

ANIMAL SHELTER/ADOPTION

Christina Sanchez

CLERK & RECORDER'S OFFICE

Cathy Duran
Penny Hlavaty
Sean Marooney

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE

Larry Pace

CORONER'S OFFICE

Jolene Cassidy
David Alan Haught
James Hibbard
Susan Smith
Jon Veltman

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Margaret Hansen
Shannan Harding
David Smith

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Susan Andrews
Claude Lamorie
Michelangelo Lobato
Helen Thorn
Benjamin Winters

FACILITY OPERATIONS

Denise Hernandez

FISCAL AFFAIRS

Nancy Burdess

FLEET MANAGEMENT

Rebecca Hurt
Michael Patridge

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Edward Almon
Kimberly Carani
Sonia Chelini
Jolene Diedrich
Marilyn Dionisio
Nicole Duran
Rachel Finkiewicz
Dayna Finn
Elizabeth Groginsky
Maria Jimenez
Robert Leahy
Zenona Luna
Rebecca Ortiz
Kirsten Reay
Angela Scholes
Angela Shields
Mara Sobers
Merianne Steinback
Frances Swallows
Mouahmong Yang
Ponemany Yang

HUMAN RESOURCES

Shelley Lubick

PARKS AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Dale Reisbeck

PUBLIC WORKS

William Brown
Tracy Munson
Reginald Nettles
Walter Petersen
Nicholas Schumacher
Buck Simnitt

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Von Bailey
Robert Brabo
Calena Cook
Michael Cranwill
Joseph Dreiling
Darlene Frazzini
Susan Lopez
Dylan Lussier
Melody Negron
Jacob Pulanco
Natasha Rupp
Jason Spillis
Damian Thompson
Yvonne Verdugo
Julie West
Gerry Yang

SOCIAL SERVICES

Deborah Baca
Leticia Caballero
Corey Candelaria
Heather Cantu
Kathleen Cornish
Jorgette Davis
Brian Delgado
Julie Fields
Jennifer Franz
Shannon Gunter
Theresa Juarez
Wendy Knutson
Luchelle Luther
Corey Montoya
Tracy Olson
Donna Parrish
Christina Scott
Rachel Trucano
Louise Vasquez
Lawrence Widhelm
Kala Young

TREASURER'S OFFICE

John Lefebvre
Craig Trautwein



first/second quarter 2003
RETIREES

Mary Anthony 24 years, Social Services

Bonnie Bank 13 years, Social Services

Roberta Beck 5 years, Facility Operations

Marvin Benbrook 27 years, Fleet Management

Linda Colizzio 9 years, Social Services

Kevin Curry 21 years, Public Works

Sandra Duan 9 years, Coroner's Office

Rosalie Dukart 23 years, Sheriff's Office

Nancy Duran 12 years, Social Services

John Flynn 12 years, Assessor's Office

Georgann Garcia 23 years, Social Services

Helen Hill 27 years, Treasurer's Office

Judy Kahle 21 years, Treasurer's Office

Marlene Knapp 5 years, Social Services

Reva Lapsley 25 years, County Attorney's Office

George Mathias 8 years, Sheriff's Office

Don Ponzio 8 years, Treasurer's Office

REJ Reynolds 23 years, Social Services

Steven Riffle 13 years, Sheriff's Office

Debbie Rohrer 7 years, Sheriff's Office

William Sage 22 years, Fleet Management

Castor Sandstad 25 years, Public Works

William Shearer 15 years, Sheriff's Office

Juan Trujillo 14 years, Social Services

Adams County

COMMUNICATOR

a newsletter for employees and retirees

volume 11, number 1
first/second quarter 2003



a day in the county

Meet the Newly-Elected Officials

County growth means a lot of things to a lot of people, but probably none more than to County Assessor Gil Reyes, who is responsible for discovering, listing, and valuing all real and taxable property in Adams County. A lot to keep track of even with existing property, imagine having our rapid speed of growth coming at you at the same time. Not to worry - Gil takes it all in stride, having been an appraiser and deputy county assessor, and is ready to take it on. He has seen the future and is planning accordingly, including making software and technology improvements, soon to be in the form of handheld computers for appraisers out in the field, which means less paperwork and more productivity. Becoming a paperless office is not an unusual goal these days, but the assessor and his staff are tackling it head-on. Away from work, Gil is the single parent of a 17-year old son and spends a lot of free time with him. Add to that exploring Colorado, working in the yard, and attending various summertime festivals, he is used to tackling quite a lot.



Assessor
Gil Reyes

Carol Snyder likes to be busy. Turns out she has the perfect job. Handling three divisions and six different offices will definitely keep the hive a-buzz. Re-elected for a second term, Carol is meeting the goals she set for herself four-and-a-half years ago. Falling into public service by accident, she spent 33 years as a paralegal and office manager, handling mainly real estate work, and ended up as a clerk and recorder, all because she had to speak up when the City of Northglenn was building next to her home. From there she landed a seat on the planning commission, then one in the state legislature. Having already accomplished many goals - improving customer service, upgrading job descriptions and pay scales, and establishing a career ladder for employee development - she still has to move one more motor vehicle office (four have already been relocated), implement an online recording system, and put into action the newly-passed election reform law. She's busy indeed, but finds time to garden, cook, travel, and complete home improvement projects.



Clerk & Recorder
Carol Snyder

Truly a man of many abilities - farmer, cattleman, horse trainer, carpenter, cement finisher, National Defense worker, US Army and Army National Guard soldier, retail sales manager, not to mention businessman in a variety of areas such as beef cattle, lawn care service, and aircraft rental - Larry was foremost a public school teacher for 37 years. He is now learning the responsibilities of his new position and becoming more self-assured. It is a challenge when you realize you must now balance managed growth, open space, recreation, quality jobs, business expansion, and transportation infrastructure to meet the needs of a large county. Larry would like to develop a more positive image of Adams County by bringing these elements together in a harmonious way. Larry himself practices such harmony in his free time too, being with family, boating, fishing, hiking, flying, skiing, hunting, traveling, Colorado Fantasy of Flight Foundation, Experimental Aircraft Association, Young Eagles Program, Green Mill Sportsman's Club, and helping the neighbors.



Commissioner
Larry Pace

Ever wonder what it takes to be a coroner? It's probably not what you think, as a medical education or scientific background is not required. In Jim Hibbard's case, it is a compassion for fellow humans and the desire to make a difference. Having worked for the Sheriff's Office for over thirty years, Jim retired and spent his time working with local funeral homes, gaining an appreciation for the dynamics that occur when someone dies. This experience touched him deeply and he thought he could do some good. Jim is quickly learning the balance between law enforcement investigations and the medical side of being the coroner, relying often on the pathologist for those learning experiences. Attending death investigation school in St. Louis also helped, and now he has plans to send all of his death investigators there. Jim plans to continue what the previous coroner started, including the purchase of new equipment, training for investigators, and raising the bar on customer service. When away from work, Jim enjoys a little golf, boating, and "tinkering" with wood.



Coroner
Jim Hibbard

continued on page four...

The purpose of the *Adams County Communicator* is to provide a forum for sharing information reflecting the people, pride, and progress of Adams County employees. The *Communicator* is published quarterly by the Adams County Human Resources Department, 450 S. 4th Avenue, 5th floor, Brighton, CO 80601; 303.654.6070.

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inside

COVER
a day in the county:
meet the newly-elected
officials

TWO
employee
recognition

FIVE
upcoming events

SIX
updates and other
information

recognizing outstanding

first quarter 2003

JANUARY

LINDA VIRGIL
OFFICER SUPERVISOR
ANIMAL SHELTER & ADOPTION CENTER



Maintaining a sense of humor in a job that is often heartbreaking is not easy. Linda Virgil, however, brings hers to work every day and has done so for 22 years. The kind of dedication she demonstrates is an example to her coworkers and the community alike. On call 24 hours a day, Linda's routine includes issuing tickets, tending to hurt animals, cleaning kennels, and coordinating animal adoptions. Her endless compassion in a decidedly non-glamorous job is much appreciated.

FEBRUARY

JUDITH SNOOK
UNIT SUPERVISOR
CHILD & FAMILY CENTER



It is a challenge to work in the same department for over 35 years and still have the same edge and compassion as when you started. Judy has had no problem rising to meet this challenge, and it is evident in her daily activities. Having high expectations of those she supervises, she sees to it they have her full support, whether accompanying them to court or supervising visits. Judy's work with young mothers has been nationally recognized and her always-professional nature is noted daily.

MARCH

LONDY RAMIREZ
HOUSING REHABILITATION SPECIALIST
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT



We all appreciate the employee who comes in with a smile every day and whistles while walking through the hall. Londy is one of those employees. Described by coworkers as kind-hearted and friendly, he does more than just his job. He lends his time to clients who need assistance, even at unusual times of the day, and to serving the public tirelessly and humbly. Londy works quietly, but those around him watch and learn from his love of life and people and his empathetic nature.

congratulations

To **GORDON STEVENS**, construction inspector for public works, who recently completed the Technical-Interpersonal Skills Development section of the Adams County Employee Training and Management Development Program.

Gordon found "Effective Listening Skills" particularly useful in improving his customer service abilities. "With the use of the techniques and skills obtained in 'Effective Listening Skills,' it is much easier to understand what people are really asking of me."

In addition, Gordon got plenty of new information from "Problem Solving and Critical Thinking," "Sexual Harassment for Staff," and "Lead Worker Training/Transition to Supervisor" and looks forward to his future experiences with the training program.

coming soon

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED GOING BACK TO SCHOOL?

INTERESTED IN THE ADAMS COUNTY TUITION REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM?

Watch for information for the **5TH ANNUAL ADAMS COUNTY EDUCATION FAIR** coming in July and August!

Educational representatives from various community colleges and universities will be here to provide information on their programs and application processes.

Adams County Tuition Reimbursement packets will also be available.

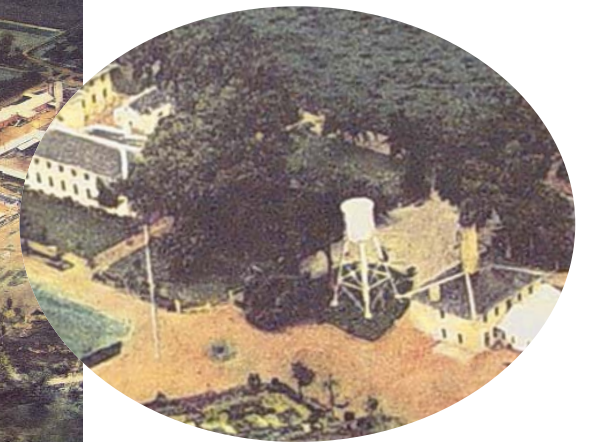
history strikes again

an amazing find

IT'S A TUNNEL!

For the longest time it was just a rumor. A tunnel system under parks...it could never be found. Until now. On May 6, 2003, American Civil Constructors (a contractor for the Phase III Irrigation Project at the Regional Park) were trenching to put in an irrigation line to transport water to the north side of the dome building. And there it was. A big opening in the ground.

Turns out, it is an old utility tunnel that was part of the Denver Poor Farm infrastructure. Located just to the north and about 100 feet east of the dome building, the tunnel was about two to three feet under current grade. In the picture below, the small yellow structure with the little white building attached to it near the water tank is the boiler facility where hot water was piped via the underground tunnel to the main living quarters (very large yellow structure).



The Denver Poor Farm, approximately 1930s.

This hot water was used to supply heat to the buildings using radiators. Electricity was also carried along the opposite wall of the tunnel via electrical wires. The tunnel walls were made from quarried sandstone and it was covered on the top with thick slabs of flagstone that were sealed together with a tar-like substance to keep water from infiltrating the void.



Eureka!



Looking east in the tunnel...



The tunnel was complete with electricity and light.



And looking west. The rusted hooks on the right-hand wall (and in the close-up to the left) held water pipes.

updates and other information

info you should know

STATE OF THE COUNTY A SUMMARY

The annual State of the County address was delivered by Commissioner Ted Strickland on Thursday, February 6, 2003 at the Riverdale Golf Course Club House.

In addition to welcoming Adams County's newly-elected Commissioner Larry Pace, Ted recognized the outgoing officials, praising their accomplishments with a state-of-the-art video presentation.

The introduction of the other newly-elected officials was followed by recognition of the County Administrator Terry Funderburk, the County Attorney Jim Robinson and highlights of the excellent work of the department directors.

Commissioner Strickland looked back at the accomplishments of 2002, noting the year-long celebration of the county's 100th birthday, which included the publication of the history of Adams County and the multi-cultural Heritage Festival.

Other important achievements in 2002 included the implementation of a formal customer service policy for all county employees; continued improvements to the county's compensation, training, and educational programs; the opening of three new buildings; land acquisitions and development; and numerous system improvements.

For 2003, plans include a new building for the District Attorney probation offices and the Public Trustee's office, construction and expansion of many main county roads, and the completion of a new service center for citizens.

If you would like to read the entire speech, go to www.co.adams.co.us, select "Elected Officials," then "Board of Commissioners."

UPDATE RELOCATIONS

County growth means employee growth. As a result of the growth that's taken place in Adams County over the last couple of years, a few offices have recently moved into new homes.

Elections moved from their small space on the second floor of the administration building to a much larger area in the newly-acquired building at 120th and Pecos, called Prime Center at Northridge. In addition to more square feet, they are proud to have their own training and conference room that will come in handy when it's time to train election judges.

The Northglenn motor vehicle office also moved into that new building and changed their name to Northridge. This department has its own group of talented artists and used their own art to decorate.



Solution to POP QUIZ, part two

What stagecoach line ran through this area?	Overland Stage Company
Who was the first president of Denver Pacific Railroad?	Bela Metcalf Hughes
On what street was the first church in Brighton located?	Front Street
By what other name is State Highway 7 known?	Baseline
Adams County was originally part of what county?	Arapahoe
What did they call each winner of the popular bicycle races of the 1890s?	Buttermilk Boy
Who was the first settler in the area that is now Westminster?	Pleasant DeSpain Sr.
What was the name of the location of the first permanent Adams County Courthouse?	Skeel Corner
What was the name of the Colorado National Guard division that was formed in Brighton in 1888?	Harvey Light Guards
What was the name of the first railroad engine to pull a passenger train from Hughes to Denver?	The Walter S. Cheeseman
Who was the first woman to serve on the Adams County Board of Commissioners?	Elaine T. Valente
Who was the first Fish Commissioner?	Wilson Sisty
What was the name of the building that once held the Brighton Opera House?	Wire Building
Which of the first three county commissioners left office after just one month?	Wilson Smith
What were the monthly gatherings at the fairgrounds called prior to the first official fair and rodeo in 1904?	Market Days

adams county employees

second quarter 2003



Congratulations to
MARGIE KELLEY
2002 Employee of the Year

As spoken by Elaine Valente at the 2003 Employee Recognition Luncheon:

"The 2002 Employee of the Year began her career with Adams County as a volunteer in 1993. In 1998, she became a full-time employee in a position that is 100 percent funded through the Vale Grant.

Through this grant program, our Employee of the Year provides direct victim services, including taking victims to court, attending funerals, transporting victims, making hospital visits, and assisting with paperwork, all in addition to crisis call-outs.

The Employee of the Year performs crisis intervention with a style so genuine and natural that she is the most sought-out victim advocate by detective and patrol personnel.

The Adams County Vale Board honored this individual in 2000 as the Victim Advocate of the Year.

An example of her dedication, she is always willing to cover shifts upon request. When you call and ask if she is available, she responds 'never too busy for you.'

She demonstrates boundless energy and enthusiasm and the kind of compassion that we all need in the worst of times.

It is with the deepest respect for the abilities Margie Kelley brings to her job that I announce her selection as Adams County's 2002 Employee of the Year."

employee of the year

DANELLE LEGGETT
COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICER
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The word "dedication" is sometimes used lightly. Not where Danelle is concerned. For her, learning the "ins and outs" of her own job also meant learning the "ins and outs" of the "jobs" around her. Structuring her work around what other people need to successfully complete their job is dedication at its best. It's no wonder Danelle has good rapport with all her coworkers, as her positive attitude and pleasant demeanor tell those she works with and those she trains just how much she loves her job.



APRIL

MICHELLE HEATH
LEGAL SECRETARY II
COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Talk about multi-tasking - Michelle is responsible for many things in the County Attorney's Office. Not only must she prioritize the regular, time-sensitive legal work she performs for several attorneys, but also provide back-up for the office administrator and handle those special projects that tend to come along without notice. Doing all this with a professional manner and friendly nature, providing outstanding customer service has been no problem for Michelle, who proves her abilities every day.



MAY

KEREN DOWNEY
CHILD PROTECTION SUPERVISOR
SOCIAL SERVICES

Need a definition of the term "model supervisor?" Look no further. Keren fits the bill, ensuring case workers she oversees are well-trained and competent and have every resource necessary to provide the best service to clients. With a clear view of the need she and her staff fill, she is a "hands-on" supervisor, routinely going "above and beyond." And there's still time for extracurricular activities, like monitoring the Day Treatment Program and participating in *Lamba*, an African relief group. Further testimony she is indeed a "model supervisor."



JUNE

continued from the cover

meet the newly-elected officials

The time comes in most of our lives when we have to decide which road to take. Doug Darr's time came about 30 years ago. Playing minor league baseball was a blast, but the day came when it was time to go home to Colorado and "get back to real life." Already a deputy with the Sheriff's Office, Doug ended up sticking around for a while, enjoying constant opportunity. He started at the jail, moved to patrol, took on special assignments with the dive team and helicopter patrol, and tried about eight different things in the detective division. It's no wonder the newness never wore off, even if it has been over 30 years. A self-proclaimed agent of change, Doug is fulfilling that prophecy these days, because with growth comes increase in crime and a need for community involvement. Aiming for less reactive and more proactive policing, Doug is working on a strategic plan to meet these changing needs. Keeping things in balance, he tends to his 22-month old son, partakes in mountain exploration, fly fishing, and a love that never died called baseball.



Sheriff
Doug Darr

It's an unusual job, that of county surveyor. To start with, you aren't paid a regular salary. Then, come to find out there is not actually a whole lot to do. So why do it? Well, a 25-year background in surveying might be one reason. Karen Allen has such a history and can now add a new title to her resume. Running unopposed, she did not have to do any debating, kissing of babies, or posting of signs, she just introduced herself to the voters. To clarify, the job of surveyor is simply not what it used to be, mostly due to technology. However, the county still needs a representative for reviewing land survey plats, maintaining records of county monuments, and, at the request of the county commissioners, representing the county on issues such as land disputes. So that's what Karen has undertaken, and she gets to keep her job as survey right-of-way technician in public works where she has been for over two years. In her free time, she likes to explore a variety of activities like yoga, team rowing, art classes, and participation in fitness research studies.



Surveyor
Karen Allen

Being an expert in your field helps you when in unfamiliar places. Financial expertise is what John Lefebvre ("Le-fave") has brought to the role of treasurer. His "professional" life began at age twelve, as an apprentice for his father's sign business. Soon he was the boss, fresh out of college, at the age of 22. In three months, he brought in enough business to make up for that which fled with the "partner who ran away," resulting in record sales every month thereafter. Having then sold the business for 21 times its worth, he began a new adventure with Merrill Lynch. The fascination took over - economy and finance became his bread-and-butter and his hobby. Now, after authoring one Wiley Finance book and a chapter in another and doing investment consulting at home for 14 years, he is in a new place, learning from the experts around him - his employees - about running a treasurer's office. Finance isn't his only passion. He loves woodworking (currently VP, Colorado Woodworker's Guild), hiking, camping, and lately, exploring the art of pastel painting.



Treasurer
John Lefebvre

and appointed by the governor...

Ever notice how some people always find something that just works for them? Jeannie Reesor is a good example of this. An elementary school teacher by profession, she has also been a nun, a travel agent/accountant, a representative in the state legislature (14 years), chief deputy treasurer, elections supervisor, and now, public trustee. Appointed by Governor Owens in January 2003, she stepped right in and began the latest "leg" of her life's education. This office handles a delicate and often saddening task, property foreclosures in Adams County, but Jeannie keeps a positive outlook. She and her staff of five have been extra busy of late handling numerous foreclosures. And while the daily work must be done, they are also preparing for an exciting move to the currently-under-construction District Attorney's building. Education means everything to Jeannie, as she remains involved in various activities outside of the office to "keep my hands in it," such as serving on the State Board of Community Colleges. Jeannie also spends time with her husband and grown children.



Public Trustee
Jeannie Reesor

Did You Know?

The first Adams County Fair and Rodeo was held in 1904. Previous to that, "Market Days" were held at the old fairgrounds, where the administration building now stands. In 1892, the Platte Valley Farmers Association launched a "fall fair," which involved erecting buildings and a race track.

When the voters chose Brighton as the county seat, the fairgrounds were turned over to the Adams County Fair Association. The first day of the fair was "Tomato Day" and was the best attended. Political parties took sides and had an official tomato fight in front of the grandstand. Also part of the fair were wild-bronco riding, bicycle races, and a baby contest. Hmm...imagine if those things were part of the fair today.

-Adams County, Colorado: A Centennial History, Wagner

upcoming events

adams county fair

It's almost time for the Adams County Fair, coming your way July 30 - August 3, 2003. Once again, employees can receive \$25 in food tickets and a parking pass worth \$5 to attend and enjoy the fair. Tickets will be available for pick-up at the fair itself during the following hours, at the following locations:

WEDNESDAY - FRIDAY, July 30 - August 1
9:00 am - 4:00 pm
main office, Parks Department
and
5:00 - 8:00 pm
employee food ticket booth

SATURDAY, August 2
12:00 - 2:00 pm, 4:00 - 7:00 pm
employee food ticket booth

SUNDAY, August 3
12:00 - 3:00 pm
employee food ticket booth

As the fair approaches, parking passes will be distributed to employees and the location of the employee food ticket booth will be announced. Please note, **YOUR ADAMS COUNTY ID BADGE OR DRIVER'S LICENSE WILL BE REQUIRED** to receive your tickets. Tickets will not be given to friends or family members.

Come enjoy this summer tradition - rides, food, music, and fun!

classes still open for managers

The Adams County Employee Training and Management Development Program has a couple of great classes still open for managers. Don't delay - send in your registration form now.

✓ **Violence Goes to Work for Managers** July 22, 8:30 am - 12:00 pm, administration building

Take a proactive approach to addressing potentially dangerous situations in the workplace.

✓ **Family Medical Leave Act - Adams County Policies and Procedures** July 24, 1:00 - 4:00 pm, human services building

Navigating FMLA can be difficult; when leave should be considered FMLA and what actions need to be taken.

✓ **Interviewing Skills** September 10, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm, human services building

Learn the theories and techniques surrounding the interviewing process and bringing in new talent.

If you are unable to locate a registration form, contact human resources at 303.654.6070.

summer reading program

The Summer Reading Program is underway! Prizes for reaching designated reading goals include Adventure Golf passes, AMF Bowling Center coupons, Nickel-A-Play passes, Good Times coupons, and books. Packets are available through August 16, 2003.

SUMMER READING PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

BENNETT BRANCH (all performances at 1:00 pm)

July 2 Br'n the Bagpiper - Storyteller, Bagpipes

July 9 To be announced

July 16 Raptor Education - Raptors

July 23 Michael Stanwood - Music and Stories

BRIGHTON BRANCH (performances at 10:30 am, 1:30 pm)

July 1 Peter Davison

July 8 Br'n the Bagpiper

July 15 Michael Stanwood

July 23 Karen McChesney - Storyteller

COMMERCE CITY BRANCH (all performances at 11:00 am)

July 1 Science Magic

July 8 Karen McChesney

July 15 Raptor Education

July 22 Michael Stanwood

NORTHGLENN BRANCH (performances at 10:30 am, 1:00 pm)

July 2 Michael Stanwood

July 9 Cowboy Hersh - singing cowboy

July 16 Peter Davison

July 23 Raptor Education

PERL MACK BRANCH (all performances at 3:30 pm)

July 2 Science Magic

July 9 Peter Davison

July 16 Michael Stanwood

July 23 Br'n the Bagpiper

THORNTON BRANCH (performances at 11:00 am, 1:00 pm)

July 2 Peter Davison

July 9 Science Magic

July 16 Karen McChesney

July 23 Br'n the Bagpiper