


**The Facts—President / Public Relations / Development: Open**
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**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: October 27, 6 pm, The Peak and Zoom.

Board of Adjustment: 1st & 3rd Wednesday at 9 am, Hearing Room One, 100 Jefferson County Parkway

DRCOG: Oct. 21, 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: Oct 7, Nov 4, Dec 2**

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**COHOPE Treasury Activity: September 2026**

**Beginning Balance September 3, 2026**

**Deposits**

**Withdrawals**

September Website \$23.08, October Newsletter \$ 3.60

**Ending Balance October 7, 2026**

**W. R. Moore, Treasurer**

\$ **614.82**

\$ **0.00**

\$ **26.68**

\$ **588.14**

**Draft Minutes for September 3 meeting: Attendance:** Diane Suchomel / At Large, Ray Moore / At Large, Cheri Paavola / At Large, Al Hintz / At Large, Linda Auburn / At Large, Anita Twisselman / Columbine Hills Civic Assn. Todd Heintz / West Metro Fire Rescue.

The meeting started at 7:01 p.m. Our meeting was on Thursday instead of Wednesday.

**Diane Suchomel, Vice President**, welcomed everyone.

We do not have a President.

Our speaker is **Todd Heintz, Deputy Chief of Administration in the West Metro Fire Rescue**. The web address is [www.westmetrofire.org](http://www.westmetrofire.org). He is a member of Community Outreach and Education.

They have 17 stations, 16 engines, 3 brush engines, 14 ambulances, 425 firefighter and paramedics. The Community Outreach and Education has 66 civil support staff.

Which is the busiest station? Station 1.

They have International Accreditation. They have also passed the standards. It is data driven. They are ISO Class 1 rated. There are only 116 agencies in the nation that have both accreditations.

They have been awarded the Distinguished Budget Award.

The fire department finances are on the website, [www.westmetrofire.org](http://www.westmetrofire.org).

The costs of equipment have increased. Fire engines have increased from \$720,000 in 2018 to \$1,300,000 in 2025, and an estimated \$1,980,000 in 2030. The cost of training is \$10,000 for 5 months in Fire Academy.

The budget problem is that expenses have gone up 137% in 10 years. Revenues have gone up only 66% in 10 years.

The shortfall is about \$140,000 in 2027. The solutions to date are 2006 Property Tax Increase and mil levy increase, 2014 Property Tax Increase which failed, and 2018 Amendment to residential property tax assessment rate.

The Community Advisory Group has 16 leaders. They met 4 times in 4 months. They think the solution is to go for sales taxes and impact fees (on new builds).

On the ballot in Nov. 2026, Ballot 7C is for 0.75% sales tax. The Pro argument is that we need to maintain adequate services, emergency calls, etc. The Against argument is that we are already expensive for residents, it is the wrong time, etc. Why is this needed? For community, people, equipment and personnel. A lot of their equipment is at or past the replacement date, so they will have to start replacing them soon at high cost. Their call rate has also increased by 21%. If it is not passed? We will have to cut services, the way we respond and how fast we respond.

Todd Heintz can be reached at [theintz@westmetrofire.org](mailto:theintz@westmetrofire.org) or 303-539-9512.

On the Wildland Fire Interface, how will this affect us? There may be more requirements in both county and state.

Todd recently inspected Roxborough at their request. They have done a fine job.

Todd discussed putting mesh on their roof vents to prevent any fire from getting into the attic.

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

Roll Call was taken. We had 5 members present and had no quorum.

**Ray Moore, Treasurer**, was present. We have \$614.82.

**Cheri Paavola, Secretary**, was present.

**Diane Suchomel, Vice President**, was present.

**Jeffco P and Z information:** 26-122110 CV - 7010 S Depew St. One zoning violation that might be the problem place for the COHOPE member asked about at the last meeting. There are storage pods, tall weeds, etc. It says zoning violation was submitted by BCC member. The end of inspection period hasn't been reached yet. At this stage it is just the very early step in the zoning violation process.

26-124737 ASR - 9150 W. Cross Dr. It is the former draft sports bar. There have already been 3 different referrals and now they are asking for a variation (alternative standard request) to the draining easement width.

26-125355 PA- 11852 Shafer Dr, bldg G, minor adjustment to plat super lot deannexing 8 parcels in the Trison Commons Association property. Then Playground Garages would subdivide those 8 parcels into a garage condo project. Playground Garages is under contract to purchase 8 parcels from Partners in Golf, LLC. Deannexing 8 parcels would eliminate building condos E through L which were never built. Trison Commons Association would keep condos A through D and M within their association.

26-12559 ASR and 26-125558 MVR Jacob Lane ( 5690 W Coal Mine Ave) want to subdivide property into 4 lots of single family detached, one tract and ROW dedication

**Old Business/New Business** None.

**Announcements** Our next meeting is Oct. 7, Wednesday, in the Columbine Study Room 1 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Our Fall Adopt-a-hwy trash pick up will be on Saturday October 10th and if there is rain/snow then the pickup will be the following Saturday. 8:30 start time, meet in the parking lot at W Bowles Community church. County requires that participants sign the waiver in advance. ( You don't need to sign it again, if you've already signed it.)

We adjourned at 7:55 p.m. *Cheri Paavola, Secretary*

## THE BACKYARD

### *Columbine Hills News*

*From CHCA Board Meeting: August 6, 2026, Pavilion, Start: 6:03 pm End 7:11 pm.*

**Officers:** Galen, Jenn, David, Steve, Kelsey **Members-at-large:** Michaelle, Gii, Janet **Community Members:** Scott, Karen

**Treasurer's Report:** Paying members: 195 Expenditures: NNO, Library, Wix Approve: Jenn Second: Gii

Review Board minutes July 2: Approve: David Second: Jenn

**OLD BUSINESS:** National Night Out! Great community participation and partners from S Metro Fire and Jefferson County Sheriff's Office.

Potholes: Still working with Jeffco Roads and Bridges. The easement is CHCA's; can we return it to Jeffco?

Speeding and running stop signs on Kendall at Elmhurst Ave and Canyon. Jeffco research has determined that these are significant safety issues. They plan to install small roundabouts at both intersections, also will enhance pedestrian safety with shorter crossing distance. They plan to widen sections of sidewalk, too.

Little Library: We love it! Thanks to Vic J for building it and Tara E for painting it. Already being used by our community.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Elections: President and Secretary this year, VP and Treasurer next?

Garage sale: Consider will move the date to weekend after Memorial Day to avoid severe heat.

Facebook and Website: Need more human interest stories, pictures. Change website to ColumbineHills80128.com

**EVENTS:** Sept Board meeting: Change date to Sept 10, at pavilion. Fall Festival: Sept 26 1230-430. Trunk or Treat: Sat, Oct 24, 4:30-6 PM Sun afternoon at Robert's Deli: Will schedule in October

Newsletter walkers: May need one more route covered.

CHCA table and tablecloth: Bring an extra table to events for CHCA news, surveys, QR, volunteer sign-ups, etc. Steve will look into CHCA signage and Kelly is tasked with finding teal fabric to match tees.

Text messaging: Kelsey will look into this.

## The Leawood Reporter

*From Leawood Civic Association August 3 Minutes – Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.*

**Attending:** Nancy Bock, Rhonda Eveleth, Paul Klinger, Paul O'Connor, Camille Sankey, Dave and Laurie Sarno, Ra-

chel Kreke

Minutes from July meeting approved.

**President's Report:** Laurie reported that the June cleanup was a success and thanked the park board for covering the cost of one dumpster. The Halloween lighting contest was discussed. The LCA board agreed that Leawood residents enjoy decorating for Halloween and that the event should continue. Decorations must be up by October 18th to be considered for voting.

**Annual Picnic:** The Leawood annual picnic will be held on August 22nd, beginning at noon. The bike parade will meet at Leawood Elementary at 11:30 a.m., with police motorcycles and a fire truck leading the way. Volunteers are needed to help set up and decorate the pavilion beginning at 9:00 a.m. Bake sale items are needed to help fund the LCA scholarship. This year's picnic will also include PB&J sandwiches for children and as a vegetarian option. Front Yard parties have been a success so far. There are still dates available in September.

**Treasurer Report:** Paul reported all bills have been paid and one new member joined the LCA

*From Leawood Metropolitan Recreation And Park District Minutes – August 2026*

**Attendees:** Marci Turaga, Ken Leaf, Vicki Grove, Zach Sack, Public: Tom Bryant, Craig Pedersen, Mike Dubee, Judy Anderson

Meeting was called to order at 6:04pm by President, Zach Sack

**Administrative Items: Public Comments** Resident shared observation that Urban Drainage was doing work on Dutch Creek in Weaver on the East end in conjunction with Platte Canyon Water. Resident (and board) was unsure exactly what work was done. Note was provided to Dutch Creek resident about upcoming work in Kendall Park.

Improvement noted on irrigation in Racoon Xeroscape Garden. Kudos to DBS for their work.

Resident commented that mulch is still required in T-Tract along Coal Mine Trail near Vintage Reserve/ Sheridan. Board informed that options would be discussed during meeting.

Bear sightings have been noted in Racoon Hollar. Reminder to residents nearby to be bear aware. Please put trash cans out the morning of trash pickup and put away promptly. Do not feed wild animals.

**Treasurer's Report** Financial information was provided to board members prior to board meeting. Please find attachment budget info. Detailed P&L can be found on the website at <https://leawoodparks.colorado.gov/financials>

**Park Maintenance and Operations: Park Manager Report** Leawood - Pavilion area was power washed. Manager noted DBS did a great job on bushes in Leawood. Raises the possibility of having DBS trim bushes in Weaver along soccer field.

Kendall - Pulled teasel, applied protective paint to a number of trees to guard against beaver activity

Weaver - Pulled teasel, watered new trees near the playground. All seem to be doing well.

Racoon - Cleaned rainstorm debris, removed cottonwood stump for resident, did hemlock and teasel cleanup. Notes some timbers need to be replaced along the walkway.

T-Tract - removed a few stumps for resident.

Park manager presented the board with a number of quotes for park bench addition in Racoon and replacement of damaged bench in Weaver. Board voted unanimously to approve new and replacement bench with a cost up to \$4,000.

**Capital Projects and Long-Term Planning: Water Update** District has reduced water usage by approx 30% compared to last year. Costs are down and water usage continues to be monitored by treasurer and landscaper.

**Tree Donation Campaign** Fundraiser has reached past halfway to the goal. Thank you to the generous donors who have contributed so far. To contribute contact us at [leawoodparks@gmail.com](mailto:leawoodparks@gmail.com).

**Security Grant** Board was made aware of potential for reimbursement of partial purchase price in the form of safety grants from the insurance company. Board to consider this for camera installation.

**Drop Structure Work in Kendall Park** JeffCo in coordination with Mile High, Platte Canyon, and other agencies plan to remove and rebuild three drop structures (weirs) in Kendall Park that have begun to fail. This is considered a high priority project for the county. Significant construction will begin at the end of August pending permits. Tree removal will be required as part of this project. Resident recommended that pictures be taken of the current sidewalk along Weaver to ensure complete repair upon completion of project. County has included reseeding and mulch replacement as part of the project.

**Beaver update** Nick Hagan with Songdog Outdoor Services has been actively working in Weaver Park to begin relocating the beavers. With his help, the District has been approved to relocate the beavers to a large nature preserve north of Denver that has put significant work in recent years to prepare the property for beaver colonization. Here, beavers will have ample resources for food and shelter, and kits will have space to move out on their own in the next year.

The board was made aware that someone tampered with one of the traps, releasing a young beaver. PLEASE DO NOT TAMPER WITH THE TRAPS. The beavers are not harmed by the traps. Releasing that young beaver has extended the amount of time the beaver family is separated and has delayed their opportunity to set up their new home before winter. It also increases the risk of partial relocation, which could have negative impacts on the beavers left behind. THIS DOES NOT HELP THE BEAVERS.

Mr. Hagan will begin removal of dams as appropriate.

For cute beaver pictures, see the district Facebook page for beaver updates:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61576969858408>

**Signs Update** Judy Anderson ready to move forward when appropriate. Board to finalize sign information details. Meeting was adjourned by President Sack at 6:49pm.

## Woodbourne HOA Newsletter

**From Well Boo** Another wonderful summer has come and gone and while it was a record breaker for many not so positive reasons, we hope there were many personal ways in which your season was memorable. As we transition into Fall, we wanted to remind folks about a few things.

Depending upon when you see this – we have either a week left of pool season, or it has already closed. A big thank you to all the residents who visited and used one of the true benefits our neighborhood has to offer. We will need to make some major renovations to repair leaks in the 30-year-old piping, replace the pool water heater and address some concerning spots on the pool deck that are posing tripping hazards. We do hope to have all the pool work completed by the end of 2026, to ensure we have time to prepare for any unknown issues or extender repair times ahead of the season next year.

We are also in negotiations to begin work on the clubhouse restrooms, common room and exterior doors/windows. This will mark one of the largest expenditures in Woodbourne history, rivaled only by the enclosure of the facility almost 17 years ago. At its conclusion, we will still have some projects that will need to be pushed out until reserve account pay-backs are achieved but are confident that these investments will ensure decades more enjoyment of another gem in our neighborhood.

As mentioned in prior articles, the storage pod, for our new pool furniture, should arrive in mid-October. This will allow us to provide life longevity to our recent investment in new tables, chairs and chase lounges. It will also serve as a place to store other items related to pool management in the offseason. It will be placed in the SE corner of the parking lot and we will pull together an initiative next year to solicit design ideas and decorate the pod in keeping with the Woodbourne spirit.

Please continue to do what you can to ensure that whatever lawns remain, are being cared for and maintained and that weeds are addressed as they would be in a non-severe drought year. Courtesy notices will be sent out for yard maintenance issues as well as for any remaining overhanging tree limbs along the W Meadows Drive sidewalks.

With school starting, we have been asked by our Jefferson County Sheriff liaison, as well as the Chatfield Resource officers to help them in reporting any speeding in our neighborhood. It seems like common sense, but ensuring we are protective of everyone walking, biking or scooting is vital as we drive through our streets. We need to be sure those that do not live here, or do, are held to posted speed limits of 25mph throughout Woodbourne.

Your HOA Board is operating with 3 volunteers currently. And while we all strive to ensure that we carve out time from our family, work and play, to ensure Woodbourne operates at an exceptional level, we do want to invite anyone who is willing to make the real time commitment to help us spread the work, so we can continue to allocate enough time and effort to future work projects and management efforts. Believe it or not, Woodbourne does not operate, without many hours each month, being dedicated to services, contract reviews, upkeep and general communications. Please reach out to our management partners at ACCU, if you are interested: [support@accuinc.com](mailto:support@accuinc.com).

Please look for upcoming email communications regarding an event to address sensitive document shredding and e-cycling of electronics. We will provide information on acceptable and non-acceptable items withing those communications on date and time. — *Your Woodbourne HOA*

**Jefferson County to Seek Input on Land Use Regulations** — Jefferson County is updating its land use regulations that apply to unincorporated areas within the county. These regulations include four different documents including:

The Zoning Resolution

The Land Development Regulation

The Transportation Design and Construction Manual; and

The Storm Drainage Design and Technical Criteria

Later this month county staff will begin collecting feedback from county staff and the general public on changes to the first two documents, and we want to hear from you. Email for questions or comments about the ULUC project. Read more on Jeffco.us. <https://www.jeffco.us/5234/Unified-Land-Use-Code-ULUC>

**Make Sure Your Voter Info is Up to Date and Plan to Vote Early** — There's been a lot of information about elections in the news lately, so make sure you're getting your information from trusted sources. Here in Jefferson County, we're continuing to prepare for the Nov. 3 general election as planned. What you can do now is make sure your voter information is up to date and make a plan to vote early. <https://www.coloradosos.gov/voter/pages/pub/home.xhtml>

**Jeffco's Building Code Updates Support Climate Action Efforts** — Jefferson County recently adopted updated commercial and residential building codes that align to the 2024 International Energy Conservation Code and 2023 Colorado Model Electric Ready and Solar Ready Code. Designed to improve building safety, energy efficiency and community resilience, these code updates are helping us reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions by ensuring new buildings, major renovations and additions will use less energy than buildings built under previous codes. Learn more about

the changes. <https://www.jeffco.us/2109/2024-Significant-Changes>

**Get Paid to Serve Your Community; Roles for Fall's Election Available** — The Jefferson County Elections Office is recruiting election workers for this fall's general 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>

**Podcast: Annual Town Hall Lends Voice to Our Youth in Jefferson County** — How can young people in Jefferson County help shape decisions about the issues that affect them? At the 2026 Jeffco CTC Youth Town Hall. High school juniors Leila Cameron and Evelyn Phillips join Emily Tucker, coalition manager for Jefferson County Communities That Care, to explain how this annual, youth-led event turns firsthand experiences into data that can guide local priorities and action. Listen here. <https://www.jeffco.us/5235/Episode-23-The-Youth-Voice>

**Podcast: Talk to Strangers Campaign Aims to Build More Connected Jeffco** — As children, many of us were taught, "Don't talk to strangers." But one Jefferson County organization is asking Jeffco residents to do just the opposite. Kelly Dunkin, president and CEO of the Colorado Gives Foundation, joins the podcast to talk about the group's new initiative to foster a more connected Jeffco community — Talk to Strangers. Colorado Gives is making the case that a small hello today can build a stronger, more connected Jeffco tomorrow. Listen here. <https://open.spotify.com/episode/4sY3qrpZTn00VP00LBfMB9?si=mlqMlqkFQwwu3IBPDzRhGA&nd=1&dlsi=ce517ff1e2894ff5>

**Celebrate the Many Ways the Workforce System Supports Communities Report** — September is Workforce Development Month, a time to celebrate the people and partnerships that help Coloradans build skills, find jobs and advance their careers. In Jefferson, Gilpin and Clear Creek counties, local workforce professionals connect job seekers, businesses and community partners to opportunities that strengthen our communities and economy.

<https://www.jeffco.us/m/NewsFlash/home/detail/2650>

**Meet Your Neighbors with Jefferson County Public Library** — Sept. 28 is National Good Neighbor Day, and Jefferson County Public Library is celebrating all week long! From Sept. 28 to Oct. 4, JCPL's hosting several opportunities to meet your neighbors and make new friends — from a community recipe swap and bread-making class to fun-filled social gatherings like our neighborhood movie party. Find these events and more National Good Neighbor Day celebrations.

<https://jeffcolibrary.bibliocommons.com/v2/events?q=Good%20Neighbor%20Day>

**Passport-palooza: After Hours Passport Event Returns Oct. 8** — The Clerk and Recorder's Office is hosting Passport Happy Hour on Oct. 8 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Jefferson County Administration and Courts Facility (100 Jefferson County Parkway in Golden). This after-hours, no-appointment-needed passport processing event is open to the public. Planning to stop by? Check our website ahead of time to make sure you have everything you need before you arrive.

<https://www.jeffco.us/4869/Passport-palooza>

**Sustainability Tip of the Month: Explore Xcel Energy Rebates** — A great way to save energy and lower your electric bill this coming fall and winter is to take advantage of Xcel Energy's energy-efficiency rebates! Whether it's upgrading your heating and cooling equipment, replacing an appliance or improving energy efficiency through other home improvement projects, Xcel Energy's rebate programs can help you save. <https://co.my.xcelenergy.com/s/residential/home-rebates>

**Learn About Jeffco's Climate Action Plan Food Resilience Grant Program** — Jefferson County Sustainability and Public Health have partnered to advance the Climate Action Plan by investing in local farms and food organizations improving Jeffco's local food system. The Climate Action Plan Food Resilience Grant Program not only helps residents and businesses get healthy, locally-sourced food but also supports the success of local farms and food organizations, reduces food waste and prepares our community for climate change impacts. Learn more about the program and meet the 2026 grantees. <https://www.jeffco.us/5228/Local-Investments-in-Our-Food-System>

**A Small Hello Today, A Stronger Jeffco Tomorrow – Join the Movement** — We've all gotten good at keeping to ourselves. Same routines. Same places. Same quiet. And something gets lost in all that distance. But fixing it doesn't take much. It just takes someone going first. A passing hello. A simple "hello." A quick question. Because once it starts, it doesn't stop. It carries. It grows. It catches on. Here's the move, Jeffco. Look up. Say hello. Talk to strangers. What's the best that can happen? Join the movement. <https://jeffcotalktostrangers.org/>

**BOO-rific Bash & Splash at Ridge Recreation Center on Oct. 23** — Bring the whole family to Foothills Park & Recreation District's BOO-rific Bash & Splash at Ridge Recreation Center on Friday, Oct. 23, from 6 to 8 p.m. This fun and affordable indoor trick-or-treating event allows children to dress in full costume, trick-or-treat among community business tables and enjoy bounce houses and swimming. Entry for kids is \$5. Adults accompanying children are free.

<https://www.ifoohills.org/events/>



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**The next meeting will be Wednesday, October 7, 2026 from 6 to 8 pm at the Columbine Library (7706 West Bowles Ave). We will be in Study Room 1, not the big meeting room.**

Jefferson County drafted new land use regulations called the Unified Land Use Code (ULUC). The ULUC draft and associated zoning map are now available for public review and comments at [www.jeffco.us/uluc](http://www.jeffco.us/uluc). Comments are encouraged by October 18 so your feedback can be considered for draft revisions.

To learn more about the ULUC draft and Zoning Map, please attend an upcoming community meeting where County staff will be available to answer questions and go over key regulation and map changes proposed.

September 30, 6-7pm, Virtual,

<https://www.jeffco.us/Calendar.aspx?EID=16752&month=9&year=2026&day=30&calType=0>

October 1, 5-7pm, McCormack Hall, Arvada

October 5, 5-7pm, Foothills Peak Center, Littleton

October 7, 5:30-7:30pm, Jeffco Courts and Admin, Golden

October 13, 5:30-7:30pm, Aspen Park Community Center, Conifer

The ULUC is in the fifth and final phase of the multi-year Together Jeffco Plans and Regulations Update. Visit [www.jeffco.us/uluc](http://www.jeffco.us/uluc) for more info about Together Jeffco and the ULUC.