

For January 12, 2006 CKS/E HOA meeting.

COHOPE Report: The first COHOPE meeting of 2006 was held on Tuesday, January 3rd. There was no COHOPE meeting in December. The Jeffco Sheriff's Department representative, Jack McFadden reported on the new improved Sheriff's department web site that is now up and running. Besides being more user friendly additional improvements include an improved Sex Offender Mapping Tool, a revised and more useful Most Wanted List, a Crime Prevention page with helpful ideas, information and links to other agencies, a listing of DUI Checkpoint locations and schedules and an expanded County Jail page. The web site home page includes a message concerning recent cases of Police impersonation and what motorists can do if they suspect an impersonator. The Sheriff's web site is located at <http://www.jeffcosheriff.com>. The deputy also passed around the most recent crime statistics. Total incidents were down in the fourth quarter vs. 2004 but appear to be slightly ahead for the year vs. 2004.

The guest speaker was Jim Everson, the County Assessor. Jim first discussed his December 15, 2005 press release that identified the return of the Senior Property Tax Exemption after a three-year absence. This exemption became effective again on January 1, 2006 for property taxes payable in 2007. The original amendment provided that 50% of the first \$200,000 of actual value of a home would be exempt from property taxes for qualifying seniors. To qualify homeowners must be 65 or older and must have owned and lived in the same home for the previous ten years or more. Any homeowner who thinks they would qualify should apply for their exemption before July 15, 2006. Application forms and information are available by calling 303-271-8629, writing Jim Everson, Jefferson County Assessor, 100 Jefferson County Parkway, Golden, CO 80419, or accessing the Jefferson County Assessor web site at <http://assessor.jeffco.us>. On the web site, click on "Important Forms" and select the Property Exemption forms. The rest of Mr. Everson's presentation reviewed how property taxes are calculated, the main sources of Property tax revenue - 60% of assessed value is residential and the main uses of property tax revenues - 54% goes to R-1 schools. Some important dates for Property Taxes: January 1, 2006 - assessment date; May 1, 2006 - Notice of Valuation sent (protest period begins); June 1, 2006 - last day to protest value.

At the end of the meeting the COHOPE members voted to pursue an application to CDOT to sponsor a street cleanup project.

Next months scheduled speaker is Dave Auburn, Jefferson County Commissioner.