

NEWSLETTER



Commissioner Phil Chamberland

The longest day of the year has come and gone and we're hitting our stride into the heart of another beautiful summer in the Gunnison Country. So far it looks like another dry summer. In June, the Board of County Commissioners enacted Stage I Fire Restrictions for Gunnison County. That same day around 4:30 pm as I pulled into my driveway, I noticed a plume of smoke coming off the base of Whetstone Mountain. The fire was started by a lighting strike. This fire was no match for our very capable Crested Butte Fire Protection District, which had it put out in about an hour. Kudos to the CBFPD. Talk about an almost instant affirmation that a Stage I Fire Restriction was appropriate.

A friend of mine sent me a link to a presentation done by Simon Sinek. (Google Simonsinek_209X-480p to view the 18 min. video). He was explaining his theory on why some organizations, companies, groups, etc., excel and are leaders in their respective fields, while others, who have the same tools and resources available, are stuck in mediocrity. Simon states that companies in the middle of the pack are focused on "what" they do and "how" they do it. "I run an airport". (What) "This is what I do to run the airport". (How) Simon goes on to say that organizations that excel are focused on "why" they do what they do. The understanding of "why" is at the core of all they do. Instead of thinking "what, how", leaders in their fields think "why, how, what". "I want to help build a stronger economy in Gunnison County so that I and everyone living in our County can afford to raise their families here". (Why) "I will make sure we have a safe, clean, friendly environment that meets the needs of our business travelers and tourists. I will assist in any way possible to assure they have a pleasant experience at our airport." (How) "I help operate Gunnison/Crested Butte Regional Airport". (What)

It doesn't matter if you are in Finance, Public Works, Community Development, at home with your family, or running a business somewhere in Gunnison County, if you are willing to reflect on "why" you are doing something, you will get at the core of the purpose of your task. This in turn will help you do it well. So, as you engage in your day-to-day activities, ask yourself why you do what you do. It will help guide you in how to do what you do. As Gunnison County employees I hope that our "why" will always have our constituents at its core. They are why we exist. We are here to meet the needs of our public. By the way, I think we do it well. There's a reason Gunnison County is a leader in Colorado on many issues; we know why we do what we do.

Make sure to get out there and have a great summer. You live in one of the best places in the country. You can be proud that you had a part in it, so get out and enjoy it.

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BUDGET PREPARATION SCHEDULE

The 2014 Gunnison County Budget preparation season officially kicked off on July 30th! Here are important dates to remember:

- Tuesday, October 15th (statutory deadline): Submittal of staff-proposed budget to the Board of County Commissioners. The staff-proposed budget will also be available for public inspection.
- Tuesday, October 22nd: Board of County Commissioners budget work session.
- Tuesday, November 12th: Board of County Commissioners budget work session.
- Tuesday, December 3rd: Public Hearing.
- Friday, December 13th: Board of County Commissioners adopts budget.
- Friday, December 20th: Board of County Commissioners sets County mill levy and certifies all taxing entities' mill levies to the County Assessor.

NEW COUNTY WEBSITE

Gunnison County's **new website** is live! In addition to all of the capabilities of the previous website, the new interactive website enables citizens to:

- ◆ Report County Issues
- ◆ Complete Online Applications
- ◆ Receive automatic notifications related to:
 - ◆ Employment Postings
 - ◆ Airport Delays/Cancellations
 - ◆ Emergency Situations
 - ◆ Bids and Requests for Proposal
 - ◆ Meetings, Agendas and Minutes
 - ◆ Travel Advisories
- ◆ Visit www.GunnisonCounty.org for more info!

REMAINING 2013 GUNNISON COUNTY HOLIDAYS

For the complete list of 2013 holidays, visit the County website.

- 5/27 – Memorial Day
- 6/4 – Independence Day
- 9/2 – Labor Day
- 10/14 – Columbus Day

- 11/11 – Veteran's Day
- 11/28 – Thanksgiving Day
- 11/29 – Day after Thanksgiving
- 12/25 – Christmas



COLORADO WILDFIRES

This summer, there have been several wildfires burning in Colorado.

To keep up to date on the latest wildfire info, visit the following websites:

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

SHERIFF'S OFFICE FINGER PRINTING

Citizens in need of civil background fingerprint services should contact the Gunnison County Sheriff's Office at (970) 641-1113 to make an appointment. The prints cost \$10.00 (accepted forms of payment are check, credit card, or exact cash). For employer-required printing, the Sheriff's Office will bill the employer. In that case, please make certain that the employer's credit card has "ORI" on it or, if not, the Sheriff's Office will need additional information.

The Sheriff's Office utilizes a LiveScan machine to transmit concealed handgun permit prints to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation. All court-ordered criminal fingerprints are done in the jail and then transmitted. For all other fingerprints, hard copies are created for submission by the employer or citizen.



TAYLOR CANYON ROAD PROJECT UPDATE

Event description and elements of challenge:

- The distance of the project is from the Three Rivers business (Almont) to the Harmel's Guest Ranch.
- Length of the project contract is from present date to October 31, 2013.
- Taylor Canyon Road will be closed to all general use traffic from Almont to the Dunbar Subdivision for a greater portion of the summer.
- Exceptions to the closure will be over the Labor Day weekend, 2013.
- All residents and visitors of the Dunbar Subdivision will be travelling to the Jacks Cabin Cutoff and around to get to Highway 135 during that period of time.
- When construction progresses past the Dunbar Subdivision, traffic will be controlled by certified construction flaggers.
- All emergency traffic responding to events beyond the construction zone are to proceed via Jack's Cabin Cutoff.
- As construction progresses and disposition of the closures change, effected agencies will be notified.
- Although Gunnison County has made vast improvements to the Jack's Cabin Cutoff, tight curves and narrows still exist so drive carefully. Remember, all traditional County Road 742 traffic is now traveling the cutoff.

For more information please contact Sheriff Rick Besecker at (970) 641-1113.

COUNTY EMPLOYEE PARTICIPATES IN FASHION SHOW FUNDRAISER FOR THE GUNNISON ARTS CENTER

"Recycled Fashion" was the May theme for the gallery at the Gunnison Arts Center. The only rule was that submissions had to be constructed primarily from recycled materials, which could include items as varied as old clothes, broken glass, paint swatches, garbage bags, and even used computer parts. The gallery display culminated on May 30th with the Second Annual Recycled Fashion Runway Show, hosted by Project Runway's Tim Gunnison and Heidi Glum. Models got to showcase all the recycled fashions on the catwalk in front of a packed and very enthusiastic audience, with prizes awarded in various categories (Avant garde, formal wear, kids, etc.). Hair and makeup, including my dazzling pink lipstick, was kindly provided by Metamorphosis Salon & Spa. All told, the event raised about \$1,000 for the GAC.



Senior Assessment Analyst William Spicer struts his stuff for the Arts Center

RV DUMP STATIONS IN GUNNISON

KOA CAMPGROUND

- ⇒ Cost: \$10
- ⇒ Hours of Operation: 8 am – 8 pm, 7 days a week.
- ⇒ Located at 105 County Road 50.



MESA RV RESORT

- ⇒ Cost: \$10
- ⇒ Hours of Operation: 8 am – 8 pm, 7 days a week.
- ⇒ Located at 36128 HWY 50.



TALL TEXAN

- ⇒ Cost: \$12
- ⇒ Hours of Operation: 8:30 am – 8 pm, 7 days a week.
- ⇒ Located at 194 County Road 11.



CITY OF GUNNISON DUMP STATION

- ⇒ Cost:
 - \$6 during business hours (M-F 8-5)
 - \$36 after business hours
- ⇒ Details: The dump station is behind a locked gate. You must call the City of Gunnison and someone will meet you at the dump station to unlock the gate.
- ⇒ Located on South Rio Grande.



EMPLOYEE IN THE SPOTLIGHT

“Randy Morgan joined Public Health in 1999 working the front desk where any and all who entered the office were greeted with a warm smile and got all their questions answered. Nearly 14 years later, the smile is just as friendly as ever while the array of questions and other critical functions of the office have exploded, all landing on Randy’s plate. She has always been the person who knew what and where everyone was, how to get in touch with them, etc., as well as lots of program details such as how to begin Medicaid, CHP+ enrollment, WIC, Family Planning or Nurse Family Partnership.

The functions of the Public Health office have changed over the years and especially the last two. Much of the MFR (performance) data is entered and monitored by Randy. As Support Services Manager, supervision of the support staff was added to her role as well as helping with desk coverage in Human Services. Another program that deals with childcare assistance was added for her oversight. Handling the vouchers and deposits have been a longstanding part of her work while the volume has doubled. Participation in the budgeting process was undertaken. Then came changes with immunization billing. This was a huge change that involves researching and initiating individual contracts with individual insurance companies, doing all she could to maximize coding to assure the best reimbursement. For an already too-full plate, here was more than second helpings. And if you happen to come through our door, you will still get that same warm smile.” -Carol Worrall

“Randy Morgan is an irreplaceable employee that handles the work load of at least three full-time employees. She amazes me the way she can handle any situation put in front of her, always with a smile and with her professional demeanor. She always jumps in and figures out how and what to do for every problem that is placed in front of her and her department. Because of the way she jumps in, I am not sure everyone really realizes how complicated that office and her duties really are because she would never complain. I rely heavily on the way she knows everything that goes on in Public Health. It doesn’t matter if it is a question about financial information or how a new program will be set up. She is Public Health’s own “Radar” like in M.A.S.H. - she knows all! I don’t know what we would all do without her!”

-Jane Wyman



Randy Morgan
Admin. Svs. Supervisor

EMPLOYEE IN THE SPOTLIGHT NOMINATIONS

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.



Russ Forrest
Community Development
Director

NEW COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR RUSS FORREST WILL ALSO SERVE AS ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER FOR COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

After interviewing a talented round of six finalists for the County Community Development Director position, county leaders have chosen Russ Forrest to be the new Director of Community Development. Forrest comes to Gunnison County from previous positions as the Town Manager for the Town of Snowmass Village where he has been since 2007 and before that as the Community Development Director for Vail, CO.

County leaders have also taken this opportunity to restructure this position so Forrest will also serve as the Assistant County Manager for Community and Economic Development responsible for coordinating the services of the Community Development Department, Geographic Information Services Department and the Wildlife Program. He will also take the lead in managing the County’s economic development activities.

“As a seasoned Town Manager, Russ presented us with a unique skill set that will allow us to improve coordination of several of our services and to increase our focus on economic development. As a result, the Commissioners and I decided to seize the opportunity that Russ presented and to expand the position and its responsibilities,” says County Manager Matthew Birnie.

County Commissioner Paula Swenson adds, “Russ’s skill set is going to afford us the opportunity to grow our economic development efforts as well as strengthening our community development department. It will be very beneficial to our community for the county to have the ability to assist in growing our economy and to have a person that can help in coordinating efforts. I am excited about this new path for the county.”

Forrest will assume his new duties with Gunnison County in August. “I am very much looking forward to the opportunity to work for Gunnison County as the Assistant County Manager for Economic and Community Development. Gunnison is clearly a progressive County as an organization with incredible leadership. It is also located in one of the most beautiful regions of the Rocky Mountains where my family has enjoyed spending time over the last 20 years. I am particularly looking forward to developing a lasting and meaningful relationship with the citizens of Gunnison County,” says Forrest about his new position and moving to the Gunnison Valley.

NEW AIRPORT MANAGER RICHARD (RICK) LAMPORT

Gunnison County has hired Richard Lamport to serve as the new Gunnison-Crested Butte Regional Airport Manager. Richard will come to Gunnison County with over 35 years of international and domestic civil/military experience in all aspects of aviation involving airline operations, air traffic control, flying, and the administration, management and operation of airports. "We are thrilled to have someone with Rick's extensive background in commercial airport operations, the airline industry, and general aviation joining our team. Rick is a very accomplished aviation professional and will be a tremendous asset to the Gunnison Crested-Butte Regional Airport, the County organization, and the broader community. We look forward to benefitting from his contributions," said Gunnison County Manager Matthew Birnie.

Over the course of the last 25 years while employed by AvPORTS, Richard gained extensive aviation experience working in the Sultanate of Oman, New Zealand, South Africa, Zimbabwe and several US locations, including San Bernardino International Airport in San Bernardino County, CA, the largest county in the US. Richard has served in many capacities during his career, including Airport Manager to four regional non-hub/small-hub Part 139-certificated airports. Most recently, he served as the General Manager of General Aviation Airports for the Rhode Island Airport Corporation where he was responsible for enforcing the policies and governance in the operation of the five state-owned General Aviation Airports and associated Fixed Base Operators (FBO), negotiating joint use of the airports with government and US military organizations, and managing the pricing policies and structures for the sale of aviation fuels necessary for the financial success of the airports and FBOs. After extensive travel, Richard is now looking forward to managing the strategic development, progression and growth of the Gunnison-Crested Butte Regional Airport, and he readily accepts the challenge of attracting aviation commerce and enthusiasts to Gunnison County, a location known for safety and aircraft-performance concerns due to factors such as high elevations and adverse weather conditions.

Originally from Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), Richard attended the Rhodesian Air Force Academy and served as a pilot in the Rhodesian Air Force. Richard and Sue (his wife) are excited to relocate to Colorado, their most desired place to live, and Richard is eager to develop and nurture long-term professional relationships within the community and the County organization. Using clear and regular communication to define his expectations, Richard has provided leadership and mentorship to his team members who have, in turn, performed exceptionally well. As Richard explains, "Earning that same high level of professional trust from my team members is a hallmark of my professional career, and I have achieved it by rolling up my sleeves and getting involved in day-to-day operations with staff, including demanding snow-removal operations, night and weekend flying activities and exercises, and by frequently and accurately consulting with airport officials and stakeholders to ensure that their goals were met. I have always achieved a high level of confidence within all departments of both the company and client, by knowing my operations from the ground up. The critical combination of personal technical expertise and a thorough knowledge of the operation in question promote trust and respect with airport staff and co-workers, the community and all associated entities essential to the success of an airport and an airport manager."



Rick Lamport
Airport Manager

EMERGENCY PHONE NOTIFICATIONS—IS YOUR CELL PHONE NUMBER REGISTERED?

~Submitted by: Emergency Manager 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 any time.



To register your cell phone, visit <http://www.gunnisoncounty.org/Emergency> and click on the yellow Emergency Notification graphic 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.

ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER NOW DEPUTY COUNTY MANAGER TITLE CHANGED TO APPROPRIATELY REFLECT MARLENE CROSBY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

With the appointment of Russ Forrest as Assistant County Manager for Community and Economic Development, Marlene Crosby's title has officially changed to Deputy County Manager. Generally a "Deputy" serves in place of the Manager when he or she is unavailable, and Marlene has served as the second in command for many years. The title "Assistant" is normally used for high-level executive managers who have responsibility for several departments, but who do not serve as the Manager in the Manager's absence. Marlene will continue to serve as the Public Works Director, and that title has not changed.



Marlene Crosby
Deputy County Mgr.

UPDATE FROM THE FACILITIES AND GROUNDS DEPARTMENT

NEW BUILDING EFFICIENCY MEASURE & 4-H GREENHOUSE PROJECT

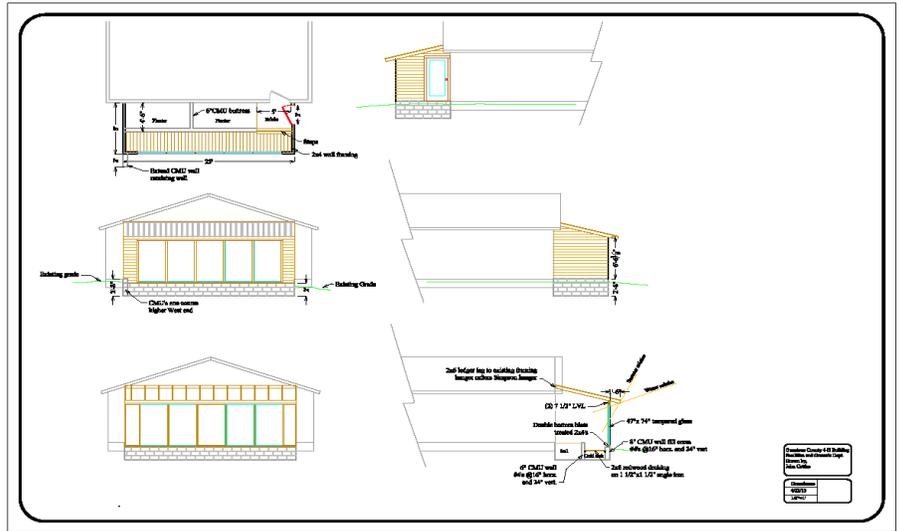
~ Submitted by: Facilities and Grounds Supervisor John Cattles

As outlined in the Gunnison County Strategic Plan, in each year from 2013 through 2017, Gunnison County will achieve an overall net energy efficiency increase of 10% in one county facility from baseline consumption in 2012. Since there are many facilities that require attention and targeted improvements can make a big difference, we thought it would be a good idea to focus on one building at a time. This strategy will allow Facilities and Grounds to sufficiently budget for capital improvements and make system modifications in a manageable way. It also will allow the Green Team to work in concert with the Facilities and Grounds Department to assist in encouraging employees to modify their behavior, providing draft stoppers where needed, etc.

The Facilities and Grounds Department is planning to build a greenhouse addition to the 4-H building at the fairgrounds. The greenhouse concept was designed by GIS Manager Mike Pelletier not only to extend the growing season for garden plants, but also to supplement the heating for the building. The building will have several unique features to improve heating efficiency and reduce daytime overheating:

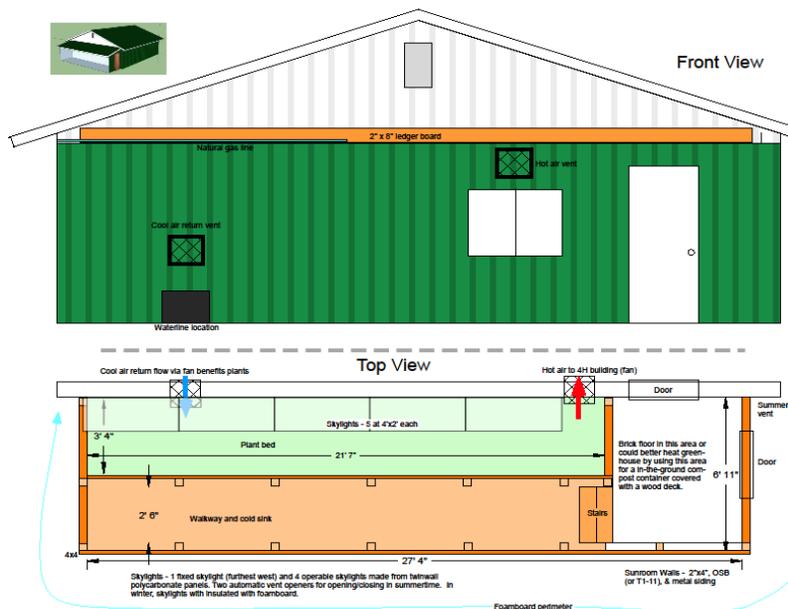
- A 'cold sink' which is a dug-out portion of the interior floor where cold air from the glass surface can settle down and absorb heat from the earth to reduce cold drafts at night into the building. The cold sink will also accommodate a composting area.
- Fans will force hot air from the top of the greenhouse into the building, and cold air will return to the greenhouse through louvers at the floor level. At night louvers will shut, isolating the greenhouse from the building.
- The roof overhang has been designed to allow winter shine on the vertical glass walls and shade the walls in the summer.
- Automatic vents open in the summer to release hot air when the greenhouse gets too hot.

The greenhouse will produce over 100,000 BTUs a day. Even at the winter solstice, this could account for half of the heating need for the building. Thanks to all the generous contributors to make this building a tribute for Trevor Nienhueser. It will be an asset to the 4-H program! The project will start after Cattlemen's Days, so come check it out! For more information, contact John Cattles at (970) 641-8560 or Mike Pelletier at (970) 641-7645.

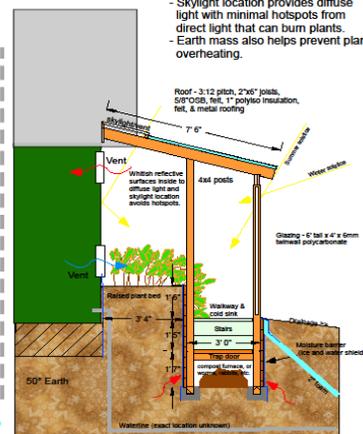


Sunroom & Greenhouse for 4H Building

- Goals:
1. Maximize heat to building in winter by maximizing glazing and little mass in sunroom.
 2. No greenhouse freezing in winter even during cloudy periods without supplemental heat using earth 50° temp.
 3. Attractive and comfortable setting in sunroom.



Side View



- In Hot Summer Months**
- Full sunroom becomes greenhouse.
 - Skylights open automatically to vent heat at preset temperatures.
 - Skylight location provides diffuse light with minimal hotspots from direct light that can burn plants.
 - Earth mass also helps prevent plant overheating.

- In Cold Winter Months**
- During day greenhouse mass keeps it from overheating.
 - At night, greenhouse hopefully stays warm enough even during cloudy periods due to connection with 50° earth, insulated skylights, wall/ceiling insulation, and twinwall glazing.
 - Walkway acts as cold sink to protect plants.
 - During sunny days, extra greenhouse heat goes into building via the sunroom.

GUNNISON COUNTY DISCONTINUES AERIAL MOSQUITO CONTROL PROGRAM RESOURCES TO BE REDIRECTED TO GROUND CONTROL EFFORTS

In response to environmental concerns related to the County's use of aerial applications to control the mosquito population, and after evaluating the recommendations from a group of local stakeholders, Gunnison County leaders have decided to discontinue the aerial mosquito control spraying for this summer.

Concerns have been raised about unintended negative impacts occurring, especially after the aerial spraying in 2012. Around that same timeframe, the County received reports of two fatalities in the Montrose area as a result of the West Nile Virus which is carried by the Culex variety of mosquitoes. 30% of the mosquitoes trapped in the Gunnison County program in 2012 were of the Culex variety, so County leaders wanted to make sure that any change in the program would not increase the risk of West Nile infections in people. So the County began discussions with its wildlife biologist and mosquito control contractor about how to best mitigate negative impacts of the program while still protecting human health.

Ultimately, a decision was reached to redirect the resources that would go into the aerial spraying to increase efforts on the ground with more applications of larvicide for killing mosquito larvae and ground spraying for adults. The redirection of efforts to the ground and away from aerial spraying should allow for a more targeted and flexible program throughout the summer. The County and its contractor, Colorado Mosquito Control believe that they will be able to more effectively respond to specific events where people are congregated and other problem areas. "We hope to balance efficacy with ecological concerns with this new direction for the program," said Matthew Birnie, Gunnison County Manager. "Colorado Mosquito Control has collaborated with the County on this, and necessary steps have been taken to ensure a successful season. Some mosquitoes should be expected, though we will work with anyone interested to ensure that they have a safe summer," said Chris Kruthaupt, Colorado Mosquito Control Manager.

Spraying for the current season has begun and will continue until field surveillance data indicates that it is safe to stop, which is customarily around mid-to-late August. Citizens will continue to have the ability to opt-out of having their property sprayed at any time. To report a problem area or to opt out, citizens should contact Colorado Mosquito Control at (970) 641-4249.

COUNTY COURTHOUSE PROJECT UPDATE

The Gunnison County Courthouse Project, included in both the 2011 and 2013 Gunnison County Strategic Plans, is tentatively scheduled for completion in 2015. The new facility will be smaller, safer, more energy and work efficient, and cheaper to operate and maintain. It will also fulfill the Court's security and hearing space needs, which are not addressed by the current configuration. The original circa 1881 portion of the structure will be fortified, protected and included within the project. Gunnison County originally hoped that renovating the current structure would be feasible; however, the Needs Assessment completed for this project indicated that the building is in much worse shape than anticipated. For instance, the mechanical systems have outlived their useful life, the roof is in need of complete replacement, and even after extensive and expensive renovations, the needs of the Courts could not be fulfilled.

Since the original construction in 1881, the building has undergone multiple renovations in order to meet as many needs as the available resources would allow at the time. In 1977, the District Court Judge sitting in Gunnison ordered the Board of County Commissioners to fix deficiencies in the building so that "adequate court facilities" could be provided, as required by the statute, which led to the first in a series of lease-purchase agreements that the County used to fund the required improvements.

Until now, the lack of funding and other priorities have hampered the County's ability to move forward with this project. In 2010, all available resources were directed to construction of the new Public Safety Center complex, due to the tremendous liability associated with incarcerating people in substandard conditions, and the new Public Works facility, which had been identified as a need for decades. In 2012, with the completion of the Public Safety Center project, the detention center and Sheriff's Office vacated the Courthouse, prompting the Court's renewed urgency and requests that the County focus on its statutory obligation to provide facilities for the Court and its officers.

Along with requests from the Courts, the County has received many questions, suggestions and comments from citizens regarding issues such as the project's costs and timeline, the County's debt limit and repayment capacity, and the possibility of combining current County functions into the new facility. Some asked why the Courts were not combined with the Public Safety Center; however, there simply wasn't sufficient room on that building site to add the necessary square footage without impeding the functionality of the Fairgrounds (thereby interfering with Cattlemen's Days). Relocating the Courts and County Administration to the Public Safety Center would also have moved them away from the center of town and into an industrial area.

PUBLIC MEETING

GUNNISON COUNTY COURTHOUSE PROJECT

Date/Time: Wednesday, August 28, 2013 at 5:30 pm.

Location: Gunnison County Fairgrounds (275 S. Spruce Street).

The public is welcome to attend this meeting and provide input on design alternatives. Light refreshments will be served.

In addition to Board of County Commissioner work sessions and the continuing ability of the public to provide input via www.MyGunnisonCounty.com (where we will post updated documents), a final public meeting will take place on or about September 24, 2013 to present the proposed design. Please contact County Administration at (970) 641-0248 with any questions or concerns.

Continued on page 8...

PROPOSED LISTING OF THE GUNNISON SAGE-GROUSE

Following the January 11, 2013 publication by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) of proposed rules to list the Gunnison Sage-grouse as endangered and to designate 1.7 million acres of southwest Colorado as Critical Habitat under the terms of the Endangered Species Act, Gunnison County has been working with 10 other counties (9 in Colorado and 1 in Utah) and the States of Colorado and Utah to provide a legal framework around current and proposed Gunnison Sage-grouse conservation efforts. Our congressional delegation, with considerable support by Senator Bennet and staff, helped initiate this effort and have worked with us throughout the process.

In late March a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by all 11 counties agreeing "...to reach the goal of increasing the current abundance, viability and vitality of Gunnison Sage-grouse and their habitat."

The counties, working closely with the States of Colorado and Utah, and our congressional delegation, developed a range-wide Conservation Agreement, which formalizes the many conservation efforts now in place and commits to significant future actions. In July, that agreement was signed by all nine counties with mapped Gunnison Sage-grouse occupied habitat within their boundaries, and the States of Colorado and Utah. We believe this Agreement provides the certainty of conservation actions identified by the USFWS as necessary to make a final determination that the species is not warranted for listing under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act.

In July, USFWS Director Dan Ashe visited Gunnison. He was joined by Colorado Commissioner of Agriculture John Salazar and staff from both the USFWS and the Department of Agriculture. Director Ashe, Commissioner Salazar, representatives of Gunnison County, Colorado Parks and Wildlife and others toured the Ohio Creek area, visiting working ranches, the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Miller Ranch, and private developments that successfully conserve habitat and coexist with the grouse. Director Ashe also met with the Gunnison Basin Sage-grouse Strategic Committee, the 11-County MOU group, and representatives of the States of Colorado and Utah to discuss the Conservation Agreement, the proposed rules and other issues pertinent to Gunnison Sage-grouse conservation.

If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact Jim Cochran, Gunnison County Wildlife Conservation Coordinator, at 641-7604 or jcochran@gunnisoncounty.org.

GUNNISON COUNTY ADOPTS REVISED STRATEGIC PLAN

STRATEGIES OUTLINED REGARDING INFRASTRUCTURE, ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNITY AND SERVICE

On Tuesday, June 4, 2013, the Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners adopted a revised Gunnison County Strategic Plan to provide focused direction to staff regarding desired results. The plan, originally adopted in May 2008 with later revisions in 2009 and 2011, outlines strategies to: 1) Ensure Sound Infrastructure; 2) Protect the Environment; 3) Promote Prosperous, Collaborative and Healthy Communities; and 4) Deliver High Quality Services.

County Manager Matthew Birnie stated, "This cornerstone of our Managing for Results efforts has proven to be extremely effective at focusing our energy and resources through clear prioritization. It is the organization's North Star and allows us to consistently deliver the identified Strategic Results. What the Commissioners put in their Strategic Plan gets done."

Gunnison County leaders held a retreat in February to begin the process of updating the strategic plan, which included the removal of the many Strategic Results that had been achieved since the last update. Upon consideration of current and upcoming challenges or opportunities anticipated within our communities, the

County added strategic results that address the Gunnison Sage-grouse, economic development, air and ground transportation, natural gas and geothermal development, adolescent alcohol and substance abuse, senior citizens, and employee performance. "Juvenile Services is excited to gain exposure for our prevention arm, GCSAPP, in the County's Strategic Plan. Having substance use prevention for youth identified as a Board of County Commissioner's priority and elevated to this level acknowledges the work that our community coalition has done over the past eight years and the commitment to health our community is taking. This is just one great example of how incredibly supportive and invested our community is in the health and wellbeing of our youth," said Gunnison County Substance Abuse Prevention Project Director Matthew Kuehlhorn.

This strategic approach to management has proven successful to the County. The Administration Department received the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) Distinguished Budget award for its 2011 and 2012 budgets. As well, the Colorado Association of County Administrators presented County Manager Birnie with the Administrator of the Year Award in 2011.

For more details, please contact County Manager Birnie at mbirnie@gunnisoncounty.org or Assistant to the County Manager Katherine Haase at (970) 641-7601 khaase@gunnisoncounty.org. To view the current Gunnison Strategic Plan, please visit <http://www.gunnisoncounty.org/172/Strategic-Planning>.

2012 GUNNISON COUNTY PERFORMANCE REPORT

In June, Gunnison County issued its inaugural Performance Report. To view/download the report, visit the County's website at <http://www.gunnisoncounty.org/172/Strategic-Planning>. Contact the County Manager's Office at (970) 641-0248 with any questions related to the report.

COUNTY COURTHOUSE PROJECT UPDATE *(Continued from Pg. 6)...*

Some citizens raised the idea of combining the County functions currently housed within the Courthouse, Blackstock Government Center and Family Services Center buildings into one new facility, using various configurations, and then selling the other two buildings. However, since the County spent almost \$7.4 million to purchase and renovate those two buildings (currently valued at just over \$4 million), this was not a viable option. As well, the Blackstock and Family Services buildings measure 37,800 square feet (combined), which would necessitate the construction of a 76,200 square foot courthouse (currently proposed to be only 38,400 square feet). A Courthouse project of that size would be extremely difficult to build on the current site, and it would equate to approximately \$23 million in construction costs and project costs of over \$25 million versus approximately \$15 million for the proposed project.

Another suggestion was that the County give the Blackstock building (valued at \$2,561,050) to the Library District in exchange for the proceeds from the sale of the Van Tuyl property (valued at \$72,450), instead of building a new library on it, with costs being offset by the sale of the current Ann Zugelder Library (valued at \$361,790). Considering all relative factors, including the financial investment already made in the Blackstock building, this scenario would add \$10.5 million dollars to the cost of the project.

All persons residing within Gunnison County will benefit from this project, as well as countless visitors to our community, by increased safety, the reduction in wait time for court processes, the ease of navigation within the building, the improvement of working conditions and customer experience within the facility, the opportunity for local employment during the building process, and the overall reduction of the facility's carbon footprint.

The County wants your input on design alternatives and development of the new County Courthouse. Come to the Public Meeting at the Fairgrounds on August 28, 2013, starting at 5:30 pm, so that County leaders can receive public your input and ideas; or share your ideas at www.YourGunnisonCounty.com. For more information or to share your design ideas, please contact the County Manager's office at (970) 641-0248.



3453 Court House, Gunnison, Colo.
Historic Photograph of the Gunnison County Courthouse

Project Quick Facts:

- * *By the end of 2014, Gunnison County will have saved or invested over \$6 million in this project. This represents an estimated 40% of the total project cost (based on a \$15 million project).*
- * *Gunnison County's legal debt limit is \$145 million. Currently, the County has approximately \$17.6 million in long-term general bonded debt.*
- * *Over 60% of the projected project needs are based on the Court's requirements.*
- * *Gunnison County has a sales tax dedicated to County capital projects.*
- * *Gunnison County received \$175,000 in Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance grant funds (Tier I) from the State for architectural design of the new courthouse. An additional \$1M in Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance grant funding has been requested, and a decision on that application is expected to be made public in December.*
- * *The current mechanical systems are all past their useful life, and the roof system needs to be replaced.*

Electronic waste may be disposed of at the following location:

City of Gunnison Public Works Department
1100 West Virginia Avenue, Gunnison
Hours: Monday 1:30 – 4:00 PM

Call 970-641-8020 for information on disposal fees.

NEW LANDFILL REGULATIONS

~ Submitted by: Deputy County Manager / Public Works Director Marlene Crosby

As of July 1, 2013 the Gunnison County Landfill, in compliance with State regulations, **CAN NO LONGER ACCEPT ELECTRONIC WASTE**. Those items that will not be accepted include televisions, central processing units (CPUs), computer monitors, peripherals, printers, fax machines, laptops, notebooks, ultra books, net books, electronic tablets, DVD players, VCRs, radios, stereos, video game consoles and video display devices with screens greater than four inches diagonally.

APPLIANCES AND ANY TYPE OF TELEPHONES WILL STILL BE ACCEPTED AT THE LANDFILL.

Residents who bring their trash to the Gunnison County Landfill and who have their trash picked up by a trash service must remove electronic waste from their trash and dispose of it in the appropriate manner. **Electronic waste will be rejected at the Landfill gate.**

There are also special events held to collect electronic waste. The next event will be the annual BOPA event sponsored by Gunnison County and the City of Gunnison on Saturday, **September 28, 2013.**