



The Facts—President / Public Relations / Development: Open

Vice President / Environmental Advocate:

Diane Suchomel E-mail: diane@cohopejeffco.com

Secretary: Cheri Paavola 303-972-8080

E-mail: cheri@cohopejeffco.com

Treasurer/Newsletter/Membership: Ray Moore

303-257-8758 E-mail: wrmoorej@msn.com

Upcoming Meetings:

Open Space: Nov. 5, 6 pm, 700 Jefferson Co Pkwy, Suite 100

Board of County Commissioners Every Tuesday at 9:00 am

Foothills: September 22, 6 pm, The Peak and Zoom.

Board of Adjustment: 1st & 3rd Wednesday at 9 am, Hearing Room

One, 100 Jefferson County Parkway

DRCOG: Sept. 16, 6:30 pm, 1001 17th Street 1st Floor, Aspen /

Birch Conference Room

Planning Commission: 1st, 2nd, 4th, and 5th Wed. 6:15 pm, Hearing

Room One, 100 Jefferson County Parkway

Calendar for upcoming meetings: 2026: Sep 3 Chief Metz West Metro Fire Dept., Oct 7, Nov 4, Dec 2

In This Issue: Information and Minutes 1-2, 4-6 Backyard 2-4

COHOPE Treasury Activity: August 2026

Beginning Balance August 5, 2026

Deposits

Withdrawals

August Website \$23.08, September Newsletter \$ 3.60

Ending Balance September 3, 2026

W. R. Moore, Treasurer

\$ 641.50

\$ 0.00

\$ 26.68

\$ 614.82

Draft Minutes for August 5 meeting: Attendance: Diane Suchomel / At Large, Ray Moore / At Large, Cheri Paavola / At Large, Al Hintz / At Large, Michael Pichler / At Large, David Wiese / Columbine Hills Civic Assn., Tom Majcen / Columbine Knolls South Estates, Eileen Parker / Dutch Creek Village HOA

The meeting started at 5:59 p.m.

Diane Suchomel, Vice President, welcomed everyone.

No one from **Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, Jefferson County Public Schools or Foothills Parks and Recreation District** was present.

We had no speaker.

We do not have a President.

Roll Call was taken. We had 8 members present and had a quorum.

Ray Moore, Treasurer, was not present. We have \$641.50.

Cheri Paavola, Secretary, was present. The minutes for July were approved.

Diane Suchomel, Vice President, was present.

Jefferson County and Planning & Zoning Information: 26-119749 MS - It is for 6637 W Ottawa Ave. It is Front Range Christian requesting a zoning verification letter. There are no documents on the website.

26-119454 PA - It is for 6859 S Iris St. It is for the 55 lot subdivision. This is the farm property along the Dutch Creek trail, a short distance east of S. Kipling Pkwy.

26-120090 PA - It is for 6228 S. Carr Ct. The religious center wants to build five faith based 2-story townhomes along the southern edge of their property. Access would be from the cul-de-sac on W. Arbor Pl. Diane is guessing that the adjacent single family homes might not like the added traffic next door on that cul-de-sac.

26-120168 PA - It is for 13074 W. Ida Ave. It is for a drive-through 7 Brew coffee shop. This would be where the parking lot is on the east side of the Dakota Ridge Automotive store.

26-120467 RDP - It is for 3743 S. Nelson Way. It is a registered distressed property.

26-105146 SD - It is for 8501 W. Bowles Ave. It is a Site Development Plan for Lifetime Athletic Club Facility, The facility would be 103K sq. ft. and 2 story. It is at the former Sears location at Southwest Plaza. This is a first referral.

On 8/6 there will be a Liquor Licensing Authority hearing for WalMart, 13420 W Coal Mine Ave. Case LLA 26-26-1161. They want a new concurrent Fermented Malt Beverage and Wine license for inside the store.

Other items: At their 7/28 hearing, the BCC adopted the 2024 International Fire Code. This is the same version that West Metro Fire adopted.

West Metro Fire's board will vote in August about which issue(s?) to put on the November ballot. They conducted public research in March 2026 and considered 3 mill levy increase (\$22 million) or 0.5% sales tax (\$27.8 million). The majority polled preferred the 0.5% sales tax. More information is available at <https://www.westmetrofire.org/increasing-population-increasing-calls>. Diane asked if the WMFD Chief could speak to us on Thursday, 9/3/2026, at 7:00 p.m.

West Metro Fire made a presentation to BCC on 7/22/26. The "projected revenue shortfall of nearly \$40 million" in 2027. The increase in Revenues is not keeping up with increase in Expenses.

Jeffco Public schools has filed lawsuit against Federal Govt. about the gov'ts. claim that the school district is violating Title IX. Article in Denver Post says \$50 Million might be withheld. A 7/28 email message from Jeffco public schools indicates they filed the lawsuit hoping that a judge will rule on which law/regulation they need to follow - the State's law or the Federal guidelines. The School district apparently still plans to have 2 issues on the November ballot.

An item from 7/28 Foothills Park & Rec board meeting: Tom Hoby (former head of Jeffco Open Space who retired from there) is now a consultant for the County working on the project about proposed changes to Fairgrounds and Fehringer Ranch. He previously discussed at an older FHPRD board meeting before he retired from the County. Diane asked what the County policy is re: the County hiring recent retirees as consultants meeting to work on the same project they did when they were county's employee. Conflict of interest?

In the BCC, Andy Kerr successfully ran in primary election for the County Assessor's position. If he wins in the November election then his county commissioner position will need to be filled. Commissioner Dahlkemper was selected as/agreed to be the running mate for Governor candidate Weiser.

What has happened in short term rentals? It is progressing. Diane likes the STR map on the Jeffco website.

RDP ? - If you want to file a zoning complaint, check the Jeffco P&Z website to see if a complaint has already been filed for that address. If there is an active zoning complaint for that address, then the system won't allow you to file a new on-line zoning violation complaint. If there isn't an active complaint, then it helps if you attach pictures showing what your complaint is about to your zoning violation complaint filing. Once a violation has been confirmed by the County, then it can take many months for a zoning complaint to work its way through all of the steps in the violation process. You can check the status of your complaint on the P&Z website.

Columbine Hills Civic Association had a National Night Out in the park with the new trees. It was very nice.

Old Business/New Business None.

Announcements The 50th anniversary for Columbine Knolls South Estates is coming up soon.

We adjourned at 6:46 p.m.—Cheri Paavola, Secretary

THE BACKYARD

Columbine Hills News

From CHCA Board Meeting: July 2, 2026, Pavilion, Start: 6:03 pm End 6:50 pm.

Officers: Officers: Galen, David, Jenn, Kelsey, Gii **Members-at-large:** Michaelle, Angela, Janet

Community Members: Karen, Scott, JoJo

Treasurer's Report: \$842.17 left from tree fund; may apply to Little Library, pothole repair Paying members: 195

Review Board minutes June: Approve: Kelsey. Second: Gii

Community Participants: Scott reports that there is radar in place on Kendall to assess need for speed bumps or other ways to slow down traffic and encourage drivers stopping at stop signs, both north- and south-bound.

Old Business: Dumpster Day was successful and we filled six bins. Great working with Bargain Bins. Kim once again helped with metal collection but will no longer be available.

Pot holes: We have received two bids to fill the potholes on Depew and Platte; \$3500 and \$12,500.

New Business: National Night Out! Aug 4, 5-6:30 G & D bring dogs and brats, lemonade, cookies, water. Gii will bring watermelon. There will be gift items for kids (1st 36 to come). Jeffco Sheriff's Dept will be there, have reached out to South Metro as well.

Home on S Otis: Reached out to realtor who agreed to change some inaccurate info on website.

Robert's Deli: Robert wants to host a community afternoon/eve to promote restaurant's expansion and to offer platform for neighbors to meet the board. Will look to August. CHCA will provide the appetizers.

Other: Newsletter walkers:

The Leawood Rappporter

From Leawood Civic Association July Minutes – Meeting called to order at 6:33 p.m. and the agenda was reviewed. No changes. June meeting were approved.

Attending: Laurie and Dave Sarno, Emma SmedbergRuiz, Rhonda Eveleth, Camile Sankey, Chip Langowski, Paul O'Connor

Treasurer's Report: Paul K was unable to attend however the treasurers report was gone over with no questions.

Membership: is in full force and we sure wish more residents would participate. Please if you have any questions do reach out to President Laurie Sarno at 720-244-4921.

Old Business: Thank you to everyone who participated in the trash day last month.

New Business: We still need residents to sign up for Front yard parties! We also need help with the Neighborhood picnic that is held August 22nd 2026 at Leawood Park. Much of this meeting was talking about the plans of the picnic.

Meeting ended at 7:15 p.m.

From Leawood Metropolitan Recreation And Park District Minutes – July 9, 2026 6:05 p.m.

Attendees: Ken Leaf, Vicki Grove, Zach Sack, Carole Gottlieb, Jesse Opgenorth, Public: Tom Bryant, Judy Anderson, Mike Dube.

Administrative Items: Public Comments Tom Bryant (TB) reported on painting the Eaton bridge; leaning towards doing nothing and leaving it as is (natural) because it would be a recurrent cost. Just aesthetics.

TB: DBS at Xeriscaping; needs work. Zach: they will be in Monday to mulch, prune, "everything."

TB: DBS pulled/dug up hemlock. Missed some in Weaver (quite a bit, according to Ken). Big patches by beaver dam to path off T-track. Also at Chase.

Side conversation: Another tree down by Kendall, near beaver lodge. DBS to remove.

TB: Pointed out there will be a lot of cleanup once the beaver dam and lodge are removed. Mile High Flood District, Arbor Force, or DBS can deal with it.

TB: Quote of \$3250 to grind and seal cracks in sidewalk. Unanimous vote to approve (Zach made the motion, Vicki seconded). Leawood, Weaver, and Racoon Hollar.

We may reconsider the dog waste bag provider. No contract with them.

Judy: suggested we publicly acknowledge in the Leawood Reporter those who donate towards the grant. Have we received additional checks? Is Venmo an option for making donations?

TB: Notification that there is a large stack of branches in Racoon near the Leawood drive entrance.

Park Maintenance and Operations: Park Manager Report Weaver Park: graffiti cleaned up, replaced damaged landscape edging, removed suckers from cottonwoods, put bollard back in place after retrieving it from the creek, trimmed cottonwoods on East side of soccer field.

TB suggested acquiring a pole cutter for Mike; Jesse suggested asking DBS to do that trimming. More cost effective to buy one. Unanimous vote to approve up to \$1000 to purchase a steel pole cutter (Zach made the motion; Jesse seconded)

Racoon Park: fixed fence; needs to check for downed limbs that still need to be cleaned up.

Leawood Park: power-washed cement floors in pavilion; picked up trash.

Kendall Park: Cleared out weeds on N side from Kendall to park boundary before DBS sprayed; DBS came in and removed remaining weeds.

Watering new trees: on a rigorous schedule. Fourth (new) tree shows evidence of burned/drying leaves

Capital Projects and Long-Term Planning Update on Tree Trimming Mowing and trees: Mowing finished in Weaver, looks great; Racoon Hollar partially mown but not completed; Kendall not mown. Hemlock and teasel needs to be cut down east of center entrance to Racoon Hollar.

Concerns around using Roundup in the parks. Resident (Samantha) offered to research an alternative that costs no more than Roundup and must be approved by the board and DBS.

Every effort will be made to spray only on Mondays. Ken noted that residents use the parks without realizing the grass has just been sprayed. Zach pointed out that Roundup is safe once it dries, and it dries within minutes in the heat. Zach will ask DBS for advance notice of widespread applications beyond just spot spraying. Jesse: can we request that flags are posted at more frequent distance intervals within the parks. Zach and Tom Bryant mentioned that DBS is currently following regulations.

Leawood 5k No update on the 5k run: maybe plan for next year.

New Business Jesse: Consider posting separate signs for park rules and pavilion rules; reservations. Still need a new phone number to include on the signs.

Ken asked if there is a date for the beaver relocation. Date not yet known. Zach mentioned the possibility of a beaver in Racoon Hollar.

TB: asked Ken if there was an update on the benches; no update

Next meeting will be held on August 13th, 2026 at the Leawood Park Pavilion.

Meeting was adjourned by President Sack at 7:10pm.

Woodbourne HOA Newsletter

From Happy August! As transitions out of summer vacation begins and lazy days by the pool are a memory, we hope everyone has enjoyed the last few weeks, while dodging the heat. We wanted to congratulate the Wave swim team on a

terrific season with well-deserved rewards and accomplishments on their season. The team has made great gains the past 5 years, since covid and it looks like a team rebuild has been successful.

Since yardwork is extremely difficult without having water to grow new grass or plants- we wanted to thank all residents for being consciences in maintaining yards and weeds in the stress of extreme heat and winter drought. As season change, please be sure to submit your ACC requests so reviews can be completed before Fall scheduling is required. We're pleased to announce that Woodbourne HOA has partnered with SherwinWilliams to offer an expanded selection of paint color schemes for our community.

Homeowners now have 43 approved color schemes to choose from for their painting projects!

How to Access the Color Schemes: Online: Visit the Sherwin-Williams color scheme page by clicking Sherwin-Williams.

The Physical Book: Request to check out the physical Paint Scheme Book at support@accuinc.com and we will notify the ARC Committee to drop it off to you.

Ready to Paint? A new ARC Paint Request Form is now available on the HOA Portal. You can:

Download and complete it digitally (fillable PDF) and attach it to your ARC request on the portal.

Download, print, and fill it out by hand and attach it to your ARC request on the portal, email it or mail it in to the address on the form.

As always, all exterior paint projects require ARC approval before beginning work. Please submit your completed form with your selected color scheme for review.

ARC Approvals can take up to 30 days to process. Please make sure all information is submitted with your request including your completed form, so it does not delay your approval.

Please be aware that as school starts back, we will be modifying the pool hours. We will provide specifics in the coming weeks. For those residents that live near the pool/clubhouse, you will see a new storage pod delivered in August. It will be permanent and be used to store the new pool furniture, pool maintenance tools and other items that require weather protections.

We will work with the Wave and other interested parties to plan how to decorate or otherwise integrate it into the space. More communications will be provided as we move into Fall projects aligned to our common spaces and as we progress towards the end of year events. — *Your Woodbourne HOA*

Jeffco Commissioners Appoint Laura E. Aldrete as County Manager — Following a competitive recruitment and evaluation process, the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners formally appointed Laura E. Aldrete as Jefferson County's next county manager during public hearings on Aug. 11. Aldrete, a lifelong Coloradan, brings deep executive leadership experience and a proven track record in community development.

"Bringing my experience and passion to a place that is close to my heart is an opportunity that I am incredibly excited about," Aldrete said. "I look forward to leading Jefferson County into its next chapter of community service and growth."

Read more. <https://www.jeffco.us/m/newsflash/home/detail/2642>

Commissioners Bring Back In-Person Town Halls Starting Sept. 9 — The Jefferson County Board of Commissioners is bringing back in person town halls. To accommodate this format, while also recognizing the facility's capacity limits, the BCC has opted to host an in-person town hall with a virtual option.

The next town hall will take place at the West Metro Training Center (3535 S. Kipling St. in Lakewood) beginning at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 9. This town hall's discussion will focus on wildfire preparedness, proposed wildland-urban interface (WUI) code changes and the urban heat index. Save your spot here. https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/78ghrtlp/dd883022-a1c4-4083-b428-3f770126e82d?source_id=dcdbd74aa-5f16-41f6-83a4-0984d08a1531&source_type=em&c=t8jr4mppQX_90mobUBWli1ERXkrlyb15pglfe4wnk_2ss5vzBpUSZw==

Jeffco Public Library Executive Director Donna Walker to Retire — After a remarkable 32 years working in public libraries, including 14 with Jefferson County Public Library, Donna Walker is retiring from her role as executive director on Sept. 5. Her leadership and commitment to public service have made a lasting impact on our libraries and the communities we serve. While she will be greatly missed, JCPL wishes her a joyful and fulfilling retirement!

Podcast: Bringing the Outdoors Closer: Explore Jeffco with Westtracks — Trying to hike in the foothills or visit Red Rocks without worrying about parking? Westtracks, Jefferson County's new outdoor shuttle, makes it easier to reach some of the area's most popular destinations. Aaron Roth, director of Jefferson County Parks & Open Space, and Emily Guffin, Trails and Access Program manager, join Johnny and Carly to talk about how the free shuttle helps visitors explore Jefferson County parks and trails. <https://www.jeffco.us/5221/Episode-21-Westtracks-Shuttle>

Podcast: Ready Today, Safe Tomorrow: A Guide to Preparedness — September is National Preparedness Month, and this episode equips residents with practical steps they can take today to be prepared for emergencies. Nate Whittington and Kate Cannon from the Jefferson County Office of Emergency Management share where to find trusted, real-time information during a crisis and what the OEM does both before and during major incidents to keep the community safe. <https://open.spotify.com/episode/77N6nEo1aTmtEOyUTYrDVd?si=YpO4NSwxSKEPWtRoHmFkjq&nd=1&dlsi=5a97fb3ecce44ded>

Read the Jefferson County Q2 2026 Law Enforcement Authority Report — Each quarter, Jefferson County Sheriff Reggie Marinelli presents the Law Enforcement Authority (LEA) Report to the Board of County Commissioners. The

report includes Sheriff's Office events, news, statistics and notable activities during the previous quarter. Read the Q2 2026 report in its entirety. <https://www.jeffcosheriffco.gov/about/transparency/lea-report/2026-q2>

Colorado Families Can Claim State Tax Credits for Household Expenses — Don't miss out on money for your family. You could be eligible for thousands of dollars in state tax money, even if you have low or no income. This money can help pay for food, housing, childcare and other household expenses. Apply for free using SimpleFile. It's easy to use, takes 15 minutes or less and does not require income documents.

<https://simplefile.getyourrefund.org/?source=simplefilecolorado.org>

Climate Action Plan Progress Shows Big Wins for Jefferson County— Newly released 2025 data from Jefferson County Sustainability shows Jeffco continues to see increased electric vehicle use and increased debris cleared for wildfire mitigation as part of Parks & Open Space's SLASH program. Learn more now by visiting the Climate Action Dashboard. Updates include: Registered EVs in Jeffco increased from 18,758 in 2024 to 24,717 in 2025

Public EV charging stations increased from 291 in 2024 to 500 in 2025

Debris cleared for wildfire mitigation increased from over 38,103 cubic yards in 2024 to 41,536 cubic yards (equal to over 1,000 school buses) in 2025

Jeffco Planning & Zoning Asks Associations to Update Contact Info — The Jefferson County Planning & Zoning Division is asking associations to update contact info to make sure groups receive notices of regulation updates and development cases within their area. Associations include HOAs and community groups. Contact Jennifer Hall to update your association's contact info. "jhall@jeffco.us" <jhall@jeffco.us>

New Federal Law: Check SNAP Work Requirements— A new federal law has changed eligibility requirements for Food Assistance (SNAP) and Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) benefits. You may see changes to benefits at the time of your redetermination. Some SNAP recipients may be required to work or volunteer 80 hours per month to maintain eligibility. Answer a few short questions through the Work Rules SNAP Screener to help you see if the new SNAP work rules apply to you or not. <https://cdhs.colorado.gov/work-rules-snap-screener>

Jefferson County Parks & Open Space Announces 2026 Firewood Sale— Jefferson County Parks & Open Space is pleased to announce the 2026 Firewood Sale at Flying J Ranch Park on Sept. 12-13 and Sept. 19-20. Permits are \$30, and the wood is not cut. Permit holders must bring their own chainsaws. Registration is now open. Follow JCPOS on social media or check the registration page for updates. <https://secure.rec1.com/CO/jefferson-county-open-space/catalog/index?filter=dGFiJTVCNzg0NCU1RD0xJnNIYXJjaD0mcmVudGFsJTVCZnJvbSU1RD0mcmVudGFsJTVCdG8lNUQ9JmY1NWY4NThjNjZiZTkxZjFjODk0ZDk3NGVjMDgzMTIwPWQ0ZDkxZGRIMDIyMTFIMWZIMDdhOWY2YmEwNjgzYTQ2>

Get Paid to Serve Your Community; Roles for Fall's Election Available — The Jefferson County Elections Office has begun recruiting to fill more than 800 election worker roles for this fall's election. If you or someone you know is interested in serving your community, learning how local elections work and getting paid to do it, submit an interest form on the Elections website. <https://www.jeffco.us/608/Be-an-Election-Worker>

Join Parks & Open Space for National Public Lands Day on Sept. 26 — Celebrate National Public Lands Day on Sept. 26 by volunteering with Jefferson County Parks & Open Space. Join us for the nation's largest single-day volunteer event dedicated to giving back to the public lands we all enjoy. The after-party includes lunch, music and a raffle at Bear Creek Lake Park. Registration is open now! <https://offero.jeffco.us/Calendar>

Kick Off National Preparedness Month by Donating Blood — September is National Preparedness Month, and the Jefferson County Coroner's Office is starting it off with a blood drive. Please join us to donate at Coroner's Office (800 Jefferson County Parkway in Golden) on Tuesday, Sept. 1 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Schedule an appointment now. <https://donors.vitalant.org/dwp/portal/dwa/appointment/guest/phl/searchDrives?findDrive=1&searchType=1&searchIn=100561251&siteType=N&phleboFam=S&dateFrom=2026-09-01&dateTo=2026-09-01>

Join the Jefferson County Coroner's Office for Mugs for Rugs – Sept. 15 — Join the Jefferson County Coroner's Office for the annual Mugs for Rugs event supporting fall prevention in Jeffco. On Sept. 15, from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., bring a small throw rug to the Apex Community Recreation Center (6842 Wadsworth Blvd. in Arvada) to exchange for a new coffee mug. Collected rugs will be donated to Foothills Animal Shelter. <https://www.jeffco.us/665/Coroner>

Sustainability Tip of the Month: Eat Local Food from a Farmer's Market— Jefferson County Sustainability encourages you to try shopping for fresh produce and locally-sourced protein at a nearby farmer's market this summer. Eating locally sourced food is not only a healthier way to eat but also supports local farms and food systems. The more we can eat local, the more resilient we are as a community! Discover a farmer's market near you.

<https://coloradoproud.com/find-farm-fresh-favorites/>

Access Veterans Resources at the West Metro Veterans Fair on Sept. 24—Attend the West Metro Veterans Fair on Thursday, Sept. 24, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Elks Lakewood Lodge. Visit the website for a list of the dozens of vendors offering information and resources at this free event. Lunch will also be provided.

<https://www.lakewoodco.gov/Local-Government/Departments/Community-Resources/CR-Meetings-and-Events/West-Metro-Veterans-Fair>

What Would You Like to See from Foothills Park & Recreation District? — As part of Foothills Park & Recreation District's ongoing effort to enhance and improve experiences, the organization is developing a new master plan to help guide the future of parks, trails, recreation and golf facilities, programs and services in southern unincorporated Jefferson



Editor's address:
Ray Moore
7294 West Hoover Ave
Littleton, CO 80123

<http://www.cohopejeffco.com>

To:
Littleton, CO 80127

The next meeting will be Thursday, September 3, 2026 from 7 to 8 pm at the Columbine Library (7706 West Bowles Ave). The speaker will be Chief Metz of West Metro Fire Department. He will discuss their ballot initiative and why it is important.

County. We want to hear from you! Share your ideas and feedback about how you'd like to see Foothills move forward on the master plan website. <https://www.ifoohills.org/masterplan/>

Nearly 100 Nonprofits Helping Improve Health and Connection in Jeffco—The Colorado Gives Foundation awarded \$3.5 million to organizations in Jefferson County working to expand access to affordable health care, help residents navigate health coverage and build stronger connection with the people around them. See the organizations making it happen. <https://coloradogivesfoundation.org/2026-health-grant-recipients/>

From Engage Jeffco August Issue