



# City & County Manager's Report

February 28, 2006

**TO:** Mayor Stuart and the Broomfield City Council  
**FROM:** George Di Ciero, City and County Manager

## In Review



### Broomfield officer, dog earn national awards

Officer Jason Collins and his K-9 partner Nik (pronounced "Neek") earned two awards from the National Police Canine Association. The awards were presented Wednesday, Feb. 15, at the Broomfield Police Department by Bill Delay, the Northwest Regional Director of the National Police Canine Association.

The "Patrol Deployment Award" for the fourth quarter of 2005 was awarded for the team's work in a case involving a man who had stabbed his wife in October 2005. This man was armed with a large knife, and Nik was sent to subdue him. The second award is the "Detector Deployment Award," also for the fourth quarter of 2005.

In this case, Nik assisted the North Metro Task Force in locating drugs during the execution of a search warrant in December 2005. Delay said this is the first time he recalls one officer and his dog being presented with both awards at once.

In commenting on the awards, Patrol Division Commander Mark Bella said, "the Broomfield Police Department Canine Unit is an excellent asset to the Police Department and to the community. These awards are an example of the passion and dedication our canine officers have for their jobs".

### Growing Recreation Services activities serve residents of all ages

**Athletics:** The Youth Basketball program began in January, with 1,500 youngsters in grades K-8. There are 48 teams of youngsters in grades K-2, 77 teams of third through eighth graders and 16 competitive teams.

To accommodate these up-and-coming cagers, 12 schools, two churches and the Broomfield Community Center are scheduled for approximately 170 hours of practices each week – about 1,530 total hours during the nine-week season. Saturday game hours at these locations

total 56 hours each week, about 448 for the season.

This is quite a feat, due largely to the volunteers who dedicate hours coaching. There are 91 Little Dribblers coaches who volunteer about seven hours each during the season, for 637 hours total. Another 132 youth coaches give about 27 hours each for a total of 3,564 hours and 16 competitive basketball coaches donate a total of 736 hours.

The gymnastics program has enrolled its biggest number of participants, with 860 registered, since the Paul Derda Recreation Center opened. In fact, an extra time slot for high school gymnastics has been added due to the demand. Staff is currently in the planning stages of the first high school overnight gymnastics camp to be sponsored next August through Recreation Services.

Also on the gymnastics front, Recreation Services hosted a Colorado Association of Recreational Athletes (CARA) Optional Spotting Clinic for 35 gymnastics coaches from around the state.

**Senior programs:** During January, 467 seniors participated in trips, dinners, meetings, movies and dancing, fitness, billiards or cards.

The **SilverSneakers®** offerings continue to be a hit. In January, Recreation Services recorded 879 passholders who came 2,861 times to the Paul Derda Recreation Center and 1,679 times to the Broomfield Community Center. There were 70 Coffee Hour participants, 14 new member meeting participants, and nine quarterly meeting participants.

**Fitness;** Under the Fitness banner, the Legacy High School Swim Team completed a 10-week



**During Transportation Week with the Early Learning class, staff members from the Streets Division talked with the children about their duties. They brought several streets vehicles to show the children, and each received a miniature street cone to take home – or wear as hats.**

dry-land conditioning course at the Paul Derda Recreation Center, participating in the BODYPUMP® fitness class.

Fitness numbers for January include: 67 Fitness Classes offered, compared to 63 in 2005, and 4,846 total Fitness Class participants compared to the previous all-time high of 3,800 in April of 2005. January also marked the highest number of personal trainer visits ever recorded in a month for Recreation Services.

## FYI

### Broomfield Heights Neighborhood Traffic Mitigation

Broomfield staff has been working with residents of Emerald Street and West First Avenue to implement recommendations included in the Broomfield Heights Neighborhood Plan and develop ways to manage traffic in the neighborhood. Staff met with residents for the second time in January to discuss a Phase I implementation plan. The plan includes:

- A pair of radar speed signs on West First Avenue and Emerald Street. In October of 2005, more than 60 meeting attendees agreed that speed radar signs could help slow speeding, so a pair of signs was installed on each street in January.
- Entry islands with neighborhood identification signs at West First Ave (west of Main Street) and Emerald Street (south of West First Avenue). The entry islands will include monument signs to identify the neighborhood, and are intended to provide a transition between adjacent commercial areas and arterials, and the neighborhood.
- A raised pedestrian crossing on Emerald Street at the existing trail in Midway Park (north of Emerald School and south of West Third Avenue).

The entry islands and raised pedestrian crossing are planned for implementation by the end of the year. Changes in traffic speed, volume and location (in case traffic shifts to adjacent roadways in response to these actions) will be monitored and reported to residents. If traffic does not slow traffic sufficiently, a Phase 2 plan including speed humps and additional raised pedestrian crossings will be further evaluated with the community.

**'05 sales tax up nearly 6 percent**

Sales Tax and Retail Square Footage History			
Year	Sales Tax Collected	% Change	Square Feet*
1999	\$10,409,205		1,437,706
2000	\$18,238,019	75.2%	2,883,770
2001	\$29,859,239	63.7%	3,472,328
2002	\$34,934,818	17.0%	4,008,740
2003	\$36,900,997	5.6%	4,119,951
2004	\$37,583,660	1.8%	4,326,136
2005	\$39,794,238	5.9%	4,327,536

\* Square footage at Year End

**Broomfield helps area get 'green' rating on emergency preparedness**

In a January assessment of emergency readiness, Broomfield's efforts in emergency preparedness helped the metro area win a green designation, the highest rating.

Contributing to the rating were Broomfield's drive-through flu shot clinic, the Postal Service plan to distribute medications, and collaborative working relationships between divisions in HHS, Broomfield Emergency Management, the Broomfield Police Department and Public Works.

The assessment was part of the Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI), a Center for Disease Control (CDC) grant program designed to enhance emergency preparedness collaboration at all levels of government. A critical part of the grant process is a bi-annual assessment by the CDC of the Denver area's readiness.

The ultimate goal in each county is to have plans in place to be able to distribute medications to the entire Denver metro area within 48 hours. The Denver area was provided with a lump sum of money distributed to each of the 10 counties that

make up the North Central Region (Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Clear Creek, Denver, Douglas, Elbert, Gilpin and Jefferson).

An assessment team came from the CDC to Denver for the day-long assessment. The team looked at 136 critical elements to determine the grade for the Denver metro area in terms of disaster preparedness. Other participants in the assessment were representatives of the state health department and local emergency preparedness planners from each of the 10 counties.

The grading system is a color-coded grade where red is the lowest, amber is intermediate and green is the highest level of preparedness that can be achieved. Each critical element is graded separately, and the average is taken as the overall grade. In November of 2004 and March 2005, the Denver area received overall grades of red – not a good reflection of the total level of preparedness in the Front Range as a whole.

For this most recent assessment, the State of Colorado was told that the assessments would be much more stringent than in past years. The CDC asked for more detailed documentation of signed Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) from partner agencies, and exercise plans in place as reflected in each of the 136 critical elements.

The state was also told that preparedness grades would directly affect funding levels for future grant requests. From 2005 to 2006 the CRI group prepared nonstop for the upcoming assessment, exercising plans, establishing relationships with critical partners, and specifically addressing each of the 136 elements needed for a grade of green.

The assessment occurred January 18, and on February 3, word was received of the green designation for the area's overall grade.

**Open house set for Wildgrass trails**

An open house to share the planned, multi-phased trails planned for the Wildgrass development's open space areas has been scheduled for Wednesday, March 22.

Anyone interested in the plan may attend any time between 6 and 7:30 p.m.

The open house will be in the Bal Swan and Zang's Spur conference rooms at the City and County Building, 1 Descombes Drive. Refreshments will be served.

The Wildgrass area is located north of 144<sup>th</sup> Avenue and west of Sheridan Boulevard.

For more information, call Ronda Jo Ackerman-Alfort, the project manager, at 303.464.5807, or email her at [ralford@broomfield.org](mailto:ralford@broomfield.org).

## Looking ahead

### Hard to Recycle Roundup Day

Saturday, April 29, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Broomfield residents will be able to recycle computers, cell phones and more at this one-day-only special collection event at the Broomfield Recycling Center, 225 Commerce St. There will be charges for some items. For more information visit [www.broomfield.org/recycling](http://www.broomfield.org/recycling) or call 303-404-2839.

### 'Incredibles' Week

Come for "Incredibles" Week March 27 to 31 at the Paul Derda Recreation Center, 13201 Lowell Blvd. and the Broomfield Community Center, 280 Lamar. Visit any time during the week. There will be fun displays, special offers, free balloons and sneak previews of all the incredible summer fun Recreation Services will announce in its upcoming Summer Brochure!

### Earth Day program just for kids!

Saturday, April 22 from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Presented by the Colorado State University Master Gardners and Broomfield Environmental Services. Only 50 slots are available for kids ages six to 12, to be dropped off for an afternoon of fun crafts and activities to promote environmental

awareness. Only 50 slots are available. Call 720.887.2286 to reserve a space.

### Household Hazardous Waste Day

For those who like to plan ahead, the annual Household Hazardous Waste Day is scheduled this year on May 20. It is by appointment only, so call 303-438-6336 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

### Tree limb recycling drop-off

This popular program is open for residential use only. Please note hours of operation are Wednesdays 1 to 5 p.m. and Saturdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. 225 Commerce St.

### Parks and Recreation Job Fair

Students age 14 and over are invited to Broomfield's annual Parks and Recreation Job Fair on Saturday, March 18 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Broomfield Community Center, 280 Lamar St. Bring a list of previous jobs including dates of employment, contact numbers, summer vacation calendar, names and phone numbers of three personal references.

For more information, call 303.438.6320 or check the Web site at [www.broomfield.org](http://www.broomfield.org).

## Departmental updates

### COMMUNICATIONS

Newly designed inserts in the city's utility bills are being coordinated by the Public Information Office. The first inserts will be in the March bills.

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Broomfield, as one of the growing communities along the Colorado Front Range, recognizes the necessity to manage the natural resources that

contribute to a well-balanced community life. A new Urban Forest Program will provide ongoing evaluations in the planning and management of Broomfield's tree asset inventory.

Broomfield's trees are a valuable asset to the citizens of Broomfield. In addition to the increased property, aesthetic, and social value they provide, trees are a valuable part of the storm water mitigation process, providing a significant reduction in storm water runoff by retaining a great

quantity of water in the mature tree crown. Trees also contribute to improved air quality by removing pollutants. The cooling or windbreak effects help save energy, which also results in a reduction of power plant emissions. Many of these ecological effects are dependent upon tree species and placement as well as tree maturity considerations.

All in all, the net benefits provided by the Broomfield Urban Forest green infrastructure far outweigh the costs incurred in maintenance and planning.

Broomfield's current Urban Forest asset inventory was collected entirely in-house. It contains over 7,000 trees. The inventory includes tree locations gathered by the city forester and his assistant using global positioning technology (GPS). Along with the physical location, various attributes captured digitally are: species, crown diameter, trunk diameter, height, leaf type, health, physical conflicts, wildlife, and several other useful characteristics. This information provides a current asset inventory and can be used to create a future vision of Broomfield as the trees mature, enabling future benefits and expenses to be accurately estimated based on the data.

Broomfield's Urban Forest will continue to grow. In addition to the general mid-section of Broomfield, the northern part is an area planned with tremendous green infrastructure activity – an estimated 7,000 trees in the Anthem area alone. The program's goal is to maintain this valuable asset and to promote tree longevity, health and provide enjoyment for the citizens of Broomfield well into the future.

### **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (HHS)**

**2005 air quality activities:** The HHS Public Health and Environment Division staff, through the 2005 Air Contract with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Air Pollution Control Division, inspected a variety of stationary sources of air emissions to ensure compliance with state and federal regulations and respond to air quality complaints. Inspected were: Broomfield Veterinary Clinic, Engineered Data Products, Teilhaber, Broomfield Wastewater Treatment Facility and Patina oil and gas wells.

Staff also inspected Chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) sources in motor vehicle repair shops, stationary or building air conditioning repair shops, and stationary air conditioning. CFCs are associated with the depletion of the protective ozone layer of the atmosphere.

With increased development in Broomfield, there have been an increase in dust complaints. Public Health works in conjunction with the Building Division to ensure that dust is controlled in Broomfield. Land developers are required to submit, with their building permits, a dust control plan. If complaints are received, building officials will stop work at a construction site until dust is controlled.

**Indoor air quality:** Public Health staff investigates citizen concerns and provides information about indoor air quality issues on radon gas, mold and household chemicals. In 2005 homeowner complaints about mold increased. Staff provides general information on how to mitigate mold and how to prevent mold growth. Site visits are made to help homeowners determine the source of moisture that is producing the mold.

### **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

On January 20, 2006, police commanders Dale Sarno, Tom Hartmann, and Mark Bella graduated from the Northwestern University "School For Police Staff and Command" training, which was conducted in the metropolitan area.

The training consisted of topics such as resource management, organizational behavior, human resources for law enforcement, budgeting, planning and policy development, standards and professionalism, and a core of legal subjects. The ten-week training program is considered one of the top command schools in the country.

Chief Tom Deland has indicated that he intends to make attendance at the command school available for all eight members of the Police Department's executive staff to better prepare the Police Department for the challenges it will face in the future.

Commander Sarno currently heads the Police Department's Training and Emergency Management Division and is a 25-year member of the department. Commander Tom Hartmann oversees the Detention Center and has been a member of the Department for 20 years. Commander Mark Bella commands the Patrol Division and is a 32-year veteran of the Broomfield Police Department.

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

The Wastewater Treatment Facility is continuing to draw national interest. Several jurisdictions have

made the trip to Broomfield during the past two months to look at treatment technologies and have left very impressed.

A consulting engineer to both North Idaho and Spokane, Washington wrote, "Your plant is very well maintained and operated, and we believe that you are a credit to your community and are serving your constituency exceptionally well."

Another consultant, this one to Houston, Texas, wrote, "I want to thank you for allowing me to visit your plant last Thursday and to take the time to meet with me and walk me around your plant. Your plant is by far the cleanest, best maintained WWTP (waste water treatment plant) I have visited. I have been in this business since 1984,

having both operated and designed WWTPs. Your plant is clearly the most impressive!"

### **RECREATION SERVICES**

- The annual Super Bowl Fun Run on Sunday, Feb. 5, drew 62 registered runners (and their dogs).
- There are 147 children enrolled in the Early Learning Preschool at the Paul Derda Recreation Center. There is space available for a total of 150 registrants, so the program is all but completely full. There is a waiting list for the Little Learners program, and staff is hoping to open another class in March to accommodate the need at the Derda Center.

## Capital projects

### **Sheridan Boulevard widening (E. 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. to W. 136<sup>th</sup> Ave.)**

The roadway has been striped, the barrels have been removed and all lanes are open for traffic except for short –duration lane closures where work is still occurring. The remaining work includes finishing the landscaping and irrigation along the west side of the roadway between E. 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue and E. 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and caulking the colored concrete medians. This is expected to take approximately 14 more working days in mild weather.

Broomfield's sod farm contractor will install the drought-tolerant sod in the early spring after the irrigation system is activated.

### **Sheridan Boulevard underpass at Highland Park**

Construction of the underpass began in late January. The contractor is beginning work on the east side. The first tasks include re-routing the 42-inch storm sewer, lowering the 20-inch potable water line, installing excavation supports, and excavating for the east section of the underpass box culvert.

## At the Audi ...

- March 3 to May 5, the Westminster Palateers Spring Color art show will hang at the Audi for viewing during events.
- Friday, March 3, 7:30 p.m. the Rocky Mountain Brassworks will perform to the theme "Spring Awakens."
- Saturday, March 4, 8 p.m. the annual Broomfield Music Teachers Association presents the 2006 Piano Festival.
- Wednesday, March 8, CU in Broomfield continues with a winter faculty concert featuring chamber music. "Two's Company," will bring collaborative pianist Anne Epperson together with an all-star roster of College of Music colleagues in works for various instruments and piano.
- Thursday, March 9, 7 p.m. features Astro Jazz in this free "Science, Sights and Sounds" presentation.