



# City-County Manager's Report

*For the three weeks ending November 18, 2004*

**TO: Mayor Stuart and the Broomfield City Council**

**FROM: George Di Ciero, City and County Manager**

## Recent Weeks in Review

- ◆ On Thursday, Nov. 18, the Chamber of Commerce brought its Leadership Day to the Police Department, Detention Center, and Combined Courts buildings. The Detention Center hosted a continental breakfast and lunch, and the group toured all of the facilities.
- ◆ Public Health nurses still have flu vaccine available to administer, on a first-come, first-served basis, to those who meet the CDC criteria.
- ◆ Police staff is working with mall personnel on the mall holiday traffic plan.
- ◆ The Emergency Management Unit of the Police Department hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the installation of the first new Neighborhood Watch sign on Wednesday morning, Nov. 17, at the corner of W. 11 Ave. Cir. and Maple Dr.

Chief Tom Deland led the ceremonies. Others attending were representatives from the Broomfield Police Department, City and County of Broomfield Street Operations, and North Metro Fire.

- ◆ Based on feedback received from Broomfield citizens, our Clerk and Recorder's Office our election judges did an excellent job administering the 2004 general election in Broomfield. The following are examples of comments that I personally received from citizens:

"I thought the polls opened at 7 a.m. So, there I was standing outside City Hall. The

Clerk and Recorder staff saw me and invited me in. I appreciate the way they treated me."

"Wow, what a difference from the way it was several years ago. You guys are organized and courteous, and things went very smoothly."

"Where do you find such nice and knowledgeable election judges?"

- ◆ Public Works staff has notified residents near Cottonwood Park (north of Westlake Dr., just east of Lowell Blvd.) of the need to perform maintenance on the cottonwood trees in the park. The seven mature cottonwood trees in this park were evaluated using standards set by the United States Forest Service, the Colorado Tree Coalition and the Front Range Urban Forestry Council.

After considering the tree species, height, visible defects, over all health and the possible targets if any trees fall, it was determined that two cottonwood trees should be removed. These trees pose a significant risk to the public, and failure of the trees would result in damage to private property and/or structures, including houses.

The five remaining trees will be pruned to remove dead, dying and hazardous branches which will help reduce the risk that these mature cottonwoods pose.

Rom-Son Tree Specialist has been contracted to do the pruning and removal of the cottonwoods. The work will be performed this month. Replacement trees will be planted in the spring of 2005. The remaining trees will be evaluated annually to insure that they are safe and pose no risk to the park users and the homes surrounding the park.

- ◆ At the Library, "*Mousing Around*" Computer Basics and *Internet Basics* are new computer classes being offered by the Adult Services Division. Designed for adults who haven't ever used a computer or who would like a basic introduction to the Internet, the classes of mostly senior citizens are fully booked through the end of the year.
- ◆ Court security personnel hosted a bake sale for City and County employees last week to raise money for Lucky, an abandoned pup tossed over a fence at the Animal Doctor, causing a broken hip. He was temporarily adopted by court security, but has since been adopted by an employee. Lucky is now in need of expensive x-rays to see how well his hip has repaired itself, and money from the bake sale will go toward that expense.
- ◆ At the Ridgeview Trail meeting Oct. 27, approximately 65 citizens attended to review four potential trail alignments for the trail connection between Ridgeview Circle and the Outlook Subdivision. The comment deadline was Nov. 10. The proposed alignments are on the Broomfield Web site under Open Space and Trails. Staff has received 65 comment sheets through the Web site and the public open house.

On Jan. 27, 2005 the Open Space and Trails Advisory Committee will formulate a recommendation on the alignment after reviewing the technical and public comment information. This recommendation will then be presented to City Council for consideration. Once the general alignment is confirmed, construction documents will be completed.

- ◆ Police officers continued their public education efforts Nov. 4 with an identity theft briefing for residents at the Senior Center. Det. Julie Ostrander was the presenter.
- ◆ The fall session of Citizens Emergency Response Training (CERT) was entitled, "Tornadoes to Terrorists – Are You Prepared?" This three-session class had 47 participants in the first session, with 39 of those completing all three classes in the series. An active waiting list has been established, and the next CERT will take place in the spring of 2005.
- ◆ October's building permit report shows residential construction on a pace to finish the year with approximately 500 single family dwellings, the most since 1998. Commercial construction so far in 2004 is valued at over \$23 million.

The average size for single family dwellings finished in September was 2,633 square feet.

Building Division staff members attended a meeting that discussed the federal Fair Housing Standards Act and related accessibility requirements.

- ◆ At the recent annual Senior Resource Fair at the Senior Center, 35 vendors representing local businesses rented tables for the day. Over 150 seniors attended and received free information ranging from home care, assisted living facilities, info from new Exempla Good Samaritan Hospital, finances and much more. An educational presentation by the Broomfield police department, "Street Smarts for Seniors," was attended by 65 seniors. This is the ninth year for the Fair.
- ◆ Exempla Good Samaritan Medical Center in Lafayette will open Dec. 1, 2004. The public preview for the hospital is scheduled for Nov. 21 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The community is invited to a celebration and special hospital preview.

## Selected Capital Improvement Projects

### Sheridan Boulevard Improvements – Adjacent to Broomfield County Commons

Construction of the eastern two (future northbound) lanes continues. Paving is complete from the northern project limit at Aspen Creek, south to E. 13 Ave.

Asphalt Specialties has stabilized the sub-grade of the southbound lanes between W. 136 Ave. and E. 12 Ave.

This work wasn't anticipated until Phase 2 of construction, but since the future southbound lanes are also east of the existing roadway in this stretch, the contractor was able to complete this work ahead of schedule.

A summary of the planned construction activities for the next two weeks follows:

#### **Week of November 22**

Pour curb and gutter from E. 13 Ave. to the south, to tie into existing Sheridan at E. 9 Ave.

For the E. 13 Ave. intersection, the concrete work included with the Sheridan Vision Plan will not be installed until next year. The Broomfield pattern concrete stamps are not ready for use this fall (they are on order). We will put down asphalt in the interim and do the concrete work when the full intersection is ready for completion next fall.

#### **Week of November 29**

Pave the northbound lanes from E. 13 Ave. to the south to tie into existing Sheridan at E. 9 Ave.

## Snow and Ice Control Program

Broomfield's **Snow and Ice Control Program** has been updated for the 2004-2005 winter season. It sets the policies and procedures used during snow conditions. The program prioritizes the City and County's street system, sidewalks, trail system, and parking lots for plowing and de-icing operations. The overall program is summarized below.

The first-priority streets (major collector streets) are considered the minimum network that must be kept open for emergency services, including police, fire, and emergency medical assistance. Highlights of the program are as follows:

- Street Division snow and ice control crews work around the clock during storms using eight dump trucks with plows and spreaders and a one-ton truck with plowing and sanding capability. The one-ton truck is used to assist with emergency calls and plowing streets abutting schools.
- There are 61.25 miles of major collector streets, 8.26 miles of streets abutting schools, 30.74 miles of minor collectors, and 85.75 miles of residential streets in Broomfield, for a total of 186 miles. The actual miles plowed and sanded are significantly more than the above figure since a minimum of two passes is needed on each of the collector, school, and minor collector streets.
- A granular de-icing material is applied to streets during snowstorms. Plowing starts when snow starts to accumulate on the streets.
- De-icing or plowing is done on a street priority basis. ( A map showing snow and ice control priority routes can be found at [www.ci.broomfield.co.us](http://www.ci.broomfield.co.us) )
  - a. First priority is the major collector streets. A major collector serves multiple subdivisions or areas of the city. It collects traffic from minor collector streets. Streets in major business, commercial, and industrial areas are also considered first priority. Streets

abutting schools are considered first priority on school days.

- b. Second priority is the minor collector streets.

A minor collector serves a single subdivision or area of the city. It feeds traffic to major collector streets. Problem areas such as steep hills or sharp curves may also be considered second priority depending on storm conditions.

- c. Third priority is the stop sign approaches not covered in the first two priorities.

Residential streets are not normally plowed or ice-treated during routine storms.

- The snow and ice control program includes an emergency plan that goes into effect during major storms. A major storm is classified as any storm with snow accumulation of 8” or more. The plan provides for the plowing of all streets in priority order.
- During major storms, residential streets are not usually plowed and ice-treated until the storm has subsided and higher priority plowing that ensures essential traffic movement is completed.
- During heavy snowfalls, problems arise for residents when mounds of snow are left on the sides of streets, and driveways become blocked by plowed snow. Although a concerted effort is made to plow in a manner that does not block driveways, it is not always successful. Residential streets are plowed down the center of the street in an effort to avoid covering sidewalks and parked cars, and blocking driveways. Snow removal is not a normal part of the program. Broomfield regrets the inconvenience to residents that snowplowing operations may cause.
- Cul-de-sac areas are particularly hard to service. Snowplows are too big to operate effectively on these streets. When snow depths and weather conditions dictate, Broomfield will plow these areas with smaller trucks.

**Sidewalk and Trail System**

Plowing of trails and sidewalks is done on a priority basis. There are 22.9 miles of first priority routes and 37.6 miles of second priority routes. The Parks Division utilizes 24 assorted pieces of equipment, ranging from pickup trucks to snow blowers, to perform its plowing operations. Additional equipment from other divisions is allocated to this operation during major storms, as it becomes available. ( A map showing the side walk trail system priority route can be found at [www.ci.broomfield.co.us](http://www.ci.broomfield.co.us) ).

- The first priority routes are primarily school routes that must be kept open when schools are in session. First priority also includes other high-use sidewalks and trails. It is the goal of the program to keep these walks plowed during the duration of the storm.
- Second priority routes are recreational and less used sidewalks and trails. These routes are plowed after the storm subsides. It is the intent to have all hard surfaced sidewalks and trails plowed by noon the day following the snowfall. This is in accordance with provisions in the Broomfield Municipal Code.

**Parking Lots**

City and County parking lots are also plowed and ice-treated on a priority basis. It is the intent of the program to have all lots serviced so customers and employees can access the facilities. (A map showing these facilities can be found at [www.ci.broomfield.co.us](http://www.ci.broomfield.co.us) ). They are prioritized as follows:

First Priority	Second Priority
Municipal Center	#12 Garden Center
Courts/Police	Depot Museum
Library/Auditorium	Service Center
Community/Senior Center	Water Plant
Health & Human Services	Wastewater Plant
Paul Derda Recreation Center	

Other City and County lots will be plowed once the snowstorm subsides. This includes lots that are located at the various park and open space sites.

## Questions and Answers

There are many questions asked each year about Broomfield's Snow and Ice Control Program. Following are responses to the most common questions:

1. *Why aren't residential streets plowed and treated with de-icing materials?*

With 186 miles of streets to maintain with eight snowplows, it is not possible to service all of the streets. The equipment is kept busy 24 hours a day servicing the 100.25 miles of first and second priority streets. During heavier snows, contractual equipment is called upon to help with the operation.

2. *During the heavier storms, why is only one lane plowed on residential streets?*

There are two reasons.

- a. Time - It is important to service as many streets as possible in a short period of time. This enables more citizens to get around as soon as possible after the storm. Plowing two lanes would take twice as long, resulting in delays in service to some citizens.
- b. Room - Due to parking on the streets, there is not room to plow two full lanes. One pass will provide an 8-foot lane. The effort involved to provide another 3-4 feet is not time-effective.

3. *Why not go back later to widen the lanes in residential areas?*

By this time, most residents have dug out their parked cars and cleared their driveways. The last thing they want to see is a snowplow piling snow back in areas they have worked so hard to clear.

4. *Why are some streets plowed curb-to-curb and others are not?*

Most first-priority streets are plowed curb-to-curb. The exceptions are street sections that have parking in front of residences. On some streets that have houses only on one side, it is possible to plow all the snow to the opposite side of the street. Streets are plowed curb-to-curb to provide for good traffic movement and to allow for adequate drainage once the snow starts to melt. Also, first-priority streets usually have detached sidewalks that are not covered by this plowing operation. Plowing curb-to-curb in residential areas would result in covered sidewalks and blocked driveways.

5. *Why not plow to the center?*

Piling snow in the center of the street can create a very hazardous situation. Eliminating a portion of a lane restricts traffic flow. In fact, plowing to the center usually would not leave adequate lane width for traffic movement, especially fire equipment. The freeze/thaw cycle contributes to the deterioration of the pavement as well as creating problems when the melting snow freezes on the road surface every evening. This practice can also create sight obstructions for low-profile vehicles and cause problems for residents entering and exiting their driveways. Plowing to the center would have to be accompanied by a snow removal program.

6. *Then why not remove the snow?*

Snow removal is extremely expensive. Additional equipment would have to be purchased or contracted. If purchased, additional people would have to be hired.

For more information about the snow and ice control program, call either Public Works Field Operations at 303-438-6334, or Public Works Administration at 303-438-6360.

## Regional Cooperation – 227 Intergovernmental Agreements

I thought Council might be interested in knowing that, as of the date of this report, Broomfield has a total of 227 intergovernmental agreements (IGAs). The subjects of these IGAs range from fairly routine services, such as delineation of street maintenance responsibilities between Broomfield and Weld County, to major services such as water deliveries from the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District and from the Denver Water Board. The following are a few examples:

Parties - Broomfield and	Subject
Adams County School District 12	Joint Use of Facilities
Boulder County	Open Space and State Constitutional Amendment Creating the City and County of Broomfield
Boulder Valley School District	Joint Use of Facilities
Cities of Boulder, Lafayette, Louisville, Superior, and Boulder County	Northwest Parkway Comprehensive Plan
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment	Emergency Mutual Aid and Assistance
Denver Water Board	Delivery of Treated Water to Broomfield.
North Metro Fire District	Communications/Dispatching Services by Broomfield Police Department
Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District	Delivery of Raw Water from Carter Lake to Broomfield
Northwest Parkway Public Highway Authority	Traffic and Law Enforcement on the Northwest Parkway by the Broomfield Police Department
State of Colorado Judicial Department and 17 <sup>th</sup> Judicial District	Operation of the Broomfield Combined Courts.
Thornton	I-25 Corridor Comprehensive Development Plan Area, Joint Planning, and Service Provisions
Thornton, E-470 Public Highway Authority, and the Northwest Parkway Public Highway Authority	Regarding the Alignments of E-470 and the Northwest Parkway at I-25
Dacono, Town of	Agreements regarding boundaries.
Erie and Weld County	Comprehensive Development Plan for Land in Weld County Located North of Colorado Highway 7 and West of I-25
Westminster	Emergency Use Water System Connections
Westminster	Revenue Sharing – Kohl's – Sheridan & 120 <sup>th</sup>

## Regional Transportation Subjects

- ◆ **Wadsworth Interchange/U.S. 36 Next Steps** – Environmental assessment is expected to be completed in December, 2004. A draft is currently under review by CDOT and RTD. Field meetings are underway with CDOT on the realignment of State Highway 128/121 and intersection reconstruction.
- ◆ **Northwest Corridor** – In the 10-21-04 edition of the *Arvada Sentinel*, it was reported that “the

funding will for the environmental impact statement for 16 alternatives to a metro wide beltway appears to have run dry...'We had \$7.5 million for a draft EIS,' said Joe Jehn, transportation commissioner for CDOT. 'Because we had so many alignments to study, that money had been eaten up. We have to find additional

funding to finish the process.' Jehn estimated it could cost another \$4.5 million to narrow the list of alignments from the current 16 to 3."

To date, Jefferson County, Arvada, and Golden have not agreed to assist with the funding.

## Department Info – Did you know ... ?

- ◆ **Human Resources:** The volunteer application form has been enhanced to allow potential volunteers the opportunity to select a specific assignment. Other enhancements include the ability to request the opportunities to work with various age groups or at particular city and county locations, and to also identify the nature of tasks or area of interest they would like to pursue as a volunteer. These changes will assist in the recruitment and marketing of the Volunteer Program.

- ◆ **Police:** The Code Complaint Line has accepted 56 percent more calls this year than last year, up to 1,282 from 823. Of those, 70 percent were animal-related calls. Staff plans to create a separate line for animal complaints to correlate with the split between duties at the start of next year.

The Civil Unit has served almost the same number of papers this year as last year. October is generally the busiest month for the Civil Unit because of distraints. The Unit is also more actively working warrants.

- ◆ **Community Development:** Building Inspector Giles Schurman is currently serving as an appointee of Governor Owens to the Colorado State Plumbing Board.
- ◆ **Health and Human Services:** Two bilingual staff members have been certified as car seat safety technicians, bringing the total to four. In 2004, approximately 83 car seats have been checked at 6 Garden Center.

Christopher Dewhurst has been hired at the Workforce Center as Disability Program Navigator. For Broomfield to comply with federal regulations, he attended the second annual Disability Program Navigator Training in Chicago from Nov. 15 to 17. Prior to coming to Broomfield, Dewhurst worked with special needs children in Adams County School District 50.

HHS staff issued 451 birth certificates and 57 death certificates in October. The Vital Statistics offices issues copies of birth certificates for those born in Colorado and certified copies of death certificates for those who have died in the City and County of Broomfield.

- ◆ **Senior Center:** The new 22-passenger Easy Ride bus has been delivered and is transporting Broomfield seniors to medical appointments and for recreational needs. The "Spirits and Spooks" fundraiser at the Senior Center on Oct. 29 raised \$2,000 for the Senior Services Scholarship Program. The event was sponsored by Roundup Liquors.
- ◆ **Information Technology:** So far in 2004, IT staff has taught 214 technical classes in the computer training room
- ◆ **Recreation:** Reported on Oct. 29, the 2004 usage at the Paul Derda Recreation Center is at 284,941 patrons, and the Broomfield Community Center's is 194,768 patrons.

## Words, Quotes, and Other Stuff

**apotheosis** - A model of excellence or perfection of a kind.

**bricolage** - Construction or something constructed by using whatever materials happen to be available.

**digerati** - Persons knowledgeable about computers.

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"What we see depends mainly on what we look for." — John Lubbock

"The best way to predict the future is to invent it." — Alan Kay

## Looking Ahead

- ◆ **Council Study Sessions.** We are not planning any study sessions during the month of December. Council may want to begin thinking about a date or dates for its 2005 Focus Session.
- ◆ **The Health and Human Services Advisory Committee** meeting originally scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 17 has been rescheduled to Wednesday, Dec. 8.
- ◆ **Broomfield's Building Staff** will be meeting with the Department of Regulatory Agencies regarding potential state requirements for elevator inspections. DRCOG is also monitoring the proposed legislation to insure that it does not affect its program. Broomfield has participated in the DRCOG shared elevator inspection program since 1984 when there were seven units in Broomfield. Today, there are 203 elevators, escalators and lifts in Broomfield. Each one is inspected twice a year.
- ◆ **Annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony:** Wednesday, Dec. 8, 6 p.m. at the City and County Building.
- ◆ **Detailed Calendar:** For more calendar items on upcoming meetings and activities, check the city Events Calendar on the Web site at <http://www.ci.broomfield.co.us/events>.

