

COHOPE REPORT - 6/14/2007

Deputy Greg LeCerte represented the Jefferson County Sheriff's department at the June meeting and passed out the current months crime statistics and a copy of the Sheriff's 2006 Annual Report. The numbers for May were little changed from the previous two months. Unfortunately "crimes of opportunity" - theft and motor vehicle theft also stayed at the same levels. The Sheriff's Annual Report is very informative and covers not only the important accomplishments and programs of the Sheriff's office but also highlights members of the staff and their accomplishments. A copy of the brochure is available online at www.jeffcosheriff.com or can be picked up at any Sheriff's Department sub-station. Deputy LeCerte also happened to be the guest speaker for the meeting. Greg gave his presentation on "Drug Activity Recognition". He stressed it was an "activity" not a "drug" recognition presentation. The presentation was developed initially to help county employees, like Parks and Recreation, Foothills, and Highway Maintenance crews recognize potentially hazardous waste from methamphetamine lab operations dumped in parks, etc. The presentation has also been given to real estate groups to increase awareness of what to look for in houses that may have been used for meth lab operations. The processes used in the manufacture of meth result in highly toxic waste by-products that can thoroughly contaminate a home. Decontamination costs can run into the thousands of dollars. The ideas stressed in the presentation were mainly observing the contents of a home/garage and identifying anything that appears strange or does not look right. For example, Meth lab operations use many common household chemical items but the chemicals are used in much larger quantities than would normally be found in a home. Additionally, the manufacturing processes usually require professional lab grade equipment - glass beakers and flasks, not normally found under your average kitchen sink. Overall, a very informative presentation.

In other business, Walt Frankland from Foothills Parks and Recreation reported that the Foothills board is studying the possibility that they (Foothills) will be asked (or maybe required) to pick up the estimated \$25,000.00 annual cost of maintaining the Columbine memorial once it is completed. There is presently no funds budgeted for this expense. There were several homeowners from the Westridge HOA area present to discuss the status of the Rock Church expansion in their community which the HOA and homeowners oppose. Apparently County Planning and Zoning has turned down the Church's ODP modifications and the homeowners expect the Rock Church to appeal to the County Commissioners. Ray Moore, COHOPE treasurer, reported on ongoing discussions meetings being held at South West Plaza concerning ideas or wish list items trying to address traffic issues at the Wadsworth and Bowles interchange. At the present time there are no funds available to elevate either street over the intersection (no funding possible for at least 10 years out). The only near term improvement being discussed is the addition of pedestrian overpasses on Bowles and Wadsworth.