

March 9, 2006

COHOPE Report

The guest speaker at the March meeting was Dr. Gary Toerber. Dr. Toerber was a past director of the Fort Logan Mental Hospital and is still actively involved with the Friends of Fort Logan association. Dr. Toerber first went into some of the history of the fort from its founding in 1887 as an Army post. Most of the original buildings located around the parade grounds, now soccer fields, etc., were constructed during the 1889 through 1891 time frame. The Friends of Fort Logan are in the process of restoring one of the original buildings to its original as built condition. Their intent is to use the restored building for educational purposes relating to the history of Fort Logan. Dr. Toerber also talked about the establishment of the Colorado State Mental Hospital at Fort Logan in 1960. Fort Logan is one of only two psychiatric hospitals in the state -the other in Pueblo- that serve the Colorado Public Health Services. It originally had 360 beds for mental ill patients but due to budget cut backs that number has been reduced to 153 beds. In Dr. Toerber's opinion this reduction in services is unfortunate since at the same time almost all private hospitals have completely eliminated their psychiatric wards.

Other business. The Sheriff's representative at the meeting passed out the current crime statistics. Overall, for our part of the county the crime numbers for Feb. 2006 are running 12% lower than Feb. 2005. He also briefly talked about an increase in graffiti in the area, mostly around the Stanton Farms area. The Sheriff's department is working with the community and schools in an attempt to find the responsible parties. The Foothills representative mentioned that the Peak Recreation facility office space remodeling to accommodate Exemplar Health Care staff is underway. There will be a meet the candidates forum for Legislative Candidates from HD28 and SD22 on March 23rd at the South Jeffco Sheriffs Station (8100 Shaffer Pkwy) at 7 - 8 pm. These will be county wide candidates - Assessor, Commissioner Dist. 3, Treasurer, etc. Casey Mahon representing the Jefferson County R1 Schools briefly discussed ongoing and upcoming school construction projects. He also talked about the current school budget process and encouraged attendance at a 2006-2007 budget forum to be held Wednesday, March 15 at 6pm at the Dakota Ridge High School, 13399 W. Coal Mine Ave., Littleton.

Larry Major