December 20, 2005

TO: Mayor Stuart and the Broomfield City Council

FROM: George Di Ciero, City and County Manager

Avian flu - how Broomfield fits into the big picture

From George Di Ciero

Much has been in the news lately about the prospect of a pandemic of Avian Influenza – "bird flu." A pandemic is caused by a strain of virus that is new, so no one would be immune, and it would be highly contagious.

While the state health department reports that there is no pandemic flu in the world at this time, there are influenza virus strains that infect birds. These flu viruses occur naturally among wild birds, and usually only infect birds.

Currently, a strain called H5N1 virus has been causing disease in Asian poultry. It is a highly pathogenic strain, which means it makes birds very sick or kills them. This flu strain rarely spreads from birds to people, but other countries have reported that people have been infected from birds, and some have died.

The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that, although rare, human-to-human transmission of H5N1 and other avian influenza viruses have occurred in association with outbreaks in poultry, but should not be cause for alarm. WHO says that in no instance has the virus spread beyond a first generation of close contacts, nor has it caused illness in the general community.

So far, the H5N1 virus does not spread easily from person to person, but whenever an avian flu strain infects people, there is a chance that the virus could mutate to a new virus that spreads easily from person to person and causes serious illness.

The good news is that this strain has not been seen in the U.S. or Colorado. Even so, a vaccine for the H5N1 "bird flu" is being developed. WHO reports that, although a vaccine against the H5N1 virus is under development in several countries, at present, no vaccine is ready for commercial production.

The U.S. federal government is actively pursuing a vaccine development and production program to help with the public health response, should that become necessary.

There are antiviral medications that reduce the severity of human flu and these <u>may</u> also be effective in treating the current H5N1, but if the virus mutates and spreads from person to person, their effectiveness in fighting such a pandemic flu is uncertain.

During a pandemic, people might be advised to stay at home for a period of time to reduce the spread of the disease. If that happens, preparedness is necessary, and our Police Department's Citizen Emergency Response Training (CERT) teaches residents how to be prepared with food, water, medications and anything else necessary to make life comfortable if they have to stay at home over some period of time.

What is the State doing?

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), along with local health agencies across the state, monitors flu in communities by working with doctors, hospitals.

laboratories and nursing homes to identify unusual numbers of people with flu-like illnesses.

The state lab also checks samples from those with flu-like illnesses to identify which flu viruses are circulating in our state. Should pandemic flu occur, or if there is a widespread flu outbreak, Colorado – and every other state in the country – will respond with new procedures to go with standard, time-tested disease control methods.

What are we doing?

Broomfield is working with the state to plan for public health emergencies. Our local county health officials have developed collaborative relationships with the CDPHE in an effort to establish protocols based on the National Pandemic Influenza Plan. Guidance is provided by CDPHE.

(The recent Drive-Through Flu clinic at the Broomfield County Commons is an example of one procedure – mass inoculation – that could be necessary should bird flu become pandemic.)

Specific local health efforts include:

<u>Surveillance</u>

- CSU diagnostic lab is leading an Avian Influenza Backyard Surveillance program which monitors over 1,000 sites. Broomfield is working with CSU to receive any data collected in our county in order to be aware of any positive test results.
- Commercial chicken flocks are also being monitored and tested at the state level.
- A local collaborative relationship is being established to be aware of anything unusual.
 Collaborators are Animal Control, Public Health, Code Enforcement, and Open Space and Trails.

- Local health staff is also establishing a school absentee monitoring program to determine unusually high occurrences of sickness.
- Collaborative relationships have been established with the other nine counties in the North Central Region to keep each other informed of state and local events/exercises/drills.

Quarantine and Isolation

- Local health officials are part of a state-level planning committee that designed a North Central Region Quarantine and Isolation seminar. The objective of the seminar is to provide an arena for discussions to take place between key stakeholders that would include legal, medical, law enforcement, and fire and rescue. The seminar will take place in January, 2006.
- State level policies are being reviewed and exercised across the North Central Region.

Community Education

 Hand-washing Campaign – Broomfield's Health and Human Services (HHS) Department is using available media for hand-washing reminders. Hand-washing is the single most important preventive tool against getting sick.

Testing Mass Vaccination Plans

 HHS, the Broomfield Police Department and its Emergency Management Division, the Public Works Department and North Metro Fire Rescue tested the mass vaccination drive-through plan on October 30, 2005 at the Broomfield County Commons. If an outbreak of avian flu occurred, local health would have to consider mass vaccination strategies.

FY

ERC annual Giving Tree benefits underprivileged families

Broomfield's Employee Review Committee (ERC) finished its annual Giving Tree effort last week, helping Santa with nearly 200 gifts going to 33

people in eight families referred anonymously by Broomfield FISH.

Under the direction of Jane Dunlavy who has organized the Giving Tree for six years, employees who wanted to purchase a gift for someone in need

were asked to stop by the Community Assistance Center where they could choose holiday tags with each family member's gift wishes printed on them.

The tag information ranged from clothing and personal items to toys for children of all ages and their parents. Some employees took tags for gifts for entire families, and others took one or two individuals.

A new twist this year included a silent auction. In November, the call went out for donations of items to auction during the annual ERC employee potluck luncheon on December 9. Individuals participated, and departments collaborated, putting creative baskets together.

There were theme baskets like a dog-lover's basket with books about dogs, doggie dishes, and a basket for Fido's sweet dreams. Others included a chocolate lover's basket; movie night basket complete with snacks, movies and a gift card to a movie rental company; a golf-lover's basket with tees, a beverage cooler, towels, a certificate for paid greens fees, and more. Smaller offerings included candles, sports clothing, and pasta jars. There were over 35 items for employees to bid on.

The highest bids went to a Rec Center basket won by Lisa Gallegos of HHS, and the golf-lover's basket, won by City and County Attorney Bill Tuthill.

Money from the successful silent auction bidders came to over \$1,000 and was divided among the families in the form of grocery store gift cards and for a family night out at AMC movies. The gifts were delivered this week to FISH for the families, in time for the holiday.

HHS seeks children who received flu shots

Parents of children under age 9 who received their first flu shot at either the HHS drive-through clinic in October or the HHS walk-in clinic in November should bring them in for the second dose.

Children must receive a two-shot vaccine series the first time they receive the flu vaccine. Those who received the first flu vaccine in the fall are due to return for the second dose.

Forms parents completed at the HHS clinics did not

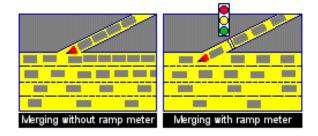
require phone numbers for staff follow-up, so parents are responsible for making sure their children get the necessary second shot.

Call 720-887-2220 for an appointment or more information.

U.S. 36 ramp meter installation to begin

Starting in March 2006 several entry points to U.S. 36 will be equipped with on-ramp meters to help with the flow of traffic. Ramp meters are stop-and-go signals located on entrance ramps to the freeway. They control the frequency with which vehicles enter the flow of traffic on the freeway.

Eastbound Foothills Parkway, westbound Interlocken Loop, westbound McCaslin Boulevard, and westbound Wadsworth Parkway interchange on-ramp meters will adjust the rate it allows cars to enter U.S. 36 according to the traffic flow.



Without ramp meters, many cars try to merge at once. Drivers on the freeway slow down to let the cars enter, and these slower speeds quickly cause backups. If, however, cars enter the freeway in a spaced, controlled manner, they merge easier with less disruption to mainline traffic. A short wait on the ramp allows drivers to increase their average freeway speed and shorten freeway travel times.

Broomfield designated Passport Acceptance Facility



The City and County of Broomfield's Community Assistance Center was recently designated as a Passport Acceptance Facility by the U.S. Department of State. Staff is waiting to receive the training materials and supplies from the regional office in Seattle, Washington.

Once the training is complete, the service will be advertised by press release, on Channel 8, and the Broomfield Web site.

Citizens Assistants Carla Schumacher, Claudia Korn, and Jane Dunlavy are excited to offer this important new service to the community in a further effort to provide centralized services to our citizens.

FYI from the Audi ...

- December holiday events presented at the Audi have increased 133 percent (2003 to 2005), offering performances for every age, taste and budget, and showcasing Broomfield's and the region's finest artists.
- For the first time, the Community Tree-lighting event was amplified by the Audi "sound" machine (staff and equipment) collaborating with staff from Recreation, Parks and Facilities staff.
- This year's new December 14 Jazz Concert Benefit presented at the Audi required canned food and/or cash donations for admission. All proceeds went to Broomfield FISH. This may become an annual community event.

Library renovations near completion

Renovations to the children's library "Imagining Place" are nearing completion and a late December dedication is expected. New, colorful carpet, comfortable chairs for parent-child reading, board book bins, and an alphabet tree mural are new elements in this space. Project sponsors include the Community Financial Federal Credit Union and the Broomfield Library Friends.

Public Works holiday tree collection sites

Broomfield's holiday tree collection sites opened December 16, and will close January 20, 2006.

Broomfield has six locations for Broomfield residents where "real" holiday trees (not artificial) can be dropped off and recycled into mulch. The mulch will be available at Bronco Park in the Westlake area.

and at the Broomfield Recycling Center, 225 Commerce St.

Collection sites are marked with signs and orange fencing. Before leaving a tree at the collection site, residents should remove all lights, ornaments, trees stands and any objects that could damage the brush chipper. The collection sites are intended for trees only.

PLEASE, NO WREATHS, GARLAND, YARD WASTE, TREE BRANCHES, OR OTHER WOOD PRODUCTS.

Sites are:

- Bronco Park, Westlake Drive and Grove Circle. The tree drop-off is north of the back stop.
- Broadlands Park West, Sheridan Boulevard and Meadow Mountain Drive. The tree drop-off is on the west side of the parking lot.
- Lac Amora Park, Miramonte Boulevard and Oak Circle North. The tree drop-off is west of the back stop.
- Community Park Ball Fields, Community Park Drive and Lamar. The tree drop-off is west of George Hall Field.
- Broomfield Recycling Center, Industrial Lane and Commerce Street, west of the recycle bins.

A new collection site for 2005 has been located at

 Meridian Park, McKay Circle and Park Cove Way in McKay Landing. The tree drop-off is located west of the back stop.



Construction

- All aspects of the project are on or ahead of schedule
- > The project is within budget

The caissons have been completed and exterior foundations walls are under construction. The east parking lot has curb and gutter and will be paved in December, weather permitting. The underground electrical, plumbing, and mechanical are partially

installed and will continue through December. The steel is scheduled to arrive in Denver around December 20th. Installation of the steel should begin during the holiday week.



Local Contractors

Restoration Specialists, Inc. of Broomfield were recently added to the construction team

Operations

- Decisions will be made in late December on concession operators and ticket vendors
- All senior staff should be in place by mid-January
- Team names, logos, and head coaches will be announced in mid to late January
- Deposits for season tickets are being accepted. The "official" sale launch will take place in January.

Looking ahead ...

Collaboration

The annual Happy Noon Year event at the Audi on December 31 is a collaboration between the library and Cultural Affairs. It is designed for those who prefer an early celebration. It comes complete with noisemakers, entertainment and fun for the entire family. On tap is a special performance in the Audi by Mary Sue and Cari, "Music with Kids." Registration is not necessary, but space is limited. Pick up free tickets one hour before the performance.

Recycle wrapping paper

From December 25 to January 31, wrapping paper will be accepted at the Broomfield Recycling Center, 225 Commerce St. It should be placed in the bin marked "Paperboard."

Wrapping paper is a very low grade material, normally considered a contaminant in the recycling bin because of its high clay and ink content and low fiber content.

Please do not bring metallic wrapping paper, ribbons, bows, ornaments, tissue paper, fluorescent or dark paper, or paper covered with tape.

Read through holiday break

Children in preschool through sixth grade are invited to stop by the library to sign up for the "Cool Kids Winter Reading Program" which began Wednesday, Dec. 14, and continues through Wednesday, Jan.11.

Pick up a form in the Children's Library or on the library's Web site, read three books at your level and enter to win a prize in the drawing in January.

Holiday closings and special hours

Closures in the various offices in the City and County of Broomfield have been announced for the holiday season.

Mamie Doud Eisenhower Public Library: 3 Community Park Road – open Dec. 23 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; closed December 24 and 25, 2005; open December 26 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Closed January 1, 2006; open January 2 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Broomfield Community Center: 280 Lamar St. – closed December 24, 25, 2005 and January 1, 2006. Open December 31 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Broomfield Senior Center: 280 Lamar St. – closed December 23-26, 2005 and January 1 and 2, 2006.

The kitchen will be closed for maintenance from December 27 to January 3, 2006.

City and County Building: 1 DesCombes Drive – closed December 23-26, 2005 and January 3, 2006.

Paul Derda Recreation Center: 13201 Lowell Blvd. – December 24 open 7 a.m. to noon. Closed on December 25. December 31 open 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. January 1, 2006 open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Broomfield Combined Courts: 17 DesCombes Drive – Closed December 23-26, 2005 and January 2, 2006.

Health and Human Services: 6 Garden Center – Closed December 23-26, 2005 and January 2, 2006.

Library offers parenting series

To support of Broomfield families, the library will be offering a new parenting series that will run from January through June 2006. Titled "Everyone Loves"

a Good Kid: the Delicate Art of Discipline," the series will consist of a monthly class and separate follow up question and answer workshop.

The presenter is Perry Robins Carre, an experienced educator and early childhood expert. Carre has presented several well-received programs at the library in the past and parents have been requesting additional information.

HHS Giving Tree program continues through December 22

Health and Human Services' Family Connections Giving Tree will continue through December 22. The Family Connections Program assists HHS families during the holidays with gifts for the entire family.

Local businesses, churches and families adopt HHS families throughout November and December. Gifts dropped off by December 15 were wrapped at a gift-wrapping party, hosted by HHS staff. Gifts are being distributed to families later this week.

Departmental updates

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Mamie Doud Eisenhower Public Library: Kathy Klatt, long-time children's library staff member, has been invited to speak at the National Association for the Education of Young Children conference in Washington, D.C. She will present with musician Katherine Dines. Their topic is "When I play and dance and sing—I can do anything!" - Growing stronger children through playful musical activities. Kathy is combining books with Katherine's music and is talking about early literacy skills.

Recreation Services: The Youth Athletic Division is introducing Lacrosse this spring for boys in grades 3 through 8 in conjunction with the Colorado Lacrosse League (CLL). Girls in grades 5 though 8 will play in the CGLA (Colorado Girls Lacrosse Association).

Participants can register individually or as a team. Registration runs through February 10. For the spring season, participants must also register as a member with U.S. Lacrosse. Memberships are \$18 through Dec. 31, increasing to \$20 after Jan. 1. To register, visit www.uslacrosse.org.

Players are encouraged to have previous lacrosse experience at the fifth grade and up levels. Beginners are welcome for the younger grades. Teams will travel for some games against other CLL or CGLA teams, and games will be played on Saturdays. Parents or guardians are responsible for transportation to all games.

Required equipment for the boys' leagues includes approved lacrosse helmet, arm pads, shoulder pads, gloves and mouth guard. For girls, goggles must be worn. Team uniform is provided. For more information, call 303-464-5510.

FINANCE

Base charges: The period to determine how base sewer charges are set is currently in effect. The

Revenue Division uses a winter average of water consumption to set the base charges since that timeframe is the best reflection of what actually goes down the sewer.

By the middle of October, most sprinkler systems are off, and the division can implement its Municipal Code mandate: "Average winter water consumption shall be the average water consumption for the four monthly bills reflecting usage between November 1 and March 31" will be the average consumption used for sewer for the next 12-month period.

The division reads water meters in four cycles each month. For the purposes of determining the average winter water consumption for sewer billing purposes, whatever cycle that includes November 1 begins the measurement period for the utility customer.

For example, a Cycle 1 customer's bill includes October 30 through November 30. Cycle 2 would include October 9 through November 9, etc. Those readings are then averaged over four months, and the amount for that account sets the base sewer charge for the year.

Assessor inspections: Colorado state statutes require all county assessors to equitably value all property within their county. To accomplish this task, assessors must inspect all property on a routine basis.

Starting in January, Broomfield appraisers will be out inspecting residential property that has not sold in the last four years. This includes single family residential, townhomes and condominiums. All property that has not sold requires a physical inspection by appraisal staff.

An exterior physical inspection measures the exterior perimeter of the home, notes the type of architecture, type of siding, roof cover, type of cooling (central air or swamp) and pictures are taken to supplement documentation. Interior inspection consists of the number of bedrooms, baths, fireplaces or wood stoves, type of heating (forced air, hot water, electric) and basement finish. Other additional features include swimming pool, tennis court, covered or enclosed patios and wood decks.

All appraisers will be wearing apparel that has the City and County of Broomfield logo and will present identification at the door. They will ask the owner if an interior inspection can be done. If the owner does

not allow the appraiser in, appraisers will present a data sheet for the owner to fill out and mail back. At no time will any appraiser insist or harass the homeowner to gain entry into a home. If the owner is not at home, the appraiser will leave the data sheet on the door, take a picture and assess the exterior of the home.

Anyone with questions or concerns during this inspection process may contact Vickie Brown, assessor, at 303-464-5819.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

<u>New hours:</u> Effective with the new year, the HHS Vital Statistics Office hours will be from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The office, located at 6 Garden Center, provides birth certificates for persons born in Colorado and death certificates for persons who passed away in Broomfield. Proper identification is necessary in order to receive a birth or death certificate.

For more information, please contact 720-887-2270.

<u>CSU Extension:</u> A hands-on workshop where attendees could make and take a holiday floral centerpiece was well attended on Saturday, Dec. 3. Fresh flowers, fresh greenery, supplies and expert assistance were provided for a \$25 fee.

Family and Children's Services: The Division will offer a 16-week program beginning Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2006, designed to help parents to be more empathetic and nurturing caretakers.

The Nurturing Parenting program promises an atmosphere that will be light, fun and educational. Classes will be held weekly and dinner will be served to all participants and their children. Classes are limited to 20 families.

The family-centered educational offering is designed to build nurturing skills and practices, emphasizing the value of unconditional love within a family. Participants will learn about the developmental processes of a child, the importance of offering children choices, and showing children they are loved and respected. HHS is sponsoring the program in collaboration with the Mental Health Center serving Boulder and Broomfield counties.

Anyone interested in participating in the program or being a volunteer in the program, should contact John Mowery at 720-887-2206 for more information.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Broomfield Police Department hosted the 11th annual FLAG (Fugitive Location and Apprehension Group) "Colorado's 50 Most Wanted Fugitive Round-Up" the weekend of December 3, 2005. Broomfield served as the command center for the operation.

The round-up began Saturday, Dec. 3, with a press conference held by Police Chief Tom Deland and law enforcement executives from 21 local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies in the City Council Chambers. Photographs of the 50 most wanted and details of the event were explained to electronic and print media.

Then, on Sunday, Dec. 4, at 7 a.m., 80 police officers from participating law enforcement agencies assembled in Broomfield and began receiving tips from the public concerning the location of fugitives listed on the 50 Most Wanted flyers and other wanted individuals. The effort was assisted that day by the *Sunday Denver Post* which printed photographs of all 50 of the most wanted individuals in the sports section of the newspaper.

The goals of the FLAG round-up each year are to enlist the help of the public in locating the 50 most wanted fugitives and to focus a large number of law enforcement officers during a 12-hour period to apprehend those most wanted and other fugitives wanted on outstanding warrants.

By the end of the day, five of the area's top 50 felons had been located and arrested, and 29 additional fugitives were in custody. With this effort as a beginning, tips concerning the location of the top 50 and other fugitives are expected to continue to be received by Crime Stoppers in the following weeks.

This year's round-up was successful in the apprehension of serious offenders in the metropolitan area who, according to Police Chief Tom Deland, "will continue to commit crimes until they are taken into custody."

The City and County of Broomfield had two individuals listed in the top 50, but at this time neither has been apprehended. Three other individuals, one on less serious charges, were apprehended during the round-up.

PUBLIC WORKS

Two Public Works employees likely saved lives December 5, when they happened upon a house on fire in the Westlake neighborhood. A news article in the December 7 *Broomfield Enterprise* reported the incident.

The employees, John Bonds, a traffic signal technician and John Beale, a traffic technician, were returning to the Service Center from working on the traffic light at Legacy High School on 136th Avenue when they spotted smoke coming from a home.

Alarmed, they contacted Police Dispatch who called in North Metro Fire Rescue. Then they set about evacuating three neighboring homes.

Their supervisor, Geoff Wells, noted that was the day the wind was blowing 80 mph. He speculates that, had the two not acted quickly, other homes would have been involved. Wells has written commendations for the two men, who he says are eschewing publicity.

The fire was in a garage, which was destroyed, along with a pickup truck parked in the home's back yard. Considerable damage was also done to the home itself.

Capital improvement projects

Sheridan Boulevard update

The contractor for Sheridan Blvd. has been working on the final striping plan. There will continue to be traffic barrels on site to allow for the construction on the decorative concrete in the medians. The landscaping contractor will continue installing irrigation and trees through the winter as weather allows.

The intersections of Sheridan with West 136 Avenue and at East 13 Avenue are complete. The signals fully functioning. This month, the contractor will be putting up the permanent signage except for the final speed limit signs. The speed limit will remain at 25 MPH during the remainder of the construction.

CIP Open Space projects

Broomfield County Commons Open Space Improvements, Phase 1:

Native seeding is currently taking place on the site. The site furnishings and the tie-ins for the trails will be completed as the seeding is completed. The project is scheduled for completion this month, at which point the trails will be open to the public.



The overlook at Le Gault Reservoir as seen on November 28, 2005. The trail connection is still to be constructed.

Ridgeview Trail, Phase 3: Ridgeview Trail:

Construction is well under way. The crusher fines trails are currently under construction with an estimated completion of mid-December. The concrete for the drainage crossings has been poured. Once the trails are completed, the disturbed areas across the site will be re-vegetated with native seed.



Trail construction on December 1.

At the Audi . . .

Start the New Year with something at the Audi!

Broomfield's Cultural Affairs Division has a full slate of events scheduled in January.

- Beginning January 6, the Longmont Artist Guild Winter Art Show will be open during scheduled events. The show will run through March 3.
- January 11 begins the CU in Broomfield Chamber Music Winter Series with Jennifer John and John Nauman from the university's College of Music. They will perform a program of masterworks for violin and piano. 7 p.m.
- On January 12, bring the whole family for Science, Sights and Sounds featuring the Rev.

Dr. Martin Luther King – the Man and His Speeches.

 January 19 starts the Winter Concert Series with folk music favorites from Southern Exposure.
 Colorado's bluegrass boys offer a popular mix of traditional tunes with contemporary flair and down-home humor for a fun-filled evening of music!

Information on tickets is available at:
www.broomfieldauditorium.com or by calling the
Cultural Affairs Artsline at 303,469,3301 ext. 7999.