wildland fire to communities and natural resources in Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel counties. The WRWC promotes information sharing and collaboration between local communities and state and federal fire managers for fuels management, wildfire suppression, enhancing capability, planning and collaboration.

During the past few years the WRWC has worked with six counties on the western slope to develop county-wide Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs). Most recently, the WRWC has worked with Delta, Gunnison, Montrose, and Ouray Counties to complete their CWPPs. A CWPP is a synthesis of known conditions and wildfire history; combined with a determination of wildfire risk across each of the counties. The science-based result of the plan is a prescription of where and how to treat the areas of greatest wildfire risk in each county. "The CWPP is a starting point for communities to begin working on wildfire risk reduction and the creation of fire-adapted communities across the landscape," says Lilia Colter, the West Region Wildfire Council's CWPP Coordinator. "These plans are a stepping off point to begin to work with communities to reduce their risk through education and wildfire fuel reduction activities."

To help ensure the success of the CWPPs, the WRWC is offering private landowners and collective groups of private landowners the opportunity to apply for funding assistance to implement recommendations outlined in approved CWPPs. The goal of these funds is to assist in completing site specific fuels mitigation and/or landscape scale fuels reduction projects. The WRWC Community Assistance funds are a 90/10 cost-share reimbursement opportunity. For more information about wildfire mitigation grant opportunities contact Lilia Colter (wrtc.lilia@gmail.com) or (970) 240-9051.

ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT EARNS DISTINGUISHED BUDGET PRESENTATION AWARD FROM THE GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA (GFOA)

In August, the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) announced that Gunnison County, Colorado's Administration Department received the GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its 2011 budget. The award was formally presented to the Administration Department during the Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners meeting on 10/18/2011.

The award represents a significant achievement by the Administration Department. It reflects the commitment of the County and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. In order to receive the award, the Administration Department had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to assess how well an entity's budget serves as:

- A policy document.
- A financial plan.
- An operations guide.
- A communications device.

Budget documents must be rated "proficient" in all four categories, and the 14 mandatory criteria within those categories, to receive the award. When a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award is granted to an entity, a Certificate of Recognition for Budget Presentation is also presented to the individual or department designated as being primarily responsible for its having achieved the award. For budgets including fiscal period 2010, over 1,250 entities received the award. Award recipients have pioneered efforts to improve the quality of budgeting and provide an excellent example for other governments throughout North America. Serving only 15,394 residents, Gunnison County is the least populated county in Colorado to win the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, with the next smallest being Mesa County (147,522 residents). Among previous winners are Denver City and County (618,650 residents), Arapahoe County (571,598 residents) and Jefferson County (545,848 residents). It is a testament to Gunnison County's dedication to excellence that it has achieved this distinction without having the resources of these large jurisdictions to apply to the effort.

GUNNISON COUNTY NATIONAL CITIZEN SURVEY RESULTS IN: MANY HIGH MARKS FROM CITIZENS, SOME AREAS TO FOCUS ON IN THE FUTURE

By: Molly Mugglestone, Gunnison County Communications Consultant

The 2011 National Citizen Survey results can now be downloaded from the County's website at http://www.gunnisoncounty.org/citizen_survey.html. The survey is a collaborative effort between National Research Center, Inc., and the International City/County Management Association and has been administered by Gunnison County twice now (in 2009 and 2011). This summer the survey was sent by mail to 1,200 households in the County and garnered a 35% response rate. Having data from 2009 and now 2011 will provide the Board with comparative data that will be used in long term planning for improved services and in reaching the goals of continuing to improve quality of life for Gunnison County residents.

Benchmarks:

Gunnison County's results have been weighted against approximately 100 jurisdictions in the Western region with populations less than 40,000. Looking at these areas where Gunnison County is above, similar or below benchmarks can help leaders determine areas that the County is successful and also areas that need improvements.

Gunnison County's Above Benchmark Areas in 2011 were: Snow Removal, Bus/Transit Services, Recreation Programs, Recreation Facilities, Historic Sites, County Parks, County Open Space, Preservation of Natural Areas, Drinking Water, Power Utility, Sewer Services and Storm Drainage.

Gunnison County's Similar Benchmark Areas in 2011 were: Public Information, Animal Control, Street Repair, Traffic Enforcement, EMS, and Sheriff Services.

Gunnison County's Below Benchmark Areas in 2011 were: Planning and Zoning, Code Enforcement, Economic Development, Library, Health Services, Fire Services and Recycling.

Overall Areas of Improvement

Gunnison County survey results also can show where residents have reported improvements. Some highlights of improvements in 2011 data as compared to 2009 data include:

- Snow Removal received an 80% excellent or good rating, up from 74% in 2009.
- 90% of residents say they feel safe in the County downtown areas after dark, up from 84%, and 95% say they feel safe from violent crime (e.g. rape, assault, robbery), up from 90%.
- Sheriff services were rated as excellent or good by 82% of residents up from 73%, and EMS services were similarly rated at 74% up from 61%.
- Overall, each public safety question ranked above benchmarks as well.
- Preservation of natural spaces such as open space, farmlands and greenbelts received a positive rating of 81% as compared to 70%.
- 90% of residents said they recycled, up from 87% and 67% said recycling services are excellent or good- up from 61%.
- Availability of affordable housing received 23% positive, up from 17%. This is an area that the County will continue to work on as it is still below the benchmark, but has seen a 6% improvement from 2009.
- Mental health services were rated at 51% excellent or good, up from 38%, and drug and alcohol services were rated excellent or good by 46% of residents, up from 43%.
- 68% of residents said they had read the Gunnison County newsletter, up from 60% and 58% said they've visited the Gunnison County website, up from 52%.
- Gunnison County's Public Information services were rated excellent or good by 64%, up from 55%.
- The value of services for the taxes paid was rated as excellent or good by 58% of residents, up from 48%, which is similar to the benchmark.
- 67% of residents said they had contact with a Gunnison County employee in the last 12 months, and of those 81% said courtesy of the employee(s) was excellent or good, 78% rated knowledge excellent or good and 76% said responsiveness was excellent or good. All of these ratings are similar to the benchmark.

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NATIONAL CITIZEN SURVEY RESULTS *(CONTINUED FROM PG. 6)*

The BOCC and County staff are encouraged by many these many improvements and similar or above benchmark ratings and will continue to work to find ways to improve in areas that had below benchmark ratings. Improving these rankings will also be pursued by utilizing the Managing for Results performance-informed decision making plans of each County department. These plans provide increased transparency and accountability for citizens in understanding what specific results they are buying with the County’s revenues. By combining the Managing for Results departmental plans with the Citizen Survey results, the County will be able to further the goals of enhanced communications with the public, and overall increasing customer satisfaction in every County department.

The survey can be viewed online at http://www.gunnisoncounty.org/citizen_survey.html. For more details, please contact County Manager Matthew Birnie at 970-641-0248 or mbirnie@gunnisoncounty.org.

PRESENTATION OF 2012 STAFF PROPOSED BUDGET

By: Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners

Much thought and careful consideration has gone into this year’s budgeting process. In response to the current economic climate, instead of proposing the allowable revenue increase from property tax (5.5% plus new construction), the 2012 County Staff Proposed Budget includes a reduction in total property tax collections of 7.37% for all components of the County mill levy. This will result in an overall reduction from 2010 property tax collections of \$622,889 as detailed below:

Property Tax Comparison - 2012

<u>FUND/Description</u>	<u>2012 Property Tax Revenue</u>	<u>2011 Mill Levy</u>	<u>Amt. Over (Under) Prior Yr.</u>
Human Services	\$ 271,538	0.393	\$ (21,601)
Library	\$ 719,418	1.041	\$ (57,231)
Gunnison Healthcare Center	\$ 569,669	0.824	\$ (45,318)
General Fund	<u>\$ 6,269,323</u>	<u>9.070</u>	<u>\$ (498,738)</u>
TOTALS	<u>\$ 7,829,947</u>	<u>11.328</u>	<u>\$ (622,889)</u>

The full allowable increase in property tax revenue	\$ 599,494
The decrease in property tax revenue proposed.....	\$ <u>622,889</u>
Savings to the property tax payers	\$ 1,222,383

This could lower current taxpayers’ county property tax bills by as much as 8.8% depending on their property values.

While taking the taxpayers into consideration, the County Staff Proposed Budget also includes a 2% cost of living adjustment for County employees. Without this adjustment, 2012 would be the third year that almost one third of the full time employees have not received a raise, while the cost of living has increased approximately 7% and health insurance premiums will have increased 21% in the same period. Still, due mostly to attrition and job consolidation, the 2012 wages, for the entire County organization, will be almost \$11,000 less that in the 2011 budget.

The County is a large organization and thus has a very complicated annual budget. The public is encouraged to attend the Public Hearing for the 2012 Budget on December 6th, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. in the Commissioners’ Meeting Room in the County Courthouse. Let us answer your questions, explain our rationale, and hear your concerns.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT WELCOMES NEW STAFF

By: Renee Brown, Health & Human Services Department Director

Greg Meier is the new Manager for the Child and Family Services Program. He and his wife Christy have relocated from Mesa County where Greg served in the Mesa County Human Services Department for 25 years. Kendra Stuckey has also joined the Financial and Support Services Program staff as a new technician for public assistance programs. Betsy Holena is a new Case Worker for the department, having formerly served as a Court Advocate for children. A couple of staff have also shifted gears including Dawn Delany's move into a Case Worker position and Selenia Rascon has also moved into a Case Worker role providing services through the Child and Family Services Program as well as the Colorado Works program. We also welcome our new Deputy County Attorney, Art Trezise, who will complement the team in the areas of child welfare, adult protection and child support enforcement.

Changes in grant funding have resulted in shifts in other areas as well. With Selenia's move, Ellen will now be the Health Navigator for the Multicultural Office. Laura McLoughlin has assumed the Family Planning Coordinator position. While the cardiovascular screenings (high cholesterol, etc.) are no longer available, Margaret Wacker has now assumed the role of Early Childhood Council (ECC) Coordinator and Joan Grant will focus on foster and kinship care development. Lealyn Poponi will now be doing additional ECC work while continuing her Nurturing Parenting Program Coordinator work. Please check out the Early Childhood Council website, <http://www.gunnison.colostate.edu/ecc/ecc.shtml>, for additional information about this incredible community collaboration. So, welcome everyone and thanks for making Gunnison County a better place.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TO UTILIZE INNOPRISE SYSTEM

By: Cathie Pagano, Community Development Department Planner I

The Community Development Department recently updated their data management software to the Innoprise System. The new software enables the department to store information electronically and manage all permits through an electronic database. They are now able to email all permit-related documents. Along with this new software, they are updating permit applications which will require fewer paper copies of application materials to be submitted. This will save applicants time and money and will require less storage space for the department. Currently, the department is working with the software company and the IT Department to provide internet access to the public. In the near future they will be able to provide current data, some historical data and permit files to the public via internet. Access to the database will also be available to other interested departments and will make it easier to access information quickly and efficiently.

The Community Development Department will also be using the software and a laptop/projector system to provide information to the Planning Commission. Information will be accessed during Planning Commission meetings and displayed on a projector for everyone to reference the information.

If you have any questions or are interested in a demonstration, please contact us at (970) 641-0360. A special thanks to Administrative Services Manager Beth Baker, Administrative Assistant Michelle Spain and IT Director Mike Lee for working long and hard with Innoprise to create a system that meets our needs and the needs of the public!

WHAT DOES SELF-FUNDING MEAN TO ME?

By: Debbie Moore, Human Resources Director

The health plan that Gunnison County offers is called a self-funded health plan. You need to know how this type of health plan works, and what it means for the way you receive health care benefits. For more information on what self funding is & why employers choose self funding, please contact Debbie Moore in Human Services for this complete article.

Because Gunnison County assumes the financial risk of providing you with health care benefits, we can either save or lose money depending on the level of claims incurred by our employees. We want to be able to provide you with high quality health benefits, but as the cost of providing health care rises, you too must do your part to keep benefits high and costs down.

Some ways that you can help save money for yourself and our organization are: Focus on healthy living, Get the recommended preventative screenings, Have your physical annually, Follow prescription drug directions precisely, and be sure to take all of your medication, even if you feel better, Use in-network providers, and Eliminate unnecessary visits to your doctor. To help keep your health care costs down, do your best to be a wise health care consumer and always ask questions if you do not understand the benefits available to you. Contact HR at 641-7623 if you would like more information on our benefits plan.